



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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April 2021

New initiative aims to increase music and creative arts ministries leaders

by Dr. Harold Burgmayer

Building on the territory's nine-year campaign to achieve Live Music in Worship in Every Corps by 2020 (LM2020), the Territorial Music and Creative Arts Ministries Department is introducing an initiative called Equip 25/25.

Originally intended to roll out at the Music and Arts Festival that was cancelled last year due to COVID-19, Equip 25/25 seeks to develop local leaders so corps' music and creative arts ministries are sustainable and have the ability to thrive regardless of officer moves.

The need for Equip 25/25 emerged from an assessment of LM2020 by the territorial music and creative arts ministries team who discovered that while 83 percent of corps had some form of live music-making in Sunday worship, 51 percent of those expressions were officer-dependent. In essence, the rise and fall of corps music-making has been dependent on the giftedness of corps officers.

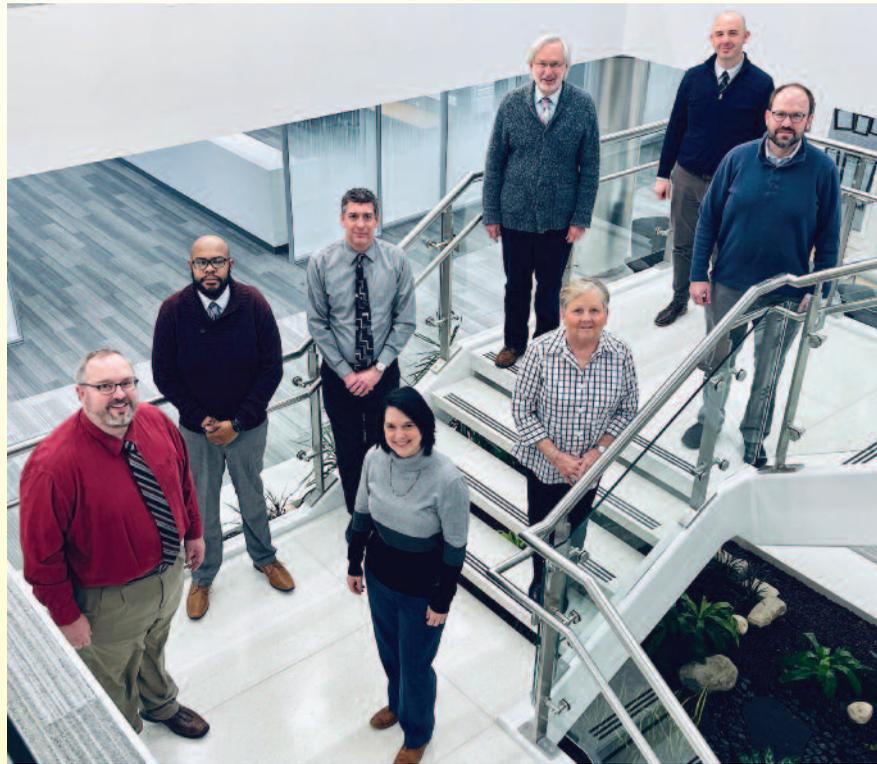
Equip 25/25 aims to add 25 new music and creative arts leaders in each division by the end of 2025. This equates to five new leaders per division per year who are motivated and

well-trained to invest in corps ministry.

A wide variety of resources for the development of musicians and artists is already in place, including

the Music Arts Proficiency (M.A.P.) curriculum; Operation: Piano Player lesson subsidies; the Ukulele and Guitar Initiatives; and the online

Rising Stars Solo Festival. In addition, there are other means by which the territory is focusing on inspiring and equipping emerging corps music and arts leaders.



The Territorial Music and Creative Arts Ministries Department (l to r): Tom Hanton, Jude St.-Aime, Marty Thomas, Beth Malovance, Lynda Cooper, Harold Burgmayer, Josh Turner and Joe Caddy.

Territorial Youth Band, Youth Chorus and Worship Collective

In addition to their annual rehearsal and fellowship weekends and Central Music Institute, members of these three territorial youth-oriented groups now meet monthly online, giving opportunity for ongoing dialogue and encouragement to a cross-section of talented emerging music leaders. Similar online gatherings are anticipated this year for dance and drama.

Music and Arts Leadership Academy (MALA)

MALA is a collection of online leadership courses being developed by the four U.S. territories and the Canada and Bermuda Territory. It covers a wide range of topics including beginner brass, choral, dance, drama, singing company, Bible and the arts, basic conducting, sound engineering, worship planning and worship team leadership.

Continued on page 8

Resurrection Life

by General Brian Peddle

The Easter story resonates with life and hope, and how we desperately need these in our world today. Through the years of the Old Testament, we clung to the hope in the prophecies of a Messiah. Through the silence of the years between the Old and New testaments, we clung to the hope that God had not forgotten His people or His promises. Then that hope took on flesh and blood in the person of Jesus and we witnessed for our-



selves that God had remembered the cries of his people, confirming that our hope was not in vain.

We witness a Jesus who taught and modelled forgiveness and love, who partied with tax collectors, dined with sinners, spoke with women of dubious morals, condemning no one. We see for ourselves a glorious mixture of grace and truth. We are caught in awe and wonder as Jesus turned water into wine, gave sight to the blind, made the lame walk, cast out demons, healed the leper, controlled the wind and waves, and we see for ourselves the inexhaustible power of God.

On Good Friday it appeared as though hope had gone as the life flowed out of Jesus' body. This irresistible man of captivating parables, insightful teaching and miracles, with the ability to impact the very fabric of society and people to the utmost depths of their being, was killed on a cross and placed in a tomb. It looked and felt like someone had turned out the light and put a lid on our hope. Then something truly remarkable, life-transforming and world-changing happened: the stone was rolled away, the grave-clothes left in a pile—because Jesus was alive! The light was more glorious than ever, and our hope found new heights.

Easter is not simply a remembrance of something that happened in the past—but as we celebrate it

we remind ourselves that the resurrection life is to be an everyday experience. The pandemic we are experiencing makes it feel, at times, similar to Good Friday—as though the light has been turned off and a lid put on our hope. There are many circumstances in life that may cause us to feel like that—natural disasters, illness, unemployment, divorce, drug addiction, bankruptcy, domestic violence, racism. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ remind us that God is with us in every circumstance, that he is bigger and more powerful than any circumstance, and that God specializes in the miraculous and the impossible.

When we have given up on ourselves, God still believes in us.

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Jumpstarting Hope

by Lt. Colonel Paul Smith
Assistant Chief Secretary



This past year has caused me to think about my first car. It was a 1972 yellow Ford Pinto. Among its many issues was the unfortunate tendency for the battery to go dead. Now to be perfectly honest, I must accept some responsibility as sometimes I would forget to turn off the headlights. I became known for “needing a jump.” My friends would roll their eyes and say, “Not again!” when they saw me approaching, holding my jumper cables. The process was simple: connect your dead battery to another in a friend’s running car and start your car. The key was to find a friend with some power to spare and who was willing to connect their car to yours.

It has been a long year. We are now a little more than a year since the first COVID-19 shutdown. We all have been impacted by social, economic and political upheavals. Public health actions, such as social distancing, are necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but they can make us feel isolated and lonely and can increase stress and anxiety.

We need a jumpstart of hope. The good news is I believe we are poised for an outbreak of hope. Why would I make such an outrageous claim after such a difficult year? Several reasons give me confidence.

There is widely reported hope be-

cause of the vaccines being distributed and the relaxing of some COVID-19-related restrictions. I also see hope growing as more people embrace social justice, striving to see and treat each person as someone created in God’s image. Then, there is the hope because it’s finally spring; we can put away our puffy coats, go outside and enjoy God’s creation and each other’s company—socially distanced for now, of course.

But most of all we have reason to hope because of our relationship with God. The Psalmists repeatedly affirm their hope in the Lord (chapters 33, 39, 42, etc.). Paul encourages

the believers in Colossae by saying: “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27b, NIV). In a few days we will be celebrating Easter—the ultimate symbol of hope, renewal and new life.

Returning to musings about my car and relying on each other, the final reason I anticipate hope growing is due to our connections within the Body of Christ. The many ways our corps families have stayed connected and have supported each other during the pandemic have been amazing. It is also the way we fulfill Christ’s command to love one another (Gal. 6:2). I’ve seen people in our corps coming alongside their neighbors and communities when they’ve seen them struggling. All of this results in a jumpstart of hope.

2021 Year Book captures The Salvation Army “in midst of COVID-19”

The newest edition of the Salvation Army *Year Book*, a 384-page compendium capturing the movement’s news and events, is now available.

From the distributing of live chickens in Angola to preparing textile face-masks in France or arranging teddy bear hunts in Norway, detailed reports and an expanded photo selection capture the various and innovative ways the Army around the world is serving communities during the pandemic.

“This *Year Book* is a testament to the time in which it is written,” share international leaders General Brian Peddle and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, world president of women’s ministries, in the foreword. “You will catch glimpses of the Army in the midst of COVID-19... Our hope is that history will record this time of COVID-19 as both a challenge and an opportunity. It should also record a narrative that captures courage, creativity and con-



viction, enabling a fortitude that results in sacrificial service.”

The book also contains up-to-date facts and figures on the Army’s international mission, reports from every territory, command and region, and five lead articles commissioned by the General. The articles focus on five pressing topics: advancing anti-racism (by Major Katherine Clausell, USA Central); The Salvation Army’s virtual agenda (by Chief of the Staff Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham); digital ministry during COVID-19 (by Joseph Halliday, International Headquarters

(IHQ)); worldwide COVID-19 missional support (by Commissioner Birgitte Brekke-Clifton, IHQ) and the cry for justice (Colonels Janet and Richard Munn, International Social Justice Commission).

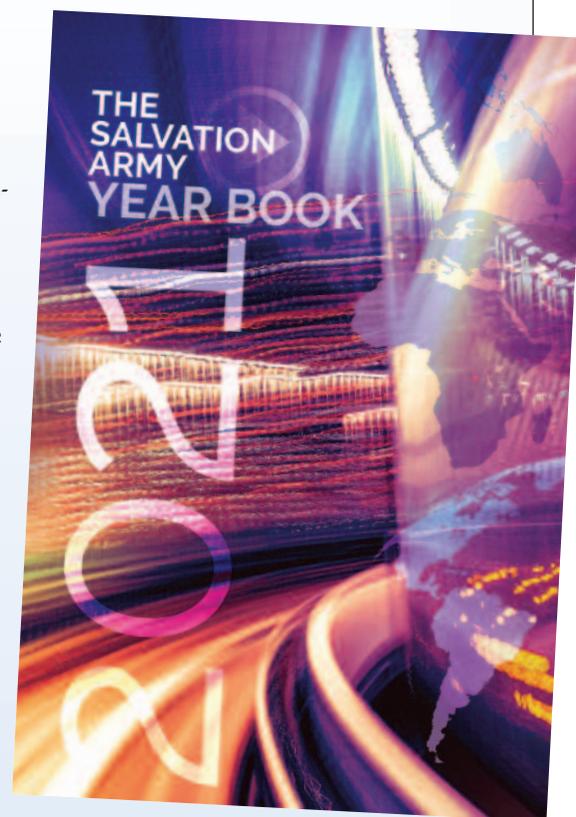
“I commend to you the pages of this *Year Book*. Let the pictures that attempt to capture our story of service inspire you. As you read the lead

articles, know that these were chosen so we could consider and reflect on important matters,” adds the General.

“As you browse these pages, I pray that the recorded statistics and the programmatic profiles of our territories, commands and regions will be an encouragement, providing evidence of God’s hand of blessing. He continues to enable the Army’s mission, impact and growth. Even during the pandemic, doors have opened and opportunities have come. God does the impossible and continues to surprise us.”

Major Angela Strickland, *Year Book* editor, acknowledges how the pandemic impacted the production of the book: “It was a very challenging time. Like the rest of the world, we had to move our processes online. This is the first *Year Book* handled completely by virtual communication, with all team members working remotely.”

Major Strickland added: “I am honored to share these pages that will hopefully serve as a re-



minder of the many lives altered in the path of the COVID-19 pandemic. But most importantly, I hope the book will provide a glimpse of hope that God provides for a better tomorrow.”

The print version is available from Trade Central (shop.salvationarmy.org or 800-937-8896). The e-book is available on Kindle and Kobo apps and devices.

—From an International News Release



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New connections, new energy, new tools

Gateway Corps makes the most of changing circumstances

The St. Louis, Mo., Gateway Citadel Corps celebrated their first in-person worship service after an extended county-wide coronavirus shutdown with the joyous enrollment of one senior soldier and one adherent and the commission of two soldiers as local officers. It was a momentous occasion, marking the first new member enrollments which derived from a growing relationship between the Gateway Corps and the St. Louis Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC).

According to Captains Christopher and Rachel White, corps officers, the relationship began in 2019 when men from the ARC were given the option to attend a corps worship service in addition to the one at the

ARC. Receiving a warm welcome from the congregation, many of the men became regular attendees at Sunday morning worship and two, Tony and Scott, expressed interest in becoming members.

"We were excited for them to learn more about The Salvation Army and what we're all about," said Captain Rachel. Unfortunately, with only one lesson left, the classes were halted by government shutdowns in response to the pandemic.

As the corps adjusted to worshiping remotely and the ARC faced restrictions on visitors, Captain Rachel made plans to complete the final lesson individually with each participant, following safety protocols such as mask wearing and social distancing, so they could be enrolled as soon as restrictions lifted. After completing the lessons and being enrolled, the two new members wanted to dive right into serving at the corps. Tony trained to assist with the sound



Joined by Major Norman Grainger, St. Louis ARC administrator, and Lt. Colonels Bob and Collette Webster, Midland divisional leaders, Captains Rachel and Christopher White, corps officers, enroll Tony and Scott at the St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps.



Lt. Colonel Bob Webster commissions local officers Cashus Saydee and Andrew Randall as songster leader and bandmaster, respectively.

system and visual elements of Sunday services. Scott has since graduated from the ARC program and is beginning the necessary steps to help with Sunday morning pickups, a ministry he utilized before being blessed with his own vehicle.

"The relationship between the ARC and Gateway is important," said Captain Christo-



Gateway Citadel Songsters rehearsal led by Cashus Saydee

pher. "Some of the men continue coming after they are finished with the ARC program. The corps really becomes a part of their recovery and support system, and they bring a new energy to the congregation."

In addition to the new members, soldiers Cashus Saydee and Andrew Randall were commissioned as songster leader and bandmaster, respectively, filling critical leadership roles and continuing the corps' strong musical tradition. Both soldiers transferred from other territories, Cashus from the Eastern Territory and Andrew from the Australia and New Zealand Territory. Both soldiers have come to call Gateway home and have become a valued part of the corps' leadership team.

Throughout the pandemic, the Whites have found ways to keep the congregation connected and active. When St. Louis County became the COVID hotspot in the state of Missouri, restrictions prevented them from meeting in person. During this time the members participated in Bible study, prayer meetings and worship using a variety of mediums from traditional conference calls to livestreaming. Many also joined the captains for several short Bible study series using a Bible app, which allowed them to create groups and have discussions without needing to set a specific meeting time.

"We love seeing how people have adapted and how they are being included," said Captain Rachel of people's positive response.

Now that some restrictions have lifted and they are able to meet for regular worship and weekday programming, the Whites are thankful for the new tools they learned to use during the pandemic.

"It's about taking the tools and using them to broaden our reach to people who may not be able to come to the corps for whatever reason," concluded Captain Christopher.

"Kroc Talk" navigates faith and life

by Michelle DeRusha

As leaders and staff at the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Omaha, Neb., considered how they might make better ongoing use of technology to connect with new people, Kroc Talk was born and debuted at the beginning of this year.

Kroc Talk is live-streamed the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. (CST) on the Kroc Center's Facebook page and YouTube channel. The show offers a welcoming space for people to dig into questions about faith, explore scripture, engage in dialogue and navigate the gray areas of life. Each episode features a specific topic and guest, and viewers are invited to participate in the conversation by adding comments or questions to the thread during the live broadcast.



The show is hosted by husband and wife team Kevin and Tami Boesiger who bring a wealth of experience to this new endeavor. Before coming to work at the Kroc Center as the arts and education director, Kevin was in ministry for 27 years, first as a youth and music pastor and then a worship pastor. Tami led women's Bible studies for more than 20 years and is now a licensed independent mental health practi-

tioner at The Core in Omaha. Their desire is to present God's Word with truth and grace.

"Kroc Talk is intended as a comfortable place for people," explained A/Captain John Gantner, senior Kroc Center officer. "This is a great opportunity for people to 'kick the tires' so to speak—to find out what Jesus is all about, to ask hard questions and engage in challenging conversations in a non-threatening, welcoming way. Kroc Talk is a place to begin."

"We consider everything we do at the Kroc Center to be ministry, from our fitness programs to our art and music classes to our Bible studies," said A/Captain Tracy Gantner, Kroc Center officer for program development. "Kroc Talk is one more way to minister to people."

The show is broadcast live to encourage real-time interaction between viewers and the hosts and guests. "We want to engage people," explained Kevin. "It's a new opportunity to connect with people who maybe aren't comfortable stepping into a church or aren't really sure how they feel about different things."

"This is dialogue and discovery," added Tami. "These are conversations where we can learn and grow, even while not always agreeing. Society is not served if we all back into our corners with our opinions and we lock them down. Kroc Talk is an entry point for those conversations to happen."

The February topic was peace; the show in March focuses on loneliness and isolation.



A/Captain Tracy Gantner, Omaha Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center officer for program development, converses with Tami and Kevin Boesiger during a livestreamed Kroc Talk.

4 730... AND BEYOND



2,116 days and counting

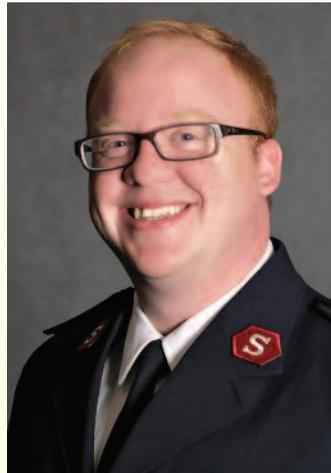
by Captain Grant Holloway

I've been working my way through the book of Matthew in my devotions. I was reminded right from the very beginning that God takes action. We see a long list of people, many of whom were ordinary, and their importance perhaps forgotten over the centuries. Yet, God used them. He was acting on our behalf with a plan of redemption long before Jesus came to earth to reconcile us with Himself.

I've been carrying this theme around with me since participating in the Racial Justice Summit. Reconciliation, hope and reuniting people with God take action. My life and calling must be active. Instead of waiting for people to come to me, I need to reach out to them.

I've realized my greatest joys and the most impactful moments of my officership have been outside of the corps building, especially this past year.

I recall a father who didn't know how he was going to feed his three children as they no longer received free breakfasts and lunches at school since learning was remote. I was able to give him food, pray with him and let him know of other resources to help his family. I knew I was living out my faith.



I remember taking a walk with my kids and running into one of my neighbors who I hadn't seen in a while. Spending some time catching up and praying for him reminded me again I'm called to be a part of these moments.

I recollect sitting in bed at night and getting a phone call about a corps member being hospitalized, then spending the next few hours in their room talking and praying with them, building a bond that will last.

Ministering to people in these moments is what brings me joy. I'm just an ordinary person, like those listed in Matthew, but I'm living out my calling—one that was never meant to be boxed up or on the sidelines and requires all that I have to give so God can use me, wherever and whenever He sees fit.

Ministry to gamers grows

SA Gaming, a video gaming ministry introduced by the territorial youth department during the height of pandemic lockdowns in March 2020, has grown to more than 350 members. It's also grown in its ministry presence by the addition of game chaplains, video devotionals posted weekly, an active prayer chat and monthly virtual community events. It is living up to its purpose of providing a safe, fun, and positive environment for gamers to come together and build community on the foundation of Christ.

In a time of social distancing, it has proven an effective means of providing connections and sharing the gospel with gamers, especially those who don't believe in God or know Jesus Christ. Realizing what

was being built was bigger than just for gamers in the Central Territory, youth department members changed the name from CYN Esports to SA Gaming which also helped the new ministry to be more readily identified with The Salvation Army.

SA Gaming uses the popular gaming app Discord to build this community. The Discord platform creates spaces for gamers to congregate, make friends and socialize with people who play the games they like. Discord makes it easy to hang out and communicate. The SA Gaming Discord also is a safe place for gamers. There is a dedicated team of moderators and chaplains who specialize in bringing the gospel to gamers while keeping the environment safe.

"We do not allow our children to play online with anyone we have not personally met with. However, with SA Gaming, we know that everyone that's participating is in a safe environment with quality adult presence," said Captain Sarah Windell. "Our son loves this so much that we put it into our schedule so he can have ample time with his new friends. I know that he is making quality friendships that will last when he goes to camps, conferences and adult-



The beginning of faith

When Ashley and Zach Stephens first encountered The Salvation Army in Kirksville, Mo., they were reluctant to accept invitations from Lts. Brian and Amanda Hoscheit, corps officers, to attend corps programs or worship services. Often visiting the corps food pantry for assistance, they were friendly but expressed apprehension.

"They'd been hurt by churches before and made to feel unwelcomed," said Lt. Amanda. "So, they were hesitant to come to the corps."

That didn't deter the lieutenants from beginning to build a relationship with them and keeping the invitation to other corps programs and services open. One day when they heard the family was in a bind, their immediate response was to offer support. Although they only knew the Stephens from brief encounters in the food pantry, the Hoscheits felt strongly that the Holy Spirit was leading them to minister to the young couple. While Lt. Brian headed off to see Zach, Lt. Amanda called Ashley to ask how she could help.

"Once we made that connection, they visited the corps for worship and have been coming ever since," said Lt. Amanda.

"There was a lot of negativity going on in our lives before my husband and I started attending The Salvation Army," said Ashley. "From the moment we walked in the door, we felt like we were at home and all we had to do was just be us."

The difference in Ashley and Zach since they timidly walked into their first worship service is palpable. They each accepted Christ and became active participants in several programs, including women's ministries and men's fellowship. Before long, Zach was volunteering with the



Ashley and Zach Stephens attend the Kirksville, Mo., Corps with their three children.

emergency disaster services team, and Ashley began helping with youth programs and the food pantry.

"Meeting the Stephens has been a growing opportunity for all of us," said Lt. Amanda. "We've learned to allow the Holy Spirit to work far beyond what we could imagine. Zach and Ashley met the Lord in a tangible way. We are so blessed to be here for the start of what is going to be a lifelong journey of faith."

Last year, the Stephens completed recruits classes and were enrolled as soldiers. Zach, showing growing maturity, spearheaded a men's purity group with Lt. Brian to help men who are struggling. Gaining confidence, Ashley took on leadership of the girl guard troop and hopes to become the corps young people's sergeant-major in the fall.

"I never imagined that I would be where I am today," said Ashley. "I have grown, my husband has grown and so have my children because of The Salvation Army."

hood. This is a program I am very comfortable with my son being a part of."

SA Gaming features weekly video devotionals, an active prayer request chat and connection points for gamers across all gaming platforms like Xbox, PS4, Switch, PC, Mobile. Community spaces are developed around many of the most popular games. There is also a feature for gamers to share their live streams from Twitch, YouTube Gaming, and Facebook Gaming. In short, they have built a place of safety, interaction, community and discipleship.

"Not only has SA Gaming been really fun to be a part of, but it's also given me the chance to invite others



that normally play by themselves. It's a place that I know people will always be included and gives me the chance to show people the love of God," said Gamer Noobmaster67668.

Interested in seeing what SA Gaming is all about?

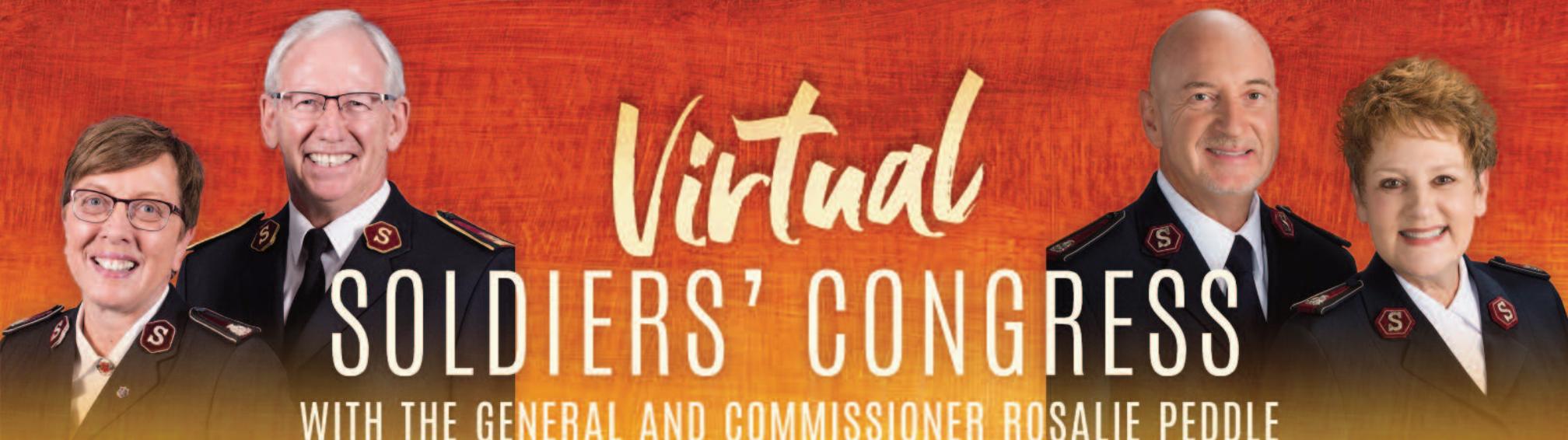
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Redeemed!

We are privileged to share with you one man's powerful testimony of being broken but not beyond the redemptive love and hope found in Christ.

by Craig Dirkes

Prison inmates used to tremble whenever John Foster was near. He was a big man full of anger. At one point, corrections officials wouldn't even give him a cellmate.

Today, John is a different person. The 58-year-old is gentle, soft-spoken and loving. And he has dedicated his life to bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to imprisoned men and women across Minnesota and North Dakota.

John works as the Prison Reentry Coordinator for the Northern Division's prison ministry team. His job includes leading church services inside of North Dakota prisons and providing resources for men and women who have been released from prison in the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota and North Dakota.

"I'm humbled by how God is taking all of my bad experiences and poor choices and using them for His glory," John said.

He's good at his job because he knows from experience just how difficult it is to survive prison. He spent 24 years in and out of juvenile institutions and prisons, including an eight-and-a-half-year prison sentence for armed robbery and a seven-and-a-half-year sentence for violating his probation.

His troubles resulted from an abusive childhood. One of eight children, he was raised by an alcoholic stepfather, and a mother who did the best she could but was riddled with pain herself. At 14, when his stepfather died, life took an even worse turn when he met his biological father, who was a drug addict and also abusive.

"I'm humbled by how God is taking all of my bad experiences and poor choices and using them for His glory," John said.



Miracle moments

John's life changed one night in 2003 while he was in solitary confinement. He'd be sent there after getting caught with drugs.

At 3:00 a.m., he lay awake on his bunk in pitch blackness reflecting on his life. Suddenly, God showed up.

"God started showing me the faces of all the people I'd hurt, injured or harmed during my lifetime," John said. "One by one, their faces were popping into my head...I began to weep."

"Even though I was behind bars, I felt more free than I'd ever felt in my life."

John didn't know much about God, but he could feel His undeniable presence.

"I told God, 'I don't know you, but if you can do what they say you can do, then I promise to serve you from this day forward,'" John said. "If you can take away my guilt, my rage and my resentment, I'll know you're real."

Though in solitary confinement, John did not feel alone for the first time in his life.

"A peace fell over me in that cell," John explained.

"Even though I was behind bars, I felt more free than I'd ever felt in my life."

Three days later prison officials inexplicably released him from solitary confinement almost three months early.

"When that happened, God really got my attention," John said.

A few days after that, God spoke to him again, this time during a game of poker.

"Poker was a means of making money, and out of habit, I'd say yes when my friends asked me to play," John recalled. "But when I started playing, I kept hearing a voice say, 'Remember what you promised.' It was weirding me out. So, I threw the cards down and quit."

The following Sunday morning, God urged him to get dressed and go to church. "During the church service, it's like the pastor was talking directly to me," John said. "I was crying the entire time."

John went on to launch a Bible study in a prison ward that housed the most violent offenders. At first, the Bible study included John and one other man. By the time he left, 30-40 men were part of the Bible study.





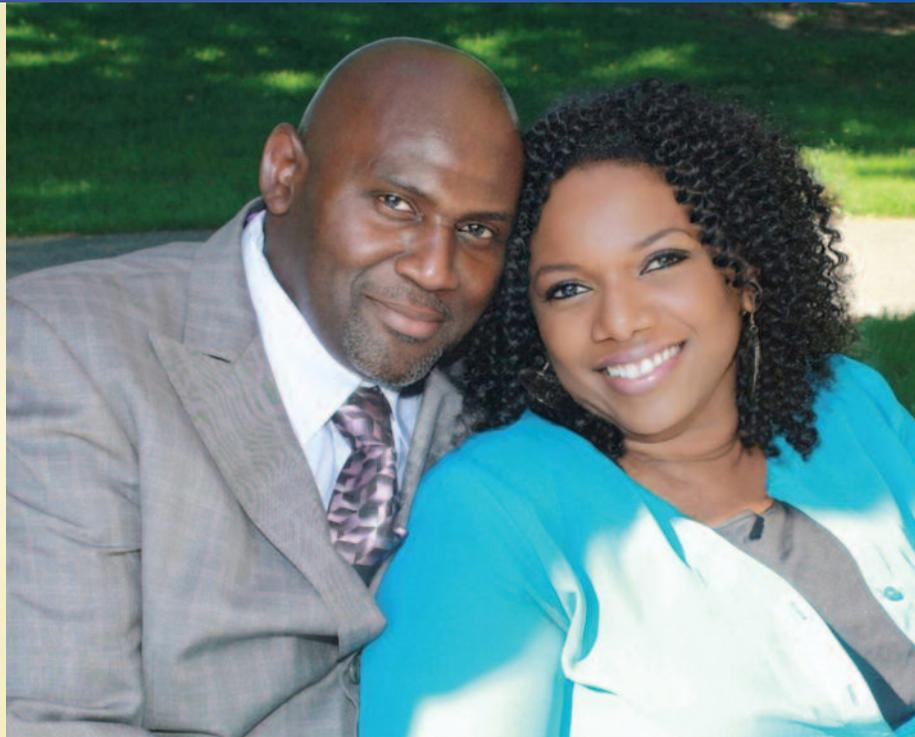
John and Patricia Bailey are great Salvation Army supporters; John also has been a mentor to John Foster.

Path to success

After John was released from prison in 2006, he began living in a small town in Ohio, where a pastor and his wife welcomed him into their home and ministered to him for a year. Through them John felt the love and compassion of Christ.

“Every hand that God has allowed me to shake, and every person I’ve met, has led me to this moment,” John said.

In 2008, the pastor and his congregation raised enough money to send John to The Salvation Army Harbor Light Center in Minneapolis, Minn., which offered a unique one-year residential program called BOLT (Basics of Life Training)



John Foster and his wife, Janet

for men who wanted to learn how God intended them to live. John graduated from the program in 2009 and was hired as a maintenance worker at the Minneapolis Parkview Corps.

In 2011 he started working at the Harbor Light Center as a security officer for five years and then worked for three years as volunteer coordinator. In May 2019 John began his current job in prison ministry and also became a soldier of the Harbor Light Corps.

“Every hand that God has allowed me to shake, and every person I’ve met, has led me to this moment,” John said.

Though the pandemic has made it harder, John has found ways to continue ministering to others. For instance, he holds a Thursday night support group on Zoom for men and women who’ve recently been released from prison instead of having the meeting at the Parkview Corps. The Bible study he has conducted for nearly a decade also has transferred to Zoom.

John says the pandemic has driven home for him again how things can happen in an instant and change the trajectory of a person’s life or test a person’s faith. “That’s why it’s so important to be rooted in God’s Word,” he explained.

He also recognizes how God can put people in our lives at just the right time, just when we need them. He recounts spiritual mentors like

John Bailey, a Salvation Army supporter, who has been an outstanding mentor and role model to him for nine years. And, of course, there is John’s wife, Janet, who he providentially met when she was part of the security staff for another Salvation Army program. They now live in the northern Twin Cities suburbs and attend the corps at the Harbor Light together.

“I always tell people that God doesn’t waste anything.”

John knows without a doubt that God has placed him in people’s lives at just the right time, too. For instance, one day he received a call from a man he didn’t know who was scared, frantic and needed help. Someone had given him John’s contact information. John picked up the man, took him to the adult rehabilitation center to receive addiction counseling, and then stopped by periodically to check in and support him.

“I’m amazed by the position that God has put me in to help people—especially after all the things that happened in my life,” John concluded.

“I always tell people that God doesn’t waste anything.”



John with Lt. Sherry Harned, assistant corps officer, Lt. Carmon Camp, corps officer, at the Minneapolis, Minn., Harbor Light.

Territorial youth music groups level up

by Josh Turner

Almost everyone makes New Year's resolutions. We try to develop new habits, abilities and skills to improve ourselves and become the people we want to be. However, by the time April rolls around, many of these resolutions are distant mem-

ories. Think of the diet plans or gym memberships that go unused when we abandon attempts at the next level of fitness.

"Level up" is not a new concept. In fact, the Bible challenges and equips us to grow, or level up, in our faith. Some people can relate to this

level up concept from video gaming. In gaming, leveling up is when a character completes some sort of progression that unlocks new abilities or skills. It enables them to keep moving forward toward a goal. In the same way, 2 Peter

1:3 (NIV) talks about our goal of godly living as we level up in our faith. As we continue reading, verses 5-7 encourage us:

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

The Territorial Youth Band, Territorial Youth Chorus and Territorial Worship Collective are meeting virtually each month on Zoom to talk about the biblical concept of leveling up.

In addition, these groups, along with other featured youth soloists performing on guitar, brass and spoken word, are recording a devotional project called "Level Up." The project's goal is to provide a tool to help strengthen spiritual life and godly living.

The "Level Up" recording will include original compositions, as well as new recordings of hymns, gospel, jazz, spoken word and contemporary Christian music. Devotional materials written by a cross-section of officers and lay leaders throughout the Central Territory will accompany each track, offering relatable illustra-



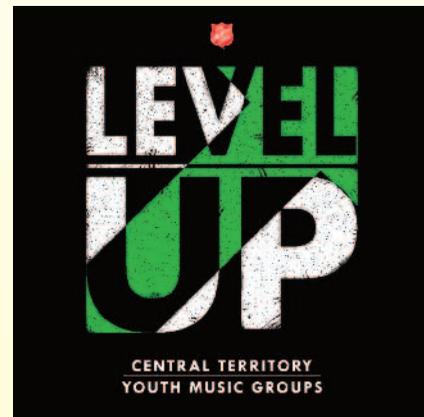
Central Territorial Youth Chorus



Central Territorial Youth Band



Central Territorial Worship Collective



tions. By linking these musical selections with devotionals, aimed at modern challenges and questions, "Level Up" will help us focus on timeless solutions from God's Word and their application today.

As we anticipate the release of this resource later this year, ask yourself how you can respond to God's promises as you level up in your own faith with the godly attributes listed in 2 Peter 1:5-7.

Music ministries initiative

Continued from page 1

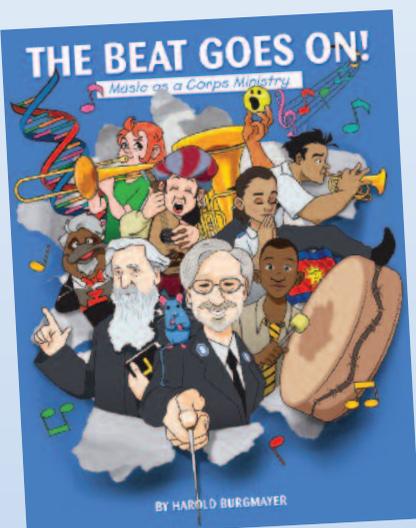
Each course is divided into 20 to 40 units with a brief instructional video and questions. These resources will be available on a new attractive website which will allow tracking of an individual's progress and the opportunity for intentional mentoring.

The Beat Goes On

The book *The Beat Goes On* will continue to be used as the textbook for music and worship arts training events at corps, the College for Officer Training, and in divisional and territorial programs. A Spanish translation is underway.

Workshops, etc.

Leadership training workshops, podcasts, interviews and book



clubs, as well as other leader development events like Jesus Theater training, will be available online and in-person.

Internships

Internships are being encouraged at corps, divisional and territorial headquarters. It is hoped these will not only be available during summer camps and conservatories, like the Creative Arts Service Team (CAST), but throughout the year as part-time corps or regional music director positions.

Developing leaders takes focus and patience, but our department trusts that Equip 25/25 will help musicians and artists in the Midwest see the privilege and high calling of leadership and be prepared to step into that role. And as they are disciplined in Christ, our corps will grow, yielding "More people, More like Jesus."

New Pentecost Sunday Worship Kit

Jesus called us to go and make disciples. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Helping people find abundant and eternal life in Christ is at the heart of who we are as The Salvation Army.

But we need Pentecost fire—the Holy Spirit—to stir our hearts and fill us with passion and urgency today to multiply disciples like the first century Church.



This spring just in time for Pentecost Sunday, May 23, a new worship resource kit called "Church Multiplication Sunday" is being released.

It includes: Meeting outlines • Song suggestions
• A children's moment devotional • A sermon

Our Founder William Booth once wrote, "To make our weak hearts strong and brave, send the fire! To live a dying world to save, send the fire!"

This is our prayer, too.

Corps officers, watch for this new resource from the Territorial Corps and Community Mission Department

Adult rehabilitation center offers women restoration

by Lynne Williams

When the decision was made in 2018 to move the Women's Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) program from Romulus to Detroit, Mich., no one could have predicted the events 2020 would bring. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the Southeast Michigan ARC women's program, currently the only ARC women's program in the Central Territory. Since the ARC could not take new admissions for almost three months, the number of people housed temporarily declined. It also changed many of the ways the ARC operated in terms of quarantining new residents, class sizes, protocols for counseling and even worshipping.



Heather Kick, women's resident manager

Still, the need for assistance is great, and the program is working for women currently at the Southeast Michigan ARC.

"I came to the women's program in Detroit because I needed to go somewhere that wasn't in my comfort zone," said Andrea, who traveled from Springfield, Ill., after reaching out to the corps there. "I needed to focus on me and my relationship with God and not be so worried about my usual surroundings."

Indeed, the program has attracted women from all over the territory, with beneficiaries from Indiana, Illinois and as far away as upper Wisconsin on the Minnesota border. Many of the referrals come from corps officers, other ARC administrators and an online application called Get Help Now which gener-

ates online requests for information from men and women.

"Get Help Now has been a big factor in leading us to women needing assistance. There just aren't a lot of options for them—it's certainly a factor in the regional diversity of our female residents," said Heather Kick, women's resident manager and former program graduate.

When they arrive, many women find the structure of the program to be exactly what they need. After living in chaotic, troubled and traumatic environments, they are glad to learn through program elements such as work therapy and life skills classes how to become responsible, productive and accountable—often getting their families and children back into their lives. They also can build their relationship with God. With spiritual counseling, Christian living classes and Bible studies, many women can see the goodness God has brought to their lives.

"God is in the restoration business, keeping these beautiful women



on purpose for a purpose, being intentional with getting them to the center," Heather said. "It is a beautiful thing to see a woman find her way back to the Lord, and even more beautiful when one finds Him for the first time."

The Southeast Michigan ARC six-month residential women's program currently has several participant openings and is accepting new intakes. Proper COVID-19 screenings and protocol are conducted upon arrival and throughout each individual's stay. For more information, contact the center at (313) 965-7760, ext. 234.



A resident works on a quilt in the arts and crafts room at the Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center women's program.



Many women find restoration with God and their families.

An unforgettable calling

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

by Lynne Williams

Majors Larry and Jean Manzella will tell you the road they have traveled has not always been easy, but it has been very rewarding. Together, they have pressed on, facing fears, trials and a few tribulations, knowing God was with them through it all. Now on the brink of retirement after more than 40 years of service as officers, a new venture

awaits on the horizon.

Larry and Jean met in 1977 at Wonderland Camp where Jean worked in the kitchen and Larry was a lifeguard. Their summer romance turned into a lifetime covenant when they married a year later. Each knew that the other had been called to become a Salvation Army officer.

"When Larry shared with me that he was also called, I knew he was the one," said Major Jean, who received her calling at age 15.

They entered the School for Officers' Training in 1979 as members of the "God's Soldiers" session. For more than 20 years they served in corps appointments across the Central Territory. In 1999 their ministry changed dramatically when they were appointed as administrators of the Indianapolis, Ind., Ruth Lilly Social Service Center, followed by Indianapolis Harbor Light and finally the Chicago Central, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) as trainees. There the Manzellas spent six months working side-by-side with the men in the ARC program.

Major Jean recalled, "Working in the warehouse was the



Majors Jean and Larry Manzella

hardest job I ever did, but by far, the most rewarding. I was able to hear the men's stories which, in turn, gave me a deep understanding of the pain of addiction."

Both the Manzellas say their greatest sense of accomplishment and gratification came from their ARC appointments over the last 20 years at Chicago Central and Northside ARCs and the Southeast, Mich., ARC since 2016.

"Watching a young man or a young woman be set free from the chains of addiction through God's redeeming love is simply unparalleled," said Major Larry. "The joy of seeing ARC alumni come back to share their victories with men and women still in the program touches our souls in the deepest way. The stream of emo-

tions we have felt while working in this ministry is simply indescribable and the memories unforgettable." As the Manzellas journey toward retirement this year, they cherish the many blessings they have experienced as officers and look forward to what God has in store for them, knowing wherever they go He will be with them as He has been all along.



Major Jean Manzella leads a crafting session with women residents.



Major Larry Manzella congratulates Leroy Davis.

Cassling new National Advisory Board chair

Mike Cassling, chairman and CEO of CQuence Health Group and a member of the Omaha, Neb., Advisory Board, became the new chair of the National Advisory Board in January.



Mike Cassling

"For nearly two decades Mr. Cassling has demonstrated steadfast commitment to our mission of meeting human needs in Christ's name without discrimination," said Commissioner Kenneth G. Hodder, national commander. "We have a profound trust in him for this important role."

Mike's connection with The Salvation Army in Omaha began in 2002, when he helped to launch the William Booth Society, a donor group that has more than doubled its membership in the past four years. He also has supported the annual D.J.'s Hero Awards program that has funded more than 150 college schol-

arships for Nebraska students and significant support for Salvation Army youth programs in Omaha.

In addition to his contributions as a member of The Salvation Army's Omaha Advisory Board, Mike serves as an Aksarben Governor, as well as on the boards of Broadway Dreams Foundation, Nebraska Health Information Initiative, Omaha

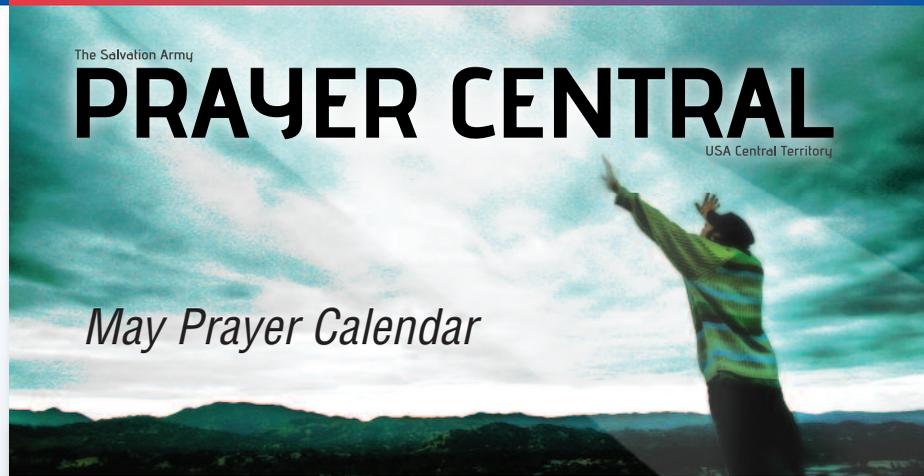
Community Foundation and Omaha Performing Arts. He is also a member of the advisory board for the Jeffrey S. Raikes School of Computer Science and Management at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"Mike is a highly respected business leader in Omaha and around the country. He is a longtime philanthropic supporter of The Salvation Army who believes passionately in its mission," said Fred Hunzeker, who serves on both the National Advisory Board and the Omaha Advisory Board. "He is an ideal fit and will serve The Salvation Army with distinction in this new role."

"I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to join this esteemed group of national leaders to serve and advise The Salvation Army, which provides hope to millions of Americans facing hardship each year," said Mike.



Mike Cassling, National Advisory Board and Omaha Advisory Board (AB) member, and Dr. Joann Schaefer, Omaha AB chair, surprise Major Greg Thompson, Western divisional commander, with a donation from the Omaha AB during the National Commander's Red Kettle Challenge in which he took first place.



PRAYER CENTRAL

May Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Saturday	I Samuel 15	Alpena, Mich., Corps
	2 Sunday	Psalms 37:1-11	Bismarck, N.D., Corps
	3 Monday	Proverbs 15:16-38	Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Corps
	4 Tuesday	I Samuel 16:1-15	Middle East Region
	5 Wednesday	I Samuel 17	Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps
	6 Thursday	I Samuel 18:1-16	Eastern Michigan Division
	7 Friday	Psalms 51:1-13	East Chicago, Ind., Corps
	8 Saturday	Proverbs 16:1-16	Flint Beecher, Mich., Corps
	9 Sunday	2 Samuel 1:1-16	Gary-Merrillville, Ind., Corps
	10 Monday	2 Samuel 1:17-27	Hammond, Ind., Corps
	11 Tuesday	2 Samuel 5:1-16	Indianapolis Fountain Square, Ind., Corps
	12 Wednesday	2 Samuel 7	Kenya West Territory
	13 Thursday	2 Samuel 9	Kansas City Blue Valley, Mo., Corps
	14 Friday	2 Samuel 22	Madison Genesis, Wis., Corps
	15 Saturday	Acts 1:1-11	Community Outreach
	16 Sunday	I Kings 1:28-48	Monroe, Mich., Corps
	17 Monday	1 Kings 3:1-14	Owosso, Mich., Corps
	18 Tuesday	1 Kings 3:15-28	Finland and Estonia Territory
	19 Wednesday	1 Kings 4:29-34	Lafayette, Ind., Corps
	20 Thursday	Psalms 61	Rapid City, S.D., Corps
	21 Friday	1 Kings 8:22-30	Shelbyville, Ind., Corps
	22 Saturday	1 Kings 10:1-13	Indiana Division
	23 Sunday	1 Kings 10:14-29	Terre Haute, Ind., Corps
	24 Monday	1 Kings 11:1-13	Waukesha, Wis., Corps
	25 Tuesday	Psalms 84	The Philippines Territory
	26 Wednesday	Proverbs 16:17-33	Youth Ministries
	27 Thursday	Acts 1:12-26	Decatur, Ill., Corps
	28 Friday	Acts 2:1-13	Midland, Mich., Corps
	29 Saturday	Acts 2:14-43	Salvation Army Volunteers
	30 Sunday	1 Kings 11:26-40	St. Charles, Mo., Corps
	31 Monday	1 Kings 17:8-16	Emergency Disaster Services

Go to www.salarmycentral.org
If you follow the prayer calendar during the year,
you will have read through the Bible!

Resurrection Life Continued from page 1

When we feel like we are unloved, God shows us Jesus. When we feel like we have made the biggest mistake of our lives, Jesus provides forgiveness. When we are suffocating in the darkness, God shines the light of his presence. When we are despairing, Jesus provides hope.

You see this resurrection life is a full, abundant, complete and whole life. This resurrection life is a new life because it is life in Christ and, as such, is free from condemnation. This resurrection life starts the minute we accept Christ as Savior and continues for all eternity. This resurrection life is dynamic because the power of God is unleashed in us. The change starts on the inside and transforms how we view everything.

On that first Easter morning the disciples were still experiencing Roman occupation and all that came with it, but the realization that Jesus was alive and that every promise had been fulfilled changed everything. They now had an eternal view, they understood that sin and death had been conquered, that the Kingdom was indeed a spiritual Kingdom and that God reigned supreme over everything. Such un-

derstanding would change how they viewed and responded to life in this world because the glorious light of Christ shone in their lives and the hope of eternity was secured. They would never be the same again—just as we will never be the same again if we claim that same resurrection power.

May God bless you as you celebrate the risen Christ. Amen.

--Mustard Seeds--



The resources, manpower and infrastructure to serve

As state and area city officials, as well as medical facilities, throughout Chicagoland respond to the COVID-19 crisis with testing and vaccinations, the Metropolitan Division has quickly answered their requests for The Salvation Army's assistance.

"We are always happy to offer our resources, manpower and infrastructure to serve our communities, especially in the face of this global pandemic," said Major Enrique Azuaje, general secretary for The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division.

Chicago Kroc Center

The Chicago Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center has partnered with Northshore Clinical Labs, a contractor of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to host a number of free walk-in COVID-19 testing days at the center in the West Pullman neighborhood.

People seeking a test, check in with Northshore staff, complete a brief registration/screening, are asked to return to their vehicles and await a text notification when it is their turn to be tested. Individuals without symptoms and anyone with health concerns have been eligible for testing, with results provided between 24-72 hours.

"We are grateful to partner with Northshore Clinical to provide these opportunities for the community, our members and the Kroc team," said A.J. Collier II, Kroc Center director of operations. "Provid-

ing testing opportunities plays a vital part as we begin to get people back to work. This aligns perfectly with our vision, which is to motivate wellness within our community."

Emergency Disaster Services

The City of Chicago has engaged the Metropolitan Division's Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) to provide snacks and hydration for volunteers at eight COVID-19 vaccination sites. EDS staff also have provided three daily meals for Team Rubicon (a nonprofit that utilizes the skills and experiences of military veterans) which has assisted with testing and vaccination efforts. Additionally, the Illinois State Police requested a pallet of water for their operations at McCormick Place, a huge convention center on Chicago's lakefront.

Freedom Center

The Freedom Center's Mobile Feeding and Homeless Outreach Unit that provides meals daily to homeless individuals and under-resourced neighborhoods throughout

Chicago has worked in partnership with the City of Chicago to provide COVID-19 testing at homeless encampments. Mobile Outreach staff also have distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) and information about COVID-19 to homeless individuals on Chicago Transit Authority trains and at homeless encampments.

"We have had some great partners with the city and local medical centers that have come beside us and given us a lot of support, and that has really made a difference in our ability to serve the community and our clients," said Major Nancy Powers, Freedom Center program development officer.

At the Freedom Center's facility, staff have been trained to administer rapid tests which give an immediate positive or negative result, allowing them to act quickly if a staff member or client becomes ill. Thanks to the tests and early implementation of strict sanitation and safety protocols, there have been few cases and no spread within its walls.



Promoted to Glory

Commissioner William H. Roberts

Commissioner William Henry Roberts was promoted to Glory on February 6, 2021, at age 98.

His exceptional legacy of service will influence generations.

William was born on May 27, 1922, to William Henry Roberts, Sr., a Cornish immigrant miner and Lillian Sampson Roberts, a Native American of the Lumbee Tribe. At 16, he was introduced to The Salvation Army at the Detroit Brightmoor Corps where he was so taken with the music he asked to join the band at the end of the meeting.

With the world at war in 1942, William entered the School for Officers' Training where he met Cadet Ivy Anderson, who would become his wife and partner in ministry. Commissioned in 1943, William was appointed to the Detroit Bowery Corps. After marrying Ivy in 1945, they served for 19 years in corps, including the Detroit Harbor Light Center—his favorite! For more than 20 years, they held divisional headquarters appointments, leading both the Western Michigan/Northern Indiana and Midland divisions. As Midland divisional commander, he inaugurated a program for victims of child abuse, the first such center in Missouri. His final appointment in the Central Territory was Field Secretary for Personnel.

In 1982, the Roberts were sent to the Australia Southern Territory with William as Chief Secretary. Three years at International Headquarters



William served as International Secretary for the Americas and the Caribbean and for Development. He served on the Advisory Council to the General for three years, two of which as chairman. He also was part of the High Council that elected General Eva Burrows. Commissioner and Mrs. Roberts received their retirement certificates from General Burrows in London in 1988.

In retirement, the commissioner stayed active, traveling, participating in his family's lives and serving as president of Habitat for Humanity in Warsaw, Ind. He was a huge support to his corps officers, humbly sharing his wisdom.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 2014. He is survived by his five children: Commissioner William A. (Nancy) Roberts, Suzanne (Victor) Danielson, Major Linda Melton, Betty (Rev. Dr. Joseph) Baunoch, John Roberts, nine grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Major Wayne Griswold

Major Wayne Griswold, 83, was promoted to Glory on January 11, 2021. He loved studying the Bible, especially biblical prophecy, and was faithful to God and his calling throughout his life.

As a young man Wayne served as a Green Beret in the military. In 1957 he married Cammie Gregory and they were enrolled as soldiers at the Rockford, Ill., Corps. They entered officer training in 1960 and were commissioned in 1962.

For the first 10 years of their officership, the Griswolds served in



corps before being appointed to the Greater Chicago Unified Command in 1972, where Wayne led the emergency disaster services team. In the following years Wayne served in business and finance roles at several divisional headquarters and at territorial headquarters. He retired as general secretary for the Kansas and Western Missouri Division.

In retirement he wrote a book titled *Messiah Jesus Revealed: Genesis thru Revelation* and enjoyed painting, wood carving and spending time with family.

Wayne was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by his children, Wayne Jr. (Judy), Carol (Oliec) Rodriguez, and Stephen (Gerri); grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Major Carmon Harris

Major Carmon Harris, nee Callahan, was promoted to Glory on January 17, 2021. Caring, dedicated and capable, she served the Lord faithfully as an officer for more than 40 years.

Carmon was introduced to The Salvation Army in her hometown of Brainerd, Minn. She entered the School for Officers' Training in 1954. Commissioned in 1955 with the "Soul-Winners" session, she served in one corps appointment before marrying sessionmate Robert "Gene" Harris in 1957.

Together the Harris served in corps throughout the Midwest for 18 years. In 1973, they began training to lead the men's social service—now adult rehabilitation center (ARC)—in Detroit, Mich. Her desire to serve more fully and effectively in this

ministry led Carmon to earn a degree as a registered nurse, which proved useful in the following years as she and Gene served in ARC appointments until their retirement in 1998.

Carmon was preceded in death by her husband and one son, Bruce. She is survived by her children, Pam and Rod; siblings Betty, Dolly, Karen, and Jerry; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Major Mary Postma

Major Mary Postma, 81, was promoted to Glory on December 21, 2020. She was known to be kind, welcoming, joyful—an active follower of Christ who loved people and served the Lord faithfully throughout her life.

Mary first met The Salvation Army at age 7 when she was invited to attend Sunday school. She accepted Jesus as her Savior at vacation Bible school and became very involved in the corps where she learned to play cornet and joined the band, including playing with a cornet trio.

After graduating from high school, she worked at the Holland, Mich., Corps before entering officer training in 1959 with the "Great Hearts" session. She was commissioned in 1960 and served in corps throughout the Midwest for 44 years before retiring in 2004.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Ivan and sister Betty Olin. She is survived by her siblings Barb (Tim) Calvo, Pat (Earl) Moore, Jimmy (Ethel), and Roger; many nieces and nephews; and close friend Major Nancy Barlow.

