Cadets’ Welcome, a call to reflect God’s holiness

by Major Jennifer Ortman

“Keep your eyes on the Lord, and you will shine like the sun,” said Captain Kelly Hanton, territorial candidates’ secretary, quoting Psalm 34:5 while addressing the “Reflectors of Holiness” session during their welcome at the Chicago-Mayfair, Ill., Community Church (Corps). In presenting the session to Training Principal Major Brian Davis, the captain noted the exciting fact that 10 of the session’s 14 cadets are first-generation Salvationists.

The cadets’ friends and families, as well as officers, soldiers and delegates to the 730 Conference, were in attendance, while many others viewed the meeting’s livestream. Though the in-person crowd was smaller than in past years due to the ongoing pandemic, their enthusiasm and cheers were just as loud, perhaps even more so after many events being only virtual in the last year. It was good to gather again, and God’s Spirit was felt from the beginning as the cadets entered the room.

The Chicago Staff Band also received much appreciation from the audience as the band was finally able to play together at a territorial event for the first time since the Cadet Welcome two years ago. In presenting the session flag, Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey, said to the cadets, “This flag you will see all over the world, and I trust that every time you see it, you will understand that help is on the way from God Almighty through you to others.” After Cadet Obed Briceno posted the flag, a solemn salute was given by the whole session which brought each individual cadet before the Heavenly Father. Later the new cadets introduced themselves through a video created just a few days after they arrived at the College for Officer Training (CFOT).

Territorial Candidates’ Secretary Captain Kelly Hanton

Green Bay Kroc Center: 10 years and going strong

by Tim Perlwitz

The Green Bay, Wis., and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center recently celebrated 10 years of transforming lives. To mark the occasion, the Kroc Center planned and promoted 10 days of fun-filled events and activities, including a free outdoor family movie night, a community breakfast, an elevate life revival day and family night featuring games and s’mores. The events were replete with giveaways, including snacks for the opening day participants and high traffic afternoon times.

The celebration coincided with two major annual events. The fourth Kroc ChalkFest, featuring more than 30 artists, brought out more than 600 spectators to view the outside art, play games in the backyard and enjoy live music and fare from local food trucks. On Kroc Community Day, the center threw its doors wide open and free to those who may not have previously visited the facility. More than 200 first time guests experienced classes from Zumba to archery to Bible studies and enjoyed a fine arts concert, snacks and demos. All the major news networks featured the Kroc Center in unique ways during the 10-year promotional window which helped shine the spotlight on the center’s transformative space.

The 102,000-square-foot facility features an aquatic center consisting of a zero-depth splash play area, a four-lane, 25-yard lap pool, winding river, and a full water slide. The Kroc aquatic center creates many memorable moments.

“My grandson lives in Seattle and on his vacation to see us, we brought him to the Kroc pool. He had such a good time he did not want to go back Seattle, but rather live here with me!” laughed Mary Edler.

Continued on page 5
Include Christ in your celebration
by Lt. Colonel Renea Smith
Territorial Secretary for Personnel

For most of us, this month marks the beginning of a season of celebration. Initiated on Thanksgiving Day, we gather with friends and family to count our blessings. A few short days later, Advent commences, leading up to Christmas.

This season, from Thanksgiving to Christmas, is my favorite time of the year. I think people are more willing to share a smile, to be generous, to go to strange and to take time to be with others. It fills me with joy to think about being with those I love, knowing there will be laughter, food, music and love, lots of love.

This time of year brings to my mind Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (NIV): “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them upon your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.”

In this passage, God reminds Israel that He called them to be His covenantal people, to live in relationship with Him, to live in the reality of that relationship and to teach their beliefs to the next generation. These words in Deuteronomy are especially timely as we think about gathering with those we love, realizing there are more open doors to talking about faith during this season than any other.

God made us to live in relationship, with Him and with others. Our joyful gatherings are pleasing to Him, and they provide wonderful opportunities to talk about Christ and what He means in our lives. Impress on your family and friends the deep love God has for them. Talk about Him when you sit at home eating cookies and drinking coffee, when you walk through the mall, when you are getting ready for bed, and in the morning at the breakfast table. Let His promises be seen in your home, in the decoration on the walls, in the cards you write, in the greetings you give and through the blessings you say as you leave one another.

Hopefully this year we all will be able to gather with friends and family again. As you do, be intentional in including Christ in your celebration. Let others see Jesus living in you. Let them experience God’s love for them through you. May you see others with God’s eyes, listen with His ears and love with His heart. As a result, those we love may experience His love, His mercy and His peace.

Green Bay Kroc Center

Continued from page 1

The fitness center includes more than 60 pieces of cardio and weight training equipment, two fitness studios and a free weight area with a beautifully branded platform. Members and guests can work with personal trainers to learn how to utilize the equipment and get started on their fitness journey. Next to the fitness floor is the 14,000-square-foot gym where pickleball, volleyball and basketball are commonly played.

“Basketball was awesome! I love all the sports programs and the approach the Green Bay Kroc Center takes to be inclusive, kind and team-work focused!” mentioned Patricia Dulcik, area mom blogger and avid Kroc user.

The gym also serves as a space for a group fitness studio, THE House LA training and more. On an annual basis, it is converted to handle the Greater Green Bay Coats for Kids distribution and other community events like the Senior Life Expo.

Arts, education and ministry also are key components of the Green Bay Kroc Center. The arts department offers a wide array of classes with the Kroc Dance program being one of the most successful. Additionally, the arts department offers guitar, ukulele, piano and voice instruction, pop-up art classes, and music composition classes like the “Anyone Can Create” program which utilizes the Apple music education platform. Year-round, the center hosts licensed childcare opportunities through their afterschool program, winter/spring camps and an outdoor summer camp. To keep things exciting all summer long, camp themes are introduced and paired with field trips and high impact activities.

The ministry team at the Green Bay Kroc Center has worked tirelessly to ensure the holistic mission of The Salvation Army is embodied to the fullest. Devotionals are incorporated into youth sports, monthly Bible verses integrated into group fitness, and devotional messages shared throughout the day using the Kroc speaker system.

The team brings creativity in finding ways to expand ministry such as family dinners where members and guests can order in advance and on Wednesday nights grab the meal and enjoy fellowship with others or take home a meal with a devotional and recipe card to enjoy with their family.

Over the last year the Men’s Building Character Bible Study constructed a mobile tiny house—a kitchen, full bathroom and loft sleeping area in just 175 feet—which was auctioned during the anniversary celebration. The group is led by Major Matthew O’Neill, Green Bay area coordinator who used to work as a residential contractor before becoming an officer.

Planning is under way at the Green Bay Kroc Center with conversations about what the rest of the year and the future will look like. Green Bay Kroc participants in programs like summer day camp and the community-at-large soon will be able to enjoy a new event pavilion, and the Senior Life Expo will return this fall. A 5K is scheduled with proceeds to go toward Kroc Center scholarships. More is to be announced!

To help people know about all of these and other wonderful opportunities, the center’s website is undergoing a redesign to be more comprehensive and user-friendly.

“It is an exciting time to be a part of a team that transforms lives for members, guests and families in our community,” concluded Major Ma- linda O’Neill, Green Bay Kroc Center senior officer.
The nature of learning

by Captain Heather Montenegro

A world filled with fear and uncertainty, one of the greatest gifts we can give our youth is laughter. Even if just for a moment for them to feel secure and loved and to experience joy can make a difference. That was the goal of the Metropolitan Divisional Junior Soldier Rally.

After not gathering for over a year, we just wanted to provide a safe space for our youth to celebrate being a part of a larger faith community,” said Major Joanna Rose, assistant divisional youth secretary.

Junior soldiers and prospective junior soldiers gathered from the division at the Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center for a day of fun and fellowship. The day started with an optional swim time and then moved outdoors to the soccer fields for lunch and afternoon activities.

“Hot dogs, cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn; we had it all,” said Major Joanna.

Leading up to the event, corps provided a study guide to prepare children, ages 7-13, to be enrolled as junior soldiers or for current junior soldiers to take the honor junior soldier test. The youth were quizzed on the parts of the shield, leadership in The Salvation Army, territorial and divisional structure, as well as the junior soldier pledge. Other activities included coloring a junior soldier t-shirt with fabric markers, face painting and field games.

World-class fly fisherman Jay Buckner teaches a group of Salvationists stream ecology during the 2021 American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS) in Jackson, Wyo. Macroinvertebrates were collected and used as models during a W I L D and participating in archery competitions. For information about future AWLS sessions, contact the territorial youth department.

Junior soldiers rally celebrates community

by Captain Milly Ragan

Chicago Lawn corps officer, has been working diligently with her junior soldiers throughout the pandemic. Following the rally, the corps held a Sunday where junior soldiers led praise and worship and read scripture, and two received their honor junior soldier award.

“We have amazing youth who have learned through the junior soldier material how to participate in their corps. Our kids keep talking about how much fun they had at the rally. We hope that this will inspire them to keep coming to junior soldiers and participating at the corps,” said Captain Milly. Despite the hot sun and warm temperatures, laughter could be heard throughout the day as the junior soldiers enjoyed the simple blessing of being together.

“I think we achieved our goal,” concluded Major Joanna. “We can’t wait to see how God will continue to develop these young people as followers of Christ and soldiers in The Salvation Army.”

Breaking ground at Western Plains Camp

by Michelle DeRusha

Even as Majors Greg and Lee Ann Thompson, Western divisional leaders, stood ankle-deep in mud at flood-ravaged Gene Eppley Camp in Omaha, Neb., in the spring of 2019, they already had begun to dream about the possibility of a new camp where children could connect with God and each other in the great outdoors.

The majors took another step toward the realization of that dream on September 1, 2021, when they joined dozens of community leaders for a groundbreaking celebration at the Western Plains Camp in South Sioux City, Neb.

The 112-acre property was purchased in 2020 after the Western Division’s iconic Gene Eppley Camp was destroyed by catastrophic flooding. Phase one updates to the Western Plains Camp include upgrading nine sleeping cabins, as well as construction of a new 16-unit lodge to accommodate families and other guests, a nurse’s station and a boathouse. Phase two calls for construction of a chapel and additional lodges.

“This camp is a tremendous blessing,” said Major Lee Ann. “This is holy ground to those of us at The Salvation Army, and we are here today to celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in our camp’s history.”

Lt. Colonel David Harvey, territorial secretary for business administration, and Lt. Colonel Darlene Harvey, officer resource and development secretary, attended the groundbreaking ceremony.

“The children who will come to this place are looking to us to welcome them as family,” said Colonel David. “They will come into this godly space and realize how much God loves them.”

Also in attendance were Sioux City Mayor Bob Scott, South Sioux City Mayor Rod Koch, Regan Zeller, senior project manager at Dicon Corporation; Michael Breclaw, principal at FitzerGerald Associates Architects; Kristi Quinn and Chris McGowan, presidents of the South Sioux City and Siouxland Chambers of Commerce, respectively; and officers from Western Divisional Headquarters.

The camp welcomed a limited number of children over the last two summers, but the Thompsons are hopeful that a decrease in COVID-19 cases will allow the camp to operate at full capacity in 2022.

“We have a clear vision for the camp as we move forward,” said Major Greg. “We are confident that as we turn the dirt today, we will also be burnishing The Salvation Army’s nationwide reputation as a premier provider of youth summer camp programs.”
**Project Advance**
*An update on the territory’s restructuring process*

As the territory continues to explore reorganization options to better advance the Army’s holistic mission in the Midwest, a Steering Committee composed of officers, soldiers and employees from different divisions and organizational levels has been created to provide direction, oversee development, and make recommendations to the Territorial Cabinet. The Steering Committee will review the findings of newly created Divisational Workstreams in the areas of personnel, funds, assets, programs, and operational efficiency.

“We are confident these five pillars will allow us to enhance our missional advancement and effectiveness throughout the territory,” said Commissioner Brad Bailey, Central territorial commander. 

Like the Steering Committee, the workstream groups are composed of officers of different ranks, soldiers and employees with expertise and experience. They are refining and building on the work of the Territorial Reorganization Task Force, providing insights on ways to better support frontline ministries to advance missional objectives. This will help ensure that underlying tenets are sound before pursuing any possible reorganization efforts.

The management consulting firm Group Newhouse continues to work with the territory in this process. In September a Town Hall Meeting with all active officers was held on Microsoft Teams where the territorial commander gave an update and a supporting panel answered questions which were submitted in advance and during the meeting through chat.

The meeting is part of a commitment to transparent and two-way communication which also includes the opportunity for officers, soldiers and employees to share their thoughts, concerns and suggestions for Project Advance by writing uscadvance@usc.salvationarmy.org. It is anticipated that an announcement will be made in January with implementation in June.

“I want to reiterate that we are going through this process for one reason and one reason only: to strengthen God’s Army for His glory and the good of those He has called us to serve holistically,” concluded Commissioner Bailey, who has asked for your continued prayers for the Lord’s leading in this process.

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**Sells recognized by Peoria Public Schools**

Major Heath Sells, Peoria Citadel, Ill., corps officer and tri-county coordinator, was named as a recipient of Peoria Public Schools’ 2020-2021 “Those Who Excel” award for community volunteers. The recognition was given for the planning and collaborative efforts of the major, Salvation Army staff and volunteers in providing mobile delivery of free and reduced priced breakfasts and lunches to students during COVID-19 school closures.

“The school district looked for partner agencies all throughout Peoria to assist in the distribution of meals to the city’s families, and The Salvation Army, led by Major Sells, played a vital part in the planning, execution, and delivery,” said Joshua Collins, director of transportation and fleet services for Peoria Public Schools.

The partnership with Peoria Public Schools enabled Major Heath and his team to reach the district’s most vulnerable families, many of whom live in food deserts without reliable transportation. In Peoria Citadel’s service area, up to 83 percent of students were identified as needing this service. Volunteers followed a schedule of 5 to 7 stops a day, parking in areas that provided easy and safe access for students and families.

“One of The Salvation Army’s unique strengths is being able to respond quickly to meet community needs,” said Major Heath. “Our team faced several challenges in delivering the meals, including weather, social distancing and COVID-19 protocols, but our dedicated volunteers were able to adapt quickly to provide the support that was needed.”

In total, the major and his team provided 78,000 meals from March through August 2020. In addition to providing meals, they had the opportunity to connect with students and families, offer prayer and provide emotional and spiritual care amidst the challenges of the pandemic and transition to remote learning.

“I am humbled by this recognition and honored to serve students in Peoria alongside our amazing staff and volunteers,” concluded Major Heath. “They are truly the hands and feet of Christ.”

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**Employment Opportunity**

**Youth Ministries Coordinator**

The Decatur, Ill., Corps has an opening for a youth ministries coordinator. This person will be responsible to develop youth and young adults in their faith and character through corps programs and ministries; increase corps programs and outreach to youth and young adults; provide oversight to multiple youth programs by giving program leadership and/or providing guidance, support and basic training to youth leaders within the corps. Candidates must be Christian and have a passion for fulfilling The Salvation Army’s mission and must be articulate in presenting it to others.

Visit: centralusa.salvationarmy.org/usc/employment/
Enter the job title and Decatur in the search bar.

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**Arise and Shine**

*New Day*

*Isaiah 43:19*

**January 28-29, 2022**

Cost: $25

REGISTER HERE: www.uscwomensministries.com
3,791 days and counting

by Captain Claudia Simmons

After a year of uncertainty, lockdowns, zero socializing and online schooling, youth were eager to attend Camp Mihaska. There were 38 children registered to attend Kids Camp A. With preparation finished and prayers lifted for a successful summer, we began training the camp ministry team. Many discussions took place over the week of training along with deep relationship-building. The team spent the majority of their time working on their worship elements: a skit called “God’s Chisel Remastered” and interpretive movements called “Rods.”

These elements of worship set the mood for a dynamic evening which I was not expecting. It’s beside me why I didn’t expect God to show up. I had been consumed by the details of camp and needing to make sure everything ran smoothly, but God reminded me what is important and where my focus needs to be. When I say God showed up, that is an understatement. After the devotional, we had an altar call, and nearly every child responded, 36 to be exact. As the children came to the altar the youth department and staff began praying with them, leading many to Jesus. Even the toughest children responded.

As I sat and watched children respond to God’s Spirit, my heart was moved. I drew close to my officer’s covenant which states, “Called by God to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Later on, it reads, “To live to win souls and make their salvation the first purpose of my life.”

Kids Camp A was a success not because of all the details, planning, decorations or anything else, but because the campers left with a relationship with Jesus which is way more meaningful. They were moved by the Holy Spirit to come to Jesus. I pray I will continue to be obedient to God’s Spirit. When He asks me to move. I will recall the summer of 2021 and the faith those children showed to me.

I am thankful every day for my calling and being part of such a beautiful ministry.

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Continued from page 1

During a time of response, Captain Hanton asked people to pledge to be reflectors of holiness by writing their names on a mirror on the stage and considering them as officership.

The rest of the weekend events took place at the CFOT and mirrored a day in the life of a cadet. With the theme “Lead me, Holy Spirit,” worship services followed a progression: to be filled, to hear, to follow, then to lead.

On Saturday cadet hosts gave delegates a campus tour before morning prayers led by Cadet Adam Hines. Afterwards, delegates and officers took a group picture in official weekend sweatshirts, a 730 weekend tradition. Next “cadet connection” small groups provided an opportunity for delegates to ask questions and hear perspectives of cadets, divisional candidates’ secretaries and CFOT officers.

The worship service included a testimony from A/C Trevor Hall about his experience as a Ministry Discovery intern. Captains Abraham and Leta Martin preached, fluidly alternating between English and Spanish, a technique which worked well. They implored delegates to listen and be obedient to God.

After lunch, delegates participated in an informal session with Blake and Jill Lanier about the Candidate Coaching Action Plan (CAP) in preparation for entering training, during a panel discussion with members of the territorial leadership team, CFOT officers and a soldier representative, delegates asked questions about CFOT life, academics, the candidate process, officership and leadership.

A late afternoon praise meeting included a testimony by Cadet LeToyia Surratt and a message by Captain Heidi Strand, Royal Oak, Mich., corps officer, that shared biblical examples of following God.

Dinner was served by Territorial Cabinet members and gave delegates a taste of Chicago deep dish pizza. Later that evening an outdoor “glamping” fellowship featured luxurious seating around campfires and gourmet s’mores and milkshakes. The day ended with an event for singles which was added to the schedule from feedback in past 730 conference surveys.

Sunday featured “cadet connection” small groups and a worship service where Captain Claudia Simmons, assistant territorial candidates’ secretary, gave her testimony about being redeemed and the privilege of being an officer. Captain AJ Zimmerman then challenged delegates, “You have to be led by the Spirit and sometimes the Spirit takes you to places that are uncomfortable. Don’t be surprised when you are going where God wants you to that the enemy will try to trip you up. Don’t be shocked, be ready.”

Trevor and Julie Reed

Multi-generational Salvationist ◆ First-generation Salvationist

St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps ◆ Midland Division

Captains Matt and Marisa McCluer, corps officers
Captains Christopher and Rachel White, former corps officers

Spiritual Gifts
Trevor: Leadership ◆ Teaching
Julie: Mercy ◆ Serving ◆ Teaching

Ministry Passion or Experience
Trevor: Worship ◆ Preaching/Teaching
Julie: Social Services ◆ Preaching/Teaching

Spiritual mentors
Trevor: Granda Carl
Julie: Aunt Colleen
Braving the Storm

Hurricane Ida—the second most destructive hurricane only to Hurricane Katrina to hit Louisiana—slammed onto the coast near Port Fourchon, La., on August 29, 2021, causing massive damage, including widespread flooding and power outages in the southeast and northeast United States.

The Salvation Army, which is working only to Hurricane Katrina—one of the most destructive hurricanes to hit Louisiana—slammed onto the coast near Port Fourchon, La., on August 29, 2021, causing massive damage, including widespread flooding and power outages in the southeast and northeast United States.

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Choosing a life-giving path

"Nobody left my neighborhood unless they were dead or in prison," said Tyree Maynard of his childhood. "I know for a fact that if it weren’t for God and my faith, my life would have gone down a very different path."

Growing up in Chicago’s Austin neighborhood, Tyree couldn’t ignore gang territories or miss drug deals taking place on the corner. One wrong step could have dire consequences. To varying degrees, members of his family were involved and it would have been easy to follow in their footsteps.

"I didn’t have ‘the look’ to be a drug dealer or gang member," he said. "I looked too nerdy, too Urkel or Carlton, to be part of it, so no—"

Tyree takes a call at a divisional radiothon

Body tried to force me into it. But I also saw what it did to the people I love, my community, and decided this isn’t the right route."

Tyree’s first tentative steps on a different path came when he was 9 and a friend invited him to Sunday school at the Chicago Midwest Corps.

"I remember thinking how nice and quiet and peaceful it was at the corps," he said. From then on, Tyree relished the solace of attending corps programs and worship services and saw time and again God’s providence in his life.

When he began high school, Tyree found himself in a sea of more than 700 students. A studious kid, he was an easy target for bullies. But as he entered the lunchroom and the territory, called

An interpretive space is planned to educate both Salvationists and the public about current and emerging topics related to social justice and urban mission through portable immersive experiences that can be used at events or loaned to officers seeking to highlight specific issues of justice.

To assist in bringing the CSJUM to fruition, two new staff members have joined the team. Elyse Dobney, formerly program manager of the Stop-It Initiative against human trafficking in the Metropolitan Division, has come on board as program director, and I have transitioned from working at the College for Officers Training to serving as CSJUM administrative assistant.

"I am pleased to have Elyse and Clara as part of my team," said Major Katherine. "I am confident that they will bring both drive and passion to the mission and purpose for which the CSJUM has been established."

Until the physical building is completed, a website has been developed to function as a virtual front door to the CSJUM, serving to keep the territory up-to-date on initiatives and endeavors and to enable the CSJUM to connect with the territory to educate, equip and engage Salvationists and members of the public.

For more information, visit sajuncticc.org

Tyree with Captain Paul James

Major Katherine Clausell, social justice and urban mission secretary, with her new staff, Elyse Dobney, program director, and Clara Novy, administrative assistant.
The theme verse for MOMENTUM, the territorial men’s conference, aims to spark hope, create fresh avenues for ministry and build momentum among men of the Central Territory.

With over 800 men anticipated, Momentum could be the largest in-person territorial conference in two years. Momentum will be held March 11-13, 2022, at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carolville, Ill., for men ages 18 or older. Don’t miss out on this lineup of special guests.

Dr. Eric Mason, pastor of Epiphany Fellowship in Philadelphia, Pa., is the author of several books including Manhood Restored, Wake Church, and Unleashed. Dr. Mason will speak at two sessions. Carlos Whittaker is a People’s Choice Award winner and social media maven. He currently spends most of his time writing books and speaking on stages around the world. His book, Moment Maher, encourages people to make the best of every moment. Carlos will speak at two sessions. Vocalist Anthony Evans is a singer/songwriter, actor and author. He has collaborated on inspirational events with his father, internationally beloved pastor and speaker, Dr. Tony Evans. Anthony’s music allows him to connect with people spiritually no matter where they are in their journey with the Lord. He will perform a concert on Saturday evening.

Throughout the weekend, the Territorial Worship Collective will lead praise and worship. Building on the momentum of the guest speakers, Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey will wrap up the conference, challenging delegates to grow in their walks with Christ and be the men God has created them to be.

“My prayer is that God will not only refresh and reawaken our journeys in Christ, but that His Spirit will also guide and transform us as men to daily live out holiness,” said Captain Michael Sjogren, territorial men’s ministries secretary.

A familiar venue from past men’s conferences, Lake Williamson is ideal for lodging, meals, activities and group meetings. Free time indoor activities include swimming, blacklight miniature golf, basketball, ping-pong, volleyball, a fitness center and more.

Men who are not able to attend can watch livestreamed main sessions by registering for $25.

For more info and to register visit: centralmensconference.com

By Mark Bender

**For the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!” [Isaiah 43:18, NIV].**

**Brave men and women raise thousands for Salvation Army housing and homelessness-prevention programs**

Two hundred men and women of all ages and backgrounds took the plunge at The Salvation Army’s Down for the Challenge rappelling event at the Mall of America, descending the JW Marriott hotel to fight homelessness.

Most were nervous as they stood on the edge of the hotel roof, staring wide-eyed at the pavement 14 stories below.

“It was scarier than I thought,” admitted a rappeler named Rachel, chuckling, after she’d reached the bottom. “I thought I would be fine, but it turns out I was lying to myself.”

Despite her fears, Rachel said she would do it again to help people in need. She works at a Minneapolis hospital, where she sees firsthand the problems associated with homelessness.

“Many of the patients we serve are homeless,” Rachel said. “It’s a complicated problem without a straight answer. But if we all chip in, we can make things better for everybody.”

Down for the Challenge raised tens of thousands of dollars for Salvation Army housing and homelessness-prevention programs in the Twin Cities. The Salvation Army operates 25 Minnesota housing facilities that shelter hundreds of people every night, with rent assistance programs that last year saved 2,400 local households from eviction.

Staff from several event sponsors participated in the event, including Jill Renslow, executive vice president of business development for Mall of America.

“Mall of America is honored to partner with The Salvation Army and be the host site for Down for the Challenge,” Renslow said during a press conference.

Many staff from event sponsor Morrie’s Auto Group joined the fun as well, including members of the company’s executive team and team members from each of Morrie’s locations in Minnesota.

“It’s important that we step out of our comfort zone and challenge ourselves to be more, as well as challenge ourselves to create more awareness for others in need,” said Lance Iserman, CEO of Morrie’s Auto Group.

Additional sponsors included Cub, Minnesota Vikings, K102, Lifetime Fitness, Conquer Ninja, Finish Line Wellness, DJ Bonics, Minnesota Twins, Star Tribune, SKECHERS, The Window Store, Parkitect, and Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota.

“Thank you to every rappeler, donor, volunteer and partner for making this event a reality,” said Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings, Northern diocesan commander. “Your efforts have helped The Salvation Army to keep people in their homes and off the streets.”

By Craig Dirkes
Holland Corps recognized for excellence

Building relationships, providing pastoral care and matching families with the right resources to reach their goals have all contributed to the Holland, Mich., Corps’ successful implementation of Pathway of Hope (POH). For their excellence in helping families move toward greater stability and sufficiency using the POH initiative, the corps recently received a Pathway of Hope Outstanding Corps Award.

Currently 16 families are enrolled in POH at the Holland Corps, where a team of staff and volunteers works cohesively to serve families from a holistic perspective, assessing needs, identifying goals and supporting each family through the joys and challenges of making strides toward improving their lives.

“It is amazing to see the change in people from the first time we meet to completion of POH,” said Melanie Weaver, social services director. “I’ve seen people really grow in their hope, confidence and faith. It’s so rewarding to watch as they accomplish their goals.”

Though in-person consultations and meetings were put on hold due to the pandemic, new families have joined POH this year, meeting with case workers over virtual platforms and phone calls to check in, create goals and receive direction and resources.

“It has worked out really well to be able to connect this way,” said Melanie. “Without the requirement of in-person visits, our reach has expanded and made POH more accessible to families who live farther out.”

In addition, the pandemic served to strengthen collaborations with other local service agencies, providing a network of support that helps ensure the right services are received by each family.

“We are very blessed in this area with a lot of great resources and agencies working together,” said Melanie.

One of these collaborations includes a farm-to-table arrangement that delivers freshly harvested fruits and vegetables to the food pantry for distribution. Others offer assistance with finding affordable housing or paying rent and utility bills. At times, several agencies come together to meet a specific need, such as arranging the installment of a new roof for a client who couldn’t afford the necessary repairs to keep her home livable.

Beyond addressing immediate physical needs, the team offers pastoral care. Majors Amos and Cyndi Shields, corps officers, work to connect participants with local retired officers to ensure continuation of care in the event of staff turnover or officer reassignment. Families also are welcome to enroll in corps youth activities or programs like summer day camp, an invitation many have gratefully accepted. Corps members take time to intentionally connect with families through volunteering during social service events like Christmas and back-to-school distributions and hosting an ice cream social for day camp participants and their families.

Looking forward, Melanie and her team hope to expand the reach of POH in the Holland area even further.

She concluded, “My hope is that this award will help us get the word out about Pathway of Hope, both to prospective participants and to potential donors, so more people can learn about this great opportunity and utilize it.”

Pathway of Hope featured on podcast

To learn more about POH and the corps, visit www.caringmazine.org.

The November 2021 edition of the Army’s journal of theology and ministry, Word & Deed, features the Central Territory’s own Dr. Maribeth Swanson, territorial social services director.

Maribeth’s article, The Theology of Hope and its Role in Personal Transformation, focuses on the Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative, a hope-enhanced approach to assist families in breaking the cycle of crisis and vulnerability and put them on a path toward stability and sufficiency. Created and first implemented in the Central Territory in 2012, POH has since been adopted internationally.

You won’t want to miss this opportunity to discover the biblical framework for POH and the vital role of hope in positive personal transformation, along with the initiative’s outcomes so far and lessons learned along the way.

To order a copy, visit thewarcry.org, click on Word and Deed at bottom of front page.

*Every active officer receives a copy.
Joy, joy and more joy!

by Bandmaster Harold Burgmayer

In the face of the ongoing pandemic, prevailing travel restrictions, escalating costs and financial restraints, it seemed impossible that a Chicago Staff Band (CSB) ensemble could travel across the world for the Nigeria Territory’s Centenary Congress, but God’s glory shines brightest in the midst of the seemingly impossible.

With resourceful and resilient support of leaders from both the USA Central and Nigeria territories, the CSB ensemble traveled to Africa—only the second time a staff band has visited this continent. The ensemble included: Marc Smith (Eb soprano and Bb cornet); Isaac Leka (flugelhorn and cornet); Rachel Jordan (cornet); Laura Axles (horn); Abraham Leka (baritone); Tom Hanton (trombone); Nathan Hellstrom (euphonium); Jon Weller (Eb Bass); Jude St-Aime (Eb Bass); Sam Leka (drums); supported by Miriam Leka.

Prelude to Congress

Following a seven-day quarantine and COVID-19 testing, we were delighted to engage in two days of rehearsal with the Nigeria Territorial Band (NTB). Leading sections presented marvelous opportunities for interaction and coaching and resulted in improved teamwork and budding friendships; Nigerians sought us out and connections felt warm and personal. Each day we witnessed marked improvement in the quality of sound, blend and dynamic range. Nigerian improvement in the quality of sound, on the march, seemingly without tire. Shifted to a very pleasing sound at a friend’s birthday, seemingly impossible.

A welcome meeting was held at the new Igbobi Corps. In response to corridors when playing hymns, they improvise choruses, particularly blend and dynamic range. Nigerian improvement in the quality of sound, on the march, seemingly without tire. Shifted to a very pleasing sound at a friend’s birthday, seemingly impossible.

The program featured a set of tune books, music stand and the 10 instruments (including a drum set) used on the trip.

Wednesday was spent traveling and preparing for the evening concert at Terra Kulture on Victoria Island in Lagos. The program featured the NTB, supported by the CSB ensemble, playing Celebration Overture (Cordner), Where Duty Calls (Jakenway), They Shall Come from the East (Larsson) and the William Tell Overture (Rossini). We delighted in the NTS’s robust singing of “God, we will give you glory” (Redhead) and a demanding arrangement of a traditional Yoruba song. The Lagos Divisional Timbrelists provided two drills, giving fluid movement to Carindale 2010 (Creamer) and Norwich Citadel (Drury). Dance team Boundless Expressions combined recorded spoken word and song (which included a musical quote of the Hallelujah Choruses setting of Storm the Forts of Darkness) into a collage of traditional and hip-hop dance. Topping it off we heard an astounding rendition of Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring and the William Tell Overture performed on a solo harmonica.

The CSB performed an exciting mix of upbeat selections and touching ethnic expressions including the Cuban Malaguena (Lecuona) and the big band standard Gospel John (Steinberg) featuring Marc Smith on cornet and Tom Hanton on trombone. Returning home to Lagos after more than a decade living in the U.S., Isaac Leka was featured with a relaxed jazz tone on flugelhorn with So Glad (Himes). With the help of Isaac’s dad, Abraham, I prepared a “surprise” lively arrangement of six Nigerian Christian songs, titled Songs of Naija, which met with thunderous applause and resulted in two encores.

March of Witness

Friday morning we joined hundreds of uniformed Salvationists headed into a soccer stadium. Surprisingly, everyone wore blue uniform forms which are typically worn during the rainy season. A parade was organized with a color guard of Salvation Army and national flags, followed by the NTBS, cadets and then divisional delegations. Each division passed with a flag bearer, divisional leaders, those in cultural outfits followed by smartly dressed soldiers. Marching in rows of two because of COVID-19 restrictions, the lineup seemed endless, reaching nearly twice the length of the track. Nigerians enjoy marching and do so effortlessly, using a unique heel-toe movement with a lift and aggressively swinging arm motion that looks very sharp.
Without tune books the bands played songs like “Onward Christian Soldiers,” “He’s got the whole world in His hands,” and Nigerian Christian songs. The tunes happened in quick succession, building on one another, usually with cornets commencing a new song harmonizing in triads and the lower brass responding with the same tune in their octave, occasionally with the full band coming together. It was impressive to hear the flourishes and harmonies, with excellent bass lines. The percussion battery was unyielding, keeping a strong, steady pace, shifting easily between steady pace, shifting easily between

The final meeting that day was a youth concert featuring a comedian, dancers, a large Singing Company, the NTS and other cultural presentations. The NTB shared the spirited Celebration Overture (Cordner) and encouraged the crowd to sing along on “You Are Good” (Burgmayer). Two unique features were a beauty pageant, with couples being judged in traditional dress and the launching of the centenary album, Boundless Possibilities.

**Final Day**

The NTBS and CSB were dressed in festival reds, while the remaining 1,500 Salvationists were smartly dressed in white uniforms. The NTB supported a lively procession of leaders and cadets, heartfelt singing and the commissioning and ordination of the “Messengers of Grace” session.

Highlights included “They shall come from the East” (Larsson) combining the NTBS with a timbrel which included the CSB and other cultural presentations.

**Centenary Wrapper**

On Saturday the CSB headed to the arena dressed in the Nigerians’ traditional “centenary” shirt with ladies in matching skirts custom made for each member. We were greeted by a sea of similarly dressed Salvationists wearing handsewn outfits using the purple “centenary wrapper” fabric with its embedded crest and centenary logo but modified in their own indigenous fashion. After a morning prayer session, men’s and women’s rallies were held.

In the afternoon, the CSB shared an impromptu open-air concert featuring our full repertoire. The crowd encircled us five and six rows deep, with a wall of cameras recording each piece.

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**The Salvation Army**

**December Prayer Calendar**

<table>
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<th>My Prayer List</th>
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<th>Pray For The Salvation Army</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1 John 2:1-9</td>
<td>Bay City, Mich., Corps</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1 John 3:20</td>
<td>Toy-Shop Ministries</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>1 John 4:7-21</td>
<td>Chicago Lawn, IL, Corps</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1 John 5:1-12</td>
<td>Harrow, Ireland, and the Faeroes Territory</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Psalms 148</td>
<td>Crystal Lake, IL, Corps</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Psalms 24</td>
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<td>Proverbs 30:1-14</td>
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<td>Micah 3:1-6</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Isaiah 7:10-15</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Isaiah 11:1-10</td>
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<td>Matthew 2:17-23</td>
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<td>Jude 1:17-25</td>
<td>INMANUAL, GOD WITH US</td>
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<td>Proverbs 31:10-20</td>
<td>Wyandotte, Mich., Corps</td>
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<td>Missionaries Overseas</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Revelation 20:11-15</td>
<td>Families served during this season</td>
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<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Proverbs 21:1-17</td>
<td>Thankful for God’s provision during the year</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

If you follow the prayer calendar during the year, you will have read through the Bible!
Mrs. Major Shirley Clark

Mrs. Major Shirley Clark was promoted to Glory on July 30, 2021. Shirley loved teaching children about Jesus, women’s ministries and raising funds for World Services. She was an amazingly gifted musician, playing several instruments and singing.

She was born June 15, 1924, to Richard and Clara Rowe. She met The Salvation Army in Hancock, Mich., by responding to a request by the corps for a piano player. There she found her calling to fulltime ministry. She was commissioned as an officer in 1947.

In June 1952 she married Lt. Alvin Clark, and they spent the next 60 years together. They held corps appointments in Upper Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and Minnesota before retiring in 1992 from the Traverse City, Mich., Corps.

In retirement, Shirley soldiered at the Hancock and Kalamazoo, Mich., corps. Her interests included crocheting and knitting, music, genealogy and the Green Bay Packers.

She was preceded in death by her husband and six siblings. She is survived by her children, Majors David (Bonnie), Joel (Jane) and Rhoda; 9 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Don Lucas; nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mrs. Major Jessie Curtis

Mrs. Major Jessie Curtis was promoted to Glory on July 15, 2021. A third-generation Salvationist, she was active in corps her entire life, using her beautiful soprano voice and other gifts to the glory of God.

Jessie was born on November 3, 1930. She met George Curtis while attending the Detroit Grandale, Mich., Corps where both of their families attended. They married on December 3, 1948. In 1951, they were commissioned with the “Ambassadors” session. Together they served in corps appointments in Michigan and Illinois, and after a break in service during which they remained active, soldiers, returned to officership and led corps in Wisconsin and Minnesota before retiring in 1994.

In retirement, Jessie was active at the Grand Rapids Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps where she served as women’s ministries chaplain and corps cadet counselor and sang with the songsters. Outside her church activities, Jessie was an avid fan of the Detroit sports teams, especially the Red Wings, and enjoyed playing card and board games and reading.

Jessie was preceded in death by her husband, George, daughter-in-law, Dawn, and brother-in-law, Eugene Telken. She is survived by her sister, Margaret Telken; children, Steve, Major Kathy (Robert) Edmonds, Laura (Randall) Velen, and Timothy; seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, family members and friends.

Major Richard Justvig

Major Richard Justvig was promoted to Glory on August 4, 2021. Dick was a joyful, humble servant of God, devoted to studying God’s Word, prayer and wanting others to have a relationship with Christ.

He was born February 21, 1933, in Kansas City, Mo., to Lt. Colonel and Mrs. Birger Justvig. In his early teens he came to know Christ. He entered the School for Officers’ Training with the “Shepherds” session and was commissioned in 1954.

He married Thelma Walters in 1978. In 1984 he reentered officership and they served together until 1990 when Virginia was promoted to Glory after battling cancer.

Dick continued in ministry and in 1991 married Major Mary Boyert with whom he served until their retirement in 1998. Post-retirement, Dick held several interim appointments, including three months in Russia. He also served as St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., corps sergeant-major (CSM) and instituted a CSM fellowship in the Midland Division. For this and the establishment of Heart, a program for healing and restoration for former officers, he was awarded the Exceptional Service Award in 2017.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents and brothers James (Jim) and David. He is survived by his wife, Mary, son Scott (Joan), daughter Valerie (Rob) Gates, and granddaughter Sarah Gates.

Commissioner Robert Steven Hedgren

Commissioner Steve Hedgren was promoted to Glory on August 25, 2021, after an 11-year battle with cancer which he faced with faith and fervor. A visionary leader with a dynamic personality, he began his officer service in the Central Territory and went on to impact the larger Salvation Army.

Steve was born on March 7, 1950, in Chicago, Ill., to Salvationist parents, Robert and Eleanor Hedgren. Growing up, he was involved in band, songsters, corps cadets and other corps activities. After graduating high school, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Northern Illinois University, then attended the Institute for Biblical Studies and became a staff member for the Campus Crusade for Christ ministry at Arizona State University.

On April 12, 1975, he married Judith Ann White. They were commissioned as members of the “Disciples of Jesus” session in 1978. After serving in corps appointments and being Midland divisional youth secretaries, they transferred in 1991 to the Southern Territory, where they eventually became divisional leaders in the Arkansas/Oklahoma and Florida divisions. Later Steve became chief secretary then territorial commander in the Eastern Territory. The Hedgrens retired in April 2016. Post retirement he continued to serve as he was able. He also co-authored a book, Mapping Our Salvationist DNA.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Debbie, and brother-in-law, Jerry Sjogren. He is survived by his wife, Commissioner Judy sisters Lt. Colonel Diane (Norman) Marshall and Claudia Sjogren; children, Captain Heather (Jay) and Matt (Jessica); and six grandchildren.

Brigadier Frank Hovelman

On August 7, 2021, Brigadier Frank “Bud” Hovelman was promoted to Glory at the age of 99—just one month short of 100 years. He was a godly man known for his compassion, generosity, gentle spirit, work ethic and sense of fun.

He was born on September 2, 1921, in Cincinnati, Ohio. After attending Christ at an open-air meeting, Frank attended the Cincinnati Citadel Corps. He entered officer training in Chicago as a member of the “Valiant” session and was commissioned in 1943.

While stationed in the Indiana Division, he met and married Lt. Bessie Shadown. They served together for 23 years and had three daughters before she was promoted to Glory in a tragic car accident.

During his appointment as assistant Trade secretary, Frank met Thelma Hamsmeyer, a lifelong Salvationist. They eventually fell in love and after her commissioning in 1971 they were married. Frank and Thelma served at the Wichita Citadel, Kan., Corps, in men’s social services (now adult rehabilitation center) appointments and at Territorial Headquarters, where Frank led the officer and employee services bureau. Frank was privileged to serve as aide-de-camp to five generals while they visited the territory.

He was survived by his wife Thelma of 50 years; children Major Kathleen, Elizabeth (Carl) Johansen and Joy Hoskins; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.