Power at the point of prayer

People don’t pray because they’re supposed to. They pray because there’s a need,” explained Pastor Jim Cymbala, guest speaker for the Power Point Summit.

We need God’s Spirit.

And so on an average June evening, in a venue which often hosts country or rock concerts, we came into God’s presence, with open hearts seeking His blessing.

“What does The Brooklyn Tabernacle need? The same thing The Salvation Army needs. Fire!” exclaimed Pastor Cymbala. Amens echoed through the room.

Citing a strong and unusual attachment to The Salvation Army, this dynamic preacher known for his church’s emphasis on prayer clearly understood our holiness heritage and unequivocally proclaimed the Holy Spirit’s relevance for today. His transparency and biblical exposition demonstrated that without God’s Spirit, we can do nothing; all is but show and doctrine and politics. But when His Spirit penetrates our hearts and illuminates our minds, we are more than conquerors. And this fire is contagious. This is the power we need to live every day, to grow our Army, to change our world.

When Cymbala gave an invitation, without fanfare or emotion, for those who wanted a fresh work of the Spirit to stand with him, it was not surprising delegates crowded the auditorium’s front, spilled up the aisles and stood at their seats. Soon the theater

General calls Salvationists to pray for the International Conference of Leaders

Having announced in February the convening of the International Conference of Leaders in London from July 7-13, 2009, General Shaw Clifton once again invites Salvationists around the world to uphold in prayer the senior leaders who will attend from every corner of the globe.

135 senior leaders, representing every territory and command in the five zones, as well as International Headquarters, will attend. To assist Salvationists in focusing their prayers, the General has indicated the following issues and themes will feature in deliberations:

• Working for Kingdom growth through the Army’s growth and the establishing of Army work and witness in new lands;
• Building up of God’s Kingdom through an ever-deepening commitment to Christ;
• The God-given role of Salvationists in working for social relief, social justice and human rights;
• The impact of global financial recession upon the Army;
• The challenge of working in Muslim culture;
• Understanding cultural trends in relation to gender issues, the younger generation and other Christian bodies;
• The ongoing winning and discipling of children and whole families for Christ;
• The constant need to prepare the future leaders of the Army on every continent;
• A reaffirmation of the role of all Salvationists in the building of God’s Kingdom on earth.

Delegates will spend time in formal discussions but also in prayer, worship and study of the Scriptures. A daily news release will be issued from the conference venue located to the west of London. The General anticipates that the conference will wish to issue a statement to all Salvationists soon after it concludes.

Serving as a constant reminder to delegates of the Army’s primary purpose to introduce people to the Savior, the focal point of the conference room will be an altar together with a large cross, prompting delegates to think of the crucified, risen and ascended Lord.

From an international news release.

Continued on page 3
A spiritual buzz that won’t go away

by Commissioner Barry C. Swanson
Territorial Commander

I can’t get the subject of prayer off of my mind. As I write these words, the territorial Power Point Prayer Summit is 48 hours old. The spiritual buzz just won’t go away.

We began the weekend by asking, ‘Lord, teach us to pray.’ And did He ever! In one of the most moving events of my life, I saw and felt the Holy Spirit direct in remarkable ways. Much of the weekend’s activities will be featured in this publication, but I’d like to give you my top 10 list of memorable moments.

1. The preaching of Jim Cymbala. Guest for the weekend, this pastor of The Brooklyn Tabernacle gave us two unforgettable sermons depicting the power and urgency of prayer. With a humble and unassuming style, he was a wonderful communicator of truth.

2. A large group of men and women responding immediately and passionately to an invitation to serve as Salvation Army officers. It was a very encouraging sight.

3. We prayed! The weekend’s goal was more prayer, and that was achieved by repeated scenes of hundreds of people on their knees before the Lord.

4. Thanks to Visual Communications at Central Territorial Headquarters (THQ), services were broadcast live over the internet. Hundreds of people were able to watch around the world. At least two reports indicated people came to faith in Christ as the gospel was preached in real time. Hallelujah!

5. It was a homecoming of sorts for three sets of former territorial leaders: Commissioners Ken and Joy Baillie; Harold and Betty Shoults. They all look great. I am thankful for their Godly legacy.

6. The commissioning and ordination of Salvation Army officers is always a high, holy moment in our tradition, and this year was no exception.

7. The celebration of world missions again took center stage. $7,293,444 was raised by our territory last year, and 44 young people were dedicated for short-term missions this summer.

8. The realization God heard the prayers of His people in preparation for the event. For seven days prior, officers and employees of THQ prayed night and day in its newly created prayer room.

9. The sight of 12 altars, representing each command in the territory, being carried into the auditorium in solemn procession as the congregation sang, "Send the Fire." It was truly moving.

10. Finally, the realization we have now entered a year of concentrated prayer with our 24/7 prayer movement. I can’t imagine what God is waiting to do as we earnestly seek Him. Please see your corps officer for information on when your corps or center will be called upon to labor in prayer. I am depending on you. I realize only a fraction of the territory could be in attendance, but be assured a fire of high intensity was started. Before long you will see its light and feel its heat. Don’t be afraid to let it consume you.

What’s on your stone?

Prayer is our work. It’s that simple. It gives us vision. It enables our ministry. A special focus on the privilege of prayer recently began in our territory. It’s called the 24/7 Prayer Experience.

The debut of this initiative occurred last month at Central Territorial Headquarters (THQ) a week before the Power Point Summit, intentionally timed to bathe this territorial gathering with intercession.

Two adjoining rooms have been dedicated at THQ’s conference center for 24/7 prayer this year. They will serve as ‘upper rooms’ of sorts, a place where we expect God to meet us, to empower us.

‘The upper room was the launch pad for the Church,’ said Commissioner E. Sue Swanson, territorial ambassador for prayer. She explained that the early Church was about prayer. It is the primary reason they saw people coming to the Lord.

Drawing on another biblical account where the blind man behesches Jesus for mercy, Commissioner Swanson urged officers and employees to answer the question Jesus asked, ‘What would you have Me do for you?’

She extrapolated, ‘What would you have Me do for The Salvation Army?’ They were encouraged to write it on a stone to be kept on their desks, prompting them to ask God for this often. Revival. Holiness. Encouragement. Healing.

Wondering what the territorial ambassador for prayer wrote? Fire!
Power at the point of prayer

Continued from page 1

was the preaching by Cymbala, who turned to the unusual excerpt of 2 Timothy 6 for a lesson in thinking rightly about relationships. Cymbala guided delegates in understanding how to handle the realities of desertion by those close to us who were committed to the gospel, deputation of others according to God’s will for them which might leave us wanting, and devastation that we can be in God’s will and filled with the Spirit but still suffer harm.

“There are some times in life when everyone will disappoint you or not understand you… but the Lord will stand next to you,” he exclaimed.

Spontaneously singing, “I need thee,” he was soon joined by the audience in this earnest prayer, and some felt compelled to kneel at the mercy seat.

Throughout the weekend delegates could avail themselves of the prayer labyrinth, a fascinating tactile experience designed to aid them in focusing their thoughts. They could also participate in workshops on creating a prayer room or journaling their prayer, visit Resource Connection with wonderful give-aways and learn about the mercy seat through a historical exhibit, or join in a prayer walk around the Gary-Merrillville Corps.

Saturday night’s meeting acted as the official dedication of the territory to a year of prayer.

“It’s not a program. It’s the presence of God,” exclaimed Commissioner E. Sue Swanson, territorial ambassador for prayer.

Throughout the evening she barked back to Isaiah 56:1-8 and the theme of revival.

“When God is ready to do some thing new among His people, He sets them praying,” she said.

The meeting was suffused with mighty music, testimony, drama, worship dance and the World Services Ingathering, a record of nearly $7.3 million despite tough economic challenges. Three summer mission teams to the Midwest, teams to Chile, Moldova and the Philippines and interns to Malawi and Peru were dedicated in prayer by Colonels Dennis and Sharon Strissel, Central overseas personnel stationed in Ghana who were home on furlough.

All of this primed Salvationists’ hearts for the meeting’s conclusion where an altar from every unit command was carried in procession to the platform while 23-year-old cellist Joy Trimmell played the plaintive melody, “Send the Fire,” consecutively joined by piano, the CSB and vocalist Captain Dan Faundez. Soon, the altars were obscured by Salvationists kneeling and standing together, a mighty beginning to this year of prayer.
The Chicago Staff Band 2009 European Tour can only be described in a word understood by nearly every culture—“wow!” It began at O’Hare International Airport with a direct overnight flight to Copenhagen, Denmark, and a transfer flight to the old city of Bergen, Norway.

When the band arrived in Bergen, it found six suitcases and 30 pieces of band equipment did not make the flight. It caused anxious moments as the first concert was only a couple of hours later. Major Robert Doliber, travel coordinator, remained at the airport to retrieve missing luggage while the band setup in the old, renowned Johannes Church. Our host, Major Jan Harold Hagen, territorial music secretary, had made arrangements for the band to play in this wonderful venue.

Bandmaster William Himes did not disappoint the audience, having planned “A” and “B” programs to alternate nightly. From the opening note of “In Good Company” by Dudley Bright until the closing flourish of Smetana’s “Dance of the Comedians,” the audience responded enthusiastically. At the end of every number I could hear the Norwegian equivalent of “Wow!”

This program features Peggy Thomas playing a solo composed especially for her by Himes, “Jubilance for Cornet.” Other soloists in the “A” program include Ben Kinzie’s cornet solo, “Joshua Swings the Battle” which is a jazzy rendition of “Joshua fit the Battle,” Jeremy Rowland’s whirlwind euphonium solo, “Glorious Ventures,” Joshua Turner performing Leslie Condon’s classic Eb bass solo, “Celestial Morn” and Heidi Strand singing “You Raise Me Up.”

From Bergen we traveled by bus to Oslo through some of the most beautiful scenery in the world, stopping en route at Hemsedal, Norway, a tiny mountain village. An elementary school there annually raises money for Salvation Army work in Russia. The school based students to a park where the band gave an outdoor concert, as a gesture of gratitude, with a background of mountains with melting snow cascading in sparkling waterfalls. (Of course, the students also were overjoyed to get out of school for a couple of hours!) Following the program the principal treated the band to a wonderful lunch of Norway moose rump roast.

A few hours later the CSB arrived at Oslo Temple Corps, where the “B” program featured soloists Brett Tolcher on trombone playing “Concert Piece,” Beth Cooper on cornet playing “Slavische Fantasie,” Kory Strand on soprano cornet playing Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Memory” from Cats, Shaun Thomas on euphonium playing “Pantomime” and Heidi Strand singing Sara Groves’ “He’s always been faithful.”

Other open-air concerts were given in Stockholm in front of the Nobel Peace Prize Museum, as well as in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Dresden, Germany—all with wonderful weather and herds of locals and tourists enjoying toe-tapping marches contrasted with gentle hymn settings.

Every CSB program included a scripture reading and devotional by me as the executive officer. Each band member was prepared to share his or her testimony, and in every program their witness related effectively with the audience. Ken Romin reminded the audience that many of the band members had a Scandinavian heritage and we are all family in God’s love. Karl Strand referred to a famous oil painting hanging at the back of the Oslo Temple.
Undaunted. Sometimes a session name seems prophetic. Such is the case with Lt. Colonels Mickey and June McLaren whose officership has lasted 40 years—an exceptional journey traversing 14 appointments, travel to 35 countries and some extraordinary, even perilous, ministry opportunities. They’d be quick to tell you, however, it was God’s plan for their lives and His Spirit empowered them.

Nearly 300 people met to express gratitude to the McLarens at their retirement. The meeting featured music by the Chicago Staff Band (CSB), for which Mickey has been the executive officer for the last decade. Bandmaster William Himes, exclaimed, “We really love our executive officer. He’s not so much an executive officer as our cheerleader.” An interesting turn of events since the colonel later confessed he really wasn’t a “band person” before this appointment, evidence of God’s humor.

A highlight was three McLaren grandchildren (Laren, Meghan and Shane) joining the CSB on baritone and percussion for “Amazin’ Grace,” Mickey’s favorite melody. Nine-year-old granddaughter Tegan then engaged in banter with Himes before trying out the tuba, emitting a surprisingly huge sound—gratis Dan Bell in the background.

Grandkids were featured again when the McLarens’ daughters, Kellie and Karin, unveiled the game “Are you smarter than your family?” featuring categories like movies, camps and family dinners. The McLarens could have been millionaires!

Humorous tributes were given by Major Richard Amick, officer representative, and Major Christie Van Zee, former soldier representative. Christie’s featured the McLarens’ first appointment, the Wichita Temple Corps, where she was a teen. Amazingly six from that unruly teen group are now officers!

The retirement ceremony was conducted by Commissioners Harold and Betty Hinson, who saluted the McLarens for keeping the Army mission in sharp focus and going beyond the call of duty.

“When God called I was not all that anxious to say ‘yes’ and even in training it was hard to stay,” said June. Honest, humble and heartfelt comments witnessed to her reliance on God.

Mickey thanked his wife and Jesus who’ve made all the difference in his life. “What’s a man like you doing in that uniform?” he asked himself before his commissioning and still seems amazed. “What are any of us doing in these uniforms?” he posed. “We’ve been redeemed. We’re serving the Lord, and that will never change.”
There is no greater responsibility as a commissioner than to be a part of this defining moment for our cadets, their commissioning and ordination," said Commissioner Barry C. Swanson, territorial commander, before completing this duty for the first time.

As the Witnesses for Christ entered the theater to a lovely rendition of "I'll Not Turn Back" by Shayna Stubblefield, anticipation filled the room.

The CFOT Praise Team led worship, all voices raising in unison to sing, "Take my will and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine." One could not help but realize the significance these words must have for the cadets. Shortly, they would fulfill a commitment to God's work and His people which would fully encompass every aspect of their lives.

Worship was followed by a light-hearted yet meaningful skit and scripture reading performed by Cadets Christina Cooper, Ron Wubben, James Curry and LeOtis Brooks. Cadet Paula Poff shared her testimony with sincerity and humility as she reminded her sessionmates and the congregation, "Only through His [Christ's] redemption can we be sufficient for what He calls us to do."

After a wonderfully poetic representation of the officer's covenant and the Affirmation of Faith, the anticipated moment arrived. As each cadet stepped forward to stand before the territorial commander, a myriad of emotions played across their faces and filled the auditorium. Commissioner Swanson proclaimed each cadet, "Ordained as a minister of Jesus Christ and commissioned as an officer within The Salvation Army." Once officially lieutenant, they proudly donned their tunics with new red epaulets and stood before the audience for the first time as officers.

College for Officer Training (CFOT) Principal Major Paul Fieeman concluded the ceremony with a prayer for the lieutenant. "Bless them," he said, "with wisdom, discernment, love for your people and empowerment by your Spirit. Father, we give to you, these Witnesses for Christ."

Commissioner Swanson then shared a moving message from Ephesians chapter one. Highlighting the gifts God gives His saints of spiritual hope, riches and power, the message concluded with a memorable time of commitment. Audience members streamed forward to the altar, while the congregation sang, "Be still for the presence of the Lord" and "Spirit of the Living God."

In contrast to the sacred and somber atmosphere of commissioning and ordination, the service of appointments was abuzz, exuding enthusiasm and excitement. Flags waved, kazoo sounded and the crowd roared as the parade of session flags ignited the meeting, only momentarily to recognize the retirement of the "Trail Blazer" session's flag, whose last member was promoted to Glory this past winter.

Chief Secretary Colonel Paul R. Seiler took the platform to conduct the long standing tradition of recognizing those sessions that have reached benchmark years of service.
Then amid high fives, smiles, salutes, waves and peace signs, the Witnesses for Christ made their grand entrance. Just as proud parents might, Majors Paul and Paula Fleeman, CFOT principal and director of campus services, bid the lieutenants farewell, acknowledging a job well done. “We give our cadets to your charge, commissioner,” said Paul. “Be assured they will tell the world of the Lord. They will witness for Jesus wherever they may be!”

Lt. Jamie Curry led the congregation in, “Onward Christian Soldiers,” after which the Chicago Staff Band played the moving and triumphant selection, “Vitea Aeternum.”

While the audience regained composure from the touching musical contribution, session speaker Lt. Michael Sjogren stood to address them. He spoke with fervor and confidence, encouraging his fellow witnesses to keep their eyes fixed on God through the good times and the bad. Then the session came together to sing “Christ in me,” showcasing their talent in music as well as ministry, a dynamic combination.

At last came the moment that had kept the new lieutenants on the edge of their seats: the assignment of appointments. Each new lieutenant stepped forward with a spouse, family, or independently, to receive their assignment. With heads nodding and eyes expectant, some were brought to tears of joy, while others beamed with pride as they accepted their new responsibilities as officers.

“Witnesses for Christ” take their posts

All appointments effective July 1, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

Lts. Anthony & Brianne Bowers
Corps Officers, Watertown, S.D.

Lts. LeOtis & LaTonya Brooks
Assistant Corps Officers, St. Louis Temple, Mo.

Lts. Jonathan & Christina Cooper
Corps Officers, Princeton, Ind.

Lts. James & Jamie Curry
Corps Officers, Fond du Lac, Wis.

Lt. Stephen Hansen*
Assistant Corps Officer, Albert Lea, Minn.

Lt. Amanda Hellstrom*
Associate Corps Officer, Evansville Fulton Ave., Ind.

Lt. Paula Poff*
Assistant Corps Officer, Olathe, Kan.

Lt. Aubrey Robbins
Associate Corps Officer, Willmar, Minn.

Lt. Ashley Shumaker
Assistant Corps Officer, Springfield, Ill.

Lts. Michael & Kristina Sjogren
Corps Officers, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Corps Officers, Kearney, Neb.

*Effective July 8, 2009, after Brengle Institute service.
National Commander inspires hope in La Crosse

by Kim Seidel

National Commander Israel L. Gaither brought a message of hope to La Crosse, Wis., this spring. During their first-ever visit here, Commissioners Israel L. and Eva D. Gaither celebrated 111 years of The Salvation Army’s service to the Coulee region.

The visit culminated in a civic dinner to benefit the emergency shelter. More than 270 people attended the event that raised $52,685.

“These are the times for which The Salvation Army was born—when there is discouragement and lack of hope,” the national commander proclaimed. “Look out for those marginalized and isolated in the community, including the hidden poor, and don’t think small.”

The Gaiters’ visit included touring Salvation Army facilities and meeting staff, advisory board and community members. The national commander was impressed with the positive response of the region to the Army, collaborative efforts among agencies, and the tremendous work of staff and more than 900 volunteers.

Reflecting hard economic times, it’s a record period for Salvation Army services. The La Crosse Salvation Army served nearly 93,000 meals last year. At the emergency shelter, the length of stay for individuals has increased from 21 days to 25. Overall, programs and services have seen an increase in the number of people seeking help for the first time.

“You are crucial to these deferred hopes and dreams. Crushed dreams can rise from despair. Dreams can be saved. There’s never a reason for a child of God to give up,” Gaither said. “Amidst the economic and social upheaval of our time, ask ‘Why not?’”

Connor band members from the Metropolitan Division’s Red Shield Center in Englewood knew they were in for a treat when they heard they would be performing at the Chicago Business Opportunity Fair at one of Chicago’s premier tourist attractions, Navy Pier. They were excited about performing at a sponsors’ breakfast and the ribbon cutting ceremony which opened the three-day event. But what really blew the young musicians away was meeting the guest speaker, NBA legend Earvin “Magic” Johnson. The former point guard for the Los Angeles Lakers applauded the band members for their talent and then surprised them by posing for a photo.

Bridging boosts membership

S purred on by the “Come Join Our Army” campaign, Corps Officers Majors Gregory and Lee Ann Thompson of the Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps enrolled five new families this spring. The hefty enrollment was a result of their successful 4K pre-kindergarten program and a newly implemented Friday night fish fry for senior citizens at Booth Manor senior residence.

Oak Creek began 4K in conjunction with the local school district. Ninety-six local four-year-olds attend weekdays and often gain interest in corps activities through a wrap-around program that allows parents to drop children off before or after pre-kindergarten classes.

As the children become more interested in corps activities, frequently so do their parents. After being introduced to the 4K and wrap-around program, Jenni Glowinski started to volunteer at Oak Creek delivering gifts to nursing homes and attending women’s night out. Soon her husband started to attend church and participate in the occasional men’s game night. Due to the quality of the programs and the biblical teaching, the Glowinskis are now happily enrolled soldiers.

Worship attendance by Booth Manor residents, as well, has more than doubled at the corps. According to Ken Tregallas, corps business administrator, Booth Manor residents were previously reluctant to join in at the corps. He helped to remedy this by instituting a fish fry, using monies from the Fighting Force Fund. Prior to enjoying a free fish fry dinner, residents attend a 30-minute seminar on The Salvation Army, which often draws them into Sunday morning worship as well!

In the past year the corps has seen a diverse increase in membership—from four to 90 years old, the results are dramatic!

Community prayer

O n Saturday afternoon a small but strong group of delegates traveled by bus to the Gary-Merrillville Corps’ neighborhood to pray for this community’s unity, economic prosperity and safety. After a rainy morning, the weather providentially cleared. Major Dawn Heatwole, event leader, reminded everyone, “This is an opportunity to learn how to teach your people to pray mightily for their neighbors and community.”

When the bus arrived at the corps, before heading out the delegates began with a prayer led by Captain Enrique Azaaje. He asked the Lord to bless their time in the area, and to give the group the right words to pray specifically over homes, the school, a nearby dialysis facility and local businesses.

As they walked some prayed silently, while others prayed out loud, still others sang or hummed. A few times delegates stopped to talk to people on porches or on sidewalks, asking if they could pray with them and extending an invitation to Sunday morning worship. The response was a blessing, not only to those around the corps, but to the group as they were reminded of the importance of prayer in their communities back home.
Newest accepted candidates

Jason Bigelow
Rushville, Ind. Western Division
Jason Bigelow received the call to officership as a teen at youth councils. He tried to avoid it. He said, “When God told me ‘You’re going to do that some day’ I laughed and responded ‘What would I have to talk about?’”

Jason continued, ‘Of course, now that I have been through some terrible struggles and know what it’s like to pull through thanks to Jesus, I have a lot to talk about.’

Jason, a territorial ministry intern at the Escanaba Corps, is looking forward to talking about Jesus as an officer for the rest of his life. He joins the Ambassadors of Holiness session from the Escanaba, Mich., Corps where his corps officers are Majors Bill and Betsy Cox.

Fawn Ashton VanPelt
Boone, Iowa Western Division
A Baptist church, youth councils and camp. This was Ashton’s pathway to officership. At 12 in a Baptist church in Bellingham, Wash., she found out you can’t get to Heaven by being sweet. You have to ask Jesus into your heart. She did.

At the Western Division Youth Councils at 14, she surrendered to God’s will for her life: officership. The next summer as a dishwasher at Gene Eppley Camp, Ashton felt God wanted her to be available to kids who needed someone to talk with. Her calling to serve in God’s Army and be there for others was confirmed. Ashton is a ministry intern at the Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps. She comes to the College for Officer Training from the Boone, Iowa, Corps where her corps administrators and ‘adoptive parents’ are Envoy Tim and Peggy North.

Daniel and Rebecca Kean
Albert Lea, Minn. Northern Division
Dan was looking for something bigger than himself that would help him, make him feel loved. He thought that was drugs, but at the St. Louis, Mo., Adult Rehabilitation Center he found what he was looking for. Later he knew he was to help others find that “something.”

During Becky’s sister and brother-in-law’s farewell for training, she heard the call herself. During an invitation, she asked her mom, “Do you think I should go forward?” “If Jesus is telling you,” her mom replied. Becky felt compelled. “I just knew,” she explained.

At the 2006 Mission and Purpose Conference Dan and Becky met. Becky said of Dan, “His fire to serve Jesus confirmed my call.”

They enter the College for Officer Training with their son Malachi, almost 2, from the Albert Lea, Minn., Corps where their officers are Captains Jim and Lee Brickson.

Randy and Debbie Stahl
Mankato, Minn. Northern Division
As a chaperone at youth councils in 1997, Randy was moved by the message of God standing with His children through thick and thin. He wanted that relationship and wanted to share it with others.

At commissioning in 1999 Debbie said, “Okay, here I am Lord. Use me.” Yet, she kept trying to do it on her own. Finally, at the 2008 candidates’ weekend she realized that all she really needed to do was surrender. Randy put it well for both of them: “If The Salvation Army will allow us to be officers, we will go and serve the best we can with all the guidance of God.”

Randy and Debbie came to the CPOT from the Mankato, Minn., Corps where their corps officers are Captains William and Ann Mealy.

They bring their children Keysha, 9, and Elisha, 6.

Lynn Lopez
Topeka, Kan. Kansas and Western Missouri Division
After years of partying and dulling her emotions with drugs and alcohol, Lynn reached the end of her rope and there found the hem of Jesus’ garment. That was in 2006. The next year she became a soldier and attended her first commissioning weekend. An invitation was given to consider if you felt called to be an officer, and Lynn did. She actually felt called at conversion, and this served as confirmation.

Still she found herself praying, “Why do you want me? I’m nobody.” Then Major Jeff Smith suggested she should ask instead, “How may I serve you Lord?” When Lynn did, God answered: “As an officer in my Army.”

Lynn joins the Ambassadors of Holiness session from the Topeka, Kan., Corps where her corps officers are Captains Charles and Betty Yockey.

Long Service Awards

40 Years
Major David Biggs
Major Jeanette Biggs
Major Elaine Boone
Major Margaret Nonnweiler
Major Norman Nonnweiler

40 Years
Lt. Colonel June McLaren
Lt. Colonel Mickey McLaren
Major Janice Carter
Major Stanley Magoon
Major Judy McPherson
Major Laurence McPherson
Major David Moffitt

35 Years
Colonel Dennis Strissel
Colonel Sharon Strissel
Major Diana Amick
Major James Amick
Major Elaina Cristi
Major Sharon Hale
Major Diane Harper
Major Susan Moore
Major Donna Van Hoesen
Major Gary Van Hoesen

30 Years
Major Gai Aho
Major Carole Caddy
Major Glen Caddy
Major Judy Foreman
Major Richard Foreman
Major Joyce Gauthier
Major Kathleen Hovelman
Major Daniel Hursh
Major Ruth Hursh
Major Mike Mills
Major Patty Richardson
Major Rebecca Stearns

25 Years
Major Susan Anderson
Major Gary Cole
Major Gary Fulton
Major Beverly Gates
Major Dawn Heatwole
Major Merle Heatwole
Major Brenda Hervel
Major Richard Hervey
Major Dale Hixenbaugh
Major JoAnn Hixenbaugh
Major Rachel Klammer
Major Mark Litherland
Major Barbara Logan
Major Susan Parker
Major Timothy Parker
Major Bethany Petrie
Major Keith Petrie
Major Douglas Pick
Major Sandra Rick
Major Belinda Riggs
Major Thomas Riggs
Major Renea Smith
Major Ben Stillwell
Major Beth Stilwell
Major Cindy Strickler
Major Carla Voeller
Major Lori Wright
Major Alan Wurtz

We salute the following officers on their milestones of service.

---Mustard Seeds---
Over $330,000 raised for Omaha youth programs

by Judy Horan

Many of Omaha’s most prominent leaders were in the audience at a recent luncheon which honored seven teenagers who may be Nebraska’s future leaders. Each teen received a $5,000 scholarship. All have a moving story of overcoming hardship.

“They’ve dealt with adversity and have already shown they’re going to be leaders in the community,” said businessman David Sokol. The event was named for his son, D.J. Sokol, who lost his battle with cancer at age 18.

This year’s adult award went to the Mid-America Council Boy Scouts of America for heroism during a 2008 tornado that struck a camp in Iowa, killing four scouts. Because of training by dedicated adult leaders, the scouts knew how to respond.

For more than a decade, the D.J.’s Heroes awards luncheon has raised funds for Salvation Army programs for young people. This year’s speaker was Christopher Gardner, whose best-selling autobiography about being homeless while raising his son was made into the award-winning movie “The Pursuit of Happyness.”

He talked about breaking the cycle of men not being there for their children. At the end of his inspirational speech, Gardner offered $5,000 for Salvation Army programs for young people if someone in the audience would match his donation.

David Sokol raised his hand. “It’s organizations like The Salvation Army that provide the social underpinning that is so critical and that the government can’t provide,” David later said.

An Army of volunteers

by Rob Bonesteel

Who is a volunteer? It seems our definition is as unique as each of us. Many images come to mind such as civic groups manning a kettle, church members working in the soup kitchen, school holding toy drives, corporate groups taking on large projects and, of course, the community person who helps out around the corps or institution. While these images of passionate, volunteer leaders are great, some most dedicated to the full mission of The Salvation Army are sometimes lost. Of course, I am speaking about our soldiers.

Often when I talk to corps officers, employees or soldiers themselves about volunteerism, I hear, “Soldiers are not volunteers.” Yet, by the very signing of The Soldier’s Covenant a person enters a commitment to “be actively involved, as I am able, in the life, work, worship and witness of the corps.” By that phrase our soldiers commit, of their free will, to further the mission without compensation. This is the very definition of volunteerism, and it is what our founders envisioned as the model for living out faith. Our love for Christ, gratefulness for salvation, and compassion for people compel us to serve others.

Our organization has grown from a rag-tag movement to an international organization offering a wide assortment of services and ministries. As the work has grown, professional staff have been hired, and hundreds of thousands of volunteer community members now join us in meeting human needs. Without them, we would struggle to serve those who turn to us for help. But, at the core of the ministry of The Salvation Army are our soldiers, committed to preaching the gospel and meeting needs without discrimination.

We are grateful to each of you. And as we strive to address the needs and treatment of our volunteers, you—our soldiers—are in the forefront of our minds.

A hometown hero

by Judy Horan

Kyle Lacy, 18, has accomplished something people twice his age may not have been able to do. Working with a professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, he initiated and carried out a survey of families with children who have Down syndrome.

The teenager’s presentation is used at local medical teaching institutions to give students insights into challenges the families face.

Kyle’s work was prompted by love for his sister, Cassie, who has Down syndrome. He also coaches Cassie and her friends for the Special Olympics and is a mentor in the Just Friends program, volunteering his time to work with a special-needs young man.

These acts alone would qualify him to be one of the seven Omaha Salvation Army D.J.’s Heroes award winners, but Kyle did more. He took a leadership role in a school-based program called Operation Others, helping the group feed 1,600 Omaha-area families in need at Christmas. Last year he received Creighton Prep’s Casmorn Memorial Scholarship as the junior who best exemplifies a well-rounded person in the Jesuit tradition. At home this compassionate teenager has taken on additional responsibilities because his father who has pulmonary hypertension, awaits a lung transplant.

Kyle has been named one of the Omaha Jaycees Outstanding Young Teens, has won the Governor’s Point of Light Award for his character and service, and was chosen United Way Volunteer of the Year for his work with Down syndrome kids.

There’s no doubt that this honor student and varsity athlete at Creighton Prep is a hero.

An Army of volunteers

by Rob Bonesteel

Who is a volunteer? It seems our definition is as unique as each of us. Many images come to mind such as civic groups manning a kettle, church members working in the soup kitchen, school holding toy drives, corporate groups taking on large projects and, of course, the community person who helps out around the corps or institution. While these images of passionate, volunteer leaders are great, some most dedicated to the full mission of The Salvation Army are sometimes lost. Of course, I am speaking about our soldiers.

Often when I talk to corps officers, employees or soldiers themselves about volunteerism, I hear, “Soldiers are not volunteers.” Yet, by the very signing of The Soldier’s Covenant a person enters a commitment to “be actively involved, as I am able, in the life, work, worship and witness of the corps.” By that phrase our soldiers commit, of their free will, to further the mission without compensation. This is the very definition of volunteerism, and it is what our founders envisioned as the model for living out faith. Our love for Christ, gratefulness for salvation, and compassion for people compel us to serve others.

Our organization has grown from a rag-tag movement to an international organization offering a wide assortment of services and ministries. As the work has grown, professional staff have been hired, and hundreds of thousands of volunteer community members now join us in meeting human needs. Without them, we would struggle to serve those who turn to us for help. But, at the core of the ministry of The Salvation Army are our soldiers, committed to preaching the gospel and meeting needs without discrimination.

We are grateful to each of you. And as we strive to address the needs and treatment of our volunteers, you—our soldiers—are in the forefront of our minds.

A hometown hero

by Judy Horan

Kyle Lacy, 18, has accomplished something people twice his age may not have been able to do. Working with a professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, he initiated and carried out a survey of families with children who have Down syndrome.

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There’s no doubt that this honor student and varsity athlete at Creighton Prep is a hero.
H ave you ever asked God for something and then you're surprised when He answers you? That happened to us in the Western Division. We were concerned about several areas for our corps: dwindling numbers on our soldier rolls, lack of visitors in our Sunday services, small numbers in the worship service. We knew it all came down to a few foundational issues and decided to address those in a 12-week corps growth campaign.

The divisional campaign would include points for: enrolling soldiers, visits to homes, contacts by phone, card or e-mail, an increase over last year’s Sunday morning worship service attendance, Bible study, people who participated in daily prayer for their corps, and fasting one meal a week. The campaign ran from the beginning of February through Mother’s Day.

Weekly phone calls were made by divisional headquarters officers to their partner corps, and a weekly tally was sent out. The results—wow!—were more than any of us dreamed. In that 12-week period 89 soldiers were enrolled, 1,355 visitors came to our corps on a Sunday, and 18 corps had increased attendance in their Sunday worship services!

People began to pray daily for their corps for 10 minutes. Corps officers reported their people were excited to be included in the prayer time. Evangelism is beginning to be practiced again, with one corps even going every Saturday out in their town and inviting people to attend. The Salvation Army for worship.

Captain Danielle Shields, Fort Dodge, Iowa, said, “I wish you could have been here on Sunday morning to hear the reports of our people from the week of evangelistic campaigns. We went out on Saturday and invited people in and had a carnival which was well attended. We praise God for what He is doing in the lives of our people.”

We hope this will be just the beginning of growth in the Western Division. People are catching a vision of what God can do through them.

When God surprises you!

Prayer and work yield 89 new soldiers in Western Division

by Lt. Colonel Dawn Hewslowe

Clockwise from left: Art and Karen Smith are enrolled by Major Ed Forster in Aberdeen, S.D.; new Omaha North, Neb., junior soldiers with corps officers’ son; new seniorsoldiers Bill McDonald and James Brinker with their corps officer Major Linda Jones in Mitchell, S.D.; Neb.; a highly successful outreach carnival in Fort Dodge, Iowa; and new seniorsoldiers with corpsofficers’son; new juniorsoldiersin Hastings, Neb., could “attend” the meetings.

Additionally, officers overseas like John Price at the Crystal Lake, Ill., DeJesus in South America West Louis Euclid, Mo., Corps and Major John Price at the Crystal Lake, Ill., Corps also utilized the coverage. Additionally, officers overseas like Captains William and Cassandra DeJesus in South America West could “attend” the meetings.

There were plenty of hugs to go around, and laughter filled the air as alumni of the National Seminar on Evangelism (NSE), held annually in scenic Colorado Springs, Co., met for a reunion held annually in scenic Evangelism (NSE), in Colorado Springs, Co., which brought to mind spectacular Pike’s Peak and Glen Eyrie’s views of the Garden of the Gods, Castle—plus the wrangler’s breakfast of yesteryear.

Commissioning at home

For the first time ever commissioning weekend services could be viewed from the comfort of home. Thanks to increasingly effective technology and efforts by the visual communications section of territorial headquarters, coverage of the meetings was streamed live through the internet.

Major Penny Mungai, corps officer at the Wichita West Orchard, Kan., Corps used it at her corps. “We were thrilled that we [corps] were able to be a part of the commissioning weekend even though we were not able to attend. On Sunday morning, we had three seekers. God is good!” Major Janice Love at the St. Louis Euclid, Mo., Corps and Major John Price at the Crystal Lake, Ill., Corps also utilized the coverage. Additionally, officers overseas like Captains William and Cassandra DeJesus in South America West could “attend” the meetings.

My Prayer List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Bible Reading</th>
<th>Pray For The Salvation Army</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Saturday</td>
<td>Psalms 90-92</td>
<td>Cloupet, MIl Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Sunday</td>
<td>Proverbs 14-15</td>
<td>Des Moines (Citadel), IACorps</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Monday</td>
<td>Ezekiel 43-48</td>
<td>Cadillac, MIl Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Tuesday</td>
<td>John 1-2</td>
<td>Green Bay, WI Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Wednesday</td>
<td>1 Thessalonians 4-5</td>
<td>Flint, MI ARC*</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Thursday</td>
<td>Leviticus 25-27</td>
<td>Central Music Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Friday</td>
<td>1 Chronicles 1-4</td>
<td>Detroit (Brightmoor), MIl Corps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* = Adult Rehabilitation Center

1 Chronicles 4:12 (MSG) as a guide: “By yourself you’re unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn’t easily snapped.”

Carol then led a prayer time using Ecclesiastes 4:12 (MSG) as a guide: “By yourself you’re unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn’t easily snapped.”

*Attendees formed into trios to pray for unsaved loved ones and made commitments to continue praying for the unsaved by finding two other prayer partners at their corps.

Strands of three

by Mark Bender

August Prayer Calendar
On the move

Effective July 1, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

Rehabilitation Centers Command
Add'l Assignments: Capt. Michael Haggerty & Lt. Col. Linda Barber
Washington, D.C.; Maj. Robert & Christie Carter
Add'l Assignments: Capt. Paul Burtner & Capt. K. Thomas Strohmeier
Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.; Maj. Jerry & Loren Henneman
Add'l Assignments: Capt. John & Sarah Dwyer
Oakland, Mi.

College for Officers Training
Col. Cara C. Burch, Director of Field Training;
Major Glen Cadden, Director of Business; Major Cheryl
Decker, Deputy DIR; Capt. Michael L. Moor, Chief, Career
Service; Capt. David & Peggy Hudgins, Admin.,
Omaha, NE.

Department of Personnel

General calls for suicide prevention prayer day

Survivor’s Day, an observed 9/11 memorial day, is
an occasion for individuals to remember those individuals at risk for suicide and for those bereaved by it. It is
held this day in prayer of the individuals and for the
survivors. The day is observed by the Salvation Army
worldwide. On September 11, 2009, the Salvation
Army observed Survivor’s Day with a worldwide
prayer, a call to action, and a call to remember.

Future prayer days are

Michael Debra Pascual, Removal: Volunteer Director,
Maj. Alice Scott, Volunteer Services Director, Major
Robert Scott. Service Director, Col. David Webster.
Dowling: Col. Robert Webster, Capt. Joseph Heydt, Capt.
Kathy Kryc, Add’l Admin., Maj. Robert
Heydt, Capt. Joseph Heydt, Maj. David Oneida,
Capt. David & Peggy Hudgins, Admin., Omaha, NE.

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