



# 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 53, Number 4

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## Regeneration brings healing, renewal and hope

by Katie Laidlaw  
Territorial Christian Education  
Director for Discipleship

For the first time since 2020, 226 delegates, ages 18-29, met at Camp Wonderland for Regeneration, the Central Territory's young adult retreat. They came from all eight divisions, accompanied by their divisional youth leaders, with open hearts for a weekend of beloved community, intentional teaching and impactful worship.

In planning Regeneration, Peggy McGee, youth leadership and resource development director, had a vision for an event that would bring healing, renewal and hope amid uncertain and difficult times. For the weekend, she chose Jeremiah 29, a passage where the Israelites are in a liminal state of exile. Would they ever experience the



Timothy Reddick and band lead worship.

keynote session declaring, "We are here! The past few years have been stolen from us, but God is good, and He is doing a new thing."

Delegates entered into wholehearted worship led by Timothy Reddick, intentional and moving prayer exercises

with Courtney Rose, North & Central Illinois divisional young adult director, and excellent teaching from guest speaker Candice Wynn, Orange youth ministry coach and consultant. Delegates were eager to hear from the Lord and responded to Him with surrender.

Young adults also had the opportunity to enjoy fellowship at a silent disco, complete with three DJs and a 360 camera and at a storybook banquet where everyone was encouraged to dress as their favorite fairytale or storybook character.

Stephanie Marinelli, territorial world missions department spon-

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Guest speaker Candice Wynn

freedom and comfort of making it out of Babylon? It is difficult to grow and thrive in a liminal space. How are God's people supposed to "build houses and plant gardens" as the Scripture commands without becoming complacent in temporary seasons?

Territorial Youth Secretary Captain Michael Hanton welcomed delegates during the Friday night

## "It is finished"

by General Brian Peddle

This Easter comes as Salvation Army leaders from around the world have been called together to elect a new General. The privilege of serving in the role of international leaders is now coming to an end for Commissioner Rosalie and me, and we seek to complete what we had set out to do. Soon we will need to say, "It is finished."



So when I reflect on Easter, I am drawn to the words of Jesus on the cross: "It is finished." But how much more profound are those words on Jesus' lips as recorded in John 19:30. His earthly life and ministry—the greatest of all human lives and the most far-reaching of all ministries— was complete.

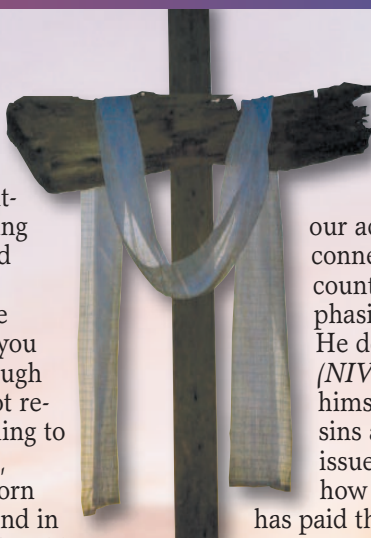
### It is finished.

But the words "It is finished" take on yet deeper meaning when we consider that Jesus spoke them in his own language of Aramaic, so the word he

used indicates complete submission— completed *before* he died. In Christ, God—who-could-not-die voluntarily and completely submitted to becoming human. In so doing he experienced pain, suffering and death itself. Paul echoes this in Philippians 2:5-8 (NRSV) when he writes, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross." Jesus clothes himself with our humanity. He understands us. He experienced the extremity of a public execution with all its humiliation. His identification with us in the human experience—including pain, suffering and death—stands completed.

### It is finished.

When John later wrote his Gospel in Greek, he recorded "It is finished" as the last words of Jesus, using a word from the world of finance meaning



"paid in full". So the evangelist reminds us that, in Jesus' complete submission, he paid the debt of sin for all humanity. On the cross, our account has been paid in full. Paul connects "paid in full" with no longer counting our sins and the important emphasis of reconciliation through the cross. He describes this in 2 Corinthians 5:19 (NIV): "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them... ." Sin is no longer the issue—the only thing of importance is how we will respond to a Saviour who has paid the account in full.

### It is finished.

At the start of the year, I affirmed the "once and for all God." In Romans 6:10 we read: "The death he died, he died to sin *once for all*; but the life he lives, he lives to God." God's provision for us began with a new covenant, commencing with the cross. Once and for all. Paid in full. Hebrews 9:28 reminds us that Christ was sacrificed *once* to take away the sins of many, including us, while John 1:29 proclaims, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (ESV). That is my sin, and your sin.

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Photos by Andrew Grey



## COMMISSIONING 2023

# Rejoice

Psalm 118:24

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Central  
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This year commissioning weekend will be a time for Salvationists to come together and REJOICE as we celebrate God's faithfulness and see some of the amazing things He is doing in the Central Territory.

Over the three united sessions on Friday night, Saturday morning and Saturday evening, we will REJOICE through a wide variety of missional expressions



with musical and artistic offerings highlighting the territory's Mission Imperative: More People More Like Jesus.

We also will celebrate the faithful service of our territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey as they retire.

On Sunday we will witness the sacred ordination and commissioning of the "Reflectors of

Holiness" session. The weekend will conclude with the exhilarating service of appointments for the new lieutenants as they step into ministry as officers in this great Army.

For more information and to register visit [sarejoice.org](http://sarejoice.org)

This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. — Psalm 118:24, NKJV

## Building bridges for recovery

Mission integration is central to ministry at the Kansas City, Mo., Eastside Corps. Bridging the corps, adult rehabilitation center (ARC) and community requires some creative thinking, relationship building and hard work, according to corps officer Major Janice Love, but the outcome is well worth the effort.

Since her appointment to lead the Eastside Corps in 2016, Major Janice has had a vision to build bridges with other local programs and resources to maximize their benefit to participants, focusing on the needs of the community. Each day she found that she encountered people desperate for addiction recovery support. Already working closely with the ARC, she wanted to expand those ministries and offer them to the community-at-large.

"To me it was a natural progression," said the major. "We were already doing integrated ministry with the ARC. Seeing the need—the men and women in the community who were struggling with addiction—we wanted to extend that and add an outreach."

After researching existing addiction recovery programs, the major applied for a grant from the Thomas Lyle Williams Fund in order to hire a fulltime staff member to lead Celebrate Recovery and associated services.

"Celebrate Recovery was a good fit," said Major Janice. "It's faith-based, only needs one leader and a small group to start, and wasn't already operating in our community."

Major Janice started by hiring an

ARC graduate who became a soldier and was passionate about helping others. In addition to leading a weekly Celebrate Recovery meeting that was open to all, he spent time in the community and visited with those eating at the corps during a daily lunch program. Despite shutdowns from COVID-19 the program kept going through Zoom and Facebook live meetings, and the program director often checked in with people one-on-one.

Although the original director has moved on, the program's momentum continues through dedicated staff and volunteers. Relationships have been built with the wider addiction recovery community to plan joint activities and events for their groups, including Big Book (an Alcoholics Anonymous class) at the ARC and Celebrate Recovery meetings at a local residential rehabilitation program.

Collaborations have grown so that groups hold monthly get togethers, plan holiday activities and travel to events with other chapters.

After two long years of relationship-building and

program development, Celebrate Recovery has gained its footing and has become a catalyst for other support services like finding employment for those in addiction recovery. The goal is to make the corps a site where area Celebrate Recovery leaders can come together once a month to connect and support one another as they do this important but difficult work.

"I'm always thinking of areas we can bridge," concluded the major. "Celebrate Recovery was one of those arenas. It's already making a big difference in our community, and we're just getting started."



**Central Connection**



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# 730... AND BEYOND



6,495 days and counting

by Major Stephanie Senn

Since I was a little girl, I dreamed of being a teacher. I loved working with children. In the early years, my dream manifested as I volunteered in the corps nursery and taught children's Sunday school as soon as I was old enough. When I was a teenager, I realized God was equipping me for so much more.

After experiencing my call to officership during a youth councils weekend, I began to worry I would have to give up my dream of teaching children in order to accept God's call on my life. In those moments, the Holy Spirit gently reminded me that I didn't have to give up what I loved to do when answering my call to become an officer. Being a Salvation Army officer meant I could invest not only in the lives of children but in their whole family. I get to be present not only in people's everyday moments but also during some of their most significant moments as well.

As an officer I have been welcomed into spaces often reserved for family members. I have held new babies, and I have sat with families as their loved ones have taken their last breath. I have joined in personal moments as I have participated in their wedding day, dedicated their babies and enrolled their children as junior soldiers. I have grieved with those experiencing pain and loss, and I have celebrated with those who have responded to God's call on their lives. I have seen what can



happen when people who come to The Salvation Army with no hope and no resources are loved and welcomed into God's family. I could be a great Salvation Army officer but without love for others, my ministry would be nothing at all.

Through all of my days on this journey, I have been guided by the words of the Apostle Paul: "If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, NLT)

I have given my all to the Lord in service, but what I have gained is much greater.

## Sharing the impact

During a recent visit by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker to the South Side of Chicago, Senior Kroc Center Officer Major KK Mathews had the opportunity to share with him the positive presence of the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in the West Pullman neighborhood and its service to surrounding communities.

"Meeting the governor was an honor and privilege," said Major KK. "But being able to personally share with him the community impact of the Kroc Center was truly a blessing from God."

Opened in June 2012, the Chicago Kroc Center provides recreational, educational, arts and social services programs. It includes an indoor water park, theater, four full-court basketball gyms, a state-of-the-art workout space, multiple classrooms serving preschool through seniors, and church.

In its first 10 years, the center held

more than 520 worship services, 1,500 water safety and swim lessons, 4,200 youth basketball games, 20,000 hours of older adult fellowship and engaged 8,000 kids in summer camps—and much more!

The ministry of the Chicago Kroc Center continues to reach thousands of individuals each year, providing life-enriching and transformational experiences.

"We have seen community members come to learn new skills, discover new talents and have opportunities they may not have except for the Kroc Center," said Dan Bowens, Chicago Kroc Center marketing manager. "We have seen people learn what it means to be part of a team, receive job training and opportunities, improve overall health and fitness, and find spiritual enrichment. Through their participation in our safe environment, rich in culture, strangers become members, members become friends, and friends become family on Chicago's South Side."



## Taking leaders deeper

New Transformational Leadership Certificate emerges from Project Advance

by Captain Christine Coreano

When I reflect on the great leaders in my life, they were individuals who were willing to learn, grow, change and trust God. What set them apart was their willingness to invest in people.

As part of Project Advance's work toward a mission-focused future, consideration was given to helping leaders learn and grow. One of the areas the Personnel Work Stream focused on was the theme of delegation and empowerment of leaders.

The Salvation Army is fortunate to have officers and employees from



different backgrounds, cultures and experiences. This also means they have differing experiences relating to leadership as well as some who have not had an opportunity to invest in leadership training. Therefore, it is important for current and future leaders to have the opportunity to learn and ultimately become transformed as they lead our Army.

Captain Alex Yanez and I were able to work alongside the territorial officer resource and development department to propose a more inclusive leadership

training program that would be available to all leaders. Thus, the *Taking Leaders Deep: Transformational Leadership Certificate* was born.

Captain Alex and I are participating in the first cohort led by Major (Dr.) Joanne Holz which includes 27 officers and envoys alongside five leadership coaches.

The certificate is designed to explore several different areas of leadership over the course of four modules both through in-person and online learning environments.

The modules include the following topics:

**Module 1** - Developing Essential Interpersonal Skills for Leadership

**Module 2** - Engaging as an Effective Team

**Module 3** - Expanding Leadership Agility

**Module 4** - Empowering People in Leadership

The Transformational Leadership



Certificate is not accredited by a university. However, upon completion of all modules, independent evaluation by an institution of higher education for academic course credit may be determined and awarded.

Too often when the conversation turns to leadership, we focus on the institution or general principles of leadership without taking an honest look at ourselves. Nobody is an ideal or perfect leader but by being intentional, evaluating our leadership styles, and being willing to make changes, the journey of transformational leadership can begin.

I can be the change I want to see for the future. You can too.

**Those interested in participating should notify their divisional leader for officer development.**





## CENTRAL BIBLE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

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JAMES 2:18

CBLI 23 JULY 24  
JULY 30

REGISTRATION COMING SOON

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## Regeneration

Continued from page 1

sorship and mission project specialist, led the Regeneration community in a project to raise \$1,500 for Salvation Army child development centers in Sri Lanka. Feeling moved, they gave more than double the goal—\$3,109.59! With the territorial headquarters match grant of up to \$2,500, a grand total of \$5,609.59 was sent to Sri Lanka.

Saturday held new opportunities for delegates. Followed by brunch, they were able to experience a discussion panel using the 3Practice Circle tool. Panelists Major Jamie Satterlee from National Headquarters, Captain Denesia Polusca from the Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps and Territorial Program Secretary Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich provided thoughtful insight in answering the question, "What evidence today shows that young adults are prepared to lead The Salvation Army into the future?" Their dialogue encouraged delegates to engage and ask questions. Following the discussion, delegates participated in their own 3Practice Circles in table groups about the young adult experi-



Captain Kelly Hanton



Major Caleb Senn

ence which brought growth in relationships while they envisioned revival in our Army.

Candice Wynn shared deep and impactful wisdom from God's Word while also providing practical encouragement for the delegates.

"The day we plant a seed is not the same day we eat its fruit...don't give up," she said. She encouraged delegates that even in suffering, God is there. Even in the questioning, God is there. Even when we don't feel Him, God is there. God has a plan and desires to walk His people through the difficulties of experiencing exile.

Saturday evening featured worship

with Timothy Reddick and a word from the Lord given by Major Caleb Senn, North & Central Illinois general secretary. Delegates basked in God's presence, anticipating what He was going to do. They were hungry for this time with God. Worship moved from being led by Timothy Reddick with instruments and lights to being spontaneous and a cappella complete with harmonies. Altars were lined with people seeking the Lord; worshippers and ministers cried out to God and prayed with one another.

On Sunday morning, delegates had an opportunity to testify to God's mighty work over the week-

end. Many shared feeling peace, joy and the presence of the Holy Spirit. Many received a fresh vision, inspiration and desire for revival. Many received healing and hope.

"A week ago, I was challenged to imagine a church where everyone wants the next person to succeed. A church where there is no one versus anyone else but instead all seeking to focus on glorifying the Lord," said delegate Reggie Brooks from the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps. "The revival I saw [at Regeneration] was new people attending, space for everyone, and everyone leaning into new experiences. The revival I saw was one of freedom, curiosity and engagement."

Revival among the young adults of the territory will be 226 Spirit-led individuals who build houses and plant gardens even in exile, individuals who cultivate God-centered community and call God's people to holiness. "Taste and see that the Lord is good." (Psalm 34:8, NIV)

Please join us as we continue to love, encourage and pray for the young adults of the Central Territory. As Candice Wynn concluded, "I have a tremendous amount of hope for this church with the group of people that are present. Great things are going to happen."



Fun at the storybook banquet



Delegates held discussions using the 3Practice Circle tool



# New building, new vision

A new corps community center is just what was needed to rejuvenate, equip and expand ministry at the Dodge City, Kan., Corps. According to Corps Officer Captain

doors, it was a completely different atmosphere," said Captain Roberto, who leads the corps with his wife, Captain Elia. "The feeling of the people is totally different. The adults are happier, and the children are excited."

After a lengthy capital campaign, the corps moved to its new location last summer. Although renovations are still in the planning phase, the new facility already has bolstered ministry. While holding programs in the old building was a challenge due to space restrictions and its poor condition, the new facility has room to spread out

with classrooms for Sunday school, youth programs, adult Bible study and women's ministries and a large open area that can be used by youth leaders and children for games and activities.

Roberto Davila, the move has made a huge difference in the outlook and vision of the corps employees and members. It is enabling growth in every area of ministry.

"As soon as we walked through the



Captain Elia Davila with new women's ministries members Maria Clark, Sara Griffin and Rosa Ibarra



Corps members participate in leading elements of Sunday morning service year round.



"We can provide all of the corps ministries as well as social services," said Captain Roberto. "The new facility has everything a corps community center needs, plus room to grow on four acres of land."

Plans are in place to renovate and add on to the existing building over time until eventually it will feature a commercial kitchen and dining hall, gymnasium, additional classrooms and offices, and chapel. Outside, a playground for the children is planned.

But first, in the next phase, the corps-run thrift store will be relocated to the new corps campus. With expanded floorspace nearly four times the size of the previous location, there will be plenty of

room for racks and shelves of merchandise, a separate space for a boutique, and a workroom where furniture can be rehabbed before being sold.

"We anticipate the new thrift store has the potential to earn much more than the old location," said the captain. "With the new space and the ability to salvage furniture that wasn't sellable before, our revenue will increase exponentially."

While the extra funds will help support the corps' increased operations, the capacity for expanded merchandise options also will serve the community during a difficult economic time when many have turned to thrifting in an effort to stretch their dollars a bit farther.



## THE ONE CONFERENCE 2023

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ISAIAH 56:7-8  
NIV

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# In pursuit of holiness

All his life, Dr. David Winters has attended holiness meeting on Sunday morning. Growing up as an officers' child, David's faith was shaped by his parents' godly living and instruction but also by participation in corps programs like junior soldiers and corps cadets. As an adult he attended and led Bible studies and served as a local officer, including being corps sergeant-major, for several years at one of the territory's largest corps, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.

Yet as a delegate to the National Seminar on Holiness (NSH) in 2021, David was surprised to discover just how little he had actually reflected about holiness and how much he still had to learn. For the first time, he thoughtfully considered concepts like what it means to be "blameless" and how to define "entire sanctification."



"I quickly found out I had overestimated my understanding of holiness," he said. "Given my opportunities over the years, I should know a lot more about holiness than I do."

At NSH the teaching of National Ambassadors for Holiness Dr. Bill and Rev. Diane Ury, National Commander Commissioner Kenneth G. Hodder and others challenged David to expand his knowledge and understanding. He was humbled as he wrestled with his own attitudes, previously considering it too complicated or even unattainable. He vowed to do better.

At the end of the seminar, delegates were encouraged to share what they had learned with their family, friends and those who attend their corps, something David was determined to do regardless of feeling inadequate. He began searching for resources to help him explore holiness concepts with others at his corps.

"I thought I would find an established curriculum titled something like 'Introduction to Holiness' with which I could lead a small group at the corps," he said. "I searched and didn't find one."

Feeling compelled by God, David was undeterred and began assembling a "by a beginner for other beginners" curriculum on holiness in hopes of providing a practical resource that could be used as a conversation starter in a small group setting. The *Becoming Holy* curriculum took shape as he reviewed notes from NSH, studied Scripture and referenced resources like The Salvation Army's *Handbook of Doctrine*.

"I want to make the discussion of becoming holy accessible and understandable," said David. "I want those who are not thinking about holiness to get interested and talking about becoming holy."



David Winters and Dr. Steve Macchia

Piloting the material in a Sunday school class made up of soldiers, residents of a halfway house and a few retired officers, it quickly became apparent to David he wasn't only sharing about holiness but facilitating a discussion in which participants learned from one another.

"The less I spoke, the more I learned, and the more interesting the discussion," David mused. "It was through the discussion group that my understanding of holiness really came into focus."



After some revision, he finally felt it was ready to be shared with others and contacted the territorial corps and community mission department which vetted the material and enthusiastically supported its use as a resource for officers and corps leaders to utilize in promoting discussions about holiness. At Central Bible Leadership Institute last year, David presented the curriculum during a 90-minute session attended by 25 adult delegates which allowed even more finetuning before its release this year to the territory.

"I believe that learning about holiness is not just from books or lectures," said David. "The Holy Spirit is our teacher, and He speaks to us not just in-

dividually but also as part of a community of believers. The Holy Spirit will teach us as we search the Scriptures together."

Visit our website ([salarmycentral.org](http://salarmycentral.org)) to download the *Becoming Holy* curriculum.



David and Majors Nancy and Enrique Azuaje in Colorado



Central Territory delegates at the first National Seminar on Holiness in 2021

## Becoming Holy

*New resource helps Salvationists to understand holiness*

by Mark Bender

**H**oliness. It's one of those religious words that we sometimes talk about, but what does it really mean? Can I be holy? How does it happen?

A new resource by lifelong Salvationist Dr. David Winters might help you answer those questions. Inspired by the first-ever National Seminar on Holiness, the curriculum titled "Becoming Holy: Introduction to a Life of Personal Holiness; Invitation to a Love Relationship with God" is a great starting point for those interested in learning more.

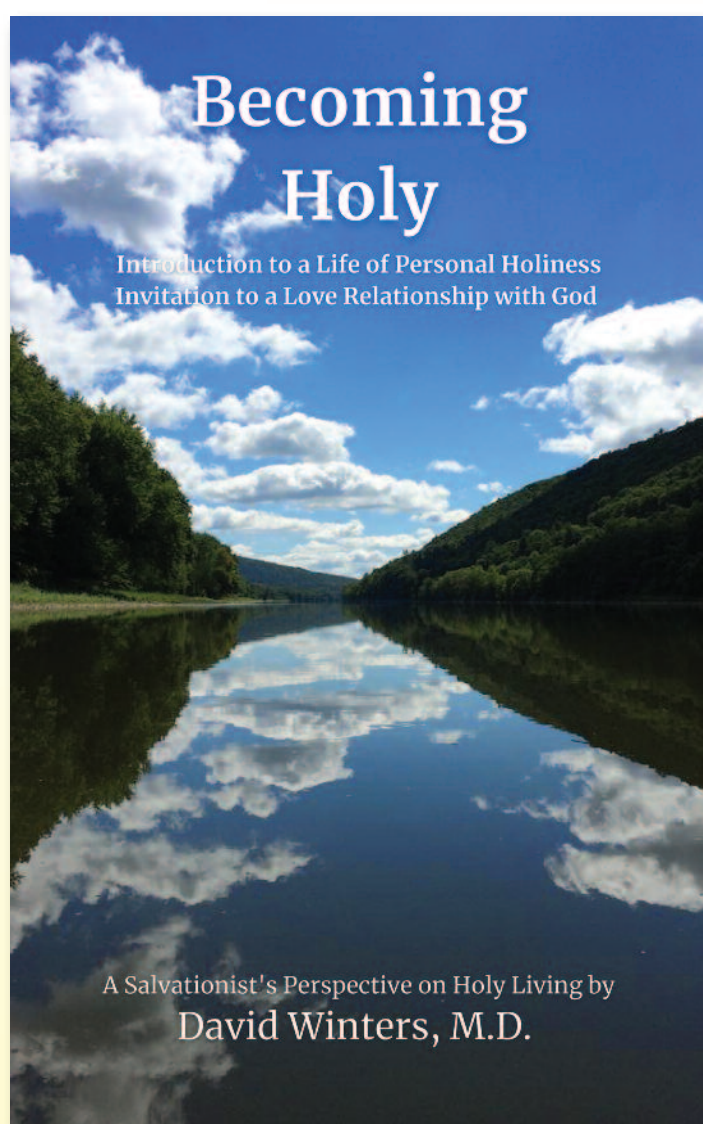
This nine-session study, which can be downloaded, includes Salvationist perspectives on holiness, conversation starters and discussion questions, and the practices of:

- solitude
- Scripture memorization
- meditation
- prayer
- learning from others

Consider using this free resource in small groups, women's and men's ministries, Sunday school classes or in your own personal study.

Learn what holy living means and develop a love relationship with God.

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**AUG 5-11, 2023**

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# CSB's life-changing ministry in Panama

by Brian Allan

"Welcome to the greatest country in the whole world!" Alberto Rapley's words of pride and enthusiasm greeted me as I stepped off the bus from the airport in Panama, the country of his birth.

As members of the Chicago Staff Band (CSB), we were in Panama to help lead a territorial music camp for the Latin America North Territory. Following it, we also played open-air concerts and a formal evening festival in Panama City.

Held at the Panama Divisional Headquarters (DHQ), the eight-day camp drew 150 students, ages 8 to 63, from Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Venezuela. Staying at a Salvation Army facility an hour away from the DHQ required them to leave the housing by 6:00 a.m. and return after 10:00 p.m. Though they had long days and little sleep, I didn't hear delegates complain. Mostly, everyone smiled, uplifting the atmosphere.



Tracks were offered in brass, chorus, percussion, bass, guitar, dance, timbrels, and lira (think marching band bells). Most tracks were led by CSB members, who also trained students in leadership so they could share their knowledge with others.

When asked to write this article, I thought I'd go through the camp activities and list the concerts played and repertoire performed. I'd brag about the 24 slides we loosened and pulled from ancient instruments. But halfway through camp, I began to think I couldn't write that way because something exceptional was happening. By the end, I was sure of it. While words seem inadequate to capture what occurred, perhaps you can get an idea through some of our experiences.



We began the camp concert with *Let There Be Light* (Paul Sharman) which starts with a thunderous shot note which grabs attention but startles the audience. Yet someone who attended the concert told Bryant Erickson (2nd cornet) that the first note touched their soul. "I will always remember how God's power can become evident through just one note," Bryant reflected.

After spending the week teaching and working with brass players, A/Captain Paul Bowyer (Bb bass) said, "What I didn't expect was what I would learn. The infectious joy and happiness I experienced from the students and staff as the week went on, their passion for worshipping through music, was exciting and very inspiring."

Following our concert at the bus terminal, Commissioner Heidi Bailey shared: "As the Panama National Anthem was played, an immediate connection was made and singing

erupted from the group that had quickly gathered. In the middle of a loud, fast-moving, hot and chaotic world, the band became the calm...As the band

played 'Amazing Grace,' a passerby approached me and said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God. Thank you for bringing peace to our anxious lives.'

I was fortunate to spend the week watching Morgan Marinelli (solo horn) work wonders with the second horn section, consisting of an alto sax player and two 8-year-old boys. The youngsters didn't speak a word of English and were tired for much of the camp.

"Me with my high school level Spanish and them with their knowledge of a C scale, we made music. We had jokes. We had secret handshakes. They gave me friendship bracelets. We played brass band music when they were awake, and I showed them note by note which valves to push down," said Morgan. "Here, with the help of youth workers of The

Salvation Army in Panama, they're playing instruments. They're learning scales. They're learning about Jesus. They're being shown that they have a community and a God who loves them."



During the camp I believe I witnessed a miracle. Jude St.-Aimé (Bb tuba) and I were sitting near the choir room during a break between rehearsals when a young lady walked in and ask if Jude would listen to music she'd written and recorded. Agreeing, he listened intently to the music on her phone, bobbing his head with the tune. Afterward, he walked over to the piano and began playing her song, and she began singing. When they were finished, we were all crying.



"You will never know how much it means to me to have a real musician listen to and affirm my music," she said. "I thought of being done with this, but I won't quit now."

I'd had a front-row seat to God changing this girl's life.

From two young boys learning scales and about Jesus to a bystander finding peace in our music at a bus terminal to a young woman who was encouraged to keep writing music, God used the CSB on this trip. Any member can give you a personal example. He also changed us. None of us is the same as when we arrived in the greatest country in the world.





# Joy, miracles and warmth in Latin America North



The General and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle join Commissioners Dawn and Merle Heatwole, Latin America North territorial leaders, and Majors Loraine and Pedro Lopez, Venezuela divisional leaders, to celebrate 50 years of The Salvation Army in that country.



An officer delivers food on the street as part of community care ministries.



Commissioner Heidi Bailey, guest for the commissioning weekend, prays with seekers.



New lieutenants radiate their joy in following Jesus.



An impressive timbrel routine adds to the Congress meetings.



A marriage enrichment event in Colombia



The happy occasion of the enrollment of many junior and senior soldiers General Brian Peddle during the Latin America North Congress.

## by Commissioner Dawn Heatwole

Recently, someone asked how we are doing and if we still love being in the Latin America North Territory (LAN). Without hesitation, I confirmed we love being in LAN and said we continue to be stretched in new ways as we see how God works in this amazing territory. Is it always comfortable? No, but God does not want us to always be comfortable in our faith. So, we continue to step out in faith and follow where He leads.

Over the past two-plus years, God has changed us more than we could have imagined. We have learned to trust more, to believe in His faithfulness all over again—and to go with the flow. One thing I learned very quickly is that even though we make plans, things rarely go exactly as we expect. Flexibility is a must when serving in ministry, particularly when serving in an appointment that encompasses 10 countries where visa issues often emerge.

When I think of our ministry over the past two years, the words that come to mind are joy, miracles, and warmth.

As we celebrate in territorial events, during prayer time online every week as a territory, or in our conversations with our people, we see joy rising to the top. The style of worship is full of joy. "Hallelujah Choruses" are used across LAN, and seeing people's faces light up when they lift praise to God is something of which I'll never

tire. When we recently held the territorial music and arts camp with the Chicago Staff Band, it was delightful to hear a delegate exclaim, "It's like our CD has come to life!" Joy is evident in the territory as people live with joy in serving Jesus even in some very hard places.

Miracles continue to occur all around us. God provides in financial and spiritual ways every time we turn around. For instance, we were sitting in a finance board meeting trying to determine how to best use the World Services / Self-Denial funds we had been allocated for mission projects in the territory. The list of needs was so long that after we had finished allocating the money, there was still \$99,000 worth of projects that needed funding. As we walked out of the boardroom, my heart broke knowing those requests were important but we would have to ask officers to wait an additional year to get their roof fixed or to replace a stove that no longer worked.

My husband, Commissioner Merle, said to me, "This is where we put our faith in action and pray for God to provide." We did just that. The very next day we received an email from the Salvation Army World Services Office (SAWSO) saying our territory had been given \$100,000 to use as necessary throughout the territory! It was a direct and astounding answer to deep-felt prayer. We have seen miracles like this throughout our time here in LAN. God continuously answer prayers through others who gener-

ously give their time and financial support to the mission.

The warmth of the people and their spirit of being open and welcoming to all who enter their buildings and lives is an incredible thing to experience. We, ourselves, have been welcomed with open arms and open hearts. People are eager to know you, to be your friend. They work hard to speak to us in English, while we work hard to speak to them in Spanish. There have been some funny stories along the way of literally getting "lost in translation!" We laugh together and learn from each other while serving side-by-side in ministry.

Over the past year we have celebrated together at a Congress with The General and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle and miraculously delegates from all 10 countries. We joined together for commissioning weekend with USA Central territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey.

We have been challenged to be people of prayer as we share blessings and concerns each week online in prayer across the territory. God continues to work in us individually and as a territory as our people love Him, serve others and grow in their faith.

How are we doing? We are happy to be in this beautiful part of the world and growing as we love and work with the people God has called us to serve.



# Giving hope at every turn

**H**is big smile is the first thing you notice. "I think about the fact that we don't know what people are going through. So, I try to smile and be upbeat and happy," said Mark Bender, mission specialist in the territorial corps and community mission department (CACM).

Mark is also the corps sergeant-major (CSM) at the Elgin, Ill., Corps, and assistant divisional sergeant-major for the North & Central Illinois Division, representing it on the Territorial Soldiers' Forum.

A lifelong Salvationist, Mark is proud that soldiers' concerns and ideas are being brought to the attention of territorial leaders. "We can help this Army together, regardless of uniform trim color," he said.

Mark and his three older sisters grew up living in the Wisconsin/Upper Michigan, Midland and Northern divisions, moving about with their corps officer parents, Majors Jacob and Camie Bender.

"As children, we were exposed to a variety of places and people," Mark recalled. "We understood the importance of getting to know a new culture and being welcoming of people."

In 1994, Mark was commissioned as an officer and appointed as assistant corps officer of the Moline, Heritage Temple, Ill., Corps. He and his wife were then sent to be corps officers in Farmington Hills, Mich., where their son, Andrew, was born. Unfortunately, the marriage did not last. Mark left officership, moved to the Chicago area and became a soldier at the Elgin Corps.

He says he remained troubled by the divorce for quite some time. "I felt like a failure. It took awhile to work through that," he said. "Now, when I meet people going through a divorce, I can understand and can help minister to them."

That loss helped Mark realize his own plans for his life were secondary to God's will.

"God said to me, 'I have called you. It may not be the way you think, but I have called you to be a representative of me in the world.'" Mark explained. "I try to remind myself that God has a plan for me, like in Jeremiah 29:11. Even though my own plan might not match with His plan, His plan is better."

Today at the Elgin Corps, Mark teaches a Sunday school class for teens and adults; he is part of the praise band and teaches percussion. As CSM, he helps



Four generations of Bender men: Mark, his father Major Jacob Bender, his son Andrew and grandson Jake.



Mark Bender with Major Jo Langham and Elgin, Ill., Corps Officers Captains Rich and Linnea Forney



Traveling in Ireland in 2022

plan and lead worship services and assists with projects throughout the year. He is also a member of the advisory board.

In his work, Mark helps produce the Advent and Lenten worship series and teaches workshops on evangelism and corps ministries.

"Mark is an integral part of the CACM ministry team as his role influences and resources so many aspects of corps life and ministry," said Captain Kristina Sjögren, CACM secretary. "His passion to grow God's Kingdom by communicating the love of Christ and holy living through resourcing the field has been recognized across the territory for 25 years, and we are blessed to have him on our team."

Mark's ministry extends not only throughout the territory but beyond as he has led Global Mission Teams to Germany, the Caribbean and Kenya—a favorite location.

"Many of the people I worked with in Kenya had so little, but they were just completely joyful," Mark recalled.

When he's not working or volunteering, Mark enjoys traveling and has been to 17 countries so far. However, these days find him often traveling to Texas as a proud grandfather to visit 7-month-old Jake. Smiling, Mark concluded, "It's the best job in the world."

To learn more about the Territorial Soldiers' Forum, visit [salarmycentral.org](http://salarmycentral.org).



Speaking at the Elgin Corps

## Territorial Soldiers' Forum

Reach out to your Soldiers' Forum representative with your ideas, needs and concerns for our Army. Your voice matters.

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ADSM – Assistant Divisional Sergeant-Major

### Midland Division

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A column on holiness  
by Dr. Bill and  
Rev. Diane Ury

## Alive in Christ

by Diane Ury  
National Ambassador for Holiness

I will exalt you, Lord, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me. You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit. (Psalm 30: 1-3 NIV )

Jesus asks, "Do you want to be made well?" (John 5:6, NKJV)

Clearly, as God's Word reveals, He is willing and able to bring complete healing to the crippled, fevered, paralyzed, blind, deaf, leprous, and even to the dead. I have been captive to each of those ailments in a metaphorical sense. I believe we all have.

The Psalmist extols, with great faith, the One Who battles every enemy we have with complete victory. Whether our narcissism, self-righteousness, callousness toward the vulnerable innocent, our sexual addiction, lying, sloth—you name it—Jesus hears our cries of utter incapacity to escape captivity to sin. He alone truly hears, and He alone has a strong arm that can lift us up and out of its clutches.

Emund Spenser writes honestly of our sinful condition to which Jesus descended and inhabited in order to restore us:

"To heale the sores of sinfull  
soules unsound,  
And cleanse the guilt of that infected  
cryme  
Which was enrooted in all fleshly  
slyme."

Jesus created you. He knows you. He loves you. He's calling to you, "Repent of your sins! Turn to God,



for the Kingdom of Heaven is near," (Matthew 4:17, NLT). He is the King! He broke through heaven, took on our flesh and restored our hope of becoming the created human beings He always intended us to be. He bears our "infected cryme," our "slyme" in Himself.

There, in His being, on the Cross, His holy love met our desperate predicament. He died our death and brought our life up from death and the grave which had mocked our dreams by eating away our hope. But we, my friends, have been "swallowed up by Life" (2 Corinthians 5:4)!

Life made us in His image, therefore we have an innate capacity to bear His character. Because of the Cross and Easter, we have been raised up and are no longer bound to the incapacities of our sinful nature.

"With him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins." (Colossians 2:12-13, NLT).

"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ...Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him" (Col. 3:1, 10, NLT).

How can you be raised to new life and put on your new nature? Stop believing in your sins more than you believe in Jesus. Make it the highest priority of your life to recognize daily your desperate need for His healing salvation, your absolute dependence upon Him. Listen to and obey His every Word. Receive His Life and Love.

## General Peddle

Continued from page 1

**It is finished.**

In the truth that Christ died once and for all, there is also the truth that he lives, and because he lives, we can live also. This is the essence of the Easter message. No matter what comes, the truth of God's action on our behalf remains rock solid. No matter what comes, we are safe in his hands and fully aware of his provision. No matter what comes, we can live as "more than conquerors" and "overcomers in the midst of all things," because his grace is sufficient and he is faithful. Romans 5:8 says: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." It's done! For once and for all time ... and that changes everything.

**It is finished.**

Commissioner Rosalie joins me in sending you warm Easter greetings.

The Salvation Army

# PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

## May Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Monday	2 Samuel 5-9	Milwaukee Cold Spring, Wis., Corps
	2 Tuesday	Psalms 51-53	Canada & Bermuda Territory
	3 Wednesday	Job 35-36	Grand Forks, N.D., Corps
	4 Thursday	Jeremiah 27-31	St. Clair County, Ill., Corps
	5 Friday	Mark 15-16	Kansas City Area Command
	6 Saturday	2 Corinthians 4-5	Milwaukee, Wis., ARC
	7 Sunday	Exodus 21-24	Chicago LaVillita, Ill., Corps
	8 Monday	2 Samuel 10-14	Moline Heritage Temple, Ill., Corps
	9 Tuesday	Psalms 54-56	Topeka, Kan., Corps
	10 Wednesday	Job 37-38	Shelbyville, Ind., Corps
	11 Thursday	Jeremiah 32-36	Eastern Europe Territory
	12 Friday	Luke 1-2	Mason City, Iowa, Corps
	13 Saturday	2 Corinthians 6-8	Fox Cities, Wis., Corps
	14 Sunday	Exodus 25-28	Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Corps
	15 Monday	2 Samuel 15-19	Brainerd Lakes, Minn., Corps
	16 Tuesday	Psalms 57-59	Escanaba, Mich., Corps
	17 Wednesday	Job 39-40	Newton, Iowa, Corps
	18 Thursday	Jeremiah 37-41	India Central Territory
	19 Friday	Luke 3-4	Mid-Michigan Area Command
	20 Saturday	2 Corinthians 9-10	Sioux City, Iowa, Corps
	21 Sunday	Exodus 29-32	Council Bluffs, Iowa, Corps
	22 Monday	2 Samuel 20-24	Bay City, Mich., Corps
	23 Tuesday	Psalms 60-62	Wichita Citadel, Kan., Corps
	24 Wednesday	Job 41-42	Chicago, Ill., Kroc Center
	25 Thursday	Jeremiah 42-46	Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps
	26 Friday	Luke 5-6	Hong Kong & Macau Command
	27 Saturday	2 Corinthians 11-13	Hutchinson, Kan., Corps
	28 Sunday	Exodus 33-36	Richmond, Ind., 360 Life Center
	29 Monday	1 Kings 1-4	Cadillac, Mich., Corps
	30 Tuesday	Psalms 63-65	Chicago Lawn, Ill., Corps
	31 Wednesday	Proverbs 1	Warren, Mich., Corps

Go to [www.salarmycentral.org](http://www.salarmycentral.org)

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

## --Mustard Seeds--





# Walk in my boots

by Justin Grajek

Earlier this year the Detroit Grandale, Mich., Corps hosted the annual "Walk in My Boots" community outreach sponsored by Toyota Motor North America. In its twelfth consecutive year, the event seeks to provide support to under-resourced Detroit neighborhoods.

This year 150 people from the west Detroit neighborhood surrounding the corps received new winter boots and socks to help shield them from the cold. Toyota also donated \$15,000 to The Salvation Army. Afterward, a delicious hot lunch was served to the families who attended the event.

"This is a very important cause for the community because there's a lot of families out here that are in need," said Shakira, who attended with her two daughters.



Attendee Shakira and her daughter

Metro Detroit Area Commander Major Bob Mueller said, "Sometimes it's difficult to imagine going without—like not having a pair of quality boots on a cold day."

"This year's Walk in My Boots event hit close to home for me because I grew up in Detroit's Grandale neighborhood, and I know firsthand about the need in this community," he continued. "Sturdy boots and warm socks are life-changing in frigid Michigan winters. Thankfully, 150 of our community members are better equipped to weather the storm thanks to the generosity of our partners at Toyota Motor North America."

Speakers for the day also included Envoy Jackie Ellingson, Detroit Grandale Corps administrator, Bill Shelmon, executive project manager of the R&D Advanced Product Planning Office at Toyota Motor North America, and Crystal Williams, President and CEO of Crystal Vision Communications, LLC, who organized the event.

"Many people know Toyota as a car company, but we're so much more than that," said Bill Shelmon. "We are passionate about serving in the communities where we live and work. With so many people in need due to the recent pandemic crisis and economic downturn, it's a major rea-



Bill Shelmon, executive project manager of the R&D Advanced Product Planning Office at Toyota Motor North America, helps distribute boots.

son why Toyota continues to do whatever we can to ensure Detroiters are getting the help they need."

With this project, Toyota has donated more than 2,200 pairs of boots and socks to local families in Detroit alone and has contributed over \$160,000 to The Salvation Army in the Great Lakes Division.

Year-round the Detroit Grandale Corps ministers to its community through social services like offering Pathway of Hope, helping families and individuals in crisis pay their utility bills

and providing canned goods through its food pantry. It also hosts weekly women's ministries meetings, enriching worship services, and a dynamic summer day camp for children.



Major Bob Mueller, Detroit area commander, and Envoy Jackie Ellingson, Detroit Grandale corps officer, receive a check from Bill Shelmon on behalf of Toyota Motor North America.

## Youthful builders

In a continued effort to promote community engagement and provide safe after-school activities, the Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps recently partnered with the Portage Home Depot to offer youth-woodworking workshops.

Megan Johnson, Kalamazoo Corps youth director, was instrumental in facilitating a Home Depot Foundation grant for The Salvation Army to host two hands-on workshops at the corps. Twenty children, ranging in age from 5 to 15, participated in the recent birdhouse-building workshop.

"A lot of people think of after-school activities as being an open gym or arts and crafts," Megan said. "We wanted to do something different."

Home Depot provided all of the materials and tools, and the company's associates volunteered to help the children as they designed, built

and painted the birdhouses.

The children were quite proud to show off their creations, Megan said. One youngster ran to his parents, presented his birdhouse, and announced, "I love it here!" she recalled.

"We are just excited to have this partnership with Home Depot," Megan said. "We all thought this program was a great success."

Since September, Megan has relaunched the corps' youth program. Engaging the youth of the community is the goal.

Captain Ronald Amick, who leads the Kalamazoo Corps with his wife, Captain Bridgette Amick, said the COVID-19 pandemic took its toll on the corps' youth programs.

"After COVID, there really was not much happening," Captain Ronald said. "Megan has been reaching out to the community. Now, we've had

programs on everything from hip hop dance and yoga to touring a movie theater and baking. We have had local people (businesses) helping us with these."

Other upcoming activities for youth will include robotics and bike repair, Captain Ronald said.

"Everything is free. There is no charge for any of the kids. And we provide dinner," he added.

The next woodworking workshop with Home Depot is planned for later this spring when children can build and paint toolboxes.



**RIDE for the WORLD**  
The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry



**Saturday, June 10, 2023**

**1:00 pm**

**\$20.00 (includes a T-Shirt)**

**Proceeds to go to World Services**

**Register at Commissioning**