

Responding to God's Call

Matthew 28:19-20 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." This is the Great Commission Jesus gave us before He ascended to heaven. Needless to say, you all know that this is the responsibility of every Christian. But how do we realize this mission? Different people may have different choices. As for me, I chose to become a Salvation Army officer.

To be precise, I did not choose to become an officer myself; rather, God has already chosen me. Only that it took many years before I was assured of His calling and was willing to respond.

Before I was assured of God's will, He allowed me to be transformed in various aspects including my personalities, values and ambitions. As it is said in Romans, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will." The period of preparation isn't short. It took me 9 years. With an extra 9 months of prayers, His wills were revealed. With all the preparation beforehand, I soon ensured that it was God's call.

During the time of preparation, God made me realize what things had eternal value. It is not personal achievement that makes one go down in history, nor soul-stirring romance, but each and every living soul. That was why I wanted to spend the rest of my life in soul-saving.

Joining the "Candidates' Fellowship" (now "Vocational Fellowship") is a very good training, where brothers and sisters are strengthened and empowered to put this mission into practice. We may not succeed every time when we preach the gospel, but the life of fellowship helps as we can support one another and share our experience. It also reminds me that this Army is still moving forward.

Captain Sara Tam
(Commissioned in 1999)