



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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A life greater than themselves

by Craig Dirkes

Some people love The Salvation Army's mission of sharing the gospel and meeting needs in Christ's name so much that it becomes part of their DNA. That's the case with Lynn and Sherman Turcotte, longtime soldiers of the Duluth, Minn., Corps.

Sherman has been dedicated to the mission for more than six decades. His enthusiasm began at age 9 while he was living in the small town of Cloquet, Minn., where his mom used to take him into bars to hand out the *War Cry* and ask for donations to help fund the ministry.

"We'd leave the bars with a big container full of change. I thought it was so neat," recalled Sherman, 73, who has lived in northern Minnesota his whole life. "That was my first encounter with The Salvation Army."

Throughout the years, Sherman's service has known no bounds: cooking and serving meals, ringing bells at kettles and distributing toys at Christmas, to name only a few.

"Whenever they've needed volunteers to do something, I've done it—no matter what it is," said Sherman, a retired equipment operator who worked for St. Louis County for 42 years. "Helping was instilled in me by my parents."

Lynn likes serving too. She has been heavily involved in the corps ever since the couple began attending worship services in 1990. For years she has been involved in community care ministries and youth activities and has helped provide transportation to corps programs.

"I feel like God called me to this church," Lynn said. "Faith is extending our hand to people who need help."



Lynn and Sherman were married at the Duluth Corps in 1993. Their wedding ceremony was officiated by Commissioner Barry Swanson, at that time a captain stationed in the city.

The couple first met in the late 1980s when Sherman showed up at Lynn's house to buy an old red Dodge she was selling.

"I bought the car, and I got the owner with it," Sherman joked.

As the years passed, Lynn and Sherman's faith and commitment to Christ have grown and deepened along with their dedication to serving Him through their corps.

Sherman expanded his ministry by teaching Sunday school and serving on the advisory board, which he still does after 15 years. Lynn immersed herself in women's ministries. Since the late 1990s she has attended and helped lead Bible studies that have provided encouragement and spiritual enrichment for women. She also has had a ministry of sending cards and visiting those who can't get out to the corps for worship.

"I've been to almost every Bible study for the past 25 years," Lynn said proudly. "Even the smallest things we do in faith to help others is a blessing."

Lifting weights and spirits in Macomb

In the basement of the Macomb, Ill., Corps, below the chapel, is another place of ministry of sorts—the gym.

"There is no other gym like it," said Tim Piper, who joined the gym in 1990 and became its director in 2000. "We don't turn anyone away. Our gym slogan is, 'Be kind, lift heavy.' Our goal is to build strength and build better people."

It was 1980 when Macomb resi-

dents Roger and Judy Gedney, a couple with ties to The Salvation Army, opened the gym. Judy, a powerlifter, at one time held the title to 40 different world and American records. The Gedneys ran the gym until Tim, a competitive weightlifter, powerlifter and coach, took over.

The gym is free and open to the community from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Participants, ranging in age from 12 to 70, take part in competitions and/or focus on

fitness and weight-training. Those who have any role in competitions (including judging) are considered to be part of The Salvation Army Lifting Team (SALT).

Captain Ron Felt, who leads the corps, likes to use the strength-based weightlifting machines.

"This gym has a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere," the captain said. "It's a safe place to be. I was down there the other day, and everyone was working out to-

gether, talking with each other and erasing age-gaps."

Tim has established some firm rules. No music or ear buds are allowed. There is no drug use or swearing.

"Tim reminds people that there is a chapel above them, and they need to be respectful," said Captain Ron.

When Tim first arrived, there were just barbells, dumbbells and a bench press. Over the years, he has purchased more competitive weightlifting equipment. There are now six platforms designed for Olympic lifting and squats, three platforms for bench-press exercises and other stationery equipment.

SALT members compete around the world, and some meets are held in the Macomb gym. Seven members and one judge were in Cape Cod, MA., in November for a world competition.

The SALT team (and other gym regulars) help the corps with a number of projects. When semi-trucks loaded with supplies for the corps' food pantry arrive, the weightlifters get to work.



Director Tim Piper trains gym member Rod Seckman.

About 20-25 lifters line up in a human "conveyor belt," Tim explained.

"We set up tables and load the boxes of food up and down the stairs. We don't mess around. We can usually unload the semi-truck in less than an hour," he said. "It's our workout. We are lifting, twisting and turning. We always enjoy it."

At Christmastime, the crew helps distribute bags of toys to families.

"We have lifters who have moved out of Macomb who come back to

Continued on page 9



Captain Ron Felt with staff member Cynthia Delgado by the trophy wall in the Macomb Corps gym.

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The power of self-giving love

by Colonel Thomas C. Louden
Chief Secretary

The world in which we live is infatuated with power. Political power, financial power, military power, academic power, social media power, influencer power. Really, the list could go on and on. We see this insatiable thirst for power demonstrated on practically every stage in our society. Even in our blessed Movement, we can hear the refrain, "If it's going to be, it's up to me." Yet, the self-seeking for might and power always leads to destruction, and it usually begins with the self-centered practitioner.

God spoke to the nation of Israel through Zechariah and set the right disposition to divine resources that demonstrate His power as Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things. In Zech. 4:6 (ESV) God gives these words to the prophet: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the LORD of hosts." Two Hebrew words used here are significant. They are significant on their own, but together they take on a higher meaning to give the listener absolute certainty of His message.

The first word is "hayil," which translates to "might" that means to

affect something by means of wealth or by an army with military might. It can relate to a man or woman whose competence is so great in his or her respective field that something can be done whether in battle or in daily life. Hayil does not appear to be used by any biblical author to describe the power of God, just humanity.

The second word is "koach," which translates to "power." Unlike hayil, koach is used in direct relation to God. It is often used to describe God's creative power and His ability to save His people.

When these two words are used in combination, it means that man is using his power like God to generate wealth and force that produces a royal-like force to affect something. From a cursory observation, this may appeal to altruistic sensibilities and judgments. However, when these two words are used together, as in Zech. 4:6, it refers to the total human capacity, which is only available through the divine resourcing of God.

God is saying to His people and to us that if anything of value, worth or



substance is to be done, it will not be done by humanity's might or power; to think otherwise is a delusion.

For the person who is faithfully and humbly following God, there is a far greater and divine power available. God speaks into our heart's deepest hunger and thirst, which is not for more human might and power, but for the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God. This filling of the Spirit is paramount for every believer, and more so for those who lead the people of God.

The unique juxtaposition is that a person can only be filled with the Holy Spirit when one is empty of himself or herself. To retain a claim upon might and power will eliminate the possibility of being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. In other words, a believer who is seeking to be filled with the Holy Spirit must, in word and deed, practice self-giving love that defeats the self and allows room in the believer's heart and life for total indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

The most powerful example of self-giving love is found in Jesus Christ. His sacrificial love, demonstrated through His life, death and resurrection, serves as a model for us. Jesus' willingness to lay down His life for humanity is the ultimate act of self-giving love. Showing true love involves sacrifice and a deep commitment to the salvation of others.

Self-giving love is not limited to grand gestures; it is often expressed in the simple, everyday choices we make. This is one of the greatest privileges of being an orthodox Salvationist. It can be seen in the soldier who tirelessly cares for the children of their corps, makes friends with those who have no friends, or welcomes a stranger and offers help without hesitation. These acts of love, though they may go unnoticed by the world, are the building blocks of a triumphant faith that makes us The Salvation Army and will win the world for Jesus.

In a world often characterized by power-hungry self-interest and competition, Holy Spirit-filled, self-giving love stands as a beacon of hope. Our actions, no matter how small, can have a significant impact on the lives of others because we are living with the indwelling power of God.

A different kind of Sunday

For Major Sue Dewan, inviting people into her home is all about providing a place for connection and belonging. There's no set activity or program, just a time to get together, enjoy a homemade dessert, make a seasonal craft or some jewelry, and have a



Major Sue Dewan and Lt. Kristi Dalberg

chat. Blessed with the gift of hospitality, she lovingly opens her home and shares these small gifts with others.

"We have become so isolated in the world and the culture in which we live," said Major Sue, who has been attending the Wichita West Orchard, Kan., Corps since retiring in 2018. "Everyone needs connection."

On the first Sunday of every month, Major Sue and her husband, Major David Dewan, open their front door and their hearts to anyone who wants to come in for a visit. Corps members are invited, so are neighbors and friends Major Sue has made at craft fairs and other churches. Believers and unbelievers, seekers and saints. All are welcomed.

"I didn't want it to just be a church event. I wanted it to be for everyone," she said. "Believers need to be around those who don't believe, and the other way around."

Lt. Kristi Dalberg, corps officer with her husband Lt. John Dalberg, loves the opportunity for corps members to connect with one another as well as make new friends and share their faith.

"We invite the whole church, but also people who don't know Jesus or who may be uncomfortable in church to build relationships with them and show them Jesus in a nontraditional way," she said.

Every "Sunday Something" is different. Sometimes there are a handful of guests, other times more than a dozen show up. Often there are children who love to sift through Major Sue's vast collection of craft supplies, seeking the perfect pieces to add to their creations. Although a seasonal craft sample is on display and the materials available to make it, visitors can make anything they'd like.



Major Sue (r) and visitors chat as they craft jewelry.

"I love to make stuff. It's therapeutic. And it's good fellowship, but there's no pressure, no specific project anyone has to make," said Major Sue. "I put it all out, and people make some of the most amazing things, and I think I would never have put those things together. It's fun to see what people come up with."

Major Sue learned hospitality through example. During her teen years, she was one of 40 young people who attended Bible study and fellowship weekly at the home of a peer. When their own children were

grown, his parents continued to host for many more years. As a young officer, she saw the examples of local officers and soldiers. Major Sue realized God had gifted her with hospitality as well.

"This is my ministry. I love welcoming people into my home," she said. "It doesn't have to be crafts. It can be anything you're passionate about or good at. Freely you have been given, freely give. When God gives you something, He doesn't give it to you just to keep it. You share it."



Young participants paint in Major Sue's craft room.

Central Connection

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JUNE 3-6
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JUNE 6-8
GENERAL'S CONGRESS

JUNE 8
ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING
OF THE CHAMPIONS OF THE MISSION

USA CENTRAL TERRITORY

BELONGING
CONFERENCE AND
GENERAL'S CONGRESS
2025

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

HOSTED BY
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SPECIAL GUESTS
THE GENERAL AND COMMISSIONER BRONWYN BUCKINGHAM

Belongings
A TRUMP STONE
MUSICAL

FEATURING
BELONGINGS THE MUSICAL

You belong here

God calls us His children. He knows us by name. Jesus said the very hairs on our heads are numbered. So, why do so many of us struggle with a sense of belonging?

The Belonging 2025 Conference and General's Congress in Milwaukee, Wis., June 3-8, 2025, will explore the idea that all of us have a place of belonging, found in Jesus, celebrated with other believers and in community, and leading us to champion God's mission in the world. This week is designed for anyone connected with The Salvation Army: soldiers, corps attenders, officers, employees, volunteers, family and friends. In June, it's the place to be to connect, equip and worship.

A Time for Connecting

There will be many opportunities to see friends and make new ones. During the conference, delegates can connect during meals like networking lunches. Belonging Spaces, grouped around areas of interest or experience, will provide welcoming places strategically placed around the theater and Baird Center. Come discover new ministries and celebrate experiences and people.

A Time for Equipping

Nearly 90 workshops will be offered covering a broad range of topics including areas of ministry, service, partnerships, leadership, spiritual develop-

ment, skill development, programming, spiritual health and wellness, and relationships.

A Time for Worshipping

Each day of the conference will begin with worship and devotions called "Morning Connection." Music and Creative Arts Ministries will play an important part. The musical, "Belongings," will be performed three times and a variety of musical groups, including the Chicago Staff Band and the Central Territorial Staff Songsters, will participate. As well, the Rising Stars Festival will be held. God's Word will be shared, and our hearts encouraged by General Lyndon and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham.

Here are some of the daily highlights:

Tuesday, June 3

Welcome Dinner with Keynote Address by Nona Jones

Wednesday, June 4

**Morning Connection with Commissioner Evie Diaz
Workshops • Trade Central • Networking Lunch
"Belongings" the Musical — Preview Performance**

Thursday, June 5

**Morning Connection with Lt. Colonel Nick & Major Kerry Coke
Workshops • Trade Central • Networking Lunch
Commencement & Awards Dinner – The General will speak
"Belongings" the Musical – Opening Night**

Friday, June 6

**Morning Connection with Dr. Bill & Rev. Diane Ury
Territorial Officers' Councils
Workshops • Trade Central
General Session "Belonging to God"
Youth Afterglow**

Saturday, June 7

**Rising Stars Festival Performances & Awards
General Session "Belonging to the Body"
SA Gaming Tournament • Trade Central
"Belongings" the Musical — Final Performance!
General Session "Belonging to Community"
Youth Afterglow**

Sunday, June 8

**General Session "Belonging to the Mission"
Commissioning & Ordination of the "Champions of the Mission" session**

Many people have signed up since registration opened, but there's room for more!

Cost is just \$45 for those who are age 26 or older until March 1, 2025, then it increases to \$50. Those 25 and younger register for free! Programming for children, called "Kids' Congress," is only \$25 per child for the week and includes exciting and fun activities.

Register now to reserve your place in workshops and hotels closest to the Baird Center and the Miller High Life Theatre at www.belonging.org.

Winter Night Watch provides hope

by Daisy Hutzell-Rodman

Hooded sweatshirts are a popular item of clothing for many—from athletes to hip-hop artists to tech CEOs. No matter how they are worn in popular culture, they are a welcome clothing item for those served through a Salvation Army program in Omaha, Neb., called Winter Night Watch.

ter services director. “We will have cars of families who come, knowing they can go and pick up a meal, and warm clothing.”

Winter Night Watch is a program that is supported by many members of the community. One partner, radio station Life 100.7, helped with a drive from September 28 through November 2, 2024—a campaign known as Hoodies for Hope. It was the third year for this partnership between The Salvation Army and the radio station.

Jill Tracey, afternoon co-host and listener engagement director for Life 100.7, noted, “One thing mentioned was that the Winter Night Watch program needed layers to hand out when they go out on the streets throughout those coldest months of the year.”

Hoodies were selected as the ideal donation item because of their versatility.

“They can go under things. They can go over things,” Jill said. “For teens who don’t really like coats, hoodies are definitely something they will wear.”

The campaign has proven successful, as past editions have garnered around 500 hoodies. The 2024 campaign received a new name and goal—1,007 Hoodies for Hope. Listeners and donors blew it out of the water, with donations reaching 1,330 hoodies. These sweatshirts are being given out now during the Winter Night Watch.

To those who are homeless or near-homeless, winter in Omaha can be tough. The average high temperatures are just above freezing, and at night, they usually drop to a little more than 15 degrees. Winter Night Watch helps make things a little more bearable for the city’s most vulnerable population.

The program runs five nights a week between December and the end of February. Mobile canteens make multiple stops around underserved areas in the city, ensuring the greatest number of people possible are served hot meals and beverages, as well as hoodies, winter coats, gloves, hats, socks and blankets. At the height of the winter season as many as 400 individuals receive help each night. The 2023-2024 program served more than 8,100 meals and distributed 8,700 warm clothing items, as well as 450 blankets, to those in need—and the need keeps growing.

“It has been a consistent incline since I started,” said Maria Moreno, Western divisional emergency disas-

It’s a project the staff at Life 100.7 is happy to support.

“We know Nebraska gets dreadfully cold in the winter, and we know that people need help,” Jill said. “They need some warm layers, a good, hot meal. They might need that opportunity to have a conversation, to point them to other services that The Salvation Army provides to maybe help them get off the streets.”

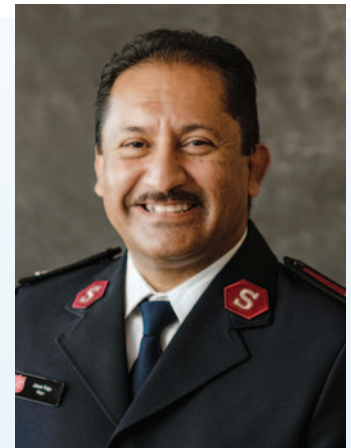
Other faithful community partners, from corporations to service organizations to individuals, have donated goods to this drive. One partner organization has focused on donating socks, another individual encourages her circle of friends to purchase blankets and other warm items from garage sales; and the slots to volunteer and serve food and warm items to those in need of hope and warmth fill quickly with caring individuals who wish to be a part of this important mission.



How I belong

Major Jesús Trejo

Norfolk, Neb.



What do you do with The Salvation Army?

I am a corps officer. An ordained minister. I am called by God to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name.

Why do you do it?

For me, it’s personal. The Salvation Army impacted my life as a young adult. I was needing emotional support and guidance. I was struggling with identity and knowing how to be a father and how to be a good follower of Christ. The Salvation Army took me and my family in through social services.

How did you become involved with the Army?

We were invited to become part of the congregation, and I began just by being involved in the adult Bible classes. I was very fortunate to be mentored by a lay leader who really helped me to become a man who would seek after God and His will. I fell in love with the Army’s mission and the ministry.

What’s the best part about your ministry?

What I love the most about my calling is the ability to inspire hope in others when there is no hope. When I came to The Salvation Army, I was at a point in my life when I needed to be inspired. Each day when I encounter someone new, I just want them to know that The Salvation Army loves them because God loves them.

What’s on your playlist?

I’m old! I listen to a lot of Christian radio. I try to fill my mind with inspiring messages to equip myself to be fresh in the Spirit, so I can serve Him wholly.

What lifts you up?

Seeing God working in the lives of those we minister to, day in and day out. The joy of seeing them experience God’s goodness and seeing them walk in the paths He has for them really lifts me up.

What one word sums up your testimony?

Grace. God’s grace is sufficient for me. Every day, I can’t go without His grace. If not for His grace, I would be lost.

If you could have an unlimited supply of one thing, what would it be?

I would love to have more godly people on fire for God’s Kingdom. The impact we could have on our homes, communities and throughout the world would be incredible!

Box of groceries leads to calling

by Craig Dirkes

Two years ago, Fernando Basabe and Zarina Singh received a box of food that altered the course of their lives. They and their young son recently had immigrated to America after fleeing socialist chaos in their homeland of Venezuela, where Zarina and Fernando had worked at a state-controlled oil company. Zarina worked as a chemical engineer, and Fernando as a plant operator.

Their lives became a life-or-death struggle after Fernando reported to authorities that government troops were stealing gasoline from the oil company. He was identified as a whistleblower at a government checkpoint, where military officers beat and stabbed him. Their message was clear: Keep your mouth shut, or die.

Fernando was treated by a friendly doctor at his home, keeping him out of the hospitals where mortality rates had skyrocketed. He knew his family's only hope was

asylum in America as part of a program to help people escape oppression and war.

Eventually the family found their way to Minnesota, where a friend from the oil industry lived. They arrived with nothing and spent months living in a shelter.

One day, at a bus stop in Brooklyn Park, Fernando and Zarina received a flyer about a food distribution at the Noble Worship Center (Corps). They stopped by and received a big box of bread, meat, produce and other food. After receiving it, they struck up a conversation with Captain Josh Polanco, who led the corps at that time. They learned The Salvation Army is not just a place of service but a place for Christian worship.

Fernando and Zarina were moved deeply and felt they belonged.

"We were used to going to churches that only helped in spiritual ways, but this church also helps with your needs—like food and coats," Fernando said. "They help

people who don't know what will happen tomorrow. We know what that feels like."

Captain Josh recalls the day he met the couple.

"I remember Fernando saying, 'This is the type of church I've been searching for my whole life,'" said Captain Josh, who is now general secretary for the Northern Division. "He and Zarina came in for food, but after hearing about the mission of The Salvation Army, they walked away with a renewed sense of purpose and calling."

Fernando and Zarina soon began attending the Noble Corps, thrilled to join the mission of serv-



A family at the coat distribution with Lt. Colonel Randall Polsley, Northern divisional commander, and Minneapolis Temple, Minn., Administrators Zarina Singh and Fernando Basabe

ing the Lord through helping others.

After receiving their work papers, Fernando and Zarina became interns at the Minneapolis Temple Corps where they assisted Majors Roberto and Melissa Viquez, then corps officers, with a wide range of ministry, such as distributing food and coats, helping with Sunday morning worship services, and assisting local Nicaraguans who have fled dire circumstances like those in Venezuela.

They began leading the corps as administrators in July 2023.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us to be an example to Hispanic people, to show what God can do in your life and how The Salvation Army can help," Zarina said.

They plan to become officers and spend their lives sharing the gospel and serving others.

And it all started with a box of groceries.



Zarina Singh and Fernando Basabe

Keeping neighbors warm



The Minneapolis Temple, Minn., Corps distributed several hundred coats to the community this winter. The corps is led by administrators Fernando Basabe and Zarina Singh, Venezuelan immigrants whose fluency in Spanish aids them in serving the local population of Hispanic individuals and families.

The coat distribution included significant contributions from Drs. Basir and Mohiba Tareen, owners of Tareen Dermatology.

USA CENTRAL TERRITORY

BELONGING

UNITED IN PRAYER 2025

WEEKLY PRAYER TOPICS


"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2

Week of February 2nd:
Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing

Week of February 9th:
Music and Creative Arts Ministries

Week of February 16th:
Global and Summer Mission Teams and our Partners in Mission

Week of February 23rd:
Older Adult Ministries



I commit to...

- Praying for **BELONGING 2025**.
- Praying for the different programs and ministries of The Salvation Army.
- Praying for those entering our doors to feel like they BELONG.
- Praying for myself and my relationship with Christ.

Signature _____ Date _____

Jamaica, no problem!

With the announcement of this year's Territorial Global Mission Teams (GMT), we're taking a look back at the last team which ministered in Jamaica with an article written by Charol McDonald.

When you're going on a mission trip, there is a plan. You may be going to do programming or a building project—or both. Planning for a trip like this doesn't happen overnight; it's detailed. But some-

cers) had hoped to be able to complete several necessary projects for the corps and basic school but soon realized their time there would be cut short. A wish list was prepared, and the team leader and project manager devised a plan, remembering our key word: flexibility!

Our first full day included wonderful worship at the corps. Then the real work began. Supplies were purchased, walls prepped for painting, and the roofing project began. The days were hot, but that didn't keep us from getting things done. As a team we pulled together to complete the wish list of tasks and then some. Team



Members of the Global Mission Team to Jamaica included: (front row, l to r) Lt. Merville Kiangbeni, Capt. Kelly Jolly, Charol McDonald, Maj. Shanda Minks; and (back row, l to r) Joshua Walker, Doug Dobney, Lydia Robinson, Viki Payton, Lt. Johnathan Harvy, and Sarah Marquis



members didn't let their fear of heights stop them.

The team was blessed to be able to do morning devotions with the students, participate in



times you have to be flexible like we learned in Jamaica where a common phrase is, "No Problem, Mon." While we didn't always know the next steps, we knew Who directed our path.

Upon arrival, our team was greeted by one of the host officers, Major Jonathan Kellman, Western Jamaica divisional commander. We could tell right away that he and his team were going to be great hosts.

The Montego Bay Temple Corps was going through a time of transition, as their corps officers were being transferred that week and the incoming officers did not have an arrival date. Majors Ewart (then corps offi-



women's ministries, a mid-week feeding program in the community, a Christmas kettle launch and Sunday worship through testimonies, leading songs, and preaching.

It was difficult to leave Montego Bay. We had been taken such good care of by our hosts, especially Chef Sandy (a local Salvationist) and Major Prescillia Kellman, who worked hard to prepare a generous variety of delicious Jamaican food throughout the week. A few of us had called Jamaica home previously; others were made to feel at home right away. Either way, the new skills we acquired and the friendships and memories that we made with the corps, students and staff will last a lifetime.



The Jamaica GMT was comprised of employees, soldiers and officers from five divisions across the Central Territory. No longer strangers or acquaintances from parts near and far, but now genuinely family.



The details:

For: Salvationists and TSA employees 18 and over
 Cost: \$1000
 Commitment: 1-2 weeks
 Apply: centralmissions.org/GMT



May 2025 - Surprise

Join us as we support Central Territory personnel, Cpts. Marin. We will partner with them to serve their school and community ministries in Osorno, Chile. Application Deadline: Jan. 1, 2025



August 2025 - Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a Partner in Mission territory, but it's our first Global Mission Team to visit there. Expect warm weather and warm hospitality as we work together with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Application Deadline: Feb. 17, 2025



October 2025 - French Guiana

French Guiana is a part of the Caribbean Territory, another Partner in Mission Territory. Again, a first-time visit for us, as we learn from our partners who enjoy a lively and growing Salvation Army family. Application Deadline: May 5, 2025

From Midwest to Middle East

by Major AmyJo Ferguson

Since we took up our appointments in the Middle East in February 2024, we've traveled a lot. We have the privilege of visiting Salvationists around

there is a brass band, and often others in the church compound will pause to listen to the band play.

We also oversee the three corps in the country of Oman. Unlike Abu Dhabi and Dubai, which created mountain ranges of buildings from the desert plains, Oman is a country between the mountains and the sea. It is very green, especially during the Khareef season when the autumnal monsoons come. Along the roadsides fruit vendors sell fresh sweet coconuts, mangoes, papayas, and many varieties of bananas. The people in Oman are as welcoming and beautiful as the place they live.

East Regional Headquarters.

The first official corps in the Middle East was in Kuwait so it boasts a large, established corps with many programs like thriving women's and men's ministries, as well as Sunday school, junior soldiers, and a brass band. We recently visited the Kuwait Corps to celebrate their 16-year anniversary.

While every place is unique and a blessing in its own way, we find that we are welcomed with love and open arms everywhere we go. Like all Salvationists, the soldiers in the Middle East enjoy fellowship together. Christians are in the minority in these countries, and it can be difficult to be a follower of Christ in the Middle East. Because of this there is much rejoicing when we join as a family of brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is especially amazing because the soldiers in the Middle East come from around the world. While most of the soldiers are from India, we also have soldiers from South Africa,

Brazil, Canada, Uganda, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, Nigeria, and Kenya. Despite coming from many different cultures and places they appreciate each other and the privilege of worship. This is seen in the structures of the corps themselves. Because there are only two officer couples in the region, most corps are led regularly by committed soldiers, with everyone lending a hand.

Like officers everywhere, we are blessed to be able to serve.



Gathering to pray about modern slavery and human trafficking

the Middle East Region who often meet in each other's homes and church compounds, which are large facilities with many chapels where Christians are allowed to gather.

United Arab Emirates is our homebase. We live in Abu Dhabi where we worship on Sunday mornings. The corps in Abu Dhabi has a wonderful family atmosphere, and the people there love to meet in fellowship.

On Wednesdays, we travel to Dubai, which is a rich and beautiful city. It is a testament to hard work and ingenuity. It is a privilege to worship with the people there and to see their commitment to The Salvation Army. In Dubai

There are two corps in the country of Bahrain. They are known for their spirited and Spirit-led worship. They love to sing and are full of passion. Bahrain is the location of the Middle



Celebrating the sixteenth anniversary of the Kuwait Corps

Fulfilling her purpose

When Captain Jessica Martinez learned of her upcoming appointment in Uruguay, she was a bit surprised but felt at peace.

"I am praying and letting the Lord use me to do His will," Captain Jessica said. "I know His plan is always best."

The captain has been appointed as divisional secretary for the Uruguay Division in the South America East Territory. She will have additional responsibilities for program and as assistant for women's ministries. It

is anticipated she'll assume these responsibilities in March 2025, dependent upon visas.

The Uruguay Division is composed of five corps and two outposts, along with three corps-based thrift stores. There is a large senior residence program, a children's after-school program and a residence for female college students.

Captain Jessica actually grew up in South America in the country of Peru. She attended the San Martin de Porras Corps in Lima with her mother and siblings, became a soldier and then a local officer. She also worked in the finance department at the Peru Divisional Headquarters.

"The Salvation Army has filled my life with so many blessings and opportunities," she said.

In 2012, she moved to the United States and began working in the youth department at the Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division (WUM). The next year she en-

tered the College for Officer Training in Chicago and was commissioned in 2015 as part of the "Heralds of Grace" session. She then held corps appointments in Minneapolis, Minn., and East Chicago, Ind.

In 2022, Captain Jessica served as divisional secretary for the North & Central Illinois (NCI) Division. Most recently, the captain, who became a United States citizen in May 2024, served as divisional secretary for Hispanic ministries for the NCI Division. In this capacity she was a liaison between divisional headquarters, Hispanic officers and the Hispanic Heritage Council; advocated for Hispanic officers; organized Hispanic-related events (such as the Hispanic Camp); translated documents into Spanish, offered translation for officers councils and other divisional events and much more. Currently 48 percent of the NCI division is in-



Captain Jessica Martinez with Majors Stephanie and Caleb Senn on the day she became a U.S. citizen.

involved with Hispanic ministries, including 27 officers, envoys and corps administrators of Hispanic heritage.

Though the captain will miss the Central Territory, she says that she is looking forward to fulfilling her purpose in her new assignment in Uruguay.

"I am looking forward to making friends, enjoying the culture and above all, being a blessing in the appointment God has given me," she said. "I trust this is God's plan for my life."



Captain Jessica with Majors Roberto and Melissa Viquez.

The Priority of Spiritual Life

A brief conversation with the Territorial Commander

Spiritual Life is the first of the new territorial priorities. How is it foundational to our lives and mission?

Well, we go back to our International Mission Statement. We're part of the universal Christian Church. Our message is based on the Bible, and our ministry flows out of a love for God. We often just use the last part of that statement, "our mission is to preach the gospel and meet human needs in His name." If we look at its entirety, the whole statement is about our relationship with God both personally and as an organization. So, our Spiritual Life is foundational. If that's not in place, our very identity is at risk.

What is necessary for a healthy and growing Spiritual Life, both individually and jointly?

First, it's our relationship with Jesus! To maintain that, like any relationship, there has to be intentionality. We must have communication—to pray and get instructions through God's Word. Spiritual disciplines help us with that. I would say that being part of a body of believers, with fellowship and accountability, is integral as well. I really don't feel that we can be healthy spiritually if we're not.

For spiritually healthy corps and centers, it's important we come together and worship and pray. It's the "Acts 2 life": prayer, fellowship, discipleship. If our corps don't have Spiritual Life as a priority, then what we do is just functional.

So Spiritual Life is then informing decisions about resources, time and programming?

Yes, that's right.

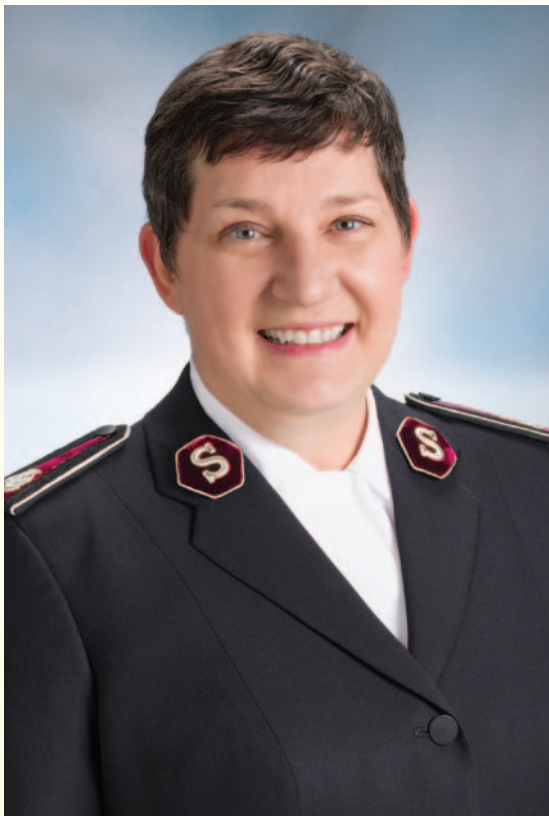
What are some of the ways in which we're encouraging units and individuals to focus on Spiritual Life?

We started the year with a Soldiers' Covenant Renewal Sunday. The idea being that as we gathered together in community, we took time to renew our personal commitments to God and to The Salvation Army that He's called us to. A time of self-examination, reflection and dedication, giving ourselves wholly again or doing that for the first time.

We also have the United in Prayer campaign this year leading up to the Belonging Conference and Congress in June. It's really important that together we are desiring God to move in our territory.

We are refocusing on Spiritual Life in the Command and Corps Reviews. The reviews are an opportunity to set goals to make sure that Spiritual Life is a priority. They're also a time to celebrate what's happening spiritually in corps. God is already at work in this territory. He is moving among us. That should be celebrated. But then thinking about, being intentional about, how we join Him in what He's already doing.

There are other ways too, like events which give significant opportunities to introduce people to Jesus and for people to grow in their faith. For instance, Regeneration for young adults in the territory. And CBLI [Central Bible Leadership Institute], which will be a time of bringing all the priorities together.



In The Salvation Army we are so busy serving, how do we make time to just dwell in God's presence?

Dwelling in God's presence is not just about spending time in devotions or spiritual retreats. It really encompasses every moment of our lives, not just those times we set apart. If we're not aware of God's presence as we go throughout our days, then we can get in trouble.



So, some days turning our thoughts heavenward might be while we are driving from one program or activity to another, or a few minutes between meetings. It can vary in our seasons of life.

Spiritual Life does require intentionality. Sometimes it means scheduling time for reflection in our calendars. There is a discipline to being spiritually healthy.

What might we see in the territory as we prioritize Spiritual Life?

I believe that our individual lives will be deeper, they will be transformative. And that will result in healthier congregations. What does that look like? People will be welcomed. People will find new life in Christ. People will become more and more involved and find their callings—whatever that might be, whether serving as local officers in corps or becoming officers. And communities will be transformed as individuals come to know Jesus and He changes their lives.

ALL WE NEED



A new podcast focusing on spiritual health

Each month a guest joins Territorial Commander Commissioner Evie Diaz to discuss the Central Territory's priorities of spiritual life, youth or leadership development.

Episode I: A Conversation with Major Debra Pascoe about Spiritual Life

Listen and subscribe through your favorite podcast app.

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. — 2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

We are the Church

by Captain Karen B. Felton

In the last few years the question officers and corps members alike have discussed more and more is, "What does it mean to be the church? Do four walls define it, or is it something more?"

Majors Brian and Lee Ann Burkett, who lead the Independence, Mo., Corps know it's so much more.

Following five months of rigorous testing to identify the source of extremely high blood pressure, Major Brian woke up following what should have been an angioplasty to open arteries in his heart, only to hear that the blockages were too significant and in six weeks he'd have to undergo bypass surgery. During that time, Major Brian had to decide to practice what he preached.

"I tell people from the pulpit all the time that they have to trust God in all circumstances," he said. "Now it was time for me to do what I had asked them to do. Psalm 62:1-2 (NIV) was my verse for this time: 'Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken.'"



Once the operation was underway, however, six bypasses were needed and when the medical team was closing him up, Major Brian's heart stopped. They quickly opened him up again and shocked his heart, only to realize he had to have yet another bypass. During the surgery Major Lee Ann, her family, and 20 corps members waited anxiously. When the surgeon came out to them, he declared, "The devil's number is six, but God's perfect number is seven. So, I am happy to report that after seven bypasses, his heart is as good as new."

The recovery time, however, would take 12 weeks, and in a busy corps like Independence this would be a difficulty for Major Lee Ann. That is when they watched as the individual corps members became the church. People came daily to do hospital visits, they sent encouraging texts, they prayed with the Burkettts. A soldier came by weekly and mowed their yard. Meals



were provided for more than three months, and every single Sunday meeting was covered by Kansas and

true sense of calling to one another, that is when you understand what belonging means. I saw that church is all these little acts of caring that we take for granted. I see now that a hospital visit or a phone call is so much more than a visit or a phone call. I truly had an insider view of what it means to be on the receiving end of all those things, and it changes the way you see your ministry."

He wants other officers who may be overwhelmed or discouraged to know what they do matters.

"We do not always get to see how we are making an impact," he said, "but I had the opportunity to truly see it, and I know for certain that God's Word does not go out void."

For the Burkettts one lesson from this time stands out. We are not called to go to church; we are called to be the church. And we belong to one another.



Western Missouri Divisional Headquarters staff, retired officers and soldiers. People stepped up to lead Bible studies and cover activities and programs.

"As a Salvation Army officer, you are used to being the one to pour into people, to visit, to preach, to serve. It was humbling to be the recipient of all that in return," said Major Brian. "In the Army we talk about belonging all the time, but when you see how people feel a



Lifting weights and spirits



The gym in the basement of the Macomb Corps

Continued from page 1

the corps to help us with these events," Tim said. "There is real camaraderie."

People in the community often stop Captain Ron to talk about the gym.

"They talk about the impact it's had on them and how it's changed their lives," the captain said. "It has been used by generations. People come to the gym, and their children come after them."

"The reason I am still here in Illinois is this Macomb gym," Tim

added. "I could not find a place like this anywhere. My main thought being here is that I am investing in others' futures."

Captain Ron says the gym's ministry brings people into the corps, where they can hear about Jesus.

"The gym gives me the opportunity to talk with members, let them know I'm praying for them and build a relationship of trust that will hopefully bring them into a closer relationship with the Lord," he said. "As long as we're here, this gym will be here."

Easter People

The newest worship series for Lent, Easter People, explores the transformative power of the resurrection, the relationship of life in eternity to our living today, and the new creation in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. It is inspired by the book, *Easter People: Daily Meditations for the Easter-tide Season* written by Commissioner Phil Needham (Crest Books, 2022).

Available in both English and Spanish, the seven-week series includes worship service materials for the five Sundays of Lent, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter, with music options, dramas, readings, "Children's Moments," and sermon ideas.

Worship resources are available on the Territorial Corps and Community Mission Department's webpage: salarmycentral.org and click on Resources tab



See your corps officer for more details.

Love letters lost and found

While sorting through a box of donated household goods last year at The Salvation Army Family Store in Hannibal, MO., manager Tina Eifert came upon a stack of handwritten letters from World War II.

The letters, dated from September 1944 to November 1945, were from Chester McMeen, a U.S. Army soldier from Southern Illinois who was stationed in the Philippines, to his wife, Alma Bernice McMeen.

After reading a few of them, Tina knew she was holding a treasure.

"This was history. These letters meant something to someone. I knew the importance of them," she said.

She also knew someone would want them returned.

Tina called Amanda Bowen, family service caseworker with The Salvation Army in Hannibal, who contacted local freelance journalist Megan Duncan for assistance.

Megan read through each letter written to Bernice—or "my Almie," as Chester often called his wife—and put them in chronological order.



"Chester wrote about how he couldn't wait to get home for a home-cooked meal; how he couldn't wait to take Bernice on a date; and how he was hopeful for the war to end," Megan recalled. "He put a lot of trust in Bernice. They were just newlyweds. And she was at home taking care of everything."

In one letter, Chester said he felt very close to Bernice, despite the many miles between them. "In a way it seems like I haven't seen you in years, and in a way, it feels like I've seen you constantly," Chester wrote. "I can read your thoughts and see your actions in every letter. We have been apart in body only, as our thoughts are always together."

Megan wrote a story about the "mystery letters" for The Salvation Army in Quincy and Hannibal. The story soon found its way to a local TV newscast and even was featured in People magazine.

Meanwhile, Megan was on a quest to find the McMeen family.

Working through a Southern Illinois-based chamber of commerce, she was able to get a message to the McMeens' son, Leland.

It was Leland's sister, Alyce Montgomery, who recently made the trip to Hannibal to recover the lost items. Alyce had packed up the donation box—not realizing she had accidentally sent off her father's letters.

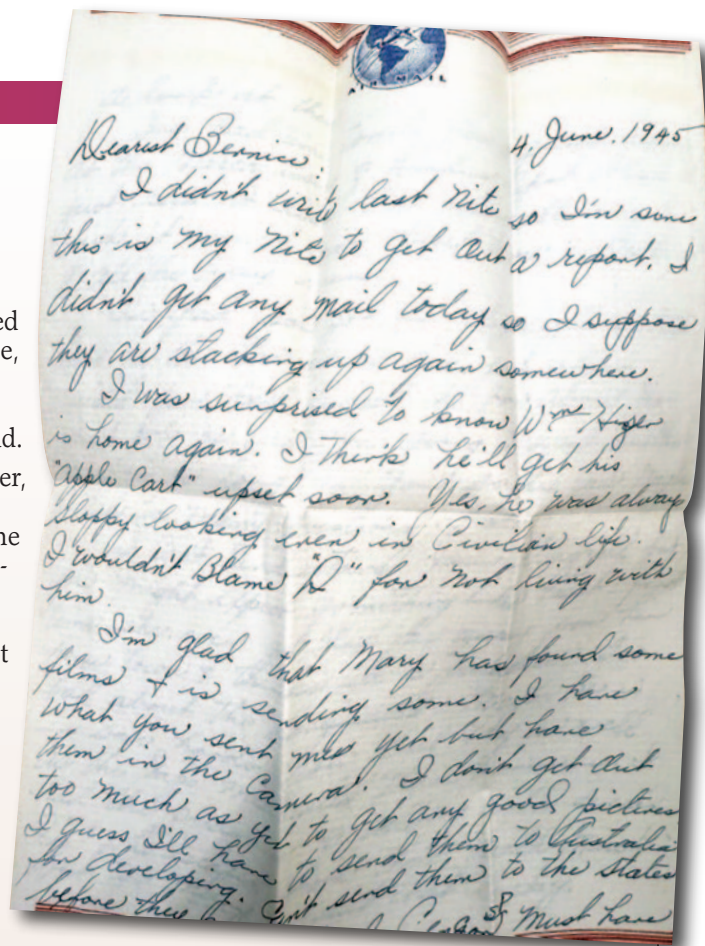
Having never read them, Alyce was overjoyed to get the letters back.

After the war, Chester and Bernice raised their three children in Carbon-dale, Ill., where Chester established the McMeen Cabinet and Woodworking Company in the 1950s. He worked there until he retired. Bernice passed away in 1999, and Chester died in 2002.

Alyce fondly recalls her parents' long and happy marriage—just shy of 57 years by one day.

"They were dedicated to one another," she said. "Everyone has trials, of course. But they took their vows seriously, and there was more 'better' than 'worse.' They loved each other very much."

The family is grateful to The Salvation Army's staff for getting the letters back home.



A 1945 letter from Chester to his wife, Bernice

"The Salvation Army took the trouble to do that," Alyce said. "God works in mysterious ways, let me tell you. These are precious memories coming back to our family."



Salvation Army Family Store manager Tina Eifert and journalist Megan Duncan meet with Alyce Montgomery (center) when she arrived to retrieve her family's lost letters.



Alma Bernice McMeen

Chester McMeen

PROCLAIMERS OF Transformation 2025-2027

Newly accepted candidates



Dalton Francis

First-generation Salvationist

New Albany, Ind., Corps ♦ Indiana Division

Captains Heidi and Kory Strand, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Giving ♦ Serving

Ministry Passion or Experience

Children/Youth ♦ Worship

Spiritual Mentors

Scott Strissel ♦ Major Anthony Bowers



Git Gatluak

First-generation Salvationist

Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps ♦ Western Division

Majors Mark and Teri Martsolf, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Giving ♦ Teaching ♦ Leadership

Ministry Passion or Experience

Children/Youth ♦ Preaching/Teaching

Spiritual Mentors

Matt Walter ♦ Major Mark Martsolf

The Salvation Army

PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

March Prayer Calendar

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

Living like we belong

by Diane Ury

National Ambassador for Holiness

Salvationists know that being people of covenant is basic to our self-understanding. A covenant is a precious mutual belonging to another. As soldiers, when we signed that covenant, we did it because we already had given ourselves first of all to God Himself. And the only way that was even possible was because God has given Himself to us without reserve.

Repeatedly in Scripture He says, "You will be my people, and I will be your God" (Genesis 17:7, Exodus 6:7, Ezekiel 36:28). This is His covenant with us. Because His nature is unfailing love, He will never abandon us. Isn't it amazing that the Creator and King of the universe wants to live in mutual belonging with us?

Our Soldier's Covenant means we gave ourselves to belong to The Salvation Army which is a part of Christ's body, who gave Himself to us. (Galatians 1:1-6, John 14:23) The Salvation Army as our church is our place of belonging. It is our home and family in Christ. Within our church family we've made promises to Jesus about our life of belonging with His body.

One of those promises is, "I will be a faithful steward of my time and gifts, my money and possessions... knowing that I am accountable to God." To be a steward means we're handling faithfully what isn't ours but what God has lent to us for His purposes.

Do we really have to tithe? (That is a biblical mandate which means each Christian gives to God one tenth of their personal earnings. Genesis 14:19-20; Proverbs 3:9; 2 Chronicles 31:4-5; Malachi 3:8-12; Mark 12:41-44) Yes, we really do. But isn't that why we have donors? Don't our donors support the ministry of the Army? If that's the case, we're off base. But why?

A new Christian in my Bible study who really wanted to walk faithfully with Jesus asked me, "What can I do to grow in my faith?" Without hesitation I replied, "Tithe."

John Wesley's brand new Methodism ministered primarily to the very poor and illiterate. In order to bear one another's burdens, people met in small groups every week for intimate fellowship, for speaking the truth in love, and for accountability for spiritual stewardship. Each person, even the very poor, gave a "penny tithe." Couldn't they have convinced some rich person to support their mission in depraved 18th century England? Probably. And yet that never excuses the members of Christ's Body from giving.

We tithe not because God needs our money. We tithe be-



cause we *need* to express in tangible ways that we belong to God. Ten percent is merely a symbol and reminder to *ourselves* that 100 percent of our lives belongs to Jesus, who has given 100 percent of Himself to us. He is able to take care of our lives! We are not. Tithing is a powerful, physical expression of worship, of trust and self-offering with joy and faith.

Years ago, our church decided our offering section of the service was taking too much time, so they cut out the part when the ushers bring the offering plates back to the altar and we sing together "The Doxology." A friend of mine wept bitterly. She explained that it was the very most important part of her weekly life, when she could physically place her check in that plate, feeling as though she were placing her own life and family in there. This anchored her to the reality that they belong to God, and money is not their god. Her favorite moment of life was watching the plates returned to God at His altar, the symbol of where He has given His life for all.

God doesn't need money. But we desperately need to experience symbolic regular, sacrificial offering of ourselves to Him in complete, loving, joyful trust and reliance. If you're not tithing, I invite you into a depth of discipleship joy that will overflow your heart.

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Saturday	James 4:7	Albert Lea, Minn., Corps
	2 Sunday	Romans 12:2	Beloit, Wis., Rock County Area Coordinator
	3 Monday	Luke 9:23	USA Eastern Territory
	4 Tuesday	Matthew 6:33	Branson, Mo., Corps
	5 Wednesday	Romans 12:1	Chicago, Ill., Harbor Light Corps
	6 Thursday	Proverbs 3:5-6	Clinton, Iowa, 360 Life Center
	7 Friday	Psalms 46:10	Dekalb, Ill., Corps
	8 Saturday	Psalms 9:10	Duluth, Minn., Corps
	9 Sunday	James 4:10	Norway, Iceland and the Faeroes Territory
	10 Monday	Galatians 2:20	Fargo, N.D., Corps
	11 Tuesday	Matthew 26:39	Fremont, Neb., Corps
	12 Wednesday	Psalms 95:6	Madison County, Ill., 360 Life Center
	13 Thursday	Philippians 4:13	Laclede County, Mo., Service Extension
	14 Friday	Psalms 32:8	Holland, Mich., Corps
	15 Saturday	James 1:22	Jamestown, N.D., 360 Life Center
	16 Sunday	Matthew 11:28	Dickinson County, Mich., Bread of Life Service Center
	17 Monday	1 Peter 5:6-10	Bangladesh Territory
	18 Tuesday	Philippians 2:5-8	Ludington, Mich., Corps
	19 Wednesday	1 Corinthians 6:19-20	Mason City, Iowa, Corps
	20 Thursday	John 15:1-7	Niles, Mich., Corps
	21 Friday	Luke 9:23-24	Oshkosh, Wis., Corps
	22 Saturday	Hebrews 11:6	Princeton, Ind., Corps
	23 Sunday	Matthew 16:25	Salina, Kan., Corps
	24 Monday	Romans 8:4	Australia Territory
	25 Tuesday	Proverbs 23:26	Sturgis, Mich., Corps
	26 Wednesday	John 4:23-24	St. Paul Eastside, Minn., Corps
	27 Thursday	John 3:30	Waukegan, Ill., ARC
	28 Friday	Psalms 37:7	Great Lakes DHQ
	29 Saturday	Hebrews 4:16	Indianapolis, Ind., Booth Manor
	30 Sunday	Colossians 1:10-12	Jersey County, Ill., Service Extension
	31 Monday	Deuteronomy 6:5	Minneapolis, Minn., ARC

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

--Mustard Seeds--



Summer camp positions open!

Apply today to be part of a camp ministry team. It's a great way not only to grow in your relationship with God and build lasting friendships but to share your faith and make a life-changing difference.

Great Lakes Division

Echo Grove Camp

Shayna Stubblefield
Shayna.Stubblefield@usc.salvationarmy.org
echogrove.org

Indiana Division

Hidden Falls Camp

Captain Sarah Eddy
Sarah.Eddy@usc.salvationarmy.org
hiddenfallscamp.org

Kansas/Western Missouri Division

Three Trails Camp

Michael Dixon
Michael.Dixon@usc.salvationarmy.org
www.threetrailscamp.org

Midland Division

Camp Mihaska

Captain Matt DeGonia
midlandyouth@usc.salvationarmy.org
mihaska.com



North & Central Illinois Division

Wonderland Camp

Janelle Shumaker
Janelle.Shumaker@usc.salvationarmy.org
wonderlandcamp.com/employment

Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division

Army Lake Camp

Captain Henry Boateng
Henry.Boateng@usc.salvationarmy.org
www.armylakecamp.com

Western Division

Western Plains Camp

Kim Herivel-Walter
Kim.Herivel-Walter@usc.salvationarmy.org
centralusa.salvationarmy.org/westernplainscamp



The joy of a jamboree

by Major Chrissy Copper

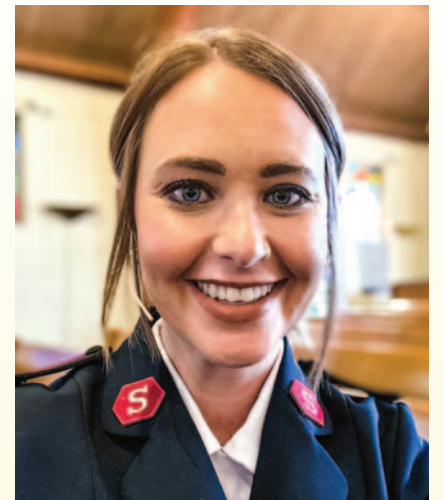
In today's world, we are surrounded by constant noise from screens and busy schedules. It's easy to miss the opportunity to pause, reflect and connect with God in the beauty of His creation. This past summer, the Great Lakes Division held its second Jamboree—a weeklong outdoor camping experience dedicated to exploring God's handiwork through kayaking, archery, axe throwing, hiking, swimming, sightseeing and so much more. The jamboree is more than a recreational getaway to Michigan's Upper Peninsula; it is a transformative experience that nurtures faith and character.

Scripture says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork" (Psalm 19:1 ESV). Immersing young people in nature, with very limited cell phone service, allowed them to experience this truth firsthand. As they kayaked along the lake, hiked wooded trails, sat by campfires under the stars, and awoke to the songs of birds, they encountered the Creator in ways that a classroom or Sunday service cannot replicate.

Being outdoors frees us from distractions and offers quiet spaces where we can listen to God's voice. Whether it's the rustle of leaves, the rhythm of waves, or the vastness of the woods, we are reminded of God's greatness and His intimate care for His creation—including us.

Our jamboree also builds resilience and leadership in our campers. They learn to navigate unfamiliar settings, face physical challenges and solve problems collaboratively. This not only strengthens their confidence but also reinforces biblical principles of stewardship, responsibility and service.

Leading a hike, helping a fellow kayaker, or organizing and cooking an outdoor meal teaches teens the value of serving others. These lessons reflect Christ's example of servant leadership and prepare them for roles in



their families, churches and communities.

Without the distractions of technology and social media, campers form deep, meaningful connections. These bonds often last beyond the camp, providing a supportive network of peers who share their faith and values.

In a world where teens face overwhelming pressures, the jamboree offered a sacred pause to reconnect with God, themselves and others. It reminded them that life is bigger than likes, grades, or followers—it's about knowing their Creator, experiencing His love and walking in His purpose.

As an officer of 15 years, I find these jamborees are some of my favorite ministry opportunities. They fill me with joy as I witness teens grow in faith and leave with a renewed sense of who God is, who they are in Christ, and who they are called to be.



To learn about becoming an officer, visit salarmycentral.org/candidates

Rader Scholarship awarded



Hannah Kim, a lifelong member of the Chicago Mayfair Community Church (Corps), is the recipient of the 2024 Paul and Kay Rader Scholarship Award. The scholarship is given each year to outstanding minority young adult Salvationists who show commitment to their faith, education and service.

Hannah, a senior at Loyola University who is studying psychology, has plans to attend graduate school. She has been active in both corps

and divisional music groups, programs and camps. She's volunteered at many events and activities from playing cornet at kettles to serving at the corps' Thanksgiving dinner.

In addition to serving in her corps and division, last year she was part of a Summer Mission Team to Scotland.

Hannah said, "For me SMT can be summed up simply in love God, love people."