For the first time in its 82-year history, The Salvation Army’s High Council will have more female members than males.

The 17th High Council will convene on January 21, 2011, at Sunbury Court, United Kingdom, to elect the 19th General of The Salvation Army in succession to General Shaw Clifton who will retire at midnight on April 1, 2011. This will also be the largest-ever High Council with 109 members—59 women and 50 men.

The Chief of the Staff, Commissioners Barry C. and E. Sue Swanson, issued summonses on December 1, 2010, to those Salvation Army leaders who qualified for membership. All active commissioners, territorial commanders and territorial presidents of women’s ministries were summoned. There will be 83 commissioners and 26 colonels present. Among the High Council members will be Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler, our current Central territorial leaders; Commissioners William A. and Nancy L. Roberts, USA national leaders; and Colonels Dennis and Sharon Strissel, Ghana territorial leaders.

The Chicago Staff Band festival reason to give thanks

by Jeff Curnow

As a teenage soldier of the Champaign Citadel, Ill., Corps, I looked forward to three annual events: commissioning, Central Music Institute and the Chicago Staff Band’s Thanksgiving Festival. I still look forward to these three events and was able to attend Sounds of the Seasons 2010 at Edman Chapel on the campus of Wheaton College.

Under the direction of Bandmaster William Himes, highlights of the concert included the CSB’s performance of Peter Graham’s “Seize the Day,” a joyful arrangement of three spirituals, and Wilfred Heaton’s bolero-style arrangement of “Victory for Me.” The first half concluded with a new Himes transcription of the fourth movement of Vittorio Gianini’s “Symphony Number Three.”

While the mission of the CSB extends beyond great musicianship to spreading the gospel through music, there were moments of true virtuosity throughout the night. The band exhibited great control and a wide dynamic range.

Derick Kane, the evening’s guest soloist, principal euphonium for the International Staff Band (ISB) since he was 19, has been recognized—in and out of Salvation Army circles—as one of the world’s best euphonium players. In fact, in 1991 he was named “Euphonium Player of the Year” by the British Bandmaster.

Kane’s reputation is well deserved. In performances of “Canaan’s Land” and “The Better World” his technique was described later in the concert by Colonel Neister R. Nuesch, chief secretary as “the ability to play faster than I am able to think.” His musicality was evident in Paul Lovatt-Cooper’s “Donegal Bay,” a gorgeous setting of an Irish folk song.

That most of Kane’s solos were written for him—over the course

Continued on page 4
Just the right time
by Lt. Colonel Richard Vander Weele
Territorial Program Secretary

Happy New Year! While pondering what I would share with you in these early days of 2011, my mind wandered back to my senior year in high school and a song by the California rock band, The Byrds. Although their prominence on the pop charts was short lived, the group had a hit called “Turn, Turn, Turn” in late 1965. I bought the record, a two track 45 rpm plastic disc with a big hole in the middle, which I played on our stereo system, a huge piece of furniture in the living room. OK, I know, I just mystified most readers under age 40.

I bought the record because I liked the tune, written by Pete Seeger, arranged in an upbeat rock style by The Byrds. What didn’t dawn on me at the time was that most of the lyrics were taken from Ecclesiastes 1:8-16, KJV. Like many teens, I was more familiar with New Testament passages than words from the Old Testament. The song starts, “To everything—turn, turn, turn. There is a season—turn, turn, turn. And a time for every purpose under heaven.” The Message puts that first line this way. “There’s an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth.” Looking at the passage, don’t be tricked into thinking the writer is skeptically disillusioned by life and his relationship with God. Although the scripture and song lyrics are filled with pessimism, you will note the words also suggest, in spite of everything, God is in control. Think how different the words would have been if written after Christ’s ministry began. So, what’s the connection to a new year? Just this, whether you’re a new Christian or well along, the way, why not begin the New Year with a commitment, not a resolution soon to be forgotten, but a commitment to do things, at just the right time, that bring you and those within your sphere of influence into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Commit to developing a stronger bond of fellowship with other Salvationists. Make our corps places where people can find Christ as Savior, be discipled and mentored, and work together to better our communities. In 2011 let’s influence our world for His purpose in His time.

Extending Rally Day

In November 2006 a women’s program opened in the Grand Rapids, Mich., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC). The ARC, Administrator Major Cecilia Senn reports one of the highlights now is partnering with the women of the Grand Rapids Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center for their Girlfriends women’s ministry.

The groups combined a couple of years ago. “I was searching for something that would appeal to new and younger women at the time, so it worked out perfectly,” said Major Joy Ross, then-Grand Rapids Dickinson Park, Mich., Kroc administrator.

The women bonded quickly. “We’re all sinners saved by grace,” said Major Cecilia Senn, who has taken leadership of the ARC group wholeheartedly. “We all have our failures but fully love and accept each other as women.”

The corps sends transportation to pick up the ladies at the ARC. Once at the Kroc Center everyone enjoys a snack together, studies the Bible, prays and participates in an activity ranging from scrapbooking sessions to cooking demonstrations. To express their sisterhood at women’s camp they ordered matching pink t-shirts.

“Currently four of the women who’ve graduated from the ARC program continue with Girlfriends,” reported Denise Robinson Gerdine who heads Girlfriends at the Kroc Center. Julie is one of these women. “Julie is now employed at the Kroc Center, and she’s up for anything because of her involvement with the ARC and Girlfriends,” said Cecilia.

The ARC beneficiaries are happy to be loved and accepted by this wonderful ministry. For many, this is a first in their lives. During the initial enrollment ceremony, Joy reported many had tears in their eyes as they promised to be faithful members.

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Relationships are the key to building a corps; it’s not just the job of the corps officer. We’ve proved that true since our corps, Lakewood Temple, Minn., held a weekend rally day event in which our corps people reached out by starting up conversations with the many unfamiliar faces in attendance. Since that time when these newcomers visit the corps on Sunday or for Wednesday night activities, our soldiers build on the connection they’ve already established. And it’s working; our Wednesday night activities have gone from 60 to nearly 100 people over the last year.

Our successful rally day weekend kicked off Friday night with an illusion show by B.J. Harris. Other activities and concerts were offered to our guests free of charge and ended with our usual Sunday activities.

Soldiers greeted guests, volunteered at the grill and inflatable activities, and invited newcomers to Sunday services, youth and music nights. Timo, a first-time guest, was asked what his favorite part of the weekend was. “All of it. It was special,” he said. “This is going to be a good place for me to grow in skills and grow socially. As far as me and Stephanie [his girlfriend], we are going to become involved little by little, taking baby steps.” People like Timo continue to come to our corps where they feel a sense of welcome and belonging.

Christina Tamayo, outreach minister director said, “The objective for homecoming is to reconnect with families that have fallen away from the corps and to extend an invitation to our neighbors.” Hosting this sort of event creates an open atmosphere in which we can all have fun and enjoy each other’s company. A huge investment of time and resources went into this event, but the relationships we’ve built are priceless!

Our registration records revealed 44 new families attended the week- end’s activities. Our estimated attendance for the entire weekend was 1,031 people!

Girlfriends united

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Get Connected!

Check out our complementary material on the web. www.usa.salvationarmy.org/getconnected Clips CSB Sounds of Season with Decker Kane Resources/Links ICO narrative on SA Heritage website My salvationarmy.org Officer Candidate webpage ikros.com (Tillman’s story) Child sponsorship webpages News releases on Indonesia and Pakistan High Council member photos Web exclusive Strengthen your prayer life Prayer Room tips Interview with Sponsorship Coordinator Sarah Kincade Prayer requests for SA in Turks and Caicos
Sudanese soldiers step up

Not only is soliderhood on the rise among the youth of the Sudanese population at the Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps, but many dedicated junior soldiers are transitioning to senior soldiers and taking on leadership positions. "These kids are the future of our corps, and they’ve been here long enough to take on leadership," reported Matt Walter, youth programs director.

The most recent enrollment of 12 junior and eight senior soldiers was conducted by Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Selle. Today, Corps Officers Majors Richard and Susan Rubottom continue to disciple this growing community.

Matt has had the pleasure of seeing these gifted, high energy youth begin to take on more responsibility. About five or six guys have started working in the kitchen every week during activities on Tuesday and many lead games and other activities for vacation Bible school.

High school student Gawar Gai has been taking on more corps responsibilities since attending Central Bible and Leadership Institute (CBLI) last summer. Gawar helps cook meals for the corps, volunteers in the kitchen when needed, plays an instrument in the band and is about to take on the role of assistant Sunday school teacher," Matt said. "He is beginning to listen to God’s call on his life. He’s no longer just another participant; he’s a leader." After CBLI Matt has seen the large youth group begin to listen up whenever Gawar speaks.

Although the transition between cultures took some adjustment, the corps’ programming lends itself to the Sudanese family-oriented culture. The children love character-building programs, corps cadets and the uniform which has actual 

...
of four decades—shows the great respect fellow musicians have for him. His Christian witness was exhibited through the excellence that is possible when musicians dedicate their talents to the glory of God—and then do the work to make that offering worthy.

The Salvation Story Steel Orchestra, directed by Captain Julian Champion and comprised of young people from the Chicago, Ill., Englewood Corps Red Shield Center, provided a wonderful change of pace. Commonly described as a Caribbean steel drum band, this 20-piece ensemble was every bit the match in stage presence and technique of the CSB.

Salvation Story demonstrated the surprise subtlety that is possible in this genre performing Rimsky-Korsakov’s “Flight of the Bumblebee.” After an enthusiastic ovation, the group joined the CSB in “Caribbean Medley,” arranged especially for the concert by Bandmaster Himes. Someone in the audience observed, “It’s interesting that we think The Salvation Army is providing a ministry to the children of Englewood—tonight they ministered to me!”

Martin Cordner’s driving overture ‘Let Everything Praise’ was followed by an opportunity for the audience to join in singing ‘Joy to the World,’ a fitting conclusion to the evening.

Although much has changed since I was young—what was once an annual concert for a mostly Salvationist audience is now an event attracting 2,000 mostly non-Salvationists—the concert is still a musical gateway to Advent.

Celebrate Central creativity!

The territorial music and gospel arts department is pleased to announce a composition contest in connection with the theme of the Festival of Gospel Arts and Commissioning weekend: Sing to the Lord a new song.

Composers, arrangers, lyricists and song writers are encouraged to submit entries in four categories:

### Original lyrics
- Verses only or verses with chorus
- Lyrics should be set to a designated hymn tune or song.
- Designated melodies should be in the Public Domain.
- Entries can be typed or in legible handwriting.

### Original hymn, song or chorus
- Must include words and notated melody
- Chord symbols, complete harmonization and/or piano accompaniment is optional.
- Manuscripts can be notated by hand or computer typeset (ex: Finale, Sibelius).

### Choral original works or arrangements
- Original words and original music
- Existing words (Public Domain) and original music:
  - Original setting of existing words and music, can be under current copyright or in the Public Domain
  - Voicing can vary from two-part to SATB (or more expansive if needed).
- Choral works must include piano accompaniment.
- Manuscripts can be notated by hand or computer typeset (ex: Finale, Sibelius).
- Choral works must include piano accompaniment.

### Brass band arrangements and original works
- Can be completely original or based on existing songs.
- Works can follow any form, including but not limited to: song setting, march, selection, meditation, air varie, solo or ensemble feature.
- Score format should conform to any existing SA band journal, including:
  - American Instrumental Ensemble Series / Unity Series
  - American Band Journal / Triumph Series
  - General / Festival Series
- Full scores can be notated by hand or computer typeset (ex: Finale, Sibelius).
- Include a single copy of each part.

### General rules
- First-place winners in each category will be appointed delegates to the North American Composers Forum at Asbury University, January 19-22, 2012. Includes transportation, lodging, meals and conference expenses.
- Although performance is not guaranteed, effort will be made to feature the winning entries at this year’s Festival of Gospel Arts.

**2010 Sounds of the Seasons CD**

A professional CD recording featuring the CSB and Derick Kane 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.

**Deadline: All entries must be received by April 1, 2011.**

Submit all works to:
William Himes
The Salvation Army
Music and Gospel Arts Department
10 W. Algonquin Rd.
Des Plaines, IL 60016

A diverse and impartial panel of judges will determine the winners and all decisions will be final.

**Winning entries**

- All entries must be original works submitted.
- Live or computer-generated recordings are not required but can be submitted with manuscripts.
- Entries should be submitted in hard copy and not sent by email.

- Although performance is not guaranteed, effort will be made to feature the winning entries at this year’s Festival of Gospel Arts.
Joy in the Journey

by Lt. Colonel Dawn Heatwole

Every day we each have an opportunity to choose joy as we serve and work for the Lord. Every day we can choose to be either fountains or drains.

For the next six months, you will have an opportunity to meet a few of the officers in our territory who are serving with joy.

Some have been on the journey a long time and have faced difficult circumstances. Others have been on the journey of officership for a shorter period but are finding joy in the journey as they begin their ministry.

Our hope is that as you read their stories, beginning with Major Diane Harper’s, you will be inspired or challenged to live out your testimony with joy while serving the Lord.

Let your light shine today right where He has placed you.

Passion and perspective

Looking back over the course of her life, Major Diane Harper’s present appointment—pastoral care officer with her husband, Steve, in the Metropolitan Division—shouldn’t be surprising.

In fact, it almost seems inevitable. It uses her natural giftedness and experiences, going all the way back to college days when people were drawn to her gentle spirit and sound advice. She planned to pursue clinical psychology, set up practice and own a shiny red sports car!

When cadets came to her corps in St. Louis to hold a revival, Diane’s direction changed. A nudging she had felt at a very young age to be in ministry—in a church where women couldn’t be ordained—could find fulfillment in The Salvation Army. Two years later she was headed to officer training and was commissioned in 1974.

Thirty-six years, 14 appointments, three kids—and even one red car—later, she knows everything is in God’s time and when you walk with Him there is joy in the journey, even when you live with cancer.

For more than a decade she has fought this disease without reprieve. Yet, on any given day if asked how she is, she replies, “I am blessed.” It’s a testament to her well-being in Christ.

“I have cancer, but cancer doesn’t have me,” she explained.

“I am learning that everything is not about me or my illness. As I interact with doctors, nurses, technicians and other patients, I realize it is often about something different,” she said. “I have a new world to minister to. To set an example of what a Christian witness can look like even when sick. My cancer has opened the door.”

Though her circumstances and appointment can be challenging, even downright exhausting, she surprisingly does not consider them a burden or herself exceptional—though others who know this 4’11” powerhouse might beg to differ. “I’m just an ordinary person who wants to be His servant,” she said.

Diane has served in corps, at divisional and territorial headquarters and at the College for Officer Training. She confesses at the beginning of each appointment she wasn’t sure it was a good fit. Now she feels differently; each had a purpose and was during the right time for growth in her life and ministry. More than ever these days she strives for a Christ-honoring balance and encourages others to do the same. She reflected, “Life is very precious and short.”

Examining “insteads”

by Cadet Melissa Richardson

The recent territorial candidates’ weekend was a time of “insteads.” Instead of cadets attending Friday classes at the College for Officer Training (CFOT), we prepared to host the many candidates who feel a call to officership.

Instead of spending another Friday evening on campus studying for classes, we spent it at territorial headquarters praising God with a room full of potential officers.

Instead of sleeping in on Saturday morning, we woke early to greet the candidates as they joined us on campus to experience a small slice of cadet life. And, instead of small Sunday school classes of seven or eight, we enjoyed large groups with many new perspectives brought to our discussions.

‘God can use our ‘insteads’ to bring glory and honor to Him,’ said Commissioner Carol Seiler, territorial president of women’s ministries. Each candidate represents a different path, a different set of circumstances, and often hurdles to overcome.

Commissioner Carol Seiler, territorial commander, charged, “It’s our privilege to be the hands and feet of our Lord.”

During the time of reflection and commitment, Lt. Colonel Dawn Heatwole, territorial candidates’ secretary, challenged each candidate to surrender whatever they needed at the altar.

Cadets and officers candidly shared some of the difficulties and challenges they had to overcome to get to training.

Sunday morning was a time of confirmation for many candidates as the Holy Spirit moved in a mighty way. Commissioner Paul R. Seiler,
The Lord connected my husband and our family with The Salvation Army for a purpose," said Shelly Shales. "He knew that one day I would find my biological sister through a local branch."

Growing up in Silver City, N.M., Shelly Garland attended a Lutheran church almost every Sunday with her adoptive family. Most of the childhood Shelly recalls is in that copper mining town of about 10,000 people.

But before small town America Shelly lived in Seoul, South Korea. U.S. Army Lt. Colonel D.E. "Jake" Garland and his wife adopted her from a Salvation Army girl’s home before she was old enough to remember.

Shelly grew up attending church but not understanding what a personal relationship with Christ really meant. Something was missing. Little did she know she was part of a greater plan set in motion before she knew Christ personally.

Later Shelly married a successful contractor, John Shales; she and her husband began attending Willow Creek Church in Barrington, Ill., and something changed.

"I started to realize that I could have a personal relationship with Christ," Shelly said. "Through Bible studies, solid teaching and fellowship I decided this was what I wanted for my life; this was who I wanted to be."

As her relationship with Christ grew, as she learned to trust Him, depend on Him, and allow Him to show her where her life was headed. He would also reveal to her where she came from.

But first, she felt a longing to adopt. It began after Shelly and John’s three children, Sydney, Matthew and Ellyn, were born. Although initially they looked to adopt locally, something— or Someone— kept pulling on Shelly’s heart to return to South Korea for a baby.

After consideration, John agreed. They would go to South Korea, bring home a baby boy and name him “Jake” in honor of Shelly’s father.

This turn of events provided an opportunity for Shelly to look into her past. After some research, Shelly and John were interested to find she’d been adopted from a Salvation Army girl’s home. John had recently taken his father’s place on the Elgin, Ill., Salvation Army Advisory Board.

Although the Shales did not attend a corps, they were deeply connected to The Salvation Army through John’s father. Shelly and John had seen the Army change the community and impact many lives.

Shelly set to work. "I emailed my paperwork to Korean social services, but they couldn’t find my records," she said. Although disappointed Shelly accepted it as God’s will. "I felt God had closed the door."

Little did she know the Army was about to change her life as she’d see it change the lives of others. The door would open one evening when John was called on business to Metropolitan Divisional Headquarters in downtown Chicago.

While in the area John noticed the Korean-American corps, Mayfair Community Church, next to headquarters. A desire for answers and a stirring within compelled him to go inside.

The first person John encountered was Peter Kim. Peter listened intently to John’s story about Shelly. Peter replied that at the time of Shelly’s adoption his father, Colonel Paul Kim, had been running a boy’s home in Seoul.

Floored that on this whim he’d run into the one person in Chicago who could connect Shelly to her past John excitedly returned home.

"After hearing that John met Peter at Mayfair I knew only the Lord could have orchestrated this meeting," said Shelly. "I knew that God wanted us to be active in our local Salvation Army so He could introduce us to the right people who could help me find my family."

Shelly emailed Colonel Kim her paperwork. Unfortunately the colonel didn’t have answers right away. He couldn’t place the little girl Sunwha Cho, Shelly’s birth name. He responded, “We just need to pray.”

Pray they did, not only to find Shelly’s family but for the process of adopting Jake to happen without further delay. Up until this point everything had moved along fairly smoothly. Yet it was already January—the month they were supposed to pick up Jake—and they had not received permission to go.
“I just wanted to get our baby,” recalled Shelly. “The waiting was agonizing and very difficult, but we knew it needed to happen.”

It turned out to be God’s hand at work.

During this time Colonel Kim recalled an officer, Major Yun Soon Chung, who served at the girl’s home where Shelly had lived. At first Shelly’s story didn’t sound familiar, but a few days later with the help of her niece, Major Chung remembered. Shelly had a sister, Yoon Kyung.

Shelly and her sister soon made contact. Their first phone conversation was exciting. Shelly was elated, not only to find her but to know that God had enabled everything to happen in a way that might even make it possible for her to meet her sister within weeks of making contact.

“I felt so lucky that the Lord would give me such a wonderful gift at exactly the right time. I would be meeting my sister and meeting my son for the first time within weeks of each other.”

Not long after, the Shales traveled to South Korea to pick up baby Jake and meet Shelly’s sister. Shelly had only one disappointment going into her first meeting with Yoon Kyung: her sister had breast cancer. Shelly would be meeting a woman who had undergone chemo, lost most of her hair and wore a wig. This could be the first and last meeting they’d have since Shelly was five.

When they finally met—in a hotel room near the airport—it felt surreal. “I was very excited. There was so much I wanted to know, to ask her and for her to tell us.”

Yoon Kyung told Shelly about their past. Their father had married several times, and their stepmother at the time had brought the girls to the children’s home. After Shelly’s adoption Yoon Kyung remained there, but she didn’t forget her little sister.

Shelly was touched to learn Yoon Kyung had held out hope to see Shelly again. “My sister had kept photos of us for 40-plus years in the hopes that I would one day search for her,” Shelly recalled.

Shelly’s life has been forever changed. Not only does she have a new baby, but a sister. Yoon Kyung completed her treatment and her recovery has gone well. They communicate at least once a week.

The Shales have spearheaded a ministry for parents adopting orphans. They meet every other week to pray, support and talk with one another.

In retrospect, Shelly can see even more clearly how the entire process of adopting Jake and meeting Yoon Kyung was orchestrated from the start.

“If we hadn’t been involved in a [Salvation Army] local branch we would have never gotten connected with the right people to help me find my sister,” said Shelly. “I might not be where I am today, and my sister might not have been taught the love of Christ.”

Children worldwide come to Salvation Army children’s homes every day. For less than $1 per day you can provide these children with:

- An education
- Proper nutrition
- Medical attention
- Warm clothes
- The Gospel message

Would you join with us in giving them a chance for a promising future? Visit sponsorship.centralmissions.org or email us at missions@usc.salvationarmy.org and become a sponsor today!
O n a Sunday morning just one day after Carson Norton celebrated his seventh birthday, he marched into the Lansing South, Mich., Corps chapel accompanied by the big bass drum. He stood at attention while the Salvation Army flag was carried in by the corps’ newest senior soldier Dennis Moses.

Carson was eager to share his witness on the occasion of his enrollment as a junior soldier. You could tell by the way his face shone. He recited the junior soldier pledge and then read his personal testimony—written without any help from his officer parents, Captains Alex and Aimee Norton.

Carson’s witness takes on a new dimension when you learn he’s battled cancer. He has experienced God’s power not only spiritually but physically. As a babe of just two weeks, he was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, cancer that starts in nerve cells and often spreads. This diagnosis rocked the young family’s world. But Captain Aimee Norton says God sustained them.

“My trust in God grew, and I knew whatever had happened, whether life or death, that God had a plan and purpose for my son,” explained Aimee. “This was not easy and definitely took time.”

Today, Carson is a cancer survivor. He does the things little boys do—sledding, Nintendo, karate, and even wrestling with his big brother Parker, 11.

“Carson is very special, and there is not a day that goes by that we do not thank God for His gift to us,” said Aimee. “When Carson was sick I prayed that one day he would understand the power of prayer and would be able to testify to that power. I believe he is doing that now.”

In what may be the Ann Arbor, Mich., Corps’ enrollment of its oldest soldier, retired Baptist minister Murl Eastman proudly signed his Soldier’s Covenant last April and became corps treasurer. Now age 90, Murl continues to serve as treasurer, as well as lead adult Sunday school classes, Bible studies and even preach occasionally, report Majors John and Dianna Williams, corps officers.

After 64 years of active ministry as a pastor, Murl and his wife, Virginia, retired to Ann Arbor so they could live near their youngest daughter. When Virginia became housebound, Murl looked for a church closer to home.

“About six months after he started attending, Murl decided to become a soldier,” said Dianna. “John told him our doctrines are different than those of the Baptist church, but Murl assured John his beliefs were really more in line with what Salvationists believe!”

“I’d always admired The Salvation Army for its Armenian doctrines and focus on ‘others,’” said Murl. “My roots are firm in holiness doctrine. And, I was deeply impressed with the leadership of the Williams and their love for people.”

Although Murl retired from a full-time pastorate, for most of his life he wore many hats while pastoring small-town churches. Most often he worked in law enforcement and firefighting—usually at the same time!

In one town Murl also served as mayor and vice-president of the school board! His congregation there grew from 30 people to the need for a 300-seat church!

Murl’s carpentry skills also served him well over the years. He even worked as a mortician’s aide during one pastorate!

Murl developed a special rapport with youth. He was Officer Friendly in one town with partner Dennis, a ventriloquist’s dummy! He’s fostered a following with his ventriloquism and illusion skills at the corps.

Murl accepted Christ as a young man in 1941. “I was on my way down, with alcohol as a crutch, when the Lord tapped me on the shoulder,” he recalled.

His call to ministry came three years later during World War II service in the Navy. After a typhoon nearly capsized his ship, Murl began preaching to his shipmates with such fervor his captain named him acting chaplain. Now God’s call on Murl’s life is service in His Army!
by Mark R. Bender

Dreaming about white sand beaches, turquoise waters and gentle island breezes? You’re probably envisioning the Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI). It’s just this side of heaven.

But don’t let the tourist brochures fool you. This island nation is one of contrasts. High temperatures are matched with even higher humidity; the sand that kisses the azure sea becomes sun-baked rocky hills; for every luxury villa there are 10 shacks. This land of sun is not without spiritual darkness.

A Central Territory Global Mission Team, comprised of seven soldiers and officers from five divisions, arrived in Providenciales, TCI, to work with Southern Territory officers Captains Matthew and Rebecca Trayler, development officers for this new mission field. The purpose? Evangelism!

The Traylers’ foundation for opening the Army’s work here has been to build relationships. For the past two years they have been getting to know the people of “Provo” and gaining their trust by spending time with them and trying to meet physical and spiritual needs.

Since the Army is so new, many people don’t know anything about it. The team spent hours visiting homes and holding open-air meetings. Most of the time was concentrated on two neighborhoods: Blue Hills and Five Cays. Both areas have large Haitian populations. With the aid of a visiting officer from Nassau, Bahamas, Captain Claude Blaise, the gospel was communicated in Creole. Many Haitians accepted God’s love and forgiveness and want to live holy lives!

Nearly 50 children from the neighborhoods attended a “Gospel Fair” which featured free games and prizes. The gospel message also was presented. With a bag full of candy and prizes, one boy exclaimed, “I can’t wait to share all of this with my family!”

Activities throughout the week led up to the first-ever Salvation Army worship service in this country. Thanks to the donation of an officer by an attorney on the island the week before, 63 people crowded together to worship in English, French and Creole. People from all walks of life and various countries were joined by the desire to have a relationship with Jesus.

That’s what it’s like to be just this side of heaven!

Hands for Pakistan

Central territorial headquarters (THQ) lent a hand to support the Army’s relief effort in Pakistan to some of the 20 million flood survivors. The territorial social services department initiated a fundraiser with the help of Colonels Robert and Marguerite Ward, Pakistan territorial leaders who were Central program secretaries a few years ago. Called “Prospect Pakistan: 30 Hands for Pakistan,” the effort encouraged officers and employees to purchase a “hand” for $70 to provide a family of five a month’s worth of food and necessities. THQ raised $1,771.45.

The department also collected baby goods such as diapers, layettes, blankets and clothing.

The international Salvation Army was one of the first organizations to respond to the disaster which began in the northwest and traveled south taking an estimated 1,500 lives and rendering more than four million people homeless. The Army distributed tents, food and relief packages which contained a mattress, quilts, pillows and kitchen utensils.

After the flooding began, tent cities of thousands of homeless people formed anywhere with dry land. Major Raelton Gibbs, a member of the international relief team, traveled to Khuda Ki Basti, a Salvation Army tent city where more than 3,600 people were encamped. Only two small tents provided sheltering for nearly 400 children. Everywhere people were mourning the loss of loved ones and their livelihoods.

“This was not my first emergency response but nothing had prepared me for the scale of this disaster,” reported Raelton. “This feeling was emphasized when we moved on to another camp some miles away where around 16,000 people had gathered.”

by Lt. Colonel Mickey McLaren

Finally arriving in Jakarta, Indonesia, after an exhausting plan ride from Detroit, Mich., via International Headquarters in London we were met by Commissioner Basuki Kartardjoso, territorial commander, and a host of white uniforms. They put a beautiful lei of flowers around my neck and gave my wife a wonderful bouquet of flowers. We went straight to the Officer Training College and had lunch with staff and greeted cadets. After a three-hour car ride we arrived at territorial headquarters in Bandung and met the officers and employees. The Salvation Army (Bala Keselamatan) is small but well respected.

The Salvation Army in Indonesia has nearly 400 corps and outposts, 95 schools from kindergarten to high school, and six hospitals. Their ranks consist of 700 active and retired officers, 27,000 senior soldiers, 16,524 adherents and 7,880 junior soldiers.

Indonesia is a land of contrasts with large modern cities and rural areas with no electricity. It spans three time zones and consists of over 17,000 islands and is the fourth most populous country in the world. This area is known as the “ring of fire” because of all the volcanoes. There are many earthquakes, which can cause tsunamis. We are in the rainy season just now, and the storms are very heavy causing flooding and mudslides.

While I do not speak Indonesian, I have learned to say “thank you.” The phrase “terima kasih” is unique; the translation is not really “thank you.” “Terima” literally means “receiving” and “kasih” means “love” so you are really saying “receive my love.” Can there be anything more noble than giving someone love? Isn’t scripture full of references indicating we are to love one another?

When someone says “terima kasih,” the response is “terima kasih kembali” which means “I am returning love to you.” Isn’t that a wonderful spiritual metaphor? God in His wonderful love for us gave us the gift of His son Jesus to die for us and relieve us of the burden of sin. In His compassion, He says to us “terima kasih” and we should always be prepared to respond, “terima kasih kembali.”

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Greeting from Doun-Sa
I n the four years Majors Gary and Donna Van Hoesen have led the Milwaukee Citadel, Wis., Corps, much has happened as a result of prayer.

“Prayer is a key focus in our Sunday services,” said Donna. “It’s exciting when people see direct answers to their prayers.” Even the corps’ office staff has been encouraged to be sensitive to opportunities to pray with people who come into the building.

“Staff members experience the joy of sharing their faith and touching people in a more personal way than simply providing services,” said Donna. “We have so many wonderful opportunities to introduce people to hope through Christ.”

In the fall the corps held its fourth annual retreat. A Sunday morning prayer walk has become a much-loved tradition. This time the Van Hoesens paired children 11 and under with adults for the walk.

“It was a wonderful experience for both ages,” said Donna.

It worked so well, the Van Hoesens paired junior soldiers with corps adults to nurture, encourage and pray with and for them.

“We’re located in an inner-city neighborhood with crime, shootings and drugs all around us, yet we’re also surrounded with good people and businesses,” said Donna. “We’ve held neighborhood carnivals, ministries in the park and parties for outreach.” As a result, the corps has increased its attendance, and new leadership is emerging.

“Our junior soldier program has been among our biggest areas of growth,” said Donna. “Four years ago we had one, over-aged junior soldier on the rolls. Now we have 14 with several new ones coming up.” That and growth in character-building programs has led to a healthier Sunday school and other endeavors, including teen discipleship classes and a growing corps cadet brigade.

Surgery revealed the splinters of prayer. A 25-foot fall in 2002 left David, 21, with horrific injuries including shattered vertebrae in his neck and back. The emergency room prognosis was dire: hundreds of bone splinters had surely severed David’s spinal cord; not a single one had even pierced it! The surgeon had never seen anything like it. “I’m not a man of faith,” he said, “but keep praying.”

Less than two months later, David took his first steps.

While he recovered, the reality of having a loving, caring God hit David hard. Though a youth pastor, he’d been neglecting his personal relationship with God. After the accident he had an overwhelming desire to share God with others. David and his parents ministered to other patients, their families and staff at the rehab center, which permitted them to hold Sunday afternoon chapel services.

Now 29, David walks with only a limp. He’s married and the proud father of two boys.

“Depend on God and the unseen instead of what you can see,” encouraged Donna. “Believe He can do anything, and ask for help in your unbelief.”

Growing strong together

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

**Major Kjell Steinsland**
Session 208
January 7th - March 7th

**Lt. Colonel Susan Bukiewicz**
Session 209
April 13th - June 6th

**Major Darryl Leedom**
Session 210
July 13th - September 5th

**Major Kelly Collins**
Session 211
October 12th - December 5th

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

**Prayer team debuts**

Building on the spiritual momentum of the year of 24/7 prayer, the territory is introducing a prayer team composed of 13 prayer warriors from territorial head-quarters.

Under the leadership of Lt. Colonel Dorothy Smith, territorial ambassador for prayer, the new team will educate and encourage Salvationists throughout the Midwest to experience the life-changing power of prayer. It also aims to keep our territory closely connected with God’s plans for us through communion with Him.

“Ttime was so thankful for the impact of 24/7 prayer and had a desire to continue to share powerful prayer moments at territorial head-quarters with the divisions in a variety of formats,” said Dorothy.

Team members are prepared to traverse the territory encouraging Salvationists to go deeper in prayer, with the ultimate goal of developing intimacy with God through prayer and experiencing the wonderful joy of His work in our lives. They’ll hold services, workshops and seminars on topics ranging from healing prayer to prayer-walking to creating effective prayer meetings.

Teams are available to participate in a variety of gatherings such as officers’ councils, youth councils, divisional, corps, and institution’s events. The team will create prayer events customized to meet particular needs.

“The most exciting part of the initiative right now is learning where and how God is working in people’s lives through prayer,” said Dorothy. “It’s also exciting to be the answer to someone’s prayer by being there for someone at the right time.”

Extending an invitation for the prayer team is easy. Divisions should contact Lt. Colonel Dorothy Smith via email or phone to discuss dates and events. Once officially approved through the division, the only cost will be meals and lodging for prayer team members.
Room for prayer

The territorial initiative encouraging prayer began with the June 2009 Power Point Summit. It generated a renewed emphasis on prayer supported by point persons in each division and command, the training college and territorial headquarters (THQ). These prayer point persons are responsible for organizing and encouraging prayer efforts and events at the local level.

Mark Bender, the THQ prayer point person, is responsible for a prayer room set aside in the headquarters’ conference center. The cozy, home-like room is used for a Monday lunch-time prayer meeting and by individuals throughout the week. For most of the year following the summit, weekly prayer meetings at THQ focused on revival and new vision for the territory.

“This year prayer is focused on the needs of the world, territory and corps,” said Lt. Colonel Dorothy Smith, territorial ambassador for prayer. “We use the prayer calendar. We pray and praise God for the outcomes of different events such as youth councils, Kroc Center groundbreaking and openings, welcomes and retirements, mission teams, corps youth activities, officers councils—whatever is going on in our territory and world.”

Correction/Clarification

In the promotion to Glory for Major Judith Eagle in the November issue, the name of her sister-in-law Phyllis Eagle was inadvertently left out. We apologize for this omission.
by Major Mary Hammyer

H aving served as an officer for 45 years, Major Flora O’Dell’s retirement was marked by joy. The celebration took place in her home corps of Port Wayne, Ind., and was officiated by Colonels Edward and Annette Johnson, who met Flora when she was just 14.

“Remember yesterday and look forward to tomorrow,” said Major Morag Yoder in her welcome. And family members, friends and officers had the privilege of remembering yesterday as Major Barbara MacLean shared many stories about Major O’Dell.

The sentiment of Flora being a good, loyal person who cares deeply for friends was expressed time and again. Daughter and son-in-law, Captains Sharon and Tarryl Ray, presented a funny shirt in her honor, and grandson McKenzie Ray’s piano solo, “Amazing Grace,” was a highlight of the event.

“We saw in this young girl a future leader and eventually an officer,” they said. “We sent Flora to the School for Officers’ Training as a cadet. It is our privilege and honor to officiate at her retirement,” said the Johnsons. The colonels utilized an acrostic of her name to describe her:

F - Faithful: She was faithful to her calling to God, to the Army and to herself.
L - Leadership: Flora led as a shepherd, cared for others and also worked alongside them.
O - Obedient: Flora was an obedient officer, loyal and accepting her appointments in true obedience.
R - Resilient: She was a model example in every area. She was committed to ministry and accepted challenges.
A - Ardent: Flora has been devoted to family, friends and to her officership. She is a good and faithful soldier.

Honoring a life of joy

M ajor Marilyn Hopkins’ life and ministry exemplifies our Army motto, “Heart to God and Hand to Man,” said Major Diane Harper, who spoke at the major’s retirement service. “Marilyn loves ‘JOY—Jesus first, Yourself last and Others inbetween.'”

Marilyn retired as chaplain for the last decade at the Booth Manor Senior Residence in Chicago. Several people gave moving tributes to Marilyn’s impact on lives over the years as she ministered to children in Detroit and St. Louis, young women at Booth Hospitals in St. Louis and Wichita, and an assortment of corps in Illinois, Michigan and Missouri. Marilyn also served at territorial headquarters and the College for Officer Training.

Majors Phil and Gail Aho conducted the retirement ceremony at the Chicago Temple Corps. Majors Stephen Harper and Gloria Stephe (Marilyn’s sesquimate) were flagbearers. The TSA Madison Street singers and a praise dance group provided entertainment, as did soloists Major Gail Aho, Ardella Williams and Major John Wilkins.

Particularly moving was the story behind the program artwork. The illustration of a young girl standing next to Jesus was based on a photo of Marilyn as a child. It was drawn by Major Beth Hopkins, Marilyn’s youngest adopted sister with whom Marilyn also an adoptee had only lived a year before she left home for training. Earlier this year Marilyn nursed Mary Beth through the last months of her life, which gave them the opportunity to bond deeper than ever.

Promoted to Glory

M ajor Robert Johnson

M ajor Robert Johnson was promoted to Glory on November 4, 2010. He was 86 years old.

Robert was born in 1924 and first encountered The Salvation Army through Boy Scouts in Escanaba, Mich.

Although he felt called to officership as a child, Robert fell away during his teen years. He enrolled in the U.S. Army and during one critical time of war, when no mail was coming through, a lone letter reached Robert. It was from The Salvation Army.

Robert returned from duty and married Anna Mae Larson; they entered training in 1950. Commissioned as part of the “Ambassadors” session—together with their four children—the Johnsons traversed the Central Territory, with appointments as corps officers and in social services. They retired in 1989.

In retirement Robert was active in his corps and in the Northern Divisional Retired Officers’ Fellowship. He was a natural born leader who loved music and the arts.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by his children, Karen Hulteen, Linda Brown, Mark, and Janet (Ron) Cardinal; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Major Harry Spencer

M ajor Harry Spencer was promoted to Glory on November 1, 2010. He lived a full life of 90 years.

Harry was born to Harry and Annie Spencer in Liverpool, England, in 1920. After immigrating to Hastings, Neb., Harry met The Salvation Army at an open-air meeting at age 10. Shortly thereafter he began to attend Sunday school and became involved with corps activities, especially corps cadets. He felt his call to officership during a youth councils, entered training and was commissioned in 1944 to assist at the Lincoln, Neb., Corps.

Following a series of other appointments in the Western Division, Harry married Alma Brown; together they served as corps officers throughout the territory. Their ministry stretched from Grand Forks, N.D., all the way down to Winfield, Kan. They retired in 1985 to Omaha, Neb.

In retirement Harry continued to serve with godly zeal at the Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps and Western Divisional Headquarters. Harry was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by two brothers, George and John (Shirley); three sisters, Eunice Jordan, Florence Sathoff, Nellie (Jerry) Swanson; and many nieces and nephews.

NAO C Schedule Highlights

Wednesday, April 27th

9:00 a.m. - National Community Relations and Development (CRD) Conference
9:30 a.m. - Disney Institute Sessions: Leadership Excellence, People Management, Quality Service
10:30 a.m. - Community Relations Conference Dinner
11:30 a.m. - The Salvation Army at an open-air meeting
12:00 p.m. - Noon - Continental breakfast for delegates
12:30 p.m. - Women’s Auxiliaries Combined General Session
12:30 p.m. - Evening - Symposium on Best Practices
3:00 p.m. - Evening - NAO C General Session II: “Once Upon a Time”
4:30 p.m. - Lunch - Group worship
4:30 p.m. - Evening - Gala Awards Banquet featuring Bill and Chichi Guiter, Glen Reans, Jodi Benson, Michael Eliehary
5:00 p.m. - Evening - Gala Awards Banquet featuring Bill and Chichi Guiter, Glen Reans, Jodi Benson, Michael Eliehary
6:30 p.m. - Evening - NAO C General Session III: “Spread the Word”
7:00 p.m. - Evening - Exhibit Hall Opening
8:00 p.m. - Evening - Exhibit Hall Closing
9:00 p.m. - Evening - Exhibit Hall Closing
10:00 p.m. - Evening - Exhibit Hall Closing

Thursday, April 28th

7:30 a.m. - Breakfast - Group worship
8:00 a.m. - Disney Institute Sessions: Leadership Excellence, People Management, Quality Service
8:00 a.m. - Breakfast - Group worship
9:00 a.m. - Disney Institute Sessions: Leadership Excellence, People Management, Quality Service
10:30 a.m. - Morning - Symposia on Best Practices
10:30 a.m. - Morning - Women’s Auxiliaries Combined General Session
12:30 p.m. - Lunch - Group worship
12:30 p.m. - Lunch - Group worship
1:00 p.m. - Evening - NAO C General Session III: “Spread the Word”
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