General leads 4,000 in holiness Congress

Our goal is that there would be 4,000 Spirit-filled hearts ready to make a difference in this territory for the Kingdom of God,” proclaimed Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, Central territorial commander as he opened the Called and Saved Congress. A new venue, the Schaumburg, Ill., Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, seemed symbolic of what the territory was seeking—a rebirth of a passion for holiness and service.

Holy People are Saved People

Throughout the weekend with General Shaw Clifton and Commissioner Helen Clifton, delegates were challenged to increase their vision, enlarge their hearts and step out in faith. In the keynote session, National Commander Commissioner Israel L. Gaither introduced the Cliftons. Citing the Army’s expansion and broadening influence in the world during their leadership, he said they were clearly God’s ordained leaders for this time. Later in the meeting the General indicated Army expansion will continue.

Soldiers they came, warriors they left

On Sunday morning the pinnacle of this year’s Congress began. One at a time, the Prayer Warriors saluted the flag and took their seats for the last time as cadets at the commissioning and ordination service. Just moments before, they had entered the auditorium to music by the Chicago Staff Band, following flagbearer Cadet Bradley Scott Burkett.

Cadet Jason Bigelow brought the congregation into a time of worship with a solo a cappella. Voices rose singing “holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty” with the stunning intonation that often distinguishes Salvation Army worship services.

Territorial Commander Commissioner Paul R. Seiler welcomed the audience to this “very quiet and sacred meeting.” Moving contemporary praise followed led by the College for Officer Training (CFOT) Praise Team. 

Continued on page 2
A wide and compelling biblical teaching by the General.

An undoubted highlight of the keynote session was the bold solo, “Soldier’s Hymn,” by Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps junior soldier Nyabel Chut with the CSB, Minneapolis Parkview, Minn., Corps Praise Team and Chicago Englewood, Ill., Salvation Story Steel Orchestra.

Examples that God can do more with our lives than we can dream were depicted in video witnesses. Commissioner Ira D. Gaither then led the delegation in a chorus and prayer and read from John 1:1-21.

Cataloging unlikely biblical heroes, the Cliftons piqued delegates’ attention to hear the Word of God.

“In Christ every ordinary folk and very imperfect folk—like you and me—can rise to terrific heights when we give ourselvesto the Lord Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace. Let me just share three of the many benefits that a life of obedience brings to the Salvationist who listens and follows God’s call.

First, obedience brings a river of grace. In our spiritual journey we experience many trials and challenges, but the chorus of a familiar song beautifully expresses the benefits of a life of obedience: "By the pathway of duty Flows the river of God’s grace. By the pathway of duty Flows the river of God’s grace."

Second, obedience brings joy to our lives. The chorus that many of us learned in Sunday school reminds us of this truth: “Trust and obey, for there’s no other way To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.”

Youth Convention (WYC) were introduced, and overseas reinforcement personnel were recognized as well as other mission teams which have served this year.

One of the most exciting meeting components was the revelation of the territory’s record World Services/Soldier/Denial Ingathering of $7.4 million! With joy, Commissioner Helen Clifton dedicated all this in prayer. “What an inspiring sight!” she exclaimed.

Third, obedience brings satisfaction. To complete our trilogy of benefits we turn to another traditional chorus: “I’m satisfied with Jesus here, He’s everything to me; His dying love has won my heart, And now he sets me free.”

As we have the opportunity to meet the wonderful Central Territory Salvationists, we pray that together we may find a way to be obedient to God’s call and receive a river of grace, as well as joy and satisfaction in His service.

William Booth in Salvation Soldierly said: “What He wants is not reasons, but obedience.” May it be so in each of us.
Listen to what the Spirit says...

by Major Paul D. Smith

The centerpiece of Saturday night’s meeting at Congress was a joint production mounted by the Eastern Michigan (EMI) and Western Michigan/Northern Indiana divisions. Performers from the two divisions presented an updated version of the Gowans and Larsson musical Spirit, an adaptation created by Kevin Larsson, son of General John Larsson (Rtd.), for the Southern California Division in 2008.

This dramatic retelling of a familiar story brought the events found in the first half book of Acts, from the ascension of Jesus, to the martyrdom of Stephen, the conversion of Saul, and Peter’s vision of God’s universal plan of salvation, into a contemporary setting. Songs authored by Generals Gowans and Larsson underscored and propelled the story, from the two divisions presented an updated version of the musical. Commissioner Gaither led the prayer service at the conclusion of the evening.

The variations in this production included the use of projected backdrops, contemporary settings and the modern rhythms of an updated accompaniment. The prison scene and Stephen’s martyrdom provided a stark, yet modern-day example of the brutality faced by the early believers. Another interesting feature of this production was an invitation to the audience to sing along with the better known songs in the production as the words were projected on screens.

Over 90 people comprised the cast, crew and pit orchestra. The production was under the direction of EMI Music and Gospel Arts Director Thomas Hanton. One of the main challenges successfully faced in mounting this production was bringing personnel from both divisions together over several months to rehearse and to prepare costumes and props.

National Commander Commissioner Israel L. Gaither led the prayer service at the conclusion of the evening. “This has not been about a performance, it’s about worship.”

The message woven throughout the worship was of people being filled and empowered by God’s Spirit then changing their world through sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Marketplace madness

by Kirsten Gorton

This year’s Congress provided a unique opportunity for young adults to gather for “Coffee with the Cliftons,” an exclusive Q & A session with General Shave and Commissioner Helen Clifton. On Saturday afternoon young adults packed out a ballroom to hear the Cliftons share their perspectives on the doctrine of holiness, women in ministry, the sacraments, our identity as Salvationists, and the chief dangers we face as an Army. Regarding postmodern society and the problem of relativism, General Clifton told young Salvationists, “We don’t need to dis-invent salvation. We need to know who we are and be proud of it. God has raised up this Army and isn’t done with us.”

Encouraging words like these permeated the meeting as the Cliftons not only shared their wisdom but their hearts. The afternoon echoed Philippians 2:2 (NIV): “Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.” Through unifying discussion, young adults were inspired to consider how they can contribute to the cause of Christ.

If you visited the marketplace at Congress, you visited the world. Indeed, it hung from the ceiling as a 14-ft. diameter globe, anchoring the space, raising expectations.

Delegates not only could shop Resource Connection and 30 vendors—triple the usual amount—for everything Salvation Army, ministry resources and personal collections, but they could support Army programs and fair trade through purchases at an impressive Sally Ann boutique.

They also could enter into a global village featuring four sections—perhaps an allusion to the four corners of the earth—created by the world missions bureau and based on Micah 6:8. Those who travelled to each booth had their passports stamped and then stood in a line as if to enter customs, but really they stamped and then stood in a line as if to enter customs, but really they patiently waited to take a stand for the Micah Challenge at the Salvation Army World Services Office display. As a reward, delegates received Dorcus Bead necklaces handcrafted in Africa.

Saturday afternoon the marketplace buzzed with mingling crowds and brisk business and featured two special events. The first was a book signing by the General—so popular with young and old alike—that it ran twice as long as anticipated. In addition to getting the leader’s “John Hancock,” the photo opportunity was not lost on delegates.

With top billing, the Chicago Staff Band played a mini concert, including a performance of Bill Himes’ Concertino for Flugelhorn and Band featuring the refined tones and technique of Beth Cooper; the last movement of the David Concertino for Trombone and Band with Matt Luhan’s robust sound characterized by Graham’s tour-de-force “Sirocco” featuring folk songs from Italy, Spain and Greece. The CSB concert was complemented by numbers by the Minneapolis, Minn., Parkview Corps Praise Team and the wildly popular Salvation Story Steel Orchestra from the Chicago Englewood Corps.
Growth takes wing at Eagle Creek

by Captain Leti Crowell

When the “Come Join Our Army” initiative was announced in 2007, we (Indianapolis, Ind., Eagle Creek Corps) embraced it to help our corps grow and become a brighter beacon of light in our community.

Our corps began an outreach ministry to build relationships. We went into the neighborhood and invited youth into our open gym program. From there we started character-building programs. We sponsored three teenagers to get lifeguard certified so they could work at Army camps for the summer and ensure good paying jobs for themselves during the school year. We got to know the parents of the youth.

Our women’s ministry began to grow; as well as additional small group Bible studies, a new men’s ministry group and a thriving corps cadet brigade. We are developing a young adult fellowship.

Some of our existing attendees expressed interest in becoming soldiers. We set up a recruits class schedule and invited people to come learn more about the Army. We enrolled 13 soldiers. Currently we’re holding classes with 10 people who are eager to be enrolled.

The “Come Join Our Army” campaign inspired our corps to be strategic in reaching out to others. I consider it to be similar to Weight Watchers®; corps growth is not a quick fix. It’s a lifestyle within the corps that informs, educates and builds a body of believers who truly love one another in the name of Christ.

Outreaches to youth and young adults have been keys to corps growth.

Harvesting in Iowa City

The astonishing growth and soldier enrollment that have taken place at the Iowa City, Corps since 2003 under Corps Officers Captains Terry and Jennifer Smith are explained by Terry with no pretense, “We just love people, put them to work and provide transport when needed!”

Modeling love and treating everyone like family by the Smiths has instilled the same attitude in corps members. As a result, the members do the outreach—spontaneously and sincerely—because they want others to have their same experience.

The family atmosphere is infectious; newcomers are warmly welcomed and soon are invited to participate in the corps. As they grow in their understanding of the Army, Terry continued, the natural progression has been soldiership or adherence. He estimates 75 soldiers have been enrolled.

A recent performance by the Chicago Staff Band on a Sunday morning at the corps coincided with a particularly large enrollment of almost 30!

“There’s no formula,” Terry continued. “People are naturally drawn to deepening their knowledge of the Army through recruits’ classes, and our strong character-building programs have been key to bridging children into junior soldiership. Many parents who were first attracted by our groups for their children also began attending the corps; they account for most of our new soldiers. And, because The Salvation Army is new to them, it brings a refreshing difference to our worship experience.”

From Champaign with love

What do you get when you mix a determined Salvation Army corps with more than 5,000 passionate volunteers and the Numana hunger-relief organization? Another million meals for Haiti!

This latest ‘Million Meals for Haiti’ project in the Central Territory took place in Champaign, Ill., where 1,012,640 meals were packaged and boxed in less than 12 hours. Five semi-trailers transported the meals to Miami.

University of Illinois graduate student Gregory Damborez had participated in a million-meals event sponsored by the Elgin, Ill., Corps while visiting home earlier this year. When he returned to school, Gregory called the Champaign Corps about holding a ‘Million Meals for Haiti’ event.

With support from the Heartland Division, Envoy Michael and Kris Fuqua, corps administrators, assembled a steering committee of board members and staff. The committee quickly met with Numana, secured a 60,000-square-foot former Hobby Lobby store, publicized the event and lined up volunteers.

Working in shifts of two or four hours, thousands of volunteers included university students [some from Haiti] and staff, members of fraternities and sororities, 4-H clubs, scouts, church youth groups, high school sports teams and families including former Illinois governor Jim Edgar and his wife, Brenda.

One of the recent recruits said Rosemary, “On weekends we go up to camp together, meet for barbecues or go out to eat at Culver’s. In fact, we’re at Culver’s so much that the wait staff knows us!”

Love reigns Superior

Color guard forward,” announced Major Rosemary Matson, corps officer, “Recruits forward!”

As 14 senior and four junior soldiers marched down the aisle of the Superior, Wis., Corps chapel to be enrolled, excitement was evident on everyone’s faces, especially that of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Divisional Commander Major Robert Thomson.

He had been invited to enroll soldiers, but Rosemary had kept the fact that it would be such a large enrollment a secret. Robert later responded, “Major Rosemary Matson is doing her best to have people, ‘Come Join Our Army!’”

Rosemary and her assistant, Connie Maki, attribute the growth and overall atmosphere of enthusiasm at their corps to love. “Our people are our family,” said Rosemary. “On weekends we go up to camp together, meet for barbecues or go out to eat at Culver’s. It’s the staff we’re closest to, because we’re eating every day with them.”
**Changing the world**

10,000 pennies. That’s what it took for the boys to beat the girls in a Rochester, Minn., Sunday school competition for World Service. The winning donation was made by Rande Kruger; who, bolstered by enthusiasm and Sunday school lessons on grace, donated three-foot tall, Pepsi-bottle-shaped bank packed with seven years of pennies.

According to Major Paulette Frye, corps officer, the original goal was for the boys and girls to each raise $150. Initially Sunday school members thought this was a lofty goal, but as the competitive spirit grew their donations started flowing. In the end donations more than doubled the original goal; Sunday school members raised more than $460!

by Allison Leedom

Two weeks in Africa

I t has been my dream to teach in Africa. This spring I was fortunate to be one of 22 Twin Cities mission team members to arrive in Ghana. I was one of 10 members who had the amazing opportunity of teaching in a nearby Salvation Army school in the small village of Woe.

The children are beautiful and have the Ghanaian spirit of giving. I experienced it first-hand. One day during recess, I went out to interact with some of the children. I sang while clapping children watched me try some of their cultural dances. After demonstrating my total lack of skill, some of the girls encouraged me to go inside and rest. Though I reassured them I was fine, they persisted. They then fan me, handing me water and brushing the sand off my feet. It was a humbling experience. I had come to serve the people of Ghana and instead I was being waited on hand and foot by children. I now see why Jesus said that in order to enter the Kingdom of heaven we must first become like children.

These beautiful children are why I have to go back. I want to share with them opportunities we take for granted. And while I’m there, hopefully I’ll learn to serve as they do. The head mistress offered me a job in five years that is where you’ll find me.

**World Services/Self-Denial Giving**

This year our territory banded together holding bake sales, car washes, dinners and more to raise a record amount for World Services.

Eastern Michigan $819,300
Heartland $322,720
Indiana $461,930
Kansas/Western Missouri $649,410
Metropolitan $1,055,380
Midland $769,160
Northern $612,000
Western $478,270
Western Michigan/Northern Indiana $452,050
Wisconsin/Upper Michigan $677,610
Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command $867,590
College for Officer Training $78,970
Territorial Headquarters $194,860

Grand Total $7,439,250

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**Under the mango tree**

by Jean Westberg

W arm smiles, beautiful people and joyous praise: these are my impressions of Ghana as part of the mission team from the Northern Division. Our team of 22 officers and soldiers, employees, church partners and volunteers embarked on the trip “to serve others” in the spirit of William Booth.

The men were of service by putting a roof on a corps building that has been waiting 30 years. It was completed the week we were at Woe, Ghana. At the dedication, our wonderful job was shown to 30 to 60 students in a classroom. They are teaching English and about Jesus. We had the joy of sharing the Mission Literacy curriculum with the teachers under the mango tree. We left two sets of this material with the school’s headmistress.

Clara and I assisted in the first grade. We taught the class the Hokey Pokey—a big hit with kids and teacher alike. Our teacher’s name was Delight; indeed, she was! Her adorable students are eager to learn.

We also visited the Army’s urban clinic that provides much-needed help for moms and newborns. Its maternity ward makes do with basic items. And then we visited the Hope Clinic and met young women who had been in prostitution. They are learning skills of baking, sewing and designing fabric thanks to The Salvation Army. We had a chance to purchase some of their beautiful work and will treasure it!

We worshipped at the corps in Accra. With encouragement we raised our voices in praise and thanksgiving and danced, knowing, Christ is the answer to all things. The Ghanaians are wonderful evangelists!

The people of Ghana gave me so much—more than I was able to give them. The Salvation Army is carrying out William Booth’s vision, being of service to those who need it most! I was blessed to witness their awesome Christ-like love.

They are teaching English and about Jesus. We had the joy of sharing the Mission Literacy curriculum with the teachers under the mango tree. We left two sets of this material with the school’s headmistress.

Our team’s women had the opportunity of teaching in a nearby Salvation Army school in the small village of Woe. The children are beautiful and have the Ghanaian spirit of giving. I experienced it first-hand. One day during recess, I went out to interact with some of the children. I sang while clapping children watched me try some of their cultural dances. After demonstrating my total lack of skill, some of the girls encouraged me to go inside and rest. Though I reassured them I was fine, they persisted. They then fan me, handing me water and brushing the sand off my feet. It was a humbling experience. I had come to serve the people of Ghana and instead I was being waited on hand and foot by children. I now see why Jesus said that in order to enter the Kingdom of heaven we must first become like children.

These beautiful children are why I have to go back. I want to share with them opportunities we take for granted. And while I’m there, hopefully I’ll learn to serve as they do. The head mistress offered me a job in five years that is where you’ll find me.

**Army now in 121 countries**

General Shaw Clifton has announced the official opening of The Salvation Army’s work in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as of June 1, 2010, making it the 121st country in which the Army operates.

The work in the UAE commenced less than two years after it began in neighboring Kuwait by Majors Mike and Teresa Hawley, USA Southern Territory. They were joined by the following year by USA Southern officers Lt. Robert and Glenis Vierra and exploration began for extending the Army’s ministry into the UAE, which already had a long-standing fellowship of international Salvationists residing in Dubai, one of the UAE’s seven emirates.

The Salvation Army was invited to plan a Christmas card service in Dubai, which was attended by hundreds of people. Meetings began in a rented property in Sharjah, a neighboring emirate.

With the cooperation of other churches, the Army’s UAE presence is growing. Residency permits and rented premises have been secured for regular meetings in Sharjah and Abu Dhabi, another emirate and the capital of the UAE. Relationships are being developed with prominent UAE government officials and in the diplomatic and legal communities. With the formation of an advisory board, these actions will help ensure The Salvation Army becomes part of daily life in the Middle East.

Three months prior, work officially began in the 120th country, Nicaragua.
Continued from page 1

Cadet Elia Davila shared in perfect English her testimony about relying on God to overcome language, academic and cultural barriers as a Hispanic cadet.

“While the CFOT was at work in my brain,” Elia said, “God was at work in my soul.”

Major Paula Fleetman, CFOT principal, led nearly 4,000 in a singing rendition of the doctrines which was followed by the cadets’ recitation as an affirmation of faith.

Afterward each cadet stepped forward to receive the great honor of being ordained and commissioned by General Shaw Clifton. The General looked each cadet in the eyes and sincerely welcomed them into ministry.

As the General read a scripture chosen specifically for them by the CFOT staff, many of the new officers nodded their heads with knowing smiles, some beaming with delight, others with tears in their eyes.

The General spoke on the call to holiness, reminding delegates the process of sanctification can often involve discontent.

“This sense of discontent is a holy, sanctified, discontent,” he said. “We need to use it as a springboard to go higher, further and deeper into our relationship with Christ.”

The General concluded with an altar call and an invitation to accept Christ. Many came forward to pray, and 138 declared a calling to officership. The General, as well, came down to the altar to pray with his troops.

Service of Appointments

With flags raised and fog horns sounding, amongst cheers, claps and laughter, the final meeting of the congress weekend, the service of appointments, began with its trademark enthusiasm.

Majors Paul and Paula Fleetman presented the newly ordained Prayer Warriors session.

“As cadets they have shown the staff time and again their resolve to pray for everyone,” Paula said. “They understand that prayer is the power that brings victory in the battle against sin!”

Commissioner Carol Seiler, territorial president of women’s ministries, recognized officers celebrating landmark years of service.

“Thank you so much for taking so many faithful steps for so many years,” she concluded.

strangers came to campus to live out a new chapter of their faith journey together,” she said. “We are changed people. We began soldiers, but we depart warriors!” The crowd cheered.

After the General shared insights from Luke chapter 10, Commissioner Paul Seiler conducted the much anticipated appointments to the field.

The territorial commander could not help but tease with the new lieutenants and children about where they hoped to serve. He maintained this joviality throughout the ceremony, captivating audience and new lieutenants alike, who were happy to receive primarily corps appointments.

Though Lts. Roberto and Elia Davila’s young daughter may have been disappointed to learn her parents won’t serve as corps officers in Hawaii, the Davillas displayed pleasure as the territorial commander appointed them to Kansas City.

In a surprise announcement, Lt. Mary Kim received an unprecedented first appointment as Kansas and Western Missouri divisional youth and candidates’ secretary.

Lts. Mitchell & Teresa Breto
Corps Officers, Jamestown, ND

Lts. Bradley & Cassandra Burkett
Corps Officers, Council Bluffs, IA

Lt. Jennifer Clinton
Assistant Corps Officer, Davenport, IA

Lt. Janette Clevelander
Associate Corps Officer, Des Moines (Citadel), IA

Lt. Roberto & Elia Davila
Corps Officers, Kansas City (Blue Valley), MO

Lts. Sean & Cassandra Grey
Assistant Corps Officers, Port Huron, MI

Lt. Dana Hixenbaugh
Associate Corps Officer, Aurora, IL

Lts. Joel & Ella Johnson
Corps Officers, Omaha (North Side), NE

Lt. Mary Kim
Youth and Candidates’ Secretary, Kansas City (Kansas & Western Missouri DHQ), MO

Lt. Amy McMahan
Assistant Corps Officer, Austin, MN

Lts. Matthew & Emily Phelps
Corps Officers, Madison, IN

Lt. Jane Polcyn
Assistant Corps Officer, Indianapolis (Habor Light Center), IN

Lts. Alan & Jodi Sladek, Sr.
Corps Officers, Columbus, IN

Lt. Jennie Sullivan
Assistant Corps Officer, Manhattan, KS

Lt. Julie Trapp
Corps Officer, Carthage, MO

Lt. Bessabe Vera-Hernandez
Kroc Center Officer for Youth Development and Outreach, Omaha (Kroc Center), NE

Addl Appt: Multi-Cultural Ministries Coordinator, Omaha (Western DHQ), NE
**Preach it sister!**

Today women preachers are becoming increasingly mainstream. In our Army, it’s par for the course—thanks to Catherine Booth who gave her first sermon 150 years ago! It was quite a bold move in an age when women couldn’t vote or own property.

The Salvation Army as we know it, even its predecessor The Christian Mission, didn’t exist when Catherine was moved by the Holy Spirit to “say a few words.” There are many things we owe Catherine, not the least of which is this precedent and the promotion of full utilization of women’s skills and abilities.

In honor of the 150th anniversary of Catherine Booth’s first sermon, Salvation Army women officers took to the pulpit on May 23rd across the world. Our own territory has been blessed with many excellent women preachers whose hearts and biblical knowledge shine when they open the Word to us. Though their styles and experiences may vary, each recognizes it as a high calling.

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**Doughnut Girl exhibit opens**

by Michael Rowland

Over 90 years ago a group of women from The Salvation Army went to care for American soldiers in France during World War I. These inventive women used the little resources they had to bring hope to the frontlines. Sugar, flour, eggs, baking soda, lard, salt and powdered sugar were in their limited supply of goods—not the right ingredients needed to create a treat but rather a treat and gesture of kindness. They made doughnuts and passed them out with coffee to soldiers, who started calling them Doughnut Girls. The name stuck.

The Doughnut Girls’ service and goodwill was remembered at the Indiana War Memorial last month with the opening of an exhibit. Items include tools used to create the doughnuts in the rough war conditions and a mannequin in doughnut girl gear which symbolized compassion and hope for soldiers.

 Speakers included Indiana Divisional Commander Major Richard Amick, Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, and Executive Director of the Indiana War Memorial Brigadier General J. Stewart Goodwin. General Goodwin explained the Doughnut Girls’ story was one Hoosiers needed to know.

The legacy of the Doughnut Girls can be traced to Indiana. Ensign Helen Purviance, a Hoosier, was among the first to be sent to France. She described her experience: “I was literarily on my knees when those first doughnuts were fried. There was also a prayer in my heart that somehow this would do more for those who ate the doughnuts than satisfying a physical hunger.”

The Doughnut Girls is a permanent exhibit and a tremendous opportunity to tell the story of a Hoosier and of The Salvation Army.

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**Preaching perspectives**

Wherever I have an opportunity to preach, I take my preparation and study very seriously. It brings me in closer relationship to God. The sermon must first speak to my own heart and make changes in my own life before it can influence anybody else. Even though I know I have a responsibility to prepare and study, the real work is done by the Holy Spirit... It is His work in people’s lives and my sermon is just an instrument He works through.

—Major Darlene Harvey

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**Camp divinely designed**

by Lt. Kristina Sjogren

Ask any woman who attended the Heartland Women’s Camp this May about their experience and you will, no doubt, receive a positive response. With the theme “Designing Women,” there were plenty of opportunities to explore and learn different ways to beautify our homes and to serve those who we invite into them as honored guests, along with making every part of our hearts and souls an acceptable place for the Lord’s dwelling.

From a “Parade of Homes,” which housed mini-seminars like home makeovers and gifts in a jar to “Pampering Shoppes” like a revitalizing massage and soothing manicure to "Let’s Make a Deal" where some impressive hats were worn, we were blessed with fun activities and Christian fellowship. Of course, a coffeehouse and boutique shopping were added bonuses. Guests from the Chicago area shared their experiences of faith with over 260 women delegates and a few brave men who served as auctioneers for World Services.

But the greatest opportunity for campers was focusing on the condition of our hearts. We were challenged through an assortment of Bible studies, workshops and thoughts from our divisional leaders to “clean out the clutter” and consider God’s Divine Design for our lives in Christ. Bringing the closing message on Sunday morning, Major Sharon Smith, then Heartland director of women’s ministries, said, “God’s plans for us go way past what we could ever imagine or dream. When we live in God’s grace we live in freedom.” Many decisions were made that morning, as well as over the entire weekend, to live a life full of God’s grace and mercy.
John and Kerry Bartsch
Traverse City, Mich., Corps
Western Michigan/Northern Indiana Division

John and Kerry Bartsch each accepted Jesus as their Savior at a young age and have strived to live within His will throughout their lives. John loves to restore old cars and sees a parallel between his hobby and the work of God in restoring people’s broken dreams and lives. Both John and Kerry want to pursue holiness in their everyday living. They are from the Traverse City, Mich., Corps, which is led by Majors Bruce and Mildred Jennings. They will come to the College for Officer Training with daughters Grace, 5, and Selah, 3.

Melissa Richardson
St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps
Midland Division

Melissa Richardson is an officer’s child who has known since she was 14 that she was called to be an officer. However, during her young adult years, she made some life choices which caused her to turn away from that calling. She attended the Mission and Purpose Conference in the fall of 2009, and her calling was confirmed again at that time. Melissa is from the St. Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo., Corps. Her corps officers are Majors Bob and Ruth Fay.

Majors Cornell and Candace Voeller and their four sons are off on the adventure of their lives: overseas service in Sweden. Most recently youth secretaries in the Kansas and Western Missouri Division, the Voellers felt God asking them to be willing to apply for overseas service, something they’d mulled over for years.

“Looking back, it was really about our recognizing His lordship in our lives,” said Cornell. “We had to move from being willing to actually applying!”

A short-term mission trip for the family to Jamaica in 2008 provided confirmation.

The Voellers were soon drawn to Sweden after hearing from relatives about its need for more officers and the country’s spiritual state.

“Sweden, like many European countries, is experiencing declining Christianity and church attendance as the society becomes more secular,” said Cornell. “God opened the doors very quickly for us to go to the Vasakåren Corps in Stockholm.”

The entire family took Swedish language classes last fall and attended a four-day immersion camp this spring.

Sons Ryan, 15, Alex, 14, Erik, 12, and Sean, 10, are excited about their new home. They’ve been learning about the Swedish school system and corps activities.

The Vasa Corps has a strong sense of mission; small prayer groups regularly meet in soldiers’ homes and at the corps. Among its many programs are Baby Song, a seniors group, a weekly family night with activities for all ages, small-group Bible studies and a teen Bible study fellowship. Café Prioet (open to the public) and Open Daycare (an interactive program for parents with young children) are designed to meet neighborhood needs.

Lorna Nelson
Evanston, Ill., Corps
Metropolitan Division

Lorna Nelson is excited to become an officer. She indicates her calling came gradually as she watched her corps officers live in a way pleasing to God and as they shared with her the joy of being a Salvation Army officer.

She went on a trip to Barbados where she helped to serve in a Salvation Army soup kitchen. After the experience, God confirmed in her heart that she was to become an officer. Lorna helps in many aspects of ministry at her corps in Evanston, Ill. Her corps officers are Majors Alberto and Felicia Rapley.

Called to Sweden

Majors Cornell and Candace Voeller with their sons (l to r) Sean, Ryan, Alex and Erik.

Long Service Awards

We salute the following officers on their milestones of service.

45 Years
Lt. Colonel David E. Grindle
Lt. Colonel Sherry Grindle
Major Marie Elsworth
Major Daniel Hudson
Major Martha Hudson
Major Flora O’Dell

40 Years
Commissioner Nancy L. Roberts
Commissioner William A. Roberts
Major David Dalberg
Major Stephen Harper
Major James Hoskin
Major Mary Hoskin
Major Manuel Madrid
Major Larry Thorson
Major Lois Wheeler

35 Years
Major Graham P. Allan
Major Venis A. Allan
Major Mercedes Bravo
Major Pamela Kiger
Major Stephen Kiger
Major Janet Litherland
Major Joy Ross
Major Roger Ross
Major Randall Siggren
Major Russ Siggren
Major Nancy R. Thomson
Major Robert E. Thomson

30 Years
Lt. Colonel Heidi Bailey
Lt. Colonel Ralph Bukiewicz
Major Phillip Aho
Major Carol Lembird
Major Ronald Lembird
Major Noel Mason
Major Robin Sheils
Major Sandra Turner
Major Douglas Yeck
Major Linda Yeck

25 Years
Major Colette Bailey
Major Keith Bailey
Major Carlos Bravo
Major Claire Castor
Major James Castor
Major Faye Flanagan
Major John Flanagan
Major Lucille Gates
Major Mildred Jennings
Major Karen Johnson
Major Marc Johnson
Major Prezza Labbee
Major James McDowell
Major Valerie McDowell
Major Lee Morrison
Major Melody Morrison
Major James Munig
Major Penny Munig
Major Paul D. Smith
Major Mark Turner
Major Gregory Voeller
Major Deanna Wilson
The retirement of Lt. Colonels David and Sherry Grindle was celebrated at the Mayfair Community Church which was most fitting as the construction of this beautiful corps building was completed and dedicated during the Grindles’ impressive eight and a half years as leaders of the Metropolitan Division.

The 500-plus guests entered the chapel to the accompaniment of the 50-piece Metropolitan Youth Band. Under the direction of Divisional Music and Gospel Arts Director Vernon Lawson, the band thrilled the audience with the 3rd movement from Cantata a Jehova Cantico Nuevo (“Sing to the Lord a new song”).

The Oakbrook Terrace Songsters, led by Deputy Songster Leader Joe Caddy, set the tone for the celebration mainly emphasized the value of a Christ-centered family. Their three sons, Matt, Kelly and John, each gave moving tributes to their upbringing in a godly home where prayers were offered daily, which they now replicate with their own families. Other family participation included a “family praise band” and a solo by Emily Rose, the Grindles’ granddaughter.

Glowing tributes also were given by Territorial Commander Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, Colonel Dennis Phillips, Captain Enrique Ansual and Major Renea Smith.

Captain Matt Grindle officiated the retirement ceremony while grandchildren Joshua, Katelyn and Hannah were the bearers of the U.S., Salvation Army and ‘Defenders of the Faith’ session flags. The ceremony concluded with a beautiful solo, “God’s always been faithful to me,” by Colonel David Grindle’s sister, Darlus Kumpula.

The officership of the Grindles included 15 appointments which began in small corps and concluded with leading the territory’s largest division.

They have retired to Mt. Pleasant, Wis.

The importance of our doctrines has never been incidental to how we live out our life in Christ as individuals, or as a global spiritual movement. Our faith, grounded in scripture, and validated victoriously by personal experience, has been the motive force of our obedience in mission.”

The cost for the new Handbook of Doctrine is $11.95. You may order it through Resource Connection at 1-800-937-8896 or at saresourceconnection.org

Revised Handbook of Doctrine released

A newly revised edition of The Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine has been released by International Headquarters.

This new Handbook of Doctrine retains the wording of the 1996 edition, Salvation Story, except for minor clarifications and stylistic changes. While it does not contain new teaching, it is a much improved study and teaching aid. The principal aim has been to maximize user-friendliness by:

- relocating the Bible references, inserting them into the main narrative at the relevant place;
- renumbering the chapters to match the numbers of each Doctrine;
- merging the main Handbook with the 1999 Study Guide into a single volume;
- removing outdated material from the latter and condensing it;
- revising certain appendices and introducing three new study aids by way of appendices 6, 8 and 9.

The importance of our doctrines was captured in the foreword of Salvation Story by General Paul Rader (Rtd.) who wrote, “What Salvationists believe has never been...
Majors Chuck and Jan Hendrickson have retired after more than 22 years of service. They were commissioned as Salvation Army officers through Officer Training School in 1975. Their first appointment was in Roseville, Mich., where they served corps officers for four years. Their second appointment was at Northern Divisional Headquarters in Kalamazoo, Mich., where they served as divisional ministry secretary and disaster service directors and Jan served as divisional administrative assistant of old age ministers and multicultural ministers coordinator.

"It’s ironic that we started in Roseville and ended in Roseville," Chuck quipped.

During their officerhood the Hendricksons spent a good deal of time serving as corps officers throughout the Northern Division, including five years in Fairmont, Minn. and five years in Mankato, Minn. Chuck earned a certificate of five years with the third division as a qualified minister of old age.

As far as I know, I’m the first male in Salvation Army history that’s been a league of mercy secretary," he said.

Chuck and Jan first met in Kalamazoo, Minn., in 1973 three months after Chuck’s first wife died of cancer. He asked Jan to marry him after only a few days of dating. They were married two-and-a-half months later on May 29, 1973.

"Every single morning since we got married, Chuck has told me he’s so happy I married him," Jan said to 50-plus staff officers at the couple’s retirement party at divisional headquarters.

The couple will spend their retirement in Kalamazoo.

Promoted to Glory
Brigadier Joseph Vondracek

Promoted to Glory
Brigadier Joseph Vondracek

Brigadier Joseph Vondracek has been promoted to Glory on May 7, 2015, before his 93rd birthday.

Born to Salvation Army Officers Elmer and Frances in Wagner, S.D., Joseph was introduced to The Salvation Army through Boy Scout troop #52 in his youth. Shortly thereafter, he committed himself to Christ. Determined to be a good Christian, he lived, by the grace of God, “became very involved in the corps.

He entered the College for Officer Training from Mitchell, S.D. and was commissioned in 1938. In his second appointment Joseph met and married Captain Catherine Clark. They had two children, with two children.

Together the Vondraceks served in corps appointments throughout Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. They also served at the Edwin Denby Memorial Corps in Chicago, Illinois, the city from which they retired in 1973.

In 1988, after 59 years of marriage, Catherine was promoted to Glory. In 2001, Joseph married high school friend Margaret Boster.

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