



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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Roberts retire, return to Central Territory

by Christina Holman

After 45 years of service, Chief of the Staff Commissioner William Roberts and World Secretary for Women's Ministries Commissioner Nancy Roberts retired. This joyful occasion celebrating their worldwide service was attended by family, friends and colleagues who came from across the country—with many others joining the live stream—and was conducted by General André Cox.

The General expressed deep gratitude to the Roberts for their example and service, and commended them to the crowd as true servants of our Lord Jesus Christ. He said, "When they said yes to the Lord, they meant it. And when they signed a covenant that said we will go wherever we are needed, whenever we are needed, they've proved it. They proved that what they signed all those 45 years ago means something. And we want to salute two outstanding leaders of The Salvation Army."



National leaders Commissioners David and Barbara Jeffrey

The service was held at the Dearborn Heights, Mich., Corps, in their home division, Eastern Michigan. Led by Commissioner Harold Hinson, it began with a parade of flags representing the countries where the Roberts have served including the United States, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Kenya and the United Kingdom.

Tributes highlighted the Roberts' authenticity, compassion, generosity, dedication, joy and unequivocal trust in God to direct their lives and ministry. Representing officers were Lt.

Colonels Lonneal and Patty Richardson, while Lt. Colonels Mickey and June McLaren represented friends. Representing the family were the Roberts' daughters, Becky Hurula and Barbara Steffes, who cleverly wove together lessons from their parents' ministry through song with the help of the Roberts' grandchildren. The musical presentation was full of memories and laughter and concluded with the entire family singing, "The Family of God."

In response, Commissioners William and Nancy Roberts shared experiences and insights from their journey. "We could not have written a better story for our lives," said Commissioner Nancy. Commissioner William added, "We have learned that there is value and fulfillment found in serving—leading by serving."

Dr. Joseph Baunoch, the Roberts' nephew, shared a beautiful vocal solo, "His Grace Still Amazes Me."

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General André Cox thanks Commissioners William and Nancy Roberts for their selfless service. On the left is Commissioner Silvia Cox. The Roberts' son, Bill, and grandson, Noah, are flagbearers.

A New Perspective

by General André Cox

It is with hearts filled with thanksgiving and praise to God that we should enter this Christmas season. I hope we will all take time to reflect and contemplate the everlasting love and eternal plan of salvation that God has prepared since the beginning of time for all mankind.

We certainly have had ample opportunity to reflect on the boundless love of God to The Salvation Army throughout this milestone year of the 150th anniversary celebrations. Once again, now, we think of the extravagant love of God who gave us the greatest gift of all, knowing full well that most of us would not realize the value.

Isaiah wrote: "He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem" (Isaiah 53:2-3).

Despite it all, God still went ahead with his plan of salvation for the world! That is why Christmas is such a special time. The extraordinary revelation is that God sees things differently from us.

One of the first things Mary says in her song of thanksgiving to God is: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant" (Luke 1:46-48).

We see here a clear distinction between the values of God and those of mankind. God is ready to give his all to save men and women like you and me. God is the God of eternity, he is the Almighty and yet he shows his love and concern for weak, imperfect human beings.

The subject of great joy expressed by Mary is a subject of great joy for us all. Yet she continues with another outpouring of thanksgiving and joy: "For the Mighty One has done great things for me ..." (Luke 1:49).

One of the elements of the

Christmas story which never ceases to amaze me is to think that God is such a great and powerful being, yet he still is interested in us. That is why Mary rejoices and why we should rejoice as we look forward to celebrating the coming of Christ that changed the course of human history. God is ready to stoop down and even to use imperfect men and women to accomplish his plan.

Despite his power, God is happy to show mercy to the small, insignificant and imperfect people that we are. People give honor and glory to what appears to be powerful and wealthy in this world. God does exactly the opposite. God looks at humanity with love and mercy, which is what the story of Christmas is all about.

God turns the value scales upside down and shows his love for the



small, the humble and the seemingly insignificant. We need to examine our hearts as we prepare for Christmas so we can eliminate all thoughts of pride and any spirit of materialism because, in reality, whether we are princes or paupers—or the General of

The Salvation Army—we are pretty insignificant!

Christmas is about the fact that God came specifically to establish a relationship with us, and his glory is manifested in the lives of ordinary humble people. Christmas is a time of great joy and peace for all mankind.

I pray that we will experience the wonder of that reality in our lives this Christmas time and that we will show it wherever we are!

(Scripture quotations from the New International Version.)

Photos by Dave Hudgens

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On the fringes of faith

by Lt. Colonel Renea Smith
Assistant Territorial Secretary for Personnel

I love this time of year! Oh, I know the pace can be frenetic or even chaotic. There are baskets to fill, gifts to buy, kettles to put out and pick up, money to count, programs to plan—the list goes on! Still, there's excitement in the air, and I can't keep joy from bubbling up!

Have you ever noticed there are distinct moments when people are

more open to hearing about God? Early in my officership I realized occasions like the birth of a child or death of a loved one presented moments when people on the fringes of faith seemed most open to hearing about God's love. These were non-negotiable ministry moments for me. They were sacred, holy opportunities not to be missed.



undoubtedly busy, people on the fringes of faith, who are ready to hear about God's love, are right in front of us. Many meet us at our front door.

Are you ready? There's someone who needs to hear about Jesus, someone who needs to know God loves them. Are your eyes wide open? There's someone waiting around the corner. Seize the opportunity to share Christ!

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth...You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven." Matthew 5:13-16 (*The Message*)

I think Christmas is also a time when people on the fringes of faith crack open the doors of their hearts to the message of God's love.

Just thinking about past Christmases and the opportunities I've had to share my faith fills me with joy. Every Christmas season God has put people in my path who have been ready to hear about His love. They have been in nursing homes and hospitals, at a table registering for Christmas assistance, at a civic party, volunteering, picking up food baskets, counting money at the corps or running the coin machine at the bank, checking out my groceries, wrapping gifts during a women's auxiliary meeting or praying at the altar on an Advent Sunday.

We Salvationists are blessed. God has provided us unique opportunities to connect with people. While we are

Christmas in the Motor City

The overwhelming generosity of people in the Detroit metropolitan area shines through at Christmastime.

Responding to the jingling of volunteers' bells at hundreds of storefronts throughout the region, thousands of people generously drop change and more into kettles to support critical services. With the support of the Army's corporate partners in the region, each year Detroiters not only meet but exceed the Army's annual red kettle goal, setting a record of nearly \$9 million last Christmas.



ad promotion by the company's CEO provides a powerful hike in donations during the final days of red kettles.

Among local corporations providing both monetary and volunteer support is Quicken Loans. The company not only sponsors "the world's tallest kettle" in downtown Detroit's bustling Cadillac Square, it participates in a noontime bell-ringing competition called "Metal in the Kettle," which generated more than \$75,000 in one hour last year! In addition, a matching-gift radio and TV

Another corporate partner, the upscale Royal Park Hotel in suburban Detroit, raises funds by selling commemorative "bricks" for its giant gingerbread house displayed annually in its lobby. In addition, the hotel donates one dollar for every dessert sold in its restaurants during the season!

The Detroit Red Wings hockey team, another long-time corporate partner, stages a stiff bell-ringing competition between its head coach and general manager supported by Red Wings players who exchange autographs for kettle donations at locations throughout the Detroit area. The team also hosts red kettles at four home games to encourage fan support!



Central Connection

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

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Founder

ANDRÉ COX
General

COMMISSIONER PAUL R. SEILER
Territorial Commander

DOUGLAS McDANIEL
Executive Director of Development

ELIZABETH KINZIE
Editorial Director

ANNE URBAN
Editor/Writer

JACQUELYN BENTSON
Communications Specialist

BRITTANY CHINN
Circulation Manager

KENNETH ROMIN
Graphic Design and Production

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Upcoming Youth Events

Refuel:
a gathering for youth leaders

February 9-12, 2016

Cost: \$100

Wonderland Camp and Conference Center

Featuring – Dr. Richard Swenson

Register online www.centralyouthnetwork.com

Regeneration 2016

The territory's conference for young adults, ages 18-29

February 12-14, 2016

Cost: \$50

Wonderland Camp and Conference Center

www.saregeneration.com

Get Connected!

Check out our complementary material on the web.
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Resources/Links

Registration for Refuel and Regeneration
Officer Candidates' website
World Missions website
Volunteer webpage
General's website
Youth Department website
Boundless Bible Challenge

Media

Commissioners William and Nancy Roberts' retirement service by General
Angel Tree video

Web exclusives

Christmas greetings to international Centralites
Red Kettle Rundown of Race Day by Kristin Pike

50 years of caroling!

This month the Port Huron, Mich., Corps is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its annual community carol sing, an event with even deeper roots.

At the start of World War II, Adjutant and Mrs. Cyril Everitt realized the community's need to join together and celebrate the Christmas season. They staged a carol sing emceed by Corps Sergeant-Major Frank Staiger (who also was Port Huron's mayor) in a school gymnasium each year until the war ended in 1945.

Twenty years later, Bandmaster Ray Everitt revived his parents' idea and asked his wife, Dorothy, to host a refreshment period afterward. The carol sing was a hit and introduced the community to the corps' newly dedicated building.

Today the carol sing attracts an average 350 people, according to Majors Kirk and Carolyn Schuetz, corps officers. Special guests are featured each year, ranging from Army



singers and musicians to local church or school choirs or other music groups. Volunteers assist with decorating, band and corps members donate cookies, and advisory board and women's auxiliary members help serve.

"The entire event is an evangelical outreach with a devotional message, scripture reading, dramatic Bible pre-

sentations, prayer and Christian songs and carols, as well as some secular carols," Major Kirk continued.

He concluded, "We expect this year's event to be particularly memorable as we recognize Ray and Dorothy Everitt for their outstanding service and contributions to the community over the years."



A bridge to Blue Island

For the second year at the Cross Generations Corps in Blue Island, Ill., soldiers, trained in evangelism and ready to share their faith, are helping at the toy shop. It's a result of a STEPs (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) goal of having 10 soldiers trained in evangelism and ready to share their testimony with families at the Christmas toy shop. "It was the first time many of our corps people participated in any efforts of Christmas distribution," said Captain Bersabe Vera, who reported her soldiers were able to talk and pray with every family.

"We want to reach people for God and bring them to The Salvation Army," said the captain.

In an effort to build her soldiers' confidence in evangelizing, Captain Bersabe asked Major Joseph Wheeler, then-territorial evangelist and spiritual formation secretary, to teach on evangelism one Sunday after the worship service. The training was a success and soldiers reported they were more ready to reach out and pray with others.

Last year the Cross Generations toy shop served close to 400 families, 100 at a time in hour-long increments. The focus was on family, community and prayer. As soon as a



family came into the corps, they were ushered into the chapel for a welcome, prayer, devotional and short Christmas performance. After the performance, families were given the opportunity to pray with soldiers who were standing ready in the chapel, thanks to their training. More than 25 families sought prayer, and four families have since attended a worship service.

Captain Bersabe plans on continuing this more family-oriented approach with outreach and prayer during the Christmas toy shop every year.

celebrate

2015 Advent Resources: Come Celebrate with Us!

Enrich your corps' worship during this Holy season with ready-to-use, quality worship resources during Advent.

Celebrate the presence of Christ more deeply this Advent season through acts of mercy!

See your corps officer for more information.

AN ADVENT EXPERIENCE

Invite others to come celebrate

by Major David Gorton

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, let us turn our thoughts to others, remembering the reason He came: to redeem the world and reconcile it unto Himself. With more people coming through our doors during this season than any other time of the year, why wouldn't we invite them to celebrate Christ's birth with us? Let's not keep to ourselves the Good News that is joy giving and life transforming.

Rather, let us be outward looking, inviting family, friends, neighbors and community members to join us in worship and the many corps programs, activities and events that can enrich their holidays and give them an opportunity for involvement and belonging, not only now but in the new year.

Sure, our schedules are bursting at the seams, and it's easy to get caught up in planning programs and serving others. But let's make the season count even more with thoughtful ministry and connections with oth-

ers. After all, we are celebrating the birth of the Christ child and representing Him to the world, whether at a community carol sing, Christmas toy and food distribution, manning a kettle or Angel tree, participating in community care visits or throwing parties for children. Let's be ready to share the hope that is within us—our reason to celebrate. And let's be intentional in welcoming others to be part of our community of faith.

The territorial evangelism and corps growth and the music and gospel arts departments have joined together to produce excellent resource materials to enhance the worship experiences at your corps during Advent. They are designed not only to help Salvationists celebrate in meaningful ways but to clearly share the gospel.

So, invite others to come celebrate Christ's birth this season. It can change a life. It can infuse new momentum into your corps. And it just might make this your most meaningful Christmas yet.

COME JOIN OUR ARMY

New Members

July - September 2015

81 Senior Soldiers

4 Adherents

42 Junior Soldiers

Photo from the Red Shield Toolkit

Helping others: a Christmas

Each holiday season Salvationists spend thousands of hours helping make a happier Christmas for others by sharing the Good News of the birth of Christ and providing practical assistance. Many people in our communities join with us, some making it a lifelong tradition, even one that's passed down generations. Here are just a few we thought you should meet.



Generations of generosity

by Samantha Hyde

The Murphy family's history of volunteering with The Salvation Army reaches back at least six generations. Porter Murphy became a living legend among central Indiana bell-ringers, manning his kettle on behalf

of the Kiwanis Club with unmatched enthusiasm. His bright pink bell-ringing hat and way with kids made an impression on thousands of shoppers at Indianapolis' Castleton Square Mall.

"Dad taught us to be involved," explained his son Bill. "And if you couldn't put your money there, you put your heart."

After Porter's passing, Bill and his brother David decided to "tithe back to the community." They started with an hourly sponsorship of the WIBC Radiothon benefitting The Salvation Army Bed & Bread Club in Indianapolis, but it wasn't long before they were ready to tackle more hands-on work that would pass along the lesson of giving to the next generation.

"Our parents learned things that, fortunately, our children never had to learn the hard way," said David of the values he and his brother witnessed first-hand. "They didn't hesitate to try to help people who really needed a hand, people who were doing the best



Brothers David and Bill Murphy on air during 2014 WIBC Radiothon

they could but just needed a boost, something to push them along in a more successful life."

The extended Murphy family signed up to volunteer at Coats for Kids at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, an event coordinated by The Salvation Army that helps thousands of kids stay warm each winter.

When the family learned that gloves and hats often run out before the end of the day, they decided to start a new tradition of giving with an annual donation of 3,000 pairs of gloves and 3,000

hats. Now four generations of Murphys help kids choose the perfect hats and gloves each year.

"It's one of those rare opportunities where you do something, and you get an immediate positive response," recalled David. "A child's face literally lights up when they put on that hat that you gave them."

In 2014 David Murphy connected The Salvation Army with a U.S. Army Reserve unit based out of Indianapolis. During the live broadcast of the WIBC Radiothon, the Murphy family helped stuff hundreds of Christmas stockings for Indiana soldiers overseas in Africa and the Middle East. The care packages were such a success that the Murphys have made a donation to help package more stockings this Christmas. They'll be back during the 2015 radiothon this month to help assemble the new care packages.

The Murphys continue to find creative ways to give time, talent and treasure to help The Salvation Army in central Indiana.

"The Salvation Army struck a tone and a chord with me," said Bill. "Because of not only the great work they do in the community, but their efficiencies in putting the money right where the need is. Obviously there's a lot more need than we can possibly fulfill, but they're always standing in the breach."



David Murphy and Annie Yelverton assemble Christmas stockings for deployed troops.



David and Jane Murphy with Majors Bob and Collette Webster



Three generations of Murphy family at the 2014 Coats for Kids distribution

tradition



Ringin' half a century

This Christmas season marks 55 years of ringing bells at kettles for 90-year-old Bud Schmitt, who is known throughout the Peoria community as one of The Salvation Army's biggest proponents.

"Our kettle campaign would not be the same without the help and leadership from Bud Schmitt," said Chris Kennedy, Heartland divisional development director. "He has organized the effort of the East Peoria Rotary Club for over 35 years and has a handwritten log for each location and the amount raised by the members and their families."

Bud attributes his dedication to volunteering for The Salvation Army to the influence of his father, who served in WWI and returned with a fondness for The Salvation Army because of the care and commitment the Army showed to men in uni-

form. Bud and his brother also experienced firsthand the same dedication and care when they served in WWII.

As for Bud's support during the kettle campaigns, he simply said, "Somebody has to do it, and it might as well be me!"

Thanks to Bud's efforts the 45-member East Peoria Rotary Club is the top fundraising organization in the community. In its years of volunteering, the club has raised over \$300,000, which far exceeds amounts raised by any other service organization.

In recent years Bud has taken on additional responsibilities working with the area kettle coordinators to orchestrate delivery of kettles at check-out counters, restaurants and gas stations. Bud's unyielding loyalty to the Army even meant once scheduling his kettle routes and collections around major surgery.



Bud said what he likes best is engaging with those who come by his kettle. From a simple nod to a hearty "Merry Christmas," Bud

knows his dad would approve of his efforts and is happy to serve his community and The Salvation Army at Christmas.

Paying it forward



This month Cindy Traylor completes 23 consecutive years serving at The Salvation Army Toy Shop distribution in Grand Rapids, Mich. Not only that, but in the last five she has recruited her daughter, Jamie, 23, to join.

Jamie, who has watched Cindy volunteer for years—not just with The Salvation Army but for other organizations and philanthropic events—didn't require much convincing to get in on the action. It's something she's seen bring joy not only to others but to Cindy as well. "Serving just makes you feel good," Cindy said.

Both Cindy and Jamie love their yearly task of table host leader, where they ensure clients have the best possible selection of age appropriate gifts.

They're motivated by seeing the happy looks on parents' faces when they find the perfect toy.

"When you see a parent get the perfect gift, and it makes their day, it makes you feel great," Jamie said. Cindy added she loves to think of all the children she is making happy on Christmas morning.

Aside from this, Cindy has an even more personal motivation she believes brings her back to this particular ministry year after year.

"Growing up my family was real poor. My parents didn't have any money, and I remember at



Christmastime all the other kids were so happy, but it wasn't a joyful time for me. I was worried, 'Would there be any presents for me?'" recalled Cindy. She felt the pressure and anxiety of going back to school, having someone ask what she'd received and not being able to answer.

"I don't know if people are really aware of what this ministry means for a child," said Cindy. "I know what it means. To give a child a gift and know that it will make them smile and feel special is really important to me."

Toy time!



Mary Jo Williams' matter-of-fact attitude about serving is refreshing, if not a little unusual. Not only is she in her 35th year of volunteering at The Salvation Army Toy Shop in Minneapolis, Minn., where she manages, organizes and sorts the warehouses' toy donations, but every year she gives up a week of vacation to do it!

"I've never seen what the big deal is about it," said Mary Jo, who has worked at a social services organization for the last 37 years. "I'm just doing what I'm doing because I enjoy it, and if nothing else, you do it because you can."

Mary Jo was born and raised in Minnesota, and her parents always encouraged giving back. Now in their 80s, they still volunteer for community groups to this day. Mary Jo's daughter volunteers regularly as well.

"Sometimes I hear folks say they can't find the time, but you have to make time for what's important. That's real life," she said.

When Mary Jo started 35 years ago

she was the youngest person on the team and enjoyed it from the beginning. Her avenue to volunteering at the toy shop was just about as unassuming as her attitude about serving there—she found a help wanted advertisement in the local paper.

It clicked with her work schedule at the time, and given her background in social services, she was happy to serve people in need and work behind the scenes.

"It's a hard situation to have to depend on the community for your kids' Christmas. I enjoy making this easier on everyone—especially the parents," she said.



730 and Beyond prompts possibilities

by Captain Rachel Stouder

The 730 and Beyond Conference provided an excellent opportunity for both the convergence and divergence of paths leading to the acceptance of God's invitation to full-time ministry. While the weekend's emphasis was clearly on officership, delegates could choose one of three different tracks to future leadership.

In the "Experience" track, candidates for the 2016 session tasted life at the College for Officer Training for most of the weekend while the "Discover" track exposed prospective candidates to the array of Army ministry opportunities and the "Explore" track encouraged and informed those who believe they've been called to officership in the near future.

The conference began on a Friday evening with united worship and a message from Lt. Colonel Ralph Bukiewicz. During Saturday morning devotions, Major Tricia Taube, territorial candidates' secretary, urged delegates to yearn for contentment with God but to pay attention to the stirring nature of discontentment. She suggested it could be a nudging from the Holy Spirit to go in a new direction. But our examination of discontentment must be done in partnership with God or our interpretation and response could lead us

down a path outside His will.

Saturday morning workshops, ranging from personal leadership development to the daily life of a corps officer, challenged delegates in the Explore and Discover tracks, as did a workshop designed specifically for potential candidates from adult rehabilitation centers.

On Saturday afternoon the Explore track received practical information on candidate finances, preparing for student life and emotional health and wellness, followed by a question and answer session, while the Discover track split into three groups to visit the Chicago North Side Adult Rehabilitation Center, the Chicago Englewood Corps Red Shield Center and the Metropolitan Division's Emergency Disaster Services warehouse. Many delegates reported how amazed they were by the scope of ministries they observed and some gained new perspectives on how God could use them in the Army.

Major Taube concluded, "Candidates' weekends are for people who are asking themselves hard questions about ministry and service

and who are open to the possibility God is calling them to officership. It's a safe environment for asking questions and addressing their individual concerns in community with others seeking direction for their lives."



Fellowship opportunities abounded.



Major Tricia Taube, territorial candidates' secretary



Delegates enter into worship.

Photos by Cadet Kenneth Alip and Nikki Hudgens



Members of the Discover track visited the Chicago North Side Adult Rehabilitation Center.

Christmas in the trenches

This year with the 40th anniversary of the end of Viet Nam War, we share a Christmas reflection by Major Herb Fuqua.

The 115 degree heat had melted into the high 90's by Christmas Eve 1968. It was my fifth night in Viet Nam. Jungles and rice paddies would be my home for the next 360 days. My new companion? An M-60 machine gun. I had been assigned as a "ground pounder" in the 25th Infantry Division.

A small band of us "new guys" were given green cots and ordered to stay in the confines of a small outdoor barbed wire holding pen.

As a lifelong Salvationist I would normally be found on Christmas Eve playing my horn at a red kettle stand. My mind drifted back to 1966 in downtown Minneapolis where our brass ensemble, comprised of Steve Fjellman, Major Harold Hulteen and Bill Roberts (son), filled the 10-degree night air with notes of hope pointing to the Christ of Christmas.

A famished mosquito eating supper on my sweaty 20-year-old neck snapped me back to the present and my incredible aloneness. The haunting question resurfaced, "What would happen to my beautiful young wife, expecting our first child in eight weeks, if I didn't make it back?"

Suddenly, "Joy to the World" pierced my thoughts and the sticky darkness. It was being played by a brass quartet on the back of a U.S. Army truck going by. The arrangement sounded so familiar. In Viet Nam? Could it be?

Begging the sergeant guarding us for permission to run after the truck, I yelled up to the first cornet player, "What music books are you

using?"

"I have no idea," the soldier shot back while flipping to the familiar green book cover of The Salvation Army's *Caroler's Favorites*.

"Hey, I know that book inside out! God bless you guys and have a Merry Christmas!" I hollered as they rolled down the path.

As I walked back to my "holding pen" with a grin and a warm heart, God put His hand on my shoulder and whispered "It's going to be OK, Herb. I am with you—and so is your beloved Salvation Army."

Only the Lord knows how Salvation Army band books ended up in Viet Nam. All I know is sleeping on a green Army cot in 95-degree mosquito-infested heat on Christmas Eve wasn't so bad after all.



Sneak peek at college life

by Makayla Broer

Friday night worship at the 730 and Beyond Conference was great, but the really exciting part for me came at the evening's end when those of us registered in the conference's "Experience" (candidates) track departed to stay at the College for Officer Training (CFOT) for the rest of the weekend.

On Saturday morning Major Steve Yoder led prayers and spoke on the difference between a calling from God and a good idea of your own. "If it's hard, beyond your wildest dreams and outside of your comfort zone, then it's God's idea. He'll never call you to what you can handle because then you won't need Him." He then asked us to chew on three words, "Who am I?" The rest of

the weekend would be about turning questions into exclamations, he added.

We learned about life at the CFOT from classes, spiritual formation and community to childcare, food service and uniforms. It was great to get insights from cadets, making me even more excited to be part of it!

After a whirlwind tour of Chicago, that evening Lt. Kelly Hanton, Elgin, Ill., corps officer, challenged us to live with convictions of steel.

I left the conference feeling full of joy, peace and excitement about my calling. I was blown away by the intentionality of every person involved in the event, which was filled with glorifying God and listening to the Holy Spirit.

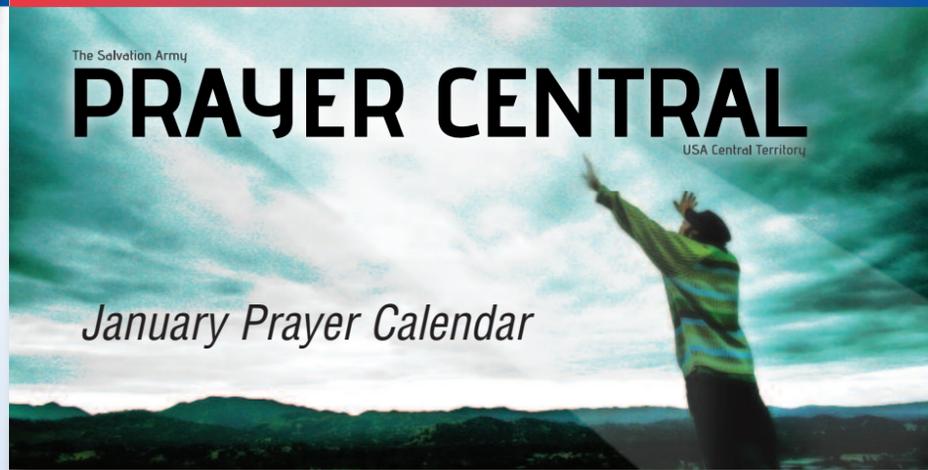
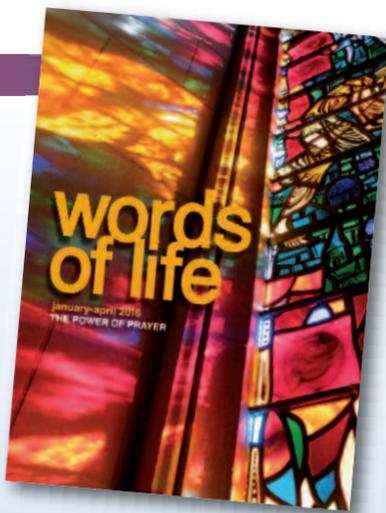
Words of Life

January – April, 2016

The Power of Prayer

Prayer is the theme for this year's *Words of Life*. This edition zeroes in on the power of prayer as seen at work in three Old Testament books: Genesis, Deuteronomy and Leviticus. In the New Testament we focus on the beauty of the Lord's Prayer. Prayer's power is also seen in the Psalms and Proverbs, as well as in various songs and hymns. Guest writer Colonel Henrik Andersen takes us into the Easter season. May the Holy Spirit continue to remind us of the power of prayer in our everyday lives!

Words of Life, The Salvation Army's international devotional by Major Beverly Ivany, is available from Resource Connection (shop.salvationarmy.org or 1-800-937-8896) or digitally from Amazon.com



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Friday	Genesis 1-3	Mankato, Minn., Corps
	2 Saturday	Joshua 1-5	Mitchell, S.D., Corps
	3 Sunday	Psalms 1-2	LaPorte, Ind., Corps
	4 Monday	Job 1-2	Menasha Fox Cities, Wis., Corps
	5 Tuesday	Isaiah 1-6	Captains Sergii & Tatiana Kachanov (Canada)
	6 Wednesday	Matthew 1-2	Southeast Michigan ARC*
	7 Thursday	Romans 1-2	Mt. Clemens, Mich., Corps
	8 Friday	Genesis 4-7	Moline Heritage Temple, Ill., Corps
	9 Saturday	Joshua 6-10	Logansport, Ind., Corps
	10 Sunday	Psalms 3-5	Northern DHQ**
	11 Monday	Job 3-4	Manhattan, Kan., Corps
	12 Tuesday	Isaiah 7-11	Elgin, Ill., Corps
	13 Wednesday	Matthew 3-4	Mattoon, Ill., Corps
	14 Thursday	Romans 3-4	Minneapolis Central, Minn., Corps
	15 Friday	Genesis 8-11	Territorial Youth Band and Chorus
	16 Saturday	Joshua 11-15	Newton, Iowa, Corps
	17 Sunday	Psalms 6-8	Cultural Awareness Sunday
	18 Monday	Job 5-6	Ludington, Mich., Corps
	19 Tuesday	Isaiah 12-17	Milwaukee Citadel, Wis., Corps
	20 Wednesday	Matthew 5-7	Grand Rapids, Mich., Kroc Center
	21 Thursday	Romans 5-6	National Advisory Board meeting, Tulsa, Ok.
	22 Friday	Genesis 12-15	St. Louis, Mo., ARC*
	23 Saturday	Joshua 16-20	Owosso Citadel, Mich., Corps
	24 Sunday	Psalms 9-11	Muscatine, Iowa, Corps
	25 Monday	Job 7-8	Madison, Ind., Corps
	26 Tuesday	Isaiah 18-22	India South Eastern Territory ^{PIM}
	27 Wednesday	Matthew 8-10	Olathe, Kan., Corps
	28 Thursday	Romans 7-8	Evanston, Ill., Corps
	29 Friday	Genesis 16-19	O'Fallon, Mo., Corps
	30 Saturday	Joshua 21-24	Minneapolis Parkview, Minn., Corps
	31 Sunday	Psalms 12-14	New souls for Christ this Decision Sunday

Go to www.prayercentralusa.org for prayer updates.
 If you follow the prayer calendar in the next year, you will have read through the Bible!
 * = Adult Rehabilitation Center
 ** = Divisional Headquarters
 PIM = Partners in Mission

Send season's greetings

It's easier than ever to send Christmas greetings to Centralites serving internationally.

Commissioners Merle and Dawn Heatwole
Serving at International Headquarters

Majors Philip and Sheila Davison
Serving in Canada

Majors Robert and Rae Doliber
Serving in Haiti

Major Violet and Captain Dr. Felix Ezeh
Serving in Jamaica

Major Wes Green
Serving at International Headquarters

Captains Jonathan and Catherine Fitzgerald
Serving in Jamaica

Captains Sergii and Tatiana Kachanov
Serving in Canada

Captain Christopher Marques
Serving in Japan

Major Cynthia Shellenberger
Serving in Australia

Captains Andrew and Melissa Shiels
Serving in Latvia

Visit our "Get Connected" website for email and postal addresses.



It's been a privilege



"It's not about me. It's about serving a very faithful God. What a privilege it has been," said Major Barbara MacLean of her retirement, the ceremony for which was conducted by Lt. Colonels John and Theresa Turner, Eastern Michigan divisional leaders, during Sunday worship at the Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps.

Major Flora O'Dell and Major Linda Mitchell held the flags, and Shayna Stubblefield, Major Barbara's step-daughter, sang "Find us faithful." Also present were step-daughter Jamie Curry, step-son John Brandon MacLean and sons-in-law Tarey Stubblefield and James Curry, along with the major's five grandchildren.

Commissioned in 1971 with the "Victorious" session, Barbara served as an assistant corps officer in the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division, then as a corps officer in the Indiana Division until she was appointed to the College for Officer Training as a training officer in 1975. She then served as a corps officer in the Heartland Division until 1978 brought her a series of divisional and territorial appoint-

ments with increasing levels of responsibility in the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Western, Midland and Indiana divisions.

Major Barbara's most recent appointment was as Indiana divisional secretary, followed by four months of *pro tem* service as a divisional pastoral care officer.

--Mustard Seeds--



Roberts retire

Continued from page 1

Commissioners William and Nancy were then presented their Certificates of Retirement by General André and Commissioner Silvia Cox. The General recounted, "The events of the 2013 High Council led us to work together in a much closer way...I suddenly realized, 'Lord I need a Chief of the Staff,' and with the turmoil growing in my own heart and mind at that time it seemed a 'big ask.' I believe in all of that soul searching during that time God led me to the right people, and I am so grateful to you both because when I asked the question, knowing I'd be the third General to ask you to carry on, the answer was yes. I believe God chose you both for a very specific reason. I believe the Army needed experience and a steady hand, and God in that 45 years of officership had been

preparing you to step up to the plate and to take that responsibility."

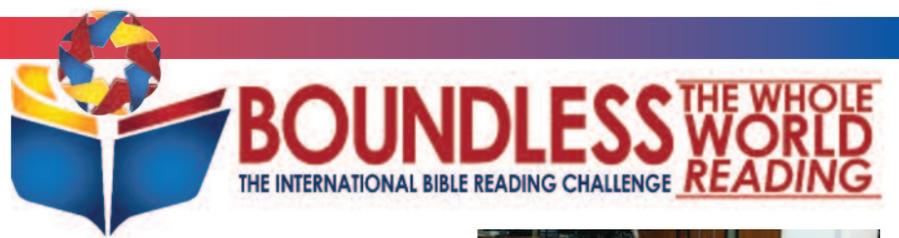
He continued, citing his health issues a year ago, "When we didn't know what the future held with my lung cancer diagnosis, with little notice you were thrust into additional responsibilities and you did so seamlessly, and the work carried on."

In commenting on their close-knit relationship, Commissioner Silvia Cox said to Commissioner Nancy, "Thank you for who you are and for being who God wanted you to be and for the privilege to work with you."

The celebration's theme, "Destination Providence," was affirmed time and again showing the Roberts' lives were appointed every step of the way, giving glory to God.



Commissioners William and Nancy Roberts join with their daughters, grandchildren and his father to sing, "Family of God."



The 63 people at the Vincennes, Ind., Corps who signed up for the Boundless Bible-reading challenge have been reaping the benefits of consistent Bible study, reported Lt. Curtis and Captain Laura Lunnam, corps officers. Facebook and text messages encourage participants to read their five chapters during the week in time for discussion in Sunday school. Sermons also cover at least one portion of that week's scripture.

"We go over any questions that may have come up from the readings and answer the study guide questions. Many Sundays we struggle to get through all five chapters because of the wonderful discussions we've had!" said Lt. Curtis. Captain Laura added, "People call or text us throughout the week with questions, which shows us they're reading their Bibles."

At the Lansing South, Mich., Corps, 29 participants meet weekly for discussion in separate study groups for men and women. Corps Officer Lt. Dalvius King said, "We use the study guide as an inductive Bible study. We have discussions about Jesus Christ and make practical applications to our lives."



Breanna James and Alissa Bell read their Bibles at the Lansing South Corps.

Participants are getting a deeper understanding of the Bible and have become much more comfortable discussing scripture."



Caitlin, Cooper and Nathaniel of the Vincennes Corps love having their own Bibles.

Promoted to Glory

Major Merritt "Mick" Hartley

Major Merritt "Mick" Hartley was promoted to Glory on September 22, 2015. He was 79.

As a child and early teen, Mick ran with a rough crowd. At age 17 he left school to join the U.S. Air Force. While serving in Wichita, Kan., a pretty blonde named Barbara Fellers caught his eye, and he asked her out.

Mick and Barbara were married and settled when Wichita West corps officers, Captains Ray and Pauline Wert, paid them a visit, since Barbara had once attended the corps. Although Mick initially resisted, he and Barbara, along with their four boys, eventually started attending the corps, where Mick gave his life to the Lord.

The Hartleys entered training in 1964. After being commissioned in 1966 they served in corps appointments in the Kansas and Western Missouri, Heartland, Western and Indiana divisions. In addition to ministering, Mick Hartley loved music, and their family band performed for many corps and divisional events.

Mick later served in the territorial property department, at the St. Louis, Mo., Harbor Light Center and retired in 2000 as the Grand Rapids, Mich., Adult Rehabilitation Center director. After retirement he continued to work as a counselor and chaplain in substance abuse programs.

Major Hartley was preceded in death by Barbara and their youngest son, Anthony. He is survived by his

sons, Merritt R. (Florina), Major Curtiss (Sandy) and Gregory (Angie); a daughter-in-law, Vicky; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Major Mrs. Barbara McClure

On August 15, 2015, Major Mrs. Barbara McClure was promoted to Glory.

Barbara was born in March 1932 in Spartanburg, S.C. Starting at a young age she attended the church of Christ, and when she was 16 years old a Salvation Army officer led her to Christ at a crusader's meeting in Union, S.C.

While attending youth councils, she felt her call to officership. After a short time of falling away in her faith, she returned to the corps with even more determination. Before entering training she served in youth ministry, as a member of the band and often led Sunday worship songs and testimonies.

Commissioned in the Southern Territory in 1953, Barbara served in Texas, North Carolina and Oklahoma before she married Walter McClure in 1956. Their marriage was blessed with one daughter and three sons, and together they served in corps in Oklahoma until 1970 when they transferred to the men's social services ministry (now adult rehabilitation centers).

In 1974 the majors transferred to the Central Territory, where they continued in men's social services, retiring in 1986.

Racing for the red kettle

For the last four years, several hundred citizens of Des Moines, Iowa, have braved the cold for The Salvation Army's Red Kettle 5K. In addition to supporting the food pantry, the event also helps to kick off the Red Kettle Campaign and bring awareness to The Salvation Army in that community.

Hosted at beautiful Raccoon River Lake Park, the race brings out volunteers as early as 6:30 a.m. in generally 30 degree temperatures to prepare. With the backdrop of a misty lake, a red kettle bounce house is set up for kids, hot chocolate is prepared in the canteen, and a local radio station provides music. Officers share with attendees about Salvation Army programs and volunteer opportunities.

With a clang of the bell, the race starts at 9:00 a.m. Children and adults take off. The top three runners receive medals, and all the runners have a chance to win one of the prizes donated



ed by generous sponsors.

According to Kristin Pike, Des Moines director of development and communications, as a result of the race more people have signed up to ring bells at kettles, including some new schools and members of the local hockey team. The Salvation Army also has garnered more coverage on the news, radio and social media.

