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REVIVE US AGAIN NOC 2025

Pray for
CONFERENCE OF INDIAN LEADERS

1-3 November 2025

NATIONAL OFFICER'S COUNCIL

3-6 November 2025

AT JOE BEACH, MAHABALIPURAM, CHENNAI



RARING TO GO

As we enter November 2025, a spirit of anticipation is rising within The Salvation Army in India. This is a historic month as officers from across the nation gather in Chennai (3rd–6th November) for the National Officers' Council 2025, under the powerful theme: "Revive Us Again." The presence of International Leaders of The Salvation Army along with esteemed resource persons, is both a blessing and a privilege. Together, under God's leading, we prepare ourselves for greater service—and truly, we are raring to go.



Major Amrik Masih, Editor

The theme captures an attitude of readiness, eagerness, and holy determination. To be raring to go means more than excitement; it means being spiritually prepared and missionally focussed. It reflects the Apostle Paul's words: *"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:14).

This Council is not only a time for renewal but also a moment for direction. We hope that many of our resource persons will guide us in reflecting on "Compass" – The Salvation Army's Global Strategic Framework, which leads us through the pillars of People, Mission, and Legacy. These three pillars offer clarity for our journey and purpose for our future.

People: At the heart of The Salvation Army are people—our officers, soldiers, adherents, volunteers, and the communities we serve. To be raring to go means committing ourselves afresh to care for, nurture, and equip people, ensuring that every individual experiences, dignity, love, and belonging.

Mission: Our mission is unchanged: to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. But in today's world of shifting challenges—poverty, injustice, displacement, and brokenness—mission requires new energy and creativity. To be raring to go means stepping boldly into these realities with courage and compassion.

Legacy: We are part of a great Army that carries a sacred history, but legacy is not only about the past. It is about what we will leave for future generations. Will we pass on faith, passion, and courage? Will our ministries reflect holiness and integrity? To be raring to go means serving today in such a way that tomorrow's Salvationists inherit a vibrant, Spirit-filled movement.

In Acts 2:42, we read how the early church devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, and prayer, and as a result, the Lord added to their number daily. The same devotion is our call today. This Council is our opportunity to learn from the teaching of our leaders, strengthen our fellowship, and seek God's Spirit so that our mission will bear fruit.

As we gather in Chennai, let us not come as mere listeners but as eager disciples—ready to learn, ready to serve, and ready to go. May this Council ignite within us a fresh fire of zeal and vision. And may we declare with boldness: We are raring to go—for People, for Mission, for Legacy, and for the glory of God.



- 3 **We need another Pentecost**
Commissioner John Kumar Dasari
International Secretary, South Asia, IHQ-London
- 4 **Revive us Again O Lord**
Commissioner Mani Kumari Dasari
International Secretary, South Asia, IHQ-London
- 5 **Righteous Life**
Commissioner Samuel Charan (Rtd.)
India Northern Territory
- 6 **Denying Self for Others**
Lt. Colonel Raj Kumar
Training Principal, INT
- 7 **The Unseen War behind Christmas**
Saupriya Solanki
Petlad Division, IWT
- 8 **A Place of Safety**
Kinjal Macwan
Nadiad Division, IWT
- 9 **Crossing to the Other side**
Major Robin Masih
church Growth Secretary, THQ, INT
- 10 **Think Clear: Cultivating Wisdom in an age of Noise**
Derick Piyush Paul Polimetla
India Central Territory
- 11 **Repented and Surrendered Life**
Commissioner Mohan Masih (Rtd.)
India Northern Territory
- 12 **My experience - prepare Training
(Prepare to Respond to Emergencies -
Planning and Readiness Education)**
- 13 **Divisional Level Youth Council 2025**
EBH Corps, Ahmednagar Division, IWT
- 14 **Emptiness Filled**
Cadet Samuel Ialramnghaka
Officer Training College, IET
- 15 **Prepare Training (Prepare to respond to
Emergency - Planning and Readiness Education)**
- 16 **The Salvation Army India Towards Self - Sustainability
'From Dependence to Independence' A Report**



WE NEED ANOTHER PENTECOST

As we are thinking about the month of November my thoughts gone to the upcoming "National Officer's Council", which are going to take place in Joe Beach resorts in Chennai from 3rd-6th November. This may be the first of its kind bringing the selected officers from all corners of India to celebrate a time of renewal and regeneration by the Holy Spirit. This conference is named "Revive us again". Yes we are waiting upon the Lord to help us and revive us again.

As officers of the Salvation Army during these challenging times we need the revival we need another Pentecost. I appeal to all the officers who are not able to attend this council please do uphold the participants in your prayers. We need the spirit of the William Booth to stand firm and face the challenging tomorrow. We pray and ask God to inspire us as we Join the Call of the General.

General Lyndon Buckingham, international leader of The Salvation Army, has issued a powerful Global Call to

Action to Salvationists, employees and supporters around the world. In a stirring appeal, the General urges the international movement to embrace a renewed spiritual vitality and missional focus, driven by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of Christ.

In his message, General Buckingham calls for a divine sense of God's calling to reinvigorate The Salvation Army's identity and purpose. 'If ever the world needed a Holy Spirit-driven, Jesus-centred, hope-filled Salvation Army, it is now,' he declares.

Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham, World President of Women's Ministries say's I know that we need spiritual breakthrough which will see our faith communities in every place living into health and growth and a flourishing that will continue long into the future.'

The General highlights challenges facing the Church today, particularly the need for spiritual breakthrough and a revitalised



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enthusiasm for mission. He emphasises the importance of prayer, confession and reliance on the Holy Spirit to overcome complacency and spiritual fatigue.

This must be our prayer to the Lord Almighty to help and inspire each one of us to reach the flame and get inspired of the Spirit of the Lord.



MAY EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE START
WITH HAPPINESS AND A SMILE, JUST
THE WAY IT STARTED
WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD.
WARM WISHES ON
CHILDREN'S DAY
TO YOU.

REVIVE US AGAIN O LORD



Commissioner Mani Kumari Dasari
International Secretary
South Asia, IHQ-London

National Officer's Council" takes place at Joe Beach, Chennai from 3rd to 6th November 2025. This council should bring revival in the lives of all the officers who are attending and praying. May the spirit of the Lord revive each one of us as we pray and plead "Revive us again O Lord".

"Revive", The Salvation Army's international magazine for women, is a powerful call to spiritual renewal under the theme "Love as God Loves." Through heartfelt testimonies, stories of transformation, and biblical reflections, this issue encourages women across the globe to embrace their God-given calling with renewed passion and purpose. Drawing from Scripture, particularly Ezekiel 37. The message of revival is clear, that God desires to breathe new life into dry and weary hearts, restoring hope, strength, and vision for His mission.

The Call to Revival: Revival is a divine movement that brings spiritual awakening, transformation, and restoration. It rekindles the fire of God within His people, drawing them back to a fervent love and service for Him. The psalmist pleads in Psalm 85:4,6: "Restore us again, God our Saviour, Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?"

In today's world, the need for revival is more urgent than ever. Many children of God face spiritual dryness, a waning passion for prayer, evangelism, and holiness. As the Church, we are called to lift our voices in unity and cry out: "Revive us again, O Lord!" When God revives His people, He restores their zeal for righteousness, fills them afresh with His Spirit, and empowers them to fulfil His divine purpose.

Revival for the Dry Bones: In Ezekiel 37, the prophet is led by the Spirit into a valley of dry bones, a powerful image of lifelessness and despair. When asked by God, "Can these bones live?" Ezekiel responds in faith, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." This vision mirrors many of our own lives, broken relationships, unfulfilled dreams, spiritual fatigue, and lost hope. Yet God commands Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones, to speak life into what appears dead. This is a call to each of us to declare God's Word over our circumstances. We are to prophesy vision, life, and strength to the dry bones in our lives, our dormant callings, strained families, and weary spirits.

God's Plan for the Dry Bones: Ezekiel 37:4 says, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.'" We are not called to fix or revive the bones ourselves, but to speak God's Word in faith. Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that "faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Even

faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains (Matthew 17:20). Let us declare with confidence: "Life is coming. Joy is coming. Restoration is coming."

God's Breath to the Dry Bones: To bring revival, we must speak life. Proverbs 18:21 teaches, "The tongue has the power of life and death." What we speak reflects what fills our hearts (Luke 6:45). Therefore, we must seek a renewed heart, as David prayed in Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." When our hearts are filled with life, we can speak life—and live it. As Psalm 118:17 declares: "I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done."

God's Power to the Dry Bones: In Ezekiel 37:5–6, God promises to restore the bones with tendons, flesh, and breath, symbols of strength, protection, and vitality. Ezekiel 37:7 As Ezekiel obeys, So I prophesied as I was commanded and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. The noise that we hear is when our dry bones come back to life. The dry bones are getting their joy back, getting their passion back, getting their praise back. This is the sound of revival—the sound of joy, passion, and praise returning to God's people.



Righteous Life



Commissioner Samuel Charan (Rtd.)
India Northern Territory

Genesis 6:9, Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

In my life journey, I did not see anything better than the righteous living, though it's hard to achieve, but an unending blessing. It does work like armour for the soldiers on the battlefield, which protects them from the enemy. If you are living righteously, no one can harm you or destroy you because your righteousness will protect you from all evil ones. Bishop Poly Carp of Smyrna was arrested by the soldiers during the time of Christian persecution and asked to recant Christ. He said, Four score years, I served my King and my Lord. He done me no wrong, how I can recant my Lord. Roman Soldiers threw him into the lake of fire, but his body was not consumed. Then a soldier took his sword and killed him. King Solomon found everything useless in the world, Ecc.1:14, "I have seen all the things that are done under the sun all of them are meaningless, chasing after the wind." Alexander the Great asked his ministers, when I die, put my hands out of the coffin, let the people see that I gained the whole world but could not take anything with me. Friends think over and over again. What we have to follow in our life? Why don't we choose a righteous life? It will be useful in this world and also in the world to come.

Righteousness saves under the flood:

It's recorded in the Holy Bible, when the people became ungodly and disobey the Lord God Almighty, God said, My spirit will not be content with man anymore, I will wipe mankind whom I have created from the face of the earth. God asked Noah to build an ark that could accommodate Noah's family and two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. There was rain for forty days and nights; everything was

wiped out from the face of the earth. But Noah and his sons and their wives were saved because God found Noah to an upright and holy in his sight. Jonah was sent by God to Ninveh, but he changed his way and went to Tarshish. It brought disaster in his life, and he had to travel three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, where he repented and made himself upright and was saved. There are occasions when we are facing such a kind of situation, all doors are shut down, everywhere looks dark, seems this is the end of our life. But your righteousness will not let you fail; rather, it can save and bring you back to life again.

Righteousness Saves in the Lake of Fire

King of Babylon Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold ninety feet high and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. King summoned all the high officials to join in the dedication of the golden image. He also asked all people that, as soon as they hear the sound of music, they should fall before the image and worship it. Whosoever will not worship the image, he will be thrown into the lake of fire. There were three men who were Jews who did not worship the image; they believed in their living God, and they learned from their childhood that people of God should not worship the handmade god. News reached to the king, and these men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego brought before the king, who asked them, Is it true that you did not worship the image, They replied, that O king Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, our God, whom we serve, can save us. Anyhow, they were put into the furnace by the strong soldiers. The king leapt to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, weren't there three men tied up and thrown into the fire, they replied Certainly, O King, He said,

Look, I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound, unharmed and the fourth looks like a son of God. Immediately, King asked them to come out of the fire. They came out and found that no fire could burn these righteous people of God. Psalms 23:4, Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear not evil for you are with me, your rod and your staff they comfort me.

Righteousness Bring Blessings.

We read in the Word of God about a man called Abraham. He was the son of Terah living in Ur of the Chaldeans. Later, Terah took Abram, his grandson Lot, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, wife of Abraham, came to Haran and settled there. After the death of Terah, God called Abraham, asking him to leave his people and father's household and go to the land which I will show you. Now God is going to rain his blessing upon his faithful man, Abraham. God said I will make you a great nation, Gen. 12:2&3, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing, I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse, and all people on earth will be blessed through you. Lord God did everything as he promised to Abraham. He may be surprised, what God said to him, but the faithful Lord led him marvellously to fulfil his promises. More surprising and great blessing was the giving a son to Abraham and Sara in their old age. Dear readers, the Lord can do anything in our lives if we walk with him righteously and faithfully.

We pray Lord may help each one of us that we follow Christ and live a righteous life. As God said, seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all his righteousness, all other things will be added unto you.



DENYING SELF FOR OTHERS

Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16: 24

Introduction: Meaning and definition of Self Denial: Self-denial means sacrifice of one's own desires or interest. Its also means renunciation of your own interest in favor of others. It is putting aside your personal pleasures in pursuit of something greater. It's defined that denying the nature of our flesh and killing the pride that lives in our hearts and lives. John Mac Arthur said, the true Gospel is a call to self –denial. It is not a call to fulfillment.

The Self – Denial is also known Annual Appeal. We all the Officers, Local Officers, Soldiers, junior Soldiers and friends of the Army raised fund for God's Ministry, we all know that Self – Denial Offering is the back- bone of the Salvation Army's ministry. It is working in more than 134 countries around the world and serving the suffering humanity without any discrimination of religion and caste and creed. The Salvation Army is looking after people while there is Natural Calamities such as Earthquake, Cyclone, flood, Fire accident etc.

Who had started Self Denial

The self-Denial Appeal expresses the spirit of the true Salvationist or believers in Christ. In August 1886, William Booth delivered a challenge at London's Exeter Hall, encouraging support so that the Salvation Army could expand its ministries around the world.

Commissioner John Carleton could not match the pledges of the wealthier citizens in the audiences. He pledged to give up pudding instead, he wrote, "By going without pudding every day for a year, I calculate I can save 50 shillings. This I will do and will remit the amount named as quickly as possible.

William Booth read Carleton's pledge to the congregation, "There is an idea here," he remarked. "While we ought not to ask our people to do without pudding for a whole year, I see no reason why we should not ask them to unite in going without something every day for a week and to give the proceeds to help on the work." William Booth adapted Carleton's idea and started a Self-Denial Week, which continues to be an annual event in the Salvation Army around the world till today.

Self Denial means Putting God First in our Lives It means to turn your desires to doing what God wants you to do, and not what you yourself might think is right for you to do. First you must come to the realization that God and your savior Jesus Christ love you and want what is best for you. Once you truly believe this, then following what they would have you do is much easier.

Deut. 6: 5 – 6. Love the LORD your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength these commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts...

Matthew 6 : 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

A story of a servant who has looked only on the face of King except any things in this world. King has announced I want to meet you all ministers at big hall. He placed many things in the hall such as Gold, Silver, Food provision, Costly cloths and worldly gadget mobile phone or iPhone etc. The next day, all cabinet ministers of his kingdom came in hall. He announced that whatever you want chose and put your hand on it. Everyone rushed to worldly things but there was a Watchman on the gate, he came to King and hold his feet and said to king, I want my King only. King was surprised and called all Cabinet ministers back and told them all these things are mine. This watchman did not choose worldly things but he loves me instead of all worldly things. Today, I give all things to this watchman.

Self – Denial is requirement to follow Jesus Christ

Self-denial is demand of Jesus Christ. Luke 9: 23 -25. Jesus said them to all, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose his life, for me will save it. What good is it for man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? Galatians 2 : 20 Paul said I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me

Taking up your cross is giving up those things which use to keep you away from Jesus. In other words, you are called to bear the Cross. It is a sacrifice or an offering to God, the



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willingness to do his will not our own will. It is a sacrifice to overcome physical desires and tendencies. For example: Greed, jealousy, selfishness and telling lie and evil desire etc., when we do will of Jesus Christ in our lives we will become more like Him.

Story of Commissioner Frederick Booth Tucker is known as Fakir Singh which means Lion of God, He was an Assistant Deputy Commissioner in Indian Civil Service at Amritsar. He denied his position and wealth and became Sadhu. He wore Sanyasi dresses and walked bare foot and being beaten by people and went to jail for the sake of Christ. He had begging bowls to collect food from the public to eat. (No ATM and GPay or Credit Card or Visa Card etc.) He remained true disciple of Christ and followed Jesus Christ and obeyed from the heart and served suffering humanity and preached word of God. Thousands of people accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour through his ministry. Commissioner was honored by the Salvation Army giving the Order of the founder in 1920. The Viceroy of India, Lord Harding and Governor General awarded him the Kesar-e-Hind medal (first class) for Public Service in India

Self – Denial is for the sake of others

Proverbs 19: 17 He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done. Mother Teresa Says, "If you cannot feed hundred person, feed at least one"

Acts 20: 35 "... Jesus said that It is more blessed to give than to receive" Story of a boy who has given his five barley loaves and two fish to Andrew who was disciples of Christ. Jesus has taken that loaves and fish and thanked Father and broke and given to disciples to distributed to people. Jesus did miracles and fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. It becomes possible because of Small boy who came forward to give his food for others and denied himself for sake of others.

Let us love Jesus Christ and give first place to Him in our lives. We should follow Jesus and obey his commandments and be merciful to others those are in need in our community and Church. God bless readers of the War Cry.



THE UNSEEN WAR BEHIND CHRISTMAS



Saupriya Solanki
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As November rolls in and the days grow shorter, our thoughts begin to turn towards Christmas. The lights go up, the carols begin, and familiar stories are told again. But this year, I want to invite you to look deeper. Not just at the beauty of Christmas, but at the battle that lies beneath it - a battle most people never speak about, yet one that changed the world forever.

We often picture Christmas as a gentle scene: a silent night, a baby lying in a manger, soft hay beneath Him, a star shining bright, and shepherds kneeling in quiet awe. Yes, all of this is true. But it's not the full story. Behind the beauty, there was a battle. Behind the manger, there was war. And not a war of armies or weapons - but a war between light and darkness, good and evil, Heaven and hell. The birth of Jesus was not just a peaceful moment in history. It was the beginning of a rescue mission, an invasion of love in the middle of enemy ground.

The Manger Was Heaven's Battlefield

When Jesus was born, it was more than just the arrival of a baby. It was the arrival of God's promise. A promise that had been whispered from the beginning of time. In Genesis 3:15, God spoke of one who would come - a child who would crush the serpent's head, who would defeat Satan and break the curse of sin. That promise came true in Bethlehem.

From Heaven's point of view, that silent night was anything but quiet. Angels filled the sky - not with lullabies, but with shouts of praise. They were announcing the coming of the King - the One who would fight darkness, not with swords, but with truth, grace, and self-sacrificing love.

A War We Cannot See

There is a strange but powerful picture in Revelation 12. It speaks of a woman about to give birth, and a red dragon waiting to destroy the child. That child is Jesus. The woman is God's person, and the dragon is Satan. It sounds terrifying, but it is real.

While Mary gently laid her newborn in the manger, hell trembled. Satan knew this child was not an ordinary boy. He was the Saviour. The Rescuer. The One who had come to undo the damage of sin. This was the moment hell

had dreaded since the garden of Eden. That's why, not long after Jesus was born, King Herod - driven by fear and guided by evil - ordered the killing of every baby boy under two years old in Bethlehem. It wasn't just politics. It was spiritual war. It was the enemy's desperate attempt to stop God's plan.

But he failed. Because no power on earth or under the earth can stop what God has started.

The Battle Still Goes On

Even today, the war still continues. We may not see dragons or hear angels, but we feel it in our lives. Especially around Christmas, many people face sadness, loneliness, depression, brokenness, and deep pain. While the world celebrates, many are silently suffering. But let me remind you - the light that came into the world on that night in Bethlehem still shines today. Jesus is still with us. And He still wins. Every time you choose to forgive, every time you help someone in need, every time you remind someone they are loved - you are taking part in that same battle. You are standing on the side of light. You are living the true meaning of Christmas.

True Christmas Is Not Just a Holiday

Over time, it's easy to forget what Christmas really means. We hang lights, give presents, and sing songs - but we forget the heart of it. Jesus didn't come to give us a holiday. He came to give us hope. To bring forgiveness. To rescue us. The manger wasn't a decoration - it was a declaration. A cry from Heaven: "I'm coming for you."

He didn't come with riches or soldiers. He came poor, weak, and small - so that no one would feel too broken, too far, or too sinful to come to Him. That's the heart of Christmas. A God who became a child so that He could save His children.

Real Stories from Real Wars

Think of the Salvation Army's young women during World War I - called the "lassies." They went to the frontlines in France, not with guns, but with doughnuts, soap, and gentle hands. Soldiers said those girls brought more hope than a thousand sermons.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when fear was everywhere, Salvationists in Italy opened shelters and fed thousands. In Ukraine today, where war continues, Salvation Army officers kneel beside grieving mothers, serve hot meals, and pray in the rubble. They know: Christmas is not about comfort - it's about compassion in crisis.

These aren't fairy tales. These are real people living out the message of Christmas.

What About You and Me?

As we prepare for this Christmas, I want to ask you - how will you live it this year? Not just with gifts and lights - but with purpose. With love. With faith.

Can you forgive someone who hurt you? Can you make peace with someone you've avoided? Can you share Jesus with someone who's forgotten their worth? You don't have to be perfect to do these things. You just need to believe. You just need to remember that you are part of the rescue mission too.

Every act of kindness, every prayer, every moment of courage pushes back the darkness. And it begins with you letting the light of Jesus shine in your own heart. If you've drifted away from God, this is your moment to come back. If your faith has grown cold, this is your moment to fan it into flame. Jesus is not far away. He's right here, gently knocking on the door of your heart.

Let Him in.

The Victory Is Already Won

There is a war between light and darkness - but we do not fight for victory. We fight from victory. The ending is already written. Jesus is King. Love has already triumphed. That's what Christmas is all about.

So as you go into this season, don't just celebrate. Choose to live the message. Let Jesus be born in your heart again. Let hope rise in you. And let your life be part of the light that still overcomes the darkness.



A PLACE OF SAFETY



Kinjal Macwan

Nadiad Central Corps, Nadiad Division
India Western Territory

The storm came suddenly. I remember being a child, curled up under a blanket as thunder shook the windows and rain pounded on the roof of our quarters. My mom lit a candle when the power went out, and even though the wind howled outside, I felt safe inside. Safe because I was with the people who loved me, sheltered from what was happening beyond our door. That simple childhood memory reminds me of another story of safety, one far older and more powerful is the story of Noah's ark. We often picture Noah's ark in colorful storybooks: pairs of animals, a bearded man, and a big wooden boat and rainbow behind. But

Jesus, like Noah offered a way of safety. but instead of a wooden ark, He offered Himself

the Bible tells us it was no fairy tale. It was God's provision in a world that had turned violent and corrupt. At that time, no one had ever seen rain. When Noah began building the ark and warned the people of the flood but they laughed at him. He was mocked and dismissed as a fool. Yet he trusted God's word. He kept hammering, kept building, kept believing. When the waters came, Noah and his family found shelter inside the ark while the world outside was swept away.

The book of Hebrews tells us: "By faith Noah... built an ark to save his family" (Hebrews 11:7).

His faith wasn't just private belief; it was lived out in action. Even when no one else listened, Noah clung to God's promise. The ark stood as a visible sign of God's mercy. Anyone could have entered, but only Noah's family chose to believe.

Many years later, Jesus pointed back to Noah's story. He told his followers that one day the world would again be caught off guard: "Just as it was in the days of Noah so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man" (Luke 17:26). Life would seem ordinary people eating, drinking, marrying until

suddenly everything changed.

Jesus, like Noah offered a way of safety. but instead of a wooden ark, He offered Himself. Our world feels shaky these days due to storms, disasters, violence, and uncertainty. Yet God's heart hasn't changed, he still offers us a place of safety in Christ.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The cross is our ark. Just as Noah's family who stepped into the ark, we can step into the safety of God's love by trusting Jesus. God's invitation is open, but we must choose to respond. "Salvation is found in no one else" (Acts 4:12). The story of Noah reminds us that God always provides a refuge for his people. The question is: will we step inside? 



CROSSING TO THE OTHER SIDE

Luke 8:22

In just one verse, Luke 8:22, we encounter a powerful moment in Jesus' ministry: a simple instruction, a journey across water, and a deeper invitation into faith. "Let us go over to the other side of the lake" may seem like a casual command, but in the context of Scripture, it carries profound theological, emotional, and practical implications.

1. The Invitation to Follow

Jesus begins with an invitation: "Let us go over to the other side." He speaks not only to His disciples but, through the living Word, to each one of us. This verse is a call to leave comfort zones, familiar surroundings, and embark on a journey with Jesus. The lake represents transition. The "other side" is not just geography—it symbolizes growth, challenge, and the unknown.

Jesus doesn't say, "You go over." He says, "Let us go." He goes with them. This is the heart of the Christian life: not a solo adventure, but a journey with Christ. wherever He calls us, He goes before us.

2. A Place of Testing

The Sea of Galilee, though often peaceful, is known for sudden, violent storms. The disciples, many of whom were experienced fishermen, understood this risk. But they obeyed Jesus and got into the boat. What follows in Luke 8:23–25 is a fierce storm that threatens to drown them. Yet it is within this storm that Jesus reveals His divine authority by calming the wind and the waves.

In our lives, the moment we decide to follow Jesus to "the other side," we often encounter storms. These are not always signs that we've made a wrong choice; sometimes, they are necessary parts of the journey. God uses storms to test, strengthen, and reveal our faith.

The Bible repeatedly shows God calling His people to cross over—physically and spiritually. Abraham left his homeland. Moses led Israel through the Red Sea. Joshua crossed the Jordan into the Promised Land. Each "crossing" involved uncertainty, but also transformation.

3. A Place of Purpose

So why did Jesus want to cross the lake? If we read ahead, we find the answer in Luke

8:26–39. On the other side was a man possessed by many demons, living among tombs, isolated and tormented. This man, known as the "Gerasene demoniac," was beyond human help. No one could tame or heal him—except Jesus.

Jesus crossed the lake for one soul.

That is the heart of God: to pursue the lost, the broken, the outcast. The journey wasn't about geography—it was about mission. While the crowd waited on the safe side, Jesus went to the dark, spiritually oppressed region to bring light and freedom.

And He brought His disciples with Him—not because He needed them, but because they needed to see His power in action. They needed to learn that ministry requires going to uncomfortable places. The other side was messy, frightening, and unfamiliar—but it was also where God's glory was waiting to be revealed.

4. Faith in the Storm

During the crossing, when the storm raged and the boat began to sink, the disciples panicked. Jesus, however, was asleep—calm, confident and unshaken. When they woke Him in fear, He asked, "Where is your faith?" (Luke 8:25).

This question wasn't a rebuke, but a challenge. Jesus was asking them—and us—where we place our trust. Is it in the boat? or is it in Him?

Faith is not proven in calm waters but in crashing waves. The storm revealed their need not just for safety, but for deeper trust in the One who controls the wind and sea. The same Jesus who calls us to the other side is the One who sustains us on the way. Luke 8:22 fits beautifully into the grand narrative of Scripture. The Bible is full of people being called "across" from one place or season to another:

- ▶ Noah crossed from a condemned world into a new one through the ark.
- ▶ Abraham crossed from paganism to covenant.
- ▶ Israel crossed from slavery to freedom, from wilderness to promise.
- ▶ Jesus Himself crossed from heaven to earth, from life to death—so we could cross from death to life.



Major Robin Masih
Church Growth Secretary
THQ, New Delhi, India Northern Territory

God is always calling His people forward. The "other side" represents more than geography—it's symbolic of maturity, mission, and movement. It may involve pain, storms, or sacrifice, but the destination is always part of His redemptive plan.

6. What Is Your "Other Side"?

Today, you may hear Jesus saying to you, "Let us go over to the other side." Maybe your "lake" is fear, doubt, uncertainty, or comfort. Perhaps the "other side" is a new ministry, reconciliation with someone, healing from past wounds, or a deeper commitment to Christ.

The call is the same: Trust Jesus get in the boat, expect the storm, and look for the miracle—not just the calming of winds, but the transformation of hearts.

You may not know what's on the other side, the disciples didn't but Jesus did. He always leads with purpose. Even if the journey feels treacherous, He is in the boat with you.

7. Obedience Leads to Revelation

Luke 8:22 is more than a travel note—it's a spiritual principle. God is always calling His people to step out in faith, leave the familiar, and follow Him into the unknown. Every act of obedience opens the door to deeper revelation.

The disciples saw the storm, but they also saw the Saviour's power. They faced fear, but they also witnessed deliverance. On the other side, they met a man no one else could save—and they saw what Jesus could do with a willing heart.

Let this verse challenge and encourage you. When Jesus says, "Let us go to the other side," it's not a risk—it's a promise. You may face winds and waves, but you will also witness wonders.

God Bless All of You



THINK CLEAR:

CULTIVATING WISDOM IN AN AGE OF NOISE

“Test everything; hold fast what is good.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:21

In the last issue, we explored the power of communication—not just as a tool to speak, but to connect, reconcile, and lead. But there's a step before speech, a foundation under every meaningful word: thought.

To speak life, we must first think life.

This is the missing layer in many conversations today. Words may be loud, but they often lack depth. The world applauds quick reactions and bold opinions, but few pause to ask, “Is this true? Is this wise? Is this what I stand for?”

In this information-soaked world, critical thinking isn't just a useful skill. It's an act of courage. And it's a gift that today's youth desperately need to unwrap.

Why Deep Thinking Matters More Than Ever

We're growing up in a time where decisions must be instant, opinions must be loud, and everyone must take a side. But clarity is not born in chaos. It is nurtured in stillness, reflection, and reason.

Critical thinking is not the same as criticism. It's not about tearing ideas down. It's about building your inner framework—asking good questions, weighing consequences, checking for consistency, and choosing with care.

For young people, this means:

- Thinking before speaking.
- Learning before reacting.
- Discerning before deciding.

These aren't just habits of good students—they're hallmarks of good leaders.

What Faith Has Always Taught About Thinking

The Bible doesn't merely invite us to believe—it calls us to seek, examine, and discern.

“Let the wise listen and add to their

learning.” – Proverbs 1:5

“Do not conform... but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” – Romans 12:2

“It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.” – Proverbs 25:2

From the prophets to the apostles, Scripture is filled with people who asked hard questions, wrestled with ideas, and walked the path of truth—slowly, honestly, and with conviction.

Jesus didn't offer simplistic answers. He often responded with questions that drew people deeper. He modelled a life of thoughtful clarity—not confusion, not chaos, but courage rooted in truth.

The Mental Maze Facing Youth Today

Today's youth in India are talented, passionate, and connected like never before. But the digital world is demanding:

- Instant opinions on complex issues.
- Constant updates with no time to process.
- Viral content that rewards emotional extremes, not thoughtful reflection.

The result? Many are overwhelmed, anxious, and unsure what to believe.

Memes replace arguments. Sound bites replace understanding. Groupthink replaces personal conviction.

In such a setting, critical thinking helps youth:

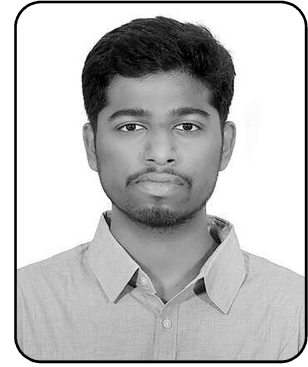
- Filter facts from noise.
- Choose friends and choose wisely.
- Avoid manipulation and peer pressure.
- Align decisions with deeper values.

Where Thoughtfulness Meets the Gospel

As we learned in “Speak Life,” communication without truth is hollow. But truth without thoughtfulness is dangerous.

We need thinking believers, not just talking believers.

We need discerners, not just



Derick Piyush Paul Polimetla

Administrative Officer – Data Analytics,
United India Insurance Company Ltd. Chennai
India Central Territory

followers.

This is where the church—and especially The Salvation Army—has a vital role.

Small Shifts That Build Big Wisdom

Change doesn't start with massive reforms. It starts when one student chooses to listen instead of lash out. When one leader says, “I don't have all the answers, but I'll think it through.”

The thoughtful youth is:

- Less reactive, more intentional.
- Less tribal, more truthful.
- Less anxious, more anchored.

They become voices of peace in noise, clarity in confusion, and wisdom in wandering.

A Final Word to the Thinking Generation

You were made to ask hard questions. You were called to think boldly and walk wisely. “Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.” – Proverbs 4:7

God has not asked you to be passive. He has called you to be thoughtful.

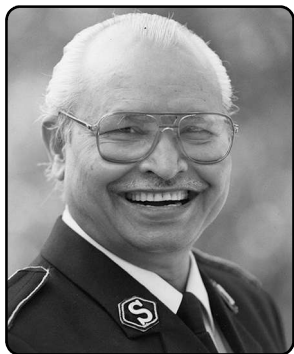
Your nation, your church, your community—all need more than volume.

They need vision. They need you—anchored, aware, and awake.

So don't just react. Reflect.
Don't just absorb. Examine.
Don't just speak. Think clear.



REPENTED AND SURRENDERED LIFE



Commissioner Mohan Masih (Rtd.)
New Delhi, India Northern Territory

While reading Matthew Chapter 3—which I have read many times—I was struck by verses 6–7: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

By repentance, we receive forgiveness and new birth (new life). Then, to maintain that new life, we must live a surrendered life. So, repentance and surrender are two vital aspects of a believer's journey. We must repent and surrender our lives daily—until the end—with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. This subject is far too vast to fully cover in one article, but here are some key reflections.

Repentance

Repentance is the foundation. A deep and strong foundation is required for a strong Christian life—like building a house or temple. When we live daily surrendered lives, our bodies become temples of the Holy Spirit: "Don't you know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19)

Without repentance, there is no Christian life. Jesus began His ministry with this call: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." (Matthew 4:17) John the Baptist, preparing the way for Jesus, proclaimed: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." (Matthew 3:2)

After receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter preached his first message. People cried out, "What shall we do?" and Peter answered, "Repent." (Acts 2:38)

Once we've repented and received forgiveness, the journey of new life begins. This journey must be sustained through surrender. It touches every part of our lives. Though we cannot cover every detail here, let's explore a few important aspects.

1. Trusting God's Will Over Our Own

At the heart of surrender is trust. Proverbs 3:5–6 guides us: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding... and He will make your paths straight."

Trusting God's will means acknowledging His plans are perfect—even when we don't understand them. This can be difficult, especially when life doesn't follow our plans. But true surrender is a shift from "My will be done" to "Your will be done"—as Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:42).

2. Giving God Full Control

As human beings, we like to stay in control of our lives. Surrendering to God means yielding that control and allowing Him to guide our steps. This doesn't mean becoming passive—it means actively seeking God's direction in all things and allowing His Spirit to lead us.

When we let go of control, we make space for God to work powerfully. Romans 12:1 encourages us: "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God."

3. Obedience in Everyday Life

Surrender isn't limited to major decisions—it's reflected in the small daily choices:

- ❖ How we treat others
- ❖ How we spend our time
- ❖ How we manage our resources

Living surrendered means aligning our

heart and mind with God's Word. Through obedience, we demonstrate our love for Him and our trust in His ways.

4. Surrendering Fears and Worries

Life is full of uncertainties, and it's natural to feel anxious. But a surrendered life means placing our fears and worries at God's feet: "Do not be anxious about anything... and the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6–7)

When we surrender anxieties to God, we invite His peace and acknowledge that He holds our future.

5. Living in God's Plan and Purposes

True surrender brings us into alignment with God's purpose for our lives. "For I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

As we walk with Him daily, we begin to experience the abundant life Jesus promised: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

A Final Reflection

This article presents nothing new—but it offers a refreshing reminder. Let us examine our lives before the Holy Spirit's mirror and ask:

1. Where do I stand in my repented life?
2. Have I maintained my daily surrendered life? Am I ready to meet Jesus in the clouds upon His return?

Jesus' final words to His disciples were: "Obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

The Holy Spirit is speaking to each of us: Live a repented and fully surrendered life by My power. I am in you and with you always—even to the end of the age.

God Bless You All



MY EXPERIENCE – PREPARE TRAINING (PREPARE TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES – PLANNING AND READINESS EDUCATION)

I am pleased to share a few reflections on the enriching experience, I had from September 7–12, 2025, when I had the privilege of attending the "Prepare to Respond to Emergencies – Planning and Readiness Education" training course. This program was organized in Red Shield Guest House, Kolkata by The Salvation Army International Emergency Services (IES), International Headquarters.

The training brought together 30 delegates from six territories, fostering a spirit of unity and shared learning. The program was inaugurated on September 7th by Commissioner Vanlalfela, Territorial Commander of India Northern Territory, who lit the ceremonial lamp and delivered the inaugural address.

We were blessed to be guided by expert facilitators from International Headquarters:

- ❖ Ms. Damaris Frick, Director, IES
- ❖ Captain Jevry Ambitan, Project and Finance Administrator, IES
- ❖ Ms. Anisa Gasper, International Programme Advisor, Netherlands

Over the five days, we explored a wide range of critical topics including:

- ❖ Humanitarian Standards and Principles
- ❖ Code of Conduct
- ❖ Protection and Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups
- ❖ Child Protection
- ❖ Needs Assessment and Analysis
- ❖ Disaster Risk Reduction
- ❖ Recovery and Long-Term Development

The facilitators ensured that each subject was presented in a clear and practical manner, making it easy for all delegates to grasp and apply. We also received detailed guidance on project writing and implementation, which was particularly valuable.

At the start of the course, each territory presented a report on major disasters from the past five years and the corresponding relief efforts.



These presentations were well-received and appreciated by both facilitators and fellow delegates.

On the final day, each territory presented a case study, which was met with commendation. The training concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, presided over by Commissioner Vanlalfela, Territorial Commander.

I thank God for His protection throughout this journey and for bringing us back safely. I am confident that the knowledge and skills gained will enable us to serve more effectively and faithfully in the mission of The Salvation Army.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the leadership of India Central Territory for selecting me for this opportunity to grow and learn.



Mr. Sarath Praveen Mekathoti
Central Corps, Bapatla
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Our Mission

"The Salvation Army is an International movement, a part of the Christian Church whose spiritual motivation has practical application in an evangelical, social, educational and health ministry.

It's goal is to help all people find fulness of life in a relationship with the living Christ discovered through the scriptures and demonstrated by holy living in peace and harmony with others."

DIVISIONAL LEVEL YOUTH COUNCIL 2025 EBH CORPS, AHMEDNAGAR DIVISION



Divisional Level Youth Council 2025, organized by The Salvation Army at Evangeline Booth Hospital (EBH) Corps, Ahmednagar Division, was a vibrant and purpose-driven gathering. Over 130 young people from various corps across the division came together under the inspiring theme "Be Rooted." The event aimed to foster spiritual growth, meaningful fellowship, and leadership development. It successfully ignited a renewed passion for ministry and unity among the youth, setting a strong foundation for the year ahead.

Sessions and Activities- The council featured a well-structured program designed to be spiritually enriching and highly interactive. The day commenced with a powerful session of worship and devotion, including live music and a reflective Bible study.

Workshops and sessions covered practical and relevant topics such as:

- ▶▶ Health and wellness
- ▶▶ The impact of social media
- ▶▶ Vocational guidance

- ▶▶ Standing firm in faith
- ▶▶ Child protection awareness

A Bible quiz was also conducted, with winners receiving surprise gifts. All participants, including officers, were provided with breakfast, lunch, and evening tea. Custom-printed T-shirts were distributed to symbolize unity and participation in the Youth Council.

Guest Speakers and Their Impact

The event was graced by several distinguished speakers:

- ❖ Dr. Kasturi Kurhade
- ❖ Dr. Albin Paul
- ❖ Mrs. Snehal Naidu
- ❖ Major Nitin Thorat

- ❖ Captain Sonali Dalvi
- ❖ Miss. Shehal Borde (Child Protection Leader, Ahmednagar Division, IWT)

The session addressed the challenges faced by young Christians today, encouraging them to stand firm in their faith and become agents of change in their communities. The youth responded with enthusiasm, many committing to deeper involvement in their local corps.

Outcomes and Fellowship

Beyond the formal sessions, the council provided a space for genuine fellowship. Youth connected personally, forming new friendships and strengthening existing ones. The day concluded with a moving re-commitment service, where many publicly



dedicated their lives to Christ. The event equipped attendees with practical tools and spiritual motivation to serve with renewed purpose.

Conclusion

The Division Level Youth Council at EBH Corps was a transformative and impactful event. It fulfilled the mission of uniting youth, deepening their faith, and empowering them for ministry. The special appreciation is extended to Captain Manoj Dalvi, Divisional Youth Secretary and Major Nitin Thorat, Divisional Commander for their dedicated efforts. The positive energy and outcomes of this council offer great hope for the future of youth ministry in the Ahmednagar Division.



Mr. Niles Vasant Jadhav
EBH Corps, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
India Western Territory



Emptiness Filled

Cadet Samuel Lalramnghaka, Officer Training College, Aizawl, India Eastern Territory

I was born into a Christian family of The Salvation Army and was raised in a humble home on the outskirts of Aizawl. My father was the sole breadwinner, working hard to provide for our family, while my mother looked after her four mischievous sons. We didn't have much, but there was one rule we had to follow: "Obey your parents and elders." My mother often reminded us that obedience is the key to serving the Lord. But as a headstrong child, I found it difficult to always follow the rules. Despite of being a naughty lad, I was brought up with strong Christian values. Attending Sunday school was non-negotiable. My father, who came from a line of Salvation Army Officers, made sure we never missed church as long as we were healthy. I vowed myself to be faithful and to keep my promise of not indulging into any kind of delinquent behaviour. It was 2001 when I was conscious into my faith that Jesus saved me from my sins and accepted Him as my Lord and Savior. I was just about 11 years old. It was the time when a great spiritual revival swept the state.

I still remember, there were abandoned government quarters near our church. After schools and during holidays, we used to meet and pray in those quarters. Our elders would form small groups and teach us about the Bible. Beside Sunday Schools, we would gather around the quarters eagerly waiting for our elders to have small group meetings for prayers and Bible study sessions. Those were the days I consider that I consciously started my journey following the teachings of Christ. It was not bad for an eleven-year-old boy who was seeking and hoping to follow the right path of life.

As I grew older, I started developing occasional moodiness. Despite of a being an outgoing boy who loved to play and hang out with friends; I somehow turned out to be a shy reticent person who loved music and spend time alone. I would stay at home rather than playing or hanging out with friends. I was also fascinated about myth and folklore, science, nature and the cosmos. I used to read books and watch documentaries about these subjects whenever I had free time. My favourite was Astrology and Natural Science. Little did I know, these topics had driven me into some sort of offensive person who started lacking interest and values about faith. Slowly I started developing the idea that going to



church is not necessary while you can pray and worship by yourself. I sometimes doubted about the existence of God because of the facts and philosophies that I had read and watched. This intellectual curiosity led to a period of spiritual decline. I drifted from church, embraced rebellion, and joined a new circle of friends.

As I got older, with my new friends, we started becoming sketchy and lived outside the bounds of morality. We did things not because we needed to, but for the thrill of doing wrong—much like St. Augustine's story of stealing a pear simply for the joy of sin. Nevertheless, there was always emptiness in my heart and I clearly knew that all those acts the pleasure me cannot fill the emptiness inside of me. I knew I was walking away from the truth, yet I couldn't find the strength to turn back.

Amid the void and surreptitious evil within me, there was always a knocking on my heart—a knocking from Jesus that could not be ignored. The sound was silent, yet unmistakably loud. I longed to escape from myself and from the influence of my friends, but I struggled to resist temptation. Knowing my behaviour, church leaders from the Youth Department often visited me, invited me to join their meetings—but I always declined. I still remember my mother saying that she prayed for me regularly—something I didn't value at that time, but now deeply appreciate. Despite my stubborn heart, I knew I needed help.

One day, The Salvation Army Youth organized a program—something like a Musical Night, though I can't quite recall the details. I was selected to be the guitarist in the band. I didn't really want to participate, but somehow I ended up being part of it. Looking back now, I realize that program was my escape rope—my doorway to the person I am today. Like a light at the end of a tunnel

hope began to shine on me. I knew then I was on the right path. It all started from that moment. I began attending youth meetings and church services. Gradually, I became more involved. Eventually, I left my old friends behind and started a new journey, walking towards the likeness of Christ.

In 2016, I was appointed as the Literature In-Charge for the Youth Ministry in my local Corps. I was overwhelmed—nervous, shocked, and unsure of myself. I felt unworthy and incapable of carrying such a responsibility and even considered turning it down. But by channelling all my strength and courage, I accepted the role. That decision marked the beginning of my humble ministry—by God's grace.

Another important ministry God entrusted to me was the opportunity to work with orphans and vulnerable children living with HIV/AIDS. In 2017, while pursuing my Master's in Social Work, I was blessed with a job offer as a Case Worker at Gan Sabra (Garden of Cactus), a Child Care Institution for children living with HIV/AIDS. Since then, by God's grace, we have touched the lives of many children who have been oppressed, stigmatized, and neglected throughout the state. I've had the privilege of helping these children lead normal lives—through education, healthcare, and most importantly, LOVE.

Despite all the ministries I had been involved in, I knew deep down that I needed to move forward—to dive deeper into serving the Lord. Secretly, I had a desire to become a Salvation Army Officer since my younger days, but fear held me back from answering the call. That calling lingered in my heart, almost haunting me, and deep inside, I knew God was asking for my humble life.

The verse from Lamentations 3:22–23 often echoed in my mind: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." I felt incredibly blessed to still be alive, despite my sins and the times I had denied Jesus. Then I heard God's voice—crystal clear. Deep in my heart I was reminded that I would live only once in this world and I asked myself: Why not live that life serving the Lord of heaven and earth, giving Him everything for the sake of His kingdom? I've come to realize my purpose in life: To serve the Lord by helping the needy. This calling fills the emptiness within me and brings lasting joy and fulfilment to my heart and soul. Spiritually, I've learned that being a child of God empowers me to choose a life of service—a life fully dedicated to Him for the rest of my days.



PREPARE TRAINING (PREPARE TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCY – PLANNING AND READINESS EDUCATION)

The Salvation Army took a major step in strengthening its emergency response efforts by organizing the PREPARE Training “Prepare to Respond to Emergency: Planning and Readiness Education” from 7th to 12th September 2025 at the Red Shield Guest House, Kolkata. Hosted by the India Northern Territory, the training was led by the International Emergency Services team from the Salvation Army’s International Headquarters in London.

This week-long program brought together delegates from all six Indian territories and the India National Office, united by a shared mission: to strengthen their ability to respond effectively to disasters and emergencies in their communities.

International Expertise and Leadership

The sessions were led by a team of experienced international leaders:

❖ Ms. Anisa Gasper, Programme Advisor –



Education & Emergency Relief (IDS), Netherlands, Czech Republic & Slovakia Territory

❖ Mrs. Damaris Frick, Director, International Emergency Services

❖ Captain Jevry Ambitan, Project and Finance Administrator

The event was coordinated by Lieut. Colonel Suresh Masih, Program Secretary, India Northern Territory. The opening keynote by Commissioner Vanlalfela, Territorial Commander, set the tone by emphasizing the growing challenges of our times and the critical need for preparedness.

A Spiritually Grounded Learning Experience

Each day began with devotions and praise & worship led by different territorial teams, fostering a spiritually enriching atmosphere. These moments of worship not only uplifted the participants but also built a sense of unity and fellowship.

The International Emergency Services team introduced the role of The Salvation Army in global emergency response, providing a foundational understanding of hazards, disasters, and key terminology. This helped participants grasp the scope

and language of humanitarian work.

Sharing Experiences and Learning Together

Delegates from each territory presented case studies from past disasters, sharing valuable lessons, challenges, and strategies. These real-life experiences



(DRR), coordination and networking in humanitarian response, and linking relief efforts with long-term recovery and development.

A special highlight was the Fire Safety Drill conducted by the Kolkata Fire Brigade Department, where participants learned to respond to fire emergencies and operate safety equipment.

created a dynamic learning environment, highlighting the importance of collaboration, preparedness, and continuous improvement.

Grounded in Humanitarian Standards

The training was rooted in the Sphere Handbook (2018 Edition), which outlines internationally recognized standards for humanitarian response. Sessions covered:

- » Humanitarian Charter and Human Rights
- » Code of Conduct and Safeguarding
- » Child Protection and Core Humanitarian Standards

These modules helped participants understand how to uphold dignity and accountability in diverse emergency contexts.

Practical Tools for Effective Response

A major focus was on Project Cycle Management, including:

- » Needs Assessment
- » Planning and Project Writing
- » Implementation and Monitoring
- » Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL)

Participants also explored Disaster Risk Reduction

Cultural Exploration and Reflection

Beyond the training, delegates had the opportunity to explore Kolkata's rich heritage. Visits to Mother House, the resting place of Mother Teresa, and landmarks like the Victoria Memorial and Howrah Bridge added a cultural and emotional dimension to the experience, deepening connections among participants.

Closing with Purpose and Prayer

The final session, led by Lieut. Colonel Suresh Masih and Commissioner Vanlalfela, concluded with a powerful message on personal preparedness. Quoting Matthew 24, Proverbs 22:3, and Psalms 46:1-5, the Territorial Commander reminded everyone that faith must be paired with action.

Certificates were distributed to all participants, marking the successful completion of the training.

A Movement of Hope and Action

The PREPARE Training ended with strategic discussions among Development and Emergency Officers from all six territories, focussing on future collaboration and resource sharing.

This training was more than an educational event—it was a movement of hope, action, and faith. Delegates returned to their territories equipped with practical tools, spiritual strength, and a renewed commitment to serve.

With hearts ready to serve and hands prepared to act, they are now empowered to build communities that are safer, stronger, and rooted in compassion.



Major Amrik Masih
Editor, All India War Cry
India National Office, Kolkata



THE SALVATION ARMY INDIA TOWARDS SELF -SUSTAINABILITY 'FROM DEPENDENCE TO INDEPENDENCE' A REPORT

From 26 to 30 August 2025, senior leaders from all six Salvation Army territories in India attended a sustainability workshop in Chennai, India. This included all territorial commanders and all chief secretaries, as well as all secretaries for business administration and at least one soldier/ non-executive director from all six Territorial Governance Boards. Joining them were staff from the National Office.



The workshop was facilitated by The Salvation Army's South Asia Zone, with the International Secretaries of the zone, Commissioner John Kumar Dasari and Commissioner Mani Kumari Dasari giving leadership throughout. The workshop faculty comprised Major Peter McGuigan, IHQ Secretary for Communications; leadership and management experts Dr Samuel Rao and Dr John Karunakaran; and audit specialist Mr Chandra Sekhar.

The workshop's theme was 'From Dependence to Independence', a focus taking its lead from Compass, The Salvation Army's new Global Strategic Framework, with its three touchstones of Empowering People, Enhancing Mission Impact and Establishing an Enduring Legacy. Spiritual, missional and financial / resources sustainability are key priorities being addressed by Compass.

It was acknowledged by all delegates that The Salvation Army in India is facing serious challenges which impact directly on its ability to sustain the spiritual life of its people, the advancement of its mission, the stewardship of its financial and property resources, and its ability to align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Challenges include the loss of registration imposed by Government (two territories have lost their registration, making it illegal to receive international funding among other restrictions); a groundswell of internal opposition to leadership decision making; in elective spiritual life development; a public

relations risk involving reputation damage via social media trolling; a lack of capacity and confidence to conduct profitable relationships with senior officials in the government and business sectors as well as with individuals of high net worth in the private sector; and a lack of sophistication / skills required to navigate the contemporary business and statutory environment in India.

The workshop explored the development of sustainability pathways. Delegates workshoped vital subjects such as 'The Call to Lead with Courage: Spiritual Sustainability in Restrictive Environments', 'A Theology of Mission-Driven Leadership:

Mission Sustainability, 'Navigating Change from Dependency to Independence:

Understanding the Change Curve', 'Releasing and Retaining Emerging Leaders:

Personnel Sustainability', 'From Scarcity to Abundance: Financial Innovation for Economic Sustainability', 'Creating a Culture of Generosity and Accountability:

Embedding Stewardship Values', 'Communicating Vision with Impact:



STRATEGY EMERGING FROM WORKSHOP

Without exception, given the prominence and immediacy of the challenges being experienced by The Salvation Army in India, all delegates agreed that action needed to be taken urgently as a strategic way forward in addressing the challenges and creating a sustainable future: The strategy should be both Territorial level and National level as well.

CONCLUSION

India is one of the largest economies in the world with enormous potential for The Salvation Army. It is also the country in the world with the second largest amount of Salvationists (Kenya being the country with the largest). According to the 2025 Salvation Army Year Book, we have more than 390,000 Salvationists in India (soldiers, junior soldiers and adherents). It's a big reason to invest in our future in India rather than letting it slip into unchecked freefall.

Despite Hinduism being the largest and most practised religion in the country, there are great opportunities for us to build funding or in-kind partnerships through corporate social

responsibility, globalisation and multinationalism with groups that do not exhibit religious bias. Similarly, the repurposing of property for lease.

Gone are the days when we can do it alone. All over the world we are seeing the benefit of working together, whether non-profit organisations with profitable organisations, charities with government agencies, or non-profits working with each other, we are proving that much greater work can be accomplished together. At the same time, we need to build the capacity of our people and territories in India to operate effectively in this very different world of the 2020s and see our life and mission flourish into the future – to see people, families and communities transformed through the love of Jesus and the power of the Spirit of God.



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Embedding Effective Communication with Internal and External Supporters', 'Emotional Intelligence and Resilience in Leadership', and 'Statutory Sustainability'.