



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)

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Royal Oak celebrates a century of faith

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. —Psalm 100:5, NIV

The Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps praised God for His goodness and faithfulness for generations as they recently celebrated the corps' 100th anniversary.

For many months the planning committee focused on creating a celebration that provided space for fellowship, remembrance, outreach and, most importantly, praise to the One who has made it all possible, Jesus Christ.

The weekend kicked off with a birthday party on Friday night. People from near and far gathered around campfires to share memories and catch up. As music played, peo-



Corps officer Captain Kory Strand

ple hugged, laughed, shed tears and ate plenty of desserts. The connections made between those who've attended the corps for decades and those who are new brought a warmth greater than the delicious, homemade hot chocolate being served.

Saturday brimmed with activity, starting with a Stuff the Bus event. The SAL Community Center has been known for decades for serving children and families throughout the year. People were invited to stop by the community center bus, fondly called "Big Blue," and donate to the food pantry or Angel Tree program. Those who stopped by to drop off a donation enjoyed a treat from the canteen.

In the evening, many people attended the anniversary dinner, "A

Taste of ROC." They visited stations to sample classic recipes from corps members through the years and could be heard saying, "Tasting this food is bringing back memories." Guests were encouraged to peruse pictures on the walls, a massive Lego replica of the front of the chapel, and other displays in the corps' hallways.

The dinner led beautifully into the anniversary concert. People packed the chapel and cheered as the Royal Oak Senior Band and Songsters entered and began the concert, "Remembering the Past, Embracing the Present, and Inspiring the Future." The concert also highlighted some junior music groups. As the Singing Company and Cherubs sang the classic, "I am a Promise," audience members sang along: "And I am learning to hear God's



voice, and I am trying to make the right choice. I am a promise to be anything God wants me to be." How beautiful that the call to know God and to live in His love remains the same.

Captain Kory Strand, Royal Oak corps officer, gave a devotional, saying: "Throughout all of the generations that have come in the past 100 years one thing remains the same—everything changes. Really, the only true constant in all of this change is

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Who is my neighbor?

New tool helps you better understand your community, connect and meet needs more effectively

by Mark Bender

It's been said, "Change is the only constant." We see it in our lives, workplaces and neighborhoods. So, how can we better understand who our neighbors are? How can we better connect with them and meet their changing needs while sharing the hope of our unchanging God?

MissionInsite is a new ministry tool to help corps, adult rehabilitation centers and divisions do just that. It provides demographic infor-

mation and trends like median income, family size, education, and expected population growth or decline from trusted analytics leaders like Synergos Technologies, Inc. (STI), Experian, American Beliefs Study, and Epsilon.

Registered users have access to custom maps, reports and more to learn a lot about the people around them. Predefined and custom demographic reports can be generated easily.

ExecutiveInsite gives a unique

narrative accompanied by graphs and tables.

QuickInsite provides a colorful 11-page report including the MOSAIC lifestyle types (household behaviors, lifestyle and attitudes). This data is updated annually and suggests ministry applications based on 19 groups and 71 distinct household types and their lifestyles, demographics and concerns.

MinistryInsite explains ministry and program preferences, life concerns and media choices. MissionIn-

site uses STI Pop Stats to monitor current population trends and make forecasts. This information is updated twice a year based on the United States census, current year population estimates, five-year projections and 10-year forecasts.

MinistryInsite Priorities summarizes and prioritizes Ministry Insite topics.

ReligiousInsite shows religious and spiritual attitudes and practices, social and moral values, and faith

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Keep growing for the sake of others

by Colonel Janice Howard

Territorial Leader for Leader Development

Salvation, holiness, spiritual disciplines and actions are all part of spiritual formation; but what exactly is it?

Dallas Willard writes, "Christian spiritual formation is the process through which the embodied/reflective will takes on the character of Christ's will."

According to the United Methodist Rio Texas Conference website, John Wesley "equated spiritual formation with vitality and productivity in ministry when he said..., '...wherever [true religion] is really fixed in the soul, it will be shown by its fruits.'"

Robert Mulholland, Jr., defines spiritual formation "as a process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others" (*Invitation to Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*).

I would add "in the name of Jesus Christ" to these definitions.

It is because of our relationship with Him and through scripture that our mindset and our life view are focused on Christ. This keeps us on track, so we do not "become" and do things for our own glory.

Whichever definition you choose, there are several parts to Christian spiritual formation.

There is a *process*. It does not happen immediately. It takes time.

We are being *formed* (transformed, conformed, changed). Our sinful beings are made into something new and beautiful.

It involves becoming more *Christ-like*. After all, Christ is the one we are to emulate.

It is for the *purpose of others*. We are personally transformed, but this transformation is for other people. We look at people with the eyes of God. We love people with the love of God. We help people with the compassion of God.

It is in the *name of Jesus* that we become and do; it is not for an organization, another person or ourselves.

Let's look at compassion.

Jesus showed compassion; we read about it throughout scripture. Sometimes we confuse this word with pity or empathy. Pity and empathy are emotions; but compassion is putting action to those emotions. Jesus taught us about compassion.

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son (Luke 7:11-15)

A widow's only son died. What would she do? Who would take care



of her? She is grieving. Jesus sees her and knows the status and potential for her as a husbandless and sonless woman in society at that time.

"When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. 'Don't cry!' he said. Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. 'Young man,' he said, 'I tell you, get up.'" (vs 13-14, NLT)

We see that His pity led to action, the healing of the widow's son. She asked Jesus for nothing, yet He was moved with compassion.

Jesus Heals a Man with Leprosy (Mark 1:40-42)

Leprosy is a devastating disease, especially in biblical times. Lepers were ostracized, having to live outside of the camp during the infection period and to shout "unclean" if anyone came near them. Scars remained for life. Where was family? Where was work? Where was life?

"A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. 'If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,' he said. Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be healed!' Instantly the leprosy dis-

appeared, and the man was healed." (vs 40-42, NLT)

Jesus risked His health and would be considered unclean if He touched the infected man, yet Jesus' compassion led Him to act.

Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)

There is a mix of people in this story which Jesus tells an expert in religious law. *A Jewish victim* was beaten and left beside a dangerous road between Jerusalem and Jericho. *A priest*, God's servant, saw the man and walked by. *A Temple assistant* looked and kept walking. *A despised Samaritan* saw the victim and did something.

"...and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.'" (vs 33-35, NLT)

Place each of these stories in today's context. Do you relate to one of the characters? Are you growing in compassion, which is a fruit of spiritual formation? Is your heart moved with pity to act for the sake of others in Jesus' name? Or do you say "ouch" and need the Lord to help you develop further? Think on these things and respond.

Who is my neighbor? Continued from page 1



involvement in a specified area. ReligiousInsite and MinistryInsite reports use data from the

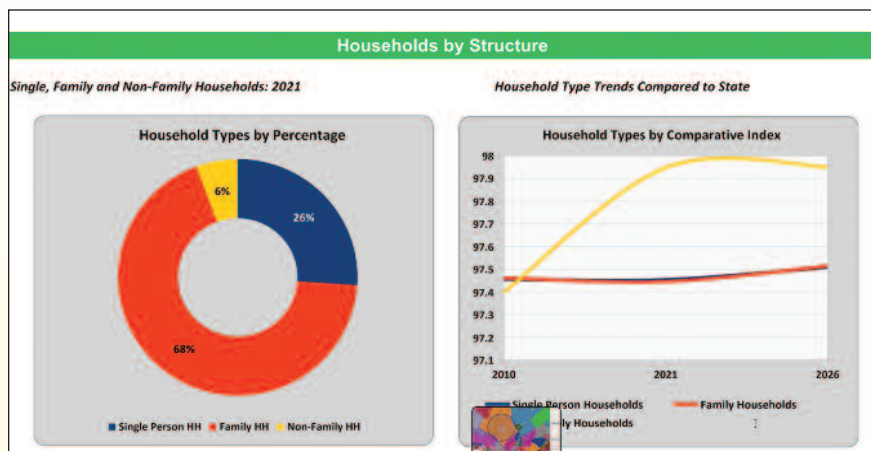
Quadrennium Project, a national survey of American religious preferences, practices and beliefs.

ReligiousInsite Priorities summarizes and prioritizes ReligiousInsite topics.

What can you do with all this data? It can be used to find new ways to love the people in your corps, neighborhood and community because you have a much clearer idea of what they need and how to meet those needs and more effectively communicate the love of Jesus to them.

Opportunity Scans help you analyze and identify regional, community and neighborhood ministry potential, down to the block. You can create maps and data tables with top ministry target areas for your corps or division.

You can create and print maps to visualize an area's projected growth, racial and ethnic groups, employment demographics, or MOSAIC household



types. Custom reports provide insight into likely religious preferences, practices, beliefs and media preferences. You can choose the information you want for these reports, so you can develop specific ministry strategies.

So, who in your community needs your help the most?

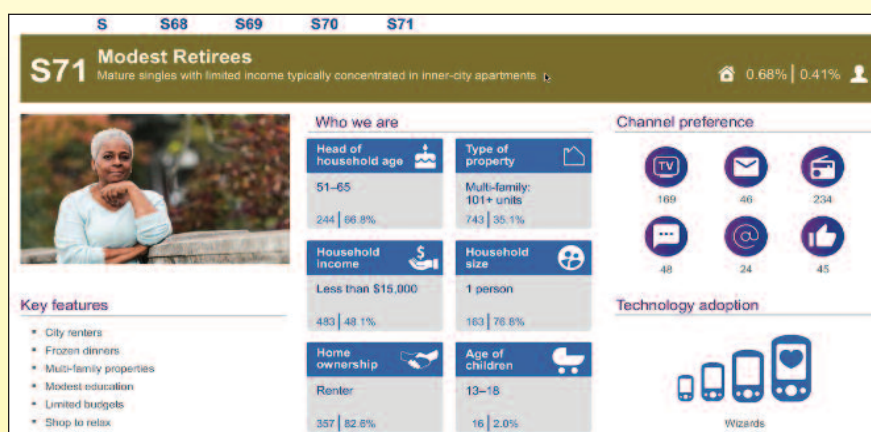
Are you curious about your com-

munity's diversity and wonder if your corps reflects these demographics?

Have you wondered which neighborhoods in your community are growing?

What are your neighbors' concerns, and are there things your corps could be doing that address those concerns?

Hopefully your interest is piqued. Email the Territorial Corps and Community Mission Department to discover more:
USC.THQ.CorpsandCommunityMission@USC.SalvationArmy.org



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An open door, a giving heart

Major Debra Pascoe's office is bright and sunny, filled with books, comfortable chairs and family photos. Figurines of Salvation Army founders William and Catherine Booth stand on a shelf beside pink flowers. It is a welcoming place.

"I've always believed in an open-door policy," said Major Debra, the territory's new secretary for spiritual life development. "One of my greatest joys is when people seek my office out for a listening ear, knowing they can talk with me, and that I love to pray."

Growing up in Duluth, Minn., Debra attended the corps with her parents and two siblings. She gave her life to Christ when she was about 7 years old.

"I remember my mom kneeling down beside me at a Salvation Army altar, asking Christ into my life," she said.

Young Debra had plans to become a nurse, following in her mother's footsteps. But as a teenager, her corps officer asked if she'd ever thought about being a Salvation Army officer.

"That sparked something in my spirit," the major recalled.

In 1983, Debra married Tim Pascoe, and together they entered training to

become officers in 1986. After being commissioned, they led corps in Waukegan, Elgin and Chicago, and then each held a variety of divisional and territorial headquarters appointments.

As the Pascoes served across the Midwest, they raised three daughters. Stephanie is now an officer, and Melissa and Jessica both work for The Salvation Army.

As the girls were growing, they were brought along on their parents' busy daily routines.

"Our girls were towed here and there. We always tried to make them feel like they were a part of our ministry," Major Debra recalled.

In their free time, the family enjoyed flying kites together and taking part in anything related to Walt Disney productions, including books, movies and vacations to the Disney World theme park.

Today, as empty-nesters, Majors Debra and Tim enjoy watching old movies and shopping for antiques together. And family time is treasured—especially now, as they have five young grandchildren.

In autumn 2021, while she and her husband were stationed at the Great Lakes Divisional Headquarters in Southfield, Mich., in the suburbs of Detroit, the major was diagnosed with oral cancer.

"When we moved to Detroit, I had no idea this cancer was around the corner for me," she said.

"But the doctors I needed were there. God planned it [our appointment there]. I believe that."

She went through surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. She knows God kept her spirits lifted, often using nature.

"I didn't leave the house for months. But



The Pascoe family at Minnesota's Split Rock Lighthouse on Lake Superior, celebrating Majors Debra and Tim's 40th wedding anniversary.

God worked out every detail," she said. "The Salvation Army quarters we lived in had big windows at the front and back of the house. I spent long days lying on the couch. The deer would come through our yard. The birds and squirrels would keep me company through those windows. It was a little 'plus' the Lord gave me with those long days of recovery."

Today, the medical reports are good. She has no signs of cancer.

"I'm thankful for God's healing. Not that there weren't hard days," she recalled. "But God was faithful. We saw his handiwork through all of that."

In summer 2023, Major Debra was appointed as territorial secretary for spiritual life development.

Stationed at Central Territorial Headquarters (THQ), she makes it her daily mission to reach out to the staff.

"I always say 'Hi' to the receptionist—the first person I greet here each day. I say 'Hi' to everyone in the hallways," she said. "We never know what is going on in someone's life.

Giving a smile and a greeting—you never know how that can change someone's day."

She initiated a monthly Bible-study group at THQ called Third Thursdays that looks at spiritual disciplines—"the spiritual practices that make us more Christlike," she explained.

The major will be resourcing Salvationists across the territory.

"We have to be creative in ways we let the Salvationists who are on the frontlines know we are here for them," she said. "The needs of a corps in a rural town are very different from those of a corps in a big city."

Major Debra says she is looking forward to seeing how God will use her in her new position.

"I feel very privileged to be in this position," she said. "These are not easy days we are living in. But God has a plan. If we can stay true to Him and His Word and the calling He places on our lives, we can make our corner of the world a little more godly."



Major Pascoe and Bible study participant Courtney Smith

This Kind of Fruit

by Commissioner Evie Diaz
Territorial Commander

Apples, peaches, pears...what kind of fruit do you like? I like them all, especially in cobbler or warmed on top of vanilla bean ice cream.

Are you hungry now? Of course, this is not the kind of fruit we are talking about. Galatians 5:22-23 describes the fruit that is the evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in you and me.

I want to be hungry for this kind of fruit to show up in my everyday living. Don't you? My prayer is all of us who are followers of Jesus will continue to desire the Holy Spirit to work in us and produce this kind of fruit.

Paul says in Galatians 5:23, "There is no law against these things!" We can and should be people exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit.

For the next six months this column is going to highlight fruit. Fruit such as joy, peace, kindness, goodness and love. We will highlight how this fruit is being demonstrated throughout the Central Territory. Is there joy expressed in worship, kindness in our service, love in our relationships with each other and our communities?

During January we want to be united in prayer. We are inviting everyone in the Central Territory to pray, focusing together on our desire



for the Holy Spirit to grow and be fruitful in us. There will be an opportunity for united prayer each Sunday in January. Ask your corps officer or center administrator for more information.

If you have a story to share about how the fruit of the Spirit is displayed through The Salvation Army and our people in your community, share it with us. Visit salarmycentral.org or email bearingfruit@usc.salvationarmy.org

Let's be people who are hungry for the Spirit to produce this kind of fruit in us. Let's see how God wants to use us to impact communities throughout this territory by His Spirit.

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

Strength and direction

by Teeha Dabbs

In 2017 my world tilted off its axis, and I found myself and my two boys, 16- months and 4- months-old, living in Mexico. Before long I became pregnant with my third child and was so sick I could not fly home, nor could I afford to. I delivered my sweet Charlee Marie at 30 weeks. Born very ill, she succumbed to an infection a week before she turned three months.

Hurting, struggling and scared, I stayed in Mexico a year and a half longer. I didn't want to leave where Charlee was buried or my husband, who was the glue that held us all together, but I was at my lowest point and needed to make things better for my family. I was desperate and started seeking the Lord's guidance. I asked Him to lead the way and to place the people I needed in my path.

Finally, I got the strength and courage to come back to the United States with my sons. I tried to do it all and felt like I was drowning, but God led me straight to my new family at The Salvation Army. My life has changed profoundly. The caseworker, officers and other members of the corps and Pathway of Hope have provided me with so much support, love and hope! I am now an active church member and full-time student.

One of my and my husband's priorities is a better future for our boys, and with the help of POH I have the tools I need. The most important gift I have received is my spiritual growth. My relationship with God has never been stronger.

Even though my family is still apart, God gives us the strength and faith to stay as one through Him. My boys also have been affected by

POH. Through Jesus and our faith, they can cope better with their dad not physically being here, and some of their anger and fears have been alleviated. That's all a mother can really ask for—that the load be lightened for her children.

Being a part of Pathway of Hope and The Salvation Army has changed my life. It has been a long road, but I believe God has been with me every step of the way.



Connecting families, fostering hope

At the Ottawa, Ill., Corps, Pathway of Hope (POH) is an integral part of outreach and ministry. With more than two dozen families participating in the initiative at any given time, corps officers Lt. Wayne Strayer and Captain Yanet Cabrera and their team focus on intentional, ongoing relationship building, pastoral care and fostering a community of support among the families.

"Our mission here is driven by families and Pathway of Hope," said Lt. Wayne. "As pastors and corps of-

ficers, we are encouraging the families to take active roles in the church and to work with the incoming participants to help teach and support each other."

Celebrating the success of Pathway of Hope (POH) families is one way they develop and maintain these connections. A victory event is held each year at the corps to recognize the families who have completed the POH initiative. At the latest luncheon 30 families were honored and received certificates and gifts.

New POH families, family members, friends, Ottawa advisory board members and divisional headquarters officers are all invited to be part of the celebration where participants who've completed POH share how the initiative has changed the course of their lives.

"It's important for participants to see the successes of others," said Rachelle May, who until recently served as the corps case manager.



A young mother is congratulated at the Pathway of Hope victory event.

730... AND BEYOND



2,393 days and counting

by Captain Jessica Turner

What I feared the most about becoming an officer was attending events and being in group settings. Yep, you read that right. I know I can't be the only one. There are so many large gatherings and programs to attend. As an introvert it can be overwhelming, and I can feel lost easily.

I wondered how I would connect with people. I'm not outgoing. I love ministry behind the scenes. The fear of speaking, leading and having to be the one other people look to for direction terrified me.

While you often hear about the larger ministries that take place, such as feeding programs, vacation Bible school or community outreaches, there are many other ministry opportunities that happen one-on-one. That's where I find the most joy. There's something special about those van rides home, Pathway of Hope pastoral care meetings, and check-in phone calls that allow me to get to know a person. It's in those behind-the-scenes ministries I've been able to build trust with people and share how God is working in my life.

As officers, we have so many opportunities to be on the frontlines. We have opportunities to sit with people as they cry, to enter hospital rooms, and to pray for people, sharing some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. It's during those times we have an opportunity to



share the gospel not just through words but through the way we live. Our presence and listening ear allow them to see God's love and know we care.

God has shown me I don't need to be outgoing. I don't have to enjoy being in large groups either. I just have to love Him and be obedient. I can trust He will use me—introvert and all—to lead people to Him.

Friends, don't allow your fears to keep you from the ministry God is calling you to! No matter your level of comfort, extrovert or introvert, God wants to use you. So many ministry opportunities await you. Someone is counting on your ministry.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (ESV): "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."



PATHWAY OF HOPE

"It helps the new families see the possibilities for themselves."

According to Lt. Wayne the continued growth of the POH initiative in Ottawa can be attributed to a passionate team, community partners who refer clients and word-of-mouth praise from participants. With such a high volume of cases, part-time case manager Kassondra Govero joined the team, and a system was put in place whereby families receive direct support but also are encouraged to support and encourage one another.

Families begin the initiative with weekly caseworker check-ins, then scale back to meeting every two weeks, then once a month as they begin to achieve their goals. As new families come in, established families move toward completing the initiative and it continues to grow.

Lt. Wayne credits much of the robust participation in the initiative to creativity in connecting the families not only with case management and community resources but also with one another. Through a weekly activity called Family Connections, POH parents gather for discussion and fellowship while their children participate in youth programs. Relationships develop between families who are experiencing many of the same hardships.

"Family Connections has really built POH," he said. "It's important for the parents to connect with one another, but the kids are also making new friends. It's all faith-based."

In addition to in-person Family Connections meetings, parents may download an app which provides a safe place to share prayer requests, ask for support, encourage one another, and be a part of a community. Because the app is private, they feel comfortable sharing.

The deep sense of community and ongoing contact with the corps through caseworker check-ins and the officers for pastoral care has led to some families accepting the invitation to become part of corps programs and Sunday worship, with senior and junior soldier enrollments on the horizon.



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

When Spider-Man comes to church

Romans 12:3-16
by Rev. Diane Ury
National Ambassador for Holiness

It always has been a humbling honor for me to be a member of The Salvation Army. The sense of belonging that has been offered to me unconditionally has been healing to my heart. To belong to such a great legacy of people who loved Jesus with all their beings and gave completely of themselves causes me to wonder at the grace I experience of being part of that heritage.

But the legacy is not only in the past. The morning Spider-Man came to our corps I realized I was living in the present-day inheritance of who the Army was and still is.

He walked in about 10 minutes before service started. Over six feet tall, I'm not sure where he found such a perfect-fitting, complete costume. It was awesome! I watched how our people received his unusual presence. As he made his way to sit in the second row, several of us called out to him with warm hellos. Yes, a couple of people knew this homeless friend's name.

Between shots of his web at our bandmaster while the band was playing the prelude, he was greeted with many warm handshakes and personal introductions. Our busiest 2-year-old was brought up from his normal back row seat by his grateful mommy because he was stunned into silence by sitting next to his favorite superhero.

I witnessed the holiness of hospitality in a gracious, unconditional welcome.

Later in the service, a young adult gave a vulnerable, courageous testimony about what Jesus is doing in her life. It had been a colossal act of courage on her part to go on her



own as a delegate to the National Seminar on Holiness (NSH) in August. Jesus had come to her broken heart that had been hiding sad

thoughts. At NSH He came through the love and friendship she found from people she'd never met who were placed in her small group. That morning in church her brave sharing about the wholeness she was experiencing through complete surrender to Jesus cast His Light into the room! All of us were flooded with the transforming hope of the Holy Spirit's Presence into all our dark fears, wounds and secrets.

I witnessed the holiness of life in a transparent community.

After the service we had our corps council meeting. Someone began to share agonizingly about one of our older adults who'd stopped coming on Thursday mornings. It seemed perhaps someone had stolen his identity card, robbed him and cast him out on the street. We wrestled with two questions: "Does anyone know where he is? Does anyone know where he might be able to stay if we find him?" Without missing a beat, a man in his 70s leaned across the table to his wife and said, "Just bring him home. Just bring him to our house."

By that point in the afternoon, I realized that holiness is vibrant in my Salvation Army corps today.

My role in the Army is to teach the doctrine of holiness. I pray I'll also live the doctrine of holiness like my fellow soldiers do.

Royal Oak Continued from page 1



Corps officer Heidi Strand with former corps officer Major Catherine Mount



Jesus Christ. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

The concert closed with a segment focused on Psalm 95 which culminated with a presentation of Paul Lovatt-Cooper's major work, *Fire in the Blood*. God's presence was unmistakable as corps officer Captain Heidi Strand closed in prayer, sharing a lyric from one of the band piece's themes: "Lord of love, make us strong—we who to Christ belong."

"I belong to a beautiful church family, and I am so very thankful for that," she concluded. "But most importantly, I belong to Jesus Christ. If you have not experienced that be-



longing, tonight is the perfect time to start."

After the concert concluded, the crowd remained for quite some time, not wanting the evening to end.

Sunday began with a united Sunday school breakfast. The junior band led worship, and everyone engaged in a game where the youngest to the oldest moved throughout the room in a flurry in response to conversation starters.

In the worship service Lt. Colonels Steve and Chris Merritt, Great Lakes divisional leaders, welcomed the congregation: "It is wonderful to be in the house of the Lord. We praise Him for the work that He has done, the work He continues to do, and the work by faith He will do in the future among us."

The congregation was challenged to look ahead, to remain faithful in these days of chaos and change, and to fix their eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.



International College for Officers

Major Andrew Shiels
Divisional Secretary,
Great Lakes Division
Session 256 Delegate
January 10 - February 19, 2024



Jazzing up the holidays with the CSB

by Stan Kelley

Despite the onset of winter temperatures, the trombone stylings of this year's Chicago Staff Band (CSB) Sounds of the Seasons guest, Wycliffe Gordon, can only be categorized as "hot!" He did not hold back. He did not disappoint.

A world-renowned jazz talent, Wycliffe has wide-ranging skills like arranging music, including gospel songs and the theme for National Public Radio show "All Things Considered," and featuring various instruments such as the Australian didgeridoo. He is a veteran member of the Wynton Marsalis Septet and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and has been featured in the "Jazz at the Kennedy Center" series. A former faculty member at the Juilliard School of Music, he currently is director of jazz studies at Augusta University in Augusta, Ga.

The Sounds of the Seasons concert covered many musical styles including 20th Century free-form jazz with band accompaniment, traditional Christmas song arrangements, a 42-year-old suite for brass band (which included singing), and more. The CSB was in fine form, playing some of the most contemporary brass band literature.

The band opened with *Fanfare Prelude on Richmond*, by Andrew Wainwright, followed by a three-movement suite, *To the Chief Musician* by William Himes, who also served as a narrator during the second movement. This suite, which has a contemporary feel, continues to be on concert programs around The Salvation Army world. One of the featured songs is, "I Bring Thee My All."

Wycliffe's first solo package demonstrated his breadth of talent with a variety of items starting with "Me, We," a 20th Century tour de force that he wrote. The next piece demonstrated his flexibility as he presented the jazz standard, "Stardust,"



an arrangement of Hoagy Carmichael's 1927 standard. Closing this section was "Brasilia" by contemporary composer Robin Dewhurst, which features a South American feel with complementary rhythmic and melodic sections.

Rounding out the first half of the program was "Out of Darkness" by Marcus Venables, a significant and demanding item focusing on the contemporary Christian song, "Thank You, Jesus for the Blood" by Charity Gayle.

The second half began with *Overture — The Proclamation of Christmas* by Stephen Bulla, featuring "Ding, Dong Merrily on High," "The First Noel," and "Angels from the Realms of Glory."

It was followed by Philip Rayment's "Winter's Snow," a triumphant arrangement of the carol, "See Amid the Winter's Snow."

Wycliffe's second package featured Christmas carols including "Silent Night" (Gruber/arr. Barrie Gott) followed by a jazz quartet arrangement of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" (Blane/arr. Wycliffe Gordon) and "Here Comes Santa Claus" (Gene Autry/arr. Eric Alexander) featuring Wycliffe on a soprano trombone, the CSB trombones, and Captain Paul



Bowyer on sousaphone.

Closing out this section, the band and Wycliffe presented "007 Light" by Markus Frei which features the children's chorus "This Little Light of Mine" in the style of the James Bond movie theme song. It was well received.

Territorial Commander Commissioner Evie Diaz, herself an eight-year veteran of the CSB, brought a devotional on celebrating gifts, specifically God's indescribable gift—Emmanuel! God with us.

A Christmas Finale by Paul Lovatt-Cooper, which contains many popular holiday tunes, provided a festive and ideal closure to this year's Sounds of the Seasons concert.

As an encore, Wycliffe joined with the CSB on "Three Kings Swing" by William Himes which features a swinging cornet solo, but it is safe to say the piece has never "swung" like that night with Wycliffe on soprano trombone which brought the audience to their feet in ovation.

The evening concluded with former CSB members joining the band and Wycliffe on the platform to sing the well-loved "Choral Benediction," written and led by William Himes.



Photos by Rick Vogeney



A journey for justice



The “Defenders of Justice” session in the Kenya West Territory with Major Klausell.

On a recent Global Mission Team (GMT) trip to the Kenya East Territory, Major Katherine Klausell, territorial social justice and city mission secretary, had the opportunity to extend her stay in Africa at the invitation of the Kenya West Territory and Major Dr. Julius Omukonyi, principal of the Officers’ Training University College (OTUC), to conduct a seminar.

“It was an unexpected honor to be asked to provide a three-day training related to the spiritual formation of cadets [and OTUC staff officers] around justice issues and the posture they will need to take in order to work effectively as God’s hands and feet in a world filled with injustice,” said Major Katherine.

Currently, 83 cadets of the “Defenders of Justice” session are receiving comprehensive training to educate and equip themselves as officers.

“It was glorious to see so many cadets in one session respond to the calling on their lives to serve the Lord,” the major said. She noted more than 20 potential cadets were asked to delay their entrance to the training college this year due to space constraints.



Teaching on social justice

The cadets’ enthusiasm to learn more about their session name and take seriously the gospel call to “Speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:8-9, NIV) was infectious. It left no doubt God is pouring out His spirit in Africa, and people are sacrificially responding to the call to full-time Christian ministry.

“Personally, it was incredible to experience a fulfillment of the vision God gave me when I took on this new appointment and department in the USA Central Territory in 2019,” Major Katherine noted.

She explained when she was tasked to develop the Central Territory’s social justice and city mission ministry expression, she envisioned

a network of thousands of social justice champions from across the Central Territory being educated, equipped and engaged in the fight for justice.

“Never did I imagine this vision would include the Kenya West Territory,” she said.

“In Ephesians 3:20, the Apostle Paul tells us that, ‘God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us.’ This is one of my favorite verses because it reminds me that I can’t out-ask or out-dream God.



Training Principal Major Dr. Julius Omukonyi and Major Gaudencia Omukonyi, director of special services, with Major Klausell.

“I have a pretty big imagination, and yet God constantly says to me, ‘Think of the greatest thing possible, the greatest blessing for your family and for your church, and I can top it!’ He did that and more when He allowed me not only to participate in a GMT to Kenya to help complete the building of a chapel, but to expand my influence for developing passionate champions of justice by sending me to the OTUC.”

She concluded, “I believe nothing happens by chance. I am beginning to catch a vision for some of these cadets being prepared to go to mission fields outside of their territory, perhaps even the USA Central. Wouldn’t that be amazing?”

To read about the GMT in Kenya, see page 8.

PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army

USA Central Territory

February Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Thursday	John 10-122	Davenport River Valley, Iowa, ARC
	2 Friday	Timothy 1:2	Singapore, Malasia and Myanmar Territory
	3 Saturday	Numbers 10-12	Monroe, Mich., Corps
	4 Sunday	1 Chronicles 20-24	Kokomo, Ind., Corps
	5 Monday	Psalms 105-107	Salina, Kan., Corps
	6 Tuesday	Proverbs 22	Crystal Lake, Ill., Corps
	7 Wednesday	Joel	Kirkville, Mo., Corps
	8 Thursday	John 13-15	Minneapolis Temple, Minn., Corps
	9 Friday	2 Timothy 3-4	Lincoln, Neb., Corps
	10 Saturday	Numbers 13-15	Mali Region
	11 Sunday	1 Chronicles 25-29	Kenosha, Wis., Corps
	12 Monday	Psalms 108-110	Saginaw, Mich., Corps
	13 Tuesday	Proverbs 23-24	Waukegan, Ill., Corps
	14 Wednesday	Amos 1-4	Big Rapids, Mich., Corps
	15 Thursday	John 16-18	Princeton, Ind., Corps
	16 Friday	Titus	Kansas City Northland, Mo., Corps
	17 Saturday	Numbers 16-18	Chicago Englewood, Ill., Corps
	18 Sunday	2 Chronicles 1-5	USA Southern Territory
	19 Monday	Psalms 111-113	Mattoon, Ill., Corps
	20 Tuesday	Proverbs 25	Huron, S.D., Corps
	21 Wednesday	Amos 5-9	Spain and Portugal Territory
	22 Thursday	John 19-21	Oshkosh, Wis., Corps
	23 Friday	Philemon	Sturgis, Mich., Corps
	24 Saturday	Numbers 19-21	Sterling-Rock Falls, Ill., Corps
	25 Sunday	2 Chronicles 6-10	Pathway of Hope Initiative
	26 Monday	Psalms 114-116	Elkhart, Ind., Corps
	27 Tuesday	Proverbs 26-27	Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps
	28 Wednesday	Obadiah	Muscatine, Iowa, Corps
	29 Thursday	Genesis 1-3	Norfolk, Neb., Corps

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

--Mustard Seeds--



Bringing a vision to life

About 20 years ago, the Makutano Corps in the Kenya East Territory had a vision to construct a chapel suitable for worship. Over the last two decades, a small yet determined group of soldiers and leaders contributed what they could, hoping to see their corps built. Recently, with a Central Territory Global Mission Team coming alongside them, their vision became a reality, and they celebrated God's faithfulness.

Before the new building, the corps held holiness meetings and other programs in a small barn-like structure as they raised funds to construct a larger and more appropriate building. This was a struggle since most of the region's residents are farmers who can barely produce enough to sustain themselves and



their families due to the climate, the scarcity of water and frequent droughts. Though a foundation was laid for the new chapel, progress halted due to these economic circumstances beyond their control. However, the people in Makutano are resilient, strong and devoted to their faith in God and their corps.

Supporting our territory's Partner in Mission, the Kenya East Territory, the GMT spent five days assisting with tasks such as sanding, cementing, priming and painting walls, installing windows, helping with laying bricks for a new office addition and front patio area and physically moving supplies. A local construction company installed a new tile floor and completed the exterior of the building to comply with the national building code in Kenya.

Upon completion, soldiers, local officers, village



members, divisional and territorial leaders and GMT members gathered to worship and celebrate in the new chapel. The chapel serves as a beautiful example of the partnership and relationship between the USA Central and Kenya East territories.

The Kenya East GMT was composed of soldiers and officers from various locations in the Central Territory including Viki Payton — Territorial Headquarters (THQ) as team leader, Major Brian Burkett — Kansas & Western Missouri Division (KWM) as project manager, Laura Augenstein — Great Lakes Division (GLD), Major Katherine Clausell — THQ, Rachel Gillum — KWM,



Captain Robyn Hubbard — Indiana Division, Angelica Lara — KWM, Major Daniel Paredes — North & Central Illinois Division, Mallory Soffran — GLD, and Lt. Samantha Tamayo — Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command.

During their 10 days in the Kenya East Territory, the team was hosted by Captain Isaac Kyale, Kenya East mission support officer. In addition to working on the Makutano Corps, they had the opportunity to visit other locations including the Kenya East THQ, Officer Training College, Thika Citadel, Yatta DHQ, Variety Village Training Centre and Joytown Special School, both for the physically challenged.

Major Brian described the work as "a church at its best" and noted it was impressive to see how much was accomplished in such a short time. Despite language barriers and cultural differences, everyone was united as co-laborers in a shared mission.



Kenya GMT leader Viki Payton with Lt. Colonels John and Catherine Mutune, Yatta divisional leaders.

Soul Care for shepherds

The Territorial Pastoral Care Team provides a ministry of encouragement and affirmation to the officers on the frontlines of service. The team is composed of two territorial pastoral care officers, Majors Timothy and Beverly Best, and 20 regional pastoral care officers who are retired officers. Providing a safe place for officers to talk freely and share what's on their hearts, pastoral care officers listen, pray with and help officers navigate challenges in ministry and life. In essence, they are "shepherds to the shepherds."

Given their responsibility, pastoral care officers also need times of soul care. So, in late October the Pastoral Care Team gathered for a retreat of fellowship, training and soul care.

On the first evening, they met with Territorial Commander Commissioner Evie Diaz and Secretary for Personnel Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings. While no names were mentioned as confidentiality is crucial, pastoral care officers shared joys and challenges of the officers throughout the territory. They communicated that while serving is difficult, the level of commitment of officers to the Army's mission is strong. A deep level of listening was evident by the territorial commander and personnel secretary, as well as the shared desire to grow in understanding and compassion for officers serving on the frontlines.

The second day centered around Soul Care led by Captain Christine Giffey-Brohaugh, a retired officer who has a master's in biblical counseling and is currently part of the pastoral care team. Captain Christine presented aspects of soul care, such as allowing for transformation, loving the Word of God, prayer, soul searching, simplicity, solitude, having a spiritual mentor, fellowship, rest and reflection. She also shared resources for soul care in times of trauma and grief.

The day included time with Tony Merritt and Dr. Yi-Chien Hung (Itch) of Campion, Barrow and Associates. Tony and Itch led the team in defining their roles and debriefing challenging encounters. They also provided training in officer stress and wellness, problem-solving and having deep and meaningful conversations.

The day ended with focused prayer. Captain Christine guided the team through intentional listening to God, using the phrases, "I'm here God...", "Forgive me..." and "I'm listening..." Major Karen Salisbury, officer support secretary in the territorial personnel department, then led the team in praying for officers, their families, former officers, and racial equity.

This time of learning, encouragement and personal soul care recharged the Pastoral Care Team.

Promoted to Glory

Major Herbert Luhn

Major Herbert (Herb) Luhn was promoted to Glory on October 19, 2023. Widely known for his godliness, Herb was a passionate writer, speaker and holiness teacher whose prolific writings appeared in Salvation Army publications including the *War Cry* and *Officer* magazines. His poem "My Own Nativity" was put to music by Bandmaster William Himes and his book *Holy Living: The Mindset of Jesus* has been read and studied around the world.



Herb was born into a Lutheran family in Racine, Wis., on July 10, 1928. Living near the Racine Corps he was attracted to the Boy Scout troop and soon became fully engaged. After he graduated from high school

in 1947, he attended St. Paul Bible Institute for one year before entering the School for Officers' Training. He was commissioned in 1950.

In 1953 Herb married Carol Killackey. They led several corps, including opening the Wausau, Wis., Corps and relocating and building the Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps. He also served in a variety of divisional, training college and territorial administrative appointments.

After their retirement in 1993, Herb engaged in post-retirement service at corps and divisional headquarters for many years. He was called upon often to speak and to teach about holiness at corps, officers' councils and conferences.

Herb was preceded in death by his wife Carol and a granddaughter. He is survived by his five children, Earl (Deb), Loreen (Jerry) Henderson, Lt. Colonel Collette (Bob) Webster, Paul (Peggy) and William (Shari); nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.