



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 49, Number 11

November 2019

Welcomed with grace

by Lt. Blake Fewell

Among the memorable moments for cadets in their training experience toward becoming Salvation Army officers is the public welcome of their session. The Messengers of Grace, 24 cadets strong with nearly as many children, will fondly remember their session's welcome as they were enthusiastically encour-

aged by 400 soldiers, officers and friends who turned out for the meeting at the Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center.

Introducing the session, Captain Kelly Hanton, territorial candidates' secretary, cited that 18 are first-generation Salvationists, the majority have bachelor's or master's degrees, and as a whole they represent at least six countries. "Each, by God's grace, has stepped forward into full obedience and has surrendered to the calling God has placed on their lives," she summarized.

In response, College for Officer Training (CFOT) Principal Major Brian Davis, said, "I believe when we look at the Messengers of Grace we see part of the beautiful tapestry of this territory." He acknowledged Major Tricia Taube, who until recently was the candidates' secretary and had processed their cases; the role those in the audience played by embodying grace, and most importantly God's work.

Before Cadet Shannon Cabrera was entrusted with the session flag, Territorial Commander Commissioner



Brad Bailey challenged the Messengers of Grace to take it to the streets in practical ministry. Other highlights included a moving vocal rendition of "Amazing Grace" by the Chicago Staff Band and the inspiring testimony of Cadet Katherine Reid, who came to the Army as a client in Pathway of Hope. "Here on out and after, it's just being intentional in joining Jesus in His work of loving people, of loving God, and serving

them both in every way that He sets before me," she concluded. In his message, Commissioner Bailey charged the cadets and everyone assembled to be proclaimers, promoters, pronouncers and practitioners of God's great grace.

Following the welcome, 70 delegates descended on the CFOT campus for the 730 Weekend, which affords those interested in becoming officers the opportunity to experience life as a cadet and learn more about the candidate process.

Like cadets, delegates woke early Saturday to begin the day with morning details (cleaning assignments that help keep the campus in good shape and reduce costs). As many things at the college, details are a learning opportunity for cadets in how to keep their future corps clean if there is no custodian.

Later everyone joined for morning prayers, an opportunity for cadets to be spiritually fed throughout the week, led that day by Cadet Nate Woodard, a member of the Messengers of the Kingdom session.

Delegates also had the opportunity to experience

Continued on page 4



Photos by Andrew Grey

New online course to promote spiritual life development

by Major Lesa Davis

THRIVE, a new spiritual life development course for soldiers and officers in the Central Territory, will debut in February with the goal of encouraging and strengthening participants in their spiritual lives and preparing them to do the same for others.

It is in direct response to the territory's Mission Imperative of "More People, More Like Jesus" and the emphasis on developing the spiritual life of God's people. The learning modules will address the objectives of

empowering prayer, intentional evangelism, compelling discipleship, active holiness and continuous transformation. Participants will explore these areas of spiritual life in an encouraging environment of mutual support and faithful community.

The online course will run from February to October 2020 and incorporate one weekend spiritual retreat.

Structured with a cohort model, each

nine-month session of THRIVE will be limited to 20 participants. Since space is limited, there is an application and

selection process. Registration materials are available this month by visiting salarmycentral.org.

Who should consider participating? Any adult soldier or officer who is ready to explore and experience a spiritual deep dive in the company of a committed team of like-minded individuals.

For more information regarding course modules, requirements, fees and schedule, email Lesa.Davis@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Spiritual Life

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Stop the bus!

by Lt. Colonel Renea Smith
Territorial Secretary for Personnel

What I love most about this time of year is the intentional focus on gratitude. There is something so encouraging about sitting with friends and family, often around a table, talking about the blessings we've experienced in the last year. Even the most reticent of us is encouraged to share. In those moments I'm reminded again of God's amazing love and grace that surrounds us.

God's grace impacted me even before I was born. On a sunny day in a little place outside of Chicago called Miller's Woods, my dad, his sister and



brother were playing in their front yard when a Salvation Army officer drove by. He stopped the bus, greeted them and went to the front door of their house to talk with my grandmother. When the officer started the engine again, it was with the promise of returning next Sunday morning to take the children to Sunday school.

That encounter changed the trajectory of my dad's life, and as a result, it changed my life and the lives of my siblings. And we weren't the only ones

impacted by that officer's choice that day. During my dad's life as a soldier, officer and now corps sergeant-major, he has prayed with, encouraged, counseled and loved hundreds of adults and children in Jesus' name.

All of this occurred because an officer I'll never know was willing to stop and take a chance.

That moment set my dad's life on a course to experience and embrace God's grace and salvation which resulted years later in me being able to experience and embrace God's grace and salvation, too.

Sometimes I wonder where I would be if that officer hadn't stopped the bus.

We live in a world where people are desperate

for grace but ignorant they need it. As we consider where we live and work and the people we encounter each day who are searching for meaning and love, what would it take for us to slow down to share our own story? To reach out to someone who needs hope, who needs grace, who needs Christ?

"All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory." 2 Corinthians 4:15 (NLT)

Cornet. Piano. Pickle bucket?

Opportunities for music abound at Peoria Citadel

Cornet. Piano. Ukulele. Pickle bucket? No matter the instrument or vessel, students from the Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps and community are learning to make and appreciate music as students in the dynamic Academy of Performance Arts program.

"We saw music as an opportunity to make a greater impact on the youth in our community," said Major Heath Sells, corps officer.

Over the past two years, music has become an integral part of corps youth programming. With funding from a Thomas Lyle Williams grant, the corps began providing music lessons three times a week as part of their afterschool program. Through the Academy of Performance Arts, more than 50 students from first grade through high school are learning to read and play music from qualified instructors at the corps and a middle school—all for free.

"Our goal is for the music program to be as barrier-free as possible," said the major. "Many of the families who participate are low-income, so finances can be a barrier. With new donors coming forward, we hope to keep offering lessons free of charge."

Participants in the music program are reaping the many benefits of learning to play an instrument. In addition to technique and theory, stu-

dents are gaining confidence and developing leadership skills. Many also report improvement in their motivation, concentration and focus at school and home.

"Our students are really growing. Some are taking on leadership at the corps and playing on the praise team and in the brass band. One of our goals in starting the Academy was to bolster our live music on Sundays, and the Academy has certainly done that," Major Heath said, referring to the territory's goal of having Live Music in Worship in Every Corps by 2020 (LM2020).

At the end of the summer, the Academy of Performance Arts and the Heartland Division came together for a week of intense music instruction



and leadership development in a joint music conservatory.

Under the direction of Peter Kim, divisional music and gospel arts director, divisional conservatory students from several corps spent mornings



helping teach Peoria Citadel students and afternoons rehearsing with their own bands.

"Giving more advanced students the opportunity to teach is a natural progression in their development as musicians," said Peter. "It challenges them to grow into leaders."

The conservatory culminated in a concert for friends, family and the community to an overwhelmingly positive response.



Central Connection 

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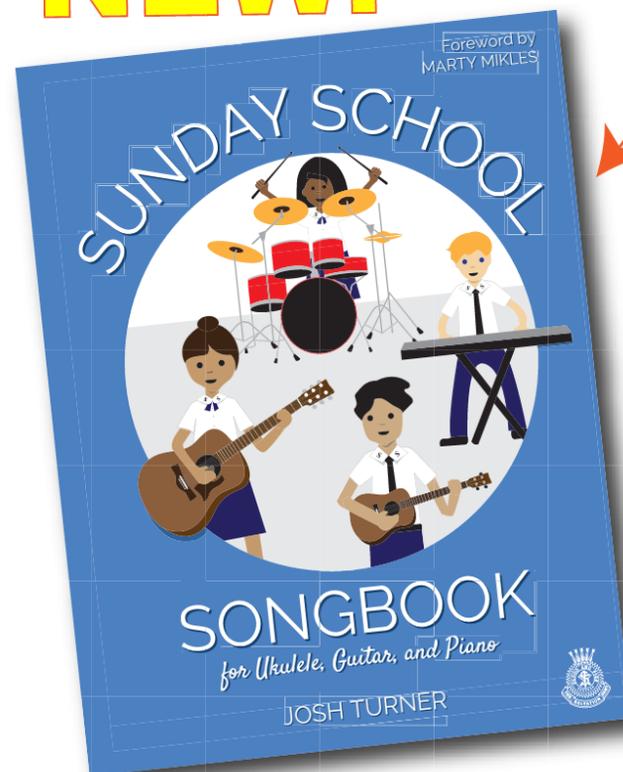
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Kroc Center has grand plan for fine arts

Inspired by the thriving fine arts scene in Grand Rapids, Mich., the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center is offering a three-phase, comprehensive fine arts initiative to help produce the city's next generation of artists.

"The city has a thriving arts scene; it's home to a professional ballet company, a symphony orchestra, two major art museums, an art college and a civic theater, but not everyone living here can enjoy these arts," said Alyson Rodriguez, Kroc Center fine arts supervisor.

"The philosophy behind our push into fine arts not only was to fill the gap left by public schools cutting back on art and music classes but to bridge more of the community into our center and eventually into our corps," said Captain Bill Brutto, senior Kroc Center officer, who added, "Missionally, this approach aligns perfectly."

Phase One began three years ago when a nearby elementary school's art and music teacher went on sick leave. Alyson expanded the students' fine arts options at the center to include dance and drama; soon a second elementary school began sending students to fill its fine arts gap as well. A collaborative relationship with the Grand Rapids Ballet led to six weeks of learning enough skills for 4th and 5th graders to stage a



Alyson Rodriguez, fine arts supervisor at the Grand Rapids, Mich., Kroc Center

Word spread among Kroc members, corps attendees, local schools and the community. People were spotted working on their squares whenever the center was open. Intercultural and multigenerational relationships sprouted, including a friendship between a young man from Puerto Rico and an older woman from Michigan's Upper Peninsula who discovered their squares held almost identical landscapes! As the mural took shape, it produced an eye-catching, quilt-like effect. Many people were justly proud when the mural was installed. Also on display are prize-



Students in grades K-12 from nine schools enjoy several fine arts options at the Grand Rapids, Mich., Kroc Center.

day campers, Alyson reported some of the kids said they wanted to be on the team someday. She added these specialty and traditional day camps were designed to feed into the center's fall schedule for expanded fine arts classes and the start of a singing company.

"Incorporating youth into Sunday worship can swell corps attendance by an extra 100-150 people," said Captain Bill. "Visitors are asked to provide contact information so they can receive our weekly newsletter. After our pastoral follow up, some families have made the Kroc Center their church home."

Phase Three, concluded Alyson, is anticipated to begin

in two or three years and may include advanced classes with the Grand Rapids Ballet, possibly followed by continued training within the company.



A partnership with the Grand Rapids Ballet trains aspiring dancers at the Kroc Center with beginners' skills to more advanced classes.



Captain Taylor Brutto, Kroc Center officer for congregational life and mission integration, leads a "Kid's Church" celebration.

spring showcase at the center for their families and the community. Students from a concurrent class in bucket percussion also were showcased.

The event coincided with Alyson's debut of an ingenious community visual-arts project. Three large panels, each marked with four-inch squares, were placed in the lobby for passers-by to add any type of artistic expression before the panels were hung as a mural.

winning works donated to the center by artists participating in the annual Grand Rapids "ArtPrize" Fall Festival, an event that draws more than 1 million spectators each year.

Phase Two of the fine arts initiative expanded classes for additional grade levels at a total of nine elementary, middle and high schools, all within three miles of the center, as well as adding Fit Kids and swimming lessons. Meanwhile, Captain Bill arranged a scholarship program offering free Kroc Center memberships to students attending at least 75 percent of their school year.

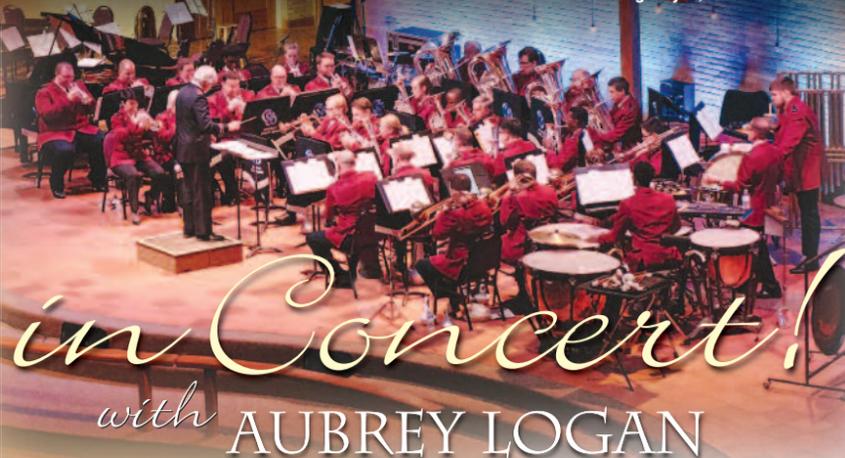
This past summer, the Kroc Center started four, half-day specialty camps in ballet, theater arts, ceramics and ukulele/guitar, in conjunction with its traditional summer day camp program, which also featured a broader fine arts emphasis with a weekly rotation of art, music and dance classes. After the Kroc Center's praise team came to play for more than 100



Art instruction and explorative studio sessions provide outlets for creativity.

THE CHICAGO STAFF BAND

Dr. Harold Burgmayer, bandmaster



Don't miss this year's Chicago Staff Band Sounds of the Seasons concert featuring Aubrey Logan, a multi-talented jazz artist who has had top 10 albums on iTunes, Billboard and Amazon charts. Her latest album "Where the Sunshine is Expensive" has reached number one on the Contemporary Jazz Charts.

A sensational singer and trombonist, she has worked with well-known artists such as the Boston Pops and Josh Groban and has amassed a huge following thanks to her performances with the phenomenon Postmodern Jukebox. She is currently touring with Dave Koz and the Summer Horns.



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Newly accepted candidates

Oscar and Alex Ozuna

Kansas City Blue Valley, Mo.,
Corps
Kansas and Western Missouri
Division



Career/work

Oscar: corps social services case manager

Alex: corps program director

Salvation experience

Oscar: When I was laid off from my job, I realized I couldn't fix things on my own. At home, I broke down, and my wife helped me give my heart to Christ.

Alex: I accepted Christ as a child but didn't really seek to follow Him until after my first marriage when I needed God's help to be a champion instead of a victim.

First Salvation Army encounter

Oscar: I thought The Salvation Army was a thrift store until I dated Alex, and she invited me to volunteer at vacation Bible school.

Alex: My parents are officers, so I grew up in The Salvation Army.

Your calling

Oscar: While working as a corps social services case manager in Los Angeles, I saw how grateful people were for help. It made me want to do more.

Alex: I felt called at a young age but kept putting it off until God spoke to me through a sermon.

Spiritual gifts

Oscar: serving

Alex: teaching

Memorable ministry experience

Oscar: At a youth councils I prayed with teenage boys from our corps at the altar.

Alex: Three families I invited to vacation Bible school began attending other corps programs and now are members.

Little known fact about you

Oscar: I'm a car fanatic and built an engine for a Honda SI 2004.

Alex: I participated in wrestling during middle school.

Oscar and Alex's corps officers are Majors Lex and Patricia Giron.

New appointments focus on leadership development

Commissioner Heidi Bailey and Colonel Janice Howard recently received the additional appointments of Territorial Leader for Leader Development and Territorial Secretary for Leader Development, respectively.

These internationally approved roles are in response to Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey's request for the ongoing provision of resources and the development of leadership skills and plans with members of the Territorial Executive Council (TEC), as well as validation of Commissioner Heidi and Colonel Janice in these significant territorial leadership roles. TEC is comprised of the members of the Territorial Cabinet, leaders of the 10 divisions, the Adult Rehabilitation Center Command and the College for Officer Training, the Territorial Secretary for Spiritual Life Development and the Territorial Officer Development Secretary.

"Colonel Janice and I are so excited to embark on this new journey together as we continue to come alongside our executive leaders on their specific leadership paths," said Commissioner Heidi. "We want to go deep, so the influence will be wide in the Central Territory for God's glory."

Commissioner Heidi will strategically provide opportunities for TEC members to grow in discipleship, flourish in leadership and engage in mission objectives in their respective appointments, while Colonel Janice will seek to foster the leadership development of and provide resources to the divisional officer development secretaries.



She also will assist Commissioner Heidi in the ongoing leadership development of TEC officers.

Working with various departments at Territorial Headquarters, they will ensure all executive officers are functioning with clear expectations, adequate resources, strategic support and leadership development opportunities. They also will develop specific leadership plans for officers identified through the succession planning process with the Personnel Department. Long-term this not only will help ensure excellent leadership options for the territory but aid in filling positions internationally at the request of the General.

"We covet your prayers as the territory embraces these changes, which are a direct response to present, identified needs of our territory, as well as the beginning of addressing leadership issues related to traditional default appointments, gender equity and shared leadership," said the territorial commander.

Welcomed with grace Continued from page 1

Bible and doctrine classes with their cadet hosts. Education is a significant part of the training program, and cadets spend much of their free time reading, writing and studying for their classes. This is coupled with practical ministry opportunities through visits to corps, adult rehabilitation centers and other ministry centers.

Though training is a



time to be challenged and grow, there are also times for fun. Delegates bonded with others from their division during a live-action CLUE mystery game in historic Booth Manor which, in Salvation Army fashion, featured items such as a red Christmas kettle, timbrel and black high-heeled shoe.

During the worship services on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, Captain Kelly Hanton and Captain Caleb Senn, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., corps officer, encouraged delegates to say "yes" to God's calling on their lives and to be obedient to go wherever He may lead them.

Delegate Mikal Mathews from the Indiana Division concluded, "This weekend helped me know that people are there to support me in my walk. I was challenged to live my faith even more than I have before, to be more obedient and to be willing to spread the gospel to everyone around me without hesitation."



Social Justice

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.—Matthew 25:40, NIV

by Colonel Richard Munn
Director, International
Social Justice Commission



In the eyes of the public around most of the world it is the social outreach of The Salvation Army that is most readily recognized and affirmed.

At the heart of this compassionate ministry is the cherished belief that in reaching out to the hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, sick and imprisoned, we are reaching out to Christ himself. Salvationists see Jesus in:

- the homeless dormitory
- the rehabilitation center
- the hospital ward
- the refugee shelter

The international Salvation Army has innumerable social service programs reaching out to the poor and disenfranchised of the world. The list is seemingly limitless in character and scope:

- schools for the blind in Africa
- orphanages in South America
- suicide prevention in Australia
- soup kitchens in India
- ministry with prostituted women in Europe
- day care centers for children in North America

The diversity is an expression of the holistic gospel in which The

Salvation Army so passionately believes. The spiritual and social aspects of the Christian gospel combine to form an **integrated** or **total ministry**. We perceive it artificial and unscriptural to separate the two.

Giving a cup of hot chocolate to a shivering fireman can be a powerful spiritual experience. Military veterans who received a donut amidst the horrors of warfare testify to the love of God experienced in that simple action.

General Frederick Coutts described this holistic concept of social work and evangelical work: "It is not that these are two distinct entities which could operate one without the other. They are but two activities of the one and the same salvation which is concerned with the total redemption of man:

- both rely upon the same grace
- both are inspired with the same motive
- both have the same end in mind

And as the gospel has joined them together, we do not propose to put them asunder."

The founding days of The Salvation Army saw rapid and practical responses to the poverty of Victorian England.

"Soup, soap and salvation" became the catchphrase. The consistent and effective social ministry of The Salvation Army eventually changed the tide of public opinion from hostility to admiration.

William Booth's 1890 book, *In Darkest England, and The Way Out*, is regarded as a landmark publication in the articulation of Salvation Army relief work.

It resulted in:

- homes for single mothers
- orphanages for abandoned children
- farm colonies for unemployed men
- the ministry of "Slum Sisters," quietly working in city ghettos tending the sick, cleaning the streets and homes and cooking meals.

Upon seeing homeless men sleeping under London Bridge, William Booth instructed his son, Bramwell, "Do something!"

Ever since, Salvationists have felt compelled to respond in practical ways. The essential social program of each Salvation Army unit today is simply to serve suffering humanity.

This social outreach is:

- not distinct to evangelism
- not a means of evangelism
- not as manipulation for evangelism later on
- but, social action *with* evangelism

General Eva Burrows once recalled an African student who commented on the parable of the Good Samaritan. "In the story you have the robber who does bad, you have the Samaritan who does good, and you have the religious people who do nothing."

Salvationists are religious people who "do something!"

National Commander wraps up "Fight for Good Tour" in Chicago

by Camerin Mattson

National Commander Commissioner David Hudson finished a three-city "Fight for Good Tour" in Chicago with visits to the Shield of Hope and Freedom Center. The tour, which also included stops in Los Angeles and Atlanta, highlighted unique ways The Salvation Army is addressing homelessness and specific needs in each community.

The visit commenced with a roundtable at Shield of Hope, the emergency homeless assessment and response center the Army opened in 2018 in partnership with the City of Chicago. Commissioner Hudson discussed the realities of homelessness in Chicago with city officials, Sabrina Kiser, assistant director of social services and public policy coordinator at National Headquarters, leaders and key staff from the Metropolitan Division and Chief Secretary Colonel Steve Howard.

They talked about the need for shelters that allow families to stay together, like the Shield of Hope does, as well as the importance of partnerships to tackle the complex issues of homelessness. "There's a level of trust



Major Nancy Powers shares about the Harbor Light's critical work with National Commander Commissioner David Hudson and others on a tour of the facility.

between the city and the Army," said Commissioner Barry Swanson, who currently leads the Metropolitan Division with his wife, Commissioner Sue Swanson. "This is a very important partnership." Alisa Rodriguez, deputy commissioner of homeless programs, heartily agreed, adding the city regularly gathers partners, including The Salvation Army, to discuss and learn from each other. Her colleague Jonathan Ernst, managing deputy commissioner, praised the breadth of the Army's programs. "Of 360 agencies we partner with, only a handful cover all the areas we do; The Salvation Army is one of those."

The party toured the Shield of Hope, which served more than 4,300 people in its first year, then walked to the Freedom Center which houses three key programs: Pathway Forward, a federally funded halfway house; Harbor Light, a substance abuse treatment program; and a corps community center, including a food pantry, afterschool programs and base for a canteen that makes 25 stops to feed people throughout Chicago every day.



Commissioners Barry Swanson and David Hudson participate in a roundtable about homelessness and other issues in Chicago at the Shield of Hope.

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I'll Fight Day is a Salvation Army youth servant evangelism day that will take place all across the world on Saturday, December 7, 2019.

It's a way for you to share the gospel through practical acts of kindness done in Jesus' name.

Reflecting on Our Blessings

At this time of year when our country celebrates Thanksgiving, it's only natural to turn our thoughts with intentionality to our blessings. This year we surveyed a sampling of soldiers and officers in the territory to find out what they're most grateful for. May their responses encourage you to count your own blessings and give thanks not only now but in all seasons.

Our family

by Alexandria Gauthier

God has given my husband, Sam, and me so much to be thankful for. Our greatest blessings are our children. Doctors told us we might never be able to conceive. The road was long, but God has been faithful. Our son is nearly three.

In April, we were elated to find out we were expecting another baby, but only a few weeks later, I had a miscarriage. We were devastated. In our pain and sadness, we cried out to the Lord. Only one month later, God blessed us with another miracle. Our baby is due in January and is growing perfectly!

We don't always understand why God allows things to happen. In my family, God used the trials of infertility and miscarriage to bring us closer to Him. He gave us peace when our world was shaken and comfort throughout the jour-



ney. We are so thankful today—and every day—for His timing, provision, plan and overwhelming love for us.

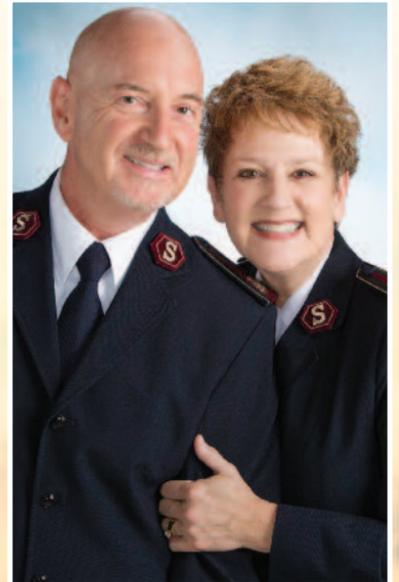
Our territory

by Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey

Gratitude is like faith; it is a muscle. The more we use it, the stronger it grows. As your territorial leaders, our gratitude is strengthened every day as we look around the Central Territory. God is speaking and challenging our territory through the new Mission Imperative, and Salvationists are listening and responding.

We are grateful for:

- an increased sensitivity to God's call to Salvation Army officer-ship...24 new cadets and an overflowing house at the 730 Candidates' Weekend at the College for Officer Training
- a notable inclusiveness in ministry and worship...the Body of Christ encouraging one another through creative expressions of the gospel
- a renewed intentionality to



reach outside our corps and share the message that there is always room for one more at our Salvation Army tables.

We are grateful for you today. What are you grateful for?

New ministries

by Peter Kim

As many seasons in my life have passed, there have been ups and downs, happiness and sadness, births and deaths, joys and pains both emotionally and physically. Through it all, I have learned to be grateful.

When the Lord called me into fulltime music ministry in 2006 I was hesitant. It was a big lifestyle adjustment but trust in God carried me through. Looking back, following that calling was the best decision I ever made. God has led me to places and things beyond my wildest imagination.

In 2018, God led me on another journey to become the music and gospel arts director for the Heartland Division. It was not an easy transition, but I knew it was right. It is exciting to seek and find



new talents and meet people God has placed here. I believe that the music ministry in the Heartland Division will be used and utilized mightily for His glory and for His Kingdom. I know with confidence, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13, NLT)

Each new season

"For everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1, NKJV)

by Brett Tolcher

Looking back on the past 12 months, there have been many changes and many opportunities for which we're grateful. As time ticks by, we see the picture God is painting and how He uses each experience to shape us.

This year, Kelly and I have had some significant changes in our lives. Within my family, I saw the passing of my grandpa, William Himes, Sr., and the birth of our nephew, William Tolcher. In July, Kelly and I were married! We have started to figure out how to do life together as husband and wife.

Between our relationship, jobs, families, friends and commitment to our corps, Norridge Citadel, we are reminded continually of the many blessings God has given us.



My calling

by Lt. Shanell Johnson

The journey leading to my calling is one full of unexpected twists and turns. If someone had asked me six years ago, I would have said that God was not calling me to be an officer, and I might have even added that He *wouldn't*.

I was called long before I was ready to listen, so God slowly molded me. He gave me experiences that prepared me for tasks I didn't know I would need to do, and He placed people in my life who would encourage, mentor and support me.

When I still struggled to fully let go, He pulled me to my feet, leaving me with no doubt. It was my burning bush moment because it gave me the courage to step out in



faith that my Father would continue to be with me.

As a newly commissioned lieutenant, the journey to officership has ended, and my journey as an officer has begun. Already it has been both challenging and rewarding, and I cannot wait to see what else the Lord has planned.

My life

by Major Diane Harper

How can I not give thanks and have a grateful heart? God has been so good to me. His love and my life are undeserved gifts from our Heavenly Father.

I was born to parents who had not planned for me, but at 11:57 p.m. on December 31 in 1953, I arrived, not healthy—but a fighter. For three years, I lived unnamed in the hospital.

It was a rough start, but I have been blessed with an amazing life. Even to this year, I still am not pain free, but I am blessed. I'm so thankful for the chance to live, love and serve in retirement while I await the call from my Heavenly Father, praying to find my name written in the Lamb's book of life.



Daily I am grateful for Christ, our Savior, who gives me life and for my merciful Heavenly Father who surprises me each day with spiritual gifts. I am humbled and thankful for my family and friends who give me the gifts of their time, presence and love. I am blessed.

God's provision

by Majors Victor and Tina Stasiuc

We serve a gracious God. This year there have been many changes for us as we traveled from Moldova to serve at the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps, but we know we are where God wants us to be.

God has called us to serve Him in many capacities since we joined The Salvation Army when we were students at university. Since our commissioning in 2002 we have served in 10 appointments, all in different regions. In each new appointment we had to adjust to ministering in different cultures and several languages, but we were willing and God used us.

We are very grateful God has placed people here to welcome and encourage us as we get used to liv-



ing in the U.S. Many American officers already have become friends, and we reconnected recently with a couple in Michigan who were our mentors years ago in Moldova. God continues to provide what we need in order to fulfill His call on our lives each day.

God's faithfulness

by Majors Greg and Lee Ann Thompson

The phrase "God is good" came into sharp focus for us this year. Each of the three states comprising our Western Division was affected by significant flooding in the spring. With just one day's notice the entire division of officers, soldiers, friends, board members and volunteers came together not only to combat the floods but to respond to the needs of people whose lives had been devastated.

When we consider all that took place, we can't help but be thankful for God's goodness and faithfulness. He instilled a sense of mission and calling in our officers to help them work tirelessly, day and night, to feed people without a place to eat, restore people's homes and bring Christ's love to those who suffered most. God imparted His care into the hearts of community after community as leaders and home owners came together to



care for each other. He filled the hearts of neighbors and friends with a love for others that resulted in an enormous outpouring of funds and materials that helped us in "Doing the Most Good" for the most people.

God is faithful! He comes alongside us, provides for our needs and strengthens our ability to serve others.

Joy in service



Shannon, second from left, with her 2019 team

by Cadet Shannon Cabrera

This year I had the opportunity to spend a fourth summer serving on a territorial Summer Mission Team (SMT). The joy of being part of this type of ministry is that I now have friends and family in Mexico, Costa Rica, Spain, Portugal, the Bahamas and throughout the Midwest.

To experience what God is doing through The Salvation Army around the world is truly a gift. From leading vacation Bible school, music camps and youth programs to giving food to the

homeless, I have experienced so much joy in serving God in many different ways. I am immensely grateful to God for allowing SMT to be a part of my story and can't wait to see how those experiences come into play while I'm at the College for Officer Training and one day as an officer.

My life has changed more every year I've served on SMT, as a friend, a leader and a follower of Christ. This year I am thankful for the freedom to serve and worship God, specifically through SMT and for all my former teams, leaders, hosts and lifelong friends.

Taking the Tetons home

Second all-Salvationist wilderness session inspires and resources

by Jerrie Miller

According to early American naturalist John Muir, "In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks." This proved true for 36 Salvation Army leaders and staff from the four U.S. territories who attended the American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS) near Jackson, Wyo. The eight-day intensive, sponsored by Safari Club International Foundation, provided the opportunity to reconnect with nature, learn new skills, study the American model of wildlife conservation, and grow spiritually and personally.



about the AWLS experience, Echo Grove Camp Director Matthew Coakley said, "How the simple reintroduction of 14 wolves impacted the entire Yellowstone ecosystem." For Lt. Sarah Eddy, Canton, Ill., corps officer, it was harder to narrow down, "I think for me it was the fire ecology and information about fire management...The reality is fire is a natural process in the forest. In order to have a healthy forest, we need the natural fires."

Others were surprised by how much they learned or the supply of resources they were able to take back for their ministries. "I see the value of the outdoors more because of my time at AWLS, and it is more important to me that our youth experience the outdoors

AWLS participants learned to effectively use an outdoor setting as an educational backdrop while participating in fun, exciting activities like fly-tying, a white water rafting trip and fire ecology taught by enthusiastic instructors who are experts in their fields. Guest speakers like Harlan Kredit, a high school science teacher who has spent nearly 50 summers as a Yellowstone park ranger, inspired them to become more aware of the connections in nature and to make good use of natural resources and the opportunities surrounding us.

Classroom studies that allowed participants to become certified as NASP archery instructors and Project WILD educators were balanced with educational field trips to the National Elk Refuge, Teton National Park, oil fields and wildlife migration areas at Pinedale, Wyo.

Asked what surprised him most



Photo by Captain Jonathan Cooper

and grow to love it," shared Dylan LaCanne from the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Divisional Youth Department. "It will impact the choices I make and what I prioritize in my ministry."

Jonelle Bailey, territorial Kroc mission engagement manager, enjoyed the outdoor survival class and stream ecology and learning how to use those in easy and understandable activities. "This training helped to tie together a love of nature, God's grace and how we can share and educate others, not just the youth," she said. "There is a variety of information that was provided that can be applied to innumerable programs."

For David Mowers from the Kansas and Western Missouri Divisional Youth Department, AWLS was an intensely personal experience. "My family went through a house fire back in March, and it has been hard to begin to put things back together. As we stood on the mountainside looking at the scar left from the 2016 Granite Canyon wildfire, I was reminded of God's faithfulness to bring life from the ashes—literally. We learned about pine trees that can only reproduce when there is a fire. Their cones will not open until then. I now know God provides for the ecosystem after a fire, and life grows from the ashes. I believe God is

doing something similar in my life. Things are different since the fire, but I know God is bringing forth new life."

While most participants were excited to put their new knowledge to use in corps programs, divisional camps or afterschool programs, AWLS left Major Jim Curl, Wichita City commander, pondering how to put the experience to use. "My dream would be to create an opportunity at our camp to capi-



talize on the outdoor education for youth and adults, perhaps some sort of TSA Outdoors learning center."

All agreed it was a valuable experience, and they would encourage others to attend. In the words of Major Jim, "I would encourage them not to miss this great opportunity, then beg them to take me back!"

The next AWLS session is scheduled for August 26-September 2, 2020. For information, email usc.youth@usc.salvationarmy.org

Photos by Major Cherrri Hobbins

Project WILD®

What do hide-and-seek, charades or a field investigation to count insects have in common? They are just a few of the ways children can learn about wildlife through Project WILD curriculum available through the territorial youth department.

Since Project WILD launched in 1983, more than 100,000 formal and informal educators have attended workshops to receive training and materials. In 2018 the project was updated so every activity includes STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) activities, related career

options and an outdoors component.

Project WILD uses hands-on learning experiences to teach kids environmental education. It not only provides information but helps students evaluate choices and make responsible decisions. In short, Project WILD's mission is to help students learn how to think, not what to think about wildlife and the environment.

Perfect for afterschool programs, camps or character-building programs, Project WILD can assist leaders in teaching a broad range of subjects to any grade level, K-12. Activities may take the form of



games, mock town-hall meetings, song writing or field investigations.

Materials are available to those who attend instructional workshops offered by certified leaders and supported by a network of sponsoring state, national and international agencies that now includes The Salvation Army.

Last year, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognized the unique needs posed by our divisions that fall within several states and the spiritual focus inherent in Salvation Army training and programming. An agreement was reached whereby designated personnel within the Central

Territory may train its leaders to use Project WILD in corps and camp programs.

"It allows us to provide workshops with specific insight into how activities tie in with camp programs, character-building or Bible lessons," said Jerrie Miller, territorial director of camping, community centers and outdoor ministries, who coordinates Project WILD. "It is exciting to see leaders realize how fun and easy it is to use Project WILD materials to expand and enhance what they are already doing."

To learn more or attend training, email usc.youth@usc.salvationarmy.org

Salt of the earth

One couldn't ask for a better metaphor than "salt of the earth" to describe both the people and geology of Hutchinson, Kan., which has one of the world's largest underground salt formations with the purest portion still being mined 650 feet underground since 1887. Seven years later, mirroring Jesus' words in Matthew 5:13a ("You are the salt of earth..."), The Salvation Army began its work in the town.

Hutchinson Corps Officers Major Paul and Captain DJ James celebrated the corps' 125-year milestone at its annual "Portraits of Hope" fundraising dinner followed by a Homecoming Sunday. Although they'd been there for less than two months, the Jameses held the same pride as the congregation, advisory board and community for The Salvation Army's ministry to the people of Reno County. Among the celebrants were two centenarian soldiers, Major Lurline Duskin and Helen Parker.

The Jameses believe meeting needs and establishing relationships are vital to Kingdom building, discipleship and corps growth in Hutchinson. As part of its social services, the corps utilizes Pathway of Hope (one graduate, Tara, shared her story at the dinner) and



Helen Parker, one of two 100-year-olds attending the Hutchinson Corps, with Major Paul James, corps officer.

has established partnerships with a feeding and home-delivery ministry and a local food bank based in the corps building, plus churches and other groups.

The Jameses are happy to see the building increasingly being used as a community center. "With people constantly streaming in and out, they're learning what else the corps offers and are finding a place where they can belong," said Captain DJ.

The corps holds weekly Club 3:16 meetings for youth grades K-12 and music classes in brass, piano and ukulele. Free martial arts classes are offered twice a



Hutchinson, Kan., Corps Officers Major Paul and Captain DJ James (c), with former corps leaders Majors John and Judith McCarty (l) and Majors Mike and Judy Mills.



week and open gym is held once a week after school for youth and one evening a week for adults. A future dream is partnering with the city's park district to provide a much-needed playground for children and families in the corps' neighborhood.

Women's ministries meets weekly during the day, and an evening group meets once a month, as does men's ministries. Captain DJ said the men and women were a tremendous help in staging the corps' 125th anniversary celebration, as was the advisory

board which the captain described as spectacular.

"Board members were very supportive and active in obtaining sponsorships from local businesses, plus advertising and spreading excitement about the dinner, which was attended by 175 people and raised \$11,450," Captain DJ continued. Guests viewed a presentation on the history of the Army in Hutchinson and services provided over the years followed by a look at the much broader array of needs being met today.

The Netherlands is calling

When you think of the Netherlands, images of tulips, wooden shoes and cheese probably come to mind. It was the same for Dr. Maribeth V. Swanson, Central territorial social services secretary, until her view was greatly expanded this summer while presenting at The Salvation Army's Realization of Outcomes and Impact Reporting Conference in the Netherlands. She was invited to share what the Central Territory has learned from its implementation of the Pathway of Hope initiative and other social service models that support an integrated ministry approach, as well as the gains the territory has made in impact measurement.

Approximately 40 social service program directors and administrators, as well as key staff from finance and technology departments, gathered to lay the groundwork for assessing and developing their course of action. In a follow-up session with the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovakia Territory's administrative and information technology teams, Maribeth shared the Central Territory's Salvation Army Information Management System (SIMS), demonstrating its client documentation tools and reporting functions. Government entities, foundations and donors increasingly are asking for organizations to document their short-term and long-term social impact on their identified community or programs. Not unique to the U.S., this challenge is being faced by The

Salvation Army in many developed countries.

"It was a privilege to be a presenter for this master class in impact measurement. Yet, there is a myth of measurement. We can't codify everything we do. For instance, measurement cannot capture the essence of what makes our lives and organizations worthwhile. It comes down to the love, relationships and community that we build across all facets of The Salvation Army," said Maribeth. "I think the Netherlands officers, soldiers and employees are off to a good start in affirming their motto, 'Together We're One,' which supports the Army's mission and message."



Dr. Maribeth Swanson with Captain Harm Slomp, territorial social services secretary for the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovakia

2019 Advent Worship Series Because of Bethlehem

based on the book by Max Lucado

Looking at the wonderful story of Bethlehem which provides a lifetime of hope!

Featuring

- Five weeks of worship service outlines with songs, scripture
- Advent wreath readings, dramas, children's moments and sample sermons
- A Christmas Eve Service
- Nursing home visit program
- Children's programs
- Graphics
- Spanish translation

Download files at samusiccentral.org/gospelarts/Advent-WS

Pathway of Hope Awards

Congratulations to the latest corps earning Achievement and Outstanding Awards in Pathway of Hope.

Achievement Awards

- Holland, Mich., Corps
- Dearborn Heights, Mich., Corps
- Marinette, Wis., Corps
- Waterloo-Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Corps

Outstanding Awards

- Ottawa, Ill., Corps
- Terre Haute, Ind., Corps

More than we could have imagined

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.—Ephesians 3:20, NIV

by Lisa Jordan

In the fall of 1993, Chris Shay, then Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps (OBT) youth ministries coordinator, received a fax from Scott Hurula, then territorial young adult ministries director, on behalf of Captains Wayne and Debbie Bungay, Freeport, Grand Bahamas corps officers who were looking for corps willing to help transition their one-week residential camp for underprivileged children to a three-week day camp experience the next summer. Only



OBT is that by age 18 all our young people are saved, disciplined Salvationists, ready to take their place in the Body of Christ. Bible teaching, leadership training, service, many programs and experiences go into their spiritual formation. But one area we'd not been able to explore was a mission trip. The Bahamas was perfect! At the time, airfare was low, a passport wasn't required and there was no language barrier.

We started seeking approvals, and before we knew it planning and fundraising were underway. The mission trip would soon be a reality. We decided to use vacation Bible school materials for the mornings filled with Bible lessons, crafts and recreation; each afternoon we took the

kids on field trips. At the end of the week we would hold a response time for each camper to consider his or her relationship with Jesus. We brought all the necessary supplies for the day camp and also prepared for open-air, Sunday school and holiness meetings.

This annual trip has grown to include not only teenagers and leaders but other adults from OBT. Over the past 25 years much has changed, but much has stayed the same. Our goal and weekly structure remains. Other aspects have been different every time and keep us fully trusting the Lord and not our own experience—bus trips on narrow roads to bring kids from outlying areas, precious home league meetings, lively youth group gatherings, evangelistic campaigns, hurricane preparation and recovery, new building dedication, community care visitation, painting projects, reuniting with past campers as adults contributing in their community, funerals of Bahamian teens taken by violence or disease, second-generation campers and so much more.

In all, 158 different individuals from OBT have served on teams,



57 have gone back multiple times, 43 have gone on to give more overseas service and 11 have become Salvation Army officers.

As a corps we've grown spiritually and relationally with those who have shared the Bahamas experience, and we've grown in awareness, love and commitment to the Army's global ministry.

Through intentionality, this short-term mission trip has become a long-term mission partnership allowing many people to experience God's love and glory in ways we could never have imagined when that fax came through.



God knew it would be the beginning of an amazing partnership He would use to touch many lives.

In fact, God was providing an answer to a question we hadn't even asked yet. Our youth ministry goal at



God could make a treehouse

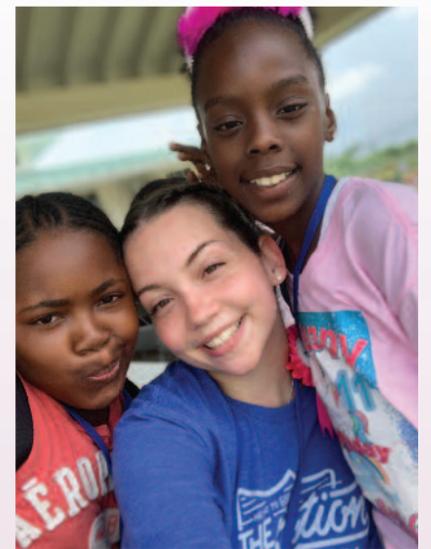
by Emily Densmore

This summer I helped lead a day camp for children in the Bahamas. With my teammate, Valerie, I led the red group which consisted of five beautiful, inquisitive 7- and 8-year-old girls. The week was filled with laughter, prayer and life-changing moments.

During "prayer journaling" one girl asked for my help with spelling. Afterward, she gave me her finished product as a gift. It said, "I love God. God made me. God made you. God could make a treehouse." Initially, I giggled over the sweet sentiment in crayon, but over the next few days I couldn't get one phrase out of my mind: God could make a treehouse. It may seem silly, but I believe the Lord placed it on my heart.

This year I've been working through hard changes in my family and myself. There have been times when I've been angry with God; it is hard to understand how pain and difficult situations can fit into His plan for my life. Sometimes I have called my leaders sobbing and asked how He could let such hurt happen.

But God is faithful. I believe He brought me to the Bahamas not only to share the gospel but so I could receive these words from a precious 7-year-old girl: God could make a treehouse. The Lord can use the broken wood and sturdy foundation of



my life to create something beautiful. He has placed individuals in my life at the perfect time and has brought words to my head and His Word to my heart. I didn't realize it, but He had been preparing me to face hardships.

A treehouse may not look like the tree from which it was made, but that's because it has been transformed into something new. I've learned that although it may be difficult, change is okay. My future may feel uncertain, but I find comfort in knowing God is certain in everything He does. I love God. God made me. God made you. God could make a treehouse.



Bring joy to a child in need this Christmas with your generous donation.

The Territorial World Missions Sponsorship Office strives to send \$100 each year to as many Salvation Army children's facilities worldwide as it can.

When you share your Christmas joy, celebrating Christ's birth becomes more real not only to them but you. Ask family, friends and co-workers to increase their joy with a joint gift to:

**The Salvation Army
ATTN: Share Your Christmas Joy!
5550 Prairie Stone Parkway
Hoffman Estates, Ill. 60192**

Visit centralmissions.org for more information.

GLOBAL MISSION TEAM

USA CENTRAL

Next year promises to be full of exceptional opportunities for growth and service. If you're a Salvationist, 18 or older, looking to make a difference in the world, consider being part of a Global Mission Team (GMT).

Winter Global Mission Team

Location: South America East Territory
Dates: One week within the range of January 18-28, 2020
Cost: Personal contribution of \$1,000
Details: Assist with construction project and program ministry



Winter Global Mission Team

Location: Bluefields, Jamaica; Caribbean Territory
Dates: February 29-March 8, 2020
Cost: Personal contribution of \$750
Details: Assist with construction project and program ministry



Summer Olympics Global* Mission Team

Location: Japan
Dates: July 22-August 5, 2020
Cost: Personal contribution of \$1,000
Details: Evangelism and service opportunities during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

**Given these specialized opportunities team members must meet specific requirements.*

For more information, updates and an application, visit centralmissions.org



Spring Global Mission Team*

Location: Bangladesh
Dates: April 13-24, 2020
Cost: Personal contribution of \$1,000
Details: Team members will learn about the OTHERS program, refugee ministry and initiatives in Bangladesh and assist with programs and light construction project.



PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army USA Central Territory

December Prayer Calendar

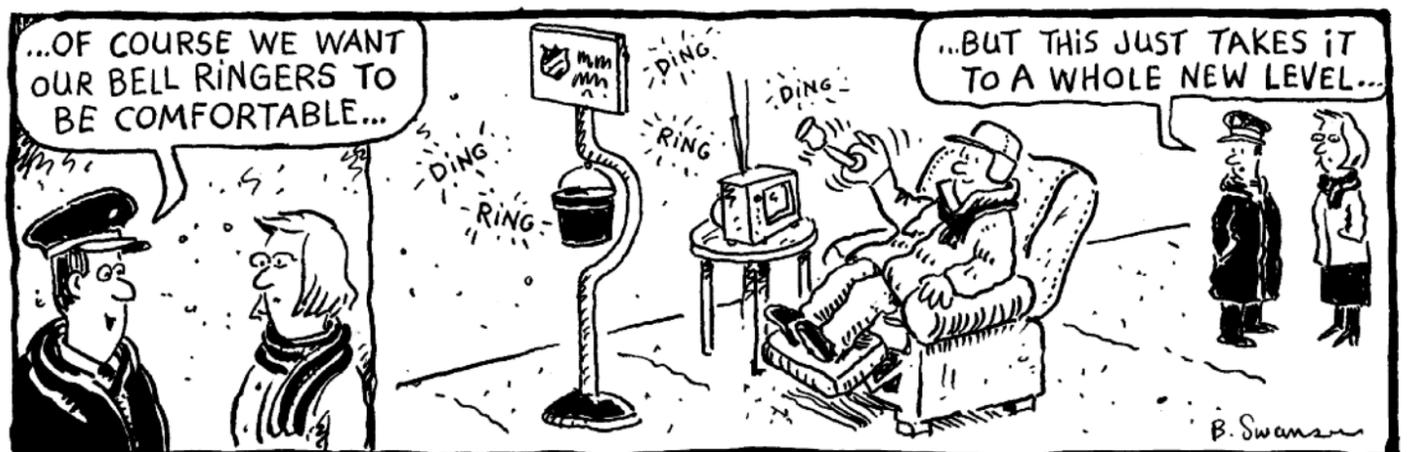
My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Sunday	Acts 19-20	I'll Fight Day
	2 Monday	1 John 3-4	United Kingdom with Republic of Ireland
	3 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 13-15	DeKalb, Ill., Corps
	4 Wednesday	Nehemiah 5-9	Jefferson City, Mo., Corps
	5 Thursday	Psalms 140-142	Jamestown, N.D., Corps
	6 Friday	Song of Songs 1-2	Marshalltown, Iowa, Corps
	7 Saturday	Revelation 1-6	Lansing Citadel, Mich., Corps
	8 Sunday	Acts 21-22	Marinette, Wis., Corps
	9 Monday	1 John 5	USA Western Territory
	10 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 16-18	Midland, Mich., Corps
	11 Wednesday	Nehemiah 10-13	Keokuk, Iowa, Corps
	12 Thursday	Psalms 143-145	Kokomo, Ind., Corps
	13 Friday	Song of Songs 3-4	Midland DHQ
	14 Saturday	Revelation 7-11	Lawrence, Kan., Corps
	15 Sunday	Acts 23-24	Des Plaines, Ill., Corps
	16 Monday	2 John	Australia Territory
	17 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 19-21	Joplin, MO, Corps
	18 Wednesday	Esther 1-5	Lakewood Temple, Minn., Corps
	19 Thursday	Psalms 146-148	Mason City, Iowa, Corps
	20 Friday	Song of Songs 5-6	Lansing South, Mich., Corps
	21 Saturday	Revelation 12-17	Marquette County, Mich., Corps
	22 Sunday	Acts 25-26	Chicago, Ill., Kroc Center
	23 Monday	3 John	Rockford, Ill., ARC
	24 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 22-24	Monroe, Mich., Corps
	25 Wednesday	Esther 6-10	Celebrate Immanuel—God with us!
	26 Thursday	Psalms 149-150	Macomb, Ill., Corps
	27 Friday	Song of Songs 7-8	International Headquarters
	28 Saturday	Revelation 18-20	Leavenworth, Kan., Corps
	29 Sunday	Acts 27-28	East Chicago, Ind., Corps
	30 Monday	Jude	Kirkville, Mo., Corps
	31 Tuesday	Revelation 21-22	Past blessings and new vision

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center
 DHQ = Divisional Headquarters

--Mustard Seeds--



New center a place of hope in disasters

by Sam Amick and Kathy Anderson

The Heartland Division has opened a new emergency disaster services (EDS) command center in Pekin, Ill., thanks to the generosity of the Leman Auto Group. Centrally located in the division, The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services Sam Leman Center provides easy access to two major highways which will allow EDS teams to respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies and disasters. The building offers upgraded infrastructure, technology and training facilities.

In addition to hosting the divisional EDS team, the downstate Illinois center will serve as the central hub for all EDS volunteers in the division to be trained and to meet before and after disaster assignments to share information. Videoconferencing capabilities will be added so that volunteers who are not able to attend can still be trained.

New classes geared toward disaster preparedness for the general public

and community groups are being added. The EDS team will partner with local meteorologists and emergency professionals to lead these classes throughout the year.

The new facility also houses the division's SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) Communications Center, which features a communications room and a separate training area for SATERN volunteers and emergency responders who need access to communication networks during a disaster. New CB radios and receivers for all corps in the division and the EDS command center, purchased through a grant from Firehouse Subs, will enhance communications for disaster relief. With back-up power capability during power outages, the center enhances The Salvation Army's partnerships with other emergency services throughout the region.

Lastly, the new EDS command center has raised The Salvation Army's visibility in the Pekin community which affords the opportunity to more broadly tell our story and how we partner with the communities we serve.



730... AND BEYOND



2,699 days and counting

by Captain Pamela Kasten

My dad often says I've been gifted in a way to do just what I do as an officer. Growing up, I knew by age 14 this is what I should be. I loved when my corps officers would plan a different kind of worship, program or event that made life fun and interesting. Now, I do that for others. From "thinking big" to planning logistics to executing events, I find joy in making them happen.

In the last seven years as an officer, I've especially appreciated the opportunity to hold outreach events that help people get to know The Salvation Army on a deeper level and bring them into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

This year my team and I wanted to put on an event to coincide with the one-year anniversary of a tornado that ripped through our city of Marshalltown, Iowa. I poured everything I had into planning it and building excitement in our community but wondered if anyone would take us up on this free offer. I prepared myself mentally for no one to show up. When the day arrived, we went to work setting up in our newly repaired gymnasium as well as outside. It was 100 degrees, and by the



time the team from our divisional headquarters arrived I was tired, drenched in sweat and needed an attitude adjustment. I was in no shape to greet my community. Fortunately, I had time to dash home and refresh before opening the registration tent and corps doors.

That evening God showed me that my doubts have no place in His Kingdom. More than 400 people showed up for our event. They came to enjoy fun, fellowship and food, and they experienced The Salvation Army in a different way. At the end of the evening, I sat overwhelmed by what God had done with my little plan.

I absolutely love how God can take the gifts He has given me and use them to build His Kingdom as an officer.

Fight for Good Tour Continued from page 5

Majors Merrill and Nancy Powers, Freedom Center directors, gave a tour during which the group heard from staff members and people who've been helped, including Nathan, who has been in a penitentiary four times but has found sobriety and a better life with help from the Army. "They want the best for you," he said.

Commissioner Hudson praised the "incredible, comprehensive programs"

at the Freedom Center. "It would be easier to list the things they *don't* do," he said.

Lastly, the group visited a canteen stop, where staff and volunteers distributed lunch as well as Narcan, a medication used to treat an opioid overdose. After chatting with clients and volunteers, the national commander declared the work, "Phenomenal. I'm beyond words."

Promoted to Glory

Major Georgia Anderson

Major Georgia Ann Anderson, 82, was promoted to Glory peacefully on August 22, 2019.

Georgia was a person who loved God enthusiastically, loved her family abundantly and loved others with compassion and grace. She touched numerous lives as she consistently pointed others to God with her faithful reflection of Jesus Christ.

Georgia married John "Butch"



Anderson on November 20, 1981. Called to fulltime service, they became auxiliary captains in 1986. The Andersons served in corps appointments throughout the Midwest before retiring from their final appointment at the Ottawa, Ill., Corps in 2002.

Georgia is survived by her sister Bea Cox, daughter Major Nancy (Jack) Holloway, son Captain Mark (Jennifer) VanMeter, and grandchildren First Sergeant Brian Holloway of the United States Marine Corps, Lieutenant Grant (Jaclyn) Holloway, and Bailee and Brekyn VanMeter. She was preceded in death by her husband, John, and her sons William Paul and Timothy Scott VanMeter.

Always prepared

Just days after intense disaster response practice, the Polk, Burnett and St. Croix County Service Unit found itself deployed to feed and hydrate the Wisconsin National Guard as it cleared trees and debris from roadways after tornadoes and storms ripped through northwest Wisconsin.

Duana Bremer, the service unit's social services director, said the team was able to quickly and efficiently respond to the large-scale operation.

When Wisconsin State Governor Tony Evers and Major General Don

Dunbar expressed their appreciation to The Salvation Army at a Wisconsin National Guard awards ceremony, it was exciting news for this small community.

"Our Facebook page went from a few followers to more than 1,000 with over 29,000 responses to posts and pictures as well as increased community support," said Duana.

Benny Benedict, territorial disaster resources coordinator, concluded, "It always amazes me how we train for disaster responses, and then God comes in to let us know our training was not in vain."



Wisconsin State Governor Tony Evers, Duana Bremer and Major General Don Dunbar