



General Annouces Change Of Leadership For Territory...

The General of The Salvation Army has announced changes of appointment affecting the leadership of the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory.

Commissioners David and Grace Bringans, currently Territorial Leaders of the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory are appointed Territorial Leaders of the Mexico Territory effective 1 July, 2009.

Lieut.Colonels Keith and Beryl Burrige are appointed Territorial Leaders of the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory and promoted to the rank of Colonel, effective 1 May, 2009.



Lieut.Colonels Keith and Beryl Burrige are to be the new Territorial Commanders of the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory

Majors Bob and Wendy Lee are appointed Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries respectively and promoted to the rank of Lieut.Colonel, effective 1 May, 2009.

Lieut.Colonels Keith and Beryl Burrige are originally from the United Kingdom and have served in various appointments in the United Kingdom Territory. Lieut.Colonel Keith Burrige is currently

the Chief Secretary of this Territory.

Majors Bob and Wendy Lee are Singaporeans and have previously served in both Singapore and Malaysia. Major Bob Lee is currently the Training Principal of this Territory's School for Officer Training.

Bintulu Lovehaven...

The Salvation Army Lovehaven Children's Home and Daycare Centre in Bintulu opened in November 2008 and has a capacity of 40. Presently there are 23 children in the programme (five residential and 18 day care). Captain Brenda Tan, Superintendent of the Home says that the five children admitted so far (all Iban) have all settled down well and have been enrolled in local schools.

The day care programme has been operating for a number of years and was previously called the Rainbow Centre. However, a decision to move to larger premises and commence a residential programme has enabled The Salvation Army to respond positively to requests for care for underprivileged children in the Bintulu area.

Opening Of New Wing...

A new wing was officially opened on Saturday 21 February, 2009 at The Salvation Army Children's Home in Ipoh. The dedication service was led by the Territorial Commander, Commissioner David Bringans. The major sponsors of the project, Mr. and Mrs. Koon Yew Yin, were special guests. Dato' Dr Majumber, Patron of The Salvation Army in Ipoh was joined by Mr Koon and Commissioner Bringans in cutting the ribbon for the opening ceremony.



Mr Koon Yew Yin receives a plaque of appreciation from Commissioner David Bringans

The new wing has specialized facilities for the older teenage girls enabling them to learn independent living skills in preparation for leaving the Home. The construction cost of the wing was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Koon. It accommodates up to 18 young girls and has its own kitchen, bathrooms and washing facilities. There is also a small multi-purpose hall which provides the Home a sheltered area for special events.

Officer Training Begins...

Cadets Andrew Lo and Fiona Loh commenced their training to become Salvation Army officers on 23 February, 2009. After residential training which lasts for two years, they will be commissioned as Lieutenants. Salvation Army officers are akin to pastors in a church and training includes studying for a degree in theology. The Territory's School for Officer Training is in Bukit Timah in Singapore.

Both Andrew and Fiona are former residents of the Army's Homes in Kuching. Andrew left the Boys Home at Jalan Ban Hock in 2003. Fiona left the Children's Home at Jalan Uplands in 2007. She has younger brothers and sisters still in the Homes.



A NEWSLETTER ABOUT THE WORK OF THE SALVATION ARMY - EAST MALAYSIA EDITION

APRIL 2009

THE SALVATION ARMY CHILDRENS HOME IN KUCHING

Young Girl Finds Comfort In Her New "Home"

Eleven-year-old Siew Lan lives at The Salvation Army Children's Home in Kuching. Her two brothers stay at the Boy's Home. Sadly, they lost their mother a few years ago in a tragic accident, and their plight was referred to The Salvation Army by a concerned member of the public. The three siblings were admitted to the Homes so that they could be given support and guidance.

The resilience of children to cope with difficult circumstances can be incredibly strong and Siew Lan has shown remarkable inner-strength to deal with her sad loss. Whilst still missing her mother, she has learnt to make the most of opportunities in her life. Siew Lan studies competently and is much admired as a trustworthy friend by the other children in the Home.

Staff and members of The Salvation Army provide comfort and loving care for children like Siew Lan. Helping children in the Homes overcome emotional trauma and sometimes psychological distress is a vital part of their caring. When these children are able to develop new and positive relationships with peers and trusted adults, it is an encouraging sign of healing having taken place.



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SEGARAM FINDS HIS HOME AT THE SALVATION ARMY



Late one afternoon in December 2006, a group of residents of The Salvation Army's Perak Home for the Aged in Jelapang heard their pet dog barking outside the window. Puzzled by this as the dog rarely barked at all, they called for Molly, the staff member on duty that day. Molly walked along the driveway, out towards the main gate following the dog who was still barking loudly. Whilst trying to hush the pet dog, she heard someone calling. She listened carefully and then heard the faint cry, "Help me, help me!"



Outside the gate, lying in the drain was an elderly man. His name was Segaram and he was blind.

Three years earlier Segaram had been working in a coffee-shop in Batu Pahat. He served drinks to the customers and helped the owner with odd-jobs around the premises. One particular day, Segaram was using a chemical spray to kill off the weeds and grass outside the coffee-shop. Suddenly there was a strong gust of wind which blew the chemical spray right into his eyes. Segaram immediately felt a stinging pain and by the next morning his eyes had swollen so badly he could not see. His

employer rushed him to the hospital, but within 24 hours Segaram was blind. He spent the next six months in and out of hospital as doctors tried to help him regain his sight, but alas he remained blind.

Segaram decided to return to his relatives in his home town of Ipoh to ask for their help. However, relationships with his family had been strained for a long time. Things went from bad to worse for Segaram when his family abandoned him in a bus station after deciding to migrate to another State.

A kind bus driver helped to send the desolate Segaram to a friend's house. Here, Segaram was able to find some temporary respite from sleeping



on the roadside. However, Segaram had to keep moving on as he had no income, and his dependency on those around him for guidance was perhaps too much for some to bear. Earlier on that afternoon in December 2006, Segaram met a stranger on a street in Ipoh. He pleaded with the stranger to help him find a place to stay. The man, and Segaram still does not know who it was, took him from Ipoh town to Jelapang, guiding him near to The Salvation Army's Perak Home for the Aged without saying a word.

Segaram did not know where he was or why the man had left him there. As he struggled to find his way he fell into a ditch. It was then that Segaram heard the dog barking nearby.

After helping Segaram into the Home and giving him some warm tea and a meal, Molly listened to his pitiful story. She made up a bed for him to stay the night and the next day he told his story again to the Home's Superinten-



dent, Madam Tong who agreed to admit Segaram as a resident of the Home. Segaram was so happy and delighted.

Over the next few months Madam Tong took Segaram to the General Hospital to visit the eye specialists. After careful examinations, doctors agreed that there was a good chance that Segaram's sight could be restored through surgery. They managed to help Segaram regain about 30% partial sight after several painful operations. He was delighted to be able to see again!

Today, Segaram can be seen happily wondering around Perak Home for the Aged, helping with chores and chatting with his new friends. Madam Tong, Molly and the residents are pleased that Segaram has found his happy home!

