The only basketball program for elementary students in Duluth, RBA reaches hundreds of children and their families each year through its 33-team league, three-on-three tournament and summer clinics. The program, which is run entirely on volunteer power, maintains a standard of positive sportsmanship through coaching good character along with basketball skills.

"I was floored when they announced RBA as the national winner," said Kris Mallett, RBA coordinator. "It was a really big honor to be selected."

The $5,000 received for this award will be used to fund scholarships for families who can’t afford the registration fee and to purchase equipment to ensure every coach has enough basketballs and other items needed for team practices.

As this new season begins, Kris plans to build on the strong foundation that’s already in place. "Receiving this award comes with a huge responsibility to hold to the standard we’ve set and to get even better," Kris explained.

Kris hopes to improve the award-winning program by providing additional training for coaches to help them recognize and work with youth who may be at risk. She also plans to increase opportunities for community involvement on behalf of The Salvation Army.

“We have the chance to tell our story and reach our community on a different field than many corps get to," concluded Kris. "It’s a unique opportunity for us to show God’s love through sports.”

Data from both studies found increased hope, as measured by the Herth Hope Index (Herth, 1991), was positively associated with increased stability as measured by the Self Sufficiency Matrix, as well as increased earned income and successful program completion. Learning objectives include understanding of the

- Evidence-based practices, tools and community-based collaboration that support effective case management;
- Organizational mindset, culture and practices that are vital for supporting case managers in attaining optimum results;
- Integral role of hope as a construct for supporting participants in overcoming barriers and achieving increased sufficiency and strategies for cross-cultural implementation.

The international conference drew over 1,000 social workers and academics and offered hundreds of presentations across a wide range of social service concerns. The International Headquarters program resources department hosted a kindred session for Salvation Army attendees which afforded an opportunity for sharing best practices and unique programs related to education, refugee crisis, and homelessness, as well as a time to reflect on the joy of serving Jesus through The Salvation Army.

Editor’s note: To read an inspiring POH human interest article, see page 12.

Pathway of Hope shared at global conference

Marilyn Swanson, Dr. Philip Hong

Pathway of Hope shared at global conference

Marilyn Swanson, Ph.D., and Linda Brinker, of the territorial social services department, along with Philip Hong, Ph.D., of Loyola University Chicago, were invited to deliver a presentation and participate in a poster session at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development held in Dublin, Ireland, this summer.

Their presentation, “Teams, Tools and Hope-Enhancement Strategies: A Multifaceted Approach to Impacting Poverty,” focused on the findings from the research studies conducted by Dr. Swanson and Dr. Hong on the tools, processes and outcomes of Pathway of Hope (POH), including the impact of increased hope and integration of spiritual care on positive movement toward increased stability and sufficiency. Their presentations generated rich discussion with Salvation Army personnel from Norway to Hong Kong who were interested in learning about POH.
Sacred Conversations at divisional lunch hour from January to mid-year. After the first year, they surveyed participants, made adjustments and asked the Urban Mission Center to facilitate sessions for 11 consecutive weeks the following winter before concluding its use. They found people’s experiences naturally varied. For many it was positive, but for others it proved painful.

“The conversations can be difficult, and after a series of sessions sometimes a break is necessary to assess what is most helpful to people,” said Karen. “Always, people need to enter into the dialogue with an openness to learn, a willingness to listen deeply and a commitment to mutual respect and sharing. And we pray for understanding and hope for healing.”

“I learned from each other and shared ways we could unite to show the love of Jesus to people of different races, religions and economic backgrounds,” said Major Ron Key, St. Charles, Mo., corps officer about the training for St. Charles County. A county-wide coalition of more than 60 churches and numerous agencies, school districts, hospitals, police and fire departments were involved in monthly discussions for a year.

Hundreds of individuals took part. This June at the commissioning weekend more than 60 people gathered on Saturday afternoon to experience Sacred Conversations and be encouraged to use the guide. Captain Katie Harris-Smith, chaplain for mission integration at the Chicago North Side, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center, who attended the session concluded, “I realized I needed to better understand the anger of others, especially in my ministry with women in recovery. I now know there are some things I can’t over look, but I can help people channel their anger by being part of the solution rather than just expressing rage.”

For more information or to download a copy of the resource guide visit multiculturalministriescentral.org

An equitable lens

by Major Phil Aho

Last year The Salvation Army announced a new International Positional Statement to address racism. This timely statement confirmed the Midland Division’s decision to adopt a racial equity lens for The Salvation Army in the St. Louis region. This lens was introduced at The Whole Region Redesigning: Race, Reconciliation and Equity Conference held at the Ferguson Community Empowerment Center. The conference gave delegates the opportunity to wear their Salvation Army social justice and theological hats. It was a meaningful and historic event which began with the first Salvation Army worship service to take place at the Ferguson Community Empowerment Center. Officers, employees and advisory board and council members focused on their commitment to pursue racial equity within the Army. Attendance exceeded expectations with an especially strong presence of advisory board and council members.

Officers and employees presented how this lens—adopted for use with the permission of Portland, Oregon, Public Schools—can “provide a common vocabulary and protocol” in corps, institutions and advisory organizations and for “evaluating policies, programs, practices and decisions for racial equity.” The day ended with a dedicatory prayer for Major Charlotte Hall, who will champion the Army’s movement forward in racial equity in St. Louis.

The Army's International Social Justice Commission will visit St. Louis on November 8, 2018, to help the Army see more powerfully through this lens.
Not long ago while studying Acts 2, the teens at the St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps were discussing in Sunday school how the Church began. It was a great way for us to talk about what this would look like today. One of our teens, Emily Huitt, expressed it best: “It means we would have each other’s backs.”

If we should be looking out for each other as if we were family, the next question becomes, “How do we do that?” Earlier this year, our corps made hospitality its number one priority for mission advancement based on the STEPs (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) process. Having this as a corps-wide goal has been unifying for us as members.

“We want to become a covenanting community of hospitality,” said Major William DeJesus, St. Louis Gateway Citadel corps officer.

As we’ve been working toward this goal, it has completely changed the way we’ve been treating everyone we interact with, including each other.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines hospitality as the “friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors or strangers.” Is this what God wants from His Church? In the New Testament, the word hospitality is used several times, but translated from the Greek philoxenos or philoxenia, it’s defined as “the act of loving strangers as if they were family.”

Our corps formed a hospitality committee comprised of members with different ages, backgrounds and experiences. It has been a good lens for examining, evaluating and improving existing programs, policies and events corps-wide.

Our congregation is learning to see ourselves in each other. We’ve all been called to expand our comfort zones and embrace each other and visitors. By searching to relate to everyone we encounter, we recognize our shared humanity. We see each other as God sees us, right where we are, with all our imperfections.

“We want to become a covenanting community of hospitality,” said Alicia Mingo, a soldier at our corps who lives out “Family and hospitality go hand-in-hand for us,” said Alicia Mingo, a soldier at our corps who lives out this love daily—and others feel it. “In our home there are no guests; you are family when you cross the threshold. We come together to worship God and fellowship as believers. We should be welcoming to the stranger and the friend alike.”

You may be thinking, “People at my corps or church are too different to be really united. It’s a nice thought, but it’s just not realistic.” Unity doesn’t mean we become the same or even that we want to be the same. It means having each other’s backs; it means working together instead of against each other and combining our gifts and talents to build God’s Kingdom.

It’s like a colorful quilt or mosaic with each person representing a piece of material or tile. It’s through our differences that something beautiful can be created, but only after we’re connected. That’s when the beauty can be revealed and the bigger picture seen.

Youth start on right path to unity through fellowship with each other and corps officers.

A constant reminder of the corps’ mission.

Food, fun and fellowship.

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A yen for youth ministry

T all and lanky, Captain Chris Marques greets you with a slight deferential bow. It’s second nature now since he’s served nearly eight years in Japan. “It will take a while to assimilate back,” he quipped. But he’s happy to be home again in the Central Territory and believes God’s timing is right, just as when he went to Japan in 2011.

He was there barely four weeks before a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami devastated the country. When most foreigners evacuated and friends and family begged him to come home, Chris fleetingly wondered if he should. But the needs were immense, and people were relying on him. As the only fluent English speaker, he was thrust into answering all inquiries and offering assistance in English that poured into territorial headquarters. His coworkers didn’t doubt Chris’ presence was God’s providence. For nearly a year disaster relief slowed up his appointment in youth work, but eventually he got back to it—and found it quite challenging as well.

During his first three-year term, Chris was part of a department of two: himself and the territorial youth secretary. The workload was immense, but daunting as well was finding a way to reach youth with the love of Christ in a formal society with little free time. He also searched for a way to support young Salvationists in their faith. “In Japan young Christians can feel very alone,” said the captain, explaining only one half of one percent of the population is Christian.

Chris himself felt lonely at times, being a young, white Christian who didn’t fluently speak Japanese. He was perhaps most keenly aware of being “odd man out” on his daily commute when packed into the train like a sardine. “(More than 6 million people take the subway each day in Tokyo!) It has really given me empathy for minorities,” said Chris. “I’ve been in their shoes.”

He came to see relationships as a key to reaching people in Japan with the gospel. “There are not huge physical needs,” Chris explained. “But many people are hungry for authentic friendships and people who care.”

At the beginning of his second term when perhaps he needed support most, an Australian officer couple was appointed to the youth department, delightfully doubling the staff with English speakers! Chris spotted God’s provision. He also recognized how much God used English in his ministry. He often taught English at corps which offered classes to attract many Japanesewho wouldn’t otherwise walk through their doors. In 2016 Chris was given the additional appointment of assistant corps officer at the Suginami Corps where he especially enjoyed getting to know older adults and was encouraged by their faith, joy and peace.

“The very things we crave—grace, compassion and encouragement—are often what we need to give first,” said Chris. “Isn’t it as much about being plugged into devices as each other?”

Drawing on his experience and spiritual growth in Japan, his current ministry as assistant territorial youth secretary for the Central Territory is enriched.

“I’ve been thinking a lot lately about ‘going deeper’ in our relationships with each other and in God’s Word. ‘Thinking higher’—not only purer thoughts but thinking more of each other and giving encouragement. And ‘reaching wider,’ shattering walls and reaching more youth with the gospel,” said Chris. “If people know who they are and Whose they are, then they understand their value. And isn’t that the heart of youth work?”

Discover your role

Urbana 18 Conference
December 27-31, 2018
St. Louis, Mo.

Your skills + Your passions + God’s mission = Your next step

Salvationists interested in discovering God’s plan for their lives might consider attending the Urbana missions conference featuring more than 200 seminars and 260 exhibitors. Early-bird registration ends November 15. Find out more at urbana.org

Gatherings for Salvationists and others interested in fulltime ministry opportunities with The Salvation Army will be held during the conference. Find out more at centralyouthnetwork.com/urbana
Summer mission teams span the globe!

This year’s summer mission teams (SMT) enjoyed productive ministries in the Central Territory and in countries spanning the globe. Here are a few of their highlights.

CAST
The Creative Arts Service Team (CAST) created an original show called “Just the Way You Are” that incorporated elements of music, drama, dance and timbrels. The team performed and assisted at three divisional music camps in the Midwest and one in Buenos Aires, Argentina. They also visited four corps where they helped with day camp ministries. While in Argentina, they taught their Jesus Theater show, “El Camino (The Way)” to a group of young adults.

Spain and Portugal
Ministering through painting projects, vocation Bible schools, music, dance, timbrels, preaching, testimonies and showing God’s love to others, this team appreciated the community they had together. Among their highlights was meeting and working alongside local young adults; even though language was sometimes a barrier, they found ways to bond through group games and dance! The team also was grateful for the fellowship they had with Central officers Lt. Colonels Philip and Sheila Davison who taught their Jesus Theater show, “El Camino” that incorporated elements of music, drama, dance and timbrels. The team performed and assisted at three divisional music camps in the Midwest and one in Buenos Aires, Argentina. They also visited four corps where they helped with day camp ministries.

Big world, huge opportunity

This fall Central Salvationist Stephanie Marinelli, 22, embarks on a year-long internship with The Salvation Army’s International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) in New York City. It’s an amazing opportunity to work closely with the small tight-knit international team which is “The Salvation Army’s strategic voice to advocate for human dignity and social justice with the world’s poor and oppressed.” One or two positions are offered each year and are filled only if candidates are qualified and the right fit; they receive room and board and a stipend. After graduating from Loyola University with a degree in International Business, Stephanie has been working in the fast-paced sales department of a global corporation in the aviation industry. While grateful to gain solid business experience and sharpen her skills, she hasn’t allowed herself to get too comfortable in her job. Instead, she’s been on the lookout for new opportunities that meld with her Christian calling to make the world a more just place. “When I saw the internship posted, I felt like that was my cue from God,” she said. Growing up in a family deeply rooted in The Salvation Army, Stephanie has been blessed to travel and experience the world and has been encouraged to serve others from a young age. A plethora of Army experiences have informed her faith, most notably a summer mission trip to Haiti in 2016. The poverty, hunger and disease moved her and, though still in college, Stephanie found herself brainstorming how to create a business model that could help.

“I have become passionate about using my business mind for ethical purposes,” she explained. “I believe that we can further God’s Kingdom by contributing our talents for the greater good.”

In January her passion for social justice was honored as Stephanie renovated the Bacolod Corps and officers’ quarters in the Philippines as part of a territorial global mission team. During this time a simple but serendipitous conversation with a young woman caused her to reevaluate her personal spending. “What if I lived off what I needed and gave the rest to God?” she pondered, thinking more seriously about the Soldier’s Covenant to support her corps and the Army’s worldwide ministry with her finances as much as possible. She surmised, “Even to make little changes in our habits, it is possible to have a profound impact.”

This year while at the ISJC, whether conducting research to tackle a large issue or sampling the variety of food NYC has to offer, Stephanie expects God to take her faith—and mind—to a new level. It’s a huge opportunity and the next step in the right direction.
CBLI: prayer-saturated, power-filled

by Major Donna Leedom

Be on the lookout Central Territory! Central Bible Leadership Institute (CBLI) campers have returned home from a prayer-saturated, power-filled week of biblical teaching and leadership training. Ask them about the new friends they made with Dr. Captain Marion Platt, Captains Heather and Robert Dolby, Fulton Hawk and Michael Hulett. Each of these guests added to friendships the gifts of grace in teaching, preaching and encouraging God’s people to deeper relationship and faith in Christ.

The youngest campers were cared for with the loving supervision of Major Jo Langham and her team. Their support to parents and grandparents went beyond the classroom by helping parents and engaging with these precious ones around the campground. Major Jo also led two “Walk through the Bible” sessions which were popular with both children and adults.

Captain Norman Polusca introduced Jr. CBLI team members through their specific spiritual gifts. It was a great way to begin as they led children in understanding they belong to the body of Christ and have a special set of gifts to share with God’s people. Make room for them. Encourage and celebrate who they are and what God wants to do through them.

Captains Peter and Catherine Mount and company found creative ways to encourage their peeps to seek wisdom with a treasure hunt as well as letters from a mystery writer who shared clues to his identity and encouraged students to find him. Ava Shiels and Naomi Mowers summed up what they learned: “Our Bible verse for the week was Proverbs 3:5-6, and we learned about getting wise by trusting God and leaning on Him, not our own understanding. We can trust Him to avoid temptation because He knows what’s what.”

The Sharp Center was covered in prayer as the intentionality of Barb Higgins (who celebrated 50 years at CBLI) and her ministry team demonstrated the week was about Jesus’ power and love. Teaching from the book of Acts inspired teens to both know the gospel and be able to share that wonderful gift with others. Nelly Nuhigirwa and Will Lawson say they’ve gained better Bible study skills and are more open now to talking about God with others.

Peace was the word for the young adults as they discovered how to live at peace by studying prohibitors and promoters such as entitlement versus gratitude, greed versus generosity, fear versus faith, anger versus forgiveness, and laziness versus discipline. Delegate Dylan LaCanne said he realized greed was keeping him from living at peace, and he’s taking home the truth of 1 John 3:17 to help him remember to depend more on God and His perfect provision.

Captain Marion Platt opened the Word of God from Isaiah each day to invite adults to dig deeply into the immutable, holy, sovereign, faithful, just, merciful and loving character of God that knows no limit in space or time. Moving from Isaiah to the Gospels the captain spoke of the truth that the character of God the Father is the same found in Jesus and shared with each believer through the Holy Spirit when we depend fully on Him. Rebecca Lynn of Big Rapids, Mich., said she was struck by the teaching on faithfulness and will depend on God to allow that part of His character to grow in her.

Look for the changes in the delegates you may know and expect those changes to impact your corps and community as the Spirit of God moves through them to impact the world He loves.
Growth on every front at CMI 2018

by Joe Caddy

While Central Music Institute (CMI) is a time-honored tradition, the objective of each CMI encampment always has been oriented more to the future of music ministry than its past. This summer’s CMI—the 84th—was no exception with 10 days marked by dynamic growth.

More Students

The 217 combined registrations of the instrumental and vocal schools represent the highest CMI enrollment in nearly 10 years and more than a 30 percent increase over last year. Much of the growth could be seen in the vocal school where 84 singers participated in one of CMI’s two mainstream choruses—an increase of almost 65 percent over CMI 2017!

Expanded Curriculum

The music and gospel arts department continues to explore ways to augment curricular offerings at CMI to encourage a variety of artistic expressions. Making its debut this year, the newly established woodwind elective track enabled students who play non-brass wind instruments to join in music ministry on their primary instrument. This track joins dance, drama, leadership, media production and praise team as expanded courses of study aimed at encouraging students to develop skills in these areas for use in their corps and divisions.

Greater Artistic Expression

Expertly guided by guest instructor Kelllyn Thornburg, a profession al dancer and Salvationist from New York City, the dance elective track made great strides toward artistic and technical excellence. Instrumental and vocal technique classes were enriched by the integration of the newly revamped music and arts proficiency (MAP) curriculum combined with the skillful coaching of seasoned CMI faculty. In ensemble rehearsals, students and faculty were spurred on to greater heights of music ministry by guest instructors Majors Martin and Leanne Corder (United Kingdom and Ireland Territory) and Eric and Becky Din (USA East Territory).

Big Spiritual Strides

While the schedule was filled with classes aimed at stimulating musical growth, CMI 2018 also sparked spiritual growth as students and staff studied the life of Moses in Sealed Orders, small groups and devotionals by CMI Chaplain Captain Betsy Clark. On the first weekend, territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey encouraged campers in their faith. Major Martin Corder, an accomplished composer and arranger, created a new brass band setting of “If your presence” (Major Yvonne Field) specifically for CMI. With text from Exodus 33, the song perfectly tied together CMI’s musical and spiritual components as it was sung throughout the week.

A New Generation

CMI was honored to have Chief Secretary Colonel Steve Howard present awards to campers this year during the Awards Festival. One of the emotional highlights not only of the evening but of all CMI was the presentation of the new Steve Diaz Chaplain’s Award. Created to honor the legacy of Steve Diaz, beloved CMI student and faculty member who passed away in 2014, the award will be given each year to a student who through humor, joy and grace encourages others. The inaugural award was presented to Edrance [KI] Emmanuel, who was mentored by Steve Diaz when he was the St. Louis Temple, Mo., corps officer. It is clear God continues to use Steve’s life to multiply the ministry through the lives he influenced.

The growth doesn’t end at CMI but continues as students and faculty return to their corps. Like Moses, they are equipped and invigorated for service after a “mountainslop” encounter with the Lord and assured that God’s Spirit will be their constant guide.

Awards

Shagbark Band
Timothy Kepple (Boone, Iowa)
Frank and Gladys Botu Award

Temple Band
Kevin Herrera (La Paz Central, Bolivia)
Rachel Gordine-Phelps Award

Hilltop Chorus
Reggie Brooks (Rockford Temple, Ill.)
Victor Danielson Scholarship

Tabernacle Band
Levi Mowers (Royal Oak, Mich.)
Paton Family Scholarship

Citiadel Band
Annabel Allan (Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.)
Donald Hartman Scholarship

Booth Chorale
Marisa Riley (Carlisle, Pa.)
Douglas Norris Scholarship

Wonderland Band
Anthony Barrington (Oklahoma City, Okla.)
William and Katherine Scarnett Scholarship

Ernest and Mary Miller Vocal Soloist Award
Elizabeth Hyme (Columbus, Ohio)
Jeffrey Steele (Blue Island, Ill.)

Marjorie Marshall Piano Award
Emily Cattani (Manitowoc, Wis.)

First Citadel Uden-McDougal Percussion Award
Emilio Ramos (East Chicago, Ind.)

Ray Wright Tuba Award
Scott Rodriguez (Rockford Temple, Ill.)

Earle Harston Euphonium Award
Randal Smith II (First Citadel, Mich.)

John R. Cheyne Trombone Award
Rachel Dina (Cleveland Temple, Ohio)

Howard Chesham Horn Award
Josie Himes (First Citadel, Mich.)

Ron Rowland Cornet Award
Delaney West (St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo.)

Winters Instrument Repair Award
Kevin Herrera (La Paz Central, Bolivia)

Steve Diaz Chaplain’s Award
Endrance Emmanuel (St. Louis Temple, Mo.)

Harry Strissel Most Improved Musician Award
Ryan Cookley (Royal Oak, Mich.)

Ramseale-Jaudes-Beyer Rookie Award
Emily Cho (Lakewood Temple, Minn.)

Fischer Awards
Composition—Anna Tooley (Ronridge Citadel, Ill.)
Theory—Nathaniel Coppin (Royal Oak, Mich.)
Leadership—Aaron Fish (Des Plaines, Ill.)

Bernard A. and Bessie H. Smith Conducting Award
J. J. Pook (Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.)

Major William and Jean Stuart Scholarship
Allison Jordan (Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.)

Lois and Len Dumguy Spirit of CMI Award
Samuel Leka (Rockford Temple, Ill.)

Ben Merrill Award
Isaac Leka (Rockford Temple, Ill.)

Arthur Shoults Scholarship

Crosby-O’Neil Cornet
Fulton Heights, Mich., Corps

Effective Track Scholarships
Dance—Jimiah Steele (Blue Island, Ill.)
Drama—Sara Dina (Cleveland Temple, Ohio)
Praise Band—Joshua Kistan (Tustin Ranch, Calif.)
Media Production—William Lawson (Des Plaines, Ill.)
Woodwinds—Kristen Holness (St. Louis Eucild, Mo.)

Janey Hull Memorial Scholarship
Kathlyn Priestner (Wichita Citadel, Kan.)

Synge F. Wood Tabu Scholarship

Cody Long (Indianapolis Fountain Square, Ind.)

Captain Fred Wakefield Memorial Scholarship
Alexis Yacobucci (Des Plaines, Ill.)
Restorative justice redirects youth in Omaha

Helping youth understand how their behavior affects others is just one of the aims of an innovative restorative justice program being used to help guide at-risk youth at the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Omaha, Neb.

“The goal of restorative justice is to help kids own their behaviors and realize the effects their decisions have on others. It then helps them learn how to repair any harm done because of their behaviors and decisions,” said Jill Harmon, Kroc Center youth engagement manager. “This allows youth to learn from their poor decision making without a punitive approach, which only sends kids down the pipeline to prison.”

According to Jill, the program also destigmatizes and reverses the fear of decision making by teaching youth how to apply critical thinking skills to visualize the effects, both positive and negative, of their decisions and behaviors.

Jill implemented the program at the Kroc Center in 2011, and it’s been used with more than 70 youth. Participation requires an agreement signed by the young person and a parent or guardian. A form is used to track and record the results of each step of the process, including specifics about the initial breach of conduct and an agreed-upon deadline to resolve the situation.

Senior Kroc Center Officer A/Captain John Gantner said, “Young people are more likely to prosper in growth when attainable expectations and boundaries are set before them. The restorative justice framework sets clear limits to help children stay on track. And, the glue for the framework is warm encouragement, belief, respect and empowerment.”

The genesis of the restorative justice practice came from research and experience in the public education system which showed growing numbers of youth entering the school-to-prison pipeline. Jill, a former teacher, said, “Too often I saw the unavailing results of suspension and the dismal future of repeat offenders.”

As she began researching the issue, Jill found a version of the restorative justice practice implemented at a high school in Colorado. After speaking at length with the coordinator about their program and its success, she modified it to fit the Kroc Center.

Jill and the Kroc Center’s mentoring staff follow up not only with the youth but also their schools and families on a consistent basis to gauge success. Teachers and school administrators have experienced an increase in positive behavior in the classroom as well as greater participation in extracurricular activities from youth who’ve participated.

Parents have expressed appreciation for the program. One mother credited it as a catalyst for positive change in attitude, work ethic and self-esteem for her 14-year-old son. A/Captain Tracy Gantner, Kroc Center officer for program development, concluded, “When children are valued and taught to value each other, human needs are met in the name of Jesus.”
Connecting through music

Music is in the air at the Elgin, Ill., Corps, where Lieutenant Colonel Linda Harrer and the Western Division’s Let the Music Begin (LTMB) program, more than 50 children receive lessons in brass, rhythm, theory and guitar each week. The program has made such an impression that it recently was awarded a $6,000 grant by the Chicago Bulls Foundation, which allowed the corps to purchase several brass instruments.

‘It’s Kingdom work,’ said Captain Heather Montenegro, corps officer, who along with her husband, Captain Xavier, and their leadership team created a STEPs (Strength Tool to Engage Potential) goal to grow the existing music program and connect families from it to other corps activities.

They began advertising the music program in two schools whose principals sit on the advisory board and instituted a quarterly registration process, requiring parents to sign their children up in person in the fall, winter and spring. Each youth night a parent or guardian must enter the building with their child to sign them in and return at the end of the evening to sign them out.

“We didn’t realize the scope of the impact these direct points of contact could have on our corps people and the community,” said the captain. “We’re building relationships with the whole family.”

As the program grew, more volunteers were needed to accommodate the large number of students. To the captains’ delight, soldiers began to step up and out of their comfort zones to assist even if they’re not musically inclined. Fifteen volunteers from the corps and community teach three brass bands, rhythm and theory, prepare supper, run the sign-in table and manage crowd control.

Fall, winter and spring concerts bring everyone together to celebrate the accomplishments of the young musicians. Soldiers attend in uniform to greet families and make them feel welcome, inviting them to corps programs and worship services. Inspired by the developing relationships, volunteers last spring spent the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter delivering ministry bags inviting program participants and their families to church for Easter service. Each bag was filled with English and Spanish Bibles, an Easter devotional, candy, a family game, and a note saying how much they enjoy having the children participate in LTMB.

Through their efforts, the captain reports an increasing number of LTMB students have joined the youth Bible time which takes place after music lessons end. At least one family has started attending the corps semi-regularly, and several students also attended music camp this summer.

“Our students are learning music and the Bible, and we’re connecting with the entire family unit,” concluded Captain Heather. “It’s an incredible ministry.”

A step of faith

It’s a tough job, but someone has to do it.

When Linda Harrer was asked by the Western Division to manage Safe From Harm (SFH), the territory’s policy and program designed to protect children and vulnerable adults, she hesitated. She’d spent more than 25 years as executive assistant to the divisional commander and had worked with Safe From Harm as a component of that position, but she wasn’t sure about managing it full-time.

“I prayed and prayed about it,” she said. “Eventually my husband reminded me that sometimes God just asks us to take a step of faith.” So Linda accepted the position. She’s not regretted it.

Linda is passionate about educating employees and volunteers to ensure safe interaction when they work with vulnerable individuals, which includes children, older adults and those with physical or mental disabilities. Although it’s a tough subject to broach, according to Linda, the importance of SFH cannot be overstated. She believes SFH safeguards against abuse as well as false accusations of abuse, protecting everyone by setting a standard for program leadership and contact with participants.

“Safe from Harm brings awareness to our need to protect everyone in our sphere of influence. It prevents incidents,” she said.

With the support of the SFH office at territorial headquarters and the Western Division, Linda has found ways to make SFH training interesting and, though still serious, lighten the atmosphere and keep it upbeat. The combination of education and entertainment keeps people engaged and helps ensure they’re equipped and empowered. One tactic she uses is to teach songs penned by Megan Olson, territorial Safe From Harm director, outlining SFH guidelines to familiar tunes. Another is to use stuffed animals as props to represent potentially dangerous situations, such as an out-of-place adult with candy hanging around a group of children.

Linda travels to observe programs and conduct audits at each of the division’s corps every two years and each institution once a year, which gives her the opportunity to get to know officers and local leaders.

“It really is a ministry,” she said. “Visiting allows us to bring each corps and institution a custom consultation based upon their specific needs and challenges, and I think people are more comfortable asking questions now because we have a relationship.”

Art with heart

After raising more than $1,000 last year to benefit Salvation Army hurricane relief through sales of his paintings, Daniel Schaal has expanded his fundraising efforts to support other Army ministries in addition to emergency disaster services. The son of Captains Jason and Ilona Schaal, Daniel has enjoyed painting since he was 5 years old; he’ll turn 11 later this month.

“As our middle child, Daniel found his voice in art,” said Captain Ilona, who described him as a very smart and serious child who can carry on intellectual conversations with adults. Most importantly, Daniel loves Jesus, a fact he likes to share with others not only verbally but through acts of service.

When Daniel saw news footage of people in the U.S. and Caribbean dealing with the devastation caused by last fall’s hurricanes, he immediately said he wanted to help. After his parents dissuaded him from selling all of his possessions, Daniel came up with the idea of selling his paintings.

‘Parting with his existing paintings was hard for Daniel, but he said it was worth it,’ said his mom. Daniel set to work creating more paintings and, with help from his parents’ Facebook contacts which literally span the globe, the paintings began to sell. Buyers were generous with their donations, purchasing paintings for $20 to $100 each. Daniel was featured on local television and radio shows in Terre Haute, Ind., where his parents were the corps officers, and he even received requests for commissioned works.

Captain Ilona wondered if the family’s trip to her homeland, the Republic of Georgia, in 2016 had influenced Daniel’s desire to help others after hearing his mom’s stories about surviving the war there. In fact, he’s now writing a book about her life!
Reflections of a reluctant evangelist

by Dr. Maribeth V. Swanson

As a lifelong Salvationist, I’ve certainly been aware of the annual National Seminar on Evangelism (NSE) held at the Glen Eyrie Conference Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Many people have encouraged me to attend it knowing I’d appreciate the excellent speakers, solid biblical teaching and warm fellowship—all just steps from picturesque Colorado landscapes.

NSE is all about training in evangelism. Real or fake news, I’d heard about “outreach day” on which delegates are dropped off at parks or go door-to-door sharing the gospel. Sure, I can easily sing “O tell the world” at the end of a Congress meeting, but please God, don’t ask me to paraphrase three-point spiel that I’ll surely mess up.

Nonetheless, I followed the advice of motivational writer Taylor Swift (“...fearless is having fears but jumping anyway”) and joined the Central Territory’s other 24 delegates and five staff members headed to NSE. There I discovered a curriculum that reframes evangelism from a method to three-dimensional living. It’s about sharing the gospel by developing friendships, discovering others’ stories and discerning next steps supporting their journey toward Christ.

Delegates were assigned to small groups where Just Walk Across the Room principles were reviewed. As each person told their faith story, the Jesus was evident in each, and I grew more assured of God’s love and the Holy Spirit’s presence. Every day started with an optional 6:00 a.m. ridge hike. We’d take in the splendor of the Rocky Mountains and welcome sunrise with a devotional and praise. Then after a hearty breakfast, hungry hearts and minds were filled with biblical truths from Dr. Bill and Diane Ury, national ambassadors for holiness.

As the week progressed, we prepared for the outreach day. Before embarking on our assignments, a united consecration service was held to pray for the teams and people we’d encounter. Referencing Psalm 3-10, 2019. For more information see your corps officer.

Masons made a lasting mark

Major Tom and Kay Mason, Dubuque, Iowa, corps officers for the last 15 years, enjoyed a Sunday-morning retirement celebration at the corps. Of their 24 years of service, 21 were spent in the Heartland Division.

High school sweethearts in Grand Island, Neb., the majors married in 1972 and had a son in 1974. A few years later a daughter was born but died after just four days. It was during this time Kay surrendered to Christ; several months later Tom did the same. Eventually they were blessed with another son and daughter.

In 1991, the family began attending the Grand Island Corps. Within a year Tom and Kay answered God’s call to the Grenade City, Ill., Corps. In retirement, Donna plans to travel and spend time with family.

Dr. Maribeth Swanson, Central territorial social services secretary, shared best practices of integrating evangelism with social services and community center activities.

24:2-4, our hands were washed by our team leader, who recited as he washed my hands, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV)

It melted away any remaining fears I had and reminded me our sole purpose was to bring glory to God. We spent the afternoon talking with people at a busy outdoor shopping district; a few even stopped to request prayer. Gratitude fills my heart for what I learned from NSE leaders and delegates who, just like me, really do want to tell others about Jesus.

The next NSE will be held August 3-10, 2019. For more information see your corps officer.
November Prayer Calendar

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

My Prayer List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Bible Reading</th>
<th>Pray for The Salvation Army</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Thursday</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 3-4</td>
<td>Milwaukee, Wls., ARC*</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Friday</td>
<td>Zephaniah</td>
<td>Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Saturday</td>
<td>Acts 11-12</td>
<td>Madison Genesis, Wls., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Sunday</td>
<td>James 4-5</td>
<td>Youth in Corps Cadets</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Monday</td>
<td>Deuteronomy 1-3</td>
<td>Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Tuesday</td>
<td>2 Chronicles 33-36</td>
<td>Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Wednesday</td>
<td>Psalms 128-130</td>
<td>Cicero Temple Laramie, Ill., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Thursday</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 5-6</td>
<td>Caribbean Territory™</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Friday</td>
<td>Haggar</td>
<td>Hibbing, Mnn., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Saturday</td>
<td>Acts 13-14</td>
<td>Kearney, Neb., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Sunday</td>
<td>1 Peter 1-3</td>
<td>Jr. Soldier enrollments</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Monday</td>
<td>Deuteronomy 4-6</td>
<td>Metropolitan DHS*</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Tuesday</td>
<td>Ezra 1-6</td>
<td>Jackson, Mich., Corps</td>
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<td>14 Wednesday</td>
<td>Psalms 131-132</td>
<td>Madison Temple, Wls., Corps</td>
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<td>15 Thursday</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7-8</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Mnn., ARC*</td>
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<td>16 Friday</td>
<td>Zechariah 1-7</td>
<td>Hibbard, Mich., Corps</td>
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<td>17 Saturday</td>
<td>Acts 15-16</td>
<td>Iowa City, Iowa, Corps</td>
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<td>18 Sunday</td>
<td>1 Peter 4-5</td>
<td>Indianapolis Fountain Square, Ind., Corps</td>
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<td>19 Monday</td>
<td>Deuteronomy 7-9</td>
<td>Kansas City Northland, Mo., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Tuesday</td>
<td>Ezra 8-10</td>
<td>Crystal Lake, Wl., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Wednesday</td>
<td>Psalms 134-136</td>
<td>Jacksonville, Wl., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Thursday</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 9-10</td>
<td>Thank God for the blessings He gives</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Friday</td>
<td>Zechariah 9-14</td>
<td>Christmas kettle campaigns</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Saturday</td>
<td>Acts 17-18</td>
<td>International Falls, Mnn., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Sunday</td>
<td>1 John 1-2</td>
<td>Lincoln, Neb., Corps</td>
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<td>26 Monday</td>
<td>Deuteronomy 10-12</td>
<td>Kalamanooz, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Tuesday</td>
<td>Nehemiah 1-4</td>
<td>Commissioners Merle &amp; Dawn Hooten (PMG)</td>
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<td>28 Wednesday</td>
<td>Psalms 137-139</td>
<td>Mantoreno, Wls., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Thursday</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 11-12</td>
<td>Livingston County, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Friday</td>
<td>Malachi</td>
<td>Kankakee, Wl., Corps</td>
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Go to www.salarmycentral.org
If you follow the prayer calendar during the year, you will have read through the Bible!

November Prayer Calendar

Having followed the prayer calendar during the year, you will have read through the Bible!
Offering a safe welcome

Creating a more serene environment while streamlining its admission process and increasing security, the Indianapolis, Ind., Harbor Light dedicated its new Welcome Center.

The decor of the sleek, new reception center exudes a calm, home-like atmosphere with increased privacy for the clients in the pre-operation extension of the harbor light’s security department, the reception area also provides greater safety for staff, residents and family members visiting the center. Among the goals of the new design was to reduce the amount of contra-band entering the harbor light and enhance the prevention of pest infestations. Staff members report improved outlooks on the intake process.

“We give thanks for the hard work and dedication of our staff, the construction crews and generous donors who made the renovation possible,” said Major Kendall Mathews, executive director of the Indianapolis Harbor Light. Referencing the current opioid epidemic, he continued, “The work of The Salvation Army has always been about the needs of the people.”

Following God’s lead

Major Katrina Mathews, Indianapolis Harbor Light corps officer, cuts the ribbon with assistance from Senator Todd Young, Indiana Divisional Secretary Major Beth Petrie, Indianapolis Harbor Light. (Photo by Andrew Kossack)

Frye, commissioned in 1977 with the “Companions of Christ” session, recently retired after 41 years of service. A boy “from the wrong side of the tracks” and an officer’s daughter, they met as young teenagers when Paulette’s parents were stationed at the Topeka, Kan., Corps.

They married after high school and settled down, Jim taking a job at a grocery store. But God had other plans. “God has a way of changing things and working them out the way He wants them done,” Major Jim said.

After attending the College for Officer Training, the Fryes served in corps throughout the territory. “Every appointment was the best appointment God had for us,” Major Paulette said. “I loved working with the women’s ministries and seeing them grow in their love for one another and for Christ, becoming an integral part of the corps.”

They also enjoyed children’s ministry. “Watching them grow and helping them understand they could be anything God wants them to be was a privilege,” Major Jim said. He added that one of his main reasons for becoming an officer was to serve families and help them the way his family was helped when he was a child.

The Fryes retired from their final appointment as corps officers of the Rochester, Minn., Corps and decided to remain in the area as it’s close to two of their five children. They have remained active in the corps and community.

Promoted to Glory

LT. Colonel Donald Arnold

Though he lived 86 years, it wasn’t the length but the quality of a life well lived when surrendered to Christ that LT. Colonel Don Arnold exemplified. He was promoted to Glory on July 28, 2018.

Humble and unassuming, Don was known for intentionally building relationships, encouraging and praying for others regularly. He set a godly example as he led with a servant’s heart in his roles as a corps officer, in divisional appointments, as an instructor and principal of the training college and as a divisional commander.

Don accepted Christ when he was only four years old. As a young Salvationist, he had no ambitions to become an officer. Instead, he studied biology and hoped to become a surgeon. He felt God’s call on his life during an International Youth Congress in 1950. Surrendering to God’s will, he entered the College for Officer Training in 1956 and was commissioned in 1957 with the “Peacekeepers” session. In 1959 he married Marilyn Tennyson and they commenced a lifetime of service together.

Retiring in 1997, Don remained faithful to his calling. He worked at regional headquarters for 15 years, took an active role at the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps, joined two mission teams to the Caribbean and responded to disasters in Bosnia, at Ground Zero after 9/11 and in New Orleans.

He is survived by his wife, daughter, Lisa [Ev] Jordan and son, Craig [Anne], six grandchildren, sister, Rae Ann, and many nieces and nephews.

Major Helen Marshall

Major Helen Marshall, 97, was promoted to Glory on July 11, 2018. She was born on April 23, 1921, in Cresco, Iowa.

A nurse by trade, Helen used her passion and gifts to serve God. She was saved at Booth Memorial Hospital on July 4, 1943, in Des Moines, Iowa, and became a soldier on March 3, 1944. Following the call of God on her life, she entered the College for Officer Training in 1947 and was commissioned in 1948 with the “Peacemakers” session.

For the next 45 years, Helen served in Home and Healthcare, Booth Memorial Hospitals and Women’s Social Services throughout the territory. In 1954 she continued her nursing education with a post-graduate course at Margaret Hague Hospital in New Jersey before returning to Booth Memorial Hospital in Wichita, Kan. Future appointments included a stint at territorial headquarters in the women’s social services department and as nurses’ fellowship secretary in the Kansas and Western Missouri Division. She retired in 1983 from her final appointment as administrator of the Booth Memorial Residence in Wichita, Kan.

Helen is survived by her niece, Glenda Johnston.