Prayer to be focus for Commissioning weekend

by Major Richard VanderWeele

Lord, teach us to pray,” an earnest plea from a disciple to Jesus (Luke 11:1-11), has been selected as the theme verse for this year’s commissioning weekend, June 12-14, 2009, at the Star Plaza Theatre in Merrillville, Ind. A committee is hard at work designing programs and events for an exciting Holy Spirit-powered gathering called Power Point, an interactive weekend for Salvationists focused on prayer, praise and purpose. It will emphasize topics such as how to pray, the power of prayer and its effective pairing with evangelism.

Pastor Jim Cymbala of the Brooklyn Tabernacle is the guest for Friday and Saturday. Jim and his wife, Carol, came to The Salvation Army more than 30 years ago. They started in a run-down building with a handful of people as the congregation. Although Pastor Jim Cymbala of the Brooklyn Tabernacle is the guest for Friday and Saturday. Jim and his wife, Carol, came to The Brooklyn Tabernacle more than 30 years ago. They started in a run-down building with a handful of people as the congregation. Although neither was formally trained for the ministry, God blessed their efforts.

The Brooklyn Tabernacle is now in its fourth location, a huge, former theater with adjoining office buildings built in 1917. More than 10,000 persons enter the facility weekly as the church presents the gospel of Jesus Christ to people of every race and nationality.

Cymbala’s passion for prayer and his intentional, successful plan for using prayer to direct the church’s ministry and engage his congregation in intercessory prayer makes him well-suited to guide our weekend. He has authored several books, including Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, Breakthrough Prayer, and The Promise of Answered Prayer. We believe Pastor Cymbala has a message which will bless and inspire Salvationists toward a fervent, effective prayer life.

Programming will include new elements designed to engage delegates in interaction with each other: a prayer walk, opportunities to pray with leaders and others from their division or command, and a 24-hour prayer chain which will commence a yearlong, unending cycle of prayer leading up to the 2010 General’s Congress.

In addition, children’s programming will focus on age-appropriate teaching on prayer. A first-time reunion lunchlunch for soldiers who have attended the National Seminar on Evangelism is being planned, along with the usual session and retired officer events.

And, of course, there will be some of the program components which make this June event so popular with Salvationists: the commissioning and ordination of cadets and their appointment service as new lieutenants; the announcement of our Self-Denial/World Services fundraising; and the dedication of summer mission teams.

Delegates should come expecting the Holy Spirit will bless, encourage and equip them for ministry as soldiers in the great salvation war.

Grand Rapids Kroc Center breaks ground

by Roger Snider

Hearing the phrase “out of the mouth of babes... thou hast perfected praise,” from Matthew 21:16, you might anticipate being in the presence of a child with innate wisdom or understanding beyond their years. Such was the case with fourth grader Dakya Chapman, a Grand Rapids Kroc Leadership Academy student who shared her appreciation at the Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center groundbreaking.

“With the help of the Kroc Leadership Academy, I am truly becoming the person that God wants me to be,” Dakya emphatically proclaimed to a captivated audience of over 200 who assembled under a cold, slate grey October sky on the south side of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Inspirational highlights were plentiful during the morning’s festivities, including aousing vocal performance by the youth choir from the nearby New Branches Community School and 25 eager Kroc Leadership Academy students performing their own version of an official ground-breaking by digging in sand to uncover gold coins. One lucky student uncovered gold coins.

The Salvation Army is being called upon more than ever to help meet basic and vital physical needs during these tough economic times, but it also is giving us a wonderful opportunity to address the spiritual needs of those we serve.

In an effort to respond appropriately, Territorial Commander Commissioner Barry C. Swanson has scheduled a Territorial Economic Summit for January 20-21, 2009.

Three areas to be discussed include cost containment, fundraising and service delivery. Representatives from each command will gather to make recommendations to the Territorial Executive Council meeting later that same week which will ultimately lead to an implementation plan for the territory to address the impact of economic concerns on our operations and support of the field.
**Restoration in Rwanda**

by Lt. Colonel Mickey McLaren
Territorial Secretary for Business Administration

The Salvation Army always has provided assistance to countries devastated by calamity, whether manmade or a natural disaster. Our mission is to serve God by serving people. In order to do this effectively, we must have well-trained personnel with credentials that are recognized throughout the world by governments and other disaster non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Toward this end, the Salvation Army International Emergency Services Office convened an International Emergency Services Leaders Conference in Kigali, Rwanda. Twenty-four Salvation Army delegates from around the world gathered in Rwanda to hone their skills in leading international disaster teams. Given my international service, I was asked to help at this conference and represent our territory.

The conference began by review-
The Midland Division has embarked upon a series of battle strategy retreats in relation to the national “Come Join Our Army” initiative introduced last year. The retreats bring leaders from different corps together to assess their situations and devise strategies to more effectively “serve souls, grow saints and serve suffering humanity.”

The intensive two-day retreats include workshops and assessments adapted from a model used by the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division.

“We felt a strong emphasis on outreach was needed as well as attaching the corps assimilation plan to this process,” said Captain Debra Richardson, divisional corps growth secretary. “We also added SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analyses to take an honest look at the corps, see what is standing in the way of growth and what opportunities to reach out are readily available.”

The first retreat included corps from Jacksonville and Mattoon, Ill., and Columbia, Arnold and St. Louis Maplewood, Mo. All five corps left with plans to reach out to their communities.

Promotions announced

General Shaw Clifton has announced the promotion of Lt. Colonels Paul R. and Carol R. Seiler, chief secretary and territorial secretary for women’s ministries and coordinator for strategic mission planning, respectively, to the rank of colonel. This will take effect February 1, 2009.

Following extensive consultation with territories and in-depth discussion with the International Management Council, the General has decided that certain reserved appointments in some territories will be known as senior appointments in some territories.

Officers appointed to these positions, along with their spouses, will be promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel if they have completed 20 years of active service. In the Central Territory, these senior appointments include: territorial secretary for personnel, territorial secretary for business administration, territorial secretary for program, and divisional commanders for the Eastern Michigan, Metropolitan and Northern divisions.

As of February 1, 2009, the following individuals will be promoted to the rank of Lt. Colonel: Major Richard E. Vander Weele, Majors Norman S. and Diane Marshall, and Majors Daniel and Rebecca Sjögren.

Youth ministry designated top priority

Signaling effective youth ministry as “mission critical” and his top priority for the Central Territory, Commissioner Barry C. Swanson, territorial commander, has appointed Majors Robert and Collette Webster, territorial youth secretaries, as at-large members of the Territorial Executive Council (TEC) for 2009.

He has taken this unprecedented step in hopes of infusing TEC, the territory’s senior leadership who act in an advisory capacity, with a sense of the significance and urgency in reaching this demographic. He believes this measure will cause a shift in thinking to help the territory be more intentional and bridge the gap between programming and effective evangelism and discipleship.

While several ministry areas have been identified as “mission critical,” youth ministry is being addressed first since it affects the Army’s future and so many other ministry areas, which could see positive spin-off.

“We’re honored yet humbled that we would be asked to carry this responsibility forward,” said Major Collette Webster. “We are excited about sharing our perspective and hearing what’s on the leaders’ hearts. We stand ready to resource them to carry out youth ministry at the local level.”

“For a long time everyone has heard about the importance of youth work in our territory but actually figuring out a way to bring the reality of that into our ministry at the local level has been challenging,” said Major Robert Webster.

While leading the territorial youth department for the past five years, the Websters have been guided by a single focus, a mission statement that reads: “To develop young people into lifelong followers of Jesus Christ as soldiers of The Salvation Army.”

Major Robert Webster concluded, “I would like for people to be able to look at a young person and know they’re a Salvationist because of what they stand for, what they believe and the way they live.” He continued, “We need young adults to take the mantle of responsibility, to recognize their place in our Army and feel that its mission is their mandate.”

Re:Generation 2009

February 13 -15 · Camp Mihaska · Bourbon, MO

Re:Generation is an experience created for young adults, 18-29, in the Central Territory.

Majors Geoff and Sandra Ryan, from the 614 Regent Park Corps in Toronto, are the special guests for the weekend. They are phenomenal speakers and teachers and are sure to inspire, convict and share the Word of God in a powerful way.

When Geoff and Sandra teach, it is always a memorable experience. They will challenge young adults to think deeply and contemplate their faith in a real way.

Only $40.

For more information visit: www.saregeneration.com

Majors Daniel and Rebecca Sjögren

Lt. Colonels Paul R. and Carol R. Seiler

Majors Norman S. and Diane Marshall

Major Richard E. Vander Weele

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For more information visit: www.saregeneration.com
Newest accepted candidates

Ginnifer Strode
Manitowoc, Wis.
Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division

Ginnifer knew she was called to officership at a youth council in 1996 but decided to run from that calling. She ran until 2004 when she experienced personal holiness. “Holiness of heart matured and changed me into a completely different woman,” she said.

“My call to officership is, simply put, the destiny which my King has specifically designed for me,” she explained. “His Word burns in my heart like a fire, and The Salvation Army is where God has chosen to allow me the privilege to learn, laugh, love and fight.”

Ginnifer will join the Ambassadors of Holiness from the Manitowoc, Wis., Corps where her officers are Captains Trevor and Rochelle McClintock. She will come to training with her son, Bowen, who will be seven.

Julie Tamayo
Stevens Point, Wis.
Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division

Julie grew up as an officers’ child and was saved at an early age. While at college she abandoned her faith. Accidentally “getting lost” with her dad, Major Joe Tamayo, while driving home from a movie, they talked for hours and she recommitted her life to Christ. Since then she’s found, “God surprises me each and every day through my time with Him and ordinary interactions with others.”

“I knew God had called me, once at 16, then at congress where God blew all my excuses away.” During an extensive prayer and Bible study at the Central Bible and Leadership Institute young adult track this past summer, God affirmed her calling to officership.

Julie will come to the CFO with her daughter, Ani, who will be six. They will enter from the Stevens Point, Wis., Corps where her corps officer is Captain Leanna Tuttle.

Richard and Linnea Forney
Menasha (Fox Cities), Wis.
Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division

Richard and Linnea, who met at the Central Bible and Leadership Institute young adult track this past summer, God affirmed her calling to officership.

Julie will come to the CFO with her daughter, Ani, who will be six. They will enter from the Stevens Point, Wis., Corps where her corps officer is Captain Leanna Tuttle.

by Captain Rob DeGeorge

Delegates to the Territorial Candidates’ Weekend gathered in Chicago recently to “rejoice in the gospel of Christ” and consider what it means to “become its servant by the commission of God.” (Col 1:24-25)

As the weekend began, an exciting and humbling truth was observed by Major Andy Miller, territorial candidates’ secretary: the cadets and delegates present represented the next five sessions of commissioned Salvation Army officers.

Major Paul and Paula Fleeman, College for Officer Training principal and director of campus services, challenged delegates with their first homework assignment as they prepare for the call of God for the sake of the gospel. Are delegates rooted in Christ; being built up in the faith? Are they relying on the strength of the Lord and living lives of thankfulness?

Saturday was spent on the college grounds where delegates got a glimpse of campus life. Insight from college staff on the 22-month curriculum, plus the ins and outs of living life on a cadet budget, provided focus and much needed answers. Cadets shared how God called them to officer training, as well as practical advice on balancing college with family life; some are parenting infants up to teens.

Another significant element of campus life is the privilege of community. Delegates, cadets and officers fellowshipped over an evening of table games, volleyball in the gym, or discussing books purchased at the campus book sale over a cup of coffee, Italian soda or a home-baked goodie, all to benefit World Services.

Delegates also got a glimpse of the exciting experiences available to them in the college’s neighborhood on the north side of Chicago, two blocks from Wrigley Field and Lake Michigan.

“The privilege of being a servant of the gospel at this time in history is both difficult and exciting,” said Commissioner Barry C. Swanson. He challenged delegates to consider their response to the grace of God in their lives. They responded with overflowing thankfulness poured out at the altar.

At the sight of such a time of commitment and confirmation, one delegate reflected, “To follow in the footsteps of our Lord is such a great and awesome privilege. It was made clear to me through this weekend that my calling to follow Christ is sure if I remain rooted and grounded in Him!”

International College for Officers

Central Territory Delegates for 2009

Major Russell Sjogren
Session 200
January 14-March 9

Major Michael Gates
Session 201
April 15-June 8

Major Steven Merritt
Session 202
July 15-September 7

Major Toni Dorrell
Session 203
October 14-December 7

Army Lake Camp, were happy, content parents of two children involved in ministry in Appleton, Wis. Rich had been the corps youth pastor since 2000, and Linnea ran her own home childcare center. While they each experienced the call to fulltime ministry, they felt they had fulfilled this and would not consider anything more until their children left home.

That was until their daughter, Chalisse, said, “I think we should move to Chicago. You both would be good officers, and we can have a family ministry together.” Shocked, Rich and Linnea sat down with their kids, prayed about it and felt assurance from God this was the “next chapter” for their family.

Rich and Linnea will come to the College for Officer Training with Chalisse, who will be 13, and their son, Cody, who will be 11, from the Menasha (Fox Cities), Wis. Corps. Their corps officers are Majors Jose and Annette Tamayo.
Community care ministries is a corps-wide affair in Lincoln, Neb., reports Corps Officers Majors Robert and Elaine Boone.

**HUNKS on call**

Who ya gonna call if you can no longer clean your gutters, replace that too-high light bulb, shovel snow or check your car’s oil, tire pressure or antifreeze? If you live around the Lincoln, Neb., Corps, you can call the HUNKS (Happy United men Need your help to keep providing Service to our community).

Last fall the corps men banded together to provide minor household repairs and services one Saturday morning each month. Local residents needing assistance call the corps to schedule an appointment.

Corps Officer Major Robert Boone recalled one of the team’s first jobs: weatherizing the home of an elderly, non-English-speaking woman. “It was very rewarding for us all,” he said. “I tell them, the only HUNK brave enough to climb the tall ladder plastic sealed the upper story windows, the rest of us helped fence the more accessible windows and did other chores.”

**Cancer support**

People dealing with cancer—whether just diagnosed, undergoing treatment or a cancer survivor—plus their families and friends can find a safe place to talk and gather information about cancer and treatments at the Lincoln Corps. Meeting twice a month, the group is open to anyone who has an interest in or concern about cancer.

**Parents and tots club**

Parents can bring their babies and preschoolers to the corps’ fellowship hall twice a month for the Preschool Kids and Parents Club where parents can share their concerns and exchange ideas. The club provides an opportunity for preschoolers to interact and play (under parental supervision) while parents can talk. The corps provides refreshments.

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**Kids learn to care**

The color-splashed helping hands say it all in the logo for Junior Community Care Ministries (Jr. CCM). The ministry designed for youth, ages 6-14, promotes good citizenship and compassionate service to individuals, the corps and community.

Youth learn how to show community care in creative ways every day through single acts of kindness or group efforts in practical service in the spirit of Christ.

The success of Jr. CCM in corps utilizing this ministry has demonstrated it’s important to provide meaningful ways of expressing servanthood.

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**Back to basics**

by Envoy Tricia Taube

It started with a vision. Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Divisional Commander Major Robert Thomson saw a need to develop current and future leaders. He envisioned a training opportunity to address leadership development and discipleship. That vision became a reality.

Named for the historic days of the Army, the “War College” held its first session in October 2007. The group meets three times a year at Army Lake Camp for weekend retreats that include instruction in core beliefs, evangelism, bridging ministries and preaching, as well as practical experience, worship, a night of prayer and an emphasis on spiritual disciplines.

In Spring 2008 delegates successfully completed their first year of the three-year program. This past fall a new group joined returning students. This group, now numbering 23, looks forward to maturing in their faith, developing their gifts and being an encouragement to each other.

For some delegates this is a time to prepare for the call to officership the Lord has placed on their hearts. For others it is a time to develop their leadership skills and God’s plan for them in their corps. One thing is certain: each has determined that knowing the Lord and seeking His will will not be accidental.

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**CCM on web!**

Ideas and resources for conducting community care ministries (CCM) where God has planted YOU are now available at www.usc.salvationarmy.org/ccm

Discover:

- CCM’s mission, purpose, objectives
- CCM service opportunities
- CCM’s “Top 10” reasons why
- The Junior CCM track for ages 6-14
Seeing the Bill Booth Theater Company (BBTC) in the lineup for a Salvation Army event brings a chill of delighted anticipation up and down the spine. “What will the BBTC do this time? Will I laugh? Shed a tear? Both?”

Founded just eight years ago in 2001, the BBTC has made a tremendous impact. It’s become a benchmark for hard-hitting Christian drama and comedy communicating deep biblical truths to believers and non-believers alike.

While they’ve been applauded for their creativity, company members seek first to impart the divine inspiration they’ve received, which is masterfully woven throughout BBTC performances in drama, music, comedy and scripture to evoke thoughtful reflections.

The company’s varied repertoire appeals to all ages. Thirteen people have been BBTC members over its eight seasons; two current performers are from the original cast.

Joe Caddy, an original cast member, has served as the group’s leader since 2002. Joe is uniquely gifted to be able to manage this troupe of highly creative actors with strong personalities. The clue to Joe’s success might be that he was a former middle-school choir director! Now he’s assistant director of music and gospel arts for the Metropolitan Division.

Joe is passionate about the BBTC. Highly organized and blessed with a great memory, he manages the group’s performance schedule and serves as the onstage prompter.

“I was one of those annoying kids who always knew everyone’s lines,” recalled Joe of his high school and college performance years.

What keeps Joe in the BBTC is “it’s new all the time—new situations, new people, new material, new audiences.” He believes God has gifted him with the ability to discern what to do and when to meet audience needs, which can palpably change throughout a show. Joe recalled one West coast performance that became so gut-wrenchingly emotional for the audience, company members came off stage shaking as well.

Joe and his wife, Kristin, are soldiers of the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps.

Mark Lewis is the other original member of the BBTC. “Bill Himes [territorial music and gospel arts secretary] had approached me about a theatre group of talented Salvationists who not only could write and perform good Christian drama, but who could also teach it,” recalled Mark. He immediately felt this is what God had been planning for him.

“I’d had a strong passion for wanting to see good church theater for years,” Mark continued. “I knew this was my opportunity to be part of that movement, to use my acting talents to praise God and reach people.”

Mark’s acting career began as a child playing Han Solo and Indiana Jones in the basement. A youth council’s skit led to college dramas, then community theatre. Interestingly, this accomplished actor was saved as a kid after seeing the Gowans and Larsson musical, “Glory.”

“I couldn’t stop crying when I got home,” said Mark. “Standing there in the driveway, my [officer] dad talked to me about why I was so profoundly affected by the musical. I saw God working in the lives of the characters on stage; it was real to me. God also became real to me that night.”

Mark, his wife, Debbie, and son, Brady, reside in Oak Creek, Wis.,
where they attend the Oak Creek Centennial Corps. Mark is employed as the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divisional kettle coordinator.

Courtney Smith joined the BBTC in November 2002 after the group performed at her corps, Norridge Citadel, Ill.

“I was looking for a creative outlet at the time and thought, ‘I could do that,’” Courtney recalled. “But, I wasn’t sure if I was confident enough to ask for an audition. In the end, Joe called me, and here I am, seven years later!”

Courtney enjoys being part of the BBTC family. “We pray for each other and have been through a lot together.”

Courtney’s favorite BBTC sketch is The Old Testament in 20 Minutes. “It’s the longest piece we do. It was hard to memorize but it changed my life,” said Courtney. “I didn’t understand a lot of the jokes, so at first I hated it, then I was embarrassed because I didn’t get it. It made me want to read the Old Testament. Now I love it because God used this sketch to get me into His awesome Word!”

Courtney is in the Norridge Citadel Band and Songsters and leads the singing company. She and her husband, Zac, live at Camp Wonderland, where they are fulltime employees.

Brian James has always loved acting; he was involved in high school and college dramas, then community theatre. He just never envisioned being able to do what he loved as a Christian performer.

One of the older members of the group, Brian has brought a unique perspective to his first three years with the BBTC. Raised by officer parents, he went through a time of rebellion before coming back to the Lord. Along the way, he served a stint in the Navy, bartended and was a radio broadcaster and DJ. “God had to wake up my heart to what was in my head,” recalled Brian. “I realized He could still use the cracked, dusty clay pot that was me.”

Brian draws on his experiences and deep sense of composition to bring a realistic depth to his acting. He is passionate about relaying the message, “You don’t have to live that way. If God can use someone as flawed as me, God can use you, too.”

Brian works as the business administrator for the Waukegan, Ill., Corps.

Barry Shoults, a member of the BBTC since 2005, is a fourth-year student at the University of Illinois in Chicago with a double major in biological sciences and psychology. He plans on being an emergency room physician.

“I was involved in drama throughout high school,” said Barry. “The BBTC gives me a way to offer the talents God’s given me back to Him for His glory and the advance-ment of His kingdom.”

One of Barry’s funniest memories from a BBTC performance came from a dinner for retired officers in Canada. During a sketch composed of Song Book titles, Barry bounded onstage, bel- lowed, “Rise up, O youth,” looked at the roomful of silver-haired
by Robert Bonesteel

It is a new year. We are in a new world. We live in a time where:

• Children begin using computers before they can talk
• People prefer to shop, bank, donate and live online
• Cars are used more often than cash
• People expect communication in moments, rather than days
• Individuals wait seconds instead of moments before moving on
• Information is instantaneous
• People are willing to give money instead of their time
• Individuals give to organizations they are personally involved with
• Someone on the other side of the world can volunteer in our communities without ever traveling
• One person can impact millions with just a few keystrokes

This is the world in which God has called us to serve, and we must learn how to effectively reach those who help us serve the less fortunate.

In 2008 the Central Territory took steps toward engaging our community of supporters when we implemented a web-based volunteer management database, Volunteer Impact. We wanted to make it easier for our 640,000-plus volunteers to get involved. We also wanted to help our corps more effectively manage volunteers and reach more people who could volunteer. This program was designed to empower everyone who serves in The Salvation Army.

Employing this program has been exciting, and we look forward to how it will positively impact our efforts. Our corps have begun using Volunteer Impact. I would encourage you to see how your corps is using Volunteer Impact in managing its programs from social services to traditional corps programming like Sunday school. This database is an easy and effective way to connect with our new world.

Contact your corps officer for more information about your corps’ Volunteer Impact database.

by Craig Dirkes

Minnesota’s largest corporations are finding out The Salvation Army is about more than red kettles and ringing bells. Employee groups from some of the state’s largest companies—Best Buy, Cub Foods, 3M, Target and others—have been attending tours called Beyond the Red Kettle to discover the real Salvation Army.

Beyond the Red Kettle events are free, one-hour tours held three times a month at four Twin Cities facilities. Staff and clients offer testimonials about how the Army and its countless services have touched them. Nearly 800 people have attended the tours since they began in January 2007.

“These tours are not about fundraising,” said Joel Vaughn, Beyond the Red Kettle coordinator. “They are meant to raise awareness about the critical work The Salvation Army does.”

The tours also are meant to get people involved. So far, it’s been working. For instance, consider Kathy Ayers, a real estate specialist working. For instance, consider Kathy Ayers, a real estate specialist...
A cornucopia of music, celebration and worship

by Colonel Dennis Phillips

Whatever one’s preference in music, there was something for everyone to enjoy at the Chicago Staff Band’s (CSB) Sounds of the Seasons concert. Be it old or new, brass or vocal, jazz or classical, rhapsody—or even country—this year’s program had it all.

Wheaton College’s Edman Chapel was abuzz with anticipation as the crowd began building as early as 6:00 p.m. Promptly at 7:00 the din of 2,000 voices quickly hushed as 34 men and women marched into the CSB’s second century to begin this much-anticipated Thanksgiving weekend classic.

In a unique formation, the cornet section stood bordered by the left and right flanks of the band, while the trombone section stretched across the rear riser. As Bandmaster William Himes brought down the baton on Robert Redhead’s Fanfare of Praise the audience knew they were in for an evening of spectacular music.

With an economy of words and a volume of thought, Territorial Commander Commissioner Barry C. Swanson proclaimed an evening of “music, celebration and worship,” and that was exactly what unfolded for the next two hours.

Cornet soloist Ben Kinzie evoked memories of Louis Armstrong and Doc Severinsen with his rendition of the jazzy Joshua Swing the Battle and later, young Brett Tolcher vowed the audience with his capable handling of the classic, Concert Piece for Trombone.

The Lakeside Singers made an impressive entrance bedecked in smart tuxedoes and sequined evening gowns to the accompaniment of generous applause. Under the baton of conductor Robert Bowers, this superbly talented 24-voice choir amazed the audience with their artistry.

Among their diverse repertoire was a haunting arrangement of “Silent Night.” With purity of voice, male and female soloists sang the familiar verses of this revered carol, but the harmonic progressions of the vocal accompaniment were anything but familiar; they were extraordinary. Truly, the sensitive singing of this lullaby was fit for the birth of a King.

The Lakeside Singers concluded their first set accompanied by the Chicago Staff Band in a dramatic presentation of Aaron Copland’s The Promise of Living.

Transcribed for band by Bandmaster Himes, this setting included a willowy affect contributed by flue soloist Jon Negus.

The two major band works of the evening were Journey into Freedom by the legendary British composer, Eric Ball, and Renaissance, by the contemporary composer, Peter Graham. Ball’s demanding test piece included an Eb bass solo which emulated the mellow tones of a euphonium while the euphoniums themselves filled the air with the smoothness of cellos. The brilliance of one soprano cornet easily filled the role of an entire woodwind section.

Later Renaissance was performed in sync to a multimedia presentation produced by David Mintz, territorial visual communications, which dramatically portrayed the message of Christ’s promised return. In both compositions, the Chicago Staff Band showcased its talent and ability to provide a wide range of musical expressions.

The entire audience was quite happily engaged in the season-appropriate singing of “Bringing in the sheaves” to the accompaniment of a “down-home country” arrangement by William Himes. While singing along, this writer had to pause and ponder the irony that this toe-tappin’, hand-clappin’, back-slappin’ arrangement came from the pen of the same man who gave us To the Chief Musician, Aspects of Praise and Proclamation to Covenant.

Just before Lt. Colonel Mickey McLaren presented a meaningful devotional thought, Bandmaster Himes paid tribute for the colonel’s 10 years of exceptional service as the band’s executive officer.

Then the Lakeside Singers continued to demonstrate their versatility with more Christmas music with highlights from A Christmas Carol. Singers and the CSB joined forces for a rousing finale, a high-energy gospel arrangement of “Go tell it on the mountain,” to which the audience responded with prolonged applause.

Seemingly all too soon, the evening concluded as band and singers combined to sing a benediction. “The Lord bless you and keep you.” Yes, it all happened on the Saturday night after Thanksgiving: “music, celebration and worship.”

2008 Sounds of the Seasons CD

A professional CD recording of the 2008 Sounds of the Seasons, featuring the CSB and guests The Lakeside Singers, 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.

Photos by Rick Vogeney
Lieurance’s service saluted

by Major Laurence McPherson

If you were walking past the College for Officer Training on that day, you might’ve heard through the open windows of nearby apartment buildings, “It’s the third of June, another dirty, dusty, delta day.” Those same windows would soon slam shut as five and a half inches of rain drenched Chicago. If you’d gone inside to watch TV, you might’ve witnessed news reports of Israel’s Six Day War, China’s first hydrogen bomb or running for the mile: three minutes, 51 seconds.

Oh, I’m sure many events might’ve been witnessed that day, now lost in our memories. But, some witnessed and remembered the commissioning of the Witnesses of the Faith session—a profound occasion that, over the next 42 years, countless lives have been impacted. Many individuals and families who’ve experienced profound changes because of these faithful officers can confidently declare, “My eternity is secure with God,” because Chuck and Lila answered their call to officership.

Both were born in North Platte, Neb., and began attending the corps as children. Each time Lila boarded the corps bus, she’d encounter a mischievous boy named Chuck. As young adults they individually received God’s call to officership. They married in 1964, entered training the next year and were commissioned as lieutenants two years later. Their sons, Damon and Darin, were born during the following two years.

The Lieurances, now living near Fayetteville, Ark., entered retirement in 2002.

Romulus ARC program graduates Mario Vasquez (r) and Tom Witkowski are led through solidarity class by Maj. Jim Irvine, Plymouth corps officer, and Capt. Linda Barker, Romulus ARC administrator.

Corps, ARC join forces

I n a double-headed effort to disciple beneficiaries and widen a corps’ outreach, the Romulus, Mich., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) and the Plymouth, Mich., Corps have successfully joined forces and supported ‘Come Join Our Army’ along the way.

Corps Officers Majors J ames and Patricia Irvine and ARC Administrators Captains Troy and Linda Barker began working together more than a year ago. When the Ivines arrived at Plymouth, average Sunday attendance was less than 25 with most attendees well into their senior years.

“At our welcome, our people asked us to help them grow in numbers and younger in age,” recalled Jim. “They’ve lived up to that challenge by giving us the freedom to implement new worship styles and by warmly welcoming new people. And, the Barkers have been tremendous supporters in our outreach to the ARC men and their families.”

Troy said, “Seeing the interactions of corps people and beneficiaries has been a blessing.” He attributes the success to the Ivines’ compassion and the corps’ acceptance without bias.

“The men have a higher sense of self-worth through this corps’ ministry,” continued Troy. “Many have been deemed outcasts by society—to feel a sense of belonging here can’t be underestimated.”

Extending the hand of fellowship is a highlight of Sunday worship. It’s not just shaking hands; folks leave their pews and roam the sanctuary to greet and give each other hugs. “What took just a moment or two at first can now take five to seven minutes!” exclaimed Jim.

The Barkers and Ivines were intentional in establishing soldiership classes for beneficiaries. “We look for maturity in Christ,” explained Jim. “We’re more interested in a person’s relationship with God than in a relationship with The Salvation Army.” The first soldiership class met this past fall at the ARC, the second soldiership class began meeting this month on Saturdays at the corps.

Last fall Jim took beneficiary Tom Witkowski to the Eastern Michigan Divisional Men’s Retreat, led by Dr. Roger Green. “It was Tom’s first exposure to in-depth, systematic Bible study. He couldn’t wait to get deeper into God’s Word when we got back!” exclaimed Jim.

The 2009 Lenten Resource Book, 3:16—Numbers of Hope, is designed to help enrich your corps’ worship during this Holy season, plus an additional four weeks—starting February 1st! It will dissect John 3:16, referred to as “the Hope Diamond of the Bible” by Max Lucado. Using excerpts from his book, 3:16 The Numbers of Hope, the verse will come alive in the hearts of those who hear it. This resource contains ready-to-use, quality meetings for Sunday worship, women’s and community care ministries. Discover anew this season how Jesus can bring hope to your life!

Fresh cash transfusion

Thrift stores are the financial lifeblood of adult rehabilitation centers (ARC). Sales directly support a center’s operations and its life-changing ministries. That’s why the Romulus, Mich., ARC is excited about its 17,000-square-foot store in Lincoln Park, Mich. ARC Administrators Captains Troy and Linda Barker reported the goal was to create a more upscale environment. “People are amazed at the store’s overall appearance,” said Troy. “It’s exceeded our expectations,” added Linda.
Student immediately endeared herself to her classmates by unearthing the grand prize of a certificate for a classroom pizza party.

Speakers addressing the audience included Central territorial leaders Commissioners Barry C. and E. Sue Swanson, Western Michigan Divisional Commander Major Ralph Bukowiec, and Grand Rapids Kroc Administrators Majors Roger and Joy Ross. Numerous civic and business leaders from the area also participated in the event.

The groundbreaking officially began the process which has culminated 50 months of intensive preparation and planning. When completed, the $56.5 million LEED Certified project ("green" and sustainable) will maximize a 20-acre campus located at 2500 South Division Ave. The 94,000-square-foot center will include an aquatic center, full-size gymnasium, state-of-the-art fitness center, banquet hall, performing arts center, worship hall and host of other features. The projected completion date for the center is spring 2010.

As the investment in brick and mortar will soon begin to shape the physical development of the Grand Rapids Kroc Center, the support and prayers of God’s people will continue to help shape the spiritual development of Dakya Chapman and hundreds of children like her, along with adults and families who will engage the center for many years to come.

Grand Rapids Kroc Center

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by Major Joy Ross

Thirteen middle school students recently graduated as the inaugural class of the Kroc Leadership Academy in Grand Rapids, Mich. The youth were identified by school staff and administrators as capable of achieving great things but lacking the support to reach their full, God-given potential. With this new initiative, The Salvation Army, school and parents came together to provide this support.

Outcome-based objectives were developed, focusing on student achievement. Students and families were guided to develop in the following areas: academic success, social skills, positive self-esteem, health awareness, family teamwork, and volunteerism. Family participation was encouraged through parental workshops, family fun nights, incentives acknowledging family contributions, and steady communication between parents, staff and volunteers.

Students met twice weekly for eight weeks. During each three-hour session, they explored their leadership potential through individual tutoring, large and small group instruction using the Arise Life-Skills program, guest speakers, mentoring, participation in leadership groups and a volunteer project.

The overall grade point average of students rose, with over half showing marked improvement in academic performance. Only one youth did not graduate the academy. Positive results are expected to be even more dramatic when the academy is instituted for a full academic year.

The graduation ceremony was incorporated into a Sunday service which had standing-room only.

Kroc Leadership Academy graduates first class

Employment Opportunity

Creative Arts Director—Music and Creative Arts Dept., Greater New York Divisional Headquarters, New York, N.Y. GIVE leadership to creative arts expressions at corps, special events. Develop divisional drama, dance, mime groups plus training curriculums; be resource, advisor to corps groups; organize resource library, maintain website; seek, develop potential leaders. Manage special-event technical operations; develop specific segments as requested; oversee creation, organization of props/scenery/costumes as needed; liaise with talent for divisional events. Participates in conservatory and summer camp programs; coordinate creative arts participation at Star Search; assist with other projects as assigned by associate program secretary. Bachelor’s degree and/or significant experience required. Contact: Gordon Ward FAX (212) 337-7401.

Pray For:

PRAY FOR:

1. People to decide for Christ on this Decision Sunday
2. Candidates answering God’s call to officership
3. The territorial officers’ forum meeting
4. Community care ministries
5. The Salvation Army in Kuwait and Mongolia
6. The North Dakota corps and youth retreat this weekend
7. The Kansas and Western Missouri divisional gospel music workshop
8. Youth discipled through corps cadets
9. The Commissioners’ Conference
10. The evangelistic efforts of the Kistler family in LaCrosse, Wis.
11. The Midland divisional youth leaders seminar in St. Louis, Mo.
12. The DeKalb, Ill., Corps
13. Young adults attending the territorial Re-Generation conference
14. The Northern Division’s parenting retreat
15. Hard hearts to be softened by God’s love
16. President Barack Obama and his family on this Presidents Day
17. The annual command consultation review teams
18. The Lincoln, Neb., Corps
19. The Romulus, Mich., Adult Rehabilitation Center
20. The College for Officer Training officers’ retreat
21. The Chicago Staff Band’s ministry in Jacksonville, Ill.
22. The Plymouth, Mich., Corps
23. Safe travel and new insight for those on the Biblical Education Tour of Israel
24. The National Personnel Conference
25. The territorial multicultural committee meeting
26. The Heartland divisional women’s officers’ retreat
27. The Disk Purnan Radiothon in Detroit, Mich.
28. The Midland divisional women’s ministries’ scrapbook weekend
Words of Life

This edition of Words of Life is the first volume to be written by Major Evelyn Merriam, who has succeeded General John Growans as writer of the Army’s book of daily Bible readings.

Major Merriam is an officer in the Eastern Territory. She received her bachelor’s degree in education from Eastern Nazarene College and also has a master’s degree in writing from Manhattanville College. Evelyn and her husband, Paul, have served as officers for more than 35 years, five in Japan. Evelyn’s most recent appointment was in the literary department in New York.

This edition of Words of Life runs through varied terrain. It begins in Genesis, continues with the letter from James, adds a special loop through “partners in ministry” (supplied by guest writers Lt. Colonels Richard and Janet Munn), carries on with Mathew’s gospel (through Holy Week) and finishes with thoughts about windows in scripture.

Promoted to Glory

Major Ehrlert R. Wallin

Major Ehrlert R. Wallin was promoted to Glory on November 16, 2008, from the same Rockford, Ill., hospital in which he was born.

Ehrlert Richard was born to Swedish immigrants, Alfrida and John Wallin, on August 16, 1924. His family attended the Rockford Temple Corps, where Ehrlert never missed a Sunday for 13 years straight.

Ehrlert worked as a machinist before he felt the call to officership.

He entered training in September 1943 and was commissioned as a probationary lieutenant the following year with the Liberty session.

In his first appointment, Ehrlert met the sister of the corps officer he was assisting and romance blossomed. Ehrlert married Alyce Samuelson on September 29, 1949.

Together they served in Scandinavian and other corps across the territory.

In 1986 Ehrlert was named to a new position in the Northern Division—correctional services secretary. He blazed a trail and laid an excellent foundation for the Army’s credibility in prison work. The Wallins retired in 1989.

Major Wallin is survived by his wife, Alyce; daughter Laurie (Henry) Rivera, and two grandchildren.