A weekend with a purpose

by Lt. Colonel Richard Vanderweele

Planning is well underway for the weekend in June when Central Territory Salvationists gather in Merrillville, Ind., for what is commonly known as “commissioning weekend.”

Preceding the commissioning of the “Friends of Christ” session, a Spiritual Life Summit will engage delegates in a weekend filled with inspiration, insight and introspection.

Spiritual growth and maturity not only is key to a meaningful, fulfilling relationship with Christ but to building the faith community of our corps. We need soldiers who are well grounded and growing in their faith; soldiers who are willing to come alongside new believers and disciple them; and soldiers who will step outside their comfort zone and reach into their communities to introduce Christ to those who come within their sphere of influence.

Our guests for the weekend, Commissioners William and Marilyn Francis, who recently retired as territorial leaders for the Canada and Bermuda Territory, will be featured in plenary sessions intended to inspire delegates through worship and God’s Word on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Following an opportunity to start the day with a morning run led by Territorial Commander Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, Saturday will feature the territory’s World Services/Self-Denial gathering and the dedication of the summer mission teams.

It also will introduce delegates to an opportunity to gain insight into methods, resources and techniques for spiritual development through an interactive maze of displays, exhibits and hands-on demonstrations that will be scattered throughout the Radisson Hotel convention center. This activity will provide information regarding spiritual life “calls” adopted by the territory: the call to the Word; the call to holiness; the call to a deeper inner life; the call to be missional; the call for spiritual accountability; and the call to worship.

Sunday morning again will provide the optimal sacred setting for introspection as delegates consider God’s leading in their lives while they witness the ordination and commissioning of cadets. Although not everyone is called to be a Salvation Army officer or engage in fulltime Christian ministry, each believer is called to be a disciple, to live out their faith and to bear spiritual fruit. Many will find this time of commitment as meaningful to them spiritually as it is for the cadets entering ministry as new lieutenants.

More details, the schedule for the weekend and registration information will be coming soon.
Hearts, flowers, prayers

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

February may be the reason that Midwesterners are such hardy people! February builds endurance. We shovel snow, bundle up in heavy jackets, navigate icy parking lots and live under cloudy skies with below zero temperatures. Spring seems far, far away.

But tucked in the middle of February is a day dedicated to the ones we love. It’s a day for giving: cards, flowers, candy. It’s a day for asking; there are more marriage proposals on Valentine’s Day in the restaurant on the 95th floor of the John Hancock building in Chicago than any other day of the year. And if the response is positive, a day for sharing—"We’re engaged!"

Giving: asking, sharing: all actions that are not limited to one day or one person. May I suggest when you make plans for those you love that you also plan to give them a gift that affects them eternally: your prayers. Take extra time to thank God for giving to you, to ask for their needs, desires and highest good. Do it for the ones you love most dearly and for the ones who you know need it most. Then, share that you prayed especially for them. I guarantee you will touch their hearts deeply because loving hearts respond to each other.

Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you’re in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special.

1 Thessalonians 1:2 (The Message)

Out of Egypt

Egypt has been in the news a lot this last year, and the reasons it’s been in the news are why Meriana Messhta and her family came to America three years ago.

“ar were not free to worship God and to pursue the careers of our choosing. Our government was not sensitive to the needs of all of the people. I can tell you of many injustices, but we do not deal with all that anymore,” said Meriana.

So, in a step of faith, Jeremiah, Meriana, their young daughter, Trinity, along with Meriana’s mother, sister and nephew, sought religious freedom and financial stability in the U.S.

“It has been a struggle,” Meriana admitted. “The American dream is still a faraway dream, but thanks [to] God, we are better because we are here.”

Since arriving, Meriana and Jeremiah have welcomed two sons, Daniel and Emmanuel.

“Our family is growing, and so is our faith. We have to depend on God in everything. At the bottom of my emails I write, ‘Never measure God’s unlimited power by your limited expectations.’ I find this to be so true, whether it’s should we go or stay, how will we live—everything.”

The need for social services brought them to the pantry of the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps. There was an instant bond between Pamela Church-Pryor, community ministries director, and Meriana.

“I think I asked Meriana what her faith is and she eagerly shared with me that she is a Christian. I remember we recognized in each other the Spirit of Jesus Christ,” said Pamela.

Egyptians are hospitable and generous people. Meriana always finds ways to give back for what is done for her family. One afternoon she and her mother arrived at the corps at lunchtime with a spread of Egyptian dishes prepared for the staff and volunteers. The food was delicious and the fellowship sweet. After that, Meriana began to serve at the Wednesday night FEAST.

Pamela invited Meriana, whose family is orthodox and attends an Arabic evangelical church, to attend a corps service. Another Sunday Pamela’s family attended Meriana’s church, where they translated the message into English. “It was a rich fellowship, intensely concentrated on the Word of God,” recalled Pamela. Meriana and her family continue to worship at the corps and are becoming involved in many of the programs. She was especially helpful at Christmas, translating for Arabic clients, but her dearest time is Sunday worship.

“My family feels loved here. My children are learning about Jesus,” she said.

Recently enrolled as a senior soldier, Meriana said, “It’s a huge responsibility to be a soldier. Wearing the uniform is a declaration of my commitment. I am honored.”

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When Greg Origas looks back, it seems two things saved his life: The Salvation Army, and a hand dryer.

Greg, 54, was homeless for two years. For 18 of those months, he spent nights huddled at the base of an old rock wall at Sibley Park in Mankato, Minn. During winter his flannel shirt and thick blanket was akin to a screen door against punishing sub-zero winds. He sometimes warmed up inside the park’s public restroom, whenever the police weren’t patrolling the area.

“I can’t count how many times I sat with my head under the hand dryer trying to defrost, thinking, ‘What have I gotten myself into?’” Greg said.

Until 2004 Greg was doing fine. The Mankato native had spent 30 years in maintenance and as a sheet metal worker. He’d been close to his son and two daughters, who are now adults and doing well.

His life nosedived after a string of tragic events, including his mother being diagnosed with leukemia and splitting up with his wife of two years.

“I was intent on drinking myself to death,” said Greg.

Treatment in 2004 had little effect. He drank heartily for the next two years, living everywhere from an abandoned hunting shack to the unoccupied Twin Cities homes he remodeled for his oldest daughter, a real estate developer.

He moved back to Mankato in 2005 to be near his mom. “I was homeless the whole time I was tending to her,” Greg said. “I drank a lot out there in the woods. I wouldn’t ask for help from anyone because of my stupid pride.”

Greg’s nightmare ended in 2006 when he heard a voice calling his name in the woods. It was Diana Karau, then-program director of Maxfield Place, a permanent supportive housing facility operated by the Mankato Salvation Army. The two-story complex includes 10 efficiency units for homeless single adults, with 24-hour supervision by case managers. Rent is based on a sliding pay scale or free to those unable to pay.

“My first thought was, ‘I don’t deserve this,’” said Greg. Thankfully, he came around and moved into Maxfield Place in October 2006. He spent the next year getting sober, volunteering for The Salvation Army and building his confidence. In 2007, Greg began working construction for a temp agency and later secured a fulltime job as a janitor. “I was finally able to pay rent at Maxfield Place: $450 a month,” Greg said. “I felt like I was part of the world again.”

Greg’s been sober for four years now. Though he was laid off from the janitorial job, he’s doing the same work for The Salvation Army.

“I’m so thankful The Salvation Army found me,” said Greg. “I could work for them the rest of my life and still not come close to paying them back.”

Corinne Overstake is Greg’s case manager. “Without her, I don’t know what I’d do,” said Greg.

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The Grand Rapids, Mich., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center is representing the Central Territory as part of The Salvation Army’s online national annual report.

They are also one of three Kroc Centers from the 17 currently operating across the nation to be featured. The other two are in San Francisco, Calif., and Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

In the video segment, members, staff and program participants share how the Grand Rapids Kroc Center has positively impacted their lives, spiritually, physically and emotionally. They also talk about the influence the center has had on the community. Additionally, National Commander Commissioner William A. Roberts was interviewed at the Grand Rapids Kroc Center for the online national annual report which is available at annualreport.salvationarmyusa.org.

Programs highlighted include pre-ballet for 3-4 year olds, aquatic fitness classes, Zumba, Schools of Hope, a pottery class, Music and Me for toddlers, and Kids Club.

“We have been open for a year and have enjoyed the overwhelming positive embrace of our community,” said Mayor Marc Johnson, Senior Kroc Center officer. “We hope to keep making an impact on youth and families through the Kroc Center for years to come.”

The center resides on a 20-acre campus that includes two soccer fields, a basketball court, a sand volleyball pit, a 500-person amphitheater, a fishing pond, a 24-pitch community garden, a softball field, and a multi-age playground.

Ready for Mission: Equipped for Service

National Social Services and Disaster Management Conference
Hearing God’s call

S uppessedly Cindy Parker was born with perfect hearing. But by age two unrelenting, painful ear infections took their toll, and a routine doctor’s visit ended in an unsuccessful emergency surgery which caused serious, irreversible damage to Cindy’s hearing. She was diagnosed with a 50 percent hearing loss that over time resulted in a speech impediment as well.

“I was fitted with my first hearing aid by age eight, but in that day and age everyone made fun of you,” recalled Cindy of her disability and, at times, a painful childhood.

Through these early struggles, Cindy realized how much she needed God.

“I came to know the Lord as my Savior when a group of cadets came to the Kansas City Blue Valley Corps near divisional headquarters where my parents were stationed,” said Cindy. “They explained that a personal relationship with God is like His being made the heart grow fonder in our case!” Later they had three beautiful children: Christopher, now 18, Caitlin, 15, and Candace, 9.

In her most recent appointment, Major Cindy Nicolai is the director of the Tri County Golden Diners Nutrition Program in the Metropolitan Division (see sidebar). In it she has realized her gift of hospitality. “I see the lonely and the depressed and know God sent them to us for a reason,” she said. “I love to make their dining experiences more special.”

Most importantly, Cindy has seen the hand of God transform her thinking, career and understanding of Him.

“When we truly let God have control, He makes us a vessel to spread his unconditional love to others,” she said.

A golden opportunity

T he Metropolitan Division’s Tri County Golden Diners Nutrition Program, warmly referred to as the Golden Diner’s Club, serves more than 1,100 meals to older adults and those in need each day, reports Director Major Cindy Nicolai.

Under the direction of Cindy and her husband, Major Ken Nicolai, the program is thriving as are the individuals. At one site a retired school teacher has taken a homeless woman under her wing and is teaching her to read. At another site, the manager gets to know each diner personally and shares the gospel with them.

“We have 13 total sites across two counties including Kane and McHenry, 10 of which have site managers who work from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.,” said Cindy. “We supply the homebound meals and wellness checks for seniors in need.”

Lunch is served daily at 11:30 a.m., and activities such as a guest speaker, musical entertainment or games like Bingo, start before the meal. Cindy visits each site personally every month, spending one-on-one time with as many people as possible. Sometimes, despite her 50 percent hearing loss (see article above), she plays the piano or assists the site manager in serving the meal.

“If they need prayer, I stop right there and pray with them,” said Cindy. “Later I can’t tell you how many times they’ll report back to me how God has answered their prayer!”

Cindy absolutely loves this appointment and has found hospitality to be her gift. “I’ve never had the opportunity to fully utilize this special gift until this appointment came along,” said Cindy. “I just picture how my mother and grandmother would want to dine with others and give our diners that kind of experience.”

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Cindy with Golden Diners Pat and Madaline.
In the beginning...

Genesis—"birth" in Latin, the "beginning" in Hebrew, "origin" in Greek—is an apt name for the Madison Genesis Corps, birthed by the Madison Temple Corps after it began a ministry for people originally from the other side of the world.

Madison Temple began its outreach to the city’s Laotian community in the late 1990s when Timothy Savangsy, a local man of Laotian descent, contacted Majors Paul and Susan Moore, then-corps officers, to start a Laotian ministry there. Timothy had been involved in a similar ministry at another church but found the Laotians resistant to its English-language-only environment.

The Moores began an early Sunday breakfast at which Laotians and corps members could fellowship, followed by a Bible study led by the majors with Timothy translating.

Four Laotians were enrolled as senior soldiers on Easter Sunday 2003. Five years later, Lts. Sanhty and Jean Thammavongsa, fresh from being commissioned, were appointed associate corps officers at Madison Temple. Former Buddhists, Sanhty and Jean became Christians as young adults, then met The Salvation Army through the Rockford Tabernacle, Ill., Corps, a Laotian congregation that also had its genesis in a parent corps, Rockford Temple.

It wasn’t long before the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division established the Madison Genesis Corps with the Thammavongsas as corps officers. Of the 40 or so Laotian corps attendees, 20 are senior soldiers and six are junior soldiers.

Although they are two distinct corps, the two congregations maintain close family ties. They not only share facilities, they’re united in community outreach efforts such as an annual Father’s Day picnic and Laotian open-air worship in several decision points for Christ and a new family for the corps; social services Jan Asian food pantry is available; plus other ministries, including united youth programs, corps cadets and Sunday school.

“A united corps; social services Jan Asian food pantry is available; plus other ministries, including united youth programs, corps cadets and Sunday school.”

Madison Temple, currently led by Majors Loren and Janice Carter, and Madison Genesis strive to minimize divisions. On Sunday mornings the Carters hold English worship in the chapel first. A united Sunday school follows with an adult class conducted in Laotian and English when needed by Sanhty. Then the Thammavongsas hold worship in Laotian and English.

“English speakers and Asians who don’t speak Laotian often attend our Laotian Sunday school class and worship,” said Jean, who added, “We’re open to all!’

Madison Temple reaches out

A challenge was issued to corps cadets last year by the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division to develop and implement relational evangelism plans. The Madison Temple, Wis., Corps responded to the call for increased numbers of seekers, soldiers and adherents by initiating a multi-stage plan to reach Dane County.

The corps launched its plan this past fall with a festival celebrating the start of the school year. Five hundred people attended the Saturday event, called “Back to ‘SONday’ School.” Backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed, and people of all ages enjoyed carnival games, activities and free bike repairs. Gospel magic shows by guests Major Ed Jarvis, son Joel and daughter-in-law Wendy, captivated children and adults alike. The next morning on Bally Day, the Jarvises once again fascinated crowds that included some people from the previous day.

Majors Loren and Janice Carter, corps officers, Katie Casey, Dane County outreach coordinator, local leadership and staff got right to work following up with Festival of Champions guests and planning at least two more outreach events, reported Major Jo Langham, associate corps officer. Lts. Sanhty and Jean Thammavongsa of the Madison Genesis Corps followed up with Laotian guests.

"We sent letters to each family with our activity schedule and included a coupon redeemable for a ‘welcome gift’ on their first Sunday visit,” said Jo. Invitations were sent to events, such as “One Starry Night,” an interactive walk through Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born with marketplace activities and worship service. And, this summer the corps will hold a traveling vacation Bible school in five Dane County neighborhoods.

“We’ve all become more ‘outreach conscious,’” Jo continued, citing a corps parking lot clean-up sale where corps people invited neighbors to services. “It’s all about the ‘touch’ of ministry; the more times we touch someone, the better chance we have of building a relationship with them,” she concluded.
Commissioner Barry C. Swanson became Chief of the Staff in May 2010 and is only one of four Americans to ever hold the position of second in command for The Salvation Army. Here he shares from his unique perspective.

**What is the hardest part of your job? Most delightful?**

The hardest part is decision making concerning people and places where I have limited knowledge and often no first-hand experience.

The most delightful is seeing the mission prosper somewhere in the world knowing I had a direct impact in allowing that to happen.

**What are our common denominators?**

The main common denominators include mission, doctrine, worship and history. Salvationists around the world share these distinctives and, for the most part, are overwhelmingly loyal to them. General Linda Bond’s articulation of a vision described as “One Army, One Mission, One Message” has been very powerful in this regard.

**Are there any particular Army trends we might find interesting?**

Yes. The Salvation Army is seeing a healthy increase in the number of men and women offering themselves for fulltime service as officers in response to a calling to do so. This is notably so in some western territories where training colleges had been barren for a number of years. I believe one factor for this resurgence was the World Youth Convention in 2010.

Another interesting trend is the continued expansion of the Army, both into new countries and in terms of the number of soldiers globally.

**Where do you sit, Commissioner, what would you say are the most pressing challenges we face as an organization?**

Leadership development (at all levels) continues to be a concern. We need men and women with both the professional and spiritual qualifications to lead effectively and with boldness in an ever more complex world.

I would also include the challenge that we be more inclusive in opening up our corps as places of worship for ALL people. I do mean all people.

Evangelizing and discipling children and youth effectively challenges us in most places. We must do better.

We are challenged in today’s economic climate to fund the international work to the level required.

Again from your perspective, what are our strengths or where are we making inroads or a significant difference?

We continue to do excellent social service ministries around the world. It is a testimony to our love of Christ.

Our voice in the realm of social justice is being heard more clearly these days. While good, we must back it up with action.

**What do you feel have been the key contributions of each of the two Generals you’ve worked with?**

Both General Shaw Clifton (Rtd.) and General Linda Bond demonstrated distinct and remarkable leadership abilities. General Clifton has the mind and training of a lawyer and was able to understand and communicate complex ideas relating to theology, organizational behavior and ethics. General Bond is very much a visionary and is good at conceiving a picture of the future and lay-
ing out a strategy for achievement. Together they demonstrate how leadership comes in very different personality packages.

Before you moved to London, you said that as with your other appointments over 31 years of officership, you felt this appointment to be God’s way of placing you where He wanted you. How do you think He’s been using you in your current ministry?

It is probably too early to tell. I am more aware of what I have been learning than what I have been contributing. After serving in this appointment, has your view or appreciation of your home territory (Central USA) changed?

Of course. I love it all the more, and appreciate the wonderful people and values that define this territory. I say with respect and gentleness, the Central should be careful not to become satisfied with who and what we are. There is much to learn from others (especially “third world” territories). Many are accomplishing more, with far fewer resources, than we are.

As a third-generation Salvationist with a Swedish heritage, how was leading the Swedish congress last year? Any long lost relatives emerge or do you have an interesting story to share?

It was great and felt strangely familiar even though I have no personal history there. People were delighted to know that I had Swedish roots and enjoyed showing me where my grandparents were born. It was helpful to gain an understanding of why so many immigrated to the USA during that era.

While we don’t immediately think of serving at HQ as an appointment of hardship, there are still sacrifices involved. What might these be for you and your wife?

The personal stuff: away from home and family during holidays, the comfort of friends nearby, and having a shared history with so many people you know.

What has God been doing in your own life during the last two years?

I have been challenged to focus on my own spiritual development. Sue and I work on this intentional-ly as a couple in a variety of ways. We also have a close circle of friends with whom we are always “Barry and Sue.” These relationships ground us in an intimate bond with other believers which I find sustaining and independent of my work as an officer.

Now that our four children are married God is reminding me of the wonderful ministry we have to one another as a mature family of Christ Followers. The advent of grandchildren is a whole other dimension of living that brings absolute delight. A gift from the Lord gratefully received.
Imagine commissioning, school holidays, summer and Christmas all happening in the same month! That’s the schedule of The Salvation Army in the southern hemisphere. As Partners in Mission, literally and spiritually, Commissioners Jorge and Adelina Ferreira, territorial leaders in the South America West Territory, invited my husband, Commissioner Paul Seiler, and me to the commissioning events.

We first joined the territorial commander in the Peru Division where we saw and discussed the progress of the Callao Men’s Shelter, whose primary support partner is the Dearborn Heights, Mich., Corps. It was exciting to climb four flights of unfinished stairs and see the dormitory rooms and bathrooms that will be available in this Lima “suburb.” Callao looks out on mountains where shacks rest precariously and house those who migrate into the city for work.

We also visited one of the many schools, a key ministry in South America West. The Army provides life-changing education for children, which is absolutely essential to rise above poverty. School uniforms, play, worship and homework are all part of the Army’s integrated spiritual and educational approach. All of the children wanted to practice speaking English with us and kept asking, “How are you? I am fine. Thank you.”

The compound of nearly an acre was safe and well maintained. Clearly much pride and effort goes into the schools and other ministries. We were shown a portion of the property that holds potential for thrift store work. Currently, there is a dilapidated building that houses an officer family in the side that remains standing. Officers consistently live “on the building” of their ministries.

A brief tour of the Peru Divisional Headquarters, where the divisional leaders are the only staff, reminded us of the vital support of employees and officers in helping to accomplish the mission.

From there we attended a soldiers meeting. Some had traveled over six hours to attend while others had been blocked by protests and riots in southern Peru, but they made the effort to worship together. At least 22 soldiers were enrolled, and youth and adults celebrated through music. “Hallelujah Choruses” were another clear contribution of the Central Territory.

There was another two-hour time change as we flew to Santiago. We visited more schools and corps, including seeing essential restrooms which our territory provided at the Central Corps, and then we went to the Training College for a lovely Silver Star service and dinner. The compound’s courtyard was set as though for a wedding to honor the cadets’ parents from Bolivia, Peru and Chile. Then we participated in Sunday commissioning events at Santiago Central. Many of the young people in the band have attended our territory’s Central Music Institute, and the quality of their music was great.

There was no shortage of “Do you know?” connections. So many family and friends of cadets in our College for Officer Training sent greetings, while we took greetings from Central Territory officers who have served in Chile and Chilean officers who currently serve in our territory.

Many people responded to the cadets’ Saturday evening musical which conveyed the hope and grace in Christ. And at the cadets’ ordination and commissioning on Sunday at the Santiago Central Corps, the prayerful response at the altar broke down any other differences in our cultures. Our citizenship as Christians and Salvationists is universal. It was amazing to watch the new lieutenants receive their appointments to city and jungle corps and children’s programs in four countries! Blessed, we flew back to the U.S. warmed by God’s Spirit. He is so good.
The first DVD segment in the series outlines the history and establishment of the work in Poland beginning with the launch of Project Warsaw in 2005 and the two Moldovan officers who were appointed—with little more than a four-hour per week building rental. The Army found a unique niche among the predominantly Catholic population in a neighborhood called Praga-Polnoc. Early on, God brought Mikolaj Czerny, who left a lucrative career in the pharmaceutical industry, to the ministry. Through a series of bold and courageous decisions Mikolaj realized he was called to help develop Army operations in his home city. Under the current direction of Regional Officer Major Patrick Granat, Mikolaj’s work has been crucial to the Army’s establishment in Poland.

"The biggest blessing is I know I'm doing God’s will," said Mikolaj.

There is still a city to build.

There is a country to save.

"But when I see the Army is growing partly because of my obedience, this is my reward."

The second DVD segment draws viewers into the culture of Praga-Polnoc. Reaching out to this crime-ridden and impoverished area has created a presence for the Army in Warsaw. They’ve met the need for an adult drop-in warming center, which brings in 70 to 80 people daily, and a food bank that distributes nearly 2,000 pounds of food each month.

Young, hopeful voices and faces of the children in Poland characterize the third DVD segment. Severe social concerns stemming from high unemployment rates and crime plague the children of Praga-Polnoc. Poverty afflicts the area, and in some families five to six children share one bedroom, but the Army employs two teachers who run summer programs, vacation Bible school and junior soldiers, opening the children up to the gospel and new opportunities.

The final DVD segment in the series features the future plans of The Salvation Army in Poland. Currently the Army rents one room for all of its weekly programs, and on Sundays the entire set-up must be rearranged for services. Employees work out of the officers’ quarters. While officers, employees and soldiers endeavor to one day start an adult rehabilitation center and income-generating recycling program, none of it will be possible without moving into a larger facility. Nevertheless, Army soldiers and personnel are optimistic.

"My hope is that within five years we’re going to have a second corps in Warsaw," said Mikolaj.

A school child in Haiti

One of the many tent cities generous international response to the 2010 earthquake.

To date, 10 community development projects have been proposed, which include components for educational and social capacity building, livelihood support, vocational training, medical assistance, agriculture, the rebuilding of schools and permanent housing. In addition, more than 20 "Mission Support Over and Above" projects will be implemented, which are dedicated to the rebuilding of destroyed Salvation Army buildings.

While there is a sense of accomplishment, the needs in Haiti remain great. More than 600,000 people are still living in tents, school children are still in temporary facilities, and many Salvation Army soldiers and officers remain displaced from their homes and corps buildings.

Yes, there is still a city to build and a country to save. So, let’s not be observers. Let’s continue to be builders, in God’s world and in His name!
The comeback kids

by Major Lonnie Richardson

Who would have known when Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, Central territorial commander, threw out the first pitch on Cardinals Salvation Army Day he would be doing so for the 2011 World Series champions? If so, perhaps we’d have lingered a little longer on the field to take in the magic. Only 24 hours after their miraculous eleventh inning comeback against the Texas Rangers, the St. Louis Cardinals pulled off the unexpected: a World Series Championship in a year they weren’t considered true contenders.

As I sat at home cheering on our hometown heroes, I couldn’t help but reflect on the year we had as a division in which we, too, overcame tremendous odds. It started on New Year’s Day 2011 by responding to a tornado that was a rarity—an oddity we told ourselves—but as the year went on we continued to face hardships that had to be overcome in order to successfully carry out the mission in the Midland Division.

As the year progressed, we ran a two-front offense, serving the emergency needs of those affected by disasters from record snowfalls to flooding to tornadoes, while responding to dramatically increasing needs for food pantry assistance and social services due to the economy. We faced financial turmoil. In the face of budget cuts, shrinking donations and funding reductions, we had to find a way to serve those who needed us—and we did.

When I look back on 2011, I feel much like Cardinals’ coach Tony LaRussa: incredibly proud of my team of officers and staff in the Midland Division for all the good they were able to do with so little resources when so much was expected of them. Daily they have been “doing the most good.” Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV, 2011).

This year’s celebration of the 125th anniversary of The Salvation Army’s start in Detroit began with the kettle kick-off.

This year’s celebration of the 125th anniversary of The Salvation Army’s start in Detroit began with the kettle kick-off.

The division is located in neighboring Southfield, Mich. The division accounts for more than 100 service centers, 40 of which are in metropolitan Detroit. The Salvation Army also has three adult rehabilitation centers in the area.

The Army has impacted countless lives, providing spiritual guidance, food, shelter, afterschool programs, rent assistance, drug and alcohol rehabilitation plus many other services. Interestingly, the Army was almost forced to stop helping the people of Detroit in 1901. [Read the dramatic story on “Get Connected!”]

The division will further celebrate this landmark anniversary at regularly scheduled annual and special events throughout 2012, such as its 25th annual Red & Bread Club Radiothon this month (through which money is raised to serve 5,000 meals each day to children, adults and seniors in metro-Detroit’s most depressed areas). “With Michigan’s poverty rate at 16.8 percent, the highest it’s been in four decades, the need through-out the metropolitan Detroit area is greater than ever,” said Major Mark Anderson, Detroit metro area commander.

When I look back on 2011, I feel much like Cardinals’ coach Tony LaRussa: incredibly proud of my team of officers and staff in the Midland Division for all the good they were able to do with so little resources when so much was expected of them. Daily they have been “doing the most good.” Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV, 2011).

This year’s celebration of the 125th anniversary of The Salvation Army’s start in Detroit began with the kettle kick-off.

The division is located in neighboring Southfield, Mich. The division accounts for more than 100 service centers, 40 of which are in metropolitan Detroit. The Salvation Army also has three adult rehabilitation centers in the area.

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Gift annuity rates rise

If you’re interested in helping others while providing a regular source of income for yourself and a loved one, there’s a special kind of gift that allows you to give to The Salvation Army now while receiving regular income payments for life regardless of future market-rate changes. It’s called a charitable gift annuity.

‘Recently our rates have increased slightly higher, making charitable gift annuities even more attractive in today’s financial cli-

te where interest rates on savings have been so low,” said David Himes, territorial planned giving consultant. “The gift may even be specified to create an endowment or to benefit a ministry or program at a corps.”

It’s easy to arrange: a donor makes a gift of $1,000 or more in cash or securities (i.e., stocks, bonds, mutual funds). The Army uses the gift to generate payments throughout the donor’s life (and/or the life of a secondary beneficiary). Because the income amount is determined when the charitable gift annuity is created, the payment never changes. A portion of the amount given is tax deductible for those who itemize on their federal income tax return. Furthermore, a portion of the payment will not be subject to taxes. And, since the charitable gift annuity is backed by the full faith and credit of The Salvation Army, you can count on regular, timely installments.

For more information or to use a charitable gift annuity calculator, visit www.plannedgiftcentral.org or contact David Himes at (847) 284-2055 or dave_himes@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Dave Himes discusses charitable gift annuities with Joann Nokes.

Seminar success

The Eastern Michigan Division held its 14th annual live estate planning seminar, the largest of its kind in Michigan with over 450 registrants. Certified financial planners, insurance agents and certified public accountants attend not only for continuing education credits but also to hear from top legal and financial professionals. The seminar provides attendees with legal updates on taxes and estate planning strategies and a forum for questions and answers with the presenters.

Blessed with event sponsors, the estate planning seminar also serves as a way to thank professionals who remember The Salvation Army and those in need when they meet with their clients.

All attendees receive a professional packet of information about The Salvation Army. These packets include the proper wording when working with placing The Salvation Army in a client’s estate plan and also the resources that are available to professionals through the division’s website.

Wally Savage, divisional director of planned giving, sees the seminar also as a wonderful cultivation tool which has generated several gifts through relationships that have been created with many professionals.

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My Prayer List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Bible Reading</th>
<th>Pray for The Salvation Army</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Thursday</td>
<td>Job 17-18</td>
<td>Mt. Pleasant, Mich., Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Friday</td>
<td>Isaiah 49-50</td>
<td>World Day of Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Saturday</td>
<td>Matthew 23-25</td>
<td>Envoys Bob &amp; Vicki Poff (Jamaica)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Sunday</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 1-2</td>
<td>Jr. Soldier Enrollment &amp; Retreat Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Monday</td>
<td>Genesis 36-38</td>
<td>Oak Creek (Centennial), Wls., Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Tuesday</td>
<td>Ruth</td>
<td>Southeast Michigan ARC*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Wednesday</td>
<td>Psalms 27-29</td>
<td>Port Huron, Mich., Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Thursday</td>
<td>Job 19-20</td>
<td>Peoria (Cladie), N., Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Friday</td>
<td>Isaiah 51-55</td>
<td>Biblical Education Tour Returns Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Saturday</td>
<td>Matthew 26-28</td>
<td>New Albany, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Sunday</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 3-4</td>
<td>National Music &amp; Arts Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Monday</td>
<td>Genesis 40-43</td>
<td>Western Michigan &amp; Northern Indiana調整**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Tuesday</td>
<td>1 Samuel 1-3</td>
<td>St. Joseph, Mo., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Wednesday</td>
<td>Psalms 30-32</td>
<td>Joliet, Il., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Thursday</td>
<td>Job 21-22</td>
<td>St. Louis (St. Paul Ave.), Mo., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Friday</td>
<td>Isaiah 56-61</td>
<td>Noble Worship Center, Minn., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Saturday</td>
<td>Mark 1-2</td>
<td>Omaha (Cladie), Neb., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Sunday</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 5-6</td>
<td>Muskegon (Cladie), Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Monday</td>
<td>Genesis 44-47</td>
<td>Dekalb, Wls., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Tuesday</td>
<td>1 Samuel 6-10</td>
<td>Royal Oak, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Wednesday</td>
<td>Psalms 29-30</td>
<td>Springfield, Il., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Thursday</td>
<td>Job 23-24</td>
<td>Peru, Ind., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Friday</td>
<td>Isaiah 62-66</td>
<td>Tapakia (Cladie), Kan., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Saturday</td>
<td>Mark 3-4</td>
<td>Salvation Army National Social Services Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Sunday</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 7-8</td>
<td>Norridge (Cladie), M., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Monday</td>
<td>Genesis 48-50</td>
<td>St. Louis (Gateway Cladie), Mo., Corps</td>
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<td>1 Samuel 11-15</td>
<td>Rochester, Minn., Corps</td>
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<td>Jeremiah 1-6</td>
<td>Quincy (Kro Center), Il., Corps</td>
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<td>Mark 5-6</td>
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Go to www.prayercentralusa.org for prayer updates. If you follow the prayer calendar in the next year, you will have read through the Bible!

I can’t believe you guys want to buy a new flat screen TV... wouldn’t that money be better spent feeding a village in sub-Saharan Africa?
D
ivisional Bible Bowls will be held throughout the territory this spring. After serious preparation, youth from corps throughout the territory will converge during their respective divisional youth councils to determine whose Bible knowledge and memorization skills reign superior.

Framed as a fast-paced, socially-charged upbeat quiz-staffed, in reality Bible Bowl is much more; it’s an intentional discipleship program where each team member memorizes, recites and mediates daily on scripture. The teams will focus on different portions of scripture every season.

Each team has four starting “quizzers,” two alternates, a head coach and an assistant coach. With buzzers in hand, all players remain seated as questions about scripture are read aloud by the “quizmaster.” Of course, whoever buzzes first has the first opportunity to answer.

Over the last few years Bible Bowl has become a part of the corps cadet curriculum, where one year of participating on a Bible Bowl team substitutes for one year of corps cadets.

“She really loves The Salvation Army,” said Andrea Maloy, Detroit Harding sunbeam leader. “Every activity she can be involved in’s down for Her family is really dedicated, and she is still coming faithfully to the girl guard programs even though they’re much harder than sunbeams.”

A can-do spirit

E
leven-year-old Kandace Pugh is the first sunbeam at the Detroit Harding, Mich. Corps to earn her Commissioner’s Sunbeam award since 1954. Kandace started attending the corps with her mother and eagerly pursued corps activities and character-building programs right away.

“Bible Bowl has been challenging yet extremely rewarding. It has been great to see the excitement in the students as they begin to really know God’s Word,” said Mike Mowers, director of student ministries at the Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps.

“Promoted to Glory”

Major C. Vernon Jewett

Major C. Vernon Jewett was promoted to Glory on December 5, 2011. He was 89 years old.

Jewett was born to Eugene and Jessie in Carsons, Mich. By age eight he had become a junior soldier at the Detroit Brightmoor, Mich. Corps and was involved in band and corps cadets.

During WWII he served in the United States Navy and upon discharge moved to the Michigan, which he met and fell in love with Lieutenant Marjorie Hanney. She resigned her officership, and they were married in 1947. Later, they were blessed with two children.

Shortly after marriage, during a youth council, Vernon decided to follow a call placed on his heart years before to officiars. He was commissioned in 1951, and Marjorie was reaccepted; together as officers they served at several corps and territorial headquarters.

In 1962 they would embark on what would be 25 years of ministry in men’s social new adult rehabilitation centers. After retirement they moved down to sunny Florida, where Vernon continued to play bass and enjoyed hunting, fishing and golf.

Vernon is survived by his wife, children Lt. Colonel Vern (Martha) Jewett and Marge [Pat] Morton; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Major Carl Amick

Major Carl C. Amick, Jr. was promoted to Glory on December 14, 2011. He was 81 years old.

Born to Carl, Sr. and Luvena, Carl grew up in Alton, Kan. Although his parents raised him in The Salvation Army, it wasn’t until undergoing a serious operation at age 18 that Carl fully committed himself to God’s will for his life.

Carl entered training and was commissioned in 1949. He served in Waterloo and Burlington, Iowa, as a single officer. While on vacation in 1950, Carl visited his broth- er, also a corps officer, and was mesmerized by a beautiful young lady, Betty Green, who attended the corps.

They were married in 1951 whereupon Betty entered training. During their officership the Amicks served as corps officers throughout Michigan, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota and Indiana. They retired in 1996 and moved to Rockford, Ill.

Carl was recognized as an excellent corps officer. Wherever he and Betty were stationed advances were made in all areas of corps ministry. In retirement he continued to serve as the pastoral care officer at the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps.

Carl is survived by his wife, children Lt. Colonel Richard (Vicki), Kathleen Trager and Pam [Wayne] Cook and three grandchildren.