

..and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **James 2: 16-18** (English Standard Version) ①

This biblical passage refers to the actions taken by Christians motivated by **ethical principles like 'respecting life' and 'loving your neighbour as yourself'**, who are moved to engage in good works to help others like the Salvation Army, and who do so because of their faith in Jesus Christ. ①

The Salvation Army church started in England in 1878, by William Booth who was a Methodist minister. The Salvation Army arrived in New Zealand (NZ) in 1883, starting social services in Dunedin and then spread to other areas like Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland.

"Between 1903 and 1912 the Salvation Army set up hotels in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch to provide low-cost, liquor-free accommodation to travelling families. These People's Palaces were run as commercial ventures, but staffed by Army officers **who offered spiritual guidance on request**. Between 1979 and 1994 all three were sold or closed." ①

"**In 2010 five centres and 14 clinics such as the Bridge Programme and Oasis Centre in Newtown, Wellington, provided professional counselling and treatment services for alcohol and drug addiction and problem gambling. A nationwide network of more than 30 community and family service centres provided food banks, budgeting advice, crisis counselling, advocacy and other services.**"

"**By 2010 all homes for the elderly had been closed but support for the elderly in their own homes was a growing field of activity. The Salvation Army employed around 3,000 staff and officers nationwide, and had a further 5,000 soldiers, or full-time dedicated members. There were about 90 Salvation Army corps or churches, including several for migrants from Vietnam, China and Korea.**" <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/salvation-army/page-2> ①

One of the social services **they provide is helping people with alcohol and drug addiction**, this has always been an important focus for the Salvation Army and they are still involved in treating alcohol and drug addiction today. ①

The treatment involves providing a safe, integrated, high quality treatment service to people whose lives have been affected by the harmful use of, or dependency on alcohol or drugs.

"This purposeful, whole of life, person-centred, caring approach combines four key elements;

1. **Partnership:** You will be in a purposeful relationship with the treatment team as your move along your own personal path to recovery.
2. **Community Reinforcement Approach:** We go beyond education and advice to coaching and practice. Where practical, family and friends are encouraged to participate in your treatment plan.
3. **12 Step Recovery Journey:** The 12 Step approach suggests that the recovery includes a distinctly spiritual journey from a life of confusion and grief to a place of serenity and peace.
4. **The Salvation Army:** The Salvation Army in Aotearoa New Zealand seeks to offer an evidence-based, best practice treatment for people moderately to severely affected by their

harmful use of, or dependency on alcohol and / or drugs as a practical expression of its Christian based love and concern for all people in the community.”

<http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/need-assistance/addictions/alcohol-and-drug-addiction>

There is a real need in NZ for these treatment programmes because there are many negative social and health consequences of alcohol and drug addiction. This affects all members of society because we drive on the roads and walk on the streets; we belong to families, communities, and live in homes so we can be affected by burglaries and domestic violence, and assaults.

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According to NZ Statistics and research studies done, “between 600 and 800 people in NZ die each year from alcohol-related causes”, and “between 18% and 35% of injury-based emergency department presentations are estimated to be alcohol-related, rising to between 60% and 70% during the weekend.”

The NZ police estimate that about one-third of all police arrests, including family violence, and half of all serious violent crimes involve alcohol. “Over 300 alcohol-related offenses are committed every day, and 52 individuals or groups of people are either driven home or detained in police custody because of intoxication. In 2012, driver alcohol was a contributing factor in 73 fatal crashes, 331 serious injury crashes and 933 minor injury crashes. These crashes resulted in 93 deaths, 454 serious injuries and 1,331 minor injuries.”

In 2009, the estimated harmful alcohol use cost NZ\$4.9 billion in 2005/2006. Other estimates have put the costs at between NZ\$735 million to NZ\$16.1 billion.

2

<http://www.alcohol.org.nz/research-resources/nz-statistics/alcohol-facts>

The Salvation Army recognises three ‘pillars’ that provide a secure foundation for Christian faith and practice: the teaching of Scripture, the direction of the Holy Spirit, and the consensus of the Christian community. They are ‘pillars’ because of the way they mediate Jesus Christ to us. They believe that God is pro-human in the sense that he wants us to know and live life to the full. “*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly*” John 10:10 (English Standard Version).

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They consider that “Christian ethics is unintelligible without the Holy Spirit, because he makes our experience of the Bible and of Jesus Christ a personal one. In this way, Christian ethics becomes internal rather than external. It becomes a process inside us, rather than a code or set of rules outside of us that we take (or leave).” They believe that the Holy Spirit makes us new people and continues to make us like Jesus Christ, “*and we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit*” 2 Corinthians 3:18 (English Standard Version).

2

Members of the Salvation Army are motivated to help other people in need because they follow Christian ethics like ‘respecting life’ and ‘loving your neighbour as yourself’. As they outline in their website “those who follow Jesus Christ recognise and experience him, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, as not just another source of ethical guidance but the ultimate source.”

<http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/our-community/faith-in-life/christian-ethics/bible-church-ethics>