

## The time in between A New Year reflection by General Lyndon Buckingham

### 中間時間 白禮頓大將之新年反思

At the time of writing this short reflection I am enjoying the days between Christmas and New Year. It's vacation time and the pace is much slower than normal. I am looking out over beautiful, rolling green hills and it is so quiet and peaceful. I can feel my mind and body going, 'aaaaahhhh'. Thank you, Lord, for days of rest and restoration.

我寫下這篇短短的反思時正好在聖誕節與新年之間；假期時候，步伐比平常緩慢，面前是美麗延綿的青山，多麼寧靜平和，身心泰然，呀！感謝主，有這休養生息的日子。

It is a perfect time for reflection. I thank God for his grace, mercy and love in my life and the lives of my family. I acknowledge his faithfulness to all his promises. I can see his hand throughout the events of 2023. I acknowledge, without hesitation, the impact of his sustaining grace during a year full of challenges and possibilities. God is good. I reflect on the power of prayer, the vitality of God's Word and the joy of fellowshiping with his people. I recognise the privilege of being engaged in the mission of God as expressed through my service in The Salvation Army. I also give thanks for the impact of Salvation Army ministry around the world. I am thankful for Salvationists globally who have served faithfully throughout 2023, many in extremely difficult circumstances. Your faithfulness and dedication is an inspiration to me. It also makes a difference in our world.

這是反思的最好時候，我感謝神在我生命裡和我家庭裡所賜予的恩典、憐憫與愛，我認知到祂信守祂所有的應許，在 2023 年發生的每件事上都看到祂的作為，我對祂在充滿挑戰與機遇的一年賜予保守的恩典毫無質疑，神真好。我反思禱告的能力、神話語的活力、還有與人團契的喜悅；我認識到我在救世軍的服事是有份參與神的使命的榮幸，我為救世軍的事工能在世界各地產生影響而感恩，也感謝全球救世軍人在 2023 年忠心事奉，有很多人甚至在極艱難的境況下；你們的忠心和委身也激勵了我，讓這世界不一樣。

The time 'in between' prompts some thought about the New Year. I know there are many people who face the year with a degree of anxiety, fear and uncertainty. The world is very troubled at present. Our news is full of reports that increase our concern and cause us to wonder what the year might bring for us all.

這一段「中間」的時間引發了對新年的一些思想，我知道有很多人懷著焦慮、恐懼和不安面對新一年，現在世局動盪，新聞滿是讓我們更加擔心的報導，不禁讓我們猜想這一年會帶給我們甚麼的情況。

I have been reflecting on some Scriptures I find both reassuring and motivating as I prepare to embrace 2024.

當我要迎接 2024 時，我在反思幾段使我安心和激勵的經文。

**Zephaniah 3:17 (New International Version):** 'The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.'

西番亞書 3:17（和合本）：「耶和華—你的神是施行拯救、大有能力的主。他在你中間必因你歡欣喜樂，默然愛你，且因你喜樂而歡呼。」

Lamentations 3:22-23: 'Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.'

耶利米哀歌 3:22-23：「我們不致消滅，是出於耶和華諸般的慈愛；是因他的憐憫不致斷絕。每早晨，這都是新的；你的誠實極其廣大！」

Isaiah 41:10: 'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.'

以賽亞書 41:10：「你不要害怕，因為我與你同在；不要驚惶，因為我是你的神。我必堅固你，我必幫助你；我必用我公義的右手扶持你。」

With promises that include his presence, salvation, love, strength and faithfulness, I am ready to embrace the challenges and the opportunities a new year offers. How about you?

有祂的同在、救恩、慈愛、能力和信實，在新一年我已準備好迎接挑戰和機遇，你呢？

Whilst the world may be full of uncertainty, our mission in the world as The Salvation Army remains very certain. Let's continue to be a people who love God supremely, always looking for opportunities to give him praise and credit for who he is and what he has done for us in Jesus. Let's always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us. We need a global Army bursting with people ready and willing to communicate the difference Jesus has made in our lives; that salvation is possible for the whosoever through faith in him.

世界可能充滿不安，我們救世軍的使命卻仍然堅定，讓我們繼續成為愛神為至高的人，常找機會讚美祂、祂的本質和祂在耶穌裡為我們成就的；常作準備解說我們心中盼望的緣由，我們需要一支全球大軍，由準備好願意分享耶穌改變我們生命的人組成的，無論何人憑對祂的信都可以得到救恩。

I want us to continue to demonstrate our love for God by loving others, especially the unloved, the vulnerable and those forced to the margins of society. Finding ways to care for others becomes a practical demonstration of the values of the Kingdom of God.

我希望我們繼續藉著對他人的愛，特別是不被愛的人、脆弱和被逼到社會邊緣的人，展現出我們對神的愛，設法關心他人成為展示神國價值的實際行動。

I encourage all of us to be very intentional in our discipleship journey in 2024, pursuing holiness in every area of our lives. Please do not underestimate the power and influence a holy life can have on those around you. A life lived to the glory of God and with a genuine desire to be the aroma of Christ in the world will have impact. Our individual contribution may be small, but the collective impact can, and will be, significant.

我鼓勵我們所有人在 2024 年特別著意在門徒歷程，在我們生活各方面追求聖潔，請不要輕忽聖潔生活對你週遭所產生的能力和影響，一個活出神的榮耀，真誠渴慕基督的香氣的生命會影響這個世界，我們個人的貢獻有限，但聚合起來的影響將非同小可。

The world needs the contribution we can make. We may be small in number, but we can and will be a mighty force for good when clear about our mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit and willing to get involved. Count me in!

這世界需要我們的貢獻，我們人數雖少，但只要我們有清晰的使命、有聖靈的能力和有委身的意向，我們可以成為一支強行善的軍隊，算我一份！

Grace and peace.

恩惠與平安



God bless you.

願神賜福你

**Lyndon Buckingham**

**General**

白禮頓

大將