

GLOBALLINK



Giving
Hope
Today

TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN CANADA AND BERMUDA

WINTER 2021/22



(l-r) Lt. April Barthau, Hadassah, Lt. Marco Herrera Lopizic

A DOCTOR'S CALL TO OFFICERSHIP

By Kathy Nguyen



Lieutenant Marco Herrera Lopizic was only six years old when he knew he wanted to devote his life to helping others.

Growing up with both parents as Salvation Army officers, Lieutenant Marco had always been surrounded by good faith, compassion and stewardship.

"I felt like I was a second officer since I was always shadowing my dad," he says. "I have an early memory of The Salvation Army bringing new beds to children in an orphanage my father was working at. I'll never forget the joy and happiness on their faces. Since I was young, I had a calling to help people."

With this upbringing, he would later grow up to become a medical doctor, practising medicine around the world, including in Ecuador, Chile, Papua New Guinea and Canada.

Commissioned as a Salvation Army officer in June 2021 alongside his wife, Lieutenant

April Barthau, who is a practicing nurse, Lieutenant Marco says it was while they were working at a medical clinic in Papua New Guinea that they decided to move to Canada to pursue their calling to officership.

"I studied eight years of medicine, and wanted to pursue that," he says, "but when we started working with the people who needed it most, we felt it was time to surrender our lives to God. That's how we feel about officership—a complete surrender."

With The Salvation Army operating more than 170 health facilities in 37 countries, he hopes to continue working in the medical field.

"I just want to help build the kingdom of God," he says. "Wherever God sends me, I just want to do the job I am called to do and share the love of Jesus to the people who need it most."



FOOD FOR ALL

By Robyn Goodyear

“If we promote sustainable agriculture with modern technologies and fair distribution systems, we can sustain the whole world’s population and make sure that nobody will ever suffer from hunger again.”

—United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Did you know? Hunger is the leading cause of death worldwide. Food insecurity continues to plague humanity and without accelerated progress, it will continue.

The Salvation Army advocates for food security for all, which is why we’re working with our overseas partners to build the Sustainable Agriculture in Liberia (SAIL) project.

This three-year project will support more than 200 small-scale farmers in the communities of Cotton Tree and Mount Barclay. These rural communities face severe food insecurity due to increasing food prices and inflation—problems that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To address this problem, The Salvation Army in Liberia identified the need for agricultural training in order to enhance farming skills and food production.



Through the SAIL project, farmers will receive seed packages to begin their crops, as well as demonstration plots in the community where they can learn sustainable farming methods. They will also receive training in seed selection, preparation of soil, sowing, pest control, harvesting methods and crop storage.

To further promote sustainability, The Salvation Army is also collaborating with the local government health sector to address malnutrition by providing training on the importance of maintaining a balanced diet.

With the tools and training received from The Salvation Army, hundreds of farmers can plant crops that will not only provide food for their households but can also be sold to generate an income that can provide for other essentials.

Through SAIL, generational poverty can be broken for hundreds of families.



Christmas is a season of giving—of thinking of friends and family. It’s a time to come together and celebrate, but for many here in Canada and around the world, it can be a very lonely and anxious time.

I’m happy to report that your spirit of giving this year has lessened the anxiety for many by providing gifts in the form of much-needed resources for individuals to thrive.

The Oxford Dictionary defines the word “gift” as “a thing given willingly to someone without payment; a present; a natural ability or talent.”

These different types of gifts are represented in the global stories that we highlight in this edition of *Global Link*—the gift of time and talents in the life of Lieutenant (Dr.) Marco Herrera Lopizic; the gift of tools and seeds in Liberia; the gift of compassion by coming alongside people affected by disaster in Haiti; the gift of play in Mozambique; and the gift of a safe environment in Kenya.

As you think of that ideal gift for someone special this year, check out our gift catalogue at SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope and make a difference in the life of an individual beyond our borders. Thank you for your generosity and Happy Christmas!

Sincerely,

Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray

Director of International Development

To find out how you can support SAIL, contact us at SAID@salvationarmy.ca



HOPE FOR HAITI

By Kathy Nguyen

Eleven years ago, Haiti was devastated by a massive earthquake, killing more than 230,000 people. Canadians came together to help The Salvation Army in Canada raise US\$7.3 million. With their support, 213 houses were built, more than 1,000 youth received vocational training and 1,500 families received livelihood development support.

It's within those years that a strong relationship grew with the people of Haiti, which is why, when in August 2021, a 7.2 earthquake struck the country, Salvationists across Canada rallied once more to support relief efforts.

In near record speed, Canadians came together to raise more than \$200,000 in just a matter of days.

As of today, the donations have climbed to more than \$500,000.

Thousands of homes were destroyed, and more than 2,000 people lost their lives that day. Through the generosity of Canadians, The Salvation Army immediately provided hygiene and sanitation kits, food and medical supplies.

"The Salvation Army in Canada supported and continues to support significant project work in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake, projects accounting for approximately \$11.2 million dollars," says Lt-Colonel Brenda Murray, director of the international development department. "Haiti is a place near and dear to our hearts, and we thank our donors for giving so generously, so quickly."

The Salvation Army in Canada continues to work closely with our colleagues in Haiti to support post-earthquake recovery efforts. If you'd like to support, please visit [SalvationArmy.ca/Haiti](https://www.salvationarmy.ca/Haiti)



PLAYING IT FORWARD

By Robyn Goodyear



The Salvation Army Xai-Xai Preschool in Mozambique provides quality education to more than 200 children in the community. Last year, the community was hit by a massive storm that caused damage to several structures, including the playground at the preschool.

Through The Salvation Army's ethical-giving program, Gifts of Hope, Canadians are providing the funds to build a brand-new playground where preschoolers can learn and play freely.

The new playground will be fully accessible to students with disabilities and will also include a roof to provide protection from sun exposure and rain. This promotes exercise and outdoor activity all year for students to thrive.

The project supports the strategic priorities of The Salvation Army in Mozambique, which aims to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children can flourish. Construction is expected to be completed in time for the children's return to the school, which is currently closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Play is essential for child development. By providing a safe space filled with fun, sports and games, children can fuel their imaginations, learn teamwork, manifest healthy minds and bodies, and heal the effects of trauma.

Thank you for your part in playing it forward.



Visit [SalvationArmy.ca/giftsofhope](https://www.salvationarmy.ca/giftsofhope) to make a real difference this holiday season.

KENYA'S FUTURE GENERATION

By Kathy Nguyen

Around the world, The Salvation Army has long been committed to empowering youth experiencing homelessness.

Today, there are approximately 300,000 street children and youth living across Kenya. With support from our Brighter Futures Children's Sponsorship Program, The Salvation Army in Canada has commenced a three-year outreach program to help strengthen the country's homeless youth.

With support from our sponsors, we're providing safe facilities for street youth to receive quality education, life-skills training, regular meals, and clothing. This program is set to expand in three communities across Kenya: Kakamega, Eldoret and Kitale.

"Every child has their own unique story," says Major Hudson Mouhaliar, development secretary at The Salvation Army in Kenya. "While there are common reasons that push children to the streets, treating each child as an individual with their own backstory and identity is key to understanding and meeting their needs."

The Salvation Army provides more than just financial and practical support—as with most Army projects, emotional and spiritual support is deeply woven into our programs.

In Kakamega, Salvation Army personnel and program staff organized a prayer day for street youth sitting for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education, an examination used to rank and stream students into secondary and technical schools.

"The program has been very well received by the communities involved," says Major Heather Matondo, sponsorship co-ordinator in the international development department. "The government, our colleagues at The Salvation Army in Kenya and the program staff, are ready to work hand-in-hand to ensure the children have a safer environment."



To support this worthwhile program, become a sponsor today at Salvationist.ca/brighterfutures

Gifts of Hope



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