



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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Joy in following Jesus!

Installation and welcome meeting calls Salvationists to Kingdom living

Hundreds of officers and soldiers representing the entire territory gathered for the installation of territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey and the welcome of the "Messengers of Compassion" session and Colonels Steve and Janice Howard, new chief secretary and secretary for women's ministries.

The afternoon was a joyful expression of Salvationism emphasizing following Jesus and compassionately serving others in His name.



Commissioner Barry C. Swanson installs Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey as territorial leaders.



Colonels Steve and Janice Howard

From the beginning declarations of the upbeat "This is the day" by the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) and Metropolitan Youth Chorus and Albert Orsborn's classic "Except I am moved with compassion" by the CSB, the music captured the reason for the occasion.

Cadet Shannell Johnson pro-

claimed in her well-stated testimony, "I cannot tell you the joy and peace I now have...It's not about me but what He can do through me."

Before reading scripture, Commissioner Heidi Bailey, territorial president of women's ministries, used a quote by Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Where we love is home—home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts," as the base for sharing her gratitude for God's direction in their lives which has often taken them out of the Central Territory to serve and their happy return.

Echoing the theme of compassion, she concluded, "Our Army will be many things going forward, but if we can only be one thing, may we be an Army of love."

Surrounded by family, the Baileys knelt in dedication as their precious 7-

year-old grandson, Micah, prayed for them to do a good job and then handed the microphone to Commissioner Sue Swanson, who



Cadet Abigail Hoag receives her session's flag.

asked for God's joy, wise counsel and strength for their service.

In officially installing them in their new posts on behalf of the General, Commissioner Barry C. Swanson asked the Baileys to publicly reaffirm their officer covenant.

Commissioner Brad Bailey then introduced the CSB's offertory, *Inclusion* (Sharman), a challenging work with poignant refrains of "When I needed a neighbor were you there?" culminating with the beautifully moving melody, "In Christ there is no east or west." The day's offering of more than \$1,600 was sent to assist the Southern Territory with post-hurricane disaster relief.

In some of the meeting's lighter moments, Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey introduced Colonels Steve and Janice Howard, commending them to the territory as godly officers with Midwestern hearts.

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SAWSO embraces the world

See pages 6 and 7



The Salvation Army World Service Office celebrates 40 years of empowering communities.



The Chicago Staff Band led by Dr. Harold Burgmayer

Photos by Andy Grey

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More to a book than its cover

by Colonel Steve Howard
Chief Secretary

During my officer training, the school library frequently would sell donated books for a quarter—a great price, even in 1982! Invariably, I'd arrive home with an armful of books to be greeted by my wife, Janice, who'd wonder what I had purchased. With excitement, I might tell her I had obtained a three-volume commentary to help prepare Bible studies or a classic by Oswald Chambers for devotions. Then came the other books that had caught my eye. These had very nice covers. Some were

leather bound; others were embossed with intricate designs or gold leaf. They would make for a fine-looking bookshelf. But when she'd inquire, "What is the book about?" I really didn't know. I hadn't given it much thought because of the beautiful covers.

It's been said, "You can't judge a book by its cover." The Apostle Paul knew that very well. He referenced this when he wrote 2 Corinthians 5. Verses 16-17 (MSG) read, "Because of this decision we don't evaluate peo-



ple by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons!"

It's so easy to get caught in the trap of judging people by their covers. We see they are different. They didn't grow up here. They are poor. They speak differently. They dress in

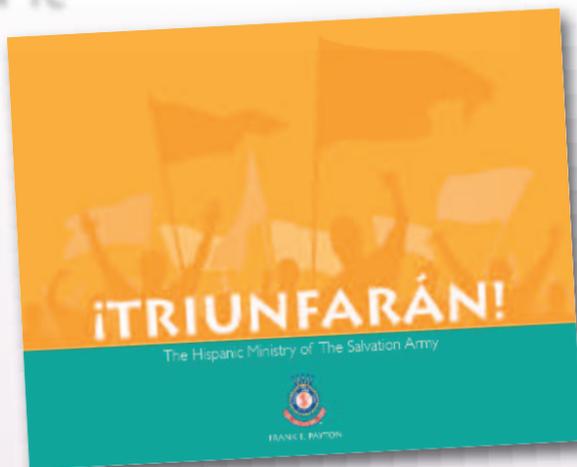
unfamiliar ways. They just don't look like us. However, God has called us to look at people differently, to get past their outward appearances and really get to know them. We need to get to know them so we can fulfill what we find in verse 19 (MSG), "God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing."

If we judge people by outward appearances, we lose an opportunity to tell them what God is doing. If we adopt God's way of looking at people, the opportunities to share His message will multiply. Will you join me?

There was a need, and God filled it

As the Spanish-speaking population began to grow rapidly in the Midwest, especially in Chicago, The Salvation Army wanted to reach to them with the gospel but didn't have someone capable, with the language, to do so.

Although he didn't realize it, God had pre-



pared Raúl Guerrero, a Salvationist from Chile, to be that person. Raúl thought he was immigrating to Chicago to improve his trade as a tailor. And he did, but God had a bigger plan. As a soldier of the Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps, Raúl noticed that many passersby of the open-air meetings were Hispanic. So, he started giving his testimony in Spanish.

But for God it wasn't enough. Soon, Raúl's outreach necessitated the start of a Spanish-speaking congregation. In the process God brought Rosario Argudin, a teacher and recent immigrant from Cuba, to help with this ministry. Raúl continued establishing Spanish-language ministries in other neighborhoods that eventually became corps.

Today, Raúl's name is legendary among Spanish-speaking Salvationists in the Central Territory. God knew many needed the gospel, and He prepared and sent people to share it!

This compelling story and others about Hispanic ministries in the U.S. are recounted in the new book, *Triunfarán*, by Colonel Frank Payton. The Spanish version of *Triunfarán* recently won first place in the Religious Book category for Latino Literacy Now, while the English version received honorable mention.

The book is available through Trade Central, Barnes and Noble and Amazon, as well as electronically, in both English and Spanish.

Vikings coach visits St. Paul Citadel



Photos by Craig Dirkes

by Julie Borgen

Children at the St. Paul Citadel, Minn., Corps are attending school this fall better prepared thanks to a donation of 80 backpacks and supplies by Minnesota Vikings Coach Mike Zimmer's foundation. The coach's surprise visit to hand them out personally to children in the corps' day camp and Hmong outreach programs was a big hit.

"This is so awesome!" exclaimed several children as they lined up to meet the coach and choose their backpacks.

The Mike Zimmer Foundation was formed to honor the life of Vikki Zimmer, who passed away in 2009. Coach Zimmer's wife shared his passion for supporting youth in Minnesota.



"We want to better the lives of children in need by helping them chase their dreams and promote a healthy, active way of living that stresses the importance of education, hard work and team work," said Corri Zimmer White, executive director of The Mike Zimmer Foundation.

"These backpacks and school supplies are a true gift to the families we serve," said Lt. Colonel Lonnel Richardson, Northern divisional commander.

According to Carrie Mergens, young people's sergeant-major, some of the children come from single parent or low-income households. The corps' support of and positive development with the children is ongoing as they participate in the afterschool and character-building programs. St. Paul Citadel is led by Captains Geffory and Leti Crowell.



Viki and Linda Payton receive the first place and honorable mention awards on behalf of their father, Colonel Frank Payton.



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Launch and landing

by Jacqueline Rachev

The Englewood Corps Red Shield Center in Chicago, Ill., has started a weekly mentoring program, Celebration Launch and Landing, designed to support youth, teens and families in one of the city's most dangerous neighborhoods. The program combines group support, one-on-one mentoring and worship to help residents address issues arising from

poverty, hunger, violence, lack of education and homelessness.

After a short worship session, a leader begins the meeting with a discussion to inspire the group. At one meeting Captain Nikki Hughes, corps officer, spoke about growing up in poverty. "There were days we didn't have power, so we ate whatever was in a can...peas, canned ravioli, Spam." She punctuated it with a bite of cold Spam. "I've been where you are. I understand it," she said. She reminded the group that just because they've grown up in poverty or hardship doesn't mean they have to stay in it. "There is better for you. You can start by making goals and small steps."

In addition to addressing large-scale problems in the neighborhood, the group works through everyday issues children face. For instance, when Mya, 10, talked about being teased by a boy in her class, her mentoring group discussed ways she could deal with the situation. "He was saying mean things to me and things that weren't true. At first I ignored him, and then



Mya says she always feels better after the meeting. "I like it...They're like my second family. They listen to me and help me with my issues." Through the corps' afterschool and Celebration Launch and Landing programs, she's gained self-esteem and even has made a vision board which depicts her graduating from a top college as valedictorian and becoming a prosecutor.

Clients participating in Celebration Launch and Landing can access The Salvation Army's wide range of services like substance abuse treatment, the food pantry, utility assistance, spiritual support and Pathway of Hope.

I asked him to stop," she said. "And then I told Mr. Al that he was still doing it, so Mr. Al talked to him and it stopped."



THE CHICAGO STAFF BAND

Dr. Harold Burgmayer, conductor



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This concert will be recorded. Pre-school children not admitted.

A new creation

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Corey Hughes was battling addiction and sin when he made his way from St. Louis, Mo., to the Indianapolis, Ind., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC). After 10 years of turning his back on God, he was ready to make a change.

Brought up going to church in his hometown of Greenville, Ill., Corey started drifting away from God during his senior year of high school when his brother died. The next few years were full of painful experiences, including a divorce and the deaths of two more brothers. Corey turned to alcohol and drugs to deal with his grief. Soon he found himself unemployed and addicted with nowhere to turn. Needing a start fresh, he called the Indianapolis ARC.

Over the next year, Corey worked hard to change his life. He sought out people who both understood his addiction and knew the Lord. Finally, with the help of the ARC program, he reconnected with God and overcame his addictions.

Upon successful completion of the program, he was hired as the ARC



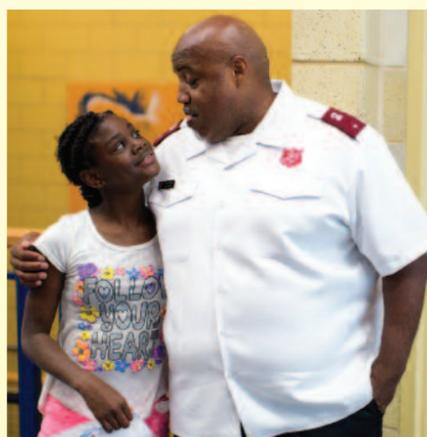
Lt. Corey Hughes with his wife and daughters

house manager. That's when he met Nikki, the center's bookkeeper. Eventually, they married, combined their families and relocated to St. Louis, Mo., where Corey served as chaplain and Nikki as administrative assistant for the ARC there. And though they were happy, they knew God was calling them to officership.

"I didn't think I would be accepted," Corey recalled. "It was amazing the way God worked everything out."

Nikki, who had previously been commissioned, was reaccepted as an officer and appointed to Central Territorial Headquarters while Corey was a cadet at the College for Officer Training. Over the two-year training experience, Corey continued to grow and mature in his relationship with Christ.

Upon Corey's commissioning in 2013, the Hughes were appointed as corps officers at the Chicago, Ill., Englewood Corps Red Shield Center where they continue to serve today.



Fair aids trafficking fight

This year at the Nebraska State Fair, The Salvation Army's Fight to End Trafficking (SAFE-T) program had the opportunity to educate people about the issue of human trafficking and what it's doing to fight it.

The Army was given premium access to fairgoers to raise awareness and funds through the Fair Cares program which helps nonprofits achieve their goals in fundraising and awareness. Each year nonprofit

organizations throughout the state apply for this opportunity. In addition to receiving \$2,500 from the Cares program, SAFE-T staff and volunteers from Grand Island, Neb., raised \$233.

"We were excited to have this opportunity to not only educate Nebraskans on the issue of human trafficking but also to discuss a number of creative and collaborative solutions developing across the state," said Alicia Webber, director of SAFE-T.

SAFE-T serves survivors of sex and labor trafficking in a way that is empowering and meaningful to them through case management and by coordination and collaboration with local partners. The program is a state-wide initiative funded through a federal grant awarded from the Office for Victims of Crime.



The ministry of CCM

What was once defined as the League of Mercy has expanded exponentially over the past several years. The new definition of community care ministries (CCM) is nearly all-inclusive, encompassing activities carried out both by official CCM members and other soldiers or volunteers.

Last year over 6,600 CCM members ministered to nearly 322,000 individuals. Most importantly, 45,000 people were prayed with, and 181 families were linked to a corps in a meaningful way—becoming regular program participants or attending Sunday worship.

The services provided by a CCM team are vital to building community both within the corps and in the wider community. Activities can vary greatly from corps to corps. While visitation to institutions during the Christmas and Easter holidays is still a large part of CCM, other services can be offered year-round. Many communities need volunteers to provide practical services such as house or yard work, transportation, and home visits to the lonely or ill.



One example of a unique CCM activity is the Banana Bread Club (affectionately called the BBC by its members), started six years ago by Ed Duering, who is a soldier at the Warren, Mich., Corps and heads up CCM as the corps ministries and outreach specialist. The BBC collects visitor cards after Sunday services, bakes up banana bread, and then delivers it on Monday or Tuesday. Over the years many people have been connected to the corps through this simple act of kindness.

"Our job is to let people know we notice them and to show them God's love," said Ed, "Every little piece adds up. For me, community care is an extension of my personal relationship with God."

Whatever the service, whether providing free lunches during the week like the Minneapolis Temple, Minn., Corps or giving out groceries and staying to visit each Friday at the local senior high rise, like the Jacksonville, Ill., Corps team, it's all done in the name of Jesus and with the purpose of bringing His love to the community.



Homeless World Cup

What happens when you bring together over 600 men and women from 52 countries, whose lives have been impacted by homelessness, addiction and social challenges, and put them through a soccer match schedule that would exhaust a professional team? You get excitement, empowerment and encouragement to continue to move forward to meet the challenge to end homelessness that is estimated to affect more than 100 million worldwide.



Dr. Maribeth Swanson (r) and Lindis Evja.

Salvation Army in Norway which has been using soccer to reach out to different groups for more than 30 years. The Salvation Army not only hosted the event as Official Partner but was responsible for Norway's national team.

Demonstrating the internationalism of the event, 28 officers from around the world joined forces with personnel from the host territory to assist the visiting teams. They staffed a tournament church/prayer room within the arena. Each day devotions, open to all, were held at the Army's tent and a worship service was held on Sunday.

Central Territorial Social Service Secretary Dr. Maribeth Swanson was



invited to this year's Homeless World Cup by her peer, Lindis Evja, Norway, Iceland and the Faroes territorial social services secretary who worked on behalf of the Army to

coordinate this world-class tournament. Maribeth had the opportunity to meet with event organizers and observe the impressive logistics of putting together a premier event.

"The biggest takeaway was learning about the street soccer movement and how it is helping hundreds of men and women grow and change through the values gained through team sport and the impact it has to reduce factors that affect physical, mental and social health of at-risk and homeless individuals. The experience to represent their country builds pride, self-esteem and fair play for all," said Maribeth. "It was an unforgettable experience for myself as an observer; I'm sure even more so for the players."

The Salvation Army Norway, Iceland and the Faroes Territory hosted the 15th Homeless World Cup this year. The Army brought together more than 400 soldiers, officers and volunteers from corps, institutions and the community and collaborated with the Norwegian government, Oslo City Council, as well as numerous corporate sponsors, to bring this world-class event to the heart of Oslo—the Radhusplassen (bordered by Oslo's famous City Hall and Oslo fjord).

It was a fitting privilege for The



Installation / Welcome

Continued from page 1

The Howards teamed up to respond, affirming God's faithfulness to direct their paths over the course of their lives and declaring, "We are ready to push up our sleeves, to love and serve, to build God's Kingdom together!"

In a compelling message on Kingdom living based on Acts 28, the territorial commander urged Salvationists to be on guard to the dangers of a "watered down Word," or a "cultural Christ" in their hip pocket.

"It seems easier today for the world to infiltrate into the Church, even our beloved Salvation Army," he exclaimed. "All that is needed is for us to become complacent in our prayer life, causal in our study of the Word of God, calculated in sharing our resources, and even cagey in avoiding personal involvement in service and ministry."



The Metropolitan Divisional Youth Chorus



The territorial commander gives call to officership.

"It's all about Jesus!"

In an extended period of meditation, people knelt at the altar, committing their lives afresh to the Lord. Subsequently some stood in public declaration of God's calling to officership. Coming full circle, the territorial commander invited cadets to recall their own moment of commitment and to surround them as a symbol of solidarity and support.



Cadet Shanell Johnson



Commissioner Heidi Bailey greets Majors Brian and Lesa Davis who lead the College for Officer Training.

The commissioner urged Salvationists to reassess their priorities, directing them to leave over engagement in other things in order to practice spiritual disciplines and to give selfless service. With an unequivocal call to "straight-up obedience" to make following Christ the central focus of their lives, he proclaimed,



Surrounded by family, the Baileys are dedicated in prayer by Commissioner Sue Swanson.

730... AND BEYOND



8,901 days and counting

by Major Jim Irvine

"You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy, that I might sing praises to you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever!" Psalm 30:11-12 (NLT)

As divisional youth secretaries, my wife, Pat, and I loved the opportunity share Christ's love and forgiveness and His desire for personal relationship with young people and their families. We could hardly wait for each new "God moment" and thought we were at the apex of our ministry. But at the height of our joy, the enemy attacked our son, filling him with doubts of worthiness and crippling him with depression, leading to self-injury and even thoughts of suicide.

Pat and I vividly recall standing in the parking lot of our doctor's office, leaning into each other like a battered lean-to in the rugged wilderness, neither capable of holding the other up, weathering the storm that threatened our son's life and our ministry opportunities as we committed him to the hospital.

Those dark days tried our souls as we clung to God's Word and fought for our son's life and soul. Yet, each new morning we experienced God's faithfulness beyond our imaginations and in ways too numerous to count, although at the time it was difficult to understand what God was teaching us.

For the sake of our son and his brothers, as well as for those to whom we ministered and those with whom we served, we asked to receive, and were granted, new appointments. We thought our min-



istry opportunities, especially to young people and their families, had been dashed. Yet, in our very next appointment—and every appointment since—God has opened doors for us to minister to young people, and their families, who are experiencing thoughts of worthlessness and deep depression.

I remember sharing our story at a Thanksgiving concert in one appointment along with the chorus, "It is no secret, what God can do; What He's done for others, He'll do for you..." Unsure of how my words of thanksgiving for God's care would be received, I was reassured of God's ability to use my ministry when a couple attending the concert tearfully shared how they had received encouragement from God in dealing with their long struggle with a family member in a similar situation.

Our son has since completed an undergraduate degree in criminal justice from Purdue University and is employed in prison corrections in Pennsylvania. God has given him exuberance for life and a passion to show God's love by sharing his journey. While we would never want to pass through those dark days again, we are grateful for the lessons we learned about prayer, family worship and God's incredible faithfulness. He has turned our mourning into joy, and we sing His praises.

Sweet times ahead

Majors Gary and Deborah Gugala retired earlier this year in a small service conducted by Majors Phil and Gail Aho. Adding a sweet spin to the occasion, the couple renewed their marriage vows and reprised the duet they sang at their wedding 35 years ago.

The Gugalas were commissioned in 1999 with the "Faithful Intercessors" session. Prior to entering the training college, they owned a private business and were soldiers at the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps. Throughout the years they knew they had been called to ministry, and, according to Major Deborah, God used the Army to bring that calling to fruition.

"My greatest joy as an officer was being able to focus fulltime on ministry," she said.

Upon their retirement, the Gugalas moved from their last appointment as corps officers of the Pittsburg, Kan., Corps to Nashville, Tenn., where all three of their children live. They are



thoroughly enjoying the closeness to their family and have instituted a tradition of gathering everyone for Sunday dinners at their home. In their spare time they relish being first-time grandparents to Benjamin.

They have also become involved at the Nashville Citadel, Tenn., Corps, helping with vacation Bible school this summer. They look forward to continuing their ministry as soldiers by assisting with the corps' music programs throughout the year.

SAWSO: 40 years of empowering

Forty years. It's a milestone and perfect time to reflect on what God has done through The Salvation Army World Service Office (SAWSO) and to look toward the future.

When SAWSO was created in 1977, it was for a simple purpose: to support The Salvation Army in achieving its mission in less developed countries throughout the world. Founded by Colonel Ernest Miller, a Central Territory officer, SAWSO was established as an independent corporation to develop long-term, community-driven solutions to poverty.



In the decade leading up to the formation of SAWSO, The Salvation Army began taking a more proactive approach to meeting needs in developing countries. It began working within communities in partnership with the people who lived there, to better understand and identify local needs and resources to develop programs to meet those needs. In this way, communities became more invested in development, and SAWSO's resources were put to their best, most-needed use.



SAWSO was awarded its first U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) grant for \$1 million in September 1977 which provided resources for three years to improve the



capability of The Salvation Army to plan, fund, operate and manage development projects in the poorest countries. From 1980 to 1993, with the help of an additional USAID grant that matched Salvation Army funds, SAWSO was able to build a core of leaders, staff and volunteers. More than \$11 million was provided for training in new approaches to development, effective management and strategic planning in 40 countries.



In more recent years funding from government grants has decreased, and SAWSO has turned increasingly to creating partnerships with corporate and foundation donors. With the generous support of these organizations, SAWSO continues to provide technical assistance and financial oversight to projects that empower and provide the skills and training for sustaining livelihoods; education and monitoring programs that keep communities healthy; and providing for short-term needs and long-term hope in rebuilding after natural and man-made disasters. It has grown significantly, developing programs that adapt to the world's ever-changing needs and challenges.

Today, SAWSO is led by two Central Territory officers, Lt. Colonels Thomas and Jacalyn Bowers, national and assistant national secretary, respectively, while a third

Central officer, Major Mike McKee, holds the position of assistant to the national secretary with a focus on international emergencies. SAWSO's multi-disciplinary team is composed of highly specialized, experienced and committed individuals who travel the world to oversee and witness first-hand positive change and ensure resources are used wisely.

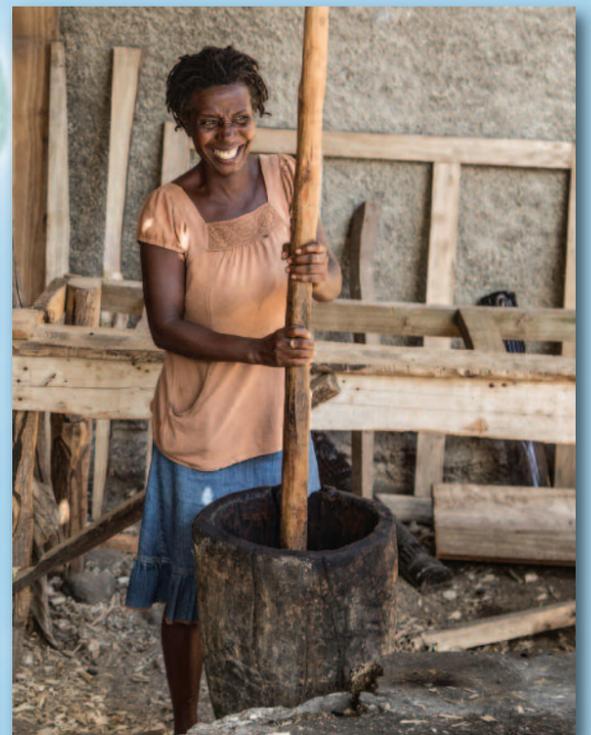


"It is our privilege in SAWSO to represent the international development interest of the four USA territories," said Major Thomas Bowers. "We are blessed to be in a place where we can witness God at work around the globe. The Salvation Army in America is having a tremendous impact on our world."

Key SAWSO programs

Health and HIV

SAWSO supports health programs in Africa, Asia and Latin America, partnering with local Salvation Army units to provide holistic, quality primary health care and to ensure accessibility for families, communities and individuals in need.



Working as a facilitator, SAWSO helps communities identify and prioritize solutions to their most pressing health needs from maternal and child health to HIV and non-communicable diseases. It also works to combat the spread of disease with information, vaccination, medication, clinical intervention and spiritual counseling.

For example in Sri Lanka, SAWSO supports Salvation Army personnel doing community outreach in an area beset with deadly kidney disease, identifying cases early and referring them for life-saving treatment. In Angola, The Salvation Army is an esteemed partner in a



communities



high-profile project to eliminate polio by increasing immunization and conducting surveillance. In Eastern Uganda, the SCORE Project—funded by USAID—provides services to vulnerable children and families, many of whom are affected by HIV and AIDS.

Disaster Relief and Recovery

Through disaster relief and recovery programs, SAWSO helps communities, families and individuals respond to and recover from disasters and implement integrated, community-led programs to increase their capability to recover and be prepared when catastrophic events strike.

Over the last 10 years, SAWSO has provided \$89.8 million in support to survivors of disasters such as the Southeast Asia and Japan tsunamis, Haiti earthquakes, Pakistan floods, Philippines typhoon, the Ebola outbreak in Africa and the earthquake in Nepal.



Livelihoods and Anti-human Trafficking

SAWSO works to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities by helping them acquire the skills and assets needed to be free from oppressive labor, recover from setbacks and create a better future for the next generation.

SAWSO's livelihoods programs encourage individual self-sufficiency through literacy, micro-finance and business skills training, while empowering communities to identify and solve their problems.

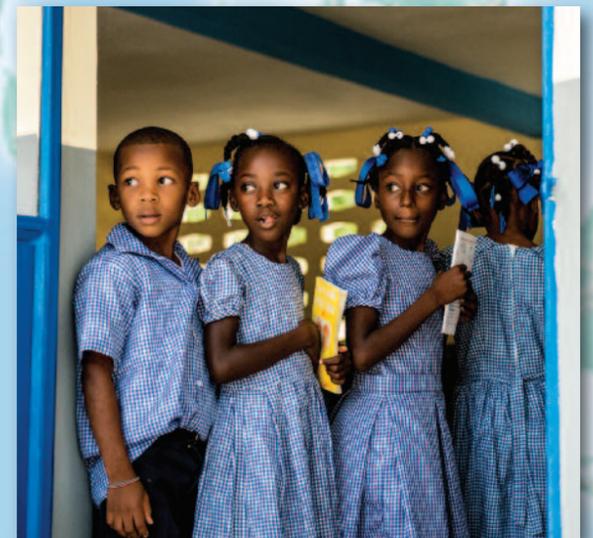


It actively seeks to prevent human trafficking and to protect the victims with projects that support The Salvation Army's centers in red light districts around the world. Through skills building, vocational training and income generation, women are given a path to return home, attend school or earn a living in healthier, more dignified ways.



Education

SAWSO seeks to support, empower and equip Salvation Army schools to provide high-quality, holistic, faith-based and family-focused education for young people in safe and secure environments.



It strives to build the capacity of teachers and staff of Salvation Army schools; to provide education and skills training in safe settings for out-of-school and vulnerable children and youth; to facilitate access to higher education and vocational training for post-secondary students; and to increase community support for education through partnerships between Salvation Army schools and their communities.

Visit www.sawso.org



Embracing the truth

Utilizing the Embrace focus group introduced by women's ministries in the territory two years ago, the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps has witnessed exciting developments among participants from the community. Many women have joined Embrace through Pathway of Hope (POH), parenting classes or their children's involvement in corps youth programs.

"These women are from a neighborhood that's a melting pot of cultures and nationalities. They're not necessarily attached to Sunday mornings at the corps," said Pamela Church-Pryor, community ministries director.

Embrace encourages small groups of women to meet once a month to share their lives, explore the Bible, develop authentic friendships and build sisterhood in Christ.

Women share a meal and leaders use discussion questions to spur meaningful conversations about life and Christ. The Norridge group meets for a monthly potluck dinner where they share dishes representing their country of



Captain Kristina Sjögren, Norridge Citadel corps officer, and Pamela Church-Pryor, community ministries director

origin or ethnicity.

When the Embrace questions focused on holiness earlier this year, it made for some very interesting discussions, Pamela reported. "The exciting thing from this and other conversations is that the women want to learn more about the Bible, including how to read and understand it."

embrace
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PATHWAY OF HOPE

Graduate comes full circle

by Michelle DeRusha

When Amanda McKnight enrolled in Pathway of Hope (POH) at the Lincoln, Neb., Corps in 2014, she never imagined she'd come full circle as the program's coordinator just three years later.

Back in 2012, having left two back-to-back abusive relationships, Amanda struggled to keep a roof over her head despite working full-time as a waitress and being enrolled fulltime in college. Even after she and her two children moved into her boyfriend's attic apartment, she still worried she'd never catch up financially.

Hoping to make a fresh start, the couple relocated from Virginia to Lincoln, Neb., where Amanda's mother lives. "Everything we owned we fit in our Subaru," she recalled.

Amanda was working part-time at the Lincoln Corps when she heard about POH which guides families with children 18 years and younger in achieving stability and breaking the cycle of generational poverty.

"We walk with our Pathway of Hope clients one small, manageable step at a time, laying out a plan with achievable goals, advising them, counseling them, and praying with them," explained Clarice Mackey, director of social services at the Lincoln Corps.

Together, Clarice and Amanda put together an action plan. "I really needed the extra support," Amanda said. "When you've lost hope, you need someone to believe in you. I felt lost, but the Majors [James and Angie Pennington] and Clarice were so supportive."

After completing her associate's degree online at the University of Phoenix and other employment, Amanda returned to the corps to work as food pantry coordinator. When Clarice realized Pathway of Hope had grown large enough to support a part-time coordinator, Amanda transitioned to that position. She now has a caseload of 10 clients, some of whom she connects with every day as they navigate obstacles related to hous-



ing, finances and employment.

In her new role as caseworker, this former POH participant brings deep understanding and compassion to her work by identifying with others struggling to improve their lives. "Amanda lives out a marvelous story of change in circumstances brought about by setting clear goals and taking seriously her desire to achieve them," said Major Angie Pennington, former corps officer. "We are thrilled she can use her experience to help others set and reach life-changing goals."

Amanda plans to return to college to complete a bachelor's degree once her children, ages 4, 7 and 11, are a bit older. For now, though, she is grateful for the opportunity to share her story with others who are struggling and to offer them the same kind of hope, support and encouragement she received through POH.

"I'm doing what I love," she said, "and hopefully that will help make a difference in other people's lives, too."



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Achievement

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Lincoln, Neb., Corps
Menasha Fox Cities, Wis., Corps

Outstanding

Bloomington, Ill., Corps
Council Bluffs, Iowa, Corps
Oshkosh, Wis., Corps

Opportunity of a lifetime



Bringing joy to a nursing home.

It was the opportunity of a lifetime for Milagros Lopez-Pagan and her family when she was offered a teaching job in Chicago, Ill., in the early 1990s. She had been recruited in Puerto Rico to join a new program in which children of immigrant families could be educated in their native languages.

The timing couldn't have been better for Milly, her husband Pedro and their three young children. Not only would her children become fluent in English, but their health would improve as their pediatrician had recommended the family move to help alleviate their severe asthma problems from the island's high humidity.

Milly enjoyed her teaching job in Chicago, and Pedro, a former teacher, attended classes and did freelance calligraphy projects. Having obtained Christian ministry certificates and having served as church leaders since they were young adults, the Pagans got involved in Chicago church ministries and even went on mission trips to Colombia, Peru, Uruguay and the Bahamas.

In 2010 they were introduced to The Salvation Army when they were invited to a retreat by a Salvationist friend. They began attending the East Chicago, Ind., Corps but, realizing it was too far to drive each week, they switched to the Chicago LaVillita Corps where Milly and Pedro became soldiers. Feeling called to a



A/Captains Pedro Pagan and Milly Lopez-Pagan

fuller ministry, they took on Hispanic ministry positions at the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps.

When Milly retired from teaching, the Pagans were offered leadership positions in 2015 as envoys at the Cicero Templo Laramie, Ill., Corps, where they continue as auxiliary captains to serve as corps officers.

Corps life is vibrant at Templo Laramie with 50-70 people attending on Sundays which begin with a prayer meeting, followed by Sunday school, breakfast and Bible studies before the worship service. A Wednesday night meeting attracts 30. Monday nights bring youth to the corps for character-building programs, and Friday nights bring families for fun, sports, Bible studies and fellowship. Another important source of new families coming into the corps has been women's ministries.

Hitting their target

In the little more than two years since Lts. Vinal and Brenna Lee came to lead the Madison, Ind., Corps, youth attendance has blossomed along with the number of their families getting involved!

"Many families were unaware of the amazing things the Army offered, so we revitalized corps programs and became more visible in schools," said Lt. Vinal, who also posted program information and sign-up sheets in common areas in the community.

The Lees' most effective outreach, however, has been going to where the people are.

"The best ministry we have is visiting local neighborhoods, meeting families and playing with kids. We bring along a team of youth leaders, food and activities. Children come from all over to enjoy time outside with their families," Lt. Vinal continued. "We're not doing anything unique; just communicating the message that all people are welcome at the Army."

The Lees reorganized rooms, created youth spaces and started a teen Bible study to support the corps' STEPs (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) goal of reaching young people. Today 40 or more youth come to character-building programs, and 20 attend fine-arts classes. Camp Wild, the corps' mobilized youth ministry that incorporates elements of summer day camp and vacation Bible school, attracts 85 children!

"This year 14 teens signed up for youth councils, an increase from three in 2016. Our young people worked at camp this summer and attended Central Bible Leadership



Lts. Vinal and Brenna Lee spend some downtime with teens.

Institute. They've fallen in love with the Army and everything it offers," he said.

Some youth have even gained a reputation at school for talking about the corps! Teens are developing deeper relationships with Christ, and older youth are considering their long-term plans with a mindset of how they can best serve God.

"They're growing our corps through their outreach to friends, and families have begun attending because of their children," said Lt. Vinal. In fact, one family is now active in youth leadership. Family relationships have grown stronger, including some parents reuniting.

According to the lieutenant, a key to the corps' success is the adult leaders who are committed to the youth and love them unconditionally.



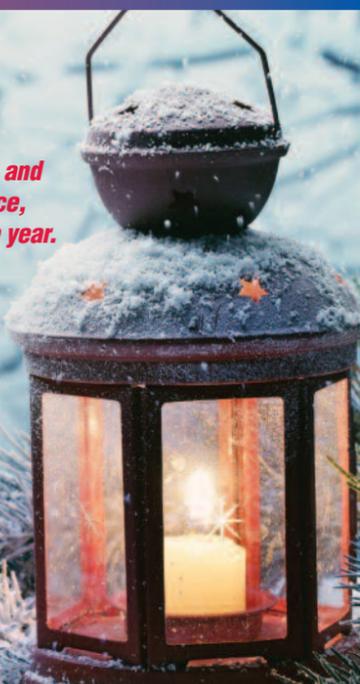
Christmas cheer from Madison, Ind., Corps youth

The Five Questions of Christmas

Unwrap the mystery of the five Christmas questions and discover God's promises about purpose, favor, justice, doubt and trust which you can claim throughout the year.

Find online worship planning ideas and children's programs under "Advent & Christmas Resources" under "My Organization Communities" at connections.salvationarmy.org

See your corps officer for more information.



50 years faithful

The Army has become Jean Hole's life. Being a soldier since childhood and working at the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Divisional Headquarters for 50 years, it's no wonder.

"I love my job and the people here are wonderful," Jean said. "I don't know what I'd do with myself if I retired!"

Jean has been doing her part to support the Army's mission managing accounts receivable and special appeals in the finance department. She says the Christ-centered atmos-



phere is a blessing and an encouragement in her walk with the Lord. Saved at a vacation Bible school when she was six years old, she's been a Salvationist ever since. Currently she soldiers at Grand Rapids Fulton Heights Citadel.

"Jean has a vibrant walk with the Lord and a

beautiful spirit about her," concluded Major Heather Holman, corps officer at Fulton Heights. "It is a pleasure to congratulate her on her 50 years of service."

Greetings from the United Kingdom!



by Major Rachel Stouder

As clichéd as it may sound, we are amazed at how quickly our first year of service has zipped by! We have learned so much about life in England, culture, ourselves and certainly about God in all of it.

Never have we been so aware of the different meanings of English words in different contexts. For example, our British friends might have looked at us oddly if we asked for biscuits at breakfast, jelly with our toast, or uniform pants. Equally, we surely gave our British friends odd looks when they said to help ourselves to squash on a hot day, invited us over for a chin-wag or told us someone pinched their seat! (Translated, biscuits are cookies, jelly is like Jell-o, pants are underwear, squash equals a juice drink, a chin-wag means a chat, and to pinch something is to steal it.) As George Bernard Shaw said, England and America indeed are "two countries separated by a common language!"

Our children have completed their first year in the British school system which has required adjustment as

well. Here students really must know what they want to be when they grow up by age 14, and their courses are chosen to support this trajectory. Due to this, Eli immediately had to make decisions about his future which was as unexpected as it was challenging. This school year, Eli, Josiah and Rebekah are all in secondary school together at Thomas Deacon Academy.

Eli, Josiah and I experienced our first British Music School this summer which was similar to a week-long youth councils with music classes added in. There was a fantastic response to God in this context, but it was surprisingly challenging for many who were present. We have noticed in British culture a major aversion to vulnerability. If it feels awkward or unexpected, they are generally hesitant. You can imagine the impact this has on responding publically to the Holy Spirit. We've had to adjust our expectations and interpretations greatly in this regard.

We have learned a lot about how our individual personalities, assumptions and expectations impact our interpretations and interactions within the culture. Adjusting and adapting while being true to ourselves has been a complicated balance. Being an American brings some significant implications. It is odd to be held accountable for our country's influence on all kinds of matters from Halloween to salted popcorn to immigration.

As we step into a second year, we look forward to continuing our education, applying what we've learned and continuing to learn what being obedient looks like as we journey with Jesus in the U.K. Thanks so much for your prayers and support!

Editor's Note: The Stouder's are stationed as corps officers at the Peterborough Citadel Corps in England.



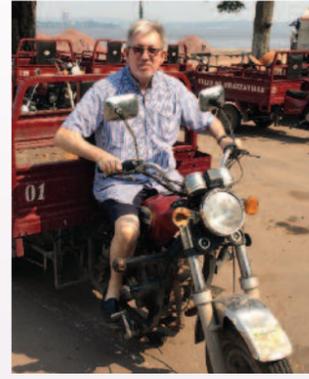
Adventures in auditing!

The last three years have provided a variety of adventures sprinkled among the crucial international auditing work Major Wes Green has been performing for International Headquarters (IHQ) since his appointment in early 2014. Initially based in England, the major began traveling for his overseas auditing assignments in the past year from Chicago, Ill.

While his time in London was filled with new friendships and experiences, the major found ground and air transportation to be more convenient here. The move back also facilitates his planning for retirement in early 2019. Meanwhile, the major's adventures while auditing continue!

"I've stood in Red Square while recalling grade-school history classes, wandered around Rome and Paris, traveled through Africa where I witnessed Salvationism joyfully expressed in many different words and actions, and waded in the Atlantic Ocean on the coasts of several continents," the major said.

Every year the Army's international auditors each perform an average of seven comprehensive reviews of



territories or commands, most of which are on a three-year auditing cycle. The process begins with a minimum two-week site visit where interviews are conducted with each department to review their fiscal management practices and management of all records and

resources. While on an assignment, Major Wes is usually able to take a day off or add furlough to explore and experience the culture.

While in an Asian country, the major joined a large group of soldiers who were caroling for their Christmas drive income. Afterward an officer told him the soldiers were deeply touched by his participation. The officer then asked Major Wes to pray for him and his family so they, too, would be used by God simply by being willing to join in.

"I've been privileged to make friends around the world with whom I still remain in contact," said the major. "Except for the appointments I shared with my late wife, this by far has been one of the most exciting, as well as the greatest achievement in my personal development."



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Two divisions in tune

by Major Lee Ann Thompson

"The people of Ecuador are amazing! The Spirit of God is central to everything they do. They are incredibly in tune with the Holy Spirit. We could learn so much from them about freedom of worship and praising our God with abandon," reflected Peter Haslett, Western divisional music director who led a nine-member team that held two music camps in the Ecuador Division.

The Western Division team conducted the camps at the request of Major Samuel Flores Morales, Ecuador divisional commander, to support the formation of a divisional brass band and timbrel brigade for music at divisional events, especially the division's 35th anniversary in 2020.

The team led classes in theory, basic brass and advanced timbrels for more than 120 soldiers and offi-

cers. They also participated in worship services. A strong bond quickly formed between the team and delegates which enhanced their worship and instructional time. Students were serious about their musical pursuits and took detailed notes as not to miss even the smallest instruction.

"They have a real hunger to learn music and to give it back as a gift to God," said Peter who believes Salvationists in Ecuador are at the beginning of something great in regard to Army music.

The team presented several brass instruments and a portable sound system to the Ecuador Division to support their effort to bring music to every corps and to enhance divisional gatherings. In addition, the Western Division has made a three-year commitment to send teams to Ecuador to help develop their music forces.



The Western Division team (l to r): A/C Angie Hartley, Michaela Lendt, Emily Hoskin, B/M Peter Haslett, Edward Rosales, Captain Miranda Duskin, Luke Hursh, Patricia Salas and Captain Stephen Hansen.

Precious memories

Majors Charles and Lori Wright observed their retirement and combined 67 years of officership with a celebration themed "Precious Memories Together."



Led by their daughter, Lt. Elizabeth DeLacy, the gathering of friends and family featured a duet by the lieutenant and her father and several salutes to the Wrights who retired from their most recent appointments as the Mt. Clemens, Mich., corps officers.

Tributes and memories were shared by advisory board and family members, Major Marc Johnson, Captain Connie Shaw and Mt. Clemens Corps Sergeant-Major Richard McCallister. Captain Javier Moreno was honored to conduct the retirement ceremony for the Wrights.

Major Charles was commissioned

in 1983 as a member of the "Heralds of Hope" session, and Major Lori was commissioned the following year with the "Servants of God" session.

Marrying four days after her commissioning, they served together as corps officers in the Metropolitan Division until the mid '90s when they served overseas for three years in South Africa, leading corps in Johannesburg and Pietermaritzburg. After returning to the Central Territory, they were corps officers in the Midland, Western and Eastern Michigan divisions.

PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army

USA Central Territory

December Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Friday	Acts 19-20	Kansas City Westport Temple, Mo., Corps
	2 Saturday	1 John 3-4	"I'll Fight" Day
	3 Sunday	Deuteronomy 13-15	DeKalb, Ill., Corps
	4 Monday	Nehemiah 5-9	Jefferson City, Mo., Corps
	5 Tuesday	Psalms 140-142	Jamestown, N.D., Corps
	6 Wednesday	Song of Songs 1-2	Marshalltown, Iowa, Corps
	7 Thursday	Revelation 1-6	Lansing Citadel, Mich., Corps
	8 Friday	Acts 21-22	Marinette, Wis., Corps
	9 Saturday	1 John 5	Omaha, Neb., ARC*
	10 Sunday	Deuteronomy 16-18	Midland, Mich., Corps
	11 Monday	Nehemiah 10-13	Keokuk, Iowa, Corps
	12 Tuesday	Psalms 143-145	Kokomo, Ind., Corps
	13 Wednesday	Song of Songs 3-4	Midland DHQ**
	14 Thursday	Revelation 7-11	Lawrence, Kan., Corps
	15 Friday	Acts 23-24	Des Plaines, Ill., Corps
	16 Saturday	2 John	Joplin, Mo., Corps
	17 Sunday	Deuteronomy 19-21	Kenya East Territory™
	18 Monday	Esther 1-5	Lakewood Temple, Minn., Corps
	19 Tuesday	Psalms 146-148	Mason City, Iowa, Corps
	20 Wednesday	Song of Songs 5-6	Lansing South, Mich., Corps
	21 Thursday	Revelation 12-17	Marquette, Mich., Corps
	22 Friday	Acts 25-26	Chicago Kroc Center, Ill., Corps
	23 Saturday	3 John	Rockford, Ill., ARC*
	24 Sunday	Deuteronomy 22-24	Monroe, Mich., Corps
	25 Monday	Esther 6-10	Celebrate Immanuel—God with us!
	26 Tuesday	Psalms 149-150	Macomb, Ill., Corps
	27 Wednesday	Song of Songs 7-8	Lafayette, Ind., Corps
	28 Thursday	Revelation 18-20	Leavenworth, Kan., Corps
	29 Friday	Acts 27-28	East Chicago, Ind., Corps
	30 Saturday	Jude	Kirkville, Mo., Corps
	31 Sunday	Revelation 21-22	Past blessings and new vision

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

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

--Mustard Seeds--



Major Charles was commissioned

Central Territory supports hurricane response

In response to the devastation caused by hurricanes Harvey and Irma, Central Territory personnel and volunteers joined others from across the nation and Canada on the frontlines to bring aid to people in stricken areas. They participated in one of The Salvation Army's largest disaster relief and long-term recovery operations in the United States.



had sheltered more than 3,300 people.

"When people come to get a hot meal, they're hungry—they're not looking for a prayer," said Pastor Alexis Twito, coordinator of The Salvation Army's Milwaukee, Wis., chaplaincy program who'd been

In addition to immediately sending two canteens and 35 personnel, including certified emotional and spiritual care (ESC) providers, to Texas, the Central Territory deployed another 45 people to enable teams from the Southeast to respond to Irma. By mid-September, 97 Centralites had been deployed with plans to send many more.

Kevin Ellers, Central territorial disaster services coordinator, directed his staff to train more volunteers for deployment. "We realized it was going to take 'all hands on deck' to sustain the recovery operations long term," he said.

By mid-September for Harvey alone, 97 canteens and three field kitchens had served more than a half million meals. More than 1,200 ESC workers had spoken with over 27,000 individuals, and at least 10 corps and Army facilities in the Houston area



deployed to Texas. "But just giving them a bottle of water and asking how clean up is going gives them an opportunity to talk. And before you know it, you're hugging people, providing support and offering a blessing."

During a door-to-door house check in Houston, Major James Pennington, New Albany, Ind., corps officer, found a family of five in desperate need. An elderly grandmother who'd survived Hiroshima was sleeping on the family's only cot; the rest, including a baby, slept on the floor. His team, which included a Japanese speaker, returned with cots, a crib, food, diapers and other items. The family cried with joy. When the grandmother heard in Japanese all these items were from God, she prayed for Jesus to come into her heart.

Captain Rich Forney, Aurora, Ill., corps officer who also was deployed to Texas, saw many people returning to empty homes.



"It was a numbing reality as they mourned the memories associated with their possessions. We looked for these people as they came to us for meals. We'd spend a little more time with them and, if possible, help them take the next steps." One elderly man asked, "How does this work?" when he came for food. Having never asked for help before, he and his wife had been eating sardines for days.

As Irma marched through Florida northward, 61 canteens and four field kitchens had served hundreds of thousands of meals by mid-September. Emotional and spiritual care had been provided to more than 10,000 people, and the Army had sheltered more than 3,600 individuals.



Central officer Captain Enrique Azuaje, currently Miami city commander, said area corps provided physical and spiritual support through canteens and corps kitchens. "We're helping as long as the need is there," he added.

Throughout the Central Territory, divisions held unique efforts to support hurricane relief. For instance, the Heartland Division raised \$58,000 through a one-day radiothon, and the Indiana Division teamed with Morgan Stanley to assemble 300 children's "blessing bags," backpacks containing items like pillow pals, devotional and activity books, pencils and educational games, and 200 "encouragement packs" for first responders containing practical items like phone chargers.

Report as of September 18, 2017

KWM seeks renewal

by Major Darlene Harvey

"God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, His Spirit deeply and gently with us." Ephesians 3:20 (MSG)

Majors Phil and Deslea Maxwell have claimed this verse for the Kansas and Western Missouri Division as its leaders. With this promise as the backdrop, the division has created a spiritual development STEPs goal. One of the action steps for this goal was for its pilgrimage to be a time of spiritual renewal for officers, soldiers and friends.

More than 300 delegates attended this year's pilgrimage where delegates were challenged to surrender their lives to God and to live purely through the power of His Spirit.

The event featured guests Lt. Colonels Dan and Becky Sjogren and Major José Gonzalez. Colonel Dan Sjogren taught from Romans in the main sessions which were complemented by workshops on the spiritual disciplines. Major Gonzalez led a Spanish track on spiritual disciplines for more than 50 delegates. Tools and resources were provided, including journals, Bible reading plans, prayer lists and a booklet on fasting. A track on spiritual disciplines



designed for teens was led by Lts. Mike and Kelly Hanton, Chrissie Coreano and Heidi Strand.

Throughout the weekend delegates could avail themselves of a prayer room with interactive stations. A

Saturday night family meeting featured a concert with Building Nations and a devotional on Jonah by Major Gonzalez. At the conclusion of Sunday's meeting, more than 100 delegates stood to accept the call to spiritual leadership in their corps or to indicate their openness to becoming an officer.

The division is seeing God provide spiritual vitality to its officers and soldiers as we continue to trust Him to do more than we can even imagine.



Feel disaster services is your calling?

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