

Faith & Life – Salvation

The late General Albert Orsborn wrote the words of a beloved song,

What a work the Lord has done
By his **saving grace**;
Let us praise him, every one,
In his holy place.
He has saved us gloriously,
Led us onward faithfully,
Yet he promised we should see
Even greater things.

Greater things! Greater things!
Give us faith, O Lord, we pray,
Faith for greater things.

Salvation is not just a theological position to discuss in a classroom, it is a gift God offers the whole world; a gift to receive, experience and enjoy. The words of the above song affirm that salvation is God's work. The apostle Paul reminded the church in Ephesus, "It is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it" (Ephesians 2:8).

I remember the day of my salvation. I had been invited to The Salvation Army by a high school friend. I came first to a youth group, then to Sunday worship services. I remember hearing for the first time the truth of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave" I remember feeling a sense of urgency and a deep need to receive what God was offering to give me. I stepped forward in a public worship service and knelt at a wooden bench and asked God for the gift of salvation. I experienced the work of God's saving grace. I felt new, clean, loved and forgiven. I have knelt many times since then. Each time receiving what the song says, "greater things."

I believe God's saving grace is always working to bring about newness of life, fresh hope and fresh starts. "In Christ the old is gone, behold the new has come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). I believe God's saving grace is available to all. Romans 8:18-24 speaks of the groaning of all creation. All of creation groans for the saving work of God. God's Word confirms; "Today is the day of salvation," "All who call on the name of the Lord can know the saving work of God." Every day opens opportunities for greater things.

Ann Braund was part of the Herald's of Hope session, commissioned as a Salvation Army officer in 1983. She married Jamie in 1987. Together they have served as Corps Officers in Canada and Bermuda. In 2011 they became part of the Training College Staff in Winnipeg. Last year they were moved to Toronto where she serves as Territorial Secretary for Spiritual Life Development and Chaplain at The Salvation Army Broadview Village.

