

FOLLOWING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

By Deanna Storfie

(Presented as if they are either Bramwell or Evangeline Booth as a youth)

I suppose you could say that my family...is **very** unusual. At least, I do not know any like mine. My father is a general in the army. Oh, not England's army, for he doesn't fight like other generals. His fight isn't with people, although there are some who deserve a good slug to the nose now and then. *(Embarrassed)* Oops! Nope, the weapons my father fights with are weapons of love and service. In fact, Father says that there is nothing the enemy hates more than love. Often Father comes home with the wounds to prove it. *(Thinks, shaking head)* Why would anyone want to hurt him? He is the kindest, most patient person I know. It's because **some** people don't like what he says. Some don't want to know that God loves them. They don't want to turn away from drinking and gambling. But Father won't give up on them. He knows that Jesus is the **only** one that can help them.

Then there's my mother! She's pretty amazing too. And she's not like normal mothers. She doesn't always have time to make us meals, read us stories or mend our clothes. We had to hire someone else to do all that. That's okay 'cause we know that she loves us. She's doing what God has called her to do. Mother thinks **obedience** is **very** important. *(Rub your bottom as if just spanked)* She's a preacher, just like Father. Only Father preaches to the poorest of the poor and my mother? Well, she preaches to just about anybody and she's a **woman** to boot! Quite the commotion she's caused. She especially likes preaching to the well to do. Oh, not cause they pay better. It's so she can tell them what they can do with their money! Like help the poor, the widows and the orphans. In fact, she raises all kinds of money to help my Father do just that.

I like to help too! Sometimes it's a little bit scary though. I help in the food kitchens feeding the poor. *(Make a face)* Lots stink of gin and tobacco and I don't think they know what a bath is. But Father says to us, "These are our people. These are the people to live for and bring to Christ." And he does and so does Mother. She often goes door to door and talks to those who struggle with drink. Somehow she gets them to come to our meetings and they decide to follow Christ.

People's lives are changing and we see it every day, but it's never been easy, that's for sure. We've never gone hungry but...a lot of times we have gone without. My clothes are patched, my toys are worn and whenever I start to complain, my mother reminds me that our sacrifice is worth it for all those who will make Heaven their home. *(Sigh)*

Someday, I want to be just like them!