Stepping up to the Call

by Major Lesa Davis

This is an important night for the Central Territory," declared Colonel Steve Howard, chief secretary, as he greeted the enthusiastic crowd gathered for the Cadets’ Welcome. “We are welcoming a new session of cadets, people who have responded to the call of God to officership, along with many others who are exploring their own calling by attending the 730 Weekend.” He urged everyone present to be attuned to the voice of the Holy Spirit and responsive to God’s call.

As the Chicago Staff Band played “In my life, Lord, be glorified,” 23 cadets, including four who are receiving training in Spanish, took their places on the stage as “Messengers of the Kingdom.”

Major Tricia Taube, territorial candidates’ secretary, highlighted the contributions of many people who helped the cadets reach this milestone. Divisional leaders and candidates’ secretaries stood, representing corps officers and local leaders whose faithful service inspired and encouraged the cadets on their path to become Salvation Army officers.

Presenting the session flag to College for Officer (CFOT) Training Principal Major Brian Davis, Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey described it as “a silent sentinel of the sovereign God… a symbol of his presence and power.”

“We are excited about the opportunity for ministry that this allows. It is a significant step by the Central Territory,” said Colonel Steven Howard, chief secretary, and chairman of the Spanish Track Task Force.

Cadets in this plan will take some important courses, such as Bible and doctrine, in Spanish which will allow them to engage in these subjects in their “heart language.” In cooperation with the Eastern Territory College for Officer Training, some of these courses will be offered on a video platform. Cadets will attend other courses in English with translation to ensure crucial information is conveyed and will be engaged in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. Having several officers who are fluent in Spanish on the CFOT staff will help facilitate the process.

While learning primarily in Spanish, the cadets will be developing English language skills which will be vital for their work as officers. Also there are many locations where it would be advantageous to have a bilingual officer.

In the “Messengers of the Kingdom” session (2018-2020), four cadets will be taking classes in Spanish. Each took the TOEFL Test of English as a Foreign Language to establish a baseline of their English proficiency and so it could be determined how to best advocate for them so they could fully participate and engage in the training program.

CFOT introduces training in Spanish

The college for Officer Training (CFOT) this fall has introduced training in Spanish. It is a significant step by the Central Territory to reduce the language barrier for training as a Salvation Army officer in the Midwest.

“We are excited about the opportunities for ministry that this allows. It is about expanding God’s Kingdom,” said Colonel Steven Howard, chief secretary and chairman of the Spanish Track Task Force.

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All of the first-year cadets in the new plan for Spanish speakers have entered training from the Kansas and Western Missouri Division.

Cadets Ramon Cebrian Cebrian and Elisaine Sanchez Garcet are natives of Cuba. After emigrating to the U.S. seeking a better life for his family, Ramon found Christ at the Dodge City, Kan., Corps. He then encouraged his wife, Elisaine, to find a corps in Cuba. She did and was enrolled as a soldier in 2014. They received God’s call to officership after being reunited in Kansas.

Cadets Gunther Briceno Sanchez and Francis Ramos were church leaders in Venezuela. They met The Salvation Army while visiting relatives in Chicago, Ill. When deciding to pursue fulltime Christian ministry, they moved to the U.S. and settled in Kansas where they began attending the Salina Corps and received their call to officership.
Who are you? A crisis of identity

by Lt Colonel Philip Maxwell
Territorial Secretary for Program

In 1978 Pete Townsend, a member of the rock band The Who, composed a song reflecting a generation in crisis. The probing of a police officer, who found him drunk and disoriented in a Soho doorway, caused Townsend to question who he was. Fame and the associated lifestyle had robbed his life of meaning. The song, “Who are you,” challenged a confused, disillusioned and disorientated generation to assess their lives and find their identity.

Over a century earlier an independent evangelist endured his own identity crisis. Emerging out of the dark one evening, his convictions confirmed, William Booth declared to his wife, “Darling, I have found my destiny!” That declaration set the direction and momentum for Booth’s life and ultimately gave birth to The Salvation Army.

It is a sense of identity that determines the direction, definition and drive for our lives. What is true in the personal realm correlates with us as an organization. The Salvation Army is truly a unique aspect of the body of Christ and, by definition, a mission-motivated movement.

If we are to be true to who we are, there are certain defining characteristics that mark our mission. We are a Movement marked by:

- • We are a Movement marked by Kingdom values. We are a holiness Movement. We are a people convinced of God’s Plan and purpose for our lives. That conviction gives direction and meaning to our living.

- • We are a Movement marked by conspicuous Christianity. Our values, service and unique dress are all visible declarations of a dynamic relationship with God—a declaration that both convicts and comforts the communities we serve.

- • We are a Movement marked by an acute social conscience. The Salvation Army was born in the fertile soil of social injustice with its pain and its suffering, but also its hope. Our intimate communion with God should sharpen our vision for those in need and should ignite our conscience to respond.

By way of illustration, General Clifton read an excerpt from the book—an example of selfless service by then-Captain Suresh Pawar, a Salvation Army officer stationed in India:

“On the outskirts of Bombay, a young Hindu woman lies on the ground, dying of AIDS. Her family and neighbours will not touch her. Left alone, she is very ill, weak, dirty, without hope. The Salvation Army AIDS team hears about her. Captain Suresh Pawar and his team members from The Salvation Army hospital drive out and pick up the woman, but the staff at the municipal hospital will not touch her. So then and there, Captain Suresh bathes her in a hospital room, puts on bandages, goes home and fetches some of his own home and drinks from the same cup. She says, ‘I have never heard the name of Jesus but I have heard of Ishwar (Mighty God) and now I have seen him in you. I want to follow your God.’ The nurses begin to go near and care for her. A few days later, she dies—in Christ.”

General Clifton recounted: “I felt deeply moved as I recorded this…it will be a lasting testimony to the Christlike spirit of those Indian officers and workers. More than once in the last three years, my spirit has been moved as I discovered—and rediscovered—the fidelity of my fellow Salvationists.”

The project to compile the ninth volume of The Salvation Army’s official history began nearly three years ago at the initiative of former IHQ Communications Secretary Lt. Colonel John Murray. General Clifton also paid tribute to Major Richard Gauillon, who had undertaken the role of his private secretary for two years during his tenure as territorial commander of the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland, and for a further five years throughout his time as General. “His input on the book has been beyond price,” said General Clifton.

IHQ Managing Editor and Literary Secretary Paul Morrice was praised as an “exceptionally gifted compiler of book indexes and having a tidy, logical mind.” General Clifton additionally acknowledged Lt. Colonel Bob Garrard, executive secretary to the General, for his “continuous help and ... unfailing patience,” and saluted the “unfailingly helpful” Lt. Colonel Patrick Booth, former IHQ legal secretary. The “ready and gracious input” of retired Generals Paul Rader and John Larsson was appreciated, with special thanks to the “global research team” that had ensured the book’s completeness and correctness. His wife, Commissioner Birgitte-Brekke, also was commended as an “unending source of encouragement.”

Commenting on his research, General Clifton observed that during the 20 years in review, The Salvation Army “opened fire” in 24 new countries.

“The Army I found was the Army I have always known and admired, made up of ordinary but Holy Spirit-filled people. I found Salvationists full of belief in God’s grace and keen to work for Him. I found Salvation Army soldiers and officers, of all stations and ranks, with loving, caring hearts and showing compassion in action.”

In conclusion, General Clifton referred to the introduction of his book. “I have written just three words which sum up all of its contents and all that is described within its pages. These words are in Latin: SOLI DEO GLORIA—to the glory of God alone.”

Pathway leads to Hong Kong

Created in the Central Territory in 2011, Pathway of Hope (POH), an initiative to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, has expanded across the U.S. and Canada. Two studies have found statistically significant increases in average earned family incomes and family self-sufficiency and hope measurements.

With POH’s proven success, the Central Territory has received numerous requests from other territories for information leading to possible training, including most recently the Hong Kong and Macau Command.

The command sponsored a three-day intensive training in late August which covered the basics of the POH model and explored how it might be culturally adapted to the unique Asian family challenges.

Dr. Michael Smith, Central Territory POH director, led the training that also featured local staff who presented on pastoral care programs and their social services database. To ensure POH model fidelity, the training followed a standard POH training format, with group exercises conducted in Chinese with English translation.

The 138 attendees represented key staff who would likely work with POH if implemented in the Hong Kong and Macau Command. The corps officers, social workers and teachers actively engaged in the training’s group exercises, learning how to conduct POH assessments, collect data and develop targeted case-management plans within their cultural context.

To a person, they expressed enthusiasm for applying POH’s strategies to their client families’ stability through case management, resource referrals, and pastoral care, ideally at the closest corps.

At the close of the initial training, the Hong Kong and Macau Command’s leadership welcomed further POH consultation with Central Territory staff. If implemented there, it would be the first export of POH outside of North America.

What a Kroc can do

by Jonelle Bailey

Ever wonder what goes on at the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers in our territory? Think they might just be glorified recreation centers? Think again. They not only provide a variety of programs to meet the needs and interests of underserved populations but introduce thousands of people to the Army’s mission and invite them to be a part. Many, such as Cora Pullins and Charles Bundy at the Chicago Kroc Center, have found fulfillment and are great examples of what a Kroc can do.

Walk into the Chicago Kroc Center any afternoon and you’ll find Ms. Cora talking to youth and selling a variety of candy and snacks. Her cart has become a must-stop destination for members, not only for sweet treats but because of Ms. Cora’s encouragement. She even asks members to donate $5-$10 so children who can’t afford candy won’t go without.

After attending women’s ministries years ago, Ms. Cora began this fundraising effort for World Services/Self-Denial. At the time corps members only raised $100 annually. She and Charles Bundy, who was part of the men’s fellowship, were embarrassed by this little amount.

They and other soldiers decided to do something about it. They hit upon the idea of selling candy as one of the fundraising options. Beginning with $150 seed money from the congregation, they made $250 the first day. It kept growing and last year they raised more than $9,000 in large part due to Ms. Cora’s dedication. She has given eight hours a day, three to five days a week, for seven years to this cause.

“It’s a passion for me,” said Ms. Cora. “It makes me feel good to help someone else. When God blesses you, you can bless someone else.”

From that point on Charles began attending services and volunteering. Today, he’s the corps sergeant-major with his focus on Christ and then supporting the corps’ leaders.

“Charles is my right hand,” said Lt. A.J. Zimmerman, Kroc Center officer for congregational life. “We couldn’t do without Charles.”

Along with Ms. Cora, Charles has cooked dinners for family nights and worked tirelessly at other events and programs and has been committed to promoting the center to the community. He tells others how the Kroc Center has helped create jobs and increase property values and praises the excellent programs and employees who reflect the Army’s mission. But most importantly Charles says he wants people to know it’s a place of worship. It can change their lives.

An unstoppable lieutenant

This summer Lt. A.J. Zimmerman’s reputation for passionate, effective youth ministry took him halfway around the world to speak at a Territorial Youth Congress in Nigeria, Africa. More than 2,000 delegates attended the five-day event, themed “Unstoppable Restoration,” which featured multiple opportunities for worship, spiritual development and education.

The experience made a lasting impression on Lt. A.J., who’s currently the youth development and congregational life officer at the Chicago Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. He was overwhelmed by the expressions of faith he witnessed. Beginning daily at 5:00 a.m., delegates had the opportunity to showcase their musical talents, learn new skills such as how to make sandals or textiles, and attend a small business rally where junior soldiers learned entrepreneurial basics. In the evening, united sessions brought everyone together under the largest meeting tent for worship.

“There was no sense of time,” he said. “The attitude was, ‘We’re not leaving until the Spirit is done moving.’” Most nights, it was after midnight when everyone headed back to their sleeping tents. Yet, the next morning they were dressed in uniform and eager for the day’s events.

“They are an example to us,” said the Lt. “They have so little, yet they serve so joyfully. They are strong and growing.”
New uniform blouses
by Rick Garcia

Stepping up to the call
Continued from page 1

Ka., Corps but were convinced they would have to go to the Eastern Territory to receive training since the Central did not offer it in Spanish. Ramon’s delighted declaration, “God heard our prayers and provided a way for us to be trained in Spanish right here in this territory,” was greeted by thunderous applause.

Weekend. Cadets served as hosts and guides for candidates as they were given opportunities for worshiping, studying and learning together.

Following a day in the life of a cadet, delegates attended cleaning details with their cadet hosts and then morning prayers where Cadets Scott and Dena Smith challenged delegates to trust God throughout the candidate process and addressed many common concerns.

During the day delegates attended doctrine and Bible classes with their cadet hosts, as well as attending sessions that specifically addressed spiritual preparation and the candidate process. Major Tricia Taube, territorial candidates’ secretary, and Mr. Blake Lanier from the Candidate Coaching Action Plan program as well as CPOF staff members held a Q & A with delegates to address specific questions and give practical advice on exploring their calling and preparing for CPOF life.

On Saturday evening, Lts. Christopher and Rachel White used the life of King David to urge delegates not to be “too afraid to trust.” Drawing on their own experiences in training and their first appointment, the Whites encouraged delegates to be faithful and obedient to God as they prepare themselves for a life of serving Him as officers.

Delegates especially enjoyed unscheduled time in small groups and one-on-one.

The weekend concluded with enthusiastic worship, including a stirring message from Territorial Program Secretary Lt. Colonel Phillip Maxwell. Using Joshua 3:1-5 as the basis for his sermon, the colonel called on delegates to remain in awe of God and be faithful, obedient and focused as they explore God’s calling for their lives. The message was followed by an eager response.

Mr. Blake Lanier from the Candidate Coaching Action Plan addresses delegates.

Territorial Candidates’ Secretary Major Tricia Taube, Jean Rene Klaghebru and Merveille Matondo

5,627 days and counting
by Major Valerie Carr

It’s been 15 years since I signed my Officer’s Covenant. That’s roughly 5,627 days. I’ve racked my brain for an inspiring story, quirky adventure or grand gesture of God’s goodness to share. There have been all those things, but there have been far more moments of God’s goodness in small things.

I’ve had the joy of watching corps local leaders flourish as they participate in the Kingdom of God. Everywhere I have served as an officer there have been people who dedicate their time and energy to serving God through The Salvation Army. My officership has been changed by the powerful witness of soldiers.

I have seen the impact of holiness-infused daily responsibilities. I have had the chance to pray with people at an altar and on a sidewalk. I have been given opportunities to plan events with the aim of honoring God by inspiring and empowering people in their ministries. I know Kingdom work can even be found in how I approach the minutiae of emails, reports and meetings.

I have seen our mission as both practical and strategic. I’ve fed a woman on the street trapped in human trafficking, and I’ve sat at tables with our mission partners to discuss ways to break the chains that bind her. I have helped a family who is struggling to make ends meet, and I’ve been a part of conversations about confronting systemic issues that keep people enmeshed in poverty. I’ve felt joy as a pastor coming alongside individuals seeking guidance, and I’ve walked with corps leadership groups as they’ve fleshed out strategies to minister to their community.

I am continually reminded this is God’s mission, and I’m just along for the ride. My journey as an officer has not been exactly as I envisioned the June Sunday afternoon I received my first appointment. I wanted to be part of God’s salvation mission; I just didn’t realize I would learn a second language, get married, have children, spend time overseas or have such varied appointments during those 5,627 days. But as an officer, I have seen time and again God’s Kingdom breaking through in all kinds of ways and I’m humbled by the opportunity to join in.

The Lydia blouse features short sleeves and a closed collar with side vents.

Evaluate their individual attributes and view front, side and rear-view angles before ordering on our website (satanadcentral.org) or visit our Trade Central store at territorial headquarters.
Mission on track

by Michelle DeRusha

“Mission on Track” was the theme of the National Advisory Board (NAB) two-day meeting this fall held in Omaha, Neb.—a theme reflecting the city’s heritage as a transportation and logistics hub, as well as The Salvation Army’s ongoing mission to serve the most vulnerable men, women and children.

NAB members were joined by national leaders Commissioners David and Sharron Hudson, Central territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey, and Western divisional leaders Majors Greg and Lee Ann Thompson.

They were addressed by Lance Fritz, chairman, president and CEO of the Omaha-based Union Pacific Railroad, at a breakfast keynote session, which included the Omaha Advisory Board, more than 45 Omaha business leaders and Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts.

“Our city is truly unique in the engagement of the business community in philanthropy,” said Mr. Fritz. “Omaha gives like no other community.”

Union Pacific recently awarded a $20,000 grant to the Western Division’s SAFE-T program to fight human trafficking.

After a day of focused meetings, they convened at the Omaha Zoo and Aquarium to enjoy dinner, fellowship and testimonials from people whose lives have been changed by The Salvation Army and are now changing others’ lives through its programs and services in the Omaha area.

“My life was transformed by The Salvation Army when I was a kid,” said Lt. Ken Jones, who grew up in an impoverished section of Detroit and now serves with his wife, Lt. Sam Jones, at Omaha’s North Corps. “Today I’m blessed to be in hands and feet that help to transform other children’s lives.”

Twenty-six individuals from three territories met in Jackson Hole, Wyo., to learn, grow and hear from God.

For the past 10 years, Safari Club International (SCI) Foundation and the Hunter Legacy Fund have sponsored Salvationists’ participation in SCI’s unique AWLS outdoor training experience.

Each year participants have returned home excited and energized to share what they learned with others in their ministry. Whether wilderness survival, archery, fly-tying or the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, they’ve learned things they can apply in their work with youth.

While this year’s all-Salvationist session brought the excitement of previous years, participants enjoyed the bonus of being with others who share the same perspective about creation and God.

When the moon set over the snow-capped purple mountain tops one early morning, we were in awe of the details the Creator painted on the horizon.

When we watched a bumblebee frozen by the morning frost, come to life as she thawed, we were reminded of the detail and care the great Preserver puts into so small a creature.

When a camper struggled to hit the archery target, several people remarked how it reminded them that we often miss the mark set for us by God.

As we gathered around a campfire to recap the week and share our highlights, one Salvationist said, “I like nature. I really like nature. After 40 years, I find out how awesome nature is. Who knew?”

Who knew, indeed. God did, of course, and centuries ago He designed a place so unique and special one educator labeled it God’s Gazillion Dollar Classroom. The best news of all? This was not a one-time wonder; SCI has committed to repeating the experience next year.

Dates for the Salvation Army AWLS session are tentatively set for August 20-27, 2019.

For more information, contact usc_youth@us.salvationarmy.org

The Chicago Staff Band
Dr. Harold Burgmayer, conductor

in Concert!

Saturday, November 24, 2018—7:00 pm

Edman Chapel, Wheaton, Illinois (Not a function of Wheaton College)

For FREE tickets contact The Salvation Army, Music Dept.

5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy, Hoffman Estates IL 60192 (847) 294-2134

online: www.chicagostaffband.org or sar.my/csbtickets

The Chicago Staff Band

by Jerrie Miller

When was the last time nature spoke to you? As a child, whether I was looking at clouds, listening to birds, smelling wildflowers or tasting juicy berries picked fresh from a mulberry tree, nature delighted me and whispered of a powerful Creator who loved me. But along life’s way I got so busy with family and ministry, I seldom found time to listen anymore.

That’s why I appreciated the opportunity to participate this summer in the first-ever Salvation Army session of the American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS).

Thoughts on nature as a child, whether I was where I was the last time nature spoke to you? As a child, whether I was looking at clouds, listening to birds, smelling wildflowers or tasting juicy berries picked fresh from a mulberry tree, nature delighted me and whispered of a powerful Creator who loved me. But along life’s way I got so busy with family and ministry, I seldom found time to listen anymore.

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...}}
When Jean became a soldier, her grandson and son-in-law (members of The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry) proudly held the flags.

“Everyone just kept doing everything they could to involve me,” recalled Jean, who became an adherent in Quincy two years ago and last year was enrolled as a soldier by Major Andy Miller.

Major Andy said, “It’s been the tradition of my wife and I that when we enroll a soldier or adherent, they’re given a responsibility. Jean takes her role for community care ministries in the five Missouri counties under the area command very seriously. She’s added five new nursing homes, for a total of 21 the corps now visits; performs community outreach; and transports members of the old Hannibal Corps [now closed] to Quincy every Sunday, which saves us time and money.”

“I’m the type of person who has to get up and do; I have to feel needed,” said Jean, who is always finding or offering ways to help.

Throughout this new chapter of her life, Jean is resting in God’s peace and reassurance. She concluded, “He keeps telling me, ‘You’re My child, and I want you to live with Me forever.’”

Captain D.J. James, Jean Kramer and Linda Ridenour

Major Andy and Cheryl Miller (l) and A/Captains Mika and Grace Roinila encourage Jean in her faith and involvement.
Leading by example in St. Louis

By Captain Scott Strissel

The child of Haitian immigrants, Edrance "KI" Emmanuel, 17, was raised in St. Louis, Mo. Although Creole was spoken in his home, KI struggled to understand what was being said in the Haitian church his family attended. He understood who Jesus is but didn’t know what he was supposed to do with that knowledge. As a result, a bored, young KI often found himself in trouble from misbehaving in church. Then he was invited to the St. Louis Temple Corps by a friend who attended it with his family.

The first time KI heard the corps’ praise band, he wanted to be a part of it. Amazingly gifted in music and mostly self-taught after taking only a few lessons in school, KI plays piano, euphonium, violin and guitar (his favorite instrument!).

Today he not only leads worship while playing in the praise band, he also plays in the corps’ brass band. This past summer, KI led the Midland Division’s Camp Mihaska worship band!

In addition to his passion for music, KI has developed a deep love for the Lord after finally understanding the gospel message at youth councils.

“I came to realize you can do all the right moves but be a long way from home,” said KI of the time when he finally understood the need to repent and surrender his heart and life to Jesus. Along the way, God provided KI with wonderful Salvation Army mentors, such as the late A/Captain Steve Diaz.

KI was deeply moved and honored this past summer when he received the Steve Diaz Chaplain’s Award which was presented for the first time at Central Music Institute and given to the student who best encourages others through humor, joy and grace.

Among KI’s aspirations is to be surrounded by music and loving people. His corps officer, Lt. Grant Holloway, said, “KI is a great asset to the corps and his fellow

Standing on solid ground in Kansas City

Although she has been attending the Kansas City Westport Temple, Mo., Corps for most of her life, it’s only been in the past two years that Zulema Bocanegra has committed her life fully to Christ and become an active member of the congregation.

Part of a migrant family who moved to the United States from Mexico in 2000, Zulema began attending the corps with her extended family members who were already settled in the area. In 2010 she met her husband, Jorge, through mutual friends and introduced him to the Army.

“My life was very dark, very different,” said Jorge, who at the time was involved with drugs and alcohol. “Eventually I realized that without Christ I wasn’t going anywhere, and I surrendered to Him.”

Over the next several years the couple attended Sunday worship services regularly but were not involved in weekday activities. When they decided to get married, they realized they needed the Lord at the center of their relationship in order for it to be healthy. They sought the counsel of their corps officers, Captains Joaquin and Gabriela Rangel, who supported and encouraged them in their faith.

“We really started to see them developing a passion for God,” said Captain Gabriela. “They became immersed in the corps, attending Bible study and volunteering with youth. It was a privilege to officiate their wedding last year.”

The Bocanegras became soldiers in November 2016. Since building their relationship on the solid ground of Christ, Zulema and Jorge have used their experiences and newfound passion for God’s Word to mentor youth. Zulema teaches elementary Sunday school, and together they host teen activities and events which always include a spiritual component through devotions and prayer.

Jorge also uses his talents to play drums in the praise band.

“Being involved in the corps has changed my life,” said Zulema. “Being with other believers and working with kids and teens inspires me to stay true to God.”

“My life now is amazing,” concluded Jorge. “I’m alive, I’m well, and I’m saved by Jesus.”
Englewood youth lead the way!

Five years ago Captains Corey and Nikki Hughes were appointed to the Englewood Corps Red Shield Center in Chicago, Ill. The corps is located in an area of the city where poverty, drugs and violence run rampant. They immediately felt the urge of the Holy Spirit to fill the building with children and teenagers, safe from the threats of the streets outside.

It has taken time to gain the confidence and trust of the community, but their diligence has resulted in growing youth programs and an increase in the number of youth engaging in them. Every day of the week sees youth coming in to play basketball, hang out and participate in activities designed specifically for them. Most importantly, they receive the care and nurturing some might not receive at home.

“The staff is great,” said Captain Nikki. “They love these kids. We’re seeing kids missing less school and getting better grades because they know someone is interested in their future.”

Weekly programs for youth include afterschool and character-building groups, music instruction, Young Men of Englewood (a mentoring program for boys in seventh and eighth grades), Strength in Sisters (a group for ten girls), vacation Bible school and supervised recreation. Celebration Launch and Landing, a mentoring program for youth that was instituted in 2017, now averages 100 every Wednesday night. After a worship service and themed message, qualified mentors lead small group discussions designed to help participants navigate the many challenges they face, from hunger to the death of a family member from violence. Two certified counselors also are on hand to work one-on-one with anyone who needs additional attention or support.

This summer 14 youth from Celebration Launch and Landing earned a trip to Disney World as a reward for a year of excellence at school, the corps and in the community. The value of perseverance and hard work was driven home as they experienced things some had thought impossible, including flying in an airplane and traveling out of Chicago.

The trip was made possible through the Williams Fund, which the corps was awarded upon starting Celebration Launch and Landing. A story by NBC 5 Chicago TV news resonated with the community and brought in personal donations that provided the young people with $150 spending money each.

“We keep the programs going year-round so the kids always have somewhere to go,” said Captain Nikki.

“Where’s Your Young Salvationist? #It’sNotHereYet

Something Brand-New is Coming in JAN 2019!

Stay Tuned.

New team in town

The varsity basketball season runs April through August. The team, which is funded through donations, fundraisers and a small fee per player, enters tournaments in communities such as Des Moines, Iowa, Omaha, Nebraska, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Wix, and Chicago, Illinois. Time spent traveling to tournaments also is spent building relationships and mentoring. Some tournaments provide exposure to college coaches scouting for their teams which could open up opportunities for the team members’ futures in both sports and education.

“We are very excited about this program,” said Major Harold Poff, corps officer. “It follows our mission to provide support for youth in our community.” He hopes the team will provide a gateway for the young men to benefit from the corps programs and services, especially as it expands next season to include a ninth-grade team.

Charles concluded, “We have a lot of talent in this group, including several players who have the ability to take their talents to the collegiate level in the future. This team allows them all the opportunity to further develop their skills in a structured, encouraging, supportive environment.”
In it for the long haul

by Todd Andrews

When it comes to natural disaster relief efforts, it’s not only the initial outpouring of support survivors get but the continuous, everyday help over ensuing months which matters. In the wake of the tornado that heavily damaged the central Iowa community of Marshalltown in late July, the corps there has been filling the needs of people on both counts.

The first phase involved serving more than 17,000 meals and giving away some 7,200 clean-up kits and other items in the first two weeks. The second phase comprised a mid-August distribution of donated goods trucked in by the Christian volunteer network Orphan Grain Train. This three-day distribution was run by officers, staff and volunteers in the corps gym.

“We set it up like a little store,” said Captain Pam Kesten, Marshalltown corps officer. Clients checked in and then chose food and other items based on the size of their family. Within the first hour of opening, dozens of families had made their way through the convenience-store-in-a-gym. Everything from cereal to jam, plastic cutlery to mattresses, was available. There was so much, items had to be stacked in bundles seven feet high to fit and allow for foot traffic.

“They’re really grateful for the help,” Captain Pam said of the people who’d come for assistance. She smiled, reflecting on how it had all come together starting with a phone call a week prior informing her of the items on route to Marshalltown.

“It was a little overwhelming at first,” she said. Her initial worry as to where to store and how to give away the items quickly gave way to an action plan, for a whole lot of gratitude to the donor organization. “I’m thankful that people trust us to do this,” she said.

This donation and one slated for October provided a boost to the Marshalltown Corps which had to deal with infrastructure challenges after the tornado.

“The greatest need being seen in the community right now is housing,” said Captain Pam. “There was already a housing shortage, and now it is even greater. The Salvation Army along with other agencies in town have formed a long-term recovery committee to try to address this need.”

She anticipates applications for food and toys at Christmas might be greater this year and is certain they will need volunteers to ring bells at kettles to help support the long-term recovery and other programming.

The captain and her crew say they’re grateful for increased awareness in the community that The Salvation Army is there to help—for the long haul.
The Battle Creek, Mich., Corps

In the cereal capital of the world, the Battle Creek, Mich., Corps is inviting the community to its table and serving up generous portions of hope. It couldn’t be more timely as the financial news and commentary website 24/7 Wall Street recently ranked the city as the 22nd worst place to raise children in America. Two of the corps’ newest efforts include Hood (Neighborhood) Church and Skate Church.

Hood Church was born out of Corps Outreach Sergeant Raul Maysonet’s passionate vision to reach those who’d never step foot inside the corps. It’s driven by his own radical life-changing experience with Christ which helped him overcome hate and addictions in 2013.

Corps Outreach Sergeant Raul Maysonet and Jon Hardy, a corps member who helps with Skate Church

While the music style and loudness is very different than what’s enjoyed on Sunday mornings at the corps, the Van Zees and about 12 soldiers turn out to support this new monthly ministry. They talk and pray with people, invite them to come to Sunday worship and are encouraged when participants visit.

After returning from the commissioning weekend earlier this year, the corps adopted a summer focus on the principles from the book *I am a Church Member* by Lt. Colonel Deslea Maxwell.

Putting others first

by L. Colonel Deslea Maxwell
Assistant Territorial Secretary for Program

In chapters one and two of *I am a Church Member*, Thom S. Rainer encouraged us as members of the body of Christ to change our view of the Church and focus on being sources of unity, valuing others and working together for God’s Kingdom.

In chapter three, we are challenged not to insist on our own preferences and desires but to remember as church members we are called to serve others in Christ’s name and to put them first.

Rainer writes about how we can get caught up in worship wars, committee meetings, budgets, pastoral care needs, programming, and what could be seen as incorrect priorities, instead of having the mind of Christ as outlined by Paul in Philippians 2:5–11.

“Church membership from a biblical perspective, however, is about servanthood,” writes Rainer. “It’s about giving. It’s about putting others first.”

He continues: “If we approach church membership from the perspective of what we have to offer, we have it upside down. You always ask first what you can do for your church. Then you will have discovered the joy of being last.” (Mark 9:35)

Will you follow the example of Jesus and serve God by serving others and putting them first?

The book *I am a Church Member* can be purchased from Trade Central, Amazon or Christianbooks.com
An unscripted ministry

Even after 37 years Majors Kevin and Christie Van Zee are amazed at how each day as a Salvation Army officer can be so different. One day they might find themselves in a hospital room comforting a mother who delivered a stillborn baby; the next they might celebrate the birthday of a 90-year-old soldier in their corps. It’s an unscripted ministry.

“The office hours, leading programs, handling business and employees is just the outer edges of officership,” said Major Christie. “Investing in the lives of people is where the real reward will be found.”

The ebb and flow of sharing in people’s darkest hours and rejoicing on their happiest days has become the Van Zees’ rhythm of life—the tempo of following God’s lead having been set years ago.

A fourth-generation Salvationist, Christie grew up in Kansas and accepted Jesus at a music camp when she was 9. Raised by a single mother who instilled in her the importance of following God’s will, Christie responded to God’s call to be an officer at a youth retreat when she was just 14; her direction was set. A life-changing summer on a mission team to Guyana in 1978 spurred her on. “I saw the world differently,” she reflected. “And felt the need more urgently.”

Kevin hailed from Michigan as the youngest of three children whose dad took them to the corps on Sunday mornings while their mom stayed home, usually recovering from a night of drinking. She didn’t become a Christian and practice self-control until Kevin was grown. He, however, accepted Christ as a small child at Sunday school and received a New Testament which would guide his life. Kevin was studying to become an architect when his calling to become an officer became so compelling he dropped out of college, much to his parent’s chagrin. “I had my life all mapped out,” Kevin reflected. “God called me to be a Salvation Army officer, and I dropped everything to follow Him.”

It was in 1979 when Kevin and Christie entered the College for Officer Training that their lives intersected. Over the next two years, they became good friends but nothing more. At first Kevin was engaged to another cadet, and Christie’s contentment to serve as a single officer meant she was neither looking for nor expecting to find a husband. However, while serving in their first appointments in Chicago, they began dating and in 1982 were married.

During their nearly four decades of service, the Van Zees have almost exclusively been corps officers, and that’s the way they like it. They’ve served in corps in the Chicago area to Grand Island and North Platte, Neb., Des Moines, Iowa, and finally Michigan. “We love being corps officers. Even when we were stationed at the training college, we loved preparing future corps officers,” said Major Christie. “As corps officers, we have the ability to change lives and see the difference on a daily basis.”

For more information or to make an online donation, visit centralmissions.org
All is well in the well
by Lt. Colonel Daniel Sjögren

Greetings! Becky and I are back on the road conducting holiness seminars, and now I have the opportunity to once again join you through the Central Connection.

We are living in the country just 12 miles north of Rockford, Ill. What a joy it is to awaken each morning to the sounds of wildlife. The setting makes it conducive to studying God’s Word and acknowledging His nature.

Recently I was reading the Apostle Paul’s letter to the church of Philippi. He offers some wonderful advice. The portion I am referring to is Philippians 4:8-9. Verse nine reads, “What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” (ESV)

We have a well on our property. We are most interested in knowing the condition of the water in the well since it is our source of drinking water. Each time I look at the well I think of the string band number, “Drinking at the springs of living water.” The water in the well is pure, and I am grateful both fresh and salt water cannot flow from the same well.

The same is true in our lives. We must walk in holiness as a way of life. We cannot speak of the living water and not live it. What is in your well? From what source does your water come? Where do you draw the strength and direction for your life?

All in for CariMI!

It was great to see the excitement and immediate engagement of Caribbean Music Institute (CariMI) delegates representing 14 countries almost two decades after the first one was held in 1999,” said Alberta Rapley, a member of this year’s five-person team from the Central Territory led by Dr. Harold Burgmayer, territorial music and gospel arts secretary. Other members included Bill Luhn, Beth Malovance and Marc Smith.

Themed “All In!” [based on Colossians 3:17], the 10-day music institute was held at The Salvation Army School for the Blind in Kingston, Jamaica.

“Even with the inescapable heat of Jamaica, every delegate and faculty member wore full uniform for worship, the march and open-air,” said Bill Luhn, who was touched by the spontaneous singing and dancing as everyone marched back to the corps.

Days were filled with high-intensity classes and rehearsals for three bands, two choruses and a number of elective offerings. Evenings featured a cultural expression night, a talent show, awards festival and a faculty program which included a video tribute to CariMI heroes including Colonel Dennis Phillips, who as Caribbean territorial commander started CariMI, the late Steve Diaz, an original CariMI staff member who returned to serve full-time in the Caribbean, and Bandmaster William Himes, then the Central territorial music and gospel arts secretary.

On the final Sunday Caribbean territorial leaders Commissioners Devon and Verona Haughton thanked via livestream Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey and the Central Territory for its sponsorship and support of CariMI 2018. In addition, the Central is sponsoring two outstanding students to Central Music Institute next summer and provided vocal and instrumental method books to be distributed among divisions in the Caribbean.

Promoted to Glory

Lt. Colonel Muriel Hull

Intelligent, hospitable and musically gifted, Lt. Colonel Muriel Hull lived to serve the Lord. She was promoted to Glory on August 12, 2018. As an officer’s child, Muriel was active in many aspects of the corps and accepted Christ at a music camp at age 13. She graduated salutatorian from Asbury College, and accepted Christ at a music camp at age 13. She graduated salutatorian from Asbury College, and majored in music at the Gra nd Rapids Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., where she met her husband, Larry. Four years after graduating, they entered training and were commissioned with the “Great Hearts” session in 1960.

The Hulls served overseas from 1963 to 1968 in Zambia, Africa. Upon returning they served in divisional and territorial headquarters appointments, retiring in 1998 from the College for Officer Training, where Muriel was director of campus services.

In retirement she used her gifts at the Grand Rapids Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., where she was active in women’s ministries and songsters. Alongside Larry, she ministered to the men from the adult rehabilitation center by welcoming them into their home for beautifully appointed luncheons and dinners.

Muriel is survived by her husband; children Stephen [Jacque], Major Bethany [Keith] Petrie, and Rhonda [Jon] Venezuela; brother Eric and David [Judy]; sisters Ruth Adair and Major Evangeline [Paul] Howard; eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Major Doris Moore

Major Doris Moore was promoted to Glory on September 10, 2018. She was born on June 28, 1929, the youngest of six children.

Independent, capable and determined, Doris entered training from the Detroit Grandale, Mich., Corps in 1950 and was commissioned in 1951 with the “Ambassadors” session. For nearly 30 years, she held appointments in Home and Hospitals, Booth Memorial Hospitals and Booth Services, becoming administrator in all three. In 1979, Doris transferred to the Caribbean Territory, where she served at The Nest Children’s Home in Kingston, Jamaica, as regional commander for Surinam and as divisional secretary for the Western Jamaica Division. After a brief return to the Central, she spent an additional three years on the staff of the training school in Kingston.

She retired in 1994 after 43 years of service and resided in Bradenton, Fla., where she attended the corps and volunteered. She is remembered for her kindness, compassion and generosity.

Doris is survived by her nieces and nephews.