**Building the Kingdom Of God**

**By Lieutenant Deanna Scott**

Introduction

I love this time of year when we are able to learn and share about different cultures, traditions and languages through our Partners in Mission program. We get to celebrate the amazing diversity and creativeness of our Creator God. For me, Partners in Mission is a wonderful experience that connects us to the larger world and the work that is happening throughout that world.

Partners in Mission allows us to be a part of growing the Kingdom of God in practical ways. We work together with others across the globe to make a real difference in lives all over the world. We learn from each other as we experience being teachers, learners, givers and receivers in the Kingdom of God.

The term ‘Kingdom of God’ is used at least 76 times in the New Testament in the NRSV translation. It is vital for us to remember how important building the Kingdom of God is. It is not just about the saving of souls (which is critical) – it is also about the growth and development of disciples.

‘Building the Kingdom of God’ is what William and Catherine Booth were doing in 1865 when they founded The Salvation Army in England and it is what we continue to do today in over 128 countries worldwide. As we tell the good news of the gospel in neighbourhoods, communities, towns, cities, provinces, territories and countries, I am reminded of the chorus of the song “Building Up the Temple”:

Building up the Temple  
Building up the temple,   
Building up the temple.  
Building up the temple of the Lord.  
Brother, won’t you help me?  
Sister, won’t you help me?  
Building up the temple of the Lord.

Building the Kingdom of God is about how we approach God – our **relationship**; it is about becoming more like Him – our **discipleship**; and it is about sharing the good news with others – our **evangelism**.

1. Being the Kingdom of God: Mark 10:13-15, Galatians 3:26-28

* It is about our attitude
* We need to come as children – open, honest, excited and trusting that God is doing the work within us and within communities, joyful, with wonder and excitement
* It is our simple loving response to our God
* Accepting and depending on God and his strength, not ours

1. Building the Kingdom of God: Galatians 5:16-25; Romans 14:17-19, 1 Corinthian 4:20

* It is about discipleship
* It is by the power of God’s Holy Spirit working in and through us
* It is seen in us - the fruit of the spirit
* The more we seek God the more we act in the ways that He desires for us that others can see and the more we become like Jesus
* What we say and how we live must match
* We are proclaimers of God’s message

1. Sharing the Kingdom of God: Luke 4:42-44; Mark1: 15-18; Acts 1:8; Acts 2

* Is for all of us to do: we all have a part to play
* We are called to go out and tell: we do not keep it as a secret and hide away –

this is good news

* This is for all nations, all cultures, all peoples – no one is excluded
* It is now – we cannot wait to tell others
* It is not about the four walls of a building, but is about the relationship of people with God
* We as God’s people are God’s Kingdom and it is our responsibility to build it up
* We need to be active in telling people – it is a universal call to all believers to proclaim to all people

Conclusion

How are we building the Kingdom of God right here and right now in our families, our congregations, our communities and in our world?

Building the kingdom is not quiet, clean and neat – it will be messy, loud and a little chaotic. Enjoy!

Remember:

* We need to go out into our neighbourhoods and communities
* We need to be intentional and active
* We need to be prayerful
* We need to be supportive
* We need to be partners

*Building up the temple of the Lord.  
Brother, won’t you help me?  
Sister, won’t you help me?  
Building up the temple of the Lord.*