

# GLOBALLINK



Giving  
Hope  
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD MISSIONS DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

SUMMER 2020



Families in Mozambique receive handwashing, sanitation, and educational materials.



## COVID-19 INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORTS

By Kathy Nguyen

As the world faces COVID-19 together, we continue to stand with our partners in mission and ministry around the world, standing shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand. The following projects are financially supported by The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory, with more developments to come:

- 450 families in Malawi will be provided with educational materials, soap, hand sanitizers and food parcels;
  - The Salvation Army medical clinics in Haiti will be provided with handwashing, sanitation and educational materials.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented economic, health and social challenges for the entire world, and many things remain uncertain. While our borders may be closed, we are still under the same sky, serving the same God. This, we know, is certain. We are one Army with one mission, and we will overcome this together.

- 13,500 meals will be served to homeless and vulnerable individuals in Costa Rica;
- 600 families in Mozambique will be provided with handwashing, sanitation and educational materials;
- Five Salvation Army hospitals and clinics in Nigeria will be provided with soap dispensers, hand sanitizers, thermometers, surgical face masks and gowns;



If you would like to support our current and future international disaster work, please visit [saworldmissions.ca](http://saworldmissions.ca).

# A CELEBRATION OF HEALTH AND HOPE: FIVE YEARS LATER

By Manjita Biswas



In Canada and around the world, the past few months have brought many changes to our “normal” way of life. The COVID-19 global pandemic has moved us into uncharted waters and left us with a sense of vulnerability and uncertainty about our future. Yet, in the midst of all these troubling times, we stand together. We are in this, together.

Many of the individuals we are privileged to serve through The Salvation Army experience feelings of vulnerability and uncertainty caused by circumstances well beyond COVID-19. Food insecurity, lack of clean water, and limited access to medical care and education are just some of the needs faced each day in the developing world. Through your generous support, we can ease the burdens carried by so many. With your help, we can provide holistic support to bring about transformation, one person, and one community, at a time.

As you read this issue of *Global Link*, you will see how your donations are making a difference in Taiwan, Bangladesh and Angola. Each story highlights how individuals are changed, redeemed and transformed because you care. Thank you for standing with us.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Major Donna Barthau for her tremendous passion for children around the world during her tenure in the world missions office. Major Donna has received a new appointment at our international headquarters as The Salvation Army’s international sponsorship co-ordinator. Donna, you will be missed in the world missions department, but we are very happy that you will be using your gifts and skills to further support children around the globe.

Sincerely,

**Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray**  
World Missions Director

In 2013, I visited the communities in Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka, and heard the sincere prayers of the elderly. “We want our children to be healthy,” they said. “We don’t want them to die or lose their potential because of unsafe water.” Many of the family members were sick with kidney and waterborne diseases. They were in fear and in desperate need of life-saving support.

As a result, the Canada and Bermuda Territory implemented the five-year *Safe Water and Livelihood Development (SWALD)* project.

Through SWALD, we established 18 boreholes, providing clean water to over 6,800 families in Polonnaruwa. More than 3,000 farmers received agriculture training and livelihood support, benefitting 135 families and bringing sustainable income to them for years to come.

On February 5, 2020, I travelled to Sri Lanka with Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray, director of world missions, and Commissioners Floyd and Tracey Tidd, territorial leaders for Canada and Bermuda, to attend the SWALD project closing ceremony. More than 160 participants attended the program, including local communities, religious leaders, local government representatives, project staff and officers. It was a time to reflect, give thanks and celebrate.

“Clean water changed our lives forever,” said Sunil Shantha, a beneficiary of the project.

“Our village did not have any source of drinking water,” said Mrs. Sepalika, another beneficiary. “We are grateful to The Salvation Army and sincerely wish that God above will bless you to do more.”

I was moved as I listened to their stories and life-changing experiences. Gratitude for The Salvation Army filled the room, not just for the wells, but for the provision of tools, skills and local capacity-building.

In 2013, I heard their prayer for clean water. Through the hard work of the project team, both local and abroad, the determination of community leaders, the tenacity of the beneficiaries, and the generosity of our faithful donors, their prayers were answered.



# FROM SPONSORSHIP TO OFFICERSHIP

By Major Sara Bapari

In 131 countries around the world, The Salvation Army continues to grow and flourish through the hard work and dedication of soldiers, officers and adherents. Whether you're walking into an Army headquarters, counselling centre, health clinic or corps, you will find an officer who has pledged their obedience and sacrifice to the church. Behind every pledge comes a testimony—an awakening, moment or natural journey that summoned their call to officership. For Major Sara Bapari, program officer in the Bangladesh Command, she knew she was destined for officership at a young age, and it started with the help of The Salvation Army's sponsorship program.

“When I was a child, my father passed away and I was taken in by my grandfather. In order to gain stability and a good education, my grandfather decided to enroll me in The Salvation Army Girls' Home in Dhaka—a boarding school that's supported through the sponsorship program. Once I enrolled, there was no doubt that I wanted to live a life dedicated to God.

Besides the academic studies, we were taught extracurricular activities, such as singing, dancing, arts, sewing and Bible studies. I gained the desire to work for the

Lord through my Sunday school teachers and pastors. I often dreamed that I would become a pastor and I knew that one day, at the right time, He would fulfil this dream.

After I graduated, I began teaching at The Salvation Army Girls' Home, where I would serve for nearly 10 years, teaching children who sat in the same classrooms I once learned in. However, I yearned to do more.



When my husband and I looked back on our lives, we were assured of God's love—He always gave us everything we ever needed—we wanted to pledge our commitment in return, so we finally answered our call to officership.

I am so thankful to serve in The Salvation Army, the place where I grew up. My life began without a parent, but through God's grace and guidance, and through the mission of The Salvation Army, I grew up to be an established, well-educated and proud mother, wife and officer.”



## TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EDUCATION IN ANGOLA

By Kathy Nguyen



Meaningful transformation is a multi-pronged process. In order to unlock one's full potential, there needs to be a strong mindset, a willingness to act and an opportunity to pursue. For these reasons, quality education and lifelong learning is one of the United Nation's sustainable development goals as well as the world missions department's main priorities in international development projects.

As a result, you will find The Salvation Army's shield branded on schools, colleges, daycares and vocational training centres around the world. When Canada and Bermuda helped to support Moxico Children's Education and Protection Program in Luau, Angola, nearly 60 vulnerable children and their families benefitted.

The purpose of this program is to provide vulnerable girls with a safe environment where they can receive an education and learn



important life and vocational skills. The girls receive lessons in personal hygiene, health, food preparation, as well as tutoring lessons in literacy.

Dona Marquez da Silva was 10 years old when she attended this program. “When The Salvation Army in Luau opened, that was the first time I was in a classroom,” Dona says. “We were welcomed by the loving staff, found a safe and caring environment, received food from the home league, and received reading and writing lessons.”

Dona is now set to graduate secondary school this year, a huge accomplishment for a young woman who comes from this poverty-stricken community.

Thank you to our donors across Canada and Bermuda. Your support continues to leave a lasting and transformative impact on children and communities around the world.

# A REFLECTION AND THANK YOU

By Major Donna Barthau

When I began my appointment as sponsorship co-ordinator for the Canada and Bermuda Territory in 2014, I had feelings of inadequacy for the new job. Despite my misgivings, I felt a strong passion within me to help vulnerable children and youth in the developing world.

The Salvation Army has appointed me all over the world. From the hillsides of the Czech Republic to the islands of Indonesia to the villages of Kenya and Africa, I have served students and sponsorship personnel. I fell in love with the ministry, the strong administrative support, and had a vision to grow Canada and Bermuda's sponsorship into a more vibrant and exciting program.

Over the last six years, I've enjoyed sharing stories and the transformative benefits of the **Brighter Futures** sponsorship program around the territory. It's been a pleasure helping donors and ministry units understand the real impact of their assistance, and the great things happening around the world thanks to their faithful support.

One of my true delights has been my travel to several territories to see the work first-hand. The tours of the facilities were always enlightening, but the real joy was the personal interaction with the young people—teaching, singing and listening to their stories, hopes and dreams. These are moments I will never forget.

I have loved my time in this appointment. I am sad to be leaving, but I know that my next appointment as international sponsorship co-ordinator at international headquarters is duly needed. I will do my best to continue to help vulnerable children around the world with this new position.



Thank you to everyone in this territory and around the world who has given their practical assistance and encouragement over the past years. Let us continue to work tirelessly for the children God has entrusted to our care.

**Brighter Futures**  
THE SALVATION ARMY CHILDREN'S SPONSORSHIP

Orphans and vulnerable children need you now  
*more than ever.*  
Become a sponsor today.  
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## FINDING REDEMPTION IN TAIWAN

By Kathy Nguyen

*"I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."*  
— Isaiah 44:22 (NIV)

When William Booth founded The Salvation Army in 1865, he did so with the vision of providing practical and transformational support to the destitute, while preaching the gospel and sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Since its inception, The Salvation Army has provided life-changing social services to the vulnerable and continues to do so in more than 130 countries.

In Taiwan, there are very few organizations that cater to young offenders, which is why The Salvation Army Puli Youth Services Centre was created. This centre helps to ensure that troubled youth are given an opportunity to rehabilitate, redeem and reintegrate into society.

Most of the youth are referred to the centre by the juvenile courts when they are discharged. Many of the young people lack family support and have nowhere to go. For others, returning home could lead them back to a life of crime.

The centre not only provides the youth with shelter, but a network of educational, physical and spiritual support. Here, they receive counselling and mentorship, a formal education through partnerships with the local schools, as well as job opportunities and internships with local businesses.

"All of the young men have gone through great transformation," says Major David Kinsey, regional commander of the Taiwan Region. "Many of them were accepted back into their homes, and their families are very grateful to The Salvation Army."

William Booth once said, "The greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender." When troubled youth are given the opportunity to surrender to God and let go, real transformation can happen.

The Salvation Army Puli Youth Services Centre is a testament to that. Thank you to our donors who continue to help us support these life-saving and transformative programs.



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