



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)

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New territorial headquarters dedicated

"We dedicate this building today and all that happens in it to the glory of God. It's His building. It's His work, and we are His people," declared Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, territorial commander, in his opening remarks to the 450 people, including national leaders Commissioners David and Barbara Jeffrey, at the dedication of the new Central Territorial Headquarters (THQ) in Hoffman Estates, Ill.

Indeed, while the day was set aside to ask God's blessing on the beautiful, modern facility from which The Salvation Army's work in the 11 Midwestern states is led, the emphasis was equally on rededicating the work and people, officers and employees alike.

"We determined when we made a physical move that it was a good time to improve the way we work together to serve the Army on the frontlines



National Commander Commissioner David Jeffrey



Commissioner Paul R. Seiler

around this territory," Commissioner Seiler continued. "This is a great team of people. They are mission focused, and I appreciate every one of them."

Information Technology Secretary Ron Shoultz, who represented the employees, captured the perspective of those who serve at THQ. "The people who work here know that we belong to something large in the world," he said, referencing not only the tremendous ministry in the territory but the 127 countries in which The Salvation Army has an official work.

Echoing this life-changing theme, Hoffman Estates Mayor William



Central Territory Order of the Founder recipients William Himes and Raul Guerrero



Hoffman Estates Mayor William McLeod

McLeod responded, "We are proud that you came to our city, and we are also very proud of the work that you do...I don't think there are too many



people in this great country who either haven't had a family member or haven't known someone—an acquaintance or a neighbor—who hasn't been helped by The Salvation Army."

Earlier in the service the mayor and Chamber of Commerce and Village officials were recognized and thanked by the territorial commander, as well as architects Steven Wright, owner of Wright Heerema Architects (WHA) and Lisa Smith of WHA, principal designer of the territorial headquarters project; and Steve Zuwala, president/founder of ICG (Interior Construction Group).

The U.S. and Salvation Army flags were posted by the Ellsworth Meineka American Legion Post 1983 and Salvationist THQ employee John Gant, fol-



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March Madness

by Colonel Dorothy Smith
Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries



No, I'm not referring to college basketball playoffs but to events that occurred almost 2,000 years ago. Careening from triumphal entry through anointing, betrayal, arrest, trial, sentencing, humiliation, torturous death and burial of Jesus in six days, was madness. His resurrection three days later was even more stunning. Even today, it's overwhelming. It's meant to be. It's meant to change our lives.

The disciples were warned, but

they couldn't understand. Who would? Remember when Peter, John and James stood on a mountain with Jesus—and heard Him talking to Moses and Elijah about His departure which He was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem? (Luke 9:31) They watched while "the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning." (Luke 9:29) They experienced the cloud of presence and voice saying: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to

him." (Matthew 17:5) While they were coming down the mountain with Jesus, He "gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They kept the matter to themselves, discussing what 'rising from the dead' meant." (Mark 9:9,10) But they really understood only in hindsight.

If I'd been following Jesus in those dark days, I like to think I would have held onto my faith during His trial, crucifixion and burial. But I don't know. Death is (usually) final. The madness had won. Rome crucified Him as a rebel; His own people jeered Him as a blasphemer. I would not have understood the significance of Jesus' words: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

But on the third day he arose! He was revealed to be the Son of God, the Savior of the world. And all who lift their eyes to him see his love and sacrifice offers them forgiveness and eternal life. Our faith is sight. Our hearts are thrilled. The madness is defeated.

Our work is not finished. As we wait for Jesus to return in power and glory, we walk with Him in the Holy Spirit. We suffer rejection with Him, and we rejoice when others follow Him. We commit to uplift each other and our communities, but uplifting Jesus is our most profound honor. It is to Him we lift our repentance, our worship, our hope. And at this time of year especially, like Peter, James, and John, let us lift our eyes and see Jesus only. (Matthew 17:8)

Breaking the Power of Sin

by General André Cox

Around the world on Easter morning, many Christians will gather for a sunrise service in which the proclamation will be made: "He is risen!"

What a glorious celebration Easter Sunday represents for each one of us! God, in raising Christ, has broken the power of sin and set us free. God, in raising Christ, has established a sure eternal future for each one of us.

The chorus to Robin and Bill Wolaver's song "Make His Praise Glorious" says: "Shout with joy to God all the earth, sing glory to his name. Tell aloud his marvellous worth, his righteousness proclaim. Glory and honor and blessing and power be unto the Lord! Come and let us make his praise glorious."

As we celebrate the reality and the glory of the risen Christ, our hearts are filled with praise and worship as we gain new insight and understanding of God's eternal purposes and his plan of salvation for the world.

For many people religion is nothing more than an intellectual philosophy—something that we do only on special occasions or in a specific context which, sadly, has no bearing on the way that we live and act in our lives.

Sadly, too easily we can miss the

point, for the whole message of Easter tells about life-changing power. It is not about philosophy or religion; it is about a personal relationship with God, made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross!

Paul, in writing to the Colossians, says: "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (3:1-3, NIV).

Our relationship with Christ and his life within us enables us to look at things from a different perspective. Christ has become the center of focus for our lives. It is far more than going through the motions, observing rituals and spiritual disciplines.

Things of this world are viewed with a different perspective, and this profoundly changes the way that we think and act. Here, Paul deals with the very practical matter of how men and women who have been reconciled with God should live.

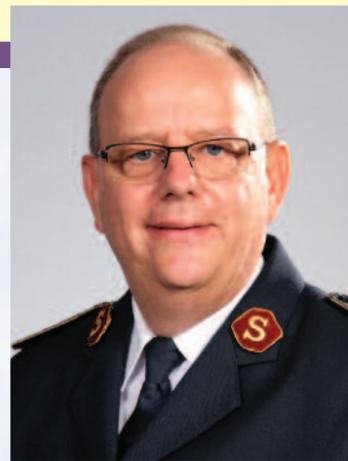
It is as our spiritual eyes are opened that we gain ever more understanding of God's eternal purposes and through faith we truly

begin to experience triumph over darkness and despair.

Through the eyes of faith we have a greater understanding of God's redemptive plan for the world as we find it in the Gospel message: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:16-18).

Sadly, in this world we do experience times of sorrow, loss of faith and despair. That, however, should not be the Christian norm! Sometimes we, like Mary, can look in the wrong place: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5).

Do we, at times, seek the Lord in places where he is not? We have all known what it is like to be burdened, weighed down with worry and care, not always realizing that Jesus is actually with us!



We are, or should be, people with a resurrection gospel to proclaim. We are, ourselves, resurrection people; people who have experienced life-giving transformation in a personal encounter

with the risen Christ. People experiencing the power and presence of the risen Christ in our lives! We are on the winning team. Do you believe it?

We are destined to be people of victory, not despair. Christ's death on the cross and his resurrection on that first Easter morning broke, once and for all, the power and domination of sin. Christ's resurrection broke the chains of death and darkness. That remains true today, no matter what we may see and experience in this world.

We are called to experience for ourselves the power and victory of the resurrection in our everyday lives. Let us lift up our heads and live as people who daily experience the victory that was won for us at Calvary!

Central Connection 

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Media

Prepare podcast episode one

Into the World videos

Web exclusives

Measuring progress through the Herth Hope Index

NAOC Contest Rules

The Salvation Army in Jamaica

Q & A with Naisia Harris Target and EverFi contest winner

Four ways to reach your community by Lt. Joseph Irvine

Education on target

The Salvation Army and Target have launched a national digital afterschool program to train and empower Army clients and communities with critical life skills using digital education courses provided by leading technology company, EverFi. After a successful pilot program in



Essay winner Naisia Harris with her Corps Officer, Captain Kelsie Moreno

20 centers across the nation, this initiative is now in effect.

For participating corps, program highlights include access to EverFi's learning courses such as digital literacy, financial education, and civic engagement; a potential opportunity for technology upgrades; an implementation team from EverFi to provide personalized training; an

intranet resource center and potential opportunity for volunteer support from local Target team members.

"We're so excited to partner with Target and EverFi to offer our corps and communities more than we could on our own," said Major Angela Wandling, assistant territorial youth secretary with her husband, Monty, who is helping to coordinate the initiative in the Central. "These are cutting edge technologies and educational opportunities that our young people might not otherwise have access to."

Bobbie Jo Swanson, Good Soil Initiative youth development coordinator at the Wausau, Wis., Corps which piloted the program reported it met the needs of afterschool students at various ages and abilities.

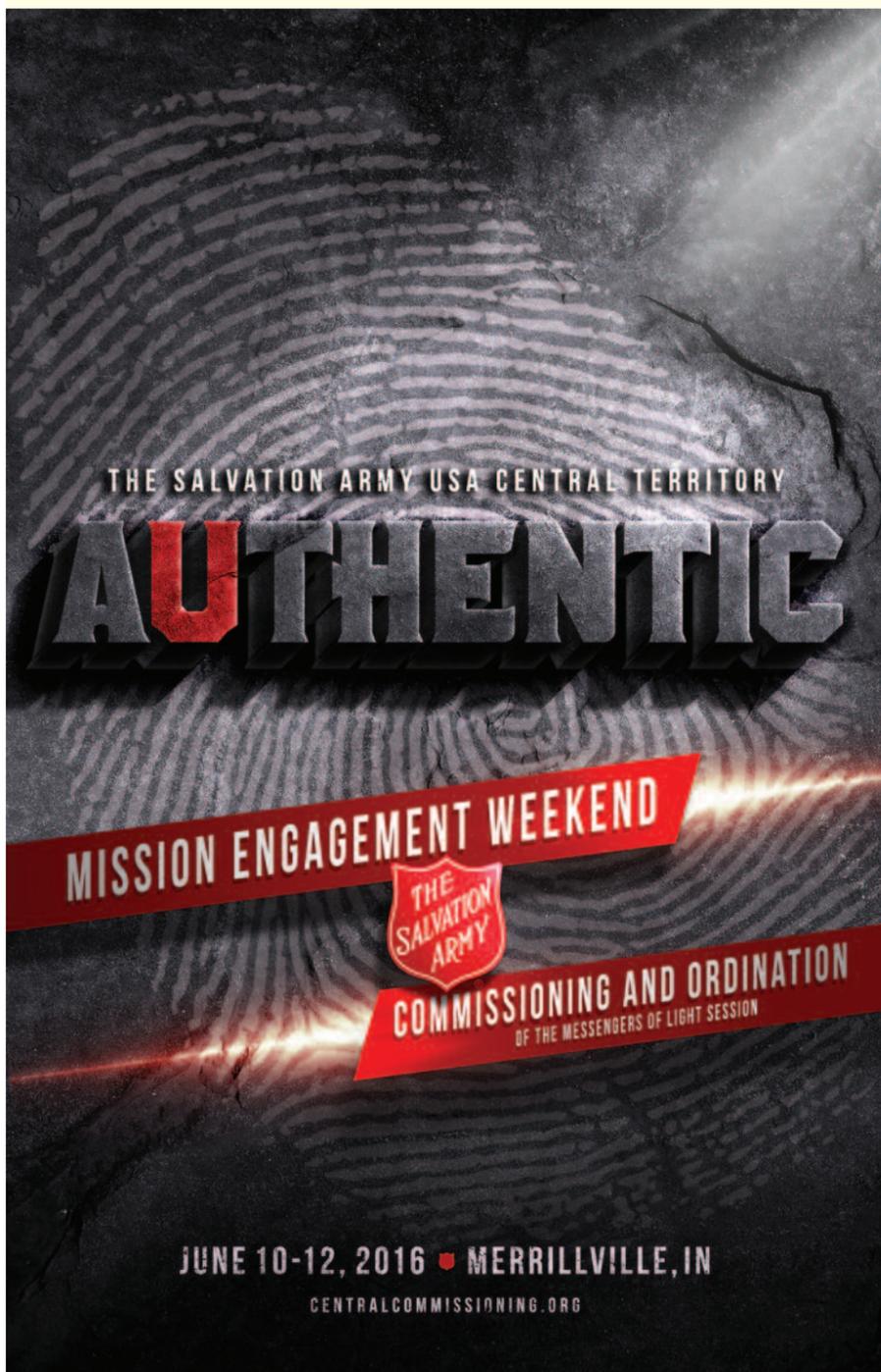
"We asked each participant to complete two [of five] modules, and they could go further if they wanted. To my surprise we had almost half complete all of the modules at their level. Some even worked on them at

home in their free time!" said Bobbie Jo.

At the Detroit Conner Creek, Mich., Corps' afterschool program students completed the financial literacy module. "The format complemented our schedule and was easy to make time for," said Corps Officer Captain Kelsie Moreno. "Our children learned a lot about budgeting, saving and buying in a format that was fun, engaging and applicable to their skill set."

At the completion of the program, participants were invited to submit a blog essay about what they had learned. Naisia Harris from Conner Creek was selected from participants nationwide as the winner of the essay contest.

Major Angela Wandling is excited about what the future holds. "We can already see this program pairs well with the developmental assets—it's another avenue through which children can prepare for their future and adults can pour into children's lives."



Lt. Colonel Ronald Busroe, National Community Relations and Development Secretary, gathers with children participating in the Digital Learning Program flagship celebration.

Beatrice bumps it up

Commissioned less than a year ago, Beatrice, Neb., Corps Officers Lts. Joseph and Rachel Irvine have hit the ground running in their first appointment with a focus on reaching out to their community. Not only are the officers working hard, the soldiers are eager as well.

"We haven't had to work to get our soldiers invested or excited," said Lt. Joseph. "They're happy to jump in, serve and reach out."

One of the first projects was to increase the Army's emergency disaster services (EDS) presence in the community. As part of this, the lieutenants visited the fire department, police station and sheriff's department, introduced themselves and let the local first responders know they and their soldiers are ready to serve. The corps has acquired a new canteen, which was featured in a newspaper article and driven in the community's "Miracle on Fifth Street" parade. Over a dozen soldiers received EDS training.

Another push has been reaching out to youth and growing the weekly character-building program, adapting the Club 316 approach, where all the youth gather at one time and break into small groups for age-appropriate badge work. "We've worked to bridge the gap



Lt. Rachel Irvine and Aleena Bratcher, age 3, who received new shoes thanks to the corps' outreach with Shoe Sensation.

between the thrift store, social services and those who come into the building—letting everyone know we have youth programs available," said Lt. Joseph.

This past winter youth participated in the I'll Fight Day outreach. They delivered baked goods and handwritten cards to public servants and first responders in the area.

Additionally, the lieutenants are reaching out to the Christian community in the area, having joined a ministry association. "One of our primary ministry focuses going forward is letting people know we're not just a service organization; we care for the spiritual needs as well as the physical," said Lt. Joseph.



Beatrice, Neb., Corps Officer Lt. Joseph Irvine and corps youth deliver baked goods to first responders on "I'll Fight Day."

Midwest floods response

Response from Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) to the severe flooding affecting Midwestern states earlier this year not only was swift but long lasting. From the start, EDS canteens and personnel were there to help support sandbagging efforts by providing food and water, as well as emotional and spiritual care (ESC) to first responders and flood survivors.

As water levels slowly receded and moved downriver, EDS began transitioning its efforts into longer-term assistance, from initial efforts to help clean and pump water out of houses to seeking emergency assistance to replace ruined furnaces as colder winter temperatures began setting in, reported Kevin Ellers, territorial disaster services coordinator, who made application for funding from national headquarters from several foundations for individual assistance grants.

"Most flooding doesn't start until spring and you don't have the added danger we are facing now of trying to care for people in freezing temperatures. There is an urgency here that you feel on the frontlines from both survivors and those trying to help them," said Kevin.

The Salvation Army also played a key role in supplying goods and services to flood survivors through regional Point of Distribution centers, which are early-phase disaster response sites coordinated by state or county authorities at which people can drive through to pick up flood clean-up kits and other necessities, and (MARC) Multi-Agency Resource Centers, which move from site to site as recovery progresses in a regional disaster. MARC sites feature representatives from insurance agencies, state/county groups, the Red Cross and The Salvation Army to facilitate applications for assistance.



EXPECT CHANGE

NATIONAL ADVISORY ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE 2016

Especially beneficial for advisory board, council, and auxiliary members to attend in conjunction with their officers

WORKSHOPS

Expecting change is almost guaranteed based on this sampling of the many workshops scheduled for the 2016 National Advisory Organizations Conference (NAOC), themed "Expect Change," April 21-24, in Phoenix, Ariz.

Providing fresh insights and invaluable information, the workshops represent a wide variety and depth of interests, from organizational structuring to fundraising and beyond. Here are just a few examples.

Working with Advisory Boards: Finding and Keeping the Right People

Assess current membership, determine new recruits, conduct orientation and training to "make it formal, make it last"

Pathway of Hope: The Role of Advisory Organizations

Advisory groups can be crucial to strengthening Pathway of Hope initiatives

Building an Advisory Board that Loves Fundraising

Create and present customized advisory board engagement plans

Developing a Donor-friendly Culture of Philanthropy

Examine the relationship-building power of story, the donor pyramid/engagement cycle, best practices and proven strategies for smarter choices

Fostering Good Corporate Relations

Maximize corporate partnership opportunities in a charity landscape that evolved after the 2008 economic slump

Volunteer Engagement: A Continuum of Giving

Strategies to groom a new generation of sophisticated, committed individuals who give time and money as service becomes part of the cultural norm

Understanding the "Doing the Most Good" Brand Strategy

Receive tangible next steps for stronger branding locally; review the brand's origins, most recent tracking research and how Spherical® branding works

Building a Successful Media Strategy

Develop strong fundraising and a brand-building media plan locally leveraging powerful national paid-and-placed media

Phoenix, AZ | April 21-24

expectchange2016.org



DOING THE MOST GOOD™

NAOC Contest

The Central Territory corps with the highest percentage of advisory board member registrations for the 2016 National Advisory Organizations Conference (NAOC), April 21-24, in Phoenix, Ariz., will win:

- An autographed football presented by Charlotte Jones Anderson, executive vice president of the Dallas Cowboys, plus a commemorative photo of the presentation, to benefit the corps' fundraising efforts.

- An invitation to attend The Salvation Army's VIP reception at the Heard Museum for the winning team of delegates and their corps and divisional leaders.

One corps in each of the four U.S. territories (excluding corps in the host division) will be declared a winner based on paid registrations received by March 18, 2016.

See complete contest rules on our Get Connected website.

Newly accepted candidates

Amanda Lynne Passmore

**Warren, Mich., Corps
Eastern Michigan Division**



I was invited to the Warren, Mich., Corps at age 8 and have not left. It has been a happy and safe place to be. I asked Jesus into my heart at 13 and sought out all opportunity to learn about Him. I have

been very active in different ministries at the corps and found my passion in serving others.

My calling to officership came about four years ago when I was asked to preach. As I stepped up to the pulpit, I felt an overwhelming sense of God's presence and that it was where He wanted me to be. My call was made stronger through the Ministry Discovery internship program through which I served at both the Warren and Mt. Clemens, Mich., Corps. I cannot think of a place I would rather be than at The Salvation Army. This is my home.

Amanda's corps officers are Majors Kevin and Christie Van Zee.



Jennifer Davidson
Minneapolis Parkview, Minn., Corps
Northern Division

I have been attending The Salvation Army since I was born. I heard God's calling at a very young age, and I listened to it. I became a junior soldier on March 30, 2002. Nine years later my father passed away from a stroke, and I thought I had lost everything! I wanted to stop going to church, but my mom wouldn't let me.

My corps officer, Major Rose Marie Mason, had signed me up for youth councils even though I didn't feel like going. It was there at the Northwoods Camp I heard God calling me to officership again. So I went to the altar,

and Major came and prayed with me. Afterward, we had a conversation about what I was going to do with my calling. I decided this time I would not give up. I would follow it. After youth councils I became a senior soldier and since then I have been continuously heeding His call.

Jennifer's corps officers are Captains James and Lynnea Brickson.



730... AND BEYOND

9,041 days and counting

by Major Curtiss A. Hartley

For as long as I can remember, I've been afflicted with HDQ: high distractibility quotient! I'm convinced the friendly, hyper dog, Dug, in Disney Pixar's movie *Up* was patterned after me.

Some might wonder how easily I can function as an officer. I admit it has always been a challenge to focus on necessary tasks when there are so many interesting things to interrupt my day. But it works for my personality. I think I would turn into a pillar of salt if I had to suffer too long on one mundane task.

As an officer, you never know what each new day will present. Sure, you have your calendar packed with meetings, programs and special functions. There are more than enough emails and reports to tackle. Staff, clients, parishioners and donors need attention. There are sermons to write and family to take care of. Bottom line, the best laid plans are quickly set aside for the urgent and important ministry that pops up. Yet, these unplanned moments can sometimes be the most rewarding.

One Sunday last fall I was struck again by this concept. I lost my father in September, and on Sunday a week after the funeral I was visiting a nearby corps. The fellowship was good, and the service was meaningful. People were responsive to the songs, testimonies and message. Mention was made of a corps family that had just lost a loved one. The family expressed thanks to the corps for their support and love.

Afterward, someone asked if I would go back into the chapel to



speak to a young man who seemed to be struggling. I sat next to him and introduced myself, then asked if I could help. He said he was a son of the woman who had died. As he cried, searching for meaning in his mother's death and asking how he could go on, my own tears flowed as my heart ached for my own recent loss. Secretly I cried out to God, asking how He could place me in that situation. "It's too soon!" my heart screamed out to God.

Yet God's peace—almost like a gentle hand resting on my shoulder—settled my heart, and I found as I shared my own grief that this young man found peace and courage as we prayed together and shared our losses.

I walked out of the chapel with real joy in my heart. I knew God had put me there specifically for that young man, not in spite of my own loss but because of it. Those unexpected moments of ministry are just the distraction I need sometimes, and God knows it.



EXPERIENCE FREEDOM. FOLLOW GOD.

I love it when I witness someone having a breakthrough in their life and they're willing to leave everything behind and follow God. I love seeing the second chances people get and what they do with those opportunities.
-Lieutenant Grant Holloway

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Promoted to Glory

Auxiliary Captain Anna Jean Mercadante

Auxiliary Captain Anna Jean Mercadante was promoted to Glory on January 5, 2016.

Born to Carland and Adelaide McCann in 1933 in Jefferson, Texas, Jean received her calling to officership later in life, after her marriage to Isaiah (Cy) Mercadante in 1983.

Jean and Cy became officers in 1987 and together served in Sioux Falls, S.D., as assistant corps officers; Boone, Marshalltown and Des Moines, Iowa as corps officers, and Western Divisional Headquarters in the evangelism department, the appointment from which they retired in 1997.

After retirement to Marshalltown, Iowa, Jean served in her corps as sec-

retary of the women's ministries program and was a member of the advisory board. She was also the first woman president of the Kiwanis Club in Marshalltown and was nominated Woman of the Year by the American Association of University Women Community.

Jean is remembered as having a wonderful sense of humor and tremendous organizational skills.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Cy, and son, Randall Gerling. She is survived by her son, Steven (Rebekah) Gerling, granddaughter, Sarah (David) Rodriguez and two great-grandchildren.





PATHWAY of HOPE

Making a better life

Eric and Camille and their four children were living out of the family van. They had moved from Chicago to Decatur, Ill., in hopes of making their lives better, but when housing with a family member fell through, their situation worsened.

A local "Good Samaritan" discovered the family was homeless and extended help, which eventually led them to The Salvation Army's Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative. This was the break Camille and Eric needed to get their lives back on track.

Decatur Corps' Pathway of Hope Case Manager Andrea Lewin helped Eric and Camille set goals, which, Andrea reported, the family took very seriously. The first goal was for Camille to find employment. She had attended Chicago State University and had become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) in Chicago, where



Eric, Camille and family on the front porch of the house they secured thanks in part to POH

she practiced for a time.

"After an interview at St. Mary's Hospital, Camille immediately received the job as a CNA," said Andrea. "She is

working very hard and is an amazing woman!"

The second goal was to use income generated from Camille's job to secure

housing with reasonable rent. After the family found a house, the children Lemenzo, 13, Joshua, 6, and Hudassah, 5, were enrolled in school. Currently, Eric is home with Nahomi, 3, while Camille works.

Camille and Eric already are working on their next goals. Camille is taking classes at Richland Community College to become a Licensed Practical Nurse, and Eric has registered at a local temporary employment agency, which will allow him to pick up small jobs periodically.

Through Pathway of Hope, the family has received needed household items, food and gifts at Christmas.

"With the guidance and assistance provided through Pathway of Hope, the Anderson family gained the confidence necessary to support their family," said Andrea.

Success in Fond du Lac

The Fond du Lac, Wis., Corps hosted a recognition luncheon to celebrate the accomplishments of several clients in the Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative.

After having a baby, Liv and Kyle were looking to get a better, fresh start. When they met the corps' POH caseworker, Amber Arntz, they were living with family, and their first goal was to find an apartment of their own, which they achieved quickly. Soon after they moved in, however, Amber learned that the couple was sleeping on the floor since they couldn't afford a mattress. The corps worked with Mattress Firm to secure a mattress set for the couple.

Thanks to the support they found through POH, Liv and Kyle participated in parenting classes, learned to prioritize bill payments and received necessary medical attention.



Dorya (l) with Fond du Lac POH caseworker, Amber Arntz

Liv also obtained better employment. Next the couple expressed interest in getting married and were connected with Corps Officers Captains Steven and Telinda Wilson, who counseled and helped them to prepare for marriage. The wedding ceremony was held at the corps.

"We have learned to tackle the problems that come up in our lives and come out on the other side better than we were," Liv said.

Dorya was referred to Pathway of Hope by her children's school. She was in urgent need of housing to



Liv and Kyle with their son, Trenton

keep her four children in the school district where they were flourishing. Amber immediately helped Dorya to secure this housing.

When Dorya's fifth baby was unexpectedly born 12 weeks early she was forced to stop working. Finally, after 13 weeks, the baby was able to come home, and Dorya could look for work again. She was hired as the assistant manager at a

Salvation Army thrift store. She and her children have begun attending the corps, where the soldiers pray for and support the family.

"I was at a point in life where I felt like giving up," Dorya said. "Pathway of Hope helped me to build the confidence I needed to overcome any obstacle life throws my way."

Family emerges from brink of disaster

by Craig Dirkes

Mike and Brie's lives had become so dire they were contemplating the unthinkable. "We were almost at a point where we were going to give up our daughters so they could have what they needed," Mike recalled. "We didn't know what to do."

The family in Brainerd, Minn., had been homeless, off and on, since Mike and Brie had married in 2011. Their two little girls, ages 2 and 3, needed a stable home, a steady stream of food, diapers and other

basic necessities, but Mike and Brie were having trouble providing.

In possibly losing their kids, they were on the verge of perpetuating a tragic cycle they knew all too well. Both of them grew up living without their families. Brie spent 10 years in foster care, while Mike spent three years in foster care and six years at a group home.



Caseworker Carole Paschelke

"It's hard to break the cycle," Brie conceded. The cycle ended a year ago when they walked inside the Brainerd, Minn., Corps.

Mike and Brie met with social worker Carole Paschelke and explained they were two months behind on rent and facing homelessness for the fifth time. Beyond stable housing, their biggest goal was to give their girls resources they never had.

They enrolled in Pathway of Hope, and within days the housing problem was solved as Carole worked with another agency to secure a small, clean apartment for the family. "Knowing we were going to have a permanent spot for our kids—wow!" said Brie.

Mike and Brie have spent the last year building a new life with Carole's help in a myriad of ways from financial counseling to baby-proofing their apartment.

"Carole helped our relationship a lot, helped us be better at communication and setting boundaries," Brie said. "She always made herself available to talk. We don't have anybody else we can talk to. No family support, just The Salvation Army's support, really."

When necessary, Carole wasn't afraid to give Mike and Brie a dose of tough love, and it's worked.

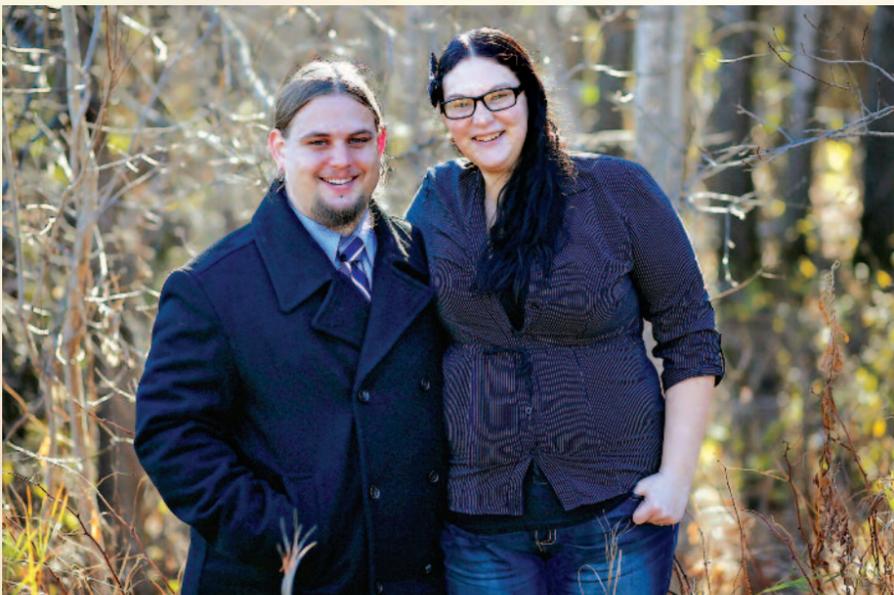
"Initially, Brie didn't believe in herself as much as I did. It's nice that she figured out how awesome she is," Carole said. "Mike is a smart guy who grew into his ability to cooperate and work in a group. He's a much better listener than when I first met him."

Today, they're knocking on the door of sufficiency.

"We made lifelong goals, and we're starting to achieve them," said Mike, who is enrolled in college. He's now working as an IT specialist, receiving an excellent wage plus benefits, while he finishes school. Brie is working full-time at a group home and loves it.

"We're finally feeling like we have our feet underneath us," Mike said. "It won't be long before we don't need any assistance at all." He continued, "We're looking at a two- to three-year plan to buy a home—amazing."

Carole is proud of them. She concluded, "I was excited to help Mike and Brie see that where you come from does not define you."



Mike and Brie are sharing success and a bright future thanks to POH.

Breaking new ground

Yvonne—a single parent with four children in her household—has come a long way since first getting involved in the Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative at the Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps, led by Captains Caleb and Stephanie Senn.

Unemployed for more than a year and living on less than \$700 a month

in assistance, Yvonne's monthly rent alone was \$550. When she came to the corps for help with a water bill, POH caseworker Gloria Watson noted Yvonne appeared to be in a depressed state and was dealing with some very personal issues; she reported her life felt out of control and that she had no place to turn.

Gloria discussed the POH



Captain Caleb Senn, POH caseworker Gloria Watson and Yvonne

approach with Yvonne and encouraged her to participate. Because of her openness with Gloria and determination to follow through, Yvonne and the rest of her family have benefitted substantially from the POH approach. Gloria reports Yvonne is exhibiting an overall better frame of mind (as reflected in Herth Hope Index scores, a measuring tool used by POH to track emotional wellbeing). She's developed a better relationship with her children and resolved some major dysfunctional elements of her household regarding family members. The children also have benefitted greatly from referral programs pertaining to their own issues and concerns.

Yvonne is now employed after the Army assisted with her job search and transportation, as well as helping her on several occasions with rent and water bills. A stove was purchased for the family, and other referrals have been made with partner agencies for household items and even bedroom makeovers for all of the children!

"We're encouraged by the ongoing success of individuals engaged in our Pathway of Hope initiative," said Captain Caleb Senn. "We look forward to what the future holds for both the people and Pathway of Hope."

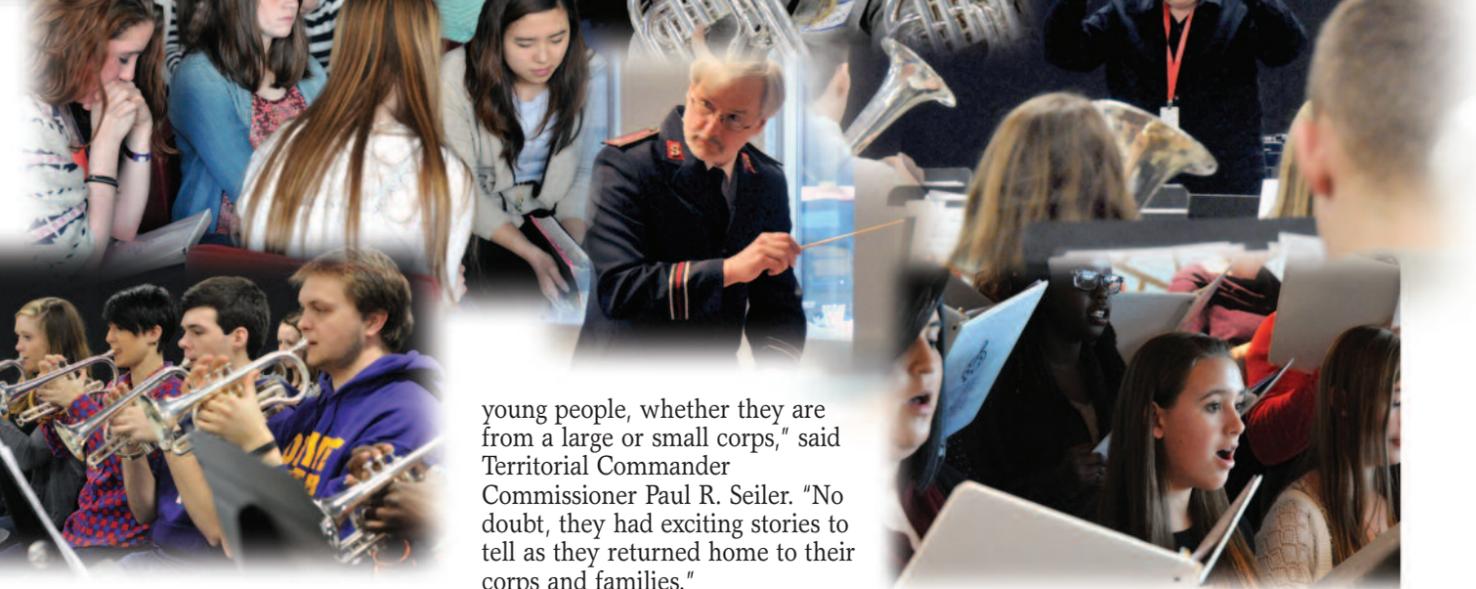


Music, ministry and mentorship



by Brian Allan

The third annual Territorial Youth Band and Chorus Retreat took place at the new Central Territorial Headquarters in Hoffman Estates, Ill. Eighty-three of the territory's best young musicians, ages 13-25, gathered to practice, perform and study God's Word. In addition, mentors from the Chicago Staff Band (CSB), the Bill Booth Theater Company (BBTC) and divisional music directors provided guidance and leadership. Ten young musicians from the Eastern Territory also joined Centralites for this enriching event.



"One of the great things about the weekend was that we had representation from all of the divisions in the Central Territory," said Meghan Pierson, territorial music education, ministry and curriculum specialist who was key in planning the event. "It was not only large corps that were represented, but youth from corps of all sizes were able to attend and be a part of the training and fellowship."

The first rehearsals of the Territorial Youth Band (TYB), led by Martyn Thomas, Peggy Thomas and Harold Burgmayer, and the Territorial Youth Chorus (TYC), led by Meghan Pierson and Joe Caddy and accompanied by Jennifer Herndon, were followed by a study of Psalm 139. Majors Monty and Angela Wandling, territorial youth secretary and assistant youth secretary, conducted three sessions during the weekend focused on this scripture which so clearly shows God knows and loves us. Each devotional session concluded with prayer, thanking God and seeking to know Him better.

Saturday held a full schedule of sectionals, rehearsals and devotions, capped off with an evening at the Blue Man Group in downtown Chicago. Seated in the "splash zone," delegates donned ponchos to shield themselves from things like Jell-o, marshmallows and paint that might fly off the stage. It was a highlight for many.

Sunday morning the TYC and TYB went separate ways with the chorus singing at the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps and the band playing at the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps. In the afternoon the two groups, supported by the CSB and BBTC, united at the Oakbrook Terrace Corps to perform a

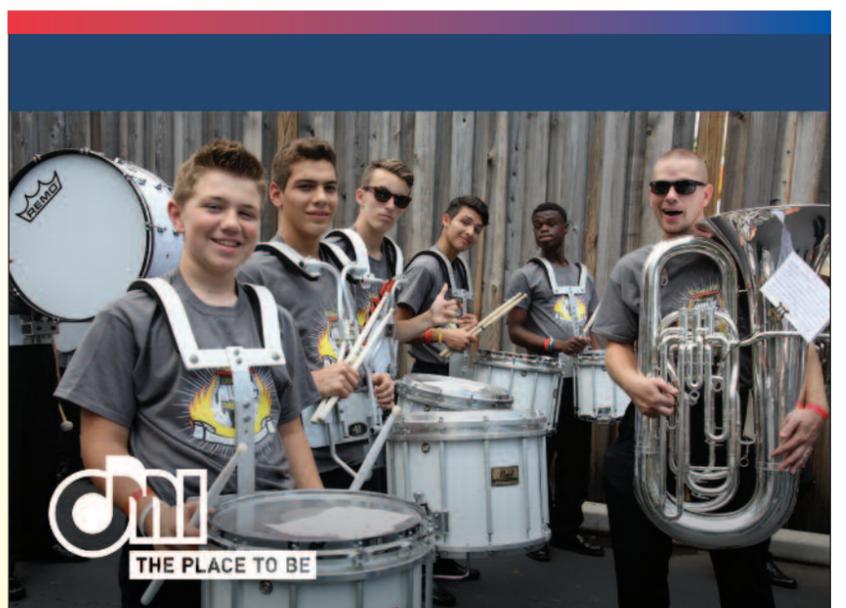
concert titled, "Praise." The band opened with "Raise the Song" by Simon Morton, followed by an *a capella* version of the "Star Wars Theme" by the chorus. Other highlights included the band and chorus singing the prayerful "Known to you," the youth chorus and corps songsters presentation of the magnificent "How beautiful upon the mountain," a skit by the BBTC, and an impressive rendition of Paul Lovatt-Cooper's "Power and the Glory" by the youth band.

"At first I was thinking I wasn't going to attend, but I changed my mind at the last minute," said Moriah Hellstrom, soldier at the Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps who was principal cornet of the TYB. "I'm glad I did as this weekend afforded me the opportunity of playing challenging music and helping me develop my musicianship and leadership."

In addition to the retreat's concentrated music focus, its strong spiritual component affirmed for delegates and mentors alike that God knows, loves and cares about them.

"One can't help but feel that the musical training and the Christian fellowship will be of great encouragement to the

young people, whether they are from a large or small corps," said Territorial Commander Commissioner Paul R. Seiler. "No doubt, they had exciting stories to tell as they returned home to their corps and families."



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“Jamaican” the people happy

Their first experience on a short-term missions trip left members of the most recent territorial global missions team (GMT) overwhelmed yet delighted, reported Major Karen Felton, team leader. She and the team’s project manager, Matt Erickson, led the eight “newbies” through an intense week working on a kitchen, dining room and patio remodeling project for the Rae Town

Corps’ basic (primary) school in Kingston, Jamaica, where Centralite Major Violet Ezeh and her husband, Major Dr. Felix Ezeh, are the corps officers.

Working with a local contractor whose workers had gutted the kitchen and started the prep work, the team helped pry up stubborn vinyl tiles glued onto cement, jack-hammer an old patio that had allowed rain water to flood into the

dining room, pour fresh cement, frame-out countertops and “paint a lot,” added Major Karen, from the kitchen and dining room to the school’s classrooms.

Funded by the Central Territory, the project when completed by the contractor will include fully tiled kitchen walls plus new appliances, equipment and work areas, new floor tiles throughout the kitchen and dining room and completion of the classroom painting.

Although work days were long and consistently busy, the team developed relationships with the workmen, enjoyed spending snatches of time with the school children and even found time to construct a new basketball hoop backboard for community youth who played in an alleyway along the corps building.

On the last day of work, the team (prompted by Major Karen who knew the culture after having served in Jamaica several years ago) invited the workmen to join them in their short daily devotional. It turned into a rich, extended time of singing, sharing, praising God and praying



Team members put the finishing touches on freshly painted walls.

out loud for each other—team members and workers alike. Earlier in the week, the team led Sunday morning worship at the corps.

“Never in my life did I think God would use me to help people in another country,” said team member Phil Mitchell of Fort Wayne, Ind., while Terry Ulery of Logansport, Ind., thanked God for letting him come to this place to be His servant.

The team stayed in student dorms on the Army’s main compound—a five-mile drive that often took more than an hour in Kingston’s traffic. But, after putting in up to 14-hour days, the team took solace each evening knowing supper awaited them at the Army’s School for the Blind—along with a refreshing dip in their swimming pool!



Pictured are team members (back row, l-r) Matt Erickson, Matthew Wood, John Woods, Phil Mitchell, Terry Ulery, (front row, l-r) Tony Anguiano, Captain Barb Owen, Robert Owen, Captain Dawn Russell, Major Karen Felton.

Transforming lives everywhere

The world missions department, with support from the territorial visual communications section, is releasing a new Into the World video as part of a two-year theme called “Self-Denial Transforms.” This year the video depicts how self-denial and sacrificial giving has transformed lives here and abroad.

The video is a compilation of photos and testimonies, including interviews with former missionaries, emergency disaster service personnel and short-term missions teams’ members. It will depict many unique perspectives from those who give to those who receive and those who implement.

“In a way this video is a celebration of sacrificial giving and the ongoing partnerships we have around the world through The Salvation Army,” said Chris Shay, world missions department director. “It’s about the face of self-denial—we’re all a part in some way, we’re all impacted and influenced, and all of this unifies



us in the mission for the Kingdom.”

The overall approach has changed this year as well. Instead of rolling out resources at one time, the world missions department will be updating their website regularly with stories and videos of lives transformed through sacrificial giving.

Also available for use in education and fundraising are all 12 of the Into the World series videos from past years. These are complete with additional promotional and practical resources. For access to them visit www.centralmissions.org.



Ezehs enjoy new ministry

Serving in the Caribbean for more than 20 years, Centralite Major Violet Ezeh, her husband, Major Dr. Felix Ezeh, and their son, Matthew, last year pulled up their roots once again to move from Trinidad to Jamaica when the majors were appointed to lead the Rae Town Corps and Goodwill Center in Kingston.

Located near the city’s harbor, Major Violet reports the area can be rough but the corps is a growing, vibrant center of worship and service. “Sunday mornings can see attendance in the 70s by people of all ages and walks of life, while Sunday evenings provide opportunities for informal worship and leadership development,” said the major. Nearly 50 women meet for home league and 30 older adults attend a weekly seniors’ club. In addition to a full schedule of corps programing, Rae



Major Violet Ezeh with the Rae Town Corps home league ladies

Town has a basic school for children, ages 2 to 5, and a community health clinic.

“Living in the building has made it easy to interact with the 65 school children and their parents,” said Major Violet, who taught the kids a chorus to use as their school song. “I love their enthusiasm as they proclaim they’re ‘Army boys and Army girls, and when we grow up, we’ll be Army pearls!’”

The Ezehs’ son, Matthew, is now in the 7th grade. “His teachers find him to be the sociable young man we know and love,” said his proud mom. “His music teacher draws on Matthew’s vocal and percussion abilities and gave him a concert solo. He’s our dedicated corps drummer and also participates in divisional music groups.”

Glowing from the recent visit of a territorial global mission team, Major Violet said neighbors are still talking about the team’s hard work, dedication and friendliness. She concluded, “Hopefully, there will be new faces in our worship services due to their incarnational living.”



Majors Felix and Violet Ezeh with the school’s new refrigerators funded by the Central Territory

Central women united

Every week around the territory women gather at our corps for women's ministries events and meetings. Each group is unique and yet united in purpose; to worship God, love one another and to serve in Jesus' name.



Some women from the Chicago LaVillita, Ill., weekly women's ministries meeting

Chicago LaVillita, Ill., Corps

At the Chicago LaVillita, Ill., Corps approximately 45 Hispanic women come together every Friday morning for fellowship, worship, Bible study and lunch. Over the last nine years the group has grown, thanks to the diligent efforts of Kerman Moran, corps administrator, and local leaders. Since childcare is provided, it's a much needed respite for the women, many of whom are single moms or stay at home with their children.

"What makes our group a success is love," said Kerman, who has chosen to focus on devotions and worship. "I do a lot of discipleship with these women. They just want to know about Jesus; they're hungry for it!"



Members of Embrace at the Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps enjoy a cup of coffee together.

Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps

Women's ministries focus groups at the Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps consist of small group Bible studies and Embrace groups (a curriculum introduced last year territorially). About once a quarter the groups gather for a united meeting.

Captain Catherine Mount, corps officer, reported recently there has been an outpouring of unique fellowship opportunities including a group shopping trip to several local thrift stores; a painting class, hosted at the corps by a retired pastor, and a group caroling excursion at Christmas.

One Royal Oak Citadel claim to fame is the annual women's ministries Christmas dinner, which brings in upwards of 120 women; the hope for large events such as these is to connect women to small groups.

Decatur, Ill., Corps

The Decatur, Ill., Corps women's ministries takes a traditional approach, meeting weekly and using the home league fourfold curriculum. It's one of the largest groups in the territory with approximately 75 women attending meetings regularly. Additionally the group offers walking, line dancing and ceramics focus groups. They hold a birthday party meeting at the beginning of each month for fellowship.



Ladies from the Rochester, Minn., Corps help sort toys at Christmas with Major Paulette Frye.

Rochester, Minn., Corps

Women from the Rochester, Minn., Corps' program, overseen by Major Paulette Frye, have seen numbers increase both within their group and at the corps thanks to outreach. Ten years ago when the group numbered about 10 women, they brainstormed how to branch out and eventually landed on holding meetings in the community room of the apartment building next to the corps. Not only has the group grown to 35 women, but at least five have started attending the corps' worship services.

One of the unique attributes of the Rochester program is their successful purse auction fundraiser, which raised \$2,500 last year for World Services/Self-Denial, the support of a cadet and a new appliance for the corps.



Members of the St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., women's ministries group

St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps

"We're a praying group," said St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps' Home League Secretary Irene Lucas. "Each week we take general and personal prayer requests from our ladies and make a concerted effort to pray for each person. I believe this is what helps to make our group a success."

In addition to weekly meetings the program includes two focus groups, one of which meets to grade Bible lessons for the St. Louis Adult Rehabilitation Center, and has been of service for 15 years! The ladies grade an average of 40 lessons every week.

One of the big yearly events is the mother and daughter tea in May. The outreach attracts approximately 100 women and includes a devotional and invitation to join the program.



Senior ladies meet monthly for a program and lunch which usually bring in upwards of 175 people in Decatur, Ill.

The ladies volunteer regularly including making 600 stockings for soldiers overseas at Christmas, putting together shoeboxes of goods for the Operation Christmas Child ministry and volunteering faithfully in the food pantry.

Podcasts for women

On the first day of each month, the territorial women's ministries department releases "The Prepare Podcast." Hosted by Sarah Micula, territorial women's ministries program specialist, each 45-minute podcast features an interview with a woman of faith in ministry. They're intended to challenge, encourage and edify the body of Christ as well as to be another way to resource women in the territory.

Inspiration for the project came out of Sarah's personal experience with podcasts. "I started listening to podcasts a few months ago and found they've been beneficial to me, so I thought it would be an excellent resource for others as well," Sarah said. "I upload ministry podcasts to my iPhone and play them on my way to work. It sets the tone for my day."

Led into conversation by Sarah, the interviewee shares her experiences

and wisdom to prepare and equip listeners in their faith, pursuits and callings. So far interviews have run the gamut from Major Danielle Strickland, Western territorial social justice secretary, on social justice issues and her journey to this calling, to Dr. Karen Hurula, psychologist and mental health provider, who gives guidance on how to love and better serve those with mental health challenges.

"It's intended to be a tool and resource for personal growth, but we want to encourage leaders or corps officers, if they feel it's worth sharing, to use it for ministry as well," said Sarah.

Episodes can be downloaded from iTunes or found directly on the podcast website, www.thepreparepodcast.podbean.com

PRE
PARE

A change-maker for women's ministries



Robyn Afrik, Karen Young and Captain Nancy Azuaje

"If you empower women, you can change families, communities, countries—the world," exclaimed Captain Nancy Azuaje. Her infectious enthusiasm for women's ministries seems a change-maker in itself. She says it comes from being part of women's ministries and seeing how it has changed women's lives, including her own. "When women apply God's principles to their lives, they are empowered," she explained.

And this is how she views her new role as territorial multicultural women's ministries coordinator: one of empowerment. She wants to equip and empower leaders in women's ministries to meet needs and change lives of women throughout the territory. To this end, she hopes to foster cultural awareness, competency and resources.

For instance, she sees a need for women's ministries in the Hispanic community to help bridge a disconnect between parents who do not know English and their children who only speak English.

One of her goals is to develop resources in Spanish and other languages to assist divisions and corps. With a pastoral heart and personal approach of connecting with people, she hopes to learn their needs and provide tools to help women's ministries at corps to affect change. "Everything we do is really about the corps," she advocated. For instance, the new Pathway of Hope women's ministries video series to be used in corps was recently translated into Spanish in collaboration with other departments at territorial headquarters.

According to Colonel Dorothy Smith, territorial secretary for women's ministries, the captain is ideal for this pioneering role in women's ministries, having come to the United States as an adult with her husband and sons and experiencing firsthand the daunting process of assimilation into a new country, language and culture. She discovered the ministry of The Salvation Army here and has been an advocate for women's ministries in all her appointments.

"Captain Nancy Azuaje is an ideal person to advance programming that reaches women of diverse ethnic or cultural backgrounds throughout the Central Territory," said the colonel. "She is passionate for reaching women with the gospel and has a vision for creating community among diverse groups of women within the corps. We look forward to a widened ministry for women in the Central Territory."

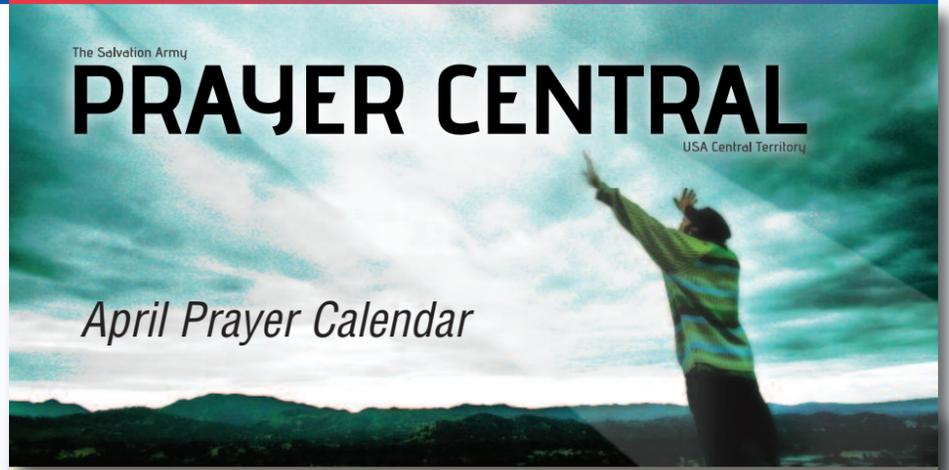


"First, we must have an awareness of the composition of our communities and then be intentionally open and welcoming," she said. "Our women's ministries should

reflect the communities in which our corps reside, and few are homogeneous anymore. By embracing women of different ethnicities into our programs, our ministries are more complete and effective."

She believes incorporating different ethnic perspectives not only can help people feel valued but can enable ministries to be more meaningful. For instance, if there is ethnic representation on a divisional or territorial planning committee for an event, practical concerns like translation can be raised and content can be shaped for a fuller delegation experience.

Of course, the captain also has a focus on specifically resourcing ethnic corps and ministries, whether incorporating topics into materials already produced for women's ministries or producing supplemental materials. She feels a responsibility to take into account not only variables like language or cultural contexts but specific situational needs.



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Friday	1 Corinthians 9-10	Springfield, Ill., ARC*
	2 Saturday	Exodus 1-4	Saginaw, Mich., Corps
	3 Sunday	1 Samuel 16-20	Sterling-Rock Falls, Ill., Corps
	4 Monday	Psalms 39-41	Wisconsin & Upper Michigan DHQ**
	5 Tuesday	Job 27-28	Princeton, Ind., Corps
	6 Wednesday	Jeremiah 7-11	Plans for commissioning weekend in June
	7 Thursday	Mark 7-8	Wichita Citadel, Kan., Corps
	8 Friday	1 Corinthians 11-12	Youth Councils being held this month
	9 Saturday	Exodus 5-8	Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps
	10 Sunday	1 Samuel 21-25	St. Louis Maplewood, Mo., Corps
	11 Monday	Psalms 42-44	Candidates for the College for Officer Training
	12 Tuesday	Job 29-30	Global Mission Team
	13 Wednesday	Jeremiah 12-16	St. Cloud, Minn., Corps
	14 Thursday	Mark 9-10	Petoskey, Mich., Corps
	15 Friday	1 Corinthians 13-14	Sheboygan, Wis., Corps
	16 Saturday	Exodus 9-12	Chicago Staff Band ministry in Galesburg, Ill.
	17 Sunday	1 Samuel 26-31	New believers on this Decision Sunday
	18 Monday	Psalms 45-47	Waukegan, Ill., ARC*
	19 Tuesday	Job 31-32	Warren, Mich., Corps
	20 Wednesday	Jeremiah 17-21	Commissioners Merle & Dawn Heatwole (IHQ)
	21 Thursday	Mark 11-12	National Advisory Organizations Conf. in Phoenix, Ariz.
	22 Friday	1 Corinthians 15-16	Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa, Corps
	23 Saturday	Exodus 13-16	Richmond, Ind., Corps
	24 Sunday	2 Samuel 1-4	Wichita West Orchard, Kan., Corps
	25 Monday	Psalms 48-50	Rockford Tabernacle, Ill., Corps
	26 Tuesday	Job 33-34	[Switzerland,] Austria & Hungary Territory PIM
	27 Wednesday	Jeremiah 22-26	St. Louis Temple, Mo., Corps
	28 Thursday	Mark 13-14	St. Paul Citadel, Minn., Corps
	29 Friday	2 Corinthians 1-3	Rapid City, S.D., Corps
	30 Saturday	Exodus 17-20	Porter County, Ind., Corps

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

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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



--Mustard Seeds--



New territorial headquarters dedicated

Continued from page 1



The Singing Company provided music during the open house.

lowed by singing of the National Anthem accompanied by the Chicago Staff Band (CSB). The CSB joined their voices on the prayerful "Bless this house" preceded by a recitation of Philippians 1:1-11 by the Bill Booth Theater Company.

In a clear and compelling dedicatory address, National Commander Commissioner David Jeffrey focused on following Jesus. He advocated what sets this beautiful structure apart is that people do their work for the service and glory of God.

"If it's done for His honor and

glory, it's holy," he said, explaining that with this intent the task is transformed, whether typing a letter, sweeping a floor, entering expenses or preparing food.

He continued, "We are partners in the gospel, and the work you do is as important as the work that I do... You may not have the same opportunities for frontline service but nonetheless what you do is vital to the frontlines. We need each other, and we're workers together as followers of Jesus Christ."

After a responsive dedicatory reading led by Commissioner Barbara Jeffrey, national president of women's ministries, the official ribbon cutting that concluded the service was led by Commissioner Carol Seiler, territorial president of women's ministries and coordinator for strategic mission planning.

An open house and a reception gave visitors the opportunity to tour the 193,000-square-foot building that not only houses offices and work stations but features 20 conference rooms, seven break areas, a fitness center and a dining room that seats 250 people. The building also hosts the Chicago Staff Band rehearsal and recording studio, the Territorial Historical Museum, the Visual Communications Section studios, and the Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command. The facility features all LED timed lighting and 30 cost-efficient, climate-control zones giving flexibility in heating and cooling portions of the building.

The dedication represented the culmination of a process that began five years ago to improve the functionality and service of THQ.



New year, new boots

For the fifth year, to coincide with the Detroit International Auto Show event, Toyota Motor Sales, USA, has provided approximately 200 Salvation Army beneficiaries with new, insulated winter boots and socks.

It's part of Toyota USA's "Walk in My Boots" community outreach project, and not only do they provide high-end, durable boots to beneficiaries, but a catered lunch held at the Detroit Conner Creek, Mich., Corps, as well as a \$15,000 donation to The Salvation Army in Detroit, enabling them to continue to provide care for the area's homeless population.

"We are grateful to Toyota for providing a very necessary and generous donation to The Salvation Army," said Major Russ Sjögren, Eastern Michigan Division general secretary and Metro Detroit-area commander. "Boots are expensive and not easily accessible to purchase for our clients and their children."

Major Sjögren also reported it's a real morale booster. "Our clients are very excited and so grateful," he said. "The boots are high quality and help-ful to the women and children as



William Goodwill fits a boy with boots.

they work out details for their future."

"Walk in My Boots" has been such a help to beneficiaries and success for Toyota, that it's catching on in other cities. Last year it expanded to Chicago, where they provided boots to residents of the Evangeline Booth Lodge before the Chicago Auto Show. This year they're looking into holding a similar event in Washington, D.C.

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