Chicago awarded last Kroc project

“I want to learn ballet,” exclaimed eight-year-old Zharia. “I want to play soccer,” chimed in Amira, 7. Cedric, 9, wants to swim and play basketball, while Raynell wants job training, and Adrianne wants a safe place for her children to “receive direction.”

Area residents wanting a Kroc Center in their West Pullman neighborhood on Chicago’s south side received some good news recently. The Metropolitan Division was awarded the seventh and final Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center to be built in the Central Territory.

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and Metropolitan Divisional Commander Lt. Colonel David Grindle announced the award to the press as the largest single investment by a social service organization in the history of Chicago. The 220,000-square-foot center will be a state-of-the-art ministry, community and social service facility located on 33 acres in one of Chicago’s most

Chicago Staff Band celebrates 100 years

One alum’s impressions of the anniversary weekend

by Clifford Marshall

All it coincidence if you will. The very first person I ran into at the Chicago Staff Band’s (CSB) 100th anniversary weekend was one of my boyhood heroes. I’ve rarely seen him over the past 35 years, but my admiration remains intact, and he didn’t disappoint.

No doubt every alum who made the pilgrimage to Wheaton has a similar story to tell. After all, the CSB’s history is filled with larger-than-life characters, both real and imagined. Every bandsman has a deep connection to the band, not just to the music-making but to the members themselves.

Mentors, heroes, comrades, side-kicks, they came from far and near to experience once again the ministry of the Chicago Staff Band under the leadership of Bandmaster William Himes and “Bandmaster Emeritus” Colonel Ernest Miller, who has lost neither the twinkle in his eye nor his flair for the dramatic.

Lest I wax too eloquent, I remind myself of the space limitation, and the need to say something about six events in one short article…and the need to mention the names of a lot

Continued on page 2

Guest soloist Chris Jaudes performs with the Chicago Staff Band at the Wheaton College Edman Chapel to a capacity crowd on Saturday night.

Former bandmaster Colonel Ernest Miller with Bandmaster William Himes.
On December 5th, emergency disaster services (EDS) personnel responded to the Westroads Mall in Omaha, Neb., after a 19-year-old man shot and killed eight people before turning the gun on himself. A canteen was deployed to the police command center at the crime scene and provided more than 150 law enforcement officials with food, water, and emotional and spiritual care. The Salvation Army remained on the scene to serve breakfast and snacks to those continuing the investigation.

“We extend our condolences to all of the families and individuals affected by this tragedy. We share in their sorrow and are offering assistance in any way necessary to help during their loss,” said Major Merle Heatwole, Western divisional commander.

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Questions are in the air concerning Come Join Our Army (CJOA)! What is it? How do we do it? When is the material coming? We want to help people think about their part in CJOA, so we, too, ask questions: Who are we as an Army? How are we seen by the public? How do we see ourselves? To date our strategy has been to explore the subject wherever we can—at officers’ councils, divisional schools of ministry, pilgrimages, and recently at the Mission and Purpose conference.

From the answers we identify emerging opportunities for growth but also concerns which might hinder it. We look to participants’ personal stories and reflections about why they came to the Army and why they stay. We then look at Jesus’ stories, identifying similarities and differences in His interactions with those He met on His way.

But the big question is, “So what?” After all of this, how do we move forward, act differently or change what we do? Ideally, the questions need to be answered at the local level. In two divisions where this process was utilized we heard of substantial new interest, ideas and a new energy capturing the hearts of our soldiers. The territorial commander speaks about the need for CJOA to “soak down.” Every corps, center, family and individual soldier needs to work through the questions, challenge their thinking and programming and find their part in building the Army.

An outline of the process and identification of some helpful tools are available under CJOA on the USC program idea database in Lotus Notes. Try it as a way of discovering answers to your local CJOA questions and as you do let your divisional and territorial headquarters know how we can help you.

Major Richard VanderWeele has been appointed as territorial secretary for program effective February 1st. He comes to this position from serving for the last four years as territorial secretary for social services. He knows the territory well as his 30-year officerhip in the Central covers a broad array of service from the College for Officer Training and corps ministry to concentrated social services and administrative work at several divisional headquarters. Please pray for the major during this time of transition.

“Whether its Sunday worship, a corps youth retreat or a weekday feeding program, I look forward to this new opportunity to encourage, promote and support the program ministry of the Central Territory,” said the major.

An even more exciting aspect for the Central Territory is the fact that our own Commissioners William and Nancy Roberts will become the territorial commander and territorial leader of women’s ministries for Kenya West in March.

“Because the past six years, we’ve learned what it means to be ‘international’ Salvationists, and our edification continues as we take up these new appointments in the Kenya West Territory,” said Commissioner William Roberts. “Being in at the creation of a new territory brings both excitement and apprehension, but we look forward to the challenge and also the opportunity to be part of a dynamic and spirited expression of Salvation Army ministry and service. We trust God, whom we serve, for all that we need—and need to be. And, we covet the prayers of Central Territory Salvationists and friends for this new adventure.”

Currently, Commissioner William Roberts serves as the international secretary for business administration at International Headquarters (IHQ), and Commissioner Nancy Roberts is the secretary for IHQ staff development. Prior to their current appointments, the Roberts were the territorial leaders for South America East.

Do they know?

by Sharon Waiksnoris
Territorial Christian Education Director

Many people coming to our Sunday schools really “Know the story?” The most recent territorial Sunday school campaign helped equip members to share it with their friends and motivated corps to reach out by inviting neighbors to Sunday school or SONday SCOOl.

Focusing on memorization and understanding scripture verses that tell the Gospel story, the campaign provided interactive lessons highlighting Bible characters such as John the Baptist, the woman at the well, Stephen and Paul. It included weekly teacher pep talks and training, scripture memorization, outreach and evangelism, and follow-up.

The impact was felt across the territory like in the Metropolitan Division where a focus on outreach and evangelism reminded soldiers and officers of the importance and results of follow-up on visitors and absentees. As a result of Sunday school members inviting friends to the Sioux Falls, S.D. Corps six new teenagers have started attending. And in the Heartland Division 32 new people attended Sunday school during the four-week campaign.

Keep praying for those we minister to each week in Sunday school and SONday SCOOl and never stop going the extra mile to reach people.

VanderWeele appointed program secretary

by Lt. Colonel Marguerite Ward

Lt. Colonel Marguerite, assistant program secretary, records ideas generated by individuals participating in the un-packing of CJOA in their corps and division.
A perfect place

If you’d asked David Tooley a few years ago where he’d be just now, territorial headquarters wasn’t on his radar. Yet, he’ll tell you it’s the perfect place for him because it’s God’s plan. He feels a peace about transplanting his small family from Kansas City to the Windy City. He also feels an excitement about the work God’s laid before him as the new territorial discipleship resource and leadership development consultant.

David grew up with four brothers and parents who lived out their faith daily. From his earliest days he was served in ministry with the Tooley Family Singers through weekend concerts and summer evangelism. David attributes his passion for discipleship to these years of spiritual formation and ministry.

Having grown up in the Nazarene church, it wasn’t until David’s dad attended Vennard College that the Tooleys were introduced to and began serving the Army through evangelistic campaigns. Through these campaigns David came to love the Army and met his future wife, Dawn Hantson. (They married in 1992 and now have two adorable children, Justin, 5, and Anna, 2.)

David also attended Vennard, graduating with a bachelor of arts in Bible and general education in 1993. The following five years he worked for Menards. What some might see as a detour, David views as a time of personal growth and opportunity to win and disciple people for Christ.

In 1998 he began directing Gene Eppley Camp in Omaha, Neb. For three years he and Dawn recruited, mentored and discipled staff. Eventually, the Kansas and Western Missouri Division (KWM) recruited him to the post of Christian education director. Over his five-year tenure there, David focused on discipleship. Nearly half of the corps in KWM are discipling, many through Discipleship Training.

Just a dreamer?

When asked, “What’s your vision for your office and our territory?” I hesitate to answer because I don’t want people to think I’m just a dreamer. They might because I see corps where every junior and senior soldier, adherent and regular attender recognizes his or her gifts and actively serves God’s Kingdom.

I see older adults using and sharing what they’ve learned rather than being relegated to warming seats in the chapel. I see girls and boys excited to come to a place where they’re loved for Jesus’ sake, where they’re taught God’s Word and how to serve like Him—and encouraged to do so.

I see properties where every crack will handle and every floor is a place where Jesus’ name is mentioned; where every song is sung for Jesus; frequently meeting in a one-person home. I see people where the work God’s laid before them is an excitement to be a part of.

I see properties where every child is loved for Jesus’ sake, where they’re welcomed and given a chance to serve. I see churches where the work of God’s Kingdom is a passion to these young adults petitioning to lead outreach and serve others. I see families praising God for restoring their faith in Him and each other. I see family time and devotions in every home being the norm rather than the exception. I see parents’ rightfully proud of their kids, and children honoring their parents because Christ’s likeness is increasingly seen in their lives.

If I left it here, I’d be just a dreamer.” But I can’t. God has placed a burning in my bones to see our Army, every element committed to, as The Message puts it in Matthew 28:18-20, “train everyone...in this way of life.”

It will take discipline and endurance, purpose and commitment. It will take conversation and collaboration. It will take an Army on its knees. That’s what I see, and that’s where I’m committed to go. Will you join me?

Transition Lenzes

Loving salutes, warm tributes and humorous tales from family and friends abounded at the retirement service, themed “Celebrating God’s Call,” honoring Majors Donald and Karlene Lenz. Guests packed the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps, where Major Stephen Yoder gave a hearty welcome and told the Lenzes, “Countless people are in heaven because of your ministries.”

Karlene described this transition moment of their lives as a “dash moment”—that period in which you can only go forward and not return to life as it has been;like a trapeze artist in mid air after releasing his grip from one swing until he’s safely grasping the other. But, she continued, God has always been in control of their dash moments, even the mid-air ones!

Majors Joseph and Lois Wheeler gave a salute through scripture and song, TheNorridge Citadel Band, under the direction of Peggy Thomas, played for fellow bandstand Don with great enthusiasm. Colonels Thomas C. Lewis and Major Jan McCarthy gave tributes as friends, and daughter Julia Anderson—speaking on behalf of sisters Captain Jolene Hull and Janelle McDonald—gave a funny and touching reflection on lessons learned while growing up. After singing “I am a Promise,” the Lenzes’ seven grandchildren stormed off the platform for a cuddle and kiss from their beloved grandparents.

The retirement ceremony was conducted by close friends Lt. Colonels Theodore and Nancy Dalberg, who saluted the Lenzes’ great dedication to, and satisfaction from, service. Ted noted that several years ago, the Army decided to no longer designate “retired” after officers’ names because they were commissioned to a lifetime of service to God. He said the Lenzes epitomized this commitment. In his closing prayer, however, Ted asked God to grant golfer Don at least one “hole-in-one!”

24/7 Prayer!

Don’t miss your chance to join in the 24/7 Prayer effort!

December 31 – January 4
January 5 – 6
January 7 – 13
January 14 – 20
January 21 – 27
January 28 – February 3
February 4 – 10
February 11 – 17
February 18 – 24
February 25 – March 2
March 3 – 9
March 10 – 16
March 17 – 23

Adult Rehabilitation Centers
Territorial Headquarters
Northern
Midland
Western
Kansas/Western Missouri
Metropolitan
Western Michigan/Northern Indiana
Wisconsin/Upper Michigan
Heartland
Indiana
College for Officer Training
Eastern Michigan

You’ll find a sample prayer sign-up sheet, prayer topics and other useful resources posted on the territorial prayer fellowship webpage at: usc.salvationarmy.org/usc/prayer.nsf

by David Tooley

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I see older adults using and sharing what they’ve learned rather than being relegated to warming seats in the chapel. I see girls and boys excited to come to a place where they’re loved for Jesus’ sake, where they’re taught God’s Word and how to serve like Him—and encouraged to do so.

I see properties where every crack in the sidewalk, every light from the parking lot to the sanctuary, every note on the bulletin board and every opportunity for integration is prepared for the not-yet Christians who’ll pass through our doors.

I see men and women involved for fear of blessings missed if they’re home watching TV. I see teens and
by Major Ralph Buklewicz

On December 26, 2004, residents of India’s eastern coastline wakened to devastating news. An earthquake registering 9.0 on the Richter scale had occurred off the west coast of Northern Sumatra. Deadly waves were overwhelming thousands of communities when the waters subsided, over 10,000 residents had been snatched out to sea or drowned in their homes, streets or beaches.

Over the past three years the India Central Territory has supplied food, established self-help programs, rebuilt roads and bridges, provided vocational training and organized the distribution of buffaloes, cooking stoves, bicycles, micro-loans, boats, engines and fishing nets through coastal rehabilitation projects.

Creating community

The Salvation Army worked with the government to build homes. Each concrete house contained two rooms, a verandah, cupboards and electricity, different from the small huts which had dotted the coastline. To restore pride, residents were involved in the rebuilding process. Men and women worked side-by-side, proudly watching 50-70 homes become a part of each new community.

Each Salvation Army development is called William Booth Village. The word “nager” describes a greater degree of civilization, important for the families. Before the tsunami, people lived in separate groups according to their religious upbringing or livelihood. Afterwards, houses were given to diverse populations which experienced common loss. With a blending of faith experience, Christians could reach out and minister to their Muslim and Hindu neighbors.

Some communities are built where no other non-government organization or government effort would venture. Realizing that roads and bridges were built to reach their areas, residents of the William Booth nagars are grateful to donors from the USA, Canada, United Kingdom and Australia.

Hope and opportunity run high. Community rooms and small schools have opened in several settlements, teaching first-generation residents how to read, write and acquire new skills, instilling hope.

Looking to the future

With limited capacity and resources, the India Central Territory endeavors to equip and empower people with the knowledge, skills and opportunities that can transform their circumstances and their lives. The most important is education.

The Army operates primary, elementary, middle and high schools where thousands of students earn high scores. Students come from all over India for academic excellence at the William Booth Junior College and Evangeline Booth Nursing College.

At girls’ and boys’ hostels and residential schools, children with unique family needs or extreme poverty find vital resources. Communities are impacted further through HIV/AIDS education projects.

Even though the schools rate extremely high, the government has withdrawn support for teachers, forcing the Army to fund honorariums for staff, an average of $700 monthly per teacher. Hundreds of students attend class without desks or chairs, and outdoor recreation is only a dream with undeveloped, overgrown fields. Teachers must be resourceful with worn-out equipment and textbooks. Aging buildings decay even further during the annual monsoon season.

Wherever you look, resources we take for granted are lacking because of funding. It’s apparent a lot of money is not required. Situations can be improved if a division, corps or individual would increase their financial support.

Talk, touch, counsel

On the campus of Evangeline Booth Hospital, compassionate service is given to those with HIV/AIDS and leprosy. Despite the hardship and demands, hospital administrator Major B.G. Prakasha Rao talks about the joy and honor of service. He oversees a small staff, one part-time physician and one nurse who offer medical care and comfort for up to 75 men and women. In spite of deteriorating buildings, scarce funds and limited supplies, a powerful sense of God’s Spirit is evident.

“Are the most important work we do here,” said the major, “is explained in three words: talk, touch, and counsel.” When a patient comes to us for medical help, we might be the first ones who really care about what they are dealing with. We talk with them and then listen carefully to understand how we can treat their spirit as well as their body.

“Before we can counsel them, an important connection must occur. Because they have been outcast from their villages or families, many have lost all physical contact with other human beings. Even though some are fearful at first, we know we have won their confidence when we can touch them. This is the first step to caring for them medically.

“We are now able to counsel them with important truth. In addition to helping them deal with their own mortality, we are able to introduce them to the Great Physician and give them hope—perhaps for the first time in their life.”

It’s evident with each resident whose bed lines the walls of the leprosy wing. Fresh bandages and ointment cover their rotting limbs, confirming care and commitment.

Declaring leprosy no longer a problem, the government doesn’t provide medicine or supplies. Yet, the staff knows God will provide—sustaining the ‘untouchable’.

In the HIV/AIDS dormitory, a patient curled up in the fetal position stares aimlessly. A tattered blanket reveals her bony outline. In her 30s, she looks much older. Pale and gaunt, just a shallow breath, the hospital staff and camera crew move to the next wing, but I’m inexplicably drawn to her. I need to do more than observe.

Compelled, I reach out to hold her hand. Her bony, leathery-skinned fingers tighten around my own. Her eyes focus on mine in this quiet God-moment. I’m unaware the hospital administrator has returned until he whispers behind me, “You must understand, major, that when someone touches the ‘untouchable’ they believe it is the very hand of God.”

It is humbling to share in the ministry of this sanctuary—a sacred moment when Christ’s ambassador and the “least of these” experience a divine presence through a simple touch. I wonder was she holding the hand of Christ or was I?

Lasting fingerprints

Throughout India Central, I see fingerprints of our territory. Salvation Army institutions, schools, playgrounds, corps buildings, officer quarters, vehicles, equipment and programs we fund are a vital part of the powerful ministry of our partner in mission. Yet, amazing ministry opportunities abound. They only lack the resources, prayers and support which we already possess. The question is not “Can we make a difference?” but “Will we?”

Note: The India Central Territory is led by Colonels Emmanuel and Regina Chandra Bai.

Last fall Major Ralph Buklewicz, David Andrews and David Minter traveled throughout India Central to videotape it for a DVD which is being sent to all corps to help educate, inspire and engage USA Central Salvationists in support of this and other international ministries.
Into the world:
When Dan Velasco awoke in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a hospital in Australia he was confused to see his mother and sister. A California boy, Dan loved surfing and was looking forward to two months of testing the Australian waves when the vacation of a lifetime turned into a near-death experience.

When Dan attempted to help a woman tourist who was being robbed, thugs jumped him. Amidst flying fists his head hit the pavement leaving him with a severe head injury. The police arrived quickly and apprehended the offenders while Dan was rushed to a local hospital.

“Initially I suffered short-term memory loss and couldn’t figure out why I was stuck in the hospital. I wanted to know why and how my mom and sister were there,” said Dan.

The answer was found nearly half a world away. A Salvationist from Brisbane, Australia, visited Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps (OBT) soldier and beloved Salvation Army composer William Himes and left his contact number.

Dan’s parents Enrique and Grace had been attending OBT for over a year when they heard news of the attack. Immediately, they called Lt. Scott Hurula, Hispanic ministries director, to ask for prayer. Grace and her daughter, Martha, prepared to leave for Australia knowing very few details, but left that in God’s hands.

Dan’s parents Enrique and Grace

“Lisa Jordan [soldier] suggested I contact Bill because ‘he knows people everywhere. And he did!’ said Scott.

Bill helped Scott get in contact with an Australian he’d just met earlier that week. Bruce Redman, a Salvationist from Brisbane, had been on a business trip to Chicago and had stopped by Central Territorial Headquarters to meet Bill and providentially left his business card. In this emergency, Bill called Bruce, who was still in America but called his wife, Anne. She, in turn, contacted the Gold Coast Temple corps officers and from then on that corps family took care of Grace and Martha. They provided a place to stay, meals, transportation to and from the hospital, but most importantly prayer and emotional support.

Dan was overwhelmed to learn Major Dean Clarke, Gold Coast Temple corps officer, had come twice a day to pray over him while he was in the ICU, and that Salvationists in Australia, the U.S. and literally around the world were upholding him in prayer.

“This experience has taught me about the awesomeness of prayer and how God can use even the worst situation to do amazing things,” said Dan, who moved to Chicago to be near his parents during this year of recovery.

He continues to amaze doctors, therapists, friends and family with how well he is doing. He shares his story, renewed faith and new Army family with everyone he meets. He faithfully attends the OBT Corps and was even a Bahamas mission team member less than six months after the attack.
A one-stop resource

Often when people enter the doors of a corps or center they’ve hit rock bottom. They have nowhere else to turn for heat to keep their homes warm, food to feed their families or even a safe place to spend the night. Offering preventative measures the Port Huron, Mich. Corps, led by Majors Timothy and Lori Meyer, was transformed into a one-day, one-stop community resource fair for individuals and families in St. Clair County who are homeless or who are at risk.

“Many people who attended the event don’t have the time or financial resources to take multiple days off work to meet with different agencies,” said Dawn Hedberg, social services director and corps community ministries coordinator. “This allowed them to get all the information they needed in one place in just a few hours.”

Forty government, public and private agencies set up booths throughout the corps. Over 670 fair-goers found everything from basic medical screening to money management to literacy programs to legal advice.

The Department of Human Services was on site so people could apply for aid, state police provided information including identity theft prevention, and a local beauty school even provided coupons for reduced priced hair cuts. Transportation was provided from every library branch in the county, the Michigan food bank gave out 12 pallets of food, childcare was offered and a free lunch was donated by local restaurants.

“Our goal was to get people the information they needed and help them learn about benefits for which they are eligible. I think we met that goal,” said Dawn.

Attendees agreed. In fact, it was such a success they’re looking to next year. “One thing we know for sure is we’ve outgrown our building,” said Dawn. “This really made us aware that the number of people needing assistance in the coming years will continue to rise.”

For more information about how to host a community resource fair e-mail Timothy_P_Meyer@usc.salvationarmy.org

Safe and Warm

The Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division [WMNI] and the Consumers Energy utility company recently celebrated their 25th year of partnership in the “PeopleCare” assistance program. Consumers Energy employees, state legislators and WMNI divisional leaders attended a reception in Jackson, Mich., where a special legislative tribute was presented to The Salvation Army and Consumers Energy for the program’s accomplishments.

During the past 25 years, Consumers Energy employees and customers have donated $12.3 million to assist more than 300,000 needy families, and the company has contributed $25.3 million in energy bill credits. Keeping people warm during the winter is a safety concern as well as a turn to alternative, unsafe heating sources, such as kerosene heaters and stoves for warmth, which can result in home fires or carbon monoxide poisoning.

Everybody looks to PeopleCare as a sterling example of how a program should work,” said State Senator Mark Schauer. “I applaud The Salvation Army and Consumers Energy employees for making this a fantastic model.”

Divisional Commander Major James Nauta thanked Consumers Energy employees for helping to make PeopleCare a success. “We are so indebted to you,” he said. “The lives of many individuals and families have been transformed by PeopleCare.”

Consumers Energy President John Russell said, “This isn’t just a collaboration; it’s a gift, employees, customers and The Salvation Army have given to Michigan residents.”

The PeopleCare program provides energy bill assistance, as well as food, clothing, medical treatment, shelter, transportation and other critical needs.

The gift of warmth

As winter’s chill grips the Midwest, the Central Territory is bringing warmth and hope to tens of thousands of people. Each year The Salvation Army teams up with local partners to hold drives, such as Coats for Kids, to keep Midwesterners warm. The Heartland Division has been collecting coats for over 20 years, and the Eastern Michigan Division holds a two-day radiothon asking Detroit area residents to donate a new coat or make a monetary donation. The Northern Division is out approximately 4,800 coats this season so children would not have to go without or resort to stuffing old coats with newspapers for insulation. In Kansas City Project Warmth helps adults and children stay warm. Pictures are kids excited to receive new coats from the Indiana Division.

ARC featured on HGTV

You can hardly turn on a TV without a do-it-yourself (DIY) show glowing back at you. Whether you’re interested in redesigning a room or completely flipping a house, there’s a DIY show just for you. A fan favorite on HGTV, Design on a Dime went beyond making just a home look good and contacted the Chicago Central, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center to help make a whole community more beautiful.

“They asked if they could tape a portion of the show in one of our thrift stores,” said Major Mark Anderson, administrator. “The concept for the episode was in-line with giving your home that ‘wow’ factor while helping the community.”

The show makes over a space for a design-conscious person who wants style but may not have a lot of money. Producers from the show decided to take it the next level and not only find cool items at bargain prices, but also help people in need by shopping at a Salvation Army thrift store.

Designer Frank Fontana and his crew used $700 of their $1,000 budget at the store to buy 10 different items, including a table that attracted them there in the first place.

“They all seemed very interested in the Army and we were happy to tell them about our work and how the stores play a vital role in providing funding for our programs,” said Mark.

According to Mark they’ve also recently received a call from a movie company asking if they could provide a Salvation Army truck, complete with SA logo, for an upcoming film.
of important people who participated in various ways. The alumni band rehearsal Saturday afternoon was of a higher quality than one might have expected from a bunch of has-beens. More a run-through than a rehearsal, it was a chance to reacquaint the lips with the mouthpiece, and prepare considerable repertoire for Sunday’s events. They sang soundly and sweetly.

The delicious food was hardly even noticed at the pre-concert dinner. It took a back seat to the merrymaking of bandsmen past and present, reunited at last with their staff band widows. Good singing, presentation of plaques, and a beautiful benediction by Colonel Dennis Phillips (in the words of St. Paul) set the stage for the Festival of Thanksgiving that followed.

Capacity crowds are common at Wheaton College’s 2,400-seat Edman Chapel. But getting that many people to a brass band concert is nothing short of a miracle—more a challenge for the CSB’s 100th) shared the program with old favorites in a veritable musical smorgasbord, with something for every taste. But the evening wasn’t just about music. The primarily non-Salvationist audience was warmly welcomed by executive officer Lt. Colonel Mickey McLaren, who also invoked God’s presence.

Commissioner Ken Baillie, territori al commander, shared the scripture passage and focused the listener on the words of the Psalmist, “I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works, and consider what your hands have done.” (Psalm 143:5, NIV)

A video retrospective (Peggy Thomas/David Andrews) condensed 100 years into five minutes and 40 seconds and poignantly shifted the focus from the past to the future, with the passing of the baton to the next generation of bandsmen. Alumni joined the CSB to sing the final benediction in what has become an annual tradition, and the satisfied crowd was on their way home, elegant keepsake program in hand jolting masterpiece of graphic design by staff bandsman Ken Romin.

Where would a staff band rather be on a Sunday morning than in a corps hall, doing what it does best, playing hymn tunes and devotional music? Norridge Citadel (Majors Steve and Morag Yoder, corps officers) provided the venue. A vocal solo by Ernie Miller—“something in the key of C”—(Gerry Shoults at the piano) and the cornet solo, “The Lord’s Prayer” by Tom Gabrielson added particular musical interest. But the centerpiece was the message by Commissioner Robert Thomson, who reminded worshipers of the cardinal rule of Christian living: “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.” (Hebrews 12:2, NIV) “There need be no doubt,” Thomson said. “We can know our future—our eternity.”

Lunch with CSB friends and family gave another opportunity to remember old times and catch up. Interesting to see how God leads and works in so many diverse ways, within The Salvation Army and beyond.

The fellowship festival with the CSB and alumni bands sharing the Norridge platform included too many delights to mention, but one must note “Morning Medley” (Himes) sung so wonderfully by Colonels Gary and Eunice Herndon. Peggy Thomas previewed “Garments of Peace” (Redhead), a cornet solo of exquisite beauty. Long-time Chicago Symphony trumpeter Bill Scarlett, Randy Cox, Tom Gabrielson and Peggy Thomas teamed up to play “Happy Day for Poor” (Leidzen), with each taking turns on the variations. They were all quite civilized until the end, when the whole gang vied for the spotlight and joined forces for the big finish, to the glee of the appreciative audience.

Continued on page 12

2007 Festival of Thanksgiving CD

A professional CD & DVD recording of the 2007 Festival of Thanksgiving, featuring the CSB and guest soloists Chris and Carol Jaudes, are 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, fax (847) 227-5033.

At the concert celebrating the CSB centennial are: Bandmaster William Himes, pianist Karen Krnjak, Carol and Chris Jaudes, and CSB Executive Officer Lt. Colonel Mickey McLaren.

Commissioner Robert Thomson brings the message Sunday morning.
S
ince 2001, when Majors Jim and Judy Garrington were appointed to the Dresden, Germany, Corps, they have had a desire to hold an event that began in Omaha, Neb. Called the “Sleep Out for the Homeless,” it’s designed to draw attention to the plight of the homeless.

When the Garringtons approached the city about a bunch of people sleeping outside all night by the Elbe River, which runs through the heart of Dresden, officials were a bit confused. But once they understood, they loved the idea. The Garringtons quickly contacted schools, student organizations and churches to get people involved.

“They, too, were a bit confused about what we were doing, and one school even said since we’re a religious organization they wouldn’t help out. The amazing thing was through a 13-year-old volunteer, Brenda, we wound up having 10 kids from that school take part,” said Jim.

Despite the rainy weather dozens of people turned out. A popular local jazz band, which usually charged $1,000 just to show up, played for free as a part of the kick-off, and said to contact them for any other events. Several media outlets covered the event including a TV news crew that stayed the entire night. The footage will be used to create a 10-minute “mini-documentary” about The Salvation Army’s work with homeless in the city, to be broadcast nationwide.

People who were walking their dogs stopped to find out what was going on and in addition to talking about The Salvation Army’s social services, Jim shared the motivation for service.

“There were so many evangelistic opportunities,” said Jim. “One guy told me he was a Buddhist and asked me why I was a Christian. Near the end of our talk he said, ‘I don’t really believe as strongly as you and you may have a point.’ I told him we’re in the phone book and I’m available anytime he wanted to talk.”

As the sun rose Jim and a corps member were talking about Christ with three boys from the school. When the corps member suggested Jim give them a copy of his book the boys enthusiastically gave him their addresses and Jim made arrangements to deliver the books personally.

“It was a PR, social services and evangelistic success. I can’t think of a better night,” said Jim.