

**THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIAN TERRITORIES
POSITIONAL STATEMENT**

HEALING

Healing means being made well, physically, emotionally and spiritually. All healing is a gracious gift of our Creator. This may be by direct divine intervention, human agency, or a combination of both.

Salvationists are encouraged to pray for healing through both direct intervention and human agency. Though such prayers are offered with complete faith in the love and power of God, Salvationists do not claim, demand, or expect all sickness to be healed in this life.

Salvationists gratefully witness that God in His love and mercy does intervene and heal in ways beyond medical understanding. When this occurs they desire that God be glorified exclusively and that the healing be reported factually without exaggeration of the circumstances or its effects. When sincere prayer is offered and healing does not occur, Salvationists should never account for this by accusations of sin or lack of faith in the lives of any persons, but rather endeavour to accept it as the permissive will of a sovereign God.

The Salvation Army acknowledges that some people may be especially gifted by the Holy Spirit in the ministry of healing. They should be encouraged to exercise their gift, and to do so in the spirit of faith and humility. This kind of healing ministry, where present, should be integrated into the life of the corps but not be the central focus. A sensational and central emphasis on healing deflects attention to the outward, visible and temporary, to the possible neglect of the inward, invisible and eternal.

The Salvation Army is vitally concerned with the healing of people who have been damaged psychologically, so that they are enabled to overcome the past and grow emotionally and spiritually.

Wholeness, holiness and health are related. Wholeness includes the fostering of a balanced life-style of work and leisure, good human relationships, appropriate nutrition and nourishment of the spirit through prayer, worship and Christian meditation.

Approved IHQ, 3rd August 1994.