

ENVOY HABKIRK - The Salvation Army - 828 Gilbert

INTERVIEWED:

May 8, 1975

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Envoy Habkirk came out in 1960 from Headquarters in Vancouver to speak at the beginning of the Army's meetings at the Cook Road School. He was here about 18 months. He was appointed to Nelson and another Officer was appointed to Richmond which was then an outpost.

In 1965 the group was organized as a Corps with a full-time Officer - Captain & Mrs. Nicholl. They purchased premises at 828/830 Gilbert Road from the West Richmond Gospel Hall. The house at 832 Gilbert was purchased a few years later for the Officer and his wife.

Description

Stucco structure with some wood siding at front, small in size.

Washrooms are at the front and the auditorium measures 936 square feet. There is a platform at the back. There is a piano and other musical instruments. There is also a small room at the back used as a kitchen and a gas furnace room. Lighting is incandescent. The flooring is tile over cement.

The house located at 830 was pulled down and a parking lot put in.

Congregation

They started with about 15 adults and 20 children and have grown to about 40 to 60. There are Cubs & Scouts, Ladies' Fellowship Group as well as a mid-week Bible Study Group. The majority of the congregation is from Richmond, but also from

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Burnaby, Surrey and Ladner. They are mainly English background but have other nationalities too.

Role of Envoy Habkirk

First as a Minister or Pastor, secondly as a Social Worker. He can refer problems to special Salvation Army centres set up to handle them, i.e. - Unmarried Mothers' Home. He is also responsible for the fund-raising in Richmond.

Envoy Habkirk returned to Richmond in September, 1974. Some predecessors have been:-

Captain & Mrs. Newton
Envoy & Mrs. Welsh
Brigadier & Mrs. Crew
Envoy & Mrs. Butlerette
Captain & Mrs. Oakley

The wife of an Officer has equal rights and they believe in the ministry of women. They act as co-workers with their husbands.

Structure of the Army

Was founded by William Booth, an Anglican Minister in London, England, in 1865 to go out to the needy people during the bad economic conditions of the times. He extended the ministry of the Gospel into the bars to reach the "unreachables". Social work among the poor became a strong point of the Army. The leader is a General in the sense of being the international leader. He is elected at a Conference held in London and retires at age 70 when his successor is elected. The present General is a Canadian, Clarence Wiseman.

Uniform

Was designed -

- a) to keep away from worldliness
- b) as an advertisement.

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It is worn as a privilege and not obligatory. General Booth's wife designed the bonnet for ladies but it has been simplified and made smaller. A summer uniform has been introduced. It remains navy blue with a red stripe.

Publication

The "War Cry" is printed all over the world where the S.A. is present. The National Leadership of each country of the S.A. is appointed by the International Office and this includes the Editor of the "War Cry".

A description is given here of the regions of authority.

One training college for the Officers is in Toronto near York University, and another is in Newfoundland (-description of the training program).

Upkeep by the Congregation

Each corps is responsible to the upkeep of its own area. As Richmond is part of Greater Vancouver, they do not have their own Welfare Fund. They get their support through tithing and collections, and the sale of the War Cry.

Envoy Habkirk has been pleased with the growth in Richmond since his return and how the Army is reaching out to all social levels here. He has experienced great response to his introduction of evangelical films at times of 300 people.

There will be a continent-wide Youth Conference in September, 1975 in Toronto and one representative is going from Richmond.

Plans of New Structure

There are plans to erect a circular pre-fabricated house for services, 40 feet in diameter, for 100-120 people. They

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hope to purchase this for about \$8,000.00 and erect and furnish for a total of \$12,000.00. It will be erected between the church and the house at 832 Gilbert.

There are also plans for lay visitation training of the members.

Doctrinal Position

The S.A. believes the Bible is their authority and is divinely inspired.

- Belief in the Apostles Creed
- Belief in Salvation through repentance and faith
- Belief in Jesus Christ the Saviour
- Belief in continuance state of salvation
- Belief in Second Coming of Christ
- Belief in Day of Judgement
- Belief in complete dedication to God

The S.A. is an evangelical religion with an acute social conscience.

M. NOBLE