

JOURNAL OF AGGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY

JAC Online

**Special Issue 68 – CHARGE!
August - September 2010**

Guest Editor, Commissioner Joe Noland

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For(e)ward CHARGE! - Editorial Introduction

by Guest Editor – Commissioner Joe Noland

wis-dom: Accumulated knowledge of life or in a particular sphere of activity that has been gained through experience (Encarta World English Dictionary).

shelve: 3. to dismiss or withdraw somebody or something from active service (Encarta).

Retirement is really a misnomer, isn't it? As is the term "active service," especially in TSA circles. I'm as active and productive as I've ever been (a beginning septuagenarian at this writing), and my creative imagination is as fertile as ever, perhaps even more so. You do not turn off "accumulated knowledge and experience" like a water spigot; it keeps on flowing with two possible outcomes: Down the drain or, like the water flowing through Hoover Dam, channeled into power – creative, productive energy.

Within the retired officer ranks there is a vast Army array of this power – "accumulated knowledge in a particular sphere of activity that has been gained through experience." The purpose of this JAC edition (Expanded book edition to follow, hopefully) is to expose this "power" to you who are present and future Army leaders (or any evangelical leader for that matter), via the modern-day innovation of cyberspace and the Salvosphere.

Whilst we cannot change the past, this accumulated, collective generational wisdom can be channeled into the Army's future as a modern day continuation of the Apostle Paul's ongoing Biblical counsel and charge to us through Timothy (paraphrased):

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on him for everlasting life... This charge I commit to you, future Army leader, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage a good warfare, having faith and a good conscience..." (1Timothy 1:15-19).

Or as beautifully paraphrased in The Message: "Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I'm proof—Public Sinner Number One—of someone who could never have made it apart from sheer mercy. And now he shows me off—evidence of his endless patience—to those right on the edge of trusting him forever... I'm passing this work on to you, my future leader. The prophetic word that was directed to you prepared us for this. All those prayers are coming together now so you will do this well, fearless in your struggle, keeping a firm grip on your faith and on yourself. After all, this is a fight we're in."

We asked each contributing writer to make this Scriptural passage foundational to his/her "Charge!" along with the following instruction:

"If I were starting over... or the five things I would do differently... or five words of counsel (expanded) I would give to a future officer leader on the eve of her/his

Commissioning. Or any officer taking up the mantle of leadership, no matter how far he/she is along the way.”

Throughout nearly 50-years of officership, I’ve kept the following quote on my desk as a constant reminder: “God doesn’t mind a little “show business,” so long as it gets the Message across!” These pages are filled with a bit of purely motivated “show me off” business, designed to channel this collective, accumulated knowledge and experience (Wisdom = Power) with but one purpose in mind – to get His prophetic Message across.

A Compromising Joe! (Part 1)

by Commissioner Joe Noland

CHARGE! Looking Back. Facing Forward: 5 Wise Words of Counsel

Doris and I recently visited The Salvation Army's cemetery plot in San Francisco where the physical remains of her officer parents are laid to rest, along with many other sterling PTG Salvationists. While ambling through this vast section, reminiscing over the familiar names inscribed on each headstone, an unexpected wave of nostalgia and longing swept over us, bringing to mind the lyrics of this 1960's hit song:

*Those were the days my friend
We'd thought they'd never end
We'd sing and dance
Forever and the day*

*We'd live the life we'd choose
We'd fight and never lose
Fore we were young
And sure to have our way*

La La La La La... Those were the days my friend, those were the days.

And the verses accompanying this chorus (paraphrased):

*Once upon a time there was an Army,
Where we marched and beat a drum or two.
Remember how we sang away the hours,
And dreamed of all the great things we would do.*

*Then the busy years went rushing by us,
We lost our stary notions along the way.
If by chance I'd see you on the corner,
We'd smile at one another and we'd say...
(Go ahead, sing and La La along)*

*Just today I stood upon that corner,
Nothing seemed the way it used to be.
In my mind I saw a strange reflection,
Was that aging person really me?*

Abiding there, it slowly dawned on us, "We know more people resting here in this cemetery than we do alive!" *In my mind I saw a strange reflection, was that aging person really me?*

As we stood, melancholically, midst those great hearts, the image of that revered open-air stand at Market, Powell and Eddy in San Francisco flashed through our minds. We had marched to that corner with many of them, banners and bonnets waving, crowds gathering, fire-a-volley's echoing and souls kneeling at the

drumhead. *Once upon a time there was an army, where we marched and beat a drum or two.*

From the cemetery, we hopped in the car and drove direct to that memorable street corner, nostalgia still awash. To our utter dismay it was no longer there in the same configuration, the three corners now merging together into a modernized plaza. What a disappointment! Change is a scary thing. *Just today I stood upon that corner, nothing seemed the way it used to be.*

In many ways the new, modern plaza design is much more conducive to street meetings. The people are still there, beggars, shoppers and tourists, long lines waiting to board the Powell Street Cable Car for it's scenic journey to Fisherman's Wharf, many of them lonely, longing and looking for life's answers, I'm sure. *Remember how we sang away the hours, and dreamed of all the great things we would do.*

There was a disheveled looking man in the plaza passing out tracts, wearing a sandwich board, its bold lettering admonishing onlookers to, "REPENT OR GO TO HELL!" Alas! The Salvation Army is no longer there. *Then the busy years went rushing by us, we lost our stary notions along the way.*

As we pause there reminiscing, the ghosts of corners past appear fleetingly in our minds-eye: University and 43ed, East San Diego; Broadway and Horton Plaza, Downtown San Diego; Bristol and Edinger, Santa Ana; Hollywood and Vine (Insert your own street-corner memories here). *Those were the days my friend, we'd thought they'd never end, we'd sing and pray, forever and the day.*

Looking back, what would I have done differently? I would have heeded the Apostle's two following charges more closely and carefully: "...do this well, fearless in your struggle, keeping a firm grip on your faith and on yourself." Unfortunately, there were too many times when I compromised these two italicized phrases – a compromising Joe – resulting in The Salvation Army no longer being out there, uncompromisingly, as it once was. And I wasn't alone.

Fear is the great compromiser and often results in a loosened grip. It was Franklyn D. Roosevelt, during World War II, who said, "All we have to fear is fear itself." The grip wasn't loosened, faith maintained, and the war won.

The war that we continuously struggle in is beyond compare. Were I doing it over, I would be bolder in my approach toward soul saving/evangelism and I would most definitely take more risks. The feeling of "fear of failure" (which has given me pause on many occasions) would be resisted even more vigorously. So my charge to you going forward is to 1) fight fearlessly – "Fear not for I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10) and 2) Get a grip! (Fight Faithfully) – "This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

Reclaim the highways and byways contemporaneously, fearlessly, faithfully and victoriously. "After all, this is a fight we're in!"

(Continued in Part 2 ...A Gentrified Joe)

Five Words of Counsel

by Colonel John Bate

Leading up to our retirement on the last day of the century I was asked the same question on a number of occasions – “If you had the chance would you do it all over again?” To me the question is as old as it is ridiculous! We don’t have the chance to live life over again so what is the point of the question. The boyishness within me always wanted to answer “No, No. I think I’d try something else” but I was sure the reply would have been misunderstood! There is the other answer which I have heard to a similar question – “Yes, I would do it all over again only I would do it better!” This, too, I find a little inane as it assumes we could live a life over again and seems to indicate that the one being questioned didn’t do his best.

The truth of the matter is that we all try to do our best, at the moment, considering conditions and opportunities. Later we may reflect that we could have done better but conditions and opportunities may have changed, even in five minutes. Two hundred years ago John Greenleaf Whittier wrote – “For all sad words of tongue or pen The saddest are these: “It might have been”. For me that was no way to come to the end of 41 years of active service as a Salvation Army officer. So, my answer to this inappropriate question was always – “I can’t do it over again – but it was great while I was doing it!”

I have to add, so is retirement!

This reflects an attitude without which I think life would be drudgery or at best just bearable. If I inherited anything from my old father it was “to enjoy what I was doing and to do it enthusiastically”. There may not be anything particularly religious in this advice (for it was applicable when I was at university and also later in my work as an accountant) but it speaks to me about a quality of life and a responsibility to ourselves.

Now, moving on to what we believe is a holy calling, that is officership in The Salvation Army, this dictum put my ministry into a totally different category. This “high calling” deserved those same qualities that the rest of my life demanded.

What were those standards that I was taught to apply?

1. Enjoy your work and do it enthusiastically and with sensitivity. Of course sometimes enthusiastic people are the least sensitive! “It is good and logical for me so it must be good and logical for you!” does not contain one ounce of reason but speaks of self-centeredness if not arrogance and selfishness. Having said that enthusiasm and sensitivity are qualities to be sought after within the frame work of our own character and being. When I hear the shouts of enthusiastic support at a football match I wonder about our lack of enthusiasm in the church. (Perhaps our sensitivity keeps us quiet!) I have often wondered if we are shy about showing our enthusiasm for the things of God simply because of our misunderstanding of the true meaning of enthusiasm. From the Greek it simply means “God within”, so it has nothing to do with shouting and hollering but for us a warmth of joy and feeling in

what we are doing, always thinking of others who may need our understanding or encouragement.

2. I have always enjoyed study and treat my books as friends. I have never read all the books in my library but I know where to look when I need help or guidance – much like my friendships. And I trust that I am a “book” in the library of my friends. Just as I have friends with whom I have a difference of opinion in some matters so I also read books with which I do not agree. We do not have to believe everything we read – and this is confirmed very easily by simply glancing through any newspaper! Serious study provokes our own understanding and enlightenment. Our beliefs of today should not be the same as they were ten years ago. They should be deeper, more profound and maybe even more embracing.

3. If enjoying books is high on my list so is enjoying people! One of my problems as a young corps officer was that I enjoyed study and preparation so much that once I started in the morning I could sit at my desk all day! The other problem was I enjoyed visiting so much that if I started visiting early in the morning I could be doing that all day as well! My challenge was always “balance”! I heard a colleague say once “Where there are people there are problems!” To be kind perhaps for him it was just one of those days! But if it were not for people we would not have any work – and for any whose work is away from people without recalling this truth daily work can easily become a drudgery. “People are our business” seems a little crass and earthy – but it is nonetheless a basic truth in The Salvation Army. Perhaps the easiest way to understand this is to constantly remind ourselves of our calling – “. . . he who was a free man when he was called is Christ’s servant (1 Cor. 7: 22) Reminding ourselves of this truth is never wasted time.

4. I can never be thankful enough that as Salvation Army officers we do not have to plan our future. In business life we study and work for this promotion and then the next, even, maybe, with an eye on the manager’s job or managing director. As officers we do not plan for the next promotion but follow the advice of Paul to Timothy to “study to show himself approved . . .”. Personally I appreciate the NIV translation of this verse which encourages – “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth”. Perhaps our greatest challenge is to protect our dedication. I recall during our first years at International Headquarters I was responsible for the production, for The Salvation Army, of a series of Sunday morning broadcasts entitled “Banners and Bonnets”. Each Sunday morning by 9.00am more people had heard the Salvation Army with singing, bands and a message than would be heard throughout Britain all day. It was a marvelous and popular ministry which I enjoyed immensely, although I have never had to work harder in any appointment within The Salvation Army. Sitting in the production room at the BBC one Friday morning, preparing the program for the next Sunday, the producer said to me, “John, why don’t you come and do this full time at the BBC. We need your kind of organizing and administration”. I knew in that moment that I had been in that appointment long enough. My dedication was to ministry, not arranging programs, even although for that time that appointment, my ministry, required me to arrange programs. There is a big difference – and I was grateful for the clarity of that point which came to me that morning. Strangely enough within a

month I was served with farewell orders from that appointment without anyone knowing of the proposition which had been made to me!

5. There is, in reflection, a great feeling of accomplishment in having fulfilled the required time of active officership – and needless to say an active retirement emphasizes the activity continues. However, the official activity has concluded and whilst the Retirement Certificate is now hidden with files of old papers, which perhaps will never be read, it does record the completion of what we set out to do 41 years previously. Career change is a modern topic these days and it is propounded as a positive benefit in the life of many business and career people today. The Army has been way ahead in this procedure since its' beginning. Officers have been moved from preaching to administration and back to preaching and then to social work since 1878 (and even in Christian Mission days). It is perhaps not so much what we do but the fulfilling of the calling that brings that sense of spiritual accomplishment. The people we have touched and the programs we have administered have been the means of attaining that accomplishment.

The day comes – we receive that certificate and salute and say “thank you for providing me with the means of service and of fulfilling my calling” – and here comes the next generation, equally dedicated and perhaps even more prepared and qualified. God bless them!

Marked Urgent

by Commissioner Wesley Harris

SOME Christians are so laid back about soul-saving as to be almost horizontal. Evangelism is for 'some time'; revival can wait! But the movers and shakers of the Church have recognized that the need for revival has been urgent. They have also known that although revivals may be characterized by the gathering of crowds they are really about individuals being won for God.

William Booth, the founder of The Salvation Army was one who had 'URGENT' written all over his life.

My mentor as a young officer was retired Commissioner George Jolliffe who had been a private secretary to William Booth and had actually lived in his house. He spoke of the intensity and urgency of the general who was not only concerned that his soul saving army would continue long after he was gone but took every opportunity to challenge the unsaved whenever he met them. His saving passion for people reached out to the cab or engine driver, the fellow traveler or the person he met on the street.

Something of the same intensity throbs through Paul's letters to Timothy. He would have been aware of the hurrying and scurrying that would take place before the Emperor visited a city and he would want Christians to have a similar urgent zeal to prepare for the second coming of Christ and save the lost.

We might eavesdrop and listen to the great apostle as with great earnestness he says, to Timothy, "I give you this charge: Preach the word, be prepared in season and out of season..." (2 Timothy 4. 2). This was something much more than a casual request or a throwaway line. It carried something of the explosive power of Paul's pent-up passion and it still reaches people today.

As a seventeen-year-old I was looking forward to a career in journalism but attended a session of youth councils. It would be nice to say that I was arrested by the sermon that was given but it didn't happen like that. God led the wife of our Divisional Youth Secretary to whisper, "What about you, Wesley?" That was all she said, but amplified by the Holy Spirit it was powerful. The question reached my heart.

It was the turning point of my life, the end of my small ambitions and the discovery of my calling and destiny as a Salvation Army officer. Had I known them at the time I could have echoed the words of the poet Rupert Brooke, "Now God be thanked who has matched us with his hour and caught our youth and wakened us from sleeping".

In his charge or parting command to Timothy Paul made clear that his roles would be many and varied. He had to be prepared to rebuke, correct and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. This would be no 'cushy number' or soft option and no task for spiritual wimps. In the Message paraphrase Paul's dying warning, based on his own experience, was "You're going to find out that there will

be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching but will fill up with spiritual junk food”.

Christian ministry can take all we've got and then some. It can be demanding and disappointing but I know of nothing more fulfilling. Of course, the vocation will be as big as our vision and as large as we make it with God's help.

We live in what has been called the 'me generation' when many are only out for what they can get. But really it is as we learn to give that we learn to give. President Harry Truman said, "The time is ripe for an appeal not to self-interest but to the hunger for great living which lies at the heart of everyman. What young people need is not the chance of getting something for nothing but the opportunity to give everything for something great”.

It is said that there is no such thing as sacrifice if the cause is big enough and the hope of a movement like The Salvation Army may lie in young people who are prepared to forfeit the comforts of life in the well padded ways of western society and do it tough in the third world or the slums of our great cities.

My wife and I visited Brazil and saw the Army at work in favelas or shantytowns of unspeakable squalor and violence. There I was humbly proud to share with some young women officers of whom their leader could say that all they wanted was to live out their lives among the indescribably needy people of the slums.

I was privileged to spend some time at the Army's War College in Vancouver. It is situated in a district of unspeakable dereliction with decaying buildings, graffiti, drugs, broken bottles and broken lives. But young Christians are ready to spend a year or more living in flea-ridden rooms and identifying with very needy people. The posh name for this activity is 'incarnational ministry' but in simple terms it means going where the greatest need is found and living and loving for Jesus' sake. These young people go in the spirit of William Booth who said, "I don't care how near to the bottomless pit I go in order to saved mankind”.

A common expression nowadays is "Get a life" and sometimes the connotation is that people should loosen up and go on a round of pleasure seeking. But the essence of the call of Jesus points in a different direction and affirms that, paradoxically, it is as we lose ourselves in service that we discover what life is really all about. As we share in the urgent mission of our Lord we enter into his joy.

Set Apart for Jesus

by Commissioner Carol Bassett

In preparation for the work and ministry that his disciples would have after he was no longer physically with them, Jesus prayed for them. He prayed for their protection, for their abundant joy and for their sanctification. Additionally, Jesus told them to wait for the promised Holy Spirit who would guide, equip, empower and enable them to do the work he had called them to do. They were set apart for Kingdom work.

As a Salvation Army Officer I have been called by God to do Kingdom work and gladly live in submission to the Lord. I give witness to the words of William James Pearson found in the SASB # 495.

I'm set apart for Jesus, with him to ever stay, My spirit he releases, he drives my foes away. He gives full strength for trial and shields when darts are hurled; With him and self-denial I overcome the world.

From my vantage point of looking back over these many years, I thank God that as a child, I accepted Jesus as my Savior and then as a teenager claimed this promise:

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5,6 KJV. This scripture promise has been a reality in my life and I praise and thank God for his guidance and the gift of the Holy Spirit and his sanctifying power in my life.

In his book, "The God Moment Principle", Alan D. Wright has written, "How you remember yesterday determines how you will live tomorrow." Because I know God has been faithful in the past I know I can trust him for the future! Even now as I look forward to the days that are to come I am confident that God will be with me in days of joy and in days of sadness. I know his mercies are new every morning and that he will minister his grace to me each day.

Looking back as you are facing forward, my words to you are from my own personal journey with the Lord. I know that throughout the years God has guided me in establishing personal priorities for my spiritual growth and well being and I know you will also be guided by the Holy Spirit as you seek his direction on your personal journey of obedience to God's calling in your life throughout the coming years. It is my prayer that God will abundantly bless you and make you a blessing as you are engaged in Kingdom work.

- Make your personal private time with God a daily priority. Study and meditate upon the truth of God's Word, spend time in prayer and enjoy intimacy with the Almighty. You will lead a very busy life but you receive daily guidance, strength and inspiration to keep focused on Kingdom business, ministry and growth in your personal experience with the Lord.

"Come near to God and he will come near to you." James 4:8a NIV • Endeavor to be humble and joyfully give God thanks and glory. Remember it's not about you but about being available to the Lord and allowing God the Holy Spirit to work in and through you. "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So

neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” 1 Corinthians 3:6,7 NIV

- Live a life of integrity in every area of your life. Enjoy God’s blessings, be joyful and cultivate a positive attitude and others will be influenced by your example of holy living.

“Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me, All his wonderful passion and purity, O thou Spirit Divine, all my nature refine, Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.” Chorus Section: #77 SASB

- Continue to become better equipped to fulfill your calling by ongoing learning through reading and educational experiences. However, be careful not to become impressed by your own knowledge. “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15 NIV

- Value and respect all people. We have a relational ministry. Interact with others in a way in which they will see Christ in you.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side We will work with each other, we will work side by side And we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love They will know we are Christians by our love Lyrics by: Carolyn Arends

Several years ago I decided on my own personal mission statement. It is taken from the Word of God. “.....that I may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.....” Colossians 1:10 NIV

And so I say to you, “Be strong in the Lord, rely on God’s provisions and enjoy God’s blessings. Stand firm in your faith and secure in God’s promises. You will never face a situation that exceeds God’s grace!”

“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19 NIV

His love has no limits, his grace has no measure,
His power no boundary known unto men;
For out of his infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.
Annie Johnson Flint SASB #579

I close with words of praise and thanksgiving to God for the reality of his goodness and grace to me. “You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.” Psalm 16:11 NIV

If I Had My Time All Over Again...

by Major Harold Hill

We know the famous last words: "If I had my time over again, I'd..." But I probably wouldn't, or couldn't, even if forewarned. The person I was back then tried to do the best he knew how; the person I am now might try to do some things differently, but he wasn't around at the time! But still, five things I might have benefited from learning earlier are:

1. I need to sort out my own stuff first. As the cabin crews' pre-take-off spiel reminds us, we need to put on our own oxygen mask first before attempting to assist anyone else.

I pick up a certain amount of debris in the course of life's events, in my relationships with God, myself and others (including The Salvation Army). If I don't deal with this stuff, it will keep getting in the way of everything else I do, including my ministry. Dealing with it is what the doctrine of holiness is about, and for that one of the most cogent and practical toolkits is to be found in the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. For the convenience of anyone not familiar with these, here they are:

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.

2. Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.

10. Continued to take a personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.

12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practise these principles in all our affairs.

Before anyone shies away from the word “alcohol”, let me say that while we may not all have the alcohol, we all have the “ism”. Another name for it is “sin”. And for those uncomfortable with “God as I understand Him”, does anyone have any other kind? And in case we’re above this sort of thing, we do well to remember Paley’s warning against contempt prior to investigation.

2. I need to be accountable to someone – other than, as well as, my line manager. Ministry (including leadership and administration) is a team-activity; lone rangers get into trouble. No social worker or counsellor is considered “safe” without accountability; ministry is no different. Regular supervision, mentoring, spiritual direction – whatever name we give to it – is like preventative maintenance for a car: regular servicing may save expensive repairs, or failure, down the road. There is a proviso of course. To quote the “Big Book” of Alcoholics Anonymous: “We must be entirely honest with somebody if we expect to live long or happily in this world.”

3. I can forget about looking for the silver bullet. The way we have chased after every new guru and wizardry is reminiscent of Hosea’s picture of Ephraim like a silly dove, fluttering between Egypt and Assyria. Some programmes of church growth and other such “business models” have been more like Ponzi schemes, gobbling up our time, energies and resources but leaving us weaker and poorer than before. The Salvation Army’s own systems might actually work if they’re worked at. (I love the summary given by Commissioner Amos Makina: “Preach the Word; visit the people; always get a receipt!”)

4. I need to practise servant-hood. (“Servant Leadership” if God chooses.) This can have implications for structures, because hierarchical, quasi-military systems are a hazardous environment for the spirit because of the seductive nature of power. It calls for special vigilance to be able to live counter-culturally within them. Therefore, this is even more a matter of attitudes, and about serving rather than using people; being there for them, rather than assuming they’re there for us, and for the fulfilment of our particular vision. My father once told me, “At the end of the day, the only part of our work that may endure is what we have contributed to the lives of others.”

The first edition of *Servants Together* in 2002 proposed guidelines for both structural and attitudinal aspects of servant-hood in this way:

Develop non-career-oriented leadership models. Dismantle as many forms of officer elitism as possible. Continue to find ways to expand participatory decision-making. Teach leaders to be servants by modelling it.

Most of us can’t do much about these things on the macro-level, but we all can on whatever level we find ourselves. Micah put it simply: “Deal justly, love mercy and walk humbly before God”.

5. I need to keep my eyes on Jesus, the “author and finisher” of my faith – the one who began it and can bring it to completion. Ironically, professional Christians especially need this word, as our occupation can give delude us into thinking that

going through the motions is living the life. As George MacDonald said, “Nothing is so deadening to the Divine in man as the habitual handling of the outsides of holy things.” Other things and people can then become substitutes for the real presence of God and we end up living vicariously instead of authentically. Keeping our eyes on Jesus centres us in the right place.

You Did Not Choose Me...

by General Bramwell Tillsley (Rtd)

On the eve of commencing your life's work, remember that first and foremost, the ministry is a calling. As it was said of the Old Testament priest, so it must be said of the New Testament minister. "No man takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God" (Heb.5:4).

Jesus said, "you did not choose me, but I chose you" (John 15:16). Keep in mind, the call of God comes in a variety of ways.

1: Sometimes God speaks directly, in tones clear and unmistakable. "This is the way; walk in it" (Isaiah 30:21). To Paul – "Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to appoint you as a servant and as a witness" (Acts 26:16). But this is not the only way He calls.

2: God speaks in terms of human need, though the need is not the call, but rather the means used by God. General Bramwell Booth wrote: "The great need of the world – its lost condition – is sufficient call for anyone who has the opportunity to respond." In that general sense, every Christian is called and is in "full time service" 1 Cor.6:19,20.

3: But God has chosen you personally, and given you the deep conviction that "this is destiny." In the challenging days ahead, it is this sense of "call" that will serve as an anchor in the midst of the storm.

I would urge you, through prayer and the word, to keep your own heart right. "Above all things, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Prov.4:23). How tragic is the experience described in the Song of Songs 1:6 – "They made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I have neglected." "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers" (Acts 20:28). The order here is significant – "Yourselves – the flock."

I would urge you to be a man/woman of the Word. The word is the one thing God has specifically promised to bless. "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire, and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).

This challenge of course implies the constant development of your mind. E.F.Scott reminded us that "the failure of Christianity as a moral force is more often than we like to think due to no other cause than intellectual sloth." Bishop Oxnam added: "Our generation will not be led spiritually by people it cannot respect intellectually." Jesus himself said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your MIND." (Matt.22:37).

Of course, matched with our knowledge of the Word must be a knowledge of the World to which you are being sent. It has been suggested that we study with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.

In the High Priestly prayer (John 17) Jesus prays: Father, “as you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world: (John 17:18). What do you understand by the “world” into which you are being sent?

In the Sprunt Lectures at Union Theological Seminary, Waldo Beach suggested OUR world is marked by three basic characteristics:

1: Anomi—no norm For behavior –no absolutes – no authoritative standard of right or wrong.

2: Anonymity –man has lost his sense of worth – his identity. He is plagued with such questions as: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? Do I really matter as an individual?

3: Alienation – broken fellowship with God and man.

Facing such a world, do not neglect the ministry of Encouragement. “Anxious hearts are very heavy, but a word of encouragement does wonders” (Prov. 12:25 TLB).

Dr. Carl Jung suggested “the central neurosis of our time is “emptiness.” Mother Teresa added: “The biggest disease today is the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for, deserted by everyone.”

How a word of Encouragement is needed.

Many a preacher, including Dr. F. B. Meyer has indicated that if he had life to live over again, he would devote more time to the ministry of encouragement. It was D.L. Moody who reminded us that people have a way of becoming what we encourage them to be rather than what we nag them to be. We are in need of more leaders like Barnabas –“son of encouragement.”

“See that the flock of God is properly fed and cared for” (1 Peter 5:2, Phillips). “Cared for” is perhaps best represented by the Biblical metaphor of the “Shepherd.” Again Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd and know my sheep” (John 10:14) The only way this can be accomplished on any more than a casual basis is to do what Ezekiel did when he responded: “I sat where they sat” (Ezekiel 3:15, AV) This was not from an office with a computer. Is visitation too old fashioned a term? I think not.

By the way, if this is getting a little “heavy,” don’t neglect to develop a good sense of humor. Be ready to laugh at yourself as well as at situations over which you have no control. Beware of taking yourself too seriously. In this regard, don’t limit your ministry by a fear of failure. We are in desperate need of more creativity. If a plan does not work, put it down to experience. No good leader will criticize you for trying.

Although most of us will work within a system that require accountability, keep in mind your ultimate accountability is to God. Hopefully it will be said of you, “they watch for your souls as they that must give account” (Heb.13:17).

I close by reminding you of Paul’s charge to Timothy – 1 Tim.1:12 -15. Here he speaks of “Amazing Grace.”

1: Emancipating Grace – “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners –of whom I am the worst” v.15

2: Employing Grace – “He considered me faithful, appointing me to his service” v.12

3: Enabling Grace – “ Christ Jesus, who has enabled me.” (v.12 AV)

4: Exceeding Grace –“The grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant” (v.14, AV)

This grace is available to YOU.

“And God is able to make ALL grace abound to you, so that in ALL things at ALL times having ALL that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Cor.9:8)

Blessings on your ministry!

PS When God’s work is done in God’s way, it will never lack for God’s supply.
(Hudson Taylor)

Five Words of Counsel

by Lieut. Colonel Mervyn Leach

1. BE SURE OF YOUR CALLING.

Yours is a very personal history. Yours is a story to be told. You have been saved by grace and indwelt by His Spirit and you have been called, chosen and set apart for special work. Your life is a story that is still being written. There must have been a certain time in a certain place when you and were nudged or prodded by the Holy Spirit into giving ministry of the gospel and Salvation Army officership serious consideration. You found that you were compelled by love to respond and answer the call. There really was nothing else that you could do. This was, and is, God's will for your life. You've placed your all on the altar Yours is a most sacred trust. Let your integrity shine through in all that you do. Into your hands has been placed the care and keeping of a precious flock of people and you are responsible for their development and growth in the Christian way. You must strive, as did the apostle Paul, to be many things to many people so that you might win some. The paraphrase ,”The Message” reminds you that you and those like you are harvest hands and that you don't need any equipment as you are being sent out. Peterson says, “You are the equipment”.

2. PREACH FOR A VERDICT

Keep your preaching simple. Make the message clear and plain. Communicate with such warmth and sincerity that the little old lady in the back row will feel that she's just been hugged. Be yourself. Use stories and good illustrations from life. Use even your own story. Be diligent in study and preparation. Bathe your preparations in prayer. Go to God before you go to your people. Let the message speak to your heart first before you go to the pulpit to share it. Work with themes. Make your meeting outlines support your theme. See that your theme flows to a conclusion and challenge that supports a call to commitment. If you fail to plan you will plan to fail. Remember the old adage; “If you can't strike oil in twenty minutes, quit boring”.

Do not neglect the Mercy Seat. It is unique to the Salvation Army. Make your invitation clear and plain. Never assume the entire congregation, large or small, is without the need to make a public confession of Salvation or Sanctification. Fight for souls with conviction and perseverance.

3. PASTOR YOUR PEOPLE

This is an area sadly neglected in this present day and age. Visit them in their homes. This is such a valuable opportunity to meet your people on their own turf where they can let down their guard and be open and frank as they begin to trust you and your level of confidentiality.

As trust grows so does their willingness to open up many areas of their lives, especially the hurts that may have lain dormant for years.

Pastoral care of the flock helps you with preparing more appropriate sermons as you try to meet them at their point of need. With many of your people working, two to a household, it is more difficult to accomplish visitation, but it can be done by careful and prayerful scheduling, even during evening hours or over lunch or a coffee.

Be consistent in dealing with matters of discipline by carefully following the appropriate orders and regulations making a level playing field and showing no partiality. Constantly study to make yourself competent to counsel. Never go beyond your level of competency. "Mow to the edges of your own field". Know when it is time to refer to the Christian professionals.

4. BE AN ENCOURAGER

Dale Carnegie, in his book, "How to win friends and influence people", said " Be hearty in your approbation and lavish with your praise". People respond, not to flattery, but to well earned praise. Appropriate and sincere commendations go so much farther than constructive criticism even though there are times when the latter is called for.

Nurture, mentor, disciple, teach and encourage, knowing that apathy in the pew can be contagious and negativity can spread like a prairie wild fire.

Do not neglect the hardened hearts and the antagonists in your ministry unit. A phrase, "Keep your friends close and your enemies even closer" can apply. Many a soldier saint has been won through dogged determination and persistence. The more they oppose and the more they question and argue, the more likely they are secretly searching for the truth.

5. STAY THE COURSE.

Jesus said, in Luke 9:62, " No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God". This text was given by a seasoned officer to a young candidate who was about to embark on a life of sacrifice and service and that officer, after many years, attests to the marked impression that was made on his life and ministry.

It is so easy in ministry, whether serving a congregation or administering in a social services setting, through the attacks of Satan, to become discouraged by circumstances, disappointed in people who let you down and dismayed by a lack of response. This will drive you to your knees more often than you will ever remember. It was Robert Schuller, founding pastor of the great Crystal Cathedral in Orange County, California highlighted for me, "when the going gets tough the tough get going".

What a privilege is yours to minister to a group of God's children.

Never, never. never give up.

A song in our song book, written by Anna Waring, puts it all in perspective;
Green pastures are before me
Which yet I have not seen;
Bright skies will soon be o'er me,
Where the dark clouds have been.
My hope I cannot measure,
My path to life is free;
My Savior has my treasure,
And he will walk with me.

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love

by Commissioner John Nelson

I was born into a Salvation Army family. My parents were officers. My grandparents on one side of the family were officers and on the other, life-long Salvationists. Nearly all my extended family are Salvationists, several of them officers. The Salvation Army culture was just about the only thing I knew growing up. The Salvationists around me, including my family were so positive there was nothing I wanted more than to become one of them.

When I was only six years of age I knelt at an Army mercy seat and asked God 'to make me a good boy'. When I was 13 and attending my first Youth Councils I confirmed that I wanted to be a follower of Jesus in The Salvation Army. Having lived in a very active and enthusiastic Salvation Army officer's home I had no hesitation when I was only 17 to positively respond to God's call to apply to become an Officer. I was commissioned before my 20th birthday.

When I was commissioned I was convinced that the leading of God in my life and the will of my Army leaders was one and the same thing. When Elizabeth and I were married little did we know what God had in store for us. By the time we retired we had spent over 30 years of our 41 years of our married service outside of Canada. Even in retirement I have been asked on 9 different occasions to take up appointments from 6 months to a year in various parts of the world. I praise God that I can say I have kept my commitment and have willingly accepted each appointment as part of His perfect Will.

With all of the above I believe I have the right to call myself a Salvationist. Over the years, particularly in retirement I have had many opportunities to reflect on the years of our service, active and retired and many of the thoughts and experiences we have had in many parts of the world. Yes, I see things differently today than I did when I first started out. The world has changed tremendously during these nearly 60 years. The Army has changed tremendously too. My own spiritual journey has grown and matured and continues to do so to the present day. I thank God for that.

If I were starting over, there are several things I would approach differently, not because I was wrong when I started out, but because it was a different era all together. Now, with the knowledge and experience of a lifetime and hopefully some God-given wisdom, I am what I am today by His grace. Here are five issues I believe are important for leaders today:

1. If we are going to win the world for Jesus then we must live out the New Testament command to love God and our neighbour. Jesus put God's love into practice and a pattern that we must follow in every aspect of our lives, personally and corporately. We must accept that this is only possible by God's Grace and the empowering of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We must allow the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control, to be our authentic witness in all that we do and say. I see this as a significant and encouraging change in emphasis.

2. If we are going to win the world for Jesus, denominational, doctrinal, lifestyle and worship style distinctives, to mention only a few, are only boxes established throughout history. They have now become barriers that complicate our reaching out to the 'whosoever' of the whole world in our quest to reach them for Jesus. I believe less emphasis should be given to distinctives and more focus on Jesus is essential in order to fulfill His perfect will.

3. If we are going to win the world for Jesus then we must accept the fact that all Christians, where ever they may be or however they may express themselves in living out their faith, are part of the family of God and with respect and humility we must work together and form partnerships whenever possible in order to communicate more effectively to the whole world the gospel of Jesus Christ. Travelling the world has caused me to see this need for unity more urgently.

4. If we are going to win the world for Jesus then we must positively engage with all people within our community in such a way that relationships are established and support given to enable the work of the Holy Spirit to bring about their faith in God and spiritual maturity. This engagement, often in practical terms must begin with me.

5. If we are going to win the world for Jesus then we must go beyond our own faith and reach out to those of other faiths. By respecting and engaging people of other faiths or those of no faith at all, we will learn what we have in common and what we can do effectively together. In this way, by our presence in their world, it will enable God to do His work in all our lives. This will be an essential challenge and even uncomfortable for some now and in the future. If some of the above sounds radical, then so be it. Having travelled to many of the densely populated parts of the world and having lived in several countries where the Christian faith is a very small minority I am convinced there is just no more time for small talk, petty differences, greed, power struggles and jockeying for positions of so-called authority. We must set aside our differences and be united in the fundamental principles of God's love and together be witnesses of Jesus Christ. It is our task to witness as followers of Jesus and God's task, often through us, to bring about the salvation of the world and the establishment of His Kingdom.

Five Wise Words of Encouragement and Counsel For Newly Commissioned Officers of The Salvation Army

by Lieut. Colonel David Hammond

I am writing a personal letter to Ephraim, my dear friend and fellow-worker, something like Paul wrote to his son, Timothy centuries ago. I want to say a word of encouragement to you as you set sail on the high seas of officership in The Salvation Army. I have just passed my eightieth birthday, so you understand I have more to say than can be written in one letter – forty-three years as an active officer and sixteen as a retired officer.

This is not about personal boasting. I do not believe in self-proclamation. Believe me, I do not want to talk about myself – only what Christ has done for me and through me, and what, by the grace of God, he is able to do through you.

Looking Back

As I look back over eight decades, Ephraim, I am overflowing with thanksgiving for every appointment I have had and every person who has contributed to making me the person I am. My life has been held fast in the hands of God. As General Arnold Brown wrote on his retirement: “My life is like Laden caravans of privilege.” I like what David Livingstone wrote, after travelling through Africa for a life time of sacrificial service: “speak not speak to me of sacrifice; speak to me only of privilege.”

Let tell you of five great privileges God has bestowed upon my pilgrimage.

1. The privilege of being born into a good family.

From a human point of view, there was little that was special about my family. They were of all people quite ordinary. The thing that most people said about my parents, was that they were good people. It was the kind of goodness that shone out in everything they did and in every situation of life. There was kind of transparency that was winsome.

Remembering my father and mother, it seems to me that the sum total of their goodness far outweighed any world possessions they have missed. My father was hard working, compassionate, honest and loving. My mother was nurturing, natural (she did not know what it was to put on “airs”) and artistic. She loved to play the concertina on the street corner and in the hospitals. My parents were passionate about two things: first, the Army, and secondly about dedicating their children to God for service.

I owe everything I am and have to my good parents. Their influence hovers over me every day and makes me feel that of all men, I am rich in the things that really matter. I have two sisters and one brother – all of whom surrounded me with life abundantly.

2. The privilege of knowing God's call to be an officer.

I heard the call to be an officer when I was twelve years old. A visiting officer looked at me in a crowded room in our home one Sunday night and planted words I never forgot: "David, I think that someday you are going to become a Salvation Army officer" For nine of my teen years, I kept the secret to myself and never told a soul as, these words repetitiously rang in my ears like a broken record.

When I was twenty, one month from my twenty-first birthday, I knew it was decision time. I had to make up my mind and chose between the broad way (that leads to destruction) and the narrow way (which leads to life) In a youth meeting, January 28th, 1951, at about 8:30 p.m. I stood up from where I was sitting in the trombone section of a small band and made my way to the Mercy Seat – a practice that was rare in my experience. When I knelt at a very plain chair, a kind lady came and put her arms around me saying "Is there something I can do to help you, David? I replied, "I think something has already happened to me." Half way between my place in the band and the Mercy Seat, I felt the hand of God accepting the sacrifice of my life to be a servant of Jesus Christ as an officer. It was a defining moment that changed the course of my life, and opened the door to more than sixty years of covenant service under the flag of The Salvation Army.

I would be impossible for to tell you how much spiritual fruit has come into my life through sixty years of officership. I do not think a large book could capture everything God has done through me. When I was twenty I thought long and hard about committing my whole life to an unknown path, controlled by an unknown authority, leaping into and unknown future. Now that I am over eighty, more than sixty years later, in the light of what I have come to understand what Jesus has done for me, it seems, as Paul writes to the Romans "Only the reasonable thing to do" (Rom.12:1,2).

I feel that if I had taken the opportunity of writing my own life-course, I could not have done it better. I learned to trust God and let things work out for good – and they did. I never once asked for an appointment, nor refused to go where the Army sent me.

3. The privilege of a magnificent life-partner.

After fifty-three years with my life-partner, unexpectedly and without warning, she went home to be with Jesus. I owe her a debt I cannot pay. She loved me with an unconditional compassion, as she did everyone around her. She was a role model par excellent.

Ephraim: I write this only to point out the importance of choosing well your life partner. Take time to pray about it with patience and obedience and God will give you the right person at the right time. To be unequally yoke with an unsuitable partner, will severely handicap your ministry. God has someone good for you, believe me.

4. The privilege of children and grandchildren.

After a bumpy start, the Lord gave us two children, along with their spouses. In addition, we have eight grandchildren. They are an unending source of joy delight in a thousand way which only grandparents can comprehend.

But with the gift of new life, also come sacred responsibilities, to raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Never underestimate the subtle power of world influences which come to our children in a thousand ways, many beyond our control. Nurturing and training our children in the way of the Lord demands close attention, careful guidance and prayerful supervision. It will take the cooperative efforts of both parents, using patience and compassion.

5. The privilege of serving in the Army.

Above all, I feel of all people most privileged to have served the whole life in the Army. If life could be lived all over again, I would sign up without hesitation, except, I would hope to serve better with more zeal, more compassion and more fidelity.

The Salvation Army has its weakness and failings, as any organization does, but then we know that not one of us can claim to be perfect. I believe the Army is part of the body of Christ, and when we kick and destructively criticize the Army, we injure the very body of Christ. Jesus feel the pain for misdirected, loveless words.

Looking forward

I want to turn my eye in a forward direction and think about you and your future in the Army, Ephraim. What can I say that will encourage you, prepare you, strengthen you for the ministry?

1. Prayer is pivotal.

The best advice I can give you is the make prayer heart and soul of everything you do every day, every year, every decade. It may be that this is where the Devil will seek to deflect you attention and live a prayerless life.

You do not need anything more than the example of Jesus. His life, from the very beginning was saturated in prayer. Mary and Joseph worship regularly at the synagogue and saw Jesus was steeped in the Hebrew faith. Jesus made a habit of spending whole nights in prayer, often after long and draining days of teaching and preaching. He prayed in every critical moment of his short years of ministry; the garden of Gethsemane he prayed "Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me;" and he prayed to his Father during his six hours on the cross – seven magnificent words that Christians, for centuries has been exploring.

Jesus spent much of his time teaching his disciples to pray. Without prayer our lives will be fruitless for the Kingdom.

Find time to enter your closet, closing the door, and pray to your father. He promises to reward us richly well beyond our expectations and our imagination. Make your prayer life and most important activity of your daily schedule.

2. Time is precious.

The most precious possession any officer has is time. Time is a priceless gift which does not last forever. Time moves imperceptibly from birth to death and no power on earth can stop it. "Time like an every moving stream, bears all it sons away." When you are young, it is not easy to grasp that life has limits and nothing is more final than death, man's last enemy,

Looking ahead it may seem like an eternity; but looking back, it is moves faster than a weaver shuttle – quicker than the twinkling of the eye.

Make the most of the time you have. Do not waste it or think carelessly of it. Take Tennyson's advice: "fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distant run."

Learn to discipline your time every day. That does not mean that you have no time to relax and smell the roses, or the pursue your favorite game of golf. Organize and prioritize your time so that you put the first things, first.

Remember that someday you will have to stand before your Master and give an account of how you have invested your time.

3. The Bible is priceless.

I read of a survey which was taken among ministers, indicating that eighty-five percent of clergy had no devotional life. I hope it does not apply to Salvation Army officers. I hope it will not apply to you - Too busy to pray; too busy to read the Bible and think deeply about the gospel message.

Benjamin Franklin wrote: "he was the master of all things: master of one (not "none" as his story has recorded. Many minister are, in fact, dabblers in many things, but every minister of the gospel should be a master of one, the Bible.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the World War 2 hero, wrote: "Everyday for me is lost that that I have not penetrated deeper into the understanding of God in scripture."

Think of it carefully,
Study it prayerfully,
Deep in thy heart,
Let its oracles dwell.
Ponder it mysteries,
Slight not its histories,
None can love it too fondly or well.

4. Ministry is personal.

In studying the ministry of Jesus, one learns that ministry is always personal. It was individuals like Nicodemus, the unnamed women at the well, Zacheaus, Peter, James and John. Who captured Jesus' eye? The lost, the lonely and the least. Follow the example of your leader – go and do likewise.

It does not mean that crowds are unimportant, but crowds are made up of individuals. Crowds are only of value, so long as one thinks that every crowd is a compilation of individuals.

The good shepherd who, when counting his flock, found one absent, left the ninety and nine and went out looking one lost sheep. What a lesson He taught us. Every person counts: every person has a name. Jesus died for every lost soul.

Beware that although prayer is important to our ministry, people are more important than people. Our business is people.

5. Our destiny is promised.

Finally, keep your eyes on the prize. Look beyond this present world of time and space and material things. Look to Jesus and his kingdom – the new Jerusalem, “coming down from God out of heaven.” From the cross Jesus gave the dying thief the greatest promise of all – “Today you shall be with me in paradise.” It is a promise he also gave to us. “Jesus said: “I go to prepare a place for you so that where I am you may be also.” It is one of the greatest and surest promises of the Bible.

Five ideas with which you can invest your ministry and never be defeated.

My witness to you: Ephraim:

“I feel that the last drop of my life are being poured out for God. The glorious fight that God gave me I have fought, the course I was set I have finished, and I have kept the faith. The future holds for me a crown of righteousness which God, the righteous judge, will give me in that day (11 Tim. 4:6-8).

My charge to you:

I charge you, to live in the sight of God and of Christ Jesus... to preach the word of God. Never lose your sense of urgency, in and out of season. Prove, correct, and encourage, using the utmost of patience in your teaching. Go on steadily preaching the gospel and carry out the full commission that God gave you.” 2 Timothy 4:1,5 – J.B. Phillips

God bless you, my friend, Ephraim. As often as I think of you I will pray for you.

Looking Back and Facing Forward

by Commissioner Todd Bassett

It seems almost presumptuous for someone who is forty years removed from his last field appointment to be giving words of council to those just entering their first command. However, I share the following primarily from the perspective of thirteen years of divisional leadership.

These thoughts are based on the fundamental belief that there is nothing more important than a quality prayer life and the continuous study of God's Word. Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness!

As I look back, the five words that I suggest that can be foundational as you face forward toward your officership are: Love, Honor, Purpose, Passion, and Humility.

- **LOVE** - It is easy to mouth the words spoken by Jesus that the greatest commandment is wrapped up in our love for the Lord and our love for others. But some people as well as some appointments are not easy to love! Learn to love! Your love for life, love for your people, love for your leaders, love for who you are in Christ and the work that He has called you to do are essential. Believe in yourself and believe that the Lord will give you the capacity to love in each of these areas. "Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle." Romans 12:9, 10 The Message

- **HONOR** - Self-will is one of the greatest challenges in the life of a Christian regardless of the calling. The willingness to be submissive to the Lord and those that He has allowed to be placed over you as a result of your calling will not always be easy. This is especially true if you are a free thinker. This is not an urging for you to be an 'institutional thinker', but to be a person who respects and honors those over you. You will always want to conduct yourself in an honorable fashion. Honor yourself as you honor others. "Submit yourself for the Lord's sake to every human institution... for such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of the foolish man." 2 Peter 2:13, 14 NAS

- **PASSION** - 'Give it all you've got!' Don't hold back and wait for a more convenient opportunity. Whether it is preaching the Word, collecting for Christmas, doing the janitorial work or the most demeaning task required, do it like Christ would do it! People will be watching to see if you are authentic and if you are genuine. Zeal and enthusiasm are contagious and will abound in your corps or institution if you show that you are really committed to your calling. You will attract others to follow you and the Lord! Be positive in how you lead your people. "...looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." Titus 2:13, 14 NASB

- **PURPOSE** - Understand what your management and leadership styles are. Then get yourself organized. Establish clear priorities and direction for your life and

ministry. The Lord has you where you are for a purpose and you are responsible to discover it and make sure you fulfill God's purpose. There are consequences for every action and there will be times when you will fail. But that hardly matters as much as how you handle the failure and if you learn by that situation. We are not perfect and the Lord certainly understands that; and He even extends His grace and forgiveness to us. "Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life but as those who do. ... firmly grasp what you know to be the will of the Lord." Ephesians 5: 15-17 J. B. Phillips

- HUMILITY - Let no man think more highly of himself than he ought. We are to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with the Lord. It is certainly possible to be confident and yet be humble, realizing that what we are able to do and who we are is a gift from the Lord. We are entrusted with the awesome task of being personal representatives of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this work we work together with God. It is He who calls and equips and we are never to become proud of the places He will take us or the wisdom that may flow from our lips. Our uniform and the name The Salvation Army will open doors and opportunities you never dreamed of, and you are to be Christ's ambassador! "And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;" Colossians 3:12 NIV

Looking back I can see in each of these areas where I have succeeded as well as how I failed. However, I know that throughout the forty-two years of active officership and in the four years of active retirement, the Lord has never failed to provide and sustain me as His servant. It is great to be a Salvation Army Officer! May the Holy One be your guide and strength as you look forward to the coming days of ministry and service.

A Gentrified Joe! (part 2)

by Major Stephen Court

CHARGE! Looking Back. Facing Forward: 5 Wise Words of Counsel

Those were the days my friend, we thought they'd never end. Ever analyzed why those street corner open-air days ended? Here is the excuse I've heard most often, personally even uttering it myself on occasion.

"Those were the days when street corners were community-gathering places, but that has all changed with the advent of television, mega-malls and the Internet. People no longer gather on those corners as they once did."

Translation: "That was scary stuff and sometimes embarrassing, especially with our new-found acceptance and brand image. Let's get in step with the 21st Century emerging "sophisticated" us!

Last evening, Doris and I took a stroll down Kalakaua Avenue, in Waikiki, past the International Marketplace. Lo and behold, there were street performers of every stripe entertaining hundreds of bystanders: musicians, artists, clowns, balloon shapers, a gold-plated human statue, foot massagers and even Elmo, each with a "collection device" (No tambourines apparent), all drawing crowds. Standing there for a few minutes watching Elmo do his thing, I calculated that his device was filling at the pace of several dollars per minute (\$120 hour), not a bad days work, huh? And besides he was brightening the evening for a lot of people.

We've witnessed this phenomenon wherever we've been lately: Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, London, Times Square, NYC (The Naked Cowboy?), Boston, Dallas, Denver, Hollywood and, yes, Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco (A man behind a portable bush jumped out and scared us silly, while bystanders laughed and happily contributed to his retirement fund). But alas! The Salvation Army isn't there anymore "because people no longer gather on the street corners."

Another modern phenomenon (perhaps related) is the gentrification of cities, far and wide. We were recently in Old Town Pasadena, the streets bustling with hoards of people, seemingly going nowhere. And the historic Gas Lamp Quarter in San Diego, where they now conduct ghost tours in what was once an old haunt of mine (pun intended). I wonder if the ghosts of Horton Plaza open-air past are on their itinerary? It's amazing to see the transformation occurring – keeping the ambience of the past, yet simultaneously conforming to the culture of a new day.

Gentrification: "the process of transforming...into something more prosperous."

Standing on that transformed Market, Powell and Eddy Mall in San Francisco (See Part 1), I reflect upon the ghosts of open-air past. Moments of doubt cloud my thinking. Was the demise of street-corner meetings related to changing demographics, or is it because The Salvation Army was transforming into something more prosperous, gentrifying if you may?

Hasn't Peter Drucker tabbed us, "The most effective organization in the U.S.?" Reader's Digest wrote, "The charity you can trust." Forbes Magazine reported, "One

of the top 10 charities that shine...one that gives supporters more bang for their buck.” The Chronicle of Philanthropy stated, “America’s favorite and most trusted charity.” How would Joe the Turk fare in today’s gentrified Army culture, I wonder?

Gentrification isn’t bad, mind you; it’s a good thing, so long as we adapt ongoing, evangelistically to an ever-changing culture.

Where to from here, backward or forward? Perhaps a mixture of both, huh? Those were the days my friend, They need not ever end, with a little gentrification thrown in for good measure, of course. Or as that haunting voice from the past keeps reminding us, *Adaptation is our only law!* (Catherine Booth)

These are the days my friend
Adaptation never ends
We'll sing and dance
Forever and the day

We'll live the life we choose
We'll fight and never lose
Yes, forever young
And sure to have His way

La La La, etc.

Given a second chance to redeem the past forty-something years, I would also consider the following three things prayerfully: 1) Examine (my) Excuses carefully. Are they motivated by fear and a desire for comfort, or are they based in reality? 2) Embrace Change fully. There is something about “We’ve always done it this way!” that is familiar, comforting and soothing. And if I’m going to continue doing it ‘this way,’ my excuses are (were) valid and legitimate. 3) Enforce (the Law of) Adaptability always. The modern word for it is gentrification, keeping the core values (infrastructure) intact, whilst ever melding them, progressively, into a transforming culture.

I confess to making many excuses, resisting or ignoring change too often and hanging on dearly to those comforting, traditional things that helped shape me as a person and Salvationist. Looking back, here is my combined charge to future leaders who are now facing forward:

1. Fight Fearlessly!
2. Get A (Faith) Grip!
3. Examine (all) Excuses!
4. Embrace Change!
5. Enforce (The Law of) Adaptability!

Oh, by the way, Joe the Turk would draw enormous crowds today at the transformed San Francisco Market, Powell and Eddy Plaza, in Old Pasadena and/or the San Diego Gas Lamp Quarter (Horton Plaza). A gentrified Joe, of course! And if it were all captured on YouTube? Just think!