



Refugees are at home in NORWAY

BOUNDLESS 2015 – one year on

A place of change in AUSTRALIA

GO! – poster reveals 127 countries

Reaching OUT

PARAGUAY CLINIC TAKES CARE
INTO THE COMMUNITY





It's difficult to believe that it's already a year since 16,000 Salvationists and friends from 126 countries gathered at The O2 in London for The Salvation Army's 150th anniversary International Congress, *Boundless – The Whole World Redeeming*. Now that the dust has settled, *All the World* contacted **Lieut-Colonels Eddie and Kathy Hobgood**, the coordinator and assistant coordinator of the event, to discover what their highlights were, but also to find out what they have witnessed of the legacy of an event that – through delegates at The O2 but also through live-streaming and online resources – reached more of the world than a Salvation Army congress has ever reached before.

So, thinking back 12 months – and beyond – what was your *Boundless* 2015 highlight?

Eddie: It's impossible to give just one! Pre-congress for me was the work I did with the United Kingdom's Royal Mint when they granted The Salvation Army a commemorative coin. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me to go to the Royal Mint and actually mint the first coin. But then I had the privilege to stand in front of the staff of the Mint and tell them about the work and ministry of the worldwide Salvation Army. I also got to hear their stories of interactions with the Army and about their connections through their grandparents, for instance.

During the congress itself, it had to be every time we had a parade of

the nations. To see the flags from 126 countries and to see people's beautiful national dress was awe-inspiring. The climactic scene on Sunday morning of Nick and Roberta Simmons-Smith's interpretation of the song 'They Shall Come from the East, They Shall Come from the West' gave me chills and brought tears to my eyes. There we were – the entire Salvation Army represented in that one room. Amazing and never to be forgotten!

Kathy: It was an honour to be a part of the team that brought the statue of Catherine Booth to the East End of London, where The Salvation Army began in 1865.

It was hard work and often frustrating finding our way through all the red



Above: Lieut-Colonel Eddie Hobgood mints the first commemorative coin at the Royal Mint

tape but, in the end, it was absolutely worth it to see Catherine take her place across from William Booth, reminding the world that she was the co-founder of The Salvation Army. It was also significant in that the East End is predominantly Muslim now. For the women of that community to see this strong role model sends a very powerful message to them and the community.

I also have to say another highlight was the experience of working with the congress team. There were 14 of us at International Headquarters and four from UK Territorial Headquarters who ate, breathed and slept *Boundless*. We



Left: unveiling the statue of Catherine Booth in the East End of London; above: an acrobatic interpretation of 'They Shall Come from the East'

Above right: part of the Parade of Nations at The O2

Below: the 14-person International Headquarters Boundless team



they were right there and in the middle of the celebration.

Eddie: Upon our return to the USA, we were delayed in taking our new appointment due to a health issue and so we missed our first Territorial Executive Conference (TEC). At the following one (six months after *Boundless*), we were welcomed back to TEC and the programme basically consisted of divisional and territorial leaders sharing with us what *Boundless* had meant to them and their people.

This was supposed to last only about 15 minutes, but person after person stood up and shared the lasting power of those five days together in London. They told story after story of lives changed through the event – even of those who watched it on the Internet.

This went on for almost an hour – I'm not sure Kathy and I had any tears left when it was all done!

This was *the* 'paycheck' for us – to know that men and women had come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ; to hear that Salvationists had recommitted to the mission of our Army and fallen in love with it all over again. This made everything we experienced during our time in London absolutely worth it!

Lieut-Colonels Eddie and Kathy Hobgood are leaders of the North and South Carolina Division, in The Salvation Army's USA Southern Territory

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became close friends and shared in something that will never be repeated in quite the same way.

It was honestly a miraculous feat to have accomplished something so significant with such a small team but, by God's grace, we did! Go Team *Boundless*!

And the legacy? What effect is *Boundless* having today and for the future?

Kathy: We recently had the privilege to address a large group of retired officers who asked us specifically to share wwfor an hour or so on 'The Making of *Boundless*'.

Through this, we relived so much of the exciting journey again, but we also got to hear from many of the retirees (some of whom were at *Boundless* and others who watched online) about how moved they were by the entire experience. Those who watched

online shared how they even got up in the middle of the night to watch the sessions as they didn't want to miss a thing or wait for the archived versions!

These retired officers, who often feel like life in The Salvation Army is passing them by, were keenly interested in everything that took place and – through the webcasts – were able to feel like





The 'Boundless 8': (clockwise from top left) Alexa Morris, Cameron Millar, Carmen Magdaleno, Jeremiah Hinson, Mejee Lutchter, Jodianne Lutchter, Suzanne Barink, Kelly Zvobgo

►► **Boundless 2015** would not have been possible without the congress office staff and particularly the 'Boundless 8', a group of Salvationists from the USA, The Netherlands and New Zealand who worked for free for a year as interns in the congress office at International Headquarters (IHQ) in London. In this **online exclusive content**, they share their highlights from the international congress and write about the event's long-term effects.

HIGHLIGHTS

Alexa Morris

USA WESTERN TERRITORY

Boundless 2015 wasn't just 1-5 July 2015. *Boundless 2015* for me was each month, week and day of August 2014 to July 2015. Living and working abroad held its own victories and challenges. One of my highlights during the congress was singing 'O Boundless Salvation!' for the final time during the Sunday morning session and looking around at all the people in the arena. It was pure joy!

I am forever grateful to [congress coordinators] Lieut-Colonels Eddie and Kathy Hobgood for giving me an experience of a lifetime. The Hobgoods were the Boundless 8's biggest fans! They worked alongside us in the office and would always advocate for us. I could not have asked for better people.

Carmen Magdaleno

USA WESTERN TERRITORY

There are so many great things that went on during *Boundless* that it makes it a little hard to choose one. However, I think my favourite part was the parade of nations in Session One (Wednesday 1 July 2015). It was something that hadn't been done at a congress before and to see all of the 126 countries The Salvation Army then worked in represented – and also, throughout the week, to witness them all share fellowship, encourage and pray with each other – was such a beautiful thing to be a part of.

Cameron Millar

NEW ZEALAND, FIJI AND TONGA TERRITORY

My highlight from *Boundless* was hearing the delegation from the Democratic Republic of Congo singing

as they made their way to the prayer meeting each morning. It always made me feel that the mountainous task of the day ahead seemed possible.

Kelly Zvobgo

USA WESTERN TERRITORY

Boundless 2015 felt like a week of highlights! If I must choose one I would have to say translating Major David Vandebeulque's sermon from French into English during the Friday evening main session. It's unlikely that I will ever have another opportunity to speak to an audience of almost 16,000 people, and many others watching from home. It was an incredible experience.

LONG-TERM LEGACY

Alexa: I had no idea that I would gain a family during my year in London. I made lifelong friends in the congress office. And today I can't imagine my life without them. The experience I gained working and collaborating with my co-workers is something I miss very much. The office was such a creative environment, which I didn't realise until I was gone.

My experience working on communications in the congress office



Left: African delegates dance their way to worship; below: Kelly Zvobgo translates for Major David Vandebeulque; bottom: Jeremiah Hinson distributes doughnuts that had been provided for free by Krispy Kreme



'The **lasting impact** for me is that we have such an amazing international family where there is **unity** in our **diversity**'

led me to my current position – Web and Social Media Manager for The Salvation Army's Cascade Division (Oregon and Southern Idaho) in the USA Western Territory. I look forward to continuing my professional development in order to serve others to the best of my ability.

Carmen: The congress showed me that the work of The Salvation Army is not done yet – it's only just beginning. Working in the congress office, and talking with officers and employees at IHQ, opened my eyes more to the different types of ministry taking place throughout the world and how we could work with each other to expand those

ministries/projects and create new ones to reach more people. It challenged me to find my role in our mission and encourage others to roll up their sleeves and do the same.

The social media reach for *Boundless* topped something like 16 million people. Something I hope and pray becomes a long-term effect from the congress is that the Army is able to expand to the 30 countries that it is not currently serving in but that viewed *Boundless* online via social media and live streaming. At the next congress the parade of nations could have flags from 156 countries – and still be reaching more!

Cameron: The lasting impact for me is that we have such an amazing international family where there is unity in our diversity. Every country, community and person has something of value to offer The Salvation Army as a whole and we all can be part of that as we head into the next 150 years together.

Kelly: There are three main long-term effects the congress has had on me. Personally, through the internship at IHQ, and as clichéd as it might sound, I gained lifelong friends. Professionally, my ability to think and work quickly and effectively in a high-paced environment was enhanced. And, spiritually, my faith was reaffirmed as I saw the gospel in the flesh – a body of believers from diverse backgrounds, speaking different languages, dressed in every colour under the sun, united by a common message and ever-ready to share news of the Saviour.

The other members of the Boundless 8 were Suzanne Barink (The Netherlands, Czech Republic and Slovakia Territory), Jeremiah Hinson (USA Southern Territory), Jodiann Lutcher and Mejee Lutcher (both USA Western Territory).

How did the congress change your understanding of The Salvation Army – and even your life? Share your thoughts and *Boundless* highlights online at

<http://sar.my/boundlessmemories>



Video footage, photos and more are still available on the congress website www.boundless2015.org