

Colonel Wendy Morris – Testimony on God’s Calling

It all started a long time ago. I was six years old and in first grade when I realized I wanted to be Salvation Army Officer

Well, I didn’t exactly know that I was going to be an officer, I just knew that I loved Jesus, I loved The Salvation Army, and I wanted to be there all the time.

I was six years old and the teacher asked us, “What is your favorite day of the week?” I couldn’t imagine anybody would say anything other than Sunday.

Because I loved to be at the Army on the Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, certainly during the week. I loved being at the Army.

That was the beginning of what I believe is my calling to be a Salvation Army officer.

I wasn’t even saved yet. That happened four years later, when I was 10 years old.

The corps officers were away on holiday, and I realize that there weren’t going to be many people at the corps that night, but our family was there.

So I went to the corps. They didn’t have a speaker, but they left a movie for us to watch about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

It was narrated by Johnny Cash, and it told an amazing story.

I could not wait to get my 10 year old self to the altar, to ask Jesus into my heart.

I kept thinking if he could die on the cross for me, certainly I could give my life for him.

I didn’t know exactly what that meant, but I was beginning to learn.

I was a junior soldier, I grew up going to all the youth programs, learned how to play the cornet, because that’s what you do in the Army.

And then when I was 14, I went to music camp. I was introduced to the next place in my calling, my experience of knowing Jesus more.

Somebody introduced to me the idea of holiness, of living a sanctified life, of giving my whole life over to Jesus that he would have control over all of it.

Again, at 14, I don’t know that if I fully understood that then.

But again, it was another moment God planted in me a desire to know more about him so that I can serve him better one day.

I was very blessed to grow up in the corps where the adults allowed us young kids, young people, teen-agers to take part in the corps programs.

ウェンディ・モーリス大佐 召命の証し

救世軍の士官になりたいと思ったのは、小学校1年生、6歳の時でした。

士官になるというより、ただイエス様と、そして救世軍が大好きだったので、そこにいたいと思ったのです。

好きな曜日は？と先生に聞かれた時、日曜日でない日を答える人なんているんだろうかと思っていました。

日曜の朝も、夕方も、そして平日も、私は救世軍に行くのが大好きでした。

救世軍の士官としての召命はそこから始まったと思います。

救われたのはその4年後、10歳の時です。

小隊士官が休養で不在の時、あまり出席者がいないだろう夜の集会に家族で出ました。

メッセージの代わりに、イエス様の生涯、死と復活についての映画を見ました。

ジョニー・キャッシュのナレーションでした。

それを見た私は恵みの座に出るのが待ちきれなくなりました。

十字架の死が私のためなら、私もこの命をイエス様にささげたいと。

十分な理解はなかったと思います。

でもジュニアソルジャーとして、ユースプログラムに出席する中で、学びを深めていました。

そして14歳で参加した音楽キャンプで、イエス様をさらに知る次のステップを示されました。

自分の人生をすべて神様にささげて、イエス様に導かれるところの聖潔の人生を生きるということでした。

その時も十分な理解はなかったかもしれません。

けれども神様に従う備えとして、神様を深く知るように教えられるきっかけとなりました。

私の育った小隊は、若い人たちにいろいろな活動に関わる機会を与えてくれる、とても祝福される場所でした。

So I was the timbrel leader, and I got to help with the Sunday School class. Little by little, I was given more and more responsibility. Until one day, I was asked to speak on a Sunday night. I was so nervous about that. But I spoke – probably was about five minutes long. But I realized then that I loved study of God’s words. And I was ready to learn more about that.

Well, it was time to graduate from high school and go off to college where I went at the age 18, sure that one day regardless of what I studied, I would be a salvation army officer.

But then I met Steve Morris.

He was just...He was just exactly what I was looking for.

Well, I don’t know if I was looking for him, but I found him.

He was a salvationist, grew up in the Salvation Army family, his parents were officers and he was involved in the Salvation Army fellowship, that is how we met.

But it wasn’t long after our meeting that I realized he was not called to be a Salvation Army officer.

And thus the challenge began.

I was sure that God placed him in my life. He seemed just perfect for me.

But I also knew, that if he wasn’t called, I certainly have to follow my calling.

That was a struggle and a challenge. I can’t tell you that we did it very well during those years of university.

But after graduation when we went our separate ways, I was still holding on to the idea that one day we would re-establish our relationship.

I was now 22 years old and I was sitting in the Salvation Army meeting where there was going to be a call to officership.

And I sat with my friends and in fact I was watching their purses, their coats and jackets, because most of them were going to go up for the call to officership and we knew that they were going to training.

So I told them I would watch their things while they were gone.

They got up there, and there I sat in the row.

When one of the young people from my corps came and found me and said “aren’t you supposed to be up there?”

And I said these words. “I can’t go up there. I am dating Steve Morris.”

タンバリン隊のリーダーや日曜学校の先生など、少しずつ責任が与えられていきました

ある日曜日の夜の集会でお話をするように言われた時は、本当に緊張しました。

けれどその時に、み言葉を学ぶ喜びを経験し、もっと学びたいと思ったのです。

高校を卒業し、大学進学をする 18 歳の時、私は自分が何を勉強するにしても、いつかは士官になると確信していました。

そこでスティーブンに出会ったのです。

彼は理想の人でした。

理想があると思ってもない中、出会いました。

彼は救世軍で育った救世軍人で、両親は士官です。

救世軍の集まりで、私たちは出会いました。

しかし間もなく、彼は救世軍士官に召されていないことが分かりました。

そこからがチャレンジです。

私にとって完璧な彼は、神様が出会わせてくれたのではないか。

けれど彼がそうでなくても、私は自分の召命に応えなければ。

悩み苦しみ、大学での年月は辛く難しい時でした。

卒業して別々の道を進んでも、心のどこかで、またやり直せるかもしれないと思う自分がいました。

22 歳になった私はある救世軍の集会に出席し、士官となる招きがなされていました。

友だちと座っていた私は、荷物の見張り番をしていました。友人たちは皆、招きに応答し、士官学校に入るつもりだったので。

その間、荷物を見るからといって、私は椅子に座り、友人たちは前に出ていました。

その時、同じ小隊の若い人が私を見つけて言いました。「前に出ないの？」

私の答えは「行けないの。スティーブンと付き合っているから。」

The young person said to me, “I don’t think this has anything to do with Steve Morris.”

Those words were exactly what I probably needed to hear, but I didn’t really want to at that moment.

But it was in that moment that I realized my calling was my calling.

And regardless of what Steve Morris was ever going to do, it was up to me to make the decision to follow through what God had called me to years before

and to stand up and walk down that long aisle and go forward and say “yes, Lord, I will do this. I will do this for you. Because this is what you want me to do.”

I knew that after that weekend, a very difficult phone call was going to be required, because Steve was living long way from where I was living at that time.

So I picked up the phone, made the call, and he very quickly said “I have something that I need to tell you”.

Now I need to tell you, we hadn’t talked about officership in a very long time.

So this was going to be – probably the last call I thought we would have together.

Until Steve says, “I don’t know where you are regarding officership. But I had an experience in the last couple of months where I know without question that God is calling me to be a Salvation Army officer. I just don’t know where you are with that.”

Well, you could’ve knocked me over it at that point because I couldn’t believe. I was calling to say I am going to training in New York.

And he was asking, where we would go, to go training together. In those few moments, that we both came to the conclusion, separately, but reasonably at the same time.

I realize that God had called me, but wanted me to be called on my own.

Steve couldn’t go to training because I was called.

And I couldn’t follow him into something that I was not called to.

So we made the decision. Yes, we got married, and we ended up going to training in Atlanta, Georgia where we became officers.

And have served on great adventure ever since.

I am so grateful that God gave me this calling years ago.

I am so grateful that he gave me time to work it out over the years.

「スティーブンとは関係ないことだと思うけど」と彼は言いました。

それはその時は聞きたくない、でも聞く必要のある言葉でした。

その時、自分の召命は自分のものだ気づきました。

スティーブンが何をするにせよ、私は神様が何年も前からかけておられる声に従う決断をしなければいけない。

立ち上がって前に出て、「はい主よ、私はあなたが望んでおられることに応えます。」と言わなければと思いました。

週が明けたら辛い電話をしなければと思いました。当時スティーブンは遠く離れたところに住んでいたのです。

電話をかけると、すぐに「話したいことがあるんだ。」と言われました。

私たちは士官については長い間話していませんでした。

なので、これが最後の電話になるだろうという覚悟でした。

しかし彼は言いました。「神様がこの数か月、いろいろなことを通して、自分を士官に召していると示されている。ウェンディが今どういう状況なのか分からないけれど。」

驚きのあまり倒れるかと思いました。ニューヨークの士官学校に入ることを伝えるつもりだったのに。

それが一緒に訓練を受けるといった話になったのです。

それぞれ別の場所で、けれどほぼ同時期に、同じ決心をしていたのです。

神様は私自身からの応答を求められたのです。

スティーブンが私のために士官となることも、私がスティーブンのために自分の召しとは違うこともできません。

それから私たちは結婚して、アトランタの士官学校に入校し、そこから士官となりました。

そして素晴らしい冒険の旅を味わっています。

神様が何年も前から召命を与えてくださったこと、何年もかけて応答する備えをさせてくださったこと、

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve in an amazing adventure that he calls officership.

Now, I just need to get the adventure moving again, and get myself to Japan.

And when I do, I will look forward to sharing in what God is asking you to do even today.

God bless you today.

士官という素晴らしい働きを与えてくださったことを感謝しています。

冒険の続きを日本で見させていただきたいです。

神様が皆さんにどんな召しをかけておられるのかをお聞きするのを楽しみにしています。

神様の祝福をお祈りします。