



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)



Lts. Ely and Ramon Cebrian

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An exceptional session commissioned for an extraordinary time

The first virtual commissioning and ordination of officers in the Central Territory not only marked the extraordinary time in which we are living but revealed an exceptional session of focused, resilient and committed new officers who are eager to join others in ministry.



The Debela family is thrilled to be appointed to Decatur, Ill.

out the day's events.

In a video address, General Brian Peddle acknowledged the new officers are being released for ministry into a broken world, not only because of COVID-19 but other issues that plague communities like poverty, abuse, addiction and human trafficking.

"It is into these realities that you step with the glorious message of the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of hope for now and eternity," said the General.

The cadets' affirmation of faith led by Chief Secretary Colonel Steve Howard also was presented by video.

From their seats appropriately distanced throughout the auditorium, cadets came to the platform, looking sharp in their uniforms and wearing masks, to be ordained as ministers and commissioned as Salvation Army officers by territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey, who recognized their calling, giftedness and God's empowerment for service and spoke in Spanish when it was the cadets' first language.



The Benedicts let loose.

Following a beautiful rendition of "I know a fount" by the new Territorial Staff Songsters via video, the territorial commander brought a powerful message that challenged the new lieutenants regardless of circumstances to consistently reflect the countercultural Christ whose love is radical, just, inclusive and

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Lts. Joshua and Darby Bowyer celebrate.

The Messengers of the Kingdom are passionate, pastoral and prepared, according to Major Brian Davis, College for Officer Training (CFOT) principal. He said that hailing not only from America's Midwest but also Argentina, Cuba, Ethiopia, Puerto Rico and Venezuela gives them a global, inclusive vision, a true reflection of God's Kingdom—a theme carried through-

Salvation Army holds prayer vigil and walks against racism in Minneapolis

by Craig Dirkes

Members of the community joined more than 100 officers, soldiers and staff at the Minneapolis Tem-

ple, Minn., Corps on June 2, 2020, for a food distribution and prayer meeting, followed by a nearly two-mile walk to decry racism.

Emotions ran high during the walk which ended in front of Cup Foods, the site of George Floyd's tragic death on May 25 which caused hurt and sorrow, sparked outrage and incited demonstrations in cities across America and throughout the world.

"When I heard that man call for his mother, I heard my own sons," said a tearful Lt. Colonel Patty Richardson, who at that time led the Northern Division with her husband, Lt. Colonel Lonneal Richardson. "Mr. Floyd's death was inhu-

mane. It was senseless, and it goes against everything The Salvation Army stands for. But in all of that hurt, we are a people of prayer and we believe there is a God who can heal."

Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey and other members of the Territorial Executive Council came to support the event calling for justice and equality.

"Racism is fundamentally incompatible with the Christian conviction that all people are made in the image of God," the territorial commander told the crowd. "The Salvation Army believes that the world is enriched by our diversity of cul-



Major Paula Pyle and Envoy Tonya Carlson conclude the walk at a grassroots memorial established in front of Cup Foods.

tures and ethnicities and considers each life a gift from God to be cherished, to be nurtured, to be redeemed."

The walk was led by Major Paula Pyle and Envoy Tonya Carlson carrying a Salvation Army flag adorned with two large white ribbons displaying Floyd's name. Among signs calling for justice and kindness, several people also held

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More than 100 officers, soldiers, staff and community members walk against racism in Minneapolis, Minn. Pictured Major Robert Doliber.

Photos by Andrew Grey

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Firsts

by Colonel Janice Howard
Territorial Secretary for Leader Development

Think back to some of your firsts: your first car, your first kiss, your first filling, your first prayer in public, etc. I remember preaching my first sermon at my home corps in Hamilton, Ohio. The topic was friendship. Like a well-written English composition, it included an introduction, three points (casual friendships, deep friendships and Jesus' friendship) and a conclusion. I remember it vividly because it was my first sermon. Then there was my first sermon during officer training. As I began to preach, my upper lip stuck to my teeth; my mouth dried out. I desperately needed water but had none. When I'd finished preaching,

my brigade officer suggested I use Chapstick on my upper front teeth so my lips could glide. Now, that was a first for me.

During these past several months, there have been many *firsts*—producing or watching our corps' first virtual worship service; attending our first virtual business meeting, prayer meeting and Bible study; watching big events like weddings or graduations via Zoom; organizing and distributing large amounts of community meals—and I mean large; creating space in our homes to host school for our children and office space for others; and what about living with our family members 24/7 for weeks?! I know you could add



more to the list.

This issue of Central Connection informs us of some firsts for the Central Territory. We have been and continue to be creative because God is creative, and we are formed in His image. This edition will shine a light on some of our creative *firsts*.

Think about the first-generation church. They were home churches. They grew with struggles and joys, became effective for the Kingdom and multiplied quickly. Paul visited and sent letters to several of these churches. He dealt with their problems from afar, commending and

correcting them. They longed to see Paul face-to-face. They took up collections to help take care of him and his ministry, and they prayed for him. They became communities within communities. Paul desired to stay in contact with them and help them grow, so he visited, wrote letters and sent co-laborers. I wonder what Paul would be doing today.

Moving forward, we will find both permanent and temporary changes taking place in our corps. The question is: What *firsts* do we need to create and experience in order to build a God-honoring, disciple-making, community-connecting church? Pray, think, discuss and act. Is it possible that we need more *firsts* in order to reach "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"? (Matthew 6:10, NIV)

Show us the way, Lord. Amen.

Commissioning

Continued from page 1

transformative. He advocated nothing matters more to God than people hearing, seeing and accepting this message.

A virtual offering with proceeds supporting COVID-19 relief was set to a montage of service during the pandemic accompanied by a recorded performance of Andrew Wainwright's tone poem *Fearless* by the Chicago Staff Band.

The intermission featured light-hearted scenes of CFOT life, including a congratulatory parade, recognition of long service and degrees and certificates earned by officers, silver star tributes, greetings from Centralites Commissioners Merle and Dawn Heatwole and Colonel Evie Diaz at International

Headquarters and a variety of resource ads. A parade of session flags across the campus by COFT staff and cadets then heralded a highly unique service of appointments.

Salutatorian Lt. Matthew Winters proclaimed, "It is precisely the diversity that we have that will allow us to reach so many different communities and individuals. God has brought our session together for such a time as this... We are about to come alongside communities, corps and soldiers who are already fighting, who are already sharing the love of God, who are already messengers of the Kingdom."

Other session members who received recogni-

tion included Valedictorian Lt. Michael Raes (Commissioner Samuel Logan Brengle Preaching Award), Lt. Robert Leach (Colonel Albert Pepper Servant Leadership Award), Lt. Ramon Cebrian (Commissioner Andrew S. Miller Evangelism Award) and Lt. Haylee Winters (Lt. Colonel Kathleen Zehm World Mission Award).

Commissioner Heidi Bailey, territorial leader for leader development, commended the new lieutenants' response to the global health crisis and current events, saying it showed their character and understanding that mission is greater than buildings, gifts and methods. She encouraged them to live and serve confidently and expectantly.

Alone, as couples or families with children in tow, the lieutenants stepped to the stage to receive their appointments which were cleverly revealed by the Baileys with the use of Google Earth to cheers from their home divisions via Skype and Zoom.

They take their place throughout the territory as corps officers from Fremont, Neb., to Elkhart, Ind., except for Lt. Raes who was appointed Western Michigan and Northern Indiana divisional mission integration officer. Also



The Winters family headed to Traverse City, Mich.



Commissioner Brad Bailey



Lt. Sheri Harned



Lts. Gunther and Yami Briceno and son Obed

noteworthy were the appointments of Lts. Kenesa and Shanell Debela who were commissioned after only one year of training, two auxiliary captains who received their full rank of captain, and the appointments of Lts. Gonzalo Juarez and Yaqueline Galindos from the South America East Territory, who spent their second year of training in Chicago, by their own territorial leaders via Skype.

Despite the circumstances and alteration to the events, a sense of peace and joy permeated the day with a focus clearly on the Messengers' calling as captured by Lt. Jennifer Norris who concluded, "What is essential is that I am still being ordained as a minister, commissioned as an officer of The Salvation Army and being sent out to preach the gospel and serve humanity in Jesus' name."



Commissioner Heidi Bailey



The Baileys in a congratulatory parade



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Central Territory embarks on journey of corps revitalization

But forget all that—it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.—Isaiah 43:18-19, NLT

Last June, Major Cassandra DeJesús received a new appointment as corps and community mission secretary with a focus in corps revitalization. With that, she was given the responsibility of creating a corps revitalization model for the territory.

This last year was productive as research was undertaken and strategies were created, which she says are vital since what has worked in the past to stimulate corps growth may not currently work due to factors like changing neighborhoods and cultural norms.

"Rather than trying to revive the past, real renewal comes from rediscovering their mission, reengaging their mission field, and refocusing their resources to support the mission," writes William T. Chaney, Jr. in an article titled, "There Is No Such Thing as Church Revitaliza-

tion" for the Lewis Center for Church Leadership (churchleadership.com).

We need to change our method of how we share, live out the gospel and connect with those in our communities, the major advocates.

"We are not changing the message God



revitalization

has called us each to share," she said, "but we do need to look for new ways to reengage the mission field in 2020 and beyond."

There are already corps in our territory using new strategies in order to see "More people, more like Jesus" in their communities. Approaches such as Dinner Church and Messy Church are occurring more frequently as corps officers and lay leaders look for ways to engage and minister to individuals and families in their communities.

The Corps Revitalization Model that is being created will show a corps how to rediscover its mission through Bible studies, neighborhood prayer walks and feedback from the community as it moves from maintenance to missional.

Corps revitalization will look different in every corps because each community is different. The objective is to find what works in the community,

take calculated risks that are bathed in prayer and fulfill the mission for which God has equipped us.

There also will be opportunities for corps officers and lay leaders to create their own Ministry Action Plan as they move forward to reengage with their communities. Coaching will be available for corps officers and their

leaders as they work through this process.

"God desires to do something new in our territory," said Major Cassie. "And I believe it is already happening. The question is, do we want to be a part of it?"



Unbreakable through His Love

by Major Nancy Mead

The territory's first-ever Virtual Hispanic Women's Retreat, "Inquebrantables A Traves De Su Amor (Unbreakable through His Love)," took place this May with more than 1,650 women participating.

The event was led by Major Melissa Viquez, Minneapolis Temple, Minn., corps officer, who felt the Lord speak to her heart about reaching out to Hispanic women during the pandemic. She began by calling on her local support team to pray for her vision and then reached out to other Hispanic officers across the U.S. territories and Latin America to assist in the virtual retreat.

Filled with classes intended to refresh mind, body and spirit, the retreat included inspiring music, devotionals, Bible journaling, Zumba, dance, timbrels, coloring, prayer, health and beauty care, testimonies, cooking, calligraphy and more to enrich women's daily life. Participants were able to select, watch and learn at their own pace and on their own schedule.

God used this new means of outreach and ministry to reach women for His glory. Many shared prayer requests, including one who asked for prayer for a man she knew who had COVID-19, was in a coma and did not have a good prognosis. The women from the retreat began

praying, and the next evening he awoke! It was a powerful lesson in how women can support each other even if they can't be together in person.

Commissioner Heidi Bailey, territorial leader for leader development, concluded the retreat with an inspiring message about God's unbreakable love based in Psalm 117:2 (NIV): "For great is his Love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever." She challenged the women to take what they have learned during the pandemic and look for ways to use it for the Lord.



Game on!



by Eric Himes

The Central Territorial Youth Department has launched a gaming ministry for members and friends of The Salvation Army. Playing into the phenomenon of Esports, CYN (Central Youth Network) Esports utilizes the popular gaming communication platform Discord to create a place for friendship, community and discipleship.

While this community of Christian gamers has grown, it also welcomes those who don't believe in God or know about Jesus to interact with Salvationists and hopefully find faith. It features weekly video devotions and an active prayer request community chat.

Gamers can livestream videos of themselves playing games on Twitch, YouTube Gaming and Facebook Gaming. In fact, the youth department launched its first stream of CYN Esports members on Twitch and hosted its first event called Fortnite Friday where the game is designed by youth and a short devotional is shared.

CYN Esports has been an exciting new ministry undertaken while stay-at-home orders and social distancing have been in place. We are grateful that during a scary and stressful time we've been able to provide a positive place for people to gather virtually, have fun, support each other and hear the gospel. As a result, we've seen genuine friendships and community grow.

Getting to know Lt. Colonels Jonathan and Barbara Rich

From their favorite appointment to their leadership style to their bucket list, here's the scoop on our new territorial program secretaries.

Could you briefly introduce yourselves and in a nutshell what you're all about?

Barb: We're fifth generation Salvationists. Jon was born in New York City, and I in Chicago. We love big cities, especially those on the water.

The Central Territory's rock group "Crossfire" and Eastern Territory's Star Lake Camp staff provided two summers for us to fall in love. After nearly 38 years of marriage and ministry, we can say life is interesting when opposites attract; we cover all eight letters of the Myers' Briggs Inventory.

Jon's passion is Christian leadership and strategic change management. Mine is developing a team to conquer a task. I'm more of a risk-taker than I ever believed possible.

Our parenting journey required long waits and God's intervention. Along the way, God blessed us with a boy

and a girl—seven and a half years apart—and a deeper walk with Him. It's quite an adventure to follow the course God has set for your life.

What is the most rewarding aspect of officership for you?

Jon: I'm passionate about urban ministry and serving those who are marginalized. Gospel-centered service to suffering humanity is at the center of my calling.

Barb: Representing Christ to a large and diverse segment of society and being trusted by them, from individuals experiencing homelessness to those whose homes are on the historic register. People need the Lord, and officers often have greater access to a myriad of people because of our organization and uniforms whether at a disaster, a fundraiser or a feeding program.

Has any particular appointment resonated with you more than the others? Why?

Jon: We loved being area commanders in Memphis and North Texas because we had an opportunity to lead "one Army on many fronts," impacting an entire metropolitan area.

Barb: I loved being a territorial candidates' secretary and having deep, one-on-one conversations that allowed me to get to know people and help them discover what God was calling them to. First and foremost, to be solid, Christ-followers and then to figure out why God wired them as He had.

We've just commissioned the Messengers of the Kingdom; if you could go back in time what advice would you give yourselves as new lieutenants?

Jon: Seek the welfare/shalom of the city (Jeremiah 29:7). The Salvation Army was birthed in the largest city on earth at the time. The urban centers of our country are where we are most relevant. Embrace John Wesley's dictum: "The world is my parish." An officer is a community leader in ways pastors of churches typically will never be. Lean into your unique role in the community and embrace your citywide parish.



The Richs' son, Drew, with his wife Chelsea, newborn daughter Cooper and daughter Sloan

Barb: Remember, it's God's work, so try not to get in His way. Humble yourself. Become involved in regular Bible study with accountability; it will refresh your soul and give you sustenance for the long haul. Be brave and authentic enough to share what God is doing in your life. You'll be amazed at the God-ordained conversations that arise.

How would describe your philosophy of leadership?

Jon: I love having smarter people than myself on my team. I'm very collaborative and want to make decisions that are reached collaboratively and informed by data. I desperately need a pipeline of reality from field officers. Max Dupree said the first job of a leader is to define reality. I can't do that from Territorial Headquarters without input from the frontlines.



Barb: I believe leadership done well involves developing a great team where trust and truth-telling are expected and celebrated.

Most recently you've been leading one of the largest commands in the nation—which should be no surprise, it's in Texas—what were the challenges and blessings?

Jon: Incredible blessings. The best advisory board in the Army world. Incredible corporate partnerships with the Dallas Cowboys, BNSF Railways, AT&T, Atmos Energy and others. The founding chapter of Echelon, the best women's auxiliary in the nation, great corps officers leading 14 corps and, what I am most proud of, the best professional staff leadership team, bar none. The biggest challenge was living up to the high expectations we were rightly held to.

Barb, we find it interesting that you have worked both in fundraising and in elementary education. What appealed to you about each and do they have anything in common?

Barb: Fundraising and education are both deeply relational at their core. When done well they require a high EQ (Emotional Quotient) to bring donors and students to the point of wanting to know and appreciate what you know.

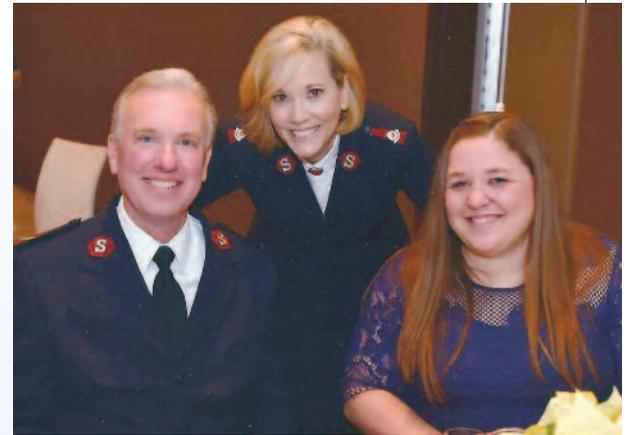
When I take a donor on a tour of a social service program and tell them of the transformational change in people's lives, I often choke up. It never gets old. As a teacher, I loved nothing greater than read-aloud times when I had a front row seat to students growing in their skills of observation as a plot or characters developed. I loved helping them develop stronger character and imagination; the best development people do the same for donors.

And, Jon, how has your degree in business, internship on Wall Street and work with Price Waterhouse served your ministry?

Jon: I have two incredible experiences I bring to my second calling to Salvation Army officership. My business background and 13 years as an executive pastor for a church that went from meeting in a school to five campuses today. My business background is relevant no matter where I serve. There is always a budget and the need to be "Doing the Most Good" with every dollar. When I look at a financial statement, it tells me a story and gives me data I need to make good decisions. The experience we had in the "church world" allows us to have an outsider's eyes with an insider's perspective.

What are you looking forward to most to about being back in the Central Territory?

Both: Reuniting with old friends. Digging into ministry alongside com-



Lt. Colonels Jonathan and Barbara Rich with their daughter Allie

mitted and passionate Christ-followers whom we've called friends for years. Being on a leadership team with friends who know us and trust us—a huge blessing. Making new friends and growing deep roots with them.

Would you share with us about your family?

Barb: Drew lives in Kansas City, is married to Chelsea and is father to Sloan Charlotte (almost 2) and Cooper Leigh (2 months). Our daughter, Allie, will be leaving Michigan to join us. She hopes to return to work training therapy and service dogs, but you can also find her in any pasture that has a horse. She's fearless and, if given the opportunity, would ride bare-back.

My mom also will be relocating to the northwest suburbs. She hasn't lived in the area since she and my dad retired in 1987 as Metropolitan divisional leaders but is pleased to be coming home.

Are you happy to make the switch from brisket to deep dish pizza?

Barb: Absolutely! We've moved from Kansas City to Memphis to Texas. Our next home really should have been in the Carolinas to finish the BBQ circuit. Oh well, I love deep dish pizza more.

What word of encouragement would you give to soldiers and officers in the Central Territory who've been affected by and are ministering to others during the pandemic?

Jon: We will get through this. God is bigger than the crisis, and He has delivered His people through worse times than this. If we trust in Him and surrender to Him, we will be stronger on the other side. In Isaiah 41:10 God tells His people: "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."

Staying in place for so long, we've all been dreaming of our bucket lists. What's on yours?

Jon: Riding our bikes along Lake Michigan. The last time was over 30 years ago!

Barb: Returning to Paris, fitting in our Footsteps of Paul Biblical Education Tour that was cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey, hiking in the Canadian Rockies and along the Rio Grande in Big Bend, Texas. I'd say learning to speak Spanish and French but that's ridiculous if you've ever heard me attempt even a basic accent! My bucket list includes finishing well.

Western Plains Camp replaces Gene Eppley

Western Division purchases new camp in the wake of devastating 2019 flood

by Michelle DeRusha

In the year since unprecedented flooding destroyed the Western Division's iconic Gene Eppley Camp—which would have celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2019—Majors Greg and Lee Ann Thompson, Western divisional leaders, have worked tirelessly to find a new camp location.

Their determination paid off this past winter when the division purchased Camp Goodwill in South Sioux City, Neb. Renamed Western Plains Camp, it will serve youth and adults from Nebraska, South Dakota and western Iowa.

"From the moment we first stepped foot on the grounds, this place felt like home," said Major Lee Ann. "We couldn't ask for more. It is a gorgeous piece of land, and we are thrilled and honored to continue Camp Goodwill's legacy of providing camping opportunities to children, teens and adults."

Operated by Goodwill of the



Great Plains for the past 88 years, the camp sits on 112 wooded acres and features a dining hall and professional-grade kitchen; a state-of-the-art community building; nine bunkhouses; lake access for swimming, canoeing and fishing; a zero-entry pool; picnic shelters; an amphitheater and many other amenities. Goodwill of the Great Plains President and CEO John Hantla handed the keys over to the Thompsons at a ceremony in January at the camp.

"We are excited to see the future of this camp unfold under The Salvation Army's ownership and leadership," he said. "One of our main goals was to ensure that the camp's new owner would honor the spirit and direction

that the camp had always taken in serving the community, and we are thrilled to know it's going to be in good hands."

"Camping ministry is a big part of The Salvation Army," said Major Lee Ann. "To have a place where people can come and feel comfortable in this kind of beautiful setting is very important to us. This type of setting makes many feel God's presence in an even stronger way than other settings."

Summer camps were originally scheduled to open in June but have been cancelled this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The silver lining is that the delayed opening will allow the Western Division to make improvements to the camp, including updating the cabins with new bathrooms and adding a recreation hall, a chapel and a boathouse on the grounds.

"I'm disappointed we can't open the camp this summer, but I'm excited



about the updates, which will make the camp better than ever," said Major Lee Ann. "I can already see kids swimming and fishing off the dock. We have kids who don't know the freedom of running around outdoors without fear. They don't know what a big wooded area looks like or what real fresh air smells like. I can't wait for them to experience this."



Camp transformed for new service

by Doug Donahoo

Church groups canceled reservations. Summer camp was called off. Suddenly, The Salvation Army in Kansas City, Mo., found itself with a lot of space available at Three Trails Camp at a time when it was desperately needed.

Though most people in the city had a home in which to quarantine, there was a question of what to do for homeless individuals who contracted the coronavirus.

"While the community was quick to identify a location for quarantining individuals waiting on test results, there was a lack of a location of where to house those folks if they did test positive," said Joyce Schau, Kansas and Western Missouri divisional social services director.

The Salvation Army offered the use of Booth Lodge at Three Trails Camp, and in partnership with the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness, the Jackson County COVID-19 Isolation Center was born.

"Our divisional leaders realized that we have such a valuable space, and that they wanted to make that available for community needs," said Carrie Dixon, camp marketing and guest relations director.

While The Salva-

tion Army provided the space, the Homeless Coalition facilitated the infrastructure, hiring and supervising staff. Jackson County, where the camp is located, has been working with them. The coalition made the 40 beds available to any patient in need of a place to recuperate, no matter where they live in the Kansas City metro and surrounding area.

Each room presents a home-like atmosphere, complete with clean sheets, towels, storage and soft lighting. Camp staff cook meals in the dining hall kitchen for delivery to Booth Lodge, where Isolation Center staff make final deliveries to rooms.

The Isolation Center officially opened for occupancy on May 14, a testament to The Salvation Army joining forces with multiple local agencies to provide a desperately needed resource in the midst of a crisis.



Camp comes to you

New resources for small groups and families this summer

"It breaks my heart to think of kids who lose the opportunity to go to camp this summer," said Jerrie Miller, territorial camping and outdoor ministries director. "Being in nature is so important. Kids need to be outside, to explore, to connect with the Creator."

Though summer camps have been cancelled, Jerrie has developed two new tools for divisions, corps or families to use to connect with nature and its Creator.

Camp in a Box is a versatile resource chock-full of lessons and activities that can be completed in small groups as communities loosen social distancing restrictions. Each of the five stand-alone programs looks at different part of creation and how God is evident in each.

"Camp in a Box is intentionally open-ended," said Jerrie. "Divisions and corps can decide what they need and use it however it works for them."

The programs follow the same format, making Camp in a Box ideal for a weeklong day camp, once-weekly special event, monthly messy church, supplement to vacation Bible school, or even a youth night activity when programs resume in the fall. Included in each program are a Bible lesson, group activity, experiments, crafts, hands-on learning and a cooking segment.

"We can recreate some of the elements of camp through using Camp in a Box," Jerrie said. "But what we can't replace is the relationships. I hope this material will bring people together when they are able to resume programming."

A second resource from the youth department is called **Family Camp-In** which encourages families to pop up a tent in their backyard or build a blanket fort in their living room and celebrate favorite camp traditions.

The Family Camp-In resource packet includes crafts, recipes for outdoor cooking, games, devotionals, songs and more for families looking for ideas and support.

"The goal is to encourage families to do something together that's not on a computer or in front of the TV," said Jerrie.

To encourage participation, the Chippewa National Forest has allowed The Salvation Army to share their Junior Park Ranger program. They have shared some fun prizes that a few lucky families who participate can win, and kids completing that program will receive an embroidered badge they can display in their homes or pin to their backpack or jacket.

Visit centrallyouthnetwork.com to learn more and download the materials.

Heartwarmers from America's Heartland

In the vein of John Krasinski's YouTube sensation, "Some Good News," we share some of the feel-good stories of people's kindness, generosity and service across the Midwest that have inspired us.

Thinking big in Hannibal, Mo.

by Magan Hall

While most 13-year-old boys are obsessed with screen time, playing sports or their score on Fortnite, Robert Wealer is focused on joining The Salvation Army in "Doing the Most Good." He's been collecting canned goods and monetary donations since he was just 6 for its Hannibal, Mo., food pantry. He's collected over 30,000 food items and raised \$6,100 in the last six years!

So earlier this year when Robert asked his donors via Facebook for

help to restock the food pantry during the COVID-19 crisis, they didn't hesitate. After several weeks, he presented The Salvation Army with a check for \$2,122.97.

"People are struggling because they are getting cut off from their jobs, so they have to depend on places like The Salvation Army to help with their basic needs," said Robert.

"What's truly inspirational about Robert is that the food drive was a self-initiated project. He saw a need as a young boy and wanted to do his part to help, but it wasn't just a one-and-done effort. He's made it an annual mission," said Matt Schmidt, Quincy, Ill., Area Command assistant development director. "He has the ability to bring an entire community together to support his efforts, and he should be proud to know he's helped put food on the table for hundreds of families in his community over the years."

"Some people think that if people only donate a little then it isn't worth giving, but if everybody gave a little, then it would be plenty," said Robert. "Start somewhere and, no matter what you collect or make, it is better than what you would have if you would not have done it. From there, build up support and raise your goals."

Wise words from a young man who already has spent half of his life giving to those in need.



Major Andrew Miller with Robert Wealer in 2018.

A caring canteen caravan



by Samantha Hyde

COVID-19 has changed many things, including how The Salvation Army is able to interact with its most loyal donors. This spring, the Indiana Division's development team came up with a new way to stay connected with donors in central Indiana.

The idea sprouted from phone calls staff were making to check on donors quarantined at home. Many fell into high-risk categories, unable to see family or participate in the active, social lifestyles they normally enjoyed. While the phone calls were welcomed, the team felt it could do more.

Jo Ann Remender, Indiana divisional director of development, was inspired by the "Hope is Greater than Fear" theme used nationally as part of The Salvation Army's COVID-19 disaster response. She ordered small bags and t-shirts with the logo and worked with staff to make care packages for donors in the Indianapolis area. The bags were filled with items like chocolate chip cookies, coffee, devotionals, prayer request cards and photos of The Salva-

tion Army serving across Indiana.

"We called our donors to ask if we could stop by and make a social, safe visit from the yard," Jo Ann said. "We took the EDS canteen on days it was not being used and drove a little caravan of cars behind it." Honking horns and waving signs, the "Caring Canteen Caravan" visited donors in neighborhoods and retirement communities across the city. Elated donors and their neighbors waved from their porches and balconies as the bags and well wishes were delivered.

For many, it was the first glimpse of the outside world they'd seen in weeks. When the team pulled up to the home of Bill and Liz Murphy, long-time Salvation Army supporters, the visit was especially welcomed. They had just recovered from COVID-19 and were thankful for both the company and prayers.

"These visits helped to deepen our relationships with our donors, because we care about them as people, as our friends," added Jo Ann. Her office is filled with thank you notes and letters of gratitude, even as the team plans its next round of visits.

The fulfillment of giving back



by Camerin Mattson

In the past few months the Joliet, Ill., Corps food pantry has served more people than ever. There are several reasons for the spike—families out of work due to the coronavirus, bare shelves at grocery stores, and word getting out about how The Salvation Army can help.

"We're seeing families that have never needed assistance before," said Major Wendy Faundez, corps officer. "We have learned a lot about surrendering to God and trusting in His provision as the need has increased."

Serving more than 300 families a week is a challenge, not only in terms of having enough food and household items to go around, but in the amount of work it takes to gather, sort and package donations for distribution. They are managing, however, thanks to an inspiring team of volunteers, including two men who were in need themselves not long ago.

Novel Woods came to the Joliet Corps through the courts. "I needed to get my act together and change my life," Novel said of his life two years ago. At the time, he was a recovering drug addict and in trouble with the law.



He's since graduated from a drug program and reconnected with his family, changes he largely credits to being involved at the corps. "This is the most wonderful place I've ever been," Novel said. "Serving here, I feel like I'm giving back to the people who gave to me."

Eight months ago when Myles Redmond walked through the doors of the corps he was homeless. "I was in a bad situation," Myles said. "And they embraced me."

Grateful for their warm assistance, he knew he wanted to give back, too. Myles filled out an application to volun-

teer and has been a fixture at the corps ever since.

Both men volunteer daily at the corps, a role that's taken on new significance with the coronavirus outbreak. They assist with picking up donations, packing boxes, food pantry distribution on Monday afternoons and delivering necessities throughout the week to shut-ins.

"These are wonderful guys," concluded Linda Trevino, volunteer coordinator. "I never have to ask them to do things. They see the need before I can ask. Their help means the world to me."

Heart for our heroes

During National Nurses Week in May, the Western Division launched a campaign across Nebraska, South Dakota and western Iowa called "Heart for Our Heroes" to honor and salute doctors, nurses and other health care staff working on the frontlines of the pandemic.

Officers and staff in Omaha, Neb., provided hundreds of sack lunches to health care staff at seven area hospitals. The meals were prepared by local restaurants and were underwritten by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska. Meanwhile, units across the three-state area provided lunches at hospitals in their respective communities.

"We want to say 'thank you' to health care professionals across the

three states we serve who are working around the clock amid the pandemic," said Major Greg Thompson, Western divisional commander. "These lunches are one small way to show our gratitude and support, and we're thankful to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska for helping to make this initiative possible here in Omaha."

"Making sure people are cared for is our top priority during this public health crisis," said Steve Grandfield, chief executive officer at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska. "We are proud to join The Salvation Army in providing meals to the health care workers who are on the frontlines, spending time away from their families and giving so much of themselves to care for patients in our communities."



Western Divisional Commander Major Greg Thompson with health care professionals at Methodist Hospital in Omaha.

Kindness multiplied

by Cathleen Himes

Olivia Tyler is just 7 and already she is on a mission to help others. When the State of Illinois mandated face masks be worn in public due to the pandemic, she started selling washable masks and, with each one that was sold, donating one for someone in need.



Her involvement with The Salvation Army was what some might call serendipitous. Living in the same neighborhood as Captains Caleb and Stephanie Senn, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., corps officers, she mistakenly ended up on their doorstep with her dad when they were trying to deliver a package. Immediately recognizing her from the neighborhood's Facebook page, Captain Stephanie was delighted and said, "Actually I was going to contact you."

She told the Tylers about the corps' Rescue Food Program, how the need had skyrocketed and people were asking for masks but the corps had none to give. She wondered if Olivia might be interested in distributing her masks at their daily drive-through pantry.

Later that week Olivia visited the corps and handed out 250 free face masks along with the food being distributed. She has already donated several hundred masks to other area shelters and has applied to become a nonprofit organization called Olivia Dru Cares (Dru is her middle name).

"Keep believing, and keep being kind," Olivia encouraged others. "All people can help. Even people who might be younger than me."

Walking to 100

by Dan Furry

Though he's turning 100 this summer, Mickey Nelson still has things he wants to check off his bucket list.

All his life, he's lived in Clarks Grove, Minn., just north of Albert Lea, in the house in which he was born in 1920. Mickey has accomplished a lot during this life, including military service during World War II and owning a successful bus business for 58 years, as well as a sand and gravel company.

He has become a fixture in Clarks Grove, often seen walking down Main Street, past the hardware store and the post office and The Salvation Army clothing donation box. Just about everybody in town knows Mickey and waves while he's out walking.

But something has bothered Mickey as of late: the COVID-19 pandemic and the suffering it has inflicted on his neighbors. He has seen the effect on families whose jobs have been furloughed or eliminated, many of whom have no savings to fall back on. Statistics show 700,000 Minnesotans and North Dakotans filed for unemployment since the start of the pandemic, roughly 20 percent of the workforce. As many as 40 percent have never visited a food shelf, but now find themselves relying on them to help feed their families.

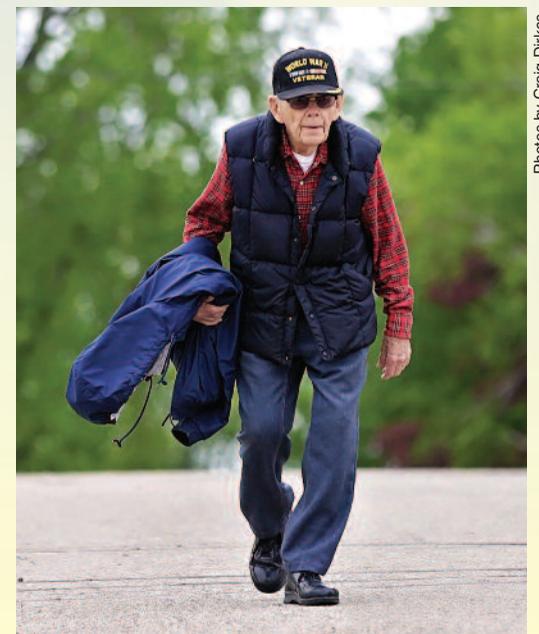
"I know that people are struggling, either from the illness or a job loss from all the businesses shutting down," Mickey said recently. "I just thought there was something I could do to help."

Mickey and his daughters came up with a "bucket list" idea to help these neighbors—inspired by a centenarian Englishman who walked



100 laps. But instead of laps, Mickey will walk 100 miles by the end of this summer through the streets of Clarks Grove. He's calling it, "Walking to 100," not only because he will walk 100 miles but also because he turns 100 this summer.

Mickey hopes people will donate money to support his effort to help others and has selected The Salvation Army in the Northern Division, which serves Minnesota and North Dakota, to use the money he raises to provide ongoing relief from the pandemic.



Photos by Craig Dirkes

Living large on less

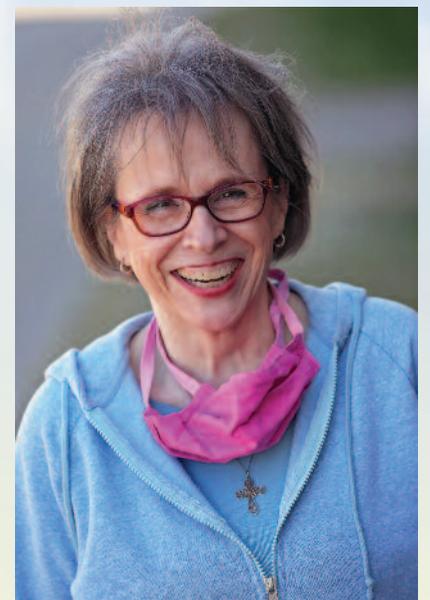
by Craig Dirkes

Elaine Foote-Blum could have spent her \$1,200 government stimulus check on plenty of things. Instead, she donated the money to The Salvation Army.

Elaine is a widow and retired pastor who lives in Pine River, Minn. She attends and volunteers at the Brainerd Lakes, Minn., Corps, led by Captains Jeff and Joyce Curran, where she has seen firsthand how The Salvation Army has been providing food and support for countless people in need during the crisis.

"Coronavirus is a matter of life and death for some people," Elaine said. "I can't be a nurse, and I can't be a doctor. But donating is something I can do."

Not too long ago, Elaine had no money to donate to anyone. She'd struggled with debt her entire life, but in 2015 she took control of her finances with help from budgeting programs and support groups. "Be-



fore that, I had no savings. I was in so much debt that I couldn't even afford to pay my taxes...God, in His perfect timing, got me to this point where I could let go of \$1,200," said Elaine, who hopes that by sharing her story others will be inspired to give freely.

Messengers of the Kingdom

Pray for the new lieutenants as they step into their first appointments as officers and share the message of hope found in Christ's love.



Lts. Katy and Wayne Benedict
Corps Officers
Elkhart, Ind.



Lts. Darby and Joshua Bowyer
Corps Officers
Hammond-Munster, Ind.



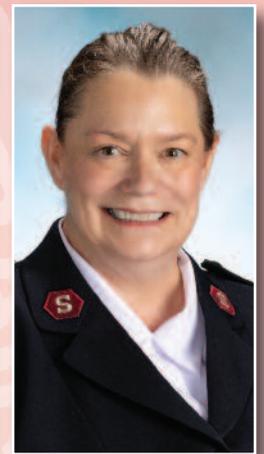
Lts. Gunther Alexis Briceno Sanchez and Frances Yamilex Ramos Pino
Corps Officers
Kansas City Westport Temple, Mo.



Lts. Ramon Enrique Cebrian Cebrian and Elisaine Sanchez Garcet
Assistant Corps Officers
Minneapolis Central, Minn.



Lts. Kenesa and Shanell Debela
Corps Officers
Decatur, Ill.



Lt. Karen Felton
Corps Officer
Chicago Midwest, Ill.

Lt. Sheri Harned
Assistant Corps Officer
Harbor Light Center,
Minneapolis, Minn.



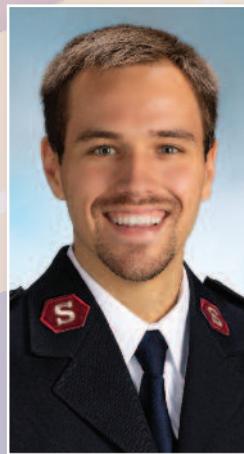
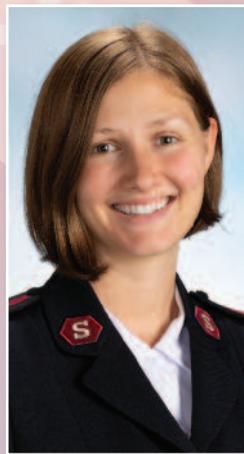
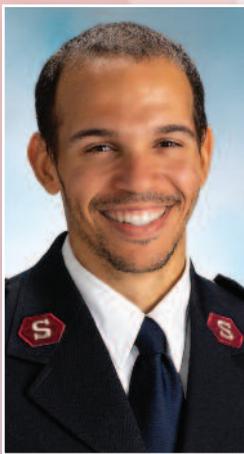
Lts. Robert and Stephanie Leach
Corps Officers
Livingston County, Mich.



Lts. Amber and Rodney Morin, Jr.
Corps Officers
Fremont, Neb.



Lts. Jennifer and Marty Norris
Corps Officers
Joplin, Mo.
With responsibility for Carthage, Mo.



Lt. Michael Raes
Mission Integration
Officer
Western Michigan/
Northern Indiana
Divisional
Headquarters

Lts. Christian and Justice Smith
Corps Officers
Ottawa, Ill.

Lts. Haylee and Matthew Winters
Corps Officers
Traverse City, Mich.

Lts. Cherie and Nate Woodard
Corps Officers
Olathe, Kan.

International Response Group provides support in fight against coronavirus

In a world where exceptional circumstances have become the norm, the ability to react quickly and decisively becomes ever-more important. As The Salvation Army continues to fulfill its mission even in these exceptionally difficult circumstances, General Brian Peddle directed the establishment of a COVID-19 International Response Group. Headed by Chief of the Staff Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham, it has provided much-needed support swiftly and efficiently, freeing local Salvationists and friends to concentrate on fulfilling the most pressing needs.

Recognizing fundraising is much more difficult while the need for immediate support has grown, the new group is able to provide access to funds in cases that may previously have had to wait for a donor to be identified. The General is adamant every effort is made to ensure local ability to carry out life-saving and life-changing ministry is not hampered by the lack of access to resources.

"The international Salvation Army

is stepping up to do what we can. With prayer, creativity, inspired leaders and dedicated frontline teams, we are not retreating and IHQ wants to support these unique and expanded ministries," said the Chief of the Staff. "The role of this group is to intentionally respond to the COVID-19 crisis by assessing both the needs as they are presented as well as the capacity to respond to these needs ... exploring and securing funding resources and developing processes to ensure timely availability and distribution."

As of June 1, the group had agreed to the funding of 89 Rapid Response projects overseen by International Emergency Services covering 40 territories and 60 countries and 81 "Over and Above" Mission Support projects managed through International Development Services.

From an IHQ release

Editor's note: The Salvation Army's COVID-19 response extends to 120 countries. For the latest news and a glimpse at a regularly-updated Google Map showing the breadth of service, visit sar.my/covid19.

Steadfastly serving in Spain and Portugal

led by Central Territory officers Lt. Colonels Phil and Sheila Davisson, the Spain and Portugal Command has steadfastly carried out the Army's mission in these two countries hard-hit by the pandemic this year.

In Portugal, The Salvation Army increased its already prolific assistance on many fronts. For instance, the night shelter in Xabregas expanded to a 24-hour operation. The Lar Marinel Nursing Care and Home Cares Service provided meal delivery service not only to homes in Sintra but also in Porto. The Eventide Home in Sintra gave tablets and computers to residents so they could keep in touch with their families and helped them deal with emotions by obtain-



Captains Luis and Raisi Zambrano with volunteers in Tenerife

Corps received a commendation from the local government for their work.

In Spain which had more than 287,000 cases of COVID-19, the Army worked tirelessly to provide help through corps feeding programs and food distribution. It maintained its exemplary work with the homeless in Barcelona where the corps is led by Majors Oregui and Belinda Aria, who previously served in Chicago. In Tenerife, the largest of Spain's Canary Islands, a small group banded together, led by Central Territory retired officers Captains Luis and Raisi Zambrano, to distribute food to families and individuals. "There are days when we feel that the forces are not enough," said Captain Luis, "but God renews our strength and we arrive at the end of the day with joy, ready for the next day."



Barcelona Corps Officers Majors Oregui and Belinda Arias, Assistant Corps Officer Captain Beth Gabatin and two volunteers

ing a comfort dog named Lua. When schools closed, computers also were provided to youth at the Novo Mundo Children's Home to ensure they could continue their studies. Especially noteworthy, the Sao Bras

When face-to-face meetings were cancelled in both countries, corps congregations remained connected through online Bible studies, prayer meetings and united worship services. Though Spain and Portugal began allowing church services in May, most corps will continue online services and programs for some time due to insufficient space to meet safely.

Work through video-conferencing tools, which the command already used with two headquarters, the training college and the field prior to forced isolation, has been strengthened.



Food delivery in Portugal

Pioneers in Thailand

Although the Salvation Army's fledgling work in Thailand is yet to be officially registered, the pioneer team, including Central Territory officers Majors Bruce and Betty Keobounhom, has been playing a part in the coronavirus response in the northern city of Chiang Mai.

The Salvation Army responded to a call from the city's governor to provide meal assistance to a center which cares for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. Salvation Army officers and staff also have provided support to frontline workers, including the distribution of face shields to three hospitals and a police station. Food parcel distribution to vulnerable communities has been undertaken too, ensuring a supply of dry food, hand sanitizer and bottled water.

Stationed in Thailand since March 2019, the Keobounhoms have been working as research and development officers in an exploratory ministry under the purview of the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory.

American citizens, the majors are originally from Laos where they met in an English language class but did not see each other again until each had escaped the communist-sieged country and were living in a refugee camp in Thailand with 70,000 other people. There, Bruce, who was a Buddhist monk, accepted Christ as his Savior. Becoming a Christian, he felt called to share his hope and joy with others.

After the Keobounhoms immigrated to the United States, Bruce



became an ordained part-time Nazarene pastor in Nashville, Tenn., but he dreamed of serving the Lord fulltime. Believing that The Salvation Army was a good fit, he contacted them about beginning a Laotian ministry. While the Army did not have funds to pay him, it could provide a location. That was enough. The Keobounhoms began the new ministry as lay leaders and the next year became auxiliary captains. By 2001 they had helped establish three Laotian corps in the nation.

They were appointed in 2003 to lead the new Rockford Tabernacle, Ill., Corps to minister to the city's growing Laotian population. During their 11-year tenure, the corps grew dramatically in members and faith. In 2014, the Keobounhoms were appointed to lead another Laotian ministry, the Genesis Corps in Madison, Wis., where they served until being appointed last year to Thailand, fulfilling a call God placed on their hearts more than a decade ago.

COVID-19 relief information from an IHQ release.

Carrs headed to Caribbean

Major Valerie and Captain Jeff Carr will take up appointments on August 31 in the Jamaica Eastern Division as divisional program secretary and divisional business administration secretary, respectively. The Carrs and their sons had been slated to join the South America East Territory in Argentina earlier this year but have been reassigned to the Caribbean Territory. This will be the Carrs' second appointment overseas. Their first was in Spain.



10 730... AND BEYOND



4,374 days and counting

by Captain Shannon Martinez

I blame my mother.

No really, I know we'd all like to blame our mothers for how or where we're at today, but my prayer warrior momma sure does hold some responsibility for these red epaulets on my shoulders. At the very least she was the one to pray, "Oh Lord, use my daughter to grow your Kingdom...but just don't send her to Africa."

Roughly 25 years later I would board a plane to Malawi, Africa, and a couple months later venture over to the Republic of Georgia where the Holy Spirit would clearly instruct me, "Say 'yes' to what God is calling you to do." Six months later my husband and I would find ourselves settling in for the 730 days at 700 W. Brompton Ave. (the College for Officer Training) in Chicago.

I glance once again at my shoulders and sure enough—red. How in the world did this happen?! Oh yea, I said "yes" to God. And I keep saying "yes" because He knows what He's doing and because the alternative never pans out well.

Ephesians 3:20-21 (CSB) says, "Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."

God definitely has done "above and beyond" what I could have ever asked or thought. I liken it to re-



questing an apple and receiving an orchard. As humans we have a habit of thinking small, dreaming small and envisioning a much lower and limited plan for our lives. We hand God a postcard size image of what we would like to do or be, and our heavenly Father smiles and shakes his head. Showing us grace for daring to tell our Creator what His creation should do, He hands us back a breathtaking mural filled with scenes of constructing, laboring, serving, preaching, evangelizing, and joining hands with countless people who come from all backgrounds, languages and talents but with Christ as our unifying center.

So, thanks Momma. Thank you for saying a daring prayer that although at first glance seemed limiting (Africa was amazing!), it was those continued prayers, actions of faith in God and courage to trust He had a greater plan that pushed your only child to do immeasurably more than she ever thought possible.

Metropolitan Division prays for justice

by Camerin Mattson

Salvation Army officers, soldiers, staff and friends gathered at eight prayer meetings around the Metropolitan Division on June 2, 2020, in response to the killing of George Floyd, subsequent demonstrations for justice, and looting that seized many cities.

"We all wanted to express care and felt that one means of mobilizing was to join with others in grieving, repenting, listening, and praying," said Commissioner Sue Swanson, who initiated the gatherings.

Lt. Karen Felton (then a cadet) who helped lead the prayer meeting at the Chicago Midwest Corps Community Center, said, "We prayed for healing, for reconciliation, for peace, for ears to listen and hearts to receive. We prayed for forgiveness, and we prayed protection over the neighborhood."

In Joliet, Major Wendy Faundez said several people in their neighbor-



Photo by Sam Arias

hood saw the prayer meeting and joined them, including a black man whose mother had been shot the night before. After they prayed for her recovery, he prayed to receive Christ.

"We feel a stirring for continued prayer walks in our community," Major Wendy said. "This is just the beginning."

MESSENGERS OF
Reconciliation

2020  2022

Newly
accepted
candidates



Mario and Melissa Bledsoe

First-generation Salvationist ♦ Multi-generational Salvationist
**Chicago Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center
Metropolitan Division**

Lt. Shanell Johnson, Majors John and Johanna Pook, Kroc Center officers

Spiritual Gifts

Mario: Discernment ♦ Mercy ♦ Serving
Melissa: Leadership ♦ Discernment ♦ Serving

Ministry Passion or Experience

Mario: Worship ♦ Social Services
Melissa: Children/Youth ♦ Social Services

Spiritual mentors

Majors Will and Cassandra DeJesús ♦ Envoy Tyrone Staggers



Johnathan Harvy

First-generation Salvationist
Independence, Mo., Corps ♦ Kansas/Western Missouri Division
Majors Brian and Lee Ann Burkett, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Administration ♦ Leadership ♦ Serving

Ministry Passion or Experience

Worship ♦ Social Services ♦ Preaching/Teaching

Spiritual mentors

Lt. Colonel Robert Bonifield ♦ Major Ken Shiels

Enrollment livestreamed

While the pandemic prevented community worship in person at corps throughout the territory, it didn't stop Larry Woods from being enrolled. This May he became the first senior soldier whose enrollment was livestreamed from the Minneapolis Parkview, Minn., Corps, led by Majors Robert and Paula Pyle and supported virtually by soldiers at home.

Larry is active in men's ministries, Bible studies, prayer meetings and more. Since the pandemic began like so many others he's been participating by Zoom. He began attending the corps in February after moving into the neighborhood and stopping by the corps' weekday hot lunch program for meals, which he now picks up curb-



side. He knew about The Salvation Army from working previously for an adult rehabilitation center.

First officers from Training in Spanish program commissioned



Lts. Gunther and Yami Briceno and son, Obed, with Colonels Janice and Steve Howard

With the commissioning of the Messengers of the Kingdom, the Central Territory marked a milestone: the first four officers from the Training in Spanish program at the College for Officer Training (CFOT). The program, which was just introduced with this session, is proving successful in helping Spanish-speaking Salvationists fulfill their calling to officership. The first officers to be commissioned through it are Lts. Ely and Ramon Cebrian, and Lts. Gunther and Yami Briceno.

of each cadet was reviewed and supports adjusted with his or her commissioning in view.

"Having cadets who have limited English skills has required us to re-think how we share information and to realize the challenges extend to every area of cadet life from classes to the campus environment," said the major. "Working with cadets from other countries not only involves providing adequate language support but also a sensitivity to the cultural challenges that they face."

She noted that support and education have extended beyond formal lessons plans and CFOT staff officers who are officially involved in the Spanish language training program to the entire CFOT community lending loving support.

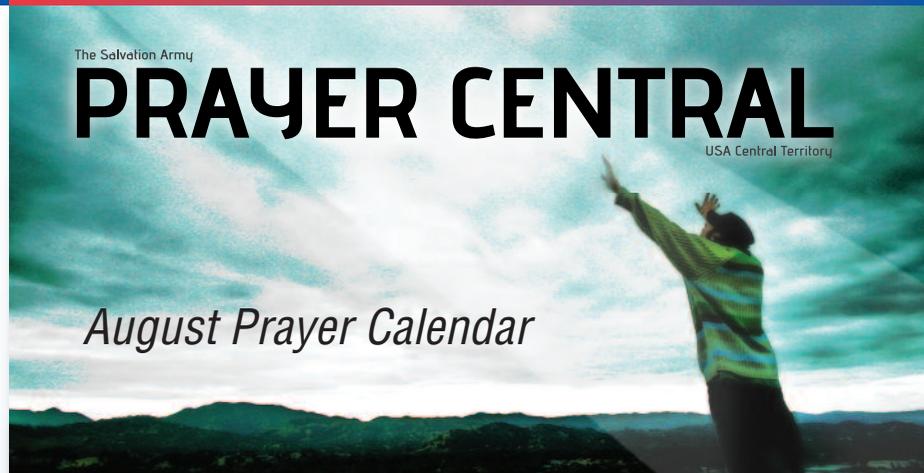
"Being at the CFOT has been a wonderful spiritual experience," said Lt. Gunther. "If someone has the call to be an officer, I think they should come here and enjoy what God has in this place, not only because of the training you receive but because you discover yourself. Everything you do at the CFOT will mark you forever. It will be a unique

and personal experience, where you will discover the purpose of God's call in your life."

Lts. Ely and Ramon Cebrian (shown as cadets), two of the first officers commissioned in the Training in Spanish program

"Being at the CFOT has been very helpful in preparing me to fulfill my life's calling to be a Salvation Army officer," said Lt. Ely Cebrian, who is originally from Cuba and just commissioned with her husband, Lt. Ramon Cebrian. "If training had not been in Spanish, it would have been much harder and more stressful to learn everything that I needed to learn. While I've had many challenges such as language, culture, technology and my age, none of this has been an impediment to continuing God's call."

According to Major Karen Johnson, then Spanish training director, the program utilizes a multifaceted approach in providing support, education and resources in Spanish while helping the cadets learn English so they will be prepared for their work as officers. Each quarter over the last two years, the progress

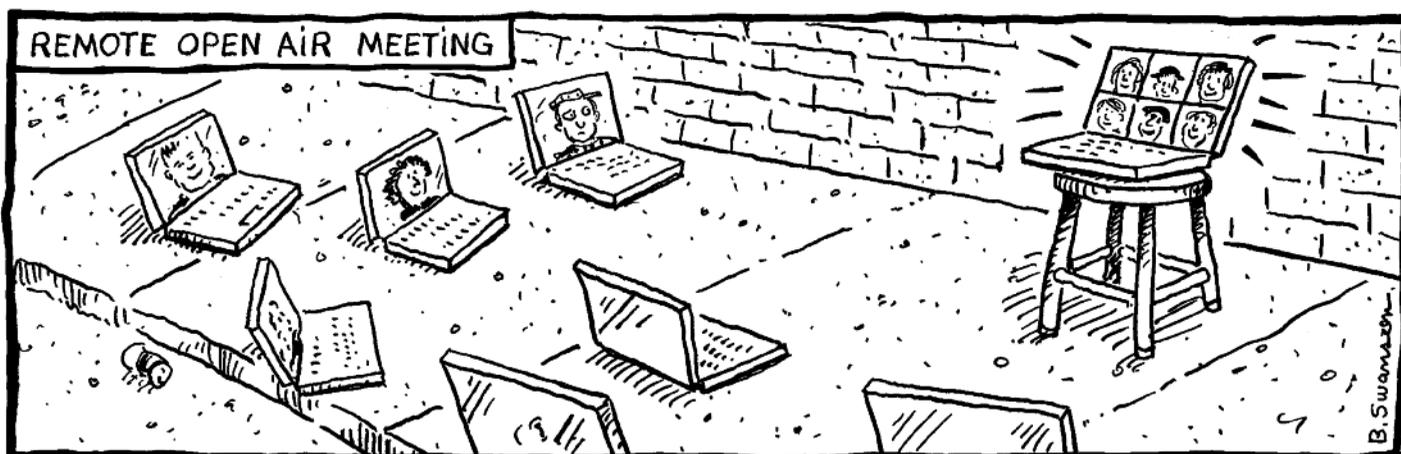


My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Saturday	Psalms 90-92	Des Moines Citadel, Iowa, Corps
	2 Sunday	Proverbs 14-15	Green Bay, Wis., Corps
	3 Monday	Ezekiel 43-48	Philippines Territory
	4 Tuesday	John 1-2	Flint, Mich., ARC*
	5 Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 4-5	Clinton, Iowa, Corps
	6 Thursday	Leviticus 25-27	New lieutenants in their first appointments
	7 Friday	1 Chronicles 1-4	Mozambique Territory
	8 Saturday	Psalms 93-95	Chicago Lawn, Ill., Corps
	9 Sunday	Proverbs 16	Carthage, Mo., Corps
	10 Monday	Daniel 1-6	Duluth, Minn., Corps
	11 Tuesday	John 3-4	Des Moines Temple, Iowa, Corps
	12 Wednesday	2 Thessalonians	College for Officer Training staff
	13 Thursday	Numbers 1-3	New Esports ministry
	14 Friday	1 Chronicles 5-9	Elkhart, Ind., Corps
	15 Saturday	Psalms 96-98	Green Bay, Wis., Kroc Center
	16 Sunday	Proverbs 17-18	Canada and Bermuda Territory
	17 Monday	Daniel 7-12	Fort Wayne, Ind., ARC*
	18 Tuesday	John 5-6	Detroit Grandale, Mich., Corps
	19 Wednesday	1 Timothy 1-3	Danville, Ill., Corps
	20 Thursday	Numbers 4-6	Majors Bruce and Betty Keobounhom in Thailand
	21 Friday	1 Chronicles 10-14	Hutchinson, Kan., Corps
	22 Saturday	Psalms 99-101	Chicago Mayfair Community Church, Ill., Corps
	23 Sunday	Proverbs 19	United Kingdom with The Republic of Ireland
	24 Monday	Hosea 1-7	Fairmont, Minn., Corps
	25 Tuesday	John 7-9	The International Rapid Response Team
	26 Wednesday	1 Timothy 4-6	Goshen, Ind., Corps
The September territorial prayer calendar is reflected in the weekly prayer guides sent to your corps. See your officer for a copy.	27 Thursday	Numbers 7-9	Hancock, Mich., Corps
	28 Friday	1 Chronicles 15-19	Hispanic Women's Ministries in Northern Division
	29 Saturday	Psalms 102-104	Lt. Colonels Jonathan and Barbara Rich
	30 Sunday	Proverbs 20-21	Middle East Region
	31 Monday	Hosea 8-14	Territorial Staff Songsters

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

*ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

--Mustard Seeds--



On the move

Effective June 26 unless otherwise noted

All Central officers retain additional appointment of Assistant Candidates' Secretary unless appointed Candidates' Secretary or Associate Candidates' Secretary

Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command

Major Michele Gamble, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor; **Major Claire Grainger**, Change in Designation, Admin. for Program, St. Louis, MO, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Ministries Coord.; **Major Norman Grainger**, Change in Designation, Admin. for Business, St. Louis, MO; **Major Nathan Johnson**, Change in Designation, Admin. for Business, Fort Wayne, IN; **Major Katrina Diane Mathews**, Admin. for Program, Southeast, MI; **Major Kim Kendall Mathews**, Admin. for Program, Southeast, MI; **Major Catherine Thielke**, General Sec.; **Major Todd Thielke**, Change in Designation, Command Sec. for Marketing, Add'l Appt: Command Sec. for Mission Integration; **Major Jennifer Velasquez**, Assoc. Admin. for Rehabilitation Services, Kansas City, MO; **Captain Johnny Bartsch**, Command Project Development Officer, Grand Rapids, MI; **Captain Derek Rose**, Asst. to the Admin., Chicago (Central), IL; **Captain Daylene Staneart**, Admin. for Program, Milwaukee, WI (transfer from USA Western Territory); **Captain Steve Staneart**, Admin. for Business, Milwaukee, WI (transfer from USA Western Territory); **Auxiliary Captain Jennifer Bowyer**, Change in Designation, Admin. for Program, Rockford, IL; **Auxiliary Captain Paul Bowyer**, Change in Designation, Admin. for Business, Rockford, IL; **Auxiliary Captain Michelle Johnson**, Change in Designation, Admin. for Program, Fort Wayne, IN; **Envoy Bob Idzior**, Admin. for Business, Southeast, MI; **Envoy Jacquelyn Idzior**, Admin. for Business, Southeast, MI.

College for Officer Training

Major Alex Lim, Asst. Dir. of Personnel; **Major Chris Lim**, Asst. Dir. of Business; **Major Aaron Ortman**, Dir. of Business; **Major Jennifer Ortman**, Dir. of Curriculum; **Major Arnel Ruppel**, Asst. Principal; **Captain Enrique Coreano**, Asst. Dir. of Curriculum; **Captain Patricia Salas Jimenez**, Add'l Appt: Business Officer; **Lt. Natalie Austin**, Field Training Dir.; **Lt. Donna Thammavongsa**, Family Care Center Dir.; **Lt. Vathana Thammavongsa**, Field Training Officer.

Eastern Michigan Division

Majors Matt & Patricia Grindle, COs, Warren, MI; **Major Prezza Morrison**, CO, Alpena, MI; **Major Debra Pascoe**, Sec. for Mission, DHQ; **Major Timothy Pascoe**, Sec. for Business, DHQ; **Major Judith Tekautz**, Add'l Appt: Women's Ministries Sec., DHQ; **Captains Jason & Melinda Tripp**, COs,

Adrian, MI; **Lt. Justin Steckbauer**, CO, Owosso (Citadel), MI; **Lts. Heidi & Kory Strand**, COs, Royal Oak, MI; **Envoy Andrew Barylski**, Corps Admin., Wayne/Westland, MI; **Envoy Jackie Ellingson**, Corps Admin., Hillsdale, MI.

Heartland Division

Major Rae Doliber, CO, Davenport, IA; **Major Robert Doliber**, Quad Cities Coord., Davenport, IA; **Major Anita Sells**, Add'l Appt: Peoria Women's Auxiliary Sec.; **Captains Lisa & Timothy Thorson**, COs, Freeport, IL; **Captain Robert Whitney**, Divisional Sec., DHQ; **Captain Tammy Whitney**, Add'l Appt: Divisional Adult Ministries Sec..

Indiana Division

Major Fred Mead, Southern Indiana Service Extension Liaison, Add'l Appt: Southern Indiana Emergency Disaster Service Liaison; **Major Nancy Mead**, Adult Ministries Sec., Add'l Appt: Corps Coord., Brown County, IN; **Major Connie Shaw**, Assoc. Corps Officer, Shelbyville, IN; **Major Jeremiah Stouder**, Sec. for Business; **Major William Welch, Jr.**, Assoc. CO, Fort Wayne, IN; **Captain Jennifer Clanton**, Health Leave (effective June 1); **Captain Antonia Marak**, Change in Designation, Asst. Adult Ministries Sec.; **Captain Karla Salsbury**, CO, Vincennes, IN; **Captains Kenyon & Melissa Sivels**, COs, Fort Wayne, IN; **Lts. Joseph & Pamela Gates**, COs, Kokomo, IN; **Lt. Robyn Hubbard**, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor; **Ms. Charlotte Coffey**, Lead Chaplain, Harbor Light Center, Indianapolis, IN.

Kansas and Western Missouri Division

Major Kevin Cedervall, Assoc. CO, Kansas City (Eastside), MO, Add'l Appt: Metro Kansas City Mission Integration Officer; **Captain Amy Cedervall**, Assoc. CO, Kansas City (Eastside), MO, Add'l Appt: Metro Kansas City Social Services Chaplain; **Captains Curtis and Laura Lunnam**, COs, Lawrence, KS; **Captain Bersabe Vera-Hernandez**, Sec. for Program, DHQ, Add'l Appt: Divisional Hispanic Ministries Director.

Metropolitan Division

Major Enrique Azuaje, General Sec., DHQ; **Major Nancy Azuaje**, Adult Ministries Coord., Add'l Appt: Women's Ministries Sec., DHQ; **Major Michael Cho**, Add'l Appt: Hope-Strong Regional Coord. (North Chicagoland, IL), Hope-Strong Ministries Unit; **Major Beverly Gates**, Sec. for Business, DHQ; **Major Steve Kounthapanya**, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Ministries Coord., Add'l Appt: Hope-Strong Regional Coord. (Winnebago County, IL), Hope-Strong Ministries Unit; **Major Barbara Owen**, Add'l Appt: Hope-Strong Regional Coord. (Fox Valley, IL), Hope-Strong Ministries Unit; **Major Cristina Stasiuc**, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor;

Major Marcelo Orbe Yanez, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor; **Captain Brian Clark**, Lake County Coord., Post Retirement Appointment; **Captain Daniel Faundez**, Add'l Appt: Hope-Strong Regional Coordinator (Lake County, IN), Hope-Strong Ministries Unit; **Captains Linnea & Richard Forney**, COs, Elgin, IL; **Captain Amanda Keene**, Add'l Appt: Hope-Strong Regional Pastoral Care Officer (Lake County, IN), Hope-Strong Ministries Unit; **Captain Heather Montenegro**, Youth Sec., Add'l Appt: Candidates' Sec., DHQ; **Captain Xavier Montenegro**, Sec. for Program, DHQ; **Captains Catherine & Peter Mount**, COs, Norridge Citadel, IL; **Captains Gabriela & Joaquin Rangel**, COs, Aurora, IL; **Captain Joanna Rose**, Asst. Youth Sec., DHQ; **Lt. Dalvius King-Harvy**, CO, Harbor Light Center (effective Aug. 12); **Lt. Dena Smith**, Add'l Appt: Hope-Strong Regional Pastoral Care Officer (Fox Valley, IL), Hope-Strong Ministries Unit; **Lt. Christina Tamayo Champlin**, Assoc. CO, Evanston, IL; **Envoy Theo Coleman**, Director of Prison Aftercare Network, Chicago Social Services; **Envoy Scott Hurula**, Add'l Appt: Men's Ministries Sec., DHQ.

Midland Division

Majors Jon & Kris Augenstein, COs, Springfield, MO; **Major Curtiss Hartley**, Columbia/Jefferson City Area Coord., Columbia, MO; **Major Sandy Hartley**, Columbia/Jefferson City Business Admin., Columbia, MO; **Major Jack Holloway**, Officer Development Officer, Add'l Appt: Officer Mentor, DHQ; **Major Nancy Holloway**, Officer Development Officer, Add'l Appt: Officer Mentor, DHQ; **Captains LaTonya & LeOtis Brooks**, COs, Columbia, MO; **Captain Shannon Forney**, CO, Granite City, MO; **Captain Carol Huffman**, Divisional Sec. for Business, DHQ; **Captain Crystal Sherack**, CO, Chillicothe, MO; **Captain Kristina Sjogren**, Senior Kroc Center Officer, Quincy, IL; **Captain Michael Sjogren**, Area Coord., Quincy, IL.

Northern Division

Major Michele Heaver, Disaster Services Sec., DHQ; **Major Jolinda Shelbourn**, Adult Ministries Sec., DHQ; **Major Scott Shelbourn**, Divisional Sec., DHQ; **Major Julio Vasquez**, Secretary for Program, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Ministries Coord., DHQ (transfer from USA Western Territory); **Major Karen Vasquez**, Asst. Adult Ministries Sec., DHQ (transfer from USA Western Territory); **Captains James & Lynnea Brickson**, COs, International Falls, MN; **Captains Cassandra & Sean Grey**, Assoc. COs, Bismarck, ND; **Captain Iona Schaal**, Asst. CO, Noble Worship Center, Add'l Appt: Administrator, Booth Manor Residence; **Lt. Carmon Camp**, CO, Harbor Light Center, Minneapolis, MN; **Lts. Andrew & Corey Wheeler**, COs, Mankato, MN.

Western Division

Majors Geffory & Leticia Crowell, COs, Mason City, IA; **Major Stephanie Sawka**, Add'l Appt: Moral and Ethical Issues Sec., DHQ; **Captains Chuck & Dana Cook**, COs, Council Bluffs, IA; **Lts. Kristin & Robert Key**, COs, Des Moines Temple, IA.

Western Michigan & Northern Indiana Division

Major Janelle Gonzalez, Women's Ministries Sec., DHQ; **Majors Amos & Cynthia Shiels**, COs, Holland, MI; **Major Candace Voeller**, Sec. for Program, DHQ; **Major Cornell Voeller**, Sec. for Business, DHQ; **Captains Aubrey & Shawn DeBaar**, COs, Kalamazoo, MI; **Captains Amy & Daniel Voss**, COs, Big Rapids, MI; **Lt. Jennifer Davidson**, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor; **Envoys Denise & Eric Gilbert**, Corps Admins., Sault Ste. Marie, MI.

Wisconsin & Upper Michigan Division

Majors Barbara & Paul Logan, COs, Wausau, WI; **Majors Dawn & Jeffery Russell**, COs, Racine, WI; **Captain Telinda Wilson**, Add'l Appt: Older Adult Ministries Dir., DHQ.

Territorial Headquarters

Major James McDowell, Secretary, Finance Department; **Major Valerie McDowell**, Personnel Services Dir.; **Major Carla Voeller**, Asst. to the Program Sec.; **Major Gregory Voeller**, Auditor; **Captain Stephen Hansen**, Property Specialist, pro tem.

Out of Territory

Major Valerie Carr, Program Sec., Caribbean Territory, Jamaica Eastern Division; **Major Butch Frost**, Social Services Sec., USA Western Territory, Southwest Division; **Major Lisa Frost**, Sec. for Program, USA Western Territory, Southwest Division; **Captain Jeffrey Carr**, Business Admin. Sec., Caribbean Territory, Jamaica Eastern Division.

Retirements

Feb. 1: **Colonels Jeffrey & Dorothy Smith**
July 1: **Majors Jonathan & Linda Fjellman**; **Majors Michael & Rebecca Gates**; **Major Janet Litherland**; **Majors David & Zandra Luft**; **Majors Cynthia & Kenneth Nicolai**; **Majors Diann & Edward Tutewiler**.

August 1: **Majors Gail & Phillip Aho**; **Majors Andrew & Cheryl Miller**; **Major Donna Miller**; **Majors Cornelia & Gerhard Scheler**; **Majors Douglas & Rebecca Stearns**.

September 1: **Majors Judith & Michael Mills**
October 1: **Majors Jack & Nancy Holloway**

Minneapolis walk

Continued from page 1

signs that showed Floyd wearing a Salvation Army shirt; he'd worked at the Minneapolis Harbor Light in 2017 and 2018.

Prior to the walk, hundreds of local residents came to eat lunch and receive free groceries that were donated by the community. The food was a blessing to a 67-year-old woman named Carol, who has lived in South Minneapolis her whole life.

"I have never seen anything like what's happened this past week. It's hurting me," Carol said. "But I love how everybody is coming together.



Lt. Colonel Patty Richardson addresses people at the prayer rally.

make Minneapolis greater."

Editor's note: In the last year the Central Territory appointed its first Social Justice and Urban Mission Secretary, Major Katherine Clausell, and announced plans to open a Social Justice and Urban Mission Center in Chicago which will be the prophetic voice of The Salvation Army in the Midwest and a force for justice and mercy in our cities. It will resource Salvationists and facilitate initiatives and strategies that enable leaders and corps congregations to ask big questions and to get involved in activities leading to real, sustainable change for individuals and communities. Salvationists also can find resources at the International Social Justice Commission website (salvationarmy.org/isjc).



Everyone is pitching in. It's wonderful to see."

Major Robert Viquez, Minneapolis Temple corps officer, is proud of the way his community responded to recent tragedies.

"There is more good than bad here," said the major. "The negative stuff doesn't count. What counts is the whole community pulling together to

Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Colonel Annette Johnson

Mrs. Colonel Annette Johnson was promoted to Glory on April 29, 2020. She is fondly remembered as a kind, compassionate, capable and gracious leader by the scores of people she worked with, ministered to and mentored throughout her life.

Annette was commissioned in 1951 with the "Ambassadors" session. After serving in two corps appointments, she married Edward Johnson. They served together for more than 40 years in corps, divisional and territorial appointments in two territories. Notably, in 1966 Annette became the first married woman corps officer from the Central Territory to attend the International College for Officers in London, England.

In 1974 the Johnsons were transferred to Southern Territorial Headquarters. They served in the Southern Territory for 14 years at territorial headquarters in Atlanta, Ga., and leading the Maryland and West Virginia Division, and held Cabinet positions in both the Southern and Central territories. They were transferred back to the Central in 1988, and Annette served as territorial home league secretary until the Johnsons retired in 1993. After retirement she continued to be involved in women's ministries at the Marietta and Atlanta Temple, Ga.,

Corps.

Annette is survived by her husband Ed to whom she was married for 67 years; children, Steven, Barbara Glick, Linda Crickenberger and Christine Thurley; and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Major Nellie Sillanpa

Mrs. Major Nellie Sillanpa was promoted to Glory on April 14, 2020. Having given her all to God, she raised her frail arms to sing, "Praise God I'm saved, praise God I'm saved. All's well, all's well, He sets me free!"

A capable and hardworking leader, Nellie is remembered for her cheerful disposition, gentle spirit and contagious faith which served her well in her roles as a wife, mother, officer and member of various service groups and clubs.

Nellie entered officer training in 1955 and was commissioned in 1956 as a single officer with the "Sword Bearers" session. In 1959 she married William Sillanpa and they served together in corps appointments throughout the Midwest for more than 30 years, retiring in 1994. Nellie then became the first older adult ministries director for the Indiana Division and served 10 years in that role.

Nellie is survived by her husband; children, Sharon Monroe and David; grandchildren and many other family and friends.