



# 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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## Diaz appointed Territorial Commander

Colonel Evie Diaz has been appointed by the General as the Territorial Commander of the Central Territory. She will take up this appointment with the rank of commissioner on August 1, 2023. Colonel Diaz returns home to the Central Territory from being the Chief Secretary in the Canada and Bermuda Territory and will succeed Commissioner Bradford Bailey, who along with Commissioner Heidi Bailey, will be retiring from active service.

"I am excited, honored and privileged," Colonel Diaz said in a video greeting to the territory upon the announcement. "What I want you to know is that I love Jesus and look forward to seeing how and where God is working in the territory."

While the majority of her more than 40 years of officership has been spent in the Central Territory, her service also includes several overseas



appointments. Prior to serving in Canada and Bermuda, she was the Assistant Chief Secretary for Administration and then Chief Secretary at International Headquarters (IHQ) in

London, England, where she played a critical role and gained an in-depth knowledge of The Salvation Army globally.

From 2004 to 2007, she served in Northern Europe as the training officer in the Sweden and Latvia Territory. During her tenure, a training college was opened to allow Latvian cadets to train in their own country. Six Salvation Army officers were commissioned before she left that appointment.

Eleven years of her service in the Central Territory also focused on officer training work as she held multiple appointments at the College for Officer Training in Chicago, including being the Assistant Training Principal. Other appointments in the territory included a variety of corps, divisional and territorial positions.

She led both the Heartland and the Kansas and Western Missouri divi-

sions before moving to London in 2016. Her passion and priority in both of those appointments was the pastoral care of officers, community development and innovative ministry.

The colonel also has a strong interest in urban and multiethnic ministry and Christian community development. She enjoys teaching and preaching and holds a practical ministries degree from Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Ill. She is a second-generation Salvationist, having grown up moving throughout the territory with officer parents.

In commending Colonel Diaz to the territory, Commissioner Brad Bailey said she is an excellent and capable leader with vast experience and is a beautiful woman of God, concluding, "Her heart beats for the things that are of the Lord."

## On target for God

Captain James Beardsley of the Lansing, Mich., Corps has hit a "bullseye" with the success of his Impact Archery program.

Each Tuesday night, youngsters shoot arrows at targets while learning about God. The popular activity, now marking its first full year, has 28 students in grades one through 11. And it's free.

"I don't like finances being a reason that might keep families from

being able to participate," Captain James said.

Instead of money, families are asked to consider volunteering four hours of their time. Most of the families have responded to the call—many took part in the annual bell-ringing during the holiday season. In one three-day period, Impact parents and children raised \$1,300 at kettles.

Impact Archery's motto is "On target for God." Every evening begins

with 10 minutes of devotions, led by student leaders.

"We are always putting God first," said the captain.

Archery takes place in the fellowship hall. Sometimes lights are turned off, and black lights are turned on for "cosmic archery." Ultra-violet reflective tape makes target lines visible.

"Our kids actually shoot better in black light," Captain James said, adding that the kids take safety very seriously.

Many parents stay and observe. Some parents are even being trained as certified instructors.

Each student gets a whistle so he or she can take a turn at running the archery range.

"I've got the most encouraging kids in this program," Captain James said. "Our students cheer each other on. That brings out the self-confidence."



Captain James Beardsley works with first-grader Noah Thiede.

It was a different story when the program began.

"Many of the students were nervous, shy, reserved—almost to the point of tears," Captain James recalled. "But now they are active, smiling and making new friends. Social skills have gone through the roof. I love it."

At the end of the night, the youth are asked to share one positive thing about that evening.

"It's uplifting. Kids have said pos-



Students line up to take aim during the weekly Impact Archery program.

Continued on page 3



# I am praying for you

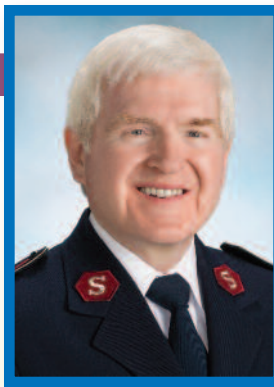
by Lt. Colonel Paul Smith  
Assistant Chief Secretary

**D**o you recall the people who have prayed for you throughout your life? It could be an extensive list: parents, family, corps or church members, friends, officers, pastors, teachers, mentors. Maybe they prayed for your protection, healing, direction, or salvation.

I am encouraged when someone says: "I'm praying for you." Whether during a conversation or expressed in a card, I am thankful to know someone is praying for me. And it is amazing how many times that message has come at just the right time, when I have been going through a difficult situation or facing a tough decision. What is even more incredi-

ble is how repeatedly God has provided the strength, guidance and wisdom which I needed.

One of my favorite images the Apostle Paul uses to describe Christians is the body (1 Cor. 12:12-31). As a member of the Body of Christ, we are connected, interdependent, and because of this we influence, support, impact and, yes, encourage one another. One important way we can encourage each other is by prayer. That, of course, is known as intercessory prayer. Studies have shown those in a hospital who have someone praying for them do better—even if they don't know someone is praying for them! We pray for others because we believe God an-



swers prayer and that there is power in prayer.

The Bible has many examples of intercessory prayer. Moses prayed for water, food and forgiveness for the Israelites. Elijah prayed the widow's son would live again. Daniel and Ezra prayed for God's mercy on behalf of their people's sin. Jesus' prayer recorded in John 17 includes praying for His disciples and those who would believe because of their ministry, leading to us.

But I really love Paul's prayer for the Ephesians (3:14-21). I can imagine how encouraged they were when this letter shared that their "spiritual

father," though physically separated from them, continued to pray that the Holy Spirit would fill them, providing the strength, power and love—passing all understanding—they needed to live holy lives in Ephesus.

There are people throughout the territory who are facing challenges or who are seeking God's grace or guidance. As followers of Christ, we have the awesome privilege to listen to our sister or brother and then lift their needs to our Heavenly Father. As we are faithful in supporting other members of the Body of Christ by praying in faith, we are "loving our neighbors as ourselves." And they may find you praying for them as encouraging as I do when I learn someone is praying for me. I assure you I will continue to pray for you because I believe in the power of prayer.

## Saved to serve

**P**aul Augenstein was working at a hospital, cleaning its chapel, when he heard God say, "What about yours?"

"And I knew what it meant," Paul said. "'You clean this chapel. What about the chapel at your corps?' I said from that moment on I would take that responsibility. My wife, daughter and I go to our corps one Saturday each month to clean the chapel. There is no question that the Lord led that responsibility to me and my family. I will keep doing it until the day I die."



Paul Augenstein

A soldier at the Madison, Wis., Corps, Paul is the divisional sergeant-major for the Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division (WUM) and is part of the Territorial Soldiers' Forum.

He retired from the workforce in July of 2022—just about the time he was asked to be part of the forum.

"The timing was just right," he said. "I have time to dedicate to this new position. This was all the Lord's doing."

At his corps, Paul has held many positions. He currently plays the guitar in the praise band and teaches adult Sunday school. He also volunteers with the corps' emergency disaster services team.

"I'm so happy to have been a member of The Salvation Army for almost 50 years," Paul said. "My wife, my kids—we are all soldiers. It has been a wonderful experience."

He came to know The Salvation Army through a corps-sponsored Boy Scout troop and gave his life to Christ at camp in 1971.

"I have been a soldier for all of



these years. At times, I thought about becoming an officer, but I never heard that call [in my heart]," he said.

After high school, Paul went into the U.S. Air Force. He began working as a custodian at the Janesville, Wis., Corps after leaving the military.

While in Janesville, Paul delivered food to a local family in need. Little did he know that his future wife, Julie, was part of that family. The two met, fell in love and have now been married for almost 40 years. They have four children and seven grandchildren (with another grandchild expected in September, Paul said happily).

Paul spent 19 years working at the William S. Middleton Memorial Vet-

erans Hospital in Madison, spending much of that time working second-shift, from 3:00 p.m. to midnight.

He felt the Holy Spirit telling him to start studying God's Word on his own.

Paul listened to recorded sermons and podcasts, watched TV broadcasts and read the Bible. He found his individual study to be so enriching, he encourages everyone to dig deeper into God's Word.

As the forum representative, Paul plans to visit all of the corps in WUM in the next two and a half years to meet soldiers and encourage personal Bible study.

He concluded, "If you want to know the heart of God, it is in the Psalms."

To learn more about the Territorial Soldiers' Forum or find your forum representative, visit [salarmycentral.org](http://salarmycentral.org).



Hewitt Gage and Paul at a Soldiers' Forum meeting



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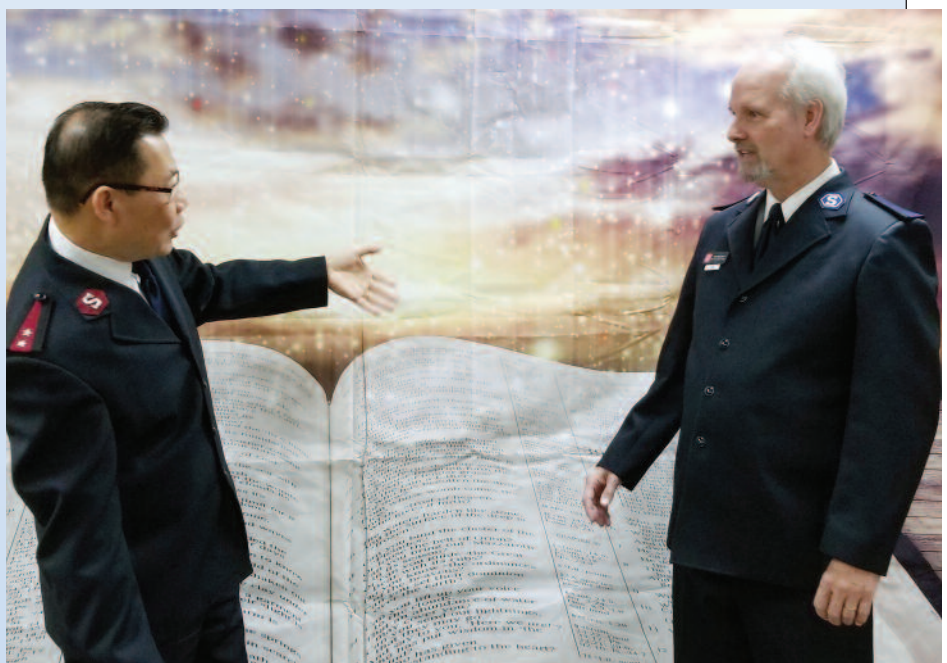
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Madison, Wis., Corps Officer Captain Vong Luangkhamdeng talks with Paul about art in the corps' lobby.



# Rallying the troops

Recognizing the ones who make us what we are

by Major Deannie Moore

What's an army without soldiers? Could it be similar to a bunch of chefs in the kitchen with nobody to feed? More likely, it's an army with no future.

The Western Division has long recognized the value of its soldiers. This spring the division met for its fifth annual Soldiers' Rally Day with 235 people in attendance. The theme this year was "One for All, All for One." Sound familiar? Maybe. But this theme isn't just about us, it's about Jesus. He gave His life for us; we give our lives for Him.

The day began with a youth-focused rally that alternated between character-building and junior soldiers. The focus led toward remembering who we are as the Body of Christ and how each one of us is essential. "Together you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of that body." (1 Cor. 12:27, NCV)



Major Adam Moore and Sean Graham

With an opening session of singing and devotions, junior soldiers were given a charge and set off to complete several activities including a Mr. Potato Head team relay race, a junior soldier puzzle missing one piece (doesn't work without every piece...or person!) and a team tower building race with a piece of spaghetti and Cheerios. It was teamwork all the way! Senior soldiers participated by helping and cheering on the junior soldiers.

After a delicious lunch served by the host corps, young and old gathered for the soldiers rally. With worship and fellowship, God was praised, and soldiers were honored and challenged. Junior and senior soldiers were recognized by their corps officers and divisional leadership in four categories—Outstanding Corps Sergeant-Major, Outstanding Service in Corps



Iyana Miller and Zakota Benedict write thank you notes.

Programming, Active Soldier, and Evangelism/Discipleship. Every soldier nominated by their corps officers received a certificate and small gift. And one junior soldier and senior soldier received the Divisional Commander's Recognition, which included a framed certificate and a figurine of a young William Booth surrendering his all to Christ.

The rally included two important aspects. First, "Our Future," celebrating junior soldiers, and second, a "Call to Follow" Christ into whatever He is calling us each to do, whether that be service and leadership in the corps or becoming a Salvation Army officer.



Junior soldiers Saphira Abram and Judah DeBaar

The day was all about soldiers coming together to worship God and celebrate each other. The soldiers were excited for each other as they were recognized. More than that, they headed home knowing they are loved and valued. Soldiers play a vital role in building and sustaining our corps and winning the world to Christ. They really do make us who we are, an Army of the Lord.



Edward Stewart and Joel Bluer are recognized for outstanding service with Majors Stephanie and Dan Sawka (on ends of group) and Lts. Shannon and Justin Bluer.

## TSAO American Wilderness Leadership School

August 22-29, 2023 | Black Hills, SD

This highly active and packed week of training helps leaders utilize outdoor pursuits to reach more people for Jesus! Participants will walk away with certifications as instructors in archery, range safety, project WILD curricula and so much more.



Registration closes July 28th, 2023

For more info, contact  
usc.thq.youth@usc.salvationarmy.org

## Archery

Continued from page 1

itive things about being with friends or about hitting a bullseye with their arrow," Captain James said. Parents are also invited to share a positive note.

The Impact students recently took part in a Lock-In for World Services that raised \$2,400 with pledges from family and friends. The group had a "Daniel fast"—a partial fast where only healthy items like fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains were eaten. After the fast was broken, Captain James prepared a Kenyan corn-and-bean stew (called githeri) for everyone.

Archery student Lily Wright looks forward to Tuesday evenings at the corps.

"I love this group!" she said. "It's such a fun experience, and you get to enjoy it with so many amazing people. It's a great place to be."

Parent Rindy Handy said the program is bringing lots of positive changes.

"The archery program has been an amazing addition to my family," Rindy said. "I have seen increased confidence, focus, the ability to work as a team, and leadership skills in both of my kids."

Three parents and five students form the Impact Committee that meets monthly to plan group events. In addition to parents, the program has attracted and helped develop volunteer leaders from the corps.

"Our corps leaders have been a great asset to the leadership team,"



Impact Archery student Lily Wright raises funds for World Services

said the captain. "They have been growing and essentially have taken ownership of the program. It's moved from officer dependent to officer supported."

In August, Impact Archery will expand into a five-day vacation Bible school of sorts. Captain James hopes that the vacation archery school will "explode" with new students—prompting the corps to add a second night of Impact Archery each week.

"We are already busting at the seams with our 28 students now," he said. "We are very optimistic that [a second night of Impact Archery] will happen. We just aren't impacting kids. We're impacting whole families."



# 730... AND BEYOND

718 days and counting

by Lt. Sarah Micula

There are many acronyms in The Salvation Army. I'd like to add one more. IYKYK: "If you know, you know."

I've been attending The Salvation Army since I was a baby. I've been a sunbeam, junior soldier and senior soldier. I worked as an employee at territorial headquarters and the adult rehabilitation center in Chicago for a total of 13 years. So, I thought I knew what an officer's job was. I'd worshipped and worked with quite a few of them. But as it turns out, you don't know until you know.

I didn't know the heartache. I didn't know the fulfillment. I didn't know the stress. And I didn't know the freedom. I didn't know until I knew.

You don't know, until you know, the privilege and sorrow of walking with a family as they face saying goodbye to their newborn baby, until you're in the thick of it with them.

You don't know, until you know, the laughter and joy that helps you get through another day when you watch your explorers troop listen and eagerly form answers together about how often to wash bed sheets as they work on their laundry emblem.

You don't know, until you know, the hope you feel that gets you through defeat until you see new kids learn old Sunday school songs



and gleefully jump to their feet to sing their part, "Hallelujah!"

You don't know, until you know, the assurance you can experience until you see your corps' leaders acknowledge, "This is out of my comfort zone, but I see God growing me."

And you don't know, until you know, the ways God will grow and stretch you as you learn to balance a corps budget, pray for your congregation, or overcome doubt or fear.

I invite you, dear reader, to pray this scripture over me and all officers and soldiers, "We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better." Colossians 1:9b-10 (NLT)



## A look behind the scenes

The Ministry Discovery Program provides opportunities for those interested in ministry through The Salvation Army to spend up to two years looking behind the scenes to discover the ins and outs of officership as interns in a corps setting.

Coming from many backgrounds and stages of life, interns gain experience by joining in a wide variety of ministries from providing social services to planning and leading worship services and programs. They are included in work like budget preparation, meetings with advisory boards and corps councils, and fundraising such as the red kettle campaign. This gives them insight into the daily lives of corps officers.

"I grew up in The Salvation Army and transitioned into the Ministry Discovery Program after being employed at a divisional headquarters

for 16 years," said Accepted Candidate Matt McCarter, intern at the Lincoln, Neb., Corps. "I still have so much to learn about the day-to-day work of corps officers, and I'm thankful for great teachers and mentors."

Regular check-ins with the corps officers, divisional candidates' secretary and territorial candidates' secretary encourage dialogue, allow interns to gain insight into their strengths and areas that need development, and help them to make informed decisions. Many, like Matt, choose to become officers; some move on to other opportunities.

Christians, 18 and older, who are interested in officership are encouraged to consider learning more through this program.

**For more information, contact your divisional candidates' secretary.**

## Pointing people Godward

"I will not wear that hat!" a defiant 21-year-old Cherri Hobbins told the Lord as she wrestled with the call He had placed on her heart to become a Salvation Army officer. It had come unexpectedly. After all, she wasn't even a Salvationist. She had merely worked a few summers at one of its camps. But as a senior sitting in an unrelated chapel service at Asbury College, the call was undeniable.

At first, Cherri was incredulous God would ask her to forsake the vocation she'd envisioned since age 12, being a pastor in the Methodist church, to become an officer in a quasi-military Christian organization where women still wore bonnets.

"What I learned, and know in my heart, is that The Salvation Army blends the message of Jesus with the actions of Jesus," Major Cherri said.

Coming to terms with this new direction and with the blessing of her parents, who at first worried she'd been lured by a cult, Cherri "jumped the denominational fence" and was enrolled as a soldier. By the time she headed to the College for Officer Training (CFOT) in Chicago that fall in 1980, policy had changed, and the bonnet was out! It was as if God had winked at her.

While her first encounter with the Army, working at camp, had not been entirely positive, she found her passion teaching the gospel and watching many mothers and children accept Christ. It foreshadowed what would be her joy as an officer.

"It's always been about pointing people Godward," she said.

No wonder of her nearly 41 years of officership, ranging from corps to territorial appointments, the 17 years serving at the CFOT in different roles, including principal, resonated with her most.

Though demanding work, she relished leading brigades and teaching cadets. Hundreds of officers throughout the territory are familiar with her green pen.

"Especially by the second time I was stationed at the college, I was liberal with my markings," the major admitted. "Sometimes their papers were full of green ink."

She encouraged cadets they hadn't



Major Cherri Hobbins signs the Soldier's Covenant.

failed. They were just engaged in dialogue. Their papers were their opportunity to speak to her, the green ink was her opportunity to speak to them.

"It was wonderful to see them grow exponentially in their faith," she beamed, saying she'd love to teach at the CFOT again even in retirement.



Major Cherri Hobbins receives her retirement certificate from Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey.

Conversely, her most challenging time in any appointment was when she couldn't "rock people off center," when they remained complacent in their faith.

Recently, she says she's been learning anew the simplest but most significant lesson: God absolutely loves us. It's not based on our performance but because He is love.

"Keep your relationship with God first and foremost. Don't neglect it," she urges Salvationists. "Keep leaning into Jesus."



Captains Donna and Vatthana Thammavongsa, corps officers in Farmington Hills, Mich., thank Major Hobbins for her adept Bible study teaching at the corps.



# Families find fun and connection

Encouraged by the Pathway of Hope (POH) 10-year celebration and symposium last fall, caseworkers at the Fox Cities, Wis., Corps returned home with enthusiasm to serve their community.

"We were inspired by the panel discussion on parenting classes at the symposium," said Katie Schmanski, POH coordinator. "We knew we wanted to do something similar to engage families."

After consideration of their community's needs, the corps developed Hope Night, a quarterly family event to engage community members, connect families and spread the word about the POH initiative.

The inaugural carnival-themed event was created jointly by the corps' caseworkers and other staff, corps officers Majors Dawn and Jeffery Russell and volunteers. In addition to working together on the finer details, the majors invited casework-

perience possible for the families."

Current and former POH families were invited to facilitate connections between each other so they could provide ongoing support to one another. Each family also was encouraged to invite another family to broaden the event's reach. A promotional flyer and Facebook event were created with online registration to make it easily accessible to other families connected to the corps through social services.



## PATHWAY OF HOPE

ers to give a presentation about POH to the advisory board to increase awareness and enlist support, and the development director secured a \$1,500 donation from a local Boba Bae store owner to fund the evening and future Hope Nights.

"Planning was everything," said Major Dawn. "That night really was everybody coming together and knowing their roles and executing them perfectly to create the best ex-

The evening of Hope Night, Majors Russell, staff and volunteers, including advisory board members, created a welcoming atmosphere and engaged with families. Children enjoyed a bounce house, won small prizes, and got their faces painted as their parents took them to the stations. Everyone enjoyed a menu of carnival foods including hot dogs, popcorn and cotton candy.

"I got to meet with the families as they came and went," said Major Dawn. "We shared information about POH and our corps activities. Every family also received a package of Peeps with an invitation to the

Easter service." The major noted that several new families expressed interest in POH.

At the end of the night, families were asked to give feedback and vote on the next quarterly Hope Night theme. The responses by families were overwhelmingly positive. "It was a great little night out with the kids," one mom shared.

"Our vision is to continue to engage the community with corps members, staff and advisory board involved in the ministry," concluded Major Dawn. "Hope Night is one way we can stay connected."



Advisory board member Diane Stuckrath leads the cup game at Hope Night.

## Single mom living in car finds hope



by Craig Dirkes

Three years ago, life couldn't have been harder for Alyssa and her young son. They had just moved into an apartment of their own after Alyssa had secured a good job—only to lose both when the pandemic hit.

"The timing couldn't have been worse," Alyssa said. "People don't imagine themselves ever being homeless, but it can happen to anyone."

Alyssa and her son were forced to spend their nights in Alyssa's car. Desperate for help, she contacted the St. Paul Citadel, Minn., Corps and received food and gas cards to get by. She had been to The Salvation Army previously for help with food and utility bills, plus Christmas gifts for her son through the Army's partnership with the Thielen Foundation.

After learning about Alyssa's grim situation, caseworker Kristy suggested she enroll in Pathway of Hope, which would provide mentoring, encouragement, structure and resources to change her and her son's life.

Alyssa enrolled immediately and with Kristy's help she was able to create a resumé, sharpen her interviewing skills, and secure a good job at a local church; get an eviction expunged from her rental history; find a new apartment, thanks in part to recommendation letters written by Kristy; secure a laptop and internet service; and work on completing her GED (general equivalency degree). Today, Alyssa is on the path to success.

"I'm not sure where I'd be now if it weren't for The Salvation Army," Alyssa said. "Their support and encouragement has given me hope for what lies ahead."



Social services staff Gina Cornell, Mindy Howell, Catherine Schmanski, and Joseph VanRoy work with Major Dawn Russell to plan Hope Night.

## New grant for major cities

by Linda Brinker

All four USA territories are participating in a new three-year Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative funded by the national office. The grant, titled Pathway of Hope Renewal, is designed to expand family engagement in major cities across the country including Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and St. Louis.

In part, the new focus is in response to the third-party evaluation completed by RTI, an independent nonprofit research institute, at the completion of the initial national grant which included identification of gaps in implementation in the major cities and challenges related to limited staff availability to provide POH service.

Services with this new opportunity are focused on BIPOC families (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) that meet low-income requirements. The major portion of the funding is allocated to support two case man-

agers for each of the five Central Territory cities and requires a 100 percent focus on POH.

To expedite the local engagement process, the national office is providing the funding allocations at the beginning of each year. In turn, the funding is being sent directly to divisions and local sites for timely hiring and onboarding of new staff. Central Territorial Headquarters is completing a three-day comprehensive training for the new teams to educate them fully on POH concepts including unique grant requirements.

The Central Territory is excited to be involved in the establishment of the new POH-R grant as it is anticipated to have a strong impact on underserved communities in urban areas and lead to the establishment of best-practice models for other cities to replicate. This opportunity also provides another great avenue to partner with the national office and other USA territories as we continue to evaluate the impact of services and lessons learned.



# Holy Land pilgrimage brings Bible to life

by Captain Blake Fewell

For nearly 2,000 years, Christians have made pilgrimages to Israel to experience the places where Jesus walked, taught and healed. Earlier this year 80 Salvationists from the Central Territory joined that heritage to the Holy Land. For some, it was their first opportunity to see the Bible come to life in the sites and experiences of Israel. For others, it was an opportunity to rediscover and rekindle previous experiences.

Over the eight-day trip, Salvationists clad in their khaki vests stood on the roads of Roman ruins, sat on the Galilean hillsides, and walked the limestone streets of Jerusalem. Throughout the tour, local guides provided historical, geographical and archeological insights, while guests Lt. Colonel Vern Jewett and Lt. Colonel John Needham provided biblical teaching each day.

The Salvationist pilgrims began their journey on the northern Mediterranean coast and the Sea of Galilee region. They visited Mount Carmel where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal, Jesus' hometown of Nazareth and many northern cities where Jesus ministered. These cities, which contained ruins from the times of Jesus, gave a glimpse into the daily life of work and worship.

The group held their first of several worship times on the Mount of Beatitudes where choruses rang out from the hillside, and Colonel Jewett brought Jesus' words of joyful promise



to life. Later that day, they worshipped on a boat on the Sea of Galilee, remembering the many hours Jesus and His disciples spent on those waters.

Making their way south, they visited places such as the spring where Gideon's army was thinned out, the Bethlehem field where the angels visited the shepherds, and the Church of the Nativity, which is believed to be on top of where Jesus was born.

The travels culminated with a stay in Jerusalem, the religious hub of Israel. From here, the group visited numerous holy sites and traveled to nearby cities in the Dead Sea region.

The first day in Jerusalem focused on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The Salvationists toured the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, one of two possible sites of calvary and Jesus' tomb. This site is located toward the end of the Via Dolorosa, the path on which Jesus carried His cross. As the group traveled the limestone roads, they reflected on His sorrowful journey to calvary. The day concluded at the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane where Colonel Needham led a time of worship and teaching in the place where Jesus prayed before His arrest, trial and execution.

The next day focused on many historical and archaeological sites, including the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed a lame man; the City of David, a series of ongoing excavations outside the Temple Mount where King David's palace was built; and Hezekiah's Tunnel, a tunnel which provided and

protected the major water source for Jerusalem. Several Salvationists braved the journey through the dark tunnel, wading through the knee-high waters before exiting at the Pool of Siloam. The day concluded with a stark reminder that Jewish persecution is not a distant history. The group visited Yad Vashem, Jerusalem's Holocaust Museum, to learn, reflect and pray.

While the weather was beautiful for most of the trip, the day in the desert



was unique. Instead of experiencing the hot Judean desert, rain brought fast-flowing streams to life in the valleys. A few visits were cut short, but the group was able to experience some of the desert's wonders, including Qumran, the Jordan River, Jericho and the Dead Sea.

The final day brought vast experiences. Returning to Jerusalem, the pilgrims again turned their attention to Jesus' sacrifice by visiting the house of Caiaphas and a site where Jesus was likely imprisoned before His death. They held their final worship service at a place called the garden tomb—the second possible site where Jesus may have been crucified and buried. As each person entered the tomb, what they saw was no surprise: the tomb was empty. "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow," rang throughout the garden by Salvationists in song.



For many, the trip provided profound experiences. Soldier Yvonne Mongeau shared, "My intimate relationship with Jesus has become even closer." Captain Karla Salsbury's most memorable experience was at the Western Wall. "It was a sweet time of reflection and deep surrender as I drew near to God in that place," she shared. For Captain Rachel White, it was at the Pool of Bethesda. "There was a church there, and our group sang 'Jesus, Jesus, Jesus; There's just something about that name.' As we sang, the line hit me: 'Kings and kingdoms will all pass away, but there's something about that name.' Kingdoms do rise and fall—especially in this area—but the name of Jesus will never pass away."







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

## Doing Holiness

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.  
Galatians 5:6b (NIV)

by Dr. Bill Ury  
National Ambassador for Holiness

Being made holy must result in "doing the most good." Holiness includes every part of us: heart, soul, body, mind—everything. A gracious heart transformation is meant to be lived out, worked out, expressed in all our doing (1 Peter 1:15). Before sin marred all of creation, the Lord wanted us to work by tending a garden and to walk with Him. Every action was to arise from intimate self-giving trust. After we rejected His face, we turned to our actions (idolatry) in an attempt to give ourselves meaning. All of us know that any practice devoid of perfect love never truly satisfies.

Holiness includes every part of us: heart, soul, body, mind—everything.

It is a return to the original plan when our Sanctifier offers 10 "words" to order all our motives and actions. Holiness is meant to be expressed in a body in community. He desires that in every action of an ordinary person's life the Holy One is seen for who He is. Don't carve or bow down to an idol. Don't break the marriage covenant, lie, malign another or grab for yourself. As Charles Wesley loved to say, the Law is both a portrait of Who God is and a promise of what He can do in a human heart.

That was His plan for the world—that those He had called to be like Him would live as He would if He had a body. The sad history of the people of God is that they never fully comprehended their life's purpose—"to sanctify His Name among the nations." If a person cannot be made holy, then those who want to see how God acts will never witness that reality.

The problem is that we look at our stumbling lives and wonder how we can truly reflect the perfection of our eternal God.

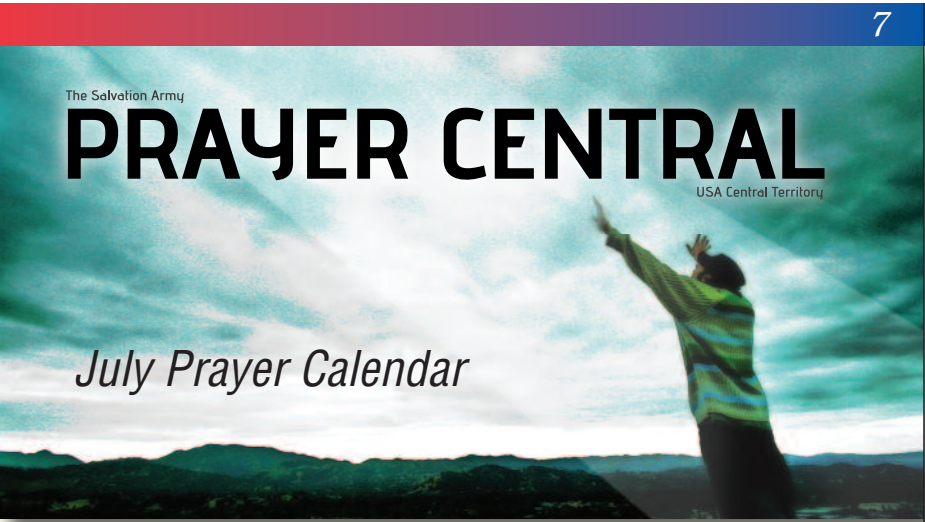
That is why Jesus took on our flesh as the Holy Son of God to show us what we forgot—the Holy

One in our human life. Everything He was and did injected hope that we might be brought back by His eternal plan. He directly tied perfect love to not greeting people because they can do something for us (Matthew 5:47-48).

Pentecost purified hearts; it did not perfect performance.

We know works don't save us. We also know that the Spirit enables works: walking and talking and working which are free of self-congratulation. The problem is that we look at our stumbling lives and wonder how we can truly reflect the perfection of our eternal God. Apparently, it is not as hard as we make it. Pentecost purified hearts; it did not perfect performance.

The One who sanctifies is not a tyrannical taskmaster. He offers all that He is to us, second by second, so that we can come to the place of knowing the actions of our lives arise out of a heart made perfect, one, whole, complete in love. The Spirit witnesses to the fact that He has access to all my being. That means that words, work and ways of living can arise out of a clean source. And that source is never a stagnant remnant of a past commitment. It is the Artesian well of empowering love sourced in the One who has made me to be His cleansed mind, His holy hands, His pure mouth, His compassionate feet.



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Saturday	Philippians 1-2	Indianapolis, Ind., ARC
	2 Sunday	Leviticus 10-12	Grand Haven, Mich., Corps
	3 Monday	2 Kings 1-5	Muskegon Citadel, Mich., Corps
	4 Tuesday	Psalms 78-80	Michigan City, Ind., Corps
	5 Wednesday	Proverbs 8-9	France and Belgium Territory
	6 Thursday	Ezekiel 19-24	Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps
	7 Friday	Luke 17-18	Decatur, Ill., Corps
	8 Saturday	Philippians 3-4	Jacksonville, Ill., Corps
	9 Sunday	Leviticus 13-15	Minneapolis, Minn., Harbor Light
	10 Monday	2 Kings 6-10	Milwaukee, Wis., Area Command
	11 Tuesday	Psalms 81-83	Indianapolis Fountain Square, Ind., Corps
	12 Wednesday	Proverbs 10	India Northern Territory
	13 Thursday	Ezekiel 25-30	Detroit Harbor Light, Mich., Corps
	14 Friday	Luke 19-20	Fort Wayne, Ind., Corps
	15 Saturday	Colossians 1-2	Bloomington, Ill., Corps
	16 Sunday	Leviticus 16-18	Jefferson City, Mo., Corps
	17 Monday	2 Kings 11-15	Noble Worship Center, Minn.
	18 Tuesday	Psalms 84-86	Great Lakes Harbor Light System
	19 Wednesday	Proverbs 11-12	Japan Territory
	20 Thursday	Ezekiel 31-36	Sheboygan, Wis., Corps
	21 Friday	Luke 21-22	Danville, Ill., Corps
	22 Saturday	Colossians 3-4	Evansville, Ind., Corps
	23 Sunday	Leviticus 19-21	Summer Camp Ministries
	24 Monday	2 Kings 16-20	Independence, Mo., Corps
	25 Tuesday	Psalms 87-89	Benton Harbor, Mich., Corps
	26 Wednesday	Proverbs 13	South Central, Kan., Area Command
	27 Thursday	Ezekiel 37-42	Kenya West Territory
	28 Friday	Luke 23-24	Des Plaines, Ill., Corps
	29 Saturday	1 Thessalonians 1-3	St. Charles, Mo., Corps
	30 Sunday	Leviticus 22-24	Pathway of Hope Families
	31 Monday	2 Kings 21-25	Quincy, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center
If you follow the prayer calendar during the year, you will have read through the Bible!			ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

## --Mustard Seeds--





# On the road again

If you spot a woman wearing a Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry (TSAMM) vest zipping down the highway on a three-wheeler Harley Tri-Glide motorcycle, it's Ellen Lloyd doing her favorite thing.

ships, repair shops, bike rallies and other bike-related events. "Any place where there are bikers," she said.

According to Ellen, a bike blessing is a fairly straightforward process.

"You basically just talk to the person a bit and pray with them. You say, 'Bless this bike; keep it safe; keep the driver safe; help them stay awake and alert,'" she explained.

Ellen usually travels in Midwestern states, but makes one long trip across the country each year. Texas was her destination in 2022— and New York the year before that. She goes to the annual famed Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota every year.

Ellen rode her mother's motorcycle when she was a teenager. It was not until she was 40 and she and her husband purchased a small motorcycle at a garage sale that she began to ride again. She joined TSAMM about five years ago.

She proudly wears her Salvation Army vest whenever she is out riding.

"It's amazing how many people come up to me when they see the vest. They tell me things like, 'The Salvation Army helped me as a child.' I have heard that comment many times," she said.

Ellen always has a traveling companion with her: a stuffed bear that rides on the back of her motorcycle. It acts as another point of connection with people.

"A lot of kids comment about the bear," Ellen said. "If a parent is OK with it, I will let a kid sit on the bike. It makes the kid's day."

When she is not on the road, Ellen is active at the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Omaha, Neb. She uses her sign-lan-



Ellen travels the country with her motorcycle ministry.

guage skills to sign during the singing of certain hymns during worship services and is involved in women's ministries. She also helps with the Angel Tree at Christmas.

Ellen enjoys making machine-sewn quilts ("I have made 10 in the last year," she said.) One quilt recently sold for \$300 at a fundraising auction with proceeds benefitting

the Christian Motorcyclists Association. She has given other quilts to friends and family; another quilt went to a local veteran in need.

Ellen has no plans to stop riding her motorcycle anytime soon.

She concluded, "God has led me into a wonderful ministry, serving him through the motorcycle. And it brings me great joy."



Captain Carolina Almendras-Yanez, Omaha Kroc Center officer, with Ellen

The 70-year-old Nebraska resident and retired nurse is a Salvationist who is on a mission to travel the country and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

"It's very freeing," Ellen said of being on the road. "You feel the breeze on your face. You smell the smells; you see the sights. You feel that God is there."

Ellen, who is also part of the Christian Motorcyclists Association, generally rides during the nine months of the Midwest's spring-through-fall seasons. But if a warm winter day should arrive, the cycle is out on the road.

"I had my bike out one day in January of this year. I went 50 miles that day," Ellen said proudly.

Ellen takes part in bike blessings and gives away Bibles at bike dealer-



Ellen is active in the women's ministries at her corps.

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

## STURGIS, SD MISSION 2023

August 4-7, 2023

Cost—\$200



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