

Swyers celebrate Army in the Pacific

Western Territorial leaders Commissioners Philip and Patricia Swyers, along with Hawaiian and Pacific Islands divisional leaders Majors Dave and Sharron Hudson recently ventured out into the Pacific Islands portion of the Western Territory.

The first stop was the Republic of Marshall Islands for Family Camp, where they, along with Captains Martin and Nancy Cooper, celebrated the 20th anniversary of The Salvation Army's work in that part of the world. Over 700 people were in attendance, singing and praising God for his faithfulness.

On Saturday afternoon, Commissioner Swyers promoted 10 envoys to the rank of lieutenant. It was thrilling to see these valuable leaders of the Marshall Islands recognized for their years of faithful service. Sunday morning was highlighted by enrollment of over 30 junior and senior soldiers.

They also visited two states in the Federated States of Micronesia. The first was Pohnpei, under the ministry of Majors Scott and June Nicloy, where the commissioners were blessed by the growth of The Salvation Army and the commitment to serve.

The next stop was Chuuk, where Commissioner Philip Swyers enrolled another 30 junior and senior soldiers. In recognition of the fine work of Lieutenants Hermes and Rufina Otis, Swyers promoted the couple to the rank of auxiliary captain. The commissioners appreciated the true pioneering spirit of the Otises and valued the difference the Army is making to help the people of Chuuk.

The final stop was in Guam, under the leadership of Majors David and Linda Harmon, where the Swyers saw first hand, the impact the Army has on the island. During a breakfast meeting with the employees, the Harmons were surprised to receive a special recognition from the employees and Advisory Board honoring their 10 years of service in Guam.

The Swyers stated that this trip gave them a new perspective on the work of the Army in the West; while there were many things they will remember, perhaps the thing that stood out the most was "the quality of leadership and the power of the Holy Spirit moving over the beautiful Pacific Islands."

