

of inquiry, letters of complaint, and adjustment letters. Business letter-writing conducted on this plan will make a class of eighth or ninth grade work like a hive of bees.

There is no reason why composition should ever be a dull subject. To the teacher who is inventive, or resourceful, it presents possibilities ever new and interesting; every lesson is an adventure. In order to measure up to the possibilities of her subject, a teacher of composition should be always widening her interests in order to get on common ground with her pupils through their interests. It is not too much to say that her success as a teacher of this subject depends in large part upon how much of a naturalist she is, how much of an artist, how much of a scientist, as well as upon how well she can do her own assignments.

Of all books a teacher of composition should be afraid of, it is the class textbook, particularly if it happens to be a state adopted one. The teacher should be able to see through it, but also over, above, and beyond it. As a Baedeker, it has its merits, but as a code of behavior to be followed year after year, it will prove to be a millstone.

BONNIE GILBERT

## WHAT THE SALVATION ARMY IS DOING IN VIRGINIA

THE Salvation Army is one of the most human organizations in the world: it reaches and touches all classes of humanity, it sees and meets the needs of people. The Salvation Army is truly an organization of democracy: it includes all sects, it has no disputes as to orthodox beliefs, it does not wonder and doubt or look for new interpretations. It believes and stands for essentially the things that Christ stood for—sacrifice, service, and love.

The Salvation Army originated in England, under the name of the Christian Mission. It was founded by General William Booth. He was a versatile man, and the ecclesiastical world of his time offered him many opportunities for advancement and success. He felt he was needed more in the dark corners and slums of London, where a great mass of poverty-stricken, degenerate, and

friendless people were living, day after day and year after year, with no hope or chance for a different future. And it was among these people that General Booth began his work.

In England there was a little family, a little family of three, that became active and interested workers in the Christian Mission. It was early in the year 1879 that the father of this family, Amos Shirley, came to Philadelphia to take a place in a silk mill. And in Philadelphia he found many impious and sinful people. He began to wonder, and as he wondered he wrote his daughter, Eliza Shirley, who was then a lieutenant in the Christian Mission, of the conditions existing in Philadelphia. Eliza Shirley, then a girl of sixteen, asked permission of General Booth to start the Salvation Army in America. After a little hesitancy, General Booth wrote her: "If you feel you must go, and do start a work, start it on the Salvation Army principles. You may call it the Salvation Army, and if it is a success, write us, and we may see our way clear to take hold."

Youth is very determined. And Eliza Shirley was young, so in the same year she and her mother came to Philadelphia. New ideas and new organizations are never met enthusiastically by the public, especially when their originators are unknown, have no friends or money, and even less influence. After many days of hard work and struggle, the first meeting was held on Sunday, October 5, 1879. The beginning of the Salvation Army in America was very meagre and its growth was very slow, but with the passing years it has not only spread to every state in the Union, but into nearly every country in the world.

In the United States the work of the Salvation Army is now divided into three territories, the Eastern including twenty states, the Central comprising fifteen, and the Western comprising twelve states. These territories are divided into districts for the purpose of more effective work and are headed each by an experienced officer in the Salvation Army.

Evangeline Booth has been Commander of the Salvation Army in America for eighteen years. In many ways her leadership is the most remarkable work achieved by a woman in the directing and supervision of a great philanthropic organization. She found the Salvation Army with 26,866 members;

REPORT OF RELIEF WORK, YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1922

TABLE NO. I

Christmas Dinners.....	Alexandria	300	507	Charlottesville	Danville	Fredericksburg	Hampton	Norfolk I	Norfolk II**	Norfolk III	Lynchburg	Newport News	Petersburg	Pulaski	Radford	Roanoke I	Roanoke II***	Roanoke III	Richmond I	Richmond II**	Richmond III	Richmond IV	Salem	Winchester
Transportation.....	4	106	82	34	48	5	1525	25	221	1090	608	261	49	261	1771	154	1900	110	176	176	630	2		
Persons Garments Given To.....	44	82	213	34	5	5	1886	19	3	36	1	12	12	12	41	12	16	8	11	11	132	2		
Needy Families Helped.....		315	98	34	34	34	1701	195	332	154	64	72	646	23	253	25	18	18	8	87	121	6	20	
Toys Given To Children.....							350	150	40		102	272	39	39	93	28	48	48	13	13	121			
Summer Outing For Children.....							735	29							75									
Secured Positions.....							31								50									
Total Number Given Relief.....	229	2533	598	1385	31	31	9005	2701	1086	2225	1082	1690	1003	183	754	99	181	5574	73	442	3214	19	59	
Value of Relief.....	\$ 397	\$1455	\$ 680	\$ 735	\$2814	\$ 357	\$ 2814	\$ 357	\$ 693	\$2049	\$ 840	\$1173	\$ 708	\$ 120	\$ 706	\$ 129	\$ 146	\$3328	\$ 56	\$ 243	\$1408	\$ 19	\$ 108	

\*\*Colored corps.

\*\*\*Roanoke II—Mill Village Corps located at Morrice Twine Mills.

REPORT OF PRISON WORK YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1922

TABLE NO. II

Meetings in Prison.....	Alexandria	95	68	49	103	100	1																	
Attendance.....	736	1130	3266	2573	100	100	1																	
Prisoners Prayed With.....	341	176	470	17	17	17	1																	
Conversions.....	95	21	317	65	65	65	1																	
"War Crys" Distributed**.....	662	962	2143	2197	85	85	1																	

\*Prisonwork controlled by another society here, hence the small figure. \*\*"War Cry"—Salvation Army Publication.

TABLE NO. III REPORT OF ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK, YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1922

Adult Work		Alexandria	Charlottesville	Danville	Fredericksburg	Hampton	Norfolk I	Norfolk II	Norfolk III	Lynchburg	Newport News	Petersburg	Plaski	Radford	Roanoke I	Roanoke II	Roanoke III	Richmond I	Richmond II	Richmond III	Richmond IV	Salem	Staunton	Winchester
Open-Air Meetings	345	412	231	222	273	308	286	282	337	195	328	351	239	239	240	266	238	176	176	288	176	176	290	174
Attendance	37130	65269	15677	12765	46090	74837	24214	46804	36051	18488	38392	68709	44685	91075	15788	20780	40150	10608	23125	35763	9636	30187	27443	
Indoor Meetings	261	368	175	227	358	301	150	250	367	234	149	263	238	362	392	71	181	249	177	294	222	177	294	222
Attendance	8603	46143	6815	12031	3121	35644	3575	15499	14908	3850	2901	14823	16838	19749	11683	6185	19638	1497	3143	10666	3288	9618	4641	
Conversions	52	103	76	30	13541	311	8	174	67	14	25	82	51	188	64	87	11	29	10	11	29	10	57	28
Young People's Work																								
Classes in Sunday School	349	305	167	301	199	362	92	253	435	280	280	335	412	416	416	346	104	280	117	205	184	85	193	183
Attendance	2208	2637	1403	2466	906	3544	1057	2444	1790	1548	1899	3888	5575	2954	2703	725	1933	1125	1347	1558	660	878	1472	
Meetings	186	188	73	186	78	223	53	134	216	88	146	169	141	175	155	58	133	91	92	135	62	127	50	
Attendance	4803	6166	2183	6998	1243	8656	1099	4138	6012	2089	3628	5770	8466	3775	6363	713	3100	1856	2276	3542	777	2286	1550	
Conversions	72	148	10	10	12	23	53	80	17	38	26	78	67	13	39	10	39	20	6	2	3	4	7	

she has aided in increasing its membership to 50,556. She found only 863 posts when she took charge; today there are 1,420 posts. In 1904 the Salvation Army owned property valued at a little over one million dollars; today the property has increased until it is valued at over twenty million dollars. She also changed the former uncertain financing system into the annual budget system.

As I have made a study of the Salvation Army work in Virginia, I have realized the great truth of Bruce Barton's statement that "the parish of the Salvation Army is the whole field of human sorrow and human want." Most of us fail to realize how big a field of sorrow and want is in our own state—Virginia.

Perhaps we Virginians are too prone to think of Virginia as the mother state in the Union and to excuse her present social and economic conditions because of her historical background. Traditions, ancestors and family trees make up our lives, when we should be reaching out and helping the hundreds of unhappy, discouraged, and poverty stricken people in our midst who have no opportunities for betterment.

While we have been careless and indifferent of the social welfare and needs of these people, the Salvation Army has been awake and eager to correct these conditions. It has been busy feeding the hungry, clothing the ragged, warming the cold, caring for the neglected, making evil condition better, and making bad citizens good. The efforts of the Salvation Army to improve the physical conditions of people are based on the hope of aiding them spiritually, that is, all the social and relief work is only a means toward a great end—conversion or spiritual regeneration. And so we find the Salvation Army practicing and teaching the same great truth that Christ taught, "Serve God through serving man."

It is a very old story, and a very sad story too—the story of the unmarried prospective mother who is ostracized from society as soon as her condition is known. It is an everyday story tho, and it is not only among poor girls that this sort of thing occurs. The rosters of the Maternity Homes of the Salvation Army show that school teachers, stenographers, and nurses, go to the Rescue Homes; some go many months before their babies come, driven by shame from their homes and friends. If the girl is able, she contributes

some money; if she is not, she helps around the home as long as she can.

After the baby comes and the mother is strong, a position is secured for the mother. She keeps her baby with her, for the Army believes that the mother and child belong together. If the girl is ever sick or needs rest, or the baby needs medical attention, they are at liberty to return to the home.

There are two Rescue Homes in Virginia. A new Rescue Home in Richmond has just been opened. The property is very small and quite inadequate to meet the needs. In the near future the Army expects to enlarge it so as to accommodate thirty girls and twenty babies.

There is a much larger and older Rescue Home in Roanoke. Ensign Mary Leigh, who is in charge of the Salvation Army work in Roanoke, wrote me during November, that in the past twelve months sixty babies had been born in the home and at that time there were twenty-two women and eighteen babies in the home.

People often have the idea that girls who go wrong once never go right again. <sup>2</sup>This is a mistaken idea, for eighty percent of the girls who come and go from the Rescue Homes, find useful occupations and lead normal, respectable lives.

Evangeline Booth once said, "Figures, of and by themselves, are cold and drab and meaningless." And so they are when compared with people. But figures are necessary to show the work and accomplishment of an organization. Table No 1 presents statistics for the year ending September 30, 1922, and will give some idea of the relief work being done in Virginia by the Salvation Army.

Have you ever thought of the hundreds of men and women that are in prisons? If you have, you must realize that at the very best their lives are dreary, monotonous and dark, and at the very worst they must be quite unbearable.

A remarkable story is told of one prisoner—a man. He had been as bad as the worst before his prison days, and during his early prison days he was antagonistic toward all his fellow prisoners and officers. It was at a

Salvation Army meeting that the change occurred. He was converted. Through many years of hard work, discouragements, and criticism, he held to his new faith and to God; he supported and helped the Salvation Army in all of its prison work. The Governor had heard of this man, had even watched his remarkable transformation, and his influence on his fellow prisoners. One day a pardon came to him from the Governor. For a moment the man hesitated. Then he laid the pardon down and said, "I shall not forget that the Governor wanted me to be free. But somehow I feel that my place is here. Outside I might miss my way to the hearts of men. Here God saved me, and here he has taught me how to win those who despair for him. Nothing the world outside could offer could ever make up for this."

All the work the Salvation Army does in prisons is not as encouraging as this little story. It often meets many unjust criticisms and sneers from the prisoners, but it keeps working on; the result of its work in Virginia is shown in Table No. II.

Any evening on the corner, under a street light, the drum beats. We walk or ride by. We see the blue of the Salvation Army uniforms. We see a little crowd of bystanders, some drawn by curiosity and some because they have nowhere else to go. We say to ourselves or our friends, "I wonder if they ever do any good." If we waited long enough the question would answer itself. There is rarely a night when someone does not follow the little band of Salvation Army folks back to the meeting hall. And it is here that the miracle occurs.

Table No. III shows the results of the Adult and Young Peoples work.

The plan upon which the Salvation Army works calls for the adoption of practical methods and strict economy, and a spiritual uplift to dominate it all. These are the three outstanding principles that all successful business enterprises are founded on. The Salvation Army is a business. Its business is humanity. Could there be a greater business?

REBECCA GWALTNEY

Author's Note: The writer is much indebted to Col. John E. Margetts, director of the Salvation Army's Bureau of Information, Statistics and Inspection, for his courteous assistance in collating statistical material.

<sup>2</sup>Only One Thousand Dollars.—Bruce Barton.