

"You Came" by Paul David Tripp

You came! You came! You came!
It's unbelievable, unimaginable.
It's beautiful.

In love different than ever seen,
You left glory to display glory
to those who had forsaken glory for earthly things.

You came! You came! You came!
Willing to leave splendor,
willing to come to a broken place,
willing to suffer, willing to be rejected,
willing to face injustice, willing to die.

You came! You came! You came!
Not because we deserved You,
not because we earned Your presence,
not because of our achievements,
not because we were worthy of Your love.

You came! You came! You came!
Moved by Your glory, propelled by Your love,
sent by Your grace, driven to redeem,
You came!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and God's best for 2026!

In this
newsletter
you can expect:

EYC Wrap up

Advent and
Candidates
Connect

Call and
Commitment

Harvest Hands
Prayer Focus

New Year
Reflection

Dates for
your diary

Explore Your Call Wrap up 2025



In early October, 64 delegates from across the Canada and Bermuda Territory gathered in Toronto to participate in the annual Explore Your Call weekend. This year marks the first time the event was hosted at the new College for Officer Training (CFOT) at territorial headquarters, which provided a unique, intentional opportunity for those exploring full-time vocational ministry within The Salvation Army to get a glimpse into CFOT. It was also a chance to see the home base of many Salvation Army mission and ministry support systems.



Various self-selected topic tracks enabled delegates to explore their call, with sessions that included hearing God's voice and listening for sacred next steps; identifying spiritual gifts, cultivating spiritual life, and healthy spiritual leadership; character and leadership development; spiritual calling to local leadership; single and single-spouse officership; ministry myths and facts; CFOT life; and living out calling and covenant as a Salvation Army officer.

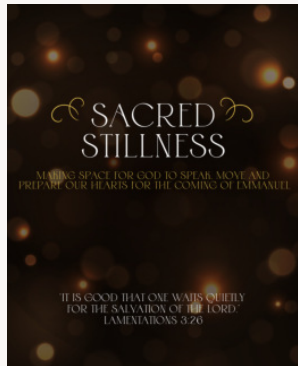


Time for fellowship and connection was built into the weekend to foster community-building during what can be both an exciting and daunting season of discernment. Inspiring testimonies were shared by first-year cadets. A highlight was the Saturday evening ice cream social, following a lively interview panel with new, seasoned and retired officers.

Commissioner Lee Graves, territorial commander, sent the delegates out on Sunday morning with a message of encouragement based on the weekend's Scripture theme, Isaiah 6:1-8, reminding them that while they may feel unqualified and ill equipped to enter into vocational ministry, it is God himself who qualifies them. Commissioner Graves noted that when they respond to God's invitation into a relationship with Jesus, and when they accept his sanctifying grace, they are then qualified to go out and participate with the Lord in whatever transformational work he is calling them to do.



Candidates Connect News!



Our recent Candidates Connect gathering, led by Captain Joyce Downer, wasn't about doing or achieving – it was about being. In that quiet space, hearts slowed, peace returned, and the anticipation of Advent began to take root. As this busy season unfolds, we encourage you to seek your own moments of stillness, waiting upon God and listening for His still small voice.

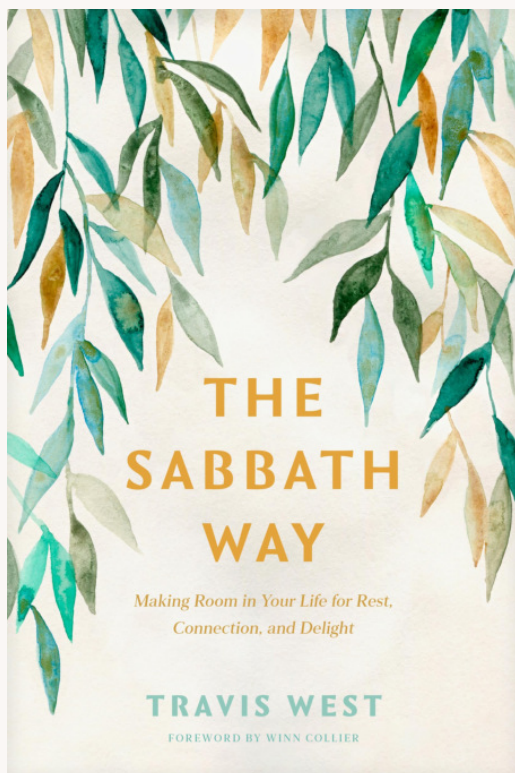
Our Father, in the stillness of our hearts, we seek Your presence. Grant us peace amidst chaos, clarity in confusion, and strength in silence. Help us to trust in Your plans and to find refuge in Your embrace. May we learn to be still and know that You are God. Amen. (stmparish.org)



Advent 2025

The Territorial Candidates Department invites you to join us as we journey through Advent. Each day, we will be posting a Breath Prayer in our Facebook/Instagram stories, taking a moment to slow down and spend time in God's presence.

Join us March 8th for our Candidates Connect: Virtual Book Discussion Café!



We're excited to invite you to our March 8th, 2026 Candidates Connect gathering, where we'll gather for rich conversation, reflection and community around our selected read, *The Sabbath Way: Making Room in Your Life for Rest, Connection, and delight* by Travis West.

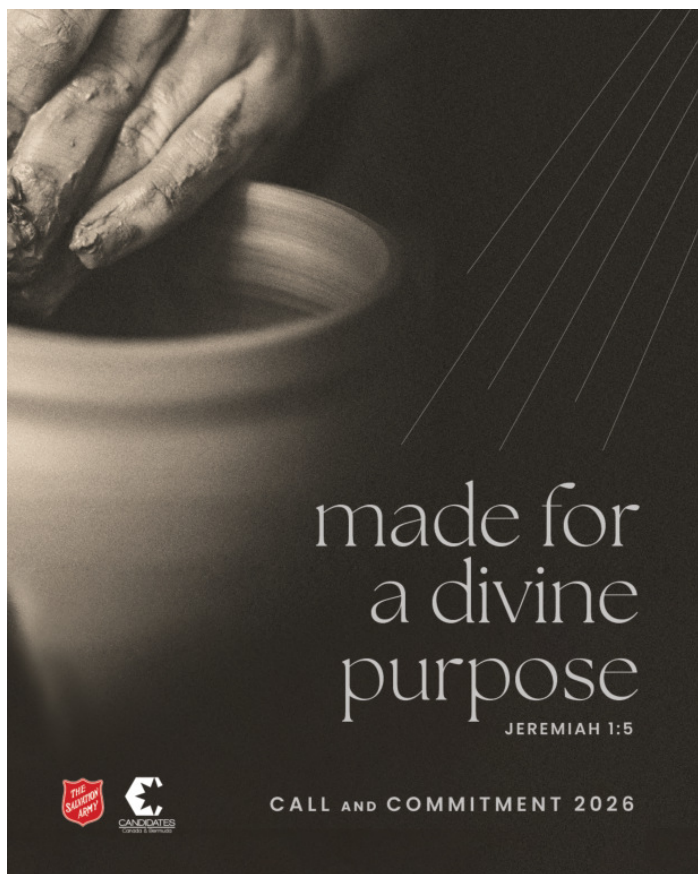
This session is designed to be interactive and meaningful, so please purchase and read the book in advance and come ready to share your insights, questions, and takeaways. Together, we'll explore the themes, practices, and wisdom woven throughout the book – and consider how they shape our personal rhythms.

What to expect:

- A warm, café-style virtual atmosphere
- A special treat from SA Candidates
- Guided prompts and open discussion
- Space to share what resonated with you
- Connection with friends in a relaxed, thoughtful setting

We can't wait to see you and learn from one another as we slow down, connect and engage deeply with this inspiring read.

Books can be purchased from Amazon [here](#)



Call & Commitment February 2026

Call & Commitment month is coming!

This year's theme is **"Made for a Divine Purpose!"** based on Jeremiah 1:5,

"Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you: A prophet to the nations - that's what I had in mind for you." (The Message)

This is a time to inspire and encourage individuals to reflect on God's calling and explore how they might respond to His invitation to full-time vocational ministry. It is also a time for congregations to be in intentional prayer for those who are discerning God's calling for their lives.

Let's open our hearts to God's call and respond with courage and faith.

We are nearing the end of our 2025 Call To Prayer focus, and we are so grateful for our Salvation Army family who have joined us in asking the Lord of the Harvest for harvest hands (Matthew 9:38).

This has and continues to be a prayer for individuals to respond to God's calling to full-time ministry as Salvation Army officers, as well as lay ministry opportunities and ministry in the local corps setting. All doing their part to love and help others.

All resources from this prayer initiative can be found by visiting our website: <https://salvationist.ca/candidates/call-to-prayer/> or by clicking [here](#):

- December:: Encountering God through Scripture - a prayer reflection guide created by Major Carson Decker
- January: An online prayer gathering to conclude our Call to Prayer year, Tuesday, January 6th at 6:00 pm EST, hosted by the Territorial Candidates Department.

Let us pray and pray again. Let us never stop seeking the Lord. Let us trust God to raise up people to join Him in this important work.





New Year Reflection

We are pleased to offer you a New Year Reflection resource, offering a guided space to pause, reflect on the past year, and prepare your heart and mind for the year ahead. This guide encourages gratitude, insight, and intentional steps forward in your journey with God. We're grateful to Major Carson Decker for creating this resource.

You can head to the resources section of our website to download it or contact us for a copy using the methods below.

Mark
YOUR
Calendar

2026

January

- 6 Conclusion of 2025 Call To Prayer
Online Prayer Gathering @ 6:00 pm via Teams

February

- 1 Call and Commitment Sunday
18 Lent begins

March

- 8 Territorial Candidates Connect
6:00 pm via Teams

May

- 3 Territorial Candidates Connect

June

- 20-21 Commissioning Weekend



For more resources, information and inspiration, please visit us at



www.sacandidates.ca



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