



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)

Volume 54, Number 9

October 2024



CBLI builds faith, community, purpose

by Natalie Shiels

Central Bible Leadership Institute (CBLI) stands as a symbol of regeneration in the territory. Each year, age-related tracks dive into Scripture. They engage in worship through music, light-hearted competitions, Bible studies and intense conversations. This year was no different. With the theme "Building Up," each track studied the book of Nehemiah, highlighting passages and themes that applied to its demographic.

that focused on Nehemiah 1:4, which describes Nehemiah's devastation at hearing the state of Jerusalem. Stuart asked a similar question: "What breaks your heart enough to do something about it?" He touched on this throughout the week, asking what things tugged at our hearts, the things God is calling us to work at or through. He said, "Because whenever we stop trying to do what seems impossible, we settle for a version of life that God never intended for us."

Worship in the evening programs, as well as teen track, was led by Dave Hudgens. Campers praised the Lord with their whole hearts throughout the week, and just before the final evening program, 60 teens filled the lodge patio and sang praises to God in an incredible display of faith and dedication.

Staff noted a hallmark of this year's camp was the teens' involvement and enthusiasm; they consistently asked questions, trying to understand as much as they could in their short time together. Counselor Blain Wandling described the teen track as being "joyful, eager and unique."

The middle school track followed in Nehemiah's footsteps as they worked through the book. Leaders guided students through conversations about prayer, inclusivity, integrity, holiness, glorifying God, and accountability. They picked up a new topic with each of the 13 chapters.

Middle school track leader Major Catherine Mount described campers as "enthusiastic, content, and Spirit-filled." Many participated in worship and prayer times alongside the teen track in afterglows like "War on the Floor."

The young adult track, organized by Peggy McGee, joined the teen track in morning worship and then was led in Bible study by Justin and



Photo by Gretchen Schneider

Colonels Julie Anne and Thomas Loudon greet the territory.

Courtney Rose. They focused on Nehemiah's central themes and historical context and how that shapes the story, the difference between mending and rebuilding, and the importance of rooting ourselves in the larger story and knowing our history. Key verses include Nehemiah 4:6-10, which show perseverance in the face of opposition and standing firm in prayer. They also spent time writing and singing songs to express their experiences and how those might shape their faith. This year's group of young adults, ages 18-20, were in high school when the pandemic hit; now they are actively involved in their faith communities. Courtney described them as being "authentic, curious and open."

The adult track focused on the

project and building aspect of the book of Nehemiah. Steve and Melissa Roemer led worship while Major Tim Pascoe led Bible study using the stages of project assessment, planning, opposition, construction and operations, and dedication of the completed project. He highlighted the intentionality with which Nehemiah approached the project, prayerfully ensuring that the "great work" mentioned in Nehemiah 6:3 was honoring and glorifying God in every way. Track leader Mark Bender

Continued on page 12



The teen track, led by Melanie Mowers and a host of volunteers, followed the theme of building one's faith through prayer, praise, community and observing the Sabbath. Teens were given Bible study tools, prayer models and more throughout the week. Pastor Mike "Mischa" Hulett emphasized the need for Christ as the foundation of our faith. He spoke on the prayer in Nehemiah 1, saying, "We rarely act on anything unless it breaks our hearts."

This statement tied in perfectly to guest speaker Stuart Hall's teaching that evening in the united meeting



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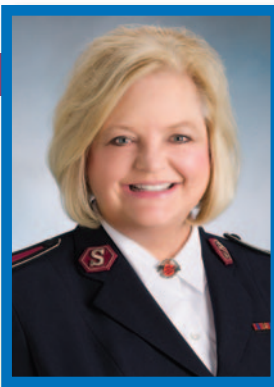
by Colonel Julie Anne Louden
Territorial Leader for Leader Development

In Florence there is the magnificent sculpture of David created by Michelangelo at the age of 26. He picked up a chisel and dared to believe that he could complete this masterpiece. He never left his project for more than two years; he worked and slept beside the six-ton marble slab whose subject called to him from the unchiseled places. When, at last, the 17-foot David emerged, Michelangelo reportedly said, "I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free." When asked how he made the statue, Michelangelo said it was

easy—he just chipped away the stone that did not look like David.

God wants to chisel us out of the hard places in which we've buried ourselves, from under the labels or masks behind which we've hidden. He wants us to find release from the dark places and the pain we have carried for so long. He wants us to be free! God carves the hard places so we can come into the light of who He designed us to be. God is shaping us, making us new. It is beautiful when the Master works.

God's Word tells us, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through



faith, and this not from yourselves, it is a gift from God. Not by works so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:8-10, NASB).

The imagery of Michelangelo chiseling away at the marble to reveal David is a vivid metaphor for how God works in our lives. Just as Michelangelo saw the potential within the marble and tirelessly worked to set it free, God sees our true selves and is committed to forming us into who we are meant

to be. The analogy of God chiseling away at our hard places to reveal His true design for our lives is powerful and comforting. It reminds us that we are each a work in progress, being transformed, shaped and refined for a greater purpose.

The passage from Ephesians underscores this. It emphasizes that our worth and ability to do good works is not from our efforts but from God's grace and craftsmanship. We're created with purpose, and God's work in us prepares us for the good works He has in store. This message can be especially powerful when we feel overwhelmed or stuck. It's reassuring to know that, like Michelangelo with his marble, God is patient and persistent in His work on us, chiseling away what's not needed to reveal our true, purposeful selves.

Bruce is on board



(L to R) Major Abe Tamayo with Bruce Meidinger and Chuck Demaree, chairman of the Fargo, N.D., Advisory Board

Bruce Meidinger is going to find the perfect place in his Fargo, N.D., home to proudly display his framed Certificate of Life Membership for The Salvation Army Advisory Board. He recently received the honor after retiring from the Fargo, N.D., Advisory Board, having served for more than 40 years.

"One of the great honors of my life has been to serve The Salvation Army," he said.

Bruce follows in the footsteps of his late grandfather, C.L. Kleinschmidt, who served on the advisory board in Bismarck, N.D., for more than four decades.

"I told Bruce, 'You honor your grandfather,'" said Major Abe

Tamayo, who leads the Fargo Corps. "Bruce is a caring man who loves his community, serving with honor, generosity, wisdom, and warmth."

Joining the board in 1980 and becoming treasurer, Bruce brought his business acumen and wisdom to financial matters.

Chuck Demaree, chairman of the advisory board, has worked with Bruce for the last five years.

"Bruce is a thoughtful, caring man of integrity," Chuck said. "He is very smart and resourceful and very humble."

Initially Bruce's colleague and mentor at the American Crystal Sugar Company, Al Blomquist, who was on the advisory board, encouraged Bruce to serve.

Bruce followed his heart and volunteered.

"I joined because I knew the work of The Salvation Army and because of my grandfather's work with the board and the Army. I wanted to do this in his memory," Bruce explained. "It has been a real joy to work with the wonderful people at The Salvation Army. They truly do the work of God."

Managing funds wisely was always a goal for Bruce.

"There is a biblical quote: 'For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required,'" he said referencing Luke 12:48, KJV. "I have always kept that in mind. The Salvation Army officers and the board members have always kept that in mind too, for we are the stewards of the community's resources."

Like manna from heaven

When Captains Brandon and

Megan Lewis arrived to lead the Evansville, Ind., Corps in October 2023, there was a vision for a summer day camp. It became a goal for 2025. But the corps needed something crucial: money.

Early this year during a lunch-and-learn meeting, Megan Potts, Evansville Corps youth development coordinator, made a presentation about what a summer day camp could provide for children in the community.

A donor asked how much money was necessary. When he was told \$10,000, he offered \$11,000!

Instead of having to wait until 2025, summer camp became a reality this year.

"It caught me off guard," Captain Brandon recalled. "And I am a hard one to catch off guard."

The staff and captains later learned that the same donor offered to set up a donor-advised fund with an account that will provide the corps with necessary funds for camp each summer—even as enrollment grows from the initial 20-25 children to 80 or more.

"It is difficult to put into words the sensation of being overwhelmingly blessed by the Lord," Captain Brandon said. "When He blesses us, it is most often exactly what we need. What God gave us was exponentially more than we could have asked for; to see the success for the kids and the growth in our team members is energizing and exciting. It is also humbling."

Camp featured a wide variety of activities. Children spent time at the public library, working on a robotic competition and listening to an Evansville police officer read stories. There were field trips to movie theaters, swimming pools and a flower farm.

At the corps, kids enjoyed fun-filled days, playing in the gymnasium and stepping outside for water balloon



Fun with water-filled balloons at the corps

fights and taking turns on Slip N' Slides.

Staff members also made time for academics, tutoring the kids to help them retain what they had learned in school. They also learned about God's love through daily devotionals. And breakfast, lunch and snacks were served each day to the hungry campers.

Captains Brandon and Megan's 7-year-old son Griffin was one of those campers.

"He is a bit like a golden retriever—everyone is a friend he has not met," Captain Brandon said of his son. "Because of our moves, he has had a lot of transition in his life. This program is helping him make friends. To see him thriving means the world to us."

The Evansville Corps serves a three-county area which has some of the lowest-income neighborhoods in the region. There are many families who don't have sufficient resources and are trying to make ends meet, according to Megan.

She said, "We show them every day that we are here to support them."

Captain Brandon concluded, "Camp is an 'umbrella' where they can be safe. They know they are going to be loved here."

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THE SALVATION ARMY
5550 Prairie Stone Pkwy • Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
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COMMISSIONER EVIE DIAZ
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ELIZABETH KINZIE
Editor

TWYLA STEINSLAND
Writer/Editor

LAURA STEWART
Publications Coordinator/Writer

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Administrative Assistant

KENNETH ROMIN
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Budding bards find their voice

Campers at the South Bend, Ind., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center took to the stage this summer, starring in William Shakespeare's greatest works.

At the week-long Shakespeare Camp, youth, ages 10-14, delved into the Bard's most-famous plays and learned the basics of stage perform-

ance, including blocking, voice projection and costume-design.

"You can see the neurons forming behind their eyes—they make connections to Shakespeare's words and realize they can understand his text. They take something that might seem stuffy and kind of serious and connect it to their own world, and they just light up," said Grant Mudge, executive director and director of education and community engagement for the Southwest Shakespeare Company, who taught at the Kroc Center's camp.

Kids also like to good-naturedly tease one another, Grant said—and using Shakespeare's language, including pronouns like thee, thy and thou, gives them more vocabulary to use in the banter, he added with a chuckle.

Grant, who is a member of the South Bend Kroc Center, lives in both Indiana and Arizona, where the Southwest Shakespeare Company is located. He left the University of Notre Dame in 2023 after serving 10 years as the director of the university's Shakespeare Festival, and first

taught theater at the South Bend Kroc Center for its homeschool and after-school programs.

"Grant is a patient instructor who works with the strengths of the students. He is there to guide them and build them up so they can have the confidence they need to perform on-stage," said Neil Carmichael, South Bend Kroc Center fine arts and education director. "He is an expert with 30 years of experience. He is a legitimate phenomenon."

Students, wearing costumes they helped create, performed scenes from different Shakespearean plays for the other summer campers.

Learning how to project their voices from the stage was important.

"The ability to speak and be heard

at the back of the theater when you are 10 years old is a challenge," Grant added. "We have fun ways of teaching that. And then there is that moment when they realize, 'I can do this.'"

"Students emerged with a better grasp of theatrical techniques and a newfound appreciation for Shakespeare," Neil said. "They were

equipped with the skills and confidence to shine on any stage."

The parents of one excited camper reported to Grant that their son would get in the car after camp each day and excitedly talk about spending time in Shakespeare's world.

"That student was floating about a foot off the ground," Grant recalled. "It warmed my heart."



FCEC continues to "Spark" progress

by Monica Kriegel

Just northwest of downtown St. Louis lies Ferguson, Mo.—the focus of racial inequity and unrest in 2014 following the death of Michael Brown, Jr. While much has changed since that time, much work remains. The Salvation Army has been privileged to come alongside the community to provide healing and restoration.

On W. Florissant Avenue, investment in the community is clear by way of several large community centers and buildings that have emerged over the past decade. In 2017, partnering with the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, The Salvation Army built the Ferguson Community Empowerment Center (FCEC). It sits on the site of the QuikTrip that was burned down in 2014, adding deeper meaning to The Salvation Army's role as a beacon of hope.

Dr. Courtney Graves, who joined the FCEC just over a year ago as director, already has made incredible strides in serving the Ferguson community and consistently lives out the mission for those in need.

Having recently recognized the



10th anniversary of Michael Brown Jr.'s death, Dr. Graves and others paused to acknowledge the tremendous impact we've had.

Since the center opened in 2017, The Salvation Army has served nearly 14,000 clients. In May 2024 alone, the FCEC served 92 families with varying needs from utilities and rent to childcare expenses.

"The mounting housing and mental health crises, and the funding shortfalls that we have all heard about nationally are impacting TSA and FCEC as well," said Dr. Graves. "Having worked with children and in the mental health space for over 15 years, this is a bit of a 'perfect storm' and being able to weather that storm will take a village. I am confident that The Salvation Army and the FCEC are a critical part of the village that Ferguson needs today and into the future."

LaKeysha Fields, director of social services for the Greater St. Louis Area Command, recently sat down with NPR as the national radio outlet broadcast live from St. Louis in August to mark the anniversary. The Salvation Army participated in interviews and community discussions that provided an opportunity to reflect and look to the future, focused on "Doing the Most Good."

One of the ways the FCEC supports the community is the growing Spark Academy program. In early

August, the FCEC hosted a Back-to-School Fair and handed out backpacks, school supplies and offered voter registration assistance to adult attendees. The FCEC also created opportunities for students to connect with adults in the community who have successfully charted career paths in health care, education, law, public service and more.

In addition, the Spark Academy's Summer Immersion Program encouraged and empowered 25 area students to excel and find their "spark." The program helps children discover their talents and build a solid foundation to continue their growth through education.

"Seeing representation across career fields is critical to sparking young people's ability to see themselves in similar roles," said Fields. "Paired with our Pathway of Hope program, our social services team is able to help families address their most immediate needs, and also build a strong future through personalized action plans. Everything we do goes back to that human appeal and serving the individual."

Complementing the center's robust program



schedule, Fields and Dr. Graves hope to expand the Spark Academy program in partnership with local schools and to advance a homeschool cooperative. They also have plans to create a community of readers and engage in regular communication via a newsletter with constituents and clients about how to give and get help.

We in the Midland Division are energized by and grateful for the continued provision of resources, educational health, community building and mission-driven spirit of the FCEC.



Dr. Courtney Graves



LaKeysha Fields, director of social services for the Greater St. Louis Area Command, is interviewed by National Public Radio.

Your faith is contagious



Captain Amy Tompkins (r) with Renae Turner, Meg Grider and Robin Shull from the Columbus, Ind., Corps

by Lt. Breanna James

This summer at the National Seminar on Evangelism we learned the styles of how we naturally evangelize from *Contagious Faith* by Mark Mittelberg. His teaching was delightful, current and encouraging, pushing us to move forward in spreading the gospel. We explored Matthew 28:18-20 when Jesus gave the Great Commission, saying to go into all the world to make disciples.

"God wanted us to intentionally go into our circles of influence and beyond, telling anyone who would listen about his love and truth. And in doing so, God will use us to infectiously spread our faith to a few other people who will, in turn, carry it to others, who will then relay it to still more," Mark writes in the book. "In this way, what Jesus unleashed through his handful of disciples on the hillside two millennia ago will be transmitted through us, and through those we reach, until it ultimately expands to the ends of the earth. In



Captain Chrissie Coreano and Lt. Breanna James

fact, Jesus promised that before he returns, 'the gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations (Matthew 24:14).'

The variety of officers who shared their different perspectives and testimonies helped us better understand the different styles and drove it home for me. The five styles include friendship-building (i.e. Billy Graham), selfless-serving (William Booth), story-sharing (Max Lucado), reason-giving (the Apostle Paul) and truth-telling (Pricilla Shirer). Each style was linked to our personalities.

We discovered our contagious faith style by answering 30 questions. I learned my top style is selfless-serving while friendship-building and story-sharing were close seconds. Selfless-serving entails helping people in tangible ways that over time can open doors to talk about faith. I have been practicing this style since my childhood, which made my heart happy knowing Jesus gave me this gift and I can use it—and have—to save souls.

In the end, we learned we all have a gift from God to evangelize no matter the style. We should partner with others, stretch beyond our comfort zone, and ultimately, rely on the Holy Spirit. We were encouraged to take risks and step out to practice all five styles so we will be ready to share the Good News with whomever we encounter. We just might be God's voice that becomes audible to someone else. Evangelism is God's work; He just uses us. I encourage everyone to read this book. It's absolutely contagious!

Blessings in the Black Hills

by Major Vangie O'Neil

The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry Sturgis Mission 2024 team came together from Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, South Dakota—and Norway. Yes, Hommersåk, Norway. We were privileged to be joined this year by Norwegian Salvationist Kenneth Andersen.

Kenneth was originally part of the

Salvation Riders Motorcycle Club in Norway that was dissociated from The Salvation Army in 2011. He was looking for like-minded people to help him start a motorcycle group that would work and be in line with Salvation Army doctrine and mission when he met Major David Dunham of the Eastern Territory. With the approval of territorial headquarters, The Salvation Army Motorcycle Ministry (TSAMM) began in the Eastern Territory in 2012.

Two years later TSAMM was initiated in the Central Territory. Almost immediately, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally became a priority for TSAMM in the Central Territory. With nearly 500,000 attending the rally, it is a vast field ready for harvest.

This year's Sturgis Mission 2024 team was composed of 14 soldiers, officers and friends. With the Black



Hills Camp as base, the team made its way around the beautiful, winding Black Hills blessing people with 585 bottles of water, 11 Bibles, dozens of promise cards and other items. We prayed with 128 people. Several wanted to bless our team, one of them in the Lakota language of the Sioux tribe.

Asked what he thought about Sturgis Mission 2024, Kenneth said, "I think it is a wonderful group. But it is

possible to do more. I feel encouraged that you will have more ideas for the future."

Indeed, the team does have more ideas. We can't wait to see what next year holds. But first, it is time to return to own communities and minister in Jesus' name, to bikers and non-bikers, to neighbors, friends and strangers. That is what The Salvation Army is known for, and what Jesus has called us to do.

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



'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

by Rev. Diane Ury
National Ambassador for Holiness

Sing the verses of this wonderful song. Living in Jesus is a life of continual deepening love with Him. To trust Him is to cast our entire beings into His perfect care. I love how John Wesley illustrates a life of trust. Faith begins with acknowledging with our minds that things about Jesus are true, even when the reality is beyond what can be touched and measured. More than only thinking correct ideas about Jesus, trust involves our will—spiritual and embodied faithful obedience to what He has revealed is true.

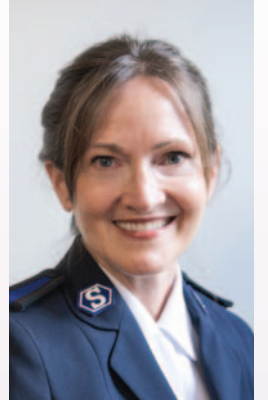
At last, we move beyond what we're learning about Jesus, obeying His teaching, into setting our eyes and hearts upon Jesus Himself. This is like falling into a wonderful easy chair that we trust will hold us. With the center of our being we're taking our toe off the bottom of the swimming pool and experiencing the peaceful freedom of being held within Jesus Himself. We trust Him for forgiveness, and that He will make us His very own. Best of all, He will live within our beings and transform us into His image once again.

In Jesus' Word we encounter reality. His promises are filled with His own Life, and we can confidently obey and cling to them. Wesley often preached and wrote that when we trust Jesus in this way, there is full rest. The Psalmist says, "Your steadfast love is better than life itself...My soul will be satisfied as with rich food...for You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy. My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me" (Psalm 63:3, 5, 7-8 ESV).

We can do absolutely nothing to cleanse ourselves of the defilement of our sinfulness. But as we trustingly plunge ourselves into His holy love, Jesus' blood sacrificed for us has divine power to break every form of captivity, cleanse every vile stain, and restore us to wholeness in Him, healing our wounded souls that we'd torn from God's presence.

In the Bible the deepest kind of knowing of God is described as sweet (Psalm 119:103). God pursues every person with His love from the moment we're conceived. This is pure grace. Eventually we recognize by His gracious gift of conviction that we're running away from Him in total rebellion. Before we move toward Jesus in faith and trust, we must first turn away from our insistence on being the authority of our lives—which is sin. This turning away from sin is repentance and absolutely must occur before we move into faith and trust. All of this experience is Jesus calling us to Himself so we can come to the place where we've been freed from slavery to sin and restored to face-to-face communion with God to such a degree that we're released from bondage to self-interest. Now that is life, peace, and fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11, John 15:11)! In loving trust we'll experience that nothing is more precious than Jesus.

What joy for those who trust in You (Psalm 84:12 NLT).



The heart of an officer

October is pastor appreciation month and the perfect time to share the impassioned commencement speech given by Lt. Cecilia Dinardi earlier this year that captures the heart of officership. May you be inspired and then take a moment to thank your own corps officer for their sacrifice and service.

Defenders of Justice,

Today, in the presence of the territorial leaders, CFOT officers and staff, officers, family, and friends, we gather together to celebrate not only the culmination of our training experience but also the privilege—because God has called us—to step forward to join the noble work of serving humanity with compassion, humility and love.

Congratulations DOJs, auxiliary captains and officers on the remarkable accomplishment of your academic achievements. Your dedication, passion and commitment to excellence inspire us all to continue striving for greatness in our service to others.

We are grateful for the investment, encouragement, patience, preparation and love the College for Officer Training showed us. We express our gratitude to each officer and teacher on campus and on the field who dedicated their time and effort to helping us prepare to fulfill God's calling for our lives. For those of us who are parents, we express our gratitude to the FCC [Family Care Center] staff who took care of our children during these two years with so much love, and we are also grateful for our sister-session mates who have also helped and cared for us during this chapter of our lives.

Today, after two years of training, we are reaching a significant milestone in our journey. It seems like it was yesterday when we started our first day of training, not knowing what the 22 months in front of us were going to bring—for some of us,

a little bit longer than that. And now, after this weekend, we will have the privilege of joining a line of men and women who have dedicated their lives to the service of others.

As we prepare to embark on this sacred mission, we are encouraged to embrace the core principles that have guided The Salvation Army. Let love be our guiding light, compassion our constant companion, and humility our hallmark.

This mission is not one that we undertake alone. First, we are part of a global movement united by our shared commitment to serve others and advance the Kingdom of God. Second, God is walking alongside us, He will never leave us nor forsake us.

We live in a world that encounters many challenges—poverty, homelessness, addiction, injustice—but it is also filled with opportunities to make a difference...We have been called to be agents of change, to stand up for the marginalized, and to bring hope to the hopeless.

Let our hearts be filled with courage, our minds with wisdom, and our spirits with faith as we confront these challenges, never forgetting the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:28, who reminds us that "in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

As we start this new chapter of our lives, a chapter we have been dreaming of for the last couple of years, may we be filled with the



Photos by Andrew Grey and Charles Rex Arbogast

Holy Spirit and empowered to preach the Gospel to heal the brokenhearted and to bring light where God sends us. May our lives be a testament every day to the transformative power of God's love, and may we continue to inspire others

through our example of selfless service and unwavering faith.

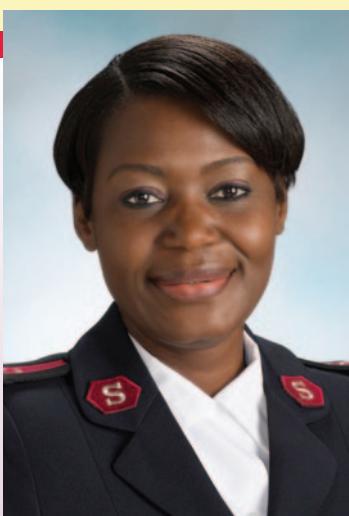
Congratulations, family! We did it by the embrace of our faithful God. The same faithful God who brought us together two years ago and the same faithful God who stayed with us every step of the way, preparing us for what is about to come, is the same faithful God who will walk with us to love and guide His people to know and be more like Him. Hold on to this promise and always remember our session verse Micah 6:8: "Act justly, Love mercy, and Walk humbly with our amazing God."



Lt. Cecilia with her parents Lt. Colonels Roxana and Elder Dinardi



Lt. Colonels Jonathan and Barbara Rich congratulate Lt. Cecilia and Lt. Maxi and their son, Milo.



International College for Officers Delegate

Captain Ketsia Diaz

**Assistant Director of Personnel
College for Officer Training**

Session 259

October 9 – November 18, 2024

What I never expected

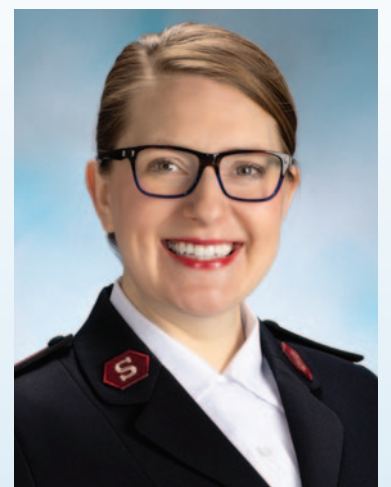
by **Captain Rachel Johnson**

I have learned that God doesn't simply want to use me as an officer, but He has blessings in store for me too. Sadly, in my early days of being an officer, I expected to serve and bless others and didn't realize maybe I would be blessed. But God is not like a friend who only shows up when he needs something. He has something good in store for me as well.

My husband, Aaron, and I have experienced redemption, restoration and reconciliation in a powerful way in our first appointment. The Salvation Army is vast, and the appointment opportunities are endless, but in God's infinite wisdom and love we were appointed to Lafayette, Ind., where Aaron's daughter and her mother live.

It is not a story we shy away from telling, but openly share for God's glory that in the depths of addiction Aaron walked away from his daughter and left her mother to raise her alone. Between that year and 2018 God began the work of redemption in Aaron's life. But nobody ever expected that 20 years later the same man who walked away from them would be an ordained minister and commissioned Salvation Army officer and live just three miles down the road from them. We both wondered what God was doing and tightly held hands as we navigated the many hats of our new life.

Over the past six years God has allowed Aaron to reconcile with his



daughter, and her mother has become one of my closest friends. It's an amazing story that reflects the love and care of Jesus.

As I watch this story unfold and continue to grow in relationship with a family I never expected, I cannot help but thank God for His care for me and the ever-present reminder that God has blessings in store for me too. I know God will use me as I grow as an officer, and I stand in hopeful anticipation to see the ways God will change me, bless me and restore me because of it.



Living Out Loud(en)

We'd like to introduce you to Colonels Thomas and Julie Anne Louden, our new Chief Secretary and Territorial Leader for Leader Development. Known for being warm and genuine, they share about their lives, family and ministry—living purposefully and with passion.

How did you become involved with The Salvation Army?

Julie Anne: I'm a fifth-generation Salvationist. As an officers' child, I was raised in The Salvation Army. I was saved by Jesus at the Alexandria, Va., Corps at age 7 and became a junior soldier. From that point on I have been a Salvationist and active in the Army's mission. Growing up, I loved going to camp. It was through the Army that I was called to attend Asbury College where God sanctified my heart and life. It was also there where I met the love of my life. I love the Lord Jesus and The Salvation Army, and I count my calling as an officer as one of my life's greatest joys and honors.

Tom: I'm a fourth-generation Salvationist. My soldier parents raised me as a Salvationist, and it has made all the difference in my life. I was saved by Jesus when I was 7 at Camp Tomahawk, and I grew up in the Martinsburg, W.Va., Corps. The corps was a very important part of my life, and I wanted to be a part of everything. My parents taught me that being a soldier was a serious commitment, and it was how I was taught to love and serve the Lord. I was led by God to Asbury College through a War Cry article about the Salvation Army Student Fellowship (SASF) there. I praise God for Asbury. It's where God sanctified my heart and life, and I met the love of my life, Julie Anne.

What have you found most rewarding about being an officer?

Julie Anne: Loving people with the love of Jesus is the most rewarding part. The love of Jesus is transformational. No one is ever the same once Jesus' love is encountered. My calling as an officer has given me immeasurable opportunities to love others for Jesus. To see lives transformed through the love of Jesus is the most rewarding thing I think a person can experience.

Tom: The most rewarding aspect for me has been the proclamation of Jesus and God's Word. Being an officer has given me immense opportunity to proclaim God's love—to preach the Good News in word and deed. The Lord has allowed me to see people receiving God's Word and then following Christ. I can't think of any endeavor more rewarding.

What is your ministry passion?

Julie Anne: Families, particularly officer families. I believe it's in and through families the best discipleship can occur, and that is what will strengthen our corps and communities and win the world for Jesus. We've all witnessed the enemy's attack upon our families and the deterioration of the God-ordained family fabric. God's ordinance has not deteriorated and has not changed, but we have taken liberties with His holy intentions, which has brought pain and suffering within the family. I believe bringing the healing and wholeness of Jesus to our families is one of our greatest opportunities for effective ministry.

Tom: My ministry passion is for the Army's integrated mission. I may be biased, but I think The Salvation Army is the greatest opportunity in the world to present Jesus to everyone. We are a part of a Movement that has a never-changing mission but ever-changing methods. My passion is tightly bound to the time-tested and proven Boothian/Wesleyan Orthodox



Women's Ministries is a passion of Colonel Julie Anne. Here she is pictured with Cadets Olyvia Shiels and Chelsey Steckbauer.



Moving to Chicago

Salvationism, which not only birthed The Salvation Army but has promoted Jesus Christ in word and deed for nearly 160 years and sustained our holy, God-ordained Movement. I get excited when the ministry of The Salvation Army is integrated—when preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and meeting human needs in His name without discrimination are mutually supportive. There is nothing like it in the world!

If I may add to that, I would say that this passion almost always leads to vision, which I have found can hardly ever be large enough. There seems to be a tendency when we find a missional endeavor to be fruitful, we drop anchor there to enjoy the view. But I sense the Holy Spirit is saying to lift our eyes and see

the immensity of the sea of lost humanity and capture a vision for our personal and corporate Salvationism that is so big it takes us past our own power to where we are utterly dependent on the Holy Spirit. It is a vision for full salvation for every man, woman, boy and girl. For me, that is the fruit of God's Word expressed through the integrated mission of The Salvation Army, which is desperately needed. As long as we stay moored to God's Word and our great orthodox faith and Salvationism, I believe we will see fruit that is abundantly more than we could ever ask or imagine.

Colonel Julie Anne, given your experience and current role, would you speak about the importance of developing leaders?

Encouraging continuous learning and development of leaders is essential to moving the mission forward. It means creating an environment where leaders are motivated to grow, innovate and improve. Through mentorships and coaching they can become empowered to promote the mission, confidently navigate challenges and develop their own leadership styles. A significant part of leadership is cultivating an environment of trust and empowering others to lead so they feel confident to take initiative as God leads them. The ability to navigate change, be adaptable and resilient is crucial too. Building relationships with other leaders also is essential for sharing best practices, resources and ideas for leader development. This type of leader development is based upon Christian integrity, transparency and accountability.

My passion is to ensure that leadership training is not just theoretical but directly applicable and practical to the Army's mission and ministry. By focusing on these areas, I believe together we can effectively contribute to the growth and development of leaders in this territory.



At Army Lake Camp this summer

Ministry is fulfilling but demanding. What restores you?

Tom: First, and perhaps foremost, reading God's Word and praying every day absolutely restores us. We have found all we need is in God and His Word. We also find Sabbath rest to be incredibly restorative: working as hard as we can six days a week and resting one day a week. It also means that even though we work as hard as we can six days of the week, we do so by giving God our firsts: first hour of every day, first consideration in every decision, first thanks and praise, etc. It means we trust Him with our time, energy, resources and future. In short, if we live in the center of His will then His joy becomes our strength, even—and especially—when it doesn't make sense to take time to rest.

Tell us about your family.

Julie Anne: Well, how much time do you have? We are so blessed. We met and fell in love at Asbury College and have been married for 35 years and have been officers for 30 years. We completely and deeply love the Lord, each other, and The Salvation Army.

We have four amazing children, one amazing daughter-in-law and two astounding grandchildren. And soon we will have an amazing son-in-law as our youngest daughter recently became engaged. Our son, Caleb, is the oldest. He recently graduated from Emory University Candler School of Theology with a Doctor of Ministry and is managing editor for national publications; his wife Kendall is a marriage and family therapist. They are parents to Caroline, 5, and Jack, 3. They live in Virginia. We have three daughters: Emily, Elizabeth and Ericka. Emily works for the United States Senate and lives in Louisville, Ky. Elizabeth recently graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary with her master's in leadership. She is on staff at Asbury University in Wilmore, Ky., as a resident director and director of student activities. Ericka has a bachelor's degree in fashion design from the University of Georgia and works for Ballard Designs. She lives in Nashville, Tenn., and is engaged to Zach Israel.

Being together as a family is our absolute favorite thing. We all love the Lord and live to serve Him. We hope our Central Territory family will get to meet our family.

What is the best thing about being a grandparent?

Tom: Everything! We love being grandparents. Julie Anne is Marmie, and I am Duke to our grandchildren—Marmie-Duke! We loved rearing our children, and having grandchildren is a new opportunity to see our children live, grow and develop into who God has designed them to be, which brings us great joy.

What relationships have had a significant influence on your life?

Julie Anne: The most significant influence on my life has been my family, especially my husband and parents, Majors Jim and Bertha Worthy. Many officers, soldiers and friends



Colonels Thomas and Julie Anne Louden with their family

also have had a transformative impact on my life.

Tom: Without question, Julie Anne has influenced my life in profound and beautiful ways. She has shown me unconditional love. The longer I live the more I realize how much my parents, Bob and Anna Louden, sacrificed for me and how deeply they have influenced my living. Dr. Dennis Kinlaw and Dr. Bill Ury have significantly influ-



Greeting the territory at CBLI

enced my theology, discipleship and biblical study. Dr. James Hamilton at Asbury College taught me humility and discipline (still a work in progress).

What are your hobbies?

Tom: I love fishing. I also find great enjoyment in reading. Music has always been an important part of my life, which often leads me into God's presence. I find myself listening to music while I work and especially while I am driving I will either listen to music or sermons (yeah, I'm that guy).

Julie Anne: I enjoy reading, cooking, decorating, shopping, and spending time with our family.

Colonel Julie Anne, what's your family's favorite dish?

I love making my homemade spaghetti. I also enjoy baking cakes, cobblers, and cookies! It is especially fun with our grandchildren!

Do you have any unique or hidden talents? (Like a killer sourdough starter or hanging pictures without a level)

Julie Anne: I think I can tell you one of Tom's hidden talents. He can replicate many animal sounds. Our grandchildren love it when he plays "name that animal." He is actually pretty good and has caused some confusion when people hear barking and no dog is in sight, especially on airplanes.

Tom: I'm afraid Julie Anne is right. I developed this talent as young man during countless hours ringing bells at kettles.

Julie Anne has a phenomenal talent of making bows. She is the best decorator I have ever known, but her bow-making is off the charts. She has taught dozens of others this skill, but no one comes close.

How can Central Salvationists pray for you?

Julie Anne: Thank you for asking. Please pray that we are used by the Lord for all He wants to do in and through us. We know He has a plan for our lives that is greater than we can imagine and that we trust Him for every day.

Tom: Please pray our Heavenly Father will continue to draw us closer to Him, that we may be shaped and filled into the likeness of His Son, Jesus. Please pray God will use us to bring Him Glory and that we would be pleasing in His sight.



Colonel Thomas Louden enjoys fishing with grandchildren Jack and Caroline.

Glimpses of the Kingdom of Heaven

by Stephanie Marinelli

This summer 18 young adults on three Summer Mission Teams (SMT) served alongside Salvationists in the Dominican Republic, Malaysia and Scotland. As part of this leadership and discipleship program, they learned to live incarnationally, become cultural learners, practice partnership, and engage in matters of justice.

Participating in ministry and practicing spiritual disciplines like memorizing a portion of the Sermon on the Mount, the chosen scripture for the summer, led to a greater understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven. "I developed a deeper understanding of what the passage meant," said Scotland team member BobbiJo Middendorp.

The Dominican Republic and Scotland teams lived in the homes of their hosts. "I think living in the homes of the Dominican people helped me to step into cultural learning even more," said Aleena Polanco of the Dominican Republic team. "I was hesitant at first, but being loved like I was family helped me to be at ease and want to learn and immerse myself."

The Malaysia team lived at Salvation Army children's homes and par-

you don't expect to be happy or grateful. In difficult circumstances they are looking to God," said Malaysia team member Christian Johnson.

Mariah Boateng from the Dominican Republic team concurred, "The youth were so spirit-filled. There, you really see what it looks like to have a bold faith. It was good and also challenging to reevaluate myself and how comfortable I am worshipping God publicly and sharing my faith."

Her teammate Abigail Ortman added, "When you asked people 'How are you?' they would always answer 'Good, thanks to God' and that makes you reevaluate how you live your own life. Why am I trying to do things on my own? I want to have the 'thanks to God' mentality."

The ministry required members to truly work as a team and partner with their hosts. Young adults on the Scotland team discovered by insisting on doing something difficult without asking for each other's help, they could be depriving a teammate, who was skilled, of contributing. They found that asking for help and working together helps both parties.

Every team member had the opportunity to develop leadership skills as well.

MALAYSIA



made up of people, every team learned more about God's character through experiencing a new culture. "In serving this week, we have experienced a new aspect of the character of God. His omnipresence. He is the infinite link," the Dominican Republic team shared. "No language barrier, cultural difference or life experience could fully separate us. He is what makes cultural integration possible and for that we praise His mighty name in gratitude."

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



ticipated in daily life. "These four weeks in Ipoh went by so fast, but the memories and time spent with the kids will last a lifetime," they shared. "We have gotten to know each kid so well—their personalities, hobbies, backgrounds, hopes and dreams. It has been the biggest blessing from God to show them love and feel so loved by them. It's extremely hard to say goodbye."

"It was very refreshing to see that wonder and intrigue from kids who

"I enjoyed the moments that I could lead and help my team lead," said Malaysia team member BilliJo Middendorp. "In the past, I haven't really gotten opportunities to lead a big group of kids, and I loved the learning experience I had this summer."

"We were all able to step up and be leaders," said Scotland team member Nyakuar Kuon. "I think now my corps can call on me to lead whenever they need someone."

The young adults also learned lessons about justice.

"SMT in Malaysia helped me completely be on fire for justice and giving the girls at the Children's Home justice," said BilliJo.

"Their life stories were difficult and overwhelming but trusting and leaning on God and His 'just' character really helped."

The Scotland team witnessed environmental justice from officers with a unique ministry in the Shetland Isles. "[The officers] grow fresh produce, and take care of animals, goats and lambs to give to people in need. They also help people learn about agriculture and the importance of recycling," the team shared. "It was beautiful to see how God called them to this place. There are six gardening beds, a 'cake shed' open to all with freewill donation (but no forced price) for those in need, as well as a polytunnel used as a prayer space or Bible study for anyone who may need it."

Since we are all made in God's image, and cultures are



MALAYSIA



SCOTLAND



SCOTLAND

Wonderland Camp celebrates 100 years of blessings

by Vicky Leon-Johnson and Major Stephanie Senn

God, we are still counting our blessings! This was the theme of the North & Central Illinois Division (NCI) Wonderland Camp and Conference Center's 100th Anniversary Celebration.



Lt. Colonel Randall Polsley

The theme was brought to life in the Friday keynote session through a beautiful praise dance by Chantal Polusca to "Counting My Blessings" (Seph Schlueter) and a message from father and son Lt. Colonel Randall Polsley and Justin Polsley. It set the tone for a nostalgic weekend where generations of campers from across the nation celebrated the life-changing moments they had experienced at Wonderland Camp.



The new Josh Olson playground was a hit!

riages and calls to ministry that had occurred on the sacred campgrounds.

William Himes debuted "His Place," a commemorative vocal composition which portrays what Wonderland Camp has meant for generations including a place of refuge and community, a place to leave burdens and fears, a place to leave sins and be cleansed, a place of transformation. Following an evening



Chris Shay, who led the event planning committee

of testimonies and worship led by the Territorial Worship Collective, Major K.K. Mathews gave a devotional and shared his own experience there as a teenager which altered the course of his life.

Another highlight of the weekend was an interview with all former camp directors in the last 50 years: Marge (and Ed) Homer (1971-1977), Lucy (and Jack) Thomas (1977-1992), Richard and Miriam Horen (1992-2002), Beverly (and Doug) Peterson (2006-2008) and John Welch (2008-2021). Year-round employees also were recognized for their hard work, often behind the scenes, to make camp a safe, clean and nurturing environment.

A historical display curated by Ed and Barb Higgins showed decades of changes to the camp and its programs which have contributed to changed lives. One of the most recent additions, the Josh Olson playground, is now located in



A chorus formed especially for the event

the center of camp with all new equipment (including a zipline) and components designed for the inclusion of children with physical limitations. It was a hub of activity over the weekend.

Each camp gathering is filled with memory-making moments, and this one was no exception. Lt. Colonels Jonathan and Barbara Rich, NCI divisional leaders, had the honor of installing Joy Caro as the new divisional sergeant-major. Since Joy is an integral part of many divisional camp events, the setting was especially meaningful. She said, "The weekend was filled with encouragement and fellowship



Joy Caro is installed as divisional sergeant-major of the North & Central Illinois Division (NCI) by Lt. Colonels Jonathan and Barbara Rich. Mark Bender, NCI assistant divisional sergeant-major is on right.

that filled my cup and reminded me of the faithfulness of God."

Indeed, the centennial weekend was filled with love. Memories were relived, and new ones were created. People worshiped and rejoiced in the Lord. Lt. Colonel Barbara Rich, Wonderland Camp administrator, concluded, "As a division (and a territory), we are indebted to the planning committee for their prayer and preparation in creating experiences that helped us look back with appreciation and look forward with responsibility to ensure that future generations will encounter God in this space."



Lucy Thomas and Doris Manzella



A praise dance by Chantal Polusca

On Saturday music by the Chicago Staff Band not only uplifted people's spirits but captured the essence of the milestone. Festivities continued with a campfire sing-along, followed by a heart-stirring video where campers shared transformative experiences they'd had. Among them was Major Israel Velasquez who recounted how he'd powerfully experienced God's grace at camp in 1942. Commissioner Barry Swanson led those gathered in recognizing blessings like salvation experiences, mar-



Worship was led by the Territorial Worship Collective

Growing together in grace



The Chicago, Ill., Lawn Corps, led by Envoys Alberto and Florinelvi Giraldo, enrolled several new soldiers this summer. "God's blessings are evident in the growth of our corps," said Envoy Alberto. "We attribute this to the strong sense of fellowship among our members and soldiers, our dedication to outreach and service, and the spiritual nourishment we receive through worship and teaching." Pictured with the Giraldos are new senior soldiers Cristina Newcomb, Cristina Rodriguez, Alejandro Hernandez, and jr. soldiers Giovanni Padilla and Samuel Flores.

Expressions of art and faith

by Martyn Thomas

This summer young people throughout the territory, and beyond, came together at Resonate and Central Music Institute (CMI) to develop their talents and skills, express themselves through various art forms, and learn



CMI Guest Philip Hannevik leads the Wonderland Band.

to live in community with each other and in unity with our Triune God.

In its third year, the Resonate Worship Arts Conservatory, which emphasizes dance, drama, praise band, and visual media, had a theme of Trinity, which was incorporated with daily devotions (Morning Manna), in small group sessions and the finale program. All eight divisions were represented in the 68 students, who were joined by a delegation from the Latin America North Territory.



Captains Vinal and Brenna Lee served as chaplains and concentrated on elements of the Trinity, on which students reflected in small groups while building community.

Guest instructors included Edward and Kellyn Mylechreest from the Eastern Territory. Edward serves as the divisional music director for the Pennsylvania and Delaware Division, while Kellyn is a professional dancer and instructor in New York City. Together, they provided instruction in dance and drama. They also modeled immersive worship where the elements of dance, drama and music combined into a unified presentation of praise.

Christian drama troupe 321 Improv brought their talents to the stage. Working solely with suggestions from the audience, they created a unique program of drama and humor.

In addition to daily technique



classes in their major emphasis, students explored elective classes in audio recording and engineering, beginning guitar, beginning keyboard, choreography, graphic design/program media, musical theater, photography, song writing, visual arts, and worship planning.

The finale program brought all groups together in a unified presentation focusing on the Trinity and community, with each element leading into the next and each discipline adding a unique expression of praise.

While Resonate is relatively new, Central Music Institute (CMI) marked 90 years this summer. With the theme "#nofilter," CMI challenged 180 students to live honest and transparent lives in Christ. Again, all divisions were represented, along with students from Latin America North, the Caribbean, and South America West.

Students focused on majors in instrumental and vocal with guests Philip (Pip) Hannevik, a professional conductor from Norway, and the Rev. Donté Ford, Assistant Professor of Music and Associate Chaplain



Brett Tolcher and Ben Merritt Award recipient Sarah Leka

for Worship Arts at Wheaton College. Each displayed a high level of musicianship and Christian witness. Pip intentionally prayed for each member of the Wonderland and Faculty bands by name at the end of the



Resonate guests Edward and Kellyn Mylechreest with a student



The Salvation Army
PRAYER CENTRAL
USA Central Territory

November Prayer Calendar



Karl and Laurie Strand were recognized for 50 years of volunteerism at CMI



CMI guest the Rev. Donté Ford

rehearsals, one section of the band each day.

Majors Dan and Stephanie Sawka served as chaplains, encouraging students to see God, themselves and others more clearly and to live unfiltered lives. Students began each day with Morning Manna and participated in Sealed Orders, private prayer and reflection, before dinner.

Aubrey Logan, a professional

singer and trombone player, presented a concert demonstrating her expertise in both disciplines. She included one of the student choirs as backup singers in her performance of "316," based on the well-known passage from the Gospel of John. Aubrey also spent instructional time with the trombone section of the Wonderland Band, giving insights from her career.

The students' daily schedule included two periods of major classes (five bands and two choruses), a technique class focused on their major instrument or vocal part, an elective class (piano, guitar, ukulele, drama, dance, handbells, timbrels, visual arts, conducting, composition, praise band), and one of three mixed voice choruses (CMI Chorus, Crosby Chorus, Dorsey Chorus).

Special events included solo contests for each performing group plus piano, guitar, and band vocalists. There were also recreation tournaments for students and faculty in disc golf, volleyball, Baggo, chess, soccer and pickleball.

Evening programs included a Sunday evening praise meeting with the Central Territorial Staff Songsters, which included several CMI faculty and students; student night which pitted cabins against each other in a friendly video contest which displayed the students' creativity; and two student showcases featuring each of the major performing groups.

The camp ended with an alumni weekend—the first in many years—to celebrate the 90th anniversary of CMI, the faculty band concert, Elect-fest (featuring elective classes) and the final awards program. The concluding Sunday worship service allowed for reflection and dedication.

See a full list of award recipients on our website at salarmycentral.org

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Friday	Ecclesiastes 3-4	New Albany, Ind., Corps
	2 Saturday	Zephaniah	Canton, Ill., 360 Life Center
	3 Sunday	Acts 11-1	St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps
	4 Monday	James 4	France and Belgium Territory
	5 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 1-3	Williston, N.D., Corps
	6 Wednesday	2 Chronicles 33-36	Omaha North, Neb., Corps
	7 Thursday	Psalms 128-130	St. Cloud, Minn., Corps
	8 Friday	Ecclesiastes 5-6	Evanston, Ill., Corps
	9 Saturday	Haggai	Fort Wayne, Ind., Corps
	10 Sunday	Acts 13-14	Kearney, Neb., Corps
	11 Monday	1 Peter 1-3	Holland, Mich., Corps
	12 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 4-6	Middle East Region
	13 Wednesday	Ezra 1-5	Jamestown, N.D., 360 Life Center
	14 Thursday	Psalms 131-133	Kirkville, Ill., Corps
	15 Friday	Ecclesiastes 7-8	Leavenworth, Kan., Corps
	16 Saturday	Zechariah 1-7	Red Kettle Campaigns
	17 Sunday	Acts 15-16	Iowa City, Iowa, Corps
	18 Monday	1 Peter 4-5	Marion, Ind., Corps
	19 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 7-9	St. Paul Citadel, Minn., Corps
	20 Wednesday	Ezra 6-10	The Philippines Territory
	21 Thursday	Psalms 134-136	Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center
	22 Friday	Ecclesiastes 9-10	Pontiac, Mich., Corps
	23 Saturday	Zechariah 8-14	Rockford, Ill., ARC
	24 Sunday	Acts 17-18	Springfield Clear Lake, Ill., Corps
	25 Monday	1 John 1-2	St. Louis Maplewood, Mo., Corps
	26 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 10-12	Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa, Corps
	27 Wednesday	Nehemiah 1-4	Zimbabwe and Botswana Territory
	28 Thursday	Psalms 137-139	GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD
	29 Friday	Ecclesiastes 11-12	Warsaw, Ind., Corps
	30 Saturday	Malachi	Willmar, Minn., Corps

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



--Mustard Seeds--





described the track as "life-giving, God-honoring and soul-refreshing."

Two highlights of the united sessions were a concert by the Chicago Mass Choir and the welcome of Colonels Thomas and Julie Anne



Louden, chief secretary and territorial leader for leader development. A charge from Territorial Commander Commissioner Evie Diaz to them to be authentic and keep Jesus first was appreciated by everyone gathered, and the Loudens' warm, faith-filled response was encouraging. At a reception, campers personally welcomed the colonels to the Midwest. (Read more about the Loudens on pages 6 & 7).

Afternoon recreation, from traditional sports like volleyball to a homerun derby and a bellyflop contest, provided fun and fostered community. The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO), led by Jeanie Dobney, offered a multitude of options, visited youth tracks to provide learning experiences, and encouraged all campers to be good stewards of God's creation by recycling.

As always, during CBLI everyone worked hard at raising funds for World Missions, this year specifically for the Manyatta Corps in the Kenya



East Territory. Efforts were far-ranging from a virtual 5K to a shop where campers could make tote bags out of upcycled t-shirts, to an ice cream truck that sold treats during a student versus staff soccer game (which campers won 6-4, much to the staff's dismay). With a match by Territorial Headquarters, a total of \$8,382.38 will be sent to help rebuild the roof and the walls of the Manyatta Corps.

As the week drew to a close, God's Spirit was palpable. The final meeting, which featured celebratory worship led by the emerging band E37 based in the North & Central Illinois Division, served as a powerful testimony to CBLI's purpose.

This year stands as a symbol of CBLI's endur-



Lt. Colonel Johanna Pook and Major Gary Felton present Captain Andrew Wheeler with the Spirit of CBLI Award.

ing influence which turned 80 this summer. From its beginning, CBLI has aimed to inspire and equip campers for spiritual growth and leadership. The enthusiasm and dedication displayed for building up the Kingdom, coupled with the successful fundraising for the Manyatta Corps, showed CBLI still has a profound influence here in the Central Territory and throughout the world.



Promoted to Glory

Major Sandra Rowland

Major Sandra Rowland was promoted to Glory on July 16, 2024. Sandy was known for her dedication to the Lord, her family and others.



Born on October 19, 1947, to Emerald and Kathleen Gohl in Ferndale, Mich., Sandy began attending the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps with her family as a child. She was involved in youth and music programs, becoming an accomplished cornetist. While attending music camps and other events as a teenager, she met Ed Rowland. They married on March 18, 1967, and became lay leaders at the Royal Oak Corps.

In 1985, Sandy and Ed became auxiliary captains and led the Alpena, Mich., Corps for four years. They then led the Edwin Denby Center for Children and Family Services in Detroit, Mich., for 17 years. The Rowlands became full captains in 1990. Their last appointment was leading the Detroit Harbor Light until their retirement in 2011.

Sandy was devoted to her children, Mike and Julie. Many people were inspired by the way she and Ed cared for and enabled a full life for Julie, who had multiple special needs including Down Syndrome.

In retirement, the Rowlands were pastoral care officers and shared their gifts of music and leadership at the Dearborn Heights Citadel Corps.

Sandy was preceded in death by her daughter, Julie. She is survived by her husband, son Mike (Amber), two grandchildren, and her brother Bob (Mary) Gohl.

Major Ruby Aleene Baugh

Major Ruby Aleene Baugh was promoted to Glory on July 26, 2024. Aleene loved God with all her heart and was known as a prayer warrior. She had a passion for studying the Bible, loved worshipping the Lord and sharing about her Savior with others.



Aleene was born February 23, 1943, in Tuscaloosa, Ala., to Freda and Don Williams. The third of seven children, she spent most of her childhood in Birmingham.

In her teens Aleene came to The Salvation Army when her family moved to Chicago, Ill. There she eventually met Harold Baugh, whom she would marry. A decade after starting their family, the Baughs became envoys in 1970 and served for two years before entering training. They were commissioned in 1974 and served in corps appointments until retiring in 2003.

Perhaps most of all, Aleene loved her family, especially being a grandma and reminded her grandchildren often how much they were loved. She also claimed many surrogate children along the way, making them feel special and cared for.

Aleene was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Harold; daughter Catherine; sister Sue Allan, and brother Calvin Williams. She is survived by four children, Major Deborah (Major Nelson) De La Vergne, Gary (Sandra), William, and Donald (Shannon); seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Major Dale Tollerud

Major Dale Tollerud was promoted to Glory on July 14, 2024. Known for his joyful demeanor, Dale always had a tune on his lips. He loved the Lord and his greatest desire was for other people to come to know Jesus.



Dale was born on June 11, 1931, in Minneapolis, Minn., to Arthur Tollerud and Olga Lundgren. Raised in a Lutheran church, he came to know The Salvation Army by attending summer camp, where his mother worked each year. There he met Alice Greier, whom he eventually would marry.

In his late teens, Dale began attending the Minneapolis Central Corps and became a soldier. He entered officer training in 1950. After being commissioned in 1951, he reconnected with Alice and as her corps officer sent her to training. After Alice's commissioning, they were married on June 22, 1954.

The Tolleruds served in corps, divisional headquarters and city coordinator appointments for 45 years before retiring in 1996. Dale was known for his leadership, integrity and fiscal management, as well as wise counsel and pastoral heart.

In retirement, Dale and Alice soldiered at the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps and then the Lewisville, Texas, Corps, where they remained active in ministry.

Dale is survived by his wife of 70 years, Alice; children, Ken, Lt. Colonel Douglas (Lt. Colonel Sheryl), Janet (Steve) Knapp, and Ron (Diana); 11 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Major Mark Brown

Major Mark Brown, 69, was promoted to Glory on July 8, 2024. Mark had a quirky personality which endeared him to many. He cared deeply for others and served anyone in Jesus' name without reservation, taking great joy in the opportunity to show God's love each day.



Born on December 7, 1954, in Evansville, Ind., to James and Irene Brown, Mark grew up attending a Catholic church and accepted Christ as a child. His faith grew throughout his teenage years. While proudly serving in the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, he learned about The Salvation Army and began attending a corps.

After completing his military service, he entered the College for Officer Training in 1995 and was commissioned in 1997 a member of the "Messengers of God's Love" session. Mark served in corps, adult rehabilitation center and Harbor Light appointments throughout the Midwest for 24 years, retiring in 2021.

He enjoyed leading Bible studies and was a good teacher with the ability to relay scripture in practical terms.

Mark was preceded in death by his brother James. He is survived by his brother Glenn (Phyllis); niece Laura Sandefur Brown; nephews Brian and Jeff; and sister-in-law Judy Woods.