



Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory
News and Views from the Midwest

"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

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Hispanic Retreat sparks spiritual renewal

Each day for 30 days leading up to this year's North & Central Illinois (NCI) Divisional Hispanic Retreat, a new prayer prompt was posted on social media and emailed to delegates, encouraging them to cover every aspect of the weekend in prayer. From the children to the musical guests to the speakers, Hispanic officers, soldiers and friends prayed for God to be present and to work in and through them.

In her final post, Captain Jessica Martinez, NCI divisional secretary for Hispanic ministries, expressed

her confidence in the Lord's plans for the retreat, writing, "We have left in the hands of the Lord everything planned for this special time and trust that He has heard each of our prayers and will give according to His will. His blessing, His care, His light, His mercy, His presence, and His peace be with all and in all!"

God did not disappoint.

More than 400 individuals from across the division, the largest dele-



gation since the pandemic, arrived at Wonderland Camp for a weekend of fellowship, worship and learning. Longtime Salvationists and regular corps members were in attendance, as well as many new migrants to the United States who have connected with corps.

From start to finish there was an atmosphere of joy as God's Word was shared. Exuberant praise marked joint meetings, while laughter permeated the children's track. Families and friends fellowshipped together over

meals and took advantage of the beautiful weather on Saturday afternoon to enjoy outdoor activities including soccer, boat rides, fishing and swimming.

"We wanted to see renewing of our whole beings through this event," said Alfredo Martinez, a soldier at the Aurora, Ill., Corps and territorial Hispanic ministries consultant. "It's good having fellowship, getting to know new people, hearing what is happening in the different corps and Hispanic ministries throughout the division."

Musical guests V-Voice, a praise band from Indiana, led worship, coordinated the youth track and played a concert on Saturday evening. The division's Hispanic Voices also contributed praise during the weekend.

The adult track was led by Majors Marc and Karen Johnson, Indiana divisional leaders. Focusing on Romans 12:1-2, they spoke powerfully on the life transformation that is only possible in Christ, culminating on Sunday morning with a

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STOP-IT recognized by FBI

by Erica Miller

The Salvation Army's STOP-IT program in the North & Central Illinois Division was recognized for its anti-trafficking efforts by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at its annual Director's Community Leadership Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award honors individuals and organizations for their extraordinary efforts in combating crime and violence and in strengthening communities across America.

"Our success as both a law enforcement and an intelligence agency hinges on our ability to foster and maintain genuine partnerships with people in all communities," FBI Director Christopher Wray told the honorees. "People like this year's Leadership Award recipients not only identify what others need, but they are willing to roll up their sleeves and pro-

vide services. They are building bridges and relationships while putting in the work to have hard conversations and find common purpose. They do it out of kindness and compassion with a sincere belief that justice—in its many forms—requires all of us to do the right thing in the right way."

STOP-IT is an anti-trafficking program in Chicago that works with survivors of both sex and labor trafficking regardless of age, sex and immigration status. It provides comprehensive, intensive case management to survivors in the northern half of Illinois (nine counties). As the local provider for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, it operates a 24/7 hotline.

The program's case management focuses on meeting participants where they are physically and mentally to ensure they receive quality services. The program gives them a choice



FBI Director Christopher Wray presents the leadership award to Erica Miller, STOP-IT assistant program manager.

about if and how they want to engage with the criminal justice system. STOP-IT co-leads the Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force, collaborating with local and federal law enforcement partners and prosecutors' offices to meet the needs of law enforcement and social services alike.

Recognized by the FBI Chicago Field Office, STOP-IT was awarded the Director's Community Leadership award because the program works and aligns with the mission of the FBI: to protect the American people and ensure survivors have a chance for empowerment and choice. During the ceremony, award recipients had the opportunity to network

and learn about the work that is being done in communities around the United States.

The International Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking is Sunday, September 22. See back page for ad and where to get more information.

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The new landscape of leadership

by Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings
Territorial Secretary for Personnel

In the fall of the year, I am reminded that things change. Summer has gone, and winter is not yet upon us. It is a season of change. There is excitement about what is to come, yet at the same time we lament what has gone. As it has been said many times, the only constant is change.

Leadership as we have known it over the years is changing. We are living in what some have called the most transformative times that have ever existed. Against this backdrop of unprecedented change, organizations that refuse to change produce leaders who are equipped to lead in a world that no longer exists. How-

ever, incredible opportunities exist for leaders who can navigate the emerging landscape.

In the article, "Five leadership shifts can unleash an era of sustainable, inclusive growth for companies looking to outperform in this era of disruption," Aaron De Smet, Arne Gast, Johanne Lavoie and Michael Lurie suggest there are five leadership shifts we should pay attention to in these changing times.

The first shift is from a mindset of preservation to a mindset of possibility. Rather than mourning what is lost in a changing world and preserving what we can of the past, we should give serious thought about



the possibilities that lie ahead. The past is important and should not simply be jettisoned for what is new. Our time-honored values can be applied to this changing world.

Second is a shift from being planners to architects. There is a subtle difference. Planning often is reliant on well-defined paths and values. Architecture reimagines what can be in a new landscape.

Third is a shift in how we organize ourselves. There is a move from energetic individual leadership to dynamic and collaborative partnerships.

Fourth is a shift in how we accomplish work. It moves from a mindset

of confidence to a mindset of discovery. The premise is that a leader or team can accomplish more through curiosity and rapid adaptation than predetermined certainty of the path to follow.

Lastly, there is a shift in how we show up. There has been an expectation of professionalism which is giving way to an expectation of leaders and teams who are fully human and who are their whole best self.

While change is inevitable, there are constants that will weather the test of time. Consider these three: 1) We will need leaders and teams who are sensitive to the Holy Spirit's guidance and direction in this changing world. 2) The love of the Lord is consistent and yet it is also new every morning. 3) God continues to equip leaders and teams for the work He calls us to do today, tomorrow and in the future.

The Thrift Express is on the move

You're visiting your favorite street market or outdoor vendor fair and come across racks of clothing lined up outside a remodeled vintage bus. Inside shoes and other items are on display. It feels like a mini boutique. A custom sign says the bus belongs to The Salvation Army. Workers assist shoppers with purchases as they share the work of the adult rehabilitation centers (ARCs) and The Salvation Army's mission. Welcome to the Thrift Express.

to support corps ministries, the Thrift Express is expanding its reach. According to Lt. Colonel Lee Ann Thompson, who leads the Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command with her husband Lt. Colonel Greg Thompson, the bus made its first non-Salvation Army event debut in May at the Urban Farmgirl Main Street Market in Rockford, Ill.

"Lt. Colonel Lee Ann mentioned in passing how it would be great to be there," said Ron McCormick, operations and transportation manager for the ARC Command. "I saw how well attended it was, so I sent in an application."

"It's a competitive venue," added Lt. Colonel Lee Ann. "Two hundred vendors come from all over the U.S. I've been going for a few years, and I just thought it would be great to get who we are and what we do out there. It's great exposure."

With a prime location right inside the entrance, the Thrift Express caught the attention of nearly everyone who came. During the event, more than \$4,000 in merchandise was sold, and all of the profits were returned to the Chicago and Rockford ARCs which provided the items and worked the event.

According to the lieutenant colonel, operating the Thrift Express is like having a second store for the day. And because appearances are planned months in advance, store managers are able to set aside select merchandise tailored to the specific event. For commissioning, uniform-friendly items fill the bus. For an outdoor market, sandals, floppy hats and the like are on display.

But the Thrift Express is about so much more than making sales.

"First and foremost, we always want people to know that there is hope and help at The Salvation



Army," said Lt. Colonel Lee Ann. "We always want them to know they can support addiction recovery services by shopping at our stores. The Thrift Express helps us do that."

An exciting new addition to the Thrift Express is coming this fall. The accessory trailer, a remodeled minibus, will be used for items like

hats, belts and bags, leaving more room on the Thrift Express for clothing and shoes. Be on the lookout for the Thrift Express and its accessory trailer at an event near you.

The Thrift Express will be making a second appearance at the Urban Farmgirl Main Street Market on September 14. Come out and see us!



Lt. Colonels Greg and Lee Ann Thompson with friends at the Urban Farmgirl Main Street Market.

After debuting in 2022 at Salvation Army events, including commissioning weekends and community events



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Hispanic retreat

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call to holiness.

Lt. Colonels Jonathan and Barbara Rich, NCI divisional leaders, supported the weekend and brought words of encouragement on Sunday morning.

"Spanish-speaking soldiers and friends comprise at least a third of the division...and growing," said Colonel Johnathan. "Barbara and I were thrilled to take part



in such a powerful moving of the Holy Spirit."

Indeed, as the weekend came to a close, the Holy Spirit's presence was undeniable as people lined the altar in prayer, sang and danced in the aisles, glorifying the Lord.

"God answered our prayers," said Captain Jessica. "The Holy Spirit was present in every session. Fifteen people expressed interest in officer-ship, and in every meeting souls met with the Lord at the altar. God is moving in the NCI Division."



The Mighty Krocs dive in

There's nothing quite like the feeling of diving headlong into a pool of clear, cool water, body streamlined for efficiency, and beginning the rhythmic strokes, kicks and breathing of a good, long swim. For many members of the Mighty Krocs Master's Swim Team, it's a feeling they never imagined they'd experience.



The Chicago Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center is giving adults who never learned to swim or didn't have access to a pool or lessons as children the opportunity to develop a rewarding new skill, to be part of a supportive team and to learn to love the water. It's a passion of coach Danny Prear.

"I love sharing my passion with others," he said. "I like to see people move forward. It brings a lot of joy to me."

A Chicago native, Danny learned to swim at his local park district, where he developed a love and respect of the water. He went on to swim competitively during high school and college. After many years at Chicago Park District aquatics and coaching water polo, he joined the Chicago Kroc Center as a swim and lifeguard instructor and coach more than a decade ago.

The Mighty Krocs team was formed in 2019 when some adults Danny had taught to swim expressed interest in competing; others

needed some encouragement. At the start, 80 percent of the team consisted of new swimmers.

"No matter what level of swimmer you are, there is a place for you on the team," said member Flo Gittens.

For some members of the team, barriers they faced as youth prevented them from learning to swim. Others developed fear of the water due to lack of exposure or a bad experience early on in life. But with Danny's encouragement and gentle coaching, they've gone from apprehension to confidence as they learned to float, work with the water instead of against it, and find their rhythm.

"It's about trust," said Danny. "We start with the basics, blowing bubbles and back floats, and they begin to feel comfortable in the water. Before they know it, they're swimming."

In the years since its inception, the team of 20 individuals has grown to include swimmers of all



ability levels, some who have competitive experience and others looking for a challenging workout or to hone their skills.

"The structure, the camaraderie and the variety are so much more as a team than you can do on your own," said team member Pat Rohan.

The team practices hard twice a week, and Danny says he often sees members working on their skills during off days, independently improving their technique or endurance in one or more of the major competition strokes: front crawl (also called freestyle), breaststroke, backstroke and the challenging butterfly stroke. The Mighty Krocs participate in swim meets all over the Midwest.



The Mighty Krocs warm up.

Sweet charity

by Merri Bennett

When Envoy Gregory Irwin got a phone call asking if The Salvation Army in Traverse City, Mich., wanted to help give away free ice cream to receive a \$10,000 donation, he didn't think twice.

"Some things you have to pray on," Irwin said. "I jokingly said, 'Let me think about it,' and then immediately said, 'Yes!'"

The donation was part of the annual Denali Moose Tracks Ice Cream 10,000 Scoop Challenge where charities chosen by the company receive a \$1 donation for each free scoop of ice cream they hand out.

This summer the company partnered with Mayfield Dairy Farms,

Hershey's Ice Cream, Country Fresh and Kemps to bring free ice cream to four U.S. cities, including Buffalo, N.Y., Boston, Mass., Tampa, Fla., and Traverse City.

"I still can't believe we were one of only four cities and charities chosen," the envoy said. "It really is an honor."

People of all ages lined up to wait for a free scoop of Country Fresh Original or Fresh Cherry Moose Tracks. The ice cream was served by celebrity scoopers including local radio and TV personalities, as well as city and county leaders including representatives from two well-known Traverse City-based grocery stores, Tom's Food Market and Oleson's Food Stores.

The Scoop Challenge has been a summer tradition since 2010. It has visited more than 50 cities and raised over \$500,000 to support vital community programs.

Caroline Winterheimer, creative director of Moose Tracks, said, "We have chosen The Salvation Army as one of our charities before because we know that every penny is going to the community. The Salvation Army is made up of wonderful and giving people who are truly 'Doing the Most Good.'"



An instant classic

The third annual Classic Car Show at the Willmar, Minn., Corps raised more than \$900 for corps programs.

"It's a way of getting everyone in the corps involved and the community involved; and we raise a bit of money to help families in need," said Captain Ron Felt, until recently Willmar corps officer.

The event took place in the corps parking lot and surrounding lots. An estimated 40 vehicles, ranging from a three-wheeled 1958 BMW Isetta to a 2012 Mustang GT, were on display.

Captain Ron presented the awards. The "Mayor's Favorite Award" went to a 1931 Ford Coupe. The "Captain's Choice Award" was given to a 1969 Chevrolet Camaro.

"Every program from the corps got involved with the show," Captain Ron recalled. "The men helped with setup and tear-down. The women's group was involved in a number of ways, including selling homemade crafts. The kids' group sold hot dogs, chips and drinks."

A number of vendors featured their wares. Guests could browse tables loaded with crafts and children's books and games. Plenty of treats were available including free popcorn, courtesy of a local gas station that donated the popcorn-maker.

A taco food truck was new this



Captain Ron Felt with Hayden Rouser, winner of the "Captain's Choice" trophy for his 1969 blue Chevrolet Camaro.

year. The company made a monetary donation to The Salvation Army and has offered to work with the Willmar Corps in feeding homeless community members.

"That was another great connection that was made through this year's car show," Captain Ron said proudly.

Businesses from the community donated prizes for those who were displaying cars including giving tickets to a local movie theater and to a local baseball team's games, and a free year of frozen custard at Culver's. The Family Promise agency's booth offered assistance to anyone facing being homeless.

Like last year, children from the corps painted wooden cars that were handed out as prizes to the

owners of the children's favorite cars.

In summer 2022, in the wake of the pandemic, the Willmar Corps initiated the car show as a way to bring the community together.



A wide variety of cars were on display at the show.

Hearts in alignment

While working as a dental hygienist, Marie Lewis could always tell when one of her patients was troubled.

"You're there with someone for 45 minutes to an hour. I would have a sense that something was wrong. I would try and problem solve and help with situations. My sister used to say I was a 'therapist' with my hand in people's mouths," Marie said through laughter.

But a calling to ministry had always been in the back of Marie's mind, even after 29 years as a hygienist.

And with God's guidance, her life

has changed completely. She is now a captain in The Salvation Army.

"You start on one path, and suddenly what you thought was impossible opens up," the captain said. "God's hand, His provision has always been there. He has walked me through all of this."

Captain Marie, who grew up in the suburbs of Milwaukee, has been a Christian since age 6.

"My walk with God has always been there; like most people sometimes stronger at times than other times," she said.

"I went through a lot of hardships," she said, recalling her days as a divorced mom with two young children to support. "But it drew me closer to God."

At one point, Marie's older brother, Dale, was at the College for Officer Training (CFOT) for a class he was taking at Indiana Wesleyan University. He called his sister to tell her he thought The Salvation Army might be the place for her.

"He said, 'You need to check these people out. Your heart and their hearts align,'"

the captain recalled.

She decided to look into the nearby corps in Waukesha, Wis. The corps officer, Major Carol Lemirand, came to Marie's house to answer a few questions, and they talked for three hours! Marie began attending worship at the corps and volunteering with the meal program. Soon, she was involved in other programs and activities. In May 2015 she became a soldier.

Not long after that, Marie was asked to be an administrator at the corps in Kenosha. She was thrilled.

"I knew I had been called for some kind of mission. My kids were grown and gone. My mom had passed away. There was nothing stopping me," Captain Marie said.

After serving as an administrator for two and a half years, she became an auxiliary captain and entered the Distance Learning Program with the CFOT. She then served in Marquette, Mich., before being appointed as associate officer at the Albert Lea, Minn., Corps in 2022, then as corps officer in 2023.

"I truly believe God puts us in various situations and circumstances to learn and grow and also to be there as a compassionate, understanding person," Captain Marie said.

Her days at the Albert Lea Corps are not only filled with managing the business side of things but preparing and giving sermons and devotionals, conducting programs like youth group and women's ministries, and helping clients in the food pantry and



Captain Marie with her sister, Cindy Sywyk, and Major Carol Lemirand at the Silver Star lunch

other things as needed.

All of her ministry is personal. Helping people to know God is always her main mission.

She concluded, "My hope is that I can continue to be an encouragement to people, a source of comfort and wisdom, leading them to God and showing them God's love in a tangible way."



Lt. Colonels Randall and Charlene Polsley, Northern divisional leaders, congratulate Captain Lewis at commissioning.



Assisting corps employee Kim Anderson pack a box of items from the food pantry



"A people and communities with an abundance of fruit, restored spaces, people needing and receiving the living water of Jesus, people knowing His healing and provision in their lives, and communities transformed as lives are changed."

by Captain Kelly Hanton

Commissioner Evie Diaz, territorial commander, shared this vision for our territory during Commissioning weekend. It focuses on spiritual renewal where individuals experience profound transformation through Jesus, and, as the Living Water continues to flow, has the ripple effect of collective renewal and flourishing communities.

John 7:38-39 (NIV) says, "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive."

We were asked to consider ways in which the Holy Spirit is calling us to participate in His Kingdom work. The image shown gives some examples.

To deepen our spiritual growth as a territory, consider the following questions:

- Have I experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life?

- How can I be more open to His transformative work in me?
- What areas in my life feel like the Dead Sea? Have I asked the Holy Spirit to flow through me, bringing healing, renewal and transformation?
- What commitment did I make during the commissioning weekend, or can I make today, to allow the Holy Spirit to flow more freely in my life like the river to the Dead Sea in Ezekiel 47?
- How can I ensure this commitment is a sustained, ongoing journey?

We believe the Holy Spirit is moving in The Salvation Army. He is at work in us. And He is doing a new thing. Let's pray to depend more on God, letting His Spirit transform us, and obey what He's calling us each to do.

Share what God is doing in your heart and life and how you're responding by emailing bearingfruit@usc.salvationarmy.org

Marching on

by Merri Bennett

From its early beginnings, The Salvation Army's brass bands have been an integral part of our ministry," said Grand Valley Area Commander Major Tim Meyer at the Grand Rapids Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., Band Concert earlier this year celebrating its 140th anniversary.

The alumni band, composed of 40 current and former members who came from across the U.S., played a concert of original Salvation Army musical scores and other selections. They ranged in age from 14, Calvin Bland, to 84, Major David Carr. It also included Jane Chase, who is the longest serving member of the band for 57 years!

Three generations of one family, Janelle and Steve McDonald, their son Timothy, and Janelle's father, Major Donald Lenz, were representative of the many multigenerational members through the years.

"The Salvation Army Brass Band



Calvin Bland, Major David Carr and Jane Chase

has given me a sense of purpose of what I want to do with my life," said Timothy McDonald. "It makes me proud of what we do as a family."

Prior to the concert, Curtis Britcher, a fifth-generation Salvationist, retired after having served as bandmaster since 1991, handed the baton to Chuck Warfel.

The celebration, which also included an open house highlighting corps ministries and a silent auction, was organized by then corps officers Major R.C. Duskin and Major Maureen Diffley.

TWC expands opportunities, helps worship leaders flourish

William Booth believed in utilizing music to reach the lost, express praise and worship the Lord. Using popular tavern tunes with new, God-honoring lyrics, encouraging the playing of instruments to gain attention at street meetings and writing his own hymns, the Founder set in motion The Salvation Army's rich history of harnessing the power of music in its mission to seek and save the lost.

Since 2018, Salvationists from across the Central Territory have joined together as part of the Territorial Worship Collective (TWC) to train, encourage, and practice in order to lead congregational worship in corps and at divisional and territorial events. It's an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in honing their music and worship leadership skills.



"The Territorial Worship Collective exists to enhance the worship experience in our whole territory," said Reggie Brooks, Jr., TWC leader. "We want to build an environment that is welcoming to all ages, distinguishes the value in all ages, and allows true and genuine worship for all ages. Praise and worship can be given from anyone who knows Jesus as their personal savior."

Recent changes to the TWC have expanded opportunities for aspiring and experienced worship leaders of all ages. Previously focused on developing soldier or adherent musicians ages 16-25, TWC is now open to those who are age 13 or older and show commitment to a corps through regular attendance and participation.

Two tracks are designed

to meet members where they are and encourage growth. Those under 18 and new worship leaders of any age can be part of the Emerging Leaders track, while those over 18 with experience can join the Leaders Track.

There is also an emphasis on increased participation by entire corps praise bands to hone and develop their unique talents and skills. At the same time, each member is added to a database from which they might be requested to participate in a praise team made up of members from several corps for divisional or territorial events, pending their corps officer's approval.



ally through newsletters, check-in calls and an annual retreat," Reggie said.

This year's retreat, themed "Authentic Worship," focused on John 4:23-24. Participants enjoyed a weekend of learning and spiritual growth where Captain Denesia Polusca, TWC chaplain, and special guest David Hudgens from The River Church delved into the meaning of authentic worship and leading worship authentically.



"Along with opportunities to lead worship, members of TWC are offered training to help them grow technically, in leadership and spiritu-

Applications for the new season open shortly. For more information visit samusiccentral.org/territorial-worship-collective



Under their wing

When 16-year-old Bella Hines says her prayers each night, she always has a heartfelt prayer for a junior soldier at her corps named Saphira Doten. Bella is Saphira's prayer partner.

In a new initiative at the Lakewood Temple, Minn., Corps, every junior soldier is paired with a slightly older senior soldier.

"We believe that these prayer partners will help connect with our young people in a meaningful and powerful way. We are excited about this journey," said corps officer Lt. Adam Hines, who leads at the corps with his wife, Lt. Amanda Hines.

The lieutenant said the initiative came about after discussions with Marian Henry, the junior soldier sergeant at the corps.

"We had some new senior soldiers enrolled. God just laid on my heart what an opportunity it is for them to take our junior soldiers—someone close to their age they could relate to—under their wing, and display His love. And it's good for the junior soldiers to know that these young adults are praying for them," Marian said.

Bella considers it an honor to pray for and with Saphira. Bella's younger brother James, 15, is the prayer partner for Saphira's brother, Lucas.

Jase Peaslee is another junior soldier at the Lakewood Corps. He has two prayer partners, college student Aidan Opland and Ehren Ruthenberg.

"At this point, honestly, it is about having an intentional life of prayer that can be shared with someone else. Instead of just saying we only come to our prayer partners when we have a need, we want to encourage them to pray with partners like Bella or James regularly; make it a discipline out of a calling, not out of obligation," Lt. Adam said.

Bella said she prays for Saphira throughout the day. The two girls don't have to meet in-person.

"It's a big responsibility. I am



Lt. Amanda Hines, new junior soldiers Lucas and Saphira Doten with parents Rachelle Setterstrom and Justin Doten and Lt. Adam Hines; flagbearers Aidan Opland and James Hines

praying for her; not just praying with her," Bella said. "It's nice having someone you know who is watching out for you."

At the junior soldiers' enrollment this spring, each soldier stepped up to the altar with his or her prayer partner.

"They all signed a prayer promise to pray with and for their partners, to be a good example of Christian living, to be a faithful friend and to show by example what it means to be a good Salvationist," Marian said.

What was most touching to Marian was that the families of the junior soldiers and the prayer partners—and anyone in the corps at the time—were all invited to the altar to surround the youth and pray over them.

Her voice broke with emotion as she recalled the moment.

"What an opportunity it is for our young people to know they have a responsibility to show God to these junior soldiers," she said.



Bella Hines and Saphira Doten

God's plans will surprise you

Abraham Marin never intended to live in the U.S., neither did he plan to marry an American girl. And he certainly didn't want to become an officer—which was prudent since it seemed highly unlikely as the self-described “black sheep” of his Salvationist family.

But sometimes God's plans will surprise you. And for Abraham, they encompassed all this and more, including eventually returning home to serve as an officer in Chile. Along the way, he's grown in his faith, learning to discern and obey God's leading.

By the summer of 2003, Abraham had gotten serious about his faith. And it was as part of an international mission team conducting Vacation Bible School for 140 children on the streets of Guayaquil, Ecuador, that he realized his calling.

“Sharing the Good News with them was rewarding,” he said, citing the turning point.



When an invitation was extended to work the next summer at Camp Tomahawk in West Virginia, he didn't hesitate. Again at an invitation, he returned to the U.S. in the winter, this time to help with the Kansas City Westport, Mo., Corps' Christmas efforts. Staying on as an intern, he led Bible study, was part of the day camp team, and preached among other things, all the time continuing to learn English until he was fluent.

“He was an absolute blessing,” said Major Dan Faundez. “We could see his passion for ministry outreach.”

And that's where he was when Leta Reppert walked into his life.

She'd just come home from a somewhat unfulfilling one-year job with an organization in Boliva and was looking to keep up her Spanish as she pursued her master's degree. When she spotted the corps' marquee in Spanish inviting people to worship and volunteer, it seemed providential. The warm welcome she received from the corps officers, then-Captains Dan and Wendy Faundez, was all the confirmation she needed.



Soon she was involved in corps programs and ministry, much of it alongside Abraham, who by then was laser-focused on becoming an officer. While they enjoyed each other's company, he'd become a man of single purpose and would not entertain dating her or anyone else as it might distract him from God's purpose. A mature Christian herself, Leta understood. By the time she was enrolled as a soldier in 2013, Abraham was a cadet at the College for Officer Training. But they kept in touch. And Leta's fulfillment in service continued to deepen. She realized her own calling to full-time ministry and headed to the training college the very next year. In 2015, they married.

After being commissioned, the Marins led two bilingual corps in Wisconsin and Illinois when again they felt the Holy Spirit's nudging to something more.

“Each of us had our own conviction to serve overseas,” Captain Leta said.

As well they wanted their son, Abraham, to experience living in another culture and come to better understand blessings and stewardship.

Open to going anywhere, they wondered where the Army might send them, perhaps India or Africa.

“But the place doesn't make us officers,” said Captain Leta. “We serve wherever we are.”

Last summer they were appointed to the South America West Territory, of all places, to their surprise and delight. By serving in Chile, their son would get to know his other set of grandparents!

At first appointed pro tem at the Divisional Headquarters and the Colegio Ejercito de Salvacion (elementary school) in Santiago, they more recently took up an appointment leading the Corps and Colegio William Booth (elementary and preschool) in Osorno, Chile, about 10 hours south of the nation's capital.

In this rural, agricultural area, the

Marins lead a corps which is active in worship, fellowship and service. They take meals to the homeless, have two home leagues, an active youth group, praise band, Bible study, and holiness meeting on Thursday evenings. In the summer they conducted a vacation Bible school, from which three new families joined the corps' Sunday worship.

The school is equally impressive with an enrollment of approximately 650 children (prekindergarten through eighth grades). While classes at the school are in Spanish, the students take English classes and—new this year—classes in Mapudungun, the local indigenous language. While Abraham and Leta have not learned much Mapudungun yet, they know enough to un-

derstand when people say “mari mari” (hello) when shopping at the local outdoor market. At the school Abraham plays an administrative role, while Leta is in charge of “Christian Action” (devotionals, special programs, etc.), but really they work as a team, both involved in the administrative and spiritual ministry.

While this has been a year of transition for the Marin family, they have settled into life and ministry in Chile.

“Even though it would seem like a lot would be different between the U.S. and Chile,” Captain Leta said, “people are really the same and God is the same, no matter what language you speak.”



The heartbeat of ministry

by Major Andrew Shiels

The joy that comes with being an officer lies with the unpredictability of ministry. Each day brings a different challenge or experience, along with different ways of learning and growing. Joy has come from the people I have had the pleasure of working with and witnessing God's transformative power in the lives of people He has entrusted me to minister to. It comes with seeing the community in which God has placed me come together to provide for those in need.

Nothing prepared me for how God was going to challenge me and provide joy more than our women's and family shelter. The world of sheltering individuals was not my specialty, giftedness or education. I'd had only one other appointment with shelter responsibilities. There was so much to learn and little time to make decisions, but I had a great social services staff. There were challenges yet so much joy in the sheltering ministry. To see smiles on our guests' faces when they reached their goals of permanent housing and getting a steady job is something I will always cherish. There were heartaches, tears, days of feeling defeated but also many blessings. I wouldn't change one thing. Joy comes from the Lord, as Romans 15:13 (NIV) tells us, “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”



As an officer I am always looking for the joy of the Lord in my ministry. I am grateful for the challenges that encourage me to grow in Him and the people who motivate me, challenge me, encourage me and allow me to play a part in building the Kingdom of God. There is joy in the small, often overlooked moments: the quiet prayer before a service, the spontaneous act of kindness, the laughter shared during a community gathering. These moments are the heartbeat of ministry. They are reminders that the work we do is not just about grand gestures but also about the simple, everyday acts of love and service that collectively make a significant impact.



To learn about becoming an officer, visit salarmycentral.org/candidates



KEEPERS OF THE Covenant

—JEREMIAH 31:33 • 2024-2026

Newly accepted candidates



Olyvia Shiels

Multi-generational Salvationist

Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps

North & Central Illinois Division

*Captains Chrissie and Enrique Coreano,
corps officers*

Spiritual Gifts

Serving ♦ Giving ♦ Teaching

Ministry Passion or Experience

Worship ♦ Missions

Spiritual Mentor

Lt. Chaslyn Landry (sister)



Logan Saydera

Multi-generational Salvationist

New Albany, Ind., Corps ♦ Indiana Division

Captains Kory and Heidi Strand, corps officers

*Majors Jonathan and Catherine Fitzgerald,
former corps officers*

Spiritual Gifts

Serving ♦ Teaching

Ministry Passion or Experience

Children / Youth ♦ Preaching / Teaching

Spiritual Mentors

Kelly Saydera (mother) ♦ Major Catherine Fitzgerald

Living as a warrior

by Major Abe Tamayo

I am one visit past the midway point in my cancer treatment. Fifteen of 28 visits—13 to go. Tomorrow I will receive my first hormone injection. I am well on the road to recovery. I'm even hopeful the hormones surging through my body will transform my appearance into a young Tom Selleck, but then no one would recognize me.

Following my treatment today I returned to the patient-changing area where a man sat reading a magazine. I entered the changing booth, exchanging the gown for my uniform. As I exited, the man looked up and said, "I thought I recognized you!" He'd seen me in the local news, realizing I am the Salvation Army major in town.

We talked of times past, vintage cars and the days of our youth. He shared his cancer diagnosis, seemingly at ease with his plight. In his 70s, he said, "At this age I worry little about such things."

I listened intently as his stated perspective gave way to genuine concern.

"You're a minister, right?" he asked.

"I am."

"I know there is a God," he continued, "but am not sure that I am good enough for Him."

"You don't have to be good enough," I said, explaining that forgiveness and restoration do not result from our efforts, only by our surrender. I told him there has been and only ever will be One who is "good enough."

I shared we've all failed before our birth; the sinful nature of humanity resulted from the foolish acts of our first parents. Their disobedience is the reason we were there; illness, death and discord all stem from the failure of man to obey his Creator. God is the author of life, not death.



He wants all people, before and after us, to live in peace with Him.

"Peace?" he asked quietly. "Aren't you worried at all about your cancer?"

I answered honestly, "I have no fear of dying. How I die may concern me, but no worries."

"How are you so sure?"

My answer was simple, straightforward: "Jesus."

We talked some more, prayed together and parted ways.

Since beginning this cancer journey, I've often been asked how I remain calm, in control and optimistic. Well, consider the alternative of living in fear, despair and hopelessness.

I choose to live as a warrior, not a worrier, as a victor, not a victim, trusting Him, who created me, to heal me in this life or the next.

We are glad to share this inspiring reflection by Major Tamayo, who we're happy to report completed radiation and injection treatments earlier this year, is doing well and continuing to serve the community in Fargo, N.D.

Long Service Awards

We salute the following officers on their service milestones.

25 Years

Major Elmer Gamble II
Major Michele Gamble
Major Laura Key
Major Ronald Key
Major Alex Lim
Major Chris Lim
Major Valerie Nance
Major Allen Otto
Major Pamela Otto
Major Anita Sells
Major Betty Yockey
Major Charles Yockey

30 Years

Colonel Philip Davisson
Colonel Sheila Davisson
Lt. Colonel Dan Jennings
Major Mike McKee
Major David Minks
Major Lynneta Poff
Major Clifford Scott
Major Yaneth Scott
Major Kris Wood
Major Mary Ann Wood
Major Steven Woodard

35 Years

Lt. Colonel Darlene Harvey
Lt. Colonel David Harvey
Major Charlotte Hall
Major Donna Leedom
Major Jason Pollom
Major Abran Tamayo
Major Ronda Tamayo
Major Tricia Taube
Major David Womack

40 Years

Commissioner Merle Heatwole
Commissioner Dawn Heatwole
Major Susan Anderson
Major Gary Felton
Major Beverly Gates
Major Mark Litherland
Major Cindy Strickler
Major Carla Voeller
Major Alan Wurtz

45 Years

Lt. Colonel Patty Richardson
Major Robert Doliber



Collaboration's the thing

The essential support of marketing communications

by Patricia Sims

The Marketing Communications team of the Territorial Community Relations and Development Department recognizes the positive impact training and education have on the performance of the field (divisional and local level). They work collaboratively with National Headquarters to provide a variety of valuable behind-the-scenes support to the divisions, to protect the reputation of The Salvation Army, and to assist with implementation of national campaigns and messaging. Working closely with other U.S. territories, they identify opportunities and potential threats that could affect the organization.

"The world is always changing, and we have to adapt and pivot," said Senior Director of Marketing Communications Brandi Meiner. "My team has a birds-eye view of what's taking place across The Salvation Army and monitors the public's perception about us. This information is crucial to the divisional communication leads, and we try to provide them with the tools to be successful."

Territorial Headquarters (THQ) facilitates monthly virtual meetings with divisional communications leads

to share challenges and successes and to brainstorm new ideas.

"We're always learning and growing together," said Brandi. "My team exists to provide guidance and support, and to identify when it's necessary to bring in other departments or resources to help the field... This can include offering highly specialized educational sessions, like the recent media training."

Although many officers have experience with public speaking, the media landscape has changed significantly. With online news, journalists must produce a higher volume of material faster. Unfortunately, accuracy and providing two sides to a story often fall by the wayside. This has been a double-edged sword for The Salvation Army.

"It's not unusual for an online newspaper to share a press release we provided in its entirety because they're always looking for fresh content. But that also means that officers must be ready to participate in interviews with little notice—especially during a crisis," said Brandi. "It can be challenging for us to locate officers who are comfortable answering questions in real time, so we needed to turn that around. If we don't respond quickly, we might lose the opportunity to communicate our position or provide important, clarifying details."

As a result, a formal media training opportunity was hosted by THQ in April—the first in several years—and led by LERMA/, The Salvation Army's national advertising agency. It was designed to help 32 officers throughout the territory prepare for local, divisional and potentially

national media appearances.

The training included a classroom style presentation and mock interviews with feedback. LERMA/ covered best practices surrounding interviews, Zoom calls, how to predict media questions, avoid common traps, and deliver key messages. Equally important, they learned how to steer a conversation back on track if the media tries to take it off course.

"Our long-term goal is to grow the pool of officers throughout the Central Territory who can rapidly and confidently respond to interview requests. Our hope is to offer it on an annual basis and open it up to more officers and staff members," said Brandi.

The Marketing Communications team also oversees branding, digital fundraising, email marketing, website development, social media and public relations. Their efforts play a crucial role in attracting sponsors and volunteers, maintaining strong donor relationships, educating the public about our services, and encouraging people to have a relationship with Christ.

Given this large scope, THQ hosts



Media relations specialists from LERMA/ provide training on incorporating key Salvation Army messages into interviews.

an annual marketing communications meeting to review these topics in depth with divisional communication leads and their staff. This year's meeting in July was comprised of internal speakers and service providers who presented information, shared updates and answered questions. It's a good networking and fellowship opportunity, too.

Brandi concluded, "Through our collective experience, everyone will expand their knowledge base and gain a deeper understanding of The Salvation Army's role in the communities we serve... Unity is strength; collaboration is power."



Major Marc Johnson participates in mock interview and receives feedback.



Experts from LERMA/ provide media training to officers.

Central hosts international POH visit

by Linda Brinker

The Territorial Social Services Department hosted an inaugural International Pathway of Hope (POH) meeting which was designed to enhance collaboration efforts with countries that are implementing and exploring POH.

The Central Territory welcomed colleagues from Canada, Norway and Australia for the weeklong event focused on providing presentations and discussions on building a strong integrated ministry through the POH model, assessing outcomes and community impact, and effective fundraising efforts to support service delivery.

Informative site visits were coordinated to provide opportunities to learn from officers and caseworkers involved in the handling of day-to-day POH services that were representative of the diverse communities where POH is being implemented, including the Oshkosh, Wis., Corps, Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps, Chicago Irving Park Corps and the Chicago Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. Each team shared their learning regarding teamwork, pastoral care, individualized family interventions and community collaboration with a focus on the unique holistic approach offered at their site.

Pamela Church-Pryor, Norridge community ministries director, shared about the connections made through the corps' parenting class, which was started as a way for POH families, past and present, to form a larger support group.

"We have 25-30 parents in attendance every week," she said. "The children attend our youth activities and divisional summer camps and many attend our Sunday services."

One of the most amazing things is that we have a very diverse group of families. Pathway of Hope and the parenting class have greatly contributed to the growth and overall life of the corps."

The Norway and Australia teams also participated in the THQ chapel service and led presentations that included information on social services offered in their countries. Although the representatives from the Australia Territory attended to gain further insights regarding POH, they left with the intention of establishing a pilot project with select locations within their territory.

The consultation confirmed the shared values and commitments to the mission of The Salvation Army and that the POH model is one that can be replicated within differing cultures and countries. The teams were truly inspired by POH international implementation and intend to continue to meet regularly to enhance POH engagement and outcomes around the world.



Territorial Social Services Department staff with colleagues from Canada, Norway and Australia

A two-front battle for Western Division

Tornado outbreaks prompt ongoing responses in Nebraska and Iowa

by Daisy Hutzell-Rodman

An unprecedented severe weather season began for the Western Division on Friday, April 26. That day, an outbreak of 24 tornadoes occurred in Nebraska and southwest Iowa over a period of just six hours. The National Weather Service categorized five of the twisters as EF-3s (with estimated wind speeds be-

Minden, Iowa, and also one that rolled past Crescent, Iowa, that evening.

By 4:30 p.m. that same day emergency disaster services (EDS) teams rushed out to help survivors and first responders across a 60-mile-wide corridor bridging eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. Hundreds of homes and businesses had been damaged or destroyed within that

area. The next morning, EDS teams arrived in Minden, Iowa, 30 miles northeast of Omaha, bringing food, bottled water and cleaning supplies to the heavily damaged town in which three people had been injured and one person killed. At the same time, another EDS team was preparing a

west Omaha disaster relief center to distribute much-needed supplies to storm-impacted individuals and families.

The response and initial recovery phases lasted several weeks. During that time, Western Division teams provided meals, drinks and snacks, as well as direct financial assistance, household supplies, and emotional and spiritual care. Divisional social services personnel set up shop at an Omaha bank, providing a central location for survivors to come for casework and direct financial assistance.

Support poured in from around the Central Territory, with representatives and materials from the North and Central Illinois, Midland, Northern, and Wisconsin/Upper Michigan divisions arriving in the wake of the storms. National Com-



Surveying damage and beginning cleanup in the Blair, Neb., area.

mander Commissioner Kenneth G. Hodder flew into Omaha and visited storm-impacted areas nearby and met and prayed with affected families.

Relief efforts were still underway when on the afternoon of May 21 another severe weather system rumbled across the division. The town of Greenfield, Iowa, bore the brunt of the impact when a category EF-4 tornado tore through the community of 2,000, leaving 35 people injured and four dead. Early the next morning, a Des Moines-based EDS team came from 60 miles away to provide food and hydration. A mix of Des Moines- and Omaha-based EDS groups went on to provide daily feeding over the ensuing fortnight via canteens to the most heavily damaged parts of Greenfield.

As of early June, between the combined EDS operations in eastern Nebraska-western Iowa and Greenfield, teams had served 16,545 drinks, 10,726 meals, and 11,480 snacks to those impacted by the storms. Long-term recovery efforts started in the Omaha metro area in late May and got underway in Greenfield shortly thereafter.

The Western Division is committed to continuing its efforts to help all storm-impacted communities for as long as needed.



An emergency disaster services team hits the streets of Greenfield, Iowa, to distribute food in the wake of the tornado.

tween 136-165 miles per hour), including one that ravaged the communities of Elkhorn, Bennington and Blair, Neb., one that struck



Commissioner Hodder prays with a Blair, Neb.-area homeowner whose property was heavily damaged by tornado outbreak.



A Western Division emergency disaster services team distributes food and hydration to Omaha firefighters the night of the April 26, 2024, tornadoes.

A Moment in Time



In the wake of catastrophe

by Nanci Gasiel

On June 9, 1972, a sudden and severe storm hit Rapid City, S.D., dumping 10-15 inches of rain on an already saturated area. Creeks and rivers swelled, and three dams failed, creating widespread flooding strong enough to sweep cars off the road and pile them on top of one another like fallen dominoes. By 5:00 the next morning, 12 hours after the storm began, it was all over, but the storm had left massive destruction with hundreds of buildings destroyed, over 3,000 people injured, and 238 dead, including Salvation Army officer Major G. William Medley who died rescuing a child near the Canyon Lake Dam at the time of its failure.

Two years earlier, in 1970, The Salvation Army had become an official federal emergency relief agency. This means that when a national dis-

aster is declared The Salvation Army has the full resources of the federal government at its disposal. This includes military resources, manpower and equipment, food from government agencies, access to government buildings, housing, and more. Each agency has its assigned role during an emergency. The Salvation Army emergency disaster services' (EDS) role is to provide food service, emotional and spiritual care, donations management, social services, recovery, and training.

The photo pictured here not only shows the full power of the emergency relief agency designation but demonstrates a commitment to partnering with communities in the aftermath of disasters. EDS provides hope and support to people in the wake of catastrophe. The canteen truck, shown rolling out of a United States Air Force Douglas C-124 Globemaster



II cargo plane, was one of five canteens air lifted from Chicago and St. Louis for relief after the storm that hit Rapid City. During peak service these trucks joined local and regional canteens, in addition to private vehicles, to form a 31-vehicle fleet that served over 20,000 meals per day. Additionally, EDS was tasked with clothing, drinking water, and sanitation and cleaning supplies distribu-

tion to Rapid City area residents.

September is National Preparedness Month, a good time to prepare and plan for the unexpected. Learn how to prepare with information and resources from the Federal Emergency Management Agency at www.ready.gov. And if you're interested in learning more about EDS and possibly serving, visit edscentral.org.

A perfect 10!

TYB & TYC celebrate a decade of music and ministry

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Territorial Youth Band (TYB) and Chorus (TYC). And there is plenty of reason to celebrate. Over the last decade these dynamic music groups have helped Salvationist musicians, ages 13-25, sharpen their skills, grow in their faith, and strengthen their service and the music ministry in corps throughout the territory.

Members of the TYB and TYC come from different backgrounds. Some live in large cities, others come from tiny farm towns. While the demographics vary, each person is unique and their talent is valued.

"We want everyone to realize they each have a voice...you might not be a solo voice, but you are an important part," said Matt Woods, TYC director.

Both TYB and TYC meet each spring for intense rehearsals and performance. Some years they also perform during commissioning weekend in June.

"When we all come together after being away for a year, it's like nothing has changed when you see the 'family' that we have created together," said TYB and TYC member Amanda Curry, a soldier at the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps.

Jordania Pook, a soldier at the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps, who is in her first year with the TYC and TYB, said she also likes the sense of community.

"There are so many talented singers and artists that I have been able to get closer to and learn from," Jordania said. "Being surrounded by a group of

faithful, kind and creative teens and young adults allows me to grow as a person and as a musician."

Since the TYB has grown significantly, especially in the last three years, musicians have been divided into two groups to enable more participation and a repertoire that accentuates each group's strengths and allows for more challenging music for advanced players.

Celebration Brass, which currently has 24 members, presents a



Beth Malovance rehearses the Celebration Brass.



Bandmaster Brett Tolcher gives a lesson during the Celebration Brass weekend at THQ.



Members of the TYB/TYC enjoy the famous cherry blossoms in Washington D.C.



Celebration Brass rehearsing at THQ

wide range of music genres including mambo, brass band, contemporary praise, and percussion features. Triumph Brass, which currently has 35 members, performs everything from classical and jazz to devotional music and even a number in an African style.

TYC explores a wide variety of music genres from contemporary praise and worship to gospel hymn settings and more.

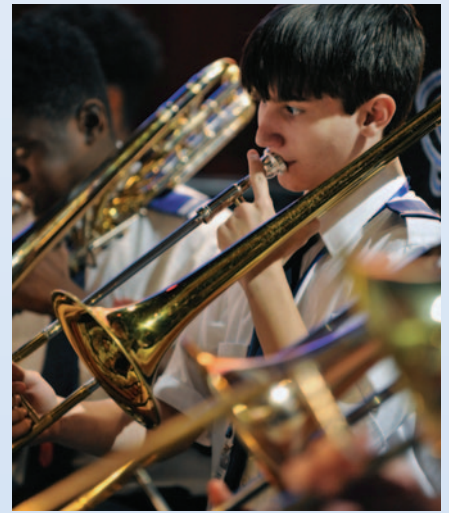
"Music is an important form of worship," stressed Matt.

"A group of people singing the same melody and lyrics together can have

wider implications on society," he said. "People talk about entering an old cathedral considered to be a sacred site, and they feel that heaven is just a bit closer. We can also dwell in a musical space—singing words that are life-giving—and make heaven almost tangible."

Joe Caddy, who led TYC from its beginning through 2023, recalled its initial meeting at Wonderland Camp in late February 2014.

"I remember that cold and snowy weekend," Joe recalled. "We knew what we were doing was something significant for the people there and the long-term ministry of the territory."



Celebration Brass trombone section



The Triumph Brass solo cornet row at Commissioning 2023



Matt Woods rehearses the Territorial Youth Chorus in Washington D.C.

The Salvation Army

PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

October Prayer Calendar

The Territorial Youth Chorus sings at Commissioning 2023

The TYB and TYC were meant to be a bridge of sorts for youth between the musical programs designed for young children and adults. Joe added that there is also a direct link to the Central Territorial Staff Songsters (CTSS) which began in 2019. Ten of the CTSS members are veterans of the TYC.

"We knew the TYC was good for youth development and discipleship, but that there were adults out there who would also relish the opportunity to sing together and would appreciate the fellowship," Joe said.

TYB and TYC leaders take a scaffolding approach so that the skills members learn can be taken back to their corps to expand and enrich musical programs there, according to Beth Malovance, bandmaster for the Celebration Brass.

"Instill in them additional spiritual and skill-based training, and they can take all of these experiences and knowledge back to their corps and continue to develop and build excellence—make music flourish at every single corps and in every division," Beth said.

"Our goal is to provide ministry opportunities for young artists," said Tom Hanton, who until recently was the bandmaster for the Triumph Brass. "We are trying to foster and encourage growth within their corps as we continue to sharpen their skills. We want them to continue their faith walk and their musical journey."

This spring Triumph Brass and TYC performed in the Washington, D.C., area at an elementary school, a soldiers' rally and two corps. The only disappointment of the trip was a concert that was cancelled in front of the Lincoln Memorial due to rain.

Meanwhile, the Celebration Brass participated in a full and rewarding weekend of training and rehearsals at Territorial Headquarters and then played at the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps.

"One thing I took from our weekend is being much more confident. Usually, I play second at my corps, but I played first during that weekend," said Nyakuar, who is from the Lincoln, Neb., Corps and plays cornet in Celebration Brass. "And it felt like I had known the band members for a while.



The Triumph Brass horn section



A member of the percussion section of the Triumph Brass

It's not all the time you get to play with musicians from other states!"

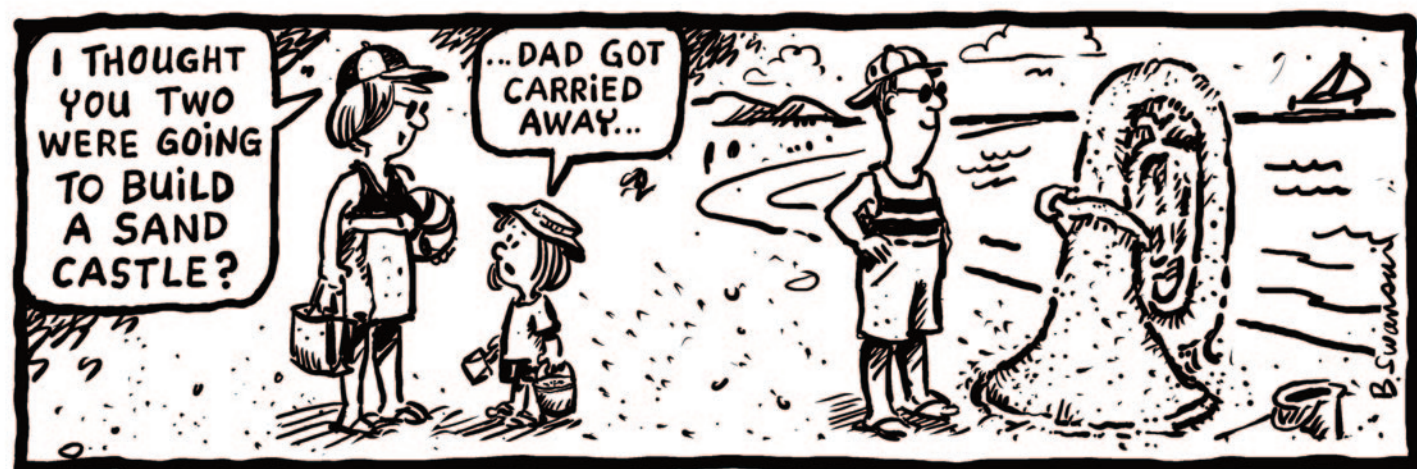
"Kids will go back to their corps, and they are enthused," Matt said. "They will use these skills at other activities like youth councils and summer camps. We want them to go back and be more excited about The Salvation Army and the church."

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

1 Tuesday	<i>Numbers 22-24</i>	Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center
2 Wednesday	<i>2 Chronicles 11-15</i>	Columbus, Ind., Corps
3 Thursday	<i>Psalms 117-118</i>	New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa Territory
4 Friday	<i>Proverbs 28</i>	Minneapolis, Minn., Harbor Light
5 Saturday	<i>Jonah</i>	Pontiac, Ill., 360 Life Center
6 Sunday	<i>Acts 3-4</i>	Des Plaines, Ill., Corps
7 Monday	<i>Hebrews 5-7</i>	Huntington, Ind., Corps
8 Tuesday	<i>Numbers 25-27</i>	India Western Territory
9 Wednesday	<i>2 Chronicles 16-20</i>	Rapid City, S.D., Black Hills Area Coordinator
10 Thursday	<i>Psalms 119</i>	Grand Rapids Fulton Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps
11 Friday	<i>Proverbs 29-30</i>	Rochester, Minn., Corps
12 Saturday	<i>Micah</i>	Porter County, Ind., Corps
13 Sunday	<i>Acts 5-6</i>	Jackson, Mich., Corps
14 Monday	<i>Hebrews 8-10</i>	Character-Building Ministries
15 Tuesday	<i>Numbers 28-30</i>	Kansas City, Mo., ARC
16 Wednesday	<i>2 Chronicles 21-24</i>	Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands Territory
17 Thursday	<i>Psalms 120-121</i>	Lawrence, Kan., Corps
18 Friday	<i>Proverbs 31</i>	Kenosha, Wis., Corps
19 Saturday	<i>Nahum</i>	Rockford, Ill., Winnebago Area Coordinator
20 Sunday	<i>Acts 7-8</i>	Kansas City, Mo., ARC
21 Monday	<i>Hebrews 11-13</i>	Springfield, Mo., Corps
22 Tuesday	<i>Numbers 31-33</i>	Marinette, Wis., Corps
23 Wednesday	<i>2 Chronicles 25-28</i>	Minneapolis, Minn., ARC
24 Thursday	<i>Psalms 122-124</i>	Zambia Territory
25 Friday	<i>Ecclesiastes 1-2</i>	Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps
26 Saturday	<i>Habakkuk</i>	Newton, Kan., Red Shield Center
27 Sunday	<i>Acts 9-10</i>	Plymouth, Mich., Corps
28 Monday	<i>James 1-3</i>	Streator, Ill., 360 Life Center
29 Tuesday	<i>Numbers 34-36</i>	Holland, Mich., Corps
30 Wednesday	<i>2 Chronicles 29-32</i>	South America East Territory
31 Thursday	<i>Psalms 125-127</i>	Warren, Mich., Corps

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

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

--Mustard Seeds--

Partnering in the Congo

One word was all it took for team leader Stephanie Marinelli to describe the recent territorial Global Mission Team's (GMT) experience in the Republic of the Congo—"joyful."

"We were all very moved by the joy from the people there," she recalled. "It was a place of a lot of hardship, but in spite of that, the people were joyful. It's something that is not dependent on circumstances. It's something from God that permeates through those hard things in life."

Lt. Scott Smith added, "It gave us the opportunity to see that material things, possessions and money are not what bring joy. It was truly humbling. I get emotional about it. It is something I will always remember."

The mission team worked on two construction projects in the city of



Lt. Scott Smith repairs a windowpane at the Yenge Social Institute.

Brazzaville at residential facilities at the Salvation Army's Yenge Social Institute and at the Loua Primary School and compound, where the divisional commander's quarters needed painting and roof repairs.

Work included tearing down both roofs and ceilings, sanding, painting and patching holes in concrete.

"I don't think I have ever sweat that much in my whole life," said Major Michael Sjogren. "But knowing what we were working toward made it all worthwhile."

"We were covered from head to toe with sediment that was in those ceilings," Lt. Scott remembered. "It never seemed like hard work to us though. We were doing what needed to be done. The time passed quickly."

Mission team members also included Lt. Melissa Bledsoe, Captain Janelle Cleaveland, Ellen Janson, Lt. John-Rene Kiangebeni and Carlos Moran. Whether they were gifted in language skills, good at public speaking or photography, or were just extremely prepared, every team member was uniquely qualified to be part of the team.

Worship on the group's first Sunday was at the Mougali Central Corps which has a songster brigade of 150 adults and a singing company of 75. "We thought that might be one of the largest Salvation Army singing groups in the world," Stephanie said.

On the second Sunday, the team worshipped at the Poto Poto Corps, where Captain Janelle preached.

"I preached on Pentecost and the power of the Holy Spirit. The Salvation Army is Holy Spirit-driven," she said.

Captain Janelle said many people in the Congo recognize the faith aspect of The Salvation Army.

"Everywhere we went, they would salute us and say, 'Alleluia,'" she said.

The people of the Congo were very hospitable, Stephanie said.

"Hospitality is very important to them. We were hosted very well," she said. "Many people took time out of their day to spend with us."



Teaming up for a painting project



Waiting to board the plane after a layover on the way to the Republic of the Congo.

We had lovely conversations. We were also inspired by their faith."

According to Stephanie, GMTs continue to bring Salvationists around the world closer.

"With GMT, you see partnership in action, like joining with our family in Congo Brazzaville. They are our family because we are all part of the family of God," she said. "Before, I knew Congo Brazzaville was our Partner in Mission. But now it's these faces; faces of people I know."

Promoted to Glory

Major H. William Hurula

Major H. William (Bill) Hurula, 84, was promoted to Glory on June 10, 2024. Bill was an exemplary soldier who lived on a mission for God. He is remembered for his encouragement, warmth, gratitude, and commitment to others. He frequently commented that family was his greatest blessing.

Bill was born on July 18, 1940, to Henry and Irma Hurula. He graduated from high school in 1958 and enlisted in the U.S. Army. After completing his military service, Bill married Donna Larkins. They entered the School for Officers' Training in 1964 and were commissioned in 1966.

For more than 40 years, Bill served in a variety of pastoral and executive roles primarily across the Midwest. He retired in 2006 from National Headquarters as finance secretary. In retirement, he worked for the Western Territory Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command.

Bill earned an undergraduate degree in business from Park College and an MBA from Olivet Nazarene University.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Betty Donaldson and brother, Master Sergeant John Hurula, U.S.A.F. He is survived by his wife, Major Donna; children, Scott (Karen); Jodi (Steve) Kissler; DJ (Becky); seven grandchildren; sisters Kathy (Roy) Baietto and Paulette Oates; foster brother Milton (Marilyn) Hagerstrand; and sister-in-law Floss (Butch) Johnson.

Major Sandra Gorton

Major Sandra Gorton was promoted to Glory on June 27, 2024. Sandy loved people and was a gifted preacher, teacher and storyteller. She enjoyed playing piano and engaging in children's ministries.

Sandy was born on May 10, 1938, in Milwaukee, Wis., to Dorothy and Elmer Frank. After graduating from high school, she earned her bachelor's degree in special education from the University of Wisconsin. She met Ron Gorton at the Milwaukee Temple Corps, where she had just become a soldier. They married in 1961.

The Gortons entered the School for Officers' Training in 1962 and were sent to lead the West Plains, Mo., Corps as cadet-lieutenants in 1963. They were commissioned in 1964. They served in corps appointments throughout the Midwest until retiring in 2003.

After retirement, Sandy continued to minister at the St. Petersburg, Fla., Corps, where she served as corps secretary and as chaplain of women's ministries. She was a treasured presence at her assisted living facility.

Sandy is survived by her husband, Ron; children, Major David (Major Miriam), Mark (Becky), Wendy (John) Hill, Major Dawn (Major David) Worthy, and Tim (Mary); 18 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; sister Audrey (Dave) Olsen; brother Dennis (Sue) Falk.

Let
my people
GO

2024 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
FOR VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY
AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2024

'Afterwards Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go...'"

EXODUS 5:1 NIV

INTERNATIONAL
SOCIAL JUSTICE
COMMISSION

