New help for corps ministry leaders

Drawing on decades of experience by numerous people, the territorial corps mission and adult ministries department, led by Major Joseph Wheeler, has just published and distributed a new manual called Corps Ministry Position Descriptions (CMPD). It is hoped this will help corps ministry leaders to best apply their spiritual gifts, making ministry even more effective.

David Tooley, territorial discipleship and leadership consultant, was tasked with compiling, merging, refining and updating job descriptions which have been utilized by more than 50 officers, such as Majors Lloyd Hanton, Randy and Kathleen Hellstrom, to help local officers understand their ministry roles. The manual not only outlines the responsibilities of each local officer position but also the skills and passions that bring balance in fulfilling each ministry role.

God has blessed each of us as believers with spiritual gifts to build His Kingdom and bring glory to the Father. Christians have passions, skills and gifts but may not know how to put these together to find the area of service that results in powerful ministry and spiritual satisfaction. Network, produced by Willow Creek Community Church, is a spiritual gifts training program. This tool will be used to supplement CMPD and is being provided to each division.

The corps mission and adult ministry department hopes the manual and tools will help increase the number of commissioned local officers by 10 percent, as well as the number of spiritual gifts seminars and there by local officers who identify their giftedness and areas of service, and the number of hours served by local officers.

Additional copies of the manual are available through Resource Connection for $13.95. In addition, a Lotus Notes database is being developed. Once the database is available a posting and link will be placed on

I’ll Fight Day goes international

Approximately 500 Salvation Army youth throughout the United States, Canada and around the globe committed December 6, 2008, to serve others—no strings attached. What spurred the youth on in this outpouring of generosity? A program in the Central Territory pioneered by Eric Himes, territorial director of young adult ministries, called ‘I’ll Fight Day.’

Originally implemented in 2006 in the Metropolitan Division, ‘I’ll Fight Day’ is an afternoon dedicated to servant evangelism; an opportunity to surprise people with God’s love through service. Whether executed by wrapping Christmas presents, serving hot chocolate, raking leaves or bagging groceries, this project aims to empower young people, motivating them to take initiative in sharing God’s love and the gospel by serving others.

Inspired by the words of Paul in 2 Timothy to “…do the work of an evangelist” the purpose of this project is.

I’ll Fight Day goes international

Continued on page 2

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Continued on page 11
Challenges and opportunities for a new year

by Major James Nauta
Secretary for Personnel

As we begin a new year, each of us in our corps and personal lives face unique challenges and opportunities and may, at times, feel overwhelmed. Although we are called to be a light to our world, some of us have to work hard not to burn out.

We won’t burn out if we understand the truth of Zechariah 4. Zechariah sees a vision of a golden lamp stand and olive trees. The two olive trees supplied oil to a bowl that fueled seven lamps on a golden lamp stand. The light represents the reflection of God’s glory in the consecration and holy service of His people made possible only by His Spirit. This enabling power equips and sustains Zerubbabel (governor) and Joshua (priest) in rebuilding the Temple.

The reality behind this symbolism can encourage us in our corps and personal ministry. We are not the source of light. We can only receive the oil of the Holy Spirit that fuels the living flame He produces.

In our service to God, if we are to be effective—and avoid burnout—we must learn to yield our lives to the Holy Spirit. This comes only through continual fellowship with Christ. For many of us, daily devotions are crowded out by the urgent currents. If we are to be light to those in our circle of influence, we must draw from the hidden resources of the indwelling Spirit.

It needs to be said again and again. It is not what we do for the Lord, but what He does through us that enlightens and enlivens others.

Case of the missing Booths

It’s a mystery worthy of an Agatha Christie novel.

Famed sculptor, C.S. Pietro, well known in East Coast high-society circles in the early 1900s for his lavish New York City studio receptions and elegant dinner parties, had built a reputation for himself as an artisan to the “stars”—the movers and shakers of the era, such as the Vanderbilts and Morgans.

The Andy Warhol of his day, Pietro received commissions right and left to produce life-study sculptures of the rich and famous, their families and their favorite “celebrities,” such as naturalist John Burroughs.

Evangeline Booth, the beloved daughter of Salvation Army founder William Booth, had become a darling among the New York celebrity set, said Major Florence Moffitt, assistant director of the Central Territorial Historical Museum. A guest at several of Pietro’s events, she commissioned the life-sized, head and shoulders sculpture of her father and ordered five castings of it in bronze. One of the striking busts is on display at International Headquarters in London, England; one is at the Central Territory College for Officer Training in Chicago, Ill., and one is secure in a New York Salvation Army facility.

The whereabouts of the remaining two are unknown.

The plot thickens…

A clipping from an April 1916 issue of the New York Times reports a massive fire in Pietro’s studio destroyed not only many of his own works but several from other prominent artists—including Louis Tiffany—loaned to him for an exhibition he was about to stage. In the long list of lost artworks were “a bronze bust of J.P. Morgan” and a “sculpture of William Booth.” If the original sculpture was destroyed, the bronze busts might live on; however, foundry records from the castings are lost.

The fire at Pietro’s studio, the immense loss to the New York City art world and the damage to Pietro’s business and reputation may have led to his premature death two years later at age 32.

The plot thickens…

As more people increase their sensitivity to the Spirit’s leading and partner in mission we foresee a readiness and willingness to answer the call for leadership and officership,” said Major Wheeler.

If you haven’t already found your place of service, see your corps officer.

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Is this life-sized bronze bust of William Booth being proudly displayed somewhere in your building?

Or is he hiding in your basement, a remote closet or storage area?

In the early 1900s, five bronze busts of William Booth were cast by a famous sculptor. Three are safe; two have mysteriously disappeared! See accompanying story.

The hunt is on! If you have any information, please contact the territorial historical museum.

847/294-2130
florence_moffitt@usc.salvationarmy.org

Central Connection

THE SALVATION ARMY
10 W. Algonquin Road • Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
847/294-2000
Florence Moffitt, Staff C. Swanson
Territorial Commander
Julie Johnston
Community Relations and Development Secretary
Elizabeth Kreide
Editorial Director
Karen Urban
Editor/Writer
Miretta Murschel
Communications Specialist
Terri Caussew
Circulation Manager
Kenneth Romm
Graphic Design and Production
Visit our website—
www.usc.salvationarmy.org
1-800-SALARMY

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Background on Belgium
Short William Booth bio

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Cadet Jonathan Cooper. “It represented a new beginning for the soldier and for the Army. I was blessed to have this experience, and it has only further fueled my passion for the calling that God has given me.”

Many times senior soldiers will come from corps cadets or junior soldiers. “I became a soldier at the age of 14. I had been a junior soldier for four years, and I decided to take the next step in my faith,” explained Cadet Aubrey Robbins.

Realizing the importance of the junior soldier and corps cadet programs in preparing youth for the decision of becoming a senior soldier, the College for Officer Training initiated corps cadet and junior soldier brigades. The classes are conducted on campus by cadets and sponsored through the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps. Cadets are responsible to plan, organize and teach the classes, while an officer gives oversight to the practicum. This especially gives cadets who are newer to The Salvation Army first-hand opportunity to learn the programs’ purpose, how to keep track of the brigade and junior soldier lessons and how to encourage and discipline youth, while keeping youth active in programs they may have joined in their home corps.

When we ask someone to ‘Come join our army,’ it is our job to get them ready for the battle. What examples need to be set? How do you prepare someone to become a junior or senior soldier? Why is it important to engage new recruits in building God’s Kingdom?” asked Major Paul Fleeman, College for Officer Training (CFOT) principal.

Territorial and national initiatives like “Come Join Our Army” are being incorporated into the CFOT curriculum and field training so when cadets are commissioned as lieutenants they’ll be up-to-date with new programs and expectations.

Corps have been asked that during field training cadets be allowed to participate in, as well as teach, senior soldier recruits classes. In some instances, cadets even have been given the privilege of enrolling new soldiers.

“Enrolling a soldier had great impact on my cadetship,” said a soldier at the age of 14. I had been a junior soldier for four years, and I decided to take the next step in my faith,” explained Cadet Aubrey Robbins.

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Pray that:
- Cadets would be able to effectively share the gospel
- Corps membership would increase as a result
- Cadets would grow in their own faith as they share with others
- Many would receive Jesus as their personal savior
- Cadets would grow as a team
Captains William and Heather Holman, Waukegan corps officers, enroll Elizabeth, Lillian, Raven, Isabella, Angelica and Pedro as junior soldiers. Their counselor is Letitia Frogget. Brian James and Rebecca Friede, are flag bearers.

by Rebecca Friede

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Living free

The life lessons exhort ed during the Indiana divisional youth retreat weekend, themed "Die Hard and Live Free," led 90 of the 125 teens to respond at the altar. Some prayed for salvation; others for holiness. The weekend ended with teens eagerly anticipating the next division al event.

Special guest Barb Higgins, territorial youth ministries director, encouraged the youth, ages 13-18, to "die hard" to the lies and deception of Satan and "live free" in Christ, reported Captains Harold and Lisa Frost, divisional youth secretaries.

"Barb made it personal," said Lisa. "She knows what teens are dealing with in their lives. She told stories about other teens who bought into Satan’s lies about cutting, sex, drugs, alcohol, self-image, eating disorders, stealing, porn and other areas of defeat. Some of the teens had never been to camp before and hadn’t attended the Army for more than a couple of weeks."

Corps officers and youth leaders also received a great deal of encouragement from Barb as she addressed what struggles they face as well. The weekend helped corps youth leaders deepen relationships with their teens for follow-up, and encouraging notes were sent to teens from the division.

Save these dates!

You won’t want to miss any of these exciting youth events. Plan now to attend.

Urbana
December 27-31, 2009
St. Louis, Mo.
Join with other young adult Christians for this powerful student missions conference.

RE:Fuel Territorial Children and Youth Leaders’ Training Seminar
January 29-31, 2010
Camp Wonderland
Unite with leaders from around the territory to learn the newest and best practices and programming techniques for children and youth ministries.

Jamboree
July 12-18, 2010
Northwoods Camp and Retreat Center, Finlayson, Minn.
Join in a wonderful camping experience for girl guards, Boy Scouts and adventure corps rangers and their leaders.

Waukegan youth programs flourish

I t started with a garage band of four. The Waukegan, Ill., Corps had recently moved to its new building. We had new officers, and we were trying to reach out to new people. One of our soldiers opened up her garage for a midweek band practice and Sunday School lesson. From there we started junior soldiers, and our group grew to a dozen or so kids.

We started a junior band which grew to a couple dozen kids. In January 2008 we decided that our planting wasn’t seeing much fruit, so we switched gears and started the character-building programs of sun beams, adventure corps and girl guards. The kids just started filling the building. By spring we averaged 40 kids on Thursday nights which included band, character-building programs and supper club.

In the fall the Waukegan Corps stepped it up a notch. We split our programs into two nights: Wednesdays for adults, Thursdays for youth. We added a starter band, a beginner band and moonbeams, as well as a Christian education hour which included junior soldier prep, corps cadets and Sunday School.

At the end of the six weeks of junior soldier prep lessons, 14 kids accepted Jesus and six were enrolled as junior soldiers. Now we average 60 on Thursday nights, and we are still growing. The exciting thing is we have seen several families, who came to the corps through social services, begin attending youth programs and now are joining us for Sunday morn ing worship. We hope to have another enrollment this Easter.

Grooming tomorrow’s leaders

Corps that fully utilize the corps cadets discipleship program have discovered to their delight they’ve been grooming their future leaders. Barbara Higgins, territorial youth ministries director, has been a life long proponent of corps cadets, designed for youth age 12-18. The program requires participants to engage in intense study of the Bible, Salvation Army doctrines, history and other distinctive, plus leadership, as well as performing twice-a-year practical exercises to train leaders.

Many of those corps hold a corps cadet Sunday at least once each year. On the designated territorial corps cadet Sunday last November, several officers handed the reins to their corps cadets, sat back and basked in the blessing.

Youth at the Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps planned for and successfully executed all the roles that adults normally play in Sunday worship services, from ushering and running the sound board, to leading praise, prayer and delivering the morning’s message.

A dozen corps cadets at the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps presented a themed service on various aspects of passion in worship and service, including an amazingly pow erful sermon by one of the youth.

The Aurora, Ill., corps cadets did a combined worship service for the English- and Spanish-speaking congregation and provided translations of each meeting component.

Corps cadets at the Port Huron, Mich., Corps read scripture, gave thanks for the offering and joined with the worship team. At the Bay City, Mich., Corps youth filled various ministry and music roles, as did corps cadets at the Royal Oak, Mich., and Chicago Mount Greenwood, Ill., Corps. Smiling, poised corps cadets at the St. Charles Tri-City, Ill., Corps did everything except preach.

The Flint Beecher, Mich., Corps combined its corps cadet Sunday with recognizing other youth character building programs. After the youth-led meeting, various awards and camp emblems were presented, including two Presidential Volunteer Service Awards to two corps cadet girl guards.
Celebrating soldiership

Becoming a soldier at the Kansas City Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) is a day one doesn’t soon forget. It’s a day not only for giving all the glory to God for what He’s done, it’s a day for being uplifted and affirmed by officers, mentors, family and friends.

The ARC has enrolled 48 soldiers over the last three years, reported Captains David and Peggy Hudgens, Kansas City ARC administrators; only nine have transferred to area corps. Six people—five men and one woman—were enrolled at the ARC recently: Anthony Franco, Michael Ortiz, Jr., Kenneth Taylor and David Yelton.

During the worship service, each person was individually affirmed as they signed their Soldier’s Covenant and epaulets were ceremoniously slipped onto their uniform shirts. The new soldiers stood in a prayer circle for a special blessing by the captains. The grand finale included dispensing Army flag handkerchiefs to the new soldiers, who waved them enthusiastically during the recessional song as they paraded back up the aisle.

“We have enrollments about four times a year. I think the main reason why our enrollments have been so healthy is that we simply ask the men and their families to consider soldiership,” explained David. “As these soldiers grow in their faith and get involved in ministry, they recruit others. I think that’s the best way to develop anyone in their Christian walk—put them in situations in which God can use them. It’s so life changing.”

The ARC soldiers do prison, hospital, nursing home and shut-in visits; lead group therapy and prayer sessions; assist with worship services, plan and conduct open air in the park across the street from the center and go into the neighborhood on witnessing teams. They also assist area corps with bellringing, food drives and anything else that’s needed.

“As they step out in faith and God begins to work through them personally, that brings an excitement and growth that keeps them moving.” David continued. “It’s a great privilege to serve with these men and women of God.”

Abundant testimony

It may have been a chilly Sunday morning outside the Chicago Central Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) but inside worshipers were basking in the warm glow of powerful testimonies shared by five beneficiaries who had been enrolled as adherents, reported ARC Administrators Majors Mark and Susan Anderson.

Leonardo was raised in a church-oriented environment but strayed from God as an adult and “fell for folly, doing all sorts of ungodly deeds,” he recalled. “The Salvation Army opened its doors, arms and hearts to me without question. Becoming an adherent allowed me to put my faith and belief into action by helping others and walking the walk with God in front.”

Anthony became an adherent because he loves what The Salvation Army stands for—helping others. Just as the ARC helped Anthony in his rehabilitation from substance abuse, he intends to be a good role model for beneficiaries and others struggling with abstinence through prayer and helping any way he can.

Edward described himself as a sheep that had run away from his shepherd in green pastures to nourish himself on toxic substances. Although Edward had turned his back on God for six years, he realized God had not turned His back on him. Edward surrendered his life back to Christ, conceding, “His plan has to be better than mine.”

Adherents take active leadership roles in chapel services at the ARC, such as leading testimony times, conducting prayer, taking up the offering and even bringing a devotional from time to time. Chicago Central Chaplain Major Israel Velazquez teaches the adherents class.

Indy winner

Born and bred in Indianapolis, Ind., Russell Taylor became acquainted with The Salvation Army in 1997 through the Indianapolis Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC). Homeless and a substance abuser at the time, he entered then dropped out of rehabilitation. Recognizing his need, Russell finally graduated from the program in 1999 and became a thrift store manager.

The following year he transferred to the Gary, Ind., ARC to run one of its stores. But soon after arriving in Gary, he left the store for “a better job.”

Within five years, Russell found himself homeless once more and abusing substances again. He entered the program at the Gary ARC to get the help and guidance he desperately needed. Russell finally realized God had to be his pilot and that he could only be the co-pilot.

Now abstinent, Russell believes God has called him to help other people and tell them “with God all things are possible.” He’s become reunited with his children and encourages others to “put God first no matter what the situation.”

Russell decided to become a soldier because he wanted to give back and help others the way The Salvation Army has helped him.
With a new year under way, it is time for a fresh focus to be given to The Salvation Army’s World Services fundraising. The world will know that we are Christians by our love, and this love is manifested in generosity. To help soldiers and officers better communicate that message, we are excited to introduce new World Services/Self-Denial materials and resources to be used throughout the territory. These resources include:

- Bulletin inserts, flyers, coin banks and envelopes, using the themes of faith, charity and service to emphasize God’s heart for His people and meeting their needs.
- Four “Joy to the World” DVDs, suitable for use in morning worship services and many other settings. The themes of the DVDs work along with the printed materials: Joy in Charity, Joy in Faith, Joy in Service, and an additional theme, Joy in Partnership.

The pictures and text for all of these materials will overlap so that they naturally can be used together to promote God’s love for the nations and prompt our hearts toward prayer and giving financially.

With these new materials comes an opportunity to look at our relationship with the world through different lenses. So often we do much ministry without thinking back to the reasons why. We have done it for so long it becomes routine. Yet God’s Word and promises are new every morning, and so we are able to look to His Word for fresh inspiration.

In Joy in Charity, we are reminded that the Lord is concerned with the daily needs of the poor and struggling in the world. 1 John 3:17 (NIV) says it this way: “If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?” Powerful words, yet God reminds us throughout scripture that He expects us to look after the poor.

Right now this country has many concerns and fears for our economy and safety. We have entered a time like many people have never experienced. Yet we still have so much compared to others in the world, and our generosity is needed more than ever.

An eight-year-old child brought a good perspective to my heart recently. She comes from a family of relatively modest means by American standards. When her mother asked what she might want for Christmas, she answered, “A cellphone.” (Eight years old!)

“No, you are not getting a cell phone,” the mom answered. “Well then, one of those flatscreen TVs.”

“No you are not getting a flat screen TV either,” the mom replied.

The child then said, “Well I don’t want anything then. I live a pretty blessed life.”

While tempted for a moment by the things our culture deems valuable, this child understood that where it counted, she had all that
she needed materially. Sadly we know this is not true for millions of children and adults worldwide.

Joy in Partnership shows the many people and cultures God has allowed The Salvation Army to work with as brothers and sisters in Christ. "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:3-6 [NIV].

How wonderful God gives us the opportunity to partner with Him bringing His good news to the world! Through technology we can communicate better than ever. Mission trips and hosting international guests to our conferences and camps help us to understand each other in a personal way. Such relationships require self-denial, but they bring blessings. This idea is explained further in Joy in Service where we are reminded, "...If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last and the servant of all." Mark 9:35 [NIV] These words are humbling—no matter what talents or titles we each might possess, the Lord is looking to see us on bended knee before Him, serving people He made in His image.

Service has many forms and can involve living and working abroad, but it starts with loving our neighbor—and that first means the people who live near us. We serve them by getting to know their names and affirming them as part of our community. Such service is not generally considered of much worth when we compare it to other service. Yet it is powerful enough to change the world. It is impossible, of course, to work out any of these themes without having Joy in Faith. A pure faith is like that of a child: "...I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3-4. Children are naturally joyful and playful. They will find ways to play even if the environment is filthy and one of despair. But life's difficulties can take away people's joy and shake the faith of old and young alike. Our giving in self-denial is one way we can uplift others and bring the joy of knowing Jesus as the hope of the world.

3 John 1:4 says, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in truth." As we search our hearts and allow the Lord to teach us to walk in truth, we can be certain we will be given His joy—and as a result be a part of His plan to bring Joy to the World!

*The Joy to the World DVDs are being sent to corps this month.*
Since the start of the “Come Join Our Army” initiative in the Central Territory, the Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps has enrolled 10 junior soldiers and two senior soldiers from its neighboring community of Sudanese immigrants, reported Captain Ken and Major Robin Shiels, corps officers.

Two of the Omaha Citadel’s most recent junior soldier enrollees are sisters Nyahok [I] and Nyabel Chat, pictured here with Corps Officer Pablo. “We currently have more than 50 Sudanese young people involved in corps programs,” said Ken. “These young people have embraced the Army. But, due to language and cultural barriers, we’ve found it difficult to reach their parents, older teens and young adults.”

The Shiel’s believe future leaders in the corps and community will come from these Sudanese young people, who’ve quickly assimilated in the corps and community. “We’ve identified people from the Nuer, Dinka and Arabic tribes here,” Ken continued, adding they live in absolute poverty with little motivation to improve because even the worst conditions here are better than what they experienced in Sudan. Many children exist on the one free lunch they receive each day at school.

The corps is developing social service programs to meet the unique needs of this population, translating materials into the three dialects and educating young soldiers for ministry. American and Sudanese foods are included in daily baskets and distributed at celebrations hosted by corps soldiers with Sudanese musical guests and a translator-assisted gospel message.

“We’ve found it difficult to reach their parents, older teens and young adults.”

“While our goal is to integrate the Sudanese families into regular corps programs, we invite them to join us for special celebrations. The most common link between us is music,” said Ken. “In the Sudanese culture that means drums, which traditionally are used to ward off evil spirits and pay respects to ancestors and good spirits. We attract Sudanese teens by using African drumming as a worship tool!”

“The missions team is dedicated to consistent, monthly visits to nursing homes and hospitals. This is a ministry above and beyond the monthly Sunday afternoon visits that all four corps—representing the whole corps—make to visit shut-ins, nursing homes and hospitals.

“The worship team plans each aspect of the service so thoroughly that Dale need only concern himself with preaching and piano playing. The team has explored and brought many creative elements to the corps worship experience, such as dance, mime and drama.

And, the hospitality team manages each detail of the frequent lunches and celebrations hosted by the corps family. They take care of all details from meal planning and cheerful room and table decorations, to serving and cleaning up.

All four teams, each of which has two leaders, also serve the church, Pablo got saved, attended Bible college and became a youth pastor.

When his cousin died of cancer, Pablo met Captains Marcelo and Monica Orbe, corps officers of the Milwaukee South Side Latino Corps. Pablo was so impressed with the Orbes’ ministry, he began visiting the corps on occasion, then more frequently.

“At first I was just looking for a place to just come and relax, hear the Word and go home. No strings attached,” said Pablo of the corps. “But, God had something else in store for me.” It started small—requests from the Orbes to help set up chairs or microphones. Soon Pablo was playing the drums and teaching a Bible study!

Pablo didn’t want to pressure his wife, Nancy, and sons Isaiah, 13, and Zachariah, 3, to leave their old church. Instead he prayed. After his family wanted to visit the corps, they happily made the switch. Then Pablo began wondering how he’d look in a uniform.

Now that he’s a soldier, Pablo is considering how red officer epaulets might look on that uniform. The Orbes believe God has bigger plans for the Riveras!

In an effort to include everyone who attends the Kansas City, Mo., Bellefontaine Corps in some aspect of ministry, Envoy Dale Simmons, in charge of the corps, developed teams for connections, missions, worship and hospitality. Membership among the teams is fluid depending on skills and passions as well as time demands of jobs, school and personal schedules. Some people choose to belong to more than one team.

The missions team greets Sunday morning visitors, disseminates information about the corps, conducts a class for believers and gets regular newcomers connected to appropriate small groups. Corps ushers take their roles seriously as members of the team; they figuratively and literally provide white-glove service in full Salvation Army uniform to Sunday morning worshippers!

The missions team is dedicated to consistent, monthly visits to nursing homes and hospitals. This is a ministry above and beyond the monthly Sunday afternoon visits that all four corps—representing the whole corps—make to visit shut-ins, nursing homes and hospitals.

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The worship team plans each aspect of the service so thoroughly that Dale need only concern himself with preaching and piano playing. The team has explored and brought many creative elements to the corps worship experience, such as dance, mime and drama.

And, the hospitality team manages each detail of the frequent lunches and celebrations hosted by the corps family. They take care of all details from meal planning and cheerful room and table decorations, to serving and cleaning up.

All four teams, each of which has two leaders, also serve the corps and its community by ringing bells during the Christmas season. Not only are most of Bellefontaine’s soldiers now wearing full uniforms and consistently tithing, the team approach has had an impact far beyond the corps’ walls, reported Dale.

Last summer, team leaders attended the National Seminar on Evangelism in Colorado, where they studied Bill Hybels’s book, Just Walk Across the Room. Each leader reported back to the congregation how to integrate what they learned into corps outreach. A Sunday after- noon neighborhood walk last fall provided more than 100 new contacts! The corps is already known in the neighborhood for its annual Palm Sunday neighborhood march.

Although raised in a Christian home and attending church activities his entire life, Pablo Rivera, Jr., didn’t know God. At age 18, he quit attending his church in Chicago, Ill. “It was a very bad decision,” recalled Pablo. His life took a turn for the worse over the next several years due to his poor lifestyle choices.

But God, in His mysterious ways, arranged life circumstances for Pablo to move to Milwaukee, Wis., where “He had something special in store for me,” said Pablo. He not only went back to attending a church, Pablo got saved, attended Bible college and became a youth pastor.

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His busy career and Salvation Army assume that Jim has no time for service would leave anyone to exercise, nutrition, health living, extracurricular activities. That definitely isn’t the case for this avid outdoorsman.

Jim’s interest in the outdoors began at age 11 when he joined the Boy Scouts. Today he travels around the world to climb mountains and take in the scenic landscapes. He refers to it as God’s handiwork.

“There’s nothing like it,” Jim said.

In October 2007, Jim traveled to Nepal. This time he brought a Salvation Army flag along for his climb to the summit of a mountain.

“A couple of Salvation Army employees talked me into it,” Jim said.

Unfortunately during another climb on this trip, Jim suffered from an upper respiratory infection known as the Khumbu cough. It was serious enough to keep him in his sleeping bag for two days. At that point, he was more concerned with getting down the mountain than reaching the top. Jim made it home safely but is hoping to return next October.

“I have unfinished business there,” he said.

Jim also is planning to go on a month-long climbing trip to the Antarctic next year. We hope he stays healthy and takes another Salvation Army flag to the top of another mountain.

Chicago Kroc Center campaigns for healthy living

Over the past few months Chicago Kroc Center administration has put special emphasis on promoting healthy living within the Kroc community. A recent survey indicated that within the Kroc Center community area, 51 percent of African-American children are overweight, compared to the national average of 21 percent. The Kroc Center leadership team plans to facilitate programs that will encourage exercise, nutrition, healthy living and fitness.

Partnering with EnergizaBulls (an exercise program empowered by HopSports and marketed through the Chicago Bulls basketball team), The Salvation Army has been able to provide physical education that is multi-media and technology driven. EnergizaBulls was met with an 80 percent enjoyment rate by day campers and built further momentum when Benny the Bull stopped by a Higgins Academy assembly in November to encourage kids to stay fit. The Salvation Army also participated in a health fair, back-pack and school supplies distribution, further supporting physical and mental well-being.

Another staggering statistic in the Kroc Center community is that homicides almost doubled during the first half of 2008. In October the Army increased afterschool programs in an effort to keep kids safe and off the streets. At Higgins Academy, increased programs include character-building, Green Club, choir and art. In addition, a new shelter provides a safe-haven for youth in the community.

Although the Kroc Center has not yet been built, The Salvation Army is working ahead to implement health programs, afterschool activities and physical fitness education in order to jump start the Army’s presence in the community.

SA flag reaches summit

by Katie Stilz

President of Reach USA, Jim Bramley, has been a member of the Indianapolis, Ind., Advisory Board for three years as well as a sponsor of the WIBC-Salvation Army Radiothon. Jim was first introduced to The Salvation Army through Jerry Larsen, divisional disaster services director.

“It’s such a great cause, and they do so many great things,” said Jim. His busy career and Salvation Army service would leave anyone to assume that Jim has no time for extracurricular activities. That definitely isn’t the case for this avid outdoorsman.

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Around the Territory

SOUTHPFIELD, MICH.—Burton Carlson, Jr., (l) was honored with a Life Member Award for his more than 20 years of service on the Metropolitan Detroit Advisory Board.

Burton reports his favorite aspect of working with The Salvation Army is “responding meaningfully to the concerns of people with needs.” Lt. Colonel Norman Marshall, Eastern Michigan divisional commander, presented the award.

NORRIDGE, ILL.—The food pantry at the Norridge Citadel Corps has “gone green” by substantially reducing its dependence on plastic bags, reported Pamela Church (r), director of the family assistance ministry. After obtaining donations of the cloth-like, reusable bags sold for around $1 each by many chain stores, they were distributed to regular food pantry clients who will be required to bring the bags with them on each visit.

Pictured with Pamela is volunteer Andrew Bogacz.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—It was a surreal sight as more than 100 college students stood frozen in place amid briskly moving pedestrian traffic in downtown Minneapolis. The students from North Central University stayed still for exactly five minutes locus.

The Salvation Army’s Twin Cities campaign, "Ignore No More," focusing on problems people all too often ignore—poverty, hunger, addiction and homelessness. Each student prominently displayed the “IgnoreNoMore.org” logo on their clothing.

My joys, my toil, my craftsman’s skill all have their place and serve His will.

Darby Tem — SA Songbook 1887

National Music Society
Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, welcome to the greatest show on earth! These words have taken on new meaning as the Kistler family travels the territory sharing their faith through a circus-themed campaign.

Kistler “Once Upon a Circus” campaign awes and amazes

Through their awe-inspiring acts, Captains Kerry and Jill Kistler, along with their children, Christy, 13, and Jeremy, 17, share the gospel and remind audiences to keep Jesus Christ center stage. Each four-day campaign commences with a Sunday morning message and continues nightly, concluding Wednesday evening with a dramatic gospel presentation.

Main character Brother Gilbert, played by Jeremy, narrates each day by reminiscing with audience members about his work on a 1920s circus. As the campaign unfolds each meeting recounts another adventure of Brother Gilbert’s, showcasing the unique talents of each Kistler family member.

Around the territory lives have been touched through this campaign. In Wyandotte, Mich., two new seekers have become active members of the corps as a result.

Another audience member in Wyandotte, who is part of the nearby adult rehabilitation center, testified that God spoke to him about his struggle with substance abuse as Captain Kistler revealed a chalk art illustration. Kistler’s art depicted a tight-rope walker teetering precariously on his line, all the while unknowingly protected by the hands of Jesus.

Corps Officer Captain Amy Voss reported that the campaign reminded her of the need for Jesus to be the center of our lives and of our ability to live for God by example.

Captains Daniel and Nivia Paredes of the East Chicago, Ind., Corps were floored by the harvest that resulted from the campaign. Not only were 24 seekers introduced to the corps by the performances, but the Paredes saw 12 people receive Jesus as a direct result! One particular audience member, a single mother of two who is going through a very difficult time, attended all five performances and brought family members along with her. She testified the Lord changed her life once she started attending The Salvation Army after the performances.

When the Kistlers visited Princeton, Ind., Corps Officers Captains David and Shanda Minks were reminded just how much the Lord can exceed expectations. In a sanctuary that seats 80 people, the last night of the campaign overflowed with 200! David rolled in several sets of bleachers to accommodate the visitors, and during an interactive portion of the performance, Kerry could barely wade through the tightly packed room. An ongoing joke that David would shave his head if the performances saw an evening over 200 proved a reality, and when asked how the campaign impacted the corps, Captain Minks proudly reported: “Staff and corps members were reminded that God can exceed your imagination. We can dream big, but the Lord dreams bigger!”

God has blessed the Kistlers’ campaign with success and has empowered corps to dream bigger. When asked what blesses her most about their ministry, Jill replied, “Encouraging audiences to keep their focus on Jesus. Anything we can do to get them there, help them get through or create a stronger foundation in Jesus is what rewards us and is what this work is all about!”
ject is to enable young people to see evangelism in a new light and to ultimately realize that it isn’t just the job of a corps officer or minister, but it goes beyond corps walls and can be a lifestyle lived out in fun, creative and even extravagant-ly generous ways.

One group of young people from the Quincy, Ill., Corps was very enthusiastic and encouraged by

their experience. Led by Youth Ministries Director Mike Mowers, young people assisted a single woman who was so cheered by their kindness it brightened her attitude about the season. When the teens received a “thank you” or “God bless you” from her or others, they responded by saying “God has blessed us” and “It’s our pleasure to serve you!” The “I’ll Fight Day” adventures continued with a young person from the Ypsilanti, Mich., Corps shoveling his entire block after a snow storm, and girls from the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps who ended up running errands for shopping plaza staff during a power outage.

When asked about the blessings of the day, one youth ministries director commented. “It’s good to know that we are all in it together and exciting to see people embrace God’s love for everyone, specifically people they encounter in their communities, as well as to see our youth, as it says in Hebrews, ‘spar one another on to love and good deeds.’” Spurred on indeed. It’s clear to see that Army youth worldwide have truly gained enthusiasm for sharing the love of God through this experience.

The territorial youth department plans to continue efforts to promote “I’ll Fight Day” on the first Saturday of December every year and will potentially expand it to a quarterly event. For further information, photos and testimonies visit illfightday.com.

Students invest in others, grow in faith

by Arvid Huisman

Students at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, are required to complete 10 hours of community service per semester. When they discover how helping others affects their lives, however, their community service often grows to more than 200 hours by the time they graduate.

For nearly a decade Dowling students have grown in their faith as they have invested themselves in helping others through The Salvation Army’s homeless feeding program. Every Tuesday and Friday morning several Dowling students gather at the Des Moines Temple Corps to assist Jim Civitate, disaster services coordinator, in serving a hot breakfast to more than 600 homeless and near homeless men, women and children from the canton.

The program, which begins at 5:00 a.m., follows a route that includes stops at a large homeless shelter and the downtown YWCA. By 7:00 a.m. the canteen is back at the corps where another group of hungry people is waiting for a hot breakfast.

Many of the students say it’s really about friendships and gratitude; they learn first-hand how blessed they are and to not take it for granted. As the teenagers serve others, their faith in God grows.
Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Major Jewell Kiddoo

Mrs. Major Jewell Kiddoo was promoted to Glory on November 26, 2008. She was 96 years old.

Jewell was teaching a local school program. It wasn’t long before Willingness to work hard and serve the Lord paved the way for them to enter the College for Officer Training. They were commissioned in 1952.

In 1934 Jewell married Albert Kesner Kiddoo. After settling in Coffeyville, Kan., they connected with The Salvation Army while Jewell was teaching a local school program. It wasn’t long before willingness to work hard and serve hearts paved the way for them to enter the College for Officer Training. They were commissioned in 1952.

Mrs. Major Kiddoo served in various corps throughout Kansas and at Heartland Divisional Headquarters. She also brought a delightful accordion ministry to care for the elderly, the indigent, and the poor.

Mrs. Lt. Colonel Jeanette Brigman

Jewell was a dedicated worker in the Central Territory, serving with Majoress Patricia and Albert. She brought a delightful accordian ministry to care for the elderly, the indigent, and the poor.

The Holy Spirit’s hand in the selection of team members was evident. The teams seemed effortlessly to fall into place, with each person’s gifts complementing the others. It’s difficult to summarize all we shared, to communicate the intense experiences and awesome blessings. However, it is clear that when we endeavor to share God’s love with His people, we receive more than we give.

The Midland Division hopes to continue to support The Salvation Army in Haiti through emergency disaster services, graphic design and media training support, and small business support for the Transitional Housing Work Experience Project (THWEP) for young people leaving the home and moving toward independence.

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