

# A HELPING HAND

## Learning outcomes

By completing this badge members will:

- explore some of The Salvation Army's pioneering social welfare work and explain The Salvation Army's motivation for this ministry;
- demonstrate knowledge about the social services that The Salvation Army offers internationally, nationally and locally;
- participate in a fundraising or awareness raising activity in support of The Salvation Army's social work.

## Badge Requirements

1. Explain what motivates The Salvation Army's social service programs and know the relevance of the Red Shield.
2. Present a project that traces one aspect of The Salvation Army's social work from its origins to today.
3. Experience some aspects of The Salvation Army's local social work.

**11–13s** 2 services

**14+** 3 services

4. Participate in a fundraising activity for The Salvation Army's social services OR participate in raising awareness about The Salvation Army's social services in your school or community.

This is one of two badges about The salvation Army. This badge looks at The salvation Army's social work whilst 'The salvos' badge looks at the origins and spiritual aspects of The salvation Army.





# Teaching ideas



## 1. Explain what motivates The Salvation Army's social services program and know the relevance of the Red Shield.

**Handout 1** may be used to complete this requirement however members will need access to the student information kit available from the Communications and Public Relations department or the website <http://salvos.org.au/about-us/student-centre/>. Other sources of information are listed in the *Resource* section at the end of this badge work.

The last question on the handout targets members' understanding of what motivates The Salvation Army towards social concern. Members should be able to identify the Scriptural challenge to help those in need and William Booth's observations and desire to help the poor as the two main motivating factors of The Salvation Army's social programs.

Present the following information in an interesting way as it will help members to complete **Handout 1**.

It is important for members to understand that The Salvation Army is neither a charity nor simply a social service organisation. The Salvation Army's principle mission is the salvation of humanity and its social work stems from the love of God and His desire to see everyone saved. This is illustrated by William Booth's words, 'You can't convert a man on an empty stomach'. When a person's immediate needs are met then he or she is more willing to listen to the gospel. James chapter 2 talks about faith being evidenced by works – that faith is best shown by what we do. Jesus said that His followers would be recognised by their love for one another (John 13:35) and that we serve God by serving others, particularly those in need (Matthew 25:31 - 40).

These important Scriptures, along with the atrocious conditions that people were living in (e.g. prostitution, unhealthy working conditions) motivated William Booth to action. Booth was appalled to witness people living under London's bridges with only ragged clothes and old newspapers to keep warm. He discovered the situation wasn't unique to London but that England was inundated with poverty-stricken people. Thousands of people had relocated to England's cities during the Industrial Revolution in the hope of finding better paid employment than they had experienced on the farms where they previously worked. Instead many found themselves in poorly built and overcrowded buildings. Many had no work because machines had replaced manpower and so they were forced to steal, beg, work as prostitutes or work long hours for little pay, mostly in unhygienic industries or conditions.

William Booth ordered his troops to find a warehouse to provide some shelter for those living by the river and soon there was a network of 'warehouses'. His dream of social reform was captured in his book *In Darkest England and the way out*. Some of the ideas presented by Booth were adopted by governments and other organisations, as well as The Salvation Army, to improve living conditions for thousands of people.

The Red Shield is The Salvation Army's symbol used in relation to its social services and can be seen on Army buildings where social work is done, e.g. Salvo and Family Stores and other centres. The symbol was first used in 1895 when a small group of Salvationists met for worship in Malta. They soon found themselves helping the needy and they formed a Red Shield League.

# Teaching ideas



The Red Shield was first used in Australia in 1914 among Australian troops. During World War I Salvation Army officers (known as Red Shield officers) used the Red Shield on their 'Hop-In' tents. These tents were erected at battle zones and provided relief from the war for the soldiers. The Red Shield officers provided tea and other refreshments as well as other 'luxuries' that were difficult for the soldiers to come by like writing paper and envelopes so the men could write to their families.



## 2. Present a project that traces one aspect of The Salvation Army's social work from its origins to today.

This requirement aims to show members how The Salvation Army has campaigned for social justice and continues to fight for human rights. Members may work in pairs or individually and present their findings to the whole group, thus increasing the knowledge of all members without each one having to research every activity of The Salvation Army's social work. The project may take any form members choose, e.g. project book, poster, PowerPoint, role-play/re-enactment or combination of forms.

Members may choose any aspect of social work, e.g. the development of safety matches, human trafficking, prison work, HIV/AIDS, working with defence services, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, aged care, refugee services or natural disaster relief.

Members are to identify the origins of the social work (i.e. why and how did The Salvation Army become involved) and trace how The Salvation Army works in the area today on a global and/or national scale.

Sources of information are listed in the *Resources* section at the end of the teaching ideas.



## 3. Experience some aspects of The Salvation Army's local social work.

11-13s    2 services

14+       3 services

This is an opportunity for members to see The Salvation Army at work locally. Make use of any or all of The Salvation Army's services in your community, e.g. emergency services trailer, welfare centre, Salvo/Family store, social program centre. If possible view the emergency services trailer and invite an SAES (Salvation Army Emergency Services) worker to demonstrate it and talk about some of the assistance he/she has provided with the trailer; or visit the community/welfare or social centre (e.g. refuge, aged care centre) and ask the manager or other employee to give members a tour and talk about how he/she assists people. Alternatively invite the corps officer or other guest who has knowledge and/or experience of The Salvation Army's social work to explain some of the ways The Salvation Army helps those in need in local settings.

If your community doesn't have sufficient social services then you will need to find another way to help members to meet the badge requirements.



# Teaching ideas



4. Participate in fundraising for The salvation Army's social services OR participate in raising awareness about The salvation Army's social services in your school or community.

The Salvation Army's Red Shield Doorknock Appeal is held annually in May and raises money specifically for The Salvation Army's social work in Australia. Members could assist as collectors for the day however they are not permitted to doorknock alone but should work in pairs under the supervision of an adult team member. Volunteers collect for around three hours.

Alternatively you may choose to conduct a fundraising activity for a specific Army social service. The service could be any of the local, national or global services studied during the course of the badge. Should your group sponsor a child or other similar regular project then this may be credited for this requirement.

An awareness raising activity could include:

- Display of member's projects. Invite family, friends, corps members and the community to observe member's work and/or hear member's presentations about The Salvation Army's social work.
- Distributing leaflets about The Salvation Army's work at shopping centres, medical centres and the like or to mail boxes (perhaps leading up to the Doorknock Appeal).
- Display information posters at community or medical centre noticeboards.

# Resource 1

## Books

Your corps officer or others in the corps may be happy to lend these books:

*The General Next To God* – Richard Collier

*No Discharge In This War* – Frederick Coutts

*Booth's Drum* – Barbara Bolton

## Websites

The Salvation Army's International Headquarters website:

[http://www1.salvationarmy.org/ihq/www\\_sa.nsf](http://www1.salvationarmy.org/ihq/www_sa.nsf)

[http://www1.salvationarmy.org/ihq/www\\_sa.nsf/fm-list-issues?openform&publication=All%20the%20World&start=1&count=20](http://www1.salvationarmy.org/ihq/www_sa.nsf/fm-list-issues?openform&publication=All%20the%20World&start=1&count=20)

This page includes a link to *All The World* magazine which contains information about The Salvation Army's international social missions. The magazine can be purchased from *Salvationist Supplies* (Trade) or articles may be downloaded from the site.

The Salvation Army's Territorial Headquarters website:

<http://salvos.org.au/>

<http://salvos.org.au/about-us/student-centre/> This webpage is produced specifically for students doing projects on The Salvation Army in Australia. It contains links to other pages with relevant information about The Salvation Army and the information can be downloaded. The booklet may also be obtained from the Communications and Public Relations department.

<http://salvos.org.au/about-us/our-services/> This webpage includes information about The Salvation Army's national social services.

## Publications

The Territorial Communications and Public Relations department produces several publications that may prove helpful to members. These include pamphlets on counselling, family tracing and money matters; the magazine *On The Scene*; student information kit – which may be purchased from the Communications and Public Relations department for about \$1.00.

# Handout 1 - Guards/Rangers

In your own words describe The Salvation Army's two-fold mission

Its mission is to

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William Booth said, 'You can't convert a man on an empty stomach'.  
What do you think he meant and what did he do?

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Paste here The salvation Army's international mission statement

Paste here a picture of william Booth

Read Matthew 25:31 - 40

In your own words what do you think these verses are saying?

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How would you summarise what motivates The Salvation Army's social work?

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# Devotional ideas



- 1. Title:** Self Denial  
**Bible:** 1 Corinthians 16:1 - 3  
**Thought:** We can help others to know about Jesus by a financial gift.  
**Supplies:** SAGALA project resources, Bible

## Introduction

If you haven't already introduced the SAGALA Project this would be a good opportunity. Display any resources about the country where the Project funds are going to, or simply talk about the Project, e.g. how much money is hoped to be raised, what the money is for.

## Paul and the Jerusalem Church

Christians supporting one another dates back to the time of Jesus. Around the time of Jesus' death the Jewish people suffered a lot of persecution because the Romans, who controlled Israel, wanted everyone to worship their gods. The Christians in Israel got caught up in this as well and many left Israel. This left the Church in Jerusalem with decreasing resources to help the poor who remained in the city. The Apostle Paul believed that it was important for the Churches in other countries to help the Church in Jerusalem.

Ask someone to read 1 Corinthians 16:1 - 3.

Ask the group how Paul suggested the Church in Corinth could assist the Church in Jerusalem. [He asked the Christians in Corinth to give money. He suggested that they put a portion away each week toward the gift.]

## The salvation Army's self Denial Appeal

Putting money aside each week to help the work of the Church is also part of The Salvation Army's work today. It began in 1886 when the Army's founder, William Booth, asked Salvationists to promise money to support and extend the Army's work.

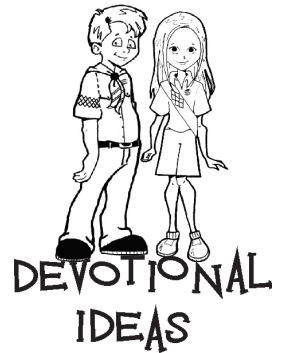
Major John Carleton wanted to help so he decided to go without dessert every day for a year and give the money he would have spent on dessert. William Booth liked the idea and challenged Salvationists to give up something for a week and give the money to help others. This because the Self Denial Appeal and continues today to raise money for the Army's work in developing nations.

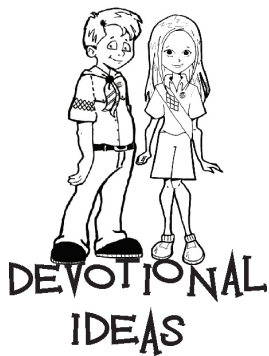
The SAGALA Project is a way that SAGALA helps people overseas. Amongst some of the things that the SAGALA Project has done is fitted out classrooms in Guatemala and Colombia, provided chairs, table and beds for children's homes in Nigeria, provided washing machines in homes for the disabled in parts of India.

## Conclusion

If you haven't already thought about how your section will raise funds for this year's SAGALA Project, this would be a practical application of this devotion.

Give thanks to God that we in Australia are blessed with prosperity and ask God to challenge us to help those in need.





# Devotional ideas



## 2. Title:

A Helping Hand

## Bible:

Matthew 25:31 - 46; Luke 6:35

## Thought:

God blesses those who help others.

## Supplies:

Bibles, suitable props if desired (e.g. coat or other clothing, plate of food, glass of water).

## Introduction

Divide the group into two smaller groups.

Read Matthew 25:31 - 33

## Activity

One group reads Matthew 25:34 - 40 and the other group reads Matthew 25:41 - 46.

Both groups prepare and present a role-play of their respective passages. You might like to consider providing some props, e.g. coat or other clothing, plate of food, glass of water. The role-plays should not be any longer than five minutes.

At the conclusion discuss the following questions with the group:

- How did it feel to help, or not help, others?
- How did it feel to know that the king accepted or rejected you?
- What do you think is the lesson Jesus is teaching here?
- Why might Jesus place such a large importance on helping others?

## Talk

Jesus' teaching challenges everyone to care for one another. In His own life Jesus showed care and concern for the poor and those who were rejected by society. He frequently dined with prostitutes and those despised by the general population; He touched those who, because of their skin diseases, were required to live outside of the town; He spoke with people who were regarded as the enemy. In this passage Jesus is telling us to do the same. Luke's gospel records Jesus' words (Luke 6: 35 CEV): 'But love your enemies and be good to them. Lend without expecting to be paid back. Then you will get a great reward, and you will be the true children of God in heaven. He is good even to people who are unthankful and cruel.' Both Matthew and Luke mention that God blesses those who lend a helping hand.

## Conclusion

Ask the group to consider what practical steps they could take to help those in need and make a plan to participate in at least one idea.