



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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Karaoke meets the kettle

Demonstrating a little "kettle karaoke" while ringing bells can be a laugh-filled, cheer-spreading experience for ringers and donors alike. The Salvation Army in the Twin Cities has partnered with personalities from local radio stations to raise funds and promote ringer recruitment!

"Our goal is to show bellringing is fun and that anyone can do it!" said Julie Orlando, divisional special events manager.

A series of fun clips starring the

radio personalities are filmed and posted on social media sites every November. The personalities sing well-known Christmas tunes while clowning around in front of a Cub Foods store, inviting passersby to join in by holding the bell like a microphone in front of their faces! The celebrity ringers demonstrate that even a weakly warbled but sincere rendition of "Silent Night" or the simple greeting of "Merry Christmas" with a smile can attract people to the kettle stand.

iHeartRadio, a primary media partner, supplies personalities from five affiliated stations—K102, KDWB, KFAN, Cities97 and KOOL108. The latter station typically plays greatest hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s but broadcasts 100 percent Christmas music during November and December.

"It's a perfect fit for our Christmas messaging," Julie continued, "and Cub Foods, our largest kettle partner with close to \$1 million

raised each year through ringers at their stores, loves that we film at their locations!"

Viewers on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and YouTube are challenged to get in on the fun by registering online to volunteer as bellringers and film their own clips for posting using #Kettle Karaoke.

"The majority of the clips are posted on Instagram and Twitter," said Julie. "We do a 'surprise and delight' for some posters by awarding Chick-fil-A gift cards donated by the company." The celebrity clips also are shown on the large rotunda screen at the Mall of America throughout "Celebrity Bell

Ringer Day" on which the radio personalities also ring bells.

"We gain free social exposure and expand our reach every year, and the radio personalities love sharing the clips and photos taken during filming with their followers," Julie concluded.



Photos by Craig Dirkes

A world-changing relationship

by General Brian Peddle

It's a privilege to greet you this Christmas, my first as the General of The Salvation Army. Throughout 131 countries around the world, The Salvation Army is bringing a message of hope as we seek to work for justice, righteousness and the extension of God's Kingdom—not in our own strength, you understand, only through his power.

Our hope this Christmas is founded in the person of Christ Jesus who is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace and Everlasting Father. The titles are first found in the early verses of Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, which contain a message of hope to a people living in darkness and death—hope of light and life which are only found in the promised Savior. Into this situation comes not a theory or a method, but a person. A living, breathing human—born as a vulnerable baby.

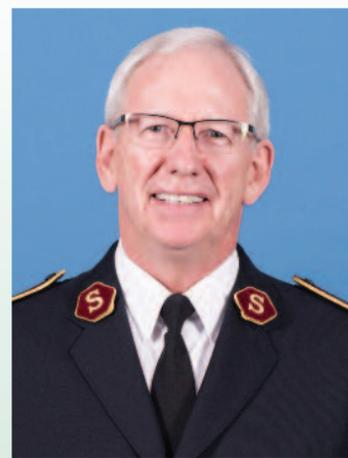
Hope is found in relationship with Jesus—the Light of the World who shatters the darkness. Hope is found not in dead ritualistic religion, but in vibrant, life-giving relationship with God.

Who is this Jesus? He is God in human form—no longer distant and unreachable, but right here with us. He is our Wonderful Counselor, who speaks words of wisdom and guides us into truth. He is our Mighty God for whom nothing is impossible—he forgives sins, heals diseases and raises the dead. He is our Prince of Peace, who comes in love, providing rest for the weary and comfort for the troubled. He is our Everlasting Father, offering a familial relationship that can last for eternity, including protection and provision in the here and now. This is the Jesus who was born in the manger, hangs on the Cross and bursts out of the grave!

You can know this Jesus today.

Jesus is all about justice, righteousness and salvation. The people who heard Isaiah's prophecy, the people who lived at the time of Jesus and we who are alive today are all too familiar with a broken world where injustices are prevalent and which is blighted by lack of morality. The person, message and method found in Jesus bring a countercultural perspective that transforms the dark and lifeless falsehood of the kingdom of this world into the gloriously bright, vivacious reality of the Kingdom of God.

You and I can experience this transformation and share the same with



others when we live in relationship with Jesus.

It may sound like an idealistic vision or too good to be true. We can't achieve this on our own—if we could, humankind would have figured it out by now! As the words from Isaiah remind us, it can

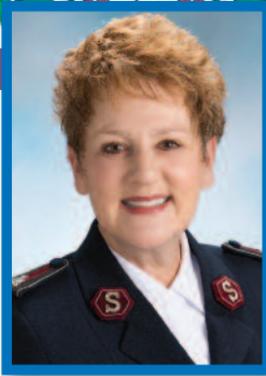
only be accomplished through the power of God—"The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this" (v. 7, NIV).

So this Christmas, let us trust God, rely on his power, live in relationship with him and partner with him to bring life, light and hope to our world.

May God bless you.

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A Christmas reveal party!

by Commissioner Heidi Bailey
Territorial President of Women's Ministries

A few months ago our friends couldn't wait to share the news they were going to be grandparents and proudly showed us the ultrasound of the baby. Of course, we couldn't help but share their great news with others.

God chose the least likely people to share the magnificent announcement of the birth of His Son.

According to Luke 2:8-12, there were shepherders camped out in the neighborhood when, oddly enough, an angel of the Lord joined them. The sky lit up in a blaze of God's glory, and the shepherders were speechless.

At God's reveal party, the angel exclaimed, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, world-

wide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger." (*The Message*)

So why were the shepherders picked to share this event with others? In modern terms, they would be

blue-collar workers with no influence to speak of and largely unnoticed by those in power. Did the shepherders deserve such a privilege? No, they didn't, but it was for their joy.

It's still true today. Though we are undeserving, God has chosen to reveal Himself to us for *our* joy and *His* glory. So, this Christmas organize your own reveal party and share your great news about the Savior with others, especially the unnoticed and the marginalized—for *their* joy and *His* glory!

Christmas roast warms the soul



Chip George prepares the Red Kettle Roast beans.

spirit!" said Captain Brenna.

The Lees are passionate about coffee. The art of selecting, blending and roasting coffee beans has been one of Lt. Vinal's favorite—and most serious—hobbies for years! Due to their shared love of coffee, the Lees became good friends with the owners of The

During the Christmas season, it's coffee beans rather than chestnuts that roast on an open fire when the Madison, Ind., corps officers bring back their annual "Red Kettle Roast," sales of which benefit the corps' Jefferson County community. The aromatic and tasty blend developed by Lt. Vinal and Captain Brenna Lee with coffee barista Chip George has become an increasingly popular tradition with local and internet fans of the delicious brew.

"Coffee, Christmas and neighbors helping neighbors. It's a perfect way to get in the holiday



Attic Coffee Mill Café in Madison, who came up with the idea as a fun and festive way for their business to support the corps' annual red kettle campaign. Brochures are distributed throughout town to promote sales of Red Kettle Roast.

The smooth, perfectly roasted blend has become a seasonal favorite in the Jefferson County community for a third year. In addition to sales of the brewed beverage, the coffee beans are available for online or local purchase in prepackaged bags or sold loose in the café store.

"We're grateful for neighbors who think creatively and use their gifts to support The Salvation Army," Lt. Vinal concluded.

Red Kettle Roast can be ordered online at atticmadison.com/store

New homes for beautiful dolls



Major Lee Ann Thompson, Western divisional director of women's ministries, divisional headquarters employee Marianne Turner, and Mrs. Peggy Carroll with some of her dolls.

by Major Lee Ann Thompson

This Christmas among the thousands of toys at The Salvation Army's Toyland in Omaha, Neb., are some stunning, hand-dressed dolls with an international flair just waiting to find a new home with children whose parents turn to us for assistance. One doll is Dutch, another German, still another Swedish; 18 in all, they are as beautiful as when they were dressed and harken back to a program that was a Christmas tradition for more than 40 years.

In the late 1960s The Salvation Army in Omaha and Mutual of Omaha Insurance partnered in a citywide opportunity for people who loved to sew and wanted to bring joy to a boy or girl through the Dress-a-Doll program. On public display, hundreds of dolls were judged, awarded prizes as the best dressed in several categories, and then packed up for distribution at our Toyland.

From 1999 to 2004 I was responsible for the Doll and Teddy Bear program. I would order hundreds of dolls and bears in April and begin distributing them to volunteers who would dress them. It was fun to hear what they had in mind; many worked on their theme all year.

One of my favorite seasonal events was the auction of some of the dolls at the downtown Rotary Club during their Christmas meeting which enabled us to purchase dolls and bears for the next year. Many dolls had layers and layers of skirts,

detailed topstitching, embroidery and hand smocking. Some came with handmade wooden furniture; a few were accompanied by a matching dress for the child. They were spectacular! It was fun to watch the members, then mostly men, carefully select which doll to bid on. At the meeting's conclusion many gave me their doll back to take to Toyland.

Recently Mrs. Peggy Carroll, who was the Rotary Club secretary for years and had purchased dolls with an international theme, donated her collection back to the Army to be given to children through Toyland. Like new, her dolls brought back precious memories of the people who lovingly handmade the outfits, the Rotarians who were so generous, and the parents who painstakingly selected just the right one for their child. Though the program ended more than a decade ago, many people still ask about it and remember how much joy it brought to children and dressers alike.

Today, though this program has ceased, the tradition of bringing joy at Christmas continues. This holiday season, The Salvation Army in the Metro Omaha area will provide food and toys to over 20,000 people through four Toyland locations. More than 2,000 families will have Christmas delivered to their door through the Adopt-a-Family Radiothon, and nearly 3,200 children at 20 schools will enjoy fun Christmas assemblies presented by The Salvation Army.

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847-294-2000

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ANNE URBAN
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A Christmas family feast

by Elizabeth Budelman

Can you imagine being alone and hungry on Christmas Day? Thanks to Don Rosette, Milwaukee County, Wis., residents have a place to spend the holiday.

In 1990 Don relocated to Milwaukee for a job. He wanted to do something for his new community and noticed Milwaukee lacked something for those in need on Christmas Day. This sparked his idea for "Christmas Family Feast."

He started the free event in an unfamiliar place knowing no one. When it came time to find a location, donors and volunteers, he just picked up the phone.

"No one said 'no' when I asked them to donate," Don said, "Everything just worked out."

His first contact was The Salvation Army of Milwaukee County. They



Don Rosette, founder of the feast

immediately agreed to help him and the list of sponsors grew from there, including Sysco, Jennie-O and Sara Lee.

On December 25, 1990, the first Christmas Family Feast was held, and 3,000 people attended.

In 2017 the event drew nearly 8,500 attendees. Shelters and church feeding programs

also picked up pre-plated meals to deliver to their locations. The total number of people served was nearly 24,000.

Now a Salvation Army event, the Christmas meal consists of ham, turkey and

dressing, mashed potatoes, yams, green beans, dinner rolls and an assortment of desserts and beverages. The man behind the meal is Chef Bob Ilk. He has been the head chef of the program for five years, along with the late Chef Gus Kelly. A few days before the feast, Chef Bob starts the cooking process with help from dozens of volunteers.

In total, nearly 1,100 people volunteer from preparing food in the kitchen, to serving guests, to helping with registration, to providing entertainment.



In addition to food, Christmas Family Feast offers entertainment and a lot of Christmas spirit. From welcoming carolers to juggling elves to an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus, the day provides fun for all ages.

At the end of the feast families are given a bag of food and age-appropriate toys, along with vouchers for public transportation back to their homes.

"Christmas Family Feast is one of the largest feeding programs hosted by The Salvation Army in the country on Christmas Day," concluded Major Steve Merritt, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divisional commander. "We are thankful for Don's vision, leadership and the hard work of our community relations department to keep the event running year after year."



Chef Bob Ilk and his son, Sous Chef Joe Ilk



Bellringing long and strong

At 83 years old, it might seem like a good time for Raymond Brown to slow down. But as long as the doctor says he's healthy enough to work, Ray is dedicated to ringing bells at kettles for the Salina, Kan., Corps. This season marks his 32nd year as a fulltime bellringer.

"You just have to use common sense," he said. "There will be days when the kettle isn't full. But you have to take your breaks and your lunch so you don't wear out."

Ray met The Salvation Army when

the company he was working for folded and he needed employment. He saw an ad in the paper for bellringers and decided to give it a try.

"I was the only one to stick it out for the whole season," he said. "So the next year they invited me back." And he's been invited back every year since, despite changes in officers and corps employees.

Ray found his niche ringing the bell at Kmart. He's become such a fixture at the store during the holidays that Captain Lynn Lopez, corps officer, says people swing by just to see him and drop a donation in his kettle.

"My first year here the manager told me, 'We want Ray. He's family!'" she said. "And I thought, 'I need to meet Ray!' He's faithfully there every day with a smile on his face."

Last year, Ray received the Bellringer of the Year award from the corps. He was the only bellringer to work the entire season without missing a shift.

"I enjoy doing it," he concluded. "When I finally can't do it anymore, I'll volunteer at the corps."



A robot ringer?



Photo by Todd McInturf / The Detroit News

Bellringers come in all shapes and sizes. Men and women, groups of children or entire families often volunteer to ring the bell next to a red kettle stand. Sometimes there's a cute animal, a costume or a competition involved. But never has a bellringer been made of metal and robotically controlled—until now.

The Hammerheads, a robotics team comprised of teens from two Troy, Mich., high schools, used their talents to modify their award-winning robot so it can ring the bell, greeting visitors to Oakland Mall with the familiar, rhythmic sound that serves as a backdrop for holiday shopping.

"We love it. You see reactions from

utter amazement to 'What is this?'" Captain Peter Mount, Royal Oak, Mich., corps officer said. "You're used to seeing a person standing there ringing the bell, and now you have a robot that's doing it. That's absolutely incredible."

The 60-pound, battery-powered device also boasts an LED screen that scrolls the message "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

The robot draws attention and donations while also sparking interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) learning, making the arrangement a win-win for the corps and the robotics team, who plan to continue volunteering with their robot to ring the bell.

Women inspired, empowered to rise

More than 1,500 women from the Central Territory and beyond gathered at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare for the Arise and Shine Conference, a weekend of powerful praise, prayer and personal reflection. From the start, delegates' excitement and expectation filled the air. The event, led by Commissioner Heidi Bailey and Colonel Janice Howard, and supported by the territorial women's ministries department, didn't disappoint.

"It takes a lot of effort, courage and coordination for a woman to



Preconference speaker Kristin Schell inspires with her brilliant idea of the turquoise table.

leave home for the weekend," said Captain Catherine Mount, Royal Oak, Mich., corps officer who brought the largest corps delegation—44 women—to the conference. "Through support from the corps, divisional and territorial headquarters, our women made the effort to invite friends, raise money and have a great weekend!"

The preconference drew nearly 200 women to learn about their privilege of joining God's work in the world. They were inspired in sessions by Katelyn Beaty, former *Christianity Today* editor and author of *A Woman's Place: A Christian Vision for Your Calling in the Office, the Home, and the World*, and the Rev. Bonnie Camarda, who taught on women leaders breaking through the "glass ceiling," based on the book of Esther, a workshop she also taught in Spanish the next day.

All preconference delegates also enjoyed a presentation by Kristin Schell, author of *The Turquoise Table*, who shared how she redeemed her front yard for God's glory by creating a space of hospitality and community in her neighborhood in the form of a turquoise picnic table.

"I've been inspired to prepare a comfortable, safe place at my corps, similar to a turquoise table where people can gather," said Captain Catherine Fitzgerald, New Albany, Ind., corps officer.

At the end of the preconference luncheon, a turquoise table was auctioned off to raise funds for The Salvation Army World Service Office's WORTH program in Kenya which empowers women through literacy and finance education, work-skills training and microfinancing. This life-changing program provides opportunities for



The Royal Oak, Mich., Corps delegation

them to start their own businesses, contribute income to their households and meet the needs of their children. Over the entire weekend, with the impetus of women helping women, more than \$29,000 was raised for WORTH.

Conference workshops offered a plethora of opportunities and proved popular with standing-room only.

They ranged from "Spiritual Formation for Children" and "Living and Loving the Word of God" to "Being the Bridge in a Divided World" and "Balance and Self-Care



Sheri Martin's testimony prompted a standing ovation.



Jo Saxton effectively unpacks the scripture.



Many women sought God together at the altar.



Shanell Allen from the Blue Island, Ill., Corps with Emily Proccichiani, a soldier at the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps who dramatically presented scripture



Sharon Irving leads powerful praise.



Delegates from the Milwaukee West, Wis., Corps enter into worship.



Beautiful interpretive movement by Captain Denesia Polusca and Marie-Ange Hayden opens the conference.

to new heights



Colonel Janice Howard and Commissioner Heidi Bailey

the Lord to intervene in every area of their lives.

"I felt challenged, encouraged, stretched," said Ann Jones from the Milwaukee West, Wis., Corps. "It was a whole lot of God speaking to me."

Occasionally using street speech in her two messages, Amy Williams gave a glimpse into her ministry and work

Strategies." Among the most popular was "Soulful Motion," a fitness class appealing to delegates of all ages. The buzz and laughter during the workshops and as women left confirmed the content had resonated with them.

Each united session was blessing filled as delegates drew from the experiences of others. They heard moving testimonies of God's intervention in women's lives, how He changed them from being victims to victors and equipped them to lead and



"Hope Dealer" Amy Williams speaks on each person's inherent worth.

with gangs and incarcerated youth. Her words conjured many emotions for delegates as the inherent value of every individual and God's redemptive power was driven home.

"I learned God can use you even when you're broken," said Genesis Alvarez from the Kansas City Blue Valley, Mo., Corps. "Sometimes His light can shine brighter through the cracks."

In contrast, Shanell Allen, Blue Island, Ill., Corps soldier, shared,



Emcees Captain Denesia Polusca and Sarah Miesch

love others. On Saturday morning Sheri Martin's remarkable life story brought delegates to their feet as they cheered her on. An intense panel discussion about entering into the lives of others and sharing God's love followed.

Conference guests included author, pastor and speaker Jo Saxton, gang-intervention specialist Amy Williams, and singer/songwriter and spoken word artist Sharon Irving.

In the keynote session, Jo Saxton compelled women to rise above life's circumstances and shine for Christ. She unpacked the scripture in a simple yet profound—and at times humorous—way. Many women responded to her invitation to allow



The Soulful Motion workshop—a hit with delegates of all ages!



Delegates make flower crowns for the banquet.

"I've been challenged to scream about injustice on behalf of those who don't have a voice."

Delegates also were blessed by the ministry of Sharon Irving, who was used by the Holy Spirit to usher them into God's presence with a united focus through music.

Sharon also provided background music for the Saturday evening, floral-themed banquet where women engaged in casual



Major Michele Heaver talks with the Rev. Bonnie Camarda.



Lyndsay Rowland, Holly McDougall and Major Christine Merritt

Captain Judi Fetzer, Pontiac, Mich., corps officer.

Kirsten Hull from the Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps, captured the conference's essence, "I love how we can come together and grow in our faith, but the best part is being sent out to make our family bigger and better."

conversations and shared on a deeper level prompted by questions from the women's ministries Embrace program.

Throughout the conference delegates interacted with each other. Groups gathered at photo booths to capture memories. Mothers and daughters shared the weekend and held hands and prayed. Old friendships were reignited, and new ones made.

In the final message, Commissioner Bailey challenged women to live out the Kingdom of God. "The Kingdom of God is not about how loudly we declare it," she said. "But it's about how soundly we live it." At its conclusion, many women knelt at the altar, while others responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit where they sat. God's anointing on the event was evident, and many returned home inspired and empowered.

"One of my women told me as I dropped her off at 2:00 a.m., 'I called my daughter and told her we've found our church. I'm ready to be a soldier,'" reported



Etta Johnson from the Bay City, Mich., Corps



Captains Marisa McCluer and Kelly Hanton of the Kansas and Western Missouri Division lead Sunday praise and worship.

Photos by Andrew Grey and Cathleen Himes

The Kansas City Northland, Mo., Corps

“Everyone, from the lowliest to the most influential, holds power when they pray,” said Major James Mungai, Kansas City Northland, Mo., corps officer who also serves as Kansas and Western Missouri Division’s ambassador for prayer.



Toni Groves and James Mozie pray together.

Prayer is a central focus of the Northland Corps, where a prayer room has been established to encourage ongoing, focused and consistent prayer. The atmosphere of the large space is carefully designed to be conducive to an attitude of prayer. Elements of the room engage each of the five senses, and pamphlets are available to help guide prayer for specific topics, from the personal (how to pray for your child) to the global (how to pray for victims of human trafficking).

The prayer room is open to the public and is used by community members, corps soldiers and volunteers. It also has been used by the Pathway of Hope case manager and a food pantry volunteer as a quiet place to pray with clients.

Prayer isn’t confined within the walls of the prayer room, however. Newly enrolled junior and senior soldiers are paired up with a prayer partner to mentor them in their faith and prayer life. During the week social media, texts and phone

calls create a chain of prayer requests and praise reports, and Sunday morning worship includes a dedicated season of prayer during which the corps family prays over one another. Prayer request cards with the message, “It’s an honor to pray for you,” are visible in several locations, and have been used by visitors and members alike to share their needs for prayer. Completed cards are collected and requests lifted up by the corps prayer warriors.

“If the Word of God is like manna for our souls, then prayer is like oxygen,” Major James said. “It’s our breath.”

The major likens prayer to being plugged into a power source—an “energizing center”—which keeps vision and mission alive. It’s no surprise, then, that not only does he pray with and for his congregation and encourage them to pray for one another, but he asks them to lift him up in prayer as well.

“Leaders need the power of prayer behind them,” he said. “In prayer we find power, guidance, protection, refreshment. If I’m not praying, I’m on dangerous ground. My defenses are down.”

Major James says it’s not necessary to know details in order to lift up leaders in prayer—it’s enough to know they are under tremendous pressure on a consistent basis.

“Prayer can support them the way Aaron and Hur held up Moses’ arms until the battle was won. It can mean the difference between victory and defeat in battles we know nothing about,” he explained (see Exodus 17:8-16).

The practice of praying for leaders is a natural outflow of commitment to prayer both personally and corporately. “We need to turn our corps into houses of prayer,” concluded the major. “It’s an honor and a privilege to pray.”



The Northland Corps praise team prepares for Sunday worship in prayer.



In the prayer room, Dane Carroll drops a worry stone into water.

Photos by Major Curtiss Hartley



Majors James and Penny Mungai pray with the Carroll family.

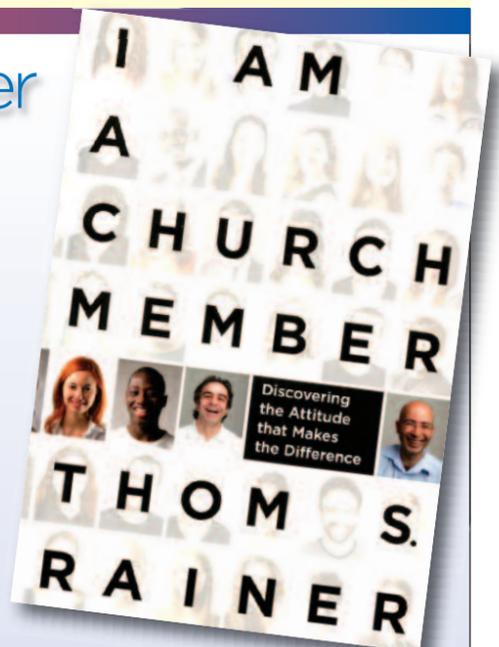
Calling all prayer warriors

by Major Carol Wurtz
Territorial Ambassador for Prayer

As we have moved through the book, *I am a Church Member*, Thom S. Rainer has challenged and encouraged us as members of the body of Christ to examine our view of the church and what membership really means. In the first three chapters, we saw the importance of functioning as the body of Christ. We are part of the whole; working together is critical. Although challenging, unity is essential for a healthy congregation as is putting aside our own preferences and desires as we are called to serve others in Christ’s name.

In chapter four, we are challenged to be people of prayer. Our leaders need to know we pray for them, asking God to protect, encourage and strengthen them. Rainer says church leaders face days on the mountain-top, days in the valley, and in between we vie for their attention.

He guides us in how to pray for our leaders. We should pray for wisdom and insight—even the right words—for their sermon. Let’s pray for their families. In the busyness of



ministry, they often take a back seat. We also should pray for our leaders’ protection and their mental and physical health. Prayer is a critical component of being a unifying church member. Rainer ends this chapter by challenging us to pray even just five minutes a day for our church leaders.

Will you be a praying church member?

The book *I am a Church Member* can be purchased from Trade Central, Amazon or Christianbooks.com

New Members

July - September, 2018

66 Senior Soldiers
30 Adherents
60 Junior Soldiers

COME JOIN OUR ARMY

Headed to the Tournament of Roses!



The Central Territorial Youth Band (TYB) is headed to California to participate in the Tournament of Roses. Celebrating The Salvation Army's 100th appearance in the parade, the TYB's 58 members will join with other Salvation Army territorial youth bands from the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand to form one massed band for the big event! Prior to marching in the parade on New Year's Day, the young musicians will gather for an intense music school, where they'll hone their craft in bands according to their level of skill and rehearse all together for the parade. On Sunday morning each territorial youth band will minister at a corps in the Los Angeles area. Pictured are members of the TYB from the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps with Beth Malovance, TYB coordinator.

Welches ministry a lifelong blessing



Majors Keith and Sherrie Welch have officially retired after 30 years as officers, serving primarily in corps in the Central Territory.

"Although I enjoyed preaching, the most important part of the ministry has been the people we have come to know and become friends with," said Major Keith.

Commissioned in 1988 as part of the "Messengers of Joy" session, the Welches' service as officers led them to six appointments in three decades. They were stationed as corps officers in three Kansas appointments for their first nine years, then spent the next 10 years as corps officers in Holland, Mich.—their longest appointment and the city to which they eventually retired.

Next they were appointed to Indiana Divisional Headquarters with Keith as divisional secretary and Sherrie as the divisional secretary for women's ministries. Their last appointment was back in a corps setting: leading Kalamazoo, Mich.

In addition to an official farewell from the corps, the majors' children planned a fun surprise retirement for them at the Grand Rapids, Mich., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. Thinking they were headed to a Kroc Center "fami-

ly event," Majors Keith and Sherrie were delighted with a gathering of family and friends who thanked them for their service and wished them well in this new season of life. Tributes were given by soldiers from their first to last appointments.

Beth Sharpsteen, who was a soldier at the Welches' first appointment (Wichita Orchard Heights, Kan., Corps) captured what so many feel. "I am so glad to call you my friends," she said. "Your gift of ministry has blessed and continues to bless my heart."

The Salvation Army PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

January Prayer Calendar

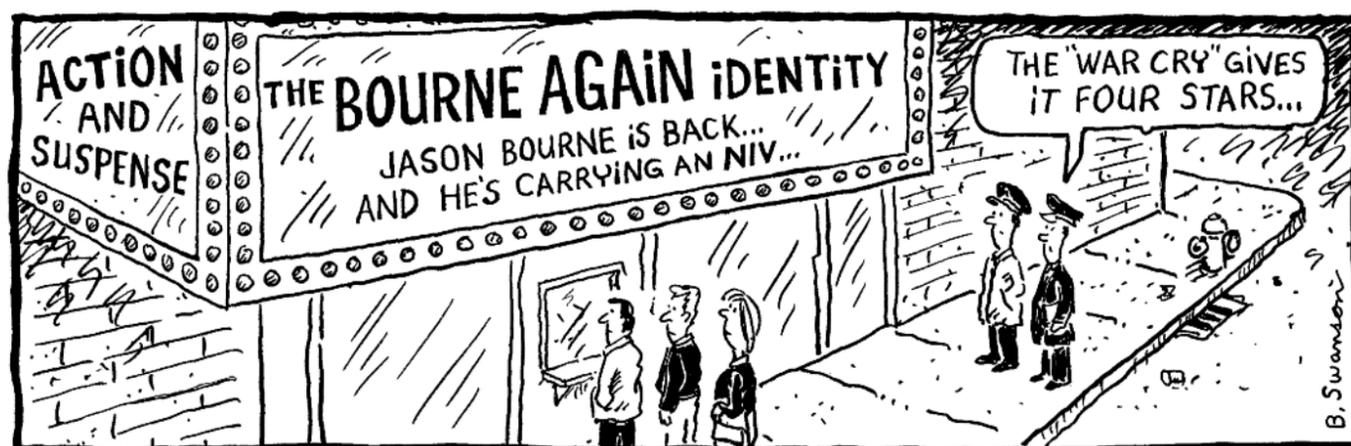
My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Tuesday	Genesis 1-3	Blessings in the New Year!
	2 Wednesday	Joshua 1-5	Mankato, Minn., Corps
	3 Thursday	Psalms 1-2	Mitchell, S. D., Corps
	4 Friday	Job 1-2	LaPorte, Ind., Corps
	5 Saturday	Isaiah 1-6	Menasha Fox Cities, Wis., Corps
	6 Sunday	Matthew 1-2	Southeast Michigan ARC*
	7 Monday	Romans 1-2	Mt. Clemens, Mich., Corps
	8 Tuesday	Genesis 4-7	Moline Heritage Temple, Ill., Corps
	9 Wednesday	Joshua 6-10	Logansport, Ind., Corps
	10 Thursday	Psalms 3-5	Northern DHQ**
	11 Friday	Job 3-4	Elgin, Ill., Corps
	12 Saturday	Isaiah 7-11	Mattoon, Ill., Corps
	13 Sunday	Matthew 3-4	Minneapolis Central, Minn., Corps
	14 Monday	Romans 3-4	Cultural Awareness Week
	15 Tuesday	Genesis 8-11	Newton, Iowa, Corps
	16 Wednesday	Joshua 11-15	Ludington, Mich., Corps
	17 Thursday	Psalms 6-8	Milwaukee Citadel, Wis., Corps
	18 Friday	Job 5-6	Grand Rapids Kroc Center, Mich., Corps
	19 Saturday	Isaiah 12-17	Chicago Staff Band ministry
	20 Sunday	Matthew 5-7	Reconciliation Sunday
	21 Monday	Romans 5-6	St. Louis, Mo., ARC*
	22 Tuesday	Genesis 12-15	Owosso Citadel, Mich., Corps
	23 Wednesday	Joshua 16-20	Muscatine, Iowa, Corps
	24 Thursday	Psalms 9-11	National Advisory Board meeting in Denver, Colo.
	25 Friday	Job 7-8	Madison, Ind., Corps
	26 Saturday	Isaiah 18-22	India South Eastern Territory ^{PIM}
	27 Sunday	Matthew 8-10	People to accept Christ as Savior this Decision Sunday
	28 Monday	Romans 7-8	Olathe, Kan., Corps
	29 Tuesday	Genesis 16-19	Evanston, Ill., Corps
	30 Wednesday	Joshua 21-24	O'Fallon, Mo., Corps
	31 Thursday	Psalms 12-14	Minneapolis Parkview, Minn., Corps

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

* = Adult Rehabilitation Center
 ** = Divisional Headquarters
 PIM = Partners in Mission

--Mustard Seeds--



The next generation of good

by Katherine Basaran

The Central Territory's newest chapter of Echelon can be found in Indianapolis, Ind. Formed in 2017, this group of enthusiastic young professionals is driven by the idea of "Doing The Most Good" in their community.

Started in 2010, Echelon seeks to mobilize the next generation for The Salvation Army by providing opportunities for young adults to engage with the organization through networking, donations and fundraising, service and volunteering. According to Samantha Hyde, director of community relations for the Indiana Division, while young adults don't always have the means to make large donations, they have much to offer in the way of time, skill, passion and talent.

"The Salvation Army is investing in the future," said Samantha. "The young professionals on our Echelon boards across the country are individuals that will spread our cause and champion our mission for many years to come."

In its first year the Indianapolis Echelon chapter already has accomplished a great deal. They have organized several fundraisers, including a signature trivia night that raised thousands of dollars and a Mother's Day



event. They also have spent many hours volunteering throughout the year. They rang bells at kettles and organized a successful crowdfunding campaign during the Christmas season, and hosted a field day for the corps summer camp programs over the summer months.

"I love leading this group," said Molly Puga, president of the Indianapolis Echelon chapter. "Our board is made up of Indy's most talented up-and-coming professionals. It's great being able to collaborate and network while raising awareness and funds for The Salvation Army."

Congratulations!

We congratulate officers this year who obtained undergraduate and graduate degrees, enriching their lives and ministries.

Captain Bridgette Amick	Bachelor of Business Administration
Captain Jason Bigelow	B.S. Psychology of Human Relations
Captain Shawn DeBaar	B.A. Ministry (Bible & Theology)
Major William DeJesus	M.A. Spiritual Formation & Leadership
Captain Erin Eddy	B.S. Practical Ministry
Captain Rich Forney	Master of Pastoral Leadership
Captain Keith Graham	B.S. Practical Ministry
Captain Corey Hughes	Master of Urban Ministry
Captain Thom Moffitt	B.S. Practical Ministry
Captain Alex Norton	B.A. Ministry (Bible & Theology)
Major Barbara Owen	Master of Organizational Leadership
Major Mary Poff	Master of Religion (Pastoral Counseling)
Captain Derek Rose	Bachelor of Business Administration
Major Dan Sawka	Master of Pastoral Leadership
Major Tim Sell	B.S. Practical Ministry
Major Heath Sells	B.S. Practical Ministry
Captain Shanais Strissel	Master of Public Administration
Captain Melinda Tripp	Bachelor of Business Administration
Major Candace Voeller	B.S. Leadership & Ministry
Captain Justin Windell	Master of Organizational Leadership

Promoted to Glory

Major Betty Geddis

Major Betty Geddis, 79, was promoted to Glory on September 21, 2018.

Compassionate and kind with a listening ear, Betty is remembered for her spiritual guidance and as a positive influence on those whose lives she touched.

Betty met Captain Robert Geddis when he was stationed at the Highland Park, Mich., Corps. She entered training, and they were mar-



ried on June 17, 1972. They began their service together as corps officers at the Lafayette, Ind., Corps and continued to serve in corps and adult rehabilitation centers throughout the Midwest until their retirement in 1993 from the Chicago Heights, Ill., Corps.

Still able and willing, they accepted postretirement corps appointments for another eight years, finally retiring fully in 2001 and settling in Marshalltown, Iowa, where they soldiered at the corps.

She is preceded in death by Robert and her son, Frankie. She is survived by her three children, Bonnie Sue (Gordon) Reed, David (Linda) and Jeremy Paul (Alicia); grandchildren and great grandchildren.

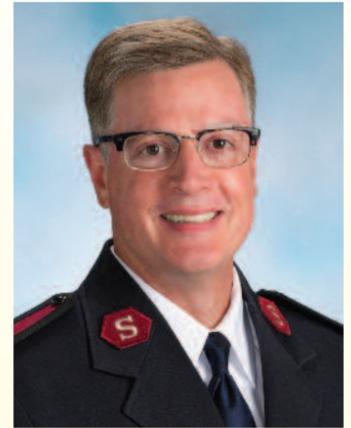
730... AND BEYOND



9,195 days and counting

by Major Steve Merritt

What a journey the past 25 years as an officer has been.



I was raised in a family with multiple generations of officers. Even my nana remembers as a child having William Booth, the Founder of The Salvation Army, visit her parents in their home in northern England. He stopped by to personally thank them for their service to the community. The town was in the midst of a mine strike, and families needed to eat. Salvationists were the ones who provided the basic necessities. Even with a strong Salvation Army heritage and having the opportunity to see the Army at its best, I didn't have the goal of becoming an officer.

My calling to be an officer came following my time in the United States Marine Corps and working in a commercial printing shop. I remember God speaking to me at the National Seminar on Evangelism in Glen Eyrie, Colo., but for three years I kept this to myself and continued to read God's Word, pray and become as involved in my corps as possible while working a fulltime job. One morning in the loudness of the printing shop, I remember clearly hearing God say, "I want your prime time." Although my wife and I were active in the corps and taking on leadership positions, my service

was given often after 12-hour days in the shop. I felt God wanted me to prioritize the giving of my time to Him instead of what was left after work and other responsibilities.

Looking back, I see God was preparing me for what He had in store all along while growing up an officers' child, attending high school in Chicago, being in the Marines and having various jobs. This was especially evident during the three-year period in my spiritual journey when only I knew God was working everything out in my life for me to answer His call.

God made the way for our family of three to enter the School for Officers Training [now College for Officer Training] quickly. Our house sold in one month, and my boss allowed me to remain in my job until the final days before training. For that I am truly grateful. The One who calls is always faithful, and I am thankful to God for all I have experienced as I follow His call obediently day by day.

Generosity star of radiothon

by Susan Eustice

Thanks to The Salvation Army's Adopt-a-Family Radiothon in Omaha, Neb., each year on Christmas morning families across the metro area awaken to the joyous anticipation of discovering gifts under the tree. Since the program's inception 19 years ago, more than 35,400 Omaha families have received in-kind donations and gifts totaling more than \$5 million.

The 48-hour radiothon recruits adult contemporary radio station Star 104.5 listeners to adopt Omaha families who have registered for holiday assistance. Listeners who adopt a family commit to providing gifts valued up to \$30 for each child age 15 and under, as well as a grocery gift certificate for a complete family holiday meal. The sponsor then personally delivers the grocery gift certificate and gifts to the family at their residence.

"The radiothon is the vital link connecting those in need with those



wanting to help," said Dr. Linda Burkle, Western divisional director of social services. "It is by far the most efficient and personally rewarding means to bring Christmas joy and hope to families struggling to make ends meet."

Last year 1,860 families were adopted by generous listeners, with donations valued at more than \$370,000.

This year the radiothon is being held at the Westroads Mall in Omaha where more than 200 volunteers will staff a 10-person phone bank from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. over the two-day event. Depending on their budget, each donor will be matched with a family of the appropriate size.