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Mahatma Gandhi

**THE BEST WAY TO
FIND YOURSELF IS TO
LOSE YOURSELF IN THE
SERVICE OF OTHERS**



**“It is for freedom that Christ has
set us free. Stand firm, then, and
do not let yourselves be burdened
again by a yoke of slavery.”**

Galatians 5:1



FREEDOM FROM MODERN BONDAGE

W It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

As we celebrate Independence Day, we rightly remember the sacrifices made for our nation's freedom—freedom from colonial rule, oppression, and injustice. It is a day of pride, gratitude, and reflection. Yet even as we rejoice in our political freedom, we must ask ourselves a deeper question: Are we truly free in our personal lives?




Major Amrik Masih, Editor

Today, many of us live in a new kind of bondage—not physical, but spiritual and emotional. Unlike the visible chains of the past, this modern bondage is subtle and often invisible. It shows up in the constant pull of our mobile phones, endless hours spent binge-watching television, or the grip of unhealthy habits like procrastination, fear, negativity, or addiction. These things, though seemingly harmless or even convenient, can quietly enslave our hearts and minds, drawing us away from God's purpose for our lives.

Modern bondage refers to the subtle ways we become captive to things meant to serve us. Technology, entertainment, and comfort are not inherently bad, but when they begin to dominate our lives, they rob us of our freedom, purpose, and peace. We were created to master these tools—not be mastered by them.

True freedom in Christ is not about rejecting technology or comfort but about living intentionally and reclaiming control over our choices. It means examining our habits and asking: Do these lead me toward God's best? Do they help me live a life of purpose, love, and service?

As we wave our flags and sing our anthems this Independence Day, let us also examine our hearts. Are we truly free? Or are we still bound by habits, distractions, and desires that keep us from God's best?

Let this Independence Day be more than a national celebration. Let it be a personal declaration of freedom. Freedom from fear. Freedom from addiction. Freedom from anything that holds us back from living the life Christ calls us to—a life of purpose, joy, and true spiritual freedom. As the scripture told in 2 Corinthians 3:17 *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom"*. 

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Celebrate 79th Independence day with strong spirit of unity in diversity. As we received freedom from British rule. Jesus came to this world to give freedom to each one of us. It teaches that true freedom comes from knowing and following Jesus, who reveals the truth about God and offers liberation from the bondage of sin. Christians are expected to live on the foundation of the Truth. When truth is our foundation, faith becomes not just a belief but a way of life that reflects the heart of God.

1. Truth Establishes the Faith: Truth is not optional in the life of faith but it is essential. Faith begins with knowing God, and that knowledge comes through truth. Scripture says, *"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth"* (John 17:17). The Word of God is not just informative but it is transformative. It reveals God's character: His holiness, love, justice, and mercy. Without truth, our understanding of God becomes distorted, and our faith unstable. Jesus prays, *"Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth."* (John 17:17).

2. Truth is Anchor: *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and steadfast"*. Hebrew 6:19. God is our anchor and encourages to believe and trust in His promises and remain steadfast

in trials, and find hope in the assurance of their salvation. Every believer called to anchor their lives in the truth of God's Word, allowing God to guide us in the midst of storms. In our personal, spiritual, or societal life truth is our anchor. Faith grounded in truth does not wave with emotion or circumstance. It holds firm because it is built on eternal realities, not temporary feelings. *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* Psalm 119:105

3. Truth Leads to Freedom: Jesus said, *"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"* (John 8:32). Faith rooted in truth is liberating. This freedom is not just from sin, but from fear, confusion, and doubt. When we know the truth of who we are in Christ, we walk boldly, live purposefully, and love freely.

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth"

Paul was on the road to Damascus persecuting Christians, the word of truth encountered him and the truth led him to preach the gospel.

A Samaritan woman was drawing water from a well, Jesus spoke to her the truth about her life which led her to come out of the fear of sin and brought the community to meet Jesus.



Commissioner John Kumar Dasari
International Secretary
South Asia, IHQ-London

4. Truth Demands Integrity: Faith is not just belief—it is a way of life. When truth is our foundation, integrity becomes our expression. Integrity is a reflection of God's character and a requirement for His followers. "The integrity of the upright guides them, but the perversity of the treacherous destroys them." (Proverbs 11:3). This verse highlights the protective and guiding nature of integrity. *"May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You."* (Psalm 25:21). Integrity is portrayed as a safeguard for those who trust in the Lord. We live honestly, speak truthfully, and act justly. Our faith becomes credible, not just to ourselves, but to those around us. It is the bedrock upon which trust in God is built, the compass that guides our steps, and the light that dispels darkness. 🏠

Celebration of God's Call



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

As a Citizen of India, I am proud to celebrate the 79th Independence Day along with you all in spirit. Every celebration brings joy and happiness to individuals.

The Joy of the South Asia Zonal team is Lt. Oliver Dobson, first officer from Middle East Region responded to the call of God, trained in William Booth College in the UK, as a cadet of “*Champions of the Mission*” session, ordained and commissioned as Lieutenant, and appointed to Welwyn Garden City Corps, UK. We celebrate the powerful God's call in his life.

We are reminded that God continues to call people even today. He calls the young and the old, the bold and the hesitant, the prepared and the unsure. When He calls, He equips to do great things in His Powerful name. God is on His throne and

calling the people to respond to his divine call that transforms ordinary lives into extraordinary journeys of faith. Each calling is a sacred invitation and echo of God's voice that stirs our hearts, shapes our purpose, and sends us into the world as vessels of His love.

We honour those who have heard and responded to God's call—whether to ministry, mission, service, or simply to live faithfully in everyday life. Jesus called His disciples individually by name. He walked along the shore, saw fishermen, and said, “*Follow Me, I will make you fishers of men*” (Matthew 4:19). He saw them not just as workers, but as individuals with purpose and potential to teach them how to fish for people.

Recognizing:

God's call may come through Scripture, prayer, circumstances, or the gentle touch of the Holy Spirit. It may be a call to serve, to lead, to comfort, or simply to be present. The call of God is always significant, quiet but as persistent like a melody that remains until we learn to tune our hearts to hear it. 1st Samuel 3rd chapter reminds the Call of Samuel is significant in marking the transition from the judges to establishing a kingdom in Israel. Samuel served as a prophet, priest, and judge, playing a crucial role in the anointing of the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David.

Responding:

Responding to God's call requires courage

and trust. It means stepping out of comfort zones to divine purpose. Isaiah responded to the call of God saying, “*Here I am, Lord. Send me*” (Isaiah 6:8). Isaiah's response is immediate and personal, indicating his readiness and willingness to serve with obedience and submission to be used by God. But the beauty of a personal call is that it comes with personal grace. God equips those He calls. He walks with us, strengthens us, and never leaves us to journey alone.

Relationship:

Jeremiah's call is a direct and personal commission from God. The Lord reveals to Jeremiah that his role as a prophet was ordained even before his birth, “*Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I set you apart and appointed you as a prophet to the nations*” (Jeremiah 1:5).

Jeremiah expressed all the excuses for God's call, saying, “*Ah, Lord GOD, I said, I surely do not know how to speak, for I am only a child!*” Jeremiah 1:6. God reassures Jeremiah, emphasising His presence and protection. While we maintain our relationship with him, He equips us with his wisdom, He gives courage to face challenges and send us a helper to give strength to keep on going.

May we continue to listen, respond, to follow. Let us celebrate every step of the journey in God's Ministry. 🌿

STAND FIRM IN JESUS: A CALL TO CELEBRATE TRUE FREEDOM

As India prepares to celebrate its **79th Independence Day on August 15, 2025**, we reflect with gratitude on the 78 years of freedom we have enjoyed since the historic day in 1947. This freedom, hard-won through the sacrifices of countless brave souls, is a legacy we cherish deeply. Yet, as we honour our national liberty, we are also reminded of a greater, eternal freedom—the **freedom from sin through Jesus Christ**.

IN Remembering Our National Freedom

The journey to India's independence was long and arduous. The **First War of Independence in 1857** marked the beginning of a nationwide struggle against British rule. Though unsuccessful, it ignited a flame that would burn for decades. Leaders across the country rose with courage and conviction, culminating in the non-violent movement led by **Mahatma Gandhi**, whose principles of **truth and non-violence** inspired millions.

On **August 15, 1947**, India awoke to freedom. It was a day of jubilation, a moment of pride for every Indian. Today, we continue to **stand firm in that freedom**, honouring the memory of our freedom fighters and the values they upheld.

Freedom Beyond Borders: Liberation Through Christ

Just as India was once under the yoke of colonial rule, humanity has long been under the **bondage of sin**. Sin created a chasm between God and mankind—one that no human effort could bridge. But God, in His infinite love, provided a way.

He sent **His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ**, to be the perfect, blameless sacrifice. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus paid the ultimate price to **set us free from sin**. In doing so, He became the **greatest freedom fighter** the world has

ever known.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

Standing Firm in Faith

Freedom in Christ is not a license to return to old ways. The Bible warns us in **2 Peter 2:22** that like a dog returning to its vomit, we often fall back into sin. But we are called to a higher standard: *"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers."* Psalms 1:1

We must stand **firm in faith**, as instructed in **1 Corinthians 16:13**: *"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."*

Faith is the foundation of a life that pleases God. **Enoch** was taken up without experiencing death because of his faith (**Hebrews 11:5**). **Noah** obeyed God and built the ark, even when there was no sign of rain. Their lives are testimonies of unwavering trust in God.



Colonel (Dr.) Andrews D. Christian
National Executive Officer
India National Office, Kolkata

A Call to Prayer and Obedience

To remain free, we must be **filled with the Holy Spirit**, rooted in prayer, and obedient to God's Word. As Isaiah 35:3 says: *"Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way."*

Let us raise our hands in thanksgiving and bend our knees in prayer, so we do not fall again into the slavery of sin.

The **9th Doctrine of The Salvation Army** reminds us: *"We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ."*

This Independence Day: Celebrate True Freedom

As we hoist the tricolour and sing patriotic songs, let us also lift our hearts in gratitude to Jesus Christ, who gave us **eternal freedom**. Let us **stand firm in His faith**, live lives that glorify God, and never again be burdened by the yoke of sin.

"Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!"—Philippians 4:1

In Christ 

Freedom



India celebrates its Independence Day on August 15th, commemorating the nation's freedom from British rule on August 15, 1947. This day marks the end of a long and arduous struggle against colonialism, a period characterized by the sacrifices of numerous freedom fighters and various movements for self-rule. I would like to congratulate all my Indian brother and sister happy Independence Day.

These ungodly chains may be easy to identify like an immoral addiction, or the chains may be more "acceptable" like fear, greed, poverty, worldliness, doubt, anger, bitterness, legalism, racism, insecurity, despair, and depression. Whatever category you classify your slavery; the result is the same a failure to experience the abundant life promised by following Christ. To those living in bondage of such chains, Jesus offers freedom.

"If you have a daily quiet time with thirty minutes of prayer, tithe faithfully, and only miss Sunday School twice a year, then you can be free."

The freedom of Jesus:

His freedom is not a political revolution. True freedom is not about changing your outward circumstances. This is a significant concept because it reveals that Jesus can free you wherever you are. Paul

was on the road to Damascus persecuting Christians. The prodigal son was in a pig pen. Peter was in a boat fishing. Samaritan woman was drawing water from a well. Another woman found freedom when caught in adultery. A thief was on a cross of execution when Jesus set his soul free. Christ is the only one who can set us free to enjoy the life as a child of God instead of living as a slave of the world.

Freedom has a process:

Jesus identifies a process for experiencing true freedom with the words, "If then"

The process should not be confused with a legalistic formula. He does not say, "If you have a daily quiet time with thirty minutes of prayer, tithe faithfully, and only miss Sunday School twice a year, then you can be free." While Jesus does not prescribe a formula, His words do reveal a way in which things operate in His kingdom. For example, you are free to watch the sun rise each morning, but you must do two things to see it. You must get up early in the morning, and you must face east. If you sleep until ten o'clock and look west, you will miss the sunrise even though you are free to watch



Lieutenant Colonel Emmanuel Masih
Secretary for Personnel Administration
India Northern Territory

it. Why? Because there is a way things work.

May we all Indian and all the readers of this War Cry understand that freedom is available to all who believe in the name of Jesus Christ, do you have time to avail it for your own soul? The word of God says Matthew 16:26: "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Therefore, on anniversary of freedom of India let us be our guard to think or ponder about the freedom in Christ. 🙏

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human trafficking (MSHT) in September 2020. This strategy was introduced by the International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) and was rolled out virtually across social media and online platforms. Its mission is to create, implement, and sustain a strong MSHT response in every Salvation Army territory and community worldwide. The strategy focuses on eight key action areas: Prayer, Prevention, Protection, partnership, participation, Policy, Prosecution, Proof.

The campaign encourages every Salvation Army officer, soldier, employee, volunteer, and supporter to actively participate in this global mission to end human trafficking

and modern slavery.

Now to respond Modern slavery and Human trafficking International Headquarters have Introduced new Resource, please find the link to resource below "Spot the Signs: Recognizing Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking" You can access it here: <https://www.salvationarmy.org/resources/spot-signs>

When we engage in this mission, we must ask ourselves: "If Jesus were in my place, what would He do upon seeing the suffering of those bound by modern slavery?"

The answer is clear in Scripture: He would act with compassion. He would speak out against injustice.

He would bring healing, hope, and freedom.

Let us be the hands and feet of Christ in today's world—working to restore dignity, advocate for justice, and bring light into the darkest places. For in doing so, we not only honour His sacrifice but also fulfil His calling on our lives. 🙏

Redemption - Etymology, Origin & Meaning
2024 Trafficking in Persons Report - United States Department of State

<https://www.salvationarmy.org/news/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking-response-strategy-launched-online-and-across-social-media>

REDEEMED FOR FREEDOM

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

On August 15th, we celebrate Independence Day, a powerful reminder of our nation's liberation from colonial rule. It is a day to honour the sacrifices of countless freedom fighters who paid the price for our political freedom. Their courage and vision gave birth to a sovereign nation where we could live with dignity and hope.

But freedom is not just a historical event—it is a living reality that must be protected and extended to all. The theme of "redemption" reminds us that true freedom often comes at a cost. Just as our national heroes paid the price for our liberty, the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price to redeem humanity from spiritual bondage (1 Corinthians 6:20) as well as from all types of Physical slavery. When we were all under the bondage of sin and living in darkness, Jesus came into the world, shed His blood on the cross to pay the ransom for our freedom, was buried, rose again, and ascended into heaven. In the ancient world, a ransom was a payment made to redeem someone and secure their freedom. (Romans 6:17, Romans 5:12 Galatians 3:13, Colossians 1:13)

The word "redemption" originates from the Latin term redemption, meaning "a buying back" or "a ransoming." It is derived from the verb redeemer, which combines re- (meaning "back" or "again") and emere (meaning "to buy" or "to take").

The verse mentioned above is derived from the Epistle of Paul to the churches in the region of Galatia, written around 50-57 AD. Paul wrote this letter in response to two major concerns.

On one hand, the people of Galatia were living under the oppressive rule of the Roman Empire. They bore the economic burden of supporting the Roman army and its legal system. The sale of slaves was common, and while a few individuals held power and land, the majority—peasants, labourers, humble artisans, and slaves—lived in poverty and marginalisation. Cattle rearing was a primary

means of livelihood, but it offered little relief to the suffering masses.

On the other hand, some Jewish Christians insisted that Gentile converts must observe the Mosaic Law, including circumcision, to be fully accepted by God. In his epistle, Paul strongly emphasized that the sacrifice of Christ had set believers free—not only from the Mosaic Law but also from governmental oppression and all forms of slavery. His message was one of spiritual liberation and equality through faith in Christ.

Today, though we are celebrating Independence Day in India and preach the gospel of redemption and freedom to the entire world, but still millions remain in bondage:

Over 27 million people are currently subjected to human trafficking worldwide. Human trafficking continues to exploit vulnerable men, women, and children for labour and sex. This includes forced labour, sex trafficking, and other forms of exploitation. Forced labour is the most common, especially in sectors like agriculture, construction, domestic work, and manufacturing. Forced labour and debt bondage trap people in cycles of poverty and abuse. Domestic workers, migrant labourers, and factory workers in many parts of the world face inhumane conditions and lack basic rights. Sex trafficking disproportionately affects women and girls, though men and boys are also victims. Child Trafficking: Children make up a significant portion of trafficking victims, often exploited for labour, begging, or sexual purposes.

These are the modern "yokes of slavery" that Paul warned against. Just as in Galatia, Christ's message remains profoundly relevant today: *"He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour"* (Luke 4:18–19). This declaration, often referred to as the Nazareth Manifesto, outlines Jesus' mission on earth—a mission of liberation, justice, and restoration.

The "year of the Lord's favour" refers to a time when everyone is equally valued,



Major Anugrah M. Masih

Zonal Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response
Coordinator for South Asia
Secretary for Social Justice & Assistant to HRDI

and all people enjoy their God-given dignity, rights, and freedom. It is a vision of a just society where no one is enslaved, marginalised, or forgotten.

While many of us today enjoy the blessings of freedom, millions of our brothers and sisters remain trapped in modern slavery and human trafficking. This reality calls us to action. As followers of Christ, we are not only recipients of His redemption—we are also called to continue His mission: to set the captives free.

To continue Jesus' Mission The Salvation Army has responded and addressed the issues of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking from 1865. The Salvation Army officially launched its "Fight for Freedom" strategy—an international response to modern slavery and



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STILL SINGLE?:

A REMINDER FOR WAITING HEART!

It was about to rain just after we finished our Holiness meeting. My sister and I were in a hurry to reach home before the weather turned worse. As we stepped out church gate, two middle-aged women, probably in their late 50s or early 60s, stopped us unexpectedly. Without any proper introduction, one of them directly asked, "Have you started seeing anyone lately?" Taken aback, she continued, "Are you by any chance looking for an opportunity to meet someone?" I managed a smile and said, "Not sure." No body would be sure of meeting someone after church without plans. I was only sure of cooking butter chicken and rice that day after church.

And before I could even process my discomfort, they offered to visit our house with a potential match on the very same day, someone I had never heard of, never asked about.

Trying to keep calm, I responded, "I'm really not sure about this." Then, to understand who they were and where this was all coming from, I asked, "May I know your name and where you are from?" Aunties laughed and without telling their name went off.

In a world that defines success by milestones, a good career, marriage by a certain age, children, or social status, it's easy for even the most faithful believer to feel "behind" or "incomplete." Questions like "When will you settle down?" or "Still single?" often come from well-meaning people, but they carry an assumption: that something is missing.

But what if nothing is missing?

Our churches are still very much part of the society we live in. People's minds are often shaped by cultural expectations and to some extent, we Christians (Christ followers) do understand where they're

coming from.

As followers of Christ, our identity is not anchored in societal timeliness, but in the finished work of Jesus. Colossians 2:10 reminds us, *"And in Christ you have been brought to fullness."* The world may suggest you're lacking something, but scripture says you're already complete.

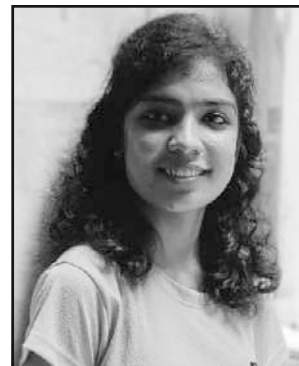
Marriage is seen as the right thing to do, especially when done at the right time. And yes, marriage is a beautiful covenant, designed by God. I don't dismiss that. But sometimes, in our effort to do what's "right," we forget that timing is God's, not ours. That being single doesn't mean being incomplete.

A book I am currently reading titled *Lady in Waiting* by Jackie Kendall & Debby Jones gave me a new perspective of being single and highly recommended to anyone who has started facing questions like still single? Not married yet? Don't be so picky! statements from people around.

Whether you're single, married, waiting, grieving, or growing in God; faith means letting go of your own script and allowing God to write His.

"Singleness is an enviable condition. An unmarried woman has something that married woman gives up on her wedding day: extra time for Jesus." - Enviable Singleness is an excerpt from *Lady in Waiting*.

Marriage is a beautiful gift, a sacred covenant designed by God (Genesis 2:24), but it is not a prerequisite for purpose. The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 7:34, *"An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs; her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit."* He doesn't



Ms. Kinjal Macwan

Nadiad Central Corps, Nadiad Division
India Western Territory

diminish marriage but he rather elevates singleness as an opportunity for undivided devotion.

To all the young people out there who are reading this by any chance, maybe you're not married and you feel as if your life is at a standstill because marriage has always been your dream. But gentle reminder for you all is that God doesn't delay without purpose. If you're in a waiting season, know that He is not withholding good, also know He is working all things together (Romans 8:28).

"A woman becomes a woman when she becomes what God wants her to be..." this is one of my favourite quotes from the book. So whether you're married or not, all God wants is for you to be what He wants you to be. Don't allow society to make you feel less of a woman or man just because you are not married.

So whether you're fielding awkward questions or wrestling with inner doubt, remember: you are exactly where God has you for a reason. This season is not in vain.

You are not late. You are not forgotten. You are His. Hope you all celebrate your singleness and delight yourself in the Lord.



"A woman becomes a woman when she becomes what God wants her to be..."

INSTALLATION OF NEW TERRITORIAL LEADERS, INDIA WESTERN TERRITORY

On 5th July 2025, the India Western Territory witnessed a joyous and spiritually uplifting service, celebrating the installation of Commissioner John William Polimetla as Territorial Commander and Commissioner Ratna Sundari Polimetla as Territorial President of Women's Ministries.

The programme was led by Lt. Colonel Zhothanmawia, Chief Secretary, who also extended a warm welcome to all in attendance. The installation ceremony was conducted by retired Commissioners Suresh and Martha Pawar, representatives from International Headquarters, London. Commissioner Martha Pawar shared the General's message before officially installing the new Territorial leaders.

The event was graced by many esteemed guests, church leaders, and partner organisations. A beautiful welcome song was presented by the youth of Sion Corps, setting a joyful tone for the occasion.

Commissioner Ratna Sundari Polimetla, TPWM, expressed heartfelt thanks to God and to all officers. She shared from Psalm 77:11-14, reflecting on God's holiness and mighty works. Addressing the women, she said: "You are the heartbeat of my heart. I need your prayers and support. Through you, God will bring change. We are called to transform lives, build people, and unite them in God."

She also quoted William Booth: "Go straight for souls, and go for the worst," and pledged to work together with everyone to build God's Kingdom.

Commissioners humbly rededicated themselves at the mercy seat and accepted their new responsibilities. When asked about the transfer, they responded in the spirit of Isaiah: "Here we are, send us."

Message Highlights

Drawing from Luke 4:18-19, Commissioner John William reminded the congregation of the divine calling to serve

hungry souls. He challenged everyone to reflect on their commitment: "We make promises to God, but when it's time to act, we step back. This must change."

He reaffirmed the mission of The Salvation Army: "To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination."

He urged all to live this mission with sincerity and action.

Territorial Mission Goals

- ❖ Strengthen spiritual life through prayer
- ❖ Launch a "Mission Drive"
- ❖ Make every corps a centre of light
- ❖ Focus on members, followers, and those in need
- ❖ Inspiring Thoughts
- ❖ A true soldier is a disciplined servant
- ❖ Officers and soldiers must build strong relationships

The uniform and rank are part of our spiritual heritage from William and Catherine Booth "We are people of light. Arise, shine – not by our strength, but by God's Spirit." (Isaiah 61:1)

Commissioner John William expressed his desire to visit people of all ages across the territory and listen to their stories, saying:



"They are waiting for me".

The programme concluded with the hymn "I'll Go in the Strength of the Lord", led by Lt. Colonel Vanlalnuangi, TSWM followed by a final blessing prayer from



Commissioner Suresh Pawar.

We thank God for this holy and memorable occasion. 🙏

Major Verunika Ravindra Shelar
Territorial Moral and Social Issues Secretary
WDO, India Western Territory



ALL INDIA TRAINING COLLEGE TEACHING STAFF CONFERENCE 2025 HELD AT RED SHIELD GUEST HOUSE, KOLKATA

The Salvation Army – HRDI, India National Office, hosted the Training College Teaching Staff Conference from 26th to 29th June 2025 at the Red Shield Guest House, Kolkata under the leadership of our beloved International Secretaries, Commissioners John Kumar and Mani Kumari Dasari, IHQ London. The event brought together 19 delegates, including participants from the Sri Lanka Territory, under the theme: *“Stewards of God’s Vision: Leadership with Purpose, Passion, and Perfection.”* provided a guiding framework as delegates explored key aspects of the Salvation Army’s ongoing mission and leadership responsibilities.

The conference was blessed by the presence and leadership of distinguished the Salvation Army leaders:

► Commissioner John Kumar Dasari and Commissioner Mani Kumari Dasari, International Secretaries for South Asia, IHQ, London

► Colonel S. P. Simon, National Executive Officer, and Colonel Annamma Simon, National Secretary for Women’s Development, India National Office

► Lieut. Colonel Michelle Collins, Director, SASIA SALT Learning Centre, South Asia, London

The event was officially inaugurated by Colonel S. P. Simon and Colonel Annamma Simon, whose opening remarks set a spiritually enriching tone. They also served as key facilitators throughout the sessions. Support was extended by Major Samson Macwan,



Secretary for HRDI, and Mr. Buddha Dev Bramhachary, IT Manager & Graphics Designer.

The conference featured a series of impactful sessions and devotionals.



Commissioner John Kumar Dasari spoke on Mobilizing God’s Mission, standing in the Gap, and issued a Conclusive Challenge.

Commissioner Mani Kumari Dasari led morning devotionals and sessions on Jesus Cadets and Stewardship of Vision. Colonel SP Simon addressed TSA Statistics and Situational Leadership, while Colonel Annamma Simon emphasized Gender Sensitivity and Active Listening.

Lt. Colonel Michelle Collins aligned discussions with the

SALT framework.

Major Samson Macwan presented on ATA Requirements, and Mr. Buddha Dev Bramhachary conducted technical training on ATA Registration Templates and Mark Sheet Preparation.

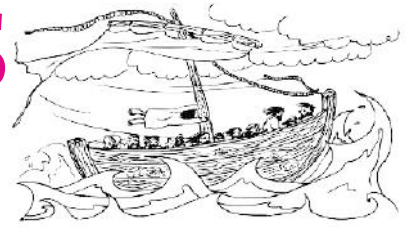
Daily activities included morning aerobics, devotions, and evening cultural programs, fostering physical wellness, spiritual growth, and joyful fellowship. A guided Kolkata city tour further strengthened bonds among participants. The Delegates’ Reporting Session provided a platform to share challenges and recommendations from various Training Colleges.

A special highlight was the Holiness Meeting and Retirement Service on 29th June at Kolkata Central Corps, honouring Colonel S. P. Simon and Colonel Annamma Simon for their dedicated service. This heartfelt event was a significant milestone in their ministry.

The conference made a lasting impact by reinforcing leadership values, clarifying strategic direction through the Compass framework (People, Mission, Legacy), and renewing commitment to God’s mission. It was a time of learning, fellowship, and spiritual refreshment. 🏡

Major Mohan Kumar Dasari
Education Officer
The Salvation Army
College for Officer Training, Nellore
India Central Territory

SACRED STILLNESS IN THE STORM



Saupriya Solanki

Pandoli Corps, Petlad Division
India Western Territory

August is here. The monsoon clouds are heavy over many parts of India. For some, rain brings relief; for others, it brings flooding, muddy paths, and cancelled meetings. Life does not always move smoothly. Storms – both in weather in our hearts – come suddenly, without warning. But in the middle of this, the Lord speaks a gentle but powerful command: “Be still, and know that I am God.” – Psalm 46:10. In these months leading up to Christmas, as the world slowly turns its attention towards year-end gatherings, shopping, and celebration, I want to invite you to pause. To be still. Not just physically, but deep in your heart, where God can meet you.

Growing Up in Faith

I was born and raised in India in a family that loved the Salvation Army deeply. My grandparents were simple, yet their dedication to the mission of the Salvation Army was strong. Their worship extended far beyond music and clapping; it was a life poured out in service. They visited the sick, helped the poor, and supported officers financially, often quietly, without telling anyone. They believed it was their offering to God. My grandfather was a local corps secretary, a man of strong faith and simple living. When our small church in the village needed renovation, he did not just collect donations, but he gave from his own pocket. The church wall was built so close to our home that it was almost part of it. In fact, the church's heartbeat could be heard in our living room. That wall carried not just bricks, but generations of prayers, sermons, and Sunday School songs.

I moved to Australia in 2006, but those memories are still fresh. When I visit my hometown and walk into that church, I can still feel the presence of God. I remember sitting on the dusty wooden bench, singing Gujarati Salvation Army songs with my grandfather. I didn't understand the depth of those words back then. But now, as life has brought its share of storms, I realise how deeply those songs and scriptures were shaping me for the battles ahead.

When Grief Hit Us

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic turned the world upside down. One morning, I woke up at 4 AM for a work. I checked my phone and saw a flood of condolence messages. My father-in-law, and a Salvation Army officer, had suddenly been promoted to glory due to a cardiac arrest. My heart sank. In our home in Australia, my wife and I sat on the couch, eyes fixed on a

phone screen. We were watching his funeral on Facebook. Thousands of kilometres away, in India, our family was gathered, grieving together. And here we were—helpless, silent, and heartbroken. We wanted to be there, to hug our loved ones, to honour the man who had served God so faithfully. But borders were closed, planes were grounded, and the only thing that filled our living room was silence.

It was one of the darkest storms in our lives. But even in that darkness, God whispered to us through Psalm 46:10 — “Be still, and know that I am God.” Being still didn't mean doing nothing. It meant trusting God when I couldn't understand what was happening. It meant sitting in the sorrow, not running from it, and letting Jesus hold us close. It meant remembering that even when our hearts break, God is still on the throne. He is still good.

Sacred Stillness in Everyday Life

When we hear the word stillness, we often think of silence or meditation. But the stillness God invites us into is something deeper. It's the stillness that comes from knowing that He is in control — even when the world is not. This kind of sacred stillness is not easy to find in today's India — or anywhere in the world. There is too much noise. Mobile phones buzzing. Traffic honking. Social media shouting. News headlines that leave us breathless.

Yet in the middle of this, Jesus still calls out to His children: “Come away with me... be still... know Me.” My parents still live in India, continuing the legacy my grandparents started. Our corps is small, but our faith is big. Many times, throughout the year, my parents host thanksgiving meetings at their house. They invite officers, cook food, prepare songs, offer small gifts — all for the joy of serving Jesus. Even in their retirement age, they choose to serve others rather than sit. But I know — and they know — that the strength to serve comes from quiet time with God. They pray together and attend the church faithfully. These are small things, but they are sacred. That stillness with God becomes their fuel.

Jesus in the Storm

In Mark 4, when Jesus calmed the storm, the disciples were terrified. The boat was filling with water. They shouted, “Teacher, don't You care if we drown?” Jesus stood up and said, “Quiet! Be Still!” And the storm stopped immediately.

Today, Jesus is still saying those words over your life. Whether you are facing grief, financial

stress, illness, or just the overwhelming busyness of life — He is present. He does not shout. He whispers. And His voice calms the storm. We do not have to wait until December to find peace. We do not need to be in a big worship meeting to experience stillness. We can meet Jesus even now, in the quiet corners of our homes, in early morning walks, in whispered prayers in the kitchen, or in the tired silence of a long day.

One Step at a Time


As we move from August towards the Christmas season, let us take this theme of stillness with us. Before the lights, before the decorations, before the loud carols — let us take time to be still before the Lord.

Ask yourself:

- Have I made space for Jesus in my daily life?
- Am I running so fast that I have no time to listen to His voice?
- What is one simple way I can retreat into God's presence this month?

This August, take one step. Maybe it's waking up 15 minutes early to read a Psalm. Maybe it's turning off your phone for one hour each evening. Maybe it's just sitting quietly and thanking Jesus for His presence, even if you don't have the words.

Let that stillness become a holy ground. Let that silence prepare you for the joy that is coming, not just the joy of Christmas, but the joy of Emmanuel - God with us.

In storms, we often search for safety, answers, or a way out. But sometimes, God does not remove the storm. Instead, He invites us into His peace within it. That peace — that sacred stillness — becomes our testimony. And as we journey towards December, let us carry that testimony in our hearts. Let the stillness speak louder than the storm. 

WELCOME AND INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR THE NEW TERRITORIAL COMMANDER OF INDIA CENTRAL TERRITORY



On 5th July 2025, a momentous occasion unfolded as the India Central Territory joyfully embraced native leadership after a span of 35 years. The session, commencing at 2:00 p.m., was filled with spiritual anticipation and heartfelt celebration as officers, soldiers, and friends from across the Territory and five states gathered to witness the Installation Service of Commissioner Daniel Raju Dasari as the new Territorial Commander.

Commissioner Daniel Raju Dasari, who previously served in the India Western Territory and held significant roles at International Headquarters and in Inter-Territorial ministries, brings with him a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the mission of The Salvation Army.

The sacred Installation Service was conducted by retired Commissioners Lalkiamlova and Lalhimpuii, designated officers of IHQ. The event was reverently led by Lieut. Colonel Gurnam Masih, Chief Secretary, and was marked by spiritual fervour, heartfelt prayers, and a strong sense of divine presence.

Dignitaries from various sectors extended their greetings and well-wishes. A particularly touching moment was a special song presented by the Commissioner's siblings, composed by their late father, Major D. Emmanuel, adding a

deeply personal and emotional touch to the proceedings.

In his response, Commissioner Daniel Raju Dasari expressed profound humility and gratitude, reflecting on God's call and faithfulness throughout his ministry. Drawing from Genesis 1:27-31, his powerful message emphasized renewed dedication, teamwork, and a commitment to reaching the unreached, aligning with the General's global call and the enduring legacy of The Salvation Army.

The service concluded with a closing song (ESB 203 / TSB 459) by Lieut. Colonel Razia Masih, Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries. Commissioner Daniel Raju Dasari, Territorial Commander offered the final prayer and benediction, sealing the service with a spirit of unity and hope.

With around 1,000 attendees, the day ended on a high spiritual note, filled with anticipation for the journey ahead. As the new leadership team steps forward, may we continue to uphold them in prayer, trusting God to grant them strength, wisdom, and vision.

All glory to God!



Major Samsonu Mikkili
Editor
India Central Territory



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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."

NEW TERRITORIAL LEADERS INSTALLED IN INDIA EASTERN TERRITORY

Aizawl, July 14, 2025 — A spirit of reverence and celebration filled the Aizawl Temple Corps as The Salvation Army India Eastern Territory officially welcomed its new Territorial Leaders. Colonel Lalbulliana was installed as the Territorial Commander, and Colonel Lalnunhlui assumed the role of Territorial President of Women's Ministries during a sacred installation service held on Sunday morning.

The ceremony was prayerfully prepared by Commissioner Vanlalfela, Territorial Commander and Commissioner Ropari, TPWM of the India Northern Territory, and was conducted by Lt. Colonel Masilamony Stalin, Chief Secretary of the India Eastern Territory. The service began with Scripture reading and prayer led by Lt. Colonel Lalramliana Hnamte, Personnel Secretary, setting a tone of spiritual reflection and gratitude.

In a warm gesture of welcome, Lt. Colonel Lalliankunga, Secretary for Programme, addressed the congregation, expressing joy and anticipation for the new chapter of leadership. The newly

installed Territorial Commander, Colonel Lalbulliana, delivered the sermon, while Colonel Lalnunhlui, TPWM, shared a heartfelt keynote address, both emphasizing their commitment to servant leadership and God's calling.

The installation service was further enriched by uplifting musical contributions from the Territorial Staff Songsters, Territorial Staff Band, Central North Divisional Songsters, and Central South Division Songsters, whose performances added depth and joy to the occasion.

The ceremony concluded with a prayer of blessing offered by Colonel K. Vanlalsawmthanga, Secretary for Business Administration (SBA), marking the official beginning of a new leadership era in the India Eastern Territory.



This significant event not only marked a leadership transition but also reaffirmed The Salvation Army's mission to serve with faith, humility, and dedication. The India Eastern Territory looks forward to the continued spiritual growth and ministry under the guidance of its newly appointed leaders. 🏹

**Editorial & Literary Department
India Eastern Territory**

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makes difference in people's life" following were the four key sub themes on which Colonel emphasised:

- The presence of Joseph brought blessings to the people of Egypt
- The presence of Jacob was blessing for Laban (Genesis 30:25-29)
- Presence of David was blessing for people of Israel as he killed Goliath, the Palestinian (1 Samuel 17)
- The presence of small boy (who was having 5 loaves and two fish) and his willingness to offer that food to Jesus brought blessing to all the mob.

Through this message, Colonel challenged congregation that their presence must bring the change into people's life and there should be showers of blessings in the lives of people associated with them.

The service included heartfelt prayers, vibrant musical performances and dances by the Girls' Hostel, Behala, and inspiring speeches by Major Samson Macwan,

Secretary for HRDI, Mr. Buddha Dev, IT-Manager, and Mrs. Malti Francis, Home League Secretary. The highlight of the event was the formal installation ceremony, during which the new leaders were officially welcomed into their roles.

The event concluded with a prayer and benediction by Commissioner John Kumar Dasari. It was followed by a time of fellowship and lunch, allowing attendees to personally greet the leaders and share in the

joy of the occasion. This memorable gathering not only marked a new chapter in leadership but also reaffirmed the shared dedication of the national Office to serve with love, integrity, and purpose.

May God bless our Newly appointed Leaders of India National Office and all the officers and employees working in National Office. 🏹

**Major Amrik Masih
Editor, The War Cry**



WELCOME

Welcome to the newly appointed Major Amrik Masih, Editor and Major Anugrah M. Masih, Zonal Coordinator of MSHTR for South Asia, Secretary for Social Justice, and Assistant to HRD (Additional), India National Office, Kolkata



SHALOM! A Message of Grace and Commitment!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **General Lyndon Buckingham, Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham (WPWM), Chief of the Staff Commissioner Edward Hill, and Commissioner Shelly Hill (WSWM)** for placing their trust in us and granting us this golden opportunity to serve India as the Leaders of the India National Office.

With a heart for unity, reconciliation, and equity, I & Colonel Sunita A. Chrisitan, dedicate ourselves to the people of this great nation - India. We seek to walk in integrity, accountability, and transparency, building strong partnerships with all **Territorial Leaders, Active & Retired Officers, Soldiers, Friends and Well-wishers** across the territories.

Dear Beloved Readers,

SHALOM in the powerful name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

We rejoice in the Lord for the privilege to serve Him in this sacred calling. As we step into this new season of ministry, we are humbled and honoured to be entrusted with the responsibilities of leading as National Executive Officer and National Women Development Officer at the India National Office.

We are also deeply thankful to our **International Secretaries for the South Asia Zone, Commissioners John Kumar Dasari and Mani Kumari Dasari**, for the privilege of serving under their visionary leadership.

It is by God's grace and strength that we move forward—committed to the mission of The Salvation Army in India, embracing the four-fold ministry of Evangelism, Health, Education, and Social Service.

We earnestly seek your prayers, support, and cooperation as we journey together in fulfilling God's divine purpose for our land. Your encouragement strengthens our resolve to faithfully carry forward the mission of The Salvation Army in India.

In His Service, 

Colonels Sunita & (Dr.) Andrews D. Christian
National Women Development Officer
& National Executive Officer
India National Office, Kolkata

News

INSTALLATION & WELCOME MEETING OF NEW TERRITORIAL LEADERS OF INDIA SOUTH EASTERN TERRITORY

Nagercoil, July 6, 2025 — A spirit of joy and happiness filled the Booth Tucker Memorial Church (BTMC) in Nagercoil as The Salvation Army India South Eastern Territory celebrated the Installation and Welcome Service of its newly appointed Territorial Leaders. Commissioner Lahmingliana Hmar was installed as the Territorial Commander, and Commissioner Lahlimpuii as the Territorial President of Women's Ministries.

The sacred ceremony drew officers, soldiers, and friends from across the divisions and districts, who gathered in unity and anticipation. The event began with a vibrant musical procession led by the BTMC Band, as Divisional and District leaders, institutional heads, section officers, the Chief Secretary, and the Territorial Leaders marched toward the dais, delighting the congregation.


The meeting commenced with spirited praise and worship, followed by a warm welcome from the Chief Secretary, who greeted the congregation, leaders, and the Chief Guest. The installation ceremony was solemnized by retired Commissioners M. Y. Immanuel and Regina Chandra Bai, who officially installed the new Territorial Leaders. A message of greetings from the General was also shared with the congregation, affirming the global support and prayers for the new leadership.



A heartfelt welcome song by officers from the Nagercoil Division set the tone for the celebration. Major P. Ashok Sunder, Major Florence, and Mr. Chandran offered words of felicitation, expressing gratitude and support for the new leaders. In her response, Commissioner Lahlimpuii emphasized the importance of kingdom values and how they align with the covenant of every Salvationist.

Commissioner Minga delivered a powerful message from Genesis 39:2, titled *"The Lord Was with Joseph."* His sermon illuminated the congregation with spiritual insight and encouragement, leading many to a moment of rededication. As Lieut. Colonel Babu Samraj, TLLD led the final song, an overwhelming response followed—120

individuals came forward to the Mercy Seat, committing their lives afresh to God's service. The Territorial Commander concluded the service with a prayer of blessing over the congregation.

This memorable gathering marked the beginning of a new chapter in the life and mission of the India South Eastern Territory, filled with renewed vision, commitment, and spiritual favour. 

Major S. Grace Shakila
Editor In Charge
India South Eastern Territory

WELCOME AND INSTALLATION SERVICE OF LEADERS OF INDIA NATIONAL OFFICE AT CENTRAL CORPS HALL, KOLKATA

The Central Corps prayer Hall in Kolkata, West Bengal Division, was filled with joy and reverence on July 6, 2025, as The Salvation Army hosted the Installation and Welcome Service for Colonel (Dr.) Andrews D. Christian and Colonel Sunita A. Christian, the newly appointed Leaders of India National Office. The service was conducted under the leadership of Commissioners John Kumar Dasari and Mani Kumari Dasari, International Secretaries for the South Asia Zone who were designated officers from International Headquarters, London and welcomed by Major Benson Lal, the Divisional Commander, West Bengal Division. The event commenced at 10:00 AM with a spirit of celebration as officers, soldiers, and friends from Kolkata Central Corps, West Bengal Division gathered to witness this significant moment. The hall was beautifully decorated, and the atmosphere was one of unity, gratitude, and anticipation.

It was a momentous occasion for Colonel (Dr.) Andrews D. Christian, National Executive Officer, and Colonel Sunita A. Christian, National Secretary for women's Development, as they were elevated to the rank of Colonels by Commissioner John Kumar Dasari and Commissioner Mani Kumari Dasari, who placed the Colonel trimmings on their shoulders and offered a prayer of blessing and dedication over their new responsibilities. Before the installation of our new Leaders of India National Office, Commissioner John Kumar Dasari shared a powerful message. He reminded the congregation that just as God chose Samuel to anoint David according to His divine plan and purpose, in the same way, God has chosen them (Commissioners) to anoint and instal the Leaders of India National Office. Their calling is part of God's greater purpose for The Salvation Army and His people.

During the event, in the presence of the congregation, Commissioner Mani Kumari Dasari read a letter from General Lyndon Buckingham and formally presented it to the newly appointed Leaders. The letter affirmed the global support and prayers for the new leadership.

In a moment of deep humility and spiritual surrender, Colonels knelt at the Mercy Seat. The International Secretaries placed their hands upon the newly appointed leaders and offered a heartfelt prayer of blessing and guidance. The entire congregation, including the DC, DDWM, all officers, and Corps Officer of Kolkata, witnessed this beautiful and sacred Installation service, marking a significant milestone in the life of Colonels. With Joy and happiness, the congregation welcomed newly installed Leaders of India National Office with Bouquets and Shawls.

In her response, Colonel Sunita A. Christian spoke with heartfelt sincerity about her calling and unwavering commitment to the service of God. She shared how, through every season—whether in times of joy or challenge—God remained faithfully by her side as she remained faithful in her ministry. To express her deep sense of gratitude and humility, she quoted from 1 Chronicles 17:16

"Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said: 'Who am I, Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?'"



By sharing this verse, Colonel Sunita acknowledged God's abundant grace and favour in her life, recognizing that her journey and elevation in ministry were not by her own strength, but by God's divine purpose and faithfulness.

A special highlight of the day — it was also Colonel Sunita Christian's birthday! What a meaningful way to begin a new chapter of leadership and service.

Commissioner John Kumar Dasari also introduced the newly appointed Majors Amrik and Anugrah M. Masih to the congregation. They will serve at the India National Office respectively as the Editor and Zonal Coordinator of MSHTR for South Asia, Secretary for Social Justice & Assistant HRD (additional). Commissioner extended a warm and heartfelt welcome to them and the congregation also welcomed with bouquets and shawls.

Colonel (Dr.) Andrews D Christian shared a powerful message based on Genesis 39:1-6. The Theme of the sermon was "Your Presence

» Continued to page 13



WELCOME & INSTALLATION SERVICES



Commissioner John Kumar Dasari and Commissioner Mani Kumari Dasari, International Secretaries for the South Asia zone, installed Colonel (Dr.) Andrews D. Christian and Colonel Sunita A. Christian as the National Office Leaders for India. They were promoted to the rank of "Colonel" effective from July 1, 2025.



Commissioners John William Polimetla & Ratna Sundari Polimetla appointed as Territorial Leaders of the India Western Territory effective from 1st July 2025.



Colonels Lalbuliana and Lahnunhlui appointed as Territorial Leaders of the India Eastern Territory effective from 1st July 2025.



Installation Service of Commissioners Lalmingliana Hmar & Lalhlipui as Territorial Leaders of the India South-Eastern Territory effective from 1st July 2025



Installation Service of Commissioner Daniel Raju Dasari the new Territorial Leader of the India Central Territory effective from 1st July 2025