



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 47, Number 7

July/August 2017

Congress inspires territory to pursue mission

Nearly 3,500 Salvationists were inspired to pursue mission with their whole hearts, lives and resources at the *Forward Together* Congress, June 9-11, led by General André and Commissioner Silvia Cox.

Exciting selections like "Flashpoint" by the Territorial Youth Band and "Stand Up" by the territorial praise band The Singing Company with Phil Laeger and "Battle Cry" by the Territorial Youth Chorus, United Songsters and the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) filled the Sears Centre arena and set the tone not only for the keynote session but the weekend. These performing groups also anchored the weekend.

An emphasis on prayer wove throughout the meeting with a beautiful offering to the Lord by a radiant Captain Catherine Mount, and a humble response by Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps-sergeant Major (CSM) David Brooksbank, who was recognized for exceptional service. "Time spent in prayer is crucial in order to remain passionate about bringing Christ to the people and the people to Christ," he said. Territorial Commander Commissioner



Paul R. Seiler explored "Creating a Shared Future" with the help of

the Bill Booth Theater Company.

A magnificent performance of "Let the Walls Come Down" by Charlie Green and the CSB was an undoubted highpoint, but the message by the General was the apex of the evening. He urged delegates to be full participants

in the great mission God has called us to in this age of monumental change and political upheaval. It is in the reality of our everyday lives, he said, that we are called to have faith and to step out in hope. "Is your faith strong enough to enable you to step out and take hold of the mission?" he asked. Even on the first evening, some were moved to kneel at the altar.

More than 200 Salvationists, including territorial leaders Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler and General André and Commissioner Silvia Cox, greeted Saturday morning with the 5K Run for the World. (See page 5.)

Continued on page 12



Sunday Commissioning *See page 9*



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What a mighty God we serve

by Lt. Colonel Vicki Amick
Territorial Retired Officers' Secretary

As the congregation sang "Holy, Holy, Holy" during the Sunday morning worship service, I was blessed by the overwhelming magnitude of the God we serve! I could hardly sing as tears flowed and I worshipped! We are blessed as children of God to be visited by His Spirit and have communion one-on-one with a holy God.

Occasionally, I plan a spiritual day to intentionally seek God's presence. By faith, I know He is with me and walks beside me daily, but there are times I need to feel His presence. In moments when my faith is weak and fear threatens to take control, I must practice my walk of faith. In other

moments, I'm not consciously looking for God to show up but He does, and my spirit is overjoyed by His gracious favor and blessing.

The song "Holy, Holy, Holy" mentions God is merciful and mighty—opposite virtues but both true. I love that! God, the Creator of the universe, who is capable of all miracles, is also the One who loved us so much He gave His only Son to bring us into a right relationship with Himself. He is merciful to a sinner like me. Oh, how I praise and thank you, Lord!

I love the chorus, "What a mighty God we serve. What a mighty God we serve. Angels fall before Him. Heaven and earth adore Him. What



a mighty God we serve."

God's Word instructs us to live like this: "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we pro-

fess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16, NIV)

Who in your life needs to hear about the message of our mighty yet merciful God? Share it today!

Come attend the

Installation of Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey

as Territorial Commander and
Territorial President of Women's Ministries



Welcome of Colonels Steve and Janice Howard

new Chief Secretary and
Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries

and the
"Messengers of Compassion"
session of cadets!

Saturday, September 9, 2017
3:00 p.m.

Chicago Mayfair Community
Church (Corps)

5020 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago IL 60630

Divine timing for worship

When Captains Dana Bigelow and Tammy Whitney were appointed to Heartland Divisional Headquarters last year as divisional youth secretary and divisional program secretary, respectively, they continued to carry the torch of their predecessors (Captains Rachel Stouder and Valerie Carr) for developing quality corps worship. Shared by others at divisional headquarters, this became one of the division's STEPs (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) goals.

The question was how to help corps offer quality worship with the resources they have and motivate officers to plan and execute quality corporate worship experiences.

To assist six corps in the division (Canton, Kankakee, Moline, Peoria and Springfield, Ill., and Muscatine, Iowa) which made improving worship a STEPs goal, a divisional worship development council and multi-step action plan was implemented.

Meanwhile, Peggy Thomas, assistant territorial music and gospel arts secretary, had been developing a new resource called "With One Accord: a Team Approach to Worship Planning."

"I considered this divine timing!" said Captain Dana.

Peggy was invited to conduct a series of sessions from the free, new resource (consisting of a comprehensive guidebook and DVD) for repre-



Captains Dana Bigelow (l) and Tammy Whitney review the "With One Accord" guidebook.

sentatives from the six corps and divisional headquarters, who'd also attended the territorial worship arts retreat earlier this year.

"I had the privilege of meeting with leaders who'd chosen to develop their worship using this resource to start a worship committee," said Peggy. "We reviewed the material and their worship assessments. It was a great opportunity for me to introduce 'With One Accord' and at the same time hear the questions, ideas and concerns each corps faces. It also was constructive to bring together corps working on the same STEPs goal so they could share their plans with each other."

Central
Connection



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International College for Officers website

The International Social Justice Commission website

St. Louis Urban Mission Center

Camp Hohlitzelle

Media

Congress weekend meetings

Exclusives

Accessing "With One Accord" Worship Planning

September Prayer Calendar

Saturday in the Park

Congress delegates were lured to Saturday afternoon outdoor activities with the intoxicating smells of barbecued chicken and brisket prepared by renowned Chicago restaurant "Smoque." Each delegate received a red bag chair emblazoned with The Salvation Army shield for picnicking and enjoying half-hour performances throughout the afternoon at the lake-side Village Green Park concert pavilion and inside the Territorial Headquarters (THQ) chapel. Bottles of ice-cold water were available throughout the site.

Outdoor performances featured the Territorial Youth Band (TYB), the Eastern Michigan Divisional Band and a soulful performance by an ensemble from the Chicago, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Centers (ARC). The TYB performance ranged from the classic march "Kinshasa" to the fairly recent overture "Flashpoint" which incorporates the song "I'll stand for Christ." The Eastern Michigan Divisional Band performed numbers including "Swingtime Religion" and Ray Steadman-Allen's "The High Council." The energetic Des Plaines, Ill., Corps Dance Troupe fought high winds to perform a vari-



ety of contemporary and traditional dances.

Another singing group from the Chicago ARCs performed with beneficiary family members (including adorable children) in the THQ chapel, as did The Singing Company, the Territorial Youth Chorus (TYC) and the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps Songsters. Highlights included a dramatic TYC performance of the song "Glory" from the movie *Selma*, and a fun, fast-paced arrangement sung by the Royal Oak Songsters combining "I want to be ready" with strains of "Jesus loves me" and a bouncy refrain of "Yabba-dabba, yabba-dabba, yabba-dabba, Scooby-Doo!"

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The Global Village featured booths with informational displays and fun educational activities representing the countries of the 20 New Corps projects assigned to each division, the ARC Command, the College for Officer Training and THQ. Delegates learned about the importance of clean water when they practiced brushing their teeth with only a few drops of water, how to make batik cloth squares and sampled the exotic flavors of hard candies from India. As delegates visited each booth in the Global Village they got their "passports" stamped and received a lapel pin of that country's flag. After handing in their fully stamped passports, they were rewarded with a commemorative Congress pin!

Adding to the fun, General André and Commissioner Silvia Cox posed for selfies with happy delegates under a tent set up near the concert pavilion. Braving the nearly 90-degree temperature and stiff winds, the General and Commissioner Cox enthusiastically greeted and chatted with each person who wanted a picture taken. Commissioners Paul and Carol Seiler also were there to visit with delegates. All four signed their souvenir bag chairs for an online auction in support of 20 New Corps, which was posted on the Congress 2017 app's activity stream and on its Facebook page. By the end of the weekend, two of the chairs had already been sold for \$270!



Hands-on History!

by Nanci Gasiel

The Historical Museum offered a host of new programs, cool pins and activities designed for adults and children at the Congress.

Hands-on History featured a wide variety of Salvation Army instruments and artifacts from the College for Officer Training. Officers, soldiers, children and guests were able to don a pair of white cotton gloves and carefully handle and examine the artifacts. Participants enjoyed this up-close look at Salvation Army history.

The semaphore (flag signaling) program gave kids and adults the chance to grab a pair of signal flags and learn the semaphore alphabet. Children were provided with colored paper, scissors and glue to make a pair of paper flags of their own design with which to amaze their parents and friends by demonstrating their new skills. Learning semaphore was a part of the girl guard curriculum from 1915-1971. Boy Scouts may still earn a semaphore badge.

As a participant in the Global Village, the museum offered a pin featuring their mascot, Flat Joe Turk. The character of Flat Joe is based on the real Salvationist Joe the Turk. Flat Joe helps the museum show the work of the Army across the territory.

In coordination with the world missions and youth



departments, the museum developed a coloring and activity book tailored to the weekend's events. The book included original coloring pages designed by the territorial visual communications staff and was offered in English and Spanish, with translation provided by the multicultural ministries department. It was distributed to children during the Saturday events.

Trading up

With the Sears Centre location for the Congress meetings being a short jaunt to Territorial Headquarters (THQ), delegates had an unprecedented opportunity to shop directly in Trade Central. And, did they ever!

Salvationists with armloads of clothing, accessories and other items selected for purchase roamed through the store and large ancillary



display areas at THQ. In addition to several new styles of uniform shirts and blouses, there was an array of new gift and promotional items in a wide range of price points.

In the vendor exhibit area, fresh concepts on display included a housewares starter kit designed for social services and Pathway of Hope distribution, inexpensive share-one, wear-one bracelets with a small Salvation Army shield charm, and a children's nativity book with the gospel message in English and Spanish ideal for Christmas ministry distributions.



Advocating for justice



by Lexi Baysinger

The Urban Mission Center in St. Louis, Mo., hosted an event earlier this year called Justice Day St. Louis. Partnering with the Justice Conference, we focused on justice for youth which is important as we work to seek shalom for our city. Our apprentices brought together six local educators, activists and organizers to help participants not only learn about the problems youth face but also how we can advocate for them.

Educator Aaron Layton began the day with a passionate message about the importance of education and how it affects students. He explained if we do not give all children a quality education they are far behind in the race of life; this disproportionately affects youth of color. Next, Michelle Higgins spoke about engaging youth in justice work. Her main point was youth need two things from those who seek to work with them: disci-

plishment and advocacy. She said it's essential for youth to have good role models; we must walk with them so they know we truly care.

The day concluded with a panel of four local organization leaders who are engaged in working with the city's youth. The Rev. Dietra Wise Baker, Darren Young, Karissa Anderson and Marlon Wharton shared their experiences of mentoring and advocating for the youth they serve. One of the important points made was we must give youth space to speak for themselves; we can't assume we know what they want and need.

Justice Day—coming together to find out how we can best work to support our youth—was a big success. Participants gained tangible ways in which they could join in pursuing justice for youth wherever they are. We've already been asked if we will be putting on other events like this, and we look forward to providing more spaces for this type of conversation. 

Riding for God

Fittingly over the Memorial Day weekend, 18 members of The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry (TSAMM) from Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska gathered in Cape Girardeau, Mo., to minister to U.S. military veterans, perform service projects and enjoy a scenic ride through state forests culminating in a meaningful devotional time at the Bald Knob Cross of Peace, an eye-catching, 111-foot-tall structure in Southern Illinois.

"We also hosted a worship service during the weekend that attracted 77 people, although the weather scared many away, and a bike blessing for 36 riders," reported Captain Ronnie Amick, the Cape Girardeau corps officer until recently and a big advocate of TSAMM.

Approximately 85 residents of the Cape Girardeau Veterans Home were more than happy to come outside to see the motorcycles and chat with TSAMM members.

"We visited and prayed with the vets who came out to enjoy a break in their daily routine," Captain Ronnie continued. "The hardest part for us was hearing their stories, which caused many of them to still shed tears."

The motorcycle ministry team also performed a variety of service



projects.

Service projects performed in the Cape Girardeau community included helping an elderly couple pack their belongings for a move that had been delayed due to the husband's fourth recurrence of cancer, cleaning out the flooded basement of a recently widowed wife of a 911 dispatcher, and tidying up the frontage of a local business that has been supportive of The Salvation Army.

"The rallies, rides, biker blessings and service projects we've done here certainly have made the Army more visible in Cape Girardeau," said Captain Ronnie. 

Go and Do Something

Go and Do Something is a new action-packed resource from the International Social Justice Commission (ISJC). Perfect for individual or small group study, the magazine-style resource offers a Christian perspective on the issues connected to the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals. Among the 17 topics covered are poverty, education, health, the environment and inequality.

If you're interested in social justice, this resource not only includes thought-provoking writings but provides discussion topics, prayer points and ideas for action to get you talking, thinking and taking practical steps to make the world a better place.

Go and Do Something can be downloaded for free at www.salvationarmy.org/isjc. You also can subscribe to a monthly email newsletter from the ISJC by visiting their website.

To secure printed copies (FREE except for the cost of shipping!), email IHQ-isjc@salvationarmy.org to the attention of Captain Pierson Vincent.

A Spanish translation of Go and Do Something will be available this fall. 



Employment Opportunities

Program Director—The Salvation Army Hohlitzelle Camp and Conference Center, Midlothian, Tex.

Provides operational direction, development, evaluation, support for camp, conference center programming; ensures programs fiscally sound, comply with Army policies, state requirements; develops, manages youth internship program; works with divisional Christian education director to develop, implement summer day camp program alongside summer camps; seeks program funding; prepares, maintains grant reporting records; secures outside vendors, contracts; participates in recommendations for budgets, security, staffing, scheduling, repairs, replacement, remodeling of equipment, facilities; promotes, manages volunteer opportunities.

Requires knowledge of Army ministry, theology, Christian education, child development; bachelor's degree in program administration, sports management, business administration or related field plus four to five years of experience (two years supervisory) or any equivalent combination providing required knowledge, skills, abilities.

Guest Services Manager—The Salvation Army Hohlitzelle Camp and Conference Center, Midlothian, Tex.

Plans, schedules, trains, supervises work of guest services staff; plans logistics for all events, facilities usage; ensures set ups are complete; aids guest services director in conducting tours to obtain new rentals; hosts groups during events; develops staff manuals outlining best practices, standard operating procedures; maintains supplies, equipment inventories; makes purchase recommendations; communicates, enforces rules, policies for guest use of facilities.

Requires knowledge of Army ministry, culture; marketing, public relations, customer service; bachelor's degree in hospitality services, business administration or related field plus two years experience in camping ministry or hospitality industry (including supervisory experience) or any equivalent combination providing required knowledge, skills, abilities.

Apply online at Hohlitzelle.com

For more information contact Jeanne.Bryant@uss.salvationarmy.org

GO AND DO SOMETHING

Mobilising everyone to seek justice together - now!

THE WHOLE WORLD MOBILISING GO FORWARD!

Passing the torch

The highlight of the territorial youth councils at Congress was Saturday's "Pass the Torch" Rally with General André and Commissioner Silvia Cox.

Led by Territorial Youth Secretary Captain Mary Kim, the rally was a whirlwind of youthful excitement including a musical package with Charlie Green, who sang his new song, "Free." Young people from around the territory showcased their talents and accepted congratulations from the General and Territorial Commander Commissioner

Paul R. Seiler on their character-building awards and corps cadet graduations. Young composer Fred Mbesi directed the Territorial Youth Band (TYB) in the



debut of his arrangement, "Radiance," and the Territorial Youth Chorus presented a song.

The General and Commissioner Silvia Cox answered questions in a lively interview with the Bill Booth Theater Company. To the enjoyment of the crowd, the General ticked off the names of his predecessors, showing he can keep pace with the young minds of the corps cadet graduates regarding Salvation Army history.

Commissioner Cox shared her journey from salvation at a young age to following God's calling to become an

officer. She encouraged youth who are struggling or questioning to go to the Lord. "God has been with me. I can testify to that," she said, then assured them, "Ask God to show you the way and He will show you."

As the service came to a close, divisional leaders prayed

blessings over the youth who gathered with their respective divisions and chose one of three rubber bracelets to symbolize their commitment: red for officership, blue for lay leadership

was abuzz with music and laughter as they enjoyed the ultimate late night pizza party complete with bowling, arcade games, a high ropes course and all the pizza and pop they could consume on Friday night.

Hip-hop artists GAWVI, Social Club Misfits and KB performed in a high-energy concert open to the public on Saturday night at which delegates were joined by 215 individuals from the area. The artists shared a dynamic selection of music, hyping up the crowd with



thumping bass and live sound mixing. In more serious moments, each group shared messages of hope and encouragement.

The concert concluded with a spiritually charged performance by KB, who admonished the youth: "We are all giving 100 [percent] to something, but only what's done for Christ will last."

and yellow for uncertainty but willingness to follow wherever God leads. Fittingly, Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler passed torches to two junior soldiers as the TYB and The Singing Company territorial praise band played a rousing tune. The symbolic gesture solidified the General's exhortation, "We need everyone in the Army from the youngest to the oldest to be mobilized in the purpose of spreading the gospel."

In addition to the rally, the Congress featured many family-friendly events and excellent childcare for children ages 12 and under, provided by the territorial youth department and Corporate Kids, Inc.

Afterglow activities provided fun and fellowship for the territory's youth and young adults. Main Event



Running forward together

The themes of "running the race" and "Forward Together" came to life early Saturday morning as more than 200 delegates congregated at the starting line of the 7th annual 5K Run for the World. The early morning weather was perfect, the music was lively, the food was nourishing and the atmosphere was happy as participants collected their t-shirts and prepared to complete the course.

Before the race, Commissioner Paul R. Seiler encouraged the crowd to, "run the race with perseverance," both physically and spiritually—a fitting exhortation as Commissioners Paul and Carol Seiler lead an active



lifestyle and regularly run in their spare time. The commissioners initiated the Run for the World event at commissioning weekend in 2012.

A bonus this year was having General André and Commissioner Silvia Cox lace up their sneakers and join the walkers and runners on the course. They completed the race together and spent time socializing at the start/finish line and posing for selfies with the participants, many of whom immediately uploaded their images to social media sites.

"Meeting the General in a casual setting is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Major Joyce Gauthier, who has completed the 5K nearly every year.





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2017





All to God's glory

Major Michael and Betty Vogler celebrated retirement from their latest appointments: Major Michael as chaplain at the Chicago North Side, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) and Major Betty as assistant territorial legal secretary.

Commissioned in 1981, Major Michael served at the harbor light and corps in Chicago until 1995. Major Betty was commissioned in 1983 and served at three Hispanic corps in Chicago while earning a master's degree in missions and intercultural studies. She then served in the South America East Territory in corps and headquarters appoint-

ments from 1988 until 1992.

She returned to corps work in the Central and married Major Michael in 1995, the same year she completed a master's of social work degree. The Voglers served in a variety of corps and divisional headquarters positions during which time Major Michael earned a bachelor's degree in management and ministry leadership.

In 2006, Major Betty was appointed assistant territorial legal secretary. She became a certified paralegal in 2008 and earned a master's degree in jurisprudence in 2013. Major Michael served as a corps program officer then became chaplain for Metropolitan divisional ministries in 2007. In 2012 he earned a master's degree in psychology and was appointed Chicago North Side ARC chaplain.

"A highlight of my officership was doing frontline corps work, developing relational ministries and holistic programming to meet people's needs," said Major Betty. Major Michael's most rewarding work was in urban ministries, particularly applying his education to help substance abusers recover.

In retirement he's pursuing licensure as a clinical professional counselor while she works in the legal field. Together they enjoy "pickle ball" as their new hobby!

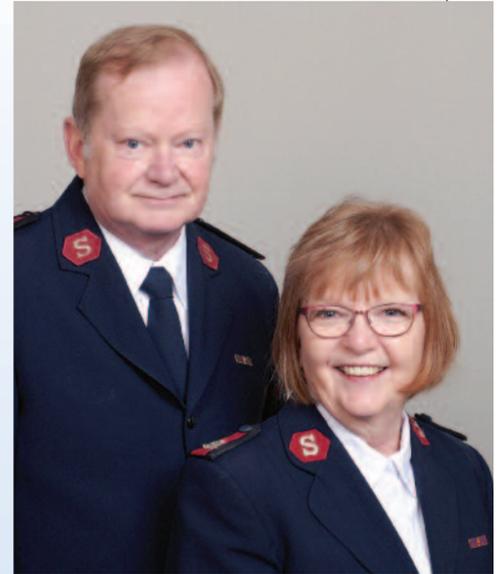


Open to opportunity

Recently, with family and friends gathered at Northwoods Camp and Retreat Center, Majors Bill and Betsy Cox celebrated their retirement, having spent the better portion of 37 years as officers. They were commissioned in 1980 with the "Proclaimers of Salvation" session.

They each graduated from Lake Superior State College and were married in 1974. In the early years they began to build their lives as an accountant and homemaker but found themselves called to officership. They were mentored and supported by their corps officers in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Majors Herman and Shirlene Miller, who became lifelong friends and confidants.

Throughout their service in eight corps appointments in Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota, the Coxes prayed diligently for their lives to be a reflection of Christ and for God to open their eyes to opportunities for ministry. Major Bill's encouragement is drawn from the Apostle Paul's plea to believers, "Devote yourselves to prayer... And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ..." (Colossians 4:2-3 NIV)



"God provides the opportunities. We just have to be aware of them," said Major Bill.

The Coxes have no extravagant plans for retirement—only to be open to what God has for them in their new community of St. Joseph, Mich., and to enjoy their home and the beaches of Lake Michigan. They also plan to spend plenty of time with their seven children and their families.

He's always faithful

Celebrating God's faithfulness throughout the years was the overriding theme of the retirement service for Captains Michael and Tina Cripe earlier this year.

The Cripes retired after 10 years of service. They were commissioned with the "Visionaries" session in 2006 and served as corps officers in Fremont, Neb., Aberdeen, S.D., Wyandotte Downriver, Mich., and Hillsdale, Mich., as well as serving at the Eastern Michigan Divisional Headquarters.

Tributes were given by Major Manuel Madrid, who was the corps officer in Chillicothe, Mo., when Mike and Tina met over 35 years ago; sessionmates and friends Captains Javier and Kelsie Moreno, and corps employee Janet Jackson

and her husband, Alfred. The Cripes' youngest daughter, Hannah, shared about their family experiences through the years.

Major Joyce Gauthier (Captain Tina's sister) and Hannah sang, "He's always been faithful to me," by Sara Groves, which is the Cripes' testimony. Majors Bob and Joyce Gauthier presented the retirement certificates, supported by Eastern Michigan divisional leaders Lt. Colonels John and Theresa Turner.

In retirement, the Cripes hope to spend plenty of time with their four children and grandchildren. They remain open to the Lord's calling and are confident He will use them wherever He leads. While they do not know what the future holds, they know God is faithful and they trust in Him.



Captains Mike and Tina Cripe flanked by Lt. Colonels John and Theresa Turner (l) and Majors Bob and Joyce Gauthier (r)

International College for Officers

The following officers have been selected to attend the International College for Officers in London, England, this summer.



Session 234
July 12 to August 21, 2017

Major Marc Johnson
Senior Kroc Center Officer,
Chicago, Ill.



Major Mark Martsof
Winnebago County Coordinator,
Rockford, Ill.



Long Service Awards

We salute the following officers on their service milestones.

45 Years

Lt. Colonel Rebecca Sjogren

40 Years

Major James Fry
Major Paulette Fry
Major Donna Miller
Major Judy Mills
Major Jan Sjogren
Major Jimmy Wilson
Major Mary Wilson

35 Years

Commissioner Brad Bailey
Major Elsie Cline
Major Vickie Cole
Major Rae Doliber
Major Toni Dorrell
Major Cherri Hobbins
Major Shirley Myers
Major Annette Tamayo
Major Jose Tamayo

30 Years

Major Patricia Johnson
Major Janice Love

25 Years

Major Beverly Best
Major Timothy Best
Major Lesa Davis
Major David Fulton
Major Gay Ann Fulton
Major Jo Langham
Major Barbara Miller
Major Jerry O'Neil
Major Cornell Voeller



Uplifted to serve vigorously

“What would it take for you to meet God this morning?” asked Chief Secretary Colonel Jeffrey Smith on Sunday morning as the Commissioning and Ordination Service began.

A worshipful tone had been set by British vocalist Charlie Green with “Bow Down” and then the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) with “I bow adoring.” Phil Laeger and The Singing Company deepened the prayerful atmosphere with “I Surrender” as the “Joyful Intercessors” session entered and smartly saluted General André and Commissioner Silvia Cox and Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler.

A quartet of first-year cadets shared prayer concerns of their upper-classmates as the Bill Booth Theater Company silently enacted them. The cadets reminded the audience that prayer isn’t a last resort or an admission of defeat but the most powerful step they can take. Then, the cadets about to be commissioned recited their Covenant.

With her charming Swiss-French accent, Commissioner Silvia Cox read the scripture chosen for each



cadet by CFOT staff, and the General commissioned them with the rank of lieutenant in his equally charming British accent. In the dedicatory prayer Commissioner Cox asked God to give the new lieutenants the grace and power to fulfill their calling.

Hebrews 2:1-9 was read by Lieutenants Elizabeth Ayala, Anil Kumar, Jakub Kocyan and Elysia Nordan before the General’s message, “Focus on the Cross.” He said we’re all called to journey with God but must make sure our callings are clear, citing the Israelites when they were called out



of Egypt and their struggles with continued faith. As a result, many never reached the Promised Land.

“We can equally fail to reach the goal; we can become cold and indifferent and drift away from God’s grace,” said the General, adding sometimes we listen to the world and are led astray by increasing secularism, rampant materialism and the attitude of anything goes.

“It’s no longer politically correct for us to declare our faith...we become chameleons, camouflaging ourselves to fit in,” he observed. “Don’t take your eyes off Jesus. If you’re convinced of your calling, you should be moving, not sitting in your corps. What we do is more powerful



than what we say...We must be serious with God and put into practice what we believe.”

After an altar call, more than 100 people answered the call to officership. “We are the only Army in the world which obtains complete victory only through complete surrender,” commented Lt. Colonel Ralph Bukiewicz, at that time territorial secretary for personnel.

Soon the Service of Appointments began with the traditional parade of session flags and recognition of sessions marking long-service anniversaries. The General stressed the importance and blessing of faithful service, adding that being commissioned is just the beginning of a lifetime of learning and growing.

After the new lieutenants entered to much fanfare, CFOT Training Principal Major Cherri Hobbins commented on how quickly and easily this session had grown into their name. After hearing which courses they had found most impactful, she assured the audience this is a well prepared and solidly grounded session.

Before Commissioner Carol Seiler issued her challenge to “bring hope,” the CSB premiered a new composition by Bandmaster William Himes called *Pathway of Hope*.

Featuring the songs “Sometimes I feel like a motherless child,” “Reach out and touch” and “Storm the forts of darkness,” the piece musically depicts the journey from despair to hope.

Finally, the lieutenants learned of their first appointments from the territorial commander, who thoroughly enjoyed sustaining their suspense! As delegates left the arena they received the June issue of *Central Connection* with the new lieutenants’ appointments as a souvenir. You can view it now online.



Newly accepted candidates



Anthony Butler
Bloomington, Ill., Corps
Heartland Division



I was saved at age 19 while working at Eagle Crest Camp. I was leading a devotional on forgiveness when everything clicked for me. God revealed to me that His forgiveness was for all of us, not only me but even those

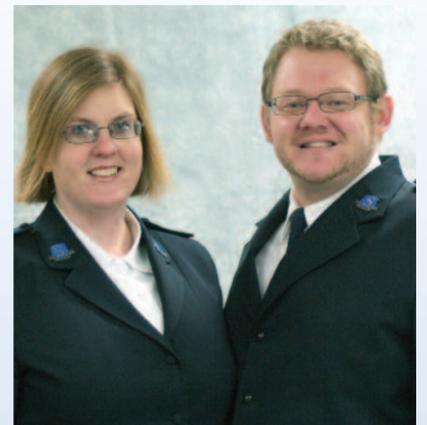
people I hadn’t forgiven. That day I knew I was called to be an officer. I felt compelled to show people they could experience God’s forgiveness and have a new start with unlimited potential and a godly purpose. Since then I’ve never looked back from my call to officership.

Until recently Anthony’s corps officers were Captains Paul and D.J. James. His current corps officer is Major Gary Felton.

Greg and Elizabeth Bock
Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps
Eastern Michigan Division

Elizabeth and I, married since 2008, met at Central Bible College thirteen years ago and have three beautiful children: Josiah, 8, Grace, 4, and Samuel, 2.

Working together for Joyce Meyer Ministries, Elizabeth, an Assemblies of God minister, and I also ministered in Assemblies of God churches in Southern Ill. In Cheboygan Mich., Elizabeth ministered as family pastor and I with The Salvation Army service extension unit as business manager and manager of transitional housing. Having always felt called to ministry, it was in Cheboygan we started feeling the tug toward officership while being mentored by retired Majors John and



Juanita Morrison. Serving together is part of our calling, and we are passionate about God’s people and preaching His Word. We’re looking forward to how God will continue using us.

Greg and Elizabeth’s corps officers are Captains Caleb and Stephanie Senn.



Connecting in the Lord

Exciting things are happening at the Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps where Majors Tim and Beverly Best, corps officers, along with their ministry team, are utilizing the STEPs (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) process with mission in mind. In 2016 they created a STEPs goal to increase the number of people reached by the corps' spiritual ministries. Since then, the corps has seen an increase of 40 percent in Sunday morning worship and 30 percent in Sunday school!

The corps is part of Harbor Light Village, a campus which is also composed of a rehabilitation clinic, transitional housing for veterans and their families, a social services office, and 26 apartments that house chronically homeless and disabled individuals.

Equipped with an action plan from STEPs, the Bests, soldiers, staff, advisory council members and community partners gathered together to form the Hope Works team. Each team member stepped away from their individual tasks, considered the populations already connected to the Army, and developed a plan to reach them with the gospel.

One main outreach is to patients and clients at MIRROR, the drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinic that leases space on the campus. According to Major Tim, clients attend corps events and many find volunteering to be therapeutic. The director of the 28-day, in-patient program works with the ministry team to connect people who are being discharged with their local Salvation Army upon release.

The Army's own case managers play a crucial role in corps ministry. Each person who comes for assistance completes a short spiritual survey. A member of the ministry team follows up via email and a phone call to offer prayer, encouragement and a personal invitation to participate in the corps' many activities. Prayer requests are added to the Sunday bulletin.

New corps programs are encompassed by LIFT (Living In Faith Together) on Wednesday nights. Supper is followed by adult Bible study and youth groups, which have grown to 15 and 18 people respectively! Plus, one Friday a month women's ministries hosts a family movie night.

To stay in touch with new contacts, the ministry team uses a "text to church" app that allows them to send encouraging messages and program reminders to subscribers.



Youth enjoy LIFT programs.



Mobilizing in Marinette

The Marinette, Wis., Corps is rising to the challenge of reaching out to the community presented by General André Cox with *The Whole World Mobilizing* campaign.

When Majors Ron and Carol Lemirand, corps officers, took a close look at the corps' real estate, they saw a wide-open opportunity to expand the corps' ministry in a little-used building that once had been a thrift store but in recent years served only as storage space. Located in an older area of town that struggles with barriers such as lack of transportation and few opportunities for family-friendly entertainment, the

building seemed like a great place for a youth center.

After consulting with local educators and community leaders, the Lemirands began to promote the idea. It was a long process, but with the community standing behind them, donations began pouring in, and Marla Justice was hired as the corps' youth ministries director.

Hundreds of people attended the grand opening which was covered by a local radio station. That day 280 children went home with books and 114 went home with blankets.

Within a month, three children from the center attended a divisional music day, and a teen who completed volunteer hours with the Army went to youth councils. Most recently, the corps has received a Target EverFi Digital Learning Grant, which will provide online learning opportunities at the center.

The corps is working toward expanding the center's ministry with activities for older adults during the day, afterschool and summer programming for children, and partnerships within the community.



Local businessperson Rita Waitz (l) and Chamber of Commerce Director Jacqueline Boudreau (center) with Majors Steven and Christine Merritt and Majors Ron and Carol Lemirand

Actions speak louder

In the 22 years Louise Simons has served as the Northern divisional social services director, she's made a significant difference in the caliber of programs and initiatives, such as this year's program award for excellence, and in the quality of people groomed under her leadership. Louise has overseen all aspects of social services provided within the division, including correctional services and Pathway of Hope offered by corps, facilities and service extension units.

Among Louise's many accomplishments has been Hope Harbor, a 96-unit apartment building for homeless adults in Minneapolis, Minn.—considered the territory's first low-income housing/tax-credit project—and Castleview, another low-income housing/tax-credit project offering 32 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals and the working poor in Rochester, Minn.

Having earned a master's degree in



Photo by Craig Dirkes

social service administration from Case Western Reserve University, Louise's motivation to work in social services began in childhood.

"I grew up in a family of 11 children. My parents served as wonderful Christian examples of caring for others. My father regularly said, 'Actions speak louder than words,' a statement I've adopted throughout my life, which is why I won't ask my staff to do something I wouldn't do!" she said.

"Louise rolled up her sleeves on many occasions working alongside service extension staff," said Joanne Johnson Lee, Northern divisional service extension director. "She guided everyone to think outside the box. Sixteen years ago Louise selected me for this position, but I like to think I chose her as my supervisor—and I've thanked God daily for the opportunity to work with her until she retired.

Caring for families with excellence

A permanent supportive housing development in the Northern Division for families with children in which the head of the household lives with HIV/AIDS and other barriers, including mental illness, has received the National Award for Program Excellence and Achievement.

Established in 2002, the program's primary aim is to enable residents to successfully maintain housing, which is essential to improve their outcomes in health and stable families. The program has eight homes in a residential neighborhood and retains a licensed social worker who provides case management, direct assistance and referrals to families. Having served 28 families and 69 children, the program has a track record of success.

"A great strength of our program is its holistic approach," said Louise Simons, former Northern divisional social services director who nominated the program. "We don't view its residents solely through the lens of its diagnosis, though that is a critical factor in their service planning. Rather, staff work with each resident as a whole person and address their HIV/AIDS status as a challenge to work with, among other barriers and strengths. Likewise, the project works with the family unit as a whole, addressing the needs of children and partners as well as the primary resident."

The caseworker connects heads of



Photo by Craig Dirkes

Sue Rosendahl, former program caseworker

households with other HIV/AIDS service providers and medical providers which is vital to the residents' health and well-being. Most residents have been able to maintain good health, allowing them to raise their families, return to the workforce and pursue other goals. With careful attention to the need for privacy, the caseworker also cultivates community involvement and connects families with schools, children's programs and community events. Residents are invited to worship at a corps and are connected with Salvation Army chaplains upon request. Connections with other denominations are made as desired. Since individuals with HIV/AIDS are living longer, healthier lives and their housing needs may change over time as children grow up, staff deliberately engage them in considering and planning for the future.



No rubber-chicken dinners



Blue jeans and international food stations marked the beginning of the uniquely designed Kent County, Mich., Red Shield Event. Now in its third year, the fundraiser was turned on its head when invitations proclaimed a warehouse venue, casual attire and "no rubber-chicken dinners!"

"We felt like people in our community were tired of the same old fundraising event," said Lisa Funk, special events coordinator. "We wanted to do something completely different!"

Though unconventional in its style and locale, the event did not come up short in regard to food, entertainment or speakers. Four food stations

featured cuisine from Japan, Mexico, Italy and Jordan. Prominent local artists created a painting for auction and award-winning violinist Karisa Wilson provided musical entertainment during the dinner hour. The program themed, "The World Around Your Corner," featured an address by National Advisory Board Member Michael Drucker, president and CEO of FedEx Freight.

"People loved the casual atmosphere!" concluded Lisa. "We've heard over and over that there was so much positive energy in the room. People really enjoyed themselves and were able to learn about the Army at the same time."

The event was a smashing success. It was attended by nearly 300 people and brought in just shy of \$150,000. Proceeds will benefit the ongoing work of The Salvation Army in Kent County.



Majors Norman and Claire Grainger check out the official FedEx Freight NASCAR vehicle.

A passion for service

by Amy Burke

Melvin Reese was honored for his volunteerism with The Salvation Army at a Milwaukee Brewers baseball game earlier this year. Melvin has been a dependable, enthusiastic and prayerful chaplain since the Police Chaplaincy Program began in 2015. He has a deep passion for serving those in crisis and trauma and keeps a positive attitude even in hard situations.



Since accepting the role of head chaplain last summer, he has developed relationships with officers at Milwaukee Police Department's District 4 and with other leaders in this faith-based initiative.

During the last year Melvin has given over 140 volunteer hours as a chaplain, including more than 30 hours at crime scenes and 35 hours at community outreach events. In addition to his service as chaplain, Melvin has volunteered for other programs with The Salvation Army, including passing out water at the Wisconsin State Fair and serving as lead crowd control volunteer at the Christmas Family Feast.

PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army

USA Central Territory

August Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Tuesday	Psalms 90-92	Des Moines Citadel, Iowa, Corps
	2 Wednesday	Proverbs 14-15	Cadillac, Mich., Corps
	3 Thursday	Ezekiel 43-48	Central Music Institute
	4 Friday	John 1-2	Green Bay, Wis., Corps
	5 Saturday	1 Thessalonians 4-5	National Seminar on Evangelism
	6 Sunday	Leviticus 25-27	Flint, Mich., ARC*
	7 Monday	1 Chronicles 1-4	TSA Motorcycle Ministry at Sturgis, S.D., Rally
	8 Tuesday	Psalms 93-95	Clinton, Iowa, Corps
	9 Wednesday	Proverbs 16	Grandview Southland, Mo., Corps
	10 Thursday	Daniel 1-6	Indiana DHQ**
	11 Friday	John 3-4	Chicago Lawn, Ill., Corps
	12 Saturday	2 Thessalonians	Carthage, Mo., Corps
	13 Sunday	Numbers 1-3	Duluth, Minn., Corps
	14 Monday	1 Chronicles 5-9	Mali Region ^{PM}
	15 Tuesday	Psalms 96-98	Des Moines Temple, Iowa, Corps
	16 Wednesday	Proverbs 17-18	College for Officer Training staff
	17 Thursday	Daniel 7-12	Majors Violet & Dr. Felix Ezeh (Jamaica) ^{PM}
	18 Friday	John 5-6	Elkhart, Ind., Corps
	19 Saturday	1 Timothy 1-3	Green Bay Kroc Center, Wis., Corps
	20 Sunday	Numbers 4-6	Fort Wayne, Ind., ARC*
	21 Monday	1 Chronicles 10-14	"Messengers of Compassion" Session of Cadets
	22 Tuesday	Psalms 99-101	Detroit Grandale, Mich., Corps
	23 Wednesday	Proverbs 19	Danville, Ill., Corps
	24 Thursday	Hosea 1-7	Evansville Fulton Ave., Ind., Corps
	25 Friday	John 7-9	Hutchinson, Kan., Corps
	26 Saturday	1 Timothy 4-6	Chicago Mayfair Community Church, Ill., Corps
	27 Sunday	Numbers 7-9	Fairmont, Minn., Corps
	28 Monday	1 Chronicles 15-19	"Messengers of the Gospel" Session of Cadets
	29 Tuesday	Psalms 102-104	Fort Dodge, Iowa, Corps
	30 Wednesday	Proverbs 20-21	Goshen, Ind., Corps
	31 Thursday	Hosea 8-14	Hancock, Mich., Corps

Go to www.salarmycentral.org for the September calendar

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

* = Adult Rehabilitation Center
** = Divisional Headquarters
PIM = Partners in Mission

--Mustard Seeds--



Congress

Continued from page 1

The theme of missions continued in the united morning session, "Invest Intentionally," which celebrated the joy of partnership and community of our global Army. A dialogue between the territorial commander and Chris Shay, director of the territorial world missions department, explored the remarkable difference the 20 New Corps initiative has been making in countries like Mexico and Tanzania, and a World Services/Self-Denial Ingathering announced an astounding \$9.1 million given to the Lord's work.

"Wow!" exclaimed Commissioner Silvia Cox, who expressed thanks and explained the reality that without such contributions some territories couldn't exist and some important projects would never be possible. She shared stories of transformed lives and the brave witness of Salvationists throughout the world.

After huddling with overseas personnel for prayer, the summer mission teams were dedicated for service by Commissioner Carol Seiler, who asked God to give them courage, wisdom and discernment.

"We are all called by God into this mission," exclaimed the General. "We are all called to make a difference in the world." In his stirring address, the General conveyed that though the Accountability Movement has been about improving professional

standards, at its heart it has been about being in tune with God, our world and reaching out to people.

The Saturday morning meeting also honored Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler through a video called "Running the Race" about their lives and ministry, followed by their official retirement ceremony by the General and Commissioner Cox. The General saluted the Seilers for their innovative leadership, specifically citing the creation of Pathway of Hope, and applauded their reliance on God throughout their officership.

In his response, the territorial commander reflected, "We had no idea our opportunities for ministry in the next 11 years would be expanded and changed forever by our exposure and engagement in the Central Territory."

Saturday afternoon offered a youth rally with the General and Commissioner Silvia Cox (see page 5) and a plethora of activities from an award-winning barbecue picnic to a colorful Global Village, concerts, activities with the Historical Museum, and extensive shopping opportunities at Trade Central and

winner today." To the very end she witnessed to those around her, praying with two people for their salvation during the final week of her life.

She is survived by her four daughters, Lt. Colonel Pat (Howard) Burr, Sandi (James) Guinn, Barb (David) Bickel, and Captain Cheryl (Van) Wirth; a sister, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Brigadier Esther Crowley

Brigadier Esther Crowley, 98, was promoted to Glory on May 22, 2017, at Holland Home Fulton Manor in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was born on April 29, 1919, to Jeremiah and Louisa Crowley.

Esther became a Salvationist as a child at the Grand Rapids, Mich., Corps. She played the piano for services, attended open-air meetings, taught corps cadet classes and sang in the songster brigade.

After completing high school, she entered the training college and was commissioned in 1940 with the "Hold Fast" session. During her first 10 years as an officer she held several corps appointments but felt called to serve in medical missions overseas. She received her degree as a registered nurse at Grand Rapids Blodgett Hospital and was then

vendors. (See page 3.) The festivities proved a perfect segue into the fun and family-friendly evening meeting themed, "Ignite Creativity!"

Meeting highlights included a pure and fearless solo by junior soldier Jacob Pook with a United Singing Company of more than 250 children representing all divisions; "A Tall Tale," the story of David and Goliath portrayed in a Western context by the Bill Booth Theater Company and Chicago Staff Band (CSB); an audience Sunday school sing-along led by Charlie Green; and a preview of the exciting Broadway-style musical *A Long Way Off*. Cheers erupted with the recognition of exceptional service by Major Richard Justvig for his

post-retirement ministry as the St. Louis Gateway, Mo., CSM and his role in helping to develop Heart, a vital program of healing and restoration for former officers.

An encouraging message was given by Commissioner Silvia Cox on how God can inspire us with small ideas that can have big and lasting results, like the origin of the Army's World Services/Self-Denial. "Be aware of what God is telling you. That's creativity!" she said.

Later in the meeting the General's message focused on the Army's integrated mission of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and meeting the needs of people without discrimination. Citing the Whole World Mobilizing campaign, he shared how Salvationists are boldly going out into the world pursuing the mission, concluding, "The world needs a strong, mobilized Salvation Army."

Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Major Irene Stigleman

Mrs. Major Irene Stigleman, 91, was promoted to Glory on Monday, May 8, 2017, at Brookdale Senior Living in Lexington, Ky. She was born on August 24, 1925, in Ishpeming, Mich. to John and Pansy Wiggins.



Irene received Christ at age 4 at her mother's knee and was sanctified at age 14. Prior to attending the training college she received biblical training at North Central Theological Seminary in Minneapolis, Minn. She also enlisted and trained to serve as a nurse during WWII. When the war ended she followed her calling to become an officer.

She was commissioned with the "Challengers" session in 1946. Before marrying Captain Robert Stigleman in 1950, she held several corps appointments in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Together, the Stiglemans served in corps and adult rehabilitation center appointments until their retirement in 1988. Post-retirement, they pastored a small church in Warrensburg, Mo.

Throughout her life Irene's primary focus was to reach people with the love of Christ. Each day her prayer was, "Lord, make me a soul

appointed to the Home and Hospital in Detroit, Mich., and the Booth Manor Hospital in Chicago, Ill.

In 1957 Esther began her missionary service in Indonesia. She endured earthquakes, political conflicts and violence during her 27 years there but remained true to the Lord's calling. Many people accepted Christ and became soldiers and officers as a result of her compassionate service, steadfast spirit and tangible acts of love.

Esther was committed to serving the Lord, whether at home or abroad. Upon returning to the U.S. for health reasons, she was appointed to the Eventide Nurses' Annex in Detroit, Mich., and also served at Eastern Michigan Divisional Headquarters until her retirement in 1981.

She was preceded in death by her parents and five siblings. She is survived by her nieces and nephews.

Major Paul Marshall

Paul Marshall was born May 9, 1924, to Ensign and Mrs. John Marshall in Oak Park, Ill. He was promoted to Glory May 13, 2017, in Wichita, Kan.

He grew up in Chicago, where his parents held



appointments at divisional and territorial headquarters. He was drafted during World War II and—to have heard him tell it—spent the war years vacationing in a Pacific paradise known as Fiji. He graduated from Wheaton College in 1949 and entered the training college from which he was commissioned in 1950. His first appointment was to assist at the Wichita Citadel Corps, where he met Aleda (Bonnie) Day. They were married in June 1951.

Paul was a member of the Chicago Staff Band for 40 years. He also played the piano and composed numerous songs which have been performed widely, including at London's Royal Albert Hall. He published two books, *It's a Great Old Army* and *Vignettes of Victory*.

His last 10 years of officership were spent creating the Central Territory Archives and curating the Historical Museum. He retired in May 1989.

In retirement, Paul wrote the back page article for *The Daily Walk*, a project he loved, in spite of the dreaded monthly deadlines, for 28 years. He was a soldier of the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps until moving to Wichita in November 2014.

Paul is survived by wife Bonnie, children Debbie Vaughn, Clifford, Julia Walters and Stephanie Anderson, and five grandchildren.