

CALLING THE COURAGEOUS

- “I will be faithful to the purposes for
- which God raised up The Salvation Army,
- sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, endeavouring to win others to Him, and in His name caring for the needy and the disadvantaged.”

Every Salvationist [soldier] is committed to evangelism—the promises he/she makes spell that out. Whatever the activity, bringing people to God is the ultimate aim, and we assess our success or failure rate *finally* according to the extent to which this aim is realized. And yet, when it is the final goal of all, are there any for whom it is the immediate task and ambition?

...the Church is called to move out and that part of “the Body” which is named The Salvation Army cannot neglect evangelism and be true to its reason for existence.

...the early day Salvationists did not regard Sunday... as the *only* time for saving souls, and today, where evangelism is effective, it is through the regular, sustained efforts of groups of Christians for whom it has ceased to be an afterthought.

Not every Salvationist musician can organize a campaign or speak in an open-air meeting, but all can help deepen the fellowship, encourage the leaders, invite the neighbours and—above all in a movement like ours—remind themselves and others continually of what the activity is for. We exist to evangelize.

* excerpt from “Who Are the Evangelists?” by David E. Guy, in Waldron, John D. ed. *The Salvationist Lifestyle*. New York: The Salvation Army Eastern Territory Literary Department: 1989.

Read:
Philippians 2:1-13

Read:
The Salvation Army Soldier's Covenant

Consider:
*How do I maintain an outward focus?
How does my life demonstrate sacrificial,
compassionate mission?
In what ways might I be more “faithful to the
purposes for which God raised up The
Salvation Army, sharing the good news of
Jesus Christ, endeavouring to win others to
Him, and in His name caring for the needy
and the disadvantaged?”*

Pray:
*Lord, I submit my life to Your will. I need You to
empower me to fulfill this promise I've made. Fill
me with Your Holy Spirit, please. Set me up with
divine appointments with friends and neighbours
and workmates and classmates and those sitting
across the bus and at the next table and at the cash
register so that I can tell boldly and compellingly
what You have done in my life and for them. Help
me, please, present Your Gospel clearly and
persuasively so that they, too, can celebrate Your
death on the cross and Your resurrection on the
third day, Your conquering sin and death, Your
defeating the devil, Your ascending to heaven
where You now reign; so that they, too, can submit
their lives in repentance and faith to Your Lordship
in their lives, and follow You all the way to heaven.
I pray this in Your holy name! Amen!*

*What God has done,
He still can do;
His power can
fashion lives anew,
And all who trust Him
find Him true;
Can you wonder
that I want to tell it?*

to tell what God has done.

“MAY WE EVEN MORE DARE FOR YOU”

Canada & Bermuda Territorial Soldiership Campaign



CALLING THE COURAGEOUS...to tell what God has done.

Reflections on statements of The Soldiers Covenant pertaining to witnessing to the Gospel & Transformation by Major Stephen Court

The Song Book of The Salvation Army includes the words of James Edward Seddon's hymn:

*“Go forth and tell;
God's love embraces all;
He will in grace respond to all who call.
How shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitations of His Word?”*

A challenge to those who have declared, on their honour, that they “...will be faithful to the purposes for which God raised up The Salvation Army, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, endeavouring to win others to Him, and in His name caring for the needy and the disadvantaged.” - *The Salvation Army Soldier's Covenant*

The following are pertinent questions for soldiers to consider as they reflect on the promises they have made—particularly in relation to their desire, intention and efforts in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with others:

1. **What stands out here in this declaration?** Some suggest that when this new version of Articles of War was created I WILL won out over I WILL TRY. We are glad of it.
2. **What is implicit in this declaration regarding history?** “I will be faithful to the purposes for which God raised up The Salvation Army.” The wording here is important. It speaks of first purposes and gives no room for any possible historic distractions. What is the first purpose of The Salvation Army? To win the world for Jesus. We have more than a million soldiers covenanted to be faithful in our fight to win the world for Jesus. Powerful.
3. **What is explicit in this promise?** We “will be faithful in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.” So, we need to intentionally evangelize (twice a year?—in season and out of season—2 Timothy 4:2). We suspect that this includes a hearing heart in our normal adventures, and, also, regular, specific times of evangelizing.
4. **What else is explicitly promised?** We “will be faithful in endeavouring to win others to Him.” This emphasizes our dissatisfaction with merely 'planting seeds'. We're actually about seeing people repent of their sins and place their lives in the control of Jesus Christ (Mark 1:15). We're actually expecting people to accept Jesus' invitation for them to come into His life (Mark 1:17). We're actually anticipating that they will be crucified with Christ and no longer live, allowing, instead, for Christ to live in them (Galatians 2:20).
5. **Is there any other explicit promise?** We “will be faithful in caring for the needy and disadvantaged in Jesus' name.” Hallelujah, let's faithfully care for the needy and disadvantaged. What does that look like? Well, it might look like advocacy. It might look like sharing. It might include giving and training. It could even be listening. It is those, and many more things. This is a tough one, because we're talking about real lives and real problems. But let's be faithful (Matthew 25:21). Isn't this what our territorial strategic priorities mean when they feature words like '*The Gospel and Transformation*'?

Guiding Questions:
How are you currently being faithful to the purposes for which God raised up The Army?
How might your evangelism change *in light of this promise*?
How might *your experience of the Gospel* bring transformation?
Did you know that The Army will be offering an online evangelism track in February called **GO FOR SOULS?** Stay tuned for details.

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