the Central territory enrolled 955 senior and 678 junior soldiers during the last fiscal year. Since the “Come Join Our Army” campaign was initiated two years ago, growth can be seen in corps of different sizes, cultures and heritages across the territory from urban to rural settings.

From the plains of Kansas and North Dakota to the streets of Chicago and Omaha, God has blessed our territory’s focused prayer and extra effort in outreach and intentional soldier-making, enabling the Central to turn around a trend of membership decrease which marked the last decade.

Some of the corps having the largest senior soldier enrollments last year include: Mayfair Community Church (Korean) in Chicago, Ill., Newton, Iowa; Topeka Citadel, Kan.; Rockford Temple, Ill., and Brown County, Ind.

Less than five years old, Brown County is one of the territory’s fastest growing corps. Led by Phil and Gall Barrett for the last two years, this corps enrolled 18 senior soldiers in 2009. Many are new converts to Christ who were invited to the corps by those who already attend. Some were unchurched, either never having attended or having drifted away from a Christian community of faith, but found a home at The Salvation Army.

Phil indicates first there was a commitment to reaching out to the community and raising the Army’s visibility as a place of worship; second, the corps followed up on visits.

Members of the Brown County, Ind., Corps which enrolled 18 senior soldiers in fiscal year 2009.

Volunteer strong at Urbana

by Major Gall Aho

More than 17,000 North American young adult church and ministry leaders gathered in St. Louis, Mo., to attend Intervarsity Christian Fellowship’s triennial missions conference, Urbana 09. Themed, “He dwellled among us,” the world’s largest missions conference featured a variety of speakers and hundreds of ministry exhibitor booths.

The Salvation Army had a strong delegation: 147 students and leaders from across the nation.

The four U.S. territories and Salvation Army World Service Office (SA WSO) hosted a well placed and much visited booth in the “Americas Center” of the conference. The booth was manned by students, youth leaders and territorial youth secretaries, as well as staff from SA WSO and the Central Territory’s world missions bureau.

It was energizing to be with so many current and future church leaders as we answered their questions about our Army and shared, “Salvation is our middle name”—an enlightenment for many delegates who said, “I’ve seen Salvation Army thrift stores in my neighborhood, but the meaning of your name never dawned on me until seeing you here.”

The booth was often crowded with people stopping to talk. Our goal was to ask each person, “Did you know we are a church?” Now comes the job of following up the more than 400 contacts made during the conference!

On the day before Urbana 09 began, Salvationists met at the St. Louis Temple, Mo., Corps for worship led by trans-Mission from the Southern Territory, followed by pizza, volleyball and fellowship. This kindred session allowed everyone to meet early in the week and get to know their peers involved in Salvation Army ministry across the country.

Salvation Army responds to Haiti earthquake

The Salvation Army responded immediately last month to the earthquake in Port-au-Prince, capital of Haiti, which caused extensive damage to buildings and significant loss of life.

Initial communication proved difficult, but news received from the Caribbean Territory indicated considerable damage was done to Army property in the city, including the divisional headquarters, the divisional commander’s quarters, and the La Maison du Bonheur children’s home. The home of emergency coordinator Bob Poff was destroyed, but Bob and his wife, Vicki, are safe. The Poffs, from the Central Territory, took up ministry in Haiti last year; Vicki is in charge of the children’s home.

Centraltile Major Violet Eeck stationed with her husband Captain (Dr.) Felix Eeck at the Army’s compound in Fond-des-Negres, 75 miles west of Port-au-Prince, thankfully reported they saw only minor damage and injuries.

Major George Polarek, assistant director of the Salvation Army World Services Organization (SA WSO), traveled to Haiti to coordinate logistics for air-lifting more than 44,000 pounds of emergency rations, along with emergency disaster services teams, to Haiti. SA WSO is working through various channels and high-level US Government contacts to bring aid. The Central Territory and other three U.S. territories also offered financial assistance.

“Your thoughts and prayers are with the people of Haiti at this time and especially our Salvation Army officers and employees throughout the country,” said Lt. Colonel Dan Starrett, SA WSO director.

The General has called the worldwide Salvation Army to prayer for the people of Haiti and those involved in the disaster relief and recovery effort.

To make a donation, log on to www.salvationarmyusa.org
“Can you hear me now?”

by Commissioner E. Sue Swanson
Territorial President of Women’s Ministries

Can you hear me now? You can’t picture the man in the Verizon ad, can you? He’s been appearing in those spots since 2002. For a long time no one knew who he was, a lot like the Maytag repairman. I found out that his name is Paul Marcarelli. He’s an actor from New York City. Personally, I’ve always thought he looks a lot like Envoy Josh Polanco, who’s in charge of the Mt. Greenwood, Ill. Corps; glasses, outfitted with sharp jacket, accessibility, can’t complain the man back up by an Army of people. My husband is tired of me telling him that Josh could do a much better job.

I know God often asks me the same thing, “Can you hear me now?” He communicates with me in so many ways, reaching out to have a deep, meaningful and constant relationship with me. It’s one of the deepest miracles I know.

But I often miss the message and fail to hear Him.

I’ve recently finished an excellent book by Dallas Willard. Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God addresses just this topic. It would be a great study for a mid-week prayer meeting or a Sunday school class.

I am struck by a simple thought. Maybe God wants me to stop talking and start listening. Dr. James Dobson is quoted sharing his daily prayer regarding this whole idea of waiting on God. He says, “I get on my knees and say, ‘Lord, I need to know what you want me to do, and I am listening. Please speak to me through my friends, books, magazines I pick up and read, and through circumstances.’

I love his phrase “and I am listening.” It packs a lot of meaning. It says I am going to pay attention within and without. I am going to be alert to hear God in every possible way. I am going to pursue a listening heart.

Willard suggests we set aside time to listen. Pray the prayer, “Lord, I need to know what you want me to do,” and then give Him time to speak. We need to simply rest in Him. Give Him time. Cultivate a listening heart.

“Can you hear me now?” I ask God to open my heart to obey when I hear his sweet voice. I want to respond like Samuel, “Speak, I’m your servant, ready to listen.” (I Samuel 3:10)

Youth at prayer

The Central Territory’s intense 24/7 prayer initiative that began last year has not only impacted adults in corps and institutions. Young people have been following the examples set by their parents, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders and other adults, learning how to bring all their needs, concerns, thanks and praise to God in prayer.

Disciplined

“One of the foundations of our war college [spiritual formation and leadership training for youth] is the belief that prayer is a vital part of discipleship,” said Envoy Tricia Taube, leadership and program development coordinator for the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division. “Each time we meet, we include a special opportunity for prayer throughout the night.” At other times small groups and individuals pray in rooms set aside for a place to “come apart.”

Tricia concluded, “These youth have become a praying community. They trust God still speaks, hears and answers.”

Intentional

Sunday school children at the Wichita West Orchard—Kan. Corps learned important lessons about prayer during the Kansas and Western Missouri Division’s “Wave of Prayer” week.

The older children prayed during their class hour, while the younger children made related craft projects, such as prayer boxes and prayer bracelets, reported Major James Mungai, corps officer.

As a little girl worked on her prayer box, she looked up at her teacher and asked her to help write the first prayer slip for her box. She wanted to pray for her mommy and daddy; since daddy had lost his job, her parents had been “talking very loudly to each other.” The teacher took the opportunity to pray with the little girl.

All of the Sunday school classes reported children and adults opening up and sharing personal needs and burdens. “Many tears were shed, but many more blessings were experienced,” the major concluded.

Trusting

The leader of the explorer group for boys at the Clinton, Iowa, Corps took the territorial prayer initiative especially to heart. She dedicated a classroom wall to the boys’ prayer requests, reported Captain Shannon Thies, corps officer with her husband, Martin.

“One of my favorites of these precious requests came from a seven year old who asked God to help him climb the monkey bars,” said Shannon. “Doesn’t that kind of trust just bless you?”

Central Connection

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What is it about the Templo Laramie Corps that attracts so many new attendees and enrolls so many soldiers? Look no further than scripture for the answer: it’s got good soil.

Located in Cicero, Ill., Templo Laramie has enrolled about 100 junior and senior soldiers in the last five years under Captains Enrique and Nancy Azuaje, corps officers. Enrollments that pack the platform run like clockwork twice a year. This past November Templo Laramie enrolled five senior and seven junior soldiers; this Easter they hope to enroll another 10 senior soldiers.

‘Making people feel welcome, important and part of our team are crucial to them staying and becoming part of our ministry,’ said Nancy.

Enrique added Templo Laramie is transitioning into a multicultural congregation; he and Nancy lead an English-language worship service in addition to the Spanish one.

The Azuajes humbly credit God’s graciousness and their corps’ obedient discipleship of new believers as key to the congregation’s growth. They’re big fans of the Discipleship Training course. They also involve their people in Bible studies, the Good Samaritan budgeting course and ministry training.

The Azuajes believe in the intentional development of strong local leadership, having just recently trained 20 new local officers.

To the Azuajes, “Ven, Únete a Nuestro Ejército” (Come Join Our Army) isn’t just an invitation to swell the corps’ ranks. It means true enlistment and training to assume responsibilities, whether local leadership or ministry support. It’s a lifestyle and heart-felt commitment.

Because the Azuajes also lead The Bridge, a primarily Hispanic outpost in Hanover Park, Ill., God’s mission in both congregations must rely heavily on local leadership. Over the last couple of years, corps and outpost attendees have benefited from more than two dozen workshops on spiritual formation, evangelism, leadership, stewardship, marriage and other topics.

The November enrollment at The Bridge counted six senior and six junior soldiers; 14 senior soldiers are expected to enroll this Easter. For two of The Bridge’s new soldiers, the November enrollment doubled as their wedding day!

“We’re grateful to God for our community impact. Last year we started a weekly prayer service in which we read scripture looking for God’s revelation. If you pray believing in the prophecy given you, new paths will open,” said Enrique.

Growing joy

by Captain Jenny Ortman

At a recent youth Sunday in the Livingston County, Mich., Corps, there was much joy as 13 junior soldiers were enrolled.

While a few have been attending the Army for some time, many of the children are new. Most came through a new program called the Summer Lunch Bunch. Once a week over the summer at four different locations — three trailer park clubhouses and the corps — meals were served by The Salvation Army in partnership with the local meals-on-wheels program. A pantry box also was provided for lunch the rest of the week. The program was designed to help families who rely on free or reduced hot lunches at school. The eight-week program provided crafts, lessons and a chance for relationships to forge as we met them in their homes and then invited them to our corps.

When youth programs began again in the fall, we were pleasantly surprised that attendance more than doubled with the kids we knew and lots of friends we hadn’t met yet. Normal van routes were overloaded, making multiple trips necessary for all the kids.

Not only youth programs but Sunday worship attendance began to increase as the kids and their parents began to come. As a result, these children took the recruits course, memorized their pledge and were enrolled as junior soldiers in the presence of most of their parents who continue to attend the corps.

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tors; third, members have welcomed those who enter the building; and lastly, they’ve tried to create a worship experience which draws people back. Although strategies are important, Phil credits God’s Spirit.

“We must always rely on the work of the Holy Spirit to draw people into the saving knowledge of Christ Jesus. None of us here can take credit for what God is doing,” he explained.

Phil believes while people who attend the corps are committed to The Salvation Army’s work and mission before becoming members, their enrollment solidifies their commitment.

Some of the corps showing the largest enrollments in junior soldiers last year include Chicago LaVillita, Ill.; Topinka Citadel, Kan.; Grand Forks, N.D.; Rochester, Minn., and Michigan City, Ind.

Carlos and Kerman Moran lead the Chicago LaVillita Corps and point primarily to three sources of their corps’ growth: traditional evangelistic efforts; links and bridges from community programs like afterschool, English as a second language, and food pantry; and most importantly corps people bringing neighbors and friends to corps events and the warm welcome visitors feel.

“We have a growing ‘under 13’ population,” said Carlos. A couple of years ago we began to evaluate our children’s programs and discovered there was a lot of entertainment and not enough discipleship. We made changes to our Sunday school and junior church programs and began intentional children’s ministries during the week: music, evangelism and Bible clubs. Our junior soldiers class grew, and at the right time, our junior soldiers enrollment grew as well.”

Last year LaVillita enrolled 16 junior soldiers.

“Kids have shown a sense of pride and accomplishment in becoming soldiers of the corps. Parents see it in positive ways, and they see it as an identification with something that is greater and valuable,” said Carlos.

“If we as a corps have a vital and intentional junior soldiers program, the future looks very promising.”

In this last year of the “Come Join Our Army” campaign, let us move forward in faith, knowing that in the words of our Founder, “That and better will do.”

Come Join Our Army

Continued from page 1

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New director, new era

Thirty-one children and staff accepted Christ through the Waunakee, Wis., Corps summer youth program starting a trend of increased programs. God began this process by bringing Sharyn Tennyson to Waunakee as the youth ministries director.

“Sharyn was an answer to prayer,” said Corps Officer Major Carol Lemirand.

Sharyn began last May, planning an entire summer day camp for potentially hundreds of children. Praying for quality staff and with limited time, she focused on the ultimate goal of sharing the gospel.

Highly successful summer activities led into dynamic fall afterschool activities. “We discovered early release days from school are difficult for kids,” Sharyn said. “We decided to give God the responsibility to result we open early and pack them full of activities.” Parents are grateful.

Many of the children have special needs, so the Army helps them adjust academically and socially. Tutors already have seen dramatic changes in reading ability. Serving a light supper three days a week allows the young boys and girls to stay longer and even have families join for a meal.

Junior band led by Chenon Rainwater, began with vacation Bible school and now involves 13 youth mostly from the afterschool program. Intentional relationship building hopefully will bridge the young people and their families to other corps programs.

The next phase is developing middle and high school ministries. Sharyn is currently working with local schools to identify needs.

“My vision is to offer Bible study, social interaction and character-building programs for older students. I’d like to involve the community in this ministry,” said Sharyn. “It will be exciting to see how God uses us.”

Let them eat pies!

There’s just something about a homemade pie that is wonderful. It surpasses a simple love for sweets or a weakness for pies in general. No, a home baked pie is comfort. It is nostalgia. It is the warmth of the holiday days. But no one has the time or inclination to bake. That’s where the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps Girl Guards save the day! Throughout the week of Thanksgiving, the aroma of pecan, apple crumb, and pumpkin pie wafts through the corps’ halls!

The guards, under the excellent leadership of Jill Johnson, decided to bake a few pies, oh some 18 odd years ago, as a fundraiser. This tradition is so successful it’s the only fundraiser needed for girl guards each year. It provides income for activities and expenses and contributes toward World Services/SD.

Denial and the adoption of a family at Christmas. All girls, parents, grandparents, and friends get involved. Each year improves upon the last. This year 1,440 pies were made! There were no less than 14 volunteers in the corps kitchen on any given day, with volunteer hours totaling 859!

Not only is this a great fundraiser, it’s an example to the girls in responsibility and outreach. Many folks in the community hear about The Salvation Army often for the first time, simply because they were enticed to stop in by the sign out front advertising home baked pies.

One family began attending the corps for this very reason, and their daughter is now a girl guard who eagerly baked pies this year!

Five decades of dedication

As a shy, blond teenager, Jeanette Larson could not have imagined she’d lead sunbeams for the next 50 years. Her journey began with a request from Mrs. Captain Carl Olson, Chicago Brainerd, Ill., corps officer, and continued through officership, various corps appointments, four years as divisional guard and sunbeam director and 12 as the territorial guard and sunbeam director.

At a ceremony at the Norridge Citadel, III., Corps, concluding her life-long work with sunbeams, Major Jeanette received a certificate of appreciation from Major Stephen Harper, Metropolitan divisional pastoral care director. It seemed appropriate that during this same ceremony, six of her sunbeams received their Commissioner’s Sunbeam award as well.

One of Jeanette’s goals throughout her ministry was to see all of her troop members receive higher awards. As a result of her leadership, thousands of girls received the Commissioner’s Sunbeam award.

Jeanette was also a strong advocate for outreach. She wanted to provide girls an opportunity to share the gospel and serve others. In pursuit of this goal, her sunbeams did everything from visiting nursing homes to sorting canned goods for the needy to baking and delivering cookies to emergency responders.

She recalls renting a bus to drive her girls to sunbeam camp. At the time, her troop topped the charts at 50 members! She also remembers when she packed her girls on the subway for a field trip to see Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol.”

Another time she took the girls on a boat trip on Lake Michigan. In 2001 Jeanette received the Evangeline Booth Award for excellent and dedicated leadership. Beyond the accolades, however, her true joy is to see girls grow up.

“What rewards me the most is to watch these young girls mature into beautiful women,” she said.
Growing in our faith

by Major Dan Jennings

To promote spiritually mature Salvationists, last year International Headquarters asked each territory to create a territorial spiritual life development appointment. In my most recent appointment, I’ve been given the privilege of encouraging Salvationists in the Central to engage in a deeper walk in Christ and thereby mature in their faith.

The phrase commonly used today is “spiritual formation” or as theologian J.I. Packer puts it: “having Jesus formed in us.” Salvation is only the beginning to the believer’s life in Christ; each of us has the responsibility to continually grow mature in their faith. It’s a journey.

Working closely with departments at Central Territorial Headquarters to encourage and resource the local level, I have seven primary emphases.

The Winklers have found Discipleship Training particularly useful in teaching men who are past the milk of salvation; who need good solid food to help them walk what they talk,” said Deborah who realized Running the Race was too basic for some. Deborah loves teaching and seeing the men transition to understanding how critical discipleship and holy- ness is to a changed life. This concept is mirrored in the 12 steps; salvation is just the start.

“Intentional discipleship not only identifies those committed to growing in their relationship with God; it identifies those who’ve yet to reach that point,” said Jamie. “Discipleship Training is also great for developing soldiers and new leaders. Every Christian needs discipleship.”

The center provides inpatient rehabilitation; an emergency shelter and related homeless services, plus transitional housing for veterans. Rehabilitation also is provided on an outpatient basis. On average the center serves 200 men at a time and 600 annually.

Walking the talk

by Captain Deborah Winkler

Edward had relapsed in and out of rehabilita- tion programs for decades. He was about to be divorced by his wife, Monica, who had been legally separated from him for some time. Now at the Harbor Light, he was challenged to participate in something new for him.

After the first couple weeks of Discipleship Training, I was surprised at the depth of Bible knowledge expressed in the discus- sions and accountability logs of the group. These men had even gone ahead to future weeks in their workbooks and memorized the required scripture verses for the entire first level by week three! I was further taken aback when the entire group decided to quit smoking in their commitment to become the men God wanted them to be. Others within their sphere of influence were quickly affected by their dramatic transformations.

When Ed recommitted his life to God and began growing in holiness, he contacted Monica. They began to talk. She started attending the Harbor Light on Sundays and also took Discipleship Training classes. Ed and Monica worked out the problems in their marriage and reconciled.

After Ed finished the rehabilitation program, he moved back home with Monica and they renewed their wedding vows—Ed even bought two new wedding rings to symbolize their new union. They became soldiers and, at the territorial Mission and Purpose Conference, felt called to officership.

As Ed and Monica grow in the Lord together, it seems evident God has great things in store for them!
This year as part of an ongoing collaboration between the world missions bureau and visual communications section, our territory learns about how the Eastern Europe Territory is sharing the light of the Lord with the people of Russia, Moldova, Georgia, Romania and Ukraine. To enable soldiers and officers in our territory to share this light more effectively, we are excited to introduce a new video series, ‘Light of the World.’

Bulletin inserts, flyers, coin banks and envelopes can be used to increase awareness and encourage fundraising in your corps.

Four video segments are suitable for use in morning worship services, Bible studies and other settings.

The first video segment is Light to The Salvation Army Eastern Europe Territory. Through this we gain a better understanding of the Army’s significant mission in this part of the world. Ministry started in Russia in 1910. It was put on hold after the Communist takeover but couldn’t be held at bay forever. The Salvation Army returned to Russia in 1991, extended into Ukraine and Georgia in 1993, Moldova in 1994 and Romania in 1999.

Each of these countries has unique challenges from Romania where 43 percent of people live on less than 5.2 gallons of water per day to the Ukraine which has seen HIV increase 20 times in the last five years to Moldova where the average citizen lives on less than two dollars a day.

In response to these hardships and many others, the Army has established nearly 80 corps and social service centers in the territory. These ministries allow the Army to feed the hungry, provide afterschool activities for children who might otherwise wander the streets, prepare couples for a Godly marriage, reach orphans, support those infected with HIV and so much more.

Without World Services/Self-Denial donations from territories like ours, ministries like these might not be possible.

It is not only in our territory’s monetary support but in the generous service of its people that we make a difference. Majors Richard and Brenda Herivel from the Central are currently part of the Army’s ministry in Russia.

Light through renovation is about giving more than resources; it’s about giving practically through hard work. Many devoted Salvationists throughout Eastern Europe are hard at work, trying to create safe and well-equipped places for ministry. Officers and soldiers are often quick to sacrifice their time and resources in order to build a ministry from the ground up (literally), but their time, money and materials are limited. One way to meet their needs is to send work project mission teams to help build and rebuild their ministry facilities.

Centralite Captain Miranda Duskin, former projects officer in Georgia, ran a children’s shelter. She said, “When the kids get out of school, they’re famished and a lot of times they can’t go home to...”
their families. So they come to the Army, have a meal and get help with their homework.*

They also spend time learning a Bible story and are saved from afternoons on the street. This ministry could not happen in a typical Eastern European building, which would provide inadequate insulation, making it too hot in the summer and too cold in the winter. The Army provides much needed warmth on cold days.

Within the last year a Central Territory global mission team in Georgia repaired flood and roof damage to a children’s center and replaced poorly insulated windows on a corps building to help ensure ministries not only survive but thrive. Perhaps the greatest joy in these projects was that two-thirds of the work was completed by skilled Georgian craftsmen, who contributed their knowledge of local tools and needs. Eastern Europeans are intelligent, service-oriented people, and many new leaders are emerging to take up responsibility for growing ministries.

Light to refugees and the homeless is a call to compassion. Many of us can’t really begin to imagine the hardship of displacement. In Georgia, during a boundary dispute in 2008, over 150,000 people were forced to leave their homes and relocate. They found temporary refuge everywhere from kindergarten classrooms to abandoned military barracks to tents on the side of the road.

Hard working families, who just a few weeks prior had a home with a garden, a place to sleep and eat, were forced away, experiencing severe anxiety and depression. Children went without education; pregnant women were forced to give birth in unsanitary conditions; and the elderly perished without proper medical attention.

Thankfully even in the darkest circumstances there is hope. Second Samuel 22:29 (NIV) says, “You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord turns my darkness into light.”

The Salvation Army was able to provide beds, food and warm clothing. Officers and soldiers spent long hours listening, counseling and praying with refugees. They brought the light of Jesus to those who were trapped in darkness.

The Salvation Army in Eastern Europe brings Light to the Children. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19:14, NIV).

The Army works to meet physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs for children in Eastern Europe. In Moldova, families are so poor that parents often leave the country to find work abroad. The children they leave behind are vulnerable, hungry and at risk of being forced into the sex trade. In response, the Army runs after-school programs which provide children with a warm meal, tutoring and the chance to hear the gospel.

In the Ukraine, the Kharkov Corps runs a center for 43 children who are HIV positive. They provide clothing, shoes, medication and Christmas gifts to these dear children. It’s a place of solace for their weak bodies and hope for their souls.

The bleak, dismal skyline of former soviet buildings in Eastern Europe stands in stark contrast to the laughter of the children within Salvation Army buildings. Theirs is a joy granted only because of Christ’s light in dark places and made possible through the generosity and service of people like you—soldiers in God’s Army.

What are you willing to sacrifice to help support those suffering and to spread God’s light?

For more information, visit www.resources.centralmissions.org. You can also purchase resources through Resource Connection at 1-800-937-8896.
A groundbreaking anniversary

Over the last 20 years The Salvation Army’s Wilcox Home Program has served a vital role for west central Nebraska by providing comprehensive residential care to troubled youth,” said Dr. Linda Burkle, Western divisional director of social services.

Recently, at their 20th anniversary celebration, the Wilcox Home Program entered a new era. It broke ground on a much needed new facility for boys’ housing. The building is anticipated to be completed later this year.

Major Kevin Van Zee, North Platte, Neb., corps officer and Wilcox Program administrator said, “The boys’ home will be about the same size as the girls’ facility after it’s completed. It will have six bedrooms, three bathrooms and a large outdoor space.” The current home for the boys is in considerable disrepair. It also will connect the boys’ and girls’ facilities with an adjoining corridor, which will enable the program to serve more efficiently, in addition to providing family engagement through a parent education center situated in the middle.

On average, there are 12 boys and 10 girls enrolled in the program. They are cared for over a period of about six months. The program’s goals are to help reunite these kids with their families and teach them basic living skills.

Over 900 teens have completed the program. In part, Kevin credits success to the full integration of the teens with the nearby corps facilities. Teens participate in character-building activities, Sunday worship, Bible studies and more. Plus, the Van Zees make a special effort to bond with the teens, sharing dinner with them on Thursday nights.

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Corps connection to corrections

The Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps, led by Majors Stephen and Margi Yoder, has been involved with the corrections ministry at Central Territorial Headquarters (THQ) for over a decade. Soldier Lucy Thomas has spear-headed the ministry begun by Major Carol Luhn and recruited many others to join in.

According to Melody Rosa, territorial Bible correspondence director, “The corps officers and soldiers at Norridge are skilled, intentional leaders who embrace those beyond their walls; they have compassion that I’d sum up in three words: contagious Christian community.”

One way Norridge serves corrections is by grading Bible correspondence lessons. Lucy, who teaches the soldiership class at Norridge, encourages new soldiers to grade lessons. So many are involved that Major Marie Ellsworth, who works at THQ, has been enlisted to exchange lessons between Norridge and the corrections office each week.

Lucy said, “Connecting corrections with the recruits class is very valuable because it’s a step in getting new members involved with service at the corps. It’s also wonderful because it really encourages them to get into the Word.”

Norridge also actively participates in the Barnabas Pen Pal Program, which encourages prisoners through letters from Christians.

“Many prisoners have come to know the Lord through this program,” said Major Marty Hudson, associate corrections services director. “The prisoners love it.”

One prisoner told her pen pal that she wouldn’t trade her correspondence for a closer release date! Major Bonnie Clark writes 12 prisoners; one for each disciple!

In addition Norridge assists with three special projects: the monthly birthday card mailing, a Christmas card mailing and yearly packets to prison chaplains encouraging Bible studies. Barbara Bull and Pat Baiocchi, who are loyal volunteers with this program, devote themselves to these projects. Barbara recruited volunteers assisted Melody with organizing the Christmas 2008 mailing and worked with Pat to recruit and call addition- al volunteers in 2009. Pat also comes into headquarters on a monthly basis to send birthday cards to inmates.

Finding true freedom

Of the last six remarkable years in Tim Schroeder’s life, 2009 was the most amazing. At 51, he remarried wife Paulette (divorced in 1999 after 20 years together) and became a soldier the next day at the Ann Arbor, Mich., Corps. He also received a “Doing the Most Good” Award from the Washtenaw County Salvation Army for his volunteer prison ministry.

That fall Tim was named operations manager for the Staples Family Center emergency shelter by Major John Williams, Washtenaw County coordinator and Ann Arbor corps officer with his wife, Dianna. His amazing year ended by being appointed the corps sergeant-major.

Six years ago Tim’s life was transformed through a Salvation Army prison ministry in Florida. A drug addict and alcoholic for decades, Tim caused Paulette and their two children years of heartache. She finally realized the only way he might grow up was to let him go.

Tim left Michigan. Somehow he always managed to stay clear of the law until 2003 when a domestic dispute ended with him shooting a gun at a neighbor and attacking police. Tim faced life in prison for attempted murder.

“Satan had me behind bars with out hope,” Tim recalled.

While awaiting trial, a Salvation Army volunteer visited the jail weekly to lead a Christian 12-step program. Tim realized how self-destructive he’d become.

“I was full of fear, shame, guilt and insecurity since childhood,” said Tim. “Desperately, I made a com- mitment to the Lord and sought His will for my life. Things didn’t change right away—I was too full of junk. The 12 steps help clear the way so we can be filled with His goodness.”

Tim believes it was divine intervention that spared him from spend- ing the rest of his life behind bars; the court couldn’t find the neighbor at whom Tim had fired the gun. Two of the six felony charges were dropped; by pleading guilty to the others he received a minimum sentence.

While in prison, Tim took every course The Salvation Army had to offer. Released in August 2007 after serving 51 months, he con- tinued his walk with Christ. He moved back to Michigan and became certified to lead Christian 12-step classes at the corps, Staples Center and Livingston County jail.

Tim said of his new life, “It’s not about me anymore. It’s about what I can do for Him. God has restored everything Satan took from me. I want to help others find God’s healing power.”

Is your corps a contagious Christian community?

Then consider getting them involved in serving inmates! No matter where your corps is located in the Midwest—whether large or small—you can be involved with Bible correspondence or Pen Pal ministry. Melody Rosa welcomes fresh ideas and new volunteers!

If you are interested, contact: Melody_Rosa@usc.salvationarmy.org.
Lieutenants Xavier and Heather Montenegro, Norfolk, Neb., corps officers since July 2008, have brought fresh dimensions to The Salvation Army’s impact on this community.

“Our corps is multicultural with two languages spoken, but our aim is unity in Christ,” said Xavier. “Sunday worship is normally conducted separately, but we meet once a month for united worship with English and Spanish sung, spoken and translated so we can learn and grow together.”

During an open-air held last year at an apartment complex known for its drug dealers, English and Spanish speakers paired up to visit residents door to door. They were so excited to be partners in ministry!

Women’s ministries is also a uniting force, spanning in age from 15 on up for a “wonderful mix of friendships and mentoring relationships,” continued Xavier. “Although Heather doesn’t speak Spanish, everyone knows how much they’re loved.” Sassy Lassies, similar to girl guards, is very popular. Women earn badges for learning new skills such as cake decorating or sewing!

Men’s ministries meet for fellowship and service, such as shoveling snow for the infirm. Several attended divisional men’s camp last fall for a special time of bonding.

Every Friday evening 25 teens meet for fun and fellowship. Last year Xavier challenged them to a discipleship group where deeper issues would be examined and scripture studied; 16 teens met his challenge and are meeting regularly. Heather enjoys working with younger children. She created a unique Bible school for the week of Halloween. “Celebrating Jesus through the Holidays” attracted up to 30 kids each evening.

Last summer a territorial fighting force funds grant supported a Friday-night outdoor movie for eight weeks that averaged 60 people. In August, a divisional evangelism grant helped fund a carnival with inflatables, games and donated food from Applebee’s to promote the corps as a church. Hoping for 100 guests, the corps was shocked when the carnival brought in over 600! New faces appeared at worship, school and vacation Bible school.

When Xavier speaks to potential current recruits class has 11 members.

“Soldiership isn’t a cakewalk. It’s an honor and commitment, and each soldier receives a responsibility, however small,” said Xavier. “I want to be sure they’re committed to Jesus, then The Salvation Army, then the corps so they’re here for the long run after we’re gone.”

This year the Metropolitan Division rallying its people to “celebrate the year of the Lord’s favor” at Jubilee, a three-day festival of praise to commemorate its 125 year history and, more importantly, to impact the future. This historic event will take place March 12-14, 2010, at Wheaton College.

Jubilee will feature Commissioners Israel L. and Eva D. Gaither, national leaders, and Commissioners Barry C. and E. Sue Swanson, territorial leaders, and be hosted by Lt. Colonels David and Sherry Grindle, Metropolitan divisional leaders.

Amidst drama, multimedia and music by the Metropolitan Youth Band, seven Heroes of the Faith will be honored on Friday night.

Over 400 Metropolitan youth will “shape the Army’s future” on Saturday, while women will extol the diversity of the division in a “Kingdom Cultural Celebration” and men will join together to highlight “Men of Honor.”

A 200-voice songster brigade, along with the Rockford Temple Band and the Chicago Staff Band highlight the Sunday morning holiness meeting and the great salvation meeting on Sunday afternoon.
World citizen retires

After almost 40 years of serving God on four continents, Major Eliana Cristi—retired from active officer-ship. Lt. Colonel Marlene Chase presided over the service held at the Templo Laramie Corps in Cicero, Ill. Colonels Thomas and Mary Lewis conducted the retirement ceremony. Major Ruth Dalberg recalled adventures with her “one of a kind” friend, including sleeping in a volcano! Colonel Chase read a letter from General John Larsson (Rtd.), in which he saluted Eliana as a “true internationalist.”

Flagbearer Major Robert Dobier observed, “Little did Eliana realize when God spoke to her heart years ago while selling El Grito de Guerra (The War Cry) in a Chilean red light district that she’d someday be serving Him in nine countries.”

Born in Chile, Eliana was exposed from a young age to people from around the globe. She was commissioned in 1970 with the “Undaunted” session in London, England. After appointments in England and Scotland, she headed to South America in 1972, where she held editorial, public relations, literary, education and day care director positions over the next decade.

In the mid-’80s, she served in the USA Southern Territory and once more in South America in divisional and territorial social service secretarial appointments. After earning a master’s degree, she served as the Heartland divisional social service secretary in 1995. While waiting to go overseas in 2000, she was the Northern divisional multicultural ministries director.

Eliana was the Ghana territorial medical social secretary and, in 2003, was appointed to the Australia Eastern Territory for social research and policy work before retirement.

There’s no earthly way to measure the countless lives she’s touched, but it’s safe to say many have basking in the love and passion for sharing the love of Jesus.

Magoons celebrate 84 years of service

Majors Stan and Lynda Magoon celebrated 84 years of combined service as officers at a retirement celebration held at the Harbor Light Village in Kansas City, Kan., with family, friends and clients. Colonels Bill and Sue Harfoot conducted the retirement service.

The Magoons had oversight of the planning, construction, dedication and utilization of the Harbor Light Village as Wyandotte County administrators. The facility houses programs for those who are addicted to drugs and alcohol, veterans, recently paroled inmates, and the homeless. It was a fitting place for the celebration.

Between them the Magoons have served in nearly every area of Salvation Army service, including a home and hospital for unwed mothers, corps for 21 years, area command, seven staff positions at the College for Officer Training, divisional (DHQ) and territorial headquarters appointments. Their last appointment was in officer development at the Kansas and Western Missouri DHQ.

Stan was described as having high integrity, good stewardship, being fair, always smiling. Lynda was noted as being very creative, encouraging and greatly organized. Most importantly they were both recognized as people who lived their testimony, rather than just giving it lip service.

One of their staff said, “It didn’t matter if they were holding hands crossing the campus or in the throes of a difficult budget meeting, you knew they loved Jesus and they loved each other. What more is there to say?”

The Magoons have retired to the Branson, Mo., area.

Found your calling yet?

Are you an action-oriented Salvationist who longs to do even more? Then perhaps it’s time to consider if God is calling you to serve Him as a Salvation Army officer.

As an officer you can:
• Preach the Word of God
• Help people discover and use their spiritual gifts
• Shelter the homeless
• Mentor youth
• Work with key leaders in a community
• Find great joy in service to others

Visit www.usc.salvationarmy.org/candidates to find out more

Magoons celebrate 84 years of service

by Jan Kelley

The retirement of Major Rosemary Matoon was celebrated during a Sunday morning worship service at the corps she’s led since 2000—and will continue to lead until the end of June!

More than 120 people gathered for the Sunday morning service at Superior, Wis. Corps where Majors Robert and Nancy Thomson, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divisional leaders, conducted a brief retirement ceremony for Rosemary. A celebration dinner for the corps and community followed.

After working as a licensed practical nurse for the State of Wisconsin for 25 years, Rosemary responded to God’s call on her life to serve in The Salvation Army. She served at the Milwaukee Emergency Lodge as an envoy in 1986, then was named an auxiliary captain and appointed to Independence, Mo., as the corps officer.

In 1989 Rosemary was appointed as a full captain to Ishpeming, Mich. as the corps officer, where she oversaw planning for the expansion of the corps community center. In 2000, her life came full circle when Rosemary was appointed to lead the corps in Superior, the city of her birth. She was promoted to major in 2004.

Although officially retired after 20 years of officership, Rosemary faithfully continues her corps and community work with a tireless spirit and distinction.

There’s no earthly way to measure the countless lives she’s touched, but it’s safe to say many have basking in the love and passion for sharing the love of Jesus.

Sassy lassies saluted

The Waukegan, Ill., Corps buzzed with excitement as a court of awards convened to honor members of character-building groups. Moonbeams, sunbeams, girl guards, explorers and rangers received badges and certificates for their accomplishments over the preceding months. But, according to Captain Heather Holman, corps officer, the highlight of the evening was the enrollment of the newly organized “Sassy Lassies #01 Brigade.” Eleven thrilled women were presented with membership certificates and the first badges they earned for adult-level skills and knowledge based on character-building programs.

by Jan Kelley

Thrift shop customers were thrilled women were presented with membership certificates and the first badges they earned for adult-level skills and knowledge based on character-building programs.
A winter’s tale

A selection from this array of books might just be the perfect read for a cold winter night, wrapped up in your Snuggie, with a hot cup of tea or mug of cocoa by your side.

101 Everyday Sayings From the Bible by Ed Forster (Crest Books, National Publications). This humorous, insightful jaunt illustrates how often you quote from the Bible without even knowing it! Striking color photographs and astute biblical applications accompany the sayings.

Essential Measures by General William Booth (Salvation Books, International Headquarters). General Shaw Clifton wrote the foreword to this slim tome—a fascinating letter from Booth to Brigadier James Melling, a territorial commander in northern India who immersed himself culturally. Booth, who died seven months later, praised the inroads the brigadier and his wife initiated.

Aspiration…Anecdotal Snapshots of Genius by Robert Getz (INJ Offerings, Newaygo, Mich.) Fans of Salvation Army music will delight in this biography of one of its more colorful (and controversial) composers, Dr. Emil Soderstrom. Filled with accounts from Emil’s contemporaries and those he influenced—so Army music leaders of today—this book contains new insights, rare manuscripts and more than 120 photos.

An Army Needs an Ambulance Corps by Harry Williams (Salvation Books, International Headquarters). Dr. Harry Williams, 95, a retired commissionioner and missionary surgeon, portrays The Salvation Army’s international health work, from Booth’s London and the development of Army medical clinics and hospitals, to future strategies from Majors Dean and Dr. Eirwen Pallant, international health services.

The Rapture by Phil Layton (Salvation Books, International Headquarters). Biblical scholar Captain Phil Layton [master’s in theology, University of London] explores scriptural evidence for the rapture, a belief that Christians will be taken to be with Jesus at a time of God’s choosing. This book will encourage and challenge readers on holy living and evangelism.

From a middle aged dad to a teenage daughter by Grant Sandrock-Brown (Salvation Books, International Headquarters). Written for teenagers, and helpful to parents, this treat is based on real letters from an Australian Salvation Army captain to his daughter. Gentle wisdom imparts the biblical perspective on such weighty areas as sin, sex, the gospel, holiness, science vs. religion, the Trinity, church, even the death of a child.

All of these books are available through Resource Connection. For an ordering link and more book recommendations, see “Get Connected.”
Neither North nor South

By Glenn Welch

Indiana’s 20th annual “Civil War Days” may be a battle re-enactment, but the state’s largest display of artillery firing—and a nine-piece Salvation Army band!—was played, and then its original words were sung, followed by a verse of Salvation Army lyrics. So under the guise of an educational program, the band was able to present the gospel. Four members of Major Herbert Caldwell’s little band were able to attend, so reinforcements were brought in from other Indiana corps, including Chicago, Peoria, Kankakee, Kokomo, Huntington, and Valparaiso.

A brief explanation was given, then a tune was played, and then its original words were sung, followed by a verse of Salvation Army lyrics. So, in keeping with the theme, the Salvation Army flag was raised, and played a Civil War tune on any given Sunday at an Army service.

The Marion Band is considering making “Civil War Days” an annual tradition.

Promoted to Glory

Major Herbert Caldwell

Major Herbert Caldwell was promoted to Glory on Thanksgiving Day, 2009.

Born to John and Elizabeth Caldwell in 1934, Herbert accepted Christ at a decision Sunday service at age nine. He received his call to officership while serving in the United States Army at Fort Bragg, N.C. It was there as well that he fell in love with Sarah Elizabeth Tatum.

They were married in 1955 and entered the College for Officer Training. After commissioning they served in Nebraska, Illinois, and Indiana. While in Illinois their daughter was born.

Later in her ministry Ruth served in appointments from a corps in Indiana to the Chicago Booth Home and Hospital to territorial headquarters. She retired from active service in 1989 but continued to serve at headquarters in the women’s ministries department.

She was a faithful soldier of Chicago Temple Corps and is remembered for her work ethic and genuine Christian spirit.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and a sister, Dorothy Kukuc. She is survived by her daughter, Deborah (Lee) Brown; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild and a niece, Patricia Kukuc.

Mrs. Brigadier Charlotte Quinn

Mrs. Brigadier Charlotte Quinn was promoted to Glory on December 5, 2009. She was 95 years old.

Charlotte grew up in Cape Girardeau, Mo., where her parents, Grover and Zella Cook, raised her in a Christian home. She found the Army in 1932 and immediately felt a deep spiritual connection.

She quickly became a soldier, and not long after, moved to Chicago as officer training. She was commissioned in 1935, and then married the love of her life, Lieutenant Roland Quinn, whom she had met at her home corps. Their marriage was blessed with three children.

MUCH of their ministry was spent at Corps in the upper Midwest. In 1955 they were appointed to the Chicago Harbor Light Center and served there for 19 years until their retirement in 1974. Charlotte will be missed for her intelligence, loyalty and depth of character.

She was preceded in death by her husband and one daughter, Elizabeth. She is survived by daughter Charlotte [Jaimie] Babel, son Roland [Marjorie]; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Major Rachel Phelps

Mrs. Major Rachel Phelps was promoted to Glory on November 8, 2009. She was 90 years old.

Rachel’s parents, Maxim and Bertha Hawkes, were devoted Christians, and Rachel benefited from a solid upbringing in the church. In 1936 she went to the altar and gave her life to Jesus.

While she attended a church with her family, she also started attending Sunday school at the Petoskey, Mich., Corps. She enrolled as a soldier at 18 and began to feel a stirring to officership.

After her 1939 commissioning, Rachel married Captain John Grindle. Their union was blessed with five children. They ministered in corps across Michigan and North Dakota, as well as the Evangeline Residence in Detroit, and retired in 1977. John was promoted to Glory 10 years later.

In 1992 Rachel married Major Roy Phelps, combining two large Salvation Army families. Roy was promoted to Glory in 2008.


Hud salutes heat programs

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently recognized The Salvation Army in Michigan for increasing its efficiency in preventing and ending homelessness. Specifically, it cited new computer software, or the Homelessness Management Information Software (HMIS), in 2009, to more efficiently handle utility service delivery.

By law any service entity involved in providing utility aid must utilize an HMIS system. The social service team uses a program called ServicePoint, which allows it to process requests for assistance faster, determine who’s approved for help more efficiently, and create reports for funders in the timeliest manner. This new software has improved service delivery time from weeks to days.

According to Major Geoffrey Allan, territorial social services secretary, “Using the ServicePoint HMIS system puts us at the forefront of using technology to improve services to individuals. Efficiency in this area is imperative as it can mean the difference between a house with or without heat in the winter.”

This achievement is a product of combined efforts between the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana, Eastern Michigan, and the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divisions and the Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness. This year corps in Michigan will process nearly 11 million dollars of direct financial aid for emergency utility assistance.

Before

After