



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)



Cadet Madyson Lyon

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Messengers of Reconciliation step into their calling

Despite constraints on the celebration due to the ongoing pandemic, the Messengers of Reconciliation session received a warm welcome from the territory and were supported virtually as the meeting was livestreamed.

Though having to wear face masks and sit socially distanced across the platform, the new cadets showed determination to pursue their calling to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to a fractured, hurting world.

Indeed, from opening comments by Colonel Steve Howard, chief secretary, to a choral scripture reading by cadets and the Central Territorial Staff Songsters' upbeat video presen-



Lt. Donna Thammavongsa (session advisor) presents the session flag to Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey and Training Principal Major Brian Davis, at podium.

tation of "May we be one," the service amplified Paul's entreaty in 2 Corinthians 5:18.

"The world likes to apply labels, likes to identify people by certain markers. Jesus came to say that in the Kingdom, all are united in Him, in one body," said Major Brian Davis, College for Officer Training (CFOT) principal, addressing the session. "It will not all rest on you. God will provide all you need. What you provide is a surrendered heart and willing hands."

The session flag was entrusted to standard bearer Cadet Melissa Bledsoe who posted it to a beautiful rendition of "In my life, Lord" played by a Chicago Staff Band ensemble which provided live music for the event.

She and her husband, Cadet Mario, who entered the CFOT from the Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, shared in a video testimony their experiences of accepting Christ as their Savior, joining The Salvation Army, and their decision to follow God's call.

"This was the exact time that God wanted us to be here," said Cadet Melissa. "Especially being people of color, I think that sometimes we feel that we don't have a place in the Army."



Cadet Melissa Bledsoe

Know that there is a place for you. We need the whole entire body of Christ. You don't have to have it all together, you don't have to look or act a certain way in order for God to call you into this Army."

Territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey affirmed the new cadets in their calling. Commissioner Heidi dedicated the session back to the Lord, releasing them for equipping and training, praying that they will remain in Christ, live as one and stand firm in their calling. In a compelling message, Commissioner Brad reminded the cadets and all Salvationists that they are called to the forefront of reconciliation and encouraged them to engage the world around them.

"One of the most exciting privileges as believers is to bridge the gap between an awesomely wonderful relational God who likes to engage with us, and the millions of men and women, boys and girls, who are isolated and disenfranchised not only by sin but by circumstances and conditions," proclaimed the territorial commander.

Continued on page 2



Captain AJ Zimmerman, assistant territorial candidates' secretary

Richardsons fill new groundbreaking appointment

Lt. Colonels Lonneal and Patty Richardson have been appointed as the first Racial Diversity and Inclusion Secretaries for the Central Territory—a first in the nation. This ground-

breaking appointment also makes them the first African-American members of the Territorial Cabinet in the Central Territory. They retain their current roles as leaders of the Metropolitan Division.

With this new responsibility, the Richardsons will serve as catalysts to leverage best practices and resources across the territory to promote a culture of inclusion where individuals from all racial and ethnic identities, ages, nationalities, social and economic status are able to thrive and be engaged as leaders in Salvation Army mission.

They will provide strategic leadership for initiatives that advance racial diversity as a critical component of missional advancement.

They will work with the Territorial and International Social Justice Centers, have empowerment to lead toward compliance with The Salvation Army's accountability movement, and advise territorial leadership on inclusive messaging.

Lt. Colonels Lonneal and Patty have been officers for 37 and 41 years, respectively. Together they have served in half the territory's divisions, leading corps, city commands and two divisions (Midland and Northern) before their current appointment as Metropolitan divisional leaders. Among their notable achievements is the Ferguson Empowerment Center, an unprecedented partnership between The Salvation Army and the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis which grew out of a shared

vision between Lt. Colonel Lonneal when he was Midland divisional commander and Michael McMillan, president and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.

"The creation of this new position comes from a deep understanding by territorial leadership of the necessity for our territory to address long-standing issues that have hindered us from growing to be the church of equity and inclusion that we believe that God has called The Salvation Army to be," said Lt. Colonel Patty Richardson. "We are very humbled by this appointment. We don't have all the answers but are excited and committed to work alongside leadership to help our territory be the active reflection of God's Kingdom."



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Choosing to be thankful

by Lt. Colonel Richard Amick
Secretary for Business Administration

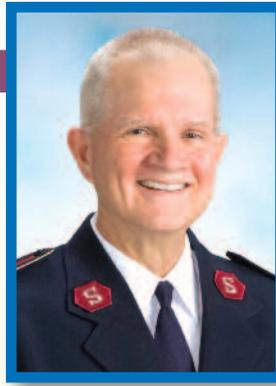
Forty-four years ago as a cadet, I experienced my first Thanksgiving away from home, including my mom's dinner with all the trimmings. What did the Lord have in store? A Thanksgiving dinner with the Doliber family. While the food wasn't the same as what my mom would make, the fellowship and camaraderie were equal. It was a happy place, a joyful occasion that has stood the test of time.

This is the last Thanksgiving my wife, Vicki, and I will celebrate before we retire. It doesn't seem possible. Where has the time gone? I remember having a jacket as a young officer that said, "It's great to be an officer." This still rings true, and I would do it all over again. I love being an officer and serving our Lord.

More than any other, this year forces us to dig deeper. With COVID-19, civil unrest, e-learning for our children and the economy, Marvin Gaye's song, "What's Going On?" seems to reflect today even though it was written a generation ago.

Do you find yourself staring at the words *Thanksgiving Day* on the calendar and wondering what there is to be thankful for? Difficulties don't pause for a Thanksgiving break. There is a way, however, to find reasons to be thankful even during the darkest episodes of our lives. When struggles seem to block out joy, we can choose to be thankful.

Let's look at God's Word. Count the number of times the word "thanks" appears just in Psalms 100, 103 through 107. It's throughout



the Bible. We can give thanks for God's unfailing goodness (Ps. 106:1), God's holy name (Ps. 30:4), deliverance from sin (Rom. 7:24-25), God's nearness (Heb. 13:5) and victory over death (1 Cor. 15:56-57). Yes, we can still find reasons to thank God—even if it's just that our difficulties will one day be replaced by the joys of heaven.

I close with an excerpt from the

choral benediction by Bandmaster William Himes, O.F.:

*May you feel God's love within
you even as we part this hour.*

*May His presence guide your
living,*

*May you sense His strength and
pow'r.*

*If storms of life should buffet you,
or stress and fear increase*

*May God's arms of comfort hold
you and surround you with His
peace.*

I recognize more than ever that God is so good. I choose to be thankful, do you? Happy Thanksgiving!

Cadets' welcome Continued from page 1



Commissioner Brad Bailey reminds cadets and all other Salvationists that they are called to the forefront of reconciliation.

He urged them to remember God's plan from the beginning was to reconcile the world to Himself and their privilege in joining Him in this mission. "You are part of a great continuum in the plan of Almighty God," he said. "As a result of God's gift of reconciliation there's potential for change from a state of hostility and fragmentation and division to one of harmony and fellowship. God invites you and me to join Him in this ministry of reconciliation."

Twenty-two cadets comprise the Messengers of Reconciliation session, representing eight divisions, 12 corps and two Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers. Two are fourth generation Salvationists, 17



Major Brian Davis

are first-generation Salvationists, and 11 accepted Christ at The Salvation Army. A third of the session are single cadets. The session's families have 13 children among them.

All of the cadets, as stated by Captain AJ Zimmerman, assistant territorial candidates' secretary, are



Commissioner Heidi Bailey, territorial leader for leader development



Colonel Janice Howard, territorial secretary for leader development



Chief Secretary Colonel Steven Howard

called by God to be Messengers of Reconciliation at a time when civil unrest, political upheaval and racial tensions magnify the urgent need for believers to reach out with the ministry of reconciliation.

A lifelong adventure

by Major Judy Mills

Without question, my life has been an adventure! Looking back through difficult moments and ones of pure, unadulterated joy, I see how God's plan unfolded, always surprising me and, without question, helping me to be-

come the person He created me to be.

As a new lieutenant, freshly commissioned with spark and bravado, in my first appointment I was ready to "win the world for Jesus." I mean, literally, win the world for Jesus! It was a reality check to discover not everyone was enthusiastic to hear about Jesus.

Officership as a single woman proved challenging while facing prejudice regarding my lack of experience—I was very young—coupled with being a woman in the pulpit. My relatively new adventure with Christ forced me to reevaluate my calling, leading to a deeper prayer life and searching scripture for encouragement and affirmation.

The adventure continued with love, marriage and family. While uniting my life and calling with my husband, Mike, then eventually including children, my ministry stretched to embrace new perspectives and understanding. The ministry I'd envisioned years before still held basic tenets, but my realization and practice of ministry had grown exponentially. The Lord not only stretched my opportunities for service, He stretched my comprehension of what ministry means.

With nearly 43 years of officership and appointments that included corps, adult rehabilitation centers, the College for Officer Training and Territorial Headquarters, God's plan—His "adventure" for my life—has consistently revealed His amazing love, mercy and grace, along with His protection and provision I could not even dream of when my life with Jesus first began.

Now, in retirement the adventure will continue. I can't wait to see what God has planned next.



Majors Mike and Judy Mills



THE SALVATION ARMY
5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy • Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
847-294-2000

WILLIAM AND CATHERINE BOOTH
Founder

BRIAN PEDDLE
General

COMMISSIONER BRAD BAILEY
Territorial Commander

ELIZABETH KINZIE
Editorial Director

TWYLA STEINSLAND
Communications Specialist

KENNETH ROMIN
Graphic Design and Production

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Rising together in Midland

In this season of thanksgiving, the Midland, Mich., Corps recounts the blessing of coming together to serve others during record flooding amid the pandemic.

by Captain Brian Goodwill

Record setting rainfall led to the failure of two different dams in Midland County on May 19, 2020, resulting in a level of flooding in Central Michigan that is estimated to only happen once every 500 years. Local officials estimate 10,000 individuals were evacuated from their homes that night.

That very evening our neighboring corps officers in Bay City began assisting those impacted by the floods by providing blankets at a temporary shelter set up in an area high school. The following day when many of our corps' volunteers couldn't navigate washed out roads, emergency disaster services (EDS) teams from neighboring Genesee County provided meals from their canteen to survivors staying at area motels. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, people were moved from congregate shelters to motels. After a couple of days, the Midland Corps' EDS team was able to take over again, and The Salvation Army served supper every day—over 2,800 meals—through July 12 and distributed more



Corps members Dan and Sue Fry

than 1,000 clean-up kits.

Our corps members Dan and Sue Fry were one of the many families impacted. The lower level of their home filled nearly to the ceiling, wiping out their furnace, freezer, water heater and laundry appliances, in addition to ruining furniture and other items. Compounding the situation, after the flood waters receded, their well went dry because of the changes to water table levels, leaving them without water for seven weeks while a new well was dug.

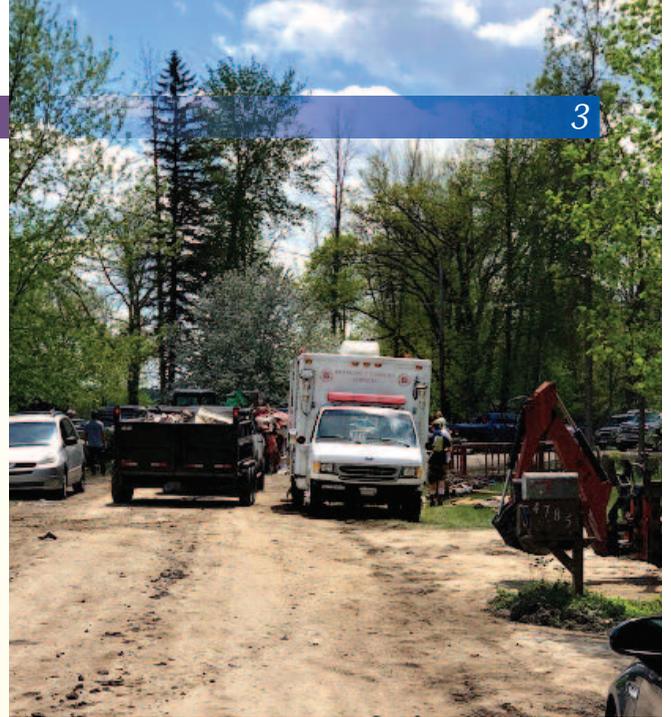
The corps was able to provide funds for a new water heater, while other community agencies and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants helped cover the cost of other appliances. A team from Samaritan's Purse hauled away ruined items and debris, and individual corps members took up a collection to help to their friends. Though the Frys describe recovery from the flood as stressful and frustrating, they say they found comfort in their corps family.

"Captain Katrina really helped me when I was on the verge of losing faith," said Dan. "Not just with direct-

ing us to resources that could help but also in our conversations about what God is doing for us through this time."

Sue added, "It was amazing to see how people helped us out and that has really strengthened our faith in people and in God."

I continue to represent The Salvation Army on the community's long-term flood recovery team, serving on committees related to finding housing solutions for those who still are displaced by the floods, as well as a financial assistance committee which provides grants for further repairs not covered by other sources.



In retrospect, we recognize how the Lord opened doors for ministry to our broader community. Now, as the recovery process continues, we know God will continue to provide us with unique opportunities to show His grace and hope to those who are still hurting from this devastating natural disaster.



Being a blessing to all nations

by Viki Payton

From God's calling of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) to Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), it's clear God's plan always has been for His people to be a blessing to all the nations. Central Territory Salvationist Mitchell Rutledge is experiencing exactly how The Salvation Army is meeting God's challenge to "be a blessing to all nations."

Mitchell's interest in foreign relations originally stemmed from his love of government and politics. His understanding that people of all cultures are created in God's image developed his desire to work in diplomacy and international affairs and informs his plans and goals.

This summer Mitchell completed an internship with SAWSO (The Salvation Army World Service Office) where he spent the bulk of his time researching and writing case studies based on two Salvation Army ministries in Athens, Greece.

The first ministry is a refugee day center where staff help meet the needs of the growing refugee population in Athens. They provide classes in Greek, English, finance, sewing, cooking and other resourceful topics that will help asylum seek-



Mitchell with the corps officers and youth group of the Moscow, Russia, Corps.

ers settle into their new life in Greece.

The second ministry, an anti-human trafficking endeavor called the Green Light Project, is based in a red-light district in Athens. It provides a drop-in center where women are cared for with food, medical attention, sleeping pods, etc. They also are encouraged to take part in classes at the refugee center.

The case studies Mitchell wrote will be used to see how these unique faith-based outreach programs are impacting their communities and will encourage others to follow similar models.

This isn't Mitchell's first experience with The Salvation Army internationally. Given his interest in international diplomacy, he completed a summer abroad study program in Moscow, Russia, the summer after his junior year of high school. During his almost three months there, he studied Russian language and culture. He used Google and Facebook to connect with the local Salvation Army and found his way to the corps on public transportation. He was welcomed with open arms and became a part of the young adult group—living proof of our Salvation Army family's hospitality.

Mitchell is currently a sophomore at the American University of Paris where he is studying history, law and society.

A Veteran's example

As we mark Veterans' Day, we're especially thankful for Mickey Nelson of Clarks Grove, Minn., who we reported on in the June issue of *Central Connection*.

Mickey became a nationwide phenomenon with his "Walking to 100" fundraiser for The Salvation Army. The spry 100-year-old World War II veteran walked every day from early June through August 5 to reach his goal of walking 100 miles.

On the day he reached his goal he was joined by a war reenactment group, friends, neighbors, veterans,

staff from The Salvation Army, and award-winning KARE 11 journalist Boyd Huppert.

Though Mickey originally set out to raise \$5,000, he raised an astounding \$106,000 for COVID-19 relief efforts, which continue to provide food and basic care for thousands of Minnesota families affected by the pandemic.

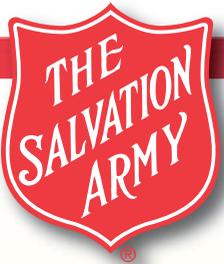
"We thank Mickey for his heroic efforts to raise money for people in need," said Lt. Col. Dan Jennings, Northern divisional commander. "The example he has set is an inspiration to thousands of people. We thank God for this man."



Photo by Craig Dirkes



Mitchell Rutledge in Paris



PATHWAY OF HOPE

Helping families break the cycle of poverty despite COVID-19

by Samantha Hyde

COVID-19's trek around the globe has created hardship for millions of people living comfortable lives, but for families already struggling with poverty, the virus dashed dreams of debt repayment, improved employment and stability. Without help, many will face eviction and financial setbacks from which recovery is nearly impossible.

The Indiana Division has been working around the clock to help Hoosiers in need. In March, it activated a disaster response team to en-

sure resources like food and emergency financial assistance could be distributed statewide. It partnered with Midwest Food Bank to set up a massive food box packing and storage operation at Lucas Oil Stadium, eventually shipping more than 15,000 family food boxes to drive-through food pantries across Indiana.

As the pandemic moved through the summer months, The Salvation Army ramped up its financial assistance to families struggling to overcome the income gap created by business closures and stay-at-home orders. The goal has been to get as many Hoosiers as possible back on track before the end of the year, including those already in the Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative, which helps families overcome the barriers they face in breaking the cycle of poverty.

"Pathway of Hope families need The Salvation Army more than ever before," explained Susan Solmon, Indiana divisional social services director. "The obstacles they were facing didn't just go away when COVID-19 arrived. For many clients, it's actu-



ally compounded the challenges."

For instance, the Indianapolis Eagle Creek Corps has been working with a family for more than a year to help secure Asylum status in the United States. Maya* is a single mother who fled her country after she lost her husband to political violence. Thanks to POH, she has been able to obtain permission to work and gained employment, a driver's license and car, and a home for her growing sons. When schools transitioned to online learning, the corps helped secure laptops for her children to use so they could finish the school year. The family has found a

network of support at the corps and now regularly attends worship and youth night.

Across Indiana POH families are still working to overcome barriers despite everything the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown at them. They are learning how to manage budgets, earn degrees and certificates, conquer addiction, find stable housing and raise healthy children. They are finding the support and encouragement they need on their journey of breaking the cycle of poverty.

*pseudonym

A note of gratitude

by Jill,
a Pathway of Hope participant

Pathway of Hope (POH) has been such a blessing for me and my children that it crosses my mind at least once a day. The difference of where I was just a year ago and where I am now is incredible.

About three years ago I went through a difficult divorce. It's been a long, hard road. I have moved five times and have been homeless twice. I lived on less than check-to-check. I struggled to put dinner on the table and gas in the car, have what my kids needed for school—to say nothing of maintenance to keep my late model vehicle going. This created long stretches of stress and depression which affected how I was as a parent and an employee. I definitely wasn't living my best life.

I walked into The Salvation Army bawling my eyes out and with my youngest child clinging to me. It was my last cry for help. I was homeless again and trying to pay for hotels or Airbnbs so we'd have a place to sleep—assuring my kids things would get better even though I wasn't too sure. I was thankful to have a job, but my income wasn't enough to live on; yet, it was just enough that we couldn't get help from the state.

I met with Anne Walli, the caseworker at the Rock County, Wis., Corps, a few times after that initial visit. She walked me through what POH entails. It was made for people like me. I couldn't believe there was something like this available and thank God I was given this opportunity.



POH taught me so much, especially in light of the pandemic. If it had happened a year ago, I don't know where I would have ended up. I was placed on furlough by my employer; last year that would have destroyed me. But since enrolling in POH, I have a steady affordable place to live, and I purchased a new car which is fully insured. I even have money in the bank for emergencies. I can afford what we need, and we have more than what we want. I am financially stable. I haven't been able to say this since before my oldest daughter was born. I have learned how to budget and handle daily stressors. I am a better mom and a happier, healthier person.

I am not ashamed to be me anymore. I am proud of where I am and who I am. Thank you to POH and all the people who make it possible. And thank you, Anne, for being my rock, my comic relief, my shoulder to cry on and my redirector when I need it. God puts people in our path for a reason, and you were definitely put in mine. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Pathway a perfect fit

The Michigan City, Ind., Corps celebrated the first individual to complete the Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative. LaTonya Troutman, a local activist, public relations specialist and mother of four, completed the goals she set to gain stability for herself and her family.

A little over a year ago, LaTonya and her family lost their home due to a fire—a tragedy that set back this single mother who was working hard to set an example of success for her children. She was referred to The Salvation Army's Pathway of Hope, which was just getting started in Michigan City.

Working with case manager Anthony Williams, MSW, LaTonya was able to overcome barriers blocking her family's path to success.

Pathway of Hope is a nationwide initiative offered by The Salvation Army that uses a collaborative approach, combining Salvation Army services with other resources available in the community and strengths-based case management.

Through intensive, one-on-one meetings, Anthony was able to identify LaTonya's primary goals and how she could use her own gifts, strengths and determination to accomplish those and set her family up for future success.

"I knew from the beginning that she was a go-getter," Anthony said. "We're definitely proud of her for walking this path. She still has some other goals to accomplish in life, and she is making tremendous progress."

LaTonya attended Indiana



University Northwest to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication with a minor in public policy and environmental affairs and recently opened her own business, PRfect PR.

"These are the types of success stories that are possible with Pathway of Hope," Anthony concluded. "If a family is willing and ready to change, anything is possible, and our goal is to ensure that the family unit stays together, their basic needs are met, and their long-term, achievable goals become reality."

First THRIVE cohort finishes strong

by Major Lesa Davis

To support the territory's Mission Imperative of "More People, More Like Jesus," the Spiritual Life Development Department has introduced THRIVE, an online spiritual formation course for soldiers and officers.

Following a cohort model, the course focuses on facilitating spiritual growth and ministry development for participants. With membership limited to 20 participants, the first cohort began in February and concluded at the end of September.

Fifteen people initially took the challenge of setting aside several months for reading and studying, interacting with other participants on a weekly discussion board and faithfully practicing spiritual disciplines. The group included both officers and soldiers, ranging in age across several decades, from across the territory. Their reasons for participation varied, but all were eager to grow spiritually with a view toward ministering better to others.

Course materials included Christian classics and more contemporary writings on the spiritual disciplines, holiness, healthy spirituality and more. The weekly discussion board became a vehicle for exchanging thoughts, ideas and questions be-



tween participants. Each module concluded with participants gathering their key insights and plans for incorporating the course material into their everyday lives. In addition, cohort members committed to praying for each other throughout the process, which proved to be a meaningful part of the entire experience.

The course culminated in each member planning and implementing a personal retreat designed to help them reflect on the experience and write a simple Rule for Life to help them continue to thrive after the cohort ended. Although the retreat originally was intended to be a cor-

porate experience, COVID-19 restrictions made that impossible. Instead, each participant received a retreat-in-a-box with everything they needed for a meaningful day of solitude, prayer and planning for future spiritual growth.

Twelve soldiers and officers completed the entire course and now are charged with finding ways to implement what they learned daily in their homes, corps and work or appointments.

One of THRIVE's immediate benefits was soldiers and officers who might never meet in person getting to know each other and finding they feel a true connection and commitment to encourage and support each other. This has been particularly meaningful as the cohort navigated through the limitations caused by COVID-19.

When Cadet Mario Bledsoe signed up for THRIVE as a soldier he expected to learn and grow. What he didn't expect was to gain an entire prayer team to support him in his journey toward officership. The week he entered the College for Of-

ficer Training, a cohort member wrote, "I would never have gotten to know Mario without this course, but now I feel committed to being his cheerleader and praying for him as he goes through training."

Captain Christopher White says the impact of THRIVE already has been felt in the St. Louis Gateway, Mo., Corps congregation because of the participation of soldier Lyn Walton.

"When I saw the description of the course in the *Central Connection*, I immediately thought of Lyn.

She has a deep spiritual life and loves to learn, so I knew this course would challenge her to grow even more in spiritual wisdom and maturity," he said. "Lyn is our prayer sergeant, a role that is very meaningful to her and to our congregation. During the course, we have all benefited as she regularly shared what she was learning and experiencing during our corporate prayer times. She has challenged us all to grow alongside her!"

The next THRIVE cohort is scheduled to begin in January 2021 and run through the end of June. For more information and an application contact Major Lesa Davis: Lesa.davis@usc.salvationarmy.org

Spiritual Life

My THRIVE experience

Four participants in the first cohort share their experience, including why they joined, what they've gained and why they would encourage you to participate.

Although my prayer and devotional life have been consistent, I felt a desire to go deeper in my relationship with God. I felt a longing to practice more spiritual disciplines and journey with an accountability group.



I'm so thankful to have been part of this group during these COVID days. The books we have read together have been perfect to instill appropriate rhythms and practices to help me experience

God's presence and peace. I have been blessed by reading the thoughts of other participants in the cohort. I have learned about other resources, outside of the required reading, through their sharing, too.

I would highly recommend this course to anyone who wants to deepen their spiritual life through wonderful resources and relationships.

Major Darlene Harvey
Divisional Leader
Kansas/Western Missouri Division



Several weeks before THRIVE was announced, I had asked the Lord for something like the Brengle Holiness Institute for officers. I see THRIVE as the Lord's answer to my prayer.

It has challenged me to grow more than I would have on my own.

THRIVE is about a process of spiritual growth, not about gleaning facts. The reading assignments are spread out over eight months, so the work is manageable.

Lyn Walton
St. Louis Gateway, Mo., Corps



I joined because I wanted to interact with people who are not in my current circle. I wanted to be in a study group to expand my reading, and I wanted the accountability of reading and responding. I wanted to learn more about God and the Bible within the context of like-minded Salvationists.

I have been challenged to read books that I never would have chosen, and I've found that I love them!

Do it! Join the group and be ready to learn and grow.

Major Clara Braddock
(pictured below, middle)



My corps officer challenged me to accept ministry opportunities as they came. The following Sunday I heard about THRIVE and thought it sounded like something that would draw me closer to God. When I saw everything the cohort would entail, I admit I was a little intimidated, but I was drawn in by the idea of exploring holiness, healthy spirituality and spiritual disciplines.

I have enjoyed being in a group of loving people who are mature in their walk with God. I have been able to engage with officers and soldiers from around the territory I wouldn't have known otherwise. We have shared ideas and challenges and have grown as a result.

Join! You will explore materials that will help you grow in your daily relationship with the Lord. You will grow in relationship with others who will offer spiritual support and keep you accountable.

Cadet Mario Bledsoe
entered training from
Chicago Ray and Joan Kroc
Corps Community Center



Kroc Centers celebrate 10 years

This year the territory's first two Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers celebrate 10 years of excellent, mission-minded holistic service, proving time and again they're pure Salvation Army, just a different iteration.

Grand Rapids Kroc: all about transformation

by Jonathan Shaner

How do you measure a year in the life?—"Seasons of Love" by Jonathan Larson

If the answer is to "measure in love" as the song from the musical *Rent* suggests, then it also

2016, Taylor and I have tried to champion the concept of 'transformation,' based on Romans 12:2," said Captain Bill. "Kroc Centers are uniquely positioned to help people physically, mentally and spiritually, so we do our best to push holistic wellness wherever we can."



suggests how we can gauge the impact of the Grand Rapids, Mich., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center during its first 10 years.

Of course, it's useful to note some of the basics, such as the \$52 million economic boon to the community from the Kroc Center's construction, the \$8+ million annual economic impact of the Kroc Center on its community, the 1.65 million member check-ins recorded or nearly 400,000 day passes sold since opening or the nearly 250,000 people estimated to have attended special events at the center.

You could look at the many "firsts" from piloting the FitKids360 program to forming a partnership with the American Youth Soccer Organization and developing a rapidly growing soccer program. But Captain Bill Brutto, Grand Rapids Kroc Center senior officer, likes to think beyond numbers.

"From the time we started our appointments here at the Kroc in



A perfect example of this type of transformation has been the groundbreaking partnership the Kroc Center has been able to forge with Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS). Funded with the help of territorial grants in fine arts and youth development, GRPS students are able to access benefits like free Kroc memberships, a youth basketball league, afterschool tutoring, water safety and swim lessons, mentoring by Kroc employees and the "FAME" program featuring instruction in art, music and dance. These partnerships reach hundreds of students across five elementary and three middle schools nearly all of whom are considered low-income and many considered English-language learners. Programs like these are designed to blend with other Kroc Center services such as FitKids360, Camp Kroc summer day camps and Kroc Church.

"We started our 'Meetup Monday' fellowship nights in part as a way to reach out to the families in our afterschool program," said Captain Taylor Brutto, Kroc officer for congregational life and youth development. "Kids and parents got a



chance to share a low-cost dinner at pickup time, then enjoy additional enrichment activities and Bible study."

As a result, Kroc Church has seen significant growth in the past three years, adding 22 new soldiers and 11 new junior soldiers.

Furthermore, the Grand Rapids Kroc Center set a new membership record—8,327—in 2020 just before executive orders by the State of Michigan closed the building in mid-March due to COVID-19. Though transformation has become harder to measure during the pandemic, the Kroc team has continued to serve its community by providing thousands of meals, check-in calls, virtual programs and family activities. Kroc Church has used social media to continue worship, programming and outreach, especially for those who are uncomfortable returning to weekly services which resumed outdoors over the summer.

Marking the tenth anniversary of the Kroc Center's grand opening, in-person celebrations have been shelved; instead, a social media campaign will invite users to win prizes by sharing their favorite Kroc memories. These will be integrated with messages and interviews from past and current members, employees and officers for a commemorative video project.

"It's tempting sometimes to measure our success simply with statistics," said Captain Bill. "But those will never hold the same value as the memories we create, the personal triumphs we witness, and the lives we watch being transformed by our Savior."

He concluded, "Joan Kroc's dream would not have come true over the last 10 years if it were not for the former Grand Rapids Kroc officers and the present and former employees who have given their gifts, talents and dedication to fulfilling the mission of The Salvation Army and having a significant impact in the Grand Rapids community. We are grateful to all of them. Taylor and I are honored to be a part of this ministry."



of mission and service

Omaha Kroc: a beacon of hope and opportunity

by Jonathan Kuebler

As the first Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center to be opened in the Central Territory, the Omaha, Neb., Kroc Center broke ground in many ways and continues that tradition.

up to the challenge of providing excellence in programming, outreach and support reflective of The Salvation Army and Joan Kroc's vision for our community. It is a welcoming space for families that strives to impact the whole individual: mind, body and spirit.



Built on the site of the long-closed and dilapidated Wilson meat packing plant, the Kroc Center was an opportunity for South Omaha and surrounding neighborhoods to reimagine themselves and to discover again the confidence and pride that has always suffused this long-time immigrant community.

The change in the surrounding neighborhoods was drastic, with an immediate reduction in crime and an increase in pride of ownership by homeowners. An early member, who was also a neighbor, described the Omaha Kroc Center as a "beacon of hope" in the community.

Over the last 10 years the Omaha Kroc Center has worked hard to live

Auxiliary Captains John and Tracy Gantner view the Kroc Center's myriad of programs and opportunities in a holistic light.

"We're not a Kroc center and a church—it's all one," explained A/Captain Tracy. "Church doesn't just happen on Sunday mornings. Every opportunity is an invitation to be there for someone, to listen to their story and minister to them."

This concept of infusing mission into all we do has been positive, resulting in a doubling of women's ministries, nearly tripling Sunday worship attendance, with six newly enrolled soldiers and three accepted candidates. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we live stream our services and have expanded our influence and opportunity in providing spiritual and emotional support for the broader community.

Like all Kroc Centers, programming runs the gamut from swim lessons to artistic creativity, active movement to spiritual support and growth, and team sports to exploring individual talents.

The infusing of mission has led to the development of some unique programs such as Dinner Table where kids sit down together with staff as a "family" to pray, eat and serve each other as they reflect on their day; it's a unique experience for many.

"Research shows a growing num-



ber of youth entering the school-to-prison pipeline," said A/Captain Tracy. "Kroc's new PIK (Positively Influencing Kids) program allows youth to learn from their poor decision-making without a punitive approach."

Programs are continually updated to respond to the needs of our community, and as a result we remain vibrant and new for the people we serve.

The Omaha Kroc Center's impact is not limited to our 140,000-sq.-ft. building. As a team we support our community in many ways. During floods in 2019, the center stepped up to support two of the most impacted local counties. Our staff ran the daily operations of an offsite Disaster Recovery Center, serving more than 300 families each week by supplying clothing, food and household necessities. As thousands of families were displaced or completely lost their homes, A/Captain John worked with community partners to create operation "Easter Basket," a day of fun for families with activities, superheroes, treats and 1,000 Easter baskets.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we distributed over 2,000 activity packs for families who were homebound during isolation. When the local schools announced 100 percent virtual learning, this new direction created a burden for our working families who faced jeopardizing their employment and income or leaving young children home alone. Omaha Kroc responded by creating the "Kroc Academy," a safe learning space for the kids enhanced by offering mentors, tutoring, physical activities, music, art and much needed peace of mind for the parents.

The Kroc Center is many things to many people in Omaha. For some it's a fitness center, for others it's an afterschool program, a church or a place to connect with friends. Spanning all its elements, however, is one unifying concept encapsulated in the "One Kroc" mission: ministry.

"Not everyone who comes to Kroc sits in our Sunday service, but they are part of our ministry nonetheless," concluded A/Captain John. "Our staff are all doing ministry...they're just doing it in different ways."



Faith and obedience lead to lifelong joy

Major Lois Wheeler celebrates 50 years as an officer



Growing up on a small farm in North Dakota, Major Lois Wheeler never imagined she would spend her life as a Salvation Army officer. What she did know was that God loved her and had a plan for her life.

"When I was very young, I started saying yes to the Lord," she said. "I can remember at age three or four understanding my sins made Jesus sad, and I didn't want to hurt Him. I knew it was important to live in a way that pleases the Lord."

With the support of godly parents who instilled in her strong Christian values and practices, like participation in corps activities, Lois grew to love Jesus with all her heart. As she considered what path to take after high school, she sought God's will.

"I asked the Lord to let me be with people," she laughed. "On the farm with only my parents for company after my sister left for officer training when I was about 14, it was a little lonely."

God answered her prayer in a big way. In her senior year, He put a calling to officership on her heart that could not be denied.

Entering the School for Officers' Training just one month after her eighteenth birthday, Lois was the youngest cadet in her session; she worked hard to be recognized for her faith and abilities. She was commissioned in 1969 and after only two corps appointments found herself back in Chicago on the training school staff. Before long, a first-year cadet caught her eye, and she, his.

"At the time I was resolved that God had called me into service, and He was my joy," she said. "My happiness did not depend on marriage but on obedience to God."

God had other plans. It was no coincidence Lois was there when Joseph Wheeler arrived on campus.

The oldest of seven children, Joe

spent a good portion of his younger years seeking the Lord and where he fit in the Body of Christ. He found his place at the Benton Harbor, Mich., Corps. Studying the *Manual of Salvationism* on his own and then discussing it with his corps officer, he was enrolled within weeks.

"As I studied to become a soldier, I received a clarion call that the Lord wanted me to be an officer," he said. Joe was commissioned in 1976.

The Wheelers married a year later and began an adventure of ministry together serving in corps, city command, divisional and territorial appointments and experiencing joy as lives were changed. They particularly have enjoyed working closely together as territorial evangelists and currently as pastoral care officers.

"We are honored and privileged to come alongside officers and affirm them in their ministry," said Major Joe. "God has kindly given us good health, and we love our ministry and interaction with those we serve."

In addition to their role as pastoral counselors, the Wheelers took on the responsibility of leading the territorial Emotional and Spiritual Care hotline earlier this year in response to the pandemic. They continue to reach out to officers at the local level, being concerned particularly for single corps officers who have no one to share the load. Though unable to visit over a cup of coffee or a meal as they usually would, they are mailing handwritten notes and making use of technology to support and encourage officers through emails, calls and video chats until it is safe to begin traveling again. "We pray for their provision, protection and peace," said Major Joe.

"Some days have been more challenging than others," concluded Major Lois as she reflects on 50 years as an officer. "But it's all good. Any day we get to pray with someone is a good day."

730... AND BEYOND



2,700 days and counting

by Captain Norman Polusca

One of my favorite songs in the *Song Book* is "How wonderful it is to walk with God" written by Theodore Hopkins Kitching in 1915. The first verse reads: "How wonderful it is to walk with God along the road that holy men have trod; How wonderful it is to hear him say: fear not, have faith, 'tis I who lead the way!"

What I love most is the idea that in the Christian life we do not walk alone and while we may plot our own course, we do not have the final say. These words have become extremely precious to me not only when moving from one appointment to the next but also when my plans have not gone as I imagined. This summer was a perfect example. Our youth department had to reimagine what ministry would look like in the Kansas and Western Missouri Division without summer camps.

Despite COVID-19 I believe God opened a door for us to reach young people and families in a way I didn't anticipate. Through God's grace and provision, we were able to recruit some of the counselors who would have worked at camp to be part of a Summer Ministry Team. We prepared, planned and prayed together and by the time we were ready to travel, many of the gathering restrictions were no longer in effect for the places we visited.



Our goal was simple: travel to as many corps as possible to provide a three-day vacation Bible school or to share the gospel through Jesus Theater.

It was an immense blessing to watch our team lead children in worship and prayer. I saw people tear up with gratitude as they experienced the gospel through drama. I saw adults come to faith in Christ and surrender their lives to Him. I watched a little boy laughing and fidgeting in his seat turn to another boy in his row and say, "I love this church!" Moments like these are memorable, precious and priceless, but most of all I know they are undoubtedly God-ordained.

How wonderful is it to walk with God.

Long Service Awards

We salute the following officers on their service milestones.

25 Years

Major Butch Frost
Major Lisa Frost
Major Matt Grindle
Major Patricia Grindle
Major Angela Wandling
Major Monty Wandling
Major Jennifer Woodard

30 Years

Major Marlys Anderson
Major Michael Gates
Major Rebecca Gates
Major David Gorton
Major Miriam Gorton
Major Alan Hellstrom
Major Kimberley Hellstrom
Major Audrey McClintock
Major Bob McClintock
Major Cynthia Nicolai
Major Kenneth Nicolai
Major Brenda Pittman
Major Catherine Thielke
Major Todd Thielke
Major Collette Webster
Major Robert Webster
Major Carol Wurtz

35 Years

Lt. Colonel Paul Smith
Major Colette Bailey
Major Keith Bailey
Major Lucille Gates
Major Karen Johnson
Major Marc Johnson
Major James Mungai
Major Penny Mungai
Major Mark Turner
Major Gregory Voeller

40 Years

Commissioner Heidi Bailey
Major Phillip Aho
Major Sandra Turner

45 Years

Major Janet Litherland

50 Years

Major Lois Wheeler



Getting creative with community care ministries

The gifts of time, presence and practical service given in the name of Christ are hallmarks of Salvation Army ministry. From the early days of "Soup, Soap and Salvation," Salvationists have dedicated themselves to meeting people's needs in His name without discrimination.

As corps are faced with the challenge of serving people amid the ongoing pandemic, community care ministries (CCM) has taken on new significance. CCM is conducted year-round by officers, soldiers, youth and volunteers who meet tangible and spiritual needs by showing kindness, providing service and sharing Christ's love, which according to Major Jo Langham, territorial community care ministries secretary, is the crux of CCM.

"CCM is about caring for the community I live in, work in, serve in," Major Jo said. "CCM can be anything a corps member or volunteer does in the name of The Salvation Army to bless an individual, family or group in the community. The opportunities are endless."

The major encourages officers and soldiers to reimagine how CCM can be done during the pandemic.

"Many traditional CCM activities are off due to the pandemic," Major



Preparing ministry bags for police officers at Indiana Divisional Headquarters.

Jo said. "Understandably, visits and gifts for patients at hospitals, nursing homes and VA clinics are not being allowed in most cases, but there's so much more we can be doing. It's finding our way through this pandemic and thinking about how we can continue to live out the mission."

Where traditional CCM Christmas activities have been impeded by the pandemic, Major Jo suggests providing a meal or gift for the facility's caregivers in lieu of gifts for residents. To connect with residents and spread holiday cheer while practicing safe social distancing, she suggests working with staff to schedule a time for the corps' band to visit and play outside the facility at people's windows.

Another suggestion is to pack personal protective equipment in kits for the homeless containing a reusable mask, hand sanitizer, gloves and individually packaged food items. "Like the rest of us, homeless individuals are wary of being in close contact with others," said Major Jo. "They may avoid entering shelters. Handing out kits can help them stay healthy."

Many CCM groups throughout the territory already have

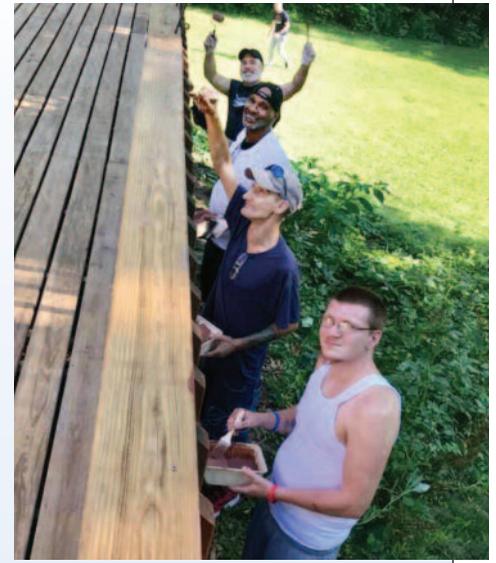
been reaching out while practicing social distancing to keep themselves and others safe.

In Logansport, Ind., Major Michele Harms and her team have focused on caring for frontline workers by packing and distributing ministry bags to the staff of nursing homes, the health department, an emergency pop-up COVID-19 hospital and a daycare that remained open to serve essential workers, among others.

"During COVID we wanted to do something for the essential workers to help life continue as smoothly as possible," said the major. "We distributed ministry bags every Monday for six weeks and have continued to provide bags on a monthly basis to businesses as they reopen to encourage them through this new time."

Led by A/Captains Mika and Grace Roinila, the Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps CCM has assisted the most vulnerable members of their community by cooking meals for distribution to the homeless, delivering food and crafts to the homes of older adults and families, and dispatching their Helping Hands men's ministries to perform yard work or paint decks or fences free of charge for older adult program members.

Indiana Divisional Headquarters teamed up with Degree of Honor volunteers to pack bags for distribution to local police officers. "Inside



The Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps Helping Hands men's ministry group paints a deck.

we put a devotional book, candy, snacks and Kleenex," said Captain Antonia Marak, community care ministries secretary. "We also enclosed a prayer card for them to fill out so we know how we can pray for them specifically."

Whether it's a spontaneous act of kindness or a structured and scheduled event, according to Major Jo, CCM activities should be recorded and recognized in order to help tell the full story of The Salvation Army's mission and ministry during the pandemic.

For more information about community care ministries or to become a member, see your corps officer.



A/Captain Grace Roinila delivers an activity packet.

God's hand at work

Long before they became officers or even met, Majors Jack and Nancy Holloway each began attending The Salvation Army. Growing up in separate Midwestern corps, they learned to play instruments, participated in character-building programs and developed personal relationships with Christ that grew as they were discipled.

Major Jack clearly recalls the moment God called him to be an officer. "It was after salvation meeting and my corps officer, Captain Marv Dahl, asked me to accompany him on a visitation," said Major Jack, who was 12 at the time. "The apartment was a mess, but Captain Dahl didn't seem to see any of that. He focused solely on the man, who was lying on a mattress on the floor, dying of cancer. I distinctly remember thinking of my corps officer, 'I want to be like him.'"

It was 1981 when Jack and Nancy each chose to answer the call the Lord had placed on their lives and went to College for Officer Training. There they met as cadets, fell in love and were married soon after their commissioning with the "Heralds of Hope" session in 1983. Now, 37 years after signing their officer covenants, the Holloways have retired.

"We have been blessed by God's faithfulness," said Major Nancy, reflecting on their appointments which took them throughout the Midwest to serve in corps, regional



commands and divisional headquarters. "I love being with people, hearing their stories, encouraging them and sometimes challenging them in their walk with God. He has provided numerous opportunities to share my witness."

In each appointment, the majors committed themselves to serving the Lord to the best of their ability. Though there were challenges, they say they found strength and hope in God's consistent presence. "The greatest joy was serving the Lord however He chose to use me," Major Nancy said. "I shouldn't be, but I often am, amazed at His provisions and blessings."

"We can look back at our appointments and we can see from this perspective how God had His hand in every single one," concluded Major Jack. "He always prepared us for what came next."

Expressions of Caring

Here are a few simple ways you can still show Christ's love during the ongoing pandemic. Bring your own creativity to Community Care Ministries and make a difference.

Rake leaves or weed someone's garden

Deliver an activity bag to a shut-in

Text an encouraging message

Bake cookies for your neighbor

Pack food boxes for pantry distribution

Deliver food and cleaning supplies to a family

Clean up trash at a park

Organize musicians to play outside care facilities

Hand out masks and sanitizer to the homeless

Send holiday and birthday cards to corps members

Paint your elderly neighbor's fence or deck

Pack and distribute goodie bags to essential employees

Taking Stock of the territory's music and creative arts

It's hard to believe five years have passed since Bandmaster William Himes, O.F., passed the baton for the territory's music and arts to Dr. Harold Burgmayer. So, we're checking in to see how Harold and this ministry are doing and what's in store.

I recall your decision to take this job was difficult. How has God validated that choice you made in faith?

At the time my wife Priscilla and I moved to the Central Territory, I'd been the divisional music director in the Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Division for 34 years, serving in an inner-city corps for 30 years, and homeschooling our four daughters. It was not without some difficulty that we stepped away from the richness of loving relationships, mixed with a large batch of anointed music-making.



rate, so it was key to successfully develop relationships with our musicians and leaders from across the territory. One amazing result is a resurgence of regional and divisional bands, songsters and music schools.

What's been the biggest challenge?

By far it has been the transference by our Music and Creative Arts Ministries team from live instruction to virtual events. The biggest event would have been the Music and Arts Festival which wasn't possible in June due to the pandemic. We'd worked for over a year and a half on making this the culminating celebration of the progress the territory had made since 2011 toward the goal of Live Music in Worship in Every Corps by 2020 (LM2020). We do hope to put something up virtually with all 10 divisions represented in the future.

How did the territory do with LM2020?

Pre-COVID-19, the territory had live worship music in 83 percent of corps. In fact, in one division, every corps had met this goal except one! The primary benefit of the LM2020 campaign was getting everyone in the territory thinking about what is happening in Sunday morning worship. The process of divisional music consultations that occur twice a year helped us to go beyond band and songsters and consider children's outreach, use of media, praise bands and other arts. The Central Territory has a wonderful diversity of expressions.

Building on LM2020, we are introducing a new initiative called Equip 25/25. It represents a goal of having 25 new music and creative arts leaders in each division by 2025—



five per division each year over the next five years. Along with the other territories in North America, we are in the process of developing online training and resources for music and arts leaders, focused particularly on Sunday worship, and including the effective use of media, dance and drama.

The change in your department's name to Music and Creative Arts Ministries is notable. What has this title and the expansion of staff in specific areas enabled?

There are only so many hours in the day. We can make "music for music's sake," or we can choose to focus our music-making on ministry, which is our primary goal as Salvationist musicians. Therefore, it's important that our department name included "ministries." The "creative arts" label aptly reflects the expansion of the department resourcing drama, dance, gospel expressions, praise bands and using media across the territory. The Music and Creative Arts Ministries team has grown over the last five years to include Josh Turner as the contemporary music specialist

and Jude St.-Aime as music production specialist.

What are the most significant developments in the territory in the last five years?

While ministry is our primary focus, the other members of our team—Beth Malovance, Lynda Cooper, Marty Thomas, Joe Caddy and Tom Hanton—come from a background of music education, which creates marvelous opportunities for discipling and encouraging young and old.

1. Operation Piano Player has grown from 18 participants to more than 125 across the territory! That is really important to our Sunday worship since many corps don't have brass or praise bands.
2. The Ukulele Initiative has had a huge impact as we provided instruments and Sunday School Songbooks (for ukulele, piano and guitar) allowing a young person to quickly learn to lead a song. Ukulele instruction to me is like the "beginner's band" for seeding guitar players for future praise bands.



We have felt the Lord's divine guidance here. Even through challenges, we have experienced many blessed moments in ministry: fellowship and worship at the Norridge Citadel Corps, Central Music Institute, conducting leadership workshops, traveling with the Chicago Staff Band, the Central Territorial Staff Songsters, and our territorial youth sections. Many precious moments have been shared in heartfelt prayer and rich fellowship.

What have you learned during this time?

Relationships are key. I came to the Central Territory only knowing a few people, and right away discovered young people and adults anxious to embrace us, and even our ideas about ministry. It takes discipline to stay focused on my principle role of proactively equipping divisional music directors. I like to have a conversation, work for consensus and collabo-



The Music and Creative Arts Ministries Department during virtual CMI 2020 (l to r): Beth Malovance, Tom Hanton, Harold Burgmayer, Jude St.-Aime, Joe Caddy, Marty Thomas, Lynda Cooper, Josh Turner



Experience Christmas with The Salvation Army, USA Central
CHICAGO STAFF BAND & CENTRAL TERRITORIAL STAFF SONGSTERS
with guest hosts



Windows of Hope



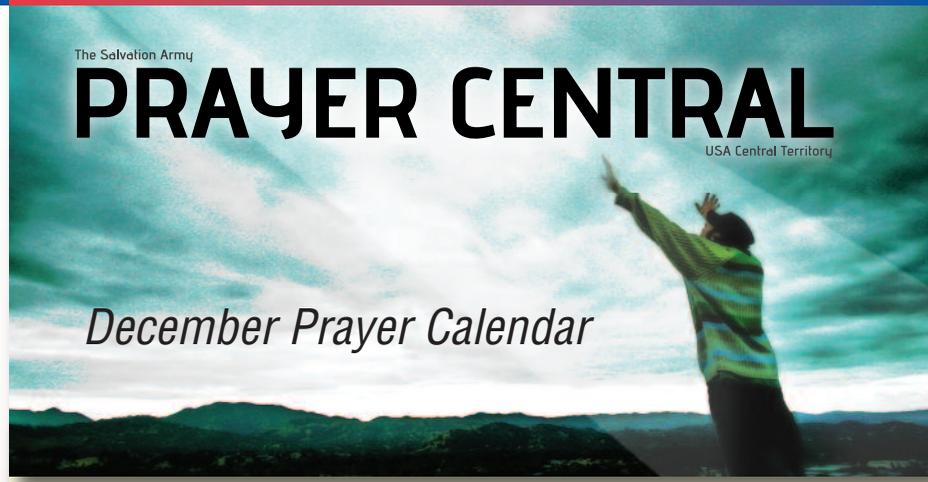
Sara Groves



Major Osei Stewart

Premieres 7:00 PM (CST), SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2020

Find out more at: www.samusiccentral.org/woh



- Central Music Institute (CMI) has expanded in numbers, in part with the added major track options which now include praise band, dance, drama and gospel choir. This year during Virtual CMI, percussion was added as a major.
- Jesus Theater (a choreodrama that tells the gospel story) early on was piloted in half of our divisions as well as by the summer CAST team. Jesus Theater is now used as a weekly evangelism tool at all 10 divisional camps. Divisional leaders often comment that Jesus Theater may be as life-changing for the performing staff as for the kids in the audience.
- Territorial Youth Band and Territorial Youth Chorus were formerly supported with adult helpers, but now operate at a high standard solely with young people. Youthful musicians from corps across the territory are being equipped to lead praise bands through the Territorial Worship Collective.
- A renewed emphasis on vocal music has seen increased numbers at CMI, interest in gospel choir, and the launch of the Central Territorial Staff Songsters.

Let's talk a little more about the Central Territorial Staff Songsters (CTSS). It's obviously one of your passions.

I wish everybody could be in the room when the CTSS meets. There is something very rich happening, not only in terms of the giftedness but also in fellowship and prayer. Combining words and music is a very powerful tool. The group is so receptive to getting beyond the notes and words to the real meaning and expression of our songs. And this is happening even as we work virtually on collage videos for upcoming events.

We'd be remiss if we didn't talk about the Chicago Staff Band (CSB). How is it doing?

Known as the "Band with the Sacred Message," the Chicago Staff Band's emphasis remains on creating a worship experience for our listeners, not only on Sunday mornings but in Saturday concerts as well. I am so appreciative that the members of the CSB love to worship through our music-making. We play major works, but part of the uniqueness of a CSB program is that the repertoire runs the gamut from pop, like the Chicago medley, to inspirational choral offerings.

When I first arrived, there was significant turnover in the personnel of the band, but over the past five years the band has rebounded nicely and is playing at a high level. In the past few months, the CSB would have traveled to the Old Orchard Camp Meetings in the East and to Nigeria for their Centennial Congress. These are two amazing ministry opportuni-

ties that we hope we will be able to experience in the future.

Have you been able to use your passion and gift for composing for these two groups? Your job is huge—how in the world do you find the time?

These days I basically write "on demand," both for our publications and for our territorial sections. I am asked often to arrange specifically to fill a niche or program need. Groups do appreciate singing or playing something that has been written for them, and I like to have just the right piece for a service or program. I basically use early mornings, evenings and weekends to write. Meeting a deadline can be motivating. I base the deadline not on the date of the premiere, but rather on how much time the ensemble will need to perform the piece effectively.

The CSB Sounds of the Seasons Concert won't be possible this year; what are you doing instead?

The Chicago Staff Band and the Central Territorial Staff Songsters are combining their talents in a Christmas broadcast called Windows of Hope. The broadcast will go up about the time we would have had the annual Sounds of the Seasons concert at Wheaton College. Portions of the program or the entire broadcast will be available to corps for their Advent or Christmas services.

Co-hosts for the evening will be singer-songwriter Sara Groves and Major Osei Stewart from the USA Western Territory.

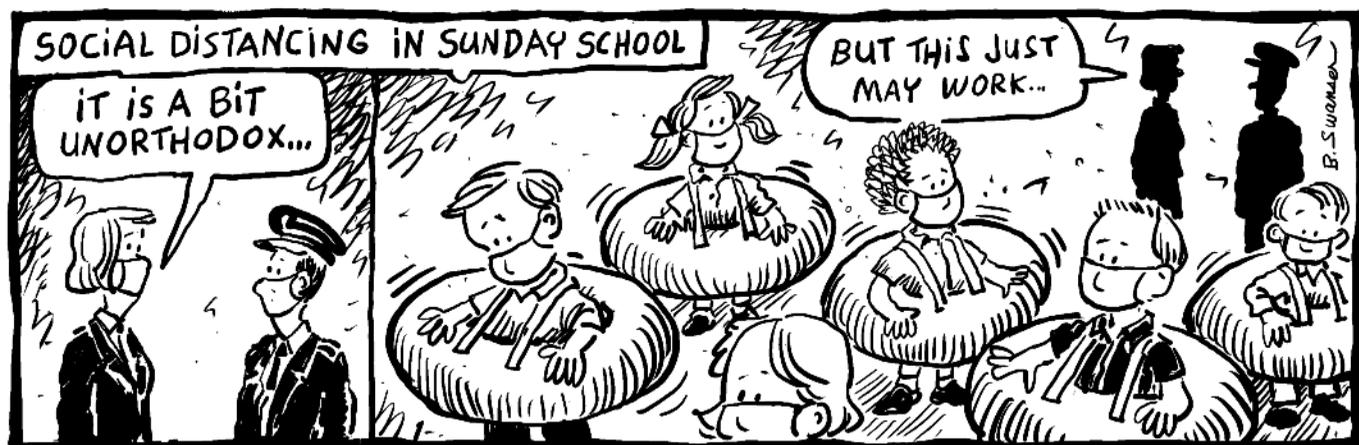


My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Tuesday	Acts 19-20	"I'll Fight" Day
	2 Wednesday	1 John 3-4	Kansas City Westport Temple, Mo., Corps
	3 Thursday	Deuteronomy 13-15	DeKalb, Ill., Corps
	4 Friday	Nehemiah 5-9	Germany, Lithuania and Poland
	5 Saturday	Psalms 140-142	Jamestown, N.D., Corps
	6 Sunday	Song of Songs 1-2	Marshalltown, Iowa, Corps
	7 Monday	Revelation 1-6	Grand Rapids, Mich., Kroc Center
	8 Tuesday	Acts 21-22	Marinette, Wis., Corps
	9 Wednesday	1 John 5	Omaha, Neb., ARC*
	10 Thursday	Deuteronomy 16-18	Midland, Mich., Corps
	11 Friday	Nehemiah 10-13	THRIVE spiritual life development course
	12 Saturday	Psalms 143-145	Kokomo, Ind., Corps
	13 Sunday	Song of Songs 3-4	India South Eastern Territory
	14 Monday	Revelation 7-11	Lawrence, Kan., Corps
	15 Tuesday	Acts 23-24	Des Plaines, Ill., Corps
	16 Wednesday	2 John	Joplin, Mo., Corps
	17 Thursday	Deuteronomy 19-21	Community Care Ministries
	18 Friday	Esther 1-5	Lakewood Temple, Minn., Corps
	19 Saturday	Psalms 146-148	Mason City, Iowa, Corps
	20 Sunday	Song of Songs 5-6	Lansing South, Mich., Corps
	21 Monday	Revelation 12-17	New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa
	22 Tuesday	Acts 25-26	Chicago Kroc Center, Ill., Corps
	23 Wednesday	3 John	Rockford, Ill., ARC
	24 Thursday	Deuteronomy 22-24	Omaha, Neb., Kroc Center
	25 Friday	Esther 6-10	Celebrate Immanuel—God with us!
	26 Saturday	Psalms 149-150	Macomb, Ill., Corps
	27 Sunday	Song of Songs 7-8	Lafayette, Ind., Corps
	28 Monday	Revelation 18-20	Leavenworth, Kan., Corps
	29 Tuesday	Acts 27-28	East Chicago, Ind., Corps
	30 Wednesday	Jude	City Mission Collective in St. Louis, Mo.
	31 Thursday	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!

*ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

--Mustard Seeds--



Bikes for Basketball a playmaker in Duluth

by Dan Williamson

For those who like hoops help in this tough time is coming from a caring 12-year-old boy named Nathan Easty. Basketball is a big deal to this seventh grader who lives in Duluth, Minn. He's a fan of the Minnesota Timberwolves and calls Dallas Mavericks forward/guard Luka Dončić his favorite player.

Nathan's whole family knows a thing or two about jump shots. He's the youngest of five brothers who've participated in the Duluth Corps' Rookie Basketball Association (RBA) where their dad Jason is a coach. The family has been part of RBA since 2006.

"I started playing in first grade," Nathan said. "I wanted to do what my older brothers did and that influenced me to play and be good. I am a shooting guard and I pass as often as I can."

The pandemic has made it hard for Nathan and other kids to play as often as they'd like. With that in mind, Nathan found a way to give



an "alley-oop" of sorts. After learning some kids couldn't afford to join him on the court, Nathan and his mother, Amanda, hatched a plan to sell the family's old bicycles and donate the proceeds.

Nathan's vision, "Bikes for Basketball," was to raise funds for RBA scholarships. RBA, which is for children between kindergarten and eighth grade, just celebrated its thirty-second year—the biggest yet with 511 kids, 98 volunteer coaches and 52 teams. While children develop on-court skills, they also learn life lessons, team building and sportsmanship.

Over the years many RBA players have gone on to suit up on big stages. Among them, alums Anders and Bjorn Broman, numbers 1 and 2, respectively, on Minnesota's all-time high school career scoring list and members of the Winthrop Men's Basketball Team which played in March Madness in 2017 and reached the NCAA Division One Men's Tournament.

While March Madness might not be in everyone's future, Nathan would like for all kids to be able to

play. His family had 12 bikes of their own to sell and other people contributed bikes, shoes and cash in a response to a social media request. The project really took off with coverage from local TV stations, and Nathan and his mom presented the corps with \$500—10 times his original goal.

"I think Nathan's ability to put

others first is extraordinary," said Kris Mallett, RBA coordinator.

Details for the next RBA season are still being worked out so that kids can return to play in a safe way during the pandemic. But when the dribbles and layups resume, there will be some happy hoopsters thanks to Nathan's hard work, generosity and kind heart.



Captain Teri Ellison, Duluth, Minn., corps officer, presents a t-shirt to Nathan Easty as a thank you for his fundraising efforts.

Promoted to Glory

Major Charles Hendrickson

Major Charles Hendrickson, 76, was promoted to Glory on August 25, 2020. Charlie lived his life for others. Whether sharing a laugh, giving a ride or a cup of coffee, or praying for someone on the spot, he loved people.



After graduating from high school, Charlie sailed on the William A. Irvin from 1966-1969. In 1969 he married Sharon Nelson, who died of cancer three years later. He earned an associate's degree in sales management and marketing in 1971.

In 1973 Charlie married Janice Petrowske. They entered officer training and were commissioned in 1977. The Hendricksons served in two corps appointments before taking a break from service in 1982 and moving back to Duluth, Minn., where Charlie worked at Diamond Tool. They returned to officership in 1992 and led corps in Fairmont, Minn., and Bismarck, N.D., and served at Northern Divisional Headquarters where Charlie was the disaster services director until their retirement in 2010.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Jan, his daughter, Kris (Jon) Mallett, three grandchildren and many more family members and friends.

Major Daniel Burris

Major Daniel Burris was promoted to Glory on August 13, 2020. Passionate about preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, he often came up with creative ways to convey the message. He also enjoyed riding his motorcycle and playing pool.



Daniel was born on April 23, 1956, in Wichita, Kan. He married Mary Rader on January 19, 1974. They began a family and raised three sons.

As a young man Daniel worked at the Wichita School Board for 20 years, starting in lawn maintenance and retiring from his position in the masonry department in 1992. He and Mary entered officer training the next year and were commissioned in 1995 with the "Messengers of Hope" session.

The Burrises served as corps officers, mainly in the Kansas and Western Missouri Division for 23 years. They retired in 2018 to their hometown of Wichita, Kan., due to Daniel's health.

Daniel was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Alexis. He is survived by his wife; sons, Bartholomew, Jeremiah and Matthew; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Captain Daniel Ortman

Captain Daniel Ortman was promoted to Glory on August 18, 2020. He was 73 years old.

Daniel married LaMae Smith in 1969. They began to build a life together and raised three sons. For 26 years Dan worked as a computer programmer for Illinois Bell Telephone before retiring and pursuing ministry as an officer. He also served his country in the Illinois National Guard.

The Ortman family attended the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps before becoming auxiliary captains in 1996 and serving in three corps appointments in the Metropolitan Division. After becoming captains in 2001, they served in corps appointments in the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Midland and Indiana divisions. They retired in 2012 from Indiana Divisional Headquarters where Dan worked in special services, having given 16 years to fulltime ministry.

Daniel is survived by his wife; sons, Brian, Major Aaron (Jennifer) and Nicholas; five grandchildren; his mother, Jean Gudmundson and stepmother, Marilyn Ortman, and many other family and friends.



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