

PARRAMATTERS

SUNDAY 11 JUNE 2017

Parramatta Salvation Army



At the start of 2017 we moved the majority of our Youth & Children's ministry programs and activities from Wednesday night and Sundays to a Friday night. With lots of preparation, consultation with leaders and parents we went ahead with the move. Friday nights down here at Parra Salvos are awesome! There is a constant hype of activity, a buzz of excitement to learn what's happening that week, eagerness to meet up with friends and great meals served from the kitchen!

There is a range of activities that happens through the night including: Learner, Junior and Youth Timbrels. Learner Brass, Guitar, Percussion and Concert Band. Learner, Junior, Boys and Youth Dance Groups and then Youth Group Life Groups and Social events too!

The Friday afternoon traffic and parking continues to be a challenge at times, but the atmosphere over dinner, being in groups together, and just hanging out in this relaxing family environment is a nice way to finish off the week for our kids and parents that come.

We are very blessed with all the leaders that we have in Youth and Children's Ministries that commit to the Friday night Program. Our kids are in great hands when it comes to learning and being in ministry together.





What a great Axios Discipleship Day we had last Sunday.

Ephesians 4:12 was the theme and we certainly ended the day feeling equipped “for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”.

The day started at 8am with a lovely time of learning and prayer, led by Kerrie Farthing. It was great to see so many attend Kneedrill and start the day listening to what the Lord had to share.

Four breakout sessions were held throughout the function centre and for some it was hard to choose just two sessions to attend.

Majors Belinda and Lyndon Spicer spoke from experience and from the heart about the importance of 'gathering at tables', highlighting healthy, growing churches have people involved in holistic small groups. They mentioned that research has demonstrated that pastors and ministers have the capacity to effectively minister to forty to sixty people, therefore emphasising the importance of Christians taking personal responsibility to support others in small groups and to seek out small groups to enhance their own spiritual development and growth.

Some key characteristics of small groups highlighted included the importance of them being intentional, having intentional conversations, being spirit led, and them being authentic, safe and non-judgemental. The importance of group members having the freedom to grow and explore, that there is a strong sense of sharing and people walking alongside each other to support each other, was also emphasised.

Small groups compliment corporate worship, the church as a whole being the 'church family.' Both are imperative. Small groups give opportunity to build and strengthen relationships, provide pastoral care, to learn from each other and for each member of the group to express themselves. The small group may be a regular bible study or discipleship group, it may be a meal with others, or an intentional meeting with one or more other people. All people attending this session were challenged to seek out a small group or to facilitate a small group.

In August of this year, our congregation will be focusing on this topic, so if you are not already gathering at tables, start thinking about how this may work for you.

Major John Viles spoke about Sharing your faith with Children. Amongst an hour of great content he shared the following tips when sharing with kids:

1. Be Yourself
2. Don't limit the conversations to Sunday
3. Let kids catch you doing something spiritual
4. Look for natural opportunities to raise spiritual issues
5. Learn to be a learner, not just a teacher
6. Use media to start chats about God
7. Have a plan for family devotions
8. Have fun with your kids
9. Do ministry as a family
10. Disciple and equip your children

Lt. Lydia Hung presented a very comprehensive overview of Chinese culture and behaviour and spoke in helpful and practical terms about the strong values and society norms underlying all aspects of Chinese community. She spoke of the importance of understanding these concepts as a basis when building relationships with Chinese people and gaining their respect. Lydia explained the importance of the five constant Chinese virtues, these being humanity (the most important), propriety, righteousness, honesty and wisdom.

Lydia spoke about the similarities in culture between the Chinese, Korean and Japanese people. She highlighted the influence of Confucius, Mencius and Xunzi on Chinese philosophy and explained concepts such as living in the present and how many Chinese people do not give much thought to the afterlife.

Common customs are to be observed and simple and important ways we can show our respect were also discussed thus helping our understanding greatly when engaging with people of Chinese culture.

The day ended with a worship service at the unusual time of 1pm. We had a great time of sharing, both kids and adults, saw some meaningful videos, sang heartily and Grant did a great job of tying the theme of the day together.

If you have ideas on what topics may interest you at a future Axios Discipleship Day, please email info@axios.org.au or mention it to one of the Axios Team – Richard, Denise, Dot, Martin, Anthony, Kitty or Grant.

Contributions by Richard Eden, Denise Thomas and Dot Griffin.

SESSION REVIEW

Sharing your faith with your Hindu neighbour— by Martin Bust

I attended this session at the Axios Day Conference & found it really interesting. I thought that there might be significant barriers that would make it hard to share my Christian faith to someone of Hindu faith. If you approach it the right way, I can see that it is possible to share the Love of God.

We need to build relationships & understand what Hindu people believe. Then when the moment is right, introduce them to the stories of God – introduce them to God. Similar to how we could come alongside anyone who doesn't know God.

KIDS MUSIC CLUB

INTERVIEW WITH SHAGUN GILL AND BABY FATEH

How did you first hear or find out about Kids Music Club?

I heard about it from my neighbours who were regulars here.

Why do you come each week?

My 2 year old loves it. It's a class full of energy and fun. It's a stress buster for Mums as well.

How is Kids Music Club good for parents?

We get to meet other parents and share stories. I have made quite a few friends here in the last 1 1/2 years.

What do we teach the children about Jesus?

JESUS IS THE BOSS!! The class is a good source of information for kids about Jesus. All lessons are given in a fun way. Easter and Christmas are good to learn about why these festivals are celebrated.

What is your child's favourite thing about Kids Music Club?

The teacher—Carissa is absolutely lovely. She is so full of energy. Also helps that there is a schedule every week.

Any other comments:

We haven't missed a single Friday here. It's a lot of learning for my son all in a fun, energetic environment. Love it!

PRAYERPOINTS



Please pray for Danny Danusa's family. His mother was Promoted to Glory on 14th May 2017.



Pray for Gwen Bourke as she settles into Gracewood Aged Care Facility and for Gwen's bother Len Baker who was Promoted to Glory during the week. Your prayer support for Len's family would be valued and appreciated at this time.



Please remember those in our corps family who are still undergoing treatment or recovering from operations. Also for the families who are supporting their progress and facing the challenges that ill-health present.

For John & Alayne Godkin,
Carol Pomeroy, Paul Lucas
and Narelle Luxford.



If you would like us to pray for you or your loved ones, contact either **Marty Bust** or **Dot Griffin** for it to be included in the newsletter and Prayer Network.

PEOPLE NEWS

- ◆ Gwen Bourke was transferred this week to the Gracewood Aged Care facility at 2 Free Settlers Drive, Kellyville.
- ◆ We were also saddened to learn of the Promotion to Glory of Gwen's brother Len Baker on Tuesday morning. A Thanksgiving Service is to be held at The Salvation Army Port Macquarie commencing 10.30am on Tuesday. Len was a valued soldier of our Corps for many years before he and his wife Marjorie moved up to the central coast. Len was also the brother-in-law of Vince & Lorraine Bignell.

If you have news to share with the wider church family please forward it to the office by Wednesday. Thanks

UPCOMING EVENTS

GOLDEN YEARS & LADIES FELLOWSHIP

10AM TUESDAY 13 JUNE 2017

We welcome the Toongabbie Christian School Ministry Choir

All welcome to come and join in!

It's time we had another 'gathering at table' fellowship!

Saturday 29th July  **Geranium Cottage Dural**

If you are interested in joining with the fellowship of our corps for lunch on this date, then please indicate to me at your earliest. Not a set menu, so all able to select own choice (allow approx \$30 each).

CORPS FORUM

SUNDAY 18 JUNE 2017

Please join us at the Corps Forum when we will discuss the future of our corps. There will be representatives from the Territory and the Division to help us understand our mission and the part we play in the wider Salvation Army. The youth group will again be fundraising for EQUIP providing us with lunch: sausage sandwiches, sweets and soft drinks. Tea and coffee will be provided. Everyone in our corps family is welcome to attend and participate.

THE SALVATION ARMY JUST MEN CONFERENCE

The Salvation Army Just Men Conference NSW is to be held at The Collaroy Centre from Friday 4th - Sunday 6th August, 2017. Registrations open from Thursday 1st June, 2017 @ 11 am. You can register via our Salvos Just Men Facebook page using the 'NSW Just Men 2017' tab on the left hand side of the page. Click this tab and it will take you to the registration page where it allows you to register.. You can also register by opening

<https://tinyurl.com/NSW-Just-Men-2017> in Chrome or Safari.

YOUTH GROUP

16 June

23 June



7.30 until 8.30pm



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.



CORPS OFFICERS:
Grant & Sharon Sandercock-Brown
OFFICE:
34 Smith Street, Parramatta 2150
PHONE: [02] 9635 6870

POSTAL: ADDRESS: PO Box 1109,
Parramatta CBD 2124
EMAIL: parramatta.corps@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.salvos.org.au/parramatta



Check out our Parramatta Corps Facebook Pages: Parramatta Salvos, Children's & Youth Ministries