



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 41, Number 4

April 2011

CBLI—shaking it up

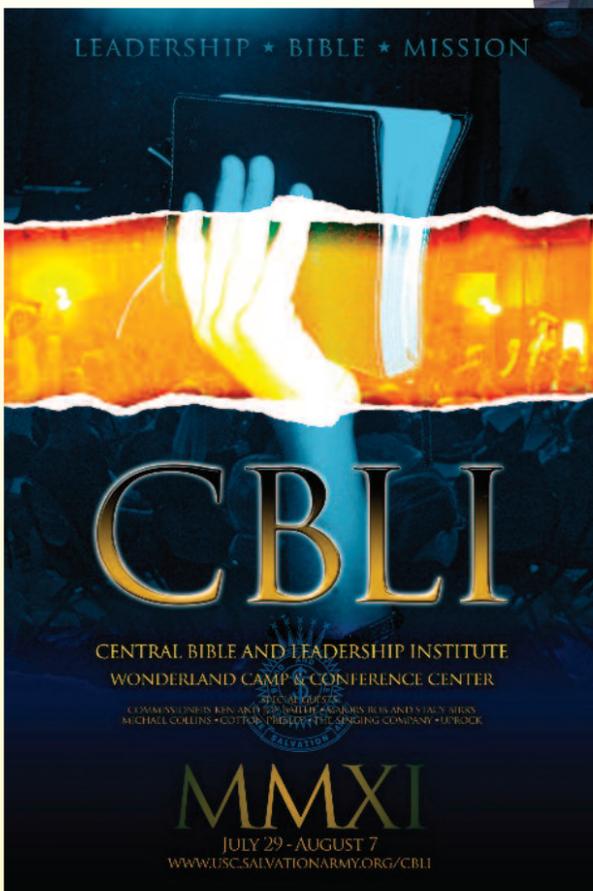
What many consider one of the territory's gems is about to get even better. Central Bible and Leadership Institute (CBLI) will undergo a shift in programming this summer to support our mission and attract a broader demographic. It's still about studying God's Word and leadership training but with exciting new offerings and a real "faith in action" sensibility.

Many components that have made the camp perennially



popular, such as fellowship, recreation and worship, will remain on the docket, and the format of age-related tracks will be retained—there's something for everyone from the toddler on up!

However, the core of the adult track is changing. It will now feature four mission intensives: pastoral crisis intervention, urban mission, youth work, and immigration.



"They're for people who really want to make a difference in the world," said Major Phil Aho, territorial corps mission and adult ministries secretary.

Pastoral Crisis Intervention will be taught by Major David Dalberg, Metropolitan divisional emergency disaster services director. It will address the need to be able to intervene using a spiritual model approach in a wide range of crisis situations such as disasters, crisis needs within a corps, or neighborhood



incidents. Soldiers, officers and staff will find this course tailored to their local context and, upon completing the 14 hours of instruction, will receive a certificate of completion from the International Critical Incident Management Foundation, Inc.

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The gentle invitation to believe

by General Linda Bond

Time changes one's perspective, does it not? That is so for me and perhaps for many of you when you reflect on the Easter story. Maybe it has to do with our life experiences which make us see things differently. Or maybe the gracious way the Lord has dealt with us has taught us to read the Scriptures differently. Whatever the cause, the account of Thomas's reaction on hearing that Jesus was risen illustrates this point for me.

Many of us perhaps think he deserved the name "Doubting Thomas." The Bible tells us that he

was not with the other disciples when Jesus came, but they were quick to tell him the good news: "We have seen the Lord!" (John 20:25). Then comes his famous response: "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." (verse 25) "Seeing is believing"—or at least Thomas felt so.

A week later, Jesus showed up again. This time Thomas was with the disciples. After greeting them all, "Peace be with you!" (verse 26), Jesus initiated the conversation with Thomas. He said to him: "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out

your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe" (verse 27). These words of Jesus are not written in our Bibles with exclamation marks, in bold print or in capital letters. Yet sometimes they are read as though they were a shout, a stern rebuke from the Lord to a stubborn disciple.

Have you considered that this was no shout but a gentle invitation to a struggling soul? That day, Jesus showed up especially for Thomas.

The risen Lord knew His disciple's heart. Thomas truly wanted a personal encounter with Jesus as his friends had experienced. He had been honest enough to admit his

struggle. He could not believe the impossible or comprehend the incredible. Having witnessed the miracles of Jesus, he should perhaps have seen this as yet another of those amazing moments. But for him, resurrection after crucifixion was beyond the realm of possibility.

Maybe this was no embarrassing moment for Thomas, no public shaming in front of his friends. Surely Jesus did not expose him before the others as a "doubting Thomas"? Rather, don't you think that as Thomas was invited into Jesus' wounds, the Lord whispered a word of faith into his ear?

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What kind of fool are you?

by Colonel Merle Heatwole
Chief Secretary



I am pleased to inform you that The Salvation Army is now providing all employees with insurance for your pets," was the start of a memo I sent to employees at divisional headquarters in Grand Rapids, Mich., on April 1 several years ago. While many quickly saw through my April Fools' Day prank, others were disappointed to discover it wasn't true. Interestingly enough, in the past year territorial headquarters has been investigating

a variety of pet insurance plans to make available to employees at their own, but reduced, cost.

Although I enjoy April Fools' pranks, I always have tried to avoid pranks which would publicly embarrass someone else. None of us enjoys being called a fool. And yet, Paul tells us in I Corinthians 3:18 (NIV ©1984), "if any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a 'fool' so that he may become wise." Why

would Paul make this type of statement? I believe he was reminding us that any time we start relying on our own wisdom rather than God's, we already have become fools. Therefore, we are much better recognizing from the start that compared to God's wisdom all of our human wisdom is foolishness.

In the context of this scripture passage, the Corinthians had been arguing over whether they were followers of Paul or Apollos. Paul describes

them as "mere infants in Christ" because they had allowed such a petty argument to sidetrack them from their true mission to be God's temple on earth. How often have we as Christians allowed things to distract us from God's mission? Whether a battle over worship songs, preaching styles or even the temperature in the chapel, we can't allow our foolishness to impede God's mission for us.

Each of us needs to decide, "Am I willing to be a 'fool' for Christ or just plain foolish?" Let's commit together to being God's fools.

CBLI Continued from page 1

Urban Mission will feature Howard Olver, senior pastor of Kingsview Free Methodist Church and adjunct professor of missional leadership with Tyndale Seminary in Toronto, Canada. He is a noted authority in the field with more than 40 years of experience as an innercity pastor and degrees from Roberts Wesleyan College (B.A.) and Asbury Theological Seminary (M.Div. and D.Min.). If you minister in an urban context or feel called to do

so, you'll want to make this class a priority. It will help you better understand the urban dynamic,



develop a network of support and provide some valuable skills for effective ministry.

If your passion is to bring youth to Christ and disciple them, the **Youth Work** intensive is designed for you. This course is designed to teach youth workers how to implement youth development strategy into their corps and community. It will focus on youth development principles, how to make a lasting impact, strategy tools for implementation, designing an infographic of current and future programming, and team building activities.

The last intensive will tackle one of the most complicated issues of our day: **Immigration**. World Relief staffer and nationally recognized expert Matthew Soerens will guide you in considering the Church's role and a personal, Christ-like response, offering concrete ways for you to welcome and minister to your immigrant neighbors.

At the heart of CBLI, of course, is **Bible Study** and two courses will be offered. **The Joy of Discovery in Bible Study**, taught by Commissioner Joy Baillie, will introduce basic skills for Bible study and provide opportunities for you to experience the joy of discovery as you apply those new skills to various scripture portions. The workshop is designed for those just beginning personal Bible study as well as those wishing

to refresh their skills of observation, interpretation and application of biblical truths to life. A more advanced course of Bible study will be conducted by Linda Himes, territorial Bible ministries and stewardship consultant.

Lastly, if you're an officer or soldier who has pastoral responsibilities, you'll want to sign up for **The Shape of Pastoral Integrity** taught by Major Louise Rowland of the College for Officer Training. This course is based on the book, *Working the Angles: the Shape of Pastoral Integrity*, by Eugene Peterson which urges pastors to get back to the basics of praying, reading scripture and giving spiritual direction.

"CBLI isn't just a retreat. It's about growing spiritually and being equipped for service," said Major Aho. "We're in 273 communities. If we were really involved in them for Christ's sake, just imagine the difference we could make."

Get more information and register online for CBLI at usc.salvationarmy.org/cbli

Around the world, 'round the clock!



A couple of years ago our territory embarked on prayer 24/7. Now you can join Salvationists around the world in praying non-stop. Simply log onto www.saglobal247.org and click on the sign up tab. It's really that easy. While you're there take a look at the worldwide map that shows which countries are currently participating. You'll also find many resources to assist you at the corps or divisional level.

Central Connection

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The gentle invitation to believe

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It is true that we can't go beyond what the Scriptures tell us. But we can read them with the knowledge of how Jesus deals with us. Knowing how understanding and gracious He is, the story of Thomas can be read as our story.

How often we have heard others share their joy about their experience with Jesus and somehow we just can't relate to it? Rather than declare our doubts, we have kept silent or even tried to express a conviction

that we did not hold. But for those who truly want to know Him, Jesus comes, doesn't He? No rebuke, no word of condemnation, but a whisper. He gives us a moment so convincing that we know with absolute certainty: He is alive. He is real.

Thomas's response may surely also be ours: "My Lord and my God" (verse 28). What a wonderful Savior! What a wonderful Lord!

Scripture from the *New International Version*

Get Connected!

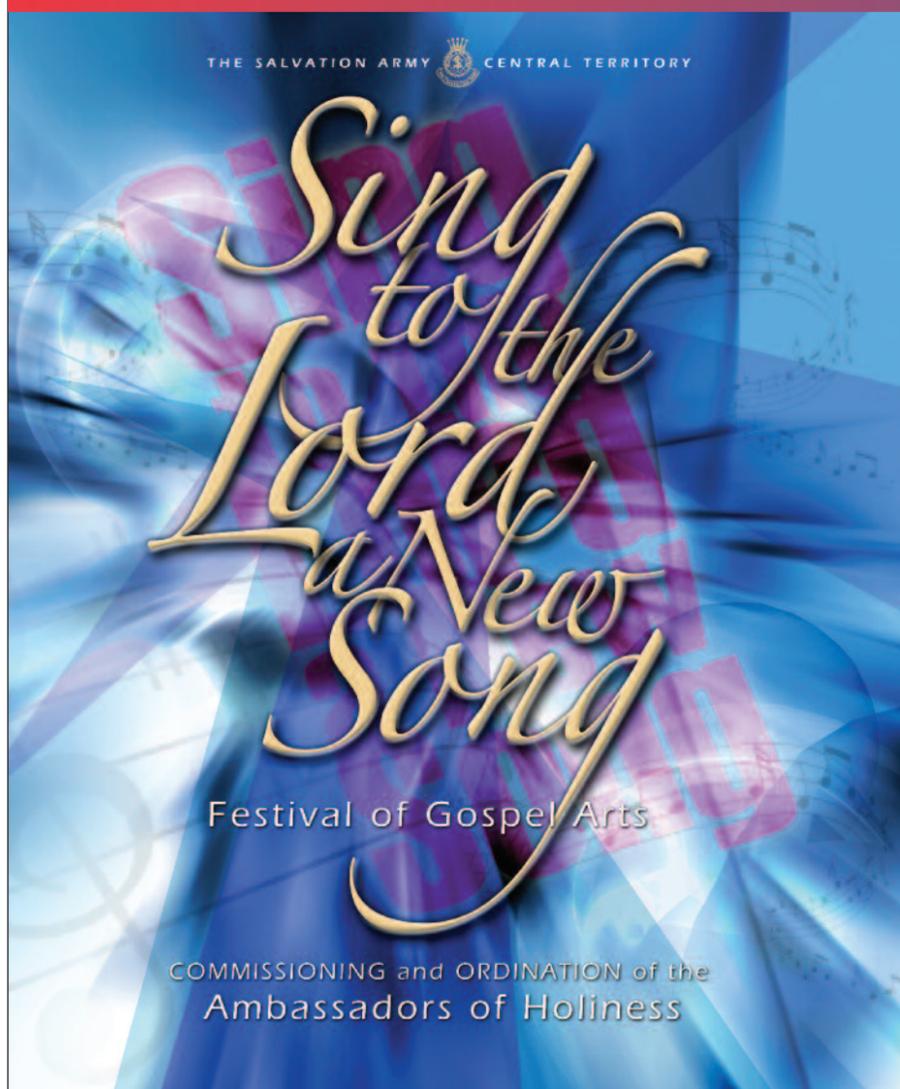
Check out our complementary material on the web.
www.usc.salvationarmy.org/getconnected

Resources/Links

Festival of Gospel Arts registration form
Festival composition contest and art exhibit guidelines
World Missions
Candidates
The Singing Company
Join Hands Day

Web exclusives

Interview with Families Band member
More on The Salvation Army in the Republic of Georgia
Holy week project song and excerpt



This year's Festival of Gospel Arts and Commissioning weekend, June 10-12 at the Star Plaza in Merrillville, Ind., will be packed with inspiring messages from special guests General Paul (Ret.) and Commissioner Kay Rader, stirring music from Keith and Kristyn Getty, and some of the best performance groups in the territory.



Chicago Staff Band

Our territory's very own Chicago Staff Band—having just returned from their United Kingdom tour and participation in the historic 120th anniversary of the International Staff Band in London—will anchor the weekend, under the leadership of Staff Bandmaster William Himes.

The Bill Booth Theater Company

A perennial favorite, the Bill Booth Theater Company will once again bring spiritually impactful messages through its improvisational-style comedy, drama skits and inspirational moments. The troupe includes Joe Caddy (leader), Mark Lewis, Courtney Smith, Brian James and Matt Erickson (media tech).



Divisional and Corps Performance Groups

Enjoy an array of talent from throughout the territory. Just a small sampling includes:

- **Corps songster groups** Including the Royal Oak, Mich., Songsters; Flint Citadel, Mich., Songsters; Heartland Divisional Gospel Choir; Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Songsters; St. Louis Temple, Mo., Youth Choir; the College for Officer Training Vocal Ensemble.
- **Corps and divisional bands** Including the Marion, Ind., Corps Band; Royal Oak, Mich., Band; Heartland Divisional Band; Indiana Divisional Band.
- **Contemporary performance groups** Including the New Albany, Ind., Drama Team and Flag Team; Iowa City, Iowa, Boys Mime Company; Fox Cities, Wis., Puppet Ministry Troupe.

General Paul Rader (Ret.) and Commissioner Kay Rader

The Army's international leaders from 1994-1999, the Raders are known for their strong spiritual teaching and biblical insight. General Rader is distinguished by being the first American-born officer to command our Movement. After retiring, the General took the reins as president of Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. (the Raders' alma mater), where he served from 2000-2006. Commissioner Kay Rader served as a trustee (and instructor) for Asbury Theological Seminary, as well as a trustee for Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester, N.Y.



Keith and Kristyn Getty

Hailing originally from Ireland, these highly accomplished recording artists have been at the forefront of the modern hymn movement. Their first album, "In Christ Alone," bridged the gap between traditional and contemporary. Their second album, "Awaken the Dawn," features hymns proclaiming hope for all nations. They will be featured guest artists for the keynote session Friday evening.



The Singing Company

Contemporary performances of time-honored praise songs and modern hymns are the hallmarks of The Singing Company, which will be officially dedicated to serve as our territorial praise band in the Saturday evening festival. Established in 2004 by Eric Himes (vocals, acoustic guitar), the current personnel includes Drew Creal (vocals, electric guitar), Kirsten Gorton (vocals), Nate Irvine (percussion), Brett Tolcher (piano) and Enrique Villatoro (bass guitar).



The weekend will be crowned by a majestic Sunday morning holiness service including the ordination and commissioning of the **Ambassadors of Holiness** session. Then comes the excitement and anticipation of Sunday afternoon's Service of Appointments!

Resource Connection will once again have an amazing array of goods for purchase and will host the **Festival Art Exhibit** for non-musical expressions of worship.

And you won't want to miss the announcement of winners for the territory-wide **Festival Composition Contest!**

For the latest details and registration, visit www.usc.salvationarmy.org/commissioning



Newest accepted candidates

Jaclyn Davisson Kankakee, Ill., Corps Heartland Division



Jaclyn has been on summer mission teams and is now majoring in intercultural studies at Olivet University. While she recognized her call to officership a few years ago, she

thought she would finish college and then work before entering the College for Officer Training (CFOT). But last summer Jaclyn sought the Lord's will for the next step in her life. She felt a strong desire and peace about going immediately to the CFOT after graduation. Jaclyn's corps officers are Majors Gerald and Evangeline O'Neil.

Brenna Logan Springfield, Ill., Corps Heartland Division

Brenna has been working at the Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa, Corps as an intern through the Eastern Territory's Railton School, which she was privileged to attend. As part of that territory's School for Officer Training, the program helps young adults see Army ministry up close and places them in intern positions in their home divisions.



Brenna has grown up in the Army and is ready to start her service as an officer. Her corps officers are Majors Paul and Barbara Logan.

Tim and Julie Perkins Brown County, Ind., Corps Indiana Division



Tim and Julie are employed in the Ministry Discovery Program. In addition to corps involvement, they've had the opportunity to work at the harbor light and divisional headquarters in Indianapolis.

They are relatively new to The Salvation Army, having been enrolled as soldiers in 2009, but are excited to come alongside other officers to serve the Lord. They will enter training with their children, Kayla and Matthew. Tim and Julie's corps administrators are Phil and Gail Barrett.

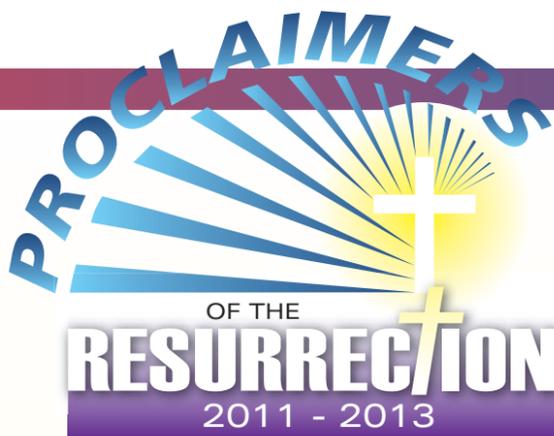
Greg and Holly Ehler Aurora, Ill., Corps Metropolitan Division



Greg and Holly are "trophy of grace" as they live out their Christian walk. They testify to the saving grace of Jesus Christ in their lives and want to give back through service as officers. Though they recognized their call a few years ago, they waited until now to apply for training in order to overcome some life situations. They are happy to be entering the CFOT this fall with their children, Christopher, James and Brenda. Their corps officers are Captains Antonio and Janelle Romero.

Shawn Mantyla-DeBaar Grand Rapids Fulton Heights, Mich., Corps Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division

Shawn had a difficult childhood, but, through the grace of God, he came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as an adult. In addition to the responsibilities he carries at the corps, he is an addictions counselor and volunteers at the Grand Rapids Adult Rehabilitation Center. His confirmation to officership came through a retired officer, Major George Curtis, in a conversation at the corps one evening.



1 Corinthians 15:12-19



Norman and Denesia Polusca Minneapolis Parkview, Minn., Corps Northern Division

Norman and Denesia came to The Salvation Army in the Caribbean Territory and were enrolled as senior soldiers at the Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Corps. They are currently interns at the St. Paul Citadel Corps. Both are musically talented, and prior to their work as interns, Norman was the fine arts and young adult director at Northern Divisional Headquarters. Norman and Denesia will enter training with their daughter, Chantal. Their corps officers are Majors Noel and Rose Mason.

Stephen DeLacy Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps Metropolitan Division

Stephen is currently an intern at



the Hammond-Munster Corps; prior to this he worked as a pharmacy technician. He enjoys playing cornet and percussion instruments. He also has a heart for evangelism. For instance, when he was in high school Stephen brought friends to his corps' youth group to introduce them to The Salvation Army and, more importantly, to the Lord. Stephen's corps officers are Majors Randy and Kathy Hellstrom

Elizabeth Clark Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division

Betsy has been working at the Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps helping with fundraising and directing volunteer recruitment. She's involved in many aspects of corps ministry,



including being the young adult Sunday school teacher and playing euphonium in the band. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology from Michigan State University. Her calling to officership came last summer at the World Youth Convention in Stockholm, Sweden. Betsy's corps officers are Majors Don and Judy Tekautz.



COME JOIN OUR ARMY

New Commitments

October - December 2010

150 Senior Soldiers

72 Adherents

94 Junior Soldiers

It's all about relationships

It was a happy "coincidence" when Salvation Army Gene Eppley Camp staff openings were posted on a bulletin board at the college where Dwight Garrington taught. His daughter, Debbie, and two sons, Jim and Steve, soon found themselves in the great outdoors as a babysitter and life-guards. It was Debbie's first up-close exposure to the Army, and it was life-changing. She admired the care and authenticity of officers like Majors Betty Jordan and Clarence Harvey. She wondered why anyone would want to be anything else!

Before the summer was out, the 14-year-old's enthusiasm spilled over in a letter to her father, asking if perhaps God was calling him to be a Salvation Army officer. His brilliant reply simply stated he was sure God would speak to him directly; perhaps He was calling her! Her par-



Life partners in mission Majors Debbie and Rand Sjogren

ents, in fact, did become officers five years later, and Debbie was commissioned herself in 1976. Nurses training had diverted her attention, but God used a handsome, blonde Swede named Rand Sjogren, who was going to training, to get it back.

A lifetime of service later, Major Debbie Sjogren's enthusiasm for officership hasn't faded. You still hear it in her voice, see it in her eyes. It's there because somewhere along the way she realized the best way she could bring glory to God was by being an officer. This realization has grounded her, pushed her to excellence, and, yes, helped her rise to many occasions—whether an appointment that wasn't quite her "thing" or a daunting situation. With her life in God's hands, she knew He always had a purpose, and it was liberating.

"Joy comes from an active relationship with Christ," she

explained. "If every day you wake up and ask, 'How can I bring glory to You today?' then there will be joy, even in difficult circumstances."

And what better than officership could draw on her most prominent gift of encouragement? "It's perfect really," she said. "Everyone needs encouragement from the advisory board member to the kid in the shelter. Everyone needs to feel they're valued."

For Debbie, it's all about relationships—first her relationship with Christ and then others. She embraces people with a larger-than-life personality. In fact, so relational is she that she didn't have a favorite appointment; leaving the people in each place broke her heart.

She describes her family as the thin line that runs between God and the Army. Refusing to compromise on her commitment to either min-



Kisses for granddaughter Ellie

istry or family, however, required a lot of creativity and intentionality, especially when her girls (Evie and Erika) were younger. For instance, when they were corps officers in Omaha, Neb., she transformed Saturday hospital visitations into special occasions to be looked forward to, beginning with a McDonald's breakfast and ending with \$1 to spend at the gift shop.

"The reality is that they are as much my ministry as my calling," she explained.

Her family has been tested in recent years as her husband has valiantly battled cancer. Debbie has been there as supporter, advocate and witness to God's grace each step of the way.

Debbie's officership has encompassed appointments in corps, divisional, territorial and national headquarters and has given her some exceptional opportunities, even meeting with "movers and shakers" in the White House.

But regardless of where she's been or what she's achieved, she reflects, "I hope people don't remember Debbie Sjogren, but they remember a sense of God's presence, they remember He was there."



With radio personality John Williams, one of many community supporters and friends



With her wonderful mom Mrs. Major Neoma Garrington

Five to thrive

by Michael Rowland

The Salvation Army in Indianapolis, Ind., is blessed to have some wonderful people on its advisory board. One of the newest members is CJ McClanahan. CJ is the founder of Reachmore, a leadership training and management consulting firm in Indianapolis which focuses on helping small businesses change their behaviors and reach their goals.

CJ was thrilled when he was asked to become an advisory board member.

"There are only a handful of orga-

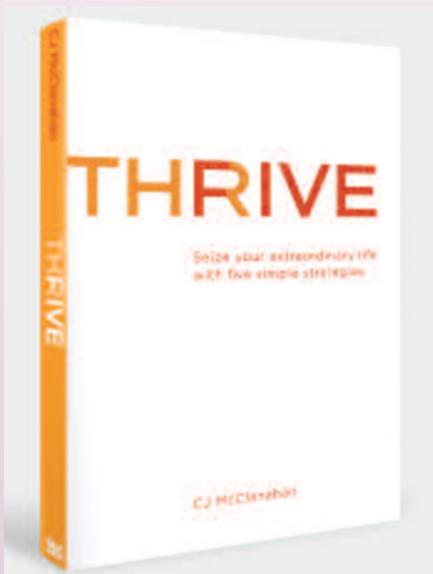


nizations that have an image that is so well recognized with serving those in need. The Salvation Army is one of those organizations, and I wanted to be a big part of that," he said.

CJ's latest book, *Thrive*, gives readers five simple strategies to build success in life. "People have read way too many books with way too many rules in order to be successful. I spent a long time boiling that all down to five simple rules for success," CJ explained.

One of the rules is "Be Grateful," and one of the ways to show gratitude is to give back. With that in mind CJ decided to give \$5 of every book sold to The Salvation Army.

You can order the book at www.TheThriveBook.com. In address line 2 of the credit card form, please put "SA".



Reach out for Join Hands Day!



May 7, 2011

National "Join Hands Day" specifically targets and develops relationships between young people and adults through neighborhood volunteering. Held annually on the first Saturday in May, it gives volunteer organizations opportunities to connect generations and develop new relationships. This is a great opportunity for your corps to create a project and invite your neighborhood to join hands!

www.joinhandsday.org



Central to what matters

Commissioner Carol Seiler briefly journals her experience in the India Central Territory with her husband, Commissioner Paul R. Seiler.

An invitation from our Partner in Mission, the India Central Territory, to dedicate the hostel for working women in Chennai started us on a journey to represent Central Territory World Services/Self-Denial donors. As we prepared to leave, it was amazing to receive promises of prayer from individuals, corps and adult rehabilitation centers who'd been contributing to the work in India Central.

Arriving at the airport in Chennai at 3:00 a.m., we were stunned to be greeted by all the territorial headquarters (THQ) officers in full uniform! What a witness to sing "There is joy in The Salvation Army" in the parking lot, masses of people and luggage surrounding us, and to join in prayer. We were already blessed by our brothers and sisters in Christ.

A few hours later we joined in worship at the Ayanavaram Village Corps with some 250 people despite the travel challenges monsoon rains had posed for them. Although many spoke English, we were translated into the primary language of Telugu during our visit. Children, babies and young people were brought to us for blessing during the altar call. We then shared a lunch of specially prepared dishes.

The next day we dedicated a two-story hostel that will house 44 women who come from the villages to the city for work and who

need affordable housing. Interestingly, it was built on empty land behind the territorial commander's home. Rather than paying property taxes on empty land, the Army now has a program which provides income to the division and tax exemption. It is wonderful to realize our partnership works together to resolve issues faced by the India Central Territory rather than representing an off-balance relationship of charity. We truly are part of helping to shape dreams to meet needs in the community and provide an income stream for the territory.

The joy of their welcome was humbling, and we will be blessed forever knowing the dedication stone in this building in Nungambakkam notes the USA Central Territory's contribution.

Catching a 10:00 p.m. train, we began our next journey to the Vijayawada Division where again at



4:00 a.m. the divisional staff greeted us. The sounds and sights of crowds and poverty of the general train cars were unfamiliar to us even though it's most

accessible for the poor. We sensed the officers' ministry of walking through the train stations and caring for individuals could easily parallel the ministry of Mother Theresa. Quite humbling.

After another brief clean-up at the hotel, we started an hour or so drive into rural areas to gather with 600 active and retired officers for a spiritual time. Along the way the caravan of two vehicles stopped at the Nidubrolu Evangeline Booth Hospital which houses a nursing college for 180 young women. The day we visited clinics were closed due to the monsoon rains that ran through the rooms, but we greeted two new mothers and prayed for their

infants, as well as several elderly women living in the "senior residence" wing.

Our visit here was sobering as we realized the inadequacy of the resources in meeting the needs. The facilities and equipment did not appear to have been updated since the 1930s. In spite of this, bright, clean, enthusiastic nursing and pharmacy students greeted us with joy and singing. The stark contrast was heart-breaking, and we were significantly moved. We fought back tears and shared in the concern about lost opportunities due to the state of the facility. The hospital faces critical decisions about its future and is under international review. The officers talked thoughtfully about these decisions, community needs and obvious physical repairs for this location.

On this large parcel of land the hospital, a chapel, dorms, the officer apartment and guest apartments were in various states of disrepair. Again, we enjoyed tea and warm hospitality with the staff before leaving for further adventurous travel to the large hall where the officers gathered. In this time, with all 600 in beautiful formal white uniforms and saris, we experienced the common



Photos courtesy of the India Central Territory

bonds of a Spirit-infused Salvation Army. Kneeling at the altar in quiet rededication, they responded to a call for holiness. The metaphor of their spotless uniforms in the midst of the rain and mud was not lost on us. Great care was taken in their travels to protect the integrity of their uniforms, a lesson for the integrity of holy lives in spite of walking in the gritty streets of real life.

We learned about the outreach or extension officers' work, learning how the USA Central Territory had provided the treasured motor scooters for the officers to get into the more remote parts of their appointments. Everywhere it was evident scooters surpassed bikes and even cars for most efficiently traveling the narrow roads and avoiding animals and ditches in the rural areas.

Another night train ride back to Chennai, a couple of hours to freshen up and then a spiritual meeting with the THQ officers. We had many opportunities to listen to plans for a new THQ and housing and emergency shelter behind THQ that had been dedicated by Booth Tucker in the 1880s. The staff marveled that visitors still insisted on coming for shelter to this old and probably condemnable building because it was a safe haven. The Army's reputation, ministry and service are evident.

After a lunch where we further shared the hopes and dreams of our territories, we stopped at a location where basic food, shelter and minimum-wage recycling work was offered in a destitute neighborhood in Chennai. The chapel roof had collapsed a year ago, grass was growing in the rubble inside the building, and cats and dogs ran through the property, yet the officers graciously opened their humble two-room home to us for tea, cookies and honey-dipped nuts. They showed us this property to explain that, due to government regulations on land, the mission funding our territory provided in 2007 could not be used as originally planned, but it would make a wonderful difference here. Would we



mind? This complex relationship of leased land, permanent structures being proposed and life skills ministry was certainly consistent with World Service/Self-Denial; we were pleased to support their goals and dreams of reclaiming lives.

Having gathered at midnight with many of the THQ officers for prayer and best wishes before going through airport security, we departed with grateful hearts at 2:00 a.m. for a flight to Frankfurt and then another 10-hour flight to Chicago.

Our short but beneficial visit to the India Central Territory reinforced to us that being a partner in mission is so much more than just "charity" for missions. The gifts and funds raised are received as gladly and seriously as major donor or government funding, with careful planning and accountability.

Your World Services/Self-Denial efforts truly make a difference.

Young adults pursue holiness

by Kirsten Gorton

More than 350 people gathered together at Camp Mihaska for the Central Territory's annual young adult conference, Re:Generation. The event's theme, "Holiness," challenged young adults to single-mindedly seek after God's heart and His purpose for their lives.

Special guest Captain Terry Masango, from the Western Territory, spoke powerfully

and passionately, giving messages throughout the weekend focused on Matthew 5:3-16. His words of truth and conviction brought many hearts before the Lord.

Worship was led by *transMission*, Salvationists from the Southern Territory, who returned for a second year and blessed delegates with their music.

"The Soapbox," a collection of video testimonies filmed over the course of the week-



end, gave young adults an opportunity to share their ideals and dreams

for the Army by finishing the sentence: "The Salvation Army I want to be a part of is..." The final product debuted in the Sunday morning service and testified to the many young people taking hold of the vision God has given them.

Delegates also were encouraged to participate in an act of giving. Through the purchasing of a \$5 paper t-shirt, funds were collected for the Republic of Georgia, one of the Central

Territory's Partners in Mission; \$1,962 was raised to sponsor their upcoming youth councils.

During Saturday evening's keynote session, Terry focused on what it means to be "salt" and live out holiness in community. He chal-

SA responds to New Zealand earthquake

The Salvation Army in New Zealand launched a major disaster response after the city of Christchurch was hit by a 6.3-magnitude earthquake on February 22, 2011, the second major earthquake to affect the city in less than six months. At least 165 people were killed and hundreds were trapped in debris.

The earthquake caused structural damage and total destruction of some buildings. Vehicles were crushed by falling debris. Medical triage centers were established around the city, and the mayor of Christchurch declared a state of emergency.

Christchurch and the surrounding region were still rebuilding after a 7.1 earthquake that struck on September 4, 2010. While that earthquake damaged buildings and made some homes uninhabitable, there were no deaths and only a small number of injuries. The February earthquake—said by seismologists to be an aftershock to the 2010 quake—was of a lesser magnitude than the one in September, but it was closer to the city center and nearer to the surface, which is why damage was more significant.

"The situation in Christchurch is extremely serious," said Commissioner Don Bell, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga territorial commander. "Our prayers are with the city of Christchurch. We pray for our own people, for their friends and neighbors. We pray that God will give strength and hope to those who are in shock and help rescue efforts...The Salvation Army stands ready to continue to help the city in this terrible time of great grief and human need."



Destruction outside the Christchurch City Community Ministries Centre.

The Salvation Army focused on providing food and psychosocial support to people affected by the earthquake that devastated the Canterbury region. Reinforcement personnel boosted the psychosocial team that was already established as part of the ongoing recovery work from the September earthquake. The Army was asked to provide up to 40 staff to accompany assessment teams (one Salvationist per team) that traveled through affected areas. Salvationists also were asked to assess social and welfare needs.

Damage to the Southern Divisional Headquarters (DHQ), as well as to the Christchurch City Community Ministries Centre and Christchurch City Corps, meant a temporary operations center to oversee recovery work was set up at Sydenham Corps. The Linwood Corps and Community Ministries Centre, which has shouldered a large part of the Army's recovery work since September, suffered mainly superficial damage, and its staff prepared for a steep increase in demand.

Salvation Army teams at Wellington and Auckland airports met hundreds of people who were evacuated from the quake zone and offered support and light refreshments.

Editor's note: Major David Dalberg of our territory was slated to serve in New Zealand starting March 14.

From an International News Release



Preparing goods for distribution.



Photos by Emily Aulkes



lenged Salvationists to preserve the things of God, to thirst to know Christ, and to heal our broken world by speaking hard truths in love.

"We are not called to be the honey of the world; we are called to be the salt of the earth," he poignantly stated.

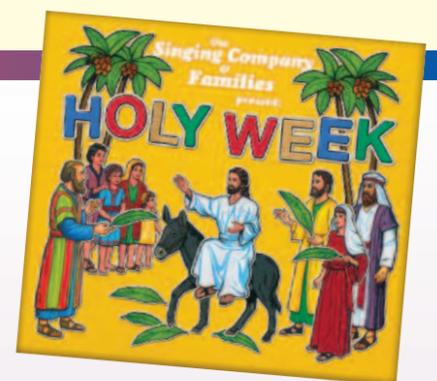
The weekend concluded on Sunday in prayer. Together, young adults asked for strength and power in the Holy Spirit, knowing full well the reality that lessons at a retreat always call for application back home.

New CD for Holy Week

This month The Singing Company released their first album as an official territorial music group. Titled "Holy Week," it features 12 original songs that correspond to daily accounts of the Holy Week story and is geared toward teens and young adults.

More than poignant worshipful music, the goal of this album is to guide the listener through the specific accounts of the Holy Week narrative. Each day features at least one song and a corresponding written devotional to guide listeners to a deeper understanding of these important events.

"We typically only celebrate three days of Holy Week, but then we miss the rest of the story," said Eric Himes, territorial director of young adult ministries and leader of The Singing Company. "I'm really looking forward to listeners hearing a song, opening up their Bible, reading these devotionals and learning more about this beautiful story."



The Singing Company partnered with another group of Salvationist musicians called Families for this album. Families band members Erica Johnson, Justin Rose and Dave Shay wrote and recorded six original songs, while The Singing Company produced the remainder. The result is unique, diverse and powerful. Though both groups wrote songs independently of each other, many of the songs unknowingly allude to one another. "It's amazing how perfectly the album came together as it did," said Eric.

The CDs also will include all guitar chord charts and sheet music in both English and Spanish. CDs, devotionals and notated music will be available on The Singing Company's Holy Week website, www.holyweek.thesingingcompany.com and bulk orders will be available upon request.

Destined for missions

Damon Winters has lived or served on the mission field since age three. Now missionary service is a passion and calling he's pursuing as an adult.

In January Damon embarked on his longest individual mission yet: a one-year stint to Haiti as the technical advisor to Major Carol Busroe, Haiti recovery and development effort officer serving with her husband, Ron. Damon is serving Haiti's ongoing relief and development efforts along with researching and writing grant proposals and implementing community growth projects.

Damon comes from a heritage of Salvation Army missionary service in Zambia, India and Korea. His own parents served in Somalia and



Damon with his parents and sister, Robyn, when they lived in Zambia, Africa

India and then together in Zambia at the Army's Chikankata Hospital, where his dad was chief medical officer. His family resided in Africa until Damon was in fourth grade. Upon return to the U.S., his own desire to serve abroad took root.

"I love being part of the Army's worldwide network of missionaries. Serving abroad is something I enjoy and feel at ease doing," Damon said.

In high school the call he felt was solidified when he spent a summer serving with the Salvation Army World Service Office (SAWSO). He pursued it further at Wheaton College obtaining a degree in international missions.

Damon ultimately wants to work as an international community developer. He hopes to obtain his masters in international development once back in the United States.



Damon on a mission trip to Honduras

2011 Summer Mission Teams

Pray for these young people who will spend time overseas this summer.

Argentina

Astrid Carrion*
Veronica Cintron
Julia Davisson
Josh Hubbard
Brandon Lewis
Megan Polsley

Germany

Tabatha Anderson*
Alissa Bell
Katie Crowl
Brian Horn
Glen Janson
Taryn McComb

Zimbabwe

Alfonso Azuaje*
Jaclyn Davisson
Jenny Felt
Robyn Shanahan
Ashley Tregellas
Ike Williams

India

Justin Johnson*
Areli Garcia
Shannon Hoppes
Brenna Logan
Melissa Pascoe
Joel Smith
Amanda Tregellas

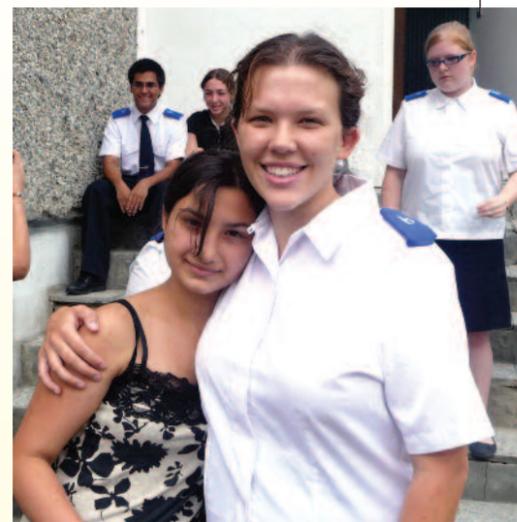
* Team leader



Returning to Georgia

Last year I told Chris Shay [world missions bureau director] I would quit my job if an opportunity arose to lead a summer mission team (SMT) to the Republic of Georgia," said Kirsten Witthoff as she prepared to leave her home in the Chicago area for a year of service in Tbilisi, Georgia. "That's when we started discussing how I could get back there long-term."

Before her current ministry in Georgia, there were trips, experiences and people that paved the way for Kirsten. At 16, she participated in her first mission trip with the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps to the Bahamas. She immediately hoped for another opportunity to serve abroad. Kirsten served in Georgia for the first time with an SMT during her college years, and then returned as a team leader after finishing her



Kirsten and a friend at the Didi Digomi Corps in Georgia

nursing degree.

"Although it's very different from America, I adapted easily to the food, music, people and hospitality," Kirsten said. "And getting to know the children made me love it even more."

Kirsten plays two roles in Tbilisi: first, as the assistant regional youth director and second, assisting Captains Levan and Nino Kvernadze at the Samgori Corps.



Kirsten and fellow SMT members share a mountain top experience while serving in Georgia.

Next step for Matthew

Matthew Beatty found his passion to serve the people of the Philippines when his corps, Kansas City Northland, Mo., arranged a work trip with the Tanay, Philippines, Corps through the Partners in Mission Next Steps relationship.

"You could see Jesus in the lives of these people," Matthew said. "In spite of difficult circumstances, they didn't find reason to complain but instead reason to praise God. Their humble, grateful attitude touched me."



Matthew and his new Corps Officer Captain Joel Carbonell

After a week of service, Matthew was not ready to leave. He formed a friendship with Corps Officer Captain Joel Carbonell and felt a sense that his experiences and training lent themselves toward additional service in the Philippines.

Shortly thereafter, Matthew was given the opportunity to return for a year-long mission. He eagerly agreed and wears many hats as he serves both the corps and officer training college in Tanay. Since they're on the same property, this works out well.

"This isn't just a one-year mission for me," said Matthew. "It's a life change and, Lord willing, some day I'd like to go into ministry with the Army longterm and become an officer."



Matthew and Cadet Rizza Martinez, who was able to attend training thanks to the Partners in Mission initiative

Contagion on the loose!

If corps growth was a disease, the Elgin, Ill., Corps would have to be quarantined!

Excitement for what it offers—ensconced in a loving, accepting environment—has become contagious.

"When we arrived last July we started off with seven regulars for Sunday worship," said Captain Nancy Mead, corps officer with her husband, Fred. "After six months we averaged 70 regulars with a high of 160 people for Christmas!"

The congregation represents multiple ethnicities and two languages. But rather than holding a separate service for Spanish speakers, the Meads shifted the corps into multicultural worship with translation provided when needed.



"The language of love, smiles, hugs and laughter is universally understood," Nancy continued. "We may not understand each other's words, but everyone knows they're cared about."

The Meads are huge proponents of intentional relationship building. Those skills helped them turn around two other corps. "It has to start with you," Nancy explained.

She added, "When community and local business people visit the corps, they're intrigued by what they see and often come back. Many return with friends and family, who invite their friends and family! It's just like how Paul wanted the church to grow; when people find a loving congregation, they tend to stay."



Mark Bender helps Yareldi Hernandez.

Monthly community outreach events also attract many newcomers.

Before the Meads came to Elgin, they were the Western divisional youth secretaries. Nancy learned helpful insights into the Hispanic culture, such as families doing everything together.

"You must avoid exclusion," said Nancy who recalled a highly involved teen refusing soldiership to avoid hurting her Roman Catholic family.



Lucy Guerrero, Captain Nancy Mead and Graciela Castro (l-r).

The Meads also found a few name changes made activities more understandable. Instead of calling classes for children and adults "Sunday school," classrooms are full each week as "small groups." And, all youth programming falls under "Spark Academy," an approach the Meads first saw in action at The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Omaha, Neb.

More than 80 youth, from kindergarten through high school, are divided by age into co-ed groups. The groups, each with two leaders, rotate through three areas of instruction (music, recreation, arts and sciences), each led by two teachers. At any point throughout the evening, four adults interact with each group.

The corps also offers men's and women's ministries, a long-running Latino literacy program, and a Friday-night homeless feeding program.

Community volunteer support is strong, including students from nearby colleges and young adults from mega-church Willow Creek, who are taught each week about service from a Salvation Army perspective!

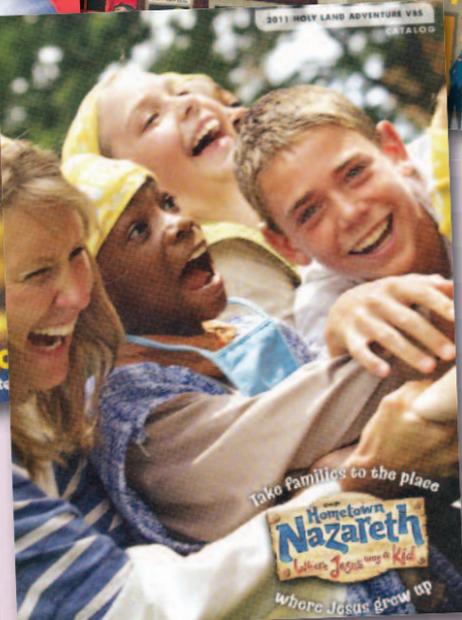
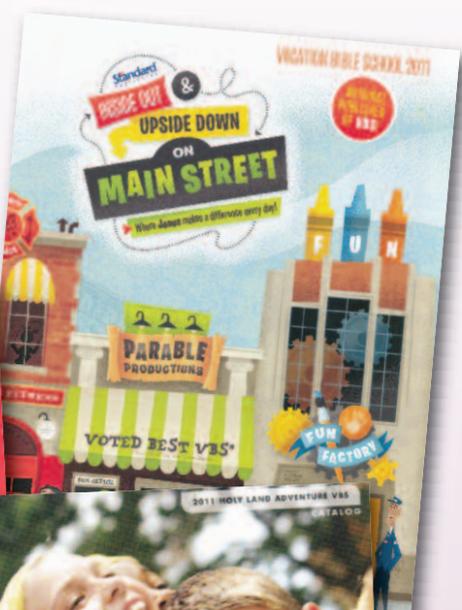
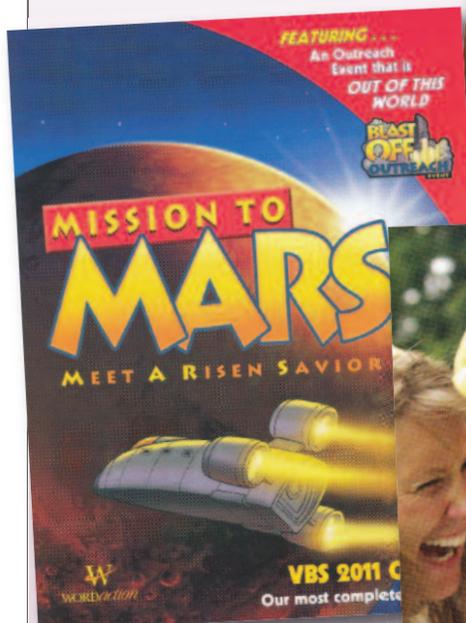


Myana and Rose enjoy Rally Day.

VBS Success!

Summer is just around the corner! Plan now for a successful Vacation Bible School as an outreach to your community and a way to build your corps.

A package with exciting resource possibilities and savings has been sent to all Salvation Army locations.



Place your order directly through the publisher using The Salvation Army account number found in your materials package.

Leadership through VBS

At the La Crosse, Wis., Corps, leaders are stepping up for the number of new children since last year's successful vacation Bible school (VBS). When Corps Officers Majors Curtiss and Sandy Hartley arrived three years ago, the corps began holding VBS at the end of the summer as a way of kicking off fall programming and retaining some of the new children.

"We were incredibly excited to see all of the children who weren't yet attending corps services with their families return for evening activities," said Curtiss.

Curtiss attributes growth over the last several years to increasingly dedicated leadership and community outreach. Last year he sent special VBS invitations to all of the families served through the back-to-school clothing program. This minimal effort resulted in five new VBS students!

The progression of growth in VBS and other children's activities has impacted the corps in many ways, but one of the most exciting is the fact that it's reenergizing

leadership. Many new leaders, including young adults, are serving where needed. Volunteers leading Tuesday activities are becoming even more passionate about their opportunity to influence children for Christ.

"There is a lot of relationship building going on," said Curtiss. "The leaders are discovering that, by paying individualized attention to the kids, it improves their behavior and makes them even more receptive to the gospel."

The leaders are finding new and innovative ways to share the gospel as well. Whether it's by sharing through character-building badge work, a conversation at dinner or a silly song during music time, they're incorporating the message of Christ's love as much as possible.



Refresh - Retool - Relate

Central Territorial Social Services Conference

May 10-12, 2011

Hilton Chicago/Indian Lakes Resort

250 West Schick Rd., Bloomington, IL 60108

(less than 30 minutes from O'Hare International Airport)

Officers, staff, advisory group members and volunteers involved with social service and social justice ministries will find this conference informative and inspiring!

- Technology updates
- Best practices
- Great networking
- Excellent workshops

Registration: \$475

(includes 2 nights accommodations, 1 dinner, 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch, plus all conference materials and refreshments)

Preconference seminars: \$60

Check our Facebook page (USC Social Services) for additional information
Registration information available soon!



| My Prayer List | Day | Bible Reading | Pray for The Salvation Army |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 1 Sunday | 2 Samuel 5-9 | Wayne/Westland, Mich., Corps |
| | 2 Monday | Psalms 51-53 | Shelbyville, Ind., Corps |
| | 3 Tuesday | Job 35-36 | Rockford (Temple), Ill., Corps |
| | 4 Wednesday | Jeremiah 27-31 | Sedalia, Mo., Corps |
| | 5 Thursday | Mark 15-16 | St. Paul (Eastside), Minn., Corps |
| | 6 Friday | 2 Corinthians 4-5 | Sioux City, Iowa, Corps |
| | 7 Saturday | Exodus 21-24 | St. Joseph County (Kroc Center), Ind. |
| | 8 Sunday | 2 Samuel 10-14 | Superior, Wis., Corps |
| | 9 Monday | Psalms 54-56 | Sturgis, Mich., Corps |
| | 10 Tuesday | Job 37-38 | Wyandotte (Downriver), Mich., Corps |
| | 11 Wednesday | Jeremiah 32-36 | Terre Haute, Ind., Corps |
| | 12 Thursday | Luke 1-2 | St. Charles (Tri-City), Ill., Corps |
| | 13 Friday | 2 Corinthians 6-8 | Springfield, Mo., Corps |
| | 14 Saturday | Exodus 25-28 | Virginia, Minn., Corps |
| | 15 Sunday | 2 Samuel 15-19 | General Linda Bond |
| | 16 Monday | Psalms 57-59 | Sioux Falls, S.D., Corps |
| | 17 Tuesday | Job 39-40 | Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Corps |
| | 18 Wednesday | Jeremiah 37-41 | Waukesha, Wis., Corps |
| | 19 Thursday | Luke 3-4 | Ypsilanti, Mich., Corps |
| | 20 Friday | 2 Corinthians 9-10 | Vincennes, Ind., Corps |
| | 21 Saturday | Exodus 29-32 | Waukegan, Ill., Corps |
| | 22 Sunday | 2 Samuel 20-24 | Captain Christopher Marques (Japan) |
| | 23 Monday | Psalms 60-62 | St. Louis (Harbor Light), Mo., Corps |
| | 24 Tuesday | Job 41-42 | Williston, N.D., Corps |
| | 25 Wednesday | Jeremiah 42-46 | Watertown, S.D., Corps |
| | 26 Thursday | Luke 5-6 | Wausau, Wis., Corps |
| | 27 Friday | 2 Corinthians 11-13 | Detroit (Harbor Light), Mich., Corps |
| | 28 Saturday | Exodus 33-36 | Warsaw, Ind., Corps |
| | 29 Sunday | 1 Kings 1-4 | Chicago (Harbor Light), Ill., Corps |
| | 30 Monday | Psalms 63-65 | Willmar, Minn., Corps |
| | 31 Tuesday | Proverbs 1 | Traverse City, Mich., Corps |

Go to www.prayercentralusa.org for prayer updates.

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



100 million pounds of food!



Major Lee Morrison, corps officer in Bismarck, N.D., and Linda Sailer, product resource manager for the Great Plains Food Bank.

The Great Plains Food Bank delivered its 100 millionth pound of food to the Bismarck, N.D., Corps this winter.

"We are honored to share this milestone with the Great Plains Food Bank," said Major Lee Morrison, corps officer. "They are a valued partner whose generosity has allowed us to feed thousands in the Bismarck/Mandan community. A tremendous thank you to Great Plains and the local supermarkets, volunteer groups and churches that help feed hungry families by supporting The Salvation Army."

Last year the Bismarck Salvation Army food pantry distributed 62.5 tons of food and served more than 9,000 meals to children enrolled in its afterschool program. Much of the food came from the Great Plains Food Bank, a program of Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota and

the state's largest hunger-relief organization. The Salvation Army and Great Plains have been partners for more than 20 years.

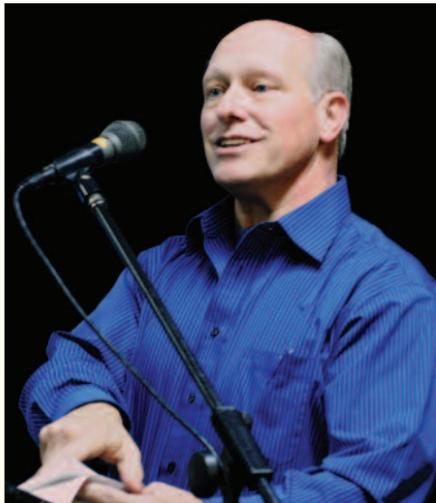
--Mustard Seeds--



Men's ministries hold strong

The Eastern Michigan (EMI) Division is known for its strong men's ministries program. The secret to their success, according to Major Herb Fuqua, divisional men's ministries secretary, is three-fold: a thriving men's camp in the spring, a high impact men's Bible retreat in the fall and the largest adult rehabilitation center (ARC) and harbor light system in the territory.

Last fall was one of the division's most successful men's Bible retreats yet. Under the direction of Herb, the retreat remained simple and to the point: eat, sleep and study God's Word. With dynamic teaching from



are newer Christians from the ARC or harbor light programs, the camp has an evangelistic flavor. This year they're holding a retreat specifically geared to reach men in the harbor light and ARC systems. At the end of the retreat, the men will be given an opportunity to commit to Christ and another to attend harbor light Bible study and recruits classes.

This month EMI joins with men across the territory to participate in the Territorial Men's Ministries Conference. "Our men will come home with new items for their 'spiritual toolboxes' and a renewed vision for the importance of reaching men for Christ," said Herb.



Lt. Colonel Marshall presents Dr. Green with a plaque for teaching five years

Salvationist author and college professor, Dr. Roger Green, nearly 90 men studied Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

On Saturday evening Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel Norman S. Marshall, who started the men's retreat in 2006, presented Dr. Green with a plaque of appreciation for teaching five consecutive years.

Nearly all of the corps in the division hold men's programs regularly. The Pontiac, Mich., Corps, for example, has developed a unique program that acknowledges and combats addictive behaviors. The Royal Oak, Mich., Corps has held a weekly men's breakfast since 1978.

Nearly 300 men attend camp each spring. Since many of the delegates



Blanketed in love

Elizabeth Rogers has been crocheting blankets for the family assistance ministry of the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps since 2006, reports Pamela Church-Pryor, ministry director. The colorful and extremely well-made blankets are the perfect size for babies to lie on and be comfortable and warm. The blankets also are perfect as lap robes for the sick and elderly; the colors are soothing and keep patients' legs warm, especially while sitting in wheelchairs.

"I love that Mrs. Rogers' ministry extends to both ends of the age spectrum," said Pamela. Corps Officer Major Stephen Yoder added, "The blankets are twice as warm because they're made with love!"

So far Elizabeth has donated more than 70 blankets. She explained her motivation: "I lived at an orphanage



for a couple of years during World War II; my mother worked after my father died but couldn't support me. Since that time, I've always wanted to help others."

Elizabeth also makes scarves for kettle workers, who appreciate the thought that someone made these by hand just for them, observed Barbara Burtch, corps business administrator.

Modern-day Dorcus

For most of her life, Major Margaret Nonnweiler has embodied Dorcus, an early-church woman described in Acts 9 who made clothes for the needy.

As one of 10 kids, Margaret began sewing young. Even as a corps assistant, she made clothes for her four-year-old sister back home, designing patterns on brown-paper bags and using material from thrift-store purchases.

Her talent for design and eye for thrifty finds came in handy after marriage and four children! Margaret became a much sought-after seamstress, sewing ornate bridal party gowns and innumerable flower-girl dresses, and altering uniforms for the Chicago Staff Band and visiting Salvation Army dignitaries. (She discovered lower legs of uniform slacks made dandy junior soldier skirts!)

Fees paid for Margaret's services always go directly to World Services/Self-Denial. She's raised a small fortune over the years—almost \$1,000 last year alone. She also makes and sells beautifully detailed hat and scarf sets featuring embroidery, buttons and beading. She donates many sets to homeless families at the Chicago Harbor Light.

During decades of teaching Sunday school, Margaret made hun-



dreds of kid's shirts (a recent model featured stained-glass window appliques colored and signed by each child). She's sewn countless pageant costumes over the years and even made school uniforms for the Jamaica Windsor Lodge Children's Home.

Retired from territorial headquarters last year, Margaret is thrilled to have a big sewing area in her new home and more time to design children's clothing!

Promoted to Glory

Major James Shiels

Major James Shiels was promoted to Glory on February 14, 2011. He was 87 years old.

James immigrated to America from Scotland with his family as a child and began attending The Salvation Army. He stayed strong in his faith through high school and worked at Little Pine Island Camp as a lifeguard. There he met Nellie Borgerding.

It was through Nellie's influence that James came back to the Lord during his years with the U.S. Navy. When he returned from war, Nellie resigned her officership to marry him.

Later James began to feel a stirring to become an officer. With Nellie's encouragement and the Spirit's leading, James entered training in 1952; Nellie was reaccepted as an officer. After his commissioning James and Nellie served in Sturgis, Mich., and appointments followed primarily in corps across the Midwest. In 1984 they were appointed to the Chicago Mt. Greenwood, Ill., Corps from which they retired in 1988.

James possessed excellent people skills and was a talented musician and well-loved pastor.

He was preceded in death by his wife, son Captain William Shiels and grandson, Kenneth. He is survived by two sons, Captain Kenneth (Robin) and James Jr. (Susan); a daughter-in-law, Major Barbara;

nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Major Linnea Sederberg

Major Linnea Sederberg was promoted to Glory on January 24, 2011. She was 86 years old.

Born to William and Hilma Sederberg in 1924, Linnea was baptized in a Lutheran church. By age eight, she'd enrolled as a junior soldier in a Minneapolis area corps.

Linnea felt the call to officership as a teenager. With encouragement from many people in her life, she entered training and was commissioned in 1945 with the "Fearless" session.

She held corps appointments in the Midwest and at Booth Memorial Hospital in Detroit before applying to serve overseas in Sweden.

After Sweden Linnea served in appointments in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Indiana before she was appointed as the territorial director of the retired officers' bureau. She retired from territorial headquarters in 1989.

In addition to being a dedicated, hard-working officer, Linnea was a gifted musician and youth worker.

Linnea was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Leonard. She is survived by several nieces and nephews, as well as special friends Major Debra Dalberg and Dr. and Mrs. Nelson.

