



Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory
News and Views from the Midwest

"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

Volume 43, Number 4

April 2013

Rediscovering the Church

by Abby Johnson

More than 400 young adults from across the Central Territory gathered earlier this year for Regeneration, a conference where Salvationists are challenged with biblically-sound teaching to grow in their faith and find opportunities

for service. This year's conference focused on the Church.

Guest speaker Pastor Harvey Carey of the large multicultural Citadel of Faith Covenant Church in Detroit, Mich., spoke with an urgency and sincerity that compelled young adults to consider the purpose and authority of the

Church. One of the main points he drove home was that as the Church we are called to be salt and light in a world which desperately needs it.

Sandra McCracken, a singer-songwriter known for her soulful blend of folk, pop and gospel, led worship with a warm and gentle spirit during the weekend. The hymn sing on Saturday evening was a beautiful picture of the Church with many of the stalwart hymns set to new melodies. Sandra shared her journey growing up in church and memorizing hymns as a young girl but not really comprehending them. Later as a young adult, though, these hymns became an important part of her personal faith.

On Saturday afternoon Fulton Hawk, youth program specialist for



the Del Oro Division in the Western Territory, unpacked the concept of missional entrepreneurship with delegates. He encouraged delegates to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in finding creative ways to utilize their own talents and strengths in order to introduce people to Christ.

Throughout the weekend Blair Linne, a spoken word artist, performed her original poems. Her raw

Continued on page 5



Chicago White Sox team up with Kroc Center

by Major Darlene Harvey
Chicago Kroc Center congregational life/program development officer

The White Sox have hit a home run with the Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in a great partnership to positively impact young people's lives. It began several years before the Kroc Center facility opened when the Sox began providing tickets for the Kroc Center to take young people and their families to games. For some, it has been their only opportunity to see a pro-game and experience such an event.

However, more important than the games at Cellular Field are the games and events taking place at the Kroc Center itself. Under White Sox owner, Jerry Reinsdorf, the charitable branch of the White Sox gave The Salvation Army \$1 million toward the campaign to sponsor the Chicago Kroc Center's baseball field, which includes artificial turf, bleachers, lights and a replica of the scoreboard at US Cellular Field Stadium.

In addition to other programs that take place on the field, the White Sox Amateur City Elite (ACE) seeks to

correct the downward trend of African-Americans participating in organized baseball from an overall lack of exposure to college recruiters. ACE offers rising stars in the inner-city baseball community the opportunity to play against other highly competitive



groups on traveling teams. The players are engaged in an elite practice and competition schedule while receiving academic direction to prepare them for success both on and off the field. The ACE program includes 105 players ranging in age from 13-18.

In addition to playing on the field, 15 of the players were provided ACT prep classes through the Kroc Center. Sponsored by the White Sox, the classes prepared the young men for their entrance exams for college.

Thaddeus Moody, Chicago Kroc sports manager, said, "The ACE program has

energized baseball back into the inner city where major division universities are coming into the inner city looking for baseball players. Now these young men are able to receive a quality education and play baseball at the same time."

The White Sox not only have provided fun on the baseball field and college prep in the classroom but funding as the corporate sponsor for the *Kaboom!* playground, which was built at the Kroc Center. Last August more than 100 volunteers from the

Continued on page 12



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Ignite Creativity with a purpose

by Lt. Colonel Dorothy Smith
Territorial Officer Resource and Development Secretary

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

I love reading about God's creativity, but it's pretty intimidating to think I might have some creative responsibility—especially to share the gospel in new ways. Creativity requires a gene that I just don't have. While there may be all the agents for fireworks in my brain (fuel, oxidization, colorants, a binder, etc.), they're just lying there with no hope of combusting into a great display of ideas.

So I turned to the most creative

person I know for advice: Bill Himes. He's written hundreds of musical selections that bring glory to God, as well as enjoyment and inspiration to both performer and listener. I asked him, "What are your secrets and how can we non-creative types implement them?"

Bill did not waste his creative process on me but instead shared that creativity is a gift and we all have gifts that can be used to build God's Kingdom.

Our gifts are just that—something we've been given by God. But we must develop and share them so they're useful for others. In Bill's case, he studied music history, theory, composition, and instruments at one of the great universities and then applied his gift of creativity to the skills he had worked years to develop. Not quite as easy as he makes it look! In fact, he says refining, polishing and finishing the creative idea takes much sweat and

effort. "But sometimes the results are so good, you feel like you can't take the credit. It's the Holy Spirit who inspires and blesses the effort."

What's your gift? How can you develop it to share the gospel and build God's Kingdom in your corps? How does it support and enhance the gifts of your fellow soldiers and officers? Are you engaged in reaching your community for Christ?

God doesn't expect us to create the heavens and the earth. He's already done that. But He is continually seeking sincere, humble people to share His love with others through our gifts in creative and relevant ways.



New tools for new times

Imagine being ready to minister in a nation where multiple cultures and ethnicities are the new norm. Imagine being prepared with words and deeds that can bridge differences and bring healing and hope. Imagine being equipped to step out boldly in pursuit of God-saturated opportunities.

Turn those imaginings into realities by attending "The ONE Conference: Imagine," sponsored by the territorial multicultural ministries department, October 18-20, 2013. Officers, lay leaders and employees will be equipped with new tools for new times to meet the challenges of their culturally diverse communities.

"We're bringing together the collective wisdom of leading experts on multicultural and multi-ethnic ministries to give us the tools to grow as ONE through our differences. I encourage everyone, especially those who work with

diverse groups, to take advantage of this incredible opportunity," said Major Mary Hammerly, territorial multicultural ministries secretary.

Keynote speaker Dr. David Livermore has consulted with Fortune 500 corporations, non-prof-

it organizations and governments in more than 100 countries. President of the Cultural Intelligence Center, he has authored several award-winning books on cultural intelligence and global leadership, taught at universities, and worked for numerous international non-profits.

"Christians must be able to understand other cultures and communicate effectively," said David. "Cultural intelligence [provides] the ability to work across national, ethnic and even organizational cultures."

Among the experts conducting workshop tracks are Dr. Mark Deymaz, author and founding pastor of Arkansas' Mosaic Church and a leader in the multi-ethnic church movement; Dr. Rolando Cuellar, Lee University associate professor of intercultural studies; Dr. Mark Hausfeld, a specialist in Muslim ministries, and Dr. Sheryl Takagi Silzer, a lecturer on cultural self-dis-

covery. Delegates will learn about international adoption, identity formation and multicultural families; compassion and justice ministries, and immigration issues.

Sunday morning guests will be Commissioners Ken and Joy Baillie, former Central territorial leaders who also led the Eastern Europe Command (Russia, the Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and the Republic of Georgia).

Dr. Bruce Harding, conference music leader, is the music minister for a multi-ethnic church in British Columbia who advocates global songs and fusion ensembles in worship.

The conference will be held at the Westin Hotel in Itasca, Ill., convenient to Chicago's O'Hare Airport. For more information and to register visit: www.multiculturalministriescentral.org



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ONE multicultural conference website
St. Louis City Museum website
Peabody Opera House website
Forest Park website
Midland Division website
Lyndall Bywater website
EDS website
Talk about giving website

Web exclusives

How to Have a Matthew Party
Omaha North Corps' afterschool program testimony
Princeton, Ind., Keys to Teen Group success by Lt. Jonathan Cooper
One St. Louis Vet's story
Salvation Army in Guyana
Adding personality to prayer report

Vets residence gateway to new life

by Ashley Kuenstler

Hundreds of people lined the sidewalks. Smiles stretched as far as the eye could see. There was a reason to celebrate: the dedication of the new Salvation Army Veterans Residence in St. Louis, Mo., was the reason.

The \$8.8 million, three-story building offers 48 single apartments for veterans, an estimated 75 percent of whom are homeless. It provides not only a safe place for them to sleep but programs to help them lay a valuable, self-sustaining foundation for a new life.

The studio and one-bedroom high quality apartments are equipped with new energy-efficient appliances and high-end amenities like recreation spaces and a computer lab. Half of the units are for permanent residency, while the other half is for



St. Louis Regional Advisory Board Chairman Mark Abels

transitional stays while the veterans prepare for their futures, ideally leaving after two years with a job, savings and a home to call their own.

Veterans are offered personalized,



Commissioners William and Nancy Roberts, national leaders, join Majors Lonneal and Patty Richardson, Midland divisional leaders, St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay and others for ribbon cutting.

intensive case management where manageable goals are set. For example, veterans who entered the military straight out of high school may have never grocery shopped or prepared a nutritious meal. Walking them through this kind of fundamental process is part of laying the foundation.

Case managers also work diligently to reconnect veterans with their estranged families, as well as to connect disabled veterans to valuable resources for specific benefits. Employable veterans are



helped to develop skills, such as writing resumes and preparing for interviews, in order to secure jobs.



National Salvation Army Week

May 13-19, 2013

National Salvation Army Week is the perfect opportunity to thank your volunteers! Are there any Sunday school teachers, canteen drivers, toy shop



workers or Christmas kettle bellringers who you could recognize during this important week?

It's also a good time to invite others to join in our mission. Share with family, friends and your community

about the wonderful ministries of The Salvation Army like our adult rehabilitation centers, disaster relief efforts, family shelters and youth ministries!



EDS decoded

This spring Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) is creating new standard Salvation Army identification badges for responders in the United States using Quick Response Code (QR Code) technology. Each new badge will include a QR barcode, which, when scanned, will link to the national EDS database to verify the employee or volunteer's credentials, trainings and certifications in real time.

The primary goal of the new badge is to increase security. "It will protect both EDS workers and disaster survivors," said Kevin Ellers, territorial disaster services coordinator, "ensuring on-scene volunteers are current, active and certified in what we need of them."

Scanning is simple and can be done from any smartphone installed with a free QR code scanner app. The scanner reads a displayed code and converts it to a URL directing the smartphone's browser to the EDS database.

"Any QR reader will work with this technology," said Jeff Jellets, Southern territorial disaster coordinator. "We expect about 90 percent of people to simply use their smartphones. That's what makes this development so neat. If a police officer needed to verify someone's credentials on the spot, he or she could do so by using their phone."

This system also will save The Salvation Army money since a fresh-

ly printed badge won't be required every time an employee or volunteer completes additional training. All new trainings will be recorded on the national database visible immediately when the code is scanned.

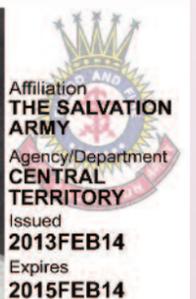
The four U.S. territories worked together to develop this concept under the direction of Jeff.

"We'll start implementation of the badges with officers and employees and then move to volunteers," said Jeff.

THE SALVATION ARMY



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EMERGENCY DISASTER SERVICES

Using your smartphone, give the new EDS QR Code system a try!

Youth leaders reconsider relational approach

by Captain Rachel Stouder

Relational ministry. The term has become somewhat of a buzzword in the Church. We have recognized from many vantage points the value and effective place relationship has within our evangelism and discipleship efforts. "After all," echoes through many of our halls, "we serve a God of relationship, a God who created and redeemed us through relationship." Unfortunately, in the primary interests of structure and measurement, relational ministry is often relegated to the confines of program.

At Incarnation, a divisional youth leaders seminar, Dr. Andrew Root, associate professor of youth and



family ministry at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., challenged youth leaders from across the territory to reconsider the approach to relational ministry. There was certainly no concern about whether or not programs serve as excellent vehicles for relationship, providing opportunity for their development.

Unfortunately, however, as Dr. Root pointed out, many a youth worker tends to fall victim to the "get 'em in the door" mentality, and the concept of relationship is often reduced to the back seat in a vehicle largely driven by measurable statistics, up-to-the-minute technology, and a flurry of activity. While one can hardly argue with the value of any of

these and other ministry and programmatic necessities that tend to zap opportunity for relationship—real relationship—it does cause one to reconsider where and how relationship actually takes place.

Dr. Root unpacked the concept of "place sharing" throughout the week, reinforcing the importance of *being with* people, experiencing life with them, modeling boundaries and healthy human relationships. His stories about giving youth space to acknowledge fears, ask tough questions, be their own goofy selves, and dive deep into relationship with Jesus resounded with us as we gathered around tables. Reflecting on the week's impact on perspective in ministry, one Wisconsin delegate said, "It's about winning souls to Jesus Christ, instead of winning people into the building."

Another delegate said, "It meant the most to me to be given permission to see relationships as more important than program. Not that program is bad, but if we have a lot of programs,

and lots of numbers in those programs, but have no growth—no salvation—programs are meaningless."

Juanita Belcher, Heartland divisional character-building ministries director, shared that she was excited for the encouragement in relationship building, as this has been her passion for years. When asked, "But you're employed because of programs, what will you do if The Salvation Army decides not to do character-building programs anymore?" Juanita's response was simple: "Then God must have other plans. I believe the programs we use are excellent, and I know it can take a while to bridge from program into the corps sometimes, but that can only be done through relationship, and relationships take time."



Photos by Lt. Jamie Curry



FOCUSed on holiness

Focus isn't just a word at the Princeton, Ind., Corps; it's an acronym for the youth group's mission: Founded On Christ's Unending Salvation. Since the teens put this forward as their rally cry, the corps has seen a large increase in attendance.

"They're searching for friendship, belonging, and most importantly, God," said Lt. Jonathan Cooper, corps officer. "We've been meeting at our quarters for almost three years now, and it's really awesome to see how the group has grown."

They've grown not only in numbers,

but in spiritual depth. "They're striving for holiness, and it's been really evident in the way they interact with each other," said Lt. Chrissy Cooper.

Every Thursday the teens begin to trickle into the Coopers' house around 3:30 p.m. from the area's three high schools. The fun begins, believe it or not, with homework. "It's pretty commonplace to have a bunch of the teens at our house doing homework," said Jonathan. "We help when we can, and it seems to be a great avenue for us to interact."

Next is dinner and fellowship; it usually involves a few guitars and a lot of laughter. The cornerstone of the night is an in-depth Bible study, which typically revolves around holiness and discipleship. Right now they're studying *Discipleship Training* by Dr. Charles Lake. By 8:00 p.m. the night draws to an end, and the teens reluctantly pull their things together and head home.

"It's been amazing to see how far the Lord has brought this ministry; it's gone from around seven to 35," said Chrissy. "He has brought us into situations in which we have been able to be a part of so many kids' lives."

And as one of the teens put it, "I always leave Thursday night knowing I'm not alone, 'If God is for me, who can be against me?' [Romans 8:31]."



Lt. Chrissy Cooper helps Hope Michael with her homework.

Great character

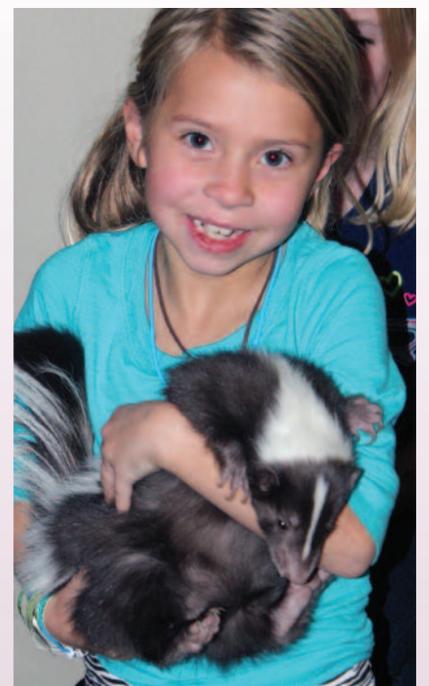
In most ways Aurelia Lawson is a typical eight-year-old girl. She enjoys dancing, drawing, playing with her older sister, Angela, and is learning to play the cornet. Having accepted Christ as her Savior and a sunbeam at the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps, she's begun to realize the importance of selflessness.

Aurelia loves animals so much she became a vegetarian, and for her eighth birthday party, instead of asking for birthday gifts, she sent guests a wish list for shelter animals. In addition to a few friends, animals—such as a 12-foot python, a burping parrot and a tortoise the size of a tricycle—made an appearance.

After a lot of fun, cake and time to enjoy the animals, four big bags of donations were collected for the shelter.

"Seeing Aurelia choose to put others first makes us so happy," said Vernon Lawson about his daughter. "We are eager to see how God will use Aurelia's passion and creativity to serve Him as she continues to grow."

Aurelia is in her second year of sunbeams. She attends Sunday school every week and helps with the Breakfast with Baby program, an out-



reach event the corps holds once a month.

When asked what she wants to be when she grows up, Aurelia, with the encouragement of her proud older sister, responded, "I want to work at an aquarium and train the dolphins."



Rediscovering the Church

Continued from page 1

honesty and passion moved delegates to meditate on the truths she shared and got them excited about God's Word.

"Soapbox Video" featured dele-

gates sharing their testimonies by completing the sentence: "The Salvation Army I want to be a part of is..." While the answers varied, it was evident young adults are com-



mitted to the Army's mission of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. It was a highlight of the weekend.

As the conference came to a powerful close on Sunday morning, Pastor Carey challenged delegates:

"Army, march! Army, move! Army, stop meeting and let the world see what the blood and the fire looks like. In the name of Jesus, rise up and be the Church that God has called you to be!"

Little people, big commitment

The Niles, Mich., character-building program brought four young girls into the corps about four years ago. Caitlin and Cirstin are twins, although very different, and Jordan and Haylee are sisters. Friends invited them to activities, and the girls found they loved spending time at the corps. With encouragement from their corps officers Majors William and Tracey Walters, they started attending Sunday school and worship services.

It's been through ministries, like summer camp, that they came to personal relationships with Christ. "It's been a blessing to watch them learn and grow," said Tracey. "Jordan, in particular, has taken leadership in her faith. She's always the first to open in prayer at Sunday school and often prays during Sunday meetings."

The girls, along with Tracey and William's son, Aaron, recently were enrolled as junior soldiers.

The new junior soldiers are involved around the corps. The girls are starting to teach the Sunday school classes for the younger chil-



Haylee signs her junior soldier promise.

dren. Aaron works with the multimedia, passes out programs and has begun to keep a personal written list of those who need prayer. Caitlin and Cirstin also like to help with the offering and greet people as they come into the corps.

"They're such a blessing to us," said Tracey.

Haven of learning and play

Registration for the Omaha North, Neb., Corps after-school program has skyrocketed. More than 200 children, ages 5-18, are registered for the week day program which includes a hot meal.

Lt. Pam Kasten, corps officer, attributes the growth to great program directors, Jim Sells and Lisa Sagherian, and involvement in the community.

"We're in the schools attending open houses, going to community meetings and actively promoting our program," said Pam. "We're also a free program and have positive word-of-mouth since the kids like it."

One young man, Romeo Dixon, said, "I feel accepted and loved there... It's a good place to be."

Thanks to a federal grant, it's been possible for the corps to hire a tutor to help children with their homework. Other afterschool activities include crafts, basketball, reading time and character-building pro-



Daheem Conley enjoys a nutritious dinner.

grams. With the help of a staff member, the children have begun writing and publishing their own newsletter called *Sal Sentinel*.

Volunteers from nearby Jaynes Street Church have recognized the value of the program and started helping with reading classes. "The end goal is to launch a Mission: Literacy reading program here," said Pam.

At the Omaha North after-school program not only are the children safe, well-cared for and learning, they have an opportunity to hear about Jesus. "The children know this place is different," said Pam. "I think God is using the program to show youth there is a different way of life and a different path they can take."

Last summer Pam and a few of the staff started inviting the after-school children to attend Sunday school and church. "We're beginning to bridge kids into Sunday services," she said.



Lisa Sagherian helps Markezz Carter on the computer.



Majors William and Tracey Walters flank junior soldiers (l to r) Haylee, Caitlin, Cirstin, Jordan and Aaron. The flagbearers (l to r) are Ruthann Mills and Colette Scott.

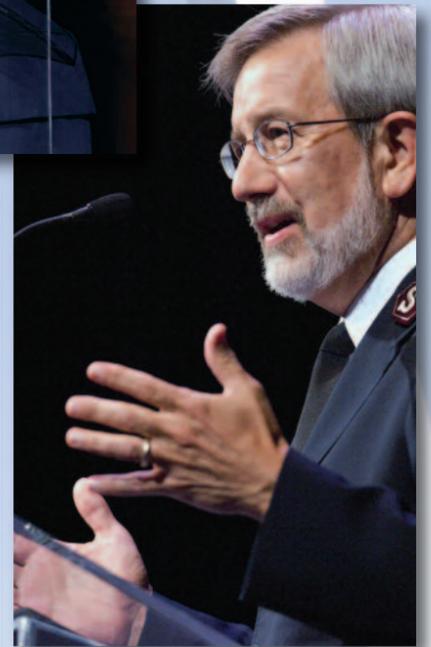
Family Congress: new city,

You and your family won't want to miss this opportunity to join our great big Army family for a wonderful weekend of praise, inspiration, solid biblical teaching, fellowship and fun in St. Louis! Register now for the Family Congress, June 7 – 9!



General Linda Bond

Don't miss your chance to see the General in person! Come hear what's on our international leader's heart for the global Army. In her first visit to the Central Territory, General Linda Bond—only the third woman general in our Army's history!—will share God's Word and challenge you to a deeper commitment.



Inspiring meetings

From stirring numbers by the Chicago Staff Band to praise led by The Singing Company, from moving testimonies of God's grace to a precious performance by massed singing companies from across the territory, the main meetings will inspire you! Complemented by a spectacular new level of multimedia, they will also feature well-loved perennials like the World Services Ingathering and dedication of the Summer Mission Teams. During each session the General will delve into the International Vision Statement, "One Army, One Mission, One Message." All main meetings will take place at the brilliantly restored historic Peabody Opera House.

new leader, new vision



A Night at the museum

Get ready for the unexpected at "A Night at the Museum," the Friday night afterglow at the St. Louis City Museum from 10:00 p.m. to midnight! Great music, fun activities, board games—plus brick-oven pizza, soda and homemade cookies—will set the atmosphere for a memorable event!

The museum features an eclectic array of exhibits and experiences. Show off your skills on the ramps in Skateless Park, wiggle through Slinkies and ball pits for children and adults, take a glass tunnel through the shark tank, fly down a 10-story (or optional three-story!) spiral slide, explore a cave system in which creatures stare back from every direction, take a spin in a life-sized hamster wheel, pet stingrays, walk through a whale, and traverse transparent tunnels that run across ceilings and under and through exhibits!

Saturday afternoon

Saturday afternoon focuses on family activities from noon until the evening meeting. Lunch will be available to delegates at Forest Park and Resource Connection, where there's something for everyone to enjoy in any kind of weather.

Forest Park means maximum fun. Home to the zoo, a science center, history museum, greenhouse and art center, the park features beautiful landscaping, a 7.5-mile path, plus lakes and waterways for boating and fishing.

Other recreational options are available, as are trolleys that run within the 1,371-acre park (bigger than New York's Central Park)! Transportation shuttles will run to Forest Park during the afternoon.

Resource Connection

Special treats are in store for visitors to the Resource Connection market at the St. Louis Hyatt Regency at the Arch on Friday (open 1:00-7:00 p.m.) and Saturday (12:00-6:30 p.m.). Be sure to come back after the evening meetings for a reception with refreshments on Friday from 9:30-10:30 p.m. and a "Midnight Madness Sale!" on Saturday from 9:30-11:00 p.m.

In addition to the wide array of uniforms and other clothing, accessories, gifts, books, music and supplies available through Resource Connection, there will be vendors of musical instruments, office supplies, marketing specialties, food service suppliers and much more. And don't miss the eye-catching, educational displays from the world missions department, the territorial historical museum and the College for Officer Training.



Fun and adventure for kids

This year's Congress brings a weekend of action and adventure for youth as award-winning Corporate Kids Events, a VIP child-care service, brings their customized programs for children up to age 11.

Every meeting will feature themes ranging from "Art Extravaganza," with silk painting, picture charades and fruit creature snacks to "Take me out to the ballgame" with sports magnet crafts, fun face painting and a baseball trivia challenge. Childcare will cover all the main meetings and officers' councils.

Soapbox with the General

The Family Congress brings with it a one-of-a-kind opportunity for 18-30 year olds to participate in a Young Adult Soapbox with the General. With an informal vibe, this intimate Saturday evening event will bring General Linda Bond front and center, answering important questions from the Army's future leaders! It will be a unique opportunity to listen to the General's thoughts on holiness, officership, lay leadership and discerning God's will.

Eric Himes, territorial youth development specialist, will facilitate the question and answer session, which will take place on Saturday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at the St. Louis Hyatt Regency at the Arch.

Sunday meetings

On Sunday morning enjoy rich, meaningful worship at the distinctive Peabody Opera House. Share the honor with the 34 members of the "Proclaimers of the Resurrection" session as they're ordained and commissioned as officers by General Linda Bond.

After delegates enjoy a box lunch, it's on to the rousing, blood-and-fire Service of Appointments. Enter into the spirit as newly commissioned lieutenants—almost half of whom are first-generation Salvationists—learn from Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, territorial commander, where they'll first serve as officers!

Register online now at
www.sacongress2013.org



Waiting on a miracle

The newborn was dying. Doctors had tried every procedure imaginable to save him; now the inevitable was only a matter of time. Some nights Christopher's condition was so grave that when neo-natal nurse Jennifer Minter left her shift, she'd gently kiss her tiny patient goodbye.

"Having a baby is a very emotional experience; any deviation, no matter how minor, in the birthing process or the health of the baby, provokes shock and a major emotional response," said Jennifer, a soldier at the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps and herself a mother of two. "Although technically the babies are my patients, I try to remember the whole family needs support."

In fact, the families of her patients have been responsible for Jennifer receiving not only several hospital awards but the national Daisy Award, which honors outstanding compassion in nursing.

Doctors and nurses told Christopher's family multiple times they'd done all they could. Tiffanie, the boy's mother, and her mother continued to keep vigil while the father, Mike, cared for the family's other two children. Jennifer, who lives out her faith daily, learned the grandmother was a strong Christian, but Christopher's mother had drifted from her faith years ago.

Tiffanie and her mother sat for hours by Christopher's crib, softly praying and laying hands on his body. Jennifer was impressed to hear them pray specifically for each organ and every body system; they even asked God for the white blood cells to fight off infections.

Slowly but surely Jennifer began to notice slight improvements in Christopher's condition. As she got to know Tiffanie, Jennifer talked about her faith, emphasizing God hadn't only been listening to their prayers, He'd been answering them.

"I told her from a medical



A young patient receives care from neo-natal nurse Jennifer Minter.

standpoint Christopher really was a miracle child," said Jennifer. The experience renewed Tiffanie's faith in God.

When Christopher was born in October 2011, his parents were unemployed, and the family was dependent on public aid. As Christmas approached, Jennifer connected the family with Pamela Church-Pryor, Norridge corps community ministries director, for social services support, food and toys. The family soon began attending the corps, and Jennifer's relationship with Tiffanie deepened. Tiffanie's two older children, Brianna, 13, and Braylon, 7, have made friends and enjoy Sunday school. Christopher is now a happy, healthy toddler.



Jennifer Minter and former patient Christopher celebrate his first birthday.



Pictured (l-r) are Dave, Aaron, Rachel and Jennifer Minter

THE SALVATION ARMY

NSE

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A WEEK LONG MOUNTAINTOP

EXPERIENCE FOR SALVATIONISTS TO LEARN
EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP SKILLS.



AUGUST 3-10, 2013

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Intentionality in evangelism

Since soldiers and Captain John Pook, corps officer of the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps, attended last year's National Seminar on Evangelism (NSE), they've helped to develop an intentional plan to prepare youth and adults to share the gospel. Soldiers are stepping out in new and unexpected ways.

It started with the corps' annual block party. At this outreach-oriented event, members of the community, friends and family members of soldiers are invited to join them for a barbeque and games. In preparation for the most recent block party, the corps invited Mark Bender, part of the territorial evangelism department, to hold an evening training on evangelism.

"The main focus was to encourage people to be willing to step out of their familiar, comfortable circles and to see people as they are, through the eyes of Jesus," said Mark. "More than that, it's about recognizing any conversation is an opportunity to tell people about Jesus."

The block party resulted in some new faces around the corps. "I believe it was because of the training," said John.

One of the corps' small groups has started studying the NSE curriculum *Just Walk across the Room* by Bill Hybels. "At our annual

food distribution many soldiers who are in our small group were reaching out in new ways to visitors," said Chris Shay. "Those who have had experience with NSE are finding they have a new boldness and urgency to share the gospel."

Another soldier, Marylou Bonesteel, has taken a more creative approach. She's decided to wear a shirt with The Salvation Army shield on it while doing errands in her community. She said, "This gives others a reason to approach me, too!"

Next John plans to hold a regular evangelism class and ask one NSE delegate per week to share a testimony with the congregation on Sunday mornings.



Captain Johanna Pook with members of the community during the Fiesta Finale outreach

Partnering with Guyana

Parroting a certain credit card's ads, the experiences last year of the territorial summer mission team in Guyana were "priceless."

Partnered with the Metropolitan Division, Guyana is one of 15 countries in the Caribbean Territory with which the Central Territory has been linked through the PIM (Partners in Mission) initiative.

The team encountered many cultures in Guyana, including Afro-Caribbean, Chinese, East Indian and indigenous people. Faiths ranged from various denominations of Christianity to Hindu, Muslim, Rastafarianism and native religions. Languages also varied, from English, Spanish, French and Dutch to Creole, Urdu and Caribbean



Hindustani (a dialect of Hindi).

Team leader Andres Villatoro reported the gospel was openly accepted. "Even Hindus and Muslims responded in some way and didn't lash out in opposition," he said of the team's experiences. The team particularly enjoyed conducting outreach programs for children in Guyana.

The work of the Army there began in 1895. Today its ministries include corps and outposts, a large kindergarten school, a young-adult evening school, feeding programs for adults and children, a corrections ministry, men's hostel, men's rehabilitation center, women's retirement home and residences for retired officers.

The team was particularly struck

when they met Shikh Sham Shoud- een, a former drug addict who completed the Army's rehabilitation program at the men's center. He now serves as the recruiting officer at the Georgetown Citadel Corps in the nation's capital.

Worship meetings feature upbeat praise, inspiring testimonies, lengthy messages and altar calls, Andres observed. But, he added, the Army's greatest challenge is financial.

"There's a lack of funding for programs, officers, transportation, equipment, musical instruments and instruction," he concluded. "Officers often carry more than one appointment [but] we saw them adapt to all challenges."



Dolibers' Haiti happenings

You've been assigned as the driver for a very important visiting dignitary—someone considered so significant that armed police escort vehicles have been assigned to accompany you. Then imagine yourself careening through the crowded streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital city, at the height of rush hour, while being herded along by your speeding police escorts!

That was the harrowing experience of Major Robert Doliber last fall when he was asked to serve as the driver for General Linda Bond's visit to Haiti as part of the Caribbean Territory's 125th anniversary celebrations!

Central officers Majors Bob and



Flanked by Majors Bob and Rae Doliber, General Linda Bond visits a reconstruction site.

Rae Doliber have been living in Haiti since September 2010 as part of a recovery and development team dedicated to rebuilding the Port-au-Prince region after the horrific earthquake that January. Bob is the team's director, and Rae is the special projects manager. The General toured construction sites with the team after attending a rally of more than 1,000 soldiers.

The Army's numerous, anti-seismic construction projects include Delmas 2 in the heart of the city's slums. It will have a 3,000-seat corps, a clinic and social services building and primary and secondary schools for 1,600 students. Additionally, more than half of the Army's 48 schools in Haiti, serving some 10,000 students, are being rebuilt or renovated; some are in remote, mountainous locations.

Bob compared the challenges he and Rae have found in Haiti to a popular military slogan: The difficult we do immediately; the impossible takes a little longer. "The Salvation Army will become even stronger in Haiti," he concluded.



A new divisional headquarters complex will replace the one destroyed in the earthquake.

2013 Summer Mission Teams announced

Pray for these young people who will be ministering overseas this summer.

Brazil

Nancy Valentin*	Metropolitan Division
Maggie Garcia	Metropolitan Division
Kenneth Jones	Eastern Michigan Division
Sara Ruthberg	Metropolitan Division
Brianna Shelbourn	Western Division
Amanda Tregellas	Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division

Caribbean

Joshua Hubbard*	Eastern Michigan Division
Kimberly Dickson	Kansas/Western Missouri Division
Alyssa Dusage	Metropolitan Division
Titiana Flax	Metropolitan Division
Rebecca Hixenbaugh	Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division
Valerie Janson	Metropolitan Division
Robyn Shanahan	Midland Division

* = Team Leader



Hungary

Melissa Hulett*	Eastern Michigan Division
Christine Chung	Metropolitan Division
Kamaria Gage	Heartland Division
Rebekah Langham	Metropolitan Division
Kayla Miller	Western Division
Kendelle Polsley	Metropolitan Division

India

Areli Garcia*	Western Division
Henry Herber	Eastern Michigan Division
Lance Hill	Eastern Michigan Division
Chelsea Means	Metropolitan Division
Ashley Tregellas	Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division
Michelle Winters	Metropolitan Division



THE SALVATION ARMY

 USA CENTRAL
 SUMMER MISSION TEAM

Prayer: our lifeline to God

Lyndall Bywater is a Salvationist and freelance trainer, writer and consultant who specializes in the subject of prayer. Having spent her whole life passionately immersed in prayer, she was naturally chosen to coordinate the United Kingdom Territory's 24/7 prayer network for nearly 10 years before going freelance. Visiting the Central Territory earlier this year to minister in the Heartland Division, at the College for Officer Training and Central Territorial Headquarters, she also took time to talk about prayer with editor Beth Kinzie. Here is the first of a three-part series.

I know you believe prayer is a privilege, but is it also a responsibility?

I suppose what I would say first is that I consider it a lifeline. I'm not sure how you can be a follower of Jesus without prayer because it's that basic line of communication between me and Him. It's the basic conversation, the fundamental interchange of me speaking to Him and listening to Him, and Him speaking to me and listening to me. So it's necessary which is slightly different than what you asked about it being a responsibility.

I think when it comes to it being a responsibility to me that is a slightly more corporate thing. Prayer individually is something that we should have in our lives, but I guess when it comes to the responsibility of prayer my thoughts go a bit bigger picture, and I would go to believing that as a community of faith we have a responsibility to pray.

I believe we're put in the places where we are in order to bring the Kingdom of God. Nothing more and nothing less is what we're here for. So for me it's that sense of the Church of Jesus Christ in a community. We see all the problems around us. We see the struggles, the trials, the darkness.

Actually, our responsibility is to be bringers of the Kingdom, and you can't do that without prayer. You can do good works, but you cannot bring the Kingdom without prayer because

the Kingdom is the connection of the supernatural and the impossible things of God with the natural, the kind of status quo, what we live in the midst of. That only happens through prayer. You only bring the impossible into the possible through prayer. So, I get to that place that as believers together we must be praying. We have a responsibility to our communities to be praying.

I do believe as individuals God gives us things to pray for. God gives us kind of precious charges in our lives. There is the charge to pray for those He's given us to care for, and He does put burdens on our hearts. You just sometimes have that sense I have got to pray for this. I have got to invest myself for this in prayer. But I worry if our day-to-day prayer life is I'm doing this because I have a responsibility because I feel that comes a lot further down the line to I'm doing this because I have a rela-



tionship with a God who loves me.

So, it's kind of getting them out of order?

Yes, yes I think it is. There are too many people who are losing the joy of prayer, who are losing the delight of prayer because it's like, I'm meant to do this, so I'm going to pray. I don't think that should be anywhere in our relationship with God the Father. We do it because we love Him, not because we should.

Since we're on the frontlines of service as Salvationists, do you feel we have a particular advantage in knowing how to pray for our communities?

I think we do have more of an idea. I work with lots of different churches and faith groups, and I see sometimes an introvertedness which means that churches or groups mainly focused on discipleship and grow-



ing together don't always know how to pray for their communities because they wouldn't always know what the needs of their communities

are. Certainly as Salvationists who are working in fields of great need, we do have a bit of an advantage because we see the problems first-hand. I don't know if you surveyed everybody who's working in these things if they would say that enables them to know how to pray more. I think they know what to pray for.

But sometimes the sheer contact with that level of need can make you feel powerless. It can make you feel there is so much that needs to happen it's overwhelming. And in that situation prayer becomes so much more important. But it is even more important that prayer is something living, not something kind of dead routine, dead religion, because if you are meeting 100 people a week who are in desperate need, and your prayer life is basically dead religion, then you will only feel more and more powerless in the face of those 100 people each week. Whereas, if your prayer life is truly meeting with Jesus, hearing Him, sensing His presence, knowing His hand on your shoulder, getting that encouragement, that life-giving stuff that needs to be in our prayer times, then you meet those 100 people differently.

One of the things I'm very passionate about is that we need to connect those in need with prayer. We need to get those in need praying for themselves. And we so often wait. We say, "Well, we can't get them to pray yet because they're not saved, they haven't said the right prayer. They're not in the Kingdom yet." But I'm a great believer—and I've seen it and it's what I come back to time and time again—that God uses the supernatural, the miraculous, the impossible to show Himself to people. He lets people get into really painful and difficult situations until they cry out to Him, and then He rescues them. It's not because He's cruel and just making it worse and worse until they scream loud enough, but because when you are rescued from an impossible situation then you begin to believe in a God, you begin to believe there's something out there beyond us.

So I'm forever saying to people who are on the frontlines and working with people in need, "Are you getting them to pray? Are you bringing prayer into this work that you're doing? When somebody is standing in front of you and their life is hopeless are you saying, 'Hey don't forget to pray. I'll pray for you, but don't you forget to pray, too.'" When non-Christians cry out to God in prayer it's pretty rare that those prayers don't get answered because God is so desperate to show Himself. He's so desperate to make Himself known.

But in society now there's such an air of political correctness that we might be more hesitant to pray with someone when they obviously have a need, the situation calls for it, or even if the Holy Spirit prompts us. How do we overcome that?

I think there's a simplicity about being a person who is not ashamed to admit that my lifeline is God. My dependence is on God. My hope is in God. My service is in God. Anything I can give you or bring you comes from God.

And I think we can end up trying to help people and maybe giving the impression that it's what we're doing that's helping them or it's what The Salvation Army is doing that is helping them—and there may be some of that, we may be doing some very helpful things in The Salvation Army—but there is a simplicity about saying, "Whatever I can give you, whatever The Salvation Army can give you, I am someone who is dependent on God. So in this moment as I'm talking to you, I want you to know that I am dependent on God. Therefore, I believe that only God can really change your situation, and so I want to pray for you out of that spirit."

And that's very important because if you approach people and you say, "I think we should pray together," then it can feel like I'm trying to brainwash you or I'm trying to force my faith system on you. That's what we get squeamish about. My answer is always: you come as a person who is dependent on God...And I find that people are good with that. They're not so good when I say, "I want to pray with you because you should be dependent on God." Then they're like, "Well, that's you making a judgment about my life," and I don't have a right to do that.

It's not being afraid to look dependent on God; we don't want to look so capable that we don't need Him anymore.

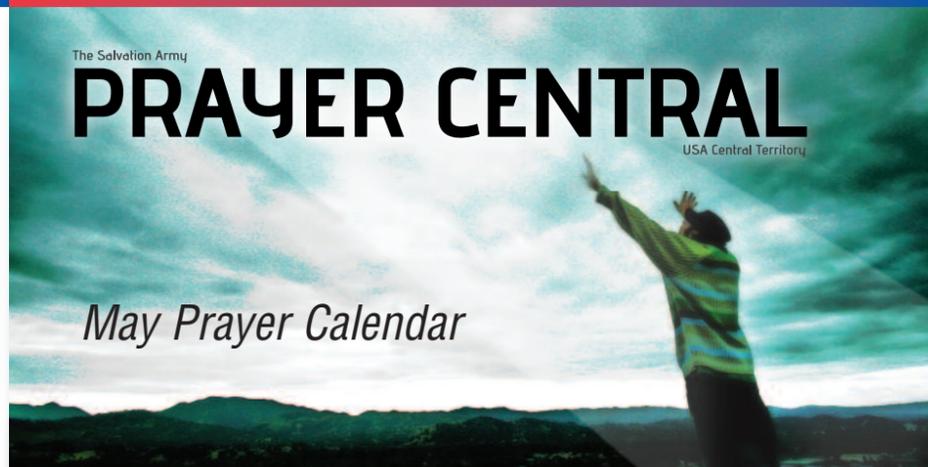


Website revamped

You'll want to check out the new and improved territorial website at www.usc.salvationarmy.org. It doesn't just look better, it functions better too! Features include:

- **Faster load times**
- **Updated search functions**
- **User-friendly layout**
- **Adaptations for mobile devices**
- **Streamlined aesthetics**

Developed at IHQ, it uses an updated WebManager 4 system.



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

PIM = Partners in Mission



What's new in Fergus Falls



The Henning Thrift store grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony

“Everything we're doing here is for God's glory and to spread His love, and He's really blessing it,” said Lt. Linda McCormick, Fergus Falls, Minn., corps officer, who was appointed there out of training nearly two years ago.

The corps has two thrift stores, one in Fergus Falls and one in Henning, Minn. Both have a very active volunteer base, some of whom volunteer up to 35 hours a week, sorting donations, organizing merchandise on the floor and cleaning up the back rooms.

After a year-long process, the Henning thrift store has been relocated to a larger building owned by The Salvation Army, doubling its capacity and allowing the store to carry larger-scale items and a greater diversity of merchandise. According to Linda the new store is light, bright and now sells more due to increased support and visibility in the area.

“Donation quality has risen since the opening, and the people of Henning have taken ownership in regard to making sure the thrift store has quality items to sell,” reported Linda.

The corps is also experiencing growth in attendance on Sunday mornings and within the children's programs. Since Linda has been at the corps, five new families and singles have begun attending regularly and the children's afterschool program has gone from six to 26 kids, Sunday school has increased by over 70 percent and last summer's vacation Bible school brought in 36 children.

To gain even more visibility in the community, twice a month the corps holds an open gym night, where anyone can come in and use the gym, play board games, play basketball or complete puzzles. Additionally they offer a free exercise room for people 18 and older, who cannot afford a gym membership.

The Fergus Falls lunch program has a steady base of volunteers to



The corps' cook, Sue, works diligently to ensure the lunch ministry is a success.

help throughout the week with prep, cleaning and serving meals. In January they started to hold devotions as well. As a result of careful planning and good help, patrons from the lunch program are becoming integrated into the congregation.

--Mustard Seeds--



Words of Life

May – August 2013

Take time with the *Father* daily as you meditate upon His Word.

Ask *Jesus* to interpret His Word and speak to your heart.

Open yourself to the *Spirit* as He brings inspiration.

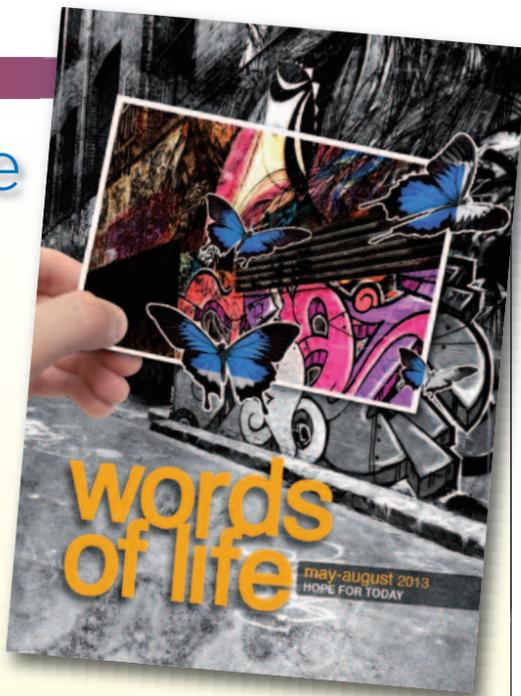
Our world is filled with strife, greed, persecution and turmoil.

More than ever people need hope in order to live in a way that is holy and pleasing to God.

With “hope” as the overarching theme for the year, this edition of *Words of Life* looks at “Hope for Today.” Nehemiah brings hope through restoration; the Gospels of Mark and John reveal the great hope within the life and ministry of Jesus; the Letter to the Romans gives hope to all believers. A series by guest writer Colonel Naomi Lalngaihawmi leads us into Pentecost.

May we all be people of hope for today's world.

Words of Life is available through Resource Connection and through Amazon as a Kindle book.



Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Major Mertha Butts

Mrs. Major Mertha Butts was promoted to Glory on January 22, 2013. She was 96.

Mertha was born to Charles and Anna Johnson in 1916. She enjoyed her childhood growing up in Chicago and attended Roosevelt High School where she played softball and was named roller skating champion in her school district.

She worked five years in Chicago's loop before entering training college in 1935. After commissioning Mertha met Sergeant Orville Butts who was soon honorably discharged from the U.S. Military. They fell in love and married after he was commissioned as an officer.

Their marriage was blessed with four children, and together they served in Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan and Nebraska. Mertha loved youth and character-building programs. Orville and Mertha retired in 1975 to Michigan, where they enjoyed traveling and time with family.

Mertha is remembered for her sense of humor and zest for life.

She was preceded in death by her husband and is survived by her children, Bonnie (Jerry) Collins, Lee (Marla), Reverend Glenn (Sheila), and Joyce (Gary) Guindon; 15 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Brigadier Esther Erickson

On February 7, 2013, Mrs. Brigadier Esther Erickson was promoted to Glory. She was 98.

Esther was born to Tina and Erik Erickson in Minneapolis, Minn. She graduated from South High School during the depression and joined “The Sunshine Brigade,” an evangelistic team of Salvation Army lassies who traveled throughout the Midwest.

She entered officer training and was commissioned in 1935 as part of the “Challengers” session, receiving her first appointment to Holdrege, Neb. Esther met Lt. Gunner Erickson in Chicago. They were married in 1937 and subsequently blessed with two children.

During their officership the Ericksons served in corps appointments in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. Retirement opened another chapter of ministry as traveling evangelists for the Army in the Pacific Northwest and Caribbean.

Esther was an accomplished musician with a warm and compassionate heart. She'll be remembered as a woman of prayer and deep commitment to God.

She was preceded in death by her husband and is survived by her children, Miriam (Richard) Horen and John (Dawn); six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson.



Major Peggy Hudgens

Major Peggy Hudgens was promoted to Glory on February 8, 2013.

Born in December 1951 to Victor and Nora Smith of Detroit, Mich., Peggy married David Hudgens 20 years later and had five children. Peggy devoted her life to winning souls for Christ by preaching the gospel unashamedly.

In 1991, she and David became employees of the Romulus, Mich., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC). After becoming envoys in 1995, they were soon appointed to the South Bend, Ind., ARC, where Peggy was special services director. She continued this role as an auxiliary captain at the Kansas City, Mo., ARC, where she became a captain and administrator in 2005. In 2001, Peggy earned a bachelor's degree in practical ministries from Olivet Nazarene University.

In 2009 Peggy was administrator with her husband of the Omaha, Neb., ARC until her 2010 appointment to the Southeast Michigan ARC as director of spiritual development. She ministered in a similar role at the Romulus, Mich., ARC, where she greatly influenced women beneficiaries since 2011.

Peggy is survived by her husband, David; children Christmas, Brooke (Mickael), David (Nicole), Michael and Victoria; her brother, Otto Smith, and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Major C. Ardena Faundez

Mrs. Major Caroline Ardena Faundez was promoted to Glory on February 22, 2013. She was 77.

Ardena was born to Sylvia and Claude Hutchings on November 20, 1935, in Lansing, Mich. Her family started attending the Army when Ardena's sisters became involved in girl guards. Ardena enjoyed Army camps, where she came to a personal relationship with Christ and was later called to officership.

In 1955 Ardena was commissioned as an officer. She held appointments in Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois before being transferred to the South America West Territory, where she met her future husband, Hugo Faundez.

Together the Faundezes served in corps, boys' homes, schools and headquarters, after which they were appointed to the Central Territory. Following God's leading they took responsibility of opening a new Hispanic corps, Chicago Lawn, Ill., from which they retired three years later.

After retirement the Faundezes settled in Chicago. They were very involved in their corps, Templo Laramie, Ill., and Ardena started the Hispanic prison Bible correspondence program at territorial headquarters and faithfully served in it for 11 years.

Ardena is survived by her husband, children, Captain Daniel (Wendy) Faundez and Beverly Faundez, and seven grandchildren.



White Sox teams up with Kroc Center

Continued from page 1

White Sox Volunteers Corps and an additional 100 volunteers from the community gathered to build a playground in one day. It was exciting to see the enthusiasm the White Sox fans and the players brought to this grassroots project.

The playground design was based on drawings created by children who participated in a design day

earlier that summer. White Sox mascot Southpaw's presence at both events added to the excitement. With the playground located in the front of the Kroc Center and the baseball field located in the back of the facility, the Kroc Center is surrounded by White Sox spirit.

Here young people have an opportunity to be active and be winners—in the game, on the field, in the classroom, college and life!



Recognize your leaders

Does your corps sergeant-major, sunbeam leader or Sunday school teacher display exemplary service? Does he or she work long hours serving others without complaint? If so, the territorial corps mission and adult ministries department wants to know!

Share a few sentences (or more) about your local leader and what he or she does to further the mission of The Salvation Army with David Tooley, territorial discipleship resources and leadership development consultant, at David_Tooley@usc.salvationarmy.org.

