

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to forward a late submission to the senate enquiry, this is a letter I sent to John Dalzeil of the Salvation Army after seeing the Four Corners programme in Aug 2003.

I also enclose copies of emails that I sent and received from the Salvation Army.

Terry Dean

Dear Sir,

I am one of the many boys that attended the Box Hill Boys Home at Elgar Rd, my time at the home was between the years of early 1948 to mid 1955.

Please allow me this opportunity of sharing my most inner feelings with you, as I have had to live with this emotional torment for most of my life.

I was born on 7/6/43 to a Patricia Daisy Dean, an unmarried girl of 16 years, she was later to abandon me after a month, by leaving me on the doorstep of my alleged fathers mother's home in South Melbourne, Victoria.

She, (Mrs Attrill at the time) believing I was her grandson tried valiantly to raise me the best she could, but was forced by poverty and hard times to place me in care, as she was a divorced woman at the time, and out of work.

I would also like to add that I was a private placement, and not a ward of the state, my grandmother knew very well that her chances of adopting me were not very good, and she did not want to lose me, she secretly reared me as her own son for as long as she could.

Another factor for me being placed in the boy's home was that the man that she was seeing at the time, a Mr Darley, was not keen in having me in their relationship.

It is with a great deal of angst and trepidation that I write to you after seeing the Four Corners programme on Aug 18 2003.

I was incarcerated in this hell hole, through no fault of my own, and really, I can't find of a more befitting description of this place, as the memory of this horrible nightmare is forever with me, I believed that this place was there for the care and well being of abused and disadvantaged boys, how wrong was I, only to find that the basic ingredients on a menu of pain and suffering were one of brutality, debauchery and insensitivity.

These officers, namely Major Stevenson, Captain Bull, Lieutenant Leggett, Captain Swift, Major Everett and a lay person by the name of Mr Sangster, these brutal and perverted people whilst masquerading as servants of God, would hide behind their red shields of care, were nothing more than outrageous mongrels, their behaviour was absolutely abhorrent and with no sense of contrition, history will now show that the Box Hill Boy's Home was a centre of denigration for the Salvation Army.

Having said that, I must offer a balanced view, and say, that there were indeed officers and lay persons of great integrity, in which we were pleased to be with, and there were times that we enjoyed together, but unfortunately, the vacuum of decay by the rotten apples within the Salvation Army were to leave such bitter tastes, that the principled officers, that we held in high esteem, were soon to fade by the foibles of their undesirable colleagues.

As I had every right to my inheritance, I have recently contested the will of my Bio Logical mother Patricia Daisy Dean, as I was left out of this estate in a most surreptitious manner.

During the course of this somewhat emotional dilemma, I made mention of my placement in the Box Hill Boys Home, for which my testimony was challenged by my brother and sisters in wanting proof, that I, was in fact, in the care of this institution.

Thinking that this would only be a formality, in applying to the Salvation Army for my records of my stay over the past 7 years, I was appalled, when I received an answer from the Salvation Army that there were no records of my stay in this institution.

It would appear, that if you were a private placement, your records could be destroyed with the excuse being that of the inevitable “the fire in the records department”, which would seem to be a most fortuitous and timely act, in obliterating these documents, in order to lessen the risk of a potential litigant.

I am most angry, to say the least, with the Salvation Army in this area of identity, to think that 7.5 years in my life are unaccountable, and that I did not exist, according to your records, I feel that this pattern of guilt shown by the Salvation Army, is due to the past horrendous events, that your organisation now finds itself embroiled in.

It is rather ironic, that I had to go to one of my Box Hill Boys Home mates, to get an affidavit, declaring that I was in fact in the home at the time, and that he knew me, this indignation I found totally mortifying.

I enclose my medical history for your perusal, for which, you will see for yourself horrible innuendoes that were perpetrated by an officer who I identify in my life story, which were grossly untrue, and, I feel these were contributing factors, for my physical and mental demise, as a young boy of 12 years.

I also enclose part of my life story, which I am still writing, and it exposes some of the lurid and heart wrenching events, which have indelibly stained my childhood memories forever.

John, this is not a personal retribution against you, and I congratulate you on your forthright honesty, although some of your comments were not entirely accurate when you said “we had to be brought up on tough love,” “because we came from a tough environment,” John, blatant beating one of the boys with a broomstick and breaking it across the back of this innocent 11 year old is not tough love, it is plain brutality, so please, don’t make silly aspersions in justifying the actions of your past masters.

In closing, I cannot in all consciousness say, “God bless you,” as I am so confused with this guy called “Jesus the son of God”, the bible often quotes, that “Jesus loved the little children,” well, where in the hell was he, ? when we needed him and what was he doing ? as we were being flogged unmercifully by your officers in the name of Christianity, and when they were finished, they would hang their heads and pray to their saviour Jesus, while we, the battered children, limped into a world of ambiguity and despair, with the words ringing in our ears,

“ Jesus loves me.”

Yours Faithfully

Terry Dean

From: terence dean
Subject: Salvation Army - Saviours or Hypocrites??
Date: 24 February 2004 12:07:58 PM
To: Michael

Dear Michael.

I copied this play on words from your "wheel of misfortune" story and also the other articles that basked in self indulgence and it read

"The Salvation Army used to be there at every step, available, caring and ready to help people make changes in their lives".

What utter rubbish!! Box Hill and Bayswater are the epitome of hell on earth and are the warts of evil, that you will find on the face of the Salvation Army, a friendly face, some may think so, I don't think so!! I suffered at the friendly hands of the Salvos.

Michael, I was in the infamous Box Hill Boys Home along with many others and we all witnessed and were victims of horrendous brutalities perpetrated by officers of the Salvation Army, I have also met boys from another draconian torture chamber better known as Bayswater Reformatory in which their stories are identical, if not worse.

Michael, please read a most compelling book called "the Orphans Of The Empire" by a most articulate author, Allan Gill, it is about some of the atrocities at Box Hill.

Michael it is rather odd, that after searching the net diligently, I cannot find any articles on both of these horrible places, these "homes" that were set up by the Salvation Army, as places of care and for the well being of disadvantaged boys, are slowly disappearing from the face of the earth, the quicker the better, it would appear, as they are a sad reminder of a bygone past of degradation and cruelty.

Terry Dean

From: michael
Subject: Reply from The Salvation Army
Date: 2 March 2004 10:00:56 AM
To: terence dean
Cc: john.dalziel@aus.salvationarmy.org

Dear Terence -

Thank you for your personal e-mail to me. I appreciate you taking time to write, and I apologise for the delay in responding as I have been out of town most of the last two weeks.

I am saddened to hear of your horrible memories at the Box Hill Boys Home.

I can only imagine the difficulties you experienced. I have a friend from England whose mother died while his father was serving in the army in India. Under British laws in the 1950s, he and his siblings were made wards of the state and shipped to Australia and South Africa to be raised in orphanages, denying every effort from the father to reclaim his children.

His recollections brought tears to my eyes.

The Salvation Army Children's Homes operated in Australia during the period from 1950 to 1979, caring for more than 30,000 children in 35 homes staffed by more than 3,000 officers and employees. We operated these homes under the social policies of the time. A total of 19 children have reported sexual abuse by 3 officers and 4 employees during this period and a further 24 children have reported physical abuse.

On Monday 18 August 2003 the ABC television "4 Corners" program featured 9 interviews with victims of abuse in Salvation Army Children's Homes during this period. All of these people have been believed and supported when they have approached us, even where it has been difficult to establish the facts due to the passing of considerable time between the alleged occurrences and the matters brought to our attention. This is discussed on our website at:

http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/media/2003/03aug14_4corners.asp

The Salvation Army has publicly apologised to the people who have come forward and acknowledged the severe and tragic impact that this betrayal of trust has on the lives of those who have been abused by people with power over them. We have willingly provided: external counselling services; where appropriate the reimbursement of past counselling services; pastoral care; reimbursement of medial expenses, and financial provision of ongoing medical assistance and where necessary contributions to legal costs.

By way of this message, I am forwarding your note to John Dalziel, and would encourage you to contact him if you would like to further discuss your experiences. I acknowledge that we cannot erase the past, but I know that The Salvation Army is willing to do its utmost to help heal the wounds.

For more information, please contact:

John Dalziel, Communications Director
The Salvation Army
Phone: (03) 9896 6007
Mobile: 0417 537 950
Email: John_Dalziel@aus.salvationarmy.org

Yours sincerely -

Michael Bouy

From: terence dean

Subject: Salvo's, Saviours or Sinners?

Date: 2 March 2004 9:28:47 PM

To: michael

Cc: john.dalziel@aus.salvationarmy.org

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your reply, I do not intend this to be a slanging match, but I must respond, as I do take exception to your quantifying human misery on a percentage basis, your facts and figures are incorrect, may I remind you, Box Boys Home was opened and operated in 1913 as the Howard Home for Boys, and was later called Hayville, it later acquired the dubious nickname of "Hellville," by boys who were totally disillusioned, after experiencing behaviour known only to the Devil incarnate himself.

You claim that the Salvation Army operated under the social policies of the time, well, please show me, where it mentions in those policies of The Children's Welfare Act, that the deprivation of ones dignity is justified, by the use of brutality and the eroding of ones self esteem by the officers in charge at the time, because that's what they did, and that, I dare say, was not part of the social policy of the time, to use a now famous euphemism, "please explain".

I take total umbrage at your implying that a total of 19 out of more than 30,000 have reported sexual abuse, is that acceptable !! it seems that that's not a bad figure for the Salvation Army, let me remind you, of what is known as zero tolerance.

As for abuse, every boy that I have spoken to from the Salvation Army Boys Homes, has suffered physical or sexual abuse by officers or lay persons from the Salvation Army, but not everyone has reported it, because of one reason or another albeit ignorance, fear, the fear of not being believed and regrettably, shame.

Michael, if every boy that went to any Salvation Army Boys Home was to come forward, and make submissions, with regard physical or sexual abuse you would be overwhelmed with sadness and disappointment, so Michael, lets not gloat on numbers!!

Michael you talk about tears, and I admire you empathy toward compassion, the tears that I have shed are many, if only, they had flowed into the chalices of hope, I may have been able to wash away, the stains, that so indelibly soiled my happiness, during my childhood.

Michael, (and I don't profess to be a Christian anymore) when Jesus was crucified he supposedly uttered the most ominous words as he was on the cross prior to his death, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do", Michael, was he in fact, referring to the Salvation Army's most brutal treatment of the boys in the Box Hill Boys Home!! I wonder ?
Yours Sincerely

Terry Dean