



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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Heatwoles installed as national leaders

From the prelude by the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) to the rousing final song, the installation of Commissioners Merle and Dawn Heatwole as national commander and national secretary for program was an exhilarating meeting that celebrated God's faithfulness and joyfully anticipated the days to come.

The evening was replete with meaning from the CSB's Latin jazz rendition of the classic "Rejoice," tipping a hat to the Heatwoles' most recent appointment as leaders of the Latin America North Territory, to the reading of Romans 12:9-21 by Colonel Thomas Lewis, Commissioner Dawn's father who served with distinction with his wife, Colonel Mary Lewis.

After Commissioner Evie Diaz, territorial commander, opened the meeting, Colonel James Betts, national chief secretary, introduced the new national leaders to "those who know them best," which brought the crowd to its feet in ovation as the Heatwoles saluted.

National Advisory Board (NAB) Chairman Marc Belton gave a stirring speech, acknowledging God's sovereignty and pledging the NAB's support as the Heatwoles step into these leadership roles.

"Despite these times of unprecedented challenges, there exists unprecedented opportunity. I believe the Army is going to be called to double down and serve the least, the lost, the lonely and the left out in unprecedented ways," he said.

He further declared, "I believe that we will serve perhaps even in ways that we have never done before so that we can fulfill the mission to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in His name. No one can meet

these challenges alone, and we the members of the NAB are here to advise, uphold, support and enable you in any way we can."

Inspiring music was interspersed throughout the evening like the great hymn, "And Can It Be," led by the Heatwoles' sessionmate Major Carla Voeller and accompanied by the CSB, a group held dear by Commissioner Merle who used to play in its horn section, and some favorite worship songs like "Goodness of God" led by the Rockford Temple Praise Band.

Recognizing the Heatwoles' incredible officership dedicated to advancing the Army's mission around the world, Colonel Sue Betts, national secretary for personnel, expressed, "We are deeply grateful for your wisdom, for your experience and the unwavering commitment that you bring to your



Colonel Thomas Lewis

new roles at National Headquarters...and we are honored to serve alongside you as you continue the work that God has called you to."

She concluded, "We recognize that leadership is not just about direction. It's about faith. It's about trust and a shared calling and we are excited to follow... We believe under your leadership that God will continue to do great and mighty things through our Movement."

Commissioner Dawn Heatwole responded, "My heart is full... Many of you have known us for years. We stand here because of you."

Describing Rockford Temple, the venue for the installation, as representing the legacy of the territory in their spiritual development and calling, she said, "This is our way to

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Commissioners Cheryl and Kenneth Maynor conduct installation of Commissioners Dawn and Merle Heatwole as national leaders



Commissioner Merle Heatwole



Commissioner Dawn Heatwole

Central to host Korean Ministries Consultation

The Central Territory will host approximately 70 officers, auxiliary captains and envoys of Korean descent from the U.S. and Canada, September 15-18, for the 13th Americas Korean Ministries Consultation.

Held at the Chicago Mayfair Community Church (Corps), this year's consultation is themed, "Beyond Borders: Enhancing Our Reach," based on the message of Isaiah 54:2: "Enlarge the place of your tent," which is not only an important reminder about the importance of growth and expansion but an invitation to imagine something greater.

United sessions and a choice of workshops will allow delegates to engage in discussions and learning opportunities most relevant to their ministries and personal growth. A vital part of the consultation will be small group prayer gatherings which will provide a space for officers to seek God together, share their burdens and encourage one another in ministry.

"Prayer has always been a central part of the Korean officers' spiritual lives," said Major Alex Lim, chairman for this year's consultation. "Many would agree that the growth and strength of their ministries are deeply connected to this strong foundation of prayer. It is not just a practice but a core value that has shaped their ministry over the years."

This is the third time the Central Territory will host the annual consultation which began in 1987. In the beginning,

the consultation focused primarily on Korean ministries within The Salvation Army, addressing the unique challenges and needs of Korean officers and congregations in North America. It was a time for Korean officers to connect, support one another and strengthen their ministries.

The consultation has since expanded to explore how Korean officers and leaders can contribute to The Salvation Army's broader mission. Discussions now include cross-cultural engagement, leadership development, and new ministry opportunities that extend beyond the Korean community.

"This year's theme 'Beyond Borders: Enhancing Our Reach,' reflects this shift, emphasizing the importance of widening our impact and

embracing ministry opportunities that transcend cultural and linguistic boundaries," said Major Alex.

Today, many Korean officers are serving dynamically across various fields, moving beyond the boundaries of traditional Korean ministry. They are engaged in multicultural ministry, teaching at the College for Officer Training, and serving in administrative roles at divisional and territorial headquarters.

"These efforts reflect the essence of our calling, which is to continuously expand the work of God's Kingdom and bring about meaningful change. In obedience to God's calling, we aim to deepen our work and strengthen our influence," Major Alex concluded.

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Photos by Gretchen Schneider

Receive them with joy

by Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings
Territorial Secretary for Personnel

There is a fascinating portion of Paul's letter to the church at Philippi. After commending this church and its parishioners for being lights in the world, he speaks about his hope to send a young minister, Timothy, to them. Then Paul adds a brief post-script: "I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus" (Philippians 2:25).

Apparently, there is some history here between Epaphroditus (you will know who I mean if I reference him as E for the balance of this article right?), and the church in Philippi. It

appears that he has been away on a mission of mercy to care for Paul, and now Paul is sending him back. It is reasonable to think they may know E well; he is a local. However, Paul has determined that he needs to provide a bio as a way of reintroduction as he sends this person back to Philippi.

Paul provides five key points to this bio to reintroduce E to his home church. Here is what Paul has to say about E. He is my brother. This is to say that a kinship formed while he was away, ministering to Paul. Paul now considers E as a brother. E is a fellow worker. Not only did he come



to provide some comfort and ministry to Paul, but E got involved in the local work while away. E is a fellow soldier. Not only did he engage in work, but he was named as a fellow soldier. One can interpret this to mean that the work was, at times, difficult and perhaps dangerous. E is called Philippi's messenger. He represents his home church well. He remembered where he came from. Finally, E was credited as being a minister to my needs. He accom-

plished that, which he was sent to do. He became a minister to Paul in a challenging time in his journey. Paul was in prison in what scholars believe to be one of three places: Caesarea, Ephesus or Rome.

Paul concludes E's biography with a desire for the church to receive him with joy and honor in the Lord. As I reread this letter, I thought of our new lieutenants heading back out to corps across this territory. They are our brothers and sisters who were called away for a few years. They received training but also got involved in local ministry while away. The Army has thought it reasonable to send them to you. Receive them with joy and honor in the Lord as they come.

Installation

Continued from page 1

say thank you to many of you who have walked with us on this spiritual walk, and many, many, many of you who have prayed for us, especially for the last 10 years as we journeyed far from home...We are returning to this country with a broader view of Salvation Army ministry around the globe, a better understanding of what it means to serve in difficult places with great joy, and a love for a part of the world that before we arrived there we knew very little about."

She concluded, "We believe that God has amazing work to do in this country...And we pray that God will continue to use us as He has for the last 40 years. He has been faithful... He has been preparing us for this time."



Commissioner Evie Diaz

Commissioners Kenneth and Cheryl Maynor, international secretaries for the Americas and the Caribbean, then conducted the installation ceremony.



Colonel James Betts

"The new appointments with which you are now entrusted are further expressions of your lifelong covenant to God," said Commissioner Kenneth. "This covenant is grounded in the Junior Soldier Promise you made to love and obey Jesus and to tell others about Him, the Soldier's Covenant you signed declaring your belief in the Army doctrine and embracing its lifestyle standards of integrity, self-discipline and service, and the Officer's Covenant that has been at the heart of all of who you are and all that you have done in The Salvation Army with your pledge to win souls and make salvation the first purpose of your life."

Commissioner Cheryl charged them to be servant leaders with infectious enthusiasm, living life based on scriptural truths and providing visionary and practical leadership that will inspire effectiveness in proclaiming the gospel and building the Army as a strong evangelical force and implementing programs to meet human needs in Jesus' name.

She shared a letter from General Lyndon Buckingham, who commended the Heatwoles with joy and confidence and characterized them as wholly dedicated to God and to the great purposes for which God raised up The Salvation Army.

Commissioner Merle Heatwole then gave the evening's message, "Living in Harmony in a Disharmonious World." With the aid of a blaring CSB where each player "did their own thing," he grabbed attention, asserting the disharmonious sound reminds us of the world crashing in on us as people with opposing views often shout with rage and bitterness. He then asked how we as Christians can live in harmony. Expounding on scripture, incorporating powerful modern-day examples and occasionally humor, his sermon was compelling and clearly captured what is vital to living in peace as we're called to do in Romans 9:16.

"If we are going to live in harmony in a disharmonious world, it must

start with each of us recognizing that God needs to change us from the inside out if we're ever going to be able to love the way Jesus loved and learn to love our enemies," he said. "We simply can't do this on our own. The first step is being willing to surrender everything, every part of our life to God. Then we can be transformed by His love."

With the CSB playing William Himes' well-loved composition "All that I am" and family and friends encircling them, the Heatwoles knelt in prayer, committing themselves again to God as they take on their new responsibilities. Many in the audience stood, showing support in these sacred moments.

As the evening concluded, everyone joined in singing with confidence, "I'll go in the strength of the Lord," while Colonel Lewis waved the dear old Army flag.



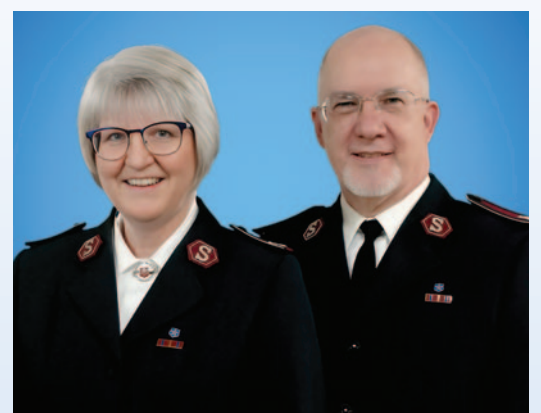
Marc Belton



International Appointments

On behalf of Territorial Commander Commissioner Evie Diaz, we are pleased to share the following announcement of appointments:

Colonels Philip and Sheila Davisson will serve at International Headquarters with Colonel Philip as Secretary for Training and Leader Development and Colonel Sheila



as Secretary for International Personnel. They will assume these responsibilities on August 1, 2025. They currently lead the South America East Territory.

Captain Mary Kim will become the International College for Officers (ICO) Chaplain on July 1, 2025. She currently serves as Director of Curriculum at the College for Officer Training in Chicago, Ill.

Please join us in praying for these Central Territory officers as they conclude their current responsibilities and prepare to serve God in their upcoming roles.



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Creating a community of hope

Ministry at the Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps extends far past the corps building to an entire campus of services and into the community. From residential programs which house veterans and others working to get back on their feet to community outreach, activities for children and adults, and music education, it's round-the-clock service in the name of Christ.

For Majors Mark and Susan Anderson, corps officers, bringing those living on campus and from the surrounding neighborhood together to create an integrated worship community is paramount.

"We're trying to incorporate people from campus, but we're also doing community outreach," said Major Susan. "We feel that engaging the community in addition to those residing on campus is going to keep the Army alive and growing."

Campus services include permanent supportive housing for a limited number of individuals and a residential program for veterans who are working toward being job-ready and living independently. Also on campus is a new Sober Living home where up to 20 people can live for up to two years and work toward building a new life.

Reaching out to individuals on campus is an ongoing effort. With the help of dedicated staff and volunteers, residents are welcomed to attend weekly activities and worship at the corps.



Veteran's program staff provide information about services at a community event.

"We have a team that sees their work as a ministry," said Major Susan. "We invite people who come to us for assistance as well."

Off-campus, connections with senior housing complexes allow for ministry to older adults. Along with community care ministries like delivering monthly care packages to residents at the Booth Manor and hosting "Bingo and Bible Study" in their activities room, older adults from the community are connected to the corps through "New Beginnings," a monthly luncheon and fellowship at the corps.

Pathway of Hope (POH) is thriving, with 14 families enrolled and four having recently completed the initiative. Hope Burris, POH case worker and soldier, invites participants to find a community of support at the corps through activities and worship. In addition, she helps plan events like a community baby shower which recently celebrated 10 women and

their babies with a program, gifts and a message of hope.

In the broader community, making connections can be more challenging. Door-to-door visitation and social media promotion of youth programs, men's and women's ministries, Bible study and Sunday worship have garnered interest from the neighborhood.

Through Bravo, Kansas/Western Missouri Division's music education initiative, connections have been made with youth and their families. Free lessons in piano, percussion and brass provide youth with access to



Major Susan Anderson and a volunteer grill lunch for Booth Manor residents.

opportunities that might not otherwise be available to them. Bravo students play in a small brass band for Sunday worship and host recitals which are attended by family, friends and corps members.

Earlier this year three individuals, including a man from the Sober Living house who graduated from the adult rehabilitation center, and a mother and daughter who started attending the corps through POH (see sidebar), were enrolled.



In recognition of their dedicated and passionate service, the Kansas City Citadel Corps received the "Dotte Proud" award from Wyandotte County.

A place where they belong

Participating in the Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative at the Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps has been life altering for Jessica Kruse and her 13-year-old daughter, Caralynn. Once living in their car and barely hanging on, they are now comfortably housed and moving forward surrounded by the support of corps officers Majors Mark and Susan Anderson, case-worker Hope Burris, and the family they've found at The Salvation Army.



"What's so great about POH is you can make that connection and then they can get to know you and find out about other things going on at the corps," said Hope, who also is a soldier. "It's an opportunity to minister to people fully."

Jessica, who works as a caregiver, learned about POH when she started bringing her client to the corps' senior program, New Beginnings. Through POH, Jessica set goals to secure housing and get on track financially. With Hope's support and encouragement, Jessica applied for assistance through the Department of Human Services, secured Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income, and moved with her daughter into an apartment.

As with every client, Hope also ex-

tended an invitation for Jessica and Caralynn to attend the corps' weekly programs and Sunday worship.

"I want all of my clients to know that they can have a place here in our worship setting," she said. "It helps that I attend the corps, so if they come there is a familiar face in the congregation."

After their first visit, Jessica and Caralynn felt so welcomed that they began attending weekly activities including women's ministries, character-building programs and the Bravo music program. Recently, they were enrolled as senior and junior soldiers. They've finally found a place where they belong.

"It's wonderful to see how far they've come," concluded Major Mark. "They are both uniform-wearing soldiers and are loving the Lord and loving the people around them."

USA CENTRAL TERRITORY BELONGING UNITED IN PRAYER 2025 WEEKLY PRAYER TOPICS

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer." Acts 2:42 (NIV)

Week of June 1: *Belonging 2025*

Week of June 8: *The Commissioning of the "Champions of the Mission" Session*

Week of June 15: *A week of giving thanks for Belonging 2025*

Week of June 22: *Officers who are farewelling*

Week of June 29: *Corps congregations welcoming their new officers*



I commit to...

- Praying for **BELONGING 2025**.
- Praying for the different programs and ministries of The Salvation Army.
- Praying for those entering our doors to feel like they BELONG.
- Praying for myself and my relationship with Christ.

Signature _____

Date _____

A focus and foundation

by Lt. Julie Reed
Minot, N.D., Corps Officer

As I have gone through my first year of being an officer, it has been my goal to establish a good foundation in how I work and minister. God has been faithful. As my husband and I have been working to develop our corps and routines, God has been working to develop me.

During this year, I have found everything feels urgent. As corps officers we must be managers, facilitators, developers, pastors, programmers, administrators and so much more—all at once. At first, this felt overwhelming and trying to focus on everything was impossible. But God has shown me over and over that I don't need to focus on everything all at once and, in fact, I can't do everything all at once. All I need is to focus on Christ. Nothing I do has value if it's not done for Christ. If I focus on Jesus and prioritize Him in all I do, everything will fall into place.



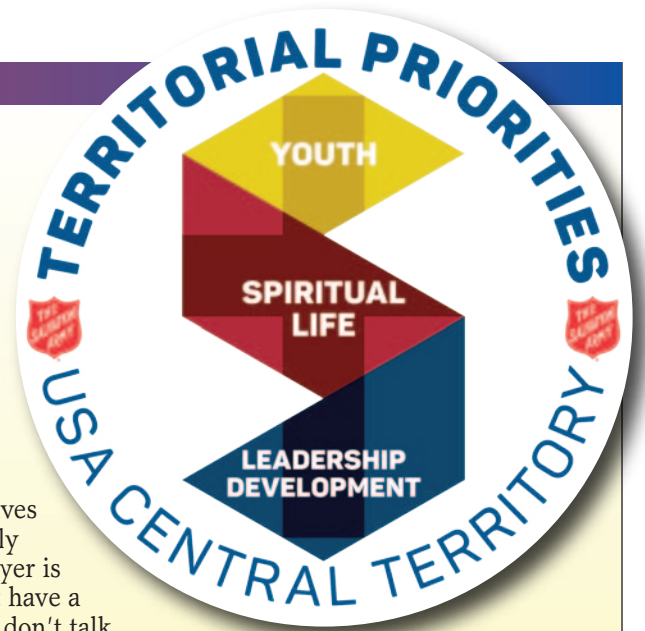
This focus makes it important to have a framework of what we should prioritize so that we are working toward our desired outcomes.

The Territorial Priorities have given me direction. Since Christ is the main focus of all we do, spiritual life must be the foundation. If what we are doing is of ourselves and not God, it eventually will fail. This is why prayer is so important. We cannot have a God-centered plan if we don't talk to God. It is beautiful that we can bring our struggles, celebrations, needs and thoughts directly to Him, knowing that He sees us and cares for us and what we are going through.

Already I've been able to witness the future of The Salvation Army through our youth and those who are being developed and disciplined. Prioritizing youth, our corps recently was approved to hire a youth ministries director through the territory's Good Soil Initiative. This position will open new opportunities for our corps, and we are pray-

ing God will grow our congregation through it.

The priorities focus us on God and help us lean into His strength rather than our own. As we pour into others, I have found the Holy Spirit fills us. There is no end to God's goodness, and we cannot drain Him. There is always enough of Him to go around. When we are weak, He is strong. When we pour into others out of Christ, we have no need to fear becoming empty, God will fill us new again.



Bless this space

by Merri Bennett

"Most Loving God, grant to this new Salvation Army Ed French Corps Community Center, the grace of Your Presence and bless now, the spaces within. Bless all those that will enter, that will be assisted, prayed with, and served," prayed Major Jodi Montgomery, who leads the corps in Niles, Mich., with her husband, Major Nic Montgomery.

With tears in her eyes, Major Jodi welcomed a crowd of more than 100 people to their new corps building during a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony this spring. The event took place almost one year to the day of the facility's groundbreaking.

Due to the previous building's age and in order to increase service, funds were raised to build the new corps which includes a commercial kitchen to use for the hot lunch program, a client-choice food pantry, social services offices and a multi-purpose chapel for prayer and worship.



Following the ribbon cutting in front of the new building, a dedication ceremony was held in the new chapel. Along with Majors Montgomery, the ceremony featured remarks from Territorial Commander Commissioner Evie Diaz, Great Lakes Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel Steven J. Merritt, the project architect, construction partners, and a member of the Ed French family, one of the many donors who helped make the dream of the new corps become a reality.

"The thing I love about building dedications is that they're not about the building," Major Jodi said. "They're about the places and spaces that are created for people to come and gather, worship, pray, laugh, cry, give, receive, to find hope and healing and most of all to be loved. That's what we want this place to be."



Lt. Colonels Christine and Steven Merritt with Majors Jodi and Nic Montgomery



Territorial Commander Commissioner Evie Diaz and Jerry French, son of donor Ed French whose name is on the building, cut the ribbon at the corps dedication.

ALL WE NEED

A new podcast focusing on spiritual health

Each month a guest joins Territorial Commander Commissioner Evie Diaz to discuss the Central Territory's priorities of spiritual life, youth or leadership development.

Episode V: A Conversation with One of Our Cadets, Scott Rodriguez

Listen and subscribe through your favorite podcast app.

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. — 2 Peter 1:3 (NIV)



Becoming a "camp girl"

Learning to grow when planted in the middle of nowhere

by Lisa Bell

God must have a sense of humor. Growing up, I was never a "camp girl." I liked to visit camp but preferred to go home to my own bed at night. It just wasn't my thing.

leading with excellence requires dependence on God. I've listened as they've struggled because the job was harder than they expected. Then, I've watched them lead in a strength that is not their own. God has given me the privilege of pouring into their lives. It is one of the hardest jobs I've ever done. God has stretched me enormously, and I'm a better person because of it.



In 2016 Lisa and Dan Bell and sons Anderson, 2, and Miles, 4, began their camp journey.

Then in 2016 my husband, Dan, interviewed for a job at Hidden Falls Camp in Southern Indiana. I prayed God would close that door. Instead, He threw it wide open. I didn't understand it at the time. I grieved the loss of *my way* while surrendering to *God's way*. I wondered what good could come from living in the middle of nowhere. As it turns out, a lot.

This summer is my family's 10th year serving at Hidden Falls Camp, and I will be the first one to tell you God's plans are so very good! On its grounds I've watched my two boys grow from toddlers to young men. I've brought home a daughter who doesn't know anything else but this place. I've seen my husband become a strong and confident leader. I've found a family that extends beyond the five people who live in my house. I have a meaningful ministry. I've come to love living in the middle of nowhere.

The Salvation Army has a huge impact for God's Kingdom with children who come onto our campgrounds each summer. Summer staff are impacted just as much. They work tirelessly, sometimes in thankless jobs, and learn firsthand that

My kids love summer just as much as the campers. I almost never hear "I'm bored" in the summer months. At a young age, they learned to swim like professionals. They know how the high ropes course operates and get to "help" during training week. They love assisting in the snack shop

and participating in camp games. Most of all, they have friends who never go home in the summer. This isn't just camp, it's home.



Miles conquers the zip line in 2023.

I like to compare summers at camp to the Christmas season for corps. We go nonstop for weeks, barely coming up for air. Camp is a



Community outreach at a local school

battleground for the Lord. We get calls at midnight, pull all-nighters, pray hard and solve problems. We see lives saved by Christ, children find refuge, people form lifelong friendships, and staff and campers leave these grounds stronger in their walk with the Lord. Summers are hard but rewarding. I've witnessed God's faithfulness in sustaining us and meeting our every need. At the end of the summer—usually following a couple weeks of vacation—we look back at all God has accomplished and marvel at what He has done. With each passing year, my heart experiences more peace because God has proven He is trustworthy.

ing maintenance projects and cut grass nonstop.

What some call the "off season" isn't that at all. We serve retreat groups which worship, pray and laugh together. We host church youth groups and witness them connecting with God in new and fresh ways. We see men's groups find freedom from addiction. We watch missionaries find rest after serving in countries where the church must remain secret. We listen to their stories and watch their children run and play with abandon. We serve taekwondo leaders from across the country who gather to train and have an impact with

the gospel on their students. We hear high school choirs rehearse and watch football teams train for the upcoming season. We've even witnessed the National Guard train through the night in the bitter cold so they can better serve our state. The list goes on. Yes, camp



Camp staff at a wedding

Ministry extends beyond summer. When the campgrounds become quiet, full-time staff are still at work. They are more than employees; they are an extended part of our family: Dan, Isaac, John, Logan, Hanna, their families. Our children act like siblings and celebrate milestones together. We genuinely enjoy being with each other. We all love camp, want what is best for it, and take pride in how it's run. It has won our hearts.

ministry extends far beyond summer.

When I look back, it's humorous that I thought I knew better than God. I am so glad He moved me out my comfort zone to where I belong: camp.

God has knit together our little team, and we serve in countless ways throughout the year. We lifeguard pool parties, build relationships in the community, and host rental groups that amaze us with their kindness and generosity. We wash dishes, cook meals, scrub floors and clean cabins. We work on never-end-



Kids of camp staff enjoy a snow day.



Miles, Anderson and Natalie Bell with their grandma, Lt. Colonel Collette Webster, in 2019

How I belong



Kemp Thonesavanh

Madison, Wis.

What do you do with The Salvation Army?

I have been serving as the Corps Sergeant-Major at the International Corps since 2008. I teach Lao Sunday school and lead prayer for Sunday worship. I'm in charge of the kitchen on Sunday. I help transport people to church, sit on the Corps Council, do home and hospital visits, and step in and preach when the officers are not here. I love to serve people. I believe that is one of my strongest gifts.

Why do you do it?

First, I love God, and I want to serve Him. Matthew 20:26-28 reminds me that I am to be a servant of the Lord. It brings joy into my heart, and it brings a smile into people's lives. I do what I do is because of God's grace and mercy. I also love The Salvation Army's old motto, "Heart to God and Hand to Man."

What's the best part about your service with The Salvation Army?

I consider myself blessed to be a part of this great organization that accepts all people and helps everyone who is in need. The Salvation Army allows me to use my gifts, talents and abilities in the areas that are needed.

How did you become involved with the Army?

I found out about The Salvation Army through my wife. She attended a Sunday service there first. I also met some Salvation Army officers at the Lao Conference of Churches. When I returned home from the conference, I started to attend the corps.

What are you praying for right now?

I am praying for all my children, grandchildren and daughter in-law to grow closer to God and to serve Him. And I am also praying for my own health, so I can be stronger and healthier.

What is your favorite scripture?

Psalms 91:1-7

If you could have an unlimited supply of one thing, what would it be?

It would be my health. I want to be healthy, so I can serve the Lord more effectively with no limitation and more strength.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I love to go fishing and enjoy God's creation. And I also love to work in my garden.

Translation courtesy of Majors Vong and Ting Luangkhamdeng

Keeping their focus on God

For nearly two years, Central Territory officers Captains Derek and Heather Jung have been serving as corps officers in the scenic city of Gumi, South Korea. In the midst of challenges created by political conflict and a polarized population, they have kept their focus on God, trusting His guidance for their ministry.

"While there are many external factors hindering the corps' growth, we have come to realize that the more critical aspects are internal and spiritual," said Captain Derek. "Under God's guidance, we have been working toward phased spiritual growth each year."

In 2025, the tightknit corps family is pursuing God through learning to pray the scriptures, building on 2024's theme "A Life that Awakens at Dawn" which led them through the Bible and encouraged a habit of meeting with God first thing in the morning.

For this year's theme, "A Life of Prayer," a new scripture-based prayer is shared each month, and the congregation and Captains Jung reflect on and pray it together regularly. On Sunday mornings, a prayer-focused group meets to write in gratitude and prayer journals, spending at least half an hour dedicated to talking with God individually before gathering to pray for the country, its leaders and for peace to prevail.



Captain Heather Jung visits with a family.

"We believe that when all the members of the corps grow spiritually through the Word and prayer, they will be able to share the gospel, and when new people join, they will be welcomed with God's love, leading to outward growth as well," said Captain Derek. The yearly themes,



Captain Derek Jung delivers a food box.

he said, have been designed to bring people closer to God and foster a deeper walk with Him.

Outreach can be difficult, but Salvationists in Gumi dedicate time, energy and resources to serving the community in Christ's name, including distributing meals to those experiencing homelessness and visiting families with severely disabled members to deliver essential items.

In March, the Jungs joined with other corps in the Gyeongbuk Division to provide relief and minister to people affected by unprecedented wildfires in the nearby mountains. During the roughly seven days of wildfire, the division provided meals to approximately 2,000 people daily, along with water, blankets and other emergency supplies.

"Based on our experiences so far, we have observed that officers in Korea possess remarkable talent and strong dedication, doing their utmost in relatively challenging environments," said the captain. "With God's help, we hope that the Korea Salvation Army will grow both spiritually and numerically, enabling it to serve God and help more neighbors in need."



During unprecedented wildfires in South Korea, Captains Derek and Heather Jung assist with disaster relief efforts.

July Prayer Calendar

<i>My Prayer List</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Bible Reading</i>	<i>Pray for The Salvation Army</i>
	1 Tuesday	<i>Matthew 6:33</i>	<i>Anderson, Ind., Corps</i>
	2 Wednesday	<i>John 18:36</i>	<i>Bismark, N.D., Corps</i>
	3 Thursday	<i>Luke 17:20-21</i>	<i>Burnsville, Minn., 360 Life Center</i>
	4 Friday	<i>Daniel 2:44</i>	<i>India Northern Territory</i>
	5 Saturday	<i>Mark 1:15</i>	<i>Chicago Lawn, Ill., Corps</i>
	6 Sunday	<i>Romans 14:17</i>	<i>Columbus, Ind., Corps</i>
	7 Monday	<i>Matthew 25:34</i>	<i>Des Plaines, Ill., Corps</i>
	8 Tuesday	<i>Daniel 7:27</i>	<i>El Dorado, Kan., 360 Life Center</i>
	9 Wednesday	<i>Acts 28:31</i>	<i>Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps</i>
	10 Thursday	<i>John 3:3</i>	<i>Goshen, Ind., Corps</i>
	11 Friday	<i>I Chronicles 29:11</i>	<i>Japan Territory</i>
	12 Saturday	<i>Matthew 5:3</i>	<i>Hammond-Munster, Ind., Corps</i>
	13 Sunday	<i>Zechariah 14:9</i>	<i>Independence, Mo., Corps</i>
	14 Monday	<i>Psalms 103:19</i>	<i>Kansas City Blue Valley, Mo., Corps</i>
	15 Tuesday	<i>Colossians 3:1-4</i>	<i>Lakewood Temple, Minn., Corps</i>
	16 Wednesday	<i>Luke 12:32</i>	<i>Milwaukee Citadel, Wis., Corps</i>
	17 Thursday	<i>Matthew 19:14</i>	<i>Monroe, Mich., Corps</i>
	18 Friday	<i>Ephesians 2:19-20</i>	<i>Northwest Missouri Service Extension</i>
	19 Saturday	<i>Matthew 16:19</i>	<i>Summer Camp</i>
	20 Sunday	<i>Romans 12:2</i>	<i>Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea Territory</i>
	21 Monday	<i>Matthew 5:10</i>	<i>Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps</i>
	22 Tuesday	<i>John 3:5</i>	<i>Richmond, Ind., 360 Life Center</i>
	23 Wednesday	<i>I John 2:15-17</i>	<i>Sioux City, Iowa, Corps</i>
	24 Thursday	<i>Psalms 24:10</i>	<i>St. Cloud, Minn., Corps</i>
	25 Friday	<i>I Timothy 1:17</i>	<i>Traverse City, Mich., Corps</i>
	26 Saturday	<i>Matthew 5:19</i>	<i>Brazil Territory</i>
	27 Sunday	<i>Colossians 1:13-14</i>	<i>Wayne Westland, Mich., Corps</i>
	28 Monday	<i>Matthew 24:14</i>	<i>Western DHQ</i>
	29 Tuesday	<i>John 15:19</i>	<i>Youth Ministry</i>
	30 Wednesday	<i>Matthew 6:10</i>	<i>Grand Valley, Mich., Area Command</i>
	31 Thursday	<i>2 Kings 21-25</i>	<i>Switzerland, Austria and Hungary Territory</i>

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

A column on holiness

The satisfaction of biblical holiness

by Envoy Diane Ury
National Ambassador for Holiness

What is it like to truly live a life of biblical holiness?

Often when we think of how choosing this life might play itself out, we picture something dull, constraining, or even painful. Many times I've heard people say that to be entirely sanctified is to have power to resist falling into willful sin. OK. I understand that line of thinking. But to be honest that is not the first thing that comes to my mind when I think about why God implores us to be holy.

This holy God is our Creator. He is the only one true God. His essence is Love. Steadfast, unflinching, compassionate Lovingkindness is not merely how He acts, it's Who He is. He is the Source of all that is good, true, and beautiful. Jesus is this God who created us and became one of us because He designed our human nature to exist every moment in union with Himself. Jesus Christ is the Life. There is no life outside of Him. Whatever else implies that it offers anything good, any life outside of Jesus Christ, is a damnable lie.

We thirst for the Living God. Everything within us cries out for Him!

Each person is born captive to the corruption that results from separation from this One. It's a dreadful condition of hopeless despair. We thirst for Life because until we give ourselves to Him, we're living a desolate wilderness existence. Our soul gasps for Him as a parched land (Psalm 143:6), and we don't even realize our thirsty behavior is wrecking everything our heart truly needs.

All through the Bible our Rescuer calls out to us that He is the only One Who can slake our thirst. "My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You, in a dry and weary land where there is no water... Your Lovingkindness is better than life itself... My soul is satisfied" (Psalm 63:1, 3, 5, NASB). "They shall be satisfied with the plenteousness of Thy house, and Thou shalt give them drink of Thy pleasures as out of river" (Psalm 36:8, TCB). "We will be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Your holy temple" (Psalm 65:4, NASB).

Our God of Holy Love longs to pour delicious, rich, satisfying pleasure of His own Being into our drought-stricken hearts. Jesus says, "If you only knew who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a



drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water... Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life" (John 4:10, 13-14, NLT).

We thirst for the living God. Everything within us cries out for Him! He cries out to us, "If anyone is thirsty, let them come to Me and drink!" (John 7:37)

We tend to think we must strive for holiness, plod joylessly on our endless, faulting holiness journey. What if we were to drink of His pleasures as out of a river? What if we were to posture our gasping souls in such a way that He continuously has access to our inner being, pouring His gracious mercy into our thinking and living? What do you think would happen to our behavior? Self-centered sinfulness would be washed away because of the plenteousness of His loving Presence. Obedience will be a natural no-brainer because it flows out of Love. That is what a life of holiness is—"filled up to all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19).

To be entirely sanctified is to be entirely satisfied. All who are thirsty, come and drink.

--Mustard Seeds--



Spiritually enriching steps

by Major Jenny Ortman

Forty-three pilgrims from the Central Territory took somewhere near 450,000 combined steps over 12 days in Greece and Turkey while on the Biblical Education Tour (BET). And it would have been a whole lot more if not for the modern convenience of a bus. Many of the steps were taken on the very stones the Apostle Paul trod in his three missionary journeys. Some also were taken around all seven of the churches the Apostle John speaks about in Revelation.

The trip began with devotions at Central Territorial Headquarters. Territorial Commander Commissioner Evie Diaz encouraged us to set aside distractions and separate from our normal routines for a time to grow and gain knowledge and depth.

Colonels Janice and Steve Howard provided devotional thoughts, while Lt. Colonel Darlene Harvey, officer resource development secretary, provided leadership and care for the group. Teaching moments were presented by Dr. Rob DeGeorge and local guides in each country.

In Greece we had dinner with the corps officers in both Athens and



Colonel Janice Howard gives a meditation in a cave church in Cappadocia

Thessaloniki. We learned about their unique ministries, prayed with them and provided funds in a collection taken by officers on the tour.

Thanks to endowments and special collections this particular tour was enriched by including officers from Jamaica, Majors Desmond and Marie Davis, and Eastern Europe, Majors Valeriu and Victoria Lalac, as well as Majors Paul and Amy Jo Ferguson, Central officers currently serving in the Middle East.

Through the BET the Central Territory invests in officers' spiritual and knowledge development. This directly results in preaching and teaching that is informed by experience in

the places where the biblical text happened, given by officers who have taken this time to intentionally seek spiritual depth.

The words of Paul's letters and John's words in Revelation rang in our ears the entire trip. As we stood in ancient temples built to honor other gods, it struck me that the false gods Paul cautioned people about had names and images far more real to his original listeners, and it made his instructions about how to worship the one true God more real to me as well.

As we visited the bemas (platforms), acropolises (high places), agoras (marketplaces), prisons, synagogues, hills and other structures that the apostles and ancient Christians would have known, so many clarifications of scripture were given. The water pipes in Laodicea helped us understand how water temperature was an ideal teaching illustration for them in Revelation. Another Revelation passage references the throne of Satan and seeing a physical throne created for Zeus in Pergamon connected the truth of needing to stand strong for God, no matter where we live. Church history also came alive as we toured churches built in caves to be hidden from persecution and as we saw the places where saints Basil and Polycarp lived and died.



Photos by Major Donna Leedom

Captain Amanda Hoscheit summed up the tour well, saying, "This trip has been a truly transformative adventure, filled with profound moments of growth, beauty and discovery. As I walked through historic sites, I was struck by the realization that every masterpiece was once hidden, waiting for someone with vision and perseverance to uncover its beauty. Similarly, our faith is a journey of uncovering the truth and grace that comes from Jesus Christ and embracing the journey with patience, dedication, and an open heart."



The library at Ephesus



The 43 Central Territory pilgrims with Thessaloniki Corps Officers Lts. Paul and Rachel Anastasiou

"Let Them Come"

by Lt. Vincent Cusack

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven'" (Matthew 19:14, ESV). What a beautiful portion of scripture this is. People were bringing their children to Jesus, desiring for Him to bless them, when the disciples rebuked them. Jesus responded, "Let them come," revealing youth are close to His heart and have purpose in His Kingdom.

At the Chicago Midway, Ill., Corps, we offer the same invitation: let them come! The Territorial Priority of Youth stands at the heart of our mission. As the corps officer, along with my wife, Lt. Maria Medina-Cusack, it has been the honor of my life to join God in the spiritual development of youth. Our corps is a safe haven for young people on the southwest side of Chicago. Currently, we have an afterschool program open year-round, yes even during the Christmas season. I love serving God and the many expressions of our Army, but there is something special and fulfilling about the opportunity to stand at the door of the corps and welcome youth every day into the house of God.

Every young person who comes to our corps brings a different story. Many come from hard circumstances and need a place of light and love. What a blessing it is to be that place. We want each young person to feel loved and encouraged to embrace their purpose and potential as a child of God. This takes many forms from having a safe place to do homework, learning how to play a musical in-



strument to enjoying a hot meal every day.

But the greatest gift we share is the gospel, the love of Jesus. Words can't express how satisfying it is to see God working in their lives and watching them grow in confidence, discover their gifts and experience the love of Christ. God is moving in this generation. What an honor it is to be part of this Kingdom work—to witness young lives transformed by God's love.

So, as Jesus said, "Let them come."



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