



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)

Volume 48, Number 3

March 2018

The joy of self-denial

Last year, under the 20 New Corps in 2017 initiative, World Services/Self-Denial giving by officers and soldiers increased by over \$218,000 across the territory! Continuing to build on

this momentum, the 2018 World Services/Self-Denial theme is "Self-Denial Transforms" with a focus on three specific projects: a medical clinic in Kenya, a women's empowerment program in India, and an income-generating soccer field program in Latin America. These projects highlight three different ministries geared toward children, women and men. They all demonstrate the ways self-denial giving can transform us all—our lives, hearts, communities and corps!

Salvation Army-operated nursery schools for children, ages 3-5, are an important part of ministry in the Kenya East Territory. Children in Kenya must

attend nursery school in order to obtain entrance to primary school. To keep the children healthy, **The Salvation Army's Nursery School Health and Nutrition Project** will take a dynamic approach to addressing the health and nutrition challenges faced by children and families in their schools. A mobile medical clinic service that

consists of a fully equipped vehicle, staffed by a small team of health professionals will travel around to the nurseries to increase coverage of basic health and preventative services. In addition, the nursery schools will teach personal hygiene and the relationship between what we eat and health, along with exercise.

The Salvation Army in India is positively impacting the economic, social, educational and spiritual health of more than 5,400 families through its **Integrated Community Empowerment Program**. Participants in this program, most of whom are women, meet together regularly in self-help groups where they are given opportunities for saving money, taking out small loans in order to start businesses, practicing accountability, learning new skills and, in turn, improving their personal financial situations. Many group members now have a more consistent form of income, are able to afford school fees for their children and have

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Transformed by the Cross

by General André Cox

The message of God's restorative and redemptive love, as evidenced in the Cross and empty tomb, is still as powerful and relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago.

The Cross is central to our faith and gospel message. It is integral to everything we believe and is our motivation in reaching a dying world with the message of hope, love and salvation. The Cross is purposefully located at the center of the Salvation Army crest.

A Personal Encounter

Each of us needs to have a personal interaction with the Cross, for it is there that we kneel to surrender our lives to Christ. The Cross is our place of repentance for sin; where we receive restorative grace and begin a new life in Christ.

The Cross is transformative as God's love, grace and forgiveness are unleashed in our lives. We come to the Cross condemned but leave forgiven (Romans 8:1). We come to the Cross dead in our sin, but leave with new life in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20). Through the Cross our eternal destination changes from Hell to Heaven (John 3:16).

The Salvation Army's sixth doctrine states: "We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has by His suffering and death made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever will may be saved." The Cross is available for everyone and the gospel message is for the whosoever—this is central to our faith and witness, particularly as Salvationists.

We know this. We preach this. The key question and challenge is: do we always experience the power,



reality and transformation of the Cross in our own lives?

More Than ...

You see, it is more than simply admitting sin and acknowledging our need of salvation; more than recognizing that Jesus died for our sin; more than a personal and corporate need; more than a simply sacrificial act.

Yes, the Cross is about the price of sin being paid, but it is also about the power of sin being bro-

ken. Yes, the Cross is about forgiveness, but it is also about restoration. Yes, the Cross reminds us of our weakness, but it is also a place of power. We come in shame, but we leave in victory!

The Cross is about victory over the powers of evil. The Cross cancels the curse of sin and breaks its power.

Christians can have lives of victory and strength because of the Cross. Defeat is exchanged for victory. Weakness is exchanged for strength. The old self is left behind and the new self is embraced.

This gospel of Christ and the power of the Cross are holistic. Our 10th doctrine clearly states that we believe "that it is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and that their whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved blame-

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March Madness and the glass slipper

by Lt. Colonel Richard Amick
Secretary for Business Administration

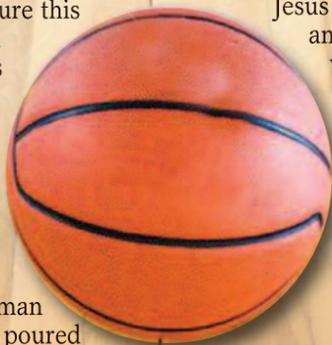
"When Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, 'Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.'" (Luke 8:50, NKJV)

I love basketball in March. It's really at its best! Once again, the Madness will rise to the occasion. This year's NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Tournament will have its share of upsets and surprises. A team out of nowhere will advance much farther than any of the prognosticators predicted. But like others on the court, Cinderella team or not, they played their way in and deserve to be on the dance floor.

Perhaps having a granddaughter who was born at the height of March Madness and who loves to dance and loves Cinderella is making me think about the term "Cinderella team." Isn't it interesting that basketball

teams are compared to a lowly girl who got an amazing, some may say, undeserved gift? I'm sure this year's Cinderella team doesn't mind at all. As the saying goes, if the shoe fits, wear it. Make the most of it!

At one point in Jesus' ministry, He was invited to dinner by a Pharisee. While there, an immoral woman came to see Him. She poured perfume on Jesus' feet, and her tears fell freely as she wiped them away with her hair. This bothered Simon the Pharisee, who interestingly enough, doubted Jesus.



Jesus told him a compelling story of two people who owed money and of cancelled debt. Simon didn't think the woman was worthy to be around Jesus, let alone touch Him. However, Jesus said because of her faith and love, she was not only welcomed but her sins were forgiven. She went from rags to riches in spirit and in truth that night. She was given the glass slipper of forgiveness and salvation.

Some may think this year's

Cinderella team and this immoral woman did not deserve what they received. Human nature tends to look at a person's or team's history and pass judgment, but Jesus looks at the heart and the here and now. Regardless of what we think, she was forgiven when she came to Jesus as are we when we confess our sins and make things right with Him. We all get the glass slipper treatment when we come to Christ in repentance. He takes off the old and puts on us a new, pure, spotless life so we may live forever in His glory. Let's not get caught up in Simon's mistake. If we really understand what the cross means in terms of love and grace, we will realize we are all in need of the glass slipper of forgiveness. Without it, we're only Cinderella wannabes.

Self-denial

Continued from page 1

hope for a brighter future. Some also testify to entering into a relationship with Jesus Christ because of their participation in the program.

The Latin America North (LAN) Territory is working hard to find local sources of income to maintain the service programs they provide within their territory. Because of the cultural passion for soccer in many Central



Surveying the area for the new soccer field in Concepcion, Costa Rica

weekend hours. The fields will use turf and roofs so they will be available year-round, regardless of

inclement weather. The Soccer Fields for LAN Territory, planned for Costa Rica and Guatemala, will generate income for Salvation Army-run schools, rehabilitation centers, homeless drop-in programs and other ministries.



American countries, they have developed a plan for building weather resistant fields for rental income. Local schools can rent the space during the day, and leagues of all levels and ages will rent the space during evening and



New printed and electronic resources supporting this World Services/Self-Denial theme are available at centralmissions.org

Transformed

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less unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Stay Focused

What a glorious reality! What a complete work! All because of the love of God, revealed in Jesus and manifested on the Cross.

Never lose sight of the Cross. We stumble and fall when we forget the Cross.

The songwriter Fanny Crosby prayed: "Jesus, keep me near the Cross" (song 178, *The Song Book of The Salvation Army*) and George Bennard said he would "cherish" and "cling to" the old rugged cross (song 191).

The apostle Paul never lost sight of the Cross. In Romans 1:16-17 we read: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" Paul also asserts that "the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who

are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18).

It makes no difference how the world views the Cross. The inability of existing and previous generations to grasp the fullness of all the Cross accomplishes does not diminish its power or eternal impact. The message of the Cross may not be a popular one, yet its truth is eternal and relevant.

The Empty Tomb

Good Friday and the Cross is only one part of the Easter story. Praise God the story does not end with a dead Savior! We worship a risen Lord who, in addition to cancelling the curse of sin and breaking its power, also defeats death to provide eternal life and Resurrection power to every believer!

The glorious reality of Easter morning is symbolized by the empty tomb. "He is not here; he has risen" were the words of the angel in Matthew 28:6. The question posed to the women who went to the tomb on that morning was: "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5).

Nothing can constrain God—not sin and certainly not death. The events of Easter demonstrate the sovereign power of God who intervenes in our physical and spiritual realities. God reveals the full extent of his power, defeating Satan and crushing the two most limiting and controlling aspects of our fallen humanity.

A Prayer for You

As we once again reflect on God's incredible gift of freedom from sin, it calls for a personal response from each one of us. I pray that we will all know the love, forgiveness, grace and power of God as we experience his risen presence in our lives.

Scripture quotations from the *New International Version*



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Renovated Omaha Kroc Center expands possibilities

by Autumn Stock and Jen Hill

A new era in the life of the Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center began when the community was invited to experience the recently renovated facility at WinterFest 2018, an open house hosted by A/Captains John and Tracy Gantner, who lead the center.

Having undergone an \$8.5 million renovation to upgrade, repair and add space, the Omaha Kroc Center is even better equipped to help people experience the love of God through world-class programming.

Opened in 2009, the 122,000-square-foot center needed an extra "wow" factor to promote membership growth and enhance programming potential. The original fitness department was actually somewhat lacking in size, forcing equipment and classes to spill into other program spaces. Youth program areas also had become stretched, needing more room and inspiration to serve the community's youth in deeper and more impactful ways.

The center undertook a 16-month renovation, including the construction of an 18,000-square foot, two-story fitness facility with an indoor track. The facility is outfitted with brand new, state-of-the-art fitness equipment, featuring a heart rate monitoring system, a Group X studio and an Escape Fitness Octagon system that is unique in the Omaha metro area.

To answer the need for areas that engage youth in positive experiences and enhance family activities, the former fitness space became The Loft, a multigenerational recreational



room staffed by trained youth mentors. The youngest visitors also now have RJ's Adventure Zone, an incredible, multilevel, custom-designed indoor playscape and tree-house.

For lovers of water fun, the center added the Stingray, a thrilling two-and-a-half story corkscrew waterslide that operates year-round. Along with a facelift to the interior décor and some much-needed splashes of color, the building's front entry and Welcome Center were completely renovated to create a warmer and more hospitable environment.

The WinterFest celebration that opened the newly transformed Omaha Kroc drew nearly 1,300 guests. Attendees were able to tour each program space and participate in various fun activities in eight different departments: aquatics, congregational life, education, events, fine arts, health and fitness, sports and recreation, and youth engagement. The evening offered the first installment in a new KrocLive! concert series, featuring national recording artist Selah. Finally, the spirit continued to flow into Sunday morning as Kroc Church worshippers were blessed

with a testimony and message from territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey.

Joan Kroc resolved to create world-class centers within The Salvation Army that would be revolutionary game-changers for communities, places where families could connect to one another and to God and lives could be transformed. In many ways the center is new, but its values remain the same. The transformed Omaha Kroc Center is ready to help transform lives and the community around it.



Lofty goals

by Mitch McCartney

The Loft is the newest addition to the Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center's initiative to reach young people and transform their lives.

It provides a unique program space where youth and families can engage, play and laugh. Guests can play each other in Xbox gaming contests, foosball, air hockey or on a large checkerboard. The space also features comfortable couches from which youth and their parents can watch movies on a big screen TV.

Perhaps The Loft's greatest feature is the trained staff who engage and mentor youth. These mentors offer homework help, a listening ear and a friendly face to the kids who spend time in the center. They are part of a team that helps youth understand the importance of doing their best, developing positive relationships and making amends when they don't meet behavioral expectations.

The Loft is the hub of a youth engagement and educational effort



that now includes:

- Club Kroc, the center's after-school program;
- Family Dinner Table, a nightly gathering where youth share their day's experiences while eating together;
- Restorative Justice, a program aimed at helping young people understand the consequences of their decisions and improve their decision-making.

Jill Harman, the center's youth engagement manager, says the entire program is aimed at helping provide the structure, support and encouragement many of the center's youth don't have at home.

"So many of our young people here at the center have similar stories, and we want to help," Jill said. "For us, this is not about an income but an outcome. We want each child who walks through our doors to know that they are unique, they matter and they are not alone."



Territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey join A/Captains Tracy and John Gantner, Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center leaders, and Western divisional leaders Majors Lee Ann and Greg Thompson at Winterfest 2018.

New Members

October - December, 2017

35 Senior Soldiers
21 Adherents
54 Junior Soldiers

COME JOIN OUR ARMY

The Beat Goes On!

With National Music and Gospel Arts Sunday being March 11, we thought it especially apropos to focus on the latest Crest Book, *The Beat Goes On! Music in Corps Ministry*, by Dr. Harold Burgmayer, territorial music and gospel arts secretary. Here Josh Turner and Beth Malovance, music and gospel arts staff members, interview Harold, giving insight into how this extensive new resource can help your corps.

Who is this book for (corps officers, local officers, soldiers, musicians)?

The Beat Goes On! Music in Corps Ministry is designed to be a comprehensive overview of music ministries within the corps setting. A significant segment of Salvation Army life—from present and future lay leaders to cadets and officers—will benefit from some portion of this instructive resource.

What is the framework of the book? Is this just another book about banding?

It's far from just another book about banding. In fact, the book is divided into five parts:

Part One: *Music Ministers* (chapters 1-5) addresses the relationship of officers to their musicians. These chapters should be read by every Salvationist as we address our intentionality in planning and implementing weekly music programs and worship services, including the fundamentals of song-leading.

Part Two: *Youth Music Ministry* (chapters 6-9) seeks to equip and encourage the training of youth choruses and youth bands.

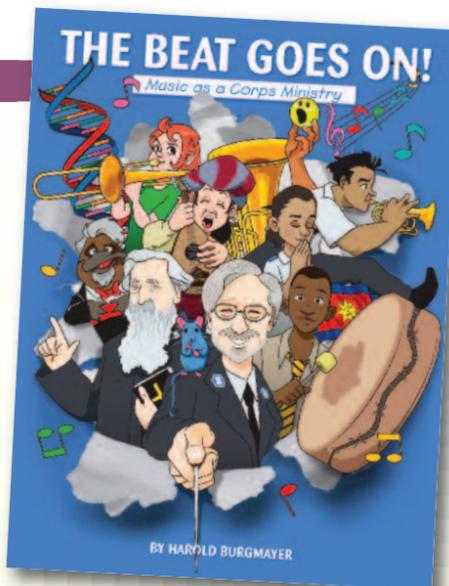
Part Three: *Adult Music Ministry* (chapters 10-15) systemically unravels the mystery of learning to read a musical score and takes a thorough look at leadership of songsters and bands.

Part Four: *Worship Leadership* (chapters 16-19) will profit pianists, worship team members and song leaders—whether novice or seasoned veterans—with insights on music and chord selection.

Part Five: *The Conductor's Toolbox* (chapters 20-23) concentrates on communicating through effective conducting patterns and gestures, as well as facilitating effective rehearsals.

The mere size of this book could be daunting. How can I use this as a tool immediately if I don't have time to read it from cover-to-cover?

I don't imagine anyone reading the book cover-to-cover, but rather emerging and present leaders choosing to focus on their interests first, and then exploring the chapters outside their expertise. For instance, you could go directly to the chapter on conducting if that's your need or interest.



Can this book also help non-musical officers and local leaders?

The first five chapters relate to every officer and leader, whether a musician or not. Most chapters begin with specific aims, include a situational story and conclude with a resource list for further reading. Several sets of questions in each chapter, identified as "Bars Rest," allow for further personal reflection or group discussion. Non-musicians can glean much, especially relating to worship design, song leading and improving their leadership.

What resources are available with this book?

One of the features of *The Beat Goes On!* is the gamut of cartoons, photos, graphs, musical examples and sidebar definitions to aid in the understanding of concepts. Cross references create opportunities to dig deeper through the online *Appendix and Audio Resources*, where the reader can quickly reference supporting materials or audio demonstrations of musical examples while studying a chapter.

How might this book benefit a smaller corps in developing their music ministries?

Making Things Happen at Your Corps (chapter 3) is a good starting

place to consider for growing a music and arts program designed for your corps. Then I would recommend moving to more specific chapters on how to better equip your corps music sections, be it a praise band, singing company or youth band.

If I'm in a larger corps, how can this enhance my music ministry or take it to the next level?

Though most Salvation Army musician-leaders are very busy people, they desire to be more effective in their corps ministry. In some cases, people might be unexpectedly thrust into music leadership. To help address a specific topic or question, peruse the *Table of Contents* or search the handy *Topical or Music Index*. After studying the chapters related to your leadership responsibility, I would recommend going through some of the leadership and Sunday worship planning chapters as a ministry team. Then venture into the four conducting chapters, which will benefit music leaders at all levels.

Finally, how might this book help the territory achieve its ambitious goal of Live Music in Worship in Every Corps by 2020 (LM2020)?

This book is designed to equip more leaders to see and believe in another's potential for bringing a pleasing musical offering into their own corps' weekly worship which is the focus of LM2020. It is a blessing to witness Salvationists doing their part in the harvest at their home corps. Every musician starts somewhere, and hopefully over time passes those skills on to another. As the prophet Zechariah wrote, "Do not despise this small beginning, for the eyes of the Lord rejoice to see the work begin" (4:10a, TLB)

Encouraging the composer's heart

by Josh Turner

The North American Composers' Forum has served to encourage emerging Salvationist composers in developing their compositional craft since 2002. This winter 37 delegates and faculty gathered at Central Territorial Headquarters for the ninth biennial event. The weekend consisted of united and breakout sessions, devotionals, tutorials, brass and vocal reading sessions and many fellowship opportunities to support this open discussion about composing.

An impressive lineup of faculty included Dr. Harold Burgmayer and Martyn Thomas (Central Territory),

Brian Bowen, Dr. Dorothy Gates, Derek Lance and Ralph Pearce (Eastern Territory), Nick Simmons-Smith (Southern Territory), Rachel Ewing (Canada and Bermuda Territory), and David Catherwood and Paul Sharman from the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland.

One-on-one tutorials where each delegate enjoyed the opportunity to work with three seasoned faculty who suggested changes, next steps and compositional ideas about their compositions were the highlight of the forum. During united reading sessions emerging composers heard—many for the first time—their pieces played by the Chicago Staff Band or sung by experienced vocalists from the Metropolitan Division.

During new devotional times called "From the Composer's Heart," faculty members gave a message from their heart and an in-depth



study of their music. Paul Sharman spoke about "Everlasting Hope," Ralph Pearce gave insight into "The Healing Waters" and David Catherwood shared about "Gethsemane."

Sunday worship centered on Romans 12:1-8 as Nick Simmons-Smith urged musicians to give their gifts to God, to remain humble in their craft and to pass the torch to the next generation. With the promise of emerging composers combined with the encouragement and humble service of faculty, the forum left an unmistakable impression that

the future of Salvation Army music-making is assured.



Well-known composers Brian Bowen and David Catherwood



Nick Simmons-Smith gives helpful suggestions to a young composer.

Welcome Home!

Commissioning Weekend

June 8-10, 2018 Milwaukee Theatre

Lower Registration Fees!

- **Just \$10 per delegate for entire weekend!**
(whether you're attending one program or all)
- **Childcare just \$20 per child!**
- **Registration now open at centralcommissioning.org**



Lt. Colonels Kelly and Donna Igleheart

Chief Secretary and Secretary for Women's Ministries
Southern Africa Territory

Whether walking the sand dunes of Namibia, cage diving with great white sharks or heading out on a safari, these adventurous, faith-filled USA Southern Territory officers are enjoying their appointment in Southern Africa. But what they love most are the people! On any given weekend you'll find the Iglehearts participating in a march of witness and leading a meeting with hundreds of passionate soldiers. They have been privileged to conduct mass enrollments of junior and senior soldiers and baby dedications. God is at work, and the Army is growing. Following God is the greatest adventure of all. Come hear all about it—and be blessed!



World debut of Broadway-style musical A Long Way Off

Set in the Midwest during the Great Depression, this fresh reframing of the prodigal son comes to life and reveals deeper truths with more than a dozen original musical numbers. Written by Joe Caddy and Phil Laeger, this interpretation of the parable (inspired by the Timothy Keller book *Prodigal God*) features a wayward brother and his sister as the main characters.

Supported by professionals in vocal and movement coaching, set design, construction, lighting and state-of-the-art projection technology, this full-scale production features an on-stage cast of 24 and a pit band of 10 comprised of some of the territory's finest performing artists, including current and former members of the Bill Booth Theater Company and the Creative Arts Service Team (CAST). In total, more than 50 people are involved in this exciting endeavor.

Don't miss this sure-to-be-unforgettable performance Saturday night in the Milwaukee Theatre!

Commissioning of the Messengers of the Gospel

Celebrating the completion of their training, the 20 members of the "Messengers of the Gospel" session will be ordained and commissioned as officers. Come support our territory's newest lieutenants as they receive their first appointments and are sent out to begin their ministry as officers sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Bring along your favorite workout wear and join the territorial commander on Saturday morning for the 5K Run for the World! Power up with snacks, music and a

brisk walk, jog or run to get your day off to a good start before the morning session. In addition to getting some fresh air and exercise, you'll be participating in an important effort to raise funds for World Services/Self-Denial. Increase the amount you can give toward your corps' World Services/Self-Denial goal by asking friends and family to make a pledge. Preregistration is required and includes a free t-shirt! Visit the commissioning website to download the form.

Schedule of Events

Friday, June 8

- Noon Retired Officers' Luncheon +
- 1:00-6:00 p.m. Registration
5K Run/Walk for the World Registration
- 1:00-7:00 p.m. Trade Central and Museum Exhibits
- 4:00 p.m. Candidate Meet and Greet +
- 5:00 p.m. Active Officers' Recognition Dinner +
- 6:30 p.m. Childcare registration and photos for preregistered children**
(All children and adults authorized to drop off and pick up them up must have photos taken at this time.)
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Registration
- 7:00 p.m. Childcare for preregistered children ages 11 and under**
- 7:30 p.m. Keynote Session*
- 9:30 p.m. Teen and Young Adult Afterglow for ages 12-29**

Saturday, June 9

- 6:30 a.m. 5K Run/Walk for the World with the Territorial Commander**
- 7:30 a.m. College for Officer Training Summer Session Breakfast +
- 8:30 a.m.-Noon Registration
- 8:30 a.m. Childcare for preregistered children ages 11 and under**
- 9:00 a.m. Morning Session I*
- 10:45 a.m. Morning Session II*
- Noon-6:30 p.m. Trade Central and Museum Exhibits
- 4:30 p.m. Fellowship of Silver Star and Cadet Academic Recognition Dinner +
- 6:30-7:00 p.m. Registration
- 6:30 p.m. Childcare for preregistered children ages 5 and under**
(No childcare for children ages 6-11 during Saturday evening musical)
- 7:00 p.m. *A Long Way Off* *
- 9:30 p.m. Summer Mission Teams and World Missions Reception +

Sunday, June 10

- 8:30-11:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:30 a.m. Childcare for preregistered children ages 11 and under**
- 9:00 a.m. Commissioning and Ordination of the Messengers of the Gospel Session
- 12:30-1:00 p.m. Registration
- 1:00 p.m. Service of Appointments*
- 3:00 p.m. Reception for new lieutenants and unit commanders +

+ By invitation only * Ticket required **Preregistration required
Spanish, Laotian and Korean translation will be provided for general sessions.
Visit centralcommissioning.org for latest information.

My Journey to the Cross

by Dave Chase

My journey to the cross began years before I understood its meaning. Coming from a non-Christian background, my knowledge of Christ came from my grandmother occasionally taking me to Sunday school at a Presbyterian church. Unfortunately, I was too young to understand the messages of the stories. Then, when I was about 10, my sister and I were sent to an Episcopal summer camp—a nice break from our neighborhood where life was scary and dark, where I felt fear and despair.



Dave and his mom at the corps on Mother's Day Sunday

In the woods of Wisconsin, the camp was simple with particle-board cabins and no electricity or running water except in the lodge. I signed up for activities like horseback riding, archery, arts and crafts, nature walks and swimming. Each day I attended two worship services, one before breakfast and the other in the evening on the beach or by the campfire. I remember how excited I would get for the evening services because we sang songs and



Dave and his fiancée, MaryCoe

listened to the wind blowing through the trees. During those times I could feel another Presence, and it was good. It was completely opposite from what I knew in my neighborhood. I was safe and loved.

Once a week after the evening service, the counselors would sponsor a Stations of the Cross tour around the camp. We would be issued candles and travel a good distance to each station where we would learn about the life and ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ. I remember the glow of the candles and the warm feeling I associated with the Holy Spirit. I saw Jesus through the people at camp. However, when I turned 15, the days of camp were over, and so was my spiritual journey, or so it seemed.

After 20 years of drug abuse, sexual promiscuity, self-hate, addictive behaviors and insecurity, I would again rub shoulders with Christianity. I met Salvationists Ron Shoults and Ev Jordan, employees in the Central Territorial Headquarters information technology (IT) department. I felt the company I worked for could provide products and services for The Salvation Army and wanted their business. The more I pursued this opportunity with Ron and Ev, the more I saw patience,

peace, love and mercy. I wanted what they had. No, I needed what they had in my life.

It took a couple of years, but I finally was the territory's "preferred" vendor. I developed relationships with other Army IT employees like Paul Phillips, Brian Allan and Alberto Rapley. But as business was picking up, my personal life was falling apart. I gravitated to these godly men who were willing to listen to me when I was blindsided by divorce. As the life I'd built around my wife and two kids disintegrated, these guys rallied around me, daily checking in on me and letting me know they were there for me.



Dave with his children, Nevaeh and Devin



At a corps retreat sharing his testimony



Sharing in ministry and service with the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps mission team to the Bahamas



Dave and his family, along with Willie Braswell, Scott Benner and Patrick Owen from the Waukegan, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center, enjoying pizza after community care ministry.

During this time, Ron gave me a book he said was important to him. He said he would never ask me about it, but if I had any questions, he'd be glad to talk about it. One evening during a particularly difficult custody battle, I broke down. I could no longer fight these cir-

cumstances on my own. I scrambled to the attic, found the book and began reading it. It was Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christ*. Through its words, the death and resurrection of Jesus was no longer a story too crazy to be true. I could see how research and evidence all pointed to a Creator and Messiah. I started attending the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps where Ron, Ev, Paul, Brian and Alberto worshipped. The intensity of my journey to the cross was increasing.

Over time and involvement in activities with the Army and study in God's Word, I have come to the conclusion that a man named Jesus Christ was born, lived a holy life and for three years ministered to people doing great miracles.



He claimed He was the Son of God, and I believe He is. This Man knew how His death would change the world and at the appointed time, He would have the world's past, present and future sins heaped upon Him as He hung on the cross.

I sometimes imagine sitting with Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. It's recorded He prayed with such deep sorrow and agony that He sweat drops of blood. I want to put my arm around His shoulder. I want to comfort Him like the people of my corps comforted me and stood beside me.

The reality is Jesus was beaten to a point where He was unrecognizable, probably whipped until his spine was exposed and then nailed naked to a cross. Not only that, He suffered the wrath of God for my sin. He willingly endured this horrific death because I am a sinner and His death on the cross was the only way to reconcile me to God the Father and give me eternal life in heaven with God. It is a debt I could not pay. He did all of this and only asked me to repent and believe in Him. I believe Jesus Christ died for me. I believe all of my sins have been nailed to that cross; they are paid in full.

Editor's note: In addition to attending worship at the Oakbrook Terrace Corps, David now conducts an AA class at the Waukegan, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center, inviting the men to come to the corps with him. This past summer he was part of the corps' mission team to the Bahamas.



Dave with Ev Jordan, Brian Allan, Alberto Rapley, Paul Phillips and Ron Shoults at the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps

Empowered, Encouraged and Equipped

The National Seminar on Evangelism is an investment not only in training but in spiritual growth for soldiers and officers alike. In this spread learn more about it and hear first-hand how it's changed Centralites' lives.

Practicing hospitality

by Major Donna Leedom

The National Seminar on Evangelism (NSE) is the one nationally supported event with the specific goal of enhancing soldiers in personal spiritual growth and disciple-making. Begun as a training event for local leaders, it has grown into an event that inspires a team approach to inclusive ministry that is modeled by NSE staff and their Glen Eyrie hosts.

The spirit of evangelism begins as delegates enter the Glen Eyrie Conference Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The grounds are a



handlers at registration, hosts at mealtimes and exemplify true hospitality. As they listen to the faith stories of delegates at mealtimes, during breaks or morning devotional hikes, staff members invest both time and attention into the lives of others. Having listened and learned, they then help the delegates to make connections in faith and truth that often alter their lives in powerful and positive ways.

Having experienced the prayerful preparation of both place and event, genuinely humble service, investment of

time and attention in listening, learning and loving guidance toward greater faith and spiritual growth, delegates then are encouraged to

meet together in corps groups to consider how they might "go and do likewise" by taking the principles, both spoken and exemplified, back home for ministry.

This past year 28 delegates attended from the Central Territory, representing seven

corps and a divisional headquarters. Many others who have attended in years past, even some who have been on staff, continue to evangelize



sanctuary over which the Glen Eyrie staff regularly prays with a focus on meeting the needs of those they serve; eliminating distractions that



might keep guests from receiving everything God has prepared for them during their visit. That spirit continues as the soldiers and officers selected to serve on staff at NSE arrive a few days early to unite as a team in preparation to both teach and demonstrate the principles shared throughout the week.

Intentionally, staff members, who are teachers and leaders throughout the week, serve as greeters at the airport, luggage



by practicing true hospitality of heart. You probably know some of them. They are the people who in both obvious and quiet ways leap from the high and holy places every day to bring Good News and a warm welcome to those in low places.

Life-changer for soldiers

Soldiers who've attended NSE from the Kansas City Bellefontaine, Mo., Corps have demonstrated transformed lives and ministries, reports Major Janice Love, corps officer.

Juliette Walker, a long-time soldier and young people's sergeant-major, returned from NSE transformed in both her ministry and personal spiritual walk. The workshops, devotional times, hands-on learning experiences and rich fellowship—plus an unexpected challenge issued personally to Juliette by seminar leader Cotton Presley—made an indelible impact on her.

Michael King—an introverted, intellectual young man whose face had always been buried in his cell phone—shocked Major Janice when he got up at dawn every morning for the optional mountain hike and devotional. By the second day, he



Major Janice Love (l) and Juliette Walker

told her, "This is not what I expected. I've attended other types of camps, but this is so much more." He, too, has demonstrated a totally transformed life since returning from NSE.

The major believes one of the most beneficial features of NSE is meeting and working with soldiers from other locations to improve delegates' focus and learning. One delegate was uncomfortable with the idea of being separated from her friends but within days was so glad to be there!

for Kingdom building

Door to officership

Attending NSE was just the push Tracy Gantner needed in deciding with her husband, John, to become auxiliary captains.

"I always had a strong faith and belief in the importance of evangelism, but I did not really 'get it' until I went to NSE," said Tracy, who added the experience was life changing. "I finally understood evangelism was allowing Christ's light to shine through me; to let people see Christ at work in how I talked, acted, listened or served. Being at NSE not only solidified my calling to evangelism, it took away my fear of becoming an officer."

Her husband, John, also is a past delegate and enthusiastic supporter of NSE. It's where he picked up his long-time ministry motto, a quote from Catherine Booth: "If we are to better the future, we must disturb the present."

For the past year the Gantners



have been leading the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Omaha, Neb., where they pastor not only a congregation but more than 130 employees with whom they spend the majority of their time. "As a result, many have started to attend the Kroc Church and/or volunteer in our praise and worship band," Tracy concluded.

Claiming God's power

Wanting to learn more about evangelism for her ministries at the Evanston, Ill., Corps, Audrey Itheme attended NSE with a delegation from her corps in spite of her fears it might be a week filled with potentially boring classes. Instead she was delighted to climb to new heights in her spiritual life as well as learn how to comfortably share her faith.

"Evangelism isn't about me; it's about taking the first steps toward meeting others and listening to their unique stories, then using these relationship-building opportunities to share God's love and His Word with them," said Audrey, who came away from NSE with new confidence in God's power and in her own physical abilities after the daily challenge of rising extra early to join other delegates for daybreak hikes up mountain paths and special devotionals at the summit.

Audrey reported the Evanston Corps has become more focused on



reaching others in its community through prayer walks since her corps officer, Lt. Denesia Polusca, and the delegation attended NSE. "As we walked through the neighborhood, I was amazed at the responses we received from people, some of whom were very open to us praying with them," said Audrey. "Now I really know I can do all things through Christ because He strengthens me!"

A lasting impact

When Major Darlene Harvey was a teenager, she'd hear soldiers talk about how NSE changed their lives. "I held the dream in my heart that I also would attend it someday. Six years later I was so excited to go as a soldier delegate with my husband, David," the major recalled. "I always desired to share Christ, but NSE gave me the tools and confidence I needed to take the first step." The first step she took when she got home was to lead her dad to Christ.

When Darlene and David became corps officers, they always tried to send soldiers to NSE. "Being there provides an intense time for deep spiritual growth in addition to developing a deep passion for evangelism," the major continued. "I've been blessed to accompany soldiers six times and see them understand



the mission of the Army more completely and return to the corps on fire to reach others for Christ."

During one of those times, God used NSE to heal the major's heart after her dad was murdered. "I felt responsible because he knew his assailant through me. God had to remind me that although dad lost his earthly life, he had eternal life because of NSE. God further blessed me through service on the NSE staff for three years. Now as the Kansas and Western Missouri divisional program secretary, I promote NSE as a tool for changing soldiers' and officers' lives as they're empowered, encouraged and equipped for Kingdom building."

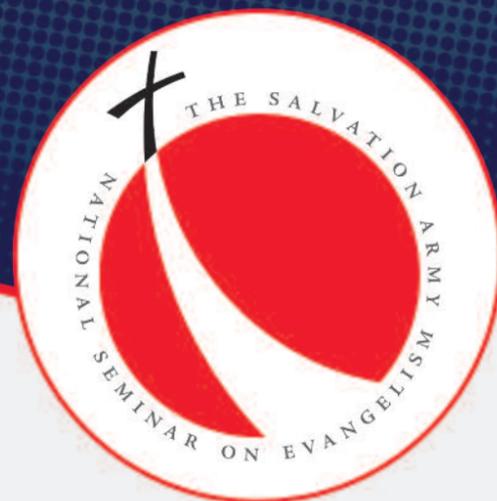


THE SALVATION ARMY

NSE

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON EVANGELISM

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EXPERIENCE TO PREPARE
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OF EVANGELISM.



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Colorado Springs, Col. • August 4-11, 2018

If interested, contact your corps officer for more information.

Agents of change **goodsoil** initiative

"And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" (Mark 4:20, NLT)

Investing in the lives of children and youth is an integral part of Salvation Army ministry. Working to develop and implement relevant ministries to meet each generation's needs in changing contexts, the Central Territory introduced in 2012 the Good Soil Initiative (GSI), a strategy for placing youth development coordinators (YDC) in corps and training them to be intentional in their discipleship and ministry to children and teens growing up in this era.

the territory where officers and youth development coordinators are working together to build meaningful youth ministries with strong roots in their communities.

"A big key to having our youth development coordinator, Jacob Hamalian, is sharing Christ as our primary focus," said Captain Jean Thammavongsa, corps officer of the Milwaukee West, Wis., Corps, which hired Jacob through the Good Soil Initiative.

Jacob, whose first encounter with the Army was when he applied for the YDC position, is now in his third year. He sees his role as liaison for the corps with the community, empowering and facilitating local leadership and building authentic relationships.

"It's different from typical youth ministry in that it has a much wider breadth," he said. "You're reaching out to youth but also to their families and other agencies."

Vicki Collins, YDC at the North Platte, Neb., Corps, echoes Jacob's sentiments. She is currently working closely with one girl's educational

team, which includes her parents, teachers, principal, counselor and doctors, to help her overcome behavioral challenges. "We work with kids



Jason Sell leads corps cadets at the Elkhart, Ind., Corps.

at a monthly auction. Upping the ante, local businesses have donated big-ticket prizes such as drones and tablets. "It's really changed the kids' perception of education," Joseph said, "and we're seeing their grades go up as a result."

GSI has employed 41 youth development coordinators since its inception. Corps interested in participating in the initiative commit to a minimum three-year term and must have the backing of their division and approval from Central Territorial Headquarters. To increase effectiveness, youth development coordinators also commit to the three-year term.

There are currently openings for YDCs in several locations. Those interested should contact their divisional youth secretaries for more information.

"Being a youth development coordinator is a great place for those who are serious about youth ministry," concluded

Jacob. "The training and support you receive provide the tools you need to do this work."



Joseph Burrel at the Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps, auctions items in exchange for "Booth Bucks" earned by afterschool program participants.



Jacob Hamalian with his corps officers, Captains Sanhty and Jean Thammavongsa at the Milwaukee West, Wis., Corps

"The youth development coordinators have this awesome privilege and opportunity to be the agents of change and growth in the lives of youth," said Captain Mary Kim, territorial youth secretary. She explained that in addition to engaging with youth who attend the corps, they work with parents, teachers, schools, organizations and others to reach out to the community and form relationships to make a difference.

YDCs are trained and supported by Central Territorial Headquarters. They are provided with on-ground training at placement and receive monthly calls from Barb Higgins, territorial youth leader development coordinator, who mentors each YDC individually. In addition, they participate in specialized tracks at territorial events such as the Refuel youth leader development conference and Central Bible Leadership Institute. Last year the YDCs participated in YouthMin Academy as well (see sidebar).

The Good Soil Initiative has proven successful in many corps throughout



Captain Mary Kim, territorial youth secretary, speaks at Refuel.

others may have given up on," she said.

At the Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps, YDC Joseph Burrel was troubled by the high dropout rates among multicultural students in his community and added a creative spin to his ministry when he started an education-focused incentive program. Youth who bring homework and complete it during the afterschool program earn "Booth Bucks" they can spend



Territorial Youth Leader Development Coordinator Barb Higgins enjoys interacting at CBLI.

YouthMin Academy

Nineteen youth leaders from the Central Territory joined 50 non-Salvationists from around the country for rigorous academic and practical training in youth ministry through the YouthMin Academy over the last year. The 12-month diploma program included 12 modules and covered topics related to youth programming and discipleship as well as surveys of the Old and New Testaments, leadership, administration and issues currently plaguing Christian youth.

Sixteen of the participants were youth development coordinators from the Good Soil Initiative while the other three were fulltime Salvation Army youth workers.

Participation was initiated and funded by Central Territorial Headquarters to ensure each leader was able to take part in this vital learning experience.

According to Barb Higgins, territorial youth leader development coordinator, the YouthMin experience was intended to provide education and training to further develop them as they work to build solid youth ministries in their corps and divisions.

"We learned how spiritual formation and discipleship of youth includes ministry to the entire family," said



Mike Mowers proudly displays his diploma.

Barb. "Instead of having separate silos for pouring into each age group, they should all be connected with Jesus at the center of everything."

Mike Mowers, who specializes in youth and teen ministry in the Eastern Michigan Division, was valedictorian. Mike said he was grateful for the experience to learn from some of the top youth ministry experts in the country.

"I have been in youth ministry since 2001 and many of the assignments challenged me to think and strategize beyond the normal and weekly programs," he concluded.

730... AND BEYOND



9,379 days and counting

by Major Lesa Davis

As a young person thinking about what I might do with my life, I had two vague ideas. I wanted to do something for God and something for people. Fortunately, I had good leaders and corps officers who helped me understand officership was the perfect combination of these two things. As I've lived it out, my calling to do something for God most often has been confirmed by doing something for people.

If I had to choose one moment to capture what officership is to me I think it would be on a hot summer day in our first appointment. As a member of a service club, I was working with other club members in a concession stand at the county fair. The other members were active and retired community leaders. Most of them had been in that community for many years and were well-known and respected. Since we had only been stationed there for about a year, I expected to have a pretty quiet day selling snacks to unknown fair-goers. Almost as soon as the stand opened though, I started to hear, "Hi, Captain Lesa!" over and over again from passersby.

As I had conversations with one person after another, my fellow club



members started to notice, too. They saw me talking to the bank teller who handled our kettle bags, a retired nun who volunteered for fundraising events, a homeless guy who occasionally came in for food but mostly just wanted to talk to someone, bellringers who were working for the carnival in the "off-season," and so on, all day long. It became a joke inside the concession stand, something like, "Who was that? Oh, that must be one of Lesa's people." And it was true. They—and hundreds of others—are the people God has given me.

Centuries ago, Catherine of Siena wrote that God has placed us in the midst of our neighbors so we can do for them what we cannot do for Him. I can't think of a better description of what officership is to me. I wouldn't have it any other way.

Crowning achievement

Best friends Layla Senior and Zoe

Hardy, new girl guards at the Petoskey, Mich., Corps, have been inseparable since preschool. They attend the corps for Sunday worship and weekly youth programs along with their families.

Naturally, when Layla passed her commissioner's sunbeam review, Zoe wanted to do something to celebrate her achievement. During the troop's court of awards, Zoe presented Layla with a tiara, flowers and her commissioner's sunbeam award. Having earned additional emblems, both girls were presented with commissioner's sunbeam stars.

"I love acknowledging the hard work of these girls," said Jill Hardy, Zoe's mom and sunbeam troop leader. "It was a great way to present our new commissioner's sunbeam to the corps."

The commissioner's sunbeam award is one of the highest honors available to character-building members. In order to be eligible, a girl



Layla and Zoe

must be an active participant in her sunbeam troop and attend the corps regularly for Sunday worship. In addition, she must complete 10 emblems, attend a challenging review and have the support of her troop leader, corps officer, divisional youth secretary and divisional commander.

The Salvation Army

PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

April Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Sunday	1 Corinthians 9-10	Proclaim the hope of the risen Savior!
	2 Monday	Exodus 1-4	Springfield, Ill., ARC*
	3 Tuesday	1 Samuel 16-20	Saginaw, Mich., Corps
	4 Wednesday	Psalms 39-41	Sterling-Rock Falls, Ill., Corps
	5 Thursday	Job 27-28	Wisconsin & Upper Michigan DHQ**
	6 Friday	Jeremiah 7-11	Youth Councils being held this month
	7 Saturday	Mark 7-8	Princeton, Ind., Corps
	8 Sunday	1 Corinthians 11-12	Wichita Citadel, Kan., Corps
	9 Monday	Exodus 5-8	College for Officer Training candidates
	10 Tuesday	1 Samuel 21-25	Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps
	11 Wednesday	Psalms 42-44	St. Louis Maplewood, Mo., Corps
	12 Thursday	Job 29-30	St. Cloud, Minn., Corps
	13 Friday	Jeremiah 12-16	Petoskey, Mich., Corps
	14 Saturday	Mark 9-10	Sheboygan, Wis., Corps
	15 Sunday	1 Corinthians 13-14	Waukegan, Ill., ARC*
	16 Monday	Exodus 9-12	Warren, Mich., Corps
	17 Tuesday	1 Samuel 26-31	Lt. Colonel Evie Diaz (U.K.)
	18 Wednesday	Psalms 45-47	Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa, Corps
	19 Thursday	Job 31-32	National Advisory Board meeting, Cleveland, Ohio
	20 Friday	Jeremiah 17-21	Richmond, Ind., Corps
	21 Saturday	Mark 11-12	Chicago Staff Band ministry in Springfield, Ill.
	22 Sunday	1 Corinthians 15-16	New believers this Decision Sunday
	23 Monday	Exodus 13-16	Wichita West Orchard, Kan., Corps
	24 Tuesday	2 Samuel 1-4	Global Mission Team in Turks and Caicos Islands
	25 Wednesday	Psalms 48-50	Rockford Tabernacle, Ill., Corps
	26 Thursday	Job 33-34	Sri Lanka Territory ^{PM}
	27 Friday	Jeremiah 22-26	St. Louis Temple, Mo., Corps
	28 Saturday	Mark 13-14	St. Paul Citadel, Minn., Corps
	29 Sunday	2 Corinthians 1-3	Rapid City, S.D., Corps
	30 Monday	Exodus 17-20	Porter County, Ind., Corps

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

* = Adult Rehabilitation Center
** = Divisional Headquarters
PIM=Partners in Mission

--Mustard Seeds--



Being just where you're needed

When life-long Salvationist and Central Territorial Headquarters employee Blythe Marinelli developed an interest in becoming an emergency disaster services (EDS) volunteer with her husband, Jack, it quickly turned into a passion. In the past year and a half they discovered a ministry through which they receive much personal satisfaction while serving others in God's name.

After completing the training required to be certified and registered as EDS volunteers, the Marinellis' first experience was helping the Metropolitan Division when the Fox River flooded. Their second EDS experience took them far from home when they joined the first hurricane-relief team deployed by the territory to Puerto Rico last fall.

"Suddenly the EDS training we had received earlier—in everything from cartography and incident command duties, to logistics and personal safety—now made sense," said Blythe. The couple spent most of their two-week commitment distributing boxes of food, water and bug spray from a convoy of vehicles assisted by young AmeriCorps volunteers and homeland security personnel. Their goal was to reach as many rural and remote communities as possible, some of which had received no aid in the weeks following the storm.

"Every day was a story in and of



itself, but two days were especially significant," Blythe continued. In spite of having maps and GPS coordinates, the convoy got hopelessly lost one morning. Not even local people could help them find the right roads, some of which were still blocked by storm debris. With the day slipping away and frustration rising, they stumbled across a Christian school.

"When the convoy's team leader entered the school to see the administrators, she said their faces registered pure shock. They'd just been praying for food and water for their students' families with no idea where the supplies might come from," said Blythe. "They said it was like we'd been dropped from heaven!"

On another day, the convoy came across an apartment building with 30 families who had received no assistance.

"We were able to leave exactly enough and even pray with them," said Blythe. Finding there were still some supplies left over—too little for many but too much to take back—they kept driving and found another group of folks in need. Blythe marveled, "When we got to the last person, we realized we were distributing our very last box!"



Promoted to Glory

Major Garry Lowder

Major Garry Lowder, 63, was promoted to Glory on December 16, 2017.

Garry was born in 1954 to Salvationist parents, Francis and Luellen Lowder. He was dedicated at the Kokomo, Ind., Corps, where he was brought up to love and serve the Lord as he participated in Boy Scouts, junior soldiers and corps cadets as well as band, open-air meetings, visitation and selling the *War Cry*. Garry also used his pleasant singing voice to perform solos both during Sunday meetings and in open-air settings.

In 1970, Garry felt called to officership during an altar call at camp.



His passion for serving the Lord fully ignited, he pursued his calling and entered the College for Officer Training in 1974. He was commissioned in 1976 with the "Overcomers" session.

Garry married Nancy Sparks on February 5, 1977. They served in corps throughout the Central Territory, including 17 years in the Midland Division, where Garry additionally served as the cross-cultural ministries director for a time. They retired from their final appointment at Booth Manor in Chicago, Ill., on November 1, 2017.

Throughout his life and ministry, Garry was known for his quiet, gentle manner and compassionate heart. He lived to give testimony of God's grace and bring others to Him.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 40 years and his daughter, Captain Judy Lowder.

Simply Give keeps pantry shelves full in Kokomo

Thanks to a relationship with the local branch of Meijer grocery stores, the Kokomo, Ind., Corps has been able to stretch its food pantry budget far beyond its usual capacity.

Three times a year—in the spring, fall, and during the holiday season—the store encourages customers to give to their local food pantries through their Simply Give program, which runs for about six weeks. Customers who wish to participate purchase \$10 donation cards at the register which are then converted into gift cards and distributed to local organizations to help stock their food pantries.

As if that weren't enough, during the fundraising campaigns Meijer selects a day or two on which it adds corporate dollars to the pot. Dubbed "double-match days," Meijer's corporate office doubles the amount purchased in cards and donates it to the fund. In other words, when someone purchases a \$10 card, the store adds an additional \$20 to the fund for a total of \$30!

It's an easy way for the community to support local food pantries while stocking up on their own groceries. And it's a huge help to the corps, which participates in the fall campaign.

"Any community with a Meijer store can benefit from this program," said Major David Luft, corps officer. "We've gone from receiving \$1,820 in 2011 to \$75,080 in 2017."

For the Kokomo Corps, participat-



Jean Landseadel, case worker, assists a guest in the corps pantry.

ing in Simply Give means the food pantry is never empty. The money can be used throughout the year to purchase items needed to stock their shelves.

They've also developed a unique way of providing holiday dinners to those who qualify for assistance.

Rather than purchasing identical items and creating food boxes for distribution, they spend two evenings at the

local Meijer store using the Simply Give gift cards to purchase food items chosen by the families, with a spending limit based on family size. Because the cards can't be distributed to the public, Salvation Army volunteers wait by designated registers for shoppers who have signed up for assistance, then pay for their groceries.

"This has revolutionized how we do our food pantry," the major concluded. "It has been a huge blessing to our corps."



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Other training opportunities in the divisions available throughout the year. Visit www.disaster.salvationarmyusa.org