

## GLIMPSES FROM KENYA

Photos and captions courtesy of Major Brenda Murray, Associate Director, World Missions, from her recent trip to Kenya.

“Over a period of three days, I had the privilege of meeting incredibly resilient people in the slums of Nairobi,” says Major Murray. “As I walked around the Kibera and Mathare slums I was able to capture some of the signs of hope in the midst of the mud, the shanty homes and lack of clean water and sanitation.”



Rose is selling vegetables and sending her son to University thanks to the help she received from The Salvation Army's investors program.



Brighton has been able to pay for his daughter's school fees as a result of his participation in the youth micro-credit and savings loan program.



Women from the investors group have a market set up where they sell their bananas. Each kg is sold for \$44.54 Kenyan Shilings, equal to \$0.60 CAD.



These children are enjoying their summer school break and are happy to engage in conversation.



Belinda came to The Salvation Army nursery school unwell. Now she is well-nourished and thriving.



The playground outside The Salvation Army nursery school in the Kibera slum.

About **29,000 children** under five in developing countries — **21 each minute** — die every day.

Your gift will provide children the necessary and basic medications, as well as regular check-ups, to help children survive.

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# GLOBALINK



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TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD MISSIONS DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

SPRING 2016



Corps officer and volunteers

## MINISTRY TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN GREECE

Major Rick Shirran, Territorial Emergency Disaster Services Director for Canada and Bermuda, spent six weeks in Greece assisting The Salvation Army in Athens. Deployed by International Emergency Services (IES), he helped lead a team to minister to migrants who were transitioning through Greece with the hope of finding a better life somewhere within the European Union.

“The Salvation Army is providing people with food, clothing and emotional support at a day centre that was established in Victoria Square,” says Major Shirran. “The refugees are also able to access the internet, reliable information and receive referrals to other organizations or government programs that may be able to assist with their situation.”

An estimated 800,000 migrants (not just Syrian refugees) were predicted to pass through Greece by the end of December 2015. A large number transit through a

central part of the city of Athens. Here they make connections with transportation to take them north to the border between Greece and Macedonia. Unfortunately, some fall prey to traffickers, drug dealers and con artists who take advantage of them, feed them false information and extort money from them.

“Our team met a young man from Afghanistan,” continues Major Shirran. “He previously worked as a translator for the U.S. and British military. When the troops moved out, he was without a job and was also singled out as a collaborator with the enemy. As a result he fled from his country. He had to pay the equivalent of CAD \$500 to a trafficker to get him to Germany.”

“He arrived in Athens with nothing except the clothes on his back and because he didn't have the proper documentation, he had difficulty getting funds wired to him from family back home. This is the story of many of the migrants.”



Registering migrants at Victoria Square

**“THE SALVATION ARMY IS PROVIDING PEOPLE WITH FOOD, CLOTHING AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT”**





## PASSIONATE PATIENCE

“We continue to praise even when we’re hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us...” (Romans 5:5).

The Apostle Paul speaks of a “hope that does not disappoint,” which Eugene Petersen describes as “passionate patience.” Supporting our colleagues serving in developing countries is a lesson in passionate patience. The stories shared within this edition of Global Link bear witness to God at work, and a hope that does not disappoint.

With over half of the world’s population under the age of 30, providing educational opportunities for children and youth is essential. Whether it is our schools in Pakistan, or the work with street children in Nairobi, or providing a safe day care environment in Paraguay, we are grateful to our Brighter Future Sponsors for their generous support.

The war in Syria that began in 2011 has now claimed more than 250,000 lives and left 13.5 million people displaced. The Salvation Army continues to provide support to those fleeing the conflict, with a Canadian officer sharing his personal account of his time in Greece.

God calls us to develop passionate patience—alert to the many ways in which He uses us to bring hope!

**Major Gillian Brown**  
World Missions Director



A mother and child receive free medical services provided by The Salvation Army's Mother and Child Health program in Kenya

## HEALTH: NO ONE WILL BE LEFT BEHIND

The Salvation Army is making a significant impact in developing countries with the provision of health clinics, clean water, mosquito nets, nutrition, health supplies and many other sustainable ways to improve health among individuals who live in rural communities. With your partnership and commitment to reach these goals, we will continue to support individuals, families and entire communities.

Since the release of the Sustainable Development Goals in September by the United Nations, there is a focus on making sure that “no one is left behind” in terms of health care. Many of the goals are directly related to health or will contribute to the well-being of people. Goal number three specifically provides the challenge to “ensure healthy lives and promote self well-being for all at all ages.”

The United Nations has implemented

targets specific to each goal to be achieved over the next 15 years.

### Health targets include:

- Reduce the maternal mortality ratio to less than 70:100,000 live births
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services
- End preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age
- Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries
- Achieve universal health coverage, including access to quality essential health-care services and access to affordable medications and vaccines for all

## GIVING GIRLS AN EDUCATION

Last year, Alvina couldn’t start her education because many girls in rural Pakistan are not allowed in the school where boys study. Her family is also poor so there seemed little hope of her learning to read and write.

Today, The Salvation Army’s Girls’ Boarding Hostel in Lahore, Pakistan, gives Alvina a place to live so she can learn to read and write like many of the boys in her community. The school also provides



Learning to read and write

her with nutritious meals, a school uniform, shoes, books, pens and pencils. She does very well in math and has perfect marks on her exams. She loves drama and singing. With this support, Alvina ranks second in her class with an 89% average, desiring to continue her studies after high school so she can help her family rise above poverty.

Through donations to the Brighter Futures Children’s Sponsorship Program, Alvina and other girls in rural areas have the chance of gaining an education. Your help in providing shelter, nutritious food, health care,

clothing, school fees and supplies makes a significant impact.

*“I am very pleased to write you a letter of thanks for providing and supporting all of us to receive a good education and a home,” says Alvina. “The teachers and the hostel administration are very kind to us. Our rooms have beautiful beds, pillows and blankets. In my most recent exams, I was second in my class. This has been made possible because of you. With love, Alvina.”*



Girls from Lahore School hold up books donated by The Salvation Army

## DAYCARES OFFER PROTECTION FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Promoting the well-being of vulnerable children

For children in Canada, daycare centres provide a place where they can learn, play and grow socially, but in developing countries, some children don’t have homes, falling victim to human trafficking or abduction, or they are left alone while parents work.

The Salvation Army’s Brighter Futures Sponsorship Program supports many daycare centres all over the world including The Rayito de Luz Integral Centre in Paraguay. It is located in a rural neighbourhood that is predominately poor. The community has 261 families, and each of them has between five and eight children. The total population is 1,305, with 60% adolescents and children.

“Due to poverty, education is not a priority for some families,” says Major Shirley Farias, Rayito de Luz Centre Director. “The family environment is consistently threatened by alcoholism, drugs and crime as the community

is in a very violent neighbourhood.”

The Salvation Army has worked in the community for many years. They were approached by a group of mothers who asked them to create a school support program for the children. The Army researched the idea and found that many of the youth in the community were failing grades, dropping out of school or falling victim to street activities.

Since the **Rayito de Luz Centre** began in 1994 (originally held in the house of a mother of four), the academic development of children has improved through classes by qualified teachers, with additional recreation, breakfast, snacks and weekly dinners.

Major Shirley Farias adds, “At least 85% of children and 75% of adolescents improve their grades throughout the school year. Parents are also becoming more involved in their children’s education.”

## HOWARD HOSPITAL UPDATE

Howard Hospital is reaping the benefits of its new facility that opened in 2014. The hospital now offers greater privacy in the wards, particularly for medical professionals to meet with patients and caregivers. Each ward includes washing basins within each cubicle, an essential for good health care. Communication has improved with the addition of phones and an internet system connecting departments and the hospital to the wider community.

The medical team at the hospital has a busy outpatients department and operating theatre. In the first ten months of 2015, 46,866 patients received medical help through the Outpatient Department. Each month, the hospital admits an average of 480 patients, performing 153 operations and dispensing 3,000 medications. To date, more than 2,000 babies have been safely delivered, with the latter half of 2015 welcoming several sets of twins and triplets.

The Salvation Army is committed to supporting Howard Hospital. Funds will be provided to ensure that the hospital is able to meet its operating expenses and maintain the excellent level of care that it is currently providing in the community.

The partnership between the Canada and Bermuda and Zimbabwe Territories will continue, which includes not only Howard Hospital but also Tshelanyemba Hospital, the Masiye Training Camp, various schools and senior homes. This is the privilege of ministry together as One Army!



A mother holds her healthy newborn baby



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