Salina Corps shares Christ’s love through community outreach

Captain Patricia presents gift bags to the Salina Police Department members.

“The pandemic put a spotlight on many of the social, financial and spiritual challenges that can be taken for granted during normal times,” explained Captain Patricia. “With the arrival of COVID-19, the need was suddenly much greater.”

One group that Captain Patricia and Lt. Luke wanted to recognize was the county’s emergency responders and essential workers—the Saline County police and fire departments, nursing home employees and emergency management personnel who served tirelessly throughout the pandemic. State troopers and members of the military also were included.

“Our amazing essential personnel have been working throughout the pandemic, and too often don’t receive the credit they deserve,” said Lt. Luke. “To show our appreciation, the Salvation Corps put together around 960 Christmas gift bags in 2021 to remind them that they are loved and supported.”

The gift bags included a New Testament, a religious-based adult coloring book, a Psalm 91 devotional book for police, fire and military personnel, Trading Courage for Calm and God Will Carry You Through books, tissues, a ‘God Bless America’ cross, a Chick-fil-A free sandwich card, and a Christmas card signed by Salvation Army soldiers and staff.

Outreach and evangelism efforts are expected to ramp up further throughout 2022, which will mark the 125th anniversary of the Salina Corps in July.

To address some of the unmet needs in the community, the corps opened a canton in January to provide hot meals and blankets to everyone in need. Captain Patricia and Lt. Luke hope to inspire a whole community effort by partnering with local churches to share food, ideas and volunteers.

Hispanic ministry and young adult meetings are resuming this year. The Salina Corps is currently attended by 45 to 50 Salvationists, but Captain Patricia and Lt. Luke seek to grow that number through continued enthusiastic community outreach and evangelism.

Continued on page 2

New names for new divisions

by Lt. Colonel Paul Smith

Shakespeare’s Juliet asked: “What is in a name?” That same question arose as we considered the new divisions being created within the Central Territory as Project Advance implementation approaches. What names would clearly identify both the geographic location of the new divisions and help bring together corps and communities as a result of the territorial reorganization?

The Project Advance recommendation approved by International Headquarters is a phased implementation beginning with a transition to eight divisions. The corps and service territory of the Eastern Michigan Division and the Western Michigan/Northern Indiana (WMNI) Division will be united. The new division will serve the entirety of lower Michigan and the eastern portion of the upper peninsula. Likewise, the Illinois area of the Heartland Division will join with the Metropolitan Division, and the Iowa area of Heartland will become part of the Western Division. Finally, the northern Indiana areas which are presently part of the Metropolitan and WMNI divisions will be added to the Indiana Division.

Territorial Leadership decided that it would be beneficial for the divisions to have an opportunity to weigh in as to whether new divisional names would be helpful. After discussions, Territorial Leadership has approved:

• The Great Lakes Division for the units coming together in Michigan
• The North & Central Illinois Division for the merging corps in Illinois

• The Western and Indiana divisional names will remain as they are currently since they clearly identify the areas these divisions will serve.

When Juliet asked: ‘What is in a name?’ she went on to say: ‘That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.’ Even though some divisional names will change and others will remain the same, we pray that our continued loving and sacrificial service to the people we serve and with whom we worship will be a sweet-smelling offering unto the Lord.
All this remote—is it good for us?

by Lt. Colonel Barbara Rich
Assistant Program Secretary

You’ve probably heard the saying, “The days may seem long, but the years pass quickly.” It’s often said to parents of young children and repeated generation to generation because of the truth it conveys. I heard myself remind my son and daughter-in-law when I saw how hectic life is with two littles. Recently, I’ve needed this reminder as some days have seemed so long. I bet yours have as well.

In March 2022, a full two years after the pandemic created a new vocabulary and way of doing things, we sometimes feel like we aren’t making progress and are right back where we started. Many of us have gone from wanting life to slow down so we can savor wonderful experiences that at one time crashed into each other on our calendars, to wondering if we will ever gather in groups freely or speak to strangers without a mask or plexiglass shield.

Some segments of our society have seen stress-overload as their work requirements keep piling higher and higher on fewer employees, while others have been given additional time through “virtual” employment, with no commute, to think about their life’s goals.

Regardless of the segment of the workforce, last November saw a record 4.5 million people quit their jobs, according to the Labor Department. The phrase “The Great Resignation” was coined according to a morning news program. Whether or not you have been personally affected, you are aware of this disruption to daily living and likely have wondered where it will lead.

I want God’s insight as I struggle to make sense of life in daily segments. Sure, I’ve spent a bit too much time streaming the latest series of historical fiction (my favorite genre!), but I’ve also tried to make time for a balance of Old and New Testament wisdom to keep my eyes steadfast on Christ’s goals for my life. Each of our lives fits into a greater narrative, and our own personal happiness or fulfillment won’t come from the distractions on our phones, at the end of our TV remotes or from our work shifting to a remote option.

What if this time of being “remote” is allowing us to be set apart and made holy for God’s purposes? Is this how we are doing?

The third chapter of Lamentations is rich with meaning for those facing uncertain times. After a litany of woeful experiences, the prophet says in verses 22-24 (NIV), “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, ‘The Lord is my portion, therefore I will wait for him.’”

You know what isn’t remote? Evidence of the Lord’s great love and compassion. His great faithfulness. He portions these out to each of us when we wait on Him, but we can’t be in a hurry if we want to fully experience all He has planned for us.

Project Advance introduces Change Agent Network

An efficient two-way communication pathway

As progress continues in the transition to the eight-division model for the Central Territory this summer, a Change Agent Network is being implemented to help support Project Advance.

Change Agents are tasked to connect with people in the field, allowing them to voice their insights, concerns and questions. The Change Agents will report directly to the Project Advance Management Team to ensure accurate information obtained is heard and acted upon.

Each division, the Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command (ARCC), the College for Officer Training (CFO T) and Territorial Headquarters (THQ) has equal representation.

“We believe this network will help build momentum for a better transition by providing a more efficient two-way communication pathway,” said Lt. Colonel Paul Smith, assistant chief secretary who has overseen Project Advance.

He concluded: “We are appreciative of your patience and dedication to our Army while we examine the best ways to move forward.”

Feel free to contact the Change Agent for your division, ARCC, CFO T or THQ to share your feedback and insights.

Selina Corps

Continued from page 1

We have partnered with an incredible organization called Saturate USA, which allows churches to ‘adopt’ zip codes,” explained Captain Patricia. “Saturate USA will send over materials free of charge that share the message of Jesus. We can then distribute these materials to every household in the community.”

Saturate USA materials include door hangers, multi-language DVDs sharing the message of Christ, Gospel tracts and more.

According to Lt. Luke, corps members are being provided training so that they feel comfortable distributing materials, answering questions and sharing about the hope found in Jesus with people in the neighborhood.

“Often, starting a conversation and putting yourself out there can seem like the hardest part,” concluded Captain Patricia. “But the rewards of bringing people to Christ are too great to measure. We plan to use this year to share God’s message of hope with all of Salina.”

Central Connection

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Topeka shows beautiful growth

Captain Brook Lopez’ approach to women’s ministries is rooted in building a safe and supportive community that allows women to explore faith, learn and grow together. Women from all walks of life participate in one or more of the four women’s ministries opportunities at the Topeka Citadel, Kan., Corps, where Captain Brook and her husband, Captain Crystal, are the corps officers.

“It’s a very busy ministry, and my ladies are amazing!” said Captain Brook. “It’s always great when we are together.”

A daytime English-speaking and an evening Spanish-speaking four-fold program group, primarily made up of corps members, each meet once a week for Bible study, an activity or lesson and fellowship. Embace and a thrifting outreach group, mostly made up of seekers and new believers, gather once a month with a focus on building relationships.

And in an effort to meet a burgeoning need, a new mommy and me ministry is being developed for women who became mothers during the pandemic and are in need of support.

“Though each of the women’s groups has distinctive characteristics, they all serve the same purpose—to bring women closer to Christ and deepen their faith.

“Some of our participants aren’t ready to be immersed in church culture but find a safe place in our outreach groups,” said the captain. “These groups are a space where women are able to talk through past hurt and find healing and new life in Christ.”

Coming together for fellowship, prayer and Bible study has proven over the past year to be a priority in the lives of women’s ministries participants, many of whom also attend Sunday worship, which is held in both Spanish and English.

“We didn’t really slow down when the pandemic hit,” said Captain Brook. “We adjusted and carried on.”

The women moved their meetings outdoors, took recommended safety precautions, and shifted their focus to service, volunteering wherever help was needed.

They dedicated time to reaching out to the community and making yard visits to corps members who couldn’t attend due to health concerns, often leaving activity or treat packages along with words of encouragement for them.

“It was a simple, ‘We’re here. We see you; we love you’ message that meant a lot to the older adults who were shut-in,” said the captain.

“Throughout the pandemic the ladies began to learn that they don’t have to be the pastor in order to walk alongside and disciple others. Seeing them grow into that was beautiful.”

A Joint Calling

For 35 years of faithful service, Majors Jim and Candy Curl are embarking on a new adventure: retirement.

Integrity, compassion and wisdom have been constants in their ministry, from corps and city command to divisional appointments and finally as pastoral care officers. In a service held at Territorial Headquarters, colleagues, friends and family shared tributes to the Curl’s godly legacy.

“Their joint calling to marriage, ministry and mentoring has been a huge blessing to many people,” said Commissioner Heidi Bailey, territorial leader for leader development.

As teens growing up in the Joliet, Ill., Corps, Jim and Candy were mentored by officers who encouraged them in their faith and set an example for godly leadership, giving them a solid foundation on which to build. They were commissioned from the School for Officers’ Training in 1979 with the “Joyful Evangelists.”

Following their calling gave them opportunities to use their God-given gifts and passions to minister. While Candy’s gift of service led her to be the hands and feet of Jesus in every appointment, particularly in women’s ministries as she advocated for and loved the women around her, Jim’s passion for the outdoors led him to plan exciting trips along side meaningful Bible studies and fellowship opportunities for camps and men’s ministries. Together they led with their eyes on the Lord, no matter the appointment or activity.

“It is clear that their first aim as joyful evangelists has been to bring people to Christ,” said Lt. Colonel Renea Smith, personnel secretary. “Jim and Candy are wise builders who have modeled what it means to build a strong foundation.”

Raising three children, the Curls set an example of faith and service that made a lasting impression.

“Thank you for making us part of your ministry,” said their daughter, Melanie, in a video tribute. “It was never separate things; you brought us along beside you and left a beautiful inheritance.”

For those considering officership or just starting out in ministry, Major Jim has this advice: “Officer ship is an all-in commitment. Determine in your heart what God has called you to do and use that as the filter for every decision.”

Caring for children in Sri Lanka

by Stephanie Marinelli

Our Partner in Mission, the Sri Lanka Territory, has continued to serve its communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, their ministry through Child Development Centers has continued to operate with a large impact and minimal interruption.

This past year, Sri Lanka faced many of the same challenges we had to navigate like closures of schools, online education, travel restrictions, and increased measures of hygiene and sanitation. Through it all, the children in Salvation Army centers remained safe and healthy. The centers were able to respond quickly to emerging needs and provide nutritious food, security and education. Many activities were planned to benefit the children’s physical and psychological wellbeing.

Hopefully in this new year, the children will be able to spend quality time outside of their usual residential places through excursions that are being planned by the centers’ leaders. The Sri Lanka Territory hopes to continue supplementing school activities, while still following government regulations. The centers have plans to enhance children’s skills in technology and communication.

The Sri Lanka Territory hopes that when the children grow up they will not only have benefited from its care but will cherish the memories. All donations, whether big or small, are used toward building a brighter future for these children.

These programs can continue to make a life-changing difference because of generous donations from around the world.

If you would like to contribute to Child Sponsorship, please contact the World Missions Department at missions@usc.salvationarmy.org
Discovering more about myself and my calling

by Aurelia Pettit

The song “I Surrender All” holds a special place in my heart. While attending the commissioning weekend in Milwaukee, Wis., in 2019, it was playing during a call to ministry as an officer. The effect of the song did not fully hit me until later that summer when I attended the Central Bible Leadership Institute (CBLI) and told many people that I felt called. However, I only shared with a few my doubts and fears: high debt, being a single mom, having to leave the only home I’d ever known. Someone told me about the Ministry Discovery Program which offers hands-on experience while learning from seasoned corps officers. I’m now in my second year as a Ministry Discovery intern at the South Bend, Ind., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center which is led by A/Captains John and Tracy Gantner. During this time, I’ve grown in all aspects of my calling—spiritually, physically, emotionally. Being in ministry at the Kroc Center has used my strengths, but it’s also challenged me, pushing me past what I thought were my limits in preparation for the call God’s placed on my life.

From the beginning the officers not only have affirmed my strengths but have encouraged me to grow. I’ve had the opportunity to use my strength of working with youth in day camps, Bible classes, corps cadets, jr. soldiers, vacation Bible school and e-learning programs. This Kroc center has also drawn on my strengths in administration and planning, but I have begun to learn that planning isn’t just a strength; it can be a weakness if I focus on that and not as much on people.

I have also always struggled with public speaking. I would get so nervous I would stutter, fidget and forget what I wanted to say. Obviously, this is a huge issue for someone called into ministry! The officers slowly started drawing me out; it was uncomfortable but needed. Members have encouraged me, too. “We’re here for you to practice on.”

Don’t be scared,” said one lady from our women’s ministries group called the Sweet Life Café. Now when I get up to speak, I hear her kind words and remind myself no one expects me to be perfect. I keep working on this and looking for ways to connect with others like scheduling lunch with someone twice a month. It’s a work in progress.

I have learned that no matter the challenge or emotion I need to ground myself in God’s Word. I am growing daily and my fears have been laid to rest.

The Ministry Discovery Program has confirmed my calling and provided me skills I will need. It’s also provided me with a new corps family who is watching me grow and walk with the Lord.
A grand adventure at the Tournament of Roses

by Jessica Pascoe

After the parade was cancelled in 2021, there was renewed excitement for marching in this year’s Salvation Army band in the Tournament of Roses. We were fortunate to have representation from each division in the Central Territory. This year’s participation was unique due to an abundance of safety precautions, flight delays/cancellations, schedule changes and weather surprises.

“We’re making memories!” became the mantra for Salvationist musicians who traveled from all over the U.S. to march in the parade. Not long into our first camp that day, the weather turned to rain which did not let up until the next evening. Rehearsals were held in the rain as well as a parking garage, which is as loud as you’d guess! On the second day of rain when we had to evacuate camp due to the rising river covering the road, everyone adapted quickly and calmly. We were in this adventure together.

After safely leaving, we spent the day at Disneyland where we put aside the question of whether we would march at all. Not long to our first camp that night and had our fill of churros and Disney magic. We found the answer to that question was “no,” but our situation allowed us to visit the Western Territory’s training college which graciously hosted us for the night. Everyone was given new pajamas, socks and lots of food. For many, it was our favorite night. We got to just be together, laughing and playing games. Shuttling in and out of camp by an assortment of vehicles became standard for the rest of the week as the buses were never able to make it back in.

We spent time on New Year’s Eve at the Tustin Ranch Corps enjoying a formal dinner and attending a concert by the Florida Divisional Band, which was this year’s guest band. After celebrating the new year a bit early, we had a few hours of rest before grabbing a bite to eat and loading out of camp at 3:45 a.m. Many caught a few extra minutes of sleep on the way to the parade route where the early morning chill woke them.

We were grateful to be in the first third of the parade line-up. As we marched past the cameras, we played an African-inspired rendition of “Amazing Grace,” arranged by Kevin Larson. Just when we grew tired of playing the song on repeat, we made it past the grandstands. For the rest of the nearly six-mile route we alternated between “Amazing Grace” and “This Is Our Story” (also arranged by Kevin Larson) with breaks and lots of waving to the crowds. Though it’s hard to believe, the second half of the parade is easier. Maybe it’s the promise of In N Out burgers waiting at the end!

Even with all the precautions and changes and weather, we jumped over the weekend, both our band and the crowds watching were full of smiles the whole time. It was good to come together to spread joy and the love of Christ through music. It was an adventure that we’ll remember for years to come.

The Salvation Army USA Central Territory

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Conference renews and challenges worship leaders

by Brett Tolcher

Territorial Music and Worship Arts Ministries Secretary

Worship is an essential element of our relationship with Christ—both personally in our everyday lives and together as the Body of Christ. So, on Sunday mornings you’ll find live praise and worship in the majority of our corps. Recently, 60 Salvationist worship leaders, including 12 from the Central Territory, gathered at the Eastern Territorial Headquarters in West Nyack, N.Y., for a Salvation Army Worship Leaders Conference designed to equip them to lead people in high-quality, God-honoring worship.

More than just providing tools and techniques, it emphasized the leaders’ own relationships with the Lord and proved a powerful time of renewal for individuals. Each united session built upon the next, from the keynote where Shalini Danielson encouraged delegates toward all heart worship to the final Sunday with a worship circle where Commissioner Mark Tildesley, Eastern territorial theology and Christian ethics secretary, spoke compellingly about personal holiness.

Informative and practical workshops were led by the territorial contemporary worship specialists, including those who planned the conference: Josh Turner [Central], Doug Berry [Eastern], Josh Powell [Southern], Simon Cough [Canada and Bermuda] and Matt Woods [Western]. The Eastern Territorial Worship Band Unbound played an integral role, and delegates also enjoyed the ministry of Outside Worship, led by Phil Laeger, Marty Miles and Anna Street.

Delegates had the opportunity to learn from some of the best worship leaders, songwriters, singers and instrumentalists in The Salvation Army. One could see the transformation in young songwriters as they learned from artists like Phil Laeger who encouraged delegates, saying, “Anointed days of Salvation Army songwriting are ahead of us.”

“I have been praying that the conference would renew, challenge and ignite our worship leaders and their walk with the Lord,” said Josh Turner. “The Holy Spirit showed up in mighty ways! I am excited to see how the lessons, experiences and conversations will continue to reverberate.”

The training at the Worship Leaders Conference supports the Central Territory’s Equip 25/25 initiative to develop worship leaders, as will the upcoming virtual Music and Arts Leadership Academy which will be available on-demand.

If your corps needs assistance to grow your contemporary music ministries, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Josh Turner [josh.turner@usc.salvationarmy.org] or your divisional music director.
A

s national leaders of The Salvation Army in the United States, Commissioners Kenneth G. and Jolene K. Hodder have led the Army through its response to the pandemic since July 2020. It’s a tenuous time for the country as 2020 marked the most significant jump in poverty since the government began tracking it and some 63 percent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. Fighting food insecurity, housing instability and more, The Salvation Army provides service in every zip code to keep families from crossing over the line.

As The Salvation Army enters the New Year, we sat down with the Hodders during a visit to the Western Territory in mid-November 2021 to talk about their ministry experience and vision for the year to come.

What’s it been like to serve as national leaders for more than a year now? Any highlights?

Jolene K. Hodder: There are so many highlights to this last year. So many places that we’ve seen and so many ministries that we’ve seen. But I think for me, recently, I was at She Leads America in Washington, D.C.

I think the best thing that happened to me that night was to be in this room with all of these very powerful women. And after I spoke, I sat down and literally there was a line of women telling me how The Salvation Army had impacted their life. One woman came up to me and said that her mother was that single woman that The Salvation Army took care of. Because of her, they had food on the table. The stories just went on and on and on.

One person came up and said that she was a Christian because of The Salvation Army. She stopped in the meeting and she didn’t go to the altar, but somebody came up and touched her on her shoulder and said, “Do you need prayer?” And she said, “No.” She said that that awakened this spiritual desire for her to have something more and to know what they were talking about. She said that that’s when the Spirit started working in her.

So, it’s just the stories you hear all over America of how The Salvation Army has touched people.

Kenneth G. Hodder: I think what stands out in my mind is the first altar call I witnessed after the pandemic. To see in person, men and women renewing their commitment to Christ, publicly, or finding him for the first time, assured me both of the Army’s continuing presence, the power of its ministry and the need of people. I think that moment, which occurred just a few months ago, was one of the most powerful for me in the past year.

What do you think you’ve learned about The Salvation Army in your time as national leaders that surprised you in some way?

Jolene K. Hodder: How quickly The Salvation Army can respond and how flexible we are, from a national standpoint, because we are in every zip code. I saw various times, during the pandemic and during some disasters, how quickly we can be on the frontlines, serving people when other organizations are just trying to figure out what they’re going to do and how to get people there.

Kenneth G. Hodder: We had a chance to serve in Hurricane Ida in the South. We were astonished at the level of professionalism, the facilities, the speed, the effectiveness of Salvation Army service in places where there were no other organizations. And there was no official government presence. And yet there was the Army doing its work. So that was a great joy. Your question was though, what has surprised us? None of that surprises us about The Salvation Army.

Jolene K. Hodder: I think it surprised me on a national level. I know that we do that locally, but to see nationally how we respond, I think it was overwhelming to me.

In The Salvation Army, we have all of our rules and regulations and our accountability and our structure. And so, to think that all of those things work together so that we can respond quickly and so that the right hand knows what the left hand is doing and the donations are there and all the different pieces of the puzzle come together, even at a national level. I just find that amazing.

What have you learned about God in this time?

Jolene K. Hodder: He thinks out of the box. He really does. I mean, there is nothing old-fashioned about God; there is nothing stale. It just amazes me sometimes how He works. And it’s quite often completely the opposite of how we think it should work, but He works one miracle after another, every day in the Army.

Kenneth G. Hodder: I am more confident than I ever was of His sovereignty over all things, all things in all times.

What have you learned about yourselves from this vantage point?

Jolene K. Hodder: That I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength (Phil. 4:13). In The Salvation Army, so often we’re not trained to do everything, but we’re thrown into every situation, and time and time again, the Lord proves that He can work through me by my weakness. And as a matter of fact, when I’m at my weakest, He’s the strongest. He works through me.

Kenneth G. Hodder: One of my weaknesses is impatience. I would like to think that the past 16 months has helped me to understand a little bit more about my need for patience. And I hope it has expanded my capacity, somewhat.

As this New Year begins, what’s your vision or your priority for The Salvation Army?

Kenneth G. Hodder: This is clearly a doughnut moment. Everything that we see and everything that we’ve seen in such publications as The Chronicle of Philanthropy, suggest to me that this is a moment at which The Salvation Army can grasp both its physical and its spiritual ministries. And by harnessing the two of them together, transform more lives than ever.

There is a holistic dimension to the Army’s ministry and if ever we’ve seen the need for holistic ministry, it is now. It’s not just physical, it’s psychological and it’s emotional. And it’s medical. Every part of our being has been touched by this pandemic. And there is no organization better able to address it than The Salvation Army. So as 2022 dawns and we confront what we are referring to as pandemic poverty, I believe the Army is in a tremendous position to help lots of people.

When you say “pandemic poverty,” what is the reality for people in America? How do you think The Salvation Army can best meet the needs of today?

Kenneth G. Hodder: In the Great Recession of 2008, 2009, we saw enormous dislocations in the economic environment. However, the greatest level of need in terms of The Salvation Army was not seen until 2010 to 2012. In other words, it was a lagging impact. That was because people were at the point of rebuilding their lives in those years, following the collapse.

Well, what have we seen in the past year? We’ve seen a lot of people lose their jobs. We’ve seen a lot of shifting in the markets and the coming years, based upon what we know about what has happened in the past, will put enormous strains upon millions of lives.

As eviction moratoriums come to an end, as people find a need to be retrained from one industry to another, as people confront the medical issues raised by deferred surgeries and treatments that could not take place during the pandemic, as small businesses continue to struggle in the next couple of years, we’re going to see a lot of circumstances that we believe are going to put The Salvation Army in a position of having to do even more.

Within the coming year, we anticipate needing about $175 million—which is more than we raised in 2020—in order to meet the expected demand.

That is one reason why our Christmas campaign was centered around Hope Marches On. This is a time at which struggling families that are hardworking and dedicated to their loved ones are going to be tested. And we want to be there to help them. To avoid the decision: do I pay my health bill or do I put food on the table? Do I pay my rent, which has accumulated an enormous balance, or do I buy Christmas presents for the kids? That sort of decision-making is going to be increasingly common in the months to come.

So, all of that to say, the Army’s got a lot of work to do in the days to come.

What does it mean to hope?

Jolene K. Hodder: Anything is possible with hope. Anything is possible. Without hope, you shut down. And The Salvation Army, since the very beginning, since our founding, it’s all been about hope in Jesus Christ, giving people the sense of, it’s going to be ok. In the end it’s going to be ok. And if it’s not ok, it’s not the end.
in 2022

Kenneth G. Hodder: Hope is not sentimental. It is not a Hallmark movie. Hope is the recognition of the potential for transformation. It is a willingness and a joyful recognition of the fact that there’s something better yet to come. Think about it.

Our founding fathers: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights.”

Think of Abraham Lincoln: “Let us here highly resolve that these honored dead shall not have died in vain, but that government of the people by the people.”

FDR: “You have nothing to fear but fear itself.”

And ultimately, Martin Luther King, Jr.: “I have a dream that one day my little children will live in a country where they’re judged, not by the color of their skin, but the content of their character.”

All of those situations look toward transformation and the institution of something that hasn’t been there in the past. Something good, something strong, something lasting.

The best example of it though is Luke 18:27, what is impossible with men is possible with God. So to hope is to say, “Yes, that can happen.” And we would like to believe that spirit continues to infuse the thinking of millions of Americans who have been struggling, but that if we can give them a little guidance and a little support, they’ll be able to achieve something better.

Hope pulls you forward.

As we look toward this anticipated increase in need, and after months and months of responding at a higher level, are we able to keep up the pace? What’s the plan to keep up?

Jolene K. Hodder: We have no choice. There are people out there who need us.

Kenneth G. Hodder: We have no choice. But I think we’ve learned the lessons that will allow us to function at a higher level in terms of our systems. This Pathway of Hope—we’re doing interviews over Zoom now. Did we do that before? No. Has that expanded our capacity? Absolutely. So, in part it’s technological, in part it’s systems. I have no doubt that we’re able to do it.

There’s a lot of talk these days about burnout in the workforce. How are we working to prevent that, especially among our frontline officers and employees, what are we doing to consider those needs?

Kenneth G. Hodder: A dedicated adherence to the regulations providing for furloughs, and quite honestly officers, because they are officers, and our employees, because they are so dedicated, sometimes struggle with saying, “Well, I’m not so sure that I can take that time off.” And we just have to make sure everybody gets the rest they need.

Jolene K. Hodder: We need to encourage taking a Sabbath. I know that’s something that I struggle with and I’m getting better at. There’s a reason that the Lord asks us to take a Sabbath; it’s life-giving not only to ourselves but to our ministry.

We’re seeing reports on declining church membership. Gallup reported last year that church membership had fallen below the majority for the first time in America. How has The Salvation Army been affected and are we responding?

Kenneth G. Hodder: It’s difficult to generalize on that point right now. I don’t think we have enough data to give us a broad understanding of the question. However, I think there is a sharp distinction to be drawn between what people would understand to be the measure of church involvement and commitment, which is Sunday morning attendance, and what we understand in The Salvation Army to be the manifestation of a life of committed discipleship to Christ. The Salvation Army combines both its spiritual foundation and religious foundation with a commitment to doing something.

So if there is any part of the church that is benefiting from this notion that we need to reach out and help others, it is The Salvation Army. We sense no decline in the number of volunteers who want to be involved with The Salvation Army. And while therefore we might see some variations in terms of the number of people who are there on a Sunday, I don’t think I can say that we are suffering. I think people are there and they are doing what God is calling them to do. And then that ultimately is going to prove very beneficial to us.

Jolene K. Hodder: I can’t help but think, we were serving during COVID, and we were both given a T-shirt that says, “The church has left the building.” And I think that’s the true Church. It’s not the Church that comes necessarily and sits in the pews. Worshiping is important and fellowship is important. The Church has always been called to go out of the building, and I think we have done that more than ever during COVID, and hopefully we will continue to do that.

Kenneth G. Hodder: Literally leaving the building.

Jolene K. Hodder: Think of the online meetings; we hear story after story of people who would never go into a church, who have accepted Christ by watching one of those. Think of the shut-ins who have never been able to go to a worship service and now they’re able to worship in their homes. I think a lot of positive has come out of this as well. We just need to kind of redirect ourselves. A lot has been hard in this pandemic, but there are those silver linings.

In 10 or 20 years when we look back on this period of time, how do you hope it changes The Salvation Army?

Kenneth G. Hodder: We pray every day that they would look back on what we did at this time and say they were faithful.

Jolene K. Hodder: And to continue to be innovative in everything that we do. Sometimes it takes a pandemic to break up some of the traditions that weren’t working or the defaults. We’ve had to be creative, and I think hopefully this has started afresh the Army, rebooted us, I guess.

Do you have a personal word for the year in 2022, something to focus on throughout the year?

Jolene K. Hodder: I do—abundance. Because I think this last year, so much has been pulling in—not with the Army, the Army has been out there—but I think personally, a lot of people have kind of hunkered down and it’s been scarce, life has felt scarce. So, I’m looking at the word abundance because I think that’s the way the Lord wanted us to live. We know from John 10:10: The thief comes only steal and kill and destroy, but I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly. In my ministry, in my personal life, I want to experience and share that abundance that can be found in Christ.

Kenneth G. Hodder: I’ve never adopted a word. I do have a personal mission statement. I still write in my DayTimer every month—and I still get rapped about having a DayTimer, too. But that’s another story.

What would be your message to Salvationists at the start of 2022?

Jolene K. Hodder: It’s an exciting time for The Salvation Army because we can do anything now. We’ve been creative. We’ve gotten out of the building. We have used technology like we’ve never used it before. We were forced to do so much now and we have a blank slate ahead of us. If we just allow the Lord to direct us, I think great things are in store for the mission of The Salvation Army and to spread the gospel.

Kenneth G. Hodder: Do the mission.

Interview by Christin Thieme reprinted from Caring Magazine.
Ministries just the right size

In our Q & A about Project Advance in the January issue, Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich mentioned 360 Life Centers and Bread of Life Centers. We were intrigued by these ministries which provide holistic service to their communities. Here we share what makes these unique iterations of The Salvation Army’s work stand out.

The Salvation Army’s long tradition of Soup, Soap and Salvation and its mission to meet human needs in Jesus’ name is embodied in the ministries of Bread of Life Centers in the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division and the 360 Life Centers in the Heartland Division. These are feet on the ground, taking Jesus to the streets ministries, unique in that they are not corps which hold worship services where an officer or envoy leads but also are not service extension units which have a primary function to provide financial and material assistance. They are somewhere in between and are just the right size of ministries for the communities they serve.

**Bread of Life Centers**

The first Bread of Life Center opened in 1996 in Calumet County, Wis., when a building was donated to further the mission of The Salvation Army there. A director was hired, and soon the emergency assistance offered by the existing service extension unit expanded to include a year-round food pantry and jail ministry, seasonal red kettle campaign and Christmas toy shop for families in need, and ongoing targeted ministry to the community.

In the years since, an additional five Bread of Life Centers have opened in the division, each providing vital frontline ministry and service. At times these are expansions of existing service extension units, at others, transitions from full corps ministries. Changes are made strategically and prayerfully as The Salvation Army seeks to be good stewards of both human and material resources.

“The beauty of our Bread of Life Centers is that we are able to meet both physical and spiritual needs with minimal overhead costs,” said Ken Tregellas, who oversees the centers. “What we’ve seen in transitioning some corps to Bread of Life Centers is renewed local support and flourishing ministry.”

**360 Life Centers**

As needs have changed across the Heartland Division, transitions have been made from service units or corps to 360 Life Centers in six locations with great community support as well. Like Bread of Life Centers, they support the territory’s mission advancement by allowing greater focus on local ministry expressions and maximizing the effectiveness of resources.

“Instead of formal worship services, we are looking to go out and share the gospel as we serve,” said Sam Amick, who oversees the 360 Life Centers. “The vision of the 360 Life Centers is that no one will stand alone. We are there to support people in their journey and share the Kingdom of God along the way.”

Ministries and services provided by both the Bread of Life and Life 360 centers vary depending on the needs of the community. There are no required ministry activities; rather, directors, who are typically locals who know their community well, choose with intentionality the kinds of spiritual support that will be the most well-received and beneficial to those they serve. For example, centers might have online and in-person Bible studies, host AA or NA meetings, or include devotions with their mobile feeding programs, in addition to enlisting local pastors or volunteers to offer prayer support and spiritual guidance to those seeking assistance.

“The centers provide the opportunity to really focus on local needs,” said Ken. “With the support and approval of divisional headquarters, directors are given the freedom to elevate and move forward with whatever new services or ministries they can dream up and fund.”

At times, this freedom has led to opportunities to invest in the community by meeting unconventional but significant needs such providing defibrillators to local schools.

Across both divisions, unconventional as well as traditional iterations of ministry have helped the centers thrive. For example, many centers have emergency disaster services (EDS) teams with local volunteers training and responding to natural disasters on behalf of The Salvation Army, and several centers have seen great success in ministering to families through the holistic, strengths-based Pathway of Hope initiative.

“Our ability to provide wrap-around services is what sets us apart from other agencies,” concluded Sam. “Anybody can give out food and water, but to do so in Jesus’ name is The Salvation Army’s mission. At our centers we don’t preach on Sundays, but we do strive to show Jesus in everything we do each day.”
They ride for Him

As with many ministries, the pandemic brought restrictions for The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry (TSAMM), a community care ministry. While many Salvation Army activities moved online, TSAMM’s reliance on in-person connection made it difficult to conduct ministry remotely. However, despite nearly two years of uncertainty, the spirit of TSAMM members has remained strong and centered in faith, and the future for the ministry looks bright, according to Major Jo Langham, territorial community care ministries secretary.

“COVID-19 led to the cancellation of TSAMM’s biggest events, so the typical settings for ministry were limited,” said the major. “Despite these challenges, our members remained committed to spreading God’s Word in the biker community.

For instance, when an official presence at the Stur- gis, S.D., Motorcycle Rally was cancelled in 2020 and 2021, several members felt God calling them to still go. At personal risk and expense, they attended to share the love of God. On the local level, some members participated in fundraising efforts like the forty-second annual Wichita Toy Run.

“Bikers connect best when they meet in person,” explained Major Jo. “During normal years, our members give out scripture cards, motorcycle Bibles, and offer bike blessings for members of the community.”

Motorcycle ministry rolls out in Indonesia

The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry (TSAMM) has gone international. A Central Territory ministry that focuses on engaging and reaching out to motorcycle enthusiasts and the biker community, TSAMM kicked off in Indonesia during that territory’s 127th anniversary celebrations.

“Motorcycling here is very much a need and a hobby that it is in many other parts of the world,” said Lt. Colonel Cedric Hills, Indonesia chief secretary. “When we heard about TSAMM, it seemed a good fit for our territory.”

Leading up to the official rollout, Colonel Cedric, who is a motorcycle enthusiast himself, adapted the TSAMM materials to be culturally and contextually appropriate and had them translated into Indonesian. At the territory’s 127th anniversary celebrations, a local company designed certificates and membership cards. The result was an existing Territorial Headquarters motorcycle fellowship group. Received enthusiastically during the rollout, it is now being piloted in one of the divisions as a ministry to and for both men and women.

Householter receives new SATERN award

DeWayne Householter, long-time Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) coordinator for the Heartland Division, was presented the first-ever Major Bill Heaver SATERN Award at the division’s Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) Summit. The award, which is planned to be annual, was named after the late Major Bill Heaver who built SATERN teams across the division. DeWayne was nominated for the recognition by Sam Amick, Heartland EDS and service extension director, and it was presented by Major Michele Householter, SATERN project coordinator and national committee chair, in honor of her husband.

“I was thrilled to have had the opportunity to present DeWayne with the award on behalf of Bill,” said Major Michele. “Bill was very passionate about SATERN and built multiple teams across the Heartland Division, as well as in Elk Grove Village with Major David Dalberg, which was his last appointment. DeWayne has shown that same passion for growing SATERN’s presence and emergency communications capabilities.”

DeWayne began serving with EDS in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina by providing emotional and spiritual care and other assistance. He originally had no thoughts of becoming involved with SATERN but was drawn to the team based on his prior experience as an amateur radio operator.

“I had been working with HAM radio equipment as a hobby since high school,” he explained. “SATERN seemed like a great fit for those skills, and God helped me direct that passion to a good use.”

During his service as SATERN coordinator, DeWayne set up a station at the Pekin, Ill., EDS building with the call letters K9SHD. “K9SHD” signifies the Heartland Division, and the station’s reach covers most of central Illinois and parts of Iowa.

“SATERN stands ready with a variety of worlds and local emergency communications capabilities in disasters where cell phone towers are down,” said DeWayne. “It has been an honor to be involved with growing SATERN’s reach in the Heartland Division.”

Though he’s retiring, DeWayne expects to remain involved with SATERN. Some of his areas of focus moving forward will be recruiting and training new volunteers who are passionate about SATERN and The Salvation Army’s mission, as well as expanding SATERN’s technology.

“I was proud to nominate DeWayne for the Major Bill Heaver Award,” concluded Sam. “Passionate Salvationists like DeWayne are what keep SATERN and EDS capable of responding, especially in any emergency. It has been a joy to work with him.”
Keeping the focus on Christ

Providential. That’s how Majors K. Kendall (KK) and Katrina Mathews describe their appointment leading the Chicago Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC), but then that’s how they see all of life. God uses everything in their lives, personally and professionally, for the good of others so that they may come to know Him.

“It’s not by chance we’re involved in the work of recovery,” said Major KK, acknowledging formative experiences in childhood that laid the foundation of compassion and hope. Each of them had a parent who struggled with addiction.

“Now that I look back, I know God prepared me to be a Salvation Army officer,” echoed Major Katrina, whose mother was an alcoholic. “The things that were happening to me were preparing me to love the whosoever.”

Brought up by her grandmother, Katrina believes God has a unique role for her to play encouraging the men in the program to get better not only for themselves but also for their families, who love and need them.

In addition to a strong and nurturing grandmother, doting aunts and uncles filled the gap for her. Though the Rockwell Gardens in Chicago where Katrina lived was riddled with gangs, drugs and crime, her family protected her and provided for her, but they also pushed her to be better than what society expected, to be an example of success.

Her grandmother sent her to the Midwest Corps, just across the parking lot, for Sunday school from age 7 to 9 since their Baptist church didn’t have children’s classes. It was her first encounter with The Salvation Army. The next came years later when she was invited by a dashing young man named KK, whom she was dating, to hear him speak on a Sunday morning. Many of the soldiers from her childhood remembered and warmly greeted her; she felt like she’d come home.

KK was working at the Midwest Corps as a social worker, a serendipitous turn of events that eventually led to him becoming an officer. He’d grown up in a middle-class Jewish neighborhood in Detroit. His family valued education and encouraged him to excel in his studies, which he did as well as at sports. Majoring in social work and psychology at Greenville College, he went to see a professor about the practicum hours needed to graduate when he noticed an ad for Salvation Army camp counselors on a bulletin board. Would that work? It most certainly would.

He soon found himself at Wonderland Camp with David Rightmire, Richard and Janet Munn and Jack Thomas, who showed him what The Salvation Army was all about. KK loved each week spent with the children; they felt the same and begged not to go home. Wondering about their home-life, he rode the bus back with the last group to the Midwest Corps, where he promptly went in and asked about job openings. There happened to be one, and it was a perfect match.

“You are just what we need!” exclaimed the corps officer, who said that the example of a successful young Black male would bring the children hope. KK moved into a ram-shackle house in the projects, created a dynamic afterschool program and as the first married Black couple with children in the Central Territory. They felt honored God not only called them to minister but to be role models as leaders when too often Black people had been seen primarily as recipients of assistance.

“I want to be that positive role model who children and other people of color—and just people in general—can see reaching out and living a life that, regardless of what color I am, has to do with character, has to do with relationship,” explained Katrina. “It has to do with commitment.

Indiana Division Associate Director of Development Duke Haddad, his wife Cynthia and Major KK Mathews pack blessing bags to encourage donors during the pandemic.

Bridging the gap has been a theme in the Mathews’ lives as officers. God has used them to bridge the gap between people and Himself, helping others see the Savior who offers salvation. Bridge the gap between people and fuller, more abundant lives by creating holistic ministries, encouraging community, and promoting opportunities for education—a hallmark in every appointment. Bridge the gap between ARC beneficiaries and soldiers, helping the men find a path to soldierhood through a program they created called Upward Mobility and inviting soldiers to mentor them spiritually. Bridge the gap between corps of different cultures by creating successful exchange programs, fostering understanding and unity that advances the mission.

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It has to do with salvation…my relationship with Christ.” Their first appointment at the Detroit Harding, Mich., Corps was formative to their officership as the soldiers, especially the older black women, taught and cared for them and their children, even playing a role in the diagnosis of their daughter’s autism—a miraculous series of events where God’s timing and provision were undeniable. The Mathews believe all their children (Ronnie, Mark, Kim, Kashaye and Mikal) have benefitted from their officership. While there have been many blessings, the ministry has been demanding and not without personal cost. For instance, when serving on a di- visional headquarters (DHQ) staff with a home in the suburbs, some prejudiced neighbors who were fearful about their property values complained to DHQ. De- pending on God’s grace, the Mathews rose above the accusa- tions and were vindicated when one neighbor defended them, insisting they took better care of the house than anyone who’d ever lived there.

In a joint initiative St. Louis University stu- dents donate four tons of items to the St. Louis Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) when they cleared out their rooms after spring fi- nals in 2014. Major KK Mathews is pictured with event coordinator student Kate Dorsey.

Unfortunately, the Mathews say sometimes in the Army they have been misunderstood or have had to subvert their culture to share the gospel or form relationships. Though unfair and hurtful, they still regard these as opportunities to let others see Christ in them and to enter into dialogue to correct misperceptions and promote unity.

“Whenever we’re authentic, honest and real with people about our heritage and culture, people will re-
Detroit’s sandwich-making hall of famers

by Jonathan Tostige Ruthberg

Mike Palmer places one sandwich on top of the other while another volunteer trails behind, filling bread bags with the finished ham sandwiches. Seven other people are spread throughout the room to make thousands of sandwiches. A longtime volunteer for the Bed & Bread Club®, Mike has experience helping feed hungry and homeless families from the Bed & Bread trucks and now feels compelled to serve in any way he can.

“What began as a financial donation several years ago has become one of my favorite ways to share God’s love with the community,” he said. His friend, Lou Jermont, agrees. “I get rewarded 10 times more by being here than by only giving money. We’ve been out on the truck, and it’s tough to see people in desperate situations. As I make the sandwiches now, I see the faces of the people we give the sandwiches to. That makes me want to come back and do it more.”

Another of Lou’s close friends, couple Lee and Dave, echo the sentiment. After hearing about the program through Lou, they decided to come help. “Now, our Tuesday afternoon crew is a fellowship of varying backgrounds. We share about each other and enjoy being here doing something for someone else,” said Lou.

Aurora, who has volunteered as a bellringer for the past five years, is here simply because she loves volunteering. “My church encourages us to help and volunteering feels good, too,” she said. “I retired last year, so I have the time. Father and son duo Pat and Everett round out the group. Pat explained, ‘My daughter works here, and she was telling me about how the program feeds people in need, and I said, ‘Do you have room for two more?’ We just like to contribute and do our part.”

Every day of the year, regardless of weather or holidays, the Bed & Bread Club truck drivers make their way through Detroit, traveling multiple routes and making 57 stops to feed the hungry. Last year nearly 1.6 million meals were served through the Bed & Bread Club.

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Promoted to Glory

Major Melody Koehler

Major Melody Koehler, 59, was promoted to Glory on December 10, 2021. Melody used her gifts to serve wherever she was needed, including filling key roles in her appointments such as accounting. She especially enjoyed working with youth, scrapbooking with the corps ladies, singing and playing guitar.

Melody was born June 11, 1962, in Iowa City, Iowa, to Floyd and Pauline Blom. Growing up she was active in the Rock Island, Ill., Corps. She graduated from Rock Island High School in 1980 and later received her associate’s degree from Olivet Nazarene University. She married Steven Koehler on June 4, 1983.

Together, Melody and Steven entered officer training in 1984 and were commissioned as members of the “Proclaimers of the Gospel” session in 1986. The Koehlers served in corps appointments throughout the Midwest for 28 years before retiring in 2014.

In retirement, despite health concerns Melody continued to be active as she was able and was a member of the Lion’s Club and Kiwanis Club. Melody is survived by her husband; sons, Steven II and Andrew; brother, Gary (Barb); sister-in-law, Donna Phelps; and many nieces, nephews and other family. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Terry; and sister, Shirley Ealy.

L.T. Colonel Harold L. Winkler

L.T. Colonel Harold L. Winkler, 83, was promoted to Glory on December 10, 2021. Hal loved the Lord and was committed to living a life that was rooted in the power of the Holy Spirit and directed by God’s Word. He demonstrated integrity, honesty, hard work, accountability and faithfulness as a lifelong disciple and prayer warrior.

Harold was born June 2, 1938, in Rapid City, S.D., to Roy and Evelyn Winkler. He devoted his life to Christ at an early age and became a faithful soldier. Moved by God’s calling, Hal attended the School for Officers’ Training and was commissioned in 1959. He married Lt. Darlene Dorell on June 22, 1963. The Winklers served in various appointments throughout the Midwest, including in corps and at divisional headquarters with his final appointment being territorial legal secretary at territorial headquarters.

Many people found a friend, supporter and a pastor’s heart in Hal. He loved serving and ministering, spending time with family and friends, sharing his faith and laughing. Despite many heartbreaks over the years, including the loss of his dearly loved wife and daughters, Rebecca and Sharon, his confidence in the Lord never wavered.

Colonel Winkler is survived by his son, Jamie (Samantha) and four grandchildren.

Mrs. Major Shirley Welch

Mrs. Major Shirley Welch, 91, was promoted to Glory on December 20, 2021. Naturally shy, humble and sensitive, she was most comfortable serving out of the limelight. Shirley was a prayer warrior and hungry student of the Bible, hosting weekly neighborhood Bible studies until age 90.

Shirley was born February 26, 1930, in Escanaba, Mich., to Harry and Ina Johnson. After graduating high school, she attended officer training and was commissioned in 1949 a member of “The Peacemakers” session.

Shirley served in three corps appointments before marrying Lt. Jeffrey Welch on April 26, 1952. Together they served in corps throughout Michigan and Indiana. After their retirement in 1995, they remained faithful soldiers, assisting with corps programs and activities.

Shirley was known for her excellent cooking and baking skills, love of music, singing and playing piano, and her careful, loving attention to raising her children who, by God’s grace, became committed Christians. This is perhaps Shirley’s greatest legacy.

She was preceded in death by her husband; brother, Harry; and grandson, Andrew. She is survived by her children, Major Keith (Sherrie), Major Steven (Mary), Major Jonathan (Kim), Major Valerie (Jim) McDowell, and Glenn (Sarah); 23 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; and brother, Harold.

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Join hundreds of Salvationists who are receiving the latest updates on the Central Territory’s ministry, emergency relief efforts, events, service and fundraising opportunities, resources, perspectives and guidance in faith, as well as updates on The Salvation Army around the nation and world. We want to inform and inspire you!

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