Swanson appointed ambassador for prayer
Heatwoles to Territorial Headquarters; Smiths to Western Division

Last month Commissioner E. Sue Swanson took up an additional appointment as the Central’s first territorial ambassador for prayer. While prayer always has been an essential part of Salvation Army heritage, it was felt that the timing was right for this focused initiative asking God’s blessing and empowering for the territory.

As ambassador of prayer Commissioner Swanson will work with the territorial secretary for program. She will create and direct prayer strategies for the territory, oversee the creation of a territorial website dedicated to prayer, teach on prayer throughout the territory, and supervise the development of materials, events and movements of prayer. Commissioner Swanson says in this new role she sees herself primarily as an encourager to Salvationists in regard to prayer.

“I am here to strongly, happily, faithfully encourage our territory to be very serious about concentrating our efforts on truly praying,” she said. For more of her insights, check out an interview with her on pages 6 and 7.

There are a couple of other changes in leadership affecting the territory. Majors Merle and Dawn Heatwole, who currently serve in the Western Division as divisional commander and as director of women’s ministries, program secretary and moral and ethical issues secretary, have been appointed to territorial headquarters.

Effective July 1, 2009, Major Merle Heatwole will be territorial secretary for business administration; Major Dawn Heatwole will be the territorial candidates’ secretary. They will take up their new appointments with promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Salvation Army visits Missouri State Capitol
by William Becker

The Salvation Army brought its advocacy to the Missouri Capitol through a successful legislature breakfast this spring. Twenty-four officers, advisory board members and staff of the Midland and the Kansas and Western Missouri divisions visited with Missouri legislators. They met with individual legislators and staff members to share The Salvation Army’s strength across Missouri and how we can work together to help individuals and neighborhoods during this economic hardship.

This information also was shared with Missouri Governor Jay Nixon by Major Jeffrey Smith, Kansas and Western Missouri divisional commander, and Major Lonneal Richardson, Midland divisional commander. The Salvation Army also was introduced on both the House and Senate floors and recognized for its disaster relief in Southern Missouri.

Governor Jay Nixon (l) meets with Major Lonneal Richardson (center) and Major Jeffrey Smith (r) and others during the morning.

Proud to join our Army!

The newest senior soldiers at the Marion, Ill., Corps are Rebecca Clark (left), 15, and TaLeea Foudray, 14, report Majors Robert and Linda Meyer, corps officers.

Relatively new to the Army, Rebecca is involved in Sunday meetings, senior songsters and girl guards. TaLeea has grown up at the corps and is active in girl guards, drama, worship dance team and Sunday meetings. She says that belonging to the Army just feels natural to her.

According to Glenn Welch, corps program and music director, a third recruits course graduate hopes to be enrolled soon and other corps attendees have expressed interest in taking the next recruits course taught by Commissioner Ken Baillie.

Last fall our prayer meeting averaged 12; now we’re pushing 30—many of them teens!” said Glenn.

Men’s club has grown from three to nine; songsters has grown from six to 17, and a Sunday night fellowship draws up to 35 weekly.

Rebecca and TaLeea are just two of the many people throughout the Midwest joining our Army this year. More exciting enrollments are sprinkled throughout this issue.

Photo by Commissioner Ken Baillie

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The gospel of peace

by Lt. Colonel Mickey McLaren
Secretary for Business Administration

Finally, my brothers after serving 40 years as an officer, I am being promoted to retirement. I must admit I am tired of elation, anxiety, anticipation, fear, excitement, confusion, happiness, dread and nearly every other emotion. I am, no doubt, what you would call a 'basket case.'

However, my mind is thinking of a different basket case. Recently in Rwanda, I observed two women from different tribes sitting and weaving peace baskets together whose fathers a short time ago they would have been bitter enemies. They were at a Salvation Army facility working and worshiping together. I saw the gospel of peace at work.

Vincent Johnson now preaches in the exact location where he once used drugs.

In spite of a Christian upbringing, he became involved with a rough crowd in high school. He tried to fill the God-shaped void in his heart with drugs and alcohol.

'I didn’t just have a drug problem,’ he said. ‘I had a sin problem.

Over the years he was in and out of jail, in and out of rehab. Nothing worked, but that, he said, was because, ‘My heart was not right; I still would not acknowledge my sin and need for the Lord.’

One night Vincent stole detergent from a grocery store for drug money. He got caught. He was also in possession of cocaine. However, the officer who arrested him was a Christian, and by God’s grace, charged Vincent with theft, merely confiscating the drugs. Vincent cried out to the Lord and in that instant he was healed of his addiction.

Throughout his addiction and incarceration Vincent’s wife, Sherry, remained faithful and strong. Vincent said, ‘There would be no me if there was no Sherry.’

Vincent was released from prison in 2004 and has been drug free since. Although blessed with a job as an autopsy technician, Vincent believes the Lord is leading him toward fulltime ministry. He has been a bi-vocational minister in the community and started Another Chance Ministry of Chicago.

Last August The Salvation Army partnered with this ministry to host a Health Fair & Gospel Concert. Through that connection the Johnsons started attending The Salvation Army and became soldiers. They are working with Majors David and Darlene Harvey in planting the Chicago Kroc Corps Community Center and in the future would like to become officers.

I was the team leader on a tsunami relief effort in Sri Lanka and witnessed the destructive power of water. I saw despair and hopelessness in people who had lost their families and homes—everything they possessed. That territory in cooperation with International Headquarters built new homes for hundreds of people. When these homes were given to people, they could not believe that we would do this for Hindus, Buddhists and Christians of other denominations.

Their gratitude was overwhelming. I saw the gospel of peace at work.

June and I served in the country of Ghana in West Africa where the country of Nigeria repatriated over a million Ghanaians back to Ghana. The Salvation Army set up reception areas at the airport and bus parks to alleviate the trauma people were experiencing. Ghanaian Salvationists were wonderful in receiving and welcoming back to Ghana people of other tribes and religions. I saw the gospel of peace at work.

A businessman here in the U.S. met with me for lunch one day. I was interested in his background and family, so I began to ask him questions. He opened up and shared some serious family and financial problems he was experiencing. He did not know how to begin to solve the problems and saw no relief in sight. I asked if I could pray for him and his family, and at the lunch table Jesus came and ministered to us. I saw the gospel of peace at work.

The gospel of peace is always at work. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 13:11 (NIV): ‘Finally, brothers, good morning. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.’

Let the gospel of love and peace flow through you.

An awesome sight!

Resurrection Sunday at Traverse City, Mich., Corps was an awesome celebration. The corps grew by nine senior soldiers! ‘We’ve been having classes with Jim Garrington’s curriculum Equipped for Battle,’ said Major Bruce Jennings. ‘Our classes have been averaging 22 people each Sunday evening. We had new people at the studies as well as those who’ve been senior soldiers for a number of years.’

Those who attended enjoyed wonderful fellowship and discussion. Out of those classes, nine people made commitments to become soldiers and were enrolled Easter Sunday morning. They are now recruiting others!

‘It’s an awesome sight when we look out over the congregation and view the sea of people in navy blue uniforms raising their voices in praise to God,’ concluded the major.
Newest accepted candidates

Meghan Labrecque
Chicago Mount Greenwood, Ill., Corps Metropolitan Division

A summer camp job started Meghan’s road to officership. It was at camp she had her first personal encounter with Jesus.

After a semester of college in Boston, Mass., she returned home to Maine for a second semester and got involved in the corps. From there it was a year at The Salvation Army War College in Vancouver, Canada, then the War College in Chicago, Ill.

During the summer of 2008 at Old Orchard Beach in Maine, she heard National Commander Commissioner Israel L. Gaither preach about listening to God’s calling.

“I heard God telling me to go into training. At first I was hesitant, but my corps officers encouraged me to start the application process. So I did. I have faith what God has planned for my life is better than what I had planned.”

Meghan will join the Ambassadors of Holiness Session from the Chicago Mount Greenwood Corps when her corps leaders are Envoy Josh and Jen Polanco.

Rodney and Kristina Morin
Anderson, Ind., Corps Indiana Division

Rodney and Kris received God’s call to officership on the same day at the same time—150 miles apart! Both were fairly new to The Salvation Army at the Porter County, Ind., Corps. When His call came, Rodney was at the corps’ pulpit reading scripture and Kris was at women’s camp at Little Pine Island. Although both heard God call them, they couldn’t believe it.

When Kris returned home Rodney told her, “We need to talk.” It was at that time God gave confirmation of His call in their lives. Since that day, they’ve been growing closer to the Lord and learning much about the demands of officership.

When that is exactly what it means,” said Major Mary Hammerly, territorial multicultural ministries department secretary. “Whether you’re new to cross-cultural ministries or a veteran in the field, this seminar has been planned to help delegates gain the skills to be effective in their community and corps ministries.” She continued, “We want our ministry leaders to be confident, encouraged and inspired.”

Special guests include Lt. Colonels Mickey and June McLaren, who will give the keynote address and speak on serving in Ghana. The Rev. Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil will challenge us to say “yes” to the cultural mandate for ministry and help us understand the effect of culture on institutions. The Rev. Alexa Salvatierra will share her work with immigrant families, addressing immigration with both sensitivity and expertise. Lt. Colonels Abraham and Louise Johnson will bring insight to the historical contributions of African-Americans to The Salvation Army and ministry opportunities with this population.

Experienced in Christian community development, Noel Castellanos will address developing young church leaders in a multicultural context, while author Patty Lane, having worked with more than 20 language and cultural groups, will provide a framework for working with any culture. Dr. Mark Hausfeld will share stories and insights about working with Muslims, one of the fastest growing populations in the U.S. and the world. There’s more, including workshops in Spanish.

The seminar will be held October 16-18, 2009, at the Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, Ill. Registration is just $125 per person or $100 per person for a group of five or more. This includes all meals and activities. The hotel room rate is only $84.

Register online at www.multiculturalministriescentral.org.

Parade features Omaha Kroc Center

by Molly Skold

The Salvation Army Omaha Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center made a big splash at the annual Cinco de Mayo parade in South Omaha, Neb., last month with their colorful 52-foot flat-bed truck and five-member brass band.

The Kroc Center float treated thousands of parade-goers to colorful stickers and musical entertainment and reminded them of the state-of-the-art facility’s fall opening. But that wasn’t all Kroc Center organizers and adventure corps members who waved cheerfully at onlookers.

The Kroc Center float treated thousands of parade-goers to colorful stickers and musical entertainment and reminded them of the state-of-the-art facility’s fall opening. But that wasn’t all Kroc Center organizers and adventure corps members who waved cheerfully at onlookers.

Rodney and Kris will enter the College for Officer Training with their three children, Rodney Jr., 16; Kara, 5; and Nathanael, 2, from the Anderson, Ind., Corps where their corps officers are Captains Nathan and Michele Harms.
The Central Territory has engaged in a year of 24/7 prayer, beginning with the 2009 Power Point Prayer Summit and continuing through the 2010 General’s Congress. This year-long prayer initiative was launched at territorial headquarters when a prayer room was opened on June 5th.

Captain Carol Lewis, territorial evangelism and corps growth secretary, shared, “At the heart of this 24/7 prayer movement exists the passion to transform our communities and our very lives through Christ-centered, Holy Spirit-filled prayer.”

Every division, adult rehabilitation centers, the College for Officer Training, summer mission teams and retired officers will have the opportunity to join an international chain of prayer throughout 2009 and 2010.

The newly created prayer website, www.PrayerCentralUSA.org will provide information for operating a prayer room, including focused topics, suggested scripture, prayer room stories and a prayer room blog. Hundreds of non-stop prayer meetings all over the world will be linked via this website to form a unique chain of unbroken prayer. Locations are encouraged to fill their 24/7 prayer rooms with creative resources that may help people express their prayer experience. Even nonbelievers may feel drawn to pray here.

In a passionate call to prayer, Captain Carol Lewis added, “As people pour out before God those who need to know Jesus as Savior, to situations of poverty, oppression and injustice, God will meet us, will fill us with fresh enthusiasm to share the gospel and vision for social action.”

June 1st marked the launch of www.PrayerCentralUSA.org, the Central Territory’s new website devoted to prayer. This easy-to-navigate website will serve as a portal to pray for the unsaved, youth, urban and multicultural ministries, candidate recruitment and the “Come Join our Army” emphasis.

“Prayer is at the heart of everything we do,” explained Commissioner E. Sue Swanson, territorial ambassador for prayer. “That’s why Prayer Central is the perfect name for our website!”

The prayer component provides resources for a 24/7 Prayer Experience, such as a “How-to Manual for 24/7 Prayer,” a place to submit prayer requests, requests for prayer, testimonies to the power of prayer, a prayer blog, and even links to Facebook and an option for Twitter prayers!

The website allows individuals, groups, corps or divisions to sign up for a period of time, helping ensure at any given moment someone’s praying in the Central Territory. All who access the website can see who is praying on any given date.

In Chosen to Be a Soldier (Orders and Regulations for Soldiers of The Salvation Army), prayer encouragement is given: “Many a revival has been given as a reply to the persistent praying of soldiers; and few exercises are more beneficial to one’s own spiritual life than sharing with others the warfare of prayer.” (Ch. 4, Sect. 1, Para. 7)

A monthly prayer calendar is now available on the Prayer Central website and can be downloaded for use as a personal prayer journal. Every month has a specific theme for focused prayer. Daily scripture passages are suggested, as well as prayer topics. Beginning in the July issue, Central Connection will feature the first week of this calendar as a helpful reminder to visit the website.
What are you hoping this movement/initiative will do for the individual Salvationist and the territory as a whole? What do you hope to see happen?

I believe that prayer will help us grow in Christ. We can be the holy people God wants us to be. As we join in prayer we will be a united fighting force seeking to obediently follow Christ. As a territory we will see God at work. Unsaved will come to new life in Christ. His Spirit will challenge us to love in new and dynamic ways. We will grow in love and faith.

With the 24/7 prayer initiative, are there certain things you want us to focus on in prayer?

We want to pray that we will know Him. We want to pray that through The Salvation Army people will be changed, communities will be transformed, and God will direct us to new ways to obediently serve Him.

What does praying together do for us as believers?

We experience “upper room” unity that can only come from the Lord. The Holy Spirit allows us to challenge each other to grow. We also know that we are a part of something larger than ourselves.

How would things be different if we prayed?

We would be released from the burden of trying to do things in our own strength. We would be set free from modeling our lives after the world which tells us to be self-reliant instead of God-reliant. God would guide us to know Him in new and life-altering ways.

In the present economy how should we be praying?

First, we should be very sure that we are praying. In stress and uncertainty we can get anxious and actually forget to pray. Now we can be praying that God will use these times to open people’s hearts and minds to hear the gospel and receive eternal life. We also can pray that our nation will turn to the Lord.

If we pray for something for a long time and it doesn’t happen, how do we find the heart/faith to continue praying?

This is where praying with a community of believers can be a great encouragement. It helps to know the testimony of others who have remained faithful in prayer at all costs.

What does the Bible mean in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 when it says pray without ceasing? Is that really feasible?

It’s an attitude of always having God’s will in our heart, mind and actions. It is living our lives through the lens of God’s love. It’s living with obedience in mind.

You seem passionate about prayer; where does that come from?

I believe I’m the “everyman” when it comes to prayer. It does not always come to me naturally. It takes work. It takes discipline. It takes time. And sometimes I am not that kind of person. So, in some regards this is the most awe-filled assignment I have ever had. It is so important, and I feel inadequate. But we cannot ever let that stop us. This is the truth: it’s always, only about Jesus.

What does being an ambassador of prayer mean to you? How do you interpret this role?

I see myself as an encourager as ambassador of prayer. I am here to strongly, happily, faithfully encourage our territory to be very serious about concentrating our efforts on truly praying.

How has prayer affected your own faith?

God grows me through prayer. He builds the relationship so that I am open and available to hear and respond.

What should we expect when we pray?

Communion with God. Great things!
Springing into action

Four new soldiers three adherents have joined our Army, reported Envoy Van Wirth, administrator of the Springfield, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC). Van carefully prepares his recruits with an 18-week soldiership course; he takes this extra-long approach of deep preparation so the men are ready to “spring into action” in serving God. Participants must be graduates of the ARC substance-abuse program before they’ve completed the course. “The men are sensitive to ministry and interested in assuming local leadership positions,” said Van, who uses focused Bible studies, spiritual gifts tests, studies on the penitent form and the Deeper Life discipleship series to prepare the recruits. The men also learn how to share their testimonies.

New adherent Steve Logsdon said, “When I came to the ARC my life was going in the wrong direction. I was disconnected from friends and family but mostly from God. I used my time here to reconnect and strengthen my relationship with Him so His goodness permeates everything I do.”

Kansas City dedicates new Northland Corps

by Amanda Waters

Kansas City residents have a new place to go to enrich their bodies, minds and spirits—the new Northland Corps Community Center! More than 300 people turned out for the corps dedication held in the chapel of the new 22,803-square-foot facility. Commissioner Barry C. Swanson, territorial commander, delivered the address, saying, “The Salvation Army is larger today than it’s ever been in its history, and this new building is a part of that growth.”

Among those in attendance was U.S. Senator Kit Bond of Missouri, who helped secure $500,000 for the Northland building project in 2006. “How fortunate it is that this new community center is here for families in the Northland,” he said. “Now, more than ever before, people need The Salvation Army for emergency services and also for hope for the future.”

Major Richard Carroll,

Northland corps officer with his wife, Barbara, proclaimed, “This is not just a building—a man-made edifice—that we dedicate today; it’s the people whom we serve.”

The corps’ band and praise band provided music which included two original compositions by corps members Steve Wheeler. The service also included remarks from individuals representing the corps congregation, advisory council and architecture company that designed the building. The new corps features a community center with a chapel, classrooms, gymnasium and food pantry. It offers worship services, youth and senior programs and emergency assistance. The Northland Salvation Army also operates a family homeless shelter.

Construction began on the new $7 million community center in March 2008. It was funded as part of a $40 million capital campaign that included four other building projects in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Above: Majors Richard and Barbara Carroll, Northland corps officers, with Craig Reeslin of WNB Architects and William Dunn, Sr. of JB Dunn Construction.

Enrollments of adherents at the Waukegan, Ill., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) are rolling right along! Envoy Dennis Earnhart, ARC administrator, reported a recent enrollment of six new adherents brought the center’s total up to 23. Dennis said the ARC had 14 on its staff’s new English-as-a-second-language classes, computer training classes and GED courses. “We recently had 10 men graduate, and it looks like we’ll soon have three more,” proclaimed Dennis.

The adherents are highly involved in community care ministries and in the men’s fellowship at the center, which welcomes new beneficiaries and helps them get acclimated to the center’s rehabilitation program. This is also where new men are introduced to their mentors.

The Waukegan corps enlisted the help of the Salvation Army’s new chapel, classrooms, gymnasium and food pantry. It offers worship services, youth and senior programs and emergency assistance. The Northland Salvation Army also operates a family homeless shelter. Construction began on the new $7 million community center in March 2008. It was funded as part of a $40 million capital campaign that included four other building projects in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Springfield’s newest soldiers: Mark Benecott, Richard Coulson, Michael Hurd and Mark Phillips.

The Milwaukee West Corps enrolled six senior soldiers and 16 adherents and installed seven local officers.

Sunday mornings are always exciting times of worship at the rapidly growing Milwaukee West, Wis., Corps, but one recent Sunday was particularly thrilling as six senior soldiers and 16 adherents were enrolled and seven local officers were installed. “Captains Steve and Latdavanh Kounthapanya (corps officers) have the Army alive and growing well in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan districts,” exclaimed Major Robert E. Thomson, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divisional commander, who was present that morning.

When the Kounthapanyas arrived at the corps two years ago, they began planting a strong foundation for future growth by grounding their people in God’s Word. Steve likened it to taking the corps through “Christianity 101.” As a result, people have deeper relationships with God and support community outreach and evangelism. Youth, adults and seniors are being bridged into the corps by seeing Christ lived through corps members’ lives. Weekly sports and music programs—underpinned with inspiring devotional themes by Steve—have been effective in reaching youth. Over the past year Steve has been building relationships with community, cultural and religious leaders to establish a Southeast Asian committee under Salvation Army leadership for the good of the community.

“People from these other organizations under our leadership provide English classes, translation services and other assistance in a place where we can show the love of God and draw them into the corps,” said Steve.

Milwaukee West Corps Officers Captains Steve and Latdavanh Kounthapanya (far left) with their staff.

The Milwaukee West Corps Officers Captains Steve and Latdavanh Kounthapanya (far left) with their staff.

Alive and growing

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Milwaukee West Corps Officers Captains Steve and Latdavanh Kounthapanya (far left) with their staff.

The Milwaukee West Corps Officers Captains Steve and Latdavanh Kounthapanya (far left) with their staff.
Global mission teams’ rippling effects

by Kristin Caddy

In Genesis 28 Jacob raises a stone pillar as a reminder of an encounter with God. In fact, in the Old Testament many of God’s servants set standing stones to remember God revealing Himself in a special way. Today we may not physically raise stone pillars, but God still reveals Himself. For some Salvationists, global mission teams (GMT) are a standing stone experience.

Central Territory global mission teams were started in the 1990s to provide practical support to the receiving location, promote awareness of world need and God’s love for the nations, and develop relationships with Salvationists internationally.

This year two one-week GMTs, comprised of 11 individuals each from the Eastern Michigan, Indiana, and Kansas/Western Missouri divisions, worked on the construction of a dining hall at the Flor de Bastion Corps in Guayaquil, Ecuador. The corps offers a lunch program for children in this community where many families can’t afford sufficient food. The new dining hall will enable the lunch program to continue during the rainy winter season by providing shelter for the children. While the teams were in Flor de Bastion, the dining hall’s foundation was laid and walls were constructed.

Team members were challenged by the humble service of the corps officers and overwhelmed by the faithfulness and deep commitment of the Salvationists. For some it was a standing stone experience. They encountered God in a new, life-changing way.

“The people of Ecuador showed God’s love like I’d never seen before,” said Matthew Reeves.

Tina Dobney indicated she was inspired to serve with a renewed spirit. Often as GMT members return home, they respond to their experiences by giving more to self.

Learning in the great outdoors

The Eastern Michigan Division (EMI) is partnering with Safari Club International (SCI) to enhance and expand its outdoor programming and youth outreach options through SCI’s expertise and funding capabilities. Since January SCI chapters in Michigan have contributed more than $18,000 to The Salvation Army Outdoors (TSAO).

Most of the funds were used to build a new facility at Echo Grove Camp, which gives youth a safe and exciting introduction to sports like archery and air rifles. SCI is providing certified instructors and the opportunity for Salvation Army instructors to attend American Wilderness Leadership School in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

To solidify the partnership, Central Territory Commander Commissioner Barry C. Swanson and SCI President Merle Shepard signed an official memorandum of understanding in a ceremony at EMI Divisional Headquarters.

Through camps, sports programs and afterschool activities, TSAO provides thousands of children and their families a well-rounded view of the outdoors, including wildlife management and education, fishing, boating and hiking.

“This partnership will expand and improve these opportunities, and we are hopeful this model program will be adopted by other divisions and shared throughout The Salvation Army,” said Commissioner Swanson.

Comprised of 190 chapters worldwide, SCI promotes outdoor sports and wildlife conservation.

From CBLI with love

But someone will say, ‘You have faith; I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. (James 2:18)

Equipo V.E.A. (Equipo Visión en Acción or Team Vision in Action) was inspired by James 2:18 as they headed out to San Miguel de Tucuman in Northwestern Argentina.

Equipo V.E.A. was created after South America East (SAE) Territorial Youth and Candidates’ Secretary Captain Willie DeJesus (from the Central Territory) recalled how other territories’ mission teams were impacted by service in SAE. Though it had been years since SAE had their own team, Captain DeJesus sensed the young people were willing, able and searching for practical, life-changing ways to serve God and others.

The team was made possible because of 2008 Central Bible and Leadership Development’s generosity. Over $1,500 was collected and then matched by territorial headquarters! This covered the travel, work project, meals and materials for Equipo V.E.A.

Comprised of Matias Díaz (leader), Jorge Pizarruso, Noelia Flores, Rosana Solano, Albina Centurion and Evelin Blass, this truly territorial team was busy each day with corps painting projects and home Bible studies. They conducted a vacation Bible school, participated in corps meetings and held an open air. Equipo V.E.A. is grateful to Tucuman Corps Officers Captains David and Gladys Bevilacqua for their hospitality and service and also to CBLI 2008!

Many lives in Tucuman were blessed. According to Captain Bevilacqua, visitors who came to the corps because of the team’s ministry had remained faithful. But perhaps the team members were blessed most of all. “I will never forget my time with the mission team,” said one member. “It really gave me a glimpse of what God can do when we give our all to Him.”

The next Equipo V.E.A. hopefully will go out in January 2010.

Denial/World Services, committing to overseas sponsorship, beginning corps or divisional mission teams, and taking on new leadership responsibilities in their corps.

Employment Opportunities

Senior Youth Worker—Wellington City Corps, New Zealand, seeks full-time team leader for youth/adult ministries, including discipleship, and leadership development. Requires uniformed soldier with youth ministry experience and/or training. To submit a cover letter/resume by June 28 or to receive a full job description, email Major Craig Millington: craig_millington@nzf.salvationarmy.org

Curriculum Development Coordinator—National Headquarters, Alexandria, Va., seeks Salvationist with excellent journalism, creative skills, knowledge of corps cadets, junior soldiers and student programs in order to prepare, produce curriculum for those and other Christian education projects. Requires degree in English, Christian Education or related field, one to two years editing/proofing experience. Telecommuting may be considered. For full job description or to send resume email human_resources@usn.salvationarmy.org

---Mustard Seeds---
A n industrious individual

At age seven, Christopher Norris of Des Moines, Iowa, is the first explorer in Des Moines history to receive the Territorial Commander’s Award. Signed by the Territorial Commander himself, this award requires young explorers to earn the Red Shield Award, memorize Salvation Army doctrine and complete 20 badges.

Led by Diane Maughan, Christopher’s explorers program meets Wednesday evenings. Corps Officer Major Beth Petrie says Diane brings experience, stability and motivation to the group. Diane’s leadership was crucial for Christopher to complete the Territorial Commander’s award.

Christopher is a very motivated and ambitious individual. Beth recognizes he has an inner strength and great motivation to learn as well. She reports, “It took him three weeks to memorize the doctrine, but he didn’t give up.” When asked how Christopher felt about receiving the award he replied, “A sense of accomplishment and the chance move on to something else.”

Although goal-oriented, Christopher might not have achieved this award if it weren’t for his supportive and family. His mom stayed after weekly programs to allow time for extra badge work, while his father took him camping to finish up one of the last badge requirements. Still, at the end of the day, it was Christopher’s hard work, love for the Lord and internal drive, which paved the way for his big award.

A reason to smile

by Major Keith J. Welch

A dental clinic has opened at The Salvation Army Madison, Ind., Corps after fulfilling Salvation Army, state and federal requirements.

Bob Canida, DDS, who conceived the idea, said, “This clinic is for those who cannot afford dentistry.” He continued, “We want to make a difference in our community.”

Twelve local dentists and nine dental hygienists volunteer at the clinic which is open one day a week. There were 125 patients in the first three months of operation, amounting to approximately $33,862 in services rendered. The response from the community has been very positive. All the equipment, chairs, cabinets and an X-ray machine were donated by dentists from around Indiana.

Dr. Canida concluded, “We will endeavor to honor Jesus’ directive to be a servant and bless others in His name.”

Promoted to Glory

Major William D. Stuart

On April 24, 2009, Major William D. Stuart, was promoted to Glory. With his family at his side, he left the world at 82 years old.

He was born to Walter and Elizabeth Stuart in Ayr, Scotland. The course of his life changed dramatically when he happened on a Salvation Army meeting one evening while looking for the hall where his dance band was to play. This encounter resulted in a commitment to the Lord, lifetime of Salvation Army service and legacy of family who love and serve the Lord today.

With attributes of integrity and loyalty, William was commissioned as a lieutenant from the International Training College in London, England, in 1950. Two years later, he married the love of his life, Jean Stevenson Scott, also Scottish by birth. Their marriage was blessed with six children.

The Stuarts served in various appointments within the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, eventually settling in the United States in 1956. Here the Stuarts’ ministry reached through divisions to adult rehabilitation centers to divisional headquarters.

Major Stuart was well known for senior ministry. Always the pragmatist, he learned to cut hair as a means to share the gospel with his elderly friends, and was instrumental in opening the Booth Manor senior residence at the Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps. He was characterized by his Scottish brogue, sense of humor, musical talent and devotion to family.


Rewarding excellence

by Sue Spreller, MSW

The Central Territory has a long history of evaluating its social service and child care programs. A territorial certification process was created in 1998 that mirrors outside accrediting organizations. As the territorial evaluation coordinator, I ensure programs going through the process complete a self-study, receive a site visit by a territorial review team and are rated according to their level of compliance with social service standards.

Last year the Central Territory began awarding monetary grants to certified programs that upheld the highest quality in service delivery. At the end of 2008, 16 programs were eligible to receive grants of $2,000, $1,500 or $1,000, corresponding with the gold, silver or bronze certification levels.

Programs must 1) successfully complete the review process; 2) respond with a written action plan to the review team’s recommendations within a specified time frame, and 3) have their plan approved by the territorial mission and program council.

Two of the programs that received awards for 2008 are at the Pekin, Ill., Corps, where Captains Peter and Catherine Mount are corps officers.

The Pekin Child Care Program meets the needs of children and their parents with a continuum of services including preschool, before and after school programs and summer day camp. The program is directed by Cheryl Stien.

During the review team’s site visit, parents were interviewed; many commented on the importance of the program’s caring and committed staff, the well-rounded curriculum, regular assessments on each child’s learning progress and a weekly Bible lesson presented by the corps officers.

The corps’ Rust Transitional Center, a housing program serving families and individuals, is run by Tess Klein. Residents not only receive housing, they are given opportunities for case management and life skills education. They’re also invited to become involved in corps life through worship, small-group fellowship, youth character-building activities and other events.

Many have done so.

The award grants are being used for continuing staff education.

Promoted to Glory

Major William D. Stuart

On April 24, 2009, Major William D. Stuart, was promoted to Glory. With his family at his side, he left the world at 82 years old.

He was born to Walter and Elizabeth Stuart in Ayr, Scotland. The course of his life changed dramatically when he happened on a Salvation Army meeting one evening while looking for the hall where his dance band was to play. This encounter resulted in a commitment to the Lord, lifetime of Salvation Army service and legacy of family who love and serve the Lord today.

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The Pekin, Ill., Child Care program achieved gold certification.