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)

Volume 39, Number 5 May 2009

Photos by Michael Braver

National Social Services Conference empowers the frontlines

For such a time as this

by Major Darryl Leedom

More than 450 officers and employees from across the U.S. and Canada and Bermuda territories, as well as a handful of international guests, gathered in Chicago for the 2009 National Social Services Conference.

Under the banner, "Winds of Change...Steadfast in Our Mission," delegates were encouraged, equipped and empowered for "such a time as this," amid a season of great demand with fewer resources, to continue the Army's mission of proclaiming and demonstrating Christ's love.

The opening remarks of Colonel Paul R. Seiler, Central chief secretary, set a tone of anticipation, excitement and commitment. "The Salvation Army will respond to the changes around us as we remain steadfast in our mission," he proclaimed.

The welcome banquet featured the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) and Bill Booth Theater Company and highlighted service in the Metropolitan Division. Accompanied by the CSB, 20 musicians from "Let the Music Begin," an afterschool music enrichment initiative with more than 1,000 participants sponsored by the Army for inner-city Chicago youth, performed and brought the audience to their feet. Two young men, D'Andre Coats and Lemard Fields from the Englewood Corps shared stirring testimonies of how the "winds" of Salvation Army youth character programs brought "change" to their world.

Six pre-conference seminars provided opportunity for intensive training in a variety of arenas like emergency disaster services, human trafficking, and community capacity building. More than 70 workshops and seven ministry tours were conducted to instruct and inspire participants.

A delegate from the Western Territory commented, "I attended a workshop on enhancing partnerships and establishing coalitions and learned that I [the Army] can accom-

Continued on page 4

Caring Partners of Rochester, Minn., is presented with the Central Territorial Award for Program Excellence.

World Youth Convention to be held in Sweden in 2010

raised up

One thousand young Salvationists will attend a World Youth Convention in Stockholm, Sweden, in 2010. Led by General Shaw Clifton with Commissioner Helen Clifton, the gathering, themed "Raised Up," will run July 15-18, and will be marked by passion.

The venue will be Aula Magna, part of Stockholm University, and the focus of the event will be Salvationism. Discussion will include topics like realism, idealism, inclusiveness, compassion, simplicity and internationalism.

The General writes: "I invite all Salvationists to be in prayer for this historic occasion. God has blessed us with fine young people all over the world. May those who attend the World Youth Convention be deepened in their commitment to Christ and to serving a broken and hurting world."

Preceding the convention some delegates will take part in a week-long event called "Time to be Holy 458," at the Center for Spiritual Life Development in south London, England. The event's title refers to song 458, "Take time to be holy," in the *Salvation Army Song Book*. There also will be opportunity for delegates to take part in a "Time to Serve 24/7" program hosted by the United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland.

Continued on page 12

Cadets have the right stuff

by Major Gail Aho

Ask any officer about their spring campaigns and they can probably still tell you where they went, the name of their brigade officer and about their fellow cadets. It's a time of finding out "what you're made of," so to speak. The Witnesses for Christ and Prayer Warriors sessions are made of "the right stuff."

As cadets finish classes and get ready for summer assignments and commissioning, they count the campaigns as a high point of the year. The week was filled with meetings, home visitations, hospital visits, nursing home meetings, coffeehouse events and children's meetings.

Traveling to the Iron Range and Austin, Minn., Topeka, Kan., Independence, Mo., Hillsdale and Grand Rapids, Mich., and Sioux Falls, S.D., they were greeted with warmth and generosity. While their goal was to minister, often they were ministered to and are grateful to their corps hosts.

The Topeka brigade was blessed by visiting a Veterans Administration hospital and singing with the men. The same evening cadets held a prayer and praise night at the corps. A continuation of the prayer time earlier in the week, corps members once again took the opportunity

Continued on page 3

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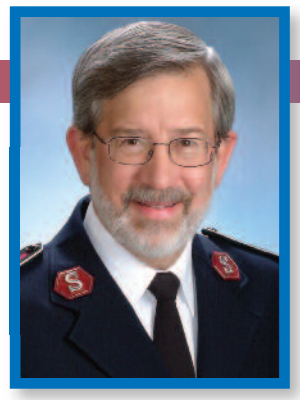
Courage–more than talk!



by Colonel Paul R. Seiler
Chief Secretary

I've been reading *Run with the Bulls* by Tim Irwin. It's a leadership book with key actions and thoughtful comments centered around the picture of bull-running. In the chapter, "Getting to the Arena," there are some interesting, transferable concepts.

As young officers, we might have heard or even given the advice that the first step for success in any appointment is to "show up." Makes sense, but if you're thinking of uncomfortable situations or unpleasant work settings or feeling in over your head, showing up may be hard.

This is why "Getting to the Arena" caught my attention. Getting to the arena is obviously key to running with bulls. The author links the initiative to get to the arena with courage. He writes:

> *Courageous acts are not performed by people with a personality trait called courage. Courageous acts are performed by normal people who passionately believe in what they are trying to do—the urge to act on their conviction becomes compelling…simply outmatches their fear. A courageous person does not talk 'about' an idea, but rather acts on what he or she really believes.*

Let those words sink in. I wouldn't describe myself as courageous or as fearful. Yet, I understand what he means. Difficulties, busy schedules, physical fatigue or limitations all may be good reasons to keep me talking about what needs to change or what I'd like to see happen. I could find myself being drawn into the less important which can stop me from "getting to the arena." Courage is needed to address situations or work habits that drain rather than energize. Courage is needed to invest time and energy in things I am convicted will make a difference in spite of the landmines involved in rattling organizational bones.

You might wonder at the reference to landmines. I became more aware of landmines during the Biblical Education Tour to the Holy Land in February. On the ride to the top of the Golan Heights, looking east toward Syria and west toward the lush agricultural valley of Israel, the guide delivered a stern lecture. "Stay on the path, there are landmines everywhere from the Syrian occupation of 1967, and they have not been discovered," she warned. "Do not wander to take pictures. This is no joke."

By then we weren't sure we wanted to put a foot on the ground anywhere, but we started up the path. On both sides, every few feet, signs warned of unexploded landmines. At the top we walked through bunkers and trenches and finally had a view that put the value of the Golan Heights in perspective. The Israelis have a fundamental conviction that they must retain control of this land in order to protect their food, their farms, their people. With that conviction they have the courage to travel through the dangerous area of landmines.

As an Army with the mission to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ, the redemption of the soul, the light into a community, we need courage to "get to the arena" in spite of the landmines. It does take courage. The arena is so much more than the Army facility. The arena is the community and contact with those who don't know Jesus. How compelling is our concern for a world that is growing up without a basic knowledge of Christian faith? Does our conviction overcome our fear? What would my day or your day look like if our courage outmatched our fears, and we started along the path? We are ordinary, jars-of-clay type of people, the kind God desires to use to be courageous in His name.

So today I pray the Serenity Prayer: "Give me the serenity to accept what I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." I picture the Israelis going up the Golan Heights convicted to defend their land, and I remember the landmines on either side. I will "get to the arena." How about you?

Red River strikes again

The Red River has again struck the residents of its valley with a vengeance. Devastating floods at the end of March crested at 40.82 feet in Fargo, N.D., surpassing the record set in 1897 (the crest in 1997 was 39.6 feet).

The Salvation Army's response was at the forefront in 13 Minnesota and North Dakota counties. Canteens and more than 350 Salvation Army personnel and volunteers from across the Northern and other divisions fed, hydrated and comforted thousands of weary residents, evacuees, emergency workers, volunteers and National Guard personnel.

It became clear Fargo, N.D., and Moorhead, Minn., would be hit hardest; the pre-crest river was already six miles wider than normal. Because both cities were surrounded by dikes, the river had to pass between them through a 700-foot-wide channel lined with sandbags, earth berms, plastic tarps and plywood. No wonder city officials opened a meeting with prayer.

As flood waters rose, The Salvation Army spent over 2,800 hours serving meals, drinks and snacks to more than 138,000 people filling sandbags and creating earthen levees.

The rising river destroyed 300 Fargo homes and endangered Salvation Army facilities. Captain Adam Moore, Fargo corps officer, proclaimed, "We are not afraid. While we're indeed concerned about what the flood could do to our facility, this community and the families losing their homes need us. We will stand by their side every step of the way."

The Salvation Army will continue to provide assistance to impacted communities for as long as needed. As of press time, waters were expected to slowly subside, but continued snow, high winds and rain threatened higher water and breaches.

Central Connection

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Red kettles turn green!

by Amanda Waters

The Salvation Army in Kansas City, Mo., painted its red kettles Irish green on St. Patrick's Day to help people impacted by the economic downturn.

More than 25 volunteers rang bells at a dozen locations along the 1.3 mile parade route, collecting $958 for a new program created to provide direct aid to families and individuals in the Kansas City metropolitan area who have been affected by the recession.

"The Salvation Army doesn't typically bring its kettles out at any other time of the year besides Christmas, but so many people are hurting right now that we felt extraordinary measures were needed," said Major Jeffrey Smith, Kansas and Western Missouri divisional commander. "Our new Neighbor to Neighbor program was created to directly help people who have been negatively impacted by the economy."

Last year The Salvation Army in Kansas City gave out $1.9 million in emergency assistance in cash and in-kind donations to individuals in need. "This year, the need is expected to be even greater," said Major Smith.

The Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade is traditionally among the largest in the country. For the first time ever, this year's route ran right past the divisional headquarters.

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Clips

Norridge Band clips from CD

Caring Partners Program

Resources/Links

Officer Candidates

Educational Tour Details

CBLI registration form

CMI registration form

Resource Connection

Web exclusives

Duskins' "War and Inner Peace"

Character building programs higher awards update

More about the SA in the Caribbean and in Kenya West

Excerpts from the book New Love

Newest accepted candidates

AMBASSADORS of HOLINESS
2009 2011

Becky Barringer

Decatur, Ill.
Heartland Division

Becky Barringer is a fourth generation Salvationist who from age 10 knew God had called her to be an officer.

"I just knew I would live my life in The Salvation Army," she explained.

However, as a teen she let the world call her a different way and followed that direction for nearly two decades. In 2001 Becky rededicated her life at a women's camp in the Heartland Division under the Spirit-led nudging of her corps officer then, Major Carol Wilkins.

Becky said, "I believe my call to officership never left; it was being molded into what it was intended to be. The God who began a good work in me is still working in me. God can use anything for His good. I am counting on it!"

Becky is counting on joining the Ambassadors of Holiness session at the College for Officer Training from the Decatur, Ill., Corps where her officers are Majors Bob and Joyce Gauthier.

Cynthia Marquis

Marquette, Mich.

Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division

"I count myself very blessed to have such an amazing family where dad is a three-time cancer survivor and mom is a champion at caring for everyone," said Cynthia Marquis.

With a great family as a base, at age 16 Cindy knew she was called to officership during a salvation meeting. "I spent the next 10 years behaving like Jonah, running everywhere but toward my calling," she admitted. "But there was always this prompting in the back of my head saying, 'You're going to be an officer.'"

At youth councils last year she finally accepted her calling. "It was amazing to feel the doubt lifted and to be able to be confident in where I am heading," she concluded.

A graduate of Northern Michigan University, Cindy will enter training from Marquette, Mich., where her corps officers are Captains Donna Rose and Grace LaFever.

Jeremy Fingar

Columbia, Mo.
Midland Division

During a "Call to the Cross" with Envoy Bill Miller at Camp Mihaska, Jeremy Fingar knew life had to change. He was convicted that Christ needed to come first in his life.

This was confirmed after he had a variety of jobs. He realized monetary pursuits were never going to satisfy. One night he said, "Dad, the only way to really make a difference is to help people find Jesus Christ as Lord." His dad asked, "So what are you going to do about it?" Jeremy replied, "I am going to serve God as an officer."

Jeremy exclaimed, "It was as if my soul was leaping out of my chest to say a big 'yes!'" Jeremy has served as an intern at the St. Louis, Mo., Harbor Light with Majors Myron and Nancy Wandling and at the Belleville, Ill., Corps with Captains Dale and Georgia Rodgers.

Jeremy will join the Ambassadors of Holiness from Columbia, Mo., where the officers are Captains John and Faye Flanagan and Majors Kendall and Katrina Mathews.

Spring campaigns

Continued from page 1

to pray individually and together. "We could sense the eagerness of the people to learn more about Christ and the commitment to knowing Him better," said Cadet Kristina Sjögren.

The Iron Range brigade reported that a worship service in Cloquet, Minn., with other corps and Lt. Colonel Daniel Sjögren, Northern divisional commander, was one of their biggest blessings. They ate dinner together and joined around the tables for the meeting. Even after the program ended, everyone stayed and sang hymns, reminding young and old of God's goodness and grace. "Sharing and visiting with the people of Minnesota and hearing their testimonies were wonderful experiences and helped us grow in Christ as well," said Cadet Chrissy Cooper.

The Sangre y Fuego (Blood and Fire) brigade at the Sioux Falls Corps described their experience this way—"the people were very open to everything we did!" Each night the crowds grew. The people possess a passion for their city, and their corps is growing. Corps members positively impacted the cadets, who pray they had an impact on them as well.

Cadets anticipate commissioning

Witnesses for CHRIST 2007-2009

Pray for the cadets as they prepare for their ordination and commissioning as new lieutenants and receive their first appointments on Sunday, June 14th.

Anthony and Brianne Bowers
LeOtis and LaTonya Brooks
Jonathan and Christina Cooper
James and Jamie Curry
Stephen Hansen
Amanda Hellstrom
Paula Poff
Aubrey Robbins
Ashley Shumaker
Michael and Kristina Sjögren
Ronald and Lavella Wubben

Summer assignments for the Prayer Warriors session

Cadets Mitcheal & Teresa Brecto	Waukegan, Ill.
Cadets Bradley & Cassandra Burkett	Dearborn Hts. Citadel, Mich.
Cadet Jennifer Clanton	Springfield, Ill.
Cadet Janelle Cleaveland	East St. Louis, Ill.
Cadets Roberto & Elia Davila	North Platte, Neb.
Cadets Sean & Cassondra Grey	Hammond-Munster, Ind.
Cadet Dana Hixenbaugh	Warren, Mich.
Cadet Ryan Hulett	Omaha South Side/Kroc, Neb.
Cadets Joel & Etta Johnson	St. Paul Citadel, Minn.
Cadet Erin Jones	Sioux Falls, S.D.
Cadet Mary Kim	Des Moines Citadel, Iowa
Cadet Gregory & Lt. Michelle Magoon	Oak Creek Centennial, Wis.
Cadet Amy McMahan	Kansas City Bellefontaine, Mo.
Cadets Matthew & Emily Phelps	Albert Lea, Minn.
Cadet Jane Polcyn	Decatur, Ill.
Cadets Alan & Jodi Sladek	Midland, Mich.
Cadet Jennie Sullivan	Bismarck, N.D.
Cadet Julie Trapp	Battle Creek, Mich.
Cadet Bersabe Vera-Hernandez	Rockford Temple, Ill.

National Social Services conference

Continued from page 1

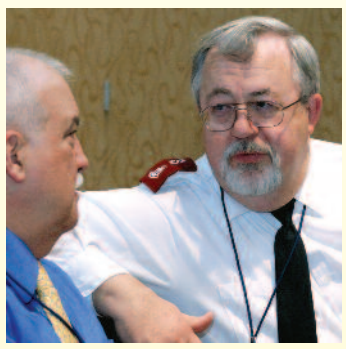
plish even greater things when working collectively. I'm not called to do it alone!"

Commissioner Christine MacMillan, international director for social justice, provided insights linked with deep affection. She referenced "a cup of cold water given in Jesus' name" as a call for understanding and a practical demonstration of biblical social justice, which is life giving; but for many in the world "water" remains an unmet need.

She posed provoking questions, such as, "What does your welcome mat look like?" As individuals enter your facilities for assistance, are they "warmly welcomed" or met with a list of abrasive rules like "no loitering, no foul language," etc?

The commissioner concluded that biblical social justice is about transformation. She reinforced the principle, citing the usage of the Army's bass drum as an altar, a place of transformation, in the marketplace.

Reflecting on her words, Sharon Sawka, case manager and soldier of the Danville, Ill., Corps, said, "I may serve in a small and rural community, but I'm called to react from a global perspective."

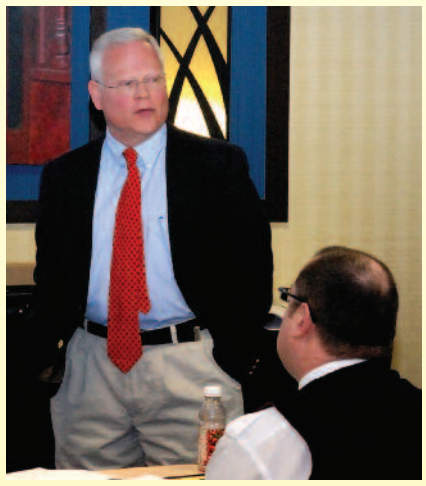


Several delegates and programs were recognized for excellence. Joyce Schau from the Kansas and Western Missouri Division received the National Award for Excellence in Social Work for the Central Territory. The Central's Territorial Award for Program Excellence in Social Services was given to Caring Partners in Rochester, Minn., (see center feature), while the national award went to the F.A.I.T.H. program for homeless families in Sarasota, Fla.

The final session featured the Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil, a dynamic preacher, evangelist and leader in the field of racial and ethnic reconciliation. Drawing from Acts 1 and 2, she challenged delegates to "shake it up" and be catalysts of change in Jerusalem (the place where they are most comfortable), in Judea (the place where people are similar to them), and in Samaria (the place that is most uncomfortable).

Having gathered to reflect, we left renewed for "such a time as this"—steadfast in our mission and commitment of "doing the most good."

Lt. Colonels Mark and Carolee Israel present Joyce Schau the National Award for Excellence in Social Services for the Central Territory.



Dignity in times of need

President Barack Obama's efforts earlier this year to promote his economic stimulus plan included a visit to Elkhart, Ind., which has the nation's highest unemployment rate—more than 15 percent.

"We're talking thousands of able-bodied, hard-working, long-tenured employees in a community of 66,000 people who are out of work due to the economic downturn," said Elkhart Corps Officer Captain Steven Woodard. "We're seeing a 38 percent increase in our utility assistance and a 15 percent increase in our food distribution alone."

Elkhart has been known for decades as the recreational vehicle manufacturing capital of the world. But when money gets tight and recreational spending falls, it doesn't take long for manufacturers and suppliers to feel the pressure.

The Salvation Army in Elkhart has had a strong presence and consistent outreach since 1903. Captains Steve and Jennifer Woodard report they have a great staff who are taking on additional responsibilities and who know what they're doing in providing avenues for help and healing.

"We're seeing more people than ever," said Steve. "It would be easy to just give them what they need and move on to the next person. But, I've challenged our staff to take the time necessary with each person to show them their worth and value, especially when this is the first time they've ever needed to come in and ask for help."

The Woodards, in conjunction with corps council members, advisory board members and community leaders, are working hard to find additional sources of funding to also provide rental and transportation assistance, and to help offset or cover childcare costs and essential household bills. They established a county-wide network among large food pantries to have a stronger voice with local food product manufacturers and the neighboring South Bend regional food bank in order to bring prices down and provide more direct service.

"As we look to provide more assistance and excellence in care without less sanctity of life and dignity, we'll continue to encourage and lead people to God's love and provision for their lives," said Steve.

Potato soup for the soul

by Michael Castillo

What better way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day than with a hot cup of potato soup and a bag of potatoes? Ryan Potato Company joined forces with the Grand Forks, N.D., Salvation Army to battle hunger and bring together a community with love and kindness.

Ryan Potato Company donated 40,000 pounds of potatoes in 15-pound bags for distribution to the community. Everyone was welcome. No questions asked. Take all you want! The only stipulation—if you knew a neighbor who could use potatoes, take them a bag.

When the idea of hot potato soup was brought up, it seemed a natural for our canteen. "Red River Valley Soup for the Soul" was brought to life by Amy Castillo, Grand Forks corps helper, and Gary Shields, development director, who secured the location and staged the operation. Most corps staff were involved; Ryan Potato Company provided volunteer support as well.

Joan Ryan Mangino, CEO of Ryan Potato, and Major Ed Wilson, corps officer, stood side-by-side, greeting all who came and handing out bags of potatoes. Community members were thankful. Some just couldn't believe the potatoes were free. While money was offered, none was taken.

An hour and a half into the event, we'd given out 26,000 pounds of potatoes and depleted 12 gallons of potato soup. The turnout was overwhelming! Tears were shed; laughter was heard. Potato soup is good for the soul.

Norridge Citadel keeps growing

One of the largest corps in the territory, Norridge Citadel, Ill., just keeps on growing! Known for progressive worship, discipleship and strong local leaders, this corps community center in the suburbs of Chicago has enrolled more than 45 soldiers and adherents in the last three years. People who join The Salvation Army here come from many different programs, from sports to social services, the senior sandwich club and even the kettle program.

Valerie Aguado, for example, had been associated with the corps through the afterschool program for a number of years but was not attending Sunday services regularly. She was challenged to make a firmer commitment of faith and knew exactly where the Lord wanted her to serve—Norridge Citadel!

Dawn Gneich

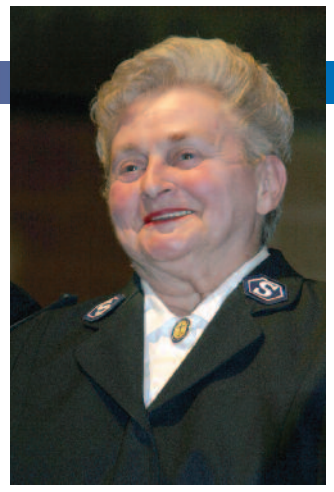
Pat Aronson was brought by her sister Donna, who's a soldier, to home league, senior sandwich club and to volunteer in the family services ministry. Pat found a friendly welcome and a place of service, which led her to attend Sunday services. When the opportunity was given to attend recruits class, Pat was ready to sign up.

Valerie Aguado

As a single mom, Dawn Gneich and her two children came to the Norridge Corps for the afterschool program. Dawn already loved the Lord and readily accepted the invitation to attend Sunday services, the mom's Sunday school class and women's Bible study. It wasn't long before Dawn was involved in many aspects of corps life. As a strong, Catholic-raised Christian, making the choice to become a Salvationist was a major life decision. But it's one Dawn embraces as God's will for her life.

New Norridge adherent Yseult Brun came to the corps last summer when a work transfer brought her to Chicago. Yseult is French and works in the pharmaceutical field. She first met the Army in the East and had been attending the Mont Clare, N.J., Corps. Bubbly and vivacious, Yseult's great joy is singing praise to God in the songsters.

"The amazing thing is that many of our new soldiers and adherents came to the corps simply by accepting the invitation on our front lawn notice board: *You've heard of our work...now come experience our worship*," said Major Stephen Yoder, corps officer with his wife, Morag. "They came; they were loved; they joined! God really can use anything to draw people into the family of faith!"



Pat Aronson

Yseult Brun

He can do it again

by Captain Luis Zambrano

The Chicago Lawn, Ill., Corps celebrated its reopening as Metropolitan Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel David E. Grindle installed my wife, Raisi, and me as corps officers. The attendance exceeded our expectations—topping 250 people! It was a wonderful night where everyone present rejoiced with music.

On January 6th, we celebrated Kings' Day, and again the attendance was overwhelming. Having reservations for 100 children and 30 parents, we were surprised when 150 children and more than 70 parents attended! It was a night of "magic," where Major Marc Johnson presented a simple and direct gospel message. Everyone was mesmerized by the tricks; even adults hardly blinked. We feel that the attendance showed that in some way each day God is allowing us to reach out and know our community in Lawn. The following Sunday three of the youth accepted Christ as their Savior.

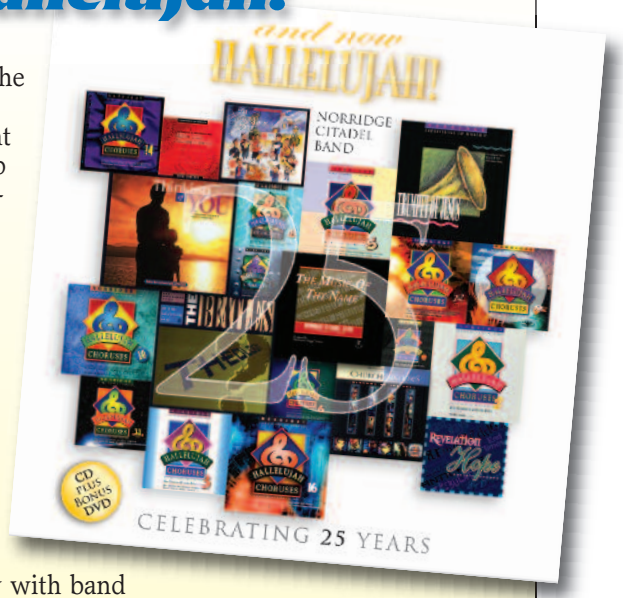
A few years ago, I learned a chorus popular with Christian youth in Venezuela. It more or less goes like this: "He can do it again. He can do it again. He can do it again. He can do it again. His great power is the same, never-changing, I am sure. If God has done a miracle, He can do it again." God's plans are for good as we see in Jeremiah 29:11. He loves this community in a special way and has brought us here with a purpose. We feel blessed to be a part of His purposes.

Our relationship with the community continues to grow stronger, so much so that everyone who attends the corps is from the community. In November when we began our holiness meetings, we didn't have Sunday school and there were only six of us. We now have an average of 25 people in Sunday school and then in holiness meeting. Hallelujah!

The road may be long and difficult. Nevertheless, if God has done a miracle, He can do it again! He only asks us to be strong and courageous.

And now Hallelujah!

One of the hallmarks of the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps has been excellent and progressive worship which draws people into this community of faith. The band has always played an integral part in this. In celebration of the corps' 25th anniversary last year, the Norridge Citadel Band released a CD called, *And now, Hallelujah!* It features a wide range of 18 favorites from "A Fanfare of Praise" to "It is well," to "Hey, Jude."



A *bonus DVD* is included which contains four worship video presentations from Matthew with band accompaniment. A narrative booklet that recounts God's blessing and notes about each track on the CD is also included. A real bargain at just $15, this CD/DVD combo is available through Resource Connection, 1-800-937-8896 or shop.salvationarmy.org

Building a brigade

This sharp looking junior soldier brigade belongs to the St. Charles Tri-City, Ill., Corps, led by Majors Steve and Melody Koehler. The brigade has more than doubled this year with five new members! Junior Soldier Sergeant Connie Barrera's dedication and hard work have been instrumental in this corps' growth. Not only does she teach weekly classes, but she consistently conducts special projects with her brigade like world services/self-denial campaigns and helping with kettles during Christmas. Pictured (l to r) are: Junior soldiers Ethan Hansen, Andrea Smola, Samantha Koehler, Noah Hansen, Jacob Hansen, A.J. Herrara, Wyatt Gundlach and Ayanna Herrera; Majors Melody and Steve Koehler; Connie Barrera and flag-bearers Mariles Hood (l) and Ayanna Herrera (r).

Rochester adult care program

2009 expansion will double program size

Story and photos by Craig Dirkes

The Mayo Clinic and its hometown of Rochester, Minn., are practically synonymous. No surprise, considering the city regularly hosts world dignitaries and celebrities, who come to receive what is perhaps the best medical care available.

Yet Mayo Clinic isn't the only caregiver in town with a stellar reputation. Next door to it lies a building that also heals, brings joy and restores laughter: The Salvation Army Caring Partners Adult Day Center.

In March Caring Partners was presented the Territorial Award for Excellence in Social Services. To achieve this award, a program is required to meet a list of specific criteria from being fiscally solvent to operating at least 80 percent capacity. A program also must be certified with a gold rating, complying with at least 90 percent of the Territorial Social Services Standards. During their last evaluation, Caring Partners rated 97 percent.

In addition, it was among only three other programs to vie for the national award, a lofty triumph considering The Salvation Army operates nearly 8,000 facilities in the U.S.

The program, which serves 60 people, is poised to expand later this year. It provides weekday activities, meals and education to physically disabled and mentally challenged persons, most of whom are seniors.

Tina Chinn is a regular at the card game, and she rarely loses.

Cary Matheny participates in a seated aerobic exercise involving plastic plates.

Caring Partners is located in the heart of downtown Rochester, on the upper floor of the corps. It opened in the early 1980s. The program is a shining example of how The Salvation Army has been a pioneer in a booming industry: adult day care. Adult day care programs serve 400,000 U.S. residents nationwide and are growing between 5-15 percent annually, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Keys to Success

What makes Caring Partners so special is that it allows participants to be young again.

"Our staff does an intake in which we find out about who the participants have been in life, what their career was, what kind of hobbies they had, did they have children, and so on," said Caring Partners Director Cyndy Gove. "Then we give them back all the things they used to have, just in a different way."

For example, Vance Lamina may not be able to hear anymore, but the 80-year-old can still enjoy a favorite hobby from his younger years—identifying animals—thanks to Caring Partners.

Every Wednesday volunteer Diane Borg sits down with Vance and shows him pictures of birds, snakes, spiders and other creatures, then quizzes him on their names.

"He's very sharp and writes down most of the answers correctly," Diane said.

Other Caring Partners activities abound: dances, sing-a-longs, reminiscing programs, arts, crafts, joke days... The list goes on.

"We're doing this to keep these people as whole as they can be," said Janice Frerks, activities coordinator. "We want them to func-

Caring Partners participants stretch their arms during daily exercise activities.

Volunteer Diane Borg shares a laugh with Caring Partners participant Vance Lamina.

gets national nod

tion at their highest capacity."

Although some people served by Caring Partners are physically or mentally challenged, others are fine but just a little lonely.

"I lost my husband five years ago," said Tina Chinn, a vibrant 78-year-old who started coming to Caring Partners in early 2007. "I don't wish for anybody to lose their partner, especially at my age. Otherwise, you sit in your apartment and watch TV, or look outside all day.

"Am I healthier because of [Caring Partners]? I think so," she continued. "It's very important for seniors to have interaction with other seniors."

Another group that benefits from Caring Partners is the families of participants.

"This program allows participants to stay living at home," said Major James Frye, Rochester corps officer. "We help the participants during the day, then in the evening they can go home with their family caregiver or their spouse."

For instance, Rochester resident Sharon Smith enrolled her father, Jim Adams, 90, in Caring Partners in 2008. Before he signed on, Smith spent much of her free time caring for him.

"From the moment [he enrolled], he's been in heaven," she said. "Now he hates the weekends. He wants to be here!"

Her father isn't arguing.

"The people [at Caring Partners] are nice. It's well managed, and there's always something going on," Jim said. "I love it here. This place is very important to me."

Expansion

Caring Partners is about to get bigger and better.

The program is set to expand in late 2009 when a vacant Salvation Army thrift store building will be converted into a new Caring Partners facility. The 8,000-square-foot site is located a block north.

"This facility expansion will allow us to double our program size to more than 120 participants," said Cyndy, adding that a small portion of the new facility will be used as office space.

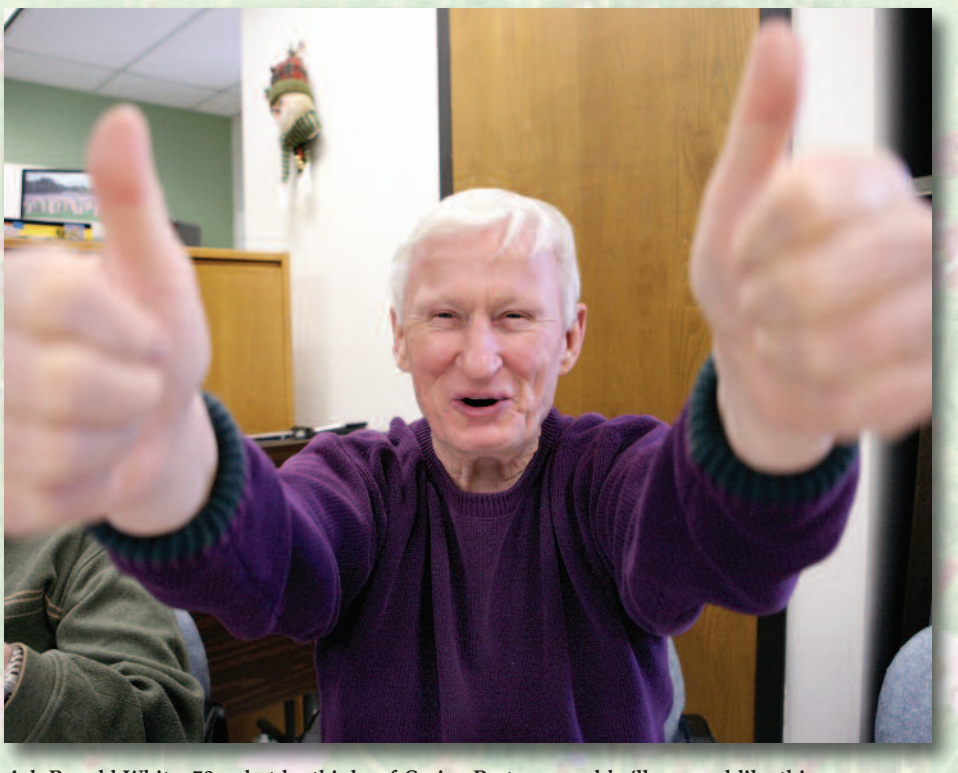
The new Caring Partners will have the look and feel of a real-life village.

"Above the kitchen will be a canopy that makes you feel like you're in an outdoor café," Cyndy explained. "We'll have a library with faux brick walls, and a telephone booth. There'll be a nursing station, a therapeutic bath, and windows everywhere. We'll have lots of interesting aesthetics that will be both interesting and relaxing."

The expansion will enhance what has become an invaluable service to the Rochester area's treasured seniors and their families.

"[Your parents] raise you, and you know that someday it's going to reverse back," said a teary-eyed Sharon Smith while picking up her father at Caring Partners. "I can't express enough how great this place is."

During afternoon activities, some Caring Partners participants choose to tell stories and bond, while others sit down with puzzles or cards.



Ask Ronald White, 73, what he thinks of Caring Partners, and he'll respond like this.

Major James Frye, Rochester corps officer, serves juice and cookies during snack time.

Caring Partners will double its program capacity later this year when it moves into this former thrift store building.

A Chilean journey

After three years of service in Chile, part of the South America West Territory, Captains Philip and Sheila Davisson and their daughters have returned to the United States. With their children, James, 22, who stayed home for college, Jaclyn, 20 and Julia, 17, they are excited to see how the Lord will use their experience abroad in serving Him at home.

During their time in Chile, Philip and Sheila served in two appointments: first at the South America West Training College as the education and finance officer, respectively, and second at territorial headquarters. Their time in Chile was marked by a passion for education as they contributed to cadet classes, mentored their students and were instrumental in creating an online course. Aside from ministry, the way of life fit them as well; it didn't take long to slide into the rhythm and pace of an inviting and warm culture.

Although a satisfying experience, their journey wasn't without its bumps and bruises; learning another language, working with limited funds, and sending Jaclyn off to university while abroad were significant challenges, to say the least. Most difficult, however, was an emergency that occurred during their final months. Sheila had a stroke, which resulted in a decision to undergo brain surgery. It was a painful and challenging period, but courageously Philip responded, "Throughout the process our family grew closer. We experienced a calm and peace that could only be explained by the supernatural power of God."

The hurdles of another culture, lifestyle and major surgery, however, are not enough to hedge in the Davisson family. They desire to go abroad again one day and, as proponents of continuing education and lifelong learners themselves, continue using their teaching abilities sharing the love of Jesus.

Caribbean calling

Captains Patrick and Karen Holness, raised in The Salvation Army in their native Jamaica, came to the U.S. in search of new lives but were inextricably drawn back to the call God had placed on them. They entered the College for Officer Training with the "Heralds of the Good News" session in 2005 after interning at the Chicago Midwest Corps. After being ordained and commissioned in 2007, they were appointed to serve as corps officers of the Detroit Temple, Mich., Corps. Now they've gone full circle and returned to the Caribbean Territory to command the Havendale Corps in Kingston, Jamaica, as of July.

Mission minded

Although Captains R.C. and Miranda Duskin are back in the Central Territory awaiting an appointment after serving three and a half years in the Republic of Georgia, they look forward to returning overseas in the future.

"We both have hearts for missions and other cultures," said Miranda, who's had several overseas experiences earlier in her life, as has R.C. "Actually, we've always found it harder readjusting to life in the U.S.," she added, particularly after having no television for the last three years!

Soon after arriving back in the states from the Eastern Europe Territory, Miranda gave birth to the couple's second child, Isaac Elliot, on March 14. Their oldest son, Dominic, now an active two year old, was born in the Republic of Georgia, which is also where their married life got its start.

Before becoming an officer, R.C. had served overseas heading up finance for the training college in Helsinki, Finland. After commissioning, he returned overseas to work in finance for the Georgia regional headquarters in Tiblisi, the nation's capital. A year later, he returned to the U.S. to marry Miranda.

In Georgia, Miranda was appointed to what she'd always felt would be her overseas dream job—project officer. In that capacity, she worked with all eight of the region's corps helping officers discern the needs of surrounding communities and develop outreach programs to bridge people into corps.

"Because corps budgets only cover building rentals and salaries, they need extra funds to run programs," explained Miranda, who sought out project funding from sources within the Army and outside. Resources were allocated for projects such as children's centers, now running in seven corps offering afterschool tutoring, activities and junior soldiers classes; interior heat for many corps, and even a tractor for a rural corps to lend to area farmers.

After last summer's emergency evacuation of the Duskins (see "Get Connected" story) and other U.S. citizens when Russia invaded Georgia, R.C. and Miranda returned a few weeks later to intense aid work, plus coordinating monetary donations and humanitarian aid shipments that poured in from other countries. In fact, they spent most of their last year in Georgia distributing supplies and funds to corps, each of which worked with at least two refugee shelters.

Heart for teens abroad

Justin Rose has a sincere humility and kindness about him. "What is most remarkable about Justin is his ability to connect and respond to any teen from any background, and his love for everyone," said Cathleen Himes, former Band of Survivors leadership team member. She continued, "He is one of the most caring people I know."

Justin grew up in The Salvation Army and spent the better part of his formative years in the Chicago area. He graduated from North Park University with a degree in youth ministry and wants to continue to work with teenagers.

In March Justin left his hometown to serve the Kenya West Territory as a youth facilitator. He is passionate about sharing the gospel with young people and helping them gain the most out of their experience with The Salvation Army, believing they are the Army's future.

His desire to work in Africa started prior to college graduation. He's had ample experience abroad, serving overseas on summer mission teams in Ecuador and India, as well as a corps trip to Korea last year. Every trip has had one thing in common: a heart for children and teens. Justin made working with teens a priority when planning his long-term mission. A few months after college graduation, he and Chris Shay, world missions bureau director, discovered an opportunity to serve youth in Africa. From that initial discovery the details of the trip fell into place.

Justin knows many people have dedicated themselves to pray for him and appreciates it very much. He said, "It's beautiful when many believers come together in prayer. I feel honored that so many have come together in prayer for me and already feel the prayer in my life as I begin this journey."

Lincoln remembered

To mark the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth in 1809, an Illinois bicentennial group commissioned William Himes, Central territorial music and gospel arts secretary, to write the music and lyrics for a choral work that made its world premiere at Illinois College in Jacksonville.

The Chicago Staff Band (CSB), under Bandmaster Himes' direction, debuted "A Lincoln Reflection" as part of the college's fine arts series. The eight-minute work for choir and brass featured a massed chorale comprised of singers from the choirs of Illinois and MacMurray Colleges and Jacksonville High School.

Loreli Steuer and Ron Tendick, co-chairs of the Jacksonville Area Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, asked Himes to write the piece after the CSB had performed in concert with Professor Rudolf Zuiderveld, organist and professor of music, three years earlier. The professor enthusiastically endorsed the idea, along with Dr. Garrett Allman, conductor of the Illinois College Concert Choir.

Photo by Major Robert Doliber

Photo by Chris Young

Excerpts from Lincoln's poetry and other writings blend with the composer's original text reflecting his reverence for this president who, Bill discovered, had a much more profound effect on this nation and its subsequent history than he'd ever imagined.

The solemn opening evokes the image of a flickering flame, representing the candle by which Lincoln taught himself to read and eventually the law. The flame motif swells in response to the rapidly expanding prominence Lincoln assumed on the national stage, through the South's secession, the Civil War, even the defiance Lincoln took against his own cabinet in signing the Emancipation Proclamation. At this point Himes set to music the well-known excerpt from Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address: *"With malice toward none; with charity for all..."*

The work concludes with the plaintive opening theme with Himes' take on Lincoln's legacy:

"A flickering torch,
A single flame,
You lit our destiny
And we will never, never be
the same."

As the work finished the audience responded with a standing ovation. An encore performance of "A Lincoln Reflection" was presented the next day in "Lincoln's church," the historic First Presbyterian in Springfield, Ill.

Central Composers Fellowship–encore!

What do you get when you put a dozen creative musicians in the same room for two days? The Central Composers Fellowship (CCF)—and a lot of new music!

It all began following the 2006 North American Composers Forum held at Asbury College when the format changed from an annual to a biennial conference.

"At first I thought it was bad news," commented William Himes, territorial music and gospel arts secretary, "but in the end it was a good thing because it made it possible to establish the Central Composers Fellowship during the off years beginning in 2007."

Sponsored by the music and gospel arts department, CCF is open to any musician interested in creating music and song. This second gathering at territorial headquarters featured composer Colonel Robert Redhead, who, along with Himes, presented a wide range of topics from lyric and melody writing to composition and orchestration.

Participants from six divisions included Stan Kelley, Tom Hanton, Don Meyer, Glenn Welch, Major John Price, Captain Allen Hanton, Eric Himes, Stephen Wheeler and Joshua Turner, who had individual consultations with Colonel Redhead and Dr. Martin Rowden and benefited from the advice of staff member Marty Thomas in computer music typesetting.

With an open workshop structure, participants were encouraged to review and discuss each other's work, learning from the collective process. During a reading session in the Chicago Staff Band studio, fellow composers used their instruments to play through each other's work.

The format's effectiveness was affirmed by Glenn Welch who said, "I continue to learn better how to write music through these events."

Reflecting on his experience, Colonel Redhead commented, "I was particularly impressed with the respect [the participants] had for each other. There was no sense of competition, just a very genuine support."

The feeling was mutual. "Colonel Redhead was a great guest. So capable and yet humble," Stan Kelley observed.

CCF clearly met its objective to encourage and equip composers and songwriters to develop their skills for God's glory.

"[This experience] has stretched me and my abilities farther than I had imagined. I can't wait to see how I will develop as a composer/arranger over the next two years," added Major John Price.

Next stop: THQ 2011. To be continued!

Plan now to attend the 75th anniversary of

Central Music Institute

...the place to be since 1935!

Special guests

Dr. John Richmond
University of Nebraska Director of the School of Music and former CMI faculty member

James Curnow
Composer and publisher of brass band music

August 6-16, 2009 Camp Wonderland

Note: The alumni weekend is August 14-16. Alumni housing on Camp Wonderland is almost full, so make reservations soon (262-889-4305).

The student application has been added to the THQ website and can be downloaded from the music ministries tab.

A pilgrimage of faith and learning

This year 51 soldiers, employees and officers traversed the country of Israel. Experiencing the past and the present from Gethsemane to the Golan Heights, they enjoyed wonderful fellowship, gained new insights into God's Word and grew deeper in their faith. Here we share reflections by two of the pilgrims.

He calls, "Follow me"

by Major Judith Mills

Anxious thoughts raced through my mind in anticipation of what I would see on this, my second trip to the Holy Land. How many of the sites had new excavations which would reveal even more history of this country and its people?

What newly revealed stones and mud city gates would open my eyes to a deeper knowledge of God's Word?

It had been 17 years since I was last in Israel. In awe of the sights, sounds and smells, my brain had been virtually overloaded in joy and wonder! To visit where Jesus lived, walked and served humanity—I could scarcely comprehend it all. But this time, *this time* I promised to carefully see and listen for those experiences I'd missed that first trip.

We dutifully followed our guide as she led us through her country, expertly explaining the history and people. With umbrella raised, she led us through the winding streets of Jerusalem, sharing her knowledge about areas "thought" to be where miracles were performed and biblical experiences took place.

We visited churches and sang songs of worship, walked in the Garden of Gethsemane and sat among gnarled, ancient-looking olive trees while reading of Jesus' own experience there. We stood atop Mount Carmel, looking out over the Jezreel Valley, envisioning Elijah taunting the priests of Baal while God showed His mighty power.

All of these experiences, and more, will remain a part of my understanding and new love of this land of miracles and God's power. But one small statement by our guide touched my heart in an unexpected way, forcing me to search my soul.

On a blustery, cold and wet day while visiting the Golan Heights, our guide showed us bunkers used by Syrian soldiers and memorials erected to honor brave Israeli soldiers. As we stood shivering in the wind and rain, our guide passionately told of the many soldiers who gave their lives to create this new nation. She explained that Israeli officers did not send soldiers into battle, they led them. With eyes of steel and resolute firmness in her voice, she waved her left hand in a forward motion, saying officers would instruct their soldiers, "Follow me." My breath caught.

I envisioned Jesus saying the very same thing to His disciples. I imagined Him standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, waving His hand forward as He led the disciples in the battle for the souls of mankind.

Then I saw myself, standing before my Lord as He waved in my direction, calling, "Follow Me," all the while knowing the fierce battle that lay ahead.

I wish I could say my commitment has always been strong, and I've always been a good and faithful soldier. Truthfully, I cannot. There have been moments of weakness, and even a few "foxhole" prayers. But with renewed vision, I now possess an image of my Lord leading me—not sending me—into battle, giving strength and leadership to a sometimes weary and beleaguered, but grateful and joyful, soldier.

Holy mackerel, what a trip!

by Major Herbert Fuqua

If I were to retire in Israel I would open a seafood restaurant and name it "The Holy Mackerel." Everything in Israel starts with "holy." But then why is this a surprise? It is the "Holy Land."

There were many experiences and sites that impacted me on this trip. The Sea of Galilee, Elijah on Mount Carmel and the Garden Tomb, to name a few. But the Holy Spirit kept bringing my heart back to Mount Moriah and Jerusalem. My spiritual enlightenment was to consider why "the Holy Land" is, well, holy.

I know the word holy means to "set apart." I know God has set apart Israel as His nation through whom He has revealed Himself and His love for all mankind. I am aware that Abram was called to be the father of this new nation, David bought land and made an altar unto the Lord, there was a first temple and then a second where only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies.

What I did not realize is all this happened in the same location—Mount Moriah. I didn't understand the city of Jerusalem is located where it is because of Abraham. I had never put the two together to understand why the wilderness wandering people of Moses ended up building the permanent Temple on Mount Moriah. I knew all these things happened but was spiritually sobered to realize they all happened in one spot—and that Jesus coming again will happen in this place! Somehow it escaped me that God's personal holiness has a direct plumb line from the throne of heaven into the heart of Jerusalem/Mount Moriah. The symbolism God uses to speak to us is remarkable. It is louder and clearer than the spoken word.

Think of it! Abraham descends the Mount of Olives to ascend Mount Moriah with tears in his eyes ready to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Jesus descends the Mount of Olives weeping over his children, Israel, wanting to gather them as a hen would her chicks. God does not spare His only Son; He goes through with the sacrifice, and by Jesus' blood we are saved. The risen Savior then ascends back to heaven from—yes, the Mount of Olives. He is coming again. Where? The Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem/Mount Moriah. He will enter the gates of the New Jerusalem, and so will we.

The Holy Land? Holy mackerel—yes!

March 12 – 25, 2010

Biblical Education Tour to Greece & Turkey

March 25 – 28, 2010

Extended tour to Rome

The tour is open to all

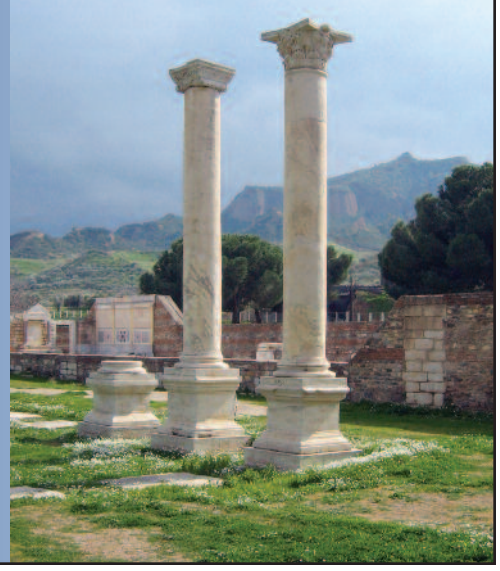
Soldiers

Employees

Retired officers

And eligible active officers

Watch for more information coming to your corps soon!



Mustard Seeds

Territorial Prayer Calendar

JUNE 2009

PRAY FOR:

1 The Salvation Army in Fargo, N.D.

2 Camp staff and counselors this summer

3 Captains Philip and Sheila Davisson back from overseas service in Chile

4 Children and adults attending camps this summer

5 The Metropolitan Division's Donut Day fundraiser

6 The Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division's women's ministries camp

7 Outreach through caring on this Community Care Ministries Sunday

8 The Chicago Staff Band returning from Europe

9 The Kistlers at junior soldier camp in the Kansas and Western Missouri Division

10 The Elkhart, Ind., Corps

11 The territorial executive council meetings

12 Pastor Jim Cymbala as he speaks during Power Point in Merrillville, Ind.

13 The Power Point Prayer Summit

14 Today's ordination and commissioning of the "Witnesses for Christ"

15 Summer mission teams

16 The "Prayer Warriors" arriving at their summer assignments

17 Captains R.C. and Miranda Duskin back from overseas service in Georgia

18 Corps holding summer day camps

19 The Salvation Army in Madison, Ind.

20 Justin Rose serving in Kenya

21 Christian fathers and their influence

22 Brengle Holiness Institute delegates

23 Music ministry camps this month

24 The Mt. Clemens, Mich., Corps

25 The St. Charles Tri-City, Ill., Corps junior soldiers

26 Midland Division emergency disaster services training

27 The Chicago Lawn, Ill., Corps

28 Officers and their families bidding farewell today

29 Social services programs throughout the territory

30 Captains Patrick and Karen Holness in the Caribbean

Going the extra mile

The telephone rang. "Good morning. The Salvation Army, how may I help you?" asked the receptionist. On the other end of the line, Sandra Reid inquired about being picked up for Sunday services.

"I've called every church in Mt. Clemens and no one will come get me," she explained when transferred to Major Michele Heaver, Mt. Clemens, Mich., corps officer. The major didn't hesitate to say yes!

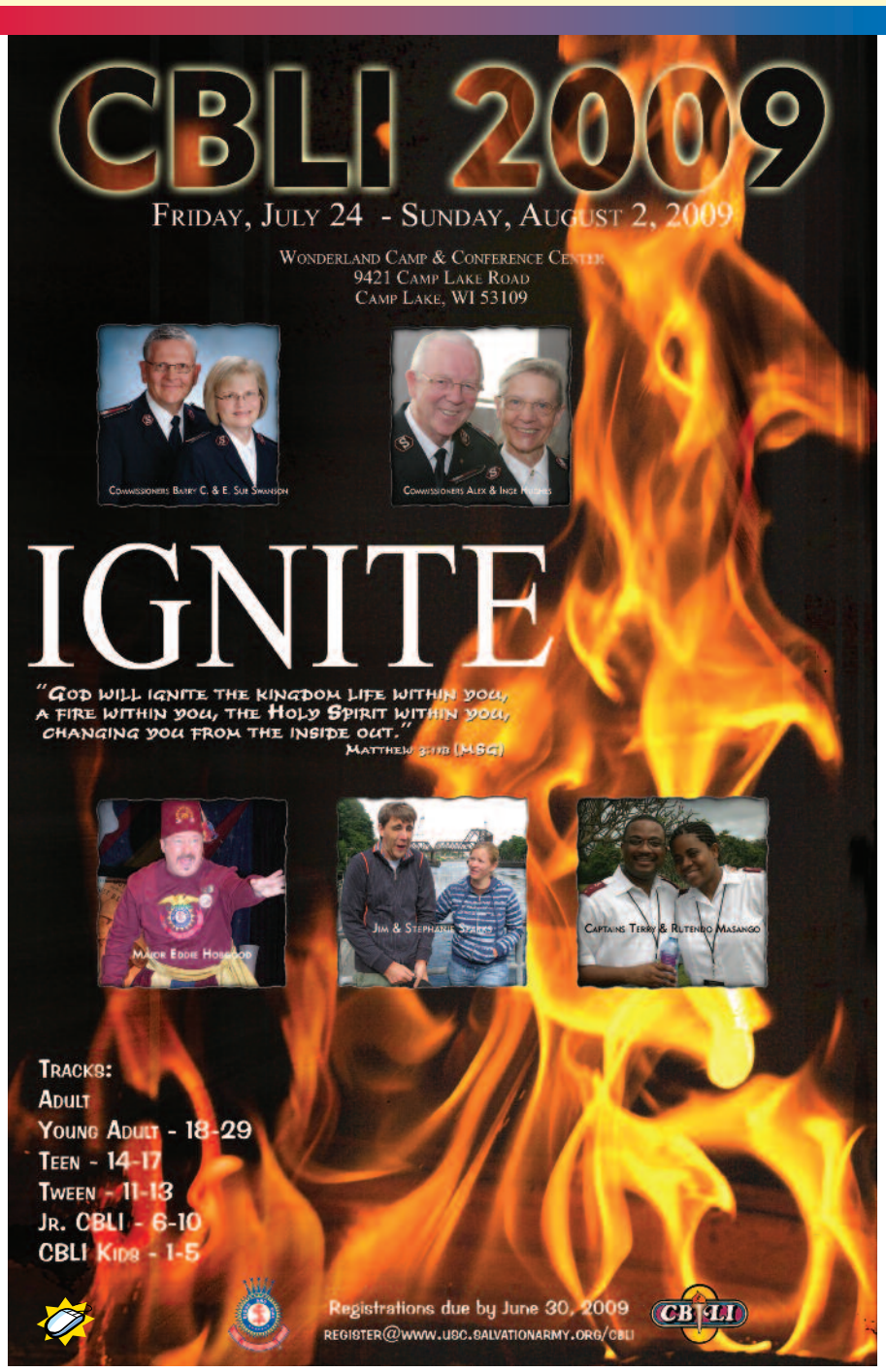
When Sunday rolled around, the van stopped by Sandra's house. She walked slowly but determinedly with the help of a cane. She'd recently suffered a stroke, lost her job and now had to depend on others, even just to get to church. She was grateful the Army cared.

Sandra became a regular attendee and joined a women's Bible study. She even attended a divisional women's ministries retreat! She'd not only found a place that would pick her up for Sunday services, she'd found a fellowship of faith. Eventually, she joined a recruits class to learn more about the Army and its doctrines. In October 2007 she was enrolled as a soldier.

Now, she proudly wears her uniform and holds the local officer position of missionary sergeant. Sandra is exploring fundraising options for world missions. She also currently serves on the Eastern Michigan divisional missionary committee and mails birthday cards to Salvation Army officers and lay people serving overseas.

"I am happy that I am fulfilling the Holy Spirit's direction in serving Him at the corps in Mt. Clemens. It has helped me spiritually as well as physically in recovering from my stroke," said Sandra Reid.

So the next time your corps' phone rings, go the extra mile. You'll not only be ministering in Christ's name but may even be gaining a new soldier!



Resource Connection at Power Point

Don't forget to check out Resource Connection during the Power Point weekend! Pick up your free *2009 Christmas in Brass* CD, and purchase uniforms and resources for new enrollees or recruits.

Mercy Seat and prayer connection

Prayer and kneeling before the Lord can take place anywhere: beside a bed, next to a chair, in the great outdoors, or at an altar. Visit the museum's display on the Mercy Seat.

Vendors

Save your corps money with outside vendors. They will offer savings on office supplies, ministry promotional materials, and products.

Freed-Up Financial Living

An expanded version of the *Good Sense* budgeting program, this resource introduces a fresh approach to good stewardship and wise financial decision making.

Hallelujah Choruses #17 CD and Songbook

The latest *Hallelujah Choruses* will be available for purchase.

Corps Ministry positions booklet

This manual outlines the responsibilities, skills and spiritual gifts utilized by corps ministry positions.

Jim Cymbala's books

Couldn't get enough of Jim Cymbala and his godly insight on the power of prayer? Pick up a copy of one of his books.

World Youth Convention

Continued from page 1

World Youth Convention delegates will be chosen by the territories and commands, each of which has been allocated places according to the number of its soldiers. The USA Central Territory will send 20 delegates. Delegates will be soldiers or adherents, age 18-28 at the convention's start, who demonstrate a commitment to future service as active Salvationists. They will study and debate the General's book, *New Love,* which they will be encouraged to read before arriving in Sweden. The book includes contributions by writers from all over the Salvation Army world and seeks to show that holiness is relevant to every human situation, including the major global issues of the day.

Territories and commands are encouraged to organize youth events to coincide with the convention. Some of these may be linked to the convention via satellite, enabling the General and others to address as many young people as possible around the world. Internet technology also will be used to make as many Salvationists as possible feel a part.

Aula Magna, just a few minutes from Stockholm's city center, houses one of Sweden's largest and most modern auditoriums. Delegates will live in youth hostel-style accommodations within easy reach of the university campus. Saturday will include an outreach event.

A World Youth Convention website—to be launched soon—will enable Salvationists throughout the world to keep informed of plans and to share in the virtual experience before, during and after the event.

Faithful service honored

The Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps recently honored soldier Jimmy Denton for more than 40 years of very active volunteer service with emergency disaster services, men's fellowship, food pantry, seasonal food basket distributions, toy shop, custodial needs, seniors' fellowship and much more. Though retired he still serves as the corps' welcome sergeant. Pictured (l-r) are Kalamazoo Corps Officer Captain Tom McComb, Jimmy Denton, Major Debra Hansen, Western Michigan and Northern Indiana (WMNI) divisional women's ministries secretary, and Major Ralph Hansen, WMNI divisional secretary.