



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 43, Number 10

October 2013

"Heralds of Grace" greet territory

The Chicago Mayfair Community Church, Ill., Corps parking lot teemed with vans, cars and people as Salvationists from across the territory gathered to welcome the "Heralds of Grace" session.

The meeting opened with a warm welcome by Metropolitan Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel Ralph Bukiewicz, who invited the congregation to sing, "We've a Story to Tell the Nations." Afterward he reminded the congregation of the meeting's purpose: to affirm and celebrate each cadet as they've come to be equipped

for ministry.

The cadets walked the center aisle to cheers and applause of the crowd and music by the Chicago Staff Band, led by Bandmaster William Himes.

Once the cadets were seated, the lights dimmed for Cadet Steven Dahl's video testimony. Steven's unique call to officership came from the witness of a Salvationist on



Throughout the evening the cadets shared summaries of their testimonies by completing the sentence, "God's grace working in my life results in..." Responses like "...a desire to show compassion to others," and "less of me and more of Christ," brought affirmations all around.

Cadet Grant Holloway and second year Cadet

Jonathan Tamayo provided comic relief as they donned wigs and sang their own quirky lyrics to Disney's "A Whole New World," to promote the CFOT Harvest fundraiser.

In her message Commissioner Carol Seiler cited Hebrews 12:15 (NIV): "See to it that no one misses the grace of God..." She pressed the cadets and congregation not to allow the business of officership or life to detract from opportunities to share God's grace.

"See to it cadets, officers, musicians, soldiers, believers and friends that no one misses God's grace," the Commissioner concluded.

Facebook and Steven's subsequent perusal of Army theology and ministry. He reminded the congregation how God can use any tool to draw people for His purposes, no matter how different or seemingly insignificant.

In her presentation of the session flag, College for Officer Training (CFOT) Principal Major Cherri Hobbins recalled the flag's significance, naming Cadet Sarah Eddy as the standard bearer.

A CFOT ensemble sang a lovely rendition of "Grace Alone," and Territorial Candidates' Secretary Colonel Dawn Heatwole commented, "I feel like a proud mother," before inviting the congregation to sing "Take My Life."



Photos by Andrew Grey

Roberts named Chief of the Staff, Jeffrey as National Commander

Commissioner William A. Roberts has been appointed by the General as Chief of the Staff, effective October 1, 2013. Commissioner Nancy L. Roberts has been appointed as World Secretary for Women's Ministries. The Roberts' service has been extended to October 31, 2015. Central Territory officers, the Roberts have been serving as USA national leaders since November 2010.

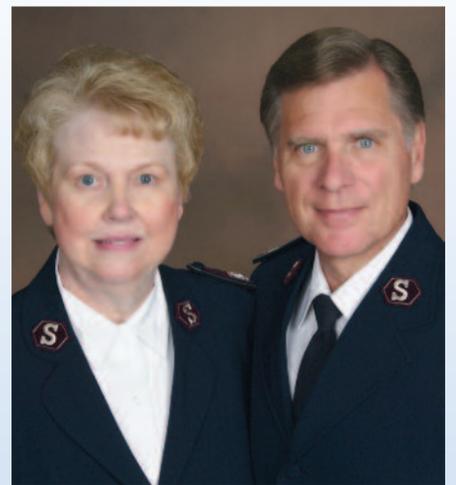
Having served at International Headquarters (IHQ) in London, England, as International Secretary for Business Administration and as Chaplain and Secretary for Staff Development from 2005-2008, the Roberts return to IHQ with a wealth of experience and knowledge of the international Army. In addition to serving in the U.S. and at IHQ,



the Roberts led the South America East Territory and the Kenya West Territory.

Commissioners David and Barbara Jeffrey have been appointed as the USA national leaders effective November 1, 2013. Commissioner David Jeffrey will serve as National Commander, and Commissioner Barbara Jeffrey as National President of Women's Ministries.

USA Southern Territory officers, the Jeffreys have been Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women's Ministries in their home territory since August 2011. Immediately preceding their current appointments, Commissioner David Jeffrey served as National Chief



Secretary and Commissioner Barbara Jeffrey as National Women's Ministries Secretary.

Please pray for our leaders in these new responsibilities.

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Uplift consistently in prayer

by Lt. Colonel Jeffrey Smith
Territorial Secretary for Personnel

Each week in my inbox tray a small note appears from one of the divisions saying I've been a focus of prayer as their staff met on Tuesday morning. Here at territorial headquarters, we do the same thing.

Each Tuesday in connection with our board meetings and each Wednesday with our Global Prayer meeting, we pray for officers, corps and divisional headquarters in our territory and around the world.

We also lift up the needs of others outside the Army. Sometimes we're aware of specific needs as we pray; at other times we pray generally, confident God knows what people need.



Often I'm pulled aside by officers, retired officers and others who say they regularly pray for me. It is humbling, affirming and encouraging to be the recipient of so much concern and so many prayers. God alone knows how much trouble is side-stepped in my life as a result of



these faithful prayers.

One of the opportunities we have as we're "Creating a Shared Future" is to Uplift Consistently. Territorial Commander Commissioner Paul R. Seiler explains this as regular prayer for each other as well as careful maintenance of an attitude of openness and encouragement. It includes face-to-face encounters in congregational life as well as prayerful intercession for those in other places.

Our deepest desired impact of mission work is spiritual, and our greatest resources come to us directly from God's hand often as a result—although we seldom know it—of faithful prayer.

If you don't already, regularly pray for fellow Salvationists, both those close by and those scattered around the territory and the world. Let us truly be an Army marked by our commitment to encourage and pray for each other and to worship together so our uplifting of each other is rich, deep and consistent. In doing so, we will be contributing mightily to the future God has in mind for each of us.

BaconFest whets community's appetite for Omaha Kroc

A sizzling good time was had at the Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps

Community Center's first annual BaconFest as more than 1,000 people converged on the center's festival plaza to enjoy bacon tastings, local musicians, a friendly competition and full access to the Kroc Center's facilities. This signature event raised \$80,000 to provide memberships and to support programming.

Nine area restaurant chefs descended on the center with their best bacon recipes in tow for a cook-off. Each general admission ticket came with five bacon bucks, which patrons used to vote for their favorite bacon recipe. At the end of the afternoon, winners were announced based on the people's choice and a panel of judges.



Meanwhile, in the Kids Corral, children donned colorful face paint, zipped around on motorized scooters shaped like exotic animals, and dominated an enormous, kettle-shaped bounce house.

"Since bacon is one of my basic food groups, it was a pleasure to see so many creative ways to serve it," said Anne Baxter about her BaconFest experience. "The event was really fun, with delicious food, music and lots of things to entertain kids."



Director of Donor Relations John Wehrle said, "There are several bacon festivals around the country. Most are bacon and beer events, but ours is set apart as family-friendly and non-alcoholic."

Since the Kroc Center sits on the site of a former meat packing plant, BaconFest seemed especially apt when considering fundraisers. "In the early part of the 20th century, Omaha was the largest stockyard in the world," said Joanne Bemis, divisional development director. "We wanted to honor the unique tradition of South Omaha and provide an opportunity for exposure, awareness and revenue to benefit programs and sponsorships, our three goals for this event."

In-kind donations totalled \$40,000 from corporate and local sponsors. Sponsorship levels ranged from "Bacon Lover" to "Whole Hog." Top corporate sponsors included Farmland Bacon, Mutual of Omaha and Village Point Toyota. For every \$100 raised, one summer membership, a week of Camp Kroc for a



Photos by jdh photography

child, or 20 one-day passes could be provided to underserved families.

The weeks prior to BaconFest were filled with fun promotions, from social media blitzes to a "flat pig" contest (like *Flat Stanley*). Perhaps the most popular was "Pardon the Pig," where eight-year-old Landri Loos presented Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert with a 35-pound pig named Sal to pardon on behalf of BaconFest.

"I'm really looking forward to people getting excited about the opportunities at the Kroc Center as a result of this event," said Major Todd Thielke, senior Kroc Center officer.



Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert pardons the pig, Sal. Major Todd Thielke at left

Central Connection

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My Hope with Bill Graham website

CBLI meetings and Bible study by Colonel Glen Shepherd

CMI meetings

Web exclusives

Event takeaways from BaconFest: Interview with John Wehrle

More on The Salvation Army in Hungary and the Philippines

Harvest Festival testimonies

Entire CMI award winners list



Newly accepted candidate

Patricia Williams
Kansas City Bellefontaine, Mo., Corps
Kansas and Western Missouri Division

Working several jobs to provide for us, my mother raised my brother, two sisters and me while instilling Christ in our lives. We went to a Baptist church that my mom and youngest sister still attend. As a teenager, however, I strayed from God and made poor choices that carried severe consequences, including an early, unsuccessful marriage.

I was introduced to The Salvation Army through my brother and sister-in-law, Lts. LeOtis and LaTanya Brooks. Captains Dale and Rebecca Simmons, my former corps officers, first noticed God's call on my life and planted the seed of officership. The seed was watered by Captains Charles and Carol Williams. It feels so good to be a servant of God; I



thank Him for the people He's placed in my life.
Patricia's corps officers are Captains Charles and Carol Williams.



*Harvest Festival Sunday
October 13, 2013*

Increasing the Harvest



*"Now he who supplies seed to the sower... will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."
2 Corinthians 9:10 (NIV)*

Help men and women from your division attend the College for Officer Training.

Your financial gift can make an eternal difference!

CBLI ponders the possibilities

by Jennifer Minter

"I wonder if..." was the theme for this year's Central Bible Leadership Institute (CBLI) that drew 517 campers to Camp Wonderland. For nine days campers entertained the possibilities of what God can do in their lives, families, corps and communities. Programming was designed in age-based tracks to best meet campers' needs which was ideal since ages ranged from 6 months to 80 years!

A superb line-up of guests included Colonels Glen and Eleanor Shepherd, retired officers of the Canada and Bermuda Territory (adult track); Majors Ivan and Jennifer Wild from the Western Territory and Majors David and Beverly Ivany, also from Canada and Bermuda (young adult track); and Sergeants Tom and Raechel

Freeman from the Southern Territory (youth track). Each played an important role in enriching the CBLI experience. Campers participated in daily Bible studies, workshops and praise (led by The Singing Company), feeding their minds and souls. Evenings were filled with entertaining, inspiring and educa-



Young adult summer mission teams assisted with various aspects of CBLI and testified how God used them this summer. Everyone participated

in a missions project while at camp, too. CBLI campers raised more than \$5,000 (which will be matched by territorial headquarters) to support the Army's Soap for Mali project that equips men and women with the skills needed to make soap, which is distributed to impoverished and war-stricken communities in Mali.

CBLI Director Lt.Colonel Paul Smith, territorial program secretary, encouraged campers to allow grace to flow through them during the Saturday night hymn sing and awards meeting. The theme of grace was echoed the next day by Territorial Secretary for Personnel Lt. Colonel Jeffrey Smith.

The Holy Spirit could be felt moving among campers all week as they raced to testify, knelt at the altar, and prayed with friends. They were encouraged to stay focused on the inspiration that was kindled and decisions made as they returned home.

To watch the evening meetings or Colonel Glen Shepherd's adult Bible study, visit www.salvationarmymedia.org/livestream-archive.html



was lots of fun during free time as well for campers of all ages! Camp Wonderland abounds with recreational opportunities like swimming, hiking, rock climbing, soccer, basketball, horseshoes, volleyball and boating. In addition, electives from making crafts to learning about Salvation Army history to antiquing were offered each afternoon. This year featured a family picnic day, directed by Major Carol Wurtz, territorial corps mission and adult ministries secretary. During this break from the regular schedule, families could spend even more time together enjoying a petting zoo, games and other activities, a cookout and movie.

tional speakers and musicians as well, including Sara Groves, Shane Claiborne, Major Ivan Wild, Mike Donohue, Ray McElroy and Bob Stromberg, each cleverly developing the "I wonder if..." theme.

Many families attend CBLI each year, making this camp a tradition for generations. Children were well cared for by loving staff who made each day fun with songs, stories, games and crafts. Of course, there



NSE: what it's all about

by Major Steve Merritt

I remember the first time I attended the National Seminar on Evangelism (NSE) in Glen Eyrie, Colo., with my wife in 1988. The experience was life-changing. As we returned home and got quite involved in evangelism at my corps, I discovered many did not know about NSE or understand what it's all about.



with soldiers ascending the mountains just outside Colorado Springs on the land owned by the Navigators. Soldiers come from across the country, along with their corps officers, to learn evangelism principles taught through general sessions and small groups, culminating with everyone going into the local communities to share the love of Jesus with those they meet.

Reading the account of the Mount of Transfiguration, I'm reminded of the experience the disciples had with Jesus on the mountaintop. Just as Peter, James and John were called onto the mountaintop, NSE begins

The daily schedule begins with worship prior to a Bible study presented to all delegates and staff. This is followed by combined teaching using the curriculum of Pastor Bill Hybels' *Just Walk Across the*



Room. The principles taught are based on building stronger relationships with people already in your life. These may be through the corps ministries, work, school, family or neighborhood. A foundational concept is to make the most of each encounter.

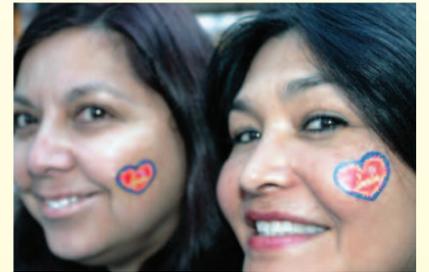
The highlights for me during the week on the mountaintop included new friendships made with soldiers in all four territories and the opportunity to share with each other in small groups. It's often easier in this setting to digest and discuss principles than in larger groups.

Just as the disciples desired to remain on the mountaintop with Jesus, we may sometimes choose to stay there. Yet, we are commanded not only to take time to meet with Jesus on the mountain but then to descend and return to the ministry God has placed before us.

Often you can see some apprehension on the faces of those arriving at

the airport that first Saturday of NSE, but by the end of the seminar there is excitement as the buses are loaded and soldiers spread out across the nation prepared to practice "walking across the room."

Already I am praying for the opportunity again next year to ascend the mountain along with soldiers and met with Jesus. The dates for next year's seminar are August 2-9, 2014. Begin today talking to your corps officer and praying about your attendance at NSE. I hope to see you on the mountaintop!

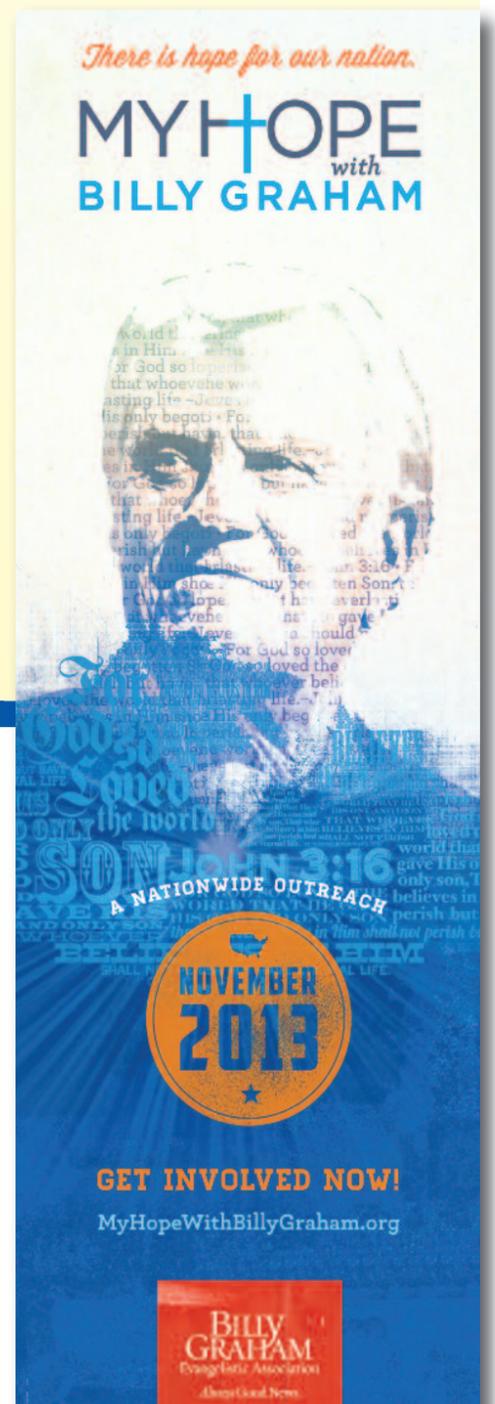
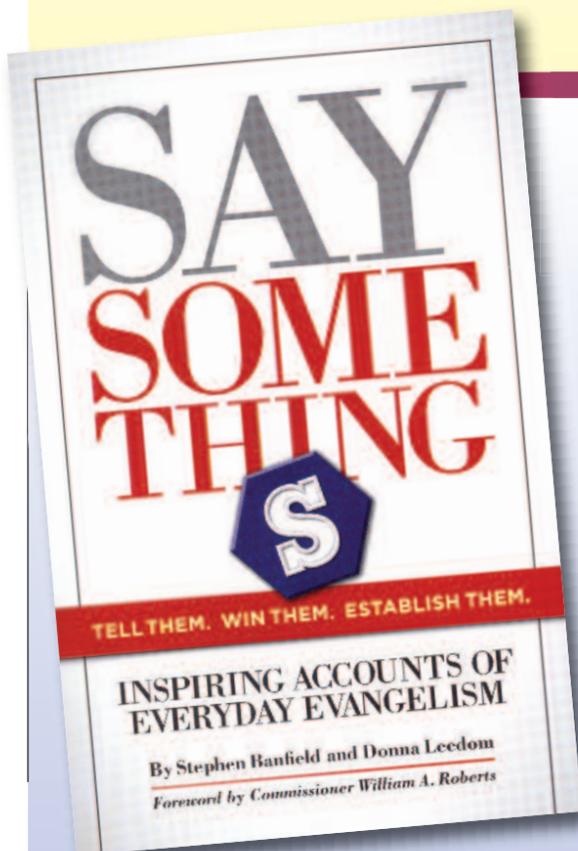


Hot off the press!

Lt. Colonel Stephen Banfield and Major Donna Leedom present a collection of first-person accounts, the seminar's history, 12 pages of photographs and the lessons taught over the years at the National Seminar on Evangelism to help readers share their own stories of new life through God's grace.

This book will enable corps to undertake evangelism that will produce the desired results of rescuing the perishing, bringing them into corps membership and training them to be disciples.

The book costs \$9.95 and is available through Resource Connection at 1-800-937-8896 or shop.salvationarmy.org



Endless skies, endless thanks

by Major Herb Fuqua

It was one of those summer days where the sky is as deep as the ocean. There were plenty of them in the heat of Viet Nam. You could get lost in your thoughts staring into that endless blue until the thinking of a bullet hitting the tree next to you jarred you back to reality.

However, this beautiful day was more than four decades later at Camp Echo Grove. The journey to this day began a few months earlier when our divisional commander, Colonel Dennis Strissel—sounding like General William Booth—had said

during a finance board to no one in particular, "We need to DO SOMETHING for our veterans and their families to show them how much we appreciate their sacrifice for our country."

Major Jimmy Wilson, divisional men's fellowship secretary, was assigned to form a committee and devise a plan of action. The result was an entire day of fun, fellowship, food and festivities at camp. Veterans organizations were contacted and active and retired service personnel and their families were invited. The event on this blue-sky, summer Saturday was an attempt at "thank you for your service."

Divisional headquarters officers, employees and camp staff served the 250 people who came to enjoy boating, swimming, hay rides, archery, the paint ball and ropes courses, a picnic lunch, live music, a magic



show, 10 bounce houses, and a pig roast with a recognition program that concluded with an impressive flag lowering ceremony.

Being a vet myself, I roamed the grounds and talked to the many vets eating

snacks and enjoying fellowship in the pavilions. At one table sat three vets wearing baseball hats reading, "Viet Nam Vet."

"Welcome Home," I said. "I was in Viet Nam in 1968 and '69. When were you guys there?"

Each told his story. They struck me as so similar I asked, "Do you know each other?" They laughed. "Know each other? We served together in Viet Nam for a year!" Now this was very unusual since we all went over to Viet Nam and returned alone, not

like today where an entire unit goes and comes back together. "So, how did the three of you happen to be at our Salvation Army event today?" One of them replied, "I live in Michigan, heard about it and invited my buddies from New York and Chicago. We haven't seen each other for over 40 years and are having a blast here today. Thank you for arranging all this."

"Wow!" came tumbling out of my mouth.

After talking a while longer, I headed back to the registration area. Somewhere along the way I found myself once again staring up into the endless deep blue sky...you can get lost in your thoughts, you know.

But then I heard my wife's voice—which I'd longed to hear for such a long time many summers ago. "You just gonna stand there looking at the sky or come over here and help me with registration?" And the rustling paper brought me back to the reality of Echo Grove Camp on Military Appreciation Day.



People, product, presentation

The grand opening of the Chicago North Side Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) store in the city's Lincoln Park neighborhood delivered on a promise of revolutionizing the thrift shopping experience. Its state-of-the-art facility with numerous amenities and exceptional customer service are part of a new industry standard for Salvation Army thrift stores in America's third largest city.

Here shoppers will find an upscale presentation of only quality donated merchandise, and offers of assistance by smiling, well-groomed retail attendants. A superior standard of cleanliness prevails: immaculate dressing rooms, clean shopping carts, and hourly inspected bathrooms that incorporate automated toilets and sinks. As shoppers peruse the extra wide aisles, big, flat screen TVs educate them about the programs their purchases support. In this LEED-certified space, the lighting automatically adjusts to complement the ambient lighting—and there is a garden on the roof!

The store not only redefines the thrift store concept but reflects the



neighborhood in which it dwells. "We want our neighbors to feel comfortable shopping here," said Major John Aren, North Side ARC administrator. "Of course, it's more than about supplying goods. We are supporting our rehabilitative program through this venture, and the new store allows us to raise more money for the mission."

Indeed, on the day of the grand opening, \$94,000 was made. Another \$94,000 was made during the week leading up to it with special evening events that brought in targeted groups like preferred patrons, Salvation Army soldiers and employees, friends and followers on Facebook and Twitter, and Chicago VIPs.

"It really raises the bar on everything we've been doing," said Ashley Barnes, Northside ARC social media coordinator who's worked for The Salvation Army for a little more than a year. "It reminds me of a T.J. Maxx or Marshalls. If you're downtown and anywhere close to it, the store is a must-see!"

The 30,000-square-foot store is located at 2258 N. Clybourn Ave.



Chicago North Side ARC Administrators Majors John and Julie Aren look on as Major Graham P. Allan, ARC Commander, cuts the ribbon to open the new store.

Partners for Good

Heartland Divisional Headquarters has embarked on a new program called *Partners for Good* to raise awareness of needs and to increase funds year-round.

The program debuted with a reception attended by 160 people at the Caterpillar Visitors Center in Peoria, Ill., this summer. The event, headlined by Caterpillar CEO Doug Oberhelman and his wife, Diane, allowed sponsors a photo opportunity with them.

Honorary co-chairs of the Peoria Tree of Lights Campaign in 2004, the Oberhelmans gave a presentation along with Major Evie Diaz, Heartland divisional commander. As well, attendees enjoyed scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, music by the Ed Kaizer trio, and a brief video highlighting the need for *Partners for Good*.



Doug Oberhelman speaks at the Partners for Good reception. His wife Diane and Advisory Board Member Jim Baumgartner also pictured

"We hope this event can be a catalyst for us to expose our ministry in Peoria to businesses and individuals that may be new to the Army," said Major Diaz. "Our development committee and Caterpillar Visitors Center staff did a wonderful job with the evening."



At the Partners for Good reception (l to r): Jim Sullivan, Heartland development director; Advisory Board members involved in the event planning Win Stoller (chair), Jake Sweet, Ashley McNamee, and Ty Rakestraw; Major Evie Diaz, Heartland divisional commander; Caterpillar CEO Doug Oberhelman and his wife, Diane; Advisory Board member and CAT employee Jim Baumgartner; and Rich Draeger, Heartland assistant development director.

Getting a grip on music and life

A newbie's perspective on CMI

by Andrew Wainwright

Since 1935 Central Music Institute (CMI) has been championing Salvation Army music-making of the highest standards. During this time countless students have entered the gates of Camp Wonderland and returned home 10 days later spiritually and musically enriched. A glance at the awards wall of Wonderland Chapel gives insight into numerous alumni who have gone down in CMI history, a number of whom were in attendance at various times during this year's camp. They were, no doubt, impressed by what they saw.

Events such as this do not simply happen. They require months of planning. So it was to the credit of Territorial Music and Gospel Arts Secretary William Himes and his team that the camp ran smoothly down to the smallest detail. From first-day auditions, which ran like clockwork, to evening programs, nothing was left to chance.

Out of the cacophony of 235 students and staff involved in the opening day's try-outs came six bands, two choruses and even a "Glee-M-I" show choir, inspired by the hit television show. Add to this keyboard, composition and arranging, praise band, TV production, Bible, leadership, conducting, brass repair, percussion electives, and a new drama track, and all the ingredients were in place for the most thorough of musical and spiritual education.

Over the years international guests such as John Lam, Dr. Stephen Cobb, Philip Hannevik, Dr. Howard Evans, Leonard Ballantine and Andrew Mackereth have graced the CMI stage. This year was no different as Andrew and Sue Blyth of the United Kingdom Territory were guests. The Blyths' down-to-earth and unassuming nature endeared them to everyone, and their words and actions demonstrated faith lived to the fullest.

What they brought musically was greatly appreciated as they shared something of their vast experience of Salvation Army music-making. Also bringing an international flavor were a South American contingent from Chile and Argentina.

When William Booth first set out to form his Army, it is unlikely he could have imagined the unique ways in which it has since spread the gospel. One such opportunity was 200-plus Salvationists marching and playing the national anthem at a Milwaukee Brewers baseball game. In front of some 35,000 fans and aired on national television, the CMI massed band and color guard represented The Salvation Army in glowing terms. One delegate even described it as the best day of his life.

In dramatic contrast to the roaring fans was the 10 minutes of silence each day called "Sealed Orders." Based in Philippians 3:7-17, the theme "Get a Grip" directed these meditations. Linda Himes, CMI chaplain, brought each day's emphasis to

a fine point as she delved further into God's Word at the end of the evening programs. Later, sealed orders often inspired devotions by cabin counselors that became special times for many campers.

Evening programs included too many highlights to mention, but each band and chorus received ample time to demonstrate what they had achieved. Winners of the brass, vocal, percussion, guitar and piano solo competitions also were featured.



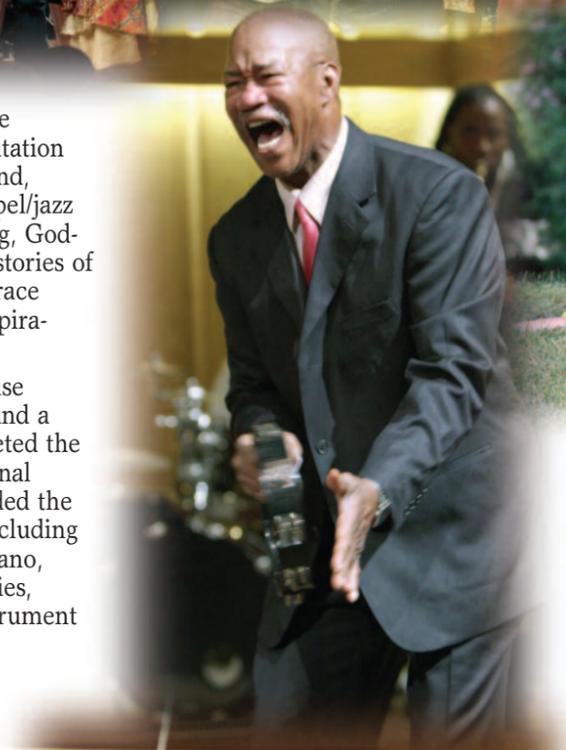


One standout was the visit of the Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) Singers and their band, Justified. This highly polished gospel/jazz ensemble presented an exhilarating, God-honoring concert. Their dramatic stories of substance abuse and how God's grace turned their lives around were inspirational!

An ice-breaker sports rally, "Praise Unplugged," "CMI's Got Talent," and a faculty and friends concert completed the evening program lineup. On the final Saturday morning, Electfest provided the opportunity for elective classes, including men's chorus, women's chorus, piano, handbells, drama, percussion studies, drama and dance, and several instrument technique ensembles, to demonstrate what they had learned.

Following Saturday's final flag lowering, the Awards Festival featured a performance by each band and chorus interspersed with a plethora of coveted awards and scholarships (see box.) A near-capacity audience enjoyed this feast of music presided over by Colonels Merle and Dawn Heatwole.

Bandmaster Himes announced the establishment of an Instrument Repair Resources Fund in memory of Major Walt Winters, who was promoted to Glory in June 2012. Through the generosity of the Winters family and friends, it provided instrument repair kits this year to the South American delegates who also studied in Bill Scarlett's instrument repair class. Following a tribute to the unique and effective ministry of Major



Winters, the bandmaster presented four repair kits to Santiago Lopez and Samuel Iwanchuk from South America East and Alberto Ferreira and Lennart Sanchez from South America West.

There was no more fitting way to draw CMI to a close than the final Sunday morning service which included encouraging testimonies by Andrew and Susan Blyth, as well as a humorous and thought-provoking presentation by the drama track. In her sermon Colonel Dawn Heatwole challenged campers to stand firm and keep a grip on their faith as they re-entered the world.

As the students and staff sang the benediction, "Total Praise," the lyrics of promise were imprinted on their hearts: "Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you. Your peace you give me in times of the storm. You are the source of my strength. You are the strength of my life. I lift my hands in total praise to You."

There's no question, those who experienced CMI returned home better equipped and with a firmer grip on their faith.

Photos by Carol Shoultis and Caitlyn Tennyson

CMI awards

Camp Lake Band (1st Place)

Amenhotep Reed (East Chicago, Ind.)
Rachel Grindle-Phelps Scholarship

Shagbark Band (1st Place)

Ginny Rumble (Quincy Kroc Center, Ill.)
Frank and Gladys Botu Award

Temple Band (1st Place)

Bailey Sawka (Muskegon Citadel, Mich.)
Ruth Hatfield Scholarship

Hilltop Chorus (1st Place)

Lance Hill (Royal Oak, Mich.)
Victor Danielson Scholarship

Tabernacle Band (1st Place)

Jared Thomas (Norridge Citadel, Ill.)
Paton Family Scholarship

Citadel Band (1st Place)

Anna Winters (Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.)
William Broughton Scholarship

Booth Chorale (1st Place)

Angelyn Montanez
(Wichita West Orchard, Kan.)
Douglas Norris Scholarship

Wonderland Band (1st Place)

Jesse Luhn (Oak Creek Centennial, Wis.)
William and Katherine Scarlett Scholarship

Ernest and Mary Miller Vocal Soloist Award

Lance Hill (Royal Oak, Mich.)

Marjorie Marshall Piano Award

Andrew Herndon
(Oak Creek Centennial, Wis.)

Flint Citadel Uden-McDougall Percussion Award

Clayton Pierce (Livingston County, Mich.)

Ray Wright Tuba Award

Ginny Rumble (Quincy Kroc Center, Ill.)

Earle Hanton Euphonium Award

Michael Cash (Bartlesville, Okla.)

John R. Cheyne Trombone Award

Sam Park (Chicago Mayfair Comm. Church)



Howard Chesham Horn Award

Morgan Marinelli (Norridge Citadel, Ill.)

Ron Rowland Cornet Award

Marc Smith (Aurora, Ill.)

Harry Strissel Most Improved Musician Award

Alexis Felt (Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.)

Ramsdale-Jaudes-Boyer Rookie Award

Jamie Dwyer (Midland, Mich.)

Fischer Awards

Dakota Reeves —Conducting
(Oak Creek Centennial, Wis.)

Moriah Hellstrom —Composition
(Omaha Citadel, Neb.)

Bernard Smith Conducting Award

Marc Smith (Aurora, Ill.)

Majors William and Jean Stuart Award

Kelly McBride (Norridge Citadel, Ill.)

Lois and Len Duguay Spirit of CMI Award

Matthew Herndon
(Oak Creek Centennial, Wis.)

Ben Merritt Award

Zane Koehler (Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.)
Arthur Shoultis Scholarship

Crosby-O'Neil Cornet

Oakbrook Terrace, Ill.



49 find faith in Christ!

Forty-nine people accepted Christ in the past year and a half through the Eastern Michigan Division's Filipino ministry, reported Major Romeo (Romy) Alip, director of the divisional Philippine American Fellowship.

"Since the 1970s Filipinos have been attracted to the Detroit region because the cost of living is less expensive than other U.S. cities and because there's a strong sense of belonging and connectivity with 62 Filipino organizations serving a population approaching 30,000 here," said Romy.

Many Filipinos work as nurses, home health care providers or in hospitals, hotels and restaurants. Others clean houses or work in landscaping or janitorial services. Because many Filipinos work up to 16 hours a day, including Sundays, the fellowship's

worship attendance can be irregular but most meetings have at least 50 people; events attract even more people.

The worship meeting features Scripture readings, a message and testimonies accompanied by a newly formed praise and worship team and often by a Filipino hula praise dance team. Bible studies meet in homes during the week. The Alips also conduct culturally significant events like house blessings and birthday celebrations.

The fellowship has grown rapidly through word of mouth. Additionally, Romy and Evelyn engage in neighborhood evangelism, introducing themselves to Filipinos at Asian grocery stores and inviting them to meetings. "Then we visit them in their homes," said Romy.

The Alips, retired officers



Major Evelyn Alip and the Filipino hula praise team

from the Philippines, met Colonel Dennis Strissel, divisional commander, several years ago when he was the Ghana territorial commander and they were serving in the Liberia Command.

Years later when the colonel saw the Alips' names on a list of retired officers living in the Central, he asked them to consider moving from Chicago, Ill., to start a ministry in Detroit.

"I replied 'yes' without hesitation," recalled Romy. "When I thanked the colonel, he humbly replied, 'It's not me. It's God who needs you here.'"



Fellowship meetings are held at divisional headquarters.

Searching for Truth



While walking aimlessly one Sunday afternoon along the streets of Manila, Romeo (Romy) Alip got caught in a downpour. With all the businesses closed, he sought shelter in the only building open: a Salvation Army corps—with a salvation meeting in progress!

Romy sat in a back pew, heard the gospel for the first time and accepted Jesus into his heart.

Born the seventh of 13 children in a Roman Catholic family in the Philippines, Romy began questioning church practices as a university student studying architecture. Trying to fill his empty heart, he searched for truth in Christian cults, then Hindu meditation. Romy finally asked God to show him the truth. He found it in the downpour.

A year after finding the Army and God, Romy was enrolled as a soldier. He worked as an architectural draftsman until God called him to officership at 27. At the training college he met a kind, thoughtful second-year cadet who soon became his wife.

Evelyn had entered training at age 20. The eldest of nine children, she met the Army as a child during an outreach in her community. She accepted Jesus at 18 during a divisional youth councils and responded to God's call to officership. She was commissioned in 1997 and served as an assistant corps officer.

After his commissioning a year later, Romy was appointed as officer-in-charge of a newly reopened corps, then served as an assistant corps officer. They married in 1979 and together served in four corps, the training college and divisional and territorial headquarters appointments in the Philippines. In their last decade of active officership, they served at the Indonesia Territorial Headquarters and Liberia Command Headquarters.

Retiring in 2009, the Alips moved to Chicago, Ill., two years later and now live in Farmington Hills, Mich., where they oversee a new Filipino ministry.

Prayer and popcorn

When Captains Jesus and Kelli Trejo were appointed to the Minneapolis Temple, Minn., Corps in mid 2011 as its corps officers, they envisioned the addition of a divisional Hispanic retreat to the Northern Division's multicultural and camping ministries.

"We believed it would be an effective tool in reaching the Hispanic community in the Twin Cities," said Jesus. The Trejos began working with Major Cindy Strickler, divisional multicultural ministries coordinator, on the first-ever Hispanic retreat in the division.

"The camp was a success with more than 160 delegates from four corps in the Twin Cities," reported Jesus. As a result, a new family began attending the Temple Corps who turned out to be intrinsic to the Hispanic ministry's growth. An answer from God, they were excited to reach out to the Hispanic community and sought places of service and leadership.



Corps members of all ages helped make the Popcorn Evangelism event a success!

Following the Spirit's leading, Jesus and Kelli shared their vision with the corps council for expanding the corps' Hispanic outreach endeavors. There was a consistent Hispanic representation in the congregation on Sundays, but the Trejos saw there was still much work to be done as few families in the community attended worship.

Last summer the corps staged a

community outreach called "Popcorn Evangelism." The corps bathed this event in prayer and made sure the gospel was clearly proclaimed.

Live Christian music, inspiring testimonies and gospel praise "shout outs" attracted crowds that lingered to listen, enjoy free hot dogs and receive offers of prayer. Some neighbors hung out their windows to listen, raising their hands to the sky as if they were in church, Jesus added. Corps people of all ages and regular attendees from the Minneapolis Adult Rehabilitation Center pitched in throughout the event to make new friends in the community.

It wasn't long before the corps began to see its Sunday attendance increase as more families joined.

This year the Trejos enrolled eight senior and five junior soldiers. "Since the enrollment, the corps has gained a renewed passion for outreach and spiritual growth," Jesus concluded. "Much more will come as we continue to focus on discipleship and outreach!"



Eight senior soldiers who were enrolled at the Minneapolis Temple Corps are pictured with their corps officers Captains Jesus and Kelli Trejo.

Capturing Hungarian hearts

by Major Darlene Morgan
Assistant Regional Officer,
Hungary Region

The Hungary Region, part of the Switzerland, Austria and Hungary Territory and Partner in Mission with the USA Central Territory, was blessed by the exuberant ministry of a young adult summer mission team (SMT) for the second year. Here are some highlights of the SMT's ministry in Hungary this summer.



The team of six young women met almost the whole of The Salvation Army in Hungary only days after their arrival! With their musical abilities, they augmented the small band at the commissioning and ordina-

tion of the region's two newest officers in Debrecen, the east part of Hungary.

Then they traveled to Gyöngyös to lead the corps' day camp. Well prepared daily, the team creatively presented the gospel, taught songs, crafts, dance and games, and played, laughed and talked with the children. Most importantly, they loved them! It shone through their patience with children who had various challenges or simply when teaching tricky crafts! Despite the language barrier, the team's love and openness—with the help of translation—enabled them to build relationships quickly, so that the children bid them a tearful farewell at the end of the week.

The team had a similarly powerful impact at children's day camps at the Rákoscaba and Józsefváros corps in Budapest. In the words of one little boy, "I've never been to such a great camp in all my life!"

The Hungary Region has several residential ministries where the team shared the love of Jesus with men, women and children. At the Crossroads Women's Rehabilitative Home they experienced a skills exchange as they taught women glass painting and, in return, were taught decoupage! Whether baking or playing ping pong, the team's friendliness encouraged questions and conversation from residents regarding Christianity, life choices and cultures.

At House of New Hope Men's



Hostel, the team led worship for the homeless, sorted clothes donations, cleaned storage rooms and courtyards, and assisted in relocating the chapel due to construction. "Their faith and the fire in their hearts were an inspiration to us, and gave us encouragement in our everyday ministry," said the director.

In the House of Light Mothers' and Children's Home, shyness and language barriers disappeared when the skipping ropes, bubbles, balls, face paint and sidewalk chalk appeared! The language of play immediately drew the children to the team. At the end of the day as they presented the parable of the lost sheep, with the help of many sheep created by the children, and encouraged mothers and children to consider if they were yet part of Jesus' flock.

The homeless and needy experienced God's love and care as the team served meals both on the street and inside, and as they sang, cleaned, testified and smiled.

The team was especially effective in reaching teens at the National Music Camp and Youth Camp by leading interactive devotional times and games. Their testimony and example of young, uniformed Salvationists committed to the Lord were a powerful influence.

We have been touched by God through the ministry of the SMT and are grateful for this life-changing opportunity made possible by the USA Central Territory. God bless you! *Isten áldjon meg!*



Photo from Hungary

Photos by Kendelle Polsley



SMT members Kamaria Gage, Christine Chung, Rebekah Langham, Melissa Hulett, Kendelle Polsley, and Kayla Miller with Captains Vecsey in Hungary

God connects His people

In the bustling metropolis of New York City sits Grace Street café. It's an oasis, not just from the frenetic city but of Christian community and awareness of world missions. The circumstances and connections through which the café came to be are a testimony to God's perfect timing.

It began a little over a year ago. Salvationist Keri Shay, who teaches kindergarten and organizes English ministry at Calvary Church and School in Seoul, Korea, is also a talented photographer whose portfolio teems with poignant portraits from around the world. One day at church her pastor introduced her to Ben, a Korean-American who was looking to open a café and give some of the profits to God's work worldwide. They shared a vision to connect people through art, and developed a goal to create a place where spiritual conversations could be cultivated and support could be given for those in need.

"We started working and praying for the project for about eight months," said Keri.

Ben invited her to be the first artist featured in the mission-minded café he hoped to open in New York City. It seemed like a dream. How could it be achieved? The enlarged prints would be costly,



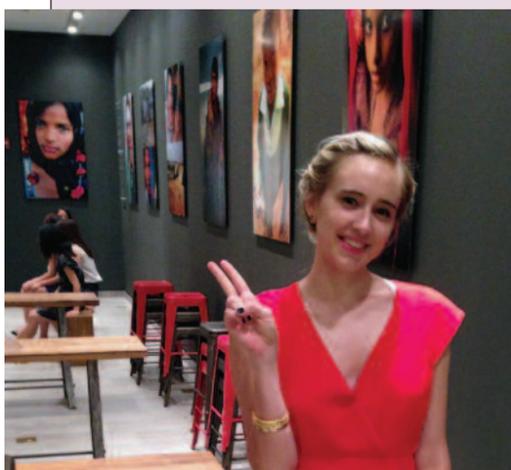
and the logistics of having the prints shipped to the café, hung and designed within the space would be difficult.

God provided the right people at the right time. He laid the opportunity on the heart of Rick Vogeney, from the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps, who's in the printing business. Rick was able to print, mount and ship all of the photographs in time for the grand opening.

"The work was beautifully produced. There were no disasters; none of the artwork was lost or damaged," said Mick Shay, Keri's dad. "God also opened the door for Keri, her sister Cathleen, and me to attend the grand opening. All of this is a testimony to how God's hand was faithful, from concept through installation."

On opening day, Grace Street welcomed hundreds with the photo exhibition, Connecting God's People.

"Our prayer for Grace Street...is that it will serve as a light in the community, that hearts are stirred to know God as it continues to be a place of fellowship," said Keri.



Ready for a life-changing summer?

If you're a Central Salvationist, age 18-28 as of June 1, 2014, consider applying for a 2014 Summer Mission Team.

Check out the requirements online at www.smt.centralmissions.org, and then email missions@usc.salvationarmy.org to request an application.

Don't delay! Completed applications must be submitted by January 17, 2014.



PATHWAY of HOPE

Pathway of Hope is now in 80 corps with 400 corps officers and staff helping 150 families change their lives and futures. Here is one family's story.

"When our second Pathway of Hope client came to us, she had no confidence as a mom or a person," said Lt. Cassandra Grey, Owosso Citadel, Mich., corps officer. "She felt she wasn't worth anything or anyone's time."

Mary* had lived through more than a decade of domestic abuse before fleeing with her children with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Desperate, and having nowhere to turn, she found The Salvation Army.

Through the Pathway of Hope approach, Lts. Sean and Cassandra Grey and caseworker Aimee DeLong are empowering Mary to learn to provide for her family. Through this approach clients work toward changing their lives—with the assistance of a Salvation Army caseworker—by setting goals and taking on responsibilities.

"It's been a miracle case," said Aimee. "Within the first month she completed goals one and two [an apartment and car]. Financial stability is the third, and we're working on it. She wants to support her children and herself."

Mary's vehicle came from a donor who'd heard about Pathway of Hope at a community event and, providentially, had called The Salvation Army within just weeks of Mary's arrival. He left Mary the title, keys and an encouraging note under the mat of the car with a full tank of gas.

"You should have seen the smile on this woman's face," recalled Cassandra. "That smile to me was



Caseworker Aimee DeLong empowers people through Pathway of Hope.

like a rainbow. It signifies hope."

Shortly thereafter, Mary found an apartment and now is pursuing her GED. She said none of this would have been possible if it weren't for Cassandra and Aimee, but she was ready and took the necessary steps to change her situation.

Through Pathway of Hope families like Mary's have access to other community services and the full range of corps programs, including worship services and spiritual guidance. Mary meets regularly with Cassandra to read scripture and pray together. Cassandra and Aimee consistently encourage Mary with phone calls, letters and visits.

"The lady I see coming into my office is stronger, more independent and she smiles," said Cassandra. "Her family is experiencing joy, and for the first time, there is laughter in her house."

*Name changed

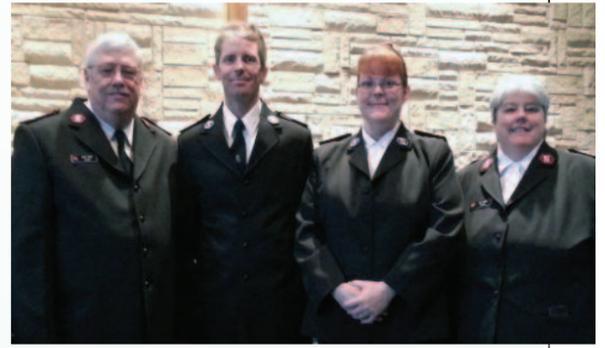
Of motorcycles and ministry

The sight of a tuba at a motorcycle charity event two years ago flipped the lives of Scott and Jennifer Ruse upside down!

Long-time bikers, Scott and Jennifer were participating in the annual Toys for Tots' Toy Run at which the Wichita Citadel, Kan., Band was playing. Scott began chatting with the tuba player, retired officer Major George Windham, and was instantly drawn in by his friendliness. When George told Scott, also a tubaist, that the band needed another player, he and Jennifer showed up at the corps the very next Sunday!

It had been years since Scott had regularly attended a church. The son of a Baptist minister, Scott had accepted Christ at age 5. But as a young adult studying music at a Baptist college, he rebelled against God and dropped out. He tried returning to church off and on over the years but found it too legalistic.

Jennifer had been raised by parents who told her, "Believe in whatever makes you happy." During her teen and young adult years she explored religions but had no frame of reference. One night after crying out in desperation to God, she awoke the next morning with a peace she



Scott and Jennifer Ruse with their corps officers, Majors Dean and Patricia Towne.

couldn't explain and the realization that Christ was the answer.

A mutual love of motorcycles brought Scott and Jennifer together when she was 26 and he was 30; they recently celebrated their 10th anniversary.

Within six months after they began attending the corps, the Ruses were enrolled as soldiers. They enjoyed the preaching of Majors Dean and Patricia Towne, corps officers, and were amazed by the loving atmosphere. Jennifer became the corps' praise team leader and Scott became a senior bandsman and special music coordinator. They also started a young adult Sunday school Bible study class.

At the Family Congress in St. Louis, Mo., both Scott and Jennifer heard God's call to officership. "As Scott and I stood on the stage singing, 'Here I Am,' we cried tears of joy knowing we were finally where we were supposed to be," said Jennifer. Scott added, "Unfortunately, I lived many years with my back to God, but fortunately He never turned His back on me. Now I know what He wants of my life."



Motorcyclist Scott Ruse met the Army through a corps band!

Miraculous will to serve

by Craig Dirkes

"It sounds corny, but the reason I do this is because there are so many people out there who need help, and I'm able to do it." That's the refreshing, matter-of-fact philosophy of Jill Arnoldy, who was named the 2013 Volunteer of the Year in the Central Territory.



Jill has spent nearly 20 years helping others in the Cambridge, Minn., area (Northern Division), starting with a school supply drive that provides 350 full backpacks to children in need every fall.

"We started with 25 backpacks. Now it's so big we need 25 volunteers!" said Jill, 65, who retired from the social services field in 2009.

For the past 14 years, Jill has been in charge of providing Salvation Army food boxes to hundreds of families on Thanksgiving and Easter. What's more, she spent many of those years raising chickens and

donating the eggs to local food pantries. She also makes and donates quilts to people in need.

She's a Salvation Army disaster relief volunteer, too. "I remember working directly with the families of the 35W bridge collapse and being so humbled," Jill said. "Here were these people going through all this tragedy, coming up to me just to say thanks."

Jill has managed to do all of this despite suffering from a host of medical issues. In 2003, she suffered two strokes and had to learn to walk again. In 2006, she was diagnosed with melanoma on her neck and jaw. In 2008, she stopped breathing due to pulmonary fibrosis and was put on life support.

What might have stopped others only slowed Jill. "I remember when Jill first got melanoma, a bell ringer didn't show up for a shift at a local store. Jill went inside, purchased two yards of polar fleece, wrapped her neck and jaw, and rang for two hours," recalled Jan Karasch, Southeastern Minnesota service extension representative.

Promise kept brings joy

by Ginger Yoak

We had just received bad news. A dear friend was very ill. How long had it been since my husband, Jim, and I had enjoyed a good laugh? Now, I had to set the alarm for an early start tomorrow. That didn't make us happy either.

But we had promised to volunteer with The Salvation Army in St. Charles, Mo., at the Target to help children get ready for school. Target had provided gift cards for children whose family incomes could not include the extra expense of school supplies. With each gift card, children could select supplies requested by the school and then clothing.

We escorted Ricky, a middle school student, who was smiling from the moment we met. His laughter was contagious. He laughed, and we joined him as we found bargain after bargain. When Ricky discovered a red shirt to match the red baseball



cap he so dearly wanted, we celebrated with a "high five."

At the end of the shopping trip, Ricky was grateful, happy and ready for the first day of school. As for Jim and me, well we were ready to enjoy the rest of the day, still smiling and laughing.

Special students make star volunteers



by Ashley Kuenstler

"I don't think a lot of people know how strong I am," said 19-year-old Ryan as he lifted a cardboard box full of canned goods over his head. "I'm pretty sure I am the strongest person here."

Ryan's strength is put to good use at the St. Charles, Mo., Corps, where he and fellow special-needs students volunteer once a month.



said. "They enjoy getting the opportunity to show people what they're capable of, as well as giving back to their community."

Braden, 15, agreed. "People think we can't do a lot, but we can," he said. "I like working here and helping people who need food. I feel good about doing that."

Captain Laura Key, corps officer, said the partnership has been enjoyable for her as well. "There's a young boy named Jacob who insists you wave goodbye to him after every visit," she said. "It's a great feeling to see how genuinely happy that makes him. It never fails to brighten my day."

Tracy said the students don't look at their time with The Salvation Army as just work; they see it as spending time with their friends.

"For them, they're really not coming just to work," she said. "They think of the people at The Salvation Army as their friends. The Salvation Army has been great to these kids. They know they're always welcome here."



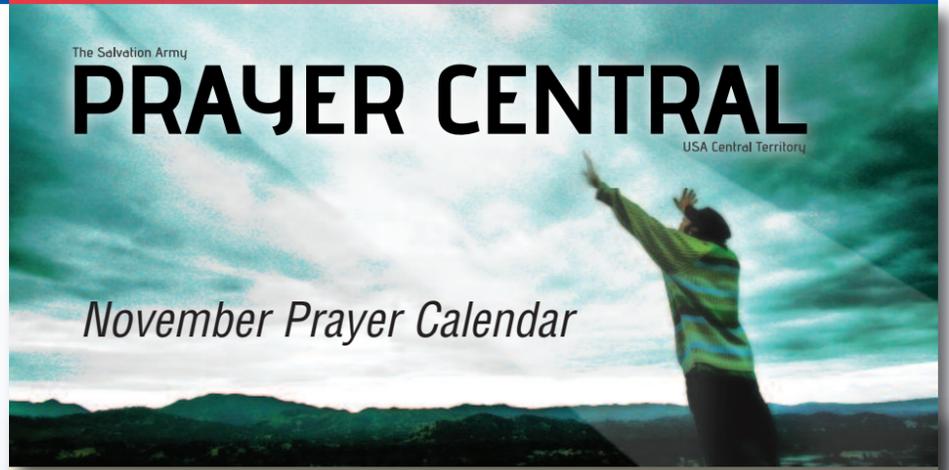
A year ago the students from Francis Howell High School started volunteering with The Salvation Army. They mainly help with the corps' food pantry by sorting cans, reading labels to make sure goods are not expired, and marking them for distribution. They also help keep the chapel clean by washing windows and cleaning pews.

Adam, 18, said the work doesn't bother him; he actually enjoys it.

"I like coming here because I think we really help," he said. "We just do little things, but I think it makes a difference."

Special education teacher Tracy Graham said the monthly visits not only provide invaluable life and work experience but give the children a sense of self-worth.

"The kids really love coming here to help, and they're always excited when the day finally arrives," she



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Friday	Ecclesiastes 3-4	Milwaukee, Wis., ARC*
	2 Saturday	Zephaniah 1-2	Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps
	3 Sunday	Acts 11-12	Madison Genesis, Wis., Corps
	4 Monday	James 4-5	Galesburg, Ill., Corps
	5 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 1-3	Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps
	6 Wednesday	2 Chronicles 33-36	Kansas City Citadel, Kan., Corps
	7 Thursday	Psalms 128-130	Cicero Templo Laramie, Ill., Corps
	8 Friday	Ecclesiastes 5-6	St. Louis, Mo., Booth Manor
	9 Saturday	Haggai 1-2	Caribbean Territory ^{PIM}
	10 Sunday	Acts 13-14	Hibbing, Minn., Corps
	11 Monday	1 Peter 1-3	Kearney, Neb., Corps
	12 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 4-6	Metropolitan DHQ**
	13 Wednesday	Ezra 1-5	Jackson, Mich., Corps
	14 Thursday	Psalms 131-133	Madison Temple, Wis., Corps
	15 Friday	Ecclesiastes 7-8	Major Michelle & Captain Deon Oliver (Australia)
	16 Saturday	Zechariah 1-7	Minneapolis, Minn., ARC*
	17 Sunday	Acts 15-16	Hillsdale, Mich., Corps
	18 Monday	1 Peter 4-5	Iowa City, Iowa, Corps
	19 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 7-9	Indianapolis Fountain Square, Ind., Corps
	20 Wednesday	Ezra 6-10	Kansas City Northland, Mo., Corps
	21 Thursday	Psalms 134-136	Thank God for the blessings He gives
	22 Friday	Ecclesiastes 9-10	Crystal Lake, Ill., Corps
	23 Saturday	Zechariah 8-14	Jacksonville, Ill., Corps
	24 Sunday	Acts 17-18	International Falls, Minn., Corps
	25 Monday	1 John 1-2	Lincoln, Neb., Corps
	26 Tuesday	Deuteronomy 10-12	Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps
	27 Wednesday	Nehemiah 1-4	Manitowoc, Wis., Corps
	28 Thursday	Psalms 137-139	Livingston County, Mich., Corps
	29 Friday	Ecclesiastes 11-12	Kankakee, Ill., Corps
	30 Saturday	Malachi 1-4	Christmas Kettle Campaigns

Go to 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



Chapel ready for future

The Salvation Army's historic limestone chapel on the corner of Rogers and Kirkwood in Bloomington, Ind., recently underwent an extensive renovation. This summer the public was invited to a re-dedication and tour of the building. Having been in Bloomington since 1907, the Army has served the community from this building since 1928.

"The interior renovation and improvements of our historical chapel building has poised us to be able to serve our community in the name of Christ for years to come," said Lt. Sharyn Tennyson, Bloomington corps officer. "We are honored to be trusted with the resources that allowed us to make these improvements and are committed to continue to serve with integrity."

The renovation allowed for an interior pathway to the lower level children's library and computer lab and to the second level without walking through the chapel or having to go outside to another entrance. It extended the foyer that connected the chapel building with the community

center, giving two interior entrance points to the chapel building. The door in the center of the platform was enclosed, and the interior was completely remodeled. Pews were replaced with chairs that can be configured for worship and other programs, like training sessions or community meetings. Worship averages 35 a week, with some new families and young adults recently joining.

The historic chapel is adjacent to three other Salvation Army buildings, including a child development center, community center and thrift store. The Army is especially recognized for its social services in the community, ranging from rent and utility assistance to emergency disaster services and quarterly job fairs. In June the corps launched the Pathway of Hope.

Among the core programs, sunbeams and girl guards are growing. An open gym program, led by Indiana University students working toward recreation management degrees, is thriving. According to the lieutenant, the corps is planning a new community center program focusing on middle and high school students to fill a void in the community.



Lt. Sharyn Tennyson, Bloomington, Ind., corps officer, Advisory Board Chairman Dick McKaig, Bloomington Mayor Mark Kruzan, and Indiana Divisional Commander Major John Turner cut ribbon at re-dedication.

A glimpse at GRACE

by Major Jennifer Woodard

Generations of grace

I praise the Lord for my two sets of grandparents who came to know the Lord through The Salvation Army. My parents also accepted Christ as young people and raised me in an environment of love and truth where I came to know and love the Lord with all my heart.

Restoration

Life in this fallen world means we are touched by brokenness: of others, our own and even the natural world. In Christ though my heart is restored, over and over. I am grateful for the 20/20 vision that time and experience provide as I trust in the power and keeping of Christ to heal and restore me to abundant life!

Accountability

I praise God for putting people in my life who care enough to keep me accountable. I understand increasingly that as believers striving to honor God we need each other, and this is how He designed it. I pray for continued courage and love to be more and more interdependent with my brothers and sisters in Christ so we can be spiritually strong, faithful and blessed in the Lord.



Calling

I sensed God's purpose for me as a young person of 12. I was amazed and delighted then, and I still delight in the knowledge He has chosen me to be His ambassador. I have fallen in love with speaking God's truth into the hearts of others. I continue to learn what it means to serve Him faithfully, be in relationship with those He loves, and develop my gifts to God's glory and for serving others.

Eternal life

The redemption of my soul by my Redeemer, Jesus Christ, cannot be compared with any other treasure. He bought me with His own lifeblood. This love is too wonderful for me, and yet I embrace it with joy. With confidence and hope, I revel in His undying love for me! There is nothing else if not for the solid ground of eternal life through the gift of God.

An abundant life!

Preparation for old age should begin no later than one's teens. A life which is empty of purpose until 65 will not suddenly become filled on retirement.—Dwight L. Moody

by Captain Scott Strissel

Majors Roger and Joy Ross certainly have not lived an empty life without purpose. Their ministry and passion have been exemplary, touching many lives for Christ. It's no wonder more than 250 officers, family and friends, including representatives from every corps appointment, joined together this summer to celebrate their retirement.

Roger was introduced to the Army at a Christmas party for underprivileged children and was later enrolled as a senior soldier by General Fredrick Coutts in 1965. Joy is the daughter of Majors Don and Harriet Olson. Roger and Joy met at a Salvation Army camp. He was a skinny lifeguard, she a cute waitress. What began as a summer romance turned into a marriage spanning 45 years. They have been blessed with three married children: Paul (Jami), Jennifer (Larry) Mazella, and Ben (Wendy) and seven grandchildren.

During the retirement service Paul and Jennifer sang a duet and all the grandchildren presented a musical number. Other highlights included a proclamation from Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker declaring "Majors Roger & Joy Ross Day," a taped farewell by Green Bay Packer Hall of Famer LeRoy Butler, and many tributes about the tremendous difference they've made. Commissioners Harold and Betty Hinson presented the retirement certificates.

Roger and Joy were commissioned as officers in 1971 with the



"Victorious" session. They were corps officers at Chicago Irving Park, Ill.; Janesville, Milwaukee West and Citadel, and Wausau, Wis., and Escanaba and Warren, Mich. They also held appointments as divisional secretary and women's ministries secretary in Kansas and Western Missouri; divisional youth secretaries in the Western and the Kansas and Western Missouri divisions; administrators of the Grand Rapids, Mich., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center; Roger was county coordinator in Lake County, Ind., while Joy was corps officer in Hammond/Munster.

Since 2011 Roger has served as Milwaukee County commander and Joy as Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divisional women's ministry secretary. They are giving post-retirement service in these positions through January, at which time they will take up residence in Spring Hill, Fla.

Retired but serving still

Major Mary-Lou Branson, recently retired as assistant corps officer from the Indianapolis Eagle Creek, Ind., Corps, met the Army as a child in Southern California after her mother received a *War Cry*.

As a young woman, Mary-Lou accepted an attractive job offer from a former boss and moved from California to Minnesota. She connected with other Salvationists; some had West Coast friends in common. Mary-Lou enjoyed her new job but knew God had called her to officer-ship years earlier. At a sunbeam camp, little Mary-Lou had decided she wanted to be just like her leader, a young woman officer.

Mary-Lou was ordained and commissioned with the "Heralds of Hope" session in 1983.

As a lieutenant she served in corps in Minnesota and Michigan. After stepping out of service for a few years, she returned as an envoy,



holding assistant corps administrator positions in Indiana, Nebraska and Iowa until she was reinstated as a lieutenant in 1999. She continued to serve in corps in Nebraska and Indiana until her retirement.

Over the years, Mary-Lou particularly enjoyed social services.