

## **OUR FOUNDATION AND EARLY BEGININGS**

Many of you may already feel and think of the Army as your "Church home"...your Army...the place of fellowship and comradeship through which God has chosen you to serve Him.



A knowledge of the Army's history will be of interest and value to you.

More than that however, you will discover the motivation behind the early day Army. The Challenge for us today is to **recapture the fire and the spirit** of the early Salvationists. Our challenge is to discover what 'drove' them and apply that to our mission today.

### **THE SALVATION ARMY...YESTERDAY**

#### **THE BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS OF OUR FOUNDER.**

William Booth...born 1829...Nottingham, England.

As a child...William was a leader amongst his friends. He was fiery, quick-tempered, with a strong will.

Due to his family's poverty...he was forced to leave school at the age of 13...He became an apprentice in a pawn-broker's shop. Although Christened an Anglican, William's early church days were with the Methodist Church.

He was particularly moved when he heard a lay preacher declare:-  
**"every second a soul dies..."**

The Holy Spirit was at work in the heart and life of the young William Booth...who felt a longing to know God and experience peace in his heart.

At the age of 15 he committed himself completely to God, saying:-  
**"God can have all there is of William Booth!"**

## **WILLIAM BOOTH IN LONDON**

As a lonely, young man, William walked the streets of London...unable to find work except (again) in a pawnbroker's shop. He continued his work in the open air and, as a part-time lay preacher, was a committed member of the Methodist Church.

At 22 he was persuaded to give up his work and become a full-time lay preacher.

## **CATHERINE MUMFORD**

William was introduced to the Mumford family...where he met his future wife, Catherine Mumford.

Catherine was a clever young woman, a capable speaker and she bravely took her stand for equal opportunities for women.

## **WILLIAM BOOTH...FULL-TIME PREACHER**

In 1852 William was offered a post in the Methodist Church in Spalding. He accepted and spent 18 happy months leading many to conversion. After study, in 1854 he was accepted as a Methodist minister on 4 years probation, with permission to marry after 1 year. He received an appointment in London which soon changed to that of a traveling evangelist.

In 1855 he married Catherine Mumford.

## **WILLIAM AND CATHERINES CALL TO EVANGELISM**



In 1858 William was ordained as a minister in the Methodist Church.

By this time William and Catherine had four children: Bramwell, Ballington, Catherine and Emma.

It was at Gateshead where Catherine heard the call from God to go into the pulpit of the church and speak publicly for her Savior.

They were both convinced that God had called them to evangelical (proclamation of the gospel) work.

## THE CHRISTIAN MISSION

The Methodist Church didn't want revival meetings of the kind Booth led...he started to use the Penitent form (place where people can come for prayer and repent) in his meetings.

Due to the fact that some churches had closed their doors to the Booths, they decided to use ordinary buildings like dance halls (or even stables) for their meetings.

They had no regular income. They lived by faith.



### Extract from "The General Next to God"

*"Shoulders stooped, long arms swinging, the preacher's stride carried him through a ragged, shrieking, fighting population. Match-sellers and orange-women blocked his path; Irish flower-girls, bare feet marbled with dirt, whined and cajoled. He thrust past hulking labourers, women clad only in soiled petticoats. Children with wolfish faces foraged at his feet, gobbling up heaps of decaying plums in the street-market's garnish light. Tonight the ruler-straight length of Mile End Road was a vortex of light and colour...light wavering from candles stuck in huge turnips; light flaring from fish-tailed gas jets above coarse scraps of meat.*

*The pitiless rays focused on sights that a man as impressionable as Booth could never forget, and again the thought flashed through his mind... 'Where can you find such heathen as these?'*

*He saw 5 year olds, blind drunk; mothers forcing beer...from white chipped jugs...down babies' throats. Outside pub after pub silent, savage men with ashen faces, coats piled nearby, lunged and struck and toppled heavily, and watching women, faces animal with passion, screamed 'Strike! Strike!'*

*It did not shock those who were part of it: East London was their world. As Children they fashioned their toys from its garbage...often herring backbones, trailed on a piece of string. As adults the streets were their eating place...even at midnight, Mile End Road would be awake and clamorous as weary children begged for their parent's supper...a wedge of Gloucester cheese, a fresh tobacco pipe, more beer. No stranger to poverty after 13 years as a Methodist circuit minister, William Booth felt his heart go out like a father's to these people.*

*Grimly...he trampled west...faster and faster, despite the crush. A conviction was mounting within him and he sought to see the worst. On all sides the crowd jostled him.*

*The noise was shattering.*

*Families lost heart. In the dark alleys near the docks, the sick, the dying and often the dead, lay aside on the bare floors of fireless rooms with tattered scraps of blanket. The whole city stank.*

*As fast as William Booth moved on this July night, he couldn't escape it: an unholy compound of cattle-hides, firewood soaked in turpentine, stale corduroy and leaking gas. Other smells, unforgettable for the fastidious Booth, blanketed the warm air...gin, onions, dung, frying batter, the coiling smoke from 3 million chimneys.*

*Eight miles west of Mile End, at 31 Shaftesbury Road, Hammersmith, West London, Catherine Mumford Booth anxiously waited her husband's return.*

*At 36, she was still the gentle, slightly-built woman with lustrous dark brown eyes and mobile mouth, with whom William had fallen desperately in love 13 years ago...yet tonight she was sorely troubled.*

*For four years now, ever since Booth, his heart and mind drawn increasingly to the unchurched masses of Britain's cities, had resigned his position in the Methodist ministry, their future had grown daily more precarious. Nor was it for themselves alone that Catherine worried. Upstairs their 6 children...from Bramwell aged 9 to Marion, just 14 months, slept peacefully, as yet untroubled by the problem of winning bread from a hard world.*

*Toward midnight...a key grated in the lock and Booth, his eyes shining, strode into the living room.*

**'Darling...I've found my destiny!'  
THE SALVATION ARMY WAS BORN!**



The work of evangelism continued in the open-air, in dance halls and in any other places William Booth could obtain for his work.

There was a lot of opposition from the mobs and also the other churches. Many disagreed with the holiness teaching and objected to the use of the Penitent Form.

William Booth had never intended to start a new church. He tried to link his converts with established churches but found that the converts from the poor classes were not welcome.

At first The Mission worked only in East London...but the work quickly spread to other areas

By 1883 there were already 523 corps and 1340 Officers.

At the time of the Founder's Promotion to Glory in August 1912, Officers and Soldiers of The Salvation Army were preaching salvation in 34 Languages in 58 countries and colonies and boasted nearly 16,000 Officers and Cadets.



### THE ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

*'If there is any man here who hasn't a meal today, let him come home with me'*  
With those words, the first drumbeat of the Salvation Army's message was heard in Australia.

Edward Saunders and John Gore joined forces...and the Army was born in Australia.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, John Gore wrote to William Booth...

'Come over and help us. The Salvation Army is what we want...I have to tell you that the churches are asleep here, and a good waking up would do us good.'

Edward Saunders wrote again on May 28<sup>th</sup>...

'Since I have been in the colony I have made the acquaintance of about 12 to 15 soldiers of The Salvation Army converted under various Captains in England. There are three theatres together with two music halls and the town hall which is often used for preaching services and will seat about 2,000 people.'

From "Booth's Drum"...

*"The small group of organizers had advertised the meeting in The South Australian Advertiser, but on the afternoon of the 5<sup>th</sup>, true to their conviction that the Army went to the people rather than waited for the people to come to it, they headed for the river red gum in Botanic Park (Adelaide) and the wandering crowds."*

Again John Gore wrote to William Booth...

*"The Salvation Army, as you have already heard, has commenced in this sunny land... We need you as quick as fire and a stream can bring you, there is no mistake about it... you must come immediately. The Lord is doing a great work here. Our meetings are full of fire and love... The Army is led by me until some of you arrive. I pray that I may be led by the Spirit of God. Since we commenced the Lord had blessed us in every way, but we have it real hot from the enemy of souls. Adelaide is so respectable... for singing in the streets we are counted as fools and so we are fools for Christ's sake."*

In January 1881... Captain and Mrs Thomas Sutherland left for South Australia.

Meanwhile Gore and Sanders held meetings in hired halls and in the streets... even stables. People were converted and Salvationists were being made... the Army grew!



## WHO WE ARE



We are a group of people made up of all people from different walks of life and with different denominational back grounds, some of us maybe knew to the Christian faith, others may have grown up through the church. Throughout the Salvation Army we are united in the view that Jesus is the answer to the very deep needs of the human heart, and that His Spirit is directly available to heal brokenness, and to deal with the problems so often found in the world.

We believe The Salvation Army was raised up by God for the work of :-  
Transforming lives; Caring for People; Reforming Society and Making Disciples.

We are a Church – the expression of God’s family in the local sense. As such we are part of the many millions of people throughout history who have trusted and followed Jesus Christ. We are part of The Salvation Army Movement. It is important for us to take a look at the history of our church to understand something of our tradition we have.

### Local History

**Kingston Gardens Salvation Army** commenced on 26th October 1996, when three Salvation Army churches (corps) merged (Clayton, Oakleigh and Springvale) and met in the Employment 2000 Complex centre road, Clayton.

Meetings were then held in the Springvale facilities until December 1<sup>st</sup> and we moved to the Clayton Hall. Under the Leadership of Major’s Colin & Marilyn Medling (until Jan. 2007), Captains Alan and Jan Meredith and Lieutenant Sandy Fernee we commenced our journey.

1999 Majors Kevin & Lynne Grigsbey and Lieutenant Lynda Kemp became our Corps Officers. On 8<sup>th</sup> August 1999, Lieutenants Clinton and Karen Castley took charge of the Church and for 2 and a half years we were situated at our Clayton site until our present location in Dingley Village was purchased and refurbished.

We commenced our opening service on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2002. January 2005 saw a change in leadership with Captains Marty and Cheryl Lee who led us on for a short period and after a break in leadership, in the August of 2005 Captains Charlie and Narelle Jacobsen took command (now Majors).

Ten years on in our journey and what is ahead is exciting, and rather challenging. If God leads you into partnership with us, It will be with a Church which has not yet arrived by any means, but we are in the process of developing. Many things will change as we move closer to what God wants us to be. We invite you to join us in this journey.

