Grand Rapids Kroc Center celebrates five years

by Jon Shaner

Dwight Chambers was already a member of the Grand Rapids, Mich., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center when a stroke took away his eyesight more than two years ago. He thought he might not be able to continue exercising at the facility he enjoyed.

“But after the stroke, I was almost paralyzed because when your eyesight is out, now you’re just stumbling and stumbling all around,” he said.

Now, despite being legally blind, he is back at his fitness routine, thanks to help from the Kroc Center scholarship fund and an attentive staff.

“From the time I hit the door, they’re right there at the front desk,” he said. “They run me upstairs, help me on my machine, then they have me timed… take me back down to the lobby, and I’m out of there. I appreciate that very much.”

Chambers is one of the members whose stories are featured in the Kroc’s new “Together” campaign, created to help celebrate the center’s fifth anniversary.

Major Marc Johnson, senior Kroc Center officer, explained the “Together” concept: “Life is so much better when you do it together, isn’t it? When you share life with people that you care about, and you form memories… I think those are special blessings from God,” he said. “As we look forward, we are excited about more life together as we continue to grow.”

Member Dwight Chambers works out on an exercise machine.

Anti-trafficking grants awarded

Three anti-human trafficking programs in the Central Territory have been awarded federal grants funded by the U.S. Department of Justice—Office of Victim Services to provide comprehensive services to trafficking victims through collaborative, anti-human trafficking task forces, announced Maribeth Swanson, territorial social services secretary.

The Western Division was awarded $90,000 to develop and co-lead a human trafficking task force in partnership with the State of Nebraska Attorney General’s Office and a cadre of law enforcement, prosecutors and victim service providers to develop a state-wide human trafficking task force for coordinated, comprehensive services. This opportunity allows us to greatly expand our collaborations and service capacity to trafficked persons,” said Dr. Burkle. “Having personally witnessed the devastation and complexities of trafficking, I am thrilled this initiative enables us to holistically serve those caught up in the tragedy as well as prosecute the traffickers.”

The Metropolitan Division’s STOP-TT program was awarded $750,000 and its contract renewed for three years to co-lead the Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force in partnership with the Cook County State’s Attorney and the U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Illinois. Having developed formal leadership, structure and protocols, the task force has successfully identified and co-led 10 cases since its inception.

The Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force also held a full slate of special events for the anniversary. They started last September with “Kroc Gives Back,” as Kroc staff, members, corps attendees and community partners teamed up for a volunteer weekend that saw the cleanup of two local elementary schools plus nearly 20 other home improvement projects for neighbors.

Captains Peter and Catherine Mount, who served at the Kroc Center from 2010 to 2013, returned for a “Reunion Sunday” worship service and potluck. A number of former—and new—worshipers also attended the event.

The annual Monster Mash festival, where kids in costume go “trunk-or-treating” around vehicles in the Kroc Center parking lot, reached a record attendance between 1,500 to 2,000 people.

On the actual fifth anniversary date, November 1, the center held a community celebration with a free pancake breakfast and worship, followed by special entertainment and prizes, including a ThinkFast interactive family trivia game, bounce houses, glitter tattoos and balloon animals, along with the regular family recreational activities.

The Kroc Center honored its long-time members and staff later that week with a spaghetti dinner and entertainment by Christian illusionist Tom Coverly. The anniversary events wrapped up with a VIP dinner for donors and contractors who helped to make the Kroc...
Gifted to serve and bless others

by Lt. Colonel Vicki Amick
Territorial Retired Officers’ Secretary

W e are each given a spiritual gift(s), and we’re expected to use them to bless others. Do you know what yours is? Is it so, are you using it? If you don’t know, you can take a spiritual gifts inventory or ask a few Christian friends what they see as your spiritual gift(s). You might even ask, “What do I do at the corps that brings me joy?” The answer may be your spiritual gift.

Why don’t so many of us take the time to know what our spiritual gifts are or to use them if we do? Do we lack opportunity or desire? Are we too busy? Perhaps we want to allow others the opportunity to serve. Whatever the reason, it isn’t good enough. God wants His children to serve Him and His family with joy, which is why He gave each of us at least one spiritual gift.

“The Holy Spirit displays God’s power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; someone else may be especially good at studying and teaching, and this is his gift from the same Spirit. He gives special faith to another, and to someone else the power to heal the sick. He gives power for doing miracles to some, and to others power to prophesy and preach. He gives someone else the power to know whether evil spirits are speaking through those who claim to be giving God’s messages—or whether it is really the Spirit of God who is speaking. Still another person is able to speak in languages he never learned; and others, who do not know the language either, are given power to understand what he is saying. It is the same and only Holy Spirit who gives all these gifts and powers, deciding which each one of us should have.” (1 Corinthians 12:7-11, TLB)

As an act of obedience, offer your spiritual gift(s) to your corps family. You will be amazed at how God opens doors and provides opportunities for you to serve Him and others.

Hail to the Chief volunteers

E ver think you could be recognized by the President of the United States? Surprisingly, it may be more possible than you realize!

United States citizens volunteering at the corps or elsewhere have the chance to receive the honor of presidential recognition through the Presidential Service Award. Facilitated by the territorial youth department in the Central Connection, this award seeks to recognize milestone service for all ages. The awards are offered in multiple levels and age categories with the pinnacle Lifetime Award for volunteering 4,000-plus hours. The Salvation Army is one of the award’s certifying organizations, and so far 54 people in the territory have earned it.

Recipients receive a personalized certificate, official pin, medallion or coin and congratulatory letter from the President of the United States. The Salvation Army additionally honors recipients with letters from the commissioner, program secretary, youth secretary and youth development specialist, Jerrie Miller.

Recently Robert Lemay from Springfield, Ill., earned our territory’s first Lifetime Award. Robert has been ringing bells at kettle during the Christmas season for 31 years. Since retirement, during the Christmas season he rings six days a week from morning until night.

“I’m just paying back my debt to The Salvation Army,” said Robert. “They fed me real good Christmas, got me presents at Christmas, got me haircuts and clothes. I hope I can continue for another 30 years!”

Another recipient, Barbara Gipson from Saginaw, Mich., is a jack of all trades and willing to help wherever and whenever it’s needed. “I just fill in wherever I’m needed, and do what other people don’t want to do,” she said.

Over the years she has counted coins at Christmas, stocked shelves at food pantries, picked up folks for corps activities and services, spent hours at nursing homes and much more. She has earned multiple levels of the Presidential Service Award, most recently reaching Gold status with 2,000 hours of service.

Barb Gipson works with Saginaw Corps’ Social Service Director Angela Emerson.

Andrew with his parents Victor and Emily Martinez

Springfield, Ill., Corps Officer Major Steve Woodard presents Robert Lemay with the Lifetime Presidential Service Award.

Central Connection

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**Lifting our voices as one**

by Karen Young

Many voices shared in worship, witness and workshops at the "ONE Conference: Voices" this past fall with presenters and delegates gathered from all four U.S. territories, Canada and Australia.

Music leaders, Bruce Harding and Warren Cooper, introduced us to the conference theme song inspired by Isaiah 42, "Lift Our Voices," which participants quickly embraced: "Sing for joy, shout from the mountains, lift your voices and give God praise. Sing a new song to the whole of creation. Lift your voices and give God praise." (Harding and Cooper, Copyright 2015)

Officers representing a growing Asian ministry in the territory brought leadership to the conference, which was planned by the territorial multicultural ministries department led by Captains Enrique and Nancy Araujo. Major Bounlouane "Bruce" Keobounthom, Madison Genesis, Wis., corps officer, led devotions; Captain Santhy Thomavongsa, Milwaukee West, Wis., corps officer, ministered through testimony and prayers, and Captain Bounhavong "Vong" Luangkhamdeng, Minneapolis Central, Minn., corps officer, brought the Sunday morning message.

Presenters instructed and inspired delegates throughout the weekend. Keynote speakers were Captain Nesan Kistan [Australian Eastern territorial multicultural director] and his wife, Captain Cheryl Kistan [Ryde, Sydney, corps officer]. Captain Nesan called delegates to live reconciled to God and others and to overcome their fears in order to reach people. Captain Cheryl shared a stirring testimony about God's faithfulness in doing what seems impossible.

On Saturday morning College for Officer Training Principal Major Cherri Hobkins and Lt. Colonel Lonniee Richardson, Major Evie Diaz and Major Dan Jennings, respectively, the divisional commanders of the Midland, Kansas and Western Missouri and Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divisions, shared insights from scripture, testimonies and stories of hope, justice, celebration and the future reflecting their areas of service.

That evening delegates gathered for a delicious multicultural meal followed by a service of celebration. Spirited gospel music from the Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center praise team and Chicago Englewood, Ill., Corps Red Shield Center engaged participants in worship. With beautiful symmetry and attitude, Filipino folk dancers filled the platform with color as did the Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps dancers, a Hispanic dance group, Hmong dancers and Laotian singers, all offering their gifts to God.

Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Selle, territorial leaders, wove their reflections on Isaiah 42 into the evening with an emphasis on being voices of encouragement, truth and justice, in addition to listening to the voices of our people. Workshops (presented in English and Spanish) focused on a variety of current and relevant topics, and throughout the weekend delegates were invited to worship in the Lao, Korean, Filipino, English and Spanish languages.

What a wonder to hear people—representing various countries, cultures, languages and life circumstances—lift their voices to proclaim the mighty and marvelous works of God. The beauty in this diversity was a joy to behold and to celebrate.

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**New Territorial Headquarters Dedication and Open House**

**Sunday, January 24, 2016**

3:00 p.m.

Featuring National Commander

**Commissioner David Jeffrey**

and National President of Women's Ministries

**Commissioner Barbara Jeffrey**

Supported by Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Selle

Music by the Chicago Staff Band

THQ will open at 1:30 p.m. for self-guided tours before the dedication ceremony. A reception will follow the meeting.
available assistance range from
swimming lessons through a youth
Heartland Division
Ottawa, Ill., Corps
Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division
Manistee, Mich., Service Extension Service Unit
Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division
Manitowoc, Wis., Corps
Heartland Division

S
short by $50, Melissa came to
the Ottawa, Ill., Corps last spring for assistance with a
utility bill. A single mother
who has been unemployed since
her job after 14 years, Melissa’s unemployments off
coming to an end. She didn’t
know how she’d be able to provide for her son.

Rachelle May, the corps’ case
worker, told Melissa about Pathway of Hope (POH). “She was instantly
excited and ready to participate,” said Rachelle. “Melissa faithfully met
with me each week to discuss her
goals and the actions needed to achieve them.” Among her first goals
was earning a GED, then to train as a
licensed practical nurse.

“I’d established a good working
relationship with a woman who ran a
single-parent GED program at our
community college,” said Rachelle, who’s developed more than 40 collab-
orative relationships with area col-
leges, businesses, non-profits, church-
es and government offices to help the 20 POH families she’s working
with—a remarkable accomplishment
for a part-time social worker.

“I knew this was the right place for
Melissa to start achieving her educa-
tional goals,” Rachelle continued.

Melissa earned her GED within
five months and landed a job paying
more than her last position. Thanks
to other collaborative relationships
with The Salvation Army, she attend-
ed budgeting and credit repair class-
es at a bank and enrolled her son in
swimming lessons through a youth
enrichment program. Other forms of
available assistance range from par-
eting skills classes to help with
housing, utilities and expenses.

“POH is a wonderful approach
that gives people a chance to
change their lives and those of
future generations,” said Rachelle.
“Melissa is well on her way to
achieving the rest of her goals and
support herself and her son,
whom she’s been bringing to the
corps for Sunday school, worship
and youth activities. That to me is
the greatest success.”

Also benefitting POH families is
the corps’ team approach. There’s a
strong joint effort between Rachelle
and Lt. Kevin and Megan Sechrest,
Ottawa corps officers. “We meet
weekly to discuss families’ object-
ives, opportunities and accomplish-
ments,” said Rachelle.

The Sechrests provide pastoral
care to families throughout their
first three months of POH involve-
ment, followed by continued care
as needed. Lt. Megan said, “It’s important to integrate pastoral ser-
ices as part of caring for the whole
person. This can be something as
small as saying hello and telling
them about corps programs to
meeting one-on-one to discuss their
cares and struggles and pray with them.

Rachelle also invites corps mem-
bers to share their skills and time
with POH families. “We’re integrat-
ning POH into all aspects of the
corps, from Sunday activities and
gym programs to our thrift store.
We want this to be a part of The
Salvation Army as a whole, not just
social services,” Rachelle concluded.

If it was a dream-come-true for
Terry and Nancy Keller, who recently
received more than 40 years of marriage
and youth programs.

Then last summer, Terry (the fam-
ily’s sole bread winner) was diag-
nosed with terminal esophageal can-
cer. He continued working at his city
department job of more than 40 years, but his
family was at their wit’s end after his
diagnosis and came to The Salvation
Army for assistance. Terry went on
medical disability several months later.

Lisa White, the corps’ POH case
worker, encouraged the couple—who
never had the luxury of extra time or
money—to do something special for
themselves as one of their goals, in
addition to finding housing in a safer,
more supportive community and
better options for health care and
medications.

“It had always been Terry’s
dream to give his wife a beautiful
wedding.” Lt. Vinal continued. “All
we had to do was turn it over to
help, and the corps and community
responded in a big way!”

A bridal shop donated brand-
new dresses, handymen built a
wedding arch and countless others
sent resources, time and talents
to transform the corps’ chapel and
fellowship hall into a harvest-
them. More than 200 people
attended the ceremony conducted
by the lieutenant, and 150 enjoyed
the reception.

“This city has made it easy for us
to be successful with POH. We net-
work with many different churches,
agencies and civic organizations
and recently received a $3,000
grant for POH from the Madison
Community Foundation,” Lt. Vinal
concluded.

New Pathway of Hope videos

Pathway of Hope (POH) is now
functioning in more than 75 percent of the Central
Territory. While there has
been great collaboration within com-
unities and caseworkers are finding their
work rewarding, corps congrega-
tions in some locations have not been
fully engaged.

To promote better understanding
and involvement, the territorial
women’s ministries department, in
conjunction with the visual communi-
cations team at territorial headquar-
ters, has produced a series of videos
about Pathway of Hope. For this pro-
ject they interviewed officers and sol-
diers where POH is working with the
full support and connection to corps.

Each 10-minute segment can be
downloaded or viewed (uscowom-
ensministries.com/poh) and includes
discussion guides.

Corps are encouraged to use this
series not only with their women’s
corps but other groups as well.
You’ll be inspired by a client’s suc-
cess story, a caseworker’s plan that
mobilizes a corps congregation to
support POH families and the vision
of officers who have introduced fam-
ilies into the fuller corps life through
the women’s ministries program.

The videos also will help your corps
understand the needs of families in
POH, the benefit of forming pastoral
care teams and successful ways to
connect the initiative to other corps
programs.
Central women minister in Uruguay

by Danielle Moushey

I traveled with a team of six other women from the Central Territory to Uruguay, South America, in October for 10 days of service and ministry, helping to lead programs at a women’s camp, children’s home, day care center and seniors home.

Our plane landed in Montevideo, Uruguay’s capital, where we met our incredible hosts, Majors Hugo and Maria Ramos. The first day was spent traveling on our way to a women’s camp in Guaviyú Hot Springs. There we met about 50 women and began a wonderful weekend of worship and fellowship with our new sisters in Christ. The Holy Spirit seemed to bridge the gap between culture and language; to me, it was a glimpse of what Heaven will be like.

Next it was on to the city of Salto, where we visited El Lucero Children’s Home, which tends to the needs of 23 children. Upon arrival we were greeted with smiles, hugs and the customary kiss on the cheek. It was heartwarming to see such joy from those who we might perceive to have so little! Our time at El Lucero consisted of worship, crafts and games. Later in the week we found a Christian bookstore, where we purchased Bibles for each child. Leaving El Lucero was difficult; several of us felt we left pieces of our hearts behind.

The following day we visited a Salvation Army day care center in Paysandú, where one ambitious soldier runs the Baby Song program. At the day care center we told the children Bible stories, sang songs and played “Duck, Duck Goose.” The children’s joy was contagious, and we found ourselves acting like children again. Since the center had recently begun to build a library, we donated funds to help staff purchase additional books.

The remainder of our trip we spent back in Montevideo, where we led a home league meeting at the El Atardecer Senior Home. The seniors loved praising God and enthusiastically showed us their rooms during the home tour. Throughout the trip we met many wonderful officers who ministered to us and shared their stories. Some of us are now friends on Facebook! Despite language and cultural barriers, we were reminded of the bond we all share as sisters in Christ.

Purpose, power and promise

This past fall the Eastern Michigan Division Women’s Retreat shone brightly with purpose, power and promise. Guests included speaker Veronica Levett Johnson, Colonel Dorothy Smith and Major Judy Garrington. Women had many opportunities to shine God’s light by sharing their faith with each other, including experiencing the new Embrace ministry.

They also enjoyed a full array of activities, including crafts, zip line and pontoon boat rides. A star search themed banquet was a highlight of the weekend, reminding women they are each stars in God’s universe. The camp culminated with a time of worship featuring a three-part sermon from Philippians 2:12-16 by Captain Deborah Winkler, Lt. Lorina Cossey and Captain Catherine Mount. Delegates were reminded that just as stars appear in varying degrees of brightness so we shine according to where we are in our relationship to Jesus Christ, growing ever brighter as we grow closer to Him.

Determined start, strong finish

This December Major Linda Mitchell retired after 35 years of officership. The child of Salvation Army officers, her parents’ example greatly influenced her life and faith journey, and from a young age she knew her calling was to serve as an officer. She didn’t hesitate; right after high school she entered training and was commissioned with the “Victorious” session in 1971.

After several appointments as a single officer, she met and married the love of her life, Edward Mitchell. They served together for 24 years at corps in the Eastern Michigan, Indiana and Midland divisions. In 2005 he went to be with the Lord after a battle with cancer.

“God used the darkest time in my life to tenderize my soul,” the major recalled. “There is evidence of how He changed me through the tough times.”

For the last five years Linda has served with the Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command. Her final appointment as the Southeast, Mich., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) assistant administrat for women’s programs was one of the most impactful and drew on her passion for evangelism.

“It was an opportunity to share the gospel with women who don’t know the power that can change their lives. I got to introduce them to that!” she said. “At the ARC we see miracles happening every day.”

The major has retired to Indianapolis, Ind., where her desire is to continue to serve at the ARC. “There is great satisfaction in knowing you have helped people to better their lives.”

She also looks forward to spending more time with her Indiana, “Hoosier,” family members.
Reflections on our Officershhip

Commissioners William A. (Bill) and Nancy Roberts, former Chief of the Staff and World Secretary for Women’s Ministries, share insights on their journey and our Army upon their retirement.

Over the course of your service, how has The Salvation Army changed?

It depends on what part of the Army world we are thinking about. Throughout the Army world the role and contribution of women is receiving more serious and careful consideration. (Nancy)

Also, in the western world, there is marked growth in community and social service ministries, in the underdeveloped there is greater growth in strictly denominational work. (Bill)

Looking back with 45 years of service, was officership what you thought it would be?

There were few pre-conceived ideas, other than preaching the gospel and caring for people. (Nancy)

Whatever we thought it might be, it has turned out to be so much more. (Bill)

Is there anything you’d do differently?

I would have involved Nancy more in whatever administrative work I might have been doing; that would have been complicated given she had her own and different responsibilities, especially when we were appointed to administrative, i.e. headquarters, work. (Bill)

I would have studied more theology in my early years of officership. (Nancy)

Would you share a compelling, interesting or insightful experience from travels as Chief of the Staff and World Secretary for Women’s Ministries?

Women have much in common, which transcends national, cultural and educational boundaries. They all are concerned about the well-being of their families and enjoy being with other women. They are resourceful within their own spheres. Those who have little are grateful for what they do have, little though it might be unlike many of us in the West. (Nancy)

Visiting China was a special highlight for me and meeting the sole remaining Salvation Army officer, 94-year-old Major Li Yao Wen, from the time when The Salvation Army was legal and active in the country. He remained faithful, though by himself, for many years when working on the commune. (Bill)

Does one appointment stand out more than the others? How so?

The last one! (Bill)

Each appointment stands out in different ways, and there are none we regret having; in fact, for all of our appointments they ended too soon. Certainly our first overseas appointment stands out because it was the first.

Could you tell us something about the role of Chief of the Staff that few would know?

The wide variety of things the Chief of the Staff is involved in and with; also, the very close working relationship, which becomes a personal relationship, with the General. As the chief administrative officer of The Salvation Army, the Chief of the Staff is the line manager of every Territorial Commander, Officer Commanding and Regional Commander in the Army. (Bill)
Could you share an instance where you unequivocally felt the leading of the Holy Spirit and what resulted?

For both of us, the acceptance of the offer of extended service, three times!

What was it like to have four generations of Roberts men sharing their testimony at Boundless?

It was a proud moment, especially to see son and grandson following in the faith! (Nancy)

Probably the same for me, but I say it much more humbly! (Bill)

What advice would you give a young officer just starting out?

Not to set any conditions, or have any pre-conceived ideas, on service as an officer. Remember it is God we are serving, and that it is He who has called us to this ministry. Recognizing God’s role in all this makes it that much more serious.

How would you characterize your faith journey?

A simple faith that God would work through our efforts, as we have been faithful in doing what we believed He has called us to do. It has been a journey of trust; in fact, an adventure!

Having become familiar with the rest of the Salvation Army world, what do you feel is unique about the Central Territory and our role in the larger Salvation Army?

Not sure there is much that is unique, but perhaps there is untapped potential to resource the larger Salvation Army world; not just financial resources—which are both appreciated and crucial to the mission of the international Army and Salvationists around the world—but also personnel, who will make themselves available to serve in places unfamiliar to them.

What are you looking forward to in retirement?

More time with family and friends from whom we have been separated for many years.

Anything else you’d like to share?

We are grateful for the strong and consistent support of the Central Territory since we left in 2001, and for the provision made for our retirement celebration.

What is the role of the modern-day Salvationist?

The same as it has always been, i.e. follow the leading of God, live a holy life, serve in Jesus’ name, be aware of the needs of the world and provide resources, personal and financial, to the cause of the Kingdom.
Robert Yanish, the owner of several Perkins’ Restaurants in Minnesota, has been a member of the Rochester, Minn., Corps Advisory Board since 2008 and currently serves as its chairman. When he’s attended The Salvation Army’s National Advisory Organizations Conference (NAOC), he brings as many of his board members as he can.

“I think our enthusiasm is catching on. This year we have five board members committed to attend, and I expect more to sign up!” said Bob. “The content, speakers and workshops are valuable to me both as a board member and in other areas of my life, and I love to hear the stories of lives being changed by the Army.”


“The keynote speakers are tremendous,” Bob continued. “I can’t wait to hear from Emmitt Smith this year! But most inspiring are the stories of people’s lives being transformed through the work the Army does. Those are the stories that really hit home, and you remember why you invest your time and treasure in The Salvation Army. It’s all about serving God and serving the people who walk through the doors of the Army every single day.”

Bob and his wife, Bunny, love the mission of The Salvation Army. They started by volunteering to serve meals and ring bells, which led to distributing and picking up kettle, counting money and participating in other events.

“We’ve attended Sunday mornings at the Rochester Corps many times. Once you really get to see all the good that’s being done, you can’t help but strive to do more to help. And our local officers, Majors Jim and Paulette Frye, truly love the people we serve. Their enthusiasm for ‘Doing The Most Good’ is contagious,” Bob added.

Bob feels the biggest takeaway from attending the NAOC is “it gets you fired up to come back and do the absolute best you can in your local Salvation Army. You won’t be the same person after attending the NAOC. You’ll better understand the mission of the Army and the mission God has for each and every one of us to do the most good. Finding your true mission in life is priceless!”

He concluded, “I highly recommend signing up—you won’t be disappointed! You’ll meet a lot of great people and take home great experiences that will not only help you as a board member but will help you grow in every area of your life.”

Visit expectchange2016.org for more information.
As the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) processed onto the stage for its annual Sounds of the Seasons concert, a sense of expectation was evident in the audience. On this occasion, however, there could be few who would have known what to expect following a summer in which the band experienced 12 personnel changes, including the new bandmaster, Dr. Harold Burgmayer.

As the audience held its collective breath, the baton went down and a new era was ushered in. The band opened the evening with Fortress, the first of five items arranged by its new bandmaster.

After a welcome and prayer by CSB Executive Officer Colonel Jeffrey Smith, the second Burgmayer piece came in the form of Ascalon Remix, a well-crafted amalgamation of three Salvation Army classics that feature the hymn tune “Ascalon.” In contrast, Paul Sharman’s This Day displayed the more sensitive and expressive side of the band’s playing, featuring several of the new principal players.

This year’s special guest was Paul Woodward, co-principal trombone of the world famous Black Dyke Band. His contributions in the first half of the program, The Follower and Three Songs for Trombone, were warmly appreciated by the audience. Paul then gave a moving testimony about his struggle with a serious illness that threatened to end his trombone-playing career. He spoke of how William Himes’ “All that I am” was a constant reminder of God’s faithfulness during this time.

One aspect of the CSB’s ministry that has remained consistent is its ability to proclaim the message through song. They did this effective-ly through three choral items: “Do Right!,” “Grace” and “Known to You.”

I personally appreciated the band’s fine performance of Illuminate, which I wrote for the CSB’s participation at the Boundless International Congress. This piece depicts a story of the young Christian who is challenged to be God’s light in a dark world. Illuminate closed the first half of the concert and was met with a standing ovation.

Opening the second half of the concert was Paul Lovatt-Cooper’s Power and the Glory, an exciting work based on “All hail the power of Jesus’ name” and “While glory crowns the mercy seat.”

Deck the Nutcracker, a humorousque arranged by Bandmaster Burgmayer, and Angels on High, accompanied by the CSB’s trombone section, further showcased Paul Woodward’s skills. Commissioner Paul R. Seiler brought a devotional leading appropriately into Burgmayer’s tone poem, A Rose in Winter. This moving piece is based on the carols “In the bleak mid-winter,” “Lo how a rose e’er blooming,” “O come, O come Emmanuel,” and “O come all ye faithful.”

The audience was given the opportunity to respond by singing, “O come all ye faithful.” Burgmayer’s enjoyable gospel arrangement of the Hallelujah Chorus, A Soulful Hallelujah, followed.

At the close of the concert, band alumni were invited to the stage to join in singing the traditional “Choral Benediction,” conducted by William Himes.

Throughout the concert the repertoire, enriched by luminous media images that helped the audience apply the significance of the lyrics to the music, brought a true sense of worship—the result of answered prayers. And as another Sounds of the Seasons concert concluded, we left uplifted in our faith once again by the “band with the sacred message.”
A Jubilee of heart and song
by Lt. Colonel Marlene Chase

Vibrant costumes and flags filled the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps sanctuary for a Jubilee salute to The Salvation Army’s Scandinavian heritage. Delegates from three territories gathered for inspiring worship, hearty fellowship and Scandinavian cuisine like meatballs and Swedish pancakes. The theme was based on the Swedish song, “I Have the Jubilee Down in My Heart.” Attendance for the two evening services and Sunday morning topped 800, with an additional 200 participating in a Saturday afternoon heritage meeting.

Making their second appearance as special guests were Colonels Jan Peder and Birgit Fosen, chief secretary and women’s ministries secretary for the Norway, Iceland and the Faeroes Territory chief secretary.

Faeroes Territory. Colonel Jan Peder’s challenging messages as well as his warmth and wit delighted audiences throughout the weekend. Everyone enjoyed Colonel Birgit’s winsome witness and personal charm.

Lars-Otto and Ingrid Ljungholm left a lasting impact, not only through their vocal and instrumental music but through their poignant witness. The couple, who have been musical guests in more than 20 countries, worked in the Texas Divisional Music Department from 2009 to 2011. In 2012 they became auxiliary captains and now serve as corps officers in Garland, Texas. Along with the Rockford Temple Band, led by Bandmaster Steven Sjögren, the Lakewood Temple Band at Maplewood, Minn., led by Bandmaster Rick Malmberg, participated throughout the weekend. A plaque honoring the Lakewood Temple Band for 125 years of service was presented by Territorial Commander Commissioner Paul B. Seiler, who with Commissioner Carol Seiler supported the Jubilee with their participation.

Adding to the festive music was a 40-member string band, led by Edward Higgins, the musical styling of the Hedgren Family Trio and Majors Roger and Cecilia Senn. The humorous antics of the “Swedish Sisters” [Anna Redmond and Birgit Prestom] added to delegates’ enjoyment. Lt. Colonel Marvin Dahl was honored for revitalizing the artwork of the Shagbark section of Camp Wonderland, which holds special significance for Salvationists and friends of the former Scandinavian Division. Fourteen retired officers were recognized for faithful service in that division. Rockford Temple Corps Officers Majors Steve and Christine Merritt commended the 20-member Jubilee committee on their planning and praised God for His presence and power during the weekend’s events.

The United String Band

Lakewood Temple, Minn., Corps Band

What started out with just three or four members grew to nearly 20! Sometimes the hour of study just wasn’t enough, and we found ourselves discussing a topic well into another hour. The fellowship and love within that small group grew as we spent time with one another.

It can be easy to become confined to the corps property, but I have found that joy in ministry takes place when we become available to our entire community for the purpose of saving souls! The uniform still opens doors. May we be willing to walk through them with Christ in our hearts and His Word on our tongues. To me, this is what officership is all about.

Anti-trafficking

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February Prayer Calendar

**Day** | **Bible Reading** | **Pray for**
--- | --- | ---
1 Monday | Job 9-10 | Norfolk, Neb., Corps
2 Tuesday | Isaiah 23-28 | Milwaukee Cold Spring, WIs., Corps
3 Wednesday | Matthew 11-13 | Northwest Indiana ARC*
4 Thursday | Romans 9-10 | Plymouth, Mich., Corps
5 Friday | Genesis 20-23 | Ottawa, Ill., Corps
6 Saturday | Judges 1-6 | Marion, Ind., Corps
7 Sunday | Psalms 15-17 | Candidates for officership and Corps Cadets
8 Monday | Job 11-12 | Western Chi**
9 Tuesday | Isaiah 29-33 | Pittsburgh, Kan., Corps
10 Wednesday | Matthew 14-16 | Gary-Merrillville, Ind., Corps
12 Friday | Genesis 24-27 | Quincy, Ill., Kroc Center
13 Saturday | Judges 7-11 | Regeneration young adult conference
14 Sunday | Psalms 18-20 | Minneapolis Temple Minn., Corps
15 Monday | Job 13-14 | North Platte, Neb., Corps
16 Tuesday | Isaiah 34-38 | Michigan City, Ind., Corps
17 Wednesday | Matthew 17-19 | Milwaukee West, WIs., Corps
18 Thursday | Romans 13-14 | Mid Region™
19 Friday | Genesis 28-31 | Pontiac, Mich., Corps
20 Saturday | Judges 12-16 | Omaha, Neb., Kroc Center
21 Sunday | Psalms 21-23 | Chicago Staff Band music ministry
22 Monday | Job 15-16 | Peoria, Ill., Corps
23 Tuesday | Isaiah 40-44 | Monroe, Ind., Corps
24 Wednesday | Matthew 20-23 | Salmon, Kan., Corps
25 Thursday | Romans 15-16 | Hammond-Munster, Ind., Corps
26 Friday | Genesis 32-35 | St. Charles, Mo., Corps
27 Saturday | Judges 17-21 | Menlo, N. D., Corps
28 Sunday | Psalms 24-26 | Men’s Ministries Sunday
29 Monday | Psalm 150 | Territorial Headquarters staff

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**My Prayer List**

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**International College for Officers**

Each quarter a Central Territory officer receives the opportunity to attend the International College for Officers in London, England, for a six-week session of training and development. Please keep the officer selected for the first quarter of 2016 in your prayers.

**Major K. Kendall Mathews**

Session 228
January 13 - February 22

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**Grand Rapids Kroc Center celebrates**

Center a reality in Grand Rapids. Through conversations and video messages, the VIP dinner helped to connect donors with the members and guests who have been able to benefit from the facility in the last five years—people like Dwight Chambers.

“I had all sorts of aches and pains, but since I’ve been exercising regularly, they’re gone,” he said. “As far as me encouraging somebody else to come to the Kroc Center, all I can do is tell them what all it did for me.”

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**Correction**

In the December issue Major Merritt Hartley’s promotion to Glory incorrectly indicated he was preceded in death by his former wife, Barbara. We regret this error and apologize to the family.
Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Major Florabel Caldwell was promoted to Glory on November 27, 2015.

Florabel Blair was born in Long Branch, N.J., on February 4, 1934. At a young age she accepted Christ and received her call to officerhood. Her life was guided by resolute dedication to follow God's will.

She met her future husband, Leonard Caldwell, at the Red Bank, N.J., Corps while he was serving with the U.S. Army and they began a correspondence. After high school she entered training in the Eastern Territory and was commissioned in 1955 with the ‘Soul Winners’ session, a fitting name since bringing people into a right relationship with the Lord was the passion of her life. Her first appointment was as assistant corps officer in Chillicothe, Ohio. Meanwhile, Leonard was commissioned in 1955 in the Central Territory, then appointed to the Kearney, Neb., Corps in 1956. They married in 1957.

The Caldwells ministered in corps, adult rehabilitation centers, divisional and territorial appointments in the Central Territory and retired in 1981. Selfless and hardworking, Florabel was dedicated to ministry but always prioritized her family and found time to teach Sunday school. She was known for her unshakable faith, love of God’s Word, practicality and quick wit.

Florabel was preceded in death by her husband and son, Earl. She is survived by her daughter, Fern; daughter-in-law, Heather, and granddaughter, Olivia.

L. Colonel Gordon Spicer

Lt. Colonel Gordon Spicer was promoted to Glory on November 19, 2015.

He was born to Amos and Fennetta Spicer in Grand Forks, N.D., in 1935 and was introduced to The Salvation Army at a young age when the corps officers began picking up the kids and teaching them reading. Gordon accepted Jesus at the Army and felt his call to officerhood at a young age.

He entered the training college and was commissioned in 1955. Two years later he married Arlis Lamont. The Spicers served their first 11 years together in corps appointments. They then served in divisional appointments in the Central and then Eastern territories.

Upon their return to the Central, they served at the College for Officer Training and the Metropolitan Divisional Headquarters, followed by leading the Kansas and Western Missouri, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan and Midland divisions. They retired in 2001. In retirement, the colonel and his wife attended the St. Louis Gateway Citadel in Mo., Corps, where he served as corps sergeant-major for many years.

He is survived by his wife; children; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Manitowoc hits the books

By Barbara Higgins

The Manitowoc, Wis., Corps has implemented Mission: Literacy curriculum into its weekly Wednesday night character-building activities.

“We use the curriculum approximately 30 minutes once a week after the children are dropped off from school,” said Lisa Stricklin, Manitowoc program and outreach director.

“Volunteers instruct the youth, who are divided up between beginners and more experienced readers.”

More than 50 children participate in the Wednesday night activities, and of those 20 are benefitted greatly from the additional reading lessons. The time is divided between the ‘Sight Words’ workbooks and helping the children read out loud to one another.

During the summer the Manitowoc Mission: Literacy program kicks into high gear. Last year there were 22 children who participated in the eight-week program. During each of the 16 sessions not only did the young people have fun learning how to read, but they learned about Jesus and the Bible and took home crafts to help them share Jesus with their families.

“We had amazing opportunities to share Jesus with the students,” said Bridget Constantine, then Manitowoc Mission: Literacy director. ‘My aim was to equip the kids to retell six main Bible stories to their families and friends.’

When the summer was over, test results indicated all of the students maintained or increased their reading abilities. According to Lisa, simply eliminating reading regression over the summer is significant.

The children also came away with a desire to read the Bible. One mom said, ‘Sam begs us to read his Bible to him every night. ’ ‘Please just one story!’ he’ll say, and then another, and another. We are learning as we read together that God loves us and the Bible has helped us learn to pray. We love sharing Sam’s Bible!’

A win-win for Western

To celebrate 100 years of girl guards, the Western Division issued a challenge. Any girl who earned their General’s Guard Award, the second highest in the guarding program, in the 2014-2015 program year, would earn a trip to the Wisconsin Dells. Six girls accepted the challenge and were: Kayla Chat, Emily Hokin, Megan Hokin, Michaela Lendt, Hannah McClintock and Wilchbach Riang. Together with the leaders the girls enjoyed a weekend trip to the Dells with a fun-filled itinerary complete with a trampoline park, horseback riding, devotions and much more! These were the first girls to earn this award in our division in several years,’ said Kim Herrigel-Walter, Western divisional youth ministry coordinator. ‘We’re seeing it bring awareness to the program and award and are hoping it will inspire other girls to pursue it!’

Focusing on the positive

Internal

• Commitment to learning when youth realize its lasting importance and believe in their own abilities
• Positive values for making healthy life choices
• Social competencies for effective interactions, coping with new situations and making difficult decisions
• Positive identity from youth believing in their own self-worth

Access to caring, trusted adults provides the building blocks youth need to reach their goals and thrive.

Connecting and building relationships with them is key.

Many of these assets are included in the ways the Army has connected with youth for years. The value of intentionally applying the framework is in focus, documentation, evaluation and description of our holistic work to schools, donors and general public.

According to the institute’s research, youth involved in faith communities tend to have higher numbers of developmental assets and are more likely to say faith is important to them. They also get involved in fewer risky behaviors and are more likely to exhibit positive values such as leadership and success in school. The secret is your