



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 53, Number 1

January 2023



A Sounds of the Seasons Spectacular

by Fred Mbesi

The Chicago Staff Band's (CSB) annual Sounds of the Seasons concert has been a long-standing tradition for many. In its 101st installment, the "Band with a Sacred Message" continued to showcase musical excellence with spiritual vitality as its mission.

The annual concert was a landmark event as the first with newly appointed Bandmaster Brett Tolcher at the helm. He skillfully took the CSB through Steven Ponsford's scintillating opener *Let There be Light*

which aptly set the tone for what was in store and why the audience gathered—worship!

Following a rousing welcome from Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey, Andrew Wainwright's *My Soul, Rejoice* introduced the first soloist of the night, Principal Cornet Beth Malovance. Featuring a delay pedal, the piece did a wonderful job of displaying Beth's virtuosity, range and breath control. The band fol-



lowed with *Christ is All*, the first of two items by Martin Corder. With a refreshing setting on the eponymous hymn in a style reminiscent of John Williams, it was well-received by the audience. The three opening items showed the band to be in good form.

Emmy Award-winning artist and "The Voice" winner Jordan Smith was the guest for the evening and brought a high level of musicality to the event. He opened his first set with an original song, "Only Love," which reflected on the power love can offer in dark and difficult times.

Continued on page 8



Photos by Rick Vogeneity

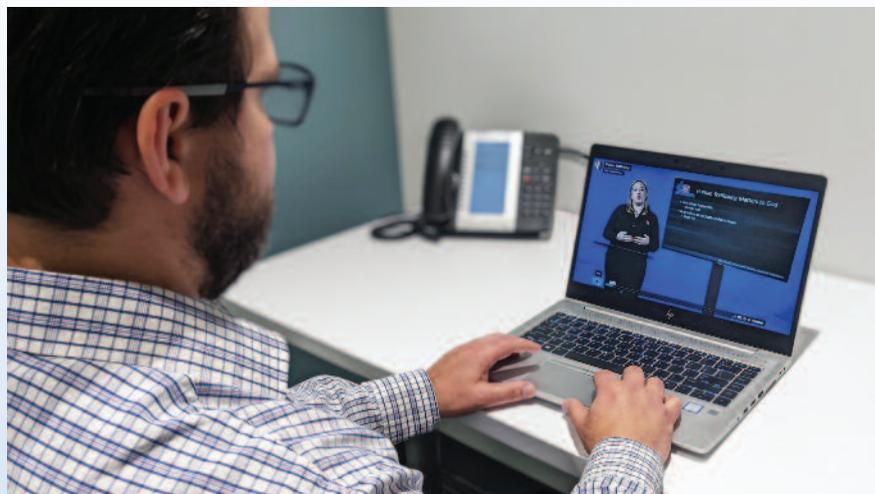
More than 800 trained in anti-human trafficking

by Bryant Erickson

More than 800 employees in the Central Territory have received vital training in anti-human trafficking over the last two years through the Case-worker Certification Program (CCP).

CCP provides Salvation Army employees and officers engaged in direct social services with foundational training that supports their role in developing a positive helping relationship with those we serve. Its nine modules cover topics ranging from Salvation Army history to building essential skills, ethics, and working with diverse populations.

One crucial topic in the specialized populations module is human trafficking. The objectives are for personnel to learn to define sexual trafficking, labor trafficking, and the commercial exploitation of children; become aware of red flags that may help a worker identify trafficked individuals; and know how to initiate the appropriate referral process for any identified human trafficking survivors.



"The reality is that people who are exploited and trafficked regularly engage with others in the greater community, including our corps," said Elyse Dobney, territorial social justice and city mission director and anti-trafficking contact person. "We have had multiple scenarios in which survivors have sought support from our existing programs and services. Given this, our representatives

must be equipped to identify survivors and know how to engage and offer support safely."

The motivation for involvement is biblically rooted. Deuteronomy 10:17-18 reminds us God is deeply and passionately concerned about those who are suffering and executes justice for them, while Micah 6:8 instructs us to walk humbly, act justly and love mercy.

The Salvation Army answered the call to fight for social justice very early in its history. For example, it was instrumental in leading the campaign to bring about the 1885 Criminal Law Amendment Act to increase the age of consent from 13 to 16 years in England. Also, by opening its Lights in Darkest England match factory in 1891, the Army created safer working conditions and paid decent wages to its workers. Today, the Army continues to act justly through its anti-trafficking efforts.

As with the introduction of the module on anti-human trafficking, the territorial social services department continues to develop training for frontline personnel. The latest two modules focus on pastoral care in the context of social services. Content experts for this topic include Dr. David Hodge, Arizona State University; Dr. Philip Hong, University of Georgia; Gloria Woodland, Trinity Western University; and several officer "champions" of pastoral care delivery in the territory.

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

Going back to go forward

by Lt. Colonel Darlene Harvey
Officer Resource and Development Secretary

As we begin a new year, we are reminded that sometimes we need to go back to go forward. We reminisce and reflect on the past year as we make goals for 2023. As I look back over the past year, I am reminded of a lesson at officers' councils with Lt. Colonel John Needham. He taught from Genesis 26 where Isaac has a new beginning with his family. Isaac reopens the wells that had been dug in the time of his father, Abraham. Isaac's servants dig in the valley and discover two wells of fresh water, but there are quarrels, and the wells are named dispute and opposition. They continue to dig and find a final well which represents how the Lord has given them room and they will flourish in the land.

This past year, we have had to reboot some of our ministries. It has been a blessing to reconnect with people through renewed outreach opportunities. Within this issue, we will read about some of those reboots and see how God is giving us "fresh water" and helping us to "flourish" as we serve others.

I soldier at the Elgin Corps, and a young woman who has been inspir-

ing to me recently is Aurora. She and her husband relocated to the United States from Venezuela. After they received coats from The Salvation Army, God put it on her heart to come to our worship services. The first time she came to a corps program was when we were having vacation Bible school at the park last summer. She has been attending the corps faithfully every Sunday since. She has found "fresh waters" for her spiritual journey at The Salvation Army.

Last year, I also had the opportunity to go to Greece and Turkey with the Biblical Education Tour. One of the most memorable places for me was Laodicea, which represents being lukewarm or indifferent for Jesus. In this region cold water came in aqueducts from Colossae and hot water from Hierapolis, but when it reached Laodicea, it wasn't hot or cold but lukewarm. Jesus doesn't want us to be lukewarm or indifferent for Him. He wants us to be filled with fresh water—His Spirit, His Word, His Passion—for Him and His ministry! As you read through this issue, I pray that your spirit is re-



newed first for God but also for the mission of The Salvation Army.

May you look back with gratitude at what God has done not only this past year but throughout history, learning from it and being inspired. May you look forward to a great new year as you continue to be refreshed by Him—our living water.

Growing like a family



Some of the newest junior soldiers with Captain Cristian Lopez and Young People's Sergeant-Major William Sherley.

What do academics, sports and music have to do with building faith in young people? At the Topeka, Kan., Corps, everything. Thanks to an excellent model which integrates traditional Salvation Army programming with other activities, the corps has enrolled 20 new junior soldiers in the last year.

Captains Cristian and Brook Lopez welcome dozens of children who arrive each weekday afternoon for the afterschool program. After a snack and homework help or tutoring, they participate in sports, as well as weekly music lessons, junior soldiers and character-building programs.

"Church doesn't always happen on Sunday," said Captain Brook. "You can't grow saints just on Sunday worship. You have to grow saints by living life with them, doing community with them, and not doing it as a task, but as a fellowship."

Through community support and collaborations, the Topeka Corps is able to address the intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the children. This holistic approach challenges young people to grow in an environment full of love and encouragement. From the retired principal who runs the afterschool program with school-aligned curriculum to police officers and firefighters who teach discipline, respect and citizenship through boxing, leaders design each program



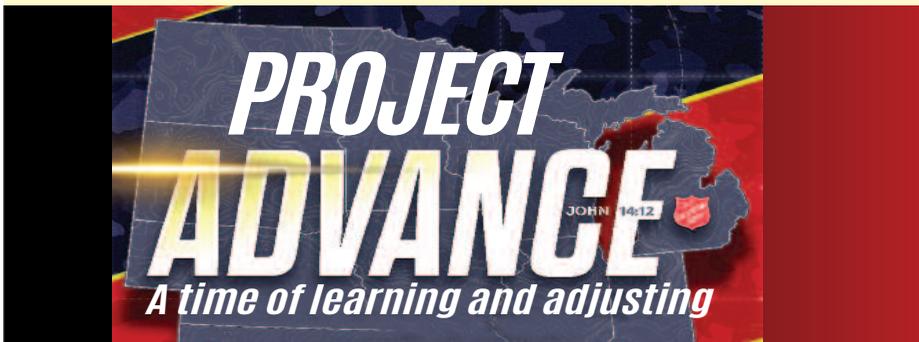
Brock Chart, piano instructor, watches on as Elias Gomez plays the offertory.

with intentionality. Add in a mix of youth pastors and volunteers who teach vital lessons in faith and corps officers who have a vision for integrating programs with Sunday worship, and a beautiful mosaic of worship begins to form.

Every opportunity to engage the children and their families on Sundays is embraced. Groups regularly participate in Sunday services, with beginner musicians playing the preliminary music and junior soldiers taking up the offering. Each group is celebrated as success in sports is showcased in regular award ceremonies following services.

From the extensive community programs, sports and traditional corps activities, adult programs also have formed, including a Hispanic women's ministries group. With growing community support and building a strong volunteer base, the captains are optimistic for the future.

"The community, donors and volunteers are seeing that the programs are good for the community. People are attending regularly," concluded Captain Cristian. "We are growing like a family."



Six months into the implementation of Project Advance, many aspects have transitioned smoothly, but a number haven't.

"We are in a listening, learning and adjusting phase of Project Advance implementation," said Assistant Chief Secretary Lt. Colonel Paul Smith, who has overseen Project Advance.

He added, "Hearing what is going well and what areas need to be strengthened is critical for us to see the mission advancement which is

the ultimate goal of Project Advance. Most of the channels which were in place leading up to July 1 continue to be utilized. The Project Advance Steering Committee and the Change Agent Network each continue to meet, and the Project Advance page of Central Connection online is still available (salarmycentral.org)."

An additional strategy to the listening and learning came last fall as Colonel Smith individually interviewed each area commander and area coordinator. Their divisional commanders also were invited to participate in the conversation.

"It was a very simple agenda. We talked about what was going well and then about any challenges they may be experiencing in their roles," he said.

Each also was asked if he or she was experiencing any areas which were part of the training which weren't meeting expectations.

The main takeaways from those conversations were the need to clarify expectations / levels of delegated authority, engage in regular communication, continue to improve processes and increased efficiency.

An Operations and Efficiency Task Force under the leadership of Secretary for Business Administration Lt. Colonel David Harvey was created late in 2022 to study and recommend steps to improve operational and financial efficiencies.



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

LAURA STEWART
Publications Coordinator

KENNETH ROMIN
Graphic Design and Production

VISIT OUR WEBSITE—

www.salarmycentral.org
1-800-SALARMY

Beautiful land, people and message

Global Mission Teams partner with Salvation Army in Chile

by Viki Payton

The Central Territory sent two Global Mission Teams (GMT) in the fall to southern Chile. One team ministered in Chillán from October 15-24, while the other ministered in Angol from October 22-31. Overlapping at the airport in Concepción for about 15 minutes, the teams were able to greet and encourage one another.

Each team would passionately describe their week in Chile as unique, that their experience was extra special with the town and their host officers both being distinct. Although this is true, it's their commonalities that are most noteworthy.



Small corps, big spirit

Each team was asked to partner with a small corps off the beaten path that suffered greatly due to the pandemic. Because they have few corps members, the corps don't always have the help and resources they need. Our teams were able to provide labor to do small repairs and renovations like painting, cleaning, yard work, electrical work and organizing storage and wood sheds.

Despite their size, the corps' devotion to the gospel was undeniable. The members' participation in programs and community outreach throughout the week was a testament and challenged us all.

The Chillán and Angol corps both have vibrant home league ministries,

weekly Bible studies, prayer meetings and children's ministries. While we were there both corps held social outreaches in their neighborhoods, providing community resources, counseling, basic medical check-ups, food packages, and even spa treatments. The events showed neighbors The Salvation Army is alive and growing.

Unity in the Body of Christ

The GMT to Angol participated in a celebration of the evangelical Christian Church. During a ceremony marking the first time the Christian flag was hung in the municipal plaza, Angol corps officer Lt. Betzaida shared the history and significance of the flag.

Later in the week the team marched with the other Christian churches in the town, singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" in Spanish. The march concluded with a united meeting where our team shared a brief greeting and thanked them for their partnership in the gospel. It was a very uplifting meeting as we worshiped alongside fellow believers from many different denominations.

Both teams helped with home league. They prepared a craft and devotional for the women who sat around the table together for several hours, in no rush to leave. In Chillán, the team participated in a woman's enrollment in home league. Her joy in becoming part of this international fellowship was evident.

Fellowship and hospitality

It is safe to say, the most meaningful aspect of the trip was forming relationships with our Chilean brothers and sisters in Christ. Every experience with the international Salvation Army makes us aware of how beautiful



the family of God is. Both teams had moments of encountering people in southern Chile who they'd met before, who were related by marriage or who were friends of friends. It really is a small world.

Favorite memories include sharing leisurely meals that became sacred times of fellowship, learning about Chilean food and culture, sharing stories, laughing often and enjoying the company of our host officers. The camaraderie was deepened by daily sharing devotions and personal testimonies with each other. Starting each day with our hearts focused on God gave us direction.

In both locations, two corps members offered to open their homes to host "house church services." The teams divided, with each half going to a different home to spend time worshiping God, studying His Word and praying with corps members and friends they'd invited. Being welcomed into their homes, worshiping the Lord together in this environment and being served Chilean treats was a treasured experience.

It is difficult to choose a favorite highlight from our trip, but the Sunday holiness meeting was exceptional. The mission statement of the World Missions Department is "Partnering Globally for the



Sake of the Gospel," and the holiness meeting really illustrated this. At the meeting's conclusion, the congregation encircled the team and prayed for us. Once they finished, our team turned around and prayed for them.

Chile is a beautiful country with beautiful people. We are so grateful to them for warmly welcoming our GMTs.



Global Mission Teams 2023

Inspired to partner for the sake of the gospel through serving and building relationships with others? If you're a Salvationist, age 18 or older, then participating in a Global Mission Team might be for you.

GLOBAL MISSION TEAM
USA CENTRAL

This year three Global Mission Teams are slated:

April 15-30 • June 30-July 15 • October 14-29

For information and to apply visit centralmissions.org/gmt

Rockford Temple Corps celebrates 130 years of ministry

by Lt. Colonel Marlene Chase

With banners and bright regalia they came, celebrating 130 years of multicultural ministry. Marching to the music of "God's Soldier," Salvationists waved the flags of 39 countries representing the ethnicity of the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps.

They celebrated the ministry that began with a group of Scandinavian Salvationists who opened the work in 1892. Subsequently, a strong Hispanic ministry developed, and most recently the corps has welcomed a vibrant group of African soldiers



The combined Rockford Temple and Royal Oak bands contributed greatly to the weekend.



Praising the Lord in song

and adherents. The three-day celebration, "From East to West...Celebrating the Body of Christ," featured earnest prayers and inspiring worship with joyous music and dance.

"This is what heaven will look like," said Commissioner John Ludiazo, who with Captain Daniel Diakanwa, participated in the celebration, including a panel discussion led by Dr. Bob Slack in which they shared the dynamic work of the Lord in Africa. A retired officer from the Congo, Commissioner John lives in Arizona, while Captain Daniel, also retired, is a private consultant on multicultural ministries and multicultural organizations in New York City.

Special guests Majors Myron and Nancy Wandling shared their experiences of serving in Rwanda, Zambia and Malawi. Their powerful preaching emphasized the need for a revival through the Holy Spirit's power in personal living and an urgent commitment to winning the world for Christ.

Other guests included soloist Collins Mbesi and bandmen from the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps. Joining the Rockford Temple Band, they presented soul-stirring music, largely written by African musicians. Salvationists from Sudan, Central Africa, Nigeria and the Congo shared their stories, testifying to God's power. A Rockford community church provided musical selections along with participants from the Rockford and Royal Oak corps.

Bandmaster William Himes acted as master of ceremonies for the Saturday evening concert which featured dance and timbrel groups, the Rockford Temple African Choir and the United Band. Among the meeting's highlights was a 100th birthday honor for Major Elizabeth Mafuta Nkankala Mpungi, who served as a corps and divisional officer in Africa and has been a soldier at the Rockford Temple Corps for the last nine years. She is the mother of Miriam Leka, who with her husband, Abraham Leka, have been significant leaders of the African work in Rockford. An important segment in the concert was "Our Legacy," a tribute to 130 years of Temple Corps ministry presented by Bandmaster Steve Sjögren.

With guests from points far and near, the weekend included much fellowship and feasting, including a Swedish pancake breakfast on Saturday hosted by Lt. Colonels Dan and Becky Sjögren and a "Taste of Africa." Hispanic soldiers from Rockford Temple and Asian soldiers from Rockford Tabernacle also provided meals and snacks to weekend guests. A history exhibit prepared by the celebration committee was a key point of interest. After the final service of worship on Sunday morning, a cake reception followed with much rejoicing.

"Rockford has a rich heritage of faithfulness, ministry and welcoming others," said Rockford Temple Corps Officers Majors Monty and Angie Wandling. "As we look to the future, we see this heritage continuing but with new ministry opportunities and new groups of people coming together with the same faithful spirit. We are working to celebrate our differences while at the same time celebrating our oneness in Christ."



Major Elizabeth Mafuta Nkankala Mpungi was honored on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

A Moment in Time



THE SALVATION ARMY
CENTRAL TERRITORY
MUSEUM



Wow! That's Mahalia Jackson!

Among the thousands of photos in the Central Territory Museum's holdings this image is a showstopper. It documents the day in May 1956 when Mahalia Jackson, the queen of gospel music, headlined a 10-day soul-winning campaign at the Chicago Midwest, Ill., Corps.

Jackson, a longtime Chicago resident, opened the campaign by performing in the corps' second-floor auditorium to an integrated Black and White audience. The world-famous gospel singer performed for over an hour to such a large audience that overflow seating in the first-floor auditorium was required. Divisional Commander Brigadier Charles Overstake (shown seated) was the meeting's featured speaker.

The remainder of the campaign's meetings featured various speakers from the Metropolitan Division (now North & Central Illinois) along with musical performances from the Metropolitan Church Choir, Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist

Church Choir, and cadets from the School for Officers' Training. More than 1,100 attended the campaign meetings, and 20 people were saved.

Mahalia Jackson began singing as a small child at Pilgrim Rock Baptist Church in New Orleans, La. She moved to Chicago as a teenager and joined a gospel music choir. Her natural talent soon gained attention, and she began performing paid gigs while working side jobs to support herself.

In 1947 her recording of "Move on up a little higher" catapulted her to international fame. Jackson popularized gospel music and brought the genre into the homes and hearts of people around the globe. She passed away in 1972 at age 60. Her 1956 performance at the Chicago Midwest Corps displayed her commitment to sharing God's Word through music.

Visit the Central Territory Museum in person at Territorial Headquarters or their exhibits online at sacentraltorymuseum.org

Meant for ministry

Hewitt Gage believes God has been calling on him to minister to others since he was a child.

"It seemed like God always sent people my way to minister to," Hewitt said, recalling his boyhood. "Other young people would often come to talk with me. This has been consistent throughout my life."

Corps sergeant-major at the Springfield Clear Lake, Ill., Corps, Hewitt is the territory's first assistant territorial sergeant-major and assistant chair for the Territorial Soldiers' Forum. Teaming with Territorial Sergeant-Major Rochelle Holman and other soldiers, he assists in getting ideas, suggestions or concerns from the grassroots to territorial leaders. He says it's a privilege.

"I have always loved listening to people's stories; stories of how they



Introducing the Territorial Soldiers' Forum during the commissioning weekend 2022

came to the Army or how they came to know the Lord. I love the idea of being an advocate for others," he said.

Born in Antigua, Hewitt moved with his family to St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands when he

was 12. Although his father was Anglican and his mother was Methodist, when they got married the couple chose The Salvation Army as their family's church. Hewitt and his five siblings were all active with the Army.

"The wonderful thing for us as children growing up in The Salvation Army was that it seemed very centered on young people. We were always allowed to be involved in leadership," Hewitt said.

Years later when Hewitt, his wife Tracy and their two children moved to Springfield, they decided to attend Tracy's church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church. But it was not long before Hewitt felt God was leading the family elsewhere.

"I started to feel God's call to the ministry of The Salvation Army," he said. Hewitt began to pray that God would speak to his wife's



Hewitt with his wife Tracy, daughter Kamaria and son Wynton

Appointment changes

Lt. Colonel Brian Davis has been appointed Assistant National Chief Secretary as of January 1, 2023. Since last July, he has been serving as Assistant National Personnel Secretary. His wife, Lt. Colonel Lesa Davis, continues to serve as National Editor-in-Chief.

Majors Cassie and Will DeJesus will take up new appointments in the South America East Territory on February 6, 2023, as Training Principal and Education/Finance Officer, respectively, at the Training College in Buenos Aires, Argentina. They have been serving as



corps officers of the Bahia Blanca Corps and Secretaries for Mission in the southern area of the Argentina Division since September 2021.

Please pray for these officers as they assume new responsibilities and serve outside of the Central Territory.



Teaching music classes at the Springfield Clear Lake, Ill., Corps

heart in the same way. As he and Tracy prayed together, Tracy said she also felt God was calling the family to the Army. "This confirmed where God wanted us to be," Hewitt recalled.

Outside of volunteering at their corps, Hewitt is an assistant principal and athletic director at a middle school, while Tracy is an administrator at a school district. Their faith and ministry are often put to good use in these occupations.

"Whatever we do, our faith always comes through," he said. "Those who know we are Christians know it is part of our daily life."

At his corps, Hewitt draws on his love for music and expertise as a former band director to teach music classes. He also sings and plays the piano in the praise band and plays the cornet and alto horn in the brass band.

Looking to the future, Hewitt simply wants more time for ministry.

"I hope to start preaching more," he said. "I look forward to having more time in retirement to spend at the corps and being able to minister."

To learn more about the Territorial Soldiers' Forum or find your forum representative, visit salarmycentral.org.

What's shaping your spirit?

by Major Cherri Hobbins

All over the world, in this very moment, every person on the face of the entire earth is being formed spiritually. Do you believe this? It's true!

Because of the way God created human beings with body, soul and spirit, every person in this and every moment is working on the formation of their spirit. Toddlers, middle-schoolers, high schoolers and adults from 18 to 101-plus are all busy shaping and forming their spirits. Artists, Olympic athletes and weekend warriors, businesspeople, medical professionals, teachers, mercenaries and terrorists, religious people from all denominations and religions are all shaping and molding their spirits. Now, mind you, not every person is practicing *Christian* spiritual formation, but every person by their attitudes, actions and life choices is forming his or her spirit. It's how you focus the formation of your spirit that will cause you to become known as anything from a terrorist to a saint.

I want to be formed as a saint!

The Apostle Paul provides a great roadmap for the those seeking to form their spirits toward Christlikeness.

For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light [lead the lives of those native-born to the Light]. For the fruit [the effect, the product] of the Light or the Spirit [consists] in every form of kindly goodness, uprightness of heart, and trueness of life. And try to learn [in your experience] what is pleasing to the Lord [let your lives be constant proofs of what is most acceptable to Him]. (Ephesians 5:8-10; The Amplified Bible)

Look again at a critical statement



in the text. The words are so simple we read them quickly. But the truth conveyed is profound. Paul says about our Christian spirit—*once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.*

In Christ, the essence of your spirit has shifted. In Christ, your spirit is no longer dark. As you deeply live your life in Christ, you no longer allow yourself to be intellectually controlled by ignorance and falsehood or allow yourself to be morally controlled by evil. Instead, in the Lord, you are light. Your mission now is to allow God to shape your spirit through the study and application of His truths. It does not happen in an instant—God continually shapes our spirit over time.

We are now working with God so that we "Live as children of light." Not just sometimes, but every moment of every day. It is not wishful thinking or "someday I'll get around to living this way." Paul is using an imperative here—he's forcefully saying, *do it!*

Shaping your spirit toward godliness is responding to God's call to *actually be* who He says you are. We allow God to call us out of darkness and into increasing light. We allow God to transform us moment by moment, decision by decision to take on His nature, which is Light.

Spiritual Life



2022 Annual Impact Report Identifying and Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking within the Central Territory



Four Anti-Trafficking Programs

Chicago, Ill. STOP-IT Program

Case Management, Drop-in Center, Transitional Housing, Task Force Coordination, 24-Hour Hotline

Grand Rapids, Mich. Anti-Human Trafficking Program

Care Coordination, Resource Navigation, Advocacy, Case Management

Indianapolis, Ind. The Salvation Army Women & Children Center

Emergency Shelter + Meals, Outreach, Ongoing Support and Resources for Residents

Omaha, Neb. The Salvation Army's Fight to End Trafficking

Case Management using Pathway of Hope Approach

15 Task Forces and Coalitions

We value a multidisciplinary approach as we believe it creates a more holistic experience for survivors. These task forces and coalitions include law enforcement, social services, medical staff, practitioners and lived experience experts.

Awareness, Training & Outreach

- 12 awareness events hosted, 264 people reached
- 352 people contacted through outreach instances
- 53 trainings hosted with 1,663 individuals trained on human trafficking

Get Involved

- Contact us to host a training
- Collect needed tangible items for survivors in our drop-in center
- Donate to our work financially—your contribution goes a long way
- Pray with us for those affected by this crime—for justice to prevail
- Advocate for local and federal legislative change

Countries of Origin for Survivors Served

- Colombia
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Iraq
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Paraguay
- Philippines
- Saudi Arabia
- Sierra Leone
- United States

Highlights

- 4 anti-trafficking programs
- 8 staff members holding anti-trafficking positions
- Drop-in center and case management programs
- Expert training and awareness events
- Task force coordination to improve collaboration and services with legal service providers, social service organizations and law enforcement

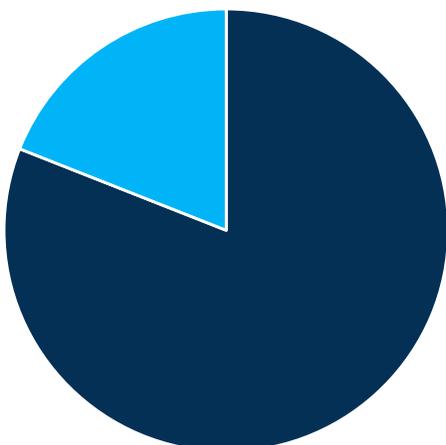
Survivor Services and Recovery Impact

- 197 survivors served
- 650 nights of housing provided
- 8 survivors provided transitional/long-term housing
- 69 case management clients served
- 1,113 case management hours
- 138 referrals provided

CONNECT WITH US!

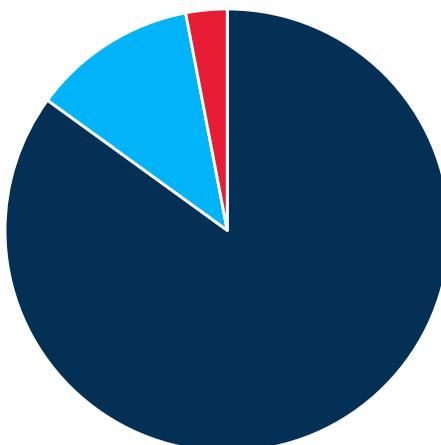
Website: sajusticecentral.org
 Facebook: @SalArmyCSJCM
 Instagram: @SalArmyCSJCM

Age of Survivors Served



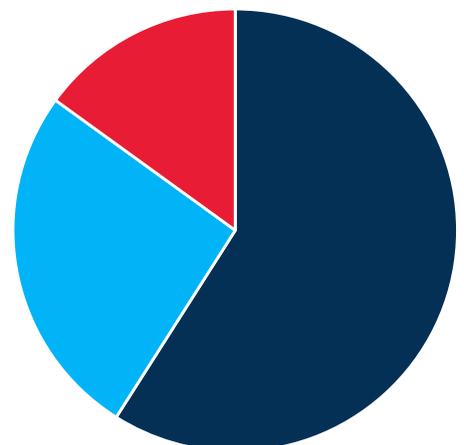
Under 18 – 19%
Over 18 – 81%

Gender of Survivors Served



Female – 85%
Male – 12%
Transgender – 3%

Type of Trafficking



Sex – 59%
Labor – 26%
Both Sex & Labor – 15%

There's no place like home

For Missy Francis, pure bliss is sitting on her home's deck, feeling a breeze rolling off the nearby lake. Her four cats peek out at her from a large bay window.

Missy's home in Warsaw, Ind., was built through a partnership between The Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity.

The house has three bedrooms, including a room where Missy's train-loving grandson can watch trains chugging down the tracks. It has a porch and a crawl space. And it's all hers.

Habitat for Humanity has been partnering with The Salvation Army in Warsaw for about 10 years, since the inception of the Pathway of Hope initiative, said Envoy Ken Locke, Warsaw corps administrator.

"A relationship between The Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity is such a win-win," Envoy Ken said. "We complement each other's ministries. We [the Army] can help with preparing a family and working with Habitat to move in that direction.

And Habitat can physically build. Our missions are very similar; helping people move forward and getting them out of poverty."

Apart from the land for Missy's home, The Salvation Army recently donated a second lot to Habitat for Humanity for another family in need in Warsaw. And more home-building projects are being planned.

For Missy, life as a single mother of two boys had been a struggle for many years. She often turned to community resources for food or help paying rent.

When she stepped through the doors of the Warsaw Corps, she met Envoy Ken, who introduced her to POH. Through it, Missy received guidance with budgeting and setting goals to get off public-assistance programs.

Her life gradually improved, but even after she achieved her POH goals she stayed connected to the Warsaw Corps and at times turned to the caseworker and Envoy Ken for guidance.

It was Envoy Ken who helped oversee the donation of an empty Salvation Army-owned lot near the corps to Habitat for Humanity to help those in the community who needed housing, including POH families like Missy's, and to improve the neighborhood around the corps.

Over the next six to seven years, the building process ran its course. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed things for a time, and more recently, there was a delay in getting supplies.

"At times, it seemed that for Missy's Habitat build, everything worked against it. But we just kept moving forward," Envoy Ken said.

Missy even partnered with Profitable Solutions Fundraising and sold laundry soap to the public to help raise money for her house.

In October, Missy was finally given the keys to her home at an opening reception. Now she can

look out her front door and see the corps where her journey to independence began.

With a new job at an orthopedic company and her Habitat for Humanity home, Missy has a new outlook on life.

"I am so blessed to be here. The people at The Salvation Army are the most amazing people I have ever met," she said. "They are very nonjudgmental. Needing to ask for help is nothing anyone should ever be embarrassed about."

Missy plans to give back to the corps by giving her time.

"I am ready to start volunteering, returning the favor to The Salvation Army. They were there to help me in my time of need."



Ben Logan, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Kosciusko County, presents Missy Francis with the keys to her new home.



Envoy Ken Locke, Warsaw corps administrator, speaks at the dedication of the new Habitat for Humanity home.



Bountiful boxes to families in need

by Justin Grajek

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit received a \$50,000 grant from Bank of America to help feed individuals and families in need. The grant was used to provide thousands of "Bountiful Boxes"—holiday food boxes offering ingredients for diverse meal options—to individuals and families across Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties. Eighty Bank of America volunteers packed the boxes which

The Salvation Army delivered to local families for the holidays.

"There are those in our community who have to decide between things like paying for groceries or paying their utility bill. Together, we can make a true impact for these neighbors in need," said Lt. Colonel John Turner, Great Lakes divisional commander. "We appreciate Bank of America's generous award and continued support of the community."

The grant is part of Bank of Amer-



ica's philanthropic giving efforts in local communities. Awardees were selected for their commitment to economic mobility addressing basic needs, workforce development and community development.

"Bank of America recognizes the impact food insecurity has on members of the Detroit community and shares The Salvation Army's commitment to helping individuals and families in need, especially during the holiday season," said Matt Elliott, president, Bank of America Michigan.

He continued, "Providing funding and employee volunteers to help pack holiday food boxes is just one way we continue to invest in our nonprofit partners and help Detroit's most vulnerable access essential services."

Since its inception in 2013, the Bountiful Boxes program has served tens of thousands of meals to metro Detroiters. The Salvation Army provided more than 2.1 million meals to individuals and families in need in 2021.





Sounds of the Seasons

Continued from page 1

From the onset, the audience was captivated by Smith's vocal aptitude. A precious time of corporate worship followed; the succulent voices of Smith and the congregation singing "Great is Thy Faithfulness" filled the halls of Edman Chapel. What a wonderful moment! For the close of his first set, Smith wowed the audience with his dexterity in "Great You Are." As an added bonus, the CSB accompanied him on an emotionally stirring rendition of Rick Vale's "Artist of My Soul." It was amazing how naturally Smith's voice created a beautiful blend with the band and piano played elegantly by Caroline Wajda. A preview of coming attractions in the latter half of the program, this collaboration was a highlight for many in attendance.



The territorial commander, who emceed the program, shared reflections on God's faithfulness, which was the perfect tie-in to the CSB's next offering: Martin Corder's *Semper Fidelis*. This extended work was well-handled by the band, complete with cascading triplet figures, carefully crafted phrasing and great solo work from Beth Malovance and Principal Euphonium Tom Hanton. The piece featured two contemporary worship songs: "Everlasting God" by Brenton Brown/Ken Riley and "This I Believe (The Creed)" by Ben Fielding/Matt Crocker, with references to the aforementioned "Great is Thy



Faithfulness" sprinkled throughout.

The first half of the program was brought to a rousing conclusion with 23 young brass players and percussionists from Champaign County, Moline and Decatur, Ill. They were met with enthusiastic applause as they presented William Himes' "Classics in Brass," accompanied by the CSB. Special thanks to North and Central Illinois Divisional Music Director Peter Kim and his leadership team for their investment in the lives of these young people. Bandmaster Tolcher expressed the growing need for music and arts programs and leaders across the territory as a great avenue to win souls for Christ.

The program's second half opened with Paul Sharman's *Star of Wonder*, a new, bright and driving arrangement featuring the carols "The First Noel" and "We Three Kings." This was followed by music of such beauty—"O Magnum Mysterium" ("O Great Mystery"). Control was the name of the game here, and the CSB rose to the occasion in this deceptively difficult piece.

Jordan Smith then returned for a second set featuring two songs of contrasting styles. The first was a big-band setting of "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town," which again showcased Smith's wide vocal range and tasteful scatting. Shifting to a more reflective ballad, Smith presented David Foster and Linda Thompson-Jenner's "Grown-Up Christmas List" which expressed hope for a better world communicated gracefully by the vocalist.

Commissioner Bailey approached the podium to announce the next CSB soloist, A/Captain Paul Bowyer on the Eb Bass! Donning a white tunic and jet-black top hat, he presented Sandy Smith's solo and variations on the Christmas classic, "Frosty the Snowman," dedicating his impressive rendition to his wife, A/Captain Jennifer Bowyer, in honor of their 33rd anniversary. His



extended cadenza highlighted his technical prowess and creativity, throwing in quotes of songs including "You are my sunshine" and "Hail to the victors!" An honorable mention goes to percussionist Sam Leka, whose lively and measured approach to the trap set guided both band and listeners alike through the different styles the piece had to offer.

Kevin Norbury's *Gaudete!* was the most technically demanding item of the evening. This overture brought together the Christmas carols "Coventry Carol," "Gaudete" and "Unto us a Boy is Born" in a somewhat-unconventional style. High-octane technical passages from every section were on display, resulting in

a thrilling and focused performance.

Jordan Smith returned to the stage once more, this time joined by a 43-piece community choir formed of Salvationists from the neighboring areas. Under the skillful direction of Wheaton College's own Assistant Professor Donte Ford, Smith and the chorus joined in presenting a new setting of "All is Well" and leading the congregation in "Joy to the World."

The evening came to a close as CSB alumni came to the stage and joined in singing the "Choral Benediction" under the direction of former CSB Bandmaster William Himes. Congratulations to Bandmaster Tolcher and the CSB on a spectacular evening of quality music-making and worshipping the Lord.



CSB and CTSS Winter/Spring 2023 Schedules

Don't miss your opportunity to hear the CSB or CTSS at these upcoming events:



Chicago Staff Band

January 14-24 Panama
March 11-12 Detroit, Mich.
June 9-11 Commissioning weekend, Milwaukee, Wis.



Central Territorial Staff Songsters

March 2-5 Indiana and Great Lakes Divisions (locations TBD)
June 9-11 Commissioning weekend, Milwaukee, Wis.

For the latest information on the CSB and CTSS, visit samusiccentral.org, or visit the groups' Facebook pages.



Singing a new song

Central Territorial Staff Songsters resume in-person ministry

The Central Territorial Staff Songsters (CTSS) are enjoying their first full season of in-person ministry after having to pivot primarily to virtual concerts shortly after their introduction in January 2020 due to the pandemic's outbreak.

"We had only two rehearsal weekends before COVID," said Dr. Harold Burgmayer, songster leader and retired territorial music and creative arts ministries secretary.

Deputy songster leader Jonathon Weller recalled the Zoom-style virtual concerts were a far cry from being with a live audience.



followed by performances in the Indiana and Great Lakes divisions. They also will be featured during commissioning weekend in June.

"Our goal is to get to all the divisions in the territory as soon as possible," Jonathon explained.

Tenor Mikal Mathews from the Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps, says the CTSS feels like family.

"When we are in-person performing, I am glad to be with 'family' as we are singing together," he said. "What it means for me to be in CTSS is getting the chance to utilize my vocal ability for God's glory and being able to minister in a way where people cannot only hear God's message but be able to feel His presence."

Major Kathy Hellstrom of the Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps is the group's accompanist. "I'm so glad that we're able to sing in-person around the territory again," she said. "It's very special because it helps us to accomplish our purpose—to bring God's message through our music, and that is best accomplished when we are able to interact with our listeners."



The songsters meet to rehearse about a day and a half before performances. They try to include musicians from each corps in their concerts. For instance, in Decatur young people from the corps' music school participated in five numbers.

"We want to engage with people," Harold said. "The idea is for people to sing alongside us and get to know us as a brigade."

Programs feature traditional choral, gospel and contemporary songs. The group is branching out to showcase more diverse selections, including singing in Spanish.

At the heart of every program is ministry, Jonathon explained. "We are not putting together a concert, but more of a shared worship experience that we label as a concert," he said.

Alto Jan Kelley from the Milwaukee Cold Spring, Wis., Corps said, "Even though we don't meet that frequently, we are bound together through the experience of singing beautiful music with meaningful lyrics, also as prayer partners and in small groups. It is always our prayer that by starting with the end goal in mind—drawing others closer to Jesus—that He will be glorified."

In her first season with the CTSS, soprano Courtney Smith of the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps, says the songsters' choral benediction, "Go

in peace, go in love," is one of her favorite things.

"It is just beautiful," she said. "We circle the room each time we sing this number. The closing section of the piece is all amens. Since we are in a circle, we are all facing each other, and it is just a wall of sound. It is a glimpse of heaven, and each time it pierces my heart."

Harold is excited about the songsters' current season and its ministry in the future.

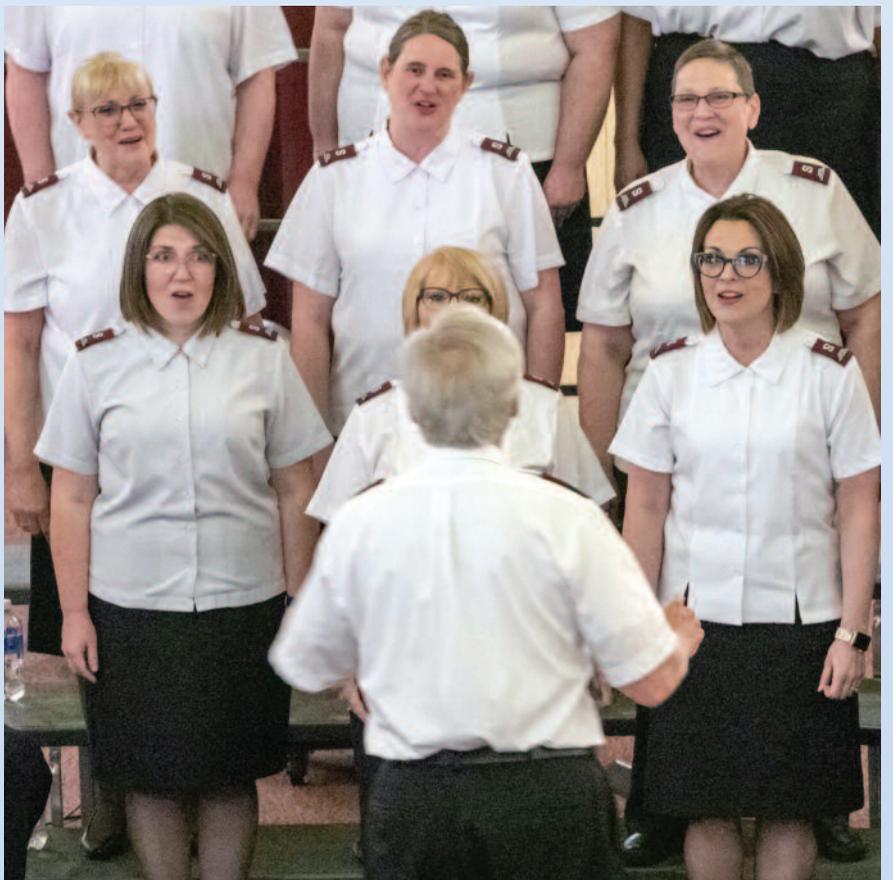
"We are on a forward-moving trajectory," he said. "This group serves as a model to inspire people. And every time we meet it gets better and better."



"Singing to your phone in your apartment is not what you signed up to do," he said with a chuckle. "It's so good to be back in-person now."

Ranging from their late teens to 70s, members are soldiers who worship and serve at their corps and embrace the brigade's mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and to promote vocal music throughout the territory. This season's theme is "Salvation's Story."

The CTSS recently ministered in Decatur and Rockford, Ill., and in Oak Creek, Wis. They will kick off 2023 by recording some selections,



Finding hope in the Fight for Freedom

Learning about The Salvation Army's anti-human trafficking efforts with Major Rachele (Ray) Lamont, Caribbean and North American Zonal Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response (MSHTR) coordinator, and Priscilla Santos, International MSHTR coordinator.

For those who might not know we're in the fight against trafficking, could you share a little about The Salvation Army's involvement?

Priscilla: From its beginnings The Salvation Army has responded against modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT). It's part of our DNA. Here are a few examples:

- In 1885, The Salvation Army exposed the entrapment, abduction and sale of young girls and women into London brothels and effectively campaigned for changes in the law for age of consent from 13 to 16 years old.
- In 1891, William Booth opened a Match Factory which provided a living wage and fair working conditions.
- In 1900, within a year of the Salvation Army's brothel campaign, more than 1,200 girls were freed from slavery in Japan.

In its very structure, being both a church and a nonprofit providing social services, The Salvation Army is positioned uniquely to be holistic and strategic in its response.



Major Rachele (Ray) Lamont

What role does prayer play and how should we pray?

Ray: For The Salvation Army, prayer is an essential practice in the fight against MSHT. Prayer is at the center of the work we're doing and sets the foundation as we step into areas of response. Prayer gives people a way to gain God's perspective and guidance in complex situations. It keeps us in relationship with Him and empowers our work.

Through seeking God's face and direction, we will see the brokenhearted restored, captives set free, and prisoners released from darkness (Isaiah 61:1). Prayer will continue to bring us back to a place of complete and utter dependence on God as He leads, guides and empowers us in this work to end MSHT.

There are some outstanding resources to help guide us in how to pray about this injustice. SA Justice has some great prayer prompts, worship resources (including a prayer section), and a 31-day devotional that can be found on the SA Justice website (sajustice.us). I highly recommend them to those who want to pray about this but are struggling to figure out how to start.

How does The Salvation Army's presence in 133 countries aid this critical endeavor?

Priscilla: Our global reach is part of our unique collective strength. As MSHT is an international crime, we are an international Salvation Army. As traffickers can mobilize across country lines, so

can The Salvation Army. Around the world, The Salvation Army has the passion, people and resources to help stop this evil trade and exploitation of our brothers and sisters.

One practical way this expresses itself is how we're able to support survivors requesting to return and reintegrate back home. We are leveraging our global reach to meet the real life needs of survivors.

What are we seeing happen because of Fight for Freedom, our international strategy to mobilize Salvationists?

Priscilla: Through our efforts to strengthen our responses, we are seeing MSHT response leaders being appointed and confidently leading, the educating and equipping of personnel worldwide, the mobilization to respond holistically internally, and the expansion of our global network.

Part of the framework talks about partnerships. How important are they and who are we joining with?

Ray: Partnerships are absolutely crucial and necessary to ending modern slavery and human trafficking. This is such a huge injustice, and a huge work. It's something we can't do on our own. We need to be intentionally collaborating and standing shoulder to shoulder with other organizations, faith-based communities, governments and civil actors (those who work to make a difference in their communities) who share the same values and mission.

As well, we need to internally partner with different departments, locations and focuses as MSHT touches our shelters, thrift stores, food banks, adult rehabilitation centers, corps, children's and youth work, etc. Together, we can make a difference. Together, we can prevent and end MSHT. But we can't do it alone.

What kind of an impact are we making?

Priscilla: In 2021, we globally served 9,795 survivors. Around the world 100 percent of territories are active in prayer, and 93 percent of territories/commands are active in prevention through raising awareness.

How can the individual Salvationist get involved?

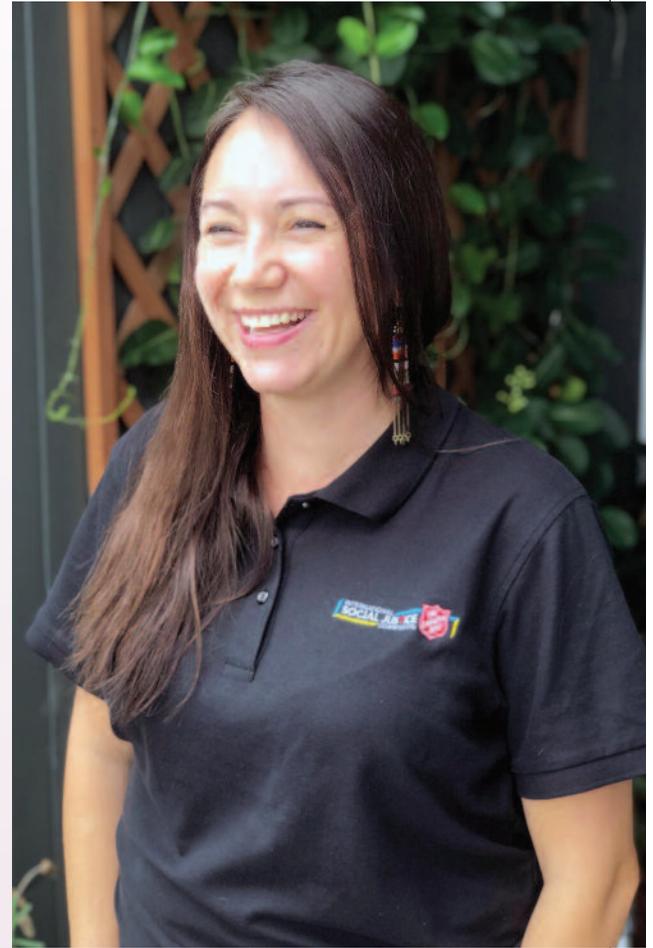
Ray: There are many ways people can make a difference right where they are. First, I encourage people to get informed, learn the basics about MSHT. The four U.S. territories provide a great introduction certificate that can be taken online alongside webinars to help educate and raise awareness about this issue. This certificate is super helpful and practical for soldiers, staff and volunteers.

I also highly recommend they learn about the methods of recruitment, signs and risk factors so they're able to identify "red flags" in their interactions with people, whether in their ministry unit, outreach or daily lives.

Know the national human trafficking hotline: 1-888-373-7888

Look at the ministries and programs your corps offers and ask, "How can I tweak it and add information about MSHT?" so it's not only fulfilling its purpose but it's also informing and hopefully preventing MSHT.

This could look like providing internet safety training in an afterschool program or teaching parents in a mom and tots group how to have age-appropriate conversations about body safety and safety networks. A men's group could share about the harms of pornography and provide support for those who are struggling. There are many easy ways to tweak current programming to incorporate MSHT awareness and prevention. Territorial and divisional contact persons for MSHT are more than willing to talk and help support.



Priscilla Santos

As well, donations could be made to a MSHT response ministry. It makes a difference.

What is giving you hope?

Ray: So many things give me hope as I do this work. Here are a few:

- Knowing God has not created people to be enslaved (think of the Israelites and the Exodus story). He is a God who is mighty to save. He has created us to be free in every sense of the word. Hallelujah!
- Seeing people who have exited MSHT move toward healing and become leaders in ending MSHT
- Seeing more and more people getting educated and informed and stepping up to be part of the solution
- Hearing the stories of hope, resilience and beauty from people who have exited a MSHT situation as they find safe places and people who support and journey with them
- Seeing new initiatives to provide prevention, protection and support work
- Watching God as He breathes life in this area into the church and helps us realize we have work to do to end MSHT.

What have you learned about God, faith and hope through this ministry?

Priscilla: I'm reminded constantly in this ministry how God is moving and transforming lives through people. He wants to use everyone, everywhere to make shalom and the Kingdom of God a reality to so many, and in our ministry—those who have experienced and/or on the margins of exploitation and MSHT. It doesn't matter where you live in the world or your social, legal, or economic status—God wants to partner with me, with you, with The Salvation Army, to bring freedom and liberation.

Ray: God constantly reminds me He is in control and I just need to get out of the way and let Him be God and do what He is so amazing at doing: binding up the brokenhearted, proclaiming freedom for the captives, releasing prisoners from the darkness, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor, comforting all who mourn, bestowing a crown of beauty and garment of praise to His people.

Raising awareness

by Terry Hildebrandt
Northern Divisional Social Services Director

With rising incidents of human trafficking, the Northern Division reactivated our anti-human trafficking committee in 2021. While we were actively engaged in a variety of efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking, we now have plans to expand our reach and impact. But how did we get to where we are today?



Photo by Craig Dinkes

first grassroots committee meeting which brought together 11 officers and employees.

Capitalizing on Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Month, in January 2022 I conducted interviews with representatives from three anti-human trafficking agencies throughout our division (the 31:8 Project in Bismarck, N.D., Safe Harbor Navigators in greater Minnesota, and the Stories Foundation in the Twin Cities) and Elyse Dohney from Central Territorial Headquarters and then shared the podcasts each Monday of January with employees and officers.

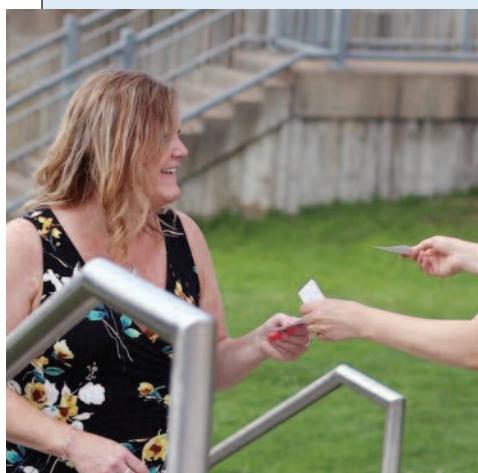
Since we've learned ongoing training is a must, we watched the movie "I am Jane Doe" in August and invited the Stories Foundation to help us process what we saw. We followed this education and training with a session called "Real Faces of Human Trafficking" offered by Fierce Freedom and put what we learned into action by participating in an outreach event called "Love Bombs" with the Stories Foundation at a local mall.

We plan to identify gaps in service in our communities that are desperately needed. First, however, we must research what efforts already exist in our areas and then explore where our current talents and resources can help create new solutions.

The last section of the position statement talks about practical responses, and the very first response anyone should have is **prayer**. Prayer is essential in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking. It helps us gain God's perspective and guidance and empowers our work. I would encourage you to ask God to use you and your talents to make a difference.



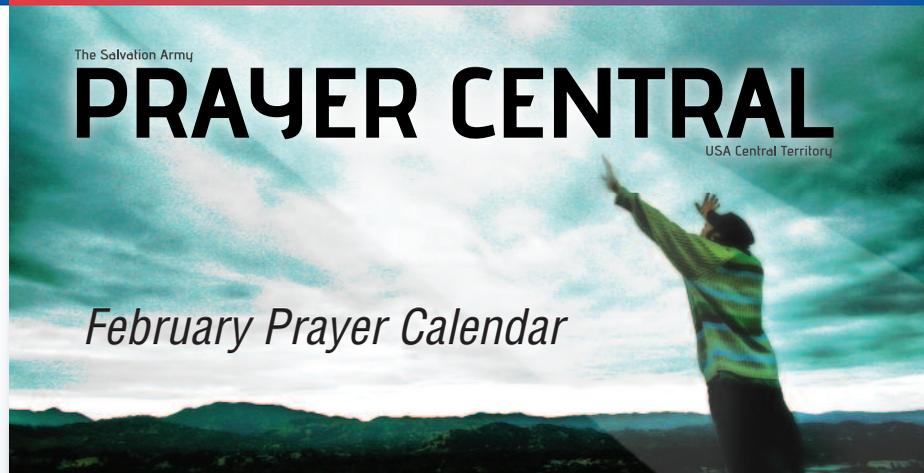
Did you know The Salvation Army has a position statement against modern slavery and human trafficking? The opening paragraph reads: "The Salvation Army is deeply committed to fighting modern slavery



and human trafficking for sex, labor or organs, exploitative labor practices, child labor, and early and forced marriage. It involves not just individuals but also social and economic systems."

An essential part of the fight involves preventing human trafficking. Communities must be made aware this evil exists and be educated about what puts children, teens and adults at risk. A better understanding of prevention can help us move from awareness to action.

In August 2020 and 2021, we partnered with the Stories Foundation, a small anti-human trafficking organization in the Twin Cities. They presented at our mini-institute and conducted a session on trafficking and its effects. Later in 2021, we held our

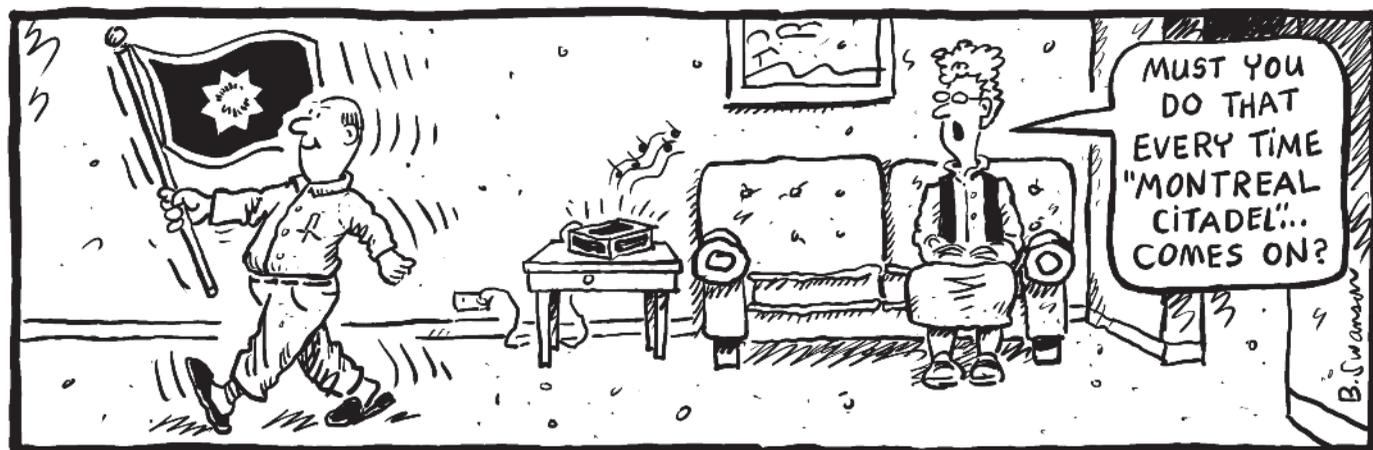


My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Wednesday	John 10-12	Davenport River Valley, Iowa, ARC
	2 Thursday	2 Timothy 1:2	Spain and Portugal Command
	3 Friday	Numbers 10-12	Monroe, Mich., Corps
	4 Saturday	1 Chronicles 20-24	Kokomo, Ind., Corps
	5 Sunday	Psalms 105-107	Salina, Kan., Corps
	6 Monday	Proverbs 22	Crystal Lake, Ill., Corps
	7 Tuesday	Joel	Kirkville, Mo., Corps
	8 Wednesday	John 13-15	Minneapolis Temple, Minn., Corps
	9 Thursday	2 Timothy 3-4	Lincoln, Neb., Corps
	10 Friday	Numbers 13-15	Sri Lanka Territory
	11 Saturday	1 Chronicles 25-29	Kenosha, Wis., Corps
	12 Sunday	Psalms 108-110	Saginaw, Mich., Corps
	13 Monday	Proverbs 23-24	Waukegan, Ill., Corps
	14 Tuesday	Amos 1-4	Big Rapids, Mich., Corps
	15 Wednesday	John 16-18	Princeton, Ind., Corps
	16 Thursday	Titus	Kansas City Northland, Mo., Corps
	17 Friday	Numbers 16-18	Chicago Englewood, Ill., Red Shield Center
	18 Saturday	2 Chronicles 1-5	Taiwan Territory
	19 Sunday	Psalms 111-113	Mattoon, Ill., Corps
	20 Monday	Proverbs 25	Huron, S.D., Corps
	21 Tuesday	Amos 5-9	Wilmot, N.D., Corps
	22 Wednesday	John 19-21	Oshkosh, Wis., Corps
	23 Thursday	Philemon	Sturgis, Mich., Corps
	24 Friday	Numbers 19-21	Sterling Rock Falls, Ill., Corps
	25 Saturday	2 Chronicles 6-10	Tanzania Territory
	26 Sunday	Psalms 114-116	Elkhart, Ind., Corps
	27 Monday	Proverbs 26-27	Dearborn Heights, Mich., Corps
	28 Tuesday	Obadiah	Olathe, Kan., 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--



730... AND BEYOND



2,796 days and counting

by Captain Michelle Johnson

It is amazing how God works. I knew I was called to ministry years before I became a Salvation Army officer. I had hopes of being a missionary overseas. I wanted to go to another country and help those who were less fortunate and share the love of Jesus. Little did I know God had other plans for me which included doing that right here in the United States.

After I became an auxiliary captain in May 2015, my husband and I were appointed to lead the work for the Black Hills in South Dakota, including the Rapid City Corps.

One of the highlights of my time there was overseeing the Black Hills Camp programming. Each summer one of the camps was for Native American children, most of whom came from very low-income households. The camp provided them with the opportunity to get into nature and experience new things. However, the most important things they learned about were the love of Jesus, the Word of God and that they have a Heavenly Father who loves them very much. It was a tremendous blessing to participate in this camp and witness children accepting Jesus into their hearts. Several families joined the corps through this ministry.

For the past three years my husband and I have been administrators



of the Fort Wayne, Ind., Adult Rehabilitation Center. Seeing the transformation and regeneration of lives through the power of Jesus Christ is beautiful. I have seen men come into the program proclaiming to be atheists but by the time they leave they have turned their lives wholly over to God. I have seen men come to the ARC facing 20 years of prison time and subsequently leave on probation. I have seen men of different races and nationalities come together and form tight bonds when tense racial protests were taking place just down the block. We have witnessed several men who were gang leaders in prison completely turn their lives around by giving themselves to God and are now helping others in the trenches of addiction find new life through recovery and Jesus Christ.

I thank God for the opportunity to serve Him and look forward to embracing what He has in store for me every single day.

Following Jesus' lead

by Elyse Dobney

During the latest Justice Week, Major Katherine Clausell, territorial social justice and city mission secretary, reminded us, "Jesus' mission on earth in His time is our mission on earth in our time." During the training, community experiences and fellowship with others, I was brought back to reflect time and again on Jesus' mission for justice and how we can continue to follow His lead today.



God inspired many of us throughout the week and quietly whispered to my own heart. On multiple occasions, He brought to mind the story of the boy who saw starfish all over the beach and walked up and down throwing as many as he could back into the water. When asked why he bothered since he would not be able to eradicate the problem, his response was simple. He held one up and explained, "But I can make a difference for this one."

For me, this is a wonderful allegory of how The Salvation Army impacts lives through our incredible social service ministries. Our Pathway of Hope initiative, general corps services, case management programs and many more focus on being person-centered. We meet people where they are and cater the support we provide to their individual needs. We do not require a cookie-cutter service plan for each individual because we recognize people's needs are unique to their life circumstances.

While there may be confusion about equality and equity and justice, on an individual level we are already actively doing equity work. Equity is not about giving everyone

the same thing; it is about giving people what they need. Working from a person-centered approach is working through an equity lens. Without naming it as such, it is the response in which we have naturally engaged as we have sought to do God's will. And how beautiful is it that God continues to use us to do justice?

Let us remember what God requires of us in Micah 6:8 (NIV): "...to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

We cannot only choose to love mercy and walk humbly. We also must act justly. God has raised us up to do just that. He asks us to love His children, to meet their unique needs. If we truly do this, we will be doing justice. God has incredible plans for The Salvation Army if we continue to seek His guidance, wisdom and strength to achieve that to which He is calling us.

If you are interested in learning more about The Salvation Army's social justice efforts or would like more information about upcoming Justice Week opportunities, please reach out to us: usc.socialjustice.citymission@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Congratulations!

The list of officers to whom we extended well wishes in the December issue was in error, so we felt it best and most honoring to republish a complete and accurate list of all officers who retired in 2022. We appreciate their patience and thank them for their dedicated service.

- Lt. Colonel Dorene Jennings
- Majors Jim & Lynnea Brickson
- Majors Carole & Glen Caddy
- Majors Gary & Vickie Cole
- Majors Candy & Jim Curl
- Majors Jay & Sally Davis
- Major Margaret Hill
- Major Cindy & Captain Gordon Hoag
- Majors Betty & Bruce Keobounhom
- Major Barbara Logan
- Majors Antonia & Dennis Marak
- Major Tim Parker
- Majors Carolyn & Kirk Schuetz
- Majors Annette & Jose Tamayo
- Majors Christie & Kevin Van Zee
- Majors Jonathan & Kim Welch
- Captain Karl Blessing
- Captains Chuck & Dana Cook
- Captains Milly & Pedro Pagan

Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Major Jean Rowland

Mrs. Major Jean Rowland, 92, was promoted to Glory on October 13, 2022. Jean was a passionate prayer warrior who invested herself in the lives of others, advancing God's Kingdom through The Salvation Army.



Jean was born in Alpena, S.D., on April 30, 1930, to Erwin and Maria Kludt. As a teenager, she became a soldier at the Wichita, Kan., Corps. Committed to following God's call on her life, she was accepted to the School for Officers' Training and was commissioned with the "Peacemakers" session in 1949.

Two years later, Jean married Lt.

Elden Rowland and together they served in corps appointments throughout the Midwest for more than 34 years. After Elden was promoted to Glory in 1985, Jean continued serving as an officer, including as assistant administrator for Booth Social Services in Omaha, Neb. Her final appointment was as statistician at Western Divisional Headquarters. She retired after more than 44 years and continued her ministry as a soldier at the Rapid City, S.D., Corps where she led women's ministries and community care ministries, encouraging and mentoring others.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband and brothers, Roland, Almorris and Willard Kludt. She is survived by her children, Richard (Bobbie), Randy (Theresa), Vicki (Dave Bujarski) and Robin Jones; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.