

ARNOLD BROWN,
General

ARTHUR LINNETT,
Territorial Commander



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THE SALVATION ARMY

(Founded 1865 by William Booth)

TERRITORIAL HEADQUARTERS

(Australia Southern Territory)

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Phone 63 4851

20th March, 1979.

CONFIDENTIAL

Colonel Wesley Harris,
CHIEF SECRETARY.

Dear Colonel,

re Bro. & Sis. Alan Smith.

Further to the matter relating to the reacceptance of the above comrades as Salvation Army Officers. Recognising your misgivings, and most certainly knowing my own fears, I have found it necessary to give a great deal of thought before replying either to the Divisional Commander, or making any recommendations as to their reacceptance.

We naturally do not despise or write off the individual, but must recognise the seriousness of past history and the pernicious evil of the problem. However, as our Orders and Regulations do not give us a great deal of guidance in this matter, my only recourse is to the Higher Authority, and in the Word of God I read that Paul does give a bright side to the picture, and points out that a person does not have to remain that way, but can be free, and that he can experience the forgiveness of God. We read in 1 Corinthians 6: 11, after mentioning some of the sins of the Corinthians, including homosexuality - "And such were some of you, but ye were washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. We also have another example in Paul's letter to the Colossians 3: 5 - 7. From these examples we see that Paul evidently believed strongly that this was curable.

A leading Psychiatrist in talking of this problem says:-
"Homosexual orientations are indeed amenable to profound change ... the Christian approach... is viable, and I have seen it successfully at work in the lives of people".



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Adelaide, September, 1980

The case in question, to our knowledge, has only had two lapses, and has shown nothing of this problem in recent years. I would suggest that before considering acceptance, we should seek the assurance from this comrade that he has the complete victory through Christ over this problem, that, "old things have passed away and that all things have become new".

As the Divisional Commander has made this proposal for reacceptance, I feel that we should write to him asking that he seek this assurance. This would, no doubt, be a delicate matter, but one that would have to be faced before we could forward Application Forms to these comrades.

I would be grateful for your comments on this assessment.

God bless you,
Yours sincerely,

(John H. Macintyre) Lt. Colonel
FIELD SECRETARY.