Commissioning weekend to launch Central Territory’s direction

I fever compassion needed an Army, it’s now. An Army of God’s soldiers ready and willing to care for the lonely, to stand up to hatred, to stare down injustice, to relieve suffering, to embrace the hurting. With the theme “Compassion has an Army,” this year’s commissioning weekend, June 7-9, will explore the life-changing—world-changing—power of compassion and the role we play.

The event will feature the insightful enriching ministry of Dr. Bill and Diane Ury, national ambassadors for holiness. Since their marriage in 1984 the Urys have enjoyed a rich life of ministry together. Appointed to their role in 2017, the Urys have been in high demand, crisscrossing the country, speaking at holiness seminars, officer’s councils, soldiers’ rallies and a diverse array of teaching and preaching events. Delegates will be blessed by their love for Jesus, compassionate witness, knowledge of God’s Word and emphasis on discipleship.

Over the three days spent together we will journey from a broad appreciation of the Army’s global ministry to a personal and challenging application on Sunday.

**Compassion, My World**

Friday night’s keynote, Compassion, My World, will focus on the inspiring international work of The Salvation Army. It is a celebration of what God is doing around the world as we, the Central Territory, join with our partner territories by investing in life-changing ministries. This meeting will highlight amazing achievements through the Central Territory’s 20 New Corps initiative, as well as people in our territory who have been personally blessed by the international mission of the Army. It will serve as a fitting forum to both endorse and dedicate those joining the summer mission teams for 2019. The night promises to be an action-packed event, rich in multiculturalism, music and testimonies, filled with blessings, and one that will prove spiritually uplifting.

Reflecting on the event Lt. Colonel Philip Maxwell, territorial program secretary, said, “Since arriving in my appointment last year, I have been struck by both the commitment and sacrifice that this territory gives in supporting the Army internationally. Friday night is the opportunity for us to tell our story, to receive encouragement by what God has done and to be challenged about our future.”

Continuing Friday night’s international emphasis, the 5K Run for the World early Saturday morning gives delegates the opportunity to raise funds and get up close and personal with our territorial leaders. It’s the perfect way to get the blood pumping while supporting the Army’s compassionate programs globally before taking on the day.

Sacred Conversations, an initiative of the territorial multicultural department, also will take place early on Saturday morning and allow delegates to invest in fellowship, prayer and God’s Word before venturing into the day’s activities.

**Compassion, My Mission**

Saturday morning’s united sessions will further our journey as we get a glimpse of the direction that we are embarking on as a territory. Building on the work that is being undertaken by the strategic leadership team in consultation across the territory, Compassion, My Mission, will unveil the new strategic plan and direction for the Central Territory. You won’t want to miss this important meeting.

**Compassion, My Territory**

Under the banner, Compassion, My Territory, the Saturday evening session will provide the opportunity for delegates to unite and celebrate some of the significant God-inspired, God-infused transformational ministries and initiatives undertaken by the territory. Come hear stories of individuals who have been changed by God through The Salvation Army as the cycle of poverty has been broken and they’ve been given hope. See how corps and centers are integrating their community-based programs into the worship life of their congregation.

**Compassion, My Life**

On Sunday morning during Compassion, My Life, the personal call to compassionate service will be highlighted with the commissioning and ordination of the “Messengers of Compassion” session of cadets. Those attending not only will be moved by the commitment being made by the cadets but will be encouraged to look at their own lives and ask how God would have them live out their faith.

**Compassion, My Future**

The weekend will conclude with Compassion, My Future, which will, of course, feature the happy and long-anticipated appointments of the new lieutenants. Alongside this challenge will be the individual charge to go into the world and make a difference and to see “more people, more like Jesus.”

Register at centralcommissioning.org
A s Salvationists we are called to have a razor-focused attention on the comprehensive nature of the gospel. It informs a worldview that touches all of life, including our spiritual and material realities, and certainly blows up the notion of an individualistic gospel.

A comprehensive gospel starts with a good creation. Scripture teaches us everything God created was “very good” and He entrusted it to humans, the crown of His creation. But sin entered the world and corrupted everything. Relationships were ruptured between people, humans and God, and humans and the divinely created that ultimately falls in line with the Almighty’s perfect plan for us all. As we look around, we see things aren’t what they should be. We experience the results of our brokenness as the worst of our humanity is unmasked and we’re confronted with images and realities of the most isolated, vulnerable, mistreated and economically disadvantaged amongst us. At times like these, real life becomes uncomfortably clear as our unbridled inhumanity and separation from the Father’s divine plan comes into full focus.

Jesus came to restore all of those relationships. His redemptive plan is to bring wholeness to all that has been broken and corrupted. The gospel makes sense of beauty and brokenness and frames a mission that seeks to redeem, restore and reestablish the value of human lives and human dignity.

This is a wake-up call to remind ourselves of The Salvation Army’s purpose: to share the all-inclusive good news of Jesus and to serve suffering humanity without discrimination.

Preaching and living out the gospel by meeting human needs in Christ’s name takes on many forms including vibrant, practical, incarnational ministry and activating a holistic, on-fire, redemptive and restorative faith that buttresses our lives and purpose.

If we are to infiltrate this broken world with the uncompromising love of Jesus, we will need to commit ourselves to ‘tabernacle’ with the whosoever in the spirit and phraseology of John 1:14 (NIV): ‘The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.’

As we face a harsh and broken world, our opportunity is to reach “more people” so together we become “more like Jesus,” exemplifying His redeeming love and advocating for the weak, vulnerable and disenchanted and ushering them into the presence of Jesus so they can be encouraged by His grace and integrated into the family of God.

May we experience His anointing on our lives and may it be the beginning of a long-awaited spiritual revival across the territory that will result in true and lasting transformation for ALL in the name of Jesus and in the inclusion of “More People... More Like Jesus” in The Salvation Army family.

“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble...” (1 Corinthians 10:31-33 NIV)

The Power of a Persistent Witness

It was the persistent witness of an elderly widow to Linda Mullins, her home healthcare provider over the last five years, which brought Linda not only to a saving faith in Christ but enrollment as a soldier.

A pillar of the Norridge Citadel Corps, Irene was a quick-witted wit- ness to everyone. In her charming
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“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.” (1 Corinthians 10:31-33 NIV)

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A pillar of the Norridge Citadel Corps, Irene was a quick-witted wit- ness to everyone. In her charming

English accent, she loved talking about Jesus and the life He had blessed her with since meeting her American husband during World War II. Well into her early 90’s, Irene continued working part-time and faithfully volunteering at the corps.

Linda and Irene first met when Linda was a dental assistant. A friendship developed which deepened when Irene’s out-of-state chil- dren hired Linda to keep their mother safely independent in her home. During the week Linda would drive Irene to her doctor appointments, on errands and to the nearby Norridge Citadel Corps for volunteering and Sunday wor- ship. Linda’s curiosity about Jesus—and the Army—grew.

Linda began volunteering and attending worship with Irene. She even donned a biblical costume every December to volunteer with Irene in the marketplace for the corps’ annual Come to Bethlehem living history. Linda, who also was a former restaurant owner, and her daughter, Angie, soon took over the selling of more than 450 loaves of bread baked and donated each year by dozens of corps members.

Two weeks after Linda was enrolled as a soldier, Irene was pro- moted to Glory.

“Linda’s faith is growing stronger day-by-day, especially as she involves herself in the corps and

Costumed for the corps’ Christmas outreach are Linda Mullins and her daughter, Angie.

Linda and her husband, Michael

studies God’s Word. She’s already very active, from volunteering for social services to just about everything connected with Christmas,” said Pamela Church-Pryor, corps community ministries director.

Captain Kristina Sjogren, corps officer, concluded, “Linda’s hunger for God’s Word is an inspiration to me. She truly wants to know and understand her Lord through scripture. I don’t think I remember a Sunday where she hasn’t asked me, my husband or another person at the corps about a scripture portion over which she’s mulling.”

New Lenten Series

Jesus the King

“Jesus the King” is the latest seasonal worship series produced by the territorial adult mission advancement department and music and gospel arts departments.

Based on the book Jesus the King—Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God by best-selling author Timothy Keller, this thought-provoking series unlocks new insights into the life of Christ based on the Gospel of Mark.

Available in English and Spanish, the series features nine sermons written by Major Cherri Hobkins. The series also includes worship service outlines, music selections, responsive readings, dramas and much more.

See your corps officer for more details.
Healed, Coleman is amazed at how God has redeemed his life. Once a homeless, hopeless drug addict wandering the streets of Indianapolis, he’s now the corps ministries director at the Chicago Englewood, Ill., Corps Red Shield Center.

As a young man, the musically gifted Theo wanted to make it big as a singer and songwriter; instead he lost wives, houses, cars and the respect of his family and friends to substance abuse. He spent the next several years going from crack house to crack house, living rough and hustling for drug money.

“When I saw people who knew me, they’d just shake their heads and keep going,” recalled Theo. “I’d lost so much. I felt this was my life’s destiny.”

Theo had been in and out of rehab facilities repeatedly. During a stint at the Indianapolis Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC), he met Envoy Steve McNary. Later when Steve became administrator of the Gary, Ind., ARC, he heard Theo was back on the streets and doing poorly. He asked that a message get passed on to Theo: if Theo called him, Steve would arrange for a bus ticket so Theo could enter the Gary ARC.

Two weeks after receiving Steve’s message, Theo finally realized the shambles his life had become. He stumbled into a McDonald’s from which he’d been repeatedly thrown out and asked the manager to call Steve. The manager said, “Go take a seat.” It was 8:00 a.m. An employee came over with a free breakfast for Theo, and later lunch, then dinner as he and the manager waited for word. They waited until 8:00 p.m.

“Suddenly the manager came over to say a ticket was waiting for me,” said Theo. “She asked if I could get to the terminal. My feet were swollen and painful, but I said I could.” That’s when a kind-hearted mailman offered Theo a ride to the station. It was December 22, 2007.

At the Gary ARC, Theo rededicated his life to God, got and stayed clean and became a soldier. He worked there for several years and served as its worship leader, which is how he met Dawn, his wife for the past decade. She and her father had been coming to the ARC to support her son. Though her son left the program, they continued attending worship.

“If I’d been praying for someone with whom I could be in ministry, I know Dawn was the one when she became a soldier!” said Theo, who recently earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing analytics and has been praying with his corps officers, Captains Corey and Nikki Hughes, about becoming an envoy.

“When the door opens, I want to be ready to step through it,” said Theo. “I’m so grateful the Army was there for me. I want to do the same for others.”

2,122 days and counting

March 1 – June 8, 2019

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.—Martin Luther

Visit the USA Central 100 Days of Prayer Facebook page or salarmynational.org each week for a new devotional and prayer points.

Then join with Salvationists throughout the Central Territory each day as together we lift up topics like revival, youth, urban ministries, officer candidates and spiritual leadership.

Share your thoughts and prayer requests.
Have we got it wrong?

by General Brian Peddle

The following is a revamped version of an article that appeared in the January-March edition of The Officer magazine and, having been published in this context, I have always striven to understand that the audience determined much of how the content was presented. Equally, I have never completely accepted the compliment with thanks, I quickly added that I wished we were further down the track, one claim to fame which has existed now for more than 150 years. It is my intention to re-energise our focus and fully respond to gender equity, keeping at the forefront what I believe is a spiritual initiative in regard to God’s value of all those who he calls into ministry.

I thank God that among almost 17,000 active officers, there are countless women who stand in pulpits, direct centers and lead cutting-edge ministry around the globe. This appreciation extends well beyond officer ranks, and as I travel internationally, I take note of the significant role being played by women. As General, what is now clear to me is that there are relatively few women who are leading in decision-making positions. In the officer/leader arena I am referring to those who lead our training colleges, and divisions, or are in lead-erelated positions in territorial head-quarters, specifically those of territorial commander, officer commanding and chair of secretaries. Officers are so negligible that maintaining them or marginally improving them would not provide much of a boost.

The current reality, with a few noted and valued exceptions, shows a male led and influenced Army. It is so, despite the fact that more women than men are ordained officers and enjoy thecoveted journey of service within our Army culture.

At a recent gathering of 40 selected international leaders, I received advice and counsel on two important areas of officer leadership development/success planning. These topics are related and determined by all international leaders to be at the forefront of our internal and operational culture and call for dialogue and action.

Over the next months, the Chief of the Staff will initiate a phased strategy that will engage all of us as stakeholders and contributors with a review of Orders and Regulations, in an attempt to identify recommendations that will create the change synergies required. As General, I want to provide space for collective wisdom and reasoning, while accepting the reality that aspects of the journey will find their way back to my desk and the consideration of the International Management Council. In sharing this, I would like the International Army to be aware, to be engaged in, and in particular, to pray.

I can hear many asking, “So, General, what is on offer?”

A review of the consideration of the International Dialogue and action.

These topics are related and determination of the changes that will create the change synergies required. As General, I want to engage all of us, and willing participants to bring about a culture shift that will last.

At the heart of gender equity is the “default appointment”, one that is received by virtue of an appointment given to a spouse. There is room for a word of caution here. Many who serve in what are considered to be default appointments are content and fully engaged in Kingdom work. We must be careful! There is also the reality that default appointments are often connected to Women’s Ministries, and even officers make up more than 50 percent of Salvationist world-wide, is the most impactful focus available to The Salvation Army. I am calling for zero tolerance for any marginalization of this important mission focus. Having noted this, I acknowledge the structure of this needs attention.

If the focus for this article is gender equity, there must be a focus specifically on married women. That being the case, there are other resulting points worthy of consideration:

• Shared leadership—I suspect we will need a theological reflection on equity of leadership in the Army. How does the broader membership of the Army view this?

• The Army’s unique opportunity for married couples serving together—how might we preserve the best of what this means to serve together?

• Individual journey tracks—leaders’ consultation with officers will be key.

• Separate ranks—when we unhook what are often viewed as couple appointments, do we also unhook the rank in leadership appointments?

• In what can only be viewed as an male-dominated appointment culture, are we willing to look at significant leader appointments through “best person for the job” paradigm?

• Equal opportunity in areas of training and development, and exposure to boards and decision-making would need to progress.

I guess before the resounding hail-leujahs ring out, a careful, respectful consideration is required, and we would be wise to both speak with and listen to each other. My hope is that, throughout the Army, if those who come into place, we will be able to do that.

As General, it is more important for me to consider careful change in mindsets to re-energise our focus and fully respond to gender equity, keeping at the forefront what I believe is a spiritual initiative in regard to God’s value of all those who he calls into ministry.

My hope is that commentaries generated through dialogue and action will be an essential read for anyone considering their role in shaping the Salvation Army’s future. I am determined to ensure that anyone considering their role in shaping the Salvation Army’s future will have a level playing field of fair opportunity.

Have we got it wrong? A review of the consideration of the International Dialogue and action.

New Year Book:

An essential read

The 376-page Salvation Army Year Book 2019 provides a complete overview of Salvation Army ministry right around the world. First published in 1906, the annual publication incorporates details of the organisation’s work and ministry in 131 countries, with facts and statistics supported by reports, articles, color maps and photographs.

The Year Book includes information from more than 50 territories, commands and regions, covering every aspect of ministry from schools and hospitals to drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs and transitional housing projects for homeless people. In addition to statistical data charting numerical growth, there are chronologies, historical information and a helpful Salvation Army ministry guide.

One part of the Year Book that I really enjoyed doing this year was putting together the articles,” said Editor Major Angela Strickland. “[They] have so much information about specific things that we’re doing in The Salvation Army. I think it’s important to get those stories and those messages out there.

This year’s articles include “Equipping a Modern Army”, by Commissioner Merle Heathwoolt, international secretary for business administration. There also are features on child protection and advances in anti-human trafficking work in Brazil. “Soul-saving Snapshots” includes inspiring short stories of effective but very different ministries in Madagascar, Hungary, Australia and Cuba.

A foreword by General Brian Peddle reads: “This book provides snapshots of the Army’s work internationally. It is an incredible narrative that is saturated with the miracle of the divine dynamic. Peruse it and be blessed. Pray through it and watch God’s continued blessing unfold, and believe as I do that God is willing to do more, and will do a new thing among us. So, how is the Army doing? This book tells the story.”

Copies are available from Trade Central (1-800-937-8896 or satrade-central.org) and through amazon.com. It’s also available as an e-book for Kindle-compatible devices and Kobo.
Heatwoles keep calm and carry on

Into their fourth year of serving at International Headquarters (IHQ), Commissioners Merle and Dawn Heatwole find themselves in a new set of challenging appointments getting at the heart of mission and logistics for the Army worldwide.

They’ve been in their current roles of international secretary for business administration [Merle] and secretary for mission strategy [Dawn] since last April, after leading the Americas and Caribbean Zone. The change in positions has altered their focus, everyday routine and work, even their travel schedules.

Commissioner Dawn’s position is new, an eclectic mix of responsibilities which sees her working on campaigns like *The Whole World Mobilizing*, being the point person for the Center for Spiritual Life and Development and the *One Army* initiative; serving on the International Literary and Management Councils and Appointment Boards; organizing weekly IHQ chapel services and special programs; coordinating prayer focuses with the zonal offices, and providing pastoral care for officers and employees at IHQ, especially those with difficult health issues.

Her ministry takes her into the community as well as being a part of a forum made aware of security issues in London and working with several police departments. She’s even coordinated efforts with a major movie company’s public relations team on a big display outside of IHQ.

“It’s a great opportunity,” she said. “Every single day is different, and I love the variety of what I’m doing.”

What she finds most fulfilling is the opportunity to sit down one-on-one with people and listen to their burdens and concerns. Recently she was asked to mentor an IHQ employee who is hoping to go to the training college later this year—a joy for this former candidates’ secretary!

Commissioner Merle’s role makes him responsible for all business operations for the Army internationally, including audit, facilities management, finance, information technology (IT), property and the Reliance Bank. Currently, he is overseeing two of the most significant and expansive projects implemented in the Army’s history.

One is the implementation of a new financial software package, IFAS NetSuite, for all supported territories in the world. For the first time, this software will ensure every territory in the world has access to a professional method of monitoring and evaluating the financial health of their territory and will provide IHQ real-time reports on their financial health.

The second project is implementation of Microsoft Office 365 to replace Lotus Notes in all territories worldwide as the official communication and collaboration tools. Through this project the number of officers and employees with access to official Salvation Army email and collaboration tools will increase from approximately 55,000 users to over 150,000 users internationally in the future.

He says the most challenging part of his work is recognizing the overwhelming financial needs that exist throughout the Army world and determining how best to fairly distribute the limited resources where they’re needed most and will make the most impact.

“Having enjoyed the abundance of the Western world, it is often heart-breaking to see the extreme poverty experienced by many in the rest of the world,” he said. “However, the joy is being able to see the sacrificial commitment of officers, soldiers and employees throughout the world who serve faithfully in very difficult circumstances and make a significant impact on the lives of those they serve.”

From Nigeria to the Netherlands, Commissioner Merle travels much more these days than his wife, but occasionally they go together, like a trip to the Kenya West Territory where they visited the beautiful officers’ training college campus and worshipped with 77 cadets—an experience that compelled a normally reserved Commissioner Dawn to dance. The Heatwoles also visited the Kenya East Territory where they were blessed by sharing in worship at the Nairobi Central Temple Corps, one of the largest in the world with an average attendance of over 1,000 on Sundays. Stepping out of his box, Commissioner Merle and other IT Council members entered into a cricket match with boys at The Salvation Army’s Boys Home in Colombo, Sri Lanka—the boys definitely had the advantage!

“Having the opportunity to sit down one-on-one with Salvationists throughout the world and to see their joy and love of God through their unique cultural expressions,” said Commissioner Merle.

When in London, the Heatwoles enjoy attending the Croydon Citadel Corps. They both participate in the songsters; Merle plays in the band, and Dawn leads a Bible study for an international group of women.

Other firsts this last year include the birth of their granddaughter, Trinity, and participation in the High Council which elected General Brian Peddle.

“It is a heavy responsibility, and one that nobody in the room took lightly,” said the Heatwoles. “You recognize that you have been given a sacred opportunity to shape the future of The Salvation Army.”

Diaz appointed Chief Secretary at IHQ

Lt. Colonel Evie Diaz, a Central Territory officer, has been appointed as Chief Secretary at International Headquarters (IHQ). She was promoted to the rank of colonel on January 14 when she took on her new role. She has served at IHQ as Assistant Chief Secretary for Administration since 2016 and succeeds Colonel Mark Watts who is taking up appointment responsibilities in his home territory.

The Chief Secretary is the primary liaison between the Chief of the Staff (second in command of The Salvation Army worldwide) and International Headquarters and provides assistance to the Chief of the Staff where needed.

“I am humbled and excited about the opportunity this appointment will provide, especially to see and support the global mission of The Salvation Army,” said Colonel Diaz.
The six Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers in the Central Territory have begun to experience a resurgence in music and the arts through a Fine Arts Grant Initiative. Rolled out in the last year, the initiative is intended to breathe new life into fine arts programs where momentum may have stalled due to changes in leadership or lack of resources. A critical component has been hiring highly qualified managers to oversee the development of fine arts programs. While opportunities may vary from location to location, possibilities are multiplying, people are developing and using their gifts, and attendance is on the rise.

**Taking it to the next level**

The grant has allowed the Chicago, Ill., Kroc Center to raise the bar particularly for its music programs with the addition of Michael LaDisa, music and gospel arts manager. With degrees in music and intercultural studies, Michael has amplified by ability level the number of classes in piano, guitar and vocal and introduced percussion and digital music production, which has proven wildly popular. He also has hired instructors for improved continuity.

Another important emphasis is the dance, theater and visual arts programs for which Tasha Gibson, performance and visual arts manager, provides vision and direction. The award-winning Kroc School of Dance produces youth dance companies for performance and competitions. Tasha wants to get kids moving in ballet or hip-hop as recreation. Students who become interested in performance receive more intensive training in these genres, as well as jazz and modern. Other youth are finding fulfillment in the arts as they learn production and performance skills.

Mission engagement is achieved through a commitment by staff to an Arts and Education Mission Integration Initiative. This can be expressed in a number of ways, including opening or closing a class in prayer, reading a passage of scripture or sharing an inspirational story.

**Revamping for the future**

At the Green Bay, Wis., Kroc Center, Terry Brennan has served as the arts and education manager for four years. Because of the initiative he was able to create a new piano lab, hire more instructors and add to the number and variety of fine arts class offerings, leading to a 50 percent increase in enrollment!

The center offers classes in dance, music and creative arts for all ages. Dance classes, including ballet, jazz, hip-hop and ballroom, are prominent; there’s even a new competitive dance company. Piano and guitar are taught in group and private settings, and ukulele classes have been added. Parent-tot music and art classes bring parents and their kids together for fun, creative activities.

“My passion and my vision are being realized,” said Terry.

The Green Bay Kroc Center hopes to expand the chapel platform and revamp some seating into tiers which will increase platform visibility and functionality for all programs, as well as for outside groups renting the space.

**Empowering through the arts**

Alyson Rodriguez, the new fine arts supervisor at the Grand Rapids, Mich., Kroc Center, believes artistic expression—whether visual, musical or performance—transcends barriers and unites, inspires and transforms people.

“My identity and role as an artist is to empower others through the arts,” said Alyson. “This place is doing amazing work in the community.”

There’s acrylic painting for adults and watercolor and ceramic classes for ages 7 plus. Younger children can enjoy parent-tot art classes and “Music and Me.” There’s also a theater workshop for ages 8-14.

Alyson has been working to expand and build the Kroc’s fine arts program by connecting with other organizations for collaboration. For instance, through a partnership with HIS Christian Dance Academy, the center offers ballet classes for ages 2 to 10 and contemporary dance for adults.

“Grand Rapids has a thriving arts scene. It’s home to two major art museums, an art college, a symphony, a ballet company and a civic theater, but not everyone in our city can enjoy these arts,” Alyson continued. “This is another gap we can fill to empower our community.”
Equipping for success

The Omaha, Neb., Kroc Center has experienced a jump in enrollment due in large part to the ability to purchase equipment through the grant. According to Kevin Boesiger, fine arts manager, the right equipment makes all the difference. “The grant has been huge in getting things we needed, like choral risers and a grand piano,” he said. “We’ve been able to double our program offerings.”

Kevin came to the Kroc Center after serving 27 years as a worship leader in Beatrice, Neb. His experience and passion guide his vision for the Kroc to become a strong performing arts center. In the past, year songwriting, guitar, theater production classes and a youth choir have been added. He has devised new opportunities for arts education, offering music instruction for homeschoolers and forming relationships with high schools and colleges to provide a venue for concerts and volunteering.

Multiplying possibilities

Since introducing new programs and classes last fall, the South Bend, Ind., Kroc Center has seen enrollment in fine arts surge to 170 youth! Much of the credit goes to Amanda (Mandy) Simons, fine arts and education manager, but she’s quick to credit the center’s leaders and instructors, outreach efforts, timing classes to start with the school year and word-of-mouth advertising by participants.

“The sense of joy, service, team work and excellence here at the Kroc Center takes what I’m doing to a different level,” said Mandy. With degrees in vocal performance and music education and a decade teaching music, Mandy was looking for a ministry opportunity when she joined the center.

Free afterschool fine arts classes have brought in about 90 kids from the community. They’re now involved in choir, theater, hand chimes, ukulele, art, hip-hop dance, general music and theory classes. Home schooling groups also are an integral part of the success. A December recital featured participants involved not only in performance but in creating props and backdrops.

This spring classes likely will be split into two for optimal learning size, and the center hopes to expand offerings to adults with choir, handbells, theater and art classes.

Finding their niche

With 16 years as a high school band director, Keith Wiemelt thought his course was set, but the Lord had other plans. Majors Andy and Cheryl Miller, part of a summer community band Keith led, could see he’d be perfect for the new education and fine arts specialist position at the Quincy, Ill., Kroc Center, made possible through the initiative, and encouraged him to apply. Feeling a God-sent nudge, Keith joined the team last June. “It’s been a joy,” he said.

Networking and listening to the center’s members, Keith has integrated fine arts into the afterschool program and has provided unique options, such as book folding and theatrical movement for adults. Activities like painting have appealed to people from age 11 to 60.

A budding youth brass band of 10 students from six local schools has expanded the center’s influence. The youth love it, and some parents drive up to 50 miles so their children can participate. More than 100 people attended the band’s first performance.

Keith hopes to add private music lessons, handbells, theater and a variety of visual arts classes.
Set your sights on the Rader Scholarship

Don’t overlook the Paul and Kay Rader Scholarship in your search for financial aid.

Qualified Salvationist minority students attending accredited Christian colleges may be eligible for scholarships of up to $5,000 per year.

If you are or know a Central Territory college student who may benefit, contact your divisional youth secretary.

Endorsements must be obtained by your corps then divisional youth secretary for territorial review and approval, so don’t delay for the 2019/20 school year!

Application deadline: May 15, 2019.

For more information contact Rob_DeGeorge@usc.salvationarmy.org or visit salvationarmycentral.org/ord/student-aid/
Central in historic Tournament of Roses march

by Beth Malovance

The Tournament of Roses Parade brings to mind images of floral beauty, grand floats, marching bands and The Salvation Army. The 2019 parade marked the 107th anniversary of The Salvation Army’s participation in this world-famous event. This year the band reached record numbers with over 400 participants from eight youth bands representing the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa, Canada and the four USA territories, as well as individual musicans from Southern California, Brazil, South Africa, Jamaica and Chile. The Salvation Army is the longest-serving band to march in the parade since The Salvation Army’s debut in 1920.

“It is the world’s biggest open-air. That is why we keep on investing into it,” said Bandmaster Kevin Larsson, California South divisional music director. “We’re playing songs like ‘Amazing Grace’ and ‘This is our story’ and often the name of the song is displayed on TV, reaching millions.”

On December 27 the Central Territorial Youth Band (TYB)—58 strong—embarked on a trip to California to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. On day two of the trip, the eight United youth bands had the opportunity to play for hundreds of spectators at the Tournament of Roses Bandfest where all the parade bands play their field show. The band covered the field from 10-yard line to 10-yard line, creating a massive sound as they played St. Francis, “Amazing Grace,” “Dies Irae,” “Auld Lang Syne,” and then marched off to “This is our story.”

The Central TYB had the privilege of leading worship on Sunday at the Pasadena Tabernacle Corps. They provided musical ministry, with selected members leading the meeting with prayer, scripture readings, leading songs and giving personal testimonies. Lt. Colonel Philip Maxwell, Central territorial program secretary, brought the message.

Beautiful Mt. Crags Camp served as home base for the band members over the nine days, which were full with activities ranging from rehearsals to trips to Santa Monica Pier and Hollywood. In addition, delegates participated in an informal music camp and were mixed into eight separate bands different from their own territorial bands. This culminated in a concert at the Tustin Ranch Corps displaying music ministry at its finest. On the final day, the musical outreach continued at Disneyland as The Salvation Army marched through the park playing “Amazing Grace.”

Josie Himes summed it up best, “It was a musically enriching experience that gave me an international awareness of God’s reach.”

The Central Territorial Youth Band ministered at the Pasadena Tabernacle Corps on Sunday.

Central Territorial Youth Band members with Lt. Colonel Philip Maxwell

Singing a new song

When the first Territorial Youth Chorus (TYC) was formed in 2014 it marked a bold step forward in vocal music development in the Central Territory.

“At the time when TYC was first being proposed,” explained its director Joe Caddy, “we realized that even our top vocalists at Central Music Institute (CMI) would only be involved with Salvation Army choral music making at music camp or CMI. Students who weren’t involved with choir at school weren’t making significant progress from year to year, so we wanted to find a way to stimulate their continued development as singers and musicians for more than just one or two weeks out of the year.”

For the first time, teens and young adults ages 13-25 were invited to join a composite territorial music group which would meet only once or twice per season for a weekend of rehearsal and music ministry. The group’s impact was readily apparent from the very first rehearsal that February. The young singers bonded quickly as an ensemble and rose to challenges presented to them by the advanced repertoire.

Encouraging them along the way has been a group of purposefully placed “mentor singers”—members of the Bill Booth Theater Company and other experienced vocalists from the territory whose presence in the group has been intended to not only model musical excellence but to foster multigenerational relationships and impart hard-won wisdom of how effective ministry extends beyond musical performance.

Entering its fifth year, TYC has grown in ability and number with all 10 divisions represented in this year’s group. Some original members have ascended to being “mentor singers,” and the group is preparing to collaborate with the Eastern Territorial Songsters as part of their Singing Stars event this October in New York.

The territorial music and gospel arts department could not be more pleased with how the Territorial Youth Chorus program has unfolded in its relatively short existence.

“It has been a catalyst of many exciting developments both musically and, especially, spiritually,” Joe said. “I have had many experienced musicians, peers and elder, tell me how much they wish something like this was available when they were younger.”
Care after incarceration

by Craig Dirkes

Minnesota’s rate of criminal recidivism—a person’s relapse into criminal behavior—is one of the nation’s highest. The Twin Cities Salvation Army is helping to reverse that trend through Aftercare Support. Since forming in 2016, the program has helped dozens of former inmates successfully reintegrate into society.

“Without a job and housing, many ex-prisoners revert to the same illegal activities that got them incarcerated,” said Aftercare Support cofounder John Hulteen. “Aftercare Support aims to change that tragic cycle.”

Salvation Army prison chaplains begin meeting with Aftercare Support participants several months before their release. Together, they line up housing and other necessities. The program also provides essentials such as food, bus cards and clothing vouchers. After their release, they attend Aftercare Support meetings, where they receive job coaching, mentoring and emotional and spiritual support.

“It’s a model that would work well almost anywhere,” John said. “There’s very little additional overhead as much of the work is conducted by our volunteers, and restaurants provide food for support group meals.”

Weekly attendance averages between 30 and 65 people, about half of whom are female. The parents of men and women serving time in Minnesota prisons are also welcome. “Many parents feel ashamed,” John said. “Aftercare Support provides socialization and support.”

Aftercare Support also provides encouragement and motivation for former inmates to stay out of trouble. “One woman had a fulltime job and her own apartment, but then her employer switched her hours to part-time,” said Envoy Tonya Carlson, Northern divisional correctional services chaplain. “She said it’d be easier to go back to slinging dope. We convinced her to stay the course. Aftercare Support was the intervention that turned her around.”

“I owe The Salvation Army a debt of gratitude,” said one participant. “I will always be appreciative of the people who helped me in my darkest hours.”

A life restored

by Craig Dirkes

When Crystal Hill’s baby boy was born, it was the best day of her life—and the worst. She gave birth to Jayden while incarcerated in a Minnesota prison. He was taken from her almost immediately, and she wasn’t sure when she would see him again.

Crystal was released when Jayden was a few months old, but he was in Ohio with her mom, who had assumed custody. Crystal was living on the streets of Minneapolis, unable to leave the state due to the conditions of her parole. The two things she needed most—a job and housing—seemed impossible. So, she went back to earning money the only way she knew: selling drugs.

“My justification for selling drugs was to let Jayden know I loved him,” she said. “I sent money as often as I could.”

A few months later she was arrested again and sentenced to 74 months in prison. Her dream of being Jayden’s fulltime mom had all but died. By the time she was released, Jayden would be 8.

Desperate, Crystal enrolled in Challenge Incarceration, an intensive 18-month rehabilitation program. The first six months consisted of rigorous physical training, education, chemical dependency treatment and therapy. During this time she accepted Christ.

For the next 12 months she was tasked with living a productive life in the outside world under heavy supervision. She spent five months in inpatient drug treatment, went to school fulltime, worked two jobs and attended three support group meetings per week, one of which was The Salvation Army’s Aftercare Support.

“Aftercare Support is amazing,” Crystal said. “They made me feel like I was a part of them.”

When she successfully completed Challenge Incarceration, she was permitted to drive to Ohio and pick up 3-year-old Jayden and her mother. The three of them now live together in the Twin Cities suburbs. Crystal works fulltime and is a fulltime MBA student. She still attends Aftercare Support meetings and receives guidance from Envoy Tonya Carlson, Northern divisional correctional services chaplain.

“Crystal is proof that with hard work and focus, you can get back what addiction has stolen from you,” Envoy Tonya said. “The Lord restores.”

“The Salvation Army taught me how to live with integrity and trust,” Crystal concluded. “It’s an amazing feeling. I’m excited for my future.”

A tireless helper

by Craig Dirkes

About nine years ago she was connected with the Northern Division’s correctional services department and quickly developed a passion for prison ministry. Now she regularly mentors women through Aftercare Support, helping them find jobs and connecting them with resources as they prepare to reintegrate into society.

“I help them make changes so that they can become productive members of society,” Darla said.

Darla also writes letters of encouragement and support to women who are still incarcerated, and during the holidays she helps lead Prison Toy Lift, a Salvation Army program that provides Christmas gifts to children who have a parent in prison. The gifts arrive to each child from the incarcerated parent.

“I’ve seen the positive impact this has on those who are incarcerated, and I’ve heard firsthand how much it means to them and their children,” she said.

Darla assisted in streamlining the Prison Toy Lift ministry through updating the mailing database for the 900 families who received gifts. She also helped prepare a mailing to the homes that received gifts, each letter welcoming the recipients to their local corps and providing information about Pathway of Hope.

“Some people ask me, ‘Why on earth do you want to help prisoners?’” she said. “I believe that if we, as Christians, have accepted forgiveness from God, how can we not look at everyone else and offer them forgiveness, too? It is an absolute privilege to be a part of a ministry that truly believes the redeeming love of Jesus is for everyone.”
A pillar of excellence

For more than 25 years, Chaplain Tony Mustazza has ministered to men behind bars at the Faribault, Minn., Correctional Facility. In that time, the number of inmates incarcerated at Faribault has ballooned from 300 to 2,000, necessitating continual development of new religious programming and services for the inmates, a task Tony has met with creativity, care and perseverance.

Under Tony’s leadership and direction, 150 certified volunteers regularly interact with the inmates at Faribault. He coordinates programs by community groups which give concerts or lead seminars, and he oversees The Salvation Army’s Prison Toy Lift and the Prison Fellowship’s Angel Tree which provide toys for the children of inmates at Christmas. He’s also created a religious library for the inmates and spends several hours each week counseling the men, particularly those who are struggling with grief.

Most recently, Tony started a mentoring program called “Pastors to Prisoners” which pairs Christian pastors with prisoners seeking spiritual counseling. Every volunteer pastor visits a participant one-on-one for at least an hour each month.

Tony is the 2018 recipient of The Salvation Army’s Chaplain of the Year Award, an honor presented to one chaplain each year at the American Correctional Association’s Congress of Corrections. Recipients are nominated by Salvation Army officers and show excellence in providing care to the inmates in their facilities.

“I have enjoyed working with Tony over the past 20 years as The Salvation Army facilitates a monthly chapel service and Bible study in the Faribault Correctional Facility,” concluded Charles Berry, Northern divisional correctional services director. “Tony is a pillar of chaplaincy work in Minnesota prisons.”

PRAYER CENTRAL
April Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List

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<th>Bible Reading</th>
<th>Pray for The Salvation Army</th>
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<td>1 Corinthians 9-10</td>
<td>Global Mission Team in India South Eastern Territory***</td>
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<td>Exodus 1-4</td>
<td>National Social Services Conference (Kansas City, Mo.)</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Proclaim the hope of the risen Savior!</td>
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Go to www.usarmycentral.org if you follow the prayer calendar during the year, you will have read through the Bible!

PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army

- Mustard Seeds -

DAD, LAST NIGHT I PRAYED THAT GOD WOULD HELP ME PASS MY DRIVERS TEST. THAT WONT BE FOR ANOTHER 9 YEARS... IT NEVER HURTS TO GET ON GODS CALENDAR...
Museum brings past to light

It’s hard to imagine that projecting still images onto a wall was once considered cutting-edge technology and a major source of entertainment. But the Central Territorial Historical Museum’s newest exhibit emphasizes the beauty and importance of “magic lantern” slides in furthering The Salvation Army’s mission at the turn of the last century.

In fact, magic lantern shows were so important to the Army during the 1890s to 1930s. International Headquarters issued orders and regulations and established a production department to create entertaining “illustrated lectures” for global usage. Army publications provided detailed technical directions for using magic lanterns and instructions on how to best conduct magic-lantern performances with effective transitions to gospel messages.

The museum exhibit features hand-colored and black-and-white glass slides touching on a variety of subjects including Bible stories and Army ministries and buildings. Visit the exhibits on the third and fourth floors of Central Territorial Headquarters in Hofffman Estates, Ill. A take-away devotional series relating to the exhibit will be available this spring in a collaboration between museum staff and the adult mission advancement department.

A hand-painted glass slide of Jesus on the Sea of Galilee

Promoted to Glory

Major Harold Baugh
Major Harold Baugh, 80, was promoted to Glory on December 4, 2018. Harold’s life was one of service to others. Whether it was to his country, his family or his community, he put the needs of others before his own and followed where God led.

Harold was born on March 11, 1938. He joined the U.S. Army in 1958 and served one year in Korea before being stationed in Chicago, Ill., where he met and married Ruby Alene Williams in 1960.

Harold and Alene entered officer training in 1972 and were commissioned in 1974 with the “Followers of Christ” session. They faithfully served in corps appointments in Illinois, Iowa and North Dakota. They retired in 2003 from the Williston, N.D., Corps.

In his quiet moments, Harold loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They were the light of his life.

Harold is survived by his wife; five children, Major Deborah (Nelson) De La Vergne, Gary, William, Catherine, Bob (Shannon); seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Major Marianne Ljungholm
Mrs. Major Marianne Ljungholm was promoted to Glory on December 10, 2018. A joyful servant and faithful evangelist, she lived to love people and share the gospel.

Marianne met The Salvation Army at the age of three when she began attending Sunday school. She accepted Christ when she was eight and was a junior soldier and sunbeam, then a senior soldier, corps cadet and girl guard.

In 1943, Marianne married Sven Ljungholm and they started a family. She remained active in the corps, serving as a sunbeam leader and junior soldier sergeant. The Ljungholms entered officer training and were commissioned in 1957 with the “Faithful” session.

For the next 25 years, they served in corps, divisional and territorial appointments, as well as at the College for Officer Training. Sven was promoted to Glory in 1982, and Marianne retired in 1984 from her final appointment as director of the retired officers’ bureau.

Marianne is survived by her sons, Sven and Bo.

Major William Spyker
Major William J. Spyker, Sr., 86, was promoted to Glory on December 9, 2018. A lifelong Salvationist, Bill loved people and shared the gospel with everyone he met. He cherished reading and studying the Bible, gardening, his model train collection, traveling and spending time with his family.

Bill committed his life to Christ as a teenager. As a young man, he invited Carolyn Trombley to the Lansing, Mich., Corps, where he was a soldier. They were married in 1958 and entered training in 1960. The Spykers were commissioned in 1962 with the “Servants of Christ” session.

They served in corps, at Northern Divisional Headquarters and the College for Officer Training (CFO T) for more than 35 years. Bill especially enjoyed ministering to cadets during the combined 14 years they spent at the CFO T. The Spykers retired from their final appointment at the CFO T in 1997.

Bill is survived by his wife; son William, Jr., daughter Marian Rogers; four grandchildren; and sisters Carol Skinner and Ruth Timko.

Major Mary Wilson
Major Mary Wilson, 66, was promoted to Glory on December 29, 2018. Deeply committed to her calling, she had a passion for ministering to those struggling with alcohol abuse and was especially fulfilled in her work at adult rehabilitation centers (ARC) and harbor light centers.

Mary met Jimmy, who introduced her to The Salvation Army, in 1970. They were married in 1971 and entered training after Jimmy’s discharge from the U.S. Army in 1975. The Wilsons were commissioned in 1977 with the “Companions of Christ” session.

Mary and Jimmy served in corps throughout the Midwest for 20 years before moving into ARC and harbor light appointments. They retired in March 2018 from their final appointments at Eastern Michigan Divisional Headquarters, where Mary served as veterans administration representative and associate correctional services director.

Mary is survived by her husband; children David, Stephen and John; and 10 grandchildren.