



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 52, Number 1

January 2022

Territory's reorganization announced

In a world that needs the demonstration of Christ's life-changing love and grace more than ever, the Central Territory is poised to serve stronger and more effectively with its upcoming reorganization on July 1, 2022.

"The Salvation Army has an unprecedented opportunity to provide Gospel-centered, transformational ministry at a scope and level like never before," said Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey. "Our goal is that the organizational changes and operational efficiencies that will be implemented will enable The Salvation Army's denominational and practical ministries to continue to grow in scope and impact."

Resulting from a comprehensive two-year process of review and analysis, the plan calls for the realignment of divisions resulting in a total of eight divisions to better advance the mission. In addition to the shift in divisional boundaries with fewer headquarters and the realignment of corps, Project Advance calls for the creation of additional area commands and coordinator offices to provide dedicated attention to holistic mission in larger cities and surrounding area corps while releasing divisional staff to provide support and encouragement to outlying areas of the division.

"The vision is that all corps ministry within these new structures will be better positioned and empowered to reach their potential in the areas of evangelism, discipleship and Christ-centered social services," said the territorial

commander.

The reorganization will release resources for corps plants and new ministry expressions and provide additional officers for frontline appointments. It also will provide the ability for a consolidated, united approach with state and local partnerships.

"We're taking all steps possible to push resources—both financial and personnel—closer to where ministry is taking place," said Assistant Chief Secretary Lt. Colonel Paul Smith who has overseen Project Advance.

According to the announcement, most of what takes place in corps, divisional headquarters and territorial headquarters will continue, and the majority of the employees who serve

and support the organization's ministries will still be needed.

Moving forward, divisions will identify underutilized corps operations and the right size of ministries for locations for a more positive impact of the overall divisional footprint and to better identify financial resources for redistribution to new ministries and program initiatives.

Supported by the management consulting firm Group Newhouse, Project Advance workstream groups in personnel, programs, asset management and operational efficiency and the steering committee are working with the divisions and corps in preparation for a smooth unification.

For more details and a map showing new divisional boundaries see pages 6 & 7.

CSB celebrates Sounds of the Seasons 100



by William Himes

On Thanksgiving evening 1920, Bandmaster J. Arthur Fynn conducted the first Chicago Staff Band (CSB) Thanksgiving concert. Eighteen bandmasters continued

this annual tradition until in 1978 it was moved to the following Saturday evening and renamed Sounds of the Seasons.

Following a one-year hiatus due to the pandemic, nearly 800 people gathered to savor the fine acoustics of Edman Chapel at Wheaton College. A three-fold sense of anticipation and celebration made this evening even more special: the band's 100th Thanksgiving performance; the first public performance of the Central Territorial Staff Singers (CTSS); and the opportunity to honor Dr. Harold Burgmayer upon his retirement after 40+ years of Salvation Army music ministry, including leadership as territorial music and creative arts min-

istries secretary since 2015. On this occasion he conducted both groups.

The evening began with the CSB featuring two contrasting Burgmayer compositions: *Anthem of the Ages*, an energetic flourish based on the hymn, "Holy, holy, holy," and *Prelude to a New Day*, a gentle sunrise of sound unfolding into a majestic setting of "All creatures of our God and King" before ending quietly as it began. The band next launched into the march, *Praise*, by Wilfred Heaton. Published in 1949, this classic always comes up fresh—and in this writer's opinion is the finest march ever written.

In Dr. Burgmayer's introduction of guest soloist Mark Ridenour, assistant principal trumpet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, he noted Mark is the third Salvationist

trumpet player to be associated with this world class ensemble, preceded by William Scarlett and Philip Smith.

Continued on page 9



Moving? Send the attached label with your correction to:
Circulation Manager, 5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

THE SALVATION ARMY
5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

Together we thrive

by Lt. Colonel Darlene Harvey
Officer Resource and Development Secretary

The new year is a great time to evaluate our spiritual lives and set goals. When 2020 began I was excited to get the last spot for the territory's spiritual formation group *Thrive*. Little did I know what would happen that year and how important it would be to my spiritual growth during a challenging time. Through this class I learned more about spiritual disciplines and writing a rule of life which helped my spiritual journey stay fresh. It also provided a place where I could share my feelings, prayer requests and what I was learning through the assigned readings.

The last two years have divided us in many ways. Congregations have been separated by COVID-19, family and friends have been divided by opposing views, and people have

been polarized by strong convictions. More than ever, we as the Church need to be united in love.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

As I think about the development of my spiritual life, I see how important these verses are to my journey. Although my mom introduced me to faith and my brother gave me my first reader-friendly Bible as a child, The Salvation Army is where I became part of discipleship groups that helped me grow as a Christian and gave me opportunities to serve using my gifts.



As a teenager, I was a part of corps cadets which not only taught me about quiet time but gave me a space for group Bible studies and service.

When Dave and I were first married and he was a youth director, we purchased a home and wanted to use it for ministry. Simultaneously, Linda Himes (then Bandy) wanted to start a home Bible study for the corps' teens; so, we crammed as many young people into our small living room as possible and eventually moved to our basement.

As a young officer, I recognized the need for group Bible studies

where I would have accountability and daily homework. Bible Study Fellowship became a foundation for my spiritual formation.

Currently, I am part of a women's Bible study offered at the Elgin, Ill., Corps. Although my personal devotional times include using Lectio365 and the YouVersion Bible app daily reading plan. I find I need a group where I share life with others.

To thrive individually and collectively, we need to come together. In addition to our daily individual quiet times, we need to be part of a group that studies God's Word and prays together and provides accountability and support for each other.

I pray as you begin this new year you will seek God's guidance on how you can come together with other believers so that you can thrive in 2022.

Stitching a fellowship together

A mainstay of the Newton, Iowa, Corps for more than a decade, Quarter Inch Quilters found purpose and belonging with the arrival of Captain Janelle Cleaveland as their corps officer in 2017. Her goal to rebuild the group and remind women they are loved and valued resulted in a growing fellowship which now boasts 22 members. Each member works on her own quilt, whether for themselves, friends or family members, as well as quilts for the corps to auction.

The word that best describes the dynamic of the group, according to Laurie Wallace, president of Quarter Inch Quilters, is "fellowship." The members are highly committed and enthusiastic, attending meetings at the corps every Thursday from 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. and every third Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

"The women love coming together every Thursday to quilt and to have fellowship that they wouldn't all have if it wasn't for this group," said Captain Janelle. "I have learned a lot from them—and not just about quilting! They are a great group of women who love one another and love The Salvation Army."

The quilters' commitment and passion for the craft is demonstrated by their success in the local auction



fundraiser. Every year this fabulous women's ministries group hosts a chicken noodle supper with a quilt and basket auction. In 2019, Quarter Inch Quilters raised nearly \$5,000 to support corps programs, the food pantry, and World Services/Self-Denial. A recent fundraiser in October 2021, which included selling 24 quilts in a live auction, raised \$5,700 for local social service programs.

Although the members are highly skilled at quilting, they did not all join the group as experts. Captain Janelle recalled that when she first joined, despite having little experience sewing, she was welcomed and guided into the craft by more experienced sewers in the group.

"Now I can make quilts, table runners, bags, and more...they are a great group of ladies to learn from," she explained.

When Captain Janelle first arrived, Quarter Inch Quilters was not considered an official Salvation Army women's ministries group. This status has changed, and in addition to quilting, the group does devotions, shares their faith, and members are invited to participate in other women's ministries activities and conferences.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of faith or Salvation Army membership, in this group that is stitching together a fellowship, one quilt at a time.



Walking in faith



by Captain John Woodard

When my wife, Faith, and I were appointed to the Minot, N.D., Corps in November 2019, we found a very small congregation. In fact, on our welcome Sunday there were only four of us. It was like starting a corps from scratch. We began to pray that God would bless our little congregation. Soon, He began to speak to the hearts and minds of people searching for a church home in our city.

About three months later as we were enjoying worship together in Sunday school, the door opened and

in walked two small children with an older child. We greeted them enthusiastically. Much to our amazement in walked the mother and father, grandmother, uncle and five more children ranging in age from toddler to teens. God had begun answering our prayers. Since then, we have been joined by three single men, a married couple, and two more families. We are now outgrowing the building.

One of the challenges we have had with our newly formed congregation is helping them to learn and trust God's Word. Right before COVID-19, we had begun speaking with Major Jo Langham of the territorial corps and community mission department about bringing Walk Thru the Bible to our corps. Once travel restrictions ended, we continued those discussions, and recently she was able to come share this wonderful program with our people. Although at the last minute many members of our congregation were sick and quarantined, those who attended found Walk Thru the Bible to be extremely helpful as they learned the timeline of the Old Testament and how it all points toward Jesus. We look forward to walking through the New Testament together with all our corps members in the future.

We believe in the power of prayer, and we make it a focus in our ministry and our congregation. John 14:14 (NKJV) says, "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." Glory be to God.

Central Connection



THE SALVATION ARMY
5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy • Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
847-294-2000

WILLIAM AND CATHERINE BOOTH
Founder

BRIAN PEDDLE
General

COMMISSIONER BRAD BAILEY
Territorial Commander

ELIZABETH KINZIE
Editorial Director

TWYLA STEINSLAND
Writer/Editor

EMILY WELCH
Digital Media Coordinator

KENNETH ROMIN
Graphic Design and Production

VISIT OUR WEBSITE—
www.salarmycentral.org
1-800-SALARMY

Hope and healing in Christ

When Captains Tomas and Martha Valladares were appointed as corps officers of the Cicero, Ill., Templo Laramie Corps, they were excited to lead this active and lively corps. Soon, however, they began to discern that beneath the hustle and bustle, there was a deep need among the people.

"People were hurting," said Captain Tomas. "We learned that many families had lost children recently and were struggling, so we dedicated ourselves to bringing hope through the Word of God."

Focusing their messages on the themes of hope and healing, the captains were intentional in their efforts to meet the needs of their congregation. As they built relationships and learned the unique situations of each individual and family, they began to see a marked change.

"When you know the needs of the people, you meet them," said Captain Martha. "With prayer and talking through things and comforting them with the word of the Lord, not



New soldiers pray before signing the Soldier's Covenant.

only those families but others started finding the hope they lost."

As leaders began to emerge and take their place in the corps' ministry, growth began to take place in both numbers and spiritual depth.

"Our leaders are always inviting friends and strangers to attend," said Captain Tomas. "We're seeing more people come into the corps."

Women's and men's ministries, young adult fellowship, a midweek Bible study and monthly family nights bring corps members together for fellowship and spiritual development. Sunday morning service is a time for everyone to connect and worship together.

An effort is made to make sure everyone feels welcomed and valued. Information packets outline what it means to be a member of The Salvation Army, and people are encouraged to consider their role in the body of Christ. Although not everyone is ready to become a soldier or adherent, many people have made a commitment to God and have become a part of the corps family.



Captain Tomas Valladares gives message on Sunday

"That is the important thing," said Captain Tomas. "We want people to make a commitment to God first. Then when they are ready to be enrolled, it is a positive experience."

In the past year the corps has commissioned new local officers, enrolled junior and senior soldiers and developed the corps council.

"We're not doing anything special—just loving them," concluded Captain Martha. "God is the one who is adding to the church. He is bringing His people to the corps. All the glory goes to Him."



Five new soldiers join the ranks at the Cicero, Ill., Templo Laramie Corps.

Sit Down with Jesus

"Sit Down with Jesus" is like having your very own prayer coach.

The video series was created by Salvationists for Salvationists and features 21 teachers and presenters from 11 different nations of birth. This free resource guides you on a six-week journey starting with the basics and giving daily help with prayer through teaching, Bible readings and personal testimony.

Gather interested friends

Watch daily videos individually

Practice the discipline of prayer

Meet once a week to share your experiences

See how your relationship with Christ grows

Visit sitdownwithjesus.com

THE Six-Week Prayer Challenge

sitdownwithjesus.com



Extenders of the gospel

by A/Captain Mika Roinila

As a college professor for more than 20 years, I never imagined I'd change careers. I'd earned a PhD in cultural geography from the University of Saskatchewan followed by teaching posts at four colleges and universities. In a world of "publish or perish," I'd written research papers dealing with the Finnish experience in Canada and the U.S., published four books and given conference presentations in North America and Europe. As coordinator of the International Baccalaureate Program with the South Bend Community School Corporation, I was content with my life and our plans for retirement, but God had different ideas.

At the end of a territorial worship seminar in January 2017 while reflecting on my expectations, "I am here to learn how to be on God's team," I was convicted to become an officer. God had called my wife, Grace, into ministry years earlier; she was just waiting for me.

Upon our return home to Mishawaka, Ind., we undertook the process to become officers with the help of Majors Monty and Angie Wandling at the South Bend Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. I resigned from my job, and that September we became auxiliary captains.

We were sent to the Quincy, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center as congregational life officers under the tutelage of Majors Andy and Cheryl Miller. It was like coming home since Grace and I met at the International Youth Congress in 1985 held at Western Illinois University in Macomb just a short distance away. We were blessed to work with wonderful staff and grew close to congregational members. Highlights included starting the "Golden Kettle" competition among service clubs in Hannibal, Mo., es-



A/Captains Dr. Mika and Grace Roinila

tablishing "Helping Hands" ministry by the men's fellowship, and conducting historical research and work on the Army's 125th anniversary in Quincy.

In July 2019 we were appointed as corps officers of the Grand Rapids Fulton Heights, Mich., Corps. We are blessed it is home to many retired officers from whom we continually learn. While our children's and seniors' programs have been affected by COVID-19, we continue to build bridges in the community. Our worship services have attracted beneficiaries from the Adult Rehabilitation Center, residents of the Turning Point program, and men from a halfway house. We have done more through livestreaming Sunday meetings, Bible studies and activities that reach people in our community and beyond.

We are thankful that God calls people into ministry at all stages of life. We desire to be "Extenders of the Gospel," a moniker adopted several years ago by us distance learners who were entering a second career in The Salvation Army. Actually, in the Army we are all extenders of the Gospel. May we never lose sight of that.

Building strong foundations

by Kristin Caddy

World Services/Self-Denial began in 1886 when General William Booth challenged Salvationists to give sacrificially to help support the work of The Salvation Army around the world. Today each territory contributes to the World Services/Self-Denial fund. The money is used in a variety of ways including funding specific missions projects and providing for the day-to-day operational costs of running Salvation Army ministries overseas. In many locations, without the financial resources given through World Services/Self-Denial, ministries would not have sufficient funds to operate.

Our territory has introduced a new multiyear World Services/Self-Denial emphasis "Goals for a Brighter Future." Last year we focused on how The Salvation Army is developing meaningful work opportunities for people in need. As training and opportunities lead to meaningful work, a brighter future is realized as individuals can provide for basic needs such as food, healthcare and education.

This year "Goals for a Brighter Future" focuses on how The Salvation



Army is **building strong foundations** in different communities around the world.

Consider the various types of infrastructure you experience throughout your day: transportation systems, technology, buildings, sanitation systems, utilities. Reliable infrastructure can provide access and connectivity. However, these basic frameworks, resources and systems are not available to all. In some places, sick patients suffer at home because there isn't a way for them to be transported to a hospital. Food spoils because of the lack of electricity or refrigeration. Those who are homebound cannot engage in virtual worship services due to the absence of technology or the internet. Due to a lack of running water and plumbing, girls walk miles each day to collect water for their families rather than attending school.

The emphasis of **building strong foundations** looks at how the international Salvation Army is addressing some of these challenges through the development of basic infrastructure. As these strong foundations of building, technology and transportation projects

are completed, a brighter future is realized through access to basic needs, education and services.

Please consider the offering you will give to World Services/Self-Denial this year. May our giving glorify God.

To assist in the promotion of World Services/Self-Denial, a new video series based on this theme will be released early this year. The videos will highlight projects related to transportation, technology and other forms of infrastructure which are supported by our territory's World Services/Self-Denial offerings.



Additional resources including pledge cards, coin boxes, offering envelopes, posters and program components are available free through the territorial world missions department or at centralmissions.org

Zambranos conclude service in Spain

by Kristin Caddy

Captains Luis and Raisi Zambrano are concluding their service in the Spain and Portugal Command and entering a well-deserved retirement for the second time! After retiring in 2014, they accepted a short-term appointment in January 2019 in Spain with the main responsibility of starting an intensive discipleship and leadership training program for youth and young adults called IDEiA Iberica in La Coruña.

"It was a beautiful time in which God allowed us to influence, with the Word of God, the lives of several young people. Some of them showed willingness to enter the ministry as officers," reflected Captain Luis.

After a year the Zambranos served as corps officers in Tenerife, the largest and most populated of Spain's Canary Islands. They arrived just weeks before the global pandemic was declared. The past 22 months have been a time of growth for the Zambranos as they have led the Army's work in Tenerife, learning to trust God to provide in difficult circumstances, balancing multiple responsibilities, ministering with a small staff to the community which has great needs and keeping in touch with corps members when worship in person wasn't possible. They were blessed to witness some people accept Christ as Savior.

"The Spain and Portugal Command is so grateful for Captains Raisi and Luis Zambrano. They have



Captains Luis and Raisi Zambrano with volunteers in Tenerife

been a wonderful set of officers who were able to help develop people and serve others even within a pandemic," said Lt. Colonel Sheila Davisson, president for women's ministries and secretary for spiritual development in the Spain and Portugal Command. "We appreciate their gifts of mentoring, evangelism, wisdom and hospitality."

Originally from Venezuela, the Zambranos moved to the U.S. in the early 1990s for Luis to attend the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Ill. They began attending the Oakbrook Terrace Corps, fell in love with The Salvation Army's holistic ministry and eventually became auxiliary captains. As officers, they served in corps and at divisional headquarters in the Metropolitan Division.

SUMMER MISSION TEAM 2022

This year promises to be full of exceptional opportunities for growth and service.

If you are a young adult Salvationist, looking to learn, develop a deeper relationship with the Lord, and serve through a team missions experience, consider applying for Summer Mission Team 2022!

If you are a youth leader or corps officer, please share this opportunity with your young people!



Applications and a full list of qualifications are available at centralmissions.org/smt2022. The deadline is February 28.



The Zambranos with the inaugural session of the residential Intensive Discipleship in Action (IDEiA) Iberica program for youth and young adults in La Coruña.

JUNE 10-12, 2022

THE SALVATION ARMY • USA CENTRAL TERRITORY

ADVANCE

JOHN 14:12



*with The Chief of the Staff and Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham
led by Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey*



ORDINATION AND COMMISSIONING

of the Messengers of Reconciliation Session

MILLER HIGH LIFE THEATER • WEBSITE AND REGISTRATION COMING SOON
MILWAUKEE, WI

Project Advance

Learning more about Project Advance, the Central Territory's milestone reorganization, with Assistant Chief Secretary Lt. Colonel Paul Smith and Territorial Program Secretary Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich.

For those who are new or missed previous coverage, why are we doing this?

Smith: At its heart, Project Advance is about embracing mission advancement and maximizing resources. Jesus said: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." For me, that means if we want to see lives and communities transformed, we will invest more of our people, finances and service in local ministry than in administration.

Rich: It's incumbent upon any organization to constantly assess its effectiveness relative to its mission. The Salvation Army has enormous public trust, and we owe it to all of our stakeholders to make sure we are structured and poised in such a way that we can, in fact, do the most good for the most people with the resources entrusted to us. We are doing this to advance our mission of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ while meeting human needs in His name without discrimination.

Similar restructures have happened all over the Army world including most recently in the USA Southern and Western territories and in Australia where they contracted a whole territory to reallocate resources for more missional impact.

One reason cited for the need for change was accumulative mission drift. What is that? How does reorganization hopefully counter it?

Rich: I think over time our administrative structures became somewhat "overgrown" at the expense of putting our best resources to work at the local level. More than anything we are looking for opportunities to provide more resources to the field/front-line where we can have the greatest missional impact.

The division which will combine nearly all of Michigan will have 46 corps, and the geography for what has been the Western Division will cover quite a spread. How will these uncommonly large commands be managed?

Rich: They will not be uncommonly large compared to other territories. In the Southern Territory, for instance, Texas is a single division with more than 50 corps and five area commands...The area command structure in the South and West makes it possible to have larger divisions without the loss of leadership and support that is needed for field operations to be effective.

Smith: Area commands will provide care and support for the people, corps, institutions and communities. Again, we are learning from other territories which have a greater number of corps and even larger geographic service areas.

What is the process for naming the four divisions?

Smith: The divisions impacted are seeking suggestions from people within their divisions. We want the names to bubble up from the divisions rather than being imposed by Territorial Headquarters.

The last two years have drawn attention to underserved, urban communities. How will the reorganization improve or increase service in these areas?

Rich: The most impactful change of our reorganization has to do with an increased focus on leading the work of The Salvation Army in the urban centers of the Midwest. By moving to an area command structure in our cities vs. a divisional headquarters (DHQ)-centric structure, much more dedicated leadership will be focused on local urban ministry. Area commanders and corps officers in our cities will form a missional team with the primary objective to impact the city or region for Christ. This takes focused attention and dedicated resources at a level we haven't seen in the Central Territory.

Are corps closures and mergers planned?

Smith: We continue to look both strategically and prayerfully at local ministry expressions and their effectiveness. A number of corps have been right sized or have transitioned to other ministry models throughout our history. On the other hand, we've also planted new corps when interest, need and resources point to success.

Rich: We're always looking at where we can be more effective and sustainable as a full corps operation, and where it makes sense to transition to a service center that can still offer holistic ministry without the need for a high level of resourcing...There are exciting new models producing fruit for God's Kingdom. For instance, the Heartland Division has piloted "360 Life Centers" where people are ministered to with Gospel-centered wraparound services. And in the Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division, Bread of Life Centers have advanced our mission in transformational and sustainable ways.

Many Salvationists hold camps near to their hearts and are probably wondering if and how camping ministry will be affected. What's happening and why?

Smith: Camping ministry is dear to my heart as well. We have a long history of lives changed through our camping ministries. However, changes in our society, lengthening of school year and the pandemic are forcing us to strategically consider the best way forward for our camping ministry and facilities.

Rich: To fully study every aspect of our ministry for greater effectiveness, camping has to be in the mix. We currently own and operate 12 camps in the territory [10 divisional camps, one in Wichita and one in the Black Hills]. We are asking the question, "Is it possible to operate camps at a high level of missional effectiveness and financial sustainability by resourcing fewer than 12 camps?" If the answer is "no," then we won't reduce the number of camps. If it is "yes," then we must responsibly consider the possibility.

Will the reorganization affect programs like music and the creative arts? If so, how?

Rich: We have a group considering ways to advance our effectiveness in music and creative arts with fewer divisional headquarters (DHQs). We believe restructuring permits us to consider new ways to be more effective and more diverse in our expressions.

What will happen to the divisional headquarters (DHQ) buildings in Grand Rapids and Peoria? How about the officers and employees at those DHQs?

Rich: As far as buildings go, the territorial property department is doing a full assessment of the two DHQ buildings to determine if they are needed. The initial findings are because we currently run significant programs out of the Peoria and Grand Rapids DHQ buildings that, more than likely, we will keep them. Officers who are no longer appointed to DHQ will receive new assignments and most, if not all, professional staff will continue to serve in ways that will further advance our mission.

Smith: Since both the Grand Rapids and Peoria DHQs are part of a campus, there is no plan to sell those buildings in this implementation. We will be working with those divisions to consider what programs and personnel could go into the spaces which become open during the transition.



DIVISION 1
Headquarters: Chicago, IL

KANSAS / WESTERN MISSOURI DIVISION
Headquarters: Kansas City, MO

DIVISION 2
Headquarters: Omaha, NE

MIDLAND DIVISION
Headquarters: St. Louis, MO

DIVISION 3
Headquarters: Indianapolis, IN

NORTHERN DIVISION
Headquarters: Roseville, MN

DIVISION 4
Headquarters: Detroit, MI

WISCONSIN / UPPER MICHIGAN DIVISION
Headquarters: Milwaukee, WI

A Quick Guide to Divisional Changes with Realignment of Corps

DIVISION 1: All Illinois corps which are part of the Heartland Division, and all corps in the Metropolitan Division, less Lake County, Ind., corps

DIVISION 2: All Iowa corps which are part of the Heartland Division and all corps in the Western Division

DIVISION 3: Lake County, Ind., corps, all Indiana corps which are part of the Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division and all corps in the Indiana Division

DIVISION 4: All Michigan corps which are part of the Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division and all corps in the Eastern Michigan Division

Concerning the employees and officers, in order for these locations to be successful as area commands, they will continue to need personnel to provide leadership and support in the areas of administration, community relations and development, finance, program and social services. The divisions and workstream groups are looking closely at the need, the workload, and available personnel for the purpose of developing mission strategies which will best serve their communities efficiently and with the right balance of support.

If we're not closing buildings, still needing most employees and adding area commands, where do we see savings to push out resources to frontline ministry? Would you briefly explain?

Smith: We anticipate restrained savings in operational efficiencies and increased personnel reallocation resulting from the territorial reorganization. However, we do anticipate an increase in efficiency, local community support and officer recruitment resulting from greater local focus.

Rich: The first phase of the reorganization is a bite-sized approach to what we believe will be a more impactful change in the future. Reorganizing to eight divisions is a small step; moving to an area command structure across the territory is a big step.

To fully realize the benefits of these changes, future steps will be needed to free up more officers for frontline ministry, to streamline business operations, to evaluate and liquidate underutilized property assets and to make sure every resource (assets and personnel) is redeployed for field/frontline impact.

What preparations are being made for implementation of the change on July 1?

Smith: The Project Advance workstreams and steering committee are regularly meeting and making recommendations to Territorial Leadership on the implementation details of transforming into eight divisions. Additionally, Territorial Headquarters (THQ) departments—program, community relations and development, finance, social services, legal, property, information technology, etc.—are working with the impacted divisions to ensure our processes, systems and infrastructure are prepared for a smooth transition.

How should Project Advance encourage the average soldier in a corps? How can they engage?

Smith: Every soldier can be encouraged by the unwavering desire for increased focus and investment in local Salvation Army ministry, service, positive community involvement and transformational impact. We pray we will see more people becoming more like Jesus as we serve without discrimination in Christ's name.

Rich: They can rest assured we are looking for ways to better resource our frontline ministries which are, by definition, at the corps level. We are asking all soldiers to pray and stay informed and look to be personally engaged as we regularly communicate progress.

Through July 1, we welcome input from soldiers, employees, advisory board and auxiliary members and other donors and volunteers, as well as officers, through the dedicated mailbox:
uscadvance@usc.salvationarmy.org

Harold Burgmayer—a deep-rooted legacy

by Beth Malovance

As Harold Burgmayer retires as territorial music and creative arts ministries secretary, he concludes an illustrious 40-year career of music ministry which has touched countless lives. He has exemplified Christ, spurred Salvationists on to excellence and spiritual growth, expanded the focus of the territory's music ministry, and increased its musical forces during his six and a half-year tenure, leaving a legacy that will continue to bear fruit for many years to come.



"You took a shot and endorsed a 21-year-old to head up a music department. You encouraged me and supported my first music camp not from a distance or a call, but on the ground for 12 days teaching and learning together," said Cashus Saydee, Midland divisional music and creative arts director.

During Harold's tenure, fine arts was expanded to all six Kroc Corps Community Centers and many new resources and opportunities were introduced including the *Equip 25/25* initiative to cultivate new music and arts leaders and further develop current ones; the online solo festival Rising Stars; the Territorial Worship Collective to grow corps youth praise band members as musicians and future worship leaders; and the Jesus Theater which is now a fixture at all 10 divisional camps. Central Music Institute (CMI), which focused primarily on brass and vocal,

grew with the addition of majors in dance, drama, media, gospel choir and praise band.

One outgrowth of CMI's robust vocal program was the formation of the

Central Territorial Staff Songsters (CTSS). Composed of Salvationists from across the territory, the CTSS not only ministers to its audiences, but the joy of singing in a spirit of worship is being brought back to each member's home corps.

"Harold has a wonderful gift of vocal leadership," said CTSS member Heather Hanton. "Our repertoire is an intentional collection of pieces aimed to challenge us but also to bring both the singer and the listener closer to God."

As bandmaster, Harold's impact on the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) has been extraordinary. He led the band on 55 ministry weekends mostly in the Midwest but also to the North American Brass Celebration in Long Beach, Calif., and the Canadian Staff Band's 50th Anniversary Celebration in Toronto. He led a CSB tour of the Pacific Northwest and a CSB ensemble that supported the Centenary Congress in Nigeria. He conducted seven *Sounds of the Seasons* concerts, produced 10 CSB albums and wrote more than 30 original compositions and arrangements.

"I made a social media post the night of the very first time Harold led the band," said CSB member A/Captain Paul Bowyer. "I wrote, 'I've seen the future, and it is good.' I appreciate the work ethic he puts into rehearsals and performances. We never lost a step or our spiritual purpose, and in time, it has been enhanced."

Especially passionate about divisional and corps music programs, Harold nurtured a sense of community among the divisional music directors through visits and leadership training, including faculty training during music camps and conservatories.



Known as an accomplished composer with 59 brass band and 34 vocal pieces published by The Salvation Army, Harold continued the territory's longstanding tradition of excellence in music publication. Perhaps his most significant contributions, however, have come from his book, *The Beat Goes On! Music as a Corps Ministry*, and the Music Arts Proficiency (M.A.P.) curriculum that are used worldwide. Their impact is unparalleled in scope and educational value.

Alongside these is Harold's well-known passion for mentoring and empowering individuals to keep the focus of their musical gifts on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Harold has invested incalculable hours listening to and encouraging musicians of all ages and life stations all over the world.

Nicholas Simmons-Smith, Southern territorial music and arts secretary, said, "Harold has been over the years at the forefront of Salvation Army music education with his M.A.P. program, *The Beat Goes On!*, and his incredible leadership in the Pendel Division and now in his later years in the Central Territory."

When the pandemic precluded the music and arts festival and other events in 2020, Harold led his team and the territorial music groups in pivoting to meet the needs of the territory, including conducting the first-ever virtual CMI and later holding two smaller in-person *Equip 25/25* leadership conservatories; producing a virtual Christmas worship experience with the CSB and CTSS

that was viewed more than 26,000 times; supporting virtual commissioning weekends, and expanding worship resources for Advent and Lent with virtual materials.



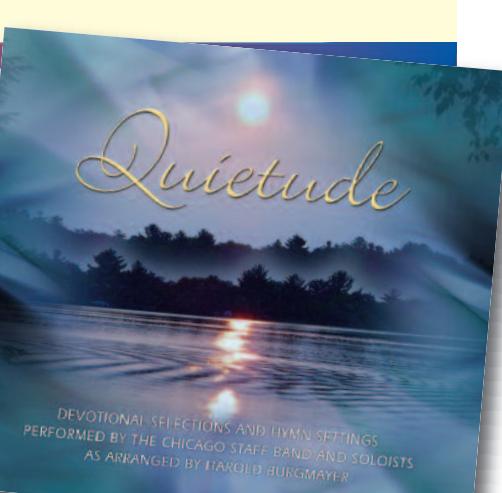
"There is so much I could say about the joy and fulfillment I have experienced seeing the many ways that music and arts ministries in the



Central Territory are growing and even flourishing to the glory of God. I am especially indebted to the marvelous department team we have, working closely alongside the divisional music directors," said Harold. "It has been my privilege to meet and work with so many dedicated musicians and artists striving to minister at their corps from Sunday to Sunday."



The Chicago Staff Band's latest recording, *Quietude*, features devotional offerings arranged by retiring Bandmaster Dr. Harold Burgmayer. The album includes Harold's well-loved settings of "Tis so sweet," *A Chasing of the Wind*, *Prelude to a New Day* and "Nothing but thy blood" (Lynda Cooper on flugelhorn) as well as more recent arrangements including *Renewal*, "In the love of Jesus" (Josh Turner on euphonium), "Jesus paid it all" (Beth Malovance on cornet) and more.



The CD costs \$15 and is available through the Music and Creative Arts Ministries Department. Send a check for the quantity desired to The Salvation Army, Music and Creative Arts Ministries Department, 5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192. For credit card orders, please call (847) 294-2133.



Sounds of the Seasons



Continued from page 1

From the first notes of Peter Graham's *Rhapsody for Cornet and Band – Resurrection*, listeners knew they were hearing musical artistry at the highest level as Ridenour navigated technical and stylistic demands with brilliance, subtlety and warmth. Based on two spirituals, "He never said a mumblin' word" and "The angel rolled the stone away," the performance was flawless.

The Central Territorial Staff Songsters then contributed a trio of contrasting works. *Worthy to be Praised!* began a capella as the 32 members sang from memory, with pianist Major Kathy Hellstrom, bass player Isaac Leka and percussionist Cashus Saydee joining to support. This was followed by compelling renderings of *As Water to the Thirsty* and *Floodgates*, the latter a major work arranged especially for the CTSS by Dr. Burgmayer. Many people commented on how tight and articulate the songsters sounded, every word clearly understood, despite singing through masks.

Mr. Ridenour returned to the stage, trumpet in hand, to share a beautiful tone solo based on songwriter John Hallett's *My Song of Songs*, arranged by Joseph Turrin, well-known East Coast symphonic and stage composer/arranger. As the band effectively navigated Turrin's complex harmonies and textures, the soloist soared above it all, exhibiting complete mastery of his instrument, ending on the softest *pianissimo*.

Leslie Condon's demanding tone poem, *The Present Age*, has been around since 1972. The music, often angular and strident, depicts a young Christian trying to faithfully "serve the present age" in a pessimistic, brutal world. The chorus, "I'll fol-



low Thee" is abruptly shattered by grotesque music that jeers the young saint, who nevertheless is reaffirmed as represented by the hymn, "It is well with my soul." This epic work concludes with renewed determination with the victorious theme, "Courage, brother, do not stumble." Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich's devotional and the well-synchronized slides coupling lyrics and scripture passages aided the listener's comprehension of this superb performance.

The Message of Christmas (William Himes), depicting bustling shoppers and majestic carols, ushered in Advent themes, followed by CTSS choral presentations of *See Amid the Winter's Snow* and *All is Well*, sensitively accompanied by the CSB. As the offering was taken, a CSB ensemble, wearing colorful African shirts, shared a medley of Nigerian Christian songs, called *Songs of Naija* accompanied by slides and videos from their recent trip to Nigeria to support that territory's congress.

Two swing numbers set the second half of the program into motion: *Comfort and Joy* (Martyn Thomas, UK) and then a Count Basie-style medley especially composed for this concert by Sam Creamer called *The Wonder of His Grace* with solos from Lynda Cooper and Isaac Leka.

Mark Ridenour's final offering, *The Challenge* by Eric Ball published in 1939, was a radical departure from the theme-and-variation form. This dramatic essay exploits the full range of the cornet, and again soloist and band gave a great performance of this demanding work which more than lives up to its title!

The CTSS then gave a moving performance of Chris Brindley's inspiring *I Have Seen the Glory of the Lord*, followed by the CSB's exciting rendition of *Power and the Glory* (Paul Lovatt-Cooper); both received well-deserved standing ovations. A testimony to Dr. Burgmayer's effective stewardship of Salvation Army music ministry in the Central Territory, the evening fittingly concluded with the choral benediction, *Go in Peace, Go in Love*.



Beyond the music is the message

by Dr. Harold Burgmayer

What a privilege it's been to lead the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) over the last six years. In the first months of my tenure as bandmaster in 2015, I wanted to ensure that each member was acting as a minister, one who draws listeners closer to God and to each other, instead of merely a minstrel, a performer. Both labels are derived from the word servant, but the distinguishing mark of a music minister is staying focused on the message. We take to heart the CSB's mission statement to be "the band with a sacred message." The uniqueness of Salvation Army banding doesn't lie solely in the medium, our music-making, but in its eternal message. In my early days with the CSB, we extrapolated some guiding principles from the word MESSAGE.

M *essage Matters Most*

Recognizing the measure of our greatness is our "sacred message." As the apostle Paul wrote, "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power." (1 Corinthians 2:4-5, NIV) After we conclude a concert with a choral benediction, there have been many times when no one leaves. We have worshipped; we have met with God. Hearts have been touched by the Holy Spirit.

E *nlarging the Box*

Expanding the range of our repertoire. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Colossians 3:16, ESV) We expanded our offerings from the music of the rock band Chicago and gospel numbers to the music of Latin America, Africa and beyond. The variety brings joy and enriches listeners and players alike.

S *ettling the Score*

Improving our rehearsal regimen. "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15, NIV) I am cognizant that how efficiently I work on Tuesday evenings with the staff band affects corps rehearsals and my band members' repertoire. The joy of the rehearsal is taking ensembles to a place they've never been.

S *erving the Service*

Having just the right piece for every occasion. "What then shall we say, brothers and sisters? When you come together, each of you has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. Everything must be done so that the church may be built up." (1 Corinthians 14:26, NIV) Fear of failure is a good thing when there seems to be no end to the challenge of judiciously selecting from week-to-week just the right balance of musical offerings for both your players and the worshiping community. Often, I have surprised the band not with a fresh manuscript but with an overlooked gem from the journals that perfectly fits an occasion.

A *ccentuate the Positive*

Being the encourager each of us needs. "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24, NIV) I have appreciated the encouragement and support I have received as the conductor from members of the band. There are always improvements to be made, but we have practiced the ministry of affirmation, building one another up with positive words not only for the individual but for the betterment of the band's ministry.

G *etting to Know You*

Getting closer to God, we come closer to each other. "So let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith." (Hebrews 10:22a, GNT) Even in difficult days, we do not lose heart. Beyond the weekly devotion and prayer times, CSB members are unearthing "this treasure in jars of clay" found in our time as prayer partners.

E *ach Note Shaped*

Getting beyond the notes to the music. "How will anyone know what tune is being played unless there is a distinction in the notes?... I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding." (1 Corinthians 14:7b 15b, NIV) In recent months, we have been released from the wired world of headphones and click tracks, and able once again to enjoy shaping a well-crafted phrase, especially one associated with scripture or powerful lyrics. Therein lies the expression and emotion of the music, helping to bring an awareness of the real meaning and message within the music.

General John Gowans may have summarized this best when he wrote for the musical *Glory*:

"There is a message, a simple message,
And it's a message for us all;
There is a Savior, and what a Savior!
There is a Savior for us all."

Even in retirement, I will be praying that the Chicago Staff Band will "constantly strive to be the band with a sacred message." It's a message for us all.

**THE SALVATION ARMY
CENTRAL TERRITORY
YOUNG ADULT
CONFERENCE**

**REGEN.
ERATION**

shalom

**FEBRUARY 18-20
WONDERLAND CAMP - CAMP LAKE, WI
AGES 18-29 \$50**

saregeneration.com

730... AND BEYOND

7,761 days and counting

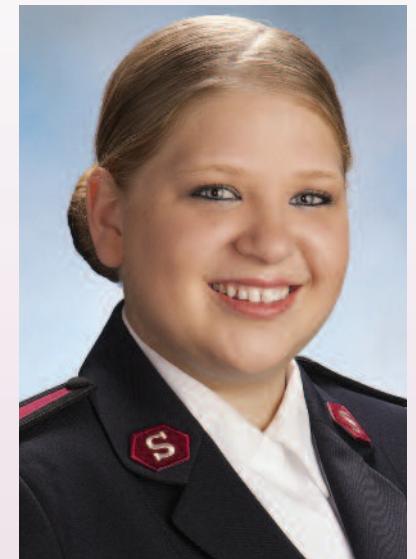
by Captain Megan Lewis

"**Y**ou may never see your impact in an appointment, but don't let that keep you from seeing and following the ministry that God is calling you to." I was given this nugget of wisdom after my commissioning but didn't realize how important this advice was until a few years later.

I was at my corps working hard to make summer day camp the best it could be. I poured everything I had into those eight weeks. For a couple of years, my ministry had felt stagnant, and I was discouraged until I met Natalie.

Natalie came to us as a day camp counselor. She had some rough edges; she was boisterous, funny and crass but also caring and loving. She had a good heart but had endured many painful circumstances including homelessness, post-traumatic stress and depression. She had helped her sister through addiction, trained a service dog for herself, and supported herself due to forced independence at a young age.

While I didn't have answers, I listened and made sure she knew every day that she was loved. After that summer Natalie stuck around the corps, working at Christmas, volunteering on youth night and helping with summer day camp again the next year.



It wasn't until after we received a new appointment that I saw the impact of what Jesus' love had done through me. Natalie messaged me to share how The Salvation Army and our relationship had affected her life. I hadn't known it, but before she walked into our corps for the first time, she was running out of strength to keep living and was contemplating suicide. What made her get up each morning was coming to the corps and seeing the smiling faces of the children in our programs and feeling truly welcomed and loved.

Sometimes ministry can be a thankless and discouraging job, but I am inspired to continue loving and serving because God will use me—even when I'm not aware of it.

Lincoln youth basketball program is a slam dunk

by Michelle DeRusha

Sports can positively impact youth development by helping children build confidence, grow in their teamwork and leadership skills and foster healthy social connections, all while having fun and getting exercise.

The challenge, however, for many families—particularly low-income or single-parent households—is the cost can be prohibitive. According to research conducted by the Aspen Institute, the average cost for participating in a youth sport is nearly \$700 per child, per sport, per year. Depending on the sport and the league, fees and expenses can exceed \$2,000.

The Lincoln, Neb., Corps' Small Fry Basketball Program, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2020,

offers an alternative, providing 300 children in grades three through seven the opportunity to play on a competitive team without putting a financial strain on their families. The Small Fry season costs just \$20 for third through fifth graders and \$40 for the varsity league (fifth through seventh graders)—a fraction of what other competitive leagues charge.

"One of the great things about Small Fry is that it's accessible to every kid from every corner of town," said Lincoln Corps Community Center Director Matthew Drommond, who is a Small Fry alumnus himself. Matthew participated in the league 20 years ago, after which he played high school and college basketball.

"Youth from all walks of life are

brought together on the basketball court," added Major Mark Anderson, corps officer at the Lincoln Corps. "Hundreds of coaches and kids have built friendships and community through the Small Fry program over the past 60 years."

Jessie Fries, principal of Lefler Middle School in Lincoln, is another Small Fry alumna. Her brother also played, and her father coached in the program for 35 years until his death in 2017.

"As the principal of a Title One school, I am particularly grateful that The Salvation Army makes competitive basketball accessible for a wide range of families," said Jessie, whose two older children participated in Small Fry; her stepson currently plays on one of the 19 Small Fry teams.

"As a mom, I love that Small Fry offers a diverse setting," she added. "It's a good representative of what Lincoln is and what the world looks like. I appreciate that."

Over its six decades, the Small Fry basketball program has pro-



Small Fry 2020-2021 champs

duced an impressive roster of alumni, including former Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning, former Kansas City Royals All-Star Alex Gordon and several University of Nebraska basketball, football and baseball players.

Hank Davis, who has coached Small Fry for 35 years and who also played as a kid, said the best part about the program is its inclusivity. "No one is excluded," he said. "Any one who wants to play can play."

Thanks to a generous donor, the Lincoln Corps has renovated the basketball court and the gym, but the colors (blue, red and gold) and décor still look much like they did when the program was founded in 1960.

Salvationists called to care for environment



A new Salvation Army International Positional Statement (IPS) on "Caring for the Environment" sets out a strongly worded and compelling description of the many ways God's creation has suffered catastrophic damage from the actions of humans. Pledging to foster a "culture of sustainability," the statement calls for immediate action to address and combat "environmental degradation."

The IPS approved by General Brian Peddle, says: "The Salvation Army recognizes environmental degradation as one of the most pressing issues facing the world today...Its effects fall disproportionately on the most vulnerable, particularly in terms of health, livelihood, shelter and the opportunity to make choices. The very survival of humanity depends on the health of the whole ecosystem."

Committing The Salvation Army to sustainable environmental practices, the statement continues: "In addition to being compelled by the lived experience, The Salvation Army also accepts the scientific evidence that demands action on all levels."

In light of the new IPS, the General has made a personal call for Salvationists and friends to "make adjustments in lifestyle and comforts, for example:

- Consider our use of heating and cooling—a 1.5° Celsius (1.8° Fahrenheit) change is a good start;
- Think twice about our ease of travel, choosing to walk or cycle where possible;
- Make intentional choices of sustainable products when shopping;
- Positively declare your part in the stewardship of the earth;
- Move our thinking on from competing for more to collaborating and sharing."

An IPS is an articulation, crafted with careful and prayerful thought, of the official viewpoint of The Salvation Army and is drafted by the International Moral and Social Issues Council comprised of officers and soldiers. This group has first-hand knowledge of the changes inflicted on the earth by environmental degradation including drought, food production difficulties and extreme weather conditions.

The General adds: "During the pandemic, the earth has taken a deep breath. Our skies cleared, cities



refreshed themselves and birds sang. Striking the right balance between our needs and what is sustainable must catch the attention of every Salvationist."

The "Background and Context" section of the new IPS explores the "unprecedented and devastating levels of degradation" which are leading to species extinction, pollution and land destruction. The over-reliance on and excessive use of carbon-based fuels is highlighted, although the statement stresses that "environmental degradation" is about far more than energy issues, adding: "It also impacts factors such as food and water insecurity, poverty and migration."

The scriptural basis for the position is laid out in detail, highlighting how God entrusted humanity with the task to care for the land and its plants and animals.

The IPS concludes with a series of suggested practical responses through which The Salvation Army "seeks to foster a culture of sustainability with a focus on long-term environmental solutions." These vary from raising awareness of the devastating impact humans are having on God's earth and striving to enact sound environmental policies to smaller-scale but important efforts such as "encouraging Salvationists to consider a vocation in environmental science."

All international positional statements can be read at: salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips

Report by International Communications

PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army

USA Central Territory

February Prayer Calendar

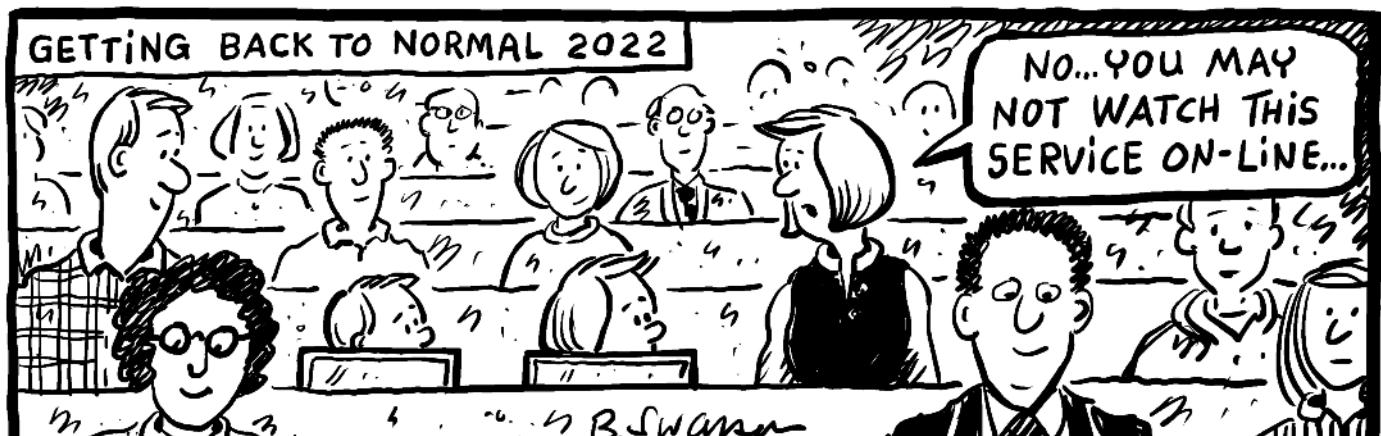
My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Tuesday	Job 9-10	Adrian, Mich., Corps
	2 Wednesday	Isaiah 23-28	Belvidere, Ill., Corps
	3 Thursday	Matthew 11-13	Canton, Ill., Corps
	4 Friday	Romans 9-10	USA Central Territory
	5 Saturday	Genesis 20-23	Chicago Midway, Ill., Corps
	6 Sunday	Judges 1-6	Davenport, Iowa, ARC
	7 Monday	Psalms 15-17	Dodge City, Kan., Corps
	8 Tuesday	Job 11-12	Women's Ministries
	9 Wednesday	Isaiah 29-33	Fremont, Neb., Corps
	10 Thursday	Matthew 14-16	Hutchinson, Kan., Corps
	11 Friday	Romans 11-12	Jasper/Newton County, Mo., Corps
	12 Saturday	Genesis 24-27	Switzerland, Austria and Hungary Territory
	13 Sunday	Judges 7-11	Kirksville, Mo., Corps
	14 Monday	Psalms 18-20	Mason City, Iowa, Corps
	15 Tuesday	Job 13-14	Minot, N.D., Corps
	16 Wednesday	Isaiah 34-39	Norfolk, Neb., Corps
	17 Thursday	Matthew 17-19	Oshkosh, Wis., Corps
	18 Friday	Romans 13-14	Princeton, Ind., Corps
	19 Saturday	Genesis 28-31	Mozambique Territory
	20 Sunday	Judges 12-16	Salina, Kan., Corps
	21 Monday	Psalms 21-23	Sterling Rock Falls, Ill., Corps
	22 Tuesday	Job 15-16	St. Paul Citadel, Min., Corps
	23 Wednesday	Isaiah 40-44	Watertown, S.D., Corps
	24 Thursday	Matthew 20-22	Men's Ministries
	25 Friday	Romans 15-16	Aberdeen, S.D., Corps
	26 Saturday	Genesis 32-35	United Kingdom with the Republic of Ireland
	27 Sunday	Judges 17-21	Beatrice, Neb., Corps
	28 Monday	Psalms 24-26	Cadillac, Mich., Corps

*ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

-Mustard Seeds-



Norway expands Pathway of Hope

by Linda Brinker

After a year-long hiatus due to COVID-19 concerns, The Salvation Army in Norway reintroduced Pathway of Hope (POH) to their region by employing five new case management staff and project managers. The additional positions are partially funded by the local government. As a result of the funding and new staff, POH has expanded its outreach to engage new POH families.

The Norway POH team spoke with the Central Territory POH team before the pandemic to discuss POH implementation ideas. POH project manager Kristin Stordal contacted the Central Territory POH team to request a second meeting to exchange successful POH implementation strategies again.

A two-hour virtual meeting was held with Dr. Maribeth Swanson, Dr. Michael Smith, myself, and the newly configured Norway POH team of staff and officers. The international *Teams* call was an informative exchange of ideas.

The Norway team shared their efforts to recruit new POH families by offering open house days and educational workshops to potential participants. Although similar recruitment strategies have been tried in a few places in the Central Territory, the



The Norway Pathway of Hope team

success of the Norway outreach in these ways prompted the Central Territory POH team to reexplore the possibilities of our divisions conducting open houses and classes as a "best practice" for POH recruitment.

Later, the Norway team also disclosed their interest in meeting unstaffed service needs with volunteers and interns recruited through local universities. To be sure, the use of volunteers to assist in POH has long been recognized as a vital resource to Central Terri-

tory's POH implementation. Thus, both teams agreed that involving volunteers contributes to an overall successful POH implementation strategy.

In terms of the Central Territory's sharing of its successful POH implementation ideas, the role of the Advisory Board was highlighted. Board members are often essential links to invaluable community resources, such as additional funding and key connections to local leaders. Impressively, in Norway, the POH team established community connections by

meeting with prominent politicians, including the Prime Minister of Norway, as they broadened POH outreach in their country.

The Central Territory POH team eagerly looks forward to the next bi-annual meeting with the Norway team to hear what further POH expansion has occurred there and to further exchange best practice implementation strategies. The POH team is excited to witness what started as a vision in the Central Territory attracting growing investment worldwide.

A lifeline for veterans

Thanks to a monetary donation from Crown Mortgage Company, more than 300 backpacks are being distributed this winter to homeless veterans throughout the Midwest. They are filled with everyday essentials including a blanket, winter hat, scarf and glove set, two pairs of socks, and a personal care kit that includes soap, toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant.

The project was the brainchild of Major Jo Langham, director of the territorial veterans' services bureau, and staff member Shakara Williams, who herself is a veteran. Upon querying programs that serve homeless veterans



Heather Dunbar and Ryan Altpeter, Peoria, Ill., Supportive Services for Veterans' Families supervisor and case manager.

throughout the territory, they found the need was great.

"Actually, the need was more than we could accommodate, but each location requesting backpacks received some," said Major Jo. "Hopefully we will be able to do more in the future."

The territorial corps and community mission department along with other territorial headquarters officers and employees packed and sorted the backpacks by location for delivery by personnel who already would be visiting the area. The backpacks were distributed in St. Louis, Mo., Omaha, Neb., Kansas City, Kan., as well as other cities in Kansas, and Peoria, Ill.

Heather Dunbar, supervisor for the Supportive Services for Veterans' Families in Peoria, which received 75 backpacks, remarked, "SSVF is so incredibly thankful for the gifted backpacks filled with much needed supplies for our veterans."



Shakara Williams, territorial veterans' services bureau staff member, surrounded by blankets that were one of the many items included in the backpacks.

Promoted to Glory

Major Mary Reinking

Major Mary Reinking was promoted to Glory on October 28, 2021. Called to overseas service as a child, she found fulfillment as an officer caring for the vulnerable in Africa.



Born on September 4, 1936, to Majors Fred and Thelma Reinking, Mary accepted Christ in Sunday school and sought to follow God's will for her entire life. She earned bachelor's degrees in Bible and elementary education before entering officer training and being commissioned with the "Servants of Christ" session in 1963.

In Tanzania, Mary founded the Mgulany Children's Rehab Facility where she was affectionately called "Mama" by the disabled children in her care. In Kenya, she served at a home for more than 100 high school girls, and, after earning an associate's degree in nursing, served at a residential home for the elderly in Zimbabwe.

Her final appointments were in corps and social services in the Central Territory. In retirement she cared for family and friends and was an active soldier at the Madison, Ind., and Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich., corps, standing kettles, leading Sunday school and serving in women's ministries.

She is survived by her sister, Evelyn Kay; nieces, Sandra Kay and Jeanne (Terry) Arseneau; great-nieces Ava and Archer Arseneau; and close friends Dorothy Aren and Beverly Herivel.

Major LaVonne Birney

Major LaVonne Birney, 84, was promoted to Glory on November 2, 2021. LaVonne loved reading her Bible, especially the Psalms. Her love for Jesus was evident in the many ways she invested her time, energy, and heart into the people she served. Others found her a joy to serve with, talented, and dedicated to the Lord.



She was born December 5, 1936, in Minot, N.D., to Raymond and Julia Souther. After graduating high school, she worked various jobs until she married James Birney on October 15, 1961. They entered officer training as part of the "Victorious" session in 1969. Together they served in ministry for more than 32 years, retiring in 2002.

LaVonne had many hobbies including baking, crafting, quilting, scrapbooking, bird watching, camping, listening to music and playing in the Salvation Army band. She loved animals and enjoyed the company of several pets.

LaVonne was preceded in death by her husband; siblings, Violet Erber, Bonnie Kjelbertson, Rose Kallias, Evelyn Preskey, Sylvester McNabb and Adeline Carroll. She is survived by her children, Beatrice (Terry) Kennedy and Annette (John) Talbot; three grandchildren; one great grandchild; and sister, Debraine Freelander.