**Emergency response chaplaincy certification rolls out across territory**

Central Territorial Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) has launched a territory-wide Emergency Response Chaplaincy Certification program. The new program is in response to the federal government’s initiative to resource type all critical assets to assist in deployments during times of disaster and emergency response.

This resource typing (identifying and categorizing resources like personnel, equipment and training) will allow emergency managers to request specific competency levels of emotional and spiritual care (ESC) resources from The Salvation Army. The certification consists of three defined types of emergency emotion-al and spiritual care: basic, intermediate, advanced. These levels of ESC providers are categorized according to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by establishing a comprehensive, integrated, national mutual aid and resource management system.

“‘It’s really all about helping hurting people in times of crisis,” said Kevin Ellers, territorial disaster services coordinator who oversees the certification. “It enables us to define both our emotional and spiritual care providers and leadership for the teams.”

The territory’s new chaplaincy certification program has been pilot ed in Milwaukee, Wis., since May 2015 and has shown significant results. More than 120 people have been trained in Spiritual and Psychological First Aid, and currently there are 55 active chaplains in the program. A partnership with the Milwaukee Police Department has resulted in Salvation Army chaplains being called to 286 emergency scenes, including in the line of duty deaths, community unrest and riots, homicides, infant deaths, suicides and drug overdoses. From January 2018 to May 2019, Salvation Army chaplains made approximately 1,500 emotional and spiritual care contacts. Volunteers have given almost 10,000 hours of service, nearly a fourth of which were given by chaplains in national disaster relief deployments after Hurricanes Harvey, Florence and Michael and Nebraska flooding.

“It has been very exciting to see the successful pilot of this program in Milwaukee and the many people who are being helped both in times of crisis and disasters but also to see how the chaplaincy program has expanded to help our everyday Salvation Army volunteers,” said Kevin.

In reference to the new territorial program, he explained, “While the primary focus is to prepare individuals to serve in small and large-scale disaster relief, we want to integrate them into daily Salvation Army programming during non-disaster times to support our programs and help them gain experience.”

For more information, talk with your corps officer or divisional EDS director or visit: centralusa.salvationarmy.org.

Moreover, current data in The Salvation Army Information System (SIMS) positively correlated POH family corps engagement with larger increases in hope and self-sufficiency scores during POH—and, as importantly, higher scores at a six month follow-up—compared to families who did not participate in corps activities.

Given these outcomes and the Army’s holistic mission that recognizes the value for families to be integrated into corps for their spiritual and youth character development, territorial social services department POH staff recognized a tighter documentation plan for this aspect was needed so they could provide a stronger report on POH family engagement in corps and faith communities.

Review of the data in SIMS also showed that although many locations engage POH families in pastoral care and corps programs, there was a lack of specifics and...
My Father’s Eyes

by Commissioner Heidi Bailey
Territorial President of Women’s Ministries

A lthough I’m similar to my mother in many ways, when I was growing up I was often told I had my father’s eyes. I loved that because his eyes were beautiful!

As we grow spiritually, however, if we only see life through our human eyes we can be blinded to the deepest, most freeing truth of the gospel.

The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7b, NLT)

You see, our human eyes are fixed on the purpose. In Luke 13 we read that following the Sabbath healing of the woman bent over for 18 years, Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of the synagogue for doing just that—not seeing the purpose because they were focused on the packaging:

You religious leaders are such hypocrites! Every single one of you unites his ox or donkey from its manger every single Sabbath Day, and then you lead it out to get a drink of water, right? Do you care more about your farm animals than you care about this woman, one of Abraham’s daughters, oppressed by Satan for 18 years? Can’t we untie her from her oppression on the Sabbath? (Luke 13:15-17, The Voice)

Scriptural paradoxes (or human absurdities) are plentiful in scripture and should lead us quickly to self-examination: the weak shall be strong, the poor shall be rich, the humble shall be raised and, the most absurd of all in our “selfie” (self-absorbed) society, the first shall be last. (Luke 13:29-30, The Message)

This is the Great Reversal: the last in line put at the head of the line, and the so-called first ending up last. (Luke 13:29-30, The Message)

Central Territory, God is blessing The Salvation Army every day with thousands of opportunities to see people as He sees them, not by their packaging but by their purpose. Who can you help unite from their oppression, even on the Sabbath? Oh, and don’t forget the end of the story.

As the impact of His words settled in, His critics were humiliated, but everyone else loved what Jesus said and celebrated everything He was doing. (Luke 13:17, The Voice)

As we learn to see as through our Father’s eyes, may it be so, friends. May it be so.
Community engagement is a familiar concept to The Salvation Army, and the Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center is no exception. The Army’s mission of holistically meeting human needs in Christ’s name without discrimination is the essence of our community engagement. One central biblical way of saying much the same thing is to follow Paul and think of the Church as the “Body of Christ,” the single body in which every individual, and every local community, is a limb or an organ. The Omaha Kroc Center views itself as a single body with its surrounding community.

“The early Christians worked hard to live their lives as an extended family, caring for one another in a way that families do,” said A/Captain Tracy Ganter. “That’s how we view our members and surrounding community. As a church, we must never forget that greater calling.”

Each season the Omaha Kroc Center makes a concerted outreach to the surrounding community. For instance, last fall the Kroc Center hosted a “pet blessing” where four-legged creatures of all shapes and sizes accompanied their owners to an afternoon of tasty treats, warm snuggles and sweet blessings. Pet blessings have a strong historical connection deeply rooted in theology. The beautiful connection of joy, love and life that blessings have a strong historical connection deeply rooted in theology.

“A/Captains John and Tracy Ganter with youth at the Omaha Kroc Center’s Winterfest.

“In Genesis, God offers us an awesome and specific responsibility to be good stewards of all of creation, to celebrate the joy, light and life that they bring into our lives. It certainly seems like a worthy way to spend our time,” said Spiritual Life Manager Jennifer Hill. The beautiful harmony of joyful barking and laughter seemed to agree.

When the winter winds blew in, the Omaha Kroc Center busied itself with warming the hands and hearts of the local community by hosting Winterfest, a free community event complete with pop corn, prizes, exercise demonstrations, indoor snowball fights and a super-hero training center. Winterfest also brought the “one word” experience, where participants, led by trained ministry volunteers, chose one word to help guide them through 2019 with God’s loving path in mind.

Spring bloomed with the baffling dichotomy of weariness and new possibilities. While terrifying floodwaters ravaged the Midwest, the Kroc Center officers and staff refused to leave the side of their neighbors. As April and Easter approached, A/Captain John Ganter wondered how to be “the hands and feet of Christ” to a community which had lost so much. Operation Easter Basket was born.

“We identified the need in our community for children who would not have any Easter baskets on Easter Sunday,” he said. “We realized that this was a small gesture that means the world to many.” The Omaha Kroc Center assembled and distributed 1,000 Easter baskets to the children in Omaha and brought happiness to many families.

July brought Summerfest, a fun-filled day in the sun with food, entertainment, games, rides, demonstrations and other activities that engaged individuals and families. Partnering with the Omaha Police Department South Precinct’s SAFE (Safety, Awareness, Fitness and Education) program, the Kroc Center became the hub for fun, fellowship and education for its community.

When early Christians talked about love it translated to living as a family, a mutually supportive community, and being the “hands and feet of Jesus.” It’s still true, and the Omaha Kroc Center strives to live it out all year long.

Cleaning up their community

by Captain Daniel Simmons

When my wife and I were given the responsibility to oversee the East St. Louis, Ill., Corps in addition to the rest of St. Clair County, we knew God wanted us to be a beacon of hope, reflecting the love of Jesus. As we prayed about how to do this, we felt we should clean up our community.

We were to show His love in a very practical way—picking up the trash. East St. Louis used to be a place of beauty; however, people have lost what it means to hope for a future. We want to be a part of restoring what has been lost and broken, beginning simply by cleaning up the neighborhood.

Every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to noon, The Salvation Army of St. Clair County mobilizes a team and cleans a section of East St. Louis. Often the team consists of members of the corps, our staff, my wife and me. Through our Facebook page other people have learned what we’re doing and have volunteered to help.

We drive our canteen to a very visible location and fill trash bags with garbage. Each time we gather from 150 to 400 pounds of trash in two hours. We leave signs throughout East St. Louis saying “Cleaned by your local Salvation Army” so that other churches, companies and neighbors can join our cause. After just our second week of cleaning up the community, people started coming out of their homes to help. As one man said, “It takes one to start, and other likeminded individuals to take part.”

How can one person or team make a difference picking up trash when there are literally tons upon tons of garbage throughout East St. Louis? The neighbors near the empty lots say they’re grateful not to have to look at a sea of trash every day, and the lots have stayed relatively clean.

Picking up the trash is just a start. Ultimately, the goal is for East St. Louis to function like any well-maintained city with clean streets, a low crime rate and a good school system. As a result of meeting these tangible needs, we hope many people will come to know Jesus as their personal Savior.
by Karen Young

Preparation for The ONE Conference, to be held October 18-20, 2019, at the Westin Chicago Northshore in Itasca, Ill., began with many questions. How can the conference be a community where we can engage in conversations around challenging issues within a safe environment? How together do we assemble and sustain a diverse and inclusive community in Christ? In what ways can we construct wells of understanding for effective intercultural ministry? What are practical ways to love and serve “Others” who are a part of the community around us?

To address these questions, the territorial intercultural ministries department began prayerfully to assemble a group of ministry leaders from a variety of backgrounds, with intercultural experiences and cultural knowledge. We wanted those attending the conference to have the opportunity to hear diverse voices and perspectives during the united sessions. We also wanted the delegates to be able to explore ideas and practices at a deeper level during smaller group workshops with our guests.

Dr. Michael Emerson, Provost at North Park University in Chicago, is one of the nation’s leading scholars on race and religion and has coauthored the groundbreaking book, Divided by Faith.

Captains Nesan and Cheryl Kistan, passionate hands-on followers of Jesus with a heart for mission, bring their experiences in ministry across Australia in one of the most multicultural communities.

Rev. Dr. Oliver Phillips is a certified facilitator of Cultural Intelligence Enhancement seminars.

Ms. Nikki Lerner has a passion for bridging divides between people of different cultures through music and conversation. She’s a cultural coach, translator and gifted musician.

Dr. Rolando Cuellar serves as Associate Professor of Intercultural Studies at Lee University where he prepares young men and women for cross-cultural ministry.

Rev. Dr. Alexia Salvatierra has more than 40 years of experience in congregational (English and Spanish) and community ministry.

Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings appreciates The Salvation Army’s global and missional aspects and believes the same approach can be implemented locally.

Inspector Jutiki Jackson, impact-ed by concepts of servant leadership, has collaborated with The Salvation Army’s Chaplaincy Program in Milwaukee.

Pastor Alexis Twito, Milwaukee Chaplain Program Coordinator for the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division, has a deep desire for serving others and a passion for social justice ministries.

Captain Shannon Martinez has had multiple intercultural appointments and understands the false beliefs around “right” background, language skills and talent that might make intercultural ministry a not-so-good fit.

Join us as we learn together, worship and celebrate what God is doing and will do.

Visit the Central Connection website or oneconf.com for more information.

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Fresh Perspectives

“I God calls you to do a work, He will give you the power” said Flor Guzman-Cardenas, a soldier at the Kansas City Westport Temple, Mo., Corps, about her experience at a week-long zonal college on holiness for Spanish-speaking soldiers in Paraguay. Nominated by her corps officers, Captains Joaquin and Gabriela Rangel, Flor was selected to represent the Central Territory at the Americas and Caribbean Zonal College for Soldiers for the “tremendous growth and maturity she has demonstrated in her spiritual life.”

Flor first met The Salvation Army through her aunt’s invitation almost 20 years ago. After Flor, her mother and younger sister moved from Mexico to Kansas City to join relatives already living there. Not long after, Flor came to a saving faith in Jesus.

She met and married Ricardo Cardenas in 2003 and they have been involved in the Kansas City Westport Temple with their two daughters, Alondra, 10, and Abigail, 5. A stay-at-home mom, Flor has been blessed to have flexibility that allows her to be involved in many corps programs, including serving as women’s ministry chaplain and being a member of the corps’ praise and worship team.

Three years ago, Flor became a soldier and says she’s found an even deeper sense of belonging. Sometime later on a Sunday morning when Alondra was to be enrolled as a junior soldier, Flor was elated when Ricardo walked onto the platform in full uniform to be enrolled as well.

“It was the best day ever!” Flor exclaimed.

She says she learned a lot last fall when she joined 29 other soldiers at the zonal college where she absorbed rich teaching on holiness in daily life, corps life and social media and came back excited to share with others at the corps. The experience also...

At commissioning weekend Major David Harvey, Kansas and Western Missouri divisional commander, translates in English as Flor Guzman-Cardenas shares about her zonal college experiences in Spanish.

Flor Guzman-Cardenas with her husband, Ricardo Cardenas, and their daughters, Alondra (J) and Abigail Cardenas expanded Flor’s view of The Salvation Army as she interacted with soldiers from many countries. Reflecting, she said, “The distance [between us] doesn’t matter because we’re all of one accord.”
Making an impact in Minneapolis

For most of their lives, Majors Roberto and Melissa Viquez have lived in warm, sunny climates. Natives of Costa Rica, the Western Territory officers have led seven corps in fairly temperate locations—except for a year in Denver—since their 1997 marriage. Transferred to the Central Territory in 2018 and appointed to lead the Minneapolis Temple, Minn., Corps, the majors were excited from the start despite the city’s reputation for brutal winters!

“We love our people and community,” said Major Melissa. “We’ve got a whole new set of challenges to achieve and have set many goals for the corps with our congregation.”

First-year goals included increasing the corps’ presence in the community, expanding programming and establishing an advisory council. Already 12 new families are attending the corps.

Born in Heredia, Costa Rica, Roberto accepted Christ at age 18 after being invited to the Anaheim Temple, Calif., Corps by one of his co-workers at an airline. When the airline went out of business, Roberto had already gotten very involved at the corps. He worked at the Anaheim Adult Rehabilitation Center for two years until God’s call on his life became clear.

Commissioned with the “Crusaders for Christ” session in 1994, Roberto was appointed to lead and build the Hispanic ministry at the Santa Cruz, Calif., Corps. Three years later, he became the Santa Cruz corps officer.

Melissa was born in San Jose, Costa Rica, where she accepted Christ at age 10. Melissa’s older sister, Captain Viviana Viquez, began attending The Salvation Army. The two girls became soldiers, and by 1994 the rest of the family were enrolled at the San Jose Central Corps. A year later Melissa moved to the U.S. where she began a new chapter in her life. She started soldiering and serving the Lord at the Santa Cruz Corps. Two years later she married Robert Viquez.

Together they developed the Hispanic congregation which became the Santa Cruz Corps.

Melissa, who was commissioned with “Ambassadors of Grace” session in 2001, said God’s call to service was clear to her by age 17; her dream was to serve Him, but she never imagined it would be this far away from home!

Central located, outwardly focused

The Minneapolis Temple, Minn., Corps is impacting its urban, multicultural community through a surge of mission advances. Youth ministries in particular have blossomed, according to Corps Officers Majors Roberto and Melissa Viquez, with rising numbers of children, teens and young adults at the corps.

Eight new junior soldiers were enrolled this spring. Teen ministries have grown from four to 18 members and young adults from two to 16. Several are involved in Bible studies and in the corps’ praise and worship team.

The corps’ youth brass band has been brought back to life by Jose Sanchez, Northern divisional music and gospel arts director. To reinforce the importance of music, this summer’s day camp revolved around the performing arts, examining the different ways God can be worshipped.

“Next up will be the resumption of character-building classes when our adults, many of whom are new believers, become more spiritually mature and ready to lead,” said Major Melissa. She indicates that a dozen adults are attending recruit classes with interest in being enrolled as senior soldiers or becoming adherents.

Expanded women’s ministries featured the launch of a weekly evening meeting for Spanish speakers, “Mujeres Llenas de Gracia” (Women Full of Grace). From the start the group had 12 women, and membership continues to grow. The self-dubbed “Forever 50” English-speaking group meets during the day. The groups work together on projects, such as a women’s luncheon and silent auction. Members of both groups brought in several of the corps’ 12 new families.

“We’re so happy the corps is growing through God’s use of The Salvation Army in reaching out to families,” said Major Melissa.

The majors unearthed the need for a new corps ministry while visiting a local residential care center where they found residents who had been soldiers, including 92-year-old Bea Cegano who had belonged to the Minneapolis Temple Corps since 1955.

With the care center’s permission, the corps began holding monthly worship services there. Up to 45 residents come to enjoy the service in person, while other residents can watch through closed-circuit TV in their rooms. Afterward, residents participate in craft projects or other activities provided by corps visitors.

“When we go to the care center everyone has a blast, and we’re happy to share the gospel with these amazing seniors,” said Major Melissa. “Our goal is to start a similar older-adult program at the corps,” she continued after discovering older adults were an underserved population in the community. The corps-based program hopes to offer a wider choice of activities and a nutritious lunch.

As the corps’ budding advisory board continues to grow in numbers and influence, Majors Roberto and Melissa anticipate many more ministry opportunities.
**Collaborating for success**

**by Pamela Church-Pryor**

Norridge, Ill., Corps

A pathway of Hope (POH) is an initiative that goes far beyond basic social services to surround families with the support and resources they need to set a new trajectory for their lives. In my experience, I’ve found that families enrolled in POH are most likely to succeed when there is community collaboration and personal connection. Building a collaborative network for POH families to access is one of the ongoing efforts at our corps. For the past several years we have worked to unite corps soldiery, advisory council members and donors, and the community to help meet the needs of POH families and encourage them in their journey.

Soldiers play an important role. One way we keep them connected is by including a list of material or practical needs POH families have in the Sunday bulletin. Items can range from small things, like a hair dryer, to large ones, like a major appliance. Other needs, like job interview or resume preparation, can be listed as well. This allows soldiers to contribute personally and share their resources to help others.

Getting the word out there has led to amazing collaborations. In one instance, a woman enrolled in POH met one of her goals by landing a great job, but risked losing it due to difficulty commuting. The booth’s inspiration came from their knowledge of the Bible and the Holy Spirit igniting within them a desire to bring Christ to a community of people steeped in both physical and spiritual poverty. They brought “soup, soap and salvation” to the hurting, believing people would be more open to hearing the gospel when their most basic needs, such as food, were met.

More than 150 years later, we continue to meet physical and spiritual needs and invest in people’s lives, teaching them how to live fully through our support and example. One of the wonderful things about POH is we don’t expect families to do it on their own. Case managers, officers, soldiers and the community all work together with POH families to help them along the way. As opposed to quick fixes, we strive to help POH families reach their goals by resourcing, equipping and supporting them, but as importantly by giving them hope. Hope in Christ.

This is our birthright as The Salvation Army.

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**Connecting for consistency**

**by Captain Cassy Grey**

Hillside, Mich., Corps

A parenting support group is one of the collaborative efforts of the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps.

**Caring for the poor**

**by Major Ruth Fay**

Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps

When I consider what scripture says about caring for widows and orphans, I’m convinced of our responsibility to love and minister to the poor. We don’t do what we do because we’re a social service agency. We do it because God has called us to care for people.

The Pathway of Hope (POH) initiative represents who we are as The Salvation Army. The Movement we are a part of today started when William and Catherine Booth were stirred to action in the face of the immense poverty and human suffering they witnessed in London’s East End.

The Booths’ inspiration came from their knowledge of the Bible and the Holy Spirit igniting within them a desire to bring Christ to a community of people steeped in both physical and spiritual poverty. They brought “soup, soap and salvation” to the hurting, believing people would be more open to hearing the gospel when their most basic needs, such as food, were met.

More than 150 years later, we continue to meet physical and spiritual needs and invest in people’s lives, teaching them how to live fully through our support and example. One of the wonderful things about POH is we don’t expect families to do it on their own. Case managers, officers, soldiers and the community all work together with POH families to help them along the way. As opposed to quick fixes, we strive to help POH families reach their goals by resourcing, equipping and supporting them, but as importantly by giving them hope. Hope in Christ.

This is our birthright as The Salvation Army.

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A parenting support group is one of the collaborative efforts of the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps.

**Pathway of Hope (POH)** has taken root throughout the territory—indeed the nation and beyond—as a meaningful and effective approach to helping families find stability and break the cycle of poverty. Here three champions of the POH initiative share their perspectives on the value of collaboration, the importance of pastoral care and the scriptural and historical basis behind the POH approach.

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I’ve found that families enrolled in POH are most likely to succeed when there is community collaboration and personal connection.
A lone and addicted to drugs, Jennifer was at the end of her rope. Addiction had stolen everything from her—her home, her children and her hope. At risk of losing her first two children to adoption and pregnant with a third, she knew something had to change.

There was just one catch. Having grown up around drugs and having used them since age 12, Jennifer didn’t know how to live differently. Drugs were a way of life.

Only a year earlier, she and her boyfriend had a nice place to live, a steady income, a one-year-old daughter and a baby on the way. Life felt perfect. That they both used drugs didn’t seem to be a problem. But when their second daughter was born with drugs in her system and the Child Protective Services (CPS) got involved, Jennifer realized just how big of a problem using drugs was.

Losing custody of her daughters was devastating, but it wasn’t enough to end Jennifer’s drug abuse. Within a month she was homeless, living in a tent made out of blankets in the dead of winter, and continuing to use.

“I couldn’t deal with life without my children,” she said. “I turned to drugs as a way to numb my pain and sorrow. I wanted to stop, but I couldn’t do it on my own.”

Jennifer’s wakeup call came a few months later when the judge supervising her CPS case informed her that one more positive drug test would result in her girls being recommended for adoption.

“She said they needed stability and not the confusion caused by missed visits due to my positive drug tests,” said Jennifer.

Determined to change, Jennifer began working to meet the requirements of the court and sought help for her addiction through Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and local drug counseling services. She obtained employment, but she still needed food, housing and guidance to move forward. She visited the Goshen, Ind., Corps food pantry, where she saw a sign for Pathway of Hope (POH).

“It caught my attention because I saw the word ‘hope,’ and I needed hope,” she said.

Since enrolling in POH, Jennifer has accomplished things she never thought possible, including becoming drug free, obtaining stable housing, advancing to a management position at work and regaining custody of her children. She attends NA meetings at the corps every week and sometimes even leads them. Jennifer has gained the hope, confidence and support she needs to be able to remain drug free and to provide a loving and stable home for her children.

“I am on a good road now,” concluded Jennifer. “I know I can overcome anything.”

Just two years ago, her outlook wasn’t quite so positive. When Bethany came to the Hilldale, Mich., Corps seeking financial assistance, she felt trapped by her circumstances. With no high school diploma or GED her employment options were limited, and she didn’t see a way to get out of the rut she was in.

Bethany enrolled in Pathway of Hope (POH) and with the help of the corps case manager, she set goals to stabilize her life, including obtaining safe and affordable housing and a reliable vehicle and completing her GED. When she accomplished these primary goals, Bethany focused on her physical health. She was so successful that she was accepted to compete on the popular Ninja Warrior television show. Unfortunately, she sustained an injury during training and was sidelined.

Though discouraged, Bethany saw another opportunity for personal growth and decided to go to college. She is now taking online classes and is considering a career in physical therapy to help others recover from injuries.

Through the victories and defeats, Captain Cassy Grey, Hilldale corps officer, has devoted time each week to provide pastoral care to Bethany. Recently, Bethany recommitted her life to Christ. She regularly brings her children, whose father has shared custody, to the corps for worship during her parenting weeks.

“We live in a world where we need to be able to encourage and uplift one another,” said the captain. “Bethany is working hard to learn self-care and balance.”

Thanks to the support, encouragement and pastoral care she has received as part of POH, Bethany is in a position to continue to grow mentally, physically and spiritually. And the future looks bright.
Newly accepted candidates

Joseph and April Alvarez
Decatur, Ill., Corps
Heartland Division

Career/work
Ministry Discovery interns

Salvation experience
Joseph: I came to know the Lord through the witness of my brother when I was 14.

April: During the summer of 1988 at Camp Wonderland, I heard the gospel in a new way. I’ve never been the same.

First Salvation Army encounter
Joseph: My supervisor at work invited me to attend the Aurora, Ill., Corps for his daughter’s dedication.

April: When I was 9, my friend from school invited me to her church, The Salvation Army. Soon I was spending every moment I could at the Aurora Corps and looked forward to “Big Red” (the Salvation Army van) pulling up to my house each week.

Your calling
Joseph: My warehouse job was unfulfilling, and I needed more purpose to my life. I wanted to help people and make a difference.

When my wife shared her calling, I realized God was calling me to ministry, too.

April: During a call to officership at camp, I heard God saying three times to my heart just like Isaiah, “Whom shall I send?” and I responded, “Here am I, send me.” But when my life grew complicated, I thought I was mistimed and was caught off guard when the same thing happened at women’s camp 25 years later!

Spiritual mentors
Both: Lt. Colonels Dan and Rebecca Sjögren, Majors Herb and Yeneth Fuqua, and Captains Keith and Michelle Graham

Memorable ministry experience
Joseph: Teaching Sunday school for first and second graders and having one girl exclaim, “Oh, I get it now.”

April: Praying with a mother who came to the corps for Christmas assistance, referring her to Pathway of Hope and then her daughter joining our youth program.

Joseph and April’s corps officers are Majors Gregory and Carla Voeller.

Discovering officership
For more than a decade, the Ministry Discovery Program has provided opportunities for those interested in ministry through The Salvation Army to spend up to two years exploring and learning the ins and outs of officership as interns in a corps setting. Since its inception, the program has gained popularity across the territory with nearly every division currently having an intern.

“it’s an excellent way to expose people to officership,” said Major Tricia Taube, then territorial candidates secretary. “And it’s not exclusive to Salvationists. We encourage non-Salvationists who are interested in ministry to consider entering this program as a way to explore The Salvation Army.”

Interns come from many backgrounds, including young adults fresh out of (or still in) college, professionals desiring to move into fulltime ministry and adult rehabilitation center program graduates.

Corps officers are intentionally matched with interns to ensure a good fit and positive experience. The officers commit to mentor and train interns through the day-to-day responsibilities of officership for the two-year timeframe, allowing interns to observe officer life and experience by wearing the many hats required. In some cases, additional involvement such as summer camp ministry is offered.

Over the course of the internship, regular check-ins with the corps officer, divisional candidates secretary and territorial candidates secretary encourage open dialogue. Interns are able to gain insight into their strengths and areas that need development, and are better able to make informed decisions. Though many Ministry Discovery interns decide to become officers, some move on to other opportunities.

“The great thing about this program is it gives people the time to explore officership and determine whether it’s really for them,” said Major Tricia. “It’s intended to set people up for success.”

For more information on the Ministry Discovery Program, contact your divisional candidates secretary.

Samantha Tamayo, an intern at the Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps, with her candidates’ secretary, Captain Chelsea Cooper

730... AND BEYOND

7/11/3 days and counting
by Major Amy Jo Ferguson

I was a Tuesday, and I was supposed to enroll two new members, Stephanie and Robin, in women’s ministries. However, Stephanie was in the hospital after trying to take her own life, and Robin suddenly had moved away. I planned to visit Stephanie later that day after the meeting, but what would I do for that meeting when I’d planned an enrollment? After a little thought and a quick prayer, it occurred to me God knew the circumstances and could still use the program I’d planned. So, I went with it.

We began with a “mess or masterpiece” art project where the women went outside and smashed paint all over a piece of poster board. At the end of our very messy art project, a lady named Sharon stayed outside to help me clean up. In a wheelchair after having her leg amputated about six months ago; Sharon rolled to the trash can but stopped in front of the corps’ large picture window and stared.

“Sharon, are you okay?” I asked.

“Yes,” she replied. “This is just the first time that I have ever seen myself without my leg.”

A tear rolled down her cheek.

After giving Sharon a few minutes to compose herself, we went back into the corps to finish the meeting, and I read from the enrollment service I had prepared.

“Many women are programmed to notice the mess. We see paint splattered all over the place rather than a beautiful piece of art. We see mistakes and small imperfections rather than the beauty of the whole.”

Throughout the program I affirmed again and again that God had made us beautiful. God is making us into His masterpiece according to His purpose and plan. On the very day when Sharon saw for the first time the ugliness that sickness had brought to her body, I was able to reassure her God had made her beautiful.

At the end of the meeting, we all signed our “mess or masterpiece” art project. A little while later, Sharon came up with, and I delivered it to Stephanie in the hospital, hoping she would realize how many people care for her.

For me, being an officer is faith-building, not only for those to whom I minister but myself. I’m reminded often that God always knows what He is doing.

730 Weekend 2019
@ the College for Officer Training
September 6-8, 2019

Individuals interested in exploring officership or who have begun the application process should contact their divisional candidates’ secretary for details.

Registration is still available!
PIM visit expands vision

It was the opportunity of a lifetime for a captain from the India South Eastern Territory to travel more than 8,000 miles to attend this year’s Brengle Holiness Institute held annually at the College for Officer Training in Chicago, Ill. In the days before the institute, Captain Kalapu Selva attended the Central Territory’s commissioning weekend, followed by a whirlwind tour of the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division which is a Partner in Mission (PIM) with the India South Eastern Territory.

Major Tom McDowell, Janesville, Wis., corps officer and Captain Selva

Captain Selva is the territorial project officer responsible for managing and funding mission and community projects and educational resources. His thirst for knowledge was gratified by each of the diverse tour stops, which spanned almost the length and breadth of the division. Most importantly Captain Selva discovered aspects of ministry and programming that could be replicated in his territory. He spent time with officers, soldiers and employees at corps that were diverse in size and ethnicity, as well as at the Green Bay Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, Army Lake Camp, inner-city services and urban outreach ministries.

The captain said in India, open-air and revival meetings featuring music, songs, dramas and dance, are effective outreach tools through which God works powerfully especially in villages. One entire village accepted Christ, which led to the building of a corps there. On a visit to another village, an older Hindu woman asked the captain to pray for her to have a child; when he next visited the village, she was pregnant!

Selva was commissioned with his wife, Thaya Anusuro, in 2009 with the “Witnesses for Christ” session. They served in two corps (four years each) and directed a child development center in the second corps appointment before his current appointment at territorial headquarters. They have two daughters, Kaitlin Shekinah and Chelsiya Vinolin.

New board aims to grow Others market

A n opportunity to increase the spread of Others, The Salvation Army’s “Trade for Hope” enterprise, has been broadened through the establishment of the first-ever Others Global Board of Management. The board will give strategic direction, act as guardians of the Others Global brand and ensure the ongoing transparency and accountabili ty of Others Global.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Merle Heatwole, international secretary for business administration, the board will seek ways to grow the international market. Currently, Others products are available online (www.tradeforhope.com) and directly to customers in Norway, Denmark, Switzerland and the U.S. The intention is to grow this market over the coming years, starting with the opportunity to showcase Others items in Café 101 at International Headquarters (IHQ) in London. This, in turn, will raise the profile of the initiative beyond a Salvation Army audience, with the goal being to increase the number of producers who are guaranteed a fair wage.

The establishment of the Global Board of Management—later ratified by the International Management Council at IHQ—took place at a meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh, of the council that oversees the worldwide connections of Others. The Others Global Council consists of representatives from producer countries including Bangladesh, Kenya and Pakistan and distributing countries including the USA, Canada and Norway.

The chair of the council, Commissioner Heatwole, along with Commissioner Birgitte Brekke-Clifton and Major Brian Slous from IHQ, and Bo Christoffer Brekke (Others Global general manager), guided the discussions. Visits were made to Salvation Army production sites and projects in Dhaka, Old Dhaka, Jashore and the corps in Shankarpur.

At production sites in Bangladesh, the international visitors were greeted with exuberant joy. Producers shared their gratitude for the opportunities they have received through Others, but some implored the council members to provide more work!

Stories of transformation were shared at every site. One woman gave thanks that The Salvation Army had provided her with a haven where she learns a new skill, hears the gospel, shares productive hours with other women and, as a result of her work with embroidered hearts, is earning a fair wage to provide food, medicine, shelter and education for her children.

It became clear that each creation of handcrafted items by gifted artisans—a cloth bag, an apron, a tea towel, a designer scarf made on a hand loom or a power loom, an embroidered heart—represents the potential to make a world of difference as producers partner with people around the globe.
As a barrage of bullets tore through the thick jungle overgrowth, Rich Dorsey and his 20-man infantry unit lie prone, pressing their bodies as deep as they could into the hot, soggy ground. Suddenly an object came sailing through the thick jungle canopy and landed near Rich. “Grenade!” he yelled to warn the others.

Rich’s infantry unit had been airlifted into the Vietnam jungle to clear a new landing site near the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail, a winding network of paths used to supply Vietcong troops. Unknown to them, a regiment of several hundred enemy soldiers lay in wait, determined to stop them.

As Rich quickly rolled in the opposite direction of the grenade, he slid behind a tree stump. It saved his life.

Bullets continued to whiz by, just inches over his nose. “I closed my eyes and began to pray but stopped when I realized I wasn’t praying to anyone I knew. I wanted to know God but didn’t know how, yet I felt a profound peace come over me.”

Rich said he didn’t fully realize just how spiritually lost he was until coming home in 1969 and hearing the gospel for the first time at the church of the girl who’d become his wife.

Asked to coach a women’s softball team, Rich recalled Bonnie, the pitcher, “threw me a curve that I couldn’t lay off.” As a young woman she’d been compelled by God to pray for a soldier in Vietnam. “She didn’t know that that soldier would be her husband,” Rich added. They were married for 43 years.

Burdened with memories of seeing fellow soldiers getting killed or maimed, Rich remembered his own close calls for which he earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

He couldn’t find closure and suppressed any mention of Vietnam because vets (particularly frontline troops) were being vilified for their role in the controversial war.

A decade after the war’s end, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., was dedicated in 1982 on Veterans’ Day. The event sparked the long-overdue thanks to these unsung heroes. Thirty-four years later, Rich was humbly honored to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at an annual ceremony at the Vietnam Wall.

Rich Dorsey leads the Pledge of Allegiance during the annual Vietnam Wall Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Bonnie and Rich Dorsey were married for 43 years before her passing.

Over the years Rich often has wondered why he was spared, not only through the war but through three brain surgeries. Intent on making a difference for Christ, Rich has been deeply involved in his church and found The Salvation Army a good fit to serve God and, worked in planned giving with the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division for nearly a decade before retiring nearly two years ago.

“God allowed me to see many victories through my ministry with the Army,” Rich concluded. “He used me to make a difference in the lives of those whose financial benevolence helped others.”

Did you love summer camp?
Did it impact your life?
Your story can become part of history.

The Central Territory Historical Museum wants to include your camp stories in its interactive museum exhibit about summer camp debut in 2020. www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWQ7X35

Surrounded by Love

He appropriately named Independence, Mo., Corps was the site for Majors Kenneth and Robin Shiel’s retirement service. Colonel Evie Diaz, chief secretary at International Headquarters, officiated the majors’ retirement ceremony which was bookended with musical selections and presentations.

Majors Andrew and Melissa Shiel, gave the welcome illustrated by Majors Ken and Robin’s grandchildren, Lt. Colonel Renea Smith and Major James Shiel shared reflections on retirement, and during the ceremony Lt. Colonel Robert Bonfield and Major Barbara Shields held the flags.

After Majors James and Susan Shiel sang the fitting lyrics of “Pause at His feet” as a prayer, he led the band in music. Randy Bonfield directed a gospel choir for two numbers, the Cabrera family led praise and worship and the Wichita Citadel, Kan., corps dance troupe performed.

Commissioned in 1974 with the “Followers of Christ” session, Major Ken served in the Kansas and Western Missouri Division for two years, then returned to lead corps in the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan and Western divisions after a break in service. Major Robin was commissioned in 1980 as a member of the “Proclaimers of Salvation” session. She served in five different divisions before coming to the training college, where she held a succession of appointments for seven years until marrying Ken in 2005. She also served as a territorial officer counselor for 10 years.

Together they served as corps officers in three divisions, including four years at the Green Bay, Wis., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center as senior officer and officer for program development.

Colonel Evie Diaz with Majors Robin and Ken Shiel and flagbearers Major Barbara Shiel and Lt. Colonel Robert Bonfield
Kids with their new backpacks after a back-to-school event

"Your community is already gathering, so why not at The Salvation Army? It's part of who we are."

Over the past few years the Detroit Conner Creek Corps has become a hub for a variety of community gatherings, such as town hall meetings and collaborative events, increasing The Salvation Army’s visibility and reach. Some of the community meetings held at the corps have brought 250 or more people into contact with the Army. For example, during a year-long planning process for the revitalization of the Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood, the corps hosted quarterly neighborhood framework meetings for residents to give their input and share their vision. Recently, Councilwoman Janē Ayers held a town hall meeting for all residents of Detroit at the corps which addressed issues from health and safety to employment, and Councilman Andre L. Spivey hosted a community Mother’s Day brunch.

In addition to opening their doors for these community events, the corps regularly collaborates with other agencies to serve the neighborhood. Free financial empowerment workshops are taught by Jefferson East, Inc., at the corps for anyone wanting to learn to better manage their resources. Last Halloween, the corps spearheaded a “Trunk or Treat on Conner Street” event with five participating businesses, nonprofits and the police department, passing out candy to more than 2,000 children in tandem with The Salvation Army’s Coats for Kids distribution.

Those attending events held at the corps learn more about the Army’s mission and role in the community, which has led to an increase in visitors to the food pantry and computer lab as well as enrollment in the after-school program and women’s ministries. Corps events, such as a monthly senior luncheon and weekly fresh food distribution, provide additional touch points. “We're introducing ourselves to the community in a different way,” concluded Captain Kelsie. “We’ve been able to form relationships with residents who otherwise might never have set foot in our building and show them we’re interested in what’s going on outside our walls.

The corps is now led by Lts. Henry and Pamela Boating, Captain Javier Moreno and neighborhood Police Officer Karen Mauzy were recognized for outstanding community service.

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

Sunday, September 22, 2019, has been designated as The Salvation Army’s annual International Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking—a day of worship, prayer and action surrounding the problem of human trafficking. Corps will join together globally to raise awareness about human trafficking and modern slavery and to show compassion for the men, women and children who are exploited.

Jesus claimed as His own the words recorded centuries prior in Isaiah 61 ‘to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,’ said Colonel Janet Munn, director of The Salvation Army’s International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) in New York City, N.Y. “Today there are multitudes of captives, enslaved through human trafficking. Please join in with The Salvation Army’s annual Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking. In so doing, we participate in the work of Christ in opposing injustice in any form.”

Resources to support this year’s day of prayer have been created by the USA Southern Territory in conjunction with the ISJC and include suggested prayers, Bible readings, sermon starters, biblical reflections and songs.

The day of prayer has been planned to engage churches and communities in tangible action against trafficking. Encouraging people to “start locally” and research how the problem of human trafficking affects their own community, the resource guide suggests holding special awareness-raising events, developing a local anti-trafficking strategy and educating leaders, volunteers and children. Young people in the foster care system, particularly in the U.S., are identified as being susceptible to targeting by traffickers, especially as they ‘age out’ of the system.

Finally, the importance of actively fighting the demand is highlighted, whether focusing on the link between pornography and sex trafficking, or the connection between demand for cheap goods and services and forced labor.

Day of Prayer resources, including a poster in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese, can be downloaded from sar.my/aht.

*From an international news release

Echelon Detroit shines light on trafficking

by Sharon Tatom Garcia

Earlier this year, Echelon Detroit shined a light on a serious and pervasive issue often hidden in plain sight: human trafficking. Through a variety of partnerships, Echelon brought together young professionals, social workers, corporate partners and caring community members for an event that raised awareness and provided networking opportunities to make a difference.

Anne Venet, case manager for The Salvation Army’s Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative in Metro Detroit, and Jenna Fiore, University of Michigan School of Social Work MSW candidate and Salvation Army board fellow, shared the complicated details surrounding human trafficking—modern-day slavery—and taught those in attendance about the recovery challenges victims often face and how they can help.

“We organized the event with a sense of urgency to raise awareness and left the event feeling educated, inspired and motivated to make a difference in Detroit,” said Anil Kapoor, president of the Detroit Echelon Chapter.

Those in attendance donated hygiene items, household cleaning supplies, gift and gas cards, and new or gently used clothes.

Echelon is a Salvation Army young professionals group that seeks to engage and mobilize the next generation for the organization through fellowship and networking, donations and fundraising, and service and volunteering.

In the Central Territory there are currently seven Echelon chapters including Chicago, Ill., Detroit, Mich., Milwaukee, Wis., Minneapolis, Minn., Peoria, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., and Indianapolis, Ind. Two more are being developed in Grand Rapids, Mich., and Orinaha, Neb.

Promoted to Glory

Major Albert Rowland

Major Albert Rowland was promoted to Glory on May 30, 2019. A child of officers, he was a capable and compassionate leader who used his gifts to serve the Lord throughout his life.

Bert married Patricia Garrett on June 8, 1951. Commissioned with the “Shepherds” session in 1954, they served in corps and divisional appointments, including eight years leading the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps. Notably, while serving as territorial youth secretary for four years, Bert was instrumental in organizing the 1985 International Youth Congress.

The Rowlands were known for music ministry, with Bert singing the melody as Pat played piano. After retiring in 1995, they soldiered at the Clearwater Citadel, Fla., Corps, where Bert was a member of the band and songsters, president of the men’s club and conductor of the men’s chorus.

Bert was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by three sons, Dennis, Mark and David; six grandchildren; brother, Roy; and a multitude of other family and friends.

POH family integration

Continued from page 1

standardized data entry to tell the full integration story.

In order to paint a more detailed picture, the territorial POH data management team incorporated additional questions in SIMS earlier this year, and throughout the territory POH staff began entering additional data at regular intervals. The new questions focus on the timing and delivery of pastoral care and POH family participation in corps’ activities such as weekly worship, youth participation in music instruction, etc. This is important because the collection and analysis of integration data serves to inform corps leaders of the success or need to improve their outreach and pastoral care to families in POH.

To further underscore the importance of integration, POH achievement awards criteria linked to pastoral care and corps integration have been bolstered. Corps which meet the enhanced benchmarks will be eligible for consideration of annual POH achievement and outstanding achievement financial awards.

In a spirit of collaboration, the Central Territory shared its newly developed POH Family/Corps Integration data template with the National Pathway of Hope Committee which coordinates POH service delivery across the four U.S. territories.

Don’t miss a joint concert by The International Staff Band and The Chicago Staff Band

September 21, 2019 | 7:00 p.m.

Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church
149 W Brush Hill Rd. / Elmhurst, Ill. 60126
Free Admission