



The **WAR CRY**

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He is Risen

DEATH COULD NOT
HOLD HIM. REJOICE IN
THE RESURRECTION
OF JESUS CHRIST.

MATTHEW 28

Happy Easter



THE STONE WAS ROLLED AWAY

When we were serving in a remote village in the early part of our ministry, we used to travel by bike to attend various meetings at the Divisional Headquarters. On one incident, we were stopped by a heavy rain, and the road was full of fallen trees and the main road was blocked, resulting a big traffic jam. The efforts made by the pedestrians and the others to remove and clear the way were in vain, till a Bulldozer came and cleared the trees, which took more than 3 hours to get to our homes. This might have been a similar case to many of you.

When Mary and the other women approached the tomb after Jesus' death, they saw an amazing sight. They expected to see the stone still hiding the tomb, and they needed a way to enter the resting place of their beloved Master. The stone represented a barrier to their goal: to anoint the body of their beloved Master with spices. I'm sure their hearts were still downcast as grief flooded their spirits. "Who will roll away the stone?" they asked one another. These women were obviously not strong enough to clear the stone. But to their surprising, the Angel of the Lord which appeared had already made the stone rolled away. Their mourning, fears, anxieties and worries were simultaneously rolled away. Have you felt huge stones in your way? Have you tried to roll away your own stones? The obstacles are probably not made of stone, but they seem just as massive and powerful—and you feel helpless to remove them. Whatever those stones or circumstances are, they have blocked your life, heart and mind. You cannot see a way out or in. You may say, "Who will roll this stone away?" You don't know where to turn, but you know, you want the stone removed. Easter is all about removing stones. When those barriers disappear, hope emerges from the other side—new life/ new being, new dimension of life in Christ. Jesus' death and resurrection opened the door to new life. The "stones" that imprison us or block our path have no power to destroy us.

There is only One who can roll away your stones to bring joy, new life, and freedom through Christ. That's a part of the Easter message. And that is where our hope lies. Keep looking up in faith and in trust! The scripture says, "When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away" (Mark 16:2-4). It is very symbolical! In the resurrection light we can move from our tombs of anxiety, fear, despair, misunderstanding, confusion and lack of forgiveness and be fired up by the transforming flames of love, kindness, understanding, forgiveness, and generosity. Jesus is Risen! The rolling away of stone reminds of

- Christ's power over death.
- Christ's power to save.
- Christ's power to give eternal life.

As we recollect and meditate on this historical fact of our Christian faith and lives, it is my earnest prayer that you are enriched by this truth to help embrace Christ and live in his way.

God's blessings be upon you!



Captain Latha Cheeli
Editor, Education Secretary &
Secretary for Youth & Children

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HEALED AND MADE WHOLE

Surely he took on our infirmities and carried our sorrows; yet we considered him stricken by God, struck down and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed.

We all like sheep have gone astray, each one has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

(Isaiah 53:4-6 Berean Study Bible)

THE Easter message is the most profound, true, life-changing, life-giving message we can ever hear, respond to and participate in. In short, the Easter story is the culmination of God's plan of salvation for the redemption and restoration of humanity. Such unconditional sacrificial love unleashes the mercy, grace and forgiveness of God. We should be experiencing boundless joy, caught up in awe and wonder, celebrating our new-found freedom and living in a new dynamic relationship with the Almighty.

We see in these verses from Isaiah just what God has done for us in Jesus. In going to the Cross, Jesus does something extremely positive, yet it involves him being subjected to pain, ridicule, brokenness and separation from the Father with whom he has shared a deep intimacy for all eternity. Jesus takes on everything that is negative, destructive and painful. This display of genuine, unconditional and sacrificial love is unparalleled in human history.

Even as we read and consider what Jesus takes on himself, we sense a release, an unburdening and a freedom. Jesus takes on our infirmities and carries our sorrows. Yes, there is a glimpse of the humanity of Jesus here as the Word that 'became flesh' (John 1:14) – fully human while fully divine – understands the frailty, weakness and imperfection on a personal level. Having said that, we need to recognise that there is much more

going on.

Jesus is doing more than identifying with us. He is taking on our weaknesses, infirmities and sorrows so that we don't have to carry them. Link that opening statement to Philippians 4:6-7 ('Do not be anxious about anything ...') and 1 Peter 5:7 ('Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you') to better understand what is offered to us in Jesus. Look again at what happens to Jesus – he is pierced, crushed, punished and wounded. Why would Jesus accept all of that? Why would God allow his only Son to endure all of that?

Another read of the verses from Isaiah illuminates what we receive through this sacrifice – peace and healing for ourselves. The punishment inflicted upon Jesus brings us peace. We experience healing because Jesus was wounded. It is almost beyond our understanding, but a horribly painful moment brings us healing and a horrifically violent act brings us everlasting peace.

There is something of an unfair transaction going on that demonstrates the extravagance of God and his unmerited favour that we call grace. There is also something profoundly theological, sacrificial and covenantal taking place.

The sacrificial code and practices we find in the Old Testament are there to atone for our sins and imperfections. Here on the Cross, the spotless Lamb of God pays the ultimate sacrifice once and for all, ushering us into a new dispensation of grace and deliverance.

We have peace with God because of all that was accomplished by Jesus, and this peace is experienced by having faith in Jesus (see Romans 5:1: 'Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace



General Brian Peddle

with God through our Lord Jesus Christ'). Yes, it's that straightforward – we don't have to complicate it!

The Easter story doesn't end with Calvary. Easter Sunday is about resurrection and new life. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we are reminded that 'If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!' The old reality of being held captive by sin, of death being our final enemy, is gone! On Easter Sunday we rise to new life in Christ – that new life is eternal life, it encapsulates victory over sin and death, it includes our healing and wholeness, it is a life of deep peace (Isaiah 26:3: 'You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you').

This Easter you can experience healing and wholeness in Christ. It's why Jesus came to earth. It's what God desires most for you. ■

> Scripture quotations are from the New International Version unless stated otherwise

> The Bible verses from Isaiah are brought to life through the song 'Surely He Has Borne Our Grievs', sung here by Govan Songsters (United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rbDrq7Wneo>

CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIANS

Commissioner Alistair Venter, International Secretary, South Asia, IHQ



The conversation that is on the lips of every person throughout the world at the moment centres around the "Coronavirus". Countries are imposing drastic measures to stop the spread of the virus, from closing schools, people working from home, closing of borders to minimise travel, restricting gatherings of people, closing restaurants, theatres and cinemas. The elderly in some places are required to remain home for up to 12 weeks, sports events and conferences are being cancelled or postponed, even elections in some countries have been postponed. It is hoped that with all these precautions and restrictions, the spread of the virus will be contained, that the mortality rate will be lowered, and that eventually life will normalise again.

The impact on these measures is far reaching, as tens of thousands of people could lose their jobs, students at schools and colleges have their studies interrupted, families and loved ones might not be able to meet together for special events such as weddings and funerals, and churches could be forced to close their doors for a period. Economically, many companies and individuals will struggle to survive. The world has been brought to a virtual standstill because of a little germ that is passed on from one to another.

It is my reflection that the Gospel is just the opposite to the Coronavirus but equally contagious! As we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus again this year in 2020, I am confident that the message of the gospel is something that cannot be contained, that cannot be suppressed, but that has the power to spread like a virus to the whole world. It is news that can change people's lives for ever, providing hope for the future, bringing peace instead of turmoil, joy instead of sadness and despair, love instead of hatred, freedom instead of bondage, forgiveness instead of revenge. The message that is striking to me at this Easter time is "Go and Tell". Let the message spread far and wide, so that all peoples everywhere can experience life in all its fullness.

Please recall with me that morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary made their way to the tomb in order to embalm Jesus's body with the necessary spices. They were met on the way by an angel who assured them: "Jesus is not here, he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples..." This was not a new instruction.

When Jesus first called the disciples to follow him, we are told that he sent them out with certain instructions, one of them

being: "As you go, proclaim this message: 'the kingdom of heaven has come near'". Before leaving his disciples to go into heaven, he said to them (and to us) in Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." Paul continued this theme in 2 Timothy 4:2 "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."

The time is here for us to be "contagious Christians", allowing the good news of the gospel to be passed on to everyone with whom we come in contact. At this time, there are people who are afraid, who are uncertain, some might even be displaying symptoms of illness, some have lost hope, others might have lost their jobs or their loved ones. What the world needs now is Jesus. We have so many opportunities right now in this modern day of technology, to be more contagious Christians than ever before. The Easter message is one of hope. We have a risen Saviour, a living Lord, a message better than any other, and we need to get this news out.

How can we do this at a time when we are not encouraged to meet together, and many are confined to our homes? By using whatever means of communication that is available to us. Use social media to support and encourage people in these days, use our phones, e-mail, and show love in action in our communities and amongst our neighbours. Let's continue to be The Salvation Army during this difficult time, reaching out to people without discrimination. Be a contagious Christian!



XXIX QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY WOMEN PRE-ASSEMBLY

I was privileged to attend XXIX Quadrennial Assembly women Pre-Assembly-2020, which was conducted on 23rd -25th January, at NCCI campus, Nagpur Maharashtra. The theme was "The hour has come; Let us get going peace Ambassadors: Women Praxis"



The Seminar was started with the keynote address by Rev. Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary, NCCI. The main topics taken were "Culture of Violence",

"Challenges we face", "Lost voices: let us be their voice", "Conflict resolution skills: Becoming Ambassadors of change" "Leadership development," "Let's be the movement of change: planning for the

church today". "Fellowship of Least Coin (FLC), "Getting Ready for the Hour: planning for the way ahead". The main speaker was Rev.Papiya Durairaj and Mrs.Alyama Thomas, Ms.Shiluisnla Janiar, Rev Jyothi also took different subjects. Really it was a time of sharing and understanding more about each member churches of NCCI.

Being the representatives of The Salvation Army, Major Santhi Babu and I proudly presented the women ministry activities of The Salvation Army. Thank God for this opportunity and blessings. ■

Major Evama Shaijuraj
Editor, India South Western Territory

PRAYER HALL DEDICATION - INDIA CENTRAL TERRITORY



In Ithanagar, Tenali Division newly constructed Prayer Hall was dedicated by Commissioner Wilfred Varughese Territorial Commander, on 1st February 2020. Prayer Hall was constructed with the support of USA Eastern Territory and, by the local contributions. It is a 3-stair building which has community hall and church with a balcony. One thousand Five hundred soldiers, officers and friends were attended to this great occasion. This meeting was Presided over by Major K. Raja Kumari, DDWM. Territorial Commander delivered the message from the Bible 2nd Chronicles 7: 12 – 16. He focussed on the temple of God and His

presence, and, he encouraged the people to Humble thy self in front of the God. Pray and Seek God's face, and Turn from the World. People were blessed by this encouraging message. While Territorial Commander invited people to the mercy seat, 45 people came and rededicated their lives to Jesus the saviour. The Local officers expressed their gratitude, TC hailed their services. The people of Tenali expressed their great Joy for the opening of Biggest church. The divisional staff, Corps officers Captains Venkata Rao and Naga Leela, Local Officers, Soldiers and friends did their good efforts for the success. We praise and thank God for his blessings. I request all the readers to kindly pray for this corps. ■

Major. K. David Paul
Divisional Secretary
Tenali Division, India Central Territory

Notification Regretted

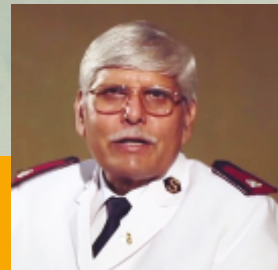
National Youth Congress

Dear Youngsters,

We are much regretted to notify you through this War Cry, that the National Youth Congress planned from 24-27th April 2020, has been postponed, in view of the outrage of Corona Virus. We will keep you informed on the revised dates. Kindly continue your spirit and pray earnestly for the Congress and as well as the deadly Virus that it would cause no harm to any human being. ■

Colonel John Kumar Dasari
National Executive Officer

SEEKING FOR THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD



Lt. Colonel Joginder Masih
Chief Secretary, India South Western Territory

Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, while in human body was extremely tortured, bruised, broken and finally died at the Cross for the remission of sins of this wicked world. He was buried and miraculously raised from the dead. This is the Almighty God Himself Who did this miracle. This made everyone astonished. The resurrection of Jesus provided golden opportunity for everyone to think of their relation with the Living God. For those found sinners, the access of the ever presence of the Redeemer who is faithful and just to forgive their sins and purify them from all unrighteousness, helps to restore their right relationship with God through faith. The resurrection of Jesus Christ made access to Almighty, the forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus has become active who found Him as their Lord and Saviour. The transformation of human kind transforming into New Creation leaving sinful ways of life and following righteous ways to live in this world as children of God.

The four Gospels tell how several women including Mary Magdalene found the tomb of Jesus to be empty when they visited to anoint his body with spices and oil. They met with an angel who told them that Jesus was not there, he had been raised from the dead.

The Physician Luke narrates that women found the stone rolled away from the entrance of the tomb and they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus there. When they were thinking about this, suddenly

two men in white glowing clothes were found near to them. The women were frightened but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead?' He is not here in the tomb, he has risen from the dead. They were reminded of Jesus' prediction of his death and rising from the dead. Finally, they remembered what Jesus told them of his death and rising from the dead.

The apostles did not believe the message of the resurrection of Lord Jesus, they considered it like an idle tale. But Peter initiated to go and see the reality. He did not find anything else other than the linen clothes that were lying and he was much wondered at what had happened.

The resurrection of Jesus was witnessed through his appearances to Peter, to the twelve disciples, to five hundred at the same time, then to James and all apostles and last of all to Paul on his way to Damascus. Then onward he appeared and is appearing everyday to thousands and thousands of people in the world. The people in the world are being transformed by the Gospel and becoming new creatures in the Lord.

Jesus Christ became the only born rising from the dead providing assurance of the resurrection of the dead. It revived the relation of the Son (Jesus Christ) with the Father (the Lord God). It made the saying of Jesus Christ true as He says in John 14:6 of the Way, the Truth and the Life and John 8:12 of the light of the world. It makes us confident that only He possesses all power and authority in heaven and on earth. He died once and rose again the dead to live for eternity.

Like Saul once followed the way that we follow in our own lives doing what was displeasing to God. Saul was encountered by the resurrected Jesus in the Spirit and

was transformed as Paul to be persecuted for the faith he was destroying by confessing and preaching.

Paul tells of resurrected body as imperishable body, it is not to be decayed, it is not to suffer like perishable ones. The resurrected body is in its original state – in the spirit to live with God the Father for eternity as God Himself is Spirit.

While in the perishable body one has to suffer because of his own decisions whether it is for this wicked world or for God and His kingdom. Jesus has talked about the narrow way and the broad way. Narrow way represents God's ways which is always troublesome but the broad one is with many options ending with the endless punishment.

After Jesus had appeared to his disciples he told them in Luke 24:49, 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.' This promise was fulfilled in Acts 2:2-4.

Jesus, the risen Lord, is found when sought for earnestly being dead to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the proud of living in this world. The cravings of this world are dead and Jesus is not among the dead. Jesus is with them who are pure in heart and love God and who are humble and who treat others in a way they want others to treat them.

May this Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus transform the lives of those empty from His grace – from perishable to imperishable lives – from their own ways, the cravings of this world to the ways of the Spirit of God.

CHILD'S TOOTH MONEY LEADS TO OPENING OF NEW POP-UP HOSTEL IN LONDON, UK

MALACHI Place, a brand-new centre to help tackle homelessness in Ilford, East London, has opened its doors this week to support those in need of a roof over their heads. The initiative is a joint £5 million (\$6.4 million) venture by The Salvation Army and the London Borough of Redbridge Council. The building is made up of 42 self-contained flats, finished and decorated to provide safe and comfortable homes. It is the first of its kind in the UK to target rough sleepers who have no recourse to public funds.

The accommodation has been named in recognition of Malachi Justin, a 10-year-old boy who became concerned about people sleeping rough in the area. When his first baby tooth fell out at the age of five, Malachi gave his £5 'tooth fairy' money to the local Salvation Army, along with a note asking them to spend it on helping homeless people.

Five years later, this little boy's dream of a better future for rough sleepers is a reality with the opening of new pioneering homeless complex on Monday 24 February. Malachi was an invited guest as the first residents moved into their new accommodation.

Now 10, he says: 'I can't believe it has actually happened and we have built a home for the homeless! I'm really happy that The Salvation Army used my money to do this. No one should have to sleep on the streets. Everyone should have a home. I'm still only 10 but I know that homelessness is getting worse, but this shows there is something we can all do to help.'

Captain John Clifton, The Salvation Army's leader in Ilford, adds: 'Malachi's donation and note really challenged us to do more for the people forced to sleep rough in Ilford. For many years we have offered emergency shelter to Ilford's street community and, while we could offer food and shelter, we knew it wasn't enough.

'People end up sleeping rough for lots of

complex reasons and it could be anything from job loss or poor health to addiction. Malachi gave us the focus to think about how we could build homes and provide support to get residents back to independent living.

'It is our ambition to see it replicated in other parts of the country. If Malachi can start this from just £5, others can follow his path.'

Councillor Jas Athwal, Leader of the London Borough of Redbridge Council which generously paid the construction costs, says: 'It is fantastic that Malachi Place is now up and running – a groundbreaking joint initiative to help tackle homelessness for those with no recourse to public funds.

'It is so rewarding to see how an idea that we first put forward ... at a council committee has finally reached fruition. I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has played a part in helping make this vision become a reality. There is absolutely no reason why people in modern society should be faced with the prospect of sleeping rough. That is why we will continue our efforts to eliminate rough sleeping in the London Borough of Redbridge.'

Among the first residents moving into Malachi Place will be Frank Wrona, aged 40, a recovering addict originally from the north of England who has been sleeping rough on and off for three years. Since taking control of his addictions, Frank has been desperate to find a place to live and get a permanent job. Frank shares: 'I just want to get settled and move on with my life so getting a room at Malachi Place gets me one step closer to achieving that.'



Malachi Place will provide year-round accommodation and support for people who have been sleeping rough. The Salvation Army will provide specialist 24-hour on-site support for residents to help them deal with the many issues that led them to sleeping rough, like domestic violence, childhood trauma, relationship breakdown, as well as mental ill health.

The flats were fitted out off-site and lifted into position by crane to create the four-storey building. Each unit has a bed/sitting room with its own cooking facilities and private toilet and shower. There is also a bicycle workshop which will open in May where residents can learn skills to help them find a job.

The site is also the first place that The Salvation Army met when it came to Ilford in 1886, using a rented room above Gilderson's Funeral Directors at 1a Chadwick Road.

As well as the initial £5 from Malachi, The Salvation Army has received support for the project from a number of organisations and charitable trusts including All Churches Trust. The trust funded the fit-out and furnishings for the new homes, and also prepared personalised welcome hampers for every resident. ■

**From a report by the
United Kingdom Territory
with the Republic of Ireland**

TRAINING THE TRAINERS – CHILD PROTECTION SEMINAR, INT

Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am very happy to inform you that the Training the Trainers – Child protection Seminar was held on 17th and 18th February 2020 at HRD Center, Batala conducted by International Child protection Department was a very productive and helpful Seminar. 30 delegates who are involved in Children Ministry as Hostel In-charge, DYS, Corps Officers, TYS, Sunday School teachers and school teachers attended the Seminar. Colonel John Kumar Dasari National Executive Officer, Major Jashiben Khristi Child Protection Specialist for India were the resource persons.

Secretary for Social Services introduced and welcomed the resource persons and the delegates. The Seminar was inaugurated by Colonel John Kumar Dasari. The purpose of this two days training was to prepare the delegates to help in development of Children and make them aware of the laws provided for their protection and about their rights. During the seminar different topics like seven standards of International Child Protection Policy, forms of child abuse, importance of child development and care



of children with disability were taught through videos and different illustrations. Delegates actively took part in the Group discussions and shared different points to know about the children, their problems and tackle them very carefully and with love. Delegates were made aware that sometimes they discourage kids by comparing them with others and forcing them to follow elders visions and these things disturb them mentally. The seminar inspired the delegates to be very sensitive

and loving towards the children and encourage them to grow and stand strong for their rights.

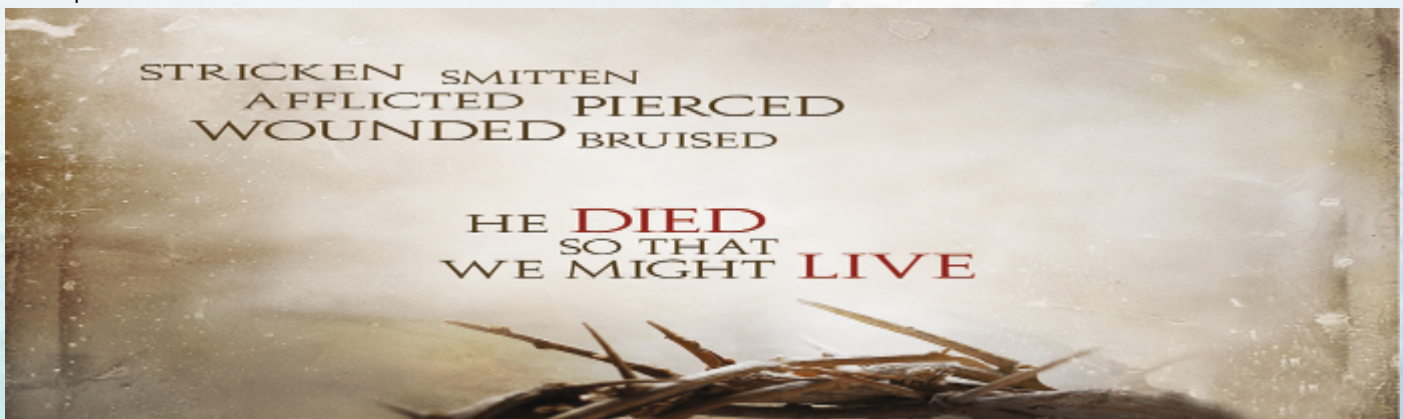
The delegates shared their experience and feedback at the end of the seminar. We thank God for the fellowship that they shared and were inspired to use the teachings of the seminar to help and protect the Children. Appreciation Certificates were distributed to the delegates to encourage them.

I thank the Territorial Leaders for helping in every possible way for the success of the Seminar and I thank the Lord Almighty for guiding and helping us throughout this Seminar.

May God Bless us all. ■



Major Makhan Masih
Secretary for Social Services
THQ, New Delhi
India Northern Territory



IF CHRIST HAD NOT BEEN RAISED!

During the 'Lent' we meditate the teachings, cross, suffering and death of Jesus Christ. It helps us to strengthen our faith and grow deeper in Christian life. Christian foundation is based on faith in Lord Jesus Christ. Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important for us to strengthen our 'faith' in Jesus and to continue to live Christ Centred life. We are all celebrating Easter every year. As we celebrate Easter can we ask this question to our self. If Christ had not been raised what could/would happen? Can you imagine what is our position? It's very hard to think what the result will be if there is no resurrection and hard to answer. We can't imagine our life without Resurrection.

If Christ had not been raised there is NO SALVATION (NO REDEMPTION):

It's true if there was no Resurrection, surely there will be no Salvation. Salvation comes through the Lord Jesus Christ. He came into this world to accomplish a specific mission that is 'to save his people from their Sin' (Matthew 1:21). The 6th Doctrine of The Salvation Army says, 'We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has by His suffering and death made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will be saved'. If he had not been raised from the dead, there will be no meaning for 'Atonement

for Sin' and no meaning for Salvation. We praise God because of Jesus raised from the death we were redeemed from the power of sin and we made alive.

If Christ had not been raised there is NO HOLINESS:

God is Holy, and he wants his people to be Holy. Holiness is not something which we can possess by doing some rituals such as pilgrimage, giving charity, doing good things, or even dip ourselves in to the water. Holiness comes from the Lord. First step to attain holiness is Salvation and without Salvation no one can be Holy. After accepting Jesus, we need to lead a life pleasing God. We are called a Holy nation, chosen people, royal priesthood. If Christ was not raised, we cannot be called as holy people. Holiness is impossible without the Resurrection of Lord Jesus Christ.

If Christ had not been raised NO ETERNAL LIFE:

Jesus said "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6). Eternal life is the goal for every God's person. To achieve the Eternal Life there is only one Way that is Jesus Christ. To

Colonel Daniel Raju Dasari
Territorial Commander
India Northern Territory



redeem us from the bondage of Sin and to give eternal life he came into this world and he suffered, died and rose again. If there is no resurrection, we do not have any hope of eternal life. "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one" John 10:28-30.

Can we celebrate Easter without accepting him as our personal saviour, without living holy life and without preparing our self for eternal life?

We need to celebrate Easter as it reminds us, we are redeemed from the power of Sin, we can live a Holy Life and we will inherit the eternal life. May this Easter bring you closer to the Lord and Celebrate his victory over sin and death.

I WISH YOU A MEANINGFUL EASTER ■

Hope in TIMES OF DISAPPOINTMENTS

This world is full of pain and agony. People are facing lot of troubles, depression, financial and health problems in their lives. Most of the people lost their hope in their lives. Amrita Preetam a poetess says, 'If there is great dark clouds in the sky, but you should not forget that there is sun behind the dark clouds. Hope is a pillar of faith. It is a pillar which hold our desired dreams.

Paul encouraged his people, "Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be". Romans 4: 18 It remained me about life of Abraham who is called "Father of Nations"

Abraham said that O' Sovereign LORD, What can you give me since? I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus? Genesis 15:2. LORD reminded Abraham to become strong in his hope and faith. God said to him that this man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir, He took him outside and said "Look up at the heavens and count the stars, if indeed you can count them then he said to him "so shall yours offspring be" While Abraham was ninety nine years old, God revealed and confirmed his covenant with him. Genesis 17: 1 - 2

One day Abraham has seen three persons are coming toward his tent. He ran and brought them to his tent and provided delicious food and accepted Guest as God (Atithi Devo Bhav) The Lord said, I will surely return to you about this time next year and Sarah your wife will have a son... Then the Lord said



Lieut. Colonel Raj Kumar
Secretary for Programme Administration
India Northern Territory

to Abraham, why did Sarah laugh and say, Will I really have a child, now that I am old? Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have as son. Genesis 18: 1 - 15

God did miracle, Abraham and Sarah were blessed with son Isaac. One day God appeared to Abraham and said take your only son, Isaac asked whom you love and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on mountains. The next morning Abraham got up early and saddled his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac and traveled three days. Abraham said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you" We know that God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. After sacrificing of his son he has to come back alone. There is a great mystery in this text. Abraham had a great hope in God that is the reason, he said that we will worship and then we will come back. He used the plural word "we" instead of "I"

On the way Isaac said to his father, " the fire and wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering" But with great courage and faith in God, he answered to his son, " God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering". When Abraham and Isaac reached on

that mountain which God has shown to Abraham. He built an altar and bound his son and laid on the altar. He reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angle of the LORD called out to him from heaven, Abraham, Abraham. Lord said to him, do not lay your hand on the boy. ... Now I know that you fear God because you have not withheld from me your son. Abraham looked and saw a lamb, caught up by its horns. He went and took lamb and scarified it as a burnt offering instead of his son Isaac. He called that place; The LORD will provide. Genesis 22 :1 - 14

Whenever we go through the times of disappointments in our lives we should follow the example of Abraham who became obedient to God which counted for him as righteous. We should look beyond this world with hope and faith in Christ. The Apostle said to Jesus, Increase our faith. He replied, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it will obey you. Luke 17: 5 - 6 May God bless you.

THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

We preach Christ crucified" – I Cori 1:23. With the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross, it became a symbol of triumph, honor and blessings as well. As a matter of fact, above all else, cross is considered to be a victory symbol over death as Christ defeated death on the cross.

That has been attributed in the first and foremost utterance of Christ on the cross that, "Forgive them for they do not know what they do" – Luke 23:34. Patience and tolerance are the hall-mark of a true Christian. Christ is the last example for showing patience; and from his life we may be able to understand that he has always been patient, never retaliated nor taken revenge of. We too need to follow this divine example in our spiritual life.

Unless we are patient, its reaction on the human body would be detrimental to health and in course of time, it may cause develop tension that may give rise to heart disease. The state of not having peace of mind may result in mental disorder and those who fall victim to it may not be strong enough to face the problems of life.

Lack of patience gives birth to anger that paves the way for unwanted incidents which kill better human relationships. In this regard, Paul gives us a wise counsel, "Be angry, and do not sin, do not let the sun go down on you wrath" – Ephe 4:26. Patience is not a weakness; on the contrary, it is an indication of spiritual maturity. James exhorts us with his word, "Therefore be patient brethren until the coming of the Lord" – James 5:7

The message of the Cross is the message of love. It is demonstrated in Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love towards us, in that which we were

still sinners Christ died for us". The compelling force that inspired Jesus to be a sacrifice on the cross was his boundless love for mankind. Jesus always moved with love and compassion; his life and teaching contain these qualities Gods divine love for mankind is termed as "agape" that means love without condition or limit.

The message of the cross is the message of peace which stands reflected in the verse Colossians 1:2, "having made peace through the blood of his cross". Jesus is the "Prince of peace" and there will be no end for his peace" – Isaiah 9:6, 7. Again Jesus says in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, not as the world gives". Worldly peace is short - lived while peace that Jesus gives is long – standing.

Psychologists are of the view that those who are constantly involved in spiritual affairs with peace of mind, devoid of tension and worry, will have a long life compared to others.

The message of the Cross is bringing man nearer to God: This is clearly reflected in I Peter 3:18 which says, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the spirit".

In the garden of Eden, man was separated away from God and followed his own way rejecting God, but by the death of Jesus a new way was set in to return to God and that is why Jesus declared, "I am the way". The death of Jesus made personal relationship with God, took man nearer to God, "But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off, have been made nearer by the blood of Christ" – Eph 2:13

The message of the Cross is the message of self – denial : Christ himself denied on the cross and became a sacrifice for others. He had broken himself for the good of others" But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our

iniquities....."- Isaiah 53:5. The death of Christ gives us a very significant message that, we who are his followers should deny ourselves and do good for others. In Mark 8:34, Jesus gives the instruction, "Whoever desires to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me"

The message of the Cross is the message of reconciliation: Man who became alien to God, consequent to his sin of disobedience had really lost the presence of God and good relationship and in order to regain it or to have reconciliation; the death of Christ came to be the wholesome remedy. In other words, Christ is the mediator, "But we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation."- Romans 5:11

The message of the Cross is the message of transformation: The convict who was crucified along with Christ got transformed in the presence of Christ. The message of the cross will transform you too if you believe in him. It is powerful enough to transform your whole life style, thinking, attitude, word, deed, whole personality." If one is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things have been new"- II Cori 5:17. Here in this verse, the phrase "new creation" denotes transformation.

The message of the Cross is the message of power: "He was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God"- 2 Corinthians 13:4. Very often in our life, when we are entangled or encircled by problems, we get weak and powerless, and in such a position, trust in Christ with all confidence is must; if so he will lead the way.

General William Booth had to face a very critical moment when he had to leave the Methodist New Connexion and he had nothing with him except his trust and confidence in Christ. Paul emphatically says" I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" – Phil 4:13. Paul received power from Christ to accomplish his obligation.

"The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the POWER OF GOD" – I Corinthians 1:18. ■



Dr. P.J. Abraham
M.A, B.Ed, BD, M.Div, DD, PhD
India South –Western Territory

WORKSHOP ON CANDIDATES POST COMMISSIONING PROGRAMME - KOLKATA

The national level workshop on candidates and post commissioning programme was held in Kolkata from 25th to 27th February 2020 at the Salvation Army Red Shield Guest House. This workshop was conducted by Human Resource Development for India, under the leadership of Colonel John Kumar Dasari National Executive Officer supported by Colonel Mani Kumari Dasari Secretary for Women's Development and Major Samson Macwan Secretary for HRDI, theme of this workshop was RECONSTRUCTING ARMY'S CANDIDATES AND POST COMMISSIONING PROGRAMMES IN INDIA. From all the six Indian territories twenty-five delegates comprising of all the Secretaries for Personnel, Training Principals, Candidate Secretaries and Human Resource Development Secretaries and an invited advocate Ms. Priyadarshini Palmer participated in this workshop.

The inaugural session of the workshop was conducted by Colonel John Kumar Dasari and Mani Kumari Dasari. The main subjects discussed and taught were:

1.Role of Personnel / Training Principal /



HRD / Candidate Secretaries in processing candidates and lieutenants.

2. The Candidates Contact period and its process further.

3. The present post commissioning Programme in India.

4. Modernization of the Post Commissioning Programme

5. Who are Candidates? An introduction to the candidate application process.

6. The need of Christian Management in the Army.

7. The challenges on getting candidates from urban areas

This workshop was indeed a blessing for all the delegates present as valuable and vital knowledge was shared. A comforting sight-seeing program was also organized for all the delegates in which various famous and historical places in Kolkata were visited. This workshop does assure fruitful outcomes in the days ahead. ■

Major Darvin Christian
Training Principal, Anand, IWT
Major Jeeva Ratnam
HRD Secretary- Chennai- ICT

ONE DAY CHILD PROTECTION SEMINAR FOR GIRLS - ISWT

The Seminar took place on February 01, 2020, in Trivandrum Central Corps. It was organised in the context of increasing child abuse rates in the country and it was aiming to provide safety precautions. The main objectives were to:

- » Provide awareness on Child abuse & Child Protection
- » Teach self defence tricks and techniques
- » Make them confident

The Seminar was organised into two main sessions. The morning session started with inaugural address of Territorial Commander, Colonel Nihal Hettiarachchi. Territorial Commander emphasised the biblical importance of Child protection and Salvation Army's



role safeguarding the children under our care. Mr. Jobi Kondoer, District Childline Coordinator and Child Protection Trainer taken an awareness class on Child abuse and Child protection.

The afternoon session was dedicated to practical sessions involving participants of the seminar. Kerala Police self defence team comprising of Mrs. Sulfath, Mrs. Jain Mary, Mrs. Aneesben led the afternoon

sessions. There were presentations was including practical class on self defence tricks and techniques. It has equipped participants to take safety precautions on road /travelling, home, school, public places and while using internet & Social media. This program was very helpful to get fundamental aware of self defence besides lift up their ability and confidence to protect themselves against physical attack.

The closing Session was conducted by Lt. Colonel Saju Daniel, Secretary for programme.

There were 90 girls, 35 Parents and Officers from 4 southern Divisions and Trivandrum Central Corps people. Organized by the Child Protection Department of THQ. ■

Major Sonia Jacob
Child Protection Officer &
Project Secretary, ISWT



THE WAR CRY

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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."

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

PROMOTION TO GLORY OF LT. COLONEL CEDRIC SHARP

We regret to inform you the promotion to Glory of the Lieutenant Colonel Cedric Sharp.

The reason for this notification is Lieutenant Colonel Cedric Sharp was appointed to India for many years (as per the schedule below – which may not be entirely accurate as record keeping in those days was not a strong point in India or in U.K.) and we are sure there are many people in India who will remember Lieutenant Colonels Cedric and his wife Barbara.

1970 – 1971	➤ Leprosy Hospital, Bapatla, ICT
1972 – 1979	➤ CB Hospital, Nagercoil, ISE Territory
	➤ Established Chaplaincy Department
	➤ Establishing Accounts Department of the newly formed ISE Territory
	➤ TYS, ISE Territory
1984 - 1990	➤ Social Services & Projects Officer, ISW Territory
	➤ Training Principal, Nagercoil, ISE Territory
1990 - 1991	➤ Training Principal Central Training College

Colonel Sharp retired in 2006 as the Chief Secretary of Pakistan Territory and in between the above appointments in India, served in Sri Lanka Territory.

Colonel Sharp was well known for his love of the South Asia people but India was always close to his heart as is shown by an incident which happened on the last day of his life:

He was due to enrol a young Indian lady (resident in the U.K.) as a soldier when, suddenly, on the way to the corps his health deteriorated rapidly. They wanted to take him straight to the hospital but he insisted that he was going to enrol the young lady – come what may. The enrolment took place and then Colonel was taken to hospital – he died just under 24 hours later.

Major George Scott, who you may know also spent much of his officership in India, gave the tribute to Colonel Sharp at his funeral which was held on 22nd January and we are pleased to say that some visitors from Nagercoil were able to be at the funeral together with Commissioner Paul du Plessis and Major (Dr.) Herb Radar who, himself, was Chief Medical Officer of Catherine Booth Hospital, Nagercoil for several years.



Denise Draycott
Administrative Secretary
South Asia

God's Champions

Luke

CHECK OUT
YOUR BIBLE -
LUKE 1:1-4;
ACTS 1:1 and 2



GOD'S CHAMPIONS 9

LUKE

LUKE WAS A DOCTOR.

AAAAAH

HE WAS ALSO A GOOD FRIEND OF PAUL.

OUCH!

I'VE GOT THIS PAIN IN MY SIDE - LIKE I'M BEING PRICKED BY A THORN OR SOMETHING.

WHAT'S WRONG?

HERE, LET ME SEE.

LUKE TRAVELLED WITH PAUL ON MANY OF HIS ADVENTURES.

HERE, PAUL, DRINK THIS. IT'LL HELP YOU FEEL BETTER.

LUKE SPENT TIME WITH JESUS' DISCIPLES TOO.

THIS ONE TIME, IN CAPERNAUM, PEOPLE WITH ALL KINDS OF ILLNESSES CAME TO JESUS AND HE HEALED THEM ALL.

WOW! THAT'S AMAZING! I HAVE TO WRITE THIS DOWN.

IT WAS INCREDIBLE! I KNEW YOU'D LIKE THAT ONE.

I'VE GOT TO WRITE ALL THIS DOWN AND TELL OTHER PEOPLE. I KNOW, 'DEAR THEOPHILUS...'

THROUGH HIS LETTERS LUKE WROTE THE BIBLE BOOKS LUKE AND ACTS.

The Kids Alive! Bible page follows Scripture Union's Light programme

Courtesy: Salvationist Justin Reeves / John MacGregor

LIVING IN THE FAITH OF RESURRECTION

Captain Charles Chalrimawia, India Eastern Territory



Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed!

There is no other exciting event for Christian than to have witness and celebrate Easter. The joy comes in the morning with an affirmation that the "Jesus" who was crucified has been raised from death to live forever – Thomas Kelly put in his song:

O joyful sound! O glorious hour
When Christ by his almighty power
Arose and left the grave!
Now let our songs his triumph tell
Who broke the chains of death and Hell,
And ever lives to save. (SASB 229 v1)

The first Christian devotion to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of the bread and the prayers was made possible, above all by the living power of the Risen Jesus. This power is living still today and Christians are witnessing to this. Whatever the difficulties of the present days in which we find ourselves –

however much it feels like Gethsemane and Golgotha – we know in faith that all is made new by the truth of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

If we look closer to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Light and Hope of the Resurrection changes everything. As Isaiah prophesized, it is the transformation of darkness into light; it is an enlightening for all people. The power of the Resurrection shines out from Jerusalem, the place of the Lord's Passion, and draws all nations to its brightness, into light, the Light of Faith in Resurrection. This is a new life, in which violence, injustice, discrimination is put aside, and security found in salvation and praise.

This passing from the terrors of death into a new life is the defining reality of all Christians. For as Paul teaches, we have entered into the tomb with Christ and been raised with Him. We have died with

Christ, and live to share his risen life. What a privilege we have as a body of believer of Christ that we have all experienced the marvelous works of God in our lives. To be truly grateful for these blessings, we must not only give thanks for that which we have received, but share the news of our Hope in our community, with other believers and even extend it to the other faith, that is the Resurrection Faith with others – living our faith out.

As we celebrate Easter, may we unite together to break down the barriers of diversity, oppression, marginalization and vulnerability, and reflect the presence of God's saving and resurrection power among us. Let us focus on making our lives, our homes, our communities and our corps/church to be places to share the Hope of Faith in Resurrection. ■

THE BLESSINGS OF

Good Friday AND EASTER



Colonel John Kumar Dasari, National Executive Officer, India National Office

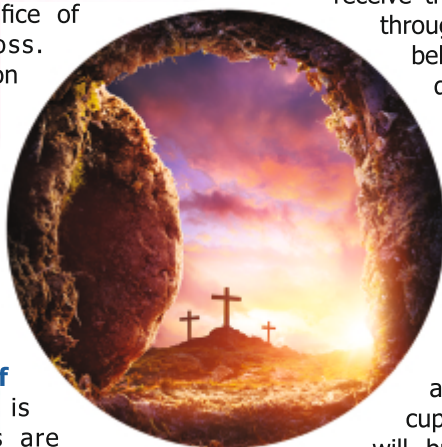
This month marks two significant days in the Christian calendar namely Good Friday and Easter. Each of this day brings many blessings and, we Christians will be looking for the same.

Good Friday: commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death on the cross of Calvary. Many people may question, when good man was killed how we shall call it 'Good Friday'. Many Christians observe 40 Lenten days fasting and meditating on the lent. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Specially in Salvation Army congregations this is the time of revival among our soldiers. This remains an expressible blessing in our lives.

A promise of atonement: God is holy, and humans are sinful by the nature of birth, holiness is incompatible with sin, so the sin of human beings separates from God. The punishment for sin is eternal death. Atonement requires a perfect, spotless sacrifice, offered in just the right way. No human or animal sacrifice will take away the sin. So, one who is holy and blameless need to give away his life as an atonement. Jesus is the

lamb of God who is unblemished for the atonement. This atonement brings redemption of our sins. This atonement gives us courage to stand in the holy presence of the Almighty God.

A promise of Forgiveness: We believe that Jesus Christ is the one and only perfect God and perfect Man, that his death provided the perfect atoning sacrifice for sin and that through Jesus, our own sins are forgiven. Consequently, when we accept Jesus Christ's payment for sin, he washes away our sins and restores our right standing with God; God's mercy and grace make salvation possible and we receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. These beliefs explain why the day of Jesus' crucifixion is considered as "Good" Friday.



Crucifixion is not very easy as we speak up. If we read Luke 22:42. He said, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." If Jesus didn't give up, you don't have to give up either. Look at Jesus' death in this way. He never gave up through His ultimate pain and suffering, so we shouldn't give up when times get difficult either. It teaches us to turn to God and ask for His help, the way Jesus asked God for help during His most desperate hour. He didn't want to endure this pain and even asked His

father to take away the cup of sorrow. Easter brings hope: During the crucifixion all the disciples got scattered, and some denied as if they didn't know Jesus. Some were very scared and hid themselves in the upper room in the house of Mark's Mother and praying God for their protection. The Jewish leaders went to the Governor Pilate and asked for sealing guarding the tomb. But the women were still waiting for the lord.

The Easter brings immortality of soul and eternal happiness:

We the Salvationist believe in the immortality of the soul, in the resurrection of the body, in the general judgement at the end of the world, in the eternal happiness of the righteous and in the endless punishment of the wicked.

We the salvationists are very clear about the eternal things through our doctrines. We are not confused, and we are even prepared for the blessing of the Easter as it is an evident promise to brings us hope that we will enjoy the blessing of eternal happiness of the righteous and resurrection of the body.

As we meditate up on the above let's concentrate on the Salvation and Sanctification of our soul, which may bring us eternal things in our favour. Let's enjoy the above blessings through this Good Friday and Easter as we prepare.

