**Central Connection**

**The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory**

**News and Views from the Midwest**

“**We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future.**”

Eph. 4:4-5 (NLT)

Volume 41, Number 6

June 2011

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**Just imagine an even better Army**

by Captain Jeff Eddy

Just imagine a time when wealth and talent flow at unprecedented levels. According to 2011 National Advisory Organizations Conference (NAOC) speaker and recognized leader in serving the nonprofit sector Tom Tierney, such a time is coming. His message and others’ spoke of limitless opportunities for The Salvation Army in the future.

With the theme “Just Imagine,” there was no better place for NAOC to foster an imaginative spirit than the most magical place on earth—Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Delegates were challenged to imagine all The Salvation Army could be.

NAOC was infused with electricity sparked during a community relations and development pre-conference offering the world-class Disney Institute.

Instructors of the Disney Institute shared their primary aim: to inspire “wow” in every person with whom they come in contact. The general feeling was summed up well by Captain Andrew Shiels, Northern divisional youth secretary, who said, “[After this] how could you not want to be a part of our mission?”

Repeatedly statistics and stories painted a picture of The Salvation Army at the top of people’s lists of knowledge and trust. Speakers shared how this generation wants more than ever to use their time, talents and money to further the causes in which they believe.

**Serving up salt and light**

Earlier this year Salvationists Lars and Kristy Carlson, former coffeehouse owners now working for Northern Divisional Headquarters, partnered with the Minneapolis, Minn., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) in opening a new venture in Oakdale, Minn. The result is Dreamcoat Coffee and The Salvation Army Boutique.

Open Monday through Saturday for breakfast, lunch and dinner, Dreamcoat serves coffee drinks, oven-fresh bread, delicious desserts and hearty sandwiches. The café features an in-house bakery, free Wi-Fi, support groups, daily live music and weekly Bible studies.

Attached to Dreamcoat is a boutique with clothes, books, antiques, collectibles, furniture and other quality used merchandise sold at recession-friendly prices. Proceeds from the boutique benefit the ARC.

Board and auxiliary members, officers, employees and volunteers were blessed by incredibly talented motivational speakers such as Jenna Bush Hager, daughter of former President George W. Bush and contributor to NBC’s “Today” show. Glen Keane, Disney animator known for such epics as “Beauty and the Beast” and the new blockbuster “Tangled,” shared his testimony and the inspirational stories behind his creations.

During the Friday night gala, Evangeline Booth awards were given to three visionaries of our time, including: music legends Bill and Gloria Gaither; Michael Flaherty, Board and Auxiliary Members, Officers, Employees, and Volunteers were blessed by incredibly talented motivational speakers such as Jenna Bush Hager, daughter of former President George W. Bush and contributor to NBC’s “Today” show. Glen Keane, Disney animator known for such epics as “Beauty and the Beast” and the new blockbuster “Tangled,” shared his testimony and the inspirational stories behind his creations.

**Continued on page 2**

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Photos by Craig Dirkes

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“Right now it’s a ministry plant sponsored by divisional headquarters, but within two years we’d like to see it become an outpost of the St. Paul Eastside, Minn., Corps,” said Lars, who attends the St. Paul Eastside Corps with his wife, Kristy. “So far we’ve had over 30 people visit the corps through the connections we’ve made here; two have become soldiers and two are now adherents!”

While Lars runs the ministry end of the café as program specialist, Kristy manages the business. “She ensures we have quality products and efficient service,” said Lars.

Although a bit different than typical Army ministry, Lars and Kristy

**Continued on page 2**

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**Continued on page 8**
Summer Days
by Lt. Colonel Dorothy Smith
Officer Resource and Development Secretary

Choosing a favorite season? I’d pick summer in a heartbeat! We Midwesterners endure long, cold winters, so the warmth of the sun feels good when it finally arrives. I look forward to extended daylight, leafy trees, blooming flowers and walks in the early morning when the air is fresh and cool. Commissioning, camps, mission trips, Central Bible and Leadership Institute, Central Music Institute and the National Seminar on Evangelism are also highlights of the season.

But my favorite part is vacation! It means a break from responsibilities, a change of pace and location, and a time of rest and recreation. For many of us it involves water.

My family vacations at a cottage on a beautiful lake in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and more than half of each day is spent at the water: boating, swimming, tubing, skiing and sunning. To us, this is paradise. It’s a time when our family can be together and enjoy fellowship with friends who live far from us. Evenings "coffee cruises," bonfires on the beach and midnight boat rides to gaze at brilliant stars and Northern Lights are some of the activities we look forward to. Minimal cash required.

Summer is a time of growth and fruitfulness. It is a time of recreation and renewal. Vacation enables us to be more effective the rest of the year. It’s especially a time of basking in the warmth of God’s love, in the truth that the Creator of the Universe planned all seasons for our delight. It is a time for outdoor worship and prayer walking, for connecting in a relaxed way with our Heavenly Father, for drinking deeply of the Water of Life. I pray that you will enjoy summer and begin fall refreshed and renewed.

Retreating to camp
by Michael Dixon

Camping professionals from all over the Central Territory met recently for the first territorial camp directors’ retreat in over a decade. Hosted by the territorial youth department at the beautiful Northwoods Camp and Retreat Center in Minocqua, Wis., this two-day retreat provided great opportunities to discuss the future of camping, the necessity of programs which encourage campers to seek God, and the importance of bringing campers into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The territorial youth department encouraged camp staff by expressing their appreciation for their meaningful ministry. Ed Covert, national Salvation Army camping liaison and the camp director of Redwood Glen Camp and Conference Center in Scotts Valley, Calif., was the special guest.

Each camp shared its “best practices,” which created helpful dialogue and learning opportunities. Recurring discussion centered on the importance of building relationships with surrounding communities, staff, rental guests, campers and Salvationists.

The need to get youth back outside to learn about God’s beautiful creation was another topic of discussion and reminded delegates of the importance of offering creative programming through TSA Outdoors. The delegation agreed that the retreat was much needed, encouraging and inspirational.

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CBLI musical guests
UpRock
UpRock, a dynamic Christian performance group, is CBLI’s special musical guest this year! Led by Salvationist Bobby Miga, UpRock members have danced and/or choreographed for big names from Fantasia to Justin Bieber. Look for their workshop on how to use performance arts in worship.

The Singing Company
The Singing Company will serve as this year’s CBLI praise and worship duty band! Since their founding in 2005, they have produced three full-length albums. The latest recording, Holy Week, features current band members Eric Himes, Drew Credal, Kirsten Gorton, Nate Irvine, Brett Tolcher and Enrique Villatoro. The Singing Company also will give direction to the worship band workshop.

Get Connected!
Check out our complementary material on the web.
www.usc.salvationarmy.org/getconnected

Resources/Links
CBLI registration form
Officer Candidate website
National Emergency Disaster Services website
Pontiac, Mich., Corps website

Web exclusives
The value of camping by Jerrie Miller
Singing Company member profiles
Interview with Marta Sjögren about Swedish radio
Blog by Captain Kris Wood on St. Louis disaster response
Sean and Christina Wise
Rochester, Minn., Corps
Northern Division

Sean and Christina have had the blessing of being interns at two corps in the Northern Division and have been trained by excellent officers. Through these opportunities they’ve been able to see many aspects of Salvation Army ministry. Sean and Christina each came to Christ at a young age, yet had to make conscientious decisions to follow Him during their teen years when they faced personal adversity with family situations. They are now excited to serve Christ the rest of their lives as officers. Sean and Christina will enter the College for Officer Training this fall with their daughter, Kylie. Their corps officers are Majors Jim and Paulette Frye.

Corey Hughes
Granite City, Ill., Corps
Midland Division

God chose a cold, rainy morning during a routine jog for Corey’s call to officership. The stormy weather was the perfect metaphor for his life before accepting Christ at the Indianapolis, Ind., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC).

Having been born poor to a divorced mother of six, expectations for Corey were low, but he earned a business degree and by his mid-20s was the administrator of a state correctional facility. However, the void of a life without Christ, aggravated by the untimely deaths of three siblings, plunged him into drugs and alcohol. That’s when he met The Salvation Army. He’s married to Nicole Smith Judy, a former officer, and has been working as an ARC chaplain and outreach director for the East St. Louis, Ill., Corps. Reaccepted as an officer, Nicole will receive an appointment this fall. Nicole and Corey’s children, Brandon, Kaitlyn and Savannah, will come to the CFOT with them. Their corps officers are Majors Garry and Nancy Lowder.

Adhering to the gospel

Central Adult Rehabilitation Administrator Major Mark Anderson recently enrolled six program beneficiaries as adherents during a service led by guest speaker Major Romulo Gladiso. Requirements for enrollment include involvement with the program for at least 90 days, completion of an eight-week course led by Chaplain Major Frank Valaquez and an expression of faith in Jesus Christ. Mark attributes the continuing interest in enrollment to the men’s acknowledgment of needing to be part of an organization where their relationship with the Lord can flourish.

Swedish broadcast retires

After 70 years of unbroken radio ministry, the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps will air its final Swedish sermon broadcast this month on WNTR 1330-AM. According to current producers many of the large numbers of Scandinavian immigrants in the area who speak and understand Swedish have died.

“The younger generations of Swedish people speak English when they come over,” said Marita Siggren, who’s produced the broadcast with Robert Slack for the last 15 years.

The radio program has a rich history that started with faith and prayer. Radio was very costly in the 1930s. The Rockford Temple purchased airtime initially with a donation, and at the end of each month God sent enough money for the month to come. And so it continued for many years.

Not only did God provide funds, He provided preachers, musicians and volunteers each week. In 1956 Brigadier Gunner Erickson joined the team and became known as the “voice” of the Swedish broadcast. Today many of Gunner’s prerecorded sermons are used in combination with a small devotional given by Rockford Temple Corps Officer Major Randy Hellstrom.

“The Swedish radio broadcast was very important to Rockford’s Scandinavian immigrants. It helped them feel at home,” said Randy. “It’s a big part of what attracted them to Salvation Army ministry and kept them involved. To hear the gospel preached in your own language makes all the difference in the world.”

Used by God to bring joy

L 1. Colonel Richard Vander Weele, territorial secretary for program, grew up attending the corps in Kalamazoo, Mich., with his parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

He recalled, “It was a real family affair. Being at the corps was as comfortable as being at home.”

As Dick grew he realized his faith had to be personal. He accepted Christ at a divisional music camp when he was just eight. Later God’s call to officeranship struck Dick during a divisional young adult retreat in 1967. He acknowledged and shared it with others, but he knew he needed to prepare himself by finishing his education.

After earning a master’s degree in social work, Dick entered training in 1975. “My training experience was great. I met and befriended people who were like-minded and determined to serve the Lord. To this day we continue to sustain each other through prayer and spiritual and emotional support,” he said.

Dick considers it a privilege to have served as a corps officer, train-

ning staff member, in social services leadership (program, divisional, territorial) and divisional administration as general secretary.

“Each of these appointments had its share of good and bad times. But the good far outweighed the bad,” he said. “On days when I wondered if the Army had me in the right place at the right time, God came through with clarity, demonstrating His will would never lead me where His grace could not keep me.”

Dick shared that in every appointment, he found joy. It may have come from leading someone to Christ or helping people make their way through life.

“I think back on those times and smile knowing that who I am as a person and officer was used for God’s purposes,” he recalled.

Dick has seen many changes in the Army over the years, from restyled uniforms (he’s still partial to standup-collar tunics!) to corps’ expanded diversity.

“The Army has become more inclusive, intentionally expanding ministries in diverse neighborhoods to build vital faith communities,” Dick observed. “Officers are seen more as leaders, facilitators and partners in ministry rather than commanders directing every decision. These are good changes that give me hope for tomorrow’s Army.”

1 Corinthians 15:12-19

OF THE RESURRECTION

2011 - 2013

Newest accepted candidates

Having been born poor to a divorced mother of six, expectations for Corey were low, but he earned a business degree and by his mid-20s was the administrator of a state correctional facility. However, the void of a life without Christ, aggravated by the untimely deaths of three siblings, plunged him into drugs and alcohol. That’s when he met The Salvation Army. He’s married to Nicole Smith Judy, a former officer, and has been working as an ARC chaplain and outreach director for the East St. Louis, Ill., Corps. Reaccepted as an officer, Nicole will receive an appointment this fall. Nicole and Corey’s children, Brandon, Kaitlyn and Savannah, will come to the CFOT with them. Their corps officers are Majors Garry and Nancy Lowder.
Men’s lives centered on Christ. It was clear from the beginning, this was what the territorial men’s ministry conference was all about. There was a deep desire for men to be challenged in their hearts and to become controlled by God’s Spirit, as reflected in the theme chorus, “Change my heart, O God.”

And God’s presence was real. He spoke to the 1,000 men gathered at the Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, Ill., through a variety of meetings and one-on-one moments.

“One thousand men! All things are possible with God,” proclaimed Major Dan Hudson, territorial men’s ministries secretary. He continued, “We have the ability and opportunity to create and encourage.”

The keynote session featured the exuberant Chicago Central Adult Rehabilitation Center Choir, and the energy continued to flow through the weekend. They sang, “Don’t want nobody stopping me,” “Lord, I lift Your Name on high,” and “He can work it out.”

Indeed, it was good to observe how God spoke to the men at this conference, working things out in their lives.

Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, territorial commander, greeted the men saying, “God is in this place. Can you imagine 1,000 men going back to be more like Christ, to be better husbands, to be better fathers, to be better workers?”

Corps Sergeant-Major Jimmy McGowan’s prayer pointed to the glorification of Christ and the anticipation of what God was going to do.

Christian comedian Michael Jr. headlined the first evening. He said, “Reading the Bible is like paying your bills… You got to pay attention to what’s in the red.” He also said, “Whenever you mix comedy with the message, people listen.” Michael Jr. ended his routine with a powerful call to respond to Christ. Many men answered God’s call for their lives by coming to the altar. It was evident by the end of the first meeting men were going to be empowered for living and serving the Lord.

A prayer basket was placed on the meeting room platform for decision cards and prayer requests. “You might pray under a tree or by your bedside, but we want to know when you have a prayer request or have made an important spiritual decision in your life,” encouraged Major Hudson. “The prayer cards will be prayed over and a personal letter will go out to you indicating individual prayer took place.” Major Hudson continued, “Let’s fill up this prayer basket!”

The second session on Saturday morning opened with Lt. Colonel Jeff Smith, territorial secretary for personnel, proclaiming, “We can be a part of something great!” Then Accepted Candidate Corey Hughes from the East St. Louis, Ill., Corps, shared, “The word ‘empowered’ means to be given the authority to make choices.” He continued, “The message is this—stay surrendered!”

Men took advantage of many workshop opportunities on topics like biblical characters, life balance, pastoring men, service, relationships and becoming active for Christ.

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Colonel Thomas C. Lewis spoke on the game of life and gave three spiritual truths: leave the bleachers and get in the game; the hurdle is not the game; keep the ball in play. He ended by saying, “If you can live your Christianity at home, you can live it anywhere.”

Saturday afternoon recreational competitions presented a variety of options, including chess, checkers, ping-pong, horseshoes, mini-golf, disc golf, a golf outing, 3-on-3 basketball, a camp race, soccer, volleyball and wallyball. The game room and pool tables were favorite hangouts.

Major Doug Rick, Muncie, Ind., corps officer, shared his testimony during the Saturday evening meeting. He indicated that a turning point in his life came when he was young and his divisional youth secretary had asked, “Doug, are you tired of being a hypocrite?”

The Hispanic choir shared songs of praise before Colonel David Jeffrey, national chief secretary, spoke on “Men empowered by grace.” He said, “The whole Bible is moving people from the dominion of the law to grace.” Colonel Jeffrey began the altar call urging, “Right now, His grace is seeking you out.”

Sunday school classes were held by divisions. The Indiana Division’s Sunday school class was led by Accepted Candidate Tim Perkins of the Brown County, Ind., Corps. He shared Romans 12:9-18 and said, “You can’t argue with love.”

Ernest Jones, Kansas and Western Missouri divisional correctional services director, gave his testimony of not fully knowing God but calling out to Him: “God if you are the author of everything, You can change my life.” Ernest shared, “That’s when the gospel became real to me.”

Colonel David Jeffrey preached from John 15 and urged the men, “Don’t just look like a branch; be a branch that produces.”

The weekend ended as it began, glorifying God and calling men to change and action.
Delegates from across the territory gathered last month in Bloomington, Ill., for the first territorial social services conference since 2007. Representing officers, soldiers, employees, service extension units and advisory organizations from every division and the Adult Rehabilitation Center Command, delegates were provided the opportunity to “Refresh, Retool and Relate,” the conference theme.

Between Commissioner Paul R. Seiler’s welcome and Major Geoffrey Allan’s conference benediction, day-long seminars and 40 workshops offered training in just about every area of Salvation Army social services ministry. Major Allan challenged delegates to take home at least one new concept they could begin to use right away.

The conference was planned from the ground level to be practical and address the needs of you, our frontline workers,” he said.

At the opening session, Frank Massolini, director of the PROMISE program in Chicago, Ill., provided insight into his personal involvement with the anti-trafficking movement up to his present advocacy on behalf of sexually trafficked children. His portrayal of this modern-day evil resulted in additional interest in anti-trafficking needs across the Midwest. Workshops on reducing the demand for prostitution and rescuing victims of trafficking were popular selections.

Basic casework skills and Bible-based change strategies also were popular offerings, as well as seminars and workshops on addictions and providing social services during disasters.

The variety of workshop topics dealing with current issues around technology, legal concerns and the importance of pastoral care in social service programs led to some lively exchanges in roundtable discussions. Suggestions on how social service providers can take care of themselves when constantly dealing with needy clients provided an interesting workshop track. Frank Beach, Rockford, Ill., advisory board member, said, “It’s been a great experience.”

Rev. Dr. Wayne “Coach” Gordon of Lawndale Community Church, Chicago, challenged delegates to know their neighbors and address injustice in its many forms by recruiting those neighbors to be part of the solution rather than mere recipients of assistance.

As delegates left for home, tired yet refreshed, Major Ruth Fay expressed a sentiment shared by most, “It was a great conference. I would not change a thing.”

The Salvation Army. Christchurch was still in the midst of recovering from last fall’s major earthquake when an even stronger quake hit earlier this year, bringing exponentially more death and destruction than the first one and leaving many survivors injured and/or homeless.

The visits were made by 10 outreach teams, each composed of about a dozen people with various assessment and psycho-social skills from all over New Zealand and Australia. Each team spent about 30

Major David Dalberg discusses the daily deployment plan.

45 minutes at each household ascertaining the most critical needs. David empowered team leaders to make field decisions and appropriate aid responses. Then a “flying squad” of two people attached to each team would make follow-up visits to deliver identified aid, which ranged from food parcels and gasoline cards to pre-paid debit cards and even the means to “get away” from the city’s stressful surroundings for a few days through the “Take a Break” project.

Although David spent most of his time running operations and supervising, encouraging and training team leaders, he was able to see first hand one day the rejuvenating effects of getting away on one young family who’d lost their house in the first quake and sustained structural damage in the second. The husband had been desperately looking for work. His weary wife commented, “I’m just so tired of being a victim; I want to be a survivor.”

By chance David saw the couple after they’d spent a few days with family in northern New Zealand. He couldn’t believe the difference in how they looked and the renewed hope in their voices.

The Marion, Ind., Corps rejoiced this spring upon the enrollment of four junior soldiers: Cory Daniels, Isaac and Shantel Phifer and Lydia Welch. Major Robert Meyer, corps officer, conducted the ceremony while Ray Daniels and Glenn Welch, fathers of two of the new junior soldiers, were Bagpipes; Special guest Major Beverly Gates, Indiana divisional finance secretary, provided a stirring morning message. Pictured Cory prays over his promise with Major Meyer and fellow junior soldiers.
**Employment Opportunity**

**Youth Ministry Director**—The Pasadena, Calif., Tabernacle Corps is looking for an experienced and skilled youth ministry director who will be responsible for developing and coordinating age-appropriate programs, activities and Bible studies for all corps youth, with emphasis on ages 5-18. This is a full-time, exempt position.

**Qualifications:** uniform-wearing Salvationist in good standing who is mature, organized and highly motivated; bachelor’s degree and significant formal training, success and experience in the field of youth ministry programs; spiritual development and/or Christian education; master’s degree preferred; exceptional team-building and leadership skills; excellent interpersonal, written and oral communication skills. Salary is commensurate with experience. To apply, email resume and letter to: Diana.Bittinger@usc.salvationarmy.org

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**Pontiac: plenty of potential**

*by Laura Lunnam*

The Pontiac, Mich., Corps, under the leadership of Major Nate Johnson, is advancing Army mission and ministry through a fully renovated and expanded corps building with new chapel, dining room and kitchen. The corps, which serves northern Oakland County, was founded in 1890 and has been a vital part of the community.

The Army began renovations in April 2010, and recently a crowd of more than 500 gathered to dedicate the new building. Special guests included Commissioners Israel L. and Eva D. Gaither, Lt. Colonel Diane and Norman S. Marshall, and Pontiac Mayor Leon Jakowski.

Commissioner Israel Gaither’s dynamic dedicatory address brought the enthusiastic crowd, including the entire city council, members of the Oakland County board of commissioners, Pontiac Mayor Leon Jakowski and many soldiers, officers and community members, to their feet with an ovation.

The former city-operated recreation center is now a state-of-the-art, barrier-free facility, which will open up program opportunities for older adults and those with disabilities.

Thanks in part to changes in architecture and structure, the corps offers more programs and services than ever from a feeding program to legal counsel to character-building programs and sports leagues.

Lt. Colonel Norman Marshall encouraged the congregation, “We have potential for so many more opportunities now that we have this wonderful new building.”

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**July Prayer Calendar**

**My Prayer List**

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<th>Pray for The Salvation Army</th>
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<td>Philippians 1-2</td>
<td>Bloomington, IN Corps</td>
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<td>Leviticus 10-12</td>
<td>El Dorado, KS Corps</td>
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<td>2 Kings 1-5</td>
<td>Chicago (Englewood), IL Corps</td>
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<td>Psalms 81-83</td>
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<td>Proverbs 10</td>
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<td>Cape Girardeau, MO Corps</td>
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Go to [www.prayercentralusa.org](http://www.prayercentralusa.org) for prayer updates.

If you follow the prayer calendar in the next year, you will have read through the Bible!

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**Ready to Ignite your faith?**

**give a year-get a life**

I you’re 18-24 and looking to put your faith into action, then the Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps’ Ignite incarnational ministry program might be God’s place for you.

Team members live and serve in an inner-city environment in community.

The next session starts in September. The year-long mission will:

- Provide you with deeper insight into urban ministry through immersion
- Equip you to lead and serve in your own corps and community
- Build your leadership abilities through intense, hands-on training and discipleship

The program is limited to six participants. Partial scholarships may be available.

For more information or to apply, contact TomWyatt@usc.salvationarmy.org

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**DAD...WHY DOESN’T SOMEONE INVENT A JPS?**

**A JPS? YEAH...A JESUS POSITIONING SYSTEM...**

**SO YOU DON’T GET LOST ON YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.**
Berkeley, Mo.—After devastating tornadoes swept through much of north and mid St. Louis County on Good Friday, Salvation Army disaster service teams provided hard-hit Berkeley area residents with cleanup assistance, hot meals and relocation assistance.

Completion is anticipated by summer 2012. When complete, the corps will have doubled in size at its downtown location. “This is transformational for The Salvation Army in Sheboygan. Hopefully we’ll be able to transform many more lives,” said Corps Officer Major Alan Hellstrom.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Consumers Energy of Michigan recently partnered with the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division to create a case management program to assist low-income customers. The $1 million contribution enabled the hiring of five case workers and a case management consultant under the three-year pilot program. Beneficiaries receive a thorough review of their finances, financial management tools and direction from Salvation Army caseworkers with the ultimate goal of empowering clients to budget their own utility expenses. John Russell, Consumers Energy president and CEO, presents the donation check to Major Thomas Bowser, Western Michigan and Northern Indiana divisional commander.

SHEBOYGAN, WIS.—A ceremonial ground-breaking launched the start of a $3.5 million, 16,000-square-foot expansion and renovation project for the Sheboygan Corps that will provide more space for its homeless shelter (the only one in town), food pantry, clinic and offices.

Rowlands roll on

by Captain Caleb Senn

More than 180 family and friends gathered to celebrate the ministry of Majors Edward and Sandra Rowland. The Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich., Band played a moving preliminary number to initiate the atmosphere of celebration and thanksgiving.

Representatives from the Rowlands’ three appointments shared their favorite memories of their ministry. Captain Malinda O’Neil, once a soldier at the Alpena, Mich., Corps, reminisced about the Rowlands as her corps officers.

Their influence helped her to realize God’s love and plan for her life. Representative speakers from the Edwin Denby Children’s Home and the Detroit Harbor Light System shared about the Rowlands’ heartfelt commitment to the clients, staff and mission of their appointments.

Major Edward Rowland took part in a Rowland family euphonium and bass octet which featured two rousing numbers. The Detroit Harbor Light Choir performed two items that brought the crowd to their feet.

Lt. Colonels Jeffrey and Dorothy Smith presented the Rowlands with their retirement certificates. The Smiths reinforced what had already been shared through the tributes: love for people and faithfulness to the Army mission have been central to the Rowlands’ ministry as officers.

The Rowlands retired to Farmington Hills, Mich., and plan to be soldiers at the Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich., Corps.