



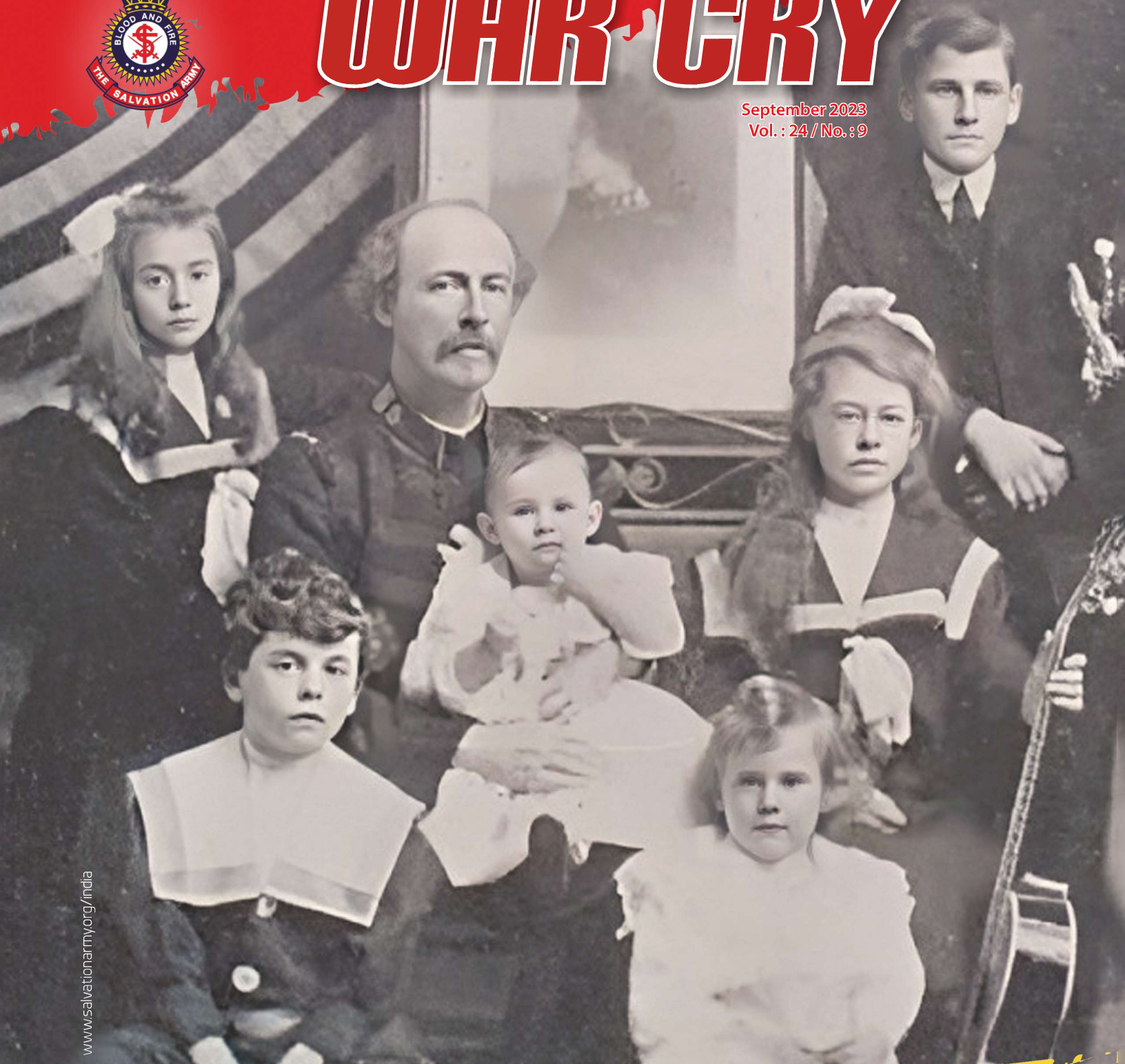
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**COMMISSIONER BOOTH TUCKER WITH HIS FAMILY
AFTER THE DEATH OF EMMA BOOTH (1903)**



Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Bible

Major Evama Shaijuraj, Editor

Artificial Intelligence is composed of two words Artificial and Intelligence, where Artificial defines "man-made," and intelligence defines "thinking power", hence AI means "a man-made thinking power." "It is a branch of computer science by which we can create intelligent machines which can behave like humans, think like humans, and be able to make decisions."

'Artificial intelligence (AI) is the ability of a computer, or a robot controlled by a computer to do tasks that are usually done by humans because they require human intelligence and discernment'. Artificial intelligence is the science of making machines that can think like humans. It can do things that are considered "smart." AI technology can process large amounts of data in ways, unlike humans.

"AI can create its own ideas", the Israeli author Yuval Noah Harari said. He compared the development of AI with that of the printing press. "The Gutenberg printing press printed as many Bibles as it was ordered to do. But it could not write a single new page." However, Harari said, "AI can do that. It can even write a new Bible."

'According to Harari, various religions invoke the supernatural way in which their holy book was created, be it the Bible or the Koran'. "In a few years, there may be religions that are actually correct," he said with a smirk. "Think of holy books written by AI. That could be a reality in a few years."

"We are almost like gods." Israeli was questioned about artificial intelligence. Christians responded with shock. "We have the power to create new life forms", says the Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari, "and destroy much of life on earth, including ourselves." Mr Harari's remarks caused unrest in Christian circles, and several media outlets wrote about it.

'AI, says Harari, 'is different from all other technologies because it can make decisions by itself. "Even an atomic bomb cannot decide which city to bomb. You always need a human to make the decision. But AI is the first technology to make decisions, even about us.'

"AI is one of today's most powerful technologies, with the potential to improve people's lives . . . At the same time, AI has the potential to dramatically increase threats to safety and security, infringe civil rights and privacy, and erode public trust and faith in democracy."—Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States, May 4, 2023.

May our God almighty help our generation to use technology to give glory to God and help our fellow beings!

As we prepare our minds and souls to celebrate the 141st Commemoration Day of Salvation Army work in India, let's remember our pioneer officers and soldiers who shed their blood and tears to build this great army of God!

Have a Blessed India Day! 



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International Secretary, South Asia, IHQ

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Walking Across the Floor: International Headquarters
welcomes General Lyndon Buckingham
and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham

Good Samaritan

Recently, as a family we have gone through a time of mourning. We lost our beloved, most loving and supportive brother, and uncle to my children. Sham was more than a blood relation to our family. He lived a very practical Christian life. From the time he began living on his own, he never got tired of helping others. He lived the life of the Good Samaritan, as described by Jesus in the gospel of Luke, chapter 10. Unfortunately, Sham had a tragic moment in his own life. He collapsed on the street and was lying there, unconscious, without a Good Samaritan to help him at that very crucial time, and he succumbed to death. We have no doubt that our brother is with the Lord. But it hurts me deeply to think that if a person passing by Sham at that very moment had shown some humanity and taken some steps to help, Sham's life could have been saved.

When I was reflecting on this in my devotions and prayer time, and reading the story Jesus told of the Good Samaritan, I realised what valuable teaching Jesus has given to us as his followers. It is my belief that God raised up the Salvation Army to raise up Good Samaritans to express God's love and care to the hurting people of the world. As soldiers of this God-raised Army, we have made a covenant with him. In the eighth promise of our Soldiers' Covenant, we promise to 'be faithful to the purposes for which God raised up the Salvation Army, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, endeavouring to win others to him, AND IN HIS NAME CARING FOR THE NEEDY AND THE DISADVANTAGED'. Jesus explains to us how we can practically fulfil this promise through the parable of the Good Samaritan.

As we are celebrating 141 years of God's faithful leading of this Army in India, since the time Fakir Singh – Booth-Tucker stepped out in obedience to God's calling to serve the people of India, serving in Jesus' Name, caring for the needy and disadvantaged without discrimination, it is the need of the hour more than ever before to take up this task with more commitment.

Day in and day out, we hear, see on social media, and sometimes personally witness how vulnerable people are victimised by injustice, violence, cruelty and inhumanity. It is necessary that we keep our commitment alive, which is only possible if

we understand what Jesus is telling us through the story of the Good Samaritan.

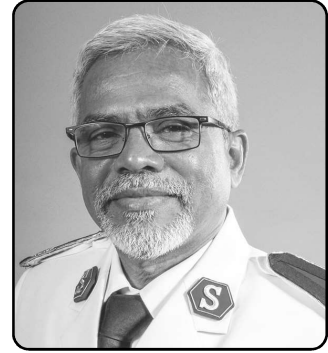
Always Keeping Open Our Eyes of Compassion. When the Samaritan saw the man who had been robbed, beaten and left half-dead on that lonely path, he took pity on him (Luke 10:33). In other words, he had compassion. It is possible to lose sight of people who are hurting and left to struggle without any help. There are many who just pass by showing no consideration. It should not be so with us. We should always keep our eyes of compassion open to reach out to help. Sometimes we are so busy with completing our priority list that we sideline those going through critical situations. Every human soul matters to God. As God's soldiers, souls in distress should matter to us too. Nothing is more important than to help those who are in need. This is only possible if we love God and look at others through his always-compassionate eyes.

If we ignore and do not give ourselves to helping those who suffer and need our help, then we don't have God's love in us (1 John 3:17). As God's chosen people, we should be clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience towards others (Colossians 3:12-13).

Always Be Willing to Take the Right Action at the Right Time. The Samaritan spontaneously did what was right and helpful for the suffering man. He went to the man and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him (Luke 10:34). Our covenant is only fulfilled when it is put into practice. In fact, having genuine compassion motivates us to act. Just as faith without action is dead, so also is compassion without action. Thus, we fail in fulfilling the promise we have made to God.

When God works in our lives, his good pleasure always works in and through us (Philippians 2:13). The Word of God points out that we sin against God when we know the right thing to do and we don't do it (James 4: 17). The opposite of this is if we do not lose heart and grow weary, but continue to do what is good and right.

The goodness in us does not wait but comes out every time we see that it's time to act. The Bible tells us to not love only with words



Commissioner Suresh Pawar
International Secretary for South Asia
IHQ-London

or speech but demonstrate our love with actions and in truth (1 John 3:18).

Always Willing to Bear the Cost. The Samaritan paid the expenses for the wounded man's stay at the inn, and for the cost of extra days for keeping and caring for him. Then Samaritan promised to return to the inn and reimburse any other expenses that would occur in providing care (Luke 10:35). Never leave the Job half Done.

The man robbed and left to die on the street was a complete stranger to the Samaritan, but that did not matter to him. What mattered to him was the life of that stranger; even willing to go the extra mile for him; willing to spend time, and willing to bear the financial cost. Jesus taught us that loving our own is not a big deal, but showing love to the unknown is considered precious in the eyes of God.

The Bible says, 'If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday' (Isaiah 58:10).

Helping others is a vital part of living faithfully. When we show compassion towards people in need, take the right action, and hold nothing back, it not only does good to the recipient, but it helps us grow deeper in God's love.

We are Soldiers of Compassion. Never forget it. Never forget that we are called to care for the disadvantaged. Let us always be active in our Christ-like love so that we are present in times of need, so that those who are left to struggle may find the Good Samaritan of Jesus' parable in us. Let's say "Yes!" when God presents us with opportunities to help.





Origin of the Salvation Army in India

Commissioner Manikumari Dasari

Territorial President for Women's Ministries
India South-Eastern Territory

Frederick St George De Latour Tucker of the India Civil Service, read a copy of the War Cry and commenced the Salvation Army ministry in Bombay on 19th September 1882 with three other members. Fedrick Tucker was born at Monghyr India on 2 March 1853. He was the son of William Thornhill Tucker, Deputy commissioner with the Indian civil Service and author of an English Persian dictionary. He was five years old when the Indian Mutiny broke out in 1857 in which native Indians, the British and many Christian Missionaries were killed.

While in England 1881, he read a copy of the War Cry magazine of the salvation Army and became a salvationist. Against the wishes of his wife Mary and his Parents, Tucker left the civil service and joined the salvation army in London and was posted to the Camberwell corps in July 1882. In September 1882 the news spread that the salvation army invades India. When the authorities in India heard that the salvation army was coming, they visualised the landing of a formidable force which might cause communal riots resulting in violence and bloodshed.

Consequently, the Mumbai police lined up in force on at Apollo Bunder for the Army's arrival, when the four salvation Army Officers on board the ship stepped ashore, the police superintendent approached, asking, when will the rest of your army land? Major Fedrick de Lautour replied We are the Whole Army.

Mission Work: The mission was to spread the gospel and teachings of the Salvation Army to the people of India. thousands attended the meetings in Mumbai. Tucker saw the Indian caste system as his main obstacle, and so he decided to work among Indian's sixty million outcasts. He and his fellow Salvationists adopted the way of life of the outcasts. They assumed Indian names. Tucker called himself as "Fakir Singh", meaning the Lion of God. Their Salvation Army uniforms were replaced with the saffron robes of the Indian Fakir, his cap was replaced with more appropriate head gear of the people, a turban, written across the turban on a red band was the word. Muktifauj which is interpreted as The Salvation Army's ongoing ambition to be the part of the communities within which it works. Fedrick's passion to live the mission got him into some trouble with the local authorities. Once, when a police officer interrupted an open-air meeting, shouting, in the name of her Majesty, queen of England and Empress of India, I order you to disperse, Frederick

retorted, In the name of Her Majesty, king of kings and Lord of Lords, I command you to stand aside, this response got him 30 days in prison.

Medical Work: Tucker's preaching of equality and salvation proved popular with the members of outcast society, many of whom were converted. The adoption of Indian food, dress, names, and customs gave the pioneer's ready access to the people especially in the villages. In addition to evangelistic work, various social programmes were inaugurated for the relief of distress from famine flood and epidemic. Educational facilities such as elementary, secondary, and industrial schools, cottage industries and settlements, were provided for the depressed classes. Medical work originated in Nagercoil in 1893, when Harry Andrews set up a dispensary at the headquarter there. The medical work has grown from this.

In 1919, suffering from ill health, Booth Tucker returned to England. He later worked as special Commissioner for India and Ceylon and as travelling Commissioner until his retirement in 1924. In 1920 Frederick Booth Tucker was admitted to the order of the Founder, The Salvation Army's Highest accolade for his work in India. 🏆

Finding hope and healing



Colonel Annamma Simon

Secretary for Women's Development
India National Office

The Value of Life According to the Bible

Central to the Bible's teachings is the idea that every life is sacred and valuable. Psalm 139:13-16 beautifully encapsulates this sentiment: *"For you created my inmost being you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."* (Psalm 139:13-16)

These verses emphasize the divine nature of human life and its purposefulness in God's plan.

Finding Hope in Difficult Times

In times of despair, individuals often find solace in the Bible's teachings of hope and perseverance. Romans 15:13 encourages us to seek hope through faith: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 15:13)

This verse reminds us that through trust in God, we can experience peace, joy, and an overflowing sense of hope.

Supportive Community and Compassion

The Bible encourages believers to support

and uplift one another. Galatians 6:2 emphasizes the importance of bearing one another's burdens: *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfil the law of Christ."* (Galatians 6:2)

Creating a compassionate and understanding community can significantly contribute to suicide prevention efforts.

Overcoming Despair through Faith

During moments of darkness, individuals can turn to the Bible for guidance on overcoming despair. Psalm 42:11 offers a message of courage: *"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God."* (Psalm 42:11)

This verse encourages individuals to place their trust in God, even when facing overwhelming challenges.

Combating suicide requires a multi-faceted approach that encompasses medical, psychological, and social interventions. For those with faith, biblical verses can provide a source of hope, strength, and healing. The Bible's messages of the sanctity of life, the value of community, and the power of faith can play a crucial role in suicide prevention efforts. However, it's essential to remember that while religion can be a valuable source of support, professional help should also be sought when dealing with mental health challenges. 🏠

Suicide is a tragic and complex issue that affects individuals, families, and communities worldwide. It's a deeply concerning problem that requires comprehensive approaches for prevention, including psychological, social, and spiritual support. For many people, religion can play a significant role in providing comfort, guidance, and hope during difficult times. In this article, we'll explore the topic of suicide prevention through the lens of biblical verses, highlighting the messages of hope, healing, and the value of life that the Bible offers.

Understanding Suicide and Its Impact

Suicide is a result of complex and often interconnected factors, including mental health struggles, social isolation, financial difficulties, and more. Its impact on individuals and families is profound, leaving behind emotional scars that can last for generations. Recognizing the signs of someone in distress and offering support is crucial.

**"Carry each
other's burdens,
and in this way,
you will fulfil
the law of
Christ."
(Galatians 6:2)**

Thy will be done.....

Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! I and Colonel Sumitra Masih extend our wishes and greetings on this auspicious occasion of celebrating 141 years of glorious ministry in India.

In a world full of inequality, poverty, and social disparity, our Salvation Army strive to uplift the marginalized and provide a glimmer of hope are truly remarkable. The Salvation Army stands as a shining example of s combining the power of the gospel message with impactful social action to create positive change in the lives of the poor, women, and underprivileged. Founded on principles of faith, compassion, and service, the Salvation Army's mission has reverberated across the globe, including in India, where its efforts have left an indelible mark on society.

The Significance of the Salvation Army's Work

The Salvation Army's journey in India has been marked by its unwavering commitment to serve those in need, inspired by the teachings of Jesus Christ. Its dual approach of sharing the gospel and engaging in practical social action has resulted in transformative impact. The Salvation Army's focus on uplifting the poor, empowering women, and supporting the underprivileged has brought about tangible improvements in the lives of countless individuals. I recall the services with respect to India Central territory, where we have celebrated our anniversary in the recent past, we acknowledge our pioneers for their restless efforts and continued mission and passion.

Uplifting the Poor

One of the cornerstones of the Salvation Army's work is the upliftment of the poor. Inspired by Jesus' teachings on love, compassion, and the responsibility to care for the less fortunate, the Salvation Army has consistently extended a helping hand to those in need. Through the four-fold ministry with a combination of evangelical, educational, social and medical ministry, the Salvation Army has provided much-needed relief to impoverished communities in upliftment and empowerment. The services not only attended the needs of the poor on a timely basis, but the services resulted for them to be self-reliant. "He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the

ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor." - Psalm 113:7-8

Prominent Indian leaders have recognized the impact of the Salvation Army's efforts. Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee stated, "The Salvation Army has exemplified compassion in action, extending help to the most vulnerable sections of society." This encouraging comment reflects the Salvation Army's dedication to addressing the root causes of poverty while symbolizing Christ's message of love and inclusivity.

Empowering Women

In a patriarchal society like India, empowering women is crucial for social progress. The Salvation Army's commitment to gender equality is deeply rooted in the teachings of Christ, who valued and respected women as equals. Through initiatives such as education, vocational training and community empowerment programmes that has wide range of services including counselling, care and protection, the Salvation Army has enabled women to break free from cycles of abuse and marginalization.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." - Galatians 3:28

I encourage you all to join with me in extending our praises to God for the Salvation Army's work in empowering women echoes across India's leadership landscape. Prominent feminist and social activist Kamla Bhasin noted, "The Salvation Army has championed the cause of women's empowerment, enabling them to reclaim their dignity and voice." By standing up for gender equality, the Salvation Army has not only changed individual lives but also contributed to a broader societal shift.

Supporting the Underprivileged

The underprivileged segments of society often lack access to basic necessities such as healthcare and education. The Salvation Army's commitment to social action is evident in its establishment of healthcare clinics, schools, and community centres. These institutions have been instrumental in bridging the gap between privilege and disadvantage. In our India central territory, the first community program was vocational training for the settlement groups enabling




Colonel Yaqoob Masih
Territorial Commander
India Central Territory

them to acquire skills that would benefit for their self-sufficiency. We have schools in Stuart Puram, Bapatla and other parts of territory serving over 120 plus years.

"Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble." - Psalm 41:1

Former Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, commended the Salvation Army's dedication to supporting the underprivileged, stating, "The Salvation Army's efforts in providing healthcare, education, and holistic support to marginalized communities are commendable and align with the spirit of our nation." This recognition underscores our ability to adapt our Lord and Saviour Christ's values to the diverse needs of India's society.

I am proud to be a Soldier and Officer in this great Army. I thank God for his great commission that encouraged me to serve the communities through this God's Army. The Salvation Army's remarkable work in India, fuelled by its commitment to gospel teachings and social action, stands as a testament to the power of faith-driven humanitarian efforts. Through the tireless efforts to uplift the poor, empower women, and support the underprivileged, the Salvation Army has not only improved individual lives but has also left an enduring impact on India's social lives. By living out the values of compassion, equality, and service, the Salvation Army continues to bring hope and transformation to the lives of those who need it the most.

As we recollect our commitment and commission, I encourage everyone to think how best we can still serve our needs while we stay connected to Christ and his teachings to live out our faith. May God bless you all. 



Lt. Colonel Andrews D. Christian
Chief Secretary, India Northern Territory

On September 19, 2023 we are going to celebrate the 142nd commence day of The Salvation Army in India. Major Fedrick-de-latur who was in the Civil service of India was attracted by the article of War Cry and went to London to see General William Booth. He joined The Salvation Army. Fedrick-de-Latur became "FAKIRSING" of India. He came with his party at Appollo port of Mumbai by ANCONA ship on September 19, 1882. He was accompanied by Major Henry Bularad, Captain Thomson and Captain Mary with musical instruments.

Major Fakirsing has work according to his commitment and dedication with his team and shown the seeds of SALVATION and we

Work Methodology

are the fruits of their work. It was not easy for Major Fedrick to adopt the culture of India and known as FAKIRSING. He has given three golden rules for his work methodology:

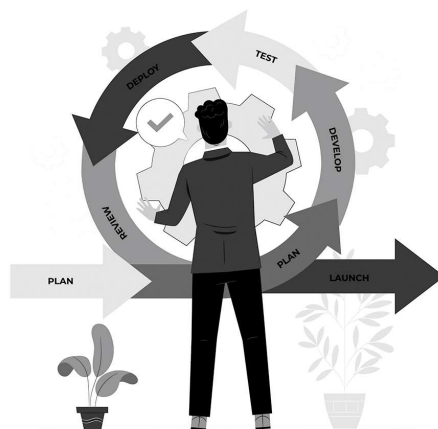
1. Haste without Hurry: Many times we have observed that people are in hurry. In this modern age people don't have free time. They are always found busy with many works. When we have to finish the work and the time is very short then we are always in hurry. We must do the work as

early as possible. We try to do the work as fast as possible. Many time we must set the priority for various works. We must learn how to give the priority.

2. Fight without Flurry: Our goal and objective of Fight must be cleared. We have to fight without difficulties. We have to fight for justice. We must know that what is our goal, purpose. What about our aim to win the souls. There should not be doubt in our fight. We have to fight with discipline. We have to fight without any shy. We have to fight on the base of truth. We have to fight for the eternal life.

3. Work without worry: We have to work without worry. We have to work without any tension. We have to develop our self-confidence. We have to work with faithfulness. We should not be harmful to others. We have to prepare mentally. We have to concentrate on our work.

Dear Friends, the above three golden rules are not easy to follow in our routine life. But if you focus on, definitely it will help you. God bless all the salvationist to fight the good fight of faith. 🏹



SINGER FESTIVAL - INDIA EASTERN TERRITORY

The first-ever Women Singers Festival of Praise was successfully held at Zemabawk Corps on 20th August 2023. The festival was organized under the theme "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord". Lt. Colonel Rani Phula Pradhan TSWM dedicated the festival by reading Psalm 33:1-3. Colonel Lalhlipuii TPWM delivered Bible messages based on the theme during

this festival of Holiness & Praise meeting.

Three songs were chosen for the festival. Each choir chose one of the songs and they performed incredibly well. 29 choirs participated in the festival, The total number of the choir members is 696, along with the THQ women officers and guests 752 people attended the meeting. Among the choir members, 100 of them were above the age of 60. Memento was also given to each group who participated in the festival.

The singer festival had a great impact on the Corps and women's ministries. Many of the young



women started participating in Church activities and they have been encouraged and motivated to contribute more to God's ministries. 🏹

India Eastern Territory



I am confident, God is with me in my way

Lieutenant Colonel Prakash Chandra Pradhan
Chief Secretary, India Eastern Territory



My honor to God and wanted to take this opportunity to share my experience that God is with me and I am blessed to serve in the India Eastern Territory. Bible Says "He will make you greater than all the other nations he made. He will give you praise, fame, and honour, and you will be a holy people to the LORD your God, (Deuteronomy 26:19).

It is God's Promise, and I have confident that "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.....(Matthew 5:10,11). The Challenges not only comes from other community but there possibilities to face similar size of challenges and hindrances within the community. It is universal truth. When we face the enmity, revenge, hostility, hatred, favouritism, and partiality for the sake of Christ Jesus. God will Praise, Fame, and honour you.

Before appointment of this Territory, we came through many circumstances, but God was with us to deliver us with his hands. Even after receiving appointment for India Eastern Territory, we had individually doubted and challenges raised in our mind. One way we planned to leave my two children at Delhi, but it was difficult to leave them in terms of financial aspects but finally we left eldest one for his study but lots of concerns and doubts as he is young boy and never left him before. As I worked longer period in project department, So I knew Major Heather Poxon, Project Department, IHQ. So, just I wrote her a normal email and replied to me with very comfort words "She wrote place your son into God's Hand he will look after your son do not worry" the word gave to build up confidence in my mind. Then

prayed together with wife entrusted him in His hands.

Another challenge was there for second son to admit in college, the time was delayed we tried our level best from Delhi and from through known Officers of Eastern Territory, but it was very difficult to get an admission. Then, one of the officer introduced me the name Judy Ralte from Bazar Corps, I never knew her, when contacted her, she took initiative and helped us to get admitted in T. Roman College. She is so good, she arranged everything in terms of admission fees. I thank God for her assistance, God may bless her.


One day I and my wife were walking Tuikual area, which is below area of Territorial Headquarters, in the evening, we met an old lady, she introduced herself that she is Salvationist, invited inside into the house, offered a cup of tea, and prayed for us that words used in her prayers were inspirable, strengthen, energised to work with God's Strength. She shared the challenges that while we work other Territory. She encouraged that God sent you to work here, it's God's planning of your life, do not be discouraged or dismayed. She suggested us to increase a prayerful life and learn as much as possible. After some days we came to know that she is one of former retired Officers spouse, I learned and humbled from her attitude.

Then our concern was for two children and praying, as they have to face new friendship circle, new language, culture and temperament of the area, we were thinking about their adjustment and coping in the school, college and in Church with new atmosphere. But we are happy to see their adjustments, mingling and involvements in Corps, School, and College activities. While they go to Church with Bible and other lesson books, we feel proud

and joyous in our hearts. It's a great blessing which we received from God. The children are well settled in the studies.

Same as we had cultural concerns, language, and geographical barriers in our minds, but we feel that Holy Spirit is with us and assisting us to go beyond in thy ministry here. We praise His name for this privilege to work here, we had wonderful experience that in Corps and community, we astonished of our visit people, their acceptance and mingling with us that as they seen before us, God fearing people are there. I praise God that because of we are part of bigger family "The Salvation Army" in the world we got an opportunity to see people and work of the Territory.

To grow the plant needs soil, water, light and atmosphere. We stand alone together, we are called individually because individually responsible for accountability of our life to the God, relatives are not at all responsible for accountability. Our growth is a corporate endeavour, it is not private and individualistic. We are created for relationship; we need desperately need to part of community, together in spirit, we should work as a team in thy vineyard to achieve more. So, to lead ourselves and grow in spiritual life, we need the prayer, encouragement, example, teaching, challenges, resources, support, accountability, gifts, Church, friendship, and flow of relationship because isolation handovers into the evil one. It is good to take caution about this area.

As per His promises in Matthew 28: 18-20 "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." So, I am confident that the Lord Jesus is with me. I may be able to carry on His Mission further. We do request you to pray for our ministry. 

Yours in His Service

Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit



Major Nalini Hiwale
DDWM, Pune Division
India Western Territory

As believers in Christ, we are privileged to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. One of the remarkable aspects of this divine presence is the impartation of spiritual gifts. These gifts, bestowed upon us by the Holy Spirit, equip and empower us for service in the Kingdom of God. This article explores the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit, their purpose, and how they enable us to impact the world around us.

Understanding Spiritual Gifts:

Spiritual gifts are special abilities, skills, or capacities given to believers by the Holy Spirit for the edification of the Church and the advancement of God's Kingdom. They are not natural talents or skills that we possess, but supernatural endowments that enable us to operate in the power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. These gifts are diverse and uniquely distributed among believers, according to God's purpose and design.

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts:

The primary purpose of spiritual gifts is to glorify God and build up the body of Christ. They are intended for the common good, fostering unity, maturity, and

effective functioning of the Church. Spiritual gifts are not meant for personal gain or self-promotion but are to be used selflessly to serve others and demonstrate God's love in tangible ways. They are a means through which the Holy Spirit manifests His power and presence among believers.

The Variety of Spiritual Gifts:

The New Testament provides several lists of spiritual gifts, including gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues, among others (1 Corinthians 12:7-11, Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11-13). Each gift is significant and contributes to the holistic functioning of the body of Christ. No gift is superior to another, as they all originate from the same Spirit and work together harmoniously for God's purposes.

Discovering and Activating Spiritual Gifts: Discovering our spiritual gifts involves seeking God's guidance, examining our passions, abilities, and experiences, and seeking input from mature believers. It is crucial to approach this process with humility and a willingness to be used by God in unexpected ways. Once we identify our gifts, it is essential to develop and cultivate them through study, practice, and mentorship. Activation of

spiritual gifts happens as we step out in faith, relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance and empowering to minister to others.

Walking in the Fullness of the Holy Spirit:

To fully unleash the spiritual gifts bestowed upon us, we must cultivate an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. This involves daily surrender, seeking His presence through prayer, worship, and the study of God's Word. The Holy Spirit is our guide, teacher, and source of power. He equips us with the necessary gifts, empowers us to use them effectively, and enables us to bear fruit that will bring glory to God.

The spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit are divine provisions to equip and empower believers for Kingdom impact. They are not mere talents or abilities but supernatural endowments to serve and bless others. Let us embrace and develop our spiritual gifts, recognizing that they are an expression of God's love and grace towards us. As we yield to the Holy Spirit's guidance and operate in our gifts, we become instruments of transformation, shining the light of Christ and bringing His Kingdom to earth. 📖

Teachers' Day

In the vibrant land of India, the 5th of September shines with a special glow, for it is the revered Teachers' Day. A day dedicated to celebrating the tireless efforts and unwavering passion of those who shape young minds. It is no coincidence that this day aligns with the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a luminary philosopher, scholar and the second President of India. Teachers' Day serves as a poignant reminder to honour and appreciate the invaluable contributions made by educators in sculpting the destinies of their students. On this auspicious occasion, let us delve into the depths of wisdom found in the sacred pages of the Bible, drawing inspiration from its timeless principles to pay homage to teachers and foster a profound understanding and gratitude for their unwavering commitment and profound influence.

Embracing Godly Wisdom and Instruction:

"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life." (Proverbs 4:13 from NIV). Proverbs 4:13 beckons us to embrace and cherish the Godly wisdom and guidance that illuminate our paths. This verse invites us to ponder upon several profound insights:

1. Recognising the worth of instruction:

Education serves as a source of guidance, knowledge, and understanding that shape our decision-making and actions. It should be regarded with utmost importance and not be taken lightly.

2. Actively pursuing wisdom: It is incumbent upon us to actively seek godly wisdom through various means, such as studying the Bible, seeking counsel from wise individuals, and engaging in spiritual disciplines. By intentionally engaging in these practices, we can acquire wisdom and knowledge.

3. Safeguarding instruction: We should protect the wisdom we receive by filtering it through the lens of God's Word. It is crucial to exercise discernment and resist being easily swayed by worldly ideas or distractions.

4. Instruction as a vital aspect of life: Godly wisdom and education are indispensable for our spiritual growth, well-being, and success. They provide insight into God's will, teach us to live righteously, and enable us to make wise choices.

5. Lifelong learning: Education is a lifelong pursuit. We should always remain open to learning, growing, and being corrected. Cultivating a humble and teachable heart allows us to receive and apply godly wisdom in our lives.

Embracing the Concept of Servant Leadership:

In the realm of education, the notion of servant leadership, exemplified by the illustrious Jesus Christ, emerges as a beacon of wisdom and inspiration. By prioritising the well-being and growth of their students, educators possess the power to cultivate a harmonious and all-embracing environment for learning. Moreover, teachers wield their influence with finesse, not only by leading through their actions but also by assuming the role of mentors, igniting a fire within their students to embrace the tenets of servant leadership.

Nurturing Character and Virtue:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6 from NIV).

The biblical verse Proverbs 22:6 underscores the significance of cultivating character and virtue in children. First and foremost, the imparting of moral values is of utmost importance. It is imperative to instil in children the significance of honesty, kindness, respect, and other virtuous qualities. They should be educated on making ethical decisions and considering the repercussions of their actions. Secondly, leading by example is a fundamental aspect. Adults should serve as role model for the virtues they desire to see children develop, such as patience, forgiveness, and self-control. By exemplifying what it means to live a virtuous life, adults can effectively guide children in their character formation. Thirdly, the provision of guidance and discipline is necessary. Clear boundaries and behavioural expectations should be established. Discipline should aim to correct and educate, helping children understand the reasons behind rules and the importance of self-discipline. Fourthly, the cultivation of empathy and compassion holds great importance. Children should be taught to consider the emotions and needs of others. Acts of kindness, generosity, and empathy towards those who are less fortunate should be actively encouraged. Fifthly, cultivating a love for wisdom is beneficial. Children should be encouraged to seek wisdom and understanding. Engaging them in meaningful discussions, promoting the Bible reading, and seeking guidance from wise mentors can facilitate this process. Sixthly, the creation of a supportive environment is crucial. Children should be surrounded by positive influences and provided with an environment that promotes open communication. This will enable them to feel safe expressing their thoughts and emotions. Lastly, encouraging self-reflection and self-improvement is important. Children should be taught to reflect on their actions and attitudes, taking responsibility for their mistakes. Developing a growth mindset,



Saupriya Solanki

Pandoli Corps, Petlad Division
India Western Territory

which views challenges as opportunities for learning and personal growth, is also highly beneficial.

Embracing the Principles of Encouragement and Empowerment:

In the scriptures, it is written that we should embrace the art of lifting up and igniting the spirits of our fellow faithful. When it comes to the realm of education, teachers hold the power to ignite a flame of inspiration and empowerment within their students. They can achieve this by weaving words of affirmation, offering constructive guidance, and showcasing unwavering belief in their students' potential. By fostering an environment of positivity and care, these educators can guide their students in conquering hurdles, building resilience, and unearthing their unique gifts and talents.

Embracing the Enduring Influence:

Educators hold the sacred power to etch their influence into the hearts and minds of their young disciples. With their unwavering dedication, sage advice, and nurturing guidance, teachers possess the remarkable ability to mould not just academic triumphs but also the moral and spiritual growth of their students. By incorporating biblical principles into their pedagogy, teachers can furnish students with a robust framework of faith and values that will serve as a compass throughout their lifetime.

Let us shower our beloved educators with a grand celebration, for they are the unsung heroes who mould the minds and hearts of our future generations. These noble souls have dedicated their lives to the noble cause of shaping young minds, and it is high time we give them the recognition they so rightfully deserve. Drawing inspiration from the sacred teachings of the Bible, we can elevate our appreciation for these guiding lights and their profound influence. Let us bask in the brilliance of their godly wisdom, as our teachers embody the essence of servant leadership. So, on this joyous occasion, let us join hands and celebrate these extraordinary individuals who weave the very fabric of our society.



Listen, i tell you a mystery!



Anugraha Dushing

Pune Division, India Western Territory

Most of us enjoy reading suspense movies or novels full of plots and mysteries. Well, there is one in the Bible as well. This mystery will change the entire world paving the way for God's wrath on earth.

But What is this mystery about? Why is this mystery important for believers to know? Let's see from a theological perspective.

The God of the Bible is always consistent with His promises, He has never failed His promise. We see that the nature of God always leans toward saving and rescuing His creation. Let's study with some examples: Abraham's nephew LOT was rescued by Abraham first from the Mesopotamians (Genesis 14:14-16)

LOT: along with his family was yet again rescued by the angels who showered God's wrath on Sodom and Gomorrah.

NOAH: As we all know, he rescued his entire family from the flood.

MOSES: Literally means "To pull out/draw out" in ancient Hebrew language. He rescued the Israelites from the Red Sea and from the Pharaoh.

Daniel: was rescued from the Lion's den

- Joseph was rescued from the Prison.
- Israel as a nation was rescued many times from its enemies. And finally
- Jesus who by His ultimate sacrifice rescued humanity from death itself giving us an assurance of Eternal life.

We often overlook how the Old Testament is a treasure for end times mysteries. Just as God rescued all His children in the Old Testament, He also has a plan to rescue all those who Believe in Jesus Christ! Romans 10:13 says "For, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

So, what is the Mystery then?

IT IS THIS: "Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—it will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed" – 1 Corinthians 15:51

The Bible tells us specifically that followers and believers of Christ will be taken up to heaven. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so, we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore comfort one another with these words".

"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—it will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed"

Jesus at the time of His resurrection said this, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:2-3.

The final unfolding of this mystery is mentioned in 2nd Thessalonians 2. Many people believe that.

Christian believers have to go through the 7-year tribulation period of the Antichrist. But this is not true. In 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 Paul has specifically addressed this confusion to the church of Thessaloniki, He says in verse 1 "Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness (Antichrist) is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

This letter of Paul not only clears the confusion about what will happen but also when it will happen, He says the day will not come unless the Antichrist is first revealed and then before the tribulation actually starts, we will be caught up to heaven. The Greek word for 'caught up' is called Harpazo and the Latin Bible translates this word as Rapturo, from where the word Rapture comes into being.

I will end by quoting 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 "Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, For you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" and verse 9-11 "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing".

Let these verses be a warning to those who have still not accepted Christ as their saviour and comfort for those who are mourning for their loved ones in Christ. Let's praise the Lord for He has a plan to rescue us from the wrath to come as we will be the very witness of that Mystery called RAPTURE! 🐾

Visions

Are powerful and effective Reveal God's plans for his people



Rev. Dr. N. L. Victor
O.F., CSM

Hyderabad Temple Corps, India Central Territory

God sends out visions. He uses visions to communicate his intentions. He speaks to people personally through dreams and visions. (Job 33:14-15). It is a strategy that God uses. In essence, visions represent God's viewpoint. It is a Divine act and tied to God.

VALIDITY OF VISIONS:

According to the Bible, visions are real when they occur as foretold and lead to eternal life. They also have a clear time and date of occurrence. (Ezekiel 12: 27-28)

SOME GREAT SAINTS TO WHOM GOD GAVE VISIONS:

According to the Bible, some devoted and committed believers whom God loved saw visions from Him. In a vision, God spoke to Abraham in great detail. In this vision, God made clear to Abraham His complete plan. These visions are discussed in the fifteenth chapter of Genesis. Additionally, according to the Bible, God formed a covenant with Abraham. (Genesis 17:7-14). Through visions, God made His plans known to Moses. God promised particularly to speak to Moses through vision when He spoke to Aaron and Meriam (Number 12:6-8). St. Peter saw himself being freed from jail in a vision (Acts 12:3-9), and it actually happened.

DAY VISIONS:

God sometimes gives His people visions during the day and other times during the night. Daniel saw vision of the Angel in lenin (Daniel 10:4-10). While travelling throughout the daytime close to Damascus, Saul experienced a vision. (Acts 9:3-6). At at nine o'clock in the

morning, Cornelius had a vision in which he saw an angel speaking to him (Acts 10:10). St. Peter saw a similar vision on the same day. (Acts 10:9-16). Cornelius was instructed to come in touch with St. Peter so that he could help him grow spiritually. God may occasionally give both people a vision if their lives are part of the same plan.

NIGHT VISIONS:

Jacob experienced a vision one night. During his travels, he arrived in Beersheba. In a vision that night, God communicated with Jacob. (Genesis 42: 1-2). St. Paul experienced a vision at night as well. 'Do not be scared, but speak and do not be silent for I am with you and no one will attack you in order to harm you because I have many people in the city', God said to St. Paul in the night through a vision. (Acts 18:9-10)

DANIEL'S VISION:

God honours Daniel's faith, his devotion to prayer, his role as a national leader, and his prophetic insights. Except for St. John, the author of the book of Revelation, he had more visions than anybody else in the Bible. Daniel got directives from visions of his people's future (Daniel 8;9;10;11). Daniel received divine contact from God that allowed him to understand the meaning of His visions. (Daniel 8:16; 9:22; 11:2). Additionally, God revealed His purposes to monarchs, prophets, and saints.

The visions Daniel had as recorded in his book Daniel as follows:

1. The vision of the four beast (7:1-8)
2. The vision of the Ancient Days (7:9-14)
3. The visions of the Ram and Goat (8:1-27)
4. The visions of the Seventy weeks (9: 1-27)
5. The vision of the Angelic linen (10:1-21)

6. The vision of the struggling king (11:1-45)
7. The vision of the Angels oath (12:1-13)

Prophet Zechariah had night visions. According to his book, Zechariah, his visions are as follows:

1. Vision of the four horsemen among myrtle trees (1:7-17)
2. Vision of the horns (1:18-21)
3. Visions of the measuring line (2:1-13)
4. Vision of the High Priest (3:1-10)
5. Vision of the lamp stand and Olive trees (4: 1-14)
6. Vision of the Flying Scroll (5:1-4)
7. Vision of the woman in a basket (5:5-17)
8. Vision of the chariots (6:1-8)

YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS:

Declared Prophet Joel (Joel 2:28). God loves the world as much as He loves us, according to the Bible. To sincere and determined believers, He grants vision. The youth will experience visions. God has special plans for people, that's why. Individuals and nations are destroyed by ignorance of God and His intentions (Proverbs 29: 18). The absence of a revelation of God in all His love, might, and glory causes people to perish, disintegrate, and descend into spiritual anarchy.

Kindly note, God uses visions to communicate with His children. They are strong and effective. These precise facts exist. God makes known to a person His purposes. You believe it if you have any vision. You assert it. Over it, you pray Any point during your lifetime, God will accomplish His purpose. It is a truth. God speaks to people directly through dreams and visions. Yes, God's plans for His people are revealed via visions.

God Bless You!! 



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.

Its 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."

My experience in ICO

Greetings to you all in the most precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. By the grace of God and the love of our beloved Territorial Leaders, Colonel Yaqoob Masih, Territorial Commander, and Colonel Sumitra Masih, Territorial President of Women's Ministries, I was in ICO for 6 weeks from 12th July to 21st August 2023 as 254 session delegates from India Central Territory.



Major. D. Yesurajyam

Training Principal, Officers Training College
Nellore, India Central Territory

It was an amazing experience in ICO. It helped me to develop myself and nurture my personal holiness, corporate holiness, and spiritual leadership fostering leadership development and capacity building for current and future officer leaders. And provided the opportunities to develop the internationalism of the Salvation Army and global fellowship with friends who came across the World and encouraged me to renew my mission and ministry in the Salvation Army.

Apart from that I had a favorable environment for spiritual and physical rest and had a time to be alone in prayer and sometimes with others, study the Word of God, and reflect on each other's experiences. I had an opportunity to experience the diversity that exists in the Army World in relation to culture, ministry, race, and gender through delegates, staff, and visitors. And I had an opportunity to be listened to, prayed for, valued, and explored my own gifts and potential.

Each Monday there will be space provided for personal spiritual time to exercise different Spiritual Disciplines explore my relationship with Christ Jesus and have an opportunity to meet the Spiritual Life Development Groups to share together and reflect each other on our own journey with the Lord.

The Zonal events enriched me to

understand the culture of each country and their significant ways, and how The Salvation Army impacted each homeland for Christ. We had four field trips while we were in ICO: 1. Tour of London – visited the major landmarks of London, 2. Visit East London – to see where the Salvation Army began, Abney Park Cemetery – funerals of William Booth and Catherine Booth, seeing their graves and many early day officers, 3. Reading Central Corps Visit on Sunday to observe the order of worship and participation in the meeting, 4. International Headquarters – Participated in welcoming our New International Leaders at IHQ and had the opportunity to meet zonal leaders and their office and visited Paul's Cathedral.

I attended around 21 lectures on different topics, every lecture gave me new insights and to equip myself and develop the various skills for better ministry in the days to come. Everywhere, in every meeting, I experienced the spiritual atmosphere in ICO. Out of many experiences, fasting and retreat day created a fresh and relaxed mind in me by spending more time with God. This has indeed been a time of refreshment in the Spirit and the experience never to be forgotten. I trust the stay in the Cedars has also enriched me a lot. I am very much thankful to the leaders who gave me this wonderful opportunity. I request you to uphold me and my ministry in your prayers. May the Lord bless all of us. Amen 🙏

ISWT PADAYATRA 2023



Territorial Commander Colonel P. John William and Colonel Ratna Sundari, TPWM completed forty days of 'Padayatra' (Meeting people by walks) on 27th July 2023 at Trivandrum Central Corps. It was the fulfilment of the 'Kowdiar Manifesto' declaration which was made on the day of the installation service.

Lt. Colonel J. Daniel Raj, Chief Secretary made a remarkable statement by

and institutions were decorated colorfully, the people and children were waited from early morning till mid night to meet the territorial leaders for hearing the lessons of Kowdiar manifesto which says that: 1) reduce the gap between Officers and Soldiers, 2) revamp children and youth ministry, 3) restore women empowerment and leadership development, 4) reclaim best practice and implementation of governance and 5) rethink about the sustainability of the territory mission and ministry.

The amazing experiences of the Padayatra was the fun and facts which the people could experience in all their discussions with the

territorial leaders regarding the Salvation Army and contemporary issues by spending hours of time to share their grievances and expectations. To some Corps it was the first time to meet the territorial leaders after twenty or thirty years from their land. So, the visits made it possible to look at every nook and corner of the land and buildings including the vacant lands for an open evaluations and studies.

There was nothing special to eat or drink, but preferred only what the people prepared the Padayatra team to stay and in the places what way it was convenient with each Corps and institutions. Fifteen thousand people joined in this effort while Padayatra was moving through the cities and villages by covering more than 6000 km to visit 307 Corps, 25 institutions and planting of 210 coconut trees. The team consisted of Territorial Youth Secretary, Property Secretary, Training College staff, Cabinet Secretaries, and a few Soldiers from the Trivandrum Central Corps. (Major Sponsoring of the Padayatra was from Trivandrum Central Corps).

There were many occasions happened to address the matters of Schools and hospitals to unveil the possibilities of local resources which was remained without addressing all these years. The whole process of scanning the territory through a Padayatra enabled the territorial leaders to understand each and everything within the forty days as what way pioneers have moved with the people to break all boundaries and enter a new walk of territory's developments through the 'Padayatra 2023'.

Lt. Colonel Saju Daniel
Secretary for Programme Administration
India South Western Territory



inaugurating the Padayatra for the spiritual development of the territory after forty days! Really it was an unforgettable thrilling experience to all age people and the neighbors of the Salvation Army centers to see the leader one who is leading a group of people to cover the 'God's own country' by long travelling and walking by reminding the boom marches what was in the beginning of the Salvation Army in India. The Corps



SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS PROGRAMME AT CHENNAI



Conducted by
India National Office, Kolkata
10th & 11th July 2023



News

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING - ISET

On 15th - 17th August 2023 was a delightful day for Child Protection Training delegates in India's South Eastern Territory at VTC - HLCRC, Nagercoil. There were 33 participants from various Divisions, Districts, Boys, and Girls Home, CBH, THQ, and CFOT Officers and Cadets empowered through the Training. We comment on the training with the 77th Independence Day celebration. Commissioner John Kumar Dasari, Territorial Commander shared the word of God about spiritual and physical freedom from the sinful life. Major Jashiben D Khristi hoisted the National Flag and Commissioner Mani Kumari Dasari, TPWM prayed for the Nation and the people who are in the bondage of sin and slavery.

The training was inaugurated by the Territorial Leaders. Major Jashiben D. Khristi, Child Protection Specialist for South Asia Zone facilitated the training. The territorial Commander addressed the keynote address and explained "Why Child Protection is important" in the four pillars of the accountability moment of the Salvation Army mission, the Biblical of importance to every child of God, based on Acts 16: 15-19, to take the role of Apostle Paul to chase out the social evil against the children.

Major Jashiben taught different subjects for three days such as the International Child



Protection Framework, Training to keep our children safe, Responding to Child Protection Concerns, Child Abuse, Harmful cultural practices, Corporal punishment, Brain stories, Positive parenting, Children with disabilities and Territorial Child Protection Policy, ISET. These lessons are compressed with the seven standards of the Child protection policy. Her teachings through lectures, activities, case studies, group studies, Bible study, and sharing made the delegates to be awake. Delegates also actively participated in all the activities.

The final day spiritual meeting was conducted by Lt. Colonel Lalbulliana Tlau, Chief Secretary, and Lt. Colonel Lalnunhlui Khawhring, TSWM. Chief Secretary shared the word of God based on Proverbs 22: 6

about the spiritual protection of the children. Some of the delegates shared their experience and feedback on the importance of protecting children, the International and Territorial Child Protection Policy, and its four pillars. The delegates received the certificates as an appreciation for their participation. The delegates rededicated their life signed their "My Declaration" card and made their vow in the presence of God.



Captain JS. Suji Shalini
Territorial Child Protection Coordinator
India South Eastern Territory

Walking Across the Floor: International Headquarters welcomes General Lyndon Buckingham and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham

On Monday 7 August 2023, Salvation Army officers and employees welcomed General Lyndon Buckingham and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham (World President of Women's Ministries) to International Headquarters (IHQ, London) with rapturous applause.

Flag-bearers escorted the new international leaders into the building, accompanied by the IHQ Staff Band playing 'We have a gospel'.

As members of the public stopped outside to enjoy the historic occasion, hand-in-hand, the General and Commissioner Bronwyn were welcomed by Chief Secretary Colonel Peter Forrest, who also greeted delegates from the International College for Officers. He said, 'General Lyndon Buckingham and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham, following the High Council in May, we believe the world leapt for joy! The 22nd General of The Salvation Army is now on duty.'

NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

The congregation sang 'Lord, I come before your throne of grace' before Commissioner Jane Paone brought everyone together in prayer. She said, 'Loving heavenly Father, you are our faithful God in whom we place our trust completely. We pray for our new international leaders as they take on their new responsibilities. They are yours, dedicated to your service. We believe you will grant them wisdom, understanding and compassionate hearts as they lead the international Salvation Army.'

Following the Lord's Prayer, Colonel Peter Forrest spoke warmly to the new leaders, describing the conductor and first violinist at a recent musical event he had attended. He said, 'I see IHQ under new leadership and our own leaders of the orchestra, Commissioner Bronwyn and our new General – General Lyndon Buckingham.' Likening different IHQ departments to the sections of an orchestra, Colonel Forrest continued, 'I asked myself, "what is our music?" and was reminded that we support the General as he leads The Salvation Army in accomplishing its God-given mission of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and meeting human needs in his name without discrimination. General you can count on us. God bless you.'

'WELCOME HOME'

The IHQ Staff Band played 'Still' before Leonora Ledgister spoke on behalf of IHQ employees. She said, 'General Lyndon

Buckingham and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham, on behalf of the IHQ employees, welcome! We celebrate the excitement you feel stepping into these new roles with many opportunities before you. We recognise the privilege and responsibility of leading this vast Army. We are confident that you are aware of the times we are living in and sensitive to God's Spirit.

And we acknowledge the enormity of the task and the huge and daunting challenges. But you are not alone... we offer you our best... commit to uphold you in prayer and with words of affirmation and encouragement. May God give you richly of his Spirit, wisdom, insight, understanding, grace, courage and strength. Welcome home and abundant blessings to you both.'

Commissioner Keith Conrad (International Secretary, Africa zone) offered a prayer of dedication. Recognising the process of the High Council and the election of new international leaders, he said, 'Lord, here are your servants, General Lyndon and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham, who we lift to you in prayer and dedication for the task you have entrusted to them... as they take up this mantle of being the Army's international leaders, may the sweet anointing of your Holy Spirit rest upon them, giving them guidance and direction as they lead your Army in your mission to bring the world to Jesus.'

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham responded to the tributes and prayers saying, 'This momentous shift has profound implications for me. There is a huge blessing in the familiarity and stability [of IHQ] for me. We are 18,336 kilometres (11,393 miles) away from our family in New Zealand and we could not be much further away from our blood family. There are days when it is hard to be this far away, but you bring richness to our lives. This place and its people have become family and I am so glad to be a part of it. For such a time as this we share life and our mission together – thank you. Deep in my heart the truth of Jesus sits firmly without wavering. He began good work in me and he will continue this until completion. Thank you for being my safe place to return to. May God



bless us and bring us together at International Headquarters.'

TO SERVE GOD WHOLEHEARTEDLY

Warm applause followed before session 254 of the International College for Officers sang 'Bless our Army' as a precursor to General Lyndon Buckingham addressing the meeting. The new General thanked everyone for their support for him in his appointment. He said, 'I am not naïve about the challenges and opportunities that face the Army today. We are supposed to embrace the opportunity to bring salt and flavour to the world. Bring on the challenges because they create opportunities for us!'

He spoke about Caleb's role described in the Bible, explaining that he would like to be 85 years old, like Caleb, and still filled with the same zeal for God as he has now. He asked, 'Can you imagine a global movement whose response is to serve God wholeheartedly? What a blessing! I want to testify to you this morning that I give myself wholeheartedly to the mission of The Salvation Army. We give ourselves to a big God and serve him without reservation. Let's find that sweet spot of peace, purpose and power. May it be so for the glory of God and the extension of his Kingdom. God bless you.'

Following warm applause, the congregation sang 'He is the Lord, and he reigns on high' before Colonel Peter Forrest closed the meeting with the benediction and grace. He said, 'May the child of God grow in you and his love bring you home.'

IHQ Communications