

SCENE I

(As overture begins, photos of Brengle, as well headlines of the highlights of his life come up on the screens. The backdrop is a giant video wall that changes as needed with scenes. At the conclusion of the overture, Brengle enters from rear of house singing.)

BRENGLE

TRUST, I WILL TRUST
ON JESUS ALL MY CARE IS LAID.
TRUST, I WILL TRUST
AND I WILL NOT BE AFRAID.

(As if interrupted) My goodness, you surprised me! *(Touches his heart)* My old heart doesn't take surprises as well at 71 as it did at 21, I tell you. I was just saying the other day, "If it weren't for my old heart, my old stomach, my old eyes, and my old ears, I would be a very well man indeed." Hallelujah!

Come sit with me for a moment while I catch my breath.

(Brengle sits on bench that has been placed on a lower stage from main stage.)

So, you're coming to the big retirement celebration? Whose? Why, mine, of course! Forty-four years of officership. Where does the time go? My mind tells me I'm much too young to be retiring, but my body tells me something very different!

Actually, I feel so sorry for folks who don't want to grow old, and who are all the time trying to hide the fact that they are. Why, I revel in my years. They enrich me. If God should say to me, "Samuel Logan Brengle, I will let you begin all over again, and you may have your youth back," I would say, "Dear Lord, if you don't mind, I would prefer to go on growing old!" *(Chuckle)* I would not exchange the peace of mind, the abiding rest of soul, the measure of wisdom gained from the sweet and bitter and perplexing experiences of life for all the bright and uncertain hopes and tumultuous joys of youth. Ah, Youth; believe it or not, I *was* young, once.

My pioneer ancestors settled in Kentucky and the Carolinas, but my father and mother struck out on their own and moved to Indiana. When I was only two; my father went off to fight in the Civil War. Wounded during the siege of Vicksburg, he returned home an invalid and shortly thereafter died. Three years later, my mother remarried – a doctor. He was a kindly enough man, but not very good when it came to matters of money, and because of that, we found ourselves poor. God bless him, thinking there was more money to be made in farming than medicine, we moved to Olney, Illinois, where we didn't find our fortune, but, at the age of thirteen, I did find Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.

(lights up on stage, scene is the inside of a little country church)

While listening to the minister at a revival service, this great desire came over me, and I said, "I want to become a Christian!"

(Lights down on Brengle. Sammy makes his way to the altar, prays and then keeps looking heavenward. He does this several times. His mother comes and kneels beside him.)

REBECCA

Sammy, what are you looking at?

SAMMY

Oh, Mother, I've prayed to God and now I'm waiting for a sign that he's heard me. You know, a lightening bolt or angel choir singing.

REBECCA

Sammy, you've come forward five nights in a row now and given yourself to God. That's all you have to do. Now, trust. When you trust, the light will shine in your heart. It's Christmas Eve, Sammy. Christ is born anew in your heart. Now claim it!

(Music cue)

VILLAGERS

GLORIA! GLORIA! GLORY! GLORIA!
GLORIA! GLORIA! GLORY! GLORIA!
CHRIST IS BORN! CHRIST IS BORN!

SAMMY

WHAT IS THIS FEELING, WHY IS MY HEART SO LIGHT?
MY HEAD IS REELING; I'M ABOUT TO TAKE FLIGHT!
ALL OF THE PAIN, ALL THE GUILT HAS BEEN LIFTED;
IT'S REARRANGED; MY WHOLE COURSE HAS BEEN SHIFTED.
THE OLD IS NOW GONE, I HAVE A NEW START.
WHAT IS THE REASON?

VILLAGERS

WHAT IS THE REASON?

SAMMY

IT'S CHRISTMAS IN MY HEART!

IN MY HEART IT IS CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS MEANS A NEW START.
CHRISTMAS MEANS GOD IS WITH US AND THE DARKNESS MUST DEPART!
IN MY HEART IT IS STARTING, STARTING NOW LIKE A SONG.
GOD'S GREAT PEACE HE'S IMPARTING AND TO HIM I BELONG!

(During this segment, everyone puts on scarves, coats, etc. The backdrop changes from chapel to outdoors; it's evening. Lights up on the floor of the arena to reveal a skating rink and a group building a snowman. It is snowing on the screen and auditorium.)

VILLAGERS

GLORIA! GLORIA! GLORY! GLORIA!
GLORIA! GLORIA! GLORY! GLORIA!
CHRIST IS BORN! CHRIST IS BORN!

SAMMY

WHAT IS THE REASON, WHY DO I WANT TO SING?
NO MATTER THE SEASON, IT'S ALWAYS LIKE SPRING!
HIS LIGHT HAS SHONE, ALL THE DARKNESS IS SCATTERED;
HIS BLOOD ATONES AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!
HIS JOY IS MY OWN, NONE CAN TEAR US APART.
WHAT IS THE REASON?

VILLAGERS

WHAT IS THE REASON?

SAMMY

IT'S CHRISTMAS IN MY HEART!

ALL

IN MY HEART IT IS CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS MEANS A NEW START.
CHRISTMAS MEANS GOD IS WITH US AND THE DARKNESS MUST DEPART!
IN MY HEART IT IS STARTING, STARTING NOW LIKE A SONG.
GOD'S GREAT PEACE HE'S IMPARTING AND TO HIM I BELONG!

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IN MY HEART IT IS CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS MEANS A NEW START.
CHRISTMAS MEANS GOD IS WITH US AND THE DARKNESS MUST DEPART!
IN MY HEART IT IS STARTING, STARTING NOW LIKE A SONG.
GOD'S GREAT PEACE HE'S IMPARTING AND TO HIM I BELONG!
IT'S CHRISTMAS IN MY HEART!

SAMMY

IN MY HEART!

SCENE II

(Cross-fade to Brengle)

BRENGLE

Very early in life, my mother instilled within me a love for books and words. While my schoolmates memorized their ABCs, I read *Pilgrims Progress*, *Ivanhoe*, *Les Miserables*, Webster's *Unabridged Dictionary* – anything to quench my insatiable appetite for learning...oh, and history – especially history!

(Cross-fade. The scene is young Sammy, sitting in a chair, reading a huge book. His playmates are trying to cajole him to come out and play.)

YOUNG FRIEND 1

Sammy, all you ever do is read! What is it this time? History?!

YOUNG FRIEND 2

Come on outside and play, Sammy. That's *boring!*

SAMMY

Boring!? There's nothing boring about filling your mind with wonderful thoughts. You see this history book? One day I'm going to be in a book like this. One day I'm going to be famous!

YOUNG FRIEND 1

Famous for what; reading more books than any living person?

YOUNG FRIEND 2

Probably for being the most boring kid to ever live!!!

(His friends all laugh. They pantomime trying to get Sam to play, but to no avail while lights come back up on Brengle and his dialogue takes place over the silent action.)

BRENGLE

Books! Words! How I loved the sounds of words, combinations of nicely arranged words. I liked the look of them on paper; and I liked the purpose of them – to make people know what exactly is in the minds and hearts of others. I was fascinated by the fact that thoughts could leap back and forth, enrich, define and grow; pulse with purpose and not be wasted. Learn. Learn. Learn. That became my life's ambition.

(Scene – cross fade, lights down on Brengle, down on Sammy and friends, but up on Young Adult Sam and friends, who are stage right, similarly dressed. Sam is seated in a similar chair, holding the same book as Sammy, practicing his elocution lesson [something similar to Steve Carell in Bruce Almighty], when his friends, who have been watching him from just off the side, sneak up on him and scare him, then burst into laughter)

FRIEND 1

What was that all about?

SAM

It's called elocution.

FRIEND 2

Elo-what???

SAM

Elocution: the art of perfecting one's speech.

FRIEND 2

Looks more like electrocution, if you ask me!

(Two friends laugh)

FRIEND 1

Sam, if I didn't know better, I'd think you were possessed by a demon or evil spirit!

SAM

The only spirit possessing me is the Spirit of Ambition! And there's nothing wrong with that. I've decided to make my mark on the world as a lawyer!

FRIENDS 1 & 2

A lawyer?

FRIEND 1

Now Sam, why would anyone want to be a lawyer?

FRIEND 2

Hey Sam, what's the difference between a lawyer and a catfish?

SAM

I don't know, what's the difference between a lawyer and a catfish?

FRIEND 2

One's a scum-sucking bottom dweller...and the other's a fish! *(Friends laugh)*

SAM

Laugh all you want, but I'm telling you, words are power and only the powerful will inherit the future. Listen boys, it's the Golden Age! A man can make his fortune by the words he speaks. Small-minded people can be dazzled and dizzied by verbal eloquence. The most popular man in any circle uses words profusely, with a colorful, stylized, bombastic and bounteous vocabulary.

FRIEND 2

Could somebody translate that into English for me? *(They laugh)*

FRIEND 1

Okay Sam, no need to go down this road again. We're going to leave you to your thoughts...and words! Don't stay up too late studying. (To Friend 2) His lights are on when we go to bed and on when we wake up in the morning.

FRIEND 2

Yeah, it's like he must own stock in a candle factory or something!

SAM

Go, go, I'm fine. I have plenty to keep me busy. To me, this *is* fun. See you tomorrow.
(They leave)

SAM

Never thought they'd leave; now to the important work.

(He looks around to make sure no one is there. He then goes to the pump organ, does some vocal warm ups & strikes a chord.)

(Music Cue)

MY VOICE MUST SOUND JUST LIKE AN ORGAN, DEEP AND FULL OF TONE;
RICH AND FILLED WITH TEXTURE, NOT A BORING SONG THAT DRONES;
A VOICE THAT WHEN IT'S HEARD WILL SEND A SHIVER UP THE SPINE
AND EVERYONE WHO HEARS IT WILL DECLARE, "MY, HOW DIVINE!"

A MESMERIZING VOICE IS WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE ONE GREAT;
A PERSON WHO JUST WHINES WILL NEVER WIN HIS FIRST DEBATE.
SOME CAN RECITE THE ALPHABET AND CAUSE THE WORLD TO WEEP;
WHILE OTHERS WITH A LESSER VOICE, WOULD PUT THE WORLD TO SLEEP.

*IN ORDER TO COMMUNICATE, A PERSON MUST ARTICULATE
AND NOT TO SELF-HUMILIATE, ONE ALWAYS MUST ENUNCIATE
AND SPEAK THEIR WORDS QUITE CLEARLY!*

*AND LET ME JUST REITERATE, AND SIMPLY NOT INSINUATE
AND CLEARLY I MUST VALIDATE AND NEVER WOULD I OVERSTATE
THAT POINT; I SPEAK SINCERELY.*

*AND IF THE WORLD I'D DOMINATE, AND BE A WORDSMITH HEAVYWEIGHT
THEN EVERY FOE I'LL DECIMATE AND BE THE ONE THEY CELEBRATE
THE ONE THEY LOVE SO DEARLY!*

SO UNTIL THEN I'LL PRACTICE AND PERFECT THE ART OF SPEECH
AND SHOW THE WORLD JUST WHAT I'VE GOT, A THING OR TWO I'LL
TEACH.
AND ONE DAY SOON I WILL BE KNOWN, KNOWN FROM THE NORTH TO
SOUTH;
AND HAVE MY NAME ON EVERY LIP, SPOKEN FROM EVERY MOUTH.

THIS IS MY LIFE'S AMBITION.

SCENE III
(Cross fade to Brengle)

BRENGLE

And study, I did! I studied oratory and orators. I formulated and rehearsed, winning prize after prize after prize. As a student at DePauw University, I was invited to join the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and, almost immediately, chosen to represent my school in state debating competitions. I crushed the opposition with ease, concluding it was a great way to become famous.

The conversion experience that was mine at 13 had never left me. I even felt God calling me to the ministry, but I dug my heels in deep! My ambition to be a public speaker, to prepare and present speeches, and to win oratorical contests consumed me. I would have rather died than lose. My love for the applause and acclaim that winning brought, kept me studying law.

I still attended Bible studies and theological discussions, but it was merely intellectual stimulation - until a fellow student told me about a special experience - he called it "Holiness." His very life gave credence to its power! What an intriguing idea - that every aspect of one's life could be brought into captivity to God. Still, my ambition to be famous held sway over every other consideration. And the idea of holiness might have remained only an idea, had my fraternity not been in danger of being shut down because of a serious infraction. In dire need of representation, they turned to me. I was sent to Providence, Rhode Island, to speak on their behalf.

(cross fade to center stage. Sam is alone in his hotel room)

SAM

What kind of a mess have I gotten myself into? The fraternity's future rests in my hands. Tomorrow morning I stand before the national convention to defend the honor of Delta Kappa Epsilon. Everyone is against us. No one will vote in our favor.

What am I going to do? What am I going to say? How can I wow them with my words and powers of persuasion, when all of a sudden, I don't feel so powerful and confident? This should be a piece of cake for me...but it's not. I'm scared. I'm afraid. All of a sudden I feel inadequate to the task.

(Falling to his knees)

Lord, what's happening? For the first time in my life, words fail me. I don't know what to say. God, I'm sure you really get tired of people who only call on your name when they want something, but if you could just tolerate one more request. Actually, I don't know what to ask, except - please, help me tomorrow. Lord, I don't like this feeling of not being in control. You know how much I love public speaking. You know how alive it makes me feel to stand before a crowd and...what's happening?

Lord, I do love you and I know my sins are forgiven, so why don't I have peace in my heart? I confess that I've known most of my life that you were calling me to some special work, but Lord, what could it be? The only thing I'm halfway good at is standing in front of a crowd of people and making speeches. But how could you use that? Wait a

minute; it's becoming all too clear now. Lord, you would trust me to preach your Word? You want me to preach? I did not see that one coming!

Okay, here it is: Lord, I need your help to win this case tomorrow, but win or lose, I'll preach or do whatever it is you want me to do. I don't care about being famous. I don't care about being rich. All I care about is doing your will and walking in your way.

(Cross fade to Brengle)

BRENGLE

Well, the next day, the Lord helped me. Not only did I *not* meet with any opposition, but those who just the previous day said they would fight me tooth and nail, stood to support the reinstatement of Delta Kappa Epsilon.

Intending to make good on my promise to God, I started right away and became a circuit riding preacher, pastoring four churches. After graduating from DePauw, I entered Boston University School of Theology. There, I came upon the writings of an English-woman, who, with her husband, had recently founded a novel religious organization called The Salvation Army. This woman, Catherine Booth, wrote about something called a clean heart...holiness. There it was again! I began to read everything I could on the subject. I began to hunger for this experience that would deliver me from pride, selfish ambition, from myself. As I read of the attributes of Jesus, I saw his humility, and my pride; his meekness and my temper; his lowliness and my ambition; his purity and my uncleanness; his selflessness and my selfishness; his holiness and my unholiness. Taking my eyes off everyone but Jesus, I came to loathe myself. A fierce battle raged for quite sometime.

(Cross fade to Sam)

SAM

(On the floor in his bedroom)

Lord, I want to be an eloquent preacher, but if by stammering and stuttering I can bring greater glory to you than by eloquence, then let me stammer and stutter. (Pause)

Lord, I am willing to appear a big blunder and a complete failure if only you will cleanse me and dwell in me! (Pause)

Lord, if you will give me a clean heart, I will give your people the unadorned truth always! (Pause)

(Picking up his Bible and turning the page.) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." He is faithful. He is faithful!!! That's it! I just have to trust that God is faithful! Lord I believe Your Word! I believe that you are faithful and will cleanse my heart. Lord, I receive the gift of Your Holy Spirit! (Sam paces back and forth praising the Lord)

If I don't tell someone about this, I think I'll explode!

(Scene change – outdoors, Boston Common. Sees a friend and runs to him.)

George, George you won't believe it! I can scarcely believe it myself.

GEORGE

Slow down Sam before you have a heart attack.

SAM

(As Sam speaks, he begins to catch the attention of those around him.)

Oh, my heart has been attacked alright...attacked by love, God's pure, sanctifying love! I've been praying for God's holiness to reign in my heart. Well, this morning, I received the blessing of holiness!

GEORGE

Well, Hallelujah, Sam! Hallelujah! That's something too incredible to *not* share!

(As Sam sings, people begin to gather)

SAM

I WOKE UP THIS MORNING WITH A HUNGER AND A THIRST;
AND AS I READ MY BIBLE, I THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD BURST;
FOR THE LIFE TO WHICH YOU HAVE CALLED ME,
YES A LIFE THAT'S TRUE TO GOD.
'CAUSE I'VE REALIZED LORD, I'M NOTHING,
NO NOTHING BUT SOME SORT OF FRAUD!

THEN THE HOLY SPIRIT STARTED, STARTED TO TAKE, TAKE CONTROL;
THEN HE PURIFIED MY HEART AND SANCTIFIED MY SOUL!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU FATHER FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR SPIRIT IN ME!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU FATHER FOR THE SPIRIT THAT SETS ME FREE!
YOU'VE GIVEN ME A NEW AMBITION,
A HOPE AND A SANCTIFIED MISSION,
A MISSION THAT COMES FROM ABOVE,
AND IT'S A MISSION OF PURIFIED LOVE!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU FATHER FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR SPIRIT IN ME!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU FATHER FOR THE SPIRIT THAT SETS ME FREE!

THANK YOU FOR THE SUN IN THE SKY!
THANK YOU FOR THE CREATURES THAT FLY!
THANK YOU FOR THE FOLK ON THE STREET!
THANK YOU FOR THE GRASS 'ROUND MY FEET!
THANK YOU FOR THIS LOVE THAT I FEEL!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPIRIT'S SEAL!
THANK YOU FOR THE TRINITY!
THANK YOU 'CAUSE YOU SANCITIFIED ME!
(REPEAT)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
I WANT TO THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU FATHER FOR THE GIFT OF YOUR SPIRIT IN ME!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU FATHER FOR YOUR SPIRIT THAT SETS ME FREE!
FOR YOUR SPIRIT THAT SETS ME FREE!
YES, YOUR SPIRIT HAS SET ME FREE!
SET ME FREE!

SCENE IV
(Cross fade to Brengle)

BRENGLE

The Salvation Army had recently opened work in Boston and announced that the international head of the movement, General William Booth, would be conducting a series of meetings. Ministers and seminary students came to hear him speak. I remember the door of the sanctuary opening and the lean, thin form of a man walking through it. His long beard was flowing and his dark blue military tunic was open, exposing a flaming red Guernsey on which was written the words: BLOOD AND FIRE. Bursting into tears at the sight of him, I clung to his every word. I knew God was calling me to be an evangelist, and as I shook his hand at the conclusion of the meeting, I found myself whispering, "I wish I could join you."

However, General Booth returned to England and I went back to my studies. Then one day, Clement Studebaker, the millionaire wagon and motor car builder, surprised me with a visit. He had built a large, new church for the wealthy, upper-class of South Bend, Indiana.

(Cross fade to stage; Sam and Studebaker)

STUDEBAKER

Reverend Brengle, what I'm offering you is a-once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. How many other twenty-four year olds do you know that have ever been given a chance like this? Skip all those poor church appointments with their paltry memberships and ignorant congregants and right away preach to a crowd of significance. Oh, and money! Don't forget about the money the pastor of Studebaker Church will earn. I'm quite sure with all your studies you've accumulated a little debt. I assure you the salary my congregation can offer you will be far greater than any you'll command for years. And don't forget the prestige that being the pastor of a church such as mine will bring. Son, you can have it all: status, fortune, acclaim! I've chosen you to pastor my church.

SAM

Oh, Mr. Studebaker, this is an incredible offer...beyond comprehension. But in all fairness to you and your church, I need pray about this. I need to know this is God's will for my life. You will have my answer very soon.

STUDEBAKER

Reverend Brengle, I'm surprised! I took you to be an ambitious man. Don't take too long. Offers like this are few and far between, I assure you. You'll wake up one day and kick yourself across the room if you allow an opportunity like this to escape you. Don't be a fool, Reverend.

(Cross fade to Brengle)

BRENGLE

I agonized in prayer about the proposal, but God's calling to be an evangelist was too clear. A few days later I sent Mr. Studebaker a letter declining his kind and generous offer. I knew I was called to be an evangelist, but just exactly how that calling was to be fulfilled, was still unclear – it was in God's hands.

(Cross fade to stage. Sam is in his room reading when Friend 3 comes running in)

FRIEND 3

Sam, you'll never believe what I have just seen and heard. Honestly, you'll never believe it unless you see it yourself. I've just heard this wonderful young woman preacher.

SAM

A woman preacher? How scandalous! How interesting! I'm not so...

FRIEND 4

(Running in and interrupting)

Sam, Sam, have I got the girl for you!

SAM

Let me guess, she's a preacher.

FRIEND 4

Wow! How'd you know that? You got the gift of prophecy now? (He sees Friend 3)
Oh, I see, I've just been beaten to the punch.

FRIEND 3

Nothing new there!

SAM

Well, go on, what about this woman preacher that I *have* to meet?

FRIEND 4

She's Miss Lily Swift of The Salvation Army.

SAM

The Salvation Army? Well, this is getting more interesting by the moment! Anyone up for a field trip? I think we all need to go hear this Miss Lily Swift of The Salvation Army proclaim the Good News!

(Scene – cross fade to small church. The boys enter and listen.)

LILY

The Children of Israel were in a difficult place with an apparently impassable sea before them, and Pharaoh's army, pursuing them from behind, when God, through Moses gave a seemingly impossible command: 'Go forward!' "What did you say?" responded the Children of Israel, "Go forward? Ah, Moses, apparently the bricks of Egypt aren't the only things full of straw...so is your head!" (The crowd laughs.)

Comrades, it was sure death at the hands of the Devil's army if they did not obey and sure death in the Sea if they did. Can't you imagine their despair when they marched down to the shore that morning? You know what happened, don't you? God opened the way! And so He will for you.

When you set out to walk in the way of Holiness, he will make you able to go, and will either alter your circumstances, or make you superior to them.

(Lily begins pantomime of preaching and the boys turn to Sam.)

FRIEND 3

Have you ever heard a woman, or anyone, for that matter, preach with such passion and conviction? (Sam is entranced)

FRIEND 4

Have you ever heard the gospel preached with such depth and simplicity?

FRIEND 3

What do you know about depth? You're about as deep as a frying pan! (They both notice Sam in his trance-like state)

FRIENDS 3 & 4

(Waving a hand in front of his face) Sam! Sam, are you alright?

SAM

(Standing)

Brothers, I believe the Lord is going to give me that woman to be my wife!

FRIENDS 3 & 4

What?!?!

SAM

I'M GONNA TO MARRY THAT GIRL!

FRIEND 3

What did you just say?

SAM

I'M GONNA TO MARRY THAT GIRL!

FRIEND 4

Are you crazy?

SAM

YOU CAN CALL ME CRAZY!
YOU CAN CALL ME SILLY!
BUT I'M TELLING YOU BOYS,
I'M GONNA MARRY MISS LILY!

WHEN WE WALK DOWN THE AISLE,
THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD'S GONNA SMILE!
THE ANGELS UP IN HEAVEN WILL ALL BEGIN TO SING;
THE BELLS IN THE CHURCH STEEPLES WILL PEAL FORTH AND RING!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, THAT I'VE LOST MY MIND.
BUT THAT IS'NT IT, IT'S MY HEART I CAN'T FIND!

I'M GONNA MARRY THAT GIRL!
I'M GONNA MARRY THAT GIRL!
YOU CAN CALL ME CRAZY!
YOU CAN CALL ME SILLY!
BUT I'M TELLING YOU BOYS,
I'M GONNA MARRY MISS LILY!

I'VE PRAYED LONG FOR THE RIGHT MATE,
AND SHE'S A STRONG CANDIDATE!
SHE SEEMS REALLY SMART AND IS DEFINITELY WITTY!
EVEN IN THAT DRESS SHE IS INCREDIBLY PRETTY!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, THAT I'VE LOST MYMIND.
BUT THAT IS'NT IT, IT'S MY HEART I CAN'T FIND!

FRIENDS

YOU CANNOT MARRY THAT GIRL!
YOU CANNOT MARRY THAT GIRL!
YES WE THINK YOU'RE CRAZY,
YES WE THINK YOU'RE SILLY,
AND WE'RE TELLING YOU SAM
YOU CANNOT MARRY MISS LILY!

SAM

I'M GONNA MARRY THAT GIRL!
I'M GONNA MARRY THAT GIRL!
YOU CAN CALL ME CRAZY
YOU CAN CALL ME SILLY
BUT I'M TELLING YOU BOYS
I'M GONNA MARRY MISS LILY!

FRIENDS

YOU CANNOT MARRY HER!
YOU'RE ACTING CRAZY, SIR
YES WE THINK YOU'RE CRAZY
YES WE THINK YOU'RE SILLY
AND WE'RE TELLING YOU SAM
YOU CANNOT MARRY MS. LILY

SAM

WE'LL LIVE IN A HOUSE WITH A WHITE PICKET FENCE
HAVE LOTS OF KIDS, SEE IT ALL MAKES SENSE!
I'LL PASTOR A CHURCH AND OUR LIVES WILL BE NICE.
WE'LL GROW OLD TOGETHER, IT WILL BE PARADISE!

FRIEND 3

Come on Sam, be reasonable!

FRIEND 4

You've never met; she doesn't even know your name!

SAM

I'M GONNA MARRY THAT GIRL!
I'M GONNA MARRY THAT GIRL!
YOU CAN CALL ME WACKY!
YOU CAN SAY I'M DERANGED!
YOU CAN CALL ME QUACKY,
AND SAY THAT I'M REAL STRANGE!

YOU CAN CALL ME CRAZY!
YOU CAN CALL ME SILLY!
BUT I'M TELLING YOU BOYS,
I'M GONNA MARRY MISS LILY!
I'M GONNA MARRY THAT GIRL!

FRIENDS

YOU CANNOT MARRY THAT
GIRL!

(Cross fade to Brengle)
SCENE V

BRENGLE

The next morning I wrote Miss Swift a letter to that effect. Now, while I was certain Lily was the woman God intended me to marry, she was not. As a matter of fact, when I declared my love for her and asked her to marry me, she replied:

(Cross fade to Lily)

LILY

You are surely under a spell, an illusion! All my sanctified commonsense says loudly and clearly, “You must *not* marry him.” Sam, some day you will be glad that I couldn’t think as you did, that I kept you free. I am sure that God means better things for you. Please ask Him, as I do, to set you free. You should not waste your life.

And what about my own soul? I Corinthians 7:34 says: “A married woman cares for the things of this world, *and* that she may please her husband.” I am sure that if I should marry you, I would become worldly and always be thinking about how to look young and as nearly pretty as I could, just to please you. I should surely in that way put you before God, and I dare not risk that.

(Cross fade to Brengle)

BRENGLE

Even that beautifully constructed argument could not deter me. From the moment I saw her, I was captured! She was earnest. She was humorous. She was intelligent. She was eloquent. *She was an angel!* She was the answer to my prayer, “Lord, you choose a wife for me. The only thing I ask is that she love you supremely, for then I am sure she will always love me.”

As my love deepened for Lily, my whole heart went out for her. I did not want to die for her, but to live for her. I no longer thought of what she might bring or give to me, but only of what I might give to and suffer for her. I wanted only to put my arms about her, comfort her, provide for her, protect her, bear her burdens, be her shield, and receive every blow of adversity or sorrow or misfortune that might befall her into myself. Without realizing it, I had entered the world of sacrificial love and utter devotion.

We were married on May 19, 1887, in the library of her parent’s home.

(Cross fade to Sam and Lily, in uniform. A small group of family and friends are in attendance, some in uniform and others in civilian clothing)

SAM
ON THIS DAY, I BELIEVE GOD'S WILL IS DONE.
LILY
ON THIS DAY, I BELIEVE WE TWO ARE ONE.
SAM/LILY
EVERMORE ENTWINED, THE HAPPINESS WE'VE SEARCH FOR NOW WE FIND
SAM
ON THIS DAY
LILY
ON THIS DAY
SAM/LILY
GOD BLESS OUR UNION ON THIS DAY.

(Pantomime of wedding)

CHORUS
ON THIS DAY, IN THEIR HEARTS THE SUN WILL SHINE.
ON THIS DAY, A MELODY THEY BOTH WILL FIND.
LORD OF LOVE PLEASE BLESS THE LOVE THAT IN THIS PLACE THEY NOW
CONFESS.
ON THIS DAY
ON THIS DAY
GOD BLESS THEIR UNION ON THIS DAY.

SAM/LILY
YOU ARE THE AUTHOR OF TRUE LOVE, LORD.
GRANT US YOUR BLESSING FROM ABOVE O, LORD.
AND WHEN OUR LOVE IS FOUND IN YOU
ALL WE'VE LONG FOR WILL COME TRUE
ON THIS DAY, ON THIS DAY

(Pantomime of wedding continues)

CHORUS
ON THIS DAY, IN THEIR HEARTS THE SUN WILL SHINE.
ON THIS DAY, A MELODY THEY BOTH WILL FIND.
LORD OF LOVE PLEASE BLESS,
THE LOVE THAT IN THIS PLACE THEY NOW CONFESS.
ON THIS DAY
ON THIS DAY
GOD BLESS THEIR UNION ON THIS DAY.

ARMY OFFICER

You may kiss the bride!

(Cross fade to Brengle)

SCENE VI

BRENGLE

We were married for 28 years. Our wedding rings were inscribed with the words, *Holiness Unto the Lord*. Throughout our marriage, we strove to live those words. God gave us two wonderful children: a son, George and a daughter, Elizabeth. (Pictures come up on tower screens)

I thank God with all my heart for bringing Lily into my life. We were supremely happy! Then, one day, when in a hospital one hundred miles away from home, recovering from major surgery, I received a telegram: Lily was dying. There I was, so far from my beloved wife, and she was soon to leave this world.

(Cross-fade. Lily is in a hospital cot, with Elizabeth, her daughter and a nurse at her side)

ELIZABETH

Mom, George and Dad are on the way. Hold on. I know this has been so difficult for you – being separated from Dad...it's difficult for him too. You know how dearly he loves you and he knows how dearly you love him.

(Brengle enters room on the arm of his son, George. Nurse exits.)

GEORGE

Elizabeth, Mom, Dad's here. (Helping Brengle to the bedside chair) Mom, everything's going to be alright now. You and Dad have a lot to talk about. Elizabeth and I are going to wait outside the room. If you need anything, just call. (They exit.)

BRENGLE

Lily, I'm here. Please forgive me for not coming sooner.

LILY

Sam, I know you couldn't come; you've been in a hospital bed yourself. I understand.

BRENGLE

Oh Lily, I cannot bear to think that we will soon be separated. How I've prayed, how I've cried out to God to spare your life, to keep you here with me and for me.

LILY

Sam, Samuel, Listen to me. I cannot stay. But know this; even death cannot separate us or break the eternal bond that we share.

BRENGLE

Eternity. Eternity. Just think of it, eternity in the presence of God. Lily, is Jesus with you?

LILY

Indeed, He is. His presence is so real.

BRENGLE

And do you trust him in this moment?

LILY

With all my heart.

BRENGLE

(Music Cue)

(To Lily)

ON THIS DAY, YOU WILL SEE THE FATHER'S FACE.

ON THIS DAY, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND HIS GRACE.

(Toward Heaven)

LORD OF LOVE AND PEACE,

PLEASE TAKE HER TO THE LAND WHERE JOY WON'T CEASE.

ON THIS DAY

ON THIS DAY

TAKE HER TO HEAVEN

ON THIS DAY.

(Brenge stands up, scene fades to darkness, spot stays on Brenge)

BRENLE

And she fell asleep in Jesus as peacefully and unafraid as ever a baby did in its mother's arms. Oh, it was beautiful! No slip or struggle or fall into the bottomless dark, but a sweet, quiet, peaceful passing out of weakness and pain into fullness of life; out of shadows into unutterable glory and light. God so helped me at the last that, when I looked into that deep grave, it seemed more like resurrection than burial. There was no sting. The grave had no victory. It was only receiving the broken alabaster box of her worn little body, while her sweet spirit was with Jesus. My dearest Lily!

It was Lily's preaching that first time in Boston that showed me how God was going to use me as an evangelist. Only two days after we were married, I set sail for London, England. Having accepted my Calling as a Salvation Army officer, I intended to train at the International Training Garrison. So on June 1, 1887, my 27th birthday, I entered International Headquarters and offered myself to General William Booth.

SCENE VII

(Cross fade to Booth, Bramwell & Sam)

SAM

General Booth, Commissioner Booth, I have come from the United States to be trained as a Salvation Army officer.

BOOTH

(No response, he only sizes Brenge up)

SAM

Sir, I have recently, less than two weeks ago, married Lily Swift and it is our desire to serve the poor and needy and to evangelize the lost as officers in your Army.

BOOTH

Dear Reverend Brenge, thank you for coming and for your desire to serve. However, it is my feeling that you are from the dangerous classes; the privileged, the educated. You have been your own boss for so long; I fear you will not want to submit to the disciplines of The Army. We're an Army and those who join us must obey its orders and regulations. We are poor. I can promise you no salary. You will face hardship and poverty. All I can offer you is a platform and bread and water and honestly, I don't think that in the long run, it will be sufficient for you. I appreciate your willingness and the incredible effort you have made to come here, however, thank you Reverend Brenge, but no thank you.

BOOTH

YOU SEE THE LIFE WE'RE CALLED TO
IS ONE THAT FEW ARE DRAWN TO
IT IS A LIFE OF SACRIFICE
AND TRUST ME THERE'S A HEAVY PRICE
TO PAY FOR WINNING SOULS

SAM

I totally understand that.

BRAMWELL

YOU SEE DEAR REVEREND BRENGLE
I'M SURE IT MAKES YOU TINGLE
TO THINK THAT YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES
TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM ITS HEARTACHES
BUT TRUST US SIR, YOU DON'T

SAM

That's a bit premature!

BOOTH & BRAMWELL

THE FACT THAT YOU'VE BEEN ON YOUR OWN SO LONG
MAKES YOU THE KIND OF RECRUIT THAT DOESN'T BELONG
AND WITH YOUR HIGH AND LOFTY VOCABULARY
IT MAKES US FEEL THE TINIEST BIT WARY, SO

SAM

What you're saying then is...

BOOTH & BRAMWELL

THANKS REVEREND BRENGLE, BUT NO THANKS!
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR YOU INSIDE OUR RANKS.
PLEASE FORGIVE US SIR FOR BEING SO FRANK
BUT THE LIKES OF YOU BELONG IN A BANK!
WE'RE SERIOUS HERE, MY FRIEND, WE DON'T PLAY PRANKS!
SO THANKS REVEREND BRENGLE, BUT NO THANKS!

BOOTH

EXCUSE ME REVEREND BRENGLE
DO YOU THINK THAT I'M KRIS KRINGLE
AND I RUN A PRIVATE CHARITY?

BRAMWELL

NO WE RUN AN ARMY SIR
AND CASUALTIES WE WILL INCUR
TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM ITS MISERY, SO

BOOTH & BRAMWELL

THANKS REVEREND BREngle, BUT NO THANKS!
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR YOU INSIDE OUR RANKS.
PLEASE FORGIVE US SIR FOR SOUNDING SO CRUEL
BUT THE LIKES OF YOU BELONG IN A SCHOOL!
WE'RE SERIOUS HERE MY FRIEND, WE DON'T PLAY PRANKS!
SO THANKS REVEREND BREngle, BUT NO THANKS!

BOOTH

THE KIND OF FOLKS WE'RE LOOKING FOR
TO LEAD THE FIGHT, TO FIGHT THE WAR
ARE NOT THE CULTURED, WHO WILL QUICKLY FLEE.

BRAMWELL

YOU'LL STAY WITH US A YEAR OR TWO
AND AFTER THAT, YOU WILL BE THROUGH
ON THIS I'M SURE, WE DO NOT DISAGREE (To his father) SO...

BOOTH & BRAMWELL

THANKS REVEREND BREngle, BUT NO THANKS!
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR YOU INSIDE OUR RANKS.
PLEASE FORGIVE US SIR FOR LEAVING YOU IN A LURCH
BUT THE LIKES OF YOU BELONG IN A PROPER CHURCH.
WE'RE SERIOUS HERE, MY FRIEND, WE DON'T PLAY PRANKS!
SO THANKS REVEREND BREngle, BUT NO THANKS!
(DARE I REPEAT IT?)
SO THANKS REVEREND BREngle, BUT NO THANKS!
(DON'T ACT MISTREATED!)
SO THANKS REVEREND BREngle, BUT NO THANKS!
SO THANKS REVEREND BREngle, BUT...NO THANKS!

Don't call us, we'll call you!

SAM

General, you have your reservations about me and my past, but I signed the papers every officer signs. I assure you I am joining your Army out of my love for God and the souls of men. I promise I will do nothing to harm The Salvation Army. I will defend its interests and serve in its ranks to the best of my ability. Sir, I am a grown man. I graduated from University and studied theology. Not a new convert, I have come to you by choice, with my eyes wide open. I was recently asked to pastor a huge church, probably the finest church in Indiana, but God has shown me a vision of the Cross of Christ. The Crucified One called me to take up that cross and follow Him. Sir, please give me a chance to prove myself.

BOOTH

Reverend Brengle, your argument is quite compelling. I could use a man such as you who has a way with words. Very well then, Cadet Brengle, the Chief of the Staff will show you to your first assignment.

BRAMWELL

This way, Cadet.

(Crossing to SL, scene – a dark, cellar. In this cellar are 18 pairs of muddy, black boots)

SAM

I-I-I don't understand.

BRAMWELL

There's not much to understand. Muddy boots, new recruit. You wanted to prove yourself, here's your chance. (He exits)

SAM

(He sits down and begins polishing the boots.) Boy, am I a fool! Have I followed my own fancy 3,000 miles to come here and polish boots? Lord, what in Heaven's Name are you trying to do to me?

(Picture of Jesus, washing the feet of His disciples appears above scene.)

Lord, if you can wash their feet, I can polish their boots.

I HAD A DREAM OF MY OWN,
NOW YOUR LOVE HAS SHOWN
YOUR WAY IS WHAT'S BEST FOR ME.
YOU'VE REPLACED MY OLD DREAM
WITH A MUCH GRANDER SCHEME
AND SHOWN HOW SWEET SURRENDER CAN BE.
SO I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU
TRUSTING YOU'LL SEE ME THROUGH
AND WILL NEVER LEAVE ME ALONE.
MY LIFE IS NOW YOURS
I'LL LOOK BACK NO MORE
'CAUSE I HAVE A NEW DREAM OF MY OWN.

MY DREAMS WERE NOBLE AND GRAND,
I HAD IT ALL PLANNED
I KNEW EXACTLY HOW MY LIFE WOULD BE.
FORTUNE AND FAME, I HAD THE WHOLE WORLD TO GAIN,
BUT THIS I DID NOT FORSEE!
YOUR SPIRIT HELPED ME TO SEE THAT IT'S NOT
ABOUT ME, BUT ALL ABOUT YOU.
AND IF MY WHOLE LIFE WOULD NOT BE IN VAIN
I MUST GIVE IT ALL TO YOU.

I HAD A DREAM OF MY OWN,
NOW YOUR LOVE HAS SHOWN
YOUR WAY IS WHAT'S BEST FOR ME.
YOU'VE REPLACED MY OLD DREAM
WITH A MUCH GRANDER SCHEME
AND SHOWN HOW SWEET SURRENDER CAN BE.
SO I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU
TRUSTING YOU'LL SEE ME THROUGH
AND WILL NEVER LEAVE ME ALONE.
MY LIFE IS NOW YOURS
I'LL LOOK BACK NO MORE
'CAUSE I HAVE A NEW DREAM OF MY OWN.

I HAD A DREAM OF MY OWN
NOW YOUR LOVE HAS SHOWN
YOUR WAY IS WHAT'S BEST FOR ME
YOU BECAME AS A SLAVE
AND FOR LOVE'S SAKE YOU GAVE
AN EXAMPLE FOR YOUR PEOPLE TO SEE.
SO I'LL POLISH THEIR SHOES
MY AMBITION TO LOSE
AND IN DOING SO, LIKE YOU I'LL BE
MY LIFE IS NOW YOURS
I'LL LOOK BACK NO MORE
'CAUSE I HAVE A NEW DREAM OF MY OWN.

(lights stay up on Sam, polishing shoes/Lights up on Brengle)

SCENE VIII

BRENGLE

I had fellowship with Jesus every morning for a week while down in that cellar polishing boots. Given the opportunity to practice my humility, I saw what The Salvation Army stood for – service. My new prayer became, “Dear God, let me serve the servants of Jesus. That is sufficient for me.”

(Lights down on Sam)

My training in London included conducting meetings, selling *The War Cry* and visitation; another important class taught in Training was “Scrubology”: not only scrubbing dirty boots, but scrubbing dirty windows and dirty floors and dirty...well, if it was dirty and it didn't move, we scrubbed it!

Six months of training, and commissioned as a Captain, I was sent back to the United States, where Lily and I, in a period of nine months, commanded three corps. Our second appointment was Danbury, Connecticut. Lily, expecting our first child and in delicate health, went to her parents home to await the birth. The Danbury Corps sadly was in debt and trying to recover from a scandal. I found myself the Captain of two soldiers: one, a little hunchback girl and the other, a recently freed slave named George Washington. Assisting me was a Lieutenant who was of little help in the open air, as he was practically lame!

One evening, we were on the March.

(Cross fade to scene – The background is a typical street of the period. It is evening and Sam is leading the procession, followed by the ex-slave, hunchback little girl and lame Lt. struggling to keep up.)

WE'RE THE ARMY THAT SHALL CONQUER
AS WE GO TO MEET THE LOST AND TO BRING THEM BACK TO GOD
AND HIS SALVATION TO EVERY NATION
WE WILL CONQUER WITH THE FIRE AND THE BLOOD.

(The background changes and shows the picture of a beautiful and magnificent church replete with stain-glass windows. SR light comes up on Studebaker. While Studebaker speaks, Sam's group sits CS , where Sam eventually stands behind them for song.)

STUDEBAKER

Reverend Brengle, I'm surprised! I took you to be an ambitious man. Don't take too long. Offers like this are few and far between, I assure you. You'll wake up one day and kick yourself across the room if you allow an opportunity like this to escape you. Don't be a fool, Reverend.

(Lights dim on Studebaker and on action on stage. Light only on Sam)

SAM

What have I done? What did I throw away? What have I become the Captain of!!! Way to go, Brengle! What would your friends and professors at the seminary think of you now? Maybe General Booth was right, I'm not cut out for this life.

(Screen comes back up and stage lights to reveal close-up of stain-glass windows. The figures in the window come to life and sing.)

POOR CAPTAIN BRENGLE POOR PIOUS SOUL;
LOST YOUR AMBITION TO LEAD THE FOLD
OF RESPECTABLE FOLK TO THE PROMISED LAND
LOOK AT YOU NOW WITH YOUR RAG-TAG BAND!

O SUCH A WASTE OF A BRILLIANT MIND
GIVING YOUR LIFE FOR THE LIKES OF THIS KIND
PRAY TELL CAPTAIN BRENGLE WHAT CAN THESE FOLK GIVE?
SOMETHING CONTAGIOUS AND NOT LUCRATIVE!

(BRIDGE)
BUT THERE YOU ARE WITH YOUR PATHETIC LOT
WHILE HERE WE ARE, LOOK AT ALL WE'VE GOT!
WE CAN OFFER HIGH SOCIETY
WHILE THEY CAN ONLY PROMISE SOBRIETY!
POOR CAPTAIN BRENGLE.

POOR CAPTAIN BRENGLE LISTEN TO US HOLY ONES
PRAYING FOR ETERNITY TO GOD'S OWN SON
PUZZLED BY THE WAY YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE LED.
SURELY GOD'S IN HEAVEN SCRATCHING HIS HEAD

YOU COULD HAVE PREACHED AND INFLUENCED KINGS AND QUEENS
BEEN A MAN OF SUBSTANCE, BEEN A MAN OF MEANS.
POOR CAPTAIN BRENGLE, YOU'VE NOT REACHED YOUR PEAK,
INSTEAD YOU'RE RINGMASTER TO A GROUP OF FREAKS!

(BRIDGE)

BUT THERE YOU ARE WITH YOUR PATHETIC LOT
WHILE HERE WE ARE, LOOK AT ALL WE'VE GOT!
WE CAN OFFER LIFE WELL-COMPENSATED
WHILE THEY MOST LIKELY WILL END UP INCARCERATED!
POOR CAPTAIN BRENGLE.

SURELY CAPTAIN BRENGLE THIS IS NOT YOUR DREAM
YOUR LIFE'S AMBITION IS NOT THIS EXTREME.
YOU SEE YOURSELF AS GOD'S AMBASSADOR
BUT YOU LEAD A CIRCUS AND NOTHING MORE!

LIFE COULD BE SWEET AND LIFE COULD BE SO GRAND
IF YOU WOULD GIVE UP ON THIS LITTLE BAND
OH CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THIS WILL GO NOWHERE
YOUR DREAM IS NOTHING BUT A GREAT NIGHTMARE!

(BRIDGE)

BUT THERE YOU ARE WITH YOUR PATHETIC LOT
WHILE HERE WE ARE, LOOK AT ALL WE'VE GOT!
WE CAN OFFER YOU A LIFE OF EASE,
WHILE THEY CAN OFFER YOU SOME LICE AND FLEAS!
POOR CAPTAIN BRENGLE.

(At conclusion of song, stain-glass figures are back in place and frozen in their pose.)

SAM

Satan, why do you tempt me so? Am I not dead to these things? Get thee behind me!

(Dream of My Own underscore)

Lord, you left Heaven's splendor, came to this depraved planet and why? You gave your very life's blood so that all men and women, regardless of status might be reconciled to the Father. You came to save the lost and dying. There is nothing in this world I desire more than to serve you and follow wherever you lead. This rag-tag band is precious in your sight and if I would call myself a follower of Christ, they must be precious in my sight as well. I do not desire the applause of men, only to hear your, "*Well done.*" This then, is settled once and for all!

(Underscore ends)

(Sam rejoins the open air march, singing)

WE'RE THE ARMY THAT SHALL CONQUER
AS WE GO TO MEET THE LOST AND TO BRING THEM BACK TO GOD
AND HIS SALVATION TO EVERY NATION
WE WILL CONQUER WITH THE FIRE AND THE BLOOD.

(They march off. Next scene marches onstage singing the chorus a second time through.
Cross fade to Brengle. Brengle continues the singing to the end of chorus as well.)

SCENE IX

BRENGLE

In the early days, our open air ministry was not generally accepted by the public. At the Boston #1 Corps, open air marches with any type of music were forbidden, so we developed silent marches.

Gospels shots, scripture, testimonies and mini-sermons periodically broke the silence.

(A small group of Salvationists are marching; a few carry signs. A few people are on the street, but no one is paying any attention to them.)

SOLDIER I

O taste and see that the Lord is good!

SOLDIER II

Then Jesus declared, *I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.*

SOLDIER III

How sweet are your words to my taste; sweeter than honey to my mouth.

BRENGLE

These were a fair substitute for music, but we weren't satisfied with just marching, so we organized a sandwich brigade with some of our soldiers.

(Several Salvationists join the march carrying trays of sandwiches. Those who ignored the open-air, all of a sudden are interested and come over and take a sandwich.)

BYSTANDER I

O taste and see that the Lord is good! (He joins the march)

BYSTANDER II

Then Jesus declared, *I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.*

BYSTANDER III

How sweet are your words to my taste; sweeter than honey to my mouth.

SAM

Now that your stomachs have been fed, come join us in the Army hall and have your spirits fed as well. (They exit. Crossfade.)

BRENGLE

One evening, a drunken man came into the weeknight Holiness meeting and was being very disruptive. I asked him to quiet down, but he only grew louder and more disruptive. Finally, I had no choice but to escort him to the door. At the conclusion of the meeting he was outside waiting for me.

(Cross fade to SL – scene: dark street front. Sam is walking down the street [with his Army Cap] when the drunk steps out to meet him.)

DRUNK

Hey Cappy, why wouldn't you let me come to church?

SAM

Sir, in your drunken condition, you were disrupting the meeting. When you're sober, you're more than welcome to join us. May I pray for you and your salvation.

DRUNK

Not tonight, Cappy; perhaps another day. (Sam turns to walk away) Maybe I'll pray for you and your salvation!

(He pulls a brick from behind his back and throws it at the back of Sam's head.
Immediate freeze in red light, then BLACKOUT and cross fade to Brengle)

BRENGLE

For weeks I hovered between life and death, and then spent 18 months recuperating at Lily's parent's home. When I grew restless at being side-lined for so long, it occurred to me I could still serve the Lord through my pen. So I began writing a series of articles for *The War Cry* about spiritual living. That is how the book, *Helps to Holiness* was born. God took that time of deep distress in my life and turned it around for His honor and glory. Lily kept the brick that nearly did me in and wrote on it the words of Genesis 50:20. "As for you, ye meant it for evil; but God meant it for good to keep much people alive."

I've said many times since that day, "If there had been no little brick, there would have been no little book." The doctor told Lily that had it not been for my Army cap, I would have surely died on the spot. I tell you, since that day, I never take this important piece of my uniform...my armor for granted. (He places his cap on his head).

(Cross fade to stage)

AS STRANGE AS THIS MAY SOUND TO YOU,
FACT IS FACT AND TRUE IS TRUE;
AND WHEN THAT HOODLUM THREW THE BRICK
HE GAVE OLD BRENGLE'S HEAD A LICK.
HIS TIME ON EARTH SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE;
HIS SPIRIT IN OBLIVION,
BUT GOD STILL NEEDED THAT OLD CHAP,
AND KEPT HIM SAFE BY HIS ARMY CAP.

AND I LOVE MY CAP IT'S LIKE A FRIEND
AND ON MY CAP I CAN DEPEND
IN FIERCEST BATTLE ON WE GO
ITS GLORIOUS CREST BLINDS EVERY FOE
"SALVATION ARMY" BOLD AND BRIGHT
ATOP ITS BRIM TO CHARGE THE FIGHT.
THROUGH THICK AND THIN IT FILLS THE GAP
VICTORY'S MINE IN MY ARMY CAP!

IT'S TRUE THE BRICK'S WHAT KNOCKED HIM OUT
FOR EIGHTEEN MONTHS HE LAID ABOUT
AND WHILE HE LAY HE UNDERTOOK
TO BE OF USE AND WRITE A BOOK
AND NOT JUST ONE, THERE'S NINE OF THEM
AND EVERY ONE'S A HOLY GEM
SEE ALL THIS STEMS FROM ONE MISHAP
GOD SAVED HIS LIFE BY HIS ARMY CAP!

AND I LOVE MY CAP IT'S LIKE A FRIEND
AND ON MY CAP I CAN DEPEND
IN FIERCEST BATTLE ON WE GO
ITS GLORIOUS CREST BLINDS EVERY FOE
"SALVATION ARMY" BOLD AND BRIGHT
ATOP ITS BRIM TO CHARGE THE FIGHT.
THROUGH THICK AND THIN IT FILLS THE GAP
VICTORY'S MINE IN MY ARMY CAP!

SO WEAR YOUR CAP, WEAR IT WITH PRIDE
AND SHOW THE WORLD YOU'RE ON GOD'S SIDE
'CAUSE WHEN THOSE BRICKS AND ROCKS ARE THROWN
THE HEAD YOU SAVE MAY BE YOUR OWN!

AND I LOVE MY CAP IT'S LIKE A FRIEND
AND ON MY CAP I CAN DEPEND
IN FIERCEST BATTLE ON WE GO
ITS GLORIOUS CREST BLINDS EVERY FOE
"SALVATION ARMY" BOLD AND BRIGHT
ATOP ITS BRIM TO CHARGE THE FIGHT.
THROUGH THICK AND THIN IT FILLS THE GAP
VICTORY'S MINE IN MY ARMY CAP!
JOY! JOY! JOY!
THERE IS JOY IN MY ARMY CAP!

SCENE X

BRENGLE

Over the next 39 years, God gave me the most incredible opportunities to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Doctrine of Holiness in every State of the Union, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as well as most of Europe. In addition to *Helps to Holiness*, God enabled me, even with this grueling travel schedule and several physical set-backs, to write eight more books. I attribute this to the power of God, The Holy Spirit working in my life and to the wonderful soloist-secretaries the Army allowed to work with me. These officers were much more than secretaries to help me with my volumes of paperwork and correspondence; we were co-laborers in ministry.

(Cross fade to stage. The four soloist-secretaries are in a spaced line across the downstage area. They are dimly lit, but as each one speaks, they are hit with a spot.)

LORD

(Picture of Lord & stats on tower screen)

As soloist-secretary to Colonel Brengle, I processed all his correspondence and paperwork. Then, whenever he preached, I sang before the message or led the altar service that followed

I remember him as a man of gentle humor. In commenting on his health he used to say, "I feel as well when I don't feel well as when I do feel well." And speaking about life's trouble, he said, "You can't prevent birds from flying around your head, but you don't have to let them build a nest in your hair."

He often asked me to sing his favorite song, "Trust, I Will Trust."

BOUTERSE

(Picture of Bouterse & stats on tower screen)

My association with Brengle started long before I served as his soloist-secretary. When my parents were corps officers in Asheville, North Carolina, then-Colonel Brengle came and conducted tent revival meetings for us. Later, when I was in the Navy, I encountered Colonel Brengle in Chicago conducting meetings in one of the Swedish Corps. He didn't remember me, but I remember telling him that I had been called to be a Salvation Army officer and that one day, I hoped to sing for him.

When I was commissioned as a Salvation Army officer, my first assignment was to serve as Colonel Brengle's soloist-secretary. He took me aside for a fatherly talk and said:

"Captain, your responsibility is to sing. I'll do the preaching. One of the young men that I used to have with me undertook to preach my sermons over again. He is no longer with me. You sing, I'll preach." I got the point. Colonel Brengle often requested me to sing, "Take My Life and Let it Be."

COOKE

(Picture of Cooke & stats up on tower screen)

I accompanied Brengle on his campaign to Sweden and Finland. His plain, yet powerful messages on the doctrine of Holiness and the importance of clean hands and pure hearts attracted wide attention. After one message, 43 people rushed the altar to seek this blessing. Almost fifteen hundred seekers came forward during that one campaign.

My time with Commissioner Brengle influenced my life profoundly. I was a bit of a songwriter and that influence spilled over into many things I wrote, such as:

I'VE GOT THE JOY, JOY, JOY, JOY, DOWN IN MY HEART
DOWN IN MY HEART TO STAY.

&

HEAVENLY SUNSHINE
HEAVENLY SUNSHINE
FLOODING MY SOUL WITH GLORY DIVINE.

Brengle would often ask me to sing, "Grace There Is My Every Debt to Pay."

MABEE

(Picture of Mabee & stats up on tower screens)

I was the first soloist-secretary to assist Brengle and had the privilege of walking in Heavenly places with him for seven years. He had a way of making everyone who met him for the first time feel as though they were meeting an old friend. In my estimation, Brengle was a prophet, not just for The Salvation Army, but for the world. His spirit could no more be restrained within The Army circle than the tides of the ocean can, themselves, be restrained.

One song he would ask me to sing before he preached was, "There is a Happy Land, Far, Far Away."

MABEE

THERE IS A HAPPY LAND FAR AWAY,
WHERE SAINTS IN GLORY STAND BRIGHT AS DAY.
O HOW THEY SWEETLY SING, "WORTHY OUR KING!"
LOUD LET THEIR PRAISES RING!

COOKE

I sang: Grace There is my Every Debt to Pay.

GRACE THERE IS MY EV'RY DEBT TO PAY.
BLOOD TO WASH MY EV'RY SIN AWAY.
POWER TO KEEP ME CLEAN, SPOTLESS EACH DAY,
YES, FOR ME, YES, FOR ME!

BOUTERSE

I sang: Take My Life and Let it Be.

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE
CONSECRATED LORD TO THEE
TAKE ALL MY MOMENTS AND TAKE ALL MY DAYS
FLOWING IN CEASELESS PRAISE.

LORD

I sang: Trust, I Will Trust.

TRUST I WILL TRUST ON HIM ALL CARE I LAY
TRUST I WILL TRUST AND I WILL NEVER BE AFRAID.
MY CARE ON HIM I'LL LAY
AND I'LL NEVER BE AFRAID.

SCENE XI

(scene: Centennial Memorial Temple)

VOG

And now, comrades, please greet our brother and fellow-laborer, the man, who this evening enters honored retirement, Commissioner Samuel Logan Brengle.

BRENGLE

My dear comrades, I can hardly believe forty-four years of service to the Lord in The Salvation Army have passed. Let no one imagine for a moment that I am depressed or saddened by retirement. Not a bit. Fall and winter have their place and charm as well as spring and summer, and I am rounding out the seasons of my life. My life has not always been an easy one. I have suffered much from subtle temptations and ill health during these years. I have toiled and wept much. I have been bereaved and left lonely. Several times I have been at death's door. But hallelujah, at seventy-one, I am free from pain and count myself well. I have had much joy along the way, sweet fellowship with my Lord, with loved ones, with dear comrades and friends.

From the beginning I have sought to proclaim our precious doctrine of Holiness, the experience, the action – that we Salvationists must maintain, otherwise we shall betray our trust; we shall lose our birthright, we shall cease to be a spiritual power in the earth; oh, we shall have a name to live, and yet be dead; and while we may still have titles and ranks to bestow upon our children, we shall have no heritage to bequeath them of martyr-like sacrifice, spiritual power, burning love or holy triumph.

We owe it to our Lord, who redeemed us by His Blood to become temples of the Holy Spirit. We owe it to that great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us to maintain this heritage they secured for us with their own tears and prayers, toil, agony and blood. And we owe it to our children and our children's children to lead them into the experience of Full Salvation. We must maintain our Holiness standard in both our teaching and our experience, for in doing so; this will be our glory and our joy.

(Music cue)

Through all these years, to know Christ, in all His fullness has been the chief aim of my life. To be conformed to His image, my heart's true desire.

SELFISH AMBITION WAS ALL MY I LIVED FOR
I WAS FOR SELF AND NOTHING MORE
THEN HE FOUND ME AND O THE CHANGE WITHIN
WHEN I SURRENDERED TO HIM.

TO KNOW HIM
THAT'S ALL I ASK
FORGIVEN
ALL IN THE PAST
TO LOVE HIM, TO SERVE HIM, REFLECTING HIM, WITHOUT, WITHIN.
TO KNOW HIM
THAT'S ALL I ASK

JESUS HAS COME, SHADOWS ALL ARE DONE AWAY,
THINGS THAT WERE GAIN I NOW COUNT THEM BUT LOSS.
THEY ARE NOTHING WHEN I JUST COMPARE THEM
IN THE LIGHT OF THE CROSS.

TO KNOW HIM
THAT'S ALL I ASK
FORGIVEN
ALL IN THE PAST
TO LOVE HIM, TO SERVE HIM, REFLECTING HIM, WITHOUT, WITHIN.
TO KNOW HIM
THAT'S ALL I ASK

TO KNOW HIM
THAT'S ALL I ASK
FORGIVEN
ALL IN THE PAST
TO LOVE HIM, TO SERVE HIM, REFLECTING HIM, WITHOUT, WITHIN..
TO KNOW HIM
THAT'S ALL I ASK

(Blackout on stage. Lights hit arena portal)

(Music cue: Promoted to Glory. Funeral procession enters from rear of house. At the front of the procession is a flag-draped coffin, with an honor guard, followed by flags and a battalion of uniformed Salvationists. Info on Brengle's PTG on tower screens)

(CS – spot on Evangeline Booth)

Scene XII

EVANGELINE BOOTH

It is my sincere honor to greet you as the General of The Salvation Army on this most sacred and solemn occasion. It scarcely seems possible that just one year ago, I presented the Order of the Founder to Commissioner Brengle. What a joyous occasion it was – the first American-born Commissioner to receive the highest honor given by The Salvation Army. We have been truly blessed to have lived and worked in the presence of this saintly prophet.

It is fitting, I suppose, that one who has made spring to break in countless multitudes of souls should be laid to rest amid the flowers of May.

To speak of the life of Commissioner Samuel Logan Brengle is as un-needful as it would be to speak of the blessings produced by the light of the sun. Through his numerous books, his saintly example, his sacrificial toils, the exceptional wisdom of his counsel, the print of his footsteps in the close following of his Savior will ever remain clearly marked upon the path of time for future generations to follow.

In his teachings, his writings, he has stood always the apostle and champion of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and literally, until his latest breath, proclaimed its power to overcome every opponent of good in the souls and lives of men. In every part of the world, he has made lamps to burn that will never be extinguished.

The grave, for the saints of God, is but earth's boundary, ever which we pass into the Resurrection Glory, and if we first, and last, and all the time live in the strength of the Cross we shall meet in the years that are eternal.

I recall the words Commissioner Brengle shared with us all five years ago on the occasion of his retirement from active service. These words had become his life's chief aim. He said: "I want to know Christ in all His fullness. My life's ambition, my heart's true desire...to be conformed to His image."

May his faithful example continue to spur us on to Christlikeness in our own lives. God bless Commissioner Brengle. God bless his family. God bless The Salvation Army.

(Music cue)

TO KNOW HIM
THAT'S ALL I ASK
FORGIVEN
ALL IN THE PAST
TO LOVE HIM, TO SERVE HIM, REFLECTING HIM, WITHOUT, WITHIN.
TO KNOW HIM
THAT'S ALL I ASK

THE END