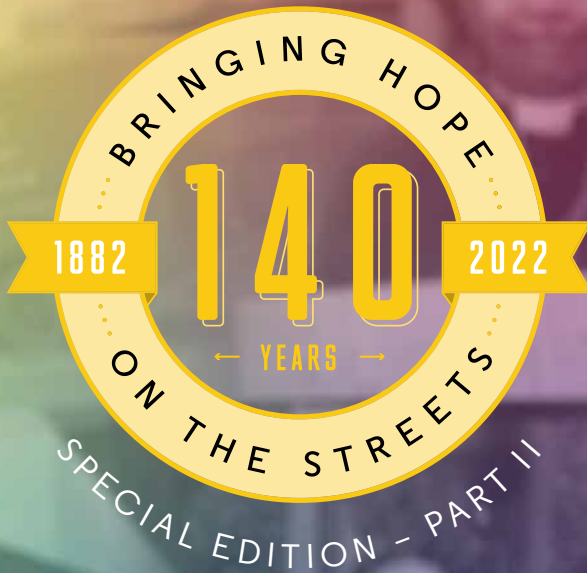


CATALYST

Church Army's Magazine

ISSUE #20

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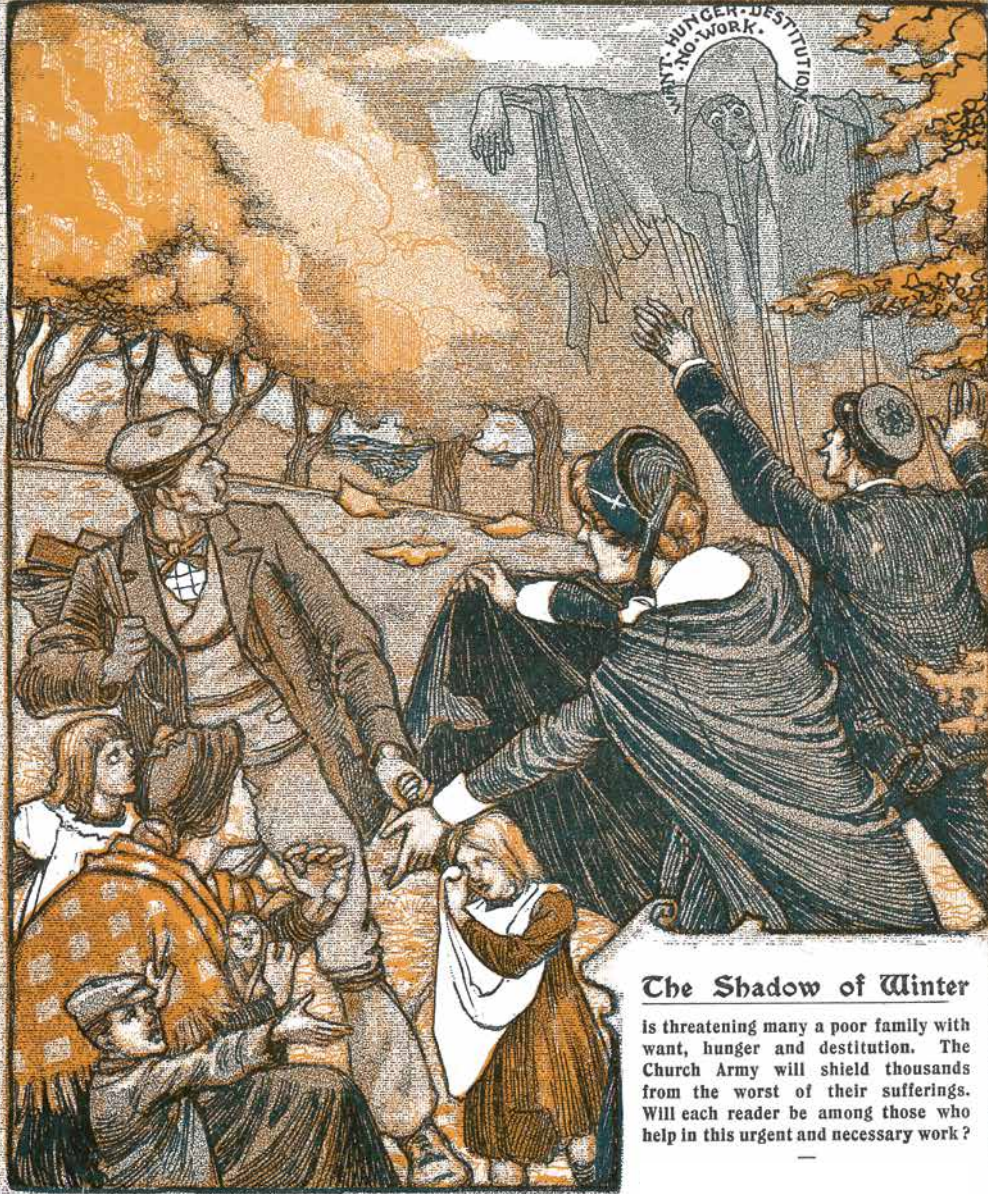
EVANGELISM

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CHURCH ARMY
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OCTOBER 1908.



The Shadow of Winter

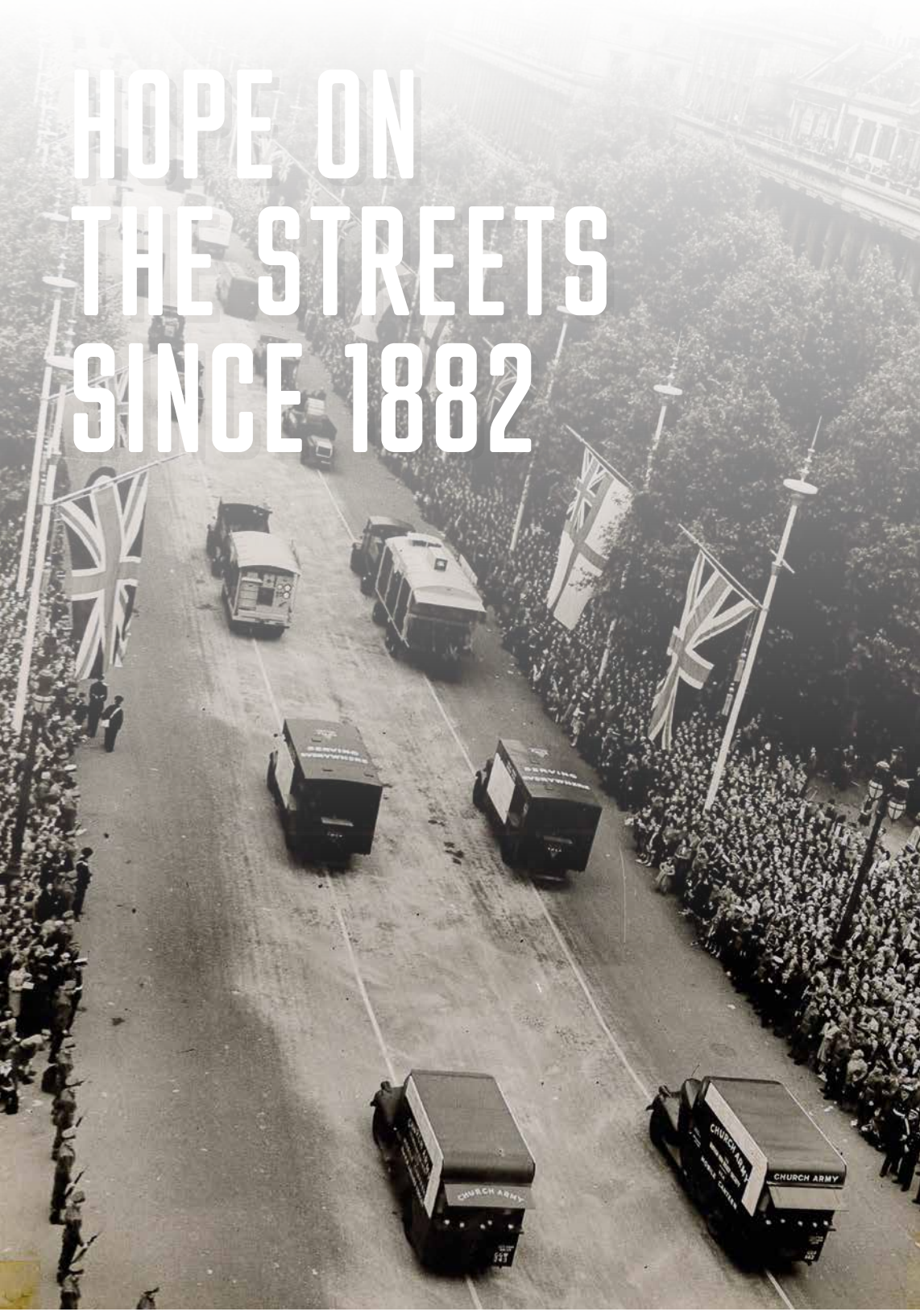
is threatening many a poor family with want, hunger and destitution. The Church Army will shield thousands from the worst of their sufferings. Will each reader be among those who help in this urgent and necessary work?

Headquarters: 55 BRYANSTON STREET, MARBLE ARCH, LONDON, W.

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HOPE ON THE STREETS SINCE 1882



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Both Wilson and Marie Carlile left legacies that changed the world we live in. This closing page of Catalyst shares the final moments of both of their lives.



elcome to this special edition of Catalyst. This is part two of our anniversary magazine celebrating 140 years of bringing hope on the streets. In this issue we'll be looking at some of the key moments that set the course for Church Army over the years and some of the incredible women who have shaped Church Army.

We will also hear from Captain Philip Johanson OBE who was CA's Chief Secretary for 16 years from 1990 - 2006 and read about the birth of Church Army Training which, having evolved through the ages, has remained integral to our vision of sharing the Gospel with everyone everywhere.

As this issue of Catalyst will take us right up to the end of 2022, we'll also be looking at Christmas with Church Army through the ages and how we spread hope to people during some of the coldest parts of the year, when those who are homeless feel the bite of winter more bitterly and those who are lonely feel the emptiness more keenly. It is into situations such as these that Church Army has always sought to be the light of Christ, shining brightly in the dark places; casting out shadow

and bringing hope, joy, love and peace to the people who need it most.

You'll notice the inner cover of this edition is a print from the Church Army Review in October 1908 depicting *The Shadow of Winter* in the form of a spectre pursuing a poor family threatening: want, hunger, destitution, and unemployment. As the family flees the spectre looms above the trees, growing nearer as the gap between autumn and winter closes. A Church Army Sister and Captain in uniform can be seen moving in with urgency from the right of the image to shield the family from the oncoming terror of winter; the Captain throwing himself in front of the deathly ghoul and the Sister sweeping a protective cloak across them with one hand and reaching out to them with the other. This is a striking image of how Church Army serves to protect and provide for those in need. Today, just as in 1908, CA will be working to shield people from the suffering that comes to many with the onset of cold weather, especially this year as we prepare to head into an unprecedented fuel crisis in the UK and Ireland, already causing many to feel anxious about the months ahead.

One final note – this is not only the last Special Edition of Catalyst, but this will also be the final Catalyst in its current form. In January we will be bringing you an new style of magazine with a refreshed look and more stories about where Church Army are drawing alongside people, seeing lives transformed, and hearts turned to Christ.

As we are preparing this edition of Catalyst to go to print we have recently heard the sad news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty The Queen had been a Patron of Church Army for many years. In 1943 The late King George VI and his wife Queen Elizabeth became patrons of Church Army. This followed a meeting with Wilson Carlile at which he refused to leave until they agreed to be Patrons. Upon the death of King George VI the new Queen Elizabeth II became a Patron with her mother and remained so until her sad death. We give thanks for Her Late Majesty's Patronage and support of Church Army throughout her reign, and the Christian example she set to all.

And a big thank you! If you give to Church Army, you are making change happen. Your generosity is transforming the lives of people who have lost hope and continues to be instrumental in people saying yes to Jesus for the first time. As you read through this legacy edition of Catalyst, join with us in giving thanks to God for the work He has done through Church Army over the last 140 years and pray that He continues to use us to reach more people as we step into the future, for His glory.

Yours in Christ,



Chris Hardy
Chris Hardy
Editor



GO FOR THE WORST

by Chris Hardy

It has been said of Wilson Carlile that “his was the deep philosophy of a mind in touch with God”, but no-one starts out that way. In fact, Wilson Carlile learned, through some pivotal lessons, how to lean further into God, how to focus his gaze more fully on Him and how to be so Kingdom-focused that he never stopped trying to win people for Christ throughout his life.

The room silenced as Wilson took the platform. Hundreds of people filled the seats; ordinary Christian women and men as well as Bishops and prominent lay people gathered into the Albert Hall in 1937 for the *Moody Centenary Meeting* to celebrate the birth of Dwight L. Moody, the world-famous evangelist. Wilson Carlile was the only one there who had met Moody and the congregation were eager to hear his message.

His first words received a great ovation, “*I am ninety*”. He had already been to a large gathering in Brighton that day and arrived on a late train in London. He only had the energy to talk for half an hour but for those 30 minutes he held the audience at the Albert Hall spellbound. Sixty-two years later, a Church Army Captain recalled one of the stories Wilson Carlile told that day of his meetings with D. L. Moody:

“Moody was conducting a mission in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, and Mr. Carlile was among the helpers. Just before one of the meetings the large hall was filled to overflowing. Moody came in and said to him, “are all the seats taken?” The reply was, “there is no room left for another person” whereupon Moody spied two empty seats on the platform and asked why these were vacant. He was told they were reserved for

I AM STILL GOING FOR THE MOST LOST

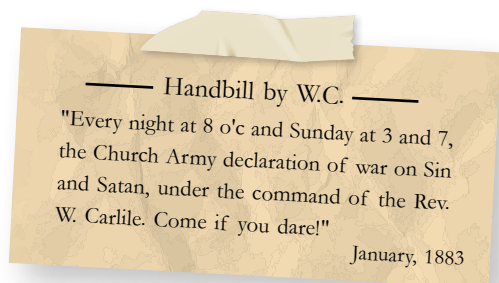
two important members of the Committee. To this Moody said, “Carlile, you are not a lover of souls. Go out and find the worst men you can to occupy these seats”. The Chief (an affectionate title bestowed on him by members of CA) told how that incident had given him a burning passion for the ‘worst’ and in his characteristic way he said, “I am still going for the most lost.”

He brought his message to a close by appealing to the audience to be bold in their witness for Jesus. He invited all those who could honestly do so to stand with him and swear afresh for Christ, saying the words, ‘Lord, you know that I love you.’ The sight of 10,000 people rising in their seats repeating together this pledge was a never-to-be forgotten experience.”*

After that Moody mission, Wilson gave all his free time for the next few years to evangelistic work. Then the call came clearly to give his whole time to this kind of service.

This was just one of many moments in the life of young Wilson Carlile, which added more fuel to the fire of his desperate passion to see people come to know Jesus. One of these moments

came during a time of intense persecution and resistance to his efforts to share the love of Christ in some of London's most dangerous slums.



Wilson Carlile resigned his curacy and devoted his time to taking slum missions. In 1882 the Church Army was officially launched in the slums of Westminster. This is where he met the first of CA's strongest opposition.

I WAS THROWN ON MY BACK TO LOOK UP

Each of the street processions, which preceded the meetings, produced crowds. Many were hostile. But some were seeking the truth and a new life in Christ. As those involved in gangs gave their lives to Jesus and chose to walk away from criminal activity, other gang members became increasingly angry. A skeleton army formed, made up of gangs and those involved in criminal activity in Westminster. They would throw bags of flour, hot ashes, eggs, door mats, and more at Wilson Carlile, other Church Army leaders and their friends. "Better outside than in!" He would joke, even in one instance when someone threw half a cat at his head.

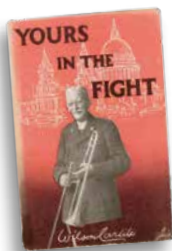
Church Army welcomed persecution joyously as it only increased the interest in their message of hope. Carlile often remarked, "Thank God for persecution, it is a healthy sign." In the last few years of his life he said, "I fear the Church Army is getting too respectable."

One night, Carlile was stoned and kicked and left almost dead in the street. He spent six months on his back as he recovered from his wounds. During that time, he found himself asking where he had failed God.

As he usually did in these moments, Wilson Carlile did not waste those opportunities sent by God to refine him and fix his gaze more intently on Jesus: "I was thrown on my back to look up," he said. More than once in his life this proved true.

The incident not only had a significant impact on Wilson Carlile's life but also on the life of his attacker. The man who nearly killed him was sent to prison, despite efforts to clear him of the charges. But God's love won another victory and from the prison, Wilson received a letter from the man asking for his forgiveness and signed "your loving friend".

Wilson Carlile found that the more he loved, the deeper he had to go to meet people on their own level. He often said, "Socially I entered into Hell." But it was in the depths that seemed almost to engulf him that he obeyed his call from God: "Go for the worst."



These stories have been adapted from the book *Yours In The Fight* by Marie Carlile Hale, 1945.

*"Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee."

THE EARLY DAYS OF TRAINING

Training has always been part of the fabric that makes up Church Army. Seeing people accept Jesus naturally leads to them telling others this Good News, and so training Christian women and men in the duty of evangelism. This is how it started.

EVANGELISTS AND MISSION-SISTERS WANTED

PREBENDARY CARLILE and the Committee of the Church Army would be grateful to the Clergy and others if they would kindly introduce young men, whom they deem to be called of God to further His work, for preparation in the Church Army Training Homes and Mission Vans as Evangelists, Social Officers, etc. Some experience in religious work necessary. Free board and lodging during the whole period of training; salary subsequently guaranteed. Often a stepping-stone to Foreign Mission work.

Earnest Christian women (age from 25 to 30) willing to devote themselves to work among the poor as Bible Women, Mission Sisters in the slums, or as Rescue Workers, are likewise required. Board, lodging, laundry, and out-door uniforms provided free during training. Salaried posts guaranteed afterwards to successful candidates.

THE BIRTH OF CA TRAINING

The story of Church Army training goes back to the earliest days before Church Army itself had come into existence. Fuelled with a passion to see the lost become saved, Wilson Carlile would hold services in the open air every night in Kensington from 9pm to 10pm even in the rain and snow. On top of his parish work during the day, the nightly preaching became so great a strain that he was compelled to train some of his lay helpers to become preachers. These were people who had come to know Christ through Wilson's preaching and caught the fire to spread the good news to others. The first was a young butler, the second a groom. They began simply with a reading from the Bible, and then

gradually ventured to tell how the passage read fitted their own experience. In time, he began to send them to the slums of North Kensington, where they held evangelistic meetings in lodging houses or on street corners. These meetings were also held in a hall after evening church. Wilson would conduct the meeting and also hand over to those who were helping him. Sometimes 50 people in one meeting would give talks or short prayers. This early hands-on training, as unofficial as it was, in many ways was a natural progression for those who had come to faith in Jesus and had their hearts turned towards sharing the good news with the lost.

The training was practical and effective but as Church Army was founded and beginning to develop, the need for full-time evangelists grew quickly. Advertisements were placed in church papers for applicants.

Along with spiritual experience, those applying for training would answer questions such as: *"Can you take a back seat and play second fiddle with a happy heart?"*, *"Can you use the same homely language in speaking for Christ as for your trade?"*, *"Can you turn a disturber out of a meeting in a smiling and kindly manner?"*, *"Can you be as daring for Christ as the worst are for Satan?"*, and *"Can you start tunes at the right pitch?"*.

WILSON CARLILE'S VISION WAS THAT EVANGELISM WOULD BE THE ROLE OF EVERY CHRISTIAN, NOT JUST THOSE WHOSE ROLE WAS IN THE CHURCH

And so Church Army training was established. Wilson Carlile's vision was that evangelism would be the role of every Christian, not just those whose role was in the church, as at the very start, this type of training did not call for great educational attainment, but rather for those who knew and loved Jesus and had a thirst to see people be saved. Early recruits for training included tradesmen, miners, blacksmiths, shop assistants, clerks and factory workers. Female candidates were usually nurses and teachers, as well as domestic servants, weavers, tailoresses and a number of young women who had never worked. Some came from the armed forces and even a few university graduates chose

a life of evangelism over a prosperous career, much like Wilson Carlile himself.

The first Training Home was founded in 1882, in Oxford, in a converted shop. The building could house ten men at a time

CAN YOU TAKE A BACK SEAT AND PLAY SECOND FIDDLE WITH A HAPPY HEART?

Evangelistic training with Church Army was not an easy life. A typical day in the Training Home in the year 1900 would look like this:

6.30am. Day starts, usually with a cold bath followed by household duties, often referred to as "scrubology"

8.00am. Chapel service followed by breakfast and bedmaking.

9.30am. Lectures (with a short break)

1.00pm Lunch followed by harmonium practice (everyone was expected to play an instrument of some kind)

2.30pm. Short prayer meeting followed by a few hours in the parish visiting people and selling copies of the Church Army Gazette.

5.00pm. Tea followed by private study

7.00pm. Public house visitations, open air meetings in Hyde Park, indoor services in the College Chapel

10.00pm. Supper and prayers followed by bedtime.

The Mission Nurses had a similar programme with some afternoon rest if they were involved with midnight ministry to girls on the streets of Central London. Their training included several weeks experience in a hospital learning elementary nursing skills.

and provided one meal a day. For the rest of the time the Cadets (as they were known) fended for themselves. They would attend Evensong in the Cathedral before going out to do mission work in the back streets.

A few years later, the Training Home moved to London and Church Army soon commenced the training of women to become Mission Nurses (who would later be known as Mission Sisters). A women's Training Home was set up close by and the men and women began to share the same lectures and combine open-air services.

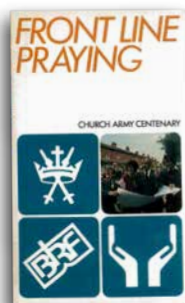
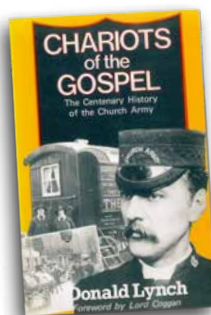
At first, the training was very brief and lasted only three months, and just ten weeks for the Mission Nurses (including hospital work). There was not a lot of money to invest in training in those days, but as funds slowly improved over time, so did capacity to extend the training. Wilson was often accused of trying to push insufficiently trained evangelists onto parishes, but the training, though brief, covered the Bible, the prayer book, the life of prayer and devotion and also a lot of practical experience in communicating the Gospel indoors and in the open air, often in Hyde Park, where there was no short supply of opposition.

CHURCH ARMY TRAINING TODAY

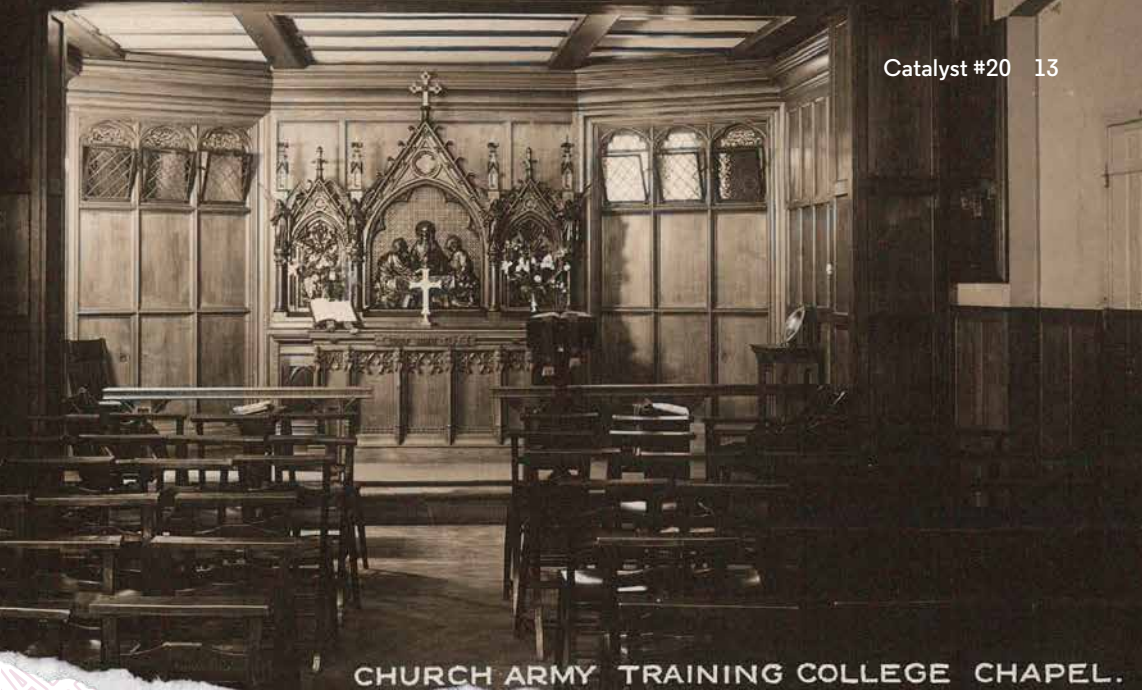
Fast forward to today and Church Army is still training men and women who are called to make their evangelistic gifting their vocation. Each year we take on more Evangelists-in-Training who spend three years working towards becoming Commissioned as Church Army Evangelists (CA). The ethos of learning-by-doing is something that has never been forgotten and those training with Church Army spend much time practicing evangelism in their own context alongside training in theology and mission.

We also train the younger generation of evangelists as well as those who are in their 30's and above through the community we call ENVOY, where impassioned people who want to share the hope they have in Jesus learn together and support each other as they talk with others about the Christian faith.

You can find out more about Church Army Training at churcharmy.org/training and the ENVOY community at churcharmy.org/envoy



Adapted from the books *Chariots of the Gospel*, by Donald Lynch, 1982, and *Frontline Praying*, 1981.



CHURCH ARMY TRAINING COLLEGE CHAPEL.



A NOBLE ARMY OF WOMEN

Stories of Marie Carlile and the Church Army Sisters

"How well I remember my first night in the Nurses' Training Home! What a long one it seemed!" writes Marie Carlile, recounting her first memory of the London Training Home where she had just become resident Superintendent in 1889, "Sleep was impossible, partly because of the thoughts of the responsibilities of the work, and partly because of the noise in the streets and the hardness of the bed. I am afraid I was very cowardly in those days, and rather dismayed at the condition of the house. The Superintendent's sitting-room had in it all that was necessary, but it looked dreary without curtains, and only a box of matches to adorn the mantelpiece...When evening came the room was lit up by a very smelly lamp hung on a nail. But what happy times those were! Hard beds, and smelly lamps cannot take away real joy, as many of us have found, for it is often when circumstances are most trying that we discover how very precious our dear Lord and Master is to us."



It became clear very quickly that Marie Carlile was anything but cowardly, but rather fiercely dependant of God and faithful to His will. Her legacy began immediately, along with her influence on the women who have shaped Church Army for over a century. These are just a few of their stories, telling of the earliest pieces of Church Army's Social-Evangelistic-welfare work, arising naturally out of the preaching of the Gospel.

GOD'S FRESH AIR

A Welfare Story

In 1894 the Church Army established its Medical Mission in one of the worst slums of west London. The mission became a pioneer for the later clinics which gave prenatal and antenatal help and brought a revolution to mothers of many classes. The Medical Mission doctor would give free advice and a short service was always held. Many women came through the doors seeking help and the Church Army sisters spent many hours caring for women who were poor, thin, and overtired from bearing the heavy burden of

unemployment and overcrowding at its very worst.

Out of this medical work grew another phase of work. It quickly became obvious that these women needed more than just advice and medicine. God's fresh air and good food were the best of all medicines, and so Church Army Holiday Homes were established.

Holiday homes for poor tired mothers, for their ailing children, all to enjoy sunshine, the beach and sea.

God's fresh air and good food were the best of all medicines

The transformation was almost unbelievable.

One account recalls, "Mrs. P. came to our Holiday Home looking thoroughly tired and worn out. She had not had a holiday since her marriage and her three children had never seen the sea or been on a train. One little girl was suffering from the results of infantile paralysis, but the fresh air and sunshine made the world of difference. They all returned home looking very much better and full of gratitude for the wonderful time they had had."



she stood her ground, strong through God-given courage. Finding words were useless, she knelt to pray and then (as she said afterwards) men and women were dumb, for the Lord was there. The girl's heart was touched, she went back and did well at home. The Nurse became a frequent and welcome visitor to that lodging-house."

THE RUNAWAY

A Rescue Story

"A poor, broken hearted mother, whose girl had run away from home, came in great distress to the Mission-Nurse. Could she help her? By enquiries Nurse traced the girl to a low lodging house in a bad part of the town. The thought of the terrible danger the girl must be in while staying in

such a place, gave the nurse courage to do what she felt was her duty. That night at 11.30 she called at the place and after some difficulty was allowed to see the girl. The room was full of men and women, drinking and swearing, and she pleaded with the girl to return to her mother. It seemed to no avail. One man kicked his boot over her head; she knew it was meant for her but it missed its mark and

Jesus cares for the likes of me

CELL NO. 95

A Prison Story

She was short in stature, thought the guards as they looked down at the Church Army Sister as she stood pleading to be allowed to visit cell No. 95 of the female prison. The inmate of this particular cell was a very wild and aggressive inmate and today was the day of her release. The general feeling among the prison staff was that it wouldn't be long before she was back in a cell again.

In the end her persistence won out, the guards relented and the Sister was granted permission to visit cell No. 95, but with one restriction: an officer would accompany her for safety as the inmate was known to be violent. Down the

corridor they went. The key opened 95.

"I'll see you're all right," said the kindly officer. She thought to herself what a sweet little woman the CA Sister looked. The Sister walked into the cell, the woman was huddled up in the corner of her bed, her unhappy eyes blazed with hostility. There was tense silence. After a while, the Sister broke the cold quiet, *"Mary, I have come to ask you to live with me"*. *"Who put you up to it?"* came the sharp distrustful reply. The Sister just smiled, *"Jesus."* There was a long silence when at last the woman rose, *"I'll come"*. That was all she said.

The weeks passed and Mary began to change. Her first bit of witness was when she remarked "Jesus cares for the likes of me." She began to take a great pride in keeping the little Mission house clean. She called it a Jesus house. She was good with children, and so soon attracted

mothers from the street to visit. The last few years of her life she was a powerful witness on the street of the Mission house.

HE COULD DO SOMETHING FOR ME

A Prison Story

Recently a C.A. Sister was taking a service in one of our largest Women's Prisons. She was sorry that she could not go near to the women and have more chance to show her love by a handshake. Next day she got this letter. It starts, "I know you will be glad that it was your speech and the look on your face that decided me to be on His side. As if Jesus could put that look on your face, He could do something for me."





EYES ON THE ROAD

by Philip Johanson

Philip Johanson was Chief Secretary of Church Army from 1990–2006. During this time he saw many changes, both in society and in Church Army. Here he reflects on his time in Church Army and how, despite ministering in a changing world, some things always remain the same.

Driving a car, you need to keep your eyes on the road ahead. At the same time, you need to be mindful to keep an eye on the rear-view mirror, mindful of where you have come from whilst focussing on the way ahead. The same could be said of Christian ministry; looking back at what has made it all possible and focussing on, or taking all the opportunities ahead. To change the metaphor, the writer to the Hebrews puts it this way: “And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (Hebrews 12:1). This was Carlile’s vision when he started Church Army 140 years ago. He was mindful of where he had come from, and all that Christ had done

in his life. He was determined to take every opportunity to share that experience with others and to enable Christian people to do the same.

During my early days in Church Army in the late 1960’s, much like the regular army, you were not given a choice, you were sent to places for work. For me that was to Northern Ireland at the start of what became known as ‘The Troubles.’ Two of us lived in a caravan, and we were towed from parish to parish conducting two-week missions and children’s holiday clubs. Earlier this year I heard from a man who came to faith in Christ when he was 14 years old during one of those missions over 50 years ago, and over the years has been heavily involved with his local church, especially amongst work with children and young people. Two important lessons come

from that experience.

**SHARING FAITH IN CHRIST
AND ENABLING OTHERS
TO DO THE SAME HAS
REMAINED THE CONSTANT**

The first is teamwork; two of us working together. Jesus sent His disciples out two by two. The second is

helping others come to faith in Christ and to go on sharing faith with others.

Throughout my Church Army life be it on the frontline so to speak or in administration and leadership, those two elements have been a priority.



Whilst the context and methods may have changed, sharing faith in Christ and enabling others to do the same has remained the constant.

For many years, Church Army held beach missions during the summer months in many of the major holiday towns. A team of perhaps five or six Church Army Evangelists and



students would be joined by many volunteers. There might well have been more than 150 volunteers involved each year. A number of those people went on to train to be Church Army Evangelists, ordained ministers, or in other forms of Christian ministry. One team worked on the Norfolk Broads for several years, connecting with people on a sailing holiday and visiting the many Broadland pubs.

Whilst there are very few beach missions these days, holiday clubs still take place for young people and in recent years for older or retired people. Many of these activities take place in inner city parishes often amongst

people who cannot afford to jet off on holidays. The context may have changed, however the work remains the same.

Teams and volunteers have always been central to the work. The Christian Service Scheme was one such example whereby mainly young people gave a year to working with Church Army, perhaps prior to embarking on a career, or prior to, or following university.

They would work alongside Church Army Evangelists in exchange for accommodation and gaining valuable experience. Today that kind of opportunity is still alive in communities such as ENVOY, encouraging and equipping people to be effective evangelists in their local context.

Mission teams in one form or another have played a major part in Church Army ministry. There were teams who were mobile, based in Wales, London and the Northwest visiting parishes for various planned mission activities. We had teams who resided in an area, working with local churches over an extended period of time. We also had teams working in rural





contexts in Hampshire and Warwickshire. Once again, as contexts change, the essence of the work remains. Today, Centres of Mission work in teams with local people reaching out into communities and enabling others to do the same, sharing faith in practical ways.

In recent years much has been said and done under the term church planting. George Lings, who I appointed 25 years ago to head up the Research Unit, played a key part in all that work, not only in Church Army but also in the wider Church. However, in one regard it was not new. It may have had a different name, however, the heart of the work is the same. In times past, a parish church would have developed a mission church or daughter church, especially on a new housing development. Church Army Evangelists were often found leading the work in such situations.

Church Army Evangelists were, and still are, working in many parishes up and down the country. They work alongside the local vicar and often their work involves training and mobilising lay people to share in outreach with them.

TODAY, CENTRES OF MISSION WORK IN TEAMS WITH LOCAL PEOPLE REACHING OUT INTO COMMUNITIES AND ENABLING OTHERS TO DO THE SAME, SHARING FAITH IN PRACTICAL WAYS

From the early days, Church Army established many residential projects caring for people in various kinds of need. It might have been for homeless people, older people or even professional people who had fallen on hard times. In all these situations where practical care was provided, Church Army Evangelists lived out the Christian message once again working with teams of people.

From the 1970's onwards, times were changing with ever more government legislation regarding such work. The legislation was not wrong, however, it was very expensive to implement, more expensive than Church Army could afford. One of my predecessors as Chief Secretary found a way for most of the work with homeless people to continue through handing that work over to a charity specialising in such work.



During my time, we had to close the residential homes for older people as the regulations and costs became prohibitive. However, today,

through the Centres of Mission, Church Army Evangelists continue to do valuable work with people in the communities.

On becoming Chief Secretary in 1990, we launched a major review of all Church Army work to ensure we remained focussed and relevant in all that we did. Following wide ranging consultations within the organisation and with the wider Church, we published a strategy document called 'People to People.' It was not an easy process, and for some it was painful as we withdrew from some aspects of work and started new projects. It set the direction for several years ahead. In the forward to that strategy document, I wrote: "We must work as if everything depends on us but pray as if

everything depended on God."

Returning to the driving illustration, we know where we have come from, and we know the direction in which we are heading, but the scenery along the way may change, that is to

**WE MUST WORK AS IF
EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON US
BUT PRAY AS IF EVERYTHING
DEPENDS ON GOD.**

say, the way in which work is undertaken may change. In my final talk as Chief Secretary at a commissioning of Church Army Evangelists, I spoke of Jesus sending His followers

out two-by-two and said I believed that was the model for Christian ministry. Today this is being lived out in part throughout Church Army in training, in Centres of Mission, in ENVOY and in numerous other ways - teams sharing faith in Christ and enabling others to do the same.

**CHURCH
ARMY
.ORG**

THE CHURCH ARMY OF CHRISTMAS PAST



As this legacy edition of Catalyst covers the festive season, we thought it only right to show what Church Army of Christmases past looked like through some of the Winter editions of The Church Army Review.

This particular article from December 1908 in many ways captures the spirit of Church Army at Christmas, as extra effort is made to make this time of year special, even for those who are enduring some of the worst circumstances.

WANTED: CHRISTMAS FARE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NONE



ALLOWED and gracious is the time, indeed; hallowed not only by the great event which we now commemorate, but by a thousand memories of love, kindness, forgiveness, reunion. The pity of it that the sweet influence of Yule should be marred by suffering and pain! No matter how brightly our own fire may blaze, no matter how plentifully our own board may be spread, no matter how closely we may draw our curtains to shut out the rain and snow and misery of the outer world, we cannot shut out the knowledge that, within a little distance, there are men, women, and small children who are suffering cold and hunger, with nothing to tell them of Christmas love and joy, human and divine.

The pity of it - yet on the other hand the happiness of being able to do something - no matter how small, if it is done in the Spirit of Him who was laid in the manger at Bethlehem - to cheer and comfort those who are suffering. "Give ye them to eat" is His command to His disciples in the rush of London's grimy streets as of old in the sunshine by the Galilean lake.

At this season, the Church Army always tries to bring some small special degree of gladness to hundreds of those who need it so sorely, by giving them Christmas cheer, entertainments, pleasures of various kinds. Christmas brings its own joy to most of us; joy of happy family gatherings, joy of meeting friends, joy of giving and receiving gifts. Shall we not all try to give some of our happiness and pleasure to dark lives and narrow surroundings? No matter if we are not rich ourselves, probably none of us is so poor as to be unable to give something.

MEN'S SOCIAL DEPARTMENT

Our Men's Social Department asks for contributions in money or kind towards Christmas dinners for about 2,400 men and youths in our Labour Homes throughout the country; for 500 homeless, starving single men at the King's Labour Tents; and for 2,000 parcels containing materials for Christmas dinners (meat, groceries, materials for puddings, and so on), so that the married men working in

the Queen's and other Labour Relief Depots for married men may have wherewithal to make a merry Christmas at home with their families.

WOMEN'S SOCIAL DEPARTMENT

Our Women's Social Department wants toys, warm clothes, and useful presents for an entertainment for "unemployed" wives and widows and their children; also funds to provide tea, and helpers for the entertainment. Also a Christmas tree and 2,000 penny toys, and helpers to give them away, for the "Old Clo" mothers and little ones; Christmas presents and cards, together with any amount of Christmas cheer, for about 300 women and girls in our Homes.

PRISONERS' WIVES AND FAMILIES;

Mrs. Hodder asks for materials for 600 Christmas dinners for prisoner's wives and their families, also warm blankets and coals, parcels of tea and sugar, or money to buy any of these good things, for these poor sad woman and children suffering for the offences of others. Also for 1,000 Christmas dinners for poor starving families in parishes near Banner Street, who will have no dinner, perhaps no food of any sort, unless we help. Think of Christmas Day without dinner; perhaps without food! She also asks for dinners, tobacco, and fruit for over 200 men in the Banner Street and Warner Place Homes.

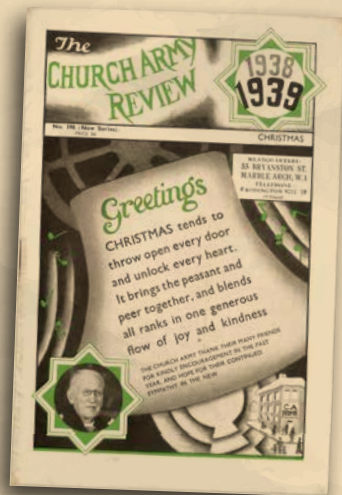


THE DISPENSARY AND FRESH AIR DEPARTMENT

The Dispensary and Fresh Air Department will be most grateful for toys and garments for the Christmas party for the poor women and children attending the Dispensary; also funds and materials for the tea on that occasion and offers of an entertainment.



Christmas fare is also especially asked for the Fresh Air Homes. The women and children in these Homes just now are, almost without exception, families of the unemployed, and until they came under our care were literally starving.



THE PRINCESS CLUB

The Princess Club would be most grateful for parcels of seasonable and useful groceries and fruit, to cheer the hearts of some of the poorest among their members - and some of them are very, very poor.

There is plenty of variety among those on whose behalf we are making this humble request, but they are all poor and needy, and if we cannot provide food, many of them will have to go hungry on Christmas Day. Will each reader help us to prevent this?



OYEZ! OYEZ! OYEZ!
Christmas is Coming.

"Christmas Comes but Once a Year; and when it Comes it brings Good Cheer."



THANKS BE AND TO GOD

- Unemployed
- Preventive
- Clubs
- Prison Work
- Social Work
- Motherless
- Fresh Air
- Rescue Work
- Womens Relief
- Prisoners Aid
- Social Centres
- Evangelism

FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT

REMEMBER. PASS IT ON...

Throughout these two special editions of Catalyst, we have explored the legacies of those who have shaped Church Army over the years, from Wilson Carlile and his sister Marie, to many other faithful men and women who dedicated their lives to seeing the lives of others changed and transformed. Like them, thousands of others have left their mark on Church Army in many ways and contributed to the legacy of hope that continues today.

You can be part of this legacy by helping us to continue their work into the future.

Hope is on the way to people who do not even know it yet, but we need your help to reach them. Each year it costs us millions of pounds to keep on bringing hope to the streets through our key projects, Centres of Mission, evangelistic training, resources and multiple other ministries of outreach.

By leaving a gift in your will, however big or small, you will be helping to transform the lives of people and communities both now and into the future.

DON'T WAIT TO START THE CHANGE!

If you would like to know more, or have already remembered Church Army in your will, please let us know legacy@churcharmy.org or call 0300 123 2113



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By Post:

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GOING HOME

The deaths of Wilson and Marie Carlile and the legacy they left.

On Saturday 26 September 1942, at 1.30pm, Wilson Carlile died peacefully after two days of being unconscious in bed. His sister, Marie Carlile said there was one final movement he gave before he passed, which was to raise his hand in a salute to the God he had served so long and well and was about to go home to.

From *Wilson Carlile and The Church Army*, by A. E. Reffold: "God was good to the Church Army in that he spared Prebendary Carlile to guide and lead for sixty wonderful years. God was good to Wilson Carlile because he was allowed, as few men are, to see his work grow, to see suspicions of his methods dispelled, to see his prophecies fulfilled, to see his life's work vindicated by all. In the closing years of his life he was privileged to see an even fuller vision of work ahead, for his beloved Church Army, a vision week by week coming to greater fulfilment under his successors.

Church Army Evangelists, both men and women, have proved that unbounded enthusiasm and passion for souls can, and do, co-exist along with reverence for Church Order and love for the Sacraments. The Church was always the Church of the poor and the outcast but the Church Army has helped to enable her more fully to justify that claim.

Thousands of souls turned from darkness to light, thousands of broken lives made whole, thousands of criminals made honest, drunkards made sober, the work-shy made self-respecting and independent, families saved from destitution, poor wanderers of the streets brought back to virtue and peace, young lives saved from certain ruin - if

the Church Army had come to an end with the life of its Founder, such would be the Society's proud and acknowledged record and the credit would be due to Wilson Carlile, its founder, its mainspring and under God, its chief energizing force."

Marie Carlile died just nine years later on 9th December, 1951. Speaking at her funeral service, her nephew said: "*Through the passing to her rest of Marie Louise Carlile, the Church on earth has lost one of its greatest members, if it had not been for her there might have been no Church Army Sisterhood. She had to leave a life of elegance, comfort and ease, for one of austerity, hard work, and persecution. But the love of God triumphed in her heart and we thank Him for letting us see so much of Himself manifested in a human life.*"

With typical thoughtfulness she had left full instructions for her funeral service. She concluded her little note as follows: "*As it is just a "home-going" I hope the short service will be full of praise. Thanksgiving too to the gracious Lord of Love for innumerable and undeserved mercies and blessings received during a long life here.*"

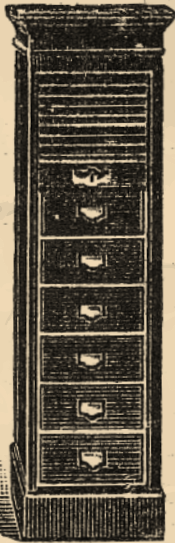
Not long before she died, she prayed silently with her nephew at the foot of a large portrait of Prebendary Carlile, after which they both prayed that the Church Army might always be loyal in spirit to its great founder.

We ask that you would join us in praying that same thing. As Church Army continues today, pray that we will forever be loyal to serving God and loving people and winning them for His Glory.

Thank you.



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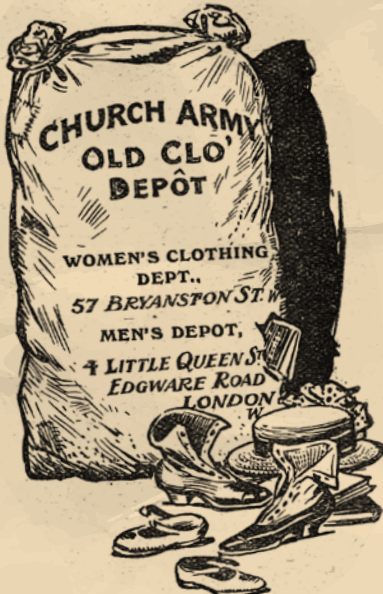
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