



Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory
News and Views from the Midwest

"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

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Canton Corps finds new avenues of service

The Salvation Army holds a significant place in the heart of the Canton, Ill., community. This small town of nearly 14,000, located just outside bustling Peoria, is a place where people care about one another and are eager to support The Salvation Army's services to help their neighbors in need.

When she arrived in Canton in 2015, Captain Sarah Eddy, corps officer, started devising new ways to connect with the community. Her monthly Facebook Live updates in which she shared encouraging messages and prayer quickly amassed a large following. She formed strong relationships with other churches, organizations and service groups and developed a system to keep in contact with volunteers and let them know of new opportunities. When the coronavirus pandemic caused an increase in the demand for services and a strain on the corps' resources, she leveraged these connections to reach out for help to meet the growing need.



Captain Sarah Eddy

"COVID gave me courage," said Captain Sarah. "Canton has been in the process of changing how we do worship and reach our community for the last few years. COVID helped us move forward a little quicker."

As the community banded together to keep the people of Canton supplied with food and other necessities, the Army's reach expanded. The health department provided a grant to secure cleaning supplies and food for those who were quaran-

ted due to COVID-19, while a partnership with another church enabled a mass distribution of 600 food boxes. The corps joined with the YWCA to deliver more than 16,000 meals to neighborhoods from a canteen, and thanks to a local diaper bank they were able to host a drive-thru diaper giveaway and add diapers to the items offered to people through the corps pantry.

Over the holiday season, Captain Sarah worked with community partners to ensure all of the regular holiday events and assistance programs could carry on in some fashion. For



Kathy Wright Salvidio and Becky Smith volunteer to deliver Thanksgiving to families.

example, the red kettle kickoff was held live on the radio rather than as an in-person event and adjustments were made to the application and distribution processes for Thanksgiving and Christmas to ensure proper social distancing could be maintained.

Thanks to the HyVee grocery store and dozens of volunteers, 50 food baskets were delivered to families the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Continued on page 2



Six hundred boxes of food are distributed to Canton families in a mass giveaway.

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Nothing is wasted

by Commissioner Heidi Bailey
Territorial Leader for Leader Development

Several years ago, Commissioner Brad and I had the opportunity to visit The Salvation Army's work in Cuba and were honored to meet many remarkable people. Recently I was surprised to receive a postcard from a woman there, but I was even more surprised when I noticed Martha Garcia had written it on October 13, 2016! After four long years, this act of kindness finally arrived on my desk in Hoffman Estates—a completely different location than the original address.

Having passed the one-year mark of COVID-19, we thank God for the thousands of acts of kindness The Salvation Army has shared in our communities; like that postcard from Cuba, they have not been wasted.

People have been lovingly served, and the gospel has been powerfully preached through your actions. Most importantly, God has been faithful.

Besides the physical virus, we have been affected by a pandemic of loss, grief and sorrow. Yet, in an unparalleled way, we thank God that our corporate heartbreak has united us. Hope also has been our constant companion because our hope is in the Lord, who is our help and shield.

In Kingdom building, visible results can take time, and we often can encounter detours. When we look back on the last year, we might feel so much was wasted. It's good to be reminded there is light at the end of what has been a very long

tunnel and no act of kindness carried out by God's people is in vain because nothing is ever wasted by God—not even a four-year-old postcard.

"And so brothers of mine, stand firm! Let nothing move you as you busy yourselves in the Lord's work. Be sure that nothing you do for him is ever lost or ever wasted."

I Corinthians 15:58 (Phillips)



Thank you for standing firm, for not growing weary and for leading with love when everything was shouting to quit. Your efforts have not been wasted. They never will be.

Grocery grab blesses community

The stakes were high as Lt. Greg

Bock ran through the Muscatine, Iowa, HyVee store, snatching staples like peanut butter, cereal, macaroni and cheese and soup off the shelves. He had just five minutes to make it back to the checkout, not with groceries for his own family, but with up to \$1,000 worth of food for the corps pantry which fills empty stomachs throughout the year.

The Salvation Army's pantry shelves are full thanks to a generous donor who'd won a charity raffle from the Boys and Girls Club and YMCA entitling him to a five-minute, \$1,000 grocery grab. After



winning the prize, the donor realized how much others in the community could benefit from it and decided to split the prize between two agencies whose pantries keep Muscatine fed. Joining in the generosity, the Bayer Monsanto Company matched the original prize, giving each organization up to \$1,000 to spend within the time frame.

"It was a lot of fun," said Lt. Greg, Muscatine corps officer. "It was a great way to collaborate as a community and showed that one act of generosity can spur a big chain reaction."

The lieutenant managed to snag just over \$600 worth of groceries during his grab, and HyVee came through with a gift card for the balance, ensuring the pantry would be filled with \$1,000 worth of food for distribution to families in need.

"The Salvation Army has been at the forefront of meeting the real-time needs of this community," concluded Lt. Greg. "People know they can come to us for help. We're thankful for this donation which helped fill our pantry."

Canton Corps Continued from page 1

ing and nearly 250 hot meals were served in a drive-thru set up in the HyVee parking lot on Thanksgiving Day.

Similarly, Christmas distribution had to be adjusted. Families received bags of toys and boxes of food by a drive-thru system. Also provided to each family were "COVID Care Packs" which included cleaning products, soap and hand sanitizer collected during a local radio station drive. A pastoral care team was present to pray with people as they waited in their cars; gathered prayer requests were then linked into a paper chain and prayed over by corps members throughout the holiday season.

"I never want it to be, 'Here's your bag of toys,' and that's it," said Captain Sarah. "I want it to be more than that. I want people to encounter Jesus."

From pastoral "porch visits" to virtual worship, ministry has changed significantly, but according to the captain the inconveniences created



A canteen delivers lunches to Canton neighborhoods.

by pandemic life have provided new avenues for reaching the community. For example, virtual worship has led to a significant increase in the number of people attending Sunday services, and volunteers have adjusted to social distancing requirements by working at the corps in smaller groups and performing some tasks, such as writing donor thank you cards, from home.

"All of this has come because of the growing need due to COVID," concluded the captain. "We have had opportunities to share Jesus in ways that go outside the boundaries of our traditional worship services, and that has made a great impact."



Volunteers pack hot dinners for drive-thru distribution.

Central Connection 

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Hispanic ministry grows strong at Minneapolis Central Corps

"Growing a corps takes time; it relies on building relationships."

When Captain Jessica Martinez was appointed five years ago to the Minneapolis Central, Minn., Corps, her friend's wisdom gave her an extra measure of patience and direction as she poured herself into ministry. She needed it. Many families had left the corps' fellowship, and it was bereft of children.

Today as she looks at the progress, her heart swells with satisfaction and gratitude. Twenty-five to 30 children belong to the corps' Wednesday night programs, and 12 faithfully participate in Sunday school. They were introduced through summer day camp, the summer lunch program and social services when their families came for help. The captain was not shy to let them know of other enriching opportunities such as afterschool character-building programs, vacation Bible school and Sunday meetings.

The bilingual children's activities laid the groundwork to know the families, and eventually the bustling youth programs translated into a growing Latino women's ministries with 16 members, most of whom are the children's mothers who now invite their friends. Some of the fathers also attend the corps. Many parents volunteered to help the corps pack and distribute food boxes during the pandemic last year to help their community.

Since the corps already had an established English-speaking congregation, worship was translated into Spanish. This service attracted some new people who wanted to improve their English but proved cumbersome for others who desired to worship in their heart language. When it had to go virtual, the service became unwieldy and not nearly as effective for anyone. While it wasn't possible to hold two services then, Captain Jessica went the extra mile to keep connected and sent two text messages a day, one in English and one in Spanish, to encourage all members.

It was a blessing last summer when Lts. Ramon and Ely Cebrian were commissioned and appointed to Minneapolis Central Corps. Bringing energy and enthusiasm to their first appointment, the Cebrians gladly have shared the responsibility of caring for members of the corps and community.



Lts. Ramon and Ely Cebrian are overjoyed to receive their first appointment to the Minneapolis Central, Minn., Corps.



Women's Ministries group members attend a nutrition class at a local college.

They have held a virtual worship service in Spanish, assumed daily texts to Spanish-speaking members and made connections in the community. This has allowed the captain to focus on providing services and pastoral care for those who speak English. She also credits the corps' great staff and volunteers, such as Leslie and Katie Ainsleigh (see story below), in helping to meet the needs.

will be able to use the computer lab, gym and fitness room.

While to someone not familiar with The Salvation Army this might seem like a lot, Captain Jessica grew up attending a corps in Peru and understood early on that being an officer involves immensely more than preaching. She says she remembers what her officers did for her and hopes she can do the same for others.

It was a Partner in Mission ministry team from the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division (WUM) that came to Peru which introduced her to then-Majors Robert and Nancy Thomson who led the division. Their invitation to work at the divisional headquarters started her journey to the U.S., then the College for Officer Training and service as an officer in the Central Territory.



Blacno Fernandez assists with the virtual Spanish language worship services.

In addition to worship, virtual Bible studies and soldier recruits classes are held in both Spanish and English. Going forward, the captain and lieutenants plan to hold a joint in-person service once a month when possible to help keep the corps united.

Though social services have been provided continuously at the corps, they are looking forward to the day when children can come to the building again for afterschool programs and to use the playground and adults



Captain Jessica Martinez (then a lieutenant) assists a client in the food pantry in 2019.

Service doesn't skip a beat

by Lt. Ramon Cebrian

Since I arrived last summer at my first appointment, the Minneapolis Central, Minn., Corps, I've noticed whenever we need volunteers, soldiers Leslie and Katie Ainsleigh are ready to help. Married 19 years, they say God blesses them every day and it's a joy to serve Him by helping others.



They personify Colossians 3:23-24 (NLT): "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ."

Growing up in Bemidji, Minn., Katie has belonged to The Salvation Army her whole life. Her mother taught her the importance of volunteerism. She remembers packing Christmas boxes as a child and going to help at the thrift store. Katie also remembers how The Salvation Army helped provide toys for her own kids when years were lean; now each holiday season she gladly helps other families in need who come to the corps' toy shop. She also prepares breakfast for the bellringers, and Les drives them to their kettle locations and picks them up at the end of the day.

Throughout the year the Ainsleighs' service doesn't skip a beat. They both are involved in Sunday worship, Sunday school and Bible studies. Les picks people up for Sunday services and drives community care teams to nursing homes, maintains the corps' yard, picks up trash and shovels snow. He also acts as general corps handyman, fixing things as needed. Katie keeps pace with him by assisting with the corps' reception, cooking for youth programs and setting up for corps events. In her role as assistant moonbeam leader and women's ministries member, she has been exceptionally welcoming to new children and women and encourages them by her faith.

"Never give up on God because He will never give up on you," she said. "He will always be there for you."

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Agents of change in Latin America

by Ricardo Gomez,
Director of Community Projects
Latin America North Territory

In a time of crisis such as the one triggered by COVID-19, it has been admirably impressive for our territory, Latin America North, to receive practical and effective support from the international Salvation Army to relieve the pressing needs caused by the coronavirus. The challenge of working in 10 different countries,



Meal provision in Honduras

each culturally different from the other, and having to deal with sometimes contradictory restrictions, has been overcome by the tremendous disposition and energy of officers, soldiers and volunteers.

As a result, we have collected countless life stories and testimonies that highlight the different facets of the Army's practical and timely service and assistance to men, women and children in dire need of food.



Distributing meals in Guatemala

Jorge Rivera from Guatemala says The Salvation Army has made a huge difference in his family's life. Losing his work, Jorge lacked the financial resources to feed his family. The only food he could take home was what he received every day from The Salvation Army. "The Salvation Army has saved my life," said Jorge.

Carmen usually sells goods at an unofficial market stall at the side of



Providing meals to homeless people in Panama

the road, which she has not been able to do in the past months. She thanks The Salvation Army for its mission which means she and her family are not starving. Carmen has no money, but she and her family only have words of thanks to God for The Salvation Army.

In talking with people who have benefitted from The Salvation Army's help, we have found certainty we are doing the right thing to reach the neediest people.

Officers also have recognized the incredible impact their activities are having on people's lives. They, in turn, are offering gratitude to God for His provision and for the international support in a time of worldwide crisis. This support and assistance gave officers a strong feeling of unity in service and commitment to God and people.

When the call to serve the needy, the hungry and the forgotten is strongest, the officers strengthen their vocation, their faith and their commitment to the mission.

Humanitarian efforts in response to the pandemic have focused on providing food but also hygiene items such as hand sanitizer, disinfectant and informational material, backed up by emotional and spiritual support. This has been provided to the most vulnerable members of the population, such as homeless people.

For The Salvation Army in Latin America, the effects of the pandemic have provided an opportunity to publicize our mission, showing how people of all ages have benefitted without discrimination. We also have created working networks with other public and private institutions to strengthen care work without duplicating effort, always seeking to serve those who need it most.



Recipients line up for parcels in Belize.



Preparing food for COVID-19 affected people in Costa Rica

In the process of implementing our coronavirus projects, we have found families with numerous members who have seen how The Salvation Army's provision of food has come as the answer to a long night of prayer. We have contributed to information campaigns with each beneficiary receiving advice on how to wash his or her hands correctly, how to apply social distancing measures and how together we can prevent the spread of the virus.

Amid this pandemic, we have discovered the love of God in each plate of food, in each look of thanks, in each smile received. Every morning we wake up with the commitment intact to reach those people who are waiting for some light, a prayer, a little food—just as Salvation

Army representatives have done for 155 years.

We extend our gratitude to each of our donors because with their help we are able to change a life, create an impact and witness that the love of God is more alive than ever—and that it is even more visible in times of need and uncertainty.

With great joy we will continue working to fulfill Jesus' mandate to love God above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves, being agents of change in the midst of so much need and sadness. We seek to be an answer to prayers, to be an instrument of faith and a voice of hope.

Adapted and reprinted from *All the World*.

ALL THE WORLD

THINK YOU KNOW
EVERYTHING ABOUT
THE SALVATION ARMY?
THINK
AGAIN!



In more than 130 countries, The Salvation Army's ministry is as varied as the needs it faces. And wherever The Salvation Army is being used by God to change lives, *All the World* is there too, sharing the good news.

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Published from International Headquarters in London since 1884, *All the World* seeks to demonstrate the innovative, God-inspired work being carried out through The Salvation Army around the world. Written in everyday language, the bright, modern-looking quarterly magazine can be shared with friends, neighbors, donors or local and national government personnel, providing an eye-opening view of The Salvation Army's amazing international ministry.



Subscriptions can be bought online at sar.my/atwsubo or through Salvation Army Trade Departments, and back issues are available at www.salvationarmy.org/alltheworld

A God-given opportunity

by Commissioner Dawn Heatwole

In mid-June 2020 we received a phone call from the Chief of the Staff to discuss the possibility of a new appointment. We were shocked but excited to learn we were being considered for a leadership appointment to the Latin America North Territory (LAN). We arrived on Halloween and have been very busy ever since.

The territory consists of 10 countries: Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Venezuela. Due to the pandemic, it is very difficult and expensive to travel between the countries.

Therefore, we have not yet been able to visit any country other than Costa Rica.



The Salvation Army in each country is meeting the needs of the people in different ways like providing food parcels, feeding the homeless, emergency disaster relief (two hurricanes have hit parts of the territory), and much more.



Commissioner Dawn Heatwole presents the Silver Star certificate to the parents of a newly commissioned lieutenant.

In the midst of the difficulties, we experienced the blessing of our first commissioning as the territorial leaders. We witnessed 14 cadets of the "Messengers of the Kingdom" session kneel and sign their covenants. We shared in their joy as they pinned a Silver Star on their parents' clothing and as they received their associate's degrees. We were blessed to ordain and commission them and give them their first appointments. Due to the pandemic, the numbers in attendance were very limited, but the excitement was still evident, and the events were livestreamed.

The need is great here in LAN. Due to the pandemic, many of our income-generating projects have had to be temporarily closed which has

created financial hardship for the corps, schools, daycares and services for the elderly. There is hope that the vaccine will allow our facilities to open again soon so services can be provided to the community and funds can be generated to help support the work.

When we were the International Secretaries for the Americas in 2017, we travelled to LAN and as we were preparing to return to London, I said to my husband (Commissioner Merle), "If we are ever appointed to serve in the southern part of the zone, I would love to serve here in Latin America North." God has given us the opportunity to do just that. We pray He will stretch us, teach us and use us in the days ahead.



Commissioners Merle and Dawn Heatwole perform the commissioning and ordination of 14 cadets of the Messengers of the Kingdom session in the Latin America North Territory.

5,500 women praying for you!

by Kristin Caddy

Paul's letters in the New Testament are filled with examples of ministry partnership. We read accounts of the Church caring for, encouraging and learning from each other. We see examples of believers faithfully and fervently praying for one another, even when physically separated by a great distance. The early Church demonstrates the importance of supporting each other financially.

These attributes of partnership are integral to The Salvation Army's global ministry. As Partners in Mission for the past 10 years, the India South Eastern and USA Central territories have developed a significant relationship through the



exchange visits of personnel, prayer, education about projects and programs, and sharing of financial resources.

Our partnership with the India South Eastern Territory is a beautiful

example of the Body of Christ—members of one body who are rejoicing, suffering, learning and serving together though separated by many miles.

The essence of this partnership was captured in the October-December issue of *All the World* magazine by Mr. Benjamin Dhaya, director of the Community Health and Development Program (CHDP) in the India South Eastern Territory, who wrote, "Despite the fact that our community workers from the CHDP are mostly

having to work from home, on hearing the situation in the United States with respect to the COVID-19 virus, the Self-Help Group leaders contacted me to say that they felt they should come together to pray for SAWSO (Salvation Army World Service Office) and the USA Central Territory who, through their project support, have been so supportive in the development of them and their families over the years. So, on 22 April, 5,500 women joined together in their homes and communities and prayed for those from SAWSO and USA Central Territory who partner with them."

We are grateful to the India South Eastern Territory for their prayers for us, and we are humbled and encouraged by their partnership. May we be inspired by their example and remain faithful in prayer and support for our brothers and sisters in the India South Eastern Territory, and our other Partners in Mission, as we work together for the sake of the gospel.



730... AND BEYOND



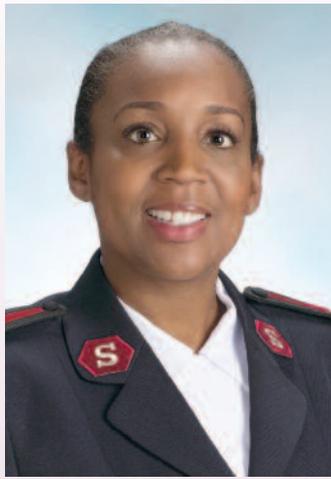
259 days and counting

by Lt. Shanell Debela

Coming to our first appointment, we felt God's presence from the very beginning. We arrived in the thick of the pandemic. Corps programs were on hold, and worship services were just beginning to open back up. With all the restrictions in place, I remember praying about how to connect with our new corps families. At the time it didn't seem possible. I was reminded of the scripture, "Nothing is impossible for God." (Luke 1:37) So, we met with lay leaders in the corps to learn more about the Decatur, Ill., community and how we could serve it. We decided to take advantage of a divisional grant for vacation Bible school (VBS) to make youth ministry our first outreach to the community.

We walked the neighborhood meeting families with children, called quarantined corps families with children and connected with other agencies to spread the word about VBS. We chose the theme "Overcomer" because we wanted kids to know that with God they can get through a scary time of isolation and e-learning.

Thinking back, I can see God's hand on every interaction, conversation and flyer distributed to the community. God directed over 30 mask-wearing youth to The Salvation Army for VBS. Although the pandemic was far from



over, parents entrusted their children to our care. For some, it was a leap of faith because they were not familiar with the Army's work or my husband and me as we had just arrived a few weeks earlier.

God honored our efforts and showed up in a mighty way! Each day children would wait outside for the corps bus to pick them up. Some mornings kids hearing about the fun would chase the bus to ensure they would not miss out. They'd come early and stay late.

During our five days together, VBSers engaged in devotions, music, drama and dance. Some even shared moving testimonies reflecting on God's presence in their homes amid trying times. As the days rolled on, I could see God restoring hope in the eyes of His children.

Although it was hard to part with them on the final day, I know God used our time together for His purposes.

A fateful decision

While serving in the Coast Guard in the early 1990s, Mark Brown came across an article about The Salvation Army on his computerized encyclopedia. Intrigued, he decided to visit a corps in New Haven, Conn., where he was stationed, for a Sunday evening salvation meeting—a decision that would change the course of his life.

"I realized very quickly that the Holy Spirit was calling my name," he said. He'd grown up attending a Catholic church in Evansville, Ind., and had accepted Christ as a child. Singing in the choir and serving as an altar boy, Mark developed his faith throughout his childhood and teenage years.

He requested an early release from his contract with the Coast Guard, which was granted within six months. Mark then returned home to the Midwest and entered the College for Officer Training the following year as a member of the "Messengers of God's Love" session. He was commissioned in 1997.

"Officership has been quite a ride," he said of his 24 years of service. "It was more than I had ever envisioned, but God has been faithful and led me to this point. Jeremiah's line 'I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm' you' has applied to my life in many ways."



Suited to the hustle and bustle of everyday corps work, Major Mark has thrived in his corps appointments, enjoying the variety of tasks and responsibilities that come along with them. Passionate about people, he takes great joy when someone accepts Christ or is enrolled as a soldier.

Approaching retirement, the major says he plans to remain involved in ministry wherever he can be of service at corps or adult rehabilitation centers.

"I'm fully confident that just as He had before I came into the Army, God also has plans for me after I make this transition to retired status."

Newly accepted candidates



Jason and Jennifer Rysdyk

Both first-generation Salvationists

Grand Rapids, Mich., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center
Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division

Captains Bill and Taylor Brutto, Kroc Center officers

Spiritual Gifts

Jason: Leadership ♦ Teaching

Jennifer: Administration ♦ Giving ♦ Teaching

Ministry Passion or Experience

Jason: Children/Youth ♦ Preaching/Teaching

Jennifer: Children/Youth ♦ Social Services

Spiritual mentors

Jason: Allyson Klunder (mother figure)

Jennifer: Ruby Blair (grandmother), Anna Mitchell (friend)



T. Olexys (Lexy) Washington

First-generation Salvationist

Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps ♦ Eastern Michigan Division

Majors Randy and Kathy Hellstrom, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts

Leadership ♦ Evangelism ♦ Serving

Ministry Passion or Experience

Missions ♦ Worship

Spiritual mentors

Barbara Claxton ♦ Captain Lorna Cossey

Have you ever asked,
"Can I make a difference?"

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ministry as a Salvation Army officer.

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A providential encounter

When Captain Rachel Irvine, Williston, N.D., corps officer, accompanied a friend to the emergency room one evening, she didn't expect to walk away with a new connection. However, while in the waiting room she found herself conversing with a man from Ghana. His name was Kofi Nyarko and he'd recognized her Salvation Army uniform. Kofi explained that he was a recent immigrant who came to the United States for treatment of a heart condition. As the nephew of Jamaica Divisional Commander Major Nana Boakye-Agyemang, Kofi was familiar with The Salvation Army and was overjoyed to discover they had a presence near his new home.

By the end of the conversation, plans were made for Kofi to attend the corps, and it wasn't long before he began bringing friends from the immigrant community who were eager to belong. Captain Rachel and her husband, Captain Joe, initiated a recruits class for Kofi and two friends, Joseph Arhinful and Agnes Kyere, who wanted to become soldiers.

"Kofi quickly let us know that it



Captain Joseph Irvine with Majors Nana and Marlene Boakye-Agyemang on Zoom

was his mission to fill the chapel," said Captain Joe.

Discovering that Kofi's uncle is his spiritual mentor, the Irvines planned to invite him to visit the corps and enroll Kofi and his friends. However, the coronavirus pandemic made international travel impossible.

Undeterred, the Irvines worked out a plan for Major Nana and his wife, Major Marlene, to participate in Kofi's enrollment via Zoom. On the day of the ceremony, the majors were projected onto the large screen in the chapel and each gave a charge to the new soldiers before Major Marlene prayed a blessing over them.

"The way the corps has embraced them has been encouraging," concluded Captain Joe. "Kofi, Joseph and Agnes have a wonderfully cheerful presence. They're people you want to get to know."



Kofi, Joseph and Agnes are Williston, N.D., Corps' newest soldiers.

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

The Blessed Exchange

by Diane Ury
National Ambassador for Holiness

People have always tended to decide how God is supposed to act. One of God's biggest problems with us is convincing us what He is like, Who He is, and what He is able to do. The concept of holiness has suffered as a result. But we can humble ourselves to His merciful heart. There we find His dreams for our lives are so grand and beautiful we are left in grateful wonder.

What is God like?

He is holy. Justice, righteousness, truth, compassion and others-oriented love are found in His nature (Exodus 34:6). They're not standards He thought up. They're Who He is. There is a huge difference between saying "God is loving" and "God is Love."

Who is God?

He is the One Who created us for intimate belonging with Himself. He is the One we are made for.

Because our willful rebellion has separated us from God (Isaiah 59:1-15), we have lost His holy, moral image He created us in. We have turned our face away from God and become corrupt and vile (Isaiah 53:6). He looked for someone to intervene, but there was no one. So, He Himself stepped in to save us (Isaiah 59:16). Isaiah 53:6 continues, "Yahweh has caused to meet in Him the iniquity of us all." This means the depths of all our evil comes into (not on) Christ

in Whom is all the goodness of God; our evil meeting that goodness in Him.

What is God able to do?

On the cross we are forgiven of our sins, but that is not the extent of God's intended salvation. Jesus not only pardoned our guilt as a substitutionary atonement, His sacrificial goodness destroyed the power of evil. He bears our nature within Himself (Hebrews 2:14). "Christ, who never sinned, became sin, so that we could become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor. 5:21) He offers us what is called "The Blessed Exchange"—our vile, ruined lives in exchange for His. "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Cor. 5:17, NLT) That new life is His image restored.

Paul speaks of this saying, "The great mystery, the hope of the Gospel is Christ in you!" (Col. 1:27) We can live and love as Jesus not because we work really hard at following His example but because He's given us Himself.

The Salvation Army believes that holiness is possible for anyone, no matter what they've done, because Jesus offers His life in exchange for ours.

This Easter season, turn your face to Jesus, Who is the Face of God. Surrender any cynicism to the depths of His love, the power of His goodness. Be holy because He is holy, and you belong to Him!



THE SALVATION ARMY USA CENTRAL TERRITORY

2021



RISING STARS IS BACK!

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My journey into the world

The Central Territory has a strong tradition of officers and soldiers who serve on teams and as reinforcement personnel, partnering with Salvationists around the world to fulfill the Army's mission of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and meeting people's needs. Here a few of them, past and present, share their journey, service and the difference it's made in their own lives.

Growing in faith and service as a family

by Major Cassandra L. DeJesús

Growing up, I always wanted to serve in a different country. While I don't recall why, I was certain I was called to serve in this fashion. When Will and I got married and became officers, I shared my desire to serve overseas with him. Though he'd served on a short-mission trip and attended conferences overseas, he was not sure if God was calling him to overseas service.

It wasn't until Will was in a prayer meeting at a conference in Thailand in 2004 that God confirmed this. When Will told me about his experience, I was overjoyed that God had called us both to serve overseas.

In 2005, our family had the opportunity to serve in Resistencia, Ar-

gentina. Though we knew nothing about Resistencia, we embarked on this journey trusting God would provide what we needed. Still, upon arrival we were a bit nervous about what we'd gotten ourselves into. However, little by little, we found a favorite restaurant, made new friends and began to understand how The Salvation Army operated in the South American East Territory (SAE).



Then-Captains Cassandra and Will DeJesús as corps officers at the Resistencia Corps in Argentina with their sons.

I'd heard that no matter where you are, if you're part of the Army you always feel at home. That proved true for our family in Argentina where we served for five years. People opened their hearts and homes to us. We still keep in touch with friends we made there.

When we first told our children that we were going to Argentina, we explained God was calling us all to serve in another country. We wanted them to feel it was a family endeavor; they could participate in ministry with my husband and me. I remember taking my youngest son, Michael, to pass out flyers in our neighborhood to announce our Friday movie night. Another time, my oldest son, Alejandro, wanted to help with our praise and worship by advancing the slides on the PowerPoint for our Sunday worship services. My husband and I

were able to explain to our children what it meant to help others when they helped pack bags of food for families at our outpost during a flood. The experiences we shared in Argentina helped our sons to realize how God can use them and others to fulfill His mission.

Our family always has appreciated being part of the Army's ministry, never more so than when we served overseas. Though we had fewer resources and personnel, we knew God would supply our needs. Philippians 4:19 (NASB), "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus," became very real to us during those five years as reinforcement personnel. We saw time and again how God provided for our ministry and family.



As Youth and Candidates' Secretary for the South America East Territory (Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay), then-Captain Will DeJesús enrolls soldiers at the Paysandu, Uruguay, Corps in 2008.



Majors Will and Cassandra DeJesús with their sons, Michael and Alejandro.

Finding renewed hope and new opportunities

by Colonel Evie Diaz

I finished 2019 with this prayer: I want to live with kindness and in the promise of God's Kingdom here on earth as it is in Heaven.

I had no idea what 2020 would bring, but I am grateful for God's Word to me in preparation for it. There are



many lessons I have learned while serving as the Chief Secretary at International Headquarters.

God loves the world. More than ever, I know this to be true. I saw Him at work during 2020, especially through His people and His Salvation Army. His kindness is exhib-

ited in so many ways.

The Salvation Army is a generous Army, reflected in the financial support provided for COVID-19 projects. The Central Territory has been part of that generosity, and I am proud of and thankful for you. Our Army also is generous in its prayer support for the world. Through social media, prayer requests have been shared and prayers offered around the world and for our world. God has been listening and at work. His Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven.

It is my privilege to support our international leaders. What a blessing it

has been to see the General and Army leaders adjust to the limits of this pandemic. The increased use of social media to inspire Salvationists has been significant. Online global conferences and interaction through the internet has been incredible. The Army has continued to work despite the restrictions.

Personally, this has been a year of learning and stretching. Those who know me will not be surprised that working from home and frequent isolation has been a challenge. In these circumstances, I am so grateful for online resources, such as Microsoft Teams, to keep me connected and able to do my job. I have learned to care for myself by taking daily walks and listening for God through nature. All creation sings His praise!



Colonel Evie Diaz with her close friends (and her bubble last year), the Smith family.

Relationships are more valued than ever. I am grateful for family and friends in the U.S., in London and beyond. God has been kind to me, and I hope I have shared kindness as well.

This year my prayer is "Come, Lord Jesus," believing as He has been with me, He will be Emmanuel, God with us—with me—for this new year with renewed hope and new opportunities to serve Him.

Editor's note: Colonel Evie Diaz will begin a new appointment as Chief Secretary of the Canada and Bermuda Territory on May 1, 2020.



Learning about myself, my calling and God

by Justin Rose

I surrendered my life to Jesus when I was 15. The following summer I decided to participate in a month-long urban mission team run by the Metropolitan Division called "Band of Survivors." It provided an opportunity for young people to learn more about their faith, service and The Salvation Army. After that summer, I knew I was interested in going into ministry.

A couple of years later, I had the opportunity to go to Ecuador on a Summer Mission Team (SMT). During that summer, after doing a lot of youth ministry, God revealed to me a calling to youth ministry. The follow-



With two team members on the Summer Mission Team to the country of Georgia in 2010

ing summer, while participating in SMT, God revealed to me another calling to preach. Over those two summers, God taught me a lot about myself and my calling but most of all about Him.

Graduating from college

with a degree in youth ministry, I chose to do short-term missions in Kenya for one year. Looking back, I can't believe The Salvation Army trusted me enough to go and work in another country on their behalf. I was young and inexperienced, but God used that opportunity to further instill a calling to youth ministry and to preaching. I learned a lot about prayer, the Holy Spirit and ministry. Returning to the U.S., I continued my career in youth ministry and have been serving at the Chicago, Ill., Mayfair Community Church (Corps) for the past 10 years.

Throughout my spiritual journey, I have been amazed by the opportunities I've been given. At 18 I was leading Bible studies in Ecuador, at 19 I was preaching in India, and at 22 I was training youth leaders in Kenya. While I don't feel that I deserved these opportunities more than someone else, I am extremely grateful to God for using them to do amazing work in my life. And I am grateful for people who saw my interest in missions and service and encouraged me to commit to serving at my local corps first.

Although my relationship with short-term missions has changed over



On a Global Mission Team in India in 2019

time, I know God has used each step of my journey to bring me to where I am. My experiences have taught me how to be resilient, flexible and courageous in order to partner with God to do His work in the world.

Doing more with my life

by Major Sandy Hunt

My journey with missions began the day I walked into the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps. Though I lived down the block and passed the corps every day on my way to work, it was not until a sign in front of the building invited me to attend a Christmas Eve service that my curiosity was aroused. I decided to check it out. After that experience, I returned for worship on Sunday. I'd been looking for a church after moving into the area, and while the blue uniforms and brass band were different, everyone was so welcoming that I kept coming back. Soon, I was involved in Bible study, girl guards and community care.

Seeing soldiers living out their faith made me realize I wanted to do more with my life. When I asked my



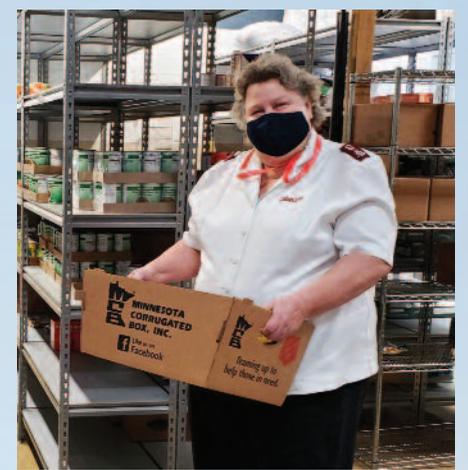
friend, Barb Scott, for a reference for my Peace Corps application, she wondered if I knew The Salvation Army had mission opportunities. I'd had no idea but quickly decided I'd rather serve with The Salvation Army.

Within the year I found myself in

Argentina as a lay person, first assisting at a seniors' residence and then running a home for 60 children in a small coastal town. This is where I heard God speak to me about becoming an officer. After three years I returned home to prepare for training but was soon headed back to Argentina to lead a Summer Mission Team (SMT). Being on the SMT affirmed God's call that this was what He wanted me to do with my life.

Commissioned two years later, my missions experience proved invaluable when I was sent to open a corps in Cloquet, Minn. I was accustomed to figuring out how to get things done and being creative with what was available. Yet, my heart was still with missions. At an officers' councils, I met Commissioner Larry Moretz, our new territorial commander, who also had a heart for missions. Within three weeks, he called to say there was an opening at the training college in Spain. Was I interested? You bet! I began brushing up on my Spanish language skills.

Before the year was out, I found myself in Madrid not only teaching doctrine and other classes at the training college but also commanding a tiny corps which had been without an officer for several years. One of its important ministries was distributing donated food to the community, but the system of just putting it on tables outside for people to take meant there was neither interaction with Salvationists nor assurance those who got it needed it most. We changed the process to where people came inside



Major Sandy Hunt, currently leads the Albert Lea, Minn., Corps which has provided food to 15 percent of the city's population this past year.

the building so we could connect with them. Eventually our corps grew from three to 70 members, many of whom were introduced through the pantry. Our foundation was prayer, and we added children's programs, developed a praise band and a brass ensemble.

In all, I served seven years in Spain and would have loved to stay longer, but my parents' health was deteriorating. I needed to be closer to them. Having been immersed in another culture has stood me well as an officer. I learned people all over the world have similar needs, hopes and desires and much can be done with little when work is committed to the Lord.

As I look toward retirement, my thoughts are turning more to missions. I hope to serve overseas again in this new season of life and know just as God led me to The Salvation Army, He will direct my path.



Major Sandy Hunt shown leading the Palomeras Corps in Spain.

A heart for children and missions

by Major Frank Duracher

Mrs. Major Catherine Miller has too many children to number—in addition to the four she birthed (two sons and two daughters). She had a revolving front door for decades, admitting scores of young people needing a place to stay and a listening ear.

Retired for more than 25 years, “Mom Miller,” 91, remains the matriarch of the Wichita Citadel, Kan., Corps. Her influence continues with dozens of youth in her corps.

Her motherly love for troubled kids and teens began while she and her late husband, Arnold, served as



officers across the Central Territory. Her two sons both entered ministry; one served as a Salvation Army officer, and the other still is a missionary in South-east Asia.

Major Catherine also has a great heart for missions, fostering young adults from as far away as France, Switzerland, South Korea and China. “We always supported missions and volunteered but never were able to go.” Both of her daughters faced tremendous challenges, one with cerebral palsy and the other multiple

sclerosis. Though they have passed on, to this day the major considers them blessings in her life.

You only have to look to Catherine’s mother for her Christian example. “My mother raised us 10 children while working as a teacher in Nebraska. It was hard for her because my dad was away much of the time working on the road,” she said.

Major Catherine keeps correspondence with her foster kids both here and abroad, sending monthly checks to those living overseas and remembering all birthdays and anniversaries. She even includes a \$5 bill to children for birthdays up to adult age. In her



Mrs. Major Catherine Miller with Angela Windham (left), who was one of many teens influenced by her example, and Major Libby Duracher (right).

basement, extensive photo albums of her foster kids track their whereabouts and important milestones including babies of their own.

One Mother’s Day, her family and friends pulled off a surprise, crowning Catherine as “Mother of the Year” at the Wichita Citadel Corps. Scores of tributes from around the world were read and shown on video—all of them rising up to call her blessed (Proverbs 31:28).

Your dollars doing a world of good

by Kristin Caddy

Have you ever wondered about the impact of your giving to World

Services/Self-Denial? These funds from each corps are put to use in a variety of ways. They support the day-to-day operational costs of Salvation Army ministries overseas, reinforcement personnel, mission teams and specific projects.

Our 2020/2021 World Services/Self-Denial theme, “Goals for a Brighter Future: Developing Meaningful Work,” highlights Salvation Army vocational training programs, income-generating projects and microfinance loans in our Partner in Mission locations. Participants in these projects and programs often have increased employment options and improved financial situations. As a result, they can better provide for their families’ basic needs. In many cases, World Services/Self-Denial giving makes these initiatives possible like in Sri Lanka and Jamaica.

Sri Lanka

For more than 10 years, the Women of Worth Program in Sri Lanka has enabled women who have limited opportunities to create and sell hand-crafts and other products for fair compensation. Now, Central Territory funding is helping to expand this successful program. Our dollars will help



to establish a new suitable workplace in Colombo where skills training workshops will be offered and women will be able to sell second-hand clothing and items created at another Salvation Army facility.

The Central Territory also is partnering financially with a similar project that will offer training courses for women throughout Sri Lanka, allowing them to gain skills in sewing, computers, English, cooking, gardening, budgeting, candle-making and soap-making. Having experience and training in these areas will provide the qualifications women need for local jobs or will allow them to start a small business. For many families a brighter future will be realized as women will be able to provide food and educational opportunities for their children.

Jamaica

For more than 70 years, The Salvation Army has been a beacon of hope to the inner-city community of Jones Town in Kingston, Jamaica, which is plagued by violence and unemployment. With financial support from the Central Territory’s World Services giving, the Army in Jones Town is establishing a new sewing program for young adults to gain skills and training that can lead to opportunities to earn income, boost their confidence and change the course of their lives.

While these two recent examples of meaningful work focus on sewing-related vocational opportunities, there are many more types of work your giving enables. For instance, it might buy a goat to support a livestock income-generating project in the Kenya East Territory or purchase a dairy cow for the Vocational Training Center farm in the India South Eastern Territory. The support is as vast and different as the needs, but you can be sure wherever your World Services/Self Denial funds are put to work, they’re enabling mission and doing a world of good.



Territory introduces new Summer Mission Teams

Two unique Central Territory Summer Mission Teams (SMT) are set to take place this year within the U.S. One is slated to be an exchange team with another U.S. territory. The other will have a social justice/city mission focus, which will serve in the Midwest and be organized in cooperation with Major Katherine Clausell, territorial social justice and urban mission secretary.

“It is a privilege for me to partner with the world missions department and the young adults of the Central Territory to equip and mobilize the next generation of Salvationist leaders to be a champion for biblical social justice as they work alongside the poor, the suffering and the marginalized in our cities,” said Major Katherine.

Both teams will collaborate with the territorial music and creative arts ministries department which will provide creative arts training.

A one-day virtual orientation in March, hosted by the world missions department, will include a time for team members to meet each other and learn more about their upcoming experience. They will receive assignments, like scripture memorization, program preparation, Safe from Harm and cultural train-



ing, that will help prepare them, both personally and as a team, for ministry opportunities throughout the summer.

“Serving on the Central SMT in 2019 was an opportunity to travel around my own territory and see what God was doing in my own backyard,” said Cadet Shannon Cabrera. “I experienced so much joy in serving God in many ways along with people who also were eager to spread the gospel and serve their communities.”

Created as a leadership development program for young adult Salvationists (ages 18-28), SMTs provide a life-enriching experience for those who are serious about their faith and passionate about sharing the gospel. Whether conducting a vacation Bible school in Detroit, feeding underprivileged children lunch at a park in Milwaukee or presenting the Bible through drama at camp, SMT members encourage and assist fellow Salvationists in ministry. It’s life changing for the people they serve and themselves. Many team members find direction, whether a course of study at college or a new position of service at their corps.

“Through the years we have seen great outcomes from the Summer Mission Team program with about 15 percent of participants going on to become Salvation Army officers, many taking up their place as local leaders in their corps, and the vast majority continuing to walk with and grow in the Lord throughout their adulthood,” said Kristin Caddy, director of the territorial world missions department. “We are looking forward to what God has in store through SMT 2021.”



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The Sponsorship Program exists to bring the children of the world hope, opportunity and life. Some of the challenges children face have been amplified over the last year.

The responsibility and privilege God has given us is clear. Isaiah 1:17 (NIV) says, "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the

cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

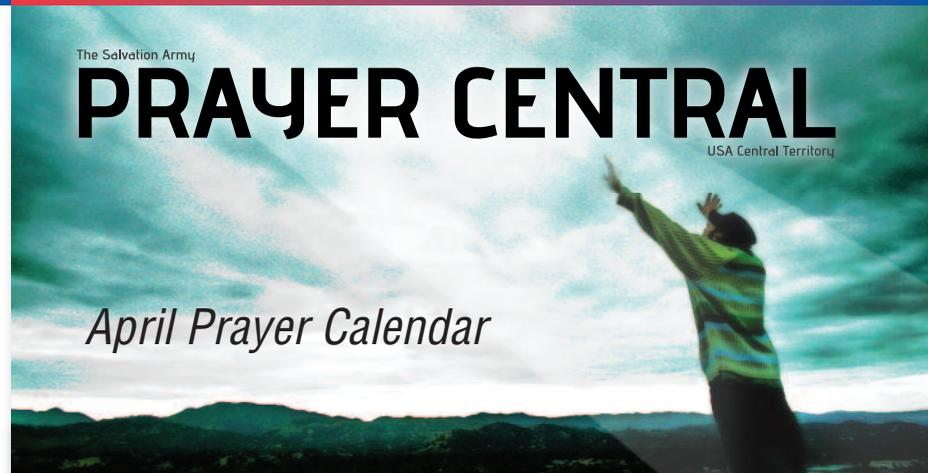
Through sponsorship we hope to connect donors in the Midwest to the world through the financial support of Salvation Army children's homes, schools and centers across the globe.

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My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Thursday	Matthew 26:31-56	Alma, Mich., Corps
	2 Friday	Psalms 22:19-27	Big Rapids, Mich., Corps
	3 Saturday	Luke 22:54-62	Pathway of Hope
	4 Sunday	Luke 23:1-25	HE IS RISEN
	5 Monday	Luke 23:33-49	Mexico Territory
	6 Tuesday	Luke 24:1-12	Dearborn Heights, Mich., Corps
	7 Wednesday	Luke 24:13-35	Duluth, Minn., Corps
	8 Thursday	Psalms 32	Fergus Falls, Minn., Corps
	9 Friday	Proverbs 14:13-25	Garden City, Kan., Corps
	10 Saturday	John 20:24-31	Officer families
	11 Sunday	John 21:1-7	Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps
	12 Monday	John 21:15-25	Liberia and Sierra Leone Command
	13 Tuesday	Psalms 33	Kankakee, Ill., Corps
	14 Wednesday	Proverbs 14:26-35	La Crosse, Wis., Corps
	15 Thursday	Judges 6:11-28	Macomb, Ill., Corps
	16 Friday	Judges 6:33-40	Michigan City, Ind., Corps
	17 Saturday	Judges 7	Moline Heritage Hill, Iowa, Corps
	18 Sunday	Judges 14	North Platte, Neb., Corps
	19 Monday	Judges 16:4-21	Western Division
	20 Tuesday	Judges 16:23-31	Bangladesh Command
	21 Wednesday	Psalms 34:1-10	Racine, Wis., Corps
	22 Thursday	Proverbs 15:1-15	Sheboygan, Wis., Corps
	23 Friday	I Samuel 1:1-20	St. Charles Tri-City, Ill., Corps
	24 Saturday	I Samuel 1:21-28	Superior, Wis., Corps
	25 Sunday	I Samuel 2:1-10	Waukegan, Ill., Corps
	26 Monday	I Samuel 2:12-26	The Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovakia
	27 Tuesday	I Samuel 3	Chicago North Side, Ill., ARC
	28 Wednesday	I Samuel 8:1-22	Green Bay, Wis., Corps
	29 Thursday	I Samuel 10:10-15	Ottumwa, Iowa, Corps
	30 Friday	I Samuel 10:16-27	New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa

*ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

Go to www.salarmycentral.org
If you follow the prayer calendar during the year,
you will have read through the Bible!

Broadening your perspective

by Viki Payton

All people are image bearers of our Creator. Therefore, as God's people, we are called to love and care for all nations. To love and care for our world, some may give to World Services/Self-Denial, and some regularly pray for the international Salvation Army. Another way to care about the world is to learn about and experience various countries and cultures.

While there are many Salvation Army publications, websites and social media pages which can help to broaden our knowledge of the Army's global ministry, there are many other ways we can gain an appreciation of other cultures without even traveling.

Media/Entertainment

Head to the library and look for travel books, children's story books, novels and history books. Literature is a window into different cultures. Use media streaming services to find movies and TV shows from other countries. These demonstrate the sites, values and customs of their culture. Listen to radio stations from other countries or search for music genres of other cultures on music apps, YouTube or other websites.

Experiences

Try restaurants with cuisine from a variety of countries, or if you're adventurous in the kitchen, try a new recipe that requires an ingredient you've never used. Be intentional with a neighbor or a coworker who is a first-generation immigrant. Ask them about life in their home country. Invite them to join your holiday celebrations and ask them how they celebrate back home. Attend ethnic/heritage festivals and pa-

rades which are listed in local event calendars.

Virtual Travel

Search online for virtual museum tours. You'll find famous museums like the Louvre and the British Museum offer them. Choose a foreign city or area you'd like to investigate. Use Google 360° or other online services to view cities around the world and see their monuments, street markets and skylines up close. Look up YouTube videos, Wikipedia, blogs, etc. There are content creators from all over the world! Even if their content isn't specifically for educating people about their culture, you will learn from them.

When we take the time to learn about other cultures, we learn more about God since we are all created in His image. We better understand how to pray for people around the world and have a greater appreciation for the beautiful world God created.

--Mustard Seeds--



Help found in a dark hour

by Doug Donahoo

All it took was one evening for dozens of Kansas City families to have their lives turned upside down and their homes destroyed. What started as a quiet night at home for resi-

dents of the Waldo Heights Apartments became a life-changing event.

"We saw a lot of black smoke coming out of our electric socket, and that's when we knew something was wrong," NaSheena Hooker said.

They quickly grabbed warm clothing and headed out into the chilly evening air, still not fully aware of the severity of the fire that would consume the three-story building.

Eldon Campbell was walking home when he saw smoke pouring from the top of the building and knew he had to act quickly. "I ran in and grabbed my dog and got out," he said.

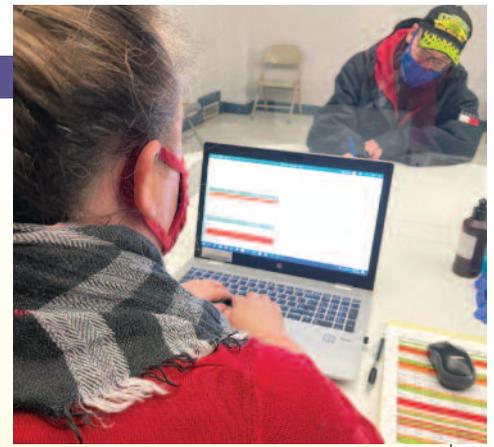
Just 36 hours after their apartment building was declared off-limits and the site a major investigation, people from almost a dozen households

made their way to the Kansas City Westport Temple, Mo., Corps to get emergency social service assistance.

The Salvation Army already had launched an online application so residents could quickly get help with replacing necessities like clothing and toiletries that were either destroyed or they could not access.

"It was super easy," said NaSheena.

Taking digital applications became a priority during the COVID-19 pandemic which limited the caseworkers' ability to spend long amounts of time with clients face-to-face. This process enabled Tracie Smith, Kansas and Western Missouri divisional Pathway of Hope manager, to get the information immediately and send out appointment times via email.



A faster response time meant families were able to access Walmart gift cards to start replacing items as they waited for the next step of finding a new place to live. Gift cards were possible thanks to donations from the community.

"It just shows how much our community can come together," said NaSheena. "Even through the pandemic, there are people who are still willing to donate."



Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Lt. Colonel Jean Davis

Mrs. Lt. Colonel Jean Davis was promoted to Glory on December 4, 2020. A model for married women officers, she held independent appointments and received local, state and national awards in recognition of her exemplary volunteer work and leadership. She loved to travel, meet new people and help others.



Jean was born to Salvationist parents Stanley and Anne Elliot in Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada, on July 16, 1929. She entered officer training as a single cadet in 1948 and was commissioned in 1949 with "The Peacemakers" session, serving in corps appointments until her marriage to sessionmate James Davis in 1951.

Together the Davises served in corps appointments throughout the Midwest for 25 years. They were stationed in 1976 at Central Territorial Headquarters where Jean held a series of appointments as guard and sunbeam director, volunteer services director and assistant secretary for program.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband and five siblings. She is survived by her children, Susan (Cary) Ell, Stanley and Dr. Joyce (Miriam Stratton); two grandsons; two sisters; and many other family members and friends.

Major Patricia Kennedy

Major Patricia Kennedy, 84, was promoted to Glory with family by her side on November 28, 2020.

Patricia was born to Gilbert and Molly Westmore on January 10, 1936, in Sheboygan, Wis.

She entered officer training as a single cadet in 1956 and was commissioned in 1957, a member of the "Faithful" session. In 1960 she married sessionmate Quintin Kennedy.



The Kennedys served in corps appointments in the Indiana, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Northern and Heartland divisions and at Territorial Headquarters, where Patricia was Historical Museum director from 1994 to 1998. Patricia and Quentin retired in 2003 as corps officers of the Saginaw, Mich., Corps.

Patricia enjoyed reading books, going for walks and making jewelry. She loved lighthouses and enjoyed the adventure of traveling along the shores of Lake Michigan with Quentin to find them. More than anything, she cherished spending time with family.

Patricia is survived by her husband of 60 years; children, Thomas (Eileen), Scott, and Lisa; and many other relatives and friends. Patricia was preceded in death by her sisters and brothers.

Captain Florence Huson

Captain Florence Huson, 86, was promoted to Glory on December 17, 2020. She had a beautiful voice and enjoyed playing the organ and singing both in church and in community music groups.

Florence was born on November 16, 1934, in Ossining, N.Y., to William and Catherine Huson. After she graduated from high school, she attended Duquesne University where she earned a bachelor's of science in education and then a master's degree as a reading specialist. She taught 15 years in Pittsburgh, Penn., schools before following the call to officership. Florence entered the Eastern Territory School for Officers' Training in Suffern, N.Y. She was commissioned in 1973 and served until 1979 before a break in service.

Florence reentered officership in the Central Territory, where she served from 1991 until retiring in 1998. In retirement she remained active in community groups including the American Legion and a community chorus.

She is preceded in death by her parents, brothers, Edward, William



and Philip, and one sister, Catherine. She is survived by one sister, Grace Divins and sister-in-law Martha, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Major Scott Salsbury

Major Scott Salsbury was promoted to Glory on December 10, 2020. Although Scott battled Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS) for nearly two decades, it could never take his faith, personality or sense of humor, and he lived a full life until the end.

Scott was born in Newton, Iowa, on October 9, 1961. He was a rebellious teen, but as a young adult decided to follow the Lord. He married Karen Felt in 1986 and they started a family. They entered officer training in 1996 and were commissioned in 1998, members of the "Builders of the Kingdom" session.

The Salsburys served in the Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command for 15 years. After Scott's ALS diagnosis, they were appointed to the College for Officer Training in 2013, where he served as assistant property director and later as a personnel officer.

Scott is survived by his wife; daughters, Bailey (Josh) Grindle and Devin; grandchildren, Payton SJ and David Grindle; parents Majors Donald and Barbara; brother Jeff (Terry) and sister Captain Karla; and many other family members and friends.

Major James Birney

Major James Birney, 83, was promoted to Glory on December 20, 2020. He was a mentor to countless Salvationists, sharing his love for Jesus through his creative ministries. He also was an avid musician and used his talents to the glory of God.

He was born June 10, 1937, in Greenwood, S.C. After graduating high school and attending college, he



served in the Air Force for nine years with active tours in Turkey and Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Jim married LaVonne Souther on October 15, 1961. They accepted the call to officership and were commissioned in 1971 as part of the "Victorious" session. They served in corps appointments throughout the Midwest and retired in 2003 having given 32 years of service.

Throughout his life Jim took an active role in the community and was a member of the Kiwanis Club, V.F.W. and American Legion.

He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Beatrice (Terry) Kennedy and Annette (John) Talbot; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and four siblings.

Mrs. Major Shirlene Miller

Mrs. Major Shirlene Miller, 91, was promoted to Glory on December 2, 2020. A gifted musician and published poet, Shirlene loved to play piano, sing and write.

Highly organized, creative and efficient, she was an excellent program planner, a talent she used throughout her officership.

Shirlene was born on January 27, 1929, to Melvin and Edith Muhn. After high school she worked as a press proofreader. She met and fell in love with Herman Miller while attending the Ypsilanti, Mich., Corps. They married in 1947 and started a family.

Following the call to officership, the Millers entered training in 1955 and were commissioned in 1956 with the "Swordbearers" session. Shirlene and Herman served as corps officers in the Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan and Northern Indiana divisions for 34 years before retiring in 1990.

Shirlene was preceded in death by her husband; daughter, Beverly; and brother, Richard. She is survived by her daughters, Terry (David) McClintic and Judith; many grandchildren; and sisters, Rhea Butler, Sharron Clifton and Priscilla Sardo.

