



Before you begin this training:

- 1) Pray that God will lead people to attend and will put people on your heart to invite.
- 2) Find resources to have available – tracts, other articles.
- 3) Ask for some prayer warriors to surround the day with prayer.
- 4) Mark all the scripture passages in your Bible so you are ready to share or answer questions.
- 5) Collect pens, paper, extra Bibles, and other supplies.
- 6) Print copies of the handouts from this presentation -> File, print – choose ‘Handouts (3 slides to page)’
- 7) Print copy of this presentation for yourself -> File, print – choose ‘Notes Pages’ which has each slide and the trainer notes below.
- 8) Check your projector – computer connection – speakers and test the video on slide 10.

SOURCES:

1. The International Spiritual Life Commission.
2. Mercy Training Course from New Zealand Prayer & the Bible.

God entrusts us with His work here on Earth and when we counsel seekers we must realize that we are doing HIS WORK. “He has no hands but our hands to do his work today” - but we who do His work must realize that we have no power or authority other than what is given in His word – The Bible. Today is about encouraging and equipping us all with the awesome task of leading others into God’s presence.

<p>Session #1 What is a Mercy Seat and why is it important?</p> <p>Session #2 Guidelines for Mercy Seat Counselling Part 1</p> <p>Session #3 Guidelines for Mercy Seat Counselling Part 2</p>	
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An outline

Session #1

What is a Mercy Seat and why is it important?

Session #2

Guidelines for Mercy Seat Counselling Part 1

Session #3

Guidelines for Mercy Seat Counselling Part 2

Begin with prayer.



Session #1

What is a Mercy Seat and why is it important?

WHAT IS THE MERCY SEAT?



The Mercy Seat is found at the front to all Salvation Army corps and chapels.

What Is The Mercy Seat?

**ALSO CALLED PENITENT FORM,
MOURNERS BENCH OR ALTAR**



Also called Penitent form, mourners bench or altar

**It is a place of:
repentance,
rededication,
holiness
and petition.**



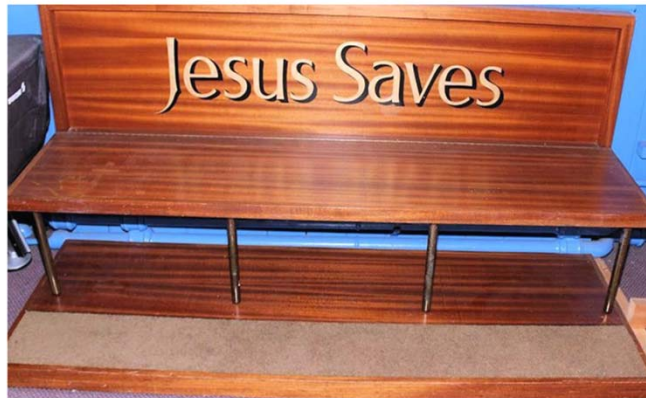
It is a place of: repentance, rededication, holiness
and petition.

**MERCY SEAT IS A BIBLICAL TERM:
THE HEBREW WORD (KAPPORETH)
FOR MERCY SEAT MEANS “COVERING”**



- Mercy Seat is a biblical term – The mercy seat is a place of God’s presence - The Hebrew word (Kapporeth) for Mercy Seat means “Covering”
- In the Old Testament it refers to the covering or lid of the Ark of the Covenant, where the children of Israel (God’s people) kept the Ten Commandments.

THRONE OF GRACE



Throne of Grace - Ephesians 2:6 compares the place of mercy with the throne of grace, that place where God sits upon his throne.

THE HOLY OF HOLIES IS CALLED THE "PLACE OF THE MERCY-SEAT"



The Holy of Holies is called the “place of the mercy-seat” (1 Chronicles. 28:11: Lev. 16:2). This is significant, because in Jewish culture only the chief priest was permitted to enter the Holy of Holies, that place of God’s presence. But thanks to Christ’s self-sacrifice, today anyone can come to the mercy seat to be in God’s presence

NEXT SLIDE contains a video which will begin as soon as you **CLICK** from this slide.

WHY IS THE MERCY SEAT IMPORTANT?

- The Holy of Holies is described as "the place of the Mercy Seat."
- It was God's throne in the midst of the Israelites.



The Mercy Seat is important because **the Holy of Holies is described as "the place of the Mercy Seat."** (1 Chronicles 28:11).

The Mercy Seat is important because **it was God's throne in the midst of the Israelites.**

WHY IS THE MERCY SEAT IMPORTANT?

- It was the place where God spoke to Moses
- It shielded Israel from the judgment of God's Law.
- The Blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat to satisfy God's wrath.



CLICK - The Mercy Seat is important because **it was the place where God spoke to Moses** (Moses remained in the Holy Place, outside of the Most Holy Place). (Leviticus 16:2)

CLICK - The Mercy Seat is important because **it shielded (Protected) Israel (God's children) from the judgment of God's Law.** Without the covering of the Mercy Seat, God's divine judgments eventually happen. Whenever the lid was removed, death was the result. (1 Samuel 6:19)

CLICK - The Mercy was important because **the Blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat to satisfy God's wrath.** Blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat once a year on the Day of Atonement by the High Priest.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE MERCY SEAT?


- 1.** God requires a blood sacrifice if we want to have fellowship with Him
- 2.** Jesus is the perfect blood sacrifice
- 3.** Jesus is our Mercy Seat and perfectly covers our sin



CLICK – 1. God requires a blood sacrifice if we want to have fellowship with Him

CLICK – 2. Jesus is the perfect blood sacrifice

CLICK – 3. Jesus is our Mercy Seat and perfectly covers our sin

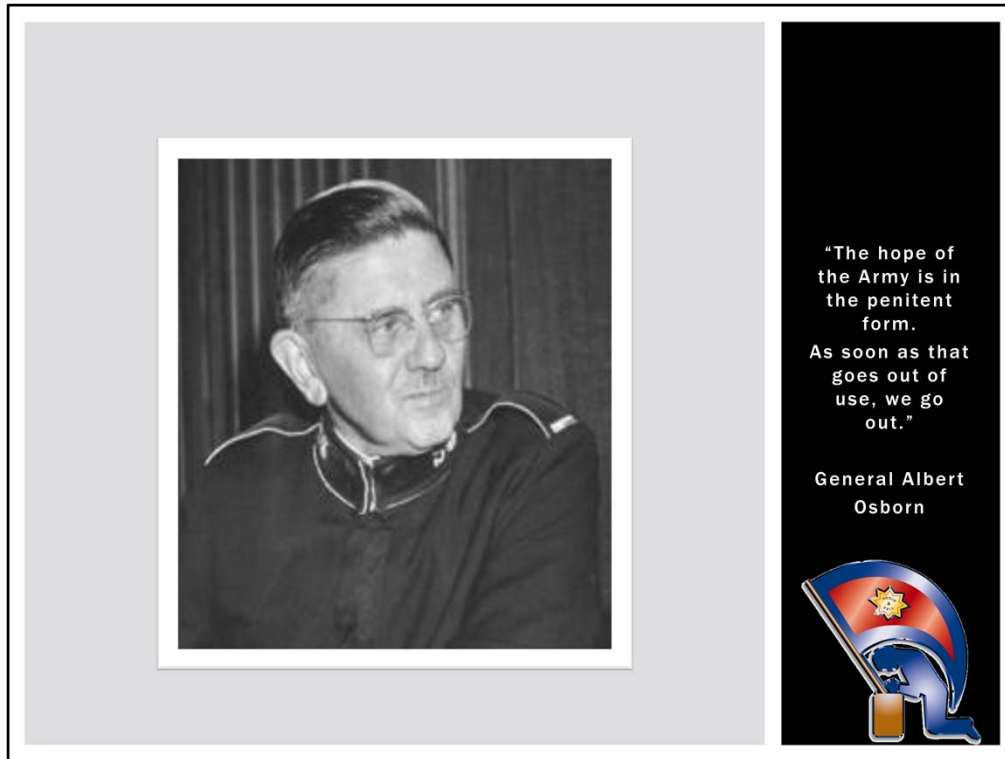
<p>4. Jesus is our only protection from the judgment of God</p> <p>5. God is on His throne today in heaven and Jesus, our high priest, is at His right side</p>	<p>WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE MERCY SEAT?</p> 
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CLICK - 4. Just as the mercy seat protected Israel from the judgment of God, Jesus is our only protection from the judgment of God.

CLICK - 5. The Mercy Seat was God's throne in the midst of the Israelites. God is on His throne today in heaven and Jesus, our high priest, is at His right side. When we come to God now, we approach a throne of grace.

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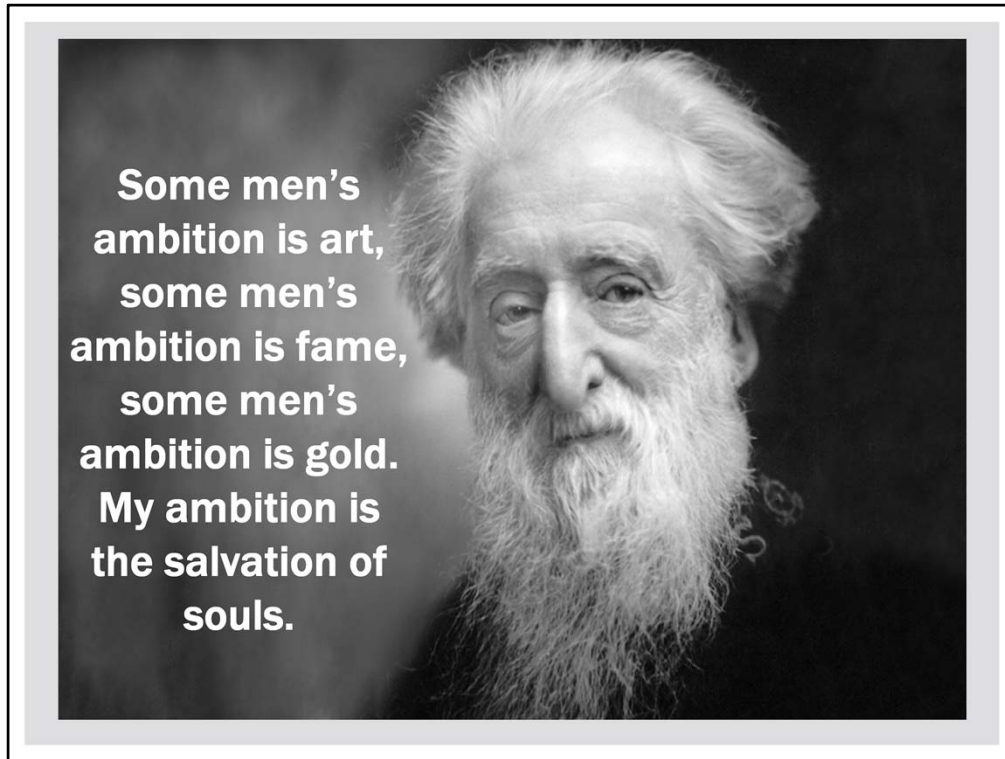




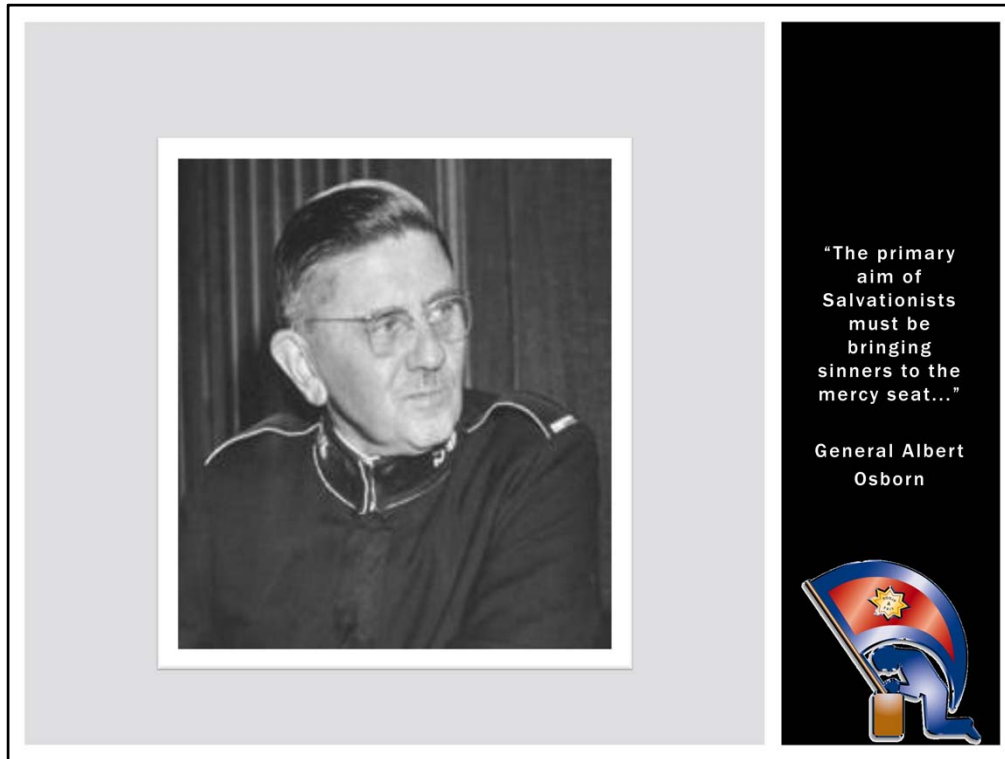
'The hope of the Army is in the penitent form. As soon as that goes out of use, we go out' (General Albert Orsborn).



Drum - In the early days of the Army “Open Air Service” - the drum was used as a Mercy seat. The Leader of any SA Meeting invited people to come forward for primarily for salvation. In 1846, the Methodist evangelist James Caughey used the mourner’s bench when preaching in Nottingham. One of the young lads to respond to God that night was a certain William Booth. From an early age, Booth was convinced of the benefit of calling people to public decision.



(Read Slide)



General Albert Orsborn said: '**The primary aim of Salvationists must be bringing sinners to the mercy seat.** Every meeting held, every programme presented, every contact made must be a means to this end – the salvation of souls.'

Colonel Phil Needham 'I think the mercy seat should be utilized for any purpose involving prayer. I think it is quite useful for Salvationists to be invited to come together for prayer at the mercy seat for a number of purposes. Unfortunately, in too many corps coming to the mercy seat means that there is something wrong or there has been a distressing defeat in the person's life. Having Salvationists together in positive prayer around the mercy seat can help remove some of the unfortunate barriers.'

Wesley Harris (R) writing in *Battlelines* says: 'He also describes the mercy seat as a place of 'grace, not disgrace'.

**The Mercy Seat is a
place to seek God for
more than Salvation.**

**It is also a place for
rededication, to seek
holiness and petition
God.**

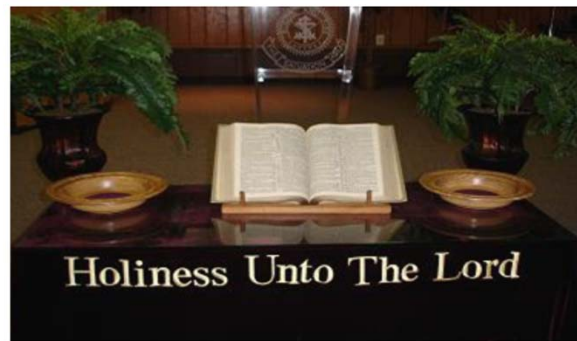


Mercy Seat is a place to seek God for more than Salvation – It is also a place for rededication, to seek holiness and petition God.

‘We may kneel to give thanks, to intercede for others, to dedicate ourselves, and to share spiritual communion with Christ, and whatever our need we can be assured that God can meet it.’ (Wesley Harris)

HOLINESS TABLE

- We are a holiness movement and we ought to pursue Holy living.
- The Mercy Seat is not the only place where people may meet with God nor the only place where sinners find salvation or forgiveness
- The Mercy Seat contains no magical power
- The Mercy Seat symbolizes a meeting place with God.



The purpose of the holiness table is more than a place to put the offering plates, or flowers (plant), or even to display the Bible. Often during my growing up soldiers would gather around the holiness table during a Sunday morning holiness meeting – praying and desiring a deeper walk with the Lord. It is a

CLICK - reminder that **we are a holiness movement and we ought to pursue Holy living.**

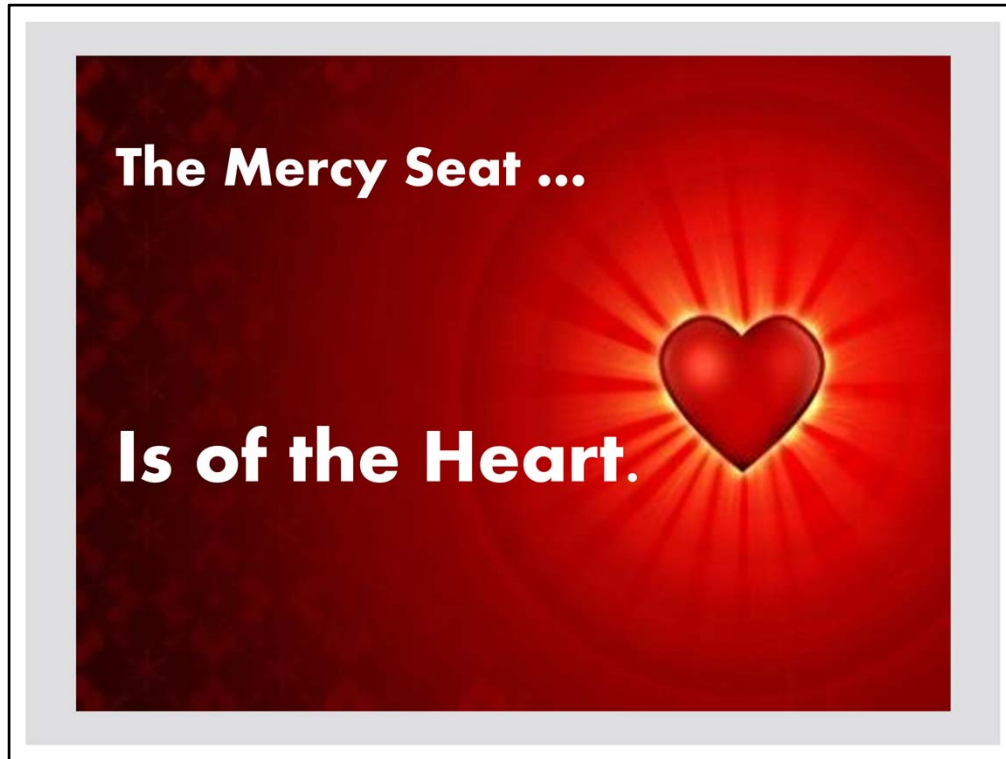
General Paul Rader 'The presence of the Holiness table is a constant reminder of the central importance of holiness of heart in the life of our movement – a reminder that we are and must be a holiness movement. Ours is a gospel of blood and fire! A holiness seeker is one who desires to enter into the experience of sanctification.'

CLICK - **The Mercy seat is not ...the only place where people may meet with God** (I have met and prayed with many people in my office, personal homes, hospitals, Tim's, our home.

CLICK - **Not the only place where sinners find salvation or forgiveness**

CLICK - **The Mercy Seat...**Contains no magical power – it is a piece of wood.

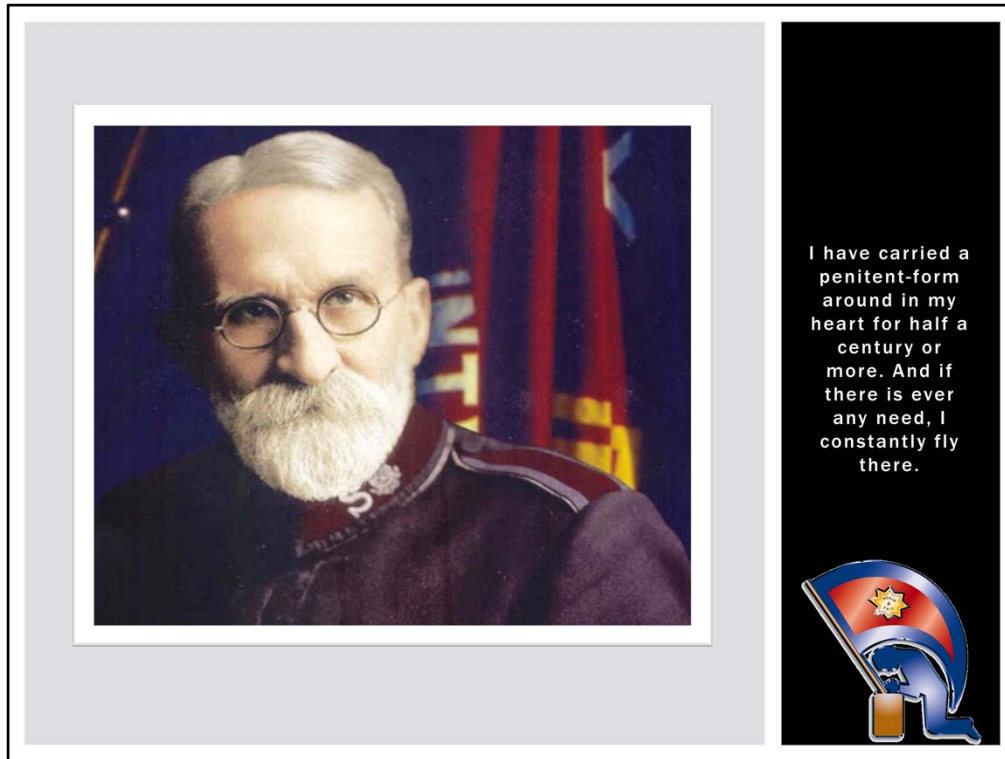
CLICK - **The Mercy Seat symbolizes a meeting place with God.**



Is of the Heart. - Colonel Phil Needham continues: 'The mercy seat itself is symbolic of any place where a seeker after God comes in prayer. The true mercy seat is of the heart, and the outward act of kneeling at a prayer bench, or any other place, is nothing if not the outward sign of a kneeling soul.'

He goes on to suggest that 'almost any place can become a mercy seat because where God chooses to speak to us and we are open to respond to him is in fact a mercy seat setting. The actual mercy seat in a corps hall is therefore only symbolic in the sense that it represents all such places.'

The Mercy Seat is not the only place where people may meet with God. It is not the only place where sinners find salvation or forgiveness. It is not a sacred object in the sense that it adds eternal significance to what takes place there. There is no virtue attached to the mere object, which is just a bench. Therefore it should not become another idol to worship.



This is something with which the Army's early-day holiness teacher Samuel Logan Brengle would heartily agree: **'I have carried a penitent-form around in my heart for half a century or more. And if there is ever any need, I constantly fly there,' he said.** There is an altar – a mercy seat all around you.

Why come forward?

It activates our faith.

Jesus called his disciples publicly.

Community support.

The act of kneeling shows humility, dying to oneself and submission to God.



If there is a Mercy Seat - an altar all around you – Why come forward? (How many of us knelt publicly and accepted Jesus – share personal story – Sunday morning – my mom led my brother and I to the mercy seat).

CLICK - I believe it activates our faith.

CLICK - Jesus called his disciples publicly. The Bible says if you will not acknowledge me before man I will not acknowledge you before my father in heaven.

CLICK - Community support. When you come forward you have a community of people to support and encourage you in prayer.

CLICK - Act of kneeling shows humility, dying to self and submission to God.

Kneeling at the mercy seat gives us that quiet moment (time) to process what we have heard and felt throughout the service. Worship is about having a meeting with Jesus – it is His house and He is the honoured guest.

The International Spiritual Life Commission affirmed to the whole Army world that the mercy seat in Salvation Army meetings symbolises God's unremitting call to his people to meet with him. It is not only a place for repentance and forgiveness, but also a place for communion and commitment. The report emphasises, 'Here we may experience a deep awareness of God's abundant grace and claim his boundless salvation.' Encouraging the use of the mercy seat, the commission says, 'The mercy seat may be used by any one, at any time, and particularly in Army meetings when, in response to the proclaimed word, all are invited to share loving and humble communion with the Lord.'

IF I FORGET THE MERCY SEAT

From every stormy wind that blows
From every swelling tide of woes,
There is a calm, a sure retreat;
'Tis found beneath the mercy seat.

There is a place where Jesus sheds
The oil of gladness on our heads,
A place than all besides more sweet;
It is the blood-stained mercy seat.

There is a scene where spirits blend,
And friend holds fellowship with
friend;
Though sundered far, by faith they
meet
Around one common mercy seat.

There, there on eagle wings we soar,
And time and sense seem all no
more;

And Heaven comes down our souls to
greet,
And glory crowns the mercy seat.

O let my hand forget her skill,
My tongue be silent, cold and still
This throbbing heart forget to beat
If I forget the mercy seat!

Hugh Stowell (1799-1865)

To end session one – reflect as we read these song lyrics together. (From TSA songbook – read together or responsive)

Time for QUESTIONS - Conclude in prayer.

GUIDELINES FOR MERCY SEAT COUNSELLING

Session 2



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MERCY SEAT COUNSELLOR?

- It is a privilege and honor
- It is a calling from God
- Be humble
- Motivated by love for God and for others.



CLICK - It is a privilege and honor. I have knelt with many people and it is always a privilege to be invited to kneel at the mercy seat with a seeking soul. This is always a sacred moment. I am always grateful to Jesus to be able to share with them in a significant high moment in their spiritual life. It is indeed a privilege. **PLEASE NOTE:** In John 16, Jesus refers to the Spirit as a “Counselor” who will guide us in our everyday lives.

CLICK - It is a calling from God.

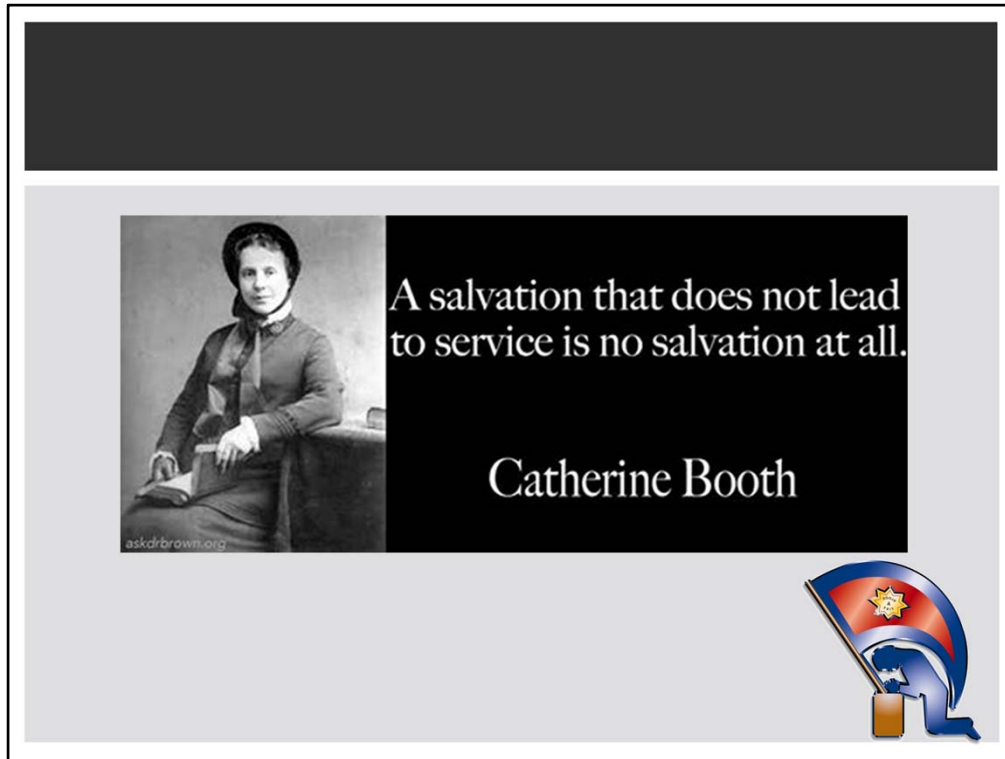
CLICK - Be humble. You are not super- man or super-counsellor. We need to be totally dependent on the Lord. (One beggar telling another beggar where to get bread).

CLICK - Motivated by love for God and for others.

**A Mercy seat
Counsellor is ...
someone who is
called by God to
provide prayerful
support to a seeker.**



A Mercy seat Counsellor is someone who is called by God to provide prayerful support to a seeker. (That may mean helping to lead someone to salvation – rededication – holiness – petition.)



Catherine Booth (**A salvation that does not lead to service is no salvation at all**) – James talks about a dead faith – we are not saved by grace – Paul says ... BUT ... James reminds us that we ought to have a faith that works – which leads to action – that shows up in service.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD COUNSELLOR

- A Christian
- A firm believer in prayer
- Someone who practices the discipline of prayer in their own life
- Grounded in God's word
- Sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit
- Vibrant faith
- Christ-like love
- Understanding
- Demonstrates tact
- Sincere
- Has compassion



Can you think of anything you would look for in a good counselor at the mercy seat (altar)?

CLICK - Someone who is a Christian.

CLICK – A firm believer in Prayer

CLICK – Someone who practices the discipline of prayer in their own life. Depending on God ought to be the heartbeat of every Christian. Every morning coming to Jesus to fill up – I can't minister to others if I'm running on empty. Prayer is also about seeking God's help. Relying on Him to guide you and not resting on your own qualifications.

CLICK - Someone who is grounded in God's Word (Read Psalm 119:105). A good counselor should be well grounded in God's Word. The importance of knowing your Bible cannot be stressed enough. You should never go to the altar (mercy seat) without one. The Word of God is our one and only authority in ministering to the needs of seekers.

CLICK - Someone who is sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. (This is essential – it is the Holy Spirit that is in the business of supernatural work – we are not the one's doing the work – always remember God don't need you and He don't need me –BUT... He has chosen to use the likes of us.)

CLICK - Someone with a Vibrant Faith. (Read Hebrews 11:6) A living, active faith is also essential to a good mercy seat counselor. You cannot commend what you do have not experienced.

CLICK – Someone with a Christ-Like Love. (1 Corinthians 13:1-13) A burning, Christ-like love is the driving force behind any truly Christian ministry. What motivates you to do ministry is important? (Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 6:1) – Your motives truly matter!

CLICK - Understanding. (1 Cor. 12 talks about spiritual gifts and how different parts of the body perform different functions – the same in the spiritual body.

God made us all for unique participation in Christ's body (the church). So it is important to remember that God has not made any two people alike.

CLICK - Tact (Read Proverbs 12:18) A good counselor should be approachable and open-minded; never harsh or critical. How we say things is as important as what we say.

CLICK - Sincerity (Romans 12:9) NLT – *“Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.”* A good counselor must have sincerity. Your life must match your profession.

CLICK – Compassion. Jesus was constantly moved with compassion. Showing compassion is essential as a mercy seat counsellor and not passing judgment. Read Albert Orsborn's words: Except I Am Moved by Compassion (Song Book)

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Good grooming
- Be a blessing (deodorant & mints)
- Scent free
- Mannerly
- Not quick to judge or assume there is a problem
- Aware of the seeker's space
- Not intrusive or coercive to confession
- Respectful
- Does not overreact
- Be natural - be yourself



In addition to the personal qualities we have mentioned, there are a few things that we should always consider when counseling at the mercy seat.

CLICK - Good Grooming - First of all; good grooming is an important factor. One who is not well groomed might distract the seeker with their attire and take the seeker's focus off of the things of God.

CLICK - Be a Blessing (deodorant & mints!). Personal Hygiene - Take showers – brush teeth – use breath mints when necessary.

CLICK - Scent Free - Don't overuse perfume, deodorant or cologne. Check with your corps to see if there is a scent free policy.

CLICK - Be Mannerly - Good manners are essential to any mercy seat ministry. Ask for permission to pray with the seeker

CLICK - Don't assume there is a problem or be quick to judge

CLICK - Be aware of the seeker's space. It may not be wise to touch the seeker, especially if it is a member of the opposite sex.

CLICK - Do not pry or try to force a confession. Confessions are for God to hear. This is not a place to receive or share gossip. If the seeker chooses to confess, keep it in confidence. We will discuss exceptions to this rule later on.

CLICK - Be Respectful. Some are "huggers" some are not. The seeker may be at a very vulnerable point in life. Also this is wise when you don't know people well. Also respect the different cultural, theological viewpoints of others.

CLICK - Don't Overreact - never act shocked or bored.

CLICK - Be natural - Be yourself. (God has called you to be you).

LIMITATIONS OF THE COUNSELLOR

- Cannot 'fix' other's problems
- We are not professional counsellors
- Our only authority comes from God's word



In order to fully understand our role as mercy seat counselors, we need to explore our own limitations; the things that we are not, and the things that we cannot do. We can often cause great damage and hurt when we decide to overstep the following boundaries.

CLICK - We Cannot 'Fix' Their Problems - When people come to the altar with serious issues and problems, we have compassion on them, and we often wish that we could make things better for them. However, we must resist the "fix it" mentality. Please understand that it is neither in our own human power nor in our ministry description as mercy seat counsellors to take away these people's problems. Jesus Christ alone holds the title of 'Savior of the World', and even He does not promise freedom from earthly struggle. (One thing we can be assured of is that when people pray for salvation it is immediate – God always answers prayer – YES, WAIT and NO) When it comes to sickness, job, trials, etc. – it is not always immediate and we need to encourage trust in God even when things don't work out).

When we do offer to help from the mercy seat, we need to make sure we follow through. Integrity and consistency are essential as both a witness and a ministry to the seeker. As a general rule, it is better to think things through and possibly seek wise counsel about giving help before making any promise of time or resources.

CLICK - We are not Professional Counsellors - There is a fine line between offering friendly encouragement or advice in a time of need and giving psychological counsel that we are not qualified to give. As tempting as it may be to try and identify/solve personal psychological and social problems, we must avoid the tendency to play the professional counselor. People will trust you in your position as a mercy seat counselor; but without professional training, your advice could actually do more damage than good.

NOTE: If someone at the altar is dealing with a particularly difficult issue, it would be wise to call the officer to help with the situation. In some cases, the officer may need to refer the seeker to professional help.

CLICK - Our Only Authority Comes from God's Word

Time for QUESTIONS

Conclude in prayer.

GUIDELINES FOR MERCY SEAT COUNSELLING

Session 3



ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Confidentiality
- Reporting and referrals
- Give some private time
- Use touch wisely
- Ask the person what they want prayer for



CLICK - Confidentiality. There may be situations where that is not possible.

CLICK - Reporting & Referrals. There are cases in which a person's safety or the safety of others is more important than confidentiality. At these times it is necessary that you contact your officer and the proper authorities to address the issue. General guidelines for when to report include the following: Cases of physical or sexual abuse of children or the elderly. Cases of child neglect. Any sort of case where the seeker's threatens to harm themselves or others.

Referrals - there will come times when people have needs that go beyond what you are equipped to handle. On these occasions it is appropriate to refer the seeker to the corps officer or other forms of help. In many cases, as in extreme grief over past loss or trauma, you should ask the seeker permission before speaking with the officer. You may even want to go with the seeker to the officer and figure out what sort of professional help to seek when dealing with issues. Be careful about how you approach the seeker with the idea of professional help. This may offend some. But the fact that you care enough to help find the help they need and be their friend and support through the experience will mean a great deal to some.

CLICK - Give some Private Time: Do not rush in too quickly. Let the person have some private moments with God.

CLICK - Use touch wisely. Ask permission to lay on hands, only touching the arm, shoulder or back if appropriate.

CLICK - Ask the person what they want prayer for: never assume you know what they need.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Welcome the Holy Spirit
- Speak using generic terms
- Avoid pat answers
- Resist the urge to give advice



CLICK- Welcome the Holy Spirit. Seek his guidance in your conversation. Seeking Wisdom from God.

CLICK - Speak using Generic Terms - AVOID CLICHÉS AND “CHRISTIAN-ESE”. One of the best ways to confuse or offend someone is to use terms they don’t understand. “Why not plunge into the blood of the Lamb” “Let us approach the throne of grace.”

CLICK - Avoid pat answers. Like “just give your life to Jesus and everything will be fine.” Pie in the sky type of Christianity.

CLICK – Resist the urge to give advice. We are there to guide and point people to Jesus.

- **Be sensitive**
- **Commitment to pray**
- **Help bear other's burdens through prayer**
- **Guide people into acceptance of God's promises**



CLICK - Be Sensitive - If the person starts to cry let it happen, and have some tissues on hand. Sensitively ask why the person is crying - if not willing to share don't pry.

CLICK - Commitment to Pray – if you make the commitment to pray for the seeker be sure to carry out that promise.

CLICK - Helping Bear Others' Burdens through Prayer (Galatians 6:2). We may help bear others burdens through prayer. This involves listening. In fact, as mercy seat counselors we should spend more time listening and paying attention to the seekers' needs then we will giving advice or counsel. Much of our talking should be in the form of questions, to help clarify the need for the seeker and ourselves. There will be times when the seeker does not feel comfortable sharing their needs or confessions with us. In these cases, remember that it is enough that God knows their needs, and we can still have a powerful ministry helping bear their unspoken needs through prayer.

CLICK - Guiding People into Acceptance of God's Promises... (READ - 2 Peter 3:9)
We may also use the authority of Scripture to guide the seeker into acceptance of God's promises for their lives. The key is to help them personalize the Scripture. For some people, the fact that Jesus Christ died for the world in general does not mean anything for them. They must realize that Christ died specifically for them.

COUNSEL INVOLVES

- Getting started
- Time of counsel
- Bringing it to a conclusion
- Follow up



Four aspects to keep in mind:

CLICK - Getting started

CLICK -Time of counsel

CLICK -Bringing it to a conclusion

CLICK -Follow up

GETTING STARTED

Before you approach consider:

- Gender
- Prior connection
- Other leaders
- Am I on duty?



Before you approach consider: Who counsels who? Who makes that decision?
These following things play into the decision.

CLICK – Gender. As far as possible counsel with people of the same gender as you.

CLICK – Prior Connection. Maybe someone already has a relationship with that person (bible study leader, etc)

CLICK – Are there other leaders may want to counsel (ie. youth, etc)

CLICK - Am I on duty every Sunday? Having a schedule maybe a good idea.

GETTING STARTED

- Introduce yourself
- Ask the seeker if they want support
- Discover why the seeker has come forward
- Listen



CLICK - Introduce Yourself (be brief - most people you will know personally)

CLICK - Ask the seeker if they want you to speak with them. (Don't assume - they may want their private space and we need to respect their wishes and don't take it personal.)

CLICK - Discover why the seeker has come forward. Ask – if there is a specific need you might pray about. However, **DO NOT TRY TO FORCE COMMUNICATION OR ANSWERS.** The mercy seat ought to be safeguarded as a safe place for people to meet with God. Trying to force someone to talk about or admit guilt before they are ready will compromise that safety. It is ok to ask once but if they don't share respect their privacy. It is enough that God knows their heart and what we always need to remember they are there to meet God.

CLICK – Listening. Allow the seeker time to share their need – resist the urge to talk too much.

Counsel (Providing Support)

- Salvation
- Holiness
- Rededication or Restoration
- Petition



Counsel (Providing Support) (Once you understand what the person is seeking you can provide relevant support. People typically come to the mercy seat for one of the following reasons:

CLICK - Salvation – First Time Seeker

CLICK - Holiness – Total Commitment and Surrender

CLICK - Rededication or Restoration – Renewing a right relationship with God.

CLICK - Petition – prayer for oneself (family, job, illness, etc.) or prayer for a friend or family member.

Remember, your authority comes from the Word of God, so a key part of supporting - helping the person will be to highlight scripture verses that apply to their situation.

A. FIRST TIME SEEKERS

- Emphasize God's love
- Outline the plan of salvation
- Humanity's sin
- Sin's penalty
- God's provision
- Invite repentance and confession



A. Counseling First Time Seekers.

CLICK - Emphasis God's Love (John 3:16)

CLICK - Outline the Plan of Salvation

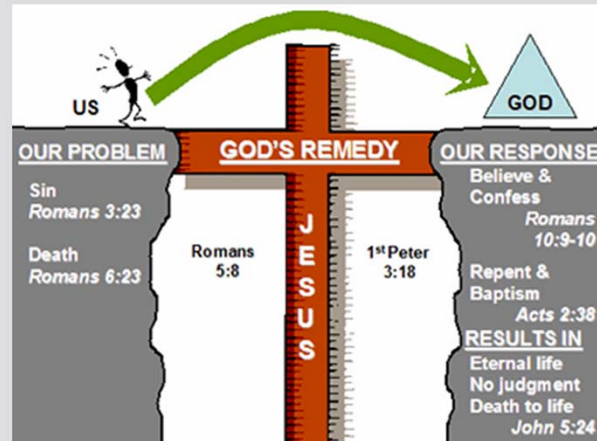
CLICK - Humanity's Sin – First Parents Disobedience

CLICK - Sin's Penalty - Death (All have sinned and fallen short)

CLICK - God's Provision – The Cross (While we were get sinners...)

CLICK - Invite Repentance and Confess – you may want to lead them in a prayer.

REFERENCE THE PLAN OF SALVATION



Picture of the plan of salvation. (Having a resource – steps to salvation is helpful)

B. HOLINESS SEEKERS

- Emphasize biblical teaching to live holy lives
- Emphasize the work and power of the Holy spirit
- Emphasize God's provision for holiness
- Emphasize the need to confess our weakness



B. Holiness Seekers (Total Commitment and Surrender)

God wants every Christian to experience living a holy life.

CLICK - Emphasize that the Bible desires that we live holy lives (Romans 12:1-2)

CLICK - Emphasize the work and power of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13)

CLICK - Emphasize that we have been given everything we need in Christ.

(2 Peter 1:3) "His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

CLICK - Emphasize the need to confess to the Lord.

C. REDEDICATION AND RESTORATION

- Reassurance of God's love
- Encourage confession of sin and seeking forgiveness
- Assure of God's forgiveness



C. Rededication or Restoration – Renewing a right relationship with God.

CLICK - Reassure them that God still loves. (He longs for us to be restored).
(eg. Peter's Denial and Restoration John 18:15-18; John 21:15-17)

CLICK - Encourage them to confess their sin and seek forgiveness.

CLICK - Assure them of God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9)

D. PETITIONS

- Encourage the seeker to make their request to God
- Encourage the seeker to trust in God's plan
- Encourage the seeker to search for God's wisdom



D. Petitions

CLICK - Encourage them to make their request to the Lord and accept His peace. Philippians 4:6-7 "Present Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

CLICK - Encourage them to trust in God's plan - If they are facing trials encourage them to trust in God. (James 1:2-3) If they comfort – trust in his promises. (Psalm 46:1)

CLICK - Encourage them to seek wisdom (James 1:5-8)

CONCLUDE THE COUNSELLING SESSION

- Seek permission to pray together
- Allow the seeker a few minutes alone
- Move to another location



Bring it to an end. When you have finished hearing the need and sharing God's promises,

CLICK - Ask if it ok to pray with them. You may even want to ask them if they want to pray, but they may feel uncomfortable – so you can pray.

CLICK - Allow the seeker a few minutes alone. Sometimes an individual needs a few minutes alone to compose themselves and reflect silently.

CLICK – Move to another room if necessary. Sometimes it may not be comfortable or best to stay at the Mercy seat for a long time. It may be best to move to a quiet space. (Having another designated space to counsel may be necessary from time to time.)

FOLLOW UP

- Make sure you have contact information
- Phone call
- Visitation (Coffee)
- Send a Card
- Email/Text
- Set healthy boundaries



Follow Up

CLICK - Contact Info (If you don't know the seeker personally it would be necessary to get contact information so proper follow can be done).

CLICK – Phone Call

CLICK - Visitation (Coffee)

CLICK - Send a Card

CLICK –Email/Text

CLICK - Set Healthy Boundaries (don't take the monkey on your back) I think this goes back to the fact that our role is not to FIX their problems.

Why might it be important to follow up with seekers? **To help mentor and disciple.**
We should understand that our does not end at the mercy seat.

MENTORSHIP & DISCIPLING

- Regular prayer time and Bible reading
- Participate in a small group
- Attend a new believers' class
- Attend corporate worship
- Pray



Mentorship & Discipling...

CLICK- Encourage them to have a regular time of prayer and Bible reading

CLICK - Encourage to be part of a small group (bible study)

CLICK – Encourage them to attend New Believers Class

CLICK – Encourage them to attend Corporate Worship

CLICK - Pray - the greatest thing you can do for a seeker is to pray for them. The most powerful and effective thing that you can do for a person after mercy seat counseling is to pray for them often and sincerely. James 5:16b affirms that, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."



Feeling **Overwhelmed? Confused?** Where do I go from here?

We need to throw ourselves at the feet of Jesus. You and I don't have what it takes apart from Him to be mercy seat counselors – it is He who equips and qualifies us. You and I can only carry out the work of the cross – by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Time for QUESTIONS

Conclude in prayer.