

Our neighbor to the south of the USA is also one of our Partners in Mission. Years ago, a group in Mexico known as the Salvation Patrol, became part of The Salvation Army. In 1937, General Evangeline Booth presented them an Army flag to signify that they were being accepted into the worldwide Army.

Today, the work in Mexico continues and we are looking for ways to help. You have seen the videos shared by our USA Eastern Territory Media team with descriptions of The Salvation Army serving in Mexico. It is good to hear about our Citizens of the Kingdom at work in this territory.

San Diego, California is near to Tijuana, Mexico. But Tijuana is a world away in terms of services available to people. Although there are many challenges there, the Army was able to make a difference in one boy's life.

Alejandro discovered a Salvation Army Children's Club program near his home. His mother, not being familiar with the Army, was suspicious of the program and didn't believe it was a good place for him. Her struggle with alcohol and drugs was also a poor fit with the Army's God-centered program.

Alejandro confided in the people at the Army. He said, "She doesn't really like me coming here. Many times she has punished me by making me stay home on the most special days at the Club. She

thinks God is not real and that they brainwash me to believe in Him. But I know that's not true because everyone here is nice and they even remember my birthday every single year. I get cake and a special song. I like being here, I have friends, I eat well, I learn, and it's really fun!"

The Club leaders told him to be obedient to what his mother said and that God would understand because He knew his heart. Eventually, they reported a God-honoring outcome. In a beautiful way, God rewarded Alejandro's perseverance by softening his mother's heart.

A program that showed love for a young boy in a poor neighborhood reflected the Good News and provided an opportunity to transform his family's lifestyle.

WEEK 1. TRANSFORMED LIFESTYLES

"Live as citizens who reflect the Good News about Christ."

PHILIPPIANS 1:27 (NOG)

Paul wanted to hear all about the church in Philippi, he wanted them to show that they were spiritually alive. If the same thing is important to you, you will be encouraged to hear all about Army ministry in the Korean Territory. It has 274 corps and outposts, 31 institutions, 46,138 Senior Soldiers, 7,225 Adherents, and 7,563 Junior Soldiers. We are Partners in Mission!

The formation of this territory resulted from a request made of General Booth while he was in Japan. Later, a survey visit to Korea by Commissioner Railton followed. Eventually, the Army launched its ministry there in 1908. During the Korean conflict of the 1950s, five Salvationists were martyred.

Today, the spiritual life of the Korean Territory is vibrant, as is its ministry of compassion. For instance, a Brengle Institute brought 600 officers together, “sharing insights into holiness and purity.” Kettle fund raising was used to help the “low-income livestock group” in Cambodia. A first-time event was held in Mongolia as 12 children were dedicated and 267 Salvationists gathered to celebrate the birth of Christ. We were able to send 100 tons of flour to orphans in North Korea. The Army also received a special honor when the Seoul Metropolitan Government selected the Army’s historic Salvation Army Central Hall as a “Beautiful Building of Seoul.”

To know the heart of the territory, you will want to hear from its leadership. Commissioner Kim, Pil Soo shared these words, “What The Salvation Army does the best, is to save people. We are those who save others and this is our specialty. For this purpose, The Salvation Army has . . . fulfilled its mission by serving neighbors and to transform this world into a righteous society.”

WEEK 2. SPIRITUALLY ALIVE

“Whether I come to see you or whether I stay away, I’ll hear all about you.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:27 (NOG)

Our witness to the world may include a personal calling to ministry away from our home country. Here is a testimony of someone who looked back on her experience of serving in a remote part of Zambia in Africa.

“Robert and I travelled back to Zambia to revisit our past. What a delight to meet up with colleagues and old friends! And we were reminded afresh what a difference the generous Self–Denial giving of the international Salvation Army has made and continues to make to the country.

I will never forget our nine months of ‘no water’ and how I selfishly pleaded with God that I just couldn’t tolerate this—I just wanted to go home! Salvationists back home were preparing for the annual Self–Denial Appeal at the moment. Well, it was Self–Denial money that helped us bore for water in Zambia all those years ago!

We saw where money sent from The Salvation Army has been useful. Books we had purchased remain in use at the Officer Training College library, money set aside for the upkeep of buildings was still being put to work, and we saw evidence of the further development of programs and people who, in turn, were now ministering to the lives of others. All this from the generosity of people all those years ago!

To me, ‘self denial’ will always mean ‘selfless giving,’ for that is what it is. When you give, it affects you in some way; you pay a price. When we give to God, we pay that price—and we count it a privilege.

Robert and I are just ordinary people given an extraordinary task, people privileged to have opportunity for service outside the country of our birth. We, like many others, can’t do this on our own, we need you.”

—Commissioner Jeanine Donaldson of New Zealand

WEEK 3. WITNESSES TO THE WORLD

“I’ll hear that you are firmly united in spirit.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:27 (NOG)

Major Santa Correa from our USA Eastern Territorial Headquarters had the opportunity to attend meetings of “ELAMI.” This is an acronym in Spanish for “Equipo Latino Americano de Mision Integrada” or in English, Latin American Team for Integrated Mission. Many Salvation Army territories are participating in this extraordinary mission initiative. Meetings were held in Tijuana, Mexico.

While learning about the many issues being addressed by ELAMI, Major Correa could observe first hand that the Army is one of the organizations in the city that offers direct services to displaced and deported people. There is a shelter with 35 beds for migrant and displaced women and children. There is another facility in the city for migrant or displaced men. The Army maintains 100 beds and an overflow room for additional 50 men. Every night, the facility is at maximum capacity. Both shelters offer food, counseling, and social services.

The men’s shelter houses a chapel. Corps officers and soldiers minister there throughout the week. They conduct Bible studies, women’s ministries, and worship & witness meetings. People from the neighborhood as well as the shelter residents attend these religious services. It was uplifting for Major Correa to hear the testimonies of officers and soldiers as they described their ministries to the community.

Major Correa reported how during one night, she went for a drive on the Avenida Revolución. “I saw little girls, ages 11–14, dressed up and being trafficked like grown women. It was only Wednesday night and the streets were full of people doing all kinds of transactions. I felt very heartbroken. I learned that even though we are miles apart, we struggle with similar issues.” There are global issues that the Army is seeking to address. In this case, cooperative ventures such as the ELAMI initiative.

Salvation Army personnel involved were extraordinarily mission-minded; they were determined to find a way to demonstrate God’s love to everyone they encountered.

WEEK 4. EXTRAORDINARILY MISSION-MINDED

“United in fighting for the faith that the Good News brings.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:27 (NOG)