



# 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 48, Number 5

May 2018



Chicago Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr.

## A Shield of Hope for families

by Jacqueline Rachev

The Salvation Army in Chicago has opened the nation's first rapid-response emergency homeless assessment and response center addressing the needs of families in crisis. In partnership with the City of Chicago, the center expands upon the Army's full range of services for the homeless population.

The dedication cere-

mony included remarks from Lt. Colonels Charles and Sharon Smith, Metropolitan divisional leaders, and Commissioner Brad Bailey, territorial



Commissioner Brad Bailey, territorial commander



Cutting the ribbon are (l-r) Lt. Colonels Charles and Sharon Smith, Metropolitan divisional leaders; Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (CDFFS) Deputy Commissioner Alisa Rodriguez; Chicago Alderman Walter Burnett; CDFFS Commissioner Lisa Morrison Butler and Commissioner Brad Bailey, territorial commander.

commander. Chicago Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr., and Chicago Department of Family and Support Services Commissioner Lisa Morrison Butler also spoke and shared their pleasure at the addition of this new facility. "This is a gift to the city," said the alderman. "Thank you for helping Chicago help those at their time of need."

Through an innovative service model, the Shield of Hope will triage and assess families who are homeless and help them find more stable living situations within 14 days. This could include living with family or friends or finding affordable housing more suitable to their needs and situation.

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Chicago Department of Family and Support Services Commissioner Lisa Morrison Butler

## High Council to convene to elect next General

A High Council to elect the next General of The Salvation Army will commence May 17, 2018. A public welcome, which also will serve as a farewell to General André Cox and Commissioner Silvia Cox, world president of women's ministries, will take place on May 19 at Westminster Central Hall in central London, a venue which has a rich history of holding significant Salvation Army events.

A High Council comprises all active Salvation Army commissioners (except the spouse of the serving General), territorial commanders and territorial presidents of women's ministries. Its sole purpose is to prayerfully elect the next international leader of The Salvation Army, who will assume responsibility when General Cox retires at midnight on August 2, 2018.



Membership of the High Council and some other aspects of its procedures are set out in the Salvation Army Act 1980, enacted by the British Parliament.

At present 111 Salvation Army offi-

cers are eligible for membership of the 2018 High Council, subject to the issuance of a formal summons by the Chief of the Staff, Commissioner Brian Peddle, in due course. The Chief will preside over the opening of the High Council until such time as a President and Vice President have been elected from among its members. Any active Salvation Army officer is eligible to be elected as General, regardless of membership of the High Council.

In order to ensure each High Council member can contribute fully in the holy tasks of prayer, worship, devotion and deliberation, it is anticipated that translation will be provided in French, Hindi, Korean and Spanish.

For the second time the High Council will meet at the Renaissance Hotel close to Heathrow Airport in

West London. The Chief of the Staff commented, "It was a difficult decision not to return to Sunbury Court with its historical significance for many High Councils but the number attending and required infrastructure during an extended period necessitates the change."

International News Releases will be issued periodically relating to the High Council, providing information about the process and constitution. Updates will be provided throughout the High Council and a live webcast will announce the identity of the 21st General of The Salvation Army at the conclusion of proceedings.

A special section of International Headquarters' website will carry all High Council news: [www.salvationarmy.org/highcouncil2018](http://www.salvationarmy.org/highcouncil2018).

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# What does God desire?

by Commissioner Brad Bailey  
Territorial Commander

One of the more critical moments in my faith journey was realizing that as a Salvationist I was called to positively influence and impact the world around me. I realized I was privileged not only to believe in and belong to Jesus but to stand in the gap and put my faith into action.

God has given us a standard of righteousness we are privileged to uphold daily. The scripture is refreshingly clear regarding God's desire for us. If we believe certain things are true, just and right, then we have a moral imperative to live accordingly. Micah 6:6-8 (NASB) says:

*With what shall I come to the Lord and bow myself before the God on high?... He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

We are to stand on the side of what is right and just. When we wit-

ness injustice, our voices need to be heard even if we are misunderstood, persecuted, devalued or maligned. In Christ, **we have a critical calling in this world.** As salt of the earth and light of the world our presence and our mission are by God's design. For us to stay within the walls of our beautiful Salvation Army buildings around the territory and wait for the return of Christ, avoiding interaction with the world around us, is not the will of God. Like salt slows decay, we are to have contact with the world.

We are to love kindness as we identify with the oppressed, the poor, the vulnerable and the distressed and to withhold judgment in the process. We are invited to come alongside them because God is on their side, demonstrating the dignity of all human life.

Verse eight invites us to walk humbly with our God, as He is ultimately in control and we are all



sinful human beings with the inbred ability to make wrong choices. All around us there are people full of the life God gave them. That life is sacred.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "There are no ordinary people . . . it is immortals who we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit."

We need to remember we are dealing with eternal beings when we are dealing with each other and those who come our way.

In the Central Territory we are committed to do whatever is needed in the name of Jesus to improve the quality of life for whoever comes into our sphere of influence, by steadfastly sharing "...the gospel of Jesus Christ and meeting human needs in his name without discrimination."

As we live and serve in our communities, we are invited by Jesus to engage with people from all walks of life and different parts of the world, those who speak different languages, have unmet needs, broken relationships and no hope.

May we be faithful followers of Jesus who stand courageously on God's side and do what He requires when He calls us to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.

## Shield of Hope

Continued from page 1

and, more importantly, a sense of hope for a better future as they transition to a life of increased stability."

The Shield of Hope is designed to provide a home-like atmosphere for families with private bedrooms and bathrooms. There is a study room for children to do homework and other projects, laundry rooms and a play area. There also is a communal dining area with a warming kitchen.



Major Nancy Powers and Carmelo Vargas, a community advocate and past city commissioner of family and support services

Meals are provided by the Freedom Center, and if parents work until late, a meal will be kept warm for them. Families also will have access to an array of services at the Freedom Center, including recreational and educational classes for children, social service programs, food services, job training and treatment for substance abuse.

Indeed, more than temporary shelter, the Shield of Hope will serve as an entry point to a greater array of programs designed to help people through crisis and set them up to better navigate their future. Once a family finds permanent housing, they will be connected with the nearest corps to continue support services including afterschool activities, a food pantry and worship services. The design is a larger holistic approach to provide love, compassion and hope for those most in need.

The spacious laundry room features all new appliances.

When necessary, the facility can provide shelter for as many as 75 individuals.

"We will be able to provide shelter, food and warmth, the basics," said Colonel Charles Smith, divisional commander.

"But our greatest desire is that within this facility families will be able to find a sense of security. To experience a sense of dignity, worth



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

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Founder

ANDRÉ COX  
General

COMMISSIONER BRAD BAILEY  
Territorial Commander

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## Ministry at bridge collapse

Within hours of the catastrophic collapse of a newly constructed pedestrian bridge on March 15 on the campus of Florida International University in Miami which killed six people and injured eight others, a Salvation Army disaster services team began serving first responders.

"As soon as we arrived on scene we were being asked for water and meals," said Captain Enrique Azuaje, a Central Territory officer who currently serves as Miami-Dade area commander.

For the next three days The Salvation Army stood vigil with continuous service day and night during the grueling rescue and recovery operation. Given the cordoned off perimeter with intense security, the relief service was given by six officers, as well as one employee and volunteer, with excellent logistical support by the entire Miami-Dade Command staff.

From two canteens from Miami and Fort Lauderdale, more than 2,800 meals and snacks were provided to responders, including firemen, policemen and members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to the captain, the emotional care they gave was as critical as the physical nourishment. "We intentionally sought to bring hope and thank them for their hard work," he said. "We see those who respond on the frontlines as strong—and they are—but they are also vulnerable and

need encouragement in these very difficult circumstances."

Responders not only thanked individual Salvation Army team members, but the Miami-Dade Police Department publicly expressed gratitude for the organization's service via Facebook.

Since being appointed to Miami in 2016, Captain Azuaje has participated in several major disaster relief efforts, including giving service in the wake of Hurricane Irma in August 2017 and being deployed as a critical incident stress management specialist in the aftermath of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting this past February.

The captain cited his faith and Christ's example as what helps him in these dire situations. He concluded, "We must work hard but never forget that we're taking care of people. There's a tremendous joy that comes with that."

The Miami-Dade Area Command has been working on an Emergency Disaster Incident Command and Training Center which will open soon.



# Bread kneads corps growth

The personal distribution of day-old bakery bread in Hispanic neighborhoods has formed a remarkable number of new relationships for the Albert Lea, Minn., Corps since Major Sandy Hunt and her associate corps officer, Lt. Gloria Pelayo, arrived in town last July. Highly committed to community outreach, they go out once a week to form friendships with people of all ages (both officers are fluent Spanish speakers).

Word-of-mouth has spread rapidly on how people at The Salvation Army can be trusted. As a result youth and adults have been coming to the corps for programming, social services and pastoral care, worship and spiritual growth opportunities. For the last few months Lt. Gloria has been leading five adults in an evening Bible study at the corps with a sixth person receiving that night's lesson from her husband when she gets home from work!

Worship now attracts between 35-50 people each Sunday. "When we reach 60, we'll have to expand into our classroom space and eventually may have to offer two services," said Major Sandy, who also is concentrating on developing more leaders for the corps' expansion.

"We have excellent leaders in place already; we just need more people to step into ministry, particularly in spiritual development," the major contin-



Lt. Gloria Pelayo leads a Spanish-language Bible study.

ued. "I want to have a discipleship ministry in place for every age and phase of life."

Youth enjoy rangers, explorers, sunbeams and soon girl guards, and a teen ministry is the next priority. But, the corps' strongest drawing card is its music program.

"Adding live music has made a huge difference," said Major Sandy. "We have a young lady enrolled in the territorial piano lesson initiative, and Lt. Gloria is teaching guitar and drums. I'm learning how to play bass in addition to acoustic guitar, and we've just started lessons in brass."

The major added, "Music helps us focus on worship, and it provides a great opportunity for parents to see what their children are doing so we can get the whole family involved at the corps. After our first Christmas pageant, the kids wanted to do a second one in February! And, this summer some of our Sunday worship

meetings and monthly messy churches will be held outside so parents in wheelchairs can see their children in action rather than through a recording."



Messy church is enjoyed by all ages.



Major Sandy Hunt (r), Lt. Gloria Pelayo and Marvin Raatz prepare to distribute bread.

# Holy Hoops for Hoosiers

by Samantha Hyde

Last year the Indianapolis, Ind., Fountain Square Corps introduced a new program that plays into Hoosiers' love of basketball. It's called Holy Hoops.

"Athletics is a big part of the community," said Bre Nicholson, former community center director who originated the program. "I wanted to incorporate our faith-based mission, so I thought this program would create great opportunities for fellowship."

Holy Hoops brings together co-ed teams of 8-10 adults to practice and play games each week, with a bracket-style playoff at the end of the season. The program draws participants from across the city, bringing together people with diverse backgrounds in a safe, supportive Christian environment. At first players sat with their own teammates but now they speak to each other, warm up together and even come early to watch teams playing the first game or stay to watch the next one after they're done.

It's not just the players who enjoy watching. Friends, spouses, sons and daughters come to the corps to cheer on the teams. Holy Hoops has pre-



sented a great opportunity to introduce Salvation Army programs to neighbors who might otherwise never know how much the Fountain Square Corps has to offer. Visitors have learned about the new makerspace and computer lab, youth programs, summer camp, Sunday worship, Bible studies and financial assistance for struggling families.

Participants have just started the second season of Holy Hoops this spring. Lts. Brandon and Megan Lewis, corps officers, indicate it's

now a full five to six-team league, complete with a comprehensive playoff championship bracket.

"What we love most about Holy Hoops is what the league has become," said Lt. Brandon. "People came for basketball and are now leaving with Jesus."



# Hero of Faith promoted to Glory

Raúl Guerrero, who pioneered the thriving Hispanic ministries in the Central Territory and was admitted to the Order of the Founder (the Army's highest order) in 2001 "in recognition of outstanding service to the Latino community" in the Central and Western territories, was promoted to Glory on March 16, 2018.



So, it was not surprising to many that in 1987 at age 66 when he retired from his business that Raúl moved to California to help expand the Army's Hispanic work full-time as coordinator of Hispanic Ministries for the Southern California Division. Over the next 14 years his passionate leadership resulted in six

Raúl emigrated from Santiago, Chile, in 1958 to make uniforms for the Central Territory but felt his life's work was just as much about saving souls and was compelled to start a ministry to reach the Puerto Ricans in his Chicago neighborhood.

While managing the Central Territory's uniform store and then establishing a uniform manufacturing business of more than 100 employees, he began numerous Hispanic congregations, resulting in three Spanish-speaking corps (Central, LaVillita and Pilsen). He not only planted corps but led them as a soldier during his tenure in the Central Territory.

His passion was people with a focus on ministry to Spanish speakers in their first language. He valued them, taught them God's principles for living and loved them into the Kingdom. Having experienced and seen how God could use open-airs, he was a strong proponent of these outreach meetings and even held them in a park during the Chicago riots in 1968. Raúl possessed a missionary spirit and call to sacrificial service giving much of his time and own financial resources to the Lord's work and was fully committed to following the Lord's leading throughout His life.

new corps openings and numerous innovative Spanish-speaking ministries which significantly advanced the Army's ministry in the Western Territory. He was active in leadership development, initiating the Southern California Hispanic Leadership Institute to train local officers and future leaders. He also was in charge of the Hollywood Temple Corps as well as the El Monte Corps, which he had planted, for six years until his retirement in 2001.

Raúl served on many advisory groups such as the National Soldiers' Commission and National Committee for Ministry to Minorities and traveled throughout the U.S. and Latin America to hold campaigns and seminars. His commitment to share the gospel, lead people to the Lord and disciple them did not waiver as he aged. He continued to teach Bible studies and conduct prayer meetings in California until age 92.

For more about Raúl's life and the Hispanic ministry of The Salvation Army, pick up a copy of the book ¡Triunfarán! by Colonel Frank Payton. The book is available through Trade Central, Barnes and Noble and Amazon, as well as electronically, in both English and Spanish.

## Newly accepted candidates

### Michael Raes

Des Moines Temple, Iowa, Corps Western Division



Though I grew up in a Christian home and attended church with my family as often as we could, I never developed a personal relationship with Christ. After going to college, I fell away from even this nominal faith. After 12 years of alcoholism and

spending time in jails and hospitals, I met The Salvation Army as a beneficiary of the Des Moines, Iowa, Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC).

While living at the ARC and attending classes and meetings, I rediscovered my relationship with a loving God who had pursued me despite my disobedience to Him. While in a worship meeting at the ARC I gave my life to Christ. Everything that has happened in my life since then has been a direct result of my new life in Christ and obedience to God. After graduating from the program, I attended the 2016 commissioning weekend where I felt called to be an officer. I am currently an intern at the Rapid City, S.D., Corps and look forward to taking this next step in faith.

Michael's corps officer is Lt. Jessica Smith.

### Sheri Ann Harned

Dearborn Heights, Mich., Corps Eastern Michigan Division



I was raised Roman Catholic. Growing up I was very active in the church, but it wasn't until I attended a non-denominational prayer group at age 12 that I accepted Christ as my personal Savior. I first felt the call to ministry in my

teens and even considered entering a convent. However, in my late teens I drifted from the Lord and fell into using alcohol and drugs. I would later marry, but after 15 years my marriage ended in divorce. My life spun out of control, and my addiction grew even worse. In desperation I cried out to God, and He answered me. God led me to the Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) where I rededicated my life to Him. At the ARC God also reminded me of His call on my life. This time, I completely surrendered and accepted His will for my life. Glory to God!

Sheri's corps officers are Captains David and Shannon Martinez.

### Matthew and Haylee Winters

Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps Metropolitan Division

We were each saved at a young age and grew up in The Salvation Army. We were involved in the corps and attended many programs throughout the week. Our activity in the corps



was not optional because our parents wanted us to see all aspects of the Army. This meant character-building programs, junior church, junior band, songsters and senior band.

However, we each ran from God's plan for our lives and tried to create our own. In the summer of 2015, in God's perfect timing our paths crossed at Wonderland Camp. We each were looking for what God wanted from us. That same summer God assured us that though we may want to do our own thing, His plan for our lives was to win souls for Him. Since then we have gotten married, worked at multiple corps and prepared ourselves to become true "Messengers of the Kingdom."

Matthew and Haylee's corps officers are Majors Mark and Teri Martsolf.

### Marty and Jennifer Norris

Des Moines Citadel, Iowa, Corps Western Division



Born to Salvation Army officer parents, Jennifer grew up in The Salvation Army. She accepted Christ when she was seven years old and as a teenager was called to officership but rebelled as a young adult and went her own way.

I accepted Christ when I was about 11 but never really had a church home; I attended with friends off and on. I began to attend The Salvation Army about 23 years ago when I dated and married Jennifer Biggs. Over the years, I began to realize more and more The Salvation Army was my church home. While attending the Territorial Men's Camp in 2013, I felt my heart open up, and I re-committed my life to Christ. Jennifer and I attended the 730 Candidates Weekend in 2016 because she was exploring the possibility of becoming an envoy and I went to support her. However, over the weekend I felt a calmness and acceptance that God was leading me to officership as well.

Marty and Jennifer's corps officers are A/Captains Greg and Angie Hartley.

# WELCOME HOME

Commissioning Weekend  
June 8-10, 2018 Milwaukee Theatre

## Schedule of Events

### Friday, June 8

- Noon Retired Officers' Luncheon +
- 1:00-6:00 p.m. Registration
- 5K Run/Walk for the World Registration
- 1:00-6:30 p.m. Trade Central and Museum Exhibits
- 4:00 p.m. Candidate Meet and Greet +
- 5:00 p.m. Active Officers' Recognition Dinner +
- 6:30 p.m. Childcare registration & photos for preregistered children\*\* (All children and adults authorized to drop off and pick them up must have photos taken at this time.)
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Registration
- 7:00 p.m. Childcare for preregistered children ages 11 and under\*\*
- 7:30 p.m. Keynote Session\*
- 9:00-10:00 p.m. Trade Central
- 9:30 p.m. Teen and Young Adult Afterglow for ages 12-29\*\*

### Saturday, June 9

- 6:30 a.m. 5K Run/Walk for the World with the Territorial Commander\*\*
- 7:30 a.m. College for Officer Training Summer Session Breakfast +
- 8:30 a.m.-Noon Registration
- 8:30 a.m. Childcare for preregistered children ages 11 and under\*\*
- 9:00 a.m. Morning Session I\*
- 10:45 a.m. Morning Session II\*
- Noon Sacred Conversations Luncheon
- Noon-5:30 p.m. Trade Central and Museum Exhibits
- 4:30 p.m. Fellowship of Silver Star and Cadet Academic Recognition Dinner +
- 6:30-7:00 p.m. Registration
- 6:30 p.m. Childcare for preregistered children ages 5 and under\*\* (No childcare for children ages 6-11 during Saturday evening musical)
- 7:00 p.m. *A Long Way Off* \*
- 9:30 p.m. Summer Mission Teams and World Missions Reception +

### Sunday, June 10

- 8:30-11:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 a.m. Childcare for preregistered children ages 11 and under\*\*
- 9:00 a.m. Commissioning and Ordination of the Messengers of the Gospel Session
- 12:30-1:00 p.m. Registration
- 1:00 p.m. Service of Appointments\*
- 3:00 p.m. Reception for new lieutenants and unit commanders +

+ By invitation only \* Ticket required \*\*Preregistration required  
Spanish, Laotian and Korean translation will be provided for general sessions.  
Visit [centralcommissioning.org](http://centralcommissioning.org) for latest information.

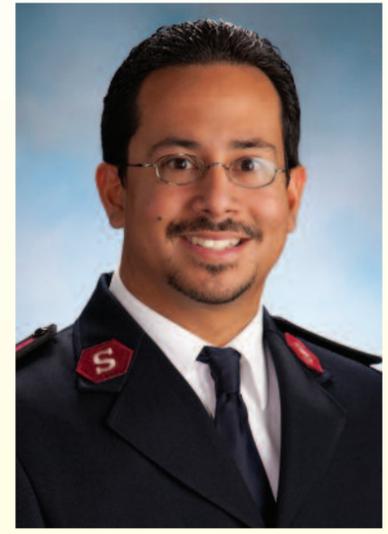
# 730... AND BEYOND



3,608 days and counting

by Captain Xavier Montenegro

As an officer you never know where you are going to be sent, but I never thought I'd return to my hometown of Chicago so soon after being commissioned. My wife and I had spent three wonderful years in Nebraska when we received the news we were being appointed to the College for Officer Training (CFOT). An adventure awaited us.



Every appointment is unique, but one thing that made this one special was burritos. Chicago has some great 24-hour taco and burrito places with all kinds of meats and treats, and I felt it was my duty to educate male cadets on the delicacy of late night Mexican food. Many were quick to take me up on these "educational" endeavors.

recall the laughter; we could really get going for no particular reason at all.

One night I remember taking a group of eight cadets to Las Asadas on Western. It was 10:00 p.m. and chilly out, but visions of steak burritos drove us on. No cold, rain or inaccessible parking would stop us. Though we were the only ones at the small restaurant, it took a while to fill our order at that time of night, but the wait was worth it! The cadets' smiles as they bit into their burritos brought joy to my heart. Nothing beats a warm burrito on a cold night.

Burrito outings aren't given a stat line, and they aren't part of any official CFOT curriculum, but the friendships built, bonds made and trust strengthened enhanced our lives. Relationships are the bedrock of ministry, and it's no different at the CFOT. Moments like these made room for deeper conversations I had with the cadets at other times regarding struggles, hurts and doubts they faced.

As we ate, we talked about wrestling, movies, our children—anything on our minds. Time flew as we enjoyed our food and conversation. I

Funny, though I came to the CFOT as an instructor and mentor to the cadets, they also taught me and helped me grow as a leader and man of God. It was just as much training for me as it was for them. I love being an officer and will cherish the times I spent with those cadets, my colleagues in ministry, my friends, my brothers.

Soon, this session will carry the life-transforming message of the gospel to the communities where they are appointed to serve.

**Come see them commissioned and ordained and appointed on Sunday, June 10.**



## Who are the Messengers of the Gospel?



by Majors Christine Poff and Cindy Strickler

They arrived at the College for Officer Training (CFOT) in the fall of 2016, excited and anxious as they began their journey to officership.

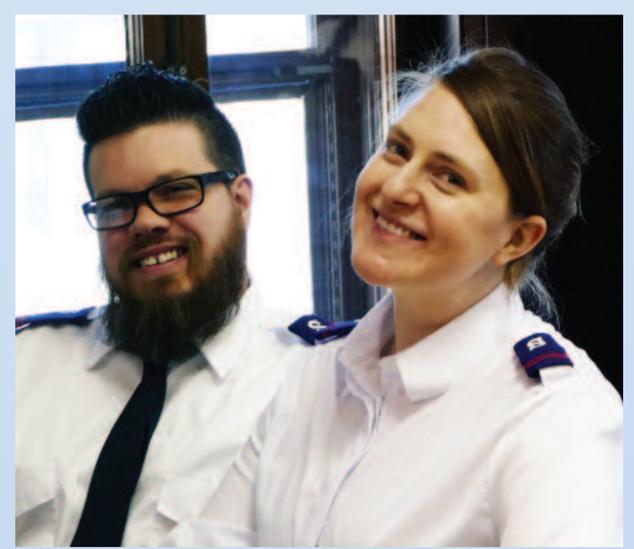
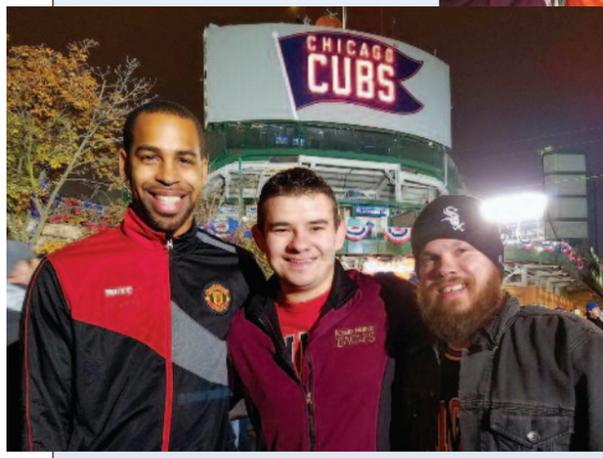


Among the cadets you'll find musicians, writers, linguists, school teachers, a machinist and former motorcyclist with a penchant for leather. Seven possess bachelor's degrees, and one has a master's degree. There are new parents but also parents of college students. Some hail from Salvation Army families, while others are first-generation Salvationists.

In response to their call, they came from across the Central Territory, some from rural communities and others from larger towns or urban areas. Two are originally from Korea but ministered in several countries before coming to the United States. All of them left behind jobs, homes and extended family to become "Messengers of the Gospel."

The Messengers come from varied backgrounds and life experiences. There are some who owned businesses or served overseas, while others once experienced homelessness or struggled with addictions. One even spent time in prison. In fact, he found The Salvation Army through the advice of his cellmate!

But what do they have common? They've all been transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ and called by God into fulltime service as officers. The "Messengers of the Gospel" are finishing their 22-month preparation consisting of classroom instruction, quizzes, final exams and numerous written papers. Regular visits to area corps and Christmas and summer assignments have given them opportunities to preach, teach and share the gospel and are the arenas where they have learned to love God's people.





# PATHWAY OF HOPE

## A brighter tomorrow

by Jacqueline Rachev

**D**iana Saunders, a single mother to three young children, worked hard to support her family but when she entered the hospital for a medical procedure, her life changed forever. Suffering from complications after surgery, she lapsed into a coma for several days. Ultimately, her leg had to be amputated.

Fearing her death and dealing with grief, Diana's family sold her furniture, clothing and other belongings while she was in the coma. When she awoke, Diana found that due to her disability, she would not be able to perform her job duties and was forced to apply for disability. With modest child support and

disability benefits not yet approved, Diana was facing an uphill battle. She fell behind on rent and utilities and had nothing to give her children for Christmas. She felt alone and forgotten.

"I was going to die," she said. "I have three kids, and nobody was there to help take care of them. I was so angry."

She turned to the Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center and was matched with Pathway of Hope (POH) caseworker Tiffiani Clark. Tiffani worked with Diana to secure rent and utility payments and also helped her set goals and work toward obtaining stable housing, reliable transportation and Christmas gifts for her children.

Along with guidance on goals, Diana received healthy food and helped purchase modest furniture for the family.

Diana now lives with her children in an apartment on Chicago's south side, five minutes from the Kroc Center. She has become a member of the corps and has



found a solid support system to help her overcome her remaining few barriers to sufficiency.

"I'm grateful for how God has worked everything out for us,"

she said. "Now that I'm getting back on my feet—literally—I plan on being there to welcome others to the Pathway of Hope, to the Kroc and to my God."

## Reversing paths

**P**oor life choices due to substance abuse led to years of instability and crisis for Amber and her children.

Consequences from her actions and unsafe living conditions led to the removal of her three daughters, but through it all The Salvation Army didn't give up on her.

Several years later when the corps engaged POH case management in 2015, the practical support strategies and strong pastoral components of Pathway of Hope (POH) would make all the difference in Amber's world, reported Kelly Zach, POH case manager at the Newton, Iowa, Corps now led by Captain Janelle Cleaveland.

The Salvation Army had been assisting Amber and her children with food for several years. During this time the former corps officers and Kelly had forged friendly relationships with her. "Amber always left here with a smile on her face knowing that for a very short time her life was a little better," said Kelly. However, Amber's long history of using and selling drugs impaired her ability to adequately parent her children, and the state took them away permanently.

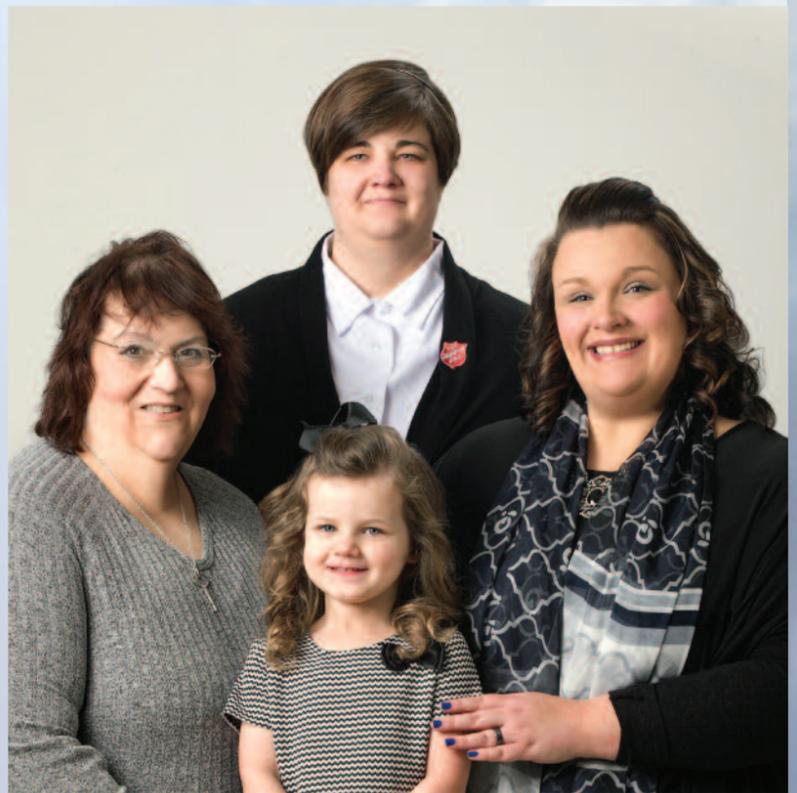
The corps continued reaching out to Amber, who by this time had started a relationship with Alion. At that time, the couple was unemployed, lived in squalid conditions and abused drugs.

When Amber announced she was pregnant, The Salvation Army stepped in to connect her with additional sources of assistance. Soon after she gave birth, however, Amber and Alion were arrested in a drug raid and their baby girl placed in foster care.

Secretly, Amber had been praying for God to show her a different path. She believes His answer to her prayers came through her arrest, which led to her finally getting the mental health and substance abuse treatment she needed. After treatment, when POH was introduced at the corps Amber enrolled wanting to make what she called "forever life changes."

Amber met weekly with Kelly and received much-needed pastoral care and guidance from the corps officers. Amber's goals included getting a job, keeping mental health and probation officer appointments and making regular visits to her baby, still in foster care. Within a month, Amber had fulltime employment and started moving up the ladder in job responsibilities.

Through her continued hard work, the support of The Salvation Army and endorsements from state family services and the county attorney, Amber regained custody of her then-toddler daughter. Meanwhile, Alion's three daughters had moved in with them after being abandoned by their mother.



Amber (r) and her daughter with Kelly Zach, POH case manager, and Captain Janelle Cleaveland, corps officer.

"Amber and Alion have a long journey ahead of them to remain drug-free, employed and create healthy family dynamics, but things are looking up," said Kelly. The family moved into a nice house with a large yard. Amber got a new job as an office manager and is now working on credit

repair to eventually purchase the house.

"The growth and maturity I've seen in Amber is amazing," Kelly concluded. "Most importantly, she has a strong sense of spirituality which she calls the most vital part of her 'safe lifestyle.'"

# Mobilizing to serve the present age

by Sue Spreiter

The Territorial Social Services Conference gathered together more than 225 officers and employees to be encouraged for their valued roles, to gain a broader understanding and be further prepared to serve the present age. Four pre-conference seminars, 25 workshops and three plenary sessions provided high quality training on working effectively with a wide variety of populations from Pathway of Hope families, those with military experience, individuals with addictions and survivors of human trafficking and trauma, and issues of gender identity, ethics and aging.

International guests added an



International guests included Captain Mavis Salt, Sarla Holmes, Dr. James Read and Dr. Aimee Patterson.

extra dimension. From the Australia Eastern Territory's Aged Care Plus program, Captain Mavis Salt, research and resource officer for aging, and Sarla Holmes, policy, submissions and international relations manager, supported workshops on aging and dementia care which aptly addressed this growing population. They shared the Grace Care framework and Meaningful Journey spiritual care model. Using her training as a Godly Play® facilitator, the captain demonstrated creative techniques for attending to the spiritual needs of persons with dementia.

Dr. James Read, executive director, and Dr.

Aimee Patterson, Christian ethics consultant, from The Salvation Army Ethics Centre in Canada, offered training on human sexuality and ethical practice. A robust dialogue on day-to-day ethical challenges followed a panel discussion by Dr. Patterson, Territorial Legal Counsel Bramwell Higgins and Dr. Jim Winship, author of *Faith in Action*, which provided an overview of Christian beliefs and Salvation Army ministry, social work principles and recognition of the protections and constraints of federal and state laws.

Commissioner Brad Bailey, territorial commander, presented corps with Pathway of Hope awards and challenged the delegates to be people of influence, bringing the Army's holistic mission to their communities.

Through drama, scripture readings and song, members of the Bill Booth Theater Company inspired attendees to follow Christ to bring about justice and hope, and the Chicago Adult Rehabilitation Center Alumni Choir rocked the house with Christian contemporary and



Delegates participate in Godly Play®.

gospel music. Majors Steve and Diane Harper, conference chaplains, were readily available to meet with those needing counsel and reflection in the tranquil prayer room. Delegates were asked to consider their connection to The Salvation Army's international mission and raised funds to purchase books for five Salvation Army schools in Guatemala.

Dr. Rev. Noel Castellanos, CEO, Christian Community Development Association, concluded the conference by encouraging delegates to return home with confidence in the Good News and its power to restore vulnerable neighborhoods.



Dr. Rev. Noel Castellanos



Delegates considered serious issues.



Dr. Jim Winship, author of *Faith in Action*, participates in panel discussion.

## Pathway of Hope Awards



Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey honors the Menasha Fox Cities, Wis., Corps as one of the Outstanding Award recipients.

**Congratulations to the latest locations to be honored for excellence in the Pathway of Hope initiative.**

### Achievement Awards

Livingston County, Mich., Corps  
Galesburg, Ill., Corps  
Shelbyville, Ind., Corps  
Willmar, Minn., Corps  
Dane County (Madison), Wis., Social Services

### Outstanding Awards

Decatur, Ill., Corps  
Evansville, Ind., Corps  
Menasha Fox Cities, Wis., Corps

## Proven empowerment

by Michael Smith  
Assistant Territorial Social Services Secretary

The Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work's Center for Research on Self-Sufficiency (CROSS) conducted a comprehensive study on Pathway of Hope (POH). They analyzed scores which POH case managers collect for families on key measures: earned income, hope, self-sufficiency (as measured on 15 items such as employment) and the number of goals set and achieved. CROSS also conducted interviews with staff and families. Here's what they found out:

- Families who successfully graduated from POH posted statistically higher levels of income, hope and self-sufficiency; they set and completed more goals.
- Hope and self-sufficiency scores increased together. As hope goes up, so does a family's ability to be more stable and functional.
- Families who completed pastoral

care assessments posted higher scores of hope and self-sufficiency and completed more goals. This finding points out the crucial connection between hope, spirituality and self-sufficiency.

- Families who developed community supports, such as the corps, were more stable in the long run.
- A relationship of trust and accountability between the POH case manager and family motivated families to work hard on goals and successfully complete POH.

What does all this mean? **POH works.** It empowers families to exit poverty. Research indicates without guidance from initiatives like POH most of them would remain locked in life-long poverty. Moreover, the findings underscored the necessity of families developing spiritual and community supports to maintain stability and break intergenerational poverty.

Copies of the study summary are available upon request by emailing the territorial social services department at [USCSocialServiceMail@USC.salvationarmy.org](mailto:USCSocialServiceMail@USC.salvationarmy.org)

## Old land, new fervor

This spring 42 Centralites made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and some as well to Rome. Here insights of the Biblical Education Tour (BET) by Captain Karl Blessing show how God's Word comes alive and renews urgency to share the Good News.

The tour was a phenomenal experience but my greatest takeaway was a strengthened fervor for evangelism. A renewed encouragement to tell those who do not know Christ that Jesus wants to spiritually heal them.

In Jerusalem Jesus instructed His followers to take His message of repentance to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem (Luke 24:47).

This verse came to mind as I stood in Jerusalem and marveled at Jesus' concern for people in all nations to know their sins can be forgiven through Him. In the busyness of life I have to confess that Christ's com-

mand for me to help non-believers hear His "message of repentance" can sometimes become obscured.

After our stay in Israel, half of our group traveled on to Rome. Luke's writings kept coming to mind during our brief stay in Italy. For instance, in Acts 1:8 Jesus charges the disciples to tell people about Him everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. This passage encouraged me to "keep on keeping on," regarding telling others

about God's wonderful Son.

Acts culminates with the Apostle Paul in the city of Rome, the capital and heart of a vast empire. Rome was the most significant city in the first century world, the New York City of its day. God gave Paul a forum in that impactful city to proclaim the Kingdom of God with boldness and teach about Jesus (Acts 28:31).

For two years Paul was able to tell others about Jesus in a generally unhindered fashion. I wonder how

many persons became followers of Christ due to Paul's diligent and faithful teaching in Rome.

On the BET I was able to physically see Jerusalem, the city where Jesus commanded His followers to begin spreading the news to others that their sins can be forgiven. I also saw Rome where the book of Acts culminates. By the time of Acts 28 the gospel had been preached in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and even in Rome. That was quite an accomplishment for Christ's followers, but they achieved it through God's help. And, through His help I have greater determination and commitment to do likewise.



Photos by Major Donna Leedom

## March forth with the Good News!

Soldiers and officers in the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division were charged to get out of their corps and into their communities to minister to people on March 4, 2018. As part of the division's STEPs (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) goals, "March Forth on March 4th" inspired nearly 400 corps participants to connect with people, meet needs and share their faith. With all corps participating, they made more than 1,400 contacts, prayed with 25 individuals and led 40 people to the Lord!

Led by Lts. Alex and Carolina Yanez, **Milwaukee Cold Spring, Wis., Corps** members visited the fire and police stations and a health-care center and held an open house at the corps which yielded 95 contacts and prayer with 16.



As part of the Milwaukee Cold Spring, Wis., Corps' outreach, Micaela Mendez visits members of the community.

At the **Green Bay, Wis., Ray and Joan Kroc Center**, led by Majors Robert and Lisa Mueller,

Salvationists walked to the poorest neighborhood in the city to invite people to worship and give free day passes to the center.

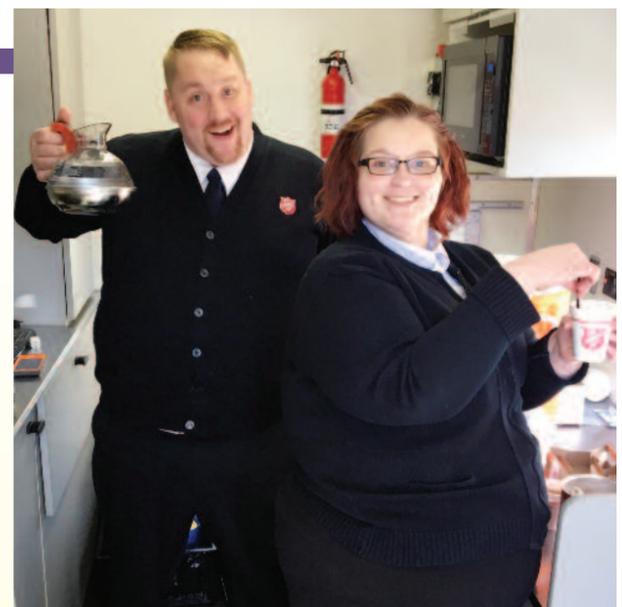
In **Marquette, Mich.**, corps members and A/Captains Doug and Kim Winters visited with feeding program participants to let them know about Sunday services and Bible study and gathered prayer requests.

At the **Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps**, led by Majors Cornell and Candace Voeller, small groups performed acts of kindness like handing out cookies and corps information to neighbors, washing car windshields, giving away detergent at the laundromat and visiting with emergency lodge residents.

Led by Lt. Patricia Williams, the **Milwaukee Citadel, Wis., Corps** marched through its neighborhood in a parade of witness during Sunday school with teachers and students waving small Salvation Army flags, singing and stopping in front of schools, homes and businesses to pray.

At the **Wausau, Wis., Corps**, Lts. Donna and Vathana Thammavongsa led 74 members and staff in reaching out to their community. They invited social service clients and went door-to-door to 20 homes and invited their neighbors to worship and a meal at the corps.

Led by Majors Bob and Ruth Fay,



Captains Jacob and Melinda Tripp in Madison, Wis.

the **Janesville, Wis., Corps** hosted a meal and movie night where families could make their own pizzas, enjoy the movie "Wonder" and listen to a devotional. Soldiers and staff distributed 200 invitations to neighbors, social service clients and noon lunch participants.

At the **Madison Temple, Wis., Corps** teens and leaders reached out to the homeless. Led by assistant corps officers Captains Jacob and Melinda Tripp, the young people served more than 100 cups of hot chocolate and distributed *War Crys* and corps flyers. The outreach was held in collaboration with the Catholic Charities day shelter, The Beacon, located across the street from the Salvation Army's shelter. Captain Melinda Tripp concluded, "The day was quite chilly and a cup of hot chocolate was perfect for our new friends we met outside in our community. I think the best part for me was seeing our teens serve out of a deep love and concern for others."



The Milwaukee Citadel, Wis., Corps marched through its neighborhood.

# Love knows no borders

by Captain Peter Mount

The Eastern Michigan Divisional Mission Team left Detroit on a snowy February afternoon with great anticipation of what the Lord would do in our lives and in the lives of the people we would minister to—and with—in Nairobi, Kenya.

After two long flights and a lengthy layover, we arrived at the Jomo Kenyatta Nairobi International Airport and were greeted by a host of smiling Kenyan Salvationists. Immediately, we felt at home, part of the extended family of the Kenya East Territory.

We met many people, built many relationships and served the Lord to the best of our abilities. We were privileged to see many of the territory's ministries including the Kabete Children's Home, Joytown (school for the disabled) and a school for the visually impaired. We participated in meetings at the Mathare Corps and Quarry Road Corps on Sunday from the 9 o'clock morning open-air to the final amen at 1:30 in the afternoon.



Our division is proud to financially support the building of a new officer's quarters for the Mathare Corps, and it was a highlight to participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for this project which was led by Commissioner William A. Roberts, who was part of our team, and Commissioner Henry Nyagah, Kenya East territorial commander. It was a beautiful experience to witness the gratitude of this corps which serves a very depressed neighborhood.

Most of our time was spent in the Kibera Slums. It is the largest slum in Africa with over 2.5 million people living in confined and challenging conditions. With the corps soldiers, we visited people in their homes and ate meals with them.

Lt. Richard Bradbury, Kenya East territorial project offi-



cer, asked that we refurbish classrooms in a nursery school. It was a privilege to serve the teachers and officers of this school who obviously love the children and have given so much to the school and the neighborhood for years. Our team worked hard to improve the conditions. Even with the customary tea break each morning, a great lunch, playtime with the children and fellowship with corps members and others who were hired from the community, we were able to refurbish and paint all three classrooms, paint all of the playground equipment and assemble two complete playgrounds!

Our Kenyan experience included seeing beautiful scenery and amazing animals; the culture is vibrant and unique. But most of all, the people of Kenya had the greatest impact on our team. Their resourcefulness was inspiring, and their love for the Lord and each other was



encouraging. They are industrious and don't waste any resource, whether water or scrap wood. The joy of the Lord is evident in the Salvationists of Kenya, and as a team we were blessed beyond measure.

Indeed, our two weeks of service and relationship-building were Spirit-led and blessing filled. We continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Kenya and that God will continue to use all of us, in every country, to serve Him.

Photos by Mark Riches



## Summer Mission Teams announced

Twenty-eight Centralite teens and young adults representing eight divisions will be joined by Salvationists from other territories for an exciting summer of min-

istry both in the Central and overseas. Pray for these young people as they boldly proclaim the gospel, grow in their own faith and effectively serve others in Christ's name.

### CAST (Creative Arts Service Team)

- Sandy Cabrera\* Kansas/Western Missouri
- Nikki Bowyer Metropolitan
- Erin McDonald Western Michigan/Northern Indiana

Team members from the Southern Territory

### Central Territory

- Madison Ledbetter\* Eastern Michigan
- Austin Jansen Midland
- Jonathan Lopez-Morales Metropolitan
- Sean Voeller Wisconsin/Upper Michigan
- Yeong-Haw Wang Metropolitan
- Daniel Pedersen Denmark
- Mark Kaddu Rasmussen Denmark

### Costa Rica

- Andrew Mahone\* Midland
- Kimberly DeSantiago Metropolitan
- Abigail Hall Western
- Jose Lopez-Morales Metropolitan
- Lauren Smith Northern
- Kelsey Strand Metropolitan
- Rebecca Valladares Metropolitan

### Japan

- Justin Johnson\* Metropolitan
- Lyndsey Kumpula Eastern Michigan
- Stephen Richardson Midland
- Mai Khou Vang Northern
- Kaleigh Wise Western Michigan/Northern Indiana

### Spain/Portugal

- Shannon Cabrera\* Kansas/Western Missouri
- Caitlin Balliet Wisconsin/Upper Michigan
- Corrina DeLacy Metropolitan
- Allison Jordan Metropolitan
- Ian Kumpula Eastern Michigan
- Jacob Luhn Wisconsin/Upper Michigan
- Samuel Park Metropolitan
- Edward Rosales Western

\* = Team Leader



## Medical Missions Team Opportunity

This fall the Central Territory has an exciting opportunity for people who work in the medical field! A medical missions team will travel to Moldova to partner with doctors and nurses in that country as part of **The Salvation Army Mobile Medical Unit**.

Every month a team of professionals in medicine go out to villages and meet with adults and children who do not have the means to obtain medical care on their own. This caring group of doctors and nurses spends all day as volunteers caring for as many people as possible. They are led by Dr. Caraman, an internist who has spent many years with his wife in this ministry.

Our Central Territory team will have the opportunity to go to a number of villages each day with this team which will allow more people to be served and the love of Christ to be shared.



The specific medical personnel who are needed include:

- Registered nurses
- Physical therapists
- Pediatricians
- Optometrists
- Cardiologists
- Neurologists
- Endocrinologists
- Otolaryngologists

The trip will be one week, with exact dates to be announced, but which will fall between October 19 and November 4. All-inclusive cost for each medical volunteer is \$1,000.

To apply, visit [centralmissions.org/global-mission-teams/](http://centralmissions.org/global-mission-teams/)

## Renewed spirits

A recent gathering of the territorial youth band and youth chorus marked the largest participation of youth under age 25 since the endeavor began five years ago with 59 bandmen and 36 vocalists representing all 10 divisions. Held at territorial headquarters, the weekend event reinforced the purpose of the initiative to improve the musical skills and leadership qualities of youth so they can take that knowledge back to their corps to help build God's Kingdom.

"We were privileged to have Canadian Staff Bandmaster John Lam and Deputy Canadian Staff Songster Leader Cathie Koehnen as our guest conductors. They provided leadership, both musically and spiritually, presented devotions and connected with students," said Beth Malovance, territorial music education specialist. She added this is the first year the groups haven't needed Chicago Staff Band members to fill out the ranks.

Friday evening everyone got straight to work on their respective rehearsals, Beth continued. Cathie Koehnen led a united session with icebreakers that set the tone of fellowship for the weekend. The next

day's sectional and full-ensemble rehearsals were punctuated with a heartfelt devotional from John Lam about mentors who'd influenced



his life. On Saturday evening both youth ensembles, along with the Chicago Staff Band and the Bill Booth Theatre Company, presented a "Night of Praise" concert at the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps.

Captain Mary Kim, territorial youth secretary, said, "I was especially blessed by the thought that these young people are singing and playing for God's glory, giving back to Him an offering of praise with the very gifts and talents He gave them. I know God was pleased, and we were blessed as well."

A Sunday-morning worship service



used sealed orders centered on Psalm 23:6 (NIV) to wrap up the weekend: "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Beth concluded, "Although the focus was on honing the musical skills of our future leaders, we hope our young musicians went home with a renewed spirit."

## Shining for Christ

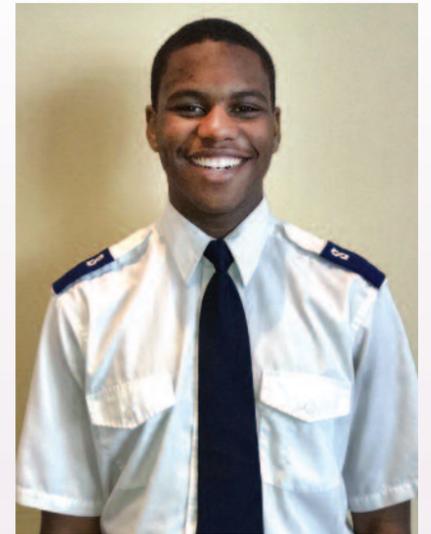
Greg Culp, a 17-year-old high school junior and soldier at the Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps, loves to wear his uniform. For him, it's a testimony—a witness of God's grace in his life.

Greg wasn't raised in a Christian home and struggled to find his way as a young boy. Although he attended some corps programs, he didn't pay much attention to the spiritual side of things. He got into fights and was suspended from school, and he was disobedient and disrespectful to his parents—even getting into physical altercations with his mom.

"One night after a fight with my mom, I sat on my bed and cried," he said. "I just kept thinking about what it would be like to not be here anymore." That night, Greg opened his Bible and read about children honoring their parents. He knew he needed to change, but he wasn't sure how, and things didn't seem likely to get better.

The next summer 12-year-old Greg went to Little Pine Island Camp. There, during an evening devotion led by Major Dan Sawka, he felt the Holy Spirit's urging. He went forward, knelt at the altar and accepted Christ.

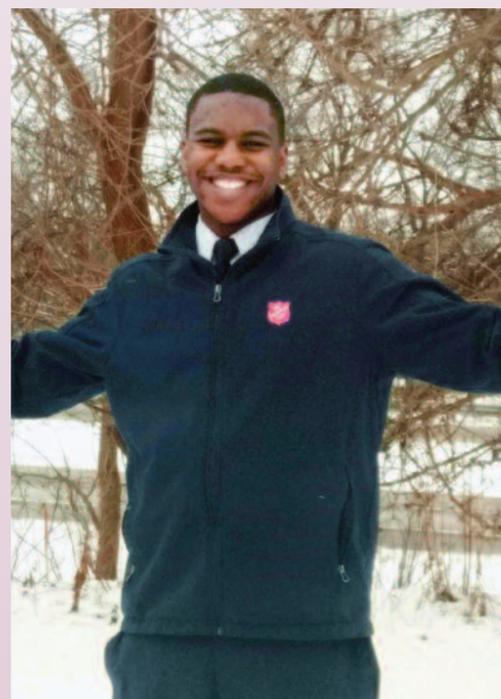
For the past four years, things have



been different for Greg. He stopped getting into trouble at school and fighting with his mom. He started getting more involved at the corps, not only attending programs but also Sunday worship. Slowly, he took on leadership roles and recently felt his calling to become an officer. Last year he attended Central Bible Leadership Institute and was honored to receive the Lt. Colonel Dallas P. Leader Award (top camper) along with a scholarship to attend again this year.

Greg spends as much time as he can at the corps when he isn't at school, studying or at his part-time job. He's involved weekly in corps cadets and Bible study. He volunteers in the community center and on youth nights with character-building groups, helps with sound and visual presentations on Sundays, and sings with the songsters and praise team. Seasonally, he can be found assisting with the Christmas toy shop or helping chaperone field trips with the summer day camp.

"My favorite scripture is Matthew 5:14, 'You are the light of the world,'" Greg concluded. "Wherever I am—at school, in church, in the community—even when I'm hanging with my friends, I need to be a leader because I have Christ in me."



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# Childlike faith

"Jesus wants to talk with us. He desires to communicate with us," said Prezza Duncan, a fourth-generation Central Salvationist whose life mission is to encourage others in their faith through prayer.

For the past two years, she has dedicated herself to introducing others to intentional prayer to deepen their relationships with the Lord, whether they are meeting Him for the first time or have known Him for years.

As a student at the War College in Vancouver, Canada, Prezza learned how to listen during prayer rather than only speaking. "Although I prayed the way most people do, asking God to help me with things, I thought I couldn't hear from God, and I had a hard time hearing what He was saying to me," she said.



whether she was really called to work in England. When the impossible happened—permission to return to Europe with no fine or appeal necessary—she was shocked.

"I finally understood," she said. "This is what childlike faith is: believing that if God calls us to something, He will make a way. If He says He's going to do it, He will."

In England, Prezza worked with a team to rebuild the Army's relationship with the community surrounding the corps. They engaged in street outreach and door-to-door ministry until they became a familiar presence. Opportunities arose to pray with many people along the way. "It was encouraging to see God working in the community," she said.

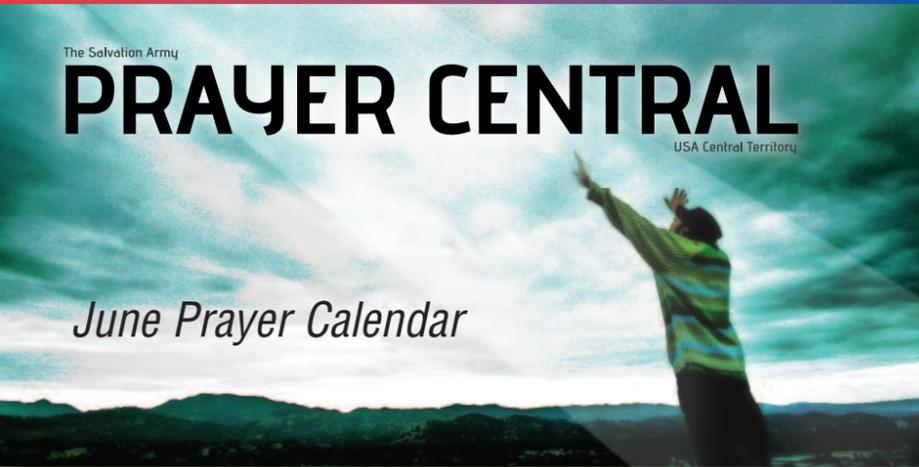
Next, Prezza will again be in Vancouver where she plans to spend two years training in leadership, church planting and urban monasticism with the 24/7 Prayer Movement which will be hosted by The Salvation Army's 614 Corps.



She became passionate about prayer as she experienced God in new ways in the prayer rooms she visited. She discovered she wanted others to experience God in those powerful ways as well.

The following year she lived in Italy and Sweden, where she set up prayer rooms and engaged in prayer ministry. Next she was asked to work as part of a support team for the replanting of a corps in Buckingham, England.

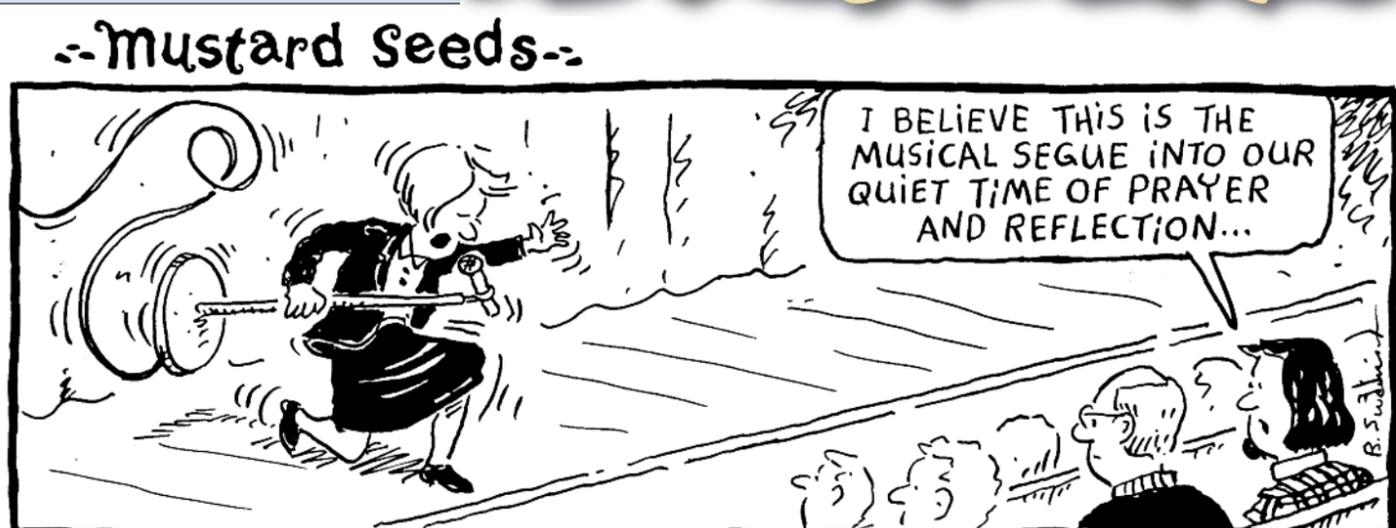
Everything was set when a problem with her visa arose with the Swiss government after she traveled via Switzerland to return to Canada for a conference, threatening to not only derail this opportunity but prevent her reentry into Europe for three years! Devastated, Prezza waited, wondering what God was doing and



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Friday	Jeremiah 47-52	Adrian, Mich., Corps
	2 Saturday	Luke 7-8	Chicago Central, Ill., ARC*
	3 Sunday	Galatians 1-3	Community Care Ministries
	4 Monday	Exodus 37-40	Bloomington, Ill., Corps
	5 Tuesday	1 Kings 5-9	Lt. Colonels Philip & Sheila Davison (Portugal)
	6 Wednesday	Psalms 66-68	Anderson, Ind., Corps
	7 Thursday	Proverbs 2-3	Aurora, Ill., Corps
	8 Friday	Lamentations	Commissioning Weekend
	9 Saturday	Luke 9-10	Summer Mission Teams
	10 Sunday	Galatians 4-6	Commissioning of "Messengers of the Gospel" session
	11 Monday	Leviticus 1-3	Alton, Ill., Corps
	12 Tuesday	1 Kings 10-13	Aberdeen, S.D., Corps
	13 Wednesday	Psalms 69-71	Albert Lea, Minn., Corps
	14 Thursday	Proverbs 4	Alma, Mich., Corps
	15 Friday	Ezekiel 1-6	Beloit, Wis., Corps
	16 Saturday	Luke 11-12	Eastern Michigan DHQ**
	17 Sunday	Ephesians 1-3	Men who are Godly role models
	18 Monday	Leviticus 4-6	Brengle Holiness Institute
	19 Tuesday	1 Kings 14-18	Alpena, Mich., Corps
	20 Wednesday	Psalms 72-74	Burlington, Iowa, Corps
	21 Thursday	Proverbs 5-6	Dodge City, Kan., Corps
	22 Friday	Ezekiel 7-12	Belvidere, Ill., Corps
	23 Saturday	Luke 13-14	Arnold, Mo., Corps
	24 Sunday	Ephesians 4-6	Austin, Minn., Corps
	25 Monday	Leviticus 7-9	Kenya East Territory™
	26 Tuesday	1 Kings 19-22	Beatrice, Neb., Corps
	27 Wednesday	Psalms 75-77	Battle Creek, Mich., Corps
	28 Thursday	Proverbs 7	Chicago North Side, Ill., ARC*
	29 Friday	Ezekiel 13-18	Ann Arbor, Mich., Corps
	30 Saturday	Luke 15-16	Canton, Ill., Corps

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

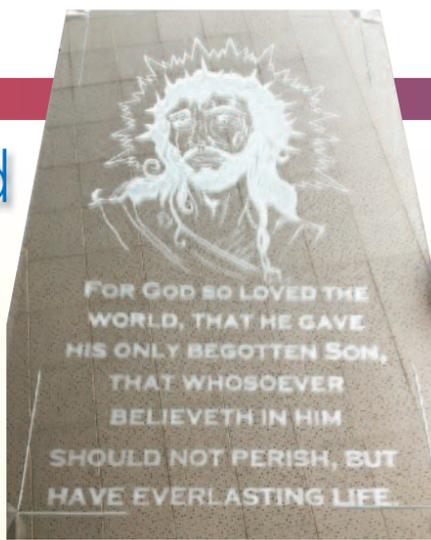
Go to [www.salarmycentral.org](http://www.salarmycentral.org)  
 If you follow the prayer calendar during the year, you will have read through the Bible!



## Reflecting God

Mirrors have amazing features; reflected light can illuminate a dark room, while looking into one shows not only your face but your surroundings. Etch an image on the mirror's surface and you can immerse yourself into a world of unexpected beauty or spiritual significance.

Daniel Rhiner, a beneficiary at the Des Moines, Iowa, Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC), captures those worlds with his wonderfully detailed mirror etchings. One features a Salvation Army crest, another Da Vinci's "Last Supper," while another depicts Christ's thorn-crowned face with the words of John 3:16 etched below. Other artworks follow a lighter vein, such as etchings of superheroes.



Residing at the ARC since his release from prison a few years ago, Daniel recalled being close to God as a child until his older sister's death. He couldn't understand and became very angry. By the time he was a teenager, Daniel's family could no longer handle his destructive behaviors and threw him out, which only increased his anger. He ran with a bad crowd, used drugs and spent time in and out of prison over the next four decades. It was during those periods of incarceration that Daniel, now in his 50s, discovered his talent for etching.

Twenty years ago, Daniel was nearly killed in a head-on collision and was left with many permanent physical disabilities. The hospital nurses began calling him "The Blessed One" because he should've died in the wreckage. For the first time in his life, Daniel wondered if God had a purpose for his life. However, old habits returned until he entered the ARC in 2014 and found a new life in Christ.



Majors Timothy and Barbara Miller highly support Daniel Rhiner's artistic endeavors.

"Art has allowed me to feel things again. What I did best for most of my life was running away from and hiding my feelings," said Daniel who has since reconnected with his daughter and ex-wife. "The etchings I've done for the center is to thank them for all they've done for me. As long as it doesn't interfere with my

work therapy, Majors Timothy and Barbara Miller [Des Moines ARC administrators] have been very encouraging to me."

Daniel sells some of his artwork to pay for his supplies. "I feel closer to God when I etch," he added. "I pray while I'm doing it and ask Him to guide my hand."

## Excellence doubled!



Dovonte and Dominique Armstrong are the oldest among three sets of twins at the St. Louis Maplewood, Mo., Corps and are excellent examples for the others. They joined explorers in September 2014 and have earned several impressive awards, including the God and Family PRAY award, the Red Shield Award and most recently the Divisional Commander's Award. The brothers continue to work hard together side-by-side and are well on their way to getting the Territorial Commander's Award. These young boys are impressive in their dedication, having already earned 36 badges and two star levels and having completed four service projects—and they've been doing it all together! Some might say working side-by-side as siblings should get an award.

## Promoted to Glory

### Major Mary Lou Hellstrom

Major Mary Lou Hellstrom, 81, was promoted to Glory on February 14, 2018. She was born on November 23, 1936, the daughter of Leon and Grace Drake.



After graduating from high school she entered the College for Officer Training from the Battle Creek, Mich., Corps and was commissioned with the "Courageous" session in 1958. As a single officer, Mary Lou served in corps in Charlotte, Mich., and Indianapolis, Ind., before marrying Leif Hellstrom on December 30, 1960. The Hellstroms then entered training together and were commissioned with the "Servants of Christ" session in 1963. They served in corps appointments until 1977, when they stepped out of officership but remained soldiers.

After Leif was promoted to Glory in 1994, Mary Lou returned to officership and served in appointments at Western Divisional Headquarters. She retired in 2002.

Mary Lou was a voracious reader who enjoyed puzzle books and table games. She treasured her family and leaves a legacy of integrity, hard work, strength and love, all testaments to her walk with the Lord.

Surviving are two daughters, Britt-Marie (Jack) Curtis and Major Valerie (Mark) Nance; two sons, Major Alan (Kim) and Major Randy (Kathy); nine grandchildren; two step grandchil-

dren and a great grandson. She was preceded in death by her siblings.

### Major Norma Pettys

Major Norma Pettys, 93, was promoted to Glory on February 11, 2018. She was born on November 17, 1924, in Peoria, Ill., to George and Vera Davison.



She married her high school sweetheart, Howard, in 1942 and they started a family. Norma accepted Christ after attending a neighborhood Sunday school with their daughter. When the family relocated to Springfield, Ill., they began attending The Salvation Army. Norma and Howard became soldiers and in 1959 felt called to fulltime service.

After several corps appointments as "supply" officers, in 1961 they became a/captains and continued to serve in corps in Illinois. A few years in divisional appointments followed in the Central Illinois and Eastern Iowa Division (now Heartland). In 1975 they moved into adult rehabilitation center (ARC) ministry. The Pettys retired in 1988 from their final appointments at Central Territorial Headquarters.

Norma concentrated her efforts as a corps officer on proactive leadership in women's ministries, excellence in teaching Sunday school and helping young people become grounded in their faith through corps cadets. As an ARC officer she engaged the men in Bible study and worked alongside them, offering a

listening ear and encouragement.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, a sister and a brother. She is survived by her daughter, Judy Kay, two sons, Richard (Kathy) and Ronald (Dawn), and six grandchildren.

### Major Patricia Robbins

Major Patricia Robbins, 80, was promoted to Glory on February 11, 2018. She was born on June 27, 1937, to Arthur and Rose Smith in Detroit, Mich.



Raised by a Salvationist father and a Catholic mother, Pat attended both churches as a child before committing to the Army. She accepted Christ at age 15 and felt called to officership soon thereafter. She entered the College for Officer Training (CFOT) in 1956 and was commissioned in 1957 with the "Faithful" session. As a single

officer she served in corps appointments in Michigan before being appointed to the CFOT as a brigade officer in 1962.

At the CFOT, Pat met then-cadet James Robbins. They married in 1964 and served in corps appointments throughout Michigan, Minnesota and Missouri. After a break in service, the Robbins reentered officership in the Southern Territory and served in three appointments before retiring in 2001. Though officially retired, they accepted many postretirement appointments.

Pat is remembered as fun-loving, kind and encouraging. She possessed a contagious joy that brought laughter to even the toughest times. She was passionate about Bible study, and her relationship with the Lord was evident in the way she indiscriminately loved others.

She is survived by her husband and five children: Captain John (Major Michelle), James (Celeste), Major Joy, Captain Jan (Frankie) Zuniga and Jeffrey (Emily).

**The Central Territory's annual memorial service will be held in The Salvation Army section of Glen Oak Cemetery. Please join us in remembrance as we honor Salvationists who have gone before us.**

**Sunday, May 20— 3:00 p.m.**

**Glen Oak Cemetery  
4301 W. Roosevelt Road  
Hillside, IL 60162**

