

The Salvation Army

Terminology

ACSAL - The Advisory Council of Salvation Army Laymen

Adherent - Someone who considers The Salvation Army his spiritual home, but has not chosen to make the commitment of 'soldiership'.

Advisory Board - A group of influential private citizens, primarily non-Salvationist businesspersons, who assist in promoting and supporting Army projects with their time and expertise.

Articles of War (Soldier's Covenant) - The covenant and statement of beliefs and promises which every intending soldier is required to sign in order to be enrolled as a Senior Soldier.

Auxiliary Captain - A person engaged in full-time service with the Army, either in social or corps work, and who, usually because of advanced age, is excused the normal formal training for officership.

Backslider - A term, also common to Methodism, denoting someone who has relapsed into sin.

"Blood and Fire" - The Army's motto; referring to the symbolism of the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ and the purifying, illuminating fire of the Holy Spirit.

Brigadier - An obsolete rank. It was after Major, before Lt. Colonel.

Cadet - A Salvationist undertaking theological and practical ministries training for officership. The first cadets were trained in 1879.

Candidate - A soldier who has been accepted for officer training.

Captain - The Salvation Army rank of officer given at Commissioning to those who have completed the required training as a Cadet.

Cartridge - Money (Tithe) given regularly by Salvationists to support their corps.

Census Board - Group of local officers in a corps whose function is to review the membership rolls of the corps.

Chief of the Staff - The second-in-command officer of the worldwide Salvation Army.

Chief Secretary - Second in command to the Territorial Commander; responsible for the administration of the Territory.

Citadel - A dated term referring to any property used for Salvation Army worship. Similar in usage to the terms 'fortress' and 'temple'.

Colours - Colloquial for the Salvation Army flag. The red on the flag symbolizes the blood shed by Christ, the yellow for the fire of the Holy Spirit and the blue for the purity of God the Father. The flag precedes outdoor activities such as a march of witness. It is used in ceremonies such as the dedication of children and the swearing-in of soldiers. It is often placed on the coffin at the funeral of a Salvationist.

Command - A smaller type of 'territory', directed by an 'Officer Commanding'.

Commission - A document conferring authority upon an officer (Officer's Commission), or upon an unpaid local officer (Local Officer's Commission), i.e. secretary, treasurer, bandmaster, etc.

Commissioner - The rank of an officer who holds the position of Territorial Commander for one of the many territories.

Congress - Central gatherings held in divisions, regions, territories or internationally, attended by officers and soldiers.

Corps - A Salvation Army church or unit established for the preaching of the gospel and service in the community; an individual Salvation Army congregation.

Corps Cadet - A young Salvationist (ages 12-17) who undertakes a 5 year course of

Bible Study, Salvation Army doctrine and history, and practical training in the corps.

Corps Council - An advisory group within the corps, composed of the Census Board and selected laymen, designed to promote the spiritual life and conduct the business of the corps.

Corps Sergeant-Major (CSM) - Similar to the chief 'elder' or lay leader in other Christian denominations, the CSM is the chief local officer for public work who assists the corps officer (CO) with meetings (worship services). He is usually required to administer the corps in the officer's absence.

Cradle Roll - A list of the children who have been dedicated in the Salvation Army, the purpose of which is to maintain contact with the parents; kept by a Cradle Roll Sergeant.

Crest - A meaningful symbol of the Salvationist's beliefs. Designed in 1878, its emblems set forth the leading doctrines of The Salvation Army as follows:

- The crown speaks of God's reward for His faithful people.
- The sun (the surround) represents the light and fire of the Holy Spirit.
- The 'S' stands for salvation from sin.
- The cross of Jesus stands at the center of the crest and the Salvationist's faith.
- The swords represent the fight against sin.
- The shots (seven dots on the circle) stand for the truths of the Gospel.
- "Blood and Fire" is the motto of The Salvation Army. This describes the blood of Jesus shed on the cross to save all people, and the fire of the Holy Spirit which purifies believers.

Dedication Service (Dedicating a Baby) - The public presentation of infants to the Lord. This differs from christening or infant baptism in that the main emphasis is upon specific vows made by the parents concerning the child's upbringing.

Disposition of Forces - A directory of contact details mainly for Army officers, programs and centers.

Division - A number of corps grouped together, under the direction of a Divisional Commander (similar in responsibility and administrative role to bishops in other denominations).

Enrollment - The acceptance by the Census Board of a soldier of the Salvation Army; the term is also used for the 'swearing in' ceremony.

Envoy - A rank given to a Salvationist performing duties in corps or social work normally undertaken by an officer. This may be full-time or part-time, carry a salary or an allowance, or be undertaken without remuneration.

Field Officer - Another term for corps officer, as opposed to a social officer, or one who is an administrative officer.

Field Secretary - The chief administrative officer of the territory responsible for the appointment of officers and administration of the field (corps) work.

Finance Secretary - Similar position to that of Field Secretary; responsible for administering the territory's finances.

Fire a Cartridge - Giving a weekly tithe for the support of God's work through the corps. The tithe, inserted into a cartridge envelope, is placed in the offering plate during a Sunday Church Service.

Fire a Volley - Someone shouts 'fire a volley' and everyone else shouts "alleluia" or "amen".

Fishing - Another little-used term applied to the custom of personal pleading with sinners at Salvation meetings, meaning actively seeking them out in their seats.

Flag - (see colours)

Flag Sergeant - The person whose job it is to hold the flag during ceremonies like the dedication of an infant.

Furlough - Holidays for Officers.

General - The officer elected (by the High Council) to lead the international Salvation Army worldwide. All appointments are made, and all regulations issued, under the General's authority.

Half-way House - A center for the rehabilitation of alcoholics or parolees (USA).

Hallelujah Windup - The end of a meeting when someone grabs the flag and everyone follows it around the hall (usually while the band is playing something particularly rousing!)

Harbor-Light Center - A reclamation center, usually located in inner city areas.

High Council - A group called together on a needs-basis, it is composed of the Chief of the Staff, all active (as opposed to retired) commissioners, except the spouse of the General, and all territorial commanders. The High Council elects the General in accordance with the Salvation Army Act of 1980.

Holiness Meeting - The Sunday morning meeting in which holiness and the spiritual growth of the converted is emphasized; the Salvation (evening) meeting would be aimed at the conversion of sinners.

Holiness Table - A place of prayer (a table at the front of the hall) used during the holiness meetings for those seeking sanctification.

Home League - A ladies' fellowship group within the corps designed to promote Christian ideals in home life.

International Headquarters (IHQ) - IHQ, based in London, England, is the center here the business connected with commanding the worldwide Army is transacted.

International Secretary - An officer appointed by the General to supervise and represent, at International Headquarters, Army work mainly overseas.

Junior Soldier - A young person (age 7 -14) who, having accepted Christ as savior, has taken the Junior Soldier Training and signed the Junior Soldier promise, is enrolled as a Salvationist.

Kettle - The Christmas kettle used by the Army to collect money for its Christmas program.

Knee Drill - An early Sunday morning prayer meeting.

League of Mercy/ Community Care Ministries – Commenced in 1892 on a world-wide basis, it is comprised of Salvationists who seek to respond to the spiritual and social needs through visitation of prisons, hospitals and needy homes, in their own time, bringing the gospel and rendering practical aid to the community in which it is located.

Lieutenant - Rank used for lay Salvationists to work in special areas of service.

Local Officer - A soldier who volunteers for a position of responsibility and authority in the corps.

Marching Orders - Document informing corps officers of their change of appointment and announcing succeeding officers.

Major - A Salvation Army Officer who has at least 10 years of service and has completed the required training to move up from a Captain.

Medical Fellowship - Group for honoring and encouraging persons in the medical field.

Meetings - The Army's 'service' held especially for worship and Christian fellowship.

Mercy Seat (or Penitent Form) - A low seat at the front of the hall at which those seeking salvation or making public profession may kneel.

Officer - A Salvationist who, responding to God's call, is trained and commissioned as a full-time minister of religion in The Salvation Army.

Open Air Meeting - A street meeting held to preach the gospel to those who may not otherwise be reached for Christ.

Order of the Founder - An award given by the Salvation Army in recognition of outstanding service to the organization by both Salvationists and non-Salvationists.

Order of the Silver Star - Inaugurated in the USA in 1930, and extended internationally in 1936, this order expresses gratitude to parents of commissioned officers in The Salvation Army.

Outpost - A locality in which Army work is carried on where it is hoped that a corps will develop.

Praise Meeting - Afternoon meetings featuring testimonies and a great deal of singing.

Prayer Meeting - The time of prayer and dedication at the end of a meeting to give people time to make a decision for Christ.

Order of the Silver Star - Organization to show appreciation to the parents of commissioned officers.

Promoted to Glory - The Salvation Army description of the death of a Salvationist, with 'glory' symbolizing life after death in God's presence.

Quarters - A house provided for Salvation Army officers and their family.

Ranks - The Salvation Army officer advances in seniority through ranks, similar to the military. The following are the ranks that have been used in The Salvation Army over the years. Those no longer in use are noted with an asterisk:

- *Probationary Lieutenant
- *2nd Lieutenant
- *1st Lieutenant
- Lieutenant
- Captain
- *Ensign
- *Senior Captain
- *Adjutant
- *Commandant
- Major
- *Senior Major
- *Brigadier
- Lieutenant Colonel
- Colonel
- *Lieutenant Commissioner
- Commissioner
- General

Red Shield - An internationally recognized symbol of Salvation Army service to those in need. It represents the shield we provide to people in need of help, whether it be spiritually, physically, financially or emotionally.

Red Shield Appeal - An annual financial appeal to the general public, to fund The Salvation Army's social work.

SAGALA (Salvation Army Guards and Legion Association) - A branch of work with children in and out of The Salvation Army's worshipping community, similar to girl/boy scouts.

Salvation - The work of grace which God accomplishes in a repentant person whose trust is in Jesus Christ. The deeper experience of this grace, known as holiness or sanctification, is the outcome of wholehearted commitment to God.

Salvationist - A member of The Salvation Army, whether an officer or soldier.

Secretary - Departmental head.

Senior Soldier - A person (14 years old and older) who, having accepted Christ as savior, has taken Senior Soldier Training classes and signed the Articles of War is enrolled as a Salvationist.

Singing Company - A junior choir.

Soldier – Lay member.

Songster – A member of a songster brigade.

Songster Brigade - A senior choir.

Swearing-In - The public enrollment of Salvation Army soldiers.

Sword Drill - Time of looking up specific verses in the Bible.

Territory - For administrative purposes, The Salvation Army is split into world territories. A country, part of a country or several countries combined in which Salvation Army work is organized under a territorial commander.

Testimony - A brief, personal witness for what God had done for the saved person.

Timbrel - Similar to the tambourine.

Trade (Supplies and Purchasing Department) - The Department that sells Army material: song books, uniforms and so forth.

Uniform - The official dress for the soldiers and officers of The Salvation Army.

War Cry - The official flagship journal of The Salvation Army. It is a bi-weekly publication for Salvationists and the community at large.

Women's Auxiliary - A group of women who support The Salvation Army through time and influence for special projects in Army programs.

Women's Ministries - Special programs that appeal especially to the women of the Corps and the surrounding community.

World Services - An annual effort to raise funds for the Army's worldwide operations.

Young People's Legion (YPL) – Traditional name for an Army youth group comprised of young people aged 13 plus, involving activities such as youth suppers, fun outings with a focus on Bible teaching and studies.

Young People's Sergeant Major (YPSM) - A local officer responsible for the young people's work, under the commanding officer.