

PARRAMATTERS

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2020

Parramatta Salvation Army

COMMUNITY MATTERS:



BEING A CHRIST CENTRED COMMUNITY

AUGUST X FACTOR

We are now in the middle of our corps' X Factor month! How is your 'huddle' going? What have you learnt from God's words that you were able to share with others? Huddles are a great way for our corps to gather while we cannot meet on Sunday's in the one location. During August 'huddles' will be meeting to explore God's word and share what it means for us. Take this opportunity to get to know your faith community and build faith connections.

What is a huddle?

- ◆ It's 3-6 people meeting together in an informal way to intentionally have a conversation about Scripture and faith.
- ◆ Huddles meet regularly, once a week or once a fortnight, (we'd love you to try and meet weekly during X-Factor month = 5 times)
- ◆ If possible, meet in person or use a connecting program like 'zoom'.
- ◆ Can be cross-generational.
- ◆ Has a facilitator [prompter], not a leader.

What you need to do:

Contact and invite 2-4 people into your huddle. Then decide on a day and time that is suitable for you all to meet. Write it in your diary and put it on your phone calendar. Finally, agree on who will be the facilitator.

What we will provide:

Every week we will supply a bible reference, a sermon [notes can be available if you are not online] and questions to use within your huddle. This will be available in the newsletter and online for the five Sundays throughout August.

If you have any questions about the huddles please email Sharon or Grant.

WEEK THREE

HUDDLES

2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

This week in your huddle:

1. discuss sermon – use questions
2. share spiritual insights
3. pray for each other

QUESTIONS FOR HUDDLES

1. Are you aware [truly] of God's presence
2. Which "we" statement challenges you the most? Why?
3. What motivates you to build the Church?
4. How well are you fulfilling your commission as Christ's ambassador?

PRAYER POINTS

CULTURE OF THE X COMMUNITY



MONEYCARE IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER!

When we left the building at 34 Smith Street some of the services that the wider Salvation Army provide in Parramatta, came with us. Doorways, Salvos Legal and Moneycare were able to operate out of shop 4 at 426 Church Street and then move with us across to shop 1. During the Coronavirus Pandemic the operation of these services has had to change but it has been of great value to the community that the Moneycare team have been able to continue, albeit from home instead of the office. As we move upstairs the Moneycare team will be moving with us and setting up their service from our new administration office. Currently, there are three Moneycare Financial Counsellors assigned to Parramatta. They are Vispi, Janice and Tracie. Thank you to Tracie, who has put together this report to help us understand what Moneycare is doing in our current economic climate and with those in western Sydney who need this kind of support.

MONEYCARE REPORT: Moneycare provide a free service to individuals, couples and families experiencing financial difficulties. Our qualified staff provide information and support to help you deal with your current financial situation and learn how to manage money well in the future. Due to Covid-19, our staff and many others are working at home. Our staff are working with people that have been stood down by their employers, casuals who have been let go or made redundant and many people under visa restrictions who have no income whatsoever.

TENANCY: Due to reduced or no income, some of our community have been unable to meet their rental obligations and have fallen into rental arrears. The Government had put a moratorium in place regarding evictions however this period has now expired and we are now seeing many people already receiving dates for Tribunal hearings. They may face eviction if negotiations are not in place which will result in many people being 'at risk' of homelessness.

HOME LOANS: The major banks have all offered the option for customers to defer payments for up to six months, with a review after three months. Many people have taken up this option. Interest and fees, however, will continue to be charged and at the end of the deferral, the bank will then either increase the term of the loan or payments will need to increase. At the end of the financial hardship, people may find it difficult to make higher payments. If you are unable to negotiate for the arrears to be added to the loan and unable to afford the increased repayments, the lender may commence the debt recovery process. Selling your home during a pandemic may not be an option.

CAR LOANS: Since Covid-19, many people have unfortunately already had their cars repossessed and are now facing a debt for the shortfall.

PAY DAY LOANS: During Covid-19, we are seeing more people who have accessed pay day loans in order to meet their essential expenses. These loans incur large interest and monthly fees and generally the repayments are unaffordable whilst on a low income.

PRAYERPOINTS

Pray for our X Factor month; for fellowship, for learning, for new revelations.



As we continue praying through the Corps Directory this week we will be praying for: Doreen Salt, Grant & Sharon SB, Montana SB, George & Judith Sanders, Cat Sanders, Ken & Margaret Sanz, Heather Savage, Allan & Bev Snitch, Audrey Spooner, Karen Stewart, Lionel Stowe.



Remember those in our corps community who are facing health challenges and need our prayerful support, especially with the extra caution required due to the coronavirus. We pray for those who have had recent surgery and are now recovering.



We pray for Sarah Walker [cadet] as she transitions into her placement at our corps; and for this time of quarantine.



If there is someone or something you would like us to pray for please contact the office by Tuesday for it to be included in the newsletter.

If you would like to give to the kingdom building activities in and through our Corps by transfer please use the following details: **BSB 032078; Account No. 000810288; Account Name - The Salvation Army, Parramatta.** Please include an applicable reference on the transfer so we can accurately record the gift.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please send your details to parramatta.corps@gmail.com

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