



men's NETWORK



...a ministry of The Salvation Army British Columbia Division

WINTER 2021

Greetings from the Divisional Commander...



Lieutenant Colonel Jamie Braund

Greetings Friends & Happy New Year!

The happy new year greeting this year feels like a sincere hope for the future – that 2021 will be better than 2020. Last year certainly brought good things to us, but it was also a year of loss, disappointment, and hardship for so many. The need for network in our lives and ministries became more evident than ever. And I don't mean more zoom meetings!

Over the last two years, we have really been celebrating the launch and the success of the BC Division Men's Network – even though the current pandemic has severely hindered our gathering efforts. We look forward to the new things that we'll be able to do in the coming months and years in the support of men and men's ministries across the province.

Our new territorial SA vision statement includes the word 'innovative' and brings to us the challenge of finding new and creative ways of accomplishing our mission – to share the love of Jesus, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our (province) world. Men's Network is one of those innovative ideas, and there are others happening across the province. I hope you'll find ways to be aware of SA ministry in your community, and across the province and the country. Here in BC, we're excited about the opening of a new building and ministry in Port Hardy, we have the potential and the approval to expand the ministries of Deborah's Gate (supporting women who are escaping human trafficking), and we have the first Auxiliary Lieutenants (a new leadership opportunity) in the country here in BC – Neil & Jennifer Thompson giving leadership to the Vernon Corps. These are only a few of the 'new' things happening in these exciting days.

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Our Purpose

"Calling and equipping every man to be a transforming influence in their family, church and community."

Encourage • Embrace • Equip • Engage

ENCOURAGING:

Authentic encouragement helps people overcome fear and builds morale. It sets the example to build each other up and builds confidence to face challenges. The gift of encouragement can transform people and circumstances while creating the desire to take positive, forward thinking action. Encouragement establishes hope. When you encourage others, you encourage yourself. We believe in you and that you can make a meaningful difference in someone's life. The desired end-result would be stronger men who can influence others in doing the right thing.

EMBRACING:

Local corps events like Monthly Men's Breakfasts, sporting events, golf outings, etc. and area and divisional events like The Gatherings, and other large men's events with a focus to embrace men in each corps/unit through multiple non-threatening portals of entry into a fellowship of men for friendship, inspiration and connections. The desired end-result would be men connected to each other in every unit and to create avenues where men can invite their friends and co-workers to attend these events and eventually to attend church with them.

EQUIPPING:

Using pre-existing discipling tools like "Blue Print" from Promise Keepers Canada and other available resources, the focus is to facilitate the work of the Holy Spirit to purify and transform men to pursue a life long path of Holiness. This would occur on a local corps/unit level but also in area wide gatherings for teaching. The desired end-result would be Godly men committed to a life of purity and Holiness.

ENGAGING:

Upon embarking on a transforming life journey, partnered with other men, the focus is to re-engage the men to be a transforming influence in their families (husband, father, grandfather, etc.) church and the communities and relationships they find themselves. The desired end-result would be increase spiritual leadership in the home and church and an embodiment of Christ where ever these men go in their communities.

Inside Story

with Peter Cheung

Born in British Hong Kong, I spent almost 15 years in a non-religious Chinese family. My father has a strong influence on me, teaching me about death, the importance of knowledge and honoring my parents in the Confucius sense. He was the eldest son, and he tasked me, his eldest son, to give incense to grandma everyday. My mother and I were closer, and I also have a younger sister. While we were not born in a non-religious family, it was common for parents to send children to church run schools in Hong Kong because they are generally better. I went to a Catholic school. In the younger years I had to memorize verses for religious studies class, do assignments and write exams that counted for grades and student ranking. My mother reviewed a lot with me, and I did very well. A verse that really stuck was John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." With my strong memory for things that I like, I answered many questions in the interclass trivia contest on religious topics in grade five and carried my team to victory. The final question and the tie-breaking question were related to hymns praising the Holy Spirit and Jesus as the fountain of life. These all left a great positive effect on me and my forming faith.

When I was 15, through Joseph, a family friend who also happened to be a classmate, I started going to a Cantonese-speaking Baptist Church in Vancouver. They gave me a Chinese Bible and the Daily Bread devotional materials. I followed the daily schedule and often read the whole chapter of the assigned reading out of a pure heart. I had much joy reading through the passages for the first time, even though I was already familiar with many of the stories. It did not take too long before I received Christ as a response to a sermon.

In my early Christian life as a high school student, I made mistakes in evangelism which contributed to a strong sense of guilt, shame, and a period of depression. In a nutshell, my desire for romance and pride in following the rules of "no missionary dating" drove me to share my faith with a wrong motive and a wrong focus. But by the grace of God, most evident in Romans 8, I experienced His forgiveness and the situation turned around. In the decade that followed, I was empowered and equipped to evangelize. It was during a mission trip to Panama I heard about Jonathan Evans, my current ministry unit leader, through the Campus Crusade minister who disciplined him way back. That was one of my first (indirect) encounters with The Salvation Army.

2017 was a pivotal year. In April, I was in a situation of great stress – work (in telecommunications business), family (my other grandma's deteriorating health), theatre (a hobby) and



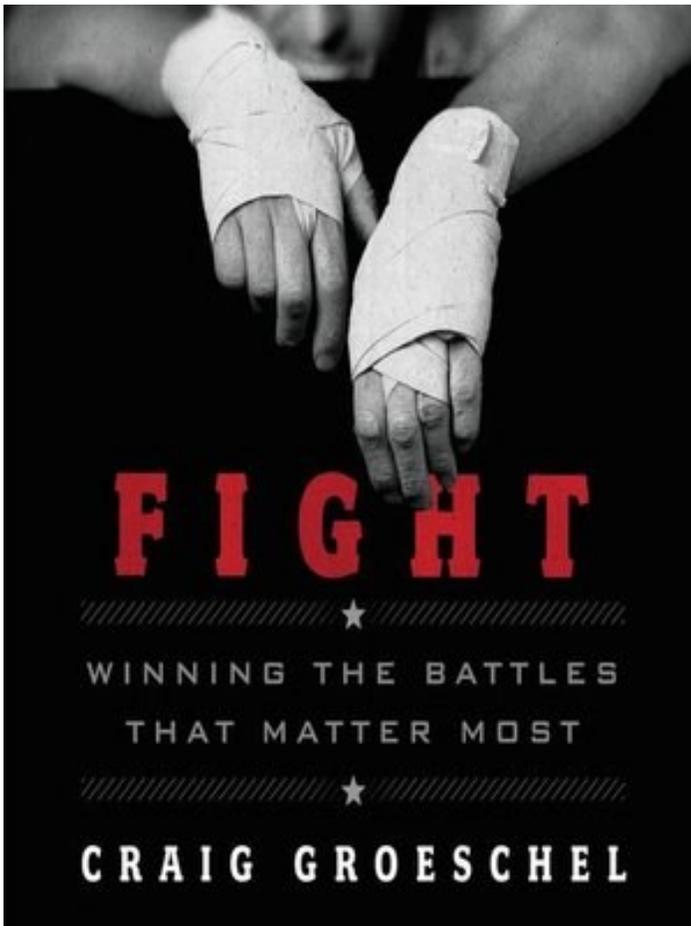
Peter Cheung

church were all causing distress to me at the same time. I had nothing to turn to other than God. And He responded with one power word: Artizo, which means mending and equipping in Greek. It was also the preaching training program that I came across in my Campus Crusade days and one that I ended up joining. Also, before I began pursuing the Master of Divinity, the local radio station called me up to get involved in a clothing drive held by the Richmond corps/NRO, that was my second encounter with The Salvation Army.

2020 was another pivotal year. In January, I was searching for post MDiv employment and I met a chaplain from The Salvation Army at a networking event. She remembered me when I was the guest preacher at her church while I was in the Artizo program. Later, after getting to meet Jonathan in person, I was called to the community ministries at Boundless Vancouver just as COVID-19 began to pick up. It seems the third time's the charm and since then I have been serving in The Salvation Army.

I have observed that from Campus Crusade, Artizo, and to The Salvation Army, one thing leads to the next, and along the way God has been preparing me to do His work: to preach the good words of Jesus, to care for human needs, to steward God-given resources, to be a friend, and to respond to His call anytime to be anywhere at any cost to do anything, all for His glory. I can trust His lead.

Peter serves as Community Ministries Director at Boundless Vancouver.



MEN'S RESOURCE: **FIGHT**

Craig Groeschel

Some battles are worth fighting for.

In this five-session video-based small group Bible study, pastor and bestselling author Craig Groeschel explores the life of Samson, helping you to uncover who you really are - a man created with a warrior's heart in the image of God- and how to stand up and fight for what's right.

Find the strength to fight the battles you know you need to fight - the ones that determine the state of your heart, the quality of your marriage, and the spiritual health of your family. The battles that make you dependent on God as the source of your strength. The battles that make you come alive. Craig looks at the life of Samson, showing you how much we have in common with this guy. Things didn't work out so well for him in the end. But by looking at his life, you'll learn how to defeat the demons that make strong men weak. You'll become who God made you to be - a man who knows how to fight for what's right.

Learn how to fight with faith, with prayer, and with the Word of God. Then, when your enemy begins to attack, fight for the righteous cause that God gave you. Draw a line in the sand. Make your enemy pay. Make sure he gets the message. Don't cross a warrior. Don't mess with this man of God. Come out fighting.

And don't show up for this fight unarmed. Use the weapons God gave you, and you'll win. Can you feel it? It's inside you. It's time to fight like a man.

Sessions include:

1. Fight Like a Man
2. Strong Men with Weak Wills
3. Spirit Led, Not Emo-Driven
4. Small Steps, Big Destruction
5. Failing Forward

Got a story or testimony to tell? Exciting things happening in your church/corps? Let us know...we are always looking for great things to share in our Men's Network Newsletter! Send to Cristina.Lee@salvationarmy.ca

Available at...RightNow Media : Streaming Video Bible Study : Fight : Craig Groeschel : Zondervan

Link: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/402582>

(from page 1...Divisional Commander)

God has promised us to do new things. Are you watching for them? These are exciting and growing days for the BC Salvation Army and I am privileged to be here and be part of it all. Thanks for all you're doing in ministry and I look forward to seeing you in person somewhere, someday. Blessings!

Great news from Lieutenant Stefan Reid...

"I wanted to give you some great updates on men's ministry that we've recently started here at Connection Point.

Upon our arrival, we noticed that there was no men's ministry happening here at all. I know we've moved in during Covid, but the men of the corps had said they hadn't had a men's ministry in the entire 16 years of its existence. I've prayed into it and God had brought forth an individual who wanted to take the lead on it. His name is Richard Paul. We praise God for him and the leadership he is helping provide to this great group. We're currently meeting twice a month whether that's through a men's breakfast, a Monday night football event, or working together on a service project to help a family with yard work, painting, etc. They did the set-up for a small kids Halloween party and They've even come up with a group name: God's Grunts!

We've seen about 15 men in the first month of this being launched. God is moving and has some great things in store for our Men's ministry at Connection Point!

I hope this brings a little hope in the midst of our world!"



Richard Paul (Left) and Lieutenant Stefan Reid (Right)

MEN'S NETWORK PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chair:

David Woodland, DSSS

Committee Members:

Dr. Tom Iwama

Major Paul Trickett, Penticton Corps

Major Bill Blackman, Cariboo Hill Temple

Major Robin Borrows, Nanaimo Corps

Captain Darryl Burry, Kelowna Corps

Lieutenant Dave McFadden, The Willows

John Polkii, Vancouver Harbour Light

Major David Macpherson, Area Commander

Captain Sharon Tidd, Area Commander

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S CAMP

CAMP MOUNTAINVIEW

FALL 2021

CAMP SUNRISE

FALL 2021

REGIONAL GATHERING EVENTS

To be announced



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