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Editorial Introduction

by Captain Stephen Court

Greetings in Jesus' name. Welcome to Journal of Aggressive Christianity's 46th issue—the Interview Issue. You'll see a few themes cropping up throughout: holiness, identity, and mission.

We're excited about the content. We've got some regulars, Harris and Bale, provoking us to freedom (in THOUGHTS ABOUT FREEDOM) and holiness (in HOLINESS AND HOW TO GET IT). Commissioner Harris is subtly tripping you to calling obedience. And Bale is less subtly commending SLB's type of holiness to you, not merely theologically, but experientially.

Commissioner George Scott Railton makes a rare JAC appearance, writing on women in Heathen England. This is a position normal to The Army and to the Barmy Army but we need to keep reminding ourselves and those we invited to these pages of this important truth.

And Lieutenant Steve Bussey responds beautifully to last week's TIME Magazine article on youth ministry in LOLLI-POP SPIRITUALITY - WHY YOUTH ARE CRASHING FROM SUGAR-COATED CHRISTIANITY. This is good for everyone to read, but is also possibly an nice entry-article for our emergent comrades.

And then we interview soldiers from five territories on battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn as much as I did in the editing room on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

There are no commissioned officers interviewed this time around. It is strange that we even have to mention it in JAC, but we have a high view of soldiership. And these soldiers model some of the standards and expectations and possibilities for the salvation war. Now, for those of you who like to find out about the brass (the shoulders, not the mouth pieces), search the archives, as we've interviewed our share of generals and commissioners...

Enjoy this issue. Once you get through it, catch up on the 45 previous issues. Then hit a few years of blogs. Then hit the preaching resource at armybarmy.com (now with video as well as audio). And let's each try to get someone saved today.

God bless The Salvation Army
The Editors

Thoughts about Freedom

by Commissioner Wesley Harris

AROUND the world are millions of people who hanker for freedom and I have in mind those living under repressive regimes who are denied many of the liberties which some of us take for granted. For example, electoral freedom, religious freedom and the right of free speech are privileges often most valued by those who don't have them! We who do have them should also count them as great blessings and give thanks.

However, the whole concept of freedom is one we need to turn over in our minds. What does it mean? How free is free? Really, how free are many living in the so-called 'free world'?

Is freedom simply the right to do what we like? Or is it the power to do what we ought? Paradoxically, those who do what they like sometimes then don't like what they do and St Paul bore witness to that in the seventh chapter of his letter to the Romans:. He wrote, 'What I do is not the good I want to do'

Strange as it sounds the greatest freedom is sometimes enjoyed by those who voluntarily restrict their right to do what they like. Marriage might provide an example; it is a bond and yet it can be wonderfully liberating. The cynic might dismiss holy wedlock as unholy deadlock but his gag is lost on those of us for whom marriage has been wonderfully enriching.

Then take sport. Lads kicking a tin can in a back alley may not be governed by rules but those who have the 'freedom' of the professional soccer pitch most certainly are. There may be rules with which a player might not agree and about which he may lobby in the right quarters but if he flouts the rules on the field of play the referee will have no option but to send him off. But within the framework of mutually accepted rules meaningful sport can take place. Real freedom has rules attached.

The same kind of thing must obtain in a school, a club or a church. Freedom must be qualified and include responsibility and accountability.

Sometimes we find the greatest freedom when we are prepared to limit our right to do what we like in order to serve a higher purpose. For example, when I became a Salvation Army officer I was ready to forgo my right to live and work where I chose. I voluntarily gave up the rights which many of my friends took for granted. But in the event I have found a freedom in service as wide as the world. My way would have been nothing like as free as God's way.

The greatest authority on freedom is Jesus. He said, 'If the Son sets you free you will be free indeed' (John 8.36). Think about it!

Holiness and How to Get It!

by Andrew Bale

Holiness and how to get it!

by Andrew Bale

*"If you want holiness, cling to the cross,
Counting the riches of earth as dross;
Down at his feet you'll be cleansed and made free;
Enjoying a full salvation."*

George Phippen Ewens

There will inevitably come a time in the life of any serious believer when the demand of holiness or 'entire sanctification' will cling to the mind of a believer, refusing to leave until the soul either surrenders or retreats. It is possible to be a Christian without being entirely sanctified but it is impossible to remain one for any length of time without successfully negotiating this 'stumbling block'

For Jesus this struggle was ultimately settled in Gethsemane and centred on the complete surrender of his free will in exchange for total obedience to God.

1 John 2:6 says:

'Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did'

This verse makes it quite clear that the challenge that beset Christ will eventually come our way for we cannot crucify self without first passing through Gethsemane. The minimum requirement of proper biblical Christianity is holiness or 'entire sanctification'. Sanctification means to 'set apart' to reserve for a special purpose (in the case of holiness it means set apart for God's exclusive use). The word entire when attached to sanctification means that everything is set apart in absolute surrender with nothing whatsoever held back. Such a transaction can be summed up in the simple yet profound prayer:

'Thy will not mine be done.'

Jesus referred to this transaction by way of the greatest commandment:

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind. This is the first and greatest commandment" (Matthew 22:37-38)

It is only when the Christian obeys this 'greatest commandment' that they become truly effective and fruitful. Nominal or half hearted Christianity can appear to be relatively successful simply because God in his passion for the lost is sometimes prepared to work in spite of our shortcomings. However it is only when Christians collectively participate in the act of entire sanctification that we experience revival:

- holiness was at the heart of Pentecost,

- holiness was at the heart of 'The Great Awakening',
- holiness was at the heart of the Methodist revival in 18th century England,
- holiness was at the heart of the American revival in the mid 19th century,
- holiness was at the heart of the birth of The Salvation Army (and the global revival its foundation spawned)
- holiness will be at the heart of any future revival!

Personal holiness or entire sanctification like most biblical promises or blessings is conditional. Entire sanctification as its name suggests requires a contribution from both man and God.

What are the conditions which if met will enable God to establish holiness in our lives?

Conviction:

The only people who can possibly hope to complete this transaction are those who are convinced that holiness is both a requirement and a possibility. It may take time for a believer to become convinced that holiness is plausible – it took John Wesley 10 years! However, once a Christian finds they are being badgered by thoughts about holiness they should seek to close the deal as quickly as possible.

Conviction may come in several ways, scripture, the example of others, the history of revival, the lives of the saints etc. Although conviction may have many different routes it only ever has one source. The call to holiness always comes from God.

“Therefore prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1:13-16)

Holiness is not possible without conviction because conviction comes from God. Like a parent watching their child in a football game God stands at the touchline urging us on – “go on you can do it, you can be holy!” However, unlike a parent watching his child God has a realistic perception of our ability. Conviction happens only when God can see that we are ready to move forward. Conviction is in itself a blessing for it is God verbalising his confidence in us. If we are being convicted to give up sin and to surrender our all then that is because God thinks we are ready to do both! When conviction appears a believer must take advantage as soon as possible, to delay would simply compound the sin we are being encouraged to do away with.

Renunciation.

In Matthew 7: 21-23 we read

“‘Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day,

‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

In 1 John 1:15-17 we read

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires will pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever’

In 1 John 2:3-6 we read

“We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.”

It is abundantly clear from the bible that giving up sin and freedom from a constant desire to sin is a basic requirement of Christianity. Holiness must start with a willingness to comprehensively identify and renounce sin. Holiness cannot and will not progress beyond conviction without us making a thorough inventory of those things in our lives that are both sinful and doubtful followed by the giving up of everything identified. Conviction is God’s way of pushing us towards renunciation, he wants us to be pure and he is ready to make purity possible.

To fulfil this condition thoroughly will require prayerful attention to detail and a willingness to eradicate even the smallest compromise. Many things once considered sinful by the church have now been relegated to doubtful – for example worldliness. It is only in the last few decades that worldliness has become acceptable in Christian circles. Love of the world and confirmation to its standards is anti-Christian - materialistic consumers will never possess holiness!

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”
(Matthew 6:24)

Our inability (or refusal) to recognise and eradicate even the small compromises (that have all too often become part and parcel of our lives) is the area in the pursuit of holiness where we are most likely to fail. It is always unwise to give examples (for failure to list all things doubtful can generate a false sense of security) nevertheless we should consider surrendering anything that is either non essential to, or a distraction from, our mission (with the exception of those things which are obviously moral such as devoting proper time and resources to our civil, legal and domestic responsibilities)

Be assured that if even the slightest compromise remains un-renounced holiness will not happen. Whilst we may be prepared to rationalise and justify compromise, the spirit of God will hold back until the issue - however small - is resolved.

We must pray the prayer of the psalmist in Psalm 139:23-24

“Search me O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting”

We must continue to pray this prayer until we can confidently repeat the prayer of David in Psalm 17:3

“Though you probe my heart and examine me at night, though you test me, you will find nothing; I have resolved that my mouth will not sin.”

Charles Finney used to teach that a Christian who surrendered 95% of their lives to God but knowingly held back 5% was in deliberate sin and consequently their salvation was in doubt. We might be tempted to think that Finney is being a bit harsh yet he is only reiterating what Jesus told the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-23

"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. (95%)

"You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (100%)

Consecration

The third condition of holiness after conviction and renunciation is consecration.

In Romans 12 we read

“Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his pleasing and perfect will.”

In Romans 6:22 we read

“But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.”

In Romans 8:12 we read

“Therefore, brothers we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.”

In Matthew 13:44-46 we read

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

It is crystal clear that the bible requires the entire surrender of our whole being to God. Our 'whole being' comprises our time, money, influence, leisure, ambitions, personality—literally everything that we have and are.

Again whilst it is dangerous to give illustrations (lest something is left out) we should carefully and prayerfully consider how we spend our time and money:

- What kinds of things make us passionate?
- What kinds of thing make us excited?
- What is our number one interest in life?
- What commands most of our attention prayer or television, sport or bible study?
- How much time do we spend on our personal appearance before going to the Army, compared to how much time we spend on preparing ourselves spiritually?

As Paul tells the Corinthians:

"Everything is permissible"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others... So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— even as I try to please everybody in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved." (Corinthians 10: 23-33)

In our eagerness to surrender all we must remember that 'rest' is a commandment. I am absolutely certain that God made rest a commandment because he knew that our response to Christ would drive us on to extreme commitment. Sabbath rest is essential and placed by God before murder, adultery and theft in his list of commandments. 'Rest' is a command that was not cancelled out by Christ's death, it is a command for our benefit, and a command that we disobey at our absolute peril! The Command to rest is explicit in both the Old and New Testaments. To disobey this command would be 'to disobey a known law of God' and that as Wesley would be quick to point out is sin!

A quote from Railton to at least keep the idea of rest in a Salvationist context!

"But our soldiers must take holiday sometimes perforce; and then they look to the Army to provide them with such holy entertainment as their souls delight in. Services all day long, or, at any rate, during the afternoon, open-air demonstrations, camp-meetings, expeditions to other stations, or to mission some new neighbourhood, watch nights, all nights of prayer, are some of the entertainments to which Army people treat themselves upon extraordinary occasions." (Heathen England Chapter 8)

In summary absolute surrender is not extreme or unreasonable but it is the minimum requirement made by God upon those who dare to call themselves Christian.

Obedient Faith

The final condition of holiness is obedient faith.

"But Purifying Faith sees Jesus Christ to be the altogether lovely, His service to be infinitely desirable, and the privilege of joining with Him in the work of saving and

blessing men so honourable and desirable that the soul controlled by it leaps forward to lay itself at the Master's feet, willing to be used in any way He thinks best, and so gladly offers a consecration which knows no hesitation, has no reservation, the limits of which being only bounded by its ability." (William Booth, *Purity of Heart*.)

If I "Love the Lord my God with all my heart and with all my soul and with my entire mind' then my devotion will be proven by the way I obey the second greatest commandment which is to 'Love my neighbour as myself.'

Whilst renunciation might be complicated obedience is relatively simple, for all the commandments are summed up in these two.

How do I please God?

In John 15:16-17 Jesus says:

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other."

When Jesus reinstated Peter he only had one issue to settle:

"Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." (John 21:16)

Paul tells the Romans:

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)

He also reminds the Corinthians that even spectacular and apparently anointed Christian service without love is nothing.

Love is the hallmark of Christianity:

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35)

James says:

"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:14-17)

It should be remembered, as the old doctrine book says, that "Consecration, although a condition of sanctification, must not be mistaken for sanctification itself. Consecration is

an act done by man before God sanctifies him; sanctification is a work done by God within man after man has done his part.” This is true of all these conditions:

- they originate with God,
- are made possible by God,
- are encouraged by God,
- are empowered by God,
- are realised by God,
- are maintained by God.

The outcome of holiness

“In short, to be pure in soul; signifies deliverance from all and everything which the Lord shows you to be opposed to His Holy Will. It means that you not only possess the ability to live the kind of life that He desires, but that you actually do live it.” (William Booth, *Purity of Heart.*)

Entirely sanctified people will sense an immediate and practical benefit within their lives which will include:

- Perfect inward peace— as their will is perfectly surrendered to God’s there will be no cause for inner conflict.
- perfect happiness and joy – man’s ideal goal is to do God’s will and will therefore deliver maximum happiness – our ‘joy will be complete’
- An unshakeable belief that ‘all things’ are working ‘together for good’, a constant trust in God.
- A willingness (even an eagerness) to suffer anything and everything that comes our way as a result of obedience to God’s will.
- Perfect love for God and humanity
- Fruit – holiness makes us effective in ministry
- Devotion to God’s service that leaves no room for selfish ambition or worldly pleasure.
- The complete eradication of the desire to sin.

It should be noted that the last of these bullet points is the one that most people stumble over perhaps because they feel it delivers a level of expectation that they can’t meet. Remember holiness is about what God does through us and not about what we do for him. If we follow the conditions set out above there will be no room for sin in our lives.

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (James 4:7-8)

Sin requires resources – if all of my resources are ‘set apart’ exclusively for God’s use then I do not have any resources with which to sin. In addition if my renunciation and consecration is motivated by love then I will have no desire to sin. My only desire will

be to please God. Add to this the immeasurable grace of God and the unlimited power of God and the transforming nature of the new covenant and it is the thought of disobedience that seems farfetched.

In Summary

- Holiness is both possible and essential ('without holiness none shall see the Lord!)
- Holiness makes Christians fruitful and effective
- Holiness leads to revival
- Holiness is conditional upon
 - Conviction
 - Renunciation of all that is sinful *and* doubtful
 - Consecration (absolute surrender)
 - Obedient faith
- Holiness is the work of God not man
- Holiness brings about complete and instant deliverance from sin (Holy people **do not** sin)
- A holy life is exemplified by a love for God expresses in practical love for others

When Kate Booth was asked the secret of her power she answered "First, it is love; second, love; third, love. And if you ask me how to get it, I answer first, by sacrifice; second, by sacrifice; third, by sacrifice." One would be hard pressed to find a more concise definition of holiness.

Finally, if the above conditions are met then holiness can and should be instant. If you are reading this because you have been beset with thoughts about holiness then **now** is the time to make the sacrifice and claim the blessing. Why be continually pestered by the hampering annoyance of habitual sin when you can be free? Why waste another moment on pretend Christianity? Why not go for the real thing now?

"My Comrades, I want to ask you the question, When shall this Purity come into your hearts? Do you say tomorrow? I answer, "Perhaps it may be tomorrow. I do not know whether it may." Do you say, "When I am dying"? I answer, "Perhaps it may be when you are dying, but I do not know whether it will be possible then." Do you say NOW? I answer "YES, IT CAN BE NOW," for "Now is the accepted time, and **Now is the day of Salvation.**" (William Booth, *Purity of Heart.*)

"O thou God of every nation,
We now for thy blessing call;
Fit us for full consecration,
Let the fire from Heaven fall.
Bless our Army! Bless our Army!
With thy power baptize us all.
Fill us with thy Holy Spirit;
Make our soldiers white as snow;

Save the world through Jesus' merit,
Satan's kingdom overthrow.
Bless our Army! Bless our Army!
Send us where we ought to go.

Give us all more holy living,
Fill us with abundant power;
Give the Army more thanksgiving,
Greater victories every hour.
Bless our Army! Bless our Army!
Be our rock, our shield, our tower.
Bless our General, bless our leaders,
Bless our officers as well.
Bless our converts, bless our soldiers;
Speed the war 'gainst sin and Hell.
Bless our Army! Bless our Army!
We will all thy goodness tell.

If you would like to discuss holiness in more depth or even better would like to be led into the blessing then please email me at abale@ntlworld.com and by God's grace you will discover the most liberating and empowering experience that God has to offer his children.

Yours thoroughly set apart by Christ, for the lost, in the Army

Railton on Women

by Commissioner George Scott Railton

*(from HEATHEN ENGLAND, which is available online at <http://bloodandfire.org.uk/>)
(we're using with permission from Andrew Bale)*

CHAPTER IX. - Prophetesses

"WHAT, women?"

Yes, women: and why not, pray?

"Why, Paul says—"

But stop a bit about Paul. Why did he want to explain how women should be dressed when they prophesied, if he really meant they never should prophesy? If not allowing them to speak means not permitting their public ministrations to the souls of hearers, then how could they prophesy?

"Oh, but prophecy is a totally different thing to ordinary preaching. A prophetess has a special authority from God."

If the conviction that God authorizes and commands her to speak is sufficient, very good; that is all we ask. We want nobody, male or female, to do any ordinary preaching. We only wish people to speak when and as they are moved by the Holy Ghost, for only such speaking can break sinners' hearts, and lead them to the Lamb of God. What we maintain is that the Spirit of God does move every converted man and woman, so to speak, in public at times; and that only by quenching the Spirit and despising prophesyings (of women especially), is the engagement of thousands of women and men in such public testimony prevented.

Poor Paul! We wonder if the dear man knows how his words have been twisted to make him condemn a practice he fostered, no doubt, in every way.

"In Jesus Christ," says he, "there is neither male nor female." He is arguing to show that no human being has any privilege now over another; that the Gentile may come as near God, do as much for Him, or before Him, as the Jew in every respect, and it is in this connection that he says, "there is neither male nor female."

The greatest care has constantly been taken by many excellent, well-intentioned people, that there should be no females in any prominent place in the Kingdom of Christ, but the males are everywhere. Paul says — God says:-

"There is neither male nor female."

Now, that is a grand principle, clear as noon-day, and which anybody can act upon with ease. There is to be no distinction between any two people now on account of any merely casual circumstance. The Roman, the Englishman, has as much right to preach the Gospel, to exercise any sacred authority or power, as the Jew; and the female has as much right to preach the Gospel, to exercise any sacred office, as the male.

Why? What is the foundation of this grand principle? Nothing short of the great truth — "Ye are all one in Christ Jesus." It makes no matter how anybody is born now. Male or female, they must be born again of the Spirit, or die for ever. It makes no matter to what family or sex anyone belongs now. They must not attempt to be God's priests unless they are made "priests unto God" by the Holy Ghost. And every converted person, male or female, is so honoured, for He "hath made us." It makes no matter how anyone may be regarded by men now, honoured, ordained, called out, stationed, commended, testimonialised, titled, diplomaed, or what not, they must not preach unless they are filled with the Spirit of the Lord. It makes no matter how anyone may be disre-garded either, scorned, repelled, refused, insulted, decried, written against, misrepresented, slandered, they must confess Christ before men (no matter who says they should only do it before women), or He will not confess them before His Father and the holy angels.

We can conceive of no escape from this clear principle, and the all-comprehending truth upon which it is built. If God would only have saved 'the two sexes in two different ways, or damned them, if unbelieving or disobedient, to two separate hells, then this monstrous distinction between men and women's rights in connection with the preaching of the Gospel might have had some show of reason.

But God utterly repudiates any dividing line whatever, and therefore, depend upon it, unless the female servants of the Lord bestir themselves, quit themselves like men of God, and be strong for Him, He will not give them the lot of the men of God in heaven, Paul, who expressed this great principle of absolute equality before God so often, never in his life so outrageously set it aside as to oppose the preaching of any woman.

'Will anybody explain to us what course Paul took when he and his friends stayed at the house of Philip, the evangelist, who had four virgin daughters prophetesses? Four in one family! Four! Talk about the little extravagances of The Salvation Army! Four in one family!

Whatever had Philip the evangelist been about? He used to be a man full of the Holy Ghost, guided as by an unseen hand in every step and word. Perhaps it was while he was away serving tables, or on an evangelistic tour, that his four daughters broke out with this prophesying unbeknown to him. But was Mrs. Philip dead? Whatever did mamma say? And what did papa say when he got home? Why did he not at least stop them before this dreadful Paul came along, who did not "suffer a woman to speak"? Was he not afraid Paul would report him and his daughters to "the elders at Jerusalem," and "have the whole thing put a stop to," or Philip discharged from being a deacon?

How could Paul endure living in the house with four female preachers, if he had been persecuting their sisters in every city? Whichever way he turned, the reproachful glance of a female preacher must have fallen upon him (and that is no "light affliction," even if it be "but for a moment"), Surely he hurried off as soon as possible, without giving them the chance of beginning to exercise their gifts against him! He seemed to be in a hurry, too, when he came; for he had only spent a day with the brethren at Ptolemais. But when he got to the house where the four female preachers lived, he "tarried many days." No doubt he found, as many a one has since, that preaching does not prevent a good woman from looking well to the affairs of

her house. We know that many a working-man's house whose wife is a Salvation Army speaker will bear comparison with any home supported on the same income.

It is perfectly clear that Paul and the four female preachers got on admirably together; so much so that, when Agabus came down and told them what awaited Paul at Jerusalem, the dear girls cried like to break his heart, which was a very stout one, to say nothing of their own, and would fain have kept him for any length of time rather than he should come to any harm.

Now, upon Paul's arrival at Jerusalem he gathered the elders together and "declared particularly what things God had wrought amongst the Gentiles by his ministry." Surely the lively recollection of those four young female preachers at Caesarea led him to particularize how completely God had stopped the mouths of the female speakers by his ministry, even as He stopped the mouths of the lions in Daniel's time. Surely he said a little word about the great disorder in the Church of Caesarea, and made a little suggestion or two? But there is no trace of anything of the sort, and if those dear cautious old gentlemen did not send a letter to all the females to "abstain from public speaking," we may be quite certain neither Paul nor anyone of them thought it a "necessary thing" for there to be any such abstention. Oh, that every elder to-day were equally wise!

Does anyone charge us with trifling with a solemn theme? We are in no mood for trifling. We have reasonable hopes of being in a short time with Paul and all his female preachers, for scores and hundreds we doubt not he raised up, if not many thousands, and oh! if we can say anything to clear our brother's memory in any mind of this absurd calumny, we shall feel it a double pleasure to meet him in the "morning." Oh, if we can, even by a little playfulness, stir the thoughts of many and arouse the female members of God's Church (always the bitterest, opponents of woman's preaching mission) to inquire, and especially to inquire of the Lord direct in prayer, as to their duty in this respect, we shall have well spent the time. For Satan has indeed well managed to prevent the more attractive sex from proclaiming Christ.

What is woman's work if not to preach? The devil made her the first preacher on earth, and the result of her first sermon was the ruin of us all. And now she must not preach any more! Of course not. Devil! — how clever a deceiver you are.

Woman's first wrong step was looking too much after food, and too little after Divine things, and the devil and the churches he has so largely mastered would fain point

woman in the same direction still. "Cook! cook! cook! Oh, noble woman, behold the object of thine existence! "

One of the first fruits of woman's sin was that she had to put on an "apron." The devil and the churches detest to see her without one. Pretty, silk, ornamented, tasteful, useless if you like; but, woman, you must stick to the apron! If you want to be particularly pious or great, you may wear a long white one with red-crossed armlets in the Hospital, and we will saint you and medal you for it; but above the apron you must never aspire, woman!

Your sire fell, it is true, as well as you; but then he can rise again; in Christ were all (men of course) made alive. Men often begin under an apron and finish in a villa; but you, woman, the apron, always the apron! In the villa, if possible in the mansion, aye even in the palace if you can; but remember, never fail to wear the apron. And fastening your children to its strings, lead them to look upon it as the necessary, one, only vocation of a woman.

But stay! The double-faced devil will consent to thy advancement to the most public position possible if it be but to lead precious souls to hell! The stage! Oh, yes, by all means, go on to the stage. Dance there half-dressed if you like. Take part unblushingly in the representation of the vilest iniquity before a dense crowd of the highest and most learned in the land. Sing, speak, perform, be shameless, be a great, public, constant lie, and you shall be worshipped by whole nations for it all. Nobles shall pour their wealth at your feet for the honour of your hand. The greatest monarchs of the earth shall bow to you, the whole press of every Christian people shall belaud you. The "religious papers" reserve a little quiet column on purpose for such names as yours! Very kingdom of the world shall be yours if you like to take the foremost part in leading men down to the pit.

But to stand upon that very same stage to lead men to heaven! To speak, or sing, or pray there! Oh, horrible! Abomination! Degradation of your sex! Disgrace to religion! Outrage upon society! Society! — the very society that would gloat over your performances as an actress, and shut you out of its circles because you were one!

And as to appearing in the open air, at the street corners, addressing men, braving insult, and standing amidst the godless multitudes to speak aloud for God, — why, you must be demented — lost to every sense of propriety, utterly without respect for yourself, to dream of anything of the sort! Surely, you will not make such an exhibition of yourself, and disgrace family and friends for ever!

Woman of God, make thy choice! There is the stage — there is the open-air stand. The multitudes will crowd to hear thee — no matter what thy name, thy position, thy abilities—simply because thou art a woman. If thou, by the power of God, no matter whether with finished oratory, or with faltering, disconnected phrases, shalt move their hearts, they will come, and come again, and thou wilt see many or them fall at the feet of thy Jesus, if thou wilt but go forth and speak to them. Thy God says to thee as much as to anyone, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."

"There is neither male nor female" in the eye or thy Creator, thy King, thy Saviour, thy Judge. Wilt thou obey Him? It may cost thee all thy friends, thy reputation, thy comfort in life, thy home, thy fortune, thy health, thy life, thy all; but "He freely gave Himself up for us all" — for women as well as for men. Wilt thou give 'up all for Him? Wilt thou hear the Master's voice, and gladly answer, when He calleth, "Here am I—send me, send me." Oh, woman, heaven and earth and hell are eager to catch thy answer! Wilt thou?

How many "careless women" there are in Israel still who "do not (will not) see their obligation to do so;" who "do not feel qualified for such a work" (how can any one until they have attempted in the power of God, the one great qualification, to undertake it) ; who "do not feel pre-pared for such sacrifices," as God felt prepared, before the foundation of the world, to make for them; who "dare not, cannot (that is, will not) take such a step." "Their system could not endure such a strain!" How will their system endure the Judgment Day, when they see millions of damned souls who might have been sheep had there been more shepherdesses — had woman had her proper place in God's kingdom?

Oh! should the hearts that are most tender turn away from a dying world because it is not thought proper to save them in God's appointed way by preaching? Oh! should the gentle, loving voices, that first spoke of Jesus to all these multitudes in their early days, be silent while, in maturer years, they rush down to perdition? Oh! should those whose mission it is confessedly to minister to the ease, the rest, the comfort of man look alter the animal, and leave the soul to be ministered to by men — or by nobody, if men's ministrations are not listened to? God forbid! He does forbid! "Let not man prevail" "We ought to obey God rather, than men!"

"But women are not qualified for the management of spiritual, still less of business, affairs! "

Indeed! are they not? How many huge mansions and large families are under the care of a woman, and well cared for? How many millions of money are gained, and how many millions of souls drowned in drink yearly in public-houses and hotels, under a landlady?

We do not argue for the employment of anyone in any task they are not fully qualified for; but we insist that disqualification must be proved — not merely asserted Caesarea in every case, and that a woman who is duly qualified to manage shall be allowed to do so. You need not protect, or support, or counsel such a woman much! She will manage everybody, and overcome everything, if you but just give her the position — the opportunity! Leave the rest to God and her. And oh! take care with your properties and your talk about "Paul," lest you should be found to fight against God.

Not allow a woman to usurp authority over a man! Ye married men, what are the facts? Aye, and ye moon-struck youths too? Is not the very joy of your life to submit, in everything, from the choice of a business — a town — a horse, to that of a stud or a salt-cellar, to the sweet little gentle influence that can usurp to any extent, before you know it has done so ?

Does not Paul (that sole authority you know upon these things) let out the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, when he says, that "a married man leaves caring for God," and sets himself to please his wife! Thank God, you will allow exceptions to Paul's doctrine here. Job was one, and Abraham was one, and Moses was one. But did not the wife of each of these heroes have much to do with all their affairs? Did they never usurp at all? Ask the sons of Ishmael!

What nonsense it all is! Why cannot people leave God alone to manage, and to set up whom He pleases? Did He not make a woman a judge in Israel, and has He not the eternal right to make as many more female judges as the necessities of Israel may demand?

Is it not time somebody usurped authority over all the millions of professedly Christian men, who stand idle while the world is perishing! If a house were burning, and a woman finding all the firemen gaping below usurped authority and showed how to save it, would the Insurance companies object?

Did anybody cry shame when the captain of a brig having fallen in on the Atlantic, a few years since, his wife usurped his authority and brought the vessel into port?

The helm of many a Church is in feeble enough hands today! Members idling, chatting, entertaining one another and their dear pastor, while the souls around are perishing for lack of the knowledge that Churches should diffuse! May God raise up some spiritual Grace Darlings, who, even if they have to row alone in the boat they manage, may bring salvation to thousands who through the mismanagement and carelessness and stupidity of men are ready to perish! Grace Darlings, wherever you are, for ye are legion, come forward in spite of earth and hell, and usurp authority to save!

If the Salvation Army ceased to exist to-day, it would have amply justified its past career, and covered its originator with glory, if only because it has brought forward again to the light that chosen instrumentality of the kingdom of heaven, Female Ministry, and allowed of the demonstration of its utility and power — its Divine right. The Salvation Army woman, at a street corner, can get and hold as large a crowd by even giving out a hymn, as the most eloquent of its male officers. The power of the woman's speaking, as her own heart melts and her tears flow at the sight of the lost around her, streams of tears from eyes that never wept for sin before, heaving breasts and broken hearts attest it, a million times, every Sabbath-day!

The Salvation Army preacher on the platform, as she teaches the wondering audiences, who crowd to hear the things concerning Jesus Christ, finds ample reply to every hostile criticism in the mighty working with her of God's Holy Spirit, and as she leads score after score of penitents to the Saviour's feet, catches in His smile something to light up the path His followers would make so thorny and so dark.

May the Salvation Army long perpetuate such marvels, till they cease by their multiplicity to be marvellous!

But your female officers get married! Well, and quite right too! God bless them and their children, if they have any! He has already blessed every husband beyond measure who secures such a prize.

But then they stop preaching! Indeed! Do they? The most constant female preachers we know are married women! No woman deserves a good husband and a nice home so much as a female preacher, and even supposing that they so far lose their religion, when they marry, as to cease to preach, or suppose that household care and ill health prevent their doing so, what worse are they than the millions of women of Israel, who never began to do their duty? Is not the work of their past, the memory of their faithfulness, the salvation of the souls they led to Christ, as precious, if not apparently more so, when they turn aside to folly-to the unspeakably awful folly-of an extinguished lamp?

"The Bridegroom cometh!" Women of God, disregarding every other voice, "Go ye forth to meet Him!" Let His path be illuminated by the gleam of your light, which was no more given to be hid "under a 'bed" or "a bushel," active, or passive private life, than that of your brethren.

Lolli-Pop Spirituality: Why Youth Are Crashing From Sugar-Coated Christianity

by Lieutenant Steve Bussey

“Show the world a real, living, hardworking, toiling, triumphing religion. Show them anything less and the world will turn around and spit upon it.”

Catherine Booth

“We don’t want God to work unless He can make a theatrical production of it. We want Him to come dressed in costumes with a beard and with a staff. We want Him to play a part according to our ideas. Some of us even demand that He provide a colorful setting and fireworks as well!”

A.W. Tozer

Major Rick Munn, the Program Secretary for The Salvation Army’s USA Eastern Territory recently sent to me an article from Time Magazine (Time, 2006) on how “...sugar-coated, MTV-style youth ministry is over”, and “Bible-based worship is packing teens in the pews.” When I read this article, I resonated with what was being written. In response, I wrote the following as a reflection on the implications of this shift in youth culture. They are going through a spiritual sugar-crash and are looking for something of greater substance that will sustain them through the challenges of living out their faith in a consumer-driven world.

The candy-coated version of youth ministry has been a homogeneous formula that has been sold as youth ministry for the past 25 years. This paradigm of youthwork suggests that the deepest, Maslowian "felt need" of adolescents is *to be entertained*. As a result, hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of dollars have been invested in trying to entertain our kids into the kingdom.

My problem with this strategy is that:

(1) *We will never be able to compete with Hollywood, but Hollywood is competing with us.* A W Tozer speaks about those of us in the church creating "second-rate talent shows" to attempt to match up to what the media industry is able to produce. Therefore we have created an entire Christian consumer subculture which, ironically, has become so lucrative (middle-class Christian teens have quite amount of disposable income!) that even the major media moguls have caught onto this. Most Christian brands from VeggieTales to Youth Specialties products are now subsidiaries of larger companies such as NewsCorp and Viacom. Even Hollywood has noticed how consumer-driven Christians are - and have begun to set aside "Passion dollars" for ideologically Christian stories - because we evangelicals LOVE to be entertained!

At what point do we begin to recognize this as a form of hegemonic co-optation? Are we giving glory to Jesus or to Rupert Murdoch and Sumner Redstone? At what point do we begin to realize that this as a form of gospel domestication? I'm all up for going to the movies and listening to well-produced artists singing songs which reflect the kingdom -

but this is very different to lolly-pop spirituality! If we were in Africa - Christianity that is uncritically synergized with culture is considered syncretism. At what point do we begin to examine our own 'cultural accretions' - our own syncretisms?

The Israelites in the wilderness longed for the benefits of slavery in Egypt - the food and treasure... these were concessionary bribes from Egyptians that were intended to win the consent of the people of Israel. The provision of the slave-lord can often be more alluring than the provision of God... but at the price of what? Our freedom? Our destiny? Similarly, we evangelicals need to seriously begin to ask whether commodified Christianity is going to be what truly satisfies this generation?

The French philosopher Guy Debord refers to America as a "society of the spectacle" (Debord, 1995). Unfortunately, those most attracted to this dangling carrot-spectacle happens to be lucrative evangelicals! The only problem is that this next generation is one of the most consumer-savvy cultures out there - they are "the iPod generation" - a generation that has the market tailored to their own desires. The only problem is that youth are beginning to sniff out that such me-centered worlds ("I"/Me + Pod/Mini-World) are simply a tailor-made prison that brings little satisfaction. In essence, the need for satisfaction is sent into an abusive, spiraling, addictive race to keep up with whatever is the latest and greatest.

If all that we (as the Church) have to offer to youth is a Christian, sanitized, knock-off version of these tailor-made, me-centered consumer prisons, they will quickly reject Christianity. Therefore, the solution for youth ministry is not to create better products and more entertaining programs - what this Time article is articulating is that youth workers are beginning to realize that these are simply hollow solutions to a much deeper need.

(2) "To be Entertained" is a misinformed goal of today's generation. We have missed the mark if we think that youth desperately want to be entertained - as I have mentioned in the previous point, they have, to use a Neil Postman concept, been "amused to death" (Postman, 2005). So what is their deepest desire? I believe there are three deep longings:

(a) They do not want to be entertained - they want to be challenged. Statistics have shown that more and more teens and young adults are getting involved in philanthropic volunteerism. Civic engagement has been steadily increasing as youth become bored with the physically solitary life of X-Boxes, computers, delivery food and Tivo. Recently, one of our students gave up their X-Box and television and came to Project 1:17 choosing to live a solitary, monastic lifestyle - with a focus on being trained to service the poor in the name of Jesus!

I believe that we are in a perfect position in The Salvation Army to take full advantage of this. With our wholistic view of spiritual/social mission, we can meet this need in today's youth. Issues of social justice such as addressing poverty, illiteracy, delinquency, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, human trafficking and the exploring community-based solutions

to the HIV epidemic are among the noble philanthropic causes for an individual to commit themselves to. To do this "in the name of Jesus" - and to share the faith, hope and love available through salvation makes this type of service not just temporally, but also eternally effective.

This generation believes that they can change the world! This can be perceived of as a utopian optimism that will quickly be shattered by the harsh realities of life... or it could also be understood as a cultural opportunity which, when linked to a solid eschatology and missiology, could be seen as a God-moment

(b) They do not want to be entertained - they want to know 'why?' This generation is a deep thinking group of young people. Often, we mistake our youth's refusal to participate in something/or do something as rebellion. Most youth today are driven by a great desire to know "why" they should do things - they require a rationale and logic. A group of people that have been inundated with every form of mass-marketing are provided all sorts of rationales for why they should watch television shows, buy certain brands of clothing, click on certain websites, listen to types of music, etc. etc. that they have become what Maire Messenger Davies has called "critical connoisseurs of media" (Davies, 1997) The critical skills have made them sophisticated in their decision-making process. Gone are the days of "do this because I am telling you to." They need to know why - or they'll not buy in.

Unfortunately, in the church, we have also been going through a bit of an identity crisis. Modernity has swept the church for the past 50 plus years to the point that we celebrate the contemporary or the new that we have become disconnected with our history. As a result, once two or three generations removed from anything that even mildly represents "tradition" - we have no reason why we do what we do! So we end up having Corps which are a hybrid of Salvationism mixed with a hodge podge of contemporary church models ranging from charismatic, conservative, liberal, emergent, mega, homogeneous (ad nauseum!) Our churches look more like a Baskin Robbins after a busy streak than a community that knows who it is!

So what happens when a young person chooses to become a part of our movement? They enter into soldier's classes being trained by people who don't know what a soldier is. They sit in youth programs being run by people who don't know why what they are doing is critical to the mission of The Salvation Army. They worship in Corps that have lost focus, don't understand the difference between a holiness and salvation meeting, and have never done an open air in their lives! When they begin to ask why we are doing what we are doing... they are answered with a "just do it" response. Our youth are not going to stick around long until they are able to understand why we do what we do!!

The Salvation Army used to put out a manual called "The Why and Wherefore of The Salvation Army" - the intention was to give people a rationale for why we do what we do. This needs to be pulled out, dusted off, and taught once again. Like the temple builders who discovered the law afresh, we need to rediscover why we do what we do! We need to re-educate ourselves on the methods behind the madness of what makes

Salvationism so effective. Then we need to be willing to sit down with our youth and have long conversations with them - where they are welcome to test the validity of our rationale. I have confidence in what we are doing so much that I would invite any young leader to test our philosophies and theologies, principles and procedures. Once they discover how solid things are, they will be willing to give their lives to serving gone in this amazing vehicle of the gospel.

At Project 1:17, we have incorporated a soldier's training class. One of our students soldiership was limited to being shown a picture of William Booth and being told what the flag represents!! Majors Bob and Donna Green have been relaying the foundations in this class - seeking to ensure that we send out of our program students who have had the freedom to explore deeply the why's and wherefore's. Philosopher Alisdair MacIntyre has commented that controversy and questioning is not an enemy, but an ally to tradition. Apathy will kill any sense of heritage, but asking why will produce a great sense of allegiance (MacIntyre, 1984).

An entertainment-driven youth work will repel youth from future involvement in our movement. The coliseum was created to distract the masses from asking why questions. Similarly, a trip to the movies might ward off questioning for today, but the insatiable hunger to know 'why' will not be satisfied by cracker-jack prizes - it will only be satisfied by the meat of true, rigorous engagement.

(c) They do not want to be entertained - they want to be engaged by a vibrant and authentic spirituality. A generation that has grown up after the death of God is hungry for authentic spiritual encounter. Physical entertainment will not satisfy metaphysical desires. Catherine Booth was prophetic when she said "show the world a REAL, LIVING, hardworking, toiling triumphant religion. Show them anything less and the world will turn around and spit upon it!"

We are fools if we think that the chocolate-coated, fool's golden calf of entertainment is going to satisfy the deep need for genuine spirituality. One thing which has worried me in recent years, though, is that there has emerged a commodified version of spirituality. Sometimes I will stand in the middle of a youth-oriented worship gathering and turn on the anthropologist that exists in me... and I wonder, "what social experiment am I in???" I have discovered that I can travel from Africa, to England, to the East and West of America, from community to community and find similar patterns of youth worship sub-culture! There are codes to our worship, certain CDs, atmospheric pre-requisites and emotional reactions that parallel themselves in almost all of these communities - almost a global youth spirituality culture. Is this what we understand to be "authentic spirituality?" I think the answer is both yes and no. We all create contexts, ceremonies, traditions, rites of passage - this is the essence of culture. There have been many 'skins' that have clothed the church - globally and historically.

The issue of spirituality has less to do with the skin which embodies worship than it has to do with the posture of the worshipper. Youth are looking for people who can help to lead them into the presence of God. They don't care whether this is being done by

through a tattooed and tongue-pierced worship leader or through a retired Salvation Army officer - what they desperately need is not the cultural skin, but rather the bones and sinew of authentic spirituality! So many youth are being attracted to the most liturgical worship settings - not because "retro ecclesiology" is "in" - but because they are able to meet with people who are deep and contemplative in their spirituality. This is why I will often find myself chatting for hours to a Lt-Colonel Lyle Rader. We might be cultural opposites in our expression of spirituality - but we are attracted to similar things when it comes to the 'sinews and bones of salvationism.'

The Time magazine article recognizes accurately that there is a malcontent with an entertainment-driven youth ministry. Our goal in the Army - I would argue - would be to ensure that in our youth work we are creating opportunities for intentional engagement in local marginalized contexts (maybe a league of mercy for youth); increased critical dialogue on foundational issues of salvationism (Corps Cadets does a great job of this already, but maybe also relooking at soldier's training); and a deepening of our spirituality (24/7 Prayer Weeks, Prayer Weekend etc.).

In The Salvation Army, we saw the redemptive value of the circus-as-context-for-missional-engagement. We used innovation, new technology, entertainment and the absurd as tools-with-a-purpose (Winston, 2002). They were a means to an end. They were part of our Muktifaj contextualization strategy - as William Booth has said, "attract their attention." However, without "gaining their confidence; saving their souls; and training them to live for God and the salvation of the world", attraction is simply an empty opportunity - an iPod without music!

If we are going to allow this generation to "taste and see that the Lord is good" and therefore "...take refuge in Him" (Ps. 34:8), then we must ask ourselves the hard question, "What are we inviting this generation to taste?" My prayer is that youth workers in The Salvation Army will learn to balance the sweetness of culturally adaptable methodologies and tactics with the meatiness of our time-tested biblical and practical orthodoxy. Let's show the world what we're really made of!

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Soldier Interviews – Nicole Brindle

Canada & Bermuda Territory

JAC interviewed soldiers from five territories regarding battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn much on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

JAC: What engages your passions and energies these days.

NB: I am currently winning the world for Jesus starting in Victoria. We are attempting this via a cell-based community. Right now we are focusing on youth and at-risk youth. One of my biggest passions is to see chains broken and people freed from addiction. Another passion is seeing youth mobilised into mission. A lot of the youth we are working with in Victoria, are struggling with addiction, greater than I ever did- that's for sure. We are meeting kids who are at thirteen, fourteen years old totally dependant on crystal meth, heroin, cocaine. As Isaiah tells us it's when we start bringing justice into the world is when we will be free, it's not till then that our darkness will be turned to light. I believe that this is true for the youth we are working with. So my passion is to see youth mobilised into mission so that therefore chains of addiction and depression will be broken. A few justice initiatives we have going include raising money for children suffering in undeveloped nations, serving food to the hungry, bringing clothes to the poor, and volunteering our time at local soup kitchens or drop-ins. I suppose this is my passion, because it is what brought me out of addiction and into freedom so I know it works. Another good chunk of my time is investing into youth with discipleship.

JAC: What is your role with The Salvation Army?

NB: I am leading a joint outpost with two Army corps.

JAC: What is your mission/calling?

NB: I think it has something to do with Canada and with redeeming and restoring things. I have some blood relation to the first prime minister of Canada, which, I think might one day give me some spiritual authority in this nation. I remember praying one night and asking God what my "calling" was. He spoke redemption, taking something that the enemy has perverted, and restoring it back to righteousness. As far as specifics, the only specific mission I know right now is to love, love the unlovable. I once heard that kingdom fruit people see in me is that I go for the underdog, the invisible person - so maybe that's my calling.

JAC: How does The Army support your war-fighting?

NB: Locally, The Army is very supportive. Officers and soldiers in the city are constantly praying for us, providing employment or material needs to us, and taking us under their wings. Across the water in Vancouver BC, it's the same. The Officers, soldiers, and corps at 614 Vancouver are constantly cheering us on. Without their encouragement, support, approval or love we would not have what we need to continue in the fight.

Divisionally, we are supported too. DHQ has approved our proposal to invade downtown Victoria and win it for Jesus.

JAC: How do you influence people?

NB: I guess by living a real life. I had a friend recently tell me the reason she gave up drugs and started living for God was because I didn't give up on her. But actually I don't really know how I influence people, all I do is make friends and love them.

JAC: What are your dreams for the next several years?

NB: I am here in Victoria for a few years- I know that much. I hold a high respect for the prophetic destiny of places and would love to see Victoria live out her calling of "Victory" before I move on. And I dream of seeing Canada live out her prophetic calling as a healing nation. It might be fun to serve and fight in each provincial capitol city for a time.

JAC: What are the keys to successful warfare on your front and the larger salvation war?

NB: On my front, not giving up. Keep fighting, keep praying, keep investing; Walking in a humble and submissive spirit; Imitating my leaders as they imitate Christ; And loving - a sacrificial and extravagant love – after all love never fails. Networking is key, too, getting involved in other local expressions of the body of Christ and teaming up with them for the same mission. And we can't forget faith. Faith is key- you've got to believe God is a faithful God who promises to fight for us, who promises the victory. On the larger salvation war, I reckon the same answers are the same.

JAC: How are you and your comrades strengthening The Salvation Army?

NB: It depends on how we are defining "strengthening". We have a 'capture, train, deploy' model we like to follow. The capturing part defines strengthening as numbers. As a cell-based community we aim to be in continual multiplication of our cells this looks like starting a cell at 5 people, always meeting new friends and inviting them to cell, growing our cell and when we are at a steady 10 multiply it and do it all over again. The training part defines strengthening as ability. On my front in Victoria this most often looks like discipleship, investing time into cell mates so they are trained, or strengthened, as opposed to being an unskilled fighter in the war. And the deploying part defines strengthening as territory. Once these cellmates are trained up, we send them out to a new front, thus strengthening The Army's territory.

JAC: What are some of the dangers we have to face in the coming years? (and how?)

NB: Independence - we are becoming a people obsessed with self-help. We are believing that we can do things on our own with out help, thus closing our eyes to the need of community and more importantly the need of Jesus.

Being too nice - We don't like confrontation. We don't like offending others. "You have your opinion and I have mine;" "You have your religion and I have mine". This is dangerous. By not confronting sin we are then enabling the enemy to continue his dominion.

Dishonoring parents - We are a generation who thinks the older generations are lame and boring; That they "don't get us". We deliberately disobey not only our physical parents but our spiritual ones as well, creating a generation that is premature.

Death - The enemy is stealing life from our friends and neighbors. Suicide is becoming all too common. Drugs, AIDS/other diseases, and obesity are all on a rise.

How do we face these coming dangers? By walking in the opposite spirit. These are a few of the coming dangers- I am sure there are many more. But in all circumstances - walk in the opposite spirit. Take a prophetic stance today, eat an apple in McDonald's, call your mother today and tell her you love her, birth a righteous anger, or ask your neighbor to borrow a hammer instead of buying a new one. Walk in the opposite spirit.

JAC: What final exhortation have you for this audience?

NB: Love until it hurts. And then love some more.

Soldier Interviews – Fleur Hodge

Australia South Territory

JAC interviewed soldiers from five territories regarding battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn much on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

JAC: Quick bio:

FH: Fleur Hodge, Bi-vocational leader of the Gen1 outpost in Adelaide, the birthplace of The Salvation Army in Australia. I am a Salvation Soldier fighting against apathy, comfort and middle class mediocrity personally and corporately in order to see this Army of Salvation rise up from the ashes and fulfil it's call to usher in the great final conquest of our Lord!

JAC: Tell us about your salvation and sanctification.

FH: I am what some call a foetal Salvationist; in fact I am a 5th generation Salvationist on both sides of my family. Praise the Lord for a godly heritage. I was saved at the first junior youth councils I attended. I can still remember the wonderful feeling of weightlessness when I got up from confessing my sin, repenting and knowing the forgiveness of Jesus. He came into my life at that moment but better yet I entered into His life.

I grew up through the ranks of our young peoples programmes, Junior Soldiers, Sunday School, Singing Company, Timbrels (yuck!), Corps Cadets. Can I tell you that I didn't really understand The Salvation Army? Perhaps it was because I never understood our traditions in light of the fight! As I look back I see that Yahweh was weaving all sorts of strands of understanding and experience into my life for His ultimate glory. I went to a Lutheran secondary school, where I soon learnt, amongst other things, that Lutherans don't clap! The shock and horror of it all. I also had an interesting "discussion" with my year 10 Christian Knowledge teacher who was explaining the difference between trans-substantiation and con-substantiation. I asked if he really believed that the blood and body of Jesus were actually mixed into the wine and bread, because it was obvious that nothing had really changed, had it? Needless to say, this line of questioning was not received well. Nevertheless my secondary education expanded my faith horizons beyond Adelaide Congress Hall.

When I was 16 years old I became a senior soldier of The Salvation Army. But to be honest, I saw it as little more than membership in the church I was committed to as a follower of Jesus. In fact it fit very nicely into my now well-developed pharisaic nature. I had no concept of fighting the salvation war, and saw no one around me showing me what real soldiership looked like. Man, it wasn't even cool to love Jesus in our youth group, let alone be a Salvation Soldier! So I grew in faith but with no real outlet and with little discipleship. In those days I learnt to feed myself.

Ever since I was a little girl, I wanted to be a nurse. It seems a little cliché, but there it is. So I went to university and got my nursing degree. God spoke to me about going overseas and working as a missionary, which I was keen to do. I went on the Australian Southern Territory's first YES (Youth Experiencing Service) program, a month in Fiji. Sounds really tough, doesn't it? Well Yahweh opened my eyes to the poverty of His people and my own affluence. Something shifted in me on that trip, but Western culture is so strong, it didn't take long to lull me back to sleep. Still the change had been made.

While I was still at university the Lord introduced me to Holy Spirit in a new way through the Hillsong conference in Sydney. I went five years in a row! It had a great impact on my spirituality when nothing much was being offered at The Salvation Army. When I finished studying, I did my graduate year and then found myself at a loose end. The hospital I worked at weren't offering positions for the following year, so I saw it as the opportunity to go to Tabor College, a charismatic, interdenominational Bible College, and do my degree in Christian Ministry (it only took me 10 years to finish!). It was during this period that I became a raging Charismatic. Praise the Lord!

So I worked almost full time nursing with an agency, studied full time and was involved in ministry at ACH. I had a brief but damaging relationship during that time too. Needless to say I got burnt out by my third year and took a break from studying. I got a full time job and started saving for a house. The "independent woman" spirit settled on me and I built my own beautiful home and really settled into middle class life.

A couple of times during this period my disillusionment with The Salvation Army caused me to try to leave ACH for "greener pastures". I say, "try" because Holy Spirit wouldn't let me rest at any other place except The Army! So I resigned myself to my fate. I was stuck with The Salvation Army! It was in this place of awkward submission that Holy Spirit began to work. A copy of "Sowing Dragons" by Geoff Ryan came into my possession and eventually I read it. I still had some pretty strong sacramental theology bumping inside me, so I did throw it across the room at one stage but it was a dawning realization, right? I wanted the corps to be alive in the Spirit but all I had was blah! Then I read Geoff's introduction that said something like we hold onto the stories of The Salvation Army's heroes of old until we have stories of our own! I could do that. I'd loved Samuel Logan Brengle for a long time!

Holy Spirit was moving things into place. The ultimate move came when I had the opportunity to go the Aggressive Christianity Conference at Box Hill in Melbourne. My friend Nathan Rowe was worship leading at it and told me about it. So his sister Kate (one of my best friends) and I went. It was free and we could do some shopping it was boring! Little did we know what Holy Spirit had in store? Captain Stephen Court was first up in the aggression session; a time to be as aggressive as you want in telling us what you believe! I was so offended by his rant on what a Salvationist is. Of course he spoke about the sacraments amongst other things. Who were these freaks? I suggested that shopping might be a good idea after all.

But by the end of the conference I was different. If these guys were Salvos, then I'd never met any before! Yahweh was bringing everything into alignment. The dissonance I'd experienced all my Christian life was being relieved. The problem was not with worship style, our name, our meeting time. The problem was us! We had ceased to be The Salvation Army in everything but name, and we even wanted to change that. We had become comfortable and middle class, totally disconnected to the people Jesus had given us to bring into the Kingdom. In fact, I had never led anyone to Jesus, rich or poor!

I was at a total loss as to what to do! I didn't know how to be a Salvation Soldier! I'd never been involved in the pub scene; in fact, drunken people scared the living daylights out of me. How do I make stories of my own when I'm totally ill equipped for the fight? That's where The War College came in. So at the age of 32 I quit my job, rented out my beautiful house in the suburbs and moved to Vancouver to live in a slum hotel for a year to be trained as a Salvation Soldier. Let me tell you it was the best year of my life. I detoxed from program-oriented church life and experienced Christian community like never before. I learnt to pray for three hours at a time in the War Room. I helped two of my friends begin a relationship with Jesus. I could go on. I came home to Adelaide a changed person. But the challenge is to remain changed and live up to what I've already attained.

Holy Spirit has been sanctifying me throughout this journey as I've yielded to His will. The challenge is to hear and obey the voice of the Lord in whatever situation I find myself. There's still so much dying to be done!

What engages your passions and energies these days?

My Kingdom purpose is refracted into many beams of light in this season. I get paid to work three shifts a week as a Registered Nurse in the Recovery unit of The Memorial hospital.

I'm updating "VISIONS" to help people access the writings of William Booth and begin to experience Holy Spirit speaking to them through dreams and visions.

I lead Gen1: My favourite part of this incarnational ministry is seeing friends from our neighbourhood come to know Jesus in deeper ways and seeing that relationship free them.

I share leadership of WarCry (ACH's youth group) with Lieutenant Nathan Rowe. We've been excited to begin down the path to revolution with them by tearing down idols, dying to self and letting the Lord of Light into the dark, hidden places of our lives.

I am part of the leadership team of ACH's evening congregation. The Lord is teaching us to walk in humility in these days. We are bowing low and lifting Him up. We are dying to corporate sins of pride, arrogance, and control, in order for the Lord to teach us the ministry of love, grace, and mercy! I'm longing to see ACH live up to what has already been attained by "the Royal Blood Washed"(editor's note- the early-day nickname for

the soldiery at that corps, Australia's first), then surpass it for the glory of God and the salvation of the whole world.

I am passionate about the Lord receiving a return on what He has invested in ACH, the South Australia division, the Southern Territory of Australia and me.

JAC: What is your role with The Salvation Army?

FH: I am a Salvation Soldier trying to live out that calling with Holy Spirit's help. At present that involves bi-vocational ministry; I work three shifts a week at the hospital and I lead Gen1 and all that other stuff I mentioned before. I don't have a rank or a title really, apart from leader of Gen1.

JAC: What is your mission/calling?

FH: To win the world for Jesus, starting with Adelaide, South Australia.

To redig the wells of my spiritual heritage, drawing young and old to fight together for the salvation of the whole world.

To use the gifts God has given me to see people captured by the love of Christ, trained as Salvation Soldiers and mobilised to usher in the great final conquest of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To model bi-vocational ministry. You don't have to pay me to do it; it's my calling and my responsibility. No funding – No problem!

JAC: How does the Army support your war fighting?

FH: The Army provides us with a rent-free house and a lap top computer. Praise the Lord! But the support that we appreciate most is their spiritual covering and prayer.

We support ourselves financially. In fact, this year we have been experimenting with a common purse. We each have part time jobs and pool our money together. Money is allocated for bills and our tithe, and then we each get an allowance. This way we've been able to release finance for mission like Hope HIV and Stop the Traffick.

It's been very challenging for us because it goes against everything our culture says about income. People's reactions tell us how big a stronghold it really is, like we needed any more evidence! Friends of mine have been horrified when I tell them about it; I make the most but get the same allowance as everyone else. On the flip side, I know one of Gen1's members struggled because she makes the least and gets the same allowance. At times I've found that in telling them why we do it, I've been preaching to myself. God gives us everything we have. To some He's given the ability to make more money than others. It's not a reflection of our worth! It all belongs to Him and He entrusts it to us.

JAC: How do you influence people?

FH: I talk a lot! I mentor some key young women leaders. I talk a lot! I take every opportunity I get to preach. I pray! Hmmm I don't know? Hopefully that doesn't mean I'm not influencing many.

JAC: What are your dreams for the next several years?

FH: • To run Boot Camp in the week after Easter 2007 and see 15 teenagers come and have their lives changed by engaging in Urban Mission.

- To see an exponential increase in Gen1's presence in the city, through numbers and influence.
- To start the Adelaide campus of the War College.
- To raise up leadership for Gen1 so I can go and start a new outpost in the developing world.
- To write a book - about what? I don't know.
- To make first generation Salvation Soldiers.
- To tithe soldiers from Gen1 to mission outposts on a yearly basis.
- To see a Salvation Army where every soldier knows how to fight and loves the thickest of the fight!

JAC: What are the keys to successful warfare on your front and the larger salvation war?

FH: • Believing that what we do makes a difference even though the evidence looks contrary.

- Remembering the mission everyday – How does what I'm doing serve the Kingdom?
- Stirring ourselves up and warring against apathy in our own lives.
- Choosing to be uncomfortable – Following Jesus to uncomfortable places inside us or in the world for the sake of others.
- Daring to dream God's dreams for us.

JAC: How are you and your comrades strengthening The Salvation Army?

FH: I remember a time when a group of my close friends and I would stay up late into the night solving The Salvation Army's myriad problems. If only they'd asked us, we'd have been able to help! Well friends, I've had a revelation since then, I am The Salvation Army! It's not about the organisation; it's about you and me taking responsibility for the salvation war. I need to be the change I want to see (thanks Ghandi). If I think soldiership is watered down and pathetic in most corps, then I need to be the kind of soldier Jesus calls us to be and lead by example. I'm not going to sit around and whinge about it anymore. I'm going to be someone who makes the difference.

I believe we're strengthening The Salvation Army by putting our money where our mouth is and saying, "Here's the first instalment of the return You want to see from the vast investment You've placed within us Yahweh".

JAC: What are some of the dangers we have to face in the coming years? (And how?)

FH: The Salvation Army is largely irrelevant in a situation where there is no awareness of the spiritual war. In fact it is quite an obstacle for the consumerist Christians who are wholly focused on self and how the church can meet their needs. From its inception, The Salvation Army has been focused on others, in helping those outside of the Kingdom experience salvation and deliverance. Without teaching on who we are, many corps have become TSA in name only. They haven't seen anyone saved or delivered for years, perhaps decades. The frustrating thing is that TSA isn't irrelevant, if only we'd embrace it, instead of falling away in cringing cowardice. The world is as much in need of those who will champion the cause of the oppressed and usher them into the Kingdom, today, as it ever was. We don't need to change our name; we just need to be who God created us to be, without apology or embarrassment.

Another side of this dilemma of relevance seems to have brought an attack on our theology, welcoming a liberalism, which will bring destruction if left unchecked.

JAC: What final exhortations have you for this audience?

FH: Can I tell you something Holy Spirit's been showing me? Well there's a little background you need to know. I was at a friend's place watching a movie, "Capote", interesting movie if you get the chance, and it came to the end and there were some endnotes up on screen. I couldn't read them. It was all blurry. Now admittedly I was sitting further than I would normally sit away from the TV, but there was no getting away from the fact that I couldn't read it.

So I went and got my previously perfect vision checked to find that I am now short sighted, especially in my left eye. The optometrist asked if I do a lot of close work and I admitted to being the kind of reader who could suck back three hours of a book without looking up. She said that the problem had been caused by spending a lot of sustained time focusing on things close to me and not on things in the distance. So I need glasses to correct the problem.

Holy Spirit showed me there is a parallel between the physical and spiritual realms here. This year there have been many needs on this front that have jostled for my attention. A lot of my focus has been drawn to the things right in front of me. Holy Spirit is telling me, and maybe some of you, to look up and focus on things that are far away. If you don't, you will become near sighted and lose your ability to see those things clearly. In the midst of turmoil and trouble on your home front, look up and see the big picture. Remember that Jesus is coming soon. Remember your comrades all around the world fighting the salvation war and pray for them. Do something for the poor and oppressed people of our world. Live a life worthy of the calling!

Soldier Interviews – Heather Dolby

United States South Territory

JAC interviewed soldiers from five territories regarding battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn much on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

JAC: Quick bio:

HD: A Salvation Soldier with a testimony of miraculous, instantaneous deliverance from addiction and baptized in fire by Holy Spirit. Eager to grow in Christlikeness, addicted to resurrection life, adventurously expectant to see what God will do next...

JAC: Tell us, about your salvation and sanctification.

HD: I hung out in church for almost a decade living a double life – looking good on Sundays and livin' large the rest of the week. Two sets of friends, two sets of ideals – two sets of clothes... until I was invited to be a part of a small group at the corps, made up of an unlikely assortment of the old, the young, the fanatical and the merciful, married people, divorced people, evangelists and lovers.

This weekly meeting was an accelerant to my big bang God moment, where I 'got' that He was real and was interested in me.

At that point, I was 25 yrs old, had my own car, a successful business, loads of friends and I lived in my parents' basement (which was great, by the way!). I had achieved many of the goals I had set out for myself and I was looking over my shoulder at what had already happened and then contemplating the years to come and all I could ask myself was, "Is this it? Is this as good as it gets? Because life these days just isn't cutting it." That's when God spoke up. I'm talking, like I heard His Voice, felt His presence not just in my heart as a 'warm fuzzy' but my room felt full of Him, and we reasoned some things out a la Isaiah 1:8 and He instantly delivered me from the compulsion to drink/smoke/be promiscuous, and I held up my end of the bargain and the very next day I marched into the corps and signed my Soldier's Covenant.

That was 4 years ago, and ever since, mine has been a process of growing wildly and then being pruned back by the Lord, of taking great big, fun faith steps and then having to wait for my maturity level to catch up, at the same time painstakingly waiting for my maturity level to catch up. Even now, God is reaching into me to draw out capabilities I never imagined were inside of me. He trusts me to re-present Him to the world, but I'm faced with the necessity of my part of the bargain, which is doing the hard work of carving out spiritual discipline and bridling my tongue. Even so, my life 4 years later is poured out on a rugged, narrow path that leads me to eternal life. Boring? NEVER! For the backslider gets bored with herself, but the godly woman's life is exciting! Proverbs 14:14 TLB

JAC: What engages your passions and energies these days.

HD: In the big picture sense, I'm part of a team of salvos in Charlotte, NC who are building a community of believers in a neighborhood where the majority of folks get by on food stamps, welfare and government cheese. Violence, malice, loneliness and despair have their home here, so naturally, Jesus lives here too.

That's why we're here – because He lives here and He invited us to come and be a part of what He's doing – John 5:19,20 style.

On a micro level, encouraging others – either in person, by email and or in a letter really fires me up. People need to know that they're loved! (By me and the Lord). I like to hide myself away to pray and that tendency is only on the increase. But the kicker is this – having an armful of children dancing around, singing silly songs, praying bold, simple prayers together and laughing. That's what I do when I start to wonder what I'm doing here...and I am reminded instantly!

JAC: What is your role with The Salvation Army?

HD: I am a covenant soldier. My husband and I are currently serving in the USA South Territory, Charlotte North Carolina as Apostolic Overseers of The War College and 614 Charlotte. Our mission is to win the world for Jesus, starting in Charlotte, NC.

JAC: What is your mission/calling?

HD: I'm never sure how to answer those questions, because the further I walk with Jesus, the less I realize I know about myself. He just keeps pulling all sorts of potential out of me that I never knew was even in there. What I do know is that I'm not about quitting when it gets hard. I've learned a hard lesson on that one, so now, when that feeling comes around, like I want to cut and run, it makes me press in even more, because that's when I know that I'm on to something godly and good. When it's hard and humbling and tricky and tedious, that's when I taste the heavenly war going on around me and it drives me to push through to the other side. I feel safe in saying that I am called to love people – a whole lot. Even until it hurts – especially until it hurts. To pray for individuals and churches and nations and people groups to know God, hear Him and obey Him. To train others in spiritual things, and also tell them the truth about themselves – God's truth.

JAC: How do you influence people?

HD: Lord have mercy...just by being myself. Passionate, heartfelt, aggravated, argumentative...Ha ha, it's not always the most positive or comfortable influence, but at least it's always real, always transparent. Anyone who is part of my life knows that some days I'm buoyant, others concerned, often I'm earnest to grow and then other days I'm frustrated with myself, and so on. I welcome others into the authenticity of my journey,

and just be being myself, I pave the way for them to do likewise. This is a novel concept for some, and it can either be a real turn-off, or a huge relief.

JAC: What are your dreams for the next several years?

HD: I wouldn't change too much from what God's got me doing now in essence... except that I dream of being a part of a ministry team with my family – all of us loving Jesus and walking in the fullness of healing and freedom that comes with Him, and doing mission together. That would be awesome, we'd work great together. Jesus would love it.

I'd also like to be living more simply, with less personal \$\$, and less 'stuff', so that I'd learn to rely on God for more provision. OH, and I want to be a significant part of a global family of believers, who pray for one another daily, fly places to minister with and to one another, hold one another accountable and just share lives. This is already in process, to a degree with those who I've met through being stationed in Vancouver, BC. But I want more. More brothers and sisters. More love. More passion. More togetherness. I'm all about big families who really know one another and are deep-spirited friends. God grant it, please.

JAC: What are the keys to successful warfare on your front and the larger salvation war?

HD: Being consistent with our neighbours. Remembering their names. Being open-handed with our resources. Believing full-on, no doubt about it that this is God's Will, and remaining single-minded about it – you know, not letting the devil flip-flop me around. Also, having a clear mind and being able to see what is going on around me spiritually – then getting enough time alone with the Lord to decipher what it is I'm seeing. The biggie though, is having a heart for our city, its people and the King. I ask myself, why do I care? Why am I doing this? If my mealy-mouthed response is a namby pamby 'because it's what Jesus would have done', then I take issue with that, because that line of sentimental reasoning isn't going to cut it when times get tough and both sentiment and reason are in short supply, and the money's tight, the fanfare has faded away. A romantic idea isn't enough to nourish and sustain me in the meager times – but following Him does. So, at the bottom of it, in my opinion, is following Jesus and being His disciple. "Simply put, if you're not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it goodbye, you can't be my disciple." Luke 14:33
Message

You see, following Christ, building the Kingdom – it has to cost you something, it has to be a choice of the heart to follow Him whatever He says to do and wherever He says to go.

JAC: How are you and your comrades strengthening The Salvation Army?

HD: By being ourselves in the world, while we pursue Christ – our messy, grumpy, needy, gloriously saved selves. We're growing in grace for ourselves and one another right out in the open, where anyone can see (if they want to, and even when they don't!). We're not maintaining any sort of official 'appearance', we're ignorant of most protocols and procedures and we're not going to let that stop us. We don't always fit in with the other people in our denomination, but we're not going to try SO hard to do that, that we don't fit in with our neighbour. I'm not willing to make that trade. I must be approachable. I must be touchable. I must be feasible and practical, otherwise I'm a relic. Defunct. Bland. Uuh. Who wants to be bland? To lose our saltiness? When we are daringly free to be ourselves, it makes it so much easier for others who don't quite fit in anywhere, who aren't glamorous, who can't spell and don't know all the 'right' things to say to come over for coffee and be comfortable. To stop in the street and chat. In those moments, when we are just ourselves, loving Jesus, loving others, that's me being The Salvation Army in the most effective, Christlike way I know how. Doesn't that sound like good PR to you?

JAC: What are some of the dangers we have to face in the coming years?
(and how?)

HD: When we so turn our noses up at how Salvos have steered/managed/represented The Salvation Army in the past 60 or 70 years that we ourselves become a dysfunctional abusive family. When we hold bitterness, resentment, pretension, condescension and superiority over our forefathers and mothers rather than honor, respect, blessing and affection, our family will be weak and ineffectual. What position will we be in then to offer healing and reconciliation for others towards Christ? What Good News will there be? We will be a sea of tunic wearing hypocrites, and who will rebuild the ruin we have made of God's Army? Who will restore the places in our Army that have been devastated for generations? No – we must seek God's heart for His people, and heed the voice of the prophets He sends us to reconcile the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; so that God doesn't have to come and strike our land with a curse.

JAC: What final exhortation have you for this audience?

HD: "Do not put out the Spirit's fire." 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Soldier Interviews – Elaine Gillingham

Canada & Bermuda Territory

JAC interviewed soldiers from five territories regarding battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn much on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

JAC: Quick bio:

EG: Elaine, wife of Ian and mother of five young warriors, is a prophetic apostle leading The Salvation Army in London, Ontario and influencing it far beyond the city limits.

JAC: Tell us, about your salvation and sanctification.

EG: I was saved when I was seven in a night meeting at the North Toronto Corps in Ontario. I remember going forward and asking my mom to come with me. We prayed together. Throughout the years I had ongoing encounters with the Lord. The Holy Spirit was good at convicting me of sin and I was usually fairly quick to respond to His promptings seeing as He would give me no rest.

I remember in my early teen years often going out into a nearby school field and singing to God under the stars about my struggles, hurts or joys. I would just make up songs and tunes and sing to Him.

When I went to training college a friend of mine started talking about sanctification as being an event, not necessarily a process. He pulled out a little tract and gave it to me. I went to my room and prayed through it. I think that really was the beginning of an intentional, disciplined approach to sanctification. Instead of living haphazardly I became very aware of my interior life. I kept/keep short accounts with the Lord. When I sense His chastisement I rectify the situation through an immediate response to His lead.

JAC: What engages your passions and energies these days.

EG: I don't know that I'm presently engaged in my own passion. At present I seem to be stumbling into the will of God as I'm seeking to follow Him. My passion is being a catalyst for others to have encounters with God. I love when He uses me, in whatever context, to demonstrate His love, speak His words, bring wisdom or revelation, and serving others.

Just recently He has me working in the courts. I have contact with inmates, victims, family members of both sides, lawyers, judges. It's a wide range of people and backgrounds. I am blessed to be in the midst of such a diverse harvest field and the passion there is to be an agent of justice and mercy as well as jumping into the divine appointments that He sets up.

JAC: What is your role with The Salvation Army?

EG: At present I am being immersed in the Corrections and Justice Service wing of The SA. I am a court worker in London, Ontario. I am also engaged in planting a 614 Corps with a team in the London downtown.

JAC: What is your mission/calling?

EG: My mission is to do whatever I'm told to by the Lord. Recently I was struck by Psalm 123:2: "Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the Lord our God, until He is gracious to us."

There is such a keen focus required of us to fix our eyes on Jesus. To be fixed on His heart, His purposes, His ways. Jesus did nothing on His own. He only did what the Father was doing. That's a mission that I'm trying to replicate in my own life.

I was thinking how a servant would be looking to the master. The master is the central focus of that person's existence. The master tells the servant what to do, when to do it, how to do it and in return the master takes care of all the servant's needs.

To serve the master is all the mission that I really have. Living with this kind of mission is all encompassing. It affects every aspect of life - where I live, who I'm married to - what we do vocationally - how many kids we have - where they go to school - how I spend His money - where I go and on and on His leading goes... I'm still learning to be an obedient servant.

JAC: How does The Army support your war-fighting?

EG: The support that I receive is the opportunity. I have open opportunity. If I have the vision, make the request, show the need and that it's of the Lord I believe that they're ready to go.

At present they have provided me employment where I have unlimited opportunities to witness, serve, teach, care for, seek justice, create new avenues of ministry, encourage and provide opportunities for others to volunteer and serve.

The SA has also supported my war fighting by giving training to me through out the years. Different soldiers have provided counsel, encouragement, wisdom, resources and again OPPORTUNITY!

JAC: How do you influence people?

EG: Stephen - you would probably say through blogging, teaching, preaching, prophesying and my daily living.

I'm often taken aback that people actually listen to my words and order some of the steps of their lives because of them. This is a weighty responsibility and at times I don't ever want to prophesy again because of the responsibility and accountability. It is scary.

JAC: What are your dreams for the next several years?

EG: To be still.

For my children to grow in the wisdom and counsel of God. To become men and women who serve whole heartedly and love God more than I ever have and serve Him in ways that I could only dream of. I long for them - not just my flesh and blood but my spiritual children - to do mighty exploits for the King and His kingdom. I weep as I write this because I'm so passionate about seeing my kids prepare the way for the King. That they would be without spot, wrinkle and blemish and that they would exude the fruit and power of the Kingdom of God.

To overcome. To be faithful and grow to be like Him.

To build the Kingdom of God where I am and daily add those being saved.

To live in Israel and do whatever it is God wants me to do there.

JAC: What are the keys to successful warfare on your front and the larger salvation war?

EG: Perseverance, faithfulness, wisdom, strong leadership, a tightly knit team who share vision - have diverse gifts - love Jesus whole heartedly.

INTEGRATION OF MINISTRIES. If we- ministries of The SA- could learn to integrate and work together within localities we would be amazed at the impact we have in the lives of those we serve. God has blessed us immensely and a coordinated strategy might be invincible. We could really use a city-wide Army to win a city-wide war.

JAC: How are you and your comrades strengthening The Salvation Army?

EG: I think that we are proactive. We know that we are covenanted soldiers who are responsible for The Salvation Army. If we want to see growth - people being saved - we must be actively engaged in evangelism. Therefore we are out on the streets or in SA institutions meeting people telling them about Jesus and building relationships with them.

If we want to see strong disciples. We have to teach and train the people that we know in the ways of God.

If we want to see justice we must become agents of justice.

We are dedicated to being The Army that we want to become.

There are a group of us who take the initiative to be The Salvation Army. Rather than sending someone to Family Services for some food we give our food. If someone needs shelter we build the relationship and offer our bed. If someone needs help we see ourselves as the one responsible to give whatever help we are able to give rather than passing the buck. Maybe it's ownership - I am The Salvation Army - I am a covenanted community member and membership has its privileges.

JAC: What are some of the dangers we have to face in the coming years? (and how?)

EG: I think one of the greatest dangers we were facing was grieving the Holy Spirit. There's a Scripture that talks about us doing in the flesh what we once started off in the Spirit. But over the last several years I have seen over and over again a keener sensitivity to the Holy Spirit and His leading. I believe we are in the process of learning the voice, language and ways of God. If we continue to follow His Spirit - His leading there is absolutely no danger that we cannot overcome.

If we face the danger of finances He will show us His provision and His purposes. If we lack leadership - He will raise up Spirit filled leaders. If we need power in our confrontations with evil, He will delegate His authority to stomp on the enemy. And so on.

JAC: What final exhortation have you for this audience?

EG: I think it's time for us to grow up. It's time for the members of the body to take their place. He has given some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. (see and think about Eph 4:11-16)

There is a fullness that we have yet to attain. A maturity in Christ that has eluded us because we have not been fitted together and working the way we should. Each individual has a part and is required in the proper functioning of the body.

The Army needs you! The need is for you to become what God has created you to be from the foundation of the earth. To grow in Him and be established in Him so that you fulfill the purpose for which He created you. When we all start being active soldiers engaged in establishing His kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven the giant will be filling the world with His glory.

Soldier Interviews – (Lieutenant) David Collinson

Australia South Territory

JAC interviewed soldiers from five territories regarding battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn much on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

JAC: Quick bio:

DC: I am 4th generation salvo who has been working as a youth pastor & now lieutenant at a large middle class corps Box Hill of about 500 people.

JAC: Tell us, about your salvation and sanctification.

DC: Saved at seven year old as a JS had significant spiritual experiences at 16 and then at 25 when I felt God like never before.

JAC: What engages your passions and energies these days.

DC: I have a real desire to see the Salvos reach its potential and everyday people find God through its mission.

JAC: What is your role with The Salvation Army?

DC: I am assistant Corps Officer & TYS.

JAC: What is your mission/calling?

DC: I believe it is to help reinvent the Salvos here in Australia so God can do His stuff without us getting in the way.

JAC: How does The Army support your war-fighting?

DC: The Salvos give me all the resources I need- accommodation, car, laptop, etc.

JAC: How do you influence people?

DC: I am relational and so it is through conversation and sharing in each other's dreams that my influence is best shared.

JAC: What are your dreams for the next several years?

DC: I would love to see the 13-30s discover what it truly means to be Salvo again & be proud of it!

JAC: What are the keys to successful warfare on your front and the larger salvation war?

DC: We need to be ministering in the darkest places as that is where the Salvos do their best stuff.

JAC: How are you and your comrades strengthening The Salvation Army?

DC: I am part of a team running a conference called ACC - Aggressive Christianity Conference that has been going for six years and has been willing to look at what The SA is really about & debate and ask the hard issues in a safe place.

JAC: What are some of the dangers we have to face in the coming years? (and how?)

DC: We may have to become smaller numerically and more hard core before we advance with new strategies with passionate sold out Salvos.

JAC: What final exhortation have you for this audience?

DC: We need to keep seeking God in everything we do but also we need to be a thinking Army than rather just an active obedient Army. Probably best said by Catherine Booth herself... We must disturb the present to better the future.

Soldier Interviews – Jeni Parsons

Canada & Bermuda Territory

JAC interviewed soldiers from five territories regarding battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn much on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

JAC: Quick bio:

JP: I am a 27 year old missionary who lives in the downtown eastside of Vancouver but I am just one small part of a greater mission to call people back to Jesus.

I am a daughter of the Most High God, seeking after His presence, so that His life may be expressed through my own.

JAC: Tell us, about your salvation and sanctification.

JP: I grew up in a non-Christian home but was encouraged to make my own decisions regarding my spiritual beliefs. My mom called herself an atheist, so church was very foreign to me. During high school, I became more and more unsatisfied with my life. I became aware that there was something very big missing in my life but I didn't know what it was. I decided that I believed there was a God but Jesus and religion still eluded me. I experienced moments of unexplainable peace during times of crises and I occasionally heard His voice. I would write letters to "God" with questions about who He was and how I was to relate to Him.

In April of 1999, I was weary of the confusion about who I was and the loneliness that plagued me. I cried out to "God," as I knew Him, and asked Him what He wanted of me... a still small voice echoed over the clashing of my soul... it said: "Ask for My help." After another few minutes of wrestling, I surrendered and asked for His help. Immediately, the storm that was raging in my soul stopped... I had no idea what happened, so I sought out a friend who I knew to be a Christian. She invited me to church the next day. It was Easter Sunday. The pastor preached the gospel and I responded to the invitation to make Jesus Lord of my life.

At that time, I had no idea what had happened, but I was soon to discover that my life was never going to be the same from that point on. I had found the home and rest that I had been looking for all of my life. The Lord planted me with a group of people who loved Him and were hungry for Him. I was so open to the Spirit of the Lord working in my life, that conviction of sin, surrender and consecration followed within the next few months. I turned away from the ways that I knew to be wrong and followed and passionately pursued His presence in my life.

JAC: What engages your passions and energies these days.

JP: I am working in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. I head up our 24/7 prayer room – the War Room. I spend a minimum of 6 hours a week praying in our 24/7 prayer room. I am praying with other prayer and intercessory groups around the city. With a team of people, I lead knee drill, our community's weekly prayer and worship meeting. I am also involved with training The War College students in areas of deliverance, prophetic and intercession. I have been in a courting relationship for over a year and we are looking towards marriage. I am also going to be starting up a job with one of the shelters downtown in the next few weeks, part time.

JAC: What is your role with The Salvation Army?

JP: Still to be determined... I am called to be a soldier (which is happening in December) and beyond that, the Lord will determine.

JAC: What is your mission/calling?

JP: The Lord has called me to live out relationship with Him, first and foremost and out of the overflow of that, He has called me to be set apart from the world. I believe there is a call upon my life to call the church back to her first love... to be an instrument of healing and reconciliation; to be an intercessor for the church and her Bridegroom.

JAC: How does The Army support your war-fighting?

JP: There is a promise in scripture that says the Lord puts the lonely in families. Through 614 and the vision and calling of the Salvation, I have found a family. The Salvation Army aligns with the call and vision that the Lord has called me to. I am surrounded by a family of people who will stick up for me and encourage me in my gifts and in my passions and desires. The Army has also provided me with training, spiritual and practical and the Lord has used them to bring me revelation of different areas where the church, as a whole, needs to rise up, especially in the area of justice.

JAC: How do you influence people?

JP: I mainly influence people through prayer. I am teaching a class at The War College. God is using me, along with others, to train them up in the areas of the prophetic/intercession and deliverance through discussion and practical experience. If people hang out with me, they will become a part of what I am doing. I have a passion to see others trained up and released in the area of the prophetic because it has had such a powerful effect in my life.

JAC: What are your dreams for the next several years?

JP: Good question. The Lord has put a strong desire in my heart to be a part of family, live in family and create a family. I would like to be released to do more art... it is a big thing in my life that I have yet to explore fully and would love to have the opportunity and the resources to explore it. I still have a strong desire in my heart to do more short-

term missions trips to third world countries. I have had a life-long dream to live in Ireland and to plant a church there, or at least be a part of a church planting team. The Lord has given me a home with The Army but I still don't know how that applies to the other parts of my life... how do I fit The Army in with the dreams and goals of my life? I am sure it will all make sense in the long run... but I am marrying into something and I will be transformed by it and hopefully, it should be transformed by me... I hope, in the next few years, to see where I fit within The Army.

JAC: What are the keys to successful warfare on your front and the larger salvation war?

JP: Prayer. Intimacy. Seeking the face of Jesus. Waiting on Him for power and strength. If we don't know the heart of God, His strategy, and aren't changed/directed by His presence and words, we can not expect to be effective in warfare. One of the main things that I have learned over the last few years is the significance of living a disciplined lifestyle of prayer, fasting and study. The discipline is the shovel that helps to dig deep wells within us... the daily digging... for more and deeper knowledge of the love of God to be poured out into my life and into the life of others.

JAC: How are you and your comrades strengthening The Salvation Army?

JP: by becoming a part of The Army, I am adding to the numbers... the 614 community is a prophetic voice to the greater part of The Salvation Army, calling The Army back to her roots of Holy Spirit fire, uncompromised incarnational living, and fighting justice and through this, the prophetic voice of The Salvation Army is being raised up once again. The prophetic voice is necessary to knowing the heart of God and to know where He wants us to go.

JAC: What are some of the dangers we have to face in the coming years? (and how?)

JP: I am beginning to realize how I am offered to paths in life, as a Christian. One is the easy road. It is comfortable, offering me all the comforts we can afford. A good job, nice place to live, a good church that loves the Lord, cool clothes, lots of friends, good food, etc, etc. (Though none of the things offered are bad, in fact they are quite good in and of themselves). The other road is not so comfortable. It is a life of self-denial, living without much space and time to myself, without personal transportation, without regular income, without regular meals and without regular sleep but the reward, that is offered is so much more...

And what of the reward? The first offers immediate gratification. It makes me fat and lazy, asleep to the needs of a sick and dying world. Awake to my wants and pleasures. The second offers a life of dependence on God. Alert to His needs, wants, and desires. Asleep to my wants and desires. Only the second offers eternal lasting rewards. Only the second brings joy and peace. More than just me will face this danger... the only choice and the only way to face it, is surrender and obedience to the will of the Lord. The Lord calls us to take up our cross daily. My cross may look differently than

someone else's cross. The Lord may ask of me different things than He asks of my brother or sister, which may take me down paths that may look different than my brother's. Life with Jesus isn't about a set of rules, it is about intimacy coupled with obedience.

JAC: What final exhortation have you for this audience?

JP: the words that have been resounding in my spirit for the last three years have been, "Stay awake. Be alert." The enemy is prowling around like a roaring lion, seeing whom he can devour... He is masquerading as an angel of light, deceiving the church, lulling her asleep with all the comforts the world has to offer.... The deception is subtle. She has fallen asleep and the Warrior King is calling His Bride to awaken. He is returning soon. Be ready for his return. Be awake. Stay alert. Stay close to the heart of your Lover. He has the discernment, the wisdom, and the power. He has what it takes to make us ready for His return. He has what it takes to make us pure and spotless and to prepare us for the battle that rages around us.

Soldier Interviews – Joy Mikles

United States South Territory

JAC interviewed soldiers from five territories regarding battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn much on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

JAC: Quick bio:

JM: Me. Hmmmm. I'm passionate about Jesus. I want to know Him more as I am known. I have a fantastic husband, Marty, who is a fantastic model of humility and grace to me. We're expecting our first child and are excited at what the Lord will bring about in this new stage of our lives. My heart is a missionary heart. I want to see the world come to know Him and His glory.

JAC: Tell us, about your salvation and sanctification.

JM: I'm an officer's kid. So, I grew up in the corps. At the age of six, I gave my heart to Jesus every Sunday for about a year. By the time I was fourteen I realized that what I had was a head knowledge and that I needed to understand Jesus as my friend. So, I began that journey. The first time I felt the joy of the Lord was when I was seventeen - driving my mom's mini-van to school one morning. I was simply overwhelmed. Since then, my walk with the Father has been a process. Trusting him to lead me and learning what he wants for me are always an adventure - challenging but worth the step into the unknown.

JAC: What engages your passions and energies these days.

JM: That's a loaded question. These days my passions and energies are consumed with the hope for justice. I want as many people here in the states to know about the evils that exist around the world such as sex trafficking, labor trafficking, child soldiers and women who are considered property, not people so that we can actually make change happen for them. I'm always amazed at how many average, everyday Americans simply don't know the evils that exist not just overseas but in their own cities. I'm also consumed with the hope of exciting and equipping people for mission. I want to see young adults, teens and adults become mobilized. I want to see them become unafraid of what's different or inconvenient and walk alongside those who don't have water or electricity. Then I want to see them provide sustainable living. I may not get to see the end but many times I at least get to see young adults really grasp the need for missions and fall in love with it. It's a fantastic place to be.

JAC: What is your role with The Salvation Army?

JM: While my title is long and lengthy my role is quite simple - I have the honor of sending young adults on mission trips throughout the year. We have three one-week trips each year and four six week trips each summer. On top of that I get to plan and

organize the teen venue for our ROOTS event with a great friend of mine. I get to visit Young Adult Retreats and Youth Councils. I send out a bimonthly newsletter to young adults around the Southern Territory. The best part about my role is the contact and relationships I have built with young adults around the territory. I now get to be a part of their lives. It's a pretty great privilege.

JAC: What is your mission/calling?

JM: I'm not sure I have just one mission or calling. I believe that the Lord will someday give Marty and I the opportunity to live overseas and work with those who need love and support and hope. I also believe that the Lord is calling me to be a mother to the motherless. There are so many children in this world who don't know the love of a father or a mother and need it, I can't sit at home and be content to raise my own children. While those two things may be a few years off, I also believe the Lord has called Marty and me to Atlanta. He is asking us to align ourselves with the marginalized. It took a while for me to realize that where He has placed me He has called me to mission. There's no excuse for waiting for the mission to begin - I'm already in it. Get going.

JAC: How does The Army support your war-fighting?

JM: They encourage me in the mission trips I lead. They want to know how to pray and want updates upon my return. My corps has allowed me to share my knowledge of injustices at community fairs and given me the chance to hold a meeting on the Invisible Children. When I believe the Lord is leading me to take a mission team to a specific location, the administration has never told me no, they have always been more than willing to allow that to happen.

JAC: How do you influence people?

JM: I think I'm best with encouragement. It seems to be what comes naturally.

JAC: What are your dreams for the next several years?

JM: To raise kids who love Jesus and have an intimate relationship with him. I want them to know long before I did what hearing God is like. I'd like to adopt kids too. My other dream is to be a part of a community of believers that understands that church isn't a building but the people who make it up. I'd like to see us grow through small groups and sharing meals. That's what my soul is hungry for. Other than that, I'm open to the adventure the Lord has waiting for me.

JAC: What are the keys to successful warfare on your front and the larger salvation war?

JM: Relationship. To see change in people and places you have to spend time with them. Education. Justice will have a hard time becoming real unless more people

know about the injustices happening and choose to fight them. Prayer. Allowing the Lord to direct your heart to love what He loves and hate what He hates. Action. Being unafraid to follow Christ where he leads - even if it is outside of what's safe and comfortable.

JAC: How are you and your comrades strengthening The Salvation Army?

JM: By not giving up on her. There's a lot we see wrong with The Army. There's a lot that perhaps we don't like about The Army. We've learned that our preferences aren't important. We continue to dream for The Army - to believe that there is more for us as The Army. Then, we try and make the dreams happen. We believe in a new way of doing church which looks less like a Sunday morning service and more like people living and breathing and eating together. We keep taking steps to meet that goal like meeting together as small groups, encouraging one another, beginning ministries together.

JAC: What are some of the dangers we have to face in the coming years? (and how?)

JM: Honestly, the dangers are here. I think we have to face the danger of becoming more of a Social Services Organization than a movement of God. We now hire people who may or may not know Jesus to do this work for us which means that we, as a movement, have become disconnected from the very people who we were called to in the first place - those in need. I also think we face the danger of dying. There are many who hold on to the way we run things over the reason why we do things. As long as there are those who insist on holding on to methods that no longer work, we will die. The good news is that I sense the Lord breathing new life into us. He is raising up new leaders with new vision who are passionate about our mission. I believe The Salvation Army will grow and prosper in the years to come as long as we allow those with the vision to walk it out.

JAC: What final exhortation have you for this audience?

JM: Keep fighting. Keep dreaming! Dream big for yourself, for your family, for your friends, and for The Salvation Army. God can and will do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine. His word promises it.

Soldier Interviews – Michelle Kay

Australia East Territory

JAC interviewed soldiers from five territories regarding battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn much on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

JAC: Quick bio:

MK: I am a passionate salvo (from Ryde, in Sydney), who wants to live my life as if it matters. My life's vision is "to actively lead a lifestyle of worship, and to encourage and empower others to do the same." I work part time for the Salvation Army, Greater West, as "worship coordinator", and also run a music school in my local area. "Funkey Music Factory", based in Epping, exists to positively 'make a difference' in the lives of those who learn there, and I hope and pray that as well as great, professional music education, there are also great stories of life change and salvation along the way.

JAC: Tell us, about your salvation and sanctification.

MK: I recall kneeling at the Salvation Army mercy seat, at age eight, as a definite response to an invitation from Jesus. I took my grandma with me...she is now with Jesus...

Sanctification however I would describe as a process, only since meeting the Holy Spirit in 1997. Until then I was a Christian, but did not know the growth and refining changing power of the Holy Spirit. I was involved in religion predominantly, which does not interest me at all now... It has been a journey since then of renewal, development, expansion, challenge and change....

Whilst not always easy at all, I would not go back to the life I led before.

JAC: What engages your passions and energies these days.

MK: 1.Watching and being part of the renewal process occurring in The Salvation Army throughout Australia in particular. That is exciting.

2. Running alongside others who believe that we really can make a difference and actively engaged in doing our part (wherever we are called and equipped) in winning the world for Jesus.

3. Passionate worship that empowers the saints

4. Education that releases and equips students towards their potential- whether that be inside or outside of 'church walls'

JAC: What is your role with The Salvation Army?

MK: Greater West worship coordinator, as a part time job- so I am often involved in conferences, or other meetings/events. I also support, encourage corps, individuals, teams, etc.

Wider- is part of the calling of my life- see below

Lay- I am the worship coordinator for Ryde Salvation Army- which means I coordinate Sunday celebrations, train the musicians, and with the leaders/officers, am responsible for direction of Sunday worship celebrations.

JAC: What is your mission/calling?

MK: I have a mandate and calling upon my life to be an active part of the renewal process of worship that is occurring in The Salvation Army. God has confirmed this many times and continues to open doors that I then only have to walk through. I believe that when our heart is fully toward God, our hands then immediately extend toward man.

"You become like what you worship- worship Jesus, become Christ-like... love God, love what God loves..."

JAC: How does The Army support your war-fighting?

MK: If "The Army" is DHQ, then I have a brilliant boss, who trusts, supports and encourages my role, ministry and giftedness in many ways.

If TSA is my home church/corps, I have a brilliant body of Christ who is around me, loves me and strengthens me with prayer, love and SMS messages when I am away ministering elsewhere!

If TSA is friends, I have a close network of people who regularly build into my life, and regular 'iron sharpen' me - with accountability, friendship and practical help.

JAC: How do you influence people?

MK: Depends who the people are, and my role/ position in their lives. As a general rule, I think my influence is through 'encouragement'.

I believe, and actively try to engage the "360 degree leadership" model that Bill Hybels teaches on, believing I can influence north, south, east and west in my life, not just those I am 'positionally' the leader over. Everyone needs encouragement though- whether above, or 'below' you in the leadership model- so I will always seek to encourage others in their run. My ultimate aim is that my life of worship 'rubs off' on those around me, whoever they are, as I seek to lead a life as a 'portable sanctuary' in and outside of a building.

JAC: What are your dreams for the next several years?

MK: Other than to make a difference in my world, I want salvation for the not yet Christians in my life- my neighbours are still on my hit list. I want 'Funkey Music Factory' to be all that God intends it to be- salvation, being a voice and encouragement into the lives of impressionable students, to name 2 things...

I want a renewed, revitalized Salvation Army that advances the cause and kingdom in culturally appropriate ways- making massive differences in this world, and being the answer...

I ask for every Spiritual blessing, and promise that has my name on it, and to be the woman of God that I am called to be for 'such as time as this' .

JAC: What are the keys to successful warfare on your front and the larger salvation war?

YMK: Obedience, knowing and living who I am called to be, God's power and grace as a continual renewal and refreshment for me.

I would say that for all of us too.

JAC: How are you and your comrades strengthening The Salvation Army?

MK: Program-wise: there are a few very exciting things that I/we are part of:

1. Unlimited- is a renewal/mission conference that began in 2002, from a vision given to my boss Major Miriam Gluyas. I am honoured to be part of the Sydney leadership team for this conference. We regularly see and hear about great fruit that is growing as a result of God encounters at Unlimited. God is using Unlimited as a vehicle for change in our country. Fantastic.

2. ID- this is a GREAT, exciting venture in Australia. ID is a youth network and empowering program which is open to and targets passionate youth Salvos who are keen to make a difference in their world, and who actually believe that we can win the world for Jesus!

ID has similarities to ALOVE in the UK, placing value and importance on the 4 'essentials' of worship, mission, discipleship and social justice, and teaches (throughout the 2 year course) the 4 topics of:

Winning the world for Jesus, relational evangelism, leadership, and mentoring.

ID began in Sydney and has now spread to six other hubs in Eastern Australia.

It is more than exciting to see youth rising up and taking the challenge of speaking into their generation/communities and world for the cause of the kingdom.

Life-wise I believe we seek to strengthen TSA by speaking kingdom language, and refusing to be critical of the bride...

JAC: What are some of the dangers we have to face in the coming years? (and how?)

MK: I think we need to know who we are. If you are sold out on who you are, then you are not 'threatened' by those who choose to look different, and do things differently to you (within the church), and you are not threatened by the enemy either (these are different people!)

I believe that when we rise up, know who we are, what we are raised up for, and all go do it, without fighting with each other in the HOW, then we will see a massive harvest.

Unity commands a blessing- I think we miss out on this often due to division that does not need to be there.

JAC: What final exhortation have you for this audience?

MK: Know who you are, what you are called and equipped for. Go after that, with all your strength and determination. When we all know our role in the body, we will be such a force to be reckoned with. Exciting days.

Soldier Interviews – Paul Mergard

Australia East Territory

JAC interviewed soldiers from five territories regarding battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn much on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

JAC: Quick bio:

PM: I'm the Australian Eastern Territory's Mission Team's leader and also the plant leader of Soul West End. I love seeing God move in people's lives and seeing communities transformed by the power of Jesus. I love traveling and trying to capture the face of God in the lives of kids in the developing world through my photography.

JAC: Tell us, about your salvation and sanctification.

PM: I gave my heart to Jesus as a seven year old, and it was when I was 15 that I had my first adult encounter with Christ. My life has been a journey of God continually challenging me to walk closer to him, and trying to find ways to become more and more like Christ.

JAC: What engages your passions and energies these days.

PM: I have just started planting a church in the most cosmopolitan part of Brisbane. We used to have a Corps in West End but it closed down in 1986. The heritage from West End is amazing. Between 1921 and 1986, there were something like 47 people who went to Training College from the Corps. And then the community changed, the corps folk moved out of the area, and eventually the corps closed. But it is so good to be retaking the ground that we surrendered. The community is incredibly different now to what it was 20 years ago. The old Army Hall is now a Mosque, the area is incredibly multicultural and a melting pot of people - rich and poor, professionals and marginalised. Young and old. It is incredibly exciting to be serving Christ and our community with a passionate team of young adults who want to see God transform a community and do it in the spirit of the early Army. Soul West End has possibly been one of the most energising journeys I have ever been on in my life. There is a new dependency on Christ. And huge new opportunities to see transformation. It's still early days for us (we only moved into the area in August) but the future is full of possibilities.

I'm also energised by the fight against Human Trafficking. God has really captured my heart on this issue. I spend a lot of time traveling, especially in the developing world, and I am continually having to deal with the contradictions of life in different parts of the world. At the start of the year I was pretty ignorant about the issue of Human Trafficking until I started working on publishing a coffee table book, and then preached on the issue of Human Trafficking on Self Denial Sunday this year and God grabbed me mid preach and laid it on my heart to engage with this issue. It's led me to putting the proceeds of my book towards the Army's fight against HT and also towards child sponsorship -

believing that if we can do something at either ends of this modern day evil - tackling poverty first and then helping to rescue those being trafficked, maybe we can do something significant for some of the most vulnerable children in the world.

JAC: What is your role with The Salvation Army?

PM: It's a number of things.

I'm the Australian Eastern Territory's Mission Team Leader and the plant leader of Soul West End. With Mission Team we send teams out all over the world on short term missions, as well as being involved in an interdenominational outreach here in Australia, particularly with our Schoolies Week outreach - mainly on Queensland's Gold Coast. This involves serving 40,000 school leavers every November. And this year we are pioneering a similar program in South Africa with an AOG church.

I see my role as helping to create a culture of Mission in our territory and in those places we go to around the world.

JAC: What is your mission/calling?

PM: To see communities transformed by the power of God, and to help people engage with God and step out of their comfort zone and accomplish great feats for the Kingdom of God.

I have a definite calling to Africa - I have for many years - but I see my calling as a long term calling on a short term basis (i.e. at the moment, I don't believe I'm called to live in Africa, but I do get there at least once a year for mission and ministry.)

I try to live an open handed life - being open to what God would want for my life, and to try and keep him at the forefront of all I do.

JAC: How does The Army support your war-fighting?

PM: They support me in huge ways. I receive so much support from our leaders in this Territory and in the South Queensland Division. They help empower, release and equip me for what God has called me into. I'm employed by both my Division and Territory, and am so grateful for the way I have the freedom to push out of the box and be creative with what God has given me.

JAC: How do you influence people?

PM: I really believe in investing in people's lives. I wouldn't be where I am at today if people hadn't taken the time to invest in my life. There are so many Salvos out there who have immense potential and they just need people to see that and help encourage them to reach great heights. And this is influence. I also try to influence by example. I

don't want to sit by and engage just from a theoretical perspective, but to engage in seeing communities transformed and hence build your influence.

JAC: What are your dreams for the next several years?

PM: I'm excited to continually see many of our young adults we have been investing in over the past years step up to the mark and see God do incredible things through them. I want to see more of this.

I'm also excited about the possibilities that lay ahead of us with Soul West End. To see a community transformed by the Power of God is such a privilege, and my dream is that we will see our community transformed. To see people standing at the feet of Jesus engaged in worship and service.

To see our movement continue to move forward to accomplish all that God has laid before us - to be speaking up for injustice, to see souls saved, to see an Army mobilised to engage with a lost and hurting world and reaching unreached people groups.

JAC: What are the keys to successful warfare on your front and the larger salvation war?

PM: Finding ways to contextualise the Gospel. Every city, community and group of people are different, and like Jesus, we need to contextualise and incarnate the Gospel so we can reach those we are called to reach. Too often in my travels I see the gospel presented with a foreign cultural identity - and it is not that effective in reaching the community. However where the gospel has been incarnated and contextualised, people are getting saved and discipled.

JAC: How are you and your comrades strengthening The Salvation Army?

PM: By becoming people who are willing to risk anything for the cause of the Kingdom. We believe in our movement - that God has anointed us for soul winning and we want to be daring in advancing the Kingdom. No more tame, conservative Christianity. It's time to engage in a risky gospel.

JAC: What are some of the dangers we have to face in the coming years? (and how?)

PM: Too many of us are comfortable with where we are. We settle for security and safety, rather than risking it all for the cause of Christ. We need to be willing to step out and try new things. To take on new territory. To go to places where the Gospel has never been preached. To find a freedom in the Spirit and take massive faith steps to see our world changed.

JAC: What final exhortation have you for this audience?

PM: Don't settle for the white picket fence. It is over rated. Be daring for Christ. Take some risks. Get involved in the mission of winning souls for Jesus and then disciple them. Let's fight against injustice and see the Kingdom of Heaven established here on earth.

Soldier Interviews – Aaron White

Canada & Bermuda Territory

JAC interviewed soldiers from five territories regarding battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn much on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

JAC: Quick bio:

AW: Aaron White, along with his wife Cherie and their 4 kids, live and minister in Vancouver's notorious Downtown Eastside, labeled North America's poorest postal code. He serves as the Youth Cell Coordinator and co-CSM at Vancouver 614, and spends most of his time working with at-risk teens and children, visiting schools, writing cell outlines, and helping lead the 24-7 prayer movement in Canada. He loves Jesus, loves authentic Christian community, loves reading, and loves eggnog.

JAC: Tell us, about your salvation and sanctification.

AW: I was brought up in a Christian home, and made my first public commitment to Christ at a Cub camp at the age of six. My first act after "praying the prayer" was to ask my friend why he wasn't doing it too. Might have set a pattern for my life.

In university I realized that I really only had my parent's faith. This was not entirely a bad thing; my parents love me, and I trust them, so at the very least it gave me the tools with which to make an informed decision about faith. But I did have to know the reasons for my own belief, especially in the face of peer and Prof. pressure at the University of Victoria. After a great deal of intellectual, moral, and spiritual struggle I made a recommitment to Christ.

Though I had been brought up in The Salvation Army, the mission to the poor had never really been brought home to me. I had stood on Kettles and been thanked for "all the good work I do", but I had really no clue what good work The Army was doing.

It was only when I got a summer job working at a men's shelter and halfway house that I began to understand the mission of The Salvation Army.

It was during this time that I started trying to figure out holiness. I began reading a bunch of spiritual classics, and everyone seemed to be all on about holiness, like it was something important. Then I started reading about the early Army stuff, and again, holiness, holiness, holiness. They wouldn't shut up about it.

So I started praying for holiness, primarily in terms of intimacy with the Holy Spirit. I remember reading a C.S. Lewis book late one night after I got married, and he was describing the love relationship that exists inside the Trinity. He suggested that at the end of it all Jesus wanted to present His bride to His Father, to show Him how beautiful she was, kind of as a gift. I put the book down and began to pray for that beauty, to pray

that I could be a part of that precious gift between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At that moment, I lost control of my head.

I know it sounds weird, but my head started tilting backwards, until it was positioned back as far as it would go, and my face was pointed towards the ceiling. At the same time my mouth was opening up as wide as it would go. Not painful, but definitely odd.

I remained stuck in that pose for awhile, hoping that Cherie wouldn't come out, because I looked ridiculous. Then it ended, and I regained control of my head. I thought, "Hmmm. That was strange. Thanks God for that, whatever it was."

I looked down and continued reading. The very next line I read was a quote from Psalm 81:10, which says, "Open wide your mouth, and I will fill it with blessings."

It was a moment of incredible Holy Spirit intimacy, the promise of His goodness and righteousness in my life, and that has been a touchstone in my life ever since.

JAC: What engages your passions and energies these days.

AW: Authentic Christian community, and through that community, prayer, justice and mission. I work mostly with kids and teens, and my desire is for them to come to know Jesus and to build just, missional communities that impact their families, communities and schools. I love introducing kids and teens to the concept of justice as it is presented in Scripture, and then watching them catch hold of it and run with it. You can't beat kids and teens for passion and idealism.

My passion and energy is also engaged by my family. I have a phenomenal wife, and four awesome kids whom I love to bits and pieces. They teach me more about God's Kingdom every day.

JAC: What is your role with The Salvation Army?

AW: My wife and I serve as CSMs for 614 Vancouver, and I am also responsible for kids and youth cells at the Corps. I work part time for Vancouver Family Services as well, and help teach at The War College. I am a soldier.

JAC: What is your mission/calling?

AW: To be a revolutionary for Jesus. To teach others, especially kids and teens, to be the same. And to build community in desperate places, right now (and for the long foreseeable future) in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. To be a good Dad and Husband.

JAC: How does The Army support your war-fighting?

AW: With oodles of cash! Or, slightly more realistically, with some financial support, with the freedom to try things, and with the support of leaders and workers who are prepared to throw it all away after Jesus. It is a pretty ideal missions environment.

JAC: How do you influence people?

AW: With passion, lifestyle, prayer, encouragement, presence, and large, blunt objects.

JAC: What are your dreams for the next several years?

AW: I dream of four schools in particular being turned upside down for Jesus. I dream of Oppenheimer Park (nicknamed Needle Park) becoming a place where children can come and safely play (it's happening!) I see a community in which people aren't just evicted from their homes. I dream of drug rehab that actually works because people have community to support them when they are out. I dream of a Salvation Army that takes on injustice and sin and isn't afraid to get dirty or scandalous. I see me still living in the DTES with my family, but our community is a lot tighter, hopefully bigger, more abounding in love (every day) and I have decent left-handed lay-up shot in the low post.

JAC: What are the keys to successful warfare on your front and the larger salvation war?

AW: Holiness, Compassion, Prayer, and Presence.

JAC: How are you and your comrades strengthening The Salvation Army?

AW: I am personally bringing up four children who will know (and already do know) what Blood and Fire means. And I'm trying, along with my comrades, to teach it to all those whom I influence.

Teaching and mentoring at The War College is also key here. I believe it is a model for training and missions and leadership that actually works, is cost effective, is reproducible, and that people are drawn to.

JAC: What are some of the dangers we have to face in the coming years? (and how?)

AW: Huge danger of apathy. Always. Do we have endurance in this fight? Will we last? Or will we get world-weary, bored, too busy looking for the next interesting shiny bauble? We have to keep it before us that we are in a fight, the enemy is real, and the fight matters for our world, for the people around us. We need to stay hungry, and desperate for God. We can't stop praying.

JAC: What final exhortation have you for this audience?

AW: If you are finding Christianity to be boring, then you are probably doing it wrong. Live lives of Holy risk for the King, put it all on the line, every day. Follow Christ's model

of compassion, love and grace for the unlikely and hurting, but also do not forget that we are also called to be dangerous to the dark things of this world.

Soldier Interviews – Andrew Grinnell

United Kingdom Territory

JAC interviewed soldiers from five territories regarding battle issues that we all face. We expect that most of you will learn much on what the problems and solutions are in this great salvation conflict. We esteem the interviewees as those fighting hard and committed to glorifying Jesus as they capture, train, and deploy on very different fronts.

JAC: Quick bio:

AG: I'm Andrew Grinnell and I live in Leeds in the north of England with my wife and three children. I work for ALOVE as the Emerging Mission Officer and am passionate about seeing churches developed in some of the toughest areas/ estates in the UK.

JAC: Tell us, about your salvation and sanctification.

AG: I was brought up in the Salvation Army and so I guess I inherited much of my early spirituality from a mixture of the belief of my parents and the Salvation Army corps I found myself in. Loads changed during my mid to late teens firstly as I encountered Christians from other churches and secondly as I started to try and work out what faith meant to me directly, not only as someone who was born into it. Throughout the last 10 years it's been much of the same, as I wrestle with who God is, who I am and how together we might not only survive the world, but see it transformed as well.

JAC: What engages your passions and energies these days.

AG: well, although loads of different things energise me, I suppose it all boils down to a few things. I love building bridges for people to walk over and connect with each other. That is in so many different areas, whether its people in my community who don't know each other, different church leaders who are unaware of what each other is doing, those who have dreams and passions and no-one to share them with or people applying to be involved in one of our programmes. There's something about seeing people connecting for the first time with the intent of making a difference!!!

Another area would be in seeing people get it. Again that's on a variety of levels but I'm passionate about people understanding more about God, the universe and how to live in it. In many ways this mirrors my own journey and wrestle and so as I enjoy those ah-ha moments, I love seeing others having them as well.

In the middle of all this is probably my greatest passion to see the poor encounter the Kingdom of God. I want to see the poorest communities in the UK being built into real community, and people getting it as they experience the love of Christ. I want to see Christians sharing this vision and getting out to live in these places to see God's transformative grace at work.

JAC: What is your role with The Salvation Army?

AG: Fortunately my role fits perfectly with these passions. I work for ALOVE as the emerging mission officer and two main responsibilities. Firstly I oversee the development of the NEO strategy

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/alove/neo which plants teams of people on estates in the UK. We've currently got nine teams out there and we're researching and planning for more. Secondly, I'm responsible for creating and developing training courses to help with this. I guess one of the greatest excitements for our teams are that there often is loads of energy, desire and passion to do something. This is great but sheer energy alone will not plant long-term sustainable churches. We need to give people the theological, spiritual and mission resources to help them keep going for a long time.

JAC: What is your mission/calling?

AG: Difficult to separate from the above. I guess the only thing I'd add is that I'm also called to be involved in it locally. It's not just my job all this, I shouldn't only go around theorising about how to do it, I'm called to be involved in it on a day-to-day level. A few of us have just moved in to this estate in Leeds to bring a bit of change, and to be changed as we seek God out there.

JAC: How does The Army support your war-fighting?

AG: On the practical level it pays me so that's a start. But beyond that it places me in a tradition with a heritage that is about all that I'm about - seeing the orphan, widow and stranger (as the Old Testament puts it) transformed by the gospel of Christ.

JAC: How do you influence people?

You: Badly!!! I guess it's a long haul. You build relationships by learning to listen to others, and then speaking when the times right. If all that's backed up by someone who's living as authentically as they possible can, I think people are influenced, even if it means they only change a little.

JAC: What are your dreams for the next several years?

You: To keep seeing communities transformed by planting a whole bunch of other teams. To see my children grow up as authentic disciples, and to see a bit of transformation in my own community.

JAC: What are the keys to successful warfare on your front and the larger salvation war?

You: Humility, vulnerability, courage and thinking!!! You can't do it any other way as far as I know and I'm very much committed to making sure that the last of these is not neglected. Getting out there is vital, reflecting on what we learn there is key.

JAC: How are you and your comrades strengthening The Salvation Army?

AG: By opening up new opportunities for mission.

JAC: What are some of the dangers we have to face in the coming years? (and how?)

AG: Not to become too self absorbed and self obsessed. It strikes me the church in general spends more time trying to articulate who it is to each other than engaging in the real issues in the world. In truth, the people on our estate probably don't care too much about what we wear, how we describe ourselves, what role we play within the denominational structure. They just want people around them that will make a difference for them and care. I guess we need to stop taking ourselves too seriously and get on with making a difference.

JAC: What final exhortation have you for this audience?

AG: I think Richard of Chichester puts it best: 'to love you (God) more dearly, follow you more nearly, know you more clearly, day by day.'