**STUART TURNBULL**

**Becoming**

God has certainly been creating a unique design for my life. 12 years ago, I had a place at university to study architecture. I thought at that time my life was going to be one of creating and designing in such a different way. Yet on a train station bench on the way home from college one day I felt the first movements to a life in service to God taking me in a different direction.

A deferment in my university application allowed me to take part in the Essential gap year programme which the Salvation Army was running at the time. It was an amazing opportunity to get practical experience and training in mission. During that year that calling God placed on my life grew. But for one reason and another it wasn’t to be at that time.

Life continued, I got married, moved towns, gained a new job, and started a family. Life was happy until one evening whilst in prayer I felt that reassuring call from God once more to explore his calling upon my life which he gave me eight years earlier. But at this point it wasn’t to be an Officer but to serve as a Territorial Envoy.

This service as an Envoy led me to serve the kingdom in a way which I had never thought possible. I was able to minister for God whilst circumstances meant that my family and I need not move. Yet this was not the final place in which God was calling me, that original call to service as a Salvation Army Officer came back. Looking back over my life I can see how God has been shaping my life and he continues to do so, not leaving me in mid-design.

In September last year I entered training as a Reflector of Holiness, whilst I am nowhere near the finished article, I am comforted knowing that God has worked a great deal already and I look forward to seeing where this journey in service to him leads me and my family.