



# Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory  
News and Views from the Midwest



"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

Volume 46, Number 8

August 2016

## ARC alumni retreat proves family strong

by Major Arnel Ruppel

"Heart strong, faith strong, we are family strong!" was the theme for the 2016 Adult Rehabilitation Centers (ARC) Alumni Retreat which brought together 300 people from across the

Central Territory for a weekend of fun, fellowship and restoration for both body and soul. The retreat's objectives were to give people the opportunity for rest and relaxation, to learn something new, to connect again to a body of people in recovery and, most importantly, to praise and worship the Lord of our salvation.

With guests Majors Stephen and Diane Harper, we did just that opening the retreat with a game night. "Stomp," where participants burst competitors' balloons while protecting their own banded around their ankles started out with the youngest children coming to the stage to challenge one another. After their successful round, other



A new workshop this year, "Family Strong: the Importance of a Committed Dad," was taught by

Derrick White and Julie Scott of Metropolitan Division Family Services. The course is a precursor of the new father's initiative cohort program for which they recently received federal funding to teach. Beginning this fall ARCs in the Chicago area will participate in this program.

The weekend was pervaded with a strong sense of God's presence and peace as people reconnected and met others attending for the first time. A powerful and unifying aspect for meetings of individuals from the ARC is the sharing of their testimonies. So, once again Saturday evening presented an

Continued on page 2



## Echelon shines bright in Milwaukee

Founded in late 2014, the Milwaukee chapter of Echelon is flourishing. The Salvation Army Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division's young professionals group already has 50 members, has exceeded its initial fundraising goal of \$10,000 and is growing not only in size, but in talent, passion and enthusiasm for "Doing the Most Good."

"I was drawn to Echelon because it provided an opportunity to mix vol-

unteer work and networking with like-minded individuals to create change. The fact that we can use our collective talent, experience and connections to help those in need is truly special," said member Brandon Alberti.

Echelon Milwaukee members aren't just impressive professionals, passionate about serving, they're diverse in the talent and skills they bring to our Army. Their ranks include engineers, attorneys, and

real estate agents. There's even an investigative reporter! Their commonality is a positive association with and advocacy for The Salvation Army. Some simply see the Army as a vehicle for community service while others, like small business owner Nathan Harris who grew up in severe poverty near Chicago, have been personally touched by the organization.

"I was immediately drawn to Echelon because if it weren't for The Salvation Army I wouldn't be alive today," said Nathan. "...we grew up living in shelters at some points and walking miles to The Salvation Army to get vouchers for the food bank. I will never forget where I came from..."

Echelon Milwaukee had a stunning turnout at the 2016 National Advisory Organizations Conference in Phoenix, Ariz., with a delegation of 17 members. Marcy Stutzman, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divi-



sional special events coordinator and the Echelon staff liaison said, "Everyone walked away feeling part of the bigger picture of the Army. They were energized and ready to do more for the mission!"

Echelon Milwaukee meets monthly and alternates between having a professional development focus and participating in service events like ringing bells at kettles, packing lunches for the Feed the Kids summer program or delivering school supplies to area elementary schools.



Some of the Milwaukee Echelon delegates to the National Advisory Organizations Conference

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# The power to change

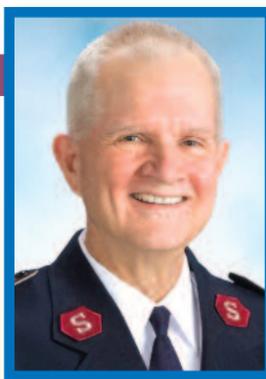
by Lt. Colonel Richard Amick  
Secretary for Business Administration

Every time I visit my two-year-old granddaughter, Avery, I am blown away by how quickly she learns and adapts to her environment. Whether on her tablet, my iPad, her mommy's iPhone or her daddy's laptop, she knows where Hippo Peppa, Bob the Train, Bubble Guppies and all of her favorite videos are located. She knows where videos of herself and her baby sister can be found and loves watching herself as a baby. I can't help but pray as she grows up she won't be conformed to this world but will be transformed by the renewing of her mind.

Educator and best-selling author Tony Wagner is a firm believer in

"disruptive innovation" that changes the way the world thinks and works. In his book, *Creating Innovators: The Making of Young People Who Will Change the World*, he says, "Innovation occurs in every aspect of human endeavor," and "most people can become more creative and innovative—given the right environment and opportunities."

Paul was a first-century innovator who traveled throughout Asia Minor telling people how they could be transformed by faith in Jesus Christ. To the Christians in Rome Paul wrote, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."



(Romans 12:2, NLT) He urged them to give themselves fully to God. In a self-centered, greedy and grasping world, Paul mentored them in how to live a Christ-centered life.

The world has changed dramatically since Paul's time, but people's

longing for love, forgiveness and the power to change remains the same. Jesus, the Great Innovator, offers all of these and invites us to experience a new and different life in Him. God takes us as we are but never leaves us that way.

As I watched new lieutenants being commissioned and sent out to their new appointments this summer, I was reminded of the opportunities that await them for seeing the Great Innovator at work in the lives of others. How exciting!

## ARC retreat Continued from page 1

opportunity for people to share their stories in both narrative and song. A beautiful mix of individuals, groups and especially families shared their sorrow, strength and praise through songs well-known and newly composed. It was a public declaration of God's work in their lives.

"From the moment we stepped on the camp until the final prayer on Sunday morning, this was a blessing" said Phillip Burgess, a counselor at the Chicago North Side, Ill., ARC. A key leader of the music ministry, he invited all who wanted to participate in the ARC choir to come to the stage. Soon, they formed two



rows deep across the platform, merging into harmonious praise. In the ARC, we are heart, faith and family strong!



## Jesus is theirs

The Salvation Army has come to mean a lot in Anita Tidwell's life over the last several years. Until she began providing afterschool and day care for 10 of her 11 grandchildren, Anita worked for seven years at the Chicago, Ill., North Side Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) as a store employee. She continues to regularly attend Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship services at the ARC, where she sings in the choir, attends women's ministries and brings her grandchildren who "love it and only want to go to church there!" said Anita.

Two years ago Anita's connection with the ARC deepened even further when she began seeing Anthony Bennett, an alumnus of the center. "We actually met on the internet," said Anita, who was thrilled to attend her first alumni retreat with Anthony last year. Sadly, it was also the last one they attended together before his recent passing.

Major Julie Aren, Chicago North Side ARC Administrator, invited Anita to attend this year's alumni retreat with her 10 grandchildren. Held at Camp Wonderland, the retreat's focus was on ministering to families. Anita said it was wonderful to fellowship and relax knowing her grandchildren, ages 3-12, were safe and happily involved in activities.

To pay tribute to Anthony and express their appreciation to the ARC, Anita and the children per-



formed a lively rendition of "Jesus is mine" during an evening meeting.

"The words and music reflected a heartfelt connection with Jesus being the source of all comfort and peace, which is important to Anita. Her relationship with Anthony reflected a 'God moment' in her life, bringing support, strength and resilience during a time of her own personal struggle," said Major Julie. "As they sang, Anita felt it, her grandkids felt it and so did the audience."

"God is in the details. For Anita they were the ARC choir and a Christian gentleman working a program of recovery. When Anthony became sick, Anita supported him and frequently sang at his bedside. She continues to sing in the choir, finding strength among those working programs of recovery just like Anthony, the friend God gave to support her before calling him home," Major Julie concluded.

**Central Connection** 

THE SALVATION ARMY  
5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy • Hoffman Estates, IL 60192  
847-294-2000

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Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry website

Pathway of Hope website

Territorial Youth Department website

South Bend Kroc website

## New programs connect with teens' hearts

At the South Bend, Ind., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center new targeted outreaches are bringing teens to the Army and drawing them closer to God.

On Sunday morning, the Zone invites young people to hang out in a relaxed space, complete with video and arcade games and free WiFi. This informal meeting place with a welcoming vibe creates a focus on building relationships and friendship evangelism. Believers are encouraged to invite their friends.

According to youth outreach coordinator Jon Blanchard, it's also "on-ramping" to the corps and a very interactive teen-style worship that includes a video and a discussion-based lesson where they dig into scripture and talk about applying God's Word to their lives, followed by pizza and fellowship.

Approximately 25 youth from the neighborhood attend the service weekly, and 98 percent of them are unchurched and new to the Army.

"It's a safe environment where they can build relationships and hear other teens exploring faith," said Major Louise Blessing, former Kroc Center officer for program and youth development.

Midweek teens come together for a program called Corps 180, representing the about-face everyone can have in Christ. Approximately a dozen teens turn out regularly for this spiritual youth development emphasis involving teaching, games and life skills.

According to Jon, although these efforts might be perceived as a bit unconventional, they line up with what the Church—especially the Army—should be doing: bridging the gap with those who don't know the

Lord and helping them see what the gospel means for them.

It's something Jon understands first-hand. He says that though he grew up in a conservative, church-going family in South Bend, he never came to accept the Lord personally and figured he'd never be good enough for God. So, in high school it was easy to replace church with football when he excelled at it. But during his freshman year of college, the bottom dropped out of his nicely tailored life. Becoming ill and needing two surgeries, he had to give up playing football. In addition, two of his friends were robbed and shot for just a small amount of money. These circumstances propelled Jon to re-evaluate the gospel and figure out what was true. After six months of studying the Bible and church history, he reached his conclusion.

"It was undeniable that Jesus was the answer," Jon said. This decision



Jon Blanchard

altered everything. He even switched to a Christian college. That's where he became reacquainted with childhood friend, Betsy Best, daughter of Majors Tim and Beverly Best, and was introduced to The Salvation Army.

Jon concluded, "The Army is different than anything I've ever known, but it has so many resources to serve Christ. It's a great opportunity for me to walk what God has for me."



Participants in Corps 180

## Centennial inspires future

The Salvation Army of Lake County, Ind., celebrated its centennial of service to northwestern Indiana communities with guests Commissioners William A. and Nancy L. Roberts, reported Major Jose Tamayo, Lake County coordinator.

Highlights of the week-long celebration included a county-wide evangelistic campaign conducted by the Roberts, who before their retirement served as Chief of the Staff and World Secretary for Women's Ministries at International Headquarters. Commissioner William Roberts also spoke at the Army's annual civic luncheon for Lake County held at the Radisson Star Plaza Hotel in Merrillville, Ind., and conducted a Sunday-morning soldier enrollment at the Hammond-Munster, Ind., Corps.

The civic luncheon themed "From Help to Hope" featured a historic and contemporary review of the Army's work in the county by Major Tamayo and an inspirational message on the Army's motivation for its work from Commissioner William Roberts.

"A century ago, The Salvation Army brought its gospel-based mission and ministry to Lake County. Today it devotes its energies to eradicating homelessness, hunger and suffering...no one is told there's no hope for you," said the major.

Outstanding volunteers were rec-



Major Jose Tamayo presents Advisory Board member Paul Doherty the Certificate of Life Membership.

ognized, and advisory board members honored. Tom DeGiulio received the Other's award, Edward "Gene" Masterton was presented the Certificate of Membership Emeritus and Paul Doherty, 93, was awarded the Certificate of Life Membership.

"Being compassionate means we're friends of the marginalized. If we are not serving, we are not The Salvation Army," said the commissioner, who noted the Army works in 127 countries tailoring service to meet local needs and customs. "We seek attention not to ourselves but to the message of Christ. Service to others is a privilege, a God-given mandate to serve without discrimination. We stand with our arms wide open to the world."

## TSAO update

Introduced to the territory in 2011, *The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO)* program just keeps getting better and better. Two recent developments include the popular sports of fishing and archery.

### Go fish!

A new collaboration between TSAO and the Missouri Department of Conservation will make fishing more accessible. Incorporating the state's materials into our program, Discover Nature and Fishing, focuses on youth having fun outdoors, learning about conservation and making memories. The lessons cover equipment, casting and proper fish handling; tying knots and baiting hooks; fish anatomy, habitat and life cycle; and lures and regulations. Compact, well-researched and user-friendly, it makes it easy for leaders to take their kids out fishing!



### Hit the mark!

Thanks to the Easton Foundations, park archery leagues are being sponsored at the Kroc centers in the territory. Training is underway already in Green Bay, Wis., Chicago, Ill., and Grand Rapids, Mich., to introduce this program. Kroc centers will partner with community-based parks to hold competitions.



Jessica and Victoria Pavlinac, Haylee Needham, Jordan Warren and Daniel Schaal are enrolled as junior soldiers by Commissioner William Roberts.



# PATHWAY OF HOPE

## Triumph from the rubble



Major Daniel Sawka, Muskegon, Mich., corps officer, thanks Christy for sharing her story with advisory board members.

Seven years ago Christy was living her dream life: married, living in a house she helped design and build from the ground up, managing a business for more than a decade and driving a new car. Suddenly her world came crashing down when she discovered her husband was living a double life.

Within a year, Christy lost the house and her car and had to move back in with her parents. She tried giving love another chance; she met a man, had a baby and thought her life was back on track. But soon she found herself fighting the demons of her partner's alcoholism, mental illness and abuse.

Alone again, Christy was shocked to then lose her job of 17 years for taking time off to deal with her one-year-old son's medical issues. She floundered for direction, not knowing which way to turn or where to go next with her life. Hoping to get a present for her child that Christmas, Christy went to a Toys for Tots distribution that happened to be held at the Muskegon, Mich., Corps, where she received an informational pamphlet on Pathway of Hope (POH).

"Little did I know this would become the largest blessing in my life," said Christy, who's been participating in POH at the corps for just over a year now. According to Peggy Ferris, case manager and POH coordinator, during that time



Christy and son

Christy, who's now 34, completed her primary goal of learning a skill in the medical profession to support herself and her son, graduating at the top of her class.

Christy's new goals are to find a job (supported by sterling recommendations from the school) within a 50-mile radius and find stable, safe and affordable housing for herself and her son. When she recently shared about her experiences with POH at a corps advisory board meeting at the invitation of Muskegon Corps Officers Daniel and Stephanie Sawka, several members asked for her resume and congratulated Christy on her courage in sharing her story.

"The POH approach showed me I'm not trash to be thrown away. Despite all the mental and physical abuse I've experienced, I'm not the person I was told I am. I'm learning to define myself and not allow others to define me. I wouldn't be where I am today and wouldn't have the resources to be successful, if it weren't for the POH initiative."

Peggy added POH gained another collaborative partner through the medical education program Christy attended. The school has held food and toy drives for the corps and organized student volunteers for bell-ringing.



Christy and Peggy Ferris, case manager at the Muskegon, Mich., Corps

## Confidence builds hope

After the tragic loss of her husband, father and sister within four months, Constance lost her job and subsequently her home when her bereavement leave was exhausted and she needed more time off of work.

Thanks to the excellent partnerships established by Shida Brooks, then Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps caseworker, Constance was referred to The Salvation Army by the Kansas City, Kan., school district's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance liaison.

"When I came to The Salvation Army I had a plate of issues," Constance recalled. "We were living in a hotel, with no transportation, and I had two children to take care of [ages 12 and 13]."

Enrolling in Pathway of Hope, Constance and Shida set achievable goals including finding safe and affordable housing, securing employment, obtaining public benefits and reinstating her driver's

license.

Constance felt the breakthrough came when she proved she'd been unfairly terminated and got her job back. Subsequent goals, such as securing housing and benefits, then became the focus. Shida connected Constance with My Father's House, which provided her with home furnishings and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance liaison helped arrange for a bus to pick her children up for school.

"When I first started to meet with Constance she was very quiet," said Shida. "Now she is open. She feels she is in a place where she can express herself. She's more confident and even her children have noticed. I've heard them say, 'Mommy is just so happy!'"

Constance's final goal is to secure her driver's license and transportation to work. Having achieved so much, she's confident she'll achieve this, too.

"I think it was putting everything into perspective and having another person to brainstorm with that made this a success," said Constance. "With Shida, I never felt alone. She made me feel like there was someone on my team. We attacked it together. It's not been easy, but Shida was always empathetic, patient and really, really kind."



Kansas City Citadel Corps Officer Major Beverly Best and Shida Brooks.

## Progress to date

Launched in 2011, Pathway of Hope has made significant progress in the Central Territory in the last five years. Here's where we stand at a glance:

- 268 corps and social service sites with trained personnel
- 2,083 families have enrolled
- 4,827 children have been served
- 75% of clients have increased stability
- \$4,000 = the average earned income increase for a family
- 568 organizations have partnered with us
- 1,689 clients have been referred to other community resources

## Top 5 goals achieved



**88%**  
**employment**



**83%**  
**financial stability**



**82%**  
**housing**



**78%**  
**education**



**71%**  
**transportation**

## Collaborating for success

**K**elly's story is an excellent example of how the Pathway to Hope (POH) approach to case management effectively uses community engagement and collaboration, reported Terra Blase, social services director at the Hastings, Neb., Corps.

Kelly was referred to The Salvation Army from Catholic Social Services. They learned about the POH initiative from a presentation Terra had made at a community meeting and thought Kelly and her family might be an excellent fit.

Kelly faithfully attended weekly sessions with Terra. She and her children benefited from a wide range of services offered by the corps and outside resources. Through POH, Kelly succeeded in reaching many of her goals, including getting her first-ever job!

For most of her life, Kelly had struggled to exist solely on social security disability payments. After many months of encouragement and support, Kelly felt she could work a part-time job. Terra referred her to a state vocational rehabilitation agency for employment training and support services. After completing the 90-day program,



Kelly was placed by the agency in a couple of on-the-job training programs.

Throughout the process, Terra coordinated meetings with the agency and training programs and continued to provide the reassurance and encouragement Kelly needed to succeed. Her efforts paid off. Earlier this year, Kelly was hired as a dishwasher at a local golf course. "She couldn't have been more excited," Terra added.

Terra also was instrumental in making references for many other forms of assistance and services for Kelly and her family from state and federal agencies, charities and local churches. Today Kelly and her family have assistance for a variety of their expenses—and they will even have new windows for their home thanks to a local weatherization program!

The Hastings Corps has been participating in POH since October 2014. Its corps officers, Majors Dale and Sandra Brandenburg, have been active supporters of POH since their appointment to the corps last year.



## Accountability the key

**S**ingle mom Danyale first learned about Salvation Army services while volunteering with AmeriCorps after the 2011 Joplin, Mo., tornado. Following some hard knocks in life, she found herself seeking out the Army for help.

"She came to us needing financial assistance for rent and utilities, but what she really needed was a support system," said Joplin, Mo., Corps Caseworker Debra Gaskill. "She had the desire to improve her situation, but she said she did not always have the will power to stay on track."

Danyale was very interested in participating in the Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative, but hesitated. "I knew I needed help, but I didn't feel like I deserved it," said Danyale. "After talking with Debra, she told me I was worthy of help and that I did need it."

Debra and Danyale set three main goals for her: go back to college, enroll her five-year-old daughter in reliable daycare, and create and stick to a budget. After laying out action steps and being accountable to Debra each week, Danyale developed the confidence she needed to complete all of her goals.

"Once she had someone to be accountable to, Danyale was motivated," said Debra. "It kept her going to have someone to lean on

and encourage her."

Within six months, Danyale was able to get all of her bills and legal fines taken care of; had her daughter enrolled in the Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center and started college in January.

Thanks to a good relationship with Joplin Corps Officers Majors Doug and Beckie Stearns, Danyale also is volunteering as a community liaison on the corps' social services advisory committee. She even shared her story at the corps' volunteer appreciation dinner.

Danyale concluded, "Right now I feel very, very good about my goals. I feel like I'm on a good path with POH, and I see a good future."



Caseworker Debra Gaskill with Danyale and her daughter Khamil

## A Primer on Pathway of Hope

Pathway to Hope (POH) is a case-work approach that provides targeted services to families with a desire to take action to break the cycle of crises and set them on a path out of intergenerational poverty.

It's built on the premise that the strengths-based approach, combined with hope enhancement practices, can help at-risk families overcome barriers and progress along a "path" toward stability and sufficiency.

It employs a holistic team that includes the corps officer, staff, soldiers and volunteers who work alongside families to facilitate change and to celebrate small victories and significant achievements.

Corps teams work to build a strong community support system for Pathway families that includes opportunities to connect to Salvation Army corps programs, as well as community resources through enhanced collaborations.

## Newly accepted candidates

### Rachel Aren

Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps  
Metropolitan Division



I have wanted to be an officer since the tender age of 8. God confirmed this many times while I was growing up, but when I was 21 on a summer mission team (SMT) in Chile my calling became tangible.

That summer in Chile I was overwhelmed by The Salvation Army's work, and my love and passion for its mission grew. God revealed to me how necessary the Army's work is in the world and that there is a place for me in it. The following summer while in Malawi on another SMT, God clearly confirmed my place as an officer. I came home confident and excited about my future as an officer.

Rachel's corps officers are Majors John and Johanna Pook.

### Scott Parnell

Bloomington, Ind., Corps  
Indiana Division



I was saved at age 16 when some of my high school friends invited me to a week-long summer youth conference in Tennessee. This experience changed the course of my life as I accepted Jesus as my Savior. But after graduation I



turned away from the Lord and fell into despair and self-destruction for some years. However, God is faithful. He continued to love and pursue me and embraced me when I returned to Him.

It was during my first Sunday morning worship service at a corps that I felt the Lord wanted me to be a part of The Salvation Army. Later, I heard my calling to officership when I saw what God was doing through The Salvation Army and felt Him ask, "Who will go?" (Isaiah 6:8) I'm stepping forward to go with complete trust in Him.

Scott's corps officer is Lt. Sharyn Tennyson

### Jack P. Huffman

Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps  
Eastern Michigan Division



Growing up in a broken home was a pattern I learned early and repeated into my adulthood. When I was in one of my deepest valleys, I sought to make a change in my life through a local church ministry which

led me to the adult rehabilitation center. While there I worked eagerly to correct my wrongs.

After some time at the center, I surrendered my life fully to Christ. The day I gave my life to the Lord was the closest I ever felt to God. I had an overwhelming peace. Shortly afterward the Lord called me to officership at a men's ministry conference. I have since had my calling confirmed

in several ways. I enjoy sowing seeds through God's Word and sharing about the strength and hope Christ has given my life. I look forward to serving God as an officer.

Jack's corps officers are Captains Caleb and Stephanie Senn.

### Daniel and Haley Voss

Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Corps  
Grand Rapids Fulton Heights  
Citadel, Mich., Corps  
Western Michigan/Northern  
Indiana Division



As we enter training as a newly married couple, we're excited to learn and prepare to serve God together as officers. Each of us has served in our corps in various ministries and in different ways in the division, including camps.

We have a passion for ministry and a heart for the people God has called us to love and serve. We possess a longing to minister especially to our generation and see people grow in their faith and then service. We pray that individually and together we will be a blessing to

those we come in contact with and show the love of Christ wherever He calls us to serve.

Dan's corps officers are Captains Dan and Amy Voss, and Haley's corps officers are Majors William and Heather Holman.



# 730... AND BEYOND



10,280 days and counting

by Major Keith J. Welch

A harsh retort from a revered local officer had me, just a lieutenant, in the basement of our quarters packing up my things. As I began hurriedly packing my belongings, I was slowed down as I started to look through some of the items. They puzzled together my past and reminded me why I became an officer.

Suddenly, this exercise became therapeutic as my fingers thumbed through the boxes and files of my past experiences. The items reminded me of my call to officership and later my time at the training college. Instead of leaving, I had rediscovered the reason I should stay.

In preparation for training, someone told us we probably would not get much for our Chevy cargo van which I had fixed up as a moving camper. Yet, an Indianapolis police officer bought it the very next day. When he found out we were going to become ministers, he said, "I now know this is the van I want." He, too, was a Christian. He was going to use the van for stakeouts and fishing.

We had waited to pack until the night before we left for training because of the uncertainty of selling our home. However, the realtor said he had someone who wanted to buy it, and it looked good because they had a co-signer. But our first night at



the training college, the realtor called and said the sale had fallen through. I prayed, "God, do you really want us to be here? If so, we need our house sold." The very next day, the realtor called and said we now had a cash buyer. It confirmed the call of God to our ministry as officers in The Salvation Army. We knew we were right where God wanted us to be.

I often think of the verse from Deuteronomy 1:31 (NASB): "...you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as a man carries his son, in all the way which you have walked until you came to this place." God continues to carry me and confirms my calling to serve Him.

I still go through the growing memories of papers and pictures on a regular basis, and they continue to confirm my calling.

## Blessing bikers



In an effort to show God's love to the local motorcycle community, the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps held a "Biker Blessing" in coordination with an annual autism awareness ride. Hot dogs and beverages were served from a canteen to more than 100 riders. Des Plaines Corps Officer Captain David Martinez and corps members of The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry (TSAMM) min-

gled with attendees, many of whom requested prayer. The crowd included several Illinois-chapter members of the Punishers, a motorcycle club comprised of police officers, firefighters, emergency medical responders and the military. Others representing the corps included Karla, Terry and Zach Davis, David Meyers and John and Suzanne Sharp.

# Commissioners Swanson retire



Photos by Ryan Love, SA Connects

by Warren L. Maye

*The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places... Psalm 16:6 (NIV)*

Rarely, if ever, have two territories met at the crossroads of ministry in such a visually dramatic way as the retirement service for Commissioners Barry C. and E. Sue Swanson held at the Hershey Lodge and Conference Center in Pennsylvania.

As many as 2,000 people in the Great American Hall in Hershey, Pa., reacted to a prerecorded video greeting from more than 1,000 "Centralites"—raising handmade placards and shouting heartfelt sentiments—as if they were in the same room, all standing on common ground. That evening, the lives and legacy of the Swansons was what

enjoying traditional family gatherings. "We're looking forward to being in Chicago as a family, rather than as visiting grandparents," said Commissioner Sue Swanson.

Colonels F. Bradford and Heidi Bailey presented retirement certificates to the Swansons, recognizing their combined 76 years of ministry as officers. Commissioner William Cochrane, Commissioners Israel L. and Eva D. Gaither, Commissioners Ken and Joy Baillie and Commissioner Nancy Moretz served as flagbearers. Majors Andrew and Cheryl Miller held the Swansons' session flag.

In honor of the Swansons, the New York Staff Band played a piece especially written for the occasion by William Himes who personally introduced it. This moving number, weaving together well-known tunes for "He leadeth me" and "I will follow Him," beautifully reflected the Swansons' life and ministry.



everyone had in common. With the theme "Crossroads," the combined celebration and appreciation for the retiring territorial leaders was exuberant and genuine.

The Swansons' immediate family, in-laws and grandchildren flew in from Chicago, Ill., to participate in the "salvation meeting."

Commissioner Israel L. Gaither, who led the meeting, said to the Swansons, "We believe in you. During our time together at National Headquarters, we fell in love with you." As he invited them to the stage, the Swansons received a stirring ovation.

Since 2013 Commissioners Barry and Sue Swanson have served as territorial commander and president of women's ministries in the Eastern Territory. Their previous appointments took them to five divisions and territorial headquarters in the Central Territory, National Headquarters and International Headquarters.

Since they traveled so much during their officership, the Swansons are excited about the prospects of finally



# PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army USA Central Territory

## September Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Thursday	John 10-12	Northwest Indiana ARC*
	2 Friday	2 Timothy 1-2	India South Eastern Territory <sup>PIM</sup>
	3 Saturday	Numbers 10-12	Detroit Conner Creek, Mich., Corps
	4 Sunday	1 Chronicles 20-24	Davenport, Iowa, Corps
	5 Monday	Psalms 105-107	All who labor for the Lord
	6 Tuesday	Proverbs 22	Fort Wayne, Ind., Corps
	7 Wednesday	Joel	Independence, Mo., Corps
	8 Thursday	John 13-15	Chicago Midway Citadel, Ill., Corps
	9 Friday	2 Timothy 3-4	Public welcome of cadets
	10 Saturday	Numbers 13-15	Chillicothe, Mo., Corps
	11 Sunday	1 Chronicles 25-29	Sunday school teachers and students
	12 Monday	Psalms 108-110	Fargo, N.D., Corps
	13 Tuesday	Proverbs 23-24	Fremont, Neb., Corps
	14 Wednesday	Amos 1-4	Grand Haven, Mich., Corps
	15 Thursday	John 16-18	National Advisory Board
	16 Friday	Titus	Men's Ministries
	17 Saturday	Numbers 16-18	Chicago Staff Band ministry
	18 Sunday	2 Chronicles 1-5	Ishpeming, Mich., Corps
	19 Monday	Psalms 111-113	Grand Rapids, Mich., ARC*
	20 Tuesday	Proverbs 25	Detroit Temple, Mich., Corps
	21 Wednesday	Amos 5-9	Decatur, Ill., Corps
	22 Thursday	John 19-21	The General and Commissioner Silvia Cox
	23 Friday	Philemon	Henry County, Ind., Corps
	24 Saturday	Numbers 19-21	Kansas City Bellefontaine, Mo., Corps
	25 Sunday	2 Chronicles 6-10	Victims of human trafficking
	26 Monday	Psalms 114-116	Chicago Midwest, Ill., Corps
	27 Tuesday	Proverbs 26-27	Columbia, Mo., Corps
	28 Wednesday	Obadiah	Fergus Falls, Minn., Corps
	29 Thursday	Acts 1-2	Grand Island, Neb., Corps
	30 Friday	Hebrews 1-4	Grand Rapids Kroc Center, Mich., Corps

Go to [www.prayercentralusa.org](http://www.prayercentralusa.org) for prayer updates.

If you follow the prayer calendar in the next year, you will have read through the Bible!

\* = Adult Rehabilitation Center  
PIM = Partners in Mission



## --Mustard Seeds--



## Lifting up Christ

by Lt. Colonel Daniel Sjögren  
Territorial Ambassador for Holiness

Our holy God is not satisfied with His children having sin, or even sinful affections, in their hearts. He is not content to look at us and find qualities of the heart that are unlike Christ.

If you and I want to be good, if we want to be a blessing, we must see that our hearts are pure and that we resemble the Christ we serve. Christ said, "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." (John 12:32, NLT) We are to lift up Christ for He is to save the world and not we ourselves.

There were two women who went into the meat market on the same



day. They both bought the same cut of meat. One prepared and served hers in an attractive manner so it would arouse the appetite. The other served hers on a dirty table with surroundings that would dampen any appetite. It is

not enough to just serve food; it must be properly served in an attractive way.

It is the same with our faith and lives. The way we live will make Christ more or less acceptable to others. To be like Jesus is to have the mindset of Christ. When we do, Christ is lifted up.



## Lincoln Corps resources women

The Lincoln, Neb., Corps hosted its third annual free women's fair with educational information, resources and a little pampering. The event has gained such popularity, 100 women were waiting for doors to open and the day ended with 275 in attendance!

"The goal is to gather a wide group of women who are diverse in age, ethnicity and circumstance and provide them with information and resources they can use as they continue to plan for the future of their families," said Major Angie Pennington, Lincoln corps officer.

The fair consists of 32 booths, set up throughout the corps building, which are hosted by local businesses and organizations. Booth topics range

from cooking on a budget and book keeping to helpful resources like job and summer youth opportunities. Other booths are available just for pampering and fun on health, fashion and cosmetics.

One woman from the community was thrilled when she discovered she could apply to enroll her children in summer piano lessons at a deep discount. "I'm going to fill out an application and bring it back to today!" she said.

New to the event this year were several guest speakers on topics ranging from health and beauty to the social injustice of human trafficking.

According to Major Angie the goal is to empower women physically, mentally and spiritually.

## Promoted to Glory

**Mrs. Major Mary Sunderland**

Mary Ellen Sunderland (nee Dale) was born June 26, 1923, in Sterling, Colo., and was promoted to Glory on April 19, 2016. She was 92.



Mary and Earl Sunderland were married in 1939 and commissioned as officers four years later with the "Valiant" session.

Together with their four children, the Sunderlands served in corps in the Kansas and Western Missouri, Eastern Michigan and Metropolitan divisions, as well as at adult rehabilitation centers (ARCs) in Gary and Indianapolis, Ind., Des Moines, Iowa and St. Louis, Mo., the appointment from which they retired in 1981.

Remaining in St. Louis after retirement, the Sunderlands continued to work part-time at the ARC for several years and attended the St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps.

Mary was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Earl; son, William and son-in-law Calvin Day. She is survived by children Mary Annette Day, Timothy (Darcy) and John (Michelle); eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

**Captain Christine LaTourneau**

Captain Christine LaTourneau was born on May 29, 1953, to William and Thelma LaTourneau in Marquette, Mich. She was promoted to Glory on May 12 at age 62.



Even at a young age, Christine knew God had called her to officership, and she was commissioned in

1976 as a member of "The Overcomers" session.

During her officership Christine served as an assistant corps officer in South Dakota, Michigan and Wisconsin through 1979; as a corps officer in Beatrice, Neb., through 1988 and as a service extension representative at the Western Divisional Headquarters for the next year. Afterward, she returned to corps work serving as corps officer in Bay City, Mich., and retiring from the Junction City, Kan., Corps in 1994 due to health issues.

Christine was known for her generosity, passion to encourage others in their faith and strong desire to help those in need. She touched many lives and loved working with children.

Christine was preceded in death by her father, William, and brother, William, Jr. She is survived by her mother, Thelma; sisters Diane Sicotte and Rose Ehlers, and brothers Robert and Joe.

**Major Sonia Gonzalez**

Major Sonia Gonzalez was promoted to Glory on June 16, 2016, after a battle with pancreatic cancer. She was only 58.



She was born in Guatemala on February 7, 1958, to Jorge and Anita Amirez. She came to The Salvation Army as a student teacher. From the beginning she was captivated by the Army's work and got fully involved. One of the ministries that drew her was helping the less fortunate in her community.

In 1983 she became a soldier and subsequently entered the Training School in Mexico. Upon commissioning, she served in Guatemala. In 1987 she immigrated to the United States where she met Jose

by Faithe Colas  
as told by Maureen Post

During my first year at The Salvation Army I was passing out lunches with the Feed the Kids summer meal program one beautiful warm day on Milwaukee's Northwest Side. Children, some with parents, some without, were lined up. Some came with smiles, others didn't, but they all said, "Thank you."

On this day I got so choked up that I couldn't reply with my usual, "You're welcome," but only a nod and smile. Overwhelmed, I thought I'd take photographs for a while. As I began to take pictures, I noticed a small boy running in my direction. I followed him through the camera's lens. He was shirtless,



wearing tennis shoes and pants.

When he arrived at the Feed the Kids van, I could hardly see him because my eyes were filled with tears. Here's a child running at high speed, not to play outside, not for the ice cream or popcorn truck but for a meal. He asked for lunch for himself and his little brother. What a huge responsibility this 5-year-old had coming to get a meal for himself and his 3-year-old brother. Tears ran down my cheeks.

Today, I'm still moved by the level of hunger in many neighborhoods in our city, and I'm thankful for the people and businesses that donate, volunteer and support this program because bright futures need full stomachs.

*The Feed the Kids van runs three routes, makes 24 stops and serves more than 2,300 lunches a day for 10 weeks in the summer.*

Adapted and reprinted from  
Milwaukee magazine, June 2016.

Gonzalez. They were married on February 4, 1989, and had a daughter, Cinthya.

Sonia was reaccepted as an officer when her husband was commissioned in 1997. Together, they served at the Dodge City, Kan., Kansas City Blue Valley, Mo., and the Cicero Templo Laramie, Ill., corps.

Sonia was a "blood and fire" Salvationist. She loved God and the Army with all her heart. She loved people and was interested in their salvation and was especially drawn to children's ministries. She knew the Bible well and was known for saying, "The Word of God says so."

She is survived by her husband and daughter.