Summit takes on economic challenge

by Carol Shoultz and Colonel Carol Seiler

In spite of concern about global recession which creates hardship both in generating sufficient revenue and in meeting increasing needs which exceed our current resources, the Central Territory has chosen to confront the challenge and seize this opportunity to continue “Doing the Most Good.” An Economic Summit, called by Territorial Commander Commissioner Barry C. Swanson to address the effects the economy is having on our territory, was held at the end of January. Sixty-four delegates, including officers, soldiers, employees and advisory board members, provided representation from the territory in intense sessions over two days.

The summit addressed three dimensions of the issue: mission and service delivery, cost containment and revenue generation. These were discussed at the functional levels of headquarters, corps and social services. This dialogue increased clarity regarding the current impact and long-term implications of our country’s economic condition and our ability to respond strategically to the challenges we are facing as we continue to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet needs in His name in a fiscally and socially responsible manner.

From the summit, 66 recommendations were narrowed to 30 which were then the basis of discussion by the Territorial Executive Council (TEC), top administrative leaders in the territory. TEC then narrowed the focus to nine short-term and long-term recommendations which were submitted to the territorial commander for final consideration.

Continued on page 12

Very early in the morning

by General Shaw Clifton

The early morning is a strange time. It can be filled with positive expectation or deep apprehension. How are you, early in the morning?

The 15th chapter of Mark’s Gospel opens with the words, “Very early in the morning” [New International Version], and then goes on to tell us what took place in those history-splitting pre-dawn moments.

The Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, had been arrested in the night by Jerusalem Temple Guards who had known where to find him because his close friend and follower, Judas, had betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver. His yet more trusted friend, Peter, had openly denied even knowing him. The High Priest in Jerusalem questioned Jesus in public and judicial condemnation soon followed.

“Very early in the morning” Jesus, your Savior and mine, was handed over to the Roman occupying forces, for final judgment. The Governor, Pilate, interrogated Jesus but could extract no replies. Jesus was like an innocent, defenseless lamb led to the slaughter. By this stage he did not even open his mouth to speak. Urged on by the early morning crowd, Pilate delivered Jesus to the executioners. To curry favor with the subjugated but volatile citizens, the Governor then released from prison a known killer, their compatriot, Barabbas.

Continued on page 12
Dances of devotion

In the last year, the Iowa City, Iowa, Corps had to purchase a bus. Why? To accommodate for increased attendance in their character-building programs that have nearly tripled in size! A small corps, Iowa City now hosts 70-80 children on Tuesday nights.

It all started with a little inspiration from Captain Jennifer Smith, who wanted to draw children in from the local area. Her best option, she soon discovered, was through a dance troop. The program came about two years ago when Jennifer met Nikesha Jones at a banquet. After learning Nikesha ran a dance troop from her home, on a whim Jennifer asked her to lead a dance troop after corps activities on Tuesday nights. Nikesha agreed, and from that point forward—following the first hour of lessons—children at the Iowa City Corps started to dance.

Just as King David in second Samuel * , danced before the Lord with all his might, the children attending youth programs dance for His glory. Jennifer stated, “We have two hours a week to make a difference in the lives of the children in our community and, if dance is the method by which we must reach them, then we will take it and use it to share the love of Christ. Instead of being infiltrated by the words of the world we will infiltrate their minds with the words of the Lord!”

As dance troop membership and publicity have grown, so too have Sunday morning worship services. Between 50 and 60 kids from the Tuesday night program and dance troops are attending Sunday meetings. Not only that, but the children are beginning to bring their families as well. Since this dance troop has gained popularity community members’ interest in The Salvation Army has been piqued. They want to know more about it as a church, learn about the outreach and ultimately participate in the excitement.

Celebrate the light!

by Commissioner E. Sue Swanson
Territorial President of Women’s Ministries

It’s March, and I’m celebrating. I do it every year. It will happen on the second Sunday in March at 5:45 p.m. It’s Daylight Saving Time!!! How could any sane person not want to party about the joy of more sunlight?

My fascination and love of light have led to some interesting behaviors. Some may call them strange, but I prefer to think of them as unique. I always leave one clock on Daylight Saving Time. Many have offered to adjust the “special” clock in my office. I am kind but firm in telling them, “Leave it alone.” It’s my symbol of hope. Light will return. Spring will arrive. Sun will grace us with warmth and glow.

My family has had to bear my “sun is on its way” mantra. It starts on December 22nd after the darkest day of the year. I tell my family how blessed they are that the days are getting longer. This usually happens as the sun is setting.

It goes something like, “Can you believe that it’s 5:45 p.m. and it’s still light?”

“Yes, Mom, we know. And next week it’ll be 5:48 p.m. and still light.”

It’s amazing to me how God does this for us like clockwork, year after year. He is so dependable.

Daylight Saving Time started in the United States in 1918. It’s been quite a matter of debate. Eventually the benefits seemed to tip the scale, and here we are looking to celebrate on March 8th. We’ll enjoy fewer accidents, less use of utilities, more enjoyment of the great outdoors, safer trick-or-treaters (I am serious, that’s one of the benefits) and increased voter turnout. A survey revealed the greatest reason to continue the saving of light: people just like it.

I think I love the beginning of Daylight Saving Time because it points me to the joy of light. The light of Christ in my heart will never need to be adjusted. I am so grateful for that. But it also reminds me that Christ must always be the brightest light in my life. He must increase, and I must decrease. He must shine. John Ortberg has written about this.

There is a reason why Christmas is celebrated December 25. It is not a historical date, of course, but rather was chosen at random. It was chosen because it is the time of year when days begin to grow longer and lighter. The coming of Christ means the coming of light to the world. Darkness is being rolled back. Do you know when, in the church calendar year, John the Baptist’s birth is celebrated? June 24th. That’s when the days begin to get shorter, and the light begins to lessen. Every year the calendar proclaims again the words of John, though few are aware of it, “He must become greater, I must become less.”

So, celebrate with me. Enjoy the light. May Christ’s light blaze in your life—and remember Easter is on the way. Now, that’s really talking about LIGHT!
W
omen have entered virtually every career field and arena of social interaction which once were primarily the purview of men. Today’s women aren’t just being exposed to the same stressors as men, however. More often than not, they’re experiencing greater stressors due to family and household demands in addition to their careers.

“Women’s increased exposure to negative influences, alcohol and the ready availability of both over the counter and prescription drugs have led to a huge increase of self-destructive behaviors in women,” said Majors Graham and Vickie Allan, Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command leaders, are responding to this phenomenon in a practical way by reinstituting rehabilitation services for women.

“The need has grown, the opportunity is there, and it is simply the practical response of The Salvation Army in carrying out our mission to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human need in his name,” said Graham. Communities, court systems, government agencies and care providers are seeking resources for women to fill the service gap in this field. “It appears this is the right program at the right time,” he continued. “And, our experience has shown that this can be done at a reasonable cost.”

This past fall services for women began at the Grand Rapids, Mich., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC). Captains John and Julie Aaren, Grand Rapids ARC administrators, reported that soon after the program’s start, the community definitely affirmed it.

“We are indeed Doing the Most Good,” reported Julie. “I’m so thankful for this opportunity to open the doors to women.” The Arens hope to soon double the size of this life-changing women’s unit, and the

ARC command plans to launch women’s programs in one or two more ARCs by the end of the year.

The six-bed Grand Rapids women’s unit (which was quickly filled) utilized an existing guest apartment and part of the intake area. Preparation costs were minimal for paint, ceiling fans and decor. Beneficiaries were referred from Turning Point, The Salvation Army’s detoxification center, and the Department of Corrections. The women attend meetings (chapel, Bible study, Christian Living classes) in a coeducational setting but maintain their own 12-step class and group sessions and eat separately in the dining room.

“We thank God for this additional opportunity of ministry to women in need,” said Vickie. “It is a direct answer to prayer!”

Get freed up for abundant living!

by Linda Himes

Free-up financial living. It sounds wonderful, but how do you do it? Times are tough. There doesn’t even seem to be enough money to meet your needs. You struggle week to week and worry about juggling debt. So, giving to ministry seems out of the question.

Answers to your financial questions and problems can be found in the new Freed-Up Financial Living course which is now available at your corps.

Consider the benefits:

Participants will learn a biblical approach to earning, giv- ing, saving, spending and debt.

They’ll leave the course with a spending plan in hand, the knowl- edge to implement it, and the moti- vation to follow through.

It’s designed for everyone—regardless of financial situation.

All teaching and videos are con- tained on a DVD in six, one-hour sessions for easy use in a plug-and- play format.

The flexible format allows for use in a seminar, by small groups or by individuals.

Everything you and I belong to God. “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it,” (Psalm 24:1, NIV) God owns it all. We must think seriously—and differ- ently—about how we use God’s resources, including earth’s natural resources. Being a good steward is our privilege and responsibility. Getting control of our finances is the place to start.

Take the first step toward financial freedom by using Freed-Up Financial Living. Do it with a group or on your own—but do it!
A glimpse of heaven on earth

by Captain Rachel Stouder

It was a multicultural experience full of sights and sound on Reconciliation Sunday 2009 in St. Louis, Mo. Major Evie Diaz, Midland divisional secretary, welcomed the lively, standing-room-only crowd of officers, soldiers and friends at the Gateway Citadel Corps. “We’re here to experience a bit of the Kingdom of heaven right here on earth,” she said.

Special guest Karen Young, territorial multicultural program coordinator, brought the crowd to an attentive hush with a total of seven original “Reflections in Spoken Word.” From the first verse of her poetry, she beckoned: “Come, curl up and listen to this art of the King.” Major Katrina Mathews from Columbia, Mo., brought the words to life through interpretive dance, while Major Patty Richardson, Midland divisional director of women’s ministries provided ambiance at the piano, bringing a satin-like finish to the worship offering.

The crowd enthusiastically welcomed the Genesis Connection Ministry. The group shared in song and interpretive signing, taking the crowd on a roller coaster from quiet reflection to worshipping up on our feet.

Major Lonnieal Richardson, Midland divisional commander, tied the experience together with a brief message from God’s Word. “Are we willing as The Salvation Army to lay all that we have before God, that He might use it to do what He’s called us to do—what we can’t do on our own?” Major Richardson asked. He urged us to renew our commitment.

The evening concluded with a time in the fellowship hall, where each corps provided a dish representative of their culture. Food from Mexico, Ireland, Germany, Haiti, Sweden—and more—filled our plates!

The event was an artful experience in worship as we gathered in the presence of God who calls the whosoever to be reconciled to Himself, regardless of status, race, gender or culture.

discipleship ignites membership

Early this spring Captain Kevin Cedervall, Minneapolis Temple, Minn., corps officer, developed a discipleship class for his congregation, which resulted in the enrollment of 15 new members. The corps initiated the discipleship class with careful thought and planning. It grew in a logical progression based on the needs of those attending the corps, including those of their large Hispanic ministry.

For the last three years, the Minneapolis Temple Corps has held a successful, well-attended and bilingual corps retreat every summer. The most recent evolved into a preliminary discipleship class.

After the last retreat many in the congregation wanted to know more about soldiership, so weekly discipleship classes ensued, during which corps-goers learned more about the Army’s structure, mission and doctrines. Right alongside discipleship classes for adults, the children’s junior soldier and afterschool programs gained membership interest as well. The children discovered they were ready to take the step of junior soldier with their parents as they learned more about God and The Salvation Army.

Not only did corps families grow together in interest in the Army, but ethnicities continued to blend as well. It was never much of a debate as to whether English and Spanish ministries would be separate (they are always together), and the upcoming enrollment was no exception. According to Kevin, the corps is united as a family and has become incredibly involved and important in each other’s lives. The ethnic differences are inconsequential compared to their sisterhood and brotherhood in Christ.

Lt. Colonel Daniel Sjögren, Northern divisional commander, attended the Minneapolis Temple Corps to enroll 10 junior soldiers, four senior soldiers and one adherent. These new members were already quite involved in corps activities, outreach and service prior to enrollment, but their growth as disciples is what ultimately led them to soldiership.

EUCATE • EQUIP • ENGAGE
Multicultural Ministries Seminar
October 16-18, 2009
Holiday Inn, Rolling Meadows, Ill.

Guests include...

Lt. Colonel Mickey and June McLaren Dr. Brenda Satter McKell
Dr. Mark Hausfield and many more!

A variety of great workshops! Gain new skills, network and be inspired!
$125 per person; $100 per person when registering a group of 5 or more. Register online at www.multiculturalministriescentral.org
Still serving Siouxland

A 120-year history has laid a solid foundation for the future at The Salvation Army in Sioux City, Iowa. Since their arrival last summer, Corps Officers Captains Von and Linda Vandiver have initiated some exciting, new programs while commemorating the corps’ 120th anniversary.

“Captain R. Blair” began the work of the Army in September 1888 in a rented facility near downtown Sioux City, by then a bustling little city of more than 30,000 people; only 30 years earlier it had been the site of a trading post on the Floyd River for fur trappers and early farmers.

Seven years later, Sioux City was visited by General William Booth, who addressed corps soldiers and others from his railroad car during his 1895 tour of the United States. Another noteworthy event: the corps was the first in the Central Territory to commission a female bandmaster, Mrs. Verna Anderson.

The corps’ long-standing home building, which had been sold in 2006, is now encased in new, custom-built frames that will preserve them and prevent future warping problems. The frames were constructed by two soldiers, Elmer “Skip” Stoddard and Dennis Johnson; they hand-rubbed many coats of stain into the wood for a high-gloss finish to complement the stained glass. They also made the window display brackets for the chapel.

Corps youth programs are reaching into the neighborhood around the corps building. A new program begun last fall provides a safe place for area children to come after school and receive homework help and mentoring from college students. Many of these children have started attending other corps activities: a number have enrolled in girl guards, sunbeams and adventure corps.

Sunday school also has seen an attendance increase fueled in part by an exciting morning opening. A challenge issued by the Vandivers last fall raised enough money in eight weeks to sponsor a child through The Salvation Army’s overseas child sponsorship program.

Von and Linda also have been working to make the corps building more of a community resource; several new groups are now using it for programs, meetings and training sessions.

Restored to glory

On the first day when Captains Von and Linda Vandiver arrived at their appointment as Sioux City, Iowa, corps officers last June, they discovered four stained-glass windows in a storage room. The beautiful, vintage windows had graced the old Sioux City Corps building, which had been sold in 2006.

Several pieces of the stained glass had either cracked or been broken in the removal and storage process. Additionally, all four window frames had warped, making the glass increasingly fragile. Linda, whose hobby had been creating stained-glass works for years, saw the condition the windows were in and took on the challenge of restoring them. “I knew we had to do something to preserve this piece of corps history,” she said.

“I’ve never done such a large work as these four windows,” Linda continued. “I was a little daunted to take on a project this big, but I so wanted the corps people to once again see these windows, which were a part of their history.”

In addition to her many responsibilities at the corps, Linda worked many hours a week on the windows, replacing broken pieces of glass and soldering the windows, which are now encased in new, custom-built frames that will preserve them and carry the Marie and Elmer Stoddard stained-glass windows into the neighborhood around the corps building. The window display brackets were made by two corps officers, Elmer “Skip” Stoddard and Dennis Johnson.

A few of the newest members of corps character-building programs were enrolled during a Sunday morning service.

We know that Sunday school and/or SONday’SCOOL is important not only for developing disciples and building God’s Kingdom but for building The Salvation Army as well.

Basic goals of the campaign are to:
• Promote Sunday school
• Promote Sunday school teacher training
• Increase Sunday school/SONday’SCOOL attendance and membership
• Identify, train and enroll new junior and senior soldiers
• Intentionally involve those who attend Sunday school/SONday’SCOOL in activities that will help them to become more like Christ.

The campaign materials provide weekly program ideas, a poster, resources for promoting Sunday school, teacher meeting outline, visitation tips, gospel presentations, decision follow-up methods, and service projects for kids.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
March 29 - April 19, 2009
Meeting the Mission and Service Delivery

At the Territorial Economic Summit this January, officers, soldiers, employees and advisory board members representing the territory created overarching strategies of stewardship, accountability and creativity in finding ways for The Salvation Army in the Central Territory to be as efficient and effective as possible in these difficult economic times.

Requests for assistance have increased, are somewhat different and often reflect a bewilderment and naivety regarding resources. In many instances, former donors are turning to us, asking for help they always assumed was for others.

This new population, impacted by situational poverty, has been formerly employed and had housing. They not only need basics for living, but it is anticipated that as stressors increase the newly poor might face social issues such as substance abuse, domestic violence, and child abuse.

The response to these increased needs must be in addition to the continued response to those who experience chronic and generational poverty. Each corps and service unit is called upon to be creative in its response. To better enable ministry and maximize effectiveness, the Territorial Executive Council (TEC) looked at both short-term (the next four months) and long-term responses. Despite the trying situation in our country, we remain aware of the greater needs in the world and our commitment to world missions does not waver.

Strategies have been developed that are intended to help align individual, organizational and cross-departmental initiatives to achieve common goals. Specific responses or methods for ministry will be determined at the divisional and local level, will keep a common focus and purpose, and may be implemented immediately.

Mission and Service Delivery

Faith Stimulus Package

The Central Territory will expand its ministry presence and service delivery capacity to address the needs of those newly impacted by the escalating economic crisis, which will result in at least a 15 percent increase in cases served first time in 2009. In order to accomplish this, an unprecedented amount of funds has been pulled from reserve and operating funds held at territorial headquarters to create a “Faith Stimulus Package” for direct assistance to those in need.

Collaborate in Christian response

At least 50 percent of communities with a Salvation Army presence will collaborate in calling the Christian church to compassionately bring people through the financial crisis. This will result in at least two new opportunities in the community for shared ministries supporting those impacted by the economic crisis.

Cost Containment

Analyze expenses and eliminate waste

The Economic Summit groups suggested many possible solutions to analyzing expenses and eliminating waste. Many actions can be implemented immediately and should be part of an ongoing approach to stewardship of resources. Each division and command will implement a focused plan to analyze expenses and eliminate waste.

Delay non-essential purchases

In this economic downturn, a key is to manage cash flow, which was considered by the Territorial Executive Council response. Three short-term areas of focus are: conferences (20 percent reduction in cost across the territory), cars and computers.

Revenue Generation

Build/rebuild relationships

Officers, soldiers and employees should immediately put a renewed emphasis and care toward enhancing existing relationships with donors and in engaging in new relationships with faith and hope during this time of spiritual and economic challenge in our country.

Specific action steps will vary, but Salvationists are called to pray together regularly as they respond to the concerns of people in our communities as we step forward in faith, both in service and in stewardship.

50% Community Match

Corps and social service units that apply for the “Faith Stimulus Package” will work with churches and other Christian groups in their community to achieve a 50 percent match.
Challenge

Potential Action Steps for Social Services

**Collaborate**
- Identify potential partners
- Establish continuum of care within the Army and outside
- Discover new ways to meet spiritual needs in outlying areas through service extension units

**Serve the newly poor**
- Develop outreach information program
- Develop strength-based casework skills; group supervision
- Micro enterprises
- Seek out retraining opportunities; partner on local educational issues
- Develop mutual support groups
- Credit counseling

- Find foreclosure expertise/referral
- Intentional holistic approach
- Relevant services: find unduplicated, sustainable services with community impact
- Excellence: use research-based best practices delivered with integrity and accountability
- Leap of Faith: evaluate and close ineffective/inefficient programs and open new mission-driven responses
- Community based vs. facility based; expand the “field”
- Operational: maximize space utilization and multi-purpose areas of existing buildings
- Share the pain; all Salvation Army units working together in cost containment

Potential Action Steps for Corps

- Mobilize people into programs, building relationships with love and compassion
- Think outside four walls
- Emergency kit that would include:
  - Adaptable “where to find help” page
  - Stress management/prevention; address loneliness
- Dignity in time of need for all
- Look actively for gifts-in-kind
- Identify economies of scale with other Army locations
- Continue to develop personal donor relationships (people give to whom they know and trust and what they believe in)

- Look at ways to reduce costs in meals and travel expenses
- Revisit use of landlines and cell phones and duplication of expense
- Help corps officers implement corrective action for ineffective programs, formulate solutions and not settle for mediocrity
- Examine neighborhood responsive programming at corps level to include:
  - Accessible hours of services
  - Service delivery models
- Increase staff competencies
- Community capacity—“glass half full”

Potential Action Steps for Headquarters

- Increase direct services at the expense of “nice-to-haves”
- Develop and implement cost containment plans for every command/unit
- Energy audits
- Preventative maintenance
- Reconsider equipment/vehicle replacement schedule

- Support the mission: strategic and operational support of the frontline—“right stuff in right amount to right place at right time”
- Make sure Army advocates as a voice of the poor at state level
- One-stop approval process
- Engage volunteers
- Assist corps officers to become “Ambassadors of Hope” in ministry
Investment in education

When we’re in need, God provides and sometimes in abundance. For The Salvation Army emergency lodge in Milwaukee, Wis., provision came in the form of $65,000! On a day like any other John Steinmiller from the Milwaukee Bucks contacted the shelter to share with staff they had been chosen by the NBA and Toyota to be the recipient of a program called Project Rebound. This program offered a grant to make improvements that would impact the shelter and lives of the residents.

The 24-hour shelter has a 120-bed capacity, meeting the needs of families, single men and women. The lodge provides case management, a medical clinic, employment assistance, respite care and a children’s development program.

The families find the most peace in the children’s center and activity center considering them a safe haven and special retreat from what is, for many, a difficult reality. The rooms use considerable resources for operation and were in need of a little TLC.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony jv is to fit: Skip Robinson, director of community relations for the Milwaukee Bucks; Bob Lesser, Milwaukee Bucks legend and spokesperson for NBA Cares; Milwaukee Bucks player Dan Gadzuric; Sharon Brown, marketing administrator for Toyota Project Rebound; Major Jesse Collins, Milwaukee county commander; and Bucks player Charlie Bell.

The activity center needed new furniture and electronic equipment, while in the children’s center approximately 25-30 children lacked school supplies and computers for afterschool study and tutoring.

The recent grant created an entirely new environment in the children’s center which has upgraded reading materials, decor and new computers. The activity center underwent a dramatic makeover as well.

Everything—from the Cinderblock walls, old furniture and outdated books—was replaced. Furthermore construction workers on the job pooled their personal resources to purchase a 30-inch flat screen TV to top the room off! The improvements are an amazing gift during a time of economic hardship.

The emergency lodge didn’t just receive an updated look but national publicity as well. A grand re-opening took place last month, which included appearances by the Milwaukee Bucks mascot Bango and several players. The event aired on ESPN during the halftime show of the February 27th Buck’s game.

Corps Officers Captains Ramona and Joel Arthur with Council Bluffs Mayor Tom Hanaman.

$65,000 blessing

When you share a concept with a child for the first time you may not see results immediately, but in the end you never know how much that investment will affect their well-being and even eternity. We hope that eventually, both through education and a relationship with God, we encourage these children to be better people and ultimately members of the community and society.

We, at the Salvation Army, provided the $12 million donation necessary to put the plan in motion.

Corps Officers Captains Joel and Ramona Arthur are most thrilled by the opportunity to be in an unusual and good position to help people. They imagine how beneficial it will be to the single mother who stops by The Salvation Army to enroll her children in afterschool programs and can avail herself of family counseling by the Heartland Family Service center just around the corner.

Throughout the planning period the Arthurs witnessed the Lord work in incredible ways. Joel said, “From the first shovel of groundbreaking to the final amen of the Council Bluffs Corps dedication, God has gone before us, and God has been in control.”

Corps Officer Captains, American Red Cross, Heartland Family Service and MICAH House, this campus stands to further the community in education, health and Christian witness.

The opening ceremony and dedication was a great success. Merle delivered a beautiful message, while others from the community, including the mayor, gathered in support. Speakers included Tim Basham, the project architect, and Vern Kaehn of Kiewit Construction Company, both of whom were impressed by the scale and altruistic effect of this endeavor.

Triple A Commander Major Merle Heathwole spoke at a corps dedication in recent months that would make history in Southwestern Iowa. The Council Bluffs, Iowa, Corps, along with the Boys & Girls Club of America, were the last of five non-profit organizations to open up a facility in the one-of-a-kind site for social services, the Charles E. Lakin Human Services Campus. A collaboration of The Salvation Army, the Council Bluffs Mayor Tom Hanafin.

The dedication ceremony was the crowning moment in a series of events that brought these five agencies together.

Early in 2003 the agencies met through a mutual donor. They devised the concept of an all-inclusive campus where they could co-exist and benefit not only from cost savings due to combined resources but from the cumulative effect their agencies would have on those in need. Later that year, Mr. Charles E. Lakin provided a $65,000 donation.

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General leads Ghana congress

General Shaw Clifton and Commissioner Helen Clifton were greeted by Ghana territorial leaders and Central leaders Colone Dennis and Sharon Strissel, plus 4,000 Salvationists and friends of The Salvation Army as they arrived to lead the Ghana Territorial Congress. Two sessions of officers’ councils preceded the congress; the General’s challenging messages brought many officers to the mercy seat to rededicate their lives to the Lord.

The congress began on a Friday with a welcome meeting themed “The Kingdom Culture.” In his message, the General pointed out that attending church or wearing a uniform cannot save people. He urged Salvationists to find themselves at the foot of the cross as their source of salvation.

Saturday morning brought a youth rally and welcome for the cadets of the Prayer Warriors session. The General commented this was the first time “prayer” had been used in a session name and added all Salvationists must be prayer warriors. Commissioner Helen Clifton recalled when she and the General were in training and prayed these cadets would lead many people to Christ.

In his message, the General used the story of David and Goliath to show God has a plan for each person. He challenged the cadets to allow the Holy Spirit to empower them so they’ll be well equipped for the battles ahead. Many people responded to the General’s appeal for candidates.

A joint men’s and women’s rally on Saturday afternoon represented the New Testament teaching that all are equal in Christ. “Salvationists live in a Kingdom culture where there are no males or females but simply Christians,” said the General. Commissioner Clifton spoke about marriage and challenged couples to study Scripture together so they could teach and influence people in their communities. Saturday ended with a festival of praise.

Sunday began with a march of witness by thousands of uniformed Salvationists, the sight of which literally stopped traffic, followed by a Sunday public holiness meeting attended by representatives from other churches and, for the first time, Salvationists from the Republic of Togo.

In honor of the Ghana Territory’s 86th anniversary, 86 junior soldiers were enrolled by the General and 86 junior timbrelists performed. The General urged everyone present to play their part in maintaining the peace the country is enjoying; Jesus gives peace to His followers and would give peace to those who allow Him to be in their midst.

Based on a report by Captain Stephen Borbor

German challenges, triumphs

Who would’ve thought the results of an independent study project done a decade ago by Majors Jim and Judy Garrington’s son, Joshua, could still be so useful to their ministry?

Jim and Judy are Central leaders who’ve spent many years of their officer serving in Germany; they’re currently the Dresden corps officers. Jim explained generational theory poses that four archetypes, always in the same order, occur every 20 years (one generation)

Over a lifetime, each generation affects those before and after much like dominos, and also in specific cycles. Theory research dates back to the mid-15th century.

Having these extra sociological insights, along with the Holy Spirit’s wisdom, into the dominant motives, fears, loyalties and mindset of multiple generations being ministered to by Jim and Judy has been helpful, he reported, particularly in dealing with adults searching for significance in a post-communist, post-Christian society.

‘By understanding age-related mindsets using generational theory, I was even able to help settle a recent misunderstanding among corps members who had vastly different ideas of what defined commitment to a corps project,’” said Jim.

A move of the Dresden Corps this past year from an upper middle-class neighborhood to the middle of where the Garringtons find themselves ministering the most has meant many new faces attending the corps. Jim explained economic need continues to be great in eastern Germany, where Dresden is located as it still attempts to catch up to its more financially secure western half 20 years after reunification.

With great needs, however, have come great blessings for those who’ve turned to God for regeneration. Just one of the many stories Jim shared on a recent visit back to the U.S. was of the corps ministry to Heidi and her four children. In and out of psychiatric wards for years, Heidi found salvation and is finding a new way of living through discipleship and seeing God work in her family’s life. Heidi’s path isn’t always smooth, but for the first time in her life, she has people that care for her and her children. During a recent hospitalization, Heidi told Judy 15 corps members had visited her--Heidi’s first visits ever while institutionalized.

Major Jim Garrington serves coffee from the corps’ canteen, which is used for its homeless ministry and disasters.

Make the sacrifice!

“[You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.]” John 15:16, NLT

by Sarah Kincaid

Lately I have felt God’s Spirit communicating this to me. He has urged me to ask important questions regarding my method of following Him. Do I look for opportunities to produce fruit? Is it becoming natural in my walk with Him? Have I accepted He has chosen me to do His work and to be a part of building His Kingdom? God and I have continued this dialogue, with Him asking me what I’m willing to do at home and even abroad. Am I willing to sacrifice money, time and energy? Will I give back what’s already His?

Then God gave me an opportunity. It came in the form of a working vacation, attending a sponsorship conference held in Kenya. While I was not able to attend officially, I felt God saying it was still an open door for me to follow Him. Initially, I resisted. A sense of entitlement swept over me. Why should I have to use my own vacation time and money?

As I sinfully expressed annoyance, a good friend made a really valid point. The Salvation Army has taken care of me for years. It has sent me across the country and around the world to minister. The Lord has always taken care of me. I should cheerfully give back to Him what is already His! How can I produce fruit and serve Him if I’m not willing to make sacrifices?

I’m glad that I made the sacrifice to attend the conference. It was a blessing. Learning about God’s work throughout the world was an overwhelming sensation. It’s built my faith and increased my vision of God’s Kingdom and my part in it.
**Love in Action**

Easter is a time to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. 1 John 3:16 (NIV) says, “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” It continues in verse 18, “Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with ACTIONS and in truth.”

This Easter celebrate by giving a gift to the Love in Action project. You choose how your donation is used from a wide array of options, including:

- **Uniforms** - Just $30 helps ensure that a child has a uniform so that he or she can attend school. In many countries throughout the world, children can’t attend school without a uniform, so this is vital in helping children have bright futures.
- **Mobility products** - The Salvation Army has physically handicapped schools all over the world. Your $30 gift will help ensure that schools maintain and purchase wheelchairs and crutches for their students.
- **Farm animals** - Goats, chickens and pigs can provide milk, eggs, meat and income for families in need. Your gift of $30 can help them build a strong, healthy future!
- **Baby care kits** - $50 can provide mothers in need with essential items to care for their babies, such as clothes, diapers, a mosquito net, rubber mat and blankets.
- **Senior care** - $20 will help care for older adults overseas and make their senior years happier and more comfortable.

Visit www.centralmissions.org

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**Kiddeo retires after worldwide service**

Commissioners Israel L. and Eva D. Gaither, national leaders, conducted the retirement of Major Patricia Kiddoo during a dinner at Normandie Farm with National Headquarters officers, Salvation Army World Services Office (SAWSO) staff and a few other special friends. The immediate past international emergency services coordinator, Major Cedric Hills, honored Pat by coming all the way from England for the occasion. Majors Mark and Carolee Israel, national program secretaries, decorated for the event.

Commissioners Gaither brought an intimate, dignified touch to an otherwise very relaxed time of fellowship as they expressed appreciation for Pat’s years of service and provided a challenge for the years to come.

Many friends responded to a request to share a memory from the past and a favorite scripture verse. The occasion was drawn to a close after presentation of these messages, some other gifts and a benediction by Lt. Colonel Dan Starrett, SAWSO director.

In his prayer, Colonel Starrett expressed that Pat will never know until she is in Heaven the significant effect her ministry and faithfulness has had upon the lives of people. He said, “Someone is sure to come up to Pat, touch her on the shoulder and say, ‘Because of your faithfulness to the Lord, love of people and hard work in The Salvation Army, I am here today.’”

Pat served in a variety of appointments in the Central Territory from Booth hospitals to the College for Officer Training to Central Territorial Headquarters for more than three decades. In 1997 she served on special international teams in the war-ravaged countries of Rwanda and Bosnia and in the following year on a team in Kenya. In 2001 she was transferred to SAWSO where she served for eight years. Pat was committed to helping people all over the world, and thousands of men, women and children have been fed, clothed and housed—and given hope—because of her ministry.

Karen Mitchell had no idea that a little divine inspiration could turn into such an amazing project. It started when Karen felt led to do something special for her best friend’s husband and his marine company serving in Iraq.

“God laid it on my heart to send them Bibles,” said Karen.

She asked friends and family for donations, hoping to collect enough money for 200 new Bibles. Before she knew it, she had enough to purchase 432!

“I couldn’t believe it. I was overwhelmed,” she said. Now she had to figure out how to send them to Iraq. That’s where The Salvation Army’s Operation Compassion program came into the picture.

Operation Compassion is a program that sends care packages to military men and women serving overseas. Since 2002 the program has sent more than 72,000 care packages to those serving on the frontlines.

On one person’s compassion

by Michael Rowland

Karen happened to bump into Operation Compassion Director Delana Brabury while Delana was collecting donations for the program at a local restaurant. She asked Delana how she could send the Bibles overseas. Delana’s response was simple. “We could send them for you!” she exclaimed. Karen couldn’t believe it. “I almost started crying,” she said.

Karen and 17 of her friends joined Delana in packing care packages to send to the marine company in which Karen’s best friend’s husband serves. Karen’s Bibles, along with many other items, were packed into Christmas stockings and boxed up for shipment.

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**Economic summit**

*Continued from page 1*

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