



Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory
News and Views from the Midwest

"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

Volume 42, Number 2

February 2012

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 Life
SUMMIT
"From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I." - Psalm 61:2
and COMMISSIONING of the
Friends of Christ
JUNE 8-10, 2012
Merrillville, Indiana

Leaders
Commissioners
Paul R. & Carol Seiler

Special Guests
Commissioners
William & Marilyn Francis



Interview with the Chief of the Staff See page 6

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 ingathering and the dedication of the summer missions 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.

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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 them 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 Messiha and her family came to America three years ago.

"We 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 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 Immanuel.

"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, intently 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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World Missions website

Web exclusives

Q & A with Major Cindy Nicolai

How to build a Bible Bowl team by Barb Higgins

Colonel Blanche Cox fights for Army in Detroit

A typical charitable gift annuity scenario by Dave Himes

A Look at Laos

More about the South America West Territory



Hitting rock bottom

by Craig Dirkes

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



Corinne Overstake is Greg's case manager. "Without her, I don't know what I'd do," said Greg.

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



Greg by the wall where he spent nights for a year and a half.

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."

Grand Rapids Kroc Center gets national nod



by Stephanie Denton

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 only 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

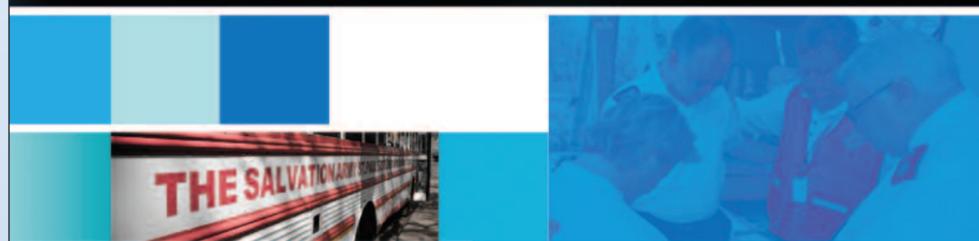
Programs highlighted include pre-ballet for 3-4 year olds, aquatic fitness classes, Zumba, Schools of Hope, a pottery class, Music and Me for toddlers, and Kids Club.

"We have been open for a year and have enjoyed the overwhelming positive embrace of our community," said Major 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-plot community garden, a softball field, and a multi-age playground.



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Hearing God's call

Supposedly 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.



Cindy with her father, Major Billy Dale Parker, on the day she received her General's Guard award

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

"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.

your friend."

An astute and conscientious student, Cindy went on to complete high school and obtain a bachelor's degree in accounting from North Park University in Chicago. But as much as she tried, Cindy couldn't ignore the calling to officership God had placed on her life.

"I fought my calling to officership, trying to use my hearing impediment as an excuse," said Cindy. "I kept telling myself that the Army wouldn't accept me as I was, until I was convicted to surrender that thinking." In 1987 Cindy was commissioned with the "Messengers of Peace" session.

Since her decision to surrender self-destructive thinking and follow God's plan, He has blessed her immensely. About five years later Cindy married sessionmate Ken Nicolai, who had been a friend during training. As she put it, "Absence



Cindy with two of her site managers, Chris (l) and Judy.



Majors Cindy and Ken Nicolai with children Christopher, Caitlin, and Candace.

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

The 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."



Cindy with Golden Diners Pat and Madaline.

Lenten Resources 2012



God with Us

Enrich your corps' worship this Lenten season with the *God with Us* series of high-quality, ready-to-use Sunday worship outlines and sermons, as well as program ideas for activities throughout each week.

Take hold of God's hand on this Lenten journey—*God with Us!*

See your corps officer for more information.

In the beginning...

Genesis—"birth" in Latin, the "beginning" in Hebrew, "origin" in Greek—is an apt name for the Madison Genesis, Wis., 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 with 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



An eggroll fundraiser was fun and successful!

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 which has resulted in several decisions for Christ and a new family for

the corps; social services (an Asian food pantry is available); plus other ministries, including united youth programs, corps cadets and Sunday school.



Madison Genesis Corps youth enjoy outings such as bowling night.

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!"



Pictured (l-r) are Susanna Thammavongsa, Anesa Souvannasone, Lt. Jean Thammavongsa, Sarah Souvannasone and Nop Kwanruck.

Madison reaches out

A challenge was issued to corps 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 Rally 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 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.)



Major Loren Carter and "Kid's Café" 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-out 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.

Local officer training streamed

Live!

**Saturday,
March 17**

**9:00 a.m. –
1:00 p.m. (CST)**

at www.salvationarmymedia.tv



Whether you're a local officer or would like to become one, you'll want to join David Tooley and Linda Himes for this day of training. Get a group together or participate individually. For more information contact your corps officer.



Major Jo Langham, associate corps officer, and corps cadets.

An interview with the

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.



Commissioner E. Sue Swanson and Chief of the Staff Commissioner Barry C. Swanson welcome General Linda Bond to Queen Victoria Street

For those who might be new to The Salvation Army, what are the responsibilities of the Chief of the Staff (COS)?

My role is to assist the General in the administration and leadership of the international Salvation Army. The COS has specific responsibility for the day to day operations of International Headquarters and coordination of business matters relating to the five international zones.

In addition to your official memorandum of appointment, how do you view your role?

I see myself as both a team player and a team leader. One depends upon the other. I work closely on a daily basis with the General as her "team captain" (she's the coach), and then function as a coach of teams within the context of my own brief of appointment.



The Chief talks with a lieutenant at the World Youth Convention

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.

We often talk about the Army's great internationalism. From your job and your travels what would you say 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.

From where 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.

How do you view the role of the individual Salvationist in all this?

The Army is the individual Salvationist. What she/he believes and does determines the present and future of our movement. So that role is critically important. The goal of all leadership is to influence the individual Salvationist in ways that will bring about an incarnation of mission values in everyday life.

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-



Standing with other candidates for General during the High Council in 2010



The Chief of the Staff prays with a seeker during the holiness meeting at Seoul First Corps.

Chief of the Staff



The Chief of the Staff and Commissioner E. Sue Swanson are accompanied into International Headquarters by then General Shaw Clifton and Commissioner Helen Clifton.



Greeting congregation members of the Maidstone Corps in the UK on Easter Sunday

Photo: Jonathan Pipe of The Memory Studio



The Swansons are welcomed with a traditional eastern European bread and salt in Kiev, Ukraine.

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 IHQ 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.

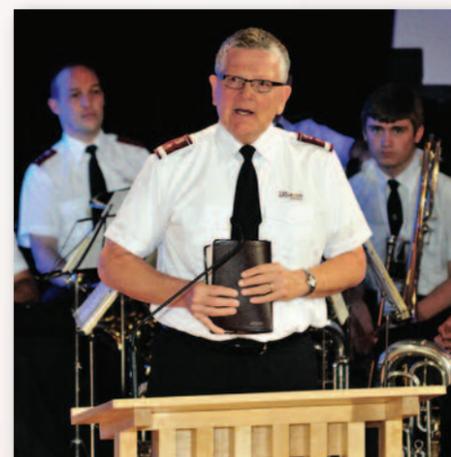
What has God been doing in your own life during the last two years?

I have been challenged to focus on my own spiritual development. Sue and I work on this intentionally 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.



The Chief of the Staff enters into Maori greeting with A/Captain Joe Patea, Salvation Army Maori ministry leader at territorial headquarters in New Zealand.



Challenging Salvationist youth of the world.



The Swansons with other leaders and children at the Kwachun Corps Child Day Care Center in South Korea.



The Swansons make the first contribution to the Christmas Kettle appeal in Japan.

Connections in Christ

by Commissioner Carol Seiler

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.

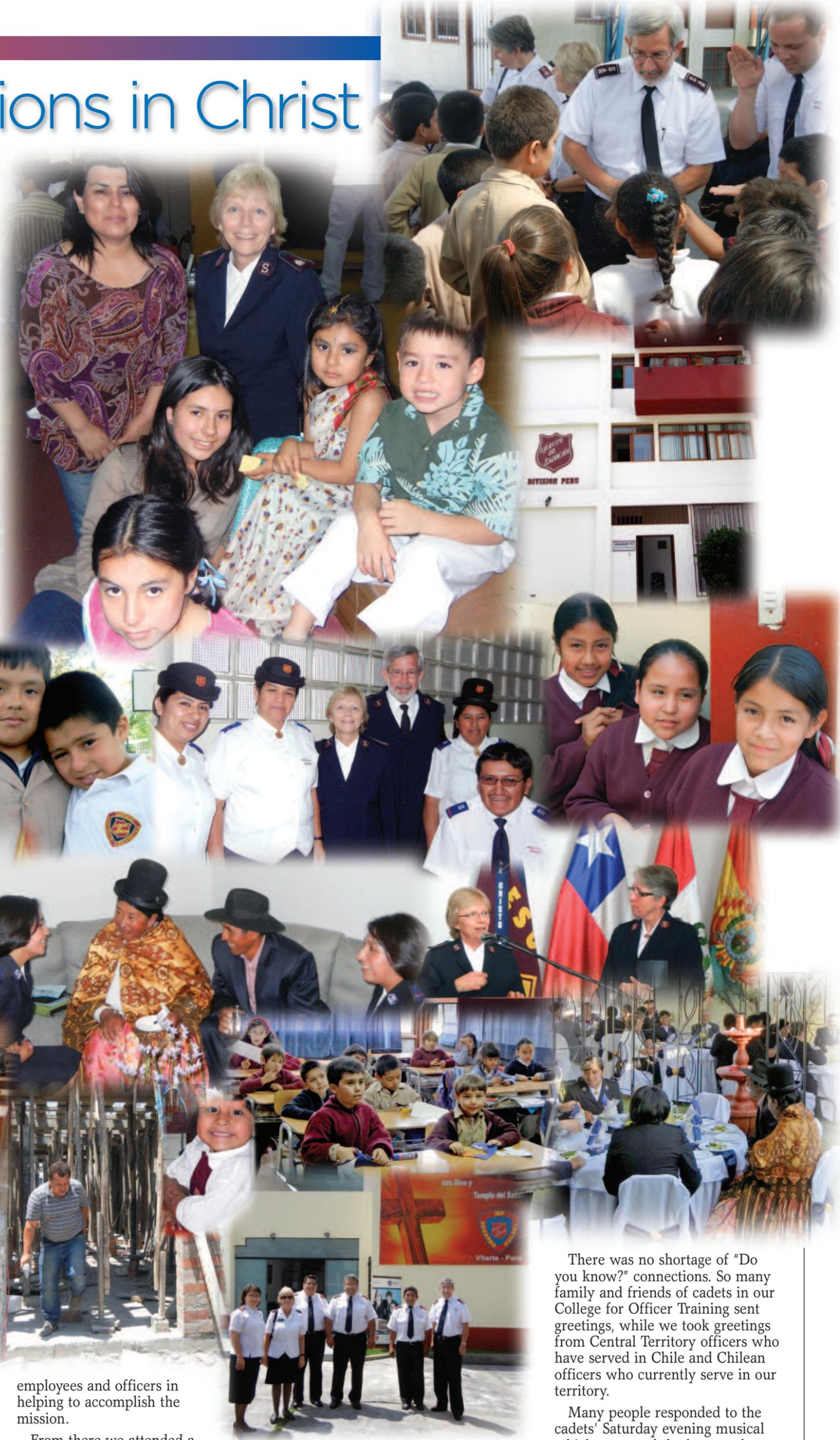
From there we attended a soldiers meeting. Some had traveled over six hours to attend while others had been blocked by protests and riots in southern Peru, but they made the effort to worship together. At least 22 soldiers were enrolled, and youth and adults celebrated through music. "Hallelujah Choruses"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



Into the world

Building for a future in Poland

This year we join the world missions bureau and visual communications to discover more about The Salvation Army's growth and relatively new work in Warsaw, Poland. Educational resources include a four-part DVD series, *Into the World: Poland*—produced in the Central Territory, coin banks and envelopes, as well as a website component for additional resources and information:

www.resources.centralmissions.org.

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 predominately 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.



"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 the 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.

Photo credit: Emily Aukes and Tabatha Anderson



A city to build, a country to save

by Lt. Colonel Heidi Bailey
International Haiti Earthquake
Response Director

"There is a city to build. There is a country to save. Do not be an observer, become a builder."

These inspirational words were spoken in January 2011 at a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, one year after a 7.0 earthquake rocked the country of Haiti. The speaker was

Haiti Divisional Commander Major Lucien Lamartiniere, who was affected like so many others.

For more than 60 years The Salvation Army in Haiti has been a builder of relationships and caring communities in Christ's name. Now two years after the earthquake, the local Salvation Army works tirelessly to help the people of Haiti, in spite of overwhelming post-earthquake challenges caused by hurricanes, a cholera epidemic, and the aftermath of political elections.

The Haiti Recovery and Development Office, based in Port-au-Prince, continues to build on the firm foundation of the Army's years of experience in Haiti through the proposal and implementation of projects which unite the division's post-earthquake priorities with the



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



A school child in Haiti

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!



Lt. Colonels Brad and Heidi Bailey with Centralite Damon Winters, who's been serving as part of the relief and development team.

The comeback kids

by Major Lonneal 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 snow falls 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).



Army in Detroit hits 125 years

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Salvation Army operations in Detroit, Mich. The year-long recognition of this milestone began this winter with the Eastern Michigan Division's Kettle kick-off in downtown Detroit. The "World's Tallest Red Kettle" was lit with much fanfare prior to the lighting of the City of Detroit's Christmas tree.

The Army has been giving hope to the hopeless in Detroit since the first corps opened there in October 1887 in a rented space above a fish market on downtown's Cadillac Square. The city's population at the time was 133,000; the Army now serves a population approaching four million in the Detroit area.

The city is home to three corps (Temple, Grandale and Harding), the Acres of Hope/Harbor Light and the Denby Center. The Eastern Michigan Divisional Headquarters



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

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.

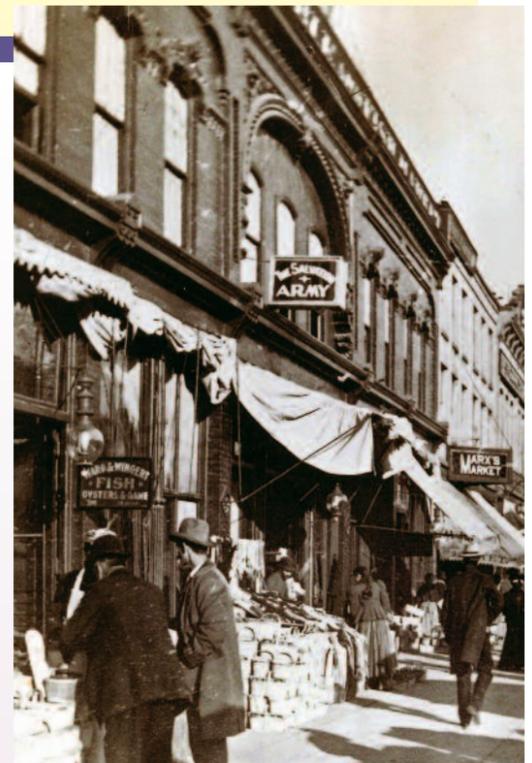
The Army has impacted countless lives, providing spiritual guidance, food, shelter, afterschool programs, rent assistance, drug and alcohol rehabilitation plus many other services. Interestingly, the Army was almost forced to stop helping the people of Detroit in 1901. (Read the dramatic story on "Get

Connected!")

The division will further celebrate this landmark anniversary at regularly scheduled annual and special events throughout 2012, such as its 25th annual Bed & Bread Club Radiothon this month (through which money is raised to serve 5,000 meals each day to children, adults and seniors in metropolitan Detroit's most



Colonel Blanche Cox ensured the continuation of the Army's work in Detroit.



The Army's first corps in rented space over a fish market on Cadillac Square in downtown Detroit.

depressed areas).

"With Michigan's poverty rate at 16.8 percent, the highest it's been in four decades, the need throughout the metropolitan Detroit area is greater than ever," said Major Mark Anderson, Detroit metro area commander.



A gathering of Salvationists outside a Detroit Army meeting hall.

2011 Sounds of the Seasons CD

A professional CD recording of the recent Chicago Staff Band concert, Sounds of the Seasons featuring the CSB and Boston Brass is available for \$15 each, plus \$5 shipping and handling for orders of any quantity to the same address. Orders with quantity, address information and payment (Visa and MasterCard accepted) should be sent to:

**Chicago Staff Band, The Salvation Army,
10 W. Algonquin Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60016**

If paying by credit card, fax (847) 227-5033.



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-

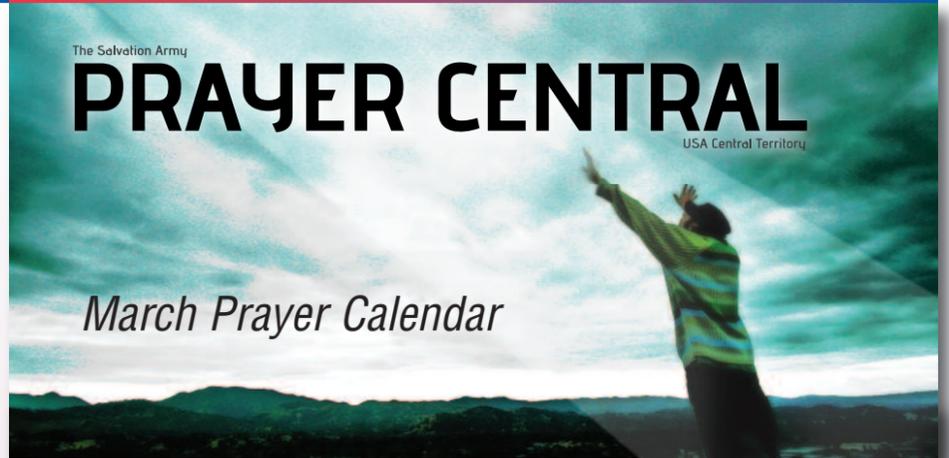
mate where interest rates on savings have been so low," said David Himes, territorial planned giving consultant. "The gift may even be specified to create an endowment or to benefit a ministry or program at a corps."

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) 294-2055 or dave_himes@usc.salvationarmy.org



Dave Himes discusses charitable gift annuities with Joann Brakes.



My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Thursday	Job 17-18	Mt. Pleasant, Mich., Corps
	2 Friday	Isaiah 45-50	World Day of Prayer
	3 Saturday	Matthew 23-25	Envoys Bob & Vicki Poff (Jamaica)
	4 Sunday	1 Corinthians 1-2	Jr. Soldier Enrollment & Renewal Sunday
	5 Monday	Genesis 36-39	Oak Creek (Centennial), Wis., Corps
	6 Tuesday	Ruth	Southeast Michigan ARC*
	7 Wednesday	Psalms 27-29	Port Huron, Mich., Corps
	8 Thursday	Job 19-20	Peoria (Citadel), Ill., Corps
	9 Friday	Isaiah 51-55	Biblical Education Tour Returns Home
	10 Saturday	Matthew 26-28	New Albany, Ind., Corps
	11 Sunday	1 Corinthians 3-4	National Music & Arts Sunday
	12 Monday	Genesis 40-43	Western Michigan & Northern Indiana DHQ**
	13 Tuesday	1 Samuel 1-5	St. Joseph, Mo., Corps
	14 Wednesday	Psalms 30-32	Joliet, Ill., Corps
	15 Thursday	Job 21-22	St. Louis (Euclid Ave.), Mo., Corps
	16 Friday	Isaiah 56-61	Noble Worship Center, Minn., Corps
	17 Saturday	Mark 1-2	Omaha (Citadel), Neb., Corps
	18 Sunday	1 Corinthians 5-6	Muskegon (Citadel), Mich., Corps
	19 Monday	Genesis 44-47	Oshkosh, Wis., Corps
	20 Tuesday	1 Samuel 6-10	Royal Oak, Mich., Corps
	21 Wednesday	Psalms 33-35	Springfield, Ill., Corps
	22 Thursday	Job 23-24	Peru, Ind., Corps
	23 Friday	Isaiah 62-66	Topeka (Citadel), Kan., Corps
	24 Saturday	Mark 3-4	Salvation Army National Social Services Conference
	25 Sunday	1 Corinthians 7-8	NorrIDGE (Citadel), Ill., Corps
	26 Monday	Genesis 48-50	St. Louis (Gateway Citadel), Mo., Corps
	27 Tuesday	1 Samuel 11-15	Rochester, Minn., Corps
	28 Wednesday	Psalms 36-38	Omaha (North Side), Neb., Corps
	29 Thursday	Job 25-26	Niles, Mich., Corps
	30 Friday	Jeremiah 1-6	Quincy (Kroc Center), Ill., Corps
	31 Saturday	Mark 5-6	Racine, Wis., Corps

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!

* = Adult Rehabilitation Center
** = Divisional Headquarters
PIM = Partners in Mission

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 accounts 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.

--Mustard Seeds--



Bible Bowl strikes Central

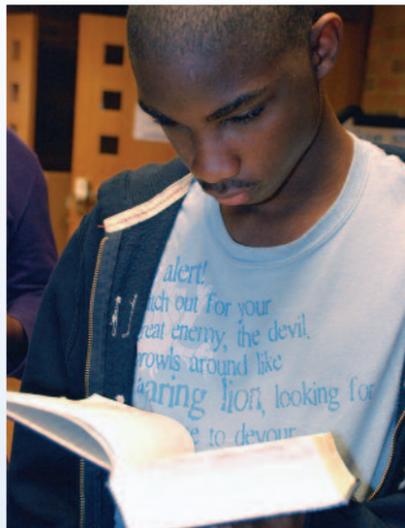
Divisional Bible Bowls will be held throughout the territory this spring. After serious preparation, youth from corps throughout the territory will converge during their respective divisional youth councils to determine whose Bible knowledge and memorization skills reign superior.

Framed as a fast-paced, socially-charged upbeat quiz-off, in reality Bible Bowl is much more; it's an intentional discipleship program where each team member memorizes, recites and meditates 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.

"The purpose of Bible Bowl is to build a strong biblical foundation that will be relevant in the daily



DeJon Dixon from the Detroit, Mich., Harding Corps brushes up on 1 Peter.

lives of young people," writes Barb Higgins, territorial director of teen ministries, in the *Bible Bowl How To Book*. "The ultimate outcome is designed to develop Bible study habits that will continue throughout life by systematic study, memorization and application of scripture."

Any young person ages 12–19, who regularly attends a corps and claims Jesus Christ as their Savior, is eligible to participate on a team. Any corps interested in starting a team should contact their divisional youth secretary to get the ball rolling.



A can-do spirit

Eleven-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.

"She really loves The Salvation Army," said Andrea Maloy, Detroit Harding sunbeam leader. "Every activity she can be involved in she'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."



Corps Officers Captains Javier and Kelsie Moreno pictured with Kandace and her mother.

Youth bowled over

by Major Michelle Oliver

Corps cadets from the Eastern Michigan Division had the opportunity to compete against each other in a Bible Bowl as part of a recent corps cadet rally.

In preparation for the big day, they'd been studying 1 Peter the month prior to the event. In corps teams, they were required to memorize scripture, learn details of who, where and when as well as discover what each chapter meant and how to apply the teaching to their daily lives.

Nine corps chose to compete in the recent Bible Bowl for the division, and Barb Higgins, territorial youth ministries director, came to make sure the "rules" were followed.

Common sights prior to the competition were teens reading their Bibles, revising the material with a Bible Bowl app on their phones, and engaging in some good-natured rivalry.



Megan Comai from the Plymouth, Mich., Corps

"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.

The Royal Oak Corps Cadet

Brigade actually entered two teams and were victors on the day. But when it comes to mastering God's Word, everyone's a winner!



The team from Midland, Mich.

Promoted to Glory

Major C. Vernon Jewett

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



Vernon was born to Eugene and Jessie in Carsonville, 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 Lincoln Neb., where he met and fell in love with Lieutenant Marjorie Hasney. She resigned her officership, and they were married in 1947. Later, they were blessed with two children.

Shortly after marriage, during a youth councils, Vernon decided to follow a call placed on his heart years before to officership. He was commissioned in 1951, and Marjorie was re-accepted; 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 (now 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 brother, 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 1995 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.