



Australia Southern Territory

# The Salvation Army

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## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**RE: CHARLES ALAN SMITH**

The following report is based on four meetings I have shared with Charles Smith at the C.W. Campbell Remand Centre, in my capacity of Prison Pastoral Care Officer from The Salvation Army.

Aged almost 65 years, Charles Smith was a broke, yet in a very real sense, relieved man I first met with him.

Inevitability had caught up with him. He was ready to accept the consequences of indiscretions, some of which allegedly occurred almost 40 years ago.

What initially impressed me was his willingness to admit to his offending behaviour and accept the consequences of his actions, rather than have people against whom he allegedly offended, being dragged through the courts, possibly having to relive past events.

"I just want to get things over and done with. I don't want people who have been hurt having to come to court", stated Charles.

In our 4 meetings at the Remand Centre, several important factors emerged. Firstly that Charles Smith's sexual problems seem to date back to very early in his life. In addition, as a child he was very self conscious. Apparently because of his bulk he was often the butt of ridicule. Academically he struggled, was usually older than others in his class and felt a misfit.

His father died when Charles was aged 14 years, throwing a big weight of responsibility on his shoulders to support his mother and siblings.

His mother remarried. She and her new partner had three children, meaning there were seven children to the two families. This turbulent marriage lasted five years before breaking up.

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**WILLIAM BOOTH**  
Founder

**PAUL A. RADER**  
General

**NORMAN HOWE**  
Territorial Commander

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Charles continued to support his mother until, at the age of 22 years, he entered The Salvation Army Officer Training College.

Charles states he was interfered with sexually at the age of 9 years. One cannot necessarily attribute later actions on his part to this incident. What can be stated though, is that throughout his teenage years and into early adulthood, he was clearly naive and exceedingly vulnerable in matters sexual.

Willingly or otherwise, he was taken advantage of by people older than himself, including an employer at a bakery in which he worked, and an older member of a Service Club, of which he was a member. Charles states that after the incident with the Service Club member he resigned his membership.

It seems significant that in his younger years, Charles found himself more comfortable in the company of older males. He found himself very self conscious and decidedly uncomfortable in female company.

Charles Smith married at the age of 35 years. Two children have been born to the marriage. His marriage remains intact and his wife has been supportive throughout the present ordeal through which they are passing.

Charles states his partner did not appear to derive any enjoyment or fulfilment in their intimate relationship. Neither, it would seem, did Charles. He states "We have not been sexually involved since 1968".

Charles acknowledges difficulties in this area, "Something about the female side of things that turned me off. I don't know why or what".

It would appear that Charles' wife was totally unaware of his propensity to look elsewhere for gratification.

Clearly though, because of his vocation and the responsibilities associated therewith, he was smitten with guilt and at the time of offending, deep unhappiness and remorse.

Clearly, when he entered the Training College for Officers, Charles was very conscious of the difficulties he was experiencing in the realms of sexual practise. Rather naively, he states, "I felt I would overcome the problem in College".

Obviously, for Charles, this problem, which has haunted him for so long, he has found it difficult, almost impossible, to share with others. He states that he attempted to communicate his problems with immediate superiors in The Salvation Army in 1964 and again in 1973. Those to whom he spoke appeared to have difficulty in knowing how to respond to his problem.

I am given to understand that, when he was found to have offended against a person or persons in 1973, he was dismissed from Officership. He successfully applied for reinstatement in 1979.

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The second important point which emerged from my meetings with Charles, was the deep sense of shame he felt in betraying the trust which had been placed in him by The Salvation Army. Clearly he found himself in a situation from which he could not, seemingly, extricate himself.

One can but try to imagine the torment of spirit with which he was afflicted, as he lived under the bondage of built, brought about by his practices. Not to mention the possible long term damage which may have been done to those with whom he involved himself.

The third, and in my view, very relevant point, is Charles' questioning of the nature of those laying complaints against him so many years after they had been allegedly offended against.

Seemingly complaints had been made to The Salvation Army on an early occasion and, has been mentioned, these complaints resulted in his dismissal from service. There, it seems, the matter was layed to rest.

I only raise this factor because, clearly, though Charles Smith is ready to accept the consequences of his actions, which he realises had the potential to hurt people in unimaginable ways, the timing of the complaints, so long after the offence, give rise for concern.

In summary, I can but state there is real and genuine remorse for any and all who have suffered by virtue of the devious actions of Charles Alan Smith. He realises the hurt he has inflicted people who were innocent.

He has inflicted hurt and shame upon his family.

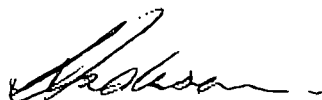
He realises his actions have the potential to bring the highly respected name of The Salvation Army into disrepute.

Yet, he is a person who is in need of support and assistance in dealing with what appears to be a very real life long problem.

To their credit, family and friends who have known Charles Alan Smith for a long time, yet who have not known the clearly deep inner struggles, the torment of spirit he has been undergoing for so long, remain loyal in their support of him.

I trust the contents of this report may be of assistance to the court.

Yours faithfully



FOR

Bruce W Foynes (Major)  
PRISON PASTORAL CARE OFFICER