



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 4

April 2009

Re:Generation draws record crowd

by Michael Steinsland

Re:Generation, the annual territorial young adult conference, drew a record attendance of more than 250 people who traveled from every division in the Midwest to Camp Mihaska in the Midland Division. With the theme, "I [heart] others," participants were challenged to reflect on the biblical concepts of unity, identity, ministry and holiness.

The conference opened Friday evening with messages from territorial leaders Commissioners Barry C.

and E. Sue Swanson, who spoke on Philippians 2 and offered advice for Christian living.

Special guests Majors Geoff and Sandra Ryan delivered messages reflective of the hands-on ministry they have at the 614 Regent Park Corps in Toronto, Canada. A simple statement from Major Sandra Ryan resonated throughout the weekend, "You won't hear anything new this weekend. What you need to ask is why you are here. What is your purpose for being here? You are not here by accident; God has brought you here for a reason."

NSE reunion slated for Power Point weekend

If you've been to the National Seminar on Evangelism (NSE) at the Glen Eyrie Conference Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., you're sure to have had a mountain top experience. Another one awaits you.

On the Saturday morning of the Power Point weekend, June 12th-14th, in Merrillville, Ind., join with other former delegates and staff for a reunion event designed especially for you with a Western theme and a passionate focus: winning the world for Christ!

You'll be delighted by the great fellowship and a "wrangler's" breakfast buffet. You'll be inspired by testimonies and an address by our territorial leaders, Commissioners Barry C. and E. Sue Swanson. You'll be called to action to pray for the unsaved.

This event will launch a year of prayer in our territory for the unsaved; in fact, each person invited should bring the names of three unsaved people to the Saturday morning breakfast.

"All of us know at least one person who has yet to meet Jesus Christ. Many of us know someone who has



met Christ but has drifted far from his or her relationship with Him," said Captain Carol Lewis, territorial evangelism and corps growth secretary. "I remember well the song made famous by Babbie Mason, 'Each one, reach one,' and it is still true today. According to Commissioner Samuel Logan Brengle, the soul-winner's prayer must be definite, bold, and persevering for the glory of God, according to His will and mixed with faith, as believing prayer."

She concluded, "We are asking our friends in the Central Territory who have attended NSE in years past to join us at this reunion breakfast as we reignite a passion to pray for lost souls in our territory through joyful and purposeful prayer."

Former Central NSE delegates or faculty who want to attend the reunion breakfast and be a part of this important prayer movement should contact the evangelism and corps growth department at territorial headquarters before April 24, 2009, at (847) 294-2226 or see their corps officer.

***Note: This event is free to NSE delegates and staff with tickets.**



Photos by Kert Shay

Held on Valentine's Day weekend, Re:Generation gave young adults the opportunity to worship and celebrate God's love while considering the importance of caring for others. The holiday was marked by a banquet complete with photo booth, dancing and fun thrift store inspired outfits (some even sported by divisional youth secretaries!).

Led by Eric Himes and supported by Majors Bob and Collette Webster, territorial youth secretaries, Re:Generation provided opportunities and experiences designed to spur young adults on to active, responsible participation in the life,

Continued on page 4

General convenes International Conference of Leaders

General Shaw Clifton has convened a meeting of the most senior leaders of The Salvation Army to gather in London, England, from July 7-13, 2009.

Salvation Army leaders from every territory and every command in the world will be present, with senior officers from International Headquarters. The total number attending will be 135, including the General, the world president of women's ministries and the chief of the staff. Commissioners Barry C. and E. Sue Swanson will attend from the Central Territory.

The conference's main purpose

will be to seek the guidance of God for the future witness and service of the Army globally. The conference also will address current international issues which affect the life and work of The Salvation Army around the world. In addition, the event provides a valuable opportunity for senior leaders to meet one another in Christian fellowship, to be in prayer together, and to feed upon God's Word.

The General asks Salvationists to pray for this key event both in these months of preparation and for the days of the conference itself.

Adapted from an International News Release

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Taking ownership

by Lt. Colonel Richard Vander Weele
Secretary for Program

soldier (sōl'jər) *n.* 1. a member of an army, any rank; 2. a guardsman; 3. a member of The Salvation Army (<http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/soldier>).

There you have it; even the experts who define words on the web recognize the significance of the word "soldier" to The Salvation Army.

FreeDictionary.com further describes a soldier as someone who enlisted, who serves, is active, loyal and a militant follower. Is that you? How about the person sitting next to you on Sunday?

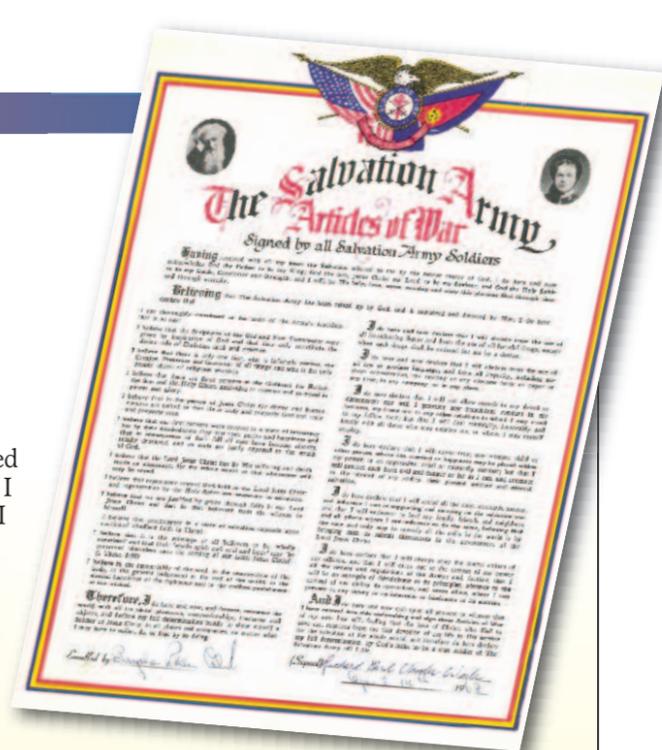
"Our Come Join Our Army" initiative began in June 2007. Through December 2008 we enrolled 1,773 new soldiers—972 junior and 801 senior—in the Central Territory. Unfortunately, while new people are

joining, an even higher number are being removed. We need to stop that trend, and you can help!

Take ownership of "Come Join Our Army!" Encourage and invite people who attend regularly to become soldiers; contact inactive soldiers and friends you haven't seen for a while and encourage them to come back; take a look inward. Are you the kind of soldier who attracts others? Take a look at your corps building. Is it inviting, clean and conducive to worship and service?

I was looking through some things at home the other day and came across my *Articles of War* (now *The*

Soldier's Covenant). I noted the date, April 14, 1963. I was 14 years old when I signed that covenant. Thinking about that time in my life, I remembered the bandmaster who made me feel my bass drum part at Letter C in the cornet solo *Jubilate* was the most important part in the band; a corps cadet counselor who made sure my lessons were well done, complete and in on time; corps officers, not only those appointed to my corps but all over the division, who took an interest in me, knew my name and did everything they could to nurture me in my faith. Did I want to be a soldier? You bet! I have never regretted it.



Make "Come Join Our Army" personal. Appoint yourself a recruiter of one, take a genuine interest in people, encourage them, disciple them and help them grow in their faith. It's more than a campaign; it's more than a slogan. It's about us and growing an Army committed to the cause of Christ.

Power Point Events

June 12 – 14, 2009

Neighborhood Prayer Walk

Join with other Salvationists on Saturday, June 13th, as a strong witness in the Gary/Merrillville, Ind., Corps' neighborhood. As you walk, you'll pray for the community, the corps' neighbors, the joys and hopes for the Gary/Merrillville Corps. This will be a time for us to support The Salvation Army's work in the area.

If you've never participated in a prayer walk before, come experience a new, powerful and wonderful way of learning how to pray for your neighbors: those you know, and those you don't. The prayer walk will be guided by a list of requests drawn up in consultation with the corps officer.

Power Point 24/7 Prayer Event

In *Helps to Holiness*, Commissioner Samuel Logan Brengle writes, "All great soul-winners have been men of much and mighty prayer, and all great revivals have been preceded and carried out by persevering, prevailing knee-work in the closet."

The Power Point weekend will be bathed in prayer as delegates have an opportunity to pray for an hour any time throughout the weekend. A special prayer room will be set aside at the Radisson Hotel so delegates can do their "knee-

work" 24/7. Come pray for revival, souls to be won for Christ, and many other prayer requests from throughout the Central Territory!

A Year of Prayer

Imagine officers, soldiers and friends throughout the Central Territory, praying daily for specific prayer topics for 365 days. Can we do it? Yes we can! Power Point delegates will receive a prayer calendar which will begin during the Power Point weekend and continue through the visit of General Shaw Clifton and Commissioner Helen Clifton in June 2010. Topics will include praying for the unsaved, The Salvation Army's mission, youth discipleship, Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers, leadership, and, of course, the General.

In the words of Florence Booth from *The Powers of Salvation Army Soldiers*: "No matter how much we may labor, our toil will be unblest by God if it is not hallowed by prayer."

Register for Power Point online.



Central Connection

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The Davenport River Valley, Iowa, Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) enrolled two new soldiers, Gerald Ironshield and Robert McDowell, reported ARC Administrators Majors Russ and Jan Sjogren. Both men had expressed interest in soldiery last fall and faithfully attended recruits classes. Upon their successful completion, each were individually interviewed as to their readiness and desire to "Come Join our Army." Gerald and Robert were each firmly convinced God had called them to soldiery within the ranks of The Salvation Army. And, each man's desire was to be enrolled in full uniform in front of the other beneficiaries, soldiers, adherents and friends.

A cloud of witnesses

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Resources/Links

New youth website

Jr. Community Care pages on website

World Missions

Fighting Force Funds and application form

National Seminar on Evangelism brochure

A list of books on forgiveness and healing

Web exclusives

New soldier testimonies from the Adult Rehabilitation Center

First person perspective of a Correctional Services Bible Correspondent grader

VBS timeline and ideas

Creative ways to recognize your volunteers

Finding community

Captains Marcelo and Monica Orbe have worked long hours to nurture and grow Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division's first Hispanic corps plant, the Milwaukee South Side Latino, Wis., Corps. For the Orbes, January 1st marked a new beginning, not only to the year but for their ministry as they moved closer to their corps' community in downtown Milwaukee. They now worship in the heart of their community, and the congregation has already grown by nearly 15 percent!

The Milwaukee Hispanic ministry has much to offer and maintains a busy schedule of service and outreach.

This service draws seekers in from the community, states Marcelo, who tells a story of one family in particular. This family's participation started with ESL and computer classes. Learning a lot while enjoying the



Captains Marcelo and Monica Orbe with their children Andres and Jennifer

nature of the corps community, they gradually began to attend Sunday morning worship as well. Although reluctant at first, due to their Catholic background, they couldn't resist the warm and caring atmosphere created by the congregation. Once drawn in, Marcelo reports that they actually became leaders in the corps!

The Orbes are blessed through this warm, service-driven ministry. Marcelo is most rewarded when he witnesses his congregation minister to others. He says, "They are great helpers, not just to one another, but to those in the community as well. They are always ready to assist anyone in need!"

Ideally one day this ministry will have its own building. They continually pray that God will bless them with a space in which they can worship, work and continue to grow.



Milwaukee South Side Latino, Wis., youth event.

Poor in spirit, rich in new life

Four soldiers and three adherents were enrolled at the Chicago North Side Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC), led by Majors Larry and Jean Manzella, this winter. The soon-to-be members stood excitedly in new uniforms as *The Soldier's Covenant* was read aloud. Major Graham Allan, ARC commander, conducted the enrollment, challenging the men to get involved in Army outreach and reinforcing their decision to join. Flag bearers Captain Gary Gugala, ARC trainee, and Larry Wiggins, ARC houseman, stood proudly as the ceremony came to a close. Afterward, the new enrollees sat down to a steak dinner with Major Allan, and were given the rest of the day off work, a wonderful conclusion to a very special day.

This was the first ARC enrollment for trainees Captains Gary and Deborah Gugala. Both like their new appointment and enjoy learning the ins and outs of working with struggling men. Deborah admitted that

upon entering training she had preconceived notions about ARC life, but these ideas were quickly abandoned as she came to know her congregation and learn their many, diverse backgrounds. Having learned so much about these men, the recent enrollment took on special significance for Deborah as she witnessed first hand the depth of understanding they have for this commitment. This is not just another ceremony for them, she states, but the start of new life in Christ.

Matthew 5:3 (KJV) says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Sometimes this fundamental concept is forgotten, but that is not possible for the men living in the ARC reports Deborah. "When the men present themselves at the front door of an ARC, everything in their lives is destitute," she said. "It's a unique state of mind, and one that provides the optimum perspective of the inadequacy of our lives without Him and the necessity of faith."



Corps growth bears fruit



Pictured at a recent enrollment are (l-r) Accepted Candidate Daniel Simmons (flagbearer), Captain Keith Graham, new adherent Mattie Williams, new junior soldier Sherry Gooden, new soldiers Loretta Braggs and Tina Norwood, Captain Michelle Graham and Accepted Candidate Claudia Simmons (flagbearer).

For Captains Keith and Michelle Graham, with not yet two years under their belts as corps officers, it's been an intense, challenging and—by God's grace, wisdom and power—fruitful experience at the Chicago Midway Citadel, Ill., Corps.

Two senior soldiers, a junior soldier and an adherent were enrolled earlier this year, and a recruits class currently in session hopes to add more to the ranks soon.

Committed to the concept of corps growth even before the "Come Join Our Army" initiative was launched, the Grahams' priority was getting corps attendees more active and involved in God's work. Realizing membership was a bit "top heavy" in age, the Grahams began focusing on getting younger members involved.

Corps people stepped up to the

plate. Within 18 months, the corps was free from a large debt load and community outreach was humming along, particularly toward neighborhood youth with an intentional focus on spiritual things to bridge children and particularly teens who enjoy "going down to The Sal" for basketball in its heated gym unlike the cold Chicago Park District field house. Graham has consulted with the Metropolitan Division's new community and gym program coordinator, Anwar Smith, for fresh ideas. Future plans at the corps call for setting up a computer lab for after-school students.

"We just keep seeking what God wants us to do to be successful," said Graham. "I tend to be goal driven and get frustrated when I can't measure success quantitatively, like if I didn't finish everything on my 'to do' list for the day. But, that's when Michelle reminds me God's measure of success is different. The time I may have spent leading someone to Christ or counseling a teen is success in His eyes."



Captain Keith Graham leads a recruits class.

National Seminar on Evangelism

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Youth leaders focus on prayer and purpose



by Sharon Waiksnoris

Ministering to the children, youth and young adults of our territory is a privilege. It is also a tremendously challenging role to fill. Recently the divisional youth secretaries in the Central Territory met in St. Louis, Mo. Led by Majors Bob and Collette Webster, territorial youth secretaries, they had the opportunity to learn and share together, plan for the future, be spiritually refreshed and spend time in dedicated prayer for youth ministry.

God worked through every session, beginning with a Bible study taught by the Rev. Paul Brunstetter from Lexington, Ky. As he went through Scripture on persistent prayer, we saw how God searches us, tests us and grows us. Personal reflection reminded us of the deep need for honest and persistent prayer to keep our passion for ministry burning.

Uplifting devotions led by Majors Marc and Karen Johnson, Captains

James and Melissa Frye and Majors Cornell and Candace Voeller set a focused and motivational tone each day. The Holy Spirit renewed our vision as we discussed youth programming and upcoming territorial youth and youth leaders' events.

The seminar concluded with a session led by territorial leaders Commissioners Barry C. and E. Sue Swanson. The territorial commander shared his vision and expectations for youth ministry, and an interactive discussion followed.

Throughout the week God's Spirit was obvious, but nowhere was His presence felt more than during a season of prayer that reinforced our knowledge that God is the source of our strength and wisdom. As our children grow up in a fragmented culture, we have the responsibility to empower them to be more than conquerors. This can only be achieved by God's power and prayer. How fitting that the meetings began with a study of prayer and ended with a time of concentrated prayer.

Website connects youth

During February, the territorial youth department launched a new website CentralYouthNetwork.com in an effort to create an even stronger connection with the youth of the Central Territory.

Majors Bob and Collette Webster, territorial youth secretaries, see it as a focus and hub for young people, and an effort well in line with the youth department mission, "To develop young people into lifelong followers of Jesus Christ as soldiers in The Salvation Army." It also serves to encourage youth to win the world for Jesus.

This weekly updated website features interactive and useful elements such as videos, photos, podcasts, devotionals, worship resources and information about youth events, including a convenient method of event registration. It will grow and evolve based on the needs of Central Territory youth.

One feature, updated weekly, is called Studio Central. This portion of the site displays the latest and greatest of Central youth talent. From stories to videos to music, if Central youth create it they may soon find it posted on Studio Central for all to enjoy. It provides a wonderful opportunity to be blessed and

encouraged by blossoming talents and gifts.

Another unique attribute of the site is a weekly message, called 68 Words, based on a concept by William Booth and emailed to readers by request. These simple and



powerful messages consist of 68 words or less and serve as an encouragement, challenge and motivation for those who subscribe.

Prayer is encouraged through a link to the *Central Connection* prayer calendar, and leaders' resources are available as well.

Overall this site is meant to be a spiritual resource. Youth department staff will add new features and content as Central youth seek interaction, conversation and inspiration from the Army and one another.

Re:Generation

Continued from page 1

mission and work of The Salvation Army. Information booths featured opportunities like summer employment, child sponsorship and officer-ship. A global bazaar offered items crafted by Salvationists around the world to benefit World Services/Self-Denial.

Each day began with an early morning *Revival!* meeting and ended with a late night knee drill [prayer meeting]. Spontaneous and Spirit-



asked God to show His will for their lives. This year's conference introduced a 24-hour prayer room, which was facilitated by students of the Chicago War College. The prayer room proved popular with young adults taking continuous prayer shifts.

Preparing young adults to return to their corps focused on God and mindful of others, Re:Generation could be summed up the way William Booth lived his life, in one word—"Others."



led, these meetings served as an effective counterpart to the weekend's programmed aspects. Young adults spent time deep in prayer and



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The fight goes on



The Austin, Minn., Corps has made inroads in its community with highly creative evangelistic outreaches.

Historically armies at war have required funds to fight. But if wars grew long, funds dwindled and altered battle-strategies proved ineffective, defeat was inevitable. Sometimes, however, outside help would come from those who believed in the army's cause and thought their strategies could succeed.

Similarly, grants from the Central Territory's Fighting Force Fund are available to corps, institutions and divisions for building up their fighting forces to wage war against spiritual, social, economic and emotional needs.

Major Joseph Wheeler, territorial corps mission and adult ministries secretary, administers the fund rooted in monies set aside in 2000 as part of the territorial visioning process. The fund's current name evolved near the 2007 launch of "Come Join Our Army."

The fund has four purposes—conversions, enrollments, discipleship and leadership development. Proposals must clearly demonstrate intended outcomes based on these four purposes and projected impacts on attendance and other areas. Up to half of temporary staffing costs connected to the project may be covered. Funds may not be used for property repairs or renovations, and proposals aren't renewable.

Major Wheeler reported grants totaling over \$600,000 have been issued to 65 units since July 2007. Grant amounts have ranged from a few hundred dollars to several thousand.



A summer youth mission team did child evangelism while Milwaukee's poorest children got a nutritious lunch from the Salvation Army's "Feed the Kids" program.



The Evansville Corps' "Rejoice" dance team gained an increased sense of ministry and professionalism with their new outfits.

two teens accepted Christ, reported Corps Officers Captains Luis and Raisi Zambrano.

Austin, Minn., Corps Officer Major Marlys Anderson said their grant allowed "thinking outside the box" for creative evangelistic out-

reaches, such as a Mexican fiesta with guest musicians and speakers, a Hawaiian luau/mystery dinner featuring an authentic dance troupe, an old fashioned hoe-down, a city-wide Olympic torch run followed by fun challenges between the Red Egyptians and Yellow Israelites and a series of costumed Bible Hero Sundays, all of which more than doubled regular attendance to an average of 90 with 10 enrollments last year and 10 more this spring. Event follow up has been crucial to growth. Leadership training and development to handle continued growth from future outreaches is the next goal.

Last year, the **Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division** combined a long-time, child feeding program in Milwaukee's poorest areas with a summer youth mission team and corps outreach, reported Debra Lewis, Milwaukee social services director. The mission team distributed almost 98,000 lunches, performed child evangelism, got to know families and connected them with nearby corps, which staged productive outreach events.

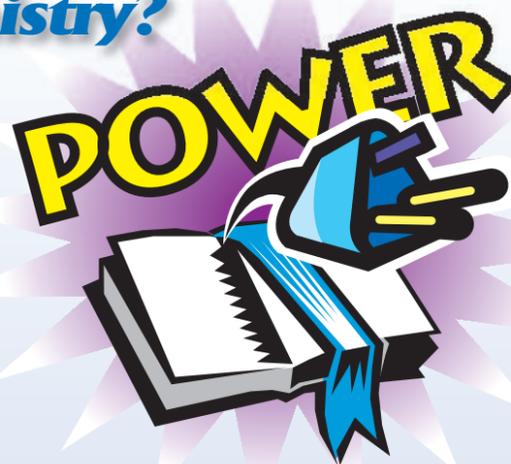


The results of its *Dia de Reyes* celebration were magical for the Chicago Lawn Corps.

The **Evansville, Ind., Corps** bought outfits for "Rejoice," its dance evangelism team, to help increase the teens' confidence as they share the gospel through interpretive dance in the corps and division. Participants learn leadership and teamwork skills, reported Captains Harold and Lynnetta Poff, corps officers.

The **Chicago Lawn, Ill., Corps** held a *Dia de Reyes* (Kings Day) evangelistic outreach commemorating the magi and their gifts for Baby Jesus. A magician presented the gospel to more than 200 party guests, and each child received a gift. One new family began attending worship services, many more began coming to corps activities and

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The Cry of Grace

by Major Darlene Harvey

I was just going through the motions of Easter. I remember thinking I had taken Jesus' death on the cross for granted. I had treated His grace carelessly. I prayed God would help me more deeply realize the price He had paid for me, that I would have a greater understanding of His love. Ten years ago I had no idea what lay ahead of me or how God would work through it in my life.

It was a Monday in October. My husband, Dave, and I were getting ready to go to officers' councils. My sister-in-law had come to watch our two boys. We were going to run errands, go to the zoo and meet up with Dave later. But when we came home from the store, Dave's car was in the driveway. I knew in my heart something was wrong. When he came out to meet me, I asked him if my dad was okay. In a broken voice, he told me that he was dead. My dad had been murdered. In shock, I felt like I watched events unfold from somewhere above. It was as if I were in a dream—a nightmare, really.

I prayed we would know what happened to my dad. I needed to know the circumstances behind his death. My brothers had been trying to contact him since Friday but assumed he was just gone for the weekend. When he didn't get a return call, my brother who lived closest went to check on dad on Monday. We had no idea how long he'd been dead.



Darlene's dad and her son, Matthew.

Even through this tragedy, we saw God working. On his way to the morgue on Tuesday, my brother spotted dad's stolen car in Detroit. This led to the arrest of the person who'd killed my father. By the time dad was buried later that week, we had a full confession through a lie detector test and knew many of the details.

Incredulously, the person who killed my dad was the brother of my best friend from childhood. When I was eight, my friend had brought me to sunbeams and introduced me to The Salvation Army.

Although my mother was a Christian, she was often sick while I was growing up and could not go to church. She died of cancer in 1986. After her death my father became a Christian and occasionally went to The Salvation Army. There, he met my friend's mother. They were later married, though it only lasted for one year. Unknown

to us, after the divorce her son visited my dad periodically to ask for money for drugs. On one of those evenings, he became angry. He not only took my dad's money and car but took his life.

A very difficult year followed for me. I felt responsible for my dad's death. If it had not been for my involvement with the Army, maybe he wouldn't have known the person who killed him. Often the people whom we served reminded me of the person who'd killed my dad. I wanted to start a new chapter in my life, and for the first—and only—time I thought about resigning as an officer. But God always knows what we need and comes at the right time.

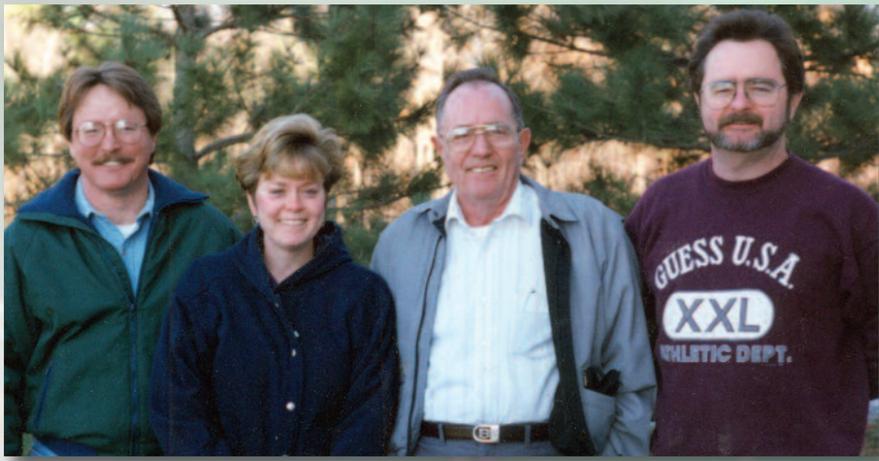
That summer, 1999, I had an opportunity to attend the National Seminar on Evangelism (NSE) for the third time. While there God reminded me of the first time I had gone in 1986—after my mother's death. I had been so excited to



Taking part in the Salvation Army presence at the 50th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France.



Majors Darlene and Dave Harvey with produce from the Green Camp, a program of the Chicago Kroc Corps Community Center, their present appointment.



Darlene with her brothers and dad.

learn how to lead someone to Christ, and when I returned home the first person I shared with was my dad. He had accepted Christ. God reminded me that though my dad had lost his earthly life, he had eternal life—and God had allowed me to be a part of that decision. I came back from NSE renewed in my passion to be an officer and more strongly committed to my ministry.

That same summer at a women's camp meeting when the guest sang about heaven I bawled uncontrollably. Afterward the speaker asked if I was all right. She could see something was terribly wrong. I told her about my dad, and though neither of us could believe it she said that her dad also had been murdered that

year. The book *What's so Amazing about Grace* by Phillip Yancey had really helped her. I soon found myself reading it, and it aided my healing.

God wanted not only to heal the hurt of losing my father, but He wanted to use this experience to help me grow in grace. I think I had been tempted to be self-righteous, to feel good about the decisions I'd made. I wanted to take credit for the good things in my life rather than looking at them as gifts and grace from God. Without even realizing it, I'd developed a judgmental attitude toward people who had addictions. I felt they'd made bad choices and had to live with the consequences. I did not have Christ's compassion.



Darlene with a council woman at her present ministry, the Chicago Kroc Center.



Darlene and her sons Matthew and Joshua.

Although I'd long ago memorized Ephesians 2:8-9, these verses became more real to me: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." I had a deeper understanding. Often we have a problem accepting God's grace or extending God's grace, and many times our problems revolve around these issues. We either cannot forgive ourselves or accept God's or someone else's forgiveness, or we do not forgive another person and hang onto bitterness.

While we were in Green Bay, I had an opportunity to attend a program at the local prison on restorative justice which was taught by one of our corps members. It gave me a different perspective, more understanding and compassion for people who have committed crimes.

I thank God I have forgiven the person who killed my dad. I know I did not do this in my own strength but God's, as we read about in Philippians 4:13.

My dad's life reminds me of the Easter story. He was a loving man who did not deserve to die a violent death. While he lay dying, what little possessions he had were discarded and sold. He was alone for three days before he was found. Through what happened to my dad, I have a greater understanding of the price God paid for me. But most importantly, I'm reminded of Jesus' victory over sin and death. God has given me—and you—victory over sin and despair. Freedom and victory are possible, simply and only, because of God's grace.

Note: For a list of books on forgiveness and healing, visit Get Connected web pages.



Bread of life

Each week the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps receives large donations of bread from a Panera deli and Dominick's grocery for its food pantry. The bread arrives in bulk and volunteers break it down into family-size packages.

"The kitchen is a happy, busy place on Wednesday mornings," said Pamela Church, family assistance ministry director. "The volunteers are very dedicated and obviously enjoy each other's company. When I first met Irene Lottchea, she was quick to thank me for letting her pack bread. That intrigued me as we were so thankful for *her!* So I pulled Irene aside one day to ask her to tell me her story."



Irene Lottchea at work assembling bread packages.

Five years ago after losing her son to cancer, Irene had to sell her home and move to an apartment because she was unable to manage financially. "I was sick, broken hearted and down. I didn't know which end was up and had no family to help me," Irene explained.

In need of food, she came to the Norridge Citadel pantry. "The next thing I knew, Jane Berry [then the family assistance ministry director] asked if I wanted to help pack bread on Wednesdays," Irene recalled. "I was delighted to serve the Lord in this way. I went home and cried my eyes out. Not only did I find help for my problems, but I knew there was a God looking over me."

Irene was honored with a dedicated volunteer certificate three years ago by the Norridge Citadel Corps. "As long as my car can move and my eyes don't fail too much more, I will continue to help at The Salvation Army. Packing bread really saved my life," beamed Irene. "My only enjoyment left is my Salvation Army trip on Wednesdays."



Pamela Church, family assistance ministry director at Norridge Citadel Corps, and her cheerful, bread-packing volunteers.

Recognition begins with thank you

by Rob Bonesteel

There is a rule of thumb in fundraising that a donor should be thanked seven times for their gift before they're asked for another. This might seem excessive and time consuming, but fundraising professionals strive to meet this standard because they know the monetary support of donors is vital to their organization.

In an age where people would rather give money than time, how much more important is it that we thank and recognize our volunteers just as we thank our financial donors? Over the past year our territory was blessed with 690,000 volunteers who gave us more than 3.3 million hours to further The Salvation Army's mission. That donation allowed us to extend our shared budgets by \$65.5 million. Yet, it's not the extension to our budgets that is most important. It is their service.

Our volunteers showed love to the unloved, fed the hungry, worked with the imprisoned, tutored children, provided counsel to our officers, were our spokespeople to their communities, swept floors, stocked shelves and raised millions of dollars. They filled countless other roles and needs. They did nearly anything

we asked of them. Without our legions of volunteers, we could not do what we do even with funding.

Our volunteers, our donors of time, support us without expectation of compensation or recognition. However, as National Volunteer Week approaches (April 27 - May 3) I would encourage you to recognize the donors of time who support your corps, institution or program. Take a moment to say thank you, show your appreciation and tell your community what your volunteers have done.

You will find that by recognizing your donors of time, even in these small ways, amazing things will begin to happen. Even better, recognize your volunteers often; don't wait for a certain date or time. In fact, it's the perfect way to begin each day!

So, to those of you who are volunteers or soldiers, thank you for everything you do!

Find ideas for creative ways to recognize your volunteers on our Get Connected web pages.



Big heart, small body

Big-hearted first-grader Sean Brenneman raised more than \$200 for The Salvation Army's Junior Bed & Bread Program benefitting the Detroit, Mich., area. With the help of his parents, Sean contacted more than 30 family members and friends about the program and used pictures he drew of a child receiving food and clothing to drive home his message. Sean also raised money with bottle-returns and other little money-making opportunities he could find.

The Bed & Bread Program run by The Salvation Army in Detroit has long been supported by radio station WOMC-FM (104.3) and its well-known morning show host, Dick Purtan. The Junior Bed & Bread Program, now in its second year, has provided elementary, middle and high-school students the chance to raise funds or donate food in a number of creative ways—drama produc-

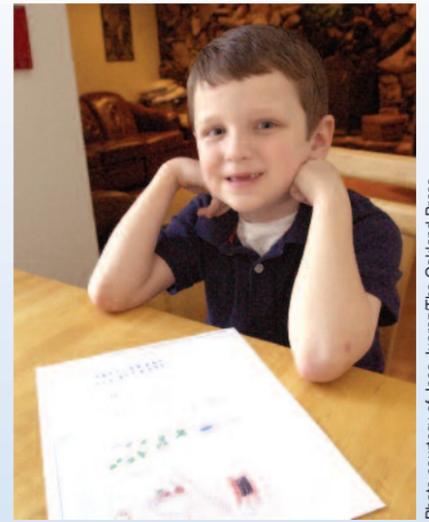


Photo courtesy of Jose Juarez/The Oakland Press

tions, bagel sales, basketball shootouts, hula hoop and other competitions—for the Bed & Bread Truck that provides a hot meal to the hungry and homeless. One school district averaged donations of \$11,000 for each year.

Premier volunteers

Shona McDermott, 16, and Elise Welch, 15, highly active senior soldiers, corps cadets and girl guards at the Flint Beecher, Mich., Corps, each earned a Presidential Volunteer Service Award. They earned the awards through their involvement with an Eastern Michigan divisional camp program called "Project Lead" in which young people from corps spend the summer at Echo Grove Camp assisting leaders and staff who, in turn, encourage and promote good leadership skills in participants. The two teens also completed required swimming safety and first aid courses, the "Safe from Harm" children's welfare and safety course, plus other classes.

At the Flint Beecher Corps, the girls participate in worship meetings as well as run the sound board and media equipment for meetings, and both have been group leaders for vacation Bible school, reported Majors Patrick and Carmella McPherson, corps officers. The girls are also future officer fellowship and community care ministries mem-



Holding their Presidential Volunteer Service Awards are Elise Welch (l) and Shona McDermott.

bers, added Captain Connie Shaw, assistant corps officer who, with Rebecca Anklam, serves as corps cadet counselor.

To earn a Presidential Volunteer Service Award a young person must volunteer in specific areas of service for over 100 documented hours in a single calendar year.

Harvey gave many "Good Day"s to SA



American icon Paul Harvey, who was promoted to Glory last month, was not only a respected broadcaster for more than 50 years and the "most listened-to man in America," he was also a staunch supporter and loyal friend of The Salvation Army. Harvey was first introduced to the organization as a volunteer serving Thanksgiving dinner at a Harbor Light Center and attended the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps for more than 15 years. He was presented the "Others" Award in 1989, the William Booth Award in 1990 and was recognized at the 1995 National Advisory Organizations Conference (NAOC) in Minneapolis, Minn. Speaking at NAOC about the state of the world, our witness and ministry, he declared, "Oh, Salvationists, we need you. I need you."

2009 Summer Mission Teams announced

Pray for the following young people who will spend their summer on a mission team here at home in the Central Territory and abroad.

Chile

Sara Moran*
Gabriel Carrión
Eric Gorton
Justin Johnson
Megan Polsley
Andrés Villatoro
Robyn Winters

Moldova

Luis Azuaje*
Alexandra Cox
Beth Dalberg
Jaclyn Davisson
Jean Engle
Brenna Logan
David Moran

Philippines

Meghan Labrecque*
Alexandra Anderson
Julianna Dobney
Melissa Heatwole
Dietrich Hunter
Breann Massey
Jamison Taube

Central Red

Emily Aukes*
Erica Gallaher
Jennifer Heaver
Joshua Hubbard
Mike Steinsland
Karl Swanson
Rashawn White

Central Yellow

David Shay*
Erick Fernandez
Glen Janson
Melissa Pascoe
Jonathan Tamayo
Nancy Valentin

Central Blue

Erica Johnson*
Lindsay Hall
Steve Rivero
2 Team Members
from Ghana
2 Team Members
from Argentina

Malawi Interns

Miguel Garcia
Enrique Villatoro

Peru Interns

Rachel Aren
Linda Villatoro

*Team leader



Haitian tales

Serving in Haiti for almost the last decade has brought unexpected crises but even greater blessings for Major Violet Ezeh, a Centralite officer who's served in the Caribbean Territory for more than 15 years.

With husband, Captain Dr. Felix Ezeh, and their six-year-old son, Matthew, Violet is serving in Fond-

des-Negres, Haiti, at the Bethel Medical Clinic where Felix is the administrator and Violet the assistant administrator. The clinic, children's home and other services offered by The Salvation Army in this small mountain town are used by communities throughout the remote, rugged region.

Last year the Ezehs rode out three hurricanes (Fay, Gustav and Hanna) that cut off power, supplies and communications. Food and fuel for vehicles, generators and lamps became scarce and expensive. Yet in the midst of the storms, a team from the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division continued to deliver water filters to Salvation Army schools.

Violet reported mothers have abandoned babies at the clinic three times over the last few months. One mother asked a woman in the waiting room to hold her daughter while she went to buy something to eat. After four hours, Felix made a police report. By the time he returned to the clinic, a two-year-old boy had been abandoned as well. Fortunately, the girl's mother had a change of heart, but no one ever

claimed the very malnourished boy.

"We named him Jeremiah Joshua; J.J. for short. It took two months to treat his malnutrition," said Violet. "We're currently using *Medikamamba*, a special protein-enriched peanut butter."

Recently another baby boy was left by his mother, but family members showed up two days later explaining the mother had mental problems, and they didn't know where she'd left him.

Antoinise came to the clinic with her infant nephew, Benji, after his teen mother died. The family was committed to caring for him but baby formula cost half their monthly income. "It just so happened a friend sent money recently to be used for anything," said Violet. "If the family could buy half the formula, I'd buy the rest."



Felix and Violet were thrilled to welcome her brother, Major Robert Doliber, Central territorial finance secretary, for a recent visit to Haiti.



Wesley Noel, AIDS relief program director, has been on the Bethel clinic staff since 1990 and is a good friend of the Ezehs.



Clients wait patiently at the busy and popular Bethel Clinic.



Matthew proudly displays his first missing baby tooth. The "tooth fairy" couldn't find the tiny tooth under Matthew's pillow, so Violet left a quarter and told Matthew the next morning the tooth fairy had left the first tooth for his baby book. "Quick thinking, huh?" she asked.

Employment Opportunity

Bookkeeper—Republic of the Marshall Islands, USA Western Territory. Seeking experienced bookkeeper for a short-term mission opportunity requiring a one-year commitment with the possibility to extend service. Duties include general bookkeeping using Microsoft Great Plains software; accounts receivable/payable; payroll and taxes; financial file maintenance; financial closings. Requires proficiency in Microsoft Excel or other spreadsheet software, prefer bachelor's degree in accounting, related field or equivalent experience with high school diploma; excellent organizational and multitasking skills. Housing, small stipend provided; must live within Army guidelines (no alcohol, tobacco, drugs). Serve God in the sunny, always 80-degree Marshall Islands. Wear flip-flops to work! Learn a second language, experience another culture, teach others your bookkeeping skills. Snorkel, scuba dive, go fishing or boating. Position available immediately to the right applicant. Contact: Captain Joel Harmon. Phone: 011-692-625-5958 Email: Joel.Harmon@usw.salvationarmy.org

Dedication in Bible correspondence

Many are aware that The Salvation Army offers free Bible study lessons to incarcerated individuals. Here in the Central Territory, this wonderful effort is overseen by correctional services. Not long ago an edition of the *Central Connection* ran a story featuring the need for Bible correspondence lesson graders, and shortly thereafter many exceptional volunteers emerged, some of whom are highlighted today.

Geraldine (Jeri) Moynihan of the Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Corps grades Bible correspondence lessons faithfully each month. She has a strong relationship with the Lord and believes that the Bible is the key to mature Christianity. She lives out that conviction in her volunteer work with correctional services.

Jeanne M. Parquette of the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps became a Christian at 13 and taught for many years in a local Christian school. Jeanne always enjoyed helping others, and, upon learning of correspondence courses, felt compelled to use her God-given teaching ability to serve Him and others. She now grades around 100 Bible correspondence lessons every month!



Richard Sorrentino is a senior soldier at the Moline Heritage Temple, Ill., Corps and dutiful Bible lesson grader.

Another exceptional volunteer is the Richard Sorrentino, a senior soldier at the Moline Heritage Temple, Illinois, Corps. Richard dedicates hours each week grading lessons, often turning in 200 lessons a week! He has been a Christian since age six. When asked his reason for volunteering he said, "I enjoy helping (incarcerated) men find how their lives can be beautiful to Christ."

What motivates the volunteers most is not a number, notes Melody Rosa, territorial Bible correspondence director, but the individual lesson they are praying over and grading at that moment. She continues, "This service is more than grading papers; it is an opportunity to introduce the One who can give peace and pardon to all."

Currently 2,000 lessons are graded each month, and correctional services could still use some assistance, particularly grading Spanish lessons. Should this pique your interest, contact Melody Rosa for further information.



Jeanne Parquette of the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps grades around 100 Bible lessons each month.

Barnabas Pen Pal Program

"Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners..."
Hebrews 13:3 (NIV)

Major Marty Hudson in correctional services at territorial headquarters is looking for volunteers to encourage prisoners by becoming a pen pal.

Think of how you can share God's love as you update incarcerated indi-

viduals, who have little connection with the outside world, on everyday happenings and current events.

This impactful opportunity is not a big commitment. Write once a month, and Marty will route your letter through her office to protect your identity. Some volunteers even prefer an alias name to their own.

If you are interested, please contact Major Marty Hudson (marty_hudson@usc.salvationarmy.org), and she will provide you with further information, including an information guide and application form. Once accepted, you're matched with an inmate and given the chance to bring light into the life of someone who has very little occasion left to hope.



Impact beyond the walls

The Salvation Army in Muncie, Ind., is having an impact on people in prison and far beyond those walls.

Two years ago, Majors Douglas and Sandra Rick, Muncie corps officers, received a letter from a new program called "Inside-out Dads" which teaches parenting skills to incarcerated fathers at the Pendleton, Ind., prison. The program not only helps men be better fathers, it helps children to grow up knowing they're still loved.



Tom Hanlon (l), Pendleton prison warden, and Major Doug Ricks, Muncie corps officer.

In the program's first level, fathers learn how they can still have relationships with their children and positively influence their lives from behind bars. Events are held throughout the year to reunite children with their fathers for an afternoon.

When Inside-out Dads Director Karlene Parks sent letters to more than 125 organizations requesting assistance with its first Christmas party for 50 children, the Ricks were the only responders. They allocated toy shop items for the prisoners to select, wrap and attach a card.

The Ricks also assist at all father/child events but leave whenever gifts are distributed because they want the children to believe the presents are truly from their fathers. This has endeared the majors to prisoners and helped build bridges of

trust which has led to many relationships as Doug ministers there each week (a two-hour roundtrip). He teaches 17 courses and distributes Indiana Salvation Army contact information for families if they need assistance or a church home. He's also helped get men into adult rehabilitation centers or harbor light programs upon their release.

Last year the Ricks received \$1,000 toward the purchase of Christmas toys for 155 prisoners' children. Amazingly, the money was raised by the fathers themselves through creative fundraisers at the highly supportive prison, such as a Kentucky Fried Chicken night! Warden Tom Hanlon is now working with the Ricks, Karlene Parks and the Indiana Division to expand the program to other state prisons.



"Transforming Power of God"
Correctional Services Sunday

May 3, 2009

Heading the homeless

by Roger Snider

Connecting homeless persons with services that most of us take for granted, the Grand Rapids Area Coalition to End Homelessness sponsored the third-annual Project Homelessness Connect event at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Salvation Army Booth Family Services, together with over 70 other local housing and service agencies and more than 300 volunteers, offered assistance to more than 800 persons. These services



included a hot meal, clothes mending, foot care, haircuts, flu shots, medical tests, legal advice, library cards, mental health screenings and counseling, vision testing and tax assistance.

Although the line of those patiently waiting for assistance spilled beyond the walls of the arena and into the single-digit morning air outside, the physical and emotional warmth of the day was inescapable. One middle-aged woman proudly made her way through the crowded arena, obviously pleased with the haircut she'd just received by an on-site profes-

sional stylist. She was on her way to a dental screening. Her last stop included an opportunity to secure her first library card.

"We are obviously pleased that today so many persons in need of services were able to access these in a warm, safe and supportive environment. But the fact remains that too many of these same individuals will leave the arena, walk out into the cold and back into a life of homelessness. Ultimately, it is our challenge to promote ending homelessness," said Betty Zylstra, Booth Family Services director and one of the planners for the event.



Compelling commitment

Joyce Schau does it all; she is the mother of three, wife, volunteer and dedicated, exceptionally loyal employee of The Salvation Army. As the assistant divisional social services director in the Kansas and Western Missouri Division, Joyce works constantly and with heart. Recently her hard work and devotion was acknowledged as she received a well deserved accolade, the National

Award for Excellence in Social Work. It is an esteemed honor, and yet, humbly, she credits those around her; a wonderful, supportive family, knowledgeable manager and dedicated staff.

Envoy Rebecca Simmons, Joyce's manager and nominator, said, "Joyce is the hardest worker we've ever known. She has incredible time management skills, and produces three times that of a typical employee."

No doubt this is true, as her list of responsibilities seems overwhelming. She provides oversight for a shelter for abused and neglected children, a safe haven for mentally ill adults, a scattered site transitional housing program and two senior low-income housing projects. She is the divisional Safe From Harm trainer, is responsible for all Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded programs in the division, and is on the board of a local coalition for financial stability of low income adults, having recently been given the responsibility of managing an IRS grant that helps low income individuals during tax season. And the list goes on!



In all of this, Joyce has a servant's heart. Her children laugh because she can't attend a social function without washing the dishes or serving refreshments. This attitude and desire to work behind the scenes bode well in the workplace, where her ultimate function is to support those on the field. As a behind-the-scenes person, it's not every day that those around her have the opportunity to see the impact she makes. It's an honor, perhaps, that is only an inkling of the recognition she deserves as she pursues her passions in life as a mother, wife and a Salvation Army employee.



--Mustard Seeds--



Territorial Prayer Calendar

MAY 2009

PRAY FOR:

- 1 Youth councils being held in four divisions this weekend
- 2 The Chicago Lawn, Ill., Corps
- 3 Ministries to the incarcerated on this Correctional Services Sunday
- 4 Regional music schools in the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division
- 5 The Austin, Minn., Corps
- 6 The Territorial Business Seminar
- 7 Local, state and federal governments on this National Day of Prayer
- 8 The Chicago Midway, Ill., Corps
- 9 Dr. Captain Felix and Major Violet Ezeh serving in Haiti
- 10 God's hands on the lives of women on this Mother's Day
- 11 A greater awareness of The Salvation Army throughout the nation
- 12 Next month's Power Point and commissioning weekend
- 13 The Commissioners' Conference in Alexandria, Va.
- 14 The Flint Beecher, Mich., Corps
- 15 Women's ministries camps being held in five divisions this weekend
- 16 Men's ministries camps in the Eastern Michigan and Northern divisions this weekend
- 17 The Davenport River Valley, Iowa, Adult Rehabilitation Center
- 18 Youth ministries during national girl guard, sunbeam and adventure corps week
- 19 The Salvation Army Continuing Education Program this week
- 20 The Salvation Army in Madison, Ind.
- 21 Cadets preparing for summer assignments
- 22 The Milwaukee South Side Latino, Wis., Corps plant
- 23 Safety for people traveling on this Memorial Day weekend
- 24 Worshipers to feel God's love and comfort today
- 25 Those who are grieving
- 26 The Chicago, Ill., North Side Adult Rehabilitation Center
- 27 The Chicago Staff Band's ministry on their Scandinavia and Germany tour
- 28 Cadets and their families preparing for their first officer appointments
- 29 The "Come Join Our Army" initiative
- 30 Summer camp staffs in every division
- 31 Unity, revival and intercession for our world on this Global Day of Prayer

Around the Territory

CHICAGO, ILL.—On a January day marking the heaviest snow on record for that date in Chicago history, the grand opening of the newest family thrift store operated by the Chicago Central Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) brought in \$53,000 in total sales, reported Majors Mark and Susan Anderson, ARC administrators. The store is located in Downers Grove, a solidly middle-class southwestern suburb. Over the past couple of years, some ARCs in the territory have opened stores in more affluent areas in response to families struggling with local and national economies. Pictured



(l-r) are Captain Loren Henderson, Roger Williams and Captain Jerry Henderson, who toted signboards in a time-honored, Chicago-area tradition for announcing new businesses!



Tom McComb, Kalamazoo corps officer, and Dennis Berkebile, advisory board chairman.

DES MOINES, IOWA—The Salvation Army received welcome assistance for needy families as two semi-trailers from Feed The Children, an international Christian relief organization, delivered more than 900 boxes of non-perishable food, 900 boxes of personal items and two pallets of bottled water. Fifteen volunteers from Concord Hospitality, a local hotel management company, came to the Des Moines Temple Corps to help unload the trucks and distribute items to pre-selected food-pantry clients. (Individuals and corporations such as Concord sponsor Feed The Children donations and shipments. Last year, Feed The Children shipped 135 million pounds of food and essentials to children and families in all 50 states and 32 countries.) Pictured is Abid Talic, Concord Hospitality, stacking boxes for wheeling into the corps.



KALAMAZOO, MICH.—The Kalamazoo Corps accepted a \$58,813 donation to its emergency utility fund from Christ Followers for Change, a collaboration of local churches dedicated to bringing social change in the Kalamazoo area and throughout the world. Pictured (l-r) are Pastors Jeff Porte and Joel Brooks representing Christ Followers for Change; Captain

Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Colonel Elsie L. Franzen

Mrs. Colonel Elsie Franzen was promoted to Glory on February 2, 2009. She had an unwavering faith in the Lord for all her 98 years.



Born to Salvation Army officers who pioneered the Army on the east coast, Elsie had a deep-seated faith and love for the Army early on. Following high school, displaying independence and courage, Elsie picked up and moved west to Chicago before entering the College for Officer Training in 1934.

After commissioning in 1935, Elsie met and married Captain Stig Franzen, and their marriage was blessed with two lovely daughters. The Franzens held various corps and divisional appointments in the Central Territory, and moved to Minnesota in retirement.

Elsie is remembered and sorely missed for her warm smile, delightful music ministry and creative gifts of embroidery, beadwork and wood carving. Her life and ministry were marked by an appreciation for her Scandinavian heritage.

Mrs. Colonel Franzen is survived by her daughters, Lenore and Ellen; five grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Her husband, Stig, was promoted to Glory in 2006.

Lt. Colonel Darlene Winkler

Lt. Colonel Darlene Winkler was promoted to Glory on January 6, 2009. She was 67 years old and will be greatly missed for her pleasant personality and deeply spiritual relationship with the Lord.



Born in Bloomington, Ill., to John and Roberta Dorrell, Anna Darlene began attending the Army at 10 years old. Not long after, she was saved during a Sunday school decision service. Clearly a profound moment in her life, Darlene said, "...children can be saved...I am proof of this..."

She answered her call to officership in later years, and met her soon-to-be husband, Captain Harold Winkler at the College for Officer Training. After marriage, Darlene and Harold held various appointments across Indiana followed by divisional and territorial appointments. During this time they raised two children.

Their ministry was highlighted with travel: a trip to Brazil, reporting on overseas activities for the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division, and an international congress held in London, England. After retirement, Darlene still ministered and evangelized.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Harold; two children, Captain Sharon (George) Gibbons and Captain James (Deborah) Winkler, and four sisters.

Join us in remembering

In honor of those who have gone before us, the Central Territory will hold its traditional memorial service in The Salvation Army section of Glen Oak Cemetery on Memorial Day weekend.

Sunday, May 24th
3:00 p.m.

Glen Oak Cemetery
4301 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Hillside, IL 60162
(708) 344-5600



Kids learn to care

Just as children can learn the concepts of when and how to say "please" and "thank you," they can learn to care for others.

Junior community care ministries (Jr. CCM) teaches youth age 6-14 how to show care every day in creative ways through single acts of kindness or group efforts in providing practical service to individuals, the corps or community. Jr. CCM promotes good citizenship and compassionate service performed in the spirit of Christ.



A dozen roses

Corps Officers Captains Enrique and Nancy Azuaje are pleased to report the Cicero Templo Laramie, Ill., Corps has 12 cheerful, very active Jr. CCM members on its list.



"CCM is an important ministry, and we are so grateful to the Lord for giving our youth the love and passion to be such an active part of this ministry," said Nancy. On once-a-month visits to nursing homes, the Jr. CCM members sing, play tambourines and help distribute *The War Cry* and gifts to residents.

For occasions like Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, the children also make their own craft gifts for distribution.

Excitement in serving

"It's so exciting to see spiritual giftedness being lived out in young peo-

ple," exclaimed Major Claire Grainger who, with her husband, Norman, are the Springfield, Mo., corps officers. "The 20 young people involved in Jr. CCM enjoy the opportunity to not only visit but assist in packing the seasonal materials for the nursing homes. They've also helped sort food for our food pantry and feeding programs," Claire continued.

The Graingers' target for 2009 is to have corps young people visit a senior/disabled high-rise residence on a monthly basis, which will be especially encouraging to an adherent who's a shut-in there. The monthly visits include a concert.

"The children bring an excitement with them that is contagious and greatly enhances our ministry in this area," concluded Claire.

Year-round sunshine

Corps Officers Majors Alberto and Felicia Rapley, Evanston, Ill., Corps, reported community care is supported by youth of all ages at their corps.

"We have five teenagers who are regular helpers throughout the year, and the sunbeams help seasonally, such as Christmas and Easter," said Felicia.

The teens participate in visitations to nursing homes, prepare food baskets for distribution and perform random acts of kindness in the neighborhood, such as helping folks at supermarkets and distributing *The War Cry*. The teens are also very helpful with going up long flights of apartment stairs when meals or other items need to be delivered to shut-ins!

