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**THE SALVATION ARMY**

William Booth, Founder  
 Clarence D. Wiseman, General  
 Leslie Pindred, Commissioner

CAIRNS Aplin Street

Residence REDACTED

Telephone

Box 58 P.O. 4870

6th June, 1978.

Colonel G. Peterson,  
 Field Secretary,  
 P.O. Box J6,  
Brickfield Hill 2000.

Dear Colonel,

I was most upset to receive your letter to-day asking us to stay on an extra week in our appointment. I feel we are being played around like pawns.

We have already packed our goods and they are to leave to-morrow. The organization is completed for the Red Shield Appeal. The only part not completed is that to date headquarters has sent us no media kits. As far as the Door Knock is concerned Team Leaders have been chosen and allocated their areas and the Business Appeal is completely organized and is under way. I do not think my presence or absence will effect the Appeal because the work is already done.

The date given to us as our final Sunday has been given to the Community and our final service announced. To change this would cause embarrassment to us as the Mayor, the R.S.L. President, the Red Shield Advisory Board members have all been invited as it co-incides with Social Services Sunday.

I was not going to complain, I intended to keep silent, but this is just too much. The Chief Secretary while at Cairns said, Laurie you are on the way up to a better appointment. What have I received? Second officer. What have I done wrong? The Commissioner said he wanted a young man in Prison Chaplaincy as the officers in that work were all elderly - after having been a Manager what do I get - second officer. Again I ask what have I done wrong?

Mackay Corps grew with souls, numbers, and financially up to thousands in Red Shield, self Denial and Corps funding. I went to a smaller corps in Cairns. This Corps has grown financially in the same way, and numerically with souls crowning the mercy seat and new soldiers both Y.P. and Senior have been made. This appears to me to be progress but our new appointment does not seem to reflect this.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SALVATION ARMY IN YOUR WILL

Others are also asking why? Even though I have a clear conscience of faithful service it is hard to face my fellow officers with the appointment given as a second officer after being a manager.

We have never refused an appointment, but I am not willing to stay on an extra week in Cairns. Our children are upset and unsettled enough at moving mid year and again between States which is most difficult and Gaye is in her Junior Year in Queensland which will be School Certificate in N.S.W., without us now telling them they have another week here before we move.

The Corps organization is prepared for 18th June. I've done my "homework" and am ready for a smooth hand over as usual. I feel it is most unfair to change our departure date at this late stage. We have also already organized our travelling arrangements and would have to change all these which we are not prepared to do.

I am sorry to have to reply in the negative but cannot see the urgency or need when everything is in hand and organized. We love our Saviour very much and will serve Him faithfully in our new appointment and souls are our objective. We were not going to "make any waves" and move into our appointment happily and will still do so, but this final letter had to be replied to as we feel we cannot comply with your instruction. I hope you will not hold this against us as we have tried to be honest. God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

*Lauri Wilson*

L.A. Wilson, Captain.