



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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Norridge Citadel transforms summer Sundays

Summer at the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps this year brought a series of events designed to engage its members and surrounding community in activities focused on the four areas of the corps' vision statement—prayer, service, fellowship and worship—after a long year of limited interaction.

"Due to the year of COVID changes and not meeting together, one of the things we were especially missing in our congregation and community was fellowship," said

Captain Catherine Mount, corps officer, who leads Norridge with her husband, Captain Peter. "We created the goal to offer 12 opportunities to connect before September, and the idea for Summer Sundays was developed."

Several soldiers and officers stepped up to take the lead on Summer Sunday events, which were held each Sunday afternoon from June through August and included fun service activities, community-oriented events and



learning opportunities. Everyone was welcomed and encouraged to participate.

"We intentionally planned events that took us out of the building where people could see us," said David Brooksbank, corps sergeant-major. "It was an opportunity for us to share more about The Salvation Army."

Light-hearted options like a free car wash and a World Services walk at a local forest preserve, along with several picnics with outdoor games, were especially enjoyed by youth and families. These sunny-day activities



allowed for spontaneous connection with members of the community as well as a chance to make a difference globally.

"I'm thrilled at the number of people who came out and walked," said Blythe Marinelli, who organized the World Services walk. "It was a super hot day, but we had over 50 people of all ages participate and tripled our \$1,000 goal!"

Other community-oriented events included a prayer walk led by Commissioners Barry and Sue Swanson

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How to start a Hispanic ministry

Start with awareness. Lean into the Holy Spirit's leading and take note of your neighbors—who they are and how you might enter into their lives to share the Good News.

This is the kind of practical and on-point advice, interwoven with inspiring stories, that you'll find in one of the territory's newest resources, a video called "How to Start a Hispanic Ministry in Your Corps."

A collaborative effort between the territorial intercultural ministries department, led by Captain Ketsia Diaz, and the territorial visual communications team, the video was released just in time for National His-

panic Heritage Month. Since, according to the Pew Research Center, Hispanics have accounted for more than half of the total U.S. population growth since 2010 and in 2019 reached a record 60.6 million, the topic is more important than ever.

"The future of the church in North America is not one kind of people," explained Dr. Rolando Cuellar at the territory's One Conference in 2019. "The future is multicultural congregations. We need to be open to people from other ethnic backgrounds."



Alfredo Martinez



According to Alfredo Martinez, territorial intercultural ministries consultant who hosts the video, the question for Salvationists is whether they will see this as a challenge or as an opportunity. "Are we going to be obedient to reach out to the ever-changing community around us?" he asked.

Continued on page 2



Captains Nivia and Daniel Paredes

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Expect more

by Lt. Colonel Patty Richardson
Territorial Racial Diversity and Inclusion Secretary

To say this last year and a half has been nothing like any of us expected is a huge understatement. Yes, things happen all the time that we don't expect, both difficult and pleasant, but these times have felt especially overwhelming. Fearfulness and questions about God creep into our minds because situations appear to be out of His control, and certainly ours.

What often gets overshadowed is that God is hard at work reshaping our spiritual lives—our praying, our interaction with scripture, our waiting, our trusting and believing—for the purpose of clarifying our view of the Holy, Sovereign God's activity amid our circumstances.

God says, "See, I am doing a new

thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." (Isaiah 43:19, NIV)

What encouragement! A new thing! Even in a harsh place!

The fact is we all have moments in the wilderness; they are unsettling, difficult and disorientating.

Our lesson: expect God to be present, providing all we need on the journey through the wilderness and beyond. God promised His people and assures us: "When you pass through the waters, I am with you; when you pass through the streams, they will not overwhelm you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not harm you." (Isaiah 43:2, NET)



A good definition of expectation is: the prospect of the future; grounds upon which something excellent is expected to occur; prospect of anything good to come.

God never just meets our expectations; He always exceeds them with something much better.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or imagine, according to the power that works in us." (Ephesians 3:20, MEV) His plan is for our good and His glory.

The song, "God is about to do," by Morris Chapman that I discovered years ago still inspires and encourages me:

*That old feeling we call giving up,
same old dark cloud always
hanging round*

*Now is the best time I know for
looking up.*

*It's time to put a smile where there
used to be a frown,*

Don't let it get you down,

*Remember Moses when he stood
by the Red Sea*

Pharaoh's army was closing in.

*God spoke to Moses told him to
stretch out his hand*

*And the Children came walking
across, they came walking on
dry land,*

*People do you understand, start
believing,*

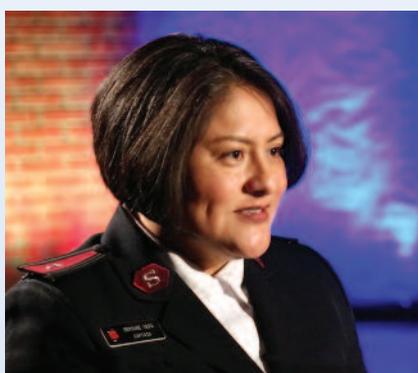
*God is about to do, His greatest
work in you!*

That is the right expectation. Let it be so for each of us and our territory.

Hispanic ministry Continued from page 1

"It is impossible to predict the future of the Army's Hispanic ministry. However, the mandate is clear: Salvationists have the responsibility to do all within their power to share with others the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. Certainly, that includes reaching across dividing lines of language and culture."

- Col. Frank Payton



Captain Bersabe Vera-Hernandez

Currently in the Central Territory there are just six Spanish-speaking corps, nine bilingual corps and 16 corps with Hispanic ministries, so opportunities to begin a Hispanic ministry abound in the Midwest.

The one-hour video provides information to further Salvationists' understanding with statistics, a history of the territory's Hispanic ministries and overview of Hispanic values and shares simple strategies to help Salvationists move from good intentions to action that, with the Holy Spirit's power, can result in lives redeemed, communities changed, and God glorified. While the video incorporates insights from well-known experts, it primarily features officers and soldiers in the Central Territory who have passion, knowledge and experience in Hispanic ministries and so is relatable.

"This presentation focuses on a whole world of opportunities to become a people on mission for the Lord Jesus Christ," proclaimed Commissioner Brad Bailey, territorial commander, in his introduction. "It is a call to reach beyond ourselves to share the Good News....to be caught up in something much bigger than ourselves and to embrace our calling to contribute to what Jesus is doing in our world today."

Compassion at the pinnacle of success

When USA Olympian Annie Lazor swam in the finals for the 200m Women's Breaststroke in Tokyo this summer and won the Bronze medal, she was cheered on by friends and family, wearing specially designed t-shirts, at a watch party at the Woodside Athletic Club in Beverly Hills, Mich.

At Annie's request proceeds from sales of the t-shirts, designed by her family's close friend Meg Gordy, went to The Salvation Army because her father David, who passed away suddenly in April, always held the organization near to his heart and rang bells at kettles during Christmas, as his father had before him.

The Eastern Michigan Division (EMI) was not only thankful for this donation but honored to be part of a welcome home celebration hosted by

George Matick Chevrolet. The Salvation Army's presence was a welcome surprise to an elated Annie, who recognized the organization as she followed the parade's police and fire engine escort down the streets to the Woodside Swim Club where she started swimming as a child. Not only did Annie raise even more funds during the event by signing swim caps for donations to The Salvation Army but she inspired a group of young swimmers with a speech and had Major Tim Meyer, EMI general secretary, share remarks, including an encouraging scripture.

"It was moving that at the pinnacle of her success Annie has compassion for others, a characteristic instilled by her father," said Major Tim. "We are blessed to be recipients of that kind of love and compassion."



USA Olympic Bronze Medalist Annie Lazor with Patricia Sliter, Eastern Michigan Division (EMI) major gifts donor relations director, and Major Timothy Meyer, EMI general secretary.

Central Connection

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Under construction

by Katie Laidlaw

One hundred and ten delegates arrived at the Indiana Division's beautiful Hidden Falls Camp excited for the territory's first-ever Youth Leadership Development Conference (YLDC). Teens and young adults, ages 14-24, had great anticipation for the week and soon found that each day was filled with excellent teaching, worship, discipleship, mentoring and fellowship.



The vision for YLDC was to provide intentional discipleship and leadership training for teens and young adults. Captain Michael Hanton and the territorial youth department team saw the opportunity to meet a deep need for youth who have struggled with faith, identity and belonging, especially over the past year and a half.

Each delegate was assigned a faculty leadership partner who provided collaboration, prayer, support and accountability during the week as they sought to grow in Christ-centered leadership.

Pastor Andrew Jones of Kansas City provided excellent preaching from Ezra and Nehemiah during each united session. In the keynote, he set the tone for YLDC, saying: "When God confronts our ruins, He rebuilds our identity." He advocated good leaders must confront the ruins in their lives in order that they may lead others to do the same; this is where true healing happens.

Delegates were blessed to be led in worship by Of Dust from Rockford, Ill., who are not merely talented individuals but a team of leaders who

desire to humbly serve the Lord through music. They supported YLDC with their joyful presence, engaged involvement and Spirit-led worship.

Captains Amber and Ryan Meo from the Southern Territory boldly and beautifully led the young adult track through life mapping, while Jackie Raihl, The Salvation Army's ORANGE specialist, offered insight and teaching on group dynamics and leading diverse personalities.

In the midst of intense learning and full daily schedules, delegates found moments of fellowship and fun. From a competitive zombie afterglow to a glowing swim party, team building minigolf, a pig roast picnic and being captivated by Christian illusionist Zak Mirzadeh, delegates looked forward to each evening. A highlight was the Call to the Cross reflection that wrapped up each day led by Lt. Colonels Jonathan and Barbara Rich, Central territorial program and assistant program secretaries, respectively.



Throughout the week Captain Amanda Keene led delegates in prayer exercises, and on the final evening she and Of Dust led delegates in a worship and testimony celebration of confronting ruins, restoring relationships



and rebuilding identities. The meeting was the perfect culmination of YLDC. "I am thankful that the individuals in this room are not the leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders of today," concluded Reggie Brooks from Of Dust.

God is moving through the youth and young adults of the Central Territory. I hope you are praying in expectation for the bold, Spirit-led leaders in our corps, division and territory.



Hundreds ride for a reason

Routed along the scenic shores of Lake Michigan, the Sheboygan, Wis., Corps' annual Salvation Ride invites cyclists to "Ride for a Reason," raising funds to help the hurting, homeless and hungry in the community.

"The Salvation Ride is a great way for us to develop relationships in the community," said Carrye Jo Cony, development director. "It helps us get the word out about who we are and what we do at The Salvation Army."

The ride was envisioned by Bob Radzins, an advisory board member who wanted to make a difference by exploring ways to raise funds outside of the Christmas season and make deeper connections with community members. In 2014, his vision became reality and the first Salva-

tion Ride took the place of the traditional Christmas in July campaign. With 170 riders and more than \$20,000 raised, it was an instant success, doubling the average proceeds from previous summertime efforts.

Now in its seventh year, the 2021 event attracted 323 cyclists and raised more than \$85,000!

Big name sponsors like Acuity Insurance, Sargento and Meijer make the ride possible with both in-kind and monetary donations.

While cyclists are encouraged to raise additional funds through pledges or peer fundraising online, thanks to these generous donors, the ride can be a community-focused event with a low registration fee and no-pressure feel.

"Anyone can participate since it's a leisure ride, not a race," said Carrye Jo. "A lot of people choose this as

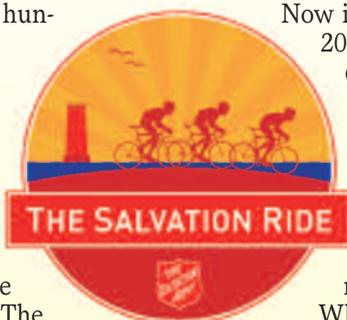
their first long ride because they know we'll be there to encourage and support them along the way, and there's no timer to beat."

The ride provides several options for distance, from 10 up to 100 miles, with strategically placed rest stops along each route where advisory board members and volunteers hand out snacks and drinks, and churches, fire departments and government buildings provide access to bathroom facilities. Cyclists of all abilities participate, from families looking for a fun, healthy activity to do together, to hobbyists who spend the summer months riding a charity circuit of which the Salvation Ride has become a part.



Colonels Janice and Steven Howard

"Exercise, nature and fellowship, all for the sake of raising dollars for The Salvation Army," concluded Colonel Janice Howard, who with her husband, Colonel Steve, traveled from territorial headquarters to cycle the 50-mile loop. "It's a win/win activity. I challenge others to find a partner, mark your calendars and register for next year!"



Youth music groups release new project

This fall the Central Territory's youth music groups (Territorial Youth Band, Territorial Youth Chorus and Territorial Worship Collective) are releasing a recording project called "Level Up" which features 14 musical selections with devotionals that can be used in a group or personal setting. Members say they've grown musically and spiritually through the process; three of them share their journey here.

Brianne Simmons

Territorial Youth Chorus



Music has always been an important part of my life. I was drawn to it from a young age through my family. In elementary school, I was part of a musical and fell in love with performing. In middle school, I participated in choir, show choir and a musical. All of this built my confidence, knowledge and musical ability, but something was missing.

At 13, I won a scholarship to Central Music Institute (CMI). I loved it! I finally was able to bring music and faith together. As part of the top choir, Booth Chorale, I was eligible to join the Territorial Youth Chorus (TYC). My close friends and I



were excited to be a part of it.

In 2019, TYC traveled to New York—a dream of mine—to participate in the Eastern Territory's Singing Stars festival. I saw not only singing but spoken word and other expressions sharing God at work in people's lives. It gave me a deeper appreciation for music and how it can draw others to Jesus.

Though TYC couldn't meet last year, my relationships with others in it held strong. I'm glad to be part of a group where people understand the talents God has given them and what they need to do to celebrate His Word in these times. It's been a rough year, but through music, my growth spiritually and emotionally hasn't stopped as God has spoken into my circumstances.

Alexia Luce

Territorial Worship Collective



Early in 2019, I heard the territory was creating a group called the Territorial Worship Collective. I was beyond excited to play with youth from across the territory in a praise team. This opportunity came right after I became a leader with my corps praise team. My first year was a blessing as I was challenged to use my gifts.

Though COVID-19 took away my second year in person with this group, we found ways to worship together and encourage one another. We made collage videos of "I'll Raise a Hallelujah" and "Yes and Amen." It was fun to try something different, but we didn't stop there.

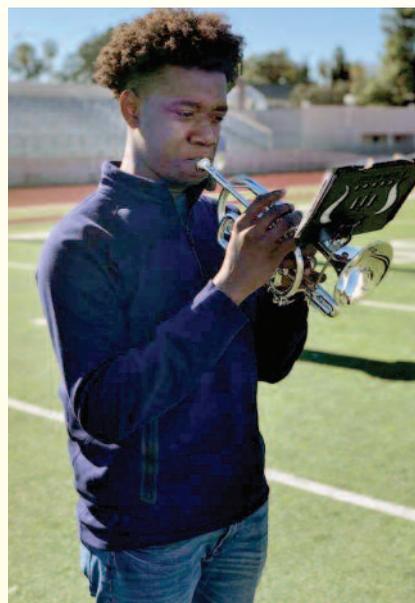
This year the Lord provided the opportunity to record our music in a project called "Level Up." It's a new experience for many of us, and I've been excited to be part of the process, knowing it's challenging us to improve our skills but also about the song's message which will help plant truth in our hearts.

One of the songs, "Boundless Love," reminds me of how great God's love is that rescues and restores us, regardless of anything we've done. It gives me hope. I am looking forward to seeing how God has been working in all our lives during this time.

Isaac Leka

Territorial Youth Band

The Level Up theme couldn't have come at a better time for me. It's encouraged me to let go of things—a step of growth we often forget. Before the pandemic, I often func-



"will make my paths straight." He has my back. I learned to hold not so tightly to my own ideas, dreams and plans. God must lead, not me.

It was the same for my music. I had forgotten the foundation for music being such a big part of my life, but God reminded me it's about investing time and effort to develop and use the gifts He's given me.

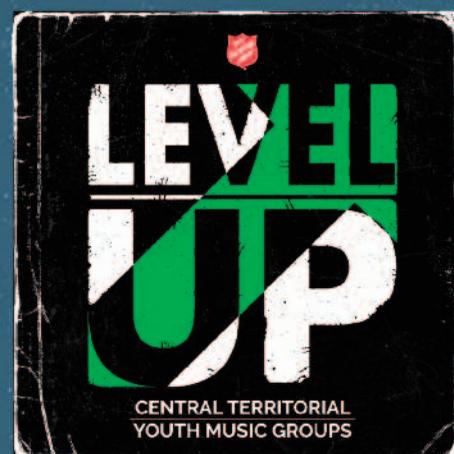
Please keep our territorial youth music groups in your prayers as we strive to "level up" not only as musicians but as followers of Christ and that God will use our new recording project to minister to others.

tioned on autopilot, forgetting the purpose behind what I was doing. With lockdowns and social distancing, my systems broke down. I became frustrated with having to reorganize my life. "What do I do with all my free time," I wondered. I no longer had an excuse for not carving out time with God or practicing my instrument. I suddenly had all the time in the world.

While the pandemic forced me to part ways with many things, God used last year to teach me how to trust Him. He reassured me that He



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Equip 25/25 Leadership Conservatories a great success!

by Josh Turner and Beth Malovance

The Equip 25/25 Leadership Conservatories, held this summer at Wonderland Camp and Conference Center, proved to be encouraging to those in attendance. The first week centered on leadership training for dance, drama, media and praise band, while the second week provided leadership training for brass band and vocal music. Each week consisted of a hybrid model of in-person and virtual instruction. On-site faculty and delegates represented each of the 10 divisions in the Central Territory, while faculty and delegates joined virtually from around the world.

A primary challenge for delegates



without a performance requirement. Each delegate came ready to learn, to grow, and to engage fully during masterclasses, small groups, testimonies and lectures. Conversations and networking started at breakfast, continued throughout the day and lasted late into the evening. Each week ended with a powerful consecration service as faculty and delegates prayed for each other and for their ongoing ministries.



Here's what people are saying about their experience:

"My highlight was learning about all the different ways The Salvation Army worships the Lord. I learned how we as leaders can become better equipped and help create new leaders in our corps. I loved having small groups and discussing leadership in our own lives." — **Jason Hershman** (Warsaw, Ind., Corps)

"Our corps band has a very different makeup from what it was even just one

and faculty as leaders who are followers of Christ is that we are called to be both "emptied to be filled" and "filled to be emptied." This resonated each week as we studied biblical leadership principles and set aside time to be filled in our daily walk, so we may be emptied from an overflow of our lives. During these two weeks, words could hardly describe the impact of daily nourishment from being in God's Word and singing praises to our Heavenly Father during morning manna, devotions and evening vespers.

This unique experience saw an outstanding group of workshop leaders brought together in the two weeks to concentrate on leadership,



year ago. I am excited to try a new approach with the band and as Bandmaster Cobb said 'putting the fun back into banding.' The hope is to get people excited again to serve God in this way, and not just show up out of sense of duty." — **Charles McDougall** (Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich. Corps)

"The highlight for me was the fellowship and connections made especially in the small groups. Also, the media track helped fill some knowledge gaps for me and this information will be shared with our divisional units to enhance their streaming and multimedia ministry. In the vocal track I learned ideas and tips for choral groups that will be implemented in launching divisional groups." — **Peter Kim** (Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps)



"I thoroughly enjoyed fellowship with leaders and delegates. It was a blessing to be able to discuss spiritual topics in depth with these people. Also, I am looking forward to practicing intentional discussions with believers and continuing to re-

member to keep Jesus at the center." — **Alexis Dill** (Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps)

"A highlight for me was the intentional relationship building with my small group. I loved being able to pour into them and invest in their relationship with the Holy Spirit." — **Shalini Danielson** (Pasadena Tabernacle, Calif.)

To learn more and view some of the sessions, visit: samusiccentral.org/2525



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Eastern Michigan puts safety first

Each week thousands of children are entrusted to the care of Salvation Army corps and community centers throughout the Central Territory. From afterschool programs to overnight camps and in corps of all sizes, children make up a large part of ministry and outreach. An important component of this ministry is ensuring the comfort and safety of program participants and their parents or guardians, as well as leaders and volunteers.

being told 'no' and that healthy and safe boundaries and steadfast implementation of Safe from Harm creates a solid foundation to conduct ministry," she said. "Eastern Michigan's Safe from Harm has proven to be holistic, thorough, robust and committed."

Throughout the Eastern Michigan (EMI) Division, SFH has been successfully implemented in the midst of flourishing ministries of all sizes. It is at the forefront of planning for corps and divisional youth programs and events. From thoughtful scheduling to integration of SFH in divisional leadership meetings such as Mission and Program Council, everyone, from the camp maintenance director to the divisional commander, is invested in and supports this important component of youth ministry.

"Safe from Harm makes it so parents understand we are a safe place for their children," said Major Kim Ray, Bay City, Mich., corps officer. "They know they don't have to worry because we've trained our leaders, planned ahead, and many corps are even certified by the state to care for children. It gives them confidence in us."

As part of the division's plan, each corps has a designated SFH coordinator/trainer who keeps track of records and ensures all volunteer and staff leaders at their location maintain up-to-date certification.

Twice a year, SFH is an integral part of divisional youth leader development trainings, where it is leveraged to educate, empower and equip leaders through discussion, resources and speakers who advocate for safe practices and address timely issues, such as creating safe virtual spaces for youth to continue meeting during the pandemic and beyond.

"We have a mission to fulfill. If we can't keep people safe, then we're not fulfilling our mission," said Charol McDonald, children's ministries and Safe from Harm coordinator, who helps the divisional youth department set the example by providing resources and guidance for leaders.

"Our team is very intentional about making sure that Safe from Harm guidelines are part of the process from the minute we start planning activities and events," said Captain Chrissy Cooper, divisional youth secretary. "One of the biggest questions we ask ourselves is whether we would feel comfortable sending our own kids to this program, and if the answer is no, then we re-think what we're going to do."

According to Charol, SFH certification isn't only for active leaders, but is a valuable tool



Martin Soffran, Echo Grove Camp's maintenance director, does his part for Safe from Harm by ensuring his staff is certified and scheduling maintenance around children's activities.

for all employees and volunteers. For example, corps members can be certified to serve as additional helpers who look out for potentially harmful situations and can intervene, such as monitoring bathrooms during worship services or filling in as the second adult if a regular leader is absent.

"As a parent and as an officer, I love Safe from Harm because it's preventative care instead of reactive care," concluded Captain Chrissy. "It's about finding ways to protect our children from things happening rather than reacting after something has happened. It gives us a good framework for keeping our activities safe for kids and leaders alike."



Captains Jonathan and Chrissy Cooper, divisional youth secretaries, keep Safe from Harm at the forefront of their planning.

In response to the need for consistent safety practices and procedures, in 2001 the Central Territory developed and implemented Safe from Harm (SFH). Designed to provide training and resources to educate leaders and enable them to minister to youth effectively and safely, the policy later expanded to include training for safe practices while ministering to vulnerable adults. Although SFH often requires adjustments and careful planning for compliance, according to Megan Olson, territorial Safe from Harm program director, the benefits far outweigh the challenges.

"I would love people to see that Safe from Harm isn't just about



Charol McDonald, Safe from Harm coordinator, is dedicated to ensuring the safety of children and leaders in EMI.

Joy in teaching

by Major Jennifer Ortman

Major Chris Poff retired this summer after an officership that spanned 45 years and a wide variety of appointments throughout the territory and at National Headquarters (NHQ), which fulfilled a dream of teaching she relinquished to follow God's calling.

At just 18 she began her career "in charge" of the Peru, Ind., Corps, with her then-husband before attending the College for Officer Training (CFOT) the following year. Commissioned with a one-year-old child and having two more children before becoming a captain, her early years were spent behind the scenes as a natural servant and planner—or self-described "control enthusiast." Her attention to detail served her well throughout her officership.

Chris held appointments in six corps, divisional youth/candidates' and women's ministries departments, at territorial headquarters and the CFOT. A highlight was serving at NHQ in the publications department and then as national consultant for Christian education.

In 2014 she was appointed back to territorial headquarters which proved providential as shortly thereafter she was diagnosed with breast cancer, and it was a blessing to be nearer to her children and their families, Major Cyndi (Amos) Shiels, Major Jason (Mary) Poff and Angie (Stephen) Hansen. She has 14 grandchildren and six "grand dogs." Chris has always loved animals; her cockapoo, Indy, has been a large part of her ministry for the last decade.

As a young person Chris thought she was giving up her dream of teaching to become an officer; however found that her officership utilized her skill and passion.

In fact, Chris's last appointment was as an education officer at the CFOT! Cadets fondly remember her lesson using the "Wizard of Oz," a story Chris says she loves because people have problems and needs that are only able to be solved as a community. Asked to give advice to new lieutenants, she laughed and said, "Don't take yourself too seriously. Enjoy the moment you are in, instead of looking to the next."



Major Chris Poff with then-cadets Breanna James, Marsha Williams-Miller, April Alvarez and Katherine Reid

Summer in the city

New mission team explores social justice

by Cadet Melissa Christiansen

Though Summer Mission Teams (SMT) were not able to travel outside of the U.S. this year due to the pandemic, it did not stop the world missions department, along with Major Katherine Clausell, from organizing an incredible experience for Central young adults as part of a new Social Justice/City Mission (SJCM) team. The SJCM traveled throughout the Midwest exploring, learning and sharing about social justice. I was privileged to lead the team which included Terecita Vasquez, Reggie Brooks, Jr., and Sam Park.

We began the summer in Freeport, Ill. Hosted by Captains Tim and Lisa Thorson, we had the opportunity to discuss how social justice is a part of The Salvation Army's mission, serve community leaders a meal and help a local business owner paint boards covering windows that were broken during a demonstration of civil unrest.

From there we traveled to Springfield, Ill., where we met with Captain Jeff Eddy and two community members, Larry and Tariq, who are pas-



sionate about helping people and who see The Salvation Army as a partner to reach more people. They introduced us to a former U.S. Attorney, a legislator and a lawyer and led us in a great conversation surrounding social justice.



Team members serve a meal to community members in Freeport, Ill.

We were welcomed with open arms by Lts. Kenesa and Shanell Debela in Decatur, Ill. With their theme "Peacemakers," I preached, and the team led vacation Bible school at the Boys and Girls Club. The corps hosted a Peace Summit where

community members identified problems and how these might be addressed. It was amazing to see so many teenagers and young adults sharing their passion for a safe, peaceful community in which to live, work and go to school.

Our next stop was St. Louis, Mo., where we were joined by a three-member exchange team (Raven Svenson, Natalie Dora, Yesenia Aragon) from the Western Territory. Adina O'Neal, City Mission Collective director, had planned an extraordinary 12 days filled with opportunities like meeting local social justice champions. We spent time focusing on inequity and injustice and talked about advocacy and the importance of community involvement. We did our best to soak in the abundance of information and are excited to put our knowledge to work.

We spent two weeks in Indianapolis, Ind., at the Harbor



Reggie Brooks leads an activity during vacation Bible school at Decatur, Ill.

Light Center and then at the Fountain Square Corps. At the Harbor Light we worked with Envoy Charlotte (CeCe) Coffey, participated in Celebrate Recovery, got to know several individuals, and led a Bible study at the Ruth Lilly Women and Children's Center. Envoy CeCe also invited someone to speak to us about human trafficking which was enlightening and saddening. At the Fountain Square Corps, we continued to have important conversations with Captains Brenna and Vinal Lee about topics like environmental justice, visited the Indiana Statehouse and helped with a community shoe distribution at the corps for children going back to school. Captains Lee emphasized that social justice isn't always big things; it can be as simple as helping to level the playing field by making sure a child has a pair of shoes to go to school.



City Collective Director Adina O'Neal with members of the Social Justice/Urban Mission and Western exchange teams.

We ended the summer at Hidden Falls Camp participating in the Youth Leadership Development Conference and debriefing.

This was a summer none of us will forget. Each of us is excited to take this experience back to our own cities, neighborhoods and corps. We pray that The Salvation Army will be increasingly passionate about pursuing justice and would challenge you to find out what you can do in your own community.



Captain Brenna Lee and Alaska team member Brianna Kruse work with Social Justice/Urban Mission team members to plant a community garden at the Indianapolis, Ind., Fountain Square Corps.



The Salvation Army of Decatur, Ill., hosts the city's first Peace Summit.

Generous donations fuel frontline mission

by Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich

The Salvation Army in the Central Territory has pioneered several initiatives in recent years and, because of the generosity of some anonymous donors, we are in a position to strengthen our Army on a number of fronts as we move the mission forward.

Social Justice

Two key staff positions have been filled at the territory's Social Justice and Urban Mission Center. With these additions, the center, led by Major Katherine Clausell, is poised to help the territory advance initiatives targeting issues like modern slavery and human trafficking, gender justice, legal aid, immigration and racial justice across the territory.

A Social Justice/City Mission Internship program will be implemented and is expected to begin this fall.

"The internship is intended to be the vehicle by which we intentionally equip our emerging Salvationist young adults for urban ministry in The Salvation Army and leverage the education and developing skills of individuals who have a passion for justice," said Major Clausell. "We hope to raise up a network of social justice champions who can be called to step up and speak out against injustice in their respective divisions, corps and communities."

Pathway of Hope

A signature initiative of the Central Territory, Pathway of Hope (POH) is a proven model for bringing transformational strengths-based case management, infused with emotional support and opportunities for spiritual care, to thousands of families in the Midwest since 2012.

One of the biggest challenges in providing consistent individually customized case management has been the high turnover rate of qualified case managers. A contributing factor to the high turnover of skilled staff is that many Salvation Army units lack adequate financial resources to pay competitive professional wages. The recent infusion of donations will make it possible to better resource case management staff on the frontlines. The retention of qualified staff promises to improve POH family stability outcomes further and increase eligibility for additional funding streams that have not been available previously.

Racial diversity, equity and inclusion

Last fall the Central Territory inaugurated the office of Territorial Secretaries for Racial Diversity and

Inclusion. Lt. Colonels Lonneal and Patty Richardson assumed these roles and now serve on the Territorial Cabinet. Since they are also Metropolitan divisional leaders, it is critical they have infrastructure to support this initiative. Again, through the generous donations of donors who want to see efforts in this, and other areas succeed, a lead professional will be hired in the area of racial diversity, equity and inclusion.

Grant money also is being set aside for each division to promote diversity, equity and inclusion in their settings and programs.

God is at work in the Central Territory. Please join us in prayer as we continue to move the mission forward, "preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and meeting human needs in His Name without discrimination."

SAWSO: making a world of difference during COVID-19

by Damon Winters

At the beginning of 2020, few could have anticipated what was to come. By March, a deadly pandemic had engulfed the globe, pushing support systems to their limit and threatening ways of life for every citizen. Billions were confined to their homes. Unemployment skyrocketed as entire industries slowed to a standstill. And the most vulnerable populations quickly found themselves without margins or resources, with some even stranded far from home, trapped by a lack of options or support.



Thailand

Hospitals and clinics around the world were stressed like never before with a massive influx of patients while being dangerously understaffed or under-equipped. Even in wealthy countries, resources

were stretched thin. In the developing world, the situation was far more dire.

Through it all The Salvation Army World Service Office (SAWSO) responded immediately to the needs of affected communities overseas by providing awareness campaigns, hiring health agents to teach and enact preventive measures, supporting those who lost their income, providing vital gear to clinics and hospitals in isolated areas, and distributing hygiene supplies and food parcels to those in need.

India was one of the regions hit hardest by the coronavirus. Throughout the country The Salvation Army provided trainings and distributed vital protective supplies to community members and medical professionals. In some critical locations, SAWSO provided the technical



Evangeline Booth Hospital in India



Costa Rica



India

partnerships already established, support and relief was able to reach the most affected areas and have immediate impact.

It is this commitment to work for and through the local representation and mission that is already in place that allows SAWSO to best harness the strength of The Salvation Army's presence in 132 countries, by joining their daily call to preach the love of Jesus Christ by meeting human needs without discrimination. COVID-19 was the dominant health issue for 2020 and one of the most obvious opportunities for The Salvation Army to continue that mission. Whatever may come this year or any after, SAWSO stands ready to respond in support for The Salvation Army around the world.

Simply serving Jesus

Significant appointments and sophisticated style belie Lt. Colonels Thomas and Jacalyn Bowers' tenet of officership—simply, serving Jesus. Everything flows from there. No matter the location or responsibility, challenge or opportunity, it's all been about being faithful to serve the Lord to the best of their ability.

"Settle in your heart once and for all what 'success' really looks like," advised Colonel Tom. "Let me make it easy for you: success equals faithfulness. Nothing else is more important. Be faithful to God, and He will take care of the rest."

"I am simply a steward of what God has chosen to entrust to me," he continued, explaining how each appointment stretched his God-given gifts and abilities, some more than others, and prepared him for future appointments, greater responsibilities, and ultimately his final appointment leading The Salvation Army World Service Office (SAWSO).

"I would have never guessed that I would be considered for National Secretary of SAWSO," he remarked, saying tongue-in-cheek that on the surface it could have easily looked like a mistake since he had little understanding of what SAWSO entailed. He soon learned it's one of the Army's best kept secrets and that, indeed, his previous 37 years of officership had prepared him for the challenge.

Upon their move to Washington, Colonel Jackie joined him for four years in leading SAWSO and then was appointed to the program department at National Headquarters.



Serving in the programming arena, whether in corps, divisional, territorial or national headquarters, is where she has felt most content and has used her abilities best.

She has loved working with people, leading them to Christ, talking about hope of salvation and living by the power of the Holy Spirit, pressing home the need to daily study God's Word and be in prayer despite demanding responsibilities and busy schedules. Hands down, her favorite times have been spent with young people no matter her role. "Seeing kids' lives change and them growing in the Lord and becoming great leaders in the corps or Salvation Army officers made my heart happy," Colonel Jackie reflected.

In fact, it was the example of her corps officers when she was a young girl in Moline, Ill., that God first used to draw her to this calling which led to a wonderfully fulfilling life. "I can say through all the years of service, amidst good and difficult times, I will never regret doing God's will for my life," she said.

Colonel Tom echoed that sentiment, "I just want to thank God for the privilege of serving others as a Salvation Army officer. It has been one of the greatest joys of my life."

As the Bowers retire after 43 years of service, Colonel Tom concluded a life well lived is about knowing your purpose: to bring honor and glory to God. It's as simple as that.



Tanzania



Honduras

and financial support necessary to purchase and set up life-saving ventilators and oxygen-production capabilities.

These activities and initiatives were replicated across the globe, from the Republic of Congo to Nepal to Ecuador to Indonesia, all while working through the local Salvation Army officers and mission on the ground. In total, SAWSO committed more than \$3.2 million in COVID-19 response projects directly to the frontlines of the pandemic response. Thanks to the generosity of donors and the local



Uruguay



Lt. Colonels Tom and Jackie Bowers visit a corps in India while leading the Salvation Army World Service Office.

More of Him

First National Seminar on Holiness gives a deep dive into beauty of God

by Lisa Jordan

"So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." (Luke 11:13, NLT)



Evening sessions provided more holiness messages and worship, a dramatic presentation on Brengle's life, and a prayer meeting. Midweek we met Dr. Stephen A. Macchia of Leadership Transformations, Inc., for a day of practicing soul care and solitude to reinforce the spiritual disciplines as means of grace in our walk of holiness.

The foundation of our time together was that God calls us to be holy because He is holy and Jesus came to make us what He teaches us to be. There were many attempts to define holiness, and we quickly learned it's both simple and complex but absolutely available to all followers of Jesus.



Holiness...

- A relationship with God that increasingly expresses itself in Christlike living.
- A preference for God in all things; turning toward God, not self.
- Comes from a place of need. We were created to be completed by God and made for intimacy with Him. He breathes His grace/life into us, and we receive His love and respond by surrendering, and breathing out His grace.
- Being justified is not enough—there's more and more! We can be made like God; if we choose not to, we have missed the point.
- A lifelong growing relationship. It's not guilt, not static, not limited.
- God does not expect us to do it alone. Holiness comes through the transforming power of the Spirit. This relationship is a shared life of holy love...it's part of His triune nature.
- Blameless, pure, satisfied, whole... His whole life in my whole life for the sake of the world.

This was theme verse for the inaugural National Seminar on Holiness held in Glen Eyrie, Col.—the perfect backdrop for this historic opportunity. Beauty was brimming in nature and God's people. The staff prepared well and prayed for more than a year in anticipation of the seminar, and their intentional love and leadership set the stage for a dive deep into the beauty of God and to experience His holiness.



Photo by Major Lesa Davis



Each day began with prayer in small groups followed by breakfast and sealed orders (by Lt. Colonel Dean) which reflected on holiness using the theology of *The Salvation Army Song Book*. We soaked up two morning sessions taught by Ambassadors for Holiness Dr. William Ury and Rev. Diane Ury, then after lunch participated in an extended time of processing, learning and sharing in small groups, working through Chris Lohrstorfer's book, *Learning to Breathe*. There was time for rest, reflection and reveling in God's creation each afternoon.



Photos by Major David Davis



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

Having the mind of Christ

by Dr. Bill Ury

It is interesting to compare reflections on the last two Pentecost Sundays. The first was amidst the unrelenting chaos into which we all had been plunged, the second as things began to return to normal.

Pentecost May 31, 2020: Amid the plagues of virulent disease, floundering economies, political blaming and now the old horrors of endemic racism and retributive vengeance, I am exposed for who I am. It is hard to face myself.

It must have been as humiliating for Peter, standing there in proud, intellectual prowess before the One he thought he comprehended. Receiving a passing grade on bloodless theology, he fails profoundly when "Cross talk" emerges. He is so unlike the Son of God that he must endure the searing rebuke, "You are just like my enemy, the devil." He then hears the reason for that fundamental opposition, "You are not minded like God" (Mark 8:33).

I must go there again as well. Judging others from my suburban couch, casting aspersions on those who slash and burn. Or I can ask Jesus to tell me who He is and who I am. Have I thought His thoughts? What is His perspective? How must I orient my life in such a way that picking up my cross is the first re-

sponse of my heart? Apparently, one who walked with Jesus every hour could actually be minded like Satan. The disciples were trained racists. And I am not one whit better.

This may have been the most unnerving Pentecost Sunday I have ever experienced. A worship service of four after a night of fire, raging, swearing, lurching mobs everywhere. Jesus' answer? You need My mind. Without My breath, My wind, My fire—the Holy Spirit—transforming your mind you will never think or act like Me offering love, justice, peace, forgiveness and hope.

Pentecost May 23, 2021: It is only when we face who we really are that full deliverance can come. The Salvation Army has doggedly remained committed to entire sanctification. And I know why. Unless Jesus can make His mind real in my actual life then the only thing my religion does is to make God in my image which is merely self-protective idolatry.

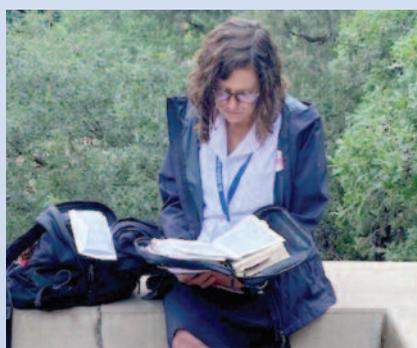
But He wants to come and imprint my heart and life with His Cross-formed mind so I can walk into a charred, broken world with His selfless love and reconciliation. No one is clearer than Catherine Booth where she instructs, "Christianity is as much a spirit as a practice, and herein it differs from all other religions and ethical systems, inasmuch as the practice of it is impossible without the infusion of the living Spirit of the Author."

Those first believers, who waited, prayed and received the Holy Spirit, were transformed and went into hostile contexts armed only with the infusion of selfless, holy love. They experienced the full presence of the Holy Spirit moving freely in their minds and hearts to offer inseparably righteousness and compassion, justice and mercy.

As Salvationists, we are known for our practical offerings of the love of Christ. But our pragmatic efficiency must never diminish the biblical reality of the bestowal of agape love by the Holy Spirit of God (Romans 5:5). Near the end of her life Catherine Booth wrote many letters from her sickbed. She found herself often reminding her beloved of the essence of Army's existence. Knowing the tendency we have to retreat due to outside pressures she wrote: "Be sure and seek at all cost to maintain Holiness of heart and life, and give yourselves up without reservation to the war with evil and to the rescue of your perishing fellow-men."

Pentecost is not merely a day, it is a constant, intimate, personal relationship with the triune God. His Mind is only made available to us by the Holy-making Spirit.

Prayer: Spirit, breathe the mind of Jesus, my Savior, in me today. Amen.



- The representation of God, through us, when we allow the Holy Spirit to enter us and radiate God's wonderful grace and love.
- An ordinary person filled with the life of God, living sacrificially and others oriented.

The seminar's culmination was a powerful covenant service, a time to choose holiness, allowing God to sanctify every part of us so we can live like Christ. Returning to the valley of ordinary life, we hold on to the invitation in Isaiah 2:3 (NLT): "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord. There he will teach us his ways and we will walk in his paths," and we are forever changed as we serve Him with our lives.

730... AND BEYOND



5,586 days and counting

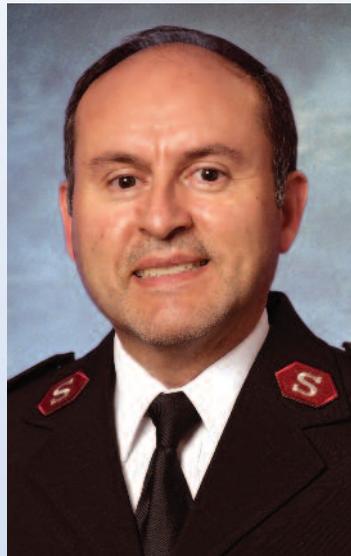
by Major Joaquin Rangel

As an officer, I have experienced countless opportunities from teaching and preaching to serving in disasters and participating in evangelistic events; the list goes on and on. However, one of my favorite things about being an officer is meeting new people. As officers we are given ample opportunities to travel, to participate in committees and to move frequently; all of these things allow us to meet more people than we could ever imagine.

As I grew in my faith before I became an officer, I was eager to tell others about God who had transformed my life, but I discovered my circle was just not big enough.

When I responded to the call to become an officer, I received the gift of endless potential friends that I could serve alongside and with whom I could share my faith. I have benefitted from the influence of godly men and women who model Jesus to a world that very much needs Him. They discipled and mentored me as a young, inexperienced officer.

I also have had the privilege of meeting and bringing others to



Jesus. This is my greatest passion. To meet people who do not yet know Jesus and witness how little by little their eyes are opened to the truth of the gospel is one of the best things. In the years I have been an officer I have striven to grow in my faith by feeding my devotional life and attending every opportunity given to me to enhance my evangelistic skills. My love for God has made it my mission to meet as many people as God brings into my life and display His love which can transform their lives. My life's motto has become, "heart to God, hand to man."

Long Service Awards

We salute the following officers on reaching service milestones earlier this year.

25 Years

Major Kevin Cedervall
Major Lex Giron
Major Patricia Giron
Major Daniel Hull
Major Jolene Hull
Major David Minks
Major Kim Ray
Major Rick Ray
Major Carolyn Schuetz
Major Kirk Schuetz
Major Randy Summit
Major Sue Summit
Major Patricia Welch
Major William Welch

30 Years

Lt. Colonel Dorene Jennings
Major Louise Blessing
Major Curtiss Hartley
Major Kathy Hellstrom
Major Randy Hellstrom
Major Katrina Mathews
Major K. Kendall Mathews
Major Lori Meyer
Major Timothy Meyer
Major Greg Thompson
Major Lee Ann Thompson

35 Years

Major Jesse Collins
Major Kelly Collins
Major Candy Curl
Major James Curl
Major Nathan Johnson
Major Janice Love
Major Julie McDowell
Major Thomas McDowell
Major Jeffrey Strickler
Major Mary Thomas
Major Michael Thomas

40 Years

Major Bob Doilber
Major Dale Hunt
Major Mary Hunt
Major Jean Manzella
Major Larry Manzella
Major Mark Martsolf
Major Teri Martsolf
Major Kjell Steinsland
Major Vicki Steinsland
Major Christie Van Zee
Major Kevin Van Zee

45 Years

Major Christine Poff
Major Joseph Wheeler



Summer in America's Last Frontier

by Grace Washburn

This summer as an exchange team to the Western Territory, Brianna Kruse and I had the incredible opportunity of traveling to the two most beautiful places I have ever been: Haines and Wrangell, Alaska. Both are small towns in Southeast Alaska with their primary income from tourists and the fishing industry. We had the distinct pleasure of serving these two communities with The Salvation Army, and I have to say it has been one of the greatest joys in my life.

In Haines we were met with love by corps officers Captains Kevin and Serina Woods. We were briefed on a disaster that occurred in December 2020 where massive landslides destroyed lots of people's homes and sadly took the lives of three people. The captains, along with their amaz-



ing disaster recovery team, have worked tirelessly to house and counsel the families who were affected by the landslides. We had the opportunity to meet these families and found they were incredibly grateful. My teammate and I were really moved by all of the ways these officers love their community practically, not only in times of crisis but through their ministry at worship on Sundays, vacation Bible school (VBS), and food distribution. We loved getting to know them, and their town during our first two weeks in Alaska and we'll never for-

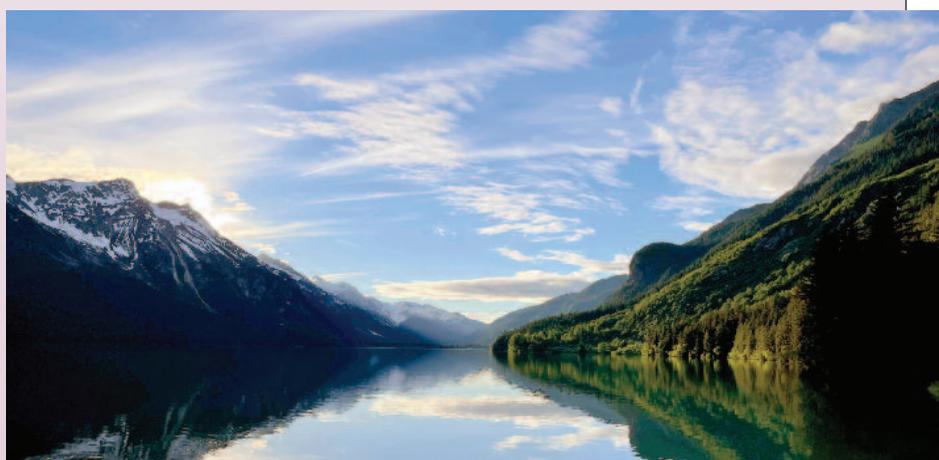
get the way we saw The Salvation Army minister here.

Our second location was Wrangell. After a quick introduction with Lts. Jon and Rosie Tollerud, along with their daughters and Rosie's mother, we were off and serving in a community-wide VBS along with 18 members of a Christian ministry group from Northern Arizona University. Each night we would gather and pray for the children's requests. It was a great week to learn about God and how He is always with us. We also were able to help with some building renovations that were going on. We loved that the Tollerud family wanted their corps building to be a safe and beautiful place. It was a privilege to watch the Tolleruds minister to their community. We loved getting to do life and ministry with them over the

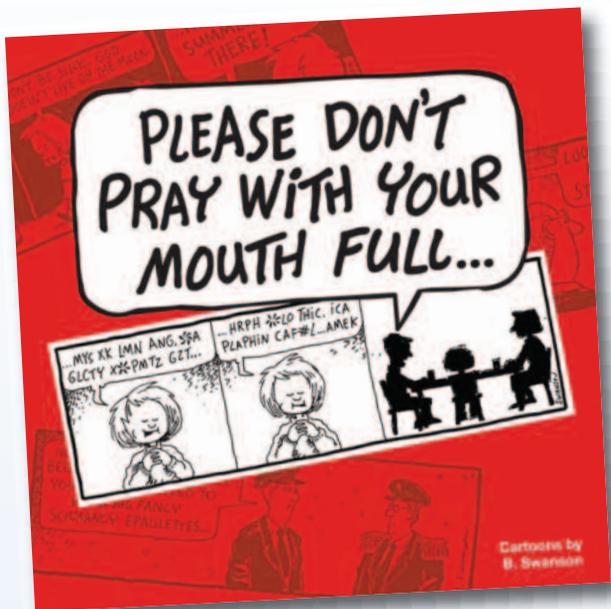


weeks we were there.

We will never forget our experience in Alaska and our new understanding that wherever we are, that is our mission field—in our jobs, in our community, in our schools, in our homes. We are called to love, serve and bring the gospel to people in our everyday lives, and it doesn't take a mission experience to live out that calling.



Rooted in faith



Nearly 60 years after doodling his first picture on a scrap of paper, lifelong Salvationist and creator of the Mustard Seeds cartoon strips, Bob Swanson, has published a collection of favorites titled *Please Don't Pray with Your Mouth Full*.

Bob began creating the monthly Mustard Seeds cartoons, which he named in reference to Jesus' parable comparing faith to the tiny seed from which the large mustard tree grows, for the *Central Connection* in 1997. It is now published internationally in *The Officer* magazine as well.



Bob and Maribeth Swanson are avid hikers and enjoy time spent in God's creation.

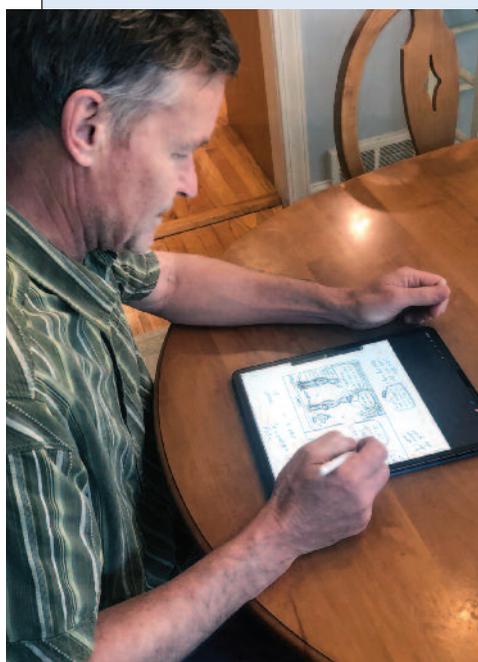
programs and summer camps. He credits his parents with setting a strong Christian example.

He currently attends the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps with his wife, Maribeth, where the two of them brought their now-grown children up in the faith.

Along with his faith, Bob's passion for drawing was ignited in childhood and never subsided. He has spent his career as a package designer in downtown Chicago, using his train commute to create Mustard Seeds and other cartoons in the notebook he's never without.

Going forward, Bob anticipates publishing more Mustard Seeds collections and is exploring other opportunities to share his art with the world.

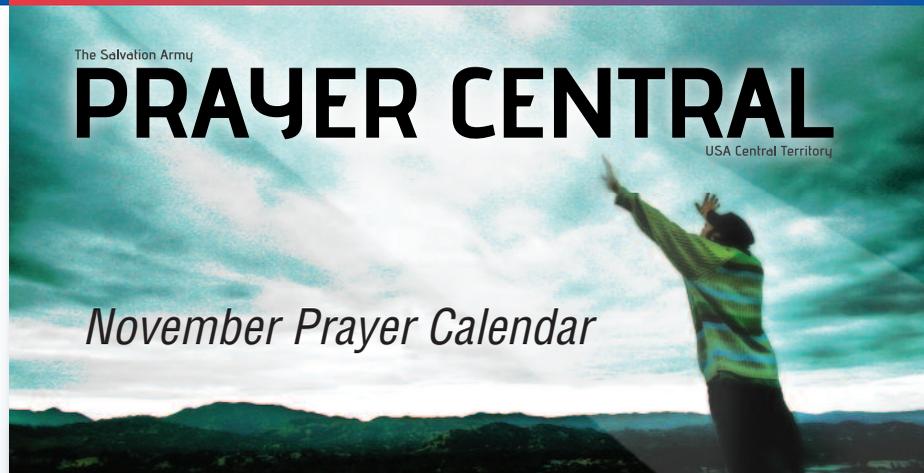
To order the new book, *Please Don't Pray with Your Mouth Full*, visit mustardseedscomics.com



Throughout the years the popular comic strip has elicited smiles and chuckles from readers who enjoy his humorous take on The Salvation Army and its unique characteristics, from uniforms to brass bands and ringing bells at kettles during Christmas.

"The Salvation Army has always played a big part in my life," Bob said. "The cartoons center around typical Salvation Army experiences."

As a child, Bob attended the Brainerd and Mt. Greenwood, Ill., corps with his family. There his faith developed as he participated in Sunday school, worship, youth



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Monday	James 1:19-27	Battle Creek, Mich., Corps
	2 Tuesday	James 2:1-13	Brown County, Ind., Corps
	3 Wednesday	James 2:14-26	Russia Command
	4 Thursday	James 3:1-12	Chicago La Villita, Ill., Corps
	5 Friday	James 3:13-18	Social Work Ministry
	6 Saturday	James 4:1-12	Detroit Conner Creek, Mich., Corps
	7 Sunday	Psalms 133	Evanston, Ill., Corps
	8 Monday	Proverbs 27:15-27	Fort Wayne, Ind., Corps
	9 Tuesday	I Peter 1:3-13	India Northern Territory
	10 Wednesday	I Peter 1:14-23	Grand Rapids Kroc, Mich., Corps
	11 Thursday	I Peter 2:4-10	Holland, Mich., Corps
	12 Friday	I Peter 2:11-25	Jamestown, N.D., Corps
	13 Saturday	I Peter 3:8-22	Kearny, Neb., Corps
	14 Sunday	I Peter 4:7-11	Leavenworth, Kan., Corps
	15 Monday	I Peter 4:12-19	Red Kettle Campaigns
	16 Tuesday	Psalms 135	Brazil Territory
	17 Wednesday	Proverbs 28:1-14	Marion, Ind., Corps
	18 Thursday	Psalms 100	Minneapolis Parkview, Minn., Corps
	19 Friday	Psalms 139	Newton, Iowa, Corps
	20 Saturday	Proverbs 28:15-28	Omaha Kroc, Neb., Corps
	21 Sunday	2 Peter 1:2-11	Pontiac, Mich., Corps
	22 Monday	2 Peter 2:1-22	Rockford, Ill., ARC
	23 Tuesday	2 Peter 3:1-14	Tanzania Territory
	24 Wednesday	Psalms 146	Springfield Clear Lake, Ill., Corps
	25 Thursday	Psalms 4	Give Thanks To The LORD!
	26 Friday	Psalms 119:1-20	St. Louis Maplewood, Mo., Corps
	27 Saturday	Proverbs 29:1-14	Warsaw, Ind., Corps
	28 Sunday	Proverbs 29:15-27	Willmar, Minn., Corps
	29 Monday	I John 1:1-10	Western Michigan & Northern Indiana
	30 Tuesday	I John 2:1-11	Council Bluffs, Iowa, Corps

*ARC = Adult Rehabilitation Center

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

--Mustard Seeds--



1 million pounds of food and counting

by Michelle DeRusha

When Majors Harold and Lynnetta Poff arrived at the North Platte, Neb., Corps in June 2019, Major Lynnetta vowed the food pantry shelves would never be bare. Trusting God would provide, she declared, "If we give away the food we have, then God will supply us with more to give away."

Her confidence in what she couldn't see has proven true. Last year alone The Salvation Army in North Platte gave away more than 1 million pounds of food to individuals and families in need via the corps' food pantry and produce distribution programs.

The abundance of food is the result of partnerships with Food Bank for the Heartland and the local Walmart store and distribution center. The corps typically receives a weekly semi-truckload of food from the distribution center, as well as weekly donations from Walmart.

"When a truck load is rejected at the distribution center because a pallet is damaged or mislabeled or be-

cause there is an overage or a mistake in the order, the driver is directed to contact us," said Major Lynnetta.

She also notes the corps has a good relationship with the truck stops along nearby Interstate 80, as well as with the North Platte Weigh Station.

"If a truck driver doesn't get referred to us by the distribution center for some reason, they usually make their way to a truck stop or the weigh station to inquire about where they can 'dump' their load," she explained. "The drivers then get referred to us. We take the load off their hands so they can get on the road again. It's a win-win for everyone."

Food insecurity increased during the pandemic, resulting in more visitors to the corps' pantry and weekly produce distributions.

"There have been a couple of times in the last year or so that our shelves have gotten sparse, but God has continued to bless us with additional food to give away to people in our community," said Major Lynnetta. "Sometimes we end up with an abundance of particular items—like mushrooms or bananas or cereal—but it always comes and goes, and people appreciate it."

The corps' food pantry is open three days a week. Families and individuals are eligible to visit once every 90 days (there are two other food pantries in town) and on average receive 50 pounds of food, including meat and fresh produce.

In addition, individuals and families in need can receive fresh produce and other perishables at the

weekly distribution—which has been organized as a drive-thru event since the beginning of the pandemic last March—as often as needed. It's not unusual for cars to be lined up for several blocks.

Giving away a million pounds of food in a year is no small task. The major credits the corps' legion of generous volunteers for the success.

"We honestly could not do this

without our volunteer force," she said. "They truly have a passion for making sure people have food."



Mt. Rushmore or bust

This summer 20 young people and leaders from the Heartland Division took to the open road, traveling nearly 900 miles to the Black Hills and Badlands for a once-in-a-lifetime jam-boree. On the agenda was Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Monument, Wind Cave, Mammoth Springs and Devils Tower—American icons many had only heard of. These and much more were accessible to the Heartland delegation as they stayed at The Salvation Army Black Hills Camp in Rapid City, S.D.

"One of the best moments of the trip was when we came around a corner and saw beautiful sparkling Lake Patchicola surrounded by tall, majestic trees. All of the kids put their phones down and marveled at God's beautiful creation," said

Juanita Belcher, Heartland divisional youth outreach ministries coordinator, who was compelled to organize the trip after the pandemic lockdowns which were very hard on the youth. She indicated that the sense of community experienced on the trip was a blessing as big as the adventure.



Promoted to Glory

Major Frank Johnson

Major Frank Johnson, 96, was promoted to Glory on June 29, 2021. Frank had a deep abiding love for the Lord that was evident in his kindness, encouragement, creativity and tender heart.



Frank was born on May 4, 1927, in Rockford, Ill. Saved at a tent meeting as a teenager, he became active in the corps, including playing in the band.

He entered officer training in 1945 and was commissioned in 1946 with the "Challengers" session. While serving at the training school, he fell in love with Captain Miriam Evans. They were married in 1952.

Frank was known for his creative ways of relaying the gospel through Christian illusion and Scene-O-Felt, assisted by Miriam and their two daughters. The Johnsons traveled the United States and Canada extensively performing and ministering. They served in corps, at Indiana Divisional Headquarters and at Territorial Headquarters where Frank served as public relations and service extension secretary in 1974 for four years before his final appointment as supplies and purchasing secretary, a position he held until retiring in 1992.

Frank was preceded in death by his wife, Miriam, and daughter, Karla. He is survived by his daughter, Beth, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Major Cecile Tekautz

Mrs. Major Cecile Tekautz (nee Finnell) was promoted to Glory on July 22, 2021. She loved serving the Lord and used her talents in quilting, cross stitching and sewing to serve others in His name.



Cecile was born on November 11, 1933, in Fontana, Kan. As a young girl, she was drawn to a life of ministry. She entered the School for Officers' Training in 1953 and was commissioned in 1954 with the "Shepherds" session. She fell in love with sessionmate John Bruce Tekautz whom she married in June 1956.

A lifetime of shared ministry followed with 12 appointments throughout the Midwest. After their retirement in 1994, Cecile served in various volunteer roles including leading a group that sewed for the men at the Home for Veterans in Grand Rapids, Mich., for which she received national recognition in 2010 from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as Volunteer of the Year.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years; sister, Marlene (James) Nelson; sons, John (Tereasa) and Major Donald (Captain Julie); five granddaughters; nieces, nephews and cousins.

Norridge summer Sundays

Continued from page 1

which took corps members through the neighborhood with the purpose of praying over people and businesses, and a mini concert by the corps band at a local park. Each of these activities provided visibility to The Salvation Army and gave corps members the opportunity to greet and engage with neighborhood residents.

"We want Jesus present in our neighborhood," said Commissioner Sue. "As we walked we prayed over the homes and families; at the concert we invited them to our vacation Bible school. We redeemed this summer for the Lord, and it benefitted us right along with the neighbors we met and prayed for."

Learning opportunities were a highlight, bringing corps members together to take a spiritual gifts inventory, study the history of The Salvation Army, explore the life and convictions of Samuel Logan Brengle, and learn about the Army's international social justice efforts. During these important and informative seminars, children's activities were provided to ensure all who

wanted to participate would be able.

Captain Catherine concluded, "With the help of our spiritual life council and soldiers, we had a summer full of opportunities to connect to one another and to grow in our faith. After such a difficult year, it was an incredible blessing to fellowship, to worship, to serve, and to pray together."

