

Start of the Army

A married couple lived in London 130 years ago. For the first 10 years of their marriage, William Booth, especially, was in a quandary: What was God calling him to do?

Then his wife, Catherine, a skillful Bible teacher, was invited to preach in London. While they were there, William took a late-night walk through the slums of London's East End. Every fifth building was a pub. Most had steps at the counter so little children could climb up and order gin.

That night, he told Catherine, "I seemed to hear a voice sounding in my ears, 'Where can you go and find such heathen as these, and where is there so great a need for your labors?' Darling, I have found my destiny!"

Later that year, 1865, the couple opened the Christian Mission in London's slums. Their life vision: to reach the "down-and-outers" that other Christians ignored. That simple vision of two people grew into the Salvation Army, which now ministers through 3 million members in 91 countries.

What is your vision? To those in Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home, the mission of ministering to the "down-and-out" – either by age or physical infirmity – brings great personal reward in their life's calling.

--Beecher Hunter