



25 YEARS AFTER 9/11 WE REMEMBER

BY BRAD ROWLAND

Never forget.

In the days, months, and years after the attacks of September 11, 2001, that two-word phrase became a shorthand reminder to those who lived through a time of great uncertainty, challenge, anguish, and loss. Now, 25 years later, approximately 100 million Americans are thought to be too young to have any tangible memory of the day, putting even greater emphasis on the "never forget" mantra to help those that witnessed its events pass along their significance and legacy to those who did not.

On that tragic day, nearly 3,000 people lost their lives, with countless more suffering long-lasting physical injury and emotional turmoil. However, September 11, 2001, also stands as a reminder of the innate goodness of humankind, with stories of true bravery, the ability for people to come together, and the power of the collective memory to inform the future.

The Salvation Army was one of the first emergency disaster relief organizations on site in New York after planes struck the two towers of the World Trade Center. In fact, The Salvation Army arrived at what was quickly known as Ground Zero less than one hour after the first airplane strike. As the day unfolded, The Salvation Army also responded quickly near Shanksville, Pennsylvania after the crash of United Flight 93 and at the Pentagon after the crash of American Airlines Flight 77 in Arlington, Virginia.

All told, more than 39,000 Salvation Army officers, volunteers, and staff served more than three million meals in the months that followed. Beyond meeting physical needs, Salvation Army personnel provided emotional and spiritual care counseling and support to thousands of rescue and recovery personnel, as well as impacted families and other first responders. Approximately \$90 million was donated by the public over the course of the months-long response, empowering The Salvation Army to compassionately serve in His name without discrimination.

While many naturally associate The Salvation Army's response heavily with Ground Zero and what became an eight-month effort called "Operation: Compassion Under Fire," the USA Southern Territory's central response effort took place at the Pentagon. With more than 7,000 officers and staff serving in New York, many from the Southern Territory were deployed to the region, but the Pentagon response was led by what was then the National Capital & Virginia (NCV) Division.

Captain Melvin Welch, then of the Montgomery County (Maryland) Corps, played a vital role in The Salvation Army's initial response at the Pentagon, though it may seem simple in retrospect.

"When we got down to the Pentagon, Salvation Army officer Melvin Welch already had his canteen sitting on the lawn of the south side of that building, which eventually is where the fence went up," recalls Bernie Dake, territorial communications director and a first responder for The Salvation Army at the Pentagon.

"We had to be within a hundred feet of the building," says Lt. Colonel William Crabson, the then divisional commander of the NCV Division. "And there was the wherewithal to take the keys away from the canteen so that it couldn't be moved. That firmly set up and established our presence."

Lt. Colonel Crabson officially led the response effort in the region, but Major Todd Smith, NCV's general secretary at the time, was, as described by Lt. Colonel Crabson, the "eyes and ears of the operation." In addition, Major Gene Hogg, then the area commander in Norfolk, Virginia, was tasked as the site commander as well as the liaison with United States government officials and other non-profit agencies.

Dake, who was in between career opportunities in September 2001, was in the region and received a call from Major Smith that held what at first seemed like a simple question: "What are you doing right now?" Not yet aware of what had taken place, Dake was slightly confused when Major Smith told him, "I need you to turn your truck around and go pick up as much water as you can at BJ's on Little River Turnpike and meet me at the corps." Dake says he replied, "'What? Why?' He said, 'A plane just hit the Pentagon'... There was just a resolute feeling that The Salvation Army is going to serve."



The Pentagon was one of several locations hit during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

Photos courtesy the Southern Territorial Historical Center



Salvation Army officers, volunteers, and emergency disaster personnel immediately began working to meet the needs of survivors and those serving in the aftermath of the attack on the Pentagon.



The Salvation Army arrived on the scene soon after the attack on the Pentagon. This is the view from the on-site canteen providing immediate assistance to first responders and survivors.

In the coming days, The Salvation Army would feed at five distinct locations near the Pentagon, including at an area organized by the U.S. Department of Defense for impacted families. The Salvation Army's major (and officially appointed) roles were broadly twofold. One was to set up what

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Centennial Celebration: *A Time for Covenant Renewal*

BY KRISTIN MUDGE

Commissioning weekend each year is a special time to come together as a territory to honor and celebrate the brand-new lieutenants of The Salvation Army as they publicly commit to their officers' covenant and step into a life of ministry. Next year's Centennial Celebration provides an additional opportunity for the entire territory to participate — officers, soldiers, and junior soldiers alike.

Not only will we be celebrating the past 100 years of official service in the South and rejoicing with the new officers of the Proclaimers of Transformation session for the future, but the entire territory will be invited to examine our present, remember our calling as Salvationists, and recommit to our covenants and mission.

On Saturday morning at the Centennial, General Lyndon Buckingham, the international leader of The Salvation Army, will challenge the Southern Territory to remain faithful to the Word of God in spite of a culture calling for watered-down Christianity and diluted faith.

"The values of the world today call for a more liberal Army," Lt. Colonel Allan Hofer, territorial program secretary, explains. "This is a good moment for us to come together and say, 'We are not going to move away from our beliefs in Scripture.' It's a time of renewal to say we will stand firm on the Word of God as the Southern Territory, come what may."

In a world more and more willing to set aside theological basics in an effort to accept and normalize false "truths," Salvation Army leadership are calling for Salvationists to stand firm on the Bible and the promises we have made with our great God.

"It really is about us being faithful to the Lord and faithful to His Word, faithful to our God-given covenants. Being faithful to our mission, a God-given mission to The Salvation Army, as we look to Him for help, to guide us, to lead us," Lt. Colonel Hofer continues. "It's a time of reconsecrating ourselves corporately but also individually."

The Southern Territory will be invited to recommit to upholding the Word of God as truth, to the foundational beliefs of Salvationism, and to the mission of our movement in this broken world.

"I'd like to call it a convocation, rather than just a celebration," Lt. Colonel Hofer says. "We're making a convocation, asking the people to be emissaries going across the land, across the territory, calling the people together to Atlanta so that we may celebrate the Lord, renew our vows, and rededicate ourselves for the mission."

The Centennial Celebration, "All For Jesus," will be held June 4-6, 2027, at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, with Territorial Active Officers Councils and exciting pre-events in the days before. Visit usscentennial.org for more information.

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ALL FOR JESUS

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

JUNE 4-6, 2027

@ THE GEORGIA WORLD CONGRESS CENTER

TERRITORIAL ACTIVE OFFICERS COUNCILS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2027

EXCITING PRE-EVENTS

Including Spotlight, Bible Bowl, and Community Engagement Opportunities

STARTING THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2027

Prayer Works! *A 24/7 Prayer Testimony*

BY EDEL ALVARADO,
PROGRAM MANAGER FOR THE
TEXAS DIVISIONAL CORRECTIONAL
MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

I began my 30-minute commitment for the 24/7 Prayer initiative by allowing time for praise and thanksgiving to God for His provisions, protection, faithfulness, and healing of the mind, body, and soul. There is so much anger in society today, resulting in serious mental and emotional distress. I asked God for transformation and healing for those we serve in the community, as well as those we serve behind bars, so they will open their hearts and invite Jesus in.

I included personal prayers for my burdens, family ties, friends, co-workers, spiritual growth, and unity in this country. For various reasons, we allow ourselves to grow so far apart from each other, and before we realize it, we can lose connection alto-

gether. I am so thankful that God never disconnects from us. May we be mindful of the words we speak, and when we unintentionally offend others, may we apologize with sincerity. As believers, we are called to extend forgiveness, humility, and reconciliation. Then we can gracefully call each other brothers and sisters in Christ.

On July 16, I was concerned about a donor's well-being because we had not heard from him. We lifted up a prayer specifically for him, and the very next day, we received two donation checks on his behalf. This was a clear and immediate answer to our prayers. I love God's timing!

This prayer participation reinforced the power of collective intercession for me. Just knowing that my prayers connected seamlessly

with the prayers before and after me created a sense of spiritual momentum and unity. The experience strengthened my personal discipline, connected me with God's presence, and highlighted how even brief moments of intentional prayer can produce significant outcomes. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this initiative — prayer works!

24/7 PRAYER	DIVISION/COMMAND	TIME ALLOTTED	FIRST DAY	FINAL DAY
	KT	5 weeks	August 30, 2026	October 3, 2026
	EBC	1 week	October 4, 2026	October 10, 2026
	FL	6 weeks	October 11, 2026	November 21, 2026
	ARC (1)	2 weeks	November 22, 2026	December 5, 2026
	THQ	2 weeks	December 6, 2026	December 19, 2026
	ARC (2)	2 weeks	December 20, 2026	January 2, 2027
	NSC	7 weeks	January 3, 2027	February 20, 2027
	AOK	4 weeks	February 21, 2027	March 20, 2027
	GA	4 weeks	March 21, 2027	April 17, 2027
	PMC	7 weeks	April 18, 2027	June 5, 2027



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The Salvation Army Responds to Flooding in Central and South Texas

BY DANIELLE MCCOLLOSTER

Widespread and life-threatening flash flooding impacted communities across Central and South Texas in mid-July. Days of heavy rainfall in the area as well as upriver on the Guadalupe, Pedernales, Nueces, Frio, and Leona Rivers submerged and destroyed roads, forced evacuations, and prompted hundreds of rescue operations. Texas Governor Greg Abbott declared a major disaster for 28 counties, and The Salvation Army immediately began to serve.

For the two weeks following the flooding, Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) teams served thousands of survivors across Kerr, Uvalde, and Zavala counties, providing meals, hydration, relief supplies, and emotional and spiritual care. As immediate response efforts drew to a close, local communities entered the early stages of recovery, with Disaster Assistance Centers (DACs) opening throughout the affected areas to connect survivors with available resources and recovery information.

According to damage assessments verified by the Texas Division of Emergency Management, more than 2,000 homes were affected by the flooding disaster, including 476 homes that sustained major damage and 41 homes that were completely destroyed. Throughout the response, The Salvation Army's emotional and spiritual care teams walked alongside survivors, first responders, and volunteers, providing compassionate support to over 1,000 individuals, offering prayer for those navigating loss, uncertainty, and the challenges of recovery.

Lieutenant Corina Stegall, emotional and spiritual care officer, recounts some of her experiences with survivors: "I had one gentleman who came through one of our feeding sites. He told me he had fought in Vietnam, and his father had served in World War II," Lieutenant Stegall says. "He told me with everything that recently happened, he felt alone and insignificant with no one to help him. I told him that God sees him where he is, He loves him, and he matters. He allowed me to pray for him and after I was done, he had tears in his eyes and was so thankful that The Salvation Army was there to serve him that warm meal and to encourage him."

Lieutenant Stegall also recalls how at a Crystal City feeding site the community came alongside The Salvation Army to serve. "There were so many young teens that had taken time from their Saturday to help others. The mayor was there giving a speech, but after he was done, I asked if I could pray for all of them," Lieutenant Stegall recounts. "My heart was truly touched to see people come together to share compassion, hope, and love for each other. I just kept thinking, 'This is what the body of Christ is supposed to look like.'"



(Above & below) The community of Crystal City came together to support each other by volunteering to feed their neighbors alongside The Salvation Army EDS teams.



(Above, below, & right) EDS teams and volunteers provided food and emotional and spiritual support to victims and survivors of the massive flooding in and around their city.



Throughout the response, The Salvation Army served a total of 18,705 meals, 18,326 drinks, 12,245 snacks, and made 1,299 emotional and spiritual care contacts. Additionally, EDS teams distributed thousands of relief supplies to flood survivors across the affected area.

The Salvation Army will continue working alongside local service units, corps officers, community partners, and government agencies to assess ongoing needs and participate in stakeholder recovery meetings focused on potential long-term recovery assistance.



In a community still reeling from the devastating July 4 flooding of last year, volunteers helped distribute water and cleanup supplies to those impacted by the current disaster.

The Justice Calling

The Hope of Justice



BY MAJOR SANDRA PAWAR

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain..." (Revelation 21:4).

I don't know how you feel when you wake up in the morning and read the headlines, watch the news, or listen to the stories of people around you, but I know that I often find myself overwhelmed with sorrow. When I look at our world, I see war, poverty, human trafficking, displacement, racism, loneliness, and countless other forms of suffering. I meet people whose dignity has been diminished and whose voices have been ignored. At times, the scale of injustice in our world leaves me asking difficult questions: Is anything really changing? Will justice ever come?

Do you ever feel the same way?

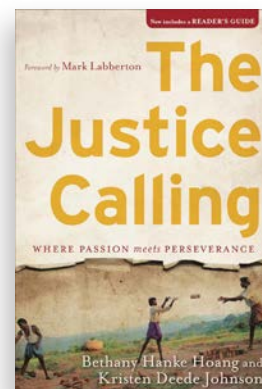
Thankfully, Scripture does not ignore these questions. Instead, it points us toward hope.

The Christian story does not end with brokenness; it ends with restoration. Revelation 21 paints a beautiful picture of God's future where He dwells with His people and makes all things new. Every wound will be healed, every injustice addressed, and every tear wiped away. The hope of justice is not wishful thinking or naïve optimism; it is grounded in the promises and character of God.

This hope is essential because the pursuit of justice can be difficult and exhausting. Those who stand alongside vulnerable people often encounter setbacks, resistance, and disappointment. Change rarely happens as quickly as we would like. Yet, Romans 8 reminds us that all creation is groaning as it waits for redemption. We live in the tension between what Christ has already accomplished and what He has promised to complete. We see glimpses of His Kingdom, but we still long for its fullness.

In "The Justice Calling," Bethany Hanke Hoang reminds us that justice is not simply another ministry activity; justice flows from the very heart of God. We pursue justice because God is just. We seek restoration because God is restoring all things. Hoang challenges us

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to see justice not as an optional add-on to our faith, but as a natural expression of discipleship and worship.

This perspective changes how we respond to the brokenness around us. Rather than acting from guilt, frustration, or a sense that we must fix every problem ourselves, we act from hope. We recognize that the burden of redeeming the world does not rest on our shoulders. That work belongs to God. Our calling is to faithfully participate in what He is already doing.

And hope does not make us passive; biblical hope inspires action.

Because we believe God will one day establish perfect justice, we work for justice today. Because every person bears the image of God, we advocate for dignity, belonging, and compassion. Because we trust that God sees every act of faithfulness, we continue serving even when the results seem small.

Hope enables perseverance.

The volunteer who visits an isolated senior, the Salvationist who advocates for survivors of trafficking, the corps member who welcomes newcomers and refugees into community, the officer who faithfully serves a struggling neighborhood — these acts may never make headlines, but they are signs of God's Kingdom breaking into the present world.

As followers of Jesus, we hold together present action and future hope. We work for justice because God's Kingdom has already begun, and we persevere because we know His Kingdom will one day be fully realized. Every act of compassion, advocacy, hospitality, and mercy becomes a glimpse of the world to come.

One day, Christ will return and make all things right. Until then, we continue to pray, serve, speak, and love. Not because we are certain of immediate success, but because we are certain of God's ultimate victory.

The hope of justice is this: God has not forgotten His creation. He has not abandoned those who suffer. He is making all things new.

And until that day comes, may we join in His work with courage, faith, perseverance, and hope.

Love in Action: Sumter, South Carolina

FROM THE SUMTER CORPS

The Salvation Army of Sumter, South Carolina, was delighted to host a special Women and Men Tea Party on Wednesday, April 29, bringing together more than 50 attendees of all ages for a meaningful evening filled with faith, fellowship, creativity, and joy.

This Love in Action program was graciously hosted by senior soldier Ms. Luann Oxendine Holliday, who also shared an inspiring devotional centered on Psalm 23:5, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over." Her message beautifully reminded attendees that just as a tea table is prepared with care, God lovingly prepares a place for us, offering provision, welcome, fellowship, and abundant blessings.

Guests enjoyed a delightful experience featuring a variety of teas, fresh fruit, finger sandwiches, and sweet fellowship around the table. The event also included a creative hands-on activity, where the ladies designed elegant fascinators, or head ornaments, while the men crafted stylish boutonnieres, adding a glamorous and special touch of fun and creativity to the evening.

Corps Officer Captain Rebecca Sullivan shares that this event was designed to bring people together in the name of Jesus within the corps and throughout the community. There was plenty of laughter, friendship, and fellowship as guests gathered not only to enjoy the evening, but also to strengthen community connections and bring awareness throughout Sumter.

"Luann did an amazing ministry through this beautiful program, and God truly smiled on her efforts," Captain Sullivan says, expressing



Photos from Captain Rebecca Sullivan

her heartfelt appreciation for Ms. Holliday. "I am so thankful for her dedication and commitment to bringing us together for this amazing event."

The atmosphere was warm, welcoming, and filled with laughter, conversation, and meaningful connections. From the youngest guests to the oldest attendees, everyone enjoyed their moments together.

This special gathering was a beautiful reminder of the importance of community, hospitality, and the overflowing blessings God pours into our lives when we come together in fellowship.

Service Unit Given Permanent Home Through Anonymous Donation

BY ERIC SHORT

For more than 12 years, The Salvation Army Service Unit in Dyer County, Tennessee, has served neighbors in need from a rented space. Entirely volunteer-led, the service unit has faithfully provided meals, food assistance, utility support, help for children and seniors, and hope to families facing difficult seasons.

Now, through an extraordinary act of Christian generosity, that ministry is preparing to enter a new chapter.

A local church in Dyersburg recently donated three buildings, encompassing nearly an entire block, to The Salvation Army in Dyer County. The church, which asked to remain anonymous, made the gift in the spirit of Matthew 6:1-4, seeking not recognition, but the glory of God and the continued care of people in need.

The donation will provide the service unit with something it has never had before: a permanent home.

"I've been asked several times what this donation means to us, and honestly, I still struggle to find the right words," says Lisa Chesney, service unit chair for Dyer County. "We are a 100-percent volunteer-run organization. Every meal served, every utility bill paid, every food box distributed, every child helped, every senior assisted, and every family given hope has been made possible because people in this community cared enough to give."

Each year, the service unit has paid nearly \$40,000 in rent, funds that could otherwise be used to directly serve individuals and families in need. With this donation, those resources can now be redirected toward mission.

"Every dollar that went toward rent was a dollar that couldn't be used to help someone in need," Chesney says. "That's going to change."

The donated properties will allow The Salvation Army to significantly expand its footprint and capacity in Dyer County. Plans call for the current thrift store to move into one of the buildings, giving the operation more room to serve families and generate support for local

programs. Another building will house administrative and social services offices. The largest building will be renovated into a full commercial kitchen to support the service unit's feeding program.

Sarah Moore, service unit director for The Salvation Army Kentucky-Tennessee (KT) Division, says the gift represents a transformational step forward for the Army's work in Dyer County. "A permanent location gives our volunteers the stability, space, and flexibility they need to serve more effectively. It opens the door for expanded food assistance programs, stronger social services, and greater long-term impact in the community."

For Chesney, the buildings are not simply structures; they are a vision of what God can do through faithful stewardship and willing hearts.

"When I roll through these buildings, I don't see empty classrooms or a sanctuary. I see possibilities," Chesney says. "I see a larger soup kitchen where we have the space we need for storage, supplies, and serving our neighbors. I see a thrift store with room to better serve families who are trying to make ends meet. I see a community garden. I see space for programs and services we have dreamed about but simply haven't had the room to provide. Most of all, I see lives being changed."

The service unit is currently in the planning and renovation phase. Chesney says the goal is to have the property become fully operational over the next six to twelve months, as renovations and planning allow.

"There is a great deal of work ahead of us, and we've waited a long time for this opportunity," she says. "We want to do it right. Our focus is on creating a place that will serve Dyer County well for decades to come."

Major Philip Canning, general secretary for the KT Division, says the gift is a powerful example of the Body of Christ working together to meet human need in Jesus' name. "We are deeply grateful for this generous and faithful gift. Though the donors have chosen to remain anonymous, their act of obedience and

compassion will be seen for years to come in the lives changed through this ministry. This is more than a donation of property; it is an investment in the Kingdom and in the people of Dyer County."

The anonymous donors entrusted The Salvation Army with the property after seeing the good work being done by the service unit and its volunteers. Rather than selling the buildings, they chose to place them in the hands of an organization committed to serving vulnerable neighbors throughout the community.

"The elders didn't simply donate buildings and property," Chesney says. "They entrusted us with a legacy of serving God and serving others. That is an incredible honor and an enormous responsibility."

That responsibility is not lost on the volunteers and leaders who have carried the work of The Salvation Army in Dyer County for more than a decade.

"As someone who has the privilege of serving as the executive director on paper, but who is also just another volunteer, I can tell you there isn't a single volunteer, board member, or donor who takes this gift for granted," Chesney says. "We understand what has been given to us."

As renovations begin and plans take shape, the service unit's promise is simple. "We will be good stewards of this gift," Chesney says. "We will continue to love our neighbors, feed the hungry, help those facing difficult times, and make sure these buildings remain a place where people are treated with love, compassion, and respect."

For The Salvation Army in Dyer County, this gift is not only about meeting today's needs. It is about preparing for years of ministry still to come.

"I truly believe this gift will impact generations of families long after every one of us is gone," Chesney says. "There aren't many opportunities in life to be part of something that will outlive you. This is one of them."



OPEN OUR EYES

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed."
PROVERBS 31:8 NLT

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

**2026 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
FOR VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY
AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING**





The Salvation Army was given responsibility for establishing "Camp Unity," a support area for the nearly 7,000 volunteers, responders, and military personnel, while also overseeing food preparation operations at the Pentagon.

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was colloquially known as "Camp Unity," which was a support area for nearly 7,000 volunteer responders and military personnel. The second was being responsible for all food preparation at the Pentagon, which meant being able to serve nearly 7,000 people for each meal.

Major Hogg had previous disaster experience responding to the tragic Oklahoma City bombing, helping to make him what Lt. Colonel Crabson describes as "the perfect person" to coordinate the effort.

"He knew something on this scale," Lt. Colonel Crabson says. "Gene knew exactly what to do. He was unrelenting in care for the people and really establishing a presence for the Army." With protocols changing on a daily, or even hourly, basis, Major Hogg was charged with navigating difficult terrain, particularly among government agencies and other non-profit responders.

Beyond the coordination and food preparation, The Salvation Army offered immediate emotional and spiritual care to those who had been inside the Pentagon at the time of the attack, as well as for those who were searching through the rubble and families seeking answers and comfort. Salvation Army support teams also offered practical support including changes of clothes for rescue and recovery workers, as well as prepaid phone cards for military personnel and workers needing to contact loved ones.

"I also remember two religious services on the Pentagon site that first Sunday with a central tent as the backdrop," Lt. Colonel Crabson recalls. "One was a Roman Catholic service, and the other was The Salvation Army. I was privileged to speak that morning, and the Arlington

Corps Band provided music and served in various capacities."

Away from the Pentagon site, the Arlington, Virginia Corps became what Lt. Colonel Crabson describes as the "nerve center" for the Army. Salvation Army units were permitted to be open around the Washington, D.C. area, despite mandated closures, and many staging efforts and logistical operations centered on the nearby corps. As part of the fallout, occupancy in local hotels dropped to five percent or lower, leaving many local citizens indirectly affected with a drop in available work.

"I went on television with a local affiliate and just made an announcement that for everyone in the hospitality industry and others indirectly affected, we were also here to help," Lt. Colonel Crabson says. "My staff was going crazy toward me, but they made it all happen."

Within just days of the initial response, meetings were underway with plans for 12-24-month service that included case management. The Salvation Army assisted more than 17,000 survivors and their families around the Pentagon, including many through long-term recovery.

Work continued in Virginia, New York, and Pennsylvania, but The Salvation Army, including various units from the Southern Territory, also sprang into action elsewhere. Airports across the nation were shut down for days, meaning a heavy focus was on the NCV Division to mobilize resources at the Pentagon. They were soon flanked by the Maryland-West Virginia Division and representatives from the Eastern Territory, but other Salvation Army units supported other options. That included the deployment of a 53-foot field kitchen from the Florida Division to serve at Ground Zero.

"One thing that people forget about The Salvation Army is that, yes, we served in New York. But we served in Washington. We served in Pennsylvania. We also served in places like Canada," says Jeff Jelleets, territorial emergency disaster services director. "There were hundreds of flights that were diverted, and everything was grounded. So, wherever people were stranded, The Salvation Army was stepping up to serve those folks who couldn't get home."

The Salvation Army's service in Canada was later immortalized in a musical production titled, "Come from Away." After the terrorist attacks, 38 planes were suddenly diverted to the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, with more than 6,000 stranded passengers in immediate need of care, support, and shelter. The Salvation Army stepped in to help fill that void, offering food, supplies, compassion, and spiritual care.

Memories and stories from the response effort indelibly reverberate through any individual who served alongside brothers and sisters from The Salvation Army and other responding agencies. "I realized in the moment that's the part of the ministry I want to be involved in," Dake says. "Meeting human needs. That is our mission statement, and we do it in the name of Jesus unapologetically."

"I think we learned so much from the response," notes Jelleets. "The trust in the shield of The Salvation Army has been built up over generations, and it's something that we should never take for granted. We have to protect it, because it does allow us entry. It opens doors."

"If you served at any of these sites," Jelleets continues, "you did not leave the same person that you were before the events of September 11."



Local corps became staging sites and central hubs for supplies and donations in the days and weeks following the attacks.



Then National Commander Commissioner John Busby speaks with reporters during The Salvation Army's September 11 response efforts at the Pentagon.



Salvation Army leadership and personnel worked closely with government agencies and other non-profit responders to provide care following the attack on the Pentagon.



As recovery crews worked amid the heavily damaged section of the Pentagon, The Salvation Army provided meals, supplies, and emotional and spiritual support to first responders, military personnel, and affected families.



In the days that followed, The Salvation Army received a great deal of recognition for its efforts, though that is never what inspires officers, soldiers, adherents, and volunteers to act. "We're doing it because we're compelled to do it," Dake says. "God's love compels us to do this work. And what a privilege to serve as part of an organization like that."

Lt. Colonel Crabson shares that the "responsiveness of the Army" is still among the biggest standouts in his mind 25 years later. "Our officers knew almost intuitively what to do," he says. "Their eagerness, their willingness, the hours they put in, the sensitivity to people... I was endlessly proud of the officers and all the men and women who helped to navigate it all. They set everything aside and gave themselves over with compassion to the work. It was very, very impressive."

The September 11 response remains The Salvation Army's largest mobilization of services in the United States, and on its 25th anniversary, it is ever more important to remember what transpired. Part of that memory is assigned to those who were lost, those who were served, and those who were serving. Another part, however, should be assigned to ensure that those in the present and future "never forget" the impact.

"On the morning of September 11, The Salvation Army was on the scene in New York before the clouds of dust even settled, meeting very practical needs," Commissioner John Busby, the then National Commander, wrote shortly after the emergency response came to its initial conclusion. "Water for the thirsty. Food for the hungry. Rest and encouragement for those weary on the front lines of America's recovery. What was done in New York was done as well at the

Pentagon, in the hills of western Pennsylvania, and for stranded travelers across the land. It is done every day in the lives of uncounted people throughout society. Meeting the needs of the hungry and the hurting is central to our mission. It is what we do, because of who we are, because of Whom we serve."



Local Salvation Army musicians provide musical support during a press conference in front of the damaged Pentagon.



The Arlington Corps band provided musical reinforcement during a worship service on-site at the Pentagon for recovery personnel and volunteers.

Delegates Learn to Reverberate for Christ at TMI

BY BRAD ROWLAND

In late July, more than 250 delegates and staff convened for the 2026 edition of The Salvation Army's Southern Territorial Music Institute (TMI) at Asbury University. The eight-day camp centered on the theme "Reverberate" with a focus on 1 John 3:18, "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

Delegates navigate a busy and intensive schedule at TMI, allowing for a concentrated pursuit of artistic excellence. At the same time, spiritual formation is also key throughout the week, and that emphasis was clear from the institute's opening day on Sunday, July 26. Commissioners Kelly and Donna Igleheart, territorial leaders, joined the institute at its outset, challenging the delegates to focus on the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom above all.

"Encourage each other. Make new friends. Listen carefully to when TMI speaks to you," said Territorial Commander Commissioner Kelly Igleheart. "Key moments will happen away from the classroom, so listen to Him this week. God may kindle, or rekindle, a passion in you... May this week be a week of great growth, artistic excellence, and spiritual formation in Jesus Christ."

TMI delegates participated in several classes each day while also forming ensembles that performed during the week. "Major" class offerings included four brass bands, four worship teams, three theater classes, two dance classes, and tracks in visual arts, piano, and theater production. TMI also included four choirs and four adult leadership tracks (instrumental, creative arts, worship team, and choral), each of which met daily. Those classes were flanked by a wide range of elective offerings intended to allow delegates to expand their horizons, including brass pedagogy, vocal technique, percussion, choreography, life skills, videography, photography, and more.

Steve Carter, a best-selling author, personal coach, and teaching pastor at Forest City Church, served as the special guest for TMI's "Morning Manna" devotions each day. Carter shared from 1 John throughout the week, centering on "Reverberate" as the theme with citations and examples on how a movement can spread and have far-reaching impact for the Kingdom.

"You have to have an experience. You have to have an encounter," Carter said. "You have to do those things before they can reverberate or echo through your life. Some of us don't yet have that experience with Jesus Christ... But you simply must have that encounter for Him to echo through your life."

Wednesday morning's devotional time was particularly memorable, featuring a powerful time of response and commitment. Carter spoke on avoiding the hiding, shame, and fear that can lead people down the wrong pathway, but also encouraged delegates that "nothing will ever change [the fact that] you are considered a child of God."

"Steve Carter was a master communicator, bringing an engaging scriptural message each morning," notes Nick Simmons-Smith, territorial music and creative arts education secretary. "He also skillfully referenced the history of The Salvation Army throughout the week, as well as events the previous evening or even that same morning to tie things together."

Each year, the TMI faculty includes dedicated leaders from around the Southern Territory, including divisional music and creative arts directors. This year's staff also included Pip Hannevik (brass), Ed and Kellyn Mylechreest (creative arts), and Shalini Danielson (worship team) as special guests from each discipline.

Each day's full schedule concluded with an evening program that brought the delegates and staff back together as a collective. This



Photo Credits: Jon Avery



included Tuesday's Solo Night, a Wednesday "preview concert" that showcased each band, worship team, and choir, Thursday's special guest performance from Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar, and Friday's Creative Arts Final Production.

McLaughlin also held an optional, yet well-attended, masterclass prior to the concert that left a clear impact. Masterclass attendees performed alongside the group during the concert, and even though it was a concert setting, a time of powerful and memorable worship emerged.

Friday's Creative Arts Final Production included ministry in dance, theater, spoken word, musical theater, visual arts, and a combined finale from the full creative arts cast of the week. The

evening centered on the week's theme verse of 1 John 3:18 and sought to answer the question, "What does love look like when it is lived?"

Bethany Farrell, territorial creative arts director, encouraged audience members to see themselves in the words of the verse and challenged that the evening should not be just a performance, but rather "an invitation to remember whose you are and who you are called to be."

The final event of the week, a two-part concert featuring each major class on Saturday, August 1, was preceded by a morning worship service. Colonel Brian Saunders, territorial chief secretary, encouraged the assembled young people to pour into their corps when they returned home.



"Love is a verb. In fact, love is an action verb," Colonel Saunders said. "I want to encourage you to remember that. It's what reverberation is all about. Everything we do needs to be with love, sharing God's love with those around us. Let our love and what God has given us reverberate through our lives, not just today but also when we get home and back in our communities."

Later, Carter invited delegates to "fight against the temptation and the noise. Make the decision; decide to follow Jesus. Let the love of God wash over any doubt. Don't miss this moment to receive what God has for you."

The service concluded with a stirring time of response, with young people dedicating their lives to Christ for the first time or reaffirming their commitments to Him. Josh Powell, territorial contemporary music specialist, led a worshipful singing of the hymn "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" that echoed through the halls of Asbury University's Hughes Auditorium in a powerful way.

*Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.*

"I am so proud of our young people," Simmons-Smith says. "Time and time again, I would see ad hoc groups of young people praying, unprompted. Sometimes, these were young men who embraced each other and prayed out loud for one another. For me, the instant and genuine response to the Holy Spirit was a mark of TMI 2026."

The two-part final concert concluded TMI, the delegates sharing their offerings with the Lord while also showcasing their artistic growth over the period of one short week. Each choir, band, and worship team honored the Lord with its collective testimony, and the performance of "Wena Moyo (He is Alive)" from the Ditmer Men's Chorus will not soon be forgotten.

"TMI 2026 was another exceptional year with a strong spiritual emphasis and artistic excellence in every discipline," Simmons-Smith says. "I really think we should be very proud of TMI. Not only do we offer a diverse collection of classes and experiences, TMI represents a level of excellence on par with any Salvation Army music camp. The level of spiritual depth and response from the students gives me great hope for the future."

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Brigadier Georgia Wyatt

Brigadier Georgia Wyatt was Promoted to Glory on July 17, 2026, at the age of 96. She was the last surviving brigadier of the Southern Territory.

Georgia Wyonia Wilson was born on March 7, 1930, in Winthrop, AR, to parents George and Florine Wilson. She accepted Christ as her Savior at the Orange Corps in Texas on July 2, 1943.

Georgia was employed as a secretary prior to her admission to the Evangline Booth College as a member of the *Peacemakers* session of cadets, from which she was commissioned as a Salvation Army officer on May 23, 1949.

Her first appointment was to Okmulgee, OK, followed by a post in Oklahoma City. She went on to serve on the staff at Territorial Headquarters in the Finance Department, as divisional youth officer in Oklahoma City, as education officer at the training college, then back to THQ as secretary to the Chief Secretary.

Brigadier Georgia married Brigadier Basil Wyatt on November 6, 1976. Together they served in the Alabama-Louisiana-Mississippi Division (she as League of Mercy secretary). The Brigadiers Wyatt entered honored retirement on June 1, 1985. Brigadier Georgia served 36 years in faithful service as a Salvation Army officer.

Brigadier Georgia was a woman of unwavering faith, boundless compassion, and remarkable strength whose life reflected her deep love for God, her family, and her community. She devoted herself wholeheartedly to serving others, leaving a legacy of kindness, grace, and steadfast commitment that will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Brigadier Georgia Wyatt is preceded in death by her husband, Brigadier Basil Wyatt; a son, Daniel Wyatt; three siblings, Virgil Wilson, George Wilson, and Edna Mae Hansen; as well as one niece, Donna Patillo.

She is survived by two sons, Stephen (Gloria) Wyatt, and Thomas (Adele) Wyatt; one daughter-in-law, Ruth Wyatt; five grandchildren; four nephews; and one niece.



PROMOTED TO GLORY

Major Terry Edwards

Major Terry Edwards was Promoted to Glory from his home in Graham, NC, on July 27, 2026. He was 78.

Terry Wesley Edwards was born in Mount Airy, NC, on September 22, 1947, to his parents, Lonnie and Dovie Edwards. As a teenager, a friend invited him to The Salvation Army where he was later converted to Christ in April 1965.

On February 10, 1968, he married Linda Robertson. He worked at a textile and cloth plant before taking the position of director of The Salvation Army's Children's Home in Sum-



ter, SC. He was commissioned with the rank of lieutenant on June 13, 1971, as a member of the *Victorious* session of cadets.

His first appointment was as assistant corps officer in Burlington, NC. He spent his entire career as a faithful corps officer in the North & South Carolina Division, with posts in Shelton Laurel, Conway, Orangeburg, Salisbury, New Bern, Durham, Sumter, Elizabeth City, Burlington, Mount Airy, High Point, Wilson, and Easley. Majors Terry and Linda Edwards retired from active officership on July 1, 2010, after 41 years of pastoral service.

Major Terry Edwards is preceded in death by his parents; as well as a sister, Linda Akers; and brother, Donald (Teresa) Akers.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Major Linda Edwards; three children, Terry D. Edwards, Tamee (Terry) Penley, and Brian Edwards; three sisters, Shelia (Richard) Durham, Connie (Rodney) Glidewell, Wanda Akers; one brother, Doug Akers; and an extended family member, Howard Tate. He also leaves seven grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

PROMOTED TO GLORY

Major Anna Laeger

Major Anna Laeger, 82, was Promoted to Glory on August 8, 2026, from the Kate B. Reynold's Hospice Home in Winston-Salem, NC.

Anna Marie Strickland was born on January 9, 1944, in New Bern, NC, to parents Ransom Roscoe and Annie Bell Strickland. One of eight children, she started attending the New Bern Corps at age six. Shortly thereafter, she accepted Jesus as her Savior and was enrolled as a Junior Soldier. As a naturally gifted musician from a young age, she participated in the corps band and songsters, as well as her high school choir and a girls' trio group.

In 1964, she entered the Evangeline Booth College in Atlanta as a member of the *Defenders of the Faith* session of cadets. It was there that she met the love of her life, Cadet David Laeger. They married in 1967, a year after completing training, and stayed faithfully devoted to one another for their nearly 60 years together. During their career as Salvation Army officers, they ministered throughout the Southern Territory as well as in Mexico City. Both were fluent in Spanish, and their ministry among Hispanic communities was a staple of each appointment in which they served.

The Majors Laeger often sang duets together, further fulfilling her deep desire to witness for Jesus "every chance I get and tell others of His love and care for them!" During her 33 years of officership, and even long afterwards in retirement, she did just that.

Major Anna Laeger is preceded in death by her parents and several siblings, Maebette Hildred, Jimmie (Judy) Strickland, Charles (April) Strickland, Judy Strickland, and Bobbie (Wendy) Strickland.

She is survived by her husband, Major David Laeger, four children, ten grandchildren, and two siblings.



The Importance of Remembering



BY KRISTIN MUDGE

Remembering is important for many reasons.

We remember consequences so we don't keep making the same mistakes.

We remember pain so we can celebrate healing and wholeness.

We remember through grief so that we never forget love.

We remember the darkness in order to marvel in the beauty of the light.

We remember the history of God's goodness so we can trust in His faithfulness for the future.

For those of us around age 30 and older, we remember where we were and what we were doing on September 11, 2001. I was in my fifth-grade morning math class in Texas when I heard someone mention the World Trade Center for the first time. I had no idea what they were talking about, but I knew it was bad that a plane had crashed into it. We continued on with our day, but everyone was distracted and distressed.

After school, I went with my friend to her parents' gas station where we watched footage of the unfolding disaster on the tiny TV mounted in the corner of the room. I didn't really understand any of it, but every customer that came in just stopped and stared at the TV with us. Everyone was quiet and sad, devastated for complete strangers across the country. A current of empathy and sorrow ran through our town, tinged with anger and fear. But it mostly felt like grief and loss. I had never felt particularly patriotic, but on that day, I was an American, standing with my

fellow countrymen in our disbelief and sadness.

The further we get from tragedy, the more important it is to remember why those moments matter.

In Texas history, we "Remember the Alamo," not just as a catchy thing to declare, but because the men and women who died there stood for freedom and community, giving their lives because they believed in a better future for their families. It's been almost 200 years, but it still brings Texans a sense of pride and unity.

We remember 9/11 not simply because our nation was attacked, but because that heart-breaking day brought us all together, united in sorrow, love, and anguish. After 25 years, perhaps some of the shock has faded, but the warmth of community and the feeling of patriotism endure.

I remember my mother, not just because she is gone, but because she lived, leaving a beautiful legacy of faith and love. The seven years I've spent without her feel like forever and just a day all at once — less sharp, but no less poignant for the time elapsed.

Today, while my body is in pain, I remember the blessing of all the yesterdays when I lived and moved pain-free. This reminds me to praise God for His goodness, thanking Him for the blessings of the past while hoping and praying for a kinder tomorrow. God has moved mountains in the past, so today I can believe He will do so again. And even if He does not, even if the answer is "no," He is still good, and His blessings abound.

Remembering can be an extremely helpful, therapeutic process. But it can also lead to darkness if it shifts from recalling and reframing to

dwelling and despair.

Healthy remembering requires a certain amount of letting go. If you focus solely on hurt and grief, you can easily be swept under. Yes, we experienced tragedy. Yes, we have been wronged. Yes, it hurt an unimaginable amount. But if we stay there, we won't grow. We won't see any light or goodness. We won't notice God's faithfulness.

You are allowed to feel hurt. Even Jesus wept in sorrow at the loss of his friend, Lazarus. But he didn't dwell in despair, instead rising to move forward after allowing himself to feel the grief.

It takes practice to step past the hurt to see what's happening around us as we grieve. If we manage to look up, we can see a community quietly surrounding us in support. We'll see small steps toward healing. We'll see the beauty of the past and of the process, even through the pain.

As we remember the tragedy of September 11, 2001, let us not dwell on the darkness of the day, but instead choose to look up and around. Remember the thousands of volunteers working tirelessly to care for the first responders and grieving families. See the neighbors who didn't get along the day before now coming together to pray. Watch the children who didn't really understand what was happening experience deep unity and love even in the midst of our darkest day.

God was in every moment, faithfully providing miracle after miracle, even on that terrible day. If He was faithful then, why wouldn't He be faithful now? That realization is why we should never forget.

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful," (Hebrews 10:23).

MORE THAN MUSIC

Worship (Meetings) As Discipleship



BY PHIL LAEGER

It's sometimes hard to talk about The Salvation Army. Yes, we are one Army, worldwide, with central tenets and doctrines, shared across 130-plus countries. But our worship meetings look beautifully

different the world over.

We started in London, England, 160 years ago, mainly as an outreach ministry. Our music consisted of bar tunes and chromatic romanticism. Our groups were mainly rag-tag brass bands. Our lyrical message was militaristic: win the world for Jesus. And while for your average non-Salvationist, any mention of The Salvation Army conjures up images of brass bands, those of us who are part of this movement know that nowadays our worship service experiences are much more diverse.

Walk into any corps around the world on a Sunday morning, and you will be greeted with modern, traditional, reggae, country, or any number of musical expressions. You will still encounter some fine brass bands, but alternatively, you are just as likely to be led by a praise and worship team with full backing tracks, a beginner pianist, or even music videos to fill the gap when live musicians are unavailable. Lyric-wise, we still use battle language, but we're just as likely to incorporate songs about Jesus, and to Him, as well as times of surrender, response, and reflection.

With this much diversity, is it really possible to speak about worship as discipleship in The Salvation Army as a whole? I think so. Because although expressions vary over places and times, the hearts behind those expressions will always be in need of becoming more like Jesus.

So then, how should our worship meetings form and shape us? Well, we can glean some pretty deep wisdom from Jesus' famous conversation with the "woman at the well" about the nature of true worship. Let's eavesdrop a little:

"The woman said to Him, 'Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.'

Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth,'" (John 4:19-24 NKJV).

For a tradition-informed people like us Salvationists, there are some pretty counterintuitive statements in this passage (tradition not being a bad thing on its own). If we imagine the Samaritan woman speaking on behalf of the diverse churchgoing crowd of her time, we can see a stark contrast between her statements and Jesus' wisdom.

The woman's starting point is *human* activity,

"Our fathers worshiped..." Jesus' starting point is *the Father's* activity, "The Father is seeking..." She gravitated toward *tradition*. Jesus reorients her phrase around *relationship*.

She focused on the *where*, "on this mountain." But Jesus focused on the *Who*, "worship the Father." She asked, "Which humans are right?" But Jesus redirects, "What does the Father want?"

Her framework was external, temporary, what could be seen. Jesus presents a different framework, more secure, more lasting, more weighty: the internal, the eternal, what cannot be seen with physical eyes.

This is why Heaven will not be filled with the music of any particular genre, instrumentation, or time-period, but with the anthem of the saints throughout ages whose hearts resonate with the worth of the Father who loves them. In the diversity of our corps worshiping life, in the planning of our meetings, this is worth considering. How does each element of the worship service reflect (or not reflect) Jesus' thoughts about true worship? If Heaven is a non-stop worship service, it would behoove us to prepare ourselves for it now! One of the ways we can do this is by letting Jesus' perspectives and priorities influence how we orchestrate our worship services here on Earth.



TYI: Southern Youth Find Their Role in the Storyline



BY GLORIA DIAVANGAMA

On July 27, 2026, around 400 delegates reported to The Salvation Army's Camp Keystone in Florida for the annual Territorial Youth Institute (TYI). Young people from every part of the territory came thirsty for an out-of-the-ordinary encounter with God's presence.

The theme of this year's TYI was "Storyline." Through images of stained glass across the camp, intentional worship services, classes, and night programs, delegates were taken on a journey through the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, in a week, reminding them that they are part of God's story of reconciliation with humanity.

With the help of special guest Tim Benitez, executive pastor of ministries at Home Church Roswell in Georgia, our territorial leaders, and many officers and youth leaders of the Southern Territory, delegates delved into the stories

of the Creation and Fall of humanity, the Exodus, the life of the Israelites in the wilderness, the Law given to Moses, the foreshadowing of Jesus in the Old Testament, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, the birth of the Church, and the revelation of what eternity will look like.

In the fall of 2024, the Territorial Youth Department realized that far too many young people do not know the Bible stories that have transformed countless lives across generations. Determined to change this, they have made it their mission to promote biblical literacy in the Southern Territory. TYI 2026 was an opportunity to do their part, encouraging the young people of this generation to make the Word of God not just something they know about, or not merely something they are familiar with, but what they choose to base their lives upon.

TYI 2026 was also an opportunity to recognize and hear from the Salvationist Service Corps (SSC) teams that served around the world this summer. Teams Argentina, New Zealand, and World Cup shared their experiences with TYI delegates and staff, encouraging the young

people present to consider SSC as a possible way to serve the Lord in future years, selflessly serving others beyond their borders.

The response of the delegate teens and young adults who went running to the altar every chance they were given from the very first day of the retreat confirmed that this generation is hungry for a move of the Holy Spirit, not just in brief moments,



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but throughout their lives. Young people praying with and over their peers, speaking life to each other, and responding to the call to officership and local officership showed that our young people are ready today to not just receive God's Word, but to pass it on and make disciples just as Christ has commanded.

As we reflect on the beauty of this year's TYI, we pray it will not just be a sweet memory in the minds of the nearly 400 attendees, but a marker that signifies a turning point in their walk with Christ as they continue to discover their purpose in the Storyline written by the Almighty One.





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Savannah Banana Band Visits Camp Grandview

BY DAKOTA MEEKS

As the Camp Grandview chapel doors swung open, blasting brass and booming bass ricocheted through the room. The Savannah Banana Band quickly followed the music, marching in and prompting excited screams from the students of the Kimball-Meeks Conservatory.

Led by group trumpet player Nick McGouirk, the Banana Band made their way around the chapel in practiced formation, weaving in and out of the rows of thrilled campers and staff.

How the Banana Band ended up in a Salvation Army camp chapel on that July day is both extraordinary and unbelievably simple.

For the past several years, Georgia Divisional Music and Arts Director Daniel Meeks, with the help of one of his long-time friends, Oluwatito Osibodu, has recruited Georgia Southern University students to work at camp for the summer. One of those recruits was McGouirk, who worked on conservatory staff at Camp Grandview from 2022-2024.

After graduating from Georgia Southern, McGouirk found his way to the Banana Band, the high-energy marching band-style group that performs as part of the Savannah Bananas' baseball show. The band plays throughout the games, helping keep the atmosphere lively through music, crowd interaction, and nonstop entertainment.

During this year's summer conservatory staff hiring process, Skye Bussey, divisional assistant music and arts director, reached out to McGouirk about conservatory staff and recruitment. Instead of suggesting people to work, he had another way to contribute to camp this summer: introducing the Banana Band to the campers.

The Savannah Banana Band spent all day with the conservatory staff and campers, performing in the chapel, hosting a Q&A session, and helping students in their brass major classes.

During the Q&A, band members expressed how they all came from different walks of life and didn't expect to find themselves where they are today. One thing they all had in common was their passion for music. "We always pursued music and never gave up on the thing that we loved, and eventually, life finds a way," McGouirk explained to the children.

The band also hosted an improvisation class for advanced campers where students were given a specific set of notes that they could put in any order they wanted. "They went around the room and had kids each play a solo," Meeks explains. "Some were nervous, some were scared,



The Banana Band, the official pep band of the Savannah Bananas entertainment baseball team, brought energy and fun to Camp Grandview this summer.



Nick McGouirk, now a trumpet player for the Savannah Banana Band, worked on conservatory staff at Camp Grandview from 2022-2024.

but that goes on to build their confidence."

"This is one of the most impactful things I've ever done in my life," McGouirk says of his experience at camp, "the way that I can reach community and children especially."

The band later surprised the rest of Camp Grandview's staff and campers at the evening program, spreading the joy beyond just the conservatory.

By the end of the night, the Banana Band had done more than just entertain; they had shown campers that even through different

walks and the unpredictability of life, music can bring a constant source of joy and purpose.

And for the conservatory campers, seeing McGouirk marching around a chapel he himself worked in just a few summers ago was proof that music, effort, and commitment can take them places far beyond their expectations.



The Banana Band brought entertainment, education, and inspiration to campers of the Kimball-Meeks Conservatory this summer.



Conservatory campers and staff were treated to a surprise visit from members of the Savannah Banana Band this summer, courtesy of conservatory staff alum Nick McGouirk.



2026

- 8/13 Corps Cadets Course C - Gloria Diavangama (YDS)
- 9/10 A Year of YDS Resources - Melissa Powell (YDS)
- 10/22 Keeping Children Safe in a Digital World - Traci Hurley (Children's Healthcare of Atlanta)
- 11/12 Developing Future Local Officers - Danielle Delaney (TYSM)
- 12/3 Deescalation - Anne Henningfeld (Beyond Recreation)

2027

- 1/21 Corps Cadets Course D - Gloria Diavangama (YDS)
- 2/18 Red Shield Youth Centers - Paul Conklin (YDS)
- 3/11 Youth at Centennial - What To Expect! - Major Jamie Satterlee (TYS)
- 4/15 Pastoral Care Best Practices - Majors Matt & Jamie Satterlee (TYS)
- 5/6 Young Adult Ministry Ideas - Kara Rodriguez (YDS)
- 6/17 A Seat at the Table - Emma Edelman (YDS)

Each session begins at 12:15 PM EST.

To register visit youthdownsouth.org/lunch-and-learn