



Giving
Hope
Today

Corps Stamp



Issued by the authority of
THE TERRITORIAL COMMANDER
for
Canada & Bermuda

NOTES

Handbook for Adherent Members of The Salvation Army Canada & Bermuda Territory

*We are delighted to learn that you are
interested in making The Salvation Army
your church home.*

*This handbook outlines some of the privileges
and responsibilities involved in becoming an
Adherent member in The Salvation Army.*

*We hope it will be helpful in answering some
of the questions you might have.*

God bless you!

Adherent Members of The Salvation Army

1. *Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and seek to follow and be like Him.*
2. *Participate in the worship, fellowship, service and support of a local Salvation Army congregation.*
3. *Identify with the mission of The Salvation Army.*
4. *Are 14 years of age or older.*
5. *Are not an active member of any other religious body.*
6. *Must indicate their desire to become adherents and sign the application for enrollment.*
7. *Will agree to the following:*
 - *Recognize the corps officer/pastor as spiritual counselor*
 - *Look to The Salvation Army officer/pastor to conduct the ceremonies of marriage, dedication of children, and funerals.*
 - *Have his or her name entered on government or religious census records as belonging to The Salvation Army.*

For further details refer to OP2209.

The Salvation Army Application for Enrollment as Adherent Member

*I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and in seeking to follow him, I desire to participate in the worship, fellowship, service and support of The Salvation Army. I do not have active membership in any other religious body, and I identify with the mission of The Salvation Army. I hereby make request for enrollment as an **ADHERENT MEMBER of THE SALVATION ARMY.***

I will undertake to attend meetings and give support to the corps/church in any way I can. It is my intention to be recorded in the national census returns as a member of The Salvation Army.

Signed: _____
(Applicant)

Upon acceptance by The Salvation Army Pastoral Care Council, you will be presented with an adherent members certificate and your name will be entered on the adherent members roll.

There must be more to say about the Army!

Indeed there is! This booklet only tells the beginning. We could talk about the Army's publications such as *Salvationist* and *Faith & Friends*. Much could be said about our work with senior citizens, including regular weekly meetings for them. And there is the Army's music with its bands and singing groups.

The Army operates hospitals and homes, shelters, centers for people struggling with addictions and needing rehabilitation, and suicide prevention and missing persons bureaus.

Correctional officers and lay Salvationists work in courts and prisons, Family Service workers provide community care and support to families by providing food, clothing, and assistance with life skills.

When a person becomes an adherent member of The Salvation Army, that person has a link with this international movement which is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and activated by the divine compulsion to serve God and humanity.

If you require any further information concerning the Army, feel free to contact the Salvation Army officer in your area or write:

Corps Ministries Secretary
The Salvation Army THQ
2 Overlea Blvd. Toronto, ON M4H 1P4

Read more about the Army on these webpages

www.salvationarmy.org - International Salvation Army

www.salvationarmy.ca - Canada & Bermuda Salvation Army

www.salvationist.ca - Salvation Army news, reports, and articles

Some Questions & Answers

1. What 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 Army is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in his name without discrimination. On a global scale, the 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).

Evangelistic and social enterprises are maintained, under the authority of the General, by full-time officers and employees, as well as soldiers who give service in their free time. The Army also benefits from the support of many adherents and friends, including those who serve on advisory boards. All Salvationists [Salvation Army soldiers] accept a disciplined and compassionate life of high moral standards which includes abstinence from alcohol and tobacco. From its earliest days the Army has accorded women equal opportunities, every rank and service being open to them and from childhood the young are encouraged to love and serve God.

www.salvationarmy.org (Our International webpage)

History

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.

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

The Army's corps (church buildings) are sometimes identified as citadels, halls, or temples. Our community corps are regarded as places of worship and spiritual renewal for the battle against sin. In each one there is an altar (also known as a mercy seat or penitent form) where people can kneel to confess their sins and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Christians also kneel there in consecration and faith to receive God's power for holy living. The altar represents the heart of every Salvation Army place of worship.

2. What does it mean to be an adherent member of The Salvation Army?

To be an adherent member means a number of things that can add richness and significance to your everyday life:

- Adherent members belong to The Salvation Army and enjoy a fellowship with Salvationists all around the world.
- The corps officer (clergy) will prove to be a friend who will support you and give spiritual counsel, especially at such times as marriage, dedication of children and bereavement.
- Officers (clergy) have been ordained by God and trained and commissioned by The Salvation Army to lead the corps in its mission.
- Adherent members benefit from the spiritual counsel and encouragement received through Salvation Army meetings, programs and other activities.
- Adherent members have the opportunity of contributing to the financial support of the corps and its mission.
- All adherent members are encouraged to attend Sunday meetings (worship) where spiritual nurturing is received for

Salvation Army Doctrines (Statement of Beliefs)

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. We believe that repentance toward God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, are necessary to salvation.
8. 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.
9. We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.
10. 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.
11. We believe in the immortality of the soul; the resurrection of the body; in the general judgment at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.

THEREFORE

I will be responsive to the Holy Spirit's work and obedient to His leading in my life, growing in grace through worship, prayer, service and the reading of the Bible.

I will make the values of the Kingdom of God and not the values of the world the standard for my life.

I will uphold Christian integrity in every area of my life, allowing nothing in thought, word or deed that is unworthy, unclean, untrue, profane, dishonest or immoral.

I will maintain Christian ideals in all my relationships with others: my family and neighbours, my colleagues and fellow Salvationists, those to whom and for whom I am responsible, and the wider community.

I will uphold the sanctity of marriage and of family life.

I will be a faithful steward of my time and gifts, my money and possessions, my body, my mind and my spirit, knowing that I am accountable to God.

I will abstain from alcoholic drink, tobacco, the non-medical use of addictive drugs, gambling, pornography, the occult, and all else that could enslave the body or spirit.

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

I will be actively involved, as I am able, in the life, work, worship and witness of the corps, giving as large a proportion of my income as possible to support its ministries and the worldwide work of the Army.

I will be true to the principles and practices of The Salvation Army, loyal to its leaders, and I will show the spirit of Salvationism whether in times of popularity or persecution.

I now call upon all present to witness that I enter into this covenant and sign these articles of war of my own free will, convinced that the love of Christ, who died and now lives to save me, requires from me this devotion of my life to His service for the salvation of the whole world; and therefore do here declare my full determination, by God's help, to be a true soldier of The Salvation Army.

everyday Christian living.

- Adherent members have the opportunity to be involved in Christian service and ministries.

3. How do I become an adherent member of The Salvation Army?

Anyone not listed as an active member of another religious body, who is at least 14 years of age, and who claims Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour may become an adherent member of The Salvation Army.

You should notify the corps officer (clergy) of your interest in becoming an adherent member and complete an application and you will be invited to attend a membership class. (See page 17).

A Pastoral Care Council within the local Salvation Army Corps will consider your application, and once accepted, a certificate will be issued by the corps officer in an enrolment ceremony during a Sunday meeting.

4. What are the faith practices/ceremonies of The Salvation Army?

The essential ceremonies associated with the important phases of your life are observed. Some of the terms and procedures and thoughts behind the ceremonies are different—as with all denominations. However, the intent and validity are similar to parallel ceremonies in other places of worship. Salvation Army ceremonies include the following.

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 personal Saviour. The congregation 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 legally licensed to perform marriages and are required by the government to register all ceremonies in the official records of the province. Pre-marital counseling is not only desirable but necessary before any marriage ceremony can be performed by a Salvation Army officer.

Funerals

The Salvation Army officer (clergy) is always ready to visit and pray with the dying and to comfort the bereaved. The Army's funeral and burial services are simple, sacred and helpful.

Enrollment 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 Army's declaration of faith known as A Soldier's Covenant may become a soldier (see pages 13-14 for a sample). Everyone is encouraged to express their faith in Christ and commitment to the Army through the step of soldiership. The corps officer (clergy) will gladly explain the process of soldiership and provide membership classes if you are interested.

Enrollment of Junior Soldiers

Children may, with parental permission, 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 Army. Junior soldiers who continue to live the Christian life may be enrolled as senior soldiers or adherents when they are fourteen years of age.

Enrollment of Adherents

This ceremony also emphasizes a commitment to God and The

A SOLDIER'S COVENANT

Having accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord, and desiring to fulfill my membership of His Church on earth as a soldier of The Salvation Army, I now by God's grace enter into a sacred covenant. I believe and will live by the truths of the word of God expressed in The Salvation

Army's eleven articles of faith:

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 innocence, 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 towards 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; in the resurrection of the body; in the general judgment at the end of the world; in the eternal happiness of the righteous; and in the endless punishment of the wicked.

Local Officer ~ Is a Salvation Army soldier who is appointed to a specific leadership task in the corps/church.

Mercy Seat ~ Is an altar located at the front of the corps building where people are invited to kneel to seek God's salvation, to pray, or to make a dedication of their lives to God's service.

Officer ~ Is a minister (clergy) of The Salvation Army, who has been trained, commissioned and ordained for leadership.

Orders and Regulations ~ Are the principles and procedures for Salvation Army operation.

Pastoral Care Council ~ Is a council that exists for the purpose of exercising pastoral care towards the whole corps, including praying for, visiting and training its members.

Promoted to Glory ~ Is a term used when a Christian dies. Salvationists say they have been "promoted to glory".

Ranks ~ Are designations such as Lieutenant, Captain, Major, Colonel, Commissioner and General, which are given to officers according to years of service, appointment and (in the case of General), election.

Soldier ~ A member of The Salvation Army who is a Christian, has signed the Soldier's Covenant and been enrolled. A copy of The Soldier's Covenant on page 13 outlines what soldiers believe and promise.

Soldier's Covenant ~ This is both a signed document and a heart covenant that declares one's faith in Jesus Christ and a desire to live for him. This is signed prior to enrollment as a Salvation Army soldier.

Uniform ~ A suit worn by Salvation Army soldiers and officers that identifies them as belonging to The Salvation Army.

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.

5. What does The Salvation Army believe?

Salvation Army statements of belief are called "Doctrines". You can find and read these on page.15.

6. What does the Army have for young people?

Families with young children (ages 0-4) have the opportunity to place their child's name on a special cradle roll which provides an important link with the corps prior to Sunday school.

Corps may offer age-appropriate programs that families can participate in. Bible classes for all ages are held and there are discipleship programs for young people, such as "Ready to Serve" and other youth discipleship programs, that give opportunities for meaningful Christian learning and service.

Enjoyable activities such as youth band or singing groups, clubs and sporting activities are found in some corps. From infancy to maturity the Army has a Christian program designed to meet the needs of young people spiritually, mentally and physically. See the corps officer (clergy) for further details of these activities.

7. What activities are there in the Army for adults?

The Salvation Army is a place where you can find fellowship and spiritual enrichment in a home Bible study or prayer group. It is also a place where, if you enjoy singing or playing a musical instrument, there is opportunity for you to participate.

The Army also provides opportunities for using the gifts God has given you in service. In addition, special interest groups for

women, men and seniors are often held in Salvation Army churches, and a warm welcome is always extended.

8. How is The Salvation Army financed?

Salvation Army corps are financed by soldiers, adherents and other friends in the community who are eager to help.

An envelope system is used in all corps for the collection of money. This packet of numbered envelopes can be used each Sunday, thereby facilitating the recording of personal giving. An official receipt is issued at the end of the year which may be used for income tax purposes. All accounts are audited regularly.

Weekly, systematic giving is highly desirable. The scriptural principal of tithing is encouraged as a part of worship.

Two special offerings are held during the year. The first is for Partners in Mission (Overseas missions) and the second is for Home Missions appeal (Divisional corps plants, special needs, and projects). Weekly contributions to these or other projects can be made through the envelope system.

The Salvation Army encourages a culture of 'Generous Living'.

Glossary of Terms

Blood and Fire ~ This Salvation Army motto speaks of the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed for our sin and the fire of the Holy Spirit that empowers us for holy living.

Cadet ~ Is a Salvationist who is presently in training for full time ministry as a Salvation Army officer (clergy).

Candidate ~ Is a Salvationist who is interested in becoming an officer (clergy) in The Salvation Army.

Cartridges ~ Are offering envelopes that are given to members of the corps for the financial support of the corps and the Army's work.

Corps ~ Is The Salvation Army's name for its local congregation.

Corps Council or Mission Board ~ Is the advisory body that assists the corps officer with the strategic direction and planning for the corps.

Corps Sergeant-Major ~ Is the chief lay person (elder), who assists the corps officer and provides leadership in their absence.

Crest ~ Is a Salvation Army symbol, or coat of arms, each part having significant meaning.

Dedication ~ Is the public presentation of infants / children to the Lord.

Flag ~ Is an emblem, whose colours are symbolic of the purity of God (blue), the blood of Christ (red) and the fire of the Holy Spirit (yellow). It also includes the words of our motto - "Blood and Fire".

Hall ~ Is the term used for a Salvation Army corps/church building.

Junior Soldier ~ Is a junior member of the congregation who is a Christian, has signed the junior soldier covenant, and has been enrolled as a member of the corps.