



Central Connection

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

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

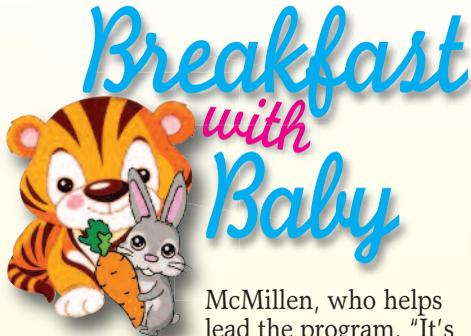
Volume 51, Number 1

January 2021

Breakfast with Baby serves record number of families

In its tenth year of serving its surrounding communities, the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps Breakfast with Baby (BWB) program handed out a record number of free diapers and baby supplies in 2020. Founded by Salvationist Cheryl Hagedorn, the program has become an essential resource for families.

"It's not just about diapers and baby supplies," said Luanne



McMillen, who helps lead the program. "It's not just meeting the physical need but also the spiritual need."

Prior to the pandemic, on the second Saturday of the month community volunteers welcomed families with an expectant mother or child under two years of age to the corps for a hot breakfast, devotions and fellowship before sending them home with a package of 50 diapers per eligible child,

wipes and other donated baby supplies for which they "shopped" depending on need and availability of items.

When the state shut down last March and BWB could no longer gather indoors, the leaders and volunteers quickly reorganized to provide drive-through distribution in

the face of ever-increasing need.

"The month after everything shut down we served twice as many families as the month before," said Luanne. "Now we're up to nearly three times as many. God is good. So far we haven't run out of diapers!"

The program served 140 families

Continued on page 7



Angela Lawson and her family regularly volunteer.



Luanne McMillen and helpers prepare to distribute diapers at the Breakfast with Baby drive-through.



Volunteers package 50-diaper bundles by size for easy distribution.

Rebuilding Joplin one home at a time

Last fall the last of 22 new houses funded by The Salvation Army in Joplin, Mo., was dedicated. The culmination of a six-year partnership between The Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity with more than a \$2 million investment, the homes represent the growing hope and continued rebuilding of the community nearly a decade after it was ravaged by an EF5 tornado on May 22, 2011.

"The community is still rebuilding," said Lt. Marty Norris, corps officer, who was appointed to Joplin with his wife, Lt. Jennifer, in July. "The partnership with Habitat provided a great connection with the community. Our hope is for people to know we are still here, still supporting them."

One Salvation Army-funded Habitat home went to Mike Boykin and his family, who lost their house and most of their possessions in the tornado. Today Mike manages The Salvation Army Family Store in Joplin, but at the time the tornado devastated his hometown he knew little about the organization.

"The day after the tornado, a group of people came walking down the street," recalled Mike of his first Salvationist encounter. "They happened to be from The Salvation Army. They asked if they could pray with us, and that helped a lot."

Like many others, the Boykins

struggled to find a new place to live. They purchased a leaky, run-down house out of sheer desperation. Mike did what he could to make repairs, but with a neck injury and surgeries, it was difficult. That's when his wife decided to apply for a Habitat for Humanity home. When they were approved, the family was overjoyed.

"I just remember being elated," said Mike. "God blessed us."

Several months after moving into their new home, Mike saw an employment opportunity in the paper for manager of The Salvation Army Family Store. Remembering the care Salvationists had shown his family after the tornado, he stopped in and applied. He was hired the next day.

"It is evident that God put me where He wanted me to be," he said. "It's a ministry, not a retail job. I feel very blessed and grateful."

Approaching the 10-year anniversary



Scott Clayton, executive director of Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity, speaks at the dedication of the final home built in partnership with The Salvation Army.

sary of the devastating tornado, the community continues to recover. The homes funded by The Salvation Army, along with countless other structures, are a testament to the resiliency of the people and the difference hope and investment can make.

"We're thankful for the partnership with Habitat," said Major Beckie Stearns, who served at the Joplin Corps with her husband, Major Doug, from 2015 until their retirement in July 2020. "Building the houses gave people hope for a life after a disaster."



Mike Boykin and his family in front of their new home

Photo courtesy of The Joplin Globe

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Keep on living

by Lt. Colonel Barbara Rich
Assistant Territorial Secretary for Program

Finally. We've made it to 2021. We've left last year in the rearview mirror. Yet, it doesn't feel as satisfying as we thought it would. For many of us 2020 seemed like the longest year on record. It was hard to watch the news of the pandemic, economic devastation, political chaos, social upheaval and racial unrest. At times I cried for people I'd never met whose amazing contributions were cut short by death from COVID-19. I mourned for fractured communities, wishing to rush their healing but acknowledging it will take time, a lot of listening and learning.

Amidst this pain and sorrow, our family celebrated the birth of our

second granddaughter in May. We welcomed Cooper Leigh from afar with hearts full of gratitude. We celebrated again when our beautiful niece married a young man who shares her faith and life goals just a few weeks before Christmas. Are we different than other generations of believers who went before us? I don't think so.

Even in the Old Testament we see the children of Israel exiled to Babylon and facing unthinkable pain and longing. Just as a refresher, they weren't being quarantined in their own homes, sleeping in their own beds and being asked not to gather in large groups. They'd been taken to a foreign land where life must



have felt out of their control. They might have been tempted to give up. But through the prophet Jeremiah what does the Lord Almighty say to them? "Build houses and settle down, plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters, find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage... Seek the peace and prosperity

of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper," (Jeremiah 29: 5-7, NIV).

During these times of pain, disappointment and confusion, God wants us to keep on living. He wants us to seek Him in prayer and make wise choices but not put our lives on hold. For even during this time when we feel we're treading water, God is with us and hope in Him can sustain us. Let's not waste these weeks and months. God is at work. So, let's wake up, build and plant in new ways. Christ is returning someday, and it may be soon.

Green Bay Kroc Center seniors take to zoom



An older adult fitness class, socially distanced, is captured by phone on tripod so those still unable to come to the center can participate.

Who says Zoom is only for millennials? The Green Bay, Wis., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center offers online classes for older adults in everything from flower arranging to fitness. There's even a Zoom coffee club for those who have wanted to retain that human connection during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through these classes and clubs, the Green Bay Kroc Center has been helping seniors stay connected and engaged while remaining safely apart.

During the shift to online and virtual programs offered to seniors, Liz

Sternig, the healthy aging specialist who knows many of the older adults who regularly attend the center, was instrumental in walking first-time virtual participants step-by-step through the process of going online for classes. From there, several became "regulars" to the virtual senior fitness classes and other opportunities. When one woman stopped attending the virtual classes, Liz reached out to her and discovered she was undergoing a health emergency but getting the help she needed. Fortunately, the participant is in the process of recovery, and the Kroc Center is continuing to support her.

"This is what being a Kroc member is all about," said Captain Kirsten Kocyan, associate Green Bay Kroc Center officer. "It's being a part of a community, even virtually, that reaches out and cares for one another."

According to the captain, senior tech-literacy is important and the amount of ongoing tech classes offered by the center has been increased. It is hoped that this will enable connections with seniors even if lockdowns recur or other situations arise which make face-to-face meetings impossible.

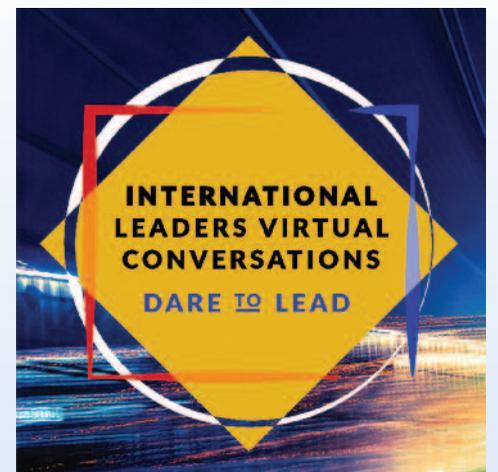
Zoom also has been used for other congregational activities, including a daily prayer call attended not only by older adults but by a broad spectrum of ages. This ministry occurred seven days a week through last October and continues to be offered twice a week.

International Leaders Conference goes virtual

With the possibilities afforded by Microsoft Office 365, international leaders have met together for the first time in a new virtual format called International Leaders Conversations (ILCs). This took the place of the in-person International Conference of Leaders, which had originally been scheduled to take place in March 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal, and then rescheduled for last September in London, England, but was cancelled due to COVID-19.

The first virtual conversation was held on October 19, 2020. Meeting in three forum groups according to time zones, leaders engaged in dialogue regarding a Theology of Leadership. General Brian Peddle introduced leaders to these significant discussions sharing that an openness to discuss theology impacts how we think, behave and act as well as influences the corporate and Kingdom life of The Salvation Army. Leaders also engaged in small groups to consider a presentation on gender equity with specific questions for thought and responses which were collated for further consideration.

On November 2, 2020, prayer fo-



rum were held under the leadership of the General and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle, as well as the Chief of the Staff and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham. There was freedom of prayer and a spirit of unity and love as prayers were offered for The Salvation Army's mission, our world and current circumstances.

The virtual ILCs are slated to continue through May. Salvationists are asked to pray for the Army's international and territorial leaders as they engage in these significant conversations.

*From an International News Release written by Lt. Colonel Jennifer Groves

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Then THRIVE, a half-year online spiritual life development course developed for Central Salvationists, might be for you!

The next cohort is scheduled to start in late January 2021.

Contact Major Lesa Davis, territorial spiritual life development secretary, for more information and an application at: Lesa.davis@usc.salvationarmy.org

Corps plant helps establish fresh SA identity in Ottumwa

by Michelle DeRusha

Envoys Joel and Ramona Arthur have a heart for ministry, which is why when they were assigned to plant a corps in Ottumwa, Iowa, they jumped at the chance.

"Our mission for helping people is driven by our love for Christ," said the Arthurs. "So this opportunity is the perfect fit."

"We are so grateful for the leadership of Envoys Joel and Ramona Arthur in Ottumwa," said Major Greg Thompson, Western divisional commander. "They are learning daily about how to successfully plant a church and implementing mission-focused ministries to reach the community for Christ, and we know that God will bless their efforts."

Planting a corps is no small task, especially when it entails a major identity shift. Prior to the Arthurs' arrival, The Salvation Army had a service extension unit in Ottumwa.

"In our community, The Salvation Army was primarily known as a thrift store and a social services organization," explained Envoy Joel. "We need a new identity here if we want a corps to grow and thrive."

To help them build the identity of



The Salvation Army in Ottumwa as a place of worship, the Arthurs meet weekly with a church planting coach from Converge Network. Over the last few months they've strategized how to recover the Army's presence in the community, developed a local mission and a three-year vision, identified a target "audience," and established six core values: outreach, discipleship, alliance, empowerment, compassion and restoration.

The Arthurs welcome Ottumwa residents to worship services on Sunday mornings, and they've also

launched "Messy Church" on Monday evenings during which they pair Bible study with crafts, snacks and other activities for families.

The Arthurs accepted the assignment of leading the work in Ottumwa in September 2019 after serving five years in positions at Western Divisional

Headquarters in Omaha, Neb., where Ramona was director of volunteer services and Joel was divisional disaster services and service extension director. Before that they were officers for 14 years.

Envoys Joel and Ramona know corps planting is a long process and not something that happens overnight, but they are determined to stay the course.

"It's about relationship-building," explained Envoy Ramona. "You have conversations, you begin to connect one-on-one with people, and over



time you discover where they are spiritually."

Envoys Joel and Ramona are grateful for the support from both divisional and territorial headquarters, and they are eager to share what they are learning with others.

The Arthurs are part of a new territorial task force charged with developing a strategy and establishing a corps planting culture in the territory.

"While the task force is still in its infancy, we are inspired by the bold, fresh ideas that are being discussed and the experiences that are being shared," said Envoy Joel. "Momentum is building, and it's exciting."



New boxing academy deals blow to frustrations

The Topeka Citadel, Kan., Corps has opened the Three Shields Boxing Academy in partnership with the city's police and fire departments. The program invites youth, ages 5-18, to learn the sport's fundamentals for free on Monday and Thursday evenings and Saturday morning. Participants are provided gloves, head gear and a mouth guard. Currently, due to COVID-19 restrictions, 20 youth are participating, but another 45 have joined a waiting list for the popular new program.

"Boxing has been shown to increase self-confidence, curb aggression and help an individual focus," said Captain Cristian López, Topeka



Police Chief Bill Cochran and Fire Department Lt. Brian Flott with Captain Cristian Lopez at the opening of the new Three Shields Boxing Academy.

corps officer. "The Three Shields Boxing Academy serves as a platform to teach participants self-control, management of emotions and

aggression, the importance of physical fitness and the basic skills of boxing. The Salvation Army of Topeka will be collaborating with the school district to keep kids in the ring and off the streets."

Another benefit is the positive relationships that are being made between youth and the 10 police and firefighters who are coaches, most of whom are bilingual.

The academy resides in a transformed garage next to the corps. It boasts two boxing rings and 19 punching bags—all

donated by the community—and is large enough to allow social distancing in a safe environment.

The program originated when Captains Cristian and Brook López were appointed in June 2019 to Topeka. Along with the corps' development director, Shelley Robertson, they saw the need to reach out to youth in the corps' surrounding neighborhood. They felt God's direction to ask the police and fire departments for their support and collaboration and received a positive response. The Three Shields Boxing



Captain Cristian López, Topeka corps officer, with police officer William Lister.

Academy was inaugurated in September 2020 in partnership with these two groups, volunteers and staff from The Salvation Army and a coach from the US Golden Gloves, who gladly donated one of the boxing rings. The opening was attended by the city's mayor and council members, showing their support for the new endeavor.

"This is wonderful. I am very blessed," said Captain Cristian at the event. "First of all, I want to give God the glory and thank this community for their support. This is how we make change!"

In the future, the captain says the corps hopes to offer an afterschool program, archery and soccer for youth.



The new program is so popular that it currently has 20 youth with another 45 on a waiting list!

4 730... AND BEYOND



6,041 days and counting

by Major Michael Cho

Several years ago, my wife and I were appointed to a small corps in a small town which had many social service agencies competing for the community's support. I soon realized it was very important for us to get out and let the community know what The Salvation Army was doing.

I was fortunate to be invited by several service groups to talk about The Salvation Army's work. Recognizing these were important opportunities to ensure support from the town's "movers and shakers," I emphasized our social services. But one day after my presentation to the Kiwanis Club, a gentleman asked, "Don't you have church service every Sunday? How come you don't share about that?"

While it was embarrassing to hear, it has become a reminder for me as an officer that the greatest help I can provide is not the food, rent or utility assistance, which is the "help" other agencies provide. It reminds



me I am a part of an "agency" that can provide help far superior than anything others offer. It reminds me I am a part of an "agency" that brings change not just for a day, a month or a year but for eternity. It reminds me I am a part of an "agency" that brings life.

I thank God for calling me to be an officer, who can direct people to where they can get eternal help. "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile," (Romans 1:16, NIV).



Newly accepted candidates



Natalie Mercer

First-generation Salvationist

**Grand Rapids, Mich., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center
Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division**

Captains Bill and Taylor Brutto, Kroc Center officers

Spiritual Gifts

Serving ♦ Teaching

Ministry Passion or Experience

Social Services ♦ Missions ♦ Worship

Spiritual mentor

Dr. Matthew DeYoung



Paige Heyboer

First-generation Salvationist

**Grand Rapids Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps
Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division**

A/Captains Mika and Grace Roinila, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Leadership ♦ Mercy ♦ Serving

Ministry Passion or Experience

Children/Youth ♦ Preaching/Teaching

Spiritual mentors

Major Heather Holman ♦ A/Captain Grace Roinila

Discovering God's undeniable love

Marcarius Coakley's journey to becoming a passionate follower of Christ has been long and arduous. Growing up in a rough neighborhood in Detroit, he attended church but received mixed messages from his family. With an absent father and inconsistent mother, his home life left him feeling empty.

"It was confusing," he said. "I didn't really know what it meant to be a Christian."

Things began to change when at age 5 Marcarius was invited by friends to join an afterschool program at the Detroit Brightmoor Corps. Finding solace, he became fully involved in corps activities, including character-building and Sun-

day worship.

"I loved it at The Salvation Army. The leaders really cared about me," he said. "If not for them, I don't know where I would be today."

Although he was encouraged by the love and support at the corps, Marcarius was subjected to detrimental influences at school and in his neighborhood and struggled to stay out of trouble. He questioned his self-worth and God's love for him.

At 17, he found a stable, loving home—something he'd never had—with Matthew and Vikki Coakley, soldiers of the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps who he'd met when he was on camp staff and



Marcarius (r) with his adoptive siblings Hannah and Ryan and father Matthew Coakley

they volunteered. After striking out on his own, he'd been "couch hopping" for more than a year when the Coakleys took him in and eventually adopted him.

"God knew what I needed, and He placed the right people in my life. My dad, Matthew, encouraged me to develop my relationship with Christ," Marcarius said. "He's always encouraged me to be better, work hard, love others."

Still, Marcarius continued to struggle with his faith for a few more years, wanting to make his own way and pursue a career in basketball. When his daughter, Lilyana, was born in 2013, however, his perspective began to change. It took time, but Marcarius began to understand and embrace God's unconditional love.

"I didn't feel I was worthy and thought God couldn't use me because I had sinned so much, but He kept tugging at me," said Marcarius. "And every time I surrendered, He said, 'I want to use you, I'm not done with you yet, no matter what you've done.'"

Wanting to extend the care and encouragement he received at the Army while growing up, Marcarius became the youth director at the Plymouth, Mich., Corps, two years ago. He's now a Ministry Discovery program intern at the corps with aspirations to earn a degree in Christian ministry and become an officer.

"I never thought in a million years that this is where God would lead me," he concluded. "I am beyond blessed."

Maximizing Orange at your corps

The Central Territory Youth Department is offering monthly live webinars presenting the Orange curriculum and featuring unique ways corps are using Orange as a resource. They are held the last Tuesday of each month at noon, CST.

"The intention behind these webinars is to build an understanding of the Orange curriculum and to establish a community of leaders who encourage and support one another," said Peggy McGee, territorial Christian education director for outreach.

Each hour-long session features presenters from Orange focusing on specific topics like building a volunteer team, engaging middle schoolers, leading remotely and effective teaching for special education. In addition to the topics, Salvation Army leaders from around the territory are invited to share their experience and creative use of the Orange curriculum in their corps. At the end



of each session, there is a live question and answer segment that allows participants to ask the experts questions. The hope is to provide a free, low commitment leadership development resource available to any corps leader or officer.

"While there are many training options to help leaders learn what curriculum to use and where to find the resources, we want to encourage leaders to dive deep and unpack why we are using Orange as a curriculum and how it can be adapted to



Jackie Raihl, Orange specialist for Salvation Army

meet each corps' individual needs," said Peggy.

The Orange strategy focuses on producing developmentally appropriate curriculum and building a partnership between churches and parents and families to pass faith on to the next generation.

When the light of the church (yellow) combines with the love of home (red) there is a greater impact (orange). The territory's Orange webinars serve as an opportunity to explore how officers, staff and soldiers, especially in local officer positions like Sunday school teachers, can accomplish that greater impact.

For instance, the first webinar featured Captains Vinal and Brenna Lee, Indianapolis Fountain Square, Ind., corps officers, who shared why they love Orange, how it's enhanced their ministry and what they've found to be best practices including the way it's enabled connections with parents especially during the pandemic so that families have had lessons when they couldn't come to the corps. Another best practice they cited is the multiple ways one Orange lesson can be incorporated into programs throughout the week which helps solidify the message for youth.

"If we're meeting with our kids more than once, which is often the case in Salvation Army ministry as we have the same children who are coming for small groups, junior church, character-building and Bible time, we can take the lesson and divide it, take it apart and add things, so that they are learning this lesson at multiple



Peggy McGee, territorial Christian education director for outreach

points," said Captain Brenna.

Captain Vinal expounded, "We're usually doing this with the 252 curriculum [elementary and pre-teens] especially with access to both the story and the 'So and So Show'—which is my favorite show on planet earth. Being able to have two different teachings of the same story even though we're administering nearly the identical curriculum in all of those different ministry opportunities throughout the week, having them hear it from different voices and different faces helps drive home the point as well. So, there is a vastness for the 252 curriculum which Orange provides for us."

To participate in the webinars on the last Tuesday of each month at noon, CST:

- Visit centrallyouthnetwork.org
- Click on the Christian Education banner at the top of the page.
- Click on the registration button at the bottom of the next page.

Registration enables participation and recorded webinars can be sent to you if you miss a live webinar. Links to past webinars and the Orange website are also available on the Christian education webpage.

United in Purpose

by Major Mary Ann Wood

How can a new corps celebrate 125 years of service—let alone during a pandemic?

The Washtenaw County, Mich., Corps did just that! With the help of Colonels Steven and Janice Howard, chief secretary and territorial secretary for leader development, and Eastern Michigan divisional leaders Lt. Colonels John and Theresa Turner, friends and soldiers of the new Washtenaw County Corps rejoiced in God's faithfulness since the Army came to Ypsilanti in 1894 and then Ann Arbor in 1896. The two corps served their communities and surrounding areas separately until they merged in March 2019 for better stewardship.

The Washtenaw County Corps operates from the Ann Arbor location with the goal eventually to locate property on the border of Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor to meet the needs from a more central location. Until then, social services can be accessed at a service center in Ypsilanti as well as at the corps.

The Howards reminded the 45 event attendees, masked and social distanced, of God's faithfulness and encouraged celebrating God's continued goodness. The chief secretary focused on Psalm 36, calling the members of the Washtenaw County Corps to live in the fear of God, counting what God says as more important than what the world says. Colonel Janice wrapped up a wonderful afternoon concert speaking from Nehemiah 12:43 where the Israelites dedicated the wall in Jerusalem with rejoicing that could be heard far away. She stressed the need for believers today to keep celebrating all God does.

Looking at many pictures of the past, seeing videos from former corps officers and hearing video testimonies from those influenced by both the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor Corps helped everyone to recognize the important foundation of faith both corps laid for the new Washtenaw County Corps. With this great heritage, the corps is moving forward with a renewed desire to keep meeting people's needs in Christ's name and sharing the gospel.



Majors Kris and Mary Ann Wood receive their new corps' flag from Eastern Michigan Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel John Turner.



by Karen Young

Declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues.—Acts 2:11b, NIV

To celebrate God's beautiful gift of diversity expressed throughout our territory, the territorial intercultural ministries department this year is launching a new project called "Declaring the Wonders of God."

With approximately 27 languages and dialects spoken in the Central Territory, we want to build cultural awareness and understanding in our corps and other ministry areas.

To that end, we have invited inter-

cultural ministries representatives from all 10 divisions, the Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command and the College for Officer Training to "declare the wonders of God in our own tongues" by sharing a video of a specific word used in worship as expressed by different cultures in their command. The videos will be suitable to accompany a sermon, devotional or other program emphasis by corps.

You can find the monthly word on the intercultural ministries website, interculturalministriescentral.org, and on the USC Intercultural Ministries Facebook page.

Called to be a Soldier

A new resource is being introduced by International Headquarters for those who are considering becoming a soldier or those soldiers who are looking to understand and refresh their commitment.

Called to be a Soldier explores the Soldier's Covenant, focusing on each of the statements of intention by outlining the possibilities and opportunities of life as a Salvation Army soldier. The covenant is set in the context of Salvation Army theology and practice, showing how the promises we make in response to God's call are also Articles of War—a set of regulations which guide the conduct of an army.

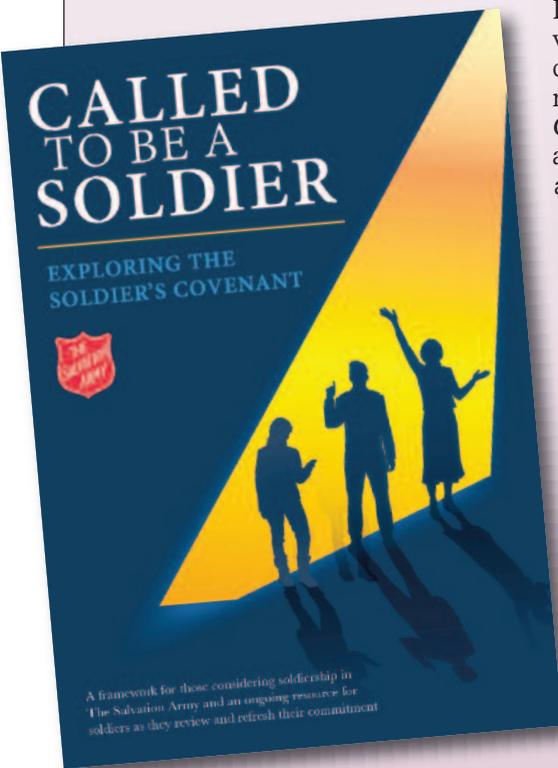
The beliefs, attitudes and behaviors outlined in the covenant call for dedication to God and God's mission, holiness of heart and life, personal integrity and authenticity, and determination to live in ways that model what it means to be a follower of Christ. Living as a Salvation Army soldier is only possible by relying on the grace and guidance of God as we seek to translate into everyday living the commitments we have made.

"*Called to be a Soldier* is timely as it challenges us to engage personally in an active, obedient faith," said General Brian Peddle. "We are becoming increasingly aware of the way our world is interconnected. How we relate to each other as individuals, communities and nations is crucial for our society and environment. It is my conviction that *Called to be a Soldier* will provide a most helpful framework to think about these matters and more.

"It will help us understand how Salvationist beliefs shape our actions. It will draw attention to the importance of worship. My prayer is that as you study its contents, you will grow in your conviction that Salvation Army soldiership is a calling of immense importance. Bring questions to your study and bring your openness to the God who calls us into His service and mission."

—From book's back cover

Watch salarmycentral.org for news about a live launch and more details about distribution of this resource.



Ministering in a new reality

by Lt. Gunther Briceno

Before we were commissioned as officers last year, COVID-19 hit. It took us all by surprise and changed our lives. Stationed now at the Kansas City Westport Temple, Mo., Corps, we are living in a new reality. We don't know how long this will last, but as we serve people, we share our hope in Jesus who died and rose to give us life in abundance.

We were fortunate that just before we arrived last July, lockdowns had been lifted. So, from the start we have been able to meet, wearing

masks and socially distanced, with our soldiers for worship and Bible studies. On Sundays our corps averages 30 people, which is about half of the maximum capacity given regulations, so we encourage our soldiers to share their testimony with others in a responsible way and invite them to join us so we can have a fuller fellowship. Three families, 10 people, have begun attending because of their efforts to share hope.

My wife, Yami, and I also attribute this to prayer. In our second year of officer training we began to pray regularly for the place the Army would send us to serve. Now, we are praying for our corps and commu-

nity but in a more informed way and moving ahead one step at a time in faith through this crisis together.

We are grateful we have been able to help meet our community's physical needs. Social services have been provided by appointment one-on-one with up to four people at a time, wearing masks and socially dis-



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

Holiness is wholeness

by Dr. Bill Ury
National Ambassador for Holiness

"I need a whole God!" cried Samuel Logan Brengle, but every person is created with the same desire. The Salvation Army has always been focused on this longing for a God who offers a comprehensive salvation—Himself—in order to make us whole.

I remember when it dawned on me that the doctrine of holiness was not some experience for a small group of "spiritual elites." Holiness is who God is. We can never have a proper, complete or satisfying relationship with God and miss His essence. The Army has refused incomplete views of God or His purposes.

I have found it helpful when thinking about holiness to imagine who God is without creation. My tendency is to bring God down to my needs and problems. But our whole God is not determined by our issues. He is before all things (Col. 1:15, Rev. 4:11). He took on human nature out of His eternal holy love, not because sin made Him do it. Only wholeness can transform my brokenness.

This wholeness appears everywhere in scripture. Take, for example, Moses' challenge to Israel in Deuteronomy 7. In order to take the Promised Land, Moses reminds them to maintain an intimate relationship with God, the Holy One (7:1-5). Why? Because they



are a holy people (v. 6). He has chosen them for a unique relationship no one else has. This calling is based upon His love for them (vv. 7-8). This love, however, is a whole love which means that it is fiercely protective of them. He will not allow any idolatry or tendency to sin (v. 9). He wants to produce a whole people with healthy hearts and lives of pure love. So, they are delivered in order to "keep" His covenant of love and its unchanging standards (vv. 10-11). You can summarize the whole gospel with the terms "holy" and "love" (John 15:9-17).

Every time the people of God have missed God's wholeness, they have missed Him. Whatever term or attribute of God you focus on I would encourage you to place holiness in front of it: holy sovereignty, holy glory, holy justice, holy mercy. If we are to be His Army, we must never diminish His love or His law (Matt. 5:17-20). They are one, whole, real revelation of His essence.

So, we will offer His holy love without embarrassment because there is no wholeness without Him.

We must not offer the world less than the One it needs. We do not meet anyone's true needs by offering less than what can make them whole. Without holiness no one shall see the Lord (Heb. 12:14). To do the most good, our whole heart must be yielded to the Most Holy One.

tanced by screens dividing a large room, to help ensure the health of our staff and clients. Safety rules are posted inside and outside the corps.

Another service our corps has been able to continue providing is a week-day sandwich program where anyone who is hungry can receive a sandwich, drink and cookie or brownie at lunchtime.

Every day we serve 40-60 individuals and families with food provided by the Harvesters Community Food Network. In the future, we are praying we can serve a hot meal as well.

Since November our corps has partnered with the public schools to become an e-Learning center where children come from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. to participate in online classes in a safe environment and receive lunch while their parents work. In the future we hope to provide a permanent computer lab for the community. Many residents don't have access to computers or the internet,



so this would be a blessing to them. We are grateful for the support from donors and the staff at divisional headquarters in helping to realize this vision.

When my wife and I left Venezuela in 2016 with our youngest son for the U.S. my prayer was, "Lord if I go to a foreign country to start a new life, I don't want to serve the world anymore. I want to serve only You; I want to be a messenger for Your Kingdom." More and more we see God answering that prayer and our dreams of ministry coming true.

Prayer boxes provide quiet connection

by Major K. Kendall Mathews

Samuel Logan Brengle said, "Real prayer is something more than a form of words, or a hasty address to God just after breakfast, before the Meeting, or before going to bed at night. It is an intense, intelligent, persistent council with the Lord, in which we wait on Him, and reason and argue and plead our cause, and listen for His reply."

At the Chicago Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC), we believe in the power of prayer. It is the key that unlocks the doors of heaven to those who call on God for love, peace and hope. During these uncertain times, we are pleased to be able to pray for members of our community and to offer encouragement to them.

In each of Chicagoland's 22 ARC family stores, we recently have placed a prayer box into which shoppers can submit prayer requests.



Major KK Mathews, a soldier and staff place the first request in the prayer box at the Chicago Lincoln Park Family Store.

These beautiful boxes add a spiritual presence in the stores, giving people an easy way to request prayer when they might otherwise be reticent to share their needs and problems verbally. At the end of the week, all requests are collected and given to the ARC pastoral team for intercession.

"Pray for strength, guidance and good health for my family and for the world," one request from the Harlem Family Store read. Another asked for prayer for their family.

We hope this unassuming connection communicates to shoppers that they are valued, that their concerns are important to us and to God and that prayer can change things.



Breakfast with Baby Continued from page 1

with 7,000 diapers each month. For families with more than one child under age two, and especially for those with triplets or quadruplets, the difference 50 diapers per child makes to their household budget is significant.

In addition to diapers and wipes, BWB welcomes and distributes donations from friends, churches and community groups of gently used toys, books, clothes and blankets, along with other supplies such as strollers, baby food, cereal, formula and stuffed animals. Weather permitting, families can park and browse for items in an outdoor area while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

Families are afforded peace of mind knowing they don't have to choose between buying diapers or putting food on the table. Equally important is the spiritual care they receive. Using safety measures, BWB volunteers continue to provide spiritual support by praying through car windows.

Recently a volunteer was asked by a family to pray for protection over their baby as the mother had miscarried during her last pregnancy. He was able to minister to them by sharing about his wife's pregnancy loss and the comfort

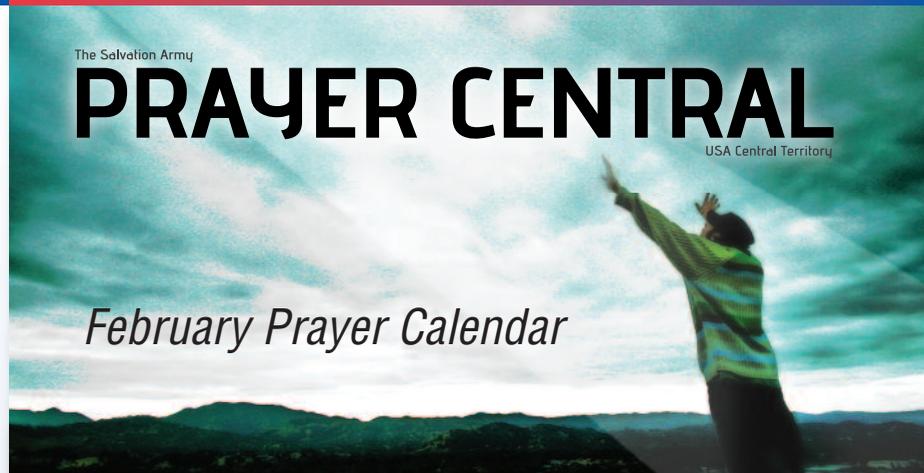
they found in the Lord.

"He struggled through tears to speak of a God who loved their baby even more than they did," said Cheryl.

Luanne concluded, "The families are eager to share their lives with us because they know we care."

Corps interested in starting an independent Breakfast with Baby program may be eligible to receive a \$1,000 grant.

For more information, contact Cheryl Hagedorn at: [facebook.com/BreakfastWithBaby](https://www.facebook.com/BreakfastWithBaby)



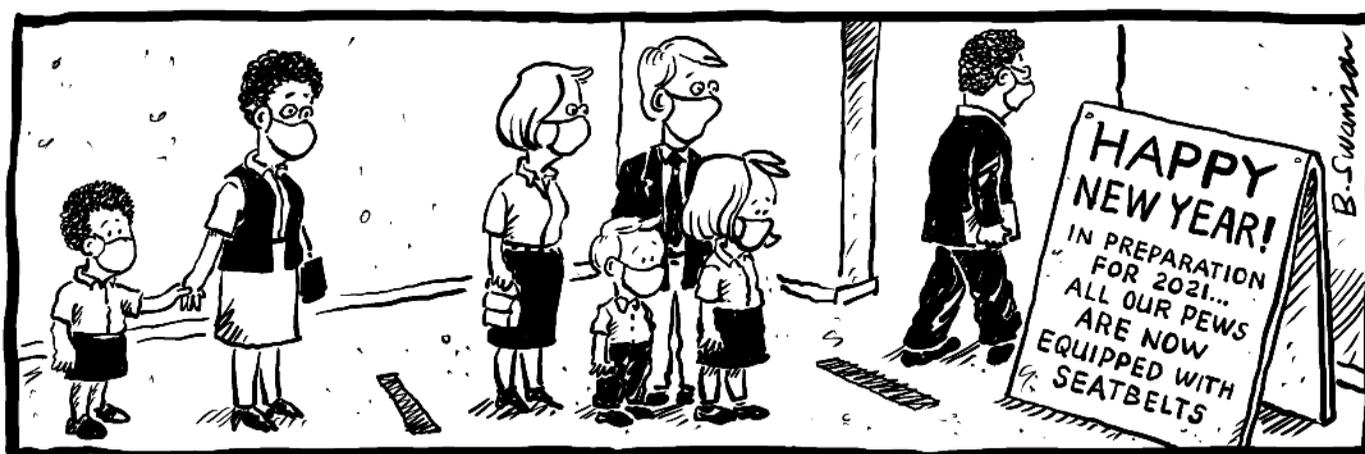
My Prayer List **Day** **Bible Reading** **Pray for The Salvation Army**

1	Monday	Genesis 27	Adrian, Mich., Corps
2	Tuesday	Psalms 15	Belvidere, Ill., Corps
3	Wednesday	Proverbs 10:11-21	Canton, Ill., Corps
4	Thursday	Genesis 29:1-30	Eastern Europe Territory
5	Friday	Genesis 32	Chicago Midway, Ill., Corps
6	Saturday	Genesis 33	Davenport, Iowa, ARC
7	Sunday	Psalms 16	Dodge City, Kan., Corps
8	Monday	Proverbs 10:22-32	Women's Ministries
9	Tuesday	Genesis 17:1-11	Nigeria Territory
10	Wednesday	Genesis 37:12-36	Fremont, Neb., Corps
11	Thursday	Genesis 39:1-6	Granite City, Ill., Corps
12	Friday	Genesis 39:7-23	Hutchinson, Kan., Corps
13	Saturday	Psalms 18:25-34	Joplin, Mo., Corps
14	Sunday	Romans 13:1-7	Kirksville, Mo., Corps
15	Monday	I Corinthians 13	Logansport, Ind., Corps
16	Tuesday	Genesis 41:14-40	Canada and Bermuda Territory
17	Wednesday	Genesis 41:41-49	Mason City, Iowa, Corps
18	Thursday	Genesis 41:53-57	Minot, N.D., Corps
19	Friday	Genesis 42	Norfolk, Neb., Corps
20	Saturday	Psalms 91	Oshkosh, Wis., Corps
21	Sunday	Proverbs 11:1-9	Princeton, Ind., Corps
22	Monday	Proverbs 11:10-21	Salina, Kan., Corps
23	Tuesday	Titus 3:1-8	Sterling Rock Falls, Ill., Corps
24	Wednesday	Genesis 43:1-16	Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar
25	Thursday	Genesis 43:17-28	St. Paul Citadel, Minn., Corps
26	Friday	Exodus 1:15-22	Watertown, S.D., Corps
27	Saturday	Exodus 2:1-9	Men's Ministries
28	Sunday	Psalms 40	Fargo, N.D., Corps

ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

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

--Mustard Seeds--



New ministry in Marquette

by Carol Shoults

During the pandemic The Salvation Army has had to discover new ways of conducting ministry and providing services to our communities. In Marquette County, Mich., the corps' food pantry had to be temporarily closed and the week-day inhouse meal program transitioned to "meals to go." Many individuals had lost their jobs and simply could not afford the cost of operating their vehicles. However, with the shutdown of the public transportation system, there were still many more individuals who needed assistance but could not get to the corps, even with the offer of free gas cards, to pick up food.

Realizing this immediate need, Marquette Corps Officers A/Captains Doug and Kim Winters and their staff came up with a solution. They offered on local TV and other media to deliver 100 percent of the food pantry baskets directly to clients' homes. This was quite an offer since they average more than 300 baskets each month and their service area spans over 3,400 square miles!

"This bold step allowed The Salvation Army to be a little more personal in what had become a very impersonal environment," noted Captain Doug. "Since our family store had to close temporarily, our staff there was able to help with food delivery, as well as cooking meals and packing food pantry boxes."

Also during this time a group of people was discovered, mostly elderly and generally living in outlying areas, who did not have access to the corps' food pantry. Even with public transportation, they simply



were too frail or incapacitated to carry the food home. These individuals now have food delivered each month. The pantry has reopened as a non-contact pantry, but the corps still serves about 40 clients each month with free delivery.

With food from donations and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), the corps is serving on average 85 meals per day. "The community has even started a grassroots effort to deliver lunches to neighbors and shut-ins, almost doubling the number of daily meals we now serve," said Captain Doug.

To-go meals also are delivered each day to the local homeless shelter. Demonstrating further community support and endorsement, the corps has received three local grants to help defer the cost of disposable foam containers and plasticware. Seeing the face of hunger has spurred the officers and staff to respond in effective ways of sharing the love of Christ.

Hats off to volunteers

by Craig Dirkes

Twin Cities, Minn., volunteer Tom Cornish prefers one activity in particular: knitting winter hats. Incredibly, he's knitted 356 wool hats during the

past year. Even more impressive: Tom is 96 years old!

Why does he knit so much? "I work for the Lord. That's what it's all about," said Tom, a World War II veteran who's been volunteering since high school. Tom has been knitting off and on for about 20 years. He began knitting regularly about a year ago soon after his wife passed away. He tries to knit at least one hat every day.

"Some days I knit two," he said. "Each hat takes me about four hours. It keeps me busy."

Each hat costs Tom almost \$6.00 to make. "It'd cost about \$9.00 per hat if I didn't buy my wool on sale," Tom said with a chuckle.

The Salvation Army gives Tom's hats to hundreds of people in need throughout the Twin Cities—an essential outerwear component for those who live in a state infamous for its harsh winters.

"Tom is such a remarkable man, and he makes the greatest hats for our programs," said Salvation Army warehouse manager Beth Koski, who meets with Tom regularly. "He is always so pleased to give his hats to those in need."



Anti-Human Trafficking Devotional Guide

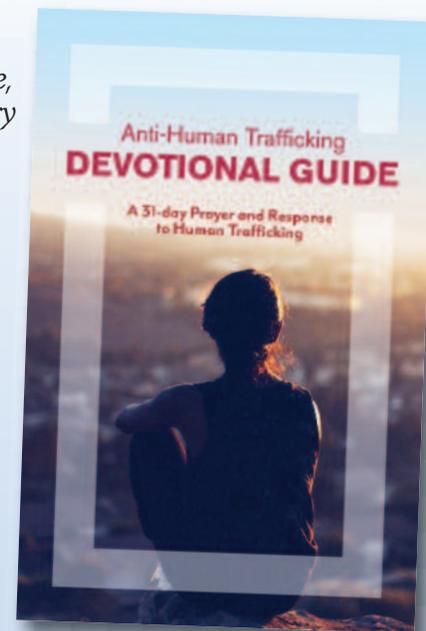
Be inspired to pray and act by this 31-day biblically-based guide, produced by the Eastern Territory with contributions from officers, soldiers and friends around the world.

Each daily devotional includes:

- Scripture reading
- Reflection
- Response opportunities
- Prayer

Use individually or in a group

Download FREE at salvationarmy.org/isjc/IADPrayer



Global call, local response

Recent efforts to raise anti-trafficking awareness

by Joan Kurtz

During January, which has come to be recognized as National Anti-Human Trafficking month, we look at just a few ways the Central Territory is raising awareness, increasing knowledge and building capacity of Salvationists to get involved in anti-human trafficking ministry.



Joan Kurtz

on the margin experiencing human trafficking."

Due to restrictions for in-person events, Dr. Maribeth Swanson, Central territorial social services secretary, curated a creative virtual video presentation of prayer, drama, music and worship and a call to intercession by Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey.

Read

The Central Territory collaborated on a new devotional called the *Anti-Human Trafficking Devotional Guide: A 31-day Prayer and Response to Human Trafficking*. Produced by the Eastern Territory, this excellent resource contains daily devotionals from Salvation Army officers, employees, soldiers and friends from around the world. Contributors from the Central include Dr. Maribeth Swanson, Elyse Dobney, Major Katherine Clausell, Major Robert McClintock and me.

Learn

The Territorial Anti-Human Trafficking Council hosted a webinar for the public in the fall with guest speaker Priscilla Santos, MA. Priscilla works at The Salvation Army's International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) as modern slavery and human trafficking response coordinator. Participants learned about the ISJC's Fight for Freedom framework and were inspired by what The Salvation Army is doing internationally to address human trafficking.

For more information or to download devotional visit: www.salvationarmy.org/isjc

Pray

During the most recent Annual Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking, prayers were lifted across the globe for those experiencing trafficking. It was an opportunity to "corporately cry out for wholeness, justice and freedom for those

Visit the social services department's Facebook page ([facebook.com/USCSocialServices](https://www.facebook.com/USCSocialServices))

The territory's response is part of The Salvation Army's international strategy called Fight for Freedom. Its framework to mobilize Salvationists to make a difference includes:

- Prayer – the foundational and powerful tool to fight this battle
- Prevention – raising awareness and addressing root causes
- Protection – walking alongside survivors as they regain their physical, mental, emotional, relational and spiritual health
- Prosecution – supporting survivors through legal proceedings, enabling prosecution of offenders, and working with offenders to restore a relationship with God and society
- Partnerships – collaborating and networking with others to achieve goals
- Policy – creating internal and external policies that reduce modern slavery and trafficking
- Participation – encouraging every corps to participate as we often serve those on the margins and communities others can't reach
- Proof – ensuring our response both contributes to and receives from research and is informed by evidence-based practices

Our anti-human trafficking efforts are vital in a world filled with uncertainty and unpredictability. We pray God will guide and illuminate our steps as we seek justice.