

The Salvation Army

This text is adapted from SA Literature and info at the website at <http://www.xnet.com/~w9ib> by Ron Dodson, KA4MAP.

The Salvation Army's Founder, William Booth, was born in Nottingham, England in 1829 and was apprenticed at age 13, to a pawnbroker. As a young adult, he moved to London and joined up with the local Methodist Church and later decided to become a minister. After his marriage to Catherine Mumford in 1855 he spent several years as a Methodist minister, traveling all around the country preaching. As he wandered through the countryside, he felt that he should be doing more to reach ordinary people. He returned to London with his family, having resigned his position as a Methodist minister.

One day in 1865 he found himself in the East End of London, preaching to crowds of people in the streets. Outside the 'Blind Beggar' pub some missionaries heard him speaking and were so impressed by his powerful preaching that they asked him to lead a series of meetings they were holding in a large tent. The date for the first meeting was set for 2 July, 1865. To the poor and wretched of London's East End, Booth brought the good news of Jesus Christ and his love for all men. While William preached to the poor and ragged, Catherine spoke to the wealthy, gaining support for their financially demanding work. Booth soon realized he had found his destiny.

William Booth's original aim had been to send his converts along to the established churches of the day. Nowhere in his plans was there an intention to start another Christian church. But, he soon found that many of his converts would not go to church. The poor did not feel welcome in places like St Paul's and Westminster Abbey. They could not afford a special Sunday suit and many of the regular churchgoers were appalled when these shabbily dressed, evil-smelling people came to join them in worship. The poor soon got the message that they were not wanted and did not return. Learning this, he formed his own movement, which he called 'The Christian Mission'. Slowly the mission began to grow but the work was hard and Booth would 'stumble home night after night haggard with fatigue, often his clothes were torn and bloody bandages swathed his head where a stone had struck', wrote his wife. Evening meetings were held in an old warehouse where urchins threw stones and fireworks through the window. Outposts were eventually established and in time attracted converts, yet the results remained discouraging-this was just another of the 500 charitable and religious groups trying to help in the East End. It was not until 1878 when The Christian Mission changed its name to The Salvation Army that things began to happen.

The idea of an Army fighting evil caught the imagination of the people and the Army began to grow rapidly. Booth's sermons and the vivid images he painted with his words drove the message home and more and more people found themselves willing to leave their past behind and start a new life as a soldier in The Salvation Army.

Inevitably, the military spirit of the movement meant that The Salvation Army soon spread abroad. By the time of Booth's passing in 1912, the Salvation Army was already hard at work in 58 countries. Salvationists (as members of the Army are called) came from many cultural backgrounds and enjoyed a life in an international fellowship that knew no barriers of age, sex or race. The military style of The Salvation Army proved to be a most effective stimulant to the progress of the Army's work in the fight against evil. This style of organization makes for good mobility and discipline.

Their leadership and organizational structure looks like this. The SA is lead by a General The General, based at International Headquarters in London, England is the international leader of The Salvation Army and travels widely wherever the Army is active. Elected by the High Council (a group of senior Salvation Army officers), he or she serves for a term of five years or

until the 68th birthday is reached when he or she must retire. The General is assisted in policy making by the Advisory Council to the General.

For the purpose of administration The Salvation Army is divided into 50 territories, led by a territorial commander. British officers pioneered the Army's work in many lands, but indigenous leaders are now taking increased responsibility in their own countries. A considerable movement of Army personnel between territories, however, continues to be a vital factor that keeps the internationalism of the Army alive. Territories are divided into divisions, with a divisional commander leading a team of administrative officers in each one. Each division encompasses a number of corps and other Salvation Army centers. Where it is not possible for a corps to have its own full-time commanding officer, non-commissioned local officers are often asked to accept some responsibility for local leadership.

Internationally The Salvation Army works in just over 100 countries using more than 140 languages. There are over 14,000 Corps (centers for worship) as well as a wide range of social, medical, educational and other community services. In disasters they even have their own Amateur Radio network called SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network).

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (S.A.T.E.R.N.)

While preparing for the Y2K operations with KY Division of Emergency Management, I was fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of Major Pat McPherson, WW9E. I found Pat to be another dedicated amateur radio operator in the field of emergency communications. It seems that in June of 1988, Pat McPherson, aided by Art Evans and three other amateurs had first organized SATERN. What began as a small group soon grew to the point that now they are operating not only within the U.S. but, also have links to the United Nations and Western Europe and operates in Australia, Canada, Mexico, Great Britain, Russia, the former Czechoslovakia and other countries around the world.

In an article in the spring 1998 issue of FRONTLINE, a publication of The Salvation Army, Major McPherson offered the following comments, "As important as communications are, that isn't the whole story. Every SATERN volunteer has other tremendous skills to offer in an emergency. For example, one man, an expert in engine maintenance, is our motor vehicle officer. SATERN volunteers are part of our team not only because they want to help us communicate, but because they want to help others."

The purpose of the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) is to train and acquire personnel skilled in emergency communications and message handling, who will support Salvation Army operations in local, regional and international disaster situations. Major McPherson again remarked, "Usually a disaster wipes out communication lines, or those that exist are being used by authorities and the media. People can't get through to find out about their loved ones. Our network often can help locate them and relay messages. Just knowing someone is doing something to help eases people's minds."

Like ARES, SATERN knows no bounds to disaster assistance. SATERN volunteers have served during tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, fires, aircraft accidents, bombings and earthquakes. SATERN team members assisted at the Oklahoma bombing site, the North Dakota floods and the New England ice storms.

SATERN volunteers meet regularly on city, state, regional, national and international radio networks. The meetings have two purposes: one to provide disaster training and keep volunteers informed about new emergency procedures; and two, to be available at a moments notice to relay messages during local, national and international disasters.

In their training document; SATERN A Guide To Emergency Net Operations by Brad Pioveson W9FX National Training Coordinator, They offer the following statement about their nets; "All SATERN HF nets are DIRECTED NETS. This term refers to a type of amateur radio

network operation where the conduct and operations of the net and all transmissions during the net are strictly controlled by the NCS. DIRECTED NETS can be of two types: OPEN and CLOSED nets. In most cases, SATERN's net operations will be OPEN nets, i.e., allowing non-members to check in. There may be times and circumstances, however, when a SATERN net may be operated in CLOSED fashion and only SATERN members or only stations with emergency and/or priority traffic allowed to participate. The decision as to whether SATERN's nets will be OPEN or CLOSED will be made by SATERN's senior managers, dictated by the circumstances of the emergency requiring the net's attention, and communicated to the NCS in advance of the net operation."

They have H F nets on the following frequencies and times...

14265 KHz SSB 1500Z Monday through Friday

14265 KHz SSB 1530Z Saturday - SAROF (Salvation Army Radio Operator Fellowship)

7265 KHz SSB 1600Z Saturday - SAROF

7265 KHz SSB 1630Z Saturday - Central Area

7265 KHz SSB 1700Z Saturday - Eastern Area

7250 KHz SSB 1800Z Saturday - Western Area

3950 KHz SSB 1930 PST Sunday - Western Area

Everyone is welcome to check in and if SATERN sounds like your cup of tea and you'd like more information, a SATERN information packet is available by E-Mail request from WW9E@aol.com or by mail request to:

Major Patrick McPherson

The Salvation Army

5040 North Pulaski

Chicago, IL 60630

Or call Mrs. Della Bracey at 773-725-1100.