**Have we seen the light?**

*by General André Cox*

In the world today we often see people choosing to ignore the true meaning of the Christmas message. For many it is a very busy time of the year, with so many activities to rush between. Countless demands and pressures seem to be placed upon us, with a myriad of preparations to make. Within self-gratifying materialistic and consumer-driven societies many, sadly, will be caught on the many material things many of us take for granted. The 17th-century English poet and cleric, John Donne, famously and correctly noted: "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of man. Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls: it tolls for thee." [Meditation #17 from Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions].

How easy it can be to pursue our own selfish pleasures while ignoring the plight of more than a quarter of the world’s population. We hear there are about 2.4 billion people living on less than $2 U.S. per day with another 1.1 million or so forced to live on less than $1 a day. If you have ever tried to live on that amount of money, you will know what a monumental struggle it is. The reality is, of course, that a very significant proportion of the world’s population have to because, through no fault of their own, they have limited choices and opportunities.

We cannot remain unmoved or indifferent, and rightly are reminded: “We may be the only means that God has of touching people around us with his love, of relating to them his Word, of enabling them to discover his saving grace” (taken from Jesus Now by Leslie Brandt). That is what Christ wants to do in and through you and me. In realizing this deeper meaning, we are freed from focusing on our own wants and liberated to open our hearts to others who need to experience the beautiful message of Christmas through a kind and selfless gesture.

I do sometimes wonder how history will judge our generation. Most of us receive a better education than our forebears and have far more wealth and resources than at any time in human history. Yet the pain, suffering and deprivation of so many people continue to grow unchecked. If parochial and selfish ambitions continue to be relentlessly pursued, our generation will be remembered not for any significant achievements but instead for greed. Let us never forget, therefore, that Christmas is far more than bright lights, parties, shopping and concerts!

More than 2,000 years ago, angels proclaimed the birth of a Saviour who would bring great joy for all the world. The reality was, of course, that when Jesus came, there was no room in the inn. As a result, the Saviour of the world was born in most humble surroundings.

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**Join Salvationists worldwide in reading the Bible**

*by Major Curtiss Hartley*

A challenge from General André Cox gives every Salvationist in the Central Territory the opportunity to join with the whole Army world in reading through the New Testament in 2015. Salvationists who sign up and commit to the weekly readings not only will receive a reading schedule and study questions but also a free English or Spanish Bible.

Just as countless Salvationists around the globe joined in Boundless…The Whole World Praying earlier this year, it is hoped they will participate in Boundless…The Whole World Reading, which begins January 5, 2015.

“We pray this initiative generates excitement and enthusiasm across the territory for reading God’s Word. I’m going to participate in the Bible reading challenge and hope you’ll join me, said Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, Central territorial commander.

According to Lt. Colonel Paul Smith, territorial secretary for program, the Bible reading challenge is intended to be easy and flexible to fit all needs. Boundless…The Whole World Reading may be used as an individual Bible reading program or in small groups in corps or centers. In order for the New Testament to be read from beginning to end, the program will cover five chapters of scripture each week. Receiving an age-appropriate Bible, children who participate will have one weekly reading and a simple activity based on the same chapters being read by adults. A printed study booklet outlining the reading plan will be available in English, Spanish, Korean, French and Portuguese. Additional commentaries and expanded resources will be available online through a dedicated website. Since congregations have different needs, they may also utilize additional local resources that would work best for their situations.

The Bible for participants in the Central Territory will be a gift from Territorial Headquarters. “We hope Salvationists will take their Bible to Sunday morning meetings and Bible
Christmas wrappings

by Lt. Colonel Richard Amick
Secretary for Business Administration

A cartoon in the newspaper at Christmas a few years ago depicted a lady wrapping a gift. In the first cell she placed the box carefully on the paper. In the second, she folded attractive paper around the box, and in the third, she tied an elaborate bow. In the fourth, she held the wrapped box aloft with pride, while the gift sat on the table! No caption was needed. Even a child could see what had gone wrong. She was so engrossed in the wrappings, she’d overlooked the gift!

It seems all too common at Christmas. We can become so involved in activities, purchasing presents, kettles, sending cards, kettles, planning festivities, kettles, toy shop, kettles, clothing and food distribution—did I mention kettles?—that the greatest Christmas gift, JESUS, is left out of our thoughts.

Have you considered the wrappings in which God presented His gift, His Son, to the world? They were simple, indeed. While the best room in the inn had been secured by those possessing the wrappings of power, prestige and wealth, God chose the common wrappings of a stable, straw and animals. Perhaps it was so the less fortunate and neglect-ed could feel a kinship with Him.

This is the first year my wife and I celebrate Christmas as grandparents. Watching our granddaughter, Avery, smile and laugh lights up the room and brings us joy. We don’t care about the gifts around the tree, and the wrappings of life fade. We rejoice in the gift of life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NIV). So many people are caught up in the wrappings of Christmas. Tragically, they do not know or they neglect the holiday’s significance. They celebrate and live by a calendar that marks time by Jesus’ birth, yet do not know Him. What about your Christmas wrappings? Have you discovered God’s gift or are you simply caught up in the wrappings?

Boundless reading

It’s hoped as this wave of Bible reading sweeps across the Army world throughout our 150th anniversary year that God will speak to us individually and corporately.

Yes, I want to join other Salvationists in the Boundless…The Whole World Reading International Bible Reading Challenge.

I commit to reading through the New Testament in 2015.

Please sign me up and send my free Bible, ☐ English ☐ Spanish, the reading schedule and study questions to:

Name
Address
Corps
Email

Send to: Major Carol Wurtz, Corps Mission and Adult Ministries Department, The Salvation Army, 10 W. Algonquin Rd., Des Plaines, Ill. 60016

Fax: 847/294-2114 Email: USC_CMAM@usc.salvationarmy.org

Strussels saluted for service

General André Cox presents retirement certificates to Colonels Dennis and Sharon Strissel. Also, pictured their daughter, Sherry Blees, and son, Captain Scott Strissel, and Major Roger Ross (flagbearer).

by Captain Scott Strissel

The phrase “they fought the good fight” epitomizes the service of Colonels Dennis and Sharon Strissel. In their more than 46 years of officership, they have served the Lord around the world, touching lives and reaching souls for God’s Kingdom.

This fall at the ‘Dream’ Congress in Detroit, General André Cox presented the Strissels their official retirement certificates and offered his gratitude both as a personal friend and longtime colleague.

Dennis and Sharon each entered training as single cadets and were commissioned in 1974 with the “Followers of Christ” session. After separate appointments as assistant corps officers in Nebraska, they were married and held two more appointments in the Western Division before being appointed to the Southern Africa Territory. They served on the Island of St. Helena, one of the most remote appointments in the world, and then in Krugersdorp and Cape Town.

After being transferred back to the Central, they served at three more corps but primarily at divisional headquarters and led both the Indiana and Midland divisions. Subsequently, they were the territorial leaders in the Ghana Territory and, as such, had the honor of participating in the High Council in 2011. Returning to the States, they led the Eastern Michigan Division, the appointments from which they retire.

Though their list of appointments is impressive, the Strissels are known for their servant leadership and investing themselves in the lives of others. The Salvation Army is better because of them.
Detroit’s Own Santa and Mrs. Claus

On Christmas Eve morning Mike and Gerri Buckles rise early to meet with a jaunty crew of friends and family outside of the Harbor Light in Detroit, Mich. Santa hats donned, they arrive with 550 bags full of warm clothes, toys, toiletries and food, which they’ve crammed into two trucks and an SUV. The trucks join up with the Bed and Bread Club® program to serve the hungry and homeless.

Along the route as they give out the bags, they see familiar faces. Near fading Hotel Yorba, a deaf man thanks them by raising his hands skyward and bringing them down over his heart. In another part of town, a small boy asks Mike, “Are you Santa Claus?” while well-mannered girls, who’ve waited patiently, trudge home with their bags like soldiers.

The route ends at a neighborhood warming center, where the final bags are distributed or placed on a Salvation Army truck to be distributed on Christmas morning. After a group of men raise their hot chocolate in a merry salute, the Buckles crew heads home cold, bone-tired and grateful.

Christmas Eve morning in the Buckles’ home has started this way for almost 20 years. Now empty nesters, they began this tradition when their children were teenagers.

“Vincent, our oldest who was 16 at the time, said he wanted to go where the homeless people are at Christmas,” Gerri recalled. “We were members of the Bed and Bread Club®, so we started riding along on the truck.”

After volunteering a few years, the Buckles saw there was a greater need, so they brought hats and gloves and eventually came up with a list long enough to fill a bag for each person.

Now the distribution is a year-long journey, which starts by collecting duffel bags and backpacks. Gerri has arranged for companies, some as far as Chicago, to donate goods. She also emails friends and family who collect items all year. December is a flurry of buying, collecting, organizing and bagging.

Virtually endless Angels

More companies than ever in Wichita, Kan., and Kansas City, Mo., are supporting The Salvation Army’s virtual Angel Tree program thanks to Koch Industries, which invested time and resources to create an online system to inventory, designate and donate gifts for children at Christmas.

The virtual Angel Tree system enables employees to access a registration form through their company’s intranet, which is tailored to their organization. All of the beneficiary information (previously uploaded) is easily filtered by age, gender and gift-type. So, with just a few clicks employees can select their Angel Tree recipient or make a donation payable by credit card.

Within minutes of making a selection, employees receive an email summarizing gift details, due date and drop-off location. The email also includes an angel tag to cut out and turn in with the gift.

Last year in these two cities 82 companies and two universities participated, and 3,347 gifts were distributed. In Kansas City, Mo., 12 new companies joined in because of the easy process.

The idea originated with Koch Industries, which had been taking over 1,000 angel tags every year for their employees but wanted more. Immediately after implementing the new system the company saw an increase in participation.

A healthy dose of delight

This month employees from MedAssets, a health care performance improvement company, will once again converge on 17 area senior care homes to share gifts and Christmas cheer with over 1,400 people. They’re volunteering with the Cape Girardeau, Mo., Corps which supplies War Cry magazines and small gifts for the MedAssets employees to distribute.

Along with additional gifts donated by MedAssets employees, the teams distribute colorful works of art made by area elementary school students, handwritten Christmas cards, and a gift basket for the home to share or use as a prize.

“It was a day full of joy and tears,” recalled Julie Cook, MedAssets V.P. client executive, who organizes the event and has joined the local Salvation Army advisory board. During the corps’ awards dinner this year, Julie was presented with the Christmas Star Award.

MedAssets grants each of its employees 40 hours a year toward “heart and soul days,” which, in turn, has resulted in over a decade of volunteering with the Cape Girardeau Corps, not just at Christmas but year-round.

“As a result of working with MedAssets, we’ve had more exposure in the community and more people interested in The Salvation Army,” said Corps Officer Captain Ronnie Amick.

Refuel: a gathering for youth leaders

February 10-13, 2015

Wonderland Camp & Conference Center

Featuring Jim Burns, President of HomeWord Ministries

Eligible delegates: all paid and volunteer corps youth leaders, divisional youth secretaries, divisional camp staff and corps officers

Cost: $100 per leader Register online www.centralyouthnetwork.com

Don’t miss out on the fun, fellowship and inspiration!
Women get fit with new ideas and initiatives

by Major Lesa Davis

Women’s ministries leaders and potential leaders met at Camp Wonderland this fall to "Get Fit" in mind, body and soul. Welcoming the 451 conference delegates, Colonel Dorothy Smith, territorial women’s ministries secretary, urged them to be refreshed and to explore creative ways to minister in their local settings.

The opening session’s aerobic flash mob-style presentation of "You’re an overcomer" set the tone for an energetic weekend. Three "girlfriends" (Major Barbara Carroll, Capt. Dana Cook and Lt. Marisa McCluer) from the Kansas and Western Missouri Division added to the fun and challenged delegates in their quest to get fit. Colonel Smith reminded delegates the conference was designed to go beyond the cultural view of fitness. "We are not here for a makeover," she said. "We are here to be transformed by Jesus Christ."

The Halau Hula Ka Le" ("The Lei of the Lord") hula group from the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division brought a graceful, tropical feel to united meetings through traditional Hawaiian songs and contemporary praise music. Worship also was enhanced by a praise team led by Cadet Heidi Strand and supported by an all-woman praise band. The territorial drama group, Bill Booth Theater Company, made several appearances adding their unique contribution to united sessions.

Mindy Caliguire, founder of Soul Care (a spiritual formation ministry), helped delegates zero in on fitness of mind, body and soul in three dynamic teaching sessions. "The mind follows what the will decides. Learn to set your mind on God," she urged. With practical examples and challenging illustrations, Mindy encouraged delegates to take care of their bodies as well. In her final session, she reminded delegates God is always present and inviting them into a deeper relationship with Himself. Her invitation to women as they entered a time of commitment and prayer was simply to be open and let God do His transforming work. Many chose to do just that. The altar was lined again and again with women seeking renewal, while others prayed individually and in groups around the chapel.

In addition to united meetings, delegates had dozens of other activities to choose from during the conference. Interactive activities included chick flicks, fitness options like Zumba and a daily walking workout, geocaching, board and video games and crafting.
Photos by Major Cheryl Hobkins, Major Lee Ann Thompson and Captain Leticia Crowell

Café Connect provided a place for conversation, community and custom-blended coffee drinks. Broadway-style karaoke invited delegates to take to the stage and sing their hearts out, while a campfire offered s’mores and stargazing. A dedicated prayer room also was available and utilized by many.

More than 40 workshops helped women leaders explore topics such as social media in ministry, spiritual warfare, clean eating, women’s ministries fundraising, and biblical womanhood. Delegates were invited to explore new ideas for their ministries such as mentoring, prayer walking and journaling. In addition to workshops, a Pinterest-themed exhibit hall offered dozens of practical ideas for creative programming and activities. Live demonstrations and hands-on exhibits helped delegates explore different kinds of crafting, crockpot cooking, upcycling (repurposing) old t-shirts and a variety of life hacks (tips) designed to make life a little simpler and a whole lot easier.

During the weekend a boutique provided by the Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command proved popular. Stocked and restocked throughout the conference, the store offered high-end clothing and accessories, along with household items, books and miscellaneous treasures for shoppers who supported World Services/Self-Denial through their purchases. Along with funds raised at the weekend thrift store, each division and command was given $500 seed money prior to the conference and asked to use it to raise more funds for a water tank project in Papua New Guinea. Major Miriam Gorton led an exciting meeting in which a total over $50,000 was announced.

On Sunday morning Commissioner Carol Siler, territorial president of women’s ministries, challenged the women to explore the dual aspect of the “body of Christ,” the church as temple of God, as well as the individual who is part of the “body of Christ” (1 Cor. 3:10-23). “Our health and fitness as part of the ‘body’ impacts the health and fitness of the church as each of us can have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit,” she said. She went on to describe spiritual life as a marathon, not a sprint. “We are preparing for mile 20 of the spiritual marathon, it’s not just a weekend event,” said the commissioner in a challenge for delegates to develop a thriving endurance in their walk of faith.

Lt. Colonel Rebecca Sjögren, assistant territorial secretary for women’s ministries and conference director, concluded, “The conference will be a springboard for local and divisional leaders to initiate fresh ideas through vision, passion and renewed energy.”
A celebration of ministry marked the retirement of Colonels William and Susan Harfoot from their positions as national chief secretary and national secretary for women’s ministries and national representative for Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services, respectively. The occasion was hosted by national leaders Commissioners David and Barbara Jeffrey at National Headquarters.

Other participants of note were: Commissioners Ken and Joy Baillie, Commissioners James and Dorothy Smith, Lt. Colonel Richard Vander Weele, Majors Miriam Gerton, Evie Diaz, Steve and Morag Yoder, and Ray Cooper.

In presenting their retirement certificates, the national commander described the Harfoots as “a perfect couple who love the Lord, love the Army and love people.”

Bill attended Tyndale Bible College, St. John’s Provincial Seminary, Northern Baptist Seminary and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He earned a master’s degree in religion from Olivet Nazarene University and completed the course work required for a master’s degree in counseling.

Together, they entered the Central Territory College for Officer Training in 1975 and were commissioned as “Companions of Christ” in 1977. They served in four corps appointments for a total of 17 years.

They were appointed to the College for Officer Training twice, five years each time. Bill was the principal from 1998-2003, and Sue the director of campus services. They served four years as divisional leaders in the Western Division and one year at Central Territorial Headquarters where Bill was territorial secretary for personnel and Sue was officer resource and development secretary.

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The Harfoots retuned to the Central Territory and reading this birth announcement on Facebook, the Harfoots were moved and reflected that this honor encapsulates what their time in PNG really had been about: relationships.

While their jobs as territorial director of support services and territorial finance secretary were critical to helping the Army fulfill its mission, what they cherish most are the people God brought into their lives, whether Oiki, an employee at headquarters, or Gerry and Queenelsa, the young tenants in Mukili.

Though they miss their new friends, the Harfoots are happy to be back home and serving in specific areas of giftedness. Curtis is currently resource development consultant in the community relations and development department at territorial headquarters, while Sandy is an auditor in the Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command.

They view these appointments as they have all their others—whether National Headquarters in Virginia, a corps in La Crosse, Wis., or territorial headquarters in PNG—God-ordained. It is where He would have them for the moment, where they are investing themselves fully and trusting Him for the future.

“Some might call it a simple-minded faith,” said Curtis, “but it’s always been easy for me to trust God.”

Colons William and Susan Harfoot (center) with Majors Steve and Morag Yoder and Majors Miriam and David Gurton.
January Prayer Calendar

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!

My Prayer List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Bible Reading</th>
<th>Pray for The Salvation Army</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1 Thursday</td>
<td>Genesis 1-3</td>
<td>Manafort, Mfrn., Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Friday</td>
<td>Joshua 1-5</td>
<td>Mitchell, S.D., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Saturday</td>
<td>Psalms 1-2</td>
<td>LaPorte, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Sunday</td>
<td>Job 1-2</td>
<td>Menasha Fox Cities, Wls., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Monday</td>
<td>Isaiah 1-6</td>
<td>Captain Sergei Kachnov &amp; Tatiana Kachanova (Canada)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Tuesday</td>
<td>Matthew 1-2</td>
<td>Southeast, Mich., ARG*</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Wednesday</td>
<td>Romans 1-2</td>
<td>Mt. Clemens, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Thursday</td>
<td>Genesis 4-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Saturday</td>
<td>Psalms 3-5</td>
<td>Northern DHO**</td>
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<td>11 Sunday</td>
<td>Job 3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Monday</td>
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<td>Elm, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Tuesday</td>
<td>Matthew 3-4</td>
<td>Mt. Clemens, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Wednesday</td>
<td>Romans 3-4</td>
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<td>17 Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Monday</td>
<td>Isaiah 12-17</td>
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<td>20 Tuesday</td>
<td>Matthew 9-7</td>
<td>Grand Rapids Kroc Center, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Wednesday</td>
<td>Romans 9-6</td>
<td>India Southeast Territory***</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Thursday</td>
<td>Genesis 12-15</td>
<td>National Advisory Board meeting in Jackson, Miss.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Friday</td>
<td>Joshua 16-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Saturday</td>
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<td>25 Sunday</td>
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<td>27 Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Wednesday</td>
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<td>Genesis 16-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Friday</td>
<td>Joshua 21-24</td>
<td>O’Fallon, Mo., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Saturday</td>
<td>Psalms 12-14</td>
<td>Minneapolis Parkview, Mfrn., Corps</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Pray for:

- The Salvation Army
- Mankato, Minn., Corps
- Mitchell, S.D., Corps
- LaPorte, Ind., Corps
- Menasha Fox Cities, Wls., Corps
- Captain Sergei Kachnov & Tatiana Kachanova (Canada)
- Southeast, Mich., ARG*
- Mt. Clemens, Mich., Corps
- Mobile Heritage Temple, Ind., Corps
- Logansport, Ind., Corps
- Northern DHO**
- Manhattan, Kan., Corps
- Elm, Ind., Corps
- Mt. Clemens, Ind., Corps
- Minneapolis Central, Mfrn., Corps
- Boundless International Congress in July
- Newton, Iowa, Corps
- Ludington, Mich., Corps
- Cultural Awareness Sunday
- Minneapolis Central, Ind., Corps
- Grand Rapids Kroc Center, Mich., Corps
- India Southeast Territory***
- National Advisory Board meeting in Jackson, Miss.
- St. Louis, Mo., ARG*
- Owosso Citadel, Mich., Corps
- New souls for Christ this Decision Sunday
- Muscatine, Iowa, Corps
- Madison, Ind., Corps
- Oshio, Kan., Corps
- Evanston, Ind., Corps
- O’Fallon, Mo., Corps
- Minneapolis Parkview, Mfrn., Corps

---Mustard Seeds---

CAPTAIN. OF COURSE, IT'S A BLESSING TO HAVE THE KIDS SINGING, BUT COULDN'T YOU FIT IN A "JOY TO THE WORLD" OR "SILENT NIGHT" ONCE IN AWHILE?

GRANDMA GOT RUN OVER BY A REINDEER.
Going beyond

Going “Beyond” is exactly what the Central territorial multicultural ministries department did in developing the 2015 Cultural Awareness Week materials for all four U.S. territories.

The theme represents three challenges of multicultural ministries: crossing boundaries, embracing others. The scripture passage supporting the theme is 2 Corinthians 10:15-16 regarding the expansion of the gospel message to the world.

“It was a real team effort,” said Capt. Enrique Azuaje, multicultural ministries secretary, of his department. In addition, a video highlighting Asian ministries was developed in conjunction with the territorial visual communications section. The Cultural Awareness Week materials are available in English and Spanish and are suitable for extended use throughout the year with suggestions for community outreaches, worship outlines, sermons, dramas, PowerPoint presentations, song suggestions, activities and multiple other resources. The Beyond posters are available in four additional languages: Filipino, Korean, Lao and Russian.

Many groups, schools and volunteers team up with The Salvation Army at Christmas to help others and spread Christmas cheer. Here are two unique groups in Milwaukee.

Elves from overseas

This year elves descended on The Salvation Army’s Milwaukee, Wis., Distribution Center to help sort toys that came in after Christmas last year. Volunteers from as far away as China, the Philippines, Italy and Austria donated an afternoon to help the Army “Do the Most Good.”

This enthusiastic group was actually a human resources team from Johnson Controls, a global technology and industrial leader, which took time away from meetings to give back to the community. They connected with the Army through Milwaukee County Advisory Board member Linda Chapin, vice president of human resources for Johnson Controls in Milwaukee.

After sorting toys by gender and age for this year’s Christmas toy distribution, they assembled snack bags and wrote 700 personalized letters for children at the Milwaukee Emergency Lodge. When the children had their evening snack they were thrilled to receive a special card to pin on their bulletin board from another country saying someone cares.

“There was great teamwork and a sense of pride,” said Joy Cony, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan volunteer coordinator.

“Everyone was happy—the volunteers, The Salvation Army and our kids. It was a win-win-win!”

Kids to kids

For the last nine years children across the greater Milwaukee metropolitan area and southeastern Wisconsin have been helping to bring Christmas cheer to other children through the Kids2Kids Christmas Toy Drive. More than 50 schools participate, and the toys are donated to the Milwaukee Salvation Army Christmas Toy Shop.

Kids2Kids was the brainchild of News Radio 620 WTMJ’s Jonathan Green who reached out to Jim Kacmarcik, president of Grafton, Wis.-based Kapco Metal Stamping, Inc. He is another driving force behind it. Not only does he promote the event, he hosts a winter festival at the Kapco corporate offices called “Christmas at Kapco” to encourage public participation.

“The goal is to increase the number of toys collected every year,” said Faith Colas, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divisional community relations director. “Last year schools donated more than 20,000 toys, and this year Kapco would like to collect even more!”

Spreading Christmas cheer

New Members

July - September 2014

89 Senior Soldiers
138 Adherents
208 Junior Soldiers

Promoted to Glory

Brigadier Barbara Vogelgesang

Brigadier Barbara Vogelgesang was promoted to Glory on September 21, 2014, just one day after she turned 93.

Barbara was born to Arthur and Francis Vogelgesang in Chicago, Ill. After graduating from high school in Huron S.D., she entered training and was commissioned in 1941 with the “Crusaders” session. During her first 19 years of officership, she served at corps across five states. In 1960 she joined the correctional services staff at territorial headquarters (THQ) in Chicago where, in addition to her regular duties, she revised the Bible correspondence courses to prisoners. During her tenure at THQ she earned a bachelor’s degree in the administration of justice. Following this she served as divisional director of corrections in the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan and the Kansas and Western Missouri divisions.

Barbara retired in 1983 but continued in correctional ministries as the Protestant chaplain for Texas for about three years and then assisted the prison school system as a substitute teacher until age 75. She is survived by a brother and many cousins and friends.