Welcoming the world to our table
A celebration of faith. An expression of joy. A call to action.

More than 1,750 Central Salvationists were encouraged to open their hearts, homes and corps to others during the “Welcome Home” commissioning weekend, led by Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey, at the Milwaukee Theatre, June 8-10, 2018.

Featuring Lt. Colonels Kelly and Donna Igleheart, USA Southern Territory officers currently stationed in the Southern Africa Territory, and supported with music by the territory’s own Chicago Staff Band (CSB) and territorial praise band The Singing Company, the event utilized the metaphor of a table for the Kingdom of God where all are invited to sit with Christ and each other in reconciliation and fellowship.

The keynote session, “Welcome to the Table,” featured an ever-expanding table on stage as officers and soldiers joined the Baileys to tell their stories. The meeting flowed in a conversational style with the Baileys welcoming Colonels Steven and Janice Howard, chief secretary and territorial secretary for women’s ministries, the Iglehearts and then four soldiers who shared their inspiring journeys to making the Army their home.

The chief secretary’s message from Matthew 22:1-14 left no doubt for delegates about their privilege and responsibility to invite the “whosoever” to the table. “The table is a place for transformation. What part will you play?” he asked and then led a time of response after which Commissioner Heidi Bailey shared the book I Am A Church Member by Thom Rainer and surprised every delegate with a copy.

Denial, Lt. Colonel Kelly Igleheart thanked the territory and shared involvement throughout his officer-ship from being a corps officer who encouraged joyful giving to seeing as chief secretary how the funds transform lives in Southern Africa.

Thirty-three young adults on summer mission teams (SMT) who will minister in America’s Midwest, Costa Rica, Japan, Spain and Portugal were dedicated in prayer by Colonel Janice Howard, who asked for them a large measure of flexibility, health and safety.

Earlier in the meeting SMT members shared from memory scripture in eight languages.

Living proof of the difference the sponsorship program makes, Captain Ketsia Diaz shared her story of growing up in an Army children’s home in Haiti. She encouraged delegates, “You have to have faith that you are doing your part, and trust that God will do the rest.”

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Commissioning report
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What is your vantage point?

by Colonel Steve Howard
Chief Secretary

ne summer many years ago, in a land far, far away...Okay, it wasn’t that far away and I’m not going to tell you how long ago because that would give away my age. Anyway, I was a 15-year-old working at Camp Snokey near Cincinnati, Ohio. As I stood at the window overlooking my domain—the kitchen sink where I was charged with removing food and grease from the pots and pans—there was much to see. It was a wonderful summer, not because I had the opportunity to have my hands in dishwater three times a day but because of what I saw out the window, or more properly, who I saw. From my vantage point at the sink I saw a beautiful teenage girl with long blonde hair. I’ll skip the exciting details and jump to the end to let you know that seven years later we were married. Now that blonde is Colonel Janice Howard.

I only saw that beautiful blonde because I was looking around my surroundings. I was taking it all in. I was interacting with people. It changed my life and hers, too. My point is when you’re going about your business you should keep your eyes open for opportunities—opportunities to interact with people who have opportunities to make a difference in their lives.

One of the things we have been challenged with in the Central Territory is mission integration. We have hundreds—even thousands—of people coming through our doors every day, but how do we interact with them? Do we see the possibilities of change in their lives? Do we see the spiritual needs they have? Do we look for an opportunity to share with Jesus has changed our lives and the difference He can mean to them?

As you’re involved at your corps or center, have you taken time to look around to see the people with whom you can interact? Maybe it is parents with children attending character-building programs or Pathways of Hope participants. It could be thrift store customers or people being served at a disaster. What are your opportunities? Are you actively engaged in mission integration? Perhaps from the vantage point of a kitchen or just outside the gym? Those many years ago, looking around made a tremendous difference...and I’m still washing dishes today!

remender receives andrew s. miller award

Jo Ann Remender receives the Andrew S. Miller Award from National Commander Commissioner David Hudson with Lt. Colonel Ward Matthews, national community relations and development secretary, and Lt. Colonel Michele Matthews, then national director for White House relations.

nominated for her selfless service, servant leadership and commitment to the lives of others, Jo Ann Remender, Indiana divisional director of gift and estate planning, is the latest recipient of the prestigious Andrew S. Miller Award of Excellence. The national award honors development professionals who embody the Salvation Army’s holistic approach to service and Commissioner Miller’s lifetime commitment to molding social and spiritual ministries into a single entity.

Under Jo Ann’s leadership, planned giving in the Indiana Division has experienced a 1,700 percent increase since 2005. Jo Ann was recognizing a gift of $10 million expectant gift in 2016 (the last four years averaged more than 59 expectancy gifts per year) and a recent $4.6 million estate gift. In just the last three years, total planned giving output averaged $13.7 million each year, and donor gifts averaged more than $720,000 per year. Working tirelessly to orchestrate and connect donors to ministry, her enthusiasm is contagious not only in her mentoring and encouragement of staff members but corps officers as well.

A 30-year employee of The Salvation Army, Jo Ann is a servant leader whose Christianity shines through in her warm personality and commitment to furthering the Kingdom of God.

“I see planned giving as an opportunity to invite our donors to be part of the amazing ministry and work of The Salvation Army,” said Jo Ann. “As fundraisers, it’s our job to invite donors to invest themselves through the resources God has blessed them with to be part of the work to which He has called The Salvation Army. It’s not an ‘ask’; it’s an invitation to come together and do something awesome for the Kingdom.”

Remender, Indiana divisional director of gift and estate planning, is the latest recipient of the prestigious Andrew S. Miller Award of Excellence. Jo Ann Remender receives the Andrew S. Miller Award from National Commander Commissioner David Hudson with Lt. Colonel Ward Matthews, national community relations and development secretary, and Lt. Colonel Michele Matthews, then national director for White House relations.

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Investing in sustainability

Adult Rehabilitation Centers Commander Major Randall Polsley speaks at the grand opening.

The Chicago, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Centers (ARC) recently opened a new, state-of-the-art donation center and family store in Glenview, Ill. More than 1,700 people attended a two-day grand opening. The opening ceremony was led by Major Randall Polsley, Adult Rehabilitation Centers commander, and Major Janeece McConnell, command secretary for mission integration.

Highlights included a ribbon cutting and a donation of 218 MyPillows for sale, a sign of the partnership between The Salvation Army and Mike Lindell, creator of MyPillow and his ongoing support of the ARCs.

A high-income area, Glenview may not seem the type of community that would support a thrift store. However, according to Major John Aren, administrator of the Chicago North Side and Central ARCS, the placement is strategic to promote the MyPillow initiative.

“The purchase of this 24,000-square-foot facility is a major investment for The Salvation Army,” he said. “It represents every effort in portraying TSA’s showimagethrift which includes the promised pursuit of pristine people, product and presentation.”

Providing upwards of 800 hours of employment and training in repurposing, recycling and sustainable practices for the future, the store will benefit the local economy. In addition, encouraging the donation of good reusable items will benefit the environment by decreasing the amount of unwanted but viable goods sent to the local landfill.

‘ARC stores accept these goods and make them available at something between 10 and 20 percent of the original cost in order to provide the much needed funds for the recovery, redemption and restoration of those relying on us,’ added the major.

Profits from the Glenview store, projected to be 12 million per year, will support the efforts of the Chicago ARCS, which minister to hundreds of individuals each year as they work toward breaking the bonds of addiction and rebuilding their lives.
D.J.’s Hero program celebrates 20 years

by Michelle DeRusha

J. Sokol was the kind of young man who always kept his eye out for the kids who didn’t quite fit in. Even after he was diagnosed with cancer, D.J.’s passion for helping others only intensified, and he often reminded his parents to “look out for those who don’t have a voice.”

After D.J. passed away in 1999 at age 18, the Sokols took their son’s advice to heart. They partnered with The Salvation Army in Omaha, Neb., to establish the D.J.’s Hero Awards scholarship and recognition program, which over the past 20 years has funded $10,000 scholarships to 131 deserving high school seniors from across Nebraska. Award winners have gone on to become teachers, architects, airline pilots, lawyers, medical professionals and military personnel, to name just a few of the many successful career paths.

“I didn’t have a lot of money growing up, so the scholarship helped me financially,” said Jessica Harek, a 2011 recipient who earned a degree in athletic training from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. “It also changed my point of view of myself and helped me see my life more positively.”

On May 8 nearly 1,400 community leaders gathered for the annual luncheon event at CenturyLink Center in Omaha to celebrate 10 scholarship recipients this year and to enjoy a keynote presentation by legendary Broncos quarterback and Pro Football Hall of Famer John Elway. This year’s guests also included 20 D.J.’s Hero alumni.

Among the 2018 scholarship recipients were Abdisa Muqtar of Omaha, a Somali refugee who spent most of his childhood in one of the most violent refugee camps in the world before immigrating to Nebraska in 2017, and Hope Weber of Lincoln, who was born with such significant physical challenges, doctors didn’t expect her to live beyond 10 days. Abdisa plans to major in engineering at Saint Cloud State University in Minnesota, and Hope plans to pursue a degree in English or journalism at Nebraska Wesleyan in Lincoln.

This year’s award recipients will also be the first to participate in a new mentoring program offered by The Salvation Army and TeamMates Mentoring, which was founded in 1991 by legendary University of Nebraska head football coach Tom Osborne.

The 2018 D.J.’s Hero Awards Luncheon raised a record $586,000 to support youth development programs in the Omaha metro area.

“The D.J.’s Hero event started small, but over the last 20 years has grown into one of the largest, most inspiring, most unique special events in all of Nebraska,” said Major Greg Thompson, Western divisional commander.

Walk for Justice

by Mary Zaleski

The sixth annual Walk for Justice was held this spring at the Detroit Zoo and raised more than $70,000 for The Salvation Army’s William Booth Legal Aid Clinic in Detroit, Mich.

“We use these funds to provide the staffing that we need to represent our underprivileged clients in a way that they would not be able to do on their own,” said Amy Roemer, director of the clinic that provides free legal services to anyone living at or below poverty guidelines.

The weather cooperated with a bright sunny day that saw over 500 walkers at the zoo to raise funds. In addition to the walk, there were plenty of other kid-friendly activities. To date, this event has raised nearly $237,000 and has served more than 11,000 clients with free legal assistance.

The clinic provides service for individuals, families and U.S. military veterans in need and educates clients with regard to their legal rights and obligations while seeking to eliminate legal problems that may prevent them from reaching their full potential.

“The ultimate goal,” said Amy, “is to empower responsible citizens who have broken the cycle of poverty and dependency.

Established in 1994, the Booth Legal Aid Clinic services residents from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, in addition to assisting the indigent population participating in the Salvation Army’s residential harbor light programs. The clinic provides legal counsel, advocacy, and education and facilitates social services on behalf of those in need within the community. Ninety percent of the clients are minorities, including African-Americans, Hispanics, Arab-Americans and Asian-Americans.

The clinic’s staff consists of the director, two fulltime attorneys, one part-time attorney, a client relations coordinator and volunteer law students and paralegals from local law schools and college programs. It relies on private contributions from law firms, corporations, foundations and individuals.

For more information visit http://salmich.org/emi/williamboothlegalaidclinic

Buckingham appointed as Chief of the Staff

Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham has been appointed as the next Chief of the Staff by General André Cox and will assume this position on August 3, 2018, when Commissioner Brian Peddle becomes the General.

Since 2018 Commissioners Lyndon and Bronwyn Buckingham have been serving as territorial commander and territorial leader of leader development, respectively, for the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland.

The Buckingham family hail from the New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Territory and were commissioned in 1990. They bring to their new roles a wide range of leadership and international experience. In addition to having served in their home territory and the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland, they have served in the Canada and Bermuda Territory and the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory.
New musical a smash!

The world premiere of the musical A Long Way Off, the creative and collaborative genius of Joe Caddy and Phil Laeger, invited commissioning weekend delegates into a timeless story, showcased the Central’s amazing talent and took the standard for musicals in the territory to new heights.

Set in Crawford County, Iowa, in the 1930s, the story centers around brother and sister, Hunter (Damon Winters) and Hannah (Kayla Hedgren). Directly after the cast number, “This Blessed Land,” the drama takes off when Hannah gets engaged to Bennett (Alan Tolcher) and wants nothing more than her brother—the prodigal son who’s been gone for eight years and for whom her father (Luke Hursh) grieves daily—to come home for her wedding, maybe longer. Headstrong and driven by love, Hannah sets off to find her long-lost brother and along the way encounters all sorts of obstacles and meets a cadre of characters.

The riveting and fast-paced storyline, period costumes designed by Kim Berry, superbly crafted sets effectively integrated with video backdrops by Emily Aukes and David Andrews all helped sweep the audience into the drama. Numerous scene changes were executed flawlessly under the guidance of production stage manager Sandy Cabrera, and although none of the cast are professional actors or dancers, their timing, delivery of lines and mastery of movement director Amber Hood’s choreography was first-rate.

The outstanding pit orchestra added tremendously to the show, and the phenomenal high energy horn section elevated the production to the level of a Broadway show. The musical included the perfect mix of comedic relief, like “Man’s Man,” and deeper soul-searching numbers such as “Lament for Hunter” and “Where Love Leads.” Even the music portrayed the progression of Hannah’s journey from the country to the big city with numbers like the sweet “Story of Us” to the jazzy sounds of “On My Way” and “Get What’s Coming.” And people will long reminisce about the pivotal scene where Hannah finds her brother in a dilapidated shack and begs for him to open the door while he resists in the beautiful duet “Let me in.” The compelling scene alludes to Christ standing at the door of our hearts.

This was not lost on Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey who, after cast bows were taken, seized the opportunity to speak to those whose hearts may have been touched by the Holy Spirit during the performance. The many people who knelt at the altar gave further testament of the musical’s powerful portrayal of the truth that though we may feel ‘A Long Way Off’ from the love of God, it is never too late to find our way home.

A CD is available now and a digital video recording will be released this fall. Visit alongwayoffmusical.com

Welcome Home

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Africa, Lt. Colonel Donna Igleheart shared a stirring message about Christ’s radical love that compels us to invite the least, the lost and the lonely into our lives and corps. “For without Christ’s love, we minimize our ministry,” she explained. “We become just another charity.” She encouraged Salvationists to act, even in small ways, reminding them small things can be used by God to yield big results.

Her premise was supported by a video showing how a simple act of kindness to African refugees by soldier Abraham Leka has led not only to their restored dignity but has breathed new life into the Rockford Temple, Ill. Corps. On stage, the African Choir’s rendition of “No one like Jesus” brought delegates to their feet.

The Saturday morning session, “How Big is Your Table?” primarily focused on the Army’s role of reconciliation between people and with God. A series of videos explored how the Army is helping individuals and communities affected by the drug pandemic, racial tension and immigration policies.

“God still has much to do, and it’s a privilege to be part of reconciliation,” said Colonel Kelly Igleheart in his message. He challenged Salvationists to be agents of change, going to where others are comfortable in order to share the gospel. “The question isn’t really ‘How big is your table?’” he said, “but rather ‘Who do you allow at your table?’”

The meeting proved a perfect segue to an afternoon discussion, “Sacred Conversations on Race, Culture and Reconciliation,” attended by more than 60 delegates. Also on Saturday afternoon, as well as on Friday, delegates could visit the exhibit hall at the Wisconsin Center which featured a wide variety of vendors, Trade Central and Central Territory Historical Museum displays.
A permanent presence
by Samantha Hyde

The Huntington, Ind., Corps and official Indiana World War I Centennial Commission joined members of the Huntington community for a celebration of one of their most famous residents, Helen Purviance. She was one of the first Salvationists who was sent to the frontlines in France in 1917 to aid American soldiers and is best remembered as the iconic Salvation Army doughnut girl.

The commemoration brought together civic and community leaders, who helped reveal a new exhibit of Purviance’s bravery and compassion.

John Turner shared words of welcome and encouragement. Captains Caleb and Stephanie Senn, then Flint corps officers, recognized several long serving band members including David Bell and Larry Ward (each 50 years), Jim Smith (60 years) and Richard Holman (65 years). In addition, the Senns recognized Flint Citadel’s longest-serving soldier, Clem Cooke, who was enrolled in 1940.

That evening the CSB and Flint Citadel Band, led by Bandmaster Matthew Rowland, took to the stage at the Whiting Auditorium for an exciting concert which was emceed by William Himes and featured each band separately during the first half and then combined following the intermission. Highlights included the CSB’s offering of “The Dawning” and the Flint Citadel Band’s sharing of James Curnow’s “Psalm 100.” The concert concluded with a rousing rendition of “O Boundless Salvation.”

More than 225 people gathered at the corps on Sunday morning for a worship service that featured music by the CSB and Flint Citadel Songsters and included the enrollment of five junior soldiers. Colonel Jeff Smith, a native of Flint and a longtime soldier of the corps, brought an inspiring message of hope, reminding solders God still has much work for The Salvation Army to do in Flint.

“We hope the events will serve as a catalyst as the Army moves into the next 125 years of service to God in Flint,” concluded Captain Stephanie.

Marching on in Flint

The Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps celebrated 125 years of service with a series of events earlier this year featuring Colonels Jeffrey and Dorothy Smith, national chief secretary and secretary for women’s ministries, Bandmaster William Himes, Order of the Founder recipient, and the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) led by Bandmaster Harold Burgmayer.

The festivities began with a civic luncheon organized by the Flint Advisory Board. Community leaders, partners and friends gathered to hear about the Army’s work in Genesee County and be encouraged by Colonel Jeff Smith to continue the legacy. The Hands of Mercy award, given to an advisory board member who shows great care and compassion in service, was presented to Bev McKenna, who also has family members on two other advisory boards in the territory. The Jack Hamady award, given to a community leader who upholds the importance of community service, was presented to Phil Schaltz, co-founder of the Flint Diaper Bank.

At a corps fellowship dinner welcoming the CSB, Eastern Michigan Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel William Himes, Order of the Founder, presented to an advisory board member the CSB’s offering of “The Dawning” and the Flint Citadel Band’s sharing of James Curnow’s “Psalm 100.” The concert concluded with a rousing rendition of “O Boundless Salvation.”

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Celebrating The Salvation Army’s 75th year of offering effective residential addiction treatment programs in St. Louis, Mo., the Midtown Service and Treatment Center, historically known as the St. Louis Harbor Light Center, held a series of events during National Salvation Army Week.

After a kick-off presentation at the Midland Divisional Headquarters on the ministries offered by the center, Captain Adam Moore, then administrator and his wife, Captain Deanne Moore, then Midtown corps officer, hosted a reception at the center at which a city-wide proclamation was issued from the mayor’s office honoring the Army’s accomplishments in the substance-abuse recovery field.

Midland Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings said the needs and issues in Midtown have transformed greatly during the Army’s years of ministry in the neighborhood. “I’m very proud of how the center has responded to those changing needs with a strong sense of relevancy and mission...offering one of the most comprehensive approaches to addiction treatment and recovery,” he said.

Later in the week, staff, residents, families and friends of the center were treated to an ice-cream social at which the dedicated and excellent service by staff members was recognized. More than 40 people joined the captians in honoring the 23 Midtown staff, one of whom, Sam Taylor, has worked there for 30 years.

“Over the last 75 years at the center, 58 officers have provided redemptive services to thousands of men and women, partnering with them to create lasting change in their lives. I believe we’d all say we were grateful for the opportunity to be engaged in this part of the Army’s work,” concluded Captain Adam.
An Interview with the General-elect

Lt. Colonel Brian Venables: We have a very good outline of your history with The Salvation Army, but we want to know a little bit about you. What excites you? What gets you up in the morning? What makes your day?

Commissioner Brian Peddie: What gets me up in the morning? Sleep and rest are a necessity but engaging a new day comes easy. I wake with three thoughts... First, I hope the family is okay. Then I hope the Army is okay and finally I hope the world is okay— and all before you make the first step through a check-on social media. As an international leader I am keenly aware that while I am finishing my day, half the world is just beginning. The idea and thought that The Salvation Army is a 24/7 reality is quite intriguing. As never before, I am aware that the sun never sets on The Salvation Army flag.

What excites me is the ongoing reality that people are engaged with faith and the vibrant activity of the Army continues... the gospel is being preached, suffering humanity is being served, strategies are being planned, doors opening for children, a mobile clinic rolls into a needy community, or a meal is served. What gets me up in the morning is knowing that the Army has not been sleeping—it’s a living organism, and I engage with it as soon as I wake. I find that quite inspiring.

Do you hear lots of good stories?

My inspiration comes from the good stories that arrive reminding me that the world is small and very interactive. I am privileged, and daily I am aware of an Army that is using its spiritual footprint in the world to the fullest extent. I never cease to be amazed at what God is doing. There are also many days when I am concerned about, and praying for, some part of the Army world. It seems they are in conflict, or there is a natural disaster, or some of our people are at risk. We are serving in 126 countries and almost without exception, a news headline draws attention to the fact our people are there as well, sometimes serving in the midst of their own tragedy. That’s the volatility of the world that we live in. I think there is lots of room, not only to celebrate God’s faithfulness but also to pray through some of the challenges faced by people and the circumstances that surround them.

What relationships do you value the most?

I thank God every day for my growing relationship with him. I am simply aware of his presence and a journey that remains an adventure with the Almighty. I am presently understanding what it means to live in this world and still do so with an active consciousness of God’s presence. Family comes next. My wife, Rosalie, has been a central focus for 40 years, and for all of that time we have shared a ministry partnership that’s been incredibly rich. Of course, we are both preoccupied with the broader family and the interaction with two daughters, sons-in-laws and five grandchildren. Our day usually begins as they get home from school or are heading out to evening events. The best time of the day is when the screen comes alive and I have something to show you. We stayed connected even though we are not together often. I might admit and put out there as a caution to all that sometimes life moves so fast that personal needs get challenging. We are very conscious about making time for others.

That’s quite a commitment. Well, they’re all important!

How did you come to The Salvation Army?

That was an interesting time in the life of my family. I credit my mom and dad, who were not Salvationists, but were a bit uncomfortable with things that were happening in church. In obedience to God they started to go to the Army and sometimes I would go along. Early in that experience they found a really good place in the Army where they were welcomed and embraced. Before I knew it, we were attending. I was immediately taken by the music, by vibrant preaching... I would even now remember the animated and enthusiastic preaching and strangely I remember testimonies. I was used to a very quiet, formal liturgical experience. I admit I was attracted, pulled in and warmly welcomed and embraced by corps officers and people who displayed God’s love and genuine interest in us. A month ago I had the privilege of going to what I call, Trinity Bay South, in Canada to lead the 125th anniversary celebrations. All I can say is that God is faithful.

So, were there other opportunities to be engaged besides family worship. Were you involved in the music sections or corps cadets?

No, I’ve missed most of that by not showing up until I was 14-15 years of age. I had skipped some of those formative things that many of our Salvationists get to enjoy as kids growing up in the Army. Strangely that was never an issue. I soon became a soldier and without a lot of time in between was sensing a call to officiership and not to be dismissive. The rest is history as I now get to lead this incredible Army that gave me space and not a spiritual home as an uncertain teenager.

What about your children? They have been part of junior soldiers and corps cadets.

As an officer family we mostly remember two corps where our girls were nurtured and cared for by wonderful people who are still our friends today. They shared in all the programs which gave them the gift of meeting their leadership capacity and helped develop their faith experience. It was wonderful and rewarding. One of my concerns is how we help officers to be disciple of God in today’s world. I’m concerned, for instance, about those very good formative discipleship programs (junior soldiers and so forth) that my kids participated in, and I am not sure they are equally available now. You can be certain you will hear me say more in the future about our children and youth.

What will be your immediate focus as General-elect? What are your priorities?

With the help of those around me I am already in transition mode! Apparently there are things coming my way that I have to do on the day of August 3! It seems that already I’m engaged. It does help that I have worked closely with General Cox. I am already a part of every dialogue and initiative. Any handover seems to be a very positive relationship with General Cox.

The other huge question you ask—what will be my priorities as General? There are agenda items that have been a part of us for the past few years: the Accountability Movement, the federation, the public dialogue, the governance dialogue, with a focus on better systems and infrastructure. We will do our best to tackle all these while still having to focus on the responsibility of winning the world for Jesus and growing the Kingdom. General Cox has enabled the Army to implement many important initiatives, and I will continue to embed these things but I don’t think I have the time to do that. So, my sense of priority would be to redirect some of those resources that are no longer required to make sure we reinvest those energies in our unique mission focus, engagement with our officers and soldiers while articulating as clearly as possible God’s present call upon the Army. The Army must again live up to its call to be a mission-focused Army. What I mean by that is every soldier, every officer, all of us together accepting our responsibility to be a valued army in the world in which we live.

This means that the two significant aspects of our mission statement—preaching the gospel unashamedly and serving humanity—need to remain connected. I am anxious to share more, and in time, that which will come. I am deeply aware that I need to be the 21st General for the 21st century... by God’s grace and with the prayers and support of His people.

At this preliminary stage, what is your vision for the Army beyond August 2018?

We come to this role at an excellent time, where the Army is able to work out of a position of great strength. Moving forward, understanding although to strength is probably what I need to say. I sometimes roll around the phrase in my mind “forging a path into the future.” We are on the shoulders of many good people, and we honor them. They worked with the issues of their day to build a great and much respected Army but we have to grapple with the issues that are confronting the Army in our day. We cannot be unclear or ambiguous about things that are of concern to our people around the world, yet we must do that with diverse reality.

We need to remember that while we are an international Christian Movement we cross many cultural boundaries, and we need to understand and respect the cultural context. We live in a rapidly changing world and Salvationists need to be safe in their belief structure and faithful but not disconnected from the reality of our time and conflict, so as General, for the next five years, I intend to lead One Army, and keep that One Army in good stead, as we see all of this happening, we honor the Army and think about the partnerships and deal with the diversity that’s all around. That will be a particular challenge, and to do it in a way in which the Movement continues to impact the world in which we live.

As the General-elect of The Salvation Army what relationships both internal and external do you want to grow, enrich or build upon?

I will leverage on the diversity we have around the world. We have 59 territories and commands and three regions. I have not forgotten the Boundless Congress where, despite our many differences and the breadth of our diversity, our worship, our doctrine, our sense of mission brought us together as an Army family. Across this diverse spectrum we are linked and we celebrate. There are committed leaders who care for the Army daily and have been given responsibility to lead the Army in their part of the world. They are an extension of the General’s office and that relationship is very sacred. I want a responsibility to both honor and lead their leaders.

My primary concern will be to have a positive constructive relationship with all. I indicated to the High Council that if elected I would take on this role because I’m available to serve and, by God’s grace, I would do that with enthusiasm and strength in that room. I don’t directly lead the Army in Indonesia or Japan. Somebody else does
cannot make an impact in the world on our own. So, the question is with whom do we need to partner to do the best that the Army can do in different parts of the world today, that will not compromise who we are or mean we abdicate our mission responsibility.

Who has influenced you in preparing for this role?

The emphasis is not so much on “who” as “what” has prepared me, and that is the Salvation Army appointments I have had and the myriad people who have been a part of that journey. I look at my life as having been written in chapters. These chapters are appointments that have been ours. They’ve taken us from one responsibility to the next, and God has led and prepared us along the way. Each appointment has been: “Are you sure?” And we’ve moved on to that appointment and been stretched and challenged. In all of those appointments, people have been there. They’ve been part of teams, they’ve been part of corps and our staff. Without taking the risk of saying who and when, there has been a collection of people who helped shape us, who have encouraged us and who’ve gifted themselves to us. So, we’ve grown in our capacity and skills over the years—because it’s been 41 years of “school” that has yet to finish.

In all those appointments you found a sufficiency of grace and wisdom?

Absolutely. I think that’s a given; I don’t exist outside of what God does. I take refuge in God’s promise: “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” [Isaiah 41:10]. I step into the role of General with that in mind—do not be afraid, do not be dismayed. I will uphold you by my righteous right hand. Every Captain of the Staff people have asked me: “How do you sleep at night?” Well, I confess to anybody who’s prepared to listen that I rest in the shadow of the Almighty. God is sovereign, I do my part and do as I can best, I then have all of the resources of Heaven that will just hold every thing together, and I can go to bed and go to sleep.

Have you considered what strategies you could employ to stay connected to the Salvation Army family?

So far we have travelled to 30-plus countries in the world, has taken all and I already have a huge heart that wants to embrace the Army. We’ll do that in a manner in which we only know how—that’s relationally. It’s our sense that the Army actually is embracing us. I went through a lot of my years as a territorial commander or a divisional commander saying: “Lord, don’t let me leave obvious handprints on the Army that are Brian Peddle’s.” In the past years the Army has actually been leaving handprints on me. Our interaction with the Army, our people, their sacrificial service and their sense of mission has changed us. So we look forward to connecting with people around the world—as we spend time with them— we identify with who they are, what’s important to them and how they want to be a part of the Army.

So, embracing the Army with its diversity— nations, peoples, languages, cultures, worship—will be one of our greatest joys. I believe God celebrates it and obviously it will be with his hand day by day. I’ll find refuge in that as we move forward.

As General-elect, what is your view of the current state of affairs of the Salvation Army?

“What is affairs?” That could take a while! I look to the Army, and confess my knowledge of it is substantial, and I see it warts and all. We are perfect not do we have everything right, but you would have to be a very pessimistic person to not see what God is doing. Being the Chief of the Staff for the past three years, my sense is that the Army is well, and it has the ability to continue to discover and claim our place in the world. We have a number of unifying agenda items that we need to work on and though they will be difficult it will be for the good of the cause. We are strengthening a number of support mechanisms—finance and information technology platforms. These improved structures will enable us to do the things that come into view after that. Financially the Army is being well managed and we celebrate that while trying to figure out how we sustain the international Army in places where resources are not plentiful. That remains a challenge. I think the continuation of all of these will be critical.

The Army faces a bittersweet reality in the area of growth and advancement. We have to call for more soldiers, more candidates. In 10 years I want the Army to be a spiritually vibrant, resourced for mission, fit for purpose Army. I want Salvationists to believe that God is doing a new thing among us. I refuse to limit God or consider for even a moment that our best days are behind us. What I would like to see is every captain, every soldier, every officer engage in that Army. Winning souls, caring for suffering humanity and knowing that the Kingdom of God is growing.

Would you say that’s the emerging challenge— making sure everyone has a mission?

If there is no mission, we’ll get confused. If there is no mission, there is no calling. If there is no mission, why the gospel? If there’s no mission, there’s no Army. I think General Cox has been quoted as saying the world doesn’t need another army that’s confined to barracks. We need people who are willing to do business with neighbors, family members, acquaintances and strangers and talk to them about the love of Christ and that he can change their lives. Our sense of mission will sustain us even if other things become a little blunted.

How can The Salvation Army support the General?

To me that’s obvious: The prayers of God’s people will be the refuge that I will rely upon. Let’s be clear, the General needs prayer! Thus far in my life, the circles of prayer around us and would continue to do that. What I like about and is about at the moment is the fact that hundreds of thousands of Salvationists will find the small place in their prayer list to pray for their General. This is one General who will readily say I need those prayers. Additionally the wisdom of Solomon, the strategic approach of Joshua, the courage of Peter are all need- ed. Salvationists around the world can pray daily for the well-being of the General, the agenda that’s in front of him, and all that will be required— courageous leadership and so on—to make sure that we are not managing the Army but leading the Army.

You’ve been at the High Council. I’m sure there are some highlights of that you would like to share with the people.

The High Council is a very unique gathering with a singular purpose. We take all our commissioners and all our colonies who are territorial commanders or territorial presidents of women’s ministries, and we come together. In 2018 we certified that there were 108 people in attendance. It was amazing. I believe Salvationists can give thanks for a spiritual exercise that enables the election of a new General when needed.

It’s a gruelling process that has its own life for the time that we are together. We’re only called together for the sole purpose of electing a new General, and as soon as that’s been accomplished we disband, we dissolve. What’s unique about that over the days is that there is everything from heavy debate, not always in agreement on every point, but heavy debate respectfully carried out, to moments when you know that God is speaking. The holy hush, if you like, comes and you can recognize those times, and if I had the liberty I would tell you about those very significant moments. The intricacies of being nominated, being declared a candidate and then having to respond to the High Council and the many questions they prepare is quite an experience.

It’s probably one of the hardest things I have had to do in a while, yet there is immense privilege in doing it with an incredible measure of personal conviction. I could have said many things but it was important, in that moment, to speak from the heart. I had to say what my personal convictions were. What is absolutely critical in that process is that every appointment an officer receives in a lifetime will normally come from somebody who is in authority over them. That’s how the appointment system works. The office of the General doesn’t work that way. You’re actually elected by your peers. I have no difficulty with being appointed to the position of the General, but it took 108 people to make that happen and this comes with God’s blessing and anointing.

One of the prayers we had during the High Council—and it came out often—was, help us to identify whom God has already decided, who he has already anointed, and I accepted identification in that way. I accept that anointing and it’s only on that basis then that I can come out of a High Council and be presented as the General-elect. A fascinating process, quite intriguing, deeply spiritual, but tremendously meaningful for the Army for the next five years. And now I’m a part of that. That’s awesome.
Lieutenant Rachel Aren
Corps Officer
Lafayette, Ind.
*married Lt. Aaron Johnson on June 12

Lieutenant Jennifer Davidson
Corps Officer
Lansing South, Mich.

Lieutenants Brian & Amanda Hoscheit
Corps Officers
Kirkville, Mo.

Lieutenant Aaron Johnson
Corps Officer
Lafayette, Ind.

Lieutenant Kenneth Jones
Corps Officer
Omaha North Side, Neb.

Lieutenants Derek & Heather Jung
Corps Officers
St. Louis Maplewood, Mo.

Lieutenants Robert & Kristen Key
Assistant Corps Officers
Wichita Citadel, Kan.

Lieutenant Jennifer Davidson
Corps Officer
Lansing South, Mich.

Lieutenants Derek & Heather Jung
Corps Officers
St. Louis Maplewood, Mo.

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St. Louis Maplewood, Mo.

Lieutenants Robert & Kristen Key
Assistant Corps Officers
Wichita Citadel, Kan.

Pray for the new lieutenants as they take up their first appointments and share the message of the gospel.
Messengers of the Gospel

Not just their name but who they are

It’s not just a session name: it’s a purpose, and this session is consumed with sharing the gospel. It’s who they are,” declared Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey in his Sunday-morning message during the commissioning and ordination service for the “Messengers of the Gospel” session.

The meeting, “Gathering at the Table,” was a worshipful experience reflecting the sacredness of the moment with an undercurrent of joy as 22 cadets were ordained as ministers of the gospel and commissioned as officers while A/Captains Ketsia Diaz and Peggy North received the rank of full captain.

“Jesus set the table for His followers in preparation for His leaving,” the territorial commander continued. They were told to wait until they received the promised power and guidance of the Holy Spirit to enable them to spread His gospel throughout the world [Acts 1:4-8]. He compared it to sessions of cadets attending the training college as a group of strangers starting out together with the promise they, too, will be equipped and empowered through the Holy Spirit to spread the gospel.

Together Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey ordained and commissioned the individual Messengers of the Gospel and shared the scripture passage selected for each by their officer spiritual mentors at the college. Cabinet members then gathered around the session to dedicate them in prayer. Captain Kristina Sjogren, Norridge Citadel, Ill., corps officer, read a blessing for the new lieutenants on behalf of officers, as did Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps Sergeant-Major Ken Tregellas on behalf of soldiers. The congregation then read a blessing of its support, followed by a promise of mutual support intoned by everyone.

Near the end of the meeting, the new lieutenants and second-year “Messengers of Compassion” dispersed into the aisles to pray with people. Noting the many, now-empty chairs on the stage, Commissioner Brad Bailey invited those answering the call of God on their lives to become officers to occupy the chairs.

More than 70 people mounted the stage, necessitating others to vacate their seats to accommodate the throng. In a light-hearted way, the territorial commander asked all assistant candidates’ secretaries in the theater to stand—which had all officers on their feet—available to speak with anyone in the audience interested in officership.

The table motif for the weekend culminated in the Sunday afternoon service of appointments, “The Table Is Set.” Special recognition was made of the 75th reunion of the “Valiant” session represented by surviving members Commissioner William H. Roberts and Brigadier Frank Hovelman, who received a standing ovation.

Valedictorian and session speaker Lt. Jenny Moffitt shared a spirited reflection on her session’s experiences at the training college and presented the gospel message.

In her charge to the new lieutenants, Commissioner Heidi Bailey challenged them to build a larger table in every future appointment, and to always have an extra chair on hand. Emphasizing she was speaking both metaphorically and literally, Commissioner Heidi suggested building a big table might be a good corps project for cementing new relationships.

“You new table, wherever you end up using it at your corps, will be a redeeming place, a space for God, whenever you put it out,” she added.

Commissioners Brad and Heidi then shared the privilege of issuing the first appointments to the new lieutenants. Having fun “oohing and ahhing” over children and making teasing comments about the locations of the first appointments, the Baileys first read the personal life verses selected by the lieutenants before sending them on to their new corps homes.
Every officer an assistant candidates’ secretary?

When ‘moves’ came out this spring, the additional appointment (AA) of Assistant Candidates’ Secretary was listed for every officer individually unless they currently had the title of Candidates’ Secretary or Associate Candidates’ Secretary. This AA was accompanied later by a set of Marching Orders and a ‘Brief of Appointment.’

If you scratched your head or did a double take, you weren’t alone. To soldiers it might have seemed confusing, while to officers it might have seemed redundant since it’s already part of their Orders and Regulations. So, what’s this all about?

Simply put, it represents a renewed prioritization on officership in the Central Territory. And given the numbers, it shouldn’t be surprising. In 2017 the Central Territory had 131 less active officers than just 10 years ago. This gravely affects the Army’s mission in the Midwest.

‘Basically, we are counting on each officer to be an active recruiter of candidates for officership, understanding not only the dire need for officers in our territory but the fact that we don’t believe the Lord is calling less people to fulltime service, though it may be that some who are called aren’t being positively directed toward officership,’ said Commissioner Brad Bailey, Central territorial commander.

He continued, ‘Each of us [officers] has the awesome task of developing the next generation of officers and challenging others to consider serving Christ through officership. All officers are expected to model officership in such a way that those contemplating this possibility are drawn in instead of pushed away from officership.’

According to Major Tricia Taube, territorial candidates’ secretary, corps officers often undervalue themselves, not recognizing they are not only the frontlines of social services and evangelistic efforts but on the frontlines of showing people God calls them to this unique ministry. They are not only modeling Christlikeness but also officership.

‘If we have a problem with morale, it’s because we have let the challenges and struggles overshadow the joy of officership,’ she said.

She echoed the territorial commander’s sentiments about taking ownership of the Army and its future. The major said no candidate has ever told her they didn’t feel called to fulltime ministry, but they have said they did not recognize officership as the path they might follow or didn’t know the steps to take to pursue and prepare for officership.

The major believes the biggest variable affecting officership recruitment is the need for discipleship. She says that intentional discipleship is key to seeing growth, increasing tithing and developing lay leadership in corps, but it’s also vital to helping people come to the place of responding to God’s call to serve Him by being an officer.

‘Discipled people respond. They respond to the call of God—whatever that is—and often it is to officership,’ she concluded.
Miracle in Moldova

by Commissioner Heidi Bailey

Prayers gave way to dreams and then reality as my husband, Commissioner Brad Bailey, and I dedicated the new Edinet Corps building in Moldova, which was part of the 20 New Corps initiative sponsored by the Central Territory.

Accompanied by Lt. Colonel Kelvin Pethybridge, Eastern Europe chief secretary, Major Don Gilger, Moldova divisional commander and other divisional headquarters staff, we joined Salvationists and community friends to celebrate and give thanks for a blessing that began with people in the United States and culminated 5,000 miles away in Edinet!

Corps, which was partnered with our Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command in the 20 New Corps initiative, will have a new chapel with seating for 75 people.

Commissioner Brad thanked Edinet Corps Officers Captains Sergei and Galina Nica for their vision and compassionate leadership and reminded the congregation that Salvation Army property and buildings are not only for them but for all people, just as Jesus is for everyone.

With the cutting of a simple ribbon, joy broke forth, children sang, neighbors hugged and the Edinet dream came one step closer to reality.

Thank you, Central Territory! Well done.

We immediately noticed the new corps building was neither extremely large nor complete. But this was overshadowed by the people’s strength and joy which were not dependent on those factors. Their faith had survived a year of rigorous governmental approvals and stamps for the purchase and construction of the building. Their patience had endured a long, hard Moldovan winter which delayed construction. Their joy had surpassed the capacity seating in the small house where they have been meeting for months.

The growing and vibrant Edinet Corps building in Moldova, which was part of the 20 New Corps initiative sponsored by the Central Territory. The September territorial prayer calendar is reflected in the weekly prayer guides sent to your corps. See your officer for a copy.

Go to www.salarmycentral.org.

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

We will notice it says PRISON MINISTRY... NOT PRISON ESCAPE MINISTRY...
God’s amazing grace

A comforting presence

On May 25, 2018, a Noblesville, Ind., middle school was the site of a shooting; thankfully no one died. Uninjured students, teachers and staff were evacuated to a nearby high school where a Salvation Army emergency disaster services (EDS) response team distributed refreshments to anxious parents and spouses waiting for word on their loved ones.

‘I’ll never forget the looks of dread on parents’ and spouses’ faces as they waited for word on their children, wives or husbands,” said Major Katrina Mathews, Indianapolis, Ind., Harbor Light corps officer, who was deployed as one of the emotional and spiritual care (ESC) providers. It was her first experience onsite with disaster services.

The team’s primary task in this heightened atmosphere was to listen to people as their emotional flood gates opened and assure them of their prayers. “I felt this ministry required constant dependence on the Holy Spirit,” said the major.

“Though we didn’t have the chance to pray with anyone because of the frequent announcements, we had wonderful opportunities to come alongside and comfort them, and we received many thanks from parents for just being there.”

Promoted to Glory

Major Kenneth Muck

Major Kenneth Muck, 80, was promoted to Glory on April 8, 2018, surrounded by family. He was born to Harry and Marguerite Muck on June 16, 1937.

He was saved as a child at the Lancaster, Ohio, Corps, where he later became a seller, bandmaster and Sunday school teacher. Throughout his life, Kenneth was known as a prayer warrior and passionate seeker of knowledge.

Kenneth married Doris Merrick on January 16, 1955. They attended training in the Eastern Territory and were commissioned in 1964 with the “Heroes of the Faith” session. They served 20 years in the Eastern and Western territories, each of them pursuing higher education along the way. Kenneth earned a bachelor’s in social work and a master’s in education and counseling.

In 1984, they were appointed as corps officers of the Canton, Ill., Corps in the Central Territory. Appointments followed at the Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps and Topeka, Kan., Corps. The Mucks retired in 1991.

Kenneth is survived by his beloved wife; children Randolph, Sherrie Hammond and Tamatha Jenkins; grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Major David Hudgens

Major David Hudgens was promoted to Glory on April 23, 2018. He was born on May 27, 1951, in Newport, Mich., to William and Helen Hudgens.

David married Peggy Smith on April 22, 1972, and together they operated two family restaurants in the Detroit, Mich., area. On July 3, 1979, David’s life was changed when he accepted Jesus Christ. He made it his goal to share the Gospel with anyone who would listen. He and Peggy sold their restaurants and belongings in order to move to Fort Worth, Texas, where David attended Jerry Savelle’s Bible Institute.

They returned to Detroit, where David worked as a cook for the Romulus, Mich., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC). In 1983, David and Peggy became evangelists. After Peggy’s promotion to Glory, David continued to share the love of Christ in ARCs, becoming an auxiliary captain. He retired in 2013.

He is survived by four siblings: George (Judy), Bill, Elaine (Klaus) Cherksi, and Patricia Hudgens-Felthaus; five children, Christmas (Josh), Brooke (Michael) Chabert, David Paul (Nicole), Michael (Erin), and Victoria (Alex) Lawson; and six grandchildren.