Change of name to ‘The Salvation Army’

Early one morning in May, 1878, Bramwell and Railton were summoned to Booth's bedroom for the day’s instructions. As Booth, who was recovering from 'flu, paced the floor in a long yellow dressing gown and felt slippers, Railton scanned the proofs of the pink eight-page folder which was the Mission's annual report. Its preliminary was bold and succinct:

THE CHRISTIAN MISSION
Under the superintendence of the Rev. William Booth
Is
A VOLUNTEER ARMY
Recruited from amongst the multitudes who are without God and without hope in the world...

At this time the Volunteers, a part-time citizens’ Army, with grey-green uniforms and shakos (later the Territorials) were a favourite butt of cartoonists. Bramwell, aged twenty-two, was stung by the imputation.

'Volunteer!' he exclaimed, leaning excitedly back in his chair as Railton read this out. 'Here, I'm not a volunteer, I'm a regular or nothing!'

Booth stopped dead in his tracks. For a moment his eyes were fixed on his son, expressionless. Abruptly, he crossed to where Railton sat, taking the pen from his hand. He struck decisively through the word 'volunteer' and substituted the word 'Salvation'. Simultaneously, Bramwell and Railton leapt from their chairs, crying, 'Thank God for that!' This 'army' was then exactly eighty-eight strong.

The Salvation Army in the Body of Christ

'WE BELIEVE that The Salvation Army belongs to, and is a particular communion of, the Church universal and a representative of the Body of Christ. Christ is the True Vine (John 15:1) and all believers are his living, fruit-bearing branches, exhorted by Scripture to live in Christlike unity (1 Corinthians 12:12). 'WE DO NOT BELIEVE that any community made up of true followers of Christ can rightly be regarded as outside the Church universal, whatever their history, customs or practices when compared with those of other Christian communities. God alone knows those who are truly his (2 Timothy 2:19).’ (pp 4-5, The Salvation Army in the Body of Christ)

What relevance does this have for The Salvation Army in your territory?

The international Salvation Army - quiz

‘The Salvation Army’ is translated into many languages around the world. Can you match the translation with the correct language?

1. Pelastusarmeija  A. Shona
2. Kau Sai Kwan  B. Maori
3. Hukbo ng Kaligtasan  C. Russian
4. Jeshi La Wokovu  D. Finnish
5. Te Ope Whakaora  E. Indonesian
6. Ejército de Salvación  F. Cantonese
7. Ratchaniya Senai  G. Kiswahili
8. Armiya Spaseniya  H. Filipino
9. Hondo yo Ruponiso  I. Tamil
10. Bala Keselamatan  J. Spanish

Answers