# A PLACE TO BELONG

## SHARING THE STORY OF WHO WE ARE




THE SALVATION ARMY CANADA & BERMUDA

***Whatever the particular call is, the particular sacrifice God asks you to make, the particular cross He wishes you to embrace, whatever the particular path He wants you to tread, will you rise up, and say in your heart, "Yes, Lord, I accept it; I submit, I yield, I pledge myself to walk in that path, and to follow that Voice, and to trust Thee with the consequences"? Oh! but you say, "I don't know what He will want next." No, we none of us know that, but we know we shall be safe in His hands.***

# CATHERINE BOOTH

CO-FOUNDER OF THE SALVATION ARMY



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHO IS THE SALVATION ARMY?

The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world. It is an international movement that is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible and its ministry is motivated by love for God. The mission of the The Salvation Army is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name without discrimination. On a global scale, The Salvation Army has specific objectives that seek to "advance Christian religion and education, relieve poverty, and extend charity that will benefit society and the community of mankind as a whole" (The Salvation Army Act of 1980).

The Salvation Army began in London, England, in 1865 under the leadership of William and Catherine Booth. By the turn of the century, it had spread to many parts of the world and is still growing.

The Booths soon realized that an organization along military lines produced strength, effectiveness and quick action in an emergency. That is why The Salvation Army's ministers (clergy) are called officers and are given military ranks. Its corps (church) members engage in the fight of faith.

The Salvation Army's corps (church) are sometimes identified as community churches, citadels, halls or temples. Our corps (churches) are regarded as places of worship, discipleship, and community.





## WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE FOR GROWTH AND CONNECTION?

We take discipleship seriously. Our hope is that you will find in The Salvation Army a place to connect with Jesus, begin a relationship with Him, and continue to grow deeper in faith. At our Salvation Army corps, there are opportunities for you to find fellowship and spiritual enrichment in various ministries such as small groups.

The Salvation Army also provides opportunities for using the gifts God has given you in service. It is also a place where, if you enjoy singing or playing a musical instrument, there is an opportunity for you to participate. In addition, special interest groups for women, men, young adults, and seniors are often held in Salvation Army churches, and a warm welcome is always extended.

## WHAT HAPPENS AT A TYPICAL SALVATION ARMY SERVICE?

A Salvation Army service typically includes worship, prayer, Scripture reading, sermon, offering, altar call, and fellowship.

## WHO IS WELCOME TO ATTEND?

Everyone! Anyone, regardless of background or belief, is welcome to attend a Salvation Army church service.



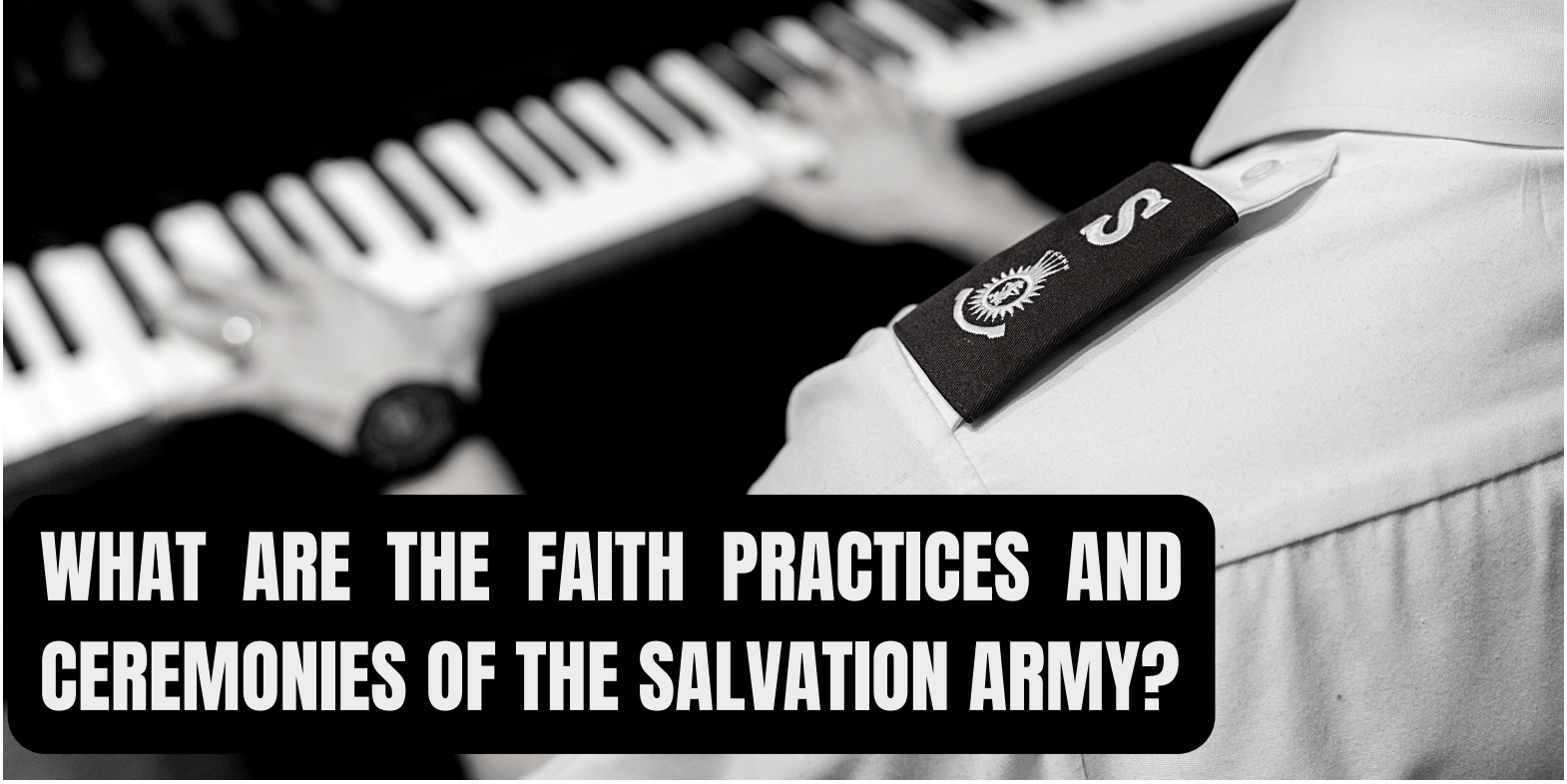





# WHAT DOES THE SALVATION ARMY HAVE FOR MY CHILDREN?

Our corps offer age-appropriate programs that families can participate in. Bible classes for all ages are held and there are discipleship programs for youth that give opportunities for meaningful Christian learning and service.

Activities such as youth group, music & arts groups, clubs and sporting activities are found in some corps. In addition, our children have the opportunity to participate in various summer camp programs as well.



# WHAT ARE THE FAITH PRACTICES AND CEREMONIES OF THE SALVATION ARMY?

The essential ceremonies associated with various phases of life are observed. Some of the terms, procedures and thoughts behind the ceremonies are different—as with all denominations. The intent and purpose ultimately aim to bring honour and glory to God. Salvation Army ceremonies include:

*Dedication of Children*

The emphasis of this ceremony is on the commitment of the parents. They accept the responsibility for their children's Christian upbringing in the hope that eventually, those children may receive Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. The church community pledges to support the parents, as far as possible, in keeping the promises. Every corps officer is authorized to perform this dedication ceremony and it is usually celebrated during a Sunday meeting.

*Marriage*

Salvation Army officers (clergy) are licensed to perform marriages and are required by the government to register all ceremonies in the official records of the province. Pre-marital counselling is not only desirable but necessary before any marriage ceremony can be performed by a Salvation Army officer.



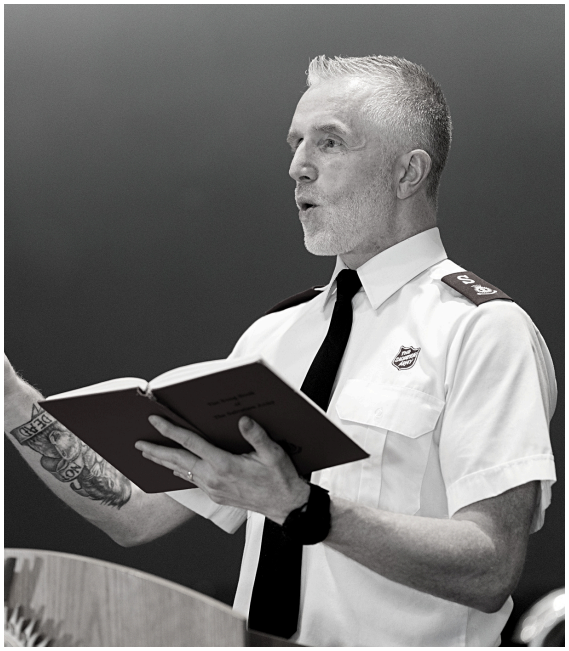
*Funerals/"Celebration of Life"*
A Salvation Army officer (clergy) is always ready to visit and pray with the dying and to comfort the bereaved. The Salvation Army's funeral and burial services are simple yet sacred.

*Enrolment of Soldiers*
This ceremony emphasizes a commitment to God and The Salvation Army. A person who has accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and has voluntarily signed The Salvation Army's declaration of faith (Soldier's Covenant) may become a soldier.

*Enrolment of Junior Soldiers*
Children, with parental or guardian permission, may become junior soldiers at the age of seven. A child who has experienced salvation may sign the junior soldier covenant (pledge) and become a junior member of The Salvation Army. Junior soldiers who continue to live the Christian life may be enrolled as senior soldiers or adherents when they are 14 years of age.

*Enrolment of Adherents*
This ceremony also emphasizes a commitment to God and The Salvation Army. Adherents are Christians who pledge to support their local Salvation Army corps. While not entering into a Soldier's Covenant, an adherent declares that they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and seek to follow Him, will participate through worship, fellowship and service at a local Salvation Army corps, and will identify with the mission of The Salvation Army.





If you prefer to belong in a less formal way, that’s OK! At The Salvation Army, we’d love to consider you as a "Friend". "Friends" refers to individuals who support The Salvation Army’s mission and activities but choose not to be soldiers or adherents.

Friends may participate in Salvation Army events, volunteer their time, contribute financially, and generally align themselves with The Salvation Army’s values and goals. They form a broader community that extends beyond the formal membership, allowing for a more inclusive involvement of individuals who share the Salvation Army's commitment to serving those in need and are growing in their own discipleship journey within the context of their corps community.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these membership options, consider connecting with your corps officer/leader.

# THE SALVATION ARMY DOCTRINES

## STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

These eleven doctrines set out the formal beliefs of The Salvation Army, though it is worth noting that all are welcome, regardless of belief.

- We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and that they only constitute the Divine rule of Christian faith and practice.
- We believe that there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.
- We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.
- We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.
- We believe that our first parents were created in a state of innocency, but by their disobedience, they lost their purity and happiness, and that in consequence of their fall, all men have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.
- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has by His suffering and death made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved.
- We believe that repentance toward God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are necessary to salvation.
- We believe that we are justified by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.
- We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.
- We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We believe in the immortality of the soul, the resurrection of the body, in the general judgement at the end of the world, in the eternal happiness of the righteous, and in the endless punishment of the wicked.

THEY DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE APOSTLES' TEACHING AND TO FELLOWSHIP, TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND TO PRAYER. EVERYONE WAS FILLED WITH AWE AT THE MANY WONDERS AND SIGNS PERFORMED BY THE APOSTLES. ALL THE BELIEVERS WERE TOGETHER AND HAD EVERYTHING IN COMMON. THEY SOLD PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS TO GIVE TO ANYONE WHO HAD NEED. EVERY DAY THEY CONTINUED TO MEET TOGETHER IN THE TEMPLE COURTS. THEY BROKE BREAD IN THEIR HOMES AND ATE TOGETHER WITH GLAD AND SINCERE HEARTS, PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING THE FAVOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED.

**ACTS 2:42-47**

# LEARN MORE

For more information about The Salvation Army and our corps (churches), please visit:

WWW.SALVATIONIST.CA
WWW.CORPSMISSION.CA

