

SALVATIONIST



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THE
PERSON

THE
POET

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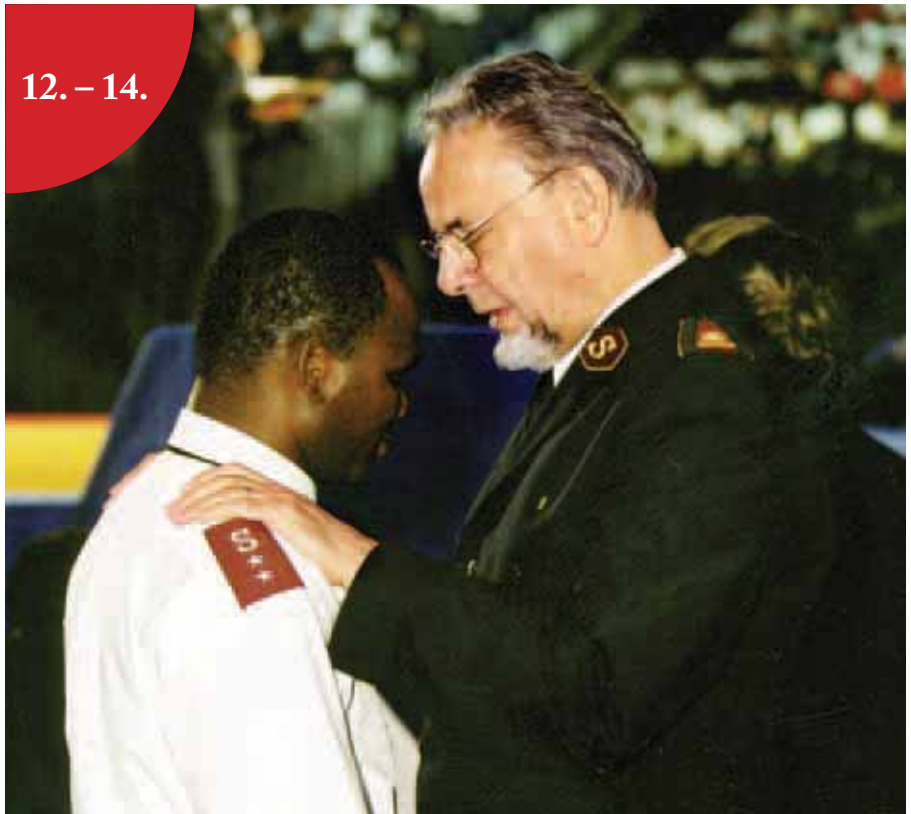
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KEEP FOCUSED

IN a BBC Radio interview Olympic gold medallist Lord Coe said that he found quite a high correlation between competitors who spent their time in competition texting and tweeting and underperformance. 'I just can't imagine why at the most important moment in your career you're thinking about telling the world you've just had a haircut, or seen a movie,' he said. He went on to speak about how in his career he was so focused on sport that he did not notice the people around him.

Whether you agree with Lord Coe's comments or not, he has highlighted the issues of distractions and not being completely focused on the task. All of us are surrounded by distractions and sometimes it is hard to keep focused. As Salvationists we are being encouraged to go deeper into God's word. Isn't this just one prime area for distraction? The phone rings, you feel tired, the family makes demands and you are sidetracked from your original intention.

If someone suggested reading through the New Testament in one year, how would you honestly feel? When I heard that Hythe Corps had already done this, I wanted to find out more. Read what Captain Phil Layton has to say and, in his words, see if it isn't something that is doable for you and your corps.

For those of you who wonder why you haven't seen an International Staff Band feature for some time, you will no longer be disappointed. Turn to pages 16 and 17 where Claire Anderson contributes a series of short interviews with a number of staff bandmen.

Also within this issue are pictures and poems of John Gowans. So many lives have been touched by the lyrics

of John Gowans and the music of John Larsson. If, like me, you were a *Take-over Bid* teenager you may have been inspired to believe that with God's help you could make a difference within the Army. Then in the early 1970s when Hubert Boardman was National Candidates Secretary there were vocational house parties at Sunbury. In successive years, shortened versions of the musicals *Jesus Folk* and *Spirit!* were introduced. Words, music and actions all learnt in less than a week under the inspiring leadership of John Gowans and John Larsson. Some of us, in our youthful exuberance, may not have realised just how privileged we were to be there. I will never forget hearing and singing songs such as 'To Be Like Jesus' and 'Burning, Burning' for the very first time. Those times for a good number of us were strongly influential in shaping our lives and future service.

God is still using the writing of John Gowans. Find a quiet place and let him speak to you as you read the poetry selected by Commissioner Keith Banks on pages 12, 13 and 14.

MAJOR JANE KIMBERLEY



SALVATIONIST

GENERAL INQUIRIES

(tel) 020 7367 4890
(email) salvationist@salvationarmy.org.uk
(web) www.salvationarmy.org.uk/salvationist
(fax) 020 7367 4691

EDITOR

Major Jane Kimberley – (tel) 020 7367 4901

MANAGING EDITOR

Stephen Pearson – (tel) 020 7367 4891

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Laura Barker – (tel) 020 7367 4893

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Kersten Rieder – (tel) 020 7367 4894

DTP DESIGNER

Colin Potter – (tel) 020 7367 4895

DTP OPERATOR

Denise D'Souza – (tel) 020 7367 4896

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Jonathan Carmichael – (tel) 020 7367 4883

ADMINISTRATOR

Stella Merino – (tel) 020 7367 4881

ADVERTISING

(tel) 020 7367 4883
(email) advertising@salvationarmy.org.uk

DISTRIBUTION

Salvationist Publishing and Supplies (Periodicals),
66-78 Denington Road, Denington Industrial Estate,
Wellingborough NN8 2QH
(tel) 01933 445451
(fax) 01933 445415
(email) keith.jennings@sp-s.co.uk

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TERRITORIAL HEADQUARTERS

101 Newington Causeway,
London SE1 6BN
(tel) 020 7367 4500
(tel) 0845 634 0101

THE SALVATION ARMY

FOUNDER

William Booth

GENERAL

Linda Bond

TERRITORIAL COMMANDER

Commissioner André Cox

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND PUBLISHING SECRETARY

Major Martin Hill



THIS WEEK'S QUOTES FROM THE PAPERS

105,000 CHRISTIANS KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH IN 2012

Over 105,000 Christians were killed because of their faith in 2012, an Italian sociologist told Vatican Radio... Prof Massimo Introvigne reported [that] 'these are not all martyrs in the theological sense of the term. However, within this number there [are] people who very consciously lay down their lives for the Church and often also pray for their persecutors and... offer forgiveness,' he said.

This forgiveness of those who persecute them is the 'unique feature of Christianity, because many other cultures – even pre-Christian and post-Christian – speak the right and duty of honour and vengeance. Christianity had this great civilising function, which today we tend to forget, to have replaced the logic of revenge with the logic of forgiveness,' Prof Introvigne said.

The Church of England Newspaper

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL GROUP BACKS LCP – BUT WITH PROVISOS

The Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP), the guidance that informs end-of-life care in the NHS, has been defended by the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF). It nevertheless warns that 'there is always potential for misuse and abuse'...

The Chief Executive of the CMF, Dr Peter Saunders, said: 'The Liverpool Care Pathway is a useful clinical tool that has helped many thousands of people experience better care in the last hours or days of life, but, like any tool, it must be used with the proper indications and by properly trained staff.'

Church Times

COURT: SUNDAY REST IS NOT CORE BELIEF

Employees who do not wish to work on Sunday because of their Christian faith have no protection in law, a High Court judge has ruled.

Mr Justice Langstaff, president of the Employment Appeal Tribunal... rejected an appeal from Celestina Mba, who claims that she was constructively dismissed by Merton Council from her position as a care worker... because it required her to work on Sundays...

The Equalities Act 2010 places a duty on employers to make 'reasonable adjustments' to ensure that they do not discriminate on the grounds of religion or belief. The Employment Tribunal ruled, however, that 'the belief that Sunday was a day of rest was not a "core" belief of the Christian faith.'

Church Times

PREACHING AND PREACHERS

New preachers and those who preach infrequently often say too much in one sermon. Perhaps they feel that now that they have the opportunity they must share all that is on their hearts and minds. Or maybe some even want to make up for deficiencies that they see in the preaching of others. However in preaching, as in many other areas of life, less is often more.

The Church of England Newspaper



- 'Splash!' and why it's sometimes good to jump into the unknown
- Jenn Bostic tells the story of her song 'Jealous Of The Angels'
- Why Helen Mirren is wrong about Christianity without God



- Celebrating Burns Night
- Learning how to pray with the KA! JAM cartoon Bible story
- 'Guinness World Records 2013 Gamer's Edition' books to win
- Your news in Your Space
- Pirate Pete gets a sinking feeling

The General leads commissioning meetings

SOUTHERN AFRICA

TWO flights and a police escorted drive took General Linda Bond to Thohoyandou, South Africa (near the border with Zimbabwe) for the commissioning and ordination of the Proclaimers of the Resurrection Session.

The covenant day meeting on Friday was marked by simplicity. Captain Noluntu Semeno shared her early experiences as an officer, including learning that a march of witness can start with one person – herself!

The General told the cadets always to present Jesus as Saviour. She had a message for everyone in the congregation too, telling them that they are called not to a hall, but to a community. In a quiet time of intercession, the seven cadets signed their covenants in obedience to God's call on their lives.

The next day, the Territorial Women's Department hosted a Silver Star meeting, which honoured parents for releasing their children to become officers. The General sensitively shared with the parents that this day could become a dedication ceremony as they could promise anew to be examples of Jesus to their children. The cadets sang 'I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go', after which they honoured their parents with handmade gifts.

Later, on a steaming-hot afternoon, Salvationists packed the Thohoyandou hall, giving the General a rousing welcome to the first public meeting.

Items from all over the territory – timbrels, drama, band and songsters – were given in worship of God. Zulu, Xhosa, Venda, Herero, Swati, Tsonga and many other cultures shared their uniqueness in dance. In the midst of the jubilation, the cadets and two 'kiddettes' (children of the cadets) brought the focus back to



God – his story becoming our story as we make history.

The General gave the reminder that, because of who God is, everyone can live a pure life, justified and redeemed by the blood of Christ.

On Sunday morning, Training Principal Major Lenah Jwili handed the cadets over with confidence to Territorial Commander Commissioner William Langa. The sessional song, composed by Ricardo Walters, highlighted their promise to proclaim the resurrection of Christ.

Later, the General spoke to the newly ordained lieutenants – and the congregation – about the true nature of God. 'How we understand God is how we'll behave,' she said, adding a challenge to all Salvationists to realise that they are called to live their lives differently to the world.

During the afternoon appointments meeting, seven beaming lieutenants – and two excited children – entered amid thunderous applause to accept their first appointments. The General offered words of challenge to the new officers, using the temptations of Christ, and reminding them that they are called to a life where they are the servant not a saviour, to a life of suffering not seduction and to a life of submission not show.

She encouraged everyone present to pray: 'I don't know what you want me to do today God, but I am ready to do

whatever you want of me.' Many people moved to the mercy seat and young people lined the stage as they publicly offered themselves for officership. – W. C.

The General with territorial leaders, training principal and cadets on covenant day

Christmas display offers food for thought

IHQ

THOUSANDS of people who passed by IHQ in December were given a striking yet subtle reminder of the gospel message through large-scale illuminated panels, using the theme All I Want For Christmas.

The large backlit posters, designed by Berni Georges (IHQ), appeared to be simple reminders of the Christmas season – but on a second glance offered a deeper meaning.

On one panel, a Christmas tree was made of guns with the word 'peace' running through its branches and a Bible passage made clear where true peace can be found. – K. S.

THQ: Officers and Salvationists from across the territory and from Pakistan and Singapore joined THQ personnel via a web-cast for the carol concert in the meeting hall. Highlights included offerings from the band and singing group both comprising THQ personnel, international Bible readings and performances from children of THQ staff. – L. B.



Sleaford corps officer Lieutenant Margaret Gargett is pictured with toys donated during a gift service; the toys were distributed to families in the area

New people welcomed through new scheme

COLCHESTER CITADEL

THE new Open House scheme – which offers vulnerable people a place to purchase reasonably priced refreshments, someone to talk to and craft activities – is encouraging new people to attend the corps. Some members who created crafts for a Christmas display attended their first Army carol service.

It is hoped the scheme will be of real benefit to the community and that more people will be encouraged to attend worship and find the Lord through this ministry. – M. H.

STOCKTON: Families and members of the community gathered at the Ian Ramsey Church of England School for the annual community carol service, led by corps officers Majors Keith and Rosemarie Williams, supported by the band, songsters and singing company. – B. C.

EASTBOURNE CITADEL: The successful YP carol service included contributions by the band learner and YP timbrel groups. The band accompanied congregational carol singing and corps officer Major David Squirrel presented the Christmas message with the help of Charlie the puppet. The performance of the musical *The Miracle Child* by the YP singing group was a highlight of the evening. – D. M.

KNOTTINGLEY: Corps officer Lieutenant Sandra Chamberlain, Mary Tyler and Gillian Cross joined Andy Peddle on his walkathon from Pontefract to Knottingley to help raise funds for the Army's homeless and anti-human trafficking programmes. At the hall, musicians also supported with a sponsored 'blow-in'. – M. T.



Corps folk and community volunteers at Dunstable prepare more than 140 food and gift hampers for families in the area

A Christmas carolcade

CHELTENHAM CITADEL

THE carolcade at the Bacon Theatre was compered by Cathy LeFeuvre (Staines) and accompanied by the band and worship band. The Mayor of Cheltenham (Councillor Colin Hay) presented two Bible readings and corps officer Captain

Steve Smith reminded the audience of the true meaning of Christmas. Performances by the puppet group and vocal solos by Vicki Riches enhanced the evening. Other musical highlights included 'I Am Not Forgotten' presented by corps members in traditional African dress, 'A Star, A Stable And Me' by Kidz Church children and 'Immanuel' by the YP gospel choir. – R. G.



Members of the Minster Knit and Talk Time group present knitted goods to corps officer Captain Bryn Hargreaves for distribution during the Christmas period

Fun and fellowship

TAUNTON

FORMER divisional leaders Majors Cliff and Jean Bradbury led the corps anniversary weekend. The corps welcomed Yeovil Band and Singing Company to provide an evening of praise and worship on Saturday night. On Sunday, corps folk enjoyed fellowship over a roast dinner. Many children gathered for a fun day under the theme Light Of The World as they made crafts and joined in song and games. – S. C-R.

HMP WHATTON: Musicians from Sleaford and Grantham provided accompaniment for two carol services at the prison. A striking drama presentation under the direction of the chaplaincy team depicted the Nativity in a modern setting, demonstrating that Jesus was found by unusual people in an unlikely place. It was followed by moving testimonies from three prisoners whose lives had been transformed after finding Christ in an unlikely place. – N. M.

NEWS

Glasgow loves Christmas

GLASGOW

THROUGHOUT December, music sections from corps in West Scotland Division played and sang to people in busy George Square. In the hospitality tent many people made contact with Divisional Commander Major Russell Wyles and Major Elwyn Harries (DHQ), who made balloon animals.

The community carol service hosted by the Army included a massed children's choir from various corps, the divisional youth band and soloist Rachel Irvine (Ayr). Territorial leaders Commissioners André and Silvia Cox presented the Christmas message. – C. W.

Nativity film delights audience

PERTH

THE annual community carol service featured the Fair City Singers. The all-girl youth choir delighted with popular Christmas songs and choral music. A highlight of the event was the presentation of a specially produced nativity film starring children from various YP and family groups. A collection raised more than £250 in aid of the Army's Embrace project. – J. G.

SOUTH SHIELDS: Kids served up a sweet treat at the family carol service; while the primary children enacted a nativity scene the older children acted as sweet shop narrators, linking the stage activity to the sweets on display. – J. G.

NELSON: Jumping Beans parent-and-toddler group presented their first ever Christmas carol service and nativity play. Many corps and family members supported the event. – J. L.



Love came down at Christmas

HEATHROW

BANDS from around and within London brought the Christmas message to offices and terminals at the airport. During this time many people were delighted by the sounds of Christmas and expressed their appreciation. Maidenhead Band concluded the week by participating in the united carol service in St George's Chapel. – F. T.



A Waitrose representative presents a cheque for £1,471 to Tunbridge Wells corps officer Major John Smith; the funds were raised through public support



Corps officer Major Sharon Duff is pictured with Community Manager Gill Collings, the Mayor of Liverpool (Councillor Joe Anderson), charity personnel and Chief Executive Ged Fitzgerald (Liverpool City Council) with gifts received for Liverpool Walton's Christmas toy appeal; the appeal was helped greatly by donations received from the City Council

NEWS

Guests delight at community carol service

GOVAN

A CAPACITY audience greeted Scottish folk singer Alastair McDonald, Rashielea Primary School Choir and children from Musical Tots as guests for the annual community carol service. The choir sang 'Rock Around The Shops' and 'He Is Immanuel' and Commissioner Keith Banks accompanied Musical Tots kids on the piano as they sang 'Away In A Manger'. As well as delighting the audience with vocal solos, Alastair compered the event and shared the Christmas story. The band played 'Christmas Joy' and 'Coventry Carol'. Proceeds of the event went to Southern General Hospital; Voluntary Services Manager Bryan Bannerman is pictured receiving a cheque for £750. – C. R.



SKEWEN: Parents and grandparents filled the hall for the parent-and-toddler group's Christmas concert – the first of two carol services that evening. The toddlers portrayed rabbits, a donkey, dogs and sheep as part of the nativity presentation. Later 12-year-old Thomas Williams compered the YP carol service and led a Christmas quiz. Contributions included 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' from Katy Batt, who was then joined by her sister Gemma to play 'Little Donkey'; Dewi Williams read the poem 'I Wonder'. – S. L.

BOSCOMBE: A concert in aid of Samaritan's Purse charity featured the music sections. Shoe boxes were sent home with members of the audience to fill with gifts for children in Belarus. The event raised £1,006 to transport the boxes abroad. – R. C.

WILLIAM BOOTH CENTRE LIFEHOUSE: The Choir With No Name – comprising people affected by homelessness – treated the Birmingham Lifehouse residents to an evening of Christmas songs. They shared various songs from 'Fairytale Of New York' to 'The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy' and sang with great enthusiasm. – J. S.



Police support new after-school club

ARMADA SPASY, MARGATE

THE Kent Police Strategic Independent Advisory Group (SIAG) donated a laptop and printer to help set up the plant's after-school club for Roma children. The equipment will be used to assist the children with their homework.

The chair of SIAG, Barry Coppock, PC Dale Lowes and Chief Inspector Gillian Ellis are pictured presenting the equipment to Major David Blowers and community members and workers. – D. B.



Elisha Sellers, pictured with divisional leaders Majors Mel and Kath Jones and Major Brenda Stones, places a gift on the money tree at Oldham Citadel; all gifts placed on the tree will be used to buy teaching aids and toys for children in Africa

BRIDGWATER: More than 60 people took part in the charity carol concert at the Town Hall Theatre. The corps folk presented singing, drama and the history of Christmas carols to a capacity audience. The corps shared the profits with St Margaret's Hospice. – N. D.

WATH-UPON-DEARNE: Many toddlers attended Messy Church and participated in Christmas-themed crafts. The puppet ministry team visited schools reaching as many as 4,000 children and 90 adults with the Christmas story. – C. D.

Mission priorities

by Territorial Commander Commissioner André Cox

AS the Fit for Mission process begins to move forward, I want to share with you some important information about progress so far. Some have said that this is simply another administration review aimed at cutting costs but this is in my view far too simplistic. It is clear that the present financial turmoil directly affects The Salvation Army and, with everybody else, there is a sense of uncertainty about what the future holds. A number of changes in legislation, including the pension and welfare reforms, will impact us financially in a significant way. This is a major issue for us.

An even greater challenge, however, is the effective use of our significant administrative structures to resource, support and empower people to achieve our God-given aims of saving souls, growing saints and serving suffering humanity. It seems to me that in some respects our focus is more on maintaining our systems, with more energy expended on our administration structures rather than on the primary mission. This represents an even greater threat to The Salvation Army than any potential funding crisis. Fit for Mission is therefore more about overall mission priorities than cost.

For example the Mission Development Plan (MDP) is a vital tool in ensuring we are focused effectively on mission at every corps. Presently fewer than one in four corps have an MDP in place. Our goal is that in the next two years every corps will have a powerful, meaningful MDP driving mission.

The steering group has been meeting and good progress is being made. The work that is being undertaken will seek to build on the in-depth consultations that took place and the valuable input received from the previous Administrative Review. We recognise the significant and useful work that has

been done and this process will build upon the foundations already laid. We are also finalising some important work on identifying our long-term strategic priorities.

We are pleased to see that a good number of people have responded and contributed to the Fit for Mission review. All comments are systematically passed on to the steering committee where these are included in the discussions and are helpful in shaping the final outcome. More people need to contribute to this process but are perhaps held back for fear of recrimination. It certainly was never foreseen that at THQ level we should in any way filter what information is sent to the steering committee. In this respect, should anyone wish to share confidential or sensitive information this can be submitted directly to Russell Chalmers (russell@holstgroup.co.uk).

“ COMMENTS ARE... PASSED ON TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE WHERE THESE ARE INCLUDED IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND ARE HELPFUL IN SHAPING THE FINAL OUTCOME ”

In order for us to better focus on our mission priorities a survey will be undertaken with officers and staff

members to establish how closely we are living up to our stated values, which were developed during the Administrative Review. This will be another way in which we can receive valuable input to include in this process.

Some concerns have been raised that with the change of leadership in the territory the process will stop. Commissioners Clive and Marianne Adams are fully informed of the developments, have met with the chair of the steering group and have confirmed their full support so this is not a concern.

Thank you for your input and commitment to developing a vibrant future for The Salvation Army.

● **Please share your concerns, comments, suggestions and hopes for the future of this territory. Email either fitformission@salvationarmy.org.uk or fit4mission@salvationarmy.org.uk or write to Fit for Mission c/o The Territorial Commander, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN.**



COMMISSIONER ANDRÉ COX

GOD-PROMPT LEADS TO BIBLE CHALLENGE

As Salvationists are being encouraged to read through the New Testament in a year, Captain Phil Layton explains how Hythe Corps took up the challenge in 2010

THE corps leadership team – being willing to take significant risks, encourage new initiatives and keep central the salvation of souls – established a programme aimed at introducing people to the gospel of Jesus Christ and getting to know God better. We strived to live to God's standards through Christ-centred worship and by accepting one another.

WHAT LED TO THE BIBLE-READING CHALLENGE?

When new people came through the doors they encountered a church that encouraged daily prayer and Bible reading. However, this came more naturally for some than for others. It was a God-prompt which provided the idea of going through the New Testament together as a spiritual family. As individuals read a chapter a day, they knew that the rest of the worshipping community was doing the same.

HOW WAS THE CHALLENGE PRESENTED TO PEOPLE?

The first important step was to introduce the idea to the corps leadership team and then to the corps.

It was presented as a doable challenge, one chapter a day for five days each week with two catch-up days if required.

The benefits of learning new things about God and themselves were highlighted, as well as personal satisfaction through reading the entire New Testament.

HOW AND WHEN DID IT START?

The challenge started in March and finished in February a year later. This allowed time for satisfactory preparation and aimed to avoid busy times in the corps calendar.

WHAT WAS THE TAKE-UP TO THE IDEA?

A majority within the corps took up the challenge. News then spread to other churches and friends in the UK and overseas, helped by a BBC radio interview and the corps newsletter.

WERE THERE ANY PARTICULAR CHALLENGES THAT YOU FACED?

The first challenge was to make people aware of what was going on and how anyone could join in. The second was to

collate the email addresses of all subscribers to ensure they received a weekly reminder of the readings.

The third was to encourage subscribers to understand the readings as a spiritual discipline, and to say a short, sincere prayer each day asking God to speak to them through the Scriptures.

The fourth was to develop a few questions or statements to accompany each day's reading so that readers would avoid simply reading the text, and be guided to understand and apply each chapter where possible.

“ IT WAS A GOD-PROMPT WHICH PROVIDED THE IDEA OF GOING THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT TOGETHER AS A SPIRITUAL FAMILY. AS INDIVIDUALS READ A CHAPTER A DAY, THEY KNEW THAT THE REST OF THE WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY WAS DOING THE SAME ”

The final challenge was to try and keep people motivated. Over the course of a year, as distractions and hardships come, it could be easy to fall behind despite the catch-up days. Regular encouragement, sharing stories from subscribers and reminders of the benefits and ultimate satisfaction, helped, as did group Bible studies where people discussed questions they had come across during their readings.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE?

The last Bible reading challenge finished in 2011. A relaunch was planned and then the corps heard about the territorial initiative scheduled to start in March 2013 and wanted to be part of that.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

It is just an amazing testimony to God's sovereignty that Commissioner Silvia Cox read about the challenge and our plans to relaunch it at the corps. As a result, the entire territory will be encouraged to do the same starting on 4 March 2013.

To subscribe, email Bible.Challenge@salvationarmy.org.uk

The sooner people subscribe the easier it will be to ensure that the weekly email reminders arrive.

For anyone without access to email, *Salvationist* will publish the weekly readings.

HOW HAS THE CHALLENGE IMPACTED INDIVIDUAL LIVES AND THE LIFE OF THE CORPS?

It has proved that it is possible to read through the entire New Testament. Many people considered chapters of the Bible they

LETTERS

SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

I WONDER how many of my brothers and sisters are aware of the calls to Salvationists arising from the International Spiritual Life Commission some years ago – particularly the call to cultivate faith, encouraging ‘exploration of new ways to recruit and train people, who are both spiritually mature and educationally competent’.

My own observation is that there is a dearth of spiritually mature soldiers. Many have a foundation of new birth, but nothing substantial has ever been built upon it. Why? I believe many think their spiritual growth is the responsibility of the corps officer and so remain in a perpetual state of spiritual infancy. Our spiritual growth is our responsibility.

I wonder how many Salvationists are aware of the training courses available from William Booth College. There is a good selection of courses to suit everyone, and at reasonable prices compared with other institutions. There is really good tutorial support and a certificate upon completing the studies, but the real treasure is in one’s own growth and development.

Having completed C21 Salvationist Doctrine and just coming to the end of

C22 Salvationist Life And Faith, I can wholeheartedly recommend these courses. The benefits far outweigh the commitment required. Several of the courses would easily lend themselves to small group study or even at corps level.

As a relative newcomer to the Army, I have been really blessed by the deep pool of spiritual resources available; I love the works of Samuel Logan Brengle and William and Bramwell Booth. There is such a rich well for us to drink from deeply, and I would encourage my brothers and sisters to take responsibility for their own growth and development by engaging in some study.

*Mick Sayner,
Nuneaton*

IHC-SPRINGWATCH

IN recent years the International Heritage Centre has arranged two very successful symposiums, both attracting more than 150 delegates. While it would have been easy to arrange another similar event, I have decided that in 2013 we will have our very own ihc-springwatch.

A series of events on alternate Thursday evenings from 14 March to 9 May will enable Salvationists to engage in a variety of activities. There will be nights in the museum, East End walks,

an opportunity to view some of the items not presently in the museum, as well as interacting with other people who want to discover more about our rich heritage.

This year marks an important milestone for the heritage centre because it is 35 years since General Arnold Brown asked Lieut-Colonel Cyril Barnes to develop an international Salvation Army archive; this was an area in which the colonel took a keen interest. As a major, Lieut-Colonel Jenty Fairbank was appointed as Archivist in 1983 with the added title of Director from 1988.

In recognition of the pioneering work of Colonel Barnes, on Thursday 11 April General Shaw Clifton (Retired) will give the first Cyril Barnes Memorial Lecture in the Assembly Hall of William Booth College at Denmark Hill, London. It is our hope that there will be a capacity audience to hear the General speak. In due course more information will be released, but I hope that this early announcement will make people eager to come to some of these events. To register interest and reserve tickets for the lecture, email stephen.grinsted@salvationarmy.org.uk (with the subject ‘ihc-springwatch’).

*Stephen Grinsted,
Major,
Director, International Heritage Centre*

had never read before and they have been reminded of how to read the Bible and listen for God’s voice.

It has helped them to recognise the way the New Testament is written and has reasserted the Bible’s importance within the fellowship and their identity within the community as Bible-believing Christians.

“ ANOTHER COUPLE INCLUDED A HUSBAND WHO WAS RELATIVELY NEW TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. THEY COMPLETED THE CHALLENGE TOGETHER AND WOULD REGULARLY DISCUSS WHAT THEY HAD READ ”

There have been some powerful stories.

A woman in her late eighties completed the challenge by reading a chapter each day to her blind husband. Both have since been promoted to Glory; it is marvellous to realise that this was one of their final achievements!

Another couple included a husband who was relatively new to the Christian faith. They completed the challenge together and would regularly discuss what they had read.

A FEW FACTS

Hythe town has a population of 15,000. The main employment is within retail. Social needs arise from family breakdown, unemployment and homelessness.

- About seventy people attend Sunday meetings at the corps including fourteen children.
- There are three Salvation Army football clubs; an after-school team for under-15s, an adult team which plays regularly in the East Kent Church League and a veterans team for over-35s.
- KidZone (Sunday school) has around twenty-two regulars and there are two thriving parent-and-toddler groups
- A community gospel choir attracts singers from across the South East. For older people there is a Wednesday Club.

General John Gowans: the person – the poet

by Commissioner Keith Banks

WHEN I was a very young lad I became aware of the verse in Proverbs 23:7 as it appears in the

King James Version: 'As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.' I don't know if I came across it myself, read a comment about it or heard it in a sermon, but it certainly made an impression on me. It helped me understand from an early age that what went on in my mind would determine what went on in my life.

This insight into the way the mind influences the human personality was possibly written as long ago as the 10th century BC. What may have been revolutionary then is now basic to our understanding of human behaviour. The lives of the strong and the weak, the great and the not so great, the good and the evil, all bear testimony to it.

The truth and validity of such a statement are perfectly demonstrated in the art of the poet. 'As a man thinketh in his heart, so he is.' What poets think, they are. What poets are, they write. Their innermost thoughts and feelings appear on the page.

General John Gowans, the 16th General of The Salvation Army who was promoted to Glory on 8 December 2012, was a poet of outstanding skill.

His remarkable gift had a distinctive and powerful impact on Salvationists and others all around the world. His genius lay in his ability to say so much with so few words, in his understanding of human nature and in his willingness

to reveal his own vulnerable humanity. To read his poetry is to read his heart, to enter his mind and to become enveloped in his personality. When one reads John Gowans, one has a head-on confrontation with his ordinariness yet at the same time is completely overawed by his greatness. It is so true that what this man thought, he was, and what he was, he wrote.

JOHN GOWANS WAS TRANSPARENTLY HONEST

*I'm not a first-class sample
Lord, it's true,
Of what your all-transforming grace*

“ WHEN ONE READS JOHN GOWANS, ONE HAS A HEAD-ON CONFRONTATION WITH HIS ORDINARINESS YET AT THE SAME TIME IS COMPLETELY OVERAWED BY HIS GREATNESS ”



*Can do!
No 'specimen' to hold up
For inspection,
No 'evidence'
Of Spirit-wrought
Perfection!
My faith is sometimes flawed,
My trust in tatters,
But you still hope for me,
That's all that matters.*

*I'm not much of a sample
It's the truth.
But of your patience
I'm the living proof!*

(From O Lord!)

JOHN GOWANS ALWAYS STRIVED TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS

*Why is man such a mixture,
Good and bad?*

It's rather disappointing.
 Even sad!
 It's always seemed to me
 A trifle odd
 That part of me is me!
 And part is God.
 But each day that I live
 My whole life through,
 Let there be less of me
 And more of You!

(From O Lord!)

To be like Jesus! This hope possesses
 me,
 His Spirit helping me, like him I'll be.

(From Spirit!)

**JOHN GOWANS HAD A PASSION
 TO BRING PEOPLE TO FAITH IN
 CHRIST**

I want to be a bridge
 Though I'm not strong.
 I want to be a bridge
 So wide, so long
 That over me from doubt
 To faith may pass
 The lad in search of God,
 The seeking lass.

Put steel into my faith,
 And concrete too,
 That men may travel
 Over me
 To you!

(From O Lord Not More Verse!)

**JOHN GOWANS BELIEVED IN THE
 POWER OF GOD TO CHANGE LIVES**

I believe in transformation,
 God can change the hearts of men,
 And refine the evil nature
 Till it glows with grace again.

(SASB 324)

**JOHN GOWANS SHOWED THE
 SERVANT ATTITUDE AS MODELLED
 BY JESUS**

We've got to be everybody's servant
 To people of ev'ry kind.
 Some may be cranks,
 They won't say 'thanks',
 But servants don't mind.
 We've got to be everybody's servant,
 At ev'ryone's beck and call.
 Make no mistake, for Jesus' sake.
 We're servants of all.

(From Man-Mark II!)



**JOHN GOWANS WAS TOTALLY
 COMMITTED TO CHRIST AND HIS
 WILL**

I want to say yes to the Lord of my life,
 Say yes to his way, his design.
 I want to say yes to his plan for my life,
 And no to ambitions of mine.
 I want to say yes to the Lord of my life,
 My will with his will to align.

Yes to your will Lord, and your will
 alone.

Yes to your plans Lord, and no to my
 own.

Take all I have Lord, I cannot give less;
 Here is my answer – it's yes!

(From The Meeting)

**JOHN GOWANS HAD LITTLE TIME
 FOR FALSE DIVISIONS BETWEEN
 SACRED AND SECULAR; HE SAW
 GOD'S HAND ON AND IN EVERYTHING
 – ONE REASON WHY A DIVERSITY OF
 PEOPLE WAS DRAWN TO HIM**

You do not always sign Your work,
 But I can tell!
 I recognise Your handiwork,
 I know it well.
 On Christian things
 Your name is bright and clear.
 In Christian songs
 Your music I can hear.

But here and there,
 In unexpected places,
 I see Your hand –
 At any rate the traces.
 In 'godless' music
 I detect Your song:
 In 'pagan' joys Your beauty.
 Am I wrong?

(From O Lord!)

**JOHN GOWANS KNEW HIS
 LIMITATIONS**

...I want to work,
 But I've a lazy streak.
 The spirit's willing but
 The flesh is weak.
 Stir me to action,
 Would you be so kind?
 And when I need it,
 Prod me from behind!

(From O Lord!)

**JOHN GOWANS HAD AN INSPIRED
 GRASP OF THE VASTNESS OF
 GOD'S GRACE**

If men will often share their
 gladness,
 If men respond when children cry,
 If men can feel each other's
 sadness,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 ►

FEATURE

◀ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

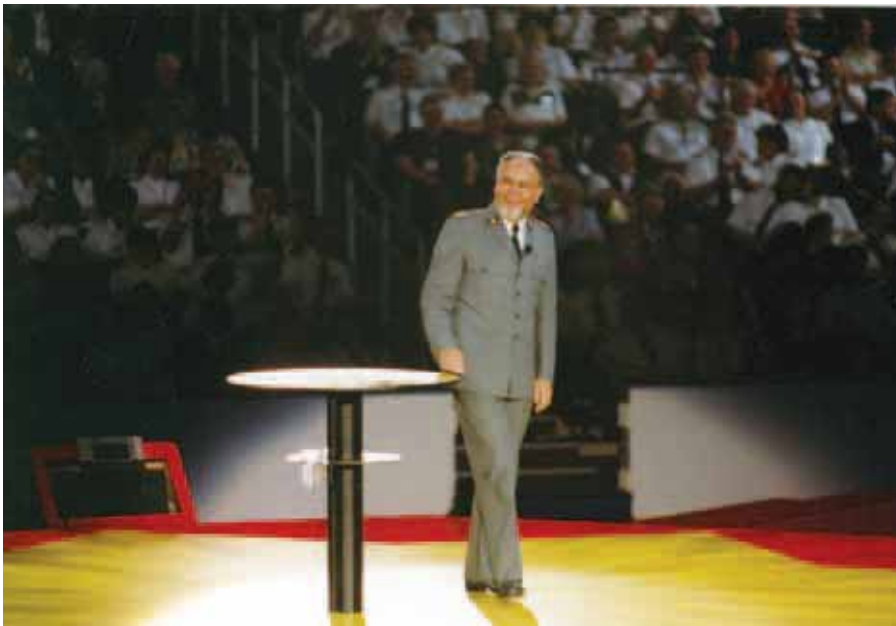
*Each other's tears attempt to dry,
Then how much more shall God our
Father...*

(From *Hosea*)

JOHN GOWANS BELIEVED THAT EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING TO GIVE TO GOD TO HELP HIM DO HIS WORK IN THE WORLD

*You don't have to be clever, though it
may well help,
You don't have to be handsome,
praise God!
You don't have to be wealthy, or for
that matter healthy.
If your heart's all right,
you'll do!*

(From *Glory!*)



JOHN GOWANS HAD NO ANXIETY ABOUT WHAT LAY AHEAD FOR HIM

*For the far future I cannot see,
Promise your presence, travel with me;
Sunshine or shadows? I cannot tell;
You know I love you, all will be well.*

(From *Jesus Folk*)

JOHN GOWANS HAD NO FEAR OF DEATH

*Is this the end?
Should I be scared
Of my friend death?
No! I'm prepared.*

*I'm quite at peace,
From fear set free,*

“ THIS ORDINARY MAN... WITH A DOWN-TO-EARTH FAITH THAT ALWAYS REACHED HEAVEN, LIVES ON. THE MIRACLE THE LORD DID WITH AND THROUGH JOHN GOWANS CONTINUES ”

so dramatically, in the hands of Jesus so little can become so much. That is why, when John Gowans gave what he had to the Lord another miracle happened. And the ripples from that miracle will not stop expanding across the sea of time.

He wrote:

*It's really rather silly
To say that people 'die'.
Of course it's only human
To regret they've 'gone'
And cry.
But in our inner hearts
Deep peace at last
Replaces pain,
As comes the reassurance
That of course
We'll meet again.*

*The farewell isn't final
So, O Lord, it can't be right
To talk of folk as 'finished'
Who are simply
Out of sight!*

(From *O Lord!*)

Out of sight he may be, but not finished. This ordinary man, who was marked by extraordinariness, with a down-to-earth faith that always reached Heaven, lives on. The miracle the Lord did with and through John Gowans continues.

*Convinced of
Continuity.
In Christ! ... In Christ! ... In Christ! ...*

(From *O Lord Not More Verse!*)

The title of John Gowans' autobiography – *There's A Boy Here* – makes reference to John 6:9, where Andrew identifies a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish which Jesus took, blessed and used to feed five thousand people. John Gowans never thought of himself as great or as having a multiplicity of outstanding gifts. He thought five small barley loaves and two small fish summed him up pretty well! But as the story illustrates



COMMISSIONER BANKS LIVES IN RETIREMENT IN SCOTLAND

Going deeper... by doing

The last of three studies by Lieut-Colonel Alan Burns

STUDY VERSE: JAMES 1:22

DOING is not a problem for many of us in a Movement as pragmatic as The Salvation Army. The 'sleeves rolled up' and 'just get on with it' attitude has earned us a reputation as Christians who live out their faith by doing. We are trusted and respected by people in all walks of life and faith – and those of no faith. Perhaps in these days when institutionalised religion is having such a hard time, this isn't such a bad thing. However, our witness for Christ requires a balance between being, knowing and doing.

The challenge now is on 'doing'.

I would venture to say that if the doing does not emerge from the being and knowing, then it is rather hollow – 'a noisy gong' (1 Corinthians 13:1 *Good News Bible*) or as the *King James Version* puts it – in Salvation Army speak – 'sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal'. If we are doing without being, we deceive ourselves!

The danger in doing without being and knowing is that we can be tempted to measure our own value as individuals solely by the results, effort and accomplishments of our work.

In this series I have already described how Jesus moved from the busyness of doing (healing and casting out demons) to the quietness of being (praying in solitude) – moving from the mind to the heart. His own sense of worth and esteem came not so much from the achievements and the accolades he received in the public arena of ministry, but from the quietness and secrecy of his Father's presence and pleasure. To our Father, we are worth far more than our accomplishments.

However, our love for God must result in doing. Taking God's presence, his love and compassion into the routine of our daily living allows us to merge it with our needy world. Our being is not reserved solely for solitude. We must take our being and live it out in our doing!

“OUR BEING IS NOT RESERVED SOLELY FOR SOLITUDE. WE MUST TAKE OUR BEING AND LIVE IT OUT IN OUR DOING!”

James places emphasis on the practical outworking of our faith: doing. For James, doing involves serving others (2:17). Others become the focus of our living. This kind of doing is what we used to call service. Service is reaching out with the compassion and grace of God to others – to people in need. Jesus was a doer. Jesus was a carer and a healer. 'Jesus wept' (John 11:35 *GNB*).

In his book *Out Of Solitude: Three Meditations On The Christian Life* Henri Nouwen says: 'A cure without care is as dehumanising as a gift given with a cold heart.' Nouwen talks about the inward journey to our hearts, into the presence of God where we encounter his love and compassion. Then there is the outward journey that takes us into the world to find Christ dwelling among us, in the poor, the

lonely, the hurt and oppressed people who demand our service and compassion. The inward journey of 'being' sends us to the outward journey of 'doing'.

James says that the two journeys are connected and should never be separated.

Doing brings us into contact with others – including other people within the Body of Christ – whom we are commanded to love. We share with them in offering service, by doing together and in the doing we are God's agents of transformation in our communities. That is our responsibility as Salvationists – to exist for others. We work hard together and sometimes see little in the way of results. But that doesn't matter. We may be regarded as weak and foolish; we may be marginalised and ridiculed, but we're not in it for acclaim or reward. Jesus speaks to us in lonely places and reminds us: 'I will be with you always, to the end of the age' (Matthew 28:20 *GNB*).

Doing is expressed in love and service. Jesus expresses it like this: 'The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them' (John 15:13 *GNB*).

This is what we must do. We can't go much deeper than that.



LIEUT-COLONEL BURNS IS SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND

INTERNATIONAL STAFF BAND

SIXTY SECONDS WITH THE ISB

Claire Anderson speaks briefly to members of the International Staff Band



International Staff Bandmaster Stephen Cobb (Hendon)

HIGHLIGHT OF LAST SEASON Seeing the way Salvationists want to celebrate and enjoy what it is to be part of The Salvation Army – and seeing some of the great things the Army is doing.

NEW RECORDINGS It's been an extraordinarily busy year. The band completed four CDs: *Heritage Series Volume 4 – Music From The 1960s*, one featuring Kenneth Downie's music – *From The Heart*, the backing for my son Philip's, CD *Songs From The Heart* and *Fire In The Blood*.

NEWCOMERS TO THE ISB Rob Hayward (percussion, Birmingham Citadel); Gavin Lamplough (solo cornet, Birmingham Citadel); Simon Scott (trombone, Felixstowe); David Lockwood (bass trombone, Chatham).

NEW MUSIC No new large works but we're regularly surprised and affirmed by the contributions we receive at the Music Ministries Unit. At Territorial Music School we used a

new manuscript from a first-time contributor. It was a Latin-style piece from a 23-year-old Australian; it will be interesting to see how the ISB takes to it.

UPCOMING EVENTS Corps visits across the UKT and a tour in August to USA Eastern Territory.

EVERYONE KNOWS YOU AS A MUSICIAN, BUT WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB AS A CHILD? To play for Arsenal, but I was clearly never going to be good enough!

FAVOURITE MUSIC I love film music, the John Wilson Orchestra, John Williams and Army music. Right now I'm in a classical phase but I know I will suddenly rediscover another group or musician.

FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY I'm appreciating the parables more as I get older, and gleaning from Scripture how the disciples always expected exciting things to happen when they were with Jesus.



Chris House (percussion, Regent Hall)

FAVOURITE FOOD Roast dinner – as a student we don't get them very often so when I do, it's good!

I'M STUDYING Music at the London College of Music.

QUIRKS I'm fairly obsessive about cleaning – living with students, it's a bit hard!

FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY The Sermon on the Mount. Although I see the humorous connotations because of the *Life Of Brian* film, I appreciate its deeper message.



Picture: PAUL HARMER

SCARIEST THING I'VE DONE A 700ft bungee jump in South Africa. My eyes were closed – I don't think I even screamed – I just prayed all the way down!



Andrew Dickinson (tenor horn, Birmingham Citadel)

HOBBIES Motorsports – watching races and go-karting.

CORPS ROLE Assistant Young People's Band Leader.

FAVOURITE FOOD My mum's roast beef on a Sunday!

KEY BIBLE VERSE I know whatever I'm experiencing there is something in the Bible that will offer encouragement or comfort. I particularly like Isaiah 53:5, used in the piece 'For Our Transgressions'.

BEING A STAFF BANDSMAN I've always been a bando but never thought I'd be in the ISB. It's not an opportunity a lot of people have and I feel very privileged.

BEING A CHRISTIAN I have faith in God's purpose for my life. The exciting part is I don't know what's going to happen but God does and has a plan in place.

FAVOURITE JOKE I was brought up as an only child... much to the annoyance of my brother!



Stuart Hall (trombone, Maidenhead)

DID YOU KNOW? I am one of two staff bandmen with a grade in a stringed instrument.

WHY I ENJOY THE ISB Playing music to a high standard and seeing how people relate to the band.

IF I HAD A SUPER POWER I would go back in time and put right some of the things I should've done right the first time!

FAITH FOR ME IS Knowing there is hope for the future.

FAVOURITE BIBLE STORY When Jesus puts mud on the blind man's eyes. I've often wondered what the blind man thought about having mud put on his eyes and being told by someone he can't see to wash it off and everything will be fine.



Simon Scott (trombone, Felixstowe)

MY JOB ALOVE's Events Co-ordinator at THQ.

FAVOURITE SPORT Football – I support Ipswich Town.

IF I HAD A SUPER POWER I would travel at the speed of light – it would help get me to work a bit quicker!

FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE Jeremiah 29 – it reminds me that God looks after all our plans and everything is in his control.

WHY JOIN THE ISB? To be really challenged to play to a standard I haven't experienced previously and have the opportunity to travel round the territory ministering with other people.

WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN? The opportunity to share something really amazing with other people.



Nigel Hills (cornet, Harpenden)

I'M AN IDEAL GUEST BECAUSE I eat anything and everything I'm served!

IF I HAD A SUPER POWER I would grant everyone their wish. I'd wish for Leicester City to win the Premiership, but it's not going to happen, is it!

DREAM JOB Fighter pilot.

WHY JOIN THE ISB? The spirit of the group is great and really helps me in what I do at my corps. As a bandmaster there are things I take away that influence my role.

WHAT'S EXCITING ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN? Knowing that Christ is at the centre of everything. If I face anything there is an instant communication that helps me in everything I do.



Gary Terrar (tenor horn, Maidenhead)

FAVOURITE PIECE The trombone solo 'The Eternal Quest'.

MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT Being torn apart by a well-known composer at music school for playing someone else's part.

WHY JOIN THE ISB? It's a wonderful opportunity – I was 55 when I joined. I'm playing music I wouldn't play at corps level and receive superb training.

MY FAITH I gave my heart to the Lord in my teens. I didn't have much to offer but it's surprising how God uses you in ways you don't understand.

IF I HAD A SUPER POWER I would be invisible so I could spend the day with the Prime Minister to see what is actually said and what is said to the public.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARMY PEOPLE

DEDICATED TO GOD

- **Leah Grace**, daughter of Gavin and Carolyn Hampton, at Stowmarket by Territorial Envoy Robert Westwood-Payne
- **Noah**, son of BM Darren and Louise Highton, at Preston by Major Mike Highton
- **Jack**, son of Ian and Guide Ldr/Bandswoman Judith Jennings, at Darlaston by Divisional Envoy David Harrison

BEREAVED

- **Major Ray King** of his sister Mrs Lieut-Colonel Kathleen Southall
- **Lieut-Colonel Ann Hurcum** of her husband Lieut-Colonel Clifford Hurcum, **Caroline Woodman**, Hadleigh Temple, **Richard Hurcum**, **Jayne Bryan** and **Robert Hurcum** of their father
- **Kris Kirby** of his wife Elaine, **Sophie**, **Lucy** and **Nathan** of their mother, all Kidderminster, **Territorial Envoy Renee Palmer**, Millom, of her daughter
- **Songster Sandra MacGowan**, Exeter Temple, of her father Denis Lofthouse
- **Marie McDougall**, Parkhead, of her brother John
- **CSM Audrey Briggs**, Pontefract, of her sister Doreen

RETIRED OFFICERS

Birthday congratulations:

- **Lieut-Colonel Malcolm Snell** (85 on 26 January)

PROMOTED TO GLORY

- **Mrs Lieut-Colonel Kathleen Southall** from Bury St Edmunds on 23 December 2012
- **Lieut-Colonel Clifford Hurcum** from Ipswich on 5 January
- **Margaret Brown**, Wigan

OFFICIAL GAZETTE

UK Territory

LONG SERVICE

35 years –

Major Stephen Perkins, Staines
ANDRÉ COX,
Commissioner,
Territorial Commander

TRIBUTES



LIEUT-COLONEL COLIN FAIRCLOUGH

COLIN FAIRCLOUGH was born in Lostock Hall, near Preston, in 1937 to loving Methodist par-

ents. From humble beginnings, he passed the eleven-plus and attended the celebrated Hutton Grammar School. To be an 'Old Huttonian' was something he remained proud of throughout his life.

Following school, Colin carried out National Service in the Royal Navy, travelling widely – to Alexandria, Beirut, Cyprus, Marseille, and more. Such experiences, he acknowledged, were rare for 'ordinary folk' at that time.

While with the Royal Navy, Colin met and fell in love with a young Salvationist, Sonia Newman, who had already accepted the calling to officership. Colin's calling duly followed.

They married in 1961 and shared more than 40 years' service together, in St Helena, the Philippines, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the UK.

The colonel's final appointment was as Director of the Family Tracing Service – a role that delighted him more than words can express.

His family, including his wife Sonia (they celebrated their golden wedding in 2011), four children and nine grandchildren, were an infinite source of joy to him. Two of his children, along with five grandchildren, now live in California and Colin treasured his annual visits to the West Coast of America to see his family and to travel through the American desert he came to love so much.

One of his greatest legacies is the collection of songs, poems and prayers written throughout his officership. Some of his best-loved words sum up how the colonel indeed lived his own life, every day: Gracious Lord, thy grace apply,/ Both to save and sanctify;/ All my life wilt thou control,/ Calmly ordering the whole,/ That the world may ever see/ Christ, and only Christ, in me. (*SASB* 479) – T. C.



LIEUT-COLONEL CHARLESINA PARKHOUSE

FOLLOWING the death of her mother, Charlesina Cameron – born in Glasgow on Christmas Day 1929 –

moved to a small fishing and farming village in the Scottish Highlands, where the Campbell family loved and cared for her as their own.

Soon after leaving school she returned to Glasgow to become a nursery assistant. During this impressionable period, Ina – as she was known – came into contact with enthusiastic Salvationists, being drawn to the powerful gospel they lived and preached. Linking up with Govan Citadel, she gave her heart to Jesus and became an active Salvationist. She recognised her call to officership while selling *The War Cry* in the public houses, entering the 1949 Standard Bearers Session.

As a new lieutenant she was appointed as an assistant to the training college health lodge, using her practical and caring skills. Here she attracted the attention of Cadet

ENGAGEMENTS

GENERAL LINDA BOND: ● Japan, Sat 19 Jan - Tu 22 ● ICO, Th 24 ● General's Consultative Council, Mon 28 - Wed 30 ● Sri Lanka, Fri 1 Feb - Mon 4 ● Nepal (South Asia Zonal Conference), Tu 5 - Mon 11 ● UK, Regent Hall (welcome and installation of territorial leaders), Sat 16 ● ICO, Sun 17

THE CHIEF OF THE STAFF (COMMISSIONER BARRY SWANSON) AND COMMISSIONER SUE SWANSON: General's Consultative Council, Mon 28 Jan - Wed 30

THE CHIEF OF THE STAFF (COMMISSIONER ANDRÉ COX) AND COMMISSIONER SILVIA COX: ● Norway, Iceland and The Faeroes (installation of territorial leaders), Sat 2 Feb - Mon 4 ● Finland and Estonia (installation of territorial leaders), Fri 8 - Sun 10

THE TERRITORIAL COMMANDER (COMMISSIONER CLIVE ADAMS) AND COMMISSIONER MARIANNE ADAMS: ● Regent Hall (welcome and installation), Sat 16 Feb

THE CHIEF SECRETARY (COLONEL DAVID HINTON) AND COLONEL SYLVIA HINTON: ● Bangor, Sat Sun 27 Jan ● South-Western (installation of divisional leaders), Sat 2 Feb ● Scotland Council, Th 7 ● Reading Central, Sun 10 ● Regent Hall (welcome and installation of territorial leaders), Sat 16 ● London Central (installation of divisional commander), Sun 17

COMMISSIONER TORBEN ELIASEN: ● Caribbean, Sat 2 Feb - Th 7

COMMISSIONERS ROBERT AND JANET STREET: ● General's Consultative Council, Mon 28 Jan - Wed 30 ● ICO, Th 31

INTERNATIONAL STAFF SONGSTERS: ● Reading Central, Sat Sun 20 Jan ● Regent Hall (welcome and installation of territorial leaders), Sat 16

INTERNATIONAL STAFF BAND: ● Portsmouth Citadel, Sat Sun 27 Jan

Lincoln Parkhouse, who seemed to find every possible excuse for medical treatment!

Their marriage in 1956 began a lifetime partnership, and, while retaining her own unique strong personality, she complemented Lincoln in their committed mutual calling.

Although their vocation took them to many towns and cities, in Ina's mind she would 'climb mountains and feel God's Spirit flowing' through her soul. She never lost her childhood love of wide, open spaces.

With an unswerving faith in God, her approach to life was always calm and practical, one of her favourite adages being: 'I'm too blessed to be stressed!' Her reputation as a hard-working corps officer was widespread. After retirement she continued to be a valuable and faithful soldier at Enfield.

Happiest when surrounded by her family, Ina's immense pride always shone through at the mention of her three boys, Lincoln, Gordon and Iain. Her motherly love, patience and Christian example have influenced them all and left them with a deep sense of gratitude. She loved the lively company of her five grandchildren and great-granddaughter, delighting in their achievements and occasionally offering a little Scottish advice and discipline.

Her bright smiling face, naturally caring words of encouragement and positive Christian influence have left a huge impact on many lives.

After her husband's promotion to Glory in March 2012, she comforted herself with precious memories before gently joining him in Heaven. She was indeed an amazing, caring little lady. – L. B./E. B.



MRS MAUREEN SUTTON-THOMPSON, STAPLEFORD

MAUREEN was a West Country girl. She married George and the family settled in

Stapleford. Readily praying and testifying in meetings, Maureen was very active in the corps as a songster and bandswoman. She was also home league treasurer and singers' leader for a time, and – in the 1970s – the primary sergeant and timbrel leader for the singing company. When the corps owned its own minibus she was one of the drivers and enjoyed transporting the young people to various engagements.

In recent years Maureen experienced declining health, but corps members thank God for her faithful Christian service, which was very real, active and energetic. – E. S.



HENRY ARMSTRONG, GUISBOROUGH

HENRY was introduced to the Army when his wife Mary asked him to take some plants he had grown to

the hall for the Harvest display. He was so impressed by the welcome and friendship he received that he began attending meetings. This resulted in their enrolment as soldiers in February 1980.

Henry was appointed band colour sergeant later that year, proudly holding this position until 2002. He took great pride in carrying the band or corps flags on various occasions and it was a great personal loss to him when he was no longer able to carry out this duty.

Henry's favourite song, 'O, What A Wonderful, Wonderful Day' was also his testimony; he was absolutely sure of his 'future in Heaven'. – S. S.



GORDON WILLETTS, READING CENTRAL

GORDON was born into a Salvationist family in Reading in 1924. During the

Second World War he worked in the Army's assurance society accounts department at Rosehill, and was a member of the Rosehill Band. He joined the RAF in 1942, serving in India and Malaya.

Gordon married Dorothy, his beloved wife of 65 years, in 1947. They were blessed with two children, Dorita and Martin, and two grandsons.

Gordon loved music and enjoyed praising the Lord through song. His strong faith supported him, especially through the latter period of his life. He is remembered as a considerate, gentle man who always gave encouragement and thought of others before himself. – D. W.



MRS EVELYN DUCKSTEIN, CARDIFF CATHAYS

EVELYN was a committed Salvationist all her life – at Cardiff Stuart Hall and then at

Cardiff Cathays. A life-saving guard, corps cadet, songster and company guard, she also held many local officer commissions. She

travelled around the Cardiff area and beyond to conduct home league meetings.

The highlight of her year was the Holiday Plus Fellowship at Butlin's. She had attended almost every year since it began and regularly had a craft stall selling cards in aid of corps funds.

After a short illness, Evelyn was promoted to Glory the day before her 85th birthday. – A. G./A. D.



MRS KATHLEEN (BUNTY) AMBROSE, IPSWICH CITADEL

BORN in 1932, Bunty – as she was known to everyone – met and

married Bernard in 1952. They had two sons, Gary and Nigel, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bernard died in 1993.

Bunty was No 2 on the roll, and a tireless worker for the Army. She displayed her Christian faith in a variety of unassuming, practical ways – through work at Ipswich Priory Centre, soup-runs and many sponsored walks for the helping-hand appeal and corps funds. These examples give a glimpse of her quiet but active life in the Lord's service.

Bunty was promoted to Glory after a short illness. – D. S.



GORDON LIGHTLEY, BEDLINGTON

GORDON was born in 1924 at Bedlington, where he and his wife Bertha raised their five children. He spent his

working life with the National Coal Board and British Gas, retiring in 1982. He applied wisdom, discipline and Christian integrity in everything he did.

A key figure in the corps, Gordon led the songsters and male voice party for 26 years before accepting responsibility as corps secretary for a further 12 years.

He retired from the band and songsters after 63 years in 2002, but remained a faithful, cheerful, supportive influence. Many testify to his example and consistency in the living out of his faith.

Gordon leaves 11 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. – K. L.

Please note that soldiers' tributes submitted for publication should be no longer than 120 words.

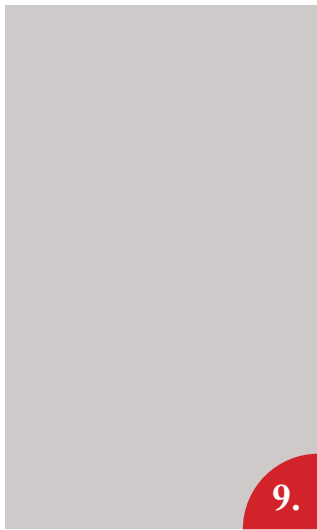
NEW COMMITMENTS



1.



2.



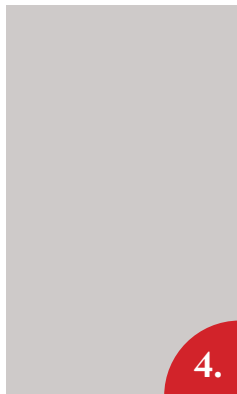
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1. **GORDON BARLOW** Adherent member **RHYL**

GORDON was invited to Sunday worship by a friend and made the corps his spiritual home. He is convinced that he is where God wants him to be. Corps officer Lieutenant Sian Radford welcomed him as an adherent member. – J. S.

2. **JOHN NORRIE** Soldier **EDINBURGH CITY**

JOHN, pictured with CSM Duncan Miller, returned to the Army several months ago. Corps leaders Territorial Envoys Albert and Pat Kidd enrolled him as a soldier. He testified to coming to the Lord while in the military and spoke of God being in control of his life. – C. K.

3. **JEAN CULLEN** Soldier **WORKSOP**

JEAN had tried most of the churches in the town and started to attend the corps five years ago. She was made welcome, became an adherent member and has now decided to take a further step. Corps officer Captain Ashley Dawson enrolled Jean – pictured with Major Nasreen Dawson – as a soldier. – A. D.

4. & 5. **BILL WEBB, LILY WEBB** Adherent members **HADLEIGH TEMPLE**

BILL and Lily were invited to the Silver Service Club. As keen gardeners they sold plants for club funds. This brought them in contact with corps members and they began to attend Sunday meetings.

Associate officer Major Geoff Ashdown welcomed Bill and Lily as adherent members. – B. N.

6. **SIAN SMITH** Junior soldier **DARTFORD**

IN the presence of corps folk and family, Sian was enrolled as a junior soldier on her ninth birthday by her mother, corps officer Lieutenant Zoe Smith. When asked what the best part of being a Christian was, Sian answered: 'Being part of God's family.' – C. M.

7. & 8. **LEANDRA GADZIKWA, LYSANDRA GADZIKWA** Junior soldiers **BOOTLE**

CORPS officer Lieutenant Sam Hamilton enrolled Leandra and Lysandra as junior soldiers.

The sisters belong to a Salvationist family with links to Zimbabwe. They helped to plan the meeting and chose the songs 'He's Got The Whole World In His Hands' and 'Abide With Me'. – J. H.

9. **THOMAS ALLAN** Soldier **KETTERING CITADEL**

THOMAS was a junior soldier at Ayr and lived in Wales before moving to the area with his parents six years ago. He attended soldiership classes and at East Midlands Summer School he decided that it was the right time to make a further commitment.

He asked the singing company to sing 'I'm In His Hands' before Major Sheila Hunt enrolled him as a soldier. In the same meeting he was commissioned as a bandsman. – T. H.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Through the week with 'Salvationist' – a devotional thought for each day

Saturday

New every morning is the love
Our waking and uprising prove,
Through sleep and darkness safely
brought,
Restored to life and power and thought.
(SASB 668)

Sunday

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and
sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer
your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and
pleasing to God – this is your true and
proper worship.
(Romans 12:1)

Monday

Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be
As more of Heaven in each we see;

Some softening gleam of love and prayer
Shall dawn on every cross and care.

(SASB 668)

Tuesday

Offer yourselves to God as those
who have been brought from death
to life; and offer every part of
yourself to him as an instrument
of righteousness.
(Romans 6:13)

Wednesday

Only, O Lord, in thy great love,
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray.

(SASB 668)

Thursday

The Lord has done it this very day; let us
rejoice today and be glad.

(Psalm 118:24)

Friday

Your plan for us, O Lord, is that we
replicate
The life of Christ, our Saviour and your
Son.
Grant us the wisdom and the will to
dedicate
Each day, aware that each day's victory
has been won.
Lord, we would praise you by our
thoughts, our words and deeds
And be Christ's body in our world of
desperate needs. Amen



Praying around the world... Democratic Republic of Congo

The first corps was established in Kinshasa in 1934 by Commissioner and Mrs Henri Becquet. Work spread to Congo (Brazzaville) in 1937. Congo (Kinshasa) and Angola Territory was renamed Democratic Republic of Congo Territory in March 2008 when Angola became a command. The territory, led by Commissioner Madeleine Ngwanga, comprises 351 officers, 180 corps, 101 outposts, numerous health centres and clinics, 384 schools (with more than 100,000 children in attendance), 27,784 senior soldiers, 1,943 adherent members and 13,612 junior soldiers. Corps continue to hold meetings in the troubled areas but shops remain closed through fear of looting, so daily life is not easy. Pray that the conflict will cease so that people will no longer live in fear, and pray for Salvationists to show the love of Jesus through their contact with neighbours and friends.



The Cuillins, Skye, Scotland. Picture: BERNARD MEALING