



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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July/August 2023



Buckingham elected 22nd General

Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham has been elected The Salvation Army's 22nd General. He will be the first New Zealander to become General when he takes office on August 3, 2023. At that time, Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham will become World President of Women's Ministries.

The announcement of the new General was made at Sunbury Court on May 27 by High Council President Commissioner Brad Bailey after days of prayerful deliberations by its 112 members.

In greeting the Army world, General-elect Buckingham said, "I want to say this afternoon how grateful I am to the Lord for His saving grace in my own life. I am grateful to the members of the High Council for listening and hearing the voice of the Lord and for their support of myself and Bronwyn as we get ready to assume these leadership responsibilities."

He continued, "We love the mission of The Salvation Army. We believe passionately that Jesus is the hope of

the world. We're so grateful and humbled to have an opportunity to serve in this way, and we have already made a promise to the members of the High Council that we will serve whole-heartedly the mission of The Salvation Army and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"We will do so with humility, grace and courage. And we know that we are supported by great leaders, soldiers, adherents and supporters all over the world, and together,

together, we will carry the mission of The Salvation Army forward."

The General-elect has served as the Chief of the Staff since August 2018. Commissioner Bronwyn Buckingham has served as World Secretary for Spiritual Life Development since January 2021, having previously been World Secretary for Women's Ministries.

Originally from the New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory, the Buckinghams were commissioned in

1990. Over the course of their officership, they have served in corps appointments in New Zealand and Canada, and as Territorial Youth and Candidates Secretaries, Divisional Leaders and Territorial Program Secre-

taries in New Zealand. They were appointed in February 2013 to the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory as Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries before assuming leadership of the territory in June that year. In January 2018 Commissioner Lyndon became Territorial Commander and Commissioner Bronwyn became Territorial Leader for Leader Development for the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland.

In an interview with United Kingdom Communications Officer Captain Jo Moir shortly after being elected, General-elect Buckingham said what excites him most about the role of General is the privilege of being able to encourage, inspire and facilitate Salvation Army mission around the world.

To watch the interview, visit salvationarmy.org/ihq/highcouncil2023

To read a transcript, please visit our website: salarmycentral.org



Commissioners Lyndon and Bronwyn Buckingham visit the Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi Division, USA Southern Territory, in 2019.

Reasons to Rejoice!

Commissioning weekend celebrates God's goodness and calls for daring faith

It was a time of honoring the Lord with thanksgiving. Every word, song, image and dance was laid as an offering at Jesus' feet. Every meeting celebrated His grace and goodness. Indeed, for the nearly 1,400 delegates—and several hundred others online—it was a time to rejoice!

Faith that takes risks

On Friday night the Milwaukee High Life Theatre rocked with the rhythms of the Pack Drum-

line whose high energy percussion and dance enthralled delegates from the meeting's start. Throughout the evening Salvationists entered into passionate praise, led by the Kingdom United Collective, who at the program's end were joined by the North & Central Illinois Division (NCI) Gospel Choir, which debuted to great enthusiasm.

Delegates also cheered on three corps that are beacons of God's love in the city: Connor Creek, Mich., Fergus Falls, Minn., and Garden City, Kan. Creative drama by the Bill Booth Theater Company (BBTC), flawlessly enacted and enhanced by technology, gave familiar passages new life in this meeting and throughout the weekend.

At the evening's apex, delegates caught a fresh vision for their faith and were affirmed by God's work in



the world as Major Nesan Kistan preached from Nehemiah. Replete with inspiring biblical examples of risktakers and his own God-ordained adventure in Sierra Leone, the major's dynamic sermon urged delegates to leave their comfortability and boldly step up and out in obedience and faith regardless of the personal cost or even persecution.

Calling Salvationists to be risktakers as followers of Christ, he declared, "It costs you something to wear this uniform. It always has."

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Photos by Andrew Grey, Rick Vogeney and Charles Rex Arbogast

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Rock-solid faith

by Lt. Colonel Patty Richardson
Territorial Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Secretary

I have always been a bit of a “rock hound,” especially as a teen. I enjoyed walking in a creek and finding stones with patterns of rich color running through them. Some had smooth textures which could be polished to further bring out the color. Others had unique shapes and angles which gave them character. No two stones were exactly the same. I found their variety and inherent beauty a satisfying reward, and they became treasured souvenirs.

Stones and rocks generally go un-

noticed unless they are sought out for a specific purpose or if they become a nuisance because they are in your shoe.

When Jesus came into the city of Jerusalem, the people were lifting praises to Him. The religious leaders were quite upset by this and told Jesus to tell His followers to stop. Jesus replied that if they did even the rocks and stones would cry out in praise (Luke 19:40). Think about it. In the absence of people’s praise, an inanimate object created by God would praise the Son.



While it may seem strange for Jesus to speak of stones praising God, it is not unusual for the Bible to speak of all creation—rocks, hills, mountains, trees—declaring His glory. These verses are not just literary devices or techniques; creation recognizes the authority and majesty of the Creator.

It’s an important reminder to us as people of faith. We praise the Lord through the way we live, and how

we treat and serve each other. Our responsibility is to extend a hand of genuine welcome and peace to all who come into our sphere of influence as our mission statement declares, “without discrimination.” We are to regard people as equals because we are all equal in the sight of God, even those who society ignores or disregards. We also must remember the potential to lift praise to God is in everyone with whom we come into contact, even those who have a hard exterior.

So, stop and pick up a stone or pebble. Take notice of its beauty and lift your praise to the Lord.

Rejoice!

Continued from page 1



Faith that denies oneself

Saturday morning’s session was filled with enriching worship and highlighted the Army globally. The lively Latin beats of praise “A la Manera” by the Chicago Staff Band

(CSB) set the tone. Later the CSB would “Make His Praise Glorious,” accompanying a crisp and impressive routine by the Santiago Central Corps Timbrel Brigade. An ethereal worship dance, led by Captain Gloria Pelayo, enchanted the audience.

With amazing presence, 11-year-old junior soldier Elin Seiler shared her witness and award-winning poem in last year’s Celebrate America Contest about four immigrant girls from Ireland, Afghanistan, Indonesia and Ukraine.

Delegates sprang to their feet in ovation as she concluded,

“Although we each have different beginnings, through Christ we can share the same glorious ending.”

The roar of applause was heard again during the World Services/Self-Denial Ingathering that totaled more

than \$10.6 million. Thanks was given for how these funds will enable sharing the gospel and meeting needs in Christ’s name. Commissioner Heidi Bailey dedicated in prayer officers who are taking up overseas appointments (Captains Derek and Heather Jung and Captains Abraham and Leta Marin) and Summer Mission Team members.



“Don’t forget to pack your compassion in your carry-on bag,” she said. She also encouraged them to be aware of beauty in unexpected places during this life-changing experience.

Captain Matthew Beatty, currently stationed at International Headquarters, mesmerized the audience with a miraculous first-hand account of God’s provision in getting urgently needed supplies to a corps officer in the Ukraine during the conflict with Russia.



Having also served after devastating natural disasters like tsunamis and typhoons, he testified, “God is always there with us.”

Commissioners Kelly and Donna Igelheart then creatively shared the story of Bartimaeus, illustrating that while people see our disabilities, color or class, God sees our possibilities. They urged Salvationists to look up, get off the sidelines and be engaged in His mission.

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General Shaw Clifton promoted to Glory

General Shaw Clifton (Rtd.), The Salvation Army's 18th beloved international leader, was promoted to Glory on May 29, 2023, from Princess Royal University Hospital, Orpington, London, England. His impact throughout the Army world was immeasurable.

During his term as General from April 2, 2006, to April 1, 2011, Shaw Clifton led the international Salvation Army through a significant period of growth, with ministry commencing in 13 countries. His passion for social justice led to the creation of the International Social Justice Commission. He advocated constantly for women in spiritual leadership, refusing to consider new

Divisional Commander, Training Principal or Territorial Cabinet appointments unless women were put forward in equal measure to men. High Council membership was enlarged to ensure the just representation of women officers.

The son of officer-parents, Shaw Clifton was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on September 21, 1945, and spent his childhood in various parts of the UK. He later studied law at King's College, University of London, gaining a Bachelor of Law (Honours) degree. With his wife Helen, whom he met at age 12 in his home corps of Edmonton, he entered the International Training College in the Blood and Fire Session and was commissioned as an officer on July 5, 1973.

His first appointment was as a corps officer at Burnt Oak, where he served for just a few months before being appointed to International Headquarters (IHQ) where he undertook further studies, achieving a first-class honours Bachelor of Divinity degree. He also was awarded the King's College London Relton Prize for Biblical and Historical Studies.

In July 1974, Lt. Shaw Clifton was appointed to the IHQ Literary Department, where he served for six months before receiving his first overseas appointment to Mazowe Secondary School, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) where he became vice-principal in November 1975. May 1977 saw a move to corps officership at Bulawayo Citadel, where he received the rank of captain in July.

The Cliftons returned to the United Kingdom in January 1979 to lead the Enfield Citadel Corps where they served until May 1982 when Captain Shaw Clifton was appointed to IHQ as Legal and Parliamentary Secretary, a position he held for the next seven years, receiving the rank of major in May 1989. While in this appointment he gained a PhD in the History of Religion from the University of London. His thesis would eventually lead to the 2015 book *Crown of Glory, Crown of Thorns – The Salvation Army in Wartime*.

The Cliftons then led the Bromley Temple Corps from June 1989 to May 1992 at which time Major Shaw Clifton became Divisional Commander for the Durham and Tees Division. Further divisional leadership followed in Massachusetts, USA Eastern Territory, where then Lt. Colonel Clifton served for two years before being appointed to the Pakistan Territory as Territorial Commander, with the rank of colonel. He served there for almost five years, receiving the rank of commissioner on March 30, 2000.

He also served as Territorial Commander in the New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory from March 2002 until June 2004 and then the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory (UKI) until his election as the 18th General in 2006.

Shortly after retirement in April 2011, General Clifton faced considerable personal loss with the promotion to Glory on June 14, 2011, of Commissioner Helen Clifton, who battled cancer for a short but devastating period. They had shared married life and ministry for almost 44 years. Recalling their mere 10 weeks in retirement together in his autobiographical essays *Something Better...*, he writes, "Now I would devote myself round the clock to caring for Helen until the Lord took her home to Heaven...Caring for her and tending to her needs was a privilege even more sacred, more eternally significant than being the General."



In September 2013 General Clifton married Commissioner (Ellen) Birgitte Brekke, to whom he pays tribute in the introduction to *Something Better...*, writing, "Commissioner Birgitte Brekke...has been a ready source of affectionate affirmation. Her patient interest in the project has done much to revive a measure of self-confidence and a sense of motivation."

In those same essays, echoed in other written insights on marriage and family life, General Clifton expresses his love and admiration for his children (Matthew, Jennifer and John) and children-in-law, and devoted prayerful interest in his eight precious grandchildren.

In addition to his undoubtedly strong leadership qualities, General Clifton will be remembered for his clear, sharp mind, undergirded by a pastoral spirit of sensitivity and compassion which was appreciated and valued by those who knew him. He was also a man of considerable literary skill and a prolific writer. Among many others, his books include *Strong Doctrine, Strong Mercy, Growing Together* (with Helen Clifton) and *Something Better...* (a series of autobiographical essays). *Who are These Salvationists?* and *New Love* reveal holiness teaching in the tradition of Samuel Logan Brengle as the true heart of General Clifton's spiritual life and Salvationism. A major 30-month project in retirement was Volume Nine of *The History of The Salvation Army*. He continued writing until his final days, producing a nine-volume series of *Twenty Talks...*, the last two of which await publication. His commissioning of a new *Handbook of Doctrine* and *Song Book of The Salvation Army* arose from deep conviction about the crucial place of both in Salvation Army life.

During his officership, General Clifton served on the Salvation Army's Doctrine Council and International Spiritual Life Commission. He was a founding member of the UKI Territory's Moral and Social Issues Council and visiting lecturer at the International College for Officers well into retirement, lecturing also at the UK's William Booth College.

***From a letter by the Chief of the Staff**

Hill to become the Chief of the Staff



Commissioners Edward and Shelley Hill

General Brian Peddle announced that, after conversation with the General-elect, he has appointed Commissioner Edward Hill to be Chief of the Staff (second-in-command of the international Salvation Army) and Commissioner Shelley Hill to be World Secretary for Women's Ministries effective August 3, 2023.

They are currently Zonal Leaders for the Americas and Caribbean at International Headquarters.

Commissioned in June 1993 in the Western Territory, the Hills began their shared ministry as officers in Hawaii at Leeward on Oahu. Two years later they were appointed to the divisional headquarters as youth leaders where they served until July 1995, when they were appointed to training college work.

They led the Pasadena Tabernacle, Calif., Corps from February 2002 until June 2008 when they became divisional leaders for the Hawaii/Pacific Division.

Subsequently, they were appointed in June 2012 to Western Territorial Headquarters with Lt. Colonel Edward as Secretary for Program and Lt. Colonel Shelley as Women's Ministries Secretary.

In July 2016 they became Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for

Women's Ministries for the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territory.

Further international service came in November 2018 with their appointments as Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries for the Canada and Bermuda Territory.

May 2021 saw the Hills promoted to commissioner and assuming responsibilities as Zonal Leaders for the Americas and Caribbean. In these roles they have served in various capacities including Commissioner Edward as Director of SAITCo (The Salvation Army International Trustee Company), as well as a member of The General's Council and International Appointments Board, and Commissioner Shelley as a member of the International Finance Board, The General's Council and International Appointments Board. She also has taken the lead in the zonal department on all mission and community projects and the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response.

Commissioner Edward holds a Master of Christian Education and a Master of Divinity, and Commissioner Shelley is a graduate of the Arrow Executive Leadership Course.

***From an International News Release**

Faith that gives thanks

Continued from page 2

Saturday evening blended the talents and gifts of individuals and groups in a collage of praise. The Central Territorial Staff Songsters (CTSS) were in top form with "We've Come this Far by Faith," "Just like John" and "Floodgates."



Other excellent music was offered by the Territorial Youth Band (TYB), Territorial Youth Chorus (TYC) and Praise Band. A smashing routine by the Santiago timbrelists, a scripture interpretation by the Cold Spring, Wis., Corps youth, a skit by the BBTC and dramatic worship dance by Marissa Riley rounded out the program.

This joyful time of worship laid the foundation for the retirement of territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey, who had chosen the theme "Rejoice and Be Glad" for the service which was conducted in both English and Spanish.

Family played an integral role in the meeting with a sweet welcome by grandsons Micah and Eli. Daughters Danielle and Lindsey shared memories and their parents' favorite scripture verses that carried them over thousands of miles and more than four decades of ministry as officers.

"We feel grateful that our parents included us in their ministry," said Danielle. "We are grateful for God's faithfulness in your lives and your faithfulness to God."



Commissioners Barry and Sue Swanson conducted the retirement ceremony for the Baileys who have given 84 years of combined service.



"Your life has reflected to me all that covenant means," Commissioner Sue told Commissioner Heidi in a heartfelt tribute.

Commissioner Barry commended Commissioner Brad, "Your leadership has always been marked by deep passion whether in Detroit, Santiago, Oakbrook Terrace, Madrid, London, Atlanta or Chicago. If you believed in something you stood for it and often fought for it. This has been especially true in your love for people—all people."

Immediate and extended family then encircled the Baileys while Captain Heidi Strand and Major Nivia Paredes gave a beautifully moving rendition of "The Prayer," in English and Spanish, accompanied by Pete McBride on piano and Alicia Andes on cello.

"The privilege to live every day as 'saved to serve' people has energized our service from our first appointment at the Detroit Harding Corps on



the east side of Detroit through our final appointment as leaders of the Central Territory in Hoffman Estates," recounted Commissioner Heidi.

The Baileys proceeded to thank and honor family members who shaped their lives, gave unwavering support and made sacrifices.

"We have learned as a family that blessing always follows obedience," exclaimed Commissioner Brad.

The Baileys also thanked their friends from Chile who represent a significant part of their lives and shared how formative those years were to their leadership.

Lastly, they said what a privilege it has been to lead the Central Territory for the last six years—their longest appointment.

"This territory is known for its committed employees, active advisory boards, awesome young people, amazing local officers and passionate officers who together are the spiritual backbone of The Salvation Army in our 11 Central states. How proud we have been to represent you," said the territorial commander.

After the premiere by the TYB of the exciting composition, "Rejoice," written by Kevin Larsson for the occasion, the evening came to a glorious close with the Baileys joining the musical groups on stage in lifting their voices to the Lord in "Total Praise," with red, yellow and blue confetti raining down.



Faith that answers the call

Sunday morning delegates rejoiced in the Lord alongside the Reflectors of Holiness session. A tone of reverence and joy filled the theater as session members were ordained and commissioned.

"The covenant that they signed this week is based on relationship," said College for Officer Training (CFOT) Principal Major John Pook. "As they are ordained and commissioned, they are publicly declaring that they are giving all of themselves to God."

Musical selections by the CSB and CTSS along with worship led by the CFOT Praise Band and a scripture presentation by Cadet Christopher Rutledge-Clarke prepared hearts to receive a powerful message by Commissioner Brad Bailey. He challenged Salvationists to truly know who Jesus is and to share Him with others, fulfilling the territory's Mission Imperative.

"Being more like Jesus can't be anything but a call to courageous discipleship...and it can only be achieved with an absolute conviction and commitment to His lordship," he proclaimed.

The territorial commander's



message from Mark chapter 8 resonated with listeners as he addressed popular cultural perceptions of Jesus compared to His true identity as revealed in scripture. He urged them to live and preach the whole gospel—a sinless Jesus dying as the sacrificial lamb of God on the cross for our salvation.

A time of response led by the territorial commander and Captain Kelly Hanton, territorial candidates' secretary, brought dozens to the stage to publicly share their call to become officers.

Faith that sends us out

The afternoon service brought the weekend full circle with rejoicing as the newly commissioned lieutenants received their first appointments. An upbeat drill by the Santiago timbrelists, congregational songs and selections by the CSB matched the crowd's energy and excitement.

On behalf of the session, Lt. Vincent Cusack spoke of their commitment to their calling. "God has called, we have answered," he said. "As our session verses proclaim, 'Just as the God who has called us is holy, we are to be holy.' Because

Christ lives in us, we can live out these verses." He encouraged the audience to live as new creations in Christ as well.

Commissioner Heidi Bailey then challenged the Reflectors of Holiness to love the mission through the mountaintops and valleys of ministry.

"Compassion and judgment cannot coexist," she said, quoting theologian Henri Nouwen. "If you can only be one thing in your officership, be compassionate...When you do that, you will learn to love the mission, not yourselves in the mission."

With rejoicing, new lieutenants were sent out to corps across the territory to reflect Christ.



Pray for the Reflectors of Holiness as they mirror Christ in their lives and ministries.



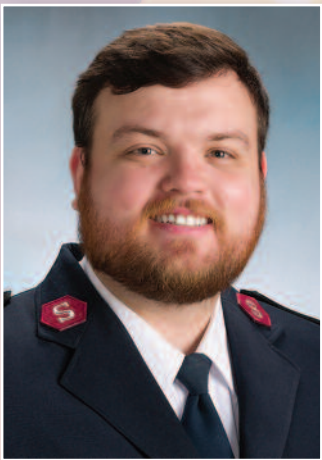
Lt. Obed Briceno
Corps Officer
East Chicago, Ind.



Lt. Vincent Cusack
Corps Officer
Chicago Midway Citadel, Ill.



Lt. Paige Heyboer
Assistant Corps Officer
Lincoln, Neb.



Lts. Camon and Chaslyn Landry
Corps Officers
North Platte, Neb.



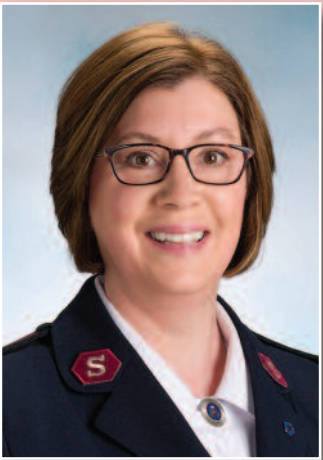
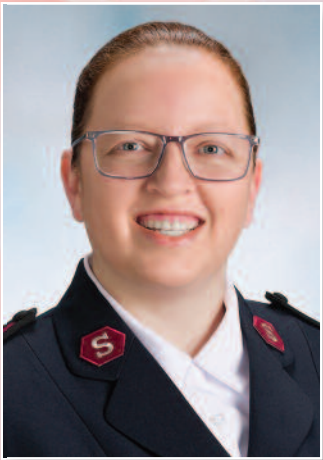
Lts. Alexandra and Oscar Ozuna
Corps Officers
Fremont, Neb.



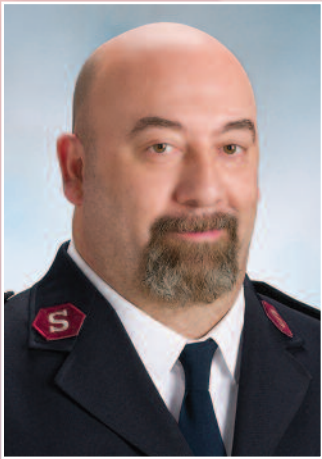
Lt. Christopher Rutledge-Clarke, Jr.
Corps Officer
Kirksville, Mo.



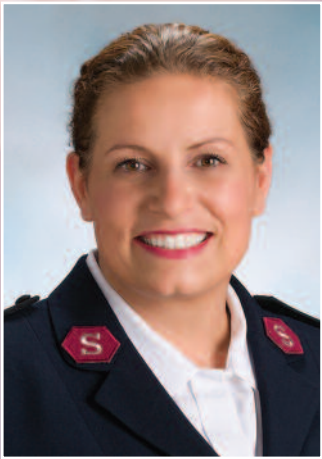
Lts. Jason and Jennifer Rysdyk
Area Coordinator, Corps Officers
Rock County, Wis.



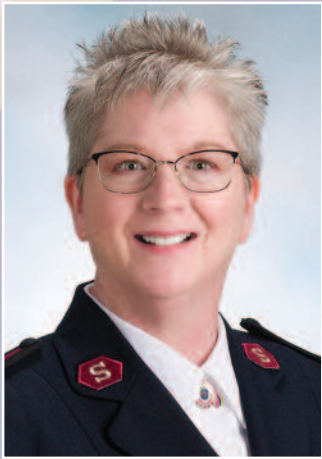
Captains Jennifer and Paul Bowyer
Administrator for Program and
Administrator for Business
Rockford, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center



Captain Ron Felt
Corps Officer
Willmar, Minn.



Captains Jennifer and Joshua Polanco
Secretary for Program
General Secretary and Twin Cities Area Commander
Northern Division



Captain Leonita Schweigert
Twin Cities Chaplain
Administrator Booth Manor Residence
Northern Division







2023 - 2025 CHAMPIONS OF THE MISSION

Newly
accepted
candidates



Javier Fernández Costen

Multigenerational Salvationist

**Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center
Western Division**

Captains Alex and Carolina Yanez, Kroc Center officers

Spiritual Gifts

Administration ♦ Teaching

Ministry Passion or Experience

Worship ♦ Preaching/Teaching

Spiritual Mentors

Lt. Colonel Leonardo Fernández (father)

Major Geffory Crowell



Marcos G. Gutiérrez

Multigenerational Salvationist

**Milwaukee Cold Spring, Wis., Corps
Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division**

Majors Clifford and Yaneth Scott, corps officers

Captains Abraham and Leta Marin, former corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Leadership ♦ Serving ♦ Giving

Ministry Passion or Experience

Worship ♦ Children/Youth

Spiritual Mentors

Captain Mauricio Gutiérrez

Major Omar Nahuelfil

730... AND BEYOND

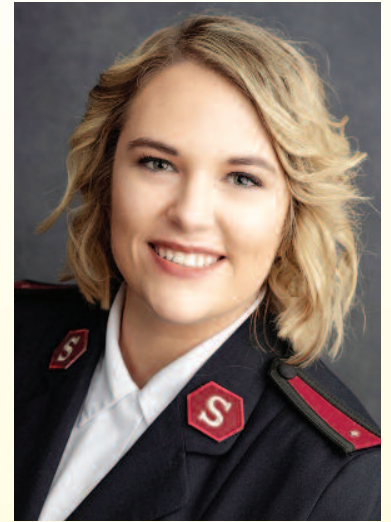
1,113 days and counting

by Lt. Cherie Woodard

The path to becoming an officer always felt like a marathon to me. There were so many steps I needed to take in order to be "ready" to accept my calling of officership. I had to make sure I knew everything I could about the Bible, learn how to effectively evangelize and so much more. However, the more I learned, the less equipped I felt. That is until I surrendered to God who said, "Just follow Me, one step at a time."

Each ministry moment I am privileged to have is one more step. Sharing the love of Christ through the window of a car: one step. Snuggling two sweet babies whose parents are no longer able to care for them until they recover: one step. Encouraging and affirming a soldier who feels God is wanting her to take on leadership: one step. Holding the hand of a bedridden man in his final days in hospice: one step. Rejoicing with someone who has been living out of their car and finally finds housing: one step.

Ministry as a Salvation Army officer can be overwhelming and would be too much for me to handle if I didn't lean on God and follow Him one step at a time.



Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) says, "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."

Whether you have been called to be an officer or not, following God's direction is far too much for any of us to handle if we do not lean on Him and take it one step at a time. God will direct our path and will allow us to be a part of His mission, one step at a time.

Being an officer may not have been planned in my heart, but by following the Lord step-by-step He led me to officership. And let me tell you, I cannot imagine a better life than the one I have as a follower of Jesus and a Salvation Army officer, one step at a time.

The Salvation Army

SEVEN 730 THIRTY

WEEKEND

SEPT 08 **2023** SEPT 10

Original

Always in focus

...to live to win souls and make their salvation the first purpose of my life (from the Officer's Covenant)

Throughout nearly 40 years of ministry, Lt. Colonels Paul and Renea Smith have never lost sight of the covenant they signed upon their commissioning as officers. They have kept their sights on what matters most—their relationships with God and people. No matter the appointment or responsibility from corps to the College for Officer Training to divisional and territorial headquarters (THQ), everything has been about connecting with people and connecting them with God.

They also have helped many people find their place in the Army's mission. Video tributes by Captains Josh and Jennifer Polanco and Don and Vicky Karl at the Smiths' retirement luncheon this spring reinforced this aspect of their ministry. The retirement service proceeded the luncheon and took place during a THQ chapel which focused on the love of God. Territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi conducted the ceremony.

"It's all about relationships, isn't it?" summarized Colonel Renea at the luncheon at THQ where they have served for the last 11 years. "We are so grateful for the people God has put in our path....God has enriched my life through you," she told the capacity crowd gathered for the occasion celebrating their rooted and fruitful ministry.

Major David Gorton, assistant sec-

retary for personnel, cited significant, positive changes Colonel Renea has brought about as secretary for personnel—the first woman to fill this role in the Central Territory. Working with her team, she developed initiatives and policies that have given officers a greater voice. However, he suggested the hallmark of her service has been consistent love and care for others in both easy and hard times. He commended her ability to see the best in officers, placing them where they could thrive and empowering them to minister well and reach their potential.

"Employees and officers have been well served by your wisdom, compassion, empathy, sensitivity and care," said Major David.

Both Colonels Renea and Paul were recognized for their creativity, beginning with their training college days when they were placed in the same cadet brigade. While other college drama majors' egos surely would have clashed, they complemented each other and brought the gospel to life. Many of their programming collaborations have blessed the territory. During his six years as program secretary, Colonel Paul organized and implemented three General's Congresses and one tour by a General—the sheer logis-



Lt. Colonels Paul and Renea Smith at their retirement ceremony with Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey and flagbearers Lt. Colonel David Harvey and Major David Gorton.

tics for which would be daunting for even the most detailed among us.

Colonel Paul was praised for his personal investment and insights that have guided and improved programs making a significant difference in people's lives. As program secretary, he was a champion from the beginning in the planning, scaling and implementation of Pathway of Hope (POH). Linda Brinker, assistant Pathway of Hope director, expressed gratitude on behalf of the social services team for his excellent suggestions and unwavering support leading the POH committee over the last decade. "We have a great deal of gratitude for your encouragement and firm and consistent leadership," Linda concluded.

As assistant chief secretary, Colonel Paul helped guide the territory through the pandemic and played a key role in Project Advance which reorganized the territory to enable more effective mission.

Yet, like his wife, Colonel Paul is widely known and appreciated for his kindness, pastoral care and personal investment in individuals as highlighted by Courtney Smith, his former administrative assistant in the program department.

In response, Colonel Paul talked about how the Army changed the trajectory of his life and the privilege it has been to share this ministry and incredible journey with his wife, who is his best friend.

Congratulations!

We salute these officers who have achieved degrees and certificates, enriching their lives and ministries.

Captain Jonathan Cooper
M.A. (Organizational Leadership)
Trevecca Nazarene University

Captain Chrissy Cooper
Emerging Leadership Program
Certificate
Arrow Leadership Institute

Captain Ketsia Diaz
Emerging Leadership Program
Certificate
Arrow Leadership Institute

Major Catherine Fitzgerald
Certificate of Spiritual Direction
Sustainable Faith

Lt. Colonel Darlene Harvey
Inclusive Leadership Certificate
International Headquarters

Captain Jaclyn Holloway
M.A. Intercultural Studies
Fuller Seminary

Colonel Steven Howard
Certificate in Life Coaching
(Executive Coaching)
Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene University

Major Carol Huffman
Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership
Talent Ladder at Indiana Wesleyan University

Lt. Jack Huffman
Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership
Talent Ladder at Indiana Wesleyan University

Captain Corey Hughes
Executive Leadership Program
Certificate
Arrow Leadership Institute

Captain Derek Jung
Certificate in Life Coaching
(Marriage & Family)
Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene University

Captain Brenna Lee
B.A. Ministry (Bible and Theology)
Nazarene Bible College

Captain Megan Lewis
Inclusive Leadership Certificate
International Headquarters

Captain Abraham Marin
Emerging Leadership Program
Certificate
Arrow Leadership Institute

Major Trevor McClintock
Executive Leadership Program
Certificate
Arrow Leadership Institute

Lt. Wendy Meyers-Bautista
Certificate in Life Coaching
(Marriage & Family)
Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene University

Major Lisa Mueller
Executive Leadership Program
Certificate
Arrow Leadership Institute

Lt. Nathan North
Certificate in Life Coaching
(Marriage & Family)
Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene University

Captain Josh Polanco
Transforming Community Program
Transforming Center (Wheaton, IL.)

Captain Jennifer Polanco
Transforming Community Program
Transforming Center (Wheaton, IL.)

Major Daniel Sawka
Inclusive Leadership Certificate
International Headquarters

Major Jolinda Shelbourn
Executive Leadership Program
Certificate
Arrow Leadership Institute

Major Scott Shelbourn
Life Coaching—Executive Coaching
Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene University

Captain Claudia Simmons
Emerging Leadership Program
Certificate
Arrow Leadership Institute

Captain Kenyon Sivels
Emerging Leadership Program
Certificate
Arrow Leadership Institute

Captain Kristina Sjogren
Inclusive Leadership Certificate
International Headquarters

Major Jeremiah Stouder
B.A. Ministry
(Leadership and Ethics)
Nazarene Bible College

Captain Jonathan Tamayo
B.A. Ministry
(Bible and Theology)
Nazarene Bible College

Captain Tomas Valladares
Executive Leadership Program
Certificate
Arrow Leadership Institute

Major Greg Voeller
Credentialed Christian Nonprofit
Leader
Christian Leadership Alliance

Captain Telinda Wilson
Certificate in Life Coaching
(Intercultural Competence)
Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene University

Major Justin Windell
Inclusive Leadership Certificate
International Headquarters

Major Sarah Windell
Inclusive Leadership Certificate
International Headquarters

Major Steven Woodard
Executive Leadership Program
Certificate
Arrow Leadership Institute

M.A. = Master of Arts
B.A. = Bachelor of Arts
B.S. = Bachelor of Science

On the Western front

On behalf of Salvationists in Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa, which comprise the Western Division, Heather Guthrie and Bobby Calkins are part of the pioneering work of the Territorial Soldiers' Forum.



Heather (2nd from left) at the National Seminar on Evangelism last year in Texas with Commissioner Jolene Hodder (center) and other delegates

Heather Guthrie

Heather Guthrie was a 12-year-old junior soldier when she decided she no longer needed God. It would be 30 years before she allowed Him back in her heart. By then she was 42 and married to Ken with a 16-year-old son.

"The Lord brought me back," Heather said. "He had been working on my heart since my son was born. But God always carried me. Even when I strayed; when I did not know His name, He knew mine."

Heather, a resident of Omaha, Neb., is now divisional sergeant-major for the Western Division.

"I grew up with good morals. I thought that was good enough," Heather said. "But it's not enough to just be good. You need that relationship [with God]. God is my true north. He is the one who guides my steps and guides my path."

Once Heather welcomed God back in her heart, she began attending the Omaha North, Neb., Corps, initially getting involved with women's ministries. She was sometimes asked to lead one of the women's meetings—a challenge for Heather, who acknowledges she is quite shy.

"That got me out of my shell though," she recalled. "Major Sue Summit would joke with me that I would turn multiple shades of red. And I still do," she laughed.

At one point, she was leading Sunday school and junior church. Now, she helps with afterschool programs and is on the corps council. Her work with women's ministries continues.

"I work more often with the younger generation of women," Heather said. "And I always try and reach out to the kids in the corps. It's nice because they will come up and say to me, 'Can I sit with you today?' They know I keep a bag of colored pencils and a notebook. They will sit by me and color during church. It's very sweet."

When she was asked to join the Soldiers' Forum, Heather was hesitant. But she was inspired by Isaiah

43 (NIV), where God says, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"

"That is why I accepted the invitation," she said.

Heather works for a photographer whose mission is to preserve the natural world God designed through his photographs. Heather supports that goal.

"I want our kids and grandkids to be able to see the beauty that God has created," Heather said. "The animals, the scenery, it's all unique. All of God's creatures are amazing. He has given us the sun, the rain and the colors of the rainbow."

Bobby Calkins

Years ago, Robert (Bobby) Calkins met his future wife, Heather Leege, while attending Wednesday night youth programs at the Des Moines Citadel, Iowa, Corps. He was 11; she was 10.

They still take part in Wednesday evening programs at the same corps. But today, Bobby and Heather are looking forward to celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary in December. And they are the proud parents of three daughters.

"You hear the old saying, 'If I took a left turn instead of a right.' Well, if I had not gone to The Salvation Army, I would not have met my wife or had my children," Bobby said. "God was working way back then to set the course of my life."

Many people from the Army have

Territorial Soldiers' Forum Update

The following subjects were discussed by the Territorial Soldiers' Forum at its first two meetings. We are pleased to share their recommendations which were approved by the territory's leaders and are in the process of being implemented. Keep sharing your ideas, needs and concerns. Your voice matters!

Communication Directly with Soldiers

It has been apparent that soldiers, adherents and individuals who consider The Salvation Army their church home are very frequently unaware of pertinent information regarding The Salvation Army in their division and in the territory, its happenings and particular, for our purposes, the Soldiers' Forum—all of which are vital for the Salvation Army's stakeholders.

Approved Recommendations:

1. Corps officers provide the name and email of 1-2 soldiers/adherents who are willing to be a contact person for the Soldiers' Forum for their corps. Ideally, this person would be the Corps Sergeant-Major (CSM), but doesn't have to be, especially if a corps does not have a Sergeant-Major. This person would be able to receive information from the forum regarding not only what's happening with the Soldiers' Forum but also what is happening in their division and in the territory, as well as provide information to the Soldiers' Forum regarding what they are experiencing at the corps level.
2. For there to be a web page featuring soldiers of the Central Territory along with social media sites that would be inclusive of, but not specific to, the Soldiers' Forum.
3. Divisional Program Departments be willing to specifically reach out to and collaborate with their Divi-

sional Sergeant-Major and Assistant Sergeant-Major to again ensure direct connections and communication are made with corps members/attenders regarding information, events, activities, educational and enriching experiences.

4. Encourage all corps to hold regular soldiers' meetings which would serve as an excellent means of communication with the broader populace of our corps, particularly those without online access. We believe this would encourage participants to engage fully in the mission of their church home.
5. Including the younger demographic in discussion of communication would be helpful in identifying the most effective and current methods.

Training for Key Leadership Positions

Many corps struggle to have quality, committed leadership, particularly in key local officer positions. It has been felt across the territory that we do not have accessible training or training material to train our local officers to be leaders for their particular position within their corps.

Approved Recommendations:

1. The Soldiers' Forum recommends standardized training content be made available in every division for key local officer positions as we believe corps ministries will be strengthened by having confident, invested leaders. Corps officers would



benefit, as well, from knowing what is expected of their local officers.

2. Training would begin with the CSM position, and then hopefully be able to offer further trainings such as Young People's Sergeant-Major (YPSM), and other local officer positions.
 - a. Sessions could be held at divisional events, such as Pilgrimage, and/or offered as online modules.
 - b. Additional opportunities to enhance spiritual growth and development and to exchange best practices should be encouraged.
 - c. There should be one training course available for the whole territory for each local officer position.
 - d. Ideally these training courses would not only be offered regularly but would eventually be required for individuals to be able to hold those positions.

Structure for Soldier/Adherent Input

"Your Voice, Your Army," the approved branding of the Territorial Soldiers' Forum, is the rallying cry for its existence. The forum requests for every attender of Salvation Army worship services and programs across the Central Territory to be free to offer their vision and speak to areas of concern about the future of their denomination.

Approved Recommendations:

1. Surveys (utilizing Microsoft Forms or another platform) be disseminated,

first at the corps level, and eventually divisional and territorial. We recommend a standing portal be established to allow for regular surveys to be implemented.

2. Data from a survey can serve as a barometer of overall corps health, impact of internal and external mission expressions, and the engagement of their constituents. This method may reveal if supporters have truly adopted the stakeholder mindset and are fully invested in Kingdom-building.
 - a. The Western Division Divisional Sgt.-Major (DSM) and Assistant Divisional Sgt.-Major (ADSM) have experienced measurable success with the utilization of this tool, and analysis of the results has allowed the DSM, ADSM and members of their forum to identify ministry achievements to be celebrated, red flags and areas for potential growth, and to be actionable in addressing the information gleaned with corps officers and divisional leadership.
 - b. Soldiers, adherents and corps attenders need to understand protocol for ensuring their voices are heard, particularly if they lack confidence in sharing their ideas and feelings. The survey can provide that safe space for participants to be forthright in their responses, as they would be intentionally anonymous.



Bobby and his corps officers Lt. Rachel and Tim Gantner

helped Bobby with milestones in his journey. "I look back at my life as a whole, and I feel like a lot of key players came from The Salvation Army," he recalled fondly.

At the corps, Bobby attends the men's club and teaches explorers and a drama class. Heather teaches girl guards and is part of women's ministries.

Bobby is also assistant divisional sergeant-major for the Western Division. He and Heather Guthrie teamed up to survey soldiers in their division to take their concerns and suggestions to the Soldiers' Forum.

"The forum has a vision that I think is pretty big—to get soldiers' voices heard—because there are times when you just don't feel like you are seen," he said.

Bobby's faith in God is large, but he likes to display it with small acts of kindness.

"It's the little things," he explained. "Holding a door open for someone, giving someone a smile, or letting someone go ahead of you in line. There are so many little things a lot of people over-

look that show your faith. It doesn't have to be overly outspoken."

Lt. Rachel Gantner, who along with her husband Lt. Tim Gantner leads the Des Moines Corps, said Bobby has been a great help to them as they have come to know the corps and the community.

"This is our first appointment. We are very appreciative of Bobby. He has been a great resource for us. Bobby is kind to everyone and is always working within his faith. We see that faith in so many ways," she said.

Although Bobby does not have a set plan for his future, he knows he will follow God.

"I try not to look too far ahead. I try to stay where I am and live in the present," Bobby said. "I know my future will be with The Salvation Army. Wherever God takes me or wants me to go, that is where I will go."



To learn more about the forum, visit salarmycentral.org or scan

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The Salvation Army

PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

August Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Tuesday	Psalms 90-92	Manitowoc, Wis., Corps
	2 Wednesday	Proverbs 14-15	Des Moines Temple, Iowa, Corps
	3 Thursday	Ezekiel 43-48	Hastings, Neb., Corps
	4 Friday	John 1-2	Twin Cities, Minn., Area Command
	5 Saturday	1 Thessalonians 4-5	Milwaukee Citadel, Wis., Corps
	6 Sunday	Leviticus 25-27	St. Louis Maplewood, Mo., Corps
	7 Monday	1 Chronicles 1-4	Mexico Territory
	8 Tuesday	Psalms 93-95	Willmar, Minn., Corps
	9 Wednesday	Proverbs 16	Fond Du Lac, Wis., Corps
	10 Thursday	Daniel 1-6	National Headquarters
	11 Friday	John 3-4	Kearney, Neb., Corps
	12 Saturday	2 Thessalonians 1-3	Emporia, Kan., Corps
	13 Sunday	Numbers 1-3	Germany, Lithuania, and Poland Territory
	14 Monday	1 Chronicles 5-9	Battle Creek, Mich., Corps
	15 Tuesday	Psalms 96-98	School Age Children
	16 Wednesday	Proverbs 17-18	Chicago Mayfair, Ill., Corps
	17 Thursday	Daniel 7-12	Rock County, Wis., Area Coordinator
	18 Friday	John 5-6	St. Louis Temple, Mo., Corps
	19 Saturday	1 Timothy 1-3	Advisory Board Members
	20 Sunday	Numbers 4-6	Evanston, Ill., Corps
	21 Monday	1 Chronicles 10-14	Joliet, Ill., Corps
	22 Tuesday	Psalms 99-101	India South Eastern Territory
	23 Wednesday	Proverbs 19	Detroit Conner Creek, Mich., Corps
	24 Thursday	Hosea 1-7	Kansas City, Mo., ARC
	25 Friday	John 7-9	Canton, Ill., 360 Life Center
	26 Saturday	1 Timothy 4-6	Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps
The September territorial prayer calendar is reflected in the weekly prayer guides sent to your corps. See your officer for a copy.	27 Sunday	Numbers 7-9	St. Louis Gateway, Mo., Corps
	28 Monday	1 Chronicles 15-19	Mankato, Minn., Corps
	29 Tuesday	Psalms 102-104	St. Louis, Mo., Metropolitan Area Command
	30 Wednesday	Proverbs 20-21	Korea Territory
	31 Thursday	Hosea 8-14	Madison Capital Area International, Wis., Corps
Go to www.salarmycentral.org If you follow the prayer calendar during the year, you will have read through the Bible!			

In Remembrance

May 21 proved to be a beautiful day for family, friends and fellow officers who gathered to honor those from our ranks who were promoted to Glory during the last year and to remember those who have been absent for some time but never far from our hearts. The Glen Oaks Annual Memorial Service was led by Colonel Janice Howard, territorial secretary for leader development. It included music by the College for Officer Training brass



Photo by Charles Rex Arbogast

and vocal ensembles, led by Captain Grant Holloway and Joe Caddy, respectively, and Taps played by Cadet Maximiliano Franchetti. Chief Secretary Colonel Steven Howard's message from Romans chapter 8 reminded those present that God's love is always with us. Major Bill Welch and his daughter, Mykayla, participated in the traditional release of doves. Pictured is Major Rhonda Harmon.

ICO Delegate



Captain Michael Sjogren
Capital Area Coordinator
Madison, Wis.
International College for Officers
London, England
Session 254
(July 12 to August 21, 2023)

--Mustard Seeds--



On the move

Effective Wednesday, June 28, 2023, unless otherwise indicated

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

Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command

Major David Atkins, Admin., St. Louis, MO, (Post-retirement agreement); **Major Timothy Parker**, Admin. for Business in Training, Grand Rapids, MI; **Major Brendon Robertson**, Admin., Milwaukee, WI; **Captain Aubrey DeBaar**, Admin. for Program in Training, Fort Wayne, IN; **Captain Shawn Mantyla-DeBaar**, Admin. for Business in Training, Fort Wayne, IN; **Captain Elizabeth Raes**, Admin. for Business in Training, Des Moines, IA; **Captain Martha Valladares**, Admin. for Program in Training, Davenport (River Valley), IA, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Ministries Coord.; **Captain Tomas Valladares, Jr.**, Admin. for Business in Training, Davenport (River Valley), IA; **Lt. Michael Raes**, Admin. for Program in Training, Des Moines, IA; **Envoy Maria Luisa Atkins**, Asst. Admin. for Congregational Life, St. Louis, MO; **Envoy Rick Garcia**, Change in Designation, Admin., Waukegan, IL.

College for Officer Training

Major Janelle Gonzalez, Asst. Spanish Training Director, Add'l Appt: Asst. Field Training Director; **Major Jose Gonzalez**, Director of Business; **Major Donna Leedom**, Instructor, Add'l Appt: Academic Support Officer; **Major Andrea RacelisDeBaigorria**, Director of Campus Life, Add'l Appt: Spanish Training Director; **Captain Lorna Cossey**, Personnel Officer, Add'l Appt: Health Officer; **Captain Ketsia Diaz**, Asst. Director of Personnel; **Captain Blake Fewell**, Asst. Director of Curriculum; Add'l Appt: Field Training Officer; **Captain Grant Holloway**, Asst. Director of Campus Life, Add'l Appt: Special Events Coordinator; **Captain Jaclyn Holloway**, Family Care Center Director; **Captain Mary Kim**, Director of Curriculum.

Great Lakes Division

Major Toni Dorrell, General Sec., Add'l Appt: Area Commander, Metro Detroit Area Command, DHQ; **Major Andrew Shiels**, Divisional Sec., DHQ; **Major Melissa Shiels**, Divisional Sec. for Program, DHQ; **Major Nathan & Captain Michelle Johnson**, COs, Lansing, MI; **Major Mark Nance**, Officer for Mission Integration, Grand Valley Area Command; **Major Valerie Nance**, Area Command Program Officer, Grand Valley Area Command; **Majors Aaron & Jennifer Ortman**, COs, Port Huron, MI; **Major Lynnetta Poff**, CO, Muskegon (Citadel), MI; **Captain James Beard-sley**, Asst. CO, Flint (Citadel), MI; **Captain Dalvius King-Harvy & Lt. Johnathan Harvy**, COs, Detroit

(Conner Creek), MI; **Lts. Haylee & Matthew Winters**, COs, Holland, MI; **Envoys Bethany & Greg Irwin**, Corps Admins, Traverse City, MI; **Mr. Roman Hank**, Corps Admin., Petoskey, MI.

Indiana Division

Major Steven Koehler, CO, Hammond-Munster, IN; **Major Judith Lowder**, CO, Princeton, IN; **Major Christopher Marques**, Divisional Sec. for Northwest Indiana Area Command, Add'l Appt: Area Commander, Northwest Indiana Area Command, DHQ; **Captain Sarah Eddy**, Divisional Youth Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Candidates' Sec., DHQ; **Lt. Katrina Andrews**, CO, Gary-Merrillville, IN; **Lts. Dena & Jay Smith**, COs, Fort Wayne, IN.

Kansas and Western Missouri Division

Majors Mark & Susan Anderson, COs, Kansas City (Citadel), KS; **Majors Julie & Thomas McDowell**, COs, Topeka (Citadel), KS; **Major Xavier Montenegro**, Divisional Sec. for Kansas City Area Command, Add'l Appt: Area Commander, Kansas City Area Command, DHQ; **Major Judith Tekautz**, General Sec., DHQ; **Captain Cristian Lopez-Azompa**, Associate CO, Kansas City (Citadel), KS; **Lts. John & Kristi Dalberg**, COs, Wichita (West Orchard), KS; **Lt. Shanell Johnson**, Divisional Youth Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Candidates' Sec., DHQ.

Midland Division

Major Michele Harms, Women's Ministries Sec., DHQ; **Major Nancy Mead**, Sec. for Program, DHQ; **Major Jonathan Moore**, General Sec., Add'l Appt: Area Commander, St. Louis Metropolitan Area Command, DHQ; **Major Geraldine Moore**, Associate Area Commander, St. Louis Metropolitan Area Command, DHQ; **Majors Amos & Cyndi Shiels**, COs, Springfield, MO; **Captains Elizabeth & Stephen DeLacy**, COs, Mattoon, IL; **Captain Linnea Forney**, Associate Area Commander, Quincy Area Command, Add'l Appt: Associate Senior Kroc Center Officer, Quincy (Kroc Center), IL; **Captain Richard Forney**, Divisional Sec. for Quincy Area Command, Add'l Appt: Area Commander, Quincy Area Command, Senior Kroc Center Officer, Quincy (Kroc Center), IL; **Auxiliary Captain Billy Middendorp**, CO, Jasper/Newton County, MO, Add'l Appt: Admin., Carthage, MO; **Auxiliary Captain Debbi Middendorp**, CO, Jasper/Newton County, MO.

North and Central Illinois Division

Majors Joel & Rhonda Harmon, COs, St. Charles (Tri-City), IL; **Major Kim Kendall Mathews**, Associate Area Commander, Chicago Area Command, DHQ; **Major Jason Pollom**, CO, Moline (Heritage Temple), IL; **Majors Randall & Susan Summit**, COs, Decatur, IL; **Majors Melissa & Roberto Viquez**, COs, Elgin, IL; **Captain Natalie Austin**, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor; **Captain Anthony Bowers**, Divisional Youth

Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Candidates' Sec., DHQ; **Captain Brianne Bowers**, Divisional Candidates' Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Youth Sec., DHQ; **Captains LeOtis & LaTonya Brooks**, COs, Peoria (Citadel), IL; **Captain Elis Pomaes-Morales & Lt. Ada Diaz-Fajardo**, Social Service Chaplains for Hispanic Ministries, Harbor Light Center; **Captains Kenyon & Melissa Sivels**, COs, Champaign, IL; **Captain Jessica Turner**, Asst. to the Peoria Area Commander, Peoria Area Command; **Lt. Jennifer Davidson**, Kroc Center Officer for Congregational Life, Chicago (Kroc Center), IL; **Lt. Kenesa Debela**, Senior Kroc Center Officer, Chicago (Kroc Center), IL; **Lt. Shanell Debela**, Kroc Center Officer for Business Admin., Chicago (Kroc Center), IL; **Lt. Kaitlin Fullop**, Asst. CO, Bloomington, IL; **Lts. John-Rene & Merveille Kiangebeni**, COs, Chicago (Midwest), IL; **Lt. Katherine Reid**, CO, Danville, IL; **Lt. Jacob Turner**, Peoria Area Social Services Chaplain, Peoria Area Command; **Envoy Tyrone Staggers**, Asst. Admin., Harbor Light Center.

Northern Division

Captain Kenneth Alip, Add'l Appt: Iron Range Area Coord.; **Captains Anthony & Elysia Nordan**, COs, Duluth, MN; **Captain Jennifer Polanco**, Divisional Sec. for Program, DHQ; **Captain Joshua Polanco**, General Sec., Add'l Appt: Area Commander, Twin Cities Area Command, DHQ; **Captain Claudia Simmons**, CO, Brooklyn Park (Noble Worship Center), MN; **Captain Daniel Simmons, Jr.**, CO, Brooklyn Park (Noble Worship Center), MN, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Ministries Coord.; **Lts. Darby & Joshua Bowyer**, COs, Fergus Falls, MN; **Lts. Amanda & Brian Hoscheit**, Senior COs, Minneapolis (Central), MN; **Lts. Katelyn Cole-North & Nathan North**, COs, St. Cloud, MN; **Auxiliary Captain Marie Lewis**, CO, Albert Lea, MN; **Mr. Fernando Basabe & Mrs. Zarina Singh**, Corps Admins., Minneapolis (Temple), MN.

Western Division

Major Daniel Hull, Divisional Sec. for Des Moines Area Command, Add'l Appt: Area Commander, Des Moines Area Command, DHQ; **Major Jolene Hull**, Associate Area Commander, Des Moines Area Command, DHQ; **Major Daniel Sawka**, General Sec., Add'l Appts: Men's Ministries Sec., DHQ, Area Commander, Omaha Area Command, DHQ; **Major Stephanie Sawka**, Divisional Sec. for Program, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Ministries Coord., DHQ; **Captain Teri Ellison**, Divisional Sec. for Business, DHQ; **Captain Bryan Ellison**, CO, Fremont, NE; **Captain Kelsie Moreno**, CO, Lincoln, NE; **Lts. Amber & Rodney Morin**, COs, Mitchell, SD; **Lts. Jennifer & Marty Norris**, COs, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division

Major Beverly Gates, Divisional Sec. for Milwaukee Area Command, DHQ; **Major Steven Woodard**, General Sec., DHQ; **Majors Clifford & Yaneth Scott**, COs, Milwaukee (Cold Spring), WI (Transfer from Latin America North Territory); **Captain Kristina Sjogren**, Capital Area Program Director, Madison, WI; **Captain Michael Sjogren**, Capital Area Coord., Madison, WI; **Lt. Henry Boateng**, Divisional Youth Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Candidates' Sec., DHQ; **Lt. Pamela Boateng**, Divisional Candidates' Sec., Add'l Appt: Divisional Youth Sec., DHQ; **Lt. Donna Gooden**, Add'l Appt: Intercultural Field Advisor.

Territorial Headquarters

Majors Gerald & Vangie O'Neil, Add'l Appt: Corps and Community Mission Specialists, Motorcycle Ministries; **Major Debra Pascoe**, Sec. for Spiritual Life Development; **Major Timothy Pascoe**, Territorial Property Sec.; **Major Karen Salisbury**, Officer Support Sec.; **Major Victoria Steinsland**, Territorial Retired Officers' Sec.; **Captain Julie Trapp**, Territorial Finance Sec.; **Major Carla Voeller**, Territorial Women's Ministries Sec.; **Captain Bersabe Vera-Hernandez**, Secretary, Intercultural Ministries Department.

Appointments to be Announced at Commissioning

Lt. Shannon Cabrera, Appointment will be announced at the USA Eastern Territory's service of appointments.

Special Leave

Majors James & Valerie McDowell

Officers and Lay Personnel out of Territory

Captains Abraham Marin-Hidalgo & Leta Marin, Awaiting Appointments in South America West Territory; **Captain Gloria Pelayo**, Corps Ministries Officer, Santa Rosa, CA, Del Oro Division, USA Western Territory.

Officers Transferring to USA Western Territory

Captains Daylene & Steve Staneart

Retirements

January 1: **Major Harold Poff**

February 1: **Major Cherri Hobbins**

April 1: **Major Lori Meyer**

July 1: **Commissioners Brad & Heidi Bailey, Lt. Colonels Paul & Renea Smith, Lt. Colonels John & Theresa Turner, Majors Jon & Kristin Augenstein, Major Cynthia Brockway, Majors Susan & Wesley Dalberg, Majors Claire & Norman Grainger, Major Miriam Gorton, Major Sandra Hunt, Majors James & Patricia Irvine, Major Jo Langham, Majors Cynthia & Michael Parker**

August 1: **Major Kjell Steinsland**

September 1: **Majors Ho Yoon & Kehyoung Chang**

Promoted to Glory

Major Debbie Gugala

Major Deborah Gugala was promoted to Glory on May 1, 2023. Faced with the physical effects of having contracted polio as a child, Deborah remained positive, encouraging others in their faith through her testimony and example of strength and determination.



Born on September 2, 1952, to Harold and Elmira Morisett of Mount Clemens, Mich., she flourished during her youth in academics and piano. She studied music at Siena Heights University and graduated summa cum laude in 1974.

After graduation, Deborah taught private music lessons. She married Gary Gugala in 1982. They had three children and as a young family began attending the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps. In 1997 they entered the College for Officer Training, were commissioned as officers in 1999 and served in corps throughout the Midwest for 20 years. Deborah received numerous awards during her officership, including being named Woman of Distinction in 2016 by the Pittsburg, Kan., Area Chamber of Commerce. Retiring to Nashville in 2017, the Gugalas were fully engaged in the lives of their children and grandchildren.

In hospice for more than a year, Deborah built admiration among her care staff, mended fences with her siblings, and remained a constant in the lives of her family.

Deborah is survived by her hus-

band; children Jonathan (Erin Akery), Simon (Tracy), and Elizabeth (John) Aho; five grandchildren; and brothers Sandy and Brad and sisters Michele and Joelle.

Auxiliary Captain Albert Simmert

Auxiliary Captain Albert Simmert was promoted to Glory on May 19, 2023. Al was a dedicated Christ follower who loved to share God's love and help people through missionary service and emergency disaster services.



He was born on February 19, 1939, in Missoula, Mont., to Albert Simmert and Emily Churchill Marks.

Al married Darlene Hamilton on March 5, 1964, and graduated from the University of Montana with a bachelor's degree in education in 1971. He worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad, which later became Burlington Northern, for 38 years.

Later in life Al and Darlene left their jobs to be in ministry, leading the Fergus Falls, Minn., Corps in 1994 and becoming auxiliary captains the next year. God then gave them amazing ministry opportunities to serve in Jamaica, Pakistan and Iraq. They also served after devastating disasters such as 9/11 at Ground Zero and the tsunami in India in 2004 after they had retired earlier that year. In retirement, they also held several interim corps appointments until 2019.

Al is survived by his wife; children, Larry (Sue), Kelly (Bill) Holt,

Richard (Carla), David, Albert, Michael, Joseph (Margie), Mary (Mark) Eschel and Angela (Tim) Evenson; 39 grandchildren; 14 great grandchildren; and siblings, Wallace, Olive Fifield, Tina Rickett, Thomas, and Martha Phillips. He was preceded in death by his grandson, Eric Holt.

Major Marilyn Hopkins

Major Marilyn Hopkins was promoted to Glory on March 29, 2023. Marilyn's life and ministry is best described by the Army's motto "Heart to God, Hand to Man." A generous person, she was committed to her calling and loved serving others through community care ministries.



Marilyn was born on December 1, 1944, in Ludington, Mich. At age 3, Marilyn's life changed when she was adopted. With her new family, she attended the Manistee, Mich., Corps, and was active in sunbeams and other programs as she grew up. Most importantly, she accepted Christ and as a young adult developed her relationship with Him.

After struggling with God's call on her life, Marilyn surrendered and entered officer training in 1966. She was commissioned in 1968 a member of the "Messengers of Faith" session.

For more than 43 years, Marilyn served in corps, Booth Memorial Hospitals, children's homes, and in the property department at Territorial Headquarters. She retired in 2010 from Booth Manor in Chicago,

Ill., where she served as chaplain for more than 10 years.

Marilyn is survived by four sisters, three brothers and many friends.

Major George Windham

Major George Windham was promoted to Glory on May 11, 2023. George loved the Lord and people. He used his gifts of pastoral care, teaching, music and humor to minister to others throughout his life.



George was born on June 19, 1944, and raised in Wichita, Kan. With 10 siblings, he loved spending time with his large extended family.

On March 6, 1964, George married Violet Locke. They entered officer training that year and were commissioned in 1966 as members of the "Defenders of the Faith" session. They held three appointments before a break in service. After re-entering officership in 1991, George and Violet served in corps, regional and divisional appointments for nearly 20 years. They retired in 2010 from Midland Divisional Headquarters, where George served as correctional services director.

George was a lifelong fan of Wichita State University Basketball and passionate about Salvation Army brass bands.

George is survived by his wife; sons Christopher (Julie) and Dr. Chipp (Dawn); four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and brother, Donald. He was preceded in death by eight siblings.