Holland expands possibilities

More than tripling the size of their ministry space, the Holland, Mich., Corps recently completed a $3.8 million building expansion project, adding 22,000-square-feet of classrooms, offices, a game room, gymnasium and chapel to the existing 9,000-square-foot multi-purpose area, renovating and expanding the kitchen and converting the old space into a dining room.

“We are truly blessed and excited to be able to serve our community in a greater capacity because of the added space,” said Major Matt Grindle, who leads the corps with his wife, Patricia. “For example, our day camp which has been licensed for 50 may now be expanded to 150 children during the summer months. We are no longer hindered by our building but blessed to have space for all programming needs.”

The old space consisted primarily of a single large room, which posed a significant challenge to the majors as they attempted to maintain a full schedule of programs. Time and energy was used to set up, tear down, clean and then reset for the next activity multiple times each week. With the addition of designated rooms for each program and fewer shared spaces, that time and energy is now allocated to direct ministry.

Completion of the building project will allow the corps to incorporate new programs and to serve more people regularly. The new space increases their capacity for meeting the vital needs of those relying on social service assistance and gives more prominence and visibility to the corps as a hub for fellowship and community events.

Less than two weeks after the project was complete, the corps held its first public event in the new building—a United Way fair featuring informational booths as well as direct services such as haircuts and voter registration assistance. More than 600 people were welcomed and received information on Salvation Army programs and services.

The Grindles plan to use the new spaces by expanding their existing activities to include sports, music and afterschool programs. They are currently looking to hire a youth ministry coordinator and program assistant to help increase program offerings. In addition, they will be focusing on advisory board development and ongoing fundraising to support and sustain the new programming.

To make the new facility a reality, the Salvation Army in Holland sought community support through a 15-month capital campaign that exceeded its original goal by more than $800,000 and raised $2.3 million. In addition to local investment by the community, the corps qualified to receive territorial incentive funds for the project.

Continued on page 2

Territory debuts caseworker certification program

by Bryant Erickson

The territorial social services department is introducing a Caseworker Certification Program this year that will ensure a baseline of knowledge and skills for social service workers throughout the Central Territory.

The Salvation Army is well known for its capacity to respond to the basic material assistance needs of individuals and families with compassion and efficiency. Along with seasonal and disaster services, these are primarily accessible through corps and service extension units serving every zip code across the Midwest. Additionally, programs have been developed to respond to specific, unmet community needs such as homelessness, chemical dependency, affordable childcare and the needs of veterans, older adults and victims of human trafficking.

With such great need and a broad range of programs, it is critical for officers, employees and volunteers on the frontlines to have the knowledge and tools to provide services in a manner that emulates best social work practice and which are aligned with Salvation Army mission, values and ethics. The new certification program has been developed to help them be successful.

“The Caseworker Certification Program will demonstrate that we care about our employees’ functioning and their job satisfaction, as well as help us achieve better consumer and organizational outcomes,” said Gary Busiek, Midland divisional social services director.

The program’s curriculum is web-based, engaging its learners through a variety of media formats. Its nine modules include an overview of Salvation Army history, mission and key policies, case management skills, social work concepts, cultural competency, special populations and person-al development. Each module consists of materials to be read, lectures and a quiz.

Presenters from academia, as well as officers and employees with expertise, were thoughtfully sought. For instance, noted Salvation Army academics Dr. Roger Green (Order of the Founder recipient) and Dr. James Read enthusiastically developed content for the Overview of The Salvation Army and Cultural Competency modules, respectively.

The Caseworker Certification Program is focused on supporting new social services workers but also reinforces other territorial initiatives, such as Pathway of Hope and further engages personnel in the use of the 2nd edition of Faith in Action: Guiding Principles of The Salvation Army Social Services Ministries released in 2016.
New beginnings make new endings
by Lt. Colonel Richard Amick
Territorial Secretary for Business Administration

Recently, I read, "No one can start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending." In other words, we don't start over, but we can begin again right where we are, making things better in our lives.

It's 2019, a new year. Millions of people again are making New Year's resolutions, hoping to spark positive change. But the recurring themes include a more active approach to health and fitness, improved finances and personal and professional development. In all likelihood, more than a couple of the 10 most common resolutions look familiar:

1. Exercise more
2. Lose weight
3. Get organized
4. Learn a new skill or hobby
5. Live to the fullest
6. Save more money; spend less money
7. Quit smoking
8. Spend more time with family and friends
9. Travel more
10. Read more

However, once the glow of a new year wears off many of us struggle to make good on our plans. Even though most New Year’s resolutions are kept no more than three weeks, it’s not surprising we want to change things in our lives we’re unhappy about.

As Christians, though, we are faced with an important question: Are our New Year’s resolutions based on our own desires or God’s desire for our lives?

The Lord has made everything beautiful in its time. His plans for our lives are more than we can imagine because of His boundless love for us. Romans 8:28 (NIV) says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." We can find comfort in knowing we serve a God who loves us and is at work in our lives.

When we align our desires with His plans, great things will come!

This year let’s make time to reflect on what God has done in our lives. Rather than rushing ahead, let’s think about when the Lord has been faithful and how our lives are being used to bring God glory. When we see all the Lord has done, we can look to the future with hopeful expectation.

Isaiah 43:19 (NIV) says, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

How we end 2019 will be determined by how we start it. HAPPY NEW BEGINNINGS!

Following a new and unlikely path
by Craig Dirkes

The couple got sober, quit smoking and gave their lives to God. They became increasingly involved in corps ministries: both were members of the praise team, and Scott was in the senior band. Eventually, they felt called to become Salvation Army officers. The tipping point came during the Family Congress in 2013. Sitting in the front row of the auditorium—something they never did—Scott recalled, "Everything went totally silent and I heard ‘It’s time to obey.’" He turned to Jennifer and asked, "Are you ready to obey?"

Though it seemed impossible, they were sold out to Jesus and reminded themselves that God would make a way.

"It was miraculous," said Scott. "We got rid of $100,000 worth of debt in just eight months. We sold our house, car, motorcycle—even our Chihuahua! The first buyer to contact us for each thing we sold paid cash for it on the spot, at asking price. It was absolutely God’s work."

Their next challenge came at the College for Officer Training (CFO). A newer Christian and having lived in Kansas all her life, Jennifer felt overwhelmed with the curriculum and experienced culture shock living in Chicago. And though Scott had Bible knowledge, the CFO focused on sharing the gospel and pushed him to apply it. They both had to learn to live in community despite being highly independent.

"It was a long days, lots of study and 100 percent reliance on God!" said Lt. Jennifer. After the surprise blessing of having their first child during their second year at the CFO, it got even harder for her trying to keep up academically and be a good mother. "I crashed and burned, and realized it’s not in my own strength."

Now leading the Brainerd, Minn., Corps, the Ruses feel all of these experiences have not only helped them grow in their faith but allow them to identify with and minister to others.

"People see us as real," said Lt. Scott. "We’ve experienced real life things, and we’ve made bad decisions. We can understand and relate to them."

Getting the word out about The Salvation Army in Brainerd, the Ruses are being interviewed on the radio, handing out corps program flyers in the food pantry, and meeting people at parades with the can-tune.

They hope to create the same welcoming atmosphere at the corps that they experienced when they were introduced to The Salvation Army.

Lt. Jennifer concluded, "I want people to discover what we did the first time we walked into a Salvation Army corps—unconditional love."

Holland expands

In a ceremony where the new chapel was filled to capacity, territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey dedicated the building. Commissioner Brad Bailey, territorial commander, encouraged soldiers and employees to continue to move forward in the Army’s mission of holistic service to their community.

"I was challenged by the commissioner’s message," concluded the major. "We want everything we do to be an opportunity to share Christ’s love with everyone who comes into our sphere of influence."

Continued from page 1

Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey (center), territorial leaders, and Majors Glen and Candie Caddy, Western Michigan/Northern Indiana leaders at the Holland, Mich., Corps dedication.
reminds us it is through prayer that we learn “to love people despite their imperfections” and “find joy in serving the church and those within the church.”

So, let us pray for spiritual protection over our corps. Let us pray for our leaders. Let us pray for the preaching of the Word. Let us pray for the families who attend our church, and let us serve each other with joy as the bride of Christ.

The Church is one of the last places in our culture where young and old—and everyone in between—still gather. The common denominator in our gathering is our love for Jesus and one another.

Leading our families to be healthy church members is a part of their discipleship. By attending, by serving and by connecting with the Body of Christ we model our faith, and something beautiful happens: the next generation learns church works, and everyone else is reminded God is faithful.

Last month one of our older saints was promoted to Glory. Afterward, it was precious to watch a 10-year-old boy who was unrelated hug the widow and share his condolences. He knew how to show compassion because he had seen someone else model compassion.

Joy in loving and serving
by Lt. Colonel Deslea Maxwell
Assistant Territorial Secretary for Program

In chapter five of the book I am a Church Member, Thom S. Rainer says: “As a church member, I am not merely to like my church or serve my church well. I am to fall deeply in love with my church. Christ is the bridegroom, and the church is the bride. My commitment is to love that bride with an unwavering and unconditional love.”

How do we love our church with that kind of love when it is imperfect and made up of imperfect people? I’m reminded of the words of Jesus that we are to “Love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:31 NIV) And in Luke 6:28 Jesus tells us to pray for those who mis-treat us or hurt us. How do I love my church with an unwavering and unconditional love?

Rainer challenges us to take hold of the words of Jesus and to love our corps by praying for it, our leaders and our fellow worshippers. He reminds us it is through prayer that we learn “to love people despite their imperfections” and “find joy in serving the church and those within the church.”

So, let us pray for spiritual protection over our corps. Let us pray for our leaders. Let us pray for the preaching of the Word. Let us pray for the families who attend our church, and let us serve each other with joy as the bride of Christ.

The book I am a Church Member can be purchased from Trade Central, Amazon or Christianbooks.com
Lolo Jones credits SA, inspires others

by Amy Burke

Three-time Olympian Lolo Jones was the featured speaker at The Salvation Army of Milwaukee County’s annual OTHERS Luncheon.

“The OTHERS theme resonates from The Salvation Army’s Founder William Booth,” said Major Steve Merritt, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divisional commander. “On Christmas Eve in 1910, Booth wanted to send a message to Salvation Army supporters. With funds limited and telegraphs charging by the word, Booth sent a one-word message that summarized the mission of the Army: OTHERS.’

Jones spoke about the importance of helping others and how The Salvation Army helped her family when she was growing up in Des Moines, Iowa.

“I would not be the three-time Olympian that I am without the assistance of The Salvation Army,” she said. “A lot of people don’t know this about me, but I have a very personal relationship with The Salvation Army. When I was growing up, my family was quite poor; my dad was in and out of prison, and The Salvation Army housed my family when we were homeless.”

With support from The Salvation Army, her mother was able to provide for five kids and they had a haven while she worked two jobs.

“The number one question people ask me is, ‘How did you start as an Olympic athlete?’ Oddly enough, it’s through a lot of the sports programs The Salvation Army had. I’d say if dodgeball were an Olympic competition, The Salvation Army would have started my career in that because I was destroying kids in there,” Jones said, laughing. “Then I went on to play basketball with The Salvation Army kids and also went to their summer camps and church.”

Jones said The Salvation Army helped mold her not only from the assistance she received but through her experiences at the corps.

“When we lost everything, faith was a very important factor for me and just having that foundation,” she said.

She also spoke about her near wins at each Olympic Games. Especially in the 2008 Beijing Olympics when she missed a hurdle, which ended up costing her the gold medal.

Afterward, she said she was devastated but then heard God whisper, “But you’re here,” and realized how far she’d come. Then, she went back to the Olympic Village and prayed.

“I think when people give to The Salvation Army, they don’t realize it is directly impacting people,” Jones said. “Years ago, the people that donated probably still don’t know they helped a three-time Olympic athlete. Here I am today because someone else gave.”

At the luncheon attended by more than 200 people, The Salvation Army honored three Milwaukee businesses for their service: Northwestern Mutual, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and the United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee.

Attendees had the opportunity to donate to four specific youth programs. The proceeds of $5,000 will benefit the Feed the Kids summer lunch program; a program that provides select public schools with breakfast and lunches to those in need; the Christmas toyshop where parents who need holiday assistance can select gifts to give their children; and Coats for Kids which provides coats and winter accessories for those in need.

Blessings overflowing

by Commissioner Heidi Bailey

It’s been said, “There is no welcome like an Indian welcome.” This proved to be true on Commissioner Brad’s and my eight-day visit to the India Southeastern Territory, our Partner in Mission, led by Colonels Gabriel and Indumati Christian.

In addition to participating in a myriad of community-based Salvation Army programs, festivals, youth and women’s congresses, corps meetings, territorial officers’ councils and facility tours, we dedicated three officers’ quarters supported by the Central Territory through the 20 New Corps initiative.

Each dedication was a community celebration, with villagers and Salvationists escorting us through the village with flags flying, drums beating and shouts of “Hallelujah!” Arriving at the home, the customary wrapping in shawls and hanging of colorful garlands around our necks signaled a time for singing, dancing, praying, dedicatory words and the unveiling of a large plaque on the quarter’s front wall.

Commissioner Brad Bailey reminded the excited crowd, “While this Salvation Army home is now available for use to the officers and for service to the community, it is first and foremost dedicated to the glory of God.” Amens resounded in the crowd, which clearly understood what the glory of God would look like in this humble yet solid home.

The long-awaited ribbon cutting gave way to an all-village invitation to enter the two-bedroom, brightly painted home, which was left unfurnished and uninhabited until the blessing. We all gathered around a large pot of milk and a fire was lit in the center of the empty living room. Everyone watched as the milk rose and gently boiled over—the most significant part of the ceremony—representing God’s overflowing blessings on the home! “Hallelujahs” erupted as small cups of hot milk were shared.

We watched as people who had significantly less in life rejoiced with their pastors. We understood they had been living Romans 12:13 (“Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”) long before the quarters were built and our visit. This day, three officer families would bring their belongings into their new homes.

Salvation Army Partners in Mission pray for each other, support and invest in each other though we are separated by many miles. The Central Territory’s ongoing relationship with the India Southeastern Territory will continue to be strengthened in the days to come as we invite “our village” to continue living Romans 12:13.

Nurri (Thank you).
by Eric Dina

The 98th Sounds of the Season Concert was an anthem of praise unlike any other. For the second time, Walt Whitman and the Soul Children of Chicago joined the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) in concert. Imagine the magnificent sounds of the Walter Hawkins Gospel Choirs of the 1970s or the Chicago, Georgia or Mississippi Mass Choirs of the 1990s; the lush, in tune traditional three-part harmonies you expect to hear from great gospel music; and mature gospel soloists with just the right amount of inflection. Then, imagine this wonderful sound coming from 36 young people, ages 8 to 18.

Walt Whitman and the Soul Children of Chicago featured eight songs in two sets, one devoted to Christmas. Many songs were arranged or adapted by Dr. Whitman himself (a distinction shared with Dr. Harold Burgmayer for the CSB), including the opener “Lift Him up,” “O give thanks,” and “Jesus is right here.” Their sound was incredible, diction crisp and energy unbelievably high!

The Soul Children managed classic emotion. The CSB embraced her artistry with their sensitive accompaniment.

Two major contributions by the CSB had classical influences. In A Salvation Waltz, Dudley Bright weaves the overall styles of Johann Strauss and Maurice Ravel with three classic Salvation Army songs: “Love lifted me,” “This one thing I know,” and “Swing wide the door of your heart.” Kevin Norbury’s Rhapsody on a Theme by Purcell was a perfect brass tribute to the theme most notably used in Benjamin Britten’s The Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra. Both pieces were performed with a robust, balanced sound, technical proficiency and appropriate nuance.

CSB and Soul Children lift magnificent anthem of praise

The evening’s third major work, The Dawning by Peter Graham, was preceded by the CSB singing “There will be God,” featuring Jonathon Welller as vocal soloist. Like the inclusion earlier in the program of Sam Cramer’s spectacular hymn setting of Rock of Ages (Wells), hearing the words sung by the CSB rekindled the potency of this Joy Webb song when the band played the middle movement of this sinfonia. This was the CSB at their best, displaying mastery of the technical passages combined with a fluid musical line, a hallmark of Burgmayer’s musical vision for the band.

A professional CD recording of this concert is available for $15 each, plus $5 shipping and handling for orders of any quantity to the same address. Specify quantity, address and payment information (Visa and MasterCard accepted) to: Chicago Staff Band, The Salvation Army, 5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy., Hoffman Estates, IL 60192. If paying by credit card, order online at chicagostaffband.org, or by phone: 847-234-2133 or fax: 847-237-5033.
This illustration is as representative as possible but it is not comprehensive. It does not, for instance, include the hundreds of incidents each year where the local Salvation Army has provided assistance. Also, because of space, Salvation Army refugee assistance and reception programmes in place in several European countries have not been shown. Most of the responses on this map were supported by The Salvation Army’s INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES.
The privilege of service
by Dr. Linda Burkle

It was a bitter Christmas Day in North Dakota. The year was 1976. I accompanied my fiancé, and psychology major, to the state correctional facility for the criminally insane to visit a former patient. It was a dreary, restrictive setting; grey walls, clanging doors, barred windows. But on that day there was one ray of light bringing hope and encouragement: a small band of Salvationists singing Christmas carols and sharing the Good News. Salvationists had shown up when few others had. This encounter, my first exposure to The Salvation Army, was etched indelibly in my heart. I knew then that I would spend 30 years of my life, the majority of my career, ministering with this body of believers.

Fast forward to the 1980s, my three kids were all in school and I was reentering the workforce. I responded to an ad for a maternity home director. Knowing nothing about The Salvation Army, other than my Christmas Day encounter, I was offered and accepted the job.

As I retire and this chapter of my life closes, I’m so grateful. Thank you, Salvation Army, for the privilege of serving with “heart to God and hand to man.” May you continue “Doing the Most Good” this year and always.

Linda Burkle, until recently Western divisional social services director, with Maribeth Swanson, territorial social services secretary

Self-care vital, biblical
by Dr. Karen Hurula

Growing up in Mexico, Dr. Karen Hurula learned early on how to live in community with people from various cultures and backgrounds. With her missionary parents Colonels Frank and Yvonne Payton serving at the training college in Mexico City, this fifth-generation Salvationist lived cross-culturally, attending an international private school and engaging with cadets from all over Central America and Mexico.

“It really shaped who I am, how I see the world and how I see diversity,” she said.

During her senior year of high school, Karen’s passion for psychology was ignited. She dreamed of becoming a psychologist but was discouraged from pursuing that path by a school counselor. Instead, she moved to the United States and fell into her calling to serve could be fulfilled in another way, began working in social services in Texas without formal training or education.

In 1991, Karen married Scott Hurula and they moved to the Central Territory, settling near Chicago. When their first two children were born less than two years apart, Karen chose to leave the work force to focus on raising them. But the dream to become a psychologist never left her, and when her third child came along six years later, she was ready to pursue it.

Encouraged and supported by her family, Karen attended Wheaton College and earned a bachelor’s in psychology, then a master’s in both clinical psychology and theology.

“There is a disconnect between the church and psychology,” she explained. “I pursued psychology because I wanted people to have confidence in knowing I come from a place with a strong theological background.”

She completed her education with post-graduate studies in clinical psychology, which took the family around the country as she completed her intern and fellowship requirements.

Karen’s calling is being fulfilled as she works as a clinical psychologist and searches out opportunities to engage and inform pastors and lay leaders. She seeks to bring an understanding of mental illness and its treatment to the Church.

“I can’t tell you how good it feels to know you are where God has called you,” she concluded. “God has directed our lives all along.”

Her husband is now an envoy and director of the newly developed Hope-Strong Ministries in the Metropolitan Division. They have three children, Greg (23), Heidi (22) and Kelsey (15), and are soldiers at the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps.
BOLD training for young leaders

B ringing up youth who live to love and serve the Lord is a primary goal of corps cadets. Unlike outreach groups that are focused on bringing new youth into the corps, corps cadets is a discipleship and leadership program for youth in grades six and above.

"Corps Cadets gives me an opportunity to spend one-on-one time with my young people," said Major Shelley McClintock, Omaha Citadel, Neb., corps officer, whose brigade averages 16. "It gives adult leaders a vehicle to talk about the hard stuff, to ask the hard questions and challenges us all to base our thoughts, actions and reactions on the Word of God."

The latest corps cadet curriculum called BOLD was introduced in 2015. The acronym stands for the elements of the program: Bible study, our heritage, leadership and discipleship. BOLD is designed to comprehensively cover critical issues of faith by focusing a lesson on one of the elements. Three years into using BOLD, corps cadet leaders across the territory report it’s refreshing and effective.

"BOLD has so much deep content in it," said Melanie Mowers, corps cadet brigade leader at the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps. "We’ve enjoyed the themes, and meeting together every week helps our group to grow in our relationships with Christ and each other."

Themes for each unit are diverse, ranging from salvation to multiculturalism. All are designed to equip corps cadets with truth from God’s Word to boldly navigate rough waters and to develop into bold leaders. Each lesson is chock full of scripture, historical facts, resources and discussion questions to help students dig deep into the Bible.

"The BOLD material is intentional about presenting a biblical worldview without shy ing away from the hard issues our kids are facing," said Barb Higgins, territorial youth leader development coordinator. "It’s based on the Bible and teaches biblical leadership, following Christ’s example to bring up strong, passionate leaders for Him."

Upon completion of the five-year course, graduates are eligible to apply for post-high school education scholarships which can be used for any accredited college or career training program. This incentive sometimes helps young people stick with the program, giving them more time to disciple and equip them.

568 days and counting

by Lt. Zach Zumwalt

I’m a pretty organized person. I meticulously organize my clothes, books and kitchen—practically everything I own has its place. I tend to organize my schedule in the same way: a very specific, timely manner. I still carry a paper calendar on which I write down hour by hour what I should be doing. Sometimes this works wonders! As an officer, it keeps me on track, helps me achieve goals and allows me to get reports done on time. At other times though, my tight schedule becomes the greatest enemy to my ministry.

You see, I often schedule my whole day so thoroughly that it doesn’t leave room for what I like to call “holy interruptions.” These are God-ordained moments that call on my pastoral capabilities or my personal relationship with God. A holy interruption can be an employee who is having a really rough time at home. It might be running into someone at the grocery store when I just dashed in to pick up one thing and needed to be on my way.

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The Royal Oak, Mich., Corps Cadet Brigade led by Melanie Mowers

In these holy interruptions God begins to speak to me. A distraught employee poses an opportunity for prayer. A grocery store run becomes a catch-up chat and invitation to worship on Sunday.

I have to admit sometimes these holy interruptions don’t have me jumping for joy as they interfere with all my scheduled responsibilities. But if I stay in that mindset, I can miss opportunities for ministry that truly make an impact in someone’s life. I could miss an opportunity to lead someone to Jesus. My prayer is that I, and every officer, would be open to a holy interruption and make it a ministry opportunity.

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Aiming for the stars

by Craig Dirkes

A few years before she met Sherrie Trucker, caseworker at the Mankato, Minn., Corps, Brittany had lost the will to live. Plagued by addiction and depression, the single mother parked her car on the edge of a cliff and planned to drive off.

“I felt there was nothing to live for,” Brittany said. “I couldn’t deal with paying bills on time, showing up for work, and being the mother I needed to be.”

After calling her sister to say goodbye, police officers pinged her location and got to the cliff in time to save her.

“Brittany is willing to work, and she is very resourceful. She has leadership skills. She dreams big, and she has the confidence needed to make a better life,” Sherrie said.

Over the past year, Brittany not only has maintained employment but has been promoted four times, going from part-time to fulltime hours. She has learned to budget her money and is current on all her bills.

In April, she moved into a very own house. Previously, she and her two daughters, ages 2 and 7, had been living in a small apartment.

“I don’t have a background in case management and a degree in behavioral science,” she said. “We live in the neighborhood. It seemed like a good fit for me.”

Major Barbara Owen, along with Majors Stephen and Diane Harper, who led the corps at that time, agreed Monica was perfect for the position. The combination of her education, professional experience, and personal experience of seeking help when she was struggling serves her well as she works with families in POH who appreciate her openness and straightforward approach.

“Monica is truly compassionate because she allows her experiences to inform her work,” said Joan. “Living and working in the community, she is able to encourage families she sees struggling and refer them for assistance.”

“My clients respond to me, for the most part, because I went through it,” Monica concluded. “I’m not afraid to tell my story to them. I’ve been through a lot in my life, and I’m able to help others because I can relate.”

Paying it forward

Monica Simmons, Pathway of Hope (POH) case manager at the Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps, was once overwhelmed by her life circumstances. Now on solid ground, she’s paying it forward.

“Monica has been on both sides of the desk,” said Joan Kurtz, regional social work manager. “We talk about walking a mile in somebody’s shoes before we judge them. One of Monica’s strengths is that she’s already walked the path some of her clients are now walking.”

Five years ago, Monica was struggling to cope with the immense demands of working to support her family, raising her daughter and autistic son on her own and serving as caregiver for her mother. Familiar with her circumstances as a soldier at the same corps, Carmen Staggers, assistant social services director for the Metropolitan Division, introduced Monica to POH. She enrolled, and with the help of her POH case manager was able to find the resources she needed to turn her life from chaotic to stable.

“They helped me get my son, Corey, into the Easter Seals program,” she said. “That was my primary goal—to find resources for him and his needs. He’s a senior in high school now and doing much better.”

Not long after completing POH, Monica’s life took another turn when she became very ill, causing her to leave her job in order to recover. It took a full year for her health to finally stabilize before she was ready to return to the work force. Then she needed to work fewer hours and be close to home in order to accommodate Corey’s therapy and her own health needs.

When a part-time position for a POH case manager opened at the corps, she applied.

“I have a background in case management and a degree in behavioral science,” she said. “We live in the neighborhood. It seemed like a good fit for me.”

Major Barbara Owen, along with Majors Stephen and Diane Harper, who led the corps at that time, agreed Monica was perfect for the position. The combination of her education, professional background as an addictions counselor and personal experience of seeking help when she was struggling serves her well as she works with families in POH who appreciate her openness and sustained transformation.

“My recovery has made me a better person and a better mom to my girls,” Brittany said. “I have motivation, I have ‘go,’ and I have determination.”

Sherrie is confident Brittany will reach any new goals she sets and continue to aim for the stars.

“Brittany amazes me,” Sherrie said. “A lot of people in recovery get distracted and discouraged, but not Brittany. She never said, ‘This is too hard, I can’t do it.’”
Running toward hope

Three years ago, Lindsie made the difficult decision to leave an abusive marriage and build a new life for herself, her one-year-old son and her unborn baby. Though she was full of fear and anxiety, and she didn’t know how she would support the children on her own, she gathered their things and fled, moving in with her parents.

When the dust finally settled after the lengthy divorce proceedings and custody battle, Lindsie was left with mounting bills and no means to purchase Christmas gifts for her young son and daughter. Desperate, she set aside her pride and signed up for assistance at the Jackson, Mich., Corps. Little did she know how much that decision would alter the course of her life.

Lindsie met Kristen Lewis, then the corps’ social services coordinator, who suggested she would be a good candidate for Pathway of Hope (POH). True to her word, Kristen called Lindsie a few weeks later to follow up on the opportunity. Stunned, she hadn’t been forgotten, Lindsie enrolled.

“I was at a pivotal point in my life. It felt like I was running a marathon and my legs were starting to give out on me. Kristen came beside me and gave me just what I needed to continue,” she said. “She helped me find strength to set goals.”

Equipped with goals she and Kristen developed as part of POH and the encouragement and accountability she needed to reach them, Lindsie began to make significant strides. With Kristen’s help she found support for her children in play therapy and started working through custody issues with their father by utilizing the Friend of the Court system. She’s currently taking steps to meet her goals to learn to manage her finances and build her savings.

“Lindsie is one of the most motivated, loving, caring, and God-serving clients I have ever worked with,” said Kristen.

In addition to the knowledge and motivation she discovered in joining POH, Lindsie also experienced the love of Christ and spiritual care in pastoral moments with Lt. Trisha Anderson, Jackson corps officer. Other members of the corps welcomed her and her children with open arms, becoming friends she can count on. They’ve sat with her during court proceedings, played with the children, prayed with Lindsie and encouraged her through all the ups and downs.

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Lt. Trisha Anderson and Lindsie

“My Prayer List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Bible Reading</th>
<th>Pray for The Salvation Army</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Friday</td>
<td>Job 9-10</td>
<td>Norfolk, Neb., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Saturday</td>
<td>Isaiah 29-33</td>
<td>Chicago Staff Band music ministry</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Sunday</td>
<td>Matthew 11-13</td>
<td>Candidates for Officership and Corps Cadets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Monday</td>
<td>Romans 9-10</td>
<td>Gary-Merrifield, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Tuesday</td>
<td>Genesis 20-23</td>
<td>Quincy Kroc Center, Ill., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Wednesday</td>
<td>Judges 1-6</td>
<td>Marion, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Thursday</td>
<td>Psalms 15-17</td>
<td>Western OHIO**</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Friday</td>
<td>Job 11-12</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, Kan., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Saturday</td>
<td>Isaiah 29-33</td>
<td>Chicago Staff Band music ministry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Sunday</td>
<td>Matthew 14-16</td>
<td>Candidates for Officership and Corps Cadets</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Monday</td>
<td>Romans 11-12</td>
<td>Gary-Merrifield, Ind., Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Tuesday</td>
<td>Genesis 24-27</td>
<td>Quincy Kroc Center, Ill., Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Wednesday</td>
<td>Judges 7-11</td>
<td>Minneapolis Temple, Minn., Corps</td>
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<td>14 Thursday</td>
<td>Psalms 18-20</td>
<td>North Platte, Neb., Corps</td>
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<td>15 Friday</td>
<td>Job 13-14</td>
<td>Regeneration Young Adult Conference</td>
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<td>16 Saturday</td>
<td>Isaiah 34-38</td>
<td>Michigan City, Ind., Corps</td>
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<td>17 Sunday</td>
<td>Matthew 17-19</td>
<td>Milwaukee West, Wis., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Monday</td>
<td>Romans 13-14</td>
<td>Corps (Brazzaville) Territory***</td>
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<td>19 Tuesday</td>
<td>Genesis 28-31</td>
<td>Pontiac, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Wednesday</td>
<td>Judges 12-16</td>
<td>Omaha Kroc Center, Neb., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Thursday</td>
<td>Psalms 21-23</td>
<td>Peoria, Ill., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Friday</td>
<td>Job 15-16</td>
<td>Monroe, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Saturday</td>
<td>Isaiah 40-44</td>
<td>Saline, Kan., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Sunday</td>
<td>Matthew 20-23</td>
<td>Men’s Ministries Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Monday</td>
<td>Romans 15-16</td>
<td>Hammond-Munster, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Tuesday</td>
<td>Genesis 32-35</td>
<td>Spiritual refreshment of officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Wednesday</td>
<td>Judges 17-21</td>
<td>St. Charles, Mo., Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Thursday</td>
<td>Psalms 24-26</td>
<td>Minot, N.D., Corps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Go to www.salsalvationarmy.org
If you follow the prayer calendar during the year, you will have read through the Bible!

My Prayer List

1. **Praise the Lord for His love and faithfulness.
2. **Pray for the Salvation Army’s mission and ministry.
3. **Ask for financial support for the programs.
4. **Petition for the Salvation Army’s staff and volunteers.
5. **Pray for the Salvation Army’s leadership.
6. **Ask for guidance and wisdom.
7. **Seek God’s will for the Salvation Army’s future.
8. **Pray for the Salvation Army’s spiritual growth.
9. **Ask for a renewed commitment to God's Word.
10. **Petition for the Salvation Army’s international work.
11. **Pray for the Salvation Army’s social services.
12. **Ask for wisdom in making decisions.
13. **Petition for the Salvation Army’s mission partners.
14. **Pray for the Salvation Army’s youth ministry.
15. **Ask for God’s protection over the Salvation Army.
16. **Petition for the Salvation Army’s outreach programs.
17. **Pray for the Salvation Army’s medical and dental services.
18. **Ask for God’s provision for the Salvation Army.
19. **Petition for the Salvation Army’s disaster response efforts.
20. **Pray for the Salvation Army’s educational programs.
21. **Ask for God’s direction for the Salvation Army.
22. **Petition for the Salvation Army’s international work.
23. **Pray for the Salvation Army’s community development efforts.
24. **Ask for God’s guidance for the Salvation Army.
25. **Petition for the Salvation Army’s juvenile court programs.
26. **Pray for the Salvation Army’s family services.
27. **Ask for God’s favor on the Salvation Army.
28. **Petition for the Salvation Army’s international mission.
29. **Pray for the Salvation Army’s older adult ministry.
30. **Ask for God’s provision for the Salvation Army.
31. **Petition for the Salvation Army’s international partnerships.
Mission ready?

At the Arise and Shine Territorial Women’s Conference more than 60 women of all ages who’ve served on global and summer mission teams gathered at a late-night event, sponsored by the territorial world missions department, to share their mission experience take-aways, visit with friends and pose for a group photo.

“God changes us when we leave our culture and enter into the lives of our brothers and sisters throughout the world,” said Chris Shay, world missions department director.

Interested in learning this truth for yourself?

If you’re between the ages of 18–28, the program ministry of summer mission teams (SMT) could be a great way to expand your world and grow in Christ.

A global mission team (GMT) might be a good fit for you if you’re age 18 or older. For one to two weeks, GMTs work mostly on projects, such as renovating a kitchen space or providing a roof on a corps building, though some are program based.

Applications are now available online. Visit centraladmissions.org and click on opportunities.

Promoted to Glory

Major George Hogg

Major George Hogg, widely known as a man with a smile who spoke from his heart and practiced what he preached, was promoted to Glory on October 18, 2018, at age 89.

Born in Scotland and raised in the United States, George gave his life to Christ after being invited to attend Sunday services at the Saginaw, Mich., Corps where he played basketball as a teenager. There he also became a businessman and developed a passion for music.

He was commissioned in 1950 with the “Standard Bearers” session. On April 15, 1953, he married Lieutenant Ida Voeller, and they served together as corps officers for more than 40 years. They retired in 1994 from the Jackson, Mich., Corps.

George is preceded in death by his wife and their daughter, Kathi; he is survived by their children, William (Kathy), Barbara, and Captain Gordon (Cindy) Hogg, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Donations from his memorial fund financed the purchase of instruments for the Decatur, Ill., Corps, where George and Ida soldiered for many years postretirement.

Major Dallas Raby

Major Dallas Raby was promoted to Glory on October 24, 2018. A lifelong Salvationist, Dallas is remembered for his gentle leadership style, encouragement of others, subtle wit and excellent musicianship.

Dallas grew up attending the Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps, where he learned to play euphonium. He married Phyllis Gilmour in 1963, and for 10 years the couple built their life and family with Dallas working as an engineer. In 1973, they followed God’s call to become officers.

The Raby’s served in corps, College for Officer Training, Divisional headquarters and city command appointments for nearly 32 years. They retired in 2007 from their final appointment as corps officers of the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps, where Dallas was also city coordinator.

An award-winning instrumentalist and instructor, Dallas influenced many young Salvationist musicians. He also had knack for building and fixing things, a gift which served him well.

Dallas is survived by his wife; sisters Kathryn (David) Stewart and Christina (Danny) Bonifield; and six grandchildren.

Captain Alexander Velasquez

Captain Alexander Velasquez, 59, was promoted to Glory on October 10, 2018. Alex displayed a deep passion for Christ which showed in his servant attitude as he ministered in his appointments and disaster services.

Alex dedicated his life to the Lord at the Chicago, Ill., Harbor Light Center. His transformation led him to finish his GED, build a positive reputation and pursue officership. As an officer he earned an undergraduate degree in practical ministry and executive master’s in business administration.

Alex met his wife, Jennifer, when he entered the College for Officer Training in 2002. They were married a year later and commenced 15 years of service in corps and adult rehabilitation center (ARC) appointments. At the time of his promotion to Glory, he was administrator of the Davenport, Iowa, ARC.

Encouraging and supportive, Alex allowed his experiences to inform his ministry. He was a true evangelist whose greatest desire was to see people redeemed through Christ.

He is survived by his wife; children, Jaqueline, Alexander (Elizabeth), Adeline (Floyd) Knight, Alina Hernandez, and Christina (Dominio) Farley; and many other family members.

Lt. Colonel Marin Dahl

Lt. Colonel Marin Dahl, courageous evangelist, prayer warrior and supportive family man was promoted to Glory on October 19, 2018. He was a pastor, musician and artist who portrayed Christ in all he did.

Raised in a godly home, Marin was saved at the age of 13. After hearing a message from Lt. Colonel Lyle Rader, he committed himself to reading scripture and faithfully applied the “No Bible, no bed” rule for more than 60 years.

Prior to becoming an officer, Marin earned a degree in biology. He worked in ministry with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and a local television ministry and played with several gospel music groups. In 1960, he met Bodil Grøtzbach at the Minneapolis Temple Corps, then part of the Scandinavian Division. Married in 1964, they entered training that same year. They served in corps, including some of the territory’s largest, and divisional appointments for nearly 40 years. The Dahls retired in 2004 from their final appointment as territorial pastoral care officers.

Marvin is survived by his wife, sons Daniel (Colleen), David and Dale, and three grandchildren.