New initiatives funded across territory

Nearly $1.2 million in incentive grants has been awarded in the territory through the Thomas Lyle Williams (TLW) Fund. The six programs, representing five divisions, range from helping children get healthy nutrition to comprehensively caring for older adults to preparing inmates for successful re-assimilation into society.

The grants have been awarded on a tiered, step-down basis over three to five years. In order to receive a TLW grant, each program had to have a match gift and community partnerships, be mission supportive and sustainable. Measurable outcomes must be demonstrated during yearly reviews.

**A Better Start**  
In LaPorte, Ind., a new Backpack Food for Kids program is being introduced. The program provides backpacks filled with nutritional food to students in need each Friday during the school year so that weekend meals are covered. With research showing good health and nutrition are prerequisites for effective learning, the school district is enthusiastically supporting this new effort. Having tested a successful pilot program last spring by partnering with the United Way, the Army in LaPorte is now able to launch a full scale program with the TLW grant.

“We are convinced this program will not only provide food but will better the children’s scholastic performance, increasing the likelihood of future success in life,” said Envoy Greg Irwin, corps administrator.

He continued, “It is also a way to reach out to the parents and let them know they are not alone. It may have the effect of motivating parents to move from despair to hope... We are blessed to have the Backpack Food for Kids program as a conduit to bring the gospel message of hope and redemption to families in our struggling community.”

**Help for the Homeless**

On any given night in Indianapolis, Ind., more than 1,600 individuals experience homelessness, with an estimated 300 living in abandoned houses or make-shift communities. Many experience violence, including sexual assaults, in these situations.

With the TLW grant, the Ruth Lilly Women and Children’s Center in Indianapolis, which has provided safe shelter and supportive services for more than 59 years to women and children, is able to add outreach services to homeless individuals who do not want to come into a shelter community but still need support and resources.

The new outreach program will provide crisis intervention, ongoing care coordination, access to shelter resources and medical care, including mental health and addiction services, financial assistance, educational classes, support groups, and overall advocacy. The initiative is in line with the center’s goal of promoting stabilization and improved quality of life as people move toward self-sufficiency.

In Ramsey County, Minn., the need for emergency shelter and housing for youth and young adults is acute. Last year the Army’s Booth Brown House opened a shelter which is always filled to capacity. Now it will be able to increase the number of youth it serves and add much-needed case management services on-site. The shelter provides a first step out of homelessness for young people up to age 22, giving them not only a safe environment but access to services tailored to their unique needs and developmental stage.

Young people who stay at the shelter will be able to participate in independent life skills classes and...
Love Divine

May – August 2014

Take time with the Father daily as you meditate on His Word. Ask Jesus to interpret His Word and speak to your heart.

Open yourself to the Spirit as He brings inspiration.

With our theme in Words of Life during 2014 being “Love,” this edition focuses on “Love Divine.”

This love is shown throughout 1 and 2 Chronicles, with God’s providential care at work in His chosen people. God uses His servant Esther “for such a time as this,” and we see God’s love evidenced in the poetic language of Song of Songs. Luke gives expression of divine love as he records the life of Jesus, servant-king. In Esther’s “forsuch a time as this,” and we see God’s providential care at work in His chosen people.

Commissioner William Francis sensitively leads us into Pentecost.

May God’s love realize, once again, the beauty of divine love for each of us.

Words of Life, The Salvation Army’s international devotional, is written by Major Beverly Ivany. It is available from Resource Connection, 1-800-937-8896 or shop.salvationarmy.org and also digitally from Amazon.com.
Kory and Heidi Strand
Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps Metropolitan Division

We have both been raised in Salvationist families. Kory is the son of soldiers, and I am the daughter of officers. While growing up we each knew about God’s love for us, but it wasn’t until we reached adulthood that we fully understood the power of this love and the great fulfillment gained by daily holy living.

As our relationship with the Lord grew and our ministry at the corps expanded, God began to speak to our hearts, challenging us to take bigger steps of faith and obedience. This has brought us where we are ready to commit our family to full-time ministry. The spiritual lives of people and condition of their hearts weigh heavily on us. We want to be an influence for Christ in the world and are eager to accept this challenge as officers.

“The Strands’ corps officers are Major Lena and Captain Brian Davis.”

Kelly Summit
North Platte, Neb., Corps Western Division

As the daughter and granddaughter of officers, I often felt pressured growing up to become an officer too. My call came at a youth council, but out of fear and self-doubt I denied it. I needed to be sure this calling was from God. I spent the next few years searching for confirmation my calling to be an officer was from God and not a result of being groomed to be an officer. Upon graduating from high school I attended Greenville College and studied religion. I also had the opportunity to study in Africa. During this time and in the years that followed college, I began to realize God had been preparing me for officership all along. He has allowed me to experience people and places that have shaped me into the person He wants me to be.

Bravo!

A ll who attend this year’s Festival of Worship Arts and Commissioning weekend will be inspired by the developing musical talents of our young people. The new Territorial Youth Band (William Himes and Peggy Thomas, conductors) and Youth Chorus (Joe Caddy and Meghan Pierson, conductors) will be featured throughout the weekend.

In addition, vocalists, instrumentalists, percussionists pianists and guitarists, age 9-25, selected from each division will have the opportunity to participate in Bravo!, a series of solo events scheduled Saturday morning and early afternoon which are designed to encourage, evaluate and recognize individual achievement.

“This is another means of reaching our long-range objective of Live Music in Worship in Every Corps by 2020 (LM-2020),” said Bandmaster William Himes. “Its purpose is to encourage young musicians to further develop their individual talents and discover the fulfillment of using their skills to the glory of God and for the blessing of others.”

There are four age categories for vocalists, instrumentalists and pianists: 9-12, 13-15, 16-18, open. Vocalists and guitar will be structured in three age categories: 13-15, 16-18, open. Solo events, divided by instrument and age group, will take place throughout the day on Saturday, and the top soloist in each of the open competitions will be featured during the evening festival program.

This spring divisions are selecting the aspiring soloists through divisional music day solo contests or other means of identifying participants in the given categories. Soloists may compete in their age category or higher if they choose. To assure fairness, participants select from two soloists designated by the territorial music and gospel arts department for each age/category. However, those performing in the open section are free to choose any solo that does not exceed seven minutes. Titles, publishing information and Bravo! contest rules are available on the Central Territory website [centralusa.salvationarmy.org/music]. Since then God has equipped Major Karen for her new appointment as territorial disaster training coordinator.

In this capacity the major will work with each division to implement training plans, increase the emergency disaster services volunteer base, and develop and write curriculum for the National Disaster Training Program [NDTP]. “And basically do everything Kevin Ellers [territorial disaster services coordinator] tells me to,” Major Karen quipped, with a sly smile about her new supervisor.

Since the Northridge earthquake Major Karen has been involved in many major disaster relief efforts from 9/11 to Hurricane Katrina. She also played a critical role in the Moore, Okla., relief effort last June.

“Having worked so many disasters, I’ve become a better trainer,” she said. “Between that and my passion for teaching, which is a spiritual gift, it’s all melded together.” Major Karen received her undergraduate degree in education and taught middle school math for two years before entering training.

The major knows none of this would be possible without the love and support of her husband, Major Allen, and their two daughters Bailey, 13, and Megan, 8. Major Allen will be taking on additional duties as the Goshen, Ind., corps officer, no small order.

“I’m really excited about this opportunity. My to-do list is a mile long, but that’s okay. Helping people get connected with The Salvation Army and ensuring our volunteers feel comfortable and confident to serve others and proclaim the message of Jesus Christ through disaster services—what a great job,” Major Karen said.

Kelly’s corps officers are Lt. Anthony and Brianne Bowers.

Bravo! (brävō) exclam.; used to express approval when a performer or other person has done something well.
Chicago Kroc introduces dance to young members

by Jackie Rachev and Felicia R. Horton

The Ray & Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Chicago’s West Pullman neighborhood is full of young girls with dreams of becoming a ballerina or tap dancer. The staff at the center’s Academy of the Arts creates a variety of performance-based classes, including the wildly popular Tot Combo Class, which gives children ages 3-5 the opportunity to learn creative movement, ballet and tap dance.

Tasha Gibson, dance/theater manager, said the class is always full. “We started offering two classes per session, and they are filled to capacity,” she said. “These classes have been very well-received by the community.”

Major Darlene Harvey, Kroc center officer for program development, is thankful for the leadership Tasha exhibits in bringing to the class and for her extraordinary patience as she channels the energy these adorable little girls bring to class each week.

Young dancers use creative movement to connect with their world and find the joy in moving. They learn the fundamentals of ballet, including basic positions and spins, and then transition into basic tap steps.

Students in each class are encouraged to participate in the center’s annual productions including the “KrocPourri” Thanksgiving recital, Gifts of the Season Christmas Holiday Dinner Theater and spring presentations to showcase their talents and skills on stage in the center’s auditorium. “KrocPourri” included performances from ballerinas, tap dancing tots, piano, handbell, choir, and acoustic performances displaying skills and talents they learned in the Academy of the Arts classes.

Academy members discovered their creativity and let it manifest into visual art with the aid of professional academy instructors. Although all of the performances are exceptional, the Tots Combo Class is the largest and involves the smallest members of the academy. You can hear the “oohs,” “ahs” and giggles as these young girls perform in their amazing costumes.

Dorian and Sharone Johnson feel the Academy of the Arts is a great present to show case their talents and skillson stage in the center’s auditorium. “KrocPourri” included performances from ballerinas, tap dancing tots, piano, handbell, choir, and acoustic performances displaying skills and talents they learned in the Academy of the Arts classes.

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Surrender won the war

For more than two decades, Larry Hayes’ existence was a life and death struggle—with death the odds-on favorite to win. He used alcohol to function even more out of control after his beloved mother died in 2006. Larry began drinking all day, every day. Fights with family and friends, then strangers in bars led to run-ins with the law. No longer caring if he lived or died, Larry just wanted ‘one more drink’ even after developing severe pancreatitis and a badly damaged liver.

I continued to get sicker physically and mentally but had absolutely no intention to do anything about it,’ he said, even after repeated hospitalizations with intense abdominal pain.

In 2010 Larry ended up homeless. ‘I’d have nothing to eat and nowhere to sleep, but you could bet I had a bottle of vodka stashed somewhere in my coat,’ he said.

People who may have known Larry from his homeless days would not recognize him now thanks to the regenerating power of Christ and the recovery program offered by the Indianapolis, Ind., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC), where Larry works as its communications coordinator.

In April 2012 after yet another hospitalization, Larry finally prayed for the first time in years. A week later he was led to the Indianapolis ARC where he met Administrators Envoy Steven and Pamela McNary. But, Larry kept leaving and coming back to the ARC because he still wasn’t ready to do what was necessary to obtain sobriety: learn how to surrender, not only to God but to the recovery program.

In March 2013 Larry finally gave his all. ‘I was sick of living the life of a depressed alcoholic,’ he said. Larry worked the recovery program with God’s enabling power and Christ’s saving grace, read his Bible, prayed regularly, attended 12-step meetings and got a sponsor, poured himself into his journals and classes and turned his focus to others.

The regenerated life Larry demonstrated after graduating from the recovery program eventually led to an offer of fulltime employment at the Indianapolis ARC.

‘I really enjoy working side-by-side with the people who showed me how to start living again,’ Larry concluded. ‘By having a relationship with Jesus Christ and participating in the [12-step] fellowship, I believe that sobriety can be a life-long achievement.’

If you want joy, choose holiness

by Lt. Colonel Daniel Sjögren Territorial Ambassador for Holiness

As of late, I’ve had the chorus, “If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy” tossed about in my head. Of course, in order for us to experience this joy, we must make some choices.

Let me suggest we choose not to sin, not only because it defeats us but because it literally graces the heart of God. We can choose, instead, to count on the promise that we are dead to sin, freed from it being our master, and now can say no to sin. But we must choose to accept our responsibility to discipline our lives for obedience.

A life-changing encounter

Andrea with 11 other new soldiers and three adherents in Farmington Hills, Mich.

S
ingle mom of four Andrea Fields was leaving home at the crack of dawn five days a week to catch a bus, take her children to daycare, and then board two more buses to get to college classes in Detroit.

‘I was so tired I could feel it in my soul,’ recalled Andrea. ‘The constant struggling was getting the best of me. I began to feel that all of my prayers and faithfulness were a waste, and that I was a world class fool for believing an all-knowing God would have any interest in a nobody like me.’

Bills were piling up, food was scarce, and her utilities had been shut off. ‘The harder I tried, the harder I felt I had to try. My feet were so cold in my boots they felt like needles, and my face felt like a giant ice cube,’ she said.

One morning Andrea had had enough. She’d decided that after dropping off her kids, when she got to school, she’d quit. But as she got off the bus, she noticed a large vehicle in the parking lot.

“When I got closer I realized it was a Salvation Army vehicle,” said Andrea. Before reaching the college entrance she heard a buzz about free food. So she rerouted to the truck.

The lady who served Andrea was smiling and friendly. She asked Andrea questions and tried to get to know her. It turned out the truck had been scheduled to be someplace else that morning, but they ended up at Andrea’s school.

‘I don’t know if she saw the desperation in my eyes, but she offered to pray for me. Right then and there,’ said Andrea. ‘When she prayed the burden I had been carrying around lifted. I walked away from the truck and into school no longer defeated, alone and worthless. Never again have I wanted to give up or doubted the goodness or compassion of my God. My circumstances hadn’t changed, but my perception of them did.’

After her brief encounter that morning Andrea felt a connection with the Army. Later on, as times were still hard, she turned to the Army again for food assistance. After moving out of downtown Detroit to the suburbs, she visited a worship service at the Farmington Hills, Mich., Corps. She has been attending for three years and last year was enrolled as a soldier.

New Members

October - December 2013

76 Senior Soldiers
29 Adherents
88 Junior Soldiers
Volunteering at its best

Just as military forces are said to run best on full stomachs, these four Salvation Army locations in the territory run best on volunteers.

**Twin Cities volunteering a quality experience**

The Salvation Army in the Twin Cities is committed to providing a quality volunteer experience, according to Tom McKee, recently retired long-time director of volunteer services for the Northern Division.

“We make sure each participant not only feels they’re doing something worthwhile, but that they’re valued, needed and appreciated,” said Tom.

Careful planning is required before the recruitment process can begin, he continued. “In-depth conversations assure a solid quality volunteer experience as we determine project goals, job descriptions, the number of people needed and who will supervise them. I prefer the Goldilocks formula: not too many, not too few; just right.”

The Twin Cities is home to several large national and international corporations. “Volunteering for the Army is a sought-after experience,” Tom continued. The value-added feature is team building.

“We use a pyramid analogy as a ‘selling point’ in recruiting corporations. When volunteers’ experiences ascend the triangular sides toward the top, they get closer to each other and a team spirit emerges,” he said.

Sign-up for seasonal volunteering on the Army’s website starts in mid-September; most spots are filled within days.

Year-round volunteer opportunities focus primarily on feeding. Meals are served seven days a week at the harbor light shelter, along with breakfast at the St. Paul Citadel Corps and lunch at the St. Paul Eastside Corps five days a week. Two other Army sites host feeding programs with meals provided by Loaves and Fishes. Additionally, the Army has food pantries in six locations.

Face-to-face contact with someone in need is particularly desired at large-scale events, like the massive toy shop effort which alone needs more than 1,400 volunteers for six locations. This past year more than 27,000 children received toys.

**Green Bay’s generations**

Volunteering is a generational value in this region, and we provide a maximum, volunteer-impact experience,” said Ryan Dreier, volunteer coordinator for the Brown County Coordinator’s Office in Green Bay, Wis. With more than 800 active volunteers—and a contact list of 8,000 past and potential volunteers—recruiting people is rarely a problem. But, switching over to an online volunteer management system two years ago was a leap of faith!

Leaving behind our old system of paper sign-up and log-in sheets was a bit nerve-wracking at first,” said Ryan. The Volunteer Impact system has generated tremendous results by providing a convenient, online platform for prospective volunteers to indicate their interests, submit applications and start background checks.

It also has a secure log-in site for pre-approved volunteers to schedule their shifts and report hours served.

“Volunteers feel more respected and appreciate that we consider their overall time commitments,” Ryan continued. More than 800 volunteers are pre-approved to log in directly. Volunteer openings also are listed on the United Way and Brown County Volunteer Center websites. “However, our most important source of new volunteers is our current ones,” he added.

Volunteers are intrinsic to the area’s year-round feeding and food supply programs, thrift store and after-school programs. Online signup begins six weeks prior to the holiday season; larger groups are pre-booked “so we don’t have 20 people showing up for a seven-person job,” Ryan concluded. “We never want to say an opportunity is full. Instead we redirect volunteers to other opportunities that are still open.”

**Volunteer opening registration**
Bethany Fatkin, development manager and volunteer coordinator for the Wichita, Kan., City Command, reports its young professional board has evolved from initiating and staffing volunteer projects to holding recruitment and fundraising events and conducting a major food drive each year.

The most exciting and high-profile fundraising event is a dinner and fashion show that's become enormously popular with the city's hip, young social crowd. Six designers are chosen each year to create original fashions from thrift-store finds—with a shopping budget of $125 per designer—for the glamorous "Consignment Couture Fashion Show!"

Beth strives for volunteers to feel good about themselves and the less fortunate they're assisting. Her recruitment role is made easier thanks to the Army's good media relations and advertising efforts, which include prominent billboards.

The major volunteer events of the year are back-to-school shopping in August, the Warm Heart coat distribution in early November and the Angel Tree and toy shop distributions in December. "When you count each step of the Angel Tree process alone, we use more than 1,000 volunteers; the two-day distribution requires 500-plus volunteers," said Beth who has an active and potential volunteer database of more than 2,100 names.

"Many of our volunteers come back throughout the year to help with social service and clerical needs, such as picking up food donations from restaurants, managing the food and commodities pantries and working in the command offices," she continued.

Volunteer demographics cover a broad spectrum of ages, from boy and girl scout troops to college students to older adults. Also incorporated are special-needs students and vocationally challenged adults.

Volunteering in Wichita always in fashion
Matthew Beatty returned to the U.S. at the end of December after serving with the International Emergency Services team in the Philippines since early November when Typhoon Haiyan wreaked havoc on the nation’s central islands. A trained emergency disaster services worker, Matthew had been a Salvationist lay missionary in the Philippines before becoming corps assistant at the Kansas City Northland, Mo., Corps.

A United Nations briefing Matthew attended in late December reported more than 17 million people had been affected by the storm, now considered a Category 5 super typhoon with sustained winds gusting to 240 mph. Matthew attended in late December at the United Nations briefing at the end of December. Matthew put the scale of damage into perspective. “Imagine an area of devastation 200 miles wide from Kansas City to Chicago,” he said. It took weeks for some islands to get initial relief.

“The devastation can’t be imagined in your worst thoughts,” he continued. “People were dying each day from disease and hunger-related issues. However, we felt the spirit of the Lord guiding us and knew He’d lead us where we were needed.”

Matthew returned home, he concluded, “The Lord has given and continues to provide.” He’s also been learning to play the timbrel in junior activities! He’s also been learning to play the timbrel in junior activities. We were able to place Matthew in a school right away under the care of an experienced teacher who patiently works with him as he’s learning in English. He’s involved in cub scouts and steel pan instruction at school and was awarded a certificate for his extracurricular activities! He’s also been learning how to play the timbrel in junior soldier and continues to amaze us with his ability to sing parts and play the drums. This past fall we also enrolled him in French classes, where he’s studying on the third year level.

The biggest challenge was supply and transportation of essentials such as food, medical supplies and hygiene kits. “Our best day was delivering 262,000 meals to 2,500 families in 48 hours once we received the shipment!” Matthew said.

Over the weeks, Matthew served as incident commander in several locations. He speaks the Filipino language and his radio was already programmed to operate on private government frequencies after designing a typhoon early-warning system while living in the Philippines. According to Matthew, before the Army transitioned into long-term relief efforts (housing, agriculture and boat building), it had distributed more than 1.3 million meals. In one commercial fishing town, only were boats and houses destroyed but a thick coat of oil was left on the streets and coastline when an oil terminal was ripped apart by the storm.

God’s hand was evident throughout, Matthew added. On a whim, he’d thrown a large stack of protective face masks into his luggage before leaving for the Philippines. He arrived at a briefing just as the Visayas divisional commander was discussing the critical need for masks, yet none were available. “Without saying a word, I opened my suitcase and handed him the large stack. He was in tears and speechless as we both saw the Lord’s hand in this,” said Matthew.

Although the central Philippines still had no electricity or running water when Matthew returned home, he concluded, “The Lord has given and continues to provide.”

New islands, new ministries

by Major Violet Ezeh

Our life and ministry in Trinidad and Tobago [Caribbean Territory] began a little more than a year ago when we arrived from Haiti, where we’d served for 12 years at a medical clinic.

Our son, Matthew, made his first-ever move with courage. His tears on the plane were replaced by excitement as we met new people.

We received a warm welcome at the airport by a large contingent of officers and soldiers. One of the first things I noticed about Trinidad was its level of development: three-lane divided highways, large office buildings (the tallest has 21 stories), a busy shipping port and many parks.

The Salvation Army has been here since 1901 and has six corps, three women’s hostels, a senior citizens’ residence, two preschools, one daycare center and a weekly homeless feeding program.

For the first time in our marriage (and my career!), we are corps officers. Felix is finding it rewarding to concentrate on pastoral care for the Port of Spain Central Corps. In addition to my corps officer duties, I serve as the divisional secretary for women’s ministries and administrator of the Josephine Shaw House, a hostel dormitory for 80 young working women and students operating since 1945. We just received a government grant to reconstruct the main administrative building over the next three years which will include new, self-contained apartments for single-mother families and a conference room on the top floor that also may be used for disaster sheltering.

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The Ezeh family during worship.
On board with the Army

Our members love the Lord, and serve in His name,” said Lieutenant Sharyn Tennyson, Bloomington, Ind., corps officer of the local advisory board. “They are known as Christian business people in our community who are passionate about the mission of The Salvation Army and deeply care about their community.”

Arriving at the Bloomington Corps in July 2012, Lt. Sharyn was not only welcomed by the advisory board but blessed because of their support of the Army, and their witness. Advisory board member Don Weaver said it best, “We need to find people who, number one, love the Lord, and, number two, are passionate about the work of The Salvation Army.”

After attending a National Advisory Organizations Conference several years ago, Don brought back a unique kettle kick-off idea to host a luncheon and fundraiser at the beginning of the season. Last Christmas was the seventh annual event, and 298 community members attended. The five-minute “Dash for Cash” alone raised $19,426.

“It’s a great way to start our Red Kettle Campaign, and it gets our community ready for us to start ringing bells at kettles. Perhaps their biggest contribution is coordinating the Angel Tree program. The ladies sort applications, interview clients, and locate and match donors for 50 families in need.

This spring the auxiliary will hold its 11th annual Bonnets and Blooms luncheon and silent auction. It’s held for over 200 donors. Each member hosts and decorates a table, which adds to the festivity. Proceeds last year exceeded $8,000 and benefitted social services.

Ten years ago June MacGregor felt the Lord was calling her to start a women’s auxiliary in Royal Oak, Mich. She couldn’t have known just how great of an impact her faithfulness would make.

Today, 46 members strong, the ladies of the Royal Oak Women’s Auxiliary work year round supporting, resourcing and advocating for The Salvation Army. “They’re ambassadors for us,” said Captain Catherine Mount, Royal Oak corps officer. “They really get it. They understand what it means to care for others and share the gospel in practical ways.”

Three times a year the women host a special needs dinner. Upwards of 180 adults and young adults participate. The first dinner of the year is hosted near St. Patrick’s Day, followed by a Harvest dinner, and a finale at Christmas.

“When you see the looks on their faces, you know all of the work is worth it,” said Lt. Sharyn Tennyson with Peggy Welch and advisory board member Angela Parker who were the 2013 top bellringers at the kettle kick-off event.

Faith in action

Karen Lhyle, Royal Oak Auxiliary president. “It’s a joy for them to get to see friends they only get to interact with a few times a year.”

During the Christmas season the ladies are involved with everything from the toy shop to ringing bells at kettles. Perhaps their biggest contribution is coordinating the Angel Tree program. The ladies sort applications, interview clients, and locate and match donors for 50 families in need.

This spring the auxiliary will hold its 11th annual Bonnets and Blooms luncheon and silent auction. It’s held for over 200 donors. Each member hosts and decorates a table, which adds to the festivity. Proceeds last year exceeded $8,000 and benefitted social services.

Karen Lhyle, Royal Oak Auxiliary president.
Visibility brings opportunities

Continued from page 1

It’s a huge challenge, but our family remains important. We visit them two or three times a year, and I keep regular telephone contact with my mother. We use Skype a lot, and that’s a good way to connect. On Silvia’s birthday we had all the family on Skype at different times of the day! If the Wi-Fi is good we can sometimes manage it on our travels.

At your welcome you spoke of your dream of an Army on its knees—a committed, effective and joyful Army, rooted and confident in the Word of God. How do you see your dream becoming reality?

It will become reality only if it changes something in the way we live. Someone wrote to me and said, “I want that dream to become a reality in my life”; it was a prayerful response and that’s the key. We can dream of a better world and yet people in The Philippines are living in disaster. What it means is that I have to be touched by that and do something.

How do you balance the responsibilities of General with the responsibilities to your family?

You have asked young people aged 7 to 25 to tell you what they think of The Salvation Army. Do you feel that the Army has failed to listen to this age group and what are you hoping to gain from the feedback?

I think the best people to ask are the young people themselves. I have been encouraged by the responses—we’ve had so many. I don’t get a sense that the young people feel that we’re not listening to them, or are not interested in them, but I’m not sure that we always hear what they’re saying.

I was encouraged in Australia Eastern when we had a tea and cake meeting with seniors there. They were asking, “How can we help the young people—what can we do?” I just said: “You’ve got to be role models and encourage.”

Then we went into a prayer breakfast with the young leaders of the territory who spoke in such wonderful terms about “those in the Army who went before us.” I began to see how it should work. There shouldn’t be a generation gap; it’s not “us” and “them.” Young people are not the Army of the future; they’re the Army of the present because they are the ones who can most effectively reach their own generation.

I wonder if the Cabinet structure in the Army really serves us best when it comes to program. Often the secretary for program in larger territories has to represent a wide spectrum of interests. I imagine a number of people could feel that they are not being heard because they really don’t know how they are being represented during Cabinet discussions—this applies to our young people and to others as well.

This month the General’s Consultative Council will focus specifically on youth and young people. We want to use their voices to speak to leadership and take it forward at the International Conference of Leaders later in the year. I’m not only thinking about officer leadership, but also the encouragement of our young people.

I had a glimpse in Australia Eastern of how it should be. We ought to be thankful for everyone we have, and in particular for our young people and for the energy, vision and passion they bring—but they need mentors to stand by them. I certainly want youth to be heard at the International Congress in 2015. I don’t want them to be relegated to a secondary platform somewhere else. I want them to be directly involved in every meeting—part of the main platform, not a sideshow.

In a recent Move Your Money score card Reliance Bank scored highly as a moral and ethical bank. One of the recommendations to improve the score was for there to be more women on the board. Do you think the same could be said for other areas of Salvation Army administration?

I have sought to ensure—not in a token way—that we have good representation of women on boards. It has always added something because men and women regularly bring different perspectives to a discussion, leading, ultimately, to more fully thought-through decisions. In every territory I have worked to bring women on board. We have done the same here at HQ in the international appointment boards and aim to identify more women leaders.

I think we are now well beyond mere tokenism in making such appointments. Of course, a bank is a bank, but there are a lot of women who have great financial expertise. I certainly would hope that we can identify suitable women to appoint to those positions, not least because the difference in ways of thinking enriches the whole.

You have embraced today’s technology with a new website and the use of Facebook and Twitter. What benefits do you find in communicating in this way? Are there any downsides?

One of the great things about using Facebook or Twitter is that it allows me to open windows to the world. It is instantaneous and wherever in the world we can connect to a network we can get pictures and text. One of the things I am really passionate about, and hope to develop further, is to bring a light on some of the harsh realities of our world by posting pictures and brief sound bites. Also, then, to illustrate the impact of the Army in such situations and demonstrate that God is still changing lives!

On the other side, I don’t live my life or feel valued by having so many “followers” or “likes”—I don’t think relationships are built up this way. I have no time to read the trivia or unwise things that are said through social networking sites.

In the UK Territory, and possibly others, we are in a time of transition. As the Army approaches its 150th anniversary, are there areas of our unique identity that must remain unchanged?

Everyone will have their own personal take on this. In some ways I get a feeling that the economy crisis we have been through—the uncertainty it has caused and the realization of what naked grunt can do—is driving us back to our origins and our calling as The Salvation Army. In Europe we’re seeing things beginning to grow as people begin to intentionally re-engage with their communities; some things have already come forward. I believe that we need to be identifiable as the Army—for our visibility opens up unique opportunities. Visibility is an issue to me that is non-negotiable—if we all disappeared into civils and became God’s secret service what impact would that have? I think the fact that we are a covenanted people should remain strong. I address officers councils around the world, but whatever our culture we have the same calling and commitment. Forms of worship will change; we don’t have to stick with the old ways but must adapt. One of the things that is making a change is the worldwide prayer meeting. We have participated in it in many different places and people say “we pray this is our prayer watch.” The internationalism of the Army is one of God’s greatest gifts, and I hope that we will see something of that at the International Congress in 2015. We witnessed snippets of it during our visit to South America. West when four countries came together in their respective national dress. It was an image of Heaven—so beautiful—and I hope that the quality of internationalism will remain strong.
**Meeting final needs**

A death in any family is traumatic. It’s hard enough to think clearly while making the arrangements for the burial of a loved one; it’s so much worse when funds are limited or non-existent. Perhaps one of the most obscure but meaningful ministries provided by The Salvation Army is the availability of donated burial plots.

“For many in our communities, the emotional stress of losing a family member is only compounded by the financial liability looming over them. For those struggling to make ends meet each month, the responsibilities of funeral planning is simply overwhelming,” said Captain Jeff Carr, Heartland divisional secretary for business.

“In addition to providing spiritual and emotional counseling, corps and family service centers throughout the territory can offer a little peace of mind in a difficult situation,” he continued citing an opportunity in Peoria, Ill., where the Army was able to coordinate a choice of three different burial plot options for the bereaved family.

“And, because the deed details have been worked out ahead of time, the stress of loss is mitigated as much as possible,” he added.

Currently there are approximately 4,000 burial plots available in the territory, according to Blythe Marinelli who has compiled a database for the territorial property department. Corps and service centers are encouraged to contact their divisional headquarters for more information.

“Just one more way we can be there for those in need,” Jeff concluded.

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**Lenten Resources 2014**

**FOLLOW**

Enrich your corps’ worship this Lenten season with the “Follow” worship series in becoming more like Jesus.

High-quality, ready-to-use Sunday worship outlines and sermons—as well as a devotional guide, program ideas and activities—are available.

See your corps officer for more information.

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**My Prayer List**

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<th>Bible Reading</th>
<th>Pray for The Salvation Army</th>
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<td>1 Corinthians 9-10</td>
<td>Springfield, Ill., ARC*</td>
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<td>2 Wednesday</td>
<td>Exodus 1-4</td>
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<td>3 Thursday</td>
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<td>7 Monday</td>
<td>Mark 7-8</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Wednesday</td>
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<td>15 Tuesday</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 13-14</td>
<td>Chief of the Staff Commissioner William A. &amp; Commissioner Nancy L. Roberts (IHQ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Wednesday</td>
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<td>17 Thursday</td>
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<td>Psalms 45-47</td>
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<td>21 Monday</td>
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<td>23 Wednesday</td>
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<td>27 Sunday</td>
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<td>28 Monday</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2 Corinthians 1-3</td>
<td>Rapid City, S.D., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Wednesday</td>
<td>Exodus 17-20</td>
<td>Porter County, Ind., Corps</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* = Adult Rehabilitation Center  
** = Divisional Headquarters  
PIM = Partners in Mission

Go to www.salarmycentral.org

If you follow the prayer calendar in the next year, you will have read through the Bible!
New initiatives funded across territory

Continued from page 2

aging relationships, daily journaling, Inside Out Dad that helps with par- enting skills and strengthening con- nections to family. Bridges to Freedom which supplies tools for the job market, and The Salvation Army’s Bible Correspondence Course.

“There are times when the Spirit of God will lead us to unpromising places; however, meeting needs in His name without discrimination mandates that we go,” said Earnest.

On Aging Well

The Army’s Goshen, Ind., is position- ing itself to provide services to meet the needs of older adults. Through the TLW grant, a new Senior Comprehensive Development Program will provide life-enriching programs for seniors five days a week.

The targeted, multi-faceted pro- gram addresses the vital areas for seniors’ well-being. These include transportation to the program, healthy nutrition through hot meals and monthly senior-specific food boxes, socialization and opportunities to gain new skills and to volunteer, financial assistance for those in need, and counseling for seniors and their families by a licensed mental health worker. A computer lab of laptops is planned with intergenerational tutoring through a new partnership with Oasis.

Medical Muscle

The Manitoowoc, Wis., Corps is launching a medical services program designed to help people who are uninsured, underinsured or who are struggling to meet copay- ments. Many of the indi- viduals and families this program will help will have utilized the emer- gency room for non-critical care, coming at a very high cost to them and also placing a great stress on the local hospital and community.

Three different services, running concurrently will include a free med- ical clinic for those in need, a paid prescription service for those who can’t afford medicine, and funding of travel to and from the clinic and other medical facilities through bus tokens, travel vouchers or gas cards.

The corps has garnered enthusiastic support from the community and has an all-volunteer staff including a physician, registered nurse, reception- ist and social worker at the clinic and has two hospitals which have agreed to support the clinic with a limited amount of X-rays and blood tests.

“The Red Shield Clinic in its short existence has already made an impact on the lives of those we serve,” said Lt. Jeffrey Olsen, Manitoowoc corps officer. “We are seeing patients who have not seen a doctor in years.”

Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Commissioner Carol Thomson

Mrs. Commissioner Carol Thomson
joined her Savior on December 10, 2013. Born to devot
Christians Gertrude and Einar Nielson, Carol invited Jesus into her heart as a child. She was active in her Baptist church youth group as a teenager, and in 1945 enrolled in St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., where she met her future husband, Robert.

After graduation Robert and Carol were married and entered the College for Officer Training a year later. They were commissioned in 1951. For 15 years Robert served in the territorial editorial department while Carol was devoted to minister- ing at their corps.

Subsequent appointments took them to the Kansas and Western Missouri and Metropolitan divisional headquarters, Indiana Division and territorial editorial department. The Thomsons were appointed to International Headquarters, where Commissioner Carol served as the women’s ministries secretary for the Americas and Caribbean Zone.

Commissioner Carol retired as the president of women’s organizations in the Eastern Territory. In retire- ment the Thomsons were faithful sol- diers of the Clearwater Citadel, Fla., Corps and active in a host of activi- ties.

Throughout her life Carol men-
tored women and was known for being positive, encouraging and a good listener. She is survived by her loving hus-
band; children, Lt. Colonel Robert (Nancy), Lt. Colonel Barbara (Rick) Getz and Mark (Sheila); nine grand- children and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Major Neoma Garrington

On December 15, 2013, Mrs. Major Neoma Garrington was promoted to Glory.

Neoma Christian was born in Muscatine, Iowa, in 1924. As a young person she attended the Waterloo, Iowa, Corps and participated in divisional and territorial music groups. It was in the Iowa Division Band that she became friends with her future husband, Dwight Garrington. Neoma was commissioned as an officer in 1944.

Neoma and Dwight married in 1947. They served in several corps before feeling God was calling them to other service, left officership and Neoma then taught elementary school, while Dwight was a college professor. Returning to officership in 1973, they served at the College for Officer Training. After leading two of the territory’s largest corps, Dearborn Heights, Mich., and Norridge Citadel, Ill., they were asked to establish the territorial evangel- ism and corps growth department. The Garringtons retired in 1990.

The Garringtons’ officership was characterized by energy, love for people, joy and hospitality. They had four children, three of whom became Salvation Army officers. After Dwight’s passing in 1992, Neoma continued to minister for nearly 20 years at the Davenport, Iowa, Adult Rehabilitation Center, where she taught many men how to read.

She was preceded in death by her husband; son-in-law, Major Randall Sjogren, and great-granddaughter, Abigail. She is survived by her chil- dren, U.S. Army Lt. Colonel Stephen Lindal, Major James Sjogren and Major Jan (Russell) Sjogren; nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Major Marjorie Fuqua

Mrs. Major Marjorie Fuqua was promoted to Glory on December 14, 2013.

Marjorie was born to Floyd and Nellie Polz in Decatur, Ill., in 1924. She came from a strong Army heritage and grew up attending the Decatur Corps.

Two weeks after graduating from high school, Marjorie married Heribert Fuqua, whom she met at the corps. Their marriage was blessed with four children.

The Fuquas were commissioned with the “Challengers” session in 1946. Their first appointment was to Rockford, Ill., corps officers, and their officership took them to corps, divisional headquarters and county commands across the territory. In 1986 they retired from the Wichita, Kan., City Command but came out of retirement three times to serve as corps officers.

Marjorie was known for her bub- bly spirit, friendliness, hearty laugh and zest for life; she never stopped praising her Savior.

Marjorie is survived by her hus- band of 71 years; children, Dennis (Cookie), Gale (George) Blevins, Major Herb (Yaneth) and Melody Schake; 10 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

Brigadier Cecil Dye

Brigadier Cecil Dye was born to Ralph and Maymie Dye in 1919, in Champaign, Ill. He attended the McKinney Conservatory of Music for piano during his elementary and high school years.

At age 19 Cecil became active in The Salvation Army and soon felt a call to officership. In 1941 he was commissioned with the “Crusaders” session and appointed to Rockford, Ill.

On March 9, 1944, Cecil married Lt. Maxine Gelino. Together they served as corps officers in Michigan, North Dakota, Minnesota and Illinois. Along the way they were blessed with two daughters.

Cecil was the first Salvation Army officer to officiate as chaplain over the Illinois House of Representatives 74th general assembly. In 1984 the Dyes retired from their last appointment as directors of the territorial confer- ence center.

Cecil is remembered as steadfast, dependable and well respected. He was a good leader and an effective officer.

He was preceded in death by his wife and is survived by his daugh- ters, Sharyl Miller and Darla (Darryl) Hawkins; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.