



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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December 2021

Bucket Blitz becomes a destination in Quincy

It's the familiar sounds of Salvation Army bells at Christmas, but it's a fundraiser like no other. For 37 years, The Salvation Army in Quincy, Ill., has teamed up with its local NBC affiliate (WGEM-TV) to host a weeklong Bucket Blitz.

The name says it all. Salvation Army officers, advisory board members, staff and volunteers grab a bucket and a bell and raise as much

money as they can in just four days.

The blitz goes from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The goal is to raise \$30,000 in those four days to support the annual Christmas campaign. Not knowing what to expect last year during the pandemic, the Bucket



tomers will throw some change their way on the way out.

If there's a downside to the blitz, it's the weather. Usually held the second week in December, chances are at least one of the days will be bitterly cold or there will be freezing rain or snow. But that doesn't stop the bellringers. They just bundle up and grab a bucket and bell. A local camper dealership donates the use of a camper for a week that serves as the base of operations and a place to warm up.

"What's really fun about the Bucket Blitz is that it has become destination giving for many people. They drive up, roll down their window, and they may drop in a few dollars, they may drop in a large check, or they may empty a jar of coins or the change in their console. The heavier the bucket the better, but it all adds up," said Quincy Development Director Matt Schmidt.

While some new payment methods have been added, like Venmo and PayPal, most donors still prefer dropping cash and coins in the bucket.

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Blitz smashed its all-time record by raising \$60,400.

The locations have changed over the years from a busy street intersection to a car dealership parking lot to the current location in front of the Quincy Town Center shopping mall. Bellringers fan out across multiple entrances to ring a bell and encourage drivers to roll down their windows and drop some money in their bucket. Some ringers even like to stand near the Starbucks and McDonald's drive-thrus in hopes cus-



The General's Christmas Message

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together (Colossians 1:17, NIV).

by General Brian Peddle

What a year 2021 has been! In these past 12 months our world has continued to face up to the challenge and reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, dealing with illness and death, as well as recovery strategies and vaccination programs. In contrast there was the welcome relief of the Olympic and Paralympic Games which provided positive engagement, something to enjoy and an opportunity to celebrate our countries' achievements. Of course, we have also witnessed both natural and man-made disasters and tragedies—wildfires in different countries, the assassination of a president, hurricanes and storms—each presenting significant chal-

lenges. In recent days the Taliban has retaken control of Afghanistan, with people fleeing the country, concerns about the education of women, the potential return to the ways of former regimes and the loss of any semblance of democracy.

In such tumultuous times where, or to who, do we turn? Hebrews 13:8 tells us that we turn to Jesus, who is the same "yesterday and today and for ever"; whilst Colossians 1:17 describes him as the one in whom "all things hold together"; and Revelation 22:13 as "the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End." We need to turn to the one



who is wiser than we are, more compassionate than we are, more powerful than we are, who is both transcendent yet with us, and who is present in the midst of the tumult and chaos with its resultant personal cost because, as we read in Psalm 23 and in Matthew 11 verse 28, he invites us to rest. If ever there is a time to turn to Jesus it is at Christmas, when we pause to remember and celebrate his birth, his incarnation and his becoming Immanuel (God with us).

What does all this mean? It means there is hope! It means we are not on our own! It means we have someone who can restore our souls when we are weary; someone who can

give us rest when we are tired; someone who can provide an eternal perspective when the immediate is all-consuming; someone who holds us and our world together when we and it are falling apart. That truly is something worth celebrating this Christmastime. Why would we not want to get to know someone like Jesus?

If your relationship with Jesus has been neglected for a while, Christmas represents an opportune time for it to be reconnected, reignited. And if you don't know him already, Christmastime is also an opportunity to meet Jesus for the first time—to invite him into your heart and life as saviour and friend.

Commissioner Rosalie joins me in wishing you a Happy Christmas and God's blessings during this holy season.

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Lift up your head

by Lt. Colonel David Harvey
Secretary for Business Administration

You see it every day on the streets and in our corps, people with their heads down. They are ashamed to look up at those around them. They feel defeated by their circumstances and don't know how they are going to make it.

Linda was among them. I met her at Christmas when I was a corps officer. Taking a break from my work, I went down to the chapel to see how the Christmas assistance registrations were going. As I greeted the volunteers, one of them motioned me over to her table. She introduced

me to Linda, saying, "This is our major. He might be able to help you." I sat down with them both and heard Linda's story. She'd recently had both legs amputated due to an infection. Since the infection couldn't be controlled, the doctors had told her extended family she'd never leave the hospital and, in fact, would die there.

However, Linda ended up living. But when she returned home, she had nothing. Her extended family had taken all her possessions—and wouldn't give them back! She not only needed Christmas assistance



but furnishings for herself and her children. We prayed with Linda, and she said she felt better. Then between our soldiers and the thrift store, our corps was able to bless her home with the furnishings she needed. Subsequently, she and her children started attending the corps where they learned about Jesus who gives new hope in life.

So, in your busy schedule today take time to stop by a program, stand by a kettle worker or join the

circle of volunteers as they take a break. Hear their stories, share a prayer, invite them to another activity or program which might bring them closer to God. Share the hope you have in God, who created Christmas by coming to the earth for us.

While people might enter our buildings looking down, facing hopeless situations, they have a chance to encounter the God of all hope through you.

May we pray and live out Romans 15:13 (NIV): "May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" this Christmas season.

Meals and hope are on the way

by Doug Donahoo

How many lives can you touch over the course of 40 years in just two days each year? If you're The Salvation Army in Kansas City, it's tens of thousands. Since the early 1980s officers, staff and countless volunteers have teamed up to provide free holiday meals to the community on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

What started as a stand-in for Meals on Wheels which did not deliver on those holidays transformed into a calendar highpoint for thou-

sands of residents in need and the Salvation Army team.

The meals have featured two parts. The first, a sit-down dinner served at the Linwood Center in midtown Kansas City, Mo., has drawn hundreds of people who've received tableside service of a feast of turkey with all the trimmings. The second part has seen dozens of volunteers delivering hundreds more meals across the Kansas City Metro area to seniors and homebound adults who otherwise wouldn't have a holiday meal or fellowship on those holidays.

However, last year required changes. The in-person meal was shelved as not to spread COVID-19 in an incredibly vulnerable population. Instead, a smaller crew of volunteers both at Linwood and behind the wheel made sure meal deliveries still happened on Thanksgiving and December 25.

This holiday season concerns about the easy spread of COVID-19 in the close quarters of the dining room led leaders to determine that sticking with deliveries is still the best approach. The deliveries are touching



Kansas City Advisory Board Chair Shane Dickerson has delivered meals for The Salvation Army for the past two decades.



A smaller team of volunteers last year uses an assembly line to fill hundreds of containers for meal delivery.

hundreds of lives once more over the course of the two days.

While the meal is important, the bigger delivery is of hope and love that so many people in the community need. Officers, staff and volunteers are helping to ensure that hope marches on in the hearts—and stomachs—of each person.



Meals are loaded into waiting cars for delivery across the Kansas City metro area.

Gathering for a New Beginning



One hundred and thirty-four delegates from 14 corps gathered this fall for the sixth Metropolitan Division Hispanic Women's Ministries Retreat, a one-day gathering with the theme "A New Beginning" in relation to leadership, one of the focuses of the Central Territory's Mission Imperative. Inspiring worship and practical, on-point presentations were complemented by a delicious meal. Major Nancy Azuaje, Metropolitan divisional women's ministries secretary, spoke on the different styles of leadership, emphasizing Jesus' example of servant leadership, and the great influence women have in their families, their circle of influence and broader society. She shared six characteristics of women of godly influence that delegates could incorporate in their lives.

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The Blessing of the Bells

For many, the sound of ringing bells is one of the first signs that the holiday season is underway. Hearing the bright, familiar noise outside of stores and shopping centers can only mean one thing: The Salvation Army has started collecting donations for its annual Christmas campaign.

In Livingston County, Mich., the special significance and history behind The Salvation Army's practice of ringing bells at kettles to raise funds during the holiday season is recognized at an annual event called the Blessing of the Bells. Started by Major Prezza Morrison during her tenure at the Livingston Corps, the event is being carried on by the cur-

rent corps officers, Lts. Robert and Stephanie Leach.

"The Blessing of the Bells involves sharing the history of bellringing and praying over those who will ring the bells, donate, and receive assistance, all to the glory of God," said Lt. Robert. "We couldn't hold the event in person last year due to COVID-19, but we were excited to gather with the community this year."

The Blessing of the Bells began as a standalone event in which a partnership with the local high school brought culinary students to prepare the meal and choir members to perform, while the audience included community members, parents and teachers. This year the Blessing of the



Volunteers from local businesses give a boost to the red kettle campaign.

Hope Marches On campaign

In the midst of ongoing challenges associated with more than a year of lockdowns, job loss, eviction notices and uncertainty of what tomorrow will bring, this year's national Christmas campaign, "Hope Marches On," recognizes the hard-working individuals and families who have found a way to keep moving forward in the face of seemingly impossible circumstances and celebrates the resourcefulness and resiliency of the human spirit.

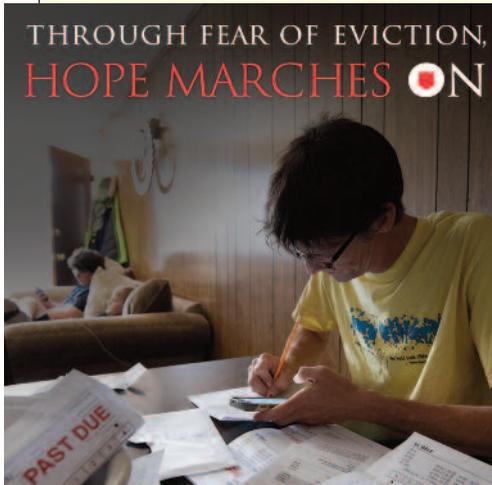
"Hope Marches On" also is a call to unify the ranks and continue to serve in a time of great need. It is an encouragement to the battle-worn, a challenge to persevere, to help one another, and to keep hope alive.

The campaign kicked off 100 days

before Christmas, drawing attention to the immense amount of support The Salvation Army requires to meet needs and inviting the public to give generously. It is estimated that nationwide, the Army will need to raise \$175 million—nearly 50 percent more than in 2020—to serve a growing number of people who are struggling under the weight of poverty caused by the pandemic.

On September 16, full media coverage was released across all mediums, including tv and radio spots, print ads and social media, and virtual red kettles were activated with the goal of providing as much time as possible to fundraising efforts. Opportunities to donate also have increased, with digital options like Apple Pay and PayPal at red kettles, cryptocurrency, text to pay, Amazon Alexa, and, as always, in-kind donations such as new clothes and toys for Angel Tree.

"Hope Marches On" is an invitation for Salvationists to take an active role in supporting their corps and communities. By giving of their time to spread the word, ring the bell at a red kettle or volunteer with programs like toys shops and Christmas dinners, Salvationists can help ensure that hope marches on not only at the holidays but in the coming year.



The Livingston County Sunrise Rotary Club has volunteered since 2006 to ring bells at kettles and frequently wins the annual Top Service Club award for most dollars raised.

Bells was observed during the red kettle kickoff and tree lighting, held for the first time at the site of a new property which will be renovated at the completion of a capital campaign, and featured a drama presentation by the corps youth group.

The iconic tradition of collecting money in a pot or kettle began 130 years ago in San Francisco, Calif., when Captain Joseph McFee needed

to raise money to feed 1,000 homeless on Christmas. He placed a brass urn at the Oakland ferry landing with a sign that read, "Keep the Pot Boiling," hoping passersby would toss in a few coins. The effort was such a success that the technique quickly spread, and today it is a holiday custom that raises millions for the work of The Salvation Army.

Exploring issues through a Kingdom lens

The Salvation Army's first International Moral and Social Issues Council Symposium (IMASIC), themed "On Earth as it is in Heaven: Exploring Moral and Social Issues through a Kingdom Lens," was held virtually this fall with 100 delegates from 45 territories.

During the four-day symposium, which opened with an address by General Brian Peddle, delegates considered the issues of artificial intelligence, corruption, gender, human trafficking, and nationalism. They heard from expert speakers and a response from a young Salvationist before splitting into discussion groups.

"It is clear that the Army values moral and social issues that impact our world and our denomination," said Major Katherine Clausell, Cen-

tral territorial moral and ethical issues secretary, who participated in the symposium and led a small group. "I was left with a sense of challenge to counter mission drift through the deliberate championing of theoretical thinking on issues of moral and social concern as it pertains to providing context and substance to the practice of our various ministry expressions. It is true, 'Iron sharpens iron' and exposure to the theory and scholarship of critical moral and social issues in our world and the international Salvation Army strengthens the people of God for greater service and impact."

Papers are available on the International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) website. Follow the ISJC on Facebook for the latest updates.

Bucket Blitz

Continued from page 1

The partnership with WGEM is what makes the blitz successful every year. WGEM-TV does live broadcasts during its morning, noon, 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. newscasts throughout the week as well as during its two-hour

morning show each day. Besides promoting the Bucket Blitz, viewers and listeners also are learning about local Salvation Army services and how their donations are making a difference in the community.



Windows on the World at Christmas

Central Territory reinforcement personnel provide a window on Christmas celebrations and service around the globe.

Captains Matthew Beatty and Rona Mutch

A few years ago, an officer who is now the service manager at the No.10 Drop-In Center and St. Ann's in London, started a Christmas carol program and held it at the Regent Hall Corps, one of the Army's oldest and premier venues tucked into the busy shopping hub of Oxford Street. Except for last year, the event has become an annual tradition.

This year it's back on, and as the centers' chaplain I, Rona, am organizing it. The event is held not only for people at the centers but is open to the community, including the congregation of the Regent Hall Corps where I am also the associate officer. I have asked the Regent Hall Band and Songsters and other local leaders to help. We will serve food during a fellowship hour before a program themed, "What does Christmas mean to me?" A client and a staff member will share their experiences, and I will give a devotional. Of

course, there will be plenty of Christmas carol singing. We also will put up a "memory tree" on which people can write the names of their loved ones who have passed away, and we will have a time of silence and prayer as we remember them.



Majors Bruce and Betty Keobounhom

Thailand is a country where 99 percent of the population are Buddhist believers, but we respond to the birth of Jesus with worship by doing a drama of the shepherds and wise men. Most of these dramas are performed in villages and schools with children.

During Christmas-time, corps members are excited because they are preparing their hearts for Jesus. They share the love of Christ by giving gifts. They express what they believe and invite people to come and accept Jesus as Lord.



Lt. Colonels Phil and Sheila Davisson



Colonel Evie Diaz

One of my favorite Christmas traditions is hearing Handel's *Messiah* live; if it's a singalong, even better. I try to find this every year, no matter where I live. When I lived in Latvia, I attended a *Messiah* concert in a beautiful cathedral where the wondrous music echoed throughout the building. My last Christmas in London before COVID-19 restrictions, I had the joy of participating

in a singalong *Messiah* at the Regent Hall Corps. Not only was it amazing to sing with this large group of talented musicians, but it helped me form new relationships with some of the soldiers. Music is an important part of my Christmas experience and hearing the melodies and considering the scripture via Handel's *Messiah* is a treasure I will continue to seek no matter where I am in the world.



Greetings from Portugal and Spain! When our children were much younger, we inherited a ceramic manger scene with large figurines. Starting on the first day of Advent, we placed the Magi (and camel) figures at the farthest part of the house from the Creche, gradually moving them closer and closer until Christmas Eve. It was one way to talk about the Christmas story as a "journey to Jesus," a practice that now continues with our grandchildren.

In Portugal, Christmas Eve is celebrated with a family meal of *bacalao* (cod fish) with boiled potatoes, cabbage and carrots. In Spain, Epiphany (January 6) is emphasized more than Christmas Day; the festival of *Él Día de los Reyes* (referring to the three

kings) is celebrated with parades and family gatherings with the exchange of gifts. Manger scenes include pigs, a significant food source here.

Both countries of our command remain strongly Catholic, and traditional Christmas carols are not widely known since many of them are British or translated from Protestant traditions elsewhere in Europe. Consequently, our Christmas gatherings in Spain and Portugal rarely include nativity songs; instead, modern secular and pop-culture tunes fill the airwaves.

Lt. Colonels Phil and Sheila Davisson have been appointed Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries, respectively, for the South America East Territory. They will take up their new appointment on February 1, 2022, with the rank of colonel.

Commissioners Merle and Dawn Heatwole

Last year we arrived in the Latin America North Territory in early November. It was a unique Christmas season as we'd never lived in a part of the world that is warm during November and December. In fact, Christmas is in the summer here!

In this part of the world, Christmas focuses on faith, family and food—important aspects of Latin culture. Christmas decorations are seen throughout public places as well as in homes which are decorated with lights and even blow-up snowmen. Corps are adorned with Christmas decorations, and carols are sung throughout the season.

Kettles are not common except in the Dominican Republic, and even there are just a small part. Corps distribute food baskets and toys are given to children, but there are no coat drives, bell ringing, or *War Cry* sales. Many corps hold worship services on Christmas Eve and some again on Christmas morning to celebrate Christ's birth.



It's a slower pace than a Salvation Army Christmas season in the United States, but work is still done to help others and the name of Jesus is preached to the neighborhoods in which our officers work and live.



Majors Will and Cassie DeJesús

At Christmastime in Bahia Blanca, Argentina, family and friends gather to enjoy vegetables and pasta accompanied with slow roasted lamb and grilled meat on the barbecue.

As the clock strikes midnight, suddenly the sights and the sounds of fireworks fill the city. The weather is warm, and children are allowed to stay up past bedtime and go outside for the celebration. Someone unfamiliar may think it's part of ringing in the New Year. But it's Christmas morning: a celebration and anticipation of Jesus' promised birth.

After the fireworks, everyone goes inside and the children, especially, enjoy opening gifts. The children then look forward to *Él Día de los*



Reyes or "Three Kings Day" on January 6 which commemorates Epiphany Day which is practiced in Argentina and other countries around the world in unique ways. Here the night before *Él Día de los Reyes* children carefully place their shoes outside of their door along with grass and water for the camels. The next day, each child wakes up to a specially selected gift.

Captains Luis and Raisi Zambrano

Since we are serving in Spain where Epiphany is emphasized, I would like to share how in my home country of Venezuela we celebrated Christmas many years ago. As born-again Christians, there was a deep sense of Christmas in our family. We did not have a Christmas tree or Santa Claus.

For us the center of Christmas was Christ. We recreated the town of Bethlehem where the Son of God

was born. The manger, the animals, Mary, Joseph and the angels were all included. Each house was carefully placed with small lakes made from pieces of mirrors.

The child's crib remained empty until Christmas morning when baby Jesus was placed in it. As children, it was exciting for us to get up and look under the bed to see what baby Jesus had brought us. No matter how humble the gift, it was a sign that the Christ child had not forgotten our names.

In our innocence, whether we knew it or not, we were worshiping the one who gave His life for us. Today, seeing how the celebration of Christmas has been distorted, I consider that the hand of God directed us on the right path.



Majors Jeff and Valerie Carr

Jamaican Christmas comes with excitement, a fair amount of shopping, decorations and holiday music. Attending carol and candlelight services and hosting family and friends for special dinners is commonplace. In preparation, families deep clean their homes and even change the colors of their walls. A Christmas tree is decorated, fruitcake is baked, and people enjoy a drink made from the Sorrel plant and a big Christmas dinner featuring roast beef, oxtail, curried goat and ham.

Christmas is filled with opportuni-



ties for Salvationists to serve others including caroling at kettles in plazas and neighborhoods, visiting prisons and institutional residences, preparing and distributing Christmas food hampers to those in need, and holding parties for children and older adults. In Kingston, service culminates on Christmas morning with a visit to the University Hospital of the West Indies where officers and soldiers distribute care packages while the band plays.

Many of these traditions aren't possible this year given government restrictions for health and safety, but as a family we are joining with our community in what is possible believing as the Apostle Peter said: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10, NIV)



730... AND BEYOND



904 days and counting

by Lt. Karen Kumar

If you know me or my family, you know we love noise. Not only do we bring the noise, but we thrive on being part of it. Is it simply because we Millers love loud places? No. Is it because we happened to inherit a dynamic volume? No. It's because where there is noise, there are people. Where there are people is where I want to be! I love people—young, old and everyone in between. A building filled with noise indicates people are participating in fellowship with the love of Jesus shining all around.

Farmington Hills, Mich., is a vibrant community, rich in culture, generations and love. Since arriving at this appointment in June 2019, we have seen a growing need for after-school care. Children in our neighborhood need a place to go, be tutored, fed and grow. Thankfully, our corps has been able to provide this. We began working quickly to make it possible and actually opened an afterschool program we called Fusion during the pandemic. Though we couldn't have as many kids as we wanted, a good number of kids in need were served. This year our program is growing; in fact, the number has doubled, and we continue to ask God to lead us.

The children come to the corps four days a week, and we help them with homework, serve them dinner, and provide character-building programs, music lessons, free time and much more. One boy asked, "How old can I be and still come to this program?" I responded, "A freshman in high school." He said, "Oh great, I



still have three years. I love this place. It's like a second home. I hope by then we can come through high school." Another kid who came every day always asked what was on the menu. We realized that since he wasn't attending school in person during the pandemic, he wasn't eating lunch or dinner. We were sure to make extra food and pile his plate high.

It's in these moments when ministry seems most important to me—when children's lives are being affected and the love of Christ is being shared. Sometimes serving people can be hard, especially during a pandemic. It's hard but not impossible. As I strive to be more like Jesus and have His eyes to see the need, He continues to open avenues of service and connection to the community, and I am blessed. I pray that we have the energy and strength to welcome all the children who walk through our doors with the love of Christ and a plate full of food.

Let me tell you, our building is loud, but this officer couldn't be more excited about all that God is doing here!

One in message and mission

by Lt. Shanell Johnson

Inclusion. See. Hear. Embrace." was the theme for this year's One Conference. Although it was held virtually for the first time that did not hinder the working of the Holy Spirit. As we watched from screens, we felt the presence of God and worshipped each day, humbling ourselves before the Lord. The conference encouraged and challenged us as children of God and Salvationists to see, hear and embrace all of God's people regardless of ethnicity, cultural differences and life experiences.

Beginning with the welcome by Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey, the One Conference embodied the theme as we watched a beautiful display of diversity from the territory. We saw dancers from Farmington Hills, Mich., Magkapuso (Of One Heart), the Lincoln, Neb., Corps' Sudanese group and Lt. Gloria Pelayo from the East Chicago, Ill., Corps. We listened to heartfelt worship of the praise team, the East Chicago, Ill., Corps Brass Band and embraced scripture read in multiple languages.

"I was blessed to see that even in a virtual way, people of all ages and ethnicities were involved in each session, making the theme of inclusion come to life," said Captain Ketsia Diaz, secretary of the territorial intercultural department which planned and conducted the conference.



Captain Ketsia Diaz

Saturday morning's session focused on "Hear" and featured Dr. Elizabeth Conde-Frazier who reminded us that as God's people inclusiveness should be "a practice in our lives so that it can be caught by our children and not just taught." This session also featured a panel discussion with Colonel Evie Diaz, Major Steve Harper and Major Sujung Na.



Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich

Breakout sessions were organized with an emphasis on the five points of the Intercultural focus of the territory's Mission Imperative: active awareness, mutual openness, consistent grace, unconditional love, practical equity.

That evening the Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil left a lasting impression with her message from the Book of Esther. She explained Esther had to decide to leave her safe space in the castle, which made her isolated, insulated and ignorant for the work of God and the lives of others. Dr. McNeil challenged us not to remain silent in our own safe castles but to embrace those outside the palace, to avoid stereotypes and to speak for justice.

The weekend concluded with the focus of "Embrace" and an insightful message from Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich, territorial secretary for program, from Acts 16 that demonstrated the grace of God is for all people without exception.

Congratulations!

We salute these officers who have achieved certificates and degrees, enriching their lives and ministries.

Major Enrique Azuaje	Ed. D. Leadership & Professional Practice Trevecca Nazarene University
Captain Elizabeth DeLacy	Master of Ministry Olivet Nazarene University
Major David Gorton	Executive Leadership Program Certificate Arrow Leadership Institute
Lt. Joshua Hubbard	Certificate in Life Coaching (Executive Coaching) Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene University
Major K. Kendall Mathews	Executive Leadership Program Certificate Arrow Leadership Institute
Captain Matthew McCluer	B.A. Ministry (Bible & Theology) Nazarene Bible College
Captain Peter Mount	Emerging Leadership Program Certificate Arrow Leadership Institute
Lt. Scott Parnell	Certificate in Life Coaching (Executive Coaching) Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene University
Captain Karen Pitter-Holness	B.A.S. Business Management Olivet Nazarene University
Captain Telinda Wilson	B.A. Ministry (Leadership & Ethics) Nazarene Bible College
Captain AJ Zimmerman	Emerging Leadership Program Certificate Arrow Leadership Institute

B. A. = Bachelor of Arts
B. A. S. = Bachelor of Applied Science
Ed. D. = Doctor of Education



Commissioner Brad Bailey

During Friday night's keynote session focusing on "See," Daniel Hill encouraged us to see one another and acknowledge the narrative of racial hierarchy which needs to be dug up from the root so like a weed it will not grow back.



Scripture reading was presented in multiple languages.

The Salvation Army

PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

January Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Saturday	Romans 1-2	Blessings in the New Year!
	2 Sunday	Genesis 1-3	Mitchell, S.D., Corps
	3 Monday	Joshua 1-5	LaPorte, Ind., Corps
	4 Tuesday	Psalms 1-2	Menasha Fox Cities, Wis., Corps
	5 Wednesday	Job 1-2	Moline Heritage Temple, Ill., Corps
	6 Thursday	Matthew 1-2	Albert Lea, Minn., Corps
	7 Friday	Romans 3-4	Mt. Clemens, Mich., Corps
	8 Saturday	Genesis 4-7	Local Officers
	9 Sunday	Joshua 6-10	Logansport, Ind., Corps
	10 Monday	Psalms 3-5	Congo Brazzaville Territory
	11 Tuesday	Job 3-4	Elgin, Ill., Corps
	12 Wednesday	Isaiah 7-11	Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps
	13 Thursday	Matthew 3-4	Granite City, Ill., Corps
	14 Friday	Romans 5-6	Minneapolis Central, Minn., Corps
	15 Saturday	Genesis 8-11	Newton, Iowa, Corps
	16 Sunday	Joshua 11-15	Ludington, Mich., Corps
	17 Monday	Psalms 6-8	School Age Children
	18 Tuesday	Job 5-6	Milwaukee Citadel, Wis., Corps
	19 Wednesday	Isaiah 12-17	South America West Territory
	20 Thursday	Matthew 5-7	Grand Rapids Kroc Center, Mich., Corps
	21 Friday	Romans 7-8	St. Louis, Mo., ARC
	22 Saturday	Genesis 12-15	Owosso Citadel, Mich., Corps
	23 Sunday	Joshua 16-20	Officer Families
	24 Monday	Psalms 9-11	Fargo, N.D., Corps
	25 Tuesday	Job 7-8	Olathe, Kan., Corps
	26 Wednesday	Isaiah 18-22	Pathway of Hope Ministries
	27 Thursday	Matthew 8-10	Joliet, Ill., Corps
	28 Friday	Romans 9-10	Sweden and Latvia Territory
	29 Saturday	Genesis 16-19	O'Fallon, Mo., Corps
	30 Sunday	Joshua 21-24	Minneapolis Parkview, Minn., Corps
	31 Monday	Psalms 12-14	Democratic Republic of Congo Territory

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

ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

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

Holiness in Christmastime

by Diane Ury
National Ambassador for Holiness

At Christmastime we can consider the relationship between holiness and God becoming human. We often think Jesus lived a holy life among us merely so that we can observe His teaching and lifestyle and try to imitate Him. In truth Jesus came to join God with human nature so that His holiness may become who we are.

We are aware that because of Adam's sin—the rebellious turning away from the face of God, the tearing apart of human personhood from our source of life—all human beings are cursed with the sinfulness of being self-centered, turned in on ourselves. Our minds are darkened; our lives are chaos.

Jesus is our Rescuer. He sees our plight. He hears our cries. He knows we are helpless to set ourselves free from the prison of sin and death. One of my favorite Christmas passages is, "He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son...For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to Himself." (Col. 1:19-20, NLT)

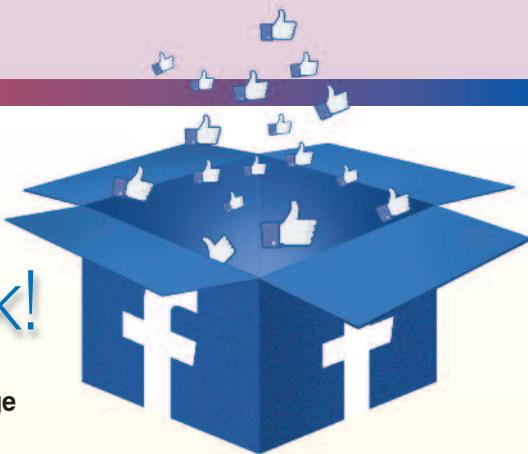
Jesus is our Creator. God the Son is the Word which spoke everything that exists into being. (Col. 1:15-17, John 1:1-5, Heb. 1:1-2) Our Creator became human so He

could redeem our predicament. The incarnation did not begin in Bethlehem; it began in a womb. Because we are helplessly sinful from the moment we are conceived, from the moment Jesus was conceived the Holy One was united to human nature, forever. There, He began to recreate humanity. As the Second Adam every moment of His life Jesus was reliving human existence as He intended it when He created us. (1 Cor. 15:21-22, 45-49)

This is why Jesus came: to make us holy. (Luke 1:74-75) At Christmastime we worship Emmanuel, who became our nature so that He could put His nature within us. (2 Cor. 5:21) He came to restore His holy image in anyone who will receive Him. Charles Wesley wrote in one of his Christmas hymns:

*Did You not in Your Person join
The natures human and divine,
That God and man might be
Henceforth inseparably One?
Haste then, and make Your
nature known
Incarnated in me.*

We're invited to belong to God's family; the "whosoever" may have His family resemblance. Remember, at Christmastime Jesus came as the tender mercy of God to bring us into His heart, our true home. As the popular Christmas carol by Isaac Watts proclaims, "He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found!" As Salvationists, this Good News is the foundation of all we do.



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We look forward to connecting with you!

--Mustard Seeds--



Sioux Falls expands emergency food options

by Marcie Priestley

The Salvation Army in Sioux Falls, S.D., has expanded its pantry options for those seeking emergency food assistance. With the help of several local organizations, the corps now is better equipped to meet the needs and tastes of those in its diverse community, including immigrants who speak Spanish, Nepali and Amharic (an Ethiopian Semitic language).

"We have a diverse community in

Sioux Falls, and we want to ensure we're providing the types of foods individuals and families prefer to eat. As an organization which helps combat hunger, we want to make sure we're continually improving upon our services and doing the very best we can to provide food security for everyone," said Major Marlys Anderson, corps officer.

The expanded options were created in partnership with the Multi-Cultural Center of Sioux Falls and Caminando Juntos, a ministry in

Sioux Falls to the Latino population (sponsored by the Aberdeen Presentation Sisters), which answered questions, helped develop food lists for new pantry packs and translated forms and other communication into different languages.

Pantry Pack #1 is filled with canned fruits, vegetables, soups, pasta, pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, canned beef, cereal and shelf stable milk, frozen meat and fresh produce (when available).

Pantry Pack #2 includes canned tomato sauce, canned corn, canned black beans, canned pinto beans, canned refried beans, hard corn tortillas, sweetbread, white rice, green beans, chicken bouillon, frozen meat and fresh produce (when available).

Pantry Pack #3 includes a variety of rice, dry beans (kidney, lima, pinto, chickpeas), pancake mix, chicken broth, broth-based soups, canned tuna, salmon, and chicken, ramen noodles, frozen meats and fresh produce (when available).



Anna, a corps food pantry client, enjoys the variety of the new pantry packs.

Each weekday morning the corps welcomes everyone, regardless of immigration status. It hopes to expand the hours to include weekday afternoons with the help of volunteers.



Members of the Multi-Cultural Center of Sioux Falls and Aberdeen Presentation Sisters with Sioux Falls, S.D., Development, Volunteer and Community Relations Director Marcie Priestley and Corps Officer Major Marlys Anderson.

Promoted to Glory

Lt. Colonel Sharon Smith

Lt. Colonel Sharon Smith was promoted to Glory on October 13, 2021, after a three-year struggle with Alzheimer's. Her love of God and passion for ministry were evident to all who knew her. She was gifted and creative, especially in women's ministries, but the Smiths would profess they were strongest when they served together.



Sharon was born on March 7, 1954, in Kansas City, Mo., and in her youth was active in the Blue Valley Corps.

On November 21, 1975, she married Charles Smith. They entered the School for Officers' Training and were commissioned as members of the "Disciples of Jesus" session in 1978.

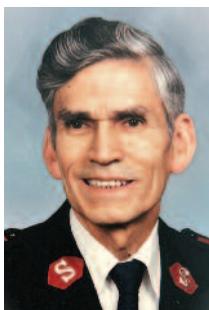
The Smiths served in three corps and in divisional headquarters appointments before being appointed to territorial headquarters, where Sharon served as conference center director. In 2001, the Smiths were transferred to Wichita, Kan., where Sharon served as special services director for the Wichita City Command. This appointment was instrumental in the Smiths' partnership in ministry and pastoral leadership development.

For more than 12 years, they were divisional leaders in the Heartland, Kansas and Western Missouri, and Metropolitan divisions. They retired in September 2021, having served more than 43 years.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Lt. Colonel Charles Smith; a brother, Howard Cockrill; children, Chuck (Ashley) Smith and Captain Heidi (Kory) Strand; and six grandchildren.

Major Hugo Faundez

Major Hugo Faundez was promoted to Glory on September 28, 2021. His greatest joy was to partake in the establishment of Hispanic ministries and deep fellowship with soldiers and officers. A gifted carpenter and electrician, he used his skills to bless others, including building a home for his parents.



Hugo was born on July 30, 1928, in Antofagasta, Chile. He received Jesus as his personal Savior during an open air meeting and became a faithful soldier.

He answered the call to officership and was commissioned in 1955 as part of the "Soul Winners" session in Santiago, Chile. During a visit to territorial headquarters (THQ), he met American officer Captain Ardena Hutchings who was stationed there. They were married on April 4, 1970, and together served in children's homes, adult rehabilitation centers and territorial and divisional headquarters in South America. In 1990, the Faundez family transferred to the USA Central Territory where they were appointed to establish the Chicago Lawn, Ill., Corps.

After retiring in June 1993, the Faundezes continued to provide leadership to Hispanic corps in the Metropolitan Division.

Hugo was preceded in death by his wife; brother, Enrique, and sister, Maria Aran. He is survived by his children, Major Daniel (Wendy) Faundez and Beverly; and seven grandchildren.

Captain Mirca Arias

Captain Mirca Josefina López de Arias was promoted to Glory on September 9, 2021. She was passionate in her faith and dedicated her life to teaching women and children about Jesus Christ.



Mirca was born December 12, 1951, in Maturín, Monagas, Venezuela. She accepted Christ while attending a youth camp. After high school, she married Pedro Arias. They started a family and moved to the capital city of Maracay, in the state of Aragua.

While serving as a pastor in the Evangelical Free Church, Pedro was invited to study in the U.S. at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. The family relocated to Lombard, Ill., in 1990. In 2003 they committed to ministry with The Salvation Army.

After serving at the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps as Hispanic ministries directors for three years, Mirca and Pedro became auxiliary captains. They continued to serve in Des Plaines until 2012, when they were transferred to the Chicago Irving Park, Ill., Corps. They retired in 2018 after 15 years of service.

Mirca is survived by her husband; sons, Ronald, Roland, and Samuel; and three grandchildren.

Major Shirley Litherland

Major Shirley Litherland was promoted to Glory on September 8, 2021. Shirley loved people and loved to laugh. She served the Lord joyfully, whether at camp, in the food pantry or leading a program.



Shirley was born on July 19, 1936, to John and Mary Malek. When she was 12 she accepted an invitation to attend the South Chicago Heights, Ill., Corps, where she accepted Christ as her Savior. She heard the call to become a Salvation Army officer at her first youth councils.

On June 22, 1957, Shirley married Harry Litherland, her next door neighbor. They entered officership as "supplies" in 1960 and served as corps officers for 37 years. After retiring in 1997, the Litherlands returned to active service leading another three corps before settling in as soldiers at the Manitowoc, Wis., Corps, where she was a case manager and women's ministries leader.

She was preceded in death by her husband; sister, Delores Hede; sister-in-law Elenora; brothers-in-law, David Carrizales and Martin Venn; one grandchild and one great grandchild. She is survived by her children, Major Julie (Tom) McDowell, Major Cathy (Mike) Himes, Major Mark, Emilee and Timothy; sister, Gloria Carrizales and sisters-in-law, Donna Litherland and Merry Venn; eight grandchildren and three great granddaughters.