

# SAWORSHIP

## MAGAZINE



NOVEMBER 2020

Announcing the  
selected songs from

# SAWMS SING

SEARCH



## CHRISTMAS RESOURCES



## NEW SALVATION ARMY WORSHIP PUBLICATION

ISSUE NO. 9

**03 LIVING IN THE LIKENESS  
OF JESUS CHRIST**

**09 SAWM SONG SEARCH**

**15 INTRODUCING SALVATION WORSHIP**

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# **SA** WORSHIP MAGAZINE

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# HOPE

Hope is one of the most powerful things in this world. For the better part of this year, I feel we have been taking it out of context. “We hope” statements have been used more as a sign of desperation and frustration in these uncertain times. Our hope has been identified with our desire to do what we used to be able to do.

The hope that we have is not in when we will be able to worship together or spend time with our loved ones without restriction again. Our hope comes from a well filled with much more power than the ties of family and church. Our hope is in the eternal, all-powerful, unchanging God. Hope for redemption from sin came at the first Christmas in the form of Jesus coming to earth.

Romans 15:13 says, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

N.T. Wright finds it interesting that at the end of the book of Romans, and after all the theological argument that Paul has written, he chooses to use the word hope. We understand the hope that the resurrection provides for our Salvation. As bearers of hope, it is not our calling to sit around watching the world go by and enjoy the hope that we have. Wright notes that a people of hope is a good definition of Church. To be people who share the hope together, but then who also share that hope with the world.

William Booth preached hope in an area of London that had very little. This hope inspired ministry where you and I sit around the Salvation Army world today. I believe that as worship leaders, giving hope should be a central point of focus in our ministry. We want our communities of believers to be connected to the God in whom they place their trust. We want to fill them with the knowledge of hope found in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We want to encourage them and release them to share the message of hope with the world around them.

# LIVING IN THE LIKENESS OF JESUS CHRIST

“There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge; that is Curiosity. There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others; that is Vanity. There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve; that is Love.”

– Bernard of Clairvaux

We have now come to this crossroads of worship theology, where one has to make a decision requiring consistency and not superficiality. As a worship leader in The Salvation Army, are you going to use your knowledge of the mystery of God for vanity and curiosity's sake, or are you going to live it out? This is the 'now what' personal reflection portion of our series. Such is the query often asked once a sermon, devotional thought, or a parable has been shared. Knowledge of God does not culminate with the intellectual information obtained – obedient action needs to occur based on the divine truth shared and believed from our loving God (John 17:17).

Exercising our knowledge of the truth concerning worship theology is demonstrated by letting God's Spirit lead us into the depths of holy living. Paul admonishes his mentee Timothy to beware of those who have a form of godliness, to be seen by people while rejecting the power that can make them godly.<sup>1</sup> Jesus Christ, our Saviour, is the perfect example of holiness that pleased God, the Father. His words found in Luke 6:46-49 gets to the crux of the shallowness some manifest as worship leaders.

“Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into

practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”<sup>2</sup>

Our first doctrine states, “We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and that they only constitute the Divine rule of Christian faith and practice.”



The keyword here – PRACTICE! Many of us have heard of the familiar adage ‘Practice what you preach’ or ‘practice makes permanent.’ Very real for believers yet, what are we to practice as worship leaders within The Salvation Army intentionally? The answer is the lifestyle of worship Jesus Christ lived – a holy, set apart, compassionate, steadfast, gracious, merciful, patient, kind, restful, forgiving, and the list of attributes goes on. Author T. J. Addington states, “The key to authenticity is the hidden work a leader does to grow and feed his or her inner life so that its overflow is healthy, consistent, and authentic” <sup>3</sup> spiritual disciplines.

This daily, consistent practice involves spiritual disciplines that draw the servant of Christ closer to His likeness. There are three I would love to ask you to either bring back or practice anew in your life. In our busy, restless world, how important is it for us to exercise the discipline of Sabbath – resting in God’s abundance? Author Adele Ahlberg Calhoun notes, “Sadly, everything about us works against slowing down. Our compulsion to produce and not waste time invades the space God gave for us to rest...

Sabbath is God’s way of saying, ‘Stop. Notice your limits. Don’t burn out.’” <sup>4</sup> Do not get so caught up in doing that you neglect the importance of being in a close relationship with Jesus – burnout is real; ask a local officer near you for evidence.

Another spiritual discipline that will help you and I grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ, is unplugging. The over-saturation of social media and the use of screens in our postmodern world has reached addictive proportions for God’s people of all ages. Calhoun shares, “In a world where people use the Internet an average of 30 hours a week and keep the TV or radio on 7.9 hours a day, we need to get unplugged from virtual reality and address our addiction to technology and the toxins it brings into our lives.” <sup>5</sup> Satan desires nothing more than to see us distracted by virtuality rather than focus on being present to God and being present to real human faces.

Lastly, the spiritual discipline of confession and self-examination is paramount for us as worship leaders. Seeking to be like Jesus involves introspective, self-examining under the Holy Spirit’s influence.

Sin impedes the continual transformation needed in our lives. Calhoun adds, “Self-examination is a process whereby the Holy Spirit opens my heart to what is true about me. This is not the same thing as a neurotic shame-inducing inventory. Instead it is a way of opening myself to God within the safety of his love so I can authentically seek transformation. Confession embraces Christ’s gift of forgiveness and restoration while setting us on the path to renewal and change.” <sup>6</sup> In addition to that, seek the counsel and accountability of another brother and sister in Christ, never isolate and become the enemy’s vulnerable prey.

God has called us to live holy lives, and as worship leaders, He uses us as vessels to lead His people into a lifestyle of holiness corporately and as individuals. Richard J. Foster notes, “The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.” <sup>7</sup> Worship theology makes us comprehend that Christlikeness comes from our ‘seeking’ God’s Kingdom above all else and living a disciplined, set-apart life (Matthew 6:33).

A life of spiritual depth and maturity increased by His Spirit's leading, upon a firm foundation that will not give way as tempting trends and empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense abound (Colossians 2:8). We are Kingdom people with Kingdom purposes under a divine agenda. At whichever corps you are ministering,

may you remain encouraged to "follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." <sup>8</sup>

Lead God's people as Jesus Christ is personally leading you.

Samuel Brengle said it best, "Holiness is more than pure living, it is pure love." Love for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and for our neighbors – the greatest commandment. Just do it! You corps needs you too and our Kingdom purpose as worship leaders in the Salvation Army necessitates that reciprocal, loving action.

SA Worship Magazine would like to thank Adely for writing the Worship Theology articles for the 2020 editions of the magazine.

His writing has been insightful and challenging. We know that readers have been challenged and guided to be better leaders as a result of these articles.

Adely is the Divisional Music Director of the Florida Music and Arts Department.



1) 2 Timothy 3:5

2) Luke 6:46-49

3) T.J. Addington, *Deep Influence: Unseen Practices That Will Revolutionize Your Leadership* (Colorado Springs: Nav-Press, 2014), 29.

4) Adele Ahlberg Calhoun, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2005), 41-42.

5) *Ibid.*, 87.

6) *Ibid.*, 91.

7) Richard J. Foster, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*

8) Ephesians 5:1-2

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# ARTIST FEATURE

Tito Rapley (USA Central Territory)

In the earliest days of The Salvation Army, William Booth's focus was to win souls. "Go straight for souls and go for the worst." This attitude led to innovation and ministry that was considered uncommon for the church at that time. Songs such as *Champagne Charlie*, and other well-known pub songs, were re-written to include Christian lyrics and were used as a tool to inspire worship in a contemporary context.

Tito Rapley, from Chicago (USA Central Territory), is following this heritage by taking his talent and passion for Hip hop music to point others to Christ. Hip-hop is certainly one of the most popular genres that has dominated mainstream music.

"I love performing my spoken word pieces and my Hip-hop pieces because they reach a different crowd. The older generation respects that and sees how it works and that it's different."

The message of Jesus is for everyone and the diversity of our Army is a strength that we need to continue to promote.

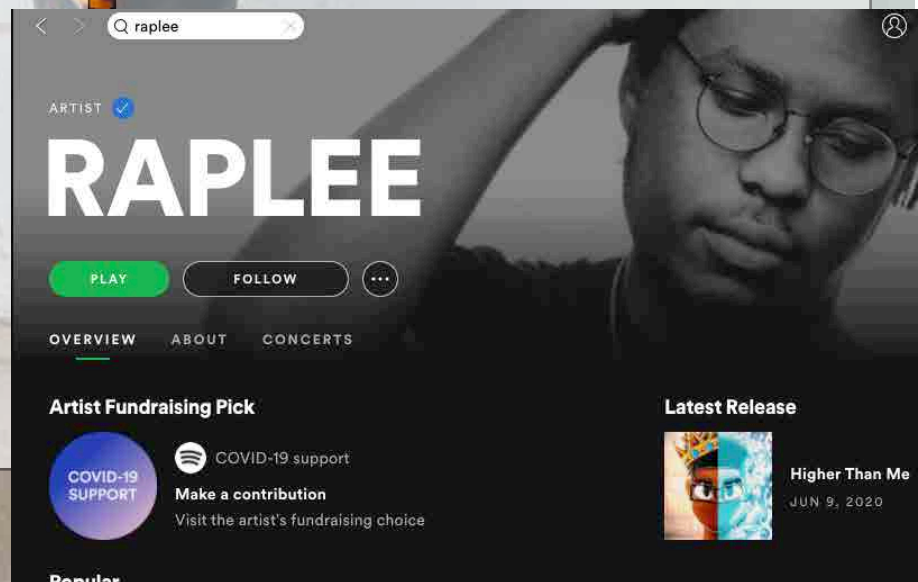
"I'm still wrestling with where my place is in ministry through Hip-hop. When I was younger, I felt like I had to hide my love of Hip-hop from my church friends. I have been studying recently what sort of music I want to make that will bring glory to God."

Through a summer internship program, Tito was able to visit corps on the south and west side of Chicago that have day camp programs. He was able to teach kids about the production of Hip-hop music and share Jesus with them at the same time. Tito says, "I think the Army is in a really good place to see potential in kids. I think that my type of ministry would be really effective in inner city black and brown communities."

Check out Tito's Rap music

[Click here for Rap](#)

[Click here for Lofi Rap](#)





# LIVE STREAM MIXING

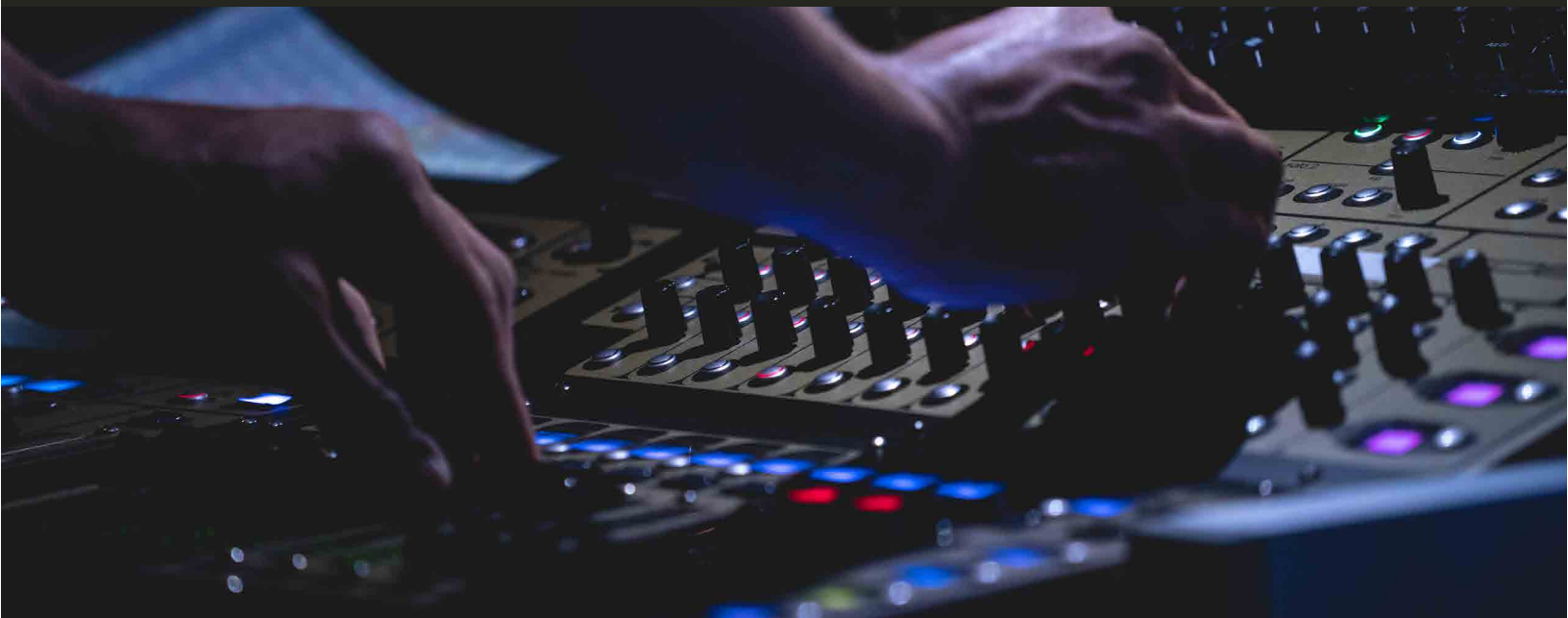
Mixing live sound on full range speakers in our church buildings is an art that many of our sound technicians have mastered. Working on streamed audio is completely different. The most challenging aspect of streamed audio is that we don't know how people are listening to the audio we send. Maybe it is on a phone with limited frequency range or it may be on a home theatre system. The options are varied but here are three tips that can help you improve your streamed audio.

## MANAGE THE PEAKS

Sometimes a snare drum or a loud strum on an acoustic guitar can peak and often these peaks are perceived differently when the listener is in a live room as opposed to through a digital signal. We don't want to reduce the overall level of the recording to accommodate these peaks and make our signal significantly quieter.

Add a compressor to the whole mix. This is not the same as adding a compressor to individual channels or instruments. You can't be as severe with the amount of compression you use. Gentle compression with a fast attack time will smooth out some of the transients that stand out.

**QUICK  
FIX  
TIP**





# VOCALS WILL STAND OUT

Phones, tablets and even televisions that people use to watch services will optimize any vocals on your recording. Make sure that your vocal level is closer to the level of the band. This will help the discrepancy with devices that are limited in terms of frequency. This is different to live sound where we would want the vocals to stand out. We must adjust our traditional mixing practice in this case.

## QUICK FIX TIP

Try mixing in mono. If the vocals are just in front, it should fit well. If you are mixing in stereo, the vocals need to be closer to the level of the band. You can also try panning instruments in your stream mix to give more room in the middle of the sound so vocals can have their own space to be heard.



# LOW-END SOUNDS

Remember that your mix needs to sound optimal on a variety of different types of speakers. Some of these use frequencies that aren't optimal for instruments such as kick drum or bass guitar.

For drums, you can boost the low-end frequency at 75hz or 80hz rather than 50hz for the kick drum. Focus the attack of the kick (2-5kzh) so that rather than the bass you will hear the beater noise and still have the kick represented.

For bass guitar, focus on the overtones. Speakers that can't produce the lower sounds will still get a sense for what the bass is doing if you work on the overtones. Try it in the 200-500hz range until you find the sound you need.

## QUICK FIX TIP

# SAWMS NG SEARCH

In a year that has been disappointing on many fronts, the team from SA Worship Magazine were excited and encouraged through the interest in our first ever Song Search. The search was announced in May and submissions were steadily arriving in right up to the September deadline. In total, there were 33 submissions from Salvationists worldwide from as far away as Australia, all the way to Sweden. It truly was a global effort. As songs came in and the list continued to grow, we knew it was going to be difficult to make final decisions as to which songs would be selected for publication.

## The Process

Once the submission deadline passed, the songs were organized and sent to a global team for adjudication. The adjudication panel was comprised of leading territorial worship experts from the UK, USA, New Zealand and Canada. The panel received a standardized recording of each song so that there was no difference in the way the songs were interpreted. The aim was to get a wide perspective on songs, as well as consideration for different worship styles across the Army world.

## The Selected Songs

The SA Worship Magazine team are grateful to everyone who submitted a song to the Song Search, and we are incredibly excited about the next steps in this process. We are pleased to announce the songs that were chosen by the global adjudication team for the 2020 SAWM Song Search as follows:

***Boundless Love*** – Louise Mathieson (Australia Territory)  
***Come, Oh Burning Spirit, Come*** – Captain Kathleen Johansson (Eastern European Territory)  
***In You Alone*** – Dan Bate (United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Territory)  
***Let the Beauty of Jesus*** – Natalie & John Hanchett  
(United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Territory)  
***Salvation for the World*** – Captain Peter Gott (Australia Territory)  
***Show Me Your Glory*** – Olivia Campbell (New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa Territory)  
***Solid Rock*** – Katie Fuentes (Canada and Bermuda Territory)  
***Your Grace Still Welcomes Me*** – Louise Mathieson (Australia Territory)  
***Your Kingdom Reigns*** – Captain Peter Gott (Australia Territory)

We want to introduce you to all of these writers. There is more detail about them on our website [www.saworshipmagazine.com](http://www.saworshipmagazine.com)

# Louise Mathieson

## North Brisbane Corps, Australia Territory

*Boundless Love* began life as a completely different song with no chorus and lurked in my journal for many years. After workshopping it at a writer's weekend and getting some fresh ideas, I found the rest of it writing itself very quickly, changing tempo and style and becoming something new.

Lyrically, it is based on 1 John 3:1, which is one of my many favourite Bible verses, focusing on our identity in God. It was a

natural progression from there for each verse to explore our identity as people beloved, redeemed and transformed. Our corps had recently developed a focus statement "Hope, Freedom and Transformation through Jesus" which also helped clarify this message and its implications – because of who (and whose) we are, this is how we live. Attending the Boundless 150 celebrations in London also played a part by inspiring the final title. Musically, I am rather a fan of Rend Collective's work, so in style it pays tribute to that semi acoustic feel.



*Your Grace Still Welcomes Me* hung out in my journal for a while before finding its true form. Having participated in a performance of *Take Over Bid* as a teenager, *Kneeling in Penitence* has long been a special song for me. After coming up with some new melodic ideas while improvising, it was the song that popped into my head as the right match for a 'songbook makeover'. Reflecting on Hebrews 4:16 was the final piece in the puzzle to bring it together. The original song is a beautiful, simple reflection on the realization of our desperate need for God's forgiveness, and our total surrender to Him. By reworking the hymn and adding the chorus, it became a very personal processing of how continually I need to bring myself to that place. Jesus has already accomplished my forgiveness, but every time I cling to Him anew, I take hold of its promise again: that I can freely and confidently meet His mercy and grace, which allow me to stand and move forward with Him.

**Are you feeling inspired by the stories of Salvationists writing contemporary worship music? The SAWM Song Search will be back again in 2021. You could submit a song for consideration, and maybe have your song published for use around the Army world. SAWM Song Search will open for submissions in May 2021. If you have any questions, email [Simon.Gough@salvationarmy.ca](mailto:Simon.Gough@salvationarmy.ca) for more details.**



# Kathleen Johansson

(Captain)  
Sophia Corps Plant, Bulgaria  
Eastern Europe Territory

*Come, Oh Burning Spirit, Come* came about because Major Stephen Court shared some “Holiness Meeting fodder” on his facebook page and I became intrigued. One of the good things about the English song book (as compared to the Swedish, for example) is that the text is not attached to a melody. So, as soon as I read the text on his post, I started to sing a melody - even though I’d never heard the song. I thought - “I should write this down!” I recorded myself, and then tried to figure out some chords. I tend to have quite a bit of self doubt and think that my melodies are “boring”, but with a little help from a friend, and quite a bit of chord tweaking, the song was eventually born. I hope that this new melody can give new life to the beautiful story that is these lyrics from Charles Fry.



# Olivia Campbell

Johnsonville Corps in Wellington (New Zealand)  
New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory



I wrote *Show Me Your Glory* when God placed this Scripture on my heart from Isaiah 40, which says: ‘A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together...”’

When I saw this Scripture, I sensed the voice of God the Almighty One calling us, his people, back into His arms. He wants us to draw nearer into His presence and He is reminding us that even though at times it may feel He is distant, He is never far from us. Through the valleys and the deserts, through the rugged and broken places that life takes us, He is our strength, and He refreshes and renews us by His Spirit. My prayer for this song is that we would know this promise, and together - united as His children - we will all see His glory.

# Natalie & John Hanchett

## Hedge End Salvation Army

### UK & Republic of Ireland Territory

Inspiration for this song comes from Matthew 28 : The Great Commission and the old chorus words from Albert Orsborn, *Let the Beauty of Jesus be Seen in Me*.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28



God commands each of us to go and make disciples of all nations. How do we personally respond? Do we let our human frailties and doubts get in the way sometimes? Do we often feel inadequate and feel that we need to be something different, something better before we respond? God loves each and every one of us JUST AS WE ARE and He can use us just as we are. So, in response to God's command, we just need to respond positively, be bold in our vulnerability, laying aside our doubts and fears in the knowledge that when we offer ourselves sincerely to Him, his beauty will shine through us - we will radiate his eternal love, forgiveness and acceptance to those around us.

# Katie Fuentes

## Northridge Community Church

### Canada & Bermuda Territory

I'm grateful for the opportunity to share this song and hope that it blesses everyone who listens. I wrote *Solid Rock* while I was living across the world. Removed from everything that made me feel comfortable, it was a season of learning to depend on and trust God. The future felt so unknown (isn't it always?) and I felt the constant tension of learning to walk by faith and not by sight. I found myself singing the words of this chorus often in prayer and as a reminder that He is my solid rock, He is faithful and as long as I cling to Him, I will get through whatever storm may come.





# Dan Bate

## Preston Corps

### UK & Republic of Ireland

### Territory

I wrote *In You Alone* a few years ago and never shared it with anyone. It is a personal conversation with God that I often return to when I'm struggling for direction and find myself doubting if God is really speaking into these difficult situations we are living through. We live in quite dark and uncertain times, but as the song says 'I know that there are prayers that haven't been answered yet. And I know that there are answers I might not ever get. But I will trust your promise, and I'll promise not to forget, to put my trust in You and You alone.'



# Peter Gott (Captain)

## Miranda Salvos

### Australia Territory

*Salvation for the World* is a song about creating a unified rally cry for the Salvation Army. I wanted to write a song that tapped into our key values – having a heart for salvation, partnered with a desire for holiness (full salvation) and building unity, crying out for God to pour out the love of Jesus for the world.

When I was developing my song writing, I had this idea that it would be cool to write my own psalms. I called the first one Psalm 1, which was confusing for people as it didn't quite go with the first psalm from the book of Psalms in the Bible. Yet, the sentiment was to draw from themes, especially the praise and God-focused nature found in the Psalms. *Your Kingdom Reigns* became the second psalm I wrote. It is based upon Psalm 145 with a theme centered on the kingdom of God. It is an anthem to unite people in worship of Jesus, our King. I wanted to convey something like a crowd crying out, "Long live the King!" to the King of all kings. I paired this with the words and sentiment from the Lord's Prayer, "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."



AND HIS NAME  
WILL BE CALLED  
WONDERFUL  
COUNSELOR,  
MIGHTY GOD,  
EVERLASTING  
FATHER, PRINCE  
OF PEACE.

ISAIAH 9:6

# INTRODUCING



# SALVATION WORSHIP

Recently, I tried to teach my phone number to my young daughter. At meal times, bed time, or play time, I would encourage her to repeat it to me over and over again. One day on a walk, a simple idea came to my mind, so I sang my phone number to a little impromptu melody. By the time we rounded a block or two, she could sing it with me. When I asked her to repeat my phone number later, she knew it.

In university, I remember having to learn atonal melodies for vocal class exams. It wasn't fun. While most of us floundered through it, one classmate had the simple but brilliant idea to apply words to every melody. He aced the exam.

These illustrations show how words to music can stick with us. This is why it is so important to include sound Christian theology and Salvationist doctrine in our worship music. The truths of the Bible will remain in our hearts and minds as we sing those words over and over to music. A publication like Salvation Worship will provide an opportunity for Salvationist songwriters to share their God-inspired text and music with congregations around the world.

As musicians in The Salvation Army, we have always been called to use our music to spread the Gospel message. Our Salvation Army Song Book is often referred to as "our sung theology." While every songwriter whose words are part of the Song Book are not necessarily Salvationists, the selected songs have always expressed our fundamental Christian beliefs and Army principles. As worship music has expanded in recent years with many songwriters sharing their music, there have been several beautiful expressions of worship through these new songs. There is something even more special about music that also acknowledges our values as Salvationists. It unifies us as a Christian movement and inspires us to continue reaching the lost, no matter who or where they are, and share with them the saving grace of God's love.

Written By Heather Osmond

Assistant Territorial Music Secretary - Canada & Bermuda Territory



# BUILDING ON OUR HERITAGE

## & ADDING NEW VOICES

Using the songs written for the 2020 SAWM Song Search, the Music and Gospel Arts department of the Canada and Bermuda Territory are moving forward with a brand new publication, Salvation Worship. The publication will create an avenue for songs written by Salvationist songwriters to be shared with corps around the world.

### PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR

Initially 5-7 songs will be published twice a year from songs selected in the SAWM Song Search. We hope and pray that this will grow and that eventually writers will be able to share songs more frequently than just in the rounds of SAWM Song Search.

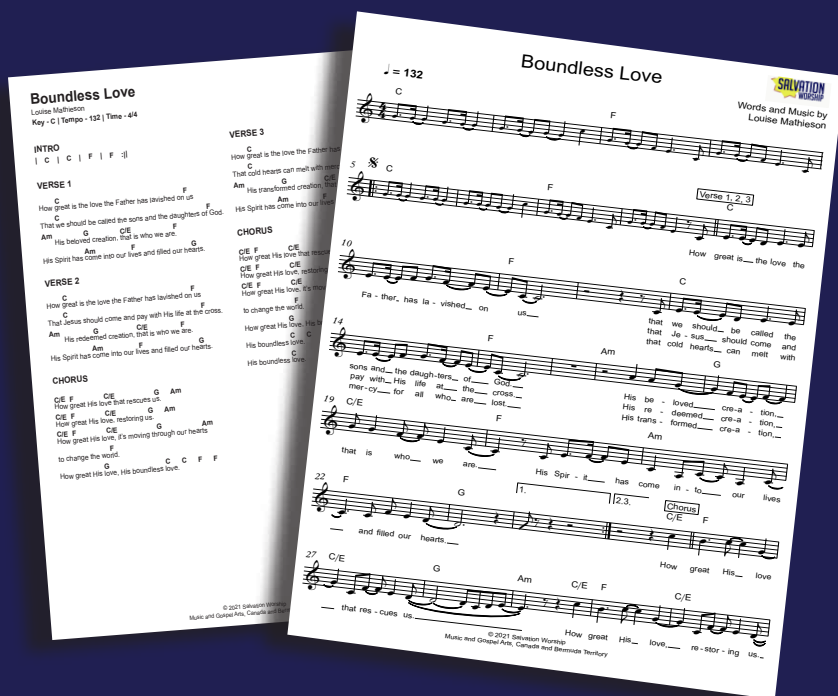
### WHAT WILL BE PUBLISHED

For each song there will be a **FREE downloadable**

- ★ Lead sheet
- ★ Chord chart
- ★ Lyric video

Also available for purchase will be

- ★ Fully notated piano score
- ★ Brass Pack - full band pad and shot brass parts



### EXTRA RESOURCES

Housed on the Music and Gospel Arts website will also be extra resources that will assist when leading congregations and worship teams. These will be Scripture references that can be used for each song, rehearsal tips and techniques and devotional material for each song.

**PUBLICATION RELEASED  
FEBRUARY 2021**



# Online Advent Resource

A few years ago, I was singing a well-known hymn at my corps. I took a moment to stop and study the lyrics that often fly by at quite a speed. I needed to take time to read through each word and try to understand what the composer was trying to say through their carefully crafted and God-inspired lyrics. Shortly after that Sunday morning, I had the idea to create a video devotional series based on our Salvation Army Songbook. I hoped that listeners would grasp the meaning and theology behind the lyrics as well as the message that was trying to be conveyed. I chose to focus on Lent, Thanksgiving and Advent. We have now produced a great number of daily video devotionals that contain a song performance and spoken word that goes along with it. The series has grown substantially over the last couple of years with many thousands of viewers.

This coming Advent season presented a challenge in that I felt I had exhausted the repertoire of well-known public domain carols and songs. I had a few options to choose from, but with the help of the wider International Salvation Army, we are excited to release a new song everyday starting on December 1st, 2020. Through combined efforts of Territorial Music Departments around the world, each new song will be accompanied by a short inspirational devotional from a Salvationist in their respective territory. We are happy to include some songs in Spanish and feature contemporary singer-songwriters from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South America West (Chile) and the four USA Territories. Additionally, as soon as the video is released on Facebook and YouTube, downloads will be provided of the entire video as well as the song performance, lead sheets and chord charts.

They can be found at [www.usamusicwest.org/sa-devotionals](http://www.usamusicwest.org/sa-devotionals).

We hope this will be especially useful during these unprecedented times of predominantly online services.

We are blessed with so many talented musicians within The Salvation Army and I am thrilled this platform is available to them. This is an opportunity to create, express themselves, and ultimately worship our Lord and Saviour.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TSAongbookseries>

[www.youtube.com/c/TheSalvationArmySongBookDevotionalSeries](http://www.youtube.com/c/TheSalvationArmySongBookDevotionalSeries)



Written By  
Kevin Larsson  
Divisional Music Director  
California South Division

# ALBUM REVIEW

If you are looking for something to listen to this Christmas, we have found a gem for you. *Thine Advent Here* is an album of wonderful arrangements of Christmas carols from Marty Mikles.

However, this is not your typical "Jingle Bells" or "...all is merry and bright" Christmas album. The arrangements are beautifully arranged and performed to help you meditate on the aspects of Christmas that the songs represent.

The first two tracks, *Glory to God* and *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, bring us in with a gentle energy in a gospel rock shuffle style. Then, the feeling of the album changes. For a long time, Marty has given us some great guitar and vocal performances on his recordings and the remainder of the album showcases his immense talent.

Carols that we know and enjoy are presented in a reflective way with a fresh sound that showcases beautiful guitar riffs. *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*, *Still, Still, Still* and *In the Bleak Midwinter* have a distinctive folk feel. In contrast to this, there is a wonderful full band arrangement of *O Holy Night* that highlights Mikles powerful vocals. The use of a vocal harmonizer in the arrangement of *Silent Night* is other-worldly and stands out amongst the other tracks on the album. Without instrumentation, the synthesized vocal performance echoes the familiar words and provides a refreshing experience of this carol. My personal favourite is the haunting rendition of *O Come, O Come, Immanuel*. This song ties together the strengths of the previous tracks in a carol that I love. It is so beautiful, different and thought-provoking.

This is an album I know you will enjoy this Christmas season. You can support Marty by listening to *Thine Advent Here* on Spotify or by purchasing the album at this link:

<https://music.apple.com/ca/album/thine-advent-here/1444959328>

Review by Simon Gough



## **SA WORSHIP MAGAZINE**

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<http://eepurl.com/dN845D>

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