

LESLIE PINDRED  
COMMISSIONER



WILLIAM BOOTH, FOUNDER

ARNOLD BROWN, GENERAL

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Colonel G. Peterson,  
FIELD SECRETARY.

*The Salvation Army*

AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY

*Divisional Headquarters.*

*P.O. Box 86.*

*Rockhampton, Q'ld. 4700*

Have you read "The War Cry"

TELEPHONE 2 3083 (D.H.Q.)

FIELD SECRETARY (D.C.)

16 FEB 1978

SYDNEY

14th February, 1978

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Dear Colonel,

Last week end I visited Cairns and interviewed H.L.S. Mrs. Blandford, Corps Secretary Lyle Johnson and Major L.Cock individually. I was distressed by some of the comments of these comrades, and felt that nothing would be remedied without sincere, frank and open discussion with the Corps Officers.

On Sunday afternoon, I met the Census Locals and conducted the Census Meeting, following which I invited them to speak about the problems in the Corps. The discussion was conducted in an orderly manner, without any raised voices, and each spoke as they felt, and very well controlled. It concluded with the Corps Secretary voicing an expression of loyalty to the Corps Officers on behalf of the group, following which we all knelt in prayer and committed each other to the Lord.

You will want me to make my own personal assessment of the Corps situation as I now see it.

1. I feel that there is a break-down in communication between the Corps Officer and the Locals. This is largely on account of a suspicion which has resulted from Local Officers approaching Major L.Cock with their problems. Captain Wilson has jealously guarded the Corps Officer role.
2. The Corps Officer works well with the Red Shield Committee, but it would seem that much of the business decided is not relayed to the Local Officers. In other words Captain Wilson is very much a one-man band who works independently of the Locals.
3. It would appear that the Corps Officer cannot work with people unless they agree with him and condone all his actions.
4. Many of what appear to be exaggerated statements to the Press and Radio, the Corps Officer believes to be true.
5. There are some lovely new people attending the Corps who have every confidence in Captain and Mrs. Wilson, whilst older Salvationists are very critical of many of the Captain's actions.

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SUMMARY:

a. I do not think Captain and Mrs. Wilson have to come out of the Corps immediately but do recommend that they should not stay longer than this year, unless there are further internal Corps problems which necessitate a change of appointment sooner. Mrs. Wilson has not yet fully recovered from her 'spinal fusion.'

b. It is my belief that Captain Wilson would be best suited to either Prison and Court Work or Public Relations Department, and serious thought should be given now to accommodate this Officer who has good potential in either field.

c. I do not question the Captain's integrity or sincerity, but I do question his suitability as a Corps Officer, who needs to deal sympathetically with people.

I have endeavoured to be impartial in all my dealings with both the Corps Officers and the Local Officers, which I am sure has been appreciated by all concerned.

I submit the above, and await your comments.

God bless you.

Sincerely yours,

DIVISIONAL COMMANDER.