The Hidden Stream:

The Contemplative Tradition in the Spirituality of The Salvation Army

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Declaration of Originality

I hereby declare that this clinical research project contains no material that has been accepted for any other degree in any university. To the best of my knowledge and belief this thesis contains no material previously published or written by any other person. The work submitted here is the product of my own original research, except where I have duly acknowledged the work of others.

Signature..............................................................................

Christine I. Faragher
Glossary of Salvation Army Terms

Articles of War (Soldier’s Covenant)
The statement of beliefs and promises which every intending soldier is required to sign before enrolment.

Brengle Institute
The Brengle Institute is a formative seminar for Salvation Army Officers where they take time apart from their appointment, and in company with their peers, to explore the Army’s teaching on the doctrine and the life of holiness, and examine the contours of their present spiritual journey and their desires for the future. The institute is named in honour of Samuel Logan Brengle, a pre-eminent teacher of holiness in The Salvation Army.

Cadet
A Salvationist in training for officership.

Census Board
Established in a corps; responsible for the addition of names to, and removal of names from, the rolls.

Chief of the Staff
The officer second in command of the Army throughout the world.

Commission
A document conferring authority upon an officer, or upon an unpaid local officer, eg secretary, treasurer, bandmaster, etc.

Corps
A Salvation Army unit established for the preaching of the gospel and service in the community.

Corps Cadet
A young Salvationist who undertakes a course of study and practical training in his or her corps, with a view to becoming efficient in Salvation Army service.

Corps Cadet Guardian
A soldier commissioned to be responsible for the corps cadet brigade.

Division
A number of corps grouped together, under the direction of a divisional commander.

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1 Many of these definitions were sourced from The Salvation Army, "Glossary of Terms,” The Salvation Army, http://www.salvationarmy.org/ihq/
Field Officer
A Field Officer was one who served on the “field” rather than as a “social” or “staff” officer. The field was the domain of corps ministry, social the domain of social service ministry, and staff were those who served as part of a headquarters.

Fisher/Fishing
A practice where Salvationists would approach persons in a Salvation Army meeting to encourage them to make a definite decision for Christ or other action in response to God’s call.

General
The officer elected to the supreme command of the Army throughout the world. All appointments are made, and all regulations issued, under the General’s authority (see under High Council). William Booth and his son Bramwell were not elected general: William having founded the movement and then appointing his son to continue its leadership. After the deposition of Bramwell Booth, the Army moved to a system of election of the general by the high council.

High Council
Composed of the Chief of the Staff, all active commissioners, except the spouse of the General, and all territorial commanders. The High Council elects the General in accordance with the Salvation Army Act 1980.

Hotel/Shop Rounds
Weekly visits to allocated hotels or shops to sell Salvation Army publications.

International Headquarters (IHQ)
The offices in which the business connected with the command of the worldwide Army is transacted.

Junior Soldier
A boy or girl who, having professed conversion and having signed the junior soldier’s promise becomes a Salvationist.

Mercy Seat or Penitent Form
A bench provided as a place where people can kneel to pray, seeking salvation or sanctification, or making a special consecration to God’s will and service. The mercy seat is usually situated between the platform and main area of Army halls as a focal point to remind all of God’s reconciling and redeeming presence.

Officer
A Salvationist who has left secular concerns at God’s call and has been trained, commissioned and ordained to service and leadership. An officer is a recognised minister of religion.
**Primitive Salvationists**
A term coined in the late 20th century to denote those involved in charismatic-flavoured, mission-focused heroism in the tradition of earlier Salvationist pioneers.

**Ranks of officers**
Current ranks: lieutenant, captain, major, lieut-colonel, colonel, commissioner, general.
Additional previously used ranks include: adjutant, senior-captain, staff-captain, senior-major, ensign, brigadier and commandant.

**Salvation**
The work of grace which God accomplishes in a repentant person whose trust is in Christ as Saviour, forgiving sin, giving meaning and new direction to life, and strength to live as God desires. The deeper experience of this grace, known as holiness or sanctification, is the outcome of wholehearted commitment to God and enables the living of a Christlike life. Salvation Army worship was traditionally divided into holiness meetings (for the converted) and Salvation meetings (for the unconverted).

**Soldier**
A converted person of at least 14 years of age who has, with the approval of the census board, enrolled as a member of The Salvation Army after signing the articles of war.

**Territory**
A country, part of a country or several countries combined, in which Salvation Army work is organised under a territorial commander.

**The Officer Magazine**
*The Officer* magazine is a ministerial journal published internationally for the officers of The Salvation Army. It commenced in 1893 (less than 30 years after the movement began) and has been continually published since that time. It contains articles and editorial comment commissioned by the Army’s leadership as well as un-solicited contributions from officers all around the world.

**Trade Department**
Trade Departments were set up as commercial enterprises to sell Army uniforms and requisites as well as to promote books and other resources for the spiritual life.

**24/7 Prayer**
24-7 is a non-stop prayer meeting across many nations and Christian faiths. Participating groups pledge to pray 24 hours a day in a fixed location for anything from a few days, to a month, with individuals taking responsibility for praying during different segments of the prayer time allocated, ‘carrying the baton of prayer’ for that period.
Acknowledgements

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I also acknowledge the encouragement, inspiration and practical interest of Lieut Colonel Walter Hull, a former International Headquarters Literary Secretary (1978-81). Colonel Hull is another very fine example of the type of deeply spiritual, thoughtful and intelligent Salvationists whose intellectual and spiritual heritage is captured in this project.

Finally, I acknowledge, with thanks, the kind assistance and hospitality of Mr. Lindsay Cox and Mr. Andrew Middleton of the The Salvation Army Heritage Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, where the bulk of the research for this thesis was conducted.
Abstract

This thesis explores the spirituality of The Salvation Army through the lens of the Contemplative Tradition. The spirituality of The Salvation Army is typically perceived in terms of an activist emphasis focussed on the paired goals of evangelism and social action. By exploring the primary historical data captured in the Army’s international journal, *The Officer*, I provide evidence that it also connects strongly with the Contemplative Tradition with its focus on prayer and devotion to God in personal, life-changing relationship.

My argument in this thesis is that the beginnings, as well as the subsequent history, of The Salvation Army, show that the Army had strong connections to the Contemplative Tradition, which is also the seed-bed for the ministry of Spiritual Direction. The Contemplative Tradition has been a present, but hidden stream in the spirituality of The Salvation Army.

The thesis seeks to show that the congruence of the Army’s spirituality with the Contemplative Tradition provides a solid basis to engage with the ministry of Spiritual Direction in contemporary personal and corporate Salvationist experience.