Territory to celebrate Live Music 2020 success

The Music and Arts Festival will be filled with opportunities for worship, fellowship and learning. You won’t want to miss interactive gatherings like The Gospel Experience, a form of Jesus Theater ministry engaging the entire audience, or Worship Circles, an uninterrupted time of praise and prayer open to instrumentalists and worshippers. Other concurrent programs will feature corps musicians, artists and dancers and an opportunity to see and hear the winners of the online Territorial Solo Competition.

Among the amazing vocal groups featured during the weekend will be the newly formed Central Territorial Songsters. In addition, a United Chorus composed of Salvationists from across the territory will take center stage. The chorus is open to anyone in the territory; look for three opportunities to rehearse its items with the International Staff Songsters as they tour the territory in April. The festival itinerary also will include a United Kroc Youth Choir.

Both the keynote Friday evening and the Saturday evening sessions will celebrate LM2020 success stories and ensembles from across the Midwest. The Saturday morning session will feature youthful music and artists, including the Territorial Youth Band, Territorial Youth Chorus and the Territorial Worship Collective.

The Chicago Staff Band, the Bill Booth Theater Company and the Singing Company will contribute throughout the weekend. There also will be a few surprise “flash” events mingled around the five united meetings that you won’t want to miss!

The weekend will culminate with a Sunday morning family worship experience which will include the Commissioning and Ordination of the Messengers of the Kingdom session of cadets. The festival will conclude that afternoon with a Sending Out meeting that will include charges to music and arts local leaders and the territory’s Summer Mission Teams and the appointments of the new lieutenants.

Register at centralcommissioning.org

General Tillsley promoted to Glory

General Bramwell H. Tillsley, The Salvation Army’s 14th international leader, was promoted to Glory on November 2, 2019, from his home at the Army’s Meighen Retirement Residence in Toronto, Canada.

Bramwell was born in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, on August 18, 1931, to Salvationists Harold and Doris Tillsley, who had immigrated from England to Canada just a few years before. He accepted Christ at a young age and became actively involved at Kitchener Citadel, including as a junior soldier, corps cadet, bandsman and cornet soloist.

In 1953, Bramwell married his beloved Maude Pitcher, and together they entered the Toronto College for Officer Training in 1955 as cadets in the Sword Bearers Session. Upon their commissioning in 1956, they were appointed as corps officers in Windsor, Nova Scotia, followed by Oakville, Ontario. They served for the next six years at the training college in Toronto before their appointments as divisional youth officers in Saskatchewan and corps officers at North Toronto Citadel in 1966. In 1969, the Tillsleys returned to the training college in Toronto, where Bramwell took up the position of education officer. He went on to become training principal, first at the training college in St John’s, Newfoundland, and then in the USA Eastern Territory.

In 1977, the Tillsleys returned to Newfoundland, with Bramwell as the provincial commander. The position of divisional commander in the Metro Toronto Division followed, bringing the Tillsleys to home ground. Bramwell became principal of the International Training College in London, United Kingdom, in 1981, chief secretary of the USA Southern Territory in 1985 and territorial commander in the Australia Southern Territory in 1989, taking the rank of commissioner. In 1991, Commissioner Tillsley was appointed as Chief of the Staff at International Headquaters in London. In 1993, he was elected as the 14th General of The Salvation Army, an office he held until May 1994. With his wife, Mrs. General Tillsley, he moved to the Salvation Army’s Headquarters in London. In 1998, they moved to Georgia, where they lived until 2010, when they moved to Hoffman Estates, Illinois, where he lived, until his death.

Continued on page 11
Words that underpin our mission

by Lt. Colonel Philip Maxwell
Secretary for Program

Just over a century ago, Evangeline Booth, then a commissioner and national commander of The Salvation Army in the United States, wrote immortal words that underpin our mission to this day.

In the wake of World War I, Commissioner Booth enlisted the services of the romance novelist Grace Livingston Hill to capture both the historic details and the motivation behind The Salvation Army’s involvement in the “war to end all wars.” In the prologue to this epic manuscript, The War Romance of the Salvation Army, she penned:

“When moved to activity by the apparent need, there was never a thought that our humble services would awaken the widespread adoration that has developed. In fact, we did not expect anything further than appreciative recognition from those immediately benefited, and the knowledge that our people have proved so useful is an abundant compensation for all toil and sacrifice, for service is our watchword, and there is no reward equal to that of doing the most good to the most people in the most need.”

With the precision of a surgeon, Commissioner Booth cut to the very essence of the Army’s existence: “Doing the most good” is the hallmark of our ministry.

“Doing the most good” is not so much a successful marketing campaign, but an abiding public relations firm that is the hallmark of Salvation Army ministry.

Doing the most good is a journey, not a destination.

Despite a century of refinement and development, we as an Army have not made it yet. We are still on a journey. We live in a world marred by its own humanity. There are broken lives all around us. Even with our very best efforts, we fall short of our intention.

Another Booth—William, our Founder—compelled his generation, “While there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I’ll fight. I’ll fight to the very end!” Against the backdrop of need that surrounds us, there is a warning not to grow complacent or to rest on our reputation.

The term “Salvation Army” provokes two distinct appreciations: one hope; the other, engagement. We have a word that offers hope to a fractured world, and a conviction and calling to engage with it.

Doing the most good provides the drive for our mission.

Doing the most good is not a statement of accomplishment but of aspiration.

It is the measure we seek to attain. Embodied within the Salvation Army’s DNA is the capacity to look past the situation of those who come through our doors and see the potential God has placed within them. It is the willingness to walk with them, to let loose the chains that hold them back and to unlock their God-ordained potential.

Doing the most good gives the definition to our ministry.

Ultimately, doing the most good is not a program but our passion.

General John Gowans captured the heart of the Army with these words found in our Salvation Army Songbook:

“I believe in transformation, God can change the hearts of men. And refine the evil nature ‘Til it glows with grace again. God to conquer, fight the weakening, I believe he can be strong. To the family of Jesus All God’s children may belong.

These statements define our service and reflect our heart—a heart that believes in transformation, that seeks to make grace real, that holds to wholeness only found in Christ. It is this desire that compels us to do the most good.

Though a century may have passed, may we live up to the words of Evangeline Booth for “there is no reward equal to that of doing the most good to the most people in the most need.”

Celebrating 125 years

by Cathleen Himes

The Oakbrook Terrace Corps, Ill., Corps (OBT) is known in the western suburbs of Chicago for its ongoing commitment to community through social services, youth and adult programs, worship and service opportunities, pastoral services, neighborhood outreach and vast holiday assistance efforts.

However, the corps’ tenure in DuPage County is but a portion of its long history. With its genesis in the Austin neighborhood on Chicago’s far west side, OBT moved further west following a fire in the corps buildings in the early morning hours after a New Year’s Eve service in the mid-1970s.

At its new location—a church that was purchased and later expanded on in 1994—OBT continued to grow its congregation and stayed in sync with the needs of its community for the decades that followed.

Currently led by Captains Caleb and Stephanie Sem, the Oakbrook Terrace Corps celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2019. Colonel Evie Diaz, chief secretary at International Headquarters in London, England, served as the guest during an anniversarry service and luncheon. “I know I live halfway around the world from here, but OBT is home for me. I soldiered here many years, and OBT is and will always be family,” said Colonel Diaz.

As OBT looks to the future, “More people, more like Jesus” will remain at the center of its ministry.

Fighting for Freedom

Elyse Dobney, Metropolitan Division STOP-IT program manager, and Joan Kurtz, territorial program consultant, represented the Central Territory at the most recent meeting of The Salvation Army’s North American Anti-Human Trafficking Committee at National Headquarters [NHQ] in Alexandria, Va.

The committee brings together representatives from all four U.S. territories, along with Mexico and Canada, to discuss how to equip Salvationsists and their communities to respond to the serious impact of human trafficking and exploitation. Through the committee’s work, corps and communities have been given tools and resources to join in the fight for freedom while offering hope and healing to survivors.

Committee members also engaged in advocacy on Capitol Hill. Elyse, Joan and Hope Wilson, senior policy analyst for vulnerable populations at NHQ, met with staff members of Congress representatives from the Midwest to highlight The Salvation Army’s work. They shared information about Salvation Army programs across the Central Territory and encouraged lawmakers to join The Salvation Army in the campaign to end human trafficking.

“Through collaboration with the North American Human Trafficking Committee and will share resources designed to equip corps and communities with the tools they need to support survivors while intentionally demonstrating the love of Jesus,” concluded Joan.

For more information and resources, visit saujustice.us

To request help or report suspected human trafficking call the National Human Trafficking hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text “help” to BEFREE (233783).

Legislative aide for Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth, Joshua Thomas and Viviana Gonzalez (third from left) with Elyse Dobney and Joan Kurtz
Music and bilingual services prove game-changers for corps

It’s a glimpse of heaven,” said Lt. Alex and Carolina Yanez, corps officers, of the beautiful intercultural fellowship at the Milwaukee, Wis., Cold Spring Corps. The vibrant, diverse congregation, which is highly involved in its community, is an answer to their and soldiers’ persistent prayers and intentional efforts over the last couple of years.

When the Yanezes were appointed in June 2017 to lead the corps, which had moved from inner-city Milwaukee to nearby Greenfield, Wis., the year before, they discovered two issues impeding mission and growth. Worship was conducted only in Spanish, and there were no children’s programs—and therefore hardly any children.

“English speakers would visit the corps, but they wouldn’t stay if they didn’t understand Spanish,” said Lt. Alex. Learning that the community was more than 60 percent Anglo, the lieutenants proposed to their congregation that worship should be bilingual. After a time of prayer in June 2017, corps members unanimously agreed.

To address children’s programming, in 2018 a ministry team began to saturate the community with outreach initiatives such as vacation Bible school, day camps and family movie nights. They got out of the corps building and went to where the people were—like city parks—to meet families and invite them to the corps. Wanting to offer something professional and appealing, the corps introduced a School of Music, and by the end of that summer, 28 children were participating.

According to the lieutenants, the music school has been the biggest game-changer for corps growth. Today, 45 children participate, 95 percent of whom are at the corps every Wednesday evening for dinner, choir rehearsal, a Bible story and instrument classes (guitar, keyboard and brass) which are divided into beginners and second-year students for optimal learning and progress. The students have been encouraged by visits from the Chicago Staff Band and Bill Booth Theater Company, and the corps hopes to send its first delegates to Central Music Institute this summer.

Nearly half of the music school children participate in other corps youth programs and attend Sunday worship with their families! While most of the children speak English, they love the concept of being bilingual. “The little ones invite their parents to church. We are finding that bilingual worship services are good for families. Whether the grandmoth-er speaks Spanish and children speak English, they can worship together as a family,” said Lt. Alex.

Today the corps’ intercultural congregation joins together for Sunday worship that is simultaneously translated and presented on-screen; even the verses of songs alternate between English and Spanish. In one accord, each person may choose to worship in whichever language speaks most to his or her heart. Adult Bible studies are offered bilin-gually, and the corps gives English as a Second Language classes and plans to provide Spanish lessons in response to requests by local business professionals.

A blended approach also is seen in the corps’ signage and social services where the staff and even all of the volunteers speak both English and Spanish. A concerted effort has been made to connect with people, to understand and meet their needs and to welcome them to participate in corps life. This, too, has been a significant factor in corps growth.

Lt. Alex concluded, “Entering our fourth year, the corps is beautifully different with a congregation that’s 30 percent Anglo, two percent African-American and 68 percent Latino—a picture of the Kingdom of Heaven.”
Committed to Christ and their calling

When I was commissioned at 21, I never could have dreamed where God would lead me. Being from a small Nebraska town, when I signed my covenant and told God I would go wherever He needed me, I thought I’d spend my whole officership in a corps setting in the Central Territory. However, I’ve only been blessed to serve as a corps officer in the Midwest but as a divisional officer, territorial, national, and now an international, officer.

God has stretched my horizons and allowed me to serve His ministry in many places. Along the way, I’ve met many people who have touched my life through their ministry.

Today as I serve at International Headquarters in London, England, I have the privilege of traveling to many parts of the world and seeing ministry given by Salvation Army officers, soldiers, adherents, employees and volunteers. Whether teaching children a trade to help keep them off the streets; or providing a children’s home in Kenya where children who are physically challenged can attend school; or helping children at the blind school in Jamaica learn to thrive in an environment designed especially for them, service is given in the name of Jesus. I’ve seen officers living in difficult places who serve with a joy that springs from deep within, and I’ve seen soldiers make enormous financial sacrifices to support the worldwide work of The Salvation Army they love. Every time I see their ministry and hear their stories, I am proud to be an officer.

As I look back over more than 35 years of ministry, I can see how God prepared me for where I am today. I’ve served in appointments I’ve loved, and I’ve served in appointments that stretched me beyond what I felt possible. But in every single one of them, God has taught me something and allowed me to be the kind of servant He has prepared me to be. Would I do it all again? Absolutely! But I would do things a little differently. I’d love people more and worry less about whether my programs were perfect, and I’d learn to balance ministry and my personal life. But overall, I wouldn’t change where God has sent me or what He’s given me to do. I love being a Salvation Army officer!

Committed to Christ and their calling

Majors Victor and Tina Stasiuc from Eastern Europe now minister in the Central Territory

They were young university students at the time, part of a “lost generation” living in a new world order and trying to make sense of it. In the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union, Moldovan natives Victor and Tina Stasiuc found Christ and each other.

Victor, studying chemistry, was searching for fulfillment science couldn’t provide. He began attending a Buddhist club near his home, but didn’t find what he was looking for. Finally, he gave in to his grandmother’s urging and went to an “American” church: The Salvation Army.

People came to the churches because they had lost everything after the collapse. They needed somewhere to belong.

“As soon as I sat in the hall rented from the scientific academy, I felt at home,” he said. Victor soon accepted Christ, and Tina, a butcher’s daughter, was enrolled as a soldier the next year.

Tina, née Foksha, studying English and graphic design, was invited to another evangelical church as a friend. After accepting Christ, she became involved in Bible study and outreach with the Student Christian Fellowship at her university.

“Evangelical Christianity was new to us,” said Tina. “People came to the churches because they had lost everything after the collapse. They needed somewhere to belong.”

Working and serving in different and unique cultures can be challenging, but the Stasiucs believe in God’s calling and provision.

While the Orthodox Church was established, other Christian denominations had not been permitted to officially exist in Moldova or many of the surrounding countries. When the borders were opened, churches popped up everywhere and began growing at an astonishing rate. Victor and Tina met when their ministries started coming together for worship and fellowship, and they slowly began to build a relationship.

The Stasiucs’ journey with The Salvation Army began in earnest while they were still pursuing careers. Victor remained a scientist, completing a master’s degree in chemistry and teaching. Tina completed degrees in English and graphic design, and later pursued economics and law. God had plans for them, however, and gave them opportunities to serve Him through The Salvation Army.

Victor became the regional youth director for Moldova in 1998 and held leadership positions at the Chisinau Central Corps. Meanwhile, Tina began attending the corps and became an administrative assistant for the regional commander. Married in 1999, the Stasiucs felt God calling them to fulltime ministry as officers.

Since their commissioning in 2002, the Stasiucs have served in 10 appointments in five countries, and have ministered in Moldovan, Russian, Romanian, Church and English. With more than 20 years of experience they now lead the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps. Currently, they are working on learning Spanish to assist in ministry there. They also have held divisional appointments, but cherish the frontline ministry of corps.

Continually adapting to living, working and serving in different and unique cultures can be challenging, but the Stasiucs believe in God’s calling and provision.

“We discovered that there is nothing which you cannot learn,” said Major Tina. “If God has called you, He will use you.”

Smiths’ legacy of faith saluted

Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.—Hebrews 13:7, NLT

by Lt. Heidi Strand

With this verse in mind, the Metropolitan Division met to salute their outgoing divisional leaders Lt. Colonels Charles and Sharon Smith, who began long-term medical leave. Faithfully serving for more than 40 years at corps, divisional and territorial headquarters, the Smiths have been known as problem solvers, dreamers, builders, pastors and, above all, followers of Christ. They have shown a commitment to excellence with the goal of creating spaces for people to feel welcomed and wanted so they could tangibly experience the love of God.

Most recently in their appointments as Metropolitan divisional leaders, the Smiths launched the Hope-Strong initiative with the goal of changing how the Army serves and shares the gospel, fundamentally tying together all corps and social services into a collaborative entity to build God’s Kingdom and “serve suffering humanity.”

Throughout their officership, the Smiths have led by love and a personal touch. For instance, prior to each women’s camp, Colonel Sharon could be found in her office with the list of delegates, praying for each by name. At the end of each event, she would stand at the exit and hug every woman and celebrate their changed lives and renewed commitments. She absolutely loved ministering this way. Colonel Charles has been known for his patience, listening ear and passion for prayer. When he had both knees replaced, his main goal was to be able once again to kneel with people at the altar.

My parents’ legacy of faith and the hope they carry for the future encourages and challenges me as an officer. I am encouraged by the fruit of faithfulness through the programs created, funding acquired and initiatives set during their active years of service. I also am challenged to see past all of that to recognize everything they have done has been to further God’s Kingdom. It always has been about their personal touch—reaching one person at a time and walking with them to the feet of Jesus to find new, abundant and everlasting life. This is their legacy of faith.
Recently 22 auxiliary captains, envoy cadets and corps administrators gathered at the College for Officer Training (CFOT) to study doctrine and the Gospels as part of the Distance Learning Program (DLP) led by CFOT Principal Major Brian Davis. The program assists and trains non-commissioned individuals who are serving in ministry positions across the territory. Classes were taught by Majors Jim Garrington and Beth Petrie.

Twice a year, students spend a week at the CFOT in Chicago immersed in studies and community life. They worship alongside cadets in morning prayers and fellowship with them at meal times. However, their class time is more intensive. Distance learners meet for 26 class hours during their week on campus—the equivalent of a whole academic quarter!

At a midweek ice cream study break, students got to know each other by sharing how God brought them to their present ministries. Later in the week Auxiliary Captains Pedro Pagan, Milly Lopez-Pagan, Linda Faye Jones, and Kim and Doug Winters, who were in their final on-campus course, were honored with a small reception.

In addition to the two on-campus courses, distance learners take online classes ranging from Bible and theology to business and practical ministry.

DLP is part of the process for auxiliary captains to become fully-commissioned officers. It meets the needs of second or third career individuals who bring their own expertise and enthusiasm to Salvation Army ministry but for a variety of reasons do not attend the CFOT. Currently, there are more participants in the DLP than ever.

If you’re interested in learning more, see your corps officer.

**CFOT reflects intercultural reality**

by Major Jenny Ortman and Lt. Natalie Austin

More and more, the College for Officer Training (CFOT) is reflecting the world as corps embrace the diversity of their neighborhoods, local leaders are developed and then come to the CFOT, following God’s calling on their lives to become Salvation Army officers. As an Army we are celebrating the diversity of all people made in the image of God.

Currently 28 percent of cadets were born and raised outside of the contiguous United States with 10 different languages spoken. Cadets and staff native to Puerto Rico, Cuba, Jamaica and Belize are interacting with cadets from Australia, Ethiopia, the Congo—and even Nebraska.

On any given weekend night, you will find cadets and staff informally sharing their cultures through good food and fellowship. Formal opportunities on campus support an active awareness of interculturalism while fostering a mutual openness to the viewpoints of others.

To learn more about culture, beyond food and language, cadets participate in an intercultural class and midweek practicums in their first year. The class includes time for sacred conversations and discussing perspectives of others who are not from the same culture. Representatives from the Territorial Intercultural Department and other professionals in the field share their knowledge on topics such as cultural intelligence, discrimination, immigration and creating a multietnic church. Practicums take cadets off campus and purposefully expose them to how ministry is working in places where they may not have much experience such as at the Red Shield Center in Englewood, Ill., the Chicago Central Adult Rehabilitation Center and more traditional midweek programs at the Norridge, Ill., Corps, where many attendees have an Eastern European heritage.

Attending the ONE Conference themed “Undivided: One in the Body of Christ” proved a great opportunity for 10 cadets to share, learn and acquire ideas and resources to utilize in their future ministries.

The cadets’ experiences at the conference, in the intercultural class and during practicums help them form a base from which to offer unconditional love and consistent grace to those they will meet throughout their ministry. Helping more people become more like Jesus, in this context, is listening to understand and speaking to be understood. Often this means making sure things are translated freely between those who do not share the same first language. “What’s the word for ...?” is a frequent question on campus; communicating through gestures is also common. The intent to connect with others easily translates with many strong cross-cultural campus friendships formed and the language of love and the gospel needing no interpretation.

Cadets’ and staff’s children are part of the unification process at the CFOT. Whether showing up at the door of another family to play or sitting together in the dining hall, the intercultural experiences children have help inform their view of themselves.

What does the Kingdom of Heaven look like on earth? For those at the CFOT, we have a glimpse, being different but unified in Christ, looking forward to the day as Revelation 7:9 foretells: “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the lamb.”

![Image](image-url)
"I'm excited!" We heard these two words frequently from delegates and presenters in anticipation of the ONE Conference.

What was fueling the excitement? Perhaps it was the venue with its open design, bright lighting and pleasant, green landscape. Maybe it was the smiles and the friendliness of those welcoming delegates at registration. Whatever the reason, "I'm excited!" was a wonderful way to begin the conference. It suggested we were open to listening and learning, to meeting and interacting with new people, and open to the Spirit of God and to what He would do.

Dr. Michael Emerson, provost and professor at North Park University in Chicago, opened the conference with the message "God's People Undivided: An Urgent Call for Humility, Justice and Courage." He shared sobering data from recent research: "We live in a deeply polarized society. The less human contact we have, the less humane we are. This results in stereotypes, marginalized people and vilifying those who don't think like us." He challenged delegates to pursue the path of humility, justice and courage.

Dr. Rolando Cuellar and the Rev. Alexandra Salvatierra followed with biblical reflection and stories that helped to facilitate an understanding of the current state and the complexity of the immigration system. "We need to develop a theology of immigration, reading the Bible with those who live on the margins, who experience adversity and oppression," said Dr. Cuellar.

"One of my biggest take-aways from the conference was the presentation by Reverend Alexis Salvatierra," said Captain Ketzia Diaz, territorial intercultural ministries secretary. "She gave a beautiful example of how we can become insensitive to others' pain... As believers, we cannot allow ourselves to be insensitive to those who come from different backgrounds and have different ways of life. We have to rely on the Holy Spirit to constantly remind us to love and support each other."

A timely Q&A provided an opportunity for further discussion and interaction with the audience.

Throughout the presentations, guests showed their passion and deep compassion for hurting individuals, families and communities. Each suggested a practical ministry approach. Reverend Alexis challenged delegates to have Jesus as their "first lens" and to feel, accompany and advocate as a biblical response.

Following the morning sessions, delegates attended workshops on six focus areas including cultural intelligence, community outreach, biblical foundations, cross-cultural leadership, sacred conversations, and Spanish.

"Having diverse speakers from other traditions sharing their views on what it means to be intercultural brought a different perspective on these issues and yet showed how we all still face the same challenges," said Scott Holmlund, human resource manager and volunteer coordinator for the South Bend, Ind., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. "In our workshop Captain Nestan Kistan shared a powerful story on apartheid in South Africa and the effects of unconscious bias. His story and our discussion in small groups demonstrated how powerful these thoughts can affect even our hiring practices... I am challenged not to make assumptions on the basis of a resume but to allow myself to be open and listen to their stories without judgment."

Joy Caro, soldier at the Aurora, Ill., Corps, added, "The One..."
Conference was a great opportunity to learn from people that were different from myself. It was a chance get a different perspective on how even small actions can make a big difference in how someone will perceive me.

On Saturday evening, through the story of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:1-10), the Rev. Dr. Oliver Phillips testified that God’s grace is powerful and personal. "Grace. Highlights of that meeting’s worship included a dance presentation, solos by singing artist Nikki Lerner, a steel drum band, the Bill Booth Theater Company and the territorial praise band, the Singing Company, which also led worship throughout the weekend and taught the conference theme song, "Undivided," written by Captain Patrick Holness. "I especially liked participating in the combined steel drum orchestra because the mixture of instru-
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Imagine worship opening to scenes of chaos and destruction set to a cacophony of languages. These combined to be a powerful reflection on the conference scripture theme: "If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." (Mark 3:25, NIV)

In a powerful presentation, Tito Rapley spoke of divisions outside of ourselves and those inflicted upon us that become a part of our identity. Prayers of confession followed for the role the church has played in maintaining the divisions. Then came the words of Ephesians 4:4-6 in different languages: "There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

"You get it!" exclaimed Commissioner Heidi Bailey as she encouraged delegates to live with intentionality to bring unity, acknowledging we are all imperfect people but love guides us. She continued, "There is so much more that unites us than divides us."

Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey’s message, "A Journey into Undivided" based on Acts 10 focused on the challenges of becoming an inclusive body as demonstrated by Peter’s struggle in sharing the gospel with Cornelius and, by extension, to the Gentiles. He cited the account of the early Church’s historical awakening to the gospel’s absolute inclusion and Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

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Wichita Advisory Board—one of the best!

by Anne Urban

"The Wichita City Command Advisory Board is phenome- nal. It’s one of the best I’ve ever worked with," said Major Jim Curl, Wichita, Kan., city commander. "Members have a huge sense of ownership and believe in the Army’s mission, not just its programs, to support their community."

The commitment of the command’s 35 advisory board (AB) members, some with decades of experience and great influence in Wichita, plus the dozen young professionals they men- tor, shines year-round.

“ar is a change for the auxiliary after 66 years of our fashion show, but we are so happy with the crowd that joined in the evening’s activities,” said Rachel Braker, auxiliary president. "The ladies did a fan- tastic job with the new technology and new theme and we can’t wait to see the final results.”

Rachel Braker, Peoria Women’s Auxiliary president, Leigh Anne Tushy and event co-chairs Becky Adams and Tam Shawgo

Well organized into a variety of committees and sub-committees, the AB has a great succession plan to fill the chairman of the board position, which is a three-year term. Future board chairs first hold the positions of assistant development chair, then development chair.

Known for aerospace research and manufacturing, Wichita is home to businesses which are highly committed to the community. AB members have been crucial in channeling these companies’ generosity of resources and extensive volunteerism to support The Salvation Army’s efforts, reported Craig Davis, director of community engagement, who said there are more than 1,400 non-profits in Wichita competing for funding.

“The Auxiliary is always there, helping raisefunds through events like this,” said Divisional Women’s Ministry Secretary Colonel Steven Howard, and former Wichita City Commander Major Joseph Wheeler.

Wichita’s temperate weather benefits the professionals’ annual Kettle Run fundraiser, which was launched to expose a younger demographic to the Army.

The weather also favors motorcy- clists. An annual toy ride of up to 3,000 motorcyclists brings in thou- sands of toys, and each year a huge aeronautics plant has its motorcy- cle-owning employees drive through its numerous buildings and warehouses to collect toys and funds from other employees.

A similar back-to-school ride at the plant raised $155,000 last year to purchase “Tools for School,” which are annually distributed directly to teachers; some weep with gratitude as they walk out with grocery carts full of sup- plies for their classrooms.

The Salvation Army

Emergency Disaster Services, and Community Relations & Development

General Brian Peddle

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A cornucopia of praise

by Eric R. Dina

The 99th installment of the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) Sounds of the Seasons Concert may just have exceeded its previous benchmarks of appealing to a wide audience with a cornucopia of styles and musical expressions.

The concert opener, In Awesome Wonder by Marcus Venable, evoked the music of John Williams with its thunderous percussion beginning, and was paired with a beautifully orchestrated meditation on Radiance by Andrew Garcia. Principal Cornetist Beth Malovance shared a new cornet solo, Faith Pursuit, written for her by Major Martin Cordner. The eight-minute solo utilized digital echo-effects, perhaps a first for Groves’ “He’s Kachaturian’s Effects, perhaps a first for Groves’

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The cornucopia of praise with her rich, musical phrasing on full display. A dark sound, attention to detail and exciting transcription of Beth’s performance was superlative with her rich, dark sound, attention to detail and musical phrasing on full display. An exciting transcription of Khachaturian’s Sabre Dance rounded out the CSB’s first set.

A moving moment for many people was the CSB’s vocal, “O Love” by Elaine Hagenberg. This band sings very well and is extremely responsive to the sensitive leadership of Dr. Harold Burgmayer.

The choral line never seemed rushed, with the text appropriately emphasized. Principal trombonist Brett Tolcher provided nuance, supporting the singing with an obligato original -ly composed for cello. Lt. Colonel Philip Maxwell, CSB executive officer, effectively wove threads of the lyrics of “O Love” into his thought-provoking devotional.

Both major offerings by the CSB are recent pieces based on time-honored musical forms. The award-winning composition, Fearless, by CSB alumnus Andrew Wainwright, is a modern take on the tone poem genre, featuring two songs from the Salvation Army worship band transMission: “I’m in His Hands” and “Soldier’s Hymn.” Fearless is a well-crafted, technically demanding work, requiring the full attention of the band and carries a strong message for The Salvation Army today. King of Heaven, based on the hymn “Praise my soul, the King of Heaven,” is Kenneth Downie’s brass band homage to Benjamin Britten’s Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra. Every section of the band successively is featured, displaying brilliance and sensitivity, concluding with the fanfare and flare expected from a Downie opus. Both numbers fully displayed the band’s magnifi- cent core sound and balance.

Guest multi-talented singer-songwriter and jazz trombonist Aubrey Logan won over the audience from the outset with her confident yet humble, demeanor and bubbly personality. The mix of pop culture songs and her own compositions, arrangements, including “Impossible,” “Pity Party” and “Go tell it on the mountain” switched effortlessly between singing and playing the trombone throughout her two sets. Kudos to percussionist Bernie Duke and bass guitarist Tom Hanton for providing lively rhythm support. While the backup musicians were especially tight given their limited rehearsal time together, the musical chemistry between Aubrey and her pianist Logan Thomas was obvious. Aubrey joined the CSB on several numbers including “One Three Nine,” which she composed and is a

navigate easily between multiple styles—jazz, southern gospel, opera and pop—gave members of the audience something to appreciate no matter their preference. Aubrey joined the CSB trombonists to bring the crowd back from inter-

ment of Donny Hathaway’s “This Christmas,” and to finish the evening she took a few choruses (12 measures of blues improvisation) on her trombone in Big Little Light that would have made the late composer, William Broughton, proud.

From top to bottom, this concert had all the trademarks of the CSB’s spirit-led authenticity and was a well-paced, enjoyable expression of witness and praise.
Des Plaines Corps open to God’s plan

Voices of more than 150 men, women and children lifted in worship as the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps celebrated 25 years of ministry and service to Chicago’s northwest suburbs. Shoulder-to-shoulder in the packed sanctuary, the diverse congregation sang “How great is our God,” uniting as one though each sang in his or her preferred language, whether English, Spanish or Russian. It was beautiful and moving intercultural worship and opportunities for intercultural fellowship which often occurs over a meal!

“We thank God for everything He has done,” said Ensign Alberto Giraldo, who with his wife, Florinelvi (Ody), leads the corps’ Hispanic ministry. “If we are faithful, we will celebrate 50 years.”

Originally an English-speaking corps, Des Plaines has continually adapted to meet the needs of the communities it serves. For example, a large Spanish-speaking population led to the formation of the Hispanic ministry which has continued to develop for 18 years and now makes up a majority of the soldiers. Sixteen years ago, a ministry to Russian-speaking individuals began, further extending the reach of the corps’ ministries with a Saturday service for Messianic Jews, currently lead by Glen Tansky.

Though the corps meets in separate language groups for many activities, youth and character-building programs, music instruction and a bi-monthly united service bring everyone together. Majors Victor and Tina Stasiuc, corps officers, are intent on creating even more unity in the corps through additional opportunities for intercultural worship and service.

“We want everyone to feel united as one corps,” said Major Tina. “It doesn’t matter which worship service they attend; everyone should feel like they belong and are part of one congregation.”

As part of the anniversary celebration, a block party brought corps members, friends and neighbors together. Children were given backpacks to fill with school supplies by visiting booths and carnival games, and many received free haircuts from a local barber. Families signed up for youth programs and music lessons, visited with corps leaders, discovered social services such as the food pantry and learned about programs like Breakfast with Baby, a monthly ministry to families who are expecting or have a child under one year old.

A display from the Territorial Historical Museum featuring an overview of Salvation Army history and services brought people inside, where they were given a tour of the building and had the opportunity to ask questions. “The anniversary was the perfect opportunity to grow The Salvation Army’s presence in the community,” concluded Major Tina. “We are open to God’s plan.”

Majors Steve and Latdavanh Kounthapanya (r) and members of the Rockford Tabernacle, Ill., Corps praise team

Major Latdavanh Kounthapanya (l) with Khtee Paw and her husband Belly Htoo

Among the new soldiers at the Rockford Tabernacle, Ill., Corps are Burmese Karen young people, including (l-r) Toe Toe Thien, Bablur Doh, Kya Poe, Saw Eh, Ngwin Chan, Aye Chan and Win Shwe.

Des Plaines Corps open to God’s plan

by Anne Urban

“United in Christ” aptly describes the Rockford Tabernacle, Ill., Corps’ members several of whom are from Asian, African, Caribbean and European countries who’ve found their home in The Salvation Army.

“The enrollment of 10 senior soldiers and 27 adherents in the last year has encouraged everyone,” said Major Steve Kounthapanya, corps officer with his wife, Major Latdavanh Kounthapanya. “They wanted to set an example for others, have a greater sense of belonging and do more for the Lord.”

Major Steve continued, “People enjoy and keep coming back for our contemporary worship, abundant fellowship, oportunites for intercultural worship and service.

“We believe participation in volunteer and service opportunities at the corps reflects a growing faith in Christ and deeper sense of inclusion, as evidenced in consistent interest in soldiery classes.

Participation in programs and activities for all ages at the corps, such as Bible studies and men’s and women’s ministries, also is on the rise. Youth ministries include character-building, music and dance classes, in addition to an afterschool program and teen recreation center.

Since the corps was planted in 2003 to serve mostly Laotian immigrant population, membership has grown consistently largely due to assistance rendered to the refugee populations coming into the area.

Federal, non-profit and faith-based agencies continue to relocate refugees to Rockford, which was selected as one of several U.S. cities that can best absorb immigrant populations, but they can only provide limited financial assistance, orientation and English language classes, reported Major Steve.

That’s when the practical assistance, love and compassion of The Salvation Army comes into play. Although some refugees are able to live independently after six months, many need continued assistance with job-training, language and life skills.

One of the latest refugee populations coming into Rockford are more than 3,000 Burmese. Desperate to escape civil war violence, poverty and persecution, these newcomers hail from three different mountain tribes, each with its own language.

Belly Htoo, a father of five children (ages 7 to 17) with his wife, Khtee Paw, said, “We are thankful from deep in our hearts to have The Salvation Army give us a warm welcome on our first day in the U.S. We’ve been loved unconditionally…their actions are appreciated more than words.”

Majors Steve and Latdavanh Kounthapanya lead the corps’ Hispanic ministry.

Majors Steve and Latdavanh Kounthapanya (r) and members of the Rockford Tabernacle, Ill., Corps praise team

Major Latdavanh Kounthapanya (l) with Khtee Paw and her husband Belly Htoo

Among the new soldiers at the Rockford Tabernacle, Ill., Corps are Burmese Karen young people, including (l-r) Toe Toe Thien, Bablur Doh, Kya Poe, Saw Eh, Ngwin Chan, Aye Chan and Win Shwe.
What you don’t need for intercultural ministry

by Captain Shannon Martinez

There are many reasons—excuses—we give for not engaging in intercultural ministry. We falsely believe we must have the right background, language skills or talents, but the truth is we are all called to share the Gospel and meet human needs indiscriminately.

While I don’t know everything about intercultural ministry, I have learned from my experiences and have found my excuses to be moot in light of God’s calling. Many things I thought I needed to be successful in intercultural ministry simply aren’t essential.

Here’s what I think you don’t need for intercultural ministry:

• An intercultural ministry degree: Degrees in theology, divinity or other areas of ministry are absolutely worth obtaining. There are many wonderful pastors with healthy intercultural ministries who have degrees. However, there are also great, thriving, anointed ministries with leaders who have zero fancy diplomas.

• To be bilingual: Intercultural ministry is about much more than language. While speaking a second language is helpful, it does not guarantee greater success. To bridge the gap, I make bilingual or multilingual friends who help by translating, and I let my actions speak more than words.

• To be a minority: There’s not an “image” we need to fit in order to be used by God or to serve others. I could never fully comprehend the challenges and injustices from simply being born with a darker skin tone. However, I believe God will use anyone for intercultural ministry who is open to His leading and willing to learn.

• Intercultural experience: The only way to gain experience is by diving in. You’ll make mistakes, but that’s part of the learning process.

All the answers: Just when I begin to think I know what I’m doing, I realize I need to make adjustments, learn something new or let go of things. It’s impossible to have all the answers, so I stick to the basics: love, listen, learn.

Self-awareness, humility and patience go a long way. Having a teachable spirit, being open to change and letting go of personal preferences in favor of advancing God’s Kingdom are essential. Most importantly, a core leadership team that reflects the diversity of the congregation and gives everyone a voice facilitates ongoing intercultural ministry.

Approach intercultural ministry with grace. Rely on God to bridge the gaps left by our imperfections, and resolve to work toward unity with Christ at the center. I can’t promise it will be easy, but I can say confidently that God will work in your heart and in your ministry if you seek Him first.

P.S.: I could never fully comprehend the impact of General Tillsley’s ministry for more than four decades. I have valued his writings and enjoyed his preaching and teaching, while noting his Christian character. Servant of God, well done?

Intercultural: The only way to gain experience is by diving in. You’ll make mistakes, but that’s part of the learning process.

February Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List

Day | Bible Reading | Pray for The Salvation Army
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1 Saturday | Job 9-10 | Kortrijk, Belgium, Corps
2 Sunday | Isaiah 23-28 | Milwaukee Cold Spring, WIs., Corps
3 Monday | Matthew 17-13 | Burlington, Iowa, Corps
4 Tuesday | Romans 9-10 | Candidates for Officership and Corps Cadets
5 Wednesday | Genesis 20-23 | Sri Lanka
6 Thursday | Judges 1-6 | Ottawa, Ont., Corps
7 Friday | Psalms 15-17 | Marysville, Ind., Corps
8 Saturday | Job 11-12 | Peoria, Ill., Women’s Auxiliary
9 Sunday | Isaiah 29-33 | Pittsburgh, Kan., Corps
10 Monday | Matthew 14-16 | Des Plaines, Ill., Corps
11 Tuesday | Romans 11-12 | Quincy Kroc Center, Ill., Corps
12 Wednesday | Genesis 24-27 | Denmark and Greenland
13 Thursday | Judges 7-11 | North Platte, Neb., Corps
14 Friday | Psalms 18-20 | Michigan City, Ind., Corps
15 Saturday | Job 13-14 | Rockford Citadel, Ill., Corps
16 Sunday | Isaiah 34-39 | Milwaukee West, WIs., Corps
17 Monday | Matthew 17-19 | The General’s Birthday in April
18 Tuesday | Romans 13-14 | Congo (Brazzaville) Territory
19 Wednesday | Genesis 28-31 | Omaha Kroc Center, Neb., Corps
20 Thursday | Judges 12-16 | Pekin, Ill., Corps
21 Friday | Psalms 21-23 | Muncie, Ind., Corps
22 Saturday | Job 15-16 | Salisbury, Kan., Corps
23 Sunday | Isaiah 40-44 | Men’s Ministries Sunday
24 Monday | Matthew 20-22 | Italy and Greece
25 Tuesday | Romans 15-16 | St. Charles, Mo., Corps
26 Wednesday | Genesis 32-35 | Men, N. D., Corps
27 Thursday | Judges 7-21 | Music and Arts Festival / Commissioning Weekend in June
28 Friday | Psalms 24-26 | Datlock Terrace, West, Corps
29 Saturday | Job 17-18 | Wichita, Kan., Advisory Board

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

Go to [www.salarmycentral.org](http://www.salarmycentral.org)
If you follow the prayer calendar during the year, you will have read through the Bible!
Congratulations!

We congratulate officers who achieved certificates and degrees in the past year, enriching their lives and ministries.

- Captain Luis Acosta: Bachelor of Business Administration
- Captain Ronnie Amick: M.A. Pastoral Leadership
- Captain Taylor Brutto: Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership
- Captain Chrsissy Cooper: B.A.S. Practical Ministry
- Captain Nikki Hughes: B.A.S. Practical Ministry
- Major Trevor McClintock: B.A. Ministry (Leaderships & Ethics)
- Captain Javier Moreno: B.A.S. Business Management
- Captain Kelsie Moreno: B.A.S. Practical Ministry
- Major Malinda O’Neil: Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership
- Major Jason Poff: M.A. Pastoral Leadership
- Captain Jennifer Velasquez: Master of Social Work
- Captain Kelsie Moreno: B.A.S. Practical Ministry
- Captain Javier Moreno: B.A.S. Business Management
- Captain Kelsie Moreno: B.A.S. Practical Ministry
- Captain Malinda O’Neil: Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership
- Captain Kelsie Moreno: B.A.S. Practical Ministry
- Captain Maria Perez: Bachelor of Business Administration
- Captain Amy Voss: B.A.S. Practical Ministry

In the past year, enriching their lives and ministries.

- Captain Javier Moreno: B.A.S. Business Management
- Captain Kelsie Moreno: B.A.S. Practical Ministry
- Captain Malinda O’Neil: Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership
- Captain Kelsie Moreno: B.A.S. Practical Ministry
- Captain Maria Perez: Bachelor of Business Administration
- Captain Amy Voss: B.A.S. Practical Ministry

Promoted to Glory

Major Pearl Palomaki

Major Pearl Palomaki, 87, was promoted to Glory on October 9, 2019. Kind, thoughtful and creative, Pearl’s quiet demeanor brought comfort to others, particularly during difficult times.


They retired from the Sturgis, Mich., Corps in 1997 after 45 years of service and moved to Marietta, W.Va. Pearl was active in Salvation Army activities until her health declined, but she continued to pray for the corps ministries.

Pearl is survived by her husband, Major Howard Palomaki; children Joel, Randall, Joy and Steven; and other family and friends.

Colonel Alis Speck

A gentle and quiet spirit who exemplified Christ, Colonel Alis Speck, 81, was promoted to Glory on October 17, 2019. She was a "daughter of the regiment" who faithfully followed God’s call on her life.

Born to then-Captains Carl and Hannah Cone, Alis was nurtured by the many ministries of The Salvation Army. After graduating from Asbury College she taught music at an elementary school and attended the Chicago, Ill., Temple Corps, where she met Cadet Bill Speck. They married in 1968 and embarked on 35 years of service.

The Specks held appointments throughout the Central Territory where Alis was divisional corps cadet counselor and later league of mercy and nurses’ fellowship secretary in several divisions. She and her husband led the Eastern Michigan Division. They also served at International Headquarters and at Canada and Bermuda Territorial Headquarters (THQ). She retired as league of mercy secretary at Central THQ in 2003.

Alis is survived by her husband, Colonel Bill Speck; daughters Deborah Brady and Diane; and three grandchildren.

Mrs. Brigadier Alta Forney

Mrs. Brigadier Alta Forney was promoted to Glory on October 26, 2019. Known for planning and attention to detail, Alta was also an encourager and sought to bring out the best in others.

Alta was commissioned in 1955 with the "Soul-Winners" session. She served in corps and at the School for Officer Training, then as divisional youth secretary in the Northern Illinois Division, director of the Eventide Residence in Saginaw, Mich., and administrator of the Emergency Lodge in Chicago.

On October 8, 1983, Alta married Brigadier Lewis Forney. She served as director of the Emergency Lodge in Wichita, Kan., and director of special services at Midland Divisional Headquarters.

Alta and Lewis settled in Wichita, Kan., in 2000 and soldiered at the Citadel Corps.

Alta was preceded in death by her husband and step-son Major Richard Forney. She is survived by step-sons Hal (Sharon), Major Jerold (Carol) and daughter-in-law Major Judy; and eight grandchildren.

Mrs. Major Ellen Tompkins

Mrs. Major Ellen Tompkins, 92, was promoted to Glory peacefully on October 10, 2019. Ellen loved the Lord and gave freely of the grace Jesus had given her.

She was a blessing to those around her and befriended everyone she met.

Commissioned with “The King’s Messengers” session in 1948, Ellen married sessionmate Lt. Roy Tompkins later that year. Together they served in corps throughout the Midwest and at the Unified Command in Chicago, Ill. They retired from their final appoint- ments at Metropolitan Divisional Headquarters, where Ellen served as assistant league of mercy secre- tary, in 1990.

Ellen was preceded in death by her husband and two of her six siblings. She is survived by her chil- dren, Michael, Patricia Montgomery, Major Cheryl Andrew) Miller and Timothy; and 12 grandchildren.

Going all in for Jesus

by Melanie Mowers

When high school and middle school students gather together for a common goal, united in the gospel, it’s going to be a great experience! Over 125 churches of varying denominations across the nation opened their doors on a Saturday this past fall to host students for Dare 2 Share LIVE, a one-day simulcast student evangelism training event.

The Eastern Michigan Divisional Youth Department partnered to bring Dare 2 Share LIVE to the Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps where more than 150 students attended. Eight corps and four churches united to inspire, encourage and train students to share the gospel, Dare 2 Share LIVE, a one-day simulcast student evangelism training event.

The Eastern Michigan Divisional Youth Department partnered to bring Dare 2 Share LIVE to the Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps where more than 150 students attended. Eight corps and four churches united to inspire, encourage and train students to share the gospel, Dare 2 Share LIVE, a one-day simulcast student evangelism training event.

The day was built around the speakers from Denver, Colo., inspiration and training by their local emcee, EMI’s youth specialist Mike Mowers, as well as time spent in focused prayer with their local youth groups. The day was built around the theme #Fight2Win and spiritual warfare found in Ephesians 6:10-20.

Students were trained in a simple yet deep understanding of the gospel and how to share it including using “The Life in 6 Words” app in conversations with their peers. Students spent the afternoon at various outreach activities where they were encouraged to engage in gospel conversations as they collected items for the local food pantry. Other groups spent their outreach time walking around local schools picking up trash and praying for the students, school and their peers.

At the Dearborn Heights Citadel site, more than 12 students made a first-time decision to put their trust in Christ. About 50 students indicated to their leaders that they were “all in” for following Jesus. It was an exciting day of teaching and practical application. We are praising God students left equipped to engage others with the Good News!

Look for this event October 10, 2020, in your city or check out what it takes to host it at your corps by visiting www.dare2sharelive.org.