



Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory
News and Views from the Midwest

"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

Volume 50, Number 2

February 2020

Aurora Corps breaks ground for new facility

The Aurora, Ill., Corps broke ground on the site for their new corps and community center which will greatly enhance their ability to provide essential services including a food pantry and emergency assistance as well as opportunities for worship and programs for children, youth and adults to their community of 200,000.

At the groundbreaking ceremony Salvation Army Aurora Advisory Board Chair Forest White noted that The Salvation Army has been serving the community for 135 years. "The new building has been a long time coming for this community," he said. "The cur-

rent building is not the type of facility to do everything they want to do."

Captains Rich and Linnea Forney, Aurora corps officers, are excited about the possibilities the new building holds. Immediately, the corps will be entirely ADA accessible as the new facility is all one level, whereas the current building is a split-story.

They also will be able to provide meals from their kitchen and accommodate parking for all of the programs and services, two things that have proven challenging in the current facility.

"Parking has been a problem," said Captain Rich. "We currently have



Aurora Advisory Board Chair Forest White

only 12 parking spaces. When both phases of our project are complete, we will have more than 100."

Phase one of the construction project, which will be just over 11,000 square feet, is expected to wrap up this August and will include social services offices along with a food pantry, kitchen, chapel and classrooms.

"When Phase one is complete we will be able to transfer all of our current programs and services to the new location," said the captain. "We can then begin preparations for Phase two, which will include an additional foyer, gymnasium, emergency disaster services (EDS) garage and generator to keep us running in the event of a disaster."

Once the project is complete, the captains plan to hire a family ministries director and make use

Captain Rich Forney, Aurora, Ill., corps officer, and Camerin Mattson, communications manager for the Metropolitan Division

of the acreage and gymnasium to serve families with youth sports, a day program for seniors and after-school care for children, for a start.

They also hope to handle Angel Tree and Christmas food box distribution for 1,000-plus families on-site and use the kitchen and EDS garage as a command center for the community.



Alderman Carl Franco congratulates Captains Linnea and Rich Forney on the groundbreaking for the new Aurora, Ill., Corps.

Concluding the groundbreaking ceremony, Aurora's Deputy Mayor Chuck Nelson, a longtime supporter of The Salvation Army, noted the presence of people from the entire community.

"That says something about an organization," he said. He praised the Army's "inspiring and unwavering devotion to serve the physical and spiritual needs of the community for years to come."



A new day for Women's Ministries

by Major Jolene Hull

While the mission of Women's Ministries remains the same, today we're challenged to find ways to meet women's needs which vary from community to community.

Recognizing this, Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, World President of Women's Ministries, has called for a reimagining of Women's Ministries that encourages women to engage, consider their role, think creatively and celebrate what already is happening.

Similarly, the Central Territory is **REIMAGINING Central Women.**

In November the territory took a bold step by realigning the Women's Ministries Department with the Program Section at Territorial Headquarters (THQ) to foster communication and increase collaboration with other departments.

In addition, the title Territorial Women's Ministries Secretary was

formed to align with Divisional Women's Ministries Secretary and thereby strengthened communication and collaboration with the divisions while providing opportunity for the

divisions to reimagine Women's Ministries in their own communities.

The territorial Women's Ministries Department is excited about the future. Here's what you can expect from us:

- Encouragement of corps to discover and create 44 opportunities to meet the needs of women in their community
- Implementation of a plan to help corps capture their Women's Ministries stories
- Guidelines and programs that help develop women as individuals and as vital sources to their communities
- Resources for digital and translated materials
- Well-branded content

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A firm foundation

by Lt. Colonel Paul Smith
Assistant Chief Secretary

Recently, I had the privilege of participating in a building dedication. That event caused me to think about foundations.

One of the HGTV shows my wife, Renea, and I watch is called "Good Bones." It follows a mother and daughter team who transform old homes with good bones—a solid structure—in the Indianapolis area. A solid foundation is essential in buildings, in ministry and in life.

Salvation Army buildings normally have dedication plaques which include the words: Dedicated for the Glory of God and service to Humanity. It's a

reminder of why we try daily to live up to the promise of "Doing the Most Good." Salvation Army service is to advance our mission of communicating the message of God's reconciling love in Christ and practically embodying that love through serving whomever we encounter in need without discrimination.

Our mission provides a strong, focused foundation for all our ministries to the people in the communities in which we serve.

At the end of his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminds those who wanted to follow Him that their attitudes, behavior, priorities and values

need to be in alignment with their commitment to God's Kingdom and to seeing it grow with these familiar words of hope and caution:

Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the

streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. (Matt 7:24-27 NIV).

In that short parable, Jesus said there is wisdom to be found when our faith and our behavior work together. He also observed that the synergy of faith and action provides stability and strength to be able to face life's storms.

Many people who come into our buildings or those who we meet in the course of living are looking for stability. They need someone to come alongside them, to let them know they are loved and to help them see hope is a real possibility. They are being battered by life's storms and need someone to point them to Jesus, our rock and firm foundation. My prayer is that we will do this, continuing to be true to our mission.



Burlington, Iowa, Corps looks to the future

by Lt. Dennis Jolly

When I was commissioned as an officer in 2016, I was both excited and nervous to see what God had in store for me, but I never imagined my first appointment would include the monumental task of overseeing the building of a new corps community center. I was honored, yet worried. Could I do this? Did I know enough? Was I ready?

With the support and guidance of dedicated divisional and local teams, and a great construction crew, the doors to our new corps opened last September. The Burlington Corps Community Center has brought a new sense of energy and excitement to the community, clients and employees. We can't wait to see all the good we are able to do for the people of Des Moines County, Iowa. As we adjust to our new space, we are constantly seeking ways to expand and adapt our ministry and services to better serve those in need.

Looking back, the day of the building's dedication was perfect. Alongside a contingency of territorial and divisional leaders were members of our community and corps congregation. Together, we

dedicated the corps to the glory of God and thanked our community for their compassion and patience. Finally, we recognized the resilience and dedication of The Salvation Army throughout its nearly 125 years of service in Burlington.



Lt. Colonels Vicki and Richard Amick with Lt. Dennis Jolly



Construction of the 7,721-square-ft. facility took 11 months to complete. Part of a three-phase concept, the center (phase one) includes: a chapel/fellowship hall, a food pantry, a commercial kitchen and dish room, three administrative offices, a social work office, an office for the youth activity director and an outdoor patio. Phases two and three

look toward expansion, including a full-size gymnasium and a larger, dedicated chapel. Incorporated into the design and construction, the building is structurally prepared for the future.

We look forward to the future God has planned for The Salvation Army Burlington Corps Community Center and our community.

Central Connection 

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Enrollment in Omaha North afterschool program triples

"It's easy to see transformation taking place, even day to day."

by Michelle DeRusha

Slip into Cherrilyn Loftin's office at the Omaha North, Neb., Corps any weekday afternoon and you'll likely find a half dozen or more middle school and high school students quietly bent over open books or busily writing book reports.

"I like getting to learn new things," said 12-year-old De'Janae' McKnight, who was working on a book report about Harriet Tubman. De'Janae', a seventh-grader at King Science & Technology Magnet School, has attended the afterschool program at The Sal for three years, where she enjoys socializing with her friends, catching up with "Ms. Cherri" and reading, writing and drawing.

Led by Lt. Ken and Captain Sam Nolan Jones, the North Corps' afterschool program has more than



tripled, skyrocketing from 44 to 144 registrations in the last year alone.

"We knew when we first started that we wanted to offer a safe place for kids, but we also felt like we had the capability to do more than that," said Captain Sam. "Literacy is obviously an issue, so we wanted to stand in the gap there. We also try to work on specific areas where kids are lacking whether that's academically, emotionally or behaviorally—to make connections for them and encourage them."

Many youth enrolled in the program enjoy playing basketball, volleyball and dodgeball in the gym, but under Cherrilyn's direction, others focus on academics and life skills.

Eleven-year-old Isha Abdullahi appreciates the quiet time she gets after school at The Sal. The sixth-grader at King Science & Technology Magnet School has seven brothers

and three sisters, and her mother works fulltime at a local daycare. "There's nothing to do except watch TV at home," she said. "Coming here is much more interesting."

"You have those who like to be active and are into sports," said Cherrilyn. "Then you have those



who are quiet and like to sit down and concentrate on something. They want to be here, but we also had to find something to help them want to remain here."

She created a rewards system in which students earn gift cards for reading and writing reports for a certain number of books. The program emphasizes literacy but also helps the students learn life skills like time management, responsibility and focus.

"I'm very businesslike in my approach," said Cherrilyn. "I expect them to be on time, I set a deadline, and they are rewarded on 'payday.'"

Omaha North Corps staff also have been trained in the Love and Logic Approach, a curriculum for parents and teachers. "We try to communicate to kids why we don't want them to do certain things and why those actions have repercussions," she explained. "We also model what it looks like to make a mistake, take ownership of that mistake, and then move forward into restored relationship."

Whether it's on the basketball court, at the lunch table, in Ms. Cherrilyn's study room, or working one-on-one with Lt. Ken or Captain Sam, kids in the afterschool program at Omaha North Corps are getting the attention, love and guidance they need to grow and thrive.

"The bottom line is that we are focused on relationship-building," said Captain Sam. "And because of that, it's easy to see the transformation taking place, even day to day."



Beyond

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Girls Guards, Rangers and Boy Scouts

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Registration: \$150

Deadline March 15, 2020

For more information see your corps officer or troop leader.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. —2 Corinthians 4:18 (NIV)

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Spiritual mentors

Major Felicia Rapley ♦ Major Katrina Mathews

Smiths retire, cite each appointment a blessing

Returning to where their life together began, Colonels Jeff and Dorothy Smith retired in a ceremony conducted by National Commander Commissioner David Hudson at the Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps. Married in the chapel and returning for many important life events (even serving as corps officers there), the Smiths felt Dearborn Heights was the perfect place to celebrate the start of a new season of life.

Both Jeff and Dorothy were born into Salvationist families and grew up attending corps in the Eastern Michigan Division. They met while working at Echo Grove Camp after graduating high school in 1972. A summer romance ensued, and they married two years later.

As they completed their university and seminary studies, the Smiths prepared to follow God's call to become officers. They were employed by The Salvation Army in many capacities, including as envoys at the then-new Farmington Hills, Mich., Corps.

In 1984 they entered officer training with their two young daughters, Shannon and Catherine, and were commissioned with the "Proclaimers of the Gospel" session in 1986.

Over the next 33 years, the colonels served throughout the Central Territory, including as corps officers, leaders of the College for Officer Training and the Kansas and Western Missouri Division, and at territorial headquarters as chief secretary and territorial secretary for women's ministries. They retired from National Headquarters, where Colonel Jeff served as national chief



secretary and Colonel Dorothy as national secretary for women's ministries and as national representative to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services.

Throughout their officership, the Smiths were known as passionate leaders who used their knowledge and gifts to disciple others in God's Word. They served gladly, approaching each appointment as an opportunity to learn and grow.

"We enjoyed all of our appointments," Colonel Jeff said. "Each one stretched us in different ways."

In retirement the Smiths plan to spend warm months at their cabin on Piatt Lake in Michigan, and cold months in Clearwater, Fla. Wherever they are, they intend to continue serving the Lord.

"We're not anxious for it to end," concluded Colonel Dorothy. "We're looking forward to finding new opportunities to serve wherever God leads."

Mission Mentoring

by Michelle DeRusha

Connecting with corps officers across the Western Division's vast geographical distance can be a challenge, which is one reason why divisional leaders Majors Poppy and Greg Thompson recently launched the Mission Mentoring program.

"Congregationally, across our division and beyond, numbers are declining, and we want corps officers to know they are not the only ones in this battle," said Major Poppy. "This is an opportunity for us to come alongside each other."

The idea for Mission Mentoring was sparked by the Crest Books *Christ at the Door: The Biblical Key to Our Salvationist Future* written by Commissioner Phil Needham to help Salvationists revitalize themselves and their corps. Majors Poppy

and Greg were inspired to form a monthly book club with divisional headquarters (DHQ) officers which blossomed into the idea of Mission Mentoring with corps officers.

"God basically shouted into our souls, 'You need to share this, everything I am inspiring in you, with those you have been called to lead.' Out of that moment Mission Mentoring was born," said Major Greg.

In addition to two groups of four corps officers, officers from an additional eight corps are paired with a member of the DHQ officer team. The book club kicked off at officers' councils last October and then split into their designated Mission Mentoring groups to read and discuss a chapter by conference call, FaceTime or Skype each week through the end of December.

"The Mission Mentoring book



Major Poppy Thompson with Captains Javier and Kelsie Moreno

International College for Officers

The following officers have been selected to attend the International College for Officers in London, England.

Session 244

January 15 - February 24, 2020



Major Johanna Pook

Officer for Business Administration
Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc
Corps Community Center

Captain Bersabe Vera

Divisional Secretary
Northern Divisional Headquarters



club has encouraged us to think deeply about our ministries at the corps and our outreach to our community," said Captain Kelsie Moreno, of the Rapid City, South Dakota Corps, who, along with her husband, Captain Javier Moreno, was paired with Major Poppy. "We are excited to launch a mentoring process this winter with key soldiers and leaders and see where it takes us."

Ultimately, the Thompsons' goal for Mission Mentoring is to expand the program with each corps. "Our hope is that this will be a catalyst for discipling initiatives," said Major Poppy. "It's imperative that soldiers, lay people and staff members catch the vision for mission and understand that everyone is necessary for battle in our Army."

A new partnership with Olivet

by Bryant Erickson

Since the Central Territory's Caseworker Certification Program (CCP) launched in January 2019, more than 950 personnel have enrolled in the online course. Starting last October, the nine-module course is being hosted by Olivet Nazarene University (ONU) on their learning management system. In partnership with the Territorial Social Services Department, Olivet monitors registrations and provides real time insight on student progress and continuing education credits upon completion.

The certification program has been added as an approved course option for The Salvation Army Continuing Education Program (SACEP) for officers and the Distance Learning Program for auxiliary captains. The partnership not only opens the door for officer participation and academic credit, but positive feedback from course participants indicates the recently established ONU-CCP platform provides enhanced visualization of the course content and has improved the online learning experience.

There is value for even seasoned frontline personnel to complete the course as seen in the experience of

Russell Gutsche, service coordinator for the Minneapolis, Minn., Booth Manor, an affordable senior housing facility.

"I consider my job a ministry," said Russell. "Seniors deal with many issues in their lives, and I feel privileged to assist them. Sometimes residents will ask for prayer. Sometimes residents will see me, wanting to discuss end-of-life issues."

He continued, "The Caseworker Certification Program has given me many tools and a framework to walk alongside the seniors here at Booth Manor. My biggest takeaways would be the *Faith in Action* textbook, a resource for practically any situation that I may come across, and the videos and readings that were specifically selected to go with each of the modules. The Caseworker Certification Program has given me the knowledge, wisdom and confidence to do my job excellently. To a new employee, I would say the training is so worth the time. It will equip you for service in The Salvation Army."

For more information visit usccaseworkercertification.org



Russell Gutsche, service coordinator for Booth Manor in Minneapolis, Minn., assists a senior.

Hamming it up at the Kroc Center

by Kathy Powers

When The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Center in Omaha, Neb., partnered with the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) to introduce youth to a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program which covers the basics of ham radio through a wide range of science topics from electricity to satellites and storms, we thought our biggest challenge would be to spark the interest of our youth who have technology at their fingertips with the internet and cell phones.

Would we be able to interest them in this hobby and bring something new to ham radio? Through social media, email blasts and by flashing walkie-talkies, it worked! Really, what kid doesn't want to play with a walkie-talkie?



Photos by Charity Walker-Rodenberger

Classes filled up with 20-plus students eager to learn about amateur radio and the subsequent hobbies that spur from it. The first class was an eye-opener as youth created working electronic circuits. We could see their excitement and hap-

730... AND BEYOND



11,184 days and counting

by Major Abe Tamayo

When we were commissioned 30 years ago, my wife and I were appointed to the corps in Garden City, Kan., a small industrial community with beef feedlots and processing plants in the southwest corner of the state.

The building was new and needed programs to complete its purpose. Our first Sunday, the congregation included two older sisters, a young mother and her five children. Realizing the level of work entrusted to us, we adopted the slogan: "God loves you and so do I!" Everyone agreed whenever we'd meet, we'd greet each other with this blessing, and beginning the next Sunday we'd print it on the worship bulletin.

On Monday when I arrived at the corps, a little boy playing on a rickety wooden playground ran up to me yelling, "Hey mister, can you read?" He was filthy and spoke with an impediment.

"Before I answer tell me what's your name?" I asked.

"Miguel. What is your name?"

"You may call me lieutenant."

He tried but couldn't say lieutenant, so I suggested "L.T."

"Okay, but can you read?" he asked.

"Yes," I said, smiling.

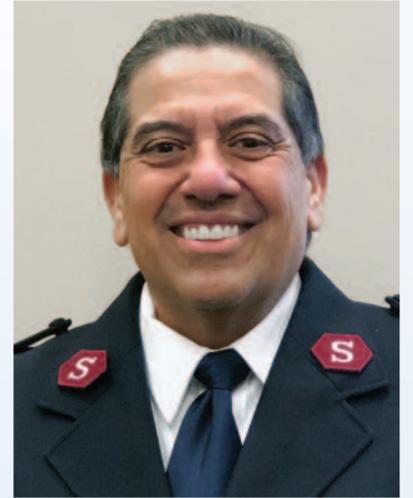
"What does this say?" he inquired, handing me a bulletin insert inadvertently dropped by someone after worship.

"God loves you and so do I," I read.

"You love me, L.T.?" he asked with sincere eyes.

I replied, "Yes, Miguel, I love you."

Over the year we became friends as Miguel played in the corps community center. Our encounters continued until one day when I heard foul language from our thrift store which was separated from our office space only by partitions. Going to investigate, I saw Miguel's mother berate him, ordering him home. His face was streaked with tears. In comforting him, I pulled out a business card and penned my home number on the



back. "Miguel, if you need me, call me, okay?" He nodded. But he never came to the corps again.

Over the next five years, I prayed for him daily, sometimes weeping, wondering and worrying what had become of him.

Eventually we received orders to move. Packing, cleaning and prepping for our move, the month flew by and our farewell Sunday arrived. Wanting to leave a few groceries for the new officers, my wife got me to go with her to the store and even had me, in full uniform, push a cart with a loud squeaky wheel. Suddenly we heard, "L.T.!" There stood Miguel, five years older and smiling. He ran to hug me tightly; he smelled good and had clear speech.

"Miguel, where have you been? What happened to you?" I asked. He shared how his father had divorced his mother, remarried and won custody of him. He was now living in a good Christian home. In that moment he couldn't have been more beautiful.

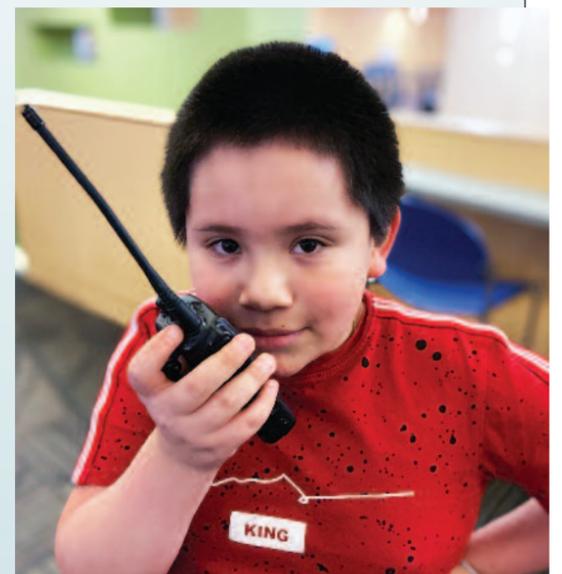
When I told him we were moving, he smiled and pulled out my tattered, filthy business card he'd kept with him all those years and handed it back to me. I felt like God was reassuring me he'd be ok. As I looked up, he was leaving.

"Miguel!" I yelled. He, along with everyone else, looked at me. "Miguel, remember God loves you." Smiling, he pointed his finger at me, acknowledging that I did, too, before running out the door.

Do it again, God, I prayed. Do it again.

piness as they completed the circuits when light bulbs lit up and fans began turning. Everyone was excited about their accomplishments.

SATERN held weekly classes that explored different topics related to amateur radio including electricity, morse code, satellites, storms and emergency radio networks. The five-week session ended in January with Kids Day on the Radio, where students used their new skills to reach other young enthusiasts across the world. Through this new Kroc Center partnership with SATERN, we've found another way to ignite sparks of learning and to build confidence in youth.



Growing corps —what's their secret?

Three very different corps share what have been the keys to their significant growth, revealing they have more in common than you might think.

Staging a comeback in Oak Creek

Not long after arriving to lead the Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps, Majors Bob and Ruth Fay observed that it was more perfectly positioned for explosive growth than any other corps they'd led in their 41 years as officers.

to show up, sometimes just a few and other times about a dozen.

"We knew God wanted to bring revival to this corps, so our prayers were to join Him in this work," said Major Ruth. "We wanted to hear from Him what our next step should



Planted in 1988, it had once been the meeting place for the community and one of the territory's fastest growing corps until recent years. However, the Fays sensed God was at work and the Oak Creek Corps was on the brink of a comeback.

So, they prayed. It was nothing fancy or complicated, according to Major Bob, just time set aside on the first Friday of each month where he and his wife prayed for revival. They came before the Lord with the needs of their people and invited corps members to join them. Though it wasn't plugged as a program or even printed on the bulletin, people began

be. We wanted to listen instead of just doing."

Out of these prayers came a series of sermons that addressed people's needs, uplifting but getting to the heart of the matter like joy in giving. The Fays prioritized sermon preparation, setting aside sufficient time to pray, research and craft what they wanted to share with their flock. "We take the preaching of the Word very seriously," said Major Bob.

Simultaneously, the Fays began stressing to soldiers the importance of daily Bible reading and applying it to their lives. The seasoned officers supplied tools to help their congregation in this perspective-changing endeavor. A corresponding devotional was inserted weekly into the Sunday worship service bulletin.

"A lot of what is taking place is friendship evangelism," said Major Ruth. She cites soldiers reaching out and making new people feel welcomed.

For instance, a community meal on Wednesday night brings together older adults from Booth Manor, families from the after-school program and soldiers who might otherwise never meet and introduces other opportunities for fellowship and service at the corps.



From this, some of the seniors are now part of the songsters.

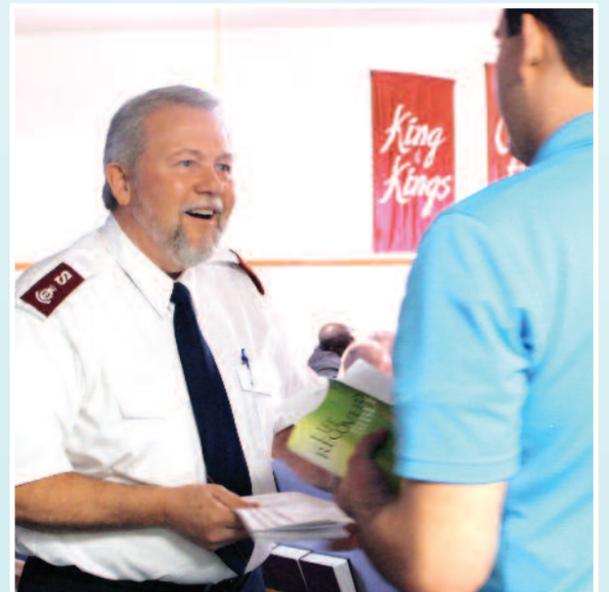
A Sunday night meal and dynamic worship service for middle school and high school students, introduced and led by Jesse Luhn, soldier and Good Soil Initiative youth development coordinator, attracts about 30 each week, including unchurched teens. Some are now attending on Sunday mornings with their parents, and five have accepted Christ this year.

"There's a great synergy between the distinct ministries and their members," said Major Ruth. Classes about becoming a soldier, taught by Corps Sergeant-Major Ken Tregallas, are seeing wide-ranging participation from advisory council members to Wednesday community meal attendees.

And whether a longtime faithful soldier, an active local officer or an occasional attendee or newcomer, all

receive love and appreciation from the Fays, who've adopted a "Family of the Week" plan where they not only visit with a particular family but introduce them to the corps congregation during the Sunday meeting which helps people connect.

"We can see growth starting to happen, and it's exciting," said Major Ruth. "Don't get me wrong, it's hard work, but it's God's work. And it's a privilege to be joyful officers."



Diana Songer and her sons were recently featured as the family of the week.



Taking to the streets in Keokuk

When Major Leanna Tuttle looked up from her desk, a soldier and a newcomer were standing in her doorway wanting to know if they could distribute flyers door-to-door on Saturday about the corps' character-building programs starting last fall. "Yes!" she said, gratified by this latest demonstration of ownership by members of the Keokuk, Iowa, Corps. Just a couple of years earlier, corps involvement was low, programs were few and children were nowhere to be seen.

But soldiers of this corps had taken their corps officers' urging to heart

and prayed about where God wanted them and their corps to be spiritually. Time and again they lined the altar to seek direction. Major Tuttle and associate corps officer A/Captain Linda Faye Jones could see God was at work, but they'd still be astounded by what happened next.

Corps members began taking God's love to the streets not only in Keokuk but in Ft. Madison where the corps runs a service center; they engaged people in conversation and passed out flyers about vacation Bible school (VBS). That first summer in 2018, 19 children came to VBS, and many then got involved in

character-building programs and worship on Sundays. Since nearly half the children were from Ft. Madison, last summer the corps held two sessions of VBS, one in Keokuk and the other in Ft. Madison with more than 25 children. This past fall, the efforts of a half dozen corps members passing out flyers resulted in more than 20 families attending the corps' character-building open house!

"Prayer is the focal point of this ownership and growth," said the major. "Not only do our soldiers and participants pray at the corps, they pray at home and share their testimonies with us regularly."

Increasingly as the officers have felt a need to expand the ministry in Ft. Madison, corps members have gotten involved right alongside of them. For instance, when they began holding Messy Church at the service center, soldiers came along and spent the entire day participating and welcoming newcomers. Now it regularly averages 20. At a monthly luncheon akin to Dinner Church, Keokuk soldiers come in uniform and sit at different tables with attendees. Originally started with 15 people, the luncheon has grown to nearly 60!

Other new outreaches in the two



Deb Horton and Major Kris Augenstein

communities include senior lunches and a program that provides meals for school children to take home on weekends—a significant ministry as the corps resides in the fourth largest food insecure (unable to consistently access or afford adequate food) county in Iowa. In its first year the program provided 371 children with six meals and two snacks to take home on weekends; this school year more than 500 children in Keokuk and more than 100 in Ft. Madison are benefitting as the corps partners with schools and community groups. People in Lee County are seeing The Salvation Army in action.

The major concluded, "While at times we may feel overwhelmed, we know God is leading and in control. We have had some ups and downs but it has been so exciting to see people grow in their personal walk with the Lord, hear their laughter and see their genuine love for one another."



Major Leanna Tuttle and A/Captain Linda Faye Jones dedicate Skyla, daughter of Jerry and Danelle Blackwell.

Building from the ground up in Kirksville

On their first Sunday newly commissioned officers, Lts. Brian and Amanda Hoscheit unlocked the doors to the Kirksville, Mo., Corps and prepared to lead their congregation in worship. As they waited, the time for the service to start came and went.

"We knelt at the mercy seat [altar] with our children and poured our hearts out to God," said Lt. Amanda. "We prayed for His direction and for Him to send His congregation, the ones He wanted to use to build His church."

The lieutenants not only prayed, they hit the streets. They got out into the community in uniform as often as possible, talking to people and assessing what meaningful ministries and services they could provide.

"We realized that no one was feeding people on Sundays, so we decid-

ed to start there," said the lieutenants. "We put up flyers for Blessings and Breakfast hoping for the opportunity to meet a practical need and show people there's room for them at our table."

The next Sunday 14 people showed up to have breakfast. Although at first many people only came to eat breakfast and didn't stay for worship, Lts. Brian and Amanda were grateful for the opportunity to serve and get to know them. They continued to conduct worship in the fellowship hall after breakfast for several more weeks as they built relationships and trust, and they started other programs including a Monday night Bible study, character-building for children, and men's and women's ministries.

Soon the congregation outgrew the fellowship hall and worship was moved to the chapel. Eighteen



Lts. Brian and Amanda Hoscheit, Kirksville, Mo., corps officers, with their children, Chet, Dorothy and Elias

ship classes with them and a few others who have expressed interest in becoming members.

The Hoscheits are grateful for the work the Lord is doing in their corps. "It's all God," the lieutenants said. "We hung one flyer. He has done the rest. Nothing is going to derail the Holy Spirit's work."

months after that first Sunday, the corps now has 27 in regular attendance, along with more than 20 others who come occasionally.

"We're welcoming everyone as one sent by God," said Lt. Amanda.

The Hoscheits have remained alert to the Holy Spirit's leading. They recently started discipling a young couple who came in for assistance and accepted the invitation to return for worship services, as well as a retired professor who has taken up the role of adult Sunday school teacher, rekindling his passion for teaching and redeeming a part of his life he thought was over. The lieutenants soon will be starting soldier-



Blaire York cracks eggs in preparation for Blessings and Breakfast.



Character-building programs are off to a great start at the Kirksville, Mo., Corps!

A Conversation about Corps Planting

Last summer Territorial Headquarters (THQ) restructured departments to help achieve the territory's Mission Imperative of "More People, More Like Jesus." Among these emerged a Corps and Community Mission Department with Majors Cassandra and Will DeJesus appointed to oversee it. Major Will was given the specific responsibility of corps planting. Recently, we sat down with him to get a sense of what this means and what to expect.

First, could you speak briefly to the department's name change and basically what it means for people?

Sure, it was changed from Adult Mission Advancement to Corps and Community Mission to give greater emphasis to the mission of the corps and their unique communities.

We want to proactively equip people by teaching and training, providing good models and systems, and coming alongside them, like in the case of corps planting.

How would you encapsulate the corps planting initiative?

I tend to shy away from the word "initiative" as we've had some good corps planting efforts in the territory before, and as an organization we've been establishing corps since our start. Also, we don't want people to think of corps planting as a program with a beginning and an end.

We really want people to see corps planting as a way of making disciples, communities of believers, a priority.

We hope it will become embedded in our Army culture once again.

Would you elaborate on this connection between corps planting and making disciples?

Most of us are familiar with Jesus' commission found in Matthew 28 to "...go and make disciples." As Christians we are called to be followers, disciples, of Christ and to fulfill this Great Commission. Every disciple also should be a disciple-maker. We have the privilege of forming congregations that worship together and provide discipleship to further God's Kingdom.

So, corps planting is directly related to the Mission Imperative, what God has called us to as believers and as an Army?

Yes, we all are—or should be—on a mission with God of "More people, more like Jesus."

In his book *Church Planting: Laying Foundations*, Stuart Murray writes "mission is not the invention, responsibility, or program of human beings, but flows from the character and purposes of God."

Corps planting is a powerful way for corps to grow and evangelize. It's both biblical and effective. We need new corps, expressions, fellowships, congregations and communities to spread—live out—the gospel of reconciliation between God and us, and also each other.

Sounds like there might already be a strategy?

It's a work in progress.

We've been researching the current corps planting methodologies in our territory, other U.S. and the Canada and Bermuda territories, along with other organizations and churches. Finding what systems, models and resources are available.

As well, my wife, Cassie, and I had some experience in corps planting, or replanting, when we were stationed

in Argentina which helps in my new role even though it was in a different context.

Do your other past appointments also inform your new ministry?

Absolutely, as a corps officer you kind of have a pioneer spirit; you're appointed to a location and you begin assessing the needs and unique situation of the community and what might be introduced to further the mission.

Our very first appointment as officers to lead the Chicago La Villita Corps especially felt like the opening of a new work. When we arrived in 1998 the corps already had lots of potential for growth but met in a very small former funeral parlor. We didn't have much meeting space, but we had a group of believers who were willing to share and live out the Good News in the community.

Once we moved to the new corps

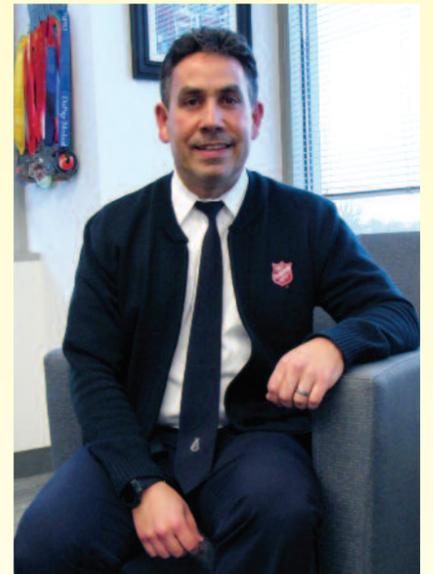
For instance, a corps plant could mean a group of Christ followers meeting in a soldier's home, a leased office space or a storefront. Initially, they might not even meet on Sundays but another day or evening of the week.

We need to think of corps planting more like multiplying and increasing the Body of Christ than increasing services or programs.

While we want to provide systems and models for corps planting, it won't be a "cookie cutter" or "color by number" approach. We need principles that can be adapted to our diverse communities and cultures.

As cultures and demographics change, we must change our methodology while still sharing the gospel and pursuing our mission.

We can't just return to the principles, methodology and strategies of corps planting that were used even five years ago.



We printed in July that the territory hopes to see a minimum of one new corps plant in each division in the next three years. Is this still the goal?

Yes, this is still the initial goal. Of course, it doesn't mean we couldn't surpass this goal in some divisions.

However, right now, we're focused on why followers of Christ should replicate and how we will accomplish this task of partnering with God in Kingdom-building.

We ought to go into our communities with the expectation for growth; so, it's not so much how many corps there are but whether those corps are now in the right places. For instance, when a new community emerges and we don't have a Salvation Army presence, is it better stewardship to shift our focus and resources there?

Is there anything else you'd like to share about corps mission and planting?

Oh, there's a lot more but perhaps just a few more thoughts.

In corps planting, or anything else, we must be more Kingdom-oriented than church-centered. Corps planting can advance God's Kingdom if it provides a space for God to accomplish His mission.

In his book, *Transforming Mission*, David Bosch talks about mission existing for the poor, the rich, the oppressed, the oppressor, the sinner and devout. Mission is about breaking down the walls of alienation and crossing boundaries.

As we look to partner with God and look for where He wants new congregations planted, our systems and strategies must be bathed in prayer, include assessments, recruitment of corps planters (both lay people and officers), training, coaching and resourcing corps plants, and celebration of what God is doing through us, His disciples.

How about if someone is interested in corps planting or feeling called to it?

I would encourage them to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and to remember corps planting is about more than just buildings or programs or services. It's about discipleship.

This is just a start. We want more conversations, ideas and creativity. I'd love to talk with you.

For more information, contact William.dejesus@usc.salvationarmy.org



building, which was built five years later just a few blocks down the road, our ministry was still not about the physical space but more about the fellowship, the community of people gathering together, seeking relationship with God and others.

Who else is involved in getting the corps planting effort off the ground?

Of course, the members of our department, but we're not just working with people at THQ.

Cassie and I have been visiting the divisions and engaging in conversations with officers and soldiers to get their input and ideas.

We want all Salvationists to have ownership in this process.

Also, we're forming a task force composed of lay leaders and officers, as well as experts outside of the Army, which will help to develop a comprehensive and intentional strategic plan to develop new corps and hopefully ignite in the territory a culture of corps planting, guided always by the Holy Spirit.

What does corps planting look like in tangible terms?

Well, the strategic plan is for the development of new corps—not necessarily buildings—but new fellowships, congregations and communities of faith.

Mission stays the same, but the way we do the mission is constantly changing.

What would you say to those who might ask how we can engage in corps planting and still maintain the corps we already have with limited financial and human resources?

These are valid concerns.

First, let's talk about the concept of "maintain." As a biblical requirement, we need to move away from a maintenance mentality; we need to change the mindset of self-preservation. We must be willing to take risks and succeed—or fail and try again.

As for limited resources, in Luke 2 Jesus told His followers that "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." This is still the reality. There's never enough money for our programs or leaders to help with them.

Sometimes I look at this verse, then look around me and I can become overwhelmed. But then I remember the rest of the verse. Jesus instructs us to "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

I wonder when we ask, listen to and obey the Holy Spirit and begin to plant corps where God wants them if we will see more disciples of Christ and will trust in the "God of the impossible" and even see corps making other corps?

Living with purpose and promise

The Paul and Kay Rader Scholarship is awarded each year to five outstanding minority young adult Salvationists who show commitment to their faith, education and service. Be inspired by two of the current recipients.

Alexia Brown

"I was afraid I wouldn't be able to afford Olivet Nazarene University," said Alexia Brown, a soldier from the Emporia, Kan., Corps, about pursuing her top choice for education. "Receiving this scholarship made the decision much easier."

Alexia met The Salvation Army as a child when she attended a Salvation Army school in Jamaica, but it wasn't until she moved to the United States



that she began attending the corps. There she found love, acceptance and support when she needed it most.

"At The Salvation Army I'm able to be myself," said Alexia. "I know that I have people to talk to, and there's always someone willing to help me."

Alexia has been involved at the corps since 2012, participating in girl guards, dance team, corps cadets, Bible study and women's ministries and volunteering with vacation Bible school.

"Alexia is an exceptional young adult who is hardworking, caring, and a joy to have in the corps," said Captain Deb Thompson, Emporia corps officer.

A graduate corps cadet and member of Discover 730, Alexia is a freshman at Olivet and is pursuing a double major in biochemistry and psychology.

Dakota Williams

"Being a part of The Salvation Army challenged me to work for something," said Dakota Williams, a soldier at the Grand Rapids Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps. "If I wasn't involved in the Army, I would just be living day to day."

A junior at Cornerstone University, Dakota is pursuing a major in percussion and a minor in voice. He says receiving the scholarship means he's able to focus on his goals.

The Salvation Army has been a second home to Dakota, who grew up attending the St. Louis Temple, Mo., Corps where he learned to play drums and cultivated his talent

through its music school. He was also a junior soldier and member of character-building programs.

Dakota currently is a percussionist in both the Fulton Heights' praise team and brass band. After graduation, he hopes to pursue a career in musical performance as a member of an orchestra for movie scores or musicals and continue to use his talents in The Salvation Army.

"They've done so much for me," he concluded. "I want to give back."

Current recipients also include Adrian Barron, Chicago La Villita, Ill., Corps; AshLee Grant, South Bend, Ind., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center; and Alberto Rapley, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps.

A joyful spirit

From the day she met The Salvation Army as a child, Kasey Hellstrom wanted to be involved in every activity the corps had to offer. Attending the Chicago, Ill., Harbor Light with her family, she was amazed by the love and compassion she received from Major Nancy Powers.

"Our family was going through a rough time," she said. "Major Nancy helped me through it."

In an attempt to escape the negative environment which had contributed to the family's troubles, they moved to Rockford, Ill. It was a hard transition and they had very few material possessions, but the corps members surrounded them with love and support as they settled in. Kasey found refuge at the corps and was active in youth programs.

The summer she attended music camp for the first time, Kasey accepted Christ. Her life changed again as a light ignited inside her. She couldn't wait to tell others about Jesus.

"In middle and high school I was constantly inviting people to church," she said. "I wasn't ashamed to tell them about Jesus and that I was a Christian."

By the time she graduated, she'd gone from a nearly homeless child to a vibrant young woman who had grown in her faith and mentored younger girls who looked up to her. She'd also been elected homecoming queen her senior year of high school



Kasey Hellstrom with her husband, David, and their daughter, Ava

and became the first in her family to graduate from college.

"We didn't have a lot, but my family put God first and He blessed us," Kasey said. "There's never been a time when I've felt alone because The Salvation Army was always there. If I didn't have the support of the Army, I would have been a different person and gone down a different path."

Kasey continues to care for others both in her profession as a certified nursing assistant at a longterm care facility and as a moonbeam leader at the Norridge, Ill., Corps. She and her husband, David, recently welcomed their first child, Ava.



The Norridge, Ill., Corps Moonbeams with Kasey



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Live Music Success!

The goal of *Live Music in Worship in Every Corps by 2020 (LM2020)* has brought a resurgence to music and gospel arts and a renewal to people's lives across the territory. Here's a glimpse at just a few of the stories you'll hear at the Music and Arts Festival in June.

New expressions

There's a reason the Escanaba, Mich., Corps has won the top corps award at the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division's music camp for two years running. New musical expressions are joining its already strong musical heritage of the Scandinavian string band, providing fresh creative outlets for both youth and adults.

Piano lessons, brass band and praise team are all thriving in this

tiny upper peninsula town. Led by Major Alex and Captain Aimee Norton the corps is undergoing a music revival. Come hear how at the festival!

New resources

A new music program has taken off at the Topeka Citadel, Kan., Corps, thanks to music director Charles Railsback, who is back home again in the Army. Recommitted to Christ and ministry, Charles oversees weekly instruction in brass bands,

violin, piano, guitar and music theory at the corps and uses the Music Arts Proficiency (MAP) curriculum to teach at schools.

A couple of hours southwest at the Hutchinson, Kan., Corps, MAP is also making a dramatic difference. In fact, it's led to the development of a second brass band! Piano, guitar and music theory are on the weekly docket as well,

thanks to music director Doretta Dickson.

Charles and Doretta often bring their bands together to perform and learn from each other. At the festival you'll hear how music can grow and enhance any corps.

New collaborations

Brass banding is a passion shared by Salvationists and non-Salvationists

alike in the greater Detroit area. Seeing an opportunity to further enrich the Eastern Michigan Division's great tradition of providing robust music programs for children, Divisional Music Director Christopher Ward tapped into the expertise of local brass banders.

Members of community bands volunteer to provide free weekly brass instruction and theory classes at six corps and serve on staff at music and gospel arts camp, music conservatory and the division's monthly music day. Come learn about the vast difference these collaborations have made.



Music and Arts Festival Highlights

June 12-14, 2020

Don't miss these unique opportunities to participate in the festival.

Rising Stars!

Online Territorial Solo Contest

The Central's got talent, and we want to hear it!

Don't miss the opportunity to compete in the inaugural territorial solo contest, *Rising Stars!*, created for musicians ages 9-25. Soloists may participate in six categories according to their current Music Arts Proficiency (MAP) level.

Video submissions are due by April 15, 2020. This is *not* a live event.

Brass, Voice, Piano, Guitar and Percussion soloists will compete in Levels One through Five.

- Levels One and Two soloists must be between ages 9-13.
- Levels Three, Four and Five soloists can be up to age 25.

Ukulele soloists will play Level One solos and will be split into two age categories: ages 9-13, and 14-25.

Video submissions in drama and dance are also possible.

Selected soloists will be featured at the festival.

Visit samusiccentral.org for more details!

The Gospel Experience

Join in powerful interactive worship that brings you face-to-face with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. You'll use your body, mind and emotions to meditate on His death and resurrection.

In an empty room with a large cross as the focal point, you'll come together with others in this unique immersive worship experience directed by a leader who will coordinate live music, prompts on a screen and audience participation, including the opportunity to take on impromptu roles.



Through The Gospel Experience in other territories, people have been saved, recommitted their lives to Christ, received a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit, and testified of healing and freedom.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to experience God's love in a fresh new way.

Worship Circles

Raise your voice in an organic praise experience with a small group of multigenerational believers encouraging each other's faith.

Free from staging and spontaneously led, Worship Circles keep the focus on our awesome God. Taking "praise and worship" back to its roots, the circle eliminates the tendency to perform that is so easy to fall into.

You'll not only be enriched but have a model for what just might work at your corps.

For more detailed information, visit centralcommissioning.org

Developing praise bands

by Josh Turner

The Kansas and Western Missouri Division hosted a Worship Ministries Workshop for corps praise bands with the purpose of developing corps musicians and leaders as worship teams. Throughout the weekend retreat, each of the six corps praise bands rehearsed with a coach who gave instruction and feedback on technique, how to start and end a song and build a complete worship set including instructions, welcome, scripture and prayer. They also dove into the songs corps praise teams were working on, broke them down, simplified them and started to layer in instrumentation to help tell the lyrics' story.

"I loved having the opportunity for our corps' praise band to have a weekend to develop together, and I appreciated the intentionality in the planning," said Lt. Chelsea Barnes, Garden City, Kan., corps officer.

During general sessions Divisional Music Director Jon Heaver preached on the Beatitudes. "Our praise bands are usually the ones leading worship



and working hard to put it together," he said. "Hopefully this weekend they could sit back and be fully engulfed in worship."

The Territorial Worship Collective (TWC) supported the weekend and modeled leading worship during the sessions, conducted a worship circle on Saturday night and assisted with coaching the individual corps bands during practices.

In addition to the praise band coaches, each of the six TWC members at the retreat stood side-by-side with corps praise teams, giving feedback and tips.

"Once I was in this position of learning, and now I am the one teaching," said Josh Rapley. "This is a great model for future leaders."

The TWC was introduced in 2019 to guide youth worship leaders and musicians throughout the territory to a high competency and train them so they can train others in their divisions and corps in order to enrich worship and grow their ministries.



Lent. What are you giving up or taking on?

by Major Lesa Davis

Before my family came to The Salvation Army, we were part of a much more liturgical church where "What are you giving up for Lent?" was a normal question to consider at this time of year. In my elementary school, attached to the church, each child was asked to answer that question out loud in the classroom. As I recall, the answers were overwhelmingly sugar-related: bubble gum, candy, soda, ice cream, etc. Every year there were children who tried to go around the system by "sacrificing" things they didn't like. One of my cousins boldly declared he was giving up cottage cheese—which he hated—every year.



As an adult, I have a much better appreciation for Lent, which begins on February 26 this year.

Lent, of course, is the time between Ash Wednesday and Good Friday when Christians focus on

Jesus' cross and crucifixion. Lent uses the language and imagery of sin and death, not popular concepts in our world. It focuses on sacrifice and repentance, ideas this modern world has almost totally rejected. Resistance to these ideas might be the most important reasons for us to give them our attention once again.

Although as a denomination we aren't liturgical in our worship, Lent can still be a very meaningful time of personal worship and preparation. You might want to consider two ways of engaging in a Lenten practice this year.

The first is a more traditional approach: giving up something for Lent. Christians have been practicing this discipline for centuries. In some traditions, people don't eat meat on certain days or at all during Lent. Others give up a favorite food or drink. As electronics have grown in popularity and availability, many people have decided to fast from

social media or video games during Lent. In fact, research has shown that giving up social media has become the third most

popular Lenten fast in the world. If you choose this option, make it meaningful. Give up something that

will hurt a little. Whatever you choose to give up, the important thing is to remember the purpose of this practice. Even our small sacrifices can be powerful reminders of Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf.

The second way is the opposite: taking on a new or neglected spiritual practice during Lent. Some people choose to spend more time in prayer or Bible reading during Lent. Forty days is long enough to consider reading through the four Gospels or through the Psalms. You might want to memorize a significant portion of scripture or focus on a specific type or time of prayer. If you have felt that something is lacking in your spiritual life, Lent is a perfect time to commit or re-commit to making it a priority.

Obviously, giving up and taking on can go together. A social media fast will give you more time for reading your Bible. A craving for that favorite treat you gave up can become a prompt for prayer. What you do is less important than why you do it.

Whatever you give up or take on this Lent, make it a time of offering yourself as a living sacrifice to the One who offered Himself for us all.

Spiritual Life

Women's Ministries

Continued from page 1

In addition, this year we'll celebrate five years of ministry through Embrace small groups and the Prepare podcast.

REIMAGINING LAUNCH

On February 12, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. London time (3:30 a.m. CST/ 4:30 a.m. EST) Commissioner Rosalie Peddle will host a live-stream (salvationarmy.org) with an invitation to accept the challenge of REIMAGINING Women's Ministries.

It's an exciting time to be part of women's ministries. I'm in. Are you?

Visit uscwomensministries.com and Central Women on Facebook or follow CentralWomen on Instagram

The Salvation Army

PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

March Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Sunday	Isaiah 45-50	Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps
	2 Monday	Matthew 23-25	Tanzania Territory
	3 Tuesday	1 Corinthians 1-2	Southeast Michigan ARC*
	4 Wednesday	Genesis 36-39	Port Huron, Mich., Corps
	5 Thursday	Ruth	Kirkville, Mo., Corps
	6 Friday	Psalms 27-29	Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps
	7 Saturday	Job 19-20	New Albany, Ind., Corps
	8 Sunday	Isaiah 51-55	Western Michigan & Northern Indiana DHQ**
	9 Monday	Matthew 26-28	Ghana Territory
	10 Tuesday	1 Corinthians 3-4	Joliet, Ill., Corps
	11 Wednesday	Genesis 40-43	Keokuk, Iowa, Corps
	12 Thursday	1 Samuel 1-5	St. Louis Euclid Ave., Mo., Corps
	13 Friday	Psalms 30-32	Noble Worship Center, Minn., Corps
	14 Saturday	Job 21-22	Territorial Worship Collective
	15 Sunday	Isaiah 56-61	Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps
	16 Monday	Mark 1-2	Women's Ministries
	17 Tuesday	1 Corinthians 5-6	Oshkosh, Wis., Corps
	18 Wednesday	Genesis 44-47	Royal Oak, Mich., Corps
	19 Thursday	1 Samuel 6-10	India South Western Territory
	20 Friday	Psalms 33-35	Springfield Clear Lake, Ill., Corps
	21 Saturday	Job 23-24	Topeka Citadel, Kan., Corps
	22 Sunday	Isaiah 62-66	Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps
	23 Monday	Mark 3-4	Festival of Music and Arts in June
	24 Tuesday	1 Corinthians 7-8	Carthage, Mo., Corps
	25 Wednesday	Genesis 48-50	Rochester, Minn., Corps
	26 Thursday	1 Samuel 11-15	Omaha North Side, Neb., Corps
	27 Friday	Psalms 36-38	Niles, Mich., Corps
	28 Saturday	Job 25-26	Quincy Kroc Center, Ill., Corps
	29 Sunday	Jeremiah 1-3	Corps planting in the Central Territory
	30 Monday	Mark 5-6	Eastern Europe Territory
	31 Tuesday	1 Corinthians 9-10	Mission Mentoring in the Western Division

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

--Mustard Seeds--



A vision for aging and ministry

Summit affirms older adults, identifies best practices and resources for ministry

by Dr. Maribeth V. Swanson

Look around your community and you'll see that our country's aging trends are similar to the last days of Moses who was 129 when he died "yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone" (Deut. 34:7). The number of centenarians in the U.S. grew by 44 percent between 2000 and 2014. Nationally, the population over age 65 is growing faster than our total population; by 2030 those over 65 will equal 20 percent, growing to 25 percent by 2060.

Demographic data indicates Baby Boomers are the primary constituents, and 70 is the new 65. States like Arizona and Florida have the highest numbers, primarily a result of migration of mobile seniors with financial stability. Yet, the Midwest also is aging, especially in rural counties, as those who don't migrate to southern states are more likely to "age in place."

To address anticipated aging trends, the Aging Services and Older Adult Ministries Strategy Summit has convened over a two-year period to conduct an environmental scan of relevant demographic data, survey existing programs across the territory, identify best practices and bring together resources to promote healthy aging and spiritual care across the lifespan.

Our vision is to meet you where you are with the unconditional love of God; redefining community one life at a time.

Additionally, the project has focused on asking hard questions regarding the challenges, as well as opportunities, aging trends will have on ensuring healthy corps life and The Salvation Army's community and social programs. Is The Salvation Army ready to meet the volume of "human need" for the marginalized who are aging and homeless, aging and addicted, and aging and disabled?

To further develop a vision for what the future could look like, Andrew Wileman, assistant director for Older Peoples Services in the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory (UKI), was invited to the 2019

Summit to share the work the UKI has undertaken in the past three years in developing an affirming approach that is addressing similar trends in the U.S. Holding the view that "an older corps is not a dying corps," he shared not only the strategic personnel and organizational resources that are bringing an enhanced focus to serving older adults but the resources and program models that have been developed to address their common values and needs: the need to belong, dignity, respect, financial stability, spiritual care unique for this season, health and access to quality healthcare.

Summit participants caught a new vision for what is possible for the future of Salvation Army



Dr. Maribeth V. Swanson, territorial social services secretary, Andrew Wileman, assistant director for Older Peoples Services for the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory, Lt. Colonel Philip Maxwell, then territorial program secretary, and Major Jo Langham, territorial older adult services secretary.

programs and services for older adults in our territory. The takeaways from the UKI experience were instrumental in the group in identifying five pillars that will support the future development of aging services and older adult ministries in the Central Territory: biblical imperative, bringing justice, advocacy, education, and a call to act.

The vision for the future of aging services and older adult ministries will be grounded in a vision whereby older adults, their caregivers and families are met with the unconditional love of God. As stated by Evangeline Booth, "It is not how many years we live, but what we do with them. It is not what we receive, but what we give to others." Summit participants agreed on a vision: Our vision is to meet you where you are with the unconditional love of God; redefining community one life at a time.

Busy hands, full hearts

by Anne Urban

From camouflage and leopard prints to hearts and flowers, blankets designed to help revive the memories of Alzheimer's patients is just one of the many community service projects completed by the Carthage, Mo., Corps Women's Ministries group, reported Captain Dana Cook, corps officer. The blankets were intentionally crafted with eye-catching (and sometimes eye-popping!) patterns, vivid colors and mentally stimulating decorations

Betty Page, women's ministries treasurer, came up with the idea after reading a Facebook post from a woman whose father wanted to fidget with any accessories she wore for each visit, such as colorful necklaces or bracelets, when she realized keeping her father's hands busy aided their communication. Betty's grand-



Captain Dana Cook and women's ministries members make activity blankets for Alzheimer's patients.

daughter, who works in an Alzheimer's care unit, confirmed the observation.

The women decided to make "activity" blankets for 14 patients at a specialized-care center. Using lightweight fleece, the women decorated each blanket with bright buttons, patches with zippers and pockets from old blue jeans, interesting handkerchief squares, unique trims and bric-a-brac, plus a lively array of cookie-cutter shapes.

"All of the material, decorations and thread were donated," said the captain, "and everyone enjoyed the fellowship while we sewed. Most importantly, the women prayed for each blanket's new owner and his or her loved ones."

Ranging in age from 60 to 87 years, the women [including Donna Gibbens,

Barbara Greenfield, Pat Maggard, Brenda Reddy and Carmon Wilkerson] have taken on several other community service projects, such as monthly programs and crafts at area nursing homes, delivering little gifts to residents of a women's shelter, stuffing backpacks with school supplies and assisting in the corps' community Thanksgiving luncheon.

But the ladies' favorites occur during Christmas, especially at a home for special-needs adults, where they're always greeted with hugs and laughter. "We bring gifts and special food treats, conduct games with prizes, sing while doing crafts and give a devotional they can understand and participate in," Captain Dana concluded. "We just love spending time with them!"



Bold prints, bright colors and decorations make each activity blanket unique.

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