



# Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory  
News and Views from the Midwest

"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

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## An Army raised up for such a time as this

*Soldiers' Congress renews faith, restores hope and refocuses vision*

As the world began to emerge from the pandemic, the Central Territory's first virtual Soldiers' Congress, themed "Indescribable Grace, Confident Hope," felt like a deep and reassuring breath—coming at just the right moment to renew faith, restore

hope and refocus our vision. "We have heard about and seen first-hand how soldiers have stepped up in unprecedented, Spirit-empowered ways all throughout the territory," said Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey in thanking soldiers across the Midwest who



Soldiers Joe Caddy, Courtney Smith, Jude St-Aimé

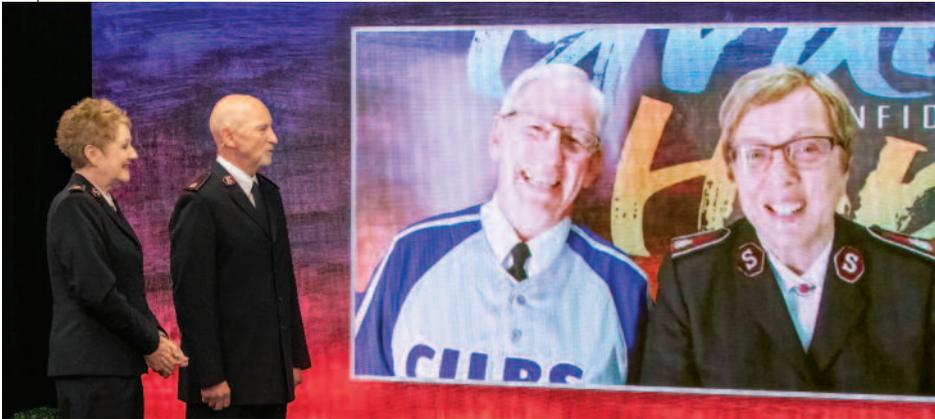
session *Resilient Hope*.

Advocating there were no better people to inspire and encourage, the Baileys introduced The General and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle (WPWM). The international leaders virtually greeted the territory. Wearing a Cubs jersey, The General quipped, "I always know how to pick the right team, and in regard to spiritual warfare I pick our soldiers who are battle-ready and help us daily in this salvation war!"

More than 1,300 registered delegates attended the livestreamed Congress, a hybrid of prerecorded and live elements, which was viewed in watch gatherings in corps, camps and homes across the territory, with several thousand soldiers, officers and friends tuning in for one or more of its components.

Throughout the meeting soldiers were featured including an elo-

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Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey greet The General and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle (WPWM) at the virtual Soldiers' Congress.

have shared the Good News and cared for others during COVID-19. "This Congress is designed to celebrate mission advancement and inspire us onward to even greater things."

"The good news is that we have a God who through Jesus Christ pours out indescribable grace on all who call on Him, and, therefore, as soldiers of the cross we can live victorious lives now and move into the future with an unshakable, confident hope!" exclaimed Commissioner Heidi Bailey, territorial leader for leader development, in the keynote

## Ordinary people called to an extraordinary ministry

The Messengers of Grace are ordinary people called to a life of extraordinary ministry, according to Major Brian Davis, College for Officer Training (CFOT) principal. He commended them in the livestreamed Sunday morning service as reliant on God, resilient, resourceful and ready for battle, saying though they had a unique training experience marked by the global pandemic,

they rose to the challenge. "The salvation war demanded it, and they responded," he said, "because they want to be of use to the Kingdom. They want to make a difference."

A testimony to their session's diversity, the cadets declared their commitment to God and The Salvation Army as they presented their affirmation of faith in English, Spanish and French via video with Chief Secretary Colonel Steven Howard.

As their families watched from a specially designed set, each cadet crossed the platform to be ordained and commissioned as officers by territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey, who affirmed their calling, giftedness and readiness for service. A/Captains Doug and Kim Winters and A/Captains Milagros López-Pagán and Pedro Pagán Acevedo also received their commission as full captains.

"May the Messengers of Grace know Your divine peace and protection as they move out into the world," implored Commissioner Heidi. "A world that will likely take them from the known to the unknown, from the comfortable to the uncomfortable, from the convenient to the inconvenient, from the whole to the broken, from the healthy to the sick, and yes, from light into darkness, but they are willing, Lord, and You are able."



Lts. Jean Rene Nkodia Kiangebeni and Merveille Zola Mabondo family



Valedictorian Lt. Shannon Cabrera



One of the biggest appointment reactions came from Lt. Samantha and Captain Jonathan Tamayo.

In his message, General Brian Peddle challenged the new lieutenants and all Centralites to be an Army that is battle-ready, set apart and a force for good in a world that is increasingly taken over by secular ideology.

"The Army is in its most challenging times, and it's in this that we are called to win the world for Jesus," he said.

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Photos by Andrew Grey

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# The God of second chances

by Commissioner Brad Bailey  
Territorial Commander

As I look back on my early parenting, I am embarrassed and even saddened by times I might have approached a teaching moment with my beautiful girls in frustration or anger rather than love. Let me be clear. There has never been a time when I have not loved them with my whole heart. Yet, I'm haunted by times I may have approached a corrective moment and my unconditional love may not have shone through.

We are painfully aware that when we attempt to correct or discipline children in the midst of disappointment or anger, we may get the appropriate behavior at the moment, but we also might be sowing seeds of frustration and rebellion that ultimately reap a harvest of brokenness and pain. In recent days, we've wit-

nessed how words can either heal or harm, build up or tear down, renew or destroy others.

This is why Paul counseled the Ephesians, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen," (Ephesians 4:29, NIV).

Thank goodness God doesn't give up on us. The Bible says we are to love others the way Jesus loves us. God never asks us to do for others what He hasn't already done for us. One of the most important things we can do is to help people deal with failures, mistakes, misunderstandings, hostility—and the pain experienced as a result. We all have failed at one time or another, but God is the God of the second, third, fourth and fifth



chance. That's an essential aspect of the Good News. "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus," (Philippians 1:6, NIV).

Jesus brought out the best in people, and He calls those who desire to be more like Him to do the same as we engage in everyday life with fellow image-bearers, even those with whom we might disagree. One of our main challenges is to be encouragers. Let's make it our life's mission, who we are and not just what we do.

The level of our commitment to be more like Jesus will determine how we respond to others. This calling to authentically care for OTHERS unconditionally is not easy, but God has promised to direct and sustain us in a manner that brings Him honor and glory!

We are called to be people who care and whose approach to others manifests that commitment's authenticity. When Jesus calls us to love others, He is calling us to care for and serve others not only in His name but in the way in which He approaches us even when we've messed up again and again.

Do your words and life motivate others to care or to quit? Toward faith or a fight? To genuinely love or to actively discourage and shame?

God has a plan to save the lost, but **He needs you** to fulfill it. God has a message, but He needs messengers to live it out and deliver it. Today, God is asking the same question He asked Isaiah, and He awaits an answer, one only we can provide.

As Christian Salvationists, God continues to call us to be a people who care from a heart full of grace and with a confident hope to respond, "Here am I. Send me!"

## "The past does not define us"

by Michelle DeRusha

After three stints in prison and many years battling drug and alcohol addiction, LaTosha Bolton is grateful to be sober, employed as lead kitchen manager for the Omaha North, Neb., Corps and finally in a position where she can offer her own story as encouragement to others.

LaTosha grew up in "the projects" of south Omaha, shuttling between her parents' home and her grandparent's house in nearby Bellevue. She earned a cheerleading scholarship, but her dream to attend college was thwarted when she became pregnant shortly after graduation from high school.

After having a second baby, LaTosha became addicted to drugs and alcohol and ultimately landed in prison for attempted robbery. Although she was determined to set herself straight when she was released nine months later, drugs and drinking got the best of her again.

Not long after being released, the unimaginable happened: Bolton's eight-year-old son was hit by a car and

killed. Consumed by grief, she attempted suicide and sought escape through drugs and alcohol again. It wasn't until she became pregnant with her fourth child that LaTosha finally committed to sobriety.

For the next 18 years, LaTosha's life was stable. Her career at McDonald's flourished, she and her husband welcomed a fifth child into the world, and her record stayed clean. But in 2015 her past caught up with her. LaTosha was incarcerated for a crime she'd committed 20 years prior, when she'd used Social Security income benefits for herself that were intended to support her daughter, who has a learning disability and was living with Bolton's mother at the time.

Upon her release, LaTosha again committed to making a fresh start.

She began volunteering every morning at the Omaha North Corps after finishing the night shift at McDonald's. When a job in the corps' kitchen became available, she applied and was hired. Five years later she is still grateful every day for the opportunity to contribute to her community.

"The Salvation Army gave me a chance," she said. "I took so much over the years, but now I'm in a position that I can give wholeheartedly to my community."

"Tosha is a really important part of our team," said corps officer Lt. Ken

Jones. "She's not a 'punch in and punch out' kind of employee. Tosha has a great work ethic and is always looking for specific ways to improve. She is truly a blessing to us."

Despite ongoing challenges, LaTosha's faith keeps her strong and stable. "God has put me in the right place," she said. "I really hope people who hear my story know that they can take a chance on themselves, because the past, no matter what's happened, doesn't define us. God has the last say. Every day I struggle, but at 54 years old, I'm finally getting it."



## Walk for Justice

by Jonathan Tostige Ruthberg

COVID-19 presented challenges in providing services and fundraising alike, but that didn't stop our team at the William Booth Legal Aid Clinic from hosting its annual Walk for Justice in metro Detroit. With the complications imposed by the pandemic, it was crucial for the Clinic to maximize opportunities for the event and raise as much support as possible. Our staff resolves over 1,800 legal issues a year for individuals and families in need.

Instead of the normal one-day event at the Detroit Zoo, we invited the community to participate in a three-day virtual Walk for Justice from their local park, neighborhood or favorite outdoor location. Every event participant received a Walk for Justice mask, entry for a door prize, and access to an online silent auction. Participants stayed connected by sharing photos on Facebook using #WalkforJustice.

We are beyond grateful for our broad base of donors and participants who walked and participated in a virtual silent auction, and for the local musicians who performed on our behalf! At the time of publication, the goal of \$60,000 had been exceeded with more donations anticipated.

We are thrilled to know that because the Walk for Justice was successful, we can continue to provide our critical service to those in need of legal representation in the Detroit area.



**Central Connection** 

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# Advancing racial justice in the Central Territory

by Major Katherine Clausell

Displaying courage and conviction last fall, the Central Territory convened a Racial Justice Summit where nearly 1,000 delegates virtually were challenged to be on the forefront of combatting racism, both within our organization and society.

With the aspirational goal of "moving forward together toward diversity, inclusion and anti-racism in the Central Territory," officers, soldiers and employees returned to their commands to devise a plan with achievable goals and action steps that would serve as a blueprint "to do better" as we strive to achieve God's ideal of unity.

Each division, the Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command and the College for Officer Training wasted no time establishing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committees which each were tasked with creating a specific statement for their context and goals to help enable them to hit the target they set with respect to amplifying diversity, equity and inclusion. Here are just a few examples of the many goals and action steps:

- Purposely ensure all boards, councils, committees and divisional



Major Katherine Clausell, social justice and urban mission secretary, speaks at the Racial Justice Summit

- events represent our divisional diversity
- Examine and identify policies and procedures within our division

that may show certain bias or discriminatory practices in order to ensure our organization is equitable for all people in this area

- Conduct a survey to ascertain all of the division's officers' intention, involvement and cultural intelligence on the topic of anti-racism/inclusion, equity, and racial reconciliation

- Set up a trackable system of intentional recruitment of volunteers from minority groups within our communities. We will increase minority volunteer engagement by 20 percent in at least seven of our 21 corps.
- Create two webinar training opportunities for our officers, employees and soldiers this fiscal year and have 25 percent of corps participate. This will move to a yearly goal of four per year in 2022.

It has been exciting to see Salvationists at the local level come together to examine themselves to determine if racism operates in our ministry and take on the difficult task of confronting what surfaced with a view toward devising strategies for dismantling it. This work is paramount.

If the Church, including The Salvation Army, is unable to reach consensus or unite around the issue of racism, I fear our commitment to fulfill both the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19 "...go and make disciples of all nations...") and The Salvation Army's mission ("preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet needs in his name without discrimination") will be compromised severely. However, as a people of faith and hope, we do not lose heart because Jesus has prepared the way for overcoming racism and discrimination.

## Bed & Bread trucks take COVID-19 vaccines to Detroiters

by Jonathan Tostige Ruthberg

The Detroit Harbor Light, Central City Integrated Health (CCIH) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) have collaborated to educate and vaccinate Detroiters affected by racial and economic disparities in access to and delivery of healthcare.

The Harbor Light's Bed & Bread trucks have been accompanied on their routes by a CCIH mobile care team consisting of two nurses and a peer support specialist, who share information about the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccination and administer the doses.

"The timing and the need could not be greater. We are grateful for the opportunity to reach deep pockets of our community where access

to care is limited," said Jamie Winkler, Eastern Michigan Harbor Light System executive director.

A CDC vaccination card is provided to participating community members with the date of their vaccination and the date of their second vaccination, which they can get from the Bed & Bread truck in their neighborhood. If they are unable to make it to the truck, they can call CCIH and get their vaccination at any CCIH facility. Clients also receive information on the comprehensive array of services, including housing, offered by CCIH. Referrals are made upon request and/or based on necessity.

In 2020, CCIH partnered with The Salvation Army's Bed & Bread program to provide prompt access to integrated health services including primary healthcare, mental health and dental services, and substance abuse treatment.

"It's an honor to go out and meet the needs of Detroiters, addressing the racial and economic disparities in the access and delivery of care," said Dr. Kimberly Farrow, Central City Integrated Health president and CEO. "We're excited to bring vaccines to the community and thankful for The Salvation Army mobilizing this initiative."

The collaboration between the organizations will protect those in need in Detroit, expand access to integrated healthcare services to high-risk populations, and support the state's goal of vaccinating 70 percent of Michiganders ages 16 and older as quickly as possible.



## Finding her path

When Katherine Reid and her mom came to The Salvation Army's Crossroads Shelter in Independence, Mo., it was for a fresh start. Due to her mom's substance abuse, they'd been through hard times and had even lost their house. At the shelter, they not only found help but people who cared and a new sense of family. It connected Katherine to what eventually would become her life's work.

"People had dinner together. They had chores. They did Bible study. I had other kids to play with; it was so great," said Katherine. "It kept me focused and steady—to come home and have someone help me with homework versus just trying to figure it out on my own was a big thing. I remember saying 'I want to do something like this one day.' That was my dream," she said.

Later as a mother herself, Katherine couldn't make ends meet and didn't know where to turn since she'd been self-reliant. At her aunt's suggestion she called the Lawrence, Kan., Corps and got an appointment

with a caseworker. Though the office was closing when Katherine arrived late due to extenuating circumstances, caseworker Kate Rylander welcomed her and not only provided assistance but connected her with the Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative.

"I just remember feeling so relieved," Katherine recalled. "If we hold loosely to our plans and give God room to move, it can change people's lives like mine."

With POH's strengths-based approach, Katherine set goals to get a job that was more fulfilling and would better support her family and secured a new position. It was through volunteering at the corps she discovered what she really loved—helping people. She volunteered at the corps every day before going to work in the evenings.

Initially content to just serve others,



Lt. Katherine Reid and her daughter Cassidy

she eventually attended worship at the corps and found people were friendly and the sermon spoke to her heart. She became a leader for character-building programs, soldier, corps council member and then an intern in the Ministry Discovery program.

Taking Uber to the Independence, Mo., Corps, for her second internship, she was dropped off at the shelter which seemed familiar, and she talked about this with the first person she saw, Kathy Asher.

"When she said it was a shelter, I got chills," said Katherine, who realized it was where she'd lived as a child. It was Kathy's turn to be stunned; she'd been coordinating services there for more than 30 years.

Katherine couldn't help but think God had brought her back to do for others what someone had done for her. She says it was a blessing to build relationships with people at the shelter, to hold Bible studies and to introduce them to the other services, programs and community of support at the corps.

This year Katherine is the first officer to be commissioned who came to her calling through POH. As she expected, training challenged and shaped her but it also provided encouragement, support and the beginning of lifelong friendships.

"I am ready to go out and pour into people's lives like others have been pouring into mine," she said. "It's about love, looking beyond how the world sees people to see them as God does."

## Ordinary people Continued from page 1



Lts. Sarah and Simon Micula, with baby Phoebe, are cheered on virtually by their home corps.

The General called for Salvationists to stand firm on God's Word and promises, to embrace Spirit-filled innovation and to join the Messengers

of Grace by stepping out in obedient faith.

The energetic afternoon Service of Appointments was interspersed with pre-recorded videos, including the ever-popular parade of flags and singing of the session song, "Grace Wins," by Matthew West.

Valedictorian Lt. Shannon Cabrera spoke of her session's diversity and re-

siliency, assets that will serve them well in their first appointments. The recipient of the Lt. Colonel Kathleen Zehm World Mission Award, she

and her session-mates applauded other award winners including Lt. Macy Theriot (Salutatorian), Lt. April Alvarez (Commissioner Samuel Logan Brengle Preaching Award), Lt. Breanna James (Colonel Albert Pepper Servant Leadership Award), and Lt. Simon Micula (Commissioner Andrew S. Miller Evangelism Award).

The General and Commissioner Rosalie Peddle then charged the new lieutenants, officers and soldiers to recognize and share God's grace in every situation and to be obedient to His call without fear.

"Together we are the Army," said Commissioner Rosalie. "We personally carry the responsibility by God's grace to create His Kingdom here on earth, a kingdom that knows and experiences the rhythms of grace in individual lives and communities. This means that we challenge our broken cultures, reject the status quo and move out from here today knowing God's grace and sharing that grace in every sacred encounter."

Charged to carry out the Great Commission, the new lieutenants received their appointments. There was anticipation as each individual, couple or family joined Commissioners Bailey in front of a jumbo screen where their appointment would be revealed on Google Earth, followed by excitement and joy as they were cheered virtually by members of their families,



Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey and Major Brian Davis with Messengers of Grace session award recipients



Lt. Donna Gooden and her daughter, Samantha

home corps and divisions. They take up their appointments in corps, Kroc Centers and at the CFOT, deployed to be Messengers of Grace to a world in need.



Lt. Luke Hursh and his wife, Captain Patricia Salas, high-five upon learning their appointment.



Lt. Wayne Strayer pins the silver star on his mother, Marian Strayer.



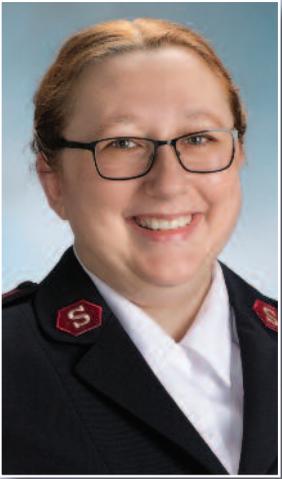
Cheered by his family, A/Captain Pedro Pagán Acevedo salutes Commissioners Bailey as he is commissioned to a full captain.



Lts. Johnny and Marsha Miller point to their appointment in Omaha, Neb., on a Central Territory map.

# Messengers of Grace

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

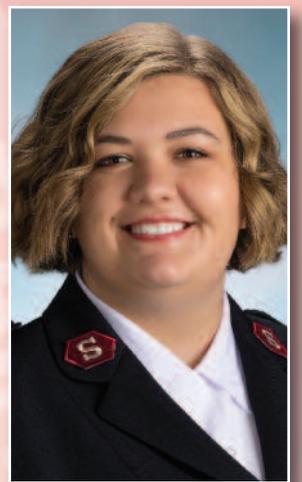


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Corps Officers  
Aberdeen, S.D.

**Lt. Shannon Cabrera**  
Spanish Training Officer  
College for Officer Training

**Lt. Kaitlin Cheyenne Fullop**  
Kroc Center Officer for  
Mission Integration  
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Assistant Corps Officer  
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**Lt. Luke Hursh**  
Corps Officer  
Salina, Kan.

**Lt. Breanna L. James**  
Corps Officer  
St. Louis Euclid, Mo.

**Lts. Jean Rene Nkodia Kiangebeni and  
Merveille Zola Mabondo**  
Assistant Corps Officers  
Rockford Temple, Ill.

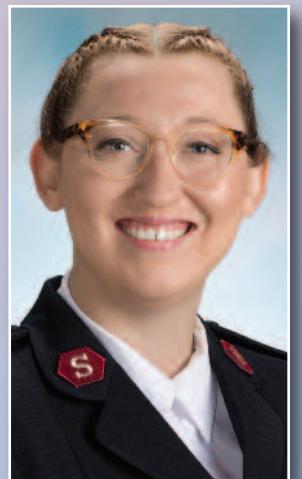
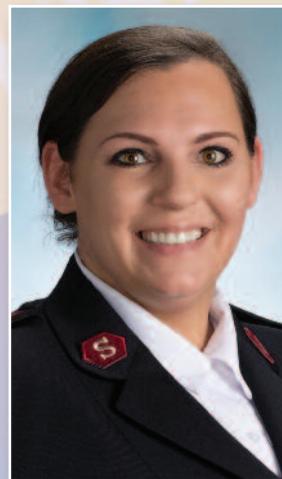
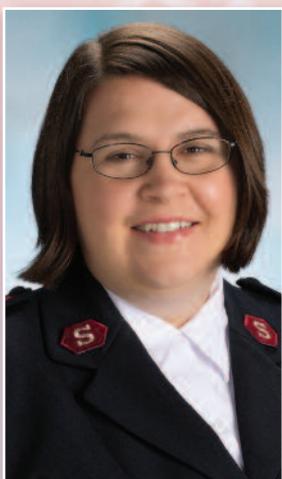
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Corps Officer  
Marion, Ind.



**Lts. Sarah and Simon Micula**  
Corps Officers  
Kansas City Northland, Mo.

**Lts. Johnny Lee Miller and Marsha M. Williams-Miller**  
Corps Officers  
Omaha North Side, Neb.

**Lt. Katherine Elaine  
Joyce Reid**  
Assistant Corps Officer  
Bloomington, Ill.



**Lt. Wayne Strayer**  
Assistant Corps Officer  
Springfield Clear Lake, Ill.

**Lts. Audrey and Shawn Sutter Sr.**  
Corps Officers  
Downriver, Mich.

**Lt. Samantha Tamayo**  
Corps Officer  
Flint Beecher, Mich.

**Lt. Macy Theriot**  
Corps Officer for  
Congregational Life  
Evanston, Ill.

# God's Grace in my life

*Though the 20 lieutenants commissioned this June come from different backgrounds, they are united by God's transformative grace in their lives and their desire to share this message of hope with others. Get to know this amazing session through a few of their stories.*

## A hope and a future

by Lt. Wayne Strayer

I am not your typical Salvationist. My family did not go to church, and before age 46 I didn't know what The Salvation Army was or did. I come from a small town in north central Iowa. Life was difficult as a child. I had mental health issues. Not accepted by my peers, I was bullied and had very few friends. Life at home was not much better; I suffered from abuse and a hard and angry father.

Despite that, I thought I knew everything and wanted to prove myself to my family and everyone else. I joined the Navy at 18 and did well until I was introduced to drugs and alcohol. When my addiction exploded, I was forced to leave the military. Addiction ruled my life. I tried to make changes, but nothing could fill the hole inside of me. After two failed marriages and the loss of a great paying career, I was lost and alone. Evicted, I was homeless when someone told me about the Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) in Davenport, Iowa. I didn't know what it was, but after years of failed attempts at sobriety I was desperate for a solution.

At the ARC I was introduced to a loving God and formed a relationship that I never imagined could change my life in such a dramatic way. I found forgiveness and acceptance, two things I never believed I could have. I even felt God calling me to serve Him though I didn't



fully understand what that meant and wasn't yet prepared to follow. It took two trips through the ARC for me to solidify my relationship with Christ and to accept my calling to become an officer. Today, I enjoy healthy relationships with my children and family and celebrate five years of sobriety. I love life and ministry and am grateful to become an officer who can witness to others about the grace of God and the hope found in Jesus.

## A heart for others

by Lt. Shannon Cabrera

As a bicultural, bilingual woman in this country, sometimes standing my ground and finding my place in any setting can be difficult. When my heart mourns with people who look like me, who sound like me—and even those who don't—I realize how much God's grace has allowed me to become who He created me to be. His grace has allowed me to find a passion for serving and advocating for people.

Our session song, "Grace Wins," by Matthew West, says, "For the lost out on the street, for the worst part of you and me, for the world that is lost, grace wins." We were all in this place at some point in our lives, and for me, grace did win.

As I transitioned to life as a college student a few years ago, I trusted God could use me, a shy, introverted young woman, to pursue a career in criminal justice. He gave me a heart for His people, so I, too, may show grace and be faithful in serving Him. God has given me countless opportunities to grow, to be challenged and to follow His calling to fulltime ministry as a Salvation Army officer. His grace and faithfulness are constantly overflowing in my life. How can I not share the overwhelming

feeling of God's grace and love?

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need," (Hebrews 4:16, NIV).



## A persistent calling

by Lt. Jean Rene Nkodia Kiangebeni

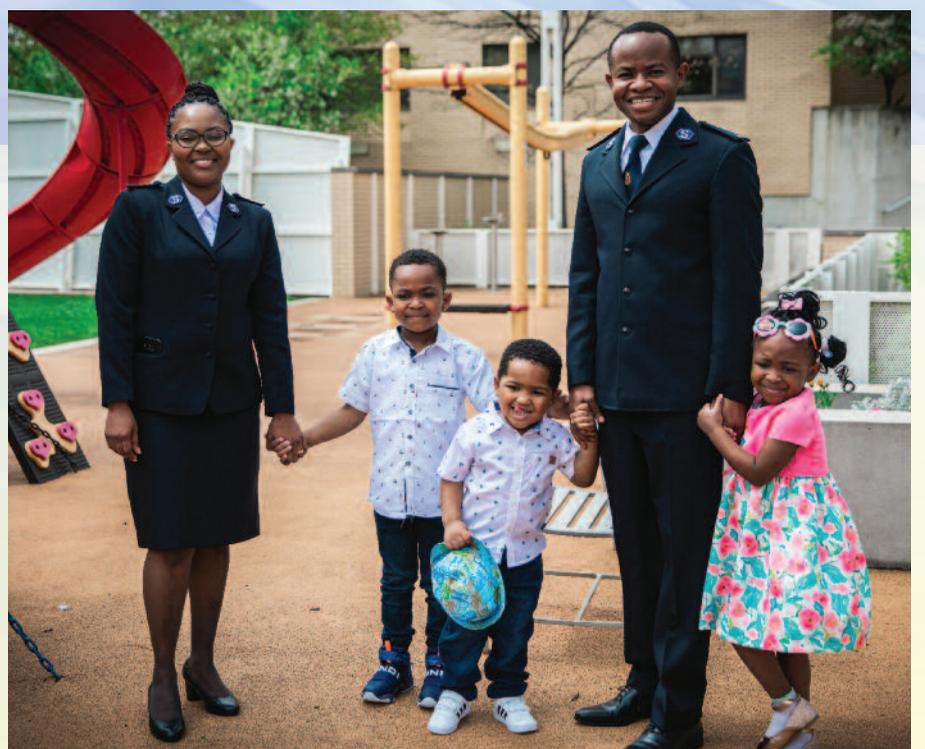
In my life, God's amazing grace has been incredible. I was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo and spent much of my youth with my Salvation Army officer grandparents.

Never in my wildest dreams did I see myself following in their footsteps. Despite faithful involvement in my corps, I never considered becoming an officer. I had other goals, like obtaining a college degree, having a successful career, getting married and building a home. Through God's grace, I was able to achieve these things.

Amid my accomplishments, God started whispering in my ear about officership. At first, I thought it was just my imagination, but the idea per-

sisted and I began to wonder if I should leave my job to seek officership and live in challenging circumstances as my grandparents did. My wife expressed similar sentiments.

When we were considering this, through God's grace we received a special visa that permitted us to enter the United States and receive our green cards, allowing us to become citizens. My wife and I were completely open to God's leading at this stage. We began our journey at the New Rochelle Corps in New York. Facing a variety of obstacles, we questioned our decision, but God's grace shone brightly and our corps officers encouraged us to consider pursuing officership in the Central Territory, where my family was greeted with open arms.



Lt. Jean Rene with his wife, Lt. Merveille, and their children Bradley, Donald and Staci.

At this point, I did not doubt God's amazing grace in my life. My family and I arrived at the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps where we did an internship.

After a year, we were well prepared to enter the College for Officer Training, committed to following and serving our God whatever the cost.

## A waymaker in my life

by Lt. Shawn Sutter, Sr.

Without me even knowing it, God's grace has been in every aspect of my life.

While living in Cheyenne, Wyo., God's grace was present when my mother finally built up the courage to leave my siblings' abusive father after he passed out drunk. She then raised us four kids for eight years by herself. Though my siblings' father is Hispanic, and our mother is white, we have always treated each other like there is no difference between us. My mom told us about God and made sure we attended the neighborhood Catholic church.

In 1992 she met my stepdad who loved her and us kids as if we were his own. After graduating from high school in Topeka, Kan., I enlisted in the Air Force. While stationed at the base in Minot, N.D., I met my wife,

Audrey. By God's grace, we have been married for more than 23 years and have four children. She introduced me to The Salvation Army, but we did not attend faithfully until I heard Major Dan Burris preach. God used his words, actions and his past to reach me.

I finally truly believed in Christ and wanted to do more for Him. Within the year, I was enrolled as a senior soldier. Increasingly I felt a passion to do more in The Salvation Army and talked with my wife about it. Amazingly, she had felt the call to become an officer as a teenager; now, 20 years later, I had the same calling.

Though the devil tried to derail our path to officership, by God's grace we were accepted to training and now are becoming officers. I am forever thankful for the people God put in my life to keep me on the right track.



Lt. Shawn with his wife, Lt. Audrey, and their children Aidan, Gabriella and Shawn, Jr. Their daughter Alexandra is not pictured.

## A constant presence



Lt. Breanna with her children Karmen, Cy and Chris

by Lt. Breanna James

When I find myself reflecting on God's grace, I think about today, right now, here in this moment, and how God continues to show His grace to me.

While preparing my heart to come to training, there were plenty of times I was tempted to turn around and deny what I knew God was calling me to, but I stepped out in faith and followed God's plan instead. When I thought I was losing my freedom or wondering if I was good enough, I asked myself, "Are you sure God is calling you?"

God showed me grace even in my uncertainty, hesitation and concerns. His presence was always with me. I realized later that through His grace, God was providing a once-in-a-life-

time experience to serve Him in the greatest capacity of being a servant. I became overwhelmed with gratitude by the moment-to-moment grace showered upon me through His goodness.

What I have learned in my experiences through God's grace is that my service to the Lord as an officer does not take away or restrict my freedom, but instead, perfects it. This moment-to-moment grace helps me overcome the restricting power of sin, and I have the privilege to help others see that their real obstacle to freedom is sin. God's grace is so sufficient that even in my time of despair and worry, He chose me to be a "Messenger of Grace" and showered me with an immeasurable amount of love and assurance that I am His messenger witnessing of His grace!

## A beacon in the storm

by Lt. Macy Theriot

God's grace has been a constant in my life before and after becoming a Christian. His grace extended to me even though I didn't deserve it and couldn't do anything to earn it. There have been many times in my life when I can pinpoint receiving God's grace, but a monumental one was when my family went through Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Looking back at God's goodness during this time always brings me to my knees. By God's grace our lives were preserved. Surrounded by havoc and destruction with water everywhere that wouldn't stop coming, I felt hopeless. But in that moment God offered hope to me—a young girl who didn't know Him but who He loved anyway. God knew my name; He knew me. He knew the path He had planned for my life, and it was far greater than anything I ever could have imagined. After the storm came the calm and peace that passed all understanding despite the confusion and fear all around us.

Though we lost everything we owned, everything we knew, and became homeless, we were thankful to be alive. We stayed in a shelter for months and eventually relocated to Minnesota where I met The Salva-



tion Army when my family walked through its warehouse to receive clothes, including much-needed coats. That day I met a soldier who eventually became my prayer partner. I also met officers who often called our home to invite us to corps activities. Again, God's incredible grace reached out to me, connecting me with The Salvation Army and changing my life.

# Pivoting through adversity

by Jason Pearson

**P**ivoting through adversity. The Salvation Army of Kent County, Mich., used these words that perhaps have developed a clichéd reputation due to the pandemic to bring the community inspiration and hope. "Pivoting through Adversity" was the theme of Kent County's seventh annual Red Shield Event, which was held virtually for the first time this year.

During this chock-full celebra-



tion that spanned nearly an hour, attendees were treated to learning more about how The Salvation Army has adapted and continued to serve the Greater Grand Rapids area under challenging circumstances, and hearing testimonials from a lifetime board member, a thankful client and a longtime volunteer. Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Divisional Commander Major Glenn Caddy and local television personality Michele DeSelms emceed.

Keynote speaker John O'Leary delivered plenty of takeaways through-

out the evening. A St. Louis native, O'Leary was initially brought to Kent County's attention following the suggestion of a local advisory board member, who heard a reverberating message from John several years ago. As a child, O'Leary was given a less than one percent chance to live after suffering horrific injuries during a housefire. Now a bestselling author, podcast host and acclaimed speaker, O'Leary provided a relatable message for what so many people currently face.

His passionate storytelling, unexpected humor, authenticity and Christian background enlivened his talk. While numerous moments proved quotable as O'Leary integrated elements of his own struggles with the strains we encounter today, two of his more salient points included finding someone or some-

thing you are grateful for, and asking yourself the simple but powerfully motivating question of "What more can I do to make tomorrow better than today?"

The Red Shield Event is Kent County's second largest annual fundraiser. Proceeds support year-round programs and services, including those that provide emergency food assistance, housing resources and energy bill assistance, aid individuals struggling with substance use disorder through Turning Point Programs and the Adult Rehabilitation Center, provide programs that impact people of all ages at the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center and Fulton Heights Corps, and support disaster relief.



Major Glenn Caddy, Western Michigan/Northern Indiana divisional commander, and Michele DeSelms, emcee the virtual event.



John O'Leary

## Hodders inspire scholarship winners

**N**ational leaders Commissioners Kenneth G. and Jolene K. Hodder congratulated the 14 scholarship winners at the 23rd annual D.J.'s Hero Awards Luncheon this summer in Omaha, Neb. The Hodders visited with the award winners—each of whom received a \$10,000 scholarship—and celebrated the young people's achievements before attending the main event.

"When we look at you, we have reason to hope," said National Commander Commissioner G. Kenneth Hodder.

The luncheon was held outdoors at the TD Ameritrade Park, a baseball stadium and home of the NCAA College World Series, as a pandemic safety precaution, with guests enjoying traditional ballpark fare and speakers addressing the crowd from a stage at home plate. The event raised nearly \$530,000 to support The Salvation Army's youth programs.

Among this year's scholarship winners were Humoom Darweesh, who arrived in Nebraska from Iraq in 2016 as a Yazidi refugee and a

survivor of genocide at the hands of ISIS, and Andra Williams, who maintained stellar grades and excelled as a cellist and a leader on his high school robotics team while living in a homeless shelter for more than year.

Speaker Byron Pitts, co-anchor of ABC News' "Nightline," shared insights from his own story of perseverance in overcoming illiteracy and gave a call to action to the event's attendees.

"Indifference can be a deadly weapon," said Pitts. "Right now—no matter your age, no matter where you are in life—don't be indifferent to your opportunity to change the world."

The D.J.'s Hero Awards were established in 1999 in honor of D.J. Sokol, who died at 18 after a battle with cancer. The scholarships are underwritten by David and Peggy Sokol, in partnership with the Fred Hunzeker family and Terri and Jack Diesing. They are awarded to Nebraska high school seniors who exemplify perseverance and selflessness and who are servant-leaders in their communities.

## An unexpected honor

**B**ill Blake-more has served on the advisory board in Jackson, Mich., for more than 12 years. In that time, he has been instrumental in revitalizing the board, improving The Salvation Army's visibility in the community and spearheading efforts to engage board members in projects and fundraisers to further the mission.

In 2020, Bill, who currently serves as the advisory board chair, was the recipient of the Certificate in Recognition of Exceptional Service, a national award presented to outstanding individuals who have contributed in a significant way to The Salvation Army.

"Bill has proven to be dedicated to the Salvation Army's goals of service," said Major Jose A. Tamayo, Jackson corps officer. "He brings outstanding service not only to The Salvation Army, but to the entire community of Jackson through the donation of his time, expertise and energy."

Bill's first encounter with The Salvation Army was in 2006 when he participated in a small golf outing fundraiser with friends. Afterwards, he began to explore the Army's purpose and place in the community.

"The more I learned about The Salvation Army, the children's programs, the food pantry and all the other services, I wanted to be involved," he said.

Although he didn't have much time to devote to it while running his Christian bookstore and a small chocolate factory, Bill joined the advisory board when he retired. A few



Major Jose Tamayo presents the Certificate in Recognition of Exceptional Service to Bill Blakemore.

years later, in 2016, he attended the National Advisory Organizations Conference (NAOC) in Phoenix, Ariz., and came back with a whole new perspective.

"A shift happened for me at NAOC," Bill said. "I came back really on fire for building our board and changing the culture of our board."

With encouragement and support from the corps officers and development director, Bill researched Salvation Army advisory boards and manuals, created a board manual tailored for local needs and implemented a board development program. Before long the board was filled with local business owners and community members invested in supporting The Salvation Army's programs and services.

Over the past several years, ambitious fundraising goals have been set and surpassed time and again under Bill's leadership, enabling corps programs and services to thrive with adequate financial support.

"Things are moving, and we're excited about it," Bill said.



National leaders Commissioners Kenneth G. and Jolene K. Hodder, 2021 event chairs Dr. Ken and Annie Bird, scholarship founders and underwriters David and Peggy Sokol, and Western divisional leaders Majors Greg and Lee Ann Thompson with 12 of the 14 scholarship recipients.

# 730... AND BEYOND



2,942 days and counting

by Captain Brenna Lee

One of my favorite things about being an officer is that every day is different. Each day is filled with a variety of ways we can choose to love God and His people.

Each appointment also brings variety. In my eight years of officership, I have held three corps appointments (Omaha North Side, Neb., Madison, Ind., and Indianapolis Fountain Square, Ind.) Additionally, I've served as intercultural ministries coordinator for the Indiana Division and have operated an outpost in Johnson County, Ind.

From appointment to appointment, sometimes even day to day, opportunities change, but the purpose of sharing God's overwhelming love remains the same. Some days I've felt well-equipped to serve my community, and other days I've had no clue what I was supposed to be doing. I've learned both feelings are completely normal and have come to terms with it.

Since I don't know everything, I need to recruit and raise up leaders. I am so grateful for the leaders who have been invested in the lives of others at each of my appointments. But sometimes it has just been me. You're the officer, so tag you're it! I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities which have made me step out of my normal experiences, skills or abilities. These moments have brought the most growth and often the most joy.



Moments of joy where I've felt God utilize the skills and talents that He instilled in me were operating an afterschool program in Omaha, teaching dance classes in Madison and organizing an eight-week summer day camp at Indianapolis Fountain Square.

But there have been far more moments where I have been faced with an opportunity for service where I was underequipped or not prepared. For instance, operating a feeding program attended by more than 300 people in Omaha, responding to flooding in Madison the week we arrived at that appointment, or navigating a global pandemic and providing ample opportunities for our Indianapolis Fountain Square congregation to stay connected with one another.

Despite how I feel, I find God always provides. I simply need to be obedient and love the community to which He has led me and The Salvation Army has appointed me.

## Centralites appointed overseas

Two Central Territory officer couples have recently been appointed to serve overseas, effective July 1, 2021.

**Captains Rona Mutcha and Matthew Beatty** are taking up appointments in England. Captain Matthew will serve at International Headquarters as International Emergency Services Program Officer for Strategy, Security, and Project Support. Captain Rona will serve as the Chaplain at the No. 10 Drop-In Center with St. Anne's and as Associate Officer at the Regent Hall Corps in



London, England, in the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland.

**Majors William and Cassandra DeJesús** are taking up appointments in the Argentina Division in the South America East Territory, where they will serve as Divisional Mission Secretaries and Corps Officers of the Bahía Blanca Central Corps.



## MESSENGERS OF Reconciliation

2020  2022

Newly  
accepted  
candidate



**Camon Landry**

First-generation Salvationist

**Indianapolis Fountain Square, Ind., Corps** ♦ **Indiana Division**

*Captains Brenna and Vinal Lee, corps officers*

### Spiritual Gifts

Giving ♦ Leadership ♦ Serving

### Ministry Passion or Experience

Children/Youth ♦ Worship

### Spiritual mentors

Captain Vinal Lee ♦ Lt. Aaron Johnson

## Witnesses for Jesus



Majors Bob and Audrey McClintock receive their retirement certificates from Lt. Colonels Paul and Renea Smith.

Majors Bob and Audrey McClintock trusted God for their future when they answered His call to become Salvation Army officers in 1988. Two years later they were commissioned with the "Witnesses for Jesus" session, a name that aptly captured their life's mission.

Thirty-one years later, they testified this spring at their retirement service to God's incredible faithfulness as they served in six appointments. Surrounded by family, friends and colleagues they celebrated with tributes from friends near and far (via video messages) of lives that have been changed by their ministry.

"I can't think of a better place to serve the Lord than The Salvation Army," Major Bob said. "The opportunities are so varied, the people so diverse and the donors so generous. In TSA we are so blessed to see both the generosity of those who give and the gratitude of those who receive."

The McClintocks served as corps

officers at the Omaha North, Neb., Corps and Aberdeen, S.D., Corps before being appointed to Northern Divisional Headquarters as divisional youth/candidates' secretary and assistant divisional youth secretary, sunbeam and girl guard director and corps cadet counselor. Subsequently they took on the responsibilities of Black Hills Area coordinator and special services coordinator and Rapid City, S.D., corps officers. They led the Rockford, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center before being appointed to Territorial Headquarters as correctional services director/men's fellowship secretary and silver star secretary.

"All of our appointments were rewarding," concluded Major Bob. "Some were more challenging than others, but every appointment was fulfilling. We especially enjoyed working with young people as divisional youth secretaries and the life-or-death ministry of the ARC."

The McClintocks and their daughter, Stacy, now reside in Loves Park, Ill.

## Amicks have walked the good path

by Major Cherri Hobbins

*"This is what the LORD says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls'" (Jeremiah 6:16, NIV).*

As Lt. Colonels Richard and Vicki Amick reflected over their 43 years of officership, there were many crossroads, occasions for a choice of direction. Some are common to officers like accepting Christ as Savior, responding to a call to officership, marriage and family. Others, not of our choosing, include times of disappointment, sickness and loss. However, we are given the opportunity to choose how we respond, allowing experiences to cause either a bitter spirit or a deeper reliance and trust in the Lord.

Time and again, the Amicks have chosen the path of closely following the Lord. Their responses to life's challenges have been shaped by daily meditation on the Bible and prayer. As a result, God has worked through them to accomplish His purposes and plans for their lives. They have discovered where the "good way" lies and have faithfully walked that path.

Their retirement service was full of stories and experiences that brought joy and laughter. The fun-loving ways in which the Amicks have approached corps and headquarters appointments have brought a pleasant atmosphere. Their care and concern for others, as evidenced by "Friday walk-arounds" and an open office door, have brought a spirit of comfort and solace. Both are known for praying with others in



times of joy and sorrow.

Lt. Colonel Dick has used his gift of administration of finances for the majority of his officership. The Central Territory has been strengthened because of his diligence in handling the financial assets given by others for the glory of God and the benefit of those in need. He is a good financial steward!

Lt. Colonel Vicki has used her effervescent personality to uplift others. Her infectious laughter has filled the halls and rooms of her appointments. In recent years, the territory's retired officers have found in her a trusted friend. She's been a faithful and diligent prayer warrior.

At the conclusion of their retirement service, the Amicks shared a vocal duet, "As for Me" (Maranatha! Singers), that summed up the secret to their ministry. Based on Psalm 17:15, the catchy tune underscores the good paths of those who seek the Lord:

*"As for me  
I will behold Thy face in righteousness  
I will be satisfied  
When I awake with Thy likeness  
I want to be just like You Lord  
So as for me I will behold Thy face."*

## Rising Stars a big success

by Elizabeth Malovance

Last year saw the start of a new online music and creative arts festival called Rising Stars which turned out to be perfect timing. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and limitations on programs, Rising Stars served as a great opportunity for the territory since it allows participants to record entries wherever they are and submit them online. Digital accompaniments are available for free to all who do not have access to a live accompanist as well.

With an increase of more than four times the involvement, this year's Rising Stars was a huge success! Participants of all ages submitted virtual performances in brass, drama, piano and voice. To expand opportunities for development, new composition categories were added encompassing submissions in brass, choral and songwriting. One of the benefits of the festival's format is that it allows participants to submit performances in more than one cate-

gory. Many chose to do this which maximized their growth across multiple disciplines.

All Rising Stars participants receive comments from three adjudicators, an overall rating and a certificate of participation. The

adjudicators are made up of highly qualified individuals from across the globe and provide a great opportunity for our Rising Stars to learn invaluable personalized insights on their craft.

"Rising Stars has given a wonderful opportunity for Heartland Regional Music Schools and Heartland Online Music Education students to enhance and improve not only their music and creative arts skills but to use and share their talents to glorify God at their local corps," said Peter Kim, Heartland divisional music and creative arts director.

Each year more solo selections and categories are available. Be sure to mark your calendars to participate in Rising Stars 2022 next spring.

For more information, visit [samusiccentral.org](http://samusiccentral.org). YouTube channel.



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

## Love through Me, Love of God

*O God, it is You who knows my folly, and my wrongs are not hidden from You. May those who wait for You not be ashamed through me, O Lord God of hosts; May those who seek You not be dishonored through me, O God of Israel. (Psalm 69:5-6, NASB—1995)*

by Diane Ury

What heartbreaking times we live in. The news is baffling. What people write on social media is sometimes crushing. More than once I've been unable to sleep because I've realized, based upon their posts, people who I thought were my friends have maligned me by labeling me or blanketly grouping me with others. It's shocking behavior. Such hateful divisiveness is not only foolish, it's evil.

What are young people thinking about that? What is anyone else who might be seeking God thinking of His followers, and therefore of God Himself, as a result?

We can be skilled at denying our sin with excuses, blaming some other ideological group for our own foul thoughts and words.

**But Christians never have a right to love to loathe!**

I'm so grateful the love of God is deeper, stronger and more unrelenting than our misguided viciousness. God's justice moves from His mercy. I've experienced the awe-filled conviction of His

just eye upon my vindictive ways, but I've also experienced the cleansing, washing, tendering of my spirit by His undeserved mercy. If you've discovered yourself to be a disgrace to those who need hope and not self-righteous rage, cry out to Jesus and receive His cleansing mercy.

The healing of being recreated is beyond description. It is true rest for the soul. That's what holiness is. The Bible continually reveals that our pure, good speech will be the primary evidence that the Holy One is present and in charge of our lives. Jesus longs to pour His love into our lives for the sake of His world. As Amy Carmichael, an Irish missionary to India, once prayed:

*"Love through me, Love of God.  
There is no love in me;  
O Fire of love, light Thou the love,  
That burns perpetually....  
Love through me, even me."*

May our hearts also echo this prayer from China: "Help each one of us, gracious Father, to live in such magnanimity and restraint that the Head of the Church may never have cause to say to any one of us, 'This is my body, broken by you.' Amen." (Prayers for Springtime compiled by Phyllis Tickle)



Savior as we celebrate the joy of His birth, but you will, too, when you Share Your Christmas Joy!

Will you help us reach our goal? Ask your family, friends and coworkers to join!

For more information or to make a donation online, visit [centralmissions.org/Christmas\\_joy](http://centralmissions.org/Christmas_joy)

OR Mail checks to:

Sponsorship Office – Share Your Christmas Joy  
The Salvation Army  
5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy  
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

The Christmas season is filled with sights, sounds, tastes, smells and feelings that not only make precious memories but also deeply connect us to our Savior, Jesus Christ, as we wait in anticipation.

Globally, many children have never experienced the real joy Christmas can bring. The Share Your Christmas Joy fundraiser is designed to give them the unique feelings of excitement, love and joy that only happen during Christmastime.

This program aims to send funds designated for a special Christmas celebration to 75 Salvation Army children's facilities worldwide.

Not only will the children feel more connected to our



## An Army raised up Continued from page 1



Chicago Staff Band "Hemispheres - Music from Around the World" Saturday concert

quent prayer by Sharlene Olivera; a beautiful guitar medley by Carlos Navarro, Jr.; testimonies by four soldiers from the Indianapolis, Ind., Fountain Square Corps who spoke of finding peace in Christ and purpose in the Army; and a mesmerizing sacred dance by Paola Giraldo.

An undoubted high point was the live Q & A with The General and Commissioner Peddle moderated by soldier Angela Weekley, whose casual manner belied the challenging inquiries about complex subjects she pitched the international leaders, who hit each one out of the park. With answers unequivocally grounded in God's Word, they responded articulately and compassionately to questions about racism and social justice, LGBTQ+, and sexism. They encouraged Salvationists to be engaged positively in the conversation about important issues and to be a people of reconciliation.

"It was a privilege to listen to The General and Commissioner Rosalie," said Alfredo Martinez, Aurora, Ill., soldier. "I particularly enjoyed the questions and answers segment with them. It gave me great hope as a Hispanic soldier that The Salvation Army is interested in me, and that I can feel welcome as a member of this wonderful church."

The morning meeting culminated with a powerful message from the General, who identified himself first as a soldier, then spoke about God's role for the Army and its continuing relevance.

"I remain confident that this raised up Army, with its unique DNA within the body of Christ, can survive a nonbelieving culture, and in fact, as people shift their values and nations abandon belief, pushing faith to the margins, our presence, our uniforms, our witness, remains as a beacon in a desolate, dark, and depraved landscape while we actively

point people to the Savior," he said.

The territorial commander then led a time of response, reminding delegates that in any circumstance, whether everyday struggles or life-changing events, strength and resilience are found in Christ.

Delegates could access a virtual prayer room, manned by 30 officer and soldier counselors, at the end of each meeting. "Our passion for supporting seekers doesn't take a back seat to technology," said Major Rachel Stouder who with Mark Bender organized this ministry in English and Spanish. Of course, many delegates could pray in person with their corps officers in watch gatherings throughout the territory.

In Burlington, Iowa, corps officer Captain Dennis Jolly said what resonated most were the messages by the General and Commissioner Peddle. He surmised, "I believe it gave my corps members the excitement to start doing more."

Zoom workshops focused on the soldier's role in the holistic mission. The most popular workshop was presented by National Ambassadors for Holiness Dr. Bill and Diane Ury, who drilled down on this foundational Army doctrine. Another popular session on evangelism was given by well-known pastor, speaker and author Steve Carter.

"For me, the Congress brought life to the mission," said Neisha McNeal, Norridge Citadel, Ill., soldier and Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command employee. "As a new soldier, I sought a deeper investment into The Salvation Army. Each segment, breakout session and prayer meeting allowed me to feel a great pride in the corps and workplace that I choose each day to be a part of."

The Chicago Staff Band, led by Bandmaster Dr. Harold Burgmayer, gave a short dynamic concert, "Hemispheres—Music from Around the World" which ushered in an evening meeting that shared uplifting stories of God's work around the globe and revealed a World Services/Self-Denial Ingathering total of more than \$10 million!

Alongside ongoing programs from the Congo to India were highlighted snapshots of sacrificial service by Salvationists during the pandemic from Spain to Thailand.

Speaking frankly about



The Territorial Visual Communications team which made the virtual Congress possible.

The Salvation Army

# PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

## August Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Sunday	John 16:5-16	Arnold, Mo., Corps
	2 Monday	Psalms 99	Boone, Iowa, Corps
	3 Tuesday	Proverbs 20:17-30	Korea Territory
	4 Wednesday	John 17:9-19	Wisconsin & Upper Michigan
	5 Thursday	Acts 5:1-11	Chicago Englewood, Ill., Corps
	6 Friday	Acts 6:1-7	Ottumwa, Iowa, Corps Plant
	7 Saturday	Acts 8:26-40	Des Moines Citadel, Iowa, Corps
	8 Sunday	Acts 9:1-9	Elkhart, Ind., Corps
	9 Monday	Acts 12:1-17	Fond du Lac, Wis., Corps
	10 Tuesday	Acts 19:23-41	School Aged Children
	11 Wednesday	Psalms 148	India Central
	12 Thursday	Proverbs 21:1-10	Henry County, Ind., Corps
	13 Friday	Romans 5:12-21	College Students
	14 Saturday	Romans 6:1-14	Kansas City Northland, Mo., Corps
	15 Sunday	Romans 6:15-22	Lansing South, Mich., Corps
	16 Monday	Romans 7:14-25	Manitowoc, Wis., Corps
	17 Tuesday	Romans 8:1-17	Milwaukee West, Wis., Corps
	18 Wednesday	Romans 12:1-12	Muscatine, Iowa, Corps
	19 Thursday	Psalms 101	Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps
	20 Friday	Proverbs 21:11-20	Italy and Greece Command
	21 Saturday	I Corinthians 1:18-30	Petoskey, Mich., Corps
	22 Sunday	I Corinthians 10:1-22	Rock County, Wis., Corps
	23 Monday	I Corinthians 15:12-28	South Bend Kroc, Ind., Corps
	24 Tuesday	I Corinthians 15:35-58	St. Joseph, Mo., Corps
	25 Wednesday	Psalms 103	Vincennes, Ind., Corps
	26 Thursday	Proverbs 21:21-31	Wichita Citadel, Kan., Corps
<b>The September territorial prayer calendar is reflected in the weekly prayer guides sent to your corps. See your officer for a copy.</b>	27 Friday	2 Corinthians 1:3-11	Angola Command
	28 Saturday	2 Corinthians 5:1-10	Chicago Staff Band
	29 Sunday	2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1	Grand Haven, Mich., Corps
	30 Monday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Iowa City, Iowa, Corps
	31 Tuesday	Psalms 18:16-36	College for Officer Training

Go to [www.salarmycentral.org](http://www.salarmycentral.org)

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

the hardships and loss in the last year, the General testified to God's faithfulness, saying the Almighty had prepared the Army for such as time as this, and gave incredible examples of God's grace and goodness. He thanked the Central Territory for its generosity and commended its corps for their creativity in pivoting to meet the needs of their communities.

Among the meeting's enriching music was "Floodgates" performed by the Central Territorial Staff Songsters and "Sigues Sidendo Dias" (You are God) written for the Congress by Jose Sanchez and performed by the

Mokan Spanish Singers.

Commissioner Rosalie made an impassioned case for increasing our faith in God whose love is everlasting and who is still at work in the world even when we can't see it, when loss is overwhelming and lives are changed. She cautioned Salvationists to be aware of three common perspectives (disobedience, forgetfulness and lack of expectation) that limit God and urged them instead, "Don't put limits on God, and don't let the world put limits on you...Join me in the fight for the Kingdom of God!"

## On the move

Effective Wednesday, June 30, 2021, unless otherwise indicated.

All officers retain their additional appointment of Assistant Candidates' Secretary unless appointed Candidates' Secretary.

### Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command

**Major Linda Barker**, Admin. for Program, Southeast, MI; **Major Troy Barker**, Admin., Southeast, MI; **Major Daniel Faundez**, Mission Integration Officer, Waukegan, IL; **Major Wendy Faundez**, Add'l Appt: Mission Integration Officer, Waukegan, IL; **Major Mary Thomas**, Admin. for Program, Indianapolis, IN; **Major Michael Thomas**, Admin. for Business, Indianapolis, IN; **Lt. David Meyers**, Admin. for Program, Kansas City, MO; **Lt. Wendy Meyers-Bautista**, Admin. for Business, Kansas City, MO; **Envoy James Bracey, Jr.**, Admin., Omaha, NE.

### College for Officer Training

**Major Lesa Davis**, Add'l Appt: Asst. Training Principal for Spiritual Life and Campus Life; **Major Donna Leedom**, Special Events Coord., Add'l Appt: Moral and Ethical Issues Sec.; **Major Arnel Ruppel**, Change in Designation, Asst. Training Principal for Admin. and Curriculum; **Captain Mary Kim**, Instructor, Add'l Appt: Field Training Officer; **Lt. Donna Thammavongsa**, Personnel Officer; **Lt. Vathana Thammavongsa**, Add'l Appt: ESL Program Coordinator.

### Eastern Michigan Division

**Major Lori Meyer**, Add'l Appts: Community Care Ministries Sec. & Older Adult Ministries Dir., DHQ; **Major Barbara & Lt. Robert Owen**, COs, Mt. Clemens, MI; **Major Timothy Pascoe**, Add'l Appt: Men's Ministries Sec., DHQ; **Majors Brian & Heidi Reed**, COs, Midland, MI; **Majors Kris & Mary Ann Wood**, COs, Plymouth, MI; **Captains Brian & Katrina Goodwill**, COs, Washtenaw County, MI; **Captain Larisha Richardson**, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor.

### Heartland Division

**Major Bob Doliber**, Add'l Appt: CO, Davenport, IA (effective May 5); **Major Heath Sells**, Add'l Appt: Tri-County Coord.; **Captain Keith Graham**, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Ministries Field Advisor; **Captains Antonia & Dennis Marak**, Tri-County Pastoral Care Officers; **Captain Betsy Raes**, Divisional Youth Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Candidates' Sec., DHQ; **Captain Crystal Sherack**, CO, Canton, IL; **Lt. Michael Raes**, Asst. Sec. for Program, DHQ, Add'l Appt: Camp Admin., Eagle Crest Camp & Retreat Center; **Lt. Jessica Smith**, Assoc. CO, Champaign, IL; **Lts. Alisha & Nathan Welch**, COs, Burlington, IA.

### Indiana Division

**Major Charlotte Hall**, Divisional Sec., Add'l Appt: Moral and Ethical Issues Sec., DHQ; **Major Michael McKee**, Divisional Emergency Disaster Services Dir., Add'l Appt: Veterans' Admin. Representative (Returning from National Headquarters), DHQ; **Major Fred Mead, Jr.**, CO, Brown County, IN; **Major Nancy Mead**, Add'l Appts: Community Care Ministries Sec. & Older Adult Ministries Sec., DHQ; **Major Jason Poff**, CO, Evansville (Fulton Ave.), IN, Add'l Appt: Regional Coord. Southwest Indiana, IN; **Major Mary Poff**, CO, Evansville (Fulton Ave.), IN, Add'l Appt: Regional Business Admin., Southwest Indiana, IN; **Captain Jeremy Fingar**, CO, Terre Haute, IN; **Lts. Ada Diaz Fajardo & Elis Pomaes Morales**, COs, Logansport, IN\*.

### Kansas and Western Missouri Division

**Major Jesse Collins**, Add'l Appt: Director of Men's Ministries; **Major Gary & Lt. Karen Felton**, COs, Kansas City (Citadel), KS; **Majors Eric & Patricia Johnson**, COs, Pittsburg, KS; **Major Merrill Powers**, City Commander, Wichita, KS; **Major Nancy Powers**, Command Officer for Program Development, Wichita, KS; **Captain LeOtis Brooks, Jr.**, Metro Kansas City Mission Integration Officer, Add'l Appt: Assoc. Officer for Men's Ministries, Kansas City (Eastside), MO; **Captain LaTonya Brooks**, Add'l Appt: Moral and Ethical Issues Officer; **Captain Lynn Lopez**, CO, Leavenworth, KS\*; **Captain Bersabe Vera-Hernandez**, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Ministries Coord.; **Lt. Jacob Turner**, Divisional Youth Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Candidates' Sec., DHQ; **Lt. Jessica Turner**, Divisional Candidates' Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Youth Sec., DHQ; **Lt. Mylie Hadden**, CO, Emporia, KS; **Auxiliary Captains Brett & Stephanie Dietrich**, COs, Wichita (West Orchard), KS\*.

### Metropolitan Division

**Major Daniel Faundez**, Add'l Appt: Mission Integration Officer, Waukegan, IL; **Major Wendy Faundez**, Mission Integration Officer, Waukegan, IL; **Major Margaret Hill**, Chaplain, Booth Manor; **Major Paula Pyle**, Community Care Ministries Sec., Add'l Appts: Veterans Admin. Representative & Older Adult Ministries Dir., DHQ; **Major Robert Pyle**, Business Officer, Harbor Light Center Freedom Center, Chicago, IL; **Major Angela Wandling**, CO, Rockford (Temple), IL, Add'l Appt: Hope Strong Regional Coord. (Winnebago County, IL), Hope Strong; **Major Monty Wandling**, Winnebago County Coord., Rockford, IL, Add'l Appt: CO, Rockford (Temple), IL; **Captain Corey Hughes**, Admin., Freedom Center, Add'l Appt: Urban Missions Sec.; **Captain Nikki Hughes**, Program Development Officer, Freedom Center; **Captain Jessica Martinez**, CO, East Chicago, IN, Add'l Appt: Hope Strong Regional Coord. (Lake County, IN), Hope Strong; **Captains Daniel Paredes Rivas & Nivia Paredes Valero**, COs, Chicago (LaVillita), IL; **Captain Denesia Polusca**, CO, Chicago (Temple), IL, Add'l Appt: Hope Strong Regional Pastoral Care Officer (Central Chicagoland, IL), Hope Strong; **Captain Norman Polusca**, CO, Chicago (Temple), IL; **Captain Christina Tamayo**, CO for Admin., Evanston, IL; **Captain Sharyn Tennyson**, Divisional Business Officer, DHQ; **Captains Jean & Sanhty Thammavongsa**, COs, Rockford (Tabernacle), IL; **Captain AJ Zimmerman**, CO, Chicago (Englewood), IL; **Lt. Kenneth Alip**, Asst. CO, Oakbrook Terrace, IL; **Lt. Jennifer Davidson**, CO, Chicago (Midwest), IL; **Lt. Gloria Pelayo**, Assoc. CO, East Chicago, IN; **Lt. Sara Ray**, Assoc. CO, Chicago (Midwest), IL; **Lts. Nancy & Pablo Rivera, Jr.**, COs, Crystal Lake, IL; **Auxiliary Captains Angelica & Greg Hartley**, COs, Waukegan, IL; **Envoy Enrique Garcia**, Corps Admin., DeKalb, IL; **Envoy Scott Hurula**, Corps Admin., Joliet, IL; **Mr. Carlos & Mrs. Kerman Moran**, Assoc. Corps Admins. for Hispanic Ministries, Chicago (Mayfair Community Church), IL.

### Midland Division

**Major Louise Blessing**, Social Services Chaplain, Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Social Services Department; **Majors Michele & Nathan Harms**, COs, St. Charles, MO\*; **Majors Rochelle & Trevor McClintock**, Senior Kroc Center Officers, Quincy (Kroc Center), IL, Add'l Appt: Area Command Leaders, Quincy, IL; **Captain Karl Blessing**, Social Services Chaplain, Greater St. Louis Metropolitan Social Services Department, Add'l Appt: Veterans' Admin. Representative, DHQ; **Captain Lennard Cossey**, Divisional Business Officer, Add'l Appt: Men's Ministries Sec., DHQ; **Captain Lorna Cossey**, Urban Missions Sec., Add'l Appts: Moral and

Ethical Issues Sec. & Intercultural Ministries Coord., DHQ; **Captains Cassandra & Sean Grey**, COs, Alton, IL; **Captains Jeanette & Shane Jensen**, COs, St. Louis (Maplewood), MO; **Captain Samantha & Lt. Kenneth Jones**, COs, St. Clair County, IL; **Captains Marisa & Matthew McCluer**, COs, St. Louis (Gateway Citadel), MO; **Captains April & Chris Rutledge-Clarke, Sr.**, COs, Jacksonville, IL; **Lts. Colleen & Justin Corliss**, COs, O'Fallon, MO; **Lt. Matthew DeGonia**, Divisional Youth Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Candidates' Sec., DHQ; **Lt. Virginia DeGonia**, Divisional Candidates' Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Youth Sec., DHQ; **Lts. Lilyanna & Stephen Reinier**, COs, Cape Girardeau, MO; **Mr. Steve Roberson**, Corps Admin., Branson, MO.

### Northern Division

**Major Clara Braddock**, CO, Minneapolis (Parkview), MN; **Major Nelson DeLaVergne**, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor; **Majors AmyJo & Paul Ferguson**, COs, Grand Forks, ND; **Major Latdavanh Kounthapanya**, CO, St. Paul (Citadel), MN, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor; **Major Jolinda Shelbourn**, Sec. for Program, DHQ; **Major Scott Shelbourn**, General Sec., DHQ; **Majors Abran & Ronda Tamayo**, COs, Fargo, ND\*; **Major Deborah Thompson**, Assoc. CO, Albert Lea, MN; **Major Julio Vasquez**, Divisional Sec., DHQ; **Major Karen Vasquez**, Women's Ministries Sec., DHQ; **Lt. Ross Anderson**, Divisional Youth Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Candidates' Sec., DHQ; **Lt. Trisha Anderson**, Divisional Candidates' Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Youth Sec., DHQ; **Lt. Ramon Cebrin**, Change in Designation, CO for Hispanic Ministries, Minneapolis (Central), MN; **Lt. Blake Fewell**, CO for Admin., Minneapolis (Central), MN; **Lts. Derek & Heather Jung**, COs, Lakewood (Temple), MN; **Lt. Elisaine Sanchez Garcet**, Change in Designation, CO for Community Engagement, Minneapolis (Central), MN; **Auxiliary Captain Leonita Schweigert**, Twin Cities Chaplain.

### Western Division

**Major Butch Frost**, Capital Area Coord., Des Moines, IA (Returning from USA Western Territory); **Major Lisa Frost**, CO, Des Moines (Citadel), IA (Returning from USA Western Territory); **Majors Mark & Teri Martoff**, COs, Omaha (Citadel), NE; **Captain Linda McCormick**, CO, Fort Dodge, IA; **Major Jerry O'Neil**, Black Hills Area Coord., Rapid City, SD\*; **Major Vangie O'Neil**, CO, Rapid City, SD, Add'l Appt: Camp Admin.\*; **Captain Christopher White**, Divisional Youth Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Candidates' Sec., DHQ; **Captain Rachel White**, Divisional Candidates' Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Youth Sec., DHQ; **Captain Alex Yanez**, Senior Kroc Center Officer, Omaha (Kroc Center), NE; **Captain Carolina Yanez**, Kroc Center Officer for Congregational Life, Omaha (Kroc Center), NE; **Captain Karissa & Lt. Zachary Zumwalt**, COs, Sioux City, IA; **Lts. Dennis & Kelly Jolly**, COs, Watertown, SD; **Lt. Justin Tracy**, CO, Boone, IA.

### Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division

**Major Carol Huffman**, Senior Kroc Center Officer, Grand Rapids (Kroc Center), MI\*; **Majors Jodi & Nicholas Montgomery**, COs, Niles, MI; **Majors Charles & Kathleen Pinkston**, COs, LaPorte, IN; **Majors Sally & Tim Sell**, COs, Sturgis, MI; **Major Candace Voeller**, Add'l Appt: Moral and Ethical Issues Sec.; **Captains Bridgette & Ronald Amick**, COs, Kalamazoo, MI; **Captain Sarah Eddy**, Divisional Youth Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Candidates' Sec., DHQ; **Lt. James Beardsley**, CO, Lansing (South), MI; **Lts. Joseph & Kendra Hixenbaugh**, COs, Goshen, IN; **Lt.**

**Jack Huffman**, Kroc Center Officer for Congregational Life, Grand Rapids (Kroc Center), MI, Add'l Appt: Kroc Center Officer for Mission Integration\*; **Auxiliary Captain John Gantner**, Senior Kroc Center Officer, South Bend (Kroc Center), IN, Add'l Appt: Kroc Center Officer for Congregational Life; **Auxiliary Captain Tracy Gantner**, Kroc Center Officer for Congregational Life, South Bend (Kroc Center), IN; **Mrs. Tammy Miller**, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor.

### Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division

**Majors Melody & Rick Hamelund, Jr.**, COs, Green Bay, WI; **Major Alan Hellstrom**, CO for Admin., La Crosse, WI; **Major Kimberly Hellstrom**, Chaplain, La Crosse, WI; **Majors James & Penny Mungai**, COs, Oshkosh, WI; **Majors Debra & Jeffery Richardson**, COs, Kenosha, WI; **Captains Dana & Jason Bigelow**, COs, Oak Creek (Centennial), WI; **Captain Patrick Holness**, CO, Milwaukee (West), WI; **Captain Karen Pitter-Holness**, CO, Milwaukee (West), WI, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Ministries Coord.; **Captain Kirsten Kocyan**, Kroc Center Officer for Congregational Life, Green Bay (Kroc Center), WI, Add'l Appt: Kroc Center Officer for Mission Integration; **Lt. Abraham Marin**, CO, Milwaukee (Cold Spring), WI, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor; **Lt. Leta Marin**, CO, Milwaukee (Cold Spring), WI; **Auxiliary Captain Marie Lewis**, CO, Marquette County, MI; **Auxiliary Captain Douglas Winters**, CO, Escanaba, MI, Add'l Appt: UP Regional Coord., Escanaba, MI; **Auxiliary Captain Kimberly Winters**, CO, Escanaba, MI.

### Territorial Headquarters

**Major Beverly Best**, Pastoral Care Officer, Add'l Appt: Pastoral Care Coord.; **Major Timothy Best**, Pastoral Care Officer; **Majors Candy & James Curl**, Pastoral Care Officers; **Captain Claudia Simmons**, Asst. Territorial Candidates' Sec., Candidates' Dept., Add'l Appts: Ministry Intern Specialist, Candidates' Dept. & Ministry Intern Specialist, Youth Dept.; **Captain Daniel Simmons, Jr.**, Asst. Territorial Youth Sec.; **Captain Kristina Sjogren**, Corps and Community Mission Sec.; **Captain Michael Sjogren**, Corps and Community Mission Sec., Add'l Appt: Men's Ministries Sec.

### Officers and Lay Personnel out of Territory

**Majors Cassandra & William DeJesus**, Divisional Mission Secs., Argentina Division, South America East Territory, Add'l Appt: COs, Bahia Blanco Corps (Effective July 1); **Lt. Matthew Beatty**, International Emergency Services Program Officer for Strategy, Security, and Project Support, IHQ; **Lt. Rona Mutcha**, Chaplain: No. 10 (with St Anne's) & Associate Officer, Regent Hall, United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland.

### Officers Transferring out of Territory

**Major Edelweiss Santos-Diaz**, Returning to home territory of USA Eastern Territory.

### Retirements

May 1: **Majors Audrey & Robert McClintock**.  
July 1: **Lt. Colonels Richard & Vicki Amick**; **Majors Colette & Keith Bailey**; **Major Mark Brown**; **Majors Robert & Ruth Fay**; **Majors Dale & Mary Hunt**; **Majors Jean & Larry Manzella**; **Major Joseph & Lois Wheeler**.

August 1: **Major Christine Poff**.

September 1: **Lt. Colonels Jacalyn & Thomas Bowers**; **Lt. Colonels Charles & Sharon Smith**; **Majors Mark & Sandra Turner**.

\*Effective Aug. 11, 2021

## Promoted to Glory

### Major Alice Scott

Major Alice Marie Scott was promoted to Glory on April 5, 2021. Capable, compassionate and determined, Alice's joy and passion in life was teaching Bible study, engaging in community care ministries, and singing.



Alice was born to Richard and Mary Mantle in 1944. As a teenager, she started attending the West Lafayette, Ind., Corps with her mother. She accepted Christ as her Savior at age 16.

After graduating from high school, Alice attended Asbury College before entering officer training in 1965. She was commissioned in 1967 with the "Witnesses to the Faith" session.

Alice married Lt. Robert Scott on June 28, 1969, and the couple served in corps, city and county coordinator and divisional headquarters appointments across the Midwest for more than 43 years. They retired in 2012 from Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Divisional Headquarters, where Alice served as volunteer

services and moral and ethical issues secretary.

Alice was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her children, Jason and Amanda; sisters, Debi Roudebush and Darla Mantle; and brother, Robert (Cheryl) Mantle.

### Major Brian Merritt

Major Brian Stuart Merritt was promoted to Glory on April 8, 2021. Brian was a committed student of God's Word. As an officer, he lived and shared the learned truths and godly wisdom on which he built his lifetime of faith.



Brian was born on November 3, 1935, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, the son of C. Benjamin and Louisa Merritt. He committed his life to fulltime ministry in 1955 when he entered officer training in Chicago, Ill. Commissioned with the "Sword Bearers" session, Brian served in three corps appointments before marrying sessionmate Lt. Kay Crittenden on June 20, 1958.

In the early years, the Merritts

served in corps appointments in the Kansas and Western Missouri, Indiana and Metropolitan divisions and at Western Divisional Headquarters, where Brian was youth secretary. In 1980 they trained to lead adult rehabilitation centers (ARC). They then devoted their ministry and talents for more than 20 years in ARCs, including Peoria and Chicago Northside, Ill., and Grand Rapids, Mich. After a stint at the ARC Command, where Brian was general secretary, the Merritts retired from leading the Romulus, Mich., ARC.

Brian is survived by his wife, Kay; children, Scott (Laurie), Stuart (Katherine), and Major Steven (Christine); nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and sister, Major Carol Bryant.

### Major Lester Anderson

Major Lester Anderson was promoted to Glory on April 24, 2021. He was especially known for creative expressions of the gospel, including chalk talks, painting and outdoor evangelism with his accordion.



Lester found the Lord when he was 16 years old. He entered officer training and was commissioned in 1953 with the "Heralds" session. Two years later, he married Lt. Elizabeth Chapin, and they embarked on 56 years of marriage and ministry together.

The Andersons served in corps appointments until 1975, when they were appointed to the Western Michigan/ Northern Indiana Divisional Headquarters where Lester served as divisional youth secretary. They later were transferred to the Mexico and Central America Territory (now Latin America North), where Lester served as divisional commander of the Panama Division. A stint in the USA Southern Territory followed where he led city commands in Oklahoma City, Okla., and Little Rock, Ark., and served in the ARC. They returned home to the Central Territory in 1987 and served as corps officers until their retirement in 1997.

In retirement Lester was a faithful Sunday school teacher, bandster, songster and men's fellowship member.

Lester is survived by his children, Stephen (Debra), Major Mark (Susan) and Christine (Adam) Morales; eight grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren.