



# 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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## Justice Week shines light on human trafficking

by Elyse Dobney

The Salvation Army's front-line ministries such as street outreach, drop-in centers and intensive case management services uniquely position us to play an integral role in responding to human trafficking in our communities.

While we have been involved in anti-trafficking efforts since our inception, at times it has been difficult to know how to proceed. However, officers, soldiers and employees remain committed to navigating this complicated and sometimes overwhelming issue to ensure we continue in our ministry to stand up against human trafficking.

The Center for Social Justice and

Urban Mission hosted its inaugural Justice Week, April 4-8, 2022. During this week, individuals from

around the Central Territory and beyond joined us to explore how The Salvation Army can

engage our communities in a more intentional way to address human trafficking.

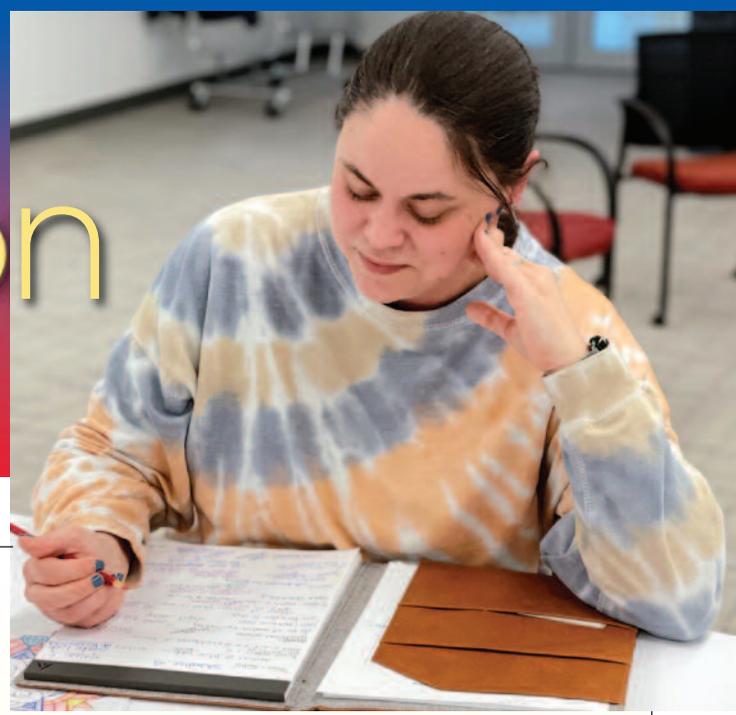
We learned from subject-matter experts from The Salvation Army, Legal Aid Chicago and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office about the dynamics of human trafficking, including recruitment and control techniques used by traffickers, effective engagement strategies, immigration remedies and collaboration with community partners.

Because our journey toward justice does not stop at education but also includes the equipping and engagement of social justice champions, we spent much of Justice Week exploring opportunities and next

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Pictured (l to r) at the territory's inaugural Justice Week event are Clara Novy, Rachel Roman, Elyse Dobney, Stephanie Rice-Neumann and Major Katherine Clausell.



Stephanie Rice-Neumann, rapid rehousing case manager at the Rochester, Minn., Corps, participates in Justice Week.

## Disaster summit draws record attendance

by Nicholas White

The Midland Division welcomed a record 150 delegates this spring to its Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) Summit that provided advanced training and honored volunteers. Salvation Army officers, staff, volunteers and students from several divisions participated in the event at Camp Mihaska in Bourbon, Mo.

Sixteen classes covered topics like

tornado awareness, disaster food services and canteen operations, spiritual and emotional care, disaster shelter operations, logistics, specific roles such as safety officer, and SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network).

"The last nine years I've been the director of disaster services, this is the largest group we've ever had here," said Martin Rueter, Midland divisional EDS director. "We're very excited about that."

According to Martin, tornado preparedness, specifically, generates a lot of interest at the summit owing to the division's location in an area of the country known for these storms.

"What we're doing here is we're equipping the Midland Division to more effectively save lives, preserve property and stabilize communities," said Captain Vinal



The Midland EDS Summit Planning Committee (l to r) Adam Menne, divisional board member and EDS Advisory Committee chair; Dana Porter and Sherida Miller, divisional support staff; and Gretchen Luke, EDS Advisory Committee member) are recognized by Lt. Colonel Bob Webster, Midland divisional commander.



Janice Wilson, an EDS volunteer, is assisted by a member of FEMA in learning about the effects of flooding and mitigation through various virtual reality scenarios.



Kevin Ellers, territorial disaster services coordinator

Lee, who taught the public information officer course. "I believe so passionately that The Salvation Army has a story that needs to be shared, and I want to have really effective communicators to share that story. Especially in times of disaster, people's livelihoods are on the line."

Awards were presented and volunteer group achievements were recognized at a banquet. Certificates of excellence were presented

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# World changers

by Commissioner Heidi Bailey  
Territorial Leader for Leader Development



One of my favorite pictures of our daughters while living in Chile is in my office at Territorial Headquarters in Chicago. The wooden word art in front of the picture says, "I want every girl to know that her voice can change the world!"

But from Bible days to present day, society has inaccurately painted the worth and potential of women and girls through an ungodly, inequitable lens, resulting in women's voices being hard to hear. However, Jesus served, healed and disciplined women. His advocacy actions shouted women were sacred, loved, strong, equal and created by God for the good of this world.

While Moses is clearly a prominent Old Testament leader, at least five women used their God-given platforms to protect and guide his life as God's future leader and became world changers:

- Shiphrah and Puah, Hebrew midwives who were dedicated to life rather than death, disobeyed Pharaoh's edict to kill all male babies, advancing the birth of Moses

- Jochebed, his mother, wove a basket in a desperate attempt to save her baby and was the mother of three outstanding leaders (Miriam, Aaron and Moses)
- The daughter of Pharaoh, who showed empathy for the baby and defied her father's edict
- Miriam, Moses' older sister, a competent and self-possessed leader who watched over him, significantly shaping his future.

These women had one thing in common; they feared God. Because of love, they disrupted unjust systems and made a path where there was none. Consequently, God used them to help change the course of history.

Today, our sisters in Christ stand on the shoulders of these and many contemporary women of God who continue to be courageous world changers in many ways. The younger generation now looks up to their own champions,

godly women who are using their God-given platforms to speak value into their lives. Women understand, "If you can see her, you can be her!"

The recent celebration of Women's History Month in March once again shone a light on the value, potential and accomplishments of modern-day women and girls around the world. The Salvation Army continues to honor and support the incredible efforts and triumphs of all women as they boldly shape a more just world, despite ongoing unjust social, economic and cultural obstacles.

Thank you for taking a moment to read about our Central Territorial delegation in New York City for the UN Commission on the Status of

Women, The Salvation Army's new program by the International Social Justice Commission called "Social Justice Girls Group" and the territory's first Justice Week focusing on anti-trafficking efforts.

As image bearers of God, every girl should know her voice can change the world. More than ever, the world needs them to speak and lead. So, let's make sure they know every option and every opportunity available to them. How are you using your God-given platform?



i want every girl to know that her voice can change the world.

## Justice Week Continued from page 1



Rachel Ostergaard, program manager for the Metropolitan Division STOP-IT initiative, gives a presentation.

steps for the Central Territory. We navigated our potential responses to human trafficking individually and

as a community on a continuum, recognizing that God is leading us to move forward, whether that be through focusing on prayer, engaging our corps community in education and advocacy or creating a formal anti-trafficking program.

Delegates also identified individual goals and commitments which included awareness opportunities for those around us, ensuring staff are trained on trafficking and intentionally seeking partnerships with groups already doing the work. We committed to prayer as the foundation for our

transformation and impact on human trafficking, not just once a year on the recognized day of prayer or during awareness month, but regularly, because human trafficking continually affects our communities.

We are excited to collaborate with those who participated in Justice Week, as this was the next step in our ongoing journey to prevent exploitation, support survivors and engage in community healing and restoration alongside all those impacted by human trafficking. We are grateful for and inspired by the time spent with advocates and representatives of the Army who are passionate about their role in responding to human trafficking.

If you are interested in learning more about The Salvation Army's responses to human trafficking or upcoming Justice Week opportunities, please reach out to us at [uscocialjustice.urbanmission@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:uscocialjustice.urbanmission@usc.salvationarmy.org).

## Appointment Changes

Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey has announced the following appointments:



Majors Brian and Lesa Davis will become Assistant National Secretary for Personnel and Editor-in-Chief, respectively, with promotion to the rank of Lt. Colonel, effective July 1, 2022.



Majors John and Johanna Pook will become Training Principal and Assistant Training Principal for Spiritual Life and Campus Life, respectively, effective June 29, 2022.

Please pray for these officers as they prepare their hearts and minds for these new responsibilities.

## Central Connection

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# International Social Justice Girls

*Strengthening and amplifying the voices of Salvationist women and girls*

by Major Katherine Clausell

Throughout its history The Salvation Army consistently has provided a platform for women and girls to lead in ministries and social programs. However, it can be daunting for Salvationists to be champions of justice, particularly gender justice, as some of the 132 countries where The Salvation Army serves have policies and practices that exclude women and girls from leadership and decision-making roles. Believing the voices of women and girls are critical to addressing many social issues that negatively impact society, the International Social Justice Commission launched an initiative in the fall of 2021 called The International Social Justice Girls Group (ISJG). It arose out of the significant engagement of Salvationist girls in the 2020

International Day of the Girl observance during which interest in further development of advocacy was expressed.

The initiative has opened the door for girls, ages 14 to 25, to learn and develop as advocates for women and girls. The ISJG was created for the purpose of empowering, encouraging and educating women and girls in The Salvation Army from around the globe. More than 40 girls applied, and 25 were selected. They represent 15 countries and 10 languages. The girls are encouraged and strengthened to use their voices at the grassroots both in their local context and globally.

Grace Washburn (Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps soldier) and Magnolia Clayton (Indianapolis, Ind., Eagle Creek Corps soldier) were chosen to represent the Central Terri-



International Social Justice Center (ISJC) Senior UN Representative Major Victoria Edmunds, UN Commission on the Status of Women Chair South Africa Ambassador Mathu Joyini, ISJC intern Isabel Fairclough, Central Territory delegates Magnolia Clayton and Major Katherine Clausell, and ISJC intern Fernanda Rivera.

tory. Participation in the International Social Justice Girls Group provides an opportunity for them to take on leadership in the group for approximately a year. Based on their expressed interests and familiarity with the United Nation's 17 Strategic Development Goals (SDGs), each member has been assigned to a small group, where they can connect with other girls, share what they know about specific topics and use their gifts to speak into these issues. Both Grace and Magnolia, along with two other Salvationists from the USA Eastern and Western territories, were assigned to work on SDG 4: Quality Education (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) and its intersection with SDG 13: Climate Action (take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact). As ter-

ritorial social justice and urban mission secretary for the USA Central Territory, I am privileged to advise this group.

They meet monthly to hear from women activists and leaders from around the globe and receive information and resources as they seek to engage in issues of justice. Recently, they were provided the opportunity to attend (in-person and virtually) the United Nations' 66th annual Commission on the Status of Women event to increase their understanding of issues that disproportionately impact women and girls and to learn how women and girls around the world are involved in advocacy.

For more information about the International Social Justice Girls Group and how you might get involved, please reach out to me (Katherine.clausell@usc.salvationarmy.org).

## A shift in perspective

by Allison Jordan

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for its 66th session this spring. The CSW exists to evaluate progress toward gender equality on a local, national and global level.

I had the privilege of traveling to New York City as part of the Central Territory's delegation, alongside Major Katherine Clausell, territorial social justice and urban mission secretary, Elyse Dobney, director of the territory's Center for Social Justice

and Urban Mission, and Magnolia Clayton.

We participated in a number of plenary meetings, as well as official UN side events and parallel events hosted by other non-governmental organizations following the event's hybrid format.

At The Salvation Army's International Social Justice Commission, we participated in a watch party for the opening ceremony and a virtual town hall meeting with UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

This year's priority theme was "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes."

I learned quickly that the effects of climate change disproportionately impact women and girls which gives them unique authority to speak to these issues. During the first plenary session, a speaker shared that male-dominated teams come up with male-dominated solutions. These solutions overlook consequences of climate change that affect women specifically such as reproductive health care, accessibility to resources, and food security for the family. Women, specifically rural and indigenous women, understand these challenges best because they live with them.

In addition, women and girls bring a fresh perspective to conversations surrounding climate change based on their more traditionally feminine characteristics and leadership qualities.

For example, in many cultures women are traditionally considered nurturers and caretakers. This translates to people-centric decision-making and innovation based on the resources available. Additionally, maternal instinct equips women to consider long-term solu-



Allison Jordan with Major Katherine Clausell

tions more easily as they are considering future generations when coming up with solutions for the present.

Attending the CSW was an energizing and empowering experience. My perspective on gender equality has shifted in the most freeing way. It is not about making anyone more masculine or feminine. It is not about placing people at a decision-making table for inclusion's sake. Rather, gender equality is about valuing the different skill sets that have been brought to the table equally and regardless of gender.

The day before the commission started, the Lord gave me a verse to center my experience. Psalm 133:1 (NIV) says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" May it be so.



Elyse Dobney, Allison Jordan, Magnolia Clayton and Major Katherine Clausell

# 4 730... AND BEYOND



353 days and counting

by Lt. Simon Micula

If you would have told me 15 years ago that one day I would be drug free and living a new and transformed life, I most likely would have laughed in your face. If you would have told me five years ago that one day I would be the pastor of a congregation and live a life of daily service for God, I would have said it's not possible.

It's so funny, yet so amazing, how the Lord calls wrecked, lost, defeated and broken people from all walks of life and transforms their lives, not only changing them but everyone who they come in contact with. This is my life and is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit.

I have been an officer for nearly a year, but in this short time the Lord already has used my past, my encouragement, my passion and His truth to bring many people into a closer relationship with Him. This is only possible by being grounded in Him daily, through meditation in His Word and an intimate relationship with Him.

I take absolutely no credit for anything amazing or profound that has happened in our appointment, our community or the people we meet. My wife, Sarah, and I are just vessels at work, doing what we are called to do, sharing the Good News. Some days we don't fully understand or know how to run a corps, but the Lord in all His splendor equips us



with the wisdom and knowledge of how to plant seeds and allows fruit to grow.

Therefore, I put my trust and attention in Him because He's the creator, the innovator and the inspiration behind our success and accomplishments.

If you have the opportunity to share Christ with someone, don't let fear deter you from doing it; instead, know that He is there with you and has a purpose for why He chose you.

Hebrews 13:20-21 (NKJV) says, "Now the God of peace...make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

## Hastings turns celebration into community outreach



An open house invites people to learn more about The Salvation Army.

The Hastings, Neb., Corps celebrated the 130-year anniversary of its founding with three community-centered events this spring. While the corps is extremely active in the Hastings community, well-known for its social services and emergency disaster response, and corps officer Major Dale Brandenburg appears regularly on local TV and radio stations to share The Salvation Army's mission, the commemoration provided an opportunity to meet more people and let them know about the corps' full range of programs and opportunities.

"For over a century, our corps has been a trusted part of Hastings, responding wherever the physical and spiritual need was greatest," explained Major Dale.

Demonstrating ongoing care for its community, the corps' first anniversary event was a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for Hastings residents that it offered in partnership with Bert's



Hastings Mayor Corey Stutte meets with Majors Dale and Sandra Brandenburg.

Pharmacy and Nebraska Total Care. Later in the month the Chamber of Commerce recognized the corps' anniversary, and Hastings Mayor Corey Stutte met with Majors Dale and Sandra Brandenburg and issued an official proclamation of March as "Hastings Salvation Army Month."

The main celebration included a day of festivities beginning with an open house inviting people to visit the corps and see the recent remodel of the interior, with lunch included and snacks provided the rest of the day.

"A lot of people drive by our building but aren't really familiar with what our corps does or that we are also a church," explained Major Dale. "The open house helped us meet new people and gave us an opportunity to introduce our ministry."

The remainder of the day featured fun-filled events for visitors of all ages, including a carnival with bounce houses in the parking lot and an evening concert featuring the gospel/country group MARK209 from Nashville, Tenn.

"It was a wonderful day and evening of fun, community and ministry," said Major Sandra. "Our concerts, which we try to hold monthly, are well-attended and often bring in believers looking for a church to call home. The great music and fellowship helped us bring more people to our corps and will hopefully strengthen their relationships with Christ."

This summer the corps plans to ramp up its outreach with more gospel concerts. The majors also plan to resume cooking and delivering hot meals to residents in low-income communities, an effort that was slowed temporarily by pandemic regulations.

"Hastings is an incredible place to share God's Word," concluded Major Dale. "It is my hope and belief that the next 130 years will be even better than the first."

GO OUT INTO THE HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES, AND COMPEL THEM TO COME IN... LUKE 14:23

## STURGIS, SD MISSION 2022

August 5-8, 2022

Cost—\$200



For more information visit:

The Salvation Army MM Central, USA Facebook page  
or [tsammcentral.org](http://tsammcentral.org)

## Celebration in a box

Families visiting the pantry at the Norridge, Ill., Corps, led by Captains Peter and Catherine Mount, were in for a treat this spring.

Over the past two years, the corps has seen an exponential increase in the number of people coming for assistance, according to Pamela Church-Pryor, community ministries director. The pantry now serves up to 150 households each month as the community continues to experience job loss, end of unemployment benefits and other hardships.

With the goal of bringing hope and encouragement to those struggling to make ends meet, corps member Dawn Teresi coordinated an effort to collect supplies for "birthday cake" or "celebration" kits to be distributed to families with upcoming special events who turned to the corps for assistance.

"I loved the idea straight away,"

said Pamela. "It didn't surprise me that Dawn was willing to coordinate and that our corps was generous with their donations and support. This is how the family of God works! We are blessed to bless others."

Time was set aside after a fundraiser luncheon held by the youth band and chorus one Sunday afternoon for volunteers from the congregation to assemble the kits. Families and individuals of all ages—from junior soldiers to older adults—joined in the effort.

Donations included a variety of cake and frosting flavors to satisfy any taste, from lighter options like strawberry cake paired with vanilla icing to richer selections like dark chocolate cake with chocolate frosting.

Each kit was packaged in a disposable foil cake pan and included supplies for a simple birthday or celebration treat: a box cake mix, a can of Sprite (to substitute for eggs and oil), a can of frosting and a package of candles. To add a personal touch, handwritten cards with well-wishes for a happy event from corps members were placed in each box. In all, the corps pantry was supplied with 50 celebration kits to add to the shelves.

"The best part is seeing the wonder and surprise on our guests' faces and their smiles, knowing that we care enough to celebrate them," concluded Pamela.



Junior soldier Kaylin Carter helps Dawn Teresi build celebration kits for the corps pantry.

## Prayer Alley

When visitors enter the Warsaw, Ind., Corps during pantry hours each day, many come seeking more than the items they can choose from the shelves. The pantry has become known as a place to receive encouraging words and prayer in addition to food and other necessities.

"We have always offered prayer to our visitors," said Envoy Ken Locke, corps administrator with his wife, Envoy Sina. "But during the pandemic we noticed that people who were visiting the drive-thru pantry were looking very discouraged and dejected. We wanted to be more purposeful."

In response to their observations, Envoy Ken and his staff sat down to develop a plan for intentionally engaging clients while also continuing to observe safety protocols during the pandemic. Despite having just a short time to connect through open car windows as visitors drove down the alley beside the corps building to receive a pre-packed food box, they were determined to find a way to offer encouragement and spiritual support.

Using the acronym PRAYER, the staff established guidelines:

- Purposefully connect with others
- Relaxed and welcoming approach
- Assess and discern through the Holy Spirit what might be helpful to people
- Yield to and connect with Christ in prayer

- Evangelize—extend an open invitation to attend worship services with no pressure
- Record contacts for follow-up and visitation

While the office is open again, and people are back in the pantry choosing their food and hygiene items, the prayer initiative has not waned.

"We want to be sure that our outreach is a salvation station," Envoy Ken continued, indicating that staff members are just as passionate about the mission as he is. Corps administrative assistant Melissa Cunningham has been integral to the effort, creating posters and fliers and devising a way to track prayer requests so that staff can follow up with clients during future visits. Melissa says her motivation in the prayer initiative is to see people connected to God and finding freedom in Christ.



PATHWAY  
OF  
HOPE

10-Year Celebration & Symposium  
August 31, 2022

Mark your calendars for the Central Territory's one-day virtual celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Pathway of Hope (POH)!

The symposium will feature dynamic presentations by Salvation Army leaders, and other experts who have shaped the initiative's framework and expansion.

Featured speakers will present on Pathway of Hope's:

- Transformational impact on families experiencing intergenerational poverty
- The importance of spirituality and hope in the positive change process
- National and international adaptation of the initiative in alignment with The Salvation Army's mission.

Breakout educational sessions will address:

- POH Best Practices
- Spirituality and Hope
- Sustainability and Building Community Networks

The day also will include a recognition ceremony for teams receiving Pathway of Hope awards.

Find more information through <https://events.uscthq.org>  
or by contacting [uscsocialservicemail@uscsocialservice.com](mailto:uscsocialservicemail@uscsocialservice.com)



## A shoulder to lean on

When George Aren agreed to assist with emergency disaster services (EDS) in the Detroit, Mich., area, he had no idea how much his life would be changed. Now chief chaplain for the Detroit Fire Department, George has been involved in EDS ministry for more than 30 years.

"I grew up with [Lt. Colonel] Clarence Harvey. When he asked me to be an EDS volunteer in 1987, I wasn't sure what he meant since we don't have many natural disasters in this area. So I agreed," said George. "Two nights later Flight 255 went down, killing everyone on board except one little girl. That was my introduction to disaster work."

In the following years, George, a lifelong Salvationist and soldier at



Fellowship at an EDS dinner

the Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps, volunteered to manage canteen service when needed but otherwise focused on his business. It wasn't long after he sold his company in 1997 that he was offered a part-time position in EDS with the Eastern Michigan Division (EMI).

After serving for two weeks at Ground Zero following the attacks on September 11, 2001, George accepted the position of EDS director

for EMI which he held for 10 years. During that time, he formed a close relationship with the Detroit Fire Department and then-chief chaplain Alan McNeeley, a deacon in the Catholic church who had great respect for the work of The Salvation Army. Joining many Salvationists who have served as volunteer chaplains, George became part of a brotherhood of first responders.

"Most of the time, it's easygoing. We make the rounds to the different firehouses and check in with the guys, make sure they're doing okay. Some just want light conversation, but others share their struggles," he said. "We're there to offer support and comfort."

The hardest part of the job, says George, is when someone is killed in the line of duty. As chief chaplain, George notifies the family, assists with arrangements and, at times, performs the funeral. It's a tough job, but one in which George recognizes an eternal significance.

"When somebody has lost their home or a loved one, I think that's the best time for the Army to show



Detroit Fire Commissioner Charles Simms presents George Aren with the department's first-ever Humanitarian Award this spring.

up. It's an opportunity to minister," said George. "It's incredible what the Army can do."

Though the work is at times difficult and even heart-breaking, such as when George is tasked with debriefing first responders after they've worked a crime scene or accident involving a child, he loves the job and the opportunities to share Christ as he provides a shoulder to lean on.

"My faith is what helps me through. It's a good Christian ministry. We call it a ministry of presence," he concluded. "It's difficult at times, but very rewarding."



George, who serves as Detroit Fire Department chief chaplain, with former chief chaplain Alan McNeeley

## EDS learning goes virtual

At the start of the pandemic, Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) nationwide paused in-person training and quickly pivoted to Zoom and Teams to keep operations going. The virtual environment proved to be efficient and effective, igniting a spark to explore additional opportunities for advanced technology and improved eLearning. Through a philanthropic grant, funding was provided to pilot an online learning management system (LMS).

Along with the Western Territory, the Central Territory was entrusted with identifying the best platform and creating a user-friendly site, populating it with training materials, videos and other resources to equip EDS employees and volunteers to serve in various circumstances.

"In today's world everything is online," said Karen Hanton, Central territorial disaster training coordinator. "Offering online modules to supplement current training requirements makes it more accessible to our volunteers. It's also appealing to the younger generation, so they're more likely to take interest in EDS certification."

The system is designed for volunteers new and established to expand their knowledge from their computer, tablet or phone without needing to wait for a course to be offered

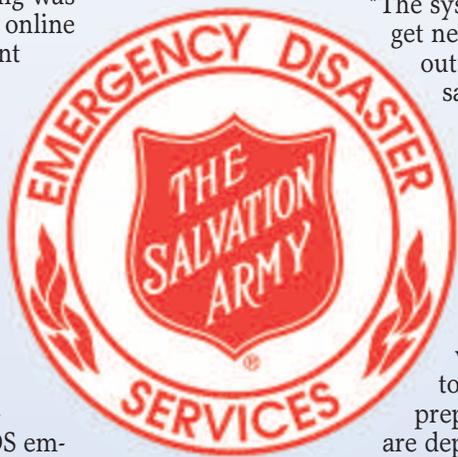
in-person or travel to attend. Registered users have access to the entire content library and are free to engage with the modules which cover a wide range of topics and include both written and video instruction as well as an end assessment to gauge learning. Also available is a debriefing module to help volunteers process the effects of serving in difficult situations.

"The system helps us get new information out more quickly," said Karen. "Our hope is that going forward we'll be able to contact volunteers prior to an assignment and let them know which modules to take in order to prepare before they are deployed."

In-person and live courses taught via Zoom are still available as well. Some of the more complex certifications, such as for emotional and spiritual care, are completed using a hybrid model in which modules are taken online and a practicum completed in person.

The schedule, including dates, times and locations, is posted on the site where new information, resources and videos continue to be added.

**For more information on how to take part in eLearning opportunities for EDS, contact your divisional EDS director.**



## You had me at "food truck"

by Craig Dirkes

Cooking for people has always been in Sue Marsh's DNA. "I'm such a Martha," admitted Sue, referring to the Biblical account about a woman named Martha who was intent on performing acts of service.

Six years ago, Sue transformed her passion for cooking into an invaluable volunteer activity. She became a trained Salvation Army disaster volunteer, cooking and serving food at disaster sites from a canteen. She also stops by Salvation Army facilities to prepare sandwiches and other food that is loaded onto the canteen for distribution.

"When I first heard about what Salvation Army disaster volunteers do, I thought, 'You had me at food truck,'" Sue said with a laugh.

She has since been deployed to several dozen disasters to provide food, drinks and comfort for survivors and first responders. Her most incredible experience occurred in August 2017 when she spent two weeks in Texas serving survivors of Hurricane Harvey.

"I get emotional just talking about it," Sue said. "I remember speaking with a woman whose son lost his best friend; you hear these stories, and it's unbelievable. You're helping people during the worst moments of their lives."



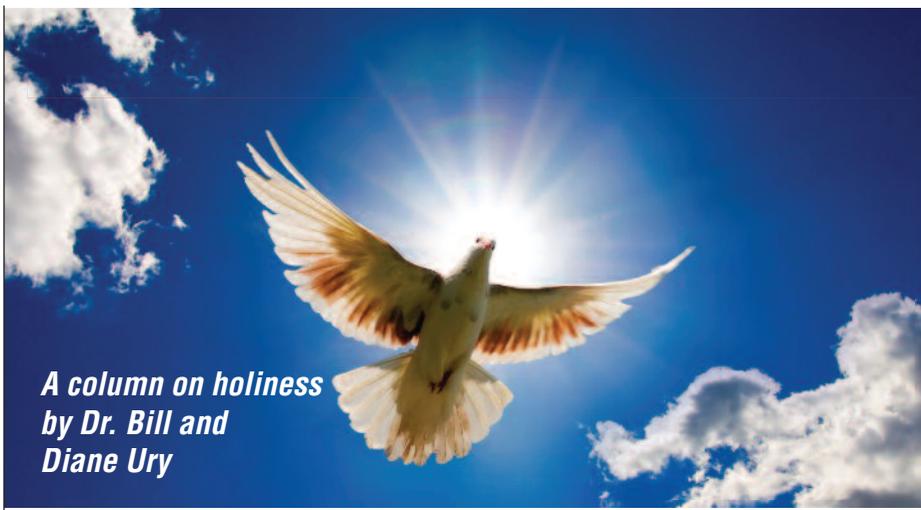
Like other disaster volunteers, most of Sue's deployments are to local disasters such as fires or floods or to community events supported by The Salvation Army.

"We try to help people make the best of what are often bad situations," said Sue, a retired school teacher. "I love to take care of people."

Sue has gone on to become the Northern Division's training coordinator for Minnesota and North Dakota. Several times per quarter, she travels throughout both states to train new disaster volunteers.

"Sue is willing to do whatever she can to assist our disaster teams," said Major Michele Heaver, Northern divisional disaster services secretary. "She is invaluable."

In addition to serving food, some disaster volunteers are trained to offer emotional and spiritual care for survivors and first responders. They listen to and pray with survivors and first responders who need love and encouragement during stressful times.



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

# Pentecost: His will, your sanctification

by Dr. Bill Ury

**W**e celebrate the baptizing personal presence of the Holy Spirit this month. In short, at Pentecost we see the fulfillment of God's will in all of scripture. We want His will to be our desire; to express what the blood of Jesus and fire of the Spirit mean in actual life.



believe that sexual pleasure determines our actions (4:3-8). His eternal desire is that every relationship is cleansed from self-centeredness and filled with His divine love (4:9-12). God's holy authority over time and eternity should encourage every hope-filled heart to anticipate the Lord's return like a bride preparing for her Bridegroom (4:13-5:11). Though uncomfortable, Paul points to the sanctifying will of our Lord in how we think about and talk about the leaders He has placed over us (5:12-13). As in every church, there are those who are lazy, uncorrectable, constantly choosing what is not best. The response? His will is dynamic, peaceful love that patiently urges maturity without condescension (5:14-15).

her Bridegroom (4:13-5:11). Though uncomfortable, Paul points to the sanctifying will of our Lord in how we think about and talk about the leaders He has placed over us (5:12-13). As in every church, there are those who are lazy, uncorrectable, constantly choosing what is not best. The response? His will is dynamic, peaceful love that patiently urges maturity without condescension (5:14-15).

Note that Paul does not move to our will too quickly. Holiness is about the Triune Holy One, not us. It is the will of the Father revealed in Christ Jesus (5:18). The passionate fire-like love of the Spirit need never be quenched (5:19). Sanctification is the will of God Himself, the God of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ (5:18-23). His holy-making will is always a grace-filled calling, an invitation based upon His essence, character, nature and power (5:24). He wills that we be His entirely. Is His will your deepest desire?

I often have noted that our tenth doctrine is primarily a quote from scripture. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 is foundational to Who God is and to His heart desire for us, His redeemed creatures who alone bear His image. Paul reaffirms the perfect purposes of God when he writes, "This is the will of God, your sanctification" (1 Thess. 4:3, ESV). God's will is not deterministic. He does not save or sanctify against our wills. He has made us, for His glory, as persons whose choices, obedience and love are enabled and honored as real choices by the One who has made us for Himself.

If holiness of heart and life are His plan, provision and pleasure, then we should be clear on this one thing: Is His will real in my life? There is no more important issue.

Paul couches this overarching biblical truth—the Holy One desires us to reflect His nature—in real down-to-earth issues. His pure will confronts every place where we might wrongfully be-

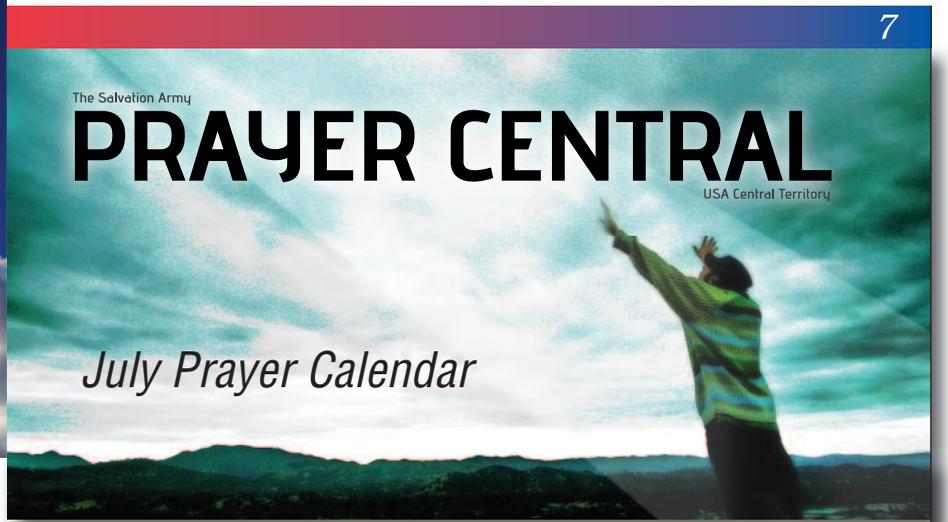
## Disaster summit Continued from page 1

to individuals who had studied a noteworthy number of hours of disaster classes, including those through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency, The Salvation Army, American Radio Relay League, and International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

Christina Miller took top honors with a gold certificate for 76 hours of classes. Three silver certificates went to Donald Durbin (48 hours), Ralph Brigman (52 hours) and Nathan Hicks (56 hours). Eight bronze certificates went to Steven Kreeger, Jr. (28 hours), Gretchen Luke (32 hours), Steven Kreeger, Sr. (36 hours), Thomas Zeller (36 hours), Albert Franke (37 hours), Zachary Downs (28 hours), Jennifer Kalishevich (28 hours) and Larry Miller (32 hours).

Red Shield first responders (EDS members first on the scene) were

recognized for their contributions to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic and providing support at two primary locations of Salvation Army presence after last December's deadly tornadoes.



# PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army

USA Central Territory

## July Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Friday	Philippians 1-2	Officers transitioning into new appointments
	2 Saturday	Leviticus 10-12	Blue Island, Ill., Corps
	3 Sunday	2 Kings 1-5	France & Belgium Territory
	4 Monday	Psalms 78-80	HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA
	5 Tuesday	Proverbs 8-9	Chicago Englewood, Ill., Corps
	6 Wednesday	Ezekiel 19-24	Chicago Central, Ill., ARC
	7 Thursday	Luke 17-18	Cicero Templo Laramie, Ill., Corps
	8 Friday	Philippians 3-4	Boone, Iowa, Corps
	9 Saturday	Leviticus 13-15	Midland Division
	10 Sunday	2 Kings 6-10	Escanaba, Mich., Corps
	11 Monday	Psalms 81-83	India Northern Territory
	12 Tuesday	Proverbs 10	Grand Forks, N.D., Corps
	13 Wednesday	Ezekiel 25-30	Hastings, Neb., Corps
	14 Thursday	Luke 19-20	International Falls, Minn., Corps
	15 Friday	Colossians 1-2	Kansas City Eastside, Mo., Corps
	16 Saturday	Leviticus 16-18	Lansing Citadel, Mich., Corps
	17 Sunday	2 Kings 11-15	Brown County, Ind., Corps
	18 Monday	Psalms 84-86	Emporia, Kan., Corps
	19 Tuesday	Proverbs 11-12	Japan Territory
	20 Wednesday	Ezekiel 31-36	Branson, Mo., Corps
	21 Thursday	Luke 21-22	Madison, Ind., Corps
	22 Friday	Colossians 3-4	Council Bluffs, Iowa, Corps
	23 Saturday	Leviticus 19-21	Milwaukee Cold Spring, Wis., Corps
	24 Sunday	2 Kings 16-20	Fond du Lac, Wis., Corps
	25 Monday	Psalms 87-89	Des Moines, Iowa, ARC
	26 Tuesday	Proverbs 13	Muncie, Ind., Corps
	27 Wednesday	Ezekiel 37-42	Oak Creek, Wis., Corps
	28 Thursday	Luke 23-24	Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps
	29 Friday	1 Thessalonians 1-3	Kenya West Territory
	30 Saturday	Leviticus 22-24	Chicago LaVillita, Ill., Corps
	31 Sunday	2 Kings 21-25	Indiana Division

If you follow the prayer calendar during the year, you will have read through the Bible! ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

## --Mustard Seeds--



# Experiencing God through the creative arts

by Katie Heinz

We often ask ourselves what we've learned and what good can come from these past years of the pandemic. When data seemed to indicate that singing would not be a safe option, the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps (OBT), led by Majors Caleb and Stephanie Senn, paused its longstanding children's Singing Company.

However, leaders didn't want kids to miss out on musical training, so they began brainstorming about other discipleship and worship options within the arts. There is a rich musical heritage at

OBT, primarily in brass and singing, with dance added several years ago and other creative arts incorporated into character-building programs.

Seeing creative arts offerings expanding in many areas and the heightened interest from kids and their families for other art forms, the corps launched a creative arts program last year. The weekly program gives youth, ages 7 to 12, the opportunity to learn new skills and experience a variety of visual and performing arts.

Currently, 20 children participate, including Salvationist Caleb Sjogren's two sons. They have taken dance lessons and have developed, performed and edited a four-minute video. Caleb, who helped lead instruction on film production, said a lot of time



and focus was spent on conceptualizing an idea.

"I think one of the things that everyone saw was just how difficult it is, just how challenging it can be to collaborate," he said. "One of the things we wanted to focus on was that we're all working on this together...so we can create something together."

Lisa Jordan, OBT youth development director, said she is impressed by the children's willingness to try new things.

"We hope by expanding our opportunities in creative arts more kids will find 'their spark' in ways to worship and experience God," Lisa said. "They can try something new and hopefully it prepares them with different skills they can continue to grow as they do."

Last fall kicked off with the options of film production or dance. As Christmas approached these shifted to drama, dance and stage production to present the program "A Very Mixed-Up Christmas." In January, singing became an option

again! The children prepared a song for worship and also enjoyed the visual arts.

"We are still in the very beginning stages, but moving forward in addition to singing, dance and visual arts we are looking into more drama/theater, ukulele, spoken word, rhythm, recorder, timbrels, AV/production and maybe more! We are currently working to partner with creatives in our congregation who can lead one of those sessions and are excited to see new expressions of worship from our kids," Lisa said.

The new program complements a full schedule for youth at OBT which includes Sunday school, junior soldiers, character-building (moonbeams, sunbeams, explorers, girl guards, rangers), several levels of brass band, and corps cadets, praise band and youth group for the teens.

"We are committed to these kids," concluded Caleb. "To loving them, to training them, to disciplining them and to helping them grow into the people God created them to be."



## Promoted to Glory

### Major Carmella McPherson

Major Carmella McPherson was promoted to Glory on March 29, 2022.

Carmella truly loved people and was dedicated to sharing Christ by connecting with others. She enjoyed working with youth through character-building and camping ministries and with adults through women's and community care ministries.

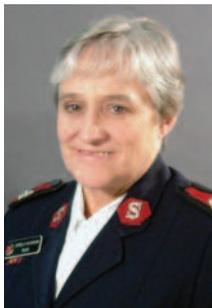
Carmella was born November 24, 1947, in Benton Harbor, Mich., to Curtis and Marjory Ruth Lambrecht. As a child she attended the corps and excelled in girl guards, earning her General's Guard and Founder's Guard awards.

After graduating from Coloma High School, she attended the Atlantic Airline School in Kansas City, Mo. She and Patrick McPherson were married on February 15, 1969. They entered the School for Officers' Training in 1970 and were commissioned as part of the "Lightbringers" session in 1972.

The McPhersons served together in corps appointments throughout the Midwest, followed by 15 years at Metropolitan Divisional Headquarters, where Carmella held appointments in league of mercy and older adult ministries. They retired from their final appointment leading the Flint Beecher, Mich., Corps in 2009 after 38 years of service.

Carmella loved being a grandma and sharing life with her many grandchildren. She also enjoyed timbrels, the outdoors, horseback riding and bowling.

She was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her son, Sean; daughters, Tara (Danny) Garcia and Erin; five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.



### Major Bruce Smith

Major Bruce Smith was promoted to Glory on March 26, 2022. Bruce was a dedicated family man, musician and preacher of the Word who was known throughout his officership for his soul-stirring sermons.

Bruce was born on January 9, 1927, in Detroit, Mich., to George and Bella Smith. After high school he enlisted and served in World War II as a bugler on an aircraft carrier. When the war ended he took classes toward a degree in education before entering the School for Officers' Training (SFOT) in 1949. He was commissioned in 1950.

Bruce met his wife, then-Lt. Marilyn Carlson, in 1952. Just three dates and close to 100 love letters later, they married and embarked on nearly 40 years of service in corps and at Eastern Michigan Divisional Headquarters. They retired in 1992 from the SFOT, where Bruce was a training officer.

After retiring Bruce worked as a chaplain at Swedish American Hospital and a counselor at the Rockford, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center. He also was a member of the brass band, songsters and string band at the Rockford Temple Corps and sang in the Wesley Willows Choir until 2020.

Bruce was preceded in death by his wife, Marilyn, and daughter, Trina Linnae. Shortly after he died, his daughter Lisa was also promoted to Glory. He is survived by his sister, Jean Burger; daughter, Katrina (David) Boomer; sons, Kevin (Pam) and Mark (Tonya); 10 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.



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