



# 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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## Camping: good for the body and soul

**T**hough camps may look different this summer given fluid, continuing restrictions and safety protocols, officers and other leaders throughout the territory are getting creative to ensure the season isn't wasted in reaching youth with the support and opportunities they need to grow.

"In addition to the viral pandemic, we have noticed an epidemic of anxiety, loneliness and despair among our youth," said Captain Jonathan Cooper, Eastern Michigan divisional

youth secretary. "We have the tools to help address these concerns through camping ministry. With the utmost attention to detail and following every guideline, we can provide a safe place for kids to be kids."

He continued, "As campers take in the fresh air and sunlight, fellowship and the gospel this summer, our prayer is to help bring healing during a difficult season. I can't think of anything more essential in the world of youth ministry today."

### Day Camps

In many locations corps day camps are taking center-stage, being organized and partially or fully funded by divisional headquarters.

In lieu of traditional camp, corps in the Western Division were given the opportunity to either host an eight-

week day camp or plan a four-day corps retreat to be held at the division's new Western Plains Camp.

Nine corps, including five which have not held a summer day camp previously, are receiving financial support from divisional headquarters to cover the cost of hiring a day camp director for the summer (up to eight weeks).

At the Marshalltown, Iowa, Corps, a new day camp for children entering first through sixth grades will focus on supporting working fami-

lies throughout the summer by accepting state childcare assistance.

"We are excited about all the possibilities that lie ahead," said Captain Pam Kasten, Marshalltown corps officer. "We hope to continue into the school year with an after-school program which will help us funnel more kids into character-building programs, Sunday school and worship. The community is supporting us 100 percent."

Corps choosing to host a retreat will have program supplies and

meals funded by divisional headquarters. Corps located close to one another or in areas with comparable COVID-19 levels will join for a retreat and enjoy camp activities together.

"We have traditionally bussed hundreds of children to our camp

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## Pathway of Hope national evaluation launched

by Linda Brinker and Michael Smith

**O**ver the next two years, Pathway of Hope (POH) national outcomes will be studied by RTI International, an independent nonprofit research firm which has been contracted by National Headquarters.

The two main objectives are to improve program outcomes and outreach and to create a community of best practice sites that share learning and support.

The study will use sophisticated formative and summative evaluation techniques to accomplish these objectives. The qualitative evaluation involves in-depth statistical analysis of national POH data and outcomes. RTI will evaluate 100 POH locations throughout the country, 36 of which are in the Central Territory.

The process also will include virtual site visits with 24 best practice sites including the following locations in the Midwest: Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Oshkosh, Wis., Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Ottawa, Ill., Fergus Falls, Minn., and Livingston County, Mich.



These best practice sites were selected based on:

- maintaining a case manager-to-family ratio of 3-12,
- demonstrating a team approach,
- integrating pastoral care,
- demonstrating a capacity to provide supplemental financial and other resources to help families succeed,
- maintaining a comprehensive community partner referral network
- maintaining high-quality data entry.

The evaluation commenced earlier this year with RTI distributing POH team and family surveys. RTI also held virtual cluster meetings for both rural and urban best practice locations. Based on feedback, webinars will be developed and offered to POH sites across the country. Topics will include improving POH family engagement, job training, workforce readiness, enhancing pastoral care, cultural diversity and inclusion, financial literacy, self-care, and promoting physical and mental

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# Leading like Jesus in times of crisis

by Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich  
Secretary for Program

*The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in the moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.*  
—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The last 13 months have tested the mettle of every leader around the globe. Old words and realities have found new significance: pivot, virtual, distance, home office, etc.

New words have entered our everyday vernacular: masking (never heard that verb before); quaranteam (the limited group of people you see during self-isolation); zoom-bombing (when uninvited guests disrupt a virtual meeting); coronababies (our second granddaughter was born on May 21, 2020, and I can't even begin to tell you how different her first 10 months have been compared with

anyone else in our family!); and many more.

I recently read an article, "Leading in Times of Crisis," by Joyce Russell. She listed 13 critical leadership behaviors and characteristics needed during times of crisis. As I read, the profound leadership lessons from the greatest leader of all time, Jesus Christ, came to mind. Here are a few with corresponding verses from the Bible that reveal how Jesus demonstrated these characteristics. As you read them, ask yourself, "Am I leading like Jesus?"

**Show Humility.** Jesus was the ultimate exemplar of humility.



Nowhere is this more powerfully demonstrated than in Philippians 2:6-11 (NIV): "Jesus did not consider equality with God something to be used for his own advantage, rather he made himself nothing...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death..." How are you doing in your leadership role(s)?

**Be Empathetic.** Jesus was not only fully God but also fully man. Therefore, He can fully relate, and then some, to all we are going through: pain, fear, anxiety, grief, etc. In Hebrews 4:15 (NIV) we read, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin." Are you able to empathize with those you lead?

**Help those around you find meaning.** Jesus did this many times by connecting His disciples to the mission of all Christ followers: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength,...Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:30-31, NIV). This meaning is discovered and experienced when we accept Jesus' invitation to follow Him.

**Share a hopeful message for the future.** "No longer will there be any curse...yes I am coming soon." (Revelation 22: 3, 7, 12, 20) In your leadership, do you instill hope borne out of your trust in God and the "end of the story?"

The crises of 2020 and 2021 haven't taken our Lord by surprise. For such a time as this, we are called to lead like Jesus, and He will equip those whom He has called. How are you doing?

## Two million pounds of food and counting

by Craig Dirkes

The numbers are in. The Salvation Army in the Twin Cities reached its goal of raising 2 million pounds of food this spring.

Some called the goal impossible. The Twin Cities community proved otherwise, donating enough cash and nonperishable food to accomplish the largest food drive in local history. The donations will be used to replenish the food shelves of nine corps and two service offices which have been strained by record demand.

"Raising 2 million pounds of food required an Army of community support," said Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings, Northern divisional commander. "We applaud the Twin Cities community for its remarkable



giving spirit. Thank you is not enough."

Many local businesses helped lead the charge, including SPIRE Credit Union, Cub grocery stores and Morrie's Auto Group, all of which accepted donations at their Twin Cities locations throughout March. In addition, several pop-up food drives were hosted by the Star Tribune and Minnesota Twins, with large donations of canned goods given by Faribault Foods (100,000 pounds), Pritchard Companies and the Mike Zimmer Foundation (10,000 cans).

"COVID-19 is not over yet. There is still so much need out there," said Dan Stoltz, SPIRE president and

CEO. "Thank you to everybody for stepping up to help The Salvation Army. The generosity of Minnesotans is inspiring."

A groundswell of support also came from dozens of everyday people, churches and small businesses that hosted grassroots food drives. That includes Plymouth

resident Carrie Schmid, whose three young children helped her gather food donations from their neighbors and at a nearby Cub store.

"This food drive spoke to my heart," said Carrie. "It's all about giving back to the community, especially after this crazy year."

The food drive culminated with a weigh-in event at Northern Divisional Headquarters in Roseville, where a nonstop stream of people drove up to donate. Four of the cars came from Woodbury Lutheran Church, whose members donated 3,000 pounds of food.

Although the goal was reached,

the work is not over. The Salvation Army's partners and supporters continue to host food drives, donate money and drop off nonperishable food. Local Schuler Shoes stores joined the effort by accepting donations of nonperishable foods throughout April.

The continued efforts are appreciated because even more donations will be needed. With 2 million pounds of food, The Salvation Army in the Twin Cities can supply about 1.2 million meals, but that's less than half the food needed to sustain the food shelves of seven corps and two satellite offices in the Twin Cities year-round.

The ongoing support will bless thousands of people like Amber, a career restaurant server in St. Paul who has struggled since the pan-



demic began. She hasn't been able to wait tables fulltime and has stayed afloat by working odd jobs and dipping into her savings account. She stops by her local Salvation Army food shelf almost every week.

"It's humbling to receive food when you can't afford it, when you have to spend that money on rent or other bills," Amber said.

With the help of supporters, The Salvation Army will continue to provide the highest level of service to communities during the pandemic and long after it ends. "We are here to help our neighbors in need," Colonel Jennings concluded.



**Central Connection** 

THE SALVATION ARMY  
5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy • Hoffman Estates, IL 60192  
847-294-2000

WILLIAM AND CATHERINE BOOTH  
Founder

BRIAN PEDDLE  
General

COMMISSIONER BRAD BAILEY  
Territorial Commander

ELIZABETH KINZIE  
Editorial Director

TWYLA STEINSLAND  
Communications Specialist

KENNETH ROMIN  
Graphic Design and Production

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# Thriving together: building communities of hope and resilience

by Dr. Maribeth Swanson

The guiding question during the planning of the first Virtual Territorial Social Services Conference was, "Are the Salvation Army's officers and staff thriving or just surviving?"

Planners recognized the unprecedented physical, emotional and spiritual challenges faced by frontline personnel during the pandemic. The registration of more than 500 officers, employees and volunteers reinforced the deep-seated need for a respite and lessons on enhancing their self-care and ideas for providing casework services amidst COVID-19 restrictions.

The virtual two-day conference offered four plenary sessions led by dynamic national and international speakers, and 18 workshops on topics and practices designed to promote staff hope and resilience in the ever-changing service delivery environment.

The conference began with a time of reflection and prayer led by Major Ruth Fay titled "Remembering Our Community" to honor officers and family members lost to COVID-19. Keynote speaker Dr. Susan Baili

Haas emphasized the importance for Christians to recognize the interconnections of our faith life, physical, emotional and mental health so we can serve through these challenging times. Plenary speaker Sarah Smarsh, author of *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*, highlighted the often-overlooked dynamics of rural poverty. During a panel discussion Lt. Colonel Dean Pallant, secretary for communications in the United Kingdom and Ireland Territory, shared our calling to "practice presence" and discussed key theological and social ethical questions facing The Salvation Army worldwide.

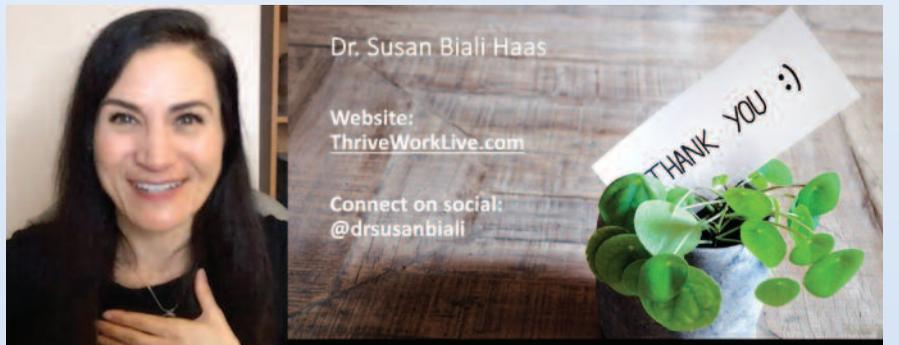
Racial unrest this past year led to greater awareness of the need to understand racial disparities, catalyzing us to ensure culturally sensitive and equal access service delivery. Workshops on this important and complex issue included "Closing the Health Disparities in the African-American Community during the COVID-19 Pandemic," "Supporting Latino Individuals and Families during the Pandemic," and "Lighthouses and Lifeboats—Serving without Discrimination".



Dr. Marcus Arrington with Dr. Maribeth Swanson

The final plenary speaker, Dr. Marcus Arrington, senior pastor of Parklawn Assembly of God Church, left no doubt as to where and what the Army should be doing. His mes-

sage affirmed The Salvation Army's calling "to be the light to this broken and fallen world." His powerful message left conference attendees feeling validated and inspired.



Dr. Susan Baili Haas



The territorial social services department

## Hodders visit territory

Commissioners Kenneth G. and Jolene K. Hodder, national commander and national president of women's ministries, visited the Central Territory this spring. The National Commander chaired the Board of Directors meeting in which they were briefed on the territory's overall financial position and informed of significant challenges and opportunities it has experienced over the past year. Following the meeting, they joined Territorial Cabinet members for a luncheon.

Since this was the Hodders' first visit to Central Territorial Headquarters, they were taken on a quick tour of the building and then traveled to the College for Officer Training (CFOT) in downtown Chicago where Major Brian Davis, CFOT principal, gave them an educational tour of the



Commissioners Kenneth G. and Jolene K. Hodder with Commissioners Heidi and Brad Bailey

grounds, including the traditional rubbing of William Booth's nose on the statue which greets every visitor who enters Booth Manor.

"Although brief, Commissioners Hodder's visit was encouraging and uplifting," said Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey. "We appreciated their interest and support of the mission in this part of the vineyard."

## Pathway of Hope Continued from page 1

health and wellness during the pandemic.

Two of the best practice sites, the Fergus Falls, Minn., Corps and the Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps, also received the Central Territory's POH Achievement Award this spring.

The Fergus Falls, Minn., Corps served more than 23 families containing 48 children in 2020. Their work was awarded because of their successful incorporation of POH families into corps programs and



Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps Pathway of Hope Case Manager Kimberly Thornton and Corps Officer Major Beverly Best



Fergus Falls, Minn., Corps Officers Lts. Elysia and Anthony Nordan with lead POH Case Manager Breanna Grundmeier.

services, demonstrating a strong team effort and collaborative activities with other local agencies. In all, their efforts contributed to an enhanced holistic approach and strong family outcomes.

The Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps was one of the first to implement POH in the Central Territory in 2012. They served 19 families this past year, with eight families completing POH. Their success results from a cohesive team effort, spiritual support, and effective case management practices. Adding to their effectiveness, the team is active in

local agency coalitions. These community coalitions provide valuable resources to POH families that help them achieve educational and employment goals.

Congratulations to these two successful POH locations!



Parents like Lindsie use POH's strengths-based approach to set goals and, with support and encouragement, make significant strides in improving their families' lives.

# New Music and Creative Arts Conservatories



Supporting the territory's Equip 25/25 initiative of each division adding five new music and creative arts leaders a year through 2025, two new conservatories will debut this summer at Wonderland Camp and Conference Center, Camp Lake, Wisconsin.



**Week 1  
July 19-23**  
A focus on leadership development for dance, drama, media and praise band

**For emerging and current leaders age 16 and up**



**Week 2  
August 2-6**  
A focus on leadership development for instrumental and vocal/gospel choir

**In-person instruction • First-class instructors from around the world virtually  
Small class sizes to fit within COVID-19 protocols • Live streaming of some classes and events**

Registration is limited. Visit [samusiccentral.org](http://samusiccentral.org) for more information or see your corps officer or your divisional music director.

## For His Glory

*A Spoken Word Testimony by Cadet Breanna James*

Hi  
I'm Bree  
The youngest daughter of three  
In a household filled with Love,  
and Trust and Jesus  
Oh, and poverty  
With constant reminders  
of how God will provide us  
but trouble  
trouble would come a knocking  
with the beating nonstop  
and filled with drugs, addiction,  
money, affliction  
death, and decision  
making  
But grandmother had the Power to  
rebuke Satan  
Always on her knees Praying  
because BLESSED is the peace-  
maker  
and as for me in my house, we will  
serve the Lord, tapered  
above every windowpane  
and Jesus' photo at the door

knocking at the door and Mother  
singing  
that trouble don't last always  
a constant reminder of God's Love  
and His grace  
which was set deep inside us  
but lust,  
sin, temptation crept in  
and captured our imaginations  
imagine facing death on plenty  
occasions  
yet remembering that sweet still  
voice  
that wasn't willing to separate us  
from God  
The Holy Spirit will SPEAK  
and lead me out of the places of  
the un-beknowing  
would pressure me to Just Keep  
Going  
isn't your kids worth fighting for?  
And how can you live with God  
like this? Unholy  
Your purpose, Your life, Your story  
for His glory  
God is calling you higher today  
You Are Enough and I could use  
you in mighty ways,  
Bree, do you trust me?  
Enough! To leave it all behind  
And to give up on a life Divided  
Filled with no hope and no goals?  
For I AM did not give you a spirit  
of fear but of power and of love  
and of self-control!

A CALL FOR ARTWORK

### SHOW US YOUR TRUE COLORS

The Central Territory Museum is developing an exhibition that explores the history, participation, and contributions of the Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities of the Central Territory. The exhibit, presented at both THQ and online, will include protest art, spoken word art, and the written word with the intent to promote awareness and inclusion, with support from the Bible.

Are you an artist? Would you like to use your voice to create art that represents your understanding of the Bible and how it encourages diversity, equality, equity, accessibility, and inclusion of all people? This call for art is for you!

Be creative! You can use any type of media you choose. The museum will highlight each appropriate piece in a digital exhibition on the website. Four additional art pieces will go on exhibit at THQ.

submit to:  
[uscmuseum@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:uscmuseum@usc.salvationarmy.org)  
or call 847-294-2135 for more information





*Youth Leadership Development Conference (YLDC) is a place where youth can come to develop their leadership skills, find their passion for the needs of others, discover their personal calling and mission within The Salvation Army, and deepen their faith through intense study of God's Word.*

### Who?

Teens (ages 14-17) • Youth Adults (ages 18-24)

Space is limited to 60 individuals per track. Apply soon!

### When?

July 26-30, 2021

### Where?

Hidden Falls Camp  
Bedford, Ind.

### Cost?

FREE!

### Applicants must:

Have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and live out the teachings of Jesus

Be focused on personal growth through Bible study and prayer

Attend worship at the corps and be involved in its programs regularly

Demonstrate leadership potential

Receive divisional and territorial endorsement

All campers must follow all CDC and state COVID-19 guidelines. Temperature and symptom monitoring will take place throughout the encampment.

Apply at [centrallyouthnetwork.com](http://centrallyouthnetwork.com)

## Camping

Continued from page 1

in Wisconsin; however, this year COVID has prevented us from doing so," said Captain Heather Montenegro, Metropolitan divisional youth secretary. "If we can't take kids to camp, we will bring camp to them."

Metropolitan Divisional Headquarters is fully funding three day camps for 30 youth each in some of the underserved areas where low-income families have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The day camps, hosted at the East Chicago, Ind., Waukegan, Ill., and Chicago Midway, Ill., corps, will engage participants in meaningful activities for eight weeks with a curriculum that emphasizes Jesus, Understanding the world through exploration, Music and Physical activity (JUMP).

In August, the children and their families will have the opportunity to



enjoy four days in a private cabin at Wonderland Camp, where they will have access to swimming, rock wall climbing, paddle boating, cooking s'mores over a private camp fire, and other activities at a minimal cost.

### Residential Camps

Following strict guidelines some divisions plan to move ahead with overnight residential camps with shorter stays. For example, in the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (WUM), Midland and Eastern Michigan (EMI) divisions, the camping season is progressing with safety protocols and limited camper and staff capacity. Each encampment is limited to a Monday to Friday schedule to leave ample time for sanitation between camps.

WUM's Army Lake Camp will host youth for nine separate camps over the course of five weeks, some of them held concurrently in different areas. Despite being able to accommodate fewer campers, WUM's youth department is excited about the opportunities for youth to grow through The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO) program encampments, junior and senior music conservatories, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) week and the possibilities for corps in the fall.

"It is our intention that these camps will assist the corps in jump-starting their fall ministry programs," said Captain Stephen DeLacy, WUM divisional youth secretary.

Taking advantage of the shortened camping season, WUM also is host-

## Archery hits bullseye during COVID-19

by Joe Mattson

The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO) archery program has provided an opportunity for corps in the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana (WMNI) Division to stay connected to youth and families in a COVID-19 environment since it provides a socially distanced way of engaging youth.

Emanating from an introductory training for TSAO last fall, the divisional headquarters is working to help seven corps create local archery programs, get equipment and invite youth and families to participate in a six-week beginner course. Learning the basics, archers have an opportunity to shoot each week and build their confidence. A "Centre Shot" Bible study coincides with each lesson, and corps can hold tournaments at the end of the course so participants can compete.

The division's plan to hold archery tournaments once or twice a year, beginning this fall, has been met with excitement. Training courses for volunteers to get certified to run the program in corps will bring 10 to 12 adults to the headquarters each time for training.

Archery is thriving at the Grand Rapids Fulton Heights, Mich., Corps thanks to the leadership and guid-



ance of Community Center Director Jennifer Oosterhouse. After five leaders were trained, the corps borrowed equipment from Little Pine Island Camp to supplement its own, began a free beginners class for eight students and held a tournament that brought in families. In March, the corps held another beginners session and added an advanced class with a minimal fee of \$20. A meal is served for youth from the afterschool program who stay to participate in archery. As part of its summer day camp, the corps hopes to have two weeks of archery.

"We believe that through the archery connections, we will be able to minister to families in need," said A/Captain Grace Roinila, Fulton Heights corps officer. "If they need food, we've got it. If they need clothes, we've got a small stash...If they need a church to be a part of, we got that, too. We are hoping to bridge the archery to some type of character-building program in the future."

With several other corps taking steps to get archery going in their communities, the WMNI Division is pleased with the momentum and eager to see its impact.



ing four weekend leadership development training sessions on youth ministry, TSAO and music and creative arts.

Likewise, Midland's Camp Mishaska and EMI's Echo Grove Camp each are hosting limited-capacity residential camps, including youth camps divided by age groups and music conservatories. Campers will be engaged with scripture while enjoying God's creation through activities such as hiking, swimming and having devotions around a campfire. EMI also plans an end-of-summer divisional day camp and field day as well as a five-day divisional Jamboree to be held at Camp Hiawatha.

Youth from the Wyandotte Downriver, Mich., Corps can't wait to spend five days at Echo Grove Camp, despite the strict safety guidelines, according to Major Heidi



Reed. "There is just something special that happens at camp," she said. "They can get away from struggles and concerns at home and have fun being a kid. And they get all that good exercise and fresh air. It's good for the body and soul."

### Territorial Camps

Territorially, there will be two new opportunities for teens and young adults to hone their leadership skills and pursue their ministry passions.

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# 730... AND BEYOND



722 days and counting

by Lt. Henry Boateng

Officership has its good days and bad days. What happens when the bad days last a year?

I'd been an officer for just nine months when the pandemic hit. I couldn't help but think I should have taken that class at the training college—the one that teaches you how to minister to people during a pandemic while a nation is being divided by social injustice and a political election. But nothing prepared me for what I was about to face—or at least that's what I thought.

My wife and I had plans for how we were going to connect with our corps members and reach out to the community and take a family vacation. All these plans were being prevented because of the pandemic. I guess the saying is true, "Man makes plans, and God laughs."

My thoughts raced. How was I going to keep my family safe? How was I going to continue to minister to my corps members? How was I going to reach out to the community? Then I was reminded of something I had heard over and over again in training and recently by an officer nearing retirement in Detroit: "Love your people." I admit, like Tina Turner I thought, "What's love got to do with it?" But I soon realized what they meant.



It was love that ransomed this heart of mine. It was love that died for me on Calvary. It occurred to me that maybe people just need to know they're loved. Instead of trying to figure out how to fix this problem, I chose to show them love.

My wife and I went through the community showing love as we handed out Easter baskets to kids. We showed love as we drove around passing out food boxes from our van. We loved people as we partnered with organizations to help seniors and other individuals who had no transportation. We loved them as we called families in our congregation and programs to see how they were doing.

As I reflect on last year, I realize our plans weren't actually thwarted at all. Proverbs 16:9 (ESV) says, "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

## Newly accepted candidates



### Vincent Cusack

First-generation Salvationist

**Kansas City Eastside, Mo., Corps**  
**Kansas/Western Missouri Division**

Major Janice Love, corps officer

#### Spiritual Gifts

Administration ♦ Mercy ♦ Serving

#### Ministry Passion or Experience

Social Services

#### Spiritual mentors

Major Mike Thomas ♦ Major Jim Curl



### Christopher Rutledge-Clarke

Multi-generational Salvationist

**Fox Cities, Wis., Corps** ♦ **Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division**

Majors David and Shanda Minks, corps officers

#### Spiritual Gifts

Leadership ♦ Evangelism ♦ Teaching

#### Ministry Passion or Experience

Children/Youth ♦ Preaching/Teaching

#### Spiritual mentors

Rev. Brandon Van Marel

## Joy in the journey

For more than 45 years, Majors

Joseph and Lois Wheeler have been finding joy in their lifelong journey of personal faith and ministry. Through appointments at corps and city commands, divisional and territorial headquarters, they have learned to trust the Lord in times of ease and times of struggle.

"I look at the things God has enabled us to do, and I believe that the things we do in His name make a difference," said Major Joseph. "I can't do it on my own, but with Christ I can do anything."

The Wheelers began their joint ministry as officers in 1977 when they were married. Embracing one another's gifts and talents and holding Christ at the center of their lives, they began to work together as a team, with Joseph's gifts of discernment, leadership and teaching per-



fectly complementing Lois' gifts of mercy, compassion and encouragement.

While the Wheelers cherish memories of lives changed and God glorified in all of their appointments, they particularly enjoyed the five years they spent on the road as territorial evangelists, working to bring solid biblical teaching and spiritual renewal across the Midwest. By the end of their tenure, the majors were booking nearly 52 campaigns a year.

"One of our very favorite things was to do evangelistic campaigns and meetings," said Major Lois. "There was such an awe-filled sense of being useful to the Lord."

Additionally, the majors feel blessed to have spent the last three years as pastoral care officers, an appointment that allowed them to continue working together in a posture of servant leadership, offering a listening ear and a word of encouragement to officers on the field. Even in the midst of stay-at-home orders and social distancing, they found ways to reach out, adapting their ministry to include video chats, e-cards and hand-written notes.

"With our virtual meetings, we could visit all over the territory in a single day. It enabled us to interact

with more officers," said Major Joseph. However, recognizing a hunger for face-to-face encounters, the Wheelers were vaccinated and started visiting in person again, cautiously, in early 2021.

Major Lois concluded, "We have a shared passion to reach out to people who are hurting, to come alongside and encourage and hopefully speak a word of truth into their lives. We are honored to have had this responsibility."

As the majors look toward retirement in July, they plan to slow their pace, spend more time with family and enjoy travel. In between, they intend to remain available for weekend seminars or retreats, and welcome the opportunity to continue mentoring and counseling officers.

INFINITUM

# 30 Day Challenge



Surrender



Generosity



Mission

## Get back to the basics and simply live like Jesus.

If that's your heart's desire, consider taking the 30-Day Infitum Challenge this summer, July 12–August 10, being promoted by the territorial corps and community mission department (CACM).

Infitum is "a practice and posture for discipleship in the modern world." Through prayer, large group teachings, Bible study and discussion with small groups (hubs), accountability and spiritual growth are achieved.

The challenge uses free modern technology on personal devices: Infitum App; YouVersion Bible App, and Facebook "Infitum 30-Day Challenge Group."

Participants register directly on the Infitum website ([infitumlife.com](http://infitumlife.com)) and are assigned to a hub with other Salvationists. They watch one group video, then break into hubs for discussion via Zoom rooms using questions/discussion starters from the Infitum app. Throughout the week they can choose to go deeper using the YouVersion Bible's Infitum

Primer Plan. Discussion also takes place on a Facebook "Infitum 30-Day Challenge" group. The CACM department will send specific Salvation Army group communications (weekly video links and personal reminders).

"Imagine if at least 20 individuals from each division participated in the challenge, resulting in 200 people deepening their faith," said Mark Bender, CACM program specialist. "This will naturally impact our communities around the Midwest and how we, as growing disciples, serve at our corps. It, of course, ties in with the territory's Mission Imperative of 'More people, more like Jesus.'"

According to its website, Infitum was founded in 2015 by a group of friends out of a deep desire to pursue Jesus more authentically and intentionally. It leans on classical models for practicing spiritual disciplines, including the "class meeting." There are now thousands of practitioners in more than 50 countries, including Salvationists in our territory and around the world.

# PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army

USA Central Territory

## July Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Thursday	Mark 5:35-43	Anderson, Ind., Corps
	2 Friday	Mark 6:30-44	India Western Territory
	3 Saturday	Mark 6:45-56	Blue Island, Ill., Corps
	4 Sunday	Psalm 93	Happy Birthday America
	5 Monday	Proverbs 19:1-10	Chicago Central, Ill., ARC
	6 Tuesday	Matthew 17:1-13	Cicero Templo Laramie, Ill., Corps
	7 Wednesday	Matthew 18:23-35	Des Moines Temple, Iowa, Corps
	8 Thursday	Psalm 96	Elgin, Ill., Corps
	9 Friday	Proverbs 19:11-21	Midland Division
	10 Saturday	John 9:1-41	Indonesia Territory
	11 Sunday	John 10:1-21	Grand Forks, N.D., Corps
	12 Monday	Luke 10:23-37	Hastings, Neb., Corps
	13 Tuesday	Luke 11:5-13	International Falls, Minn., Corps
	14 Wednesday	Luke 12:13-34	Kansas City Eastside, Mo., Corps
	15 Thursday	Luke 12:35-40	Lansing Citadel, Mich., Corps
	16 Friday	Luke 15:1-7	Madison, Ind., Corps
	17 Saturday	Psalm 97	Germany, Lithuania and Poland
	18 Sunday	Proverbs 19:22-29	Milwaukee Cold Spring, Wis., Corps
	19 Monday	Luke 15:11-21	Muncie, Ind., Corps
	20 Tuesday	Luke 17:11-19	Oak Creek, Wis., Corps
	21 Wednesday	Luke 18:9-14	Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps
	22 Thursday	Luke 19:1-10	Indiana Division
	23 Friday	Luke 19:16-30	Sioux Falls, S.D., Corps
	24 Saturday	Matthew 21:28-32	ISA Eastern Territory
	25 Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	St. Cloud, Minn., Corps
	26 Monday	Psalm 98	Traverse City, Mich., Corps
	27 Tuesday	I Samuel 20:1-17	Wayne/Westland, Mich., Corps
	28 Wednesday	Proverbs 20:1-16	Wonderland Camp & Conference Center
	29 Thursday	John 14:1-14	Ghana Territory
	30 Friday	John 14:15-31	Flint, Mich., ARC
	31 Saturday	John 15	Rochester, Minn., Corps

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

ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

## Camping

Continued from page 5

At the end of July, 60 teens and 60 young adults will come together at Hidden Falls Camp in Bedford, Ind., for Youth Leadership Development Conference (YLDC) to develop their leadership skills, find their passion for the needs of others, discover their personal calling and mission within The Salvation Army, and deepen their faith through intense study of God's Word. Visit [centrallyouthnetwork.org](http://centrallyouthnetwork.org) for more information on this encampment led by the territorial youth department.

Additionally, the music and creative arts ministries department will hold two new conservatories at Wonderland Camp and Conference Center for emerging leaders ages 16 and up which will support the territory's Equip 25/25 initiative of adding five new music and creative arts ministries leaders per division each year through 2025. The first conservatory will focus on dance, drama, media and praise band, while the second will emphasize instrumental instruction and vocal or gospel choir. Small classes will meet in-person or virtually with first-class instructors from around the world, with livestreaming of some classes and events. These workshop-based events will emphasize practical tools that can be used in corps. More information is available at [samusiccentral.org](http://samusiccentral.org)



## --Mustard Seeds--



# Fays cite people as highlight of officership

When Ruth said “yes” to Bob’s proposal 46 years ago she was agreeing to a lifelong journey that would include 43 years of service as Salvation Army officers. That journey has taken them to 11 appointments in seven divisions and short-term mission opportunities in seven countries.

Along the way they were involved in capital campaigns, building projects and the development of innovative programs and services. But the



social service ministry and wrap-around care was a forerunner to what is now commonly presented as “Pathway of Hope,” and her work as a dental assistant prior to officership served her well in helping to establish a full-service dental clinic at the Green Bay, Wis., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center.



highlight—always—was the personal connection with people. Clients, soldiers, volunteers, staff, advisory board and auxiliary members and other community leaders—all were game to be involved in the mission by Major Ruth, who never met a stranger. In short order, she’d have people from every walk of life and background working together.

Major Ruth’s passion for

Major Bob, on the other hand, often could be heard referring to himself as a “blue-collar officer in an increasingly white-collar Army.” Working as a certified welder, he was convinced God was calling him to be an officer.

Finding himself in an emergency building program in his first appointment, Major Bob drew on his familiarity and comfort with the construction trades to oversee the first of what would be four major building projects during his officership. Daily, God proved afresh that He provides enabling power for everything He calls us to do.

Often that enabling power was found in the intelligent, capable, passionate people who somehow always surrounded the Fays in service and ministry. Majors Bob and Ruth are quick to point to some of the finest corps sergeant-majors and local leaders in the territory for the

stability and growth in their corps appointments.

The Fays served as chaplains on two of their three Biblical Education Tours to the Holy Land. Bob’s passion for preaching and Ruth’s gift of evangelism have taken root in the lives of their two daughters and five grandchildren. “The ministry involvements of my kids and grandkids, for years to come, will be among my greatest contributions to the Kingdom,” reflected Major Bob.

The Fays have purchased and are renovating Ruth’s childhood home in Menominee, Mich., as their retirement residence. A play on words, they have named it “Fays Two” (phase two).

“We absolutely love what we do,” said Major Bob, “and we’re convinced that service and ministry will continue in new and exciting ways.”

## Perfect timing

by Captain Catherine Mount

Everyone’s life has been changed this past year. But regardless of a global pandemic, the Holy Spirit has been moving in hearts. When He moves, we can either respond, delay or disobey.

In August of 2020, Neisha McNeal felt moved by the Holy Spirit to make The Salvation Army her church home. She has worked in ministry as an employee of the Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) Command for the past five years and often has encouraged beneficiaries to find a corps to be their church home. It occurred to her, “Why am I not attending a corps?” With that revelation and encouragement from Salvationists at work, Neisha began attending the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps worship services online. She then took the initiative to reach out to us to inquire about soldiership and getting connected to the Norridge Citadel family.

Since then, Neisha has joined a women’s Bible study and completed an online recruits class with Pamela Church-Pryor, Norridge Citadel recruits sergeant. Never before has Norridge offered a recruits class on a digital platform. It created a unique opportunity for Pamela and Neisha to build a relationship and to walk through Salvation Army doctrines and the commitments of soldiership. Neisha mentioned that this one-on-one format created a great space for personalization and learning.

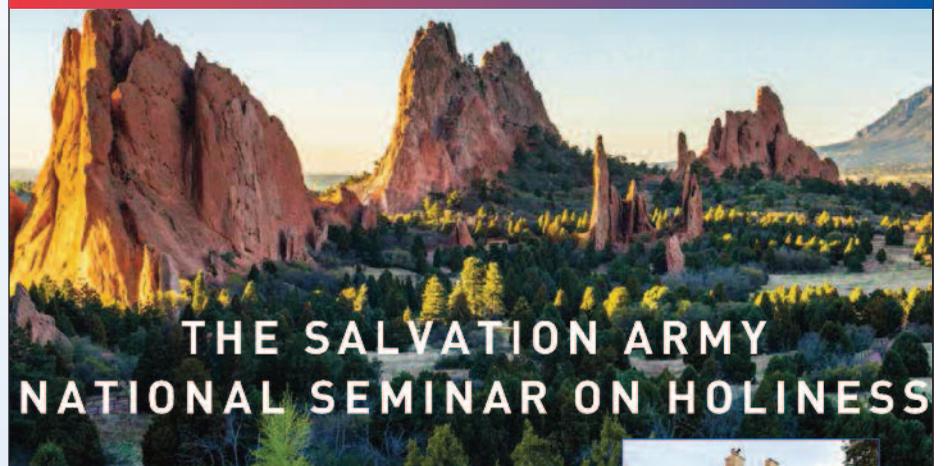
Neisha has connected with the corps through online prayer meetings and worship services, Zoom Bible study, and completing her recruits class on Teams before ever attending in person. On Easter Sunday, with her family’s support, Neisha became the newest soldier of Norridge Citadel.



Photo by Katelyn Church

Neisha has a solid foundation of faith modeled by her paternal grandmother. The importance of God’s Word and the power of prayer were present in her early childhood and remained a comfort through her adolescence and adulthood, especially when life was difficult and circumstances were challenging. Neisha kept Jeremiah 29:11 in mind as a comfort and a reminder that God has a plan for her and that “it is always a good one, no matter how challenging it may seem.”

Salvationists have had an influence on Neisha’s journey to soldiership, including several officers who have served with the ARC. She fondly remembers Captain Alex Velasquez saying the Lord had great plans for her at The Salvation Army and she would one day be wearing epaulets. While the encouragement was given with humor, it’s a joy to see it become a reality. The Holy Spirit has moved through circumstances, people and technology in His perfect timing for Neisha to become a soldier in The Salvation Army.



**A week-long mountain-top experience to learn about God’s sanctifying work, which is available to every believer through the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**JULY 31—AUGUST 7, 2021**

**Glen Eyrie Conference Center  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904**

*This will be a hybrid event consisting of in-person and online participation.*

Special Guests include:

Commissioner Kenneth G. Hodder

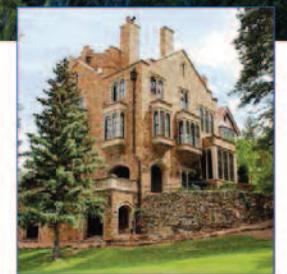
Dr. William Ury

Reverend Diane Ury

Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Macchia

Colonel Janet Munn

See your Corps Officer for more details or visit the “National Seminar on Holiness” Facebook page.



“HOLINESS, THEN, IS CONFORMITY TO THE NATURE OF GOD.  
IT IS LIKENESS TO GOD, AS HE IS REVEALED IN JESUS.”  
SAMUEL LOGAN BRENGLÉ