



Central Connection

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

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

Volume 50, Number 4

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Mission Integration making a difference

On any given Sunday, more than 500 adult rehabilitation center (ARC) beneficiaries can be found worshipping at corps around the Central Territory. In the past year the number of men or women who were enrolled as soldiers or adherents nearly tripled, constituting 21 percent of the total number of soldier enrollments in 2019. In addition, five junior soldiers were enrolled as the direct result of ARC/corps collaborations.

These exciting developments are the result of last year's Mission Integration Summit during which officers and staff from corps, adult reha-



Captain Kevin Robbins with beneficiaries and alumni at an Adult Rehabilitation Center retreat



A/Captain Josh Polanco with ARC alumnus Mark Knipping



Anita Tidwell and Danielle Childress receive their uniform trim on the day of their enrollment.



Children and family members of ARC beneficiaries were enrolled as junior soldiers at the Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps.

bilitation centers (ARC) and divisional headquarters came together to collaborate and strategize ways to intentionally connect ARC beneficiaries and their families to corps ministries.

Over the course of the summit those in attendance assessed their unique communities and made plans to purposefully unite

their ministries or to strengthen bonds where collaborations already were taking place.

"Mission Integration is not about a new program, special emphasis or seasonal campaign," said Major Janeen McConniel, ARC Command secretary for mission integration. "It's really about being who we are as one Army with one mission."

One of the primary steps to integration is creating a sense of familiarity and belonging at the corps so everyone, including ARC beneficia-

ries and their families, feel welcomed. In cities with more than one corps, men and women from the ARC may experience each for several weeks in order to find where they feel most comfortable. In addition, they are included in programs and activities beyond Sunday worship, including men's and women's ministries, Bible studies, children's programs and service opportunities such as emergency disaster services and community care ministries.

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Healed and made whole

Surely he took on our infirmities and carried our sorrows; yet we considered him stricken by God, struck down and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed. We all like sheep have gone astray, each one has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:4-6 (BEREAN STUDY BIBLE)

by General Brian Peddle

The Easter message is the most profound, true, life-changing, life-giving message we can ever hear, respond to and participate in. In short, the Easter story is the culmination of God's plan of salvation for the redemption and restoration of humanity. Such unconditional sacrificial love unleashes the mercy, grace and forgiveness of God. We should be experiencing boundless joy, caught up in awe and wonder, celebrating our new-found freedom and living in a new dynamic relationship with the Almighty.

We see in these verses from Isaiah just what God has done for us in Jesus. In going to the Cross, Jesus does something extremely positive, yet it involves him being subjected to pain, ridicule, brokenness and separation from the Father with whom he has shared a deep intimacy for all eternity. Jesus takes on everything that is negative, destructive and painful. This display of genuine, unconditional and sacrificial love is unparalleled in human history.

Even as we read and consider what Jesus takes on himself, we sense a release, an unburdening and a free-

dom. Jesus takes on our infirmities and carries our sorrows. Yes, there is a glimpse of the humanity of Jesus here as the Word that "became flesh" (John 1:14)—fully human while fully divine—understands the frailty, weakness and imperfection on a personal level. Having said that, we need to recognize that there is much more going on.

Jesus is doing more than identifying with us. He is taking on our weaknesses, infirmities and sorrows so that we don't have to carry them. Link that opening statement to Philippians 4:6-7 ("Do not be anxious about anything ...") and 1 Peter 5:7 ("Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you")



to better understand what is offered to us in Jesus. Look again at what happens to Jesus—he is pierced, crushed, punished and wounded. Why would Jesus accept all of that? Why would God allow his only Son to endure all of that?

Another read of the verses from Isaiah illuminates what we receive through this sacrifice—peace and healing for ourselves. The punishment inflicted upon Jesus brings us peace. We experience healing because Jesus was wounded. It is almost beyond our understanding, but a horribly painful moment brings us healing

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Renewing our minds

by Lt. Colonel Vicki Amick
Territorial Secretary for Retired Officers

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Philippians 4:8 (NLT)

In his article, "Today I Will Make a Difference," Max Lucado writes, "Today I will make a difference. I will begin by controlling my thoughts. A person is the product of his thoughts. I want to be happy and hopeful. Therefore, I will have thoughts that are happy and hopeful. I refuse to be victimized by my circumstances. I will not let petty inconveniences such as stoplights,

long lines, and traffic jams be my masters. I will avoid negativism and gossip. Optimism will be my companion, and victory will be my hallmark. Today I will make a difference." (www.MaxLucado.com)

When I consider the thoughts that have run through my mind in the last few days, were they true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or worthy of praise? I must



admit, not all of them. What about you? Take a few minutes to inventory your thoughts and the things you dwell on; do they represent Philippians 4:8?

I love the challenge found in this verse. It can be life changing! Instead of ranting when things go wrong, blaming others for issues in our lives or gossiping and hurting those around us, we can experience peace

and choose to encourage and build up others. In addition, imagine the time and trouble we would save ourselves if we put this verse into practice!

Admittedly, controlling our thoughts is much easier said than done, but it's important as they dictate the way we live which should reflect Christ. Renewing our minds is something we can attain with the Holy Spirit's help.

As the classic song by General Albert Orsborn says, "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me, all his wonderful passion and purity. O thou spirit divine, all my nature refine, till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me."

Learning to live boldly



by Captain Shawn DeBaar

Twenty-nine young people and 19 leaders in the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division gathered at Little Pine Island Camp

in Comstock Park, Mich., for a corps cadet retreat themed "Risky" which challenged them to consider how they can live boldly for Jesus.

Guests Captain Brenna and Lt. Vinal Lee, Indianapolis Eagle Creek corps officers, offered powerful biblical accounts, like Jesus' ministry to the Samaritan woman at the well, to encourage the teens to take the risk of living boldly for Jesus with their families, in their schools and communities. In response to Lt. Vinal asking the corps cadets and prospective corps cadets to step out in faith, knowing Jesus will always care for them, the young people stood to accept his challenge.

United sessions and small groups were complemented with many fun activities like playing life-sized hungry hippo, sledding, a snow sculpture competition, making and eating s'mores and participating in a karaoke night featuring favorite worship songs.

"We love seeing people we haven't seen in a long time and learning more about Jesus," said Ozran and Lachesia Works from the Benton Harbor, Mich., Corps.

Throughout the retreat, the Rockford, Ill., Corps praise band, Of Dust, provided meaningful praise which emphasized the retreat's theme.

During the weekend 17 young people recommitted their lives to Christ and three accepted Him as Savior. Many corps cadets shared their challenges and struggles and found encouragement from both leaders and their peers.

First cohort is underway

by Major Lesa Davis
Spiritual Life
Development
Secretary

The first cohort of the Central Territory's new online spiritual life development course, THRIVE, has formed and is beginning to study, pray and grow together. Following the announcement of the online course in the November issue of Central Connection, interest in the course was high.

Ultimately, 15 officers and soldiers became members of the inaugural cohort. The number of participants is evenly split between seven officers and seven soldiers, with one cadet completing the roster. All have committed to an eight-month intensive course covering various topics in spiritual development, a one-day retreat together for the purpose of crafting a personal Rule for Life, and mutual prayer and encouragement.

Cohort members interact through discussion boards and an online learning system hosted by the College for Officer Training while exploring topics such as classical spiritual disciplines, holiness of heart and mind, sharing faith with friends and neighbors, and soul care.

The goal is for each participant who completes the course to be fully equipped not only to thrive in his or her own spiritual life but be able to lead others to do the same in their local setting.

Each module includes a book to be read together, discussion questions for exploring the topic with others, and a reflection paper in which students can capture their personal insights and apply them to their future growth and develop-



This is to my Father's glory,
that you bear much fruit.^{NLSB}

ment as followers of Jesus. Every cohort member has expressed a deep desire to be challenged and further formed into the image of Christ through their participation.

"I'm excited to be part of THRIVE and to grow in my relationship with Jesus alongside others who are seeking deeper relationship, too," said Crystal Lake, Ill., Corps Officer Major Barb Owen in her introduction to the rest of the group.

Other participants echoed her sentiment with their own expressions of excitement and anticipation of deepening their spiritual lives.

"I want to go deeper in my relationship with Jesus along with others who want the same thing," shared Cathie Ketterer of the Alton, Ill., Corps.

Although the cohort was kept intentionally small, they are praying their experiences will make a difference in their corps, communities and the entire territory.

Central
Connection



THE SALVATION ARMY
5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy • Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
847-294-2000

WILLIAM AND CATHERINE BOOTH
Founder

BRIAN PEDDLE
General

COMMISSIONER BRAD BAILEY
Territorial Commander

ELIZABETH KINZIE
Editorial Director

TWYLA STEINSLAND
Communications Specialist

KENNETH ROMIN
Graphic Design and Production

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Spiritual Life

A new creation in Christ

Reflecting America as a melting pot, the Chicago, Ill., Mayfair Community Church (Corps) is a picture of diversity that has resulted from the merger in 2018 of two immigrant corps, Mayfair and the Chicago Irving Park Corps.

Today Mayfair boasts three distinct congregations which encompass Korean, Spanish and English speakers. Together, they are becoming a new creation as they work to overcome language and cultural barriers to find unity in Christ. As they journey through this process of transformation, the corps is currently led by Majors Michael and Alisha Cho, corps officers. Lts. Pablo and Nancy Rivera are the associate corps officers for Hispanic ministries, and Justin Rose leads the English congregation.

Service, a hallmark of Salvationists, is a key to fostering unity, according to Major Michael. "Service is more than culture or language," he said. "It's working together for a single purpose. People are getting to know each other as they serve together."



Justin Rose leads the English congregation.

The congregations have collaborated on service projects such as a Halloween outreach event, a community Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas distribution.

Working side-by-side, members from different congregations are building relationships with one another. In sharing space and engaging in meaningful service together, the soldiers and officers are relying on their commonality in Christ to grow in

their faith and meet the needs of their community.

Opportunities for worship services, prayer meetings and Bible studies in their own languages are offered throughout the week, and they join together for meetings currently on a quarterly basis.

"Though our cultures may be different, we are working together," said Lt. Pablo. "We continue forward learning from each other as we grow, because this will make us stronger."

Perhaps the most integrated of the corps programs is the children's ministry. Composed of children whose parents attend all three of the adult worship services, it gives a full and rich picture of the corps.

"One of the best parts about our children's ministry is not only that it fully reflects the demographics of our corps, but that it also reflects our community," said Justin. "There is strength in our diversity which comes from God and His heart for all nations."

Members of the adult congregations take turns leading the children's ministry, another uniting activity as they entrust the spiritual development of their youngest members to one another. Along with the junior and senior high school ministries, the program is conducted entirely in English and helps families from different language groups bond through their children.

While the merger has brought both blessings and challenges, the rich histories of the Irving Park Corps and Mayfair Community Church (Corps) demonstrate the perseverance and willingness of each to adapt in order to effectively minister to shifting demographics and needs in its community.

The Irving Park Corps (originally named the Chicago Number 13 Corps) was founded in March 1891 in response to the needs of a growing Scandinavian population. In 1926, the Number 13 Corps moved to the Irving Park community and remained there until 2018. The Irving Park Corps embodied the mission of The Salvation Army, adjusting as needed to best serve the community

and opening its doors to soldiers of other Scandinavian and North Side Chicago corps when they merged or closed. In its final years, the corps was primarily Spanish-speaking, showing innovation, flexibility, in keeping with its roots, as members kept pace with their changing neighborhood.



During a united service, members of each congregation are represented on the praise team.



Majors Michael and Alisha Cho, corps officers, with Lts. Nancy and Pablo Rivera, associate corps officers for Hispanic ministries.

Mayfair Community Church, which also was founded as an immigrant corps, has shown equal flexibility throughout the years. It was opened in 1988 as the Chicago Korean Corps by Colonels Paul and Anna Kim (who were then majors). The corps showed significant growth, which the Kims primarily attributed to a commitment to prayer and ownership by soldiers. The corps' name was changed in 2005 to be more inclusive and an English ministry and Spanish Bible study were initiated to reach out to every member of their community. The rapidly growing congregation led to the building of a new corps community center in the Albany Park neighborhood with a chapel that seats 500.



This is a week-long mountain top experience to learn about God's sanctifying work, which can be available to every believer through the power of Holy Spirit.

AUGUST 1-8, 2020

Glen Eyrie Conference Center
Colorado Springs, Co 80904

SEMINAR GUESTS:

The Salvation Army National Commander

Colonels Kenneth & Paula Johnson: National Chief Secretary & National Secretary For Women's Ministries

Lt. Colonel Tim Foley: National Secretary for Program & Editor-in-Chief

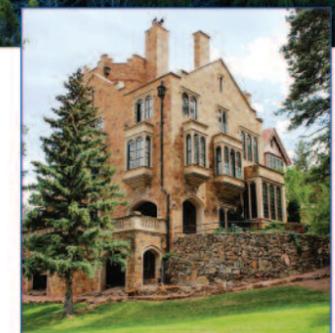
Dr. William Ury & Diane Ury: National Ambassadors for Holiness

Dr. Jonathan Raymond: Co-Editor of Word & Deed, the Salvation Army Journal of Theology

Dr. Steve Macchia: Founding President of Leadership Transformations

Cotton Presley: Board-Certified Chaplain and expositor of Scripture, CSM and Sunday school teacher at his corps in Arkansas

For more information, please contact your Corps Officer, or visit the "National Seminar on Holiness" facebook page.



"HOLINESS, THEN, IS CONFORMITY TO THE NATURE OF GOD.
IT IS LIKENESS TO GOD, AS HE IS REVEALED IN JESUS."
SAMUEL LOGAN BRENGLER



Schedule of Events

Thursday, June 11

7:30 pm Commencement Ceremony
Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps

Friday, June 12

Noon Retired Officers' Luncheon +
1:00-6:30 pm Trade Central and Museum Exhibits Open
2:00-7:30 pm Registration and Packet Distribution
5K Run for the World Packet Distribution
Ride for the World Registration
5:00 pm Long Service Recognition Dinner +
7:00 pm Childcare Registration and Drop-off —through age 11**
(All adults authorized to drop off and pick up children
MUST come for a photo at drop-off time only)
7:30 pm Keynote Session and Concerts *
10:00 pm Teen and Young Adult Afterglow (ages 12-29)**

Saturday, June 13

6:30 am 5K Run for the World with the Territorial Commander**
8:30-11:30 am Onsite Registration and Packet Distribution
8:30 am Childcare—through age 5 (until end of meeting)**
9:00 am Morning Family Meeting and Concerts*
10:30 am Intermission and Morning Break*
11:00 am Concurrent Musical Events
11:30 am Lunch*
12:30-5:30 pm Trade Central and Museum Exhibits
2:00 pm Ride for the World (Motorcycle Ministry fundraiser
for World Services)
4:15 pm Fellowship of the Silver Star Dinner +
7:00-10:00 pm Onsite Registration and Packet Distribution
7:00 pm Childcare—through age 11**
7:30 pm Evening Session*

Sunday, June 14

8:30-9:00 am Onsite Registration and Packet Distribution
8:30 am Childcare—through age 5 (until end of meeting)**
9:00 am Family Worship and the
Commissioning and Ordination of the
Messengers of the Kingdom Session
11:30 am Lunch break
12:30-1:00 pm Onsite Registration and Packet Distribution
1:00 pm Service of Appointments*
3:00 pm Reception for New Lieutenants and Unit Commanders+

Schedule is Subject to Change

+ By invitation only

* Delegate badge required

** Available with preregistration only

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

Register at salarmycentral.org/commissioning

Music and Arts Festival testimonies to inspire!

Participation in the arts can be a life changer. At the Music and Arts Festival you'll hear the testimonies of people whose lives have been transformed such as the two individuals here who have made ministering through the arts their life's work.



Mike Jacob leads a hip-hop dance class.

Dancing to discipleship

For Mike Jacob, teaching kids to dance is as much about discipleship as it is about the art.

An accomplished hip-hop and break dancer, Mike teaches five beginner and intermediate dance classes each week at the South Bend, Ind., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center and coaches a traveling dance team called Radically Anointed Worship (RAW) which gives dancers the opportunity to perform outside the center.

Growing up in Compton, Cali., Mike often struggled to find balance in his life. Getting involved in gymnastics, then breakdancing helped him learn the virtues of hard work and discipline, which carried over into his faith journey when he accepted Christ at age 21.

"Discipline in dance helps with discipline in other areas, including spiritually," he said. "Faith relies on grace as well as disciplines like Bible study and prayer."

A few years later, while working for a discipleship program, Mike discovered dance as a coping strategy for himself and a useful ministry tool in discipling youth.

"I'd never considered dancing for God," he said. "It turned into a whole different thing when I started using my gifts and talents for Him."

When Mike relocated to the South Bend, Ind., area in 2015 he wanted to continue using dance as a ministry. Through the Kroc Center, he is teaching dance to glorify God while encouraging youth in their faith. Several of Mike's dance students are involved in Kroc ministries as well.

Accepting the invitation

Tyler Schulze was a student at the University of Nebraska when he first met The Salvation Army. He didn't know then that accepting a friend's invitation to visit the Lincoln, Neb., Corps would be the first step on his path

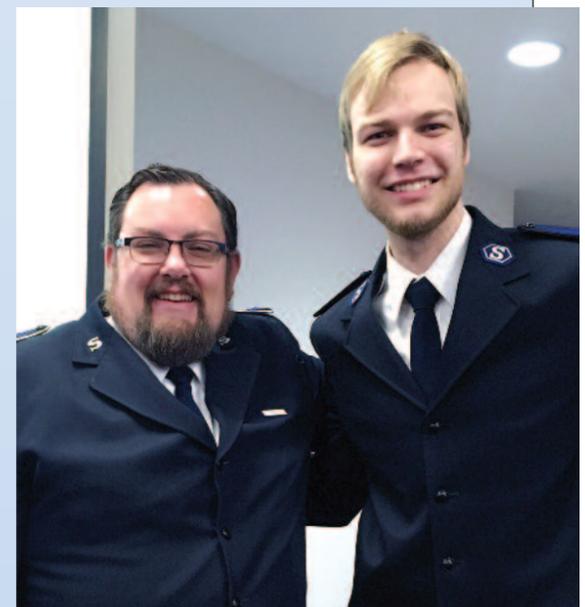
toward faith and ministry.

An instrument repair technician, Tyler was asked by fellow student and Salvationist Peter Haslett to lend his expertise in fixing some broken instruments at the corps. On his first visit the band was rehearsing, and as a euphonium player, Tyler was happy to join in.

"The Salvation Army introduced me to the world of brass bands," he said. "At first I attended the corps to play my euphonium because it was a chance to play my primary instrument outside school."

Soon Tyler was playing in the corps band every Sunday and volunteering to teach at the monthly divisional music school. The next summer while serving on faculty at Western Divisional Music Academy, Tyler sensed the Holy Spirit urging him to seek a deeper, more authentic faith as he watched a Jesus Theater presentation by the Creative Arts Service Team (CAST). He decided to give his life fully to Christ.

Now a soldier at the Lincoln Corps and divisional music director, Tyler is passionate about guiding the artists and musicians of the Western Division toward the same spirit-infused ministry to which he aspires.



Peter Haslett and Tyler Schulze

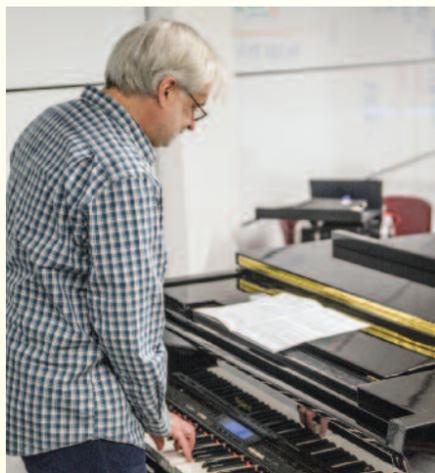
This is my story. This is my song.

Central forms new Territorial Staff Songsters

by Evie Polsley

"Our purpose is to proclaim God's story." This simple yet powerful statement to the Central Territorial Staff Songsters (CTSS) by their executive officer, Major Miriam Gorton, set the mission for the recently formed group at their inaugural rehearsal.

Led by Territorial Music and Creative Arts Ministries Secretary Dr. Harold Burgmayer, and assisted by Jonathon Weller, the new songster



brigade—composed of 41 Salvationists representing a wide age range and all corners of the territory—blended their voices in praise as they grew as musicians and proclaimers of the gospel.

Strangers became friends during an icebreaker where members shared silly facts like their connection to the circus, the advantage of being tall or short, or their love/hate relationship with chocolate. The beauty of budding relationships shone through their singing.

Intense times of rehearsing notes, digging into the text and better understanding what they were singing were interspersed with breaks to focus on proclaiming God's story through their lives. Devotions by Captain Kelly Hanton and Priscilla Burgmayer helped focus the songsters' ministry on bringing glory to God not only through music but through their daily witness. Tears flowed and new bonds formed as members broke into small groups to share and pray for each other.



"After many months of planning and working through the audition process, we came together wondering what our Territorial Staff Songsters would look and sound like," said Harold. "I am delighted with the excellent hard work and music-making happening but even more with how quickly the group is bonding as a ministry family."

Carolyn Romin concurred, "It's like we created a family after only knowing each other for just a couple of days."

Proclaiming "This is my story. This is my song. Praising my Savior all the day long," on the final day, the songsters affirmed their songs can be



more than just beautiful music; they can be a reflection of God's love and redeeming power.

"I believe the message of our songs will really speak to people's hearts," said Major Cassandra DeJesús.



Major Tim Meyer agreed, "The Holy Spirit will bring many people into God's presence for salvation and sanctification through our singing. It is a sacred honor and privilege to be part of this group."

The weekend concluded with the songsters surrounding the delegates of the North American Composers Forum singing the benediction "Go in peace. Go in love," (Lee Fisher) which echoed ethereally through the territorial headquarters atrium.

"Singing in the songsters has reminded me how much music plays a part in my walk with the Lord. Nothing calms my heart and spirit more than singing to God. Singing is a united prayer of praise and adoration. I'm so happy I have been given this opportunity," said Major Charlotte Hall.



Central Territorial Staff Songsters

Dr. Harold Burgmayer, Leader
Major Miriam Gorton, Executive Officer

Captain Kelly Hanton, Chaplain
Jonathon Weller, Deputy Songster Leader

Soprano I

Major Cassandra DeJesús Metropolitan
Major Heather Holman Western Michigan/Northern Indiana
Jill Romin Metropolitan
Major Rachel Stouder Indiana
Lt. Heidi Strand Kansas/Western Missouri
Laurie Strand Metropolitan

Soprano II

Captain Brianne Bowers Indiana
Sandy Cabrera Kansas/Western Missouri
Major Charlotte Hall Midland
Evie Polsley Metropolitan
Emily Romin Metropolitan

Alto I

Priscilla Burgmayer Metropolitan
Heather Hanton Metropolitan
Abigail Jobson Eastern Michigan
Allison Jordan Metropolitan
Carolyn Romin Metropolitan

Alto II

Elizabeth Carr Western Michigan/Northern Indiana
Brigitte Ferguson Metropolitan
Jan Kelley Wisconsin & Upper Michigan
Sarah Leka Metropolitan
Marissa Riley Metropolitan

Tenor I

Jon Heaver Kansas/Western Missouri
Marc Smith Metropolitan
David Tippol Northern

Tenor II

Major Curtiss Hartley Kansas/Western Missouri
Stan Kelley Wisconsin/Upper Michigan
Jude St.-Aime Metropolitan

Bass I

Envoy Scott Hurula Metropolitan
Major Tim Meyer Eastern Michigan
Major Heath Sells Heartland
Major Ken Shiels Kansas/Western Missouri

Bass II

Graham Weller Eastern Michigan
Karl Strand Metropolitan
Richard Thalman Northern

Piano

Major Kathy Hellstrom Eastern Michigan

Percussion

Cashus Saydee Midland

Bass Guitar

Isaac Leka Metropolitan

"Our rehearsal weekend was a reminder of how powerful the Body of Christ is when we unite to proclaim the glory of God," said Sandy Cabrera. "My heart is overflowing with gratitude that God is not afraid of our stories, and He turns it all to glory."



The Central Territorial Staff Songsters will be commissioned and make their first public performance at the General's Rally, Saturday, April 25, 2:00 p.m. at the Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, 149 W. Brush Hill Rd., Elmhurst, Ill. 60126

Photos by Jude St.-Aime

Becoming an overcomer

by Craig Dirkes

David Schroedl never dreamed he'd become addicted to crystal methamphetamine. Yet, it happened. The drug wormed its way into his life and almost destroyed him.

Until five years ago, David played by the rules. He worked as a chemist at a waste treatment facility and lived in the northern Twin Cities suburbs with his wife and son. But everything began to change in 2010 after his wife underwent a series of medical operations and dental procedures. She became addicted to painkillers, which eventually gave way to opiates and other illegal drugs. Drugs took over her life. Slowly but surely, their bank account began to drain, and their marriage began to crumble. In 2013, they divorced.

Hooked

In December 2014, David and his son were living with David's mother in Blaine. Although they were divorced, David didn't want to give up hope that their family could be salvaged, so he met his ex-wife at her home. She asked if he wanted to smoke meth; he agreed.

The only person I can change is myself, and the best way to change is to see God's will for my life...

"I don't know what I was thinking," he recalled. "Maybe I thought that doing drugs with her would help us bond."

Just like that, David was hooked. He continued to buy meth from his ex on a regular basis, ingesting small amounts of the drug daily and spending about \$25 per week.

Heavy addiction

By late 2015, David had found his own drug supplier and was spending \$80 per week on meth.

"My son and I were still living with

my mom," said David, who'd switched jobs and was working as a grocery store manager. "I was smoking meth all the time—before work, during my lunch break, and every night."

In May 2017, David lost his job due to excessive tardiness. For the next six months he collected unemployment and stayed at home while his mom worked and his son went to school.

"I was at home, doing nothing, using drugs," he said. "I was spending \$200 per week on meth. My mom suspected I was using, but I denied it."

Eventually, his mom found out and gave him an ultimatum: stop doing drugs and get a job or get out. David chose drugs.

Homeless

In January 2018, David became homeless. He began living out of his car while his mom cared for his son. With no job and almost no money, David began selling crystal meth. He started by spending \$500 for 30 grams of the drug. During his first morning on the job, he sold eight grams of meth for \$700, putting him on track to earn a net profit of more than \$2,000.

"I thought, 'Hey, I'm pretty good at this,'" David said. Less than 24 hours later, he was arrested and thrown in jail. During the next seven months, he was thrown into jail many more times. He enrolled in a treatment program but failed.

A cry for help

David reached his end on July 31, 2018. He walked aimlessly around the suburb of Circle Pines for 12 hours straight. He hated life. Eventually, he called his mom. "I can't do this anymore," he told her. His mom previously had told him about The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) in Minneapolis, but he'd refused to go. This time he asked her to pick him up and take him straight there. "I cried the whole way," David said.



Photo by Craig Dirkes

Redeemed

David spent the next six months at the ARC relearning how to live a positive and productive life. The ARC offers residential rehabilitation for up to 105 men. They receive six months to a year of meals, housing, Christian counseling, and other transformative support.

My hope was to get the recovery I needed. I soon realized I needed God in my life above all else.

At the ARC David said he learned "the only person I can change is myself, and the best way to change is to see God's will for my life and not my own. Before, everything in my life deteriorated under my own will."

He most enjoyed the "work therapy" part of the program, whereby residents sort donations at Salvation

Army thrift stores, cook, clean or perform other duties for eight hours a day.

"Being able to work lets you know you did a good job at something," David said. "It allows you to look at yourself in the mirror at the end of the day."

These days, David likes the reflection he sees. He graduated from the ARC in January 2019 and hasn't looked back. He now works in maintenance for the ARC. To avoid temptation, he has deleted his social media accounts and has erased the phone numbers of every person he ever did drugs with. He attends 12-step meetings every week and has begun to restore his relationship with his son.

In the last year, David was enrolled as a soldier. He attends the Noble Worship Center (Corps) in Brooklyn Park, Minn., several times



Envoy Tom Canfield, Minneapolis Adult Rehabilitation Center administrator, and David Schroedl



Photo by Craig Dirkes

David now works in maintenance at the Adult Rehabilitation Center in Minneapolis.

a week, has led a Bible study for men and women in recovery and volunteers to drive a van of people from the ARC to the corps when needed.

Helping other people understand who God is and how much He loves all of us is my ultimate goal.

"When I came into the Salvation Army program my hope was to get the recovery I needed," said David. "I soon realized I needed God in my life above all else. He has given me a joy I cannot explain with words. What better way to show God how much His love means to me than to share that joy He has given me? Helping other people understand who God is and how much He loves all of us is my ultimate goal."

730... AND BEYOND



2,486 days and counting

by Captain Holly Ehler

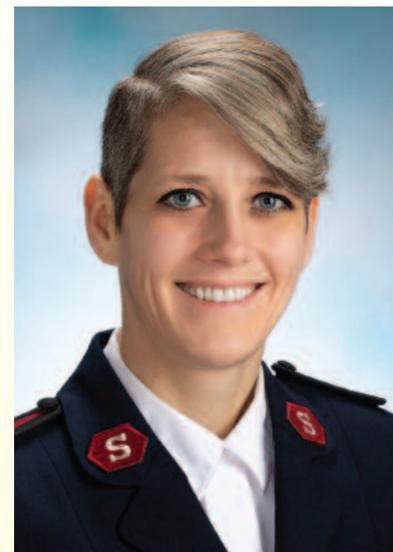
As officers we are asked every year to submit a personal survey that helps our leaders know how best to support us in our current ministry as well as where we may be open to future ministry opportunities...you know...when it comes time to consider the "M" word—moves.

My first 18 years of life were spent living at one address, so I have never developed an affinity for moving, but God is not One to allow us to stagnate in our "comfort zones."

Each year that survey comes out, and each year I express that, as much as I love where I am, I don't want to limit where the Lord may want to use me. So, I keep myself open to wherever He leads. I trust God is in the moves, and He works through the combination of willing hearts and leaders (who really do read our surveys) to bring about His will.

Just over three years ago, this ministry adventure of mine took a turn from corps to adult rehabilitation centers.

I never would have thought I would be "cut out" for this kind of ministry. It takes a good mix of heart, grit and backbone. The heart I knew I had; it was the others I was not so sure about. With a hugely supportive partner in ministry at my side, I was encouraged to grow and develop not only in my weaknesses but also in my strengths.



Though not one to be considered a Grinch, I believe my heart has grown three sizes since beginning my time at the Waukegan Adult Rehabilitation Center.

I have seen men fighting tremendous battles as they brave this walk of recovery. I have seen unlikely heroes band together as brothers to lift each other up. I have experienced joy beyond measure, and I have agonized over the crushing blow of heartache (though I never could experience the one if I didn't leave myself open to the other). I have seen successes, and I have seen failures. But most of all I have clearly seen God's hand at work in the lives of the men, and it has bolstered my faith and fervor. I have grown to love every aspect of this ministry. All this has been made possible because I made the decision to say "yes" to God and follow His lead.

Mission Integration

Continued from page 1

"We are convinced that the spiritual connection and fellowship of the corps is a major component in continued sobriety and successful living," said the major.

In all ARCs, beneficiaries are given the opportunity to participate in Sunday services both at the center and at a corps. Many choose to attend corps regularly and joyfully participate in worship by helping with the offering, greeting others and playing or singing in the praise band.

For example, Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center leaders helped form and develop an ARC praise band which now leads worship at the ARC and regularly participates in worship at the Kroc Center.

Similar collaborations are happening in places like Flint, Mich., where the administrators and men from the ARC lead worship music at the Beecher Corps. Likewise, the Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps' praise band is a combined group from the corps and ARC. "They are us," said Chicago Temple Corps Officer Major Clara Braddock, corps officer, whose congregation now includes several beneficiaries and alumni; they are not merely visitors but members of the congregation.

"Mission Integration in Chicago has been a truly joyous experience," added Major Julie Aren, administrator for program at the Chicago Central ARC. "The acceptance the ARC beneficiaries and alumni have felt and experienced from Chicago Temple has helped build stability and connection in their lives."

Dennis Lee, who's now a soldier of the Chicago Temple Corps said, "Becoming a soldier represents my humility, dedication and loyalty to my path of recovery and to God."

In other locations, a focus on recovery meetings has been a key to increased integration. For example, the Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps has introduced Celebrate Recovery meetings in their building. At the Noble Worship Center (Corps) in Brooklyn

Park, Minn., soldiers who are also ARC alumni initiated a recovery focused Sunday school class and in Omaha, Neb., Captain Kevin Robbins, Renaissance Village chaplain, conducts recovery meetings at both the ARC and Omaha Citadel Corps.

"We're just getting started," concluded Major Janeen. "I truly believe God is opening doors for revival through mission integration on all fronts as our corps grow and new relationships are formed, not only through ARC collaborations but other programs as well. When we seek God's will, He provides revival."



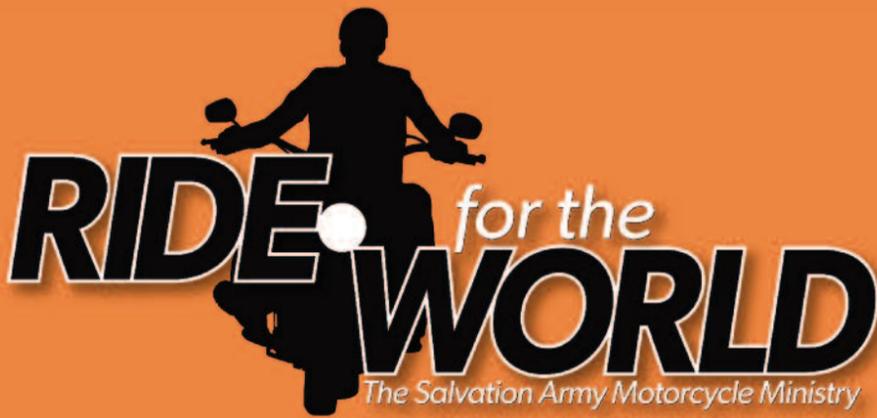
Matt Mehsikomer with his aunt Carol Wirkkala (l) and mom, Jo Mehsikomer



Enjoying a picnic together at the Dearborn Heights, Mich., Corps



A combined choir of the Chicago Central Adult Rehabilitation Center and Chicago Temple Corps



RIDE for the WORLD

The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry

A Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry
Fundraising Event for World Services

**A two-hour ride with friends through
the backroads of Wisconsin**

Saturday, June 13, 2020 - 2:00 pm

Begins in front of the Miller High Life Theatre

Cost: \$25, includes t-shirt

**Register onsite at the Festival of Music and Arts and
Commissioning on Friday, June 12, from 2:00–7:30 pm in the
Miller High Life Theatre Lobby.**

For more information contact jo.langham@usc.salvationarmy.org

Embrace dives deeper

by Heather Hanton

We are designed to be in community. We crave it. We need to be known, heard, welcomed, accepted and loved. Yet, finding a place where we fit can take time and be difficult.

That's why in 2015 the Central Territory Women's Ministries Department launched Embrace. Created by Cadet Sarah Micula, the Embrace program utilizes a small-group setting and a question-based format to encourage purposeful conversations that build friendships and sisterhood in the Body of Christ.

Today, Embrace is used in more than 100 corps across the territory and has spread to the Eastern, Southern and Western U.S. territories, as well as in the Canada and Bermuda Territory.

The program is reaching women from all walks of life with its beautiful, Kingdom-building purpose. For

instance, one leader shared that a member finally forgave a grudge she'd been holding onto for years and found freedom; another leader reported two families began coming to Sunday worship. Still another cited her members' use of texting to share prayer requests daily.

This year as we REIMAGINE women's ministries and celebrate Embrace's fifth anniversary, we are excited to be "Going Deeper." This new component has been added to each of the four monthly questions to prompt more in-depth conversation. It's the meat to the bones of the otherwise non-threatening questions.

As the topics of empathy, sacrifice, majesty, victory, honesty, searching, trust, hope, transparency, boundaries, and peace are explored this year through Embrace, we are excited to see what God will do.

Visit: www.uscwomensministries.com



It's time to END IT!



by Joan Kurtz

On February 13 The Salvation Army joined 16 coalition partners and countless individuals across the world to participate in END IT DAY 2020.

END IT DAY is an invitation to take a stand against human trafficking. By utilizing a simple red X drawn on the hand, END IT DAY calls others to join in the fight for freedom and to shine a light on human trafficking.

Leading by example, Central territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey boldly displayed the red X on END IT DAY 2020. In addition, the day was observed at a Central Territorial Headquarters chapel ser-

vice by inviting participants to pray for those experiencing human trafficking and to join in the END IT DAY Movement.

The END IT Movement emerged out of a Freedom Summit held in Atlanta, Ga., in 2012 as a way to raise awareness worldwide on the modern-day scourge of human slavery. As of 2016 there were 40 million men, women and children trapped in slavery, according to END IT's website which cited the Global Estimates of Modern Slavery Report by the International Labor Office and the Walk Free Foundation.

To find about more, visit enditmovement.com and salvationarmyusa.org

In the World, not of the World

Territorial Men's Conference

September 25-27, 2020

**Lake Williamson Christian Retreat Center
Carlinville, Ill.**

Join with 1,000 men to:

- **Worship God**
- **Sharpen your ministry skills**
- **Enjoy recreation and fellowship**

Guests include:



David A. R. White
Actor and Cofounder
of PureFlix



Chad Williams
Navy Seal and
Author



**Commissioner
Brad Bailey**
Territorial Commander

Also,

- **Derrick Tennant**
comedian
- **Jerrad Lopes**
Dad Tired Ministries

Registration: \$135
(includes all meetings, meals
and lodging)

Spanish translation available.

Housing options include dormitory,
double occupancy, camping.

For more information visit the
SA Central Men's Fellowship page on Facebook.

**MEN'S
MINISTRY**
THE SALVATION ARMY USA CENTRAL TERRITORY

Chicago Kroc fulfilling the dream

Fulfilling Joan Kroc's dream of enabling people in underserved areas to have access to transformative opportunities, the Chicago Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center's annual outreach on Martin Luther King Jr. Day is especially relevant.

This year the Chicago Kroc Center held its seventh annual Dream Fest, an open house honoring the great civil rights leader and kicking off Black History Month.



powerful music video where excerpts of Dr. King's speeches were interwoven with the words and voices of seven young women in the Kroc Center's songwriting workshop.

"I was really impressed by how timeless his speeches were," said Michael LaDisa, Kroc Center music and gospel arts manager, who produced the song, "My Dream, My Voice" which was chosen to be featured as a single on iTunes.

In addition to Dream Fest, the Chicago Kroc Center hosts other outreach events throughout the year, the biggest of which is Hallelujah Fest, a haven and a fun alternative to Halloween.

The family-friendly day of education and fun drew 700 people, allowing them to explore the state-of-the-art facility and all it has to offer.

Free to members and just \$3 for others in the community, Dream Fest, themed "The Power of Influence" for 2020, featured a gaming expo, a slime party for tweens, music lessons, sports clinics, bounce houses, selfie stations, crafts, the movie "Harriet," and live entertainment. Tying into Black History Month's focus this year, booths also were set up to register people to vote.

To publicize the event, the center employed traditional and social media, texts to members and flyers to schools.

"We know that once you've been here, you'll want to come back," said Rosalind Goldman, marketing manager.

Dream Fest not only provides education and entertainment, it provides inspiration as demonstrated in a



Last year's superheroes-themed extravaganza was a smashing success with more than 1,300 people in attendance and more than \$10,000 raised for the center through ticket, food and candy sales (just \$3 for a big bag)!

Utilizing every program and corner of the Kroc Center, Hallelujah Fest featured a wide range of activities from a Walk of Faith Tour that engaged people with the mission to an aquatic pumpkin patch! A clever and approachable devotional playing off superheroes was also given by Major John Pook, who leads the center



with his wife, Major Johanna.

"Events like Hallelujah Fest and Dream Fest are held so people can come into the building, see and hear about the programs that we offer to capture their imaginations of endless opportunities they can be part of to reach their full potential," said Major John.

"But more than that," he continued, "it gives us the opportunity to share the love of Jesus and let people know they are loved and respected and in the Kroc Center there is a place for everyone".



Lovin' the Great Outdoors

Spend a whole week in the breathtaking Tetons of Wyoming marveling at God's creation and learning about nature at the all-Salvationist session of the American Wilderness Leadership School using the North American model of wildlife conservation.



**Take on white water rafting • Hit the mark with archery
Gaze at the endless star-studded sky
Wade into stream ecology • Learn survival techniques
Stop and smell the wildflowers
And grow closer to our Creator!**

Dates: August 26-September 2, 2020

**Cost: \$900, meals and lodging included
Limited half-scholarships and travel stipends available, so don't delay!**

To Register: email jerrie.miller@usc.salvationarmy.org

Deadline: July 1, 2020

Pursued by a loving God

Two cadets from the South America East Territory have joined their Central Territory sessionmates in Chicago for their second year of training. Here we share their stories which show that God, in His loving kindness, keeps pursuing us.

Cadet Yaqueline Felix

I was born in Peru and raised in a Christian home since age five, thanks to an invitation my mom received to attend home league. Every Sunday after that we began going to church; it was very emotional for me to hear that I had a friend—Jesus—who loved me.

As a young adult in order to follow my career, I left my good friend. I was far from God pursuing worldly pleasures and believing I was free though I was enslaved by sin.

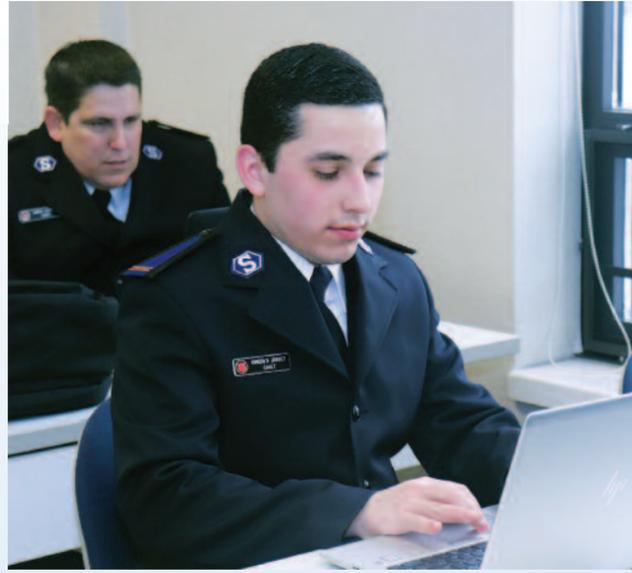
But God never stopped loving me. He spoke to my heart. I began to

study, work as a lawyer, be a better mother and obedient to God's call to serve Him.

I began officer training in 2018 in the South America East Territory, where I adapted to a new schedule of classes, homework and activities. God supplied everything my daughter and I needed. Five months into my second year, I got an unexpected call from the director who said my sessionmate and I had a meeting with the territorial commander!

He wanted us to go to the U.S. for our second year of training—something I'd never imagined! They also offered to take care of my daughter, Giovanna. I had mixed feelings; joy but sadness at leaving my daughter for the first time. I thank God for His guidance in making this decision.

I arrived at the College for Officer Training in Chicago last August. It has been a marvelous experience with challenges, especially



life. I had everything, but I was not happy or satisfied. Thinking about how God would have me live, I realized my egotistical lifestyle was far from Him.

I began to pray daily to feel His

presence again. After a time of seeking God, He revealed Himself, filling my heart with joy and peace and a new plan to serve Him as an officer.

Many difficult situations came after I began to pray to fulfill God's will, but He confirmed my calling in the middle of adversity. After not being able to walk for 40 days due to a medical incident, I prayed, "Lord, you are the doctor of doctors. If it is your will that I serve you in fulltime ministry, heal me." The next day I was cured.

God has shown His graciousness time and again, including allowing me to come to the U.S. to finish my officer training. I'm glad God showed me His ways are higher than mine, and I am trusting He will guide my steps in ministry just like He's always done with infinite love and faithfulness.

not being fluent in English. But with the help of translation and seeing other sessionmates being faithful to God's call, I enjoy every day with God's provision. Without a doubt, this is a beautiful opportunity confirming God's plans are perfect.

Cadet Gonzalo Juárez

I was born in Tucumán, a small province located in the north of Argentina, and raised in a Christian home due to the strong influence of my grandmother. My spiritual journey began at age 9 when I was a junior soldier after accepting Christ as my Savior. I was committed to the idea of a life of service to God, and growing up I was involved in many corps activities.

But at age 18 when I began working there were many opportunities to stop focusing on God. After a while I began to sense an emptiness in my



Answered prayers, enabled mission

It was an answer to prayer when Colonels Steve and Janice Howard received their visas to travel to the India South Eastern Territory to dedicate new buildings, renovations and furnishing funded by the Central Territory and to encourage Salvationists in the Lord's work. The territory, led by Colonels Gabriel and Indumati Christian, had been praying for the Howards for weeks and was eager to receive them.

On the first day the Howards visited the Tucker Girls Home in Nagercoil



where they took time to speak with each girl, learning a little about her priorities in school and her stay at the home; they made a similar visit to the Tucker Boys Home.

At the new territorial headquarters, the Howards offered prayers of blessing in each room and petitioned God for things still needed.

The generosity and love extended by the Central Territory was visible in the renovation of the Catherine Booth Hospital and College of Nursing. Again, the Howards talked individually with doctors, nurses, patients and administrative staff at the hospital and encouraged students at the nursing college by their visit.

That evening they dedicated a building at the Officer Training College which

was well attended and at which officers collectively witnessed how their training there would not have been possible without the Central Territory's generosity.

The second day began with Athiyady Corps building dedication in the Kanyakumari Division, where the people of the village warmly welcomed the colonels. Colonel Steve shared the example of how the Israelites rebuilt their temple with limited resources. The evening was spent dedicating a 20 New Corps initiative project, the Thumbacode Corps building and community hall, in the Kulaseharm



Division. Here Colonel Steve stressed the vision of the people and the leaders of that territory who worked together to make it possible. People from all walks of life, religions and political parties received the Howards into their community.

The third day began with a gathering of hundreds of women from across the territory in Booth Tucker Memorial Hall in Nagercoil and ended with the Lamp Lighting Ceremony of the College of Nursing where Colonel Janice encouraged them to be light in the world as they share Jesus.

Tireless, the Howards were pleased the next day to share with the executive officers of the territory, encouraging them to have the mind and humility of Christ.

"The humbled colonels' presence during these days with the people of the territory has sparked a flame of light in their life of faith," concluded Colonel Gabriel Christian.



You are invited to attend the
Commencement Ceremony

A time of celebration honoring 2020 officer graduates and second-year cadets with the conferring of certificates

Dr. Jonathan Raymond, guest speaker

Thursday, June 11, 2020 • 7:30 p.m.

Oak Creek Centennial Corps
8853 S. Howell Avenue
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

Open to everyone
Plan now to attend



The Salvation Army

PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

May Prayer Calendar

| My Prayer List | Day | Bible Reading | Pray for The Salvation Army |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|---|
| | 1 Friday | 2 Samuel 5-9 | Wayne/Westland, Mich., Corps |
| | 2 Saturday | Psalms 51-53 | Music and Arts in the Western Division |
| | 3 Sunday | Job 35-36 | Correctional Services |
| | 4 Monday | Jeremiah 27-31 | Caribbean |
| | 5 Tuesday | Mark 15-16 | St. Paul Eastside, Minn., Corps |
| | 6 Wednesday | 2 Corinthians 4-5 | The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry |
| | 7 Thursday | Exodus 21-24 | Central Territorial Staff Songsters |
| | 8 Friday | 2 Samuel 10-14 | Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Corps |
| | 9 Saturday | Psalms 54-56 | Women's Ministries Embrace program |
| | 10 Sunday | Job 37-38 | Sturgis, Mich., Corps |
| | 11 Monday | Jeremiah 32-36 | National Salvation Army week events |
| | 12 Tuesday | Luke 1-2 | Russia |
| | 13 Wednesday | 2 Corinthians 6-8 | St. Charles Tri-City, Ill., Corps |
| | 14 Thursday | Exodus 25-28 | Springfield, Mo., Corps |
| | 15 Friday | 2 Samuel 15-19 | Virginia, Minn., Corps |
| | 16 Saturday | Psalms 57-59 | Thrive spiritual life development participants |
| | 17 Sunday | Job 39-40 | Sioux Falls, S.D., Corps |
| | 18 Monday | Jeremiah 37-41 | Music and Arts at the South Bend, Ind., Kroc Center |
| | 19 Tuesday | Luke 3-4 | St. Louis Midtown, Mo., Corps |
| | 20 Wednesday | 2 Corinthians 9-10 | Williston, N.D., Corps |
| | 21 Thursday | Exodus 29-32 | Indonesia |
| | 22 Friday | 2 Samuel 20-24 | Candidates for officership |
| | 23 Saturday | Psalms 60-62 | Detroit Harbor Light, Mich., Corps |
| | 24 Sunday | Job 41-42 | Chicago Harbor Light, Ill., Corps |
| | 25 Monday | Jeremiah 42-46 | Wyandotte Downriver, Mich., Corps |
| | 26 Tuesday | Luke 5-6 | Traverse City, Mich., Corps |
| | 27 Wednesday | 2 Corinthians 11-13 | Chicago Mayfair Community Church (Corps) |
| | 28 Thursday | Exodus 33-36 | Men's Ministries Conference |
| | 29 Friday | 1 Kings 1-4 | Corps Cadets across the territory |
| | 31 Saturday | Psalms 63-65 | Adult Rehabilitation Centers |
| | 31 Sunday | Proverbs 1 | India South Eastern Territory |

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

Vamos a Servir (We go to serve)

Almost nine years since returning home from our three years of corps ministry in Spain, we are in a time of waiting and anticipation as we prepare to once again leave family and friends in the Central Territory and move to Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina—5,450 miles away.



Photo by Major Paul Ferguson

Major Valerie and Captain Jeff Carr, with their sons Bram (14), Jonas (12) and Ethan (8), are headed to Buenos Aires.

Yet we know God is with us for as the Psalmist says, "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me." (Psalm 139:9-10, NKJV)

This is a time of paradox in the emotions of sadness in leaving the familiar and the excitement and expectation to serve alongside Salvationists of the South America East Territory in the countries of Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Your prayers are appreciated as our family acclimates to our new life in South America and Valerie and I take up our new appointments as assistant territorial secretary for business administration and territorial youth secretary on July 1, 2020.

--Mustard Seeds--



Celebrating success

by A/Captain Mika Roinila

Within the first week of being appointed to the Grand Rapids Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps last July, my wife, Grace, and I were surprised to learn an older adult program started some 16 years ago is recognized as the best of its kind in Kent County, Mich. In fact, the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWA) indicates it's one of the best in the state! Other non-profit agencies and older adult programs look to The Salvation Army in Fulton Heights to learn our best practices and implement them elsewhere.

According to Renee Ambriz, older adult program director at the corps, it hasn't always been easy. She's been with the program since it started with just a few senior citizens.

"Over the years, we've improved our programming and increased our reach in the community," said Renee.

Now on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays the corps' fellowship hall is filled with some 80-100 older adults. They begin arriving as early as 8:30 a.m. to take advantage of early morning exercises, whether walking around the gymnasium or participating in movement and motion activities led by qualified instructors. At 10:00 a.m., a diabetes education class and a Bible study are both full, and in the next hour the ever-popular Bingo takes place. Older adults earn

coupons from participating in all types of activities that later can be turned in for food items to replenish their supplies at home, and a mere \$2 donation by each person helps ensure that everyone has a nutritious lunch and nobody leaves hungry.

"Our experience with the seniors has been wonderful," said A/Captain Grace. "It's a joy to participate in some of their activities. I've enjoyed walking and exercising with them, and the Family Feud games are just great. We have a wonderful staff!"

After lunch entertainment ranges from educational talks to music by soloists or bands! The program ends by 2:00 p.m. when older adults are picked up by several Go!Buses and other vehicles that transport people from their homes to Fulton Heights and back.

The single largest event of the year is the annual Christmas Dinner. This past December some 180 people packed the gymnasium, as a few dozen volunteers served a full-course meal, a Dixieland band entertained the audience, and Santa delivered gifts.

According to Renee, there is no marketing; all advertising is word of mouth—just people sharing what a great time they have at The Salvation Army. "We rely on word-of-mouth. People tell each other, and we have new people coming almost weekly," she said.



Participants engage in a Bible study as part of the older adult program at the Grand Rapids Fulton Heights, Mich., Corps.

Promoted to Glory

Major Roy Rowland

Major Roy Rowland was promoted to Glory on January 28, 2020. Easygoing yet adventurous, Roy had a passion for flying airplanes, a love of brass banding and a heart for individuals reintegrating into society after incarceration. He is remembered for his quick wit, quiet demeanor and gentle, loving personality.



Roy was raised in The Salvation Army by officer parents Brigadier and Mrs. Harry Rowland. As a teen he met Janet McFarland at the Detroit Temple, Mich., Corps. Upon his return from United States Military service during World War II,

they married.

In the following years Roy was a toolmaker but found no fulfillment in his work. He sensed God calling him to fulltime ministry. The Rowlands entered officer training and were commissioned in 1951 with the "Ambassadors" session.

The Rowlands served in corps appointments throughout the Midwest until 1972, when Roy became the correctional services secretary for the Midland Division. He retired in 1989 as the correctional services director for the Metropolitan Division.

Roy is preceded in death by his wife and his son, Gerald. He is survived by his daughter, Claudia; daughter-in-law Major Louise and her husband, Karl Blessing; and his grandson, Will Rowland-Blessing.

Healed and made whole

Continued from page 1

and a horrifically violent act brings us everlasting peace.

There is something of an unfair transaction going on that demonstrates the extravagance of God and his unmerited favor that we call grace. There is also something profoundly theological, sacrificial and covenantal taking place.

The sacrificial code and practices we find in the Old Testament are there to atone for our sins and imperfections. Here on the Cross, the spot-

less Lamb of God pays the ultimate sacrifice once and for all, ushering us into a new dispensation of grace and deliverance.

We have peace with God because of all that was accomplished by Jesus, and this peace is experienced by having faith in Jesus (see Romans 5:1: "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"). Yes, it's that straightforward—we don't have to complicate it!

The Easter story doesn't end with Calvary. Easter Sunday is about resurrection and new life. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we are reminded that "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!" The old reality of being held captive by sin, of death being our final enemy, is gone! On Easter Sunday we rise to new life in Christ—that new life is eternal life, it encapsulates victory over sin and death, it includes our healing and wholeness, it is a life of deep peace (Isaiah 26:3: "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you").

This Easter you can experience healing and wholeness in Christ. It's why Jesus came to earth. It's what God desires most for you.

Scripture quotations are from the New International Version unless stated otherwise. The Bible verses from Isaiah are brought to life through the song "Surely He Has Borne Our Griefs," sung here by Govan Songsters (United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland): www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rbDrq7Wneo

International College for Officers



Major Steve Kounthapanya has been selected to attend the 245th session of the International College for Officers in London, England, April 15-May 25, 2020.

KEEP WARM...



Ladies 1/2 Zip Light Royal Microfleece Pullover with TSA Embroidery
S - 4XL \$25.00



Ladies 1/2 Zip Pearl Gray Microfleece Pullover with TSA Embroidery
S - 4XL \$25.00



Ladies 1/2 Zip White Microfleece Pullover with TSA Embroidery
S - 4XL \$25.00



Unisex Sweatshirt 1/4 Zip Black Heather with Shield Sport-Tec
S - 3XL \$30.00

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