



# 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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## Euclid soldiers make a difference

by Captain Karen Holness

The St. Louis Euclid, Mo., Corps has served its community on the city's north side for more than 125 years. Key to its longevity and effectiveness is the individual and collective commitment of its soldiers to live out the gospel as disciples of Christ.

Last year when territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey introduced the Mis-



Mrs. Ossie Wallace

sion Imperative of "More people, more like Jesus," it resonated with the corps' soldiers, who already were suited up and on the battlefield. In fact, as a traditional African-American corps, "I am on the battlefield for my Lord" is the rallying cry, which was formerly led by retired Songster Leader Jimmy McGowans and now by Bandmaster William "Bim" Cox in many worship settings.

The corps' soldiers reflect the imperative's leadership focus

marked by being Spirit-led, inspired, engaged and sacrificially serving with accountability. To ensure accountability in carrying out The Salvation Army's mission, they wrote a corps mission statement that says the St. Louis Euclid Corps will be a "welcoming church, providing a holistic ministry to our community through intentional youth development, integration of spiritual and social services, and providing a positive influence toward commu-

### Leadership

Euclid Men's Club Leader William Murphy

nity growth and development."

Our soldiers can be counted on to show up to help with disaster relief, to ring bells at kettles and distribute toys during Christmas, to cook and serve community meals, to sort and distribute food and other necessities for the pantry and mobile market, to encourage and pray with community members as part of the pastoral care team and to lead worship and preach on Sundays. Local leadership is at the helm of our corps making a difference in people's lives and the community for Christ.

We are blessed to have many men who serve in its ranks. Corps Sergeant-Major (CSM) Benny White is a strong support to us as corps officers and gives this body of believers direction and encouragement. During the Territorial Authentic Mission Engagement weekend in 2016, he received the Certificate in Recognition of Exceptional Service, acknowledging his service to the community, particularly to the youth. Assistant CSM Kelvin Stewart is a blessing to corps, supporting it wherever needed. Bandmaster Bim Cox not only leads our eclectic band but teaches adult Sunday

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Corps Sergeant-Major Benny White speaks at an outreach event.



Then youth leader Edward Williams, III (now a lieutenant) with the adventure corps troop

## Racial Justice Summit to convene

by Major Katherine Clausell  
Social Justice and Urban Mission Secretary

Imagine if The Salvation Army, working intentionally to model and amplify diversity, equity and inclusion, became a place where what is envisioned in Revelation chapters 5 and 7 starts happening now, not just when Christ returns. What a glorious sight that would be!

I penned these thoughts in January as part of an article for the February/March 2020 edition of the Army's online Journal of Aggressive Christianity. I didn't know that in just a few months our world would be turned upside down by two significant events. The first was the

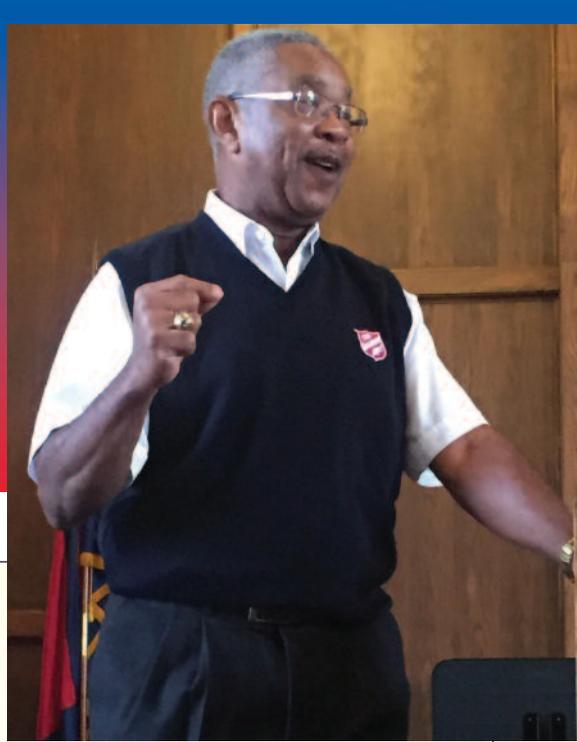
global pandemic which brought to light significant disparities in our healthcare system for people of color. The second was the murder of George Floyd which captured on video gave credence to the belief that people of color, particularly black people, are systemically discriminated against.

While not shocking to most people of African heritage, white Americans have awakened to the realities of racial injustice and are expressing their outrage. Salvationists in the Central Territory even took to the streets of Minneapolis, Minn., as witnesses for Jesus and to declare the killing of George Floyd—and too many others who've had their lives taken due to racism and abuse of power—wrong.

As we continue to deal with the disruption and threat to our lives due to COVID-19, what should The Salvation Army's response be to the realities of racism? Following the prayer event in Minneapolis, the territory's leaders have decided to hold a summit to uncover past and present realities regarding systemic racism, no matter how uncomfortable, and to articulate a clear and decisive plan and course of action that will lead The Salvation Army in the Central Territory toward mutual understanding, respect and reconciliation. The primary goal is to advance a more inclusive and vibrant Army that reflects "unified diversity" as seen in the Trinity.

The Racial Justice Summit will take place October 26-27, 2020, at Territorial Headquarters where 50 selected delegates (officers, soldiers and employees) will contend with issues related to racial injustice with a view toward correcting wrongs and moving forward in solidarity. Some of the meetings of this historic event will be livestreamed, and you are invited to view them at [salvationarmymedia.org](http://salvationarmymedia.org).

Jesus said the world will know the Father has sent the Son because of the witness of unity we have with one another (John 17:23). We can be sure this is still Jesus' prayer for The Salvation Army today.



# Imitating the greatest leader of all time

by Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich  
Territorial Secretary for Program

*"If your gift is....to lead, do it diligently." Romans 12:8, NIV*

When you think about the greatest leaders of all time, who comes to mind? Abraham Lincoln? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? Winston Churchill? Nelson Mandela?

Ken Blanchard, author of *The One Minute Manager* (over 13 million copies sold) and more than 60 other books on leadership, asked this question at a seminar I attended. Many names like those above were shared.

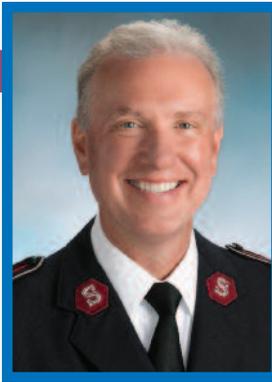
After people weighed in, Blanchard asked our gathering, which by the way was church and ministry leaders, "Why didn't any of you say Jesus?" He indicated Jesus was almost never mentioned when he asked large groups that question.

He went on to say: "I soon became

aware that everything I had ever taught or written about effective leadership during the past 35 years, Jesus did to perfection, beyond my ability to portray or describe. I realized that Christians have more in Jesus than just a spiritual leader; we have a practical and effective leadership model for all organizations, for all people, for all situations."

Each of us is called to follow Jesus, the greatest leader of all time. As followers, we are called to lead, to say to others "imitate me as I imitate (become more like) Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1, NKJV). In this sense, leadership is not for a select few. We are all called to be leaders at home and school, in our places of

## Leadership



work and, yes, in the context of our church, The Salvation Army.

Are you leading in your corps as a local officer by teaching Sunday school, heading a small group Bible study or serving in some other way in the name of Christ? Sacrificial

servant leadership is not optional for followers of Christ. Is God calling you to serve Him as a Salvation Army officer? As we follow Christ, the question is not "Am I a leader?" but "Whom am I leading?"

As you follow the greatest leader of all time, He will equip you. He will transform you. He will lead you to be more like Him as you faithfully follow His lead. And here is a promise you can bank on: as you faithfully lead others, Jesus, the greatest leader of all time, is with you always, even until the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20b)

*We seek to be a Salvation Army that recognizes the sacredness of all ministry and acknowledges the unique calling of individuals to serve as local officers and officers. Their calling is to fulfill the divine requirement of spiritual leadership.*

**An Army marked by:**

- Increased Engagement
- Inspired Creativity
- Sacrificial Service
- Lifelong Development
- Spirit Led
- Mutual Accountability

## St. Louis Euclid Continued from page 1



Captain Patrick Holness presents the Men's Club of the Year Award to William Murphy (men's club leader), Benny White (corps sergeant-major) Artemus Wallace (recruiting sergeant) and William Cox (bandmaster).

school (which he fortifies with the best donuts), serves in our monthly community mobile market and is a jack of all trades in building maintenance.

They are flanked by a team of extraordinary men like Artemus "Temo" Wallace who is the recruiting sergeant, participates in emergency disaster services and



Taking part in Youth Sunday worship are Karen White (assistant young people's sergeant-major), junior soldier Preston Williams and Cynthia Williams (young people's sergeant-major).

volunteers in many other ways. He received the Lifetime Service Territorial Volunteer of the Year Award in 2019. William Murphy leads men's club and Bible study and is an ardent preacher of God's Word. Don Taylor keeps us connected with integral neighborhood partnerships and contacts, while Randy Bush faithfully provides transportation to the corps both ways on Sundays so children and families can participate in fellowship, learning and worship.

The women of the corps have equal impact. Cynthia L. Williams is our young people's sergeant-major (YPSM) and community outreach di-

rector but also assists with serving our older adults and in women's ministries. She and assistant YPSM Karen Whitelove lead youth in Sunday school, afterschool and community center programs. Brenda Murphy, co-Bible study leader and

corps treasurer, heads our stewardship efforts with weekly biblical encouragement for personal and sacrificial giving. Dorothy Sledge serves as our community care ministries secretary and as a Sunday school teacher. Ossie Wallace and Kristen Holness not only lead music but pitch in wherever needed. Soldier Debra Nicholson has headed our so-

cial services for 10 years, a feat rarely matched. Even our junior soldiers play a part, packaging the *War Cry* and gifts for nursing home visits, sorting pantry items and ringing bells at the Christmas kettle.

In speaking about the territory's Mission Imperative, Commissioner Barry Swanson, who led the process, said, "The soldier base is especially critical...It's very impor-



tant that it touches them, that they feel empowered and mobilized to be bold and do something different in the expression of practical ministry."

This has been true for the soldiers of the St. Louis Euclid Corps and through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit will continue for years to come.



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# Hope Works at Kansas City Citadel

by Major Beverly Best

In 2015, the Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps began the Hope Works Corps Integration project with the goal of strengthening our ministry impact. We believed that integration of all our ministries would better address people's complex life challenges by ensuring holistic and individualized support. The project came at just the right time as the corps had experienced significant losses in its social service and spiritual ministries, and new life was desperately needed.

The corps began to look for opportunities to link soldiers, employees and volunteers to our social service

ministries, and link program participants with the corps' other programs. The corps has a variety of ministries on campus including transitional housing for veterans, homeless with special needs and inmates reentering society, as well as hosting an on-site drug and alcohol program.

We introduced a series of new outreaches with Pathway of Hope participants, permanent supportive housing clients and New Beginnings seniors in mind. They included free pizza and movie nights, holiday dinners and backyard vacation Bible schools with meals served from the canteen.

The corps also began practicing "in-reach" to the residents on campus through invitations to worship, Bible classes and fellowship opportunities throughout the week. In the past couple of years, the corps has added a concentration in discipleship, offering an eight-week course teaching the basics of Christianity which includes Salvation Army doctrines and 12 Steps to Recovery.

The Kansas City Citadel

Corps is not traditional, but each Sunday you will hear amazing stories of God breaking the chains of sin and bringing restoration and hope to His people.

For instance, Angela Cannizzaro, corps administrative assistant, began attending the corps when she helped at the corps on a Sunday when the corps officers were out of town. She's now a soldier who shares her history of domestic abuse, including a forced abortion, bringing compassion and hope to many women who have experienced similar pain. Angela teaches adult Sunday school and discipleship to residents living on campus.

Lois Uziel, a sweet-spirited woman with deep Bible knowledge, started attending the corps and women's ministries. You'd never guess she has a "woman at the well" story. Married five times and a survivor of domestic violence, Lois suffered a tragic loss when her son was shot and killed in front of her. She now shares how God's love brought her healing and she's forgiven the person responsible. Lois teaches the faith and recovery classes offered to program residents.



Lois Uziel and Major Beverly Best

Keatheranne Robinson endured years of rejection, abuse, addiction and forced human trafficking as a child. One day, while crying out to God in a jail cell, she heard the Lord say, "Keatheranne, I'm not through with you yet." She committed her life to God and actively shares her testimony with others, spreading the hope of Jesus.

Kacie Cop, a young woman once addicted to drugs, was a resident in our program and now is a regular corps attendee and youth assistant. While she was in treatment, she asked the corps to pray for her mom, Cynthia, to come to church. Cynthia now comes to worship regularly with several grandchildren in tow. Their lives have been changed as well as that of Kacie who concluded, "Rehab is great. NA is great. But rehab could not save me; NA couldn't save me. Jesus saved me. Jesus set me free!"



Keatheranne Robinson, Kacie Cop and Major Tim Best

## Make me a channel

by Katy Engle

At the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps, I serve as women's ministries secretary. I take encouragement from the faith and ministry of Lydia of Philippi who we read about in Acts 16. Like Lydia, I started as a "worshiper of God," doing all the things religious people do. By the same Spirit that opened Lydia's eyes, I found Christ to be the main objective of my life through the study of God's Word.

It's incredible that God that could change the heart of a person like Lydia. She enjoyed the comforts of wealth and social status. She checked off the box of being "good" by going to prayers on the Sabbath. All in all, she was self-reliant, which makes submitting her heart and life to Christ seemingly impossible, unless prompted by the Spirit. It's beautiful to see God working in the hearts of those of us who blindly think we can save ourselves.

What really fuels my faith though is to see how God also relentlessly pursues two individuals described later in the same chapter. The text describes a nameless woman resigned to darkness, given into hopelessness and enslaved by abusers. Like so many of us, she mocked God until she found in Him the freedom, hope and light her heart desperately needed. Then we read of an aggressive Roman jailer, embittered from



Lyndsey Kumpula, Emma Roberts and Hayley Holman enjoy coffee and fellowship at a women's retreat.

what he had seen and done under orders. God saw his heart, spoke to him through the Spirit (using the witness of Paul and Silas), and the jailer was saved from his anger and bitterness.



Katy Engle

We can find our own testimonies somewhere in the testimonies of self-reliant Lydia, the hopeless unnamed woman, and the bitter Roman jailer, and learn of God's compassion. He cares for every person and acts on our behalf.

This compassion drives my ministry as a Salvationist. It prompts me to ask, "How can I grow in my love for God?" and "How can I be a conduit of God's love for others?"

I want to help the women God has entrusted to my care know that like Lydia, we have hope beyond what we can make for ourselves. Like the hopeless woman, we have light stronger than the darkness that would consume us. Like the bitter jailer, we have gentleness, grace and mercy from a sovereign God known for His love.

## Leadership development any way we can

by Major Rachel Stouder

Growing healthy and effective corps is much more likely when there is a solid foundation of local leaders who take ownership of the future of a corps. Unfortunately, many corps in the Indiana Division have experienced a lack of engaged soldiers who are willing to share the burden of leadership with their corps officers. The division has set out to change that.

Over the last year in response to the need for leaders and to assist corps in their development, the divisional program department began hosting a series of spiritual development retreats for leaders and pre-leaders. Held at camp, the retreats include united sessions on broad topics of spiritual development for leaders and smaller sessions which target subjects such as discipleship and spiritual giftedness.

During the pandemic it became clear that we had an opportunity to shift our retreat to a virtual setting though we admit trying this new way caused a bit of anxiety for us. Starting with Major Christopher Marques and six brave members of the Princeton, Ind., Corps, we gave it a shot—and it worked! We were able to worship, discuss deep topics and dream together about what leadership roles and new efforts the Holy Spirit might be urging the participants toward. While it was certainly different from our gathered retreat in many ways, there were elements from which we learned and are encouraged to offer it again.

"I enjoyed listening to others and



what they had to say which helped me look at myself. I realized that I have more to give than what I think," said Princeton, Ind., Corps Prayer Sergeant Pat Wilson. "That weekend helped me look deeper and step up to give God my all to Him. I do help out when I am able at my corps, but I realized I can give even more."

Phil Hull's job as Indiana divisional director of mission and spiritual development also shows the division's priority of local leaders. As a life-long Salvationist and the corps sergeant-major at the Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps, he speaks with authority on the importance and necessity of a focused effort to identify, train and empower local leaders.

We believe local leaders must not be capable merely of carrying out the duties of a program but must execute their service as a part of their personal call to mission from Jesus as they engage in ongoing spiritual development.

# Keeping the mission—people—safe!

Local leaders are key to implementing Safe from Harm (SFH) in their corps. So, this issue seems a perfect time to revisit the territory's child and vulnerable safety program and policy with its director Megan Olson, who's been leading the charge since 2013.

## **Why should leaders in a corps care about making sure Safe from Harm is implemented?**

Jesus served and healed vulnerable adults throughout His ministry on earth—the poor, the elderly, those who were differently abled. He cared deeply about people and showed that through His actions, so Salvationists should, too. We should care about implementing SFH because keeping people safe is an act of love.

Children are the future of the Church, the future influencers of our culture and the future leaders of our country. The elderly give us wisdom, and differently abled people help us recognize what it truly means to be made in the image of God. For all of that, SFH is worth investing in.

And, when implemented right, SFH offers added protection for soldiers and officers from false allegations that could be made against them or from falling short of mandated reporter obligations they may be held to by law.

## **What's the benefit of Safe from Harm to a corps and the Army as a whole?**

It's a way of showing love, exercising care and compassion, demonstrating wisdom and placing value on those we serve, showing we are willing to create the most optimal environment to allow for focus in achieving our mission. It not only protects people but builds community trust and helps protect us from lawsuits that hinder our organization's resources. It's a win-win.

## **How is SFH achievable for a smaller corps without lots of leaders?**

By working together to employ the reasoning, problem-solving and creative abilities endowed to us by our amazing Creator. He made us part of a diverse Body so we can work together for His Kingdom. Let's not forget our resource people! Consult with your divisional or command SFH coordinator or myself for ideas and guidance. We are part of your team!

## **What challenges does a larger corps with sufficient leaders face and how can they address them?**

Even if a corps has lots of people, everyone must take responsibility. We can't just think someone else is taking care of SFH. Also, if there are a lot of people across the age span, there may be differences among generations about the value of SFH and what safety measures look like. It needs to be talked about and planned out, people need to be properly trained, and it needs to be kept fresh as a priority. Lastly, leaders

need to set a strong example by promoting SFH as a benefit to their corps and the organization and implementing it.

## **What do you feel is most misunderstood about SFH?**

Unfortunately, there is a misperception that it's all about what you can't do, that SFH doesn't allow ministry or that it just prevents lawsuits. If you think of what could result from failure to implement SFH, you'll start to realize how it truly impacts lives and allows us to facilitate ministry in a quality way.

## **What role is the new National Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Safety Committee playing?**

We are promoting holistic integration of important safety and prevention measures in collaboration with other entities like the Youth Commission and the training colleges; reviewing national policies, standards and procedures; and providing feedback to International Headquarters about international policies regarding child and vulnerable adult safety; and creating more sophisticated tracking systems to help the Army make informed decisions.

## **How will implementation or coordination with national and international policies and committees affect what this territory has been doing with SFH?**

In the last five years International Headquarters introduced a child protection policy framework setting



Megan Olson with her husband Erik and son Ephraim

life-changing impacts of The Salvation Army's mission. The investment of leaders and devoted professionals across the territory. Being prayed for and praying for others. A person's "aha" moment during SFH training. Words of affirmation. My supportive husband and my son for whom I want to provide the safest faith-bolstering experience when in Salvation Army programs.

## **Has having a son given more insight or urgency to SFH for you?**

He certainly has offered a new perspective. In one of my trainings, someone put it this way, "For parents, The Salvation Army is being entrusted with their most prized possession when they drop their kids off for programs or camps." I agreed with that before having our son, but he's taken it to a new level. What I want most is for him to know Jesus and have an authentic relationship with Him.

Because the Church and fellowship of believers play a role in this, safety in the spiritual context is absolutely necessary. Ministry, training and discipleship are relational, meaning that when there is foul play within them or negligence around them, the troubling effects can reach the very soul. For the sake of these souls, we cannot fail at SFH.

## **How does your faith play in?**

It's really what upholds and sustains me—a light that is able to overcome the dark and troubling realities of abuse and exploitation in our world. It fuels in me a passion for safeguarding the innocence of youth and for accountability and justice, and it reminds me that God can re-

store what is broken in remarkable ways. My faith drives my work with the ultimate objective of SFH helping to provide safe contexts for our ministries where God can change lives and save souls.

## **Safe from Harm was introduced in the Central Territory in 2001. As we approach its 20th anniversary, what progress have we made?**

In-person training has evolved with technology and content updated as best practices are discerned within the newer and developing child and vulnerable adult safety industry. Online training is available, and our course catalog will be expanding soon to include more context-specific options. To empower units with incident response, the Emergency Rapid Response (ERR) kit was created in collaboration with Territorial Risk Management and includes phone and web-based SFH reporting options, along with quick reference materials.

Empowering practical day-to-day implementation of SFH is happening through unit and division/command consultations and compliance reviews that include goal setting. Most importantly, by working with the division/command SFH coordinators and through the investment of leadership and lay persons at all levels, our organizational culture is becoming one that recognizes each person's part in SFH. This allows for a more natural integration.

## **What do we still have to do?**

While we have a robust program, we need to stay abreast of best practices and specifically address prevention and response within each of them. That means buy-in from and collaboration with a lot of different people across various disciplines to further develop SFH in a way that works within the realities of The Salvation Army.

I'd like to see SFH woven into the fabric of everything we do, always the forethought, never overshadowing ministry but a ministry itself—because it is!



an expectation for the Army worldwide. Minimum standards on a national level also have been developed. Our program in the Central Territory has strong and stable bones in the majority of the areas they address, but we still need refinement of the existing structure and building of some new structures.

## **What keeps you motivated in this demanding and difficult work?**

God's heart for vulnerable and broken people. Stories of abuse survivors. Hearing firsthand from program participants about the positive,

# A Call to Service

by Envoy Greg Irwin

Leadership in The Salvation Army is synonymous with service. The most effective leaders are servants in love with Jesus, engaged in their communities and building the Kingdom of God. It's leadership in action.

At the Petoskey, Mich., Corps, we have been blessed with people who have been drawn to The Salvation Army from wide and varied backgrounds. Within our corps family, some have found restoration with God; others who have come are already spiritually strong but looking for a place to be the hands and feet of Christ.

We have a family who needed a meal and joined us for our Friday Night Live Community Meal Program four and a half years ago. They ended up volunteering at subsequent meals,



Adherent Ben Evans and Susan Melton of 102.9 Big Country radio take part in an event in 2017 to restock the corps pantry.

then became soldiers and youth leaders in our corps. They oversaw and ran our Christmas toy shop for the last three years and are now cadets at the College for Officer Training.

We have a recovering alcoholic who started his journey with our corps by ringing bells and is now a soldier who leads our Thursday night recovery support dinner and helps lead the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings. He also assists with our Sunday night jail ministry and serves as our hospital chaplain.

We have a gentleman who came out of prison four years ago and now is an adherent who leads our NA meetings and is a team captain for one of our emergency meal deliv-



Pictured (l to r) are Starling Heard, Shannon Bluer and Hannah Walters at a Madhatter Tea Party 2018 that raised funds for World Services.

ery teams. He also is our main go-to person for building maintenance.

We have two other volunteers who each have been the divisional

"Man of the Year" in the last four years.

Why? They are selfless servants.

They were reluctant award recipients

because they didn't desire recognition but just wanted to serve folks and draw them to Christ by example.

Lastly but not to be overlooked is our Summer Youth Mission Team: teen leaders who have adopted the mission to help "Feed the North." Living out their faith, they deliver produce boxes each week, along with meals and other groceries to low-income areas in our three-county service area. In addition, they assist on Wednesday with our curbside lunch program.

However, they could not accomplish what they do without our adult youth leaders. So, it all ties together. No one is an island. Young and old



engage in service that reflects leadership in action.

Without each other, without the call to service, without our local leaders, we would be a corps in name only. Yet, with our local leaders' development and commitment—and the good Lord's help and guidance—The Salvation Army in Petoskey is a powerful force for good and Kingdom building.

"But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant." Luke 22:26, NLT.



Envoy Bethany Irwin provides hot carry-out meals to community members in July. In addition, approximately 150 meals were delivered on Friday nights to homeless shelters, seniors and mobility-impaired residents.



Teens from the afterschool program serve Friday night community dinner to approximately 70 people, including seniors and homeless, in winter 2018.

## Leadership

## Got Questions?

by Major Marc Johnson

When we were children in school, we focused on having the right answers to questions.

While it is important in education, it's the wrong focus for good leadership. A commonly held leadership principle says great leaders don't have all the right answers; instead, they know how to ask the right questions.

Perhaps you're wondering, "So, what questions I should be asking as a leader?" Now, that's a great question! The right questions stimulate others to think deeply, explore options and expand horizons. They also lead to good results.

I'm reminded of an experience I had while serving as a corps officer in Chile. I needed to get an ID card for our newly adopted daughter. At the courthouse, the desk where someone processed such matters was gone; instead, a long line of people stood in front of a closed door. I asked the security guard how to proceed, and he told me to get in line. After 45 minutes he called out a number, and the person in front of me yelled, "That's me!" I had a problem because I didn't have a number. I asked the guard why he didn't tell me I needed to get a number, and he replied, "You didn't ask the right question." It was embarrassing for both of us.

Asking the right question as a spiritual leader is vital. Jesus often used



questions to stimulate others to grow deeper in their spiritual walk with God or to challenge His accusers who had evil motives. For example, when Pharisees tried to trap Jesus by asking Him if it was right to pay taxes to Caesar, Jesus responded, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?" "Caesar's," they replied. "Well, then," Jesus said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give to God what belongs to God." (Mark 12:16-17, NLT). The right question at the right time can be powerful.

Is God calling you to take on a leadership role in your corps but you're afraid you won't have the right answers? Take heart! Know that as you seek Him, God will lead you to the right conclusions.

## Kids Club Curbside

The Pontiac, Mich., Corps has taken its ministry to the streets of their community to make sure they're still connecting with children and families.

Four days a week, officers and staff members travel to seven neighborhoods to host Kids Club Curbside, a program featuring food distribution, fun activities and Bible lessons based on the Orange Sunday School curriculum.

"We wanted to find ways to look kids in the eyes and remind them of God's loving care. Not surprisingly, the parents are benefitting from our efforts at least as much as the kids," said Captain Judith Fetzer, Pontiac corps officer.

Many of the families have at-



Ta'Shena Smith, administrative and program assistant, with a participant in Kids Club Curbside

tended corps youth programs and the community center, but Kids Club Curbside also has attracted others. What started with 50 kids and 22 families turned into 76 kids and 28 families in just three weeks!

The corps publicized the program by calling each family with meet-up location and time and asking them also to invite their neighbors. The initiative also garnered media coverage by a local newspaper. The article about the program was posted on the corps Facebook page and had nearly 4,000 views in less than a week.

This mobile ministry lasted for eight weeks, helping children through the summer learning loss and helping families navigate reentry into school.



# Leading the way in our corps

With the gifts and skills God has given us, we each have a valuable role to play. Here we salute some of the exceptional local leaders in the Central Territory, whose steadfast and sacrificial service even during a pandemic is making all the difference for now and eternity.

## Welcoming everyone in Watertown

by Michelle DeRusha

Luann Baseler's self-proclaimed mission is to put a smile on every person's face.

"I love being the first person people see when they walk through our door," said Luann, who serves as welcome sergeant on Sunday mornings and as the front desk receptionist weekdays at the Watertown, S.D., Corps. "That moment sets the tone for every interaction that follows, so I take my role very seriously."

Just because she's serious about her work, however, doesn't mean Luann doesn't have fun. "I do what I do because I love it and because I have a good time doing it," she said. "I don't get paid monetarily, but I get paid in a million other ways."

Luann's introduction to The Salvation Army came in the early '80s, when, after graduating from college, a friend invited her to lunch at The Salvation Army in Huron, S.D. Just 25-cents, it helped Luann make ends meet when her finances were tight.

"At the time I was what we would now call homeless though I didn't think of myself that way," she recalled. "I didn't have a place of my own, so I bounced around a lot, staying with different friends. I had a job, but I didn't manage my money well, so I didn't have a penny to my name."

"There was no judgment there. Everyone was kind and welcoming," she continued. "Back then, I didn't even really know what The Salvation Army was. I didn't know what they did."

That changed in 1998 when another friend invited her to attend home league (women's ministries) at the corps in Aberdeen, S.D., where Luann had moved. She had applied for disability and was unable to work, but when the corps needed a volunteer to answer phones at the front desk, she jumped at the opportunity. Luann has been

volunteering ever since.

"Luann does absolutely marvelous work," said Lt. Zachary Zumwalt, Watertown corps officer. "She's at the corps five days a week, answering phones and helping people get checked in. On Sundays she welcomes everyone with a warm greeting. She makes everyone feel at home, even if it's their first time visiting."

When she's not welcoming visitors, Luann helps compile statistics, posts on the corps' social media platforms and keeps the office sanitized. However, her favorite role by far is welcoming people and inviting them to worship on Sundays.

She said, "I tell them they'll see a familiar face—me!"



## Passing on the faith

by Captain Judith Fetzer

When kids talk about a mentor, you know they have a hero. My own children can't stop talking about Ron Washington, young people's sergeant-major at the Pontiac, Mich., Corps, who teaches children's Sunday school and junior church each week.

Ron first volunteered at The Salvation Army when his wife worked as the corps' social services director. He was inspired by the Christmas distribution, and when the job of community center director became available in 2011, he applied because he "wanted to be part of all the joy."

Ron remembers the 1967-68 riots in Detroit when everything was shut down: "There were young people with nothing to do." Ron's dad, who worked as a teacher and coach in the Catholic School System, started a city-wide basketball program with the Detroit Public Schools, including summer leagues and camps. Ron went on to play four years of college basketball at the University of Massachusetts and remembers the positive impact his college coach and teammates had on him.

Ron was fortunate to have another role model, especially after his father died when Ron was just 25. Monsignor Thomas Finnigan, his dad's boss and friend, functioned as pastor and mentor for Ron during the difficult years after his father's passing. His experience as an altar boy at Catholic School and discipleship by Monsi-



gnor Finnigan led him to faith in the One Living God and belief in Jesus Christ.

For Ron, his role at The Salvation Army is a natural expression of that faith, seeded in a Catholic tradition and bearing fruit as a Salvation Army soldier. Ron says he loves wearing his uniform as a way to connect with people and share the Lord.

Of his experiences in The Salvation Army, Ron most values visitation and transportation. He loves the "expectation of the kids who are waiting for us to arrive" and then the process of the families "becoming part of us" as a church family and culture.

In 2018, Ron experienced kidney failure and is now on the organ donor list. Despite this continuing trial, Ron has never lost hope or faith in God's goodness and feels he already has been given a second chance at life.

## Connecting creatively with corps cadets in Omaha

by Michelle DeRusha

When Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps Program Director Matt Walter realized he needed to get creative during the pandemic in order to connect with each of his 18 corps cadets, he knew whatever he planned would involve tacos. After all, teens and tacos go together like bread and butter. He also knew he would need to adhere to social distancing guidelines. After brainstorming with his

corps officer, Major Shelley McClintock, "Driveway Tacos" debuted.

"I brought some dinner over—always Taco Bell; it has to be Taco Bell—set up some chairs on the driveway, and together we knocked out three months of lessons," Matt said. He hosted more than a dozen "Driveway Tacos" meetups at the homes of corps cadets during June and July.

Because the brigade hadn't met in person since mid-March, they were about three months behind. "Zoom is fine, but I've found it just works better to connect with young people in person if possible," said Matt. "This turned out to be a great opportunity to check in with each kid and get done what we needed to get done. Plus, you can't go wrong with tacos, right?"

Matt, who oversees youth programming at the corps, including music, character-building programs and corps cadets, has worked for The Salvation Army for 15 years, but his personal connection with the Army was forged long before then.

"I walked into Citadel as a 15-year-old to fulfill my community service requirement after I'd been expelled



from school for getting in a fight," Matt explained. "The staff showed me so much support and showed my family so much support, The Salvation Army became my church home. I came to The Salvation Army as a troubled teen myself, so I get what some of these kids are going through."

While Matt was studying computer programming at a local college, he had the opportunity to volunteer as a youth leader at the corps. Eventually he was hired fulltime as program director. He's worked for the Army ever since.

Some of the kids Matt knew as kindergarteners are now in their 20s and are serving as youth leaders themselves. "It's been so rewarding for me to see these kids mature into leaders," he said. "I'm grateful to be able to see the fruits of God's work, and I'm just amazed at how God has really blessed me through this whole experience."

Matt is looking forward to the day when regular in-person youth programming will resume. Until then, there's always the opportunity for another driveway taco with a corps cadet.



## Pouring out God's love

When it comes to young people, Vanessa Brinkmann has a passion for letting them know they are loved. It's that simple.

Though she only recently took on the local officer position of young people's sergeant-major at the Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps, she was doing the work long before then. In fact, every young person who attended the corps in the past nine years has connected with Vanessa in some way. She is not only committed to her girl guards and band kids but takes a real interest in every young person she meets.

"The corps is a safe place," said Vanessa. "It's a place for youth to meet friends, escape stress, be themselves and have fun."

Vanessa says her passion for youth ministry comes from her own journey, which began when a friend invited her to sunbeams. "I always had something in me that was drawing me to the Lord," she said. "God calls us in different ways. My Christian friends who invited me to church were part of God calling me."

From her first encounter with The Salvation Army, Vanessa became involved in other programs, learned to play a horn and attended summer



Vanessa Brinkmann (center) with Lts. Robyn and Joshua Hubbard

camp. She accepted Christ and has not looked back.

"Faith is the foundation of everything," she said regarding the importance of reaching youth with the gospel. "When you're young you learn to tie your shoes, to feed yourself, the basic things. As Christians, we believe it's a basic thing to learn about God."

Her desire to pour God's love into young people is evident in her dedication to everything that happens at the corps. Whenever something needs to be done, Vanessa is committed to be there.

"Vanessa loves each person who comes through the doors," said Lt. Joshua Hubbard, Indianapolis Eagle Creek corps officer. "She is a selfless soldier, dedicated to our young people and committed to our community. We are blessed at Eagle Creek to have Vanessa as our YPSM."

## Inspiring women to grow

"I love all of it," said Sheila Carson of her role as women's ministries secretary at the Kansas City Eastside, Mo., Corps which she's held for two years.

Sheila began attending the corps with her mother after an invitation from now-Captain LeOtis Brooks about 14 years ago. She was enrolled as a soldier in 2011 and recently completed a refresher course and renewed her commitment. She wears her uniform proudly to show her dedication to the corps and to the Lord and says she lives daily by Proverbs 3:5-7.

"Sheila has grown in her faith," said Major Janice Love, corps officer. "She has a boldness to tell it like it is, and I appreciate that about her. She's a studier of the Word and a consistent and faithful tither."

Since taking on the role of

women's ministries secretary, Sheila has used her gifts of organization, attention to detail and creativity to plan and lead programs and activities for the women of the corps. She especially enjoys teaching crafts and building relationships within the group.

"I love our ladies," she said. "When we get together we have our program but we also tell each other about our lives and pray for one another."

In addition to orchestrating women's ministries activities, Sheila serves as head usher on Sundays, volunteers to cook for corps and community meals, and has prepared care packages for corps members throughout the pandemic, each one designed for a particular group or event such as children, corps cadets, men's ministries and Mother's Day.

"We plan to start meeting in person again soon," concluded Sheila. "I want to see our ladies grow, to love one another, and to invite more women to join us."



Pictured at the 2018 Territorial Women's Conference from left: Juliet Walker, Cadet Kathrine Reid and Sheila Carson

## Shining for Christ

Jesús Ortiz has served as corps sergeant-major (CSM) at the Chicago, Ill., La Villita Corps for 17 years.

"Jesús is someone who lives his faith," said Carlos Moran, corps administrator. "He is the same at home as he is at the corps, a strong family man and a good example."

In his crucial role as CSM, Jesús helps lead and support the corps and encourages other members to be fully involved. Though limited during the pandemic, he has served as a Sunday school teacher, taught soldiership classes and filled in as a substitute Bible study leader. He also started the corps' Facebook page and uses it to encourage corps members as well as those on the fringes in their faith.

Jesús wasn't always a believer. In the early days, he attended the corps on Sundays primarily to spend time with the woman he would one day marry. However, through the ministry of Major Victor Garcia, who was the corps officer at the time, he began to explore spiritual matters and accepted Christ as his Savior.

"I wasn't sure

at first what it really meant to be a Christian," said Jesús, but he didn't quit. Choosing to go all in, Jesús started attending Bible study and gave up his self-indulgent lifestyle as he realized his actions were not honoring to God.

The difference Christ made in Jesús' heart and mind changed the course of his and his family's lives. Jesús' wife, children and extended family also have accepted Christ. His grown children have continued to serve the Lord through The Salvation Army as employees or soldiers at other corps.

"I thank God every day for His grace," concluded Jesús. "I pray God keeps me in His Word and away from temptation so I can be a blessing to others for Him."



Jesús Ortiz and Alfredo Martinez, territorial Hispanic ministries consultant

## Going the extra mile

Kansas City Blue Valley, Mo., Corps youth leader Maricssa Meras is dedicated to spreading the gospel and discipling children and teens of the corps. Working while studying early education, this college student has a lot on her plate, but she keeps her involvement at the corps a priority. In addition to teaching corps cadets and leading other youth programs, she volunteers to serve community meals and assists with events like school supply distribution.

"Maricssa is very responsible," said Major Lex Giron, corps officer. "She always goes the extra mile."

Maricssa says she wants to provide the same comfort and opportunities for youth that she experienced growing up in the corps.

"Going to the corps made a big difference in my life," she said. "It was a safe place for me, so instead of getting into trouble I was involved at the corps."

The desire to

take up a leadership role came after a powerful experience at youth councils in which Maricssa felt the Lord calling her to step up.

"Maricssa used to be very quiet, but she began to speak up and take leadership," said Major Lex. "She has good priorities and is a good example to the kids."

Throughout the pandemic, Maricssa has stayed connected with the corps youth and worked with them to complete their corps cadet lessons along with other activities such as the corps mini-vacation Bible school. She currently leads a teen Bible study and discussion group each week.



Maricssa Meras (c) with corps officers Majors Patricia and Lex Giron

MESSENGERS OF  
*Reconciliation*

2020  2022



**Wiley and Heather Gladney**

Both first-generation Salvationists

**Fox Cities, Wis., Corps ♦ Wisconsin/  
Upper Michigan Division**

*Majors David and Shanda Minks, corps officers*

**Spiritual Gifts**

**Wiley:** Leadership ♦ Giving ♦ Teaching

**Heather:** Discernment ♦ Mercy ♦ Serving

**Ministry Passion or Experience**

**Wiley:** Missions ♦ Preaching/Teaching

**Heather:** Children/Youth ♦ Women's Ministries

**Spiritual mentors**

**Wiley:** Rev. Richard Jones, Rev. J. Austin Gladney

**Heather:** Rev. Todd Wilson

Newly  
accepted  
candidates



**Shannon and Justin Bluer**

Both first-generation Salvationists

**Petoskey, Mich., Corps ♦ Western Michigan/  
Northern Indiana Division**

*Envoys Greg and Bethany Irwin, corps administrators*

**Spiritual Gifts**

**Justin:** Discernment ♦ Serving ♦ Giving

**Shannon:** Mercy ♦ Giving ♦ Teaching

**Ministry Passion or Experience**

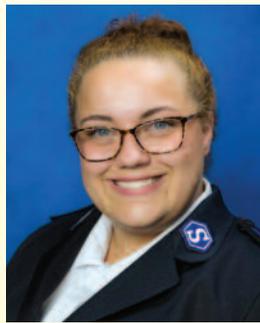
**Justin:** Missions ♦ Preaching/Teaching

**Shannon:** Worship ♦ Children/Youth

**Spiritual mentors**

**Justin:** Envoy Greg Irwin, Jeff Fitch

**Shannon:** Captain Miranda Duskin, Darlene Laubrich



**Madyson Lyon**

First-generation Salvationist

**Traverse City, Mich., Corps ♦ Western Michigan/  
Northern Indiana Division**

*Lts. Matthew and Haylee Winters, corps officers*

*Majors Jeff and Dawn Russell, former corps officers*

**Spiritual Gifts**

Leadership ♦ Serving ♦ Giving

**Ministry Passion or Experience**

Children/Youth ♦ Worship

**Spiritual mentors**

Major Dawn Russell ♦ Mary Vollink

# Congratulations!

We salute these officers who have achieved certificates and degrees, enriching their lives and ministries as of May 31, 2020.

**Major Carole Caddy**

Certificate in Life Coaching  
(Marriage & Family)  
Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene  
University

**Major Valerie Carr**

M.A. Leadership  
Asbury Theological Seminary

**Major Michael Cho**

Emerging Leadership Program  
Arrow Leadership Institute

**Captain Enrique Coreano**

Executive Leadership Program  
Arrow Leadership Institute

**Major Jim Curl**

Certificate in Life Coaching  
(Marriage & Family)  
Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene  
University

**Captain Aubrey DeBaar**

B.A. Ministry (Christian Education)  
Nazarene Bible College

**Major Cassandra DeJesus**

Master of Organizational Leadership  
Trevecca Nazarene University

**A/Captain John Gantner**

Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership  
Booth University College

**A/Captain Tracy Gantner**

Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership  
Booth University College

**Major Curtiss Hartley**

M.A. Communication  
(Strategic Communication)  
Regent University

**Lt. Robyn Hubbard**

Certificate in Life Coaching  
(Marriage & Family)  
Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene  
University

**Captain Mary Kim**

Executive Leadership Program  
Arrow Leadership Institute

**Captain David Martinez**

Emerging Leadership Program  
Arrow Leadership Institute

**Captain Heather Montenegro**

Emerging Leadership Program  
Arrow Leadership Institute

**Major Valerie Nance**

B.A.S. Practical Ministry  
Olivet Nazarene University

**Captain Samantha Nolan Jones**

B.A.S. Practical Ministry  
Olivet Nazarene University

**Major Jenny Ortman**

Certificate in Higher Education  
Teaching

Bok Center at Harvard University

**Major Johanna Pook**

Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership  
Booth University College

**Major John Pook**

Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership  
Booth University College

**A/Captain Grace Roinila**

Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership  
Booth University College

**A/Captain Mike Roinila**

Certificate in Kroc Center Leadership  
Booth University College

**Major Jolinda Shelbourn**

B.A. Ministry (Leadership & Ethics)  
Nazarene Bible College

**Major Cyndi Shiels**

M.A. Theological Studies  
(Spiritual Formation)  
Asbury Theological Seminary

**Captain Kristina Sjögren**

Certificate in Life Coaching  
(Marriage & Family)

Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene  
University

**Major Tricia Taube**

Certificate in Life Coaching  
(Marriage & Family)

Parrott Institute at Olivet Nazarene  
University

**Captain Sharyn Tennyson**

B.A. Business Administration  
Olivet Nazarene University

**Captain Julie Trapp**

Master of Business Administration  
(Leadership)  
Olivet Nazarene University

**Captain Dan Voss**

B.A.S. Practical Ministry  
Olivet Nazarene University

**Captain Christopher White**

Master of Ministry  
Olivet Nazarene University

**Captain Robert Whitney**

B.A.S. Business Management  
Olivet Nazarene University

B. A. = Bachelor of Arts

B. A. S. = Bachelor of Applied Science

M.A. = Master of Arts

# Working toward a brighter future

**D**id you know Salvation Army corps from over 130 countries around the world participate in offerings for World Services/Self-Denial? International Headquarters distributes that money to help keep The Salvation Army going wherever it is at work.

This concept of sharing with others in need is addressed throughout the Bible. One example is found in Acts where the disciples heard a se-



vere famine would spread over the entire Roman world. Acts 11:29-30 (NIV) records, "The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul." The disciples personally contributed to help alleviate the coming famine. We follow this example when we give to World Services/Self-Denial, helping to address issues like hunger, poverty, education and health care.

*"Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain." —ISAIAH 40:4*

Through this year's territorial World Services emphasis, each division will have the opportunity to learn about Salvation Army projects or programs related to the goal of *developing meaningful work* which leads to a brighter future as individuals experience increased dignity and independence and poverty is alleviated.

You will see an example of your World Services dollars at work as you learn how The Salvation Army is ministering in your Partner in Mission location. In the coming months you will receive more information. It will be exciting to see how each corps and division gets involved!

This year we also will be focusing on our personal and corps goals for World Services/Self-Denial. Each person and corps is challenged to set a World Services/Self-Denial goal. Consider the amount given to World Services from offerings and fundraisers last year and challenge yourselves to get involved at an even deeper



level. As we consider our own stewardship, we will experience our own bright future of living generous lives.

*"And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." —ISAIAH 40:5*

By working toward achieving the goal of *developing meaningful work* and our own World Services/Self-Denial goals, we are working together toward a brighter future. May our giving glorify the Lord.

The territorial world missions department is here to support you with program resources, videos, bulletin board materials and fundraising ideas.

Visit [centralmissions.org](http://centralmissions.org).



## Why every corps needs a missionary sergeant

by Captain David Martinez

**T**hink of a ministry or program at your corps that is successful and long lasting.

It was probably started or led by a soldier. While corps officers can develop an effective ministry, if it depends on them it will often end with their change of appointment. However, ministries with soldier leadership stand the test of time. World Services is no exception.

Having a World Services goal of any size can be both daunting and a blessing. Of our three corps appointments, our current one, Dearborn Heights, Mich., has the largest World Services goal by far. Yet, the size of the corps' congregation is not the determining factor for successful World Services fundraising. All three corps have been relatively similar in size. The desire of the congregation has not been the challenge either as they've all had enthusiasm for supporting overseas ministry. I've found the difference in the ability to raise the World Services goal is a spokesperson who provides passion and works hard

toward this ministry.

Accomplishing the World Services goal in our present corps is only possible because we have a missionary sergeant. Since 1973 Bev Herivel has filled this role. As part of her ministry, she has created a World Services Committee of corps members who work alongside her. With Bev's direction, Dearborn Heights has raised over \$1 million for World Services in the last 20 years.

Supporting overseas work is a selfless ministry. Most of us will never get to meet the recipients or see the impact of our giving. Still, Bev said, "I'm amazed at the privilege of relationships and opportunities that I've encountered as missionary sergeant."

Do you have the gifts of empathy, compassion and organization? Does learning about other cultures and countries interest you? Are you a storyteller? Have you ever been the recipient of support and now you'd like to help others? Then pray about the possibility God is calling you to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth by becoming your corps' missionary sergeant.

Want to learn more? Talk to your corps officer. And if you're a corps officer who is overwhelmed by all the responsibilities you have, take time to pray about a missionary sergeant for your corps.

### Leadership



Bev Herivel

**A free virtual missionary sergeant training event will be held on November 7, 2020. Contact the world missions department for more information or for additional program resources. Visit [centralmissions.org](http://centralmissions.org) or email [missions@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:missions@usc.salvationarmy.org).**



**Learn  
Serve  
Experience  
a broader perspective**



*Join with other Salvationists, ages 18-28, next summer in the Summer Mission Team leadership development and discipleship program. Build friendships and go deeper in your relationship with the Lord as you partner with Salvationists in the Midwest or overseas.*

Qualifications and application at [centralmissions.org/smt2021](http://centralmissions.org/smt2021)

Application deadline is February 17, 2021.

# A Conversation with Major Steve Harper

*With the Racial Justice Summit around the corner, we are honored that Major Steve Harper, one of the territory's first African-American officers commissioned in 1971, shares some of his story, including experiences with racism, helping us understand a little better what it might be like to walk in someone else's shoes.*

## **Growing up, were you keenly aware of racism? How did it affect you?**

My first clear memory of racialized language was after we had shopped for school clothes downtown in Kansas City. I was just 5. We ran to catch the city bus to go home. I had the hand of my younger brother; my older sister held our younger toddler sister, and my mother held the youngest who was less than a year old. We had a bunch of packages, some of which my mother put on the seat behind the driver to get the fare from her purse. The driver yelled, "Get to the back of the bus!"

Even as I recall it, I remember being mad. I was more angry about the way he talked to my mother than about going to the back of the bus. At the end of the line when we got off and walked home, I was still angry. My mother calmly asked what was wrong, and I told her I didn't like how the bus driver spoke to her. She replied that he was only doing his job, and he could lose his job if others complained. It was just the way of life.

After I finished second grade, a year or two after Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education, we moved to a school district that required us to integrate into the local grade school. It was unpleasant. Because of my age I was moved back a grade even though my mother petitioned for me to take a competency test. My little sister, who was in kindergarten, was injured when another kid pushed her out of a swing on the playground. I felt bad because I was supposed to be watching out for her. I walked her over to a teacher, who looked at my sister crying and turned her head away. After repeated trips to the school, my mother moved us to another already integrated school which had both Hispanics and Native Americans. It proved a much better experience.

In high school all the teachers were white; the few staff who weren't had custodial jobs. One day a note on my locker said to go see my guidance counselor. He asked if I had plans after graduation, and I told him I wanted to go to college. He looked at my file and said, "You should work at the post office like your mother." I never went back to see him.

However, one of my favorite teachers asked the same question. When I told him about my experience with the counselor, he was angry. Shortly after that, I got a note on my locker changing my senior schedule to include the necessary classes for college. Marion Woolls will always be my favorite teacher. He was one of the few who sat classes alphabetically, not all the black students in the back. He would also call on black students who raised their hands to answer questions.

## **When did you come to Christ and was your decision inhibited or promoted by what you saw in churches?**

My mother always sent us to church, but it was not until I started attending The Salvation Army that I

saw a practical expression of service to God. I was invited by two brothers, who were white, during high school. The younger brother and I shared the same homeroom and core classes; all three of us were in band. They invited me to play on the corps basketball team, but before I knew it, I was playing a bass drum on the street corner.

I accepted Christ at camp during an altar call. I don't remember who preached or even the subject, but I found myself kneeling at a metal folding chair. When I looked up, my friends were kneeling around me. The corps people embraced me and congratulated me. It was an all-white congregation. After I accepted Christ, I was encouraged to become a soldier, so I joined a recruits' class.

## **When did you receive your calling to officership?**

I received my call to officership at a youth councils. I remember they asked, "What are you going to do with the rest of your life? God needs you. The Salvation Army needs you." Of course, this was said to everyone, but I felt it was just to me. I was 17.

## **Did being African-American give you pause when it came to the decision to become an officer?**

I would not call it a pause, but I watched and listened in my little corps, Kansas City Bellefontaine, where there was a consistent message of God's love and that God could use me in The Salvation Army.

I also went to a great source in decision-making, my mother. She didn't know much about the Army, so I took it upon myself to help her understand. By this time, she had prepared us for a world that might not accept us. Her final words to me were: "Don't forget where home is." She was reminding me of how I was raised to be persistent and steadfast.

I joke that I left home for training college before I ever saw any black person in Salvation Army uniform. I was either a fool or it was God's will. I leaned toward God's will. Obviously it was as my wife and I have been officers for more than 46 years.

## **Did you feel where you could be appointed was limited?**

While in training I knew appointments might be a challenge. In 1969, I was a single black male first-year cadet. There was one single black female second-year cadet. There was a single black lieutenant commissioned that June, and a married black couple who were captains. I concluded the Army had failed at recruitment of African-Americans or hadn't really tried.

While in Chicago I befriended black Salvationists, who embraced me and seemed proud I was in training. Although they saw the Army as a white organization, they joined because they had been loved by a particular officer.



## **Our individual actions, showing the love of Christ, can be powerful.**

Yes.

## **Regardless of your appointment or acceptance by the community, how did God use you? Care to share an example?**

In my second appointment I was sent as assistant corps officer to an all-white corps in a neighborhood that had changed demographics. No soldiers or attenders still lived there.

I was told by the divisional commander to start inviting the community. I proceeded to do just that, reaching out to the neighborhood about corps programs and letting them know we had a game room and a basketball court in the parking lot.

After a couple of weeks, no one had shown up. So, during Sunday school I walked across the street where a large family I had invited lived. They said they had come over, but the front door was locked. I discovered some soldiers had locked the door to keep "them" out. I reported this to the corps officers who expressed shock and anger. We decided next week I would walk across the street and bring the family to Sunday school. I think I was more acceptable because I was an officer and played the drums—they had a 20-piece band and needed a percussionist—but the family across the street was different. Soldiers complained so much, eventually the corps officers were moved. Later, I was, too.

## **Do you feel The Salvation Army identified, invested in and used your skills and gifts?**

I believe leaders thought Diane and I were able to work across racial lines. I hope it was because it did not matter who we served but Whom we served.

We had two appointments to all white corps. Well, the Sunday before we arrived it was all white. Diane and I were appointed to an urban white corps in a neighborhood that had been dissected by an interstate highway that was to be built. The corps was in the smaller portion.

The neighborhood was white, but we sensed tensions related to a burgeoning black community around them. It was a poor to working-class neighborhood, and they were not happy when it was announced their

new corps officers were black. When someone used the "N" word, one of the corps leaders yelled out to defend us. She knew me from earlier ministry to her family in a hard circumstance. Her words helped turned things around. It gave us a chance. In time, the corps congregation accepted us, and we were well loved. We were able to reopen the community center and slowly they accepted other people of color from the community.

## **Wow. It speaks again to our responsibility as individual believers. Were there individuals who believed in you and you considered advocates?**

Although my mother died young at age 50, she was someone we trusted because her advice was always marked by love for us.

Colonel Tom Lewis was like a mentor to me.

There were people like Colonel John Payton, who as my divisional commander addressed an incident that happened when I went to shake another officer's hand and he looked down at mine and walked off.

## **You and your wife are known as joyful people. How did you deal with hurtful experiences, especially racism, and not become bitter?**

It goes back to the instruction I got from my mother. In the face of abject racism, she never got bitter or even cursed. We must cherish the good things and get over the bad; otherwise, we can get caught up in negativity.

A friend called recently to apologize for something he said to me more than 50 years ago. Once he recounted what happened, I assured him I didn't remember it and told him I always consider the source. A close friend is allowed more leeway, certainly more than a stranger.

## **What do you feel needs to happen for us to more fully reflect God's Kingdom and most effectively fulfill our mission in unity?**

If I knew what needed to happen, I'd shout it from the mountaintop. What I am confident of is this should not be based on some snappy slogan or flashy motto. That would be seen the same as "throwing money at the problem."

Some difficult self-analysis must take place followed by a sincere heartfelt plan that is simple and includes input from both leaders and "the least of these." We must remember that changing the direction of the largest ship in the ocean will take some time.

## **Any other thoughts you'd like to leave us with?**

What is the mission? The song "Banners and Bonnets" about The Salvation Army by Meredith Willson asks if you can love the unloved in the Spirit of the Lord. I'd sign up all over again if we commit to serving the least among us.

# 730... AND BEYOND



3,030 days and counting

by Captain Ketsia Diaz

Eleven years ago my husband and I moved from Haiti to the U.S. to lead the St. Louis Temple, Mo., Corps. Although I grew up in The Salvation Army, it didn't take long for me to realize how different it was from one country to another.

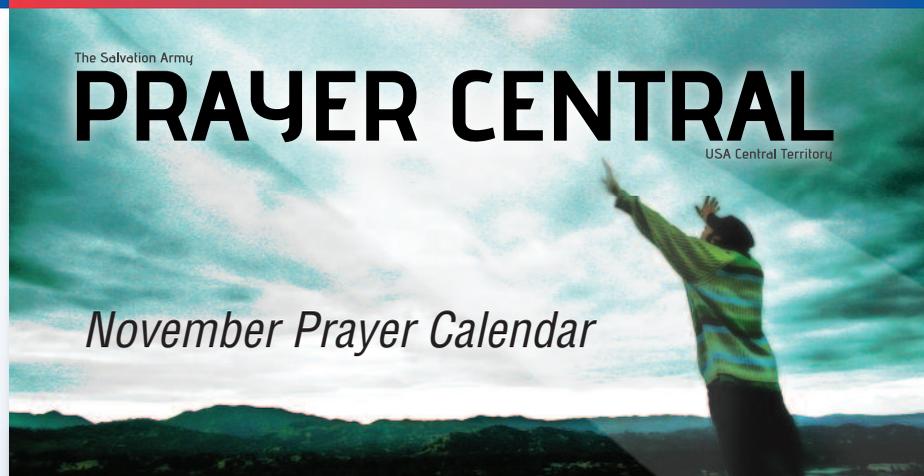
As I began my new ministry, I was responsible to lead programs like youth character-building which we didn't have in Haiti. When Steve said I would lead Moonbeams, I had no idea what he was talking about. Fortunately, I was blessed to have officers from divisional headquarters who attended the corps and were willing to come alongside to teach, encourage and support me. Major Nancy Holloway and her mother, Major Georgia Anderson, showed me what this ministry was all about and how to share Jesus with the precious little ones who were part of our troop.

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV) says, "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and be-



come mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

As we answer God's call for ministry, He equips us with all that we need, including mentors who have experienced God's providence in their lives. I have learned that following God's will for my life is not about knowing it all beforehand; it is about being open and willing to let the Holy Spirit teach and guide me along the way. It is not about me but about building the Body of Christ and trusting in His provision. Then, what seems impossible becomes possible. Today through God's help and the leaders He has put in my life, I am more confident in teaching youth programs and leading others to Christ.



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Sunday	Ecclesiastes 3-4	Milwaukee, Wis., ARC*
	2 Monday	Zephaniah	Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps
	3 Tuesday	Acts 11-12	Madison Genesis, Wis., Corps
	4 Wednesday	James 4-5	Sri Lanka Territory
	5 Thursday	Deuteronomy 1-3	Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps
	6 Friday	2 Chronicles 33-36	Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps
	7 Saturday	Psalms 128-130	Cicero Templo Laramie, Ill., Corps
	8 Sunday	Ecclesiastes 5-6	St. Louis Eulid, Mo., Corps
	9 Monday	Haggai	Hibbing, Minn., Corps
	10 Tuesday	Acts 13-14	Kearney, Neb., Corps
	11 Wednesday	1 Peter 1-3	Pontiac, Mich., Corps
	12 Thursday	Deuteronomy 4-6	Australia Territory
	13 Friday	Ezra 1-5	Jackson, Mich., Corps
	14 Saturday	Psalms 131-133	Madison Temple, Wis., Corps
	15 Sunday	Ecclesiastes 7-8	Minneapolis, Minn., ARC
	16 Monday	Zechariah 1-7	Missionary Sergeants throughout territory
	17 Tuesday	Acts 15-16	Iowa City, Iowa, Corps
	18 Wednesday	1 Peter 4-5	Democratic Republic of Congo
	19 Thursday	Deuteronomy 7-9	Kansas City Northland, Mo., Corps
	20 Friday	Ezra 6-10	Crystal Lake, Ill., Corps
	21 Saturday	Psalms 134-136	Jacksonville, Ill., Corps
	22 Sunday	Ecclesiastes 9-10	Petoskey, Mich., Corps
	23 Monday	Zechariah 8-14	Christmas kettle campaigns
	24 Tuesday	Acts 17-18	USA Central Territory
	25 Wednesday	1 John 1-2	Lincoln, Neb., Corps
	26 Thursday	Deuteronomy 10-12	Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps
	27 Friday	Nehemiah 1-4	Commissioners Merle & Dawn Heatwole
	28 Saturday	Psalms 137-139	Manitowoc, Wis., Corps
	29 Sunday	Ecclesiastes 11-12	Dearborn Heights, Mich., Corps
	30 Monday	Malachi	Kankakee, Ill., Corps

\*ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

## New International Positional Statement on the Death Penalty

General Brian Peddle has approved the publication of a new Salvation Army International Positional Statement (IPS) on the death penalty. A positional statement is an articulation, crafted with careful and prayerful thought, of the official viewpoint of The Salvation Army. Each IPS is put together by the International Moral and Social Issues Council, which is comprised of Salvation Army officers and soldiers from all over the world.

As well as stating the position, each document expresses the scriptural and theological grounds for the statement and the underlying principles. Officers and others representing The Salvation Army are expected to speak consistently with the stated position, which is available to view by the public. It is understood, however, that individual Salvationists may hold different views on some subjects and acceptance of the official position is not essential to membership.

The IPS on the Death Penalty recognizes that the subject is controversial, but puts forward a clear and strong position, stating: "The Salvation Army affirms the responsibility of government to create and sustain justice, and while it recognizes that this includes punishment, The Salvation Army calls for the end of the use of the death penalty."

Acknowledging The Salvation Army's worldwide experience of

ministry with offenders, victims and their respective families, the statement adds: "The Salvation Army, in recognizing the need for there to be consequences for criminal acts, advocates that such consequences should allow for the rehabilitation of offenders. The Salvation Army uncompromisingly stands for life."

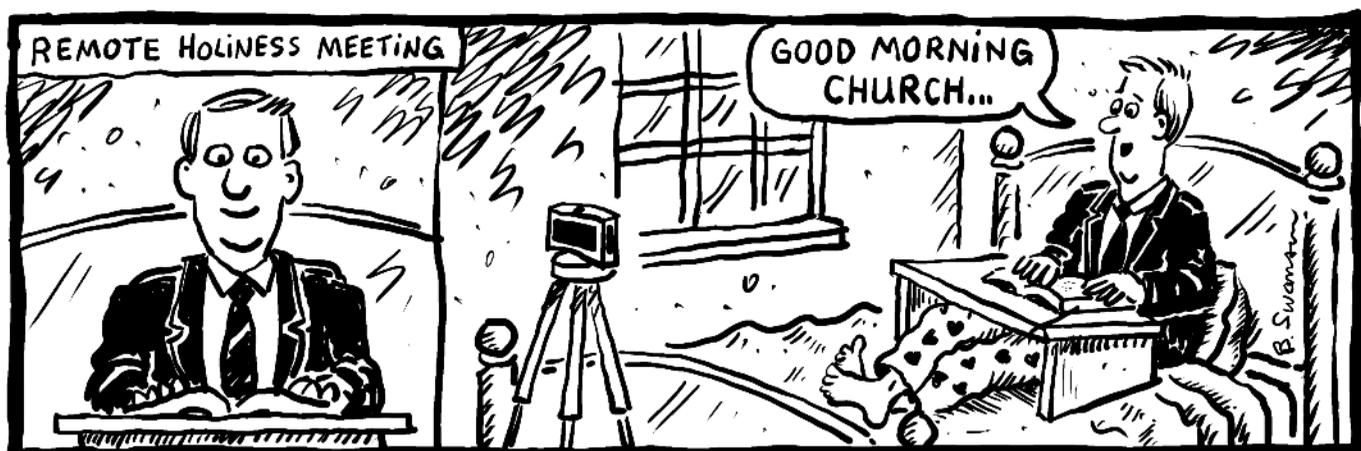
The full statement—including context, biblical exploration of the issue and suggested practical steps—can be accessed alongside all current positional statements at [sar.my/ips](http://sar.my/ips). Translations are being added when available.

Report by International Communications

Go to [www.salarmycentral.org](http://www.salarmycentral.org)

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

### --Mustard Seeds--





by Dr. Harold Burgmayer

### Territorial Music and Creative Arts Ministries Secretary

For more than 80 years, the essence of Central Music Institute (CMI) has remained consistent: the pursuit of musical and artistic excellence built upon a solid spiritual foundation while having a lot of fun. When it became apparent that gathering at Wonderland Camp would not be possible, the territorial music and creative arts ministries department team shifted plans for an alternative virtual CMI.

Since interpersonal connection is a vital component of discipleship and musical apprenticeship, the principal challenge for creating an online encampment was constructing a sched-

ule that allowed for meaningful engagement with students each day. To that end, master classes for brass, percussion, vocal, dance, drama and praise band were held via video conference live each morning.

During virtual CMI, 232 students logged on to interact with renowned instructors from across the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Students represented a blend of Salvationists from the United States and 18 other countries stretching from the Caribbean and South America to Europe, Asia and Africa. Working virtually is bringing us closer together as a musical Salvation Army. A concurrent weeklong Music Missions appeal successfully raised funds to allow some of these overseas students to share in the CMI experience in person in the future.

"Virtual CMI is really fun! I am able to message friends from camp, and we watch together," said Alexis Dill, 2019 Ben Merritt Award co-winner.

An intentional focus on spiritual development also permeated the virtual CMI sched-

ule. A "Sealed Orders" devotional video each morning combined a song from a praise band in the territory with a "chalk talk" from chaplain Captain Betsy Raes. Students and faculty meditated on the topic at their convenience and shared their thoughts during the afternoon small group video conferences. The theme "A Holy Priesthood" based on 1 Peter was reinforced with Captain Betsy's wrap-up in each evening program.

A live broadcast each evening featured guest interviews, reports from each division, outstanding soloists from the Rising Stars Online Solo Festival, and, of course, CMI-TV. With assistance of the territorial visual communications team, each night featured a new virtual ensemble collage combining individual video submissions from some of the 230 registered delegates and faculty. These collaborative items underscored the importance of musicians coming together in worship. Indeed, forging connections with God and with each other is what made virtual CMI the place to be.

"I loved being able to have more guests than we would if we were in

person," said Katrina Baiocchi from the Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps. "I loved the openness of the schedule and the fact that it was free of cost. Regular CMI wouldn't have been feasible for me financially or scheduling wise....Virtual CMI has been well worth it and has definitely been a highlight of my COVID experience."



### Virtual CMI Clinicians

Leaders in their fields joined students from around the world to make virtual CMI 2020 a great success. Our thanks to the following instructors:

#### Brass

Owen Farr  
Chris Jaudes  
William Russell  
Aaron VanderWeele  
Paul Woodward

#### Voice

Ronda Atwater  
Major Margaret Davis  
Eric Dina  
Cathie Koehnen  
Jonathon Weller

#### Praise Team

Randy Bonifield  
Adely Charles  
Shalini Danielson  
Simon Gough  
Kris Singh

#### Percussion

Andrew Boynton  
Nathan Cole  
Chris Hofer  
Bill Quick

#### Dance & Drama

Joseph Frost  
Caitlin Jackson  
Erin Morgan  
Kellyn Thornburg



## Returning to worship in person as pandemic wears on

by Camerin Mattson

COVID-19 has changed everything—including church. For months all the worship services in the Metropolitan Division were held virtually. Worship music, sermons and Bible studies have reached corps members on their couches or at their kitchen tables via the internet.

But as government restrictions for public gatherings eased, some corps have been able to resume in-person meetings. While services aren't quite the same, many are finding hidden blessings in the time apart and new perspectives on why they gather in the first place.

### Gathering Carefully

In addition to wearing face masks and social distancing, when people come to the Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps on Sundays they have their temperatures taken before entering



Chicago Temple worship

the sanctuary and answer a brief questionnaire. They're encouraged not to linger or mingle after the service. Major Clara Braddock, Temple corps officer, notes that all these precautions impact the community feeling she usually encourages and enjoys at the corps.

"It isn't ideal to test people before they can enter the building. It's very sterile," she said. "It isn't easy greeting people and not hugging or seeing their faces. It isn't easy singing and praising God and not seeing the joyful expressions on faces. But these are the times we live in, and until there is a change, we have to do this in order to meet."

Some corps have gotten creative. "We're using an 'offering truck' to maintain social distance during offering time," said Lt. Leta Marin of the East Chicago, Ind., Corps. One of their staff drives a remote-controlled truck around the spread-out rows of church attendees to collect any offerings. It's COVID-appropriate and entertaining.

### Mixed Feelings

The first Sunday back after months apart was momentous for corps. "Our first Sunday was a joyful opportunity to see our corps members and friends together as one body again," said Major Marcelo Orbe, Belvidere, Ill., corps officer. "To be able to worship as an in-person congregation again is a blessing, and it was a grateful moment to see



Lt. Abraham Marin

my brothers and sisters' faithfulness and love to our Lord and Savior."

Lt. Nancy Rivera, who leads the Mayfair Community Church (Corps) Hispanic congregation with her husband, shared, "In our culture, it is not quite the same when we cannot give a handshake or a hug to our brother and sister in Christ."

### Surprise Blessings

As difficult as time apart has been for corps congregations, it's come with some surprise blessings.

The Des Plaines, Ill., Corps realized they had new people watching and participating in their worship services since they were available online. "It actually enlarged our borders and made the different ministries available for people even from different countries," said Envoy Florinelvi (Ody) Giraldo, associate for Hispanic ministries.

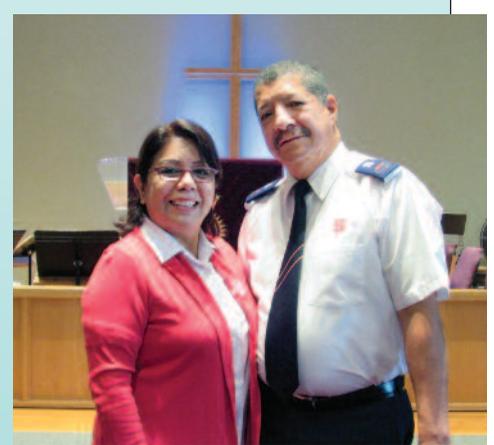
Cecelia, a woman in their congregation, had been praying for years

for her grown daughter Patricia who lives in Mexico City. Patricia watched the services via Facebook and accepted Christ. "The family is very excited and feels blessed with this new life in Christ," said Envoy Ody.

### Lessons Along the Way

Everyone is aware the future is uncertain. Some experts predict a rise in flu and COVID-19 cases this winter that will necessitate sheltering in place again. Through it all, Salvationists are keeping their eyes open for the lessons to be learned.

"I hope that people come away with a better sense of what the church is," said Captain Xavier Montenegro, Metropolitan divisional program secretary. "The church was never a building; it was always people."



Envoys Ody and Alberto Giraldo