Family Congress slated for June

This June you’ll want to join thousands of Salvationists who’ll gather in St. Louis, Mo., for the “One Army, One Mission, One Message” Family Congress led by General Linda Bond. Supported by territorial leaders, Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler, the weekend of June 7 - 9, 2013, promises something for everyone in our Central Territory family.

Stirring music from the Chicago Staff Band, this meeting will highlight the popular World Services/Self-Denial territorial ingathering and the dedication of the summer mission teams.

Saturday morning, delegates will set their sights on One Mission, in essence how we are being effective in advancing our mission. Awe-inspiring real stories of transformation will showcase the impact we’re having in the Midwest.

On Saturday afternoon families may spend quality time together in the heart of the city, Forest Park. Covering approximately 1,300 acres, this beautiful oasis features monuments and museums, the zoo, a network of walking paths and waterways, and areas for many sports.

One Message will be the focus of Saturday evening’s meeting which will clearly draw out our privilege to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world. You’ll be energized again by the General as she shares the International vision for the Army of which you’re a part. You’ll also be challenged to commit how you will carry the message of Christ and His love to those around you.

Sunday is the capstone of the weekend with the commissioning, ordination and service of appointments for the “Proclaimers of the Resurrection” session. Come and participate in God-glorifying worship and support the 34 new officers as they embark on a life of service.

Watch a promotional video and register online at usc.salvationarmy.org.

Continued on page 2

Western’s plans no secret

 Majors Paul and Paula Fleeman arrived at the Western Divisional Headquarters (DHQ) in Omaha, Neb., at an exciting time in the city. The new divisional leaders came just as the headquarters moved to a more efficient and modern building.

In the Old Mill area of the city, the DHQ is in a former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) building that was gutted and renovated. Bullet-proof windows were replaced. The FBI’s gun racks in the safe were removed, and interrogation rooms were transformed into conference rooms.

In a large adjacent building that once housed FBI vehicles reside vehicles used for Winter Night Watch and Kids Cruisin’ Kitchen mobile programs, emergency disaster services cantines and training programs.

The cost of purchasing and renovating the FBI buildings was paid by legacy funds set aside for capital use.

The headquarters moved from the Lied Renaissance Center, a 1906 building badly in need of renovation with asbestos lurking in the walls. Western Divisional Secretary Major Steve Merritt said the move was the first in a two-step plan to make services more efficient.

First, moving the DHQ and its 65 employees out of the Renaissance Center freed up space for the 20 social service programs and staff still housed on the original campus.

Second, preliminary plans are being made to replace the 120,000-square-foot Renaissance Center at 38th and Cuming streets within a
Be generous with your life
by Lt. Colonel Richard Vander Weele
Assistant Chief Secretary

If you’re reading this, you now know those predictions, which for some caused great hysteria, about the world ending in December 2012 were unfounded. So, let me be one of the first to wish you a Happy New Year! January often signifies a time of new beginnings. Election have come and gone, new leaders and legislators take office; new laws become effective; new programs are inaugurated; new calendar dates are established; students start new classes and schedules; the latest models of computers, smart phones and electronic games are ready for release; and some of us will resolve to make changes or take action on any number of personal issues. However, within weeks, much of the cause for celebration a new year brings will have been forgotten by many, and folks will settle into their routines, even if it includes changes in their lives.

For others, the dawn of a new year includes time for personal introspection and reflection. Those of us who are Christ followers might honestly examine who we are and what we are doing with all God has given us. It might mean considering how our actions, beliefs and convictions impact those within our sphere of influence for the cause of Christ. A tough question to ask ourselves might be, “As a believer, am I making a difference?”

The Message paraphrases the familiar passage of scripture from Matthew 5:14-16: “You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret; we’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shining! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

“Be generous with your lives”—I like that! So, here’s my new year’s wish, or challenge if you like, for those who know Jesus Christ personally: live, act and speak in a way that reflects the love and saving grace of Jesus Christ where we live, work, go to school, shop, worship or even walk. Together, as Christ followers, let your light shine and make a difference in 2013!”

Leadership changes

Effective February 6, 2013, four officers will assume new responsibilities in leadership in the Central Territory. Majors Robert E. and Nancy P. Thomson will be promoted to Lt. colonel and become divisional commander and divisional director of women’s ministries in the Northern Division.

Majors Dan and Dorene Jennings will become divisional commander and divisional director of women’s ministries in the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division. Please pray for these officers as they assume their new appointments.

Western’s plans no secret

Continued from page 1

few years with a new social service building. Three other buildings will remain on the campus. The Western Division’s largest city, Omaha also got its first city commander in Major Paula Fleeman.

“With all the new initiatives happening in Omaha—the Kroc Center, North Corps initiatives, the new headquarters command building—it was a good time to have leadership to focus on Omaha in particular,” she said.

The headquarters move was just part of the excitement in 2012. The Tree of Lights kickoff ceremony on November 9 came with a major announcement: a celebration in 2013 of The Salvation Army’s 125th anniversary in Omaha built around the theme, ‘125 Years Caring for Omaha.”

The Omaha Citadel Corps, known as the No. 1 Corps, opened in February 1887 at 416 South 19th St. In 1938 Omaha became headquarters for the newly named Western Division.

The corps went through more than 20 addresses and various names before ending up on a five-acre campus at 38th and Cuming streets in 1980 valued at $42 million. The Renaissance Center was a gift from Nebraska Methodist Hospital. It is anticipated that the Omaha Citadel Corps will be the heart of the new campus of service.

Events throughout this year will commemorate the anniversary.

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Fun and effective fundraisers “how to” from the Cedar Rapids Corps and the Springfield ARC
Major Florence Moffit recaps Central Territory’s history

More about The Salvation Army in the Brazil, India South Eastern, and Sweden and Latvia territories
Abraham Marin
Kansas City Westport Temple, Mo., Corps
Kansas Western Missouri Division

I am extremely blessed this door to ministry has opened for me. I grew up as a child of a Salvation Army officer in the South America West Territory, but I began my personal relationship with God when I was 18. Since that time God has been preparing me for this calling. I was one of those who said, “No way! I will never be an officer.” But God helped me realize I was wrong.

In 2003 I heard my call to officer-ship while working for an international mission team in Ecuador. The next year I first visited America to volunteer as a driver during the Jet campaign at the Westport Temple, Mo., Corps. After that, I came every Christmas to help until 2009 when the Kansas and Western Missouri Division encouraged me to apply for the Ministry Discovery Program. This month I will end my second year of interning, and my next step will be going to the College for Officer Training in Chicago.

These words are engraved on my heart: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9, NKJV

Abraham’s corps officers are Captains Dan and Wendy Faundez.

Retreats bring reconciliation

The Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) Command has embarked on a three-year initiative of relationship building retreats for adults and families, especially designed for ARC alumni or those who are well-advanced in the program. This effort is subsidized by the Thomas Lyle Williams fund and helps to cover all participant expenses.

The retreats are hosted by the ARC Command with programming support from Metropolitan divisional family and community services. The family retreat took place at Army Lake Camp. Beneficiaries from seven ARCs participated in this retreat, which included “Building Healthy Relationships” classes for moms, dads and teenagers and fun activities for children under age 11. Many of the youth who attended hadn’t seen their recovering fathers for quite a while, so this time was extra special for them.

“There was a lot of laughter as families participated in classes,” said Major Cecilia Benn, Grand Rapids, Mich., ARC administrator. “It was interesting to see the teens interact with their parents and come out learning new ideas and having a better understanding of healthy relationships.”

Beneficiaries from nine centers participated in the adult retreat themed, “Within My Reach: Achieving Healthy Relationships in Substance Abuse Recovery,” which was held at Camp Wonderland. This retreat consisted of a class room-style setting and round-table discussions. One afternoon was dedicated to free time and another was open to everyone for a 12-step substance abuse meeting.

Both retreats ended with a Sunday service that included testi monies and a message given by ARC Command Rehabilitation Services Secretary Steve Hanusa. Many came forward to the altar during the time of dedication.

According to Cecilia, families from her ARC are still talking about the retreat. She said, “One little girl said to me, ‘Thank you Major C for our family vacation. Can we do it again next year?’ And, of course, my answer was yes. What a blessing!”

Captain Dan Faundez and corps youth on Rally Day

Growing confidence

When Captains Dan and Wendy Faundez were appointed to the Kansas City Westport Temple, Mo., Corps in 2009, they were the first officers to lead the congregation in many years.

Once a large, thriving corps producing many excellent soldiers and officers in the 1960s and ’70s, it faced the challenge of changing demographics. For several decades it was led by lay and hired ministry teams. During this time, a Latino ministry started, and Spanish became the corps’ dominant language.

“The structure of worship, outreach and other things had to be adjusted. Three years later we’re just now sensing that we have the confidence and trust of this congregation; many of them now see themselves as part of the ministry team,” said Dan.

“Although we know different factors play a role in assessing growth, this has been a tremendous success to us as we move toward a healthy faith community ready to take on evangelism,” Dan said. Five junior soldiers and five senior soldiers will be enrolled early in the new year. With about 100 people in the congregation, average attendance on Sundays is 60.

Discipleship efforts include weekly Bible studies, prayer meetings and groups studying what it means to be a believer. “We already teach Salvation Army doctrine in all of our spiritual and ministerial exercises, so having the new Spanish-language doctrine handbook will be a big help,” he continued. In addition, the corps offers adventure corps, guitar classes and assistance with food, rent and utilities.

“Our next challenge is to meet the spiritual needs of our immediate, non-Latino community,” Dan concluded. “We don’t want to just reach the community; we want to be the community. Our goal is to begin separate wor ship services in English in the near future!”

Pocket change for change

This Christmas season men at the Springfield, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) raised $312 for the Share Your Christmas Joy campaign. Because of their generosity, Salvation Army children’s homes and centers had a happier Christmas.

“We thought it was a good way for the guys to think beyond their own situations,” said Captain Karen Salisbury, Springfield ARC administrator. “It’s good for all of us to remember the people who have less than we do.”

No matter where we are in life, we can still help people.

When Karen introduced the idea at a chapel service, the men immediate ly showed interest; that night Karen received away with $26 in donations just from the spare change in their pockets.

To continue the momentum of giving, Karen took a creative approach. She made a Christmas tree out of construction paper, and for every dollar donated glued a paper ornament on the tree with a photo of a child. The original goal was to raise $100 and earn the crowning star. But donations continued, so Karen started putting gifts under the tree with additional dollar amounts.

“Each week the men receive a small gratuity,” said Karen. “The men gave out of their limited funds—they said they wanted to.”

Thanks to the generosity of people like the Springfield ARC men; our territory raised $12,330 to help 123 Salvation Army children’s homes and centers celebrate Christmas!
Early arrivals of nearly an hour began the pre-concert ‘overture’ with rhythmic shuffling of feet and soft, melodic hellos that crescendoed to a fortissimo of conversation. The percussive sounds of hands clapping and backs being patted amid the overtones of shouts and sighs as annual concert-goers greeted one another. The sounds of the season were already being played as the audience of nearly 2,000 took their seats in anticipation of a night of glorious music by the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) and guest pianist Richard Phillips. Their high expectations would be surpassed.

Opening salvos of the march, War Cry [Dorothy Gates], raised heads—and possibly a few eyebrows—as, with 21st Century rhythms and ultra-modern chords, the audience heard the familiar 19th Century war song, ‘Ever is the war cry, victory, victory!’ Then the band awed the audience with Dean Goffin’s classical treatment of Arise, My Soul, Arise, an elegant prelude and fugue on the well-known hymn tune, ‘Darwall’s.’

Bandmaster William Himes introduced his friend, Richard Phillips, a respected concert pianist, composer and teacher who’s also the bandmaster at the Kettering, England, Corps. As he took his place at the concert grand piano, the timpani’s mighty roll set the stage for Edward Grieg’s Concerto in A Minor, 1st movement. Phillips delivered a dramatic offering of this well-known classic. An elongated standing ovation expressed the audience’s appreciation.

The CSB’s choral offerings of ‘Then will the very rocks cry out’ and ‘Fairest Lord, Jesus’ [to an original tune by Phillips], were refreshing. Phillips then returned for solo renderings which included his contemplative setting of Faithful God, followed by his toe-tapping ragtime version of ‘Count your blessings’ accompanied expertly—albeit unhearsed—by Al Stewart on snare drum.

For many it was the first hearing of Rejoice and Be Glad [Joseph Turpin]. The composer’s stated inspiration of Psalm 118:24 (NIV, 1984), “This is the day the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it,” captured the imagination. As the band played, one could not help but imagine flags waving, fireworks exploding and people dancing. The festivity was gently interrupted by a beautiful solo melody played by Peggy Thomas encouraging listeners to ponder God’s blessings.

Following intermission, the CSB opened the second half with Stephen Bulla’s Lift Up Your Voice, a 12th Century song cast in 21st Century idiom.

As Phillips returned to the piano, the audience waited in keen anticipation for the pièce de résistance of the evening, Rachmaninoff’s Second Piano Concerto (3rd movement). He rose to the challenge with amazing dexterity, as did the band in providing a highly technical and complicated accompaniment. Another standing ovation paid tribute to a stellar performance.

The guest artist then assumed the role of conductor as he led the CSB in his arrangement of Who Is He? The band built a steady and mighty crescendo, answering, “‘Tis the Lord! O wondrous story. ‘Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!” The brilliant tone of the soprano cornet rang above the band signaling the message, “At His feet, we humbly fall. Crown him, crown him, Lord of all!”

Chief Secretary Colonel Merle Heatwole, a former Chicago Staff bandman, followed the Christmas tone, revisiting the familiar verse, John 3:16, which he emphasized with a touching story demonstrating how much good can come from simple acts of kindness.

Fifty years ago theologian Karl Barth was asked to summarize the theological meaning of the millions of words in the Church Dogmatics. Barth thought for a moment and said, “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” Phillips proved Barth’s words in his sensitive offering of Ray Bowers’ original tune to “Jesus loves me.”

The moment Fire in the Blood began, there arose an anticipation that Paul Lovatt-Cooper’s composition would take the audience to a musical sphere not yet experienced. They were on the edge of their seats as the 34-piece band sounded like a 100 players delivering multiple themes, this in contrast to the rich sounds emanating from Peggy Thomas’ cornet as she played, “Lord, You know that I love You.” One could almost imagine Jesus smiling at the exultant theme: “Take joy my King in what you hear. May it be a sweet, sweet sound [of the season] in your ear.”

A professional CD recording featuring the CSB and Richard Phillips is available for $15 each, plus $5 shipping and handling for orders of any quantity to the same address. Specify quantity, address and payment information (Visa and MasterCard accepted) to: Chicago Staff Band, The Salvation Army, 10 W. Algonquin Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60016. If paying by credit card, order online at www.chicagostaffband.org, by phone: 847-294-2133 or fax: 847-227-5033.
You'll find a few manmade gems as well, among them Mt. Rushmore, the Mall of America. These three icons are being featured in this year's national women's ministries calendar themed, "Traveling Postcards."

Following a popular new format introduced in 2010, the calendar now features photos from each territory three months of the year. It replaced the traditional towelf calendar that was produced for more than 40 years.

The 2013 postcards from the Midwest are the creative genius of Major Carol Wilkins, who dreamed up the concept for our territory, identified locations, coordinated logistics and traveled to each site for the photo shoot.

"It was a joy to travel to each location and be a part of the experience as we blended the women's ministries with the site," she said.

Here's a little behind the scenes trivia. To take the photo at the Arch, women rose before the sun to beat tourists to the punch. Even though they're bundled up like it's below freezing, it was actually April when the women's ministries group from the Twin Cities visited the Mall for their photo shoot. A trip to Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse for a photo included the bonus of a personal visit with Ruth Ziolkowski, wife of the Crazy Horse sculptor. The women learned that Ruth's husband loved The Salvation Army. They also learned that in celebration of her birthday, blasts are set off each year for every year of her age.

"The women of the Rapid City Corps who participated in the photo shoot were quite honored that our corps was chosen to be a part of the 2013 women's ministries calendar," said Major Elizabeth Beardsley. "We had such a wonderful time; we laughed, we shared, and we got to know each other even more. What a blessing it is to fellowship with such a great group of women of various ages. I love women's ministries!"

You won't want to miss the 2014 calendar: "You have been a blessing to fellowship and biblical challenge. They celebrated heritage in a culturally-relevant way and in a Spanish-language setting.

The significance of this event was not lost on us. Seldom do Hispanic women allow themselves to take time away from their families and concentrate on themselves. In fact, for many Hispanic women, a typical day is all about her family, serving others and meeting their needs. This natural caregiving instinct is reinforced by culture, and so often women's own needs are not addressed. I think that particularly Christian women tend to think that being submissive means keeping hurt inside and not seeking relief.

We pray that the wonderful day we spent together will provide continued encouragement, application of biblical teaching in everyday life, and, above all, a movement of God's Spirit to find inner peace and healing.

Amy with her cheerleading squad

Minn. Extensive surgery was required, and the medical expenses piled up.

Meanwhile, Amy's corps surrounded her with support and love. In addition to dozens of cards, flowers, balloons and visits, Amy's corps family planned a fundraiser. They held an event dinner and auction, drawing more than 300 people from the corps and community.

"People started working together who never had before," said Kevin Yang. "We had teens working with older adults and children with staff members! Between the $10 donation and an auction, more than $7,000 was raised for Amy's family.

More encouraging was the fact that Amy was able to attend the benefit along with her entire family. As a result of the generosity, love and care, Amy's parents started attending the corps, too.

"Through my recent trials I learned I'm never alone and am truly loved by God. I know God has a plan for me, and that I'm still on earth for a reason: to serve Him," said Amy. "During my time in the hospital, prayer was definitely a powerful thing. Not only for me, but everyone I knew had to depend on God to answer our prayers. God really did do a miracle, and I am so thankful."

Amy is back at school and living life to the fullest again.

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Finding inner healing

by Kerman Moran

Two hundred women in the Metropolitan Division met for a Hispanic women's event, themed "Inner Healing," at the La Villita Corps. The day was so powerful, it's hoped to be the first of many gatherings.

It provided a new opportunity for fellowship and biblical challenge. They celebrated heritage in a culturally-relevant way and in a Spanish-language setting.

Under the leadership of the Metropolitan Hispanic Council, women officers organized this one-day event that received great acceptance from the attendees.

Comments such as "Why didn't we do this before?" and "We should have this again!" were common.

Brenda Bravatty, a pastor and speaker for women's events in the Chicago area, and Elizabeth Woehr, a psychologist involved in family ministry, were featured. These two Hispanic women shared from their hearts, biblical knowledge and experience in women's issues.

The day was filled with times of worship, teaching, preaching, fellowship and great camaraderie. The altar call was a sacred time of ministry, reconciliation and healing.

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Amy is back at school and living life to the fullest again.
The Brazil Territory recently marked 90 years of service as more than 300 Salvationists from the Rio de Janeiro/Minas Gerais/Central West Division gathered for three days of celebration at the Methodist Missionary Training Center in Teresópolis. Throughout the weekend delegates participated in workshops and rallies during the day then joined together during the evenings for praise and thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness to the Army.

Guests included our own Central territorial leaders, Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler, as well as a musical team composed of William Himes, territorial music and gospel arts secretary; Vernon Lawson, Metropolitan divisional music and gospel arts director; and Tom Hanton, Eastern Michigan divisional music and gospel arts director.

Music and gospel arts director, and Tom Hanton, Eastern Michigan divisional music and gospel arts director.

The music team conducted band and vocal rehearsals and led training sessions in music leadership for groups of all ages, along with conducting and score study. The trio also conducted and played in the Brazil Divisional Band, which performed some repertoire written by Himes. Vernon and Tom were both featured as trombone soloists in united meetings and afterglows.

Another surprise was the size of Brazil. For example, the geography of the Rio Division is about the size of the Central Territory. This meant considerable sacrifices of time and expense for Salvationists, many of whom traveled 12 hours or more to attend.

Centralites were impressed with several observations. First, teens and young adults were by far the dominant age group of Salvationists there—and they are red-yellow-and-blue all the way! Second, they are a very talented people who movingly project their faith in music, drama and dance. Third, they were keen to learn everything they could about leadership, musicianship and conducting as many of the teens already lead groups in their corps.

One session that began at 1:00 a.m. included a Q & A with questions ranging from American culture and laws to personal work, talents and ministry.

Commissioners Paul and Carol Seiler were featured speakers throughout the weekend. Friday evening Commissioner Paul spoke to delegates on how God makes us competent as ministers of a new covenant through the Holy Spirit, based on II Corinthians 3. He also participated at a men’s rally. Commissioner Carol spoke at the women’s rally on Saturday which also featured testimonies of God’s faithfulness to Salvationists at their corps. Saturday evening she preached from Ephesians 6, urging listeners to put on the armor of God and “get in the fight.”

The sheer joy of these faithful soldiers and officers was infectious. There are no language barriers when the Holy Spirit is in control! This was particularly evident during the final Sunday morning meeting, where the Sellers challenged delegates to prayerfully consider their role in the Army’s future in Brazil. The response was immediate and overwhelming as the altar, formed in the shape of a large cross, was filled with delegates kneeling in consecration.

The context was set with a history of “favela,” squatter communities that wind up the mountainside like the vines which give them their name. Until two years ago, these areas were so dangerous even the police did not go into them. With only one entrance through a narrow road, hundreds of brick shacks sit on top of each other. Only recently did favelas gain electricity as the government attempted to legitimize and control the community in the grip of drug lords and their gangs.

The Salvation Army afterschool-type program, reinforced by Central Territory dollars to repair leaking roofs and provide a safe environment, sits at the base of the long winding road going uphill. Trying to keep the children safe, services provided include serving two meals each to the morning and afternoon groups (school is only a half day) and offering reading, art and Bible lessons.

“Even as we walked with the officer the short distance from the cars to the door of the program,furtive faces were seen at windows and doorways,” said Commissioner Carol Seiler. "Stories of building trust required for ministry in such a community were shared. We did not take lightly the need to respect the work and the relationships currently existing.”

Two young staff women had prepared the children for the visit. Music, a tambourine routine and dance...
Partners in mission have new meaning to my wife, Dorothy, and me. We’ve recently returned from the South Eastern India Territory where we participated in a celebration of 120 years of Salvation Army ministry. The Army moved into India in 1882—the first missionary effort of the young Salvation Army.

The Army has clearly taken root in India and continues to grow. We were guests at a Territorial Congress, “Fanning the Flame,” held to inspire and instruct key soldiers and officers from each corps on how the Army can move forward. Workshops were offered for adults on topics critical to success in mission: doctrine, the sacraments, ethics, Salvationism, serving the marginalized, the importance of the mercy seat, and a Bible study on Nehemiah. Youth delegates spent a day exploring the exemplary life of Joseph, the life ambitious, and the use and misuse of technology. More than 1,500 delegates met on Friday and Saturday, with evening meetings held outdoors and open to the public.

The final meeting Sunday morning was held in partnership with the Frederick Booth Tacker Memorial Church. This is the largest corps in India with more than 1,000 people attending each week. Two years ago they dedicated a beautiful new building which was paid for entirely by soldiers.

We spent a day touring Nagercoil to see a wide variety of Army ministries with deep roots in the community. The first medical work in the Salvation Army world was at Nagercoil on a porch which is preserved as part of the Catherine Booth Hospital. This sprawling campus, covering 11 acres and 45 separate buildings, is home to the hospital, both a school and college of nursing, a dental clinic, orthopedic clinic, four operating theaters, and a community development program that is on the cutting-edge of community program development. It includes outpatient clinics, micro-financing schemes, family savings and budget training, and much more. We also visited two Salvation Army schools and homes for girls and boys.

"Paul offered spoken prayers for their present and future, their learning and joy, and their spiritual growth,” said Commissioner Carol. “And we all offered unspoken prayers for their safety from violence, protection of an innocence children deserve, for the generosity of Salvationists living in America, and for the protection of the officers and staff faithfully carrying out mission in this difficult community.”

We saw how ministries are evolving to meet current needs as the former home for handicapped girls now serves as a retreat center and vocational training center for women.

The territory is alive with optimism for the future despite the considerable needs of the people it is called to serve. Commissioners MC and Susamma James are actively working to strengthen internal fundraising and support. As partners in mission, our territory will have many opportunities to support them and to learn from their serving spirit and example of deep reliance on the Holy Spirit to guide and sustain in the face of critical need.
Sjögrens tapped to help lead Sweden and Latvia

by Craig Dirksen

A

nd they thought 

Minnesota lute-

isk was good.

Lt. Colonels Daniel and Rebecca Sjögren, Northern divisional leaders, are head-

ed to Stockholm, Sweden, next month to serve as chief secretary and territorial sec-

retary for women’s min-

istries in the 

Sweden and Latvia 

Territory.

They couldn’t be more excited.

“Travel, new cul-

turing the 

homeland of many

of Dan’s relatives—we cannot wait!” said Rebecca. “The museums and architecture will be awesome. The countryside looks similar to Minnesota. I am sure we will feel right at home with the lakes, streams, fields, farming and trees.”

What will the Sjögrens miss most?

The English language, for one. “I don’t even know enough Swedish to ask for a cup of coffee,” Daniel joked, adding that he and Rebecca have enrolled in online Swedish language courses.

Second, and most importantly, they’ll miss their families.

“The most diffi-

cult thing will be the distance from my mother,” Rebecca

said. “She is now 87 years of age, and I am going to miss her very much. Not to mention seeing the rest of our two sons and five grandchildren.”

Both of their sons are pastors. Lt. Michael Sjögren is a corps officer in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Nate Sjögren is pastor of Genesis: The Church in Royal Oak, Mich. The Sjögrens have spent nearly 40 years serving as officers in the Midwest, including various cities in Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. In 2006 they took on their current roles of leading the Northern Division.

“We have loved our time in the Northern Division and hope we have made a difference,” Daniel said.

“They’ve made a difference all right. Under their leadership, the Northern Division’s annual revenue has increased from $42 million in 2006 to $56 million in 2011!”

“It is a privilege to serve God in The Salvation Army,” Rebecca said. “I would not trade the accomplishments, joys and sorrows for anything this world has to offer.”

It all adds up to joy

by Major Wes Green

W

ith my active imagina-

tion, I can create some 

wild scenarios. However, I am a realist when it comes to God and The 

Salvation Army. Probably like me, you may have fantasized about living in a foreign land or traveling the world but never imagined it would happen. And yet, it has for me.

Five years ago when God took my wife, Sharon, to join Him, I wondered how life would continue for my adult daughter, Jessica, and me. I struggled daily without Sharon. God had heard our conversations of 

For me, joy is the dividend of God’s perspective being sought and lived. It is God demonstrating His love and compassion, and us living life according to His guidelines, being obedient to His call. I would never have chosen the path through loss, but I gladly recognize the mul-

tiplied peace in my life.

I move on to London with excite-

ment—for an auditor that is a mea-

sured emotion—where I will contin-

ue an adventure that adds up to joy.

Bringing home the bacon

by Jennifer Cisney Ellers

F

or nearly two years Captain Chris Marques has served in the territorial youth department in Tokyo, Japan. While his love for Japan developed years ago, connecting with others in the aftermath of the March 2011 earthquake has strengthened his bond with the country and people.

“I now understand about 70 percent of what is going on,” said Chris. “There are tremendous differences between casual conversation and formal speaking, as well as the written and spoken lan-

guage.” While he has a greater understanding of the country and language, he’s tempered his expecta-

tions. “I think you’ll come to a point where you realize you will never fully understand all of it, and that’s okay,” he said.

As assistant to the territorial youth secretary, Chris focuses on support-

ing existing programs and starting new ones—most notably English edu-

cation. The biggest challenge is the profound lack of free time. Many people work six days a week and take little vacation. Like adults who often work late, most Japanese youth spend extra time in school clubs or study groups. Even on weekends and holidays, schools have activities. It’s difficult to compete for time and attention.

Nevertheless, Chris has seen progress. “I was blessed to attend camps and sum-

mer Bible schools around Tokyo,” he said. “In one case I was helping a small corps do children’s out-

reach. The previ-

ous meeting only had three chil-

dren, but by the end there were nearly 30!”

Moving forward, Chris’ desire is to help ensure the Church’s future in Japan is bright.

It all adds up to joy
Nathaniel can read. This was not the case when he entered the Pontiac, Mich., Corps after school Mission: Literacy program. At pre-evaluation, his reading score was 0; now, it’s 17! Not only can he read, Nathaniel reads from his own Bible presented to him by the American Bible Society (ABS).

“He went to classes and learned Bible stories, sight words and phonics while doing crafts and word games. He always had fun,” said his mother, Laura. “I don’t think he even knew he was ‘learning.’ The biggest blessing is to sit back and watch my son read his Bible.”

In 2006 when Mission: Literacy was developed by ABS, there was not a venue for application. Then ABS learned through Dawn Sharp, New Jersey divisional childcare and literacy consultant, at-risk children came to Salvation Army programs. So began the partnership between The Salvation Army and ABS to address illiteracy among children. Illiteracy statistics are staggering: 42 million Americans can’t read or write, another 50 million can only read at a fourth-grade level.

The value of adding Mission: Literacy to programs in the Northern Division was recognized in 2009 by Lt. Colonel Dan Sjogren, who also challenged other divisions and corps. The manual is on a CD that contains five volumes with 16 lessons each. Every lesson is ready to teach and includes phonics exercises, reading and writing activities, worksheets, games, crafts, pre- and post-evaluations, teaching notes, and all instructions needed to implement Mission: Literacy in a corps. The manual is on a CD that comes with student books.

Upon learning that in Detroit, Mich., an astonishing 47 percent of people are functionally illiterate, Colonel Dennis Strisiel, Eastern Michigan divisional commander, directed that Mission: Literacy training be offered in their division. Forty-two tutors were trained, implementing the program in 12 corps. In Midland, Mich., it’s made a huge difference. After being incorporated into the before- and after-school programs last year, the children scored extremely high in the program’s reading tests.

Endorsed by Commissioner Carol Scifer for Kroc Centers’ use, Mission: Literacy has been embraced by them. At the South Bend, Ind., Kroc Center volunteers are now teaching the second volume to 31 students.

Since its introduction in the territory, 517 tutors have been trained (152 officers and 365 lay leaders) and 3,758 children have been introduced to Jesus through the materials as they learn to read, write, speak and listen.

“The kids enjoy Mission: Literacy,” said Mona Meade, a tutor and volunteers are now teaching the second volume to 31 students.

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A panel on "Approaches to Effective Property Management"
February Prayer Calendar

Go to www.prayercentralusa.org for prayer updates.
If you follow the prayer calendar in the next year, you will have read through the Bible!

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<th>Bible Reading</th>
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* = Adult Rehabilitation Center
** = Divisional Headquarters
PIM = Partners in Mission

Stand up and fight!

A 12-week program designed to help shelter residents stand up and fight for their abstinence honored its first three graduates, reported A/Captains Chuck and Dana Cook, St. Joseph, Mo., corps officers.

Brianna Howell, shelter case manager, designed the rigorous, relapse-prevention program to bridge the gap between lessons learned by residents during rehabilitation and applying those principles in their daily lives. (The shelter can accommodate up to 44 men, six women and three families.)

Brianna started the program with eight men who’d tried maintaining their abstinence for varying amounts of time. They met for classes, self-examination sessions and community service projects. Five men dropped out after a few weeks.

“What made the difference for the men who completed the program was their desire to take a closer look at themselves to avoid relapsing into the cycle of substance abuse. They supported and challenged each other to stay honest,” said Brianna.

“Our prayer is that this program will stir others to know they can be victors and not victims,” said A/Captain Chuck Cook.

A/Captains Chuck and Dana Cook flank (l-r) Pete Horvath, Nelson Monk, Glen Mize and Brianna Howell.

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remaining members of the "Jelly Strings," Salvationist performance group, would appreciate knowing God used one of their concerts to call Susan Rubottom to officership! Susan, married to Richard since 1967, asked him during the trip home from the concert, "Do you want to go to the College for Officer Training?"

To Richard it was an answer to prayer! Called to officership as a teen, he’d recently finished serving Uncle Sam for six years in the military. But because Susan didn’t feel called to officership, Richard thought it was out of his future.

The Rubottoms entered training in 1974 with the "Overcomers" session (daughter Rebecca was born the same year). They were ordained and commissioned as lieutenants in 1976. (Daughter Rachel and son Joshua came along in 1978 and 79.)

In their first decade of officership, the Rubottoms led corps in Minnesota and North Dakota. Although they enjoyed corps work, particularly youth ministry, they found their passion working with substance abusers over the next two decades, first as directors of a harbor light then adult rehabilitation centers.

In 2009, the majors served in the Western Division as the regional service extension representative and the Omaha social services chaplain, before becoming the Omaha Citadel, Neb., corps officers in 2010, the appointment from which they retired.

Doug summed it up this way, "God took me out of the gutter, cleaned me off and gave me a job to do! A troubled youth, Doug and his biker buddies were the terror of his neighborhood. After vandalizing a corps, they waited for the officer’s reaction, which simply was, ‘Well, at least I got you into church!’

Later that day Doug was nearly killed in a motorcycle accident. Another officer came by to help Doug with bike repairs and tell him about Jesus. That night Doug came to the corps. Some time later he accepted Jesus. A few years later he met long-time Salvationist Sandra Landquist at a concert. After talking all night and praying together, Doug asked Sandy to marry him!

Wed in 1989, they were very involved in corps life and opened their home to abused and abandoned children. Doug felt God’s call on his life but Sandy didn’t until she attended the 1981 commissioning weekend where God spoke to her heart. Learning behind successful careers, the pues and their three children headed for the training college.

"Everything is possible through Christ who strengthens me," wrote Paul (Phil 4:13).

Still in one of their favorite tales dates back to their days in North Dakota when a little girl got upset on corps youth night because her brother had eaten her cinnamon roll. When Susan confronted the boy, he burst into tears, slid down the wall and wailed, "Yes, I did. But you gotta remember, I’m new at this God stuff!

Mrs. Brigadier Mildred Briggs

Mrs. Brigadier Mildred Briggs took her place in the "great cloud of witness" on the morning of October 9, 2012.

Mildred Louise Sharrow was born on May 18, 1914, to officer parents in Chicago, Ill. A gifted pianist, she attended the Chicago Conservatory of Music for 10 years.

In 1931 she met and fell in love with Cecil Briggs when he arrived in Chicago to enter the training college. They married in 1933 and together served in adult rehabilitation centers throughout their officership (while in Detroit, Mich., they started the center in nearby Romulus). Along the way they had four children: Walter, Raymond, John and Louise.

Mildred was preceded in death by her loving husband and son Walter. She is survived by two sons (Raymond (Patricia) and John (Sandra); daughter Louise (Mark) Anderson, 13 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren and numerous great-great-grandchildren.

Maj. Florence Moffitt has retired for the second time from the territorial historic museum, which became dear to her heart when she served as its director before retiring from active officership in 1998. She faithfully continued working on a part-time basis in the museum, commuting for two hours each day, three days a week, to perform much needed archival work.

She not only loves, and is extremely knowledgeable about, Army history, she relives it in her stunning portrayals of General Evangeline Booth and Lt. Eliza Shirley, delivering powerful monologues in full costume. Her historical compilations are equally as riveting, having written articles on many significant (and colorful) Army figures and events.

Maj. Jo-anne Price, historical museum director, said, "Major Moffitt was instrumental in moving the museum from the College for Officer Training to territorial headquarters, then rose to the challenge of filling the new space with exhibits, collections, photographs and informative narratives presenting the Central’s story. Visitors were always left wanting to hear more of her vivid, detailed stories as she guided them through the displays. Her legacy to the museum will live on."