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Editorial Introduction

by Major Stephen Court, Editor

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

Welcome to a special issue of Journal of Aggressive Christianity. JAC106 is the Solemn Assembly Issue. The last couple of issues have been content-focussed, JAC104 featuring Captain Peter Brookshaw and JAC105 collecting resources around Infinitum.

This issue invites a quick introduction. Nearly ten years ago (February 2007) in JAC pages Major Andrew Bale prophesied that there would be a ten year window for The Salvation Army to repent. That window is closing during the 'current' lifespan of JAC106. We run that article in this issue, along with a sister article from the same season.

God has moving in our midst since then. Through General Shaw Clifton, there was a call to remove 'sin in the camp'. JAC106 includes this content as well in 'Background: Salvation Army'. All of the national leaders of The Salvation Army around the world signed a statement envisioning corporate repentance. We include that in the entry called 'Context'.

And, because the term solemn assembly is unusual to many in our readership, we've collected biblical references and Salvation Army practice to provide a basic background (in Background: Bible).

God called The Salvation Army to a solemn assembly. The 'Originating Insights' are also included in JAC106. There was an indication that December 31, 2016 is a crucial date – like a 'use-by' date, except in this case, a 'repent-by' date. At time of publication, it is not too late for you to join others who have gathered in humility and sorrow and lament and repent.

There have been dreams by people on different continents that confirm the solemn assembly call and the date (you'll get the intel on that in the articles). We received all of this information earlier this year and responded accordingly, holding a solemn assembly on October 2, featuring lament and repentance. God might be prompting you to hold one where you are currently deployed.

Another practical opportunity is the coincidental release of the book REINVENTING THE MOVEMENT: What if Knaggs is right?, by Noland and Court (foreword by Rader), based on the blog by Commission Jim Knaggs with six questions about who we are and what and how we are doing what we do. Here's a link to a PDF of the book: <http://themorevolution.wixsite.com/reinventthemovement>

Godspeed.

Originating Insights

This little exchange explains the origins of the call for a solemn assembly this year. A long-time Salvationist in a southern hemisphere country had a vision of a solemn assembly, based on Joel 2, to occur on October 2 this year in which The Salvation Army repented of our sins to God. He also had a sense that December 31, 2016 was a significant date: "I feel Jesus is saying we're being given an opportunity to repent, and to wait, to be refilled with the Holy Spirit, and to be given a fresh vision. If we don't these things, I've sensed clearly from God that he will sign the Salvation Army's death certificate on December 31st this year." Here's an outtake of his explanation:

"I felt God convict me and say 'This is what the Salvation Army needs to do, it needs to have a solemn meeting this year'. I felt God go further and say, 'The Salvation Army is addicted to idols'. I then challenged God and said, 'Well, I'm not sure if that's the case everywhere,' and I felt God say, 'No, but in general they are caught up in idolatrous worship'. God went into detail about this and spoke to me about The Salvation Army worshipping 'power', The Salvation Army worshipping 'position', The Salvation Army worshipping 'Status and profile', The Salvation Army worshipping 'comfort'."

(October 2 sundown is the start of Rosh Hashana – the Jewish holiday that begins 10 days of penitence leading to Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement)

(remember that the December 31 date coincides with the ten year window prophesied a decade ago in the JAC article reprinted in this issue)

A long-time salvationist in Africa adds: "The insight I have received is found in 2 Chronicle 7 :14 –

"If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

"I strongly believe the clue is in that scripture portion. It was about the temple in the Jewish era. A point and centre of reference. In our days, we become the temple.
1 Cor. 6:19 –

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own."

"If God's people ...return, wait upon Him, listen to His voice and obey Him, the outcome would be special. God will respond, will forgive the wasted years, and wow! will heal the land - (sick head – editor's note: 'the West') that is Restoration!"

In March, in a third country, a long-time salvationist received this confirmation:

"The Lord is moving and our prayer group here has already spoken of aligning our 24/7 prayer and worship week around the October 2 dates which align ... with the importance of the Jewish calendar. I am also believing that this is confirmation if others in _____ and _____ are also hearing the same about alignment of dates, confession and specific gatherings to call on the Lord to revive us again.

"The valley of the dry bones as come up again and again. These bones will live.

"He doesn't get rid of the bones, He brings them together, raises them up and brings them back to life by His word and His very breath.

"I sit on the edge even now- looking at the great wall, waiting for the third great awakening. Calling out for the floodgates to open and praying BRING IT LORD! Come Holy Spirit, Come."

Background: Bible

A solemn assembly is a corporate gathering to collectively cry out to God for mercy.

There are nine such meetings listed in the Old Testament (KJV).

Leviticus 23:36

Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.

Numbers 29:35

On the eighth day ye shall have a solemn assembly: ye shall do no servile work therein:

Deuteronomy 16:8

Six days thou shalt eat unleavened bread: and on the seventh day shall be a solemn assembly to the Lord thy God: thou shalt do no work therein.

2 Kings 10:20

And Jehu said, Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed it.

2 Chronicles 7:9

And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

Nehemiah 8:18

Also day by day, from the first day unto the last day, he read in the book of the law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day was a solemn assembly, according unto the manner.

Lamentations 2:6

And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as if it were of a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the Lord hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest.

Joel 1:14

Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord,

Joel 2:15

Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

Zephaniah 3:18

I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden.

Background: Salvation Army

The Salvation Army.

Early on, The Salvation Army adopted this solemn assembly tradition, annually calling out to God for His mercy. Here are some historic and primary source data...

A. This is a report of the 1890 Solemn Assembly called by General Booth.

5000 attended in the Crystal Palace.

There had been other 'annual' solemn assemblies in the previous eight years, but this was the best one, according to the reporter:

“On this, the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary, the most important service – the Solemn Assembly – was, in the fullest sense, Liturgical throughout. Every part of the service was printed in the programme of the day’s proceedings, and ‘rubrics’ which none could misunderstand, were drawn up with such care as ensured an almost cathedral-like solemnity and decorum. I entered the great hall as the 5,000 people there assembled were singing the last lines of ‘Rock of Ages’... The signal was given from the platform for all to kneel. The officer at once fell to his knees in the aisle... The prayers, the form of self-examination, and the several addresses of the General were all printed at full length... Eight years since I attended this same annual gathering at the Alexandra Palace. That was a great demonstration, but it was surpassed in every respect by Tuesday’s assembly. And the most striking point of difference... between the two gatherings was the power which the organization has shown... to strengthen those features which make it a great militant force acting with all the precision and power of the well-disciplined army.” August 16, 1890. *The Churchman*. Volume 62. p213.

B. And 19th century solemn assemblies were not limited to congress-size events. Here is mention of a local one:

“The latest scene witnessed in Tadley, in connection with The Salvation Army, was a solemn assembly, consisting of the Captain, Treasurer and Sergeant-Major. Subject under discussion: A village barracks, as supplied by the Social Wing.”

From the 27 August 1898 *War Cry*.

http://www.tadshistory.com/Downloads/projectnews_14pr.pdf Issue 14. 2009

C. Catherine Booth’s foundational prophecy for The Salvation Army, uttered at the farewell meeting of the invasion party, consisting of Rachel Evans, Clara Price, Mary Ann Coleman, Elizabeth Pearson, Annie Shaw, Emma Eliza Florence Morris, Emma Westbrook, and George Scott Railton, embarking for USA back in 1880, is, as reported in the February 21, 1880 edition of *The War Cry*, awaiting fulfillment:

“The decree has gone forth that the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ and that He shall reign, whose right it is, from the River to the ends of the earth. We shall win. It is only a question of time. I believe that this Movement shall inaugurate the final conquest of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

D. Here is an intriguing line from the 2004 Journal of Aggressive Christianity interview with Major Friday Ayanam.

JAC: What part does the West have in the future of The Salvation Army?

FA: The truth that the gospel was first received from the West and The Salvation Army actually came from the West, they became the head. Spiritually they must continue the legacy. The Bible reflects the problem the body has when the head is sick. The Head must understand that it is the head. The part the west has is to put her house in order, return to the basics, and never forget the Mission God gave to The Salvation Army. If the West is confused, they should call a solemn assembly, seek the face of God, and God will return with His healing and restoration.

E. General Clifton's early comments as General about 'sin in the camp':

http://web.salvationarmy.org/ihq/www_ihq_general.nsf/vw-print/1c73058508c6f2ce80257226007382da

Sin In The Camp?

"I have used this scriptural phrase recently, seeking to facilitate a new honesty within our ranks. Above all, the Army must be pure. Sin among us might take any form, but since we are discussing the evil exploitation of women I'd like to have a word, then, if I may, about the evils of pornography, and I want to take a risk through the pages of New Frontier, and ask gently, but lovingly, the question: is there sin inside the camp, in that regard? I'm aware that from time to time a Salvationist can fall victim to the seductions, or temptations, of pornographic literature and pornographic viewing; we need to be sensitive about that, and come before God with it, sometimes for confession. Having said that, I think I'll leave it just there, but we need to ask the question: are we ourselves without fault in these areas?"

Context

All international leaders co-signed a statement envisioning corporate repentance in 2009 ('Sin in the camp' from the top!

<http://beyondthebrook.blogspot.com/2009/07/sin-in-camp-from-top.html>)

"... a vision of the worldwide Salvation Army kneeling in repentance, prayer and rededication at the Mercy Seat. We have spoken together of all that this might mean for the Army, seeking new grace, new spiritual power, new divine prompting, and asking for and receiving afresh God's mercy....

"... Also we affirm our conviction that, to be truly useful to God, the Army needs to be pure and free from sin, and that senior leaders must, by grace, be effective role models in this. We feel the urging of the Holy Spirit to examine our own hearts afresh to see if there be any wicked way within us. We want to yield again to the demands of divine love, to return to first things, to cast aside distractions unpleasing to God, and to be in a relation of entire obedience to the Father. We acknowledge our constant need of grace.

"We renew our sacred vows and covenants as both soldiers and officers of the Army, thanking God from our hearts for the privilege of the calling he has placed upon us. We declare again our availability and our readiness, as senior officers, to go anywhere to do anything at any time under God and within the structures of the Army, seeking only the advancement of his Kingdom. We acknowledge our humanity and weakness, seeking the unique strength that God provides when we are weak and he is strong. We confess our limitedness, knowing that God is all sufficient. We abandon explicitly any desire that has sprung up in our hearts to place self first. We ask for the prayers of our fellow Salvationists to help us in this renewal of our covenants as soldiers and as officers, and in so doing we recognise our vulnerability and our personal need of divine help. In sharing this Spiritual Statement with Salvationists everywhere, it is our hope and prayer that it will be received with humble and understanding hearts, and that by the abundant grace of God it will be used to inspire and prompt others to seek with us repentance, with renewed purity and holiness in Christ."

A Prophecy for the Western Territories of The Salvation Army and for Individual Soldiers Within The Salvation Army

Andrew Bale

This first appeared in JAC47, February 2007.

<http://www.armybarmy.com/JAC/jac47.html>

(and we have run it more recently, too, but reprint it here for reader convenience in study)

Editor's Remarks: in January 2007, Major Janet Munn prophesied that "The Salvation Army is coming into its finest hour." It is in this context that we offer the prophecy from Andrew Bale (also in January). Please consider Bale's offering as a potential means of positioning ourselves so that God can fulfill Munn's word.

The following came to me today in prayer and I share it in humility – may God bless, redeem, sanctify and use the Salvation Army – Hallelujah!

"The Salvation Army is one of my favoured children. In your youth I gave you a multicoloured coat woven with a weft of marvellous signs and wonders, but over the years you have rebelled against me until you are no longer able to recognise the sound of my voice. It is bad enough when a parent and child refuse to speak but when one fails to recognise the voice of the other the situation has become tragic. I am speaking to you as much as I ever have done but you do not recognise my voice.

- I am still calling you in the direction of the disenfranchised and friendless but you cannot hear me.
- I will am still calling you to purity of living and holiness but you cannot hear me.
- I am still calling you to stand between the oppressed and the oppressor but you cannot hear me.
- I am still calling you to the mighty work of soul winning but you cannot hear me.
- I am still calling you to poverty, persecution and victory but you cannot hear me.

The once covenanted warriors of my Salvation Army have become desensitised to my voice.

Like the early church you were born with a rush of Pentecostal fire and your early years were accompanied by salvation war and revival. You were persecuted because you made serious inroads into the devil's territory and the narrow way that led to heaven was crowded with your converts. You found again the pearl of holiness and sold all that you had to possess it.

Now you have become a "Sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! You have forsaken the LORD; you have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned your backs on him." (Verse 4)

I have seen your suffering and I beg you to stop your wilful self-harm.

“Why should you be beaten anymore? Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted...” (Verses 5-7)

Your Corps are closing, your seats are empty, your halls are falling into disrepair and you have no money to rebuild them. Other denominations are trying to use the weapons I crafted for you – they are trying – but they are not you and their armour is ill-fitting and clumsy, they have not read the manual, they have not been properly drilled, your methods – the tactics designed for you are alien to them.

“Your country is desolate, your cities burned with fire; your fields are being stripped by foreigners right before you, laid waste as when overthrown by strangers.” (Verse 7)

Yet in spite of this breakdown in our relationship, in spite of your rebellion and your self-harm and poverty you continue with your religious ordinances. You march to deserted streets and preach to nobody. You feed the slave and clothe him but fail to break his chains. You polish your holiness tables but deny the possibility of purity. You hold music festivals that are nothing but concerts with an ‘amen’ at the end. You parade your good works like phylacteries ensuring that the world - along with your right hand - knows exactly what your left hand is doing. This offends me, I find it detestable, it is worse than the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah - I never asked for this.

“Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your evil assemblies.” (Verse 13)

You are praying and even fasting but I have blocked my ears – Salvation Army I am not listening to you.

“When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen.”

Go and wash yourself, your hands are stained with blood for the road to hell is now crowded with the shuffling hopelessness of those I raised you up to save and their blood is on your hands – you think it is enough to feed them and clothe them and wash them but it is not enough. There is no greater contradiction than yours for your arrogant self obsession slaps a man on the back with a hearty ‘God bless you’ and then turns away as he falls into the fiery fissures of hell.

“Your hands are full of blood; wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed.” (Verse 16-18)

Once you depended on me, you fought where you had no money, you attacked where you had no chance of victory and you opened fire on a wing and a prayer. Once heaven rang with the sound of your volleys and the angels wept at the audaciousness of your evangelism but now you have prostituted yourself. Now you have taken what is

Caesar's and failed to give me what is mine. You have taken Babylon's money and bedded the heathen philanthropist. You have sacrificed your right to pray and preach for the chance to buy a building. Once you shouted 'no compromise' but now you are all compromise.

"See how the faithful city has become a harlot! She once was full of justice; righteousness used to dwell in her— but now murderers!" (Verse 21)

What is my judgement to be? How will I treat you? What is my response to your individual and corporate sin?

"Come let us reason together..."

I am looking and waiting for you. Like the prodigal I can see you now feeding on the scraps of this unclean world. It is in this mess, that you have created, that you must come to your senses. Dear Salvation Army come back to me for I have a robe and a ring and a fattened calf all waiting for you. It is time to come home!

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." (Verses 18-20)

I have left for myself a remnant and if they will humble themselves and identify themselves in repentance and sorrow then I will unblock my ears and clear my eyes and let the 'revolution now begin'.

- The cost is repentance.
- The cost is a full renunciation of the values and standards of this world.
- The cost is a new and brave exposure to total dependence upon me.
- The cost is a full consecration of all you have and are to me (all I have ever asked is that you love me with all your heart, soul, body and mind – I am a jealous God and will not share your love with another!)

"I will turn my hand against you; I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities. I will restore your judges as in days of old, your counsellors as at the beginning. Afterward you will be called the City of Righteousness, the Faithful City." Zion will be redeemed with justice, her penitent ones with righteousness."

The future of the Salvation Army will be settled in the next 10 years – it is a clear choice – repent and live or rebel and die."

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

Andrew Bale

A Word to the Dry Bones - A Prophecy to The Salvation Army in the West

Andrew Bale

Note: This article first appeared in JAC48, April, 2007.

http://www.armybarmy.com/pdf/JAC_Issue_048.pdf

(we also ran it in JAC102 but reprint it here for convenience in study)

Ezekiel 36 & 37 - A word to the dry bones:

The following came to me during prayer a few months ago and has been simmering away until tonight when I made the decision to commit it to paper and publish it on the internet.

The Salvation Army in the western territories has through its conduct and actions soiled its own commission, the commission I gave it when I raised it up to save the world. This turning away from my mission has angered me and caused me to scatter their evangelical efforts and withhold revival. (36:17-18)

Once, the lost and marginalised were yours by right and winning converts was like shooting fish in a barrel. In spite of persecution, hardship and great personal cost my Army went out to those furthest from the reach of my kingdom. The lost have scorned my name and belittled me because of your double standards, compromise and hypocrisy.

So for the sake of my name – not yours – I am going to restore you. Once again the name Salvation Army and holiness will be synonymous. I will do this for my sake, for the sake of my holy name which you have belittled. Once again those on the very edge of society, the unloved and friendless will know that I am God – I will prove myself through you (even though you are not worthy of your calling). I have chosen you and once again your name will be associated with mine. (36:22-23)

I am going to set you apart once more, I will make you stand out from the crowd and lead you back to your original mission. I will baptise you with fire, I will thoroughly wash you until every stain is gone. I will destroy your idols. The things you believe make you respectable and worthy I will smash. I will restore your passion for the lost; I will give you a new heart. I will take away your cold unbelieving heart and give you a heart that desires to obey me. You will go back to your original calling, once more street evangelism, slum and gutter brigades, pub raids and prayer mats will be used to attack the kingdom of my enemies and you will win souls like the Christian Mission. You will be filled with pioneer enthusiasm for militant evangelism. You will be my soldiers and I will be your general. (36:24-29)

It is time to reap, open the doors of your citadels and come rejoicing bringing in the sheaves. No longer will you be despised and rejected, no longer will you be dismissed as an historic curio, you will win the lost and everyday I will add more to your ranks. You

will go out into the streets and revival will rain down upon you, you will splash in puddles of revival like children playing in the rain. Yet the more I bless you the more you will repent. The more I use you the more ashamed you will become. If withholding my blessing forced you to your knees in repentance then my new Pentecost will provide the light required to see your sin in all its grotesque glory. You will be victorious but this new humility will allow all praise to pass to me. (36:30-32)

Once again your Corps will be so numerous you will run out of names for them! You will simply add numbers to the end of a city name as you did when you began. The urban areas will be your field and the wasteland and backstreet will be your vineyard. These dark corners will become like a new Eden. My kingdom will come to the cities, and the addicted and oppressed that I set free through you, will do my will! I have spoken and I will do it! Wash the streets, remove the burnt out vehicle, and prepare the way of the Lord. (36:33-36)

I will listen to the prayers of Salvationists once more; I will unblock my ears and focus my attention on them. I will swell their ranks and they will know that I am God. (36:37-38)

Salvation Army can you live, can I trust you once more with such a calling as this? You are so dry, look, walk up and down the aisles of your halls, and mingle midst your musicians and soldiers, look how dry you are – can you live again? Preach, prophesy, command yourselves in my name to stand up and fight again. I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD. (37:1-6)

Then when you are ready I will send that other Pentecost of which you are always singing – I will breathe on you and you will feel my life in your bodies and you will stand once more – a vast Army! (37:7-10)

NO more pessimism, no more hopelessness, no more negative reflections, there is work to be done, there are battles to be fought, there is injustice to rectify, there are souls to be won. I will open up the graves of long dead pioneers and new Railtons, Tuckers, Cadmans, Evas and Kates will take up their crosses. Preach and prophesy and say to your soldiers: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my Salvation Army I am going to restore you and then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will take you back to the place where we first met and then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.(37:1-14)

God redeem, bless, set apart and use the Army!

Embers Of A Coal

(this dream came from a long-time salvationist in a western territory)

“There was an enormous meeting filled with Salvationists, the atmosphere was filled with anticipation that was electric. To walk from one end of the congregation to the other was the equivalent of a few earth miles. I was feeling a mixture of excitement but also skepticism, thinking that God's presence and favor over us might fade due to a religious constructed service. But the feeling faded as I realised there were many groups of Salvationists who had come together...

There was a massive brass band and when they played there was an incredible anointing and I thought to myself it was a reflection of angelic worship with the trumpets of Heaven. And I knew the Heavenly Hosts were partnering with the meeting, which was more of a celebration.

During the meeting I went to the restroom and it was suddenly the 1980's restroom at _____. I was amazed that the restroom was enormous and was filled with a man-made lake with lavish arches and white stone structures and foliage. There were waterfalls and large sculptures and artwork too. I thought to myself that this was the very best of decadence of the past and they must have invested so much time and money into it. I wasn't happy though at the lack of discernment of the Salvationists who had built it, because there was a depiction of a dragon which was really a demon, as well as sculptures of dogs and pigs. As I went to enter a cubicle another man entered the restroom and I felt as though he had followed me. To my vexation, there were two toilets in one thin cubicle with no divide and the other man was wanting me to enter with him...

I went out to a hallway and got a righteous anger mixed with a great sense of excitement and the anointing and also hope and joy. The indignation was regarding knowing that for TSA it was 'crunch time'. In the dream, I had given up the Army as 'dead' but the phrase 'what if...' kept coming to me.

'What if... Father had given the Army one more chance'?

What if 'a phoenix would rise from ashes'?

'What if the Army moved in such end-time supernatural power and sensitivity to the Spirit and cohesion that it filled its eternal mandate'?

I was given a 'stoke' and prodded at the embers of coal until it became a fire. It was revealed to me that in the natural realm there has been one designated 'General' overseeing TSA, but the Lord has risen up and is rising up those who are Generals in the Spirit (acknowledged in Heaven) who will have a fresh revelation of holiness, true heavenly and apostolic authority (e.g. they actually had angelic battalions and armies assigned to them), and were 100% surrendered in service to the Lord through the Army. They will have incredible supernatural energy and joy and direction and force. Phrases came to me at once along with songs which simultaneously played in my spirit in the dream...

The Lord showed me there was a remnant. He said regarding leadership that He was: 'clearing out the high places'.

I saw a flicker of a flame ignite some white powder and then explode a stockpile of TNT.

My spirit received a clip from 'The Lion King' where the monkey says 'it is time'.

The word 'equilibrium' came.

A voice said 'out with the old, in with the new';

Also 'turning water into wine';

Also 'Wake up sleeper, arise from the dead, and Christ will Shine on you'. With this I saw Holy Spirit¹² breathe life into the mouth of a dead body, and life came.

A saw an archangel playing a game similar to chess with Satan. The enemy was about to topple the King with a claw (like check-mate), but a figure made of Light (I knew it was Jesus) rose up out the centre of the board. The enemy was terrified and dashed away. The angel was bemused that the Lord had portrayed Himself as being so small until He fully rose out of the board in Light.

Re-entering the meeting I was full of the Holy Spirit and wept (almost in relief at God's will bring done) as I saw many 'small groups' of people weeping and praying and prophesying and strategising in the presence in response to the Spirit.

The gathering had then somehow translocated to a large park like Botanic Park, where there were those in need and unsaved people milling around.

The dream ended with someone handing me a picture. It was of a mobility device that was for a 'Christian Convalescent Home'. I got righteous indignation because I thought to myself that this was a mind-set engineered by the enemy of acceptance of less than the Lord's best. Of making plans while not taking into account the Lord's desire to heal and move in power, but to indoctrinate people to accept unnecessary limitations.

Army Rising Up?

(this is a dream from a long-time salvationist in a western territory)

I went to a different denomination's gathering... The weekend was about returning to your first love. In one of the meetings they gave words of knowledge and were inviting people up to the front for prayer. One of the woman said "broken heart". I believed this was a word for me so I made my way up to the front for her to pray with me. When I met her, I told her the word "broken hearted" resonated with me and she began to pray for me and my heart. She laid hands on me and I felt a warmth/ heat coming from her hands. Then she abruptly stopped and said she "saw" something. She said she saw a small boat in a great ocean and God's hand was steering this small toy like boat through the waters. I told her I paint and have painted a similar image. I wondered if the boat in her vision was red like the boat in my painting. She said the boat was not only red but red, yellow and blue. I laughed and she didn't understand that this was a vision of my ministry and that it was the Army's colors. I had been praying and asking God if I was to leave the Army and I understood this to mean, I was to trust God's hand on my ministry in The Salvation Army. I believe I went for healing of my heart in one way and received a healing for my heart with The Army.

When I went back to my seat the worship began and it was the song; break every chain. The second verse says "There is an Army rising up". I laughed because I was still amused by the vision the girl had for me while I was worshiping at a different denomination. I can't sing "there is an Army rising up" without thinking of our Army. So I sang it with a healed heart and the Lord gave me a vision. Every time the verse repeated "There is an Army rising up" I saw people in Army uniforms being filled with fresh breath from the Lord and rising like air rising in a chest." First I saw it in the United States (I asked God why and believed he said, revival begins in individuals hearts, this vision is your vision and you are in the US) the second place I saw the same rising of the Army but it was in Australia and then Africa, then India, Eastern Europe and then UK.

It eventually spread throughout the whole Army world. Not just our Army Lord but fill all your people. Cover us all.

When I sang and each time I saw this rising up, my heart leaped and I would get more and more excited and was saying "Yes!!! Yes Lord!!" When I spoke this word of agreement the vision stopped immediately and I felt like the Lord said "there you go". I was confused but the Lord said "You used to pray for revival but because of your broken heart you lost the vision. Now that I have healed your heart, I have returned to you the desire of your heart, pray for revival again."

Solemn Assembly Covenant

We used this covenant at the solemn assembly on October 2. Everyone was invited to sign it. It is uniquely about life out of death, as is the focus of this current call for a solemn assembly. It is originally from the Memorial Service for General William Booth, founder of The Salvation Army, at Olympia, Wednesday, August 28, 1912:

OH GOD, my Father, my Preserver, and my King, through Jesus Christ my Precious Savior, with fear and reverence I come into Thy Sacred Presence, resolved, by the help of Thy Holy Spirit, to make a Solemn Covenant with Thee, which with all my heart I desire shall never be broken.

Here and now, Blessed Lord, I again take Thee to be my God;
Here and now, Blessed Christ, I again take Thee to be my Saviour;
Here and now, Blessed Spirit, I again accept Thee as the Sanctifier, the Guide, and the Guardian of my soul.
Blessed Jesus, the world despises Thee, but I glory in Thee;
The world hates Thee, but I adore Thee;
The world rejects Thee, but I welcome Thee to the throne of my heart.

Oh, my God, bowed before Thee once more, in this solemn assembly, and in the presence of the Holy Angels, I lay myself, and all I possess or hope for, unreservedly at Thy Feet, to be used for Thy Glory, for the extension of Thy Kingdom, and for the Salvation of a poor perishing world.

And here again, my Gracious Lord, I promise to love Thee with all my heart, to obey Thee with all my strength, to follow Thee all the way to my life's journey's end, to trust Thee in prosperity and adversity, in joy and in sorrow, so long as life shall last.

By Thy Grace, I will and do now trust Thee, my Saviour, to cleanse my soul by Thy Precious Blood from all unrighteousness, and rely upon Thee to keep me pure for evermore; and by Thy Grace I trust Thee, my Father, whose Providence has brought me thus far on my way to Heaven, to overrule all things for my good, and to keep and guide me to the end; and by Thy Grace I Promise and Covenant with Thee to be faithful. And now, oh, my Lord, Thou hast my all. Thou art my God, and I am Thy servant, Thy soldier, and Thy child.

Glory be to the FATHER, and to the SON, and to the HOLY GHOST; and let the Covenant I here make on earth be registered in Heaven.

'High Heaven, that hears this solemn vow,
This vow renewed shall daily hear,
Till in life's latest hour I bow,
And bless in death a bond so dear.'

Signed _____