

# THE SALVATION ARMY RISCA CORPS

## Revelations!

Issue: January 2004

### Dates for your diary...

#### **Sunday 18 January 2004**

Joint Services with Bethany Baptist Church.  
The 6pm service will take the form of a joint  
commitment service  
10-30am—At Bethany  
6pm—At Risca SA

#### **Monday 19 January 2004—7pm**

Safe and Sound Course for all that work with  
YP in corps

#### **Friday 23 January 2004**

PCC Meeting

#### **Saturday/Sunday 24/25 January 2004**

YP Annual led by Captains Doug and  
Michelle Hayter

#### **Friday 30 January 2004—7-30pm**

Corps Council

#### **Sunday 1 February 2004—6pm**

Launch of Missionary Appeal with Divisional  
Leaders, Majors Peter and Sandra Moran

#### **Monday 2 February 2004—7-30pm**

Commencement of new Alpha Course

#### **Friday 6 February 2004—7-15pm**

Quiz Night—What Happens Next?  
£3 per adult, £2 per child

#### **Friday 5 March 2004**

World Day of Prayer/Launch of corps 24/1  
prayer event

#### **Saturday 6 March 2004**

24/1 prayer event and Prayer Concert

#### **Sunday 7 March 2004**

Missionary Appeal Altar Service

#### **Thursday 11 March 2003—7-30pm**

At Home...with Risca Band and Guests

#### **Saturday/Sunday 13/14 March 2004**

Welsh Congress. *Meetings at Risca will be  
cancelled for this occasion*

#### **Friday 19 March 2004—7-30pm**

Corps Council

#### **Sunday 21 March 2004**

Mothers Day and Home & Family  
Weekend

#### **Saturday 27 March 2004**

Annual Spring Concert with Risca Band and  
Guests

#### **Thursday 8 April 2004**

Maundy Thursday

#### **Friday 9 April 2004**

Good Friday

#### **Sunday 11 April 2004**

Easter Sunday

#### **Saturday/Sunday 17/18 April 2004**

Band Weekend

#### **Tuesday 27 April 2004**

Home and Family Rally, Port Talbot

#### **Saturday 8 May 2004**

Band and Songsters to Connah's Quay

#### **Sunday 9 May 2004**

Candidates Sunday

#### **Saturday 29 May 2004**

Commissioning

#### **Monday 28 June 2004—7-30pm**

Corps Council

#### **Monday 13 September 2004—7-30pm**

Corps Council

#### **Saturday 18 Sept—Sunday 3 October**

Annual Appeal

#### **Friday 12 November 2004—7-30pm**

Corps Council

#### **Saturday/Sunday 27-28 November 2004**

Youth Councils

### *Inside this issue:*

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Captains Comment

---

Bandstand

---

Goals 2004

---

Finance

---

At Home...

---

Leadership

---

Territorial Commander

---

The Trip

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**Risca Salvation Army - a family church for everyone!**

## Captains Comment...

Happy New Year to you all.

Firstly we would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped over the Christmas Season, with carolling, parcel packing and the different programmes provided for the community. It is a credit to the Corps to have such hard workers over this period and we commend you for your efforts. Christmas has past us by for another year but knows what 2004 will bring to us? There's one thing for sure we will experience positive bright & happy times but also times that hold sadness for us. This is part of life as we know it and I'm sure we will never get away from the ups and downs. However as Christians how we react to and deal with our 'roller coaster ride' will determine whether we get the most from the coming year. For Julia and I, the joy of a new addition to our family will be realised in February and certainly this will be one of those positive experiences, but how will we be when perhaps the pressures of work, looking after home and Emily coupled with sleepless nights take their toll? What will be the secret to keep on track even though some of life experiences could exhaust and depress? Many of you I'm sure will have an answer to this through your own experiences but perhaps the answer can be also found in the Book of James chapter 4 verses 7 & 8 that says

*" Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you."*



Simply a closeness to Jesus, a relationship with him that is working, wanted, useful, prayerful, meaningful and real will instil in us His character, His reactions, His will and His Power. Let us during this year never loose the discipline of staying close to Jesus, this will keep us despite what 2004 brings. Our reactions will be given through the Faith we have in Christ and draw others to seek the way that we deal with our Roller Coaster Ride. The old Testament Character of Job is proof that closeness and loyalty to the Lord God sees you through some of the most testing times and provides at the end of the day more blessings than one can imagine.

2004 will present the Corps with Challenges and opportunities, we will be expected to pull together, to achieve objectives and to support one another in love. Our success will not be found in our abilities alone, but in Christ's. His abilities will be seen in us the closer we are to Him. Let us come to worship during this coming year with a desire to communicate personally to Jesus, let us meet him and use every opportunity to get just that little bit closer to him. Then we will see the year through with a smile not necessarily on our face but definitely in our heart.

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow*

*Because He lives all fear is gone*

*Because I know He holds the future*

*And life is worth the living just because He lives*

*"Christianity, in its purest form, is nothing more than seeing Jesus. Christian service, in its purest form, is nothing more than imitating him whom we see. To see His Majesty and to imitate him, that is the sum of Christianity"*

May we all see His Majesty this year.

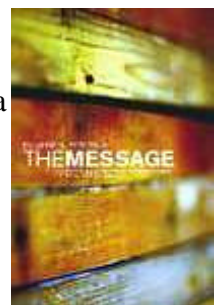
God Bless you all.



**The NIV Bible for Families** is perfect for families who want to explore God's Word in a fresh, user-friendly and accessible way. With specially written features and discussion pointers on a range of topics, it highlights all aspects of family life - from suffering and stress, to prayer and parenting. A 'Food for Life' theme is followed throughout so that families and individuals can 'taste and see' just how relevant God's Word is to every area of our lives. Topics include: making decisions, money, tiredness, friends and peer pressure, feeling guilty, communication and more.

## THE MESSAGE—REMIX

An updated, contemporary looking version of the highly popular Message Bible that brings a vibrant new energy into God's Word and is ideal for the youth market. This new 'Remix' edition would make a great gift for any young person who wants a modern approach to reading the Bible.



## HALLEY'S BIBLE HANDBOOK FOR WINDOWS

Over six million copies already sold and no wonder! This powerful program, complete with colour photos, maps, illustrations, bible study tips and up-to-date archaeology, brings you easily accessible, crystal clear commentary and insight into the entire bible and its culture.

**Bandstand...  
BM Ian  
Browning**



THE band received some wonderful opportunities last year to fulfil its mission statement of ‘...taking the love of God to all people everywhere...’ For those of you who prayed, supported, encouraged, motivated and inspired the band—thank you. A kind word may not seem much but sometimes can mean the world. 2003 brought us some unforgettable moments with the band. Who will forget Don Gregory falling off his chair while the band played at St Mark’s Church in Gabalfa? You will be pleased to know that Don gave all of us a true example of a Salvation Army Bandsman when he passed his instrument to Alan as he was falling, making sure that the instrument was protected from any damage! What about Margaret Gregory falling while we marched down Stow Hill in Newport after the service at St Woolos Cathedral? Again, Margaret’s quick reactions ensured that her instrument was protected from any serious damage! Seriously though, what does 2004 have in store for the band?

- **Spring Concert 2004**

Once again the band will be taking part in the Annual Spring Concert of Music. The date for this event is Saturday 27 March. Further details will be issued in due course.

- **Band Weekend 2004**

Our band weekend has been booked for Saturday/Sunday 17/18 April. Please pray for this weekend.

- **Visitors to Band Rehearsal**

We will be having some visitors to band rehearsals during 2004. Leading devotions and enjoying the fellowship during January will be our Divisional Commander, **Major Peter Moran**. Territorial Evangelists, **Mike and Jenny Clark**, will be here during February and **Derick Kane**, Music Ministries Department, THQ, will be leading rehearsal during March. Come along and join with us!

- **Connah’s Quay**

On Saturday 8 May the band and songsters will be travelling to Connah’s Quay to help Brian and Katherine Harry encourage, inspire and motivate the people of that community as well as try and raise much needed finance. Pray for this evangelical outreach that God will be with us and richly bless both us and the people of Connah’s Quay.

- **Band Locals**

Risca Band currently has a Colour Sergeant (Dean Brill) and Librarian (Daniel Jenkins). They assist me to the best of their ability and all their help is appreciated. Please pray, along with me, that God will provide us with the following locals to join the team: Deputy Bandmaster, Band Sergeant and Band Secretary.

New Year’s Resolutions...have you made any? I have. One of mine is to lose weight. The top one every year is to lose weight. A woman walked into her bathroom at home. As she did, she saw her husband weighing himself on the bathroom scales, sucking in his stomach. The woman thought to herself, ‘He thinks that he will weigh less by sucking in his stomach.’ So, the woman rather sarcastically said to her husband, ‘That’s not going to help.’ Her husband said, ‘Sure it will. It’s the only way I can see the numbers.’

Resolutions are goals—accomplishments. Have you ever accomplished something wonderful? Fulfilled a dream? Carried out an idea? Reached your goal? It might have been to play a musical instrument, building something, writing something, earning an education degree. How did you feel? Isn’t it great when dreams and goals become a reality. It doesn’t matter if nobody else is impressed. You are the one who gets the kick out of what has been achieved. In 1999 one of my goals was reached when we moved into our new house in Ynysddu.

Have you ever reached a spiritual goal?

As a manager of over 200 members of staff in 14 different locations, I am constantly reiterating that people must have a direction and move in that direction or we’ll go nowhere. It’s the same with our spiritual lives. Without setting and attaining spiritual goals we never experience the wholeness and the satisfaction and joy that God has intended for us. This leads to the question: What are God’s goals for us? What is God’s goal for you? We need to determine our goals and go after them – otherwise nothing will be accomplished. We need to live up to what God’s already done in our lives. Remember the distance God has brought you, but don’t get satisfied with it. Build on it.

If any goal is worthwhile it will be hard to achieve. We will be tempted to give up. God has to have our total commitment and willingness to do whatever it takes to reach His goals.

‘...If you want a thing bad enough to go out and fight for it, to work day and night for it, to give up your time, your peace, and your sleep for it

... if all that you dream and scheme is about it, and life seems useless and worthless without it

... if you gladly sweat for it and fret for it and plan for it and lose all your terror of the opposition for it

...if you simply go after that thing you want with all of your capacity, strength and sagacity, faith, hope and confidence and stern pertinacity

... if neither cold, poverty, famine, nor gout, sickness nor pain, of body and brain, can keep you away from the thing that you want

...if dogged and grim you beseech and beset it, with the help of God, you WILL get it!...’

As a corps let’s pray for each other as to we each try to attain our goals. We read in Philippians 3: ‘...I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running and I’m not turning back...let’s keep focused on that goal...now that we’re on the right track, let’s stay on it...stay on track...steady in God.’

## GOALS 2004

Captain Robert Jepson was asked for the Risca Corps Goals for 2004. Hereunder are '*...just some that spring to mind—there will be more as the year unfolds...*'

- To continue to work towards setting up a Charity Shop/Café and Information Centre in Risca Town
- To run two Alpha Courses and develop further a discipling programme for the Corps in conjunction with the Alpha small groups
- To look carefully at our Young Peoples work with a view to new expressions of mission
- To produce a corps musical for the public as a means of mission and evangelism
- To develop a new three-year planned giving programme with the help of THQ to increase our corps income
- To look towards the appointing of a Recruiting Sergeant and Adherents Secretary
- To train and develop a pastoral team
- To set up a New building advisory board
- To investigate where a new hall can be suitably built for the future
- To purchase a new multimedia and sound system for worship
- To plan for a Corps Retreat
- To raise £500 for the corps through corps social events

## WORSHIP GROUP

**YOUNG, enthusiastic, energetic, talented, spiritually aware and spiritually growing...**these are some of the words that describe our newly formed worship group.

Currently the following personnel make up the group: Ian Browning, *Leader/Bass Guitar*, Andrew Thomas, *Percussion*, Nathan Browning, *Piano*, Jonathan Hayes, *Cornet*, David Gregory, *Vocal*, Dean Brill, *Vocal*, Natalie Browning, *Vocal* and Carolyn Parker, *Vocal*.

We meet together to rehearse one Friday per month and will, in the New Year, be contributing to morning worship every other month.

Already our value statement of '*Growing Upward, Reaching Outward*' has been realised by Mike Gregory, a schoolfriend of Nathan's, being interested in joining the group

Our first proper 'outing' within Sunday worship was on Sunday 14 December 2003 when God blessed us, as a corps, with seekers. I really felt the spirit of God move within the meeting that morning. It wasn't all down to the worship group it was a combination of many things. It was a sight however, that the worship group had never experienced and needed to experience.

To worship is to revere, give recognition, merit, honour, respect and devotion to. That is what we do to our loving Heavenly Father. We don't look for things in return but He has blessed us already and we look forward to receiving the many more blessings He will grant us.

Please pray for our group. Come along to rehearsal some time and see what we do. This new group belongs to you. Take ownership of it and support it. I realise that there are some of us who only like to sing from the song book, others who only like to sing the contemporary songs. Thankfully, the worship group encompass all styles of worship—so there should be something to please everyone.

What we do and what we hope to achieve we do in God's name, together, as a team. We are motivated by the words found in Matthew 5:

'...Let me tell you why you are here.  
You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the  
God-flavours of this earth...  
You are here to be light, ...  
bringing out the God-colours in the world.  
*God is not a secret to be kept...*'

***God bless!  
Ian Browning***

From the Office of the  
Territorial Commander:  
  
A New Year Greeting



Dear Friends,

It's great to be able to greet you through the pages of '*Revelations*' and I am grateful to our Claire, for the opportunity to say 'hello' to you all in this way.

2003 has been quite a year for you and so much has happened, but I want to challenge you to even greater things in 2004. Risca has a tremendous history, but I do believe that the best is still ahead of you, so 'go for it'.

I am absolutely thrilled to hear about some of the exciting things that are happening at Risca. Congratulations on your *Alpha* Course! God is using the *Alpha* Course to bring new people into a personal relationship with Christ and also to revitalise salvationists. This is our mission, isn't it? It is all about 'saving souls and growing saints'. Don't lose sight of our mission! On a few occasions I have spoken about a corps in the territory that has 17 cell groups and each cell group is running an *Alpha* Course. William Carey, the famous Baptist missionary gave us those famous words, '*Expect great things from God. Attempt great things with God*'. This is what you are doing.

You are a praying people. I know that and thank God for it. Please keep praying, especially for the prodigals. Rob Parsons says that '*we make it easy for them to leave, but we make it difficult for them to return*'. We need to pray specifically by name for those who used to form part of the family at Risca, but you need to make sure that when they return they will be welcomed with open arms. This is the ministry of grace, that same grace that God has given so freely to each one of us. He wants us to dispense that same grace in all our contacts with people. Let Risca be known as a 'gracious' corps!

This new year is obviously going to be a very busy one for you as I see all the special events that have been organised - a corps retreat, another *Alpha* Course, the Annual Spring Concert and perhaps even a musical. Keep the spiritual temperature high! Be open to what the Holy Spirit has in store for you. Fasten your safety belts and enjoy all that he is going to do in you and through you.

Warm greetings.

In Christ.

**Alex Hughes**  
**Commissioner**

# KIDS CORNER

## ur dad cares bout u

**TEEN/CHILDREN** are not renowned for keeping in constant communication with their parents. Yet in an increasingly dangerous world, many parents are concerned that they often don't know the whereabouts of their offspring.

In an effort to address this issue, Maths teacher Sally Dowler, whose daughter Milly was abducted and murdered on her way home from school, has come up with an answer. She and her husband have launched the 'Teach UR Mum 2 TXT' campaign, an attempt to encourage adults to engage with shorthand text messaging—the language used by young people everywhere.

Young people will receive a free booklet designed to help explain text messaging and how the abbreviated form works to their parents, as well as listing a number of helpful phrases. These include 'ruok' (are you OK?), 'cul8r' (see you later) and 'tmb' (text me back). Sally's other daughter, 17 year old Gemma, writes in the booklet: 'Having seen how awful it was 4 my parents wen my sister Milly went missing, I now know how important it is 2 let ur parents know where u r @ all times. It's much less embarrassing 2 get a text than a fone call.'

- Do you use text messaging to contact your parents/guardians? Do you think it's a good idea to encourage young people to do this? Why or why not?
- Do you text friends? Why—to convey information or just to keep in touch?
- What other kinds of communication do you use and for what purposes?
- What happens to relationship when you don't keep in touch?

Read Matthew 6: 5-15

- What do we learn about prayer in this passage? Are there some good guidelines here for us?
- If prayer is about keeping in touch with God, what happens if we don't pray?
- How much time do you spend praying, compared to talking, emailing or texting? Do you think that's a good balance? Try to spend more time keeping in touch with your parents, on earth and in heaven.

*Captain Robert Jepson*

*(Taken from Youthwork, December 2003)*

CERTAIN basic elements should be included in prayer. These can be easily remembered by the word ACTS, an acronym for the following words: *Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication*. However ACTS is merely a guideline and not a rigid sentence which you must follow in your prayers. Let's consider each of these words.

### **Adoration**

To adore God is to worship and praise Him, to honour and exalt Him in your heart and in your mind and with your lips. Prayer is often misunderstood as a vague, mystical element in one's relationship to a Holy, Awesome God. But the word of God does not teach this. Rather it teaches that God our Father, desires the fellowship of His children. Your relationship to your Heavenly Father should be one of complete trust, faith and obedience. Likewise, your prayer should express your complete trust in Him and reflect your confidence that He hears you. As a result, you approach Him in adoration and praise, with reverence and awe, with love and gratitude.

Praising God aloud in your private meditation and in your own home and reading His word can enrich your prayer time. A cold, ungrateful heart will soon be warmed, and praising God will become easy.

Personally, I cringe at such references as 'the man upstairs' for the God whom I worship is one whom I honour and revere. He is the Omnipotent, Holy God, Creator of all things. I feel perfectly free to open my heart to Him, to share my deepest heartfelt needs, knowing that He is not only the Omnipotent, Holy God, but also my loving Heavenly Father. He loves me more, understands me better and believes in me more than anyone else in the world. I happen to pray in just about every conceivable posture, with my eyes open or shut, while I am walking, while I am lying in bed, audibly and silently. The first thing I do when I awake is thank God for my life and acknowledge that the Lord Jesus is in control of my life, and thank Him that He loves me and is living His life in and through me in all of His resurrection power and presence. I invite Him to continue His ministry of 'seeking and saving the lost' through me, to use me in whatever way is pleasing to Him.

**WHAT SHOULD  
BE INCLUDED  
IN PRAYER?**

### **Confession**

The Christian who needs to be restored to fellowship with Christ should begin with confession. If your discipline of prayer begins with worshipful adoration of God, the Holy Spirit will reveal any sin in your life that needs to be confessed. By seeing God in purity, His holiness, you become aware of your own unworthiness. Don't wear a façade or put on an act with God. If you do not feel spiritual, tell Him so. If your heart is cold, confess it.

### **Thanksgiving**

Nothing pleases God more than your consistent expression of faith. There is no better way to demonstrate your faith than to say 'Thank You'. The writer of the Hebrews makes it clear that without faith it is impossible to please God. If you are filled with God's Holy Spirit and recognise that He controls all things, you can thank God not only for the many blessings of each day, but also for the problems and adversities. May I suggest that you meditate on all your blessings, such as your salvation through knowing Christ. Giving thanks demonstrates that you really do trust God. Expressing your faith pleases God and enables Him to make Himself strong on your behalf.

### **Supplication**

For many Christians prayer is like window shopping. They spend much time looking but never buy anything. Supplication includes petition for your own needs and intercession for others, you are to pray for everything and in specific terms. As you talk to God pray that your inner person may be renewed and quickened, be made alert and alive, vital, refreshed, always sensitive to and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Pray for others. Christians often do not realise the importance of intercession. The apostle Paul continually prayed for his converts. He asked them to pray for him. You should pray for other Christians and encourage them to pray for you.

The ACTS pattern has helped many Christians to develop a more well rounded prayer life in communication with their loving Father, God.

I hope this series has been helpful to you.

Continue praying for all things.

God bless you. Mal

## Adult & Community...Captain Julia

We continue to enjoy ourselves in the CAMEO Club every Monday at 4 o'clock. We even have a theme song to the tune of 'It's a long way to Tipperary'. Here are the words you might like to try it.

*Come and join us everybody*

*At the CAMEO Club*

*Where we Come And Meet Each Other*

*Every Monday at 4 o'clock*

*Lots of chatter, happy singing*

*And a friendly cup of tea*

*So if you want a brighter day*

*Just come along and stay*

*At the CAMEO Club!*

Written by your very own non-musical Captain Julia - what an achievement!!!

Many of you may not know, but Keith Ferrier has quite a skill in painting. He brought along his portfolio of paintings for us to see and gave a very interesting talk about his work. If you would like to know more about this I'm sure he will be willing to share this with you.

On the 8 December, we had our Christmas Dinner, wonderfully prepared by Margaret Gregory and her little helpers, Pam and John. It was a joyful occasion and the evening followed by entertainment from the 'Oakdale Ladies Choir'. They were excellent and did a good variety of Christmas songs and some of these were accompanied with a dance routine from Emily Jepson!!! The evening finished with everyone mingling with tea, coffee, mince pies and fresh cream.

We continue to have a good relationship with those that live at Britannia Court. Carina (the warden) and myself often get together for an update on all that is happening. Back in October she requested if the Salvation Army could do something for the residents one evening in December. So a team of us from the CAMEO Club went along one Monday evening in December and hosted an informal carol service for them. About 15 of the residents and friends attended which was very much appreciated and our members got much satisfaction from hosting this evening. We were gratefully thanked with a card and a donation.

We have many guest speakers and groups lined up throughout 2004 on the first Monday in every month, so do come along and join us when you can.

God Bless you all.

**Finally:** *'The ladies of the Home League have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the YP hall on Friday'* (From SA Newsletters in the Home & Family Resource Book).

*Parent and Toddlers...*

*Dinner Club...CAMEO*

*Club...Bible Study...*

*Guides...Brownies...*

*Rainbows...Community*

*Care Ministries*

Our Youth Group is operating as a cell group. Which means that in each meeting we have, we make sure that four w's are included in the session

**WELCOME**- where we have coffee and biscuits and get to know each other and talk

**WORSHIP** - A time to reflect on Jesus, to sing a song, to pray or to focus on an aspect of our theme

**WORD**- The Bible is integral to the group and we try each week to refer to its pages and to discuss topics and issues it presents

**WITNESS**- Our cell group must be practical and so we aim to relate the topics we discuss to life making sure that what is learnt can be used to shine a bit of light on ourselves and others

The next stage of our development in this area will be for different members of the group to prepare a cell group meeting using the four W's . This will be done with help from the leader.

The Youth hope to assist the corps in raising money this year by hosting a QUIZ EVENING called " What Happens Next..?" after a successful holiday to North Wales a video was taken of the groups activities. We want you to watch parts of the video and guess in teams what comes next. We will work towards getting some good prizes and being hosts with food. This should take place on Friday 6th February at 7.15pm all being well. Buy a Ticket and come along.

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## Partners In Prayer



### Family life

Thank you Lord, for every household that provides loving security and nurture to family members. Please help those facing particularly difficult issues at this time. In Jesus' name. Amen. \*

### Suffering world

Lord we lift to You all who are enslaved in anyway today. Please deliver, by Your power and love, people who are abused by others, gripped by addiction and sin and those living in extreme poverty and pain. In Jesus' name, Amen. \*

### Hope for the future

God of perfect justice and unfailing hope; thank You that even when the outlook is bleak and our strength has gone, You are our confidence and our Saviour. Help us to trust you for all that lies ahead. In Jesus' name. Amen. \*

**\*Taken from the CARE winter prayer guide – My partner in prayer.  
To receive the CARE prayer guide either by mail or on email visit [www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk)**

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek Me.” – *Jeremiah 29:11-13 (New Living Translation)*

## Deliberate Discussion!

Following the recent arrest of Saddam Hussein, Iestyn Davies asks the following questions when thinking about "... an eye for an eye ... "

- 1) Should Britain urge Iraq and the USA to show mercy to Saddam Hussein?
- 2) What does the Bible say about the death penalty?
- 3) George W Bush is well known for his evangelical Christian beliefs - what is his belief regarding the death penalty?
- 4) If there was to be a referendum on the reintroduction of Capital Punishment in the UK, what should be the position of the church?
- 5) In 2002 at least 1,526 people were executed in 31 countries, 81% of executions were performed in three countries, which were they?

Check out <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/deathpenalty-facts-eng> and <http://www.prodeathpenalty.com>



## FINANCES ... CT Margaret Gregory

### Pledged Giving this quarter—13 weeks in total:

£6055-85 Pledged  
£39-00 Unpledged  
£642-07 Offering

### Sponsored Bike Ride:

AYPBL Andrew Thomas raised £392 for the YP Band

### Pakistan:

A total of £2,000 plus goods were raised to enable Phyllis Browning and myself to go to Pakistan

*Risca Corps Building  
Fund—£3136-00*

*Thank you!*

*Thanks to all those who contribute to the newsletter  
but special thanks to:*

**Mal Williams...**

*for his series on Prayer*

**Denise Jenkins...**

*for taking the series over in the next edition. Denise's  
subject will be Moses*

**Julia Harry...**

*for coming 'on board' and providing some pages*

**Phyllis Browning...**

*for stapling*

## ALPHA COURSE

A new Alpha course will commence at the corps on Monday 2 February 2004 with an Alpha Supper at 7.30pm. The course is for those who want to brush up a little in the faith and for those who are searching to find out about the Christian faith. Alpha should be self propagating. Those who have sat a course in theory should take the opportunity to bring someone else on the next course and guide them through. This is a challenge but one that could reap great benefits for the Kingdom of God.

There is a seed thought about preparing a course and taking it out of our building to another location in the town to be more incarnation with the people of the town. This is something for us to think about and mull over and finally decide upon. Any ideas for a venue with maximum impact please pass on suggestions to me.

**Captain Robert Jepson**

## WEBB IVORY CHRISTMAS 2004

Would you like to take on Webb Ivory for Christmas 2004? If so, please see CT Margaret Gregory.

## **CORPS RETREAT 2004**

...

### **Meet our leaders for the Retreat, Clive and Jani Rubery**

#### **CLIVE RUBERY, FIPM**

Clive has had over 30 years experience of management development and personnel work in industries such as high technology, engineering, oil and gas, and civil engineering contracting. The companies he has worked for include Rolls Royce and Cementation.

His last position before becoming a full time consultant was as Divisional Personnel Manager for the Civil and Specialist Engineering Division of Trafalgar House.

He has line management experience and also wide experience of all aspects of Personnel Management particularly Industrial Relations and Management Development and Training. Clive has worked extensively overseas predominantly in the USA and Middle East and continental Europe. His experience extends from an oil field in Wyoming to the shipyards of the Clyde.

At the end of 1985, Clive decided to change his career and work independently. Since then he has tutored, advised and managed a variety of training, management development, coaching and consultancy assignments mainly at senior management level. His clients include Unilever, Philips, Balfour Beatty, Universal Music, Costain, King Sturge, Abbot Laboratories, Atomic Energy Authority, BICC, FI Group, Phillips and Drew, Pilkingtons and the Salvation Army.

He is a visiting lecturer at the London Business School, the chairman of a small company, the chairman of trustees for Hope HIV charity and a managing partner in the Partners Group of companies.

Clive has been a Salvationist all of his life and currently serves as Bandmaster of Guildford Corps, a position which he has held for 15 years.

Within the Salvation Army, along with his wife, he helps train the Cadets at the Training College in management skills as well as teaching leadership skills at the International College for Officers in London. He has also been involved in the training of Divisional Commanders in the British Territory. They have also spent time working in Central and South America and continental Europe, where they conducted Leadership Skills courses.

#### **JANI RUBERY, MSc**

Jani has been a management training consultant since 1989. She is involved in various facets of consultancy, including organisational development, with a particular emphasis on interpersonal skills/leadership training. She has degrees in Personnel Management (USA), Psychology and MSc in Organisational Behaviour (UK.).

Prior to becoming a consultant, Jani was involved in various aspects of human resource management in both the USA and the UK within the oil industry, food service industry, recruitment consultancy, public sector, as well as spending three years running her own business.

She works in a variety of industries which include publishing, advertising, multi-nationals, charities, computer related, public sector, as well as being a tutor at London Business School. She has been involved in the facilitation of 360 degree feedback with organisations such as Unilever, Coutts Group, Pearson, WPP and Ericsson.

Recently Jani has become a director of SignifyLtd a leadership development consultancy.

She attends Guildford Corps where she is Corps Mission Secretary and a house group leader.

Along with her husband she conducts leadership seminars throughout the Salvation Army in the UK and abroad. Jani was a member of the Leadership Team of the UK Mission Team for eight years. She is also a speaker at Spring Harvest with particular emphasis on Christian issues in the workplace.

Jani has written a book on creating a flexible lifestyle which creates opportunity for ministry in many different ways – called More Than A Job – Creating a Portfolio Lifestyle.



# At Home

...

## At Home...with Risca Band and Guests

*'At Home' is the brainchild of Bandmaster Ian Browning. What is it? When is it? What's it all about? Read on and see what Ian has to say:*

God has really been blessing me regarding my ministry with the band. We have a great mission statement *'...to bring the love of God to all people everywhere...'* It's a challenge, and one I think we achieve.

*'At Home' is a brand new venture. It will take place on a Thursday evening and take the style of The Parkinson Show—an interviewer with two or three special guests and a couple of pieces presented by the band. This will be a non-uniform event and the music played will not necessarily be 'religious'.*

I am hoping that this will be a chance for us all to meet together informally and I am sure it will introduce many to the 'other side' of the band. It will be something to encourage our friends to come to. Other churches within the community of Risca and beyond can be invited and in a non-threatening environment we can basically spread the gospel to people who wouldn't normally come to 'Sunday Church'.

I am really praying that this new venture will be successful. To get new people—Christian or non-Christian through our doors here at Risca will be a really positive achievement. Let's work together at doing it as a team.

If you have any questions you would like to put to the visiting guests or would like to request a piece of music for the band to play—please see Claire Durrant. Thanks

## At Home...with Risca Band and Guests

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday 11 March 2003</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>7-30pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>The Salvation Army, Risca</b>
<b>Guests:</b>	<b>Mel Hart, THQ Derick Kane, THQ A Local Politician</b>

## ARMY PEOPLE!

**Rhys Durrant** was dedicated on Sunday 23 November 2003 by Major Bill Cochrane, THQ

**Natalie Browning** was enrolled as a Senior Soldier on Sunday 7 December 2003 by our very own Captain Kath Myers

**Ruth Jenkins** was enrolled as a Junior Soldier on Sunday 14 December 2003 by Captain Robert Jepson

**Leah Browning** has passed her Royal College of Music Grade One Cornet exam with Distinction (Leah was only five marks short of 100%)

# LEADERSHIP

## **Leader**

.../noun **1** a person or thing that leads. **2** a person or thing that is the most successful or advanced in a particular area

EVERYTHING rises and falls on leadership. The more you try to do in life, the more you will find that leadership makes the difference. Any endeavour you can undertake that involves other people will live or die depending on leadership. **Personnel** determine the potential of the organisation. **Relationships** determine the morale of the organisation. **Structure** determines the size of the organisation. **Vision** determines the direction of the organisation. **Leadership** determines the success of the organisation.

**Leadership is leadership.** No matter where you go or what you do. Times change. Technology marches forward. Cultures vary from place to place. The true principles of leadership are constant. Leadership principles stand the test of time. The laws of leadership are irrefutable.

- ...leadership ability determines a person's level of effectiveness
- ...the true measure of leadership is influence - nothing more, nothing less
- ...leadership develops daily, not in a day
- ...anyone can steer a ship, but it takes a leader to chart the course
- ...when a real leader speaks, people listen
- ...trust is the foundation of leadership
- ...people naturally follow leaders stronger than themselves
- ...leaders evaluate everything with a leadership bias
- ...leaders - who you are is who you attract
- ...leaders touch a heart before they ask for a hand
- ...a leader's potential is determined by those closest to him
- ...only secure leaders give power to others
- ...it takes a leader to raise up a leader
- ...people buy into the leader - then the vision
- ...leaders find a way for the team to win
- ...momentum is a leader's best friend
- ...leaders understand that activity is not necessarily accomplishment
- ...a leader must give up to go up
- ...when to lead is as important as what to do and where to go
- ...to add growth - lead followers; to multiply - lead leaders

**'...he who thinks he leads, but has no followers, is only taking a walk...'**



*The Rolling Pumpkin...  
ASM Alan Gregory...  
was asked to write  
something ‘...topical,  
controversial,  
something to make  
people to sit up and  
take notice...’  
I think he has achieved  
that really well—  
don’t you?*

IN an effort to remain relevant The Salvation Army has always tried to move with the times. However, in doing so the Army has lost its direction and identity. Slowly forfeiting many defining characteristics, straying from the path of winning souls for Christ and is in danger of becoming absorbed into modern culture by accepting its norms and values.

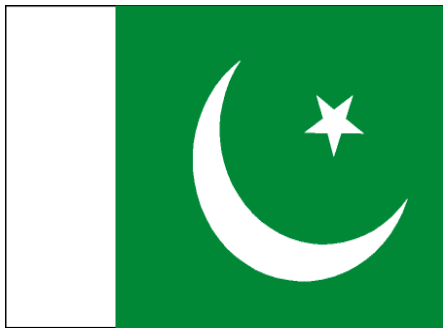
Why has this happened? The army has lost its focus and forgotten the basics. This hit home to me while participating in Alpha, I found out how ill-equipped I was to lead non-Christians to Christ and even speak to other Christians about my faith. At times I even feel that the Army forgets about Christianity altogether and this has been evident at territorial youth councils. We being the church get too carried away in trying to encourage people to come to meetings and participate more in church activities and end up introduce people to Christ as an after thought.



Another failing in recent years has been the flippant nature in which the Army has conducted itself. I refer here to the standard of uniform, behaviour, lifestyle and general demeanour of those not only attending at place of worship, but also throughout the entire structure of the Army, from divisional personnel to those employed by the Army to undertake work in community centres and administrative areas from non Christian backgrounds.

What’s the problem? The Army has become neglectful in its duties to save souls for Christ. Instead delighting in delivering a watered down message with a “modern” appeal. The problem with this is the lack of substance being offered. Today’s generation are looking for something a bit different from their run of the mill routine, a way to rebel against society, they are looking for something that modern culture cannot offer them. They need Christ not another pop concert or social get together. By offering activities that may attract people in the short term we are exposing ourselves to a long-term decline. The more the Army conforms to modern culture the less people it will attract and those that will be attracted may not stay with us for long.

I am not saying that the Army should resist change, but rather resist change for change sake. By having an identity the Army will be attractive to others because it poses a question. The Army must head in the direction God has given not in the direction it thinks is best. The Army could also take account of how the Alpha course operates, introducing people first and foremost to Christ then allowing them to develop, not leading them to Christianity by the back door.



# THE TRIP!!!!!!!!!!!!

On Monday 27 October 2003 the brightness of the smile of our Songster Leader, John Gregory, could be seen for miles! He had taken his wife, Margaret, and his Songster Librarian, Phyllis, to Gatwick Airport for their seven day trip to Pakistan. He was looking forward to the peace, quiet, uninterrupted sport on the telly. He thought he was in heaven. Meanwhile...this is how the two ladies got on:

NEVER in my wildest dreams did I think that one day I would be able to go to Pakistan and see the work of The Salvation Army. The Chief Secretary, Lieut-Colonel Dyall gave both Margaret and I our itinerary for the whole time we were there. We arrived in Lahore on Tuesday 28 October at 2am and were taken to THQ where we were to live during our stay.. The next morning we were taken to meet the Territorial Commander, Colonel Gulzer Patras, then on to dinner with a Swedish officer. Because our uniforms were too small for us we had to borrow others for one day while our new ones were being made up. Tuesday afternoon we went to the Training College and met with the Principle, Lieut-Colonel Sharpe. The cadets gave us a wonderful welcome and we were allowed to go and see their rooms which was very basic not even like the room I had years ago at Denmark Hill, but the cadets were very happy young people. There are currently 150 waiting to go into the college but unfortunately there are only 20 rooms and the territory can only take in new cadets every two years. This time there are 15 married cadets and five single cadets. Wednesday we were taken out by Samia Tufail who works at THQ. We went to Badshahi Fort and Mosque which was very interesting. Late in the afternoon we were taken by the TC to Wagha Border to see the lowering of the flags. The woman had to go on one side and the men on the other side. There were not many Pakistanis because of Ramadan. But there were a great crowd of Indians. That evening the TC took us all to Salt and Pepper Village restaurant which was very good and we tried some of the Pakistani food which was enjoyable.

On Thursday the TC's wife Colonel Sheila (who will be coming over here for the ICO next April, trusting she will come and see us then) got the babies and their mothers together for us to meet them. We were given photos of some of the babies we have helped so if you want to see them please let me know. After this we went to have lunch at the girls boarding Hostel and after met the young folk who sang a welcome to us. That night was the Holiness meeting which the cadets hosted and we were called to the platform for a formal welcome. While there we both saw our lad that we met in Atlanta Ashir. It was good to see him and arrange to meet all his family on the Sunday.

Friday we left at 8.30a.m. for Sheikhpura where we met the DC and his wife, they took us on to Chappa Corps. We met the officers there at their quarters which again was very basic. I don't think officers in this country would put up with quarters like our friends do in Pakistan. We walked down the road which was a mud road to the hall coming into the yard. The Home League members who were very young folk stood either side giving us a path to the hall, we had to stay and wait while they sang a welcome to us and as they did from the hall the young children came down towards us in a procession giving us flowers then we all went into the hall to see a little drama the children did for us.

Saturday we went shopping with the CS and our minder. One has to have their eyes at the back of your heads when trying to cross the main road - there were motor-bikes, little donkeys dragging big carts along the road and other motorbikes which had all the family on them. We saw one with two children at the front between father and the handlebars, one child behind and mother sitting side-saddle with a baby in her arms and not holding on. Not all the traffic stopped at the lights and when one did there were the beggars knocking on the windows of the car. I will never forget the young woman with a tiny baby in her arms knocking on our window. The pity in her eyes will always stay with me. Saturday afternoon we visited Joyland which is a girls home again having the young folk singing a welcome to us.

Sunday had the holiness meeting led by the corps officer and his wife. Lahore Corps is in the Compound of THQ. During the afternoon we were taken to see Ashir and his family. Major Ashiq Anayat, Ashir's father, had only come out of hospital a few weeks ago after having a heart attack. Both Margaret and I thought he still looked very ill. It was lovely meeting all the family.

Monday we were taken to Dauke to see how the corps there work with the Muslims girls and the Christian girls. We couldn't believe where the corps and quarters were situated down the road which was a one-way track and had open sewers either side. The smell was awful but the girls were wonderful we had a great welcome. It is the first time in my life that I have had to take off my footwear to enter an Army hall, this was done in respect to the Muslim girls who came into the hall. After in the quarters which is below the hall, the young girls asked if they could come in and ask questions of us which they did, then they wanted their photos taken with us. That evening we went to dinner with the TC and his wife in their home which was next door to us. After the meal their three daughters and two sons came in and our last night was very enjoyable. At 11pm we left THQ to go to the airport for our flight home. What have I learnt by going? To be thankful to God for all that I have and not to grumble about what I have not got. In other words being grateful for all that God has done for me. Yes God has really opened my eyes while I was in Pakistan and the experience will stay with me for the rest of my life. Thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity which was not taken for granted.



## WHAT'S ON AT THE SALVATION ARMY

<b>Sunday:</b>	10am:	Morning Worship
	11-45am:	Sunday School Youth Group Re:Generation
	4-45pm:	Open Air Prayer Meeting
	6pm:	Evening Worship
<b>Monday:</b>	4pm—5pm:	CAMEO Club
	7-30pm—9-45pm:	<i>Alpha Course</i> or discipling course
<b>Tuesday:</b>	10am – 11-30am:	Risca Rascals (Parent and Toddler group)
	7-45pm	Songsters
<b>Wednesday:</b>	12-15pm-1-30pm:	Dinner Club
	5pm:	Rainbows
	6pm:	Brownies
	6-30pm:	Guides
<b>Thursday:</b>	7-30pm	Band Rehearsal

19

54

*In 1954 your shopping would have cost you:*

<i>A loaf of bread</i>	<i>3p</i>
<i>A bottle of beer</i>	<i>4p</i>
<i>Two eggs</i>	<i>2.5p</i>
<i>250g of margarine</i>	<i>7.5p</i>
<i>Pint of milk</i>	<i>2.5p</i>
<i>250g of tea</i>	<i>12p</i>
<i>Four potatoes</i>	<i>5.8p</i>
<i>250g of apples</i>	<i>4.2p</i>
<i>20 cigarettes</i>	<i>12p</i>



### *And Finally...*

- The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch
- Having preached for an hour, the minister asked ‘And what shall I say more?’ A voice replied, ‘Say Amen, man and sit down’
- The text on the church notice board read, ‘What is hell like? Underneath were the words ‘Come and hear the choir’
- Jumble Sale next Saturday—3pm. This is a good chance to get rid of anything that is not worth keeping. Don’t forget to bring your husband along!
- To a computer—I am just another number. To Jesus—I am an object of his fathomless love. I’m just a small number, computers can trace. But Christ knows my heartaches, my name and my face
- You cannot say the Lord’s Prayer and once say ‘I’. You cannot say the Lord’s Prayer and even say ‘my’. Nor can you say the Lord’s Prayer and not pray for another, for when you ask for Daily Bread you must include your brother. For others are included, in each and every plea, from beginning to the end of it, it does not once say ‘me’.