



Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory
News and Views from the Midwest

"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

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The bread of champions

Commissioner Evie Diaz installed, "Champions of the Mission" welcomed

An atmosphere of joy and expectation pervaded the auditorium as Salvationists gathered for the installation of Commissioner Evie Diaz as territorial commander and to welcome the "Champions of the Mission" session of cadets. A rousing rendition of "Storm the forts of darkness" by the Chicago Staff Band, "We are not ashamed" by the College for Officer Training (CFOT) United Chorus and worship led by the CFOT praise team added to the sense of unity.

Commissioner Evie was enthusiastically welcomed home with an ex-

tended ovation upon her installation by Commissioner David Hudson, who prayed, "We are so grateful for the God that called her, that He strengthened her and brought her to this place, because she truly is the person for this moment."

In a light-hearted manner as he welcomed the "Champions of the Mission," Major John Pook, CFOT principal, led the congregation in an impromptu singing of the rock classic "We are the champions,"—not of the world but of the mission. Then in a more serious tone, he commended the session as recipients of the mission of The Salvation Army and ambassadors of that mission to the world.

"I could not think of a better song than 'Storm the forts of darkness' for the 'Champions of the Mission,'" he said. "'Champions of the Mission' is

more than just a session name. It's who they are. It's what they will do. They are all in."

The session is comprised of several multi-generational Salvationists, with one cadet's heritage going back six generations, as well as nine first-generation Salvationists. This diverse group of individuals, which is truly international, comes from a wide range of experiences and backgrounds. Each one has proclaimed his or her commitment to serve God as an officer.

Speaking for the first time to the Central Territory as their leader, Commissioner Evie shared her desire to see how the Lord is working and will work throughout the territory.

"I look forward to seeing you," she said, "to see how God is working in and through you to transform communities and to share the love of Jesus, to be a light in our world to let people know they are loved by God and cared for by us."

Continued on page 2



"Champions of the Mission" session



Commissioner Evie Diaz salutes upon being installed as Territorial Commander by Commissioner David Hudson.

Photos by Andrew Grey and Charles Rex Arbogast

Council targets human trafficking

Reaffirming its commitment to The Salvation Army's anti-human trafficking efforts, the Central Territory has revitalized its council on this issue.

Led by Major Katherine Clausell, territorial social justice and city mission secretary, the Central Territorial Anti-Human

Trafficking Council recently met. The newly reformed council is composed of 15 members, a small but focused group of individuals who are passionate about responding to human trafficking and are working on it in their communities. Membership ranges from corps officers to divisional social services directors.

Instead of introducing large programs or making recommendations, the new council's focus is to encourage, equip and resource corps and institutions to incorporate anti-trafficking efforts into their current ministries, whether the food pantry or sunbeams.

"Our corps are doing incredible work already," said Elyse Dobney, territorial anti-trafficking contact person, indicating that prevention to trafficking is key and where so much of our impact can be. "Our goal is to see our ministries understand the ways in which they are already working to prevent human trafficking and to more intentionally engage in these conversations. While it is crucial that we provide support to people who have already experienced exploitation, we want to prioritize preventing additional people from the lived experience of trafficking."

The council hopes to foster awareness by facilitating free training that helps

corps officers, staff and members recognize what trafficking looks like and understand how to engage effectively and safely. They will be better prepared to respond in appropriate ways as survivors are connected with The Salvation Army. It is anticipated this will increase as more intentional partnerships are developed in communities across the Midwest.

As part of resourcing the field, the council also will create a viable action plan for the territory based on the International Social Justice Commission's Fight for Freedom strategy.

"I'm so glad The Salvation Army is on the frontlines helping people know they are valued, and that there is a way out," said council member Major Rhegan Stansbury. "I'm honored to be a part of the Territorial Anti-Human Trafficking Council to continue to educate others and amplify voices that are often dismissed."



Members of the newly reformed Territorial Anti-Human Trafficking Council

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God sends people

by Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings
Territorial Secretary for Personnel

In my role as personnel secretary at territorial headquarters, I have given a great deal of thought to the concept of appointments and the sending of officers from one place to another. It is a practice that seems foreign to those outside of our organization. Why do we subject ourselves to it?

Every officer who receives a commission immediately is initiated into the practice. What makes it even more unique is that brand-new officers not only are sent but they are sent in a very public way. In the presence of an audience, individuals

eagerly await the words spoken by their territorial leader: "You are appointed to..." Others who already are serving across the territory wonder each spring if the phone call will come for them to move from one place to the next.

It is not for the sake of tradition, or only practicality, that we put ourselves through this ritual. There is something deeply theological about the practice of sending. It begins with an acknowledgement that we serve a sending God. At the heart of missional theology is the understanding that God sends people.



God sent Adam and Eve into a freshly created world with the responsibility to manage and care for it. God sent Abraham from the comfort and familiarity of home toward a land that would serve as a promised inheritance for the Lord's people. God sent Noah to an epic redemptive mission that would give creation a second chance. God sent Moses from the wilderness of exile to the throne of the pharaoh to demand God's people be set free. Jesus

sent His disciples out into ever-growing concentric circles to share the Good News with their community, region and even to the ends of the earth. The Father and the Son have sent the Holy Spirit to guide the Church.

When God intends to do something of any significance in this world, He sends people. Often, they protest based on doubts about their ability or worthiness. However, Dutch theologian Henri Nouwen explains, "We are sent out to teach, to heal, to inspire, and to offer hope to the world—not as the exercise of our unique skill, but as the expression of our faith."

It is God sending and our response in faith that connects us to this holy mission.

Cadets welcome Continued from page 1



She continued, sharing a simple yet significant vision for Salvationists from Acts Chapter 4: "They took note

that they had been with Jesus." She surmised, "I say to you, if that's all that people say about us, Central

Territory, that's pretty good. In fact, that's awesome. To live so that people take note that we have been with Jesus."

Addressing the cadets and territory in her message from John 6:27-35, the commissioner then challenged them to believe in Jesus and partake of Him as the Bread of Life.

"[Jesus is] the bread that satisfies your soul," she said. "That gives you life that won't go stale or spoil. That gives you life that is abundant, eternal, transforming, redeeming, satisfying—the fullness of God in you and me and us. And that's the

bread of champions because the real champion is Jesus."

A time of reflection during which the Holy Spirit moved several in the auditorium to offer heartfelt prayers aloud as others gathered at the altar or in groups to lift one another up was a powerful reminder of God's presence and His work in the hearts of Salvationists.

Concluding the service, Captain Brianne Bowers, North & Central Illinois divisional candidates' secretary, invited the audience to assume postures of prayer as they considered with open hearts what God desires for their lives. The platform quickly filled with those accepting God's call and making a public declaration of their intention to pursue fulltime ministry as officers in The Salvation Army.

A different path to full-time service



At the College for Officer Training (front row): Envoy Laura Moore, Envoy Melissa Murray, Envoy CeCe Coffey, (back row) Principal Major John Pook, guest presenter David Winters, A/C David Hamilton and Major Beth Petrie, distance learning coordinator.

by Major Beth Petrie

"God blessed the broken road that led me straight to you..." is a lyric which often comes to my mind in a different context as I work with auxiliary captains and envoys across the Central Territory. While some have received a new call to ministry, many are fulfilling a call that wasn't answered earlier in their lives.

The Distance Learning Program (DLP) supports the territory by assisting second- and third-career individuals transitioning into full-time Salvation Army ministry through non-traditional means. They are often in their late 40s or mid-50s—as long as they can give at least 10 years of service.

Auxiliary captains are soldiers who complete the candidacy process through their corps officer and divisional candidates' secretary and for whom it is determined that immediate appointment to the field is appropriate. Their path to full officership includes five years of service and completion of the full DLP. If married, both individuals are required to become ACs and complete these steps.

Envoys are soldiers who are employed by their division to take on ministry roles similar to that of officers. They remain employees and are opted into the DLP as their divisional commander requests. If married, their spouse must support their work but is not required to participate.

The full DLP consists of 18 classes which are taken one per quarter over a three- to four-year period. These classes include doctrine, busi-

ness and corps administration, moral and ethical issues, Salvation Army and church history, spiritual formation, pastoral care and counseling, comparative religions, Bible classes, biblical interpretation, and preaching. Based on each individual's background, some of these classes may be exempted.

DLP courses are presented in various ways including online asynchronous (curriculum is set and assignments are completed independently within a certain time-frame), remote synchronous (participated in remotely but at the same time with other students and teacher), in-person intensives, independent studies, practicums and seminars. Twice a year, distance learners travel to Chicago for week-long classes and to enjoy the opportunity to engage with cadets and staff on the beautiful grounds of the College for Officer Training (CFOT).

"I wish I would've gone to CFOT when I was younger," said Envoy Melissa Murray, pastoral care associate in the Great Lakes Harbor Light System, who is currently a DLP student. Having overcome addiction and being older and wiser, she has been given another chance to respond to the call of God on her life as she serves in ministry every day.

It is never too late to respond to God's call. There is a place of service for you. Distance Learning may help you find it. Don't hesitate to talk with your corps officer and divisional candidates' secretary.

To read inspiring personal stories of some auxiliary captains and envoys, see page 10.



A Spirit-filled time of worship is led by the CFOT praise team.



CFOT Principal Major John Pook introduces the "Champions of the Mission" session.



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

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Founder

LYNDON BUCKINGHAM
General

COMMISSIONER EVIE DIAZ
Territorial Commander

ELIZABETH KINZIE
Editor

TWYLA STEINSLAND
Writer/Editor

LAURA STEWART
Publications Coordinator/Writer

ALEXANDRIA GAUTHIER
Digital Media Coordinator

HELENA TURNER
Administrative Assistant

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Graphic Design and Production

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Going where the people are

by Lexy Buckley and Major Kathy Hellstrom

The Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps participated for the second year in "Serve Day," an event in which thousands of churches globally go into their communities to share the love of God through acts of kindness and service on the same day.

Although this event happens once a year, getting out into the community and serving is part of Flint Citadel's ongoing ministry and discipleship plan in which everything is divided into four pillars: Sunday services, small groups, soldiership, and serve teams.



Soldier Penny Bonner talks with a festival attendee.

in their neighborhood, their response was shock and nervousness. However, within minutes of discussion, they understood our role as believers is to be light in the darkness, and their position changed as hope entered their eyes.

When other concerns arose, our team members reminded each other of our roots in The Salvation Army when bricks and beer bottles were thrown at William Booth while he reached out to "the least, the last, and the lost," with soup, soap and salvation. That gave us courage and strength to move forward. But no one expected to see the large turnout the day of the event.

We served approximately 700 hot dogs and snow cones from our canteen and provided face painting and games.

Rob Linker and ministry intern Justin Buckley manned a table where they gave away Bibles and prayed with many people. Some people received Christ for the first time.

Youth ministries coordinator Shawna Oltz and soldier Penny Bonner handed out blessing bags filled with hygiene products, bottled water and information about corps programs and resources.

Major Kathy Hellstrom, Flint Citadel corps officer, and Tim Hacker, former tattoo artist and Adult Rehabilitation Center graduate, painted more than 1,000 faces!

After being dunked more than 100 times, Major Randy Hellstrom, Mid-Michigan area commander, was replaced in the dunk tank by new corps attendee Kyle Shaffer as children continued to throw balls at the target.

Parents and children were hungry for love, and that day they knew someone cared about them. In fact, for two weeks following the event, there was no crime or violence in the neighborhood that previously experienced it daily. Some people who attended the event are now attending Flint Citadel on Sundays and are

walking with Christ. Twelve children from the neighborhood attended vacation Bible school this summer and children (and some parents) are attending weekly programs this fall.

We are excited for what the future holds and are blessed to have been a part of a very special outreach that is reaping benefits now and for eternity.



Ministry intern Justin Buckley gives away Bibles and prays with many people.

Our outreach serve team, led by soldiers Rob and Taylor Linker, puts on events throughout the year, but none are quite as extensive as "Serve Day." This year we partnered with the sheriff's department to plan an event to promote peace in one of the most impoverished and crime-ridden neighborhoods in our city.



Face painting was a hit!

As the flyer for "Harmony Fest" was shared by social media and email, the event gained lots of attention. Several agencies joined us, but many were concerned because of the area in which it would be held.

Recently, one of our new attendees had been brutally assaulted there, and he and his family lived there in fear. When we approached them about helping with the event



Flint Citadel soldiers Shawna Oltz, Taylor Linker, Tim Hacker, Rob Linker at "Harmony Fest"

From graffiti to abstract art in Clinton



Photo by Nic Jacobs

Susan Sharp uses her artistic talent to transform neglected, graffiti-laden buildings thanks to a grant from the River Bluff Community Foundation.

by Don Rashid

When you hear the words "The Salvation Army," visions of graffiti cleanup probably don't come readily to mind.

But in the Western Division at the 360 Life Center in Clinton, Iowa, graffiti cleanup recently became one of the unit's numerous community-focused efforts.

Director of Ministry and Operations Susan Sharp and her volunteers are using a grant of \$2,500 from the River Bluff Community Foundation to transform 20 long-neglected, graffiti-laden buildings around town. Each is covered in professionally painted abstract art—beautifying both the buildings and their neighborhoods.

Susan said her artwork is intentional in nature.

"My designs feature painted circles, which is a metaphor for bringing a property or neighborhood full-circle on God's gifts," she said.

Her simple, abstract work leaves a bright, fresh exterior on the buildings she's tending to. Susan said she finds it fun to come to work where she paints.

Her goal with this large-scale art

project is to provide a creative spark to an economically depressed area. Research demonstrates that when people clean up their neighborhoods, crime and graffiti decrease.

Susan believes her project is unique within social services circles—and amounts to giving back to the community in a different way.

"I try every day to infuse creativity, honoring people's gifts that God gave them," she said. Her goal is to bring her art into areas where people need it the most.

Twenty-three years of serving as a theater professor and working as an abstract artist inform Susan in her role with The Salvation Army. She likes the flexible structure of the 360 Life Center model, which she believes is well-suited to meeting needs in Clinton. Clients receive assistance with resume writing, job searches and soft skills, along with traditional social services.

Susan said that opportunities abound to positively impact people and neighborhoods, no matter where one lives. Something always needs attention, even if it's as basic as painting a park bench or planting flowers.

Bukiewicz to lead East



Colonels Ralph and Susan Bukiewicz, Central Territory officers serving at National Headquarters as National Chief Secretary and National Secretary for Personnel, have been appointed as territorial leaders of the Eastern Territory. Colonel Ralph Bukiewicz will serve as Territorial Commander and Colonel Susan Bukiewicz as Territorial President of Women's Ministries and Territorial Leader for Officer Development. They will take up their new appointments with the rank of commissioner: Colonel Ralph Bukiewicz on January 1, 2024, and Colonel Susan Bukiewicz on January 2, 2024. They will succeed Commissioners William and Lorraine Bamford who will be retiring.

Service through the years

Violetta Bumpus, 92, has been a member of the women's ministries group in Hillsdale, Mich., for more than 60 years.

"I have always liked to pack groceries for people at Christmas," Violetta recalled. "And I enjoyed working with the toy drives, helping mothers pick out toys for their children. I did that for years."

The women's ministries group currently serves at the Hillsdale 360 Life Center which transitioned from a corps in 2022.

Captain Laura Lunnam, who along with her husband Captain Curtis Lunnam leads the corps in Adrian, Mich., is an administrator at the Life Center and a leader of the women's group. She said the ministry focuses on education, fellowship, worship and service.

"Those ladies committed to keep the ministry going through the week," the captain said. "They are right alongside the staff, keeping things going; helping to serve meals and working with the pantry and social services."

Members serve lunch to about 150 diners four times a week at the Life Center. They take part in prayer meetings, provide baked goods and put together themed baskets for bidding at the community's Harvest Festival, and help at the annual back-to-school event.

On National Donut Day in June, the ladies marched outside, like a small army, delivering boxes of doughnuts as tasty thank-you gifts to fire and police departments and the paramedics' office.

"We had a chance to thank all of



Jean Ankney and Phyllis Koontz prepare lunch at the Life Center in Hillsdale.

them. The first responders were so excited. And the doughnuts were delicious," Captain Laura said.

"We also help at Christmastime with Toys for Tots, with bell-ringing and getting things organized at the Life Center," said Dorothy Hartzell, women's ministries secretary, who has been part of the group for more than 30 years.

Pamela Cobb, director at the Life Center, said the group is a valuable asset.

"They bring a lot of joy to the community, and they bring a lot of energy and help us be as efficient as we are in serving the public. Without them, I don't think we'd be as successful," Pamela said.

"I was just 21 when I moved here," Dorothy said. "The group had cooking classes, quilting classes—we have had people come in and talk to us about making wills. Throughout my lifetime, the majority of things I have learned, I have learned through this church and with this ladies' group."

Members help one another too.

Violetta has had to slow down in recent days, as it has become harder for her to walk. But she looks forward to the women's ministries meetings and is picked up and driven to group activities by fellow-member, Dorothy.

"She is my oldest friend," Violetta said fondly.

The women in the group are known by many people in the community, and they help wherever they are needed, Captain Laura said, adding, "They have truly become the hands and feet of Jesus there in Hillsdale County."



Captain Laura Lunnam meets with members of the women's ministries group.

Forum lays a solid foundation



Photo by Andrew Grey

At the latest Territorial Soldiers' Forum meeting (front row, l to r) Beth Curtiss, Kevin Hodges, Carrie Dixon, Heather Guthrie; (back row, l to r) John Foster, Ricardo Cardenas, Doug Leslie, Rochelle Holman (chairperson), Mark Bender and Paul Augustein. Members who participated virtually and are not pictured include Hewitt Gage, Robert Calkins, Travis Heard, Curtiss Britcher and Todd Miesch.

by Rochelle Holman
Chairperson, Soldiers' Forum

Central Territorial Soldiers' Forum representatives met in August for our bi-annual assembly to discuss ideas, needs and concerns of soldiers around the territory. After devotions and prayer led by Lt. Colonels Bob and Collette Webster, territorial program secretary and assistant territorial program secretary, the work began.

Since the Soldiers' Forum is still in its infancy, the members (who are divisional sergeant-majors and assistant divisional sergeant-majors) used

this time to work on the forum's infrastructure so it will be functional and effective. They determined the need for a mission statement to guide the forum's work and so that soldiers and officers have a clear understanding of the forum's role and responsibilities. Once the mission statement has received approval from territorial leadership, it will be shared with the territory.

Other items included an update on the progress of recommendations from the last forum meeting, discussion about how to continue to move those forward to completion, how to get divisional forums kicked off, and the best way to get corps representatives in place for the divisional forums. Much was accomplished, and we are looking forward to being an integral part of the Central Territory.

"We're working hard to build an infrastructure for the Soldiers' Forum platform by making progress on our web presence and gaining approval to build social media groups that help us stay connected. There will also be more to come on relationship-building and leadership training," said Western divisional sergeant-major and representative Heather Guthrie. "We really feel like God has called upon the Soldiers' Forum to inspire and empower soldiers to positively influence our Army and to cultivate growth for both present and future generations."

The Territorial Soldiers' Forum meets every January and August, but soldiers are encouraged to share their ideas, suggestions and concerns at any time of year.

To learn more or to find your representative, visit salarmycentral.org



Violetta Bumpus, Dorothy Hartzell, Beverly Baxter, Phyllis Koontz and Jean Ankney deliver doughnuts to Hillsdale first responders on National Donut Day.



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The Salvation Army USA Central Territory

John 15:4 (The Voice)

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New programs serve up hope

The Green Bay, Wis., and Willmar, Minn., Corps were honored recently with the Outstanding Corps Award for their initiative in creating specific programs for Pathway of Hope (POH) families. Both programs revolve around nutrition, food and meal-planning on a budget.

"It's pretty amazing that we are able to receive such an award," said Major Matthew O'Neil, Green Bay, Wis., area coordinator. "There is a lot of work and passion that goes through our POH case manager and our program assistant. It's great that we can be celebrated this way."

Captain Ron Felt, who leads the Willmar Corps, said the initiative there is a team effort, with the entire staff working together to assist POH families.

He indicated POH Case Manager Kandi Tetzloff had to rebuild the initiative after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Within a year, Kandi built the initiative up from scratch," he explained. "We are helping a lot of families move forward. POH can change lives."

The Willmar Corps' newest pro-



Becky Darrow, Green Bay Corps director of social services, and Deb Weaver, POH case manager, at a community event.



Deb Weaver coordinates supplies for the Green Bay Corps' pantry, which serves POH families.

families at home. "The program provides a social aspect. People get together, share ideas, see what has worked for others in budgeting and preparing a meal," Captain Ron said. POH families have learned how to

At the Green Bay Corps, 18 POH families are being helped to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. A case manager and an assistant focus 100 percent of their working hours on POH families. "When a family first comes to us, they can be timid about asking for

family members to the corps staff. "It is like you are seeing your own family. You become 'family,' and you are watching your 'family' grow and go out into the community," she said. "And they are full of smiles and are all excited about making a difference in the world."

PATHWAY OF HOPE

gram, for which it received the award, is the monthly Taste of Hope that began in March. POH families meet with former POH families and community members while they learn about cooking on a budget. A dish is made in class; then participants are given the ingredients to make the same meal for their own

make various casseroles, chili and other hearty dishes. "What I really wanted for the program was for past and present POH members and the community to come together," Kandi said. "They can rely on each other for things and build friendships and community partnerships."

"When a family first comes to us, they can be timid about asking for help," said Becky Darrow, director of social services at the Green Bay Corps. "Pathway of Hope is simply about having people in your corner. It is a beautiful thing to be part of people's stories and celebrating their success." Green Bay's "Let's Talk About Food," in partnership with the University of Wisconsin—Extension, offers workshops on meals and meal planning, like canning pickles or making bread from scratch. "We try to make it specific to families' real-life scenarios and what food they are receiving from our pantry," Becky said. Back in Willmar, Kandi said the POH families become like



POH participants Rebecca Lafferty (middle), Cayla Sandven (front), and community member Carol Weller take part in the new Taste of Hope program at the Willmar Corps.



Willmar POH case manager Kandi Tetzloff and corps officer Captain Ron Felt



Many children around the world have never experienced the JOY that Christmas can bring. The Share Your Christmas Joy campaign gives children that unique feeling of excitement, love, and joy that only happens during Christmas time. This program aims to send designated funds to 100 Salvation Army children's facilities worldwide for a special Christmas celebration. Not only will children feel more connected to our Savior as we celebrate the JOY of His birth, but you will too when you Share Your Christmas Joy! Will you help us reach our goal? Ask your family, friends, and coworkers to join! Send a check to: The Salvation Army, ATTN: Share Your Christmas Joy 5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192 Or visit centralmissions.org/christmas_joy



Incarnation Advent 2023 Worship Series

The Advent 2023 worship series, Incarnation, will help worshipers rediscover the significance of the Christ-child for our lives and world today. The series explores the meaning behind the names of Christ and what they tell us about the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

- The five-week series includes:
- Worship service materials (music options, dramas, readings, and a variety of other resources) for the five Sundays of December
 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 - Service elements in English and Spanish
 - Graphics for PowerPoints and social media
 - *NEW*—daily devotionals for bellringers!
- Find them at salarmycentral.org/cacm/resources
See your corps officer for more details.

On campus, on target to pursue

by Captain Blake Fewell

Every year, the gates at the College for Officer Training (CFOT) are opened to welcome officer candidates and those considering their calling to full-time ministry to experience the campus for a weekend. Known as the 730 Weekend, delegates are invited to explore their calling, receive enriching teaching from God's Word, and enjoy fellowship with cadets and officers on campus.

Following the Public Welcome of Cadets and Installation of the Territorial Commander, nearly 50 delegates from the Central Territory made their way into the heart of Chicago. Each one was assigned a cadet host who greeted them, showed them to their accommodations and accompanied them throughout the weekend, which gave each delegate the opportunity to ask in-depth questions about the calling to become an officer and Christian ministry.

Saturday officially began the weekend activities. It started with a tour of the campus, experiencing the rich history of Booth Manor, the academic spaces, accommodations and facilities. Many delegates took time to stop in the hallways of the Railton building to search the photos of previous sessions, perhaps looking for a family member or one of their corps officers.

The campus erupted with praise and worship several times over the weekend during united worship meetings. Divisional candidates and youth leaders led the delegation in singing and prayer in the packed CFOT chapel. Each service included a mentor moment from soldiers and officers to encourage delegates and to share insights they have learned in their ministry, such as engaging in ministry where they are now, keeping their eyes focused on Christ, and being obedient to God's calling.

The highlight of the weekend was the biblical teaching by Lt. Colonel Randall Polsley, Northern divisional commander. He shared from Jesus' teachings to His disciples about the necessity of welcoming everyone who needs Christ, sharing the gospel with all people, and going into the harvest field of ministry that the Lord has prepared for us. Through these messages delegates were chal-



lenged to embrace everyone with the love of Christ, share their faith with those they encounter, and trust the Lord has prepared their ministry even before they have arrived.

The weekend also included informal times for delegates to further explore their calling. Major John Pook, CFOT training principal, shared with cadets and officers that the most important interactions of the weekend would not be in a meeting but around tables over a meal. As delegates and their cadet hosts gathered for lunch or dinner, they engaged in these significant conversations, sharing about their experiences, excitements, concerns and passions.

Additionally, delegates heard from officers and cadets through candidate conversation groups and panels. They met with small groups of cadets and staff officers to ask burning questions about cadet life, officership and Salvation Army ministry. They also heard from Territorial and CFOT leaders in a panel session where the logistics of the 22-month training program were presented.



their calling



Photos by Katelyn Church

The Central Territory seeks to provide the most constructive support for candidates to help them become strong officers. The Salvation Army has utilized the expertise of Blake Lanier to provide coaching and preparation support for candidates as they prepare to enter training. Blake shared with the delegates about the Coaching Action Plan (CAP) program that provides ongoing support as they explore God's call in their lives and prepare for entering full-time ministry.

Saturday evening, the entire campus was transformed into a tropical beach as the delegates, cadets and officers enjoyed one last summer party. Dressed in khaki and white, they enjoyed conversations at their tables, good food, tropical desserts, and Broadway karaoke. Even during these moments of fun and fellowship, strong bonds and sacred conversations took place.

The 730 Weekend was far from just a campus visit event. Delegates went home strengthened and supported in exploring their calling.

"The weekend was mainly God reconfirming His call in my life to be a Salvation Army officer," said Lydia Welch, a delegate from the Indiana Division. "The biggest thing I was reminded of was to be sensitive to God's timing and not try to make up a timeline of my own."

Delegate Bradley Jones from the Northern Division, said, "The 730 Weekend was an absolute blessing! What an amazing opportunity to see the life of a cadet at the College for Officer Training."

The weekend affirmed that God continues to call His people into full-time ministry as Salvation Army officers. As Colonel Polsley reminded delegates on Sunday morning, Jesus is preparing a harvest field. Jesus is also preparing the harvesters to go into the world to seek and save the lost.

This event is just one of many ways the Central Territory supports, encourages and prepares candidates as they seek their calling to ministry. The relationships that are built during the 730 Weekend help candidates get a glimpse of what their future may look like and ignite the fire within them to be faithful ministers as they pursue obedience to God's call.

How you can pray for candidates:

1. Pray that God would continue guiding the path of those He has called.
2. Pray for those who are wrestling with God's calling on their lives.
3. Pray that God would raise up new generations of Salvation Army officers.
4. Pray for those working to support candidates every day.
5. Pray that God would remove obstacles candidates face in pursuing their calling.

If you are interested in learning more about Salvation Army officership, reach out to your corps officer or your divisional candidates' secretary.

Preaching seminar inspires officers

by Lt. Colonel Darlene Harvey

Inspiring, uplifting, practical, God-ordained and fulfilling is how participants described the new Preaching Seminar offered through the Officer Resource and Development Department and Nazarene Bible College (NBC).

When officers in the territory requested more information regarding preaching seminars, ORD investigated possibilities. Salvation Army Continuing Education Program (SACEP) courses were evaluated and it was noted that there were not any offerings in preaching.



The most recent delegation to the preaching seminar.

Change. Another text used was Dr. Dennis Kinlaw's book, *Preaching in the Spirit*. Officers received instruction, prepared portions each day for class review, and wrote a sermon using the method they learned during the week. Divided into lab groups of seven, they were given encouragement and feedback from their peers and the instructor on their sermon. One group in January was devoted to Spanish-speaking officers so they could share in their first language.

"I am really excited to dive into this approach," said Lt. Shannon Norcross, who also shared that the seminar was a practical and helpful tool. Auxiliary Captain Marie Lewis indicated she values how the method brings focus and connection to her sermons and will help streamline her preparation. Lt. Nate Woodard said scripture study and sermon prep are more alive for him now, while Lt. Samantha Tamayo shared the seminar was a great reminder of her calling as an officer to proclaim the gospel. Captain LeOtis Brooks said he appreciated the encouragement for officers to be themselves and find their voices as they preach.

Given such positive feedback, ORD hopes to continue to offer this seminar. Officers who are interested in participating should contact their leader for officer development.



The first preaching seminar in January featured a group devoted to Spanish-speaking officers so they could share in their first language.

Dr. Rob DeGeorge remembered that Nazarene Bible College worked with the Western Territory to provide a preaching seminar to their officers. While NBC has been a strong partner of the Central Territory, with some officers pursuing degrees through this university and NBC providing SACEP classes for officers whose first language is Spanish, the Preaching Seminar would become a new initiative for the Central.

Promoted to officers in SACEP, the first seminar in January 2023 filled up in one week and had a waiting list. After working with the leaders for officer development throughout the territory, ORD decided to offer a second seminar in August. This seminar was promoted to SACEP and non-SACEP officers.

Dr. Jim Russom, Dr. Tim McKeithen and Dr. Joe Warrington are not only instructors with NBC but pastors. They understand preaching weekly while balancing other pastoral responsibilities. Major Catherine Mount also taught a session on "Life and Ministry Management" to provide a Salvation Army perspective.

The model used for the seminar is a "one principle sermon" highlighted in Andy Stanley's book, *Communicating for a*



Major Catherine Mount, Norridge Citadel, Ill., corps officer shares about life and ministry management.

730... AND BEYOND

3,794 days and counting

by Captain Enrique Coreano

Every day we have the opportunity to make an impact on someone's life. In ministry, we should strive for each encounter to be positive, and throughout the Christmas season we know our encounters expand.

Last year my wife and I received a new appointment to lead the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps. To familiarize myself with everything the corps does at Christmas, I wanted to help with each aspect I could including reviewing supplies, picking up toys from donors, dropping off kettle stands, counting money in the kettles each day—basically helping in any way I could. Our seasonal and full-time staff assisted us in becoming familiar with how the corps meets the community's needs. With this knowledge, I settled into a routine. I came in early and helped get the kettle routes ready to go out.

Along with my many responsibilities, I would periodically drive kettle routes which afforded me the opportunity to become familiar with our service area. I thoroughly enjoyed driving the different routes and getting to know our bellringers, some of whom have been ringing for us for years. It allowed me to hear their stories of why they came to ring bells for us and also other details of their lives like who was important to them. Throughout the season, amid various interactions, I was able to build some good initial relationships with our bellringers.



You never know what kind of impact or impression you are making in someone's life until they are in need. Unfortunately, a few days after the New Year, we received a call with the sad news that a long-serving bellringer named David had passed away. Through communication with his family, we were able to attend his wake a few days later. The family was very appreciative of our presence, and we were able to meet his extended family and share some stories about his time as a bellringer.

In May, I received a thank you card from his family, sharing how much they appreciated our support during this difficult time in their lives. His sister wrote, "Thank you again for being there for us and David and for your beautiful and sincere work."

Being an officer is always being prepared to share the love of Jesus Christ no matter what we are doing.



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Joy to the world

What's in a name? Well, if you are 12-year-old Elin Joy Seiler, it is happiness.

Elin's mother Erika said, "The name Elin means bright light, and her middle name is Joy. I think it was God-inspired. Elin has such a spirit of joy around her. It is contagious."

The seventh-grader from Wheaton, Ill., who loves to read and write, won the American Immigration Council's 2022 Celebrate America Creative Writing Contest with her poem, "Where I'm From."

Since then, she has been honored at an American Immigration Council gala in New York and was featured on "Good Morning America." Elin read her work on-stage to an enthralled audience at commissioning weekend in June.

"I love this poem. I hope to inspire people to feel and express empathy and to know God's love," she said.



Elin shares her award-winning poem at commissioning weekend.

The poem looks at the lives of four immigrant girls from Ireland, Afghanistan, Indonesia and Ukraine.

"We had been reading stories about immigration and refugees at school. And refugees had been fleeing Afghanistan and Ukraine," Elin recalled. "I wanted to write this to inspire empathy in people for those who are different than them."

Elin describes each girl's homeland. For the young girl from



Outside of ABC Studios in New York City

Ukraine, she writes, "I am from what used to be beautiful. From my ripped quilt in faded blue and yellow."

"I wanted to show that we all want love. We all want to be loved, even though we may look different or have different cultures or religions," Elin said. "God loves all of us. There isn't a face that God does not love."

She worked on the poem for about two weeks, researching different languages and countries and writing parts of it each day in her English Language Arts class.

"I was really excited to share it," she recalled.

After submitting the poem, it took a couple of months to hear from the American Immigration Council.

"When I won, my mom was just looking at her cell phone, saying, 'Oh my gosh! Oh my gosh!'" Elin said. "We were all so excited."

Elin and her family, including Erika, father Bryan and 9-year-old brother Evan, attend the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps. Elin is a junior soldier and girl guard, plays percussion in the junior band, is a member

of the singing company and participates in teen time.

"I'm so grateful to have our church family," she said.

Many of her grandparents and great-grandparents served as Salvation Army officers, including Central Territory officers, Majors Randall and Deborah Sjögren and Majors Dwight and Neoma Garrington, and Southern Territory officers Lt. Colonels James and Karol Seiler and Lt. Colonels David and Jean Mikles.

Along with her love of reading and writing, Elin takes ballet, jazz and lyrical dance lessons and is a profes-

sional actress, performing on stages in Chicago and New York

"I'd love to be both an actress and an author," she said. "I love writing, and acting is kind of my life. That is what I want my life to look like."

In her downtime, Elin enjoys spending time with Evan, reading and sharing stories. Evan in turn shares his comic creations with his sister.

"I love him so much," Elin said. "He is a really good artist. We have a book club. He illustrates, and I write."

Some of Elin's favorite titles include the *Harry Potter* series, Jasmine Warga books and *A Wrinkle in Time*. She also enjoys Amanda Gorman poems and the Psalms.

"She keeps her focus on God," Erika said.



At the American Immigration Council

Where I'm From

I am from ships sailed. From my mother's quilt, finished with orange, green, and white. I see every one of the strong stitches holding it together. From my other house where the walls don't keep the heat from getting inside them, like how I can't get that sensation outside of me. I remember the antlers of an elk, the strong trusting bone, as if they were my own. I'm from Máthair, Athair, and Mhamó. My red hair, green eyes and freckles match the others around me. And from, "grá do gach duine", and "déan tú féin sa bhaile". I hope that I will always have a home here.

I am from my favorite red and yellow hijabs. From my great grandmother's quilt decorated with a single moon and star. Each of the stitches remind me of great love. From my dusty, but loving town far away, like how far away my heart feels. I remember the wings of an upupa, the large, warm smile, as if they were my own. I'm from Waleda, Abi, and Jida. My creamy skin, dark eyes, and covered head match the others around me. And from, "الصدق فضيلة" and "كن محباً ولطيفاً مع الجميع". I hope all are loving and kind to me here.

I am from mud roofs over my head. From my sister's quilt draped in red and white. All of the stitches look like a happy tear. From my pretty rock collection, all with mixed patterns and colors, like how mixed up my emotions feel. I remember the stripes of a tiger, the ferocious black streaks as if they were my own. I'm from Okāsan, Bāba, and Nai Nai. My caramel skin, brown hair, and dark eyes match the others around me. And from, "kebahagiaan adalah obat terbaik" and "selalu peduli". I hope that everyone cares for me here.

I am from what used to be beautiful. From my ripped quilt in faded blues and yellows. Each and every one of the stitches give me more hope. From my wooden box, with my grandfather's wedding ring hidden in it, like how my everything is hidden from the world. I remember the fur of a mouflon, it's warm, calming fur as if it were my own. I'm from мати, батько, and бабуся. My blonde hair, pale skin, and blue eyes match the others around me. And from, "вас знайдуть" and "надія завжди жива." I hope there will be hope here.

We ARE America.

The winner of the 2022 Celebrate America Contest is Elin Seiler from Illinois.
The Celebrate America Contest is made possible by the Murthy NAYAK Foundation.

© Elin Seiler – Printed with permission



The Seiler family: Elin, parents Bryan and Erika, and brother Evan.



Faith to answer the call

The Distance Learning Program (DLP) enriches and enables ministry for auxiliary captains and envoys. An increasing number of people are finding fulfillment in service through these paths. Here we are honored to share some of their stories.

Seeing God's hand

There was a time in Envoy Charlotte (CeCe) Coffey's life when she didn't think she could go on. Struggling after a difficult divorce, she couldn't imagine that God would use her, but in her brokenness she continued to seek Him. He led her to The Salvation Army.

The envoy's path to her current position began with volunteering and progressed to attending the corps as she learned more about The Salvation Army's mission. She eventually became a soldier.

When the opportunity to become a chaplain at the Harbor Light arose, Envoy CeCe hesitated. She didn't feel qualified. But with a little encouragement and a lot of faith, she stepped into the chaplaincy, then took another step to become the corps sergeant-major, and later an envoy.

"The Lord kept touching my heart. When I was going through my trial, the Lord would always bring me back to the same scriptures in Ezekiel and Isaiah," she said. "I didn't look anything like what He said I would be doing, and now I can't see anything but that in my life. Lo and behold He was preparing me for this."

Engaging in the DLP has further enabled and equipped Envoy CeCe for ministry. Although her life of faith and experience in teaching Sunday school and serving as a chaplain gave her a great foundation to build on, through the DLP she has continued to learn and develop skills that give her confidence and a deeper connection with the Army.

"It's really a blessing because it enriches me as I try to enrich others. Finding out what tools I need to minister, whether in counseling, budgeting time, theology, makes me feel even more of a part of the Army," she said. "I love that the Army doesn't send you out without equipping you. All you have to do is be willing."

Trusting God's plan

Lifelong Salvationist Captain Ron Felt was commissioned last June after completing five years of service as an auxiliary captain and the required classes through the DLP.

"It's a matter of faith and trusting God," he said of the program and his path to officership. "It's a wonderful opportunity for people who are later in life to pursue full-time ministry."

Captain Ron's experience growing up in the Army as the child of officers, working at territorial headquarters for 27 years and being a soldier at the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps throughout his adult life all factored into his decision to enter fulltime ministry through the auxiliary captain route rather than attending the College for Officer Training.

"For a long time, God wanted me to be there for my children," the divorced father of two daughters said. "I was content doing that. But then God told me it was time to step out of the cubicle and pursue full-time ministry in the Army. He told me He had something more planned for me."

Appointed to lead the Willmar, Minn., Corps as he began the DLP, Captain Ron found support and encouragement through connecting with others in his classes. The community built by distance learners who were also learning and serving in tandem, he said, was important.

"You have to trust the process," he said. "Even for people like me who have plenty of life experience and knowledge about The Salvation

Army and ministry, there is something meaningful in every class. It certainly reminds you of how much you don't know."

Leading through a pandemic while serving in his first appointment and taking distance learning classes was a challenge, but the captain stands firm in his decision to respond to the Lord's call on his life and encourages others to step out in faith no matter their doubts, circumstances or hangups about full-time service.

"It's not easy," Captain Ron concluded. "You're running a small corps and at the same time going to school and learning, and as you start off you don't have much training for the job. But if God is calling you, it's something you should do. Have the faith that God has placed you where you are and He will equip you to do what He is calling you to do."



Envoy CeCe Coffey and Edna Gates study scripture together at the Indianapolis, Ind., Harbor Light Center.

"I really thought I was beyond repair," she said. "I was looking for somewhere to serve and a friend connected me to The Salvation Army homeless shelter in Indianapolis, where I volunteered to be active in the work of the Lord while I was being healed myself."

More than 20 years later, Envoy CeCe is the corps administrator at the Indianapolis, Ind., Harbor Light Center while she participates in the DLP.

"The Lord said He had something for me," she said. "I'm still here to let folks know how much God loves them. I am so thankful. I'm a late bloomer, but I still bloomed."



Captain Ron Felt restocks donated bread for the Willmar, Minn., community to enjoy.

Following God's lead

When they uprooted their young family to move from a small town in rural Iowa to Chicago, Ill., with a heart to serve the homeless, Auxiliary Captains Bill and Debbi Middendorp had no idea of God's full

plan for them. They just knew they were in the center of His will.

For the Middendorps, following the Lord's leading has meant acting in faith every step of the way, even when they couldn't see where He was taking them. Nearly 15 years after they first felt His stirring in their hearts to minister to the homeless in Chicago, they will receive their full commission as captains next June.

"God just always prepares us and provides for us," said A/Captain Debbi. "No matter how many people or family members think we're crazy, God just confirms it in our spirit the

path He has for us, and we follow."

It wasn't long after moving to Illinois that the Middendorps connected with the Des Plaines Corps and immediately felt at home. But after seven years of feeling settled, serving closely with their corps officers as Bill worked at the corps and Debbi volunteered, the Middendorps felt God's nudging once again.

"We started feeling restless, like He had something new," said A/Captain Debbi. "Then I had a conversation with Lt. Colonel Renea Smith over lunch at THQ one day, and that led us to wanting to know more."

Pursuing full-time ministry as auxiliary captains was a natural fit for the Middendorps. Having served the Lord throughout their lives and gained experience in Salvation Army ministry through their corps, they felt the DLP would best meet their needs.

"I already had a master's in Christian leadership, and we basically had

an extended internship under two great officer couples," said A/Captain Bill. "So being able to complete the distance learning classes while engaging in full-time ministry was a better option for us."

Even in the locations of their appointments, the Middendorps have seen God's hand at work. With two of their four children still at home when they became a/captains, it was a blessing for their first appointment in Mitchell, S.D., to be close to extended family. Then this spring their twin daughters Billi Jo and Bobbi Jo selected a university hundreds of miles from where their parents were stationed. A month later, the Middendorps received marching orders to lead the corps in Jasper/Newton County, Mo., only an hour away.

"God did it," concluded A/Captain Debbi. "In every situation, I know that we are positioned by God to be used by Him undeniably."



Bobbi Jo and Billi Jo Middendorp pause for a photo with parents A/Captains Debbi and Bill at commissioning weekend.



A column on holiness
by Dr. Bill and
Rev. Diane Ury

Reflecting holiness and imaging the Image

by Dr. Bill Ury
National Ambassador for Holiness

Jesus, the Holy One, is the perfect Image of God (Col. 1:5). We humans are made in the image of God (Gen 1:27).

To be an image of the Image means we are created to receive and radiate His holiness. Only our God is holy in essence. We share in His holiness solely by His heart's desire to fill us with as much of His love as possible. Grace is not merely a divine attitude. It is the very life and nature of God which saves us and sanctifies us. Nothing but the life of God saves and makes holy. He has made us with the capacity to be filled with Himself.



is the essence of God's own life, is seen when a man and a woman give themselves to one another in covenantal, selfless love. As Jesus draws His life from His Father in the Spirit, so we are to live offering ourselves to each other. The

covenant of marriage becomes the clearest "image" of eternal other-oriented love (Eph. 5:25-32).

To image God is more than letting something outside of us, and more glorious than us, simply bounce off of us like reflections from a mirror. God's nature desires a oneness with us. Someone must come into the center of our beings and fill us with His sanctify-

ing love (Eph 3:14-19). He desires to take the inward turn of sinfulness and to re-orient us toward Him and our neighbor. When a person loves like that it is hard to figure out where God's nature stops and our nature begins. It is a radiation of love outward, not a ricochet.

Nothing but the life of God
saves and makes us holy.

All too often, we look at imaging the Holy One as reflection alone. Since we normally emphasize how unlike God we are, we view being the image of God like mirrors. While we don't limit His beautiful nature in that analogy, we come up short on what being made in His image means for us.

The Commands to the Image

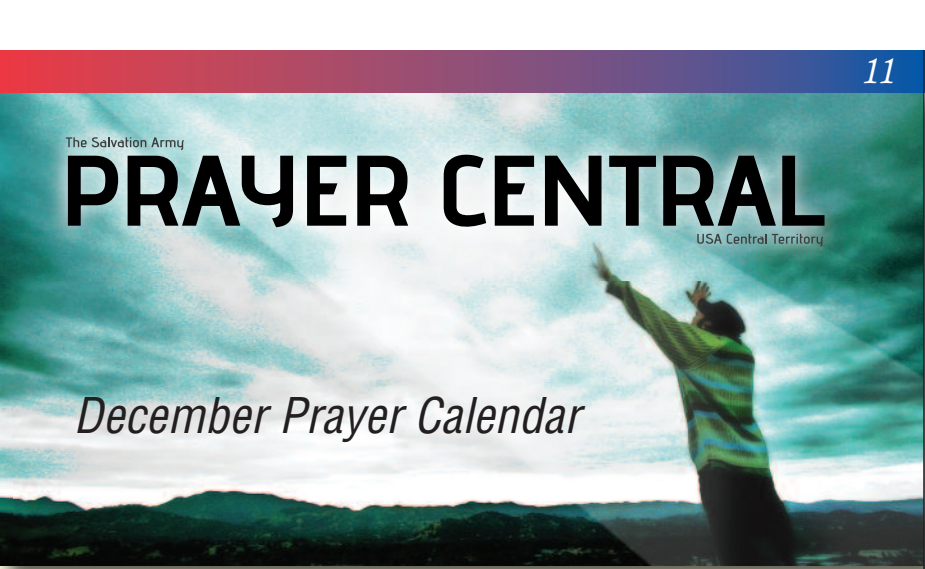
If you look at Creation, there are a few important aspects of the image. First, is the call to take "dominion" over creation (Gen 1:26). That is to join our Maker in bringing the world to His intended purposes. It is a vocation of stewardship, of being viewed as "co-creators." Next, there is clear indication that showing who God is involves work (Gen. 2:15). We are made to reflect the beauty of the heart of holiness which always bears fruit by personally engaging with the things that God puts in our hands. The image multiplies what God desires all things to be. Third, if we are to truly show holy love, we will make choices that reflect the moral nature. Enabled to choose His best is the glory of righteousness in love.

One Realization by the Image

Notice that the first three are commands. I am always amazed by the fourth aspect of imaging Christ and imaging the Triune God of love. It is not a command, but a realization (Gen. 2:18-20). We, as the image, are never made to be alone. We are made for another. Holiness can never be separated from love. Holiness, which

Being made and remade in the
image of God means that we
are in Him and He is in us.

To agree to that marvelous offer is what pleases Jesus the most. He can change our nature. The Holy Spirit is able to cleanse us from sinful self-love and fill us with the perfect love of God. We must realize who we were made to be. The work of Jesus was to restore the moral image in our hearts. That means that from the core of who you are He can truly offer Himself. Mirrors merely reflect. Being made and remade in the image of God means that we are in Him and He is in us. Our nature can be fully yielded and filled with Him.



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Friday	Acts 19-20	Rockford, Ill., ARC
	2 Saturday	1 John 3-4	USA Central Territory
	3 Sunday	Deuteronomy 13-15	Lansing, Mich., Corps
	4 Monday	Nehemiah 5-9	Petoskey, Mich., Corps
	5 Tuesday	Psalms 140-142	Sioux Falls, S.D., Corps
	6 Wednesday	Song of Songs 1-2	Western North Dakota Area Coordinator
	7 Thursday	Revelation 1-6	Kirksville, Mo., Corps
	8 Friday	Acts 21-22	Norway, Iceland & The Faeroes Territory
	9 Saturday	1 John 5	Lincoln, Neb., Corps
	10 Sunday	Deuteronomy 16-18	Saginaw, Mich., Corps
	11 Monday	Nehemiah 10-13	Mattoon, Ill., Corps
	12 Tuesday	Psalms 143-145	Community Care Ministries
	13 Wednesday	Song of Songs 3-4	Willmar, Minn., Corps
	14 Thursday	Revelation 7-11	Oshkosh, Wis., Corps
	15 Friday	Acts 23-24	The Middle East
	16 Saturday	2 John	Big Rapids, Mich., Corps
	17 Sunday	Deuteronomy 19-21	Monroe, Mich., Corps
	18 Monday	Esther 1-5	Kokomo, Ind., Corps
	19 Tuesday	Psalms 146-148	Christmas ministries
	20 Wednesday	Song of Songs 5-6	Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps
	21 Thursday	Revelation 12-17	Waukegan, Ill., Corps
	22 Friday	Acts 25-26	Crystal Lake, Ill., Corps
	23 Saturday	3 John	The Philippines Territory
	24 Sunday	Deuteronomy 22-24	Salina, Kan., Corps
	25 Monday	Esther 6-10	IMMANUEL GOD WITH US
	26 Tuesday	Psalms 149-150	Elkhart, Ind., Corps
	27 Wednesday	Song of Songs 7-8	Sturgis, Mich., Corps
	28 Thursday	Revelation 18-20	Sterling Rock Falls, Ill., Corps
	29 Friday	Acts 27-28	Davenport River Valley, Iowa, ARC
	30 Saturday	Jude	Minneapolis Temple, Minn., Corps
	31 Sunday	Revelation 21-22	THANK YOU, LORD, FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR

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

--Mustard Seeds--



The blessing of unity

by Captain Josh Polanco

The first Northern Division Hispanic Family Retreat took place at Northwoods Camp with the theme "Juntos" (Together) inspired by Psalm 133:1 (NLT): "How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony."

One hundred delegates from the Minneapolis Central, Minneapolis Temple, Lakewood Temple, and the Noble Worship Center corps attended the weekend.

Envoys Alberto and Ody Giraldo, Chicago Lawn corps officers, and their corps' praise team led the gathering with great sensitivity to the Holy Spirit in worship, preaching and teaching.

Our hope for the weekend was to experience the fruit of Christian unity. Each day we met together to encounter God in worship and teaching. We also gathered to enjoy one another's company through many fun family activities and meals, including an amazing Mexican feast cooked on the grill by men from Minneapolis Temple and featuring delicious side dishes and homemade salsas prepared by delegates.

Each session focused on a practice of the early Church as seen in Acts 2:42-47. One after the other built an awareness that Christian unity is essential for the work of the Spirit in our corps, as well as being a prerequisite for corps growth.

As in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit



moved as we gathered together for every session but especially during the Saturday night meeting held under a tent. As Orlando Jimenez from Minneapolis Temple Corps led us in worship, the Spirit of God descended. With every song and testimony, our hearts were prepared for what was to take place. Brother Orlando witnessed of God's faithfulness to his family, sharing God had healed his wife from cancer and allowed her to have a child even though doctors said it was impossible. He testified with God all things are possible and pointed to the young man playing drums, exclaiming: "He is my son and my partner in ministry today!" After his testimony many delegates prayed for one another, and healing tears flowed as God ministered to our hearts well into the night.

It was an amazing weekend, and its impact is still being felt. We are hearing of families who continue to practice what they learned by gath-

ering for meals and Christian fellowship with one another.

If God can do such marvelous things over a weekend, how much more will He do when corps strive to live together in harmony?



Promoted to Glory

Major Jack Vaughan

Major Jack Charles Vaughan was promoted to Glory on August 25, 2023. Jack loved the Lord and became the hands and feet of Jesus in each community he was called to serve, working tirelessly to minister to others both practically and spiritually.

Jack was born June 16, 1933, in St. Louis, Mo., to Frank and Bertha Mae Vaughan. He was athletic in high school, lettering in football, track and baseball, and also was a gifted artist.

He had many opportunities in life, but Jack answered the call from God to devote his life to serving mankind with The Salvation Army. He entered officer training in 1952, was commissioned in 1953, and after three years as a single officer married Lt. Lois Hull. Together they served more than 45 years leading corps across the Midwest. They retired in 1998.

After retiring, Jack continued to serve in an interim capacity leading several corps, filling the gap as needed until another officer could be appointed.

Jack is survived by his wife; children, Jackie (David) Knapp, Kevin, Brian (Cathey), Tim (Denise), and Valerie (Robert) Hartley; 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Lester, Frank, Bertha Puckett, Glenda Cuevas and Shirley Bopp.



Major Harold Poff

Major Harold Poff was promoted to Glory on August 11, 2023. He dedicated his life to service and touched many lives as he ministered to those around him.

Harold was born on January 4, 1961, to Harold and Josephine Poff in Kokomo, Ind. He grew up attending Bon Air Elementary and Middle School and graduated from Hawthorn High School in 1979. In 1981 Harold enlisted in the United States Navy. While serving aboard the USS John F. Kennedy, he was part of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

On May 15, 1982, Harold married his childhood sweetheart, Lynnetta Davis. After he was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1992, Harold and Lynnetta entered Salvation Army officer training in the Southern Territory and were commissioned in 1994 as members of the "Crusaders for Christ" session. In 2003 they transferred to the Central Territory. They led corps throughout their officership, and Harold also served as county coordinator for six years in Fort Wayne, Ind. Harold retired in 2022, having served more than 28 years.

Harold's hobbies included watching Chicago Cubs baseball games and WWII movies and reading.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years and their two children; grandchildren; and three siblings. He was preceded in death by one brother and two sisters.



Mihaska, 75 years, going strong

by Major Lisa Mueller

Camp Mihaska in the Midland Division celebrated its 75th anniversary this year.

The camp held a rich heritage even before it became a ministry of The Salvation Army. One of the many guests for the event, which took place during Midland's annual Pilgrimage weekend, was Carla Von Hoffman. Carla's family was the original owner of the camp until a family tragedy led to the sale of the camp to The Salvation Army. Carla shared that her father and grandfather, who used to serve hundreds through a soup kitchen in St. Louis, loved the mission of the Army and our similar expressions of service.

To celebrate the camp's milestone, soldiers and friends from the division enjoyed a Birthday Bash complete with fireworks, games, challenges, and testimonies of how camp has im-



pacted many lives.

Melissa Hanson, a soldier at the Quincy, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, said the celebration weekend was like a big family reunion.

"When I think of my happiest memories growing up, almost all of them include camp. It's where I faced fears, tried new things, and pushed my boundaries. But most importantly, it's where I met God...It's where the foundations of my faith were built. Even into adulthood it continues to hold a special place in my heart."

The birthday bash culminated in the release of 75 biodegradable paper lanterns into the beautiful creek as campers sang choruses together.

Camp Mihaska not only hosts nearly all divisional events and programs, it serves as a rental venue. We are so proud of our 75-plus years of camping ministry and service.

