



tips for youth workers

SEPTEMBER 2017

NEW BEGINNINGS!

September is in The Salvation Army an exciting month! Like many other churches September marks the beginning of another ministry year or season. The summer weather wains and the troops begin to regather, preparing for continued unified warfare for the Kingdom. Across our vast Territory the call to arms will go out and Rally Days will be held to officially launch new ministry efforts.

I want to encourage you to make the most of this month of new beginnings. I could take the next few moments to ask you to hold community events to connect with your local community, to make the most of the connections established through summer camping ministries and to follow up with campers and their families, and to multiply ministry impact through ministry volunteer training and networking. But all this and much more is being done by the amazing collection of talented and creative Corps Officers, YPSMs, Youth Pastors, and volunteers that comprise the heart of children and youth ministries across the Territory. So, for the next few moments I would like to focus not on methods but instead on motivation.

What is our motivation as we set back into another season of ministry? Our motivation should be summed up in this simple yet unimaginably profound statement, 'Jesus Saves!' We can't forget that the reason we do what we do, the reason The Salvation Army exist, the reason the Church universal exist, is because Jesus Saves. We are often prone to let this reality slide into the shadows, never denying it or even forgetting it, but subtlety and unintentionally allowing the primacy of this truth to be replaced by a focus on other matters of church business.

It is my hope that as we enter this new season of ministry we will remember that people need grace more than mercy. More than your community needs fellowship and unity it needs Jesus. More than our youth need great programs and even mentors they need Jesus. More than your corps of church needs to raise its profile in the community or increase its Sunday attendance or volunteer base it needs Jesus. We cannot forget that Jesus Saves, it should both keep us up at night and wake us up in morning, pushing us, motivating us, and challenging us. Forcing us to innovate, evaluate, and sacrifice.

Friends the world is lost, headed to eternity in Hell and in need of a Savior. So, may the glorious tones ring every louder and clearer in our lives, Jesus Saves! Paul reminds us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, but, praise God, all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus (Romans 3:23,24). And again, that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23). So sound the rallying cry, assemble the troops; pray, plan, and deploy! We are the redeemed, holding out the words of truth! We are the bearers of the greatest truth ever proclaimed, Jesus Saves.

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Major
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