



# 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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## Warming winters for 30 years

by Samantha Hyde

Thirty years ago The Salvation Army teamed up with a beloved local meteorologist and a regional dry cleaning company to do something that had never been done before: collect enough coats to ensure every child in Indianapolis, Ind., would be prepared for the cold winter ahead. From just a few hundred coats donated that first year, Coats for Kids has grown into the largest coat collection and distribution in the state. In the past 30 years, over 120,000 coats have been given to children.

During the month-and-a-half long collection period, NBC-affiliate station WTHR heavily promotes the coat drive, often holding collections before Indianapolis Colts football

games. This year they set up a drive-through coat drop-off outside America's largest children's museum, which is located just down the street from The Salvation Army's Indiana Divisional Headquarters. The Salvation Army also sets up an Online Coat Shop where cash donations are used to purchase the most needed sizes before distribution day.

Tuchman Cleaners collects and cleans gently used coats at its 24 central Indiana locations, while new coats are stored by Two Men and a Truck until distribution day. Between 5,000 and 6,000 coats are collected, cleaned, sorted, catalogued and racked in preparation for the event each year to ensure that all sizes and needs can be met. Thanks to these incredible partnerships and an army of volunteers, The Salvation Army is able to keep costs to a minimum and serve generally 3,000 children each year.



Distribution day is always exciting, with some families arriving hours early to be first in line when the doors open at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Throughout the six-hour event, families are guided by volunteer shoppers, including most of the WTHR on-air staff, as they choose from racks sorted by size and gender. Once every child has found the perfect coat, they get to choose winter gloves and warm hats to complete their ensemble. Many of the hats are made by The Salvation Army Indianapolis Women's Auxiliary, while a local family donates 3,000 hats and 3,000 pairs of gloves annu-

ally to supplement donations.

The following day hundreds of coats are sorted and distributed to corps to use if someone comes to them for help during the winter; then a number of groups pick up coats for distribution. First in line is Indianapolis Public Schools, the largest school district in the state with an enormous student population well below the poverty line. If any child comes to school without a coat in the winter, he or she can be sent home with one. Other school systems in central Indiana also participate in this day-after distribution, as well as several social services agencies, churches and charities. Anything left at the end of the day goes into storage for use at the Women and Children's Center or to seed the following year's event.

This year 2,452 children were served by Coats for Kids. Thanks to strong partnerships and the generosity of central Indiana donors, this program will continue to help keep kids warm and healthy for many years to come.



## A Christmas story for all people

by General André Cox

For children in many countries around the world, Christmas is a time of great anticipation and excitement.

Christmas is rightly emphasized with the joy of children, for the wonderful story of Christmas is about the coming of the Christ-child of whom we read in Luke's Gospel:

*At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown.*

*Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. He went to register with Mary, who was*

*promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.*

*There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing*

*praises to God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us."*

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Mary remembered all these things and thought*



*deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them. (Luke 2:1-20, Good News)*

The Christmas story is for all people of all ages and cultures, and is about how God came into our ordinary, everyday world as a little baby so that he could live with us and share in our lives. The coming of Christ at Christmas changed the course of human history.

We love to look at what we think is an idyllic and beautiful picture of that first

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## What restores your peace?

by Lt. Colonel Vicki Amick  
Territorial Secretary for Retired Officers

When life is stressful, what do you do to restore your peace? I enjoy reading. And if I can read near water, it brings instant peace and joy to my spirit.

My parents were snowbirds for 20 years, so my husband, Dick, and I would visit them every January for about 10 years. Since they lived just five miles from the Atlantic coast, I

was able to enjoy my devotional time at the ocean shore almost every day. What a spiritual retreat!

At home, I find other ways to connect with the Lord and enjoy His presence and filling. For instance, Dick and I read through the Bible each year using the *Daily Walk*. It's a great way to become familiar with scripture along with a daily devotional.



From time to time I take a half day to spend time with the Lord. I may read a devotional book, along with my Salvation Army Songbook and Bible, and then spend time in prayer. I always walk away with restored peace and direction.

I also enjoy participating in Bible studies. Right now I am studying the Psalms of Ascent (Psalms 120-134.) These are the Psalms the Israelites sang as they made their pilgrimages to Jerusalem. During this study I have memorized Psalm 121. What a joy it is to hide God's Word in my heart!

Psalm 121 (NIV):

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not  
slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you—  
the Lord is your shade at your  
right hand;  
the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all  
harm—  
he will watch over your life;  
the Lord will watch over your com-  
ing and going  
both now and forevermore.

## Christmas for Carol

by Major Carol Lemirand

I was raised in Green Bay, Wis., where my father eked out a living tearing up and replacing railroad tracks in the summer and cleaning rail switches in the winter.

His options were limited because of a childhood illness that prevented him from attending school beyond eighth grade. While largely uneducated, my father was wise, and he knew the meaning of hard work and the value of an education. He encouraged me to always do my best—whether in school, church or work.

When our family's needs exceeded our meager means, my mother contacted The Salvation Army to fill in the gap. We received groceries and more on a regular basis and were one of the many families helped at Christmas.

On one occasion when I was quite young, with my hair in tight ringlets,

I looked up at the beautiful woman officer providing us with Christmas gifts and told my mom I wanted to be just like her.

As a teenager I connected with officers at a revival meeting, where they asked me to babysit their children. The genuine love I found in this family and through every contact I had with The Salvation Army touched me, and I begged my mom to let me attend the corps.

I recently completed 36 years of officership. I continue to love and serve the Lord and am humbled that God continues to use me. Today I cried with a grandmother who is trying to raise her disabled grandson, prayed with someone who lost her home, and found a bite to eat for a single mom whose every ounce of energy goes toward caring for her children.

If it weren't for the Army at Christmas, my life might have turned out quite differently. I've been so blessed by this ministry and pray those I now serve will see in me what I saw in the officer who helped my family at Christmas. And, who knows, maybe someone I touch will want to become an officer someday, too.

## Making a list



Photo by Emily Aukes

2,737 Christmas cards. Looking at our lists, most of us can't fathom signing, folding, stuffing and addressing that many greeting cards. But that's exactly what Melody Rosa, territorial Bible correspondence director, and her staff do each year with the help of a small cadre of volunteers, those who assist weekly and others who come alongside during the season.

The recipients aren't friends and family but inmates participating in the Bible correspondence program. Not only does the card include a

warm Christmas greeting but a small calendar card with the "Footprints" poem on the back. This year for the first time they're being sent in both English and Spanish.

"We receive feedback from the inmates saying it means a lot, and they really appreciate the calendar too, which fits easily into a pocket," said Melody. "Some of these folks don't have any visitors and feel like they're forgotten during Christmas."

"I hope these cards will remind inmates they're not alone and not forgotten," said weekly volunteer Larry Urban. "I also hope it encourages them to be interested in the Bible and would bring them comfort and direction."



Major Carol Lemirand receives a check to help with Christmas assistance from employees at the Peninsula Federal Credit Union.

**Central Connection** 

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Indiana Division website

Article on Echelon

**Web exclusives**

More about The Salvation Army in Tanzania

## Deeper dive explores officership

by Captain Jennifer Ortman

The Territorial Candidates' Weekend provided those who feel God is calling them to officership a prime opportunity to explore what that means. At this year's event more than 200 Salvationists took an exciting deeper dive with the theme "Engaged in Mission and Ministry."

Delegates participated in three targeted tracks. Those who hope to attend the College for Officer Training (CFOT) in the next session participated in the Experience Track hosted by the CFOT. Those who have declared a calling and actively are pursuing entrance in a future session participated in the Explore Track where presenters gave guidance on the application process. Lastly, the Discover Track provided a non-threatening opportunity for individuals seeking to discover if officership is God's will for their lives.

During the keynote session at territorial headquarters (THQ), delegates entered into worship led by David Hudgens. Lt. Betsy Clark, St. Charles, Ill., corps officer, spoke about how God uses her in everyday encounters, and Colonel Jeffrey Smith, chief secretary, challenged delegates to live an unexpected life by God's power.

Major Tricia Taube, territorial candidates' secretary, shared specifically about the event's theme during Saturday morning devotions with the Explore and Discover tracks. Engagement is about being activated, committed and ready to be used by God, she said. Throughout the week-

end dynamic videos of Salvation Army personalities reminded delegates of their evangelistic roots to engage.

Workshops at THQ for Explore and Discover track delegates focused on spiritual formation, serving as a single person, women in ministry and adult rehabilitation center ministry. In the afternoon the Discover track witnessed the busy ministry of the St. Charles, Ill., Corps, while Explore track delegates attended additional workshops in emotional health and wellness, financial readiness and preparing for student life. Meanwhile at the CFOT, Experience track delegates participated in a panel discussion, Chicago city life and fellowship with cadets.

"This weekend gave me the opportunity to sit alongside future session-mates and take in what our lives will be like. I appreciated the cadets' insights, prepping us for everything we needed to know," said delegate Joshua Hubbard. "What left the



message provided a warning to be self-aware to prevent disengagement.

Sunday morning delegates worshipped together at THQ. Major Scott Shelbourn spoke of the thousands of "divine appointments" he's had as an officer. Des Plaines, Ill., Corps delegates presented a beautiful worship dance, and Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, territorial commander, summed up the weekend's focus in his message: "The Army is Us"—with a common bond, using common men and women in an uncommon church.

"It was great to be a part of a weekend where people were asked to seriously consider what God is calling them to, allowed to ask the tough questions and given genuine answers," concluded Lt. Betsy Clark. "You could clearly see God moving in the hearts of everyone there, challenging us to go deeper in our walk with Him."

biggest impression was the community that comes with the CFOT, to live as a cadet day in and out with people striving for the same objective, drawing closer to God in preparation to be an officer...It excited me for the next chapter of my story."

All delegates joined together at the CFOT for a united evening meeting in which Captain Jason Bigelow gave his testimony and Lt. Amanda Keene's

Photos by Nicki Hudgens and Cadet Ken Alip

## The bell rang for me

by Captain Valerie Carr

Younger brothers have a way of getting you involved in something that will inevitably change your life—or at least that's how it happened to me. My family lived in an apartment a little over a mile from the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps but was unaware of The Salvation Army's presence at the time.

However, we did our grocery shopping at the store that sits on the same block as the corps and at the holidays a bellringer would appear.

The Christmas of 1995 my 7-year-old brother, Zachary, became interested in being a Salvation Army bellringer. After a few weeks my mother decided to wait at the store for whoever was picking up the bellringer and ask how her son could participate. It just so happened that the corps officer, then-Captain Andy Miller, was the driver that night! He gave my mother the corps' address with times to drop by on a Sunday morning to get all the information about volunteering for bellringing.

I remember pulling into the corps parking lot that first Sunday morning. My mother turned the car's engine off and informed my brother



Captain Valerie Carr and her sons ring that bell.

and me that we were going to church. I also remember rolling my eyes and thinking, *I am NOT going anywhere*. After the service, my brother was all set for bellringing the next week, and then-Captain Cheryl Miller told my mom about the youth programs available for him. She turned, looked at me and said, "And we have girls programs as well!" I thought, *I'm never coming back here*.

Thankfully, teenagers don't get a big vote in the economy of the family, and we returned week after week to the corps. The family of the Des Plaines Corps loved my family into the Kingdom of God and taught us what it means to be followers of Jesus. Thank God for the Christmas ministry of The Salvation Army and a tenacious 7-year-old's desire to ring a bell.

## Lifting holiday spirits



To make the season a little brighter and ensure carefully chosen and beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts are received by the children of incarcerated men and women, the correctional services ministry of the Kansas and Western Missouri (KWM) Division teams up each year with volunteers from Hallmark Cards and the divisional youth department.

The correctional services ministry accepts applications from state and federal prisons to ensure every inmate has an opportunity to send a gift to each of their children, from

newborns to age 17. This year up to 2,500 children are expected to receive Christmas presents.

"Operation Toy Lift is more than just an inmate sending a Christmas gift home; it's an avenue to begin a ministry of reconciliation from the brokenness due to incarceration," said Ernest Jones, KWM divisional correctional services director. "The gifts are meticulously wrapped by Hallmark and included with the child's present is a gift for the caregiver, as well as a Christmas card. This major operation could not be accomplished without our 100-plus volunteers."

# Christmas in full swing

## Griffins net proceeds for Army

A ceremonial puck drop, a brass band performance and a spin around the rink by a Salvation Army officer strapped to a Zamboni ice machine are just a few highlights of the second annual "Red Kettle Game" organized with the Army by the Grand Rapids, Mich., Griffins hockey team!



Major Norman Grainger circles the rink on a Zamboni.

In addition to welcome signage, scoreboard messages, public address announcements and red kettles in the arena's lobby, the Griffins wear special red jerseys sporting The Salvation Army red shield during the game attended by thousands of hock-

ey fans. After the game the jerseys are autographed and auctioned off with net proceeds benefiting The Salvation Army.

"It's an ideal event for The Salvation Army to raise awareness about our programs and services as well as demonstrate our commitment to and involvement in the Grand Rapids community," said Major Norman Grainger, Kent County coordinator.

Over the past few seasons the Griffins have provided opportunities for the Army to place kettles in the arena lobby, as well as have an Army band play "God Bless America" or the National Anthem.



A Salvation Army band performs "God Bless America" as a giant 880-foot flag unfurls.

## Ringin' tenacity

by Craig Dirkes

For more than a decade, Andrew Benjamin has rung bells at kettles four days a week, four hours a day, for the entire Christmas season in the Twin Cities. "I take Wednesdays off for a break," the 80-year-old admitted. "Helps warm me up."

Andrew won't let anything stop him—not even cancer, which he battled last season. He juggled ringin' with weekly doctor visits, including immunotherapy treatment to fight the melanoma in his lungs. "I brought a stool in case I needed to sit down for a while. But I didn't need the stool. I stood and rang the entire time."

Why does Andrew ring? Simple: he loves The Salvation Army—so much so he requested a Salvation Army theme for his 80th birthday party. The celebration at a church in St. Paul, Minn., included a red kettle that raised nearly \$1,200 from more than 100 guests.

"It was awesome! Probably one of the greatest experiences of my life," said Andrew.

He also stands at kettles because he likes to see old friends, meet new ones and thank them all for giving to The Salvation Army. He's been ring-



ing at the same Walgreens for so long that customers recognize him.

"People say they look forward to me ringin', that they only give when I'm there ringin' the bell," Andrew said. "I've got quite the following."

"He is without a doubt one of the most incredible people I've met and an inspiration to us all," said Dave Overstake, Northern divisional planned giving director, who has known Andrew for 10 years.

Andrew joked, "For an old codger, I'm not doing too bad."

## Christmas at the ARC

by Major Evangeline O'Neil

Christmas and The Salvation Army are interconnected. So much ministry occurs during the holidays that Christmas wouldn't be the same without it. Even those who know little about what the Army does throughout the year recognize us at Christmas. But what about adult rehabilitation centers (ARC)? So much of what we know of the Army's Christmas ministry seems missing from the ARC. There are no red kettles, no Angel Trees, no food box distributions. So what does go on

at Christmas in the ARC? I'm glad you asked.

At the ARC men are away from their families; many have strained relationships with family members, and most have celebrated past holidays in ways destructive to themselves and others. They are not earning a wage and so can't provide gifts for their families. Many of them have left faith behind. These factors provide the ARC with great opportunities for ministry.

"Christmas is the opportunity to acknowledge the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through guidance and understanding we help the beneficiaries develop a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ and the principles He provides us," said Michael Alle, Minneapolis, Minn., ARC director of rehabilitation services.

At the Minneapolis ARC, as in most places, Christmas starts with decorating for the season. The men help put up the tree, string garland and hang ornaments. It's an opportunity for them not only to fellowship and strengthen their sense of belonging but also to consider the importance of spirituality and to reconnect with their Christian beliefs.

In our attempt to maintain the men's dignity and respect, we provide them with gifts they can select for their children, then help them wrap the gifts and even mail them, if necessary, all at no charge. This

helps them to reconnect with family. It is also an important part of their recovery to acknowledge holidays and to fulfill responsibilities.

Holiday parties are a reality wherever you go. Knowing how to celebrate a stressful holiday season appropriately, whether with peers or family, is an important skill we are trying to teach the men. In Minneapolis, we have a Christmas celebration just for the men. They learn to interact positively with each other, to support one another and to celebrate sober. We also have a family celebration in which the men can invite their



wives, girlfriends, moms, dads, brothers, sisters and children to come to a safe place for fun activities and continue to build their relationships.

For those who are further along in the program and are beginning to reconnect with the outside world, we give them an additional overnight pass on Christmas Eve. Imagine a father who's getting his life back together being able to wake up Christmas morning and be with his children, to get a glimpse of what the future can be for him and his family.

Christmas at the ARC is what Christmas has always been about—helping men to understand that a loving God gave his only Son to bring life, love and hope, even in a dark and difficult world.



## A Red Hot Christmas in Peoria

by Rich Draeger

**R**ed Hot Christmas is the signature event of the year for Echelon Peoria, a community of diverse young adults who support The Salvation Army through community service and volunteerism, fellowship and networking, donations and fundraising. Its Christmas event benefits both Echelon and Salvation Army programs. From their first Red Hot Christmas in 2014 they made a \$5,000 donation to the Tree of Lights Campaign, and in 2015 their dona-

tion doubled to \$10,000!

During the Christmas season, Echelon members also man kettles. In fact, last year they stood every Saturday at East Peoria's Bass Pro Shop to collect donations for the annual Red Kettle Campaign.

Throughout the year they continue volunteering for The Salvation Army in a myriad of ways like providing financial counseling to clients at the family shelter and conducting an Easter egg hunt and summer children's carnival at the Peoria, Ill., Citadel Corps.

Kyle Barber, an original member of Echelon Peoria and immediate past Red Hot Christmas chair, has taken a lead role in one of Echelon's volunteer efforts. He arranged for a local restaur-



ant, Michael's Italian Feast, to help provide dinners to the homeless. In the past 18 months, it has given more than 1,000 meals.

After the Army had to close its daily drop-in program for the homeless due to the loss of federal grant money, Kyle helped organize an evening all-volunteer feeding effort called "Dinner with Love" that has served over 2,600 meals to area homeless the past several months alone.

"I feel a deep connection to our community members in need," Kyle said. "I see the gratitude each individual has and the happiness the meals provide."

Ty Rakestraw, founding member of Echelon Peoria, was recognized with

the Young Leaders Award from The Salvation Army in May 2015, and the entire Echelon group was recognized with the 2016 Giving Heart Award at the Peoria-area National Philanthropy Day luncheon.

With a dedicated board of seven and a membership of 50-plus, Echelon Peoria is an amazing group of young professionals who are serious about their efforts to help others through volunteerism and financial support.

Echelon was founded in 2010 in Dallas, Texas. The Peoria chapter was just the fourth group introduced nationally. Captain Keith Maynor, national young adult secretary, expects the introduction of 25-30 chapters in the U.S. in the next three years.



## Display lights the way



**W**hat started out several years ago as a small fundraiser for The Salvation Army is now the top fundraising effort in Willmar, Minn., to ensure services are available for those in need within the community. To date, the Koosman family's elaborate "Celebrate the Light of the World" Christmas light display has raised just short of \$500,000 for the Willmar Salvation Army, and they say they won't stop until they reach \$1 million!

Last year was an especially exciting one for Chad and Angie Koosman when they were featured on the nationally televised program, "The Great Christmas Light Fight."

Once word got out that the light display was going to be on national TV, many television, radio and newspaper interviews followed and a local radio station sponsoring the display kept residents up-to-date.

To kick off his fundraising efforts, Chad had a stunt up his sleeve; he wouldn't turn on the lights until \$2,000 was raised for the Army within 12 hours as he sat with a red kettle inside a large rotating door at a popular store in Willmar.

Spinning around in the doorway wasn't too bad, he reported, but his wife made him take dramamine anyway. "I'm very proud of him and all that he has done for the community," said Angie. The total intake for

the Christmas light display last year set a new record of more than \$164,000. Who knows what this year will bring!

Chad concluded, "The publicity is great, but what this is really all about is helping our community."

## Rooted in Angel Tree

by Samantha Hyde

**T**hings were looking bleak last year for Marissa as she faced the possibility of having no gifts for her children to open on Christmas morning. As a single mother supporting four children, she knew how to stretch a dollar but because of ongoing medical issues with her youngest son she had no savings to help make Christmas special.

Then Marissa stumbled on a Facebook post about a program being offered by The Salvation Army called Angel Tree. Her two youngest children qualified, so Marissa headed to her neighborhood Salvation Army, the Indianapolis, Ind., Eagle Creek Corps. After filling out the forms for Christmas assistance, Marissa was invited by Captain Chrissy Cooper, corps officer, to bring her children back to enjoy the Trunk-or-Treat program which provides fun on Halloween in a safe, Christian environment.

"We do so much more than just Angel Tree at Christmastime," Captain Chrissy explained. "We have



programs throughout the year that can help families and that can build character in their children." Marissa happily accepted the Trunk-or-Treat invitation, and it wasn't long before she and her children were familiar faces at the corps.

The children were enrolled in character-building programs and became sunbeams and explorers.

They joined the singing company and competed on the corps' archery team when it hosted a match against Salvation Army youth teams from Lafayette and Marion, Ind. On Tuesday nights, they come to supper club while Marissa lends a hand in the kitchen. This Christmas Marissa can reflect on the blessings her family has received not just during the holidays but the whole year.



## WMNI partners with Tanzania

by Major Carole Caddy

The Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division is excited to be partnered with the Tanzania Territory. We see this partnership as a good opportunity to achieve greater involvement from individuals, groups and events in support of World Services/Self-Denial. Every corps has been challenged to submit a stretch pledge of what they plan to raise toward our two projects, with targets based on an increase over their soldier giving last year.

For instance, although the Grand Rapids Fulton Heights, Mich., Corps has raised 100 percent of their World Services/Self-Denial goal for many years, they are using this initiative to ramp up their missions program. Corps Missionary Sergeant Janelle McDonald has provided a different focus for education and giving over several months. The first month she introduced Tanzania and asked the

corps members to pray. The next month she shared information about Army programs, and the third month she prepared a blessing tax calendar where daily giving is related to facts about the lifestyle of people living in Tanzania. For example, on a date that notes television only came to Tanzania in 2001, soldiers are instructed to give a quarter for each TV program they watch that day. Janelle has planned something different each month through April to keep the project in front of soldiery and to encourage giving. The corps anticipates raising about \$36,000, more than half of one of our projects in Tanzania.

Divisionally, every event has a target for 20 New Corps giving. In the past fundraising has been conducted at men's and women's camps and at youth councils, but now targets have been established for officers councils, corps cadet retreat, kids' councils, Camp Homecoming Day and the officer family Christmas party. WMNI Divisional Headquarters (DHQ) employees are engaging in the initiative and learning about Tanzania through monthly presentations during chapel service. DHQ employees have set a first-ever target of \$2,500 this year.

A 20 New Corps divisional committee composed of soldiers, officers and employees is working diligently to drive this initiative. They are confident our division can raise \$150,000.



## More for the money

Illustrating that U.S. dollars often go much further in underdeveloped countries than in first-world nations, the relatively modest amounts needed by the Tanzania Territory through the 20 New Corps initiative not only will purchase land for and construct three new corps buildings and quarters but build a chapel for the Training College on the grounds of the Tanzania Territorial Headquarters in Dar es Salaam, the country's largest city.

The Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division has been partnered with Tanzania on these two projects. The first project is the training college chapel and the purchase of land and

building of a corps and quarters in Kemondo on the western shores of Lake Victoria. Having identified the area as one of expansion in Tanzania, the territory is turning the long-time outpost in Kemondo into a corps for a more visible presence in the community.

Without a hall or quarters the outpost uses a soldier's home for meetings,

and its leaders rent a small room for their family to live in. The territory believes the Army's advance in Kemondo will be a wonderful encouragement to soldiers and provide greater access to communities that haven't been exposed to Army ministries. The mission impact is expected to be significant.

The second project is purchasing land and constructing corps and quarters in Uyole and Lwanzali. Both outposts provide Army ministries, but the constraints of their current locations prohibit growth and stability. The territory wants to increase the Army's visibility and ministry in high-density areas because the more corps it can open in larger cities, the greater its ability to raise funds and expand ministry.

Uyole is a crowded suburb of Mbeya, a city in southwestern Tanzania.



Janelle McDonald



## A Christmas story Continued from page 1

Christmas. Yet a stable is hardly a good place for a baby to be born. The reality is that there was no room for Jesus.

That reality is still true today with the over-commercialization of Christmas to the point where most of our time, energy and attention is focused on other things. We are so busy that we have no space or time left to remember that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of the Christ-child.

God came into the world for the poor, ordinary people, not just for kings and princes. The announcement of the angels concerning the birth of God's Messiah is to a group of shepherds. What a wonderful thought that God came into the reality of our human existence and came, without discrimination, for the humble, ordinary people.

James Irwin, one of the few astronauts to have walked on the moon, was asked about his experiences in space. He spoke about the importance of space exploration and how mankind has been helped with medical research, new technologies and a greater understanding of the universe in which we live. He went on to describe the wonder of gazing at our small blue planet from such a distance in space and realizing just how beautiful and unique it is. He also spoke about the wonder of standing on the moon in 1971 and seeing an earthrise. He said that it is important for the good of mankind that it is technically possible for a man to walk on the moon, but how much more important it is that God, in Jesus, came into our world and walked upon earth. The arrival of Jesus in our world makes many things possible: it is possible for us to know hope and love; to enjoy a personal relationship with God the Creator; to experi-

ence forgiveness for the wrong things that we do; and it is possible for us to experience a sense of peace and belonging in this troubled world.

Sadly, we see still so much injustice, hate, violence and corruption in the world that at times we are brought to utter despair. If only the world would see and take hold of the greatest gift that God gives us in Jesus.

The words of Major Joy Webb's song "Come into our world!" reflect a longing and a plea, for without God our world is a sorry place:

*All around us, seemingly, darkness holds its sway;  
Truth and love are faltering, peace in disarray;  
And if we needed you, we need you now!*

*Come into our world,  
Come into our world, now, Lord Jesus!  
People sit in loneliness, children cry for bread;  
Men fight men in hatred, by suspicion led;  
And if we needed you, we need you now!*

*Faced with such confusion, hope has slipped away;  
Men have stopped believing, forgotten how to pray;  
And if we needed you, we need you now!*

Thankfully it does not need to be like this, our world can be different, but if that is to happen it requires each of us to experience a change of heart, to be changed and transformed so that the life God intended for us becomes a reality through his Son, Jesus. No wonder that the angels rejoiced and sang: "Glory to God in the highest heaven..." (Luke 2:14).

Plan now to attend the

# Forward Together

Congress led by  
General André  
and  
Commissioner  
Silvia Cox

June 9-11  
2017



at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates, Ill.

## Commissioning of the "Joyful Intercessors"

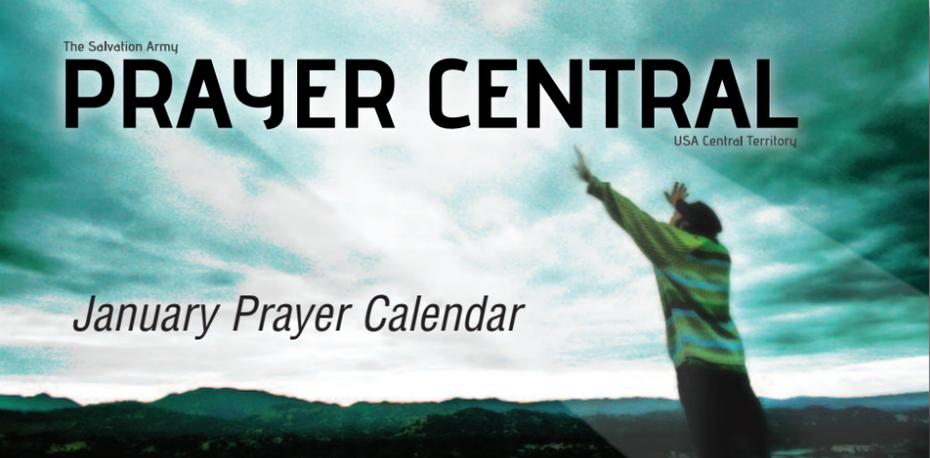
Inspiring meetings • Activities for the entire family  
Territorial Youth Councils • Territorial Officers' Councils  
Music by the Chicago Staff Band • Massed Singing Company  
Retirement of Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler



Soldiers of the outpost there worship in a space between two houses. The second outpost, Lwanzali, is near Tabora, a city in western Tanzania. The outpost started with worship meetings under a tree; today it uses borrowed space with a small shelter. Tabora is particularly important because The Salvation Army's work in Tanzania started there in 1933. The region is very poor and has a high proportion of disabled and albino children, considered the most

vulnerable populations in the country.

The Tanzania Territory has more than 7,300 soldiers, 4,400 junior soldiers and 160 officers at 82 corps and 57 outposts. In recent years a corps leadership training program was initiated for the preparation and placement of mature, committed Salvationists to lead new corps plants. Thirty people were trained in the first session and many more await training.



# PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army USA Central Territory

## January Prayer Calendar

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

Go to [www.prayercentralusa.org](http://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



## Hurricane Matthew response fast and strong

The response of The Salvation Army to the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and the U.S. southern and eastern coastlines was immediate and effective.



Two Haitian women navigate dangerous flooding.

After the category-four hurricane swept through Haiti, it was reported the number of dead had soared to nearly 1,000 with tens of thousands left homeless. Untreated storm injuries and outbreaks of cholera from poor sanitation and lack of clean drinking water claimed even more lives.

Centralite Major Robert Doliber, currently Haiti divisional secretary for business administration, was part of an assessment team sent to view the damage and meet with officers who'd been both responders to and victims of the hurricane, the strongest to hit the Caribbean in a decade.

The major reported, "Besides the immediate needs of food and shelter, the loss of crops for miles and miles will have a devastating impact on the livelihoods of thousands of families and raise food prices for those who have already been dealing with double digit inflation and daily incomes of less than \$2 a day."

Initial emergency funds from International Headquarters in London were used to purchase basic food items for distribution to sheltered families. The funds also enabled the Army to provide a hot meal for beneficiaries every day for eight days while the situation continues to be assessed.

As Hurricane Matthew moved up the U.S. coast, killing at least 43 peo-

ple, The Salvation Army was once again at the forefront. Within the first few days of the damaging winds, storms surges and flooding, Salvation Army emergency disaster service efforts in the affected communities served hundreds of thousands of meals, beverages and snacks from nearly 100 canteens. More than 700 people were sheltered, and emotional and spiritual care was provided to thousands.

### --Mustard Seeds--



## Home team scores!

The Rochester, Minn., Corps scored big when more than 130 people attended a sports-themed evangelistic Sunday school promotion called "There is Power in the Name of Jesus." Corps members were split into two teams named after their Minnesota favorites—the Twins and the Vikings—with the goal of bringing family and friends who are fans of the sports teams to the corps on Sundays.

"Slider," the mascot for the local Rochester Honkers baseball team, was the guest. A particularly heart-warming moment came when a little girl asked the mascot, "Do you know Jesus?" Slider turned to the little girl, raised his hands and gave her two thumbs up!

"People of all ages at the corps are always looking for new ways to evangelize," said Major Paulette Frye, Rochester corps officer with her husband, James. "We try in everything we do to tell people about Jesus."



Corps members are involved in many programs to the community, representing Christ and forming relationships.

Photo by Craig Dirkes

The event was just one of the evangelistic outreaches practiced day-to-day by corps members through their ministries and in their personal lives. Not only are they involved in the more than 30 ministries and services offered to the community, they're also ready to share the gospel thanks in part to the evangelism training they received earlier this year to meet their vital few goals in the corps' STEPs (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) process. The social workers also let families know the corps offers church and after-school programs.

"It's about more than food, clothing and shelter. People come to us when they just need to pray with another person," Major Paulette continued. One man suffering from schizophrenia comes every week to pray with Maintenance Supervisor Dave Kruger.

"We see individuals and families every day who simply need to know they're wanted and cared for. Everyone works hard to keep the mission of the Army alive by letting people in need know someone who cares is always there for them," Major Paulette concluded.



Team mascot "Slider" is a hit with the Rochester Corps' Sunday school members.

## Christmas 1942

by Colonel Dennis Phillips

December 1942. Though only four years old, I remember that cold, bleak Christmas season as if it were yesterday for it marked the rest of my life. The horror of Hitler's war machine sweeping mercilessly across Europe reached all the way to 1165½ S. Madison Ave. in Grand Rapids, Mich. I can still see the 20 steps leading to the cold apartment where my mother managed to scrape out a living and keep our family together. It was the worst of times.

I knew Christmas was coming because the windows of Herpolzheimer's were filled with decorations and lights. And the Sunday school at the Madison Square Gospel Center was preparing a special program. Yet, just two days before Christmas, nothing in that upstairs apartment hinted that the holy holiday was near: no tree, no decorations, no presents. But as a small boy I hoped beyond reason that somehow, despite an absent father and a world at war, presents tied up in bows would magically appear.

I can still see the anguish on my mother's face when I asked, "Where are the presents? I don't see any presents."

"Don't worry, son," she answered. "The Santa Claus Girls will bring us presents. Food, too."

And as I waited, mid-morning on Christmas Day I heard the scraping of their feet as they climbed the stairs and the crescendo of their steps as they approached the door. Listen, perhaps you'll hear their confident knock against the drafty door. My mother, a woman of pride even in dark circumstances, straightened her apron and brushed back her graying hair as she approached the door. After a deep breath, and with me at her side, she opened it slowly with style. There stood two Santa Claus Girls with stocking hats and red capes adorned with white fuzzy trim, their arms full of presents and food!

Strangely, I don't remember what happened next. What toys did they bring? What food was in those baskets? What I do remember is knowing that moment what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wanted to be the person on the other side of the door when abandoned mothers and children stand clinging to hope on Christmas Day.

A few years later and in a different neighborhood a Salvation Army captain drove his 1941 Ford to our corner and opened the trunk which was filled with donuts. There must have been 30 or 40 kids on that block—all poor. Donuts were a huge treat. And that feeling of wanting to be that person when I grew up resurfaced. Before I knew it, I was selling Christmas *Way Crys* and "standing kettles" on Monroe Street in downtown Grand Rapids.

All the years of my officership I relived that 1942 Christmas and was blessed to be the footsteps, the knock on the door, the one who brought the gold, frankincense and myrrh in the form toys, blankets and food in the name of the One whose birth we celebrate.

## Promoted to Glory

Major Daniel Uptegrove



Major Daniel Uptegrove was promoted to Glory on September 26, 2016. He was 83 years old.

Born in Ottumwa, Iowa, Daniel entered the U.S. Army after graduating high school and was deployed during the Korean War. Upon his return he felt a call to officership and entered training from Kewanee, Ill., in 1955 to join the "Soul-Winners" session. He met Lt. Charlene Beach, whom he married on July 5, 1957, a year after he was commissioned. Together they served in corps until their retirement in 1997 to Kansas City, Mo., where they remained involved in corps ministries.

A dedicated pastor, Bible scholar and prayer warrior, Major Dan also was a faithful Kiwanian and outstanding boy scoutmaster. He is survived by his wife, Charlene, sons Kris, Kurt and Kelly, and two grandchildren, Josh and Tyler.

# New Members

July - September 2016

85 Senior Soldiers  
9 Adherents  
51 Junior Soldiers



## Salvation Army Visit Weekend

January 26-29, 2017

Experience college first hand with Salvationists from across the country

For high school juniors and seniors register online at [asbury.edu/salvationarmy](http://asbury.edu/salvationarmy)