

**THE SERMONS, LECTURES, AND SONGS OF  
SIDNEY EDWARD COX**

The Salvation Army Southern Bible Conference – Summer 1968  
Shamrock Village. Ft. Pierce, Florida

Special Guests:  
Dr. John Sutherland Logan<sup>1</sup>  
Reverend Sidney Cox  
Colonel and Mrs. Albert Pepper<sup>2</sup>

**Highlights**

Congregational Singing – Cox Chorus, *Just Sing Me A Song About Jesus*  
Dr. Logan Sermon – I Corinthians 13, *The New Morality*

**Editorial Note: What follows are excerpts from the meetings conducted during the week long Salvation Army Bible Conference of 1968. Officers from throughout the Southern Territory all congregate for this annual camp-style conference which is a Salvation Army institution.**

**Following the death in August, 1967 of his beloved wife, Violet, who had been a near invalid for many years, Sidney Cox was once again able to travel. Although he was 81 years of age, he was much in demand as a speaker and teacher, and resumed his extensive travel schedule. On this occasion, he had been invited to participate as a special guest speaker for the duration of the conference.**

**Sidney and Violet Cox voluntarily left the work of The Salvation Army in 1944, and in the summer of 1968, he had been a former officer for over 20 years; yet, he remained extremely close friends with the Southern Salvationists and in popular demand as a speaker, preacher and musician at their meetings. Many of the officers at the conference had been closely associated with him or had even been trained by him at the Army's College for Officers Training during his Salvation Army tenure in Atlanta from 1928 – 1944.**

**This occasion was an emotional reunion for him and the officers in attendance at this conference.**

**John Douglas Cox, grandson of Sidney Cox. August, 2009.**

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Southerland was a Scottish evangelist who was president of Vennard College, a Wesleyan-Holiness college in University Park, Iowa. He was a popular speaker at Salvation Army events such as Bible Conferences, Officers' Councils and at the Army training colleges in the late 1950s and 1960s.

<sup>2</sup> Colonel and Mrs. Pepper were well-known Salvation Army officers. Of note, Colonel Pepper became the first principal of the Brengle Holiness Institute, named for another Army icon, Colonel Samuel Logan Brengle. Like Brengle, Pepper became a noted teacher of the doctrine of holiness and was a personal witness to holy living.

COLONEL HARRY WARD, PRESIDING:

BAND & CONGREGATIONAL SINGING - #284, *Hallelujah, Send the Glory*

BAND & CONGREGATIONAL SINGING – Sidney Cox Chorus, *Just Sing Me A Song About Jesus*

Just sing me a song about Jesus,  
My wonderful, wonderful, Jesus.  
Others may sing of birds on a wing,  
Of flowers that bloom in the brightness of spring,  
But if to my heart you would comfort bring,  
Just sing me a song about Jesus,  
My wonderful, wonderful, Jesus.

**[Editorial Note: Sidney Cox had composed this chorus especially for this conference, a practice that he used on many occasions. Later in 1968, during an address to the cadets at The Salvation Army College for Officers Training in Atlanta, he told the story of his writing this chorus. On that occasion, this is what he said:**

**“I want you to sing that new chorus of mine so I can carry the memory of it. You know the one; *Just Sing Me A Song About Jesus*. Do you know that? Everybody know it? Have you got the music for it there? Fine.**

**I want you to sing it there. I wrote it in a hospital room in Detroit a couple of years ago or just a little less than that under rather unusual circumstances. I only have to mention that, and some of you will understand what I mean.**

**But I wrote it in a hospital room there in the city of Detroit a year and a half or more ago, and it came to my heart there. Because there comes a time, my dear, when the only name you want to hear is the name of Jesus. Did you hear it? And it will come to you too.<sup>3</sup>**

**The only name that you want to hear is His name. You don’t want to hear about other things. You don’t want to hear about, “Birds on the wing.” You don’t want to hear about something else. You don’t want to hear about a, “Beautiful Isle of Somewhere” or something of the kind.**

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<sup>3</sup> Sidney Cox is referring here to the death of his beloved wife, Violet in August, 1967. He loved her in a most remarkable way and often professed his love for her publicly. Upon her death, his family, friends and comrades naturally tried to console him. In his grief, this theme and these thoughts came to his mind, “Just sing me a song about Jesus.”

**And, by the way, if you're going to a, "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere," don't look for me. I'm not going there at all. I know where I'm going, and it isn't a, "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere." I'm going to a city that has foundations; that's builder and maker is God, of course. I know where it is and I know the size of it. I know what it's made of. I know what the paving stones are made of. I know what the gates are made of. I'm not going to any "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere." You can go if you want to. But don't look for me when you get there. You won't find me there at all; not at all. Now, sing this little chorus for me; will you? Sing it loud. Come on, let's sing it loud together."**

**This story sheds light on the real meaning behind the chorus.]**

Now, turn them over [their songsheets] and let's see how good we do. Turn them over. No cheating now. No cribbing. I may need your help, so let me see you lip syncing those words. Here we go, everybody.

Just sing me a song about Jesus,  
My wonderful, wonderful, Jesus.  
Others may sing of birds on a wing,  
Of flowers that bloom in the brightness of spring,  
But if to my heart you would comfort bring,  
Just sing me a song about Jesus,  
My wonderful, wonderful, Jesus.

To Sidney Cox: I think you're getting it. Isn't that pretty? [He responds, "It sure is."]

And remember, you're the first crowd that has ever sung it. Take it back to the corps and let's broadcast it before Zondervan & Co. take it and print it and sells it. Let's sing it and pave the way for more distribution of these lovely words and this lovely \_\_\_\_\_.

**SPECIAL MUSIC – YOUTH**

**CONGREGATIONAL SINGING – Chorus**

Ever Thine, Thine alone,  
Henceforth Savior I will be.  
This my call, my life's ambition,  
Day by day to grow like Thee.

**SERMON – DR. LOGAN:** Text: I Corinthians Chapter 13. *The New Morality.*

Not Transcribed