



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)



Lt. Blake Fewell and Rep. Kevin Mahan

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Fighting childhood hunger

by Katherine Basaran

This spring the Indiana Division teamed up with local lawmakers for Eliminate 68 to raise awareness about childhood hunger and to serve Hoosier families who suffer from food insecurity.

Eliminate 68 refers to the number of hours during the week a child is not at school and doesn't have access to school-provided meals. A reported one in five Indiana children suffers

from food insecurity. Many of them rely on school lunches as their stable meal each day and don't know where they'll get their next meal during the 68 hours between school lunch on Friday and breakfast on Monday morning, which is often provided at schools as well.

Corps officers from across the state and lawmakers met at the Indiana State House in early March to fill 200 new and gently-used backpacks with 5,000 non-perishable food items, such as boxes of macaroni and cheese, cereal and canned fruit, which were donated during a collection drive held by the Indiana House of Representatives.

Matched with their representatives, the corps officers were able to discuss the unique needs, opportunities and good work being done by The Salvation Army in their area as they filled the backpacks to the brim. It proved a valuable opportunity to make connections and build relationships with their state representatives so that when representatives need to

make decisions regarding hunger, they are aware of The Salvation Army as a partner and resource to fight it.

For instance, Rep. Kevin Mahan, one of four representatives for Grant County, packed some of the 16 backpacks to be distributed at Riverview Elementary School in Marion, Ind.

"I had the opportunity to tell him about several of the programs and services The Salvation Army provides to young people, such as our youth development programs, food pantry and archery program," said Lt. Blake Fewell, Marion, Ind., corps officer. "Representative Mahan shared his appreciation for the work of The Salvation Army in his district and was thrilled to see the backpacks going to help children in need across the state."

After the event corps officers delivered the backpacks to the school system in their area as an emergency resource for children who might be hungry over the weekend. This provided an opportunity for officers to connect with school administrators and let them know that The Salvation

Army is a resource when they have students who are going hungry. They also provided information about Salvation Army food pantries, youth programs and other services such as rent and utility assistance for parents who might be struggling financially.

Throughout the year corps officers will continue to strengthen relationships with both school administrators and state representatives and work with them to fight childhood hunger.



Katy Barnes (middle) from Evansville, Ind., with Rep. Ron Bacon and Rep. Wendy McNamara



Captain Jonathan Fitzgerald and Rep. Steve Davisson stuff backpacks.

Listening for the new direction

Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.—Isaiah 30:21, NKJV

When Salvationists gather together in June for the commissioning weekend, it will be an opportune moment to receive the latest update in the visioning and strategy process which has come out of the various sectors of the territory and was birthed in the hearts of Central territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey.

After leading the Midwest for more than a year, the Baileys assessed that while some amazing things are happening, there is a growing desire and restlessness to increase the territory's mission potential and effectiveness, as in many places the Army is not growing and/or necessarily fulfilling its holistic mission.

As a starting place, the Baileys conferred with the Territorial Executive Council (leaders of each command) about the factors impeding the territory's growth and mission effectiveness and the value of reviving the outcomes from the 2009 Strategic Priorities Conference.

Asked to serve as territorial senior vision and mission advisors, Commissioners Barry and Sue Swanson were tasked to test the validity of that assumption through a survey of the conference delegates and interviews with officers, soldiers and

employees throughout the territory.

Their survey of the 200 conference delegates garnered an astounding 52 percent response, nearly unanimously affirming that the six priority areas identified at the conference should still be the guideposts.

Concurrently, the Swansons traveled to every command (each division, the Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command and the College for Officer Training) for six months to engage in lengthy mission conversations with more than 60 leaders, officers, soldiers and employees to ascertain their current challenges, hopes and needs and to pray with them.

In this process it was discovered that people continue to be passionate, hopeful and yet rightly concerned. Together, we want to believe it is still possible to effectively preach the gospel and meet human needs without discrimination simultaneously, which should naturally result in healthy, growing corps.

After this intensive process of dialogue and surveys, the Swansons analyzed the data and reported their findings to territorial leadership. Boiled down, their findings were akin to the territory's calibration being off. People are working hard and committing resources, but it's not yielding the desired results. However, the components are there and, if

utilized differently, would change the projection of the territory.

"In a sense, it's trying to adjust the energy of the territory—adjusting resources, funding, manpower and time—to achieve a different outcome," said Commissioner Barry.

A Mission Action and Strategy Team was formed, composed of 20 officers and soldiers who represent a range of ages, responsibilities, perspectives and ethnicities. They have been doing a deeper dive, often theologically, into the six priorities and fleshing out strategies that eventually will form recommendations leading to an action plan for the territory.

However, we're to be cautious in how we might interpret this. While this kind of process usually results in a compulsory plan, program or even a procedure for checking off boxes, there is a sensitivity to the fact that it's not about telling people what to do, but getting the thinking and priorities right, which is a much more challenging proposition.

Throughout the process those involved have been challenged and moved by the idea that as a territory we need to think, work and believe in a way that the Holy Spirit would open the door for revival so that we may truly experience and witness the incorporation of "More People, More like Jesus" into the Central Territory family.

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The great outdoors

by Colonel Steve Howard
Chief Secretary

May brings opportunity for us to get out of the house and enjoy nature in all its beauty. For some of you that may be working in the garden now blooming with flowers or beginning to plant vegetables which will bear results throughout the summer. I don't do much gardening now—though I did grow roses in my distant past—but I still love to get outside for a walk or bicycle ride. Fortunately, my wife, Janice, and I are blessed to have a number of forest preserves and a riverside bike path near where we live.

We love to ride on the bike path along the Fox River running through

Elgin, Ill. Some parts of the path go through small downtown areas, while others are surrounded by trees and wildlife. Getting out on the bike path serves several purposes. One is physical exercise. Exercise is good for our bodies, and we reap the benefits of that exercise year-round. But exercise also is good for our minds. When I get out and exercise I am able to clear my mind of the problems I may have been facing earlier in the day. I find I can come back at those problems with greater focus and energy after exercise.

Another benefit of getting outside is that it gives us the opportunity to see the beauty of God's creation. When we cycle down a tree-lined trail, we can't help but think about the fact that God has made all of



this. This is His creation, and it speaks to the existence of God. It bolsters our faith. It helps to keep us on the right track. It affirms we are in His hands.

I encourage you to get outside and see God's handiwork. Acknowledge who He is and what He has done in your life. And while you are out there take the opportunity to interact with someone to share your story and invite them to God's table—there's room!



Striving for excellence

The Eastern Michigan Division is helping children achieve overall excellence through STRIVE (Student Training for Integrity, Vitality and Education), a sports program for children ages 8-16 which includes dodgeball, basketball and floor hockey leagues. STRIVE participants learn the basics of a sport while engaging in social, emotional and spiritual development. Children who otherwise might not have opportuni-

ties to engage in team sports are welcome to play regardless of experience or ability.

"STRIVE is very inclusive," said Captain Shannon Martinez, Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich., corps officer. "Last year we had 14 play floor hockey. Three were girls, and one of the boys has autism, and they all played wonderfully as a team."

While the parameters vary from sport to sport and participating corps change from season to season, the purpose and goal of STRIVE remains the same: to minister to young people and their families.



The Wayne/Westland, Mich., Corps basketball team celebrates a victory.

portation for dodgeball and basketball. Floor hockey is entirely free thanks to a partnership between the Eastern Michigan Division and the Detroit Red Wings hockey team which provides jerseys and equipment for the teams.

sional director of children's ministries. "It's for all ages and ability levels, and it's also inexpensive, so almost any corps can participate."

To ensure accessibility regardless of a family's financial status, fees are nominal and go to offset expenses such as jerseys, trophies and trans-

As the sports and seasons change, STRIVE continues to make a positive difference in the lives of participants and their families.

"We're really seeing the kids develop in their sportsmanship, attitude and faith," concluded Andrew.



"At the beginning of each practice, we have devotionals with life lessons," said Andrew Barylski, community center director at the Wayne/Westland, Mich., Corps. "We open each game in prayer. We want to share the gospel with the kids and their families while also instilling values such as teamwork, leadership and a healthy lifestyle."

Each sport season consists of an intramural coed league made up of teams from corps community centers which compete against one another during weekend games and tournaments. STRIVE is run almost entirely on volunteer power, with parents of participants often serving as coaches while community members referee. Community center directors oversee registration and arrange practices and transportation for games.

"STRIVE is an excellent outreach opportunity for corps," said Carol McDonald, Eastern Michigan divi-

Central Connection 

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The American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS) is an intensive week-long educational program in Jackson, Wyo. It focuses on the North American model of wildlife conservation.

Participants study things like habitat, fire and stream ecology, archery and wilderness survival.

Day trips include whitewater rafting on the Snake River and visits to the National Elk Refuge, Tetons National Park and Pinedale, Wyo.

Dates: The All-Salvationist Session of AWLS will be held August 20-27, 2019.

Cost: \$900, but we are excited and grateful that The Hunter Legacy Fund is offering half-scholarships and partial travel subsidies for up to 35 first-time applicants nationally. Due to the limited number of spaces and scholarships, please reserve your spot as soon as possible.

To Apply: Please contact Jerrie Miller in the Territorial Youth Department or Bruce McAlister at (248)719-9892 for an application or additional information.

A center for community

Thanks to the support of the United Way and the Indianapolis Colts, the Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps, led by Captains Tony and Brianne Bowers, now boasts a \$15,000 fitness area which bolsters program opportunities and provides a place for exercise and recreation for the community.

Located in a loft above the full-size gymnasium, the area which was previously used for storage now is floored with professional grade foam rubber and is equipped with exercise and medicine balls, free weights, flat and incline benches, mirrors, a free-

standing punching bag, and bars for ballet classes. One end is designated for recreational activities and hosts air hockey, shuffleboard and foosball tables and an Xbox.

"It's exciting," said Captain Tony. "It's an opportunity to take our programs from just athletics to a more holistic view of health."

The community center is busy every evening Tuesday through Friday, serving corps program needs as well as conducting outreach through athletics and recreation with a wide spectrum of activities. During the summer months, it's filled with children attending day camp.



Ballet students pose for a photo after a recital.



Ballet and taekwondo classes are conducted weekly at minimal cost through partnerships with a private ballet instructor and local taekwondo studio. The new equipment has increased the level of instruction possible. The mirrors allow students of both arts to see their form and visualize improvement. The bars provide stabilization as ballet pupils strengthen their stances and balance, and the punching bag allows taekwondo participants to hone their punches and kicks for optimal form.

In addition, one evening each week coaches help basketball and soccer participants in grades K-2 and 3-8 build on the fundamentals to develop solid skills. Often, siblings accompany their brothers or sisters to the corps and use the fitness area.

"Our goal is to get the kids in here as often as possible," said Ryan Mathews, director of athletic and community ministries. "We want to build relationships with them."

To connect the corps and community center, sports participants are regularly invited to attend character-building programs on Tuesday evenings, which includes archery, supper, devotions and music lessons

in addition to moonbeams, sunbeams, girl guards and explorers. Court of Award ceremonies and music performances are held on Sundays to encourage families to attend church together and provide an opportunity for leaders and parents to get to know one another better.



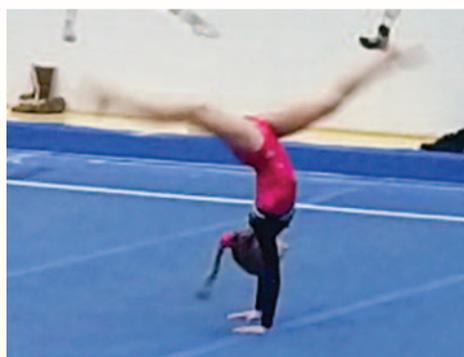
Green Bay Kroc gymnastics sticks the landing

by Whitney Kral and Aric Riedemann

The Green Bay, Wis., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center is celebrating the growth and success of its gymnastics program. Started with just a few offerings and basic equipment, the program expanded class options, including advanced gymnastics, in 2017 but found many gymnasts wanted to have another level for advancement.

Last summer the program was completely overhauled, and a competitive team was started, adding to what was a full slate of recreational gymnastics offerings. After holding tryouts, 14 young women came together as the inaugural Green Bay Kroc Gymnastics Team.

Up against three other gyms in the first-ever Kroc Gymnastics Team Meet in December, all the gymnasts did well in their first competitive outing. In February, the girls traveled to the Wisconsin Dells to compete in

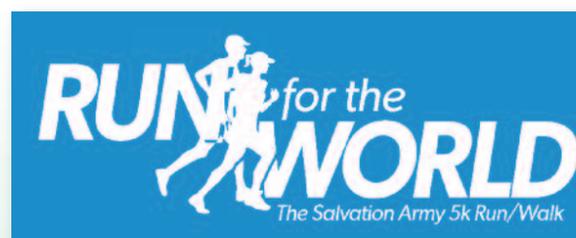


their second meet which was much larger and drew teams not only from Wisconsin but neighboring states. Competing against highly experienced teams from many well-established gyms, the Kroc Center's level two team placed fourth overall, and its level three team placed second overall. Many of the center's gymnasts also placed in their individual events and in the individual all-around. To see the young team do so well against such intense competition was an inspiring testament to their hard work.

Watching the program grow from humble beginnings with a few mats on the floor in the fitness studio to a competitive and successful team has been an awesome experience for Green Bay Kroc Center employees and members alike.



The team is a fantastic example of how mission integration can thrive in a competitive sport. Before each meet, the team huddles with coaches for a moment of prayer. The teammates have consistently demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, encouraging one another and growing together. Seeing the mission of The Salvation Army play out in the context of a competitive sport is an inspiring example of how Joan Kroc's vision can become a reality.



Saturday, June 8, 2019 • 6:30 am Start
Veterans Park • Milwaukee, Wis.

Start your day with fresh air and exercise along the Lake Michigan shoreline while raising funds for World Services/Self-Denial during commissioning weekend. Pre-registration required.

To register or for more information visit <http://salarmycentral.org/commissioning/>

Newly accepted candidates

MESSENGERS OF GRACE

2019-2021
EPHESIANS 2:8,9

Shannon Cabrera

Wichita Citadel, Kan., Corps
Kansas and Western Missouri
Division



Education

Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Spanish from Wichita State University

Career/work

Program Assistant at Wichita Citadel Corps

Salvation experience

I grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ when I was 8 at sun-beam camp.

First Salvation Army encounter

We lived right across the street from the corps. When my mom began volunteering, she quickly discovered that it was a church and they had great kids programs, so we started attending.

Your calling

I first felt called to be an officer when I was 16 during a conversation with an officer friend, then God confirmed it when I was 18 at a women's retreat as I listened to God speak through then-Major Evie Diaz.

Interests and spiritual gifts

Music and learning about other cultures

Spiritual mentors

Majors Ken and Robin Shiels, Major Candy Curl and Captain Marisa McCluer

Memorable ministry experience

Being part of summer mission teams to Mexico, Costa Rica, Spain and Portugal

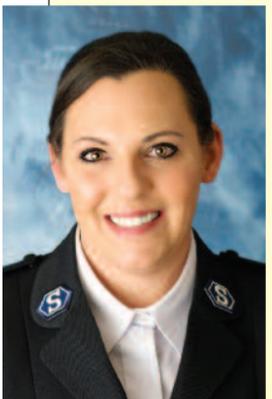
Little known fact about you

I'm the third of six kids. We all sing and play musical instruments. I play the cello!

Shannon's corps officer is Major Candy Curl.

Samantha Ardelean

Owosso, Mich., Corps
Eastern Michigan Division



Career/work

Currently a Ministry Discovery Program intern at the Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps

Salvation experience

I surrendered to Christ in the fall of 2015. I'd been running from shame, guilt

and misery due to spending years addicted to drugs and alcohol and had no hope. I hated who I was, the things I'd done and the pain I'd put my family through. I knew the only way to change was to give my life completely to Jesus. Accepting God's forgiveness, I could forgive myself.

First Salvation Army encounter

At a collaborative community meeting, I met the corps officer, Lt. Jonathan Tamayo—who's now my fiancé!

Your calling

Began in January 2018 and was confirmed that September at the 730 Weekend after spending time in prayer with Captain Chrissy Cooper and Major Tricia Taube

Interests and spiritual gifts

Leadership, giving and discernment

Spiritual mentors

Majors Randy and Kathy Hellstrom, Reverend Marlene Joy Webster, Lt. Jonathan Tamayo, Lt. Christina Tamayo

Memorable ministry experience

Getting a letter of appreciation and love from a child in junior church

Little known fact about you

I'm a crazy cat lady, and I fully own it.

Samantha's corps officers are Majors Randy and Kathy Hellstrom and Lt. Jonathan Tamayo.

Shawn and Audrey Sutter

Topeka Citadel, Kan., Corps
Kansas and Western Missouri
Division



Education

Shawn: Master's degree in Management Information Systems, Bachelor's degree in Science Information Technology and Associate's in Applied Science in Electronic Engineering

Career/work

Both: Interns at the Topeka Citadel Corps

Salvation experience

Audrey: At the Minot, N.D., Corps as a child

Turning point or milestone in your faith journey

Audrey: Seeing my husband accept Christ

Shawn: Shortly after coming to Christ in 2012, I decided to become a soldier.

First Salvation Army encounter

Audrey: Salvationists in Minot, N.D., came to our neighborhood when I was a child and put on a puppet show, then invited us to church and youth groups.

Shawn: When I met my wife, she wanted to go to church.

Memorable ministry experience

Audrey: Working with corps cadets; it puts joy in my heart when they "get it."

Shawn: One day a man came to church just to give an update on his mom but felt he should sit down and listen when he heard me preaching. He's now one of my best friends.

Little known fact about you

Audrey: I am obsessed with the weather channel.

Shawn: I played in the jazz band for President Bill Clinton at a Health Care Roundtable in Topeka and had a saxophone solo during his favorite song.

Shawn and Audrey's corps officers are Majors Brian and Lee Ann Burkett.

Kenesa Debela and Shanell Allen Debela

Cross Generations
Blue Island, Ill., Corps
Metropolitan Division



Education

Kenesa: Bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Information Systems, Master's degree in Theological Studies/Interfaith Relationships

Shanell: Bachelor's degree in Communications and Sociology; Master's degree in Theological Studies with a focus in urban ministry

Career/work

Kenesa: Director of IT, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Shanell: Leadership gift representative, Metropolitan Division

Turning point or milestone in your faith journey

Shanell: As a television news reporter, I found the format of "if it bleeds, it leads" didn't line up with my childhood teachings on service. I wanted to tell stories of faith, hope and love. God led me to The Salvation Army, and I worked as a case manager for Hurricane Katrina survivors, referring them to corps. As I learned more, I became more involved and invited my husband and three kids to serve as well.

Your calling

Kenesa: During a prayer meeting in my parents' living room in Ethiopia before my flight back to the U.S. in 2006 I heard God's call to ministry. However, I was content with a great job that allowed me to serve in the church and on mission trips. As the calling grew louder and

more frequent, I asked God for direction. In 2018 when the Hope Strong initiative was introduced, I heard that same voice from 2006 and learned my wife had been thinking about officership as well.

Spiritual mentors

Kenesa: My father has been my mentor and go-to guy.

Little known fact about you

Shanell: I was a French exchange student in high school.

Kenesa: When I was growing up I wanted to be an airplane pilot.

Kenesa and Shanell's corps officers are Captains Derek and Joanna Rose.

Kaitlin Fullop

Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps
Kansas and Western Missouri
Division

Education

Two years of college

Career/work

Ministry Discovery Program intern

Salvation experience

I accepted Christ in August 2009 at Star Lake Musicamp (Eastern Territory) where Major Carol Ditmer prayed with me.

Turning point or milestone in your faith journey

Transferring to the Central Territory with a million unknowns and fully trusting the Lord

First Salvation Army encounter

When I was 6, my mom and I found ourselves homeless and came to a Salvation Army women's shelter in Elizabeth, N.J.

Your calling

After I accepted the Lord into my life at camp, God gave me the same dream for a year where I had blue epaulets that flashed to red with the crest. It was then I knew God had called me to be a Salvation Army officer.

Interests and spiritual gifts

Serving others, discernment

Spiritual mentors

Colonels Janice and Steve Howard

Memorable ministry experience

Having morning devotions with kettle workers during the Christmas season as well as taking applications and interacting with people seeking Christmas assistance.

Little known fact about you

I was born in Heidelberg, Germany.

Kaitlin's corps officers are Majors Timothy and Beverly Best.



Redesigned SACEP makes the grade

Undergoing the first significant change in 30 years, The Salvation Army Continuing Education Program (SACEP) is better than ever. With a customizable agenda of classes, it allows officers to participate in more focused study to meet their interests and needs. Its restructure also promotes further academic achievement, providing personal validation, enabling better service and leadership, and garnering community respect.

We talked with Major Cherri Hobbins, territorial officer resource development secretary, and Dr. Robert Simpson, dean of the School of Graduate and Continuing Studies at Olivet Nazarene University (ONU), to understand why the time was right for this overhaul, what it took to accomplish, how the redesigned program will work and its key benefits for officers. Here's what we found out.

What precipitated this change?

Hobbins: Coming into this appointment in July 2017 and having completed work on my master's, I realized education and its delivery have changed exponentially in recent years for adult learners. SACEP was clearly better than the program that preceded it, but it hadn't kept pace with the times. It wasn't all it could be.

Simpson: And at the university we'd just undergone an extensive academic review of all courses which brought SACEP into sharp focus. I also was new to my job at that time and felt we could offer far more than a general practical ministries degree.

Hobbins: We came with fresh eyes, were open to change and thinking along the same lines. We wanted to create something that would "sing" for people, something that would fully engage them and encourage them to go further.

It seems like divine timing, all things working together. Is this how you see it?

Simpson: Yes!

Hobbins: Absolutely.

ability to really design your own program. It picks up on the individual "spark"—what you're interested in or what you feel you really need in order to be successful. It goes beyond the surface of subjects. For instance, one of the things I've discovered is a real need of new officers for more business knowledge, and this allows a deeper dive into business practices.

Simpson: You can bundle courses together. For instance, some courses in business, some in human services and some in leadership. They range from Financial Accounting for Managers and Human Resource Management, to Leadership and Ethics. There are 12 courses in all with a concentration in business. And we'll constantly be adding more course options to fit needs and interests.

Another big change is that previously SACEP was taught by qualified officers vetted by ONU, but now the courses are taught by ONU professors, practicing professionals who are leaders in their fields.

This sounds excellent, but how do we keep The Salvation Army distinctive?

Hobbins: Where we felt strongly about Salvation Army distinctives, language has been incorporated to build bridges.

Simpson: Every course at Olivet has a strong Christian, "Kingdom" perspective, and all faculty members have to be attuned with that evangelical perspective. So, we're very much in sync with the Army. And everything learned is contextualized to an Army setting. Students are not only learning theories but how they apply to their organization.

Hobbins: The SACEP distinctive of officers in their first five years connecting with their sessionmates face-to-face will remain, only as a short retreat—just three days in May—and will focus on personal and professional development, not academics. There will still be a learning component, but it's about spiritual formation.

Could you elaborate?

Hobbins: Sure, it will most likely include united worship, structured opportunities for spiritual formation, breakout meetings by their length of service led by a pastoral care officer, unstructured time for fellowship and corporate instruction on a topic related to officers.

There will be an emphasis on officers sharing their experiences; reacquainting with sessionmates who can "speak into" your experience from their own.

The retreat will take the place of the fifth course traditionally audited by officers, so attendance is required by all officers during their first five years. At these retreats, interviews of first- and fifth-year officers will also be conducted by the Secretary for Personnel.

How will this online learning work and what are some of the advantages?

Hobbins: One of the best things is the flexibility to fit learning into your schedule. Online learning is easier for officers with demanding, busy schedules. Now you can study year-round, at your own pace, without having to leave your appointment



twice a year for a week at a time. It's especially convenient for officers with small children.

Also, you can start and finish a degree anywhere in the world, no matter where you get appointed, and you can do coursework during other commitments if you have free time, like an evening at camp or officers' councils.

Simpson: Courses have start times throughout the year from which to choose. It's asynchronous learning, meaning that professors set curriculum, give assignments to be completed within a specified time-frame and guide students with questions on discussion boards. This requires

students to engage; you can't be passive.

There are three elements that make this type of learning so successful. First, the professor is present; they must touch base with students five days a week through this medium. And students must be present—online in these discussion boards—at least two days a week. Third is the intentional cognitive learning. It's proven that the learning that happens this way is deep and rich!

Hobbins: Another point is that officers won't be interacting only with each other in the learning process.

Simpson: Right, they will be entering the ONU classroom and be exposed to a cross-pollination of ideas. They'll be hearing and learning what's working for others.

Hobbins: That's really valuable.

Is there any preparation needed for the online learning?

Simpson: To make sure they get the most out of this experience, each officer must take a short introduction to online learning.

Hobbins: We think most will be comfortable with learning this way because of how we use technology in our everyday lives now. It's not a big stretch.

Does the new program set officers up better to go on and achieve more degrees?

Hobbins: With the old practical ministries degree, we found that officers finished the mandated coursework, but it didn't always meet their specific needs or spur them on to going further in their education. We think the new program will.

They're still required to finish four courses in five years but, given the new online approach, it can be accomplished in as little as two years! With all the SACEP courses fitting into specific degrees, when they finish the required courses, they are not very far away from obtaining a degree.

Simpson: They can go on and obtain a bachelor's degree in business administration, human services, practical ministries, or multi-disciplinary studies; or a master's in business administration, ministry, organizational leadership for mission-driven organizations, human services or various ministry degrees. Students not ready to complete a degree can complete a certificate program in the areas of leadership, nonprofit management, coaching, intercultural studies and others, each for academic credit.

Each officer has an advisory team which will walk through a personal learning plan of how they can accomplish this. We're very much about student success. We're about providing opportunities.

Hobbins: Yes, we're not forcing anything, but rather creating opportunities, enabling officers to see what they can achieve and that it's all very attainable.

For more information, visit salarmycentral.org and click on officer resource and development department.



Robert Simpson talks with Lt. Derek and Heather Jung during the Urban Ministries Practicum in St. Louis, Mo., this spring.

This has been in the works for a year and a half. What was the process?

Hobbins: Well, first we worked together on what this new program should look like in order to be successful. Then we fleshed out the details over time and created a proposal that was reviewed, refined and approved by the territorial education committee.

Simpson: And at the university the plan was vetted at every level.

Hobbins: Then it was presented to territorial leadership.

Simpson: Their support has been significant. They've understood the needs of officers today and how this is relevant. To me, they're recognizing it is stewardship in helping officers succeed. They're looking at how to invest in officers so they can engage in their communities better.

So how is the new SACEP different?

Hobbins: The new program offers variety and the

Twenty New Corps: where are they now?

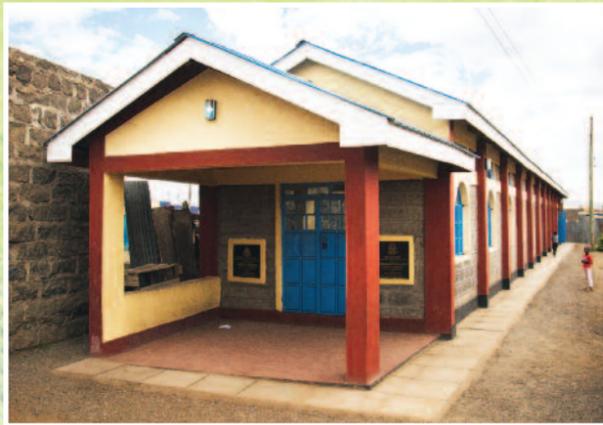
by Chris Shay

The Central Territory was given a challenge in 2017 by Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, then territorial commander, to build Twenty New Corps (20NC) worldwide. The purpose was twofold: to partner with The Salvation Army around the globe to bring appropriate buildings, new or renovated, in order to better enable the Army's mission, and to encourage Central Territory Salvationists to give generously to World Services/Self Denial.

Each division was partnered with one or more of the 20NC locations. They learned about the country, and specifically the corps, with which they were partnered. More than \$200,000 was raised by soldiers and officers over the usual amount raised internally, which was a great blessing! It has made a tremendous difference in ministry as in the three locations featured here.



Kemondo-Tanzania



Rhonda-Kenya



Rhonda-Kenya

Kemondo Corps, Tanzania

On the northwest shore of Lake Victoria in Tanzania, Kemondo Corps members worshipped the Lord each week by coming together under a tent-like structure covered by a large blue tarp. Though the warm temperature was multiplied by the sun hitting the tarp, this did not deter the soldiers from gathering to praise God. When the Kemondo Corps learned they would be partnered with the USA Central Territory, specifically the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division (WMNI), they were thrilled!

Since the officers' quarters was so substandard, a house was built first. Major Carole Caddy, WMNI divisional women's ministries secretary, dedicated the home in 2016 when she traveled to Tanzania as part of a global mission team.

Then, work commenced on the corps building. Today soldiers of the Kemondo Corps worship in a cool and sturdy building. Because the property is a good size, the corps has planted a big garden that includes bananas, coffee and jack fruit, the sale of which provides income.

Esparza, Costa Rica

The Latin America North Territory saw Esparza, Costa Rica, as a good location for a 20NC project. The corps is situated in a neighborhood that has many children and teens but also bad reputation for crime. The Esparza Corps has been very intentional in having open-air meetings in the parks, combined with offers of cookies, coffee and prayer. This has proven a great way for soldiers to start conversations with people in their community, and the newly finished building is a wonderful place for the community to come for worship and care.

Ronda Corps, Kenya

In the Kenya East Territory, the Ronda Corps is completed and stands as a beacon of hope in the community.

Once small and rundown, the building has been replaced with a sturdy and beautiful facility that easily accommodates the several hundred soldiers who gather there on Sundays and throughout the week.

Because the building is the nicest one in the area, community leaders are very supportive of the ministry of The Salvation Army. Many new people have been drawn to the corps, first to see the building and then to hear the message of the gospel.

Learn more about 20NC progress as part of the World Services/Self-Denial Ingathering during the Friday night meeting of commissioning weekend!



Kemondo-Tanzania



Esparza, Costa Rica



Esparza, Costa Rica

Summer Mission Teams announced

This summer nearly 30 Central Territory teens and young adults representing all 10 divisions, along with five international team members, have committed to ministry throughout the Midwest and overseas. Join us in praying for these young people as they proclaim the gospel, develop in their relationships with Christ and serve others in His name.



CAST (Creative Arts Service Team)

Heidi Hurula* Metropolitan
Emily Cattani Wisconsin/Upper Michigan
Pierce Cruz Metropolitan
Naomi Jobson Eastern Michigan
Erin McDonald Western Michigan/
Northern Indiana

Two members from
South America East Territory

Spain/Portugal

Sandy Cabrera* Kansas/Western Missouri
David Paredes Metropolitan
Jessica Haslett Western
Eddie Kang Metropolitan
Jonathan Lopez-Morales Metropolitan
Bailey Sawka Indiana
Lexie Sutter Kansas/Western Missouri

South Africa

Greg Hurula* Metropolitan
Trevor Hall Midland
Allison Jordan Metropolitan
Jessica Ray Heartland
Noah Roberts Eastern Michigan
Robin Talbot Northern
Yeong-Haw Wang Metropolitan

Denmark

Samuel Park* Metropolitan
Lyndsey Kumpula Eastern Michigan
Jacob Luhn Wisconsin/
Upper Michigan
Chaslyn Shiels Metropolitan
Lauren Smith Northern
Sean Voeller Eastern Michigan

Central Territory

Shannon Cabrera* Kansas/
Western Missouri
Lucas Gantner Western
Carlos Merlos Metropolitan
Keziah Selma Philippines Territory
Eri Yamaguchi Japan Territory
Aika Yamaya Japan Territory

* Team Leader

A place of hope

by Lt. Colonel Philip Maxwell

South Africa is a country of incredible extremes from tropical rainforests to arid deserts, world-challenging technology to endemic illiteracy, global prosperity to generational poverty. Cradled within this diverse environment, The Salvation Army has maintained its strong missional mandate to serve the lost, the least and the lonely.

Sitting in the shadows of a bustling and modern Johannesburg is the Ethembeni Children's Home. Anyone who enters it can't help but be moved. Shrouded behind the happy faces of the children and loving care of the staff is the harsh reality of life. The foyer enshrines an embroidery that sensitively captures the numerous names of orphaned children whose lives were prematurely extinguished.

At any time, the center can become home for up to 65 children from just a few days to four years old. As the most vulnerable of society, their lives are marked by emotional, physical or medical abuse or abandonment. Today, 24 years since it opened, the home remains a haven for orphaned children rejected by society due to HIV/AIDS.

Ethembeni is a Xhosa word which means "place of hope." This family is made up of orphaned infants who've been gathered from dustbins, rubbish dumps, taxi ranks or simply the hospital after delivery.

One such child, Zungu (name changed), was given to the care of Ethembeni by welfare services. Neglected by his mother, his face became food for the infestation of rats with which they shared their home. Successive ravaging attacks left harsh scarring: his left eye deeply recessed, his eyelids welded tightly together, his face devoid of a nose. Proportional to the sickening image of his marked appearance is the compassion that wells up. The heart breaks for such a vulnerable life entrusted into the care of The Salvation Army. In partnership with the local hospital, the work of reconstructing Zungu's face has begun. Just a few months old, he has a long way to go, but the advocacy and compassion of the staff and volunteers ensures he will make it. He has a hope and a future.

Hope is not the sole possession of these precious lives.

Captain Bongi Zulu radiates love and fulfilment although she came to the center in the wake of her own heartbreak. Only 12 months prior to her arrival, her husband was brutally murdered, leaving her world shat-



Lt. Colonel Deslea Maxwell holding a child

tered and her confidence about the future destroyed. She took up her appointment three years ago, uncertain about her ability to care and to minister in such a demanding setting. But God revealed Himself to her through this appointment, bringing healing to her brokenness and confidence in the face of her own sense of inadequacy.



Captain Bongi Zulu with advisory board members

Territorial leaders Commissioners Keith and Yvonne Conrad are regular visitors to the home, yet their familiarity has not desensitized them to the plight of the children. There is a righteous pride in what is being accomplished through Ethembeni and a strong sense of partnership with the other non-government organizations which work alongside the Army. Despite this, you can sense desperation in the tone of Commissioner Yvonne's voice as she relays her concern for the epidemic of "children who are outside the reach of our care."

We have these children for such a short portion of their lives. Some will be returned to a family member, others will transit through the country's foster care system and still others will be blessed through adoption. But for a time, they have been given hope!

The story of Ethembeni, of the Army's mission of reaching into the most vulnerable of communities, is repeated a hundred times over each day around the world. The opportunity may never come our way to visit Johannesburg and to cradle a child desperate for love, but through our World Services/Self-Denial contribution, we can make a difference.



Commissioning Weekend

June 7-9, 2019 Milwaukee Theatre

Schedule of Events

Friday, June 7

- 9:30 am Commencement Ceremony
Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps
- Noon Retired Officers' Luncheon +
- 1:00-6:30 pm Trade Central and Museum Exhibits
- 2:00-6:30 pm Registration
5K Run for the World Registration/Package Distribution
- 4:00 pm Candidate Meet and Greet +
- 5:00 pm Long Service Recognition Dinner +
- 7:00-8:00 pm Registration
- 7:00-10:00 pm Childcare drop off for preregistered children ages 11 and under** (Photos taken at this time of all adults who will be authorized to drop off and pick up children during the weekend)
- 7:30 pm Compassion, My World*
- 10:00 pm Teen and Young Adult Afterglow for ages 12-29**

Saturday, June 8

- 6:30 am 5K Run for the World with the Territorial Commander**
- 7:30 am College for Officer Training Summer Assignment
Orientation Breakfast +
- 8:00 am Sacred Conversations
- 8:30 am-noon Registration
- 8:30 am-noon Childcare for children ages 11 and under**
- 9:00 am Compassion, My Mission*
- 11:00 am Compassion, My Territory*
- Noon-5:30 pm Trade Central and Museum Exhibits
- 5:00 pm Fellowship of Silver Star Dinner +
- 7:00-8:00 pm Registration
- 7:00-10:00 pm Childcare for children ages 11 and under**
- 7:30 pm Compassion, My Life*

Sunday, June 9

- 8:30-11:30 am Registration
- 8:30-11:30 am Childcare for children ages 11 and under**
- 9:00 am Compassion, My Future
Commissioning and Ordination of the
Messengers of Compassion Session
- 12:30-1:00 pm Registration
- 1:00 pm Compassion, My Future*
Service of Appointments*
- 3:00 pm Reception for New Lieutenants and Unit Commanders+

Schedule is Subject to Change

+ By invitation only

* Delegate badge required

** Available with preregistration only

Spanish, Laotian and Korean translation will be provided for general sessions.

Get more information and register at salarmycentral.org/commissioning

Becoming a beacon in Huron

Young, passionate and energetic, Lieutenants Matthew and Kaylie Darrow were appointed to Huron, S.D., as corps officers in 2018, their first appointment as a married couple. The newlyweds were challenged and inspired by the great needs they saw and started searching for ways for The Salvation Army to increase its programs and services to the community.

"I see God challenging us, both officers and soldiers, to make this corps a beacon of hope in the community," said Lt. Matthew. "We entered this appointment with few resources available to us. Like in the parable of the talents, God is blessing us tenfold as we strive to be faithful

with the resources we have."

As the lieutenants have begun to build relationships with key people and organizations, The Salvation Army has become recognized as a valuable resource. For instance, a community collaboration team approached the Darrows to provide a warming center during the record-breaking low temperatures this past winter. Without hesitation, the lieutenants prepared the corps for overnight use and contacted the local radio and police stations to get the word out to people in the area.

The lieutenants are in the process of hiring a fulltime caseworker to implement and manage Pathway of Hope, an initiative that is enthusiastically supported by the community collaboration team and will greatly increase their services to the people of Huron.

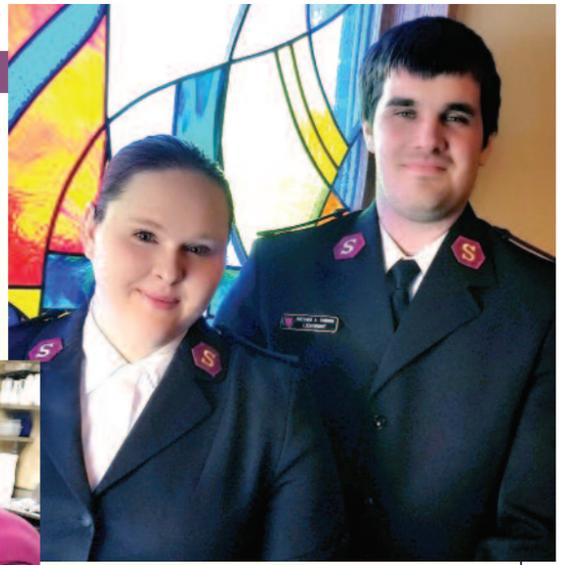
"If the need is there, we want to provide what we can for the community," Lt. Matthew concluded.

The Corps currently has a wide variety of ministries including a vital

weekday lunchtime feeding program, food pantry and clothing vouchers for their thrift store.



Cook Wenda Barber provides nourishing meals for the community.



Lieutenants Matthew and Kaylie Darrow, happy in Huron, S.D.

Weekly programs at the corps include adult Bible study, men's, women's and youth programs, as well as a new Zumba exercise hour that's evolved from a women's ministries group into an open activity for anyone to enjoy.

The corps is already experiencing growth in program attendance, and they are hopeful the upward trend will continue as they shine their light in Huron.



A teachable moment

A new way to work in Omaha

by Michelle DeRusha

He stands on the street corner in a worn jacket, hood cinched tight, in one hand a cardboard sign with a single sentence written in large letters: "Will work for food."

Unfortunately, this sight is all too common in cities across the country, and Omaha is no exception. According to data compiled in 2017 by the Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless, there are nearly 1,400 homeless people living in the Omaha area. Most of these individuals are chronically unemployed, a problem the City of Omaha and The Salvation Army are determined to address with a brand-new work readiness program.

"A Way to Work" which launched in February employs homeless individuals two days per week in the city's greenhouse and parks at a rate of \$10 an hour (\$1 more than Nebraska's minimum wage) for a 90-day period, with transportation and lunch provided each workday. Those

enrolled in the program also benefit from training and other services, such as counseling, provided by The Salvation Army. Following successful completion of the program, participants receive assistance with employment applications and a letter of recommendation; they may also have the opportunity for future employment with the City of Omaha's Parks and Recreation Department.

"A Way to Work" is modeled after a similar program in Albuquerque, N.M., which has contributed to the 80 percent drop in unsheltered homelessness in the city over a seven-year period.

"We studied the Albuquerque model carefully, and our program builds on it, offering a good wage as well as tools for long-term success and additional resources The Salvation Army is trained to provide," said Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert.

"A Way to Work" was funded with \$50,000 each from The Salvation Army and the City of Omaha. Funding will be included in the City of Omaha's 2020 budget, and fulltime Salvation Army employee has been hired to manage the program.

"We are proud to partner with the city in this exciting new venture," said Major Greg Thompson, Western divisional commander. "A Way to Work' is well-aligned with our mission to give foundational support to the most vulnerable in our community."



A celebration of hope

by Katherine Basaran

More than 200 individuals from the Indiana

Division gathered earlier this year for the official dedication of its divisional headquarters and the annual presentation of the First Generation Hope Scholars awards to college-bound seniors from across the state.

The program opened by recognizing how The Salvation Army is serving communities across Indiana and how the new facility will be an asset to the division in "Doing the Most Good" for Hoosiers in need. Officers from each corps shared some of the Army's ministry in their communities. Testimonials such as "provided 38,424 meals to people in need" in Logansport and "3,250 happy Christmas mornings" in New Albany showed the impact that The Salvation Army has across Indiana.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of two prestigious Salvation Army awards, the William Booth Award to Rush Yelverton and the "Others" Award to Carl Heckman for their extraordinary efforts to help The Salvation Army achieve its mis-



High School Senior Danielle Jackson is presented with the Steven L. Gould Memorial Scholarship by his daughters Sandra Gould and Sarah Gould-Johnston. Also pictured are Major Robert Webster, Indiana divisional commander, and Commissioner Brad Bailey, territorial commander.

sion. Two regional businesses, Kroger and Turner Construction, also received Outstanding Corporate Volunteer awards.

Six Indiana students who are seeking to become the first in their families to earn college degrees were awarded \$14,000 in scholarships as part of the First Generation Hope Scholars program which launched in 2017 and continues to grow. The program's goal is to help young men and women who have overcome significant obstacles, like poverty, homelessness, abuse and other trauma, and are striving to change the course of their lives through education. All

six young scholars were in attendance, along with their parents, guardians and counselors who have supported them.

With a highly visible location, the new divisional headquarters features a 41,288-square-foot facility, including substantial conference and meeting areas, more modern workspaces where teams can better collaborate.



Award recipients Rush Yelverton and Carl Heckman

Sharing the journey

by Craig Dirkes

Recently more than 70 men from the Minneapolis, Minn., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) came to the Noble Worship and Service Center in Brooklyn, Minn., for an event titled "This is My Story" which included breakfast, small-group Bible studies and a worship service.

The event's goal was to encourage men in recovery to share their life stories with members of the corps in order to foster a greater sense of community and support while they're in the ARC program and after they graduate.

"As a church community, we want to be intentional about reaching out



to people," said A/Captain Josh Polanco, who leads the Noble Corps with his wife, Jennifer. "We want men at the ARC to know that we value them and that we desire to share in their journeys for the long haul."

After breakfast, everyone participated in small-group Bible studies led by ARC Command leaders Majors Randall and Charlene Polsley, Northern divisional leaders Lt. Colonels Lonneal and Patty Richardson and Colonels Steve and Janice Howard, chief secretary and territorial secretary for



women's ministries. All of the leaders also participated in the morning worship service, the highlight of which was the enrollment of four ARC beneficiaries as soldiers: David Schroedl, James Leavens, Mark Knipping and Michael Blake.

"Being a soldier in The Salvation Army to me means being a part of something larger than myself, doing what I can to share the gospel and help others," said Mark Knipping.

Men at the Minneapolis, Minn.,

ARC receive six months to a year of meals, housing, counseling, spiritual guidance and other transformative support which is funded by sales at Salvation Army thrift stores in the Twin Cities.

Envoy Trudi Canfield, who leads the ARC with her husband, Tom, attended the corps event and was thrilled by its outcome.

"Integrating these men into a church outside of the one in our rehabilitation program gave them a broader view of The Salvation Army and allowed them to see what 'regular' church is like," she said. "It was a great experience for these men as they get acclimated to seeing what living a healthy, positive, Christ-centered life looks like."

The Canfields and Polancos are committed to an ongoing partnership in mission integration through quarterly events that build healthy relationships and support structures for men at the ARC.

Photos by Steve Richardson

Photo by Major Charlene Polsley



Territorial Worship Collective debuts

by Josh Turner

The Territorial Worship Collective (TWC) is a new initiative made up of talented praise band members, ages 13-25, who play in their corps and/or divisional praise bands. Its purpose is to develop corps leaders and musicians, strengthen existing praise bands and equip new ones, share ideas and foster a larger community of musicians across the territory. This spring the TWC met for the first time, spending a weekend at territorial headquarters developing their skills as worship leaders through group rehearsals, individual practice and spiritual renewal.

Guest Simon Gough, contemporary music specialist in the Canada and Bermuda Territory, offered his insights into rehearsal strategy and praise band leadership. With more than 20 years of experience, Simon teaches, resources, inspires and equips worship leaders to hone their craft of being a servant worship leader. During the weekend, the Central territorial praise team, The Singing Company, also provided leadership and mentored the young



Guest Simon Gough with Josh Turner worship leaders.

The TWC split into two groups for rehearsals on Friday night but united for a worship service, which included a devotional by Territorial Program Secretary Lt. Colonel Philip Maxwell and fellowship with the Territorial Youth Chorus (TYC). Saturday morning the TWC groups continued rehearsing, learning new songs and arranging music for praise bands; each group also show-

cased their work. In the afternoon, Simon walked all delegates through two curricula he helped develop called Worship Together and FLOW which aid worship leaders developing their skills and ability. On Saturday evening, the TWC and TYC enjoyed a concert by Christian hip-hop artist TobyMac at the Sears Centre, and on Sunday morning they came together for worship and spent time encouraging and praying for each other.

TWC has taken its first steps in encouraging and developing the territory's future worship leaders to grow spiritually and strive for excellence. It will be exciting to see the difference it makes for individuals and corps throughout the territory.

Worship Together and FLOW are available for free at www.samagcb.com/worship-leaders



Mighty Midland Corps Cadets



The Midland Division conducted a corps cadet retreat in March with nearly a 100 delegates at Camp Mihaska in Bourbon, Mo. Through dynamic teaching on Jonah, Moses and Isaiah, guest Barb Higgins, territorial youth specialist, challenged the young people to respond to God's calling on their lives, and many corps cadets made life-changing decisions. Also during the weekend many corps cadets were recognized for outstanding work on their monthly lessons and were spurred on by Barb to continue demonstrating their faith in their corps, schools and homes. "The sessions were truly Spirit-filled, and our kids were blessed by Barb Higgin's presence. We are so grateful for her leadership!" said Captain Scott Strissel, Midland divisional youth and candidates' secretary. Captain Strissel and Barb Higgins are pictured above with corps cadets from several corps who earned their silver certificates.

Cold noses give warm comfort

"There's a huge emotional benefit from having therapy dogs at disaster response sites in times of crisis and loss," said Dr. Kevin Ellers, Central territorial disaster services coordinator who also is responsible for chaplaincy and crisis response. "It's interesting to see how disaster survivors open up so much more quickly with therapy

dogs present. The research is clear on what we're observing in our operations, particularly with first responders and military personnel who really relate quickly to the well-trained dogs," he continued.

For the last several years the Central Territory has had a partnership agreement with an organization called Hope Animal Assisted Crisis Response (Hope AACR), which provides therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers to work alongside certified emotional and spiritual care (ESC) personnel as part of the Salvation Army's emergency disaster services (EDS) response.

"When we have an incident where we feel therapy dogs could be of value, we co-deploy the dogs to serve on our ESC teams alongside our trained people," Kevin continued. "They've been a great partnership and a huge help."



A workshop on the value of therapy dogs was given by Therapy Dogs International at the National Community Relations and Development Conference last year.

A national agreement The Salvation Army signed last year with Therapy Dogs

International (TDI) expands the scope of partnerships with organizations dedicated to helping volunteer handlers get their dogs to where they're needed the most. The Southern Territory has had a highly positive relationship with TDI as its primary partner similar to the relationship experienced by the Central Territory with HOPE AACR.

For instance, therapy dogs helped provide comfort and care in Wilmington, N.C., when they were part of the Salvation Army's response to Hurricane Florence. Even if disaster survivors won't or can't talk about their experience, the unconditional love of a dog—calm enough to be hugged as tears sometimes flow—

helps reduce their stress.

According to Kevin, the dogs have just as much effect on EDS staff and volunteers who typically rotate in and out of a disaster site every two weeks. It's rewarding yet exhausting work, especially when they're missing home. The dogs provide a bit of respite so they can continue working and caring for others.

For more information on therapy dogs visit tdi-dog.org and hopeaacr.org

Comforting those who mourn

Mourn with those who mourn.— Romans 12:15b, NIV

by Captain Rich Forney

February 15 is marked as a day of grieving in Aurora, Ill., following the tragic mass shooting at the Henry Pratt Company where six employees lost their lives, one was injured and five police officers were shot while responding to the incident.

The Salvation Army responded immediately with a canteen dispatched to the staging area, joining the multi-agency rapid response emergency vehicles. Although we had hoped never to use the training we'd received, our response followed emergency disaster services (EDS) training protocols as events unfolded late into the evening. Once the scene was secure, the number of injured and deceased left the community in shock. People had questions that couldn't be answered easily, and many wanted to do something in response. This is where our "faith in action" opens doors.

While immediate care was given by federal and state agencies to those directly affected, local vigils, visita-



tions and emotional and spiritual care outreach followed. For three days Major David Dalberg, Metropolitan divisional emergency disaster services director, Aurora Corps Caseworker Jim Woods and my wife, Linnea, and I ministered to family members, employees and others affected by this tragedy at the Family Resource Center set up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

One way in which the Aurora Corps assisted the community response was to provide care baskets containing notes of sympathy and encouragement and small gifts. An invitation for people to participate was posted on the corps' Facebook page, and within a couple days it reached over 120,000 views. The chapel became a place where people could write simple expressions of concern and blessing and place them in the baskets. Mothers with children, students and service clubs all came to leave notes and small gifts for the families. Cards arrived from schools, businesses, other corps and even out of state. Care was given to provide a basket for the grieving family members of the deceased shooter as well with a positive community response. The corps' congregation engaged in this ministry by welcoming visitors, comforting neighbors and helping to deliver the baskets.



Western Division responds to historic flooding



by Michelle DeRusha

The Western Division activated full disaster-relief operations in March when heavy rain and snowmelt inundated local rivers, causing devastating flooding in western Nebraska, eastern Iowa and parts of South Dakota. In Nebraska alone, 75 cities and towns issued emergency declarations. Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts called the flooding "the most widespread disaster in our state's history."

In the midst of its relief operations, The Salvation Army was directly impacted when Camp Gene Eppley, located on the north bank of the Platte River, suffered catastrophic damage as water levels reached the roofs of cabins, camp buildings and the homes of staff who lived there year-round.

The camp, which would have celebrated its 75th anniversary this summer, was preparing to host nearly 3,500 campers from June through August this year.

"We feel this loss very personally," said Major Poppy Thompson who, along with her husband Major Greg

Thompson, leads the Western Division. They were in charge of the camp when they first came to Omaha in 1999. "We learned quickly that it was a very special place," said Major Poppy. "It was a safe haven from the worries of the day for children and adults alike."

Nearly 200 people commented on the loss of the camp on The Salvation Army Omaha Facebook page, many sharing fond memories. "I'm choking back tears as I remember the many friends I made and the spiritual encounters I had with my God during my summers at Camp Gene Eppley," wrote one former camper.

In the wake of the flooding, donations poured in to Western Divisional Headquarters, and hundreds of volunteers rallied to help those impacted by the disaster. Strangers reached out to help one another and ordinary human beings rose to face formidable challenges with remarkable resilience, courage and hope. As is often the case, the worst of times brought out the best in people.

Ride for the World

Saturday, June 8, 2019

TSAMM (The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministries) invites all motorcyclists to participate in a fun ride during commissioning weekend to benefit World Services/Self-Denial.

Starting at 2:00 p.m. with a rally in front of the Milwaukee Theater, riders will head on a 50-60 mile run. Participation is not contingent on registration for commissioning weekend or being a member of The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry.



To register for the ride or for more information:
Email—jo_langham@usc.salvationarmy.org
Website—tsamm.central.org
Facebook—The Salvation Army MM Central USA

The Salvation Army

PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

June Prayer Calendar

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

730... AND BEYOND



12,735 days and counting

by Major Gary Felton

I love my Salvation Army uniform. In fact, there have been times people have jokingly questioned whether I sleep in it. I have always embraced the two letters on the collar which signify I've been "saved to serve."

As a fresh-faced, new lieutenant, I went out into the world believing my new red epaulets meant I'd be a servant, saving lives and building God's Kingdom. In my session's early fervor, I am quite certain none of us imagined a time we would need to be "saved and served."

I'm good at finding solutions and fixes for corps that are struggling. I am a "fixer." I have seen corps can be broken and corps can be stitched carefully back together with enough commitment, determination and love. What I did not realize is that the "fixer" could one day be broken as well.

Two years ago I went through a difficult divorce, and I was sure I would lose this ministry I love so much. However, the Army in its wisdom and mercy allowed me to continue to serve and for this I am profoundly grateful.

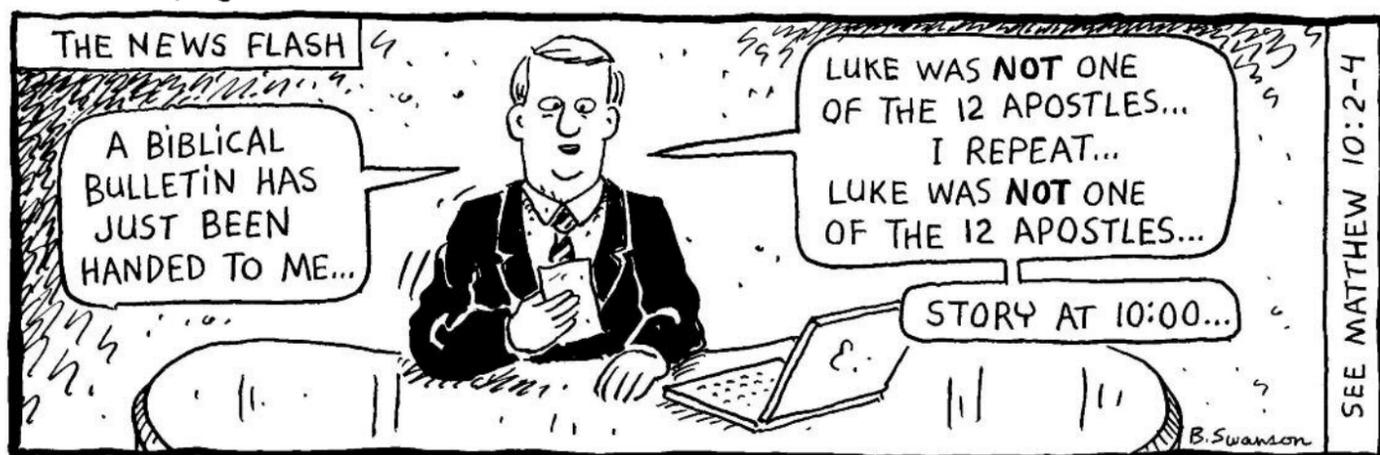
God, in His mercy, love and grace sent me to a corps that helped me heal. I felt guilty that this appointment would receive a broken man, and yet they loved me from day one. They enveloped me into their family and embraced every part of me, even the broken pieces. That appointment was a profound time of humility and healing as the corps loved me back into wholeness and reminded me of my calling.

What I've learned along the way is that service is a two-way street. As an officer, at times I will be the ser-



vant; at others, I will be served. This "give and take" exemplifies the relationship we have with our Lord. We love because He first loved us. I can serve again and be the best officer I can be because this amazing corps loved me and helped stitch me back together. For that, I am grateful and blessed.

--Mustard Seeds--



Commissioning Weekend 2019

SACRED Conversations

ON RACE, CULTURE,
AND RECONCILIATION

Collaborating for Change

Saturday, June 8, 2019
8:00-9:00 a.m.*

Milwaukee Theatre
Grand Rotunda Second Floor

Hear the phenomenal story of how a Salvation Army-driven collaboration between the Milwaukee Police Department and local ministry leaders has been meeting the critical needs of people during times of violence, community and family crises.

Meet our guests...

Inspector Jutiki Jackson
Milwaukee Police Department

Pastor Alexis Twito
Milwaukee Chaplain Program Coordinator
Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division

...and learn how police departments and local churches together can care for individuals, families and communities in crisis and proactively meet needs on a regular basis.

For more information contact usc_multicultural@usc.salvationarmy.org

*Continental breakfast available at 7:30 a.m. for event attendees only

At home in Michigan



Celebrating God's love was the theme of the retirement service of Majors Ralph and Debbie Hansen. The meeting was officiated by their son, Captain Stephen Hansen, with the retirement ceremony being conducted by Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey. The celebration took place at the Grand Rapids, Mich., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, a location which brought the Hansens full circle in ministry.

Over the course of 40 years, the majors served in eight corps, two divisional and one territorial appointment.

Notably, after leading the Burton Heights, Mich., Corps early in their officership, Ralph was heavily involved as Western Michigan and Northern Indiana divisional secretary in the early 2000s in the development of the Grand Rapids Kroc Center, which is located near the old Burton Heights Corps, as well as the

South Bend Kroc Center, while Debbie served as divisional women's ministries secretary.

"We are still captured by the old Salvation Army motto, 'Heart to God and Hand to Man,' as the description of our ministry," said Ralph.

As they celebrated their retirement, the Hansens wanted the focus to be on God's love which has been central to their calling and service.

"This has been the focus of our ministry," said Debbie. "Knowing God's redeeming love and sharing it with others."

The Hansens retired from their final appointment as corps officers in Escanaba, Mich., and have settled in western Michigan to be close to their only grandchild. They served 25 of their 40 years as officers in the state of Michigan and feel very much at home.

Promoted to Glory

Major Florence McArthur

Major Florence McArthur, 93, was promoted to Glory on February 21, 2019. She was sensitive to the Holy Spirit and earnestly sought the Lord all her life. She found it a joy and privilege to pray with others, rejoicing in their salvation.



Raised in a Christian home, Florence accepted Christ while attending summer camp at the age of 13. She consecrated her life to the Lord after completing high school, and feeling called to fulltime service, entered officer training from the Duluth #2, Minn., Corps in the Scandinavian Division in 1947. She was commissioned in 1948 with "The King's Messengers" session.

Capable and willing, Florence served faithfully in corps appointments as well as in the Scandinavian department and territorial headquarters. In 1969 she attended the International College for Officers (ICO) in London. She retired in 1990 from her final appointment at the Duluth, Minn., Corps, after more than 40 years of officership.

She is survived by her nephew, Charles Vanderschuern.

Lt. Colonel Ruth Bonifield

Lt. Colonel Ruth Bonifield, 81, was promoted to Glory on February 22, 2019. Ruth was known for her laughter, inclusive love, wise counsel and spiritual encouragement. She had a vibrant relationship with Christ and is remembered as a strong leader who paved the way for future generations. An annual "Woman in Leadership" award was established in Ruth's name by her husband, Robert, which will be given in the Kansas and Western Missouri Division.

Ruth was the youngest of a blended family of 10 children. She met



Robert Bonifield at the age of five when her family moved to Chicago Heights, Ill. They began dating as teens and were married in 1956.

The Bonifields entered officer training in 1959 and were commissioned as members of the "Great Hearts" session in 1960. Over the course of their officership, they served in corps, divisional and territorial appointments. Having led several divisions, they retired in 2003 from being the leaders of the Western Division.

Ruth is survived by her husband, their five children: Lt. Colonel Renea (Paul) Smith; Major Robin (Ken) Shiels; Rhonda; Robert; Randal; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Major Emory Bell

Major Emory Bell was promoted to Glory on February 15, 2019. He was a tenderhearted man who loved God with all of his being and strived to express God's love though his devotion to family and service to others.



Emory grew up attending the Muskegon, Mich., Corps. He accepted Christ as a teenager during a Sunday evening salvation meeting.

In 1948, he married Margaret Verhoeven. After starting a family, the Bells entered officer training in 1954 and were commissioned in 1955 with the "Soul Winners" session. Throughout their officership, they served in corps and adult rehabilitation center (ARC) appointments. They retired in 1995 from the Flint, Mich., ARC, where Emory served as administrator.

In retirement, the Bells soldiered at the Grand Rapids Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps where they participated in music ministry and enjoyed fellowship with other retired officers.

Emory was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by his sisters Dorla Vanderjact and Donna Moorhead; children, George Bell and Peggy Carey, and several other family members.

The Central Territory's annual memorial service will be held in The Salvation Army section of Glen Oak Cemetery.

Sunday, May 19— 3:00 p.m.

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

**Please join us as we remember
and honor Salvationists who
have gone before us.**

