

THE SALVATION ARMY'S ONTARIO DIVISION CORPS MISSION RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

CORPS MISSION CONNECT

AUG 2024



[ONLINE DIVISIONAL CALENDAR](#)

Lessons from Secretariat: Surrendering Control to God

By: Becca Allen



In January I went down to Lexington Kentucky to run a booth at a Salvation Army job fair, looking to recruit potential staff for our 2024 OCM staff team. Accompanying me was one of our summer staff. I asked her if there was anything specific she wanted to do after the job fair before our flights. She mentioned that the only thing she knew about Lexington was that a friend had once gone to visit the statue of the horse Secretariat. When we discovered that the statue was situated only minutes from our hotel, we decided to go over to take a picture to send to her friend.

I'm not sure about everyone else, but I knew very little about Secretariat, I haven't even seen the movie about him. I just knew he was a famous horse. So, this prompted me to go down a bit of a rabbit hole about him.

In case you are like me and unaware let me try to briefly summarize Secretariat's life. When Secretariat was born, he was fairly unremarkable, with early riders describing him as lazy, sleepy, and giving no signs of great speed. In his early trips to the racetrack, he often seemed confused about what to do, and was slow, often last, out of the gate.

But rather suddenly, everything seemed to come together at once for Secretariat. Physically, he transformed into a running machine, with explosive power and endurance. Mentally, he seemed to understand what racing was all about on his own. His jockey, Ron Turcotte, who would later be the one to ride him at his most successful race began to understand something too at this time: Secretariat could not be controlled like other horses. Trying to call the shots from the saddle, or using the whip seemed to cramp the horse's style. Turcotte had to unlearn what was normal to do, what he as a jockey was "supposed to do" and let Secretariat do what he needed to do. Biographer William Nack later said about

Secretariat, "His chief problem in life was that he was handled by people."

At three years old, Secretariat competed in the Triple Crown, which includes the Kentucky Derby, The Preakness, and the longest and most grueling of all: The Belmont Stakes in New York. At this time, no horse had won the Triple Crown in 25 years.

In the lead-up to the Triple Crown, there had been concerns around Secretariat's behaviour and abilities, and during the first two races, there were race time decisions that didn't seem to make sense. Despite all this, he performed at record levels. In Kentucky, he ran each sixteenth of a mile faster than the one before, and in both races, he finished two and a half lengths ahead.

The Belmont Stakes, the third and final race, was known as the endurance test of the three races. Experts wondered if Secretariat could run the distance of one and a half miles at his typical speeds. When the race started in an unusual move for Secretariat, he was out of the gate first at a high speed. It was a

Lessons from Secretariat (continuation)

sprinter's pace, and everyone believed it was impossible to maintain this speed for the entire race. People in the crowd, trainers, and experts could apparently be heard yelling to Ron Turcotte, the jockey, "Slow him down! You're going to kill the horse; he can't stand up to this!". Neither Ron, nor Secretariat paid them any mind. Secretariat seemed to be in his own world.

And it must have felt like that too because at the finish, Secretariat was alone – a full thirty-one lengths ahead of the field. This had never been accomplished before in Triple Crown history! And – incredibly – Secretariat's jockey never used the whip. The horse had done it all on his own, broken the record for the Belmont Stakes by more than two seconds – a record that stands to this day. In fact, the records set at all three races of that Triple Crown remain unbroken today.

Aside from the obvious impressive records and excitement from this story, the thing that began to stick out for me was Secretariat's jockey, Ron Turcotte. It would have been very easy for him to insist on treating Secretariat as normal and try to control him like any other horse. It must have been very difficult to release that control.

Likewise in our walk with God, every day, we have to decide who is going to be in control of your life – us or God. While we all know that the right choice is to let God be in control, that doesn't make it easy to do. I want to share four practical habits that, when incorporated into daily life, can help us surrender control and let God handle your life.

Stop Striving & Start Abiding

Psalm 46:8 says, "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth" (NASB). The first step in learning to let go of control is to stop striving. We don't have to strive to make our life turn out a certain way; we just have to abide in Him

~John 15

Confess and Surrender Your Need for Control

Go to God and be honest – tell Him how you feel. Say, "God I confess I like being in control. It makes me feel safe and secure. It makes me feel like I have a purpose. Help me surrender control to you each and every day. Help me trust in you deeply, so that I will not fear surrendering that control. Help me remember that you hold it all."

Be Still and Know

In Exodus 14, we see the best Egyptian fighters try to capture the Israelites (this is the scene before the parting of the Red Sea). Instead of trying to control every little detail of their escape plan, in verses 13-14 Moses tells the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm ... the LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still" (NIV). Remembering this story can help us pause and remember how much God will fight for us.

Trust, Trust, Trust

This is another example of something that is easier to know than to do. Trusting the Lord is a daily practice. Each day we must recommit to trusting God, making an intentional choice to re-frame our thoughts and feelings.

We all have moments, or areas of our life where we are holding onto the reins too tightly, but as we each encounter those moments, I hope that we can each remember Secretariat and more specifically his jockey. Just as Secretariat could have never achieved all those records if his jockey got in his way, I hope that we will not allow ourselves to get in the way and instead let God lead us to all the good that He has for us. It was said about Secretariat that "his chief problem in life is that he was handled by people." Let that not be true for us, that our chief problem in life is that we as humans are trying to handle things that are not ours to handle. By implementing the habits above, we can continually surrender control and let God have control.

Shared by Becca Allen during DHQ Devotions

~February 15, 2024~

NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

By: Bill Bickle



Bill Bickle (bottom left), the Canadian representative for NCD with the Under 30s Listening Circle

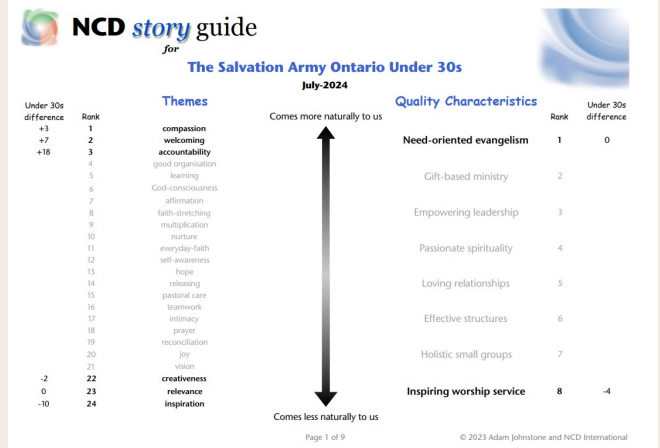
On a rainy Saturday afternoon in June 2024 in Cobourg, a dozen people in their 20s gathered for a BBQ and a chance to talk about

their experiences in church. Many admitted they were nervous about the gathering, wondering if they were going to feel judged for their opinions, or if they'd feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings, or if the event might be awkward.

Lisa Graham, Cobourg Community Church's Youth Pastor, and her husband Mike, host a couple of BBQs each summer for their College & Careers Group, to keep them connected when there's no formal programming. The members were invited to attend the Listening Circle and bring along friends. They received the questions in advance, but most arrived having prepared very little, but open to brave a little authenticity.

During the checkout, all the participants agreed that the structured listening format was much more engaging and fun than they had expected. Some suggested using the format for future meetings, to hear each other and explore ideas together. The introverts shared that they felt they had the time and space to express their thoughts without feeling judged. Several commented that they were glad to know others shared their opinions and values, feeling a little less alone in their thoughts about church. Many expressed concern that young families are missing the joy and benefit of raising their kids in the safety and nurturing of a faith community. Some liked framing their thoughts to respond to the questions, saying it made them think. Others felt challenged and encouraged to step up and contribute to making church more relevant. About half the group had been raised in the Salvation Army, while others came from different faith traditions or were no longer affiliated with a church. Nearly all talked about how important the church family had been in their upbringing and their personal formation.

The graphic in the right column is from NCD Story Guide and shows how much lower Under 30s score Vision, Relevance and Inspiration. So, when Cobourg's Health Team met to create their Action Plan, they were interested in understanding what



would be visionary, relevant and inspiring for their younger people. The Health Team aimed to explore ways of caring for the head, hearts and hands of their people – to care for the whole person.

A Listening Circle is a structured way to hear the ideas, feelings and experiences of participants by asking questions that safely and gently encourage each person to share their sense of why the Church has been important to them, how they've been affected by church(es), and what they need to move forward. The closing question posed to each person in turn, was "So what are you willing to do to move forward?"

Major Dan Broome's Reflection and Observations on the Listening Circle Experience:

"As the Corps Officer of the Cobourg Community Church, I had the privilege to be a silent observer at the Under 30s Listening Circle held on a rainy afternoon this past June. I approached this gathering with a sense of cautious optimism, unsure of what to expect, hoping for the best, yet fearing the worst. I was totally blown away by how open and honest each participant was in answering the questions, sharing their faith journey, and describing the impact the church had on their lives growing up, and for those from my church was still impacting them and will continue to do so moving forward. They held nothing back, spoke from the heart, and were not intimidated by the process. I was blown away. The greatest blessing was hearing from one of the older participants, a man of very few words, who testified about how his life had changed since he was saved just a few years ago. He first came to the church because he started dating a lifelong member and found Jesus in the process. What an amazing God we serve.

If your Church is keen on hosting an Under 30s Listening Circle, please contact Chris from DHQ at christopher.rideout@salvationarmy.ca



NCD FORUM 2025:

Healthy Churches Healthy Leaders

Save the Date

Jackson's Point Conference Centre
March 21-23, 2025

We are excited to invite Corps Officers, Pastors and Area Commanders to our first NCD Forum 2025.

Please save the date for this impactful event and get ready for a time of fun, fellowship, and learning about church health and growth.

When: Mar 21-23, 2025, (5pm Fri – 1:30pm Sun)

Where: Jackson's Point Conference Centre,
1890 Metro Rd N, Georgina, ON L0E 1L0

On His last night on earth, Jesus urged His disciples to be fruitful and to become increasingly fruitful. As we know from Mark 4:26-29, that growth comes from the Lord, as if all-by-itself, our role is to create the right conditions, God does the rest.

What to Expect at the NCD Forum 2025:

- Explore growth principles, the eight Quality Characteristics, the Change Cycle, the NCD Church Survey, and other Natural Character Development resources (books and tests).
- Understand the importance of health and what actions are necessary for growth.
- Hear inspiring stories from corps officers and health teams across the Division-the difference it is making to focus on health.
- Meet special guests from the UK Territory: Kerry Coke, Assistant Secretary for Mission, and Ian Mountford, Corps Officer at Chelmsford and Territorial Mission Officer.

PATHWAY OF HOPE

By: William Osei

▶ 2024 Strategic Vision



PATHWAY OF HOPE

Pillar 3: Forge Innovative Partnerships

2024 Summer of Growth: POH Initiatives in Focus

Renewed Engagement with POH Through On-site Training

Before I became the Divisional Pathway of Hope (“POH”) Co-ordinator, Ministry Units (MUs) eager to advance The Salvation Army’s mission through POH would gather for in-person, two-day onboard training sessions. However, for the past three years, all onboard training sessions I participated in and co-facilitated have been conducted virtually. This shift was necessitated by the rapid changes brought on by COVID-19 and the growing convenience of online platforms.

All that changed on June 27, 2024 when special circumstances allowed a colleague and me to conduct an in-person training session with the Lakeshore Community Church (“Lakeshore CC”) staff team. Even more impressive, we successfully condensed the two-day training into a single, impactful day filled with meaningful discussions on the POH process and practical exercises. My only regret is forgetting to take photos to commemorate this event!

Lakeshore CC was initially trained in POH during the early stages of the initiative but withdrew due to structural and internal challenges. With reallocated resources from the Divisional and Territorial levels, our goal is to support best practices that enable POH growth targets for MUs, including re-engagement. This effort aligns with our Territorial Strategic Initiative 2.3.1: “Implement consistent, effective practices for resources and funding partnerships that strengthen sustainable programs.” I look forward to working closely with the POH team at Lakeshore, and in collaboration with DHQ and THQ to create sustainable changes at the local level.

Introducing POH Virtual Foundational Leadership Certificate Program

This summer also marked the launch of our POH Foundational Leadership Certificate Program. Designed in partnership with the Leadership Department and the Community Mission Department, this intensive cohort program offers POH personnel a valuable learning opportunity. Participants have access to three virtual cafés each month, where they can review, discuss, and share course material, as well as map out goals to implement in practice.

“The knowledge and skills we gain are most powerful when put into action.”

During our first café held on June 25, we focused on “Leading People & Difficult Interactions.” For the Leading People component, we explored essential questions such as: How can we empower the people we lead? Does our team trust our leadership? What are ways to build people’s trust as leaders? And how do we listen to understand?

The knowledge and skills we gain are most powerful when put into action. Every new skill, insight, and understanding we gain is a tool to better serve our communities and create positive change. I have been steadily reminded to remain dedicated to transforming our knowledge into action, fostering growth and hope for all. I am hopeful that this privileged knowledge will allow us to be a blessing.

ONTARIO DISTRIBUTION CENTRE (ODC)

By: Greg Nembhard

The Salvation Army's Ontario Distribution Centre (ODC) plays a crucial role in supplying essential goods to over 60 Ministry Units, shelters, camps, and partner charities across Ontario. These donations include food (63%), personal care items (24%), and household supplies (13%). Each morning, the warehouse team gathers to pray and reflect on their vital role, often shipping over 175,000 pounds of food and 200,000 pounds of clothing monthly. As we go about our daily duties we are inspired by Matthew 25: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brethren, you did for me." Every member of the ODC team, including our volunteers, is affectionately known as "Happiness Agents." This term, coined by Julie Santilli, our Manager of Volunteers, highlights the joy and relief the ODC Team bring to families in need.

BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM: We Need Your Help!

ODC's Back to School Campaign is now in full swing. The need for back-to-school items is greater than ever, with requests to outfit 4,635 students for this school year. We are in need of backpacks and other school supplies to help fill these requests.

In addition to school supplies, we are also delivering cases of books and bags of children's clothing to families that need help in getting their children ready for school.

If you would like to donate to the ODC's Back to School Campaign, please reach out to Julie at Julie.Santilli@salvationarmy.ca or Sherryann at Sherryann.Boyce@salvationarmy.ca for more information on where you can drop off your donation.

Thank you for helping to provide dignity, confidence, and smiles to our leaders of tomorrow.

ODC AT THE BALLPARK

On June 4, the ODC staff enjoyed a delightful evening at the Rogers Centre, cheering on the Toronto Blue Jays as they faced the Baltimore Orioles. While the game didn't end in our favor—we faced a tough 10-1 defeat against the mighty Orioles—the night was still a blast. We indulged in Loonie Hot Dogs and celebrated the birthday of one of our long-standing ODC volunteers, Matthew Allen.

Matthew is a cherished member of our ODC family, and we deeply appreciate his dedication and hard work. A huge Blue Jays fan, he is always sporting a smile and never hesitates to lend a helping hand. Matthew's selflessness and humility set a great example for us all at the ODC.

Happy Birthday, Matthew! We are grateful for all that you do and feel blessed to have you in our ODC family.





Reset

Women's
Conference 2024
May 31–June 2, 2024



Photos: Emma McCourt Photography

Participants' Words and Pictures Tell the Story

- Reset and remember God's faithfulness
- Transformational
- Today is not my forever
- I felt so close to God
- Left feeling refreshed and rest assured that God can do all things once we trust in him
- Blessed to have time away
- Challenged by the speakers
- We are not alone
- Each new day is an opportunity to reset
- Young women leading worship with such passion and faith. They are inspiring and give me hope for the future

- My heart was challenged to lean into the Holy Spirit's work of reset
- Expanded my prayer life
- My life is richer in community with women who desire to know God more deeply
- Restful and a reset
- Encouraged boldness in me to share in prayer and praise
- I came with such heaviness but immediately after the worship started I felt a heavy weight lifted off of me
- Workshop information was profound
- So inspired to hear from courageous women across Ontario.



WOMEN'S
Adventure
CAMP

SEPTEMBER
20-22, 2024

NEWPORT ADVENTURE CAMP
COST: \$180

FORAGING FOR FAITH
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
MAJOR TAMMY SABOURIN

ONTARIO
Women

Women's Adventure Camp 2024: Foraging for Faith

We are thrilled to have Major Tammy Sabourin, corps officer/pastor at Hope Community Church, a women's ministries specialist as our **special guest** and Bible teacher for the weekend.

We look forward to uncovering new treasures in God's word, worshipping, building connections, and enjoying all the adventure that the camp setting provides.

Our **Love Without Borders Café** is back by popular demand offering specialty coffee and drinks. All proceeds will support our territorial women's ministries project, The Salvation Army Mirpur Clinic in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Don't wait – spaces are filling up fast. Register today: **Women's Adventure Camp 2024**

Love Without Borders 2024-2026: Mirpur Clinic- Dhaka, Bangladesh

This project will raise funds to address key health issues, particularly TB and leprosy control among poor and vulnerable populations. Additionally, Mirpur Clinic aims to tackle social problems related to gender-based sexual violence, implement a children protection program, strengthen community-based organizations through partnership approaches, and enhance the capacity of project staff.

Last year, the Ontario Division raised \$13,075 for *Love Without Borders*. We are confident that we can meet and surpass that amount this year. With the generosity of women at the recent Women's Conference 2024 and renewed commitment from women's ministries groups across Ontario, we are well on our way.

Promotional materials in English, French and Spanish as well as a downloadable video can be found here: **Love Without Borders**.

MEN'S MINISTRIES

By: Major Jon Savage



This summer, we welcome Captain Josh Howard to the role of Divisional Men's Ministry Resource Officer for the Ontario Division.

Josh has been part of The Salvation Army since childhood, with several generations of Salvationists in his family history. He and his wife, Tina, were accepted into the College for Officers Training from Guelph Citadel, where Josh served as Youth Pastor for five years.

Over the last eleven years, Josh has been appointed as corps officer to Rideau Heights Corps (Kingston), Heritage Park Temple (Winnipeg) and is currently serving at Orillia Citadel. In each appointment, he has actively supported men's ministries and men's camp. He looks forward to this new opportunity as Divisional Men's Ministry Resource Officer.

The Howards are blessed with three wonderful children. As a family, they enjoy playing board games and video games, finding a good ice cream spot, and watching a good movie.

CHOSEN - MEN OF GOD

MEN'S CAMP

SCAN TO REGISTER

September 27-29, 2024
Newport Adventure Camp
Cost: \$180.00
Special Guest:
General Brian Peddle (Rtd)

ASCENT
FOR MEN, BY MEN, UNITED BY JESUS.

THE SALVATION ARMY

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
1 Peter 2:9

Registration is open for our Annual Men's Camp! Spread the word and share our poster with the men in your community and congregation. Encourage them to register and join us for this unforgettable event.

Here's what's in store:

- **Adventurous Outdoor Activities:** Dive into kayaking, sports, trail walks, and more.
- **Inspiring Sessions:** Engage in uplifting worship and insightful talks from our esteemed guest speaker, General Brian Peddle (Rtd).
- **Morning Devotions:** Begin your day with serene devotions by the stunning Skeleton Lake.
- **Exciting Fun Night:** Enjoy friendly competition and bond with others during our evening of games and entertainment on Saturday night.
- **Hearty Meals:** Savor delicious, satisfying meals throughout the camp.

Don't wait—spaces are filling up fast. Register today: [Men's Camp 2024](#).

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

By: Paige Sharp



follow us @ocmilovecamp & @ontsayouth



Young Adults Retreat 2024: Reconnect & Recommit

In late April 2024, the Ontario Division hosted its first Young Adult Retreat with the theme "Reconnect and Recommit," at Jackson's Point. Originally expecting 70 attendees, we were thrilled when registration soared to over 120 people, spanning ages 21 to 35. Some participants even flew in from other provinces for a weekend of rejuvenation and connection.

The weekend was extraordinary. Special guests speakers, Dave and Beth Pearo led us on reconnecting our lives to Christ and fostering community. They emphasized the importance of first connecting with God and then spreading Jesus' love while building strong community bonds.

Saturday night was packed with excitement. The evening kicked off with a worship and testimony session in a cozy, circular upper room setting. Attendees picked songs and shared a brief testimony before the songs were sung, fostering a beautiful sense of faith-sharing and community-building. Later, we enjoyed our own version of an ol' Canadian Hoser-down evening, featuring classics like poutine, beaver tails, and even a Toronto Maple Leafs playoff game. Activities included dancing, games, and yes, axe throwing!

The success of the weekend was a collaborative effort. Nathan Bond, a young adult and OCM employee who played a key role in organizing the event, summed it up:

"The Reconnect and Recommit weekend was an amazing experience to be part of. So often our demographic speaks about how there is nothing for us in the division, and when we put something together, they showed up. With over 120 young adults coming together to worship together and interact with one another about their experiences in their own corps, the joy and fellowship experienced that weekend were palpable."

This retreat provided a unique chance for participants in this age group to reconnect with old friends and engage with others they hadn't seen in a while. It provided a much-needed community for young adults who may lack peers at their local corps, offering a space to deepen their faith and build lasting relationships. God's presence was evident throughout the weekend, leading to some individuals making decisions to follow Christ.

Mark your calendars for the Young Adult Retreat 2025, set for April 4 -6. We look forward to having you join us!



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