It’s like family here
by Rebekah Grimm and Russel Gutsche

The Minneapolis, Minn., Booth Manor is one of the few Salvation Army housing programs in the Central Territory that exclusively serves the senior population, those 62 years plus. With more than 40 percent of its residents speaking Russian and a myriad of cultural and religious backgrounds, including people from all walks of life, this high-rise in downtown Minneapolis overlooking scenic Loring Park has become a melting pot providing an engaging community. It’s a haven where residents feel accepted, cared for and loved. This safe and loving environment offers events and activities to meet residents’ emotional, physical, social and spiritual needs. Its staff is routinely encouraged to learn more about current trends and barriers in the senior community.

For example, there is an increasing desire within the senior community to age at home as opposed to transitioning to an assisted living facility or nursing home. With this trend comes an increased need for community-based supportive services. Therefore, the multidisciplinary team at Booth Manor consists of a coordinator, a service coordinator and property management staff who strive to improve collaboration and find creative ways to support the residents.

The property consists of 157 residential units; 100 units receive a HUD rental subsidy (Section 8), while 55 units are made available at market rates. There currently is a waiting list of 6-12 months with roughly 55 people on it.

Bed & Bread Radiothon celebrates 35 years
by Sharon Tatom Garcia

The Salvation Army Metro Detroit’s 35th annual Bed & Bread Club Radiothon raised more than $1.7 million this year to combat hunger and homelessness.

The 27-hour radio fundraiser on 760 WJR was broadcasted from the Eastern Michigan Divisional Headquarters in Southfield, Mich., and featured the station’s on-air personalities including Paul W. Smith, Sean Baligian, Kevin Dietz, Lloyd Jackson, Chris Renwick, Mitch Albom, Ken Brown, Steve Courtney, Kevin O’Neill and Guy Gordon.

General John Larsson promoted to Glory
by John J. Larsson (retired), The Salvation Army’s 17th beloved international leader, was promoted to Glory from his home in Bromley, London, on March 18, 2022.

Born in Sweden on April 2, 1938, the son of officer parents, John spent his early years in Sweden, Denmark, Chile and Argentina and by age 12 was fluent in Swedish, Danish, English and Spanish. Following the family’s return to the UK from service in South America, he entered the International Training College in London from the Upper Norwood Corps as a cadet in the Faithful Session and was commissioned as an officer on May 17, 1957.

His first appointment as a corps officer was at Sunderland Southwick with Washington in the north-east of England, where he served for just one year before returning to serve on the staff at the International Training College where he remained for the next seven years. He received the rank of captain in May 1960.

In May 1966 he returned to corps leadership, first at Hillingdon and

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Citywide transformation
Advancing the mission through area commands and coordination
by Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich
Secretary for Program

What is a Salvation Army Corps? To this I reply that it is a band of people united together to attack and Christianize an entire city. We are sent to war. We are not sent to minister to a congregation and be content if we keep things going. We are sent to make war—and to stop short of nothing but the subjugation of the world to the sway of the Lord Jesus. — William Booth, The Words of William Booth by Cyril Barnes

William Booth’s 19th Century language, “to Christianize a city” may seem quaint and perhaps even offensive to some. Today, we say something like the needs of the people. The Salvation Army is called and commissioned to ignite community-wide, holistic Gospel transformation through a deep commitment to evangelism and conversion and a deep commitment to deeds of compassion and social justice...

I am a firm believer The Salvation Army (soldiers/adherents, professional staff, officers...) is called to “entire city” or “community-wide” transformation. From an historical perspective, The Salvation Army was birthed in the largest, most densely populated city on the planet in 1865. William Booth’s In Darkest England and the Way Out proposed nothing short of a “scheme to rescue over 3 million people from a life of spiritual and physical poverty throughout London and beyond.”

What is our “scheme” today?

One of the most significant initiatives we are launching through Project Advance is to shift away from a structure that currently “adds on” to the leadership of our work in the major metropolitan areas of our territory to an overburdened and broadly scoped divisional staff.

As of this July 1, 2022, we will shift to a structure that allows an “area command” leadership team to give dedicated and laser-focused attention to our missional advancement in the large cities and regions in the 11 central states. This is a major, missional paradigm shift for our territory.

Fourteen area commands have been identified in the Central Territory. Most of these are based in metropolitan regions of over 1 million people and include multiple expressions of Salvation Army ministry. In fact, those 14 regions comprise over 60 percent of everyone living in the 11 central states.

Here is an example of what this will look like:The Metropolitan Region of Grand Rapids, Mich., is populated by more than 1.4 million people. That area command will include four corps, a Kroc Center, large social service centers and more. An area commander, appointed this June, and his or her team will give 100 percent of their attention to leading and resourcing The Salvation Army to “save souls, grow saints and serve suffering humanity.” Currently, that work is done by a divisional commander and a divisional headquarters team who also have all of Western Michigan and Northern Indiana as part of their leadership scope.

This may not seem that revolutionary, but it is a major shift we think will lead to greater missional advancement in the places where we have the most resources to bring to the most people for the glory of God through the power of the Gospel.

When all is said and done, I believe we are called by God, in the communities in which we live, just like He called His people to bring citywide transformation through the prophet Jeremiah:

“...Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prosper, you too will prosper.”

[Jeremiah 29:7, NIV 2011]

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Retiring after over 30 years of service, Sandy and Russ Delpny participated in the final Bed & Bread Club Radiothon.

“It’s the generosity from our donors that makes it possible for The Salvation Army to serve those in need at such a large scale. We are so lucky to have a partner like 760 WJR and generous contributors that make the Bed & Bread program possible,” said Lt. Colonel John E. Turner, Eastern Michigan divisional commander.

Members of the community also could support the program through an online auction where they could bid on items like tickets to attend a Detroit Tigers or Pistons game, a signed Red Wings jersey, pizza for a year or a 30-minute consultation from HGTV’s Nico Curtis.

The Salvation Army’s Bed & Bread Club Radiothon has raised more than $41.5 million in 35 years.

The Salvation Army of Metro Detroit’s Bed & Bread program serves nearly 4,400 meals each day to men, women and children who would otherwise go without. That’s nearly 1.6 million meals every year. In addition, the Bed & Bread program provides more than 77,000 nights of shelter annually. The Bed & Bread program serves many people via mobile soup kitchens. Bed & Bread trucks are on the streets of Detroit 365 days a year making designated stops throughout the day.

A/Captain John who leads the Kroc Center with his wife, A/Captain Tracy. “But what we truly want to do is engage in the future. We want to look forward. The Kroc at 10 years is still in its infancy, and we have big things planned.”

“We view the Kroc Center’s myriad programs and opportunities in a holistic light,” explained A/Captain Tracy. “We’re not a Kroc center and a church—it’s one Kroc. And we look forward to infusing the mission of The Salvation Army throughout the center and identifying and developing unique programs that will serve this community.”

A/Captain John added, “We want to be a game-changer in this community. We’ve come this far, we’ve done amazing things, but we’re not going to rest on that. What can we do in the future?”

Opening in January 2012, the Kroc center continues to be a life-changing resource for many people in the St. Joseph County community—a beacon of light to all, without discrimination, as Joan Kroc envisioned.
New Area Commands and Area Coordination

With the territory’s reorganization this year, an important component is the creation of area commands and coordination to help maximize ministry and financial resources. These are identified below. For more insight, please read Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich’s column Citywide Transformation (page 2). For the latest Project Advance updates, please visit our website (salarmycentral.org)

**Great Lakes Division**
DHQ: Detroit, MI
Area Commands: Detroit, MI; Grand Valley Area (Grand Rapids, MI); Mid-Michigan (Genesee & Shiawassee County)

**Indiana Division**
DHQ: Indianapolis, IN
Area Commands: Indianapolis, IN; Northwest Indiana (Hammond, IN)
Area Coordination: Southwest Indiana (Evansville, IN)

**Kansas and Western Missouri Division**
DHQ: Kansas City, MO
Area Commands: Kansas City, MO; South Central Kansas (Wichita, KS)

**Midland Division**
DHQ: St. Louis, MO
Area Commands: St. Louis, MO; Quincy, IL

**North & Central Illinois Division**
DHQ: Chicago, IL
Area Commands: Chicago, IL; Peoria, IL
Area Coordination: Winnebago County (Rockford, IL)

**Northern Division**
DHQ: Minneapolis, MN
Area Command: Twin Cities, MN
Area Coordination: Western North Dakota (Bismarck, ND); Iron Range (Duluth, MN)

**Western Division**
DHQ: Omaha, NE
Area Command: Omaha, NE
Area Coordination: Quad Cities (Davenport, IA); Capital Area (Des Moines, IA); Black Hills, SD

**Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division**
DHQ: Milwaukee, WI
Area Command: Milwaukee, WI
Area Coordination: Brown County (Green Bay, WI); Capital Area (Madison, WI); Rock County (Janesville, WI); Upper Peninsula (Escanaba, MI)
Growing in unity and community

Ministry is growing at the Elkhart, Ind., Corps, where Lts. Katy and Wayne Benedict have been working steadily since their appointment in 2020 to expand the reach of The Salvation Army in the community. Caring for their neighbors’ needs during and beyond the pandemic, building corps programs and making concentrated efforts toward reaching the Hispanic community for Christ have all yielded positive results.

One of the programs that has been particularly important since the beginning of the pandemic is Mobile Manna, which provides a monthly delivery of food and supplies to older adults who are homebound.

“It’s our goal that nobody goes hungry,” said Lt. Katy. “In the last few months, groceries have gotten more expensive. A lot of people get government help, but they can’t get out to shop, so we provide what we can—rice, cereal, canned goods, frozen meats and other necessities like shampoo upon request.”

To reach individuals and families in the Hispanic community looking for connection, the lieutenants began attending neighborhood fiestas, developing and distributing Spanish language flyers for programs and including multicultural elements to worship services. These efforts have resulted in new connections being made and strides toward program growth, particularly in women’s and children’s ministries.

For example, Olga Figueroa, the corps newest women’s ministry member, hailed from Puerto Rico and has found a church home in The Salvation Army. She volunteers regularly to assist with various activities and projects at the corps. Others from the Hispanic community also have shown interest and are beginning to attend.

“I am preaching the gospel in any language I can,” said Lt. Katy. “We are praying for church growth and unity.”

One of the corps’ efforts included hosting a celebration for Hispanic Heritage month to draw interest from the surrounding neighborhood and offer an educational opportunity for corps members. Utilizing materials provided by the territorial intercultural ministries department, the Sunday morning worship service focused on the topics of unity and community and included elements in both English and Spanish.

The service was followed by a meal featuring traditional Hispanic foods and educational exhibits.

“The event was very well-received,” concluded Lt. Katy. “We are looking forward to making more connections and growing our church community.”

Continued from page 1

Booth Manor

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Continued from page 1

SMTs announced

This year three teams will minister in the Midwest and Panama. Pray for the following young Salvationists as they serve people and share the Good News.

CAST

Elijah Stouder* Indiana Division
Ana Swartele* Brazil Territory
Bruno Cavalheiro Brazil Territory
Erin McDonald Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division
Zoe Stanek Heartland Division

Panama

Rachel Jordan* Metropolitan Division
Elizabeth McCormick Western Division
Josh Rapley Metropolitan Division

Social Justice / City Mission

Magnolia Clayton* Indiana Division
Berit Lolo Kenya East Territory
Hannah Trayler USA Southern Territory
Nailia Twishime Rwanda and Burundi Comman
Grace Washburn Metropolitan Division

^ = Co-leader; * = Leader
Kroc Centers a win for older adults

by Bram Roberts

For over a decade, Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers have been sharing the love of Jesus Christ through innovative programming. In addition to Christian education and spiritual development, Kroc Centers are uniquely positioned to serve multiple generations through services like aquatic fitness, and the fine arts.

One common thread across all six centers is older adult programming. While our older adult population might not have a dedicated space, all our centers find this population engaged in programming ranging from book clubs to pickleball to low-impact fitness classes specifically designed for them. In addition, our centers provide a sense of community at a time when some older adults may be experiencing loneliness.

A unique way older adult members can gain access to a Kroc Center is through an insurance benefit program such as Silver Sneakers, Silver & Fit, or Renew Active. In most cases, eligibility is determined by participation in a Medicare health plan, and qualifying individuals can access the center at no charge. In exchange, the Kroc Centers receive a contracted reimbursement amount based on the participant’s usage.

Once an older adult joins, the Kroc Centers work to intentionally engage them through a member onboarding process which provides an overview of health benefits and program opportunities. During onboarding, the user learns about program offerings, membership guidelines, and more about the mission and ministry of The Salvation Army.

Ongoing engagement is important not only for the Kroc Centers to make the programs work financially but also for the members to take the next step on their wellness journey.

In January the Quincy, Ill., Kroc Center started a new, free program for their insurance-based members titled “Move 2022.” In short, the program was created to incentivize members in insurance-reimbursement programs by offering rewards for visiting the Kroc more frequently.

Angie Duerr, Quincy Kroc Center membership services manager, said, “It’s a win, win, win...not only do our older adults get to take advantage of our amazing facility and programs, they can also earn prizes. In addition, the Kroc Center can get to know their older adult membership base better and look for opportunities to make the members feel valued and loved.

As of March 1, the six Central Territory Kroc Centers (Chicago, Ill., Grand Rapids, Mich., Green Bay West, Wis., Omaha, Neb., Quincy, Ill., and South Bend, Ind.) have a total of 3,743 members involved in one of these programs—with each one of those people representing another opportunity to share the love of Christ.

Pivot promotes wellbeing

by Sarah Jakubowski

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions, our staff at Oak Creek, Wis., Booth Manor have made extra efforts to ensure the needs of residents are being met.

Prior to the pandemic, residents of Booth Manor [a HUD-subsidized low-income housing community for seniors] had the ability to meet their social, physical, mental and spiritual needs in a variety of ways. Local senior centers, entertainment venues, medical centers, church services and shopping used to provide opportunities for residents to get out in the world.

However, the serious risk COVID-19 posed to older adults dramatically changed that option for independence. Many of the places they used to frequent closed or imposed restrictions that increased the anxiety residents already felt. In addition, the transportation options that many seniors relied upon experienced disruptions in service.

While the staff at Booth Manor always have provided enrichment offerings to our residents, we quickly realized that we became the sole source of meeting most of their needs. For many, we were also the only human contact they had for a long time. It was imperative we made sure we were focusing on the whole person in our monthly planning.

We introduced a number of new activities for our residents to remain engaged and healthy. We began hosting trivia and brain boosting sessions and welcoming more educational speakers for mental health. We increased the frequency of crafting options and parties for their creative and social health.

We led residents in a stretch class twice a week and put together a fitness room with a treadmill, exercise bike and free weights for their physical health. We encouraged them to seek pastoral care, church services and Bible study for their spiritual health and encouraged them to volunteer with The Salvation Army not only as an outlet for service but for their emotional health.

We also arranged a falls prevention workshop and a healthy eating lunch series, scheduled bus outings, and provided flu shots and COVID-19 vaccinations on-site.

As a result, we saw a community that, by and large, remained connected and supported throughout a very isolating and difficult time. Our residents expressed appreciation for our efforts and said they felt valued and loved.

As challenging as the pandemic has been, it has created an opportunity for us to further succeed in our mission to keep our residents engaged and functioning as one large family at the Booth Manor in Oak Creek. Even now that restrictions have eased, we plan to continue providing ways to holistically meet residents’ needs.

At the door and heart of Temple

by Camerin Mattson

If you’ve visited the Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps Community Center in the past few years, there’s a good chance you’ve met Corena. Soon after you enter the building, if you’re entering the building, if you’ve visited the Chicago Ray and Joan Kroc Centers have been sharing the love of Jesus Christ through innovative programming. In addition to Christian education and spiritual development, Kroc Centers are uniquely positioned to serve multiple generations through services like aquatic fitness, and the fine arts.

Corena volunteers at Temple Corps Monday through Thursday, five hours a day, usually doing whatever’s needed at the corps in Chicago’s West Loop neighborhood.

“Oh, my goodness, we could not do it without her,” said Captain Denesia Polseca, corps officer with her husband, Captain Norman. “Besides my husband and me, we have one other employee.

In addition to welcoming people to the building, Corena helps with the food pantry, cleans the bathrooms and is quick to lend a hand with other needs that she sees. “She has a great heart,” Captain Denesia said.

But don’t go gushing about that to Corena. “This keeps me busy,” she said of her decision to volunteer at corps. “We have a good time. We eat together, we laugh. The Salvation Army is good people.”
Hat happens when 575 men—plus more than 200 virtual delegates—gather with anticipation, ready to worship God and expecting to hear from Him? God reveals himself in a mighty way! Isaiah 43:19 says, “See, I am doing a new thing!” The territorial men’s conference, MOMENTUM 2022, the first large in-person gathering in two years, challenged men to discover new ways to impact their families, corps and communities for Christ.

Carroll W. Whitehead encourages men to claim their identity in Christ.

Steve Carter encourages men to claim their identity in Christ.

The auditorium was in awe of his a cappella rendition of, “How Great Thou Art,” with tears flowing from men who have experienced the goodness of God.

Delegates had the opportunity to join other men from their division in the Sunday morning breakout session to discuss the question “Now what?” in preparation for going back to their homes. They considered the ways the weekend had challenged them and talked about potential “new things” God is inviting them to and what first steps are needed to build momentum in the work God already is doing or will do through them.

Territorial Commissioner Commissioner Brad Bailey tied the weekend together, focusing on the cross and that true momentum can only be built in the work God already is doing or will do through them.

Territorial Men’s Ministries Secretary Captain Michael Sjögren welcomes men.

A/Captain Josh Polanco and delegates from the Noble Worship Center (Corps) with Major Scott Shelbourn.

Territorial Program Secretary Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich and Theo Coleman.

A photograph of Anthony Evans, Jr. and band inspire delegates.

Delegates surrender the world’s labels they’ve carried.

"The week was a fresh reminder of how vital the body of Christ meeting together is to our faith journey’s development," said Captain Michael Sjögren, territorial men’s ministries secretary.

Motional speaker, author and pastor Steve Carter spoke about how the world labels men, but the labels are not of God. “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past,” new identity in Christ. Men are not of God. “Forget the former labels at the cross and claim their moved to surrender and leave those men’s ministries secretaries.

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Territorial Men’s Ministries Secretary Captain Michael Sjögren welcomes men.
Carlos Chacón joined the Rockford Temple, Ill. Corps in 2011 and quickly found fellowship and belonging. Five years later he participated in his first Salvation Army men’s conference and found his life transformed by the Holy Spirit.

“The speaker was sharing a message that resonated: ‘When you go home, what is the mission you will take with you?’ The sermon helped the Holy Spirit touch my heart. I fell to my knees and vowed to share the love of Jesus with the world, even though I wasn’t sure how I would do that yet.’

Several months later Carlos saw a sign that sparked an idea—he could make signs and flyers proclaiming love for Jesus. The next day when commuting, he noticed an empty parking lot that looked like an ideal place to pray and share God’s Word with the community. Carlos brought members of the corps to pray with him, including Major Mark Martsolf, corps officer at the time, who encouraged him in his endeavor to take God’s message to the streets.

In May 2017 Carlos held his first street prayer meeting where he read the Bible and prayed with passersby. The next month, he led a prayer for the city of Rockford, highlighting gun violence and other struggles the community faced.

Since then, Rockford Temple’s street evangelism has taken off, connecting the corps to other parts of the community in new and enriching ways. Carlos began posting flyers for outdoor prayer meetings, and the corps received calls from other churches and pastors who attended and shared sermons, music and food. The number of people attending varies, with many meetings drawing more than 40.

Despite the pandemic, 2021 was one of most rewarding years for the corps’ street evangelism because although churches were closed, people felt safe gathering outdoors to celebrate Jesus.

Carlos also leads other corps evangelism efforts such as distributing free Bibles directly to the community, and he participates in The Salvation Army’s Night Patrol which provides food, toothbrushes, coats and other necessities to the homeless.

"The Lord told us to go and make disciples,” concluded Carlos. “There is only so much we can accomplish by staying inside the church walls and never coming out. Give sharing the Gospel with someone new a chance; you never know who will listen. And it is such a joy to share the Word of Christ.”

Men Building Character in Green Bay

With the goal of bringing men together to share a common interest, learn new skills, build relationships and strengthen faith, Major Matt O’Neil, Green Bay, Wis., area coordinator, developed Men Building Character, a group he leads at the Green Bay Wis., Bay and Joann Kroc Corps Community Center. The program melds hands-on projects with Bible study and discussion, helping men form bonds of faith as they work together.

“I’ve always wanted to create a group where I could use skills from my previous career as a contractor combined with the ministry experience I’ve gained as an officer to build men into the church, to reach them for Christ,” he said.

In order to get the program off the ground with funding for tools and building materials, Major Matt applied for a grant from the women’s auxiliary and was thrilled when it was approved. Men Building Character’s inaugural meeting took place in May 2020.

The small group includes Salvationists as well as members and staff from the Kroc, a mix that according to the major helps to bridge gaps for staff by providing a spiritual connection through Bible study and a different experience as a participant, rather than leader, in the program.

“We start meetings with Bible study and discussion, and that discussion often continues as we work,” he said. “It’s been great to see some of the men go from being pretty closed off to sharing more, and from being uncomfortable using tools to handling them with confidence.”

The first project the group tackled was building a tiny house. For more than a year, the men met weekly to build their faith and gain practical skills from working with their hands. In the end, the tiny house was auctioned off, with the proceeds feeding back into the program to fund future projects.

Currently the group is working on building a barrel sauna, which also will be sold when it is completed.

“The intent was to build friendship and connection, and have some fun working on a project together,” concluded the major. “Then the walls started coming down, and we were able to have deeper conversations. Now sometimes we don’t get to the project because we’re engrossed in the Bible study!”

Taking it to the streets

Members of Men Building Character work together to build a tiny house.
Central Staff Songsters bring words of life

by Major Curtiss Harley and Evie Polasley

A vision two years in the making was realized when the Central Territorial Staff Songsters (CTSS) appeared at the 90th Reunion of the Salvation Army Retired Officers’ Association (SAROA) at the St. Petersburg Corps in Florida. “Wonderful Words of Life” was more than a theme; it was an expression lived out by generations of Salvationists proclaiming the truth of God’s Word.

Retired officers from the four U.S. territories, as well as Canada, gathered for fellowship and worship at the event which also celebrates the organization’s continued support of the Army’s mission and ministries worldwide.

Responding to the crisis in the Ukraine, for instance, SAROA and CTSS members joined in prayer for brothers and sisters who are being Christ’s wonderful words of life and His hands of service while surrounded by death and despair. An offering raised more than $6,000 for efforts in that war-torn country and in neighboring countries that are ministering to refugees.

Words of life flowed throughout the weekend. Central territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey focused their messages on the power and comfort of the Word that was made flesh and lived among us—and now lives within us. The territorial commander’s message about the impact of God’s Living Word stirred listeners to continued action to support those who are marginalized. “The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.” (John 1:4-5, NLT) The flowing words of life brought renewal as the songsters proclaimed truths like, “You can’t stop God from loving you.” “O Love that will not let me go,” and “My help comes from the Lord.”

Having performed in virtual concerts since its inception and having had the exhilarating opportunity to sing in a concert with the Chicago Staff Band (CSB), the CTSS performed their own full concert in person for the first time. Any nervousness vanished as voices blended in singing “Worthy to be praised,” and members said there was no better place for their debut than surrounded by these saints cheering them on.

In addition to performing at reunion meetings and banquets, the CTSS also gave an evening concert for SAROA in St. Petersburg and one for the public on Saturday at the Clearwater Corps. The repertoire included up-tempo fun stylings like “I have seen the glory,” and “Worthy to be praised,” and contemplative and worshipful songs like “I know a fount [Hay Una Fuente],” “As water to the thirsty,” and “I surrender all.”

Commissioner Brad told the retired officers God had planted the seed for the songsters in his heart as well as Dr. Harold Burgmayer’s, then territorial music and gospel arts secretary, more than two years ago.

They wanted to reach the territory with the passion for what choral music could bring to ongoing ministry opportunities.

“In January 2020 when that first rehearsal was held at Territorial Headquarters (THQ) with almost 40 vocalists of all ages and from every division made up of soldiers, employees and officers, it was a dream come true,” said the territorial commander. “Hearing the sounds of harmony filling the atrium at THQ thrilled my heart as the new brigade concluded their initial rehearsals.”

No one could have known that the next rehearsal in Kansas City only three months later would be the last in-person gathering for nearly two years due to COVID-19. Under the direction of Harold and Jonathon Weller, assistant songster leader, the CTSS recorded 10 virtual songs used in online programs for events during the pandemic before finally coming together to perform in person at the CSB Sounds of the Season Concert last November. Their repertoire was built around those early presentations with one rehearsal weekend in January 2022 providing additional selections.

Harold said CTSS members had dedicated themselves to hours of at-home practice for this event for one reason. “From the very beginning it has been our mission—our passion—that with every song we sing, the Holy Spirit would use the lyrics along with the beauty of the music to bring audiences into His presence,” he said.

As the weekend closed with worship at the Clearwater Corps on Sunday morning, CTSS members shared visual testimonies as they sang the moving words of Oliver Cooke’s “I know a fount.” Members raised their hands as phrases that spoke to their hearts cascaded through the song: “I know a place where night is turned to day,” “Burdens are lifted. Blind eyes made to see,” “There’s a wonder working power in the blood of calvary.”

Commissioner William Francis, outgoing SAROA president, thanked the CTSS for their offering of music, saying, “It’s obvious that God has instilled in each of you a heart for the ministry of your music. Thank you for allowing Him to fill your music with His Spirit and for doing it so beautifully.”

Central Staff Songsters bring words of life

by Major Curtiss Harley and Evie Polasley

A vision two years in the making was realized when the Central Territorial Staff Songsters (CTSS) appeared at the 90th Reunion of the Salvation Army Retired Officers’ Association (SAROA) at the St. Petersburg Corps in Florida. “Wonderful Words of Life” was more than a theme; it was an expression lived out by generations of Salvationists proclaiming the truth of God’s Word.

Retired officers from the four U.S. territories, as well as Canada, gathered for fellowship and worship at the event which also celebrates the organization’s continued support of the Army’s mission and ministries worldwide.

Responding to the crisis in the Ukraine, for instance, SAROA and CTSS members joined in prayer for brothers and sisters who are being Christ’s wonderful words of life and His hands of service while surrounded by death and despair. An offering raised more than $6,000 for efforts in that war-torn country and in neighboring countries that are ministering to refugees.

Words of life flowed throughout the weekend. Central territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey focused their messages on the power and comfort of the Word that was made flesh and lived among us—and now lives within us. The territorial commander’s message about the impact of God’s Living Word stirred listeners to continued action to support those who are marginalized. “The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.” (John 1:4-5, NLT) The flowing words of life brought renewal as the songsters proclaimed truths like, “You can’t stop God from loving you.” “O Love that will not let me go,” and “My help comes from the Lord.”

Having performed in virtual concerts since its inception and having had the exhilarating opportunity to sing in a concert with the Chicago Staff Band (CSB), the CTSS performed their own full concert in person for the first time. Any nervousness vanished as voices blended in singing “Worthy to be praised,” and members said there was no better place for their debut than surrounded by these saints cheering them on.

In addition to performing at reunion meetings and banquets, the CTSS also gave an evening concert for SAROA in St. Petersburg and one for the public on Saturday at the Clearwater Corps. The repertoire included up-tempo fun stylings like “I have seen the glory,” and “Worthy to be praised,” and contemplative and worshipful songs like “I know a fount [Hay Una Fuente],” “As water to the thirsty,” and “I surrender all.”

Commissioner Brad told the retired officers God had planted the seed for the songsters in his heart as well as Dr. Harold Burgmayer’s, then territorial music and gospel arts secretary, more than two years ago.

They wanted to reach the territory with the passion for what choral music could bring to ongoing ministry opportunities.

“In January 2020 when that first rehearsal was held at Territorial Headquarters (THQ) with almost 40 vocalists of all ages and from every division made up of soldiers, employees and officers, it was a dream come true,” said the territorial commander. “Hearing the sounds of harmony filling the atrium at THQ thrilled my heart as the new brigade concluded their initial rehearsals.”

No one could have known that the next rehearsal in Kansas City only three months later would be the last in-person gathering for nearly two years due to COVID-19. Under the direction of Harold and Jonathon Weller, assistant songster leader, the CTSS recorded 10 virtual songs used in online programs for events during the pandemic before finally coming together to perform in person at the CSB Sounds of the Season Concert last November. Their repertoire was built around those early presentations with one rehearsal weekend in January 2022 providing additional selections.

Harold said CTSS members had dedicated themselves to hours of at-home practice for this event for one reason. “From the very beginning it has been our mission—our passion—that with every song we sing, the Holy Spirit would use the lyrics along with the beauty of the music to bring audiences into His presence,” he said.

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**RUN FOR THE WORLD**

**Saturday, June 11**

**Juneau Park, 900 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee, Wis.**

5K (3.1 miles) • 7:00 a.m. Start

$10 registration fee (includes T-shirt!)

Join the 5K Run for the World! All ages and fitness levels are welcome. Many walkers participate as well as runners.

Water stations will be located along the route, and refreshments will be available at the start/finish line with music and lots of fun and fellowship!

You—or your family and friends who sponsor you—have the option to make a pledge toward World Services/Self-Denial.

For more information or to register visit www.uscadvance2022.org/5k.
As an officer, the most important things for me are my relationship with Christ, the high calling He has given me and the covenant I signed to fulfill the Great Commission ("Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20, NIV)

For the past couple of decades being an officer, I have been compelled to "go" the extra mile and out of my comfort zone to reach anyone who needs help physically and, most importantly, spiritually. As officers, our mission is to welcome and love everyone. Their race, culture and ethnicity does not matter. Even those who may seem unlovable, we must love. Since we follow Christ, our love must be unconditional.

A growing church is filled with diversity as people come together with the common purpose of worshipping God and sharing Christ’s love. They represent the Kingdom of heaven on this earth. Throughout the years with willing hearts to serve in multicultural ministries settings, my wife and I have seen many blessings from God in people’s lives and congregations as well as every aspect of ministry in each appointment.

To win people to Christ in different cultural settings has been a blessing to our whole family because of the changes we’ve seen in people’s lives as we have fulfilled the Great Commission. Since it’s a command from Christ Himself, I pray that as His followers we take to heart the Great Commission in our daily living. It is the mission of The Salvation Army to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all people and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

Aurelia Pettit
First-generation Salvationist
Big Rapids, Mich., Corps
Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division
Captains Dan and Amy Voss, corps officers

A family’s treasure

It came as a surprise. Surely, Major Alyce Wallin thought, her granddaughter was joking. She was in rehabilitation recovering from a fall with a head injury when Sierra asked if she’d perform her wedding ceremony that had been postponed numerous times due to the pandemic. Sierra and her fiancé, Trevor, had decided that moving ahead with their lives and celebrating with family were the important things.

Assured Sierra was serious, the major didn’t skip a beat. At 96, she understood time is precious, as is her dear granddaughter. A new uniform was ordered, and inquiries were made about any qualifications needed besides her ordination when she became an officer in 1948. During their officership, her husband, Ehler, had performed all the weddings; though this was her first, Major Alyce was undaunted.

As preparations picked up momentum, so did the excitement. Undeterred by being legally blind from macular degeneration, she began memorizing everything she would say. And when melanoma was discovered a few months before the big day, she faced that head on as well. Just two weeks after her last radiation treatment, Major Alyce performed the wedding ceremony. She told the couple how proud she was of the compassionate people they each had become, challenged them to be devoted to each other, and encouraged them to continue to see the positive along their journey—something she has practiced her whole life.

Naomi Jobson
Multigenerational Salvationist
Midland, Mich., Corps ❖ Eastern Michigan Division
Majors Brian and Heidi Reed, corps officers

Newly accepted candidates

Aurelia Pettit
First-generation Salvationist
Big Rapids, Mich., Corps ❖ Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division
Captains Dan and Amy Voss, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts
Serving ❖ Teaching ❖ Administration

Ministry Passion or Experience
Children/Youth ❖ Preaching/Teaching

Spiritual Mentor
Major Angela Wandling, Elizabeth Carr

Naomi Jobson
Multigenerational Salvationist
Midland, Mich., Corps ❖ Eastern Michigan Division
Majors Brian and Heidi Reed, corps officers

Spiritual Gifts
Serving ❖ Teaching ❖ Leadership

Ministry Passion or Experience
Children/Youth ❖ Missions

Spiritual Mentor
Captain Chrissy Cooper

Saturday, June 11, 2022 • 1:00 pm
$20.00 (includes a T-Shirt)
Proceeds to go to World Services
Register at Commissioning
Mason City adult day program provides a respite and hope

The Salvation Army’s Adult Day Health Center in Mason City, Iowa, first opened its doors in 1988 and has remained a refuge in the community for participants and their families ever since. Designed to provide care for adults who are limited in their ability to function independently, the center is open Monday through Friday and currently serves 22 people.

“Our program is intended to provide a relaxing, safe and fun environment for our participants, where they can smile, socialize and be themselves,” explained Kay Hohenfield, director of the center. “Our participants face challenges with their health, which can be stressful to both themselves and their caregivers. Our program provides a respite for participants and their families on weekdays while ensuring that all health-related needs are taken care of.”

The program offers community members a free “trial day” to ensure it’s a good fit for the attendee, caretaker and staff. Since the center does not have an advertising budget, it relies on word of mouth for referrals. Recently, the program received several positive referrals from spouses of participants, which helped them reach more families in need.

“Our program operates with two clear goals in mind. Number one, keeping our participants functioning independently for as long as possible,” explained Kay. “This means that we don’t help everyone with every activity, but rather encourage them to maintain and build on the skills they had before. Our second goal is simply to have a lot of fun in everything that we do, and I think we accomplish that every day.”

The arrival of COVID-19 in 2020 led to the closure of the center during the governor’s stay-at-home order, but eventually despite the challenges posed by the pandemic all but one participant returned.

“COVID-19 has been difficult for our participants and their families, especially earlier on in the pandemic,” said Kay. “Obviously, being a caretaker can be challenging, especially when it is 24/7, but people often underestimate how difficult it is for the participants themselves. Our program is a place where they can smile, laugh and socialize. All of these things build a sense of self-worth and potentially add years to their lives.”

As the pandemic wanes, participants and staff look forward to resuming outings in the community and welcoming guests and groups to the center to provide entertainment.

“It has been our blessing to be a part of this ministry and to get to know the participants,” added Majors Geffory and Leticia Crowell, Mason City corps officers. “This ministry is very important and keeps the participants filled with fellowship.”

The blessing of Bingo

For seniors in the St. Charles, Ill., area, playing bingo at The Salvation Army has been key to surviving these chaotic times.

To many people, playing bingo one morning a week may not sound like that exciting of an activity, but for seniors who have lost contact with their friends, have had little interaction with the outside world and almost no fun activities for over a year, playing bingo at the St. Charles Tri-City Corps has been a blessing.

Every Thursday morning about 20 people come together to hear a devotional, have a snack, reconnect with others, and, yes, play bingo and win prizes. Throughout the year the corps also hosts fun-filled parties with special meals and decorations to celebrate holidays like St. Patrick’s Day, Easter, Cinco De Mayo, the Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

“We have a food pantry and after-school and summer programs for children, but our seniors have also suffered greatly by having been cut off from interaction with others,” said Lt. Dena Smith, who leads the corps with her husband Lt. Scott.

He also credits the Bible for his service-oriented approach to life. “Jesus talked again and again about helping widows, children and the poor. As a Christian, I believe we are called by Jesus to help others,” he said.

“Ted helps the people we serve by treating them with respect and being there for them when they need help,” said Captain Janelle Cleaveland, Newton corps officer. “He has truly made a difference in our operations and in the lives of the people we serve.”

Octogenarian with purpose

When he retired 18 years ago, one of the first things Ted Huismann did was drive to his corps in Newton, Iowa, to ask how he could help. Ted, 87, had dedicated his professional life to helping and supporting severely disabled people, and he wasn’t about to stop helping his community just because he wasn’t earning a paycheck anymore.

“Too many people my age are without a purpose. Volunteering gives me a purpose in life,” said Ted, who also serves at a half-dozen other organizations.

Every morning Ted arrives at the center between 7:00-7:30 a.m. to get to work organizing donations and checking expiration dates in the pantry and stays until the job is done.

He credits his wife of 63 years, Vi-vian, for keeping him motivated and on task. “She says, ‘Keep going, keep going, keep going,’” said Ted. “So, I do.”

He also credits the Bible for his service-oriented approach to life. “Jesus talked again and again about helping widows, children and the poor. As a Christian, I believe we are called by Jesus to help others,” he said.

“Ted helps the people we serve by treating them with respect and being there for them when they need help,” said Captain Janelle Cleaveland, Newton corps officer. “He has truly made a difference in our operations and in the lives of the people we serve.”

A participant and staff member have fun during one of the program’s days of special activities.

Majors Geffory and Leticia Crowell celebrate the Olympics with residents.

Pictured (l to r): Mason City Corps Officer Major Leticia Crowell, Adult Day Center Director Kay Hohenfield and Social Service Director Tracy Stump.

by Michelle DeRusha

"Jesustalked again and again about helping widows, children and the poor. As a Christian, I believe we are called by Jesus to help others," said Ted.

"He has trulymade a difference in our operations and in the lives of the people we serve."
Adjusting our lens
by Dr. Maribeth Swanson
Territorial Social Services Secretary

Since 2020 the pandemic has impacted our daily thoughts, behaviors, decisions and relationships. While we’ve rightfully been focusing on keeping ourselves, those we care about and our communities safe, we may have overlooked an emerging trend that also will change our families, communities and corps life.

Increasingly, our families and communities are aging. The 2010 U.S. Census reported 13 percent of the population was 65 years and older, growing to 16 percent in 2020. In the Midwest states comprising the Central Territory, it was slightly above the national average at 17 percent. By 2040, it’s estimated 21.6 percent will be 65 and older.

So, don’t be alarmed if you observe those sitting in the pews on a Sunday or coordinating the corps cadre project are primarily older adults. Your corps is just mirroring what is happening. Many developed European and Asian countries have surpassed the U.S. in the proportion of over 65 population. In 2021, the United Kingdom stood at 18.9 percent, Sweden at 20.1 percent, and Japan at 28.7 percent. The impact of having low birthrates, along with higher quality of health care, have jointly contributed to an increasingly aging society.

Adults ages 65 and older have been disproportionately impacted economically, socially, emotionally and mortally by COVID-19. Having underlying health conditions made thousands of older adults more susceptible to the consequences of the coronavirus. Older people reported having an increase in feeling lonelier and sadder by 21 percent. Additionally, 38 percent reported feelings of disconnection to family and friends. Feelings of isolation, loneliness and lack of meaningful social connections can have a detrimental impact on physical and mental health. Findings from the 2020 U.S. Census indicate one in six adults, 55 years and older, were childless. More seniors are living alone or don’t have extended family relationships to provide caregiving or social supports.

Older workers also lost a higher percentage of jobs (15 percent), and it’s taking this group longer to return to the workforce due to having potential health conditions that put them at risk for contracting COVID-19 or due to age discrimination. Their slow return has reversed decades of increased involvement and forced thousands into early retirement their financial resources will not sufficiently sustain. There is potential for the number of older persons living in poverty to rise above the current threshold of 8 percent nationally.

Many adjustments had to be made to ensure that CDC guidelines were followed while ensuring that the needs for nutrition, social isolation and spiritual care were addressed for many senior-focused programs.

“We took our program outside to our local parks during the summer months,” said Karrie McGuire, director of older adult ministries at the Green Bay, Wis., Corps. “Our seniors were able to reconnect safely and enjoy musical guests, games and good Wisconsin summer treats.” The staff made periodic phone calls to check in on senior members. Delivery of Easter and other holiday goodie bags provided an opportunity for porch ministry.

“What a joy to bring the word of our Savior Jesus Christ to our seniors during this very stressful and uncertain time,” remarked Karrie. It’s time to adjust our lens on how we view older people. Fully acknowledging their dignity will not only impact how we serve older people but also how we engage them in the life of our corps and community ministries. There are multiple implications of an aging society on the family, healthcare, community, and the church. Here are a few questions to consider:

• What is your corps doing to disciple the older person in their walk with Christ?
• How are you integrating older persons into the life of your corps?
• How do you acknowledge stages of aging: young old (55–65 years), middle old (66–85), and old old (85 and older) and match service opportunities, as well as meeting their pastoral care needs, to these stages?
• What could your corps do to break isolation, loneliness and social disconnections with older persons involved in corps life, those who seek services, or volunteers?

Together, let’s take the next step to, “Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.” (Leviticus 19:32, NIV)

PRAYER CENTRAL

June Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List

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

---Mustard Seeds---

Bragging Rights

My Mom is a Captain in the U.S. Navy and she reports to an Admiral...

That’s nothing... my mom and dad are captains in the Salvation Army and they report directly to God.

© mustardseedscomics.com
Salvation Army response to Russia and Ukraine crisis

by Lauren Westwood

The Salvation Army responded rapidly to the urgent needs of displaced people precipitated by the Ukraine-Russia conflict. Emergency response teams across The Salvation Army's global network have been tirelessly in their efforts to provide critical relief, strategic planning and emotional support through conditions of extreme challenge and distress.

Salvationists from the Eastern Eu-

rope Territory immediately responded with initial relief operations being de-
livered in Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. In Moldova, The Salvation Army supported refugees from Ukraine with free temporary ac-

commodation and access to Wi-Fi, made possible by Salvation Army officers, staff and the innovative employment of Salvation Army buildings and facili-
ties. Salvationists of all ages bolstered the efforts through the preparation and distribution of hot meals, drinks and parcels containing essential items.

In Romania, emergency teams worked at border crossings in Siret and Bacau alongside other agencies and individuals, providing food and hygiene items to the large influx of Ukrainian refugees. At the Siret crossing, these teams have been of particular support to women, children and older people.

Across Ukraine, particularly in border towns, internally displaced people have been supported through the supply of food and non-food items. Salvation Army corps and centers, such as those in Vinnytsia and Dnipro, have given help where needed. Relief work and other ongo-

ing activities have taken place on all sides of the border with The Salva-

tion Army in Russia providing es-

sential items to those affected.

The wider Salvation Army emer-

gency response was formulated and effected across other European coun-

tries. In Poland, relief parcels were prepared for an anticipated arrival of 100,000 refugees per day. Damaris Frick and Centralite Captain Matthew Beatty of the International Services (International Headquarters) collaborated in strategic planning with colleagues on the frontlines. The Salvation Army in Slovakia and the Czech Republic also prepared vital aid for the flow of displaced people.

Internationally, Salvationists and friends responded to this crisis with care, compassion and concern for their brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia through prayer and, where possible, financial dona-
tions. General Brian Peddle con-

tacted leaders to assure them of the deep support on "our interna-
tional family" which transcends borders and national identity.

"Pray for peace in this troubled time," the General prompted Salva-

tionists. "Pray for the safety of those who are fleeing and for those who are already displaced; pray that there will be adequate hospitality from neighbor countries; for faith and courage for everyone, especially for our people; and pray for the de-escalation of the battle so that the threat to life is no longer a reality."

From an International News Bulletin

Promoted to Glory

Lt. Colonel Bodil Dahl

Lt. Colonel Bodil Inga-Lill Dahl, 77, was promoted to Glory on March 7, 2022. An earnest be-

liever in the power of prayer, Bodil lived out the Word of God and praised God for His work in her life. She mentored many women and girls, en-
couraging them to reach higher and to fulfill their God-given potential.

Bodil is survived by her sons, Daniel (Colleen), David and Dale (De-

siré Moore); three grandchildren; one great-grandchild, brothers, Bert (Jude) and Bjorn, and sister-in-law, Mari-

anne. She was preceded in death by her husband Marvin, brother Lenart and sister-in-law Ingrid.

Major James Castor

Major James Castor was pro-

moted to Glory on February 26, 2022. James was a dedicated minister of the Gospel, using his gifts of preaching, teaching and serving throughout his life to share the love of Christ.

James was born July 3, 1945, in Boone, Iowa, the son of Andrew and Pearl (Huntly) Castor. After earning his GED, he received his associates degree from Olivet Nazarene College.

On February 24, 1973, James was united in marriage to Clarie Bell Alexander. In 1983, James and Clarie entered the officer training service and were commissioned as members of the "Guardians of The Truth" ses-
sion in 1985.

The Castors served in corps ap-

pointments for 26 years before re-
tiring in 2010. In retirement, James continued to preach and teach Bible studies at his local church in Sev-

ill, Mo., Corps. In his spare time, he loved to watch sports and West-

eras, play Sudoku and complete word search puzzles.

James is preceded in death by
dughter, Carla Castor, and several brothers and sisters. He is survived by his wife, Clarie; son, Andrew (Georgia); granddaughter, Alexis (Joseph), and great-grandchild; brother, Gene, and many nieces and nephews.

Then at Ealing, and it was while there that he married Captain Freda Turner on July 5, 1969. Together they moved in May 1970 to Bromley Temple Corps, where they served for the next four years, receiving the rank of major in August 1971.

In January 1974, Majors Larson were appointed to the former Scot-

territory, where Major John served as Territorial Youth Secretary before returning to the British Terri-

tory in October 1976. Here, he served first as Assistant National Youth Secretary and then, from April 1977 until May 1980, as National Youth Secretary.

A term of overseas service com-

enced in May 1980 withLt. Colonel John Larson's appointment as Chief Secretary in the South America West Territory. This was fol-

lowed in 1984 by a return to London and to the International Training Col-

lege, where Colonel John served as Principal for the next four years. July 1988 brought a move to Inter-

national Headquarters, where Colonel John Larson was appointed as As-

sistnt to the Chief of the Staff for United Kingdom Administrative Plan-

ning. This role involved the complex task of researching and planning for the separation of The Salvation Army's international and national administra-

tions in the UK and ultimately led to establishing the United Kingdom Ter-

ritory with the Republic of Ireland (now the United Kingdom and Ire-

tland Territory) in November 1990.

With the rank of commissioner, John Larson was appointed the first Territorial Commander of this new territory. This was followed by fur-

ther territorial leadership, firstly in the then New Zealand and Fiji Terri-

tory (1993-1996) and then in the Scotland and Latvia Territory (1996-

1999). In October 1997 Commission-

er John Larson was appointed as a member of the Advisory Coun-

cil to the General, becoming its chairman in March 1998.

In 1999, General John Gowans appointed Commissioner John Larson as his Chief of the Staff, commencing on August 1, 1999, and it was while he was in this appoint-

ment that he was elected to serve as the Salvation Army's 17th General.

General John Larson served in this appointment from November 13, 2002, until his retirement from active officer-service on April 2, 2006.

It is almost impossible to quantify the worldwide legacy and influence of General John Larson. He was a faithful and humble servant of God who shared His good-given gifts of writing and music throughout the Army world. He was the author, among other literary works, of Doct-

rine without Tears, The Man Per-

fectly Filled with the Spirit, Spiritual Breakthrough, 1929 and Those In-

credible Beats.

Known extensively throughout the Salvation Army world and be-

yond for his collaboration with Gen-

eral John Gowans in the writing and production of 10 full-length musi-

cals, the impact of General John Larson's contribution to Salvation Army heritage cannot be underesti-

mated. His music, both in the con-

text of the musicals, but also in his compositions and his music for many other songs, has had a signifi-
cant spiritual impact on people of all ages. Those who had the privilege of hearing him play his own composi-
tions at the piano surely will not for-

get that experience. However, it

should be remembered that the in-

fluence of General Larson's own character, his gentle and unassum-

ing nature and his depth of spiritual-

ity also remains an integral part of his legacy to The Salvation Army throughout the world.

Please keep his wife, Commis-

sioner Freda Larson, and their sons, Karl and Kevin, and their wider families in your prayers.

From a letter by Chief of the Staff Commissioner Lyndon Buckingham

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