



Central Connection

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



A/Captains John and Tracy Gantner

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Walking the talk at Omaha Kroc

by Jill Harman and Chip Borgstadt

“Mission starts with each one of us, and opportunities are everywhere,” said A/Captain Tracy Gantner, officer for program development at the Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center.

Since arriving to lead the Omaha Kroc Center in May 2017, A/Captains John and Tracy Gantner have been inviting staff and members to fully engage in The Salvation Army’s holistic mission of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and meeting

needs in His name without discrimination.

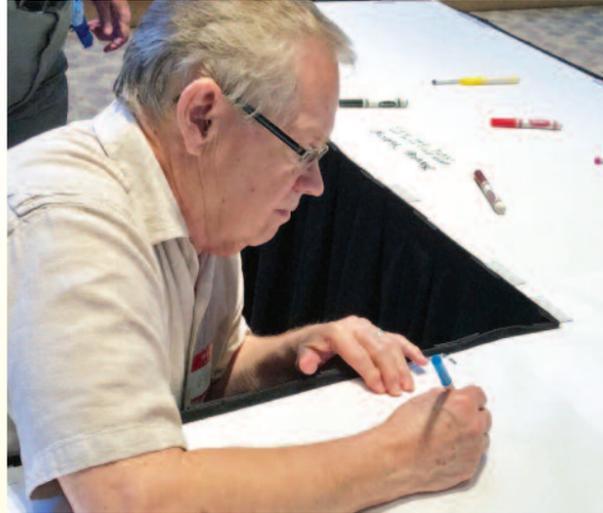
Having attended the National Seminar on Evangelism (NSE), the Gantners invited staff and soldiers to read the book *Just Walk Across the Room*. Later they presented a series that elaborated on simple steps in everyday life that can point people to faith. The capstone of this effort was a seminar by program specialist Mark Bender of the territorial adult mission advancement department. Serving as outreach coordinator for NSE, Mark has used this approach for more than a decade.

Kroc Center staff from nearly every department and members of the corps chose to attend

the seminar. Participants learned how to connect with others naturally, such as observing those standing alone and starting conversations with them, offering hospitality or performing simple acts of kindness.

“Every person has a story to share. Jesus has called us to learn those stories and offer genuine care and concern in His name,” said A/Captain Tracy. “We need to be willing and prepared to walk across the room.”

Encounters like these can allow relationships



Long, paper-covered tables formed a cross on which names for prayer could be written.

to develop and deepen, and it is in those relationships that the gospel becomes authentic and accessible for people. They can provide opportunities, as the Holy Spirit leads, to share the life-changing story of God’s love and redemption.

The Omaha Kroc Center uniquely reaches members of the community through fitness, creativity, the fine arts, athletics and worship. It has the opportunity and privilege to connect with more than 10,000 people each year who walk through its doors.



The Omaha Kroc Center praise team leads worship.



Participants practice their newly learned skills.

Commissioning weekend to feature Urys

Salvationists in the Central Territory won’t want to miss this year’s commissioning weekend, June 7-9, 2019, at the Milwaukee Theater, Milwaukee, Wis.

The event will feature the insightful and enriching ministry of National Ambassadors for Holiness Bill and Diane Ury. Married since 1984 the Urys have enjoyed a life of ministry together, accepting their current roles in 2017. Since assuming this appointment a demanding schedule has seen the Urys crisscrossing the country speaking at holiness seminars, officers’ councils, soldiers rallies and a diverse array of teaching and preaching events. They are soldiers with the Raleigh International Corps in Raleigh, N.C.

Diane’s passion is knowing Jesus



Christ; she loves to share with others a hunger for Him and God’s Word. Bill’s heart desire is an intimate relationship with the Triune God and sharing the truth of that holy love. They incorporate sound, rigorous Christian theological thinking with pastoral care and true compassion.

Bill is a 1978 graduate of Asbury University, studied at the Institute for Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem, has a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, and holds a Master of Philosophy and a doctorate from Drew University. While there, he and Diane served as associate pastors in a Chinese-American United Methodist Church in Chinatown, New York City. Bill taught Historical and Systematic Theology at Wesley Biblical Seminary for 23 years. His podcast, “The Hour of Holiness,”

comes from over 20 years of an ongoing American Family Radio program. Bill has authored several articles and books. Diane is a 1983 graduate of Asbury University where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1983; she also has a Master in Theology from Wesley Biblical Seminary. Diane is a Bible study teacher, mentor and discipleship group leader.

Bill and Diane are ordained elders in the Evangelical Methodist Church, have pastored together and have spent decades discipling men and women. They are fully committed to the historic bases and contemporary expressions of Christianity in the Wesleyan/Holiness tradition.

They have four grown children, JoAnna, Maddi, Meredith and Seth, two sons-in-law and three grandsons who are their constant joy.

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Breaking bread, building friends

by Colonel Janice A. Howard
Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries

MEALS

*around a kitchen counter,
in various restaurants,
at the dining room table,
by the warm campfire,
in several vehicles,
on the busy street,
at the baseball stadium*

I'm sure I've missed recalling a few locations where I've recently eaten with friends, family, church

members, colleagues and strangers. The bottom line is meals draw people together. We all need to eat.

During recent months my husband Steve and I have facilitated several fellowship meals, where we gather around tables to intentionally share blessings, testimonies, conversations, worship and encouragement. It's been well worth the investment of our time. A cadet remarked he learned more about other cadets than he'd known about them in the preceding three months. An officer com-

mented the encouragement and compliments helped her to see herself in a new light. The tables became holy places where God's presence was evident, in conversation and in one another.

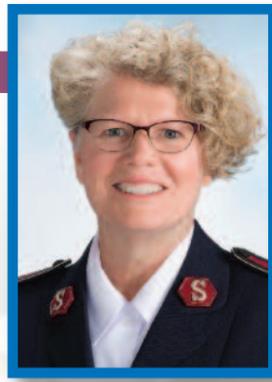
Since commissioning last June we have heard, read and considered much about who is welcomed at our "tables" (corps, homes and hearts).

Have you given thought to the people you invite and the conversations that take place? Invite different and new people into your heart and at

your table. Look at them with eyes of love, compassion and interest. Share, ask questions and listen in order to hear their stories and their hearts. We each have a story, which is part of HIS story. Spending time at the table is a great way to hear someone's story and to see Jesus in it and them.

Jesus ate at many different tables with a wide range of people. He ate on the wrong days (fast days), with the wrong people (sinners), at the wrong tables (Samaritan's water cup). Or did He? Those tables became holy tables and those people, His friends.

Consider not only the setting of your next meal but who will eat with you.



Coming home again

by Jacqueline Rachev

Julio Romero, 31, lost his way in high school but now is devoted to making sure others stay on the right track. He grew up in a nice neighborhood and attended the Belmont Lakeview, Ill., Corps, but he also was exposed to drug activity and gangs to which his older brother belonged. Though his brother made sure the younger siblings weren't involved, there was an incident in high school that set Julio on a path to self-destruction.

One evening while waking to Burger King, Julio was stopped by police and questioned about a crime. "Even though I wasn't involved, I was beaten and detained. At that moment, I stopped caring," he said. "I figured if I was going to be accused of doing the crime, I might as well do it." He started selling marijuana and cocaine, keeping it a secret from his family.

In his junior year, his brother was arrested and sent to prison for three years, accelerating Julio's spiral into gang activity.

"My brother was almost a father figure to me," he said. "I looked up to him and then he was just gone." Julio felt the need to "step up" and began selling drugs to make money.

His trouble culminated in his senior year during a fight with a gang member who attacked a family friend which led to three

days in jail and a conviction.

"I heard the voices of my parents and my youth pastors in my head saying, 'Why are you acting this way? This isn't who you are,'" he said. He knew his life had to change. Consequences were piling up; he couldn't graduate with his class and had a hard time finding a job due to the felony on his record.

A father at 19, Julio was tempted to go back to his old ways to support his family, but instead he turned to The Salvation Army, where he was given the second chance he was praying for.

He was hired for seasonal employment as a driver for the Chicago Lawn Corps Christmas kettle campaign—a breakthrough which opened doors for him to apply for an IT position at Metropolitan Divisional



Julio with his daughters Sara and Izabella

Headquarters the next year.

During the interview, he laid his past on the table: "I just told them everything that happened," Julio said. After his boss went to bat for him and the extensive vetting process, he was hired and has been in the department ever since.

"It's like coming home again. I want to be here," he said.

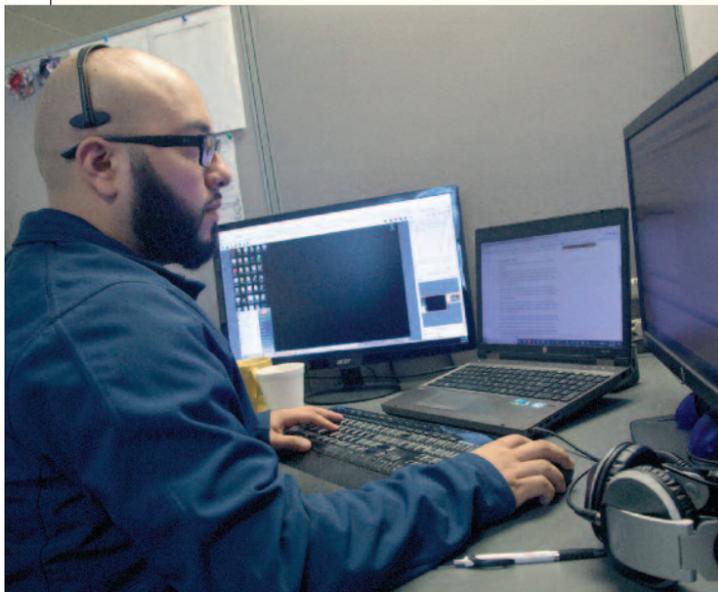
Today, Julio willingly shares his testimony. "I want to share my story and my blessings with others," he said. "It's hard to tell someone who's had doors closed in their face to have faith, but I'm an example of good things happening."

Julio, who attends the Chicago Mayfair Corps, also works as part of a team to positively affect the lives of teens at the Chicago LaVillita Corps, making sure they avoid the pitfalls he encountered as a young man. In fact, he has been responsible for several students

going to college and embracing opportunities to improve their futures.



Julio Romero and Caleb Allan in the Metropolitan Division's information technology department



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Dinner, anyone?

The Clinton, Iowa, Corps brings worship around the table

Enjoying food and fellowship is nothing new for churchgoers. Potlucks, prayer breakfasts and supper clubs are all common activities for communities of believers. In fact, gathering together for a meal while engaging in Kingdom-building, learning and discussion goes all the way back to the book of Acts, when it was customary for the apostles.

The Clinton, Iowa, Corps, led by Lts. Justin and Stephanie Hartley, has joined a movement that embraces the methods of the early church to unite believers and nonbelievers around the table.

"Dinner Church is a different approach," said Lt. Justin. "It's going back to the days of learning and fellowshiping together around the table rather than in a formal service."

Dinner Church is designed for members and visitors to mingle in fellowship throughout the evening and to enjoy a meal together. The focus is on intentionally building relationships with the marginalized, hungry and lonely and sharing the gospel with them while also including them in the community of Christian believers. Each hot, four-course meal is accompanied by similar elements to a traditional Sunday service: a focused prayer time, music, scripture and a message. It's simply done with everyone seated family-style around tables rather than in pews.

Heartland Divisional Commander Major Kelly Collins presented the idea to the division after attending a seminar in Seattle, Wash., at which Dr. Verlon Fosner, founder of the Dinner Church Collective, spoke.

"We already have church, and we already feed people," she said. "This is a way to make our feeding more missional. It turns clients into guests."

With her support and the help of an evangelism grant from the division, the corps introduced their Dinner Church



Lt. Stephanie Hartley with her son, Asher, and Heather Pepper

Photos by Major Kjell Steinsland



Jordan Anderson and Lt. Justin Hartley lead worship.



Pam Rehr-Otto prepares food for Dinner Church.

have become regular participants, along with a young couple who were familiar with the Army from their childhood. They've even added a member to the praise team and a couple of youth leaders who volunteered after coming to Dinner Church.

"Everyone is really accepting of one another," Lt. Justin concluded. "No one feels like they're being called out because of where they came from. It's like one big family."

More information about the Dinner Church movement can be found at www.dinnerchurch.com

to Clinton residents.

"We wanted to do something different to reach new demographics," Lt. Justin said. "We had a small congregation with a hole in the middle—very young and then closer to retirement age."

Since its launch last year, Clinton's Dinner Church has nearly doubled in attendance. Families from Pathway of Hope and those who receive assistance from the food pantry



Resources so good you'll shout *Hallelujah!*

To assist with the territory's goal of having *Live Music in Worship in Every Corps by 2020* (LM2020), each corps, divisional headquarters, adult rehabilitation center (ARC) and the ARC Command has been given 250 arrangements of *Hallelujah Choruses* to fit its specific worship situation.



- Praise band (guitar parts with capo markings included)
- Instrumental ensembles of all sizes (available for a wide variety of instruments, conveniently arranged in two part-book compilations - HC 1-100 and HC 101-250, scores are included)

- Songbooks—lead sheets providing simple accompaniments

Be sure to ask how the *Hallelujah Choruses* recently received at your corps or ARC can be used to benefit its worship, bringing your congregation closer to God through the medium of music.

Instructional videos are available at uscmusic@usc.salvationarmy.org. For more information or questions about this or other music resources, call (847) 294-2133.

Whether you have live music or are using the accompaniment CDs, you'll find a great benefit in this resource because of its tremendous flexibility.

Here are some ways you can utilize the music of *Hallelujah Choruses*:

- Piano accompaniments
- Guitar accompaniments with lyrics — NEW!
- Master lead sheets for song leaders — NEW!

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Planting seeds in Good Soil

When Gerardo Cielo arrived in the United States from Mexico at the age of 13, one of his first experiences was to visit the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps. Fourteen years later, he works with youth at the Blue Island, Ill., Corps,

(GSI) for three years.

"I never thought I would be working with youth in this way," he said. "God has given me a passion for spiritual formation and youth development. He has entrusted them to me."

As a child, Gerardo learned about God while growing up with his mom and siblings. His father had gone ahead to America to prepare a home for his family in the 1990s. By the time they joined him in 2002, he was a soldier at the Oakbrook Terrace Corps and couldn't wait to introduce his family to The Salvation Army.

"I always knew about God," said Gerardo. "But I developed a relationship with Him when I took soldiership classes and decided to make a commitment to Him."

Gerardo's work these days is a testament to his relationship with Christ. As a youth development coordinator, he's intentional about building relationships as he leads music pro-

grams, junior church, corps cadets and character-building groups. He invests himself in the youth of the Blue Island community, doing his best to discover and meet their needs.

"One of my goals is to help create healthy spaces for our youth where they find acceptance and community," Gerardo concluded.

For example, when a school superintendent expressed the community's need for educational programming outside of school, Gerardo developed a relationship with youth development and mentoring organization 4-H and a nearby primary school. The relationship has expanded the reach of The Salvation Army in the community. Each Thursday afternoon the corps provides transportation and serves as the location for 30 children to participate in 4-H. Children also receive help with homework and engage in music

lessons and character-building programs. Some have started coming on Sundays as well.

Ultimately, Gerardo hopes the seeds he's planting will take root and make a difference in the lives of the children he works with.

"Gerardo is the backbone of our youth programming," said Captain Derek Rose, Blue Island corps officer. "He is very good at connecting with our community, and he shows genuine care for the youth and their families."



where he recently became a permanent member of the staff after serving as a youth development coordinator through the Good Soil Initiative



Gerardo Cielo (center) with teens from the Blue Island, Ill., Corps

goodsoil initiative

To support and expand corps youth programming and ministry in communities throughout the Midwest, the Central Territory launched the Good Soil Initiative (GSI) in 2012. GSI is a three-year program designed to place trained youth development coordinators (YDCs) in corps which are without a fulltime hired youth worker.

YDCs are charged with ministering to and discipling children, youth and young adults, and they work to expand the reach of The Salvation Army by forming relationships with parents, teachers and community organizations.

All YDCs receive ongoing training and support from the territorial

youth department through one-on-one mentoring, continuing education and specialized tracks at territorial events.

Since its inception, 48 YDCs have been trained and have served in 39 corps in nearly every division. At the end of their three-year term, some have become permanent staff at the corps where they've been serving, while others have pursued new ministry opportunities. Two are currently at the College for Officer Training and two are now officers.

Currently, there are 10 locations with YDCs and five openings for YDCs. Contact your divisional youth secretary for more information.

It's all in the "ask"

by Ruth Stoel

Early in my career when I worked in the mortgage department of a bank, we hired a new administrative assistant. I spent time getting to know her and found out about her interests and family. She had a 10-year-old daughter named Mary Ann.

I invited her to bring Mary Ann to sunbeams that I taught at the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps where I was a soldier and volunteered. I told her our troop met once a week and went to camp every summer and suggested she might help. At first, she said no because of the distance to the corps and she didn't do crafts. "That's okay," I said. "I have 54 sunbeams and 11 helpers, but you could take attendance while you wait for Mary Ann."

I guess I was pretty convincing because soon after that Mary Ann and her mother came to sunbeams. Since Mary Ann was only a year away from being a girl guard she enrolled in that program, while her mother helped me in sunbeams. After a while, they started coming to the corps on Sundays. They made many friends and became active at the corps. In fact, Mary Ann's mother was asked to be the corps secretary.

Mary Ann joined all the youth activities. She played in the band and sang in the songsters. When she grew up she met a nice guy named Kris Wood and eventually they were married. They stayed very involved in adult programs and helped with youth activities. And when I asked them to teach a Bible study for our youth group, they said yes.

It wasn't long before they were called into fulltime service for the Lord. They went to the College for Officer Training in Chicago and were commissioned and ordained as Salvation Army officers. Today, Majors Kris and Mary Ann Wood lead the Ann Arbor, Mich., Corps.

Invite a 10-year-old to your corps. You'll be amazed at what God can do.



Majors Khris and Mary Ann Wood

Editor's note: Ruth Stoel recently retired from the Eastern Michigan Divisional Headquarters after 20 years, 16 of which were in planned giving where she raised more than \$40 million! She has volunteered for The Salvation Army for nearly 60 years and in 2018 was recognized as Territorial Volunteer of the Year for Lifetime Service.



Breaking down the walls in Leavenworth

A unique partnership between the Leavenworth, Kan., Corps and a local chapter of Youth for Christ has spawned a spiritually based basketball program that not only has grown in popularity but is making a significant difference in the lives of its participants.

The 4:13 Ministry (named for the verse in Philippians) gives middle and high school youth a place to let down their guard and experience unconditional love while learning solid playing skills, teamwork and sportsmanship.

"Home to one of the country's largest military bases as well as the prison, Leavenworth has an authoritarian, highly transient population. Youth are cautious in forming relationships even with peers. But at the corps, they realize they're in a safe place surrounded by an uncondition-



ally loving atmosphere," said Lt. James Beardsley, who launched the ministry in June 2017 when he was the corps officer.

Current Corps Administrators Envoys Brett and Stephanie Dietrich report they're seeing positive relationships being formed among youth and leaders. They're also seeing changing attitudes along with emerging young leaders from the group who can help take the ministry to a new level.

Leavenworth's mayor, civic dignitaries and business leaders are supportive and have been spreading the word about the ministries and services offered by the corps. Corps members are excited about the increased foot traffic in their building and further growth from the community's expanded knowledge about The Salvation Army and this ministry for which an anonymous benefactor donated \$100,000 for the installation of a pro-

fessional-grade gymnasium floor.

The 4:13 Ministry leadership team is headed by Phil Parsons, the area's Youth for Christ director. The team has had many great opportunities for relationship building and has observed positive behavioral changes in many of the youth.

Periodic recognition and awards dinners are held by the corps and 4:13 Ministry leadership team to show appreciation for the personal and spiritual growth of youth in the program, and outreach events allow youth to share their successes with the community.

Each weekly practice starts with a volunteer-prepared meal to feed the body, followed by an intentional devotion to feed the soul. After a rigorous practice, kids run to grab mops, buck-



ets and brooms to clean the gym floor; some have even come to the corps on Saturdays to volunteer. Twelfth-grader Isaiah summed it up well: "It's given me a place I can call home."



Peer, a new magazine for Generation Z

A new Salvation Army magazine for ages 16 to 22—members of Generation Z—has been released. Called *Peer*, it aims to reach young people, both Salvationists and those in the community, in a relevant way and become a dependable companion on their journey through high school and college. Its mission is unwavering (to ignite a faith conversation that will deepen biblical perspective, faith and holy living); its tagline simple (Faith. Community. Culture.).

"We have put faith first for a reason," said Captain Pamela Maynor, editor. "Everything printed on *Peer's* pages will be written through the lens of Christianity and Salvationist doctrine."

Replacing the *Young Salvationist* magazine, *Peer* features fresh design elements, a narrower size, earthier-feeling paper and thoughtfully sourced content to appeal to this generation often referred to as "post Christian." A new website has been launched (peermag.org) as well as a social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@[peer.magazine](https://www.instagram.com/peer.magazine)).

In **Remix**, Central Salvationist Sarah Micula provides unisex fashion and decorating tips from Salvation Army thrift store finds with colorful images and a link that allows readers to learn more about the stores' mission. Monthly videos filmed at thrift stores will feature additional tips.

Wise Up brings stories of Church and Salvation Army trailblazers to life, encouraging readers by their example. Captain David Kelly of the Eastern Territory will introduce a variety of fascinating figures like W.T. Stead, Frederick Booth-Tucker, General Albert Orsborn, Charles Wesley, Athanasius and Colonel James Barker.

In a **Q and A**, Captain Pamela Maynor asks questions of Generation Z's favorite actors and musicians. January's issue features an interview with Mike Manning, who appears in *God's Not Dead: A Light in Darkness*.

Profile provides readers with inspirational stories about their peers across the nation, starting with



Morgan Hulteen, a soldier at the Montclair, N.J., Corps who won two gold medals in gymnastics at the 2018 Special Olympics.

Panorama provides a broad view of what's happening among young people in corps across the country. The first destination is Pasadena, Calif., where The Salvation Army just marched in the Tournament of Roses Parade for the 100th consecutive year!

Deeper, by Central Salvationists Justin and Courtney Rose, is a monthly devotional calendar that provides an in-depth study on a Bible passage/theme and a daily Bible reading plan.

In **Ask an Officer**, three questions from readers about faith, community or culture will be answered by officers around the world. Readers are directed online to discover what it means to be an officer.

The **Zeitgeist** section features reviews of video games, movies, music and podcasts by contributors Chris Clark, Micah Trimmer, Devonte Lawson and Daniel Horne.

After extensive prayer, research and collaboration to bring the magazine to life, Captain Pam concluded, "I pray God will use *Peer* to ignite meaningful faith conversations among young people, leading them to a deeper desire to know Him more."

To subscribe, visit peermag.org.

Wrapped up in love

This winter youth at the Jacksonville, Ill., Corps are staying toasty thanks to the thoughtfulness and creativity of their corps officer, Major Kathleen Pinkston.

An accomplished quilter, the major was inspired to use her talent when the kids discovered the soft blankets she keeps in her office and begged to use or keep them. She decided to make a quilt for each of them to take home.

"From start to finish of the quilt, I was praying for the child or teenager who was going to receive it. I enjoyed doing it because it was my time to pray for that child," she said. In all, 25 children received a hand-sewn quilt that had been bathed in prayer for several hours as it was made.

With a specific child in mind, the major designed the quilt using scraps from her personal fabric stash and buttons based on the child's personality or interests. Each quilt top was intentionally planned for that particular child and backed with soft material located by searching for sales and discounts.

"That was part of the fun," the



major said. "I enjoyed searching for and finding a great deal on the perfect fabrics."

Major Katie's passion for quilting paired with her love for the Lord and His children is a blessing to both the recipients and the major.

"Those quilts and the pieces thereof are now my prayer journal," she concluded. "It's a practical way to use the gift God gave me. He gave me gifts of pastoral care, hospitality and encouragement. I use all of these gifts in quilting. It's a time of ministry."

The major is now working on lap quilts for her women's ministries members as she covers them in prayer one-by-one.

Olathe, Kan., Corps

Going deep spiritually is paramount to Lts. Kory and Heidi Strand, Olathe, Kan., corps officers. Since their appointment to Olathe in 2016, they've focused on spiritual growth and development with their congregation, the result of which has been increased interest in soldiership and service in the corps.

"Our goal was to help people grow spiritually," said Lt. Heidi. "If they grow in the Lord, then the hunger to serve follows naturally."

In the past year, the lieutenants have enrolled eight senior soldiers, two adherents and three junior soldiers, and they're planning another soldiership class for this spring.

The Strands found that preaching and teaching Salvation Army doctrines ignited a desire among the corps people to go deeper in their faith. Bible study attendance grew along with a hunger for God's Word. And another thing happened. As they grew closer to the Lord, participants began to grow closer to one another, forming a close-knit family of believers.

The outflow of growth has been an eagerness to serve others through the corps, a desire the lieutenants cultivate by providing opportunities and encourag-



Krista Breddin signs her Soldier's Covenant.

ing service as a key component of membership.

"The emphasis is on service as something we all get to do. It's an opportunity to serve the Lord and give Him glory," Lt. Heidi said. "Everyone is encouraged to serve with joy."

And serve they do. Thanks to the dedication of the soldiers, regular programs and activities are covered and well-planned. In addition to leading Sunday school and character-building groups, volunteering in the kitchen, teaching music and participating in Sunday worship, soldiers rise to the challenge to meet seasonal needs at the corps. For



New soldiers Trenton Lubow, John Trejo, Hunter Gjovig, Braden Colt and Brian Trejo



New junior soldiers Madden and Ryan Hanton with their godparents, Majors Greg and Lee Ann Thompson, who came to Olathe for their enrollment

example, during the Christmas season soldiers volunteer to take turns driving the kettle routes, which saves the corps thousands of dollars, and provides the opportunity to connect with bell-ringers.

When additional help is needed, the lieutenants approach the corps during Sunday morning announcements in two ways. First they recognize the difference volunteers have made to the success of past events, then they make a request for people to volunteer in specific ways for the next one. In this way the essential role each person plays is expressed, their value as a member of the body of Christ is acknowledged, and at the same time the need is communicated.

"We can't fulfill the mission alone," concluded the lieutenant. "We need our soldiers to come alongside us and join us in ministry, and we are grateful they do."

Kansas City Eastside, Mo., Corps

"Lord, I can't do this on my own." That was the beginning of Major Janice Love's desperate prayer several months after being appointed to a community that wasn't embracing the corps. For the first time in many years she felt out of her comfort zone. Overwhelmed, she needed local leaders who could walk with her. She asked God to give her a vision for the community and corps, then added, "Lord, give me a godly man. No, make that five godly men!"

The major had never led a corps with a daily feeding program. Then, the cook quit. For the next four months, Major Janice cooked for the corps' Beacon of Hope feeding ministry during the busiest time of the year for a corps officer. But, to her own surprise, she fell in love with the ministry. The 100 or so faces she saw each day became names; the names became stories, and they became family.

"It became one of my priorities to make sure meals were ones I'd eat and the dining room nice enough for the mayor. Most importantly, I wanted

to provide an unforgettable atmosphere," said Major Janice.

Months later, two familiar faces from the feeding program showed up in the corps' adult Sunday school class. More and more diners began showing up for worship. Excitement grew within the congregation.

Men attending worship services from the Kansas City Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) began inquiring about becoming soldiers—and officers! A recruits' course was started for the men and four other people from the corps. Major let current soldiers attend the classes to recommit themselves.

"I wanted our people to no longer view the corps as a country club but as their church," said Major Janice. "I wanted them to see membership as 'a gift from God...we should treasure with great joy and anticipation,'" she added quoting from *I am a Church Member* by Thom S. Rainer.

While walking through the chapel making sure everything was ready for the enrollment of 10 new soldiers and the recommitment of several others, Major Janice suddenly remembered her prayer from two years earlier. Tears streamed down her face as she realized God not only had answered her prayer but exceeded it.

Vacant leadership roles at the corps were filled and community outreaches strategically planned, including a festival for the corps' 75th anniversary, a World Cup soccer match and the "adoption" of older adults in the neighborhood. Several soldiers attended the National Seminar on Evangelism and



New soldiers and others who reaffirmed their Soldier's Covenant

the 730 Candidates' Weekend.

This has challenged Major Janice to study God's Word even more diligently, reappraise her own covenant and continue to lead above reproach. She finds inspiration in Isaiah 43:18-19 (TLB): "But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am going to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun!"



A World Cup soccer match outreach attracted teams representing nationalities from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East to the corps.



Families enjoy a festival celebrating the Kansas City Eastside Corps' 75th anniversary.

Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps

"It was a great day of celebration," said Major Mark Martsolf who enrolled 20 soldiers recently. "A particularly sacred moment occurred when they all lined up along each side of the altar and knelt to sign their covenants, testifying to the rest of the congregation they've chosen to become soldiers."

Major Mark says recruitment and corps growth have been driven by soldiers who cherish the Rockford Temple Corps, particularly Colonel Thomas Lewis, a retired officer who's been teaching soldiership classes, and Abraham and Miriam Leka, Congolese Salvationists now living in Rockford.



Preparing to sign a Soldier's Covenant

Over the last decade, more and more French-speaking refugees from Central Africa have settled in the area. Abraham and his family have been instrumental not only in offering them practical assistance but in helping them find a home in the Army. Of the 20 new soldiers, 14 are from Central Africa.

"Many people fled from the

wars in their countries to the U.N. refugee camps established in Chad, Tanzania and Uganda. With help from the U.N. High Commissioner of Refugees office and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, people were selected and given an opportunity to settle in this country," said Abraham. "Most needed time to feel safe and secure in their host country and wouldn't take part in any public forum or activity. But now they're happy and confident to be part of the mission of The Salvation Army."

The ethnically and culturally diverse corps also enrolled a Hispanic mother and daughter who'd been attending the corps for less than eight months, a black woman who'd been attending for years, two



Soldier Abraham Leka and Colonel Thomas Lewis

Photo by Tina Fewell

Hispanic young adults who'd grown up in the corps and a Caucasian woman who'd been coming to Rockford Temple for a few months.

"This amazing corps family welcomes all newcomers with open arms to love them into the Kingdom, and

Colonel Lewis teaches the most amazing recruits' classes I've ever seen," said Major Mark. Abraham translates for the French speakers.

The major concluded, "Something truly amazing is happening at this corps; God is moving and people are coming into His Kingdom. I really believe these people chose to be enrolled as soldiers because our people were interested and invested in them. Our soldiers made a place at the table for more folks to join this glorious fellowship of believers."

Photos by Diane Toicher



Twenty new soldiers are pictured with Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps Officers Majors Mark and Teri Martsolf and Lt. Colonels Charles and Sharon Smith, Metropolitan divisional leaders.

Davenport, Iowa, Corps

"Becoming a soldier means making a commitment first of all to God," said Major Jolinda Shelbourn, Davenport, Iowa, corps officer. "It's telling God that you believe in what we do and want to be an active part of the Church."

During soldiership classes, the major emphasizes the quasi-military structure of The Salvation Army and likens becoming a soldier to entering active duty in the armed forces.

"Soldiers don't just stay in the barracks," she said. "They go out and work hard to save lives. As Salvationists, we can't stay in the barracks either. We go out and work to save souls."

When enrolling new soldiers, Major Jolinda suggests three things to help them grow spiritually and connect to the corps in meaningful ways: find a mentor (since many are ARC graduates, they often choose their sponsors as mentors), commit to attending one activity other than Sunday worship per week, and meet with their prayer and accountability partner regularly.

All soldiers, whether long-time or brand-new, are encouraged to engage in service at the corps. With the strong emphasis on being a contributing member of their congregation, Davenport's soldiers step up when they are needed. Whether it's fixing things around the building or leading a Sunday school class or youth gospel arts session, they're fully invested in the corps ministry.

Senior soldier Shirley Rhoads, who is a member of the corps council and teaches elementary Sunday



Major Jolinda Shelbourn, Davenport corps officer, and Marquece Williams.



Wayne Strayer and Corps Sergeant-Major John LaBarge

school and junior church, sees soldiership as a commitment to Christ and a promise to live for Him.

"It is easy to get involved in what is comfortable for us, but we need to push that comfort zone and get involved in areas we are not comfortable with so we can grow in Christ," she said.

Shirley encourages others to stretch themselves in service as she leads by example on Sundays and throughout the week. "I feel it is a responsibility of a senior soldier to be a role model for the junior soldiers and other children of the corps," she concluded.

The Davenport Corps, which averages 72 in attendance for Sunday worship, has increased its soldiership through new enrollments and soldier transfers from the adult rehabilitation center (ARC), adding five senior and three junior soldiers to their number in the past year.

Treasuring the gift of membership

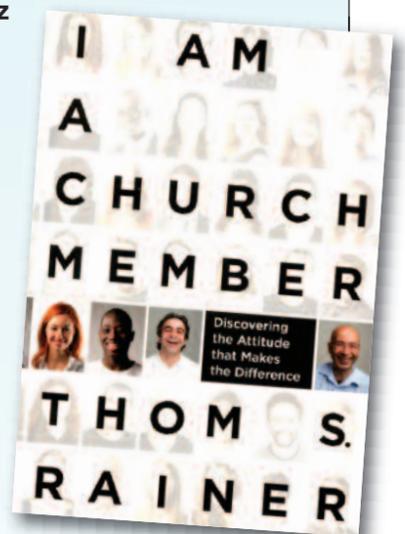
by Major Carol Wurtz
Adult Mission
Advancement
Department

As we wrap up the series on *I am a Church Member* by Thom S. Rainer, we are reminded membership in the church is a precious gift to be treasured. Throughout the book, Rainer has addressed topics to help us see church in a new light. We want to bring unity to the body and be functioning members who pray for one another and our leaders.

In the final chapter, Rainer tells us to treasure church membership as a gift. When we receive the gift of salvation, we become part of the Body of Christ. This includes salvation, forgiveness of sins, adoption into God's family and becoming part of the Body of Christ, a gift from God.

In The Salvation Army, membership is being a junior or senior soldier. Children sign a Junior Soldier's Pledge while adults sign a Soldier's Covenant which speaks of our responsibilities to and in the corps.

Throughout our territory individuals are responding to God with gratitude and treasuring this gift as they become soldiers and participate in their corps. As more and more people understand this gift, our corps will become beautiful examples of the Body of Christ, participating, bringing unity, serving, praying and leading others into relationship with Jesus.



Newly accepted candidate

Michaela Lentz
Council Bluffs, Iowa, Corps
Western Division



Salvation experience: I accepted Jesus into my life during youth councils in 2011. During a creative arts re-enactment of the crucifixion, I felt a conviction and asked Jesus to rule my life.

First Salvation Army encounter:

I met the Army through my best friend, Jeannette North. We sat together in Spanish class, and I asked her if we could

hang out after school. She invited me to the character-building programs. I enrolled as a girl guard and began attending every Wednesday.

Education/training: Associates in Arts from Des Moines Area Community College

Spiritual mentors: So many people...but my top three are Captain Pam Kasten, Major Donna Miller and Major Poppy Thompson.

Memorable ministry experience: Serving on two global mission teams to Ecuador. It affects my ministry in the U.S., and I will never forget it!

Interest/spiritual gifts: administration, leadership, shepherding, missions, music

Michaela's corps officer is Major Donna Miller.

730... AND BEYOND



2,060 days and counting

by Captain Kelly Hanton

730 days at the College for Officer Training (CFOT)—days of intentional study and focus; spiritual growth, discipline and accountability; discipleship, service and mission; plus fellowship and relationship building with sessionmates.

But nothing—not even 730 days at the CFOT—could have prepared me for the heartache and blessings that came with meeting Cathie Esselstyn. She was a classy lady from Scotland who attended the Elgin, Ill., Corps for 54 years and was the matriarch upon our arrival there, our first appointment.

She rarely missed a Sunday. Sitting in the back of the chapel, she always welcomed me with a hug and was an encourager to everyone. She once said, "Lieutenant, you're a good preacher, but you could shorten it up a bit!" That was our Cathie, and we loved her.

Not long after we arrived, she discovered she had cancer. She went through treatments and was excited to share she was able to "ring the bell," signifying there was no evidence of cancer after just a few months. We rejoiced.

Time passed, and Cathie learned she had cancer again. Like the first time, the doctors were confident with the right treatment she could overcome it. We began to pray and trust.

But this time was different. At 91, her throat muscles were damaged by the radiation and she began to have other difficulties. I remember sitting in the hospital with Cathie when she asked if I would be her medical power of attorney since she had no biological family. When I questioned her decision, she reminded me it was by God's grace we were family and



He had our paths cross at this time for a reason. How could I argue? I signed my name.

We spent several weeks together in that hospital, praying, singing and reading scripture for hours. When she could, Cathie shared Christ's love with the nurses and doctors. We laughed and cried together, were afraid and brave together. In those last days Cathie taught all of us about God's love and faithfulness and demonstrated the joy of her salvation. Easter morning I got a call informing me Cathie had died. As a family, our corps celebrated our risen Savior and also rejoiced in God's promise of everlasting life that had been fulfilled for our friend Cathie.

God called me to surrender my plans for His and to become a Salvation Army officer. Though there are many times when ministry can be difficult, the blessings are far more abundant. When I think about my time with Cathie, I'm reminded of Psalm 33:11 (NIV): "But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations." He who has called me is faithful, and I am thankful and humbled by the opportunities God gives me to serve Him.

Caribbean to the Central



Noel Mason, Jr., and Arike O'Connor served as flagbearers for the retirement of their parents, Majors Noel and Rose Mason by Lt. Colonel Rose Marie Brown and Lt. Colonel Raphael Mason.

Majors Noel and Rose Mason recently retired after more than 40 years of officership.

Born and raised in the Caribbean, Noel and Rose each grew up attending The Salvation Army. With officer parents, Noel lived in several places in the islands, while Rose attended the Hopewell, Jamaica, Corps, where her mother was the corps sergeant-major.

Rose was commissioned in 1978 with the "Disciples of Jesus" session. Noel was commissioned two years later with the "Proclaimers of Salvation," and the two married shortly thereafter. For the next 22 years, they served throughout the Caribbean in corps, divisional headquarters and social services appointments. They both attended Brengle Holiness Institute, and Noel attended the International College for Officers as part of the 139th session.

In 2001, the Masons transferred to the Central Territory, where they have served in corps, at Northern Divisional Headquarters and at the Chicago, Ill., Harbor Light Corps and Freedom Center. Their final appointment was leading the Minneapolis, Minn., Parkview Corps. They retired in a ceremony planned by their daughter, Arike O'Connor, which was attended by many officers they disciplined and sent to training. The ceremony was conducted by Noel's brother, Lt. Colonel Raphael Mason, and Lt. Colonel Rose-Marie Brown.

Throughout their officership, the

Masons most enjoyed teaching and discipling people, as well as providing music instruction in voice, guitar and brass band. The Masons are now soldiers at the Lawrenceville, Ga., Corps.

A dream come true

A decades-long dream of becoming missionaries in Spain finally came true for retired Central Territory officers Captains Luis and Raisi Zambrano, who are serving in the Spain and Portugal Command as associate corps officers for the La Coruña Corps and Cayón Outpost.

Natives of Venezuela, the Zambranos applied in 1985 to become missionaries in Spain but couldn't raise sufficient financial support. They continued to minister before moving to the U.S. in the '90s so Luis could earn a Master of Divinity at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lisle, Ill. They connected with The Salvation Army at the nearby Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps and got involved with its vibrant Hispanic ministry. God called them to fulltime service in The Salvation Army and they became auxiliary captains in 2004. Though the dream of serving in Spain never died, they were needed

to help lead the growing Hispanic ministries and corps in the Metropolitan Division.

Since retiring in 2014, the Zambranos have spent two extended visits to Spain and in the last year contacted Lt. Colonel Philip Davisson, a Central Territory officer who leads the Spain and Portugal Command with his wife, Lt. Colonel Sheila Davisson. He encouraged them and shared the appropriate protocol.

The Zambranos, who have remained fit and healthy after retirement, have committed to a year-to-year agreement to service in Spain, a country that's become increasingly secular. They are happy to follow the direction of officers in Spain while offering their experience and advice.

"We are looking forward to getting



reacquainted with the Zambranos, and excited to have them join the ministry team at a location important for the command's plans for growth and discipleship," said Lt. Colonel Sheila. "They bring enthusiasm and experience, and will contribute to the ministries there benefitting many people."

Expanding their reach

When the Milwaukee, Wis., Police Department needed volunteer emergency chaplains to partner with them, they turned to The Salvation Army to organize and lead the effort to bring comfort to traumatized people and help combat violence. The Milwaukee Police Chaplaincy Program has made a significant difference for people in crisis since 2015. Within the last year and a half, this ministry has expanded its

reach with volunteer chaplains also serving as emotional and spiritual care (ESC) providers for emergency disaster services (EDS) responses.

Most recently, three chaplains were deployed to Florida in response to Hurricane Michael which struck in October. Two went to North Carolina after Hurricane Florence hit land the month before. Six chaplains went to Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017.

Two chaplains, Pastor Carol Knox and Marcine Spoke, were involved in both Hurricanes Michael and Florence. The two women couldn't say enough about their experiences bringing comfort and aid to the hurricane survivors. Pastor Carol said she was grateful for the EDS training she received to help people in crisis.

Marcine, who'd also served in Texas after Hurricane Harvey, said, "We were able to instill and reinforce hope in survivors. We did what was needed to help people mentally, physically and spiritually, whether it was serving a meal, finding supplies or just hug-

ging and praying with people. I cried with a man who couldn't bring his dog with him into an emergency shelter, but I was able to find a foster home for it!"

The Milwaukee-based chaplains also utilized their ESC skills in EDS incidents closer to home, such as five volunteer chaplains who responded to flooding and an explosion in Madison, Wis., last summer, and six chaplains who participate with EDS in the Patriot National Guard Disaster Training exercise held each summer in Northern Wisconsin.

The Milwaukee Police Chaplaincy Program is the first of its kind in the territory. More than 60 chaplains, representing 16 different faiths and denominations, have been trained and certified to provide care to victims of violent crime, their families and communities. Not only are the volunteer chaplains proficient in spiritual and psychological first-aid, they also



Marcine Spoke with her canteen partners

receive police academy training on law-enforcement operations.

Tom Thueks, the Milwaukee service extension director instrumental in starting the volunteer chaplaincy program, said, "It's been a good fit, whether at the scene of a violent crime, police action, tornado or flood. No matter the trauma, we can provide comfort to those who are hurting."



Volunteer chaplains have an impact on community events as well as police calls.



Chaplains praying during the 2018 National Night Out supporting Milwaukee police

Winter Night Watch

by Michelle DeRusha

When icy winds howl and the thermometer plummets in Omaha, Neb., surviving on the streets can become a life or death situation. That's why The Salvation Army launched Winter Night Watch which provides hot meals, beverages and winter outerwear five nights a week throughout the Omaha metro area during the season's harshest months. Though the program targets the homeless and near-homeless, it also

serves a broader client base.

"In many cases this program is meeting the food needs of the working poor," noted Western Divisional Commander Major Greg Thompson. "It's also not unusual to have children visit the trucks, asking for meals for their whole family."

Last year Winter Night Watch served more than 16,000 meals and distributed more than 12,000 winter outerwear items, including coats, scarves and gloves.

Approximately 600 volunteers help keep the program running; many travel with the canteens each night during the program's season which runs from the end of November to the beginning of March. As temperatures dip below freezing, numbers increase. During the coldest weeks, Winter Night Watch feeds up to 300 people each night.

The canteens follow three separate routes, making two stops each. This year a new stop will be added on its southern route in Bellevue, a suburb of Omaha, in addition to stops in north and central Omaha.

"Winter Night Watch embodies the essence of The Salvation Army and its mission," said Omaha Advisory Board member and long-time Winter Night Watch volunteer Anne Baxter. "Delivering food and clothing on a cold night to the people who need it the most—that's what The Salvation Army is all about."



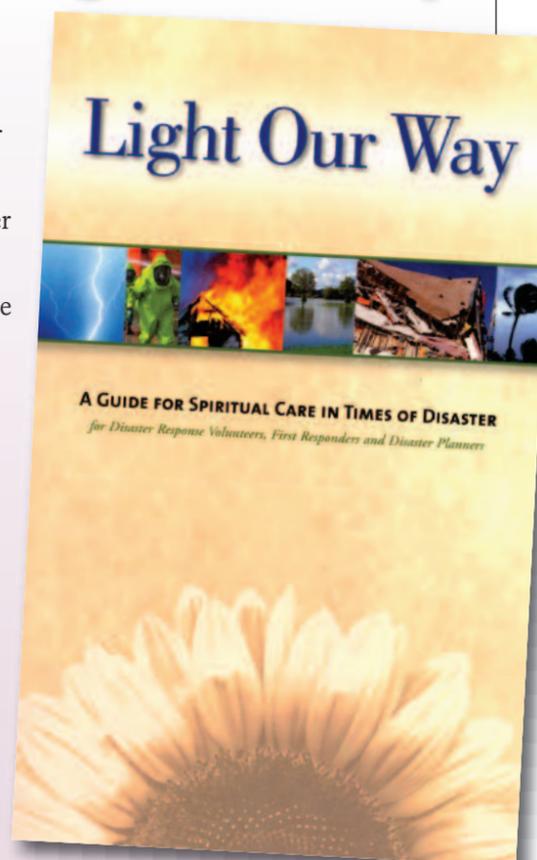
Revised guide lights the way

The second edition of *Light Our Way*, a valuable resource for emotional and spiritual care during disaster relief and recovery stages, is now available free of charge through the Central territorial emergency disaster services (EDS) office. First released in 2006, *Light Our Way* compiles best practices recognizing that people (particularly officers and ministry leaders) feel compelled to help after catastrophes.

Light Our Way is designed for those wanting to help disaster survivors in shock, overwhelmed first responders, co-workers and even themselves as they deal with their own fear and sorrow at the sight of destruction and perhaps loss of life.

The guide was written and produced by the Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee, chaired by Central Territory EDS Coordinator Kevin Ellers for the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. The committee is comprised of representatives from several different faiths in the belief that relating to the spiritual dimension is just as important as the physical and psychological state of a person after a disaster.

According to *Light Our Way*, almost 60 percent of disaster survivors prefer support from clergy or religious counselors, and nearly 70



percent are members of churches, synagogues or mosques.

To receive a free guide and learn more about other resources or volunteering, contact uscdisasterservices@usc.salvationarmy.org For updates, visit their Facebook page ([serach@CTHQEDS](https://www.facebook.com/serach@CTHQEDS))

Praying for our Partners in Mission

As *Partners in Mission* it is our privilege and responsibility to pray for these territories. Thanks for lifting up the specific prayer requests listed below.



Caribbean Territory

With more than 12,000 senior soldiers, 3,700 junior soldiers, 2,000 adherents and 250 active officers in 16 countries, the territory has 130 corps, 46 outposts, 131 schools, 29 institutions and 1,200 employees. Pray for:

- Ongoing hurricane relief efforts
- Training and deployment of youth leadership
- Relationships between The Salvation Army, churches and non-profits



Kenya East Territory

This territory has more than 86,000 senior soldiers, 75,000 junior soldiers, 600 active officers, 445 corps, 246 outposts and 372 schools. Pray for:

- Peace in Kenya and a resolution to many complex issues
- Officers and soldiers as they minister to others

India South Eastern Territory

With 400 active officers, more than 56,000 senior soldiers, 16,000 adherents and 5,000 junior soldiers attend 326 corps and 152 outposts. Pray for:

- Perseverance in face of persecution
- Continued spread of the gospel (barriers include poverty, illiteracy, cultural barriers, religious opposition and a rigid class system)



Congo Brazzaville Territory

The territory has more than 21,000 senior soldiers, 12,000 junior soldiers, 3,000 adherents, 300 active officers, 116 corps and 118 outposts. Pray for:

- Proclamation of a pure gospel devoid of syncretism and heresy
- Ministry to Central African refugees

For more information, ideas and resources visit centralmissions.org

Australia becomes one territory

by Lt. Colonel Laurie Robertson

General Brian Peddle and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, world president of women's ministries, left behind numerous legacies in Australia after a 10-day visit covering Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. The engagements culminated in the General officially launching the Australia Territory as a single united entity during the landmark *Still Others* event in Melbourne, a week of vision, equipping and celebration.

The world leaders showed by their example how people can have a strong, passionate connection with God; be approachable, warm and friendly; live out deep faith in Jesus throughout the everyday trials and joys of life; and not be afraid to address tough issues. Large numbers of people flocked to places of prayer during every meeting and event where a call to commitment and prayer was given, and people across Australia became

fully convinced that God is empowering the Australia Territory to fulfill its challenging vision statement.

In addition to the one-territory launch, General Peddle admitted Major Stella Green to the Order of the Founder for her pioneering ministry to Chinese in Australia and Hong Kong. Her efforts have seen countless lives transformed.

The General praised the courage and inspiring leadership of territorial leaders Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd and Colonels Mark and Julie Campbell (chief secretary and territorial secretary for women's ministries) who have led the way to the new Australia Territory, joining together the Australia Eastern and Australia Southern territories which existed since 1921. He thanked all who have been involved in decision-making and implementation.



Bringing the two territories into one has been a more than two-year journey that General Peddle commenced in 2016 when, as Chief of the Staff, he announced in Australia's capital Canberra that then-General André Cox had given approval for the process to begin.

During the seven-day *Still Others* event, the General said the Army in Australia is at a starting point, adding it's the opportunity and mission of every Salvationist to implement the vision. The commissioning of the territory's first new officers also took place.

Immediately after General Peddle launched the Australia Territory and presented the new territorial flag, Commissioners Tidd made several announcements regarding significant funding to "enhance innovation at the frontline of mission" in the new territory.



The General presents Major Stella Green, accompanied by her sister, with the Order of the Founder in Sydney.

As well as officially bringing the two Australian territories into one, General Peddle stated many times he is on board with the Australia Territory's vision statement: "Wherever there is hardship or injustice Salvos will live, love, fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time, with the love of Jesus." He and Commissioner Peddle took every opportunity to urge Australian Salvationists to passionately live out the vision.



Sri Lanka Territory

More than 4,000 senior soldiers, 1,000 junior soldiers and 700 adherents attend 44 corps with 100 active officers. Pray for:

- Freedom of religious expression and evangelism efforts
- Physical and relational healing after a generation of civil war
- Spiritual development of children, youth and young adults

One Army materials now in more than 25 languages

The internationally popular One Army teaching resources now are available in more than 25 languages—and the number keeps growing. Resources already translated, or being translated, include the *One Army Complete Series* (13 themed books and DVDs), *In the Master's Hands* (with DVD), *My Life in God's Hands* (youth book), and the latest publications, *Who is this Jesus Anyway?* (leaflet and book).

International Headquarters (IHQ) has ensured translations in Spanish, French and Portuguese for all publications, with Chinese, German, Russian and Latvian available for most of the teaching. Other translations (in full or part) include Korean, Dutch, Swedish, Czech, Georgian, Romanian, Polish, Kiswahili, Bangladeshi, Malayan, Danish, Estonian, Burmese, Urdu, Icelandic, Italian, Shona, Ukrainian and Indonesian. More translations are being developed.

One Army teaching resources have been introduced to keep The Salvation Army united and outward-looking in ministry. The scripts are easy to read, revealing a depth of understanding and clarity of expression. Each English-speaking corps has been equipped with the One Army Complete Series, and non-English-speaking territories and commands receive grants for translation and printing on application to International Headquarters.

Printing files for the *Who is this Jesus Anyway?* leaflets have been made available to territories and

commands throughout the world so they can print to order. Some of the ways in which the material is being used, from the Solomon Islands to outreach ministry at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, can be found on the One Army Facebook (facebook.com/tsaonearmy) and Twitter (@TSAOneArmy) accounts and on the One Army website: www.salvationarmy.org/onearmy.

The series has been devised and written mainly by Commissioner Robert Street, with Major Nick Coke providing youth material. Filmed contributions and written comments are included from all Salvation Army zones of the world to ensure the inclusion of many cultures and that the teaching has a truly rich flavor of One Army!

The Salvation Army
PRAYER CENTRAL
USA Central Territory

March Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Friday	Job 17-18	World Day of Prayer
	2 Saturday	Isaiah 45-50	Chicago Staff Band ministry in Toronto, Canada
	3 Sunday	Matthew 23-25	Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps
	4 Monday	1 Corinthians 1-2	Southeast Michigan ARC*
	5 Tuesday	Genesis 36-39	Port Huron, Mich., Corps
	6 Wednesday	Ruth	Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps
	7 Thursday	Psalms 27-29	New Albany, Ind., Corps
	8 Friday	Job 19-20	Territorial Youth Chorus
	9 Saturday	Isaiah 51-55	St. Joseph, Mo., Corps
	10 Sunday	Matthew 26-28	Junior Soldier Enrollment & Renewal Sunday
	11 Monday	1 Corinthians 3-4	Biblical Education Tour to Israel
	12 Tuesday	Genesis 40-43	Western Michigan & Northern Indiana DHQ**
	13 Wednesday	1 Samuel 1-5	Joliet, Ill., Corps
	14 Thursday	Psalms 30-32	Financial resources for the future
	15 Friday	Job 21-22	St. Louis Euclid Ave., Mo., Corps
	16 Saturday	Isaiah 56-61	Noble Worship Center, Minn., Corps
	17 Sunday	Mark 1-2	Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps
	18 Monday	1 Corinthians 5-6	Urban Ministries Center in St. Louis, Mo.
	19 Tuesday	Genesis 44-47	Muskegon Citadel, Mich., Corps
	20 Wednesday	1 Samuel 6-10	Oshkosh, Wis., Corps
	21 Thursday	Psalms 33-35	Royal Oak, Mich., Corps
	22 Friday	Job 23-24	Springfield Clear Lake, Ill., Corps
	23 Saturday	Isaiah 62-66	Territorial leadership team
	24 Sunday	Mark 3-4	Topeka Citadel, Kan., Corps
	25 Monday	1 Corinthians 7-8	NorrIDGE Citadel, Ill., Corps
	26 Tuesday	Genesis 48-50	St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps
	27 Wednesday	1 Samuel 11-15	Rochester, Minn., Corps
	28 Thursday	Psalms 36-38	Omaha North Side, Neb., Corps
	29 Friday	Job 25-26	Niles, Mich., Corps
	31 Saturday	Jeremiah 1-6	Racine, Wis., Corps
	31 Sunday	Mark 5-6	Annual Day of Prayer for Children

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

* = Adult Rehabilitation Center

** = Divisional Headquarters

--Mustard Seeds--



A catalyst for hope

"Our vision is that our people will feel equipped and capable in their everyday lives to share their faith," said Lt. Vinal Lee, who leads the Madison, Ind., Corps with his wife, Captain Brenna.

Feeling a heavy burden for the unsaved in their community, many of whom struggle with the devastating effects of poverty, drug addiction and alcohol abuse, the Lees held a weekend evangelism training seminar called "Catalyst of Hope," which was attended by 64 individuals from the corps, other churches and the community—even city hall.

"We wanted to challenge and equip our corps to cast a vision for 100 people to accept Christ in the coming year," he said, and because the Lees believe in collaboration, they invited others who share their heart for the Madison community.

The three-day event featured Major Stephen Court, evangelism consultant for the Canada and Bermuda Territory. Guests from the Central Territory included Lt. Amanda Keene,



Major Stephen Court

territorial Christian education director for discipleship, and the territorial praise band, The Singing Company.

Friday evening's powerful opening session included a thought-provoking message after which delegates renewed their commitments to Christ or made them for the first time. On Saturday they learned about the importance of spreading hope by sharing their faith with others and how to break the ice in everyday conversations. They practiced reaching out at coffee shops and prayed over the city as they walked through downtown. By the seminar's conclusion on Sunday, a change in people was evident, according to the lieutenant. He says that since the conference there has been a palpable difference in the corps. Those who were once apprehensive or afraid to share their faith are now bold, and they've led 18 individuals to Christ!



Madison junior soldier Isabella Rhyne leads worship with The Singing Company.

A ministry of reconciliation

Madison, Ind., appears to be the quintessential small American town, but beneath the sunny surface, there's a darkness threatening the lives and livelihoods of many residents.

Intergenerational drug use and addiction are pervasive problems in the community of nearly 12,000 people. With entire families being affected, there is much work to be done to break the cycle and create hope for a better future. Lt. Vinal and Captain Brenna Lee, Madison corps officers, have been instrumental in bringing the community together to help those suffering from addiction-related problems find restoration and reconciliation in Christ.

"Ministry is most effective when you're responding to the needs of the community," said Lt. Vinal. "Approximately 85 percent of those we serve are struggling with some aspect of addiction."

"There's a renewed passion and commitment to the mission of The Salvation Army," said Lt. Vinal. "We're excited for what this means for the corps and for the Kingdom of God."



Sarah's family has benefitted from the ministry of the corps.

The Lees encounter many people who come to the corps through social services, feeding program or dental clinic and request help for their or their loved ones' addictions. Referrals also come from the jail and other ministries.

"Each time we have a touch point with someone, we're intentional," said the lieutenant. "So we're not just providing band-aids; we're trying to get to the heart of the issue."

Because Madison is a relatively central location to several adult rehabilitation centers (ARCs) in both the Central and Eastern territories, the Lees have the opportunity to refer addicted clients and transport them to an available facility within a few hours' drive for treatment. When possible, they work with the families of the individuals to support them through the absence of their loved one, particularly if the person is the primary provider for the family. Eligible families are enrolled in Pathway of Hope to provide additional support and begin the process of breaking the cycle of poverty for the next generation.

"We want them to know we're fighting with them and for them," the lieutenant concluded. "We make sure they know they are wanted and welcome at The Salvation Army."

Singing Company releases a charmer

by Major Robert Birks

I'm sure you've heard bad things come in threes. The idiom's popularity may have something to do with Michael Jackson, Ed McMahon and Farrah Fawcett all dying the same week. But I suspect it may also be connected with the Star Wars prequel films. At any rate, any good Trinitarian knows that as far as proverbs go, that one has serious problems.

Case in point, The Singing Company has released three inspiring EPs (22 songs) in the last four years. Their latest, aptly titled III, continues their tradition of creating redemptive art that is technically and musically acute, worshipfully ardent and theologically accurate.

Through six original songs and two covers ("This is my Father's world" and "Jesus paid it all"), the Central territorial praise band offers praise befitting both our own little worlds and our place in the larger one. "Body of Christ" and "May the peace" serve as bookends which proclaim the need for believers to be one and well with each other, Jesus and "OTHERS." In between

these songs, we're reminded God who established the world "is the Ruler yet." He won't waste what happens to us and won't let us go! He made us in His image, and His Son paid the price for us all. If these songs will be believed, the listener can die to a sinful life and be washed in the resurrection life.

I suppose one can work alone and sing songs about unity in a divisive

world, but that individual's songs would sound empty. III comes to us via a community in mission in Chicago: seven different songwriters, a group of good musicians and even better people (including, for the first time, saxophonist



Allen Park) and a gospel choir arranged and produced by Ronnie Murchison Smith from the Memphis, Tenn., Kroc

Center. Additionally, "May the peace" includes a perfectly placed liturgical prayer written and read by Courtney Rose. The project was the band's first recording in the new studio at Central Territorial Headquarters and was produced entirely—and masterfully—by guitarist Dave Mantel of Broken Light Records.

Leader Eric Himes shared the group's vision for III was a desire to explore new sounds and to stress themes of peace, mercy, joy and freedom. He hopes the recording will stand "as a witness to the strength we find in Christ, particularly in these difficult times." To that I say, three's a charm.

III is available on all streaming platforms, including iTunes, Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube Music.

