

“Better than a Hallelujah”

We are usually excited about the looming end of year break. It is a time of re-connecting with family and friends. But we can often forget that Christmas is emotionally debilitating for many. The reality may be that some of us feel we are that person who is going through a personal pain that we don't really think we can share with anyone. We will attend parties over the holidays, and put on a party face when deep down we are distraught and haunted with sorrow. Even keeping up the festive façade can be traumatic.

That little baby at Bethlehem, as amazing as it seems, is our God and King; a great and loving God who came into the world to end all that breaks our hearts; and to destroy once and for all, the evil that oppresses us.

If you have some personal pain you are dealing with, be assured you are never the only one who knows about it. Someone else knows more about your problems than you ever will. The baby of Bethlehem says to us today, Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30). Does “rest for your soul” sound like what you need today?

You may well say; “What am I supposed to say when I don't even know how to put my problem in words to Him?”

There is a beautiful verse in Romans 8:26 that says “the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.”

Indeed it is a great mystery; the one God is in the form of 3 persons, one of which is the Holy Spirit. So God the Holy Spirit actually prays for us. We just have to open our hearts to be willing to talk with God who hears all our cries and feels our pain. We know He will answer the honest prayer, even if the answer is not what we originally wanted. But the outcome will be everything the infinitely wise God knew we needed in the first place.

The clumsiest prayer from our heart is more precious to God than anything we have that we could ever offer Him.

Amy Grant has a beautiful song called “*Better than a Hallelujah*” which says in part:

*The tears of shame for what's been done
The silence when the words won't come
Are better than a Hallelujah sometimes
We pour out our miseries
God just hears a melody
Beautiful the mess we are
The honest cries of breaking hearts
Are better than a Hallelujah*

Will you take your cares to Jesus Christ who was once that little babe of Bethlehem and will one day be the coming King whose rule will never end? He will lead you to one or more of his faithful servants who will pray for you, and help you to see that no matter what the problem is, our great God and Saviour in Jesus can heal and restore you to be wiser and stronger than you ever were before.

Ken Matthews
Chief Commissioner

CO-LABOURERS

At Everyman's we realise we can make a small impact on the ADF, but in conjunction with fellow ministries, the results are magnified. We gratefully acknowledge these like-minded ministries with whom we work to serve the ADF:

Chaplains	FOCUS	Military Christian Fellowship (MCF)
Navigators	SASRA	Red Shield Defence Service
Focus on the Family	Solid Rock	The Bible Society
Naval Military and Airforce Bible Society		



Reflections on 2016 so much to be thankful for...

It is often at this time of year, as we head into Christmas, that we see a surge of goodwill in the whole community. That in the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations, a stranger will stop to pick up something you have dropped, or open a door for you. You smile and say “hello” in the aisle of the supermarket and allow an extra measure of grace to other road users, rather than feeling angry at them for an error of judgement they may have made - something we have all been guilty of - perhaps more often than we

care to admit.

Recently, I was opening the mail that comes into Everyman's and was reminded of just how much our organisation has to be thankful for. We receive financial support from a wide range of people and organisations, from servicemen and women; from their families, who are happy to know their loved one has the support of Everyman's during the rigours of their service. There are also Christians and churches who have supported and prayed for Everyman's and the people we meet, since its early days; and ex-service organisations, who remember the comfort of the Everyman, always at the ready with a hot or cold brew and a kind word.

We are so grateful for your support and we love to hear about your connection with Everyman's as it brings to life the person and organisation who have taken the time to offer their support. One letter in beautiful handwriting told how they had supported Everyman's since their teenage years; and another remembered the Everyman being with them in Vietnam.

We are thinking of you, as we stand down over the Christmas break and hope you will be with loved ones as we celebrate Christmas. We know this is not an easy time for everyone, so if you know of someone in your community who will be spending Christmas on their own, perhaps you can extend your hand to them and let them know someone cares. If you know you will be alone this Christmas, why not ask someone to come and join you. Let's take more time to look out for one another. WWJD

Thank you for the blessing you have been to us this year. We look forward to keeping in touch in 2017...

SNR REP Lou Hochwimmer
Administrator

More ways to give.....

It's now possible to set up regular (or one-off) Direct Giving from your own bank account straight into ours! The details you need are:

BSB: 034-033
Account : 197255
Title: Everymans Welfare Service
Reference: Your Name

Phone or email us at Headquarters if you'd like a tax deductible receipt.

Giving has never been easier!



Everyman's Welfare Service a company limited by guarantee

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www.everymans.org.au



Patron
His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)

November 2016

From the Chief Commissioner Ken Matthews



What a great year we have had thus far; to be at the big Exercise Hamel at Cultana in South Australia, blessed by a new invitation to serve the RAAF recruits, staff, and trainees at Forrest Hill, and a renewed presence on overseas operations in the Middle East. Senior REP Richard GIBSON was able to encourage many a young soldier at Ex Hamel, particularly in the early part where the rain and cold make the training area look just like the Western Front. A hot tea or coffee (brew) was very welcome!

REP Ben RIDLEY, attached to 8/9 Battalion Enoggera, was able to deploy overseas for four months, to support our Defence personnel staging in and out of operations in the Middle East Region. Ben's contribution was greatly appreciated. He was indeed an indispensable presence assisting the vital work Chaplains did not always have the resources to cover; and heading out with the Brew Truck to the desert range practices in the evening.

It is increasingly important for Everyman's to be in the field and on operations for our ADF personnel. I had the great joy and privilege of being invited once again as a delegate to the national ADF Continuum to Recovery Conference in Canberra. The conference is attended by health professionals, senior ADF commanders, ADF Chaplains, and Everyman's to grapple with the on-going challenge of caring for those who have been wounded in overseas conflicts. Wounds are not only physical and visible, but can and do have effect deep down in the hearts of veterans and serving personnel. The person playing golf, who looks great on the outside, may be emotionally scarred on the inside; scarred to the point of contemplating suicide. It is heart breaking for us in Everyman's to know that this is a reality we now face in the modern Australian Defence Force, which is now frequently called upon for operations in the most violent places on our globe.

This is where Everyman's comes in. Whether it is in the rec centre, or a hot desert in the Middle East, or behind the Brew Truck at Cultana or Wide Bay; Everyman's is often the first point of contact. Everyman's is the first hope an ADF member has in starting to unpack their fears and hurts. It is so easy to stroll up to the Everyman truck to “grab a brew.” It is a safe and confidential place where the ADF can start to speak of their concerns. The Everyman is then the one who can say, “Mate why don't we take a walk together to see the Chaplain.” In many cases Everyman's has, unbeknown to us, saved lives from the path of suicide. We just have to be with them, whether that is in the field or in the Rec Centre.

However to do this we need good, reliable Brew Trucks, a new mobile rec centre for the field exercises; and more volunteers to become Everyman's REPs to work in Australia and overseas. I am saddened at times when we have opportunities to send REPs overseas, but are unable to do so, due to a lack of REPs who are able to go. We desperately want to share the great hope and peace that our loving God has made available to all who seek Him. ADF personnel are a vital and indispensable part of our community. What can we do - what can you do - to make sure the very real struggles they have, can be met with someone who loves and cares for them? Whether it comes by being an Everyman's REP or by donating from your resources to make new Brew Trucks a reality, your contribution to Everyman's can be a very tangible way of demonstrating your concern and care for our Defence Force through Everyman's. Please take time out to consider how you might be able to respond and contact us to share your thoughts.

Every blessing
CCOM Ken



COM Phil Marshall National Relations Manager

Time certainly has not stood still since the last On Patrol with many wonderful opportunities to share the Everyman's story opening up from Victoria to the Northern Territory. It has been exciting to see our new brew truck 'Support Vehicle Northern' (pictured at left)

being rolled out. It is a much needed addition to our fleet and will be deployed mostly within Queensland, but will follow troops around Australia as they take part in training exercises. Richard will enjoy this new rig, while Ben will endure Richard's old brew truck (as we recycle our vehicles).

In 2016 our fleet increased in size to meet the growing demand for Everyman's Reps and Brew Trucks in the field with the ADF and to replace our ageing fleet. Our eyes have now turned to the next one, 'Fleet 17 Project', another Landcruiser, actually another two Landcruisers!

The budget for two new vehicles is \$180K; the price of each vehicle is \$90K, including set-up costs of \$30K. Our vehicles are our major expense, both procurement and maintenance are an ongoing cost. If there is any way you can assist us in purchasing these, I would love to hear from you. Get in touch with me via Everyman's Headquarters (details on the last page).

We are also scrambling to fill positions. It is exciting to have different barracks asking us to establish a presence, but both people and funds are needed to fulfil these tasks. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as to how you might help Everyman's provide our ADF personnel the assistance they require.

Just a few weeks ago I was in a meeting with a commander who sang the praises of Everyman's people and the service that he had personally experienced. He was eager for us to re-establish ourselves to provide support on his base. It was so encouraging to be able to share with him tales of people like you, who have faithfully supported us over many years; doing all you can to enable us to continue our work amongst the Australian Defence Force. His message to you was, "Tell them a big thank you from me and my staff for all they do. We, the ADF, really appreciate it and them".

So be encouraged, be inspired, be optimistic, be steadfast; do not grow weary in your well-doing... The Australian Defence Force appreciate you, we the volunteers of Everyman's appreciate you, and we are committed to continue doing all we can with what you give, to honour your commitment to us and the ADF personnel with pride, dignity and joy!

Bless ya heaps
Phil M

When the ADF are out on exercise for extended periods of time, there is nothing nicer than to see the Everyman pull up in the Brew Truck with a warm brew, cold drinks, chocolates and chips. It makes a welcome change to the ration packs! The batwing awning on the vehicles provides excellent shelter in wet weather, or searing heat. This picture was taken earlier in the year at Exercise Hamel, at Cultana, SA.

It was an intensely busy time for Rep Richard Gibson ensuring everyone was looked after and that he had supplies on hand to cater for everyone. When every person had stocked up, there was time for a chat, to see how each one was faring under the difficult conditions.

In the ADF, it's all about being battle ready...



Sen Rep Richard Gibson 9FSB Amberley

Welcome back Graeme!

It is with great joy that the Board of Everyman's was able this month to re-appoint Graeme LIERSCH. Graeme served on the Board of Everyman's over ten years ago as the representative to Everyman's staff. He was a full time Everyman's REP at Kapooka at the same time. Graeme developed a very positive profile for Everyman's as he developed the ministry at Kapooka and much of the favour we now have stems from the hard work he put in during those years. Graeme currently serves in the Longreach parish in Queensland working with Bush Church Aid. He also serves as an Air Force Reserve Chaplain at RAAF Base Wagga. On behalf of the Board we wish Graeme and wife, Susan, God's richest blessings. We pray you will be given wisdom as you re-join the team of the Everyman's Board in a time where we are to make crucial decisions for the on-going future of Everyman's.



Everyman's Week



The 10th to 14th October was Everyman's Week, this year celebrating the 76th year since the first Everyman's Hut was established.

It is a great opportunity to raise awareness on the bases of who we are and what we do, as many of the civilian workers have no idea of our existence. At least one morning during Everyman's Week, our Reps stand at the gate on their base as staff arrive for work. We greet them, as they pass through

security, ask for a donation and offer, in return, an ANZAC Biscuit for their morning tea! There are a few variations of this, but overall the exercise is well received by our colleagues in the military and a great opportunity to remind them that we are a group of volunteers, who rely on public donations to make possible the support we provide to them. It is a real eye opener for many to learn that the Everyman's Reps who serve them, in the field and the Rec Centres, do not receive any financial support from Everyman's, but rely on support donations from friends, family and others to live from week to week. Perhaps you might consider supporting one of our Reps? The funds raised during Everyman's Week go towards the general running costs of the organisation and are sometimes used to purchase specific items for the vehicles or the Rec Centres. Please accept this as our thanks, if you made a donation during Everyman's Week.

EWS LOCATIONS

- RAAF Base, AMBERLEY, QLD
- Kokoda Barracks, CANUNGRA, QLD
- Gallipoli Barracks, ENOGGERA, QLD
- Victoria Barracks, PETRIE TERRACE, QLD
- HMAS Kuttabul, HOME BUSH, NSW
- Navy Accommodation, STRATHFIELD, NSW
- 17 Brigade, RANDWICK, NSW
- Blamey Barracks, KAPOOKA, NSW
- Gaza Ridge Barracks, BANDIANA, VIC
- Latchford Barracks, BONEGILLA, VIC
- Simpsons Barracks, MACLEOD, VIC

Rep Ben Ridley 8th/9th Battalion, RAR



Recently REP Ben RIDLEY has returned from the unique experience of serving overseas for 4 months in a place where all our service men and women stop before going into operations. It has been our privilege for over 76 years to provide a loving and caring ministry to ADF Personnel going into war zones.

Ben and his wife Claudia, now continue back here in Australia primarily

serving with 8/9 Battalion. Ben would be delighted with any opportunity to talk in your home, church, or RSL and share the details of his work with Everyman's and his time overseas with the ADF. If you would like Ben to pay you a visit, please contact Everyman's Headquarters.

Ben and Claudia are also faith mission workers. This means that they do not get paid a wage but have to raise personal financial support and sponsorship to be able to continue their work with Everyman's. Could you consider sponsoring Ben and Claudia for their personal missionary support either individually or through your local church or service club?

Contact Everyman's on admin@everymans.org.au and/or leave a message with us on 02 6055 2988.

Rep Frank Tottingham RMC - Duntroon

After 8 weeks of hardly taking a breath, July was very quiet as many cadets/staff had a break before the next intake. During this break we made a Brew Run for the ADFA Cadets who were training during their study break. It was a blessing when the staff made it clear to these ADFA cadets that **Everyman's is available for spiritual support** as well as a brew and a chat.

August started quietly but finished with a BANG... literally! We were on the grenade range and encouraged the cadets, some of whom shared some interesting conversations on faith with me as they gathered around me to get the milk for their coffee, tea and milo. (I hold the milk because it keeps the queue moving, makes the milk last a little bit longer AND gives me a chance to have a chat!)

The Everyman badge/name continues to get responses from Veterans all around Canberra. As a hospital chaplain I have encouraged the various Veterans groups that meet in the Veterans' Room to look us over and support us, as we offer support to them and their families too!

In October we served our 1000th "Brew" here at RMC and it is humbling to see God work. Every time I pour the milk for another cup of tea or coffee or milo, I know it is the Lord and the great team of Everymen, and Everywomen who are very much a part of this wonderful ministry.

We gratefully thank the Lord for the opportunity to speak into the lives of the RMC-D cadets, many of whom help themselves to the encouraging literature we offer, which is intended to further the ultimate well-being of our Defence Force members.



Brew runs at RMC are held in a variety of interesting locations!

