

MILLIONS UNTOUCHED INSISTENTLY CALL
Self-Denial Message

My Dear Comrades and Friends:

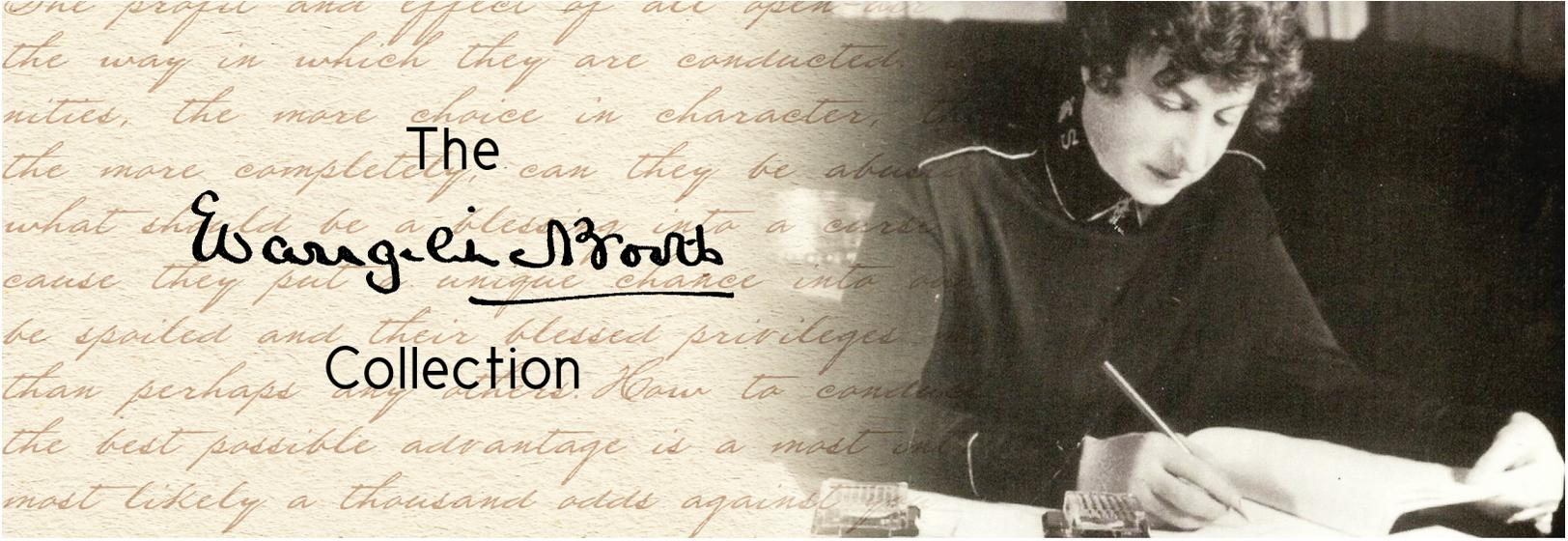
How good it would be if Self-Denial Week could be the occasion of our all meeting together, and I might bring you this message in person! But seeing that so vast a reunion is an utter impossibility, may I not ask you to take these words as if we indeed stood face to face and they were poured direct from my heart to yours?

The cause I would commend to you here is of vital importance to The Salvation Army in its mission of carrying the Gospel to all parts of the earth. It is also a source of helpful inspiration to us all, emphasizing one of the cardinal principals of the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ as taught and exemplified in His life on earth – sacrifice and self-denial. “If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me”.

We have been so wonderfully blest in this land of golden plenty that it is hard sometimes to realize all that our comrades working in the world’s darker places have had to abandon for a life of privation and loneliness in order that our Army Flag may gather under its enlightening folds peoples of ensnared habit and shadowed mind, to be transformed through the tender mercy of our all-loving Saviour into worthy soldiers of His Cross.

We have all rejoiced to hear of the marked advances in our missionary work all over the world. This encouraging progress could not have been made but for the financial support that has been provided through our Self-Denial Efforts, and you may be assured that for all you have hitherto done to push forward this great world-evangelizing movement, in the name of these neediest of earth’s needy souls, I most sincerely thank you.

But all these glorious achievements of the past – the multitude of heathen redeemed, the little children saved and taught, the hospitals built, the schools founded, the industries established, the thousands of lepers, their wretchedness alleviated, the midnight darkness of their souls penetrated by a ray of Heaven’s eternal hope, the criminal tribes from which have been raised



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up thousands of right-living citizens and a goodly number of saints, the illuminating of man's remotest dwelling-place by the torch of the inextinguishable Gospel – all these God-given indorsements of the labors of the past only make more insistent the call that is sounding today from the millions yet untouched.

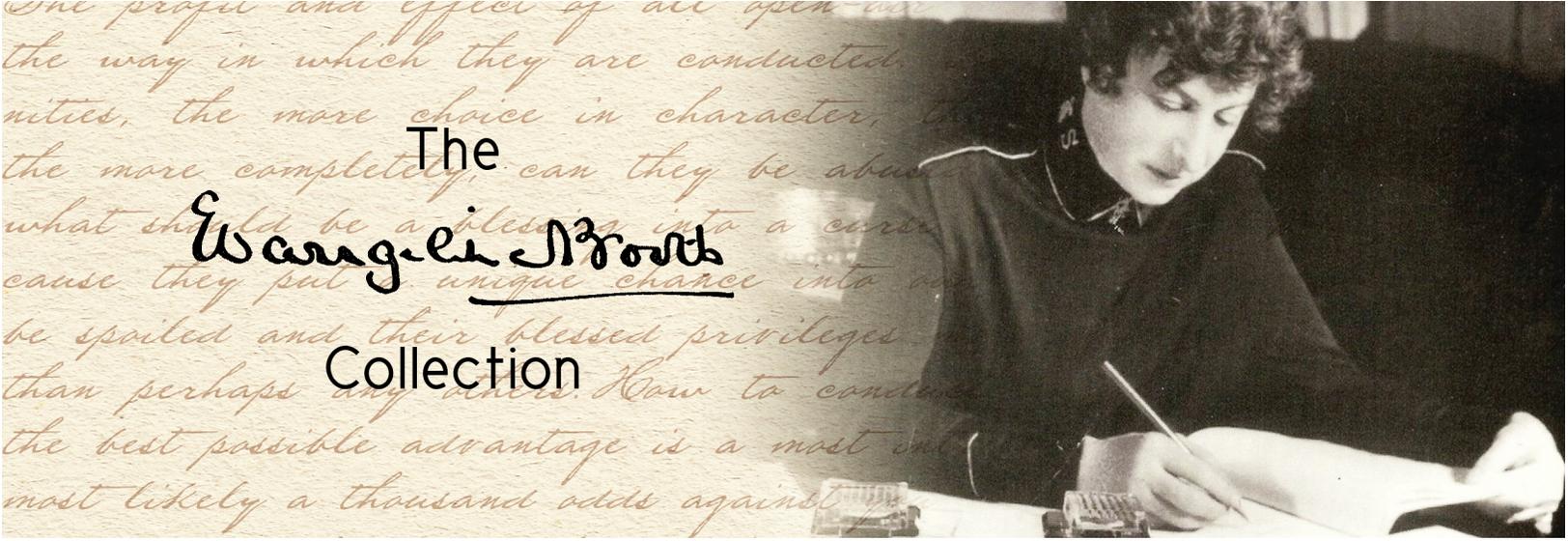
Again, we remember with affection the dear officers given to this work, many of whom were at one time comrades in the United States. Our hearts go out to them in their brave fight, and since we cannot stand with them in their loneliness, or reach them with hearty handclasp or spoken words of cheer, we must share their welfare by sending them all the help we possibly can to carry over, and to provide for the extension of such devoted service.

It is to this end we are asked to give of our money, and to urge our friends to contribute. This is our exceptional privilege. This is our bounden duty to share in supporting the splendid program of missionary effort dependent upon our Annual Self-Denial Fund.

So, my dear comrades and friends, I appeal to you. You must do your utmost. Let not one be missing from some active participation in this endeavor. No single one of us can do everything, but we can all do something, and although we may only have one talent, we can put it out as interest. God will see to the increase. And may I ask that you make your personal gift, as you possibly can, bearing in mind how pressing are the needs upon these frontiers of civilization and Christianity.

Your giving and collecting will bring blessing to your own soul. It will be of untold encouragement to your missionary comrades. It will nerve their hearts to fresh heroism by the knowledge of your remembrance and help, and you know how fully the care of all this missionary enterprise falls upon the General. We must catch this burning enthusiasm.

And now, in closing, I want to say just a word about the rich spiritual possibilities of Self-Denial. This not only concerns graces of a Christian experience, but it is one of its most indispensable essentials. Without it, it is impossible ever truly to know Him who emptied Himself of all things for our sakes. Shall we not make this special week a high place in the life of our souls – a time to cast ourselves into the fathomless depths of that Boundless Love who holds all men in wideness



of His mercy, a truer conception of the tenderness of His compassion; a time of utter surrender of self and substance to the honor of His name and the salvation of all nations?

My dear comrades, here and now I call you forward to embrace the opportunity afforded by this great need for the practical demonstration of the spirit of our Saviour. In many lands all Salvationists are combining to make Self-Denial a supreme effort – but the American field must set the pace for all the world in its devotion to our missionary cause. You will not fail me.

Your Commander, on behalf of those who know not God,

Evangeline Booth. (March 28, 1925)