



HISTORY FAQS

Here are some of our frequently asked questions by kids about the early days of The Salvation Army.

Who started The Salvation Army?

In the summer of **1865**, a group called **The Christian Mission** were meeting in the East End of London.



On the 2nd of July a member heard me, **William Booth**, preaching in the street and invited me to speak that night. They were so moved by my words that they asked me to lead them.

My wife, **Catherine Booth**, and I worked together to inspire and lead the group which became **The Salvation Army**.

Why were you in the East End of London?

At the time the East End was a very poor place to live. It was **overcrowded and dirty** – a slum. Life was hard with little money and few jobs.

We were there because it was a place that needed **help and hope**.



Why did you start the charity?

We were a group of people, a **church**, that did lots of charitable things like **helping people**.

We wanted to stop people being **cold and hungry**. We wanted things **to be fair**. And we wanted everyone to know that **God loved them**.

As The Salvation Army got bigger it became known as a **church and a charity**.

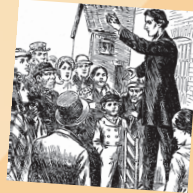


Why did the name change?

In **1878** William wanted a better name to describe ourselves. Perhaps the Volunteer Army? – as we were fighting for fairness.

But our son Bramwell objected to the word 'volunteer' – he was a **full-time soldier** or nothing.

So William changed it to **The Salvation Army**.



How long were you in charge?

I was the leader for **47 years**. But whenever I was ill, Catherine took charge.

I was **the General**, but Catherine was **the Army Mother**, and guided us.

Catherine died in 1890. When I died in 1912, Bramwell became the next General.



Why do you have brass bands?

In Victorian times **brass bands were very popular** – like pop groups today!

The Fry family started the first brass band in **1878** and played at our open air meetings.

We used **popular tunes** and changed the lyrics to explain our faith.

People loved it. They came to hear the music and stayed to **learn about Jesus**.



For more information check out WWW.SALVATIONARMY.ORG.UK