

SAWORSHIP

MAGAZINE



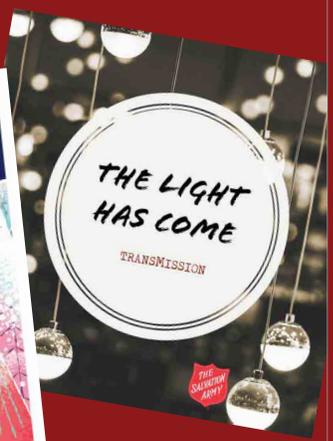
NOVEMBER 2019



boundless

CHRISTMAS
MUSIC FOR
WORSHIP
WITH YOUR
CONGREGATION

FANTASTIC NEW CHRISTMAS
MUSIC FROM SALVATION
ARMY GROUPS



ISSUE NO.5

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Worship in all things

I was driving home the other evening, it was late and my son had gone to sleep as movement of the car had rocked smoothly as soon as we hit the highway. My daughter was not asleep and was singing, we let her know that it was “quiet time” because her brother was asleep and she also should have been many hours before. My daughter loves to sing; she sings songs she learns in class, worship songs from church and she is an avid song writer. She will start singing a worship song we have just started doing at church and will repeat the hook of the song over and over and once she forgets the lyrics or the melody she just fills it in with her own lines and lyrics. This is a constant source of joy for my wife and I, and it reminded me of something very important.

We need to worship in all things...

My daughter had been sitting quietly in that car trip but wasn't going to sleep like her brother had done. Almost unconsciously, she began softly singing the worship song Yes I Will by Vertical Church.

“Yes I will sing for joy when my heart is heavy.
For all my days, yes I will.

I choose to praise to glorify, glorify
the name above all names...”

It was repeated over and over. Besides the intense cute factor, I found this lyric coming from the mouth of a 5 year old to be extremely challenging. Do I always “sing for joy when my heart is heavy?” Do I remind the congregations I am leading that they need to praise through all the circumstances of life. Do the songs that I ask them to sing acknowledge the range of emotions we experience at any given time and also point them to the God who is in all of these circumstances with them.

No matter how we feel or what we are experiencing, God is worthy of our praise.
2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Habakkuk 3:17-18. Psalm 63:1. Acts 16:25. Isaiah 25:1.

Once my daughter had repeated the section of Yes I will that she could remember, the song writing began. She started composing praise of her own, thanking God for people in our family, for people and things that are precious to her and then she paused. It seemed that she had exhausted her list. But then she sang in a melody all of her own

“Thank you God for just... everything, because you are everything”

I want to be the kind of leader that helps people to see and acknowledge the God that is in control and is sovereign over all of their lives. I need to live that in my own life before I can lead people there. And I thank God for a little girl who taught me that lesson.



A place where you can belong - Space 2 Call Home.

Creativity is a curious thing. Many people would not define themselves as 'creative', as they don't see themselves fitting into popular concepts of a creative person. And yet, as humans made in the image of the great Creator, creativity is a natural part of who we were made to be. Within faith communities, creativity also has something of a peculiar place. It is valued in expressions like music, where it has been part of the fabric of gathered worship for centuries. More recently, other performance arts are slowly gaining greater inclusion - dance, drama and the like.

But what of the creative who loves to sculpt? Write poetry? Construct beautiful pieces from textiles? What about the photographer, the sound mixer, the graphic designer? These skills are also pathways of expression, and of worship. They can be used to edify and inspire others. Those who wield them are also creative artists and an invaluable part of the multifaceted Kingdom of God. While many faith communities are starting to tap into these areas, it is often from a distance (Googling for images or photos) or reserved for special occasions like Easter and Christmas.

What would it look like if there was a place for any and all creative people to gather regularly, to share how they experience God's presence through their artistry? From this question, the idea of a "creatives collective" began to take shape.

Space 2 Call Home began after a conversation with colleagues, one of whom was a local Brisbane officer blessed with a great corps facility (at that time not heavily used). We discussed a possible open mic night for local youth, a recording or performance space for hip hop/rappers and other similar options. This was exciting, yet as we chatted we found ourselves asking, "What about all kinds of artists?" The crazy idea of 'grown up show and tell' emerged - an opportunity to share many kinds of creativity with others. The simple parameters quickly took shape - a relaxed, family friendly evening with coffee and snacks; time to show and tell and time to chat and chill; any and every kind of creative or performance art welcome from artists of all ages.

From the first gathering in June 2018, it was clear that this concept resonated with many creatives. "I've found other people who love to do what I do!" has been a frequent response. Seeing a wide variety of creative expressions has been eye-opening. Meeting others who work through similar challenges, wrestle with the same disciplines and pursue similar visions has been inspirational. And it's been, quite simply, a whole lot of fun!

The artistry presented has included a wide variety of styles, forms and techniques:

- visual arts (painting, drawing, photography, mixed media, wood carving, leadlighting),
- written and spoken arts (poetry, rap, spoken word, songwriting, prose, storytelling),
- musical arts (vocal, instrumental, live, recorded, soundtracked),
- textile arts (quilting, embroidery, mixed media, wearable art, knitting, crochet)

And that's not an exhaustive list.

After a few local gatherings, a brain trust for ongoing planning was established. One early challenge was a common one; getting many people in one place at the same time, especially when some have small children, or limited transport options. The ingenuity of the Brain Trust came up with a random idea: to have more than one local gathering, and connect together online via a video chat group. The local gatherings provided the personal connection and relationship building to continue while expanding the collective to a wider circle of artists. It also offered a great opportunity for those outside the immediate urban area to join the fun.

Lousie Mathieson
Worship Arts Coordinator
Queensland Division
Australia Territory

Blended Worship



Merry
CHRISTMAS

Looking for ways to use different musical groups together during the Christmas season? The Hallelujah Choruses series from the USA Central Territory has many Christmas carols and songs arranged to have multiple groups contributing to corporate worship.

Christmas Titles include

A starry night HC 180

Here in the stable HC 240

Go tell it on the mountain HC 260

Hark! The herald angels sing HC 270

Angels from the realms of glory HC 280

The SAWM top picks are

Hallelujah HC 169 - Darlene Zschech

Joy Has Dawned HC 230 - Keith & Kristen Getty

He is here

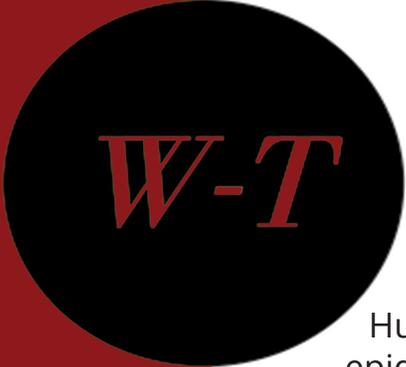
The Saviour has been born

The one we've waited for

Surrounded by our praises

Darlene Zschech





W-T

*P*rophetic *R*econciliation

Humans are meant to live in community, yet we are facing an epidemic of loneliness and isolation. We are ever “connected” but rarely are we truly seen. A very real antidote the Church can provide the world is participation in a faith community. People can be plugged into something bigger than themselves and can join in healing relationships.



One of the reasons why I am a part of The Salvation Army is because I believe the faith communities I’ve been a part of are sanctifying. I am touched, hugged, squeezed, and smiled at in my community. I share meals with unlikely people. I made to feel a wide range of emotions in my worship community. Often it is joy, other times I am deeply frustrated to the point of anger, and sometimes I feel deep sadness as we collectively mourn. Almost always, I feel like my worship community makes me more human.

Perfectionism is a tricky little idol that often creeps into worship. The threat of perfectionism is stronger than it ever has been before and leads to comparison. All it takes is watching a few videos of professionally staged worship team music videos or listening to a couple of podcasts of celebrity preachers to make your Sunday morning worship experience seem “quaint.” There is great temptation to want the glossy worship experiences of bigger churches with more talent and more money.

However, the point of worship is not perfection. Worship is an offering to God. We offer up something to proclaim that God is the creator, savior, and sanctifier. It’s not our job to offer something perfect, it’s our job to offer something true. In our worshipping and acknowledging that God is maker and we are creation, we are made more human and holy.

A secondary component of worship is that the Church gets to participate in being a prophetic witness for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church becomes a proclaimer of something real for the world to see. In the Old Testament, God called specific people out from the nation of Israel to function more specifically as prophet to the King and to the entire nation. God gave them a word rooted in their present moment to call the nation back into covenantal faithfulness. In times of disobedience, confusion, and unfaithfulness, the prophet spoke difficult words in order to heal the brokenness of their hearts.



When Christ came into the world, he too was given the prophetic mantle to bring people back to God. That is his very nature as incarnate God- he heals the separation between heaven and earth through his being enfleshed and living a human life. While the prophets of Israel worked on a micro scale for the nation, Christ came to work on a cosmic scale. All things were to be brought into unity with their creator. All brokenness was healed. All relationships were reconciled.



As Christ's Bride and Body, the church takes on the same prophetic mantle of reconciliation. Because of Christ's reconciling work in us, we are able to show the world that reconciliation has happened, is happening, and will fully take place at the second coming of Christ. The story of Pentecost illustrates this most clearly: Christ's Spirit was poured out upon the faithful and immediately the church was able to minister reconciliation among the crowds. Gentiles and Jews were unified, the culture of the Kingdom trumped personal culture, and the Spirit reemphasized that because of Christ all people are equal.

Today, the church continues to proclaim the reconciling nature of the Gospel. While we hear of the Gospel's reconciling nature most explicitly from the pulpit, the reality is that the prophetic witness of the Church occurs most powerfully through our worship. When we truly worship, whether we like it or not, something prophetic is taking place. We bear the prophetic fruit of reconciliation. In our prophetic witness we testify to the truth of the resurrection but recognize that the we still await a day of complete fulfillment. We live in the tension of already, but not yet. As the Church, it is our prophetic witness which allows us to proclaim the reconciliation that took place through Jesus's death and resurrection and live into it's promises even if the world around us hasn't caught up. It is our responsibility to proclaim how God intends freedom and healing for all and then to incarnate that within our own worship settings.

*Let us become a
prophetic body
of worshipers
for the world to see.*

This can be messy, awkward, and hard. It is far from the heavily curated worship experiences we see on Youtube or Instagram. We should be encouraged though that these prophetic witnesses of worship are real and true.

While I love our tradition, sometimes I feel really discouraged. Our numbers in many places are dwindling, finances aren't what they used to be, and often it feels like our shining reputation doesn't take us as far as it once did. And without being dismissive of the real difficulties we experience and face in our individual contexts, I wonder if this isn't a great gift to be radical in prophetic witness.



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The truth is the answer isn't necessarily more worshipers, we need more authentic worship that testifies to the reconciling nature of the Gospel. The answer doesn't lie in perfect worship sets, it is found in living into the reality of the Kingdom of God. Without the spotlight and pressure we can try new things, involve different people, leave room for messy transitions, and find deeper intimacy.

One of the benefits of reconciliation is that it can look vastly different depending on its context. It is meant to morph and change to meet the specific needs of individuals and communities. How reconciliation manifests in your corps might look different than my corps. Perhaps it means healing broken relationships between family and friends. Maybe it means bridging the generational divide and the racial inequalities present in your church and city. Perhaps it means intentionally having women in the pulpit to testify to the resurrection. The same Holy Spirit who empowered the disciples to speak new languages, engage new peoples, and go to new places encourages your faith community to prophetically testify to Christ's reconciling work.

We have a world full of people who are lonely and isolated. They are in great need to be made human and to be reconciled back to Christ. There is so much in this world that needs healing and the message that the healing has begun and will come to fulfillment through Jesus Christ. So, let's forget about the perfect curated worship experience. Let's stop pretending to be something that we're not. Let's drop the glossy idol of celebrity and popularity. Instead, let us focus on worship that bears the fruit of reconciliation. Let us become a prophetic body of worshipers for the world to see.



This was the final article, in the four part series, by Professor Courtney Rose from the USA Central Territory. SA Worship Magazine would like to thank Courtney for her contributions to the magazine over the last year.



**Looking for Salvation
Army Christmas Music
with a contemporary feel?**

**Check out
The Light Has Come from
transMission**



Listen to a free preview track at www.saworshipmagazine.com

SA WORSHIP
MAGAZINE 

Thank you to all of our readers and subscribers. Our goal is to help highlight the great ministry that is happening all over the Army world in contemporary worship. We want to assist worship leaders with practical, spiritual and inspirational articles and information that helps them as they seek to serve thier congregations.

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SUBSCRIBE [HTTP://EEPURL.COM/DN845D](http://EEPURL.COM/DN845D)**



boundless

SA Worship Magazine was fortunate enough to catch up with Maikel Stuivenberg who is the leader of Boundless. This team serves in the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovakia Territory of The Salvation Army as the Territorial Worship Team.

SAWM: So Maikel, where are we chatting to you?

MS: I am in Almere (Netherlands) where the Salvation Army's Headquarters are.

SAWM: How did Boundless get started?

MS: We started at a summer camp that we have every year in the Netherlands, and there was a need for a new band. So a few musicians were asked to play and that was the start of Boundless. That summer camp was right after the Boundless 150 International Congress, and our camp was called Boundless too, so that is part of why we called the band Boundless.

SAWM: You started at the camp providing music for worship and then after camp, what happened?

MS: During the week of the camp we found that we played well together and were really enjoying playing as a band. There was just a feeling that we really wanted to do this more. For a while, we were just enjoying playing together and then after some time we started getting invitations to help provide worship music for some corps on a Sunday morning. After a few years of doing this we wanted to do more for corps in the Netherlands and so we went to leadership of The Salvation Army to ask for help. They made us the territorial worship team and gave us a space to rehearse and supported us.

SAWM: Do all of the members of Boundless come from Almere?

MS: No they don't. The Netherlands isn't big. Our rehearsal venue at headquarters is centrally located in the country but we have people coming from 2 or 3 hours away, so we

have to plan our rehearsals. We try to rehearse once a month and then we are usually out doing ministry once a month too.

SAWM: What is worship music like in The Salvation Army in the Netherlands?

MS: I think it is probably considered very traditional; there are a lot of brass bands and older traditional songs. There are some worship teams around the corps in the Netherlands and I think it is a growing area and somewhere we need to grow more. With Boundless, we have tried to bring some more contemporary worship music. I think that my generation and the generation below me appreciate that diversity in our worship music.

SAWM: Are you writing original worship music?

MS: Not at the moment. We have tried one, but at this time we use songs from international Christian artists like Rend Collective and Dutch worship leaders. Most of our worship is done in Dutch. I think it is useful to have songs that are specific to The Salvation Army because The Salvation Army is different to other churches. We are focused on other things.

SAWM: You emerged out of the summer camp and are now into a rhythm of ministry. What is the main goal for Boundless?

MS: We started with a goal to give young people an opportunity to connect with God through a new style of music. There have been many opportunities with youth choirs and youth bands, but we thought that there was a gap that we could fill. We found after the summer camp that there wasn't much contemporary worship for those kids when they went back to their corps. We wanted to help provide that for those young people. In a few months, we will be at Rotterdam Corps and work with their corps worship team to help them grow and go further.



evaluating your worship set

In general evaluating, critiquing and assessing yourself can be difficult. We evaluate how we lead and our teams “performance” so that we can give our best and be intentional about our service to the congregation.

There are two main areas of evaluation to be considered after leading worship.

Your Team

- How did you sound?
- What went well?
- Were there any obvious moments where things weren't working?
- Did the elements you rehearsed go as well as expected? Is more rehearsal needed?
- Were transitions effective?
- Was communication clear and followed by the entire team?

Asking these questions as a team holds everyone accountable to put forward their best effort.

The Congregation

- Were they singing?
- Did they participate and engage?
- Did they look lost or confused?
- Can you identify specific moments where something did or didn't work for them?

Pay attention to your congregation as you lead. Make sure you have your eyes open so you can see. Be an active listener to what you hear. This will help you evaluate the congregation's reaction and engagement.

You need to develop a healthy working relationship with corps officers/pastors, other leaders and members of the congregation who can assist you in evaluating congregational worship that you have led.

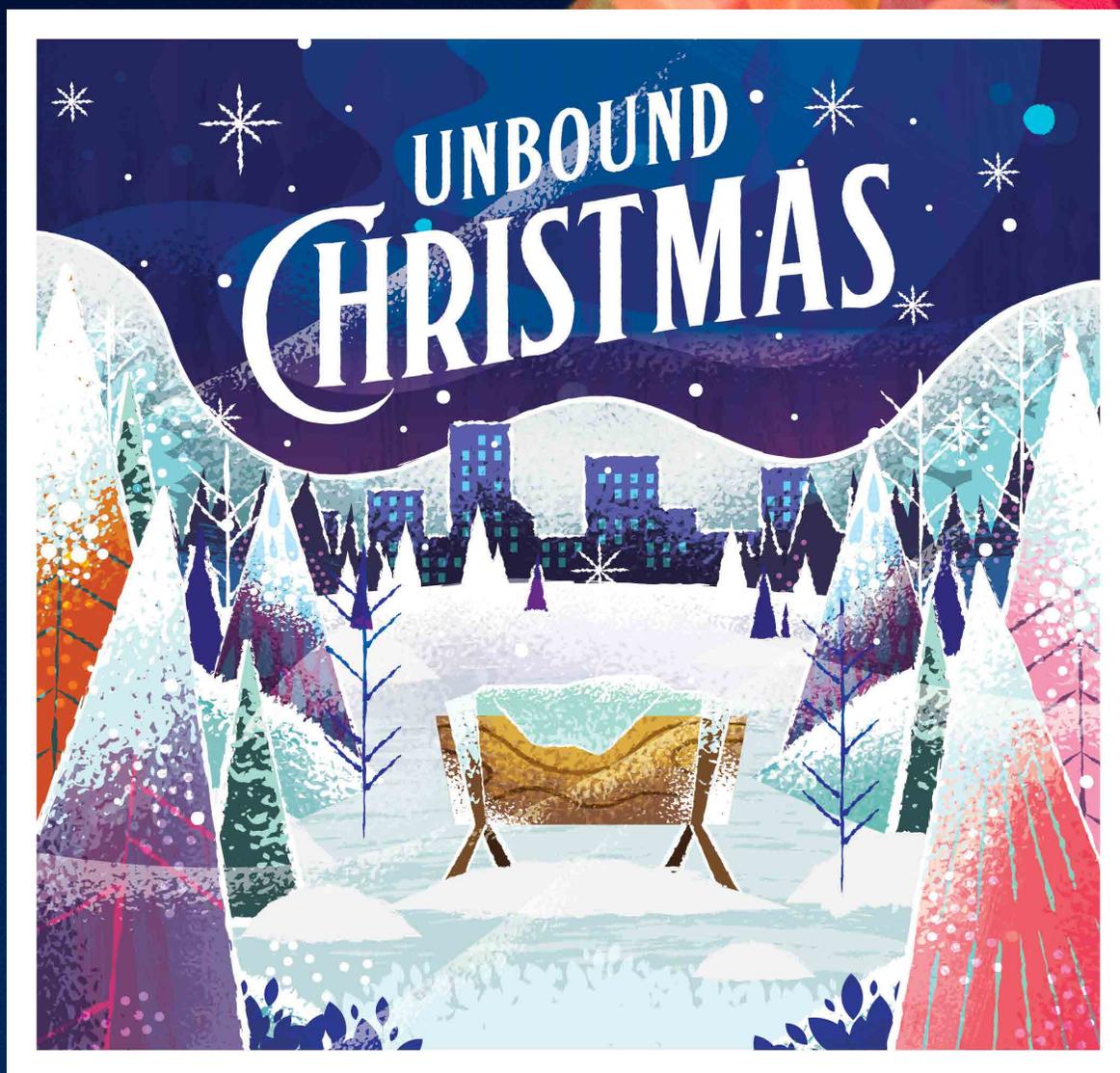
How effective was your pre-planning in ensuring success? Did you communicate with your corps officers/pastors effectively?

Be open to the feedback you are given and discern what will help you to be a better servant leader. Not all feedback is positive, but it may be something we need to hear if we have not done our best.

Hearing from others will help you to understand a different perspective and provide you with ideas on how to make improvements in your leadership. You should be constantly trying to do this for yourself, your group and the congregation.

Music for the Christmas Season

On November 29th **UNBOUND** (The Salvation Army USA Eastern territorial worship band) will be releasing a Christmas album featuring original arrangements of some of your favorite Christmas songs! Tunes by John Lennon, *NSYNC and Chuck Berry are just some of the fun tracks on this album. Stay tuned to iTunes and The Eastern Territorial Trade Dept. for availability.





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O COME LET US ADORE HIM

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CHRIST THE LORD

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