



# 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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## Central Bible Leadership Institute proves *unstoppable*

by Mark Bender

After a two-year hiatus, Central Bible Leadership Institute (CBLI) returned with more than 300 delegates fully engaged in learning about and looking for the Holy Spirit at work! Wonderland Camp and Conference Center in Salem, Wis., provided the perfect



setting for much-needed relaxation and renewal.

The theme, "Unstoppable," explored the power of God as seen through the Holy Spirit's anointing of the first church in Acts 1:8 (NIV): "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Adult track morning Bible study and small group time focused on a particular characteristic of the early church empowered by the Holy Spirit:

- Unstoppable Mission- Acts 1:4-14
- Unstoppable Message- Acts 2:22-38
- Unstoppable Love- Acts 2:41-47
- Unstoppable Opportunities- Acts 3:1-10
- Unstoppable Courage- Acts 4:1-20
- Unstoppable Impact- Acts 17:16-31

Rev. Dr. Marion Platt unpacked how it grew exponentially with the unstoppable power of the Holy Spirit. Worship led by Major Rachel Stouder complemented the lesson and created an atmosphere of praise and restoration.



Dr. David Winters introduced a new teaching series, "Becoming Holy," which he wrote in response to his desire to demystify holiness and how Christians can grow their relationship with God.

The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO) track gave opportunities each day to experience God's love through His creation with learning stations, crafts and activities like archery and fishing.

Youth tracks included CBLI Kids (up to age 5), Jr. CBLI (elementary schoolers), Jr. High School, Sr. High School and Young Adult Community. Each of the youth tracks echoed God's unstoppable love for them. CBLI Kids learned that Jesus is your best friend, using songs, sign language, crafts and playtime to reinforce this truth.

Disney's *Encanto* became the stage for the Jr. CBLI track—complete with set design and characters! The children experienced lessons about how God values each of them and the

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Photos by Captain Heidi Strand

## Your Voice. Your Army.

Territorial Soldiers' Forum debuts

As a soldier, you are invaluable to The Salvation Army. Your commitment and service make a difference in your corps and community; your input is essential in moving the mission forward. Now your voice can carry even farther. With the in-

roduction of the Territorial Soldiers' Forum this summer, your ideas, needs and concerns for the Army have a new and more direct channel to reach leaders of the territory.

"Our territorial leaders have assured us that they want to hear from us, that they want to know our con-



Territorial Sergeant-Major Rochelle Holman and Assistant Territorial Sergeant-Major Hewitt Gage at the forum's first meeting

cerns, and they want us to have a structure to be able to communicate with them openly and honestly," said Rochelle Holman, the Central's first territorial sergeant-major and forum chairperson.

The Territorial Soldiers' Forum is comprised of divisional sergeant-majors and assistant divisional sergeant-majors, prayerfully selected by their divisional leaders and approved by the territorial commander; the territorial sergeant-major (TSM) and assistant territorial sergeant-major (ATSM), also appointed by the territorial commander; as well as a young adult representative appointed by the territorial youth secretary. Each member serves for a three-year term.

The process by which membership is chosen helps to ensure that the territory's diversity is represented and thereby a broad cross-section of voices, needs, concerns and suggestions are brought to the table. Sol-

diers may put forward subjects for consideration through their division's forum email box, a letter sent to their divisional headquarters to the attention of their forum representative(s), and by talking with their corps sergeant-majors or with their forum representative(s) at divisional events. The TSM and ATSM may contact and survey local officers throughout the territory.

The inaugural meeting of the Territorial Soldiers' Forum took place in August with hybrid in-person and virtual attendance, a format which will be utilized on an ongoing basis to incorporate as many members as possible in its meetings twice a year.

Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey met with the forum during its first meeting, further underscoring its important work.

"We are in this together as Salvationists," he said, explaining that soldiers are vital to the mission and

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# Offering a lifeline

by Lt. Colonel David Harvey  
Territorial Secretary for Business Administration

One day while visiting a lake, I saw a group of seagulls flying in a circle a little way from our boat. They drew my attention to a seagull floating on the water that was trying to fly but crashing back down. Struggling to swim, its head went under the water. I took the boat closer.

That's when I saw a fishing line and grabbed it. As I pulled, the bird's head lifted out of the water. The fishing lure had caught its two feet and beak. I pulled the gull into the boat, grabbing it by the legs. The gull kicked a little and tried to bite me. I

began talking calmly to the bird: "Hey, I am here to help. I am not going to hurt you. I can help you."

Believe it or not, the bird calmed down. Slowly, I pulled the hook out of one foot, then the other. I grabbed the sharp hook in his beak and shaking it, the bird was released and fell into the water. Free at last, he flapped his wings and rose into the air. He no longer was self-destructive and drowning by a hook he chose to bite, not knowing the trap in which he'd find himself. I was glad I had been convicted to go and try to help him despite the challenge.



In John 5, there is a story about a man who was self-destructing. Paralyzed for 38 years, it seems he had a hook of sin in his life that he was not able to escape. Jesus saw him drowning in his hurt and depression from a distance. This man was by a pool of water, Bethesda. He was trying to help himself get to a healing pool or hoping someone would help him, but he found every excuse for why he could not change or find hope. Without dealing with his

hooks, every attempt he made just pulled him down deeper. But Jesus saw the man and offered him a lifeline, asking, "Do you want to get well?"—in other words "I can help you if you let me." By the command of Jesus, the man was healed.

Today, there are many people drowning in loneliness, depression, drugs, abuse and poverty. They need us to see them and offer them a lifeline—the help we know is available in Jesus.

With a new corps programming season starting and outreach happening, let's commit to helping people with their hooks by sharing the truth of Jesus Christ. He has saved us and set us free and can save others as well.

## Territorial Soldiers' Forum

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should not feel like their calling or work is secondary to officers.

The territorial corps and community mission secretaries, currently Captains Kristina and Michael Sjogren, are designated as liaisons to facilitate the forum's work.

According to Captain Kristina, the forum's debut is timely with recent changes emanating from Project Advance which aim to better resource and enable mission at the local level. She encourages soldiers serving as local officers in their corps to take advantage of the opportunity to "speak into" the process and be agents of positive change.

The captain also commends the new chairperson and assistant chairperson, Rochelle Holman and Hewitt Gage, respectively, as imminently

qualified, citing strong, practical skills like business and communication, their lifelong experience, extensive involvement in and in-depth understanding of the Army, and adherence to its principles, doctrines and practices.

An executive committee will work with the TSM and ATSM to determine the most pertinent subjects to bring before the forum for discussion and possible recommendation to territorial leaders. To help ensure progress, minutes, including recommendations and feedback from the Territorial Executive Council, will be presented within two weeks to the Territorial Cabinet by the TSM or ATSM for discussion, possible approval and then action.

"While our goal is to advance the mission of The Salvation Army throughout our territory," said Rochelle, "it is ultimately to grow the Kingdom of God through building up the saints and reaching out to the lost."



### Forum members

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DSM = Divisional Sergeant-Major

ADSM – Assistant Divisional Sergeant-Major

Visit the forum page on our website: [salarmycentral.org](http://salarmycentral.org)

# The Christmas Code

## Advent 2022 Worship Series

The year's Advent worship series based on the devotional book, *The Christmas Code*, features a "code word" each Sunday to help unlock the blessings of Christ's first coming. It provides a time for reflecting on the true joy, peace, hope and love which the coming of the Christ child makes possible.

The five-week series includes worship service materials for the four Sundays of Advent, Christmas Eve and the Sunday after Christmas. Available in both English and Spanish, the series includes music options, dramas, readings and a variety of other resources.

Find them under Resources at:  
[www.samusiccentral.org](http://www.samusiccentral.org)

See your corps officer for more details.



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# Flood aid provided in St. Louis

by Nicolas White

In response to record-setting flash flooding in the St. Louis, Mo., region this summer, The Salvation Army set up five multi-agency resource centers (MARC) throughout the metro area to offer resources to survivors. Coordinated and implemented through emergency disaster services, the centers offered food, water, financial support based on need, case management, clean-up kits, and emotional and spiritual care.

The flash floods in July broke the record for wettest 24-hour period in the city's recorded history; one fatality was reported, and more than a hundred people were reported stranded. Missouri Gov. Mike Parson declared a state of emergency.

"This is one of those situations where a disaster hits everybody, regardless of what economic group you're in, that you are hit hard like that," said Major Kjell Steinsland, Midland general secretary and St.

Louis Area Commander. "There are many people who have been in need."

At the first MARC event, which included 30 organizations, religious entities and social service agencies, The Salvation Army served 800 families. It distributed more than 600 meals to the hungry crowd from its canteen inside the building, which at times was full of several hundred people during the five-hour event. Hot meals of chicken, macaroni and cheese, peas and carrots, and grilled hot dogs were served, as were snacks both savory and sweet, Chick-fil-A sandwiches, and bottles of cold water for people to stay hydrated in the scorching 90-plus degree heat.

According to Taedra Rutlin-Tobias, Midland divisional Pathway of Hope and quality assurance manager, the MARCs gave The Salvation Army the opportunity to touch the people who normally wouldn't be able to come to our sites. "We want to be in the community and provide direct, immediate assistance for people who

otherwise might not be able to get it," she said.

"A lot of us don't have insurance or health to fix our homes and feed ourselves," said Karen, who accepted flood clean-up supplies,



whose basement had flooded. "It was about being able to sit and talk with them. Trying to find the good that comes out of a bad situation," he said. "They had some estranged family members who are back in the picture now. Those relationships are mended because of this."

Major Fred Mead, Midland divisional emergency disaster services emotional and spiritual care coordinator, spoke with two 91-year-olds

whose basement had flooded. "It was about being able to sit and talk with them. Trying to find the good that comes out of a bad situation," he said. "They had some estranged family members who are back in the picture now. Those relationships are mended because of this."



# Skateboards, service and social media



by Trevor Darago

Captain Vinal Lee's journey with The Salvation Army began with a group of friends and a skateboard. On a Friday night in Omaha, Neb., 13-year-old Vinal and his friends went skateboarding at the indoor skatepark at the Omaha South Corps. After seeing a sign that read, "Chapel," he asked his parents if they could attend the worship service on Sunday with the intention he could continue to skateboard with his friends. Little did he know how much his involvement in the corps would grow or that eventually he would become a Salvation Army officer.

Even before being commissioned as an officer in 2015, he volunteered with emergency disaster services. His passion for emergency response continued as an officer. His deployments have included serving after floods, tornadoes and hurricanes, including Hurricane Harvey in Texas in 2016. His roles have ranged from canteen operations to public information officer, emotional and spiritual care officer and incident commander, including playing that role for the Indiana Division during COVID-19.

Captain Vinal's mission is connecting with people and connecting them with God. "God wants community. It's built into who we are," he said. "We can more effectively spread the gospel when we just reach into ourselves and pull out what connects all of us—and that is our desire to be connected."

The captain has been able to connect with an unreached audience by experimenting with short-form video content on social media platforms like TikTok, Facebook and Instagram, sharing personal stories and the gospel. In one month, his social content reached nearly 28,000 individuals!

According to Captain Vinal, he wouldn't be the officer he has become without the joint efforts with his wife, Captain Brenna Lee.

"There would be no success in our ministry if it wasn't *our* ministry," he explained. "I'm really good at about three things. Brenna, however, is good at everything." He says his life is unimaginable without her extraordinary talent in creating programs and fellowship with others.

The Lees are excited about their move this summer to Bloomington, Ind., where they have the unique privilege to provide leadership for Bloomington and Brown County, Ind.

"Moving to Bloomington was definitely unexpected, but we are excited about it," Captain Vinal said. "This is our third move in Indiana and will be the fourth corps we've had the opportunity to run."

The Lees are looking forward to guiding their new ministry forward. "I refuse to believe the best days of The Salvation Army are behind us," Captain Vinal concluded. "I feel like we've been called to work in the present but dream forward."

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# Endless summer afternoons

*Summer afternoon, summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.*

by Michelle DeRusha

This summer more than 560 campers from across Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota couldn't have agreed more with this sentiment penned by British author Henry James over a century ago.

For the first time since the property was purchased by the Western Division in 2020, the Western Plains Camp in South Sioux City, Neb., opened for a full schedule of divisional summer camps.

Since purchasing the camp, Western divisional leaders Majors Poppy and Greg Thompson have focused

on modernizing and improving the facilities and grounds.

In June, the majors held a press conference to unveil the four newly renovated, ADA-accessible cabins, a new meeting and events space, a refurbished swimming pool and a new archery range. Additional building projects—including a 15-room lodge, a nurse's station, an ADA-compliant dock and boathouse, a ropes course and RV parking sites—are also underway.

The Western Division launched a \$10.8 million campaign to fund the modernization of the camp's facilities. The Salvation Army has funded \$8.3 million for the renovations, with the remaining \$2.5 million to come from private gifts.

"This refreshed, updated, revitalized Western Plains Camp will ultimately enhance the quality of life for people all around the area," said Major Poppy at the press conference.

"Camp isn't just for kids," added Major Greg. "This will be a place of recreation, celebration and reflection

for the entire community."

Western Plains Camp opened for the 2022 summer season in June with a one-day Moonbeam Camp to introduce preschoolers and kindergarteners to the camp experience. Throughout June and July, campers in first through twelfth grades enrolled in junior and senior camps, outdoors camp and music camp, and more than 200 people attended a weekend family camp with activities for all ages. The season will conclude in mid-October with a camp for older adults.

Campers of all ages were delighted to explore the wilderness and learn new skills during their time at Western Plains Camp. First-time camper Brooklyn, 10, of Lincoln, Neb., enjoyed dance, cheerleading, hiking, swimming and sleeping in the brand-new bunkhouse during her week at junior sports camp.

"I like camp because you meet a lot of new people. You do a lot of fun things, and you do a lot of new things," she said.

Six-year-old Hannah of Boone, Iowa, was especially proud of the

progress she made in the pool during junior sports camp. "I never went in a pool by myself before," she said, "and now I can even go into the middle."

Parent Matt Walter, of Omaha, appreciated that camp helped his children grow their confidence and improve their self-esteem along with having fun and making new friends. He also liked the fact that they were away from screens and electronics for an entire week.

"There is just something about putting away electronics and spending time in the outdoors that is good for the soul," he said.

As for Brooklyn and her new friends, they are already looking forward to next summer and another week at Western Plains Camp. "I love it all," she said. "I think camp is perfect."



## The comfort of a Bentley

It's the first day of a weeklong summer camp at Echo Grove Camp when a call comes across the radio. "Bentley to the office," the voice says. "I need Bentley in the office, please."

The call is Amy Soffran's cue to hop in her golf cart with Bentley, a 4-year-old, 130-pound St. Bernard, at her side for a jaunt across camp. They have a job to do.

A certified therapy dog, Bentley is called upon to comfort homesick campers. Entering the office, she looks to Amy for approval before gently approaching the tearful girl and nuzzling her hand. Immediately, the girl throws her arms around



Amy with certified therapy dog, Bentley, who is "the perfect size for camp."

Bentley's neck and begins to sob.

Unphased, Bentley stays put, allowing the girl to stroke her head and back until she's regained her composure. Then Bentley lies at the girl's feet and rolls over for belly rubs. In no time, tears have turned to giggles. The camper, who just moments ago was insistent on going home, no longer needs her mother to come pick her up.

"The rest of the week the camper was perfectly happy," said Amy. "She knew she could pet Bentley anytime she needed to."

According to Amy, this scene is repeated several times each summer as campers come and go, especially during the weeks when younger children are present. But they're not the only ones who find comfort in the big, sorrowful brown eyes, gentle nuzzles and soft fur of Bentley. Staff members seek out Bentley when they're having a hard day.

"Bentley has been an invaluable part of our team," said Captain Jonathan Cooper, divisional youth secretary. "Our young people have experienced a great deal of trauma over the past few years. Sometimes there are no words to make the situation better. That's when we call Bentley."



## Keeping watch at Army Lake

by Dr. Beverly Peterson

Over the gate of Army Lake Camp (ALC) located in East Troy, Wis., hangs two signs: WELCOME and MIZPAH. Genesis 31:49 calls it a watchtower: "May the Lord keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other." This summer the watchtower celebrated 100 years of steadfast and life-changing camping ministry.

"ALC began as a clear vision from God to Brigadier Edwy White. It had to be from God because the property in East Troy was on a lake named 'Army Lake' by the Army Corp of Engineers. The purpose has always been to share the Word of God in His natural creation and to bring people into the saving grace of Jesus Christ," said Major Steve Merritt, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (WUM) divisional commander.

During the WUM Pilgrimage weekend, camp alumni came together to reminisce about relationships built, memorable staff, and swimming tests passed. A memory

room displayed photos and memorabilia from the past century, and a plaque was dedicated to mark this milestone. Scott Thomas, great-grandson of Brigadier White, and his wife, Peggy, attended the weekend on behalf of the family.

Colonels Ralph and Susan Bukiewicz, Centralites currently stationed in the Southern Territory, were guests for the event. Colonel Susan spoke about the camp being a refuge for her family of seven during a chicken pox outbreak. Colonel Ralph reminisced about his days at camp while growing up in Milwaukee.

For over a year, a planning committee, headed by Major Bonnie Clark, prayed for the event. She recalled kneeling at the camp altar during Sunbeam Camp and accepting Jesus as her Savior. Later she met her future husband, David, while working at camp.

As the sunset fell over Army Lake, Major Bonnie prayed that thousands more would be reached through the ministry of Army Lake Camp.



At Army Lake's 100th Anniversary Celebration are Colonels Ralph and Susan Bukiewicz, Peggy and Scott Thomas, Majors Steven and Christine Merritt, and Major Steven Woodard.

# RESONATE pulses to life, CMI returns

Two great camps, one amazing mission

by Joe Caddy

## RESONATE

When faculty and students of the inaugural RESONATE Worship Arts Conservatory convened at Wonderland Camp, no one was quite sure what to expect. While creative arts instruction isn't new to the territory, this was the first time a territorial conservatory has been dedicated exclusively to studying dance, drama, praise band and visual media.



materials composed by chaplain Captain Vinal Lee. On Wednesday evening, the Creative Arts Service Team and Captain Marisa McCluer invited delegates to consider their roles in the story being penned by God, "the Author of life."

### Inviting Creativity

In addition to presentations created together in class, students and staff were given opportunities to express their unique visions and preferences, including selecting the design for their camp T-shirt and flavor combinations for a shaved ice treat.

### Growing through Community

Ensembles, cabins and small group Bible studies became venues for students and faculty to listen to and learn from each other. Up-and-coming Christian recording artist Natalie Layne gave a brilliant concert on Thursday evening and shared about her artistic journey through a Q&A.

### Expressing Faith

At the end of camp, all tracks combined to present "THE CONVERSATION," a concert based on themes from the week's devotionals in Genesis 1 and John 1. The two praise teams led the congregation in worship while each dance and drama group presented two items of contrasting styles. The live performance was broadcast online with production support from the Visual Media majors.

RESONATE concluded with a combined Sunday worship service with CMI led by territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey.



While RESONATE concentrated solely on creative arts, many multitalented students stayed at camp to study another musical field at Central Music Institute (CMI) which immediately followed it.

## Central Music Institute

When the final notes of benediction dissipated at the end of CMI 2019, no one knew it would be nearly three years until those sounds would again reverberate in the rafters of the chapel. While much has changed, the presence of nearly 230 students and faculty this year proved CMI remains "the place to be" for those seeking spiritual nourishment and musical excellence in brass and vocal music.



### Developing Gifts

The frenetic whirl of audition day quickly waned into the sounds of collective harmony as students found their places in one of four bands or two choirs that would act as their primary ensemble for the duration of the camp. Throughout the week, each student ensemble, elective class and solo contest winner was given an opportunity to share their artistic gifts with the rest of the camp as part of a series of Student Showcase concerts.



Lending their time and expertise were several guest performers and instructors like CMI alumnus Jeff Marquis and his wife, Sheena, who shared responsibilities as guest chaplains.



### Reaching New Heights

Throughout the camp, Dorothy Nancekievill, International Staff Songsters leader, provided steady and skillful leadership to the combined Booth and Hilltop student choruses and the faculty-student hybrid CMI Chorus. International Staff Band member and Norwich, England, Corps Bandmaster Richard Woodrow led both the CMI Faculty Band and Wonderland Band to new levels of musical mastery and ministry.

### Inspiring Exploration

A highlight of the week came on Monday when guest artists Trey McLaughlin and the Sounds of Zamar elated the gathered crowd with their superlative talent and led the audience on an inspiring exploration of the depth and breadth of the gospel music genre.



### Enjoying Fun and Fellowship

When class was not in session, students and faculty made the most of every opportunity for fun, fellowship and friendly competition in the first-ever CMI Color Wars. Students were divided into teams, given colorful wristbands and pitted against each other in a series of fun challenges. The winning team earned a late-night snack, but all students came away from the event with memories made with new friends.

### Looking to the Future

While the camp needed to end two days early due to COVID-19, the consensus of those present was it was worth the effort to be back together at Wonderland again. Though the effects of the pandemic are still lingering, the outlook for music ministry in the territory is bright.

To see a list of award winners for both camps, visit [salarmycentral.org](http://salarmycentral.org)



### Building Foundational Skills

The 56 students were assigned to seven different instructional ensembles in four tracks (Dance, Drama, Praise Band, Visual Media) which comprised the primary curriculum. Each day the ensembles worked together on techniques related to their disciplines and applied them to the performance pieces for the finale. Daily elective classes provided extra enrichment for students wanting to dig deeper into their subject area or to explore another discipline.

### Nurturing Connection with God

By definition a "resonance" is a response, so the conservatory's very name was selected to reinforce the communal nature of our relationship with God. He speaks, His children receive and respond, and the conversation continues. This fundamental principle formed the devotional focus embedded into the presentations students created in their ensembles, as well as the daily Bible teaching and small group discussion



# Bigger, better space to help rebuild lives

by Craig Dirkes

Some of The Salvation Army's most prominent facilities in Minnesota have received a makeover: the Minneapolis Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) and the Family Store that is attached to it. The \$38 million project features a top-to-bottom remodel of 224,000 square feet.



Envoys Trudi and Tom Canfield

including Minneapolis ARC administrators Envoys Tom and Trudi Canfield for their passion and commitment to the transformation that takes place, moving men from darkness into light.

"We now have a fully-featured, state-of-the-art facility offering safer, healthier and more dignified programming for those wanting to overcome substance abuse," said Envoy Tom Canfield, a 2006 ARC graduate who now serves as the facility's business administrator.

The project has allowed the center to offer residential spiritual and social rehabilitation to more clients—jumping from less than 100 people to 142. The extensive improvements include updated residential rooms and meeting spaces with new layout, furnishings, and HVAC system; refreshed commons area with modern amenities and new furnishings; upgraded kitchen, dining area, and bathrooms.

Code updates have been made as well, such as the replacement of all electrical, plumbing and heating systems, along with the addition of fire safety enhancements and the removal of any lingering hazardous material. A new ventilation system delivers fresh, filtered air to control airborne bacteria.



The remodeled center is better suited to continue providing clients with up to one year of meals, housing, guidance and other transformative support. In most cases the program is free, with funding from sales at Salvation Army Family Stores in the Twin Cities.

The remodeled store, on the bottom floor of the center, offers a new shopping experience that is fresh, inviting and convenient. Enhancements include a showroom with new layout, paint, flooring, and LED lighting; an indoor drive-through donation center; and new exterior signage. The store is expected to be 20 percent more profitable even though it was already one of the top-grossing family stores in the Midwest.

The ARC has operated at its current location since 1946 but has not been updated since 1964. Planning for the project began 15 years ago. More than 80 percent of the funding needed for the renovation has been secured, through private donations, a real estate sale, and bank financing.

"This project was made possible by the work of many Salvation Army officers and contracting partners and, more importantly, the considerable support of the Frauenschuh Companies' Project Management division and other compassionate donors," said Major Randall Polsley,

Adult Rehabilitation Centers commander. "The partners energetically embraced The Salvation Army's vision and, together, we have created a bigger and more dignified space to help rebuild the lives of those struggling with substance abuse."

Envoy Tom is thrilled about the opportunities the remodeled facility will bring to the people it serves and the community. "This is an exciting time for us," he said. "This area is the center of recovery in Minneapolis, and we feel blessed to be in this position."



Charles Cloak, Northern assistant divisional sergeant-major, greets Commissioner Brad Bailey.

The renovated facility was dedicated this summer by Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey, who recognized key people,



Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey with Andy Schweizer, Minneapolis ARC Advisory Council Chairman



Major Jose Gonzalez and Julio Romero, ARC Command director of real estate development

## "I see God's grace and mercy here every single day"

by Craig Dirkes

Bradley was hooked on hard-core drugs and alcohol for most of his life. He still remembers the first time he injected methamphetamine into his veins, after six years of smoking the drug. "If smoking meth is a 1, shoot-

ing it is 100," said Bradley, now 29.

Shooting meth transformed Bradley into a completely different person, and he didn't know how to change. "I would do anything to get more meth," he said. "I stole anything that wasn't nailed down. I lied to people I claimed to care about."

### Troubled past

Bradley grew up in the Twin Cities suburbs with his mom, sisters and stepdad. He started smoking cigarettes at 10 and by 12 was drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana. "My mom was a hardcore alcoholic and she fought with my dad a lot," he said. "My [older] sister

and I drank and smoked pot to escape."

Dropping out of high school during his senior year, he began working at a gas station. Soon after he started the job, one of his coworkers introduced him to meth.

The next four years of Bradley's life were a downward spiral. He was fired from job after job for not showing up or being high on drugs. He started selling drugs and hanging out with career criminals. He was jailed twice.

In 2017, he stopped smoking meth and started shooting it. Within a month he was homeless and stealing for a living. Bradley recalled, "I could see that I was ruining my life, but I didn't care."

### Fateful phone call

Bradley's life took a dramatic turn in 2019 when, for reasons he can't explain, he contacted The Salvation Army late one night.

"I was blackout drunk," he recalled. "I sent The Salvation Army a message saying my life is out of con-

trol, and I need help. I don't even remember sending the message."

The next day, he received a call from a Salvation Army staff member named Amy. She shared her testimony, talked about Jesus and invited Bradley to enroll in the Minneapolis Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC)—a free or low-cost residential treatment program for men battling addiction. Bradley spent the next seven months at the ARC where he received food, shelter, counseling, spiritual support and work therapy.

"The next thing I knew, I was praying with people and doing outreach," he said. "I hadn't felt that good about myself in a long time. I'd never had any self-worth before."

Bradley graduated from the program in July 2020. Today he leads Bible studies and sings on a worship team at the ARC. He also works there as resident manager.

"I love this place so much," Bradley said. "I see God's grace and mercy here every single day."



# Young backpack activist inspires giving

by Annie Beurman

Brooklyn Stewart, 14, knows how to pack a backpack. She knows how much two spirals, a pack of paper, crayons, a ruler, scissors and a dozen pencils will weigh once zipped up inside it. More importantly, she knows just how much that loaded backpack will mean to a child in need.

That's because she's spent eight years stuffing backpacks with school supplies for The Salvation Army in Kansas City, Mo. One other thing, Brooklyn's been doing this since she was six.

"Looking back, she was five or six years old when she started this, and it was a lot of participation on her parents' part to kind of help her get it going," said Amanda Stewart, Brooklyn's mom. "Now she can do it all and can really talk to other kids about how it gets done."

Brooklyn found herself talking to other kids in early August, shortly before the start of the new school year to share her story of fundraising and volunteerism with children as young as she was when she started.

Amanda was contacted by Kind-Craft, a community service organiza-

tion based in Olathe, Kan., whose goal is to encourage kids to start volunteering.

"When the organization began there was not a lot of opportunities for young kids to volunteer places," said Theresa Stoker, KindCraft's treasurer. "Because our mission is so focused on getting those children involved, Brooklyn being a child herself starting an organization, it just spoke to who our people are that we're trying to get involved."

And get involved they did. Around 30 kids from KindCraft and their parents raised donations and helped Brooklyn stuff 76 backpacks for the Brooklyn's Backpack drive that afternoon.

"I'm super excited that other kids actually want to get involved in this stuff," exclaimed Brooklyn.

With inflation, Brooklyn and her mom are feeling the sting of rising prices when it comes to critically important school supplies.

"I would say when we started, we



Brooklyn Stewart (center) with her friend Alex McBride and her mom, Amanda.

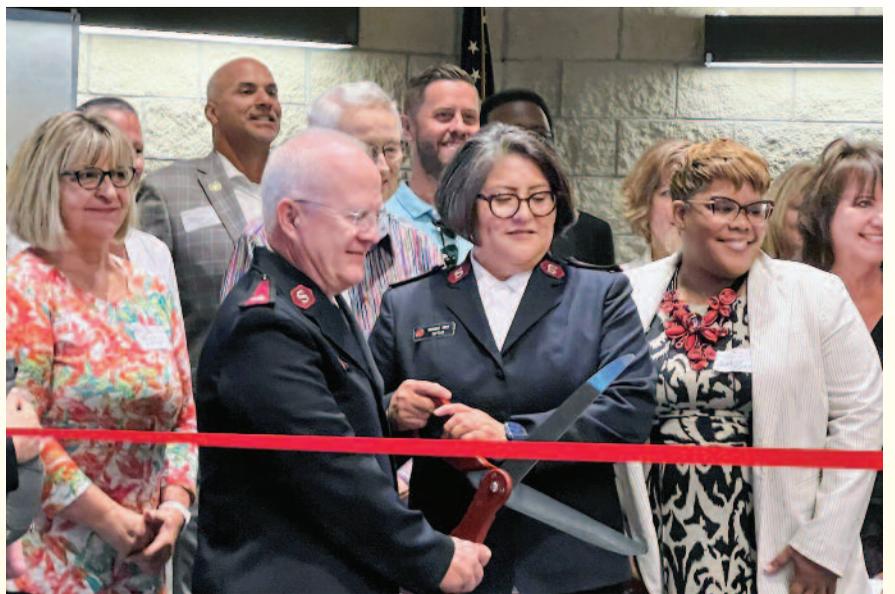
were asking donors and suppliers to supply a minimum of \$25 because that would get us at least one complete backpack," said Amanda. "Now it's more than double that, and we're seeing \$35 minimum for just the backpack."

Partnering with Kindcraft brought the additional kid power to stuff backpacks, and, most importantly, the additional backpacks.

Even with the cost of inflation this year, Brooklyn already is looking to the future of the Backpack Drive. "She wants to be doing this into adulthood," Amanda said. "She wants to build a network of other kids that want to help and contribute on an annual basis."



## Two are better than one



by Trevor Darago

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NIV) reminds us, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up..."

The Salvation Army believes in the power of unity and teamwork. So, as an endeavor to build a more collaborative environment, the Indiana Division is welcoming the Northwest Indiana Area Command, a team of four corps located in Gary, East Chicago, Munster and Valparaiso, all of which are located in Lake and Porter Counties. Though clients will not see any major changes directly, these new unified efforts will allow the four corps to streamline the process of providing services to 30,000 people each year.

At a ribbon-cutting dedication this summer, the excitement from the surrounding communities was clear. Strack and Van Til Food Centers presented the new area command with

a check for \$35,000, which was raised at the supermarket's cash registers where shoppers donated their change. Dave Wilkinson, the company's CEO, described The Salvation Army as "important" and a "blessing to the community."

The new Northwest Indiana Area Command is being led by Captain Bersabe Vera-Hernandez, who has been involved with The Salvation Army for her entire life. "My parents were Salvation Army officers for 45 years," she said. "I was able to learn so much from them. I have now been in ministry for 24 years, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to lead this great team."

Captain Bersabe says she has a passion for bringing people together. "The Northwest Indiana Area Command allows us to share resources and ideas. Working as one mind, we are stronger. We have the perfect opportunity to make leaps and bounds in our service, and that is what we expect to do," she said.

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THE SALVATION ARMY

# Sturgis outreach in rearview mirror

A look at *The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry* at the world's largest rally

by Major Jo Langham

Our booth was hardly set up when bikers roared into the gas station. They drove right up to us and shared their stories and asked for a blessing. Sometimes there were so many bikers, it was hard to keep pace. Ministry was nonstop. Everywhere I turned, members of our group were talking or praying with bikers. We felt empowered by the Holy Spirit and honored to share God's love during this summer's Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

Although our group consisted of

just 13 (seven officers and 6 lay people from all over the territory), we reached hundreds of bikers in just three days. It was the most successful outreach I've experienced since leading this ministry. In addition to participating in more than 200 Bike and Biker Blessings, we shared 141 scripture blessing cards, 10 Bibles and 130 Celebrate Recovery flyers. We also handed out 553 bottles of cold water—a godsend for many in the scorching heat that surpassed 100 degrees.

In the evenings this year we introduced Celebrate Recovery (a Christ-centered, 12 step recovery program) at the Rapid City, S.D., Corps which is about 30 minutes from the rally. At 7:00 p.m. we'd gather at the corps and pray for people struggling with addictions. While we were disappointed no one took advantage of the meetings, our time was not wasted. We got to know other members of the group better and committed to pray for each other throughout the year.



We also discussed making the meetings more accessible next year by partnering with a church in Sturgis and are looking forward to that opportunity.

On the way back to camp one evening, we came across two bikes broken down on the side of the road with their four riders trying to figure out what to do. While giving them assistance, we learned they were from Battle Creek, Mich. We shared about The Salvation Army there and encouraged them to look it up when they returned home. The next day they took Major Jerry O'Neil up on his offer to use his garage and tools at camp to get their bikes running again and we talked some more and offered them refreshments.

Do we know what will come from these encounters? Can we gauge the impact we had? No, but God does. We have been faithful to share, and that's what He asks us to do.



Want to be a part of the motorcycle ministry? See your corps officer for information.



## Ministry revs up in Indonesia

After a kick-start during the Indonesia Territory's 127th anniversary celebrations, The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry (TSAMM) has registered 204 members across eight divisions in its first six months, and the number continues to climb as new connections are made.

Although the culture and customs in Indonesia differ from those in the Midwestern United States where TSAMM originated in 2014, the ministry has been enthusiastically embraced in this Southeast Asia country as a means to reach people for Christ.

"Our TSAMM probably looks very different to TSAMM in the U.S., but we believe it is relevant and appropriate for our context," said Lt. Colonel Cedric Hills, then-chief secretary in Indonesia.

According to Major Mauli Pohan, territorial secretary for men's ministry, motorbikes are the most common form of transportation in Indonesia and primarily serve a family's livelihood instead being an extra vehicle or hobby like in the U.S. Yet, enthusiasts abound who are eager for the sense of community and belonging offered by TSAMM.

"What we have in common [with the U.S.] is that we use motorbikes

as a tool to ride, serve and share in ministry and service together," said Major Mauli. "Whether in the urban centers of Java or the remote villages of Sulawesi and Sumatera, we share one goal: to spread God's ministry."

To that end, exciting events have taken place across the territory. In the Palolo Division, for example, 60 motorbikes joined a TSAMM ride to the Besoa Pedele area, where they organized a spiritual revival meeting. Corps and community members joined together in worship followed by a fundraising event to help build a new quarters for the officers at Besoa Pedele Corps.

In June, more than 40 members of the TSAMM group from Indonesia Territorial Headquarters (THQ) participated in a ride to Bougenville Maribaya for a time of fellowship with farewelling officers, including Colonel Cedric, who was instrumental in launching TSAMM in the territory and has now taken up his new appointment in Germany.

"I am excited by the possibilities," concluded the colonel. "Of all the things I've been involved with during my three-year appointment in Indonesia, launching TSAMM may be the most long-lasting and impactful."

## Let's talk

by BobbiJo Middendorp

At first, I was hesitant going into the motorcycle ministry at the Sturgis Rally. I wondered how useful I'd be as a high school girl ministering to this crowd. But the day before the rally, I met with The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry group and was amazed at the wisdom and stories they shared. It felt like a family gathering of brothers and sisters in Christ, with my twin sister and me the youngest.

I met the legendary Ellen Lloyd, a Salvationist who rides her trike across the nation, openly sharing her faith with everyone she meets. She is known for being a shining light for Jesus in the biker community. The following morning, our chaplain, Major Brian Burkett, gave devotions and our leader, Major Jo Langham, taught a lesson on evangelism, which helped us focus on our reason for being there.



After a beautiful ride through Vanocker Canyon, we rolled into Sturgis. Immediately after setting up our table at the gas station, we became "the hands and feet of Jesus." I was shocked by how open the bikers were in talking with us and letting us pray over them and their bikes. I have heard of being on fire for God but had never experienced it firsthand.

My parents, A/Captains Bill and Deb Middendorp, took my sister, BilliJo, and me under their wing by helping us hand out water and initiate conversations. Typically, I am reserved and rarely talk to strangers, but I found myself easily talking to all of these bikers and listening to their stories. Our interactions ended with asking if they wanted their bike blessed and a blessing card—by far my favorite part of the ministry. I would join hands with other members of the motorcycle ministry to say a prayer over the bikers, praying for their bike, safety and direction. While I only participated one day, I believe many seeds of the gospel were planted.



# Overcoming the “awkward” to share Christ

by Lt. Marsha Williams-Miller

Many times as believers we’ve already made up our minds about how God will reach people. But sharing our faith doesn’t have to be complicated. We don’t have to overthink it or be afraid.

The National Seminar on Evangelism (NSE) at Camp Hoblitzelle in Midlothian, Texas, started with National Commander Commissioner Kenneth G. Hodder chopping away at the lies we believe about evangelism. I am amazed at how God consistently surprises us and debunks our theories about evangelism.

Other guest speakers for the week-long training included Captain Darrell Houseton, Dare 2 Share founder Greg Stier, Christian motivational



speaker Steve Carter, and Major Cheryl Kistan. While each brought his or her own passion and perspective, the underlying theme was to ask the Lord to make each of us uncomfortable and to discover relational evangelism.

So many of us have become comfortable thinking our faith is a private matter, that evangelism doesn’t matter, we can’t do it or it’s someone else’s job. Some of us have gotten so good at ministry or are so busy, do we really hear the voice of God anymore?

Being a witness for Christ daily removes the surface level of awkwardness in sharing the gospel with those we meet. Throughout NSE, every delegate and leader repeated “Awkward is awesome,” and “Rescued people rescue people.” When you are a rescued believer, it means someone greater than you, someone with more power than you, had to rescue you—Jesus!

I was challenged at NSE, and so now I am challenging you. Understand sharing the gospel is not about you or how good or insignificant you think your testimony is, it’s about Jesus! Before we are called to any kind of ministry, we are called first to tell others about Him.



Central Territory delegates

- What if the gospel of Jesus was the first thing off our lips in every conversation?
- What if we chose to intentionally hang out with people who need to know Jesus rather than our Christian friends?
- What if we stepped outside our comfort zone to be obedient?
- What if we still felt the urgency to share our first love, Jesus?
- What if we challenged each other to be uncomfortable and have awkward moments in order to share the gospel for God’s glory?
- What if we recognized the moments every day God provides for us to lovingly, clearly and simply share John 3:16?
- What if we acted boldly on the vision God has given us and end up outside the walls of our corps?
- What if our newfound, mis-

sion-driven personalities take us for a wild ride where we listen to the Holy Spirit and it disrupts our routine and we rally in His power to bring others to Jesus?

I don’t know the awkward places this article may end up, but I certainly don’t want to miss an opportunity to invite you to know Jesus personally.

My Salvation Army uniform did not save me, and there won’t be a special seat reserved for my epaulet shoulders in heaven. It’s only because I have been saved through our Savior’s blood. I am so grateful someone overcame the awkward to introduce me to Jesus.



## Salina celebration brings renewed purpose, connection

Months of planning and the combined efforts of soldiers, officers, volunteers and community members yielded a fun-filled and spiritually renewing celebration this summer of the Salina, Kan., Corps’ 125th anniversary. The event reached more than 1,000 people.

“Our purpose for the celebration beyond marking the big date was three-fold,” explained Lt. Luke Hursh and Captain Patricia Salas, corps officers. “First, we wanted to

disperse the gospel message to the entire community. Second, we wanted to share with people what The Salvation Army is, what we do and why we do it. Our third goal was to thank the community and other local agencies for the support our corps has received.”

The support of the community was proven throughout the weekend with the efforts of more than 60 volunteers, the presence of 16 agencies and generous donations from businesses, including Sam’s Club, Tony’s Pizza, Kroger, Frito Lay, Pepsi, and others. An Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) team from Kansas City visited in the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) vehicle, generating enthusiastic interest among attendees.

The celebration started on Friday with “Others Fest.” This concert included acts from three local musical groups, as well as renowned international Reggae group Christafari.

Saturday’s celebration included a block party and carnival at the corps, complete with food, bounce houses, face painting, music and a tour of the building. The blistering heat, which exceeded 100 degrees, did not deter more than 1,000 people from attending.

Sunday’s events included a worship service that concluded the weekend with a spirit of thankfulness and excitement for the future. Territorial leaders Commissioners Brad and Heidi Bailey, Kansas and Western Missouri (KWM) divisional leaders Majors Jesse and Kelly Collins, as well as KWM General Secretary Major Toni Dorrell attended to express the support of the wider Salvation Army. Territorial Commander Commissioner Brad Bailey gave the message, focusing on God’s faithfulness to the corps over 125 years, and urging Salvationists to use those blessings to serve others



Renowned international Reggae group Christafari performs at the anniversary celebration.

and bring more people to Jesus.

One of the most impactful moments of the weekend according to Lt. Luke and Captain Patricia was the conversion of a woman who had been involved in lifelong Paganism and white witchcraft.

Captain Patricia concluded, “The remarkable conversion of a woman deep in sin proved that Jesus has the power to overcome any obstacle, and that if we succeed in saving even one soul, our efforts are worth it.”



Captain Patricia Salas and Lt. Luke Hursh (center) thank God for His blessings to the Salina Corps with Majors Kelly and Jesse Collins.

# God is at work everywhere

Summer Mission Teams share about a season well spent

Summer Mission Teams, a leadership and discipleship program, enjoyed a successful summer with three teams of young adults engaging in ministry for six weeks across the Midwest and in Panama. Whether serving in Central America or joined by Salvationists from the Brazil Territory and the Rwanda/Burundi Command, they experienced God's family and grew cross-culturally.

The teams memorized Psalm 139 (NIV), where you find the following verses (7-12):

*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?... If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.*

Reflecting on their service and growth, a common theme emerged: God showed up. Having spent the summer meditating on the truths of Psalm 139, their testimony was consistent. No matter how far from home or how stretching or joyful the experience, they found God there.

## CAST



CAST

Three Trails Camp in Kansas City, Mo.; Kirksville, Mo., Corps; Camp Hoblitzelle and Arlington, Irving, Plano, and Waxahachie corps in Texas; the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps; and Michigan City, Ind., Corps.

Throughout their journey the team witnessed lives transformed by God's love. Everywhere they went they saw His sovereignty and goodness. At Kansas and Western Missouri Divisional Music & Gospel

Arts Camp, they taught music, dance and drama to children and teenagers and later that week prayed with them. Some welcomed God into their hearts for the first time, while others prayed for their families and friends. The altar was lined for a long time as they shared with their counselors, leaders and officers.

In Michigan City they saw God working through them in the afternoons as they conducted VBS in a park and in the

evenings as they invited children and teenagers to participate in dance, drama and choir workshops with the support of Major Dale Simmons.

"It's amazing how He was present in every detail and every moment, empowering us, giving us ideas, bringing more and more children and even clearing the weather so that we had a great time during the outdoor activities," said CAST member Bruno Cavalheiro.



CAST

The Creative Arts Service Team (CAST) consisted of Bruno Cavalheiro, Erin McDonald, Zoe Stanek, Elijah Stouder and Ana Swartele. While well known for performing Jesus Theater, CAST also leads workshops in dance, drama and sometimes art at every location they visit.

This summer they conducted programs and activities like vacation Bible school (VBS), emergency disaster services, Boys and Girls Clubs, a music conservatory and Sunday services. Their itinerary included the



Panama

ing, Josh praised the Lord and experienced God's presence in a powerful way. He witnessed the enrollment of two of his cousins as junior soldiers, and after the message by Commissioner Merle Heatwole, Josh was able to pray with many young people. He was reminded of Hebrews 13:8 ("Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow") and that God will always welcome him with open arms.

## Panama

Rachel Jordan, Elizabeth McCormick and Joshua Rapley represented our territory in the Panama Division (Latin America North Territory) where they visited all six corps and the camp. During the first four weeks, they participated in activities like painting buildings, leading youth programs, and playing in a brass band and with praise teams. The last two weeks they joined cadets for VBS and evening activities at two corps.



Panama



Panama

## Social Justice/City Mission

The social justice/city mission team, composed of Magnolia Clayton, Hannah Trayler and Naila Twishime, visited St. Louis, Mo., Garden City, Kan., Rapid City, S.D., and South Sioux City, Neb., where they learned from local leaders, worked with children in the community and

immersed themselves in local social justice issues. They saw God in big and small ways from the smiles of children who needed a listening ear to the gratitude of officers they served alongside.

Late in the summer the team had the opportunity to be prayer volunteers at a worship festival. At the beginning, they were a hesitant to pray with strangers, but they put their trust in God and toward the end realized it didn't matter how comfortable or eloquent they were because God could use them either way. Not only did God give them confidence and endurance during

Each team member shared examples of God showing up for them. When Rachel was feeling homesick one night, she asked God to give her strength and remind her why she was there. The next morning, she found renewed purpose as she worked and played with children at the Clara Ophelia Wattlely School.

A reminder of God's presence came to Elizabeth as the team worked in Colon. While the cadets ran a soccer tournament, she talked with children who did not want to play. Learning about their families and interests, she was reminded that above all else she was in Panama to show God's love.

During a divisional united meet-

Continued on next page



CAST



SJCM

# 730... AND BEYOND



5,137 days and counting  
by Captain Vong Luangkhamdeng

I do not know where to start or how to end this column. There is so much to share about what the Lord has done for me and what I am confident He will do in the future. Every day as a Salvation Army officer is a blessing and brings a new challenge in ministry. That is what makes it interesting. Yes, there are some tough times and difficulties, but the Lord is faithful. He is there in times of need. He has never left me. Even though sometimes I did not feel His presence, the Lord was always there—and always will be. Since the day I answered the call to become an officer, God has been there.

In 2005, I was commissioned and appointed to lead the Tabernacle Corps in Minneapolis, Minn., which had a Laotian congregation. I was new and young. There was so much to learn, even things about The Salvation Army. But God's grace was enough for me. Sometimes we learn and grow by doing. In my first appointment, we spoke mainly Lao, ate Lao food and enjoyed being among our Lao people. I loved it very much and did not want to move. But God had a different plan in mind.

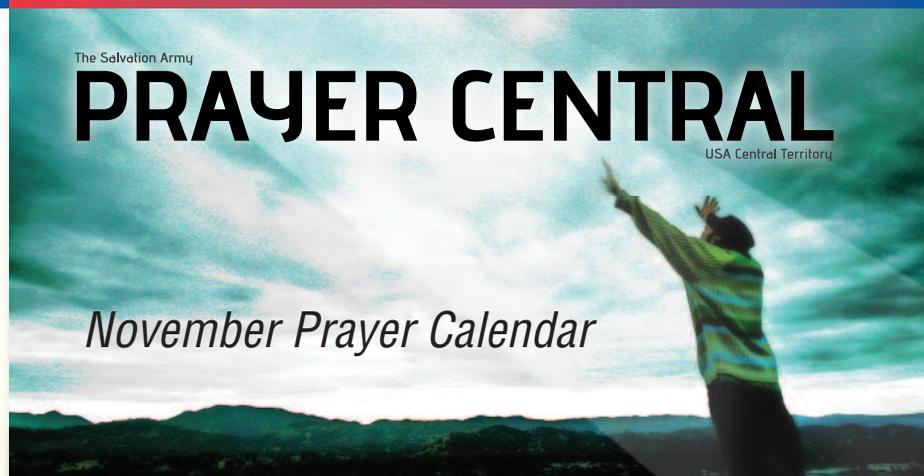
After two years, God called me to do something which was out of my comfort zone. In the middle of 2007, the Minneapolis Tabernacle Corps merged with the Minneapolis Cen-



tral Corps. I was concerned I would not be able to handle a merger. I wondered how to go about being a leader to those who spoke English as speaking it was a challenge for me. I also worried that people from the two corps might not get along.

I had forgotten this is God's church and they are His people. After I realized it was all about God, I felt relieved and peaceful. Every day God sent a wonderful leader to help. Years later, we even had a Hispanic congregation added to the corps. Every week, there were people who spoke three different languages who came together in worship.

There are still a lot of things to learn, and God is not finished with me yet. But I have seen His hand upon me. He is a faithful God. My prayer is that God will do the same here in Madison, Wis.



**My Prayer List**      **Day**      **Bible Reading**      **Pray for The Salvation Army**

1	Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 3-4	New Albany, Ind., Corps
2	Wednesday	Zephaniah	Canton, Ill., 360 Life Center
3	Thursday	Acts 11-1	St. Louis Gateway, Mo., Corps
4	Friday	James 4	Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands
5	Saturday	Deuteronomy 1-3	Willison, N.D., Corps
6	Sunday	2 Chronicles 33-36	Omaha Northside, Neb., Corps
7	Monday	Psalms 128-130	Princeton, Ind., Corps
8	Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 5-6	Evanston, Ill., Corps
9	Wednesday	Haggai	Fort Wayne, Ind., Corps
10	Thursday	Acts 13-14	Kearney, Neb., Corps
11	Friday	1 Peter 1-3	Holland, Mich., Corps
12	Saturday	Deuteronomy 4-6	Mali Region
13	Sunday	Ezra 1-5	Jamestown, N.D., Corps
14	Monday	Psalms 131-133	Kirkville, Mo., Corps
15	Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 7-8	Leavenworth, Kan., Corps
16	Wednesday	Zechariah 1-7	Red Kettle Campaigns
17	Thursday	Acts 15-16	Iowa City, Iowa, Corps
18	Friday	1 Peter 4-5	Marion, Ind., Corps
19	Saturday	Deuteronomy 7-9	USA Southern Territory
20	Sunday	Ezra 6-10	Crystal Lake, Ill., Corps
21	Monday	Psalms 134-136	Omaha Kroc, Neb., Corps
22	Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 9-10	Pontiac, Mich., 360 Life Center
23	Wednesday	Zechariah 8-14	Rockford, Ill., ARC
24	Thursday	Acts 17-18	GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD
25	Friday	1 John 1-2	Springfield Clear Lake, Ill., Corps
26	Saturday	Deuteronomy 10-12	Lincoln, Neb., Corps
27	Sunday	Nehemiah 1-4	Norway, Iceland and the Faeros Territory
28	Monday	Psalms 137-139	St. Louis Maplewood, Mo., Corps
29	Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 11-12	Warsaw, Ind., Corps
30	Wednesday	Malachi	Willmar, Minn., Corps

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!

## Summer Mission Teams Continued



importance of words like justice, mercy, and humbleness—pulled directly from scripture—and we should exhibit these characteristics because Jesus did.

As part of SMT, these three groups of young adults partnered with officers and soldiers, developed leadership skills as they ministered, and, most importantly, grew

their four-hour shift, He softened hearts, opened minds and worked to heal people's brokenness.

They also witnessed God at work through their social justice-focused VBS in Garden City as they taught children about the importance of being a community ally. God's Spirit was evident as the kids came to understand the

closer to God. It was a season well spent.

Encourage young adults you know to apply for SMT 2023. Applications available this fall.



## --Mustard Seeds--



# Central Bible Leadership Institute Continued from page 1

unique gifts they each have to offer the family of God.

The Jr. High track included a visit from the TSAO team, which actively involved the youth in discovering how God's power is reflected in creation.

With guest Bible teacher Mike Hulett, Sr. High campers had multiple opportunities to learn about God's will for their lives and how they can participate in building the Kingdom of God.

The Young Adult Community provided spaces for learning practical life skills as well



as in-depth Bible study. Guest speakers, including Territorial Secretary for Program Lt. Colonel Jonathan Rich and Dr. Platt, were given a "soapbox" to speak on leadership.

On Tuesday night Damien Horne and The Magi wowed the crowd with beatboxing, acoustic guitar and soul-felt vocals and Damien's testimony of the Holy Spirit's work in his life, while Dr. Platt shared, in a style reminiscent of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., about the unstoppable mes-

sage of salvation for the world.

From the Sr. High hoedown to the adult poolside fellowship, Wednesday evening's programs were fun-filled and relaxing, full of unstoppable opportunities to grow relationships.

Thursday night the chapel was transformed into a worship circle with a cross in the center of the auditorium, surrounded by a circle of altars, musicians and campers. In this deeply moving meeting, the worship team led music interspersed with personal reflection and prayer using ACTS (adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication).

Friday night featured three Summer Mission Teams who shared their experiences and God's work in their lives in the United States and Panama and encouraged others to follow the Lord wherever He may lead.

Saturday evening's program featured each youth track. Videos were created for the CBLI Kids, Jr. High and Sr. High tracks, and an *Encanto* celebration by the Jr. CBLI track which stole the show! The celebration continued as outstanding

campers received awards.

On the final day, Lt. Colonel Barbara Rich, assistant territorial secretary for program, gave the morning message about our unstoppable God as seen through the life of Esther. Following a time of reflec-



tion, delegates were given opportunity to participate in a handwashing and blessing ceremony before being sent out with the unstoppable power of the Holy Spirit "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

"Our unstoppable God moved in such an amazing ways this year at CBLI. Through our awesome campers, CBLI staff and guests, God's presence was celebrated and felt. His Spirit was evident from the first moments as we prayed over every chair and staff member in the chapel," said Major Carla Voeller, CBLI director. "Faith, family, friends and fun—it's the CBLI experience! Let's do it again next year."



## CBLI Awards

*Lt. Colonel Dallas P. Leader Award*  
**Mia Yerke** (Royal Oak, Mich.)

*Colonel Albert Pepper Award*  
**Jacob Alvarez** (DeKalb, Ill.)

**Logan Saydera** (New Albany, Ind.)

*Brigadier Muriel Strissel Award*

**Moises Franco** (Kansas City Blue Valley, Mo.)

*Spirit of CBLI Julie Rowland Award*

**Keenan Bucher** (St. Joseph, Mo.)

**Doug Leslie** (Brooklyn Park, Minn.)

*William Shiels Award*

**Sam Park** (Chicago Mayfair, Ill.)

*Majors Dwight and Neoma Garrington*

*CBLI Bible Scholarship*

**Dale Swanson** (Brooklyn Park, Minn.)

*Sharon Green Winning Woman Award*

**Rachel Jordan** (Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.)

*Robert and Ruth Bonifield Scholarship Award for Leadership Development*

**Joy Caro** (Aurora, Ill.)

*Christine Carlson Scholarship*

**Benjamin Mount** (Norridge, Ill.)

**Brianne Simmons** (Michigan City, Ind.)

## Promoted to Glory

### Lt. Colonel Richard Vander Weele

Lt. Colonel Richard (Dick) Vander Weele was promoted to Glory on August 8, 2022. Known by generations of Salvationists simply as "Uncle Dick," he took great joy in seeing others come to Christ and grow in their relationship with the Lord.

Dick was born on May 19, 1948, to Robert "Bo" and Geneva Vander Weele. After graduating from Kalamazoo Central High School in 1966, he attended Western Michigan University where he earned a Bachelor's in Sociology. Later, he earned a Master's in Social Work.

Commissioned in 1977 as part of the "Companions of Christ" session, Dick dedicated his whole life to the



mission of sharing the gospel and meeting needs in His name. He held appointments in corps and at divisional and territorial headquarters. As assistant chief secretary, he was responsible for overseeing the move of Central Territorial Headquarters from Des Plaines to Hoffman Estates, Ill.

Though he was gifted in administration and many of his appointments drew on this skill, relational ministry was at the heart of his service. He was intentional in his support of corps officers and freely assisted with corps programs and activities, including mentoring youth and playing in the corps band. Dick was an exceptional percussionist and loved being a member of the Chicago Staff Band for more than 20 years. After retiring in July 2014, he returned to the Kalamazoo area to be near his family.

Dick is survived by his siblings, Thomas (Sue), Daniel (Linda), Timothy (Jane), and Susan (Craig) Burrows and several nieces and nephews.

## Project as sweet as honey

by Stephanie Marinelli

This year's camp missions fundraising project made an appearance not only at CBLI but also at Resonate and CMI. The money raised will help The Salvation Army in Angola teach beekeeping to farmers and provide startup costs for the hives and equipment.

The beekeeping project will help increase the farmers' income and increase the bee population in farming areas. As the bees thrive, their pollination increases which aids farmers growing crops. Growing better crops leads to more food to sell and to eat. By investing in livelihoods, this project should have a long-lasting positive effect for farmers and their families.

During the territorial camps we sold many items like lip balm, stickers, coffee mugs, T-shirts, hair accessories and honey. We also took time to learn about bees. Throughout a bee's six- to eight-week lifespan, it will pollinate around 2 million flowers and create around a twelfth of a teaspoon of honey. A whole hive will



produce around 60-100 pounds of honey in one year.

While these facts are fascinating, they also reveal a beautiful metaphor of the Body of Christ working together. Like bees, each person plays an essential part. As campers contributed

to the project, we were working as the Body of Christ. As a result, we surpassed our fundraising goal. By the end of CMI, we had raised a total of \$4,000 that will be matched by a grant from Territorial Headquarters. This project proved a wonderful reminder that when we all work together in harmony, our yield is as sweet as honey.

