

Editorial

Welcome to this edition of articles and book reviews from The Salvation Army's William Booth College (WBC). The articles reflect some of the areas of research engaged by Salvationists whose work has been sponsored by The Salvation Army through WBC's School for In Service Training and Development (SISTAD). It is hoped that this journal will raise peoples' awareness, inform their thinking and inspire them to delve more deeply into the subjects presented.

In this edition:

[Alison Hutchings](#) (pages) seeks to explore the questions 'How does the creation account in Genesis anticipate the fall and restoration of humanity? How are the redemptive images found in Genesis and Revelation, echoed elsewhere in scripture? How does the new creation imagery in Revelation complete the creation imagery in Genesis?' She argues that creation is not an isolated event at the start of a great story but is, in essence, the epitome of God's love and the glorification of his Son. Knowing the full implications of freewill, God weaves his master redemptive plan throughout creation, and scripture, to secure his relationship with humankind.

[David Jones](#) (pages) uses Genesis chapters 15 – 17 to examine God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah, its centrality for Christian belief, and the narrative's features. He looks at interpretations from different streams of Church, including Reformed Baptist Covenant Theology, and the covenant tradition of John Wesley, finally asking: is there a theology of covenant within The Salvation Army, and what might this look like?

[Sarah King](#) (pages) explores the question about whether we read differently on digital devices than when we read print books. She suggests that these questions have implications for Bible reading and asks 'do the differences ascertained by research into digital reading also affect how we access Scripture?' The article looks at general research into digital reading, research into digital Bible reading, and considers how Scripture itself might evaluate the results.

[Emma Newton](#) (pages...) recognises that play is deemed essential for children's development, including their language skills, cognition and social interaction but that play in adulthood is less studied. The article looks at play from a Christian perspective, drawing on child development, the work of Messy Play and Godly Play in order to consider play in gathered worship within The Salvation Army.

[Sam Tomlin](#) (pages) presents the argument that while the early Salvation Army may have exhibited a strong Christocentric ecclesial political body, its later development, especially after the Darkest England project, led to a weakening of this Christocentrism as a significant split in the Army opened up, characterised by its corps and social wings. He considers how Stanley Hauer, who famously argued that the church should be a political community with Jesus' life and commandments as its normative foundation, might help the Army recover this Christocentric ecclesial politics.

Two helpful book reviews intended to inspire are provided by [Lisa Goble](#) and [Malcolm Martin](#).

Bell, Colin and White, Robert S. (eds.) *Creation Care and the Gospel – Reconsidering the Mission of the Church*, Peabody, Ms: Hendrickson Publishers Marketing, 2016 ISBN 978-61970-725-2

Hearn, Roland, Kling, Sheri D. and Oord, Thomas J. (Eds) *Open and Relational Leadership: Leading with Love*. Grasmere, ID: SacraSage Press, 2020 ISBN 978-1948609227