



Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory
News and Views from the Midwest

"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

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African Heritage Ministries Consultation convenes

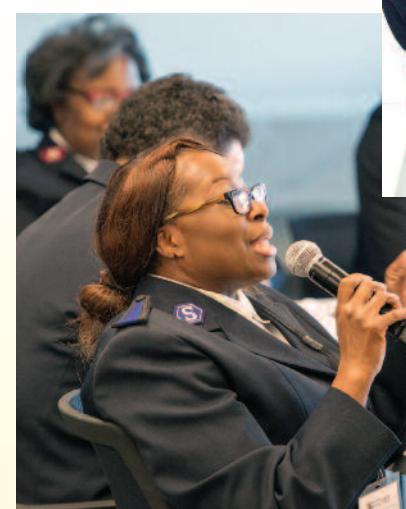
by Karen Young

The 2016 Multicultural Ministries Leadership Seminar at Central Territorial Headquarters provided a time for divisional multicultural ministries coordinators and field advisors to discuss multicultural ministries



Rev. Bernard "Chris" Dorsey

across the territory, including programs being implemented, resources being used and new initiatives for effective cross-cultural outreach.



The centerpiece of this year's seminar was the African Heritage Ministries Consultation. The consultation brought together leaders of African descent (Caribbean, African immigrants and African Americans) who are serving in a variety of ministry roles and settings. Space was created for deep listening and shar-



ing in order to explore leadership development, identify ministry challenges and share best practices, expectations and aspirations.

The Rev. Bernard "Chris" Dorsey, president of HELM (Higher Education and Leadership Ministries) with the Disciples of Christ Christian Church and assistant professor of theology and preaching at Western Theological Seminary, facilitated discussion around scripture and critical topics such as leadership development, authentic community, transformation and mentoring.

Throughout the consultation Majors Steve and Diane Harper served as chaplains and shared

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Event to explore mission engagement

Salvationists will be spurred to deepen their faith and expand their service during this year's commissioning weekend, June 10-12, 2016. Revolving around the theme, "Authentic," the meetings will flesh out what it means to have genuine faith and to engage in mission.

The keynote on Friday evening, *Authentic Engagement*, will begin the mission engagement weekend by exploring what it takes in our modern age to call people to faith in Christ and to make disciples. This compelling meeting will focus on connecting with others and building redemptive relationships. This session and others throughout the weekend will be supported and enriched by the Chicago Staff Band, the Bill Booth Theater Company and the territorial praise band, The Singing Company.

Colonels David and Sharron Hudson will be the guests for the weekend. Colonel David Hudson is the national chief secretary, and Colonel Sharron Hudson is the national secretary for women's ministries. The Hudsons are known for effectively working with and communicating to young adults.

Saturday morning will feature a session called *Authentic Love* which will delve into what it means to love our neighbors, whether down the street or across the globe. The World Services Ingathering and dedication of the young adult summer mission teams will be highlighted as people share their stories. Corps which have been especially successful in supporting the Army's worldwide mission through World Services fundraising also will be featured. Earlier that morning delegates will have the opportunity to support World Services onsite by participating in

the 5K walk/run with the territorial commander.

In the afternoon Salvationists may enjoy fellowship or spend time perusing the exhibit hall featuring Resource Connection, the Territorial Historical Museum and vendors.

Childcare for children up to age 11 will be offered again this year through Corporate Kids. Territorial youth department staff also will hold a devotional time each session.

Delegates will gather for *Authentic Worship* on Saturday evening. Taking the form of a territorial prayer and praise meeting, this interactive session will usher delegates of all ages into God's presence. You won't want to miss this spirit-lifting meeting led by The Singing Company.

Sunday will dawn with *Authentic Consecration* as cadets of the "Messengers of Light" session are commissioned and ordained as officers. Though the focus will be on cadets, this worship service also will challenge all who attend to a full and unreserved commitment to the cause of Christ. The afternoon session, *Authentic Service*, will conclude the weekend with a celebratory meeting where new lieutenants receive their first appointments.

Lt. Colonel Paul Smith, territorial secretary for program, shared the aim for the weekend: "Our prayer is that everyone who participates will celebrate, worship and be challenged to draw closer to God and return home with their hearts refreshed and a renewed commitment to do whatever it takes to build redemptive relationships with people who desperately need to know they are loved by God and by us."

Register online at centralcommissioning.org

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Vision, Mission—and Passion!

by Lt. Colonel Ralph Bukiewicz
Territorial Secretary for Personnel

Every edition of *Central Connection* is filled with vignettes of ministry from throughout our territory. In brief paragraphs and photos, significant activities and events are shared with the world. These examples of service may also inspire us to consider new ideas and pursue even greater things for God's Kingdom.

If you check closely, you will always find three common elements in powerful ministry: VISION, MISSION and PASSION. These tools help us identify opportunities, get us excited and help us make a lasting impact for God's glory.

VISION

When God frees our heart, He captures our imagination. He allows us to see our world—people, circumstances and settings—in a brand new way. Our dreams and plans become tools in the hands of a Master Designer who reveals a VISION for what *could be...*

"It has been said that for every hundred who can speak only one can think; and for every hundred who can think only one can see. Blessed are they who see and follow the vision. We are not unbalanced visionaries who, catching at any fancy of the mind, go after hallucinations. The visions we seek are according to the Word and the testimony, after the very foundation of Christianity."—James Hay, *With Colours Waving*



MISSION

"God has placed some men above kings as He has given them a MISSION TO FULFILL rather than a position to occupy."—Alexandre Dumas

Salvationists are busy people. We're always "doing" something! However, unless our activities are based on a strong foundation and a clear purpose that centers on Christ Jesus, we're just, well, busy! It's encouraging to know God will engage, equip and empower His people to achieve things that are never possible in our own strength. And, when we are obedient to His plan for us, we will discover a fulfilling place on the frontlines of action.

"God has always used ordinary people to carry out His extraordinary MISSION. If we are to better the future, we must disturb the present!"—Catherine Booth

PASSION

When the Holy Spirit sparks our imagination and directs us toward God's purposes, He also inspires us to do it passionately. It's the ministry style Paul describes in Ephesians 6:7 (NLT): "Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."

If you are passionate about following His vision and becoming involved with His mission, you are right where He needs you. Just remember:

VISION without PASSION is all talk;

PASSION without VISION is only spinning our wheels; and

MISSION without either leaves us lifeless and useless!

Concert benefits Flint water crisis

When the contaminated water crisis in Flint, Mich., made the news, Salvationists at the London Citadel, Ontario, Corps were moved to show support for their brothers and sisters across the border.

Within just two weeks of the announcement of a state of emergency in Flint after the discovery of high lead levels in the water, the

London Citadel Corps Band and Songsters held a benefit concert, dubbed Water of Life, to raise awareness and proceeds to help the Flint Citadel Corps meet the need for bottled water in their community. In part, the corps was prompted by a water crisis in Walkerton, Ontario, in May of 2000.

There was an overwhelming community response, and when media outlets learned of the Water of Life Concert the hype around this project quickly escalated. The event was given free publicity on several radio and television stations and in local newspapers.

The night of the event the corps was packed with people from the community wanting to show their support. The London Citadel Band, led by

Bandmaster John Lam, and the London Citadel Songsters, led by Jane Lam, were in top form for the concert. The evening also featured London area guests including: soprano soloist Sonja Gustafson, tuba soloist John Rowsell, trumpet soloist Paul Stevenson, clarinetist Amanda Palmer and pianist Karen Butler.

But the highlight of the program came just after intermission when the band played Bandmaster William Himes' march, "Rolling Along," which was written for the Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps' Centennial Celebration in 1993.

The evening culminated in a collection of \$3,367.86 to help the Army's ongoing efforts in Flint. The proceeds came from the love offering by concertgoers and a bake sale conducted before and after the concert.

"We are genuinely overwhelmed by the compassion and generosity of fellow Salvationists across the border," said Captain Caleb Senn, Genesee County coordinator and Flint Citadel corps officer. "There can be no greater reminder that we are one Army bound by the sacred bond of Christ's love."



At the Water of Life Concert: Ruth Rowland, Gillian Morton, B/M John Lam, Al Rowland, Captain Caleb Senn, Keith Morton, Jim Smith and Gen Smith

African Heritage

Continued from page 1

reflections on the time together.

In the closing message, Lt. Colonel Lonneal Richardson, Midland divisional commander, focused on the rebuilding of the walls from the book of Nehemiah. Sharing from his own life and ministry and through images of a desolate community in desperate need of rebuilding, he challenged delegates that until their hearts are broken, as was Nehemiah's when he saw Jerusalem's destruction, they will not act. But they must act, and God will provide help for the restoration.

Captain Enrique Azuaje, territorial multicultural ministries secretary, concluded, "It was an amazing experience to see Central Territory African descent leadership, officers, soldiers, employees, and volunteers, working together to find ways to renew and bring revival to the African heritage ministries in the Central Territory."



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Olympics website

Media

Regeneration

Web exclusives

Community Care Ministries opportunities for involvement
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The Salvation Army in Italy and Greece
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THE SALVATION ARMY
5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy • Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
847-294-2000
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Founder
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COMMISSIONER PAUL R. SEILER
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Central to send team to Rio

The Central Territory will be sending a global mission team (GMT) to minister in Brazil during the Olympic Games this August. Capitalizing on the excitement of the Olympics, they will engage youth in sports ministry camps in corps in and around the capital, Rio de Janeiro.

The 17 GMT members were chosen by a territorial headquarters committee from a record number of applicants. Nearly half of the members have previous summer mission team



(SMT) experience, making a stronger team. And two of the members, Audrey Hickman and Alexander Pagubitan, have served on SMTs in Brazil.

"I am beyond excited to head back to Brazil for missions. I honestly never thought I would get the opportunity. I was there for the World Cup and now the Olympics! I couldn't believe it!" exclaimed

Alexander Pagubitan, soldier at the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps which has a vibrant sports ministry and heritage of supporting missions.



Central Territory Rio Olympics Global Mission Team

Kyle Coakley
Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps

Marcarius Coakley
Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps

Cinthya Gonzalez
Cicero Templo Laramie, Ill., Corps

Audrey Hickman
Chicago LaVillita, Ill., Corps

Joshua Hubbard
Wayne/Westland, Mich., Corps

Derek Kumpula
Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps

Ian Kumpula
Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps

Kristin Mallett
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Karen Miller
Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center

Mike Mowers
Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps

Alexander Pagubitan
Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps

Elveka Remy
Waukegan, Ill., Corps

Marjorie Remy
Waukegan, Ill., Corps

Julio Romero
Chicago LaVillita, Ill., Corps

Sterling Smith
Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center

Kaitlyn Strand
Elgin, Ill., Corps

Caitlyn Tennyson
Bloomington, Ind., Corps

He continued, "During my first SMT to Brazil I fell in love with the people and was truly amazed of their passion for Christ. This time I will definitely brush up on my Portuguese! But the language barrier didn't stop us from evangelizing others. Christ's love has many languages, and we got to work as brothers and sisters to serve and glorify Him. I don't have any expectations really. I'm just curious to see what else God has to show me. I can't wait for what God has in store for the team!"

His enthusiasm was echoed by Audrey Hickman, soldier at the Chicago LaVillita Corps. "It is such an honor and a privilege to have been chosen to be on this summer's Rio Olympics Global Mission Team. When I think back to my SMT time in Brazil, I remember all of the kind-hearted people who modeled Christ's love in such a way that words were not needed. I am very excited to have the opportunity to travel back to Brazil to experience

some more Brazilian hospitality, the Rio Olympics and what The Salvation Army is doing in Rio de Janeiro."

Lt. Colonel David Bowles, Europe sports ministry coordinator who will be traveling to five cities in Brazil to help train Salvationists for the event, explained the outreach will be about much more than simply delivering some sporting fun for the duration of the Olympics: "We want to equip people to incorporate sports ministry as an ongoing part of the Brazil Territory's strategy—making disciples through sport and play."

While the Central Territory has sent mission teams to the Olympics in Atlanta in 1996, Salt Lake City in 2002 and most recently Vancouver in 2010, this is the first that is sports ministry based. The team has been created in response to an invitation to territories throughout the world by the Brazil Territory. Pray for our Central GMT, other teams and their hosts as they prepare for this ministry partnership.



Training refreshes refugee workers

Bringing fresh insights and encouragement to Italian and Greek Salvation Army officers and staff who've been providing frontline assistance over the past year to refugees from the Middle East and Northern Africa, Major David Dalberg, Metropolitan divisional director of emergency disaster services (EDS), conducted a three-day training session on providing emotional and spiritual care (ESC), as well as self-care for response workers.

At an invitation from the Salvation Army World Service Office (SAWSO), Major David spent a week in Italy covering these subjects and evaluat-

ing what other support could be provided. SAWSO sponsored not only Major Dalberg's visit to Rome to conduct the training but the 35 officers and staff who participated.

Formatting his presentation to fit within three days while making time allowances for translation was a yeoman's job for the major, but his efforts were successful. Despite language barriers, he was able to create a warm, comfortable atmosphere that allowed participants to freely share their experiences. He observed much of what he taught about ESC was already occurring in the field, but participants found it extremely helpful to review what

they were doing and formalize it into intentional efforts. Younger officers absorbed the sessions "like sponges," the major commented, while the rest found the importance of self-care revolutionary as he discussed compassion fatigue.

"A social worker said this was just what she needed," said Major David. "The necessary professional and natural skills were

already in place, but it was helpful for participants to refresh, refocus and be reminded that the simplest things—like listening to people's stories—can make the greatest difference."

After the training, Major David accompanied Lt. Colonel Massimo Tursi, Italy and Greece commander, to Atena Lucana, a small community in Southern Italy where The Salvation Army has a



A class exercise focuses on practicing listening skills.



Class participants discuss compassion fatigue with Major David Dalberg.

corps and complex that includes a fulltime residence for 52 male Nigerian refugees who are learning how to assimilate into the Italian culture as they await legal residency. Major Dalberg was impressed not only by the facility and success stories but by how the command assumed business responsibilities, enabling officers and staff to concentrate on ministry. He was particularly taken by an older, single-woman corps officer who has made such an impact the men requested she increase weekly spiritual meetings to twice a week!

Regeneration speaks to faith formation

by Captain Jennifer Ortman

Nearly 400 young adults—a near record attendance—gathered for Regeneration 2016 on one of the coldest weekends in February at Camp Wonderland. But they soon forgot the weather as they were engaged by guest speaker Megan Fate Marshman who exhibited enormous energy and enthusiasm while examining the weekend's theme, Formation.

"Christian formation is the forming of Christ in you," Megan said. "Remember that we love others out of the abundance of love God has for us that flows through us."

General sessions included enlightening mentor moments with "not as young" adults letting delegates listen as they gave advice to their 20-year-old selves. Rappers JGivens and DJ Aktual also were thought-provoking, and delegates participated heartily in singing with guest worship leaders Ghost Ship.



Friday night's Snow Ball took delegates back to the days of junior high school dances, complete with genuine Arthur Murray dance instructors and a crowned king and queen.

Saturday afternoon included a pop-up clothing shop, campfires, crafts, a coffee shop and an open mic. Afternoon workshops were offered on worship, women's ministries, community outreach, wandering in your 20s, mental health and a culture and faith formation study with International Youth and Children's Officer Major Janet Robson. Saturday evening's Lumberjack Fest was so authentic it attracted Bigfoot.

Funds collected throughout the weekend, totaling \$3,886, will be matched by Central Territorial Headquarters and will benefit Variety Village, a residential program where young adults receive



Major Janet Robson

job and life skills training in the Kenya East Territory.

During meetings delegates were challenged to respond to God's desires for them. Avenues of service were presented,

and during division-specific Bible studies resources to further develop faith principles were shared. Each delegate was encouraged to complete a personal ministry plan to enact in their corps and their own faith formation.



Megan Fate Marshman



International College for Officers

Each quarter Central Territory officers receive the opportunity to attend the International College for Officers in London, England, for a six-week session of training and development. Please keep the officers selected for the second quarter of 2016 in your prayers.



Session 229
April 13 to May 23, 2016

Major Randy Hellstrom

Divisional Secretary
Western Division



Major John Pook
Corps Officer
Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps

New Year Book available

The 2016 edition of *The Salvation Army Year Book* is now available to purchase as an e-book. It is hoped that many people will take advantage of this facility, allowing them to have a copy of the 2016 Year Book on their smartphones, tablets and some e-readers. Printed copies are also available, providing a valuable resource to Salvationists and non-Salvationists alike.

The first *Salvation Army Year Book* was published in 1906. Since then it has provided an annual snapshot of Salvation Army work and ministry, with facts and statistics supported by reports and articles. The 2016 Year Book includes articles about the online Salvation Army, the accountability movement and celebrating 100 years' ministry to Chinese communities.

General André Cox writes in his foreword: "This edition of *The Year Book* provides many facts and much information about what God is doing through the worldwide Salvation Army. May this resource encourage you to prayer and service that the world might be won for Jesus Christ."

Like the printed copy, the e-book features numerous black-and-white photographs of The Salvation Army's ministry from many of the 127 countries in which it is at work, along with color sections containing



vibrant photos—including memorable images from the *Boundless* International Congress—and detailed maps. The printed version also exclusively contains a record of officers in designated appointments, details of retired senior leaders, and a list of officer retirements and promotions to Glory.

The 2016 Year Book is available for Kindle e-readers—and the many other devices which can run the free Kindle app—through the various international versions of online retailer Amazon (search for "Salvation Army Year Book 2016"). Printed copies of the Year Book can be purchased from Resource Connection.

Refuel gets to heart of youth work

by Captain Rachel Stouder

Upon registering for a conference like Refuel: a Gathering for Youth Leaders, one likely enters into the conference expecting many things. Surely among them are quality time in worship, fellowship, inspirational teaching and training, and, because it's February in the upper Midwest, cold! Any youth leader who attended Refuel 2016 with those expectations certainly was not disappointed.

The week began with an encouraging video message from General André Cox, who has made it clear that one of his passionate burdens as the world leader of The Salvation

Army is our work among children and young people. In fact, General Cox has appointed the first ever International Youth and Children's Officer, Major Janet Robson, who was among the guest presenters at Refuel.

Major Robson led two breakout discussions for youth development workers, getting right at the heart of the passion which fuels the ministry. These sessions not only served to provide space for identifying the personal fuel for youth development (reaffirming we are not just warm, available bodies to do the work) but also invited conversation about important roots in our ministry, such as The Salvation Army's overall value of every single human being to no varying degree.

One of the dangers for those engaged in youth development is burnout. An overdeveloped sense of responsibility is rampant in the name of winning the world for Jesus. Sensitive to this reality, Majors Monty and Angie Wandling, territorial youth and assistant youth secretaries, along with their team, invited Dr. Richard Swenson to get "Right at

the Heart" of what leads to burnout in the general sessions of the week.

Dr. Swenson, a physician/researcher, award winning education and best-selling author, spoke simply and powerfully about the lack of margin (boundaries) in our time, stress management, finances, emotional and physical care, and other personal realms. He challenged delegates to consider carefully how God invites us to partner with Him in caring for ourselves so that we might care rightly for others. These messages were augmented by workshops, discussion groups and conversations around challenging topics regarding youth development.



One delegate shared what many experienced, "I came to Refuel so that I could gather tools to bring change in my corps and community. I didn't consider how much I would need this for me."



Majors Angela and Monty Wandling (on ends) with Dr. Richard and Linda Swenson

An interview International Youth and Children's Officer Major Janet Robson

In 2014 General André Cox created the position of International Youth and Children's Officer. Major Janet Robson is the first to fill this position. During Refuel Captain Rachel Stouder sat down with her to learn about the major's role and what led up to it in her own life and ministry.

What does your current appointment of International Youth and Children's Officer mean?

It's a brand new role. I started in this position in April 2014. Much of what I do at the moment is in regards to safeguarding children around the world. It's within the context of advocacy, really. It is advocacy for children but also for those who work with them. It's not just about safeguarding children from harm though, but also safeguarding them for all that God has intended for them. This position has opened up a lot of opportunity for conversation all over the place, bringing people together for conversation and collaboration around these important matters.

I love that God doesn't have to persuade me to do this appointment. It's a joy, and I love it!

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I thought being a lawyer would be funny, but that didn't last. I wanted to be a teacher because someone inspired me. I actually went to school to be an accountant before I went to training.

Connecting those aspirations to the path upon which you ended up, what are some of the significant trends?

I never considered that but can see how my aspirations for being a lawyer and teacher would lead to a passion for advocacy, empowerment

and justice. I remember watching the news when I was young and especially being drawn in watching and observing the Apartheid in Africa. Then in my travels I started becoming aware of the injustice in the world. I didn't realize that not everyone has the kind of childhood that I had: nurturing, safe, etc. When I was 19 I came to work at Camp Ladore in the Pennsylvania/Delaware Division. My favorite three weeks each summer were the ones with the kids from the urban, broken settings—listening to them and discovering what their lives were like. That was foundational informing my passions for what I do today.

What were the circumstances of your calling to officership?

I was working at camp and we were having staff vespers on a Sunday night. The devotion wasn't about officership. It was a simple but broad question: 'What does God want to do with you?' I heard God say 'officership,' and I argued with Him for five years. I had other opportunities to go 'do good' in other places, but God was relentless. The tipping point for me was when I was out to dinner with a nonbeliever friend who was also training to be an accountant with me. She said, 'Janet, you could be doing anything, but I don't see you doing accounting for the rest of your life. Isn't there something else you'd like to be doing with your church or something?'

After that, it was a matter of just weeks. By then I wanted to rush for-



Auxiliary Captain Ketsia Diaz with Major Janet Robson at Refuel

ward, so urgent was the feeling. There was such an excellent relief and joy and agreeing with God out loud as I confided with people in leadership in my life. This was in the summer, so I couldn't go to training until the next year, but I gave my notice the very next day at my job. They actually kept me on for that year, and even my Muslim friends there affirmed, 'This makes sense.'

How did your passion for 'every man and woman, boy and girl, to know their worth to God' develop?

I guess as I've gotten older, I've begun to discover and become more convinced that if only people knew and understood how much they are valued and loved, it would change the world! I know it sounds simplistic, but it's reality. We all struggle with insecurities, but if we can all get our heads on straight and get it that we are loved, we would be totally transformed.

What recurring Bible passage in your life has really struck you?

'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!' 1 John 3:1 (NIV)
God lavishes His love on us!
'Lavish' isn't just provision. It's so much more! It speaks of limitless generosity! And then the whole 'child of God' part... Now that gets me emotional! Why should I be called that?

Is there anything else you'd want to share?

I get what people mean when they say kids are the future of The Salvation Army, but it really winds me up to be honest. That's not it! They have so much to give right now. We need to make space for them now to be in the ministry with us...Children have so much to teach us. Kids have their eyes open to things that we don't see.

On the frontlines of help

When disaster strikes The Salvation Army is there meeting people's needs from a cup of water to a word of encouragement to clean-up kits or long-term assistance. Emergency disaster services wouldn't be possible without dedicated personnel and volunteers like those you'll read about here. They are on the frontlines of help and hope.



Prayer and encouragement on the spot

Reverends Dave (76) and Brenda (72) Deckard have been serving together with Emergency Disaster Services as emotional and spiritual care (ESC) specialists since 2010. Don't let their ages fool you; they have an undaunted passion for serving that's lasted decades.

"Our desire is to create time with people who have suffered loss. To sit with them, pray and hear their story," said Brenda. "They need to tell their story, and they need someone to listen and try to understand where they are emotionally."

The Deckards' first assignment as ESC specialists was in Oklahoma City, Okla., right after an EF5 tornado hit south of the city in Moore, Okla. In visiting with survivors, a five-year-old girl shared her story of going into a shelter. Her uncle and cousin had held the door to the refuge with her family to keep from being blown away.

"I could see her beautiful little eyes get wide as she was remembering



Dave and Brenda celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

what happened," Brenda recalled. "She told us she'd said to her mommy, 'We're going to die!' We connected with the rest of her family and ministered to them and gave them extra assistance. It was a particularly touching interaction."

Since then Brenda and Dave have served in Washington, Ill., and Washington, Ind., also devastated by tornadoes in the last three years. In both places they found incredible people: some so traumatized they could barely function and others who got to work immediately repairing the damage.

Being able to pray with disaster survivors is what Brenda and Dave find most meaningful about the work.

"My end goal is to build enough of a relationship with survivors where they'll either ask us or allow us to pray with them," said Brenda. "I want to help them to know God didn't



Reverends Deckard visit Plaza Towers School that was destroyed in Moore, Okla.

do this to them, but He is going through it with them."

A soldier's call to duty

Linda Day, a soldier who's been involved in emergency disaster services (EDS) since the early 1980s, found herself on the frontlines once again earlier this year—this time on her home turf of Arnold, Mo.—during the severe flooding that affected several Midwestern states. The floods, which not only were swift but long lasting and quickly followed by bitter-cold temperatures, demonstrated to Linda once again the vital importance of year-round recruitment and training of EDS volunteers.

"People need to realize that when a disaster strikes, sometimes outside help isn't available until hours or even days later. We need to keep the EDS story and the need for volunteers constantly before our soldiers and communities," said Linda. Even though they also may have been affected by the disaster, trained EDS volunteers can come to the aid of their neighbors because they know how to take care of themselves and their communities.

Linda's first day out with the canteen for the recent flooding was December 27. "My corps officers, Major Matthew and Captain Debra Osborn, had to immediately 'switch gears' after an exhausting Christmas season and go into EDS mode for the next several weeks. Although it's a privilege to be of service to the Kingdom, a balance must be reached with an adequate number of EDS volunteers because disasters can take a toll in many other ways," she added.

Linda is appreciative of and has thoroughly enjoyed the EDS training opportunities she has received. "It's been great to have soldiers, officers, service extension members and other volunteers undergo EDS training and work alongside each other as they learn how to effectively reach out to those in need."

Her love for serving God and working with people is what keeps Linda motivated and involved in EDS. Calling on her organizational and pastoral skills as a long-time Salvation Army employee and former



Soldier and long-time EDS volunteer Linda Day (l) developed a recent interest in cooking for disasters; assisting her is retired officer Major Carol Irvine.

officer, Linda has handled a wide variety of disaster response roles, from emotional and spiritual care to cooking and serving meals at local, regional and even national disasters.

A recipient of the Army's care and

love when she was just 4 years old, Linda said she once heard The Salvation Army described as the glove on God's hand. She concluded, "That's why I love the Army—and doing EDS work is extending its mission to everyone."

and hope



A shared passion for disaster services

"**V**olunteers are the hands and feet of the Army in disasters. Without them we couldn't help as many people as we do," said Lt. Curtis Lunnam, Vincennes, Ind., corps officer with his wife, Captain Laura Lunnam. "People have a stereotype of a volunteer, but when it comes to disaster work there isn't one. Even someone making sandwiches behind the scenes can make a difference to those who are hurting."

Individually the Lunnams have responded to disasters since they were young adults. In fact, it was a flood that led to their meeting!

Not long after then-Lt. Laura Schultz was appointed the El Dorado, Kan., corps officer in 1998, major flooding occurred. She needed to take out the canteen but didn't know the area. The corps thrift store manager suggested she bring along her son, Curtis—a 911 dispatcher who knew the roads well.

With fire and police experience,



Curtis had responded to many disasters, while Laura felt called to emergency disaster services (EDS) as a cadet after serving in the North Dakota floods. The two spent the next six weeks delivering dinners to flood survivors. Sometimes Curtis would bring along his 4-year-old son, Michael, who loved wearing his oversized EDS t-shirt and hat.

"We fell in love but fought it. I even asked for another appointment," recalled Captain Laura. "But

after I moved, God confirmed Curtis was the one He had chosen for me and that He had great plans for Curtis in ministry." Her dad, the EDS coordinator in Ypsilanti, Mich., arranged for a canteen to serve as the couple's wedding limo!

As soldiers the Lunnams volunteered for local and regional disasters, even responding to a tornado when Laura was seven months pregnant! And, when asked to administer the Dodge City, Kan., Corps, floods occurred within weeks of their arrival.

Twelve years of marriage and two more sons later, Curtis entered the College for Officer Training in 2012 while Laura was reinstated and appointed to territorial headquarters. In 2014 the

Lunnams were appointed to the Vincennes Corps, which had just established an EDS team.

The Lunnams' enthusiasm for EDS work has been inherited by their three sons. "It fills my heart when we're out on fire calls to see them entertain children while we're assisting adults," Lt. Curtis concluded.



The Lunnams on their wedding day

Retired cop serves the Army

Jim Daly has volunteered with emergency disaster services (EDS) for the last 15 years. Retired from the Ramsey County, Minn., Sheriff's Department, Jim fell naturally into the work after then-Twin Cities, Minn., EDS Director Bill Fiest encouraged him to participate. The two had met during a Federal Emergency Manager Certification course.

As an EDS volunteer, Jim served in New York City after 9/11 and as the incident commander at the 2007 I-35W Mississippi River Bridge collapse, the 2011 North Minneapolis tornado, the 2013 tornado site in Washington, Ill., and most recently in St. Louis, Mo., after record-breaking floods.

Jim's first significant encounter with The Salvation Army, and perhaps what ultimately motivated his volunteer work, occurred during his years in the Sheriff's Department on a S.W.A.T. team callout when a criminal suspect had barricaded himself in a trailer. While law enforcement worked long hours to safely bring

the suspect into custody, a Salvationist brought them hot coffee and sandwiches.

"It really impressed upon me the value of Salvation Army work," said Jim. "We were so grateful for someone who was willing to be there for us in the middle of the night."

In addition to being a volunteer during disasters, Jim teaches EDS classes throughout the Northern Division. Recently he's also been tapped to cook breakfast for the homeless out of the St. Paul Citadel, Minn., Corps since he's a licensed kitchen manager.

Not only is Jim an avid volunteer, he's an avid recruiter.

"I've recruited everyone from long-time friends to acquaintances to people from the sheriff's department," he said. "I've learned the number one reason people don't volunteer is because they haven't been asked. I'm constantly encouraging people to invite their friends. The Army has such a good reputation; people are more willing to volunteer than you might think."



Jim assists at Point of Distribution in St. Louis, Mo., after the January floods.

A crash course for Garringtons

"They come ready for anything, with servants hearts, a guitar and a sense of humor to boot!" said Lt. Judy Fetzer, Pontiac, Mich., corps officer, about Majors Jim and Judy Garrington, evangelism and spiritual formation secretaries, who taught "A Crash Course in the History of God's People" at her corps last fall.

A sense of humor indeed. Upon entering Major Jim's office at territorial headquarters, you're greeted by Claudius, a six-foot Roman soldier mannequin who traverses the territory with them for children's meetings and vacation Bible schools.

"Claudius freaks people here out on a regular basis," Major Jim quipped.

Since receiving this appointment last summer the Garringtons have had a packed schedule of Bible studies, interactive sessions, sermons and children's programs at corps from Muncie, Ind., all the way to Grand Forks, N.D.

The Garringtons offer a myriad of topical programs to corps and often teach weekend seminars or three-to-five day series, which are underwritten by territorial headquarters. The only responsibility of the corps is to provide the Garringtons' meals. Corps officers can book a campaign simply by visiting their website and submitting a request.

One reason the Garrington's ministry



is so well received is the unique and complementary relationship they have with one another. "They work together as an excellent team," said Envoy DeWayne Duskin, St. Joseph, Mo., corps administrator. The Garringtons taught the "GoodSense Budgeting Seminar," at the corps last fall.

Major Jim's passion and primary spiritual gift is evangelism. "I am constantly aware that of the people I encounter, from folks on the bus to people on the street, so many of them need Jesus," he said.

Major Judy has the gift of mercy and compassion. She's tremendously sensitive to what's going on in other people's lives. She is also the organiz-



er of the two, having the foresight and time management skills to get everything in order before the couple arrives for any engagement. "She is fantastically competent," Major Jim said. "I married an amazing woman 43 years ago!"

Together they enjoy teaching. Major Judy has a degree in education, and Major Jim made presentations all over Europe during their

tenure as missionaries in Germany.

If Major Judy could give the last 11 months a theme, she said, "It would be 'Relationship Strengthening: God and Me.' My personal relationship with God has been strengthened as I study and teach. Also I hope to see every person participating in our seminars grow so they are better equipped to love, serve and glorify Him."

Shared commitment

In a spirit of ecumenicalism inspired by the example set by the international Salvation Army, the Branson, Mo., Corps has developed a mutually beneficial relationship with a nearby Roman Catholic church over the last three years, according to Lt. Shawn DeBaar, corps officer.

"The relationship with Our Lady of the Lakes began just before my wife, Aubrey, and I arrived in Branson," said the lieutenant who's a fan of the book *Conversations with the Catholic Church* written by Commissioner William Francis and published by International Headquarters (IHQ) based on a series of conferences the commissioner led between IHQ and the Vatican.

The corps' and church's relationship began when the church of more than 1,000 members began holding a special monthly offering to benefit faith-based social service agencies in their area that were better equipped in assisting clients referred to them by the church when it couldn't meet

their needs.

Once connected with the Branson Corps, their commitment to support its ministries mushroomed. Volunteers now help with the corps' front office, thrift store and food pantry, hold food drives year-round and participate in ket- tles and other seasonal events.

The connection also has led to a close friendship between Lt. Shawn and David Wright, one of the church's lay staff members. "David and I have had some wonderful, meaningful conversations on theology and exploring the differences and similarities in our faiths and practices. We've discovered many strong commonalities and intersections in our ministries," said Lt. Shawn.

The lieutenant also has forged good relationships with the church's outreach-driven priests and exchanged letters with their bishop after gifting him with a copy of Commissioner Francis' book!



One of the many church volunteers who works at the Branson, Mo., Corps' thrift store.

What our territorial evangelists offer you!

Does your corps or center need a special event, but you don't know how you can add that preparation to your busy schedule? Consider inviting Majors Jim and Judy Garrington, territorial evangelists, for special meetings, evangelistic campaigns or seminars. A taste of what they offer includes:

- Overview of the Psalms
- Good\$ense Budgeting
- Becoming a Contagious Christian
- Jesus for Skeptics
- Spiritual Disciplines/Discipleship
- Crash Course in the History of God's People

For a full list of offerings and to book a campaign visit: www.centralusa.salvationarmy.org/usc/territorial_evangelists.

Tuned to God's will

Ever had a time in your life when God's plans seem to collide with your own? Salvationist, co-principal trombone of the famous Black Dyke Band and recent Chicago Staff Band concert guest Paul Woodward did. Here he shares his journey of relinquishment.



It was 2007. I'd been suffering from serious stomach pains and taking heavy medication. Finally, I had to have surgery that required my stomach to be stitched to my diaphragm—daunting for a brass player. The surgeon was

blunt—playing a brass instrument might not be possible afterward.

You can imagine I found myself in a very dark place. One Sunday evening at the corps as I put my trombone away, crying, I thought, *Is that it? Is that the last time I'll play my trombone?*

The Lord placed my corps officer just where he needed to be at that time, and we prayed together simply: "Lord, use me as You will." I didn't know what the future held, but I simply relinquished my own plans. "Lord, whatever You want to use me for, I'm here."

In the hospital before surgery, one melody kept coming to my mind: "All that I am" by Bandmaster William Himes. I prayed it and trusted, "Lord, I'm in Your hands."

But after surgery there was a problem. They'd found a mass of new cells from acid that had eroded my stomach. Often cancerous, it had to be removed. Another surgery ensued, but this time the scar tissue from the first surgery was so tough the surgeon pierced my stomach and diaphragm. Waking in the hospital, I thought back to the prayer with my corps officer to simply trust in God. I prayed it again and again, relinquishing my plans to Him.

I often play the solo to the words I prayed, "All that I am, all I can be, all that I have, all that is me, accept and use, Lord, as You would choose, Lord, right now, today. Take every passion, every skill, take all my dreams and bend them to Your will. My all I give, Lord, for You I'll live, Lord, come what may."

The results came back—no cancer! So, I continued my slow journey back to health. As I healed, I couldn't eat solid food and lost 70 pounds. But I still wasn't able to play my trombone. My wonderful wife, Sarah, wouldn't even let me buzz my mouthpiece. I waited for an opportunity.

My chance came when Sarah

Continued on page 12

Guitar Initiative turns up the volume

by Joe Caddy

Over the past two years the Central Territory's effort toward the goal of Live Music in Worship in Every Corps by the year 2020 (LM2020) has been bolstered by a large infusion of additional resources into the on-going Guitar Initiative.

The initiative began in 2014 when Central Territorial Headquarters (THQ) sponsored a resource matching plan in which THQ would fund the purchase of up to 10 guitars per division on a matching basis. Most divisions took full advantage of this plan, and close to 200 new guitars were added to inventory across the territory. These instruments and the instructional resources that accompanied them from THQ were quickly put into corps and divisional use.

More recently in late 2015, The Salvation Army in the United States received a donation of \$5.2 million of gifts-in-kind merchandise from Guitar Center which filled 14 40-foot trucks with equipment. This signifi-



cant donation was divided between the four USA territories then dispersed to warehouses in each territory to be divided further into divisional allocations.

The Central Territory's portion was delivered to Indianapolis, Ind., where the sorting and staging of the equipment was carried out by the Indiana Division with onsite support from the territorial music and gospel arts department and the Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command. Each division received nine pallets of guitars, bass guitars, drums and sound equipment to reinforce their music ministries.

As a result of the Guitar Initiative, the territory already has seen an increase in opportunities for beginning guitar instruction, and the territorial music and gospel arts department is taking steps to help this momentum continue. Guitar and praise band instruction will be integrated further into the curriculum at Central Music Institute this year. While guitar courses already have been made available at most divisional music camps as an extension of the initiative, the department hopes the newly acquired resources and increased instructional emphasis will bring even more growth in corps instruction in support of LM2020.



Parade on point for Midland teen

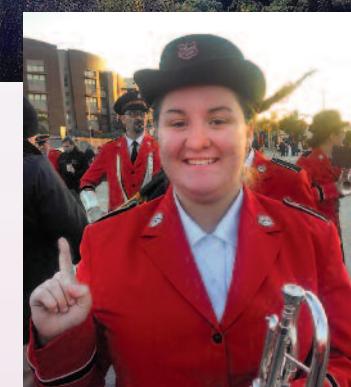
by Kent Embree

One of Jillian Pratt's favorite verses is Romans 8:18. She quotes, "The pain you've been feeling cannot compare to the joy that is coming."

It sums up her experience earlier this year. The teen from the Quincy, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center could not have predicted the joy that would come from being part of The Salvation Army band marching in the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day in Pasadena, Calif.

Her travels didn't begin on that note, however. Inadvertently leaving behind part of her uniform, she was off to a rocky start. But her panic about not having it together was soon assuaged. Jillian, winner of numerous accolades such as "Top Camper" and "First" in the top band at Midland's divisional music camp, was amazed at the beauty of her new surroundings.

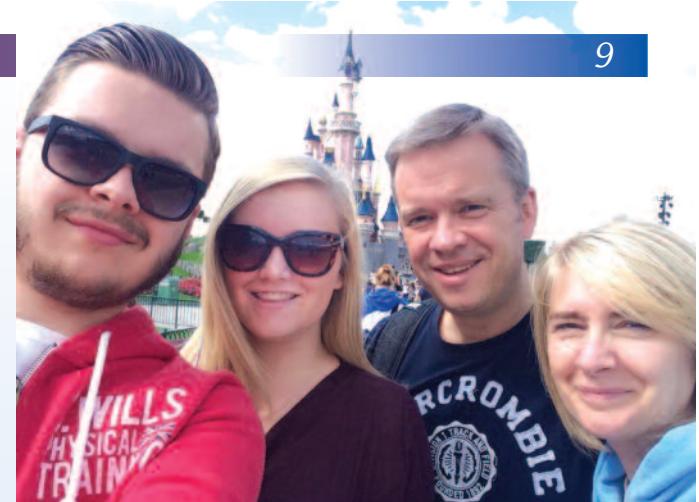
Housed at Camp Mt. Crags in Malibu Canyon, she found the opportunity to take her cornet up to a high point and play across the mountain-side. "It was the most beautiful sound. I really felt a spiritual 'high' at that point. Like nothing I have ever felt before," she recalled. Moved, she took a photo of a cross on the mountainside and had it made into a graphic to decorate her cell phone.



When her uniform hat arrived by FedEx the day before the parade, Jillian's anxiety lessened. She was excited about the performance but was still daunted by the five and a half mile march ahead—and the admonishment of the band leader that there would be no stopping unless someone had a medical emergency!

As the march unfolded and band members began to tire, it became apparent completing the route was going to be more difficult than Jillian had anticipated. One young woman ahead of her had to be assisted by paramedics when her ankles began bleeding severely from blisters.

Jillian felt blisters forming on her own feet, but encouraged by the crowd singing with the band and shouting, "God bless you, Salvation Army!" and overwhelmed with joy, she didn't feel pain. She was thankful to be able to glorify God on national television using the gifts He has given her.



Empowering others

Not content to relish her own accomplishments in life since emigrating as a child to the U.S. with her parents from Mexico, Wendy Bautista, a Des Plaines, Ill., Corps soldier, is committed to empowering others to achieve their goals through education.

A single mother raising three children, Wendy will be receiving her bachelor's degree in business administration this year which she earned while working her way up to the position of operations director for the Chicago, Ill., North Side Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC).

Wendy not only is committed to training staff at the center's eight stores, which report sales at an all-time high, but to helping them pursue educational opportunities, reported Majors John and Julie Aren, Chicago North Side ARC administrators. Wendy attributes the stores' successes to the implementation of a consistent process, making sure the managers have the right tools to perform their jobs and developing a culture that cares.

"I can proudly say our managers have developed expertise in what



Wendy Bautista with fiancé David Meyers and Majors John and Julie Aren

they do," said Wendy, who leads by example according to the Arens. Major John sparked Wendy's interest in store management in 2011 when he brought in manuals on a process he'd learned in a previous appointment. Soon Monday evenings at the ARC became "Monday Night Academy" as Major John conducted classes for employees, while Wendy reinforced the teaching in the stores. To increase her own skills, Wendy began adding college classes in operations and project management to the accounting courses she'd been taking.

"I don't see my job as a place that gives me a check; I see it as a mission," Wendy said.

Wendy finds it easy to empathize with others because over the years she's also known unemployment and struggles to provide for her family. "But, I know an awesome God who cared for us during those difficult times," she continued. "The hardships I overcame are no coincidence; He was preparing me for bigger things."

Wendy believes one of the bigger things God has been preparing her for is officership. She and her fiancé, David Meyers, are hoping to go to training next fall after their June wedding.



Wendy leads a team of ARC store managers in a mud race event.



Wendy Bautista is enrolled as a soldier at the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps.

730... AND BEYOND

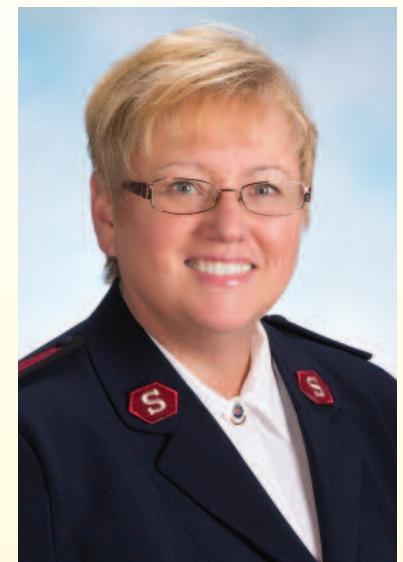
9,485 days and counting

by Major Tricia Taube

Recently I sorted through boxes of accumulated pictures—hundreds of them, all spread out on my craft table in stacks that represented each of my appointments. In every pile were reminders of how the Lord has shaped me through years of ministry, using the people He gave me to love and lead.

In the mix were cards I'd saved because the messages were significant. One was a thank you card from a woman I'll call Hilda, a hard to love—and even harder to be around—woman from one of my corps appointments. I almost gave up and gave into anger and bitterness with her, but a simple small group Bible study changed everything.

When the question about assurance of forgiveness from sin came to her, she wept. She was convinced God wouldn't forgive her past. All these years later, I can remember her look of pure joy as we went through scripture and she claimed God's promise of forgiveness and adoption into His family. She was still "well worn" with the rough edges that a hard life can leave, but she was not the same. I came to love and care about her and at her funeral, not many years later, could say with assurance she knew and loved the



Savior and had been sure of her place in Heaven for eternity.

I have to admit in all the cleaning out and parting with stuff, I kept that card as a reminder of what really matters in the busyness of ministry. I have loved every part of my officership. Each appointment, even the hardest ones, has been dear.

Nothing compares with the privilege of being a part of someone's salvation story. I have been there at the beginning of some journeys, have been able to disciple and mentor others in their faith, and have sat at the bedsides of some precious saints as they've looked toward a heavenly homecoming. I can't think of any life that would have brought more joy in service.

730... AND BEYOND



OFFICERSHIP. HIS GRACE AND POWER.

I love being an officer because it's a challenge! It is something I cannot do alone. I have to depend on God. It has less to do with my talents and abilities and more to do with His grace and power.
-Lieutenant A.J. Zachery

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for works of service,
so that the body of Christ
may be built up until
we all reach unity
in the faith and
in the knowledge
of the Son of God
and become mature,
attaining to the
whole measure of
the fullness of Christ.**

-Eph. 4:12-13

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or contact your corps officer

Community Care success

Last year through community care ministries (CCM), 751 people came to know Christ. Additionally 320,782 people were visited, 34,893 were prayed with and 203 were connected to corps ministries. Major Brenda Herivel, territorial community care ministries secretary, attributes this achievement to soldiers in our territory caring enough about people to visit and build relationships with them.

Formerly called League of Mercy, CCM has long been a part of the Army's ministry, going back to the "slum sisters" who cleaned homes in the impoverished East End of London. Traditionally it included visiting shut-ins and people in nursing homes, hospitals and institutions.

With a name change to CCM, this program has expanded to include all sorts of practical service, such as giving someone a ride to a doctor's appointment, or cleaning up a home or community park.

Major Brenda has a personal connection to community care ministries that stems back to young adulthood. She had grown up in another church but married into a Salvation Army family. Every week she would visit nursing homes with her mother-in-law and her baby daughter.



"I had never seen a church handle visitation in such a purposeful, regular and organized manner," said the major. "The Army does it differently, and it sets us apart."

Getting involved is easy. Ideally your corps has a CCM secretary; if not, this may be your opportunity to take the lead. Contact your corps officer or CCM secretary for opportunities and ideas. The ministry should include regular training meetings, including Safe from Harm.

The Salvation Army

PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

May Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Sunday	2 Samuel 5-9	Wayne/Westland, Mich., Corps
	2 Monday	Psalms 51-53	Shelbyville, Ind., Corps
	3 Tuesday	Job 35-36	Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps
	4 Wednesday	Jeremiah 27-31	Sedalia, Mo., Corps
	5 Thursday	Mark 15-16	St. Paul Eastside, Minn., Corps
	6 Friday	2 Corinthians 4-5	Sioux City, Iowa, Corps
	7 Saturday	Exodus 21-24	Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Corps
	8 Sunday	2 Samuel 10-14	Superior, Wis., Corps
	9 Monday	Psalms 54-56	Sturgis, Mich., Corps
	10 Tuesday	Job 37-38	Wyandotte Downriver, Mich., Corps
	11 Wednesday	Jeremiah 32-36	Terre Haute, Ind., Corps
	12 Thursday	Luke 1-2	St. Charles Tri-City, Ill., Corps
	13 Friday	2 Corinthians 6-8	Springfield, Mo., Corps
	14 Saturday	Exodus 25-28	Virginia, Minn., Corps
	15 Sunday	2 Samuel 15-19	Caribbean Territory ^{PM}
	16 Monday	Psalms 57-59	Sioux Falls, S.D., Corps
	17 Tuesday	Job 39-40	South Bend Kroc Center, Ind., Corps
	18 Wednesday	Jeremiah 37-41	Waukesha, Wis., Corps
	19 Thursday	Luke 3-4	Ypsilanti, Mich., Corps
	20 Friday	2 Corinthians 9-10	Vincennes, Ind., Corps
	21 Saturday	Exodus 29-32	Waukegan, Ill., Corps
	22 Sunday	2 Samuel 20-24	Captain Christopher Marques (Japan)
	23 Monday	Psalms 60-62	St. Louis Harbor Light, Mo., Corps
	24 Tuesday	Job 41-42	Williston, N.D., Corps
	25 Wednesday	Jeremiah 42-46	Watertown, S.D., Corps
	26 Thursday	Luke 5-6	Wausau, Wis., Corps
	27 Friday	2 Corinthians 11-13	Detroit Harbor Light, Mich., Corps
	28 Saturday	Exodus 33-36	Warsaw, Ind., Corps
	29 Sunday	1 Kings 1-4	Chicago Harbor Light, Ill., Corps
	30 Monday	Psalms 63-65	Willmar, Minn., Corps
	31 Tuesday	Proverbs 1	Traverse City, Mich., Corps

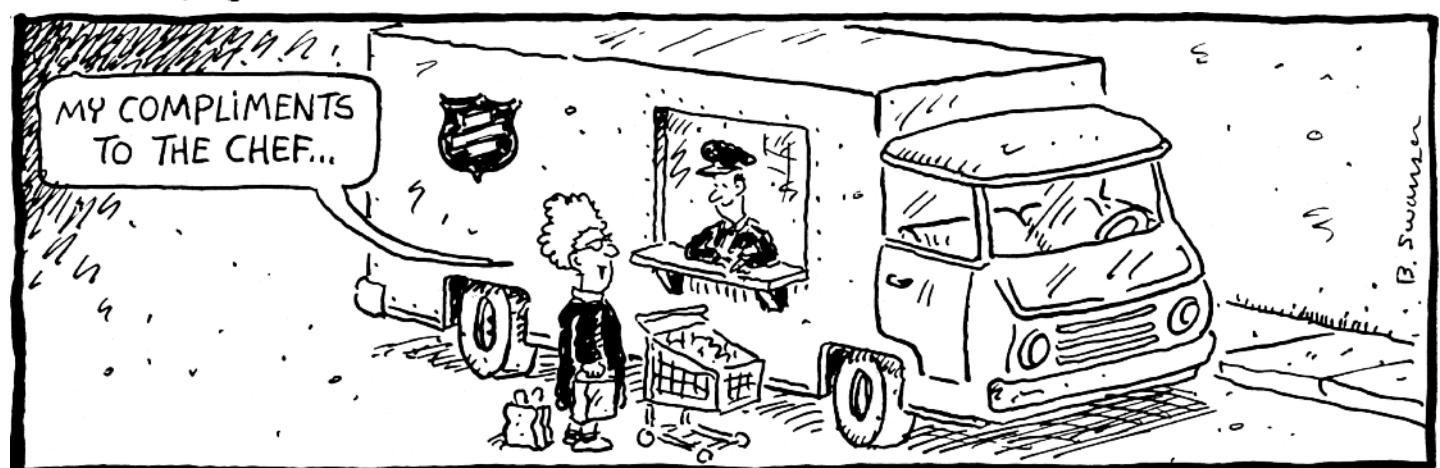
Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

PIM = Partner in Mission



Mustard Seeds



Unexpected collaboration

What started as a simple space-rental agreement with another congregation has blossomed into so much more. Soldiers and attendees at the Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps, a predominately African-American congregation, have shared fellowship, worship and friendship with the Asian-American Ninth Hour Covenant Church for the last five years, and it's been a blessing.

Not only does Corps Administrator Envoy Tyrone Staggers occasionally share the pulpit with lead pastor Reverend Rich Kohng, but members from both congregations meet to discuss opportunities for joint outreach and fellowship. The congregations routinely come together for Easter and Christmas services and picnics.

The envoy has seen how worship has brought unification. "We sing together, and then I'll preach or he'll [Pastor Rich] preach, both of our congregations will pray, and there is no segregation," said Envoy Tyrone. "We



Young adults from both congregations enjoy fellowship together.

don't look at our differences as being a barrier; we celebrate them and want to experience other forms of worship even more."

The partnership also has enriched fellowship. The Ninth Hour Covenant congregation consists largely of young, upwardly mobile



The Temple Corps and Ninth Hour Covenant Church join together for worship.

professionals, who are willing to lend their expertise. Recently a soldier from Chicago Temple was hospitalized and the chief resident on duty was a member of Ninth Hour. He was able to visit the soldier and share some additional insight into the hospital stay.

Since the Ninth Hour congregation is younger, they often look to Envoy Tyrone for advice about his life experiences, such as raising children. "We've found a genuine mentor in Envoy Tyrone as well as a gatekeeper to the community, someone with institutional knowledge," said Pastor Rich.

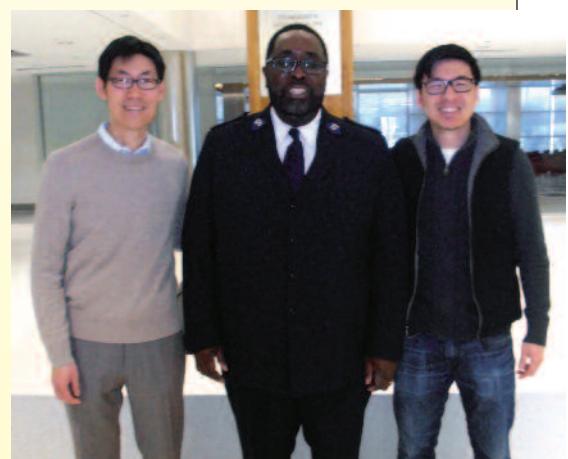
Fellowship from graduation parties to having young adult social gatherings has been a blessing as well.

Perhaps the greatest benefit is the service provided to the community. "They're eager to help—they'll ring bells at kettles and adopt-a-family at Christmas, serve food for the Thanksgiving outreach and volunteer to help with

our afterschool program," said Envoy Tyrone.

Corps advisory board member and Ninth Hour Associate Pastor Eric Peng agrees, "There's fellowship, friendship and partnership here. We go beyond the church."

Photos by Patrick Simmons



Ninth Hour Covenant Church Pastor Reverend Rich Kohng, Chicago Temple Corps Administrator Envoy Tyrone Staggers and Advisory Board Member Eric Peng visit Central Territorial Headquarters for multicultural week.

Asbury visit opens eyes



Barb Higgins with Centralite high schoolers and chaperones

As the academic year draws to a close and high schoolers begin narrowing down their college choices, the opportunity provided by the territorial youth department to visit Asbury University earlier this year gave 39 Centralite high school juniors and seniors valuable insights on what it would be like to be fulltime college students.

Joining other high schoolers from the Eastern and Southern territories for the university's annual Salvation Army "Winter Access" weekend, the 80 youth were paired with Asbury student hosts to experience dormitory life, attend Friday classes and meet with admissions and financial aid counselors.

Friday evening the action shifted to the Salvation Army Student Fellowship (SASF) center, an attractive building located in the heart of Asbury's campus and led fulltime by officers, currently the Southern Territory's Majors Earl and Janice

Fitzgerald who serve there under the auspices of National Headquarters.

The meals, fellowship and fun were rich and varied throughout the remainder of the weekend. Visiting students were invited to sing with the SASF songsters and play with the SASF 35-piece band. Accompanying the teens on the visit were Majors Monty and Angela Wandling, territorial youth secretary and assistant youth secretary, and Barb Higgins, territorial youth ministries director and youth leader development coordinator.

As the weekend drew to a close, Barb reported one Centralite student said that of the four colleges he was considering, Asbury was now at the top of his list. A high school senior applied for the 2016-17 school year and another marveled how awesome it was to be on a campus where God could be worshipped so freely.

Tuned to God's will

Continued from page 9

went to songster practice, and our children, Emma and Daniel, then ages 10 and 8, were in bed. And so, I tried to play my trombone. It took me a half hour to play a low bottom C, but I managed it. I remember to this day the cheer from my children's bedrooms.

I was overjoyed! I sent a text to my good friend and the corps' bandmaster, the late Steve Roebuck. I obviously wasn't thinking straight because he was also a member of the songsters. He shared my good news with the whole brigade, including my wife!

In December 2008 when I saw my doctor, he said, "You shouldn't be here. We can't explain this."

I look back and realize God was always with me. He provided many people to look after me during my illness: doctors, surgeons, dietitians, Sarah, Emma and Daniel. Perhaps my greatest physiotherapist was our chocolate Labrador, Poppy, as we went on short walks together.

I suppose we all need to understand that in the middle of everything in our lives, God is there. He's waited to hear you when you call. Sometimes we just need to say, "God, I'm here, and I just need to feel Your arms wrapped around me today. I need Your peace and Your joy." He longs to comfort, encourage and strengthen us. If we just stop and focus on His great love for us, we can find peace.

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