

# THE SALVATION ARMY KINGSTON GARDENS

## 1) The Journey – Long, winding Road.

The Salvation Army, and I know is true for me, is we are a 'doing' people. We always want to be doing something. When we came to K.G. Salvo's in Aug 2005, we were excited and wanting to know what God's Will is for us here and where God was leading His church.

We could have done many different things that would be *our Agenda* and sit well with us but bear no fruit for the Kingdom, but instead we learnt the secret to discovering God's Will for His Church is to see where God is at work and join Him, partner with Him.

In John 5:17, 19-20 say we see not only does Jesus acknowledge His Father was working but He also said that His Father now had Him (Jesus) working. Then Jesus described His approach to knowing the doing God's will. The Father has been working right up until now.

Now the Father has Me working  
I do nothing on My own initiative  
I watch to see what the Father is doing.  
I do what I see the Father already is doing.  
You see, the Father loves Me  
He shows Me everything that He, Himself, is doing.

God is at work around us, He has been in the past, in the present and will continue to be so in the future.

We want to say a big thank you and acknowledge that it is also the faithfully prayers over the years for K.G. Salvo's and the many Seniors who are here today and those forefathers who some have past onto Glory now, who have prayed and served God faithfully on this journey, and partnered in our Heavenly Father's business...

So let us share a glimpse of some of our Journey, the long winding road – we have been on and seen God at work through K.G. Salvo's this past decade.

Back in Feb 2005, a ministry commenced for people with special needs from the forty days of purpose small group. The leaders of a small group saw God's hand at work and allowed His Spirit to lead and prompt them, as they and we learnt to Partner with God in His work.

In 2009- 2010 we saw a change in leadership, and the continuing development of this ministry to what it is today. *A congregation* with, creativity through art and other activities, hospitality and fellowship share over a meal, the development of a choir and worship time reflecting on God's word, discussion and prayer. We have seen some folk come through into membership, with some participating in our Sunday morning worship gathering as well. We have seen their giving to the corps, something that happens as people feel more at home and accepted.

Some of our greatest strengths and qualities as a Corps worth celebrating and seen here is:

### **INCLUSION Intentional and Welcoming**

Although through the journey of change and adjustment, hasn't always been easy...

It has been a learning experience, understanding that the Kingdom welcomes all

In 2006 we took a step of faith and commenced a play group and over the years we saw some connect and attend other activities in the life of the corps...

However in 2009, we saw God draw a number of new Families, to the corps. We saw God at work and took a step of faith and invited these folk to a Holistic small group, however our first gather of approximately 30 people made up of Families, young adults, youth and children, made it obvious that this was not going to be a small group, but the birthing of something new..

We commenced with 'Doing Life together' on a Sunday afternoon, after a couple of years of growing together, we realized we had started to become a 'closed group', we took a step of faith and began once a month 'Messy church' for all ages, with creativity, worship and community and hospitality.

God was bringing a fresh expression of Church, a primary place of church for many.

Some of our greatest strengths and qualities as a Corps worth celebrating and seen here is :

**INNOVATION – Imaginative and flexible**

In our Innovation, being imaginative and flexible, we continue to see God at work and partner with Him in what He is doing. We have seen the development of a mainly music program from our play group, we have seen the development of Kids Church and Junior Soldiers as a response to God at work in and through His children and people of K.G. Salvo's and the community in which He has placed us.

In 2009 with the close of Chelsea Corps, it left K.G. Salvo's the only corps in the City of Kingdom. We felt strongly God had raised up the Salvation Army and as Christian we are called to respond to the poor and needy within the city God has place us.

In Feb 2010 Community Support Services commenced with welfare and family counsellor and a community services Director. God was actively at work as we saw over the years this ministry grow to assist the long term unemployed. We become a Hub and a role model of integration, as we saw families come through our 'Doorways' for assistance and move into other aspects of the life of the corps.

Some of our greatest strengths and qualities as a Corps worth celebrating and seen here is:

**SERVICE Practical and Diverse**

On our Journey we have discovered where God is at Work and partnered with Him. We celebrate our Strengths and have come to **value most here** at K.G. Salvo's in the years past the **Community Care and Social Justice, the practical care for one another, the openness to social diversity** with not only a mix of people of various cultures and backgrounds, but also social economy. It is a joy to see in our mainly music, the poorest and riches mingle and not even know who is rich and poor.

We have also come to value **social activities and meeting together** as we have seen as part of our Journey with our Companion Club and the meeting together at Corps Picnic or Special Dinners etc.

