Central Territory leadership changes

Commissioners Barry C. and E. Sue Swanson, Central territorial leaders, have been appointed as chief of the staff and world secretary for women’s ministries by General Shaw Clifton. The appointments will take effect May 1, 2010.

“News of my appointment to serve as chief of the staff was received with great surprise,” said the territorial commander. “Having assumed command of the USA Central Territory just a year ago, obviously we thought we would have more time. But God had other plans.”

He continued, “We had just completed a territorial ministry weekend called Mission and Purpose, held in conjunction with the dedication of the Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. Themes of calling, commitment and covenant spoke clearly to my own heart. I felt this was in confirmation of what General Shaw Clifton had spoken to me about several weeks previously; the gifts, experience and skills possessed by my wife and me were needed at this time internationally. As with each appointment received over our 33 years of officer-ship, we believe it to be God’s way of placing us where He wants us, and it is our privilege to go.”

The Swansons were commissioned as officers in 1978 and served in corps, divisional and territorial appointments in the Central Territory, including chief secretary and territorial secretary for women’s ministries, until 2006 when they were transferred to National Headquarters where he served as national chief secretary and she as national secretary for women’s ministries. In 2007 they were appointed to International Headquarters as international secretary and national secretary for women’s ministries for the Americas and Caribbean zone.

Colonels Paul R. and Carol Seiler, who currently serve as chief secretary and territorial secretary for women’s ministries/territorial coordinator for strategic mission planning in the Central Territory, have been appointed as our new territorial leader. Colonel Paul Seiler will be the territorial commander. Colonel Carol Seiler will be the territorial president of women’s ministries and also will continue her role as territorial coordinator for strategic mission planning. They take up their new appointments with promotion to the rank of commissioner in May.

Hailing from the Western Territory and with 28 years of experience as officers, the Seilers have served in the Central Territory for three years. In this short time they have come to know the people and programs in the Midwest and have made a significant impact. For instance, Colonel Paul Seiler has initiated the Steps program and has established an interdepartmental forum at territorial headquarters (THQ). Colonel Carol Seiler led the Territorial Economic Summit last January, has overseen the Kroc Center process since 2008, and has proactively addressed health and welfare issues of employees and officers at THQ. “We have come to deeply appreciate the people, mission-pasion and commitment to the Word that we have found in the Central Territory. To continue to grow together as believers will be a pleasure.”

Central Territory opens its first Kroc Center

For Anita Rojas, husband Apolonio, and son Sergio, the newly built Kroc Center, located just north of their South Omaha home, is shining new life on their community.

“Now this piece of land radiates with the light of hope,” Rojas said. “You simply couldn’t dream any higher for something as good as this for fear that it would not become a reality.”

Celebrating the Central Territory’s first completed Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, local donors and dignitaries, Salvation Army officials and guests gathered in November to dedicate the $30 million, 122,000-square-foot facility in Omaha, Neb.

The community center, located at 28th and Y streets in Historic South Omaha, was made possible by a $60 million gift from Joan B. Kroc, widow of McDonald’s CEO Ray Kroc, and a $15 million local matching endowment campaign headed by Heritage Services, a nonprofit Omaha firm.

A ribbon cutting and flag raising ceremony featured speeches by Omaha Public Power District President and CEO W. Gary Gates, Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle and Omaha Salvation Army Advisory Board Chairman Mike Cassling and music by members of the Omaha South High School Ambassadors Show Choir. Special guests included Amanda Latimer, Joan Kroc’s grand-daughter, Latimer family members and officials and guests gathered in November to dedicate the $30 million, 122,000-square-foot facility in Omaha, Neb.

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Continued on page 2
January is the time for new year’s resolutions. Catherine Owen writes an article summarizing the motivation, titled “Keeping New Year’s Resolutions: three important questions to help one through the New Year.” She notes for centuries many civilizations have wanted to start the new year off on the right foot—asking if life is going in the direction you want, and what could be improved. Interestingly, she notes people desire change, they want to change the course of their lives in a way that puts them in a “different place” at the end of the year than at the beginning. Transformation! But if it’s so desired, why is it so hard? Notice how her title starts out “Keeping…” based on common knowledge that resolutions to improve are tough to keep. Possibly even a joke to make them. Some resources will tell you that 40 to 45 percent of American adults make one or more resolutions each year, only to be broken again and again. Not surprising, the top new year’s resolutions include to lose weight, exercise more and stop smoking. Also popular are resolutions dealing with better money management and debt reduction. Some sources indicate only 75 percent of resolutions are maintained after the first week, and only 46 percent after six months. How do they know? More likely they are reflecting observation and self-reporting.

Am I contributing to a further guilt trip? That’s not my intention. Rather I want to reflect on the urge to change behavior and attitudes that aren’t beneficial. The difference for me as a believer, however, is that what I desire to change is deeply rooted in my sinful nature and I know I am wholly dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit to make the difference. If I’m not careful, I can feel that just changing behavior is enough. Sometimes I need to change the habits of my behavior—setting aside specific time for prayer for example. But the change desired is rooted in the awareness of the contrast between my desire to be a disciple of Jesus and the reality of my human condition.

This year I’m going to focus on these resolutions and pray these scriptures:

1. “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (Ps 51:10)
2. Help me to be one who puts my hope in the Lord, to renew my strength. Then I will soar on wings like eagles; run and not grow weary, walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)
3. Help me to daily live celebrating the truth that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun. (2 Cor 5:17)

I’m not even going to make other resolutions. I want these three to be the focus and to become part of my continued faith journey for much more than just this year.
Are you CALLED?

by Major Joseph Wheeler

The Nüesch family, along with other corps and center leaders, tours the Kroc Center to see ministry firsthand. (The Message)

"The One who called you is completely dependable," Steve spoke powerfully and clearly about everyone being called and all calls being sacred. Again, altars quickly filled with seekers.

As MAP delegates and Omaha area corps merged for Sunday morning worship, Lt. Colonel Richard Vander Weele, territorial secretary for program, reminded attendees this was more than likely the largest gathering of worshipers in the territory. Omaha Kroc Corps soldiers, employees and the center’s mission were dedicated by Commissioners Ken and Joy Baillie, former territorial leaders. Challenges were given by Majors Paul and Renea Smith, Western divisional leaders, and Majors Herb and Yaneth Fuqua, Omaha Kroc administrative corps officers.

Commissioner Barry C. Swanson, territorial commander, spoke of the call to be harvesters, asking those present to respond to God’s call to be Kingdom workers. Tears were once again left on the altar as God’s presence was felt.

MAP delegates left in awe from the Holy Spirit’s ministry. They were surprised at the clarity of God’s voice, excited from participating in an historic moment for the territory, and wondering at what God will do.

Looking for your mission?

Are you an action-oriented leader who loves and serves the Lord? Then perhaps it’s time to consider if God is calling you to be an officer, with its unparalleled opportunities to accomplish work for His Kingdom.

As an officer you can:

• Help people find a personal relationship with Jesus
• Provide meals for the needy
• Comfort survivors of natural disasters
• Teach and nurture others in their faith
• Find great joy in service to others

Visit www.usc.salvationarmy.org/candidates

Leadership changes

Continued from page 1

ers in the South America East Territory, have been appointed respectively as chief secretary and territorial secretary for women’s ministries for the Central Territory. Néstor Nüesch entered training as a single cadet from the Greater New York Division, and Rebecca from the Empire State Division. Both were commissioned in 1977 and married that June. Their first appointment was as corps officers in Passaic, N.J. A series of divisional appointments, primarily in finance for him and women’s ministries for her, followed including the Massachusetts, Southwest Ohio/Northeast Kentucky, and Empire State divisions. At Eastern Territorial Headquarters, he was the development coordinator for Puerto Rico and then assistant business administration secretary, while she was the director of the program service bureau in the corps growth department.

They served as divisional leaders for 15 years in the Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, Empire State and Greater New York divisions. In 2006 they were appointed territorial commander and territorial president of women’s ministries, respectively, for the South America East Territory. Since 1989 during their tenure as divisional and territorial leaders, more than 200 cadets have entered training college or have been commissioned as officers. Strategic planning, fiscal management and personal relational spiritual guidance are trademarks of their leadership.

Colonel Néstor Nüesch has multiple citizenships, including the U.S., Argentina and Switzerland. He was born in Argentina in 1949 to Salvation Army officers. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Pace University and a master’s in business administration from Suffolk University and was an accountant before entering officer training.

Colonel Rebecca Nüesch, nee Brewer, was born to officer parents in Charlotte, N.C. She is a fifth generation Salvationist, attended Asbury College and worked for The Salvation Army in programming before entering training. She is gifted in public speaking and writing poetry.

The Nüesch family have three daughters, Amy, Diana, and Jillian and three grandchildren.
**Officers’ forum shares questions and concerns**

by Major Keith J. Welch

I didn’t realize totally what shaped the policies, procedures and practices of our Army, but having served on the Officers’ Forum I see where some of the changes have been instigated,” said newly elected co-chair Major Norman Grainger.

The Officers’ Forum exists to provide a communication link between officers and Territorial Administration. It allows officers from the Central Territory to share concerns regarding officership and corps ministry.

Captain Timothy Sell said, “I expected this group to be very starchy and business-minded...They actually do not take themselves too seriously. We do take the thoughts and ideas of the officers submitting concerns as serious.”

Officers are elected by their peers and serve for a term of three years. Forum members are voted to represent field, adult rehabilitation center and administrative officers. Major Julie McDowell, outgoing program chair, expressed, “It was an honor to serve.”

Examples of items the forum dealt with this past February are officer childcare, sabbaticals, emergency disaster services patches for major disasters, and women’s uniform issues.

Every submission is given careful attention and researched before it’s shared with the complete forum membership. Items either become holdovers requiring further research, a “letter to source” often containing the result of the research, a general report outlining the research, and/or a recommendation which is submitted to Territorial Administration for a decision.

“Serving on the forum helps me to have a clearer understanding of the process for changes,” said Major Michael Mills.

Central Territory officers are encouraged to submit their concerns or questions through their elected forum member.

Major Grainger said, “I have discovered that the voice we have is indeed heard and we’re shaping the Army for tomorrow.”

**Always an honor**

The Salvation Army in the Quad Cities participated in Honor Flights for veterans departing for Washington, D.C. Here Major David Luft, city coordinator, shares his experience.

I don’t get excited about waking up at 3:00 a.m., but this was different. I was headed to the airport after picking up more than 200 donuts and then Lt. Ronnie Amick. Other than obligatory construction zones, traffic was non-existent. With a slight mist and 40 degrees, the day was starting out fine. Although the Honor Flight was scheduled for 6:30 a.m., I wasn’t surprised to see a large group assembled in the lobby as we pulled to the curb around 5:00.

Joined by two other soldiers from the Davenport, Iowa, Coops, we were barely set up when guests began to arrive. The veterans were from World War II. Many sons and daughters were guardians for this trip to Washington to visit the war memorials. Since their name badges were large, I could greet them by name.

Coffee, juice and donuts were the early morning fare. Many veterans expressed appreciation. I thanked them for their service, and we talked about their experience. One shared his story of receiving a donut from The Salvation Army as he was getting on a ship to go overseas some 60 years ago. I was happy to provide him with yet another donut as he waited for the Honor Flight. In total, 101 boarded the flight.

The next morning went much the same with the exception of the appearance of “donut girls.” Three ladies from the Heritage Temple Corps in Moline, Ill., dressed up in World War I donut uniforms to serve the veterans. Their World War I helmets were the day’s hit! I wore the U.S. Army ballcap my son, who’s currently serving in Iraq, had given me. Many veterans and guardians had their pictures taken with the ladies. Contrary to a story being circulated, none of these ladies was an original World War I lassie.

Captain Billie-Jo Richardson, Lt. Amick and Steve Garrington (a Heartland Division employee who works out of the Quad Cities) assisted on Saturday. Steve is also a member of the local Honor Flight board. On Saturday he flew out with the men as a guardian and bus captain.

I left with pride in The Salvation Army serving our country’s veterans again. My thoughts drifted to officers years ago who provided refreshment and encouragement to young soldiers as they went off to war. In view of their service and these heroes’ sacrifice, getting up at 3:00 a.m. is nothing.

To learn about the Honor Flight program, visit Honorflight.org. Consider volunteering.

**ICO Delegates 2010**

Please pray for these Central Territory officers as they attend the International College for Officers this year.

**Major David Gorton**

Session 204
Jan 3rd - March 8th

**Major Janice Love**

Session 205
April 7th - June 7th

**Captain Enrique Azuaje**

Session 206
July 14th - September 6th

**Major Randall Polsley**

Session 207
October 13th - December 6th
Partner in Mission Next Steps

A New Look at World Services
by Chris Shay

In 2007 Colonel Paul R. Seiler, chief secretary, began exploring with other territorial headquarters staff the possibility of inviting some corps to participate in a new level of involvement in the Partner in Mission (PIM) relationship. After discussion and approval from International Headquarters, the PIM’s First Steps pilot was launched.

Four corps were selected for the first phase. The Dearborn Heights, Mich., Corps in the Eastern Michigan Division was partnered with the country of Peru.

The Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps in the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division was partnered with the country of Malawi.

The Pekin, Ill., Corps in the Heartland Division was partnered with the country of Zimbabwe.

The St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps in the Midland Division was partnered with the country of Chile.

They were challenged to raise their World Services/Self-Denial money for specific projects in their PIM countries. Each corps obtained information and pictures of individual projects to help cast the vision to their congregations and feel a sense of ownership in supporting their partner. The Kalamazoo Corps was able to send three soldiers and the corps officer to Malawi [see sidebar] which was particularly helpful in jump-starting their partnership.

It’s hoped that over time Central Territory corps and their corresponding partners will grow in relationship and giving will increase. Another goal is to engage more people, including advisory board members, business contacts and other Army friends, in the spirit of self-denial as they give to well-defined projects in specific locations. In addition, these corps are encouraged to consider mission team visits, bringing guest officers and soldiers to the U.S. to speak and teach, provide sponsorships, and participate in prayer ministries.

Two more corps from the territory will be added to the pilot program in 2010.

PIM’s Next Steps has not completed this first year without challenges. Communication difficulties and other problems have occurred as might be expected in any pilot program. But the vision has been cast to find ways for our soldiers and officers to better relate to our brothers and sisters overseas so as money is raised there is a better understanding of God’s mission in the world. For that reason we rejoice as we continue to work toward honoring God by good stewardship of our resources.

The face of HIV/AIDS
by Captain Tom McComb

Alinafe sat in a dusty clearing with her father. The 19-year-old woman was clearly tired, reclining on her folding chair under a blanket and gazing quietly at the dry ground.

Local Salvation Army volunteers introduced our Kalamazoo, Mich., Corps team of four to Alinafe (ah-LEE-nah-fay which means “Glory to God” in Chichewa). One of nearly one million Malawians who suffer from HIV/AIDS, Alinafe relies on Army volunteers to administer medication, assist with sanitary hygiene, do laundry and help her and her father get food and basic supplies.

The volunteers give selflessly to those who can’t help themselves, especially in their greatest need. Our visit was during a season of scarce food, so the volunteers pooled their own money to buy a bag of corn meal and presented it to Alinafe’s father.

They also educate rural communities about how they can best take responsibility and serve children who are orphaned because of HIV/AIDS.

We sat, talked and prayed with Alinafe through an interpreter. Then silent and feeling the weight of this family’s suffering we began the long walk to the van that would take us back to our lodging.

And as we returned to our corps, we remembered Alinafe. We have looked at HIV/AIDS and discovered that it has a face: young people who suffer with it; young children who are orphaned because their parents have died from it; and volunteers who are the hands and feet of Christ.

Quincy Kroc breaks ground
by Patty Douglas

November 2, 2009, was a milestone day for Quincy, Ill., as the much anticipated groundbreaking took place for the $27 million Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center.

Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were: Colonels Paul R. and Carol Seiler, chief secretary and territorial coordinator for strategic mission planning; Major Lonnie Richardson, Midland divisional commander; Majors Alan and Carol Wurtz, Quincy corps officers/Kroc administrators; Mayor John Spring, City of Quincy; and children and parents who are part of Salvation Army programs.
Let us begin this new year with faith and, with the Holy Spirit’s power, claim its opportunities. Let us love deeply, give freely and live boldly—becoming more like Christ each day. Read on and be inspired by your fellow Centraleans.

God desires all people to be worshippers: “After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne… And they cried out in a loud voice: ‘Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’” Rev (7:9-10)

This is my desire: to be hidden with Christ in God,” (Col. 3:3) so I have the same world vision as He does: one of love.

by Chris Shay

W e gain a world vision by knowing God from His Word. There we recognize as humans we are all image bearers of God, and that He loves those He created.

Then we see His plan for us, “All peoples on earth will be blessed” (Gen 12:3b). Jesus Christ is the culmination of the plan because with His blood He purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. (Rev 5:9b)

by Paul Luhn

W orship is a simple verb and a complex noun. As a verb it is easily measured and contained, usually to a few hours on Sunday. As a noun, worship is more than just music or prayer; it’s a way of life. To me it is loving the unlovingly, giving anonymously, even picking up trash when no one is looking. It’s turning off my television to do something more productive, walking away from gossip, and opening my home to others. Worship is giving God something that is precious to me. It’s taking care of myself and the relationship I have with my neighbors.

Simply put worship is the right response to the presence of God. And as His presence is constant, so are our opportunities to live a life of worship.

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by Captain Jennifer Woodard

Tears stream down my face as I watch the redemptive Les Miserables. A melody causes my heart to sing. A sky of diamonds shouts God is God. A sunset’s blaze proclaims, “God is here,” while a new day dawning whispers, “Never fear.” A friend draws close, and I am humbled.

I see best in the center of greatness: great silence, beauty, creativity, wonder. Here, truth dawns so clearly there are no questions, only matters of fact. Hope swells. Love is realized. Gratitude surprises. Truth escapes from somewhere in my heart. Suddenly, I am seeing clearly. For just that moment, questions are answered, fears lost, failures fall away. For just that moment, I receive the goodness and grace that is God, and I know He has pledged His heart to me forever. For just that moment, I see clearly.

Lord, help me to seek moments when I can see You clearly, to be still and know You are God.

“By day the Lord directs His love, at night His song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life” (Psalm 42:8).

by Major Andy Miller

I found myself saying, “I know best” when it came to my needs and my desires. I said, “Here is my plan for my life, Lord. Just sign on, and I will continue with my life as I have planned.” With that philosophy I never got beyond myself.

Then a friend told me: “You are never higher than when you’re on your knees.” I finally surrendered and said, “God, here is my life. I sign it over to you. Show me. Lead me. I will follow.” For me, surrender was and still is the real act of faith!

A great chorus proclaims, “He is able, more than able to do much more than I could ever dream. He is able, more than able, to make me what He wants me to be.” Reach higher!

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by Paul Luhn

S haring my faith with others is always on my mind, especially with those in my existing relational circles. I’ll never forget the day God asked me to share the gospel with my best friend. Getting over the fear he might reject Christ was huge, but I prayed and asked the Holy Spirit to give me boldness as I shared the Good News.

We met at Baker’s Square, and over a piece of pie I did my best to help him see he needed Christ in his life. When I asked him if he would like to ask Jesus into his life, he replied, “What took you so long to ask?” That day Tim accepted the Savior and received the free gift of eternal life. I’m glad the Holy Spirit empowered me that day. So is Tim.

Ask God for discernment and power. Be bold and make an eternal difference this year.

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opportunity

Pray More
by Major Diane Harper
Hello, Father. It’s me again. Well, remember that conversation we had about..."
My talks with God are becoming more and more frequent. It’s become my daily, hourly, minute-by-minute adventure. He listens; I talk. I listen; He talks.
I’m realizing I need Him more and more. Is it my age? Have I reached a new level of spiritual maturity? Am I looking for answers to troubling times? Or is it a cry for help and His continued presence? Our relationship is the cornerstone of my existence. I dare not take a step without Him, but with Him I can go the distance.
“It is in knowing You and in understanding Your ways and Word that we can sense Your presence, love and care. Thanks, Father. It’s us again, searching for more, exploring and going deeper!”

Be a Mentor
by John Kim
Ministry is about people—caring for them, developing them, loving them. Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.” (John 10:11). Not only did Jesus back up these words by laying down His life for the sheep, but He mentored and equipped His disciples to carry out the mission of the Church, which they did quite successfully.
The essence of being a mentor then is to smell like sheep (taken from Lynn Anderson’s They Smell Like Sheep). More than anything we do for our people, we must be with our people. We must know their needs, concerns and problems. A mentor doesn’t tell others how to live; he shows them. Do I smell like sheep?

Find Your Calling
by Rachel Wyatt
Not all of us are lucky enough to have an experience like Paul where God appears and tells us exactly what to do with our lives. However, we can still find our callings woven into the stories of who we are. Paul’s background and experiences made him the perfect person to do the job God had for him. Similarly, I can see how God has developed and prepared me for the job He has called me to here in Flint, Mich. Everything about me—my personal history, the people in my life, the passions of my heart—all give me a greater sense of direction and purpose.
Examine the person God has created you to be and ask Him how you can use your passions and gifts for Him.

Get Involved
by Major Darryl Leedom
As a believer, I’ve directed most of my study toward the gospel accounts and Paul’s writings. A simple glance at my Bible reveals the pages of the New Testament are marked and worn; whereas, the Old Testament pages are “gently used.” Naturally, I’m drawn to the New Testament. It’s a place I’m most comfortable. However, the story doesn’t begin there. It begins in the Old Testament.

Get in the Word
by Major Joyce Anderson
Deeper, deeper in the love of Jesus, let me deeper go.” The old saints used to sing this often. But how do we go deeper? Peter 2:2 (NASB) says, “As new born babes desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may grow in respect to salvation.” We have a new puppy; in the morning he can hardly wait to eat. He breathes it in! I can almost see him grow each day.
So it is with me: same time, same place each day. I can hardly wait, turning my thoughts, my heart to God’s Word. I hear the voice of the One who loves me and longs for me to go deeper in His Word. It’s important to me to begin the day with the Lover of my soul. If I miss our time, My God may say, Is my Word such a little thing? Oh, no I cry; as I understand that wisdom. Joy and peace in my life are seen: As my Savior and I go deeper, yes deeper.

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God’s story, the revealing of Himself, begins with the phrase, “In the beginning God.” It’s from this point that He woos me to experience Him, to discover the essence of His character and nature.
This year my desire is to live stronger by getting involved in the pursuit of knowing God, experiencing Him as revealed in the Old Testament. He’s a great story teller. I can’t wait to hear it.
The Central Territory recently hosted a nationwide Disaster Faith Partners Institute themed “In One Accord,” (Acts 2:44-47). The four-day training conference focused on frontline disaster leadership—decision makers in field operations—seeking to provide information and networking opportunities and to enhance interagency coordination for disaster preparedness and response. Delegates represented all four USA territories, National Headquarters, and the Canada and Bermuda Territory. Although targeting delegates from more than 50 faith partner organizations, government and non-faith disaster partners attended as well. “This was an excellent training and networking opportunity, and I encourage The Salvation Army to continue to provide interagency trainings such as this at the local and national level,” said Diana Rothe-Smith, executive director for National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters.

Commissioner Barry C. Swanson, Central territorial commander, gave a welcome and message during the keynote session. Daily devotions were then delivered by leaders from other faith partner organizations. Two excellent plenary presentations were made by David L. Myers, director, Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and Chaplain (Colonel) Thomas C. Vail, United States Army.

Course options included: critical incident stress management; the SERVARE interagency disaster training; curriculum from the National Disaster Training Program; and sheltering and psychological first-aid from the American Red Cross. There was a wide variety of workshops such as: compassion fatigue; special needs populations; children; resiliency; spiritual care; housing; performance measurements for nonprofit organizations; collaborative partnering; and safety and health.

The institute was the last national training event to help fulfill the goals of the National Disaster Training Program funded by a Lilly Endowment Grant. This grant made it possible for almost 200 delegates to attend for a minimal registration fee of $150 which covered four nights of lodging, training materials and most meals. Kevin Elliers, Central territorial disaster services coordinator, chaired the institute planning committee. Many delegates expressed a desire to continue training at the local level and to have more national training opportunities.

Outstanding support

The Salvation Army doesn’t wait for a federal declaration to help those coping in a disaster… We can work with one or thousands,” said Deborah Abner, Kansas and Western Missouri’s divisional service extension disaster coordinator. While it may be impossible to work with every person in need, guided by a heart for people and love for the Lord, Deborah helps everyone possible.

With a compassion-driven work ethic, it is no wonder that Deborah Abner, along with Brian Carroll, divisional service extension director, were recognized by the Emergency Management Support Association of Kansas with the Outstanding Support Agency/Individual Award. The award was given to them based on dedicated efforts by Deborah in managing, and Brian in assisting, disaster relief work in Dickinson County, which was devastated by a tornado in 2009.

Chancy Smith, emergency management coordinator in Dickinson County, nominated Deborah and Brian. In his letter of recommendation Chancy praised them for working incredibly long, hard hours to feed and serve people. They not only provided physical comfort but spiritual comfort as well. He continued by saying that Deborah and Brian represent The Salvation Army through their incredible character. They have the ability to overcome obstacles of disaster relief with both humility and grateful hearts.

Chancy works on Brian’s service extension team at divisional headquarters where she oversees disaster preparedness and relief efforts for 96 counties in Kansas and four counties in Missouri. With the prevalence of tornadoes and winter storms in her division, networking is a significant and at times daunting responsibility. Ultimately, Deborah’s faith sees her through. “You learn to love and care for people like you would your own family,” she said. “It touches your heart so deeply that your desire is to make them more comfortable.”

Fired up for God

A s commissioned fire chaplains for the chaplain division of the Detroit Fire Department, Angus MacKenzie, George Ares, Jim Swan and Ross Myers, times handle very difficult circumstances: counseling injured fire fighters, praying at funerals, supporting families, helping those devastated by a fire. These men have more in common than a desire to serve people, however. They are all Salvationists.

Although volunteers, their work is intense, and the rigor involved in becoming commissioned are great. Commissioning consists of 18 months of training. It includes completing eight training courses, underwriting the incident command procedure, and becoming certified with the federal government.

Each fire chaplain (there are six total with the Detroit Fire Department) serves in rotation as duty officer every five or six weeks. They serve a week at a time starting at 8:00 a.m. one Sunday morning and concluding at 8:00 a.m. the next. As duty officer they could be called at any moment to assist. During their off weeks they must be available to assist with any major incidents such as large fires with multiple casualties.

Other duties include providing confidential, spiritual assistance and counseling to the fire department personnel and the community. Responding to the hospital for all fire related injuries, and representing the community at official civic events.

Although trained in counseling and high stress volunteer work, more than anything else these men desire to represent Christ. Angus, who is the training officer in the chaplain department, put it this way: “We want our lives, actions and service to reflect the gospel and point to God.”

Chancy Smith awarded Deborah with the Outstanding Support Award.
Targeting Urban Mission

One of our territory’s strategic priorities is Urban Mission. This interview with Major Phil Aho, territorial urban mission secretary, gives an introduction.

As we already have many corps, adult rehabilitation centers and social service units in cities, how will establishing a new focus and office help facilitate more effective ministry in the cities?

Really, the idea of ‘many’ could be challenged by the number of people who are members, with a decline over the past 50 years in our 10 largest Midwestern metro areas. Also, while there are more corps in suburbs now, the number in cities has declined from 68 in 1950 to 45 today.

In part, urban mission will deal with ways to increase our presence in cities. In some places this may mean creating corps, in others, it may mean exciting new expressions of Salvation Army presence and ministry. It may mean taking risks and exercising the freedom to make excellent mistakes.

Do you see urban mission and multicultural ministries working hand-in-hand?

As North American cities have become more multicultural, I see only an increasing working together of urban mission with multicultural ministries. Major Mary Hammerly and her department have already been very encouraging and helpful.

What can we learn from our history to enable us to spread the Good News and minister effectively in cities today?

When the Booths began work in London, they discovered the importance of working in the affluent West End as well as the slums of the East End. Catherine preached, taught, asked for financial contributions and, most importantly, helped infuse William’s East End work with a steady, albeit never large, stream of individuals from the West End. I suspect this may be a lesson from our history which we must relearn.

How can we be true to our origin as an organization?

We will do well as long as we look for people who are forgotten and underserved, as the Latin American theologian Jon Sobrino put it, ‘the crucified people.’ Officers and soldiers must never stop looking for those who are the left-out ones to serve, to include and to present the Good News to.

Is there a template for urban mission or will it be grass-roots developed?

I’m skeptical that attempts to replicate hold the most promise. Each city, neighborhood or community may share an urban quality, but they surely do not share the same needs. I see the process of an incarnational approach?

Each city, neighborhood or community has needs which are met in coming to Christ and serving in His name. If it’s more blessed to give than to receive, who really is ministered to most?

Could you share a meaningful experience as an inner-city corps officer?

The littlest things mean much. A few weeks ago a man in his 30s thanked me for waiting in the van one Sunday morning on the west side of Chicago when he was seven years old so he could get his mother’s permission to come to The Salvation Army. He didn’t think I would wait that long. It meant a world of difference to him growing up in the city.

How can the individual Salvationist get involved and make a difference?

Get out of your comfort zone. Choose to be with people unlike you. Be counted as a friend to those who suffer. Surprise the world as you are in places you don’t belong, with people you shouldn’t be with, sharing what you can barely afford. Christ comes alive when we do.

Do you see urban mission and adult rehabilitation centers working hand-in-hand?

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No recession for Chicago Staff Band

by Stan Kelley

With the nation seeking high value at low expense, the Chicago Staff Band (CSB), led by Bandmaster William Himes, provided a “door-buster” concert event once again! The crowd of more than 2,000 at Wheaton College’s Edman Chapel enjoyed a variety of musical styles with band and guest soloist Herb Bruce in fine form.

Following Stephen Bulla’s exciting opener, *“Praise Him,” CSB Executive Officer Lt. Colonel Richard Vander Weele greeted the audience.

The CSB gave an exciting performance of Ray Steadman-Allen’s classic transcription, “Melodies of Dvorák,” a kaleidoscope of many familiar themes which ended with a great flourish. Next was the band’s first vocal item, “He leadeth me,” featuring Paul Kelner’s original melody which has grown new life to this familiar hymn.

Guest artist trombone virtuoso Herb Bruce has played with such diverse artists as Wayne Newton, Frankie Valli, the Temptations and soloist Herb Bruce in fine form. Following Stephen Bulla’s exciting opener, “Praise Him,” CSB Executive Officer Lt. Colonel Richard Vander Weele greeted the audience.

The program’s first half concluded with Himes’ meditation, “The Blessing,” written on the occasion of his son’s wedding. Based on “Come Thou fount of every blessing,” the entry of the bride majestically coincides with the text. The second half opened with a brilliant cornet feature by Stephen Bulla on “Concertante for Cornets and Band,” which uses as its principal theme Hans Leo Hassler’s [1564-1612] Passion Chorale.

This year the audience sing-along was Himes’ new arrangement of the ancient Irish hymn “Be Thou my vision.” In his introduction Himes dedicated this setting to Commissioner Andrew S. Miller, one of the Army’s most dynamic and revered leaders. He pointed to the highest register. The program’s first half concluded with Himes’ meditation, “The Blessing,” written on the occasion of his son’s wedding. Based on “Come Thou fount of every blessing,” the entry of the bride majestically coincides with the text. The second half opened with a brilliant cornet feature by Stephen Bulla on “Concertante for Cornets and Band,” which uses as its principal theme Hans Leo Hassler’s [1564-1612] Passion Chorale.

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Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always,
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

Herb Bruce further demonstrated his versatility with the 1940s big band solo, “Trombonology” by Tommy Dorsey, contrasted by an arrangement of one of the best known tenor arias, “Nessun Dorma” by Puccini, arranged by James Cheyne.

Having just returned from Malawi, Africa, Commissioner Barry C. Swanson drew from the fresh experiences of this impoverished country. In offering food for thought and reasons to be thankful, the territorial commander paralleled the joyful faith of Malawi Salvationists and the testimony of the Apostle Paul: “I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.” [Phil. 4:11-13, NLTV]

The program neared conclusion with the band’s showstopper of the evening: “Vitae Aeternum” (Life Eternal) by Paul Lovett-Cooper. Technically challenging and somberous, this brilliant work features three Army songs about faith and the assurance of eternal life. The delighted audience responded with a standing ovation.

Herb Bruce was brought out for a final bow and joined the band in an encore performance of the New Orleans-style jazz spiritual, “Lord, Lord, You sure been good to me,” by Eric Alexander.

Commissioner E. Sue Swanson closed the festivities in prayer, and dozens of CSB alumni joined the band to sing the CSB “Choral Benediction.”

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2009 Sounds of the Seasons CD

A professional CD recording of the 2009 Sounds of the Seasons, featuring the CSB and guest Herb Bruce, 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.
A collaboration of Fox River Valley institutions, led by the Menasha Fox Cities, Wis., Corps, brought the world-renowned Chicago Staff Band (CSB) to its first-ever series of performances in the area.

“I think it gives us an opportunity to show the community—at large some other aspects of The Salvation Army they may not have known before,” said Major Jose Tamayo, corps officer.

In addition to the primary event—a Saturday evening concert with one of the Midwest’s premier vocal groups, the White Heron Chorale—the CSB was honored to perform at a weekly afternoon dedication service for the Menasha Fox Cities Corps building which had undergone extensive renovations.

The CSB also performed at Christ the Rock Community Church during its two Sunday morning worship services, and it conducted a workshop for middle and high school student musicians from area schools at Kaukauna High School.

The soaring interior of the Lawrence University Memorial Chapel was the Saturday evening site of the White Heron Chorale’s annual autumn concert, “Grateful Hearts and Voices.”

The CSB under the direction of Bandmaster Williams Himes and the 75-voice chorale, performing for the first time in 25 years under a new conductor, Dr. Paul Neshime, presented vocal pieces and band selections celebrating the beauty and simple joys of life. The program was supplemented with patriotic songs, hymns and works by American composers, including Bill Himes.

The dedication of the Menasha Fox Cities Corps building was conducted by Major Robert E. Thomason, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divisional commander. Territorial Property Secretary Major Cheryl Lawry presented the ceremonial key to Majors Jose and Annette Tamayo, corps officers. The 2.3 million renovation project included a childcare wing, updated kitchen, chapel, gymnasium and meeting rooms with moveable dividers.

One hour is far too long. That’s what the folks at the Traverse City, Mich., Corps thought when the major said he needed them to sign up in one-hour segments to pray for an entire day! It was their corps’ chance to participate in the territory’s 24/7 prayer effort.

Interestingly, they found an hour far too short. Their number one complaint was, “It’s not long enough!” And although their corps’ officially allotted participation is done, they’re clamoring for more.

Corps Officers Majors Bruce and Mildred Jennings report their soldiers would like to hold 24-hour prayer stations at least once a month and insist that somehow this modest corps should find a room to set aside for prayer stations all the time.

Obviously, some clever effort—and dare we say prayer—went into this corps’ 24/7 event planning. Participants visited prayer stations throughout the gym with Bible and notebook in hand. At each they interactively focused on one phrase of the Lord’s Prayer.

In the following Sunday morning meeting, Bruce sang “The Lord’s Prayer,” and the Holy Spirit descended in a powerful way. The altars were lined with people praying.

“It gives me goose bumps just thinking about it,” said Mildred.

One soldier recounted, “The most difficult part of the Lord’s Prayer was me being forgiven. The idea was to hold a stone and think of someone we were holding a grudge or bitterness against. The stone I picked up was pretty big and as I started praying it got heavier until I didn’t think I’d be able to hold it any longer, but I kept praying in earnest for the will to let go. After a couple of minutes of being in tune with the Holy Spirit, I finally let the stone go into the water. I felt as if a huge weight had been lifted from my shoulders.”

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!
by Ken Wyatt

In a ceremony rich with celebratory emotions, Majors Charles and Jan McCarty marked their retirement from nearly 43 years of active service. Territorial leaders Commissioners Barry C. and E. Sue Swanson conducted the retirement ceremony before a crowd of family, friends and colleagues at the St. Charles Tri-City, Ill., Corps, which was the McCarty’s first appointment.

“This day is not about us,” Charles and Jan affirmed in a joint response. “It’s about Him. None of this is about success. It’s about people—you. Each of you represents the ministry we celebrate today.”

The McCartys served in several other Metropolitan Division corps, then in a series of divisional appointments in the Eastern Michigan, Heartland, Kansas and Western Missouri, Northern, plus Western Michigan and Northern Indiana divisions. They served at territorial headquarters, where Charles was the territorial youth secretary, then territorial program secretary. Most recently the McCartys ministered as territorial pastoral care officers.

William Himes, territorial music and gospel arts secretary, led the service, noting the McCartys had once been his corps officers in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. Other officers recounted stories from the McCartys’ childhood, officer careers and family life. TSA Albert O. Osterhout, represented an earlier McCarty ministry.

Charles and Jan were born in Breckenridge, Ind., to neighboring families. They began attending The Salvation Army as children; former corps officers Lt. Colonels Jim and Jean Davis and Major David Logan were recognized. Another special moment was a concluding song, “Heel, Me,” by 9-year-old Olivia Trentadue, the McCarty’s granddaughter, who was backed up by their daughters Michele, Jody and Lisa.

God’s unfolding grace

Mrs. Captain Edith Mae Bennett

Mrs. Captain Edith Mae Bennett was promoted to Glory on October 19, 2009.

Edith was born to Elvin and Elizabeth Bicknell on December 6, 1923; she was the old- est of six children.

She entered the College for Officer Training from the Detroit Brightmoor, Mich., Corps and had the honor of being commissioned by General Evangeline Booth in 1943. She served at corps in the Eastern Michigan Division [EMI] before she fell in love. Soon after meeting WWII veteran, William Harfoot, Edith resigned to marry him.

Their marriage was blessed with five boys, who were the pride and joy of Edith’s life. Edith and William lived in Michigan until William’s death in 1961.

After William’s passing, Edith was employed by EMI divisional headquarters. She served Auxiliary Captain Jack Bennett in 1973 and was reaccepted as an officer. Together, the Bennetts served at Harbor Light institutions.

The Bennetts retired in 1991, but Edith’s service continued as she often volunteered at their corps in Lakeland, Fl. Jack was promoted to Glory in 1999.

She is survived by five sons, Colonel William [Susan] Harfoot, Daniel [Wendy], Gerald, Kenneth [Maggi] and Timothy [Claudia]; 13 grandchildren, seven great grandchildren; and a brother Tom [Pat] Bicknell.

Promoted to Glory

Major John Cunard

Major John Cunard was promoted to Glory on October 31, 2009.

John was born on May 27, 1923, in Niagara, Wis. Twenty years later he was saved at the Detroit Harbor Light, Mich., Corps. Almost immediately he began to feel a driving force in his heart to serve. He met Lt. Alberta Osterhout, when she was serving in Detroit. She was a vocalist; he thought she had the voice of an angel. John began to spend more time with Alberta, and the couple was united in marriage after his commissioning in 1957.

Their first appointment was in Ecorse, Mich. Their ministry included service in corps, harbor light centers, adult rehabilitation centers and the Detroit Evangeline Center before retiring in 1988, from Holland, Mich.

Those who knew John remember him for his sincere heart for others’ salvation and his devotion to family. John had the privilege of seeing all five of his daughters become officers.