This year heralds an important change in Partners in Mission (PIM) territories, divisional partnerships (see box, page 12) and the PIM Next Steps program.

The PIM initiative was introduced by International Headquarters in 2003 to link self-supporting territories with grant-aided ones. The Central Territory was partnered with eight territories in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. Although the number of grant-aided territories partnered with the Central is now four plus one region, some of the countries represented are among the world’s poorest.

The idea behind PIM is not only to increase personal interest in World Services/Self-Denial giving through enriched knowledge and heightened concern for partnered territories, but that there would be reciprocal expressions of partnership, such as personal visits, internships, short-term mission teams and exchanges of ideas, ministry approaches and even personnel in recognition that much could be learned from the other.

After PIM was introduced, the Central Territory partnered each of its divisions with specific countries in the eight territories to further deepen relationships.

Then in 2007, PIM Next Steps was launched partnering interested corps with specific countries. Corps that have an active missionary sergeant and are financially stable are invited to apply for participation in PIM Next Steps.

In support of the new partnerships, the territorial work was done by Kevin Sims.

General Linda Bond made a passionate call for The Salvation Army around the world to be united in mission and message and to grasp new opportunities as she launched the International Vision: One Army, One Mission, One Message.

The vision is given substance through 12 Mission Priorities, full details of which can be seen in the Vision Plan (http://sar.my/one). The priorities call on Salvationists to say “we will” to principles such as deepening spiritual life; reaching and involving youth and children; and communicating Christ unashamedly. The General said she was aware that, if not approached practically, a vision could be “only a pipe dream” but that the Mission Priorities make it clear that “you have to do something.”

She emphasized that “One Army, One Mission, One Message” should not be seen as “the General’s vision” but that she wants Salvationists around the world—who she described as having “the DNA of The Salvation Army tattooed on heads and hearts”—to say, “This is our vision.”

“Let General I need to own the world’s priorities,” she told a packed meeting room at International Headquarters [IHQ] in London. She committed IHQ to “owning” the Mission Priorities and explained that the final wording had come about after extensive consultation with Salvation Army leaders around the world.

One Army

The General spoke to Salvationists around the world when, referring to the biblical promise that God would care for His people, she said: “I truly believe Salvationists need to know we have a hope and a future.”

The General said in order to be “One Army,” The Salvation Army “needs to be marked by holiness.”

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Continued on page 12

Continued on page 12
Gary ARC shares in creating future

When Captain Robert Buttry read the "Creating a Shared Future" insert in the August issue of Central Connection, he felt compelled to request more copies of the document by Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler, territorial leaders. Robert wanted the beneficiaries of the Gary, Ind., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) to understand they’re part of the shared life and future of The Salvation Army in the Central Territory.

This fall Robert prepared and presented a sermon series on the five principles expanded upon in the insert: 1) pursuit of mission, 2) ignite creativity, 3) uplift consistency, 4) serve vigorously and 5) invest intentionally. Robert reported the sermon series provoked thoughtful responses from the men right away.

“When you’re in the midst of recovery, by necessity you must

Gary, Ind., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC), Maurice is a changed man. When he was younger, peer pressure caused Maurice to veer from the path God had set before him. He drifted further from God and into substance abuse. With family bridges burned, Maurice lost his relationship with God and didn’t know how to escape his circumstances.

“My last chance was entering the Gary ARC to re-establish my relationship with God and overcome my demons,” said Maurice. “God was never lost—I was. He was always there waiting to guide me back on His path. God has restored so much in my life; family, health and sanity. Now my responsibility is to pass this along to others.” Maurice became a soldier to be self-centered to a degree. It was eye-opening for the men to learn they’re supposed to share the good news of the gospel with others. They appreciated understanding their duty for the first time,” said Robert, Gary ARC administrator.

“The men depend on Christ for their recovery, and we concentrate on discipleship to help them grow in Christ for continued abstinence and to follow God’s will for their lives, part of which is sharing Christ,” he continued.

“This is a 365-day program; we’re always open and at the forefront for sharing the gospel. That’s why I wanted our congregation to know what our leader’s vision is for the territory,” said Robert.

As part of their efforts to help the men identify more closely with the Army and corps life—starting with

Hosea Smith receives a copy of “Creating a Shared Future” from Captain Robert Buttry, who distributed copies throughout the ARC.

Prodigal returned

Like the prodigal son who once lost his way—but now the love of his Salvation Father—Maurice Morris is described as “a living example, a walking witness, of all that’s good with God.”

A beneficiary at the Gary, Ind., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC), Maurice is a changed man. When he was younger, peer pressure caused Maurice to veer from the path God had set before him. He drifted further from God and into substance abuse. With family bridges burned, Maurice lost his relationship with God and didn’t know how to escape his circumstances.

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Maurice became a soldier to be an example of what Christ can do in a life. A recent sermon by Captain Robb Buttry, Gary ARC administrator, particularly hit home with him.

“The mission for us as Christians—and me personally as a soldier in God’s Army—is to spread Christ’s message,” Maurice concluded. “It’s why I walk this earth today.”

than to happen.”

Ignoring spiritual disciplines weakens our ability to withstand spiritual challenges.

This is not a call to paranoia. We’re not so far from mission that we’re on a path to a Hurricane Katrina impact. The lesson is to think through issues and situations that if neglected, if treated as unimportant and never reviewed or discussed, could cause a “surprise” that would significantly damage The Salvation Army’s ministry.

So, while some of the initiatives and efforts to ignite creativity and serve vigorously may seem more “expensive” than the status quo, I think it would be more expensive to ignore the “predictable surprises” a drift from mission would bring. Pursue Mission, a fundamental element of “Creating a Shared Future.”
Helping families get fit

Omaha, Neb., nine families [35 individuals] have been educated through the 12-week program. A new session starting this month is filling up fast.

“The combination of busy schedules, lack of family time and the high cost of healthy foods means more and more people are facing an uphill battle against the bulge,” said Sandy Andersen, Kroc Center health and fitness manager. “The program helps people of all ages discover how even small changes can make a big difference.”

Classes meet each Monday evening for one and a half hours. The curriculum includes setting weekly family action plans, segments on nutrition and food preparation, behavior modification and exercise—all done as a family. The program is offered free of charge to both members and non-members of the Kroc Center thanks to support from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and primary funding from the General Mills Foundation’s “Champions for Healthy Kids” initiative, reported Geri Mason, Kroc Center marketing director.

“The families are really enjoying the different activities they do each week; the cooking segments are a huge hit,” said Geri. “The kids enjoy the projects they can make and use to stay physically active, such as decorating their own flying disks or making ribbon exercise sticks to use when walking with their families.”

Major Todd Thielke, senior Kroc Center officer, added, “Obesity has been described as an epidemic in our country. The Healthy Home Project directly serves the Kroc Center’s purpose of providing positive, life-changing experiences. The best part is families are learning how to be healthier together.”

Williston oil boom creates need for prayer

by Craig Dirkes

To be sure, the Williston, N.D., Salvation Army needs more money to keep up with residents’ increased needs for food, rent and utility assistance, all byproducts of the town’s mesmerizing oil boom. But they need even more of something else.

“Prayer,” said Captain Rhegan Stansbury, who arrived in Williston last June with her husband, Captain Josh Stansbury, as corps officers. “We need prayer so that we can know the best way to reach out in this changing community.”

And changing it is. The oil boom has made Williston a veritable gold rush town. Housing is wildly expensive and nearly impossible to find. Transient workers—some with nary a dime to their name—are coming from across America looking for work, and the ones who don’t secure a job end up stranded.

“We’re turning away at least two or three people a day looking for a place to sleep. Unfortunately, we are not a shelter,” Rhegan said. “It’s hard because every day you’re seeing the same story over and over.”

Food has become a major issue for local stores and restaurants, as well as The Salvation Army food pantry, which has seen a 25 percent increase in demand.

“The cost of the food we’ve been giving out is double what it used to be,” said the captain. “You wait 30 minutes at a fast-food restaurant drive-through. Go to a grocery store at any time of day, and you’ll always wait a half-hour in the checkout line. And you may not even find what you’re looking for in the first place because many of the shelves are empty.”

Indeed, there’s loads of money and opportunity in Williston, but right now the city is too small to support it all. It’s one big fantastic mess.

And that’s just how the good captains like it.

“With all the opportunity here, there are lots of new opportunities for ministry,” Rhegan said. “We have so many ideas, but we don’t know where to begin. So, really, what we need now is prayer.”
ST. CLOUD, MINN. — The Salvation Army is sporting a refreshed look after its Safebay shelterspace, a $2.5 million project funded by the Salvation Army Outdoor (TAMO) program. The renovation includes 65 bunk beds, a private lounge area and open floor plan. Previously, up to 130 men per night had to sleep on floor mats.

With these bunk beds, morale will skyrocket, conflicts will diminish and the men will get better sleep,” said Steve Horsfield, Harbor Light’s chief operating officer. Later the Swansons led an enthusiastic united salvation meeting at the harbor light attended by staff, officers and soldiers from more than 10 corps in the Twin Cities, with performances by the Minneapolis Parkview Corps Dance Team, the Harbor Light Choir and the Northern Divisional Band.

The commissioners enrolled three new harbor light soldiers and also presented the General’s Guard Award to two teens from the Minneapolis Parkview Corps, Jennifer Davidson and Glynice Welch. (See article)

“There were many people from all walks of life seeking God for the very first time,” said Envoy Don LaMar, harbor light director of corps ministries.

Arike Arike said.

“Th is is a landmark achievement for these girls and our corps,” said Arike. “To see them achieve that award made the work worth it. Everything is worth it to me when it comes to these kids. Somebody invested in me awhile back, and now I want to do the same for them.”

General knowledge

According to Arike, the girls are very different from each other. Jennifer is outspoken, assertive, part of the dance team and wants to be an officer one day. Glynice is quiet with a servant’s heart. She helps with the PowerPoint during holiness meetings, assists the dance team and plans to study early childhood education in college next fall. As active Salvationists, they come to the corps regularly with their families and are part of the corps cadet brigade.

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DETROIT, MICH. — The Salvation Army recognized its most outstanding community partners at its annual Metro Detroit Advisory Board Civic Awards dinner. Among the most prestigious awards presented were the William Booth Award to David M. Thomas, a principal attorney at the Miller Canfield law firm who’s served on the advisory board for more than 30 years, has volunteered thousands of hours and raised millions and the Very Reverend Dr. William Booth Award to Major Steve Kohler, corps officer. “Our facilities received a desperate and extreme make over by a group of extraordinary people. I am so grateful that we were selected for this vital project.”

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. — The young women’s auxiliary held a fashion show at the Watersmark Country Club to raise funds for Salvation Army programs. More than 200 guests were treated to a delicious lunch and an inspiring selection of new fall fashions from Chico’s in Rivertown Mall, courtesy of nine volunteer fashion models. The Body Shop in Woodland Mall provided makeup. “This event is a nice way for friends who are interested in fashion to get a preview on the new looks for fall and at the same time support a wonderful organization like The Salvation Army,” remarked Carol Rosewski, auxiliary chairperson.

The fashion show takes place every two years with the proceeds going to support 11 separate programs and services The Salvation Army offers to those in need in Grand Rapids.

Swansons dedicate Safebay

by Craig Dirkes

Chief of the staff Commissioner Barry C. Swanson and Commissioner E. Sue Swanson, world president of women’s organizations, visited the Minneapolis, Minn., Harbor Light to dedicate its remodeled Safebay shelter space, present awards and share the gospel.

The revamped shelter includes 65 bunk beds, a private lounge area and open floor plan. Previously, up to 130 men per night had to sleep on floor mats.

With these bunk beds, morale will skyrocket, conflicts will diminish and the men will get better sleep,” said Steve Horsfield, Harbor Light’s chief operating officer. Later the Swansons led an enthusiastic united salvation meeting at the harbor light attended by staff, officers and soldiers from more than 10 corps in the Twin Cities, with performances by the Minneapolis Parkview Corps Dance Team, the Harbor Light Choir and the Northern Divisional Band.

The commissioners enrolled three new harbor light soldiers and also presented the General’s Guard Award to two teens from the Minneapolis Parkview Corps, Jennifer Davidson and Glynice Welch. (See article)

“It was a very proud moment for them, their parents and Parkview Corps Officers Majors Noel and Rose Marie Mason,” said Lt. Colonel Rebecca Sjögren, Northern divisional director of women’s ministries, adding that the prestigious award has not been achieved in the Northern Division for several years.

Another highlight was the number of men and women who prayed at the altar during both the morning worship service and salvation meeting. Commissioner Barry Swanson’s sermon, taken from Ephesians 2:11-22, demonstrated how God breaks down our barriers and takes us just the way we are.

Commissioner E. Sue Swanson preached from Isaiah 40:1-11, telling how God is bigger than our problems and can handle anything we throw at Him.

“The very first time,” said Envoy Don LaMar, harbor light director of corps ministries.

Arike Arike said.

“Th is is a landmark achievement for these girls and our corps,” said Arike. “To see them achieve that award made the work worth it. Everything is worth it to me when it comes to these kids. Somebody invested in me awhile back, and now I want to do the same for them.”

Around the Territory
Big blessings abound in brass

by Major John Aren

It was evident from the downbeat that the Chicago Staff Band’s (CSB) annual Sounds of the Seasons concert would not only bring musical excellence but blessings. Led by Bandmaster William Himes, the CSB opened with Bruce Broughton’s whimsical mini-overture, Harlequin, which was met with warm and enthusiastic applause.

Executive Officer Lt. Colonel Richard VanderWeele welcomed the audience of 2,000. Following his invocation, the band launched into our God.” This was contrasted with warm and enthusiastic applause. Executive Officer Lt. Colonel John Aren brought the great pipe organ to life with his stirring rendition of the ‘Spirit” and “My simple prayer” before concluding the first half with Caruso, a colorful suite of Mediterranean folk songs by Peter Graham. Interestingly, the second movement simulated the sound of a solo mandolin as Major Timothy Meyer played his flugel into the bell of Scott Thomas’ tuba, whose valves fluttered to alter the flugel’s vibrations, thus creating the mandolin’s characteristic tremolo.

Dr. Rudolf Zuiderveld, professor emeritus at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Ill., brought the great pipe organ to life with his stirring rendition of the Mario Montez’s fanfare, Exultate, a devotion to vocal soloists from earlier eras. With no tuba solo from Leidzen’s pen, Andrew Hitz felt slighted by being relegated to the anonymity of the accompaniment and impulsively stole a big cornet cadenza just as Jose Sibaja was ready to play from “Songs in the Heart.” The audience responded with laughter and applause. The mood changed as the CSB played Soli Deo Gloria, a devotionary work by Himes combining praise themes from the 17th and 20th centuries with Bach’s “Jesus, name above all names.” This set the tone for Commissioner Paul R. Seiler who challenged those present to daily express thanksgiving through lives that show peace, gratitude and joy in spite of holiday busyness.

Returning for their final set, the Boston Brass thrilled listeners with a repertoire that would have been associated with Salvation Army band concerts of earlier eras. For example, “Blues for Ben” gave an opportunity for Andrew Hitz to once again show his stuff on tuba, leaving the audience to wonder how what they heard was possible. Meanwhile, Lance LaDuke (trombone/euphonium) proved a triple threat as vocal soloist in Cab Calloway’s jazzy “Minnie the Moocher”—complete with audience participation.

Dudley Bright’s ‘The New Year” was the CSB’s final feature before concluding the program with Sturdy and Stripes Forever. The Boston Brass joined in the big finish, and the crowd clapped through the final strains. As the concert ended in quiet simplicity with the CSB singing three verses of “Silent Night” a cappella, several long-time attendees were heard to say it was one of the best CSB concerts. Soli Deo Gloria—to God alone be the glory!

A CD of this concert featuring the CSB and Boston Brass is available for $15 each, plus $5 shipping and handling. Send payment and shipping information to The Salvation Army, Chicago Staff Band, 10 W. Algonquin Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60016.
Central Territory women are amazing—growing deeper in their faith, serving creatively in their corps and wholeheartedly reaching out to others in Christ’s name. Here are a few of the best and most unique women’s ministries you’ll find in the Midwest.

**Wearing Kingdom glasses**

*Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

Being ‘Kingdom Focused, Love Motivated’ drives the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Corps, including women’s ministries. It not only draws people in, but compels many of them to join. For instance, some women who came to an outreach event at the corps are now members of women’s ministries.

One of the most successful outreach events each year is the Mother/Daughter Tea where women of all ages enjoy tea, finger foods, excellent programming and, most importantly, fellowship. It’s so popular that even tornado sirens didn’t deter women from coming last May! Seventy-five women and girls braved the weather to learn about “God’s Promises to a Woman’s Heart.”

Other creative outreaches include programs like cupcake wars—a fun competition where generations bake off against each other—to a Christmas fondue party, to a fashion show with Old Navy. A yearly scrapbooking marathon runs 24 hours in the gym. It’s not surprising that this women’s ministries group appeals to all ages and just keeps growing!

They have developed a special relationship with a group called the Heart of Iowa, a young mothers’ rehabilitation program. Some of the women are now coming to Bible study at the corps, and relationships are continuing to develop.

“As God continues to shape the women’s ministries programs here in Cedar Rapids, may we always be reminded of God’s purpose in every thing that we do to minister in His name and for His purpose,” said Lt. Kristina Sjogren, corps officer.

**Hit the mark**

*Midland, Mich.*

I started with children. Now, it’s a popular women’s ministries focus group.

In fall of 2008, two local leaders from the Midland, Mich., Corps received archery training from The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO), so they could teach children the sport. Annie Ledrow was one of them. She helped leaders work with the children during the character-building programs. But before long, mothers of the children were interested in archery, and when the kids were finished in the gym, they started shooting arrows.

A men’s archery club was formed to get some husbands and fathers interested in a men’s fellowship that would meet simultaneously as the children’s program, SONday’sCOOOL, and home league. But many of the women actually preferred archery, too.

When home league moved its meeting time last winter to lunch, the evening hour opened up for a women’s ministries focus group. Now on Tuesday nights, women meet for a broad range of activities, from practicing archery to a six-week course on parenting teens.

‘Archery allows us to reach out to women who may not come to home league or a Bible study,’ said Nicki Smith, one of the certified archery instructors and corps sergeant-major.

According to Captain Malinda O’Neil, corps officer, the group primarily is composed of mothers who want to be active in their corps and community and in the spiritual development of the children. They spend time in prayer, Bible study, planning of service and outreach events, and fellowship—in the form of sending arrows toward targets.
creativeministries

7:20 a.m. Leave for school, day -
6:45 a.m. Feed girls breakfast,
6:30 a.m. Yell to school-aged
6:10 a.m. Jump in shower
6:25 a.m. Smell stinky diaper
6:20 a.m. Dress self and kid
6:00 a.m. Roll out of bed

Sipping life at Mommy Café
Wausau, Wis.

4:20 p.m. Swim lessons/
3:30 p.m. Home for a snack
5:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Back to work

Journeying with Jesus
Des Plaines, Ill.

I n Philippians 3:7-11 Paul said
that compared to knowing Jesus,
he counted everything as loss.
Knowing Jesus Christ was Paul’s
greatest desire. This is also the pas-
sion of women at the Des Plaines,
Ill., Corps who strive to know Jesus
every more single day. To aid in
knowledge of their Savior, 35
women are involved in the Beth
Moore Bible study, Jesus the One,
and Only.

The group meets weekly to watch
a DVD and then separates into
small groups for discussion. But
this study goes beyond just one day.
During the week participants have
daily assignments which bring up
interesting, and sometimes humor-
ous, questions and thoughts such as,
“What long-standing prayer request
have you continued to take
to God’s throne?” or “Did Mary
ever say to Jesus’ siblings, ‘Why
can’t you just be like Jesus?’”

“We have been challenged to get
to know our Savior in the culture of
His time,” said Lt. Shannon
Martinez, Des Plaines corps officer.
“A new intimacy with the Lord and
self-discipline to do each day’s
homework has not only blessed
each participant but has brought
many new people together to share
in God’s amazing fellowship.”

Only a few weeks into the Bible
study, the women began sharing
how God was revealing Himself in new ways.
One woman admitted
she was hesitant
about joining a study
involving daily home-
work but said that
after doing the first
lesson her day
became “glorious!”

I feel exhausted by the time din-
er rolls around, and I am mar-
rried to a super dad. How do other
moms do it?”—wrote Captain
Katrina Goodwill, Wausau, Wis.
corps officer.

His very question led the
captain to start
Mommy Café three years
ago. In today’s go-go-go
and social media-driven society, it’s
hard to find time for women’s
groups. So moms of the Wausau
Corps log on Facebook, text daily
and get together weekly—with kids
in tow—at the corps gym. Moms
enjoy camaraderie while keeping a
watchful eye on constructive chaos!

In summer they venture to parks,
and in fall they meander
through the pumpkin
patch. They take part in
fundraising walks and
host holiday parties.
There are special
“mommy only” nights
and then daddy-too
nights with family “pot-
love” dinners.

“Are we reaching out
to the world which
needs a biblical example
of what God intended the family to
be: whole, active, sharing, loving
and Christ-centered,” said Katrina.

Becoming a God Chick
Independence, Mo.

W hen Major Lisa Frost
started the latest
women’s ministries focus
group, God Chicks, at the
Independence, Mo. Corps
as a way to keep women
connected last summer,
she wondered just how
successful it would be
since the corps couldn’t
provide childcare. Well, it
proved so popular, it’s
become a permanent addition to
the corps’ programming.

During a “night of pink out
on the town,” God Chicks brought
gifts to corps members undergoing
radiation and chemotherapy
for cancer. In December they held a
Cookies & Caroling event
where each member brought two dozen
cookies which were delivered to
nursing home staff.

Starting with just 10 women, God
Chicks has grown to about 45—
some meetings draw even more! As
for childcare? No problem. It’s now
sponsored by some of the
members.

Diana Mitchell, who attends with
her daughter Toni, said, “God
Chicks gives us the opportunity to
just be ourselves...women who
know who they are in Christ. I
love that my teen daughter
gets to witness
ness women who are so different
but who all have a love for each
other and God.”

with taco bar, ended last summer
splashing around at a pool party
and countered holiday stress with a
spa retreat.

Each program features a unique
theme and Bible study. The meet-
ings run the gamut; some are light-
hearted, while others are service-
oriented. For instance, the ladies
enjoyed a “Fiesta Night,” complete
with taco bar, ended last summer
splashing around at a pool party
and countered holiday stress with a
spa retreat.
Corps finds its identity

Safeway grocery stores were once built with distinctive, rolling rooftops that customers could readily identify. But, the design was tough on the identities of subsequent tenants, including the Olathe, Kan., Corps as a house of worship. It didn’t help that the corps had once been widely known for its community center’s basketball program, which at one time numbered 1,200 participants before a YMCA opened.

Soon after Majors Mark and Teri Martsoff, corps officers, arrived three years ago, they learned building funds were available to the corps from a capital campaign held four years earlier. (Weekly worship for the past dozen years was held in the corps’ gym, dubbed the “sanctua-rum.”) Mark decided an extension to the existing building would maximize the amount of money available. In the meantime, the Martsoffs worked hard to bring average attendance up and the corps back into the black financially.

This fall, a stunning, 9,000-square-foot extension to the corps’ 16,000-square-foot building firmly established it as a worship center. Topped with a 40-foot-high steel cross, the extension houses a 300-seat chapel and spacious welcome foyer soon to be complete with coffee bar!

The new look is attracting people to worship and corps programs. Mark even hopes to restart the community center next year, targeting those who can’t afford membership fees at other places.

When first appointed to Olathe, Mark’s initial thought was, “Why is the Army here in the first place?” Olathe is a city in Johnson County, one of the nation’s most affluent counties. In recent years, enormous numbers of people locked there, hoping to find employment in its robust economy. But few came with the job skills required—or back-up plans. Poverty grew by 42 percent in the last three years, as did homelessness (38 percent). With few community social safety nets in place, the Army was in a unique position to offer assistance and shelter in Christ’s name.

As always, God’s timing is perfect.

“The Olathe Corps is truly a house God is building,” said Mark.

Mind-blowing generosity

I thought we were only going to get coats,” said 12-year-old Deanna. “It blew my mind when I walked through the doors, and I saw clothes, boots and shoes, too.”

The Lafayette, Ind., Corps marked its 16th year of offering coats and warm clothing to those in need by joining with WLFI Channel 18 and sponsors Wabash National, Oerlikon Fairfield, Pay Less Super Markets and Regions Bank to ask the community to respond to the need for coats.

‘And respond they did! We hoped to receive 700 coats, which would have doubled the number of coats we had received in any single year in the past. The community gave over 1,600 coats! One ‘super donor’ donated hundreds of coats she began purchasing on eBay in January. Seeing the need, she then added hundreds of pairs of warm pajamas,” said Major Jim Irvine, corps officer.

Three dry cleaners, Executive Dry Cleaners, TNT, and Sparkletone Dry Cleaners, cleaned the coats for free.

The last family to attend the distribution was having problems finding pants for a child at home on crutches. The volunteer who was paired with the family to guide them through the process persevered until she found items that would meet the need. When she presented her findings to the mother, both burst into tears as they hugged.

“Thank God for The Salvation Army having the patience and time to collect these things for people at this time of year,” said Debrah Tate, Lafayette resident. “There are so many people out of jobs right now.”

In God’s time

In 2008 the Logansport, Ind., Corps purchased its new home, a former school building. Not surprisingly the building required extensive renovations. After a $200,000 fundraising campaign, 3,424 hours of volunteer work and endless prayer, the new corps building has opened its doors for service.

“It’s taken a long time, and one of the hardest things for most people is to remain patient and wait for the right time for things to happen,” said Major Rose Eagle, Logansport corps officer. “But one thing we’ve been reminded of through this process is that when we wait on God, and we don’t try to do things in our own strength, the blessings are amazing.”
Keri Shary, a USA Central Territory Salvationist living and working in South Korea, has won the All the World photographic competition with a photo of a Salvation Army open-air gathering in Pakistan.

“We loved the dynamism in the picture, along with the aspect of the unexpected. Take the Army flag away and it could appear to be something completely different,” said Kevin Sims, editor of All the World.

He was part of a panel of judges, including Berni Georges, All the World designer, and Lt.-Colonel Laurie Robertson, editor-in-chief and communications secretary, International Headquarters, that had the tough job of working through 375 images to choose the photos that fulfilled the competition’s theme (This is The Salvation Army) while being engaging, interesting and avoiding cliché.

“The number and standard of entries was beyond anything we had hoped for. We were sent photos including Berni Georges, World’s them e (This is The Salvation Army) while being engaging, interesting and avoiding cliché.

Keri took the winning photo last year when she was in Pakistan to photograph different projects from a mother and child program to a tent community. Over the past eight years she has traveled to various countries photographing different Salvation Army projects.

“I was brought up in The Salvation Army and have a huge heart for its mission. I studied photography in college and feel called to share God’s people and their stories with the world through pictures,” said Keri.

The five top photos, together with a selection of the many other superb entries, were featured in the October/December 2011 issue of All the World and can be seen online at http://sar.my/photocomp2011

Oilers go down under

South African-born Deon and Australian-born Michelle Oliver each testify to a strong awareness that the Kingdom of God is greater than national and cultural boundaries and have a desire to experience and serve within the internationalism of The Salvation Army.

In June 1999 they married in Vancouver, Canada (Michelle’s appointment prior to moving to the U.S.). Since then the Oilers have held corps appointments in Iowa City, Iowa, and Springfield, Ill., on the staff of the College for Officer Training, and most recently as youth and candidates secretaries in the Eastern Michigan Division.

This month Captain Deon and Major Michelle Oliver, with their children, Caleb, 11, Giselle, 9, and Liam, 6, are taking up an appointment as corps officers of the Salvation Corps in the Australia Eastern Territory.

Serving in Michelle’s homeland has long been a desire for the Oilers, and they are excited and thankful for the opportunity to serve in Australia at this time. In addition, the children are thrilled that they’ll get to see cousins and grandparents on a more regular basis.

Through their experiences in the United States, the Oilers testify that God has blessed them beyond measure and He is always faithful. As they look back over the past 12 years, they see the hand of God at work in their lives in many ways. Looking to the future, they know God can be trusted, and He will provide as He has so often in the past.

To visit their new corps website, log onto GetConnected.

Stepping up in Japan

Chris with youth participating in a music retreat.

by Captain Christopher Marques

It’s been almost a year since I arrived in Tokyo to Japan’s Territorial Headquarters to assist Captain Kanyuki Ishikawa, territorial youth secretary. From daily tasks to disasters, the experience has been fast and at times, fearsome. Even as the rest of the world moves on, we continue to help areas hit by the tsunami and transition into long-term assistance.

In the meantime we have a generation of young people who need encouragement, hope and the love of Christ.

Much of my time here has been spent visiting corps and assisting in camps, music and English classes. Although a foreigner still learning the language, I’ve been blessed by the openness and kindness shown to me and am practicing obedience in the everyday things from learning Japanese to spiritual growth. Being here has taught me to depend on God even more.

Sharing Jesus’ love and His unique deity can be challenging in a culture where people are either indifferent to religion or accepting of many spiritual possibilities instead of one truth. I’m proud of the brave young people in our community who’ve invited friends to Salvation Army activities at the risk of losing them and have had success. Recently a soccer team attended an outreach event, and almost half of them stayed to eat and talk and even donated to our outdoor kettle for disaster relief. It felt like a step in the right direction.

There is a hunger and curiosity about the spiritual life and a strong respect for social work here. One of my goals is to use these interests as a stepping stone to continue to get to know new faces, names and stories of youth. It’s an encouraging reminder to read in Psalms 34:8, “Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.”
My true home

by Megan Hartley

There is a common saying, “A house is where you hang your hat. A home is where your heart is.” After moving around the country nine times as an officer’s child, I finally have realized where my home is. No matter the location, my home is serving the Lord wherever He leads. As I prepare to hopefully become an officer, I’ve been blessed with the opportunity to work as a ministry intern at the Marinettes, Wisc. Corps.

As an intern my job is to study Corps Officer Captain Leanna Tuttle’s day-to-day life and assist with the needs of the corps. Our program is designed to help me grow spiritually while gaining hands-on experience. I’m regularly involved in the leadership of music and character-building programs, corps cadets and junior soldiers, plus Sunday school and holiness meetings. Administratively, I’m responsible for volunteers and our kettle campaign.

Working with the kids at my corps has given me an opportunity to develop an even greater passion for youth ministry. I’ve had a big part in building up our youth ministry to include children of all ages. I’ve organized a teen group; we’ve become so close sometimes I feel like the teens are my own kids! I’ve become a mentor to one young woman in particular. She and I have become really close; I’ve helped her learn to play the cornet as well as encouraged her in her faith and daily devotional life.

It may sound like a lot—and it is—but it has given me invaluable knowledge and experience that will provide a strong base for officership. My work as an intern has helped me grow in my faith and taught me so much more about the Army and its ministry. It’s built my confidence, and I’m more ready than ever to join the ranks of Salvation Army officers and go wherever God may lead.

Interns learn Army way

Two people brand-new to The Salvation Army are working as corps interns through the territorial ministry discovery program, now in its fifth year. Kimberly Thornton is serving at the Kansas City Bellefontaine, Mo., Corps, while Darren Young is at the St. Louis Temple, Mo. Corps. Both are pursuing bachelor degrees through City Vision College, a distance-learning program geared toward urban missions that established an internship program with The Salvation Army.

Kimberly’s field is addiction studies with a minor in theology. Having worked in social services for more than a decade, she wanted to be able to introduce Christ into the healing process.

According to Captains Charles and Carol Williams, Bellefontaine corps officers, Kimberly has been a great addition to the corps in supporting social services and providing additional client aid when needed, such as one-on-one counseling.

Kimberly’s social services background has been invaluable. “Kimberly also plays an active part in our community center leading children in arts and crafts, dance, self-esteem and recreational activities,” said Charles. The internship gives Kimberly hands-on experience with an urban population, exposing her to different lifestyles, ethnicities and cultures. Most importantly, unlike secular social work, the Army allows her to lead people to Christ. She’s considering working for the Army after her internship is complete.

Darren is studying urban missions and hopes to find fulltime work in his field. Before starting his internship at the St. Louis Temple Corps, led by Envoy Steve and Ketsia Diaz, Darren lived in Los Angeles, Calif.

“My internship at the Temple Corps has been awesome! The only thing I knew about The Salvation Army was its thrift stores. I feel so blessed to be part of a team that offers so much to the community and being able to share the gospel with the people we serve,” said Darren. “We’re not only meeting a ‘felt need’ but true ‘spiritual need.’ Since I’ve been here, I know God has called me to do inner-city ministry for the rest of my life.”

Major Phil Aho, territorial corps mission and adult ministries secretary, who coordinates internships with City Vision College.

“I find this approach to be win-win-win. It allows interns to learn and serve, corps to receive additional help and fresh perspectives, and the Army to be introduced to a wider range of Christians committed to urban mission,” he said.

“What next? Quite possibly a fresh stream of leaders entering Salvation Army service in urban locations.”

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• Find great joy in service to others

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Sparking potential

Nearly 100 leaders and youth erupted into applause at the Elgin, Ill., Corps when Jarrett Payton, son of Chicago Bears great Walter Payton, took the stage. Thanks to Elgin Corps youth leader Hannah Reynolds who’s become acquainted with Jarrett’s mom, Connie Payton, Jarrett agreed to speak during the corps’ youth program, Sparks Academy.

Jarrett encouraged the youth to keep two things top priority in their life: faith and family. He also shared about working his way into professional football under the shadow of his father’s legacy, understanding the importance of giving, and his belief that no dream is too big.

“It was such a good thing for all of our kids to meet someone influential from outside their environment who can inspire them to be good kids, have great character and love God,” said Captain Nancy Mead, Elgin corps officer. “We were all inspired, and the children were so curious. They wanted to know everything about Jarrett from his shoe size to his favorite basketball player!”

The Elgin Sparks Academy invites children ages four through 18 to meet once a week at the corps. During the evening the children have an opportunity for music classes and character-building programs, as well as time for devotion.
General launches international vision

**Continued from page 1**

visions bureau has resources available on their web page.

“These partnerships aren’t just for raising more money” said Chris Shay, world missions bureau director. “We want corps people who are willing to enter into true partnerships with their overseas counterparts in exchanges of cultures, ideas and resources.”

In the application process corps will be asked to state at least two goals or outcomes expected from participation in PIM Next Steps. Upon divisional and territorial approval, the corps will enter into a partnership agreement with an overseas corps or institution.

The first year of the partnership will concentrate on mutual education and relationship building on a monthly basis through emails, letters, photos, prayer requests, Skype conversations and visits. The second year will involve a specific project funded by the corps’ World Services giving. The world missions bureau will provide contacts and project information, and corps will give the bureau quarterly progress updates, including successes and challenges.

She called on Salvationists to see self-denial—sacrificial giving to the Army’s world mission—as a vital part of their service. She spoke of the willingness she sees by people from poorer countries to help even those who have greater resources, saying “We need each other; we need each other’s money!”

**One Mission**

Moving on to the next aspect of the vision, the General reaffirmed the importance of The Salvation Army’s integrated mission, saying that it “has to be emphasized again and again and again.”

The vision statement speaks about going “into the world of the broken, lonely, dispossessed and lost, reaching them in love by all means.” The General sought to ensure that this was understood fully, explaining that the broken and lost could refer to people in physical and financial need but that it could just as easily describe “the unsaved and people who are outside the fellowship.”

She explained further that the Army must not hand over its “service to suffering humanity” to its social services; nor could it leave it to the officer training colleges to do all the work to grow saints within the Army.

She had a clear message for corps, social service centers and head-quarters everywhere: “If there is a Salvation Army shield on your building, you do all the mission!”

The General was equally clear about the Mission Priority to reach and involve youth and children. “The future of The Salvation Army,” she said, “may hang on the priority to which we give our approach to children and youth.” She said that work with young people should not be ignored because of a perceived lack of time or resources, and she committed IHQ to involve young people in its public meetings.

Speaking about the Mission Priority to “stand for and serve the marginalized,” she challenged her listeners by saying that The Salvation Army needs to “find its voice and stand for people who are marginalized in society,” explaining that the Army is “married” to such people.

Innovation in mission, said the General, is to be encouraged. “Just go for it and give us good ideas,” was her call to the Army. She backed this up—despite admitting to being naturally conservative—with a call for Salvation Army boards to have a “can-do” attitude such that their natural response to ideal should be “yes” (unless there was good reason to say “no!”) rather than being over careful and instinctively negative.

The General admitted that in parts of the world where The Salvation Army is adored by the public there is a danger that “we wouldn’t want to jeopardize it by being politically incorrect.” She said that the Army should always make clear that it does its work because “the love of Christ compels us,” adding that she would love to see that phrase on the wall of every Salvation Army social center.

Taking a strong stand on its motivation, she said: “The Army’s motivation may mean that the Army sometimes loses money, admitted the General, before adding: “But I would rather have the blessing of the Lord.”

Picking up on another of the Mission Priorities, the General called for a reaffirmation of the belief in transformation, explaining that “through the power of the Holy Spirit—a person can change his or her life not by making resolutions but by undergoing a revolution!”

Communication was highlighted as a priority. The General said that she loved Salvation Army open-air meetings but warned against holding them “next to a brick wall” where no one was listening. She called on Salvationists to grab the opportunities presented by modern technology. “We need to use the World Wide Web,” she said. “We can reach a million people at our open-air meetings!”

Drawing her thoughts to a close, the General admitted that there was nothing inherently new in the International Vision. However, holding up her Bible, she told the congregation and those watching online that from Genesis to Revelation there was a common thread: “God’s relentless pursuit of relationship with humanity.”

The General wondered what Salvation Army Founder William Booth would think of the International Vision, concluding that he would probably say: “Go and do something about it!”

“I want you to be encouraged,” said the General to Salvationists at IHQ and around the world. “I believe God raised up The Salvation Army.” And while the International Vision contains “nothing new,” she hopes that it creates opportunity for Salvationists everywhere to look at what they say and do so they will “use new language and find new ways of doing it.”