

Brigadier Dorothy Berry visits with an imprisoned drug addict.



# FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS

*Brigadier Dorothy Berry can point to many former drug addicts who through Christ are now free from enslavement*

By  
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FOR ALMOST twenty years Brigadier Dorothy Berry has been helping drug addicts who live in or near New York City. More than likely when her phone rings, it's a woman who says, "I need help. Someone told me to call you." A few minutes later the brigadier will probably ask the caller to come down to her office.

The caller may not get there for several days, especially if she's having trouble making her "connection" for each day's drug supply. The drug addict's whole world revolves around getting enough narcotics to carry her through the day.

Experience has taught Brigadier Berry that unless the woman *wants* to stop using drugs, it's a waste of breath trying to persuade her to seek aid. But the brigadier is there when women do ask for help.

Sometimes she makes arrangements for them to go to the hospital at Lexington, Ky. Or they may want to enter

a city hospital for a shorter period of treatment. Some of them just want someone to talk to. Those who have recently "kicked" the habit don't know what to do with themselves. Their days are now a big void.

Previously all their time was taken up trying to get money for the day's drug needs and making sure nothing happened to their "connection" that would leave them without heroin—the drug most of them use. And as soon as one day was taken care of, they had to start working on the next day's supply. Now they're at loose ends. Their former companions are still using narcotics, and they're trying to dodge them so they won't be tempted to get back on drugs.

It is this loneliness, plus the strong pull of the drug itself, that sometimes causes a woman who has been "clean" for months to start using drugs again.

Her best way to combat this loneliness is to get busy quickly at some pur-

poseful endeavor and to get a steady job. It isn't easy for drug addicts to find work. Brigadier Berry tries to help them find employment; but until this is accomplished, some of them stay around her office, running errands, filling in the time.

Those who try to break the habit without the help of God often fail. But when the brigadier is asked, "How successful is your work with narcotics?" she replies, "You have to determine what you mean by success. If a person for the first time in her life, or for the first time in many years, stays off drugs—even if she 'slips' later, that was a measure of success."

She can point to many who have become Christians and are today free of drugs, leading useful lives. A converted prostitute said, "I'm taking my kids to Sunday school now so they'll get the breaks I didn't get."

The brigadier explains that studies  
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## FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS

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an addict for nineteen years. But Rae is now the head of Narcotics Anonymous and a valued employee in the Narcotic Coordinator's office of the city department of health, with a record of fourteen years of clean living. She is dedicated to the task of convincing others that they, too, can be "clean."

In her work with addicts, Brigadier Berry is guided by the following "Thou Shalts," composed by herself and Lt.-Colonel Mina Russell, head of the Eastern Territorial social welfare department:

1. Always be available.
2. Be friendly, interested and helpful from the first contact.
3. Accept the addict as a human being who is trying to solve a problem.
4. Never be curious or prying for its own sake.
5. Never try to force a plan on the addict.
6. Be aware of all available resources.
7. Be familiar with the culture of the addict.
8. Be wise in making contacts with addict and family.
9. Maintain contact with the addict as long as possible.
10. Be aware that the addict will continually want to reassure himself of your sincerity.
11. Realize that the addict will only keep in touch and progress at his own pace.
12. Be sensitive to the voice of God for the significant moment when the power of God in Christ can be introduced to the addict as a resource.

The brigadier has shed tears over

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A	P	P	A	R	E	L	K	I	N	G	
V	I	E		A	L	I	B	I		E	I
E		O	B	I		F	A	N		A	V
N	T	P		S		E	N	D		U	R
G	O	L	D	E	N		Q	R	S		N
E		E	O			H	U	E		P	A
						P	L	I	E	D	E
						R	E	Q	U	E	S
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some failures. Minnie, who referred to shoplifting as her "trade," was one. She became a regular visitor at Brigadier Berry's office, coming in to talk over her problems and trying to keep busy when she was attempting to "kick the habit." When she "slipped," she always went back to shoplifting again.

She never gave up on Minnie, however, until the day a man across the hall from where Minnie lived smelled smoke. He knocked on her door and asked, "Is there something burning?" Minnie was "on the nod," drowsy from heroin. When she opened the door, she became enveloped in flames and later died at the hospital.

When asked if she kept a file of cured addicts, the brigadier said, "Oh, I wouldn't dare. Someone who has been 'clean' for years—that's different. But the ones like the addict who wrote to a friend: 'I can't believe it, and I know you can't, but I've been free of drugs ten whole days!' That seemed like the world to her, but I wouldn't dare to presume she was cured."

The important thing to Brigadier Berry is to be available when another crisis sends someone to her like a homing pigeon.

In 1927 Dorothy Berry was commissioned to the staff of the New York School for Officers' Training. Following this, she was stationed in three corps and then spent six years in the Field Department at territorial headquarters. Since 1945 she has been the Eastern Territory's director of the Correctional Services Bureau for women. During that time she has acted as liaison between the addict in detention who wants hospitalization and the hospital. She has also cooperated with public and private agencies, working closely with the police, probation officers, parole boards and others to help the narcotics addict.

Although a pioneer in this specialized field, the brigadier has shared her knowledge and experience with many through the years—at workshops and in on-job training.

One of her greatest hopes is to have a "half-way" house program for the rehabilitation of the addict.

Whatever her own future, she knows that Salvationists will continue to point addicts to Christ—their greatest Help to a life of freedom from all sin, including the harmful use of narcotics.

"But always," she says, "we must go on helping them from crisis to crisis."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Within the past few weeks, Brigadier Berry has been honorably retired and now works as consultant in the New York office.

## WHAT THE SALVATIONIST BELIEVES

1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and that they only constitute the divine rule of Christian faith and practice.

2. We believe there is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things, and who is the only proper object of religious worship.

3. We believe that there are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, undivided in essence and co-equal in power and glory.

4. We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ the divine and human natures are united so that He is truly and properly God, and truly and properly man.

5. We believe that our first parents were created in a state of innocency, but by their disobedience they lost their purity and happiness, and that in consequence of their fall all men have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.

6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has by His suffering and death made an atonement for the whole world, so that whosoever will may be saved.

7. We believe that repentance toward God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit are necessary to salvation.

8. We believe that we are justified by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and that he that believeth hath the witness in himself.

9. We believe that continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.

10. We believe that it is the privilege of all believers to be "wholly sanctified" and that "their whole spirit and soul and body" may "be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

11. We believe in the immortality of the soul, in the resurrection of the body, in the general judgment at the end of the world, in the eternal happiness of the righteous and in the endless punishment of the wicked.