

# **JOURNAL OF AGGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY**

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## **Editorial Introduction**

by Captain Stephen Court

Greetings in Jesus name. Courage and Glory to you from our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Welcome to the Vanity Fair Issue of JAC. No, this isn't spinning off of Pilgrim's progress or Thackeray's novel.

The VF magazine has had for awhile a back page feature called the Proust Questionnaire: "At the age of 20, Marcel Proust put his own psyche under the microscope by answering questions meant to reveal one's innermost thoughts. More than a century later, and as demonstrated on Vanity Fair's back page each month, the 'Proust Questionnaire' continues to be a popular method of interviewing" (Vanity Fair, April 2005).

We figured we redeem the questionnaire by asking a whole slew of interesting Salvos this short set of questions. There are some wonderful responses. Enjoy them.

We also have a few testimonies by some Captains, as well as a couple of opinion pieces and a Good Friday primer article.

We trust that each will serve to spur you on to love and good deeds as you share and discuss with your comrades. God help us to win the world for Jesus!

Much grace,  
Stephen Court

## **Calvary – From Brush to Pen**

by Wally Court

There was a time when Christians hung religious pictures or mottoes on the walls of their homes; icons that daily gave expression to their faith.

It was the fall of 1918. World War I was nearing its conclusion, and in a hospital in southern England, a young British Army medical corpsman, suffering from malaria, was experiencing a feverish hallucination.

"It was as if a door in the heavens opened and some deeply solemn melodies came floating down to me," he would recall.

"It was a vision of Christ, turning toward a path – rough, gloomy and foreboding. The shadow-hung path led to Calvary, dimly discerned in the distance. The face was turned so that one could see those sad eyes, infinite compassion, unfathomed sorrow, most tender pity and exquisite grief. And yet it was a manly face, holding the look of one who has seen what lies at the end of the road, and faces it, calm and unafraid."

In reality, the hallucination had taken his befuddled mind back to the days of his youth and to the shadowy, gas-lit depiction of Christ: The Man of Sorrows, that hung in his father's modest home in Nunhead, England.

His parents were Salvation Army officers and the painting, most likely a reproduction, had moved with the family from appointment to appointment, five in all, over seven years, and by now was an integral part of the family's worldly goods.

To a seven-year-old, emotionally remote in a family unit consisting of father, stepmother, three older and one baby sister, the picture and its predictable outcome would remain with him for the rest of his life.

Where the picture came from remains a mystery – A contents sale?

Clipped from a magazine? A gift? Rescued from a trash bin? And since it has long since been lost, the name of the artisan who created it is also unknown.

But for all its anonymity the picture was destined to play a significant role in the Salvation Army's musical ministry.

What is known is that the young man was Bramwell Coles, a budding composer. In his semi-delirious state he sketched some musical notation. While convalescing, he fashioned his notations into the selection, Man of Sorrows, a classic of Salvation Army music literature.

Both Coles's music and the painting are based on the words in Isaiah 53:3. "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised and we esteemed him not."

The selection unites four familiar hymns that center on Christ's passion, beginning with the Philip Bliss hymn of the same name:

Man of sorrows! what a name  
For the Son of God, who came  
Ruined sinners to reclaim;  
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

He then employed a melody he had composed to words written by Eliza Read, a Salvationist from the Shanhill Road Corps in Belfast.

I heard of a Saviour whose love was so great  
That he laid down his life on the tree;  
The thorns they were pierced on his beautiful brow  
To pardon a rebel like me.  
He pardoned a rebel, a rebel like me  
He pardoned a rebel like me.  
The thorns they were pierced on his beautiful brow  
To pardon a rebel like me.

He follows that with an arrangement of the song I think of all his Sorrow, written by his mentor Colonel Richard Slater . . .

I think of all his sorrow,  
The garden and the morrow,  
When cruel death did follow:  
'Twas for me, 'twas all for me!

. . . and concluded with the chorus of the hymn The Broken Heart by Thomas Dennis, an assistant Anglican pastor in Haslemere, Surrey.

He died of a broken heart for me,  
He died of a broken heart;  
Oh, wondrous love! for you, for me,  
He died of a broken heart.

Man of Sorrows had a moving and auspicious reading at the Army's 1928 Composers' Festival in London, England. In the audience were the future King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

"Man of Sorrows towers above all Coles' other compositions for sheer artistry, inspiration and beauty of religious expression," wrote one critic.

"It seemed as though the very soul of the composer had been laid bare, and his longings and aspirations exquisitely portrayed in musical form," added wrote another.

During the next five decades, Bramwell maintained an ongoing manuscript pilgrimage from Gethsemane to Calvary, skillfully melding the melodies of well-known hymns that would bring the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday to the minds, and souls, of his listeners.

These instrumental compositions included the selections *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, *The Old Rugged Cross* and *The Hill of Calvary*. He also fashioned music to words associated with Christ's atoning work written by prominent Salvationist poets of the day.

In 1947, Bramwell's life-long pilgrimage to the Cross resulted in the congregational song *Here at the Cross* that still finds expression in Salvation Army Easter services throughout the world.

How can I better serve thee Lord,  
Thou who hast done so much for me?  
Faltering and weak my labour has been;  
O that my life may tell for thee.  
Dull are my ears to hear they voice,  
Slow are my hands to work for thee,  
Loath are my feet to conquer the steeps.  
That lead me to my Calvary.  
Strength for my weakness, Lord, impart,  
Sight for my blindness, give to me;  
Faith for my doubtings, Lord, I would crave.  
That I may serve thee worthily.

The chorus laid all his human frailties and soul's longings at the foot of the Cross.  
Here at the Cross in this sacred hour,  
Here at the source of reviving power,  
Helpless indeed, I come with my need;  
Lord, for thy service, fit me I plead.

"No Salvationist composer could so movingly portray the Calvary theme as Bramwell Coles. Here he was at his best," said his good friend and fellow traveler, Lieut. Commissioner Archie Wiggins. "He was indeed a man of God otherwise he could not have written the way he did."

And while time has erased the name of the mystery painter, the name of the musician, his music and his obsession with Christ's passion lives, rescued, as it were, from temporary delirium to eternal destiny.

Colonel Bramwell Coles' biography, *In the Firing Line*, and an accompanying CD of Colonel Coles' music including *Man of Sorrows*, is available from Salvationist Publishing and Supplies in the United Kingdom, [armybarmy.com](http://armybarmy.com), or [wlcemc@rogers.com](mailto:wlcemc@rogers.com).

## **The Vanity Fair style Interview**

- Lieutenant Genevieve Peterson

### **What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

All Christians would be hungry for righteousness and more knowledge of God. All churches would wholeheartedly focus on bringing about social justice both locally and globally, and not just dabble in it for a moral high. Loads of advocates for children would be trained and funded. There would be no administration duties or finance documents of any kind at a Corps level. Oh, and Cadbury would be fair trade!

### **What is your greatest fear?**

Well the practical ones are definitely spiders, drowning, phones and getting into trouble. My constant fear however is that there is something I could have done but didn't that could have saved or helped the children I minister to.

### **What living person do you most admire?**

Well, I have to say Gough Whitlam. He (and his government) abolished conscription, withdrew the remaining Australian troops from Vietnam, took over financial responsibility for tertiary education and abolished fees, introduced welfare payments for single-parent families and homeless persons, abolished the death penalty, reduced the voting age to eighteen years, ended the White Australia policy, introduced radio and language programs for ethnic minorities, enabled equal opportunities to women in Federal Government employment and in doing so women were appointed to judicial, administrative and advisory positions, banned sporting teams from South Africa, negotiated diplomatic relations with China, created a National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, enabled the 'round-Australia highway', community health centres and regionally based hospitals, started a universal health-care system, formally handed Gurindji people at Wattie Creek in the Northern Territory title deeds to part of their traditional lands, enabled independence for Papua New Guinea from Australian administration...the list goes on. All that in three years!

He changed the mind set of welfare and tolerance in Australia and he pushed its citizens as far as they could go. And for his troubles, he was the first Prime Minister to be sacked by the Governor-General (a figure head!). To have the strength and intelligence to be radical, change the world, face the ultimate rejection and still be loved and respected by most...it is my dream!

### **With which historical figure do you most identify?**

Mother Theresa...just kidding! I would say I would love to be even remotely close to Mary Mackillop. She was the first Australian women to start a Catholic order in Australia and she made sure it was dedicated to the education of poor children. Any Sister that joined the order had to abide by a life of poverty, of a dependence on Divine Providence and of no ownership of personal belongings. Within two years more than seventy Sisters were educating children at twenty-one schools and were also involved with orphans, neglected children, girls in danger, the aged poor, a reformatory, and a home for the aged and incurably ill.

**What is the trait you deplore most in others?**

Brown-nosing. I don't like seeing people receive credit or advantage for anything other than their hard work and actions that result in altering the world for good. And the worst of it, I think I see more brown-nosing and favouritism in the Army than the Royal family. Merit and holiness and not glamour and heritage, should be the only prerequisites for promotion in The Salvation Army.

**What is your greatest extravagance?**

DVDs. I am not proud to say that I have many and that they are alphabetised and regularly watched and not often shared with others.

I am one of those people that keep a book to check them in and out.

Actually...worse...it's and excel document!

**What is your favourite journey?**

Aside from the exciting journey of life...I would say the 15 minute walk from my car to the MCG to see the Melbourne Football club play a game.

**What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

Gentleness...people should learn to deal with the truth in whatever way it comes. Hear the criticism and move on people.

**What talent would you most like to have?**

Singing and the ability to stay organised.

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

The need for sleep and the ability to hold my tongue.

**What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

That Christians in the first world sit back and think they are doing enough while simultaneously asking for more blessings. While there is still injustice, there is no such thing as enough.

**What is your most treasured possession?**

Having just moved house, I can honestly say, I don't have one. I would have gladly left everything behind.

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

My ability to get politics, sport or God into every conversation longer than ten minutes.

**Who are your favourite writers?**

Henri Nouwen, Jane Austin, Ruth Levitas, Mark Considine, Paul Smyth, Max Lucado, Enid Blyten, JRR Tolkin, CS Lewis, Roald Dahl

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

Most definitely Elizabeth Bennett. She is so gutsy! One of my favourite parts is when she stands up to Lady Catherine..."I am not to be intimidated into anything so wholly

unreasonable... You have widely mistaken my character, if you think I can be worked on by such persuasions as these." Oh to have the courage to speak these words on demand and not twenty minutes later in your own imagination.

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

Gough Whitlam, General Eva Burrows, Gareth Evans, Jim Stynes, Bono, Keith Green and Catherine Booth

**What is your motto?**

I don't really have one as I am not a fan of punchy lines that often cheapen the impact of the mission by boiling complex activity and purpose down to one memorable sentence. However, if I was forced to give one, it would be 'Keep it zeal'. Essentially, I want people to be radical, active and passionate about the mission God has given them.

## **The Vanity Fair style Interview**

- Captain Amy Reardon

### **What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

Once I had a dream where I was at a party, and the guest of honor was Jesus. He sat on the couch telling stories and laughing, and I sat at his feet. I often revisit that dream in my mind, because in it I knew perfect happiness. Someday it will come true. Lord, haste the day!

### **What is your greatest fear?**

As a Christian, I wouldn't say I have any genuine fears because I trust God to redeem any situation. But perhaps my greatest concern is that one of my sons might make a bad marriage, and even end up in a divorce. I've been there, and yes, a person can survive. But I never want them to know that pain.

### **What living person do you most admire?**

Nancy Cox (formerly Helms). Her constancy in her relationship with God despite the great adversity in her life has affected me more than I can say. When she was a young corps officer, her husband was killed by a drunk driver. She was left with 3 children – one of whom was just a few months old, one of whom was physically handicapped and deaf. She never blamed God for one moment and continued to serve him as an officer, even when further tragedy ensued in her life. She remarried this past summer, about 13 years after Drew's death.

### **With which historical figure do you most identify?**

Probably Phoebe Palmer, the 19th century American holiness teacher and social justice activist. I understand her journey. I just wish I could achieve the same results.

### **What is the trait you deplore most in others?**

I think what bothers me most is unchecked sarcasm.

### **What is your greatest extravagance?**

There isn't much time, resource or desire for extravagance in my life! But, I do like really good cheese, and every once in a while I'll buy some for no justifiable reason.

### **What is your favourite journey?**

Actual journey? My two trips to Bermuda – though I wish my husband Rob had been there. There are other great ways I take journeys, however. I look at Rob's pictures from his youth and imagine I knew him then. I read the journals I have been keeping since childhood, meeting myself at every age, and I see God's faithfulness throughout my entire life. Finally, I love to watch period and/or location films and journey into another time/place – anything from "Pride and Prejudice" to "Indiana Jones."

**What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

I don't know if I'd call it a virtue exactly, but many people seem to think it is wonderful to be outgoing. I don't think it's so great. I'm very outgoing, and because of it I often wind up saying something stupid or otherwise embarrassing myself!

**What talent would you most like to have?**

I wish I could dance ballet. I wouldn't ditch officership and join a company or anything, but I just wish I could express myself that way.

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

I wish I were more productive.

**What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

I don't think there could be any more miserable human state than that of a child who does not feel loved and safe.

**What is your most treasured possession?**

When I was pregnant with my middle son Wes, my eldest, Kyle, was 8 years old. Knowing finances were tight, Kyle designed and hand sewed a diaper bag for me secretly, in his bedroom. He used fabric he'd had left over from making a beaver puppet for school; it was brown and furry. I found him just as he was finishing the bag, and we decided to sew over the hand stitching with a sewing machine. Later, at a baby shower, someone gave me a diaper bag. Kyle looked ashamed. He said, "I made you that diaper bag because I knew we didn't have much money. I didn't know someone was going to give you one." But it was the brown furry bag that I adored and carried everywhere. I'll keep it forever.

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

That's a hard question, because it requires that I see myself from other people's point of view. I'm often told that I come across as confident, so I guess that would be it. Not very noble, I suppose.

**Who are your favourite writers?**

Mostly I read non-fiction. I like Donald Bloesch, Clark Pinnock and Commissioner Phil Needham for theology. I really resonate with Frederick Buechner. My favorite fiction writer is 19th century author George MacDonald. He was also C.S. Lewis's favorite fiction writer, so I guess I'm in good company! I don't read MacDonald's fantasy books, but his other books about country clergy and especially about a character named Gibbie. I learned a great deal about what it means to pastor people and love God through his books. Also, I am quite moved by the poetry of John Donne. C.S. Lewis would also be a favourite.

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

Sir Gibbie, George MacDonald's character. His devotion to God is inspiring.

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

Commissioner Linda Bond, Lt. Colonel Marlene Chase, and Major Nancy Cox.

**What is your motto?**

I often recite a line from a song about holiness: “Victory or defeat, it’s up to me to decide.” Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I am capable of turning my back on sin and submitting to God. The choice is mine.

## **The Vanity Fair style Interview**

- Major Alan Laurens

### **What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

To be at peace with ones self and God.

### **What is your greatest fear?**

To misinterpret the Word of the Lord in ministry.

### **What living person do you most admire?**

General Eva Burrows A.C (Retired)

### **With which historical figure do you most identify?**

William Booth,

### **What is the trait you deplore most in others?**

Both Spiritual and Physical laziness.

### **What is your greatest extravagance?**

Spending money on Christmas decorations for my Garden.

### **What is your favourite journey?**

Visiting around the world,in particular Jerusalem, year 2000

### **What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

Generosity (None of us can ever out-do God's giving no matter how we try!)

### **What talent would you most like to have?**

Truthfully, the talents I possess are given to me by my Lord and I have given them all back to him anyway, I am grateful for what I have to this present time.

### **If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

Sometimes feeling inadequate even though my faith is strong!

### **What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

To lose one's faith

### **What is your most treasured possession?**

My greatest possession is two-fold

- 1: The Presence and Power gifts of The Holy Ghost through the Grace of Jesus!
- 2: My belonging to The Salvation Army as God raised it-- by the Grace of Jesus!

### **What is your most marked characteristic?**

A deep love and compassion for people because of my complete love and devotion to Jesus!

**Who are your favourite writers?**

Commissioner Wesley Harris / Philip Yancey / Charles Spurgeon

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

Superman

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

My wonderful wife Val. / Mother Terressa / General Eva Burrows A.C (Rtd)

**What is your motto?**

Go on- - forward! Together - God and me, we discover nothing is impossible!

## **The Vanity Fair style Interview**

- Major Doug Burr

### **What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

I have many ideas of happiness, but since the word "perfect," is used, I can only offer: Living and worshiping in God's presence.

Psalm 65:4 Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

### **What is your greatest fear?**

Entering heaven and finding my eternal "place" of worship is near the back of the room and not right next to Jesus. {shudder}

### **What living person do you most admire?**

Stephen Court. I don't know anyone more committed to God's mission than he. His unwavering, untiring dedication to getting people saved and growing them into committed, active, radical Soldiers is an undying example to me and those who have the privilege of knowing him.

### **With which historical figure do you most identify?**

Samuel Logan Brengle.

### **What is the trait you deplore most in others?**

Laziness.

### **What is your greatest extravagance?**

Chocolate. Any kind!

### **What is your favourite journey?**

Home!

### **What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

Assuming virtue as "a trait valued as being good" (not necessarily the traditional Christian virtues), Frankness. Way too many people think they are being virtuous when they speak what they are honestly feeling at the moment. Sometimes it is best to not speak at all- especially if you have nothing helpful to say. I can't count how many times I have seen others hurt by the terrible things someone speaks all in the name of being frank.

### **What talent would you most like to have?**

I'd like to be able to play the piano to the point where I could just play jazz without music, making it up as I went along.

### **If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

I would like to be more outgoing and love being with people more.

**What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

Hell. And I mean the real place. I can't imagine being in a place where there is no hope.

**What is your most treasured possession?**

While I feel possessions are important to my identity (my personality), I don't really own anything that I specifically treasure above something else. Perhaps I could say a wall painting reproduction of the Monitor and the Merrimac, or just as easily say the toy Batmobile on my desk. Wait- my computer? No, surely my armadillo collection. Maybe the personal Bible of a respected soldier given to me by his family after he passed away...

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

Deep thinker.

**Who are your favourite writers?**

Watchman Nee, Samuel Logan Brengle, C. Peter Wagner.

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

Luke Skywalker, who thought he was a "nobody," but was much more. He overcame the call of the "dark side" and held out faith for the redemption of his family. He became a strong foundation for other's future.

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

Rob Dolby, Danielle Strickland, missionaries.

**What is your motto?**

Whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God. - John 3:21

## **The Vanity Fair style Interview**

- Major David Ivany

### **What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

Being in the centre of God's will. I'm also thinking of the banqueting table metaphor, with friends and family, good music. (In the end all that matters is God and family (the family of God)).

### **What is your greatest fear?**

Not drinking full from the cup that has been provided.

What living person do you most admire? The glory of God is human beings totally alive – I admire people who are fully alive – in whatever their circumstance.

### **With which historical figure do you most identify?**

David – shepherd, poet, family man, sinner, man after God's heart, warrior. While I'm awkward with the king part, I am of a royal line (spiritually) and hope to reign with Jesus some day.

### **What is the trait you deplore most in others?**

Arrogance

### **What is your greatest extravagance?**

Sipping Lattes, while playing Scrabble and listening to eclectic menu (must be soulful however) on my Ipod.

### **What is your favourite journey?**

Near to the heart of God; the road less travelled, the Horseshoe Bay-Langdale Ferry, British Columbia, Canada, at dusk, silhouetted mountains.

### **What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

Happiness

### **What talent would you most like to have?**

Persuasion – helpful in proclamation, peace-making, governing. A benevolent dictatorship appears to be the best form of government.

### **If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

Be less self-absorbed

### **What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

Hopeless and isolated.

### **What is your most treasured possession?**

Relationships, times of solitude.

### **What is your most marked characteristic?**

Desire to go deeper ("There must be more than this...")

**Who are your favourite writers?**

Frederich Buechner, Henri Nouwen, Dallas Willard, Dan Allender, Kathleen Norris and so many more.

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

Brendan, (Buechner) a contemporary of St. Patrick, or Ivanhoe (was one of my nicknames in school – I assume he was a good guy – never read it!?!?)

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

Those who seek and thirst after righteousness (see the other Beatitudes as well (Matt.5). One example the Haitian mothers I saw singing and praying one evening– deep faith, hope, courage in the midst of overwhelming despair. Th

**What is your motto?**

Toss-up: "The Best is Yet to come" and just recently claimed: "I am a conduit of God's grace"

## **The Vanity Fair style Interview**

- Major Richard Gaudion

**What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

Knowing I'm fulfilling God's will for my life.

**What is your greatest fear?**

Drowning

**What living person do you most admire?**

Kevin Buddle, my flying instructor

**With which historical figure do you most identify?**

William Booth

**What is the trait you deplore most in others?**

Selfishness

**What is your greatest extravagance?**

Having a cruise on the QE2

**What is your favourite journey?**

Flying London Gatwick to Guernsey, my home island

**What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

Virtue cannot be over-rated. But if vice is the antonym of virtue, and if money is a vice, then having no money is over-rated in my view!!

**What talent would you most like to have?**

To be able to dance

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

Have my impatience taken away

**What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

Isolation

**What is your most treasured possession?**

My piano

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

Being an encourager

**Who are your favourite writers?**

Henri Nouwen, AW Tozer, Charles Dickens & CS Lewis. For a holiday, Jeffrey Archer

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

James Bond

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

My Dad, Major Colin Johnson (a former Corps Officer), my Uncle Henry (who died sometime ago, Cristiano Ronaldo and Roger Federer

**What is your motto?**

Qui Veult Peult (My school motto - He who wants to is able to)

## The Vanity Fair style Interview

- Major Willis Howell

### What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Happiness...? That's way too fleeting (although I'll admit that I really enjoy playing bass trombone in a smoking-hot jazz band!) But the fact of the matter is that I'd rather focus on joy and satisfaction over happiness any day. If I use those as a measurement, perfect joy and satisfaction for me are the times when I sense the pleasure of Jesus on me.

### What is your greatest fear?

Not measuring up to all that I was created to be. Settling for something less than God has in mind for me.

### What living person do you most admire?

Not sure that it's one person, but a *kind* of person; someone who is unashamedly, passionately, sold out, on fire and on mission for Jesus.

### With which historical figure do you most identify?

The first person who popped into my mind was Moses. Even though I've listed my greatest fear as "*not measuring up to all that I was created to be*", I seem to come up with a thousand excuses as to why I'm not qualified to do what the Lord has asked me to do (as if it's somehow about the skills and gifts that I bring to the table as opposed to what He chooses to do with what has been surrendered to Him).

### What is the trait you deplore most in others?

Spiritual apathy and indifference in those who claim to follow Jesus.

### What is your greatest extravagance?

Probably the musical instruments I've bought over the years. There haven't been many of them (a couple of trombones and a couple of guitars), but I've always gone for the best quality I could afford.

### What is your favourite journey?

I'm not sure if you're talking about travel-and-destination related journeys, or inner, insightful ones. So I'll touch on both... On the travel side, I really enjoy any journey that takes me through mountains. As for inner journeys, I love being able to get off to a quiet place and get to the point where I have a deep sense of the actual presence of God.

### What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?

Wow... "over-rated virtue"? I'm not sure that any true virtue can be over-rated. Where I live (USA), I think our culture of relativism has turned the whole thing on its head to the point where a lack of virtue is somehow seen as virtuous.

### What talent would you most like to have?

Organization.

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

If we're talking about something other than the desire to be more organized, as mentioned in the previous question, I suppose I'd like to be more intuitive.

**What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

Being possessed by your possessions. Being owned by all that one has hoarded and accumulated to themselves.

**What is your most treasured possession?**

The knowledge that I am a most treasured possession to Jesus.

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

Hmmm... I don't know that I can answer that. You might do better to get the opinion of people who know me.

**Who are your favourite writers?**

As for Army writers, the usual names: Catherine Booth, William Booth, Railton, and Brengle.

Non-Army folks would include Andy Stanley, Erwin McManus, Calvin Miller and Leonard Ravenhill.

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

Oooo...that's a tough one. While I can't settle on just one, my list would include Jean Valjean (*Les Miserables*), Aragorn (*Lord of the Rings*), and Mighty Mouse.

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

Anyone whose faith is authentic enough to prompt them to Christ-like action.

**What is your motto?**

Based on Leviticus 6:13. *Keep the altar ready and the fire hot.*

## **The Vanity Fair style Interview**

- Captain Gordon Cotterill

### **What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

Family holiday ... good book ... plate of cheese ... bowl of olives ... good view ... everyone leaving me to it!

### **What is your greatest fear?**

Potholing...

### **What living person do you most admire?**

Kate my wife and NT Wright - I'm a total groupie of both of them!!

### **With which historical figure do you most identify?**

David Livingstone

### **What is the trait you deplore most in others?**

Selfishness

### **What is your greatest extravagance?**

The odd Ski-ing trip...

### **What is your favourite journey?**

Cycling to school through our local park every morning.

### **What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

Caution... (Depending on your definition of virtue )

### **What talent would you most like to have?**

Guitar playing/ art

### **If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

Hairy Shoulders...!

### **What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

Isolation and exclusion...

### **What is your most treasured possession?**

Guitar...

### **What is your most marked characteristic?**

Friendliness...

### **Who are your favourite writers?**

NT Wright; Ben Elton; Gerald Hughes; Douglas Coupland; Kenneth Leech

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

Jack Bauer...!

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

My Parents and two brothers...

Jose Mourinho...

Oscar Romero

**What is your motto?**

Live to make a difference...

## **The Vanity Fair style Interview**

- Captain Rowan Castle

**What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

Heaven.

**What is your greatest fear?**

Global warming.

**What living person do you most admire?**

Jesus.

**With which historical figure do you most identify?**

That is a stupid question.

**What is the trait you deplore most in others?**

Insecurity.

**What is your greatest extravagance?**

Guitars.

**What is your favourite journey?**

(ed. note - on a leg of the trip from the Indonesian Congress led by General Rader) Southern Indonesia to Bali with the Adelaide Congress Hall Band in a small rattling and leaking airplane over volcanic islands.

**What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

In the literal sense, how do we pick which fruit of the Spirit or characteristic of Jesus is least valued? But, here – self-deprecation.

**What talent would you most like to have?**

I'd like to be better at evangelism.

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

Get a faster metabolism.

**What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

Injustice.

**What is your most treasured possession?**

Wedding ring.

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

I talk a lot.

**Who are your favourite writers?**

C.S. Lewis, Tolstoy.

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

Obi-wan Kenobi

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

Jesus.

**What is your motto?**

Ephesians 3:12 "Because of what Christ has done and our faith in Him we can come fearlessly into the presence of God assured of His glad welcome."

## **The Vanity Fair style Interview**

- Captain Evelyn Clark

### **What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

Eating chocolate cake and drinking peppermint tea while surrounded by my family.

### **What is your greatest fear?**

That Tim will die (or leave me!) and I will have to raise the kids alone. I was raised by a single mother, so I know how hard that is.

### **What living person do you most admire?**

Tim (that's why I married him!).

### **With which historical figure do you most identify?**

Mother Teresa (I'm trying to keep plugging away whether I hear from God or not, too).

### **What is the trait you deplore most in others?**

Dishonesty, in all its forms.

### **What is your greatest extravagance?**

Spending time on the computer. Spending money on food.

### **What is your favourite journey?**

Home to Estonia.

### **What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

Having a clean house.

### **What talent would you most like to have?**

Playing the piano.

### **If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

Less proud, more humble -- in the way I treat others, not in the way I think of myself.

### **What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

Being totally, utterly, completely alone -- without God or another human being to love and be loved by.

### **What is your most treasured possession?**

The "fuzzy blanket" that my mother gave me 25 years ago.

### **What is your most marked characteristic?**

Know-it-all, thinking I'm never wrong (and usually being proved right!).

### **Who are your favourite writers?**

I'll stick to the area of parenting books: William & Martha Sears, Kevin Leman, Ross Campbell, Dave & Claudia Arp.

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

Mrs. Weasley.

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

The Ryans and others who have served cross-culturally in the incarnational way of speaking the local language, etc.

**What is your motto?**

"to be anything or nothing, go anywhere or stay anywhere, for Jesus"  
(Helps to Holiness, Brengle)

## **The Vanity Fair style Interview**

- Major Anthony Baso

### **What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

Perfect happiness starts and ends with a relationship with God. Psalm 16:11 best sums it up for me. "You will make clear to me the way of life; where you are joy is complete; in your right hand there are pleasures for ever and ever." Where God is, there is fullness of joy. If God is in all other relationships, then our joy will be made complete.

### **What is your greatest fear?**

Sharks...it give me the creeps just thinking about it.

### **What living person do you most admire?**

Major David Laeger (R) He lives out a life of holiness like no one I have ever been around. He's the real deal.

### **With which historical figure do you most identify?**

Wow, really not sure...Abraham Lincoln? James (One of the Son's of thunder), Judas sometimes...Elijah sometimes.

### **What is the trait you deplore most in others?**

Unforgiveness

### **What is your greatest extravagance?**

Worship

### **What is your favourite journey?**

Life. With God as Sovereign King, life is the most incredible journey of all!

### **What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

Moderation.

### **What talent would you most like to have?**

Teaching

### **If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

Become a better listener.

### **What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

Hopelessness

### **What is your most treasured possession?**

My family

### **What is your most marked characteristic?**

Passion

**Who are your favourite writers?**

The Holy Ghost, Commissioner Brengle, A.W. Tozer, T. Tenney, L. Sweet and Rob Bell.

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

Batman, the Dark Knight. He fights the bad guys. He's got a dark side, drives a cool car, has an unbelievably cool bat suit and has the money to keep it all going. You gotta love it.

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

Anyone who has a deep capacity to love others. They are the real heroes.

**What is your motto?**

Love God...love others.

## **The Vanity Fair style Interview**

- Captain Curtis Cartmell

### **What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

For me, perfect happiness happens a few times in your life. There are unique times in life that you become so overjoyed, you experience something that isn't of earth. God graces your life with people, circumstances and experiences that change you forever. Often life looks for ways to distract and rob that grace, when that happens we wander in life until God surprises us again. Perfect happiness can also be a constant, like that overwhelming joy when you're obeying God and know it or when you know you're where God wants you. I've often experienced perfect joy (or remained in perfect happiness) when serving as a missionary overseas, reaching out to the Sikh and Islamic community or just memorizing the Bible like God wants me to.

### **What is your greatest fear?**

My great fear is to fail to live up to who God has called me to be because of my lack of discipline. By nature I'm passionate, excitable, obsessive, but disciplined is not a characteristic that I would use to describe my personality. Discipline does not come natural for me. After memorizing some small books of the New Testament I grew more and more uncomfortable with the foundational need of discipline for all Biblical leaders. Scripturally, discipline is a mandatory quality for all who desire to become Church leaders. I became increasingly aware of my potential to fail to accomplish God's will for my life because of my undisciplined nature. To this date it's a constant battle to maintain that fine line between "working out your salvation with fear and trembling" and erring on the side of becoming legalistic as I try to become perfectly disciplined into Christ's likeness.

### **What living person do you most admire?**

Oprah – haha, not really. This is a hard question to answer since I find many people inspirational for many reasons without any standing out from the crowd. Having said that, Geoff Ryan has been an incredible influence in my life. He was the first Salvationist that I saw live out "the dream" of the original calling of The Salvation Army. God used Geoff to rekindle the spark and passion for the Army and lead me on a path to commit to officership.

### **With which historical figure do you most identify?**

Paul the apostle – I have loved that guy since I was a kid. Before I came to faith in Jesus, I became fascinated with the Pauline epistles. He was amazing- someone right out of the James Fowler "mythic god-legend" category. While living in Russia, I experienced some dark and trying times that helped me connect closer with his passion and excitement seeing people getting saved and the Church being started in places that it had never been. I connect with him with his call to others, his passion for pressing on to another place, and his heart-break over the sin in the church. Although I connect with him on a micro level in these areas, I have to admit that I can identify with Peter on the macro level. Peter's lack of wisdom, misunderstanding of scripture, impatience over God's timing, and down right failure. I really connect with this guy on all those levels.

The person that I connect with the most historically within the Army is Booth-Tucker! I want to be the next officer (only 100 years late) to be requested to preach in the Golden Temple in Amritsar. That temple is culturally the most important shrine of Sikhism. Booth-Tucker is my hero for learning how to “become all things to all men.” In his passion to win others to Christ, Booth-Tucker so identified with the Sikh and Hindu peoples that they actually thought Christianity was an eastern religion (oh wait a minute it is!) rather than that typical British Imperialistic models of missiology that were so prevalent in his day and age. Booth-Tucker has a classic picture of him in his turban with the Salvation Army bandcap ribbon ripped out to identify his turban from the hundreds of thousands that represented Sikhism. I have a turban just like it downstairs and look forward to the day I can wear it proudly to share Jesus in the golden temple and continue his legacy among the Sikh community.

**What is the trait you deplore most in others?**

I don't understand laziness and lack of self-motivation. I struggle to understand people with no apparent drive or desire to work. I truly believe that God has created us to be a working people, not the 9 to 5 business bustle of North-American consumer driven culture, but an intrinsic need to work, to rest, and to accomplish things. I struggle at times in my officership to care and continually reach and to those who have this trait and yet feel a sense of entitlement from the Army and the world for their care.

**What is your greatest extravagance?**

I love technology – it is an area I have spent much time and money in. Having said that, God has been blessing me to bless others by giving away my toys (desktops, laptops, sound gear etc) to others that need it more than I do.

**What is your favourite journey?**

The best trip of my life to date is the 2 ½ years I lived in Russia. It was absolutely life changing. I fell in love with the culture, the language, the food and found a passion serve the Russian people. During my years in Russia, God used incredibly situations, life and death moments when my head was split open, or being attacked and surrounded by daily death threats while preaching the gospel on the borders of Chechnya, to cement my faith. My wishy-washy excitement to “do” missions and evangelize other was transformed into a passion to reach the lost and learn how to contextual the message as I learn to “be” an evangelist.

**What do you consider the most over-rated virtue?**

Holiness - I have a friend that says he never saw me sin and that I am the holiest guy he knows. How I wish!!!! I hope to live in that state of grace again and experience another “honeymoon with Jesus” period in my life. It was during that time God graced me so much that I continually felt that I was under a physical waterfall of grace. Sin was the last thing on my mind and I'd love to someday stand before my friend with a clear conscience be able to say “Thank You” to that incredible complement of God's work in my life.

**What talent would you most like to have?**

I dream of speaking every language on earth! Man wouldn't that be incredible. I love people and am fascinated by other cultures and languages. The Guinness book of world records claims that one man who served for the U.N. spoke 52 languages fluently. Amazing! Bring it on Lord Jesus!

**If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?**

Like I mentioned before, my natural lack of discipline would be the first thing that I would change about myself. I know that this weakness in my character limits my effectiveness in every area of my life and ministry.

**What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?**

I can only image that the lowest depth of misery would be being so deceived that at the end of your life and religious striving for you to expect to hear "Well Done" and as Jesus opens His lips the words ring out "You wicked, lazy servant!" – that would be the lowest depth of misery I could ever imagine.

**What is your most treasured possession?**

I don't have one, I can't think of anything that God hasn't already asked me to give away to someone else who needs it more than I at some point of time or other in my life.

**What is your most marked characteristic?**

My friends in Russia would say that I had "unsatisfied satisfaction" and was content with what God was doing but always hungry for more. This characteristic drives me to always look for what God is doing and how I can get in on the action.

**Who are your favourite writers?**

I can't say – there have been many books that I found incredible and thought provoking but often I enjoy one book from a certain author and get bored with the next. I've really enjoyed some books from James Fowler, Tyron Inbody and of course my friends Geoff Ryan and Stephen Court who have had a profound impact on my spiritual growth. The greatest writer that has influenced me is the apostle Paul by far.

**Who is your favourite hero of fiction?**

Hercules – I'm not too sure that he qualifies as hero of fiction since he is a mythological hero. I'm always fascinated by his stories. I'm convinced that God has not left this earth without a witness and Hercules to me is more than a mythological legend. He is possibly the key to the verse about God's witness throughout history as mentioned in Genesis 6:4. "The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown" (NIV).

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

Stephen Colbert – His social influence is astounding – I just keep praying that he gets saved – could you imagine his influence. Lee Eddy – the first man that restored my faith that I could be holy. Booth-Tucker who taught my from the grave how to contextualize the gospel, Paul the Apostle, St. Augustine – where would the church be

without his influence and writings, Jerome – the genius that penned the Latin Vulgate and preserved the church for over 1000 years, and Stephen Court and Geoff Ryan.

**What is your motto?**

Keep leaning on Jesus! I become more and more convinced daily how little I have to offer Him for what He gives to me. He is the greatest friend I have ever known.

## **Testimony – My journey to faith in Christ**

by Captain Grace Choi

I can not boast of anything in the light of the world view. However, I want to confess that I have got a lot of God's grace. My father accepted Jesus Christ as his saviour through an open-air meeting at the Salvation Army. He was a faithful man of God and loved the Salvation Army. Because of his faith, all of our family attended a Salvation Army church. My parents had seven children including two boys and five girls. I am the sixth of seven. My father showed his children an example of faith and my mother liked to share her own to other people.

Since the fifth year of primary school, I found that I wanted to live for orphans, the disabled and the marginalized. I now believe that these parts are what I have ministered to. After completing high school, I served at a social welfare centre for mental disability. I spent a happy time there for five years. As time went on, I thought that I should help their souls, not their bodies. Thus I started to study theology. Yet, the theology could not satisfy my soul. I was left wondering what else to do.

After finishing the theology study, I joined a Christian organization for laypeople, "Christ Love Fellowship" with the aid of my friend. There I could solve the thirst of my soul through the Bible study. I also served the blind, the deaf and the paralysed. Through the service, I could have a joyful time. In addition, it led to marriage to my husband, Joseph in 1992. Before we got married, we offered our heart to God that we would care for spiritual children rather than physical children. All of these things resulted from the blessing and grace of God.

God continued to make a way of world mission for me and Joseph so that we could see the wide world of God. God gave us a passion of mission for the marginalized and the people isolated from the Gospel of Jesus. After preparation for mission of one year, my husband and I were sent to Indonesia as missionaries in August, 1995. While studying Indonesian language at Indonesia National University, we met the university students. Through the close relationship with them, we continued to lead the Bible study. This Bible study caused them to be like Jesus. We were able to start a mission in urban slum with the help of university students. When renting a house and living there, we and our colleagues taught children in the slum area and provided them with food. This service gave them the possibilities of hopes and dreams.

Through being in Indonesia, we had various experiences and difficulties. For example, our mission teams who were taken to a police station due to a Muslim's attack, my husband who came near to death due to typhoid fever and so on. Through the leading and training of God, my soul could be strong. Moreover, I could have a close relationship with God and give obedience to him.

Two years before I came back to Korea, God challenged my husband to do a new type of ministry which was to be a minister at a local church. At the same time, God allowed

us to experience a new spiritual world. We also prayed fervently so as to know God's will. God led us to come to Korea in December, 2003.

After returning to Korea, we continued to pray for our new ministry. God eventually introduced to us a Salvation Army officer who is my brother-in-law. In the conversation with him, my husband became interested in the Salvation Army and inspired by what the Salvation Army has done. I could feel God led us to the SA because the root of my faith was from the Salvation Army and I also remembered my father's desire that my third sister and I would be dedicated to the Salvation Army. However, I waited for the determination of my husband until God could move his heart.

One day, my brother-in-law invited us to attend cadets' mission campaign held at a Salvation Army corps. Through their program, my husband had a good impression. From the fact that a couple could together have pastoral ministry in the Salvation Army, we came to be clear that God would lead us to the Salvation Army and serve Him by each becoming an officer. After we experienced pastoral ministry as envoys at a Salvation Army corps for about one year, my husband and I entered Salvation Army Officer Training College in Korea in February, 2006. I enjoyed a training course of Salvation Army Training College. In particular, training in community was very useful for me. This was why cadets including me could respectively share suffering or joy, and strengthen their relationship.

One year before (in 2005), the former commissioner of Australian southern territory, Ivan rang, had come to Korea and had led a spiritual conference during a few days. At that time, he had given me a spiritual challenge. Since then, I have been interested in the Salvation Army of Australian southern territory. At the middle of second session, I heard that my husband and I would go to study for one year at SATC of Australia Southern Territory. I gave thanks to the Lord because of his wonderful grace.

However, God made us be patient for a half year. Although I did not know this delayed reason, I could feel God's leading us to Australia. At last, my husband and I arrived at SATC of Melbourne in the 27th, June, 2007. At that time, I was scared about my life in this country. But this fear was gone soon after I found how kind and generous the college staff and cadets were for me. We have received warm welcome, great support and help from them. We wouldn't have survived here without them. I feel that they are all my family. We are so blessed and privileged to experience such wonderful things in the college. Now I am preparing for commissioning and ordination in order to become an officer. I believe that God will make a new way in accordance with my gifts.

While preparing this testimony, I could meditate the love of God toward me once again. I could also remember the prayer of my father. According to his prayer, my third sister has served the work of God as an officer of SA and I will also serve my God as an officer. I feel again how valuable the inheritance of my parents' faith is. I would like to give a confession of my love to the Lord.

## **Testimony – My journey to faith in Christ**

by Captain Joseph Park

I was born in 1962 in Kwangju city, Korea. My parents had five children and I am the youngest of them. My family were not Christians. My father passed away in 1978 due to leakage of briquette (coal) gas during his sleep. After that time, my mother had to make a living.

I first went to a Catholic church in my first year of high school. At the time, I was very sick, so my neighbour took me to the Catholic church. However, I did not meet the Lord personally at the Catholic church.

After completing high school, I went to Cheonnam National University in Kwangju and then received the Master of Science in Engineering Degree at Seoul National University. After that, I entered the military service for about two years. I gradually started to enjoy “free life” in the world. Yet, this life could never give true satisfaction to me. As a ship without a sail would be drifting, so I was left wandering without the purpose of my life.

While looking for a job, I felt anxiety about my future, so I could do nothing. I eventually knelt before God and confessed my sins. On weeping and repenting, I felt a peace that I had not experienced ever before. I then joined a Christianity organization for laypeople, “Christ Love Fellowship” with the help of my friend who have prayed for me. There I learnt the living words of God through the Bible study, so I accepted Jesus as my Saviour.

Then I was determined to live for Jesus Christ alone as Galatians 2:20 says: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” The Fellowship organization served at a school for blind, deaf, and paralysed people. Through the service, I had a good experience and I was sure that God had called me to serve the marginalized people.

About six months after I had repented in 1991, I started to serve as a full time minister in the Fellowship. In particular, I undertook rehabilitation of the disabled and disciple-making ministry of university students. In November, 1992, I made a home of faith with my wife, Grace, who I met in the Fellowship.

Before we got married, we offered our heart to God that we would care for (feed) spiritual children rather than physical children.

One year later, the Fellowship organization started to prepare for Muslim mission. I also felt the strong calling of God and got ready for the mission.

In August, 1995, my wife and I were sent to Indonesia as full time missionaries. When studying in Indonesian at Indonesia National University, we kept a good relationship with university students. We were able to begin a mission in an urban slum area with

the aid of the students. Our colleagues and we taught youth group in the slum area and also provided them with food. Through the close relationship with university students, we were able to lead the Bible study. While living with them, we undertook disciple-making ministry.

Like this, it seemed to take five years to understand their emotion, culture and language. As God disciplined the Israelites in the wilderness in order to obey his will after escaping from Egypt, so God trained me so as to obey his will. About two years before I came back to Korea, God allowed me and my wife to experience a new spiritual world. I then realized why I as a missionary was not able to feed God's sheep in accordance with his own heart. God wanted me to focus on his alone and live God-oriented life.

When praying fervently one day, God gave me direction toward pastoral ministry at a local church. After that, I just kept a new calling of God in mind and prayed for it until he would open the concrete way. My wife and I eventually left the mission land and came back to Korea in December, 2003.

After my wife and I returned to Korea, we continued to pray for the new pastoral ministry. We also were finding the denomination in which a couple could together have pastoral ministry. God used the Salvation Army (SA afterwards) at which my father-in-law had served. I have thought the SA to be a charity organization.

One day, my brother-in-law invited us to attend cadets' mission campaign held at a SA church. I was greatly impressed by their programs. Therefore, I was assured of God's leading me to the SA. After my wife and I experienced pastoral ministry as envoys at a SA church for about one year, we entered Salvation Army Officer Training College (SATC afterwards) in Korea in February, 2006. I spent the very useful time during third session at SATC. Through Training in community as well as theology studies, I was able to form theological knowledges and experience various field practices.

Furthermore, God gave me and my wife a good opportunity to finish final session at SATC in Melbourne. We arrived in Melbourne in the 27th June. I was concerned how I communicate in English with the other people. Although I was capable of doing the written English, I thought I would have a great difficulty in talking and hearing in English. According to my experience, when I had been in Indonesia, I had studied in Indonesian for one and a half year through the regular language course. In addition, it seemed to take five years to understand their culture and emotion including the language.

As soon as the classes began at the SATC of Melbourne, I felt very tired because I just concentrated on having classes. After that time, I started to meditate the salvation of the Lord as the Matthew 24:13 says. "but he who stands firm to the end will be saved." I particularly experienced difficulty in making assignments. I first felt I could not do anything. I found I was in the hopelessness. However, I began to look upon the Lord of the salvation. Thus, I could overcome these issues due to the wisdom that God gave to me. As I had difficulty in my life, I fervently closed to my God. Every time the God

caused me to experience the new world of salvation. Through these processes, I realized how valuable the salvation was and kept the God in mind. Moreover, when I went walking around the park with my wife every evening, we talked about God's leading of us till now. Therefore, I was able to give thanks to the God and get the strength again.

After staying at the SATC of Melbourne, my wife and I have had intercession prayers. We thought we should take responsibility as watchmen of this land. For this reason, we prayed loudly every night for Australia southern territory, SATC, and so on. As praying, I asked God that this land would be filled with his blessing.

Now I am preparing for commissioning and ordination. I am also waiting a new leading of God. I believe that God will make a new way for us. I would like to sing praise to the faithful God. I give thanks for his amazing grace.

Finally, I want to offer my God a confession of my heart as following lyrics: "Without him, I could do nothing. Without him, I'd surely fail. Without him, I would be drifting like a ship without a sail. Jesus, Oh Jesus. Do you know him today? You can't turn him away. Oh, Jesus. Without him, how lost I would be!"

## **There's a war on!** by Commissioner Wesley Harris

Sometimes the battle line between good and evil is not clear. That may be because the issue is complicated or confused. But more often, matters are fogged by our desire to accommodate the standards of the world. We may tell ourselves 'everybody is doing it' as though that is enough to make anything right. Scripture should set our standards and the Holy Spirit should be our guide. That may mean that as Christians we will have to dare to be different - something which some find hard.

Everybody is affected by the culture in which they live but we need not be infected by the evil that is in the world; we can be immunised by grace!

The power of evil may be more pervasive and insidious than ever before so that we cease to see evil for what it is and thus become part of the problem instead of being part of the answer. Jesus recognised the power of evil in the world and the fact that He and His followers were engaged in a war against that power. The name of our movement (The Salvation Army) indicates that our forebears also grasped the fact that they too were called to battle and they spoke of their enemy as 'his satanic majesty', for example. But perhaps the fact that the enemy is not as clearly defined nowadays could make us even more vulnerable.

We need to see evil for what it is and detect any sin within the camp - that is, in our own ranks and our own hearts. St. Paul was not lacking in compassion for the 'weaker brethren' but in the licentious city of Corinth he took a firm stand against immorality, otherwise the whole church would have suffered.

Jesus said, "This is war, and there is no neutral ground. If you're not on My side, you're the enemy; if you're not helping you're making things worse" (The Message, Matthew 12.30).

## **Dividing the Army**

by Graeme Smith

There is a lot of debate these days, throughout the internet and in more traditional media, about the future of The Salvation Army.

I want to throw what might be a controversial idea into the hat! Is it time for the Army to have two distinct identities? Two wings of our work if you like!

The first would be specifically a church for those who want to be only in a church. The congregations would be led by officers with this sort of 'calling'. The people who go to this wing of The Salvation Army can be safe in the knowledge that no-one within it will ever rock the boat, and that they need never be challenged beyond the question of whether they want to go to heaven when they die. No-one will expect them to be involved in anything that is remotely outside their comfort-zone. Above all their holiness will be about separating themselves from the world and will be an intensely personal matter that doesn't concern anyone else.

The second would be more of a mission organisation, led by officers with a specific calling to reach out to the lost. This would probably include the planting part and 'new expressions'. This wing of The Salvation Army would be made up of committed soldiers, leaving their comfort-zones and striking out into the deprived areas of this dark world. It would involve risk and sacrifice but the reward is a knowledge that they are doing something that Jesus would do. They would be acting out the scriptural call to be Salt flavouring a tasteless world and they would act out the call to holiness with its sleeves rolled up!

I've even thought of two names! The first could reinvent itself as "The Real Salvation Army" and the other would just keep the old name!

## **A Carlton Testimony** by Captain Brian Crowden

My story commences in January 1996, when I found myself in not unfamiliar circumstances these days of having to accept a retrenchment package as the company I had been employed by was being acquired. As there was a strong possibility of similar employment becoming available within a few months, I took the opportunity to help a friend out who was being hospitalised for 3 months. In assisting him, I had the daily task of cleaning The Melbourne City Temple of the Salvation Army, a church in the centre of the city of Melbourne. In former years this building was the centre of the Salvation Army's dynamic witness in this city. Sadly this church was dying; in fact the presence of the church in the City of Melbourne was dying. Where there was once 10 outreach centres (in the city of Melbourne) for the Salvation Army alone, now there was one. This particular church that accommodated 600 at its services, now struggled to get 30-40. It was into this setting that I set about my daily task of cleaning this building (4 floors) each morning, giving much time for reflection.

How could I forget arriving one morning to be greeted with a step covered with vomit, another time having to clean a shower cubicle which had been used as a toilet. This was a lifestyle that was so foreign to me, but every day as I climbed the stairs from the basement, I was confronted with these words on the wall.

*'Unless I am moved with compassion, how dwelleth thy spirit in me'*  
(Matthew 25:41-46)

These words became like a sign branded across my forehead as I struggled with these thoughts and my lack of compassion towards my fellow human being, yet I believed that I stood for good and certainly carried the name of a Christian.

What a contrast it was for me to be worshipping and to be part of a Christian community that was so divorced from that which I had experienced and seen during those few short months. And so began a battle within my spirit of what God may be asking of me or indeed calling me into. At that point, I believe the seed was sown in my heart, that what was to be in the future would be quite different to that of the past. Little was I to know what lay ahead for me, as I was very soon after this encounter, thrust into a world that was to completely change my life. Within months a marriage of 23 years was to end abruptly and the security of that immediate relationship suddenly disappeared. I was almost on my own for the first time in my life and was confronted with a very clear choice to look ahead to that which had been sown a few weeks earlier, or throw it all out and move into another lifestyle, the second appearing very attractive with the pain and hurt that was being experienced at the time. However, I was to find that the encounter some months previous was so strongly planted within my spirit, it was as if God was saying 'I have been pursuing you for so long I am not going to give up now', and so began this life changing experience.

At this time there were a number of things that began to germinate within me. There was a real hunger to know and understand God's word, the desire to learn to pray and most importantly to grow into the fullness that God said was available to me. I found that as these became real to me, I began to be further challenged to the point where I was becoming aware that I was being called into something that's boundaries were far more expansive than my human mind could visualise. I knew that there was a spiritual dimension to all this, but it was going to take time as I still had much to learn and also I needed to be free from that of my immediate past.

Circumstances brought me into situations where I was becoming aware of people who were being freed from many and varied backgrounds through Christ, enabling me to see that being released from those situations is available to all. I had also come to realise that whilst our experiences are varied and different, the journey that we have to take is still the same. It was at this time that 2 things happened in my life. I obtained a video of 'The Brooklyn Tabernacle' of New York, and I received a prophetic word from Isaiah 61:1

*'The spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken, hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release for the prisoners'*

By this time the services that were being held at the Melbourne City Temple had ceased, and fired by my recent experiences, I wrote to the leader of the Salvation Army in the city of Melbourne, sharing my testimony and offering to serve in the inner city. I placed that letter on my bookstand at home and it has sat there ever since never to be received by the leaders. I continued to serve in the comfort of the Salvation Army in the eastern suburbs of this city. However, that burning within never ceased, but I had no idea where it was leading. I was continually stirred by the videos that I constantly watched of the lives that were being changed through the ministry at 'The Brooklyn Tabernacle' and dreamed that one day a church with the same purpose (not necessarily the same size) would exist in this city.

Time passed (4 years) and it was now the new millennium. I found myself one day driving through a suburb very close to the central business district of Melbourne, the suburb of Carlton. The Salvation Army had operated there since 1891 but had closed its doors some years prior. Carlton is as diverse a community as you could possibly find. Within a stone's throw we have one of the major learning institutions within Australia, the University of Melbourne (30,000 students), within 1 kilometre, estates which accommodate over 6,000 people from all nations (little ghettos), 1 kilometre in another direction, one of the major drug areas of this city and on top of that one of the havens for the homosexual community of Melbourne. Incredibly, amongst all of this is Lygon Street, which is the pizza and pasta capital of Australia. God's spirit spoke to me that day about this area. As I stood outside this hall that was beginning to look tired, the Lord spoke to my heart and said, 'This is where I want you to serve me.' It was some time later that I was finally led out of my comfort zone to recommence the warfare that had been established in 1891. I was convinced that this was God's calling for me, the full

picture I did not know, but I had to be obedient to God's call. Feeling extremely inadequate for the task I claimed the verses from Acts 4:13 as relevant to me.

*'When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.'*

And so I started to pray by myself every Thursday night at the church. I continued to work full time and to prepare the ground that had been entrusted to me. However, I was soon to come to understand that this was not going to be easy and that there would be those times when I would contemplate the thought 'what is this all about.'

Working fulltime was becoming hard. I was also becoming very disappointed in the company for whom I worked. One day after experiencing a very difficult time, I said to the Lord, 'this is it. From now on I am going to work for you fulltime. I will step out in faith believing that you will supply my needs.' Although there was now no certainty in any area of my life, I had this overwhelming sense of assurance that everything was going to be fine.

I was then given an opportunity to become a part of the 'Believers' session, something that I had never contemplated. I combined my commitment to continue establishing the work at Carlton in addition to undertaking fulltime studies at the Training College. This was not easy for someone who had not studied for over 30 years, and even then had not been an academic person.

There were many struggles taking place, and the picture that had become reality was not the picture that I had envisaged. I mean, I was expecting because I had been led by God's spirit to re-establish this work that all would work out just fine and immediately, but even after a couple of years I was still struggling on my own. But I continued to be encouraged as I read stories of those who had walked similar paths, where eventually the Holy Spirit broke through and the reaping of the harvest began to manifest itself.

I was reminded one day as I read from a book written by Jack Hayford, a well-known teacher and songwriter.

*There are Jerichos to be won  
and Rahabs to be rescued  
They await people like Joshua  
who see the promise hidden  
behind the masks on dying cities*

This was dirty work, quite unlike the world that I had been apart of for so many years in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne, living amongst the middle to upper class, being a part of the Bible belt that oozed extravagance and yet for us at Carlton to exist as a Corps, it meant standing at the football in the middle of winter, collecting enough to keep our budget out of the red.

How I remember God's gracious reminder to me a couple of years ago when we were really struggling to make ends meet. At this particular time, our finances were really being out to the test. We were running our Corps on the 'smell of an oily rag' but the bills had become far greater than the money that we were receiving, in fact we had gone into the red by around three thousand dollars. This was something that was a disappointment to me as my goal was that this would be a Corps that eventually was not a deficit Corps. An opportunity came our way to collect at a particular venue, one where I had not been before. As the week went by, the money began to pour in and by the end of our collecting we had moved from the red in the black by a considerable amount. I made a covenant with the Lord at that time, that in the future, I would not sign a cheque without money being in the bank. How disappointed I was the following month when upon writing out all my cheques discovered that if I sent them, we would be back in the red by \$550. I was quite anxious to pay our bills and so I began to think of places where we could gather some funds, and I thought particularly of the Training College who undertook each week the 'Pubs' in the Carlton area as training for the Cadets. From time to time, I received a cheque, mostly around \$100 that had been collected. I had not heard from them for quite a while and so I thought that it may be worthwhile giving them a ring to see if in fact any funds were available. However, I didn't ring them, but the following day I went to our mailbox to find an envelope that contained a cheque to the value of \$595. Yes, it was from the Training College. All the bills were paid, we had a little in the kitty, and from that day on, we have been blessed in abundance through the giving of people.

At the closing stages of 2005, I was troubled in my spirit for progress was still slow. There was a reasonable congregation in attendance each Sunday for this Corps, (we met on a Sunday afternoon due to another church hiring the hall whilst it had been closed) as according to the records it has always been a Corps that has been faithfully kept going by just a handful of people. Having been convinced that the purpose for my calling to Carlton had not at this time truly manifested itself, I began to seek God further for clear direction. I came to realise that in fact a number of our congregation were people were from other churches and came on Sunday afternoon in addition to attending their own churches in the morning. Whilst it added to our numbers, it wasn't building an Army. Whilst they obviously enjoyed coming along, they were not committed to the mission of the Corps. It was decided that we should change our time of meeting to the morning time that had become available, knowing that we could go back to square one if these people did not commit themselves to the new time. My fear became the reality, and so the building process had to start all over again, but I was sure that this was how God wanted it.

Through all of this, I was reminded of the story of Abraham when he pleaded with God for the saving of Sodom. Going through the painful experience of fearing that God would destroy this city, he got to the point where he said.

'May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten (righteous people) can be found there?'

He (God) answered, 'For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.'

I was convinced all along, that if we could retain even a handful of people, the work could continue and that it would grow stronger and stronger.

We again stepped out in faith, and as expected was left with just a handful of people, and so the building process began again.

As I reflect over the last 12 months, I believe the Lord has blessed us.

1. Three new soldiers have been enrolled (the first for around 25 years).
2. At least 4 new recruits ready for soldiership classes.
3. Our Sunday meeting attendance has grown, and we now have between 15 – 25 people coming each Sunday morning.
4. We commenced Celebrate Recovery, a meeting for people in addiction.
5. Four prayer meetings a week. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday mornings between 7.30am – 8.30am, and Tuesday evening from 7.30pm – approximately 9.30pm.
6. We are learning how to pray, taking His name as our authority.
7. We are no longer a deficit Corps. The Lord is blessing us financially.
8. In addition to financially supporting ourselves, we have been able to support special projects in Papua New Guinea to the amount of \$6,000.

This year, we stepped out in faith believing that the Lord would provide enough finances for us to meet our budget (including Social Welfare) without Salvation Army support. Our budget is around \$64,000 and in addition to that, outside of our budget, early in the new financial year we committed \$6,000 to support a program (that had run dry of funds), to assist in the health issues of women in the highlands of Papua New Guinea. We also financially supported a camp for Officers kids in Papua New Guinea, enabling them to go away for a week. In spite of having to find an additional \$1600 a month, plus the \$6,000, by the end of December, our bank balance will be around \$5,000 up on last year. I am a great believer in God's supernatural provision when we walk in faith and in His ways.

Last month, I received an envelope from a lady who had come to Melbourne for 6 months to work. For reasons not known to me, she didn't attend church much whilst she was here, but on just 2 occasions came to our meeting. I remember on one occasion praying for her sister who had been diagnosed with cancer. The envelope that she gave to me through a friend was her tithes whilst she had been in Melbourne. Each week she had faithfully put aside that which she had committed to the Lord's work. She felt compelled to pass them onto our Corps. Can you imagine my surprise and gave thanks to God for His continued provision as the amount came to over \$3,500.

The previous month is normally one of our better months for collecting. However, after having received our allocation of collecting spots for the football finals from the Division, I was extremely disappointed, and on my calculation we appeared headed for a poor financial return for that month, well below budget. But, I sensed the Lord was saying to me, 'just go and fill the empty spots.' This is what we did for both the football finals and

the Melbourne show. In addition to our own allocated spots, which were not great, we filled the empty spots i.e. those where Corps who had received allocation just didn't turn up to collect. God's provision once again came through, as we doubled what we had collected the previous year. That month we were able to bank \$13,000. Hallelujah!

We believe that the year 2008 will be the best yet. Prayer has, and will continue to be our foundation for all that we do. On the wall in my study I have these words.

**WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED RATHER  
THAN SURRENDER TO WHAT CAN BE SEEN.**

That's what we continue to do. The real progress for this Corps I believe is that our faith has grown. We are walking a path of absolute trust in God. As a Corps, we do have needs. We are believing for the provision of a person/s to accept the responsibility to commence a children's ministry. What a tremendous opportunity awaits God's person in this area of ministry. We are believing for the provision of a pianist who is led by the Holy Spirit to enhance our time of Worship. We believe that more soldiers will be added to the roll this year. We are believing that more prayer warriors will step forward and take up the fight with those already in the war zone. We are believing that by the end of 2008, our congregation will have risen to 40 each Sunday, more will be attending our meeting for those in addiction. – Hallelujah!

It is our desire to represent God and the Salvation Army well in this suburb of Carlton. The big picture we do not know. He has promised to build the church. We accept our responsibility which is found in Matthew 28:17

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, '**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**'

## Dating Tips

by Captain Rowan Castle

**Dating for teenagers...** There is an underlying assumption to what I've written here and it is that holiness is to be experienced and to be treasured. I do not wish to see young people wrapped up in cotton wool safe from the world but so filled with life, love and light that the world gives way to them. I desire to see young people so perfectly filled with the Holy Spirit that love, joy and miracles flow through them so overwhelmingly that everyone would know that they are truly set apart.

The following ideas regarding dating are not some exercise in making you boring or keeping you square but come from a heart that longs to see young holy revolutionaries who not merely followers of Jesus but disciples... this is not about keeping you safe but making you dangerous...

### Why Date?

Firstly, why are you dating? This is an important question as it will ultimately affect your choice of partner and the outcomes of the relationship. What is your purpose for dating? Are you seeking a marriage partner? Are you looking for physical pleasure and sexual experiences? Do you feel inadequate and require an ego boost? Is it just cool to be in a relationship? Are you looking for a partner as an accessory for your lifestyle? Is it a status symbol for you to be taken? Or are you entering into a relationship in the pursuit of an appropriate and potential life partner?

What ever motivates you in your pursuit of a romantic relationship determines what you'll get out of it. You may find that there are values and motives that are not of God that you'll need to repent of (spit out!) before pursuing a relationship. Don't fool yourself here, your motives indicate the outcome of the relationship - if the motives aren't Godly the relationship will not be Godly!

Why not memorise 1 Corinthians 13 as a way of preparing yourself for a relationship – really indoctrinate yourself with what it is to love someone. Totally immerse your mind in what biblical love is and see how this affects your motivation and outlook on relationships.

### Make sure they're a believer

Ephesians asks us to submit to one another in our relationships so as a believer you must ask yourself what are you submitting yourself to when you submit to a non-believer? You best make sure that they are submitting to the Lord.

### The "I'll convert them myth"

Many people get into a relationship with a non-believer thinking that they will convert them to faith. By all means convert them, be my guest! But why don't you see them converted before you pursue the relationship? I know that there are some exceptions to the rule but my experience has been that the quickest way to sour strong Christian

commitment in a young person is through a romantic relationship with someone how does not know the Lord.

The old “unequally yoked” chestnut

2 Corinthians 6:14 tells us that “believers should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers” and then all the bible college students all moan in unison “But that’s talking about business relationships.” But how is it that something that is unwise for a business relationship be OK for a romantic relationship? Surely it applies more so to the most significant of relationships?

**“Run towards Jesus as fast as you can and look around to see who is keeping up!”** Michael Collins

Here’s the principle; you must pursue Jesus at all costs, the relationship stuff will work itself out. Instead many pursue the relationship at all costs hoping the Jesus stuff works itself out. I’m not suggesting that you bury your head in the sand and one day you’ll discover you’re married – you will need to be involved in your life and relationships but I am suggesting that a good criterion for selecting a partner is someone who matches your commitment to Jesus.

**Get to know each other’s hearts and minds – leave the bodies until later.**

This is easy to do by following one simple principle; keep the relationship public and never private. Meet places, Go place together and get to know each other’s families but stay out of bedrooms, avoid being home alone and stay of the coach!

There is nothing stopping you from getting to know each other without ever being in private and this is the best way to conduct your relationship. You will *really* get to know each other without risking potentially destructive and tempting situations besides, the most romantic and inspiring couples I’ve ever seen dated this way.

**Physical intimacy is like a ladder - easy to climb up but hard to climb down.**

Once you begin engaging in physical intimacy, kissing and touching, you have begun a climb that starts innocently enough but, if allowed to continue, ends in adultery and heartbreak! How do we avoid this destination? Don’t get a ladder – don’t have a physical relationship.

It is this simple; God designed you to be sexual and your sexuality must be managed until marriage. The fact that people get caught up in a whirlwind of progressing sexual experiences is because God designed us that way – it is God’s gift to married people.

**God’s plan for temptation is evasion not endurance.**

The bible doesn’t teach us to stand tough in the face of something tempting but that “God will provide a way out.” Of course Jesus dismisses the Devil with scriptures, which is very cool, but that is temptation during a time of self-denial. So when you think that temptation is happening you may need to act irrationally and run away – just bolt. RUN! (1 Corinthians 10:13)

### **Summary**

Test your motives & memorise 1 Corinthians 13 to learn what love is  
Pursue Jesus wholeheartedly and see who else does – there's a potential partner  
Keep the relationship public – don't go Private – *really* get to know each other  
Physical relationships belong in marriage – don't get one  
When tempted? RUN!!!!!!