



# Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory  
News and Views from the Midwest

"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

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## The Chicago Kroc impact

Since the Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center opened in June 2012, more than 5,700 individuals have joined. Members are active and finding the Kroc Center to be a life-changing place where dreams are realized.

Last summer more than 400 children registered for the 10-week day camp, which included activities like art, dance, golf, soccer, basketball, science/math tutoring and Bible classes. The day camp culminated with the musical *The Wiz* (an adaptation of the *Wizard of Oz*).

In July the Kroc Center also hosted an outdoor gospel concert and its annual Summer of Abundance and Hope back-to-school health fair which brought in over 4,000 people. The festival offered carnival games and food with an opportunity to meet NASCAR driver Jared Marks, who showcased his race car and signed autographs. Together with Christ Universal Temple, more than 1,000 backpacks were given to children in need.

American Idol star Jennifer Hudson promoted her charity, Julian D. King Gift Foundation, at the Kroc Center. The event was in memory of her nephew Julian's birthday and assisted more than 5,000 families with school supplies. Jennifer and her sister, Julia, returned to the Chicago Kroc at



American Idol star Jennifer Hudson poses with Kroc Center teens and staff.

Christmas to give out toys. "She has allowed healing in a tragic situation to bless others," said Major Darlene Harvey, Chicago Kroc officer for congregational life.

The center enables people of all ages in the community to connect with one another and families to draw closer. For instance, one young man brings his four-year-old nephew, who he is raising, to the Kroc Center nearly every day. He takes advantage of every outreach event and nurturing activity where the two can bond.

When the community was surveyed in 2006, they identified a teen center and senior center as primary program needs. These needs are being met through intergenerational activities and programming.

Under the leadership of soldier Dietrich Hunter, 18 young people took part in "I'll Fight Day" by providing children's ministries a "Little Buddy" mentorship program, performing random acts of kindness in God's name at Navy

Pier and taking part in an anti-human trafficking presentation.

The Chicago Kroc Center has built a vibrant senior program with more than 100 older adults participating daily in the senior center and many more in the broader fitness and health programs. Lunch is offered two days a week, and the center regularly hosts line dancing classes, health classes, golf, computer training, and much more. "One of our seniors said he was finally realizing his dreams by taking golf



lessons, learning the computer and how to dance," said Darlene.

Additionally six adults have become senior soldiers, twelve have become adherents and three children were enrolled as junior soldiers. "It's exciting to see how God has brought new people to our corps in various ways; some through the senior program, some through friendships and others through Kroc Center activities," said Darlene. "They are being brought together for one purpose: to bring glory to God."

The 160,000-square-foot Chicago Kroc Center sits on 33 acres and encompasses a sports training and fitness recreation center, aquatics center complete with indoor water park, state-of-the-art auditorium and Chicago Bulls sponsored basketball court. Functioning with the Army's holistic ministry, this center's particular focus is to be a place where individuals can pursue dreams and employment, decrease violence and provide safe, enriching opportunities for the community.

## General Gowans promoted to Glory

General John Gowans was promoted to Glory from a nursing home in South London on December 8, 2012, at the age of 78, after a long period of declining health.

General John Gowans, The Salvation Army's international leader from 1999 to 2002, will be remembered for the unique, colorful and larger-than-life personality that he was. "When God made John Gowans he threw away the mold," wrote General John Larsson (Ret.) in his foreword to General Gowans' autobiography. "Into the gift-mix of this original he poured the potential of an unconventional thinker, an



arresting speaker and a charismatic leader. He added the dynamism of a man of action and the creativity of a poet, the ruggedness of an Elijah and the spiritual sensitivity of a John the Beloved. And he topped it all with a large dollop of humanity!"

These qualities marked his term of office as General. He was passionate about the Army's fundamental mission, memorably defining it as "saving souls, growing saints and serving suffering humanity." He boldly reformed the conditions of service for officers, in the process surveying every officer in the world. He markedly widened the advisory circle to the General by

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## “Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is . . .”

by Lt. Colonel Renea Smith  
Territorial Assistant Secretary for Personnel

These words are used in the popular series of *Mission Impossible* movies. As each adventure begins, the lead character, Ethan Hunt, is given the option of accepting an exciting, yet dangerous mission.

The mission of The Salvation Army, “to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination,” is both exciting and *life-saving*. We are rescuing souls from the very brink of death!

In order to pursue this mission, as God’s *called* people, we must

live closely aligned with the Savior, deepening our roots in Him every day. Living this way emboldens us to use any and all available means to achieve the goal. We are *sent* people, **Christ’s ambassadors**, given the great privilege of communicating His message of reconciliation! (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

It’s not possible to achieve this mission without a dynamic, growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Apart from Him, we are nothing (John 15:5). Our mission flows from the very heart of God. As we spend time with the Savior, exercising the

spiritual disciplines, we grow in our faith and we experience true worship with the Father. Our passion for God’s people and His message of reconciliation grows. Our walk of holiness becomes steady and sure, and we are stirred to pursue His mission in new and exciting ways.

So, keep close to the Savior; fan into flame the spiritual gift God has given you to do His work (2 Timothy 1:6), and remember the words Moses spoke to the people of Israel before they went into the promised land. These words are just as necessary to our mission



today: *Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the LORD your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you* (Deuteronomy 31:6, NLT).

**You have been given a mission . . . choose to accept, and pursue it with faith!**

## From the inside out

“Corps growth starts from the inside out. A healthy church will naturally grow, first spiritually, then in numbers,” said Captain Antonio Romero, Aurora, Ill., corps officer. “The new handbook of doctrine in Spanish will go a long way in helping us equip current and future soldiers for battle. Being able to offer a detailed explanation of our beliefs and Bible-based theology in Spanish is priceless!”

According to Antonio and his wife, Janelle, discipleship is a key component in the corps’ English and Spanish populations.

“Preaching series are used to strengthen spiritual disciplines and

personal discipleship,” said Antonio. “We hold Bible study groups, discipleship and focus groups in addition to Sunday school classes for youth and adults. All are intentionally designed to open up opportunities for spiritual growth and accountability for participants.” The Romeros recently enrolled five junior soldiers and three senior soldiers.

More than 70 people regularly attend Sunday worship services. “We continually seek to enhance our worship experience and help everyone



Vacation Bible school attracts many children from the community.

connect with God’s message for His people.” The corps also offers a mid-week worship service in addition to small group studies, women’s ministries and character-building programs and brass instrument classes. “We have a small brass band that plays on Sundays and are looking to expand to other instruments and gospel arts,” Antonio added.

Community outreach is also important. “We utilize any means to connect with our neighbors and social service clients, many of whom don’t realize we’re a church. We hold community festivals, pre-vacation Bible school parties and special family-oriented activities throughout the year.”

Local leadership is developing within both language groups. “Our corps is blessed in that we can count on people whom God has called and equipped to fill in some of our key local leadership roles,” Antonio concluded.



The Aurora Corps family marched in the town parade!

## Handbook of Doctrine in Spanish



The revised edition of the Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine, which was released in 2010 by International Headquarters, is now available in Spanish.

According to Alfredo Martinez, territorial Hispanic ministries consultant, it is a valuable resource to the 35 Hispanic corps and ministries in the Central Territory.

“As the number of Spanish speakers increases in the Central Territory, it’s very important to have resources available in Spanish—particularly in regard to our doctrines,” said Alfredo. “I believe that the Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine will provide in-depth knowledge of our Army theology and will be a great teaching tool for Hispanic individuals who are new soldiers and those who have been soldiers for some time.”



## Get Connected!

Check out our complementary material on the web.  
[www.usc.salvationarmy.org/getconnected](http://www.usc.salvationarmy.org/getconnected)

### Clips

The Singing Company

### Resources/Links

Family Congress registration form  
Multicultural ministries website  
The Singing Co. website  
The Chicago Kroc website  
Olivers’ corps website  
Resource Connection

### Web exclusives

Courtney Grau talks about value of the Good Soil Initiative  
Keys to Great Worship by Eric Himes  
Excerpt from new worship series  
Chicago Kroc: One family’s story  
Sarah Kincaid’s thrifting tips  
More about the SA in the Australia Eastern Territory  
Interesting facts about Cambodia  
Encouraging junior soldiers by Sharon Waiksnoris

## Central Connection



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THE SALVATION ARMY USA CENTRAL TERRITORY

**ONE ARMY  
ONE MISSION  
ONE MESSAGE**  
FAMILY CONGRESS

LED BY  
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SUPPORTED BY  
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PAUL R. & CAROL SEILER

JUNE 7-9, 2013  
ST. LOUIS, MO

COMMISSIONING AND ORDINATION OF THE  
PROCLAIMERS OF THE RESURRECTION

### Friday, June 7

- 9:00 a.m. Territorial Officers Councils, Opera House+
- 12:30 p.m. Officers Luncheon with Active Officers Recognition, Hyatt Hotel+
- 1:00-7:00 p.m. Resource Connection open
- 4:30 p.m. Silver Star Dinner/Cadet Recognition+
- 7:30 p.m. Congress Session I – One Army\*
- 9:30-10:30 p.m. Resource Connection open (snack)
- 10:00 p.m. Teen & Young Adult Afterglow at City Museum (snack)

### Saturday, June 8

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast (By interest groups) ††
- 9:30 a.m. Congress Session II – One Mission
- Noon-6:30 p.m. Resource Connection open, Lunch ††
- 1:00 p.m. Congress Family Activity at St. Louis Zoo and Forest Park, Lunch ††
- 5K Walk/Run for World Services
- 5:00 p.m. Young Adult Soapbox with the General+
- 7:00 p.m. Congress Session III – One Message\*
- 9:30-11:00 p.m. Resource Connection open

### Sunday, June 9

- 9:30 a.m. Commissioning & Ordination of the Proclaimers of the Resurrection Session and Holiness Meeting
- Noon Lunch ††
- 2:15 p.m. Service of Appointments\*

+ By invitation only \* Ticket needed †† Meal Provided with official registration



## Changing lives at Quincy Kroc

by Kent Embree

Life-changing experiences seem to happen every day at the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Quincy, Ill. The first year of operation saw numerous individuals and families benefiting from the fitness, social and faith-based aspects of becoming part of the Kroc Center family.

### Inman Family Weight-loss Challenge

Kroc Center members Marcy Inman-Phillips and her brother, weatherman Brian Inman, started their weight-loss plans separately during November and December 2011. They quickly realized mutual support would benefit the entire family, so Marcy issued a challenge



The Kid Care child-watch service was a perfect place for their two daughters, Madison and Sam, to get acquainted—and for the moms, too!

Liz and Cory quickly recognized each other in their favorite fitness class, as well as on the cardio floor. Soon they were seeing each other outside of the building, and before they knew it, they were getting their families together for dinners and gatherings. Friendship found!



on Facebook to her husband, parents, siblings and significant others to join her weight-loss challenge. The goal was simple: lose a total of 270 lbs. between the people participating. To date, the family has lost 182 lbs. Only 87 to go!

### Friendships Found at Huck's Hideout

Part of the joy of motherhood is watching your child meet other children while playing and having fun. At the Quincy Kroc Center, two moms befriended each other in Huck's Hideout. Liz Lowenberg and Cory Heng have been members of the Kroc Center since it opened. They were instantly drawn to the many family-friendly features the center offers, such as Kid Care at Huck's Hideout.

### Chrissy Cox, Berrian School

Berrian School is a shining example of the positive influence a Kroc Center can have. Many events have been held at the Kroc specifically for the students, including the Christmas "Joy of Giving" event and "Health and Wellness Days." This past Christmas the students took the joy of giving one step further by adopting their own Angel Tree to help a family in need.

Chrissy Cox, principal, addressed an audience at the Kroc Center on the positive changes that have taken place. She said, "I wish to thank each one of you who has made a difference in the life of a child at Berrian. You have taught them that they are valuable and that they matter."



## Celebrating independence

More than 100 people gather once a month at the Independence, Mo., Corps for a worship service celebrating recovery.

Soldiers, adult rehabilitation center beneficiaries and Celebrate Recovery program members spend the evening praising God, sharing their testimonies and affirming those who have been clean and sober, whether for 24 hours or 31 years.

"You can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit," said Major Lisa Frost, corps officer. "It's so powerful."

During the other three Sundays a month, Celebrate Recovery program members gather in small groups to study the curriculum. The corps provides snacks and childcare with specific material for children of recovering addicts as well. Average attendance is 48 and continues to grow with leadership constantly promoting the program everywhere from laundromats to dollar stores. One local leader keeps fliers in her car and hands them out to people she meets living on the streets.

Holding meetings for Celebrate Recovery was birthed through several soldiers who were in the program themselves. "They saw what the corps offered and said, 'There is nothing for



us," recalled Lisa. "They didn't want to miss our Wednesday night SA Group Life [small group meetings], so we decided to hold meetings on Sundays, but that meant they had to step up to the plate and help run it!"

One of the leaders, Daniel, recent-



ly shared his testimony. He came from an affluent family and had everything. When he hit rock bottom due to alcoholism he lost it all: his dreams and ambitions, wife and two beautiful daughters. Today he has his family back, serves at the corps and encourages others not just through Celebrate Recovery but whenever possible.

Lisa attributes the group's success to the Holy Spirit and great leadership. "The leadership team is passionate in their desire to see people 'get it' the way they 'got it,'" said Lisa. "They want other people to know what freedom is like."



Celebrate Recovery participants encourage one another.

## SHARING OUR SUCCESSES



### Project Evergreen

by Mark Abels, Chairman  
St. Louis Regional Advisory Board

Complacency is one of the greatest obstacles to success. It's easy to grow content; it's harder to keep shaking things up.

Last spring our St. Louis Regional Advisory Board decided to shake things up a little—not because the Army was failing in its mission in St. Louis, but because we had reached a plateau. We weren't hitting growth targets. Complacency was rearing its ugly head. With the support and endorsement of our officer leadership, we responded with Project Evergreen.

Project Evergreen was a planning process, but not a planning process for 20, 10 or 5 years from now. Rather, we asked ourselves, "What can we do RIGHT NOW to get growing again, both in our revenue and in our programs?" We all have stacks of strategic plans gathering dust on shelves. We designed our program to avoid that, building on four cornerstones.

First, no "pie in the sky" plans. Specifically, each action plan had to meet three requirements: ideas must be ones we could implement in our own local authority; they must be achievable with current resources (no "if we just had a Kroc Center" plans); and finally, they must be able to produce measurable results beginning now (i.e., fiscal 2013).

Second, broad-based and direct advisory board involvement. Each of the seven "task teams" reviewing St. Louis operations would be led by a board member with a strong personal commitment to success.

Third, broad participation by board members, standing committee members, officer leadership and professional staff. We did not want a "consultant report;" we wanted a living plan in which everyone in the house had a personal ownership interest.

Finally, we required every plan to include the metrics and schedule



for measuring success, and we assigned one individual to take accountability for results. Without measurement and accountability no plan can succeed.

The result was a list of 22 specific recommendations. Some were so obvious we wondered why no one had done it already, such as a plan to move to all-volunteer Christmas bellringers, freeing up hundreds of thousands of dollars for programs. Some were not as obvious but hugely important, such as developing a new standard process to measure effectiveness of social service programs in all corps and facilities, both to improve performance and to enable us to focus resources on what works. Some require modest investment of resources, such as expansion of grant writing staff to take advantage of untapped opportunities. Others simply look to get more from what we already have, such as an improved Angel Tree program that will provide a better Christmas for hundreds of families which significantly reduces our out-of-pocket spending for toys.

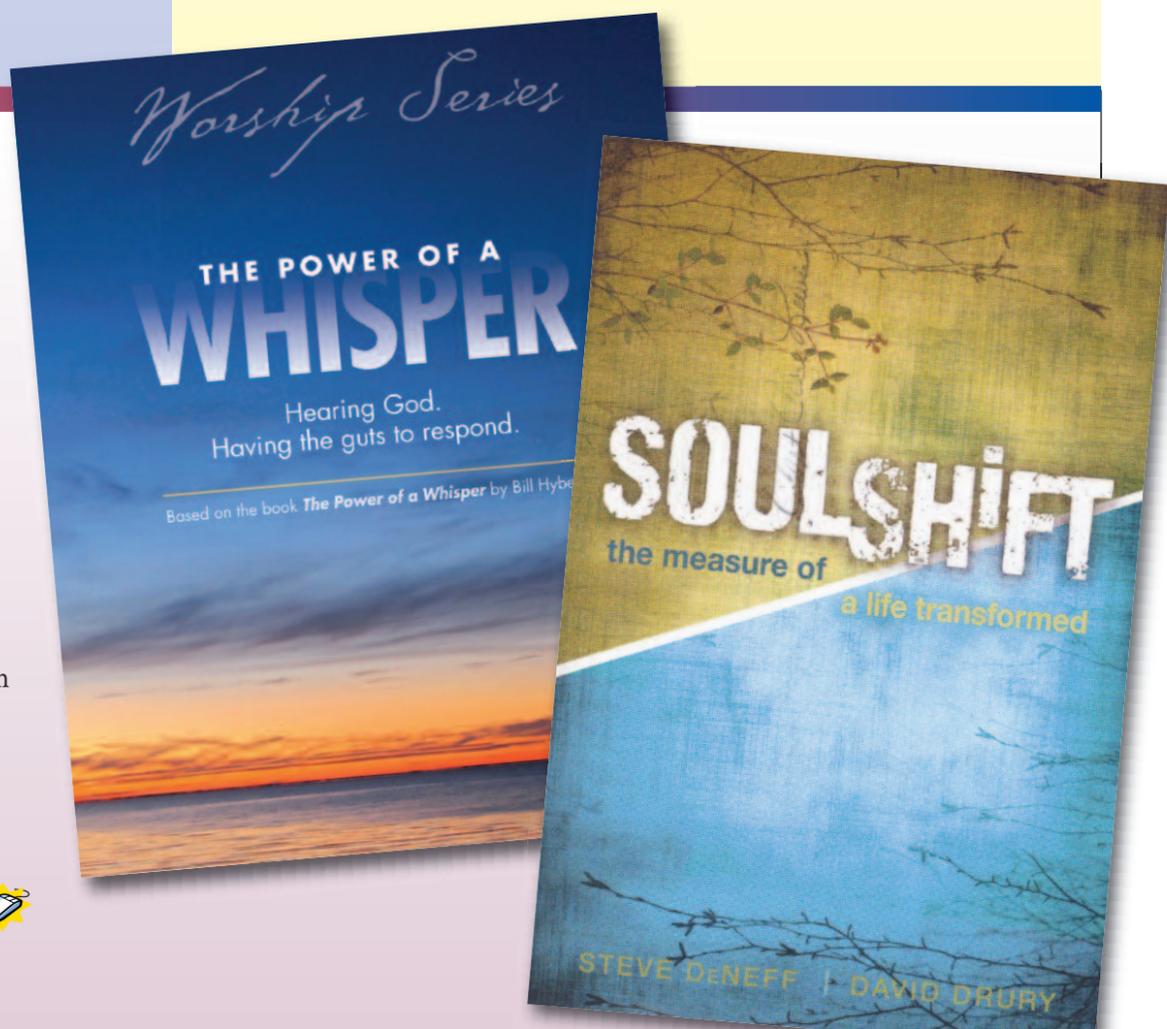
Now, of course, comes the hard part: translating a good plan into real-world success. We can't claim success yet, but we're off to a good start in most areas. And when we slip we will know it, and we'll go back and try again.

## Worship with power!

Two new worship series from the territorial music and gospel arts department are based on Christian bestsellers: *The Power of a Whisper* by Bill Hybels and *SoulShift: The Measure of a Life Transformed* by Steve DeNeff. Each series contains outstanding sermons, dramas, scripture and music selections.

- Imagine what your life might become if you were hearing God's voice and obeying His promptings. *Whispers* is a four-week series providing inspiration and vision for what can happen when you intentionally listen and respond decisively.
- *SoulShift* is an eight-week series on spiritual transformation focusing less on measuring how much time we spend on spiritual input and more on measuring who we're becoming in Christ. Move from performance-driven religion to life-transforming relationship.

Both series are available from Resource Connection!



## Newly accepted candidate

### **Sarah Eddy** Mattoon, Ill., Corps Midland Division

I was saved when I was 8 while attending music camp at Green Valley Camp. It was the first time the Gospel was made real to me, and that night I made the choice to follow Christ. I have never looked back.

Through the good and bad, God has been faithful in my life. My walk with Christ hasn't been an easy road, but I am confident that nothing can separate me from His love.



Since high school I knew God was calling me to be a Salvation Army officer, but I had different ideas. During my sophomore year of college, God opened my eyes so that I could really see what He was calling me to do. He began to lead me to make the educational and life decisions needed to fulfill my true calling.

Today I am looking forward to where God is going to take me as I follow Him.

*Captains Jeff and Erin Eddy are Sarah's corps officers.*

## Moving mountains

Major Richard McDonald has retired after 20 years of service to reside—and volunteer at the corps—in Branson, Mo. "I'm really into music!" said Richard, who's used his talents on piano, guitar, auto-harp and euphonium throughout his ministry.

His retirement service reflected that love of music. Major Phil Aho, territorial corps mission and adult ministries secretary, conducted the retirement ceremony, and Majors Mark Haslett and Lloyd Hanton shared memories.

Earlier in life, Richard was an art restoration expert and museum display-case builder. But, he spiraled into alcoholism after a series of difficulties. Not long after accepting Christ, he entered the Chicago, Ill., Harbor Light program. He returned to art restoration and began volunteering at the Tom Seay Service Center. Called to fulltime ministry, he became an envoy and resident manager there in 1992. A year later he became assistant administrator and an auxiliary captain.

Richard led corps or was an associate in Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, South Dakota and Wisconsin from 1994 to 2010,



becoming a captain in 2004. While leading the Kenosha, Wis., Corps from 2005 to 2007, he started new ministries such as a free clinic with a volunteer doctor, a transitional housing program and expanded social services.

The appointment from which he retired was chaplain of the St. Louis, Mo., Booth Manor, where he also served as social services coordinator. He arrived in 2010 and became a major the following year. When most of the elderly residents balked at crossing the street to attend the St. Louis Temple Corps, Richard realized he'd have to move the proverbial mountain to them and began Bible-based programs at Booth Manor!

## Reasons to rejoice

The Duluth, Minn., Corps has many reasons to rejoice in the New Year. Blessings range from a large thrift store operation and a strong social services program with 30 dedicated employees to a thriving congregation.



Scoter Christiansen of the Harlem Globetrotters visits with youth from the Duluth Rookie Basketball team.



Tammy Stenman assists Duluth Food Service Coordinator Carol Perkins.

Additionally, The Salvation Army in Duluth recently celebrated its 120th anniversary. Current corps officers Majors William and Elizabeth Cox attribute much of the corps' longevity to great leadership past and present. A few of the 200-plus officers who served here were present at a commemoration late last year.

Also last fall 70 people from the corps gathered at Northwoods Camp and Retreat Center for a three-day retreat on holiness. The weekend special guests were Lt. Colonels Jeffrey and Dorothy Smith, territorial secretary for personnel and officer



(l to r) Lt. Colonels Jeffrey and Dorothy Smith, territorial secretary for personnel and officer resource and development secretary; Major William Cox, Duluth corps officer; Lt. Colonels Dan and Rebecca Sjogren, Northern divisional leaders; and Captains Andrew and Melissa Shiels, Northern divisional youth secretaries at the corps holiness retreat.

resource and development secretary, and Jodi Beach, worship artist from the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps.

"It's great for our corps family to get away together physically, emotionally and spiritually," said William. "Everyone reported it was a rich time, and they came away rejuvenated."

The retreat's Sunday morning service concluded with the enrollment of Jim Cederstrom, Northwoods camp director, and his wife, Missy, who have become active members of the corps and spearhead a Sunday evening service held for community

members in the camp's chapel (see sidebar).

Looking to the future William is excited to see what God has in store. Right now the corps is in the midst of revising its strategic plan, and potentially might conduct a capital campaign to improve the size and condition of the current building. "We're also always looking to implement new programs and revise the old ones to meet the needs of the corps and community for our congregation 5, 10 or 15 years down the road," said William.

## Northwoods community

When the Northern Division's Northwoods Camp chapel services became an outreach of the Duluth, Minn., Corps, Camp Director Jim Cederstrom and his wife, Missy, were ready for the challenge.

"We worked hard to get it going because there really isn't an Army presence between the Twin Cities and Duluth," said Jim. "We feel there is a great need here and saw this as an opportunity to introduce the Army and our camp to the community."

Services bring in approximately 30 people from the Duluth Corps and surrounding community. Messages are given by a guest officer, usually, Major William Cox,



Duluth corps officer.

To add to the excitement, Jim and Missy were enrolled as soldiers during the corps' holiness retreat. "It was time to make that commitment," Jim affirmed.

# Equipping the territory

When Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, territorial commander, dedicated The Singing Company as the territorial praise band nearly two years ago at the Festival of Worship Arts in 2011, it signified a landmark for both the group and the territory. The status not only meant an increased exposure and responsibility for the band but also an official progressive music resource for the Army in the Midwest.

Since then the praise band has devoted itself to the pursuit of glorifying God through leading and modeling effective, relevant worship and advancing territorial goals such as "Live Music in Worship in Every Corps by 2020." Any Central Territory unit can request The Singing Company to play at their event or meeting through their website:

[www.thesingingcompany.com](http://www.thesingingcompany.com)

In addition to a regular, broad-based schedule of performance engagements, they have focused on worship leadership training by offering classes at youth councils, Central Bible Leadership Institute (CBLI), Central Music Institute and, most recently, the Territorial Worship Arts Retreat. They have also started to provide workshops known as The Singing Company Worship Academy.

This year their goal is to enhance worship in corps by launching online worship training videos and providing worship resources in English and Spanish that can be downloaded from their website.

The Singing Company also individually mentors young people who are interested in leading a praise band at their corps. During divisional events the band asks for two teens or young adults to shadow them so that the youth can be encouraged in their gifts but also so that they can gain insight into the responsibility and commitment needed to be effective in this ministry.

"We are available to help people grow in their gifts, and we want them to grow," said Eric Himes, Singing Company leader. "There is nothing more powerful than someone who has the power of the Lord and the discipline to grow."

Members of the band have experienced this first-hand as they've been a spiritual encouragement to each other.

"Since becoming a territorial band, I've noticed they've grown in depth," said Major Gail Aho, Singing Company executive officer. "They work together as a group and have taken responsibility for each other in a way that has made their music and witness deeper."



## Meet the band

### **David M. Shay** Bass Guitar

David is a lifelong Salvationist who currently attends the Irving Park, Ill., Corps and has an incredible passion for music, playing in multiple bands and teaching music throughout the Metropolitan Division. Though he grew up in the Army, he fully committed his life to Christ during CBLI in 2005. He joined The Singing Company in 2011 and says he sees the main purpose of worship as glorifying God.

"We try to be an example and a resource," David said. "I've seen my fellow band members reach out to people they meet on trips and try to spread kindness and joy to those they encounter so many times. It's taught me so much, and it's spoken to others as well."

### **Kirsten Gorton** Vocals

Kirsten started reading music on the cornet around age 7, but it wasn't until she was 14 on the worship team that she realized her passion for singing. That same year she accepted Christ as her Savior.

Having been a member of The Singing Company since 2008, Kirsten said, "I consider it a great encouragement and privilege." Kirsten attends the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps and studied English at Elmhurst, Ill., College.

### **Enrique Villatoro** Electric Guitar

Enrique's family started attending The Salvation Army right after he finished high school. He accepted Jesus at a music congress. "Immediately all the doubt inside of me, along with my emptiness, was cancelled," recalled Enrique who now attends the Waukegan, Ill., Corps, where he works as the Hispanic ministries director.

Having been a band member for four years, Enrique says The Singing Company has been a blessing in his life. "Having the honor and privilege of entering God's presence is what I love about our worship," he explained.



# for praise



## **Nate Irvine**

### *Drums, Percussion*

"Before becoming an officer, my mom was a music teacher," Nate said. "So, it's in the genes, I guess." Nate pursued music first in a marching band, then a garage band, and in 2005 joined The Singing Company as a founding member.

He accepted Christ when he was 8 but fully surrendered his life to the Lord as a teenager. He now works with youth in his position as Metropolitan divisional director of youth evangelism and discipleship. He attends the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps.

Nate considers The Singing Company an outreach. "Worship bands aren't just musical groups or musicians, they're preachers of the Word in song," he said.



## **Dietrich Hunter**

### *Auxiliary Percussion*

Joining the band just last fall, Dietrich is one of the newest members of The Singing Company. He started attending the Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps with his grandmother and then came to know Christ at a summer camp. Dietrich is currently a member of the Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center where he works as the Teen Zone manager and youth ministry coordinator.

Being a percussionist, Dietrich's favorite part of worship is the rhythm and movement. "Worshiping with my hands or my feet alleviates the worries of the day and helps me remember God's faithfulness and goodness," he said.

## **Sam Arias**

### *Vocals, Piano*

A member of the Chicago Irving Park, Ill., Corps, Sam joined The Singing Company in June 2012. His family met The Salvation Army through the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps when his father was in seminary and they moved into the neighborhood. Though Sam came to know the Lord as a child, he has grown in faith through the Army. "I've found an awesome community here, and God has worked through it to challenge me in my relationship with Him."

Sam's love for music began in high school when he taught himself the guitar and piano and joined the choir. He reflected, "My favorite part of worship is coming to Him as we are, no matter where we stand."



## **Jonathan Taube**

### *Sound Engineer*

Jonathan and his wife, Mona, attend the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps and work at territorial headquarters, where Jonathan recently took a position in the youth department.

A lifelong Salvationist, Jonathan's introduction to music was through the brass band. Over the years he learned guitar and played in multiple bands where he was often responsible for the sound equipment.

Jonathan is excited to be the newest member of the band. "I really believe in the mission of The Singing Company," he said. "It's important not only to play great music but provide great resources, instruction and modeling."



## **Eric Himes**

### *Vocals, Acoustic Guitar*

Eric founded The Singing Company in 2005. He was inspired to start the band after discovering the powerful lyrics in *The Salvation Army Song Book* and wanted an outlet to express them to a new generation.

A lifelong Salvationist and member of the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps, Eric came to know the Lord during divisional music camp, but it wasn't until a summer mission trip to the Ukraine that he started to press into the Lord and grow in his faith.

Eric's favorite part of worship is stepping back and listening to the congregation sing. He said, "That's when it really hits me that the Lord hears each of our voices and knows each of our hearts in such a perfect way." 



## Thrift store trends upscale

If you stopped by a Salvation Army thrift store on Chicago's north side, you'd notice changes in the quality, variety and layout of merchandise. What you're experiencing is the Chicago North Side Adult Rehabilitation Center's (ARC) new "best of the best" initiative to revamp the image of its thrifts stores and gain clientele.

Under the direction of Major John Aren, Chicago North Side ARC administrator, and Sarah Kincaid, store merchandising supervisor, each of their nine stores is



working toward having a "concept space," with higher-end, name brand or boutique quality items located near the front of the store.

"The nature of a thrift store is that everything is one-of-a-kind and unique. So our managers are learning to think outside of the box and find creative ways to sell some of the extraordinary items that are donated," said Sarah who received her bachelor's degree in merchandising and management from Columbia College in Chicago.

Sarah and John believe there is untapped potential in the Chicago North area because of the higher end merchandise donated and the active fashion and vintage community which appreciates deep discounts on gently used, name brand or designer items.



"We receive everything from Cartier watches to Jimmy Choo shoes, Prada and Chanel," said Sarah. "Some things are gently used, but others are new."

In addition to implementing the concept space in many of its stores, this May the ARC is reopening its Lincoln Park location with an entirely new look. "The idea is for the Lincoln Park store to be a unique, more upscale shopping experience," said Sarah. The trendy Chicago neighborhood, inundated with young professionals, is the perfect place to reach their target market.



## Motivating the motivators

by Jeffrey Jones

Program directors, members of intake and residence managers attended an Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) Command program retreat that featured workshops on programming, relationship building within the community and motivating recovery. The fellowship was wonderful, the topics were engaging, and the messages were powerful and beneficial.

Gary Shunk, featured speaker, built upon the recovery principles we already knew. He guided us through the importance of keeping a positive attitude. Since recovery is

such a difficult process, it's easy to dwell on the negative, but there are some easy and effective ways to create a positive environment.

Moreover, we were reminded of the great blessing it is to be in our position of service. This realization is a powerful tool in being better motivators so those in our care can daily face the journey toward recovery. As director of rehabilitation services at the Chicago Central, Ill., ARC, I know there are many ways to help the recovery process but most important is building a strong faith foundation within each person.

## Finding my bearings

by William Eitel

I thank God every morning and every night these days. I thank Him for my friends, my family, my art and my life. In short, I thank God for everything. It wasn't always like this. I stand in testimony today solely because God had plans for me—plans that didn't involve me drinking myself to death. As my last resort, I whispered through the doors of the Chicago North Side Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) in December 2008 like a ghost. That's what I'd reduced myself to, a shadow of what God created me to be. I didn't know then what lay in store for my future, but I knew what lay waiting behind.

My life wasn't always so bleak. I enjoyed a Christian upbringing in a good neighborhood, and when not playing with friends I filled my time with reading and art and, as I became older, music. As much as I had stars in my eyes, I also had the growing presence of alcohol in my life. At first, music and drinking seemed to complement one another, and I lived a largely carefree life, never paying much in the way of consequences. It's true how addiction is described as being cunning, baffling and powerful. There are no well-lit road signs warning of the perils ahead. By

the time I thought to stop and get my bearings, I was lost.

The ARC was a beacon of light in my darkness. Without it, I might not be alive today. I know it was God's will, not my own, that brought me through those doors on that dark winter's day. It wasn't an overnight transformation, however. It was another leg of my journey, only this time it was leading out of the darkness instead of deeper within. It was here at the North Side ARC that I came to the realization I had abandoned God, not the other way around. I found friends; I made amends. I began building anew what I'd so callously torn down—and I found my music. It was right there waiting for me. One of my greatest joys these days is giving glory to God by simply playing in chapel on Sundays.

Thank you, God, for everything.



## The Aussie difference



by Major Curtiss A. Hartley

He's a Salvo from South Africa, she's from Australia. They met in America while she was serving as an officer in Canada. Confusing? There's more. They're now in Australia!

Major Michelle and Captain Deon Oliver, along with their children Caleb, Giselle and Liam, took up a three-year term in Australia in December 2011. It's fulfilling a desire to give their kids a little connection to her home and extended family.

"I knew in my head that Australia had changed," Michelle said. "I knew in my head I'd changed. I wasn't single and 25 anymore. The Army had changed, but I didn't realize how much that actually was. I didn't realize what I would have to learn from scratch and a lot of things I would have to relearn in the first six months."

She was encouraged by the newness of the experience. "One of the differences between Australia and the Central Territory is that in Australia, it's entirely appropriate for each corps to look a little bit different," Michelle said. "So every corps, when an officer moves, you have to relearn how it all works."

Deon faced the differences with enthusiasm. "What excites me about being a corps officer in Australia is that innovation is encouraged and celebrated," he said. "I'm excited about the opportunity to live, learn and explore a different approach to mission living. It's a different approach to advancing the Kingdom, and a different cultural context for doing that."

The children have adapted well and are enjoying new sports like cricket, net ball and Australian Rules football, but they've had anticipated challenges. "It's never easy being the new kid in the school," Michelle said. "It took them the first term to really get adjusted."

Their Stafford Corps in Brisbane averages 160 on Sunday morning with a brass band. Its extensive music program is an outreach to the neighborhood as parents bring children for all sorts of lessons.

"Corps are more congregational than they are social," Michelle said. "We have social services, but they're specialized. The corps are more focused on congregational life. There's no kettles! Let me wipe that smile off my face," she said. The corps is funded mostly from tithes. There are also program fees from some of the outreach activities. They host conferences and rent out space for other activities.

"The challenge for the corps is figuring out how to engage the community in a meaningful way," Deon said. The corps hosts an alternative education program for 15- to 18-year-olds, as well as provides legal assistance for refugees, immigrants and families struggling with life issues. He continued, "We have a mall about 500 meters from the corps, and we've been able to make inroads with them. There are a lot of youngsters just wandering."

To learn more about the Brisbane Stafford Corps and to follow the Olivers' experiences, we'll link you through our Get Connected web pages.



Photo by Shafron Paterson, courtesy of Pipeline

## Sweden door to world for Voellers

by Major Cornell Voeller

"Join the Army and see the world" has been a slogan of the United States Army, and some would say it also fits The Salvation Army. My wife, Candace, and I have seen more of the world since moving to Stockholm, Sweden, in 2010 to be corps officers at the Vasa Corps. But we have not always had to travel; instead, the world has come to us.

Immigrants from many nations are making Stockholm their home, and we see that in our corps as well. Our Sunday worship welcomes people from Sweden, the United States, Great Britain and Ghana. Our weekly family night has grown to 100 and adds other nations: Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran. It's common to hear English spoken in our café and preschool program. This brings new possibilities for corps growth, along with challenges of integrating cultures and language. This year we will capitalize on these opportunities by using the theme "Others!" for all of our corps programs.

Everyone with a connection to the corps was invited to the Christmas party, and attendance doubled to more than 200 people celebrating Christ's birth. Our family learned how to ski during a corps ski trip to Norway which included 50 teens who skied and learned about a personal relationship with Jesus.

Many of our soldiers have been praying for people to respond to the call to officer-ship, and this past fall three of our soldiers entered the training college.

Both our corps band and choir worked on new CDs last year, and the choir toured Australia.

Our oldest sons, Ryan and



Alex, returned to the United States last summer to work at Three Trails Camp in Kansas City, Mo., and to visit colleges in preparation for their futures. Erik went to the Army's confirmation camp which teaches the basics of Christian faith to young teens. Afterward, he was enrolled as a soldier. Sean spent a week at *Kollo*—a Salvation Army summer camp.

Our family also traveled to the European Congress in the Czech Republic where we learned more about the Army in Europe and spent time in the beautiful city of Prague.

While we have enjoyed experiencing the world from our new home in Stockholm, we are ready to see family and friends back in the United States. We look forward to our homeland furlough this summer and then we eagerly wait to see what new worlds God has in store for us.



## Salvation Army work begins in Cambodia

Salvation Army work has been established officially in the Kingdom of Cambodia as of November 22, 2012, taking the total number of countries in which the Army has officially recognized work to 126.

The potential for Salvation Army work in Cambodia has been a topic of conversation at International Headquarters since 2008, when the Korea Territory expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of mission outreach there. A short-term ministry program to Cambodia was commenced by a small team from the Korea Territory in 2009. A member of that team, Major Kim, Hong-soo, returned to Cambodia later and commenced a ministry with university students in Phnom Penh.

During the 95th corps anniversary celebrations at Ah Hyun Corps in the Seoul Division of the Korea Territory, a Declaration of Vision was made,

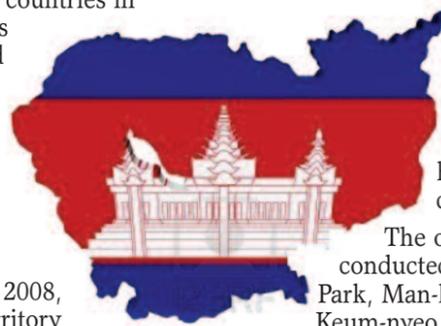
one aspect of which was a commitment to plant a corps in Cambodia.

While the short-term ministry was under way, various other aspects, such as legal registration of The Salvation Army in the Kingdom of Cambodia, were being pursued and have now been completed.

The official opening was conducted by Commissioners Park, Man-hee and Kim, Keum-nyeo, Korea territorial leaders, in Phnom Penh. They were accompanied by a group of 45 officers and soldiers from the Korea Territory. The officers appointed in charge of the new work are Captain Shin, Jin-kyun and Captain Lim, Hyang.

The inaugural meeting was attended by civic dignitaries, including the Republic of Korea's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, together with local church and business leaders.

From an International News Release.



# Reaping the harvest

# good soil initiative

When Courtney Grau graduated from Indiana University with a degree in tourism management and event planning, she had no idea what God had in store for her but trusted in His goodness and provision.

"I asked God to take me where He wanted, lead me where He wanted and His will be done in my life," Courtney recalled. "That's when I got an email from Lt. Catherine Fitzgerald [then Bloomington, Ind., corps officer]."

Just prior to her prayer, Courtney had attended a career fair and submitted a resume to the Bloomington Corps. Although the open position, recreation coordinator, wasn't exactly in line with her new education, she kept an open mind.



## JS banner blitz!

You may have noticed life-size junior soldier banners popping up around your corps! They're part of a six-banner informational series on harnessing junior soldier potential.

Each banner features a different character and theme, starting with the words, "Did you know..." and concluding with one of the themes: I can love, serve, sing, promise and talk.

"Junior soldiers matter," said Sharon Waiksnoris, youth development specialist. "They have good ideas and can help at the corps just like grown-ups! Allowing them to take on responsibility helps junior soldiers feel valued and may set them on a lifelong course of serving."

This fun emphasis serves as an upbeat, creative and clever reminder that enrollment isn't the end of junior soldier training. Do you have a simple task that needs to be done or a duty filled? You might not need to look further than your junior soldiers.



After interviews, prayer and consideration, Courtney accepted the position. "As soon as I started working at the Salvation Army summer camps, it opened my eyes to see how some children live and in what circumstances," she said. "After that I longed to work solely with youth, and I knew God was calling me to work with underprivileged children."

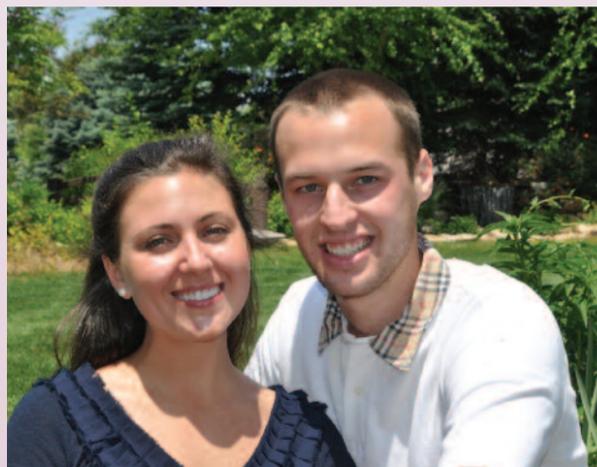
In 2012 the Good Soil Initiative (GSI) youth coordinator position opened at the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Corps. Almost immediately Courtney knew this was God's will for her, but it was hard to think about leaving behind friends, family and her boyfriend, Brad.

"On my way to the site visit, I prayed God's will be done," said Courtney who brought Brad along to meet Lts. Michael and Kristina Sjogren. "Within the first five minutes of meeting the Sjogrens, we found out the recreation coordinator was leaving soon, and a position would be opening up." Brad is now working in that position.

Courtney is enjoying her work as one of the first GSI coordinators in the territory. As such she regularly coordinates Sunday school classes, organizes Sunday school openings,

teaches junior church and works with character-building programs on Tuesday nights. She also helps to keep the lines of communication open between parents, children and soldiers.

"He's really provided for me and blessed me," Courtney said. "Sometimes I have to pinch myself."



## New promises

Majors Jason and Carrie Pollom, Jackson, Mich., corps officers, recently enrolled three junior soldiers, one of whom was their son, Carson! Jason gave the message and special guests Majors Bob and Lisa Mueller, Western Michigan and Northern Indiana divisional secretary and secretary for program, respectively, enrolled the children. Carrie reports their junior soldiers are growing in their faith and helpful around the corps. "Most Sundays our junior soldiers take turns being ushers for the service; they also volunteer at Christmas time, in the food pantry and at special events," said Carrie.



Did you know

# I CAN...

- be an example
- pass out bulletins
- visit a nursing home
- clean my room
- help at the corps
- sort food
- be a friend
- take offering
- plant flowers
- worship God
- lead a song
- read the Bible
- respect others
- write a card
- live a healthy life
- encourage
- try things
- greater
- skills
- about Jesus

Did you know?

Junior Soldiers are an important part of our corps family. Kids have great ideas and can help at the corps just like grown-ups. When you're a Junior Soldier, you help in the mission of the corps and are looking for ways to please God in your actions, speech and character. Becoming a Junior Soldier means that you know that Jesus is your Savior from sin and that you want to make The Salvation Army your place where you worship God and help Him to bring good changes to your community. If you want to become a Junior Soldier, ask your Corps Officer or Sunday School teacher about it!

## Sunbeams an outreach

As corps in our territory reach out to their communities to invite children to participate in character-building activities, programs are flourishing. Not only are children growing in their knowledge and understanding of the Lord, but community members are learning more about The Salvation Army.

### Driving character

Last year five girls received their Commissioner's Sunbeam awards at the Mt. Clemens, Mich., Corps.

Each Wednesday night for children's activities Major Lori Wright, corps officer and Sunbeam leader, and Captain Connie Shaw, associate corps officer, pick up 90 percent of the youth in order for them to participate; it normally requires three trips!

"It's about a six-hour venture from pick-up to drop-off," reported Lori. "I love getting to know the girls and their personalities. Each has a little bit to give and a different input. Driving gives me that extra opportunity."

Not only are the girls full of personality, they work hard. In order to earn their Commissioner's Sunbeam awards they met independently with Lori to complete additional material and get ready for their review.

"It's wonderful to see the progression of the kids becoming involved, giving their hearts to Jesus and seeing a transformation in their lives," said Lori.

Since Lori and Connie have been at Mt. Clemens, eight children have been enrolled as junior soldiers and several families have started attending Sunday mornings as a result of character-building activities.



Sunbeams Aniya O'Neal (l) and Shelby Sanders work on the Flower Study emblem.

### Hand-outs for character

"When we first arrived here, my husband and another gentleman from the corps went out once a week to hand out information about children's activities," said Captain Kim Ray, Muscatine, Iowa, corps officer. "Even in bad weather they went out; God really blessed those efforts!"

An influx of nearly 20 sunbeams resulted from these and similar efforts by the corps. Recently, nine of these girls earned their Commissioner's Sunbeam awards. "The girls worked very hard so they could receive the award," said Kim. "Four of them had been here before and started emblem work, but the rest had to catch up!"

Kim attributes the girls' success in obtaining the award not only to their hard work but friendship. Those who were ahead of the others

didn't complain about repeating material and helped to encourage everyone else.

Now three families have become involved at the corps as a result of the girls' activities.



Muscatine, Iowa, Sunbeams

## Employment Opportunities

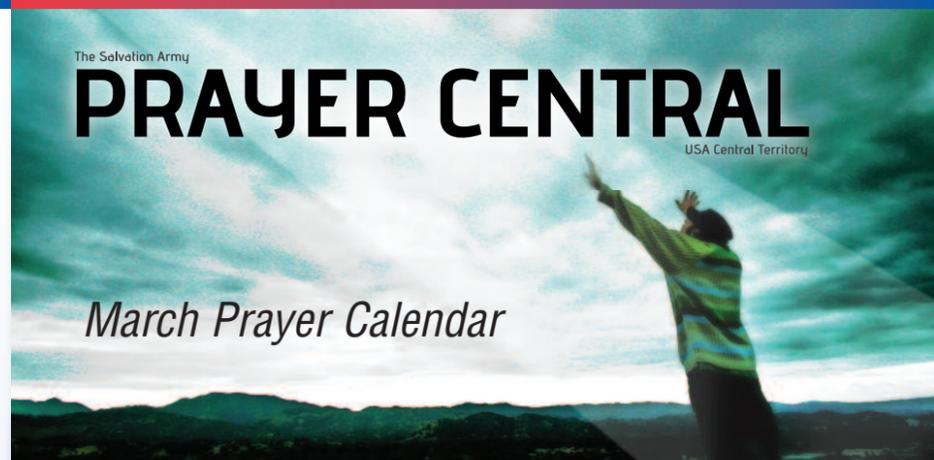
**Business, Psychology Faculty Positions**—Booth University College, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Anticipated start date: July 1, 2013.

Business Administration Department seeks applicants in Human Resource Management, Organizational Behavior or Marketing; other areas may be considered. Minimum requirements: master's degree, professional designation, five years professional experience. (Education, experience may be considered in lieu of designation.) Prefer post-secondary teaching experience.

Behavioral Sciences Department seeks applicants to teach foundational undergrad courses, upper-level courses in specialized areas. Requires PhD (or advanced ABD) in psychology by start date; competencies in research methods/statistics, community mental health, abnormal psychology, dyadic communication and/or organizational psychology. Prefer Community Psychology or Applied Social Psychology with clinical applications.

Send vitae, statement of teaching philosophy and professional engagement, three references and evidence of effective teaching to Marilyn\_Coupland@BoothUC.ca.

## --Mustard Seeds--



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Friday	Job 17-18	World Day of Prayer
	2 Saturday	Isaiah 45-50	Mt. Pleasant, Mich., Corps
	3 Sunday	Matthew 23-25	Matthew & Rona Beatty (Philippines)
	4 Monday	1 Corinthians 1-2	Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps
	5 Tuesday	Genesis 36-39	Southeast Michigan ARC*
	6 Wednesday	Ruth	Port Huron, Mich., Corps
	7 Thursday	Psalms 27-29	Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps
	8 Friday	Job 19-20	New Albany, Ind., Corps
	9 Saturday	Isaiah 51-55	Western Michigan & Northern Indiana DHQ**
	10 Sunday	Matthew 26-28	National Music & Arts Sunday
	11 Monday	1 Corinthians 3-4	Biblical Education Tour to Turkey
	12 Tuesday	Genesis 40-43	St. Joseph, Mo., Corps
	13 Wednesday	1 Samuel 1-5	Joliet, Ill., Corps
	14 Thursday	Psalms 30-32	St. Louis Euclid Ave., Mo., Corps
	15 Friday	Job 21-22	Noble Worship Center, Minn., Corps
	16 Saturday	Isaiah 56-61	Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps
	17 Sunday	Mark 1-2	Muskegon Citadel, Mich., Corps
	18 Monday	1 Corinthians 5-6	Oshkosh, Wis., Corps
	19 Tuesday	Genesis 44-47	Royal Oak, Mich., Corps
	20 Wednesday	1 Samuel 6-10	Springfield, Ill., Corps
	21 Thursday	Psalms 33-35	Peru, Ind., Corps
	22 Friday	Job 23-24	Topeka Citadel, Kan., Corps
	23 Saturday	Isaiah 62-66	Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps
	24 Sunday	Mark 3-4	Holy Week observances
	25 Monday	1 Corinthians 7-8	St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps
	26 Tuesday	Genesis 48-50	Rochester, Minn., Corps
	27 Wednesday	1 Samuel 11-15	Omaha North Side, Neb., Corps
	28 Thursday	Psalms 36-38	Niles, Mich., Corps
	29 Friday	Job 25-26	Quincy Kroc Center, Ill., Corps
	30 Saturday	Jeremiah 1-6	Racine, Wis., Corps
	31 Sunday	Mark 5-6	Resurrection Sunday Celebrations!

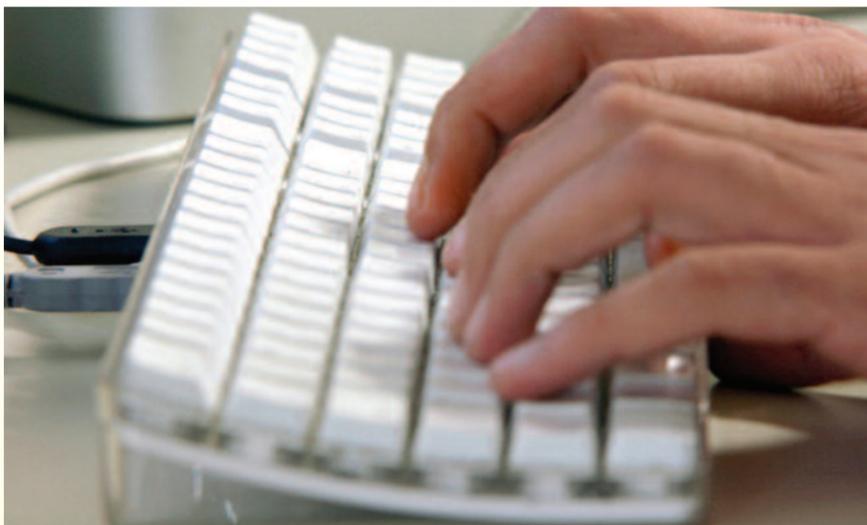
Go to [www.prayercentralusa.org](http://www.prayercentralusa.org) for prayer updates.

If you follow the prayer calendar in the next year, you will have read through the Bible!

\* = Adult Rehabilitation Center  
\*\* = Divisional Headquarters  
PIM = Partners in Mission



## Writers' Conference slated



National Headquarters has announced it will host a writer's conference October 8-13, 2013, at the Sheraton St. Louis City Center in St. Louis, Mo., to advance the Army's publishing ministry in the fields of fiction and nonfiction writing. Salvationists of all skill levels are invited to attend, from beginners to published writers. Extensive workshops will offer something for everyone, with an emphasis on learning, sharing and inspiration.

Award-winning novelist Patricia Hickman, author of *The Pirate Queen* and *Painted Dresses*, is slated to be the guest speaker. Also participating will be best-selling Christian author Bob Hostetler, whose unorthodox titles include *How to Survive the End of the World* and *Quit Going to Church* and award-winning writer, editor, humorist and minister of communications James Watkins. National Commander Commissioner William Roberts will deliver the keynote address.

The cost of the conference is \$650, including all meals. Lodging and transportation are additional. To register, go to [www.publications.salvationarmyusa.org/writers-conference](http://www.publications.salvationarmyusa.org/writers-conference), download an application and submit it through your division.

Full and partial scholarships will be awarded to the top three winners of fiction and non-fiction writing contests. Manuscripts are due March 31 and should not exceed 1,200 words. Entries will be rated on creativity, plot and character development, message, structure, style and substance. To participate, go to [www.publications.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.publications.salvationarmyusa.org) and submit your manuscript electronically.

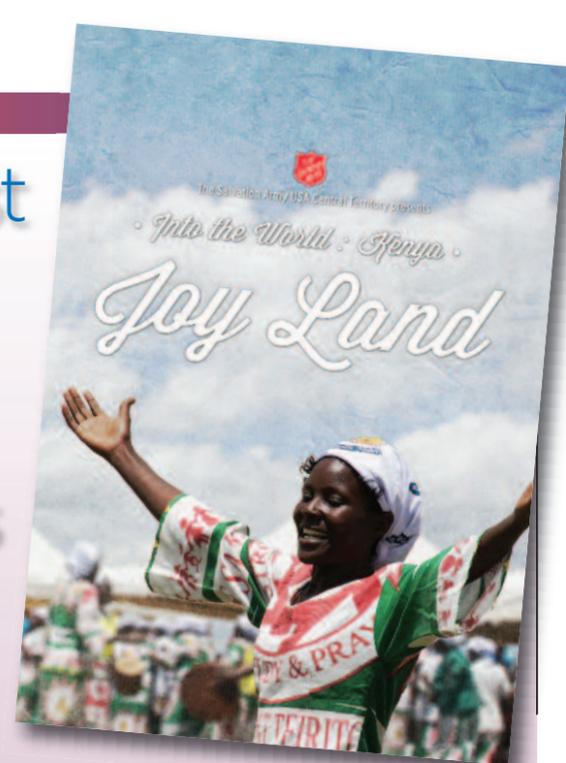
Through special arrangements, all delegates will be treated to a dinner cruise on the Mississippi River.

"The National Publications Department has hosted national and international literary conferences periodically," says Editor-in-Chief Major Allen Satterlee. "Each time delegates come away with a renewed commitment to write for God's glory. This conference promises to help Salvationists further develop their abilities, while bonding with like-minded writers, authors and special guests."

The Sheraton St. Louis City Center is located at 400 S. 14th St., St. Louis, MO 63103.

For information on special hotel rates, visit [www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/savarmy](http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/savarmy). Room options range from singles to suites. Delegates are responsible for booking accommodations directly.

## The newest World Services video series in your corps now!



## Promoted to Glory

### Brigadier Lewis Forney

Brigadier Lewis Forney was promoted to Glory on November 15, 2012, from Wichita, Kan.



Lewis graduated from Hutchinson, Kan., High School. Afterward he attended the College for Officer Training and was commissioned in 1940. On January 13, 1943, he married Lt. Edith Denmark, and together they raised three sons.

Lewis served as a corps officer for 26 years and in the men's social (adult rehabilitation center) for five. He was city commander in St. Paul, Minn., and Wichita, Kan., where he is remembered for his dedication to the Biddy Basketball program.

As director of development for the Midland Division, Lewis raised a record-breaking amount for Christmas—over one million dollars, and while in the Kansas and Western Missouri Division was one of three who "blazed the trails" to open the Hiawatha Camp and Retreat Center. Lewis was a "people person" who knew no stranger.

After Edith's promotion to Glory, he married Major Alta Kinney in 1983.

Lewis is survived by his wife, Alta, sons, Hal (Sharon), Major Jerold (Carol) and Major Richard (Judy); eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

### Mrs. Colonel Irene Cedervall

Mrs. Colonel Irene Cedervall was promoted to Glory on November 16, 2012. She was 81.



Irene was born to Ervin and Clara Strommer in 1930 and grew up in Rockford, Ill. In 1950 she entered the College for Officer Training and was commissioned with the "Ambassadors" session. As a single officer she held four corps appointments before marrying Lt. James Neil in 1958. Their marriage was blessed with three daughters.

James was promoted to Glory in 1973, and over the next seven years Irene led several corps, receiving New Albany, Indiana's "Woman of Achievement" award for her impact in serving tornado survivors.

In 1979 she married Lt. Colonel Arne Cedervall, and they assumed leadership of Salvation Army operations in the Philippines, an appointment from which they retired in 1986.

Irene was full of wit, had an endearing personality and a mischievous twinkle in her eye.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arne, and survived by her daughters, Jennifer Junior, Elizabeth Watson and Shari Neil; step-children Major David Cedervall, Margreta (Donald) Burdsall and Carol (James) Wilson; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

### Major Alvin Clark

Major Alvin Clark was 85 when he was promoted to Glory on December 1, 2012.



Alvin was born to Herbert and Edith Clark in Midland, Mich. He was raised in the Nazarene church, but later attended the Midland, Mich., Corps where he was the first soldier from the corps to enter training.

A member of the "Peacemakers" session, Alvin was commissioned in 1949. In his first appointment at the Calumet, Mich., Corps, he met Lt. Shirley Rowe. They were married in 1952 and blessed with three children.

Combined, the Clarks held 16 appointments in the Central Territory in the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Indiana, Northern, and Western Michigan and Northern Indiana divisions. They also served four years in the Eastern Territory. The Clarks retired in 1992 from the Traverse City, Mich., Corps.

Alvin loved being an active member of his community and even in retirement served as the president of the Keweenaw Kiwanis Club in Hancock, Mich.

Alvin is survived by his beloved wife; children, Major David (Bonnie), Joel (Jane) and Rhoda Clark (Terry Wilds); nine grandchildren and three great-grandsons.

## General Gowans promoted to Glory

Continued from page 1

creating the General's Consultative Council. He unfailingly challenged his hearers around the world through messages that were vivid, pointed and prophetic. No one present at the International Millennial Congress in 2000 held in Atlanta, Ga., will ever forget the impact of his inspired preaching on that occasion.

A priceless legacy General Gowans leaves are the more than 200 songs he wrote, many of them originating in the 10 musicals he co-authored with General John Larsson. These songs continue to speak to hearts and minds wherever they are sung around the Army world. His ministry will also live on through the three books of prayer poems he wrote under the title *O Lord*, which so clearly reveal his gifts of insight, warmth and humor. In retirement, General Gowans reached and influenced thousands by authoring *Words of Life* for several years.

John Gowans was born in Blantyre, Scotland, on November 13,

1934, to officer parents. He entered the International Training College, London, in 1954 as a cadet of the "Soulwinners" session. There he met Cadet Gisèle Bonhotal, who had entered training from Paris, and they married in 1957. John and Gisèle became parents of two sons, John-Marc and Christophe, and there are now four grandchildren.

John and Gisèle Gowans served as corps officers in the then British Territory for 16 years, held administrative appointments in their home territory and also in the USA Western Territory, and were divisional leaders in both of these territories. They served for 11 years in France, in time becoming the territorial leaders. This was followed by territorial leadership of the Australia Eastern and United Kingdom territories.

General Gowans' funeral service was held at the William Booth College in London and was led by General John Larsson (Ret.) with General Linda Bond participating.

From an International News Release