South Bend Kroc’s biggest losers

by Meg Sauer

When the South Bend, Ind., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center introduced “The Biggest Loser Kroc Edition” last October they hoped 10 people would sign up. Instead, 130 did!

“Last fall we wanted to create a program that would increase member retention and get us through the holidays,” said Sharron Dutkowski, director of member services. “Most of all, we wanted to build our Kroc community and open the door for people to learn about Christ in a fitness center.”

Though the idea of holding the “The Biggest Loser” at the center had been discussed since its doors opened two years ago, staff wanted to introduce it only when they were sure it could be successful. “I knew it would take a lot of time and emotional energy to do it right,” said Sandy Sampson, health and fitness manager. “I wasn’t sure we could be successful without the 24/7 controlled environment you see on the TV show. Kroc contestants would see our trainers three hours a week, at the most.” Another consideration was the actual number of trainers needed. Would the center have enough? And would contestants really “buy in?” They’d have to for success.

“The task was daunting, so we would put it off,” said Sharon. “Then God gave us the green light, and one thing after another fell into place.” They made sure trainers were up for the challenge, and Sandy received her certification as a “Biggest Loser Pro.”

What were the results?

• Contestants collectively lost 631 pounds!

• Denise (pictured above) found the support she needed to continue her wellness journey. Now she can lift, run and do box jumps again after losing more than 100 pounds!

• One contestant described how her relationship with her spouse improved, another how the journey brought their family together.

• These inspiring stories have secured a media sponsor and a handful of prominent business donations for “Biggest Loser Kroc Edition II.”

“Biggest Loser” at the center started as a way to encourage Kroc community members to improve their lives and their health.

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“The Biggest Loser Kroc Edition” incorporates the six components of wellness: emotional, social, occupa -
tional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual. Every two weeks the teams come together to learn more about themselves and their health in each of these areas.

“I’ll never forget the powerful reactions at the presentation on spiritual wellness,” said Sandy. “For some there was absolute joy, and for others a realization of pain they suffered because of poor spiritual health.

Senior Kroc Officer Major Bob Webster and Youth Development Officer Major Beverly Best were at the presentation to support contestants and help them deal with their emotions. Some cried; others offered heartfelt thanks to the presenter (a contestant). Still, others prayed with the majors.

“It really resonated with everyone,” said Sandy. “We are a faith-based fitness center, and we are making a difference in people’s lives.”

There is Salvation in No Other

by General André Cox

At Easter, in remembering the death and bodily resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we celebrate a most important event within the Church calendar. This event is significant for, in witnessing to the fact that Jesus did not remain in the tomb but rose from the dead, it points to the promise that one day we too can thereby rise to eternal life. It is important to recognize that whilst we reside upon this earth in physical bodies, we are also spiritual beings intended to live for eternity.

In too many places across the globe, a resolute turning to materialism has led to an unhealthy exclusion of those other key elements required for men and women to know deep and lasting satisfaction. Materialism can never address the deepest longings of our heart, and this superficial feature of too many societies around the world is simply incapable of giving true joy and freedom. Life is more than the accumulation of possessions and many individuals today, despite owning so much, remain unsatisfied.

Some do earnestly seek after the point of and purpose for life, and also desire an assurance that there is indeed “something” after death. Too often, though, people look in the wrong place—how many readily consult horoscopes in an ultimately fruitless attempt to understand present unknowns, or gain a form of security for a sometimes daunting future?

My attention was recently arrested whilst reading Tim Leberecht’s comment:

“We live in times of major uncertainty. The doom and gloom of the economic crisis, the deterioration of mass markets, the pervasiveness of the digital lifestyle, and the fragmentation of traditional societal institutions are not only inducing anxiety but also inspiring a search for simplicity and noneconomic value systems. Consumption-driven wealth and status are being replaced by identity, belonging, and a strong desire to contribute—to or

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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)
Earlier this year I visited the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. Over the years I’d heard a lot about Mayo, but the reality was amazing! As I entered the main building, I was surrounded by throngs of people. The halls were bustling with sound. The activity reminded me of a convention center. The faces of people passing me were filled with purpose, and it occurred to me everyone there was looking for the same thing: physical health. I sensed, in the camaraderie of the patients, as well as the warmth and kindness of those serving, I was in a place of hope. I suddenly had a whole new perspective of the Mayo Clinic. I arrived with the understanding that the staff had expertise and cutting edge knowledge. I left impacted most by their team approach to health care. I observed doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, receptionists, cafeteria employees, greeters and drivers—just to name a few—both employees and volunteers, working together to meet the needs of patients. No staff member seemed more or less important than another. Each person played an important role, from physical service to team consultations. They understood the goal—and vision—and they knew their role in the mission. The team approach I observed at the Mayo Clinic caused me to consider our ministry as the Church. In 1 Corinthians 12: Paul wrote, “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ...God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:12, 18-20; 27, NLT)

As Christ’s body, we have the privilege to work together to meet the spiritual needs of the people around us. We can reflect Christ in the relationships we share with one another, exhibiting love and respect in our words and actions. A team approach allows us to share in creating goals, exercising vision, and understanding our role in Christ’s mission. It’s great to be a part of God’s team!
CFOT keepsake supports World Services

In conjunction with Booth Manor’s 100th anniversary, a commemorative, limited edition coin is available for $10. The large 1.75-inch metal coin, featuring 3-D color imagery of the mansion on the front and The Salvation Army crest on the back, is a wonderful keepsake of the Central Territory’s College for Officer Training. Each coin is individually packaged in a clear PVC pouch. Proceeds will benefit World Services/Self-Denial. You may purchase coins at the celebration weekend event or by mail (shipping extra).

CFOT keepsake supports World Services

by Major Beth Petrie

The College for Officer Training staff and cadets invite you to celebrate the centennial of the historic Booth Manor with them on April 25-26. The celebration will include a variety of opportunities for visitors to enjoy the building and grounds.

For 100 years the distinctive red brick mansion has stood watch at the corner of Addison and Broadway in Chicago’s Lakeview neighborhood. It was built as a single-family home in 1914 for shoe manufacturer Joseph E. Tilt by Holabird and Roche, the same architects responsible for the original Soldier Field. At that time, the manse had 14 bedrooms (each with en suite and walk-in closet), 17 fireplaces, a library, a ballroom, a billiard room, a wine cellar and a gym! It boasted a live-in staff which included three maids, a laundress, butler, chauffeur, gardener and helper, all to meet the needs of the Tilt family of five.

The Salvation Army bought the property in 1920 to house the training garrison for cadets. In the 90-plus years the Army has owned Booth Manor, 7,267 officers have been trained within its walls (not including the present sessions).

Booth Manor is used on a daily basis for its class-rooms, library, administrative offices, cadet lounge, meeting and rehearsal space. Incidentally, just a few blocks down the street, Wrigley Field also is marking 100 years that same week.

Tours will be offered on Friday from 5:00–8:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. At stops along the tour, cadets and staff dressed in various period garb will bring history to life as they share about unique architectural features and key historical Army uses of the different rooms. Live music and punch will greet guests in the main parlor as they prepare to explore the manse. Guests also will be invited to tour the recently remodeled Mumford Dining Hall where fancy sweet treats will be available for purchase.

Tickets cost $5 and include a historical booklet/guide. Tour times may be reserved by calling 773-824-2000 or we’ll link you through Get Connected.

Children age 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult, and those under age 5 are free. Public transportation is located nearby, and free parking is available for up to two hours. There is limited handicapped accessibility in portions of the mansion.

All proceeds will go to World Services/Self-Denial.
New Spiritual and Psychological First Aid course launched

A new two-day course has been added to the disaster-crisis response training for emotional and spiritual care. The course, titled Spiritual and Psychological First Aid (SPFA), was initially developed as part of the doctoral research project written by Kevin Ellers, territorial disaster services coordinator. Portions of it were adapted for the Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disasters (ESCID) course which has been a part of the National Disaster Training Program since 2005 and has become an international curriculum which is used by a number of partner organizations as well.

While the Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disasters course focuses on ministry in a disaster setting, SPFA is broader and focuses on how to minister to people in the everyday world of trauma, loss and crisis. It begins with the parable of the good Samaritan and challenges participants to start with who steps to help who passes by—and why. The course will be a foundational course for disaster emotional and spiritual care and crisis response teams in the territory and with our disaster partner organizations.

“Too often we tend to leave ‘ministry’ to ‘clergy’. I dislike the word ‘laidy’, because I think it makes passive Christians. This was never Jesus’ model. The priesthood of believers demands that each of us minister to those around us who are in pain in our everyday world,” said Kevin.

This course was taught at Central Territorial Headquarters in March, along with a Train-the-Trainer session to expand the number of trainers. A few steps to help who passes by—and why. The course will be a foundational course for disaster emotional and spiritual care and crisis response teams in the territory and with our disaster partner organizations.

“Out of all the training offered, the SPFA course was the most beneficial. The material was presented in a very understandable way that is easy to remember and apply,” said one attendee.

“The course helped me understand that helping others is a ministry, and that I can be a part of that ministry,” said another attendee.

K-Love partnership a blessing

Jennifer Ellers, executive director of the Institute for Compassionate Care, teaches on crisis intervention.

The partnership started several years ago when K-Love Senior Pastor Mike Henderson attended a Salvation Army Emotional and Spiritual Care training given by Kevin. The K-Love pastoral care staff receives around 80,000 phone calls and 500,000 emails per year, 700 of which are suicide-related. Kevin has trained all the K-Love pastoral staff so they can be even better prepared to handle these difficult conversations.

Since Mike Novak, president of K-Love, wanted any pastor or crisis responder to be able to attend a class without monetary constraints, the partnership was formed.
Regeneration dives into realities of faith and doubt

by Jonathan Taube

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) says, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Yet following Jesus in our postmodern world necessitates occupying that mysterious place where faith and doubt intersect. Thankfully, belonging to Christ’s Body means we don’t occupy that place alone. Earlier this year more than 400 young adults gathered at Regeneration to dive past surface issues and consider together what it means to live faith in Christ in the face of real doubts.

Delegates were joined by an amazing line-up of guests. Spoken-word artist Propaganda challenged listeners with thoughtful, worshipful performances dealing with modern life and relationships. “Believe in—” the worship band for the weekend—was engaging and energetic, intentionally creating quiet, prayerful spaces in the midst of congregational worship. Both artists shared the stage for a late-night concert.

The weekend’s theme, Faith & Doubt, was established by the guest speakers. Pastor Eugene Cho of Seattle Quest Church kicked off the weekend and shared Saturday morn - ing as well. Focusing on the role of doubt in the lives of believers, Pastor Cho explored the doubts found even in the lives of Jesus’ disciples. “Doubt is not the enemy of faith,” he said. “Doubt is the reality of faith.” He encouraged delegates to let go of the worldly things that keep them from true freedom in Christ.

Major Danielle Strickland of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, took over Saturday evening and called the Church to wake up to what God is doing in our world today. She continued Sunday morn - ing by digging into the difficult truth about following Jesus. Like surfing, it may look easy, but it isn’t. Ninety percent of your time is spent wait- ing, working and swimming, but when the wave finally comes, you remember exactly why you signed up for a life of faithful service.

Delegates put their faith into action by giving more than $3,700 to the Begoro Rehabilitation Center in Ghana. That equals over 70 pieces of mobility and rehab equipment, doc - tors’ visits, and more! Many also chose to participate in Feedback, a video interview series during the weekend where friends were encour- aged to share personally about the intersection of faith and doubt in order to encourage the Body of Christ as a whole to bring those con- versations into the light.

Regeneration 2014 was a wonderful step in that direction, and the conver- sations born out of the experience should serve to continue an honest approach to the faith and doubt believers face.

To see more photos and videos from the event, visit centralyouthnetwork.com

Making faith stick

by Sharon Waiksnoris

As a result of this year’s Developing Youth Leaders (DYL) seminar, Making It Stick, 160 youth leaders have returned home better equipped, refreshed, inspired and prepared to understand and encourage our youths’ spiritual growth into lasting “sticky” faith.

Dr. Chap Clark, youth min - istry expert and author, pro - vided a wealth of informa - tion. With the sobering statistic that the Church is losing 80 percent of its kids by high school as context, his sessions, based on the book he co-authored, Sticky Faith, were met with interest. In his humorous style, Chap walked the delegates through information about the youth brain and psychosocial development and how it relates to helping set our chil - dren and teenagers on a path of life - long faith and service.

“Chap Clark brought a new per - spective to many things we as youth leaders struggle with in our min - istries,” said Major Mony Wandiling, territorial youth secretary.

Delegates were challenged to be more intentional in embracing, nur- turing and empowering their youth, and to model what it means to trust one’s whole life to Christ. Lt. Colonel Paul Smith, territorial secretary for program, echoed this sentiment, say - ing, “What makes an effective youth leader is passion and willingness to build relationships.”

Other special guests presented practical workshops on staff train - ing, camps and community centers, developing young leaders through service and missions, leading with love and logic, and The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO) program. DYL started and ended with divi - sional prayer groups and meaning - ful morning prayer time. Fun and fellowship were evident in the ener - gy of the opening of the sessions and at the nightly afterglows.

“We know it can be tough and tiring to work with kids and youth each week, but we pray the end result of young lives being molded for the Lord with a ‘sticky’ faith will keep the lead - ers moving for - ward,” said Major Anthony Wandiling, assistant territorial youth secretary.

Accessing the future at Asbury

A n excited group of 22 Salvationist high-school juniors and seniors from six divisions met at territor - ial headquarters for a trip to Asbury University in Wilmore, Ky., where they converged with dozens of other Salvationist high-school students from the three other U.S. territories for the national “Access” weekend at the non-denominational liberal arts university founded in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition.

Barb Higgins, territorial youth development specialist for ages 14-17, reported the Central’s group repre - sented the largest contingent of students from among the territories. Ethnically and culturally diverse, the Central group had a few youth who hadn’t even envisioned college as part of their futures until they were inspired and empowered during the weekend’s visit, said Barbara. The students visited classes and con - ferred with school officials, acade - mic deans and financial aid advis - ors. A few auditioned for music scholarships.

For decades The Salvation Army has invested resources in the lives of Salvationist students at Asbury through a large student center staffed by officers to pastor Salvationist students. The school’s robust Salvation Army Student Fellowship (SASF) includes a band and songsters.
Staying put

At seven years old Alexander Paguibitan went to Salvation Army day camp for the first time. Nineteen years later this Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., soldier practically lives at the corps. He tutors children in the afterschool program, co-leads the teen youth group, leads explorers, helps run the youth community center and assists the same day camp he enjoyed as a child. He does all of this while obtaining his degree in education at Oakland University. He wants to teach kindergarten.

Alexander is known among friends as the person who would give you the shirt off his back if you asked him for it.

He grew up in a Filipino Catholic family near Royal Oak. He attended Catholic school, and although he participated in Salvation Army day camp every summer, he didn’t understand the saving grace of Jesus right away. “As a Catholic, to me, religion was a class not a relationship,” Alexander said.

Going “all in” for Christ is no gamble

Young adults in our territory are stepping into leadership roles and demonstrating they’re “all in” for Jesus. Read on to learn about four of these inspiring individuals.

Seeking truth

“God has given me a strong desire for truth and understanding,” said Courtney Rose. “My desire is to know the truth, speak the truth, live according to it, and to equip others to do the same.”

Courtney’s parents, Wilmar, Minn., Corps Officers Envoy Mike and Kris Fuqua, were faithful to share the gospel and teach Courtney the ways of the Lord. “There was never a time of true wavering in my faith,” Courtney said. “God’s grace has always been with me.”

At Olivet Nazarene University in Kankakee, Ill., Courtney’s passion for understanding God’s Word developed as she majored in biblical and religious studies. Focused on her education, Courtney had no plans to marry, but God had other plans. She started writing her friend Justin Rose to encourage him when he went on a mission trip to Kenya. A romance blossomed.

“I would write a letter, and he would write 10 pages in return. That was my first indication he really liked me,” Courtney recalled. They were married last July and attend the Mayfair Community Church, Ill., Corps (Korean Corps) where Justin is the youth pastor.

Courtney has completed both her undergraduate and a master’s degree in biblical studies from Olivet and currently works there as an adjunct professor teaching Old Testament. She’d eventually like to earn a Ph.D. Her dream is to teach at the college level and have the knowledge to equip church leaders—particularly in The Salvation Army—with a richer understanding of the Bible and how to apply it within the life of the corps.

“T’m part of the Army culture, and I love the history, unique traditions and the way in which, when we see a need, it’s met,” said Courtney. “In this I feel called to be a part of the Army. I feel God continues to call me here. This is where God wants me, and this is where I want to serve.”

Karoake at a youth group Christmas party

Alexander (r) with fellow afterschool program staff Freddy Mbesi, Hannah Coakley and Ashby Rowland

With her parents, Envoy Mike and Kris Fuqua

Justin and Courtney Rose

Alexander enjoys hiking in Marquette, Mich.

Alexander teaches an Old Testament introduction class.

Currents

Courtney teaches an Old Testament introduction class.
Walking by faith

John Aho knows just about everyone on the block of his Benton Park West neighborhood in St. Louis. Take a walk with him and on any given day kids screech to a halt looking for help with their bikes, an elderly gentleman calls out for a chance to get his next haircut, and the lonely widow teeters outside for a chat. She knows if she has a need, all she has to do is ask.

This is the life of an active member of the Temple Houses, a Salvation Army incarnational ministry through the St. Louis Temple, Mo., Corps. It’s a ministry that cultivates Christianity by living where you serve. John, who soldiers at the Temple Corps and works as the Midland divisional youth development specialist, has been a part of the ministry since it started in Spring 2011.

Although the child of officers Majors Phil and Gail Aho, John’s walk hasn’t always been along the narrow path. After high school he moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., joined a band, and lived what he describes as a self-centered lifestyle. After four years, he’d had enough.

“I realized I had to do something about it,” said John. “So I offered up my whole life [to God] at that point. Since then it’s been a whirlwind of moves and opportunities. He’s led me through a lot of experiences I’d never have chosen for myself.”

John moved to Chicago and started taking college classes. From there one unique opportunity after another enriched his walk with the Lord and love for people. Starting in California and moving east, he wound up back in the Central Territory working at the Northwoods, Minn., Camp., where he learned about the Temple Houses.

“What I really like about working with the Army is that it ensures you’re going to work with people who are in need,” said John. “Some may call it the ‘front lines,’ but you’re guaranteed to show the love and support of the Church to those around you.”

Shining her light

Julianna Dobney is anything but shy. With three older brothers it’s no wonder, but she feels this part of her personality didn’t shine until a mission trip to Ghana, Africa.

“The trip taught me how to talk to anyone at any time. It forced me to,” recalled Julianna. “I decided the trip was going to be fun, and I made a point to learn and care about the people I met.”

After a taste of ministering abroad, Julianna’s appetite was whetted for serving and connecting with people. In 2009 she joined a Summer Mission Team (SMT) trip to the Philippines and again in 2010 to South America.

Julianna’s love for others continues to spread. This summer will be her sixth as a Central Bible Leadership Institute (CBLI) staff member. She has a passion for teenagers, and her primary role at camp has been as a teen counselor.

“I love doing anything that involves people. I get energized when I’m with others,” said Julianna. “At CBLI when I’m around people all day long, I could not be happier!”

Julianna grew up in a Christian home, where she attended the Port Huron, Mich., Corps with her parents and three brothers. Their family is very active in the corps. She is a senior at the University of Michigan Dearborn, studying biology and plans to apply to medical school to become a trauma surgeon.

“I want to make a difference in people’s lives in their greatest time of need,” Julianna said. “I’m not sure how much I can bring [from my faith] into the workplace, but I imagine I’ll let my light shine.”
In the almost two years since Majors Lee and Melody Morrison have been the St. Cloud, Minn., corps officers, they’ve observed a connectedness between corps growth and its emergency shelter ministry. They’ve worked hard to build healthy relationships between shelter residents and corps members—and it shows with increased Sunday attendance as well as enrollments. They’ll soon be enrolling six to seven junior and senior soldiers who were former shelter residents now living in their own homes. And, last year they enrolled 10 junior soldiers and four senior soldiers.

“We made a real concerted effort to get corps members together with shelter residents and vice versa, which has resulted in the retention of individuals and families after they’ve left the shelter,” said Major Lee. The family services staff effectively gets residents back up on their feet and equips them for successful independent living, he continued, while the congregation embraces residents into the corps family. Special attention is given to ensure any children residing with their parents in the shelter receive emotional stability and academic consistency.

The corps’ Sunday school attendance grew from an average of 15 to 40 people, and Sunday worship doubled to an average of 60 people. Even the year-round occupancy rate for the 69-bed shelter grew from an average of 60 percent to 90 percent. Major Lee said the corps has become wonderfully diverse ethnically and culturally as immigrants and minority families move here from the Twin Cities.

In addition to Sunday school, the corps offers a popular Sunday-afternoon teen ministry along with character-building programs during the week, women’s ministries and a martial art class every other week. The corps is also in the midst of a 26-week Bible study on the life of Christ that emphasizes practical applications to daily living.

Feeding programs include a Monday through Friday lunch that daily feeds more than 100 people (and many more during the summer months); 50,000 meals were served in 2013. And, the corps’ food pantry, already very much in demand by a few hundred families, saw an increase of 850 more families last year.

“The need for food around here is real,” Major Lee concluded. “You can see all the tracks in the snow leading straight to the corps from the area’s mobile home parks and low-income apartment complexes. Some people walk many blocks in -40 degree temperatures just to get a loaf of free bread.”

When the Moore brothers arrived at The Salvation Army’s shelter in St. Cloud, Minn., with their parents in July 2011, they were homeless, hoping that life could be better in Minnesota than it was in Chicago. They hoped right.

Not only did the family stabilize, but Stephen, 20, and Cerrano, 12, became volunteer dynamos, serving meals and cleaning up three times a week and on Tuesdays babysitting children living at the shelter.

The brothers started getting involved soon after the volunteer bug bit Stephen. “When we were living at the shelter, I started volunteering and thought, ‘OK, I could get used to this,’” he said. “Then I started bringing my little brother with me, started showing him the positive things.”

Both Stephen and Cerrano got involved with the corps’ strong teen/young adult groups and other ministries. Stephen has assisted with the youth programming and has participated in worship dramas and the call to worship, while Cerrano, who’s quiet by nature, is more involved behind the scenes, like learning to run the sound board on Sunday morning.

They each accepted Christ as Savior and have been enrolled as soldiers. Stephen, who is now in college, is so jazzed about The Salvation Army he hopes someday to become an officer.
Western youth dare to be disciples

by Kayla Sebastian

Dare to be like Daniel! This call was made to 65 young people during a weekend retreat at the Western Division’s Gene Eppliey Camp. The annual event, known as Youth Revolution, invites youth, ages 10-13, to come together to have fun, to connect with others and to deepen their faith.

“We wanted kids in this age bracket to have something akin to youth council,” said Captain Jolinda Shelburn, divisional youth secretary.

This year’s retreat used the Billy Graham Association’s evangelist training curriculum “Dare to Be a Daniel.” Throughout the weekend delegates learned how Daniel and his friends stood up to daunting obstacles and kept their devotion to the one true God. The five sessions focused on helping youth understand why sharing God’s Word is important and training them to be able to talk about their faith in Christ with their friends and to think on their feet.

Youth Revolution challenged the idea that spreading the Good News to children and teenagers is best done by youth leaders and other adults. The young people who attended the retreat were equipped with concrete ways to share the Gospel and their personal testimonies. Each session gave delegates a chance to build their confidence by sharing what they had learned with friends.

In addition, campers enjoyed fun and fellowship—and perhaps new experiences and challenges—at an indoor inflatable park and ice skating rink. Each evening featured structured time for Bible study and prayer, followed by a time of praise and worship.

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Meals and more

by Jackie Rachev

The CrossGenerations Corps in Blue Island, Ill., provides a full range of worship, sports and arts programs for its community, but the senior program is one of its crown jewels. The program includes exercise opportunities, classes and social outlets for the seniors in the surrounding towns.

The most popular program is the weekday lunch. For a suggested donation of just $2 seniors can enjoy homemade meals including meatloaf or beef ribs. “The food is delicious,” said Austin Morgan, 66.

During the spring, summer and fall, meals are supplemented with fresh produce grown onsite at CrossGenerations’ state-of-the-art aeroponic garden. “They have fresh salads almost every day featuring the lettuce, kale, tomatoes, chives and more that are grown right here,” said Lt. Bersabe Vera, CrossGenerations corps officer. “Many of the seniors work on the garden every week, and it is incredibly rewarding to see the product go from the garden to the plate.”

But it isn’t just the food that keeps them coming back every day; seniors are treated to a full experience. “There are linens on the table, and real plates and bowls,” said Joan Davis, 76. “And they serve us. There’s respect there. We feel important.” Lt. Vera acknowledged the importance these little details carry. “They’re family, so they should feel like they’re at home.”

Between bites, stories of the day are shared. At a recent lunch, Jerry and Judy Buerger, 76 and 70, celebrated their 50th anniversary. A brief announcement was made and congratulations shared throughout the room. At their small table, the Buergers talked about how they met, their wedding and their lives together as they shared a photo album created by their children. “There’s a sense of community here,” said Judy. “We share our joys with each other. We notice when people aren’t here, and we take care to check after them.”

After lunch some people linger at the table, talking over cups of coffee or tea, and others excuse themselves to find other activities. CrossGenerations has a fully-equipped fitness center and offers fitness classes designed specifically for seniors. There are also a number of classes for seniors including safety and security taught in conjunction with the local police department.

Army uses cutting-edge technology to feed seniors

by Alyse Chung

Seniors volunteering at the CrossGenerations Corps Community Center in Blue Island, Ill., are using cutting-edge technology to bring fresh fruits and vegetables from rooftop to table. Swiss chard, cucumbers and squash blossoms are among the crops growing in 30 new aeroponic towers.

The aeroponic rooftop garden is a food production system designed for urban farms, rooftop gardens and commercial growing. Due to its vertical design, the system is space and energy efficient. It is able to grow 44 plants per tower.

The corps’ 30 towers equal up to 10 acres of conventional farmland. The food grown in the garden is used for the Army’s free senior lunch program in which more than 250 older adults participate each week.

“This initiative is so futuristic, and it has been a wonderful way for us to involve our seniors and to invest in a way to fight hunger in our community,” said Lt. Bersabe Vera, CrossGenerations corps officer.

Joseph Martin, the garden project’s lead senior volunteer, was presented with a bouquet and sash designating him as ‘Father of the Garden’ at the grand opening ceremony.
An audacious Aussie goal

by Major Michelle Oliver

After two years of ministry at the Stafford, Australia, Corps, we set an audacious goal: to see 200 new disciples for Christ in the next five years!

We’d like to share two areas where God has been working in our corps in recent months and where we will continue to focus as part of our strategy to see this goal realized.

Street Dreams and Café Ministry

In April 2013 we commenced a hip-hop dance program in association with a new initiative of the Australia Eastern Territory called Street Dreams. This free program is offered to students between grades 3-12.

Street Dreams at the Stafford Corps began small but quickly grew through word of mouth. In addition to developing dance skills, the children learn life and relational skills and receive a short devotional.

Being aware that many parents prefer to remain on-site while their children are in class, we have opened our café during Street Dreams from 4:30-7:00 p.m. We serve drinks and light refreshments. In addition to this we have corps folk who are tasked to engage in conversations to build relationships and to connect with the younger siblings.

At a recent “Messy Church,” the Street Dreams groups performed, and nine families worshipped with us under the stars at our Christmas “Carols in the Park.” We pray these positive experiences with the corps and with Christians will be built on this year and we will see new disciples for Christ from the Street Dreams program.

Café Church

Adjectives used to describe Stafford Corps worship services usually would include “traditional” and “formal.” As a result, it can be intimidating for someone unfamiliar with the church to enter. After much prayer, we decided to break with this pattern and for the month of January (during summer holidays) run a café-style church.

Instead of meeting in the sanctuary, we met around tables in the café. Instead of a high tech “production,” it was simple. Instead of morning tea at the end, we paused in the middle for refreshments. Instead of the band and a grand piano, we plugged in a keyboard.

There was lots of congregational participation, deliberate opportunities to build relationships through table talk and opportunities to respond to the presentation of God’s Word.

Some found the month-long experiment too different and difficult, but for many it was a balm for their thirsty souls, and they invited their family and friends.

Following the January café church, we are adding a Sunday afternoon service that will reflect many of the values of café church where Christianity can be explored in a non-threatening and relaxed atmosphere. We also are returning to our regular Sunday morning worship service that is a vehicle through which many of our congregation connect with God.

As we continue to work toward our part in making 200 new disciples in the next five years we solicit your prayers:

• That both the morning and afternoon worship services will continue to grow spiritually and numerically
• That the outreach-oriented programming (mainly music, Street Dreams, karate, ESL class, quilting) will continue to be Kingdom focused
• That our internal corps giving will increase to the point that we can afford a ministry assistant
• For an added measure of God’s wisdom for my husband Deon and me.

2014 Summer Mission Teams announced

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

Brazil/Bahamas

AUDREY HICKMAN* Metropolitan Division
AMANDA TREGILLAS Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Division
CAILEB ALLEN Metropolitan Division
ELLEN KIM Metropolitan Division
PAUL KIM Metropolitan Division
KAYLA MILLER Western Division
ALEXANDER PAGUIBITA Eastern Michigan Division
NIVIA PAMETES Indiana Division
SARA RUTHBERG Metropolitan Division
BRAMWELL TURNER Eastern Michigan Division

Papua New Guinea

JUSTIN JOHNSON* Metropolitan Division
CHRISTOPHER IRVINE Indiana Division
SOMMER KOELHER Metropolitan Division
MARCY TIEROT Northern Division

Central Territory

ROBYN SHANAHAN* Midland Division
VICTORIA ALDRIDGE Metropolitan Division
SAMUEL ARIA Metropolitan Division
DOUGLAS CORNELIUS Metropolitan Division
STEPHANIE HANSEL Western Division
EDDIE KANG Metropolitan Division
CAT PEREZ Metropolitan Division
MARCANTUS GODLEY Eastern Michigan Division

* = Team Leader

Understanding Japan

Captain Christopher Marques has been serving in the youth department of the Japan Territory since February 2011. As he continues to master deeper nuances of the language, he’s also learned much about Japanese culture in effectively reaching the youth to whom he ministers.

“In Japan, hard work is valued above all else. One is expected to go all out in every aspect of life,” said the captain. “Family and free time is very limited. I try not to feel guilty when I’m sick, or if I want to use all my vacation days in a year (most people don’t).”

Creativity and doing your best is encouraged, but team work is preferred. “You’re not allowed to shine too brightly if it means others don’t feel valued or heard,” he continued. “Everyone must do their part and play some kind of role, despite who is best at what.”

Respect for elders (in age or seniority) is shown with bows and using different forms of speech and levels of volume, not only at work but when the captain is on the phone or talking with strangers. As the youngest person in his office, he’s always bowing and using polite speech, then finds it odd to have the same respect paid to him as an officer by older adults at his corps.

“It’s humbling to shift between the two roles,” said Captain Christopher. “When I’m with youth, I want them to relax. Instead of rewarding me, I’d rather lift them up and encourage them. Our open, fun atmosphere is a refuge from the expectations that press upon us all, and youth feel free to invite their friends,” he continued.

“I’ve found that as we lower ourselves and lift others up, we are lifted up in return.”

The captain enjoys helping youth with their English. They start learning it at a young age but most students don’t become functional speakers until high school. He noted there’s a shyness in speaking, however, because skilled speakers can’t show off too much lest they become spurned by their comrades at school or work.

In addition to his youth work and assisting the territorial youth secretary, Captain Christopher is involved at his corps (one of 13 in Tokyo) and in ministries at two others. He also assists in disaster situations, including the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan one month after his arrival in early 2011!
Worship should be messy!

by Captain Valerie Carr

Recently the blogger ‘I Am Totally That Mom’ wrote a post about children in church: ‘It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that their worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are enough right here and right now as members of the church community. They don’t need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly timed depending on who you ask) cries and whines are a joyful noise because it means they are present.’

Those words are a vital reminder as we aim to reach out to the families in our communities. People of all ages really do matter. As a mother of three young boys, I have a growing passion to include the youngest ship. As a parent, I want to teach my children to connect with God themselves. I want more than an excellent nursery program during morning worship service, I desire to see generations come together as a community in worship.

While serving in Europe, I came across Messy Church, a program that combines hands-on activities in a worship experience that links generations within the corps. The typical service is built around a specific theme that includes singing and a short devotional, a snack or meal, and a rotation of several activity stations that support the overarching theme for that day.

This type of service has been gaining ground in the Heartland Division. It is exciting to see God at work in the people of our faith communities. Several corps are experimenting with intergenerational services and finding them successful. Long-time soldiers are finding new ways to connect to young families and using these special Sundays as opportunities to invite neighbors to a non-threatening Sunday morning. The 90-year-old soldier gleefully glues the sequins onto her book binding, the 9-year-old next to her about the joy of living for the Lord. The single mother of four gets a chance to see the corps cares about her family as a soldier offers to carry the baby while chatting with the 4-year-old next to her about the joy of living for the Lord. The single mother of four gets a chance to see the corps cares about her family as a soldier offers to carry the baby alongside her for the morning. People get the opportunity to talk and share with others they may not talk with on a regular basis.

As I participate in a corps’ Messy Church Sunday, I am reminded of Psalm 148:12–13 (NIV): ‘Young men and young women, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord...’ The Heartland Division is working intentionally to find ways to connect generations and praise the name of the Lord together.

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to experience—something ‘meaningful’ rather than to acquire more things.”

The Bible, of course, does address the most fundamental needs of and questions from humanity. It speaks to us about the purpose of our lives. It speaks to us about our eternal future being made secure. It is only as we carefully read the Bible, as we diligently study it, as we meditate prayerfully on it, that we begin to appreciate the true fullness of life that can be ours if we will reach out and grasp it.

In the book of Acts we find an account of two apostles, Peter and John, being hauled before the Sanhedrin after they had healed a crippled man. Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, made this bold statement: “If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.’ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:9-12 NIV 1984).

There is nothing more important in this life than for us to discover the truth that indeed, “Salvation is found in no one else.” The Christian message is unique, because this message is not merely about a set of doctrines and beliefs. It is not about religion. Rather it is about the living man, Jesus Christ. We celebrate a risen Lord and Saviour. In Him alone we find peace, joy, and assurance regarding our eternal future. May this be your personal and daily experience!

General’s Easter message

Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Major Shirley Horn

Mrs. Major Shirley Horn went to be with the Lord on January 10, 2014.

Shirley was born to Burr and Bernice Powell in Eminence, Mo. She was saved at the Kansas City Temple, Mo., Corps as a teenager and testified to being sanctified two years later during a holiness meeting. Her call to officiership occurred during the commissioning of the “Heralds” session, and in 1956 after her commissioning married Captain Dale Horn, whom she had known through divisional events and camps. Their marriage was blessed with four children.

Together the Horns served corps in Illinois, Missouri, Indiana and Michigan until 1975 when they were involved in divisional appointments in Western Michigan and Northern Indiana and Indiana divisions. In 1976 they returned to corps work at Topeka, Kan., and retired from the St. Joseph, Mo., Corps in 1996.

Shirley is remembered for her drive to save the lost and as having a good mind and sound judgment. She was preceded in death by her husband andipy grandchildren. They were married in 1949 with “The Peacemakers” session. They held corps appointments in Michigan and Wisconsin before being transferred to the men’s social department (now adult rehabilitation centers), where Major Norman has cultivated his passion for serving addicted men.

Promoted to Glory

Maj. Norman Nonnweiler

On January 3, 2014, Maj. Norman Nonnweiler was promoted to Glory.

Norman married the love of his life, Glady’s Grunow, on July 10, 1942, and their marriage was blessed with four children.

After returning from World War II, Nonnweiler entered training with Glady’s in 1944. They were commissioned in 1949 with “The Peacemakers’ session. They held corps appointments in Michigan and Wisconsin before being transferred to the men’s social department (now adult rehabilitation centers), where Major Norman has cultivated his passion for serving addicted men.

Appointments in the men’s social ranged across the territory, including Kansas City, Mo., where he started the first public funded non-medical detoxification center in the nation and was the first administrator to admit women directly. The major had numerous professional accreditations and in 1969 received a bachelor of business administration and directed the Alcoholism Therapist Training Program in the Central Territory.

The Nonnweilers retired to Florida in 1986, but continued to temporarily take up responsibilities in adult rehabilitation centers where called upon.

The major was preceded in death by his wife and son, Don. He is survived by children, Major Norman Nonnweiler, Helen Mihelnik and Rob, and six grandchildren.