



Blood & Fireworks - Day 26

Jesus Leads us in Battle

We know that Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He is our King, and kings leads their armies into battle. When we go out to fight against demons and against sin and unfairness, or to win other people to Him, Jesus is with us, leading us in the battle. He says to us, 'I will never leave you, nor abandon you' (Joshua 1:5b) so we can be sure of His presence when we fight.

Sometimes Jesus will lead us into frightening battles. But He is a very wise King and will always lead us to victory. Hallelujah!

Can you see in this picture, Jesus is leading the salvation soldiers on to battle. He points, 'Onward' and the salvation soldiers follow Him because they love Him and they know He loves them.

Now imagine yourself as one of those salvation soldiers. Wouldn't that be exciting (and maybe a little bit scary)? Let us follow Jesus into the battle, and stay very close to Him, so we can hear His orders and know how best to fight the enemy! And we will be guaranteed victory in Jesus! Hallelujah!



Memory Verse:

I will be with you. I will never leave you or forsake you.

Joshua 1:5b





Blood & Fireworks - Day 27

Rescue Those Headed to Hell

Imagine a great big scary stormy sea. Imagine there are people swimming in that stormy sea. Some of them are drowning and crying out to be saved. Some aren't drowning yet, but they see that they are in danger because the waves are so big. Some don't even realize how much danger they are in, they are just swimming along happily.

That sea is called sin, and the people swimming are those people who don't know Jesus. Some of them see how their sin is overwhelming them and killing them, and they are crying out to be saved. For others, their sin hasn't destroyed them yet, but they realize they are in danger if they won't repent. Most people just don't realize how much danger they are in.

Salvation soldiers like you and I are like the people in the boat – we're trying to rescue as many people as we can! We do this by telling them how much God loves them, telling them that Jesus died to forgive their sins, and inviting them to repent and believe and to follow Jesus. Who do you know who needs to be saved? Maybe you should speak to them about Jesus today – their life depends on it!



Memory Verse:

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12



Blood & Fireworks - Day 28

Jesus Commissions His Soldiers

Have you ever seen a movie where a super-hero gets sent on a mission to save the world? Well, soldiers of Jesus have been given a mission to save the world, too! But not from aliens or an evil scientist, but from sin and the devil.

We fight battles when we tell people about Jesus' love for them and help them to know Him; when we pray and when we testify about what God has done in our life.

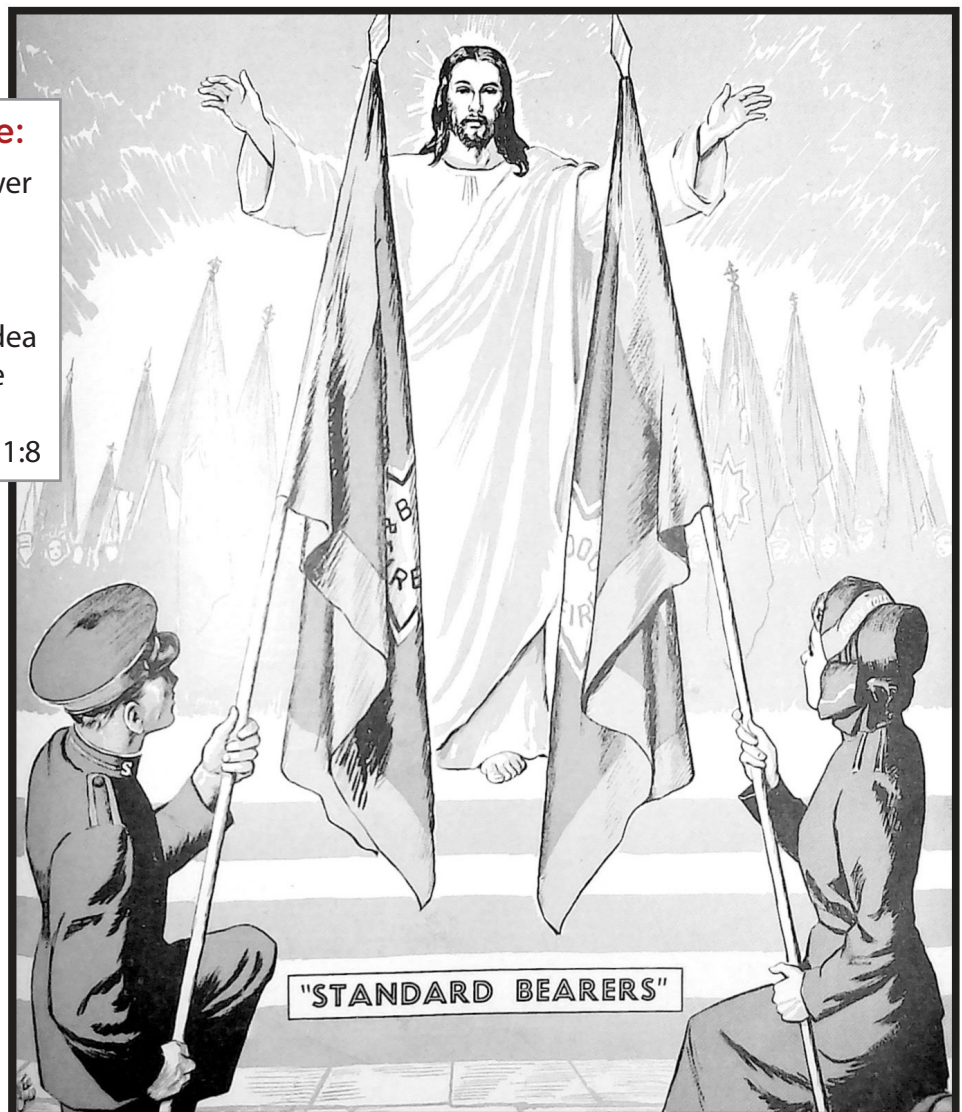
Being a salvation soldier is tough, and sometimes scary. We can't do it on our own – we need God's help. The good thing is, Jesus promises to help us! He said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you to be my witnesses..." The Holy Spirit will give us the power we need to be good soldiers of Jesus and defeat the enemy. It's almost as if God gives us super powers! That's pretty cool!



Memory Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8





Blood & Fireworks - Day 29

Salvation Soldier Defeats Dragons

It is true. You probably have a favourite superhero. That superhero can jump really high, or is very strong, or can see through walls. Great. But you know that those heroes are just made up. And those powers are just made up. They're fun, but they are not real.

However, a salvation soldier is real. There are more than a million salvation soldiers, many of them junior soldiers (kids like you). And they can do amazing things. How? They have the power of God. Do you see this salvation soldier wielding the sword of salvation against the dragon of sin? That's real.

When you testify of Jesus' saving power in your life and give people opportunity to receive the Lord Jesus Christ into their lives you are swinging away at the dragon of sin.

Two things, here: 1. See yourself - if you are a junior soldier - as the salvation soldier in the picture; 2. Train up in spiritual things (reading your Bible, praying, memorizing Scripture...) and fight the enemy!



Memory Verse:

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Romans 1:16





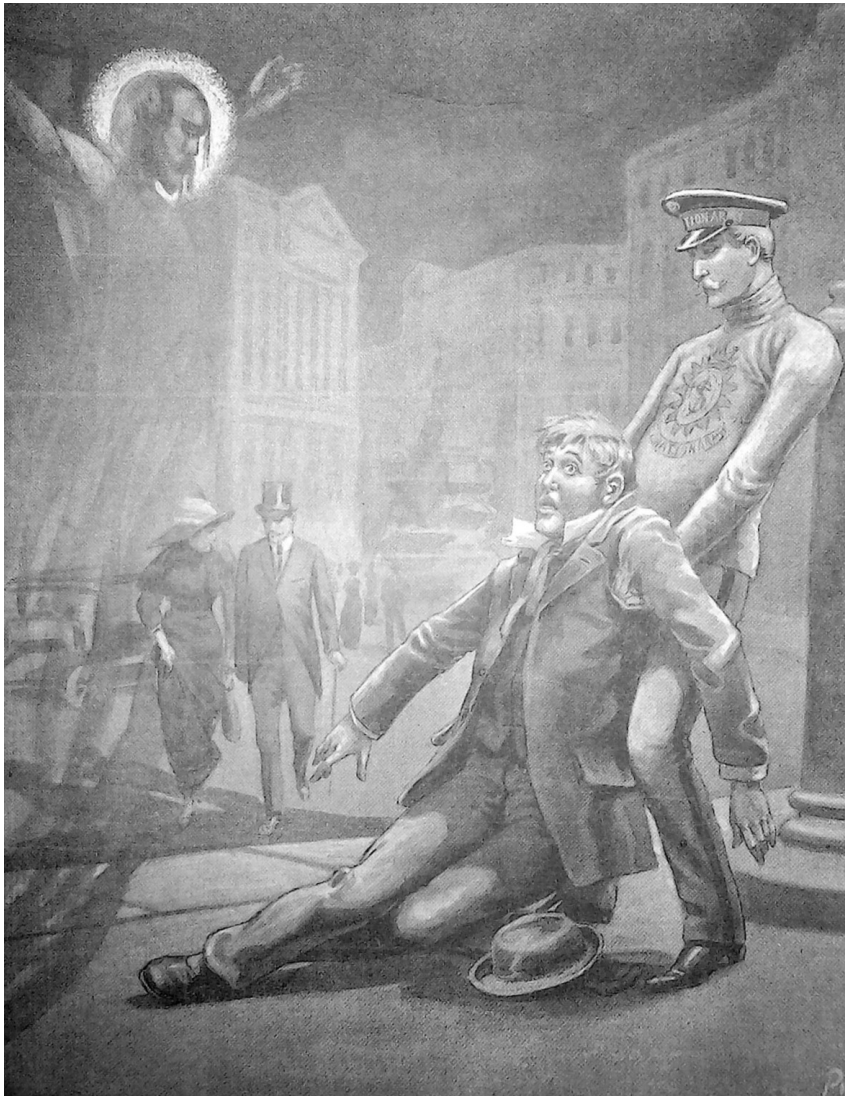
Blood & Fireworks - Day 30

Go for Souls, and Go for the Worst

This title is a famous line by the founder of The Salvation Army, General William Booth. What he's commanding us is to 'go', for starters. We can't just sit around our home, playing games and killing time. We have to 'go' after those who are bound by the enemy, satan, and capture them for God. We go for souls. That means we're going to save people.

Which ones should we focus on? The worst! That might mean the biggest bully in your school, or the least popular kid who usually gets picked on or left out of games and fun. But, it also means the mean adults in society who commit crimes. And, it includes people who have poisoned themselves with alcohol and drugs. And, it even includes people who hurt other people.

Those are our people! Those are the ones the Lord Jesus Christ is sending us to find and capture. We need God's love and power to make it happen. But, do you know what? God will give His love and power to us when we ask!



Memory Verse:

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10



Blood & Fireworks - Day 31

Aggressive Christianity

The two Salvationists in this picture are praying with a lady on the side of the street. Does that seem a little odd to you? When was the last time you saw someone praying on the side of the street?

These salvation soldiers are introducing the lady to Jesus. They know that without being His friend, she will never live a happy life, and will go to Hell when she dies. They want to save as many people as they can in the shortest possible time, because they know that so many people are going to Hell.

They're even willing to stop strangers on the street to tell them how much God loves them, and how Jesus can save them. That's pretty bold!

It's called 'Aggressive Christianity,' because salvation soldiers are aggressive in their love toward people and in the fight against the devil and his demons.

This can be scary sometimes, but we know that God is with us, helping us to win souls for Him.



Memory Verse:

I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

John 5:24





Blood & Fireworks - Day 32

Spend and Be Spent

In 2 Corinthians 12:15 Paul testifies that he, "will gladly spend and be spent for your souls". It is so important that people turn from their sins by confessing and repenting, and trusting and obeying Jesus. Paul was willing to spend everything he had to help make it happen. And he did. But not only that - Paul was also willing that God completely spend Paul himself to see everyone get saved by Jesus. He was willing to die, if that was necessary, to see more people rescued from sin and hell.

Salvation soldiers are all about that. God has shown us that people without Jesus are desperate for hope, forgiveness, purpose, belonging, peace, love and eternal life. There is no name under heaven other than Jesus by which each person can be saved.

Surely if Jesus died on the cross for our sins the cause is worthy of everything we have and all that we are. There is an old Salvation Army saying 'every hour and every power for Christ and duty'. The great thing is that the picture indicates that Jesus is with us through it all! Spend and be spent to see everyone get saved.



Memory Verse:

And I will very gladly spend
and be spent for you.
2 Corinthians 12:15a





Blood & Fireworks - Day 33

Taste of Heavenly Celebration for the Faithful

Following Jesus is sometimes very difficult. But often following Jesus involves good times all around. Salvation soldiers have many joyful moments – sometimes it's really fun to sing and dance to God in worship, and when the Holy Spirit shows up the Holy Party really gets going! What a fantastic time in the presence of the Lord.

The officer in this picture has just finished her appointment at a corps. Those she has helped are so grateful, that they carry her around on a chair in celebration for what God has done! They're having a big praise-party!

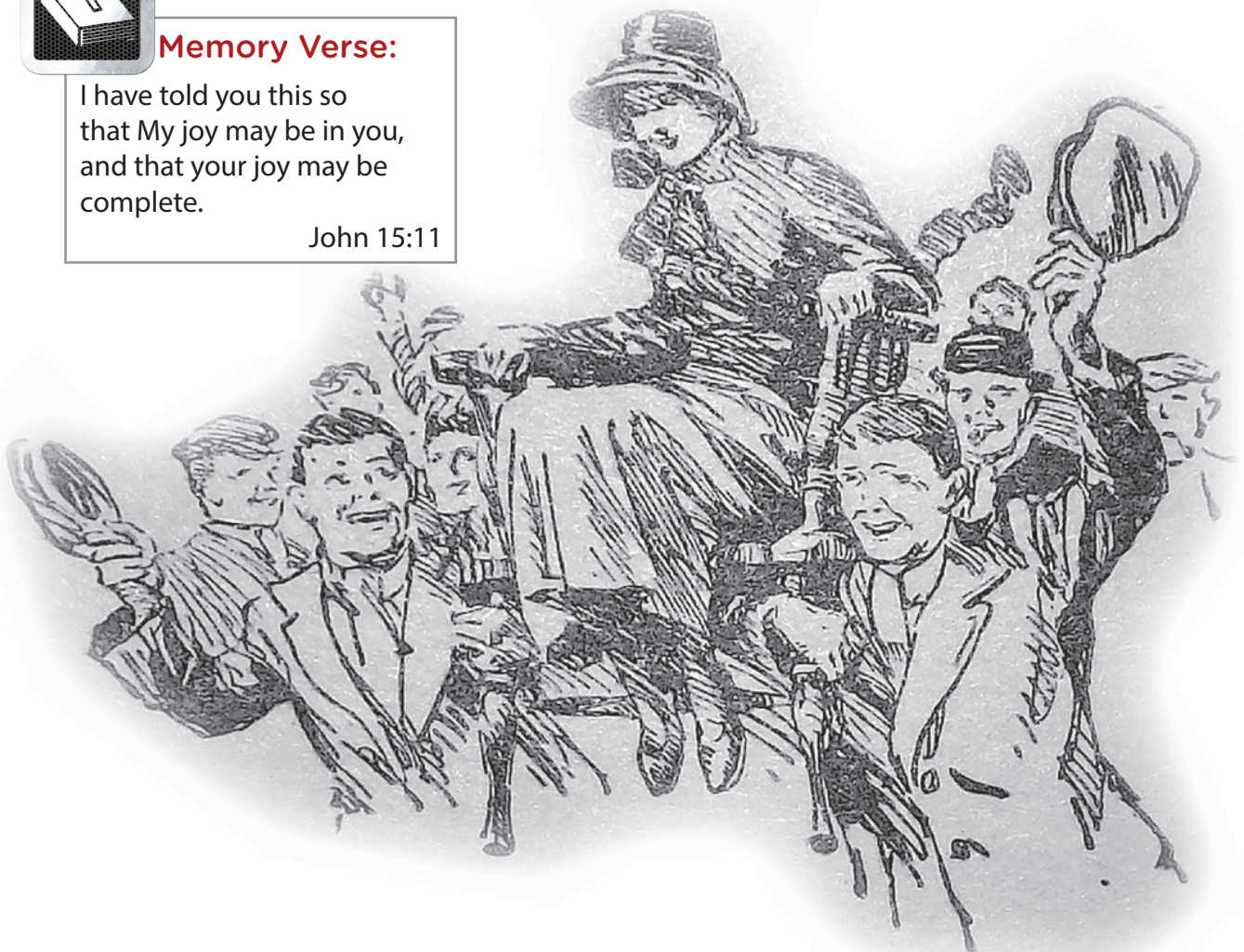
The Bible says in Luke 15:10 that when a sinner repents (turns away) from his or her sin and gets saved, that the angels in heaven rejoice and celebrate. That's pretty cool! And the more people we help to get saved, the more the angels get to party!



Memory Verse:

I have told you this so
that My joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be
complete.

John 15:11





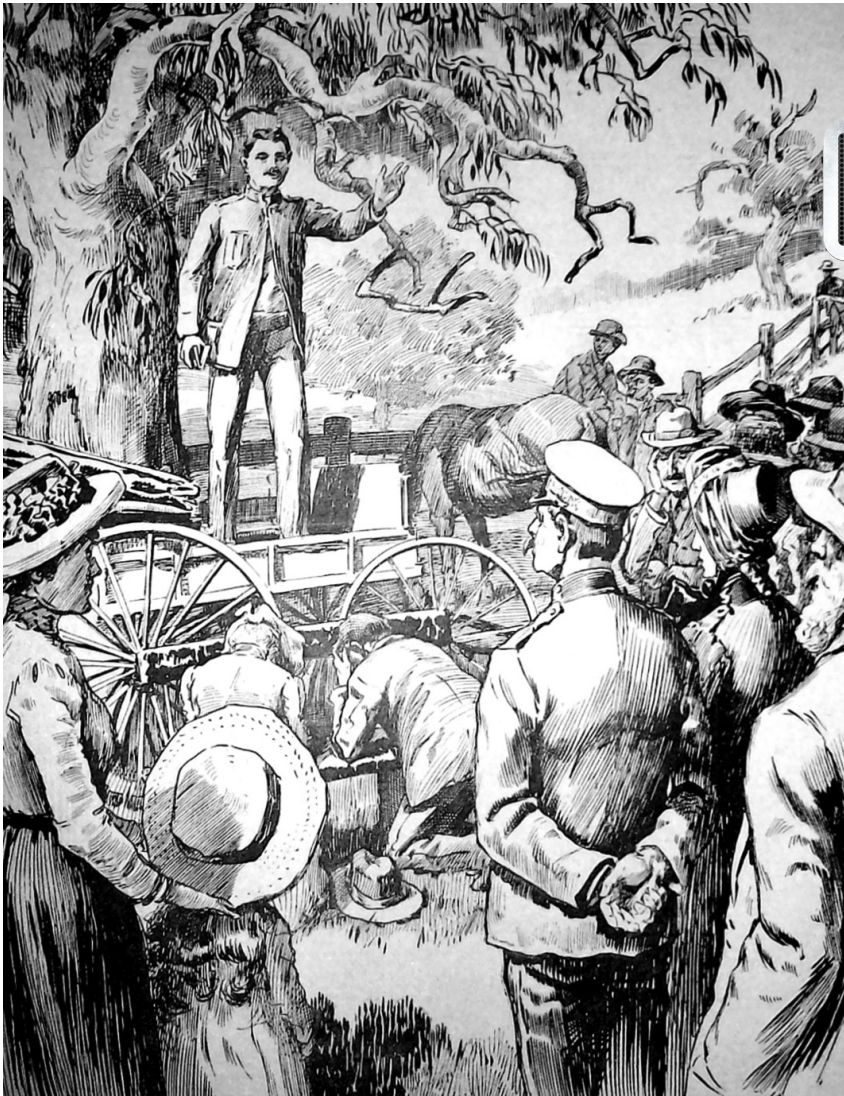
Blood & Fireworks - Day 34

Salvation Under a Gum Tree

The Salvation Army recently opened fire in a country called Nepal, which is very close to India. It's very exciting when we advance in this salvation war! Over 130 years ago the Army opened fire in Australia. It wasn't a big, fancy invasion like you might expect. It was just two salvation soldiers who had moved to Australia from England. They stood on a cart in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens and preached to the people there under a gum tree.

And you know what? A bunch of people got saved, just like in this picture. The Salvation Army in Australia now has more than 15,000 senior and junior soldiers! All because two salvation soldiers preached under a gum tree.

Maybe you think that you can't do much for the Kingdom of God, but remember that God can do anything through you, if you'll obey Him and listen to His voice. "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength".



Memory Verse:

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field".

Matthew 9:37-38



Blood & Fireworks - Day 35

Are You Meant To Fight Overseas?

Jesus Christ gave the first salvation soldiers a mission to save the world by helping people to become His friends. He said, 'when my Holy Spirit fills you, you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).

Jesus wants us to help as many of our friends and family members and people we know, and even people we don't know, to become Christians and to follow Him. But sometimes He tells us to move to another country to tell the people there about His love for them, and how Jesus died for their sins. We don't just want to see our own countries won for Christ, we want to see the world won for Christ!

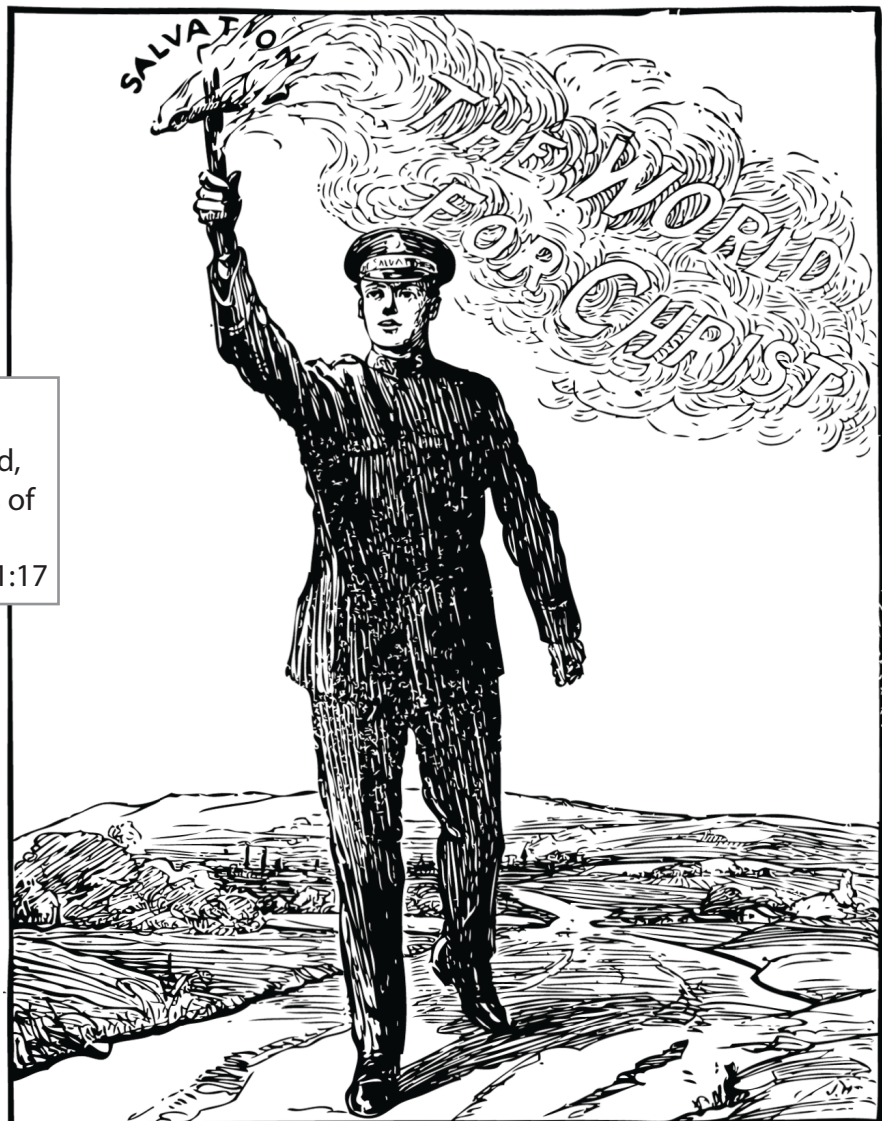
Maybe God will call you to serve Him in another country some day. Would you obey Him and follow Him there, even if that country was very different from your home?



Memory Verse:

Come, follow Me," Jesus said,
"and I will make you fishers of
men.

Mark 1:17



The finest task in the wide world! Does God call you to it?



Blood & Fireworks - Day 36

Win the World for Jesus

There are about 7 billion people in the world (that's a lot of people!), and most of them don't know Jesus. He wants to save all of them, and He wants to use salvation soldiers like you and me to do it.

You see, God's not just interested in people like you and me who live in this country. He wants to save everyone overseas as well. That's why The Salvation Army has salvation soldiers fighting in over 125 different countries around the world!

There are still a bunch of countries that we're not fighting in – countries like Somalia, and Saudi Arabia, and Laos, and Afghanistan, and Belarus, and Morocco, and Chad, and Niger, and Kazakhstan. They all need salvation soldiers to train up and invade. Maybe God is calling you to do this when you grow up.

The Bible says that one day people from every tribe and nation and people and language will all worship God together in Heaven. So we need to try and get as many people saved as we can – both where we live and everywhere else.



Memory Verse:

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 11:15



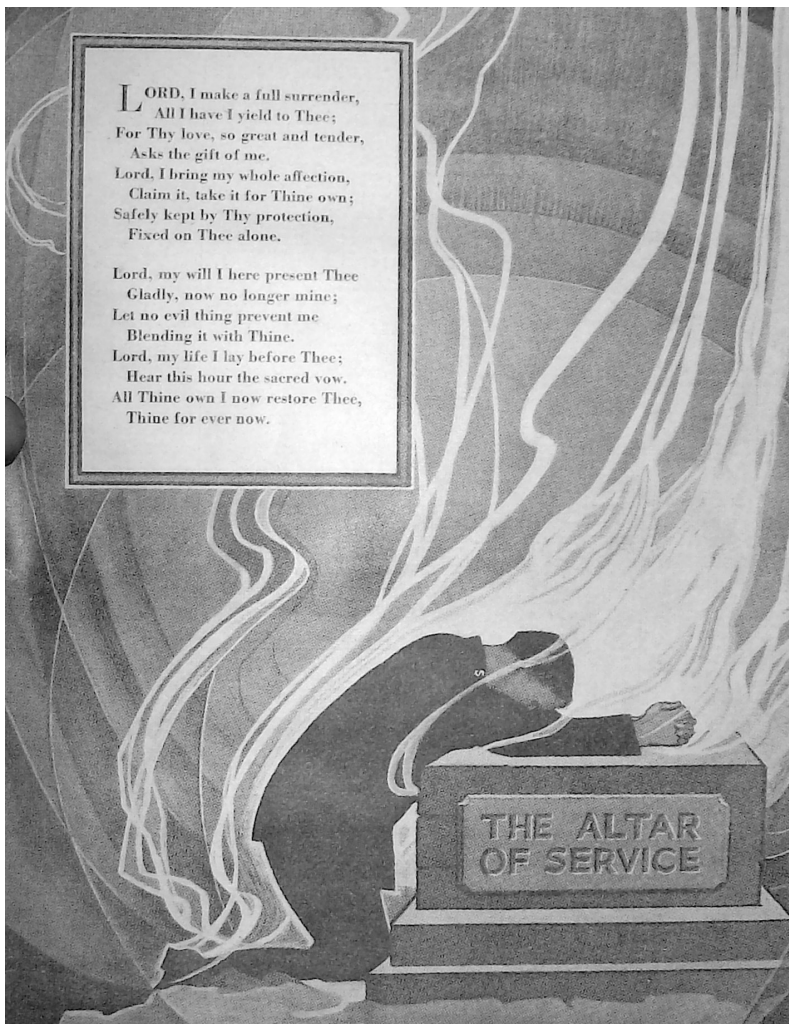
Blood & Fireworks - Day 37

Is God Calling You to Officership?

When I was a little older than you are now, God told me that I should become an officer in The Salvation Army. I didn't want to. I wanted to become an actor and be rich and famous.

But you know what? God knows best, and He loves me. He knows that the best and most fun life I can lead is by following Him, and doing what He says. So I decided that I would be an officer. If we really want to follow Jesus, we will often have to sacrifice the things we want and choose what He wants. This is called consecration, and sometimes salvation soldiers pray through it at the holiness table, next to the mercy seat. When we do choose God's way over our own way, then God can give us spiritual power through His Holy Spirit. Can you see salvation soldier at the holiness table, and God's power falling on him? And guess what – now I can't imagine any better life than serving God this way. Much better than being an actor!

What is God calling you to? Maybe it's officership. Maybe it's another job, like being a plumber, or a dancer, or a businessman or woman. Whatever God is calling you to do, you should do it with everything you've got, because that will make Him really happy!



Memory Verse:

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24



Blood & Fireworks - Day 38

Street Fighting

It's not enough to go to the meeting at your corps every week and wait for strangers to come in and meet Jesus. Jesus said 'Go into all the world and preach the good news,' not 'Stay in the church and preach the good news.'

If we want to see people get saved, we must go out and save them! Where better to start than the streets. Street fighting involves going onto a busy street and telling people that God loves them, that Jesus died for them, and about their need for repentance and faith in Him.

There are many different ways to do this. The salvation soldiers in this picture are holding an open-air meeting, where they will sing some songs and preach a very short sermon inviting people to get saved.

Some salvation soldiers prefer to go out in pairs and talk with individuals about their need for God. Other soldiers knock on people's front doors with a message of love and forgiveness.

Still others go out selling The War Cry or other Salvation Army magazines in an effort to get people saved.

Have a think about what kinds of street combat you could get involved with (make sure you go with a grown-up).



Memory Verse:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20a





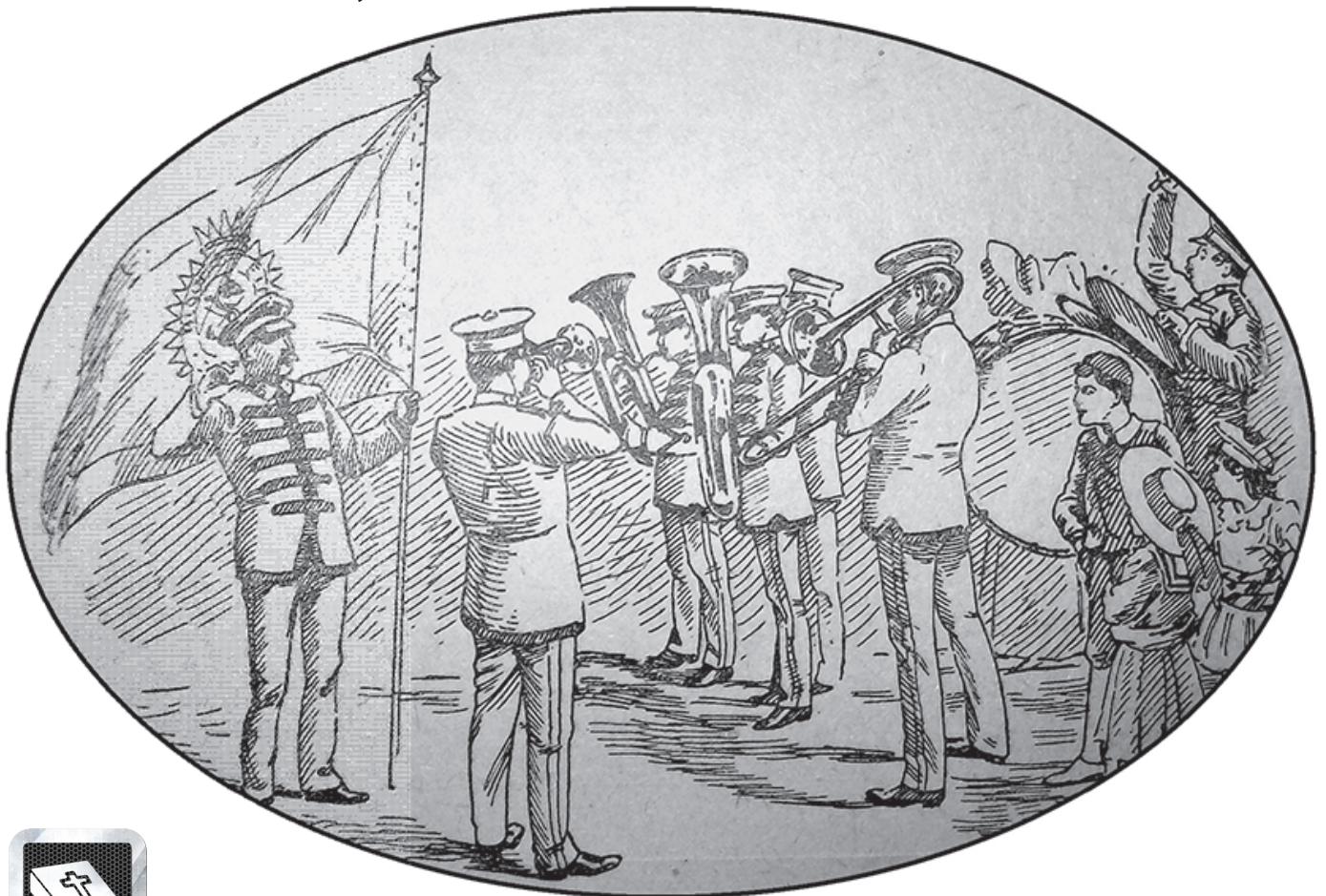
Blood & Fireworks - Day 39

Power of a Salvation Army Band

The Salvation Army band is an enemy to demons. The demons hate to hear the music playing on the streets to proclaim that Jesus is Lord and that He came to save people. They hate to watch it attract boys and girls and men and women to hear the preacher tell of Jesus' death on the cross, His resurrection on the third day, His ascension to heaven, and His plan to come back again.

God has blessed The Salvation Army with great music. Let's not worship the music though – that's idolatry. Let's use it to worship God. Let's play it well for His pleasure. Let's play it loud so that people can hear the Gospel news. And let's make sure we're living clean lives while we're doing it (otherwise, to say one thing and do something contrary would compromise our message).

God bless The Salvation Army band.



Memory Verse:

Praise God with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre.

Psalm 150:3



Blood & Fireworks - Day 40

The Power of the Salvation Army Uniform

Uniforms can be very useful. When we see a police officer, we know they are a police officer because they wear special clothes. When we see a fire-fighter, we know they are a fire-fighter because they wear special clothes.

Maybe you have a uniform at your school. That helps people know who belongs to that school, and who doesn't belong to that school.

Senior soldiers and junior soldiers in The Salvation Army have a uniform too. And it can be a very powerful thing indeed to wear it! Here are some reasons why.

1. People know who we belong to. When we wear our uniform, people know that we belong to Jesus' special army.
2. People know that we are available to help them, because we are salvation soldiers. We can pray with them, or tell them how to get saved, or just help them carry their shopping.
3. It helps us to remember to behave well, because if we do naughty or selfish things, people might think poorly of Jesus and The Salvation Army.

Have you got a uniform? Maybe you'll want to wear it more be a powerful weapon for the war!



Memory Verse:

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation.

Colossians 1:15





Blood & Fireworks - Day 41

War Cry

Some kids get a Salvation Army magazine every week called Just for Kids, Kids Alive, Kidzone, or Young Salvationist. It's a Salvation Army kids' comic jam-packed with articles, puzzles, games and other fun stuff.

The Salvation Army has a special magazine for grown-ups too. It's called 'The War Cry,' and is designed to help people know that God loves them, and that Jesus died to save them.

Salvation soldiers all around the world sell these magazines on the streets and in pubs and to their friends and neighbours. It can be a powerful way to share the good news about Jesus with people.

Maybe you have some friends who would enjoy reading your Just for Kids magazine. Why not grab a few extra copies and give them out at school, or to your friends? You never know, maybe one of your friends will decide to follow Jesus through reading the magazine you bring him or her. Wouldn't that be awesome?!



Memory Verse:

I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.

Mark 10:15



Blood & Fireworks - Day 42

Gone Fishing

At the end of every Salvation Army meeting, usually after the sermon, there is a time called the appeal or the prayer meeting. In this part of the meeting, people will often get saved, giving their lives to Jesus, by going to the Mercy Seat, and meeting with God there.

Sometime people are nervous about visiting the Mercy Seat or the Holiness Table. They feel the Holy Spirit calling them to meet Jesus there, but they are afraid to take the first step. Maybe you have felt like this at some point in your life.

When a salvation soldier can see or sense that someone might want to go to the Mercy Seat, but is too afraid, they can go and talk to that person, and invite them to the Mercy Seat with them. This is called fishing, and helps people come to Jesus who otherwise would be too shy.

Recently, I fished a young lady in a salvation meeting, during the appeal, and she ended up getting saved! Hallelujah! Next time you're in a prayer meeting, keep your heart open to the Holy Spirit – He might want you to fish someone.

Even if they decide not to come to the Mercy Seat after all, you will know that you are doing all you can to save souls.



Memory Verse:

Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12

