

# SOLDIERSHIP CASE STUDY



Name: James

Age: 19

## Why did you decide to become a soldier?

I became a soldier because I reached a point in my faith where I felt I was ready to take the next step with God. I have always thought that it is very important to become a soldier for the right reason, as I wanted to be a member of the band for a long time and I knew that simply becoming a soldier would allow me to officially be a member, but I wanted to make sure that it was for the right reason. Even though it is simply a promise and uniform, it has a lot of meaning behind it and that meaning changes from person to person.



## How does being a soldier impact your life?

Being a soldier has helped me to progress in my faith with the Lord. I read my Bible more, try to pray in everything that I do, and am always thinking of what I can do to be a better soldier. You don't have to be perfect to become a soldier, simply willing.

# SOLDIERSHIP CASE STUDY



Name: Mwaka

Age: 16

## Why did you decide to become a soldier?

I decided to become a soldier for the following reasons:

Since I was a baby, I have been brought up in The Salvation Army with many members of my family being committed soldiers, which was one of the things that influenced my decision. I felt morally obligated to do something and not just speculate from the sidelines. I knew that God was moving me to action, to be the change I want to see. I 100 per cent support the works of The Salvation Army and respect all the things it does for others. I have a deep passion for peace, justice and love. Therefore, I wanted to fight against evil and suffering and help others reach salvation. I wanted to help. I felt that by becoming a soldier, I was taking the next step in my spiritual life and building a closer relationship with God



## How does being a soldier impact your life?

Being a soldier impacts my life in the following ways:

I become more involved in my corps and events of The Salvation Army, helping and supporting in any way I can, eg musically, youth events, charity events, open-air meetings, global/social events, and I contribute wherever I can. I aim to become a better version of myself, living according to the Bible and the promises I made when committing into soldiership, so I reflect Jesus more and more, eg reading my Bible every day, praying regularly. I feel the need to help those in need, eg the broken, the homeless, the hungry in any way I can and be kind and empathetic to everyone in general, spreading love and peace. I must serve suffering humanity. I feel it's my duty to help grow the Kingdom of God, to save souls and grow saints.



# SOLDIERSHIP CASE STUDY



Name: Anna

Age: 16

## Why did you decide to become a soldier?

I decided to become a senior soldier when I attended a music week held by The Salvation Army for the Territorial Youth Chorus. In this week I learnt more about myself as a Christian and how I wanted to change. I felt the Lord calling me to be a senior soldier and to speak up more about my faith in my everyday life at school and in my Saturday job. I have recently become a soldier and invited many of my friends to come and see what it was all about. A couple of them came along and saw what I enjoy so much about praising God with The Salvation Army. The Lord was calling me to talk to people at school about my faith and I have continued to do that. When I got back to school in the September after my enrolment I was asked to talk to a few of the younger students about their faith. This helps me spread the word of God to other people. I will continue to do this and be guided by the Lord.



## How does being a soldier impact your life?

Being a soldier means I don't participate in certain events that my school friends do. This includes drinking and smoking. Although I am only 16, lots of my friends do go to parties and get drunk which I do not do. As a soldier we believe that we shouldn't intoxicate our body with drink, tobacco or drugs. We also believe in celibacy before marriage. I feel this doesn't affect me much as this is a personal belief as well as my religious belief.

# SOLDIERSHIP CASE STUDY



Name: Connor  
Age: 19



## Why did you decide to become a soldier?

I decided to become a soldier when I had a calling from God. My calling came to me when I was in my room resting and I heard a voice saying 'Do it!' The following week I hit a low point in life and decided to go to the river to jump off the bridge. As I was stood on the bridge I saw something on the water and my mind changed and I thought about the good things I have in life. The following Sunday someone at church stood up and said they saw a picture of Christ on the water with his arms open and that made me think, was that Christ on the water? That's when I decided to become a soldier as I knew my calling ('Do it!') is what he wanted me to do. It is important for me to wear my uniform and I play in the band. I feel that it is important for me to wear my uniform as a commitment to follow God and also be able to witness to his love for me wherever I go.

## How does being a soldier impact your life?

Being a Salvation Army soldier has changed my life more than I thought. Since becoming a soldier I now know that God is more powerful than I thought, as I believe he changed my harmful thoughts of jumping off the bridge to good thoughts about the good things I have in life. I had never prayed in front of people or by myself until my life changed, but now I do it every day. I used to drink alcohol quite often, but since I had my calling I haven't had a drink – not because I am forced not to, but because I don't want to - Jesus is all I need. I know he can change you to become a better, stronger, complete person. I don't have to worry about my problems any more as I can pray to the Lord knowing he is listening and will make a difference. Since becoming a soldier I have become more active, taking part in a mission run recently by the churches in Shipley. The soldier's covenant reminds me of the promises I have made and it also allows me to check how I am getting on. I am thankful that the Lord came into my life as I am now happier, but I feel at the age of 19 I am at the beginning of a wonderful journey. I'm not sure where it will take me but I'm excited to follow, or be whatever God asks of me in the future.

