Omaha Kroc Center already boasts 2,400 members

Officially less than half a year, The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Omaha, Neb., already boasts 2,400 members for its $30 million, 122,000 square foot facility. They attribute the outstanding early membership to God’s guidance, a diligent staff and a receptive community.

“The past four and a half years have been spent making over 500 presentations regarding our mission and the Kroc Center,” said Major Herb Fuqua, Omaha Kroc Center administrative corps officer. Staff promoted the Kroc Center everywhere from service clubs to corporations to schools and colleges. It was an incredible amount of work, but it paid off as memberships have been increasing an average of four per day since the grand opening in January.

Another reason memberships are on the rise is due to the dedication of Molly Skold, former marketing director. According to Herb, Molly put them on the map by planning and organizing every promotion and implementing multiple advertisements in media from billboards to parade floats.

The two biggest events that launched the Kroc were the dedication service and grand opening ceremony. The dedication service was held in November and organized by Heritage Services, a prominent group in Omaha which helped to raise the $15 million required from the community. The grand opening was an open house and packed with everyone from Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman to Terry Moore, president of the Omaha Federation of Labor.

Membership continues to rise. The Kroc team is implementing a corporate and business partners membership, which Herb expects will increase membership by 4,000.

With regard to implementing a successful marketing campaign, Herb said, “I think the main thing is to always have something in the hopper… It doesn’t have to be a big event, just something to keep things consistent and steady.” He also suggests getting involved with other community events, visiting neighbors, inviting local leaders to take part, and most importantly, constant prayer over staff and plans.

Salvation Army Chile earthquake relief

Immediately following a devastating 8.8 magnitude earthquake in Chile on February 27th which affected around 2 million people, Salvation Army emergency services were mobilized to provide support and comfort. Financial assistance was quickly on route from International Headquarters (IHQ) in London.

The epicenter was about 90 miles northwest of Concepción—approximately 350 miles south of Santiago. “Nevertheless, the quake was of a 7.0 magnitude in the Santiago metropolitan region,” said Lt. Colonel Brad Bailey, a Central Territory officer serving as South America West Territory (SAW) chief secretary.

The area most affected lies between the cities Os Temuco and Chillán, with Concepción hardest hit.

Captain Paredes, Quinta Normal corps officer, Major Villanueva of Maipu Corps and Mr. Poblete, civil engineer and soldier of Santiago Central Corps, inspect damaged Salvation Army properties.

“I have never seen such destruction here before,” said Lt. Colonel Maria Alarcon, SAW secretary for business administration. “Though I have worked in many disaster situations, they don’t compare with this.”

She added, “Our officers are all fine, but a lot of Salvation Army properties are damaged especially the older ones made of adobe bricks. The worst damage in Santiago has occurred at Quinta Normal and Lo Vial corps, and El Faro Men’s

Continued on page 12
Christ our Redeemer

by Commissioner Barry C. Swanson
Territorial Commander

“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.” — Job 19:25 (NIV)

The fog rolling in off the sea was thick that morning. Having arrived the night before in Rio de Janeiro, we were going to visit the iconic statue Christ the Redeemer which stands high above the harbor atop Corcovado mountain. It is considered one of the most stunningly beautiful places on earth. The monument itself recently has been named one of the “New Seven Wonders of the World.” I was eager to see it with my own eyes.

The cable car inched slowly up the mountain through the mist. Eventually I could make out a faint, cross-shaped figure outlined far above us. An instant later we emerged from our cloud, and there was the magnificent form of Jesus Christ with his arms outstretched. The image was breathtaking from an aesthetic standpoint, but for one who is a Christ follower it was also deeply moving. You see, it (or rather He) stands looking out over the teeming city of Rio, with its millions of people of every description going about their lives. Christ, the Redeemer, is watching over them, weeping over them, and is visible from every corner of that sprawling urban metropolis for every eye to see.

As Holy Week approaches my mind returns to this vivid scene. It is through Christ’s suffering, death and resurrection that He proved Himself to be our Redeemer, the one who “bought us back” by paying the required price. The apostle Paul put it this way in Ephesians 1:7-8: “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”

May we never underestimate or take for granted the shedding of Christ’s blood. His personal, sacrificial act is steeped in biblical and theological significance, but let us not forget it as a matter of historical record as well. The man Jesus, born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, was executed by crucifixion on a Roman cross. Because of His dual nature, God’s Son was also put to death that day. His life’s blood dripping onto the ground—for us.

Therefore, today each of us can experience forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life as a gift from God if we will accept, by faith, His sacrifice. That is called grace, and as Paul points out, it is “lavished on us.” I love that thought, don’t you?

This marks the last time I will be writing to you as your territorial commander. As of May 1st I will be serving in my new appointment at International Headquarters as chief of the staff. I want my final message to you to be words of salvation. May this wonderful promise give you hope, courage, comfort and a passionate love for Christ, our Redeemer.

“There is a Redeemer, Jesus God’s own Son. Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son; and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.”

—Keith Green
A celebration of calling

Installation of Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler
as Territorial Commander and Territorial President of Women’s Ministries

Welcome of Colonels Néstor and Rebecca A. Niesch
new Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries

Friday, May 7, 2010, 7:30 p.m.
Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps
8354 W. Foster Ave.
Norridge, Ill.

The sport of Olympic outreach

If Olympic ministry were a sport, it would resemble cross-country skiing. Pushing limits; testing endurance. Arduous, exhausting, even lonely at times, and yet wonderfully fulfilling—the experience of a lifetime!

This is what it was like for the Central Territory’s team of 11 young adult Salvationists (one from every division) in Vancouver. They put in 13 hour days speaking the truth, standing for justice, meeting needs, passing out water, praying with strangers. Conditioned by God’s Word and equipped with His Spirit, they could go the distance. They had no illusions. This was spiritual warfare. For while the international gathering heralds what is best in the country, it can be surrounded by what is worst like poverty, homelessness, illicit drugs, sexual trafficking.

“The downtown west side was set up for the Olympics, but then there was the east side of town where poverty and Satan’s presence could be felt. It was odd to smell marijuana on the street and see people smoking it out in the open. I’ve never seen so many lost souls,” reflected Andy Amick of the neighborhood where the Army’s War College resides and the team held a prayer walk.

Most of their time was spent outside of Olympic venues handing out cards about the scourge of sexual trafficking, raising awareness and engaging people in conversation. While the team distributed an entire box of cards meant to last all week in just the first day, they didn’t always find people receptive. Sometimes they were accosted, or even run off by security. But they remained faithful, realizing it was the Lord’s message people rejected. And when a passer-by’s heart was soft, when time was found, interactions were meaningful.

Opportunities arose daily while riding busses and the Sky Train on their commute into the city from the Cariboo Hill Temple Corps in Burnaby which hosted them. The most riveting encounter for Mona Taube was late at night with a young woman addicted to cocaine, running from rehab and desperate for a hit, ashamed but unable to believe God’s grace could reach her.

“I’ll never be aware of the day she chooses to accept God’s grace and freedom. But I do know that He will work on her like He has worked on me,” Mona concluded.

“This was by far the best team I’ve ever worked with,” said Eric Himes, team leader, describing them as positive, up-beat, go-getters—even in the face of handing out hot cocoa and coffee at 4:00 a.m. to people waiting to be shuffled up to Whistler! At the end of one seemingly infinite day, the team extemporaneously but pow erfully led worship for the corps’ celebrate recovery meeting. According to Eric, they were sustained by God’s Spirit.

“I have decided that I want to live my life in a way that is inexplicable without the Holy Spirit...” said Sharayah Hulett. “If God desires to work in the ‘water’ moments of my life, it is more than welcomed.”

Newest accepted candidates

Matt and Marisa McCluer
Decatur, Ill.
Heartland Division

Matt and Marisa McCluer are from the Decatur, Ill., Corps. As corps helpers they have had the opportunity to assist in every area of Salvation Army ministry. They have realized that being a Salvation Army officer means being busy helping people, but it brings great joy as people become stronger, healthier, more vibrant Christians.

Marisa’s calling was confirmed at a mother/daughter banquet when Lt. Colonel Darlene Winkler talked about officership. Matt saw officer-ship lived out in his grandparents, several cousins, aunts and uncles.

Both are excited to see how God is going to use them in the days ahead as they give their lives to fulltime ministry as officers. They will join the Friends of Christ session at the College for Officer Training in August. Their corps officers are Majors Robert and Joyce Gauthier.

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The Dearborn Heights, Mich., Corps is growing steadily in spite—or maybe because—of its location. Major Steve Merritt, corps officer, noted, “It’s in the epicenter of the nation’s depressed auto manufacturing region with an unemployment rate averaging 28 percent.”

As numbers of people seeking assistance have risen (many for the first time and increasingly among corps neighbors), so have the numbers of those who’ve been receptive to talking about spiritual matters.

Supporting the territory’s “Come Join Our Army” efforts, the corps has staged several community outreach events each quarter. The gospel is shared and information about corps programs is made available, as well as information about social services. The corps receives support for events from local businesses, organizations and volunteers.

“A few beneficiaries currently enrolled in soldierhood classes at the ARC play in our senior band,” said Steve. He added Majors John and Julie Areb, ARC administrators, are happy with the “good connections.”

As for “Come Join Our Army?” Steve reported seven adults are enrolled in the current recruits’ class; five were enrolled last year and eight the year before that!

Topeka Corps—talk of the town

Proud senior and junior soldiers at the Topeka Citadel, Kan., Corps are enrolled by Major Jeffrey Smith, Kansas and Western Missouri divisional commander.

Train your troops!

Consider these resources for your recruitment, discipleship and Christian education classes.

Our People (DVD 2009)
Radiant Films, Australia Eastern Territory

This stunning documentary tells the story of William and Catherine Booth’s quest to take God’s love to “our people,” the poor and hurting. Gripping narratives and historians’ accounts relate the Booths’ struggles and triumphs in the founding and subsequent worldwide growth and impact of The Salvation Army.

Equipped for Battle
by Jim Garrington
Central Territory (2002)

Using everyday language and humorous anecdotes, the major delves into the Army’s beginnings, exploring doctrines and positions while incorporating scripture and providing perspectives on Wesleyan beliefs and practices relative to the Soldier’s Covenant.

Salvation Story: Salvationist Handbook of Doctrine
International Headquarters (Revised 1998)

This book is a detailed exposition of the 11 doctrines of The Salvation Army in narrative form. Helpful appendices provide useful church and Salvationist history along with apologetics.

Manual of Salvationism
National Headquarters (Revised 2002)

This handbook is based on the 1906 writings of Colonel Milton S. Agnew. It’s laced with workbook assignments that challenge students to dig into scripture for the answers while lessons clearly explain why we believe, who we are and what we do.

To order contact Resource Connection
Phone: 800-937-8906
or on the internet: shop.salvationarmy.org

Cells produce results

The Chicago Mayfair Community Church has been unique from its start—in its name, location (built in back of the Metropolitan divisional headquarters) and congregation (primarily Korean). Under long-time corps officers, Captains Ho-Yoon and Kehyoung Chang, however, the corps has evolved to a cell church discipleship structure and generating multicultural in response to community needs and as more second- and third-generation Koreans are born in the U.S.

Ho-Yoon attributes last year’s enrollments of 20 senior soldiers and 10 junior soldiers to the effectiveness of the 14 cells. “These small cell groups, and the efforts of our special team for newcomers, produced these results,” he said of the corps’ “Come Join Our Army” efforts.

On Sunday mornings, members of the newcomers team see unfamiliar faces in the parking lot, then welcome them into the building and escort them into the chapel, ushering them to seats where they spend a few minutes chatting and collecting information about the newcomer, which is then handed over to the corps officers. During worship service announcements, the Changs introduce and welcome newcomers.

After the Sunday morning service, members of the newcomers’ team escort them to the corps’ gymnasium where the congregation has a fellowship luncheon. Here they’re introduced to the cell church leaders. From the next Sunday onward, cell leaders take over the nurturing of the newcomers. One cell’s purpose is evangelism because it’s common in non-English-speaking churches of any culture in the U.S. to have people attend just to be able to talk with same-language speakers.

Attendance ranges from 100-300 people with most event themes linked with nearest holidays. The community Christmas gala was supported by catering and limo rides. The big Easter egg hunt kicked off with a pancake breakfast, and hot dogs were served at the grand Fourth of July concert staged by the faithful corps band.

The corps also established a close association with the men and their families of the adult rehabilita
tion center (ARC) in nearby Dearborn Heights.

“A few beneficiaries currently enrolled in soldierhood classes at the ARC play in our senior band,” said Steve. He added Majors John and Julie Areb, ARC administrators, are happy with the “good connections.”

As for “Come Join Our Army?” Steve reported seven adults are enrolled in the current recruits’ class; five were enrolled last year and eight the year before that!
Modern edge at historic corps

In the year 2010, it’s amazing to read on the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Corps’ website that the corps was founded in 1888—only eight years after The Salvation Army began its U.S. work in 1880 and 23 years after its 1865 founding by William Booth in London.

Corps Officers Lt. Michael and Kristina Sjogren, however, conduct a thoroughly modern approach to ministry and outreach.

“We recently had the ribbon cutting for our new computer laboratory and library, part of a $30,000 grant we received from Target for youth programming,” said Kristina. “Local contributors, dignitaries and more than 100 excited kids were there!”

Aiming to provide a holistic approach in their ministry, the Sjogrens present the corps foremost as a church that also offers faith-based social services. “We really have a lot going on here,” Kristin added.

A community meal program serves breakfast and lunch each weekday to an average 200 people (300 in summer). Earlier this month, the corps held its first community Easter dinner (other seasonal meals and events are long traditions). The corps also provides a food pantry, thrift-store vouchers, housing and utility assistance, plus family advocacy services.

The corps has wide-ranging senior services, a growing women’s ministry and dynamic youth programming, including social and character-building programs, children’s ministries and afterschool activities.

Affordable summer childcare is available for working parents or those attending school fulltime.

The regional Salvation Army basketball league involves more than 2,500 youth on more than 150 teams. Coaches must attend Safe from Harm and rules training. Fall, winter and spring leagues accommodate separate boys and girls teams in grades 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8. Sportsmanship rules for players, coaches and spectators are clearly spelled out and strictly enforced.

Corps growth and enrollments are proceeding at a steady pace. After major regional flooding turned life upside-down two years ago, corps attendance dropped, but now Sunday mornings average 50 people. Of the seven youth in last fall’s recruits class taught by Michael, three were already soldiers, three enrolled as soldiers and one enrolled as an adherent. Junior soldier numbers are growing; when the Sjogrens arrived last July, two of the three juniors were their daughters! Now there are 10 with five more in preparatory classes.

In 2010 the Sjogrens are concentrating on leadership training. To prepare for Easter (an alternative Halloween outreach brought in 600 people!), the Sjogrens invited the Bill Edmondson andɾ captain teams. Coaches must proceed at a steady pace. After no new construction is allowed. Still, some buildings around since the time of Brengle have survived. So some of the buildings Brengle had written. If Samuel Logan Brengle.

For Ray Daniels and Glenn Welch of the Marion, Ind., Corps, it seemed appropriate to make a visit this year, the 150th anniversary of Brengle’s birth. With them they brought 40 copies of Brengle’s biography, Portrait of a Prophet, and went door to door, presenting the book as a gift. They also offered a leaflet with other pertinent information as well as Brengle’s testimony. Though challenged by “no trespassing” signs, barking dogs and snow drifts, the two accomplished their goal in two and a half hours, meeting some wonderful people in the process.

Some greeted the Salvationists like old friends and parted with “God bless you!” others were cautious at first. But nearly everyone happily received the books. As Glenn excitedly explained to a 10-year-old boy that a great man known around the world had been born in Fredericksburg, he could see interest grow in the boy’s face. One gentleman told Ray he’d lived in Fredericksburg 41 years and didn’t have a clue anyone important had been born there! Most seemed tickled when told their town was talked about in the first sentence of the book. Those who weren’t at home would find the gifts in a bag on their doorstep.

The town’s past seems brighter than its future. Since it lies in a flood plain,
Music is the link
for a community, world-class university
and future Kroc center

by Colonel Dennis Phillips

“Marching with trumpet and drum, with banners and bonnets they come.”

When Meredith Wilson penned these words, little could he have known how prophetic they would be in the 21st century, for in South Bend, Ind., just such a program is starting its second year.

TRUMPETTime meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, and DRUMline on Mondays and Wednesdays. Together, these activities form BandLINK, a program that connects 23 faculty and members of Notre Dame’s famous “Fighting Irish” marching band who volunteer four afternoons each week to teach children some of life’s most important lessons through music.

“Link” is the lion’s share of BandLINK as the program has produced a strong connection between The Salvation Army and the university. I learned that 80 percent of Notre Dame students volunteer in the community, and Dr. Dye encouraged the 385 members of his marching band to do their part.

Exciting plans began to unfold. Assistant band directors Matt Merten (brass) and Sam Sanchez (percussion) began recruiting band members to become mentors to the children of South Bend’s west side, and before the season was over 23 students became heroes to the children of BandLINK.

The program got off to a slow start. Only two children showed up the first day. There were at least five adults present for each child (including the South Bend corps officer Captain Nicholas Montgomery). We had to do better. Before the next session, I printed flyers and walked them through the neighborhood and recruited 12 children to join the next day.

“I don’t know how many will actually show up,” I told the staff.

But that’s how many said they would come.” The next afternoon, we marveled at the sight of 24 children coming en masse to see what BandLINK was all about.

Three months later eight BandLINK students attended Salvation Army music camp at Little Pine Island and returned home with several awards.

“BandLINK has opened doors for my kids like they’ve never had before. It has given them strength and self-esteem, something for them to look forward to after school. The Salvation Army has given me and my family encouragement because BandLINK is a loving environment. It makes the children think more of themselves than they did before. It’s so helpful to me. Thank God for y’all.”

—Evelyn Steele, mother of Armani, Patricia, Deonte and Julius

“Working with the BandLINK program, especially in its developmental stages, has been extremely rewarding. Obviously I’m extremely proud of the students!... They are a very diverse group, and the process of them learning that every person in a band is an important, contributing member who deserves respect is perhaps the most rewarding for me to observe. I’m also very proud of the college students from the university who volunteer their time. Most of them have incredibly demanding academic schedules, but they have found the time to help make this program successful far quicker than anyone would have imagined.

—Matt Merten, assistant band director, Notre Dame

“BandLINK is a preview of greater things to come. Imagine, The Salvation Army engaging the terrific resources available in this community to provide the best possible programs for the children of the Kroc area. And when I see some BandLINK kids coming to Sunday School, church service and Kids’ Klub, I know our mission is intact.”

—Major Bob Webster, Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center administrator, South Bend, Ind.

“I’ve had the fortune of performing as a soloist at Symphony Hall in Boston, Kitara Hall in Sapporo, Japan, and other world class venues, but I can honestly say that I have never been so moved by a performance as I was during the BandLINK concert. It was without a doubt the most memorable performance I have been a part of at Notre Dame and is one of the finest memories that I have from my time as a student here.”

—David Condon, student/mentor named Notre Dame’s “Outstanding Senior” and “Top Band Member"
More children were attracted to the program by the Notre Dame percussion team when they performed a stunning outdoor drill in the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center neighborhood.

An exciting development occurred when Dr. Dye and his staff invited them to Notre Dame’s campus for a pre-game rally. The children, along with parents and staff, assembled under the famous golden dome where 70 trumpeters appeared to regale the fans.

Matt Merten and Sam Sanchez led the children and their chaperones out of the dome where the entire marching band had assembled to present a short concert before marching across campus to the practice field, and they invited BandLINK kids to march with them. Talk about excitement. Once at the field, the kids had a front row view of the halftime show the band would perform. When practice was over, the 40-member percussion section formed a circle around the kids, gave them a special demonstration and even allowed the kids to play along.

The time came for BandLINK’s First Performance Showcase. Each student played a solo, and a 30-piece band (including student mentors) gave a sterling performance of “Energetic.” A standing room only crowd of parents, teachers, community leaders and the media gave their support.

In the midst of all this, plans were underway for BandLINK’s premiere performance in Leighton Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on the university’s campus. The Notre Dame Symphonic Winds presented a joint concert with the Chicago Staff Band before a full house.

Following BandLINK’s performance of William Himes’ “American Celebration,” Father Hesburgh himself led a standing ovation that seemed to never end.

All this happened in less than one year as a result of a community coming together for the benefit of its children.

“The impact of these efforts will have a lasting impact on both the young new musicians and our students at Notre Dame. We look forward to the future of BandLINK and our blessed partnership with The Salvation Army as we strive to ‘do the most good’ for the young people of our community,’ said Dr. Dye.

“BandLINK gives my kids a chance to be something. It has been an outlet for their energy and creative juices. BandLINK has enhanced my kids’ lives. I love the performances. Everyone in my family attends and can’t wait ‘til the next one. Music has taught my kids to work hard and they will see a positive outcome, not instant gratification, but the attainment of long range goals.”

—Alicia Rodriguez, mother of Luis, Miguel and Alicia

“It is a real thrill to be able to give back to our young people in the South Bend community. The Salvation Army has brought all of us together to both make music and mentor these impressionable young people. Seeing them stand on stage and perform in front of a 900-member audience really showed me that kids can do anything if you believe in them.”

—Sam Sanchez, assistant band director, Notre Dame

“It is such a blessing to see our Kroc preview center teeming with kids four afternoons each week as the BandLINK children have found a ‘home away from home’ at The Salvation Army.”

—Major Collette Webster, Kroc Center administrator, South Bend, Ind.

“At first Taran wasn’t sure he wanted to join a music group, but now he can’t wait. He wouldn’t miss BandLINK for anything. Instead of playing video games, he practices his drum lessons. We love the concerts, and our whole family attends every one. We will always make time for BandLINK, and we’re always glad to help chaperone on all the outings. Actually, this whole experience has been quite emotional for our family.”

—Ed and Laurie Tomaszewski, parents of Taran
Young adults seek revival at Re:Generation

by Kirsten Gorton

Re:Generation, the Central Territory’s annual young adult conference, drew more than 320 delegates to the Midland Division’s Camp Mihaska. The event’s theme, “Paradox,” challenged young people to contemplate the reverse nature of the Kingdom of God.

Special guest Michael Collins spoke energetically and honestly, giving messages throughout the weekend focused on paradoxical scriptures. During the keynote, he told delegates, “There’s no way that I can speak to everyone this weekend, but God can.” His humility and belief in the Holy Spirit’s power fostered openness to repentance and change.

Plenary sessions also featured music by TransMission, a worship band from the Southern Territory. The band blessed delegates through their talent and testimony of God’s grace and faithfulness.

Eric Himes, territorial young adult ministries director, introduced 24 mentors who were available throughout the weekend for those seeking God’s direction. He encouraged young adults to find a mentor and to understand that the Army has saints who can love and counsel them.

The annual banquet presented a unique opportunity for generosity. Sarah Kincaid, child sponsorship director, introduced a fundraiser called “Crush Your Crush,” which encouraged delegates to share the love by purchasing cans of Crush pop for friends, family and even “crushes.” As a result, $564 was raised to help rebuild the Army children’s home in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and to repair its school.

Saturday’s evening session focused on the paradox found in Revelation 5. Young adults were challenged to claim God’s strength. The Holy Spirit moved powerfully; delegates responded through confession, received grace from the Lord and extended it to each other.

The weekend concluded on Sunday in a time of prayer led by Territorial Youth Secretary Major Gail Gail, who directed delegates to gather by division to ask the Lord to bring radical change in their communities. The meeting left young adults charged and ready to win the world for God!

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Change a life

by Sarah Kincaid

The beauty of the Love in Action program is that it can meet specific needs with immediate and long-term results.

Here are a few requests for support we received:

- Farm animals, school uniforms and materials, mosquito nets for clinics and rehabilitation centers, feeding programs, baby care kits (clothes, diapers, mosquito net, rubber mat, blanket, pillow), transportation, and renovation/construction materials.

“When we heard of this possibility we were so excited to embrace this project [tiling the floors of their corps which were bare at the time]. For our congregation, the local contribution was a big challenge. However, we decided to do it anyway, trusting that God will help us. Finally, we accomplished the goal! The tiling floor is now a reality in all these rooms. Thank you very much for this opportunity and for making us grow in faith!” said Captain Inés Gaede, Salto Nuevo corps officer, Uruguay.

Another Love in Action report comes from Malawi, Africa. Something as simple as a school uniform is changing the life of a young man named Witness and his siblings who were orphaned. Witness lives with his grandmother and looks after his four brothers and sisters. He does piece work to earn money for food. Every morning they went to school but were turned away because they didn’t have the required uniforms, just the torn clothes their parents had left them.

“Life became so hard, and we consequently lost hope for our future with no education as we had to stop going to school anyway. But here I stand with joy and happiness for our restored future because The Salvation Army [Love in Action] gave us school uniforms and some writing materials. We are now welcomed at school, and I even managed to write my standard 8 exams [for entry into high school].”

In 2009 Love in Action distributed $15,677.54 to meet needs in Bangladesh, Brazil, the Caribbean, Congo Brazzaville, Ghana, Kenya East, Kenya West, Malawi, the Philippines, countries in South America East and West, Uganda and Zambia.

Visit Loveinaction.centralmissions.org, call (847) 294-2065, or write The Salvation Army [Love in Action] gave us school uniforms and some writing materials. We are now welcomed at school, and I even managed to write my standard 8 exams [for entry into high school].
A promising future

A s part of the ongoing “Come Join Our Army” initiative, junior as well as senior soldier enrollments are increasing.

“People around the territory are realizing that discipleship needs to begin at a young age,” said Sharon Waiksnoris, territorial Christian education director. “The junior soldier program does just that; it provides intentional discipleship through Bible study, direction in living a holy life, inspiration from Salvation Army history and leadership training starting at age seven.”

**Rochester, Minn., Corps**

Corps Officers Majors Jim and Paulette Frye have seen their corps attendance double and junior soldier rolls increase from two to 28!

The Fryes attribute the rapid growth to community outreach. Any time children come through their feeding program, social services or transitional housing, the corps extends an invitation and information about junior soldiers and other corps activities.

“It’s a lot of hard work,” said Paulette, “but when you start to see the fruit of it, you just want to work harder.”

The Kyles are one of the families who joined the corps in the last year. “We started picking the kids up for corps activities and made a connection with Mrs. Kyle,” said Paulette. Now the entire family attends almost every Sunday.

**Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps**

The junior soldier program at the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. Corps, led by Majors David and Miriam Gorton, has an enrollment of 39 children and six prospects.

Lisa Bell, co-leader with Laura Thomas, said that much of their success can be attributed to strong youth programs and growing corps attendance.

“We have new families in the corps, and they want their children to be involved, too,” Lisa said. “Also, we have a high percentage of new Hispanic families, and we are seeing that translate into the junior soldier program as well.”

One of the most rewarding aspects of the junior soldier program for Lisa is being able to see children grow in their faith and take leadership. “Most of our junior soldiers will go on to corps cadets and senior soldiers,” she said.

**Iowa City, Iowa, Corps**

Since Captains Terry and Jennifer Smith arrived in June of 2003, the junior soldier brigade in Iowa City has grown from six to 56 children!

Corps programming is so large that the corps meets three times a week for youth programs, and Sunday services are now held in a nearby community recreation center.

“Our pews are filled on Sunday mornings as a result,” said Terry. “The Smiths attribute the growth to prayer, hard work, intentional youth programming and providing transportation.

The Smiths’ motto, ‘Love your people and get them involved,’ has proved effective as growth is continuing and another enrollment of 20 junior soldiers is right around the corner.

**Michigan City, Ind., Corps**

“You don’t have to have a lot of kids at your corps to have a junior soldier brigade that makes a difference in the corps and community,” said Major Lee Ann Burkett, Michigan City, Ind., corps officer with her husband, Brian. Their small but tight-knit brigade has nearly doubled in the last year.

Lee Ann attributes the growth to successful youth programming. A couple of the boys are particularly excited about their role.

The boys are eager to wear the uniform, read scripture or assist with the offering.”

One of the most rewarding aspects of the growth is to see challenge and conviction on young faces during services. “To see the kids standing, raising their hands during worship and kneeling at the altar is such a blessing,” said Lee Ann.
Carrs on track in Spain

A
fter spending their first year in Spain on the Mediterranean coast, Captains Jeff and Valerie Carr were appointed as Madrid Central corps officers last fall. Since arriving in Spain in August 2008 with their two young sons—Bramwell, 4½, and Jonas, almost 3—the Carrs have encountered and overcome challenges to claim many victories for Christ.

Valerie reports the down-town corps makes for quite a change from their previous seaside appointment. “Madrid is a bustling city, and the corps always has something going on,” she said. She added the entire family is adapting to the all-Spanish context. In Denia, the majority of the Carrs’ ministry was conducted in English due to the large expatriate population. In Madrid, Sunday morning services are conducted in Spanish.

The boys attend Spanish schools. Jonas had attended nursery school in Denia and began speaking more Spanish than English, Valerie reported, while Bramwell attended school conducted in ‘British’ English and Spanish. He began correcting his parents in both languages, added Valerie.

Also while in Denia, a popular multinational tourist destination, the Carrs got involved in the fight against sex trafficking with two other ministry groups. Valerie said the majority of the more than 600 prostitutes in town are believed to be trafficking victims with many more living in surrounding villages.

Valerie describes the Madrid Central Corps as a large operation with a breakfast, shower and clothing-closet program for the homeless available twice a week along with a weekly feeding ministry. There’s also an after-school program, corps cadets, Sunday school, junior soldiers, men’s and women’s ministries and a growing social service program.

“Our family has only been in Madrid for a few months but has felt especially blessed by God’s guidance through the transition. We’re learning something new every day and are appreciative of the support we receive from friends and family, even those we don’t know, in the Central Territory!”

2010 Summer Mission Teams announced

Pray for these young people who will spend time on mission teams this summer in the Central Territory and overseas.

Bolivia
Alberto Carrion* MET
Cintiya Gonzalez KWM
Tina Lioras WMNI
Jon Moe MET
Jacky Ortz MET
Nancy Valentin MET

South Africa
Kirsten Aho* MET
Juliana Dobney EMI
Erick Fernandez MET
Courtney Fouqa HRT
Glen Janson MET
Rebecca Rothberg MET
Caitlyn Tennyson WUM

Republic of Georgia
Kirsten Witthoff* MET
Julia Davison EMI
Doug Dobney EMI
Sarah Libby KWM
Elia Reyes MET
Jonathan Tamayo WUM

Central Blue
Rachel Aren* WMNI
Deepthi Raju INDIA
Tanya Rangel KWM
Jeevan Roy INDIA
Amber Uelry MET
2 members BAHAMAS

Central Red**
Briana Dalberg*
Matthew Aho MET
Maggie Garcia MET
Jed Langham WUM
Taryn McComb MET
Leigha Wolfe KWM

Central Blue
Kirsten Aho MET
Juliana Dobney EMI
Erick Fernandez MET
Courtney Fouqa HRT
Glen Janson MET
Rebecca Rothberg MET
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Elia Reyes MET
Jonathan Tamayo WUM

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Deepthi Raju INDIA
Tanya Rangel KWM
Jeevan Roy INDIA
Amber Uelry MET
2 members BAHAMAS

* Team leader
** Team to spend one week in Bahamas

by Major Jim Garrington

A
fter decades overseas we’ve had to return to the U.S. for health reasons. We loved our appointment, so how have we dealt with it? Simply, we’ve convinced it’s in God’s plan for us.

We were commissioned and appointed to Germany in 1976 and have spent most of our offshootship there. It’s where our children were born. We often described our last corps appointment in Dresden as our dream because of its effective mixture of spiritual and social work.

But when I had a series of panic attacks last year, it got my attention. My therapist (I was able to find a Christian!) told me I wasn’t claustrophobic but “burned out.” The symptoms were similar to depression, especially lack of concentration and initiative, rendering me unable to fulfill most of my duties.

I tried to preach once in the middle of all this but couldn’t communicate. I left out words and phrases. It was gobbledy-gook! Judy attempted to carry most of my load in addition to her own, but the additional burden placed her in danger of collapse.

Finally, after discussing the problem with our corps council and the German and Central territorial headquarters, it was agreed the best solution would be for us to take a non-corps appointment in the U.S. We’ve now been assigned as pastoral care officers in the personnel department. We believe that God not only has provided for us but will use this experience in our ministry.

While the diagnosis was kind of embarrassing, I never tried to keep it secret. As soon as word got out, I received calls from German officers as well as local pastors who were suffering from burnout or depression. My “joining the club” freed me to talk about their situations.

In response to my forced inactivity, soldiers assumed a greater level of responsibility in the corps and experienced significant growth. It became a sort of Romans 8:28 discipleship plan.

We’re much better equipped by this experience to relate to struggling officers and their families.

In God’s plan
Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

May Prayer Calendar

PRAYER CENTRAL

My Prayer List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Bible Reading</th>
<th>Pray for The Salvation Army</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Saturday</td>
<td>2 Samuel 5-9</td>
<td>Wayne-Westland, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Sunday</td>
<td>Psalms 51-53</td>
<td>Shelbyville, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Monday</td>
<td>Job 35-36</td>
<td>Rockford (Temple), Ill., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Tuesday</td>
<td>Jeremiah 27-31</td>
<td>Sidalu, Mo., Corps</td>
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<td>5 Wednesday</td>
<td>Mark 15-16</td>
<td>St. Paul (Eastside), Minn., Corps</td>
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<td>6 Thursday</td>
<td>Exodus 21-24</td>
<td>Sioux City, Iowa, Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Friday</td>
<td>2 Samuel 10-14</td>
<td>Superior, Wis., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Saturday</td>
<td>Psalms 54-56</td>
<td>Commissioners Paul R. &amp; Carol sider</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Sunday</td>
<td>Job 37-38</td>
<td>Wyandotte (Downriver), Mich., Corps</td>
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<td>10 Monday</td>
<td>Jeremiah 32-36</td>
<td>Terre Haute, Ind., Corps</td>
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<td>11 Tuesday</td>
<td>Luke 1-2</td>
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<td>12 Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Corinthians 6-8</td>
<td>Springfield, Mo., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Thursday</td>
<td>Exodus 26-28</td>
<td>Virginia, Minn., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Friday</td>
<td>2 Samuel 15-19</td>
<td>Sioux Falls, S.D., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Saturday</td>
<td>Psalms 57-59</td>
<td>South St. Marie, Mich., Corps</td>
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<td>16 Sunday</td>
<td>Job 39-40</td>
<td>Waukeena, Wis., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Monday</td>
<td>Jeremiah 37-41</td>
<td>Ypsilanti, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Tuesday</td>
<td>Luke 3-4</td>
<td>Vincennes, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Corinthians 9-10</td>
<td>Waukegan, Ill., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Thursday</td>
<td>Exodus 29-32</td>
<td>Colborne, Denis &amp; Sharon (Ontario, Canada)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Friday</td>
<td>2 Samuel 20-24</td>
<td>St. Louis (Harbor Light), Mo., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Saturday</td>
<td>Psalms 62-62</td>
<td>Weldon, N.D., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Sunday</td>
<td>Job 41-42</td>
<td>Watertown, S.D., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Monday</td>
<td>Jeremiah 42-46</td>
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<td>25 Tuesday</td>
<td>Luke 9-6</td>
<td>Wauwatosa, Wis., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Corinthians 11-12</td>
<td>Detroit (Harbor Light), Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Thursday</td>
<td>Exodus 39-36</td>
<td>Warsaw, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Friday</td>
<td>1 Kings 1-4</td>
<td>Chicago (Harbor Light), Ill., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Saturday</td>
<td>Psalms 63-65</td>
<td>Wilmot, Minn., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Sunday</td>
<td>Proverbs 1</td>
<td>Traverse City, Mich., Corps</td>
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A special place to pray

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Vicki concluded, “We’ll never know all the stories or experiences or all the life changes that will come from time spent in prayer here. But, God will, and that’s what’s most important.”

A special place to pray
DETROIT, MICH.—Dorothy Avakian of the Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) recently retired after 45 years of loyal service. She came in contact with the Army through a neighbor and is distinguished as the longest tenured employee there; her first day on the job was February 22, 1964, at a thrift store.

TERRA HAUTE, IND.—Crowned with sashes ladies introduced to the corps through social services spent a day being reminded of how beautiful they are in God’s eyes. The outreach, organized by Envoy Cindy Hoag, included a Mary Kay makeover, cafe lunch and devotional from the book of Esther. Although temperatures outside remained in the single digits for most of the day, the ladies left warm, looking good and secure in the knowledge that true beauty comes from within.

WARREN, MICH.—The corps hosted its annual Super Bowl of Chili Cook-off to raise funds for World Services. “There were 10 chilis featured and judged,” said Captain Caleb Senn, corps officer with his wife, Stephanie. The event also offered a youth carnival complete with a bounce house and games. Over 80 corps and community members supported the event.

DES PLAINES, ILL.—Bill and Dee Shillington, territorial commander, reported that they’d never expect. “This is something we can do to make a difference.”

Chile earthquake

Around the Territory

Sunday, May 30th
3:00 p.m.
Glen Oak Cemetery
4301 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Hillside, IL 60162
(708) 344-5600

Chile earthquake

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.

In this edition of Words of Life Mark’s Gospel provides glimpses into what Jesus teaches his disciples during his final ministry circuit. Guest writer Commissioner M. Christine MacMillan shares biblical perspective on social justice through God’s word of creation, liberation, and transformation related to our world today.

We reflect on prayer, look into the Old Testament book of 1 Chronicles and then gain insights from three short epistles. A segment on trees provides visual aids for spiritual growth, and we finish by looking into what Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth.

On Sundays we continue to focus on the psalms. “And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and insight of God” (Philippians 1:9, NKJV).

The First United Methodist Church had renovated its facility, including the addition of four showers for visiting choirs and youth groups which were seldom used. The church also had a van which Martha could drive. With the approval of Pastor Robin Roderick, several volunteers and Martha created the Showers of Blessing program.

Every Wednesday she transports homeless people from the corps to the church where they’re greeted by volunteers. Each guest claims a plastic container, labeled with his or her name and filled with toiletries, a towel, a washcloth and clean clothes. Another room is supplied with snacks and reading material.

The men and women return to The Salvation Army for lunch. As they leave the van, they shower Martha with the blessings of a hug and a smile.

Words of Life is published three times a year and is available through Resource Connection at 1-800-937-8896 or shop.salvationarmy.org

Chile earthquake

Local warehouse. Area businesses packaged Oregon for more than one million meals for Haitian earthquake survivors at a local warehouse. “Area businesses and churches were really into this event,” said Elgin soldier Mark Boudier. “This is just about as simple as it can get to make a difference.”

Words of Life

May – August 2010

Meet God daily through prayer and praise... Enjoy a variety of bite-size Bible readings... Build a lasting library for further study...

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