

I'LL FIGHT!

While women weep, as they do now,
I'll fight;

while little children go hungry, as they do now,
I'll fight;

while men go to prison, in and out, in and out,
as they do now, **I'll fight;**

while there is a drunkard left,

while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets,

while there remains one dark soul without the
light of God,

I'll fight – I'll fight to the very end!

I'LL FIGHT!

I'LL FIGHT! 2007

While trafficked women weep, as they do now,
I'll fight;

while little children are orphaned by Aids, as they
are now, **I'll fight;**

while men die because their government spends
more on weapons than healthcare, **I'll fight;**

while there is a drug addict left,

while there is justice only for those who
can pay,

while there are Christians who see evangelism as
'somebody else's job',

I'll fight – I'll fight to the very end!

The 'I'll Fight!' speech has entered Salvation Army folklore. Thought by many people to have been given by Salvation Army Founder, General William Booth, at his last public appearance in 1912, there is actually no record of the speech in periodicals of the time. Six years earlier, an issue of *All the World* carried part of the speech, attributed to 'THE GENERAL', but not until 1927 were the words reported as being said at Booth's last appearance.

After that, however, other people who had been in the meeting at London's Royal Albert Hall also recorded that the General had given his 'I'll Fight!' speech on that famous day. No recording exists of the meeting so the exact source of the words remains a mystery. What is not in doubt, however, is the power and passion of the words and the fact that they remain as applicable to life in the early 21st century as they were 100 years ago.