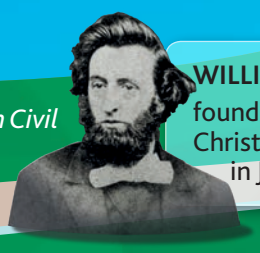
A steady path through a changing world

The world has altered beyond recognition since The Salvation Army was founded in 1865. This timeline shows some of the major events, discoveries and inventions of the past 150-plus years – during which time The Salvation Army, under 20 international leaders, has steadfastly maintained its mission to 'preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination'.

1865 – American Civil War ends



WILLIAM BOOTH
founded the East London Christian Mission in July 1865

1877 – Thomas Edison invents the phonograph (forerunner of the record player)

1878 – The Salvation Army takes on its current name

1903 – powered airplane invented by Wilbur and Orville Wright

1885 – first internal combustion engine automobile invented by Karl Benz

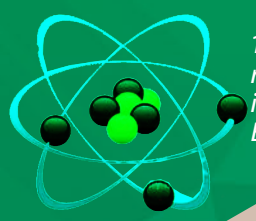
BRAMWELL BOOTH
became General in August 1912

1914 – First World War begins

1918 – First World War ends

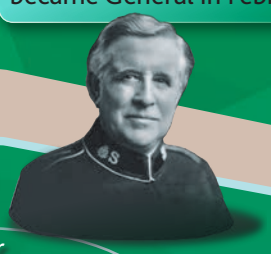
1924 – electro-mechanical television system invented by John Logie Baird

1928 – penicillin's antibiotic properties first observed by Alexander Fleming



1931 – electron microscope is invented by Ernst Ruska

EDWARD J. HIGGINS
became General in February 1929



1927 – quartz clock is invented by Warren Marrison and J.W. Horton

1933 – FM radio is patented by inventor Edwin H. Armstrong

EVANGELINE BOOTH
became General in November 1934

1939 – Second World War begins

GEORGE L. CARPENTER
became General in November 1939

1945 – the atomic bomb is developed by scientists from the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada

ALBERT ORSBORN
became General in June 1946

1945 – Second World War ends

1935 – Nylon, the first fully synthetic fibre, is produced by Wallace Carothers

1947 – the transistor is invented by John Bardeen , William Shockley and Walter Brattain

1951 – nuclear power is first used to produce household electricity, in Arco, Idaho, USA

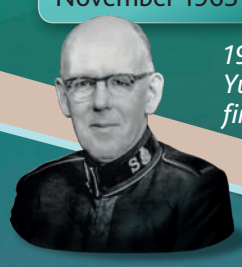
1953 – Edmund Hillary becomes the first man to reach the top of Mount Everest

WILFRED KITCHING
became General in July 1954

1956 – the hard disk drive is invented by IBM

1961 – Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space

FREDERICK COUTTS
became General in November 1963



1965 – The Salvation Army celebrates its centenary in London in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II

1969 – Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the moon

ERIK WICKBERG
became General in September 1969

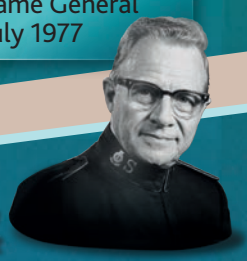
1970 – the pocket calculator is invented in Japan

CLARENCE WISEMAN
became General in July 1974

1971 – email is invented by Ray Tomlinson

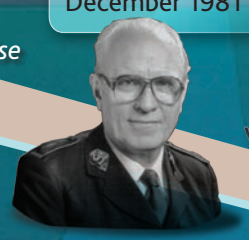
1975 – a test is performed between Stanford University and University College London (UCL), paving the way for what becomes the Internet

ARNOLD BROWN
became General in July 1977



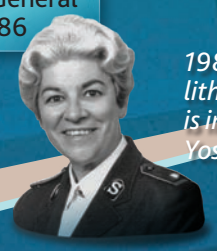
1978 – 'test-tube baby' Louise Brown is the first successful implementation of in vitro fertilisation (IVF)

JARL WAHLSTRÖM
became General in December 1981



1984 – the first commercially available cell phone, the DynaTAC 8000X, is created by Motorola

1985 – the first lithium-ion battery is invented by Akira Yoshino



EVA BURROWS
became General in July 1986

1989 – the Berlin Wall is torn down, signifying the end of Communist rule across eastern Europe

1990 – the World Wide Web is first introduced to the public by Tim Berners-Lee

1993 – MOSAIC, the first popular web browser is introduced

BRAMWELL TILLSLEY
became General in July 1993

PAUL A. RADER
became General in July 1994

1995 – the DVD – providing greater storage than CDs – is developed by Philips, Sony, Toshiba and Panasonic

LINDA BOND
became General in April 2011

ANDRÉ COX
became General in August 2013

2007 – first iPhone released by Apple

2005 – video-sharing website YouTube is launched

SHAW CLIFTON
became General in April 2006

JOHN LARSSON
became General in November 2002

2000 – widespread fear that a 'Millennium Bug' will cause technological breakdown proves largely unfounded

JOHN GOWANS
became General in July 1999

2016 – The Salvation Army begins work in its 128th country (Madagascar)

This artwork is taken from the *All the World* magazine April-June 2017 issue