



The Signal

A publication to share information of interest to the people of the
Conception Bay South Corps and Community.

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331 CBS Highway

Perspective

The Best Gift

Do you sometimes wish you could find that perfect gift for that special person in your life? Christmas is all about giving.

We long to see that smile of approval on the face of the one who receives the gift we have chosen. So what do we give? Cost is sometimes a factor, in trying to live and spend within our means.

Someone has made some wise suggestions. "To an enemy, give forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a customer, helpful service; to all, charity; to a child, a good example; to yourself, respect."

"Christmas is a time to love", we sing in one of the more contemporary Christmas carols. God showed His love when He gave Jesus, His very best gift. We can all afford to give the gifts mentioned above. In fact, it might be the best gift we will give during this season.

Major Cora Dodge

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Immanuel

'Lo, I am with you' (Matthew 28: 20)



Walking the ancient streets of 'Old Cairo' is an experience that intoxicates and sometimes overpowers even the most experienced tourist. This 1000 year old city is packed with sights and sounds to delight every visitor. I could hardly take a step without being accosted by one of the myriad of street vendors. They were disappointed though, because my singular mission was to find a special fourth century church known to the Coptic Christians as 'Saints Sergius and Bacchus Church'. (Some even call it the church of 'Saint Barbara'. Imagine that!)

Upon entering the old church, the centuries seemingly erased as I gazed upon the elegant, but simple, beauty of a house of Christian worship filled with intricate woodwork and carved panels. The wow factor though is 'the crypt' that claims the famous distinction of housing Joseph, Mary and young Jesus when they became refugees from murderous king Herod (Matthew 2:13-23). I stood there filled with wonder. I might very well have been standing where Jesus physically resided. The sight of it was underwhelming. The crypt itself was just a rocky hole in the ground. But spiritually, it was overwhelming. What a welcome this hole in the ground was to the 'Creator, Preserver and Governor' of all things. What other King would deliberately choose to live like this? God sent His Son here and we made Him a refugee. I felt so humbled! With John the Baptist I say I should not even aspire to have the privilege of lacing up His sandals. Yet here I am standing where Jesus might have stood.

As I reflect on this today, another thought invades my mind. Yes, I may have stood where Jesus stood, but the higher truth is, I have *never* been in a place or on a road that I have *not* shared with Jesus. Our powerful and passionate Salvation Army poet General, Albert Orsborn wrote;

I know Thee who Thou art, and what Thy healing name:

For when my fainting heart the burden nigh o'ercame,

"I saw thy footprints on my road, where lately passed the Son of God."

Imagine - Jesus walking with me right now on the roads of Conception Bay South. This month we celebrate the spectacular advent of Jesus Christ. The Angel's prophetic forecast (Matthew 1:23) was absolutely bang on. "*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel*" (which means "God with us"). An angel choir burst into song; shepherds fell to their knees on a hillside; sleep for a powerful but evil king was dramatically interrupted; the world was set ablaze with hope. Jesus changed everything! Now God had legs and feet, voice and hands. God materialized in human form right before their eyes and left no doubt about God's character and His plan. God with us! And though He ascended into heaven, God is here and now. God is on our road. He is 'God Everywhere' and close enough to everyone to hear even the faintest whisper of our prayer. The proof is the birth, life, death, resurrection and the words of Jesus. The proof also is the testimony of billions who have and are experiencing this Christ of the human road.

Merry Christmas from our hearts to yours.

Majors Lorne & Barb Pritchett, your day to day Pastor.

Reflections of Christmas

It is a pleasure to greet you at this wonderful Christmas season and to share good wishes for the coming year.



Christians are blessed with wonderful opportunities during these days as we celebrate the gift of God, His Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus was born in Bethlehem and everything that transpired is for our benefit and blessing. It is through this wonderful gift of God's Son that we experience forgiveness of sins, have a personal relationship with the Triune God, and share with others the wonderful story from the "Cradle to the Cross."

My experience of sins forgiven was a wonderful event of my childhood. The first time I knelt at the Mercy Seat was on "Decision Sunday" in Sunday school. We, as children, were invited to come to the altar and pray, asking God to forgive our sins of childhood and to learn from Him how to love one another. "Jesus loves me" was the theme of the event. It was also during the Christmas season that I learned so much about God, our Heavenly Father and Jesus, His One and Only Son.

The activities that took place for the children and the adults helped me to understand God's love and to see people expressing it in very real and practical ways. How we, as children, enjoyed the Christmas concert, is beyond words. Christmas carols were among the first hymns memorized. The story of the Babe of Bethlehem never lost its wonder and interest. Christmas stories, told by adults, never ceased to capture our attention. As children, we observed the programs of our Corps that reached out in love and caring for the people in our community. Just like the children today, we looked forward to gifts received from loving parents and friends, and when possible, expressed our love through our giving of gifts.

As a child, the wonder of it all was exciting, enriching and life changing. Later in life, I became a participant, and took advantage of the opportunity to express to all the love and mercy taught by Jesus. As I reflect on the past, I enjoy the memories that these experiences bring to mind. The message is not lost and we, God's children, must continue to avail ourselves of the wonderful opportunities that the Christmas season brings to us, and to again and again share the message of **John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life."** (New Revised Standard)

Lt. Colonel Ralph Stanley (R)

Welcome to the Fudges



Major Calvin grew up in Brighton and Major Loretta in St. John's. They were commissioned in 1975 in the Soldiers of the Cross Session and retired July 1 following 41 years of service. They had a variety of corps and divisional appointments. Corps appointments included Trout River, Hickman's Harbour, Chance Cove, Associate officers at St. John's Citadel, Lewisporte, Gambo, Bonavista and Corner Brook Temple.

On the divisional level Calvin served as the Divisional Co-ordinator for Natural Church Development, Prayer Co-ordinator and Divisional Secretary for Program for the NL East Division and Area Commander for the Western Region of the Province. Loretta's divisional appointments were Natural Church Development Co-ordinator, Public Relations Director at the NL East Division and the Director of Social Services for Corner Brook.

They are the proud parents of three children and five grandchildren. In retirement they look forward to spending more time with their family and to enjoy some travel. They are happy to be a part of the Conception Bay South Corps and look forward to making new friends and being available for ministry as God opens doors for them.

“The Mercers—Faithful Servants of God”



Jerry Mercer was born in Mundy Pond and vividly remembers the stories of the beginnings of The Salvation Army there. His parents were among the founding members of the Corps, which has since united with Duckworth Street Corps and is now renamed the St. John's West Corps. In fact, initial Sunday meetings were held in their home, so Jerry grew up as a Salvationist.

However, as a young man he drifted away from the ways of the Lord and did not attend any church for a while. In 1952, he married Shirley, who is also from St. John's. Shirley was a faithful member of another denomination, but they chose to be married in yet another church and in due time all five of their children were baptized there.

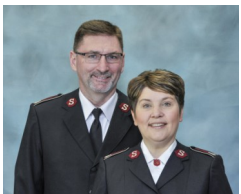
In 1988, after moving around to several communities, they settled in Conception Bay South. One Sunday evening, they made their way to The Salvation Army, and as Jerry heard again the beautiful melodies of the brass band, he realized they had returned home. Shortly after, he and Shirley joined the CBS Corps.

In 1990, Jerry was enrolled as a soldier and a few years later, was commissioned as the Flag Sergeant; a position he proudly held for thirteen years. He also served as the Property Sergeant. Today, he continues to greet the congregation to the services and helps out wherever he is needed. Shirley, in her own quiet way, supports him in every way. She is a faithful Home League member and a member of the Community Care Ministry.

They raised five sons and one daughter and have fifteen grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren, with whom they enjoy spending their leisure time.

Jerry has been a 'jack of all trades', working at different jobs. Over the years, he has hand made a number of pieces of child-size furniture for his young family. CBS Corps salutes Jerry and Shirley for their faithfulness, dependability and consistent support over the years. May God continue to bless them and use them in their special ministry.

Greetings from Our Divisional Leaders



It is our privilege to greet you during this special time of the year. We are grateful for the opportunity given to connect with you in this manner. Just recently we

had the privilege of visiting the CBS Corps for a Sunday morning worship service and we were thrilled to witness how God is doing His Kingdom work among you. God's presence was evident through the warm welcome, beautiful music, excellent preaching from God's Word, and the overall atmosphere of the Corps.

You are blessed with strong Corps Officers and local officer leadership that know and live out the mission of Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at this time. We look forward to seeing God's hand continually at work in the future and want to take this moment to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Eddie & Genevera Vincent, Lt. Colonels
Divisional Leaders for Newfoundland and Labrador

Greetings from the Town of CBS



The Christmas season is a time to reflect and celebrate our Saviour's birth; a special time to join together and rejoice that He came to earth.

On behalf of myself and my fellow Councillors, we hope 2017 will be a year of happiness for you and yours! All our Best Wishes for the season!

Mayor Steve Tessier

Congratulations!



Warren Butler is this year's winner of the Riley Mercer Pioneer Award. The recipient has a good positive attitude, is friendly, respectful of others and is a good Christian example. One half of the monetary gift he received, is to be a 'pay it forward'. Warren purchased a soap making kit. He then made and sold original hand soaps, which he named "Hope Soap". As a result he presented \$100.00 to the NL Autism Society.

A great idea and a job well done!

SCENES OF CHRISTMAS AND THE COMMUNITY



Donations of toys by CBS Kinsmen



Visit the manger at our church



Launching of Christmas Kettles



Christmas Carols to sick & shut-in



Randy, Renee, Madison and Mackenzie Butler delivered this year's collection of 612 shoeboxes to the Depot. Coordinator Coralie Dodge says a big thank you to all who helped and gave support.



Over 600 sunshine bags will be delivered to 21 care homes and 2 Retirement Centers.



Another great success! One of the beautiful display tables at the annual Fall Sale and Luncheon. Approximately \$5560.50 was raised by the Women's Ministries at CBS.



Each year, the Vacation Bible School Program supports a missionary project. This year "Cave Quest" supported a local charity. (Above), leaders Charlene Butler and Roma Whittle presented a check for \$1,000.00 to a representative from Ronald McDonald House in St. John's. This amount came from the donations of the children, their leaders, families and from fundraising within the group. Excellent job!



Following the passing of Retired RCMP Corporal John Parady, many donations were received in his honor. His family chose to purchase two brass instruments for CBS Corps, in his memory and for his love for music. They will be played by his grandson Joshua Parady and Ethen Holloway. John's wife Betty, (second from the right) also announced that two other instruments would be going to Kentville, N.S. Corps where their daughter and two grandsons are also band members. A beautiful tribute.



Luke Kennedy recently received his Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze Division) from Barry Petten, MHA District of CBS. Great job Luke! CBS Corps is very proud of you!

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