

"With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God"



# An Army of Hope and Salvation

We believe in salvation. We believe in the old–fashioned salvation. Ours is the just same salvation taught in the Bible, proclaimed by prophets and apostles. We believe the world needs it, and that this and this alone will set it right. We want no other nostrum – nothing new. There are think-so Christians, and there are hope-so Christians, and there are know-so Christians – thank God we belong to the know-so people – we know we are saved. Our work is salvation. We believe in salvation, and we have salvation. We are not mere sentimentalists or theory people; we publish what we heard and seen and handled and experienced of the word of life and the power of God. We aim at salvation. We want this and nothing short of this, and we want this right off. My brethren, my comrades, soulsaving is our avocation, the great purpose and business of our lives. Let us seek first the kingdom of God, let us be salvationists indeed". (General William in the first issue of The Salvationist, January 1879, the immediate forerunner of The war Cry)

With the aim of making a big difference in the community, William with the support of his wife Catherine dedicated their lives and started preaching the word of God, whenever and wherever there was need. By breaking all the conventional concepts of church and pulpit, they were taking the message of love and salvation to the people who were in grinding poverty, disease, lust, crime and atheism.

Even the graveyards transformed to the amazing place to meet the Living heavenly God! By the support of the dedicated and spirit filled evangelical group formed by Booth preached mainly among the "unchurched". Their first converts to Christianity included thieves, prostitutes, gamblers, drunkards.... They were giving the Hope and Salvation to those who were in darkness, distress and desperate poverty. But later these converts became soldiers of this army and known as salvationists. Rapidly the number of officers and converts increased day by day. Truly these officers were not accepted as easily anywhere – they were ridiculed, attacked and arrested!!

Let us thank God for the Fathers who embraced the loving army that arrived in India in this way. There is no doubt that their blood and the tears they shed expanded and strengthened this church here. How great were the transformations that society has brought about through this marvellous army! The revolution in the spiritual, as well as in the socio-cultural, health and educational spheres was not insignificant!

To this day, this army continues its journey across the continents. The Salvation Army is active in every corner of the world. The social activities developed by William Booth remains as an outward visible expression of the Army's strong religious principles. With its Christian heritage and motivation, The Salvation Army continues its unique service to all people in the name of Christ. It still gives new hope and joy to many. But if there is a breakdown or fatigue for the army in our soil, an introspection must take place within us. It's our failure not to bring others to the salvation we have received or to shed light on those who are in darkness and despair. As a soldier no one can shirk this responsibility!

In early 1880s Army mother Catherine Booth told in the Prince's Hall, London: "Soldiers of Christ must be abandoned to the war. They must be thoroughly committed to God's side; There can be no Neutrals in this warfare. When the soldier enlists and takes the queen's shilling, he ceases to be his own property,

becoming the property of his country, going where he is sent, standing at any post to which he is assigned, even if it be at the cannon's mouth. He gives up the ways and comforts of civilians and goes forth with his life in his hand, in obedience to the will of his sovereign. If I understand it, that is just what Jesus Christ demands of every one of His soldiers, and nothing less".

HAPPY FOUNDERS' DAY TO ALL!!

Major Evama Shaijuraj Editor



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**International News** 

The Chief of the Staff celebrates new

# DWELLING IN THE SHELTER OF GOD

In time of stress and uncertainty, I always go on my knees and read Psalm 91. It raises my faith and gives me confidence in God's ability that he makes things right for me. Life is safe when we dwell in the Shelter of God the Almighty. I have found that this wonderful testimony of king David is still relevant to my life and is same for many of those who follow Jesus.

The psalmist wrote it to highlight God's assurance of his protection to the nation of Israel for keeping them safe through all trials if they put their trust in him. Such a message is even relevant today. God's people including people from all nations of the world, experienced it from Generation to the Generation. It would have served Israel well during King David's reign, when Israel was surrounded by many enemies.

God himself walked amongst the oppressed when two thousand years ago, Jesus walked on the streets of Jerusalem and throughout Judea, healing the sick raising the dead and bringing the good news of the Kingdom of God. Even he gave his life on the cross to save and give everlasting lives to those who confess their sins and turn to God. He is the same God, in whom we can find safety and hope – Jesus is able to save us and give us the peace, that the world cannot give. It can be only experienced by the eyes of faith.

### We need Assurance of God:

Globally, we are facing with wars and rumours of war, plagues and pestilence, religious discrimination, inequality in social justice, rising living cost, all these increasing our stress and make life more difficult for ordinary people like us. Individually, we are facing with financial challenges—fears of losing a job or finding ourselves unable to compete in a rapidly changing world--children gone astray-addictions-illness-death (our own or that of loved ones). In most of all the odds, we need assurance that God is with us. There is good news, 'God wants to cover us with his feathers so under his wings we find refuge, his faithfulness will be our shield and rampart' (Psalm 91: 4) He loves us and is committed to helping us. He will redeem us even in our darkest day. That is a message we need to hear in good times so

that it will bring us strength during bad times.

Sadly, in crucial time of need in life, rather than turning to God, many turn to various sources for help. They go after advice which are ungodly and take ungodly decisions which make their lives more miserable that ends in destruction. They lose their spiritual eyesight and depend on what they see from worldly values. Always see bad around them and become uncomplacent in everything they receive and see. They lose appetite of God driven life and become victims in the hands of evil. The Word of God warns us against such misery, 'See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ' (Colossians 2: 8 - NIV). It is always for our good, that we claim God's assurance and find ourselves dwelling in his shelter.

### **Share In His Blessings!**

We can find ourselves in his shelter, if we respond to his love, turning to him in repentance, acknowledge his name and call upon him in prayer (Psalms 91:14&15). Further the Psalmist explains the blessings that one can share when dwelling in the shelter of God — living in his presence — Listening to his voice and feeding on his holy word.

There is blessing of Salvation and strength to continually grow in holiness of God. Hosea puts in this way, 'They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon' (Hosea 14:7 KJV). The word of God says, 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9).

Having found ourselves in God's shelter, we overcome on our fears. No matter how big or fearful they may be, you can always trust God to lead you through and keep you safe. Psalmist tells us, that sometimes some of the disasters you see pass by and some time they were gone by without harming you that you did not notice. Even in times when you feel completely exhausted, he will carry



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you through (Psalms 91: 5-12). You gain the confidence to say to the situation to the tempter, who causes you to fear, 'though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For my God – the Good Shepherd is with me' (Psalms 23).

The question that one needs to ask is under whose shelter I am living? Are you living under the shadow of human power? Are you completely turning to the elements of these world to help you find purpose and meaning to your life? Are you living under the influences of ungodly people? Some time we might ignore those reality and may drift away from the fulness of life that God gives us in Jesus. It is better we open our eyes and turn to God who loves us unconditionally.

How wonderful transforming experience that you may know, if you just acknowledge God's presence just now, as you may be going through situation that is causing you confusion, weary you with fear and you do not know where the life is taking you. I advise you to come into the shelter of God. Just pray to Jesus to come and take control of your life and you will hear him saying 'I am the way and truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well' (John 14: 6 - NIV). He is knocking at your door, if you can let him in, he will come into your life, and you will dwell in the shelter of most High God.



# WILLIAM BOOTH CHILDHOOD AS PAWNBROKER'S APPRENTICE:

n 1842, when he was aged 13, his father sent him to work as an apprentice to Francis Eames in a pawnbroker's shop situated in the poorest part of Nottingham. This stirred his social conscience as through it he became aware of the plight of the poor.

### **WILLIAM BOOTH EARLY MINISTRY:**

After his marriage to Catherine Mumford in 1855, William Booth spent several years as a Methodist minister, travelling all around the country, preaching, and sharing God's word to all who would listen. It was at this time that William started attending Broad Street Wesley Chapel (Methodist) and in 1844 he had a conversion experience, noting that: "It was in the open street [of Nottingham] that this great change passed over me. He felt that God wanted more from him, that he should be doing more to reach ordinary people. He moved to London with his family, having resigned his position as a Methodist minister.

### WILLIAM BOOTH FOUND DESTINY:

On 2 July 1865, William commenced his first open air Evangelistic campaign at the old Quaker burial ground on Mile End

waste in Whitechapel, preaching in a tent. Rev William Booth and his wife Catherine began the ministry in poverty-stricken east London that would become today's Salvation Army, with its presence in 132 countries. We are celebrating 157th'Founder's Day and Birthday of the Salvation Army. As military terminology, uniforms suitable to the ranks followed. A military discipline governed the lives of the officers.

# **WILLIAM BOOTH PURPOSE OF THE ARMY:**

Writing in 'The Salvationist' in 1879 Booth summed up the purpose of the Army in the following simple but striking way: "We are a salvation people - this is our speciality - getting saved and keeping saved, and then getting somebody else saved, and then getting saved ourselves more and more until full salvation on earth makes the heaven within, which is finally perfected by the full salvation without, on the other side of the river."

# WILLIAM BOOTH'S SOCIAL MANIFESTO:

'In Darkest England and the Way Out,' explored various ideas such as providing food and shelter for the poor, helping the disadvantaged learn agricultural trades, and assisting people in search of a better



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life to emigrate. From this point on, the Army's mission became two-pronged: to provide social salvation, as well as proclaiming personal salvation.

On this Founder's Day, let us look back on the birth of our movement, the religious zeal and sacrificial service of the Army of the past, perhaps we should turn our focus to the mission of the Army today. Are we impacting the world with the message of Christ, preaching to the all those who do not know him? Are we working to serving the world, address social need and injustice in the name of the Father? Are we living up to the missional zeal of our Lord?





# My Joy and my Crown

My dear children and friends, my place is empty, but my heart is with you. You are my joy and my crown...Go forward. Live holy lives. Be true to the Army. God is your strength. Love and seek the lost... I am dying under the Army flag. It is yours to live and fight under. ..I send you my love and blessing.

Catherine in a message sent to the Crystal Palace, London, on 15 July 1890, for the celebration of the Army's 25th Annivarsary.

# William Booth – MY INSPIRATION



Colonel Lalhmingliana Hmar

Territorial Commander, India Eastern Territory

0 years after he died and in the year 2002, William Booth was named among 100 greatest Britons in a BBC poll.

### The Founder of The Salvation Army

William Booth, The Founder and our first General of The Salvation Army was born in Nottingham on 10 April 1829. He married Catherine Mumford in 1855. He promoted to Glory on 20 August 1912.

During his life time, Salvation Army work in 58 countries and colonies. The Salvation Army now works in 132 countries around the world (12 Mar 2021).

William at the age of 15, had knelt at a bare table in the Schoolroom of Nottingham's Broad Street Chapel and prayed, "God should have all that there was of William Booth." Evangeline Booth said in years later, "That wasn't really his secret. His secret was that he never took it back."

By the mid-1880s, The Salvation Army in Britain had begun in small ways to engage in social action initiatives such as transit lodges for prisoners and rescue homes for wayward girls. In 1888, on returning home late one night, William Booth saw men sheltering in the abutments of London Bridge and told Bramwell the next morning to "go and do something" about it. Within seven weeks of that conversation, Bramwell had opened the first shelter for men. "Go and do something" became famous as the Army's permanent marching orders for meeting all forms of human need.

### **Husband and Father**

On 16 June 1855 at Stockwell New Chapel, William and Catherine were married. Only four other people were present at their wedding ceremony.

They were blessed with 8 children: Bramwell (8 March 1856 – 16 June 1929). Ballington (28 July 1857 – 5 October 1940). Kate (18 Sept 1858 – 9 May 1955). Emma (8 Jan 1860 – 28 Oct 1903). Herbert (26 Aug 1862 – 25 Sept 1926). Marie (4 May 1864 – 5 Jan 1937).

Evangeline (25 Dec 1865 – 17 July 1950). Lucy (28 Apr 1868 – 18 July 1953).

Bramwell Booth was the first Chief of the Staff and the 2nd General, succeeding his father William Booth.

Evangeline Booth was the 4th General of The Salvation Army from 1934 to 1939. She was the first women to hold the post.

### **The Prophet**

After he died, 150,000 people filed by the casket, and 40,000 including Queen Mary, attended his funeral. It was remarkable end for a man born into poverty his whole life. But William Booth was a remarkable man, who was given the title, "The Prophet of the Poor." He said, "I seemed to hear a voice sounding in my ears, 'Where can you go and find such heathen as these, and where is there so great a need for your labors?

Famously he prophesied about the 20th Century. He told – The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be Religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, Forgiveness without Repentance, Salvation without Regeneration, Politics without God, Heaven without Hell.

### **The Visionary**

In May 1906, General William Booth published a compendium of "Visions" the Story of Pentecost as Related in Heaven. In that story, William Booth was transported to heaven where he met Samuel, the son of the widow of Nain who was raised to life. Acting as a tour guide, Samuel leads him from the ascension of Jesus to the upper room for the Pentecost and finally to the street of Jerusalem with the Gospel is boldly proclaimed. He wrote, "To make our weak hearts strong and brave, to live a dying world to save! We need another Pentecost! Send the Fire!"

He had another vision. He saw a dark and stormy ocean. Over it the black clouds hung heavily. In that ocean he saw myriads of poor human beings plunging and floating, shouting and shrieking, cursing and struggling and drowning. They would cry out, "Come to us! Come and help Us!"

To go down among the perishing crowds is our duty. Booth said, "Most Christians would like to send their recruits to Bible college for five years. I would like to send them to hell for five minutes. That would do more than anything else to prepare them for lifetime of compassionate ministry.

### **Mission in Passion:**

His mission was to save souls and to lead people to Christ. Thieves, prostitutes, gamblers and drunkards were among Booth's first converts to Christianity. His famous motto was Salvation by The Blood of Christ and Regeneration with the Fire of The Holy Ghost. His passion is the Soul of Man. The following quotes confirm it:

While there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight – I'll fight to the very end!

Some men's passion is for gold. Some men's passion is for art. Some men's passion is for fame. My passion is for souls.

God loves with a great love the man whose heart is bursting with a passion for the impossible.

If I thought I could win one more soul to the Lord by walking on my head and playing the tambourine with my toes, I'd learn how!

### **Conclusion:**

Deputy Commissioner Frederick Tucker, a well-born Indian Civil Servant, came all the way from Dharmsala, India, after reading of Booth's work. He plead, "You must take me." And Booth took him in and became Fakir Singh for India.

I am also very proud to say that The Salvation Army 'Took me in' and become part of this great movement! Salvation Army, Army of God, onwards to conquer the world with fire and blood!



# THE ARM SPIRIT

Major K. Lalrinpuia -

Divisional Commander, Himalayan Division, India Eastern Territory

### Bible: Hebrews 13:7; Galatian 5:16

here are many people who thinks that the Salvation army has put their faith on other spirit and that we praise the Army Spirit more than the Holy Spirit. There are many people that do not know what Army spirit means so, let us explain and learn about what exactly it is. Orders & Regulations for Soldiers chapter 12 gives a clear explanation on what Army Spirit is, I will be talking about what I think is the true Army spirit and things that can helps us in who we are as Soldier, aside from what our Orders & Regulations for soldiers mentions. Let us first look at the explanation given by the Orders & Regulations.

From the early days of The Salvation Army 'the Army spirit' has been a characteristic expression in the vocabulary of the Movement. It has been a way of indicating that certain qualities, convictions and principles have always been accepted as desirable and necessary. Moreover, whatever success has attended the work of the Movement must, under God, to a large extent be explained by the soldiers having been animated and possessed by them.

Important as it is to be acquainted with the Army's rules and regulations, it is still more important to understand and be possessed by the Army spirit. This concluding chapter attempts an analysis of the significance of the expression without claiming to penetrate the whole subject. The Holy Spirit of God will reveal to true Salvationists how they can exhibit that practical, loving and self-denying attitude to the straying, sinning and suffering world for which Christ died, which is the hallmark of the genuine Army spirit.

### **Infectious Joy:**

The salvation soldier believes in the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ trusted in his heavenly Father with a childlike and perfect confidence, and the soldier wishes to be like his Lord in this as in other respects. There is not one thing about which a child of God may not talk to his Heavenly Father.

The salvation soldier accepts the assurance of Jesus about answer to prayer offered in his name and concerning his Kingdom.

The soldier knows that Christ is a mighty Saviour. He therefore has strong faith for the salvation of sinners for whom there is, humanly speaking, little hope.

The history of The Salvation Army abounds in examples of strong faith in God through which men and women exhibiting the Army spirit have secured victories over evil, obtained help in distress and witnessed numerous miracles. In fact, the Army is itself a monument to the efficacy of faith.

#### **Burning Compassion:**

William Booth said more than once that the Army was the religious organization of the friendless. Scholar's remark upon the Army's combination of evangelical zeal for and practical care of the unwanted and outcasts of society. The Army's compassion for the underprivileged is seen by these writers as exceptional among religious bodies of a similar type.

This compassion is seen in steady regular service to the needy. Typical is the absence of proselytizing, i.e. of the desire to secure adherents through social relief work. On the other hand, the Army has shown vivid awareness of the fact

that human beings cannot be permanently helped unless their personality problems are reached. The spiritual salvation of the underdog has throughout the years been the deepest concern of Salvationists.

The Army spirit requires continued sensitivity to the plight of the down-andouts, the forgotten, the dregs of society. Rightly or wrongly the Movement has been called an example of 'the churches of the dispossessed, who through their religious discipline rise socially - and forget "the new poor" '. The Salvation Army must not become so much of a middle-class movement that it forgets 'the rock whence it is hewn'. It is called to proclaim salvation to all classes, but its special glory should be its concern for and its ability to appeal to the lowest and most forgotten, and to be their champion in every respect. It belongs to the Army spirit to remember those whom others forget.

# Going for Souls and Going for the Worst:

'Souls' is an expression which must not be misunderstood. The salvation soldier must always remember to pay attention to the whole man. The basic conviction of Salvationism is that man's specific need as a human being, which makes him different from all other created beings, is his need of fellowship with God. Man has not been helped as he needs to be helped if he has been provided with food, clothes and shelter, to the neglect of his problems of personality and his moral and spiritual difficulties.

2. It belongs to the Army spirit to abstain from such display of superiority as is calculated to make 'the worst' feel uncomfortable and out of place.

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Salvationists must not be snobs. The Army should be truly both of the people and for the people.

### The Army of the Helping Hand:

This epithet is often used as a public relations phrase but not without justification. Spectacular 'action' in a given situation or an emergency is usually instigated and directed by leaders of the Army, willingly and efficiently supported by a host of workers. Such 'action' is certainly evidence of the Army spirit.

But the Army spirit is also expressed in the spontaneous action of the individual soldier. Daily life brings with it situations in which a 'good turn' can mean vital aid to someone when he most requires it. A readiness to help is the motive behind the 'Helping Hand': the salvation soldier whose motto is 'With heart to God and hand to man' is saved to serve as well as to save.

It must never happen that a genuine appeal for help of any kind is made to a Salvationist without meeting sympathetic attention. Even when the soldier cannot be of actual service, he must show concern and kindness. The Army spirit demands it.

### Soldiers Bound for Glory:

The Army spirit has always shown itself through the joyful way in which salvation soldiers have contemplated their 'march to Zion'. Life is not a weary journey. Despite dangers and trials, the soldier preserves the assurance that he is bound for Glory.

The end of the journey is not therefore contemplated as something dark and sombre. The faithful soldier does not die. He is promoted to Glory. Much as his dear ones and his comrades will miss him, they do not mourn as those without hope but give thanks to God for his life and work. Their tears are the natural expression of their sense of loss but they are mingled with gratitude for all God has given them through the one he has now called to his reward.

The funeral arrangements must not therefore through any detail express the hopelessness of those who do not know the risen and living Christ. Instead of black the Army's funeral colour is white, and the flags which wave at the graveside are draped with white ribbons. Soldiers will attend the funeral in uniform and can, if they are so disposed, have a white ribbon round the sleeve of their tunic. The Army has ever regarded it as unsuitable for Salvationists to dress in mourning for a period after the funeral. Flowers are not forbidden at Army funerals, but it is definitely against Army principles to allow wastefulness in this as in any other connection.

Just as the life of the promoted comrade has aimed at the honour and glory of the Saviour, so the theme at his funeral should be praise for God's grace in Christ. The memorial meeting should avoid exaggerated tribute to human qualities, the aim being to encourage God's people to dedicate themselves afresh to the salvation war and to help the unconverted to seek the Lord.

There are many Army Spirit that we Salvation Army soldiers often say, being enthusiastic about our ministry works, having love and brotherhood for each other, following the orders of our leaders with contentment and wearing our uniforms with joy but we are slowing losing these traits, so let us all try our best and work hard to preserve this Army spirit.

Loving each other and Brotherhood: It is of utmost importance that we, Salvation Army soldiers of India bring back the brotherhood love that we have for each other that is slowly fading away. Let us remember and bring back the values and beliefs that our founding fathers held on to dearly and celebrate together in times of celebration and mourn with those who are mourning and have a heart that is willing to help not only those of our Territory or Corps but of everyone.

Enthusiasm and Vibrance: Are we guided by the spirit of God? those that are guided by the spirit of God are enthusiastic and vibrant in their ministry workings. I often think that we, the current Soldiers lack the enthusiastic and vibrant energy that our founding fathers once had. I think that we are not

energetic and eager enough in our ministry and in working with each other. Let us remind ourselves that we are doing the Lord's work so let us strengthen ourselves and become more enthusiastic in our work that has been given to us.

Obeying our Leaders: Soldiers of God that puts obedience in front of offerings, do we still live by this belief? Do we cut off parts and follow only the few that like and throw away the ones we do not like when our Leaders give out orders? When we say Army spirit, I understand it as having obedience. Obedience creates a harmony for the person who obeys and whom he obeys, which strengthen the development and work force of the ministry. It seems that our brothers in church are surpassing us in these manners.

Are we slacking in wearing our Uniform that makes us stand out and different from others? I often feel like we are negligent in wearing our uniform. We use others that does not wear their uniform properly as an excuse to not wear our uniforms. Let us all set the standard as soldiers of Salvation Army India so that others can follow us in our footsteps. Let us turn towards wearing our Uniforms regularly as it is one of the unique aspects of being a soldier in The Salvation Army.

A person that has the true Army Spirit does not indulge in things that can bring bodily harm such as drugs, tobacco etc. Do we indulge ourselves in such things? Do we, the soldiers of Salvation Army that have been taught many times about cleanliness have a secret? Let us all think about this deeply once again. Let us shake off the sins and dirt that are on us and continue to be a person that has the true Army Spirit.

Lastly, are we filled with the spirit in our ministry of the Lord? Do we have the Holy Spirit residing in us? Do we have the Lord guiding us in our daily lives? The possessor of the Army spirit has the Holy Spirit guiding them in their daily lives, their every movement and in their diligent working for the Lord. The true Army Spirit is one that does ministry with Holy Spirit filling them to the brim. Let us be nearer to the Lord so that we can have the Holy Spirit.



Captain Latha Cheeli Education Secretary, Secretary for Youth & Children India National Office, Kolkata

oday much emphasis is placed on the role of the Church as a transformation and change agent. Throughout the ages, the church has been involved in the life of humankind, in making of nationhood, building of culture, structuring of society with its functions and institutions and in shaping the form and quality of political systems. We also know that Churches are enduring social institutions that play a critical role in the promotion of human well being.

It is evident that our corps have incredible youth capital. There is so much energy and passion that fill the concrete walls of the mushrooming congregations. Whilst we nurture and lead our young people to enjoy and experience the love of God by introducing Jesus so as to receive him and accept him as their saviour, it is also important that they not only have personal encounter with Jesus but must become change agents of transformation within the communities. Transformation is the process of radical change. As followers of Christ and as believers, we believe the process of personal transformation happens because of the presence of the Holy Spirit and the transforming power of God in our lives. Individuals must willingly submit and engage in this process of change as God performs the work of shaping, moulding, and changing his followers more into his image and likeness. We put our efforts to transform our youngsters that they might be better fulfil the purposes that God has ordained for them. It is a great privilege to know that not only does God desire our children and youth to experience personal change; he also desires to use them to be agents of change in the world. As we see the present days, where children and youth have significant stand in the society to bring a radical change, and impact the community with their lives; we the believers in Christ must make our children to be the real agents of change that transform the people around them, where they will lay strong foundation for the building of Christ's Kingdom with their transformational lives. How can we make our children and youth to be such tools of transformation?

# LET THE CORPS BE A PLACE OF TRANSFORMATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

### Transformation begins at the early Childhood

It is clear that the Spiritual marker for early childhood is inculcating the attitude of fearing God. For parents of young children, the journey of raising Christ followers starts with the task of instilling fear towards God and His authority. This is nothing but respecting and revering God. This must start with putting God first in every aspect of their lives. The corps must practice and be a spiritual parent of the children so as to see that they not only hear, but practice what is learnt. The psalmist tells us, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10). While most of Sunday Schools teach toddlers fun Bible stories, it can't stop there. Early childhood materials may solely emphasize how "Jesus is their friend." Warm fuzzy feelings build children's affection for Jesus, but they don't build the foundation for spiritual wisdom. So we must teach young children these truths to indoctrinate the fear towards God. The teaching must contain that they develop love towards God when they hear that God always keeps His promises. God gives rules that they must obey. They must know Even if the parents or the Sunday School teachers can't see what they are doing, but God sees it. They need to know that the discipline or the spiritual practice is a way of receiving God's love towards them. God disciplines us because He loves us.

Developing divine wisdom is another important aspect to bring true transformation among the children and young people. Wisdom is the ability to apply God's Word to life situations. So to grow in wisdom, children must first learn God's Word. It is always wise to add biblical teaching to their daily routine. At their early age children love to learn. When teaching children about Jesus, make sure you emphasize the following four

### Change agents in a changing World

Through Christ we are all called to be the par takers of His divine Kingdom on this earth. The children are also part of this Kingdom plan, and they are the foundations of this important task. We must see that they first be reconciled to God, so as to engage others also to be transformed. Accordingly, they are to be active partners with God in reconciling mankind to Him and mankind to one another The local Corps is God's agent for change: not the government, not the other NGOs or other trusts, but the local Corps or church committed to specific people in a specific place and time. God intends to image forth the righteousness and justice of His Kingdom through His beloved community: the reconciled and transformed Body of Christ. Francis Schaeffer a great theologian mentioned: "It is not enough for the Church to be engaged with

the State in healing social ills, though this is important at times. But when the world can turn around and see a group of God's people exhibiting substantial healing in the area of human relationships in their present life, then the world will take notice. Each group of Christians is, as it were, a pilot plant, showing that something can be done in the present situation, if only we begin in the right way."

Jesus in his sermon on the mount addressed that "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:13-16) . Jesus used the metaphors of salt and light to say that His followers are change agents. He stated it as a fact. If you are a Christian, you are a change agent; likewise, our children who follows the loving Jesus, they make a significant difference just like salt and light. He picked ordinary change-agents-salt and light-things that we use so often that we take them for granted, but you wouldn't want to live without them. Our Children and youth are change-agents. They make a huge difference! Salt seasons and preserves. God wants our youth and children to be a seasoning influence on the world around them. They are to spice up life and make people thirsty for God. Children and youth are also the light of the world! What does light do? Light illuminates. Light makes it possible to see; light makes invisible things visible. Being the light of the world, they make the invisible God visible to the communities. They live in such a way that others can see God's love and life through them and are drawn to Him.

Through the wisdom of God, Change Agents are to use the platforms of the world's ever changing technology to deliver the mandate to change the world for Christ. God wants to create an extraordinary army. So, this army would have to go through an extraordinary training. As we move towards the end-time, the world we live in will keep changing and more rapidly too. To be successful, our children and youth being the change agents must encounter and experience personal revival. Paul is a classic example of this. God is waiting to unleash the end-time revival. His purpose is that as Change Agents, our Children and youth experience change in Him from glory to glory (II Cor. 3:18). Change Agents must be rapture ready. As His Change Agents in a Changing world, the packaging may be innovative, using the changing platforms effectively for the kingdom but the content must remain the same.

Let us train our children and youth so as to make them the real change agents that transform the World.



Lieut. Colonel C. S. Samuel (Rtd.)
India South-Western Territory

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have ever lasting life." (John 3:16)

## WHO IS JESUS? LIGHT OF THE WORLD (GENESIS 1:1)

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the spirit of God was hovering over the face of waters."

God created light before He created the living and non-living things in the universe. God saw that the light was good, that it was good for creation. He wanted to create things in the brightness of light. All the creations other than light were created in the presence of and with the help of Light.

A 40W electric bulb, a fluorescent tube and a 500 W bulb are all alike when there is no electric supply; they do not produce light without electric energy. God had to create another light to regain the light, which was lost by the sin and transgression of the mankind. God wanted to redeem the mankind. The Light, which is again provided.

Jesus, proclaimed, "I am the light of the world." John said about this light. "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life and the life was the Light of men."

"And the Light shines in darkness and the did not comprehend it." (John 1:1-5)

Who is Jesus? Jesus is tie Light of the world. The Light, Jesus, came into the world to make every human being a man to give life for the man and to make man-eaters, perfect man-lovers.

### WHO IS JESUS? THE REALIZATION OF GOD

No one has ever seen God. The only begotten Son-Jesus - who is in the bosom of the Father, has declared Him. (John 1:18) There are several believers of God in India. The thought regarding the existence of God is as old as the origin of the mankind. All religious classics endeavour to depict and exhibit God to the mankind. Man, who derailed from the sight of God, by committing sin had the aspiration to meet God once again. But the man was departing from God in contrary to his aspiration. Isaiah said, "But your iniquities have

# GOD LOVED THE WORLD

separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)

In order to reveal God to the mankind three religions were originated. (1) Illiterates' Religion. (2) Scholars Religion. (3) Priests' Religion. All of these religions failed utterly. The mankind ran here and there in fear and fright. He found no one to share his cares and worries. There was no one to hear grievances. Hence, God Himself became a man to show him God, the eternal shelter and refuge. Jesus is the realization of God. (John 1: 12)

#### WHO IS JESUS? THE REALIZATION OF MAN

Nobody has seen God, nor has anyone seen the man. God created the man in His own image and likeness. Then God said, let us make man in our image, according to our likeness." (Genesis 1:26) The real man was seen only by God and by Eve. His wife, Eve, saw the beauty of handsome Adam. God brought Eve beside Adam. (Genesis 2:22) Eve, who was depressed by sin later on, could not tell the succeeding generation about the glory of God and the beauty of Adarrn. The children of Adam did not see the real Adam. They saw them father who was always with the sweat of his face. "In the sweat of your face, you shall eat bread. Till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken, for dust you are, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19)

### WHO IS JESUS? THE REFLECTION OF GOD'S LOVE

God sent prophets to save the lost humankind. Prophets beginning with Elijah to John came for reconciling the mankind with God. Prophet Ezra spoke to the people from B.C 604 to 562. Nehemiah began his mission in 465 B.C. The major Prophet Isaiah's ministry was during 740 to 680 B.C. Jeremiah during 627 t0580 B.C. and Ezekiel during 639-609 B.C. Daniel's ministry was in 606 B.C. Hosea in 723 B.C, Joel during 885 to 796 B.C, Amos in 787 - 747 B.C, Obadiah during 586 to 460 B.C. Then Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi and John the Baptist came and spoke to the mankind about God. The Major Prophet Isaiah began his sermon to rectiß' the mankind with the message: "Hear O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the lord has spoken I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner: and the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, my people do not consider. Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evil doers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked to anger the Holy one of Israel, they have turned away backward." (Isaiah 1: 1-4)

"Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, till there is no place, where they may dwell alone in the midst of the land!" (Isaiah 5:8)

"Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may follow intoxicating drink, who continue till night, till wine inflames them." (Isaiah 5:11)

"Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of

vanity, and sin as if with a cart rope; that say: Let Him makes speed and hastens His work that we may see it; and let the counsel of the Holy one of Israel draw near and come, that we may know it." (Isaiah 5: 18-19)

"Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink who justify the wicked for a bribe and take away justice from the righteous man!" (Isaiah 5: 22, 23)

Hearing this sermon, nobody was saved. God seemed to have failed in this attempt. A synagogue was assembled in the Heaven to find out how the man can be saved from the strangle hold of sin. It was found as a solution that the only way for saving the sinner was to love him and that there is no other way. The love of God reflected in the Manger. God became a Man. Who is God? He is omnipresent in the heavens and the earth. "Can anyone hide him in secret places, so I shall not see him? Says the Lord: Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord. (Jeremiah 23: 24)

"But will God indeed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain you; how much less this temple which I have built! (1 1 Chronicles 6:18)

### WHO IS JESUS? THE REFLECTION OF GOD'S LOVE

The love of God through Jesus was reflecting for three and a half years during his public ministry. It reflected on twelve ordinary men, the fishermen, and the publicans, who became his disciples. The love reflected on the stick, the sinners, on the land and on the sea. It reflected on living things and nonliving things too. The love of God reflected on scholars, illiterates, rich people, poor people, and lepers and on the sewant of the centurion (Matthew 8:2, 5-13). The Love was reflected on Peter's mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14), on the demon possessed man (Matthew 8:16) and on the paralytic (Matthew 9:1). The Love reflected on the woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years (Matthew 9:20) and on Jairus' daughter who was dead (Matthew 9: 24-26). The Love of God reflected on the blind men (Matthew 9: 27-29) and on the dump man (Matthew (9:32).

A highway was opened from the Manger of the cattle-shed in Bethlehem to the Holy place of Calvary. When they crucified Him along with the two criminals one on the right-hand and the other on the left, then Jesus said "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:24). Finally, Jesus said "Father, into your hands I command my spirit." (Luke 23:46)

As He loved us, He died for us and saved us from our sins. He rose up from the dead and lives on high even today for each one of us. Is this Jesus alive in you and in me? He is the light of the world; the realization of God as well as the realization of Man. Jesus is the Reflection of God's Love. Is this Jesus living in Your Heart?



# BONES THAT TEACH US VALUABLE TRUTHS

Rev. P. Y. Rathnam
Hyderabad, India Central Territory

o you know that churches constructed, decorated and beautified with bones in eight countries. In Czech Republic a church was constructed with the bones of 40000 dead people. Bones are very essential to human body. There are 206 bones covered with 750 muscles and flesh together with 46 miles lengthy veins. These bones support the body to stand, to walk and to run. These bones also protect several parts of the body. The red blood cells produced in the bones take the oxygen to all the parts of the body. The white blood cells fight and protect the body from disease and virus.

What Bible tells about these bones? 1. BONES IN THE CREATION OF MAN **AND WOMAN:** (Genesis 2:7, 2:21-22) In Genesis we read that God formed man with dust, and called him Adam. God caused deep sleep to Adam and took his rib and with that rib God created woman. God created man and woman in His own image to worship Him. But today they forgot the creator and worshipping the creation; they forgot living God and praying and praising the dead idols. They are dying without knowing Jesus as their only Saviour. The love of God has been pouring in to hearts of Pastors and Evangelists to reach to these dying people.

2. BONES IN THE CREATION OF THE CHURCH: (John 19:34) A roman soldier pierced Jesus with spear, and there came out blood and water. The rib was taken out long back, it was not broken. Holy Spirit is revealing us great spiritual truth that when mother's womb is wounded, blood and water comes out, a baby will be born. Likewise when Jesus was wounded blood and water came out, the bride or the church was born. St. Paul is revealing

another truth that we are members of Christ's body of His flesh and of His bones (Eph 5:30). As the red blood cells produced in the bones takes oxygen to all the parts of the body, so also the members of the church take the message of Christ to all parts of the world. Unfortunately the people fragmented the body of Christ with doctrinal differences, caste and community barriers, religious pride and prejudices. As a result no unity, no fellowship among the believers and they become powerless and purposeless.

3. BONES OF JOSEPH (Genesis 50:25-26) Joseph lived 110 years. Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, asking them to take his bones to the Promised Land. Accordingly, when Joseph died they embalmed the body and kept it in the coffin. Why did Joseph ask to take his bones to Promised Land? Egypt is sinful land and Promised Land is Holy Place and lived by God's children. Egypt represents this world and Promised Land represents Heaven. Therefore, we must prepare ourselves daily to become citizens of Heaven by becoming into image of Jesus Christ. For which we must aware of our faults and failures and feel unworthy to stand in His presence. Our God is merciful to the people who are broken hearts, wet eyes and bent knees.

**4. BONES OF ELISHA** (2 KINGS 13:21) When Moabites came to fight with Israel, the people who are on the way to burry dead body, frightened of Moabites and they kept the body in the tomb of Elisha. When the body touched to the bones of Elisha, the dead man got life. Elisha died one year back; still the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit is lying in the bones. The Holy Spirit alone can transform our lives with power and authority.

When the power of Holy Spirit is on us, the people will be blessed when we visit them, they get salvation when we talk to them about Christ, and they get healing when we place our hands on the sick. When the Holy Spirit is in us, we become temples of God and become witnesses of the Lord.

5. DRY BONES (Ezekiel 37:1-14) God took the prophet Ezekiel into the valley of dry bones, and commanded him to speak to the dry bones. When the prophet prophesied, the bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. Flesh and muscles formed over the bones and the skin covered the bodies. The wind blew from all the directions, the bodies came to life; they stood like a great Army. The impossible becomes possible when the power of the Highest comes. These dry bones represent the captives in Babylon. We are also captives of sin sickness, anger and hatred, impurity and evil desires and our lives are barren and dry.

There is unity among bones in joining one another, there is an order forming the veins and flesh, Living breath came in to the bones. Likewise there must be unity among the members of the church, an order in worshipping, praying and preaching the word. 120 people experienced unity, order, transforming spirit on the day of Pentecost. They became instruments of transformation in God's hand, they could reach whole world with gospel of Christ. And whenever His children have united together with love, unity and harmony and have sought His face, miracles happened. As a soldier of great army you can be a part of miracle wherever you are. ~

# ME & THE SALVATION ARMY

#### What is Salvation?

hen I heard a word salvation, I learnt it is a deliverance from sin through God. Being a born Christian doesn't make everyone good to get that salvation. Something has to be done by holy spirit in him to get salvation. I believe salvation gets through believe in Christ because "whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16). But I need a place to find, explore and persist my faith, belief in Christ to get the Salvation. I need a well-structured workshop which laid a strong foundation in God and must lead me to Salvation. That's why I need Salvation Army.

### What is Christian Faith?

The Christian faith is the experience of daily living in a dynamic and new personal relationship with God through a transplanted "heart" of godly passions and emotions and a renewed "mind" of godly thoughts and wise Spirit-directed personal choices.

The mission of the church is to make disciples. And, as defined by Jesus in the Great Commission, disciple-making is a combination of both good news and good works. What Did God Charge Us With? If the church's mission means that it was sent by God to complete a specific task, then we must begin by asking, "What did God send us to do?"

How a man become disciple after getting salvation. He has to follow certain doctrines through faith in Christ to sustain in his salvation. That's why Salvation Army has Doctrines. we call it "The 11 Doctrines of Salvation Army" Each and every doctrine starts with a phrase "We believe" and we believe, believing is the primary root for Salvation.

### **DISCIPLINE OF SALVATION ARMY:**

When we look at the People around the world, we see that they must adhere to strict discipline in order to achieve their ultimate goal of protecting their own is

the primary duty. Their goal is to conquer the world, whereas our goal is to conquer souls. We do our job flawlessly.

Respect for each other: In the Army, all have been taught and trained to respect each other irrespective of race. Officers respect everyone in their command whether they are believers or nonbelievers.

Follow Orders: Army Discipline is a state of order and obedience existing within a command. In the Army, self-discipline is where soldiers do the right things without being told, even when the commander is not there. A sense of responsibility and confidence is instilled within an individual if he/she is disciplined. So as a Salvationists we should follow the orders of God like his soldier.

**To be selfless:** Being a salvationist makes me to be selfless for souls. We have to work constantly for souls. I have been taught, trained, for souls.

**To believe in organization:** When you believe in something, it becomes easier to give it you are all. The members are characterized by a constant belief in their cause and are united by the love for souls.

The determination to achieve your goals: One thing that truly makes soldiers stand apart is their ability to achieve their goals, even fighting against incredible odds, because the Bible says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthened me." (Philippians 4:13)

To have a positive attitude: The men who go for souls have this flair of being hard to de-motivate. They tend to see the best in the worst situations. God is their motivator and gives strength through all struggles because he says, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness". (Isaiah 41:10)

Self-control: Your discipline is reflected



V. S. Ashik Rogan Chadayanvilai Corps, Thuckalay Division India South Eastern Territory

in how patient you can be. when things don't go the right way, you manage your emotions. Self-control is the key factor to learn how to be tolerant. If somebody wants to improve his self-discipline, he must remove all the attractions and interruptions from the environment. Our eyes should keep away from all sinful thoughts

Do the little things: A great way to cultivate the habit of being disciplined is to focus on doing the little things you know you should do such as make your bed before you leave the house, keep your environment clean, keep your car clean, take the garbage out and devour after yourself. As you discipline yourself to do the tiny things, you will become more disciplined in doing better, more important things.

#### Now I know true salvation Meant to

"The deliverance, by the grace of God, from eternal punishment for sin which is granted to those who accept by faith God's conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus." Salvation is available in Jesus alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Now proudly I can say I am one of the Salvationists in the Army of Salvation.

## IT TRAINING FOR WOMEN OFFICERS, IET



T Training has been successfully held at Booth Mansion Conference Centre at THQ on 27thMay, 2022 as per Territorial Women's Ministries action plan. THQ-women officers and city area women officers totally 28 women officers participated in the training. Colonel Lalhlimpuii TPWM had welcome speech to the participants and Major Ramhmuzauvi TWDO led devotion. Mrs. Jean Vanlalrochhuangi Territorial IT Coordinator taught us how to create power point, office 365, words and excel. Practical work was done. This

training Programme is expected to help women officers in the future ministries. Closing prayer and benediction done by Colonel Rani Phula Pradhan TSWM.

We thank God for his grace to accomplish our action plan. The training has been benefited by all the delegates.



Reported by India Eastern Territory



"Some men's ambition is art.
Some men's ambition is fame.
Some men's ambition is gold.

My ambition is the souls of men."

-William Booth, 1904



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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."

# 'This is the Story..... SHOUT ALOUD SALVATION

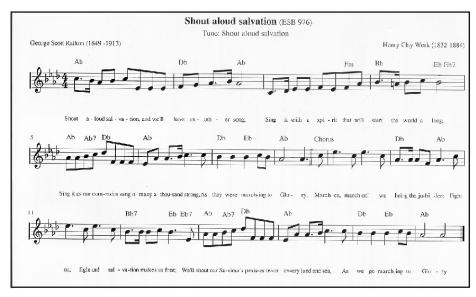
eorge Scott Railton (6 July 1849 - 19 July 1913) was a Scottish-born Christian missionary who was the first Commissioner of The Salvation Army.

Born in the manse of St. John's Methodist Church at Arbroath in Scotland, he was the son of Methodist missionaries Lancelot Railton and his wife, Margaret Scott. Railton was educated at Woodhouse Grove School in Leeds, which was established to provide an education for the sons of itinerant ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. His father and mother both died on 8 November 1864 at Peel, Isle of Man, probably of cholera.

The death of his parents left the 15-yearold Railton homeless and unemployed. His older brother, the Rev. Launcelot Railton, a Methodist minister, found him work in London with a shipping company, but not finding it to his liking Railton decided to go to Morocco in 1869 as a Christian missionary. However, this being unsuccessful and finding himself stranded in Morocco, he had to work his passage back to Britain as a steward. In 1870 he began to work in Stockton-on-Tees for an uncle who owned a shipping business, but preached the Gospel at every available opportunity. In the same year William Booth went to Matlock to recuperate and where he met the Rev. Launcelot Railton, who told Booth of his younger brother George's attempt to convert the Moroccans, adding that George was just the sort of person that Booth's Christian Mission was looking for.



George Scott Railton



Two years later, in 1872, Booth received a letter from George Scott Railton, who had read a copy of The Christian Mission's second report, 'How to Reach the Masses with the Gospel', and had been so moved by it that he offered himself to the cause.

In October 1872 Railton travelled to London to commence his work for The Christian Mission, (renamed The Salvation Army in 1878 at a meeting at which Railton was present), and for some years he lived in the Booth household as William Booth's secretary. He became the acting editor of 'The Christian Mission Magazine' and in September 1873 was appointed General Secretary to The Christian Mission.

In 1884 Railton was married to Marianne Deborah Lydia Ellen Parkyn, a Salvation Army Sergeant in Torquay in Devon. Her father was a Free Church minister who disapproved of The Salvation Army and who opposed the wedding. Eventually he gave his consent, and the couple were married by William Booth at Exeter Hall on 17 January 1884. The couple settled at Margate and had children, but Railton was there only rarely.[3]

While travelling to Le Locle in Switzerland

he had to change trains at Cologne in Germany. Having a long wait for his connection he visited the quarters of the local

Mr. Justin Benjamin Senior Songster Brigade Leader Trivandrum Central Corps **India South-Western Territory** 



Salvation Army officers. Delayed by their hospitality and their prayers, he had little time to catch his train and ran up the stairs to the platform carrying his heavy bags. On gaining his seat he collapsed and died of a heart attack on 19th July 1913 in Cologne. He was buried in Abney Park Cemetery, London beside the graves of Catherine and William Booth.

Courtesey: Wikipedia



# **OUTREACH WORKERS TRAINING/RETREAT, IET**

utreach Workers Training/Re treat from Southern Division of India Eastern Territory was organised at Lunglei Corps during 26 – 29 May, 2022 under the leadership of Lieut-Colonel Lalliankunga, Secretary for Programme



Administration. 10 Soldiers of Cross and 19 Evangelist Teachers attended this training.

Introduction of Outreach Operation Manual, Cross Culture Evangelism, Planning and Setting Road Map, Sustainable Church Development and Growth, Education as Evangelism, Women's Ministries, Caring and tending the Church with Special reference to Paul's Ministries, Personal Spiritual life formation and development, Relations with Headquarters through Reports and Returns are the subjects/topics delivered through papers and power point presentation by Lieut-Colonel Lalliankunga, Programme Secretary, Major K. Lalbiaktluanga, Outreach & Evangelism Secretary, Major PC Lianthanga Divisional Commander, Major PC Vanlalchhuangi DDWM, Mr.

Vanlalnghaka CS and Mr. Remlalnghaka CSM (R), members of Territorial Outreach Mission Board. A discussion on "God's way with me" and interaction of their practical experiences were interesting and much challenging.

Three public meetings were held in which an impressive messages have been delivered by the Programme Secretary. The final meeting led by the Divisional Commander was a real holy spirit moving programme where the outreach workers shared their challenging testimonies and the soldiers attending this meeting dance with joyful hearts in praise of God. All the outreach workers responded the altar call and renew their commitment to serve the Lord in more cause and many Soldiers in the congregation joined them responding this altar call. The training concluded as we join a Psalmist "The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy".

Major K. Lalbiaktluanga
Outreach & Evangelism Secretary
India Eastern Territory

# TRAINING THE TRAINERS - CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING, PUNJAB, INT

reetings 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 Training held on 17th and 19th May 2022 at HRD Center, Batala, Punjab was a very productive and helpful training. 30 delegates who are involved in Children Ministry like the some of the Head of the departments from THQ, Hostel In-charge, DYS, Corps Officers, Sunday school Teachers and school Teachers attended the Seminar and Major Jashiben Khristi Child Protection Specialist — South Asia Zone was the resource person.

Secretary for Social Services introduced and welcomed the resource persons and the delegates; the Seminar was inaugurated by Commissioner Daniel Raju Dasari Territorial Commander, India Northern Territory. With his key notes the purpose of this three days training was to prepare the delegates 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 we discourage kids by comparing them with others and forcing them to follow our 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 India Northern Territory THQ, New Delhi

## **COVENANT, ORDINATION, COMMISSIONING & APPOINTMENTS SERVICE, ICT**

## MESSENGERS OF RECONCILIATION 2020-2022

It was a blessed time for the Indian Central Territory, to have a large number of candidates for Officer Training. Every year the passionate and committed Candidates are entering in the Training College to undergo Officer Training and to minister the people of India Central Territory. The Messengers of Reconciliation Session commenced with 27 cadets with Welcome meeting on 06th December 2020, after one year 2 cadets added from previous session, they dropped by their personal reasons from Messengers of the Kingdom session, after their personal request, they are reaccepted to this session and the Commissioning of these 29 Cadets was held on 08th May 2022, at the Central Corps Prayer Hall, Nellore, under the leadership of Colonel Yaqoob Masih, Territorial Commander & Colonel Sumitra Masih, Territorial President of Women's Ministries and supported by Lt. Colonel M. Stalin, Chief Secretary and Lt. Colonel Kezial Stalin, Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries and Cabinet Secretaries. All the events in the program inspired the cadets and staff and brought blessings for the newly commissioned Officers.

### THE EVENTS:

### **Covenant:**

The Covenant service was held on 7th May 2022, central Corps, Nellore. Covenant is signed by a cadet about to be Ordained and Commissioned. The Covenant is made between that cadet and God. It is the means whereby a cadet binds himself or herself to God in making of solemn vows. It is the entering into a deeply spiritual relationship with God for sacred service of a specific nature. In the presence of the Leadership, Cabinet Secretaries and Training College



staff, each cadet offered prayer and signed with their own free will, in the clear understanding that the commitment is intended to be life-long: 'Called by God to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ as an officer of the Salvation Army and to love and serve Him supremely all his/her days.

### **Ordination:**

The cadets are ordained as the ministers of God and the officers of the Salvation Army, to perform the religious rituals of the communities and as the authoritative representatives of God; they were given ordination to represent and The Salvation Army.

### **Commissioning:**

As the prime aspect of the Officers' Training, the Cadets were commissioned to proclaim the Gospel, to look after the needs of the people and to release them from all sorts of bondage of sin as well as the social evils. The Cadets sang a melodious sessional song composed and tuned by Major D. Latha, TDWM. The Territorial Commander commissioned them, and then gave an inspiring message. They were given certificates as a mark of completion of their training. Colonel Sumitra Masih, Territorial

President of Women's Ministries distributed Silver Star Certificates and badges to the parents with the support of Lt. Colonel Kezial Stalin, TSWM and Major G. Param Jyothi, Silver Star Secretary.

### **Graduation:**

Graduation is a part in Commissioning Program. It is the award of academic degree or the ceremony that is associated with it. Messengers of Reconciliation 2020-2022 cadets completed their B.Th. (Bachelor of Theology) and received B.Th. certificates and marks memos by Asia Theological Association through Colonel S.P. Simon, National Executive Officer and Major Samson Macwan, Secretary for HRDI.

### **Appointments Service:**

Following the Graduation Program, Appointment Orders were given to the newly commissioned Lieutenants. The Territorial Commander elucidated the role and responsibility of the officer in the Salvation Army in the community and the 29 new Lieutenants were received Appointment Orders as Corps Commanding Officers for men and Community Development Officer for women in various Corps in the Territory.

The program was a blessing to the entire gathering. The newly Commissioned Lieutenants were touched by the inspirational sermon which is delivered from the scripture portion Luke 6:12-16 by Territorial Commander, and the Holy Spirit touched the mind, soul and body and are refreshed for the mission of God. The 29 cadets of Messengers of Reconciliation would certainly fulfill the vision of our Founder William Booth in carrying the flame of the Salvation Army towards next generation. Readers are requested to uphold the newly commissioned Officers in your prayers. Hallelujah!



Major D. Yesurajyam Training Principal India Central Territory

# THE CHIEF OF THE STAFF CELEBRATES NEW BEGINNINGS IN USA CENTRAL

ORE than 1,100 Salvationists and friends from the USA Central Territory gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the first in-person commissioning weekend in three years. The fellowship was sweet, the blessings abundant and there was no doubt that God is still using The Salvation Army to accomplish his mission in America's Midwest.

Each exhilarating meeting of the event, which took the theme Advance, focused on Jesus, his work in the world and the privilege of every Christian to join him in this mission. Delegates lifted the Lord's name in praise and knelt at the mercy seat, transforming the Miller High Life Theater into a sacred space time and again.

Those who gathered – and thousands more who watched the online streaming of the event – were encouraged in their faith and service by the Chief of the Staff (Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham) and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham (World Secretary for Spiritual Life Development). The Buckinghams' engaging style and authenticity connected with delegates, who were inspired by their uplifting Bible messages to remain in Christ and express our love to God by serving others and sharing our own salvation stories.

'It's still absolutely true,' proclaimed the Chief, 'that the most powerful tool we have in the Church for bringing people into an encounter and experience with Christ is our own story, our own testimony, our own reality of the living presence of Christ dwelling deeply within our hearts.'

His point was driven home by powerful personal testimonies and a video which revealed that since 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, 56,406 people have sought Christ across the USA Central Territory.

The theme of sacrificial living continued through the commissioning and ordination of new Salvation Army officers from the Messengers of Reconciliation Session of cadets. When they

received their first appointments, those who are parents were joined on-stage by their children, with the news bringing reactions of joy and celebration.

Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham offered words of encouragement and advice to the new officers. 'Guard your hearts,' she told them, followed by a reminder that Jesus, in his public ministry, 'always made time to be in the presence of his heavenly Father'.

Recognition was given to the 10th anniversary of 'Pathway of Hope', an initiative developed in the USA Central Territory to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. The programme has changed the lives of more than 10,000 families across the territory and its success has seen it taken on by other territories. There are now Pathway of Hope projects in more than 1,000 locations worldwide, including in the three other USA territories, Canada, Bermuda, Spain, Portugal, Norway and Argentina.

Other causes for jubilation included a World Services Ingathering of more than US\$10.2 million, the dedication to God of three Summer Mission Teams and the introduction of a new territorial soldiers' forum.



Music from the Chicago Staff Band, a territorial worship collective and USA Central Territorial Staff Songsters brought people into a closer sense of God's presence, as did thought-provoking dramas by the Bill Booth Theater Company.

A ceremony honouring the ministry of the Eastern Michigan, Heartland, Metropolitan and Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Divisions moved on to the inauguration of the North and Central Illinois Division and Great Lakes Division. These changes are part of a wider territorial reorganisation. Together, the two new divisions will incorporate 85 corps (churches), 5,300 soldiers and 190 officers.

Calling for a commitment of support through prayer and service, Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey said: 'We have been intentional to look at what changes might be needed to position our territory to advance with greater effectiveness and more targeted deployment of all the resources that God has entrusted to us. That process has brought us to this important day and this important milestone as we honour our tradition and celebrate new beginnings.' Commissioner Heidi Bailey (Territorial Leader for Leader Development) dedicated the divisions to God in prayer, asking him for continued guidance and help as the territory moves forward.



Based on a report by Elizabeth Kinzie