

# BE THE CHANGE

*Self Denial Appeal 2019*



## **STUDY GUIDE**

FOR INDIVIDUALS OR SMALL GROUPS



# HELLO,

This study has been written to accompany the 2019 Self Denial Appeal videos and can be used by individuals, families or Bible study groups. Each week contains scripture, a devotional and discussion/reflection questions.



# WEEK 1

By **Lieut-Colonel Simone Robertson**  
Head of Salvation Army International  
Development (SAID)  
Australia Territory

## BE THE CHANGE

*in your own heart*



### *Scripture*

#### 2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-11 (MSG)

<sup>1-2</sup>If I wrote any more on this relief offering for the poor Christians, I'd be repeating myself. I know you're on board and ready to go. I've been bragging about you all through Macedonia province, telling them, "Achaia province has been ready to go on this since last year." Your enthusiasm by now has spread to most of them. <sup>3-5</sup>Now I'm sending the brothers to make sure you're ready, as I said you would be, so my bragging won't turn out to be just so much hot air. If some Macedonians and I happened to drop in on you and found you weren't prepared, we'd all be pretty red-faced—you and us—for acting so sure of ourselves. So to make sure there will be no slipup, I've recruited these brothers as an advance team to get you and your promised offering all ready before I get there. I want you to have all the time you need to make this offering in your own way. I don't want anything forced or hurried at the last minute. <sup>6-7</sup>Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving. <sup>8-11</sup>God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done.

As one psalmist puts it,

He throws caution to the winds,  
giving to the needy in reckless abandon.  
His right-living, right-giving ways  
never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.



## Observation

The theme for this year's Self Denial Appeal, "Be the Change", is one that is personal and calls for action. Collectively we will be generous because we have individually been generous.

Giving is to be an individual matter that is settled in the privacy of one's own heart.

Take time, really think about it, don't give just as a knee-jerk reaction, be intentional, and make up *your* own mind about what you will give.

*Each*, Paul says, *should give what he has decided in his heart to give* (v<sup>7</sup> NIV). *Each* is placed first for emphasis. Giving requires resolve. The text reads *what he has decided* (literally, "as each has purposed"). The verb *proaireomai*, found here in the New Testament, means "to choose deliberately" or "to make up one's own mind about something". Paul says that giving is to be based on a calculated decision. It is not a matter to be settled lightly or impulsively.

Giving is to be a private, not a public, decision. It is to be decided in the heart. The real reason to give is because one cannot help but give—or, as William Barclay puts it, because the "need wakens a desire that cannot be stilled". This desire is in fact to give the way God gave; it was because he so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

If I am to be the change I need to be intentional in considering what I will give.

 *Reflection*

There comes a time when after the soul searching takes place there is a response required.

What does “Be the Change” mean?

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How will I live out the scripture I have just read?

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God is generous and gives extravagantly. What is my response to this?

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What do I need to consider in thinking through what I give for Self Denial?

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In what ways will my action of giving be a response to the deliberations of the heart?

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## Prayer

*Father God, as I read Your Word, I am amazed by your extravagant giving and generosity to us, your creation. We hear it said, “When I grow up I want to be ...”, well Father, I want to be like you! Please help me not to hold back in any way, but to live my life in the freedom of extravagant generosity.*

*Over the next few weeks, as I intentionally think through what you want me to give, I ask that you will challenge, inspire and motivate me to take personal responsibility for my actions and to be the change.*

### PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for those who are suffering in the world through conflict, violence, poverty, natural disasters and who lack basic necessities such as clean water.
- Pray for those who are not safe in their own country and leave to find a better life.
- Pray for Christian brothers and sisters living in civil conflict, persecution, poverty and injustice, as they seek to serve and use their gifts to build community and care for others.
- Pray that we can support our family of God in regular prayer and financial support.
- Pray for officers, leaders and missionaries around the world that they will be devoted to the gospel and sharing the good news of Jesus.
- That we can be the change.

### 2019 SELF DENIAL APPEAL:



### General William Booth launched the first Self Denial Appeal in 1886.

Salvationists are challenged to give one week's salary to support the appeal. Funds are used to help end human suffering and share the gospel in over 100 countries around the world, including India, Malaysia, Ecuador and South Africa. Catch up on videos and give your Altar Service gift at:

[www.selfdenial.info/nzfts](http://www.selfdenial.info/nzfts)

# WEEK 2

By Katharine Dale  
Multicultural Engagement Officer,  
Australia Territory

## BE THE CHANGE

*for women like  
Manisha*



## *Scripture*

ACTS 16:13-15 (NLT)

### *Lydia of Philippi believes in Jesus*

<sup>13</sup>On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup>One of them was Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshipped God. As she listened to us, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying. <sup>15</sup>She and her household were baptized, and she asked us to be her guests. “If you agree that I am a true believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my home.” And she urged us until we agreed.



## *Observation*

In this story of the Bible, Paul and Silas were obedient to the Holy Spirit's leading and travelled to Macedonia to preach the Good News about Jesus there. They reached the busy, vibrant town of Philippi, which was a melting pot of different cultures with a thriving marketplace—a place very similar to the colourful, fast-paced market where Manisha lives in India.

Immediately, the Holy Spirit led Paul and Silas to a group of women who had gathered to pray. It can be assumed that as the women were worshipping by Jewish faith, they already knew the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and they were about to be introduced to Jesus, the Messiah.

Lydia was a well-respected businesswoman selling the uniquely dyed purple cloth and, by the grace of God, she used her astute knowledge to achieve financial independence and influence. She positioned herself to listen to the gospel, opened her heart and accepted Jesus as her Lord.

In a public proclamation of her decision, she was baptised and the Holy Spirit used her position of influence for other household members to also be saved. Instantly, she exercised her gift of hospitality to bless Paul and Silas and her community.

It is no mistake that God gave a woman the honour of being the first European to be introduced to Jesus, through Paul's ministry. Jesus, our friend, our Saviour, the One who calls us beloved, longs for women in every part of the world to be honoured, valued and respected.

For Manisha from India, Jesus redeems the “story” of her parents' disappointment that she was not born a boy. The “story” of lack of opportunity, a life at risk of enslavement to poverty and hopelessness, is restored by Jesus' story of acceptance, provision and seeing her dream become reality.

Jesus has found a way, through the generosity of other believers and the work of The Salvation Army, to empower Manisha to be a businesswoman and financially independent. Just like Lydia, Manisha now has the ability to gather in community with other women, to be empowered economically and to be a person of influence within her family and with her children in future.

In India, the benefits of enabling women can often overflow into the community by acts of love through hospitality. Most importantly, the hope given and love shown through the work of The Salvation Army enhances the opportunity for Manisha to open her heart to Jesus, just as Lydia did.

## *Reflection*

Lydia was a successful businesswoman with God-given opportunities. Can you identify three ways God has enriched you with opportunities to live an abundant life?

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Lydia puts her faith into action through generosity. How can you also practise a life of generosity within your relationships and community?

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Manisha's story is an example of transformation. How was the character of Jesus displayed as the practical needs of Manisha were met?

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In what ways do you feel God would like you to partner with him to bring about the empowerment of women in India such as Manisha?

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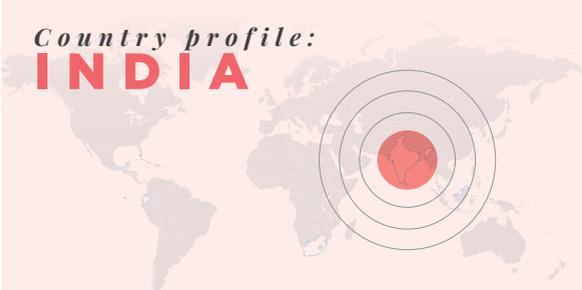


## Prayer

### PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE INDIA NORTHERN TERRITORY:

- Pray that the Indian Government will see the humanitarian benefits of the Self Denial Appeal, rather than viewing it as a political move to convert Hindus.
- Pray for the 10 couples at our Officer Training College. And pray for the couple that needed to leave the college to care for sick parents.
- Pray for matters of property. The government process to settle various property matters is being continually delayed, resulting in a drain on our financial resources.
- Pray for the health of our officers, particularly retired officers, whose concerns are not being met due to a shortage of funds.
- Pray for more officers with appropriate language and cultural skills to work in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Bihar and West Bengal.
- Praise for answered prayer! William Booth Memorial School in Bareilly has received official recognition. Pray for a similar outcome for another school in Moradabad.
- Praise God for successful revival meetings, seminars and workshops being held throughout the territory.

*Country profile:*  
**INDIA**



**Population:** 1.35 billion people

**Dominant religion:** Hinduism

**Quick facts:** More than 63 million women are “missing” statistically across India. Indian girls receive less education, have poorer nutrition and get less medical attention than boys.

**In India,**



**\$125**

provides a woman with a sewing machine



**\$745**

educates a woman with a 12-month sewing course



**\$14,800**

funds a sewing project for a year

# WEEK 3

By Major Debbie Clark

Territorial Overseas Development Officer/  
Child Sponsorship Secretary,  
New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga & Samoa Territory

## BE THE CHANGE

*for refugee  
families like  
Rabi's*



### *Scripture*

#### LEVITICUS 19:33-34 (MSG)

<sup>33-34</sup>“When a foreigner lives with you in your land, don’t take advantage of him. Treat the foreigner the same as a native. Love him like one of your own. Remember that you were once foreigners in Egypt. I am God, your God.

#### MATTHEW 25:35 (NIV)

<sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in ... ’



## *Observation*

There are approximately 65 million displaced people and 25 million refugees around the world. Malaysia alone has 158,000 refugees with 85 per cent of them coming from Myanmar.

It is sad to think there are so many people around the world who have to leave their homeland because they cannot continue to live there due to extreme circumstances. They risk their lives to make their way to a foreign place, often with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. Refugees often have no idea where they are going to end up or how they are going to get there. They just know they need to leave, because to stay is not an option.

What would it be like to leave your family, your home, your friends, your job, your community, your culture and even your church? Imagine walking for days and wondering how you are going to survive, like Rabi had to do. Imagine the days and nights feeling scared, lonely and afraid—and not a few nights, but 20 days walking through the jungle, hoping to make it to a place where you would be safe and could start a new life.

Rabi's journey is a story of faith. His passage to a new life was not easy, and through it all he kept his faith in God. Rabi prayed for his family and for protection and safety. The Bible reminds us, in Isaiah 41:13, that the Lord your God takes hold of your right hand and says to you, "Do not fear, I will help you".

Finding a place to belong is an important part of being in community with each other. For Rabi, this was when he came in contact with The Salvation Army, and with those who cared for him. With the help of others, Rabi not only found a place to belong, he found his place in ministering to others and making a difference. The Bible tells us to look out for others, and to make sure we love our neighbours as ourselves (Mark 12:31). We are called to help the least of these, so they can have a better life (Matthew 25:40). We are asked to bring comfort to others, just as God brings comfort to us (2 Corinthians 1:4).

The question could be, "Who is my neighbour?" Or maybe it could be, "Are you willing to be their neighbour?" New opportunities came for Rabi when The Salvation Army invited him in. Now Rabi has a place to belong and a ministry to once again care for others.

## *Reflection*

How would you feel if you had to leave your family and possessions and walk for days to find somewhere new to live?

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Do you know refugees who live in your community? How could you love and care for them?

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## *Prayer*

*Dear God. We pray and acknowledge all the people around the world who are displaced and find themselves living in foreign countries. We pray for the ministry in Malaysia, as they work to care for those who need help.*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA & MYANMAR TERRITORY:**

- *Territorial:* Please pray that God will raise up candidates who will say yes to the call to Officership.
- *Territorial:* Pray that every Corps in the territory will be engaged in disciple-making—making disciples who are committed to Jesus and who are committed to becoming disciple-makers themselves.

- *Singapore:* Pray for God’s leading as we explore new social justice initiatives and expand the social services ministry.
- *Malaysia:* Pray for enhanced fundraising opportunities and the expansion of the income-generating activities for financial sustainability.
- *Myanmar:* Pray for the current self-help community groups managed by TSA, community capacity building projects, and the development of TSA mission across the region.
- *Thailand:* Pray for this new opening and the continued establishment of a sustainable TSA presence, for additional leadership and new converts and soldiers.

*Country profile:*  
**MALAYSIA**



**Population:** 32.2 million people

**Dominant religion:** Islam

**Quick facts:** Around the world over 65 million people have been forcibly displaced.

Over 158,000 refugees and asylum seekers are registered with UNHCR in Malaysia. 85% are from Myanmar.

**In Malaysia,**



**\$578**

provides food assistance to a refugee family for a year



**\$1185**

pays a refugee social worker for a quarter



**\$6750**

funds the Pudu Refugee Centre for a month

# WEEK 4

By Major Drew Ruthven

Salvation Army International  
Development Engagement Officer,  
Australia Territory

BE  
THE  
CHANGE

*for truth-seekers  
like Edison*



## Scripture

### 2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-4 (NIV)

#### *The Collection for the Lord's People*

<sup>1</sup>And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. <sup>2</sup>In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. <sup>3</sup>For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, <sup>4</sup>they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.

### EZEKIEL 36:26 (NIV)

<sup>26</sup>I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

### ROMANS 5:3-5 (MSG)

<sup>3-5</sup>There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary—we can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!

**ROMANS 10:11-13 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup>As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup>for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

**PHILIPPIANS 1:6 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> ... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

*Observation*

Hearing about the work of the Army in other countries always encourages me. I have been blessed to see many of the places that people speak about during the Self Denial Appeal and I have seen the impact of the Army's work in the lives of people. There are so many people in many places in our world who suffer daily in their ordinary lives; the struggle is real for many to survive and live a life with dignity.

We say to people that God is with you in all circumstances. This is a comfort and a source of hope, and for some a challenge. People that are struggling want to hear they are not alone in life. I do believe God is in all circumstances of life, welcomed by us or not, but I also believe we have a responsibility or a calling to be present and involved with people.

I can't help but hear and pay attention to Edison's words, “God saved my life that day”, when he talks about the incident at work and then says after a visit to the corps officer, “It was that day that I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour”—words that resonate for many of us but maybe in different circumstances.

Edison has come a long way from where he was some time ago. From the point of abandoning his family and the total uncertainty of what life was to be for him, to the desire to be with his family and praise and worship God, to facing the challenges that are before him without trying to escape, and trusting God for what is to come. The change in family is remarkable—four generations of family loving and caring for each other. This is a long way from the Edison who ran away and abandoned his family earlier in life.

Edison also wants to tell us “God changed my life”. Life is so different for him that he wants to tell others—he has been through troubles and come out the other side with a new perspective and strength that he wants others to have.

Scripture reminds us that God has constantly invited us to this change of life that we have seen in Edison and others around him. This invitation has not changed, the love and care from God has not changed, and the promise of a future with him has not changed. Edison and Soroaya have lives that have been changed from circumstances that were testing, but they, like many of us, have come through and life is better.

This changed life came about because of a relationship with God that developed over time and through difficult times. The change was helped through people. The opportunity for us in this Self Denial Appeal is to join with God and bring about change in lives of people both in their physical and spiritual circumstances. We serve and love a caring God, and a generous God loves us. We ought to respond to this with generosity.

To finish, scripture also reminds us that what has been commenced will be sustained and completed by God when we hold on to him. He is generous and does care for his creation. Paul's words in Philippians 1:6 tell us that God continues to be with us through to the end of whatever we are facing. We don't deserve God's generosity, but he freely shares it through grace.

## Reflection

When life has been “too hard”, did you get to the passionate patience that is spoken about in *The Message* translation?

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What did it take for you to discover and surrender to Jesus? Was there a lead-up or crisis? Who helped you through this?

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Salvation caused change for Edison and he wanted to tell others. What changed for you when you came into your relationship with God?

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New hope in everyday life was Edison’s discovery. Reflect on the hope in your life after the change into relationship with God.

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 *Prayer*

**PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE SOUTH AMERICA WEST TERRITORY:**

- Development of a fundraising project—Chile Division (the project is starting in 2019).
- Financial strengthening, especially in the Divisions with the greatest needs.
- Upgrade of the Children’s Nurseries in Chile to new government standards.
- Consolidation of the Territorial restructuring (Since 2018, the Territory has been on a journey of management transformation, giving shape to four divisions: one per each of the countries that make up the territory—Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador).
- Territorial and Divisional Headquarters Open Houses.
- Corps’ growth.

*Country profile:*  
**ECUADOR**



**Population:** 16.8 million people

**Dominant religion:** Catholicism

**Quick facts:** The Salvation Army has 14,500 corps and churches around the world.

South Quito corps, Mi Casita Nursery and thousands of other mission expressions are only possible through funds raised in the Self Denial Appeal.

**In Ecuador,**

		
<b>\$360</b>	<b>\$2200</b>	<b>\$6000</b>
pays a childcare worker for a month	provides daycare education resources for a month	funds a corps and daycare for a month

# WEEK 5

By Major Ian Gainsford

Divisional Leader,  
Northern Divisional Headquarters,  
New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga & Samoa Territory

## BE THE CHANGE

*for young people  
like Kwanele*



### *Scripture*

#### JOHN 7:37-39 (NIV)

<sup>37</sup>On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup>Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” <sup>39</sup>By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

#### MATTHEW 25:31-45 (NIV)

##### *The Sheep and the Goats*

<sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. <sup>34</sup>“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup>I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ <sup>37</sup>“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and

give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' <sup>40</sup>"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' <sup>41</sup>"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' <sup>44</sup>"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' <sup>45</sup>"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

#### AMOS 5:21-24 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup>"I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. <sup>22</sup>Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. <sup>23</sup>Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. <sup>24</sup>But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!



### *Observation*

Water.

Water is the stuff of life: we drink it, wash with it, feed our gardens with it. We need it.

Kwanele, the subject of this week's Self Denial video, knows this far better than we do. The lack of clean water can cripple a community. The need to walk for kilometres every day to get it takes precious time; the dangers of disease are ever-present. The lack of good sanitation just makes things worse. All the convenience we take for granted—taps, toilets, showers and more—is only a dream for the majority of people in communities like the school in Qwe Qwe.

So what did Jesus mean when he stood up at the festival of Tabernacles and said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink" (John 7:37)? Was he trying to tell us that we shouldn't worry about water? That everything is a matter of the spirit alone?

That hardly seems likely. Remember, this is the same Jesus who commended those who give the thirsty something to drink (Matthew 25:31-46). This is the same Jesus who came bearing good news for the materially poor, not just the spiritually poor (Luke 4:14-21).

Clean and plentiful water is such a constant for us that it's hard to imagine what it might mean to live without it. Jesus invited people to come to him and receive the Holy Spirit, the source of living water; but he also asked us to care for others, to bring good into the world, to live life fully and bring life to others.

Our faith isn't disconnected from the world we live in, and the fact that millions of our fellow believers like Kwanele and her family lack access to something as fundamental to life as clean water should matter to us. What an opportunity to contribute to work that brings life. What an opportunity to bring hope for redemption, yes, but also for the provision of something as vital as water.

Not convinced? The prophet Amos records the word of God: "Away with the music of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never failing stream" (Amos 5:23-24).

There it is: A river. A stream. Water. Clean and plentiful, cleansing and life-bringing. May our songs point us to justice and righteousness during this period of self denial—for our communities, and for faithful people like Kwanele whose hope is in God stirring the hearts of those like you and me. Let's be the change for her.

## Reflection

What would change for you if didn't have access to clean water?

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What would change for Kwanele and her friends if they had good water tanks, or a water pump?

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What connection do you see between the promise of living water—that is, the Spirit—and our willingness to help others find the water they need to live?

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Water is a symbol of refreshment, of cleansing, of renewal, and of abundant life. Where do you need “water” in your life right now?

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 **Prayer**

**PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE SOUTHERN AFRICA TERRITORY:**

- For the expansion of the Kingdom of God here in the Southern Africa Territory—specifically that lost souls will come to know Jesus as Saviour.
- For the full implantation of our new Territorial Mission Plan beginning in 2019.
- For the Lord to continue to call people into full time service as officers.
- Our country is going through difficult times and 2019 will be a year of elections. Pray that the process will be peaceful.
- That our journey toward self-reliance will be completed in 2019.
- That the abuse of women and children will come to an end.

*Country profile:*  
**SOUTH AFRICA**



**Population:** 57.7 million people

**Dominant religion:** Christianity

**Quick facts:** Worldwide, 3 out of 10 people don't have access to safe water and 6 in 10 lack safe sanitation. This leads to missed school, reduced incomes, disease, and even death. The Salvation Army WASH project will provide borehole pumps and toilets to 15 communities in the KwaZulu-Natal region benefiting over 50,000 people.

**In South Africa,**

		
<b>\$250</b>	<b>\$327</b>	<b>\$3000</b>
buys a water tank	provides a borehole pump	builds a toilet block for a school

# WEEK 6

By Major Peter McGuigan  
Corps Officer,  
Australia Territory

## BE THE CHANGE

*through your heart  
of generosity*



### *Scripture*

LUKE 9:18-25 (NIV)

#### ***Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah***

<sup>18</sup>Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?” <sup>19</sup>They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.” <sup>20</sup>“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

#### ***Jesus Predicts His Death***

<sup>21</sup>Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. <sup>22</sup>And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” <sup>23</sup>Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup>For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. <sup>25</sup>What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

**LUKE 9:22:39-46 (NIV)*****Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives***

<sup>39</sup>Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup>On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” <sup>41</sup>He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup>“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” <sup>43</sup>An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup>And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. <sup>45</sup>When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. <sup>46</sup>“Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

***Observation***

Some of the world’s most well-known and respected leaders have given us great advice to live by, not only through their words but also their actions. Mahatma Gandhi said: “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” But we all know that Gandhi lived by this decree himself and influenced change in the lives of millions of people through the example of his own life.

Jesus Christ, the ultimate servant-leader and founder of Christianity, presented great and timeless insights for living using the powerful medium of parables—earthly stories with profound heavenly meaning. But not only did Jesus teach a new way of life for humanity, he modelled this life with great transparency. Still today we seek to align our lives with his, many of us with serious personal resolve and the ever-present help of God’s Holy Spirit.

Ultimately, Christians seek to live by Jesus’ supreme example of “not my will but yours be done” (Luke 22:42). This shift from being self-focused to God-focused, from living in a world of our own to living for God and with others in mind, is implicit in Jesus’ message throughout the gospels and is at the heart of the Self Denial Appeal. Having just returned from a two-year term of service in Sri Lanka, I can acknowledge from first-hand experience the vast impact of Salvation Army ministry funded in that country with self-denial giving. The result is transformation in the lives and circumstances of many thousands of people, from the very young through to the very old, from the streets of Sri Lanka’s packed cities to villages in some of the country’s remotest regions.

Over the past few weeks, our “be the change” stories of Salvation Army mission in India, Malaysia, Ecuador and South Africa have conveyed a similar understanding of the impact of our giving to the Self Denial Appeal. When we consider giving “one week’s salary on missionary service”, or giving sacrificially, we truly are entering the God-space of “being the change”! Jesus put it this way: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it” (Luke 9:23-24).

As this Sunday approaches, and we decide on the gift we will bring to the Self Denial Altar Service, may we know the deep blessings that come with following Jesus in both word and deed.

 *Reflection*

What do I need to change in my life to be more like Jesus?

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What does it mean for me to “give sacrificially”?

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How can I make my gift this Sunday one of true “self denial”?

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What are the blessings I experience as I follow the way of life taught and modelled by Jesus?

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## *Prayer*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE 2019 SELF DENIAL APPEAL:**

- Pray that God will be at work in and through us every day so that we will bring good into the world, live life fully and bring life to others.
- Pray that God's Spirit will work in us and give us the desire to give the way God has given.
- Pray for guidance for our leaders in the distribution of Self Denial Appeal funds.
- Pray that all people around the world will have access to water—clean and plentiful, cleansing and life giving.
- Pray for Salvation Army corps all around the world, that they will grow in size and spiritual maturity.
- Pray that the world will be genuinely transformed by Jesus, and that we can be the change in our community and overseas.



# **BE THE CHANGE**

*Self Denial Appeal 2019*

