

Salvationist

The Salvation Army – Belief in Action

4 February 2006

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/salvationist

General-elect asks for prayer support

THE NEW world leader and the 18th General of The Salvation Army will be Commissioner Shaw Clifton, presently Territorial Commander of the United Kingdom with the Republic of Ireland. He was elected by the High Council, made up of 100 senior Salvation Army leaders from around the world, and will succeed General John Larsson, who retires on 1 April. Commissioner Clifton becomes the General-elect and will be the ninth British General of The Salvation Army. Before his present position he was territorial commander in New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga and, prior to that, TC in Pakistan. During his officership he has also headed up the work of The Salvation Army in Massachusetts, USA, and before that was divisional commander in Durham and Tees. The General-elect has also served as vice-principal of a Salvation Army secondary school in the former Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and has held several appointments, both in the UK and at International Headquarters, including the position of Legal and Parliamentary Secretary. He becomes the third successive General who was corps officer at Bromley in South London.

The General-elect is a Bachelor of Law and holds a Bachelor of Divinity and a PhD in the History of Religion from the University of



General John Larsson greets General-elect Commissioner Shaw Clifton while Commissioners Robin Dunster (High Council Vice-President), Helen Clifton and Alex Hughes (Chaplain) look on

London. He is the author of several books on Salvation Army practice and doctrine. The most recent, *New Love – thinking aloud about practical holiness*, was published in 2004. The General-elect shares his Christian ministry with his wife Commissioner Helen Clifton who becomes The Salvation Army's World President of Women's Ministries.

The announcement of the new General of The Salvation Army was

broadcast live on the internet (visit www.salvationist.org/highcouncil to view the webcast). Speaking just after his election Commissioner Clifton said: 'I feel deeply honoured to be called by God to this role in global Christian leadership. The Salvation Army, as ever, stands ready to present the Christian message in 111 countries of the world and will never cease to do all it can to meet human need, without discrimination, whether

that need be created by poverty, lack of education, human trafficking, homelessness or alienation from society.'

Speaking to *Salvationist* the General-elect said: 'I am asking for everyone's prayer that by God's grace, not by my skills, he will mould me into a General of whom Salvationists can feel proud.'

● See pages 12 to 14 for an interview with General-elect Clifton



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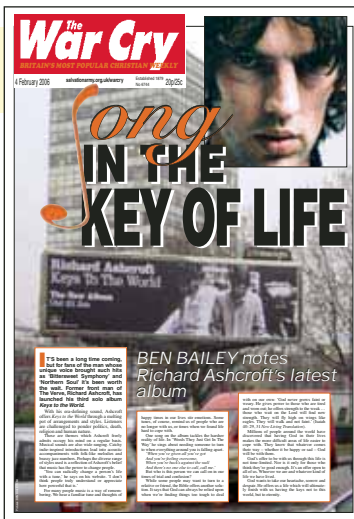
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Ben Bailey follows faith and fashion in New York with Prada's Brant Cryder



The Gospel in RSS
by Major Nigel Bovey

A review of the press

METHODISM'S LONG-STANDING practice of itinerancy is grinding to a halt, according to President of the Conference, the Rev Tom Stuckey, who is urging ministers to put themselves more freely into the hands of the Methodist Church... [He] writes: 'I do wish more ministers could expand their horizons'... A member of the stationing committee said: 'There are valid reasons why some ministers can't move, but the culture of the day has affected some ministers and their families. There is a challenge for people, where they are able, to go where the Church needs them and where God is calling them to serve in his mission.' *Methodist Recorder*

I WOULD like to confirm Ian Collins's comments about The Salvation Army Café 101 in London (*Eastern Daily Press Saturday Magazine*, 14 January). He described it as 'souper-duper' and it really is. My son's bank is near to St Paul's Cathedral – a stone's throw away from the Millennium Bridge and Café 101. He has taken me regularly over the past year and it is wonderful. *Letter from Hazel Cooper to the Eastern Daily Press*

A UNIVERSITY Christian Union has been suspended and had its bank account frozen after refusing to open its membership to people of all religions.

The Christian Union, an evangelical student organisation, has instructed lawyers and is threatening court proceedings against the Birmingham Guild of Students.

The Birmingham Christian Union

has more than 100 members who attend meetings regularly and has been functioning at the university for 76 years.

Members claim the actions have been taken against them after they refused on religious grounds to make 'politically correct' changes to their charitable constitution, including explicitly mentioning people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered. *The Times*

BRITISH ARTIST and motor-racing fan Paul Holroyd has created a limited run of prints of the Petersen Motorsports/White Lightning GT3 RSR, driven to victory in the 2005 IMSA Cup Championship by Patrick Long and Jorg Bergmeister. Proceeds from the 100 prints (\$165 each) go to The Salvation Army. *911 & Porsche World magazine*

AS A human rights campaigner, I've visited countless countries where people suffer terrible abuses. Women raped at gunpoint during the conflict in the Balkans, police killing street children in Brazil, the horrors committed during conflict in central Africa. Behind so many of these atrocities is one common factor: the gun. Around the world, arms facilitate abuse. Torture, 'disappearances', rape, all take place at gunpoint. And behind that gun is the arms dealer, profiting from a trade that's barely regulated and spiralling out of control...

One person dies every minute as a result of armed violence – half a million men, women and children every year. *Bianca Jagger, writing in The Guardian*

On a lighter note

BROTHER JOHN entered the Monastery of Silence. The Abbot said: 'Brother, this is a silent monastery. You are welcome here as long as you wish, but you may not speak until I direct you to do so.'

Brother John lived in the monastery for five years before the Abbot said to him: 'Brother John, you have been here five years now. You may speak two words.'

Brother John said: 'Hard bed!'

'I'm sorry to hear that,' the Abbot said. 'We will get you a better bed.'

After another five years, Brother John was called by the Abbot. 'You may say another two words, Brother John.'

'Cold food!' said Brother John, and the Abbot assured him that the food would be better in the future.

On his 15th anniversary at the monastery, the Abbot again called Brother John into his office. 'Two words you may say today.'

'I quit!' said Brother John.

'It's probably for the best,' said the Abbot. 'You've done nothing but moan since you got here!'

Would you credit it!

MASTERCARD, the biggest credit card group, has decided to offer children over 13 years old prepayment cards. This will allow them to purchase products on plastic. The National Consumer Council has warned that these cards may 'predispose youngsters to irresponsible spending on credit cards later'.

Borrowing money has never been easier, and being hooked into the habit of consumer spending is dangerous. In 2005, for the first time, the amount of money Britons owed on credit cards, loans and mortgages topped £1,000 billion – the equivalent of £17,000 of debt for every man, woman and child in the UK. This enormous amount – one trillion pounds – exceeds the whole external debt of Africa and South America combined.

Debt is almost unavoidable these days – it is only the mega-rich who can own their first home and have no mortgage. But secured debt – where you can sell the house to repay a loan – is not the major problem. Many people are struggling to control their spending and borrowing has become a way of life. Retailers encourage everyone to keep buying and have everything, now!

Christians are not immune to this temptation, but can be better equipped to cope with pressure. A recent survey of evangelical Christians in the United Kingdom by Christian Research found they care for and use their money very differently from the average person in the UK. Evangelical Christian households have average short-term debts (excluding mortgages) of only £1,250 whereas the national average is £7,600. The survey concludes the reason for this difference is because 'through their day-to-day decisions about money they are demonstrating biblical virtues such as self-control, patience and contentment'.

Evangelical Christians are also considerably more generous in their giving. The total giving by survey respondents was 12 per cent of their household income. This is 9 times the average level of charitable giving in the UK population which is estimated at 1.4 per cent of after-tax household income. One reason for this is because they have been taught by their churches how to use money. This survey finds that the more people are taught about giving, the more they give.

This is a critically important finding – Christians need continually to learn how to manage money. In this week's *Salvationist* Captain Christine Ord offers valuable thoughts on how this can happen in your corps (see page 9).

We should not be offended to hear and discuss Bible-based teaching about the Christian attitude to finances. By resisting the tide of consumerism we will have balanced lives – spending wisely and giving away as much as possible.

Dean Pallant, Editor



Bible presentation marks a new era at thriving corps

CLAPTON

CADETS JULIA and Wayne Adcock led a children's Sunday meeting at the corps and 22 Bibles were presented to the young people (see picture) at what was the first prize-giving for some years.

In the past 18 months the corps has grown considerably, with the average congregation rising from 20 people to around 68. 'We had a vision for Clapton of being a local church trying to reach the thousands of people that pass by every day,' says corps officer Captain Karl Gray. 'People are now starting to acknowledge we're here.'

Karl and his wife Captain Ruth Gray have been amazed at how each Sunday, when the doors have been opened, someone new has joined the congregation for worship. 'Not all of them have

stayed,' Karl adds. 'The area is quite fluid so people often move on, but most seem to appreciate the way corps members make them feel welcome.'

When the corps charity shop moved into the hall next to a drop-in coffee shop, people were drawn into the building, which enabled them to see the activities available. But, other than the congregation's continued prayers for growth, Karl can't put his finger on the cause of the growth and has to admit: 'I think God just keeps sending people in!'

Margaret takes time out to receive a star

FALKIRK

HOME LEAGUE SECRETARY Margaret Ross has received an award from Link Housing for her work with the Army and in the community.

Margaret is an active member of the corps, helps in a soup kitchen, is a regular hospital visitor and acts as a local taxi driver for friends and neighbours at a Link sheltered housing complex, ferrying them to their

GPs and collecting shopping for them.

As well as presenting the Community Star trophy, Link will make a donation to a local organisation of Margaret's choice.

The home league roll exceeds 70, which, corps officer Captain Maria Sampson believes, reflects Margaret's care and concern for all her members, adding: 'She is an excellent example of what a true Christian should be.'

High Council diary

Extracts from Colonel MICHAEL MARVELL'S

TC, Denmark

High Council diary

Monday

AFTER a weekend of welcome and worship the day started with prayers led by Colonel Barry Pobjie (Eastern Europe). Council members read carefully selected Bible passages which assisted in keeping the whole purpose of the procedure in its true perspective. 'We need a God's eye view of things!' the colonel commented. 'We need to have confidence that God is still God.'

Tasks for the day ahead included the finalising of the review of the *Orders of Procedure* – when proposed changes were considered before being rejected or accepted. Four tellers were nominated: Commissioners Paul du Plessis, Berit Ødegaard, William Roberts (all IHQ) and Augustina Watilite (Indonesia). Additionally the Questions Committee – responsible for preparing a range of questions to be answered by candidates for General – was formed, comprising seven members: Commissioners Linda Bond, Amos Makina (both IHQ), Prathipati Devavaram (India South-Eastern), Heather Lang (Australia Southern), Stuart Mungate (Nigeria), Philip Needham (USA Southern) and Colonel Dick Krommenhoek (France).

Tuesday

MORNING worship was led by Commissioner Amos Makina, after which the candidates' questions – prepared the night before, and ranging across such topics as spiritual leadership, mission and vision, leadership development, accountability, belief and behaviour, pastoral care and the Army's internationalism – were put through a 'breaking and moulding' process to ensure they reflected as accurately as possible the views of all Council members. Once this process had been completed, all Council members were invited to submit one question each to the President, Commissioner Todd Bassett (USA National), to be considered for inclusion on the final questions list. The Questions Committee was then mandated to prepare a list of around 40 questions, containing as many of the submitted questions as possible, before a second intensive period of checking through by the full Council. By 8.25 pm agreement was reached. There were no more queries! No more suggestions for changes! It was as though the Holy Spirit had intervened and said 'Stop!' and then whispered reassuringly: 'See – you've made

it. You've been moulded. Now you are ready to be filled. Move on!'

Wednesday

THE day started with morning prayers and the singing of 'Lord of creation, to you be all praise' (SASB 506) in a declaration of worship. Referring to God's covenant with Abraham, Commissioner Krupa Das (India Western) reminded the members of the Council that God's guidance always depends on the obedience of his people, whether they be called to a prominent role in his service or whether, like most believers, little is known publicly of their lives and of their work for the Lord.

The completed list of questions was then endorsed by the Council and with no further need for discussion it was decided to proceed with the nomination of candidates. Prayerfully and unhurriedly the members placed their nominations in the ballot boxes. The names of the seven nominees were announced at 1.30 pm. The Council then adjourned to allow the nominees at least four hours to decide how to respond. When the Council reconvened there was an even deeper hush as, one by one, the nominees gave their answers – gently, slowly, thoughtfully and hesitatingly. Five accepted nomination and formally became candidates: Commissioners Shaw Clifton,

Israel Gaither, Hasse Kjellgren, Carl Lydholm and Christine MacMillan. Two declined: Commissioners Linda Bond and Philip Needham.

The High Council then adjourned until Friday to give the candidates time to prepare their speeches and write their answers to the questions.

Friday

THE High Council reconvened with members braced in mind and spirit for a long day of hard, prayerful concentration – and so it turned out to be. The candidates were prepared for their daunting task – and they would all come through with colours flying!

As the Council members walked into the conference room each one came with many questions in his or her own mind. How will the candidates answer the 32 questions? What visions do they have for the Army's mission in today's world? How would they deal with this particular issue or that particular challenge? Do they share similar views on the major issues or are there measurable differences? In the case of the four male candidates, there would be questions that the wives would have to answer dealing with such matters as: how she sees her role; how she hopes to use her own special gifts; what her views are on the current situation in the Army with regard to the equal ministry of men and women.

There was a strong, shared feeling that the day was both in God's hand and his plan. The most important parts of the day were the time of worship at the beginning and the periods of praise and prayer that punctuated every session.

Commissioner Garth McKenzie (New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga) introducing morning worship, said: 'We are acutely aware of the significance of this day. Therefore the theme of our prayers this morning is one word – Jesus.' And the response was a resounding 'Amen!' and a full-throated, heartfelt singing of 'Fairest Lord Jesus' (SASB 177).

Then followed Bible readings – interspersed with prayer choruses old and new – tracing the story of Jesus; beginning with the promise of his birth in Isaiah 9, through to the promise of his coming return in Revelation 22.





Pictures: GEOFF CRAWFORD

PICTURED CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: representing the junior soldiers of the world, Jake and Jez Thomas from Staines present flowers to the Cliftons; the High Council ballot boxes rest on the holiness table; the blinds go down in the conference centre indicating a new General has been elected

The candidates answered the questions, strictly adhering to their prepared manuscripts. After each presentation ten minutes were allowed for supplementary questions to give opportunity for further clarification of the candidates' views. This task was completed at 6.10 pm. After consultation with the Council and the candidates – and out of consideration for the overworked translators – the President decided to postpone the speeches until Saturday morning.

Saturday

COMMISSIONER Paul du Plessis took John 15:11–17 as his theme, reminding everyone that to be called friend by Jesus is a far, far greater privilege than any rank or position that might be given to a person in this world. Then, through sung and spoken prayer, in languages from all over the world, friends talked with Jesus.

Next the five candidates gave their speeches. One by one they shared their vision of the Army – their hopes, their intentions, their direction. Between speeches the

Council remained totally silent for five minutes before the recorders distributed the manuscript of the next speech.

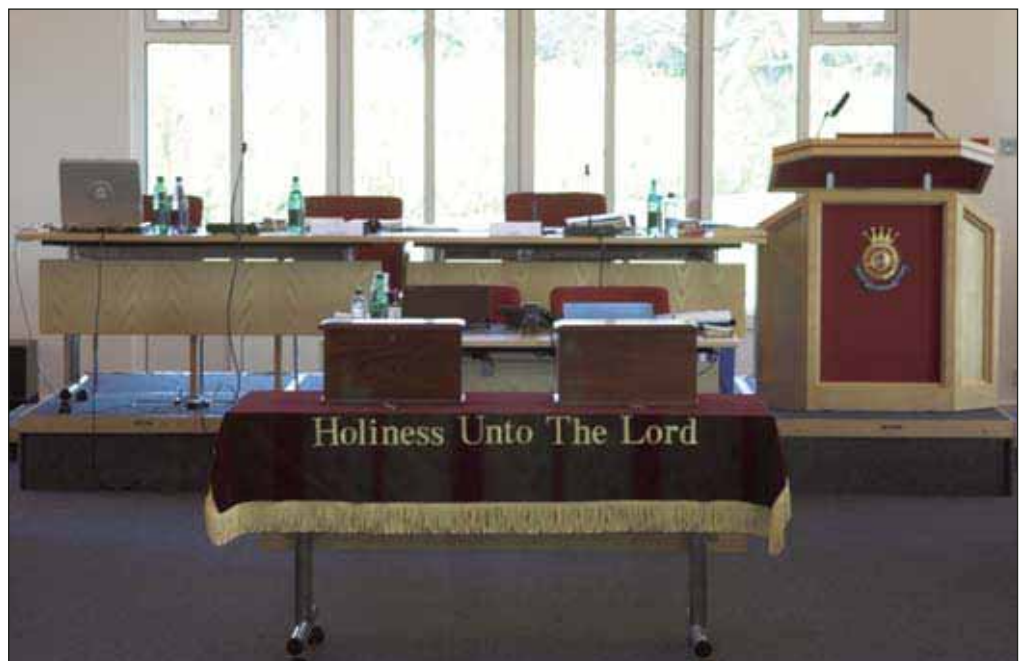
Attention turned to the table in the centre of the hall as the Council

then – almost in hushed silence – moved into the voting procedure. The table was covered with a dark-red velvet tablecloth bordered with a golden fringe. On the tablecloth, embroidered in gold letters – and

facing each member of the Council as they approached the table to place a vote in one of the two ballot boxes – were the words 'Holiness Unto The Lord'. The voting started at 11.35 am and was completed at 3.55 pm – with a shortened break for lunch.

Commissioner Shaw Clifton accepted the Council's choice, kneeling together with Commissioner Helen Clifton at the holiness table, from which the ballot boxes had been removed. On rising he thanked the Council for the love and the trust it had given him and, in a quiet but emphatic voice, stressed how totally dependent he was – and would always be – on God and the prayers of Salvationists everywhere. The General-elect then paid warm tribute to the other candidates and this was greeted with loud and prolonged applause.

With the result declared the President emphasised the sacredness of what had taken place. He quoted from the *Orders of Procedure*: 'The voting figures and number of ballots shall not be published within a period of ten years after the dissolution of the Council.' Everyone understood what he meant. This had not been a race or a competition. It had been the selection of a new leader from among a group of Jesus' disciples, all equally committed and dedicated to his service. The choice – and God's blessing upon it – eclipsed all procedures and figures.





James is honoured for invaluable service

ENFIELD

RETIRED BANDMASTER James Williams has received a civic award for his decades of service teaching music in Barnet.

The Mayor of Barnet (Councillor Andreas Tambourides) presented James with a framed copy of the award. The citation notes that James's 'musicianship and sensitivity with the young people he works with are beyond dispute and his tireless devotion to detail in preparing scores and parts... [along] with his commitment to taking the orchestra on tour and giving them fabulous performance opportunities has helped the [Barnet Schools] Wind Orchestra to become the envy of other LEA music services across the country'.

James has conducted bands and groups of all levels for Barnet Music Education Services since 1982, when he joined East Barnet Music Centre as conductor of the Senior Concert Band. He took over the baton of Barnet Schools Wind Orchestra in 1992. Recently he held a training seminar for colleagues on conducting techniques, and he regularly helps organise the service's music library. His experience has enabled him to retain a flexible approach with the repertoire he uses and his talents have been described as an 'invaluable asset' to the music service management team.

James is pictured (second left) at the civic awards ceremony with the mayor and other award winners.



Challenged

PILL

THE HALL was packed during the YP annual for a praise party led by children's worship leader and evangelist Duggie Dug Dug.

With songs like 'Wonderful Lord', faith was celebrated with lots of energy and noise. Young people from Bristol South helped lead one of their favourite songs and passed on some new moves!

More than 20 children responded to the challenge to have Jesus forgive their sins and for him to be their friend. They also received a free booklet, written by Duggie, *Becoming A Christian*. – A. C.

At Devotion – this year's Territorial Youth Rally – ALOVE will be launching Essential, a new training course to help young people go deeper in discipleship and get involved in mission at a frontline Salvation Army placement. JANET MILES interviews PHIL BALL and CARRIE CUMMINGS to learn more about the Essential programme*

What are your roles at ALOVE?

Phil: I'm ALOVE's Training Programme Manager and I provide oversight and management of Essential, with specific responsibility for developing Essential mission team training placements throughout the territory. There are two elements to the new Essential programme. Essential1 runs for 11 months and provides training in discipleship and mission. Essential2 focuses on the next phase in the vocational development of young people.

Carrie: I am the Personal Development and Training Co-ordinator at ALOVE. I look after Essential1 including all our recruitment, the day-to-day operations of the programme and the development of our trainees as individuals and as a team.

What is Essential?

Phil: Essential is a new discipleship and mission training course for young people who want to invest their lives in frontline evangelism, prayer and service. We recognise that living out faith requires daily commitment and intention. Our aim is that Essential will equip young people with the tools they'll need to pursue discipleship and mission throughout their lives; to help them live beyond the boundaries of a nine-to-five Christianity.

Why is it called Essential?

Carrie: There are several reasons. We wanted to create a training course that would address the essential needs of young people growing up in a diverse and changing world.

We also wanted to provide a 'next step' for young people in their faith journey. For 18 to 24-year-olds who Essential is primarily aimed at, it's a time of massive transition, where they start to make some pretty big decisions about future direction. Whether they are looking for a year out, graduating, starting a job, considering Salvation Army officership or just looking for a change of direction, Essential will equip them to be a disciple in whatever lies ahead.

We've called it Essential as the course is focused on equipping young people to pursue the four ALOVE essentials of worship, discipleship, mission and social action. We see these as essential to the Christian faith and the way to express the Salvation Army distinctives for a new generation.

An essential ingredient

How is the course structured?

Phil: During the 11 months of Essential1 the young person serves as part of a small mission team in a local Salvation Army mission placement. They are also teamed up with a personal discipler. As a mature Christian, the discipler provides one-to-one support and accountability throughout the course.

Essential2 is also rooted around discipleship and mission, but focuses on the next phase in vocational development. ALOVE recognises that everyone is gifted differently and is called to different vocations. Some may wish to pursue a career as a youth worker. Some may enter further education and others may be called to a career in the workplace or as a Salvation Army officer. Essential2 is therefore designed to help young people pursue their vocational field, while also serving in a Salvation Army mission placement in a part-time voluntary capacity. This is facilitated through four streams of training. One of the streams is open to those considering becoming a Salvation Army officer. In some cases ALOVE will be able to fund people in accessing skill-based training that is specifically related to their gifting and vocational calling.

Why is ALOVE launching a new training initiative?

Phil: To invest in the leaders of today and tomorrow! ALOVE is The Salvation Army for a new generation so we want to do all we can to continually equip new generations to be The Salvation Army of the future. The Essential course is being launched following a four-month review of current programmes and overall training strategy. This was carried out in consultation with divisional staff, past students and educational and youth specialists. From this we presented a new training strategy to the Territorial Cabinet in September 2005.

Will Essential replace the Timothy Programme?

Phil: Yes. The Timothy Programme has played a really important role in training young people within The Salvation Army, and in the past 15 years there have been 125 Timothies! However, 2006 will see the conclusion of Timothy, and Essential will become one of ALOVE's main training initiatives. Of course, Essential will certainly build on the Timothy Programme's focus on discipleship and mission, but it will also incorporate some new approaches in several areas. These will include:

- Essential1 trainees will be sent out to placements in



Phil Ball



Carrie Cummings

**Janet Miles works at ALOVE's Information and Resources Office*

mission teams, rather than as individuals. This is to facilitate discipleship through peer-led mentoring and accountability and Essential1 teams will provide a more effective and strategic resource for local Salvation Army placements.

- ALOVE will be working with divisional and local teams of The Salvation Army in creating an Essential1 mission team training placement in each division. Each placement will be identified and developed by DHQ and ALOVE. Between 2006 and 2007 it is expected that five divisional placements will be developed.

- The majority of Essential1 training will be delivered at the local placement through the newly developed learning journal. The training will offer four new modules, taught by subject specialists and practitioners over five residential training weeks.

What can a young person expect to get out of it?

Carrie: A lot of fun. A lot of hard work. A lot of God. A lot of new friends. This is a chance not only to imagine life differently but an opportunity to live it 24-7, 365!

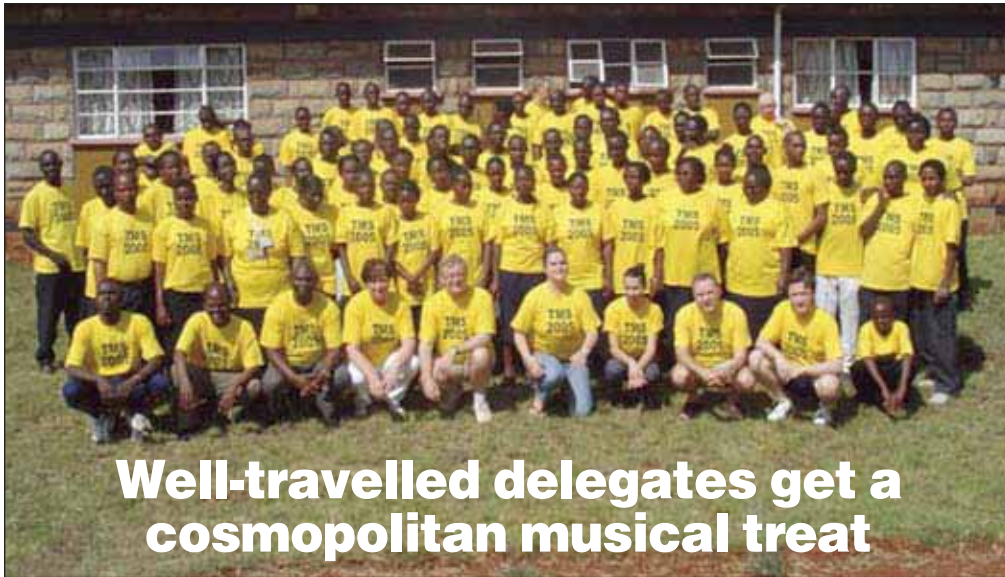
How can people find out more?

Carrie: All will be revealed at this year's youth rally on Saturday 11 February. We'll be handing out an Essential guide, which is full of information about the new course. We're also going to be running something called the ALOVE Market Place where young people can come and chat to us about training opportunities with ALOVE. We'll have Essential reps available to explain the programme in full and how people can apply.

ALOVE will also be posting up plenty of information on the ALOVE website, so even if you're not at the youth rally, you'll still be able to find out loads about Essential.

■ The Territorial Youth Rally is being held next Saturday (11 February) at Watford Colosseum. As well as details on Essential, the day features a special performance of ngm's new musical, *Luv Esther*; a worship and gig night with rock band Electralyte, DJ Doug E. Ross, ALOVE Director Russell Rook and more. For further information visit www.salvationarmy.org.uk/alove

■ If you would like to find out more about Essential email carrie.cummings@salvationarmy.org.uk



Well-travelled delegates get a cosmopolitan musical treat

KENYA
TERRITORIAL MUSIC SCHOOL
 delegates and staff gather for a group photo. The school – sponsored by Bristol Easton and British Airways – attract-

ed 90 students from all over the territory, some travelling days to reach the venue in Thika.
 Commissioner Hezekiel Anzeze (TC) opened the

school, which included a number of staff members from the UK, including Divisional Envoy Ken Clark (Woking), Major John Martin (Central South DHQ), Songster Leader Jonathan Chappell (Swindon Citadel), Wes Maughan (Staines) and Lilian Baker (Bristol Easton).
 Along with Bible studies and morning prayers the delegates, who proved to be an attentive and conscientious group, enjoyed lessons in brass, vocals, gospel dance, timbrels, guitar and conducting/band training. – W. M.

Thousands helped in tropical storm recovery programme

GUATEMALA

IN TECPÁN The Salvation Army continues to help those affected by mudslides caused by tropical storm Stan in September 2005.

Salvation Army personnel have been working to alleviate the suffering of more than 300 families still living in the region's community centre and 500 families from 6 villages in the area.

So far the Army has provided meals, clothing, medical care, counselling, safe play areas and activities for children, helping more than 14,000 people. The main needs now are for family-sized shelters and drinking water. The majority of illnesses are a result of the unsanitary living conditions and lack of clean water.

In conjunction with the Rotary ShelterBox programme the Army has received a 40-foot container from the UK carrying 120 ShelterBoxes – each comprising a temporary shelter and essential household items for 10 people – and 140 Aquaboxes, each of which can purify 1,000 litres of water.

The Army plans to focus its ongoing recovery work on supporting single women and children. Additionally it will assist the communities it has been working with in their long-term redevelopment programmes.

Aid for the forgotten victims

INDIA

THE INDIA NORTHERN Territory has been assisting families in the Kashmir region, described as the 'forgotten victims' of the South Asia earthquake, whose lives have been turned upside down by the disaster.

Army relief workers from India responded immediately to the earthquake with deliveries of food, clothing and building materials which could provide shelter from the harsh weather so common to the region. Because of the sensitive nature of the border area, the Army has been co-ordinating its relief distributions with the Indian military to ensure timely delivery of much-needed supplies. Reports indicate that, while a lot of aid has been delivered, much more is needed.

The earthquake caused many families to leave their villages to seek shelter in temporary camps. At one of these 550 families were living on the banks of a contaminated lake. The Army has responded by sending 2,500 blankets and stocks of much-needed food rations, and will continue to offer assistance to displaced people in the region.

News



Donated facelift

Picture: East Kent Gazette

SITTINGBOURNE

STAFF FROM Cadbury Trebor Bassett showed their sweet natures when they volunteered to renew the fading decor of the corps building as a company community project.

Homebase donated paint and HSS Hire lent the team a scaffolding tower free of charge. Community Care Leader Bernice Newman commented: 'The hall was in a terrible state, all chipped and knocked. Lots of children's groups use it so it could be decorated only during school holidays, but parents are too busy to help at those times. It looks wonderful now, so much cleaner and brighter!'

YPSM Jill Moore, who helped co-ordinate the day's work, is pictured with some of the painting team.

Are we giving under grace?

THE recent stream of correspondence in *Salvationist* regarding The Salvation Army's attitude towards and teaching of tithing has raised a number of opinions and a considerable surge of passion. Giving is a subject about which many people are coy but, as disciples of Jesus Christ, it is as important that we speak about our financial giving as much as it is important we discuss prayer or any other aspect of discipleship.

Sadly, it is anecdotally reported that many corps officers have been taken to task for teaching about the giving of time, talents and even our treasure, and for daring to raise this 'private' subject in a holiness meeting! It doesn't take a degree in theology to see that Scripture speaks more about money and possessions than about prayer – 2,000 verses compared to 500 verses, with this emphasis most notable in the ministry of Jesus. If we are to follow the pattern of Jesus, it is right and proper that the subject of giving in general, and money in particular, is taught and discussed.

What is meant by tithing? Tithing commenced even before the Law was given (see Genesis 14:18–20) but God's instruction to his people is recorded in Leviticus 27 – a tenth of all they produced must be for the Lord, and every tenth animal they owned must be given to the Lord. Further, the whole of their tithe was to be brought into the Temple (Malachi 3:10) and then used to support the priests (ministry) and the poor (mission). When God's people deliberately withheld their tithe and additional free-will offerings, God considered that they were 'robbing' him and his blessings were consequently withheld (Malachi 3:8, 9).

The principle of giving God the first tenth of our 'harvest' (income) is a simple one and it honours God. To tithe our income is not principally about 'sticking to the rules'.

- Tithing is about the **sovereignty** of God; 1 Chronicles 29:11 and Psalm 24:1 remind us that everything in Heaven and on earth comes from God and belongs to God. Whose money is it, anyway? God generously allows us to keep 90 per cent!
- Tithing is about the **generosity** of God. That is why we can sing:

*His love has no limits, his grace has no measure...
For out of his infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.*

(SASB579)

We are recipients of that outrageous grace; can we be content to give him the loose change left in our wallet?

- Tithing is about the **promise** of God. When God rebuked his people for withholding their tithes and offerings through Malachi, he challenged them to give the whole tithe and



by
**Captain
CHRISTINE
ORD**

*Church Growth
and Planned
Giving
Ministries Officer,
THQ*

■ **More information, including a report on the results of the first ten years of Planned Giving, can be obtained from the Church Growth and Planned Giving Unit at THQ. Email church.growth@salvationarmy.org.uk or telephone 020 7367 4931**

promised to pour out 'so much blessing' in response that they would not be able to contain it! (See Malachi 3:10.)

This is the only matter recorded in Scripture on which God invites his people to test him, with the promise of this outpouring of blessing if they do so. In the principle of tithing, we are challenged to go beyond material considerations and to take God at his word.

There are some who would argue that tithing is an Old Testament principle and therefore no longer relevant to those living in a New Testament age. Before adopting this stance, it is advisable to consider two things. First, look into the New Testament and discover Jesus' attitude to Old Testament teaching in general (Matthew 5:17) and tithing in particular (Matthew 23:23).

Secondly, consider the following question: Should a Christian living under grace give less than a Jew living under law?

At a pragmatic level, what about Christians – Salvationists among them – who have heavy financial commitments or live on limited incomes? How does the tithing principle apply to them?

It is my belief that God's promise of 'so much blessing' is not conditioned by our income. Having said that, discipleship is a journey – and we each progress in all aspects of our walk with the Lord at a different pace. I believe that he seeks an open and honest conversation with us, individually, about our financial giving to him, and simply a commitment to work towards a higher standard of giving as we grow in our understanding and are able, step by step, to reach that point of sacrificial giving which reflects his giving to us.

The Planned Giving Programme was introduced to this territory in 1992. Since then, more than 140 corps have taken it on, resulting in a 78 per cent rise in their average giving. Planned Giving is simply a structured programme which enables every member to look again at scriptural teaching on giving, to reflect on their own giving in the light of this and to consider their commitment to give to God, through their local corps, over a three-year period. Pledges are completely confidential, not legally binding and can be altered if an individual's circumstances so dictate. The intensive phase of the programme takes place over an 18-day period and is conducted essentially by the corps membership, under the guidance of a Planned Giving consultant appointed by THQ.

What about the blessing that God promised through Malachi? Mission has been advanced, new halls built, corps previously needing mission support funds from THQ are now self-supporting and individuals can testify to the spiritual blessing God has poured on them.

Partners point to appeal's importance

Mozambique

TERRITORIAL leaders Commissioners Trevor and Memory Tuck are responsible for Southern Africa, which comprises Mozambique, Lesotho, St Helena, South Africa and Swaziland. They explained how Self-Denial Missionary Appeal funding from the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland represents 'vital support' for The Salvation Army's work in Mozambique, where 'the mission is advancing by leaps and bounds'. There is both new growth and consolidation, with an increase in community development programmes providing water, primary healthcare, HIV/Aids prevention/education and medical treatment. There is much for Salvationists to rejoice about, especially as Mozambique now has 35 nationally trained officers and the training college is already oversubscribed for the next session.

The commissioners requested prayer for the selection of the right personnel for key appointments, as consideration is given to Mozambique's future leadership, and for the newest session of officers. They also asked for prayer for the situation in Mozambique created by high levels of poverty coupled with the HIV/Aids pandemic, as well as a continued vulnerability to flooding in some areas. The Salvation Army in Mozambique is now introducing skills training for women, to provide the means for income generation, and is particularly targeting teenage girls, who often receive very little formal education yet are often left as head of their household.

Pakistan

TERRITORIAL leaders Commissioners Gulzar Patras and Sheila Gulzar expressed their gratitude to Salvationists in the UK and Ireland for the money raised through the Self-Denial Missionary Appeal. Self-denial funding has enabled an ongoing building programme in Pakistan, which has included the construction of a number of corps buildings.

The recent earthquake affecting parts of Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir has seen The Salvation Army moving into areas where it had not previously been working, in order to assist in the relief programme. The territory is now seizing opportunities in these areas to establish new corps and engage in ongoing work, as people are impacted by practical expressions of Christianity. The commissioners explained that it is hard to spread the gospel in these areas – it is estimated that less

The welcome to the High Council provided Captain PAM WRIGHT (Marketing and Fundraising Department, THQ) with an opportunity to meet territorial leaders from four of the UK's five Partners in Mission, just as the Self-Denial Missionary Appeal 2006 was being launched. Our Partners in Mission leaders were asked about the importance of self-denial funding to the work of The Salvation Army in their countries and were encouraged to make specific prayer requests

than 2 per cent of this Islamic republic's population are Christians – and asked that Salvationists pray for those undertaking this new work in the earthquake zone.

Zambia

COLONEL Vinece Chigariro is the first African-born woman to be a territorial commander. The colonel explained how self-denial funds are used to help pay the salaries of officers whose corps are not yet self-supporting. The territory has a policy of encouraging corps to become self-sufficient, which will enable self-denial funds to be redeployed into opening new plants.

The Salvation Army in Zambia is engaging in a one-to-one mission, whereby every soldier is urged to bring one other person to the Lord this year. There is also a strong emphasis on the programme for children and youth, with targets set for the numbers of new junior soldiers and young senior soldiers to be added to the rolls this year.

Colonel Chigariro requested prayer for corps cadet guardians to have the vision and determination to enlarge the corps cadet programme at their corps. She also asked for prayer for the situation in Zambia after a recent period of drought, which caused the President to declare a national food crisis last year when maize harvests failed. The Salvation Army is still involved in providing for some of those most at risk.

South America East

TERRITORIAL Commander Colonel Peder Refstie described how self-denial funding is 'keeping the work

Picture: ADAM GREENE




Partners in Mission (from left) Colonel Peder Refstie, Colonel Vinece Chigariro, Commissioners Helen and Shaw Clifton, Commissioners Sheila Gulzar and Gulzar Patras and Commissioners Trevor and Memory Tuck

alive' in his territory. South America East remains dependent on these funds largely because of the complex economic difficulties experienced in its three constituent countries – Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Salvationists there are generous givers, but since the majority are drawn from the poorest segments of society, their giving is unable to match the needs of the territory.

Colonel Refstie requested prayer for the territory's current chief initiative, explaining that the slogan for 2006 translates as 'Action For Growth'. Their strategy in this initiative is to spread growth outwards from their current 'hot spots' of integrated mission, so as to enthuse existing Salvationists to reach out to more people in the region who are in need both of hearing the gospel and experiencing the practical care of the Army's social work.

Letters


Ten top-notch Generals

 DURING MY lifetime there have been eleven Generals and I have had the privilege of meeting ten of them. Without exception they have been kind and gracious whether speaking to me as a young child, junior soldier, student, candidate, cadet or officer. I treasure the encouragement I have received through their preaching, teaching and writings. I am sure many people around the world could echo my experience.

Perhaps this may reassure Iain Forsyth (letter, 21 January) who is dismayed that it is the exclusive prerogative of High Council members to elect the General of The Salvation Army. They have never chosen a bad one!

Jayne Roberts,
Major,
Nottingham

Ministry of hope

 DOROTHY MASON'S viewpoint, 'Who buries the unchurched?' (*Salvationist* 28 January) raised an interesting question for me. It concerns the families

of lapsed church attendees or where no one in the family is prepared to give the eulogy. The writer asks: 'How much spare time does the average minister/vicar/priest/officer have to construct a fitting and lasting tribute?'

The answer should be: 'Quite a lot!' Visiting the bereaved is not done in spare time but as part of one's ongoing ministry for which one is usually being paid and paid very well, if the last funeral fee I was offered is anything to go by.

Even in the busiest week, this is an opportunity to minister to people at their most vulnerable. If they have chosen a church funeral there is a reason – often a tenuous link such as 'Mother used to be a Baptist', or because they once went to Sunday school. Are they not looking for the hope Christianity offers at such times? It is noted that we are becoming a less church-attending nation but more than 70 per cent of the population say they are Christian.

To visit the family, to listen to them speak about the person who has died, to capture something of the personality and life of that person and to present that as well as the gospel at the funeral is not a responsibility to take lightly. Nothing is worse than sitting in a service knowing that the minister presiding hasn't a clue who he is talking about.

The writer recounts the story of the former Salvationist who, after the funeral service, asked about attending the carol service. Is that not the reason the minister will give of their time – not 'spare' time – to get alongside the family before, during and after the funeral?

Christine Clement,
Major,
Harrow

and the service was attended by local councillors, firemen – who were on their way back to Buncefield to continue the damp down – and local business people who had lost their premises and others thanking God because they had not!


Allison Oakden,
Hemel Hempstead

Influence

 I WAS sorry to read in *Salvationist* of the closure of the *Christian Herald* newspaper. More than 60 years ago I became a junior soldier and joined The Golden Star Brigade – from the children's section of the *Christian Herald*. Our motto was 'Look up, aim high'. My mother bought all the Army papers – *The War Cry*, *The Young Soldier*, *The Warrior*, *The Deliverer* and *The Musician* – and the *Christian Herald*. Let us never underestimate the power of the written word and its ability to positively influence all members of the family.

Joyce Wood,
Leeds

Thankful

 MELVYN OWEN (letter, 14 January) assumes that after the Hemel Hempstead explosion we did not thank God for his mercy. On the contrary, despite the busyness of Christmas and all the hours that were put in by many people with the emergency team we could not forget how much worse it might have been.

A lovely service of thanksgiving was televised, led by the bishop with the assistance of church ministers. Hemel Hempstead Salvation Army Band played its part

Readers sending letters by email should include their full name, rank if applicable, and full postal address

■ Not all letters can be printed; the shorter they are, the more chance they have of being included.

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I claim the promises of the Scriptures

General-elect Commissioner SHAW CLIFTON was interviewed by 'Salvationist' Editor Captain DEAN PALLANT at Sunbury Court shortly after he was elected the 18th General of The Salvation Army

How do you feel right now?

I feel inadequate but deeply honoured. I feel humbled but I am placing my full reliance on Almighty God to help me with the task that this High Council, under his guidance, has entrusted to me. I do not feel worthy but I take to my heart the strong clear message we asked our territory's officers to take to their hearts when we gathered recently for officers' councils – it is in our weakness that God has his best and most fruitful opportunities. I claim the promises of the Scriptures that he will come with grace and be more than sufficient for my human inadequacies.

What impression stands out for you from the 2006 High Council?

The godliness of the members and their willingness to wait for God. There were moments when we wanted to rush and he pulled us back, times when we wanted to hesitate and he nudged us forward. Then, after days of deliberation and discussion with many different points of view, there came a moment when the entire High Council was hushed. It was a beautiful tender moment. With 100 leaders in a room it takes quite some time to achieve agreement but God came and said: 'I have enjoyed your talking. I have guided your debate and directed your minds but this is the moment to stop talking – do what I have gathered you together to do.' The Holy Spirit of God fell on the High Council. It reinforced to us all that God was among us. We did not know what the outcome could ever be but we all felt soothed and hushed by God. The wonderful thing was that everyone in the room was obedient to his strong prompting.

What are your hopes for your period in office as General?

It is not what I want but what God wants for the Army. It is his Army and we have a part in building the Kingdom of God. We love the Army, but we love God more. God still

believes in the Army and wants it to be all it was raised up to be. Our original purposes and divinely appointed mission have not changed. We are to be an Army of proactive Christians who seek out the unsaved and needy, offering the gospel message with love in the name of Christ to everyone, without discrimination. We are called to be the face, hands and feet of Christ in the world. But remember, those hands and feet were wounded and just as God comes to an individual believer to break and melt and mould and fill so he comes to groups of believers. I believe God can do this afresh for the entire international Salvation Army.

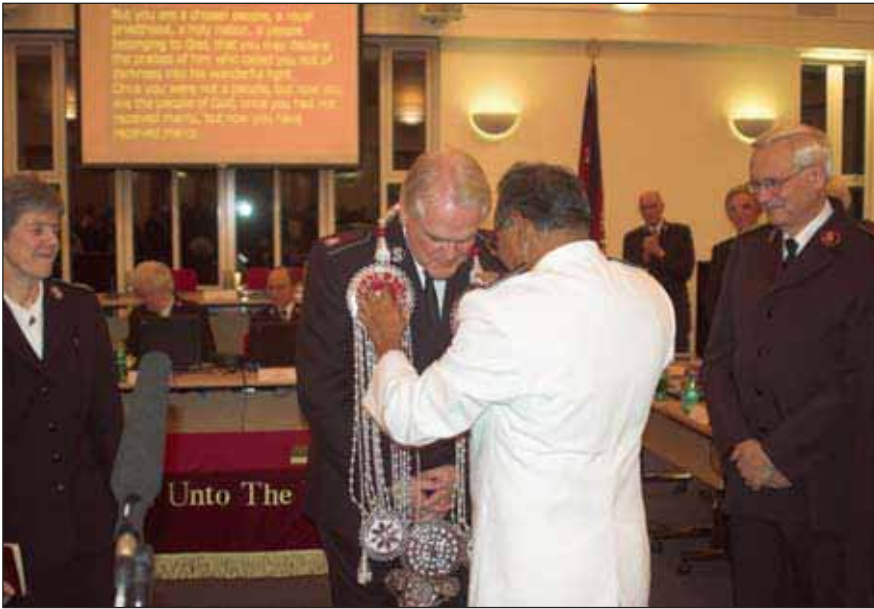
Do you have a sense of where that breaking and moulding needs to happen? What strategies do you want to use?

It is too early to be specific, but this High Council has mandated the next General to find appropriate, loving ways of asking The Salvation Army some fairly awkward, difficult questions. We are all exercised by the Army's inability to grow numerically in certain parts of the world. We rejoice that in many places the Army is rapidly expanding. Globally we are bigger than ever before and getting bigger. This High Council has mandated me to ask: If God is withholding numerical growth from parts of the Army, why is that blessing withheld?

Rather than discussing strategy, method, ceremony or even identity, I have a deep sense in my heart that God wants us to follow the example of the Old Testament prophets when they sensed God's blessing was withheld. The prophets went to God's people asking: Is there sin in the camp? Now that is a very difficult and pointed question. One has to be very tender and sensitive before even raising it but perhaps God is saying, ever so gently and ever so lovingly: 'I love you, Salvation Army, but would you please look within and see if there is sin in the camp, and if there is anything that causes the blessing to be withheld we must deal with it.'

Some issues will be personal to individual Salvationists, others will be corporate. I would like to find a way as General of being a catalyst and put that biblical question to Salvationists. We may find that as we draw nearer to him, closer to him in purity and righteousness, the blessings begin to flow where at present they sometimes appear to be withheld.

Picture: GEOFF CRAWFORD



So it's a spiritual process you seek?

It is a spiritual process. I am fascinated by methodology and very happy to discuss issues of identity, style and the theological issues of the day. I am very comfortable in those areas. However, I think there are prior questions deep among us. What I have said to you is laid heavy on my heart.

With the challenges facing the Army, what personal qualities did High Council members identify in you that made them choose you as General?

That is not a fair question! You should be asking those who elected me. I have not much to bring. I have an education but that is nothing without a loving heart. I have gifts of the Spirit, experience in five continents of the Army world, but that is nothing without a loving heart. I have a fairly strong personality and leadership gifts but all that is nothing without a loving heart: 1 Corinthians 13 teaches us that we can be the most gifted, talented person alive and yet without Christlike love at the centre of our beings dictating everything we say and do, all the rest is dross. I have offered the High Council and, through them, the Army world, my incompleteness, my brokenness and my need of God every day, every hour, every minute.

I think the High Council sensed my reluctance. I have been nominated for this office twice before. I came here naturally wondering if two or three would put my name forward again. As I confided to one or two people, I had considerable reluctance about accepting nomination. No sensible person runs after this office. No one truly qualifies to fill it. That's how I see myself. But I also see, with blinding clarity, the power of God to lift a person to further equip, to further infill. Through *Salvationist*, I am asking for everyone's prayer that by God's grace, not by my skills, he will mould me into a General of whom Salvationists can feel proud. We must all live, at all times, under the feet of Christ.

How important in your opinion are the Army's relationships with other churches and other religions?

Those relationships are absolutely vital. We need the other churches and they need us. We bring to the ecumenical

Representing all South Asia Salvationists, Commissioner Prathipati Devavaram, (TC, India South Eastern) presents the General-elect with a garland. Watching from the left are Commissioner Helen Clifton, Lieut-Colonel Miriam Frederiksen (Assistant Recorder), Colonel Laurence Hay (High Council Recorder), Colonel Dick Krommenhoek (TC, France), Commissioner Paul du Plessis (IHQ) and General John Larsson

table two things – who we are and what we do. Obviously there is overlap with other Christian traditions and denominations but God raised us up for his special purposes. We need to be ecumenically engaged and it has been my habit all through my officership. It enriches the life of the Church in general and certainly enriches the life of the Army.

Concerning other faiths – we live in an age when interfaith relationships is a very tender, sensitive subject. Again The Salvation Army has something very special to bring because we are working with people in 111 countries. Salvationists interact with members of every major faith in the world as well as many of the numerically smaller faiths. William Booth taught the first Salvationists never to criticise the faith of a non-Christian believer. Instead, if there is a natural opportunity, we should converse humbly about the reason for the hope that lies within the heart of every

Salvationist, that hope being the Lord Jesus Christ. Helen and I served for nearly five years in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and our experience was that the more self-assured we were about our own faith, the more seriously we were taken by Muslims, thereby winning their respect. That is the message I want to convey to my fellow Salvationists.

One of the challenges of an international Salvation Army is our diversity. The office of the General is vital in holding that together. How do we find unity in our diversity?

We have already found unity and always had it in The Salvation Army. It is grounded in profound, beautiful things such as our doctrines and the covenants we make as soldiers, junior soldiers and officers. These covenants serve a beautiful holy purpose, evidenced by the fact that around the world people are still willing, under the prompting of God's Spirit, to make those covenants and abide by them by divine grace.

Our unity is grounded in our internationalism. I was moved to the depths of my being as, at Westminster Central Hall a week ago, we sang: 'They shall come from the east, they shall come from the west and sit down in the Kingdom of God.' Next to me were a beautiful couple from Japan, along the row some Zimbabweans, behind me Indonesians, around me were Americans and Asians, Brazilians and Australians – this is a miracle! We did not of ourselves in our human strength make this happen. It is a miracle of God – and it is going on and on. And I believe God wants us to span the globe. He will lead us into new places he wants us to be. I don't know where or when but we must be ready. If we are obedient he will open doors. If we are not obedient and faithful and if there is any sin among us he may close those doors and present the opportunity to others.

There are other things holding the Army together. The beautiful spirit that arises from loyalty to and support for the office of the General is a focal point for the worldwide

I claim the promises of the Scriptures

Continued from page 13

Army. Of course we have legal mechanisms that hold us together internationally but I would put those at the bottom of the list. Above those I would put institutions like the International College for Officers, *The Officer* magazine that goes out in the name of the General from IHQ. Other opportunities like the interchange of officer and non-officer personnel between countries. I would like to see a bigger flow of personnel from the so-called developing world into the developed world. We have a vast amount to learn from The Salvation Army in Africa, South Asia and in other parts of the world. Maybe we are a little oversophisticated in the West and need to learn about the effectiveness for the gospel that arises out of their simple living.

What role does your family play in your life?

After the Lord Jesus Christ, my wife Helen is at the centre of my life, then my children and grandchildren. Helen has influenced me – she keeps my feet on the ground, she keeps me honest, she helps me to avoid hypocrisy. I do not like hypocrisy or falseness. My family are my hobby, so when I am not busy it is with them I relax.

Who has influenced you most over the years in your personal development?

At the top of the list are my father and mother. My father, Major Albert Clifton, will be 90 in May. He is the nicest man I know and one of the finest officers I have met. My parents grounded me in my faith and role-modelled officership. I have been influenced by the writings of Samuel Logan Brengle, Martin Luther, John Wesley and, naturally, the Booths. Commissioner Edward Read from Canada showed me how to take the Scriptures with the utmost seriousness, yet in a scholarly manner. I have been influenced by people who held me to account through the years. I believe in accountability. Commissioner Ronald Irwin, formerly Territorial Commander in USA Eastern, role-modelled strong territorial leadership for me but was open to honest, frank dialogue and debate. The Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Israel Gaiher, has also been an influence on my life. He is a beautiful friend and brother officer in Christ. We served together in USA Eastern and he was always gracious and affirming. It has been a joy to be at the High Council with him. As a territorial commander I have worked with five chief secretaries who have also



Picture: GEOFF CRAWFORD

General Larsson prays for the newly elected international leaders

had a strong, formative influence on my life. They have been realistic about my shortcomings but loved me in the name of Jesus, offering me wise godly guidance behind closed doors while giving me unswerving support.

How do you feel about leaving the UK Territory after only 20 months as territorial leaders?

Part of my sense of reluctance to accept this nomination was my heart for this territory. As our home territory we have always felt a strong commitment here and it has deepened since becoming territorial leaders. However, God's timing has to be honoured and respected. We will still be soldiers of this territory and be able to see people from time to time.

This is an opportunity to place on record our deep gratitude to the beautiful Salvationists we have met as we have travelled so widely. We have been met with unflinching love and warmth. People have graciously responded to our ministry and it has been deeply moving to see the mercy seat used in so many places. I do believe that the Army – in Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England – is still in the hands of God. Whoever succeeds us as territorial leaders will inherit a vibrant territory that has, in recent years, developed a renewed spirit of prayer. I praise God for the openness of the territory and the strong deep desire to be obedient to God whatever the cost.

I value greatly the readiness of my colleagues in leadership across the territory to be in dialogue with me about the shape and future of the Army. This is a healthy debate because it helps us to focus on who we are meant to be and what we are meant to be doing, which is far more important than how we are meant to be doing it. The how will take care of itself if we get the basics right. There are many voices speaking into the life of the UK Army in these days. They are all well motivated and we leave the territory knowing there is a readiness to learn from one another and a willingness to rally round our crucified Christ and risen Lord in a mission to achieve his purposes.

Where is God... when we contemplate death?

LIKE millions of others, I clean my teeth before going to bed. One evening it struck me that I will not perform this simple routine task for ever. While hardly a profound insight, it did make me consider my mortality.

Such nudges come in various forms: a friend or relative falls seriously ill, the phone rings with news of a sudden death, a birthday with a nought at the end. Mercifully – and properly – most of us are too busy most of the time to allow such deep Hamlet-type questions to preoccupy us.

Everyday activities are necessary and wholesome. But it is equally necessary and wholesome to occasionally consider the inescapable fact that each of us is a mortal human being.

Philip of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great, instructed a slave to say to him every day: 'Remember, Philip, one day you will die.' Philip was a practical man. He wanted that daily reminder of his mortality to influence the way he lived, to order his priorities and get a true perspective on his activities.

Taking death into account can take many forms.

The way of hedonism: 'Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die' (see Isaiah 22:13; 1 Corinthians 15:32). It's easy to sneer at this superficial approach, but many who seek to follow Christ find that hedonism is the main rival to discipleship. I certainly do. The notion of a comfortable, undemanding life, filled with activities, objects and people who give me pleasure, is very attractive indeed. But I, at least, need a stern reminder that I follow the one who said: 'The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve' (Mark 10:45 all quotations from *New International Version*).

The way of stoicism: Although stoicism goes back to the ancient Greek world, this approach is most easily characterised by the British 'stiff upper lip'. 'Duty' is a key word. Stoicism tries to take life's knocks on the chin; we can do nothing to stop death – the biggest knock of all – so best not to think too much about it.

The way of Christ: The Christian approach is markedly different from either, while including elements from both. Jesus himself was accused of being 'a glutton and a drunkard' (Matthew 11:19). He liked parties! On the other hand, the notion of perseverance in the face of adversity and suffering is a recurrent New Testament theme (see Hebrews 12:1–3).

The way of Christ is not mere hedonism or undiluted stoicism. Yes, there are lots of 'oughts' in discipleship. We are under an inescapable obligation to love and serve one another. But the Christian life is – or should be – shot through



The fourth of a five-part series in preparation for Lent by Canon JOHN YOUNG of York Minster

with joy. It brings a new quality of life, arising from the indwelling Spirit of Jesus. The Christ within us is the one who assures us that he has come to bring abundant life (see John 10:10).

The cross of Christ has become the symbol of the Christian faith. We call the terrible day on which Jesus died Good Friday – not because we are fixated on death, but because we celebrate life.

When it talks of the glories of Heaven the Bible does so in terms of physical resurrection, rather than spiritual survival. By 'resurrection', the New Testament writers do not mean mere resuscitation. What is raised will be far more glorious, just as the butterfly is more beautiful and vibrant than the caterpillar.

Today's Christians are sometimes rather tentative about embracing the full-blooded faith of the New Testament. Perhaps near-death experiences should encourage us to be bolder; the jury is still out about their true significance, but that does not affect our Christian hope in the slightest.

I want to focus on the undeniable fact that people who 'come back from the brink' often speak of light and warmth, a sense of being welcomed, and a feeling of supreme wellbeing. This accurately reflects New Testament teaching about Heaven. The Bible doesn't probe too deeply into the mystery of life beyond the grave, but it does promise transformation and glory. Life on earth is the shadow; life in Heaven will be full of substance. You will still be recognisably 'you', fully alive in a way that you can only dream of now.

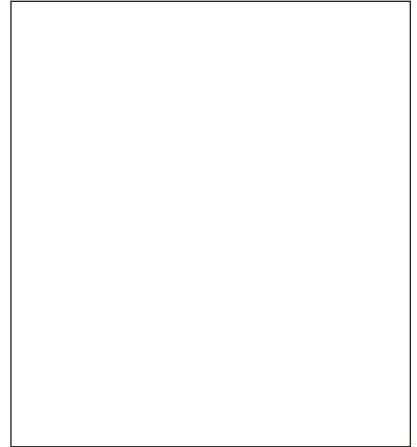
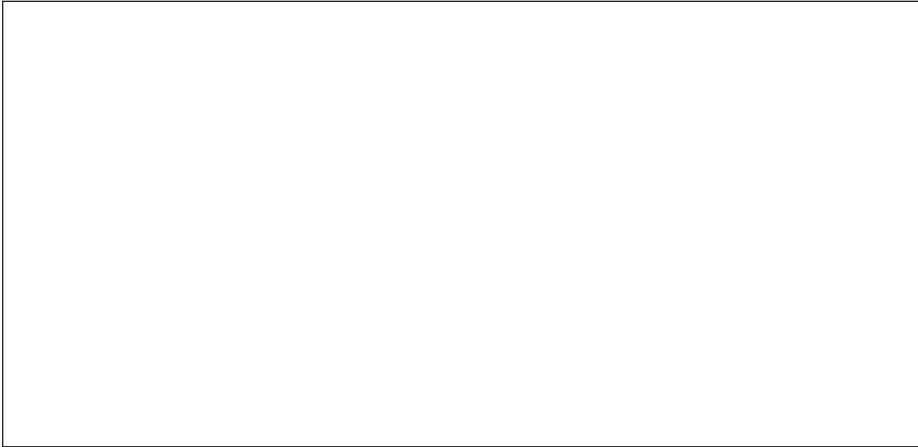
The Book of Revelation assures us that Heaven will be a place of joy, love and light. John catches this mixture of mystery and knowledge: 'Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he [Christ] appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is' (1 John 3:2).

Where is God when we contemplate death? He is there beside us – reminding us that his Son also walked through the valley of the shadow of death and emerged into glorious sunlight, and has gone to prepare a place for us (John 14:1).

Questions for group discussion or personal reflection

Suggested Bible reading: Philippians 1:18–26

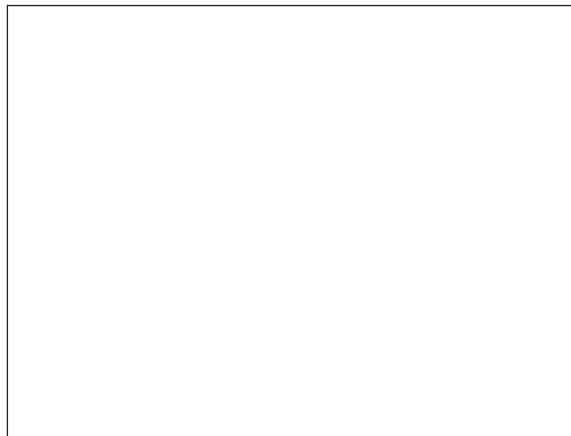
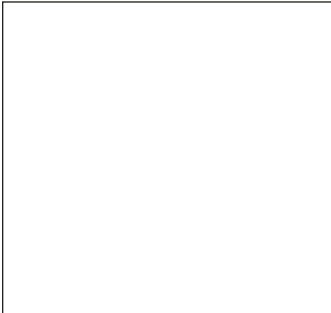
- Are you afraid of dying, or being dead – no longer existing in this world?
- Do you believe in Heaven? Do you believe you will go there? Why?
- Do you believe in Hell? If so, who will go there and what will it be like?



CHESTERFIELD

MICHAEL MASON was welcomed as an adherent some months ago. Since then he has felt God's calling on his life and decided to dedicate himself to God through soldiership.

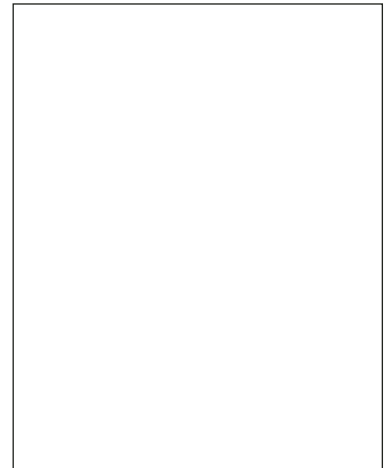
Divisional Commander Lieut-Colonel Trevor Davis enrolled Michael, who is pictured with corps officer Captain Alex Cadogan and friends. – A. C.



GOVAN

WHEN RACHAEL RITCHIE was enrolled as a soldier she testified to thinking about her place in the corps before feeling the Lord confirming that he wanted her to be a soldier.

She was enrolled by former corps officer Major Chris Connelly (chaplain, Hope House, Wallace of Campsie and William Hunter House, Glasgow). – D. R.



BOURNE

ALEX THOMPSON read the junior soldier's promise to a packed hall when he was enrolled by his prayer partner, corps officer Captain David Kinsey.

Alex is pictured with his grandma, Joan Thompson, and his great-aunt, Lieut-Colonel Jean Issitt. – D. K.

NEWTOWARDS

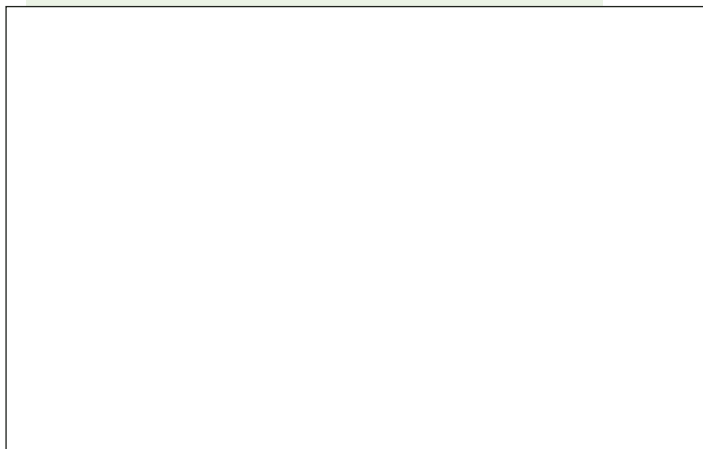
TAYLOR CROUCHMAN and Lizzy Jones invited schoolfriends to witness their enrolment as junior soldiers and to share a buffet lunch. The next evening their two friends joined them at children's cell group for the first time.

Taylor has been a cell member for more than a year and Lizzy for seven years. Both girls came to the corps with friends and family. – S. J.

CHRISTCHURCH

LEE BIRKHILL'S journey to soldiership began more than 30 years ago when she longed for a personal relationship with Jesus and decided to become a junior soldier.

At her enrolment Lee testified that her faith in Jesus remained her one certainty through the twists and turns in her life. She is pictured with corps officer Divisional Envoy Peter Blunden and Major Howard Heins, who led Lee through her preparation classes. – P. B.



WATCHET

SYLVIA NEWBERT is the newest adherent to be publicly welcomed into the fellowship.

Sylvia's father, Bill Allen, once described as 'the worst drunkard in Watchet', was converted in the 1930s and later became band colour sergeant.

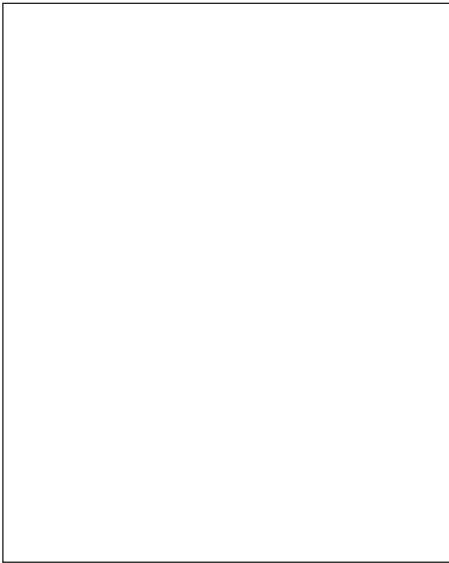
Sylvia had been a junior soldier and soldier at the corps but, until returning via the over-60 club, had not attended meetings for 50 years. She was welcomed as an adherent at a Churches Together service.

Sylvia is pictured with corps officer Captain Steven Watson. The flag in the background is the one her father carried in front of the band. – S. W.

SOUTHEND CITADEL

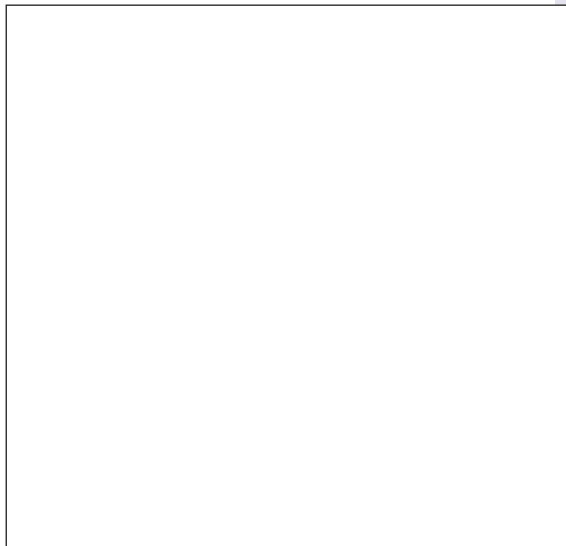
DURING A Bible study session Rose Collins heard God speak to her, prompting her to find a spiritual home. Remembering Salvation Army meetings she had attended with her grandchildren, she visited the corps.

Soon Rose decided that she would like to be an adherent and has now been publicly welcomed into the fellowship. – B. A.



CARSHALTON

REBECCA WALFORD is a fifth-generation Salvationist and has now been enrolled as a junior soldier. She is pictured with corps officer Captain Christine Budding, Junior Soldiers Sergeant Mark Roberts and YPSM Stuart Fincham. – C. L.



FALMOUTH

JONATHAN STRATTON and Victoria Honey were enrolled as junior soldiers during a meeting which celebrated an 'around the world' theme. – L. B.

CLYDEBANK

IT WAS an exciting day for Rhys Logan when corps officer Lieut-Colonel Colin Tucker enrolled him as a junior soldier.

Watched by family members and friends, Rhys read the junior soldier's promise to the congregation.

Rhys is pictured with the colonel and YPSM Heather Fuller. – S. G.

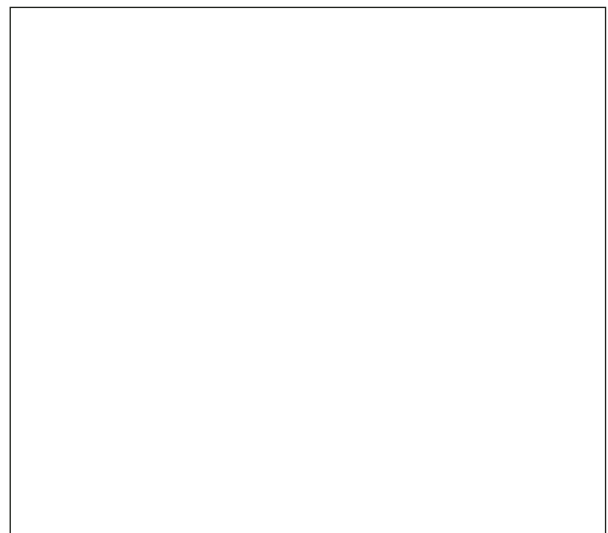
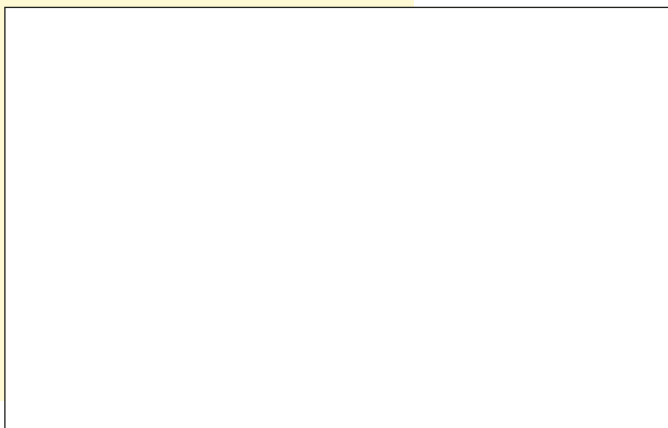
CAMBERWELL

EPHRAIM CONTEH and Bethia Parrales told the congregation that they wanted to be enrolled as junior soldiers because they love Jesus.

Ephraim and Bethia are pictured with Cadet Caroline Heward, who led the youngsters through their preparation classes, and Corps Treasurer Peter Newin. – L. P.

HECKMONDWIKE

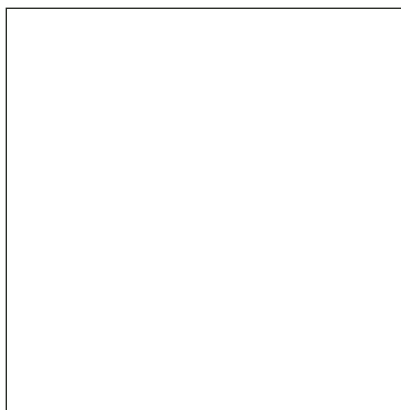
THE CORPS fellowship was delighted to witness Sarah Barraclough's recommitment to soldiership. Sarah spoke of the peace she has experienced since her return to the Army. She is pictured with corps officer Major Charmain Thomas. – C. T.



GRIMSBY WILLOWS

NEW JUNIOR SOLDIER Sebastian Duffy selected the songs 'Shine, Jesus Shine' and 'We Want to See Jesus Lifted High' for his enrolment meeting.

When the corps officer was preparing new cartridge envelopes Sebastian demanded his own so he too could contribute to the corps. – D. M.



UXBRIDGE

PEGGY POPE was encouraged to attend Army meetings by her sister, who attended a corps in Bedford. Peggy started going to meetings at Yiewsley and when it closed began to visit Uxbridge.

Having been at the corps for five years, Peggy felt she wanted to make a further commitment to God and the corps by becoming an adherent. She is pictured with corps officer Major Angela White. – A. W.

APPOINTED

CT Ian Bartle, Stockton, as a Church of England Parent Foundation Governor; **Junior Musician Marcus Cooke**, Stockton, as a member of the National Youth Choir.

LOCAL OFFICERS APPOINTED

CSM Liz Wood, CCMS Janet Annan, Welwyn Garden City; **YPBL John Mitchinson**, Southend Citadel.

MARRIAGES

Ajay Dhariwal (Ludhiana, India) to **Ruchika Daniel** (Welwyn Garden City) at Ludhiana, India; **Songster Richard McIntosh** to **Songster Joanne Oakley** at Chelmsford by Major Roger Batt.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Diamond: **Rtd BM Bram and Mrs Frances Scott**, Ipswich Citadel (16 February).

BEREAVED

Major Pamela Fear and **CSM Sue Blackburn**, Coltishall, of their mother **Eva Morris**; **Asst CT Edward King**, Burton upon Trent, of his brother; **CS Elizabeth Doory**, Lisburn, of her mother **Jean Belshaw**.

RETIRED OFFICERS

Birthday congratulation **Major Ronald Doust**, (85 on 1 February); **Mrs Major Vivienne Lawson**,

Normanton (85 on 8 February).

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Mabel Rogers, Yeovil.
Brigadier Grace Raeside from **Glasgow on 25 January**.

A sister, Mrs Helen Tarry, lives in Pitlochry.

Mrs Brigadier Jane Hollingworth from **Chinon, France on 25 January**.

A son, Mr Keith Hollingworth, lives in France.

Tributes

Brigadier Mrs Florence Spillett



THE DAUGHTER of Commissioner and Mrs William and

Amy Booth Davey, Florence entered training in the 1934 Awakeners Session. She was always very proud of this, and often sang her sessional song to her children.

Service in corps and divisional work and the NHQ War Department preceded marriage in 1941.

Promoted to Glory aged 93, Brigadier Mrs Spillett is remembered for many qualities. She was an eloquent preacher, narrator and letter-writer, and friends and family benefited from her gifts. She was also a gracious, elegant and independent woman who set high standards for herself and others. Her many colleagues and friends remember her influence. She offered compassion – always tinged with realism – and the belief that one could find a way through life's adversities.

Her own life had its fair share of adversity. The brigadier brought up three children alone, and then lived to see two of them predecease her. Throughout these difficulties, her strong will and faith were her constant companions.

Her life also contained many joys. She loved and gained enormous fulfilment from her work, initially as a corps officer and in later years at The Mothers' Hospital and at Women's Social Work Headquarters. The Booth Davey family was a large and happy one, and family get-togethers were always great fun.

The brigadier's three daughters were most influenced by her deter-

mination, discipline and belief that you could do anything you set your mind to. Her independence and fortitude were underpinned by her deep faith in God, and her commitment to serve him as an officer of The Salvation Army. It was a sadness to her that none of her daughters followed in her footsteps, although all that they achieved in their own lives was based on her example.

Brigadier Mrs Spillett had seven grandchildren, to whom she was very close. They all testify to a gentle, supportive grandmother who quietly bore witness to her own faith. When their mothers died she put her own needs aside, and was their source of strength and comfort in a most difficult time for all the family.

Family, colleagues and friends together celebrate a long and vibrant life lived in the service of God and humankind. – H. D.

Mrs Gwyneth Crabb, Weymouth

GWYNETH COMMENCED her service at Parkstone. She later transferred to Branksome, where she was a faithful soldier until moving to Weymouth about 15 years ago to be near her daughter.

A former band secretary said of her: 'If Gwyn said she would do it, I could depend on it being done.'

During her association with the corps she was a faithful home leaguer and over-60 club member.

Engagements

GENERAL JOHN LARSSON and Commissioner Freda Larsson

ICO, Sun 12 Feb, Tu 21

Fiji, Sun 26 - Th 2 Mar

New Zealand, Th 2 - Th 9

THE CHIEF OF THE STAFF

(Commissioner Israel Gaither)

and Commissioner Eva Gaither

ICO, Tu 7 Feb, Fri 3 Mar

Leighton Buzzard, Sun 5 Mar

†TC only

THE CHIEF SECRETARY

(Lieut-Colonel Victor Poke)

and Lieut-Colonel Roslyn Poke

William Booth College, Wed 8 Feb

On the Air

BBC One: Mary Randell, Winton's meal-run co-ordinator, will be featured on *Songs of Praise* tomorrow (Sunday 5 February). Check listings for time of broadcast.

BBC Somerset Sound (1566 AM): Captain Steven Watson (Watchet) will present *Thought For The Day* (7.50 am) every Wednesday until 22 February.

Salvationist

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THE SALVATION ARMY

Founder William Booth **General** John Larsson

Territorial Commander Commissioner Shaw Clifton

Editor-in-Chief and Publishing Secretary

Major Christine Clement

Promoted to Glory at the age of 95, she is now reunited with her beloved husband Charles. – P. C.

Bernard Gulley, Exeter



BORN INTO a corps family at Exeter, Bernard became an accomplished instrumentalist. His musicianship led to commissions as deputy bandmaster, deputy songster leader and songster leader. During RAF service Bernard was a member of the Cairo Red Shield Band. He also had a good singing voice, Christian vocal music being his forte.

Until recently another passionate hobby was hitching up a caravan to the car and using the freedom of

'going where you pleased' with his wife Marion.

When testifying, Bernard likened such outings to life's journey – maintaining vision, direction and stability, and starting a new day's travel in the best way, by using a daily Scripture reading and prayer as his guidebook. – L. B.

Songster Reservist Eleanor Major, Bromley



ELEANOR OVERCAME a number of physical obstacles after having contracted polio as a child.

She was not hindered by the many changes caused by her parents' moves as Salvation Army officers. Forced to forgo the offer of a university place, she entered the Civil Service before the Second

World War. Eleanor's boss held her in such high esteem during the war that she was entrusted with writing two speeches for Winston Churchill to read in Parliament. She eventually trained as a teacher and taught in secondary schools and colleges. She was a songster and corps press representative at Bromley for many years.

Eleanor was a rock in shifting sands, humble in the presence of God but forthright in her expressions of faith. – B. L./M. M.

Retired Corps Sergeant-Major David Sutherland, Peterhead



DAVY WAS brought up in Findochty and converted in 1953. Salvationists at Blyth supported

him through the death of his brother and – after returning to Findochty – he went to the Army, knelt at the mercy seat and was gloriously saved.

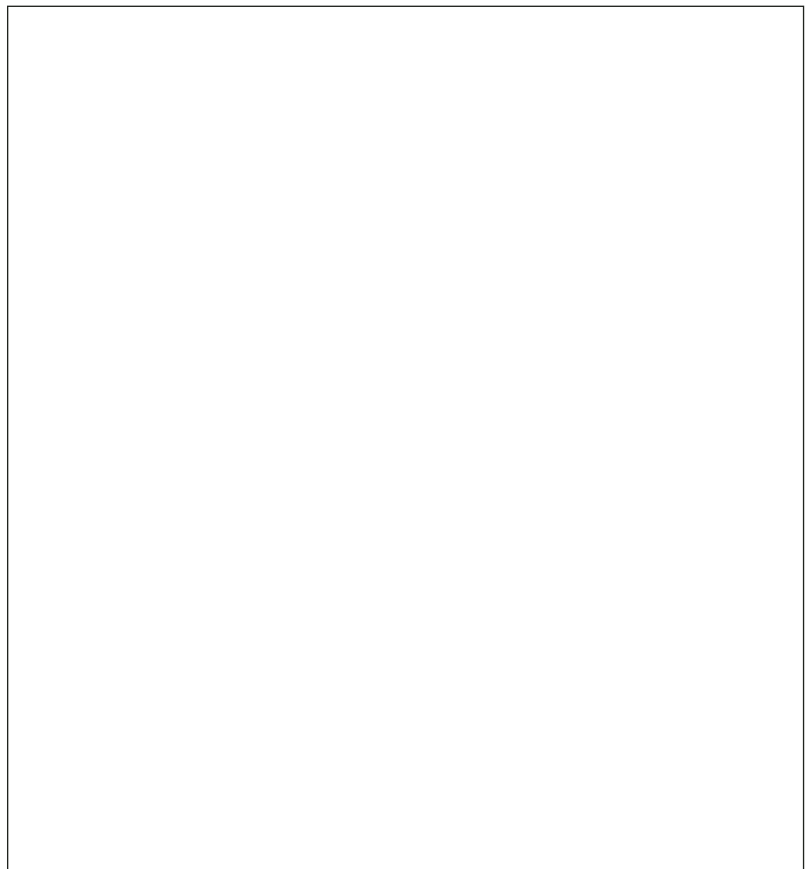
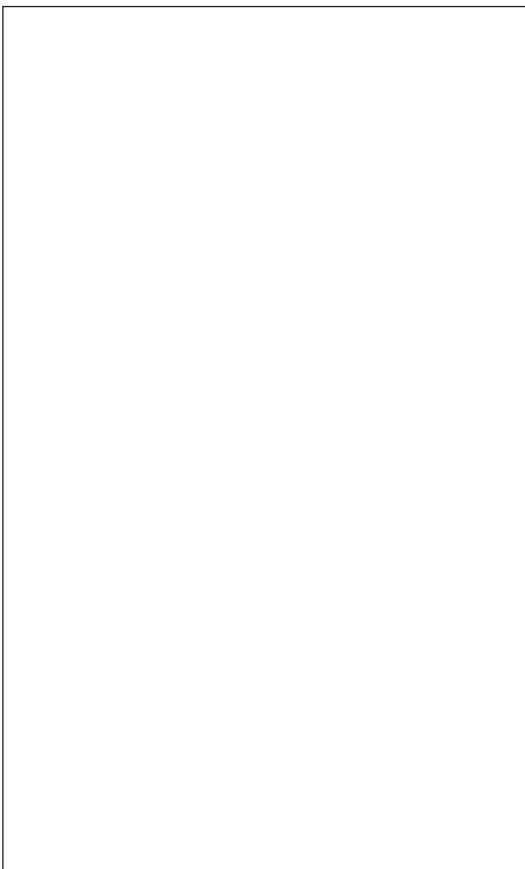
Shortly afterwards he was asked to read a song aloud at an open-air meeting, but misheard and sang it instead. This began Davy's habit of always singing his testimony.

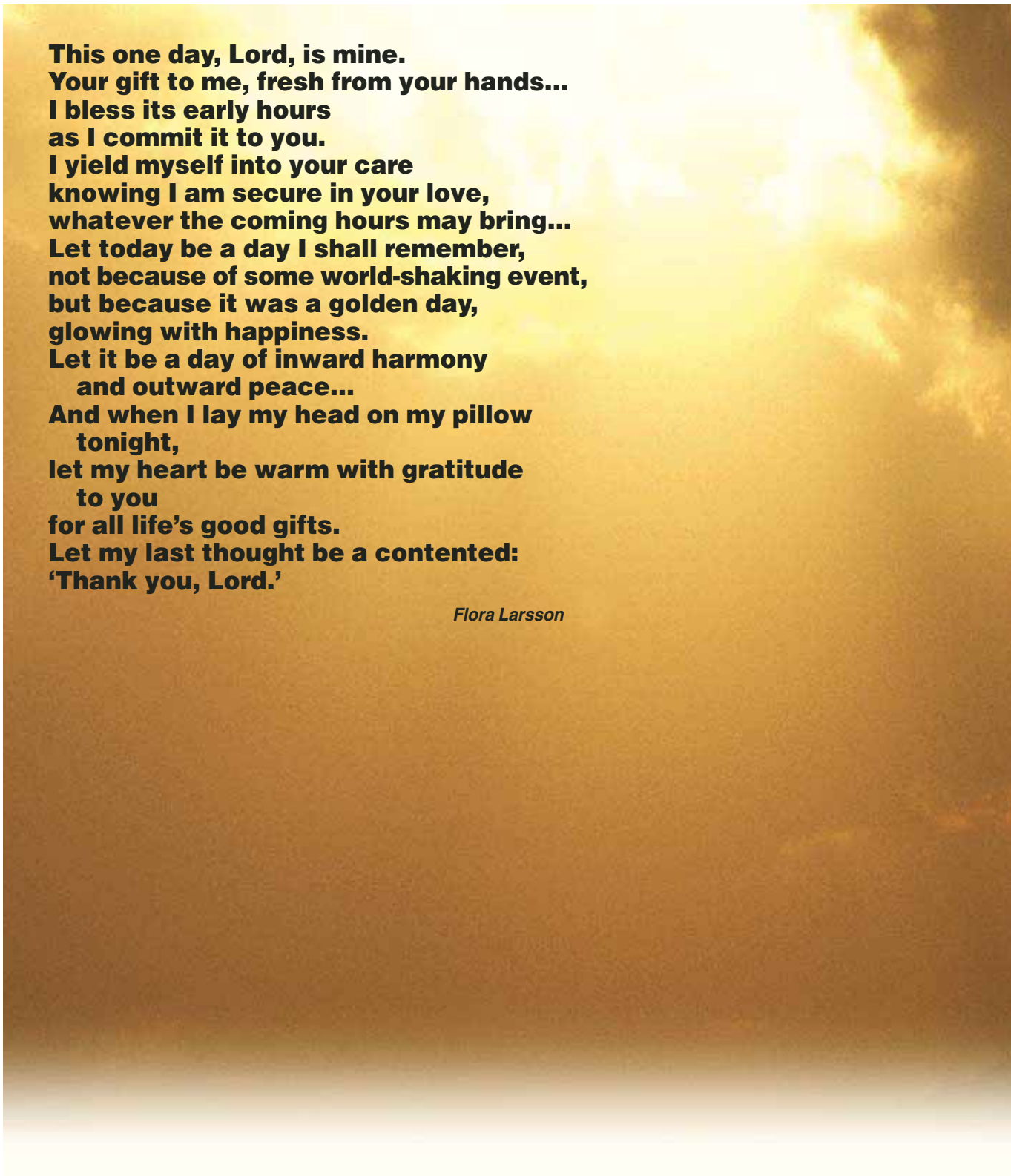
Three years later he married Margaret and transferred to Peterhead, where he was CSM for 26 years. He was also a bandsman for a total of 52 years.

Davy's favourite song, 'There's A New Name Written Down In Glory', is certainly true of this good and faithful servant of God. – A. H.

PLEASE note that pressure for space means tributes have to be edited. This has caused pain to some family members when tributes have appeared in shortened form. To avoid such distress it is requested that soldiers' tributes submitted for publication should be no longer than 120 words. We will then make as few changes as possible. Good quality pictures will be included with tributes.

ADVERTISEMENTS





**This one day, Lord, is mine.
Your gift to me, fresh from your hands...
I bless its early hours
as I commit it to you.
I yield myself into your care
knowing I am secure in your love,
whatever the coming hours may bring...
Let today be a day I shall remember,
not because of some world-shaking event,
but because it was a golden day,
glowing with happiness.
Let it be a day of inward harmony
and outward peace...
And when I lay my head on my pillow
tonight,
let my heart be warm with gratitude
to you
for all life's good gifts.
Let my last thought be a contented:
'Thank you, Lord.'**

Flora Larsson

THIS WEEK'S prayer was chosen by Valerie Wornham (South and Mid Wales DHQ), who writes: 'This poem always says so many new things to me on every reading. It also offers an incredible reminder of the refreshing of my life that my Saviour offers every day when I dedicate it to him.'

Prayer topic

Please pray for General-elect Shaw Clifton and Commissioner Helen Clifton in the next few weeks as they prepare to take over as the international leaders of The Salvation Army. May God grant them wisdom for important decisions, strength for this awesome task and a deep sense of his Spirit's presence.