



Love God Love Others

OUR INTENTION - 'LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS'

Apart from 'Our Vision' and 'Our Mission', The Salvation Army across the United Kingdom, Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man also holds to a statement that frames everything we do.

It is our passionate intention to love God and love others, as based on Jesus' words in Matthew 22 to 'love the Lord your God' and 'love your neighbour as yourself'.

'Love God, Love Others' underpins, inspires and motivates everything we do, in every part of The Salvation Army. We must not simply love God and ignore others. Neither should we love others and ignore God. The Salvation Army's well-spring, our driving force, is summarised in 'Love God, Love Others'.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION STATEMENT

Our Vision, Our Mission and Our Intention all contribute to building God's Kingdom as part of the global work of The Salvation Army. We also have an international Mission Statement that applies to our work across more than 130 countries:

'The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name without discrimination.'

If you wish to learn more about The Salvation Army in the United Kingdom and Ireland, go to salvationarmy.org.uk where you will also find a link to your closest Salvation Army church.



Any organisation's identity can become confused, especially over many years and when it is involved in so many different activities. The Salvation Army is not simply a local evangelical church. Neither are we only a homelessness charity or a social service agency or a chain of charity shops or groups of musicians or a leader in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery. All this work makes a vital contribution to the building of God's Kingdom and the good of society. Our diverse identity is a strength, but only if there is consistency in our vision and mission.

In the late 19th century, The Salvation Army exploded across the world in rapid fashion. In the 10 years after we officially became The Salvation Army in 1878, almost 1,000 corps (churches) were opened in the UK and our ministry began in 21 countries from USA to Australia, Canada to Netherlands, Jamaica to India, and Norway to South Africa. The Salvation Army had a vision and mission for the world that inspired and motivated all kinds of people.

While our ministry, service and zeal for Christ remain unchanged, times do change, and down through the years we have always needed to pay careful attention to our identity. A strong, clear identity helps answers questions such as 'Who are we?' 'What are we doing?' 'What do we want to be in the future?'

While we are part of the worldwide Christian Church, in every generation The Salvation Army needs to explore its God-given unique identity. This includes statements that direct and animate every aspect of our work and ministry.

Our God-Given Identity



United Kingdom
and Ireland Territory

Our Vision: Fullness of life for *all* with Jesus



A vision statement says what we hope to see in our world. It is optimistic, it is hopeful, it is aspirational. It captures our vision of what life can be and what we strive for.

This is 'Our Vision' for every part of The Salvation Army in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. It is inspired by the words of Jesus who said: 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full' (John 10:10 *NIV*).

We believe everyone can enjoy fullness of life with Jesus. Does this mean life with Jesus is all smiles and roses and happiness? No. Because a 'full' life includes the personal growth that comes with times of challenge and trial and heartache and sorrow. But we believe that doing life with Jesus is better than trying to do it without him; and we believe this so strongly that we want everyone to know what fullness of life *with Jesus* feels like.

Our Mission: To *share* the good news To *serve* others without discrimination To *nurture* disciples of Jesus To *care* for creation To *seek* justice and reconciliation



While 'Our Vision' tells us what we want to achieve in the world, we need to know how we are going to realise this. 'Our Mission' focuses on five key priorities; they are not arranged hierarchically and overlap and mutually support each other.

Each of the five priorities of 'Our Mission' are rich in meaning and help us explain to 21st century society why the Christian message and the work of The Salvation Army is relevant and desperately needed in our communities and nations.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

At the heart of The Salvation Army's mission is a passion to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. This is not an optional extra. The Salvation Army only does what it does because our inspiration and vision come from peoples' ongoing relationship with Jesus. We know the difference our relationship with God makes in our lives and we don't want anyone to miss out.

SERVE OTHERS WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION

The Salvation Army responds to people without discrimination. God calls us to be with the people we serve. In 'being with' people - as against 'doing for' people - we find solutions and make progress because we are all made in the image of God. We are called to share love in a, too often, loveless world. Jesus himself called us to love God and love others.

SEEK JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

God longs for justice for all people, therefore, The Salvation Army will speak out against injustice. We fight not simply the effects of injustice but also the systems and structures that create and enable injustice. Seeking reconciliation is also an essential part of Salvation Army life. Justice and reconciliation are vital activities to achieving 'Our Vision' of 'fullness of life for all with Jesus'.

NURTURE DISCIPLES OF JESUS

The future of The Salvation Army depends on nurturing Christians who, filled by the Holy Spirit, can share the good news of Jesus. Like an athlete, Christian disciples need to stay 'spiritually fit' by practising disciplines such as prayer, Bible reading, participating in corporate worship, tithing and helping others. The Salvation Army believes being a disciple of Jesus and seeking holy living is the way to experience 'fullness of life'.

CARE FOR CREATION

The Salvation Army is committed to helping change attitudes resulting in a more responsible use of our planet. We seek to provide practical care and advocacy for people affected by damage to the environment. People will not experience fullness of life unless God's creation is protected and cared for.

