

CREATIVE MINISTRY

MORE THAN JUST ENTERTAINMENT

Judy McComb sings
for God's glory



ONE OF MY FAVOURITE books in my home library is the 224 page book *Ordering your Private World* by Gordon MacDonald written back in 1984. Sure, it's verging on being an old book now, but there have been several times in my life when I have gone back

to read this wonderfully inspiring Christian book. It has helped me consider again what are the important values for my life.

I was reminded of the book when I discovered recently that Mahatma Gandhi, the legendary Indian leader and hero who sparked the flames of independence for his country, regularly stopped from his hectic schedule and withdrew to a spinning wheel. There on the floor in his humble home, he would sit and spin wool from which his clothes were made. This simple machine helped restore him to his true self, far away from the poverty-ridden citizens who clamoured to see and touch him, and his constant negotiating with government officials. He learned how to span the gap between the rich and poor without losing his own integrity and conviction. Apparently he was fascinated by the spinning wheel which appeared to be at the centre of his life. He had no inflated ideas of his own importance as he spent time alone. What Gandhi was doing was ordering his private world and perhaps that's why so many were moved by his tranquil spirit.

With another new year now with us, January is a good month to stop and take a moment to ask how we're going with our private world. What does that mean?

Gordon MacDonald tells how he shared one day with a Christian friend on the sidelines of a soccer match when their two sons were playing. At halftime, Gordon asked him "Tell me how you're doing spiritually?" He responded: "Interesting question. Oh, I'm OK I guess. I wish I could say I was growing or feeling closer to God. But the truth is that I'm sort of standing still." Not about to give up, Gordon MacDonald then asked "Are you taking time regularly to order your inner life?" He was perplexed. "I'm out every night this week ... the house needs painting ... I don't have much time to think about my inner life. And what is the inner life anyway?"

I have a feeling that if we were really truthful most of us would ask the same question. We may be a professing Christian and a busy Salvationist or church member and have a reputation for doing Christian things. But underneath all the action and words, is there something solid and dependable?

I have sometimes told the story of Mary Slessor, a young single woman who left Scotland in the early 1900's to be a missionary in Africa. It was a dangerous task but she had an indomitable spirit and kept going against great difficulties. She had to sleep in a crude jungle hut with rats and insects. One night she couldn't sleep very well and wrote later "but I had such a comfortable quiet night in my own heart". I think that's the true spirit of ordering your private world.

Have a read sometime of another outstanding book *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence, a reflective Christian of many centuries ago. He talks of a chapel and says: "It is not needful always to be in church to be with God. We make a chapel of our heart, to which we can from time to time withdraw to have gentle, humble, loving communion with him. Everyone is able to have these familiar conversations with God. Let us make a start. Perhaps he only waits for us to make one whole-hearted resolve. Courage! We have but a short time to live."

Because our world is full of noise, chatter and busy schedules, we can easily not hear God's voice speaking to us. We are so accustomed to noise that we grow restless without it. Most of us would find it difficult to go even an hour without saying anything or hearing a word from someone. We Salvationists are activists by nature, and withdrawing to be alone with God can be hard work.

This issue of *Creative Ministry* attempts to bring positive news and articles to help your spiritual life. I hope you enjoy reading the first edition for 2007. In "Letters to the editor" we hear about a learners band in Canberra and its shortage of brass instruments. I was expecting more comment from our readers on the topic of brass bands in The Salvation Army, and it's not too late to let me know your thoughts. It would be good to hear from you.

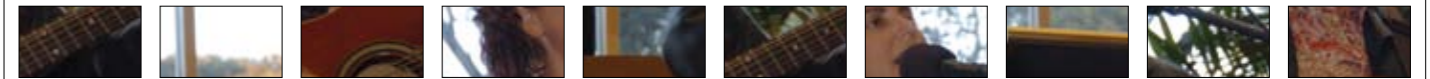
Our main feature this issue tells the story of talented singer/songwriter Judy McComb who wants more than anything else to be the Lord's servant. You'll find it an inspiring background to Judy's life as a Christian.

As you read, I pray that God through the Holy Spirit will bring some new insights to affirm your foundation with him, and even build a stronger "inner world" that will enable you to have inner peace through the year's events that lie ahead.

May God bless you.

Chris Witts (Major), Editor

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Singer/songwriter Judy McComb prays that her message of music will bring listeners a new sense of God's presence.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I refer to Howard Morton's letter in *Creative Ministry* October 2006.

Salvation Army bands are not dead yet, and like the simple biblical truth if one waters, feeds and grows plants, then bands can do that, too.

At Tuggeranong, we have a very healthy learners band where, under the care and tuition of retired Bandsman Bob Rudd, young people grow into the next stage ready for the young people's band. Often we don't have enough instruments to go around.

Then we encourage young people to join the Senior Band and not wait until they are senior soldiers and in uniform. This could be too late.

We have young people in the band under 16 years of age who love it and don't worry about the dreaded peer pressure. Recently, 18 young people from our corps attended the Collaroy music camps.

Our banding at Tuggeranong is growing.

Peter Trick
Deputy Bandmaster,
Tuggeranong, ACT

the cutting edge

REPORTS FROM CORPS & CENTRES

Bill Broughton in concert at Sydney Congress Hall

(Majors Allan and Fran Flemming, Captain Robyn Black)

Well known composer/conductor and fifth generation Salvationist Bill Broughton was the special guest at Sydney Congress Hall's band weekend on 25 and 26 November. The weekend began with a 7.30pm concert on Saturday night when Sydney Congress Hall band (Steve Reay) commenced unannounced with the march *The Santanian*. Major Allan Flemming welcomed the audience and prayed before he introduced Graeme Press (Territorial Music and Creative Arts Coordinator) as compere for the evening.

Major Kevin Metcalf was soloist for the cornet solo *Pleasure in His Service* and Sydney Congress Hall songsters (Rodney Anderson) sang the bright number *Sing, We Saw Love* (conducted by Bill Broughton) and *Let Freedom Ring* with soloists Alwyn Robinson, Graham Lang and Ash Sellers. The band returned with Dudley Bright's *Are you joyful*. Another guest On Fire Big Band (Gavin Staines) also took a prominent part in two segments which commenced with *Trusting as the Moments Fly* (and vocal soloist Lee Ellem) and *Someone to watch over me* with Bill playing trombone in his own arrangement. This was

followed by *Everlasting Swinging Arms* and Ralph Carmichael's *A Quiet Place*.

Graeme Press interviewed Bill about his life. Bill said he had godly parents who told him about Jesus at an early age. "I want a daily experience with my living God who has given me mercy and grace," he said before he played *The Well is Deep* on the piano. Sydney Congress Hall songsters returned to sing *Qui Tollis, Percatta Mundi* before Bill conducted them for his own piece *Oh, the Love of God* which he explained is his own personal testimony. The songsters' final number was *Let the Veil down*. Sydney Congress Hall Band played *Etude* with Bill as trombone soloist before On Fire Big Band returned for their final bracket of three numbers *Amazing Grace*, *If I labour with Lee* singing, and *Hallelujah! What a Saviour*.

Ken Downie's *Majesty* was played by Sydney Congress Hall Band before Major Flemming offered a closing prayer and the congregation joined in the finale *Worthy is the Lamb* which featured the Band, On Fire Big Band and Lee Ellem.

Bill Broughton, a professional musician for nearly 30 years, was contracted to be artistic music producer/



Bill Broughton and Graeme Press in an interview segment.

director for the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games writing original music and overseeing a 60 piece symphony orchestra and cast of over 10,000 singers and dancers. He began his career as a studio musician in 1968 in the United States playing trombone for a number of television shows such as *Bonanza* and *Hawaii Five O*. His motion picture credits include *Jaws 2*, *The Godfather 2* and many others. He also performed with many artists including Frank Sinatra and the Glenn Miller Orchestra. In 1988, Bill relocated to Atlanta where he completed

a major project for Disney/MGM studios. In the 1990s he wrote and performed on the recording of *Spiritual to the Bone*, a compilation of jazz arrangements based on Negro spirituals, written for 10 trombones and rhythm. He recently ended a four year commitment as "artist in residence" at LaGrange college, Georgia, where he taught film composing, commercial arranging, and film scoring at Georgia State University in Atlanta. "Performing," says Bill Broughton, "is a gift you have to give away".

Gosford celebrates with Sydney Staff Songsters

(Majors Graham and Dawn Mizon)

Gosford Corps hosted Sydney Staff Songsters (Graeme Press) for their visit on the weekend 16-17 September which commenced with lunch on Saturday followed by an outreach opportunity at Erina Fair. This was an opportunity that doesn't come very often and the songsters delighted the passing crowd and unashamedly represented their God.

A crowd came for Saturday night's celebration which commenced with *Great is the Glory of the Lord* and through the singing, soloists, interaction with the audience and sharing of personal testimonies, God's grace was shared with conviction and without compromise. The duet *Your grace still amazes me* was a

timely reminder of God's grace.

Sunday morning worship commenced with *Fill this House* and this prayer was answered. Gosford band (Arthur Hodge) also took part and Major Nancy McLaren led the children's segment and gave a Bible message. The songsters also sang *Table of Grace*. After a fellowship lunch, Sunday afternoon's meeting included a prelude from Gosford band before Gosford songsters (Lyn Hope) and others joined the Sydney Staff Songsters to commence the afternoon. This included sharing from the songsters and participation in some great hymns of the Church, plus a presentation on the life and songs of Fanny Crosby. Following the singing of *How Great thou Art* as the



Sydney Staff Songsters at Erina Fair on Saturday afternoon 16 September.

congregation joined in the finale, the songsters ended the weekend by moving in amongst the congregation for the blessing *May the road rise to meet you*.

This weekend will be one cherished by Gosford for years to come as we were brought closer to God and encouraged in our faith.

— Derek Smith

Wollongong Band 100 years celebrations

(Majors Elwyn and Raewyn Grigg)



Current band at Wollongong take part in the Band centenary weekend.

Wollongong band centenary celebrations were featured on the weekend 18, 19 November led by Majors Mark and Julie Campbell. In Saturday night's celebration, special mention was made of Herb Epps and Gordon Stewart (who both retired from the band last year). Both were 12 year old boys when they first played in Wollongong senior band on Christmas Day 1928, 22 years after the band's formation 100 years ago. Herb's father, Tom Epps,

had been a founding member in 1906.

Cabaret artist Joe Epps (Herb's son) was the featured soloist playing trombone and tuba solos based on popular jazz tunes. Wollongong bandsman Phillip Stewart (Gordon's son) co-compered the evening with Philip Cooke and Bill Simpson interviewing Herb Epps, Gordon Stewart and Ken Hutchinson. They recounted their lives as Salvation Army Bandsmen in the early 1900s when there

were no mobile phones, computers or television sets, and few motor vehicles. Ken joined the Band as a 14 year old in 1939 and recalled big crowds at street outreach services, especially during Friday night shopping.

Other soloists included trombonist Warren Hutchinson *Jesus is real to me*, cornet player Barry McDonald *A Happy Day* and vocalist Allan Webster *From the General Down to Me*. Robert Adlington conducted a male voice party group which sang *Sweet Rose of Sharon* and *O Calvary*. Robert's late father Keith conducted the male voices for many years in the 1900's.

Major Mark Campbell and Robert Adlington presented Certificates of Appreciation for Bandmaster service to Ron Walker, Chris Langtry (wife of the late Bill Langtry), Gordon Newton, Phillip Newton, Wally Woods, Len Collier, Barry McDonald, Peter Hutchinson, Joe McIver and Stuart Lang.

A DVD was screened with interviews of bandmasters and bandsmen from the past 50 years.

A 9am band spiritual meeting on Sunday was followed by a 10.15am worship service led by Majors Campbell. Mark had been a Bandsman prior to entering officership and Julie had been a corps soldier with her corps officer parents in the early 1980's.

A concert on Sunday afternoon was presented by the current Wollongong band members.



Wollongong Band's youngest member Ryan Skinner cuts the Band centenary cake.

Inspirational music in Canberra

Bible Society NSW's eighth annual Canberra Hymnfest was held in the Church of St Andrew, Forrest ACT, on Sunday 8 October. More than 350 people filled the church for a wonderful afternoon of inspirational music, hymns and songs. The Salvation Army Tuggeranong Band, led by Deputy Bandmaster Peter Trick, took part and has been an integral part of each Hymnfest since 1999. Many people come each year to simply enjoy the talents of this brass band.

This year's theme was

"Our Favourite Hymns" and featured classics like *How Great thou Art, What a friend we have in Jesus, The Old rugged Cross and Shine, Jesus, Shine*. SkyNews TV Presenter Leigh Hatcher compered the program and Don Whitbread OAM conducted the choirs and community singing.

Beth Cathcart played the St Andrew organ and other items were given by the Combined Sing Australia Choir and Ensemble, St Andrew church choir, and duets by Catherine Evans and Michelle McWilliam. Special visitors were the



Church of St Andrew, Canberra

Thai Christian Fellowship singing group which travelled from Liverpool for the program. Dressed in bright traditional Thai costume, they thrilled the audience with their song *Jesus the Good Shepherd*, based on Psalm 23.

Money received from the free-will offering went towards providing 200 Bible backpacks to children living in refugee

camp on the Thai-Myanmar border. Each pack will contain school materials, a beautifully illustrated Children's Bible plus health and hygiene items — personal items that would mean the difference between life and death to a child living in unsanitary refugee conditions.

For information on this year's Hymnfest locations phone Bible Society NSW 02 9888 6588

Hamilton united in praise

Parramatta band and timbrels visited Hamilton on 26-27 August for a weekend entitled "United in Praise" which commenced with a program of modern brass and music enjoyed by about 150 people on Saturday night. The band (Graham Ainsworth) gave stirring and entertaining renditions of challenging brass arrangements including *Fanfare and Flourishes, Glorifico Aeternum and Covenant Worship*. Bandsman Geoff Bowie gave an inspirational euphonium solo *Fantasia*. Parramatta timbrels



Graham Ainsworth conducts Parramatta Band at Hamilton.

(Carissa Ainsworth) thrilled the audience with their displays of contemporary arrangements such as *Island Dreams and Amazonia*.

In a prelude to Sunday morning's meeting, the timbrels played to *I Will Rejoice* and the band enhanced the worship with *I Love you Lord*

and *In His Presence*. Major Kelvin Pethybridge (Corps Officer Parramatta) gave a thought provoking message.

In Sunday afternoon's praise meeting, the band played *Lord Reign in Me, Up Yonder, Since Jesus and Celebration Overture*. The timbrels concluded the meeting with *Godspell* and *Let the Glory Come Down*.

Other vocal items were presented throughout the weekend and the band march *Washington Salute* was conducted by Captain Russell Morgan.

Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra at Sydney Congress Hall

(Majors Allan and Fran Flemming, Captain Robyn Black)

One hundred and ninety singers and musicians from 79 Baptist churches in Florida USA gathered on the Sydney Congress Hall platform on Sunday afternoon 24 September for a magnificent music experience of praise and worship. The Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra visited Sydney during their overseas music and worship mission tour which also included Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Comprised of professional musicians and music pastors who funded their own travel expenses, the group was under the direction of Terry W. Williams of Florida

Baptist Convention.

The afternoon commenced with the orchestra playing *My Life is in You, Lord* before David Shennings and Scott Hardin sang *A Call to Praise/Anthem of Praise*. Four of the musicians led the song *Friend of God* and the congregation joined in. The Singing Men presented *Just a Little Talk with Jesus* before Brandy Miller was soloist for *Not unto Us*. An offering was received as the orchestra played *Near to the Heart of God*. In a moving moment, Scripture was read as the choir sang *When I survey the Wondrous Cross*. The Singing Women sang



Terry W. Williams leads Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra in Arise.

Beholding your Glory. Rob Flint sang *You Raise me Up* before the group brought *Holy is He and Thou, O Lord*. Other songs were *Arise, To Love our God, Blessed be your Name and Who can Satisfy?* Pastor Tommy Green gave a message based on John 3:16. "God is aware of who you are, and while he loves the world, he loves the individual. His purpose is to have a personal

relationship with you" he said before the choir sang *Just as I am* during the appeal. Pastor Green introduced the final item *Midnight Cry* as being a favourite song of many US churches.

The following night, Florida Worship Choir and Orchestra gave a performance at the Sydney Opera House concert hall supported by On Fire Big Band.

MORE THAN JUST ENTERTAINMENT



Music inspired by the Word, when delivered with a passionate love for God, can shake listeners to the core. Singer/songwriter Judy McComb prays that God reveals himself to her audiences each time she performs. So being entertainment doesn't suit Judy's agenda. Here she talks with staff writer Flavia Caraballo and shares her goals for her full-time ministry.





Judy performs at The Salvation Army Collaroy Conference Centre. Photo by Flavia Caraballo

Most people would agree that giving up a deputy principal position at a Christian school to pursue a singing career, aged 37, is a risky move. Singer, songwriter, speaker and worship leader, Judy McComb is one of those people. So each time the Lord called her to fulfil the purpose he had put on her life, she replied: "Not yet, Lord, not yet."

Judy McComb is a capable and sensible person and was happy to make a one-off album in 2000, titled *Just Let Me Say*. After the album was made, Judy accepted a deputy principal position at Taree Christian Community School, so you get an indication of where she thought her life was headed. Judy didn't envisage that more albums would follow, but three albums later there are no signs that things are slowing down for Judy, now aged 43.

In just one weekend Judy's itinerary can be stuffed with events that most twenty-something's would struggle through. Perhaps it's her warm sense of humour and her involvement with youth groups that keeps her young at heart. She has years of experience leading choirs, concert bands, vocal workshops, along with song writing and educating church worship groups.

Judy travels extensively around Australia and overseas, preaching and singing about a Christ-filled life inspiring others and building God's kingdom. Most performers strive to be entertaining and

give their audience what they want. Judy says, however, that if she's ever viewed as an entertainer, then she has failed her quest to be the Lord's faithful servant.

To be effectual when she plays her music, Judy wants to drive out any sinister strongholds audience members may suffer, just as David did when he played his harp for Saul.

"That's what I want," Judy shares, "I want to be in the Lord like that. To have power in the spirit, to be faithful to God so that when I play my guitar or when I play the piano or when I sing, the demonic realm cannot stay in the presence of the Lord."

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Although her full time music ministry started late in life, Judy learnt how to perform in front of large audiences as a child through The Salvation Army. She recalls being only 10 years old, in a junior band, at an open-air meeting at Brisbane's Town Hall and being asked to stand in front of a microphone and sing to masses of people. At age 13 Judy was regularly asked to do solo performances of *Born Again*, sometimes in front of a congregation of 300 to 400 people.

"That's just your life," Judy says. "You don't know any different. The Army is very good at recognizing gifting and using it ... for me it was like a bit of heaven."

The Army tradition is strong on both

sides of Judy's family. Her sister Glenda along with husband Randall Brown are the corps officers at Hannam Vale Corps in New South Wales. Many of Judy's cousins are Salvationists and her father John McComb is The Salvation Army Veterans Band leader. Judy jokes about growing up in the Army and being known as John McComb, the cornet player's daughter. Now, she says her father is sometimes referred to as Judy McComb, the trumpet player's father. These days Judy mostly plays the guitar and piano.

It was a sad day then, when in her mid-20s, Judy handed back her bonnet. And naturally, her parents were disappointed. The link between her and the Army is still a strong one and Judy enjoys the relationship she has with it.

"A lot of contemporary corps are inviting me to come and speak to their worship teams and I understand the tradition in which they're coming from and what they're trying to make them. The Lord is using me in this way and it's great," Judy says.

INSPIRATIONAL WORD

All artists draw from a well of inspiration to create their art. In Judy's case, lyrics about the Bible, worship and the daily challenges that Christians face are heavily featured in her songs. Judy is an "all or nothing" type of person. She is passionate about the Word and is often asked to

speak on it. In fact, her preaching ministry has surpassed her music ministry and Judy needs to remind herself to compose songs about Bible verses that have impacted her, and not just speak on them.

A few years ago, an audience member had received word from the Lord advising Judy that although preaching would make up her main ministry, songs resonate through people's lives and last for a longer time. Judy says she has never been a prolific writer and can only build songs when she has something to share. Writing songs is something Judy really has to work at and she waits for the Lord's input in order for the songs to be purposeful.

Judy has recorded and released four albums to date: *Just Let Me Say* (released in December 1995); *The Road* (June 1998); *Wait* (June 2002) and *This is Life* (July 2006).

Judy's music is easy to listen to. It's lilting, harmonious and uncomplicated, but it carries with it conviction and passion. There is strength in its delivery. Judy's voice may not resemble a masterful craftsman and she admits that, however, her voice is certainly lovely and her guitar and piano skills are excellent. Through Judy's melodies and lyrics something supernatural and divine transpires. An example of this comes from the story Judy shares of her inaugural tour to New Zealand after her first album was released. Her album had sold in New Zealand but Judy presumed she was relatively unknown. So when a young woman approached her after the performance at a small Brethren church Judy was astounded.

"I just want to tell you your album saved my life," the woman told her. After years of abuse and suicidal thoughts Judy's songs had given the woman hope, peace and the will to trust in God and life again. She said that whenever she played the album *Just Let Me Say* the Lord would come and meet with her.

"So you've probably saved my life about six or seven times and I just want to thank you."

"But it's just so not about me," Judy says. "It's not even about the music. It's just always about the Lord. I longed to make an album where the Lord would witness himself. A nice record can't do what *Just Let Me Say* did for that woman. Only the Lord brings people from the edge of suicide, not nice music or nice arrangement or a nice voice. So it was impacting for me knowing that God was steering me in the right direction."

AN AMAZING GOD

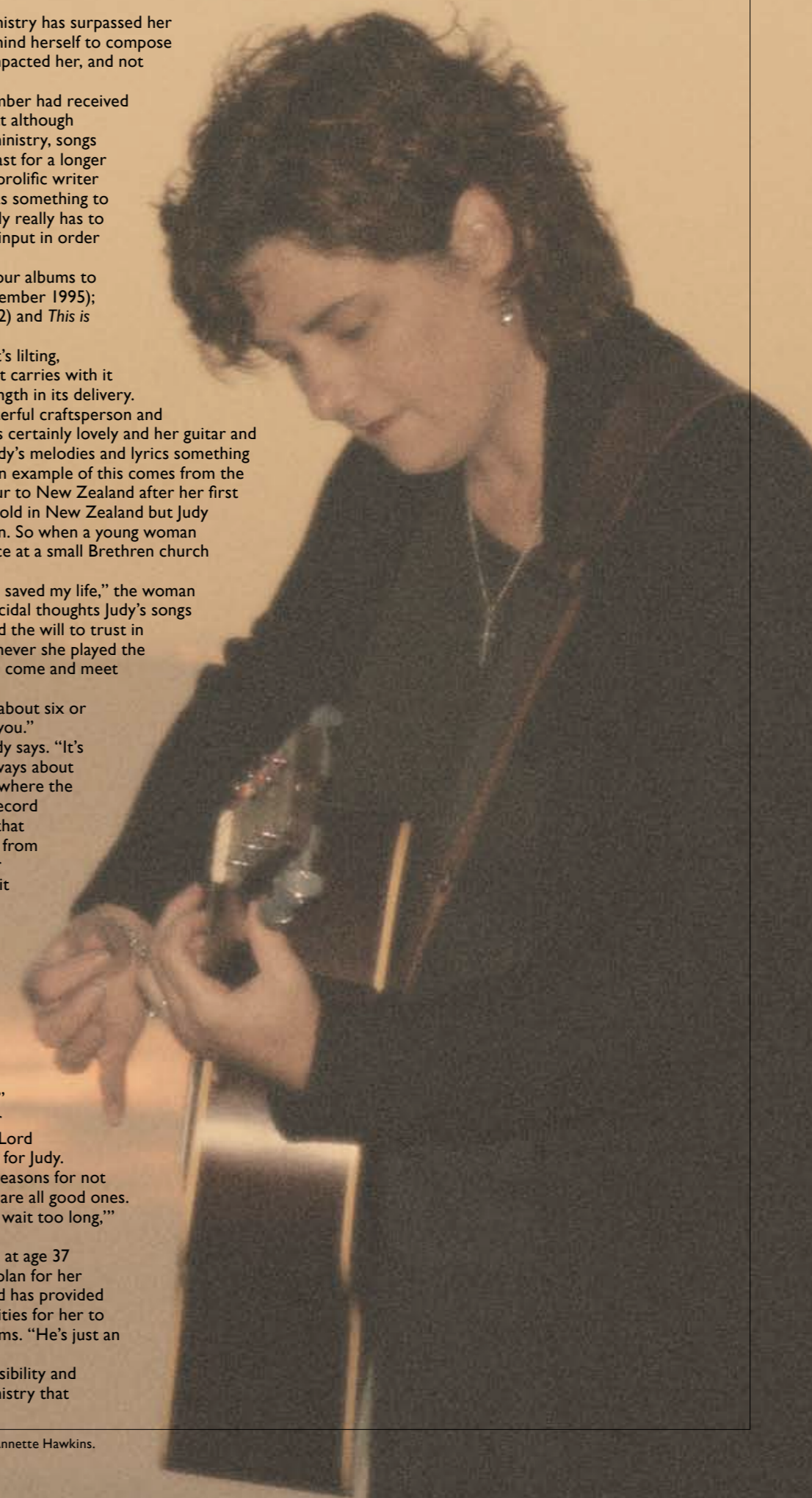
Nonetheless, Judy found excuse after excuse, year after year when the Lord called upon her to enter into full-time ministry. "Not yet, Lord" Judy would answer... "Not yet."

One day, back in Australia, a stranger informed the church pastor that the Lord have given her an important message for Judy.

"She said: 'The Lord knows your reasons for not going into full time ministry and they are all good ones. He just wanted me to tell you to not wait too long,'" Judy recalls.

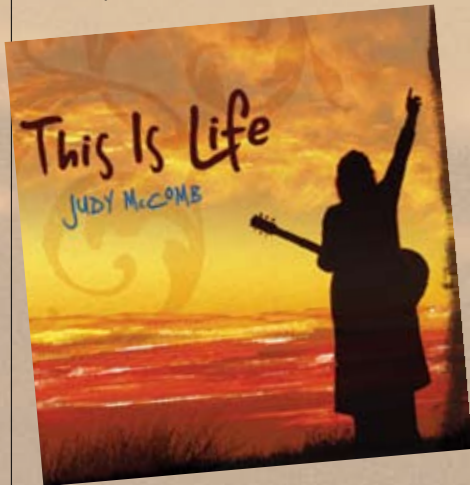
It was another few years, in 2000 at age 37 when Judy finally took up the Lord's plan for her life. "He's been faithful," Judy says and has provided the necessary finances and opportunities for her to travel and to record and release albums. "He's just an amazing God," Judy adds.

There is a duty of care, of responsibility and accountability towards her music ministry that





Judy's song writing is inspired by the Word and the challenges of following God.
Photo by Annette Hawkins.



Judy doesn't take lightly. The very first experience of what transpires when she performs came from a friend's observation when Judy was just 18 years old. Now the pastor's wife at Manning Valley Covenant Ministries — the church Judy attends at Taree — her friend said she saw the Holy Spirit at work. It was a revelation that showed Judy that she wasn't simply singing pretty songs and something more profound was happening.

"I started to watch people and I could see people meeting with the Lord, but I never understood why. It was the beginning of my understanding of worship in the spirit and what it could do in terms of healing and ministering. People could meet with the Lord while I sang. It was humbling; it separated me from being a good singer to feeling that God was really using me."

And the Lord was using Judy but in order for him to use her as he'd planned he had to cleanse and prepare her soul. While still in her late twenties Judy felt that her Christian walk had been compromised. It was in that spiritual fracture that the Lord began to repair her.

"I had this real encounter with Jesus and an understanding of sin and grace and I started to write songs."

A few years later a longer and deeper meeting occurred when Judy felt the Lord stripped off the traits of her personality that she found identity in. Layer by layer he exposed and discarded ego, ambition, pride and independence.

"I'd call it almost a year of depression but I think I was just coming to terms with who I was and who I was in God. It was a dark time. It was a time that I don't ever want to return to."

But like the blackened landscape after a hungry fire, among the scorched flora and fauna, tiny buds of life sprout and dot the ravaged land with fresh strength and vitality. In this same way the Lord rejuvenated Judy's whole being and fear and disconnection were replaced with inner peace and total trust that the Lord would go before her and always take care of her. Judy was reconstructed from the inside out so that she could undertake the Lord's will to create a meeting place between the Lord God Almighty and his people.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Preparation for events and concerts isn't a once or twice a week occurrence for Judy. She says she prepares everyday, in the quiet moments of solitude and in choosing Jesus in each and every decision she makes. Therefore, she believes that by being obedient to God and consistently keeping his mandate to build the kingdom, she'll be in peak form to best serve him.

"I want people to have a revelation with the Lord, not be entertained. So if they're being entertained, I haven't been faithful."

There are theologians who would suggest that Christian music simply communicates a message, a feel good-buzz for desperate and weak people. As we've discovered, this isn't the experience for Judy or her audiences. I can't imagine listeners not being moved when they hear track four *Still Waiting* on her most

recent album. This is one of those up-beat, contemporary-sounding songs that can get stuck in your head, but trust me, you won't mind. Here is the chorus:

*I'm still waiting for the day of your return
I'm still waiting on you
I'm still waiting for your spirit to consume me
Mostly what I'm waiting for is to look like you.*

Although the Lord stripped back certain elements of Judy's personality she still has ambition. Not self-gratifying ambition but self-giving ambition. On 17 November 2006, Judy led worship for the Women's Bridge Program weekend at The Salvation Army Collaroy Conference Centre.

"The Lord has given me 120 women to minister to tonight and I don't take that lightly." Judy refers to people like Darlene Zschech who are in the public eye and have a high profile. She explains that people, including other Christians, sometimes criticize those that have an obvious status and following. Judy, on the other hand, believes the Darlene Zschech's of our modern times have an even greater responsibility to build God's kingdom. "In the Bible it says, 'to whom much is given much is expected,'" Judy states.

It is only January 2007 and already Judy's year looks like a busy one. On 14 January she'll be at Mayfield Baptist Church; she'll undertake church consultancy at Gateway Baptist Church in Tasmania between 11-18 February; from March 7-25 Judy will visit Arizona/Alaska in America and on 2 June Judy will be back in Australia to speak at the Salvation Army Women's Retreat in Queensland.

Full time music, preaching and worship ministry isn't necessarily an easy life. It takes total dependence on and faith in the Lord that he'll fulfil his promises; that he'll provide and care for his servants and that he'll be present to touch the hearts of those seeking him. Judy's vitality, passion and absolute love for God and the Gospel are the driving forces that propel her on. Six years ago, the Lord made Judy fresh and more like Him, so that she would be ready for the demanding task she had ahead of her. Now, at the beginning of 2007, Judy's spiritual make-over, her dedication and burning desire to serve God puts her in a powerful position to be the Lord's faithful servant.

For more information about Judy McComb's ministry go to: www.judymccomb.com.au or email her at: judy@judymccomb.com.au.



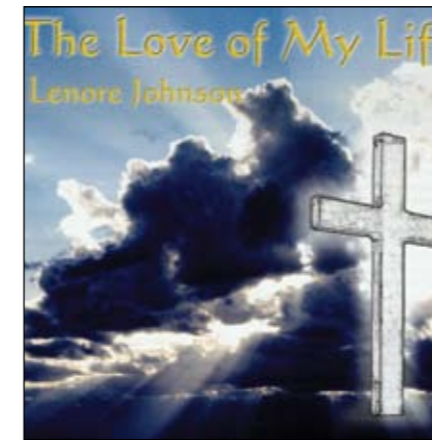
Flavia Caraballo is a staff writer for Creative Ministry magazine.

LISTENING IN cd reviews

THE LOVE OF MY LIFE

Lenore Johnson

Rating: 3.5/5



Named after her own personal relationship with Jesus, Leonore Johnson has produced a CD of faith songs, *The Love of My Life*, arranged and produced by Anthony Vadala of AV Productions. The album expresses her Christian journey and is an encouragement to other Christians.

The genre of the CD might seem to some to be out of place, but then there has been a lack of trained operatic quality singing voices, as well as few opportunities, for those so blessed to express their gift of song within The Salvation Army.

Here Lenore shows her depth of tone and clarity of voice in 11 songs, some well-known and some not so well-known. The words and their presentation make this an effective communication.

From the haunting testimony *I Surrender All* where she is assisted by daughter, Melanie-Anne Holland, and son-in-law Ross Holland, to the more folksy *I'd Rather Have Jesus Than Silver or Gold*, the range of Lenore's voice is consistently well presented. I enjoyed *The Prayer* sung in both English and Italian. I like the words: "Let this be our prayer when we lose our way/Lead us to a place/Guide us with your grace/To a place where we will be safe."

Released before her own re-commissioning as a Salvation Army officer, the CD is an instance of Lenore's broad abilities to serve the Lord and is a good introduction to Christian meditation.

The CD is available from Salvationist Supplies or by phoning Lenore at 0410 490 655. — **Ken Sanz**

MY COVENANT

Worship Favourites by Jonathan James

Rating: 3.5/5



My Covenant is the second CD from Jonathan James.

The International Executive Director of Asia Evangelistic Fellowship International (AEFI), Jonathan James is also an accomplished singer, guitarist and worship leader. Having released two worship CD's, the success of his first CD, *I am the Lord* has now been followed by *My Covenant*.

Jonathan James is currently based in Perth directing a task force of some 200 national missionaries in nine Asian countries. He has established AEF training schools in four Asian countries, under the umbrella of the Asia College of Ministry (ACOM).

My Covenant contains 12 worship tracks that range from intimate, slow melodies to the upbeat tracks that resemble folk music. The diverse styles of each track will cater to a range of tastes.

The lyrics are personal and reflective of Jonathan's faith. Three of the tracks are based on the Psalms with all 10 tracks focused purely on God.

The soothing guitar playing along with Jonathan's calm voice creates a peaceful atmosphere that is appropriate for reflection times and meditating on God.

He wrote six of the 10 songs on the album but making music is only one of Jonathan's vast array of talents.

Jonathan has also served as the Associate Pastor of the well-known Swanston Street Church of Christ (Melbourne, Australia) for two years. A gifted communicator, he has preached and conducted seminars and conferences in several Asian countries, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji Islands. He is the author of two books:

How to Communicate on Target; *The Great Deception* and is the Joint Editor of the book *That Asia May Know*. — **Jane Clinch**

STILL

Sydney Staff Songsters

Rating: 5/5



OK, I'll admit it. If the Sydney Staff Songsters had a fan club (maybe they already do) I'd be their number one fan. I like all their songs, and have done so for a number of years. I can't recall when I first heard them, but it seems ages ago when Dr Ron Smart was their leader, and they have continued to bring blessing in this territory and other places.

I've heard them at corps meetings, congress meetings and other events I've now forgotten about. But I have always loved their presentation, their style, and their strong sense of purpose in bringing God to people through music. Quite obviously, each songster loves to sing — and it shows when you see them in action.

Their new CD simply called *Still* (based on Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God") is another wonderful worship and music experience that you should add to your CD library.

While driving alone to the Central Coast one day last month for work, I put the CD on in my car and felt really uplifted and blessed. It amazes me how their leader Graeme Press gets a variety of music, puts it all together, and then somehow gets the group to produce it. Graeme refers to "the family that is the Sydney Staff Songsters", and I'm sure he is right. They are united in purpose and sing with conviction and clarity.

There are 15 tracks which includes a bonus track and individual Songsters are given the chance to shine with their solos as are small groups. I think it's great that within The Salvation Army we still have this premier choir with its talent to inspire listeners to hear the voice of God and find rest in him. If you need a faith lift, go this week and buy the CD. You won't be disappointed. If you are, come and tell me. I don't think I'll hear from too many.

— **Chris Witts**

2006 COMMISSIONING AND CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED

Sunday 3 December



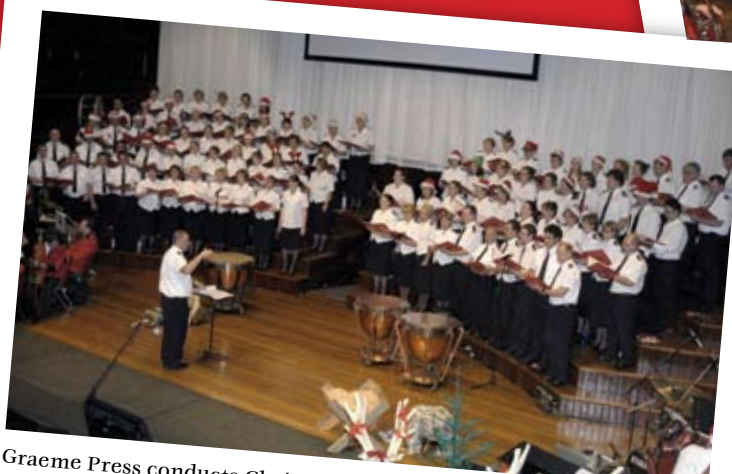
The little drummer boy took centre stage in Christmas Unwrapped.



Graeme Press conducts the Dedication Song *Send Me* during Sunday morning's meeting.



Parramatta timbrels led by Carissa Ainsworth play *Every Valley*.



Graeme Press conducts Christmas Unwrapped massed choir.



One of the ribbon dancers performs while Sydney Staff Songsters sing the Christmas song *Pat-A-Pan*.



Bandmaster Steve Reay conducts Sydney Congress Hall band on Sunday night when Major Kevin Metcalf played the cornet solo for *O Holy Night*.