Salvation Army receives $15 million from Lilly Endowment for COVID-19 response

$5 million to provide immediate relief for Indiana residents and sustain long-term programs

by Samantha Hyde

The Salvation Army received $15 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. for COVID-19 relief efforts. Lilly Endowment’s support for The Salvation Army’s efforts is being made in two grants. A $10 million grant will support the work nationwide, divided equally among the four territories. A $5 million grant is dedicated to helping residents of Indiana, where Lilly Endowment is headquartered. It will support the Indiana Division’s immediate COVID-19 response and sustain long-term service to the Indiana community.

“The Salvation Army is deeply committed to alleviating human suffering. It’s in their DNA,” said Ronni Kloth, Lilly Endowment’s vice president for community development. “Through outreach to low-income individuals and families in need of food and shelter as well as counseling, mentoring and spiritual support, they care for communities every day. In times of crisis, The Salvation Army is able to spring into action to help even more people through difficult times. We’re grateful for how The Salvation Army is helping our nation during this pandemic.”

Across the United States, The Salvation Army has been rapidly evolving services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to meet the unique needs of each community. While service looks different around the country, it includes food delivery and food box provisions for individuals, families and isolated seniors; financial support for those who have been laid off or seen their hours cut; desperately needed childcare services; live-streamed or remote emotional and spiritual care; and more.

In Indiana, The Salvation Army has set up drive-through pantries and takeout-style feeding programs to provide residents with basic necessities such as fresh and nonperishable food, personal hygiene items and cleaning supplies. The organization also has adapted its worship services and emergency assistance interviews to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

While these services will help Hoosiers who have been immediately impacted by the outbreak, The Salvation Army also is preparing to meet the next phase of need amid layoffs, other job losses, food shortages and increased childcare needs. Before the outbreak, one in six Americans already lived in poverty, and more than 70 percent of Americans indicated they would have trouble meeting their financial obligations if they missed a pay-check. A new generation of need is expected to result from the long-term impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. In Indiana, where seven percent of the population relies on jobs in the service and hospitality industries, The Salvation Army anticipates an increase in the number of individuals and families seeking financial, rent, utility, and prescription assistance over the coming months and potentially years.

This expected spike is on top of daily operations in 65 counties, which are being heavily strained as Continued on page 7

Feeding our neighbors across the Midwest

As the pandemic continued and the nation settled into a hard, new reality, more people turned to help to

The Salvation Army. Though service was multifaceted, it was anchored in meeting one of life’s most basic necessities, food. Here are a few of the amazing efforts in some of our Midwestern cities.

With an increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Milwaukee County, the Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Divisional Headquarters launched “Helping Hands for Healthcare Heroes” to provide frontline healthcare workers and support staff with meals.

“We recognize that many hospital employees are working through their breaks and have limited time to stop and eat a meal,” said Major Steve Woodard, Milwaukee County coordinator. “The hospital staff is doing such a great and critical service; we are glad to walk alongside and support them at this time.”

As of April 21, more than 1,200 meals had been served at Ascension Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital, multiple Progressive Community Health Center Clinics, and multiple 16th Street Community Health Center Clinics. At the Veterans’ Administration Hospital an additional 1,900 meals were served. The meals to healthcare workers were funded by a $35,000 grant from AT&T.

“Beyond providing food for these frontline staff, we are so grateful to The Salvation Army for showing them appreciation, bringing joy to their day, and making it clear that their sacrifice has not gone unnoticed,” said Dr. Julie Schuller, president and CEO at Sixteenth Street.

Continued on page 2
Feeding our neighbors

Continued from page 1

food, paper products and cleaning supplies.

The Salvation Army in Detroit also managed a food box packing effort at a donated warehouse that incorporated two shifts of officers, staff and volunteers over a four-week period to produce 18,000 boxes of food. The boxes were delivered to metro Detroit corps for distribution primarily to families who were out of work and turning to the organization for the first time. Every individual or family member over age 12 received a box which included canned protein, peanut butter, whole grains, fruit, soups, rice and other nutritious food items. Each box was intended to feed an individual for seven days. Two children under 12 shared a box. During the initial weeks of the crisis, the first 6,000 boxes also included a $10 gift card and a bottle of bleach for household use. Each box was intended to give encouragement during a time when many people can remember that inciting two shifts of officers, staff and volunteers over a four-week period to produce 18,000 boxes of food. The boxes were delivered to metro Detroit corps for distribution primarily to families who were out of work and turning to the organization for the first time. Every individual or family member over age 12 received a box which included canned protein, peanut butter, whole grains, fruit, soups, rice and other nutritious food items. Each box was intended to feed an individual for seven days. Two children under 12 shared a box. During the initial weeks of the crisis, the first 6,000 boxes also included a $10 gift card and a bottle of bleach for household use. Each box was intended to give encouragement during a time when many people can remember that inciting food, The Salvation Army gave away 1,200 lunches to St. Louis residents of Omaha were bolstered by a patriotic light display this April at the Omaha Ray and Juan Kroc Corps Community Center. In collaboration with Heroes Holiday Lights, the initiative "Speak Hope" was intended to give encouragement during a time has "happened" to us has to include something that is within you. react. Have you reacted so that your hope shines? As Christians, as Salvationists, the question is, have we been reaacting in ways that will spur people on to ask why we have reacted in that way? 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV) says, "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." When you served that cold drink in the name of Jesus from a canteen, did people see your hope in the midst of the crisis? When you handed out food boxes to people driving up to your corps during the quarantine, did people receive the love of Christ? On a personal level, what about the person who you interacted with at the grocery store while trying to buy necessities from a nearly bare shell? Did you give that person a reason to ask you about the hope that is within you? Are you prepared to share your hope with others? If we are to fulfill our mission to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name, our reaction to "life happening" to us has to include sharing the reason for the hope that is within us.

Maj. Brian Reed in Detroit, Mich.

Captain Rich Forney

"This is a time where every act of love—a smile, a prayer, sharing groceries—brings us together. We are engaged in fulfilling our twofold mission," said Captain Rich Forney, who served at the Metropolitan Di- vision's EDS Incident Command. "We are in a moment of opportunity to make a difference that will last a lifetime."

Residents of Omaha were bolstered by a patriotic light display this April at the Omaha Ray and Juan Kroc Corps Community Center. In collabor- ation with Heroes Holiday Lights, the initiative "Speak Hope" was in tended to give encouragement during a time what has become one of the darkest times many people can remember. "The need for light and hope has never been greater across our coun- try," said A/Captain John Ganter, senior Kroc Center officer, citing John 1:5 (NIV). "And the light goes on shining in the dark; it is not overcome by the dark," served as the inspiration.

Neighbors were invited to drive or walk by the center practicing social distancing and to join in the effort by turning on their homes' porch lights or putting up Christmas lights. They also were encouraged to stay grounded in what makes them strong—family, faith and fitness—dur- ing this time of hardship and loss.

"Whatever struggles you go through, my wife and I are going to be alongside you," the captain con- cluded in his video message on Facebook. "The Salvation Army is here to stay, and the Kroc Center is going to be ready for you to come back again."

Be the light

Residents of Omaha were bolstered by a patriotic light display this April at the Omaha Ray and Juan Kroc Corps Community Center. In collaboration with Heroes Holiday Lights, the initiative "Speak Hope" was intended to give encouragement during a time what has become one of the darkest times many people can remember.

"The need for light and hope has never been greater across our country," said A/Captain John Ganter, senior Kroc Center officer, citing John 1:5 (NIV). "And the light goes on shining in the dark; it is not overcome by the dark," served as the inspiration.

Neighbors were invited to drive or walk by the center practicing social distancing and to join in the effort by turning on their homes' porch lights or putting up Christmas lights. They also were encouraged to stay grounded in what makes them strong—family, faith and fitness—during this time of hardship and loss.

"Whatever struggles you go through, my wife and I are going to be alongside you," the captain concluded in his video message on Facebook. "The Salvation Army is here to stay, and the Kroc Center is going to be ready for you to come back again."
Stronger together: connecting and lifting each other up

Adjusting to a new lifestyle of social distancing, sheltering at home and avoiding gatherings, Salvationists in the Central Territory have navigated uncharted waters with thoughtfulness and creativity, finding new ways to connect and build each other up in the faith.

Officers across the territory in corps of every size and demographic have adapted ministry, using platforms like Zoom for live meetings such as Bible studies and prayer groups, posting Sunday services and messages of encouragement on YouTube and corps Facebook pages, and reaching out in tangible ways to encourage and support their corps members and communities.

In Jefferson City, Mo., Nolan and Adelyn Windell help their mother deliver Easter baskets to corps members’ homes.

“The meetings have been strengthening the congregation,” said Captain Peter. “It is an opportunity to grow closer together and closer to God. We are waiting on God with confidence and praising Him for what He is already doing.”

Majors Abe and Bonda Tamayo at the Wichita West Orchard, Kan., Corps are utilizing FM radio and the corps parking lot to host drive-in worship services. People simply park their cars, tune their radios to the right frequency and worship together from the safety of their individual vehicles. Honk to say amen!

“We had such a good response from corps members and neighbors after the first service that we plan to continue until the virus passes,” said Major Abe.

Territorial and divisional officers and employees have also risen to the challenge. Groups like the territorial praise band “The Singing Company” have hosted online informal praise sessions from their individual members’ homes, and territorial women’s ministries has taken to posting every weekday.

“We are ‘Reimagining women’s ministries for the short term’ by providing ideas to connect with women’s ministries groups and the community, helpful tips for meeting from a distance, encouragement and social media sharing,” said Heather Hanton, ministries specialist.

One of the exceptional efforts, PrayerCast, hails from the Indiana Division where Major Rachel Stouder, secretary for program, posts meaningful videos to the division’s Facebook page three times a week along with Phil Hull, divisional director of mission and spiritual development. The series consists of Meditation Monday, Worship Wednesday and Formation Friday.

“These PrayerCast efforts have been an opportunity for us to extend our reach,” said the major. “We have a unique opportunity in history to reimagine how we engage with and deploy our comrades.”

And, of course, soldiers across the territory are showing the power of the individual to make a difference by sharing their gifts, time and resources. For instance, exceedingly talented pianist Peter McBride has posted short concerts to his Facebook page, spreading hope and comfort through music to people all over the world.

“I am a big believer in live, corpswide worship,” he said. “However, the reality of COVID-19 forced us all to adapt in many ways, including worship.”

Pete’s weekly 35 to 50-minute worship sessions consist of well-known and loved hymns and songs that speak to him. In response, he has heard from people who enjoy listening while they do devotions, pray or just sit in the Lord’s presence. He’s also heard from nonbelievers who have been stirred to start a dialogue about faith.

“It’s been an opportunity to talk about things that really matter,” Pete concluded. “And for that I am truly grateful.”

Major Abe Tamayo leads a very popular drive-in church for Sunday worship at the Wichita West Orchard, Kan., Corps.

Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps soldier Pete McBride spreads hope through posting weekly piano concerts of familiar and comforting hymns and songs from his home.

The Jefferson City Corps has been creatively leveraging online resources for ministry like vacation Bible school. Using a web-based curriculum, they created packages containing website links, craft materials and lessons to deliver to the homes of corps families and include in food pantry boxes.

Captain Roberto Davila, Dodge City, Kan., corps officer, reports having more face time with his congregation than ever thanks to Zoom. In lieu of hosting weekly programs, each day the corps gathers on Zoom for fellowship, prayer and devotions. The nightly virtual gatherings give way to Sunday morning worship, which is also held on Zoom.

The Mowers family from the Royal Oak Corps greets their fellow Salvationists on Palm Sunday.

Major Rachel Stouder and Phil Hull post meaningful videos to the Indiana Division’s Facebook page three times a week.

In addition to their own efforts, the Mounts also have organized their congregation to check on and uplift one another. Individuals make daily phone calls, while women’s ministries members send cards. Others deliver necessities to those who can’t risk leaving their homes. Young People’s Sergeant-Major Carol McDonald has been keeping families engaged with posts on the corps’ Kids Facebook group, including resources, fun challenges and activities they can complete and share through photos.

“Maintaining a sense of unity is important,” said Captain Peter. “We are adapting every day to make sure people know they are still part of a community.”

Echoing these sentiments, Captain Sarah Windell, Jefferson City, Mo., corps officer, said, “Seeing others, whether on video chat or through a glass door, is encouraging and gives people some of the social interaction they’re missing.

In Jefferson City, Mo., Nolan and Adelyn Windell help their mother deliver Easter baskets to corps members’ homes.

“Maintaining a sense of unity is important,” said Captain Peter. “We are adapting every day to make sure people know they are still part of a community.”

Echoing these sentiments, Captain Sarah Windell, Jefferson City, Mo., corps officer, said, “Seeing others, whether on video chat or through a glass door, is encouraging and gives people some of the social interaction they’re missing.

The Jefferson City Corps has been creatively leveraging online resources for ministry like vacation Bible school. Using a web-based curriculum, they created packages containing website links, craft materials and lessons to deliver to the homes of corps families and include in food pantry boxes.

Captain Roberto Davila, Dodge City, Kan., corps officer, reports having more face time with his congregation than ever thanks to Zoom. In lieu of hosting weekly programs, each day the corps gathers on Zoom for fellowship, prayer and devotions. The nightly virtual gatherings give way to Sunday morning worship, which is also held on Zoom.

“The meetings have been strengthening the congregation,” said Captain Peter. “It is an opportunity to grow closer together and closer to God. We are waiting on God with confidence and praising Him for what He is already doing.”

Majors Abe and Bonda Tamayo at the Wichita West Orchard, Kan., Corps are utilizing FM radio and the corps parking lot to host drive-in worship services. People simply park their cars, tune their radios to the right frequency and worship together from the safety of their individual vehicles. Honk to say amen!

“We had such a good response from corps members and neighbors after the first service that we plan to continue until the virus passes,” said Major Abe.

Territorial and divisional officers and employees have also risen to the challenge. Groups like the territorial praise band “The Singing Company” have hosted online informal praise sessions from their individual members’ homes, and territorial women’s ministries has taken to posting every weekday.

“We are ‘Reimagining women’s ministries for the short term’ by providing ideas to connect with women’s ministries groups and the community, helpful tips for meeting from a distance, encouragement and social media sharing,” said Heather Hanton, ministries specialist.

One of the exceptional efforts, PrayerCast, hails from the Indiana Division where Major Rachel Stouder, secretary for program, posts meaningful videos to the division’s Facebook page three times a week along with Phil Hull, divisional director of mission and spiritual development. The series consists of Meditation Monday, Worship Wednesday and Formation Friday.

“These PrayerCast efforts have been an opportunity for us to extend our reach,” said the major. “We have a unique opportunity in history to reimagine how we engage with and deploy our comrades.”

And, of course, soldiers across the territory are showing the power of the individual to make a difference by sharing their gifts, time and resources. For instance, exceedingly talented pianist Peter McBride has posted short concerts to his Facebook page, spreading hope and comfort through music to people all over the world.

“I am a big believer in live, corpswide worship,” he said. “However, the reality of COVID-19 forced us all to adapt in many ways, including worship.”

Pete’s weekly 35 to 50-minute worship sessions consist of well-known and loved hymns and songs that speak to him. In response, he has heard from people who enjoy listening while they do devotions, pray or just sit in the Lord’s presence. He’s also heard from nonbelievers who have been stirred to start a dialogue about faith.

“It’s been an opportunity to talk about things that really matter,” Pete concluded. “And for that I am truly grateful.”

Major Abe Tamayo leads a very popular drive-in church for Sunday worship at the Wichita West Orchard, Kan., Corps.

Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps soldier Pete McBride spreads hope through posting weekly piano concerts of familiar and comforting hymns and songs from his home.
You are an Army of Hope

In these perilous and uncertain days, with hardship and loss, it’s common to hear phrases like “Together, we’ll get through this.” It’s true. We need each other. So, we asked some soldiers and officers across the territory to share what’s on their hearts and found that their faith in God is sustaining them. May you be encouraged.

A song of hope
by William Himes

Ever since I can remember, music has been an important part of my life from Sunday school choruses sung as a toddler to university and Salvation Army performances that have taken me all over the world. I particularly appreciate its power to build memories. For example, we learned our A-B-C’s by singing them to “Twinkle, twinkle, little star.”

Over the years I’ve experienced the ability of music to imprint spiritual truth. When I have experienced life’s most challenging situations, often a melody will come to me, then its words of assurance and strength.

We all have been impacted by this life-changing pandemic—in ways big and small. But as I think about the uncertainties of these times, a song soars in my heart:

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

When life knocks you down, perhaps you will find yourself singing this, too. It is inspired by the Bible’s message of hope from beginning to end, including Hebrews 10:23 (NIV): “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

I pray that God’s song will always be in you.

Peace beyond circumstances
by Barb Higgins

We have no control over this pandemic. It’s easy to lose faith, live in fear and have no peace. But I’m reminded of the song “This is my father’s world” that proclaims, “Oh, let me never forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.”

I believe our Army has been raised up by God for such a time as this. We’re prepared to meet the needs of suffering humanity. Soldiers, adherents, officers and volunteers—young and old—have been mobilized to help where we can with what we have.

But in addition to material assistance, we bring hope. God is not different. He knows us personally and cares for us deeply. He is no stranger to suffering or carrying heavy burdens. God entered our hurting world to rescue us through His son, Jesus, whose death on the cross and resurrection made a way for us to be reconciled with God.

And it’s because of Jesus that you and I can look to the future with hope and peace regardless of the circumstances.

Peace doesn’t mean we ignore risks, avoid thinking about circumstances or don’t acknowledge they could get worse. It doesn’t mean we don’t take precautions for our safety and the well-being of others. Peace acknowledges trust in Jesus; having hope in the midst of the circumstances, we have the opportunity to live in peace. Our hope and peace rest in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Let’s not forget to share that hope. Let that hope motivate us. Let that peace shine through us.

Gratitude: the anchor of faith
by Major Jennifer Woodard

As a child I thought I would never have enough “blind” faith to please God. Thankfully, I came to understand faith in God is never really blind. In truth, we have reasons beyond measure to believe, and all add up to only one real reason: the love of God.

If faith is the anchor, then the love of God is the rock on which it holds. Scripture is full of the character of God. Testimonies abound of His faithfulness despite loss this side of heaven. Our created world is full of God’s glory so that “man is without excuse” (Romans 1:20). And each singular life is full of God’s graces.

Along with you, I am experiencing a forced reordering of my time, priorities and opportunities. But in the midst, steady truths have emerged with heightened awareness: God is my only hope—but He is a firm hope; life is short—but I have life now; trusting God is a choice—but He is trustworthy.

Now, when ‘normal’ falls away, good and rare gifts remain: time, family, friends, the value of others, sunshine, fresh air, the message of spring in winter’s experience; breath in my lungs, and just being, still before God. Wonder invites me to gratitude, flooding my soul with renewed faith. “Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning, great is Your faithfulness,” Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV).

Fully trusting God
by Lt. Anil Kumar

I have been thinking a lot about trusting God, even before this pandemic hit us.

Last June, Karen and I welcomed our son, Raj, into this world just a few days before her commissioning. We walked into our new appointment at the Farmington Hills, Mich., Corps with a three-week-old baby.

We had questions:
• Why were we here?
• What are we supposed to do?
• How are we supposed to raise Raj?
• When should we unpack, read the brief, get to know everyone?

The list went on and on.

Frustrations were building, the list of unknowns and things ‘to do’ were piling up, and Christmas was around the corner. At this chaotic moment, we received terrifying news from my homeland, India. My dad was dying.

It was difficult to be thousands of miles away from family; words can’t describe what I felt. I went home to India for three weeks, and when I returned to the U.S., I realized I did not trust God completely. I had only trusted Him in certain aspects. I had limited Him so I could be in control of my life, but not fully trusting Him created chaos.

Once I started to trust Him completely, I was able to see things differently. I now see God’s work in everything we do which brings amazing beauty. There is nothing better than trusting God and serving His people, especially during this time of crisis.
God’s Word, my light
by Jervias Johnson

Back in February the Lord spoke to me saying, “I already love you, and it’s time to continue stepping forward in the path I revealed to you. Challenges are going to come, but it’s time to double down and put in work to stay connected to my Word.”

At the beginning of this pandemic, I panicked and strayed from the path God revealed to me. But after about a week of inciting fear from reading headlines, I felt the Lord reveal Himself again. After this second encounter, I realized God still wanted me to pursue Him wholeheartedly despite the unprecedented circumstances.

I am humbled and reminded of God’s sovereignty throughout times of both trouble and peace.

Adjusting our focus
by Lt. Matthew Beatty

I is easy to focus on what we are losing or have lost already. Our daily lives have been interrupted, jobs have been lost, finances are dwindling or non-existent, and there is a big uncertainty as to how long this will continue. For many, serious health issues are a possibility. How can we focus on anything else when this is all we see? The news, Facebook, internet, day-to-day conversations, it is everywhere, every day.

But you know what else is everywhere—that many have forgotten and overlooked? Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Psalm 46:1 (NIV) reminds us, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Through all of this He is still there ready to support, guide, love and strengthen us.

So, let us focus on the Light that never burns out, the Light that shines to all and gives us hope when there seems to be none. Let us focus on Jesus and allow Him to carry us through. In times like these, Rona and I acknowledge the difficulties but see the opportunities—opportunities to share the Gospel and to meet human needs in His name and to show the true love that scripture speaks of constantly.

The Lord, my strength
by Jorge Madrigal

I believe the Lord is my protection and my shield. When life gets hard, I lean on the promise in Psalm 91 that He is always going to be there for me. I know we are in hard times, especially for those who are laid off, confined to their homes or have contracted the disease. But even through all of that, I am encouraged by God’s promises. What God promises, He does; He is faithful.

God has given me a peace in my heart about everything that’s happening. Going to work each day is a risk. Driving around making deliveries and visiting clients means I am exposed to everything that’s going on, but I am being careful, and I know the Lord is with me.

Life looks different at home, too. I don’t want to expose my kids, so we don’t go places like we used to. Instead, we play outside in our yard. Our everyday activities have changed, but on Sundays we still worship with our church family virtually. My daughter helps with the audio/visual while I lead worship for the online services. We’re still at it, praising God.

Isaiah 41:10 says, “Do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

That’s a promise that I have in Him. I encourage others to trust God. He is taking care of everything.
Man of faith and action

by Cadet Ramon Cebrian

Therey Jones (TJ) first came to The Salvation Army in June 2006 after purchasing a home near the Noble Worship Center (Corps) in Brooklyn Park, Minn. Driving by the building, he saw a sign promoting worship services and decided to attend one Sunday.

Before he knew it, he was volunteering. “From day one, they put me to work,” said TJ.

He’s volunteered at the corps for more than 13 years, serving in capacities from cleaning the building and cooking meals to collecting food donations and being a driver for children’s programs and Christmas kettle routes. This past Christmas season alone, he gave more than 240 hours driving kettle workers to their locations.

TJ not only has served when it’s easy or convenient, but in times of great personal struggle. On December 20, 2017, while he was driving a kettle route, TJ felt pain in his chest and stopped at a clinic to check it out. A subsequent hospital scan and biopsy showed a six-centimeter cancerous mass in his lung—stage 4. Despite this diagnosis and even during his radiation and chemotherapy treatments, TJ finished serving throughout the Christmas season. Eight months later the tumor had shrunk to four centimeters and continued to diminish until there was no evidence of cancer.

“TJ credits not only the medical treatments but prayer,” the corps officers said.

TJ’s faith has grown significantly since coming to the Army. Though he accepted Christ as a child, he said his faith journey was inconsistent, “one foot in church and the other out” until he joined the corps in 2006. He was mentored by Captain Alex Lim, recommitted his life to Christ and was enrolled as a soldier on Easter, 2019.

This past Christmas, TJ felt a familiar pain in his chest and wondered if his cancer had returned, but on December 21 he received the best Christmas gift he could have hoped for—his doctor said there was still no evidence of cancer.

Auxiliary Captains Josh and Jennifer Polanco, current Noble corps officers, asked TJ how he was able to continue volunteering when he was in pain and feared the cancer was spreading. He simply replied, “There is no sense for me to stay home and be worried about it. I am going to keep doing God’s work.”

Clearly, he embodies his favorite verse, Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV): “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Victoria Noel Blackwell
First-generation Salvationist
Indianapolis, Ind., Fountain Square Corps ◆ Indiana Division
Captain Brenna and Lt. Vinal Lee, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts
Evangelism ◆ Teaching
Ministry Passion or Experience
Missons ◆ Preaching/Teaching
Spiritual mentors
Captain Brenna Lee ◆ Azia Watts

Man of faith and action

by Cadet Ramon Cebrian

Therey Jones (TJ) first came to The Salvation Army in June 2006 after purchasing a home near the Noble Worship Center (Corps) in Brooklyn Park, Minn. Driving by the building, he saw a sign promoting worship services and decided to attend one Sunday.

Before he knew it, he was volunteering. “From day one, they put me to work,” said TJ.

He’s volunteered at the corps for more than 13 years, serving in capacities from cleaning the building and cooking meals to collecting food donations and being a driver for children’s programs and Christmas kettle routes. This past Christmas season alone, he gave more than 240 hours driving kettle workers to their locations.

TJ not only has served when it’s easy or convenient, but in times of great personal struggle. On December 20, 2017, while he was driving a kettle route, TJ felt pain in his chest and stopped at a clinic to check it out. A subsequent hospital scan and biopsy showed a six-centimeter cancerous mass in his lung—stage 4. Despite this diagnosis and even during his radiation and chemotherapy treatments, TJ finished serving throughout the Christmas season. Eight months later the tumor had shrunk to four centimeters and continued to diminish until there was no evidence of cancer.

“TJ credits not only the medical treatments but prayer,” the corps officers said.

TJ’s faith has grown significantly since coming to the Army. Though he accepted Christ as a child, he said his faith journey was inconsistent, “one foot in church and the other out” until he joined the corps in 2006. He was mentored by Captain Alex Lim, recommitted his life to Christ and was enrolled as a soldier on Easter, 2019.

This past Christmas, TJ felt a familiar pain in his chest and wondered if his cancer had returned, but on December 21 he received the best Christmas gift he could have hoped for—his doctor said there was still no evidence of cancer.

Auxiliary Captains Josh and Jennifer Polanco, current Noble corps officers, asked TJ how he was able to continue volunteering when he was in pain and feared the cancer was spreading. He simply replied, “There is no sense for me to stay home and be worried about it. I am going to keep doing God’s work.”

Clearly, he embodies his favorite verse, Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV): “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Victoria Noel Blackwell
First-generation Salvationist
Indianapolis, Ind., Fountain Square Corps ◆ Indiana Division
Captain Brenna and Lt. Vinal Lee, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts
Evangelism ◆ Teaching
Ministry Passion or Experience
Missons ◆ Preaching/Teaching
Spiritual mentors
Captain Brenna Lee ◆ Azia Watts

Man of faith and action

by Cadet Ramon Cebrian

Therey Jones (TJ) first came to The Salvation Army in June 2006 after purchasing a home near the Noble Worship Center (Corps) in Brooklyn Park, Minn. Driving by the building, he saw a sign promoting worship services and decided to attend one Sunday.

Before he knew it, he was volunteering. “From day one, they put me to work,” said TJ.

He’s volunteered at the corps for more than 13 years, serving in capacities from cleaning the building and cooking meals to collecting food donations and being a driver for children’s programs and Christmas kettle routes. This past Christmas season alone, he gave more than 240 hours driving kettle workers to their locations.

TJ not only has served when it’s easy or convenient, but in times of great personal struggle. On December 20, 2017, while he was driving a kettle route, TJ felt pain in his chest and stopped at a clinic to check it out. A subsequent hospital scan and biopsy showed a six-centimeter cancerous mass in his lung—stage 4. Despite this diagnosis and even during his radiation and chemotherapy treatments, TJ finished serving throughout the Christmas season. Eight months later the tumor had shrunk to four centimeters and continued to diminish until there was no evidence of cancer.

“TJ credits not only the medical treatments but prayer,” the corps officers said.

TJ’s faith has grown significantly since coming to the Army. Though he accepted Christ as a child, he said his faith journey was inconsistent, “one foot in church and the other out” until he joined the corps in 2006. He was mentored by Captain Alex Lim, recommitted his life to Christ and was enrolled as a soldier on Easter, 2019.

This past Christmas, TJ felt a familiar pain in his chest and wondered if his cancer had returned, but on December 21 he received the best Christmas gift he could have hoped for—his doctor said there was still no evidence of cancer.

Auxiliary Captains Josh and Jennifer Polanco, current Noble corps officers, asked TJ how he was able to continue volunteering when he was in pain and feared the cancer was spreading. He simply replied, “There is no sense for me to stay home and be worried about it. I am going to keep doing God’s work.”

Clearly, he embodies his favorite verse, Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV): “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Victoria Noel Blackwell
First-generation Salvationist
Indianapolis, Ind., Fountain Square Corps ◆ Indiana Division
Captain Brenna and Lt. Vimal Lee, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts
Evangelism ◆ Teaching
Ministry Passion or Experience
Missons ◆ Preaching/Teaching
Spiritual mentors
Captain Brenna Lee ◆ Azia Watts

Man of faith and action

by Cadet Ramon Cebrian

Therey Jones (TJ) first came to The Salvation Army in June 2006 after purchasing a home near the Noble Worship Center (Corps) in Brooklyn Park, Minn. Driving by the building, he saw a sign promoting worship services and decided to attend one Sunday.

Before he knew it, he was volunteering. “From day one, they put me to work,” said TJ.

He’s volunteered at the corps for more than 13 years, serving in capacities from cleaning the building and cooking meals to collecting food donations and being a driver for children’s programs and Christmas kettle routes. This past Christmas season alone, he gave more than 240 hours driving kettle workers to their locations.

TJ not only has served when it’s easy or convenient, but in times of great personal struggle. On December 20, 2017, while he was driving a kettle route, TJ felt pain in his chest and stopped at a clinic to check it out. A subsequent hospital scan and biopsy showed a six-centimeter cancerous mass in his lung—stage 4. Despite this diagnosis and even during his radiation and chemotherapy treatments, TJ finished serving throughout the Christmas season. Eight months later the tumor had shrunk to four centimeters and continued to diminish until there was no evidence of cancer.

“TJ credits not only the medical treatments but prayer,” the corps officers said.

TJ’s faith has grown significantly since coming to the Army. Though he accepted Christ as a child, he said his faith journey was inconsistent, “one foot in church and the other out” until he joined the corps in 2006. He was mentored by Captain Alex Lim, recommitted his life to Christ and was enrolled as a soldier on Easter, 2019.

This past Christmas, TJ felt a familiar pain in his chest and wondered if his cancer had returned, but on December 21 he received the best Christmas gift he could have hoped for—his doctor said there was still no evidence of cancer.

Auxiliary Captains Josh and Jennifer Polanco, current Noble corps officers, asked TJ how he was able to continue volunteering when he was in pain and feared the cancer was spreading. He simply replied, “There is no sense for me to stay home and be worried about it. I am going to keep doing God’s work.”

Clearly, he embodies his favorite verse, Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV): “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Victoria Noel Blackwell
First-generation Salvationist
Indianapolis, Ind., Fountain Square Corps ◆ Indiana Division
Captain Brenna and Lt. Vimal Lee, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts
Evangelism ◆ Teaching
Ministry Passion or Experience
Missons ◆ Preaching/Teaching
Spiritual mentors
Captain Brenna Lee ◆ Azia Watts
RISING STARS

SOLO FESTIVAL

ONLINE EVENT

Video submissions due between June 1-30

Available to ages 9-25

Brass, Dance, Drama, Guitar, Percussion, Piano, Ukulele, Voice

For more information visit: samusiccentral.org/rising-stars

Lilly Endowment Contained from page 1

well. Closures due to social distancing amid the COVID-19 outbreak have resulted in the cancellation of important fundraisers that would normally fund The Salvation Army’s programs. The grant from Lilly will help to make up for that loss of funding, so The Salvation Army can continue to serve once the crisis has subsided.

“We are all impacted by the coronavirus, but our brothers and sisters living in poverty are feeling it more significantly, which is causing a strain on our resources,” said Major Robert Webster, Indiana divisional commander. “As our staff and volunteers are called to go above and beyond in service, we have been praying faithfully for a miracle to make it possible for us to continue ministering now and into the future, here in Indiana. May God bless those who will be served today, tomorrow and in the future because of this amazing gift of love.”

The grant will help make it possible for The Salvation Army to sustain vital programming once the crisis ends. These year-round programs include emergency assistance, youth sports and character-building programs, older adult ministries, summer camp at Hidden Falls Camp, rehabilitation services at the Harbor Light Center, safe shelter at the Ruth Lilly Women and Children’s Center and much more.

For more than 70 years, Lilly Endowment has supported efforts of The Salvation Army to help people in need. In recent years, Lilly Endowment has been a significant funder of Pathway of Hope.

continued from page 1

PRAYER CENTRAL

July Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List

Day | Bible Reading | Pray for The Salvation Army
--- | --- | ---
1 Wednesday | Philippians 1-2 | Officers transitioning into new appointments
2 Thursday | Leviticus 10-12 | Bloomington, Ind., Corps
3 Friday | 2 Kings 1-6 | Rwanda and Burundi
4 Saturday | Psalms 78-80 | Summer ministries in place of camps
5 Sunday | Proverbs 8-9 | Chicago Englewood, Ill., Corps
6 Monday | Ezekiel 19-24 | Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division
7 Tuesday | Luke 17-18 | Bloomington, N.D., Corps
8 Wednesday | Philippians 3-4 | Boone, Iowa, Corps
9 Thursday | Leviticus 13-15 | Benton Harbor, Mich., Corps
10 Friday | 2 Kings 6-10 | Escanaba, Mich., Corps
11 Saturday | Psalms 81-83 | Davenport River Valley, Iowa, ARC
12 Sunday | Proverbs 10 | New lives for Christ this Decision Sunday
13 Monday | Ezekiel 25-30 | Brazil
14 Tuesday | Luke 19-20 | Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network
15 Wednesday | Colossians 1-2 | Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Corps
16 Thursday | Leviticus 16-18 | Brown County, Ind., Corps
17 Friday | 2 Kings 11-15 | Emporia, Kan., Corps
18 Saturday | Psalms 84-86 | Cadets on summer assignments
19 Sunday | Proverbs 11-12 | Branson, Mo., Corps
20 Monday | Ezekiel 31-36 | Spain and Portugal
22 Wednesday | Colossians 3-4 | Council Bluffs, Iowa, Corps
23 Thursday | Leviticus 19-21 | Indiana Division
24 Friday | 2 Kings 16-20 | Fond du Lac, Wis., Corps
25 Saturday | Psalms 87-89 | Des Moines, Iowa, ARC
26 Sunday | Proverbs 13 | Decorah Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps
27 Monday | Ezekiel 37-42 | Champaign, Ill., Corps
28 Tuesday | Luke 23-24 | India South Western Territory
29 Wednesday | 1 Thessalonians 1-3 | Dodge City, Kan., Corps
30 Thursday | Leviticus 22-24 | Chicago LaSalle, Ill., Corps
31 Friday | 2 Kings 21-25 | Cape Girardeau, Mo., Corps

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

---Mustard Seeds---

I like it because it lets us just relax & get ready.

The S.A.'s First Self-Driving Canteen...

Emergency Disaster Services

---Continued from page 1---

My Prayer List

Day | Bible Reading | Pray for The Salvation Army
--- | --- | ---
1 Wednesday | Philippians 1-2 | Officers transitioning into new appointments
2 Thursday | Leviticus 10-12 | Bloomington, Ind., Corps
3 Friday | 2 Kings 1-6 | Rwanda and Burundi
4 Saturday | Psalms 78-80 | Summer ministries in place of camps
5 Sunday | Proverbs 8-9 | Chicago Englewood, Ill., Corps
6 Monday | Ezekiel 19-24 | Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division
7 Tuesday | Luke 17-18 | Bloomington, N.D., Corps
8 Wednesday | Philippians 3-4 | Boone, Iowa, Corps
9 Thursday | Leviticus 13-15 | Benton Harbor, Mich., Corps
10 Friday | 2 Kings 6-10 | Escanaba, Mich., Corps
11 Saturday | Psalms 81-83 | Davenport River Valley, Iowa, ARC
12 Sunday | Proverbs 10 | New lives for Christ this Decision Sunday
13 Monday | Ezekiel 25-30 | Brazil
14 Tuesday | Luke 19-20 | Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network
15 Wednesday | Colossians 1-2 | Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Corps
16 Thursday | Leviticus 16-18 | Brown County, Ind., Corps
17 Friday | 2 Kings 11-15 | Emporia, Kan., Corps
18 Saturday | Psalms 84-86 | Cadets on summer assignments
19 Sunday | Proverbs 11-12 | Branson, Mo., Corps
20 Monday | Ezekiel 31-36 | Spain and Portugal
22 Wednesday | Colossians 3-4 | Council Bluffs, Iowa, Corps
23 Thursday | Leviticus 19-21 | Indiana Division
24 Friday | 2 Kings 16-20 | Fond du Lac, Wis., Corps
25 Saturday | Psalms 87-89 | Des Moines, Iowa, ARC
26 Sunday | Proverbs 13 | Decorah Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps
27 Monday | Ezekiel 37-42 | Champaign, Ill., Corps
28 Tuesday | Luke 23-24 | India South Western Territory
29 Wednesday | 1 Thessalonians 1-3 | Dodge City, Kan., Corps
30 Thursday | Leviticus 22-24 | Chicago LaSalle, Ill., Corps
31 Friday | 2 Kings 21-25 | Cape Girardeau, Mo., Corps

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

---Continued from page 1---

My Prayer List

Day | Bible Reading | Pray for The Salvation Army
--- | --- | ---
1 Wednesday | Philippians 1-2 | Officers transitioning into new appointments
2 Thursday | Leviticus 10-12 | Bloomington, Ind., Corps
3 Friday | 2 Kings 1-6 | Rwanda and Burundi
4 Saturday | Psalms 78-80 | Summer ministries in place of camps
5 Sunday | Proverbs 8-9 | Chicago Englewood, Ill., Corps
6 Monday | Ezekiel 19-24 | Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division
7 Tuesday | Luke 17-18 | Bloomington, N.D., Corps
8 Wednesday | Philippians 3-4 | Boone, Iowa, Corps
9 Thursday | Leviticus 13-15 | Benton Harbor, Mich., Corps
10 Friday | 2 Kings 6-10 | Escanaba, Mich., Corps
11 Saturday | Psalms 81-83 | Davenport River Valley, Iowa, ARC
12 Sunday | Proverbs 10 | New lives for Christ this Decision Sunday
13 Monday | Ezekiel 25-30 | Brazil
14 Tuesday | Luke 19-20 | Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network
15 Wednesday | Colossians 1-2 | Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Corps
16 Thursday | Leviticus 16-18 | Brown County, Ind., Corps
17 Friday | 2 Kings 11-15 | Emporia, Kan., Corps
18 Saturday | Psalms 84-86 | Cadets on summer assignments
19 Sunday | Proverbs 11-12 | Branson, Mo., Corps
20 Monday | Ezekiel 31-36 | Spain and Portugal
22 Wednesday | Colossians 3-4 | Council Bluffs, Iowa, Corps
23 Thursday | Leviticus 19-21 | Indiana Division
24 Friday | 2 Kings 16-20 | Fond du Lac, Wis., Corps
25 Saturday | Psalms 87-89 | Des Moines, Iowa, ARC
26 Sunday | Proverbs 13 | Decorah Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps
27 Monday | Ezekiel 37-42 | Champaign, Ill., Corps
28 Tuesday | Luke 23-24 | India South Western Territory
29 Wednesday | 1 Thessalonians 1-3 | Dodge City, Kan., Corps
30 Thursday | Leviticus 22-24 | Chicago LaSalle, Ill., Corps
31 Friday | 2 Kings 21-25 | Cape Girardeau, Mo., Corps

Go to www.salarmycentral.org
If you follow the prayer calendar during the year, you will have read through the Bible!
Ancient lands with a modern message

by Sarah Miesch

A

s we sat in the chapel at Territorial Headquarters eagerly awaiting our long flight, Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey took a moment to pray with us. He said he would “never see these faces again” because we would return from this trip changed. He was right.

To say visiting the Holy Land was a dream is an understatement. It has been “the dream” for me for as long as I can remember. Every time my students (I teach in a public high school) would ask about my dream trip, I would respond, “That’s easy. I want to go to Israel!” However, I never really believed it would happen. When it finally was in sight and my husband and I prepared for the trip, many people who’d already gone said, “You will never read scripture the same way again.”

To sail in a boat on the Sea of Galilee and hike the steps, to sit on the mountainside reading the Beatitudes knowing this natural amphitheater is where Jesus challenged His followers to be “salt and light,” to visit the garden where Jesus prayed and prepared to sacrifice His life for mine—it was overwhelming.

The theme, “Ancient lands with a modern message,” kept playing in my head. We visited uncovered ancient Jewish temples from 2,000 years ago and saw how pagan practice and culture crept into their worship. Images of Medusa and Dionysus laid into the mosaics next to the sacred tablets of the Law that God gave to Moses struck a chord in me. How easily we as the church in 2020 can fall into the same lies. How easily we as the church in 2020 can fall into the same lies. How easily we as the church in 2020 can fall into the same lies.

Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Major Lurline Duskin

Mrs. Major Lurline Charity Duskin, 100, was promoted to Glory on April 8, 2020. Known for her thoughtfulness toward others, she touched countless individuals with her encouraging phone calls and inspirational cards.

She was ordained and commissioned as a single officer with the “Stealfast” session in 1942, then married Charles Duskin in 1945 and together they began a lifetime of ministry and service throughout the Midwest. Lurline served the Lord as an officer for more than 40 years.

The Duskins enjoyed traveling and spreading the Good News wherever their trips took them. Family trips and vacations were of the utmost importance to Lurline. She loved to read and spend quality time with those closest to her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, nine siblings, grandsons Jacques and granddaughter-in-law Captain Miranda Duskin. She is survived by her children, Miriam Cartwright, Major Paul [Mary], and DeWayne [Pam]; eight grandchil-
dren and 18 great-grandchildren.

We are so grateful for those who made this dream a reality.

Editor’s note: Sarah and 13 other soldiers invited to participate in the Biblical Education Tour (BET) earlier this year due to a new soldiers’ assistance plan that helps bring the Bible to life and enhance their ministry as local leaders at their corps. Next year the BET is scheduled to go to Greece and Turkey and study the Bible in the footsteps of Paul.

SATERN holds summit

The Midland Division’s Camp Milaska provided an inspirational environment for planning and brainstorming for members of SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network). The two-day summit convened to assess SATERN and strengthening its role in meeting the needs of those impacted by disasters.

Michael Orfitelli, retired Eastern territorial emergency disaster services (EDS) coordinator, led SATERN members representing several divisions, divisional EDS directors, divisional SATERN coordinators and territorial EDS representatives in the endeavor.

Their work consisted of a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis, revision of the SATERN vision statement, the establishment of mission impact priorities and implementation priorities. It provided the groundwork for exciting changes in the SATERN program. The team will continue their work, and the final plan will be released and implemented later this year.

Major Michele Heaver, territorial emergency disaster services project coordinator, opened the summit with a devotional emphasizing the importance of planning. Ephesians 1:3-14 (NIV) clearly demonstrates God has always been very intentional in planning every step of our lives.

The major conveyed that from this passage we learn three very important aspects about planning:

1. God planned before the creation of the world.
2. God’s perfect plan is based on wisdom and understanding. Without these, our plans can be flawed, ineffective or even chaotic.
3. God’s planning leads to an incredible outcome.

The desire of the strategic planning team is to allow God to lead us to an incredible outcome.