

3rd May 2020



LIVING THE 167

Blessed are those who are convinced of their basic dependency on God, whose lives are emptied of all that doesn't matter, those for whom the riches of this world just aren't that important. The kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Blessed are those who know that all they are is a gift from God, and so they can be content with their greatness and their smallness, knowing themselves and being true to themselves. For they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Blessed are those who wear compassion like a garment, those who have learned how to find themselves by losing themselves in another's sorrow. For they too shall receive comfort.

Blessed are the merciful, those who remember how much has been forgiven them, and are able to extend this forgiveness into the lives of others. For they too shall receive God's mercy.

Blessed are the creators of peace, those who build roads that unite rather than walls that divide, those who bless the world with the healing power of their presence. For they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those whose love has been tried, like gold, in the furnace and found to be precious, genuine, and lasting, those who have lived their belief out loud, no matter what the cost or pain. For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

—From Seasons of Your Heart by Macrina Wiederkehr



Our National Vision

Wherever there is hardship or injustice

Salvos will live, love and fight

Alongside others

To transform Australia one life at time

With the love of Jesus

Time to Share

These words have become particularly pertinent during this incredible time of history. Live music that can stir our hearts, physical connection that can bring comfort, and even travelling a short distance for a change of scenery that can provide new perspective have all been basically, stripped away. For the sake of people's lives many of us have been forced into "hibernation" as a world. As I write this, in Australia at least, we are seeing some glimpses of light appearing as a lifting of restrictions starts to occur.

This "new normal" has certainly challenged us though to think differently and to approach life in new ways, perhaps doing things in ways we never thought we would have to on a semi-permanent level (such as online church).

The song above (Heart of Worship – Matt Redman) actually dates back to the late 1990s, born from a period of apathy within Matt's home church, Soul Survivor, in Watford, England. It was written at a time when Redman's congregation was struggling to find meaning in its musical outpouring.

"There was a dynamic missing, so the pastor did a pretty brave thing," Matt recalls. "He decided to get rid of the sound system and band for a season, and we gathered together with just our voices. His point was that we'd lost our way in worship, and the way to get back to the heart would be to strip everything away."

Reminding his church family to be producers in worship, not just consumers, the pastor, Mike Pilavachi, asked, "**When you come through the doors on a Sunday, what are you bringing as your offering to God?**". Matt says the question initially led to some embarrassing silence, but eventually people broke into acappella songs and heartfelt prayers, encountering God in a fresh way.

After a while, they reintroduced the musicians and sound system, as they'd gained a new perspective that worship is all about Jesus, and He commands a response in the depths of our souls no matter what the circumstance and setting. 'The Heart of Worship' simply describes what occurred.

Where I work, we have been talking about the concept of "bouncing forward" not "bouncing back" as we emerge from isolation. Life still may be different for a while, that is for certain. We do however have what is quite possibly the only time in history to reset our thinking and to prepare for a return to normality with changed hearts and minds.

Sadly, the emptiness we hear people talking about in the media as a result of our need to be physically distant from each other, is exacerbated when those suffering do not know Jesus. Our world has changed, but he has not and will not change (**Jesus Christ is [eternally changeless, always] the same yesterday and today and forever – Hebrews 13:8** [I encourage you to read the whole chapter!]). HE is worthy of our worship. So, as we continue to seek God's will through this period and start to think about "life on the other side", my prayer is that we are each perfectly clear that what we are bringing to Jesus is so much more than a song, because that's not enough. **He wants our hearts and as we go about our days, living our 167, may our love for Him and His presence in our lives grow ever deeper.**

Todd

When the music fades,

All is stripped away

And I simply come

Longing just to bring

Something that's of worth

That will bless Your heart

I'll bring You more than a song,

for a song in itself

Is not what You have required

*You search much deeper within through the way
things appear*

You're looking into my heart

I'm coming back to the heart of worship

And it's all about You, all about You, Jesus

I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it

When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus



SUNDAY SERVICES

Our weekly sermons and worship service is pre-recorded and available for viewing either from our Corps Facebook page or from our Corps website.

Links for Viewing

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BrisbaneCityTemple>

Or you can follow the link on the

Homepage of the Corps Website: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/brisbanecity/>

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Have you thought about how you can continue to give your tithes and offerings during this time where you are not able to physically place them in the offering bag? This is what somebody from our Corps shared during the week

I think churches will be closed for services for some time so I think making my offering each fortnight online using my bank account will be best even though I love the feel of the envelope. Times are a-changing - methods are a-changing. I have never been in want since I began to tithe. Giving is a discipline and I think perhaps, that discipline flows through your everyday decision making.

You can make a direct deposit into the Corps Account.

Bank Account details are:

NAME: The Salvation Army BCT **BSB Number:** 034 004

Account Number: 810612



**RED
SHIELD
APPEAL**

The Salvation Army's response to COVID-19 means traditional face-to-face elements of the Red Shield Appeal will not proceed in 2020, which includes door knocking and community collection points. The Red Shield Appeal will be "revitalised" through new and innovative means such as online fundraising group Raisely.

We need your help

- Please donate/ fundraise and share our Red Shield page to your social media pages.
- Help us identify a local business/organisation that could make a notable donation and be one of our sponsors listed on the page
- Put us in contact with influencers and contacts you have that could help us fundraise
<https://digitaldoorknock.salvationarmy.org.au/t/brisbane-city-salvos>

PERSONAL TRAINER

Sachin is a qualified personal trainer and is beginning work in this field at a rate of \$25-30 per hour. If you or someone you know is interested, make contact with him on 0435 365 234

Happy Birthday Major Sharon!

When the Boss's Birthday is on a Sunday, we celebrate on the Friday with cake, some balloons and party hats in the Office.

We Hope you have a wonderful Day Sharon!



Spiritual Growth

This time is a great opportunity for us to focus on our spiritual growth and to develop some good habits and disciplines that are important for us as disciples of Jesus. There are some spiritual growth resources that have been provided for you on The Salvation Army Brisbane City Temple website.

New this week is the spiritual discipline **Detachment**- As Jesus disciples we are to detach from the accolades of the world and receive ourselves as God's beloved

We are to relinquish worldly values and anything that stand in the way of desiring and knowing God.

The spiritual discipline of **Detachment** -helps us to replace worldly attachment, self-serving goals and agendas with wholehearted attachment to and trust in God alone

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/brisbanecity/spiritual-growth/>

We have an opportunity to pray for each other during the week. Dot H., Rodney S., Warren H., Kingsley, Marzly, Ray L., People who have lost jobs due to closing business, people working on the frontline dealing with Corona Virus, People who have lost family members, People who are experiencing anxiety and mental health issues, Teachers and Children who returned to school.

Praying for each other: Colin & Susan, Lindsey, Sandra & Lyndon, Damien, Marie-Claire, Lewis, Eleanor, Johanna & Catalina, Theis & Tanya, Jessica, Tony & Lyndell, Evelyn W.

