In 2006 the Eastern Michigan Division partnered with Safari Club International to develop, enhance and resource its outdoor education programs. Today, with the help of additional partners and the territorial youth department, TSA Outdoors (TSAO) is expanding territory-wide.

Armed with the clever slogan, “Forget the box… think outside!” the program seeks to develop character, self-esteem and confidence in youth through outdoor learning and help them connect with God through His creation. TSAO curriculum will be used in conjunction with character-building, day camp and camping programs.

“We’re not trying to reinvent the wheel,” said Bruce McAlister, TSAO program and camp consultant. “We want to enhance what we have at the corps, bring in better tools and exciting ‘Wow factor’ experiences to engage young people in nature.”

One of the ways the territory has implemented TSAO is through an activity called, “Every Camper Should.” Camps participating will distribute dog tag necklaces to each child when they arrive at camp. Throughout the week the children will collect colorful beads as they participate in approximately 20 outdoor activities such as catching a fish or watching a sunrise. At the end of the week each child will have a tangible reminder of their outdoor experiences to take home.

The territorial youth department plans to introduce “Every Camper Should” at the territorial jamboree this summer.

TSAO programming empowers children and young people through developmental learning. The promotional video sums it up best, “When a young person discovers he can climb a tower or hit a target with a bow, it builds his confidence. When a young person has an opportunity to practice with a bow until she can hit the bull’s eye, it teaches her persistence.”

“We need three things from you,” said Chris Shay in her welcome on behalf of the territory’s soldiers: leaders who encourage corps officers, study God’s Word and promote His praise.

Commissioners Paul and Carol Seiler conducted the installation. Colonel Thomas C. Lewis, Dawn’s father, and the Heatwoles’ cadet daughter, Melissa, served as flag-bearers.

“One of God’s signs that He’s called people to their positions is confirmed by giftedness in leadership and administration, which the Heatwoles have,” said the territorial commander. Commissioner Carol Seiler encouraged Dawn to be an example, encourager, teacher, confessor and preacher of the gospel.

Colonel Merle Heatwole’s message,

Continued on page 3
Changing lives in Detroit

Lesson in Detroit

Amicks appointed to THQ

Heatwole installation

Central Connection

Get Connected!

From mundane to magnificent

Continued from page 1

by Colonel Dawn Heatwole
Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries

As I write this article, there is a lot of snow on the ground, and the temperature is below freezing. But I have hope that spring will come! I love it. I smell the first rainfall of the spring. I wait anxiously for the tulips and crocuses to pop up through the shallow blanket of snow on the ground. It’s a time of new beginnings, a fresh start, new life.

I’ve recently discovered a love for nature photography. I’ve always been drawn to flowers, the sound of running water, and songs of birds. But when I attended the retirement of Commissioners Ken and Joy Baillie a few years back, I was inspired by his nature photography. The bright brilliant color and detail in the flowers drew me in and made me want to be in that garden. So I decided to give it a try. I’d start taking pictures with an eye toward nature.

What I’ve discovered is a passion that allows me an opportunity to showcase the beauty God has given us to enjoy. It’s a passion that helps me remember where I was when I took the picture: the feel of the sun on my face, the scent of the flower, the sound of the water pounding over rocks in the waterfall. God has given us so much, so much that we take for granted. The beauty around us is sometimes lost in the mundane of our daily activities.

As I recently walked through a tropical rain forest, I heard water running through the stream while bamboo trees towered over my head and mosquitoes buzzed. Lyrics of the much-loved hymn, “How Great Thou Art,” filled my mind. How incredible it is that God would give me the gifts of hearing, sight, and smell to enjoy life, to enjoy the beauty around me and to fully live in the moment.

So, what’s your passion? Live it out! Learn a new skill. Spend time in your art room or pull out that guitar. Then thank the One who made it all and gave us new life to enjoy all these blessings.

Amicks appointed to THQ

Majors Richard and Vicki Amick have been appointed territorial secretary for business administration and assistant territorial secretary for program, respectively, with promotion to the rank of lt. colonel, effective March 4, 2011.

Commissioners Ken and Joy Baillie are leading the Indiana Division on a pro temp basis.

Get Connected!

Check out our complementary material on the web.

www.usc.salvationarmy.org/getconnected

Resources/Links

Festival of Gospel Arts registration form
MySABoard.org
Audio of Heatwole installation
TSAD video
Territorial Social Services Facebook page
USC—Called to be the Holy Facebook page
How to play Euchre website
Resource Connection
Officer Candidates

Web exclusives

Turks and Caicos summary
Sokomon Islands info
SA Group Life Leader Profile
TERRITORY’S YOUTH

Continued from page 1

severance. When a young person has mastered a new skill they develop courage and fortitude to meet new challenges.”

Not only does TSAO teach youth about creation and the Creator in an effective way, but it comes at a critical time. Statistics show American children average between 34-53 hours a week playing video games and many more hours in front of other forms of electronic media. Author Robert Louv has even coined a phrase to define its effect, “Nature Deficit Disorder.” In his book, Last Child in the Woods, Louv links youth issues, such as depression and obesity, to a lack of outdoor activity.

In addition to Safari Club International, other TSAO partners include Bass Pro Shops, Cabela’s, Pheasants Forever and the Department of Natural Resources. These partners recognize the potential of the Army’s camping facilities and infrastructure to reach children, such as those living in the inner city, who might not have much exposure to outdoor activities.

Resources provided by these partnerships will include additional equipment and facilities on our camp grounds, outdoor education training for our leaders, and activities which can be brought back to corps.

“We don’t want outdoor education to end with camp,” said Bruce. “We want them to take activities back to the corps. Equipment gained from our partnerships can allow, for example, activities like archery to be conducted safely in a corps gym.”

In conjunction with intensified experiences in nature, such as pheasant hunting or adventure races, education will include a devotional relating lessons to our Creator. Even at a young age, it’s important for children to realize that nature is a reflection of God, and how spending time in His creation can connect them to Him in a deeper way.

Ultimately, Major Gail Aho, territorial youth secretary, would like to see TSA Outdoors become a national program.

“Our desire is for the other three territories to send their territorial camp director to a TSAO training session,” said Gail. “We’d like them to see what the program is about and discover how to implement this in their own territory.”

If you attend camp in the Eastern Michigan Division, you may already know Bruce McAlister. An outdoorsman by nature and business owner by profession, he’s the guy who has worked diligently with Army personnel throughout the division, and now the territory, to make TSA Outdoors (TSAO) possible.

A husband of 22 years, father of two and hockey coach since his son was small, Bruce connected with The Salvation Army through its partnership with the Detroit Red Wing Hockey franchise and youth hockey in Michigan. Shortly thereafter, he became familiar with Army youth programs, campgrounds and facilities when a visit to the Royal Oak, Mich., Corps turned into an hour-long conversation.

Bruce grew up in a family of boys who loved the outdoors. He and his brothers spent many weeks in northern Michigan fishing, hunting, hiking and riding off-road vehicles.

“We spent all of our time outside,” recalled Bruce. “My poor mother lived in a locker room; there was always laundry to do and very little food left in the house!”

The people Bruce meets in The Salvation Army never cease to amaze him. Having gone to church all his life, he’s thrilled to work with an organization that takes such good care of people. “It’s one thing to say you’re a Christian, and another to put yourself out there and make a difference,” Bruce said.

Bruce is the owner and operator of Colony Group, LLC, a Michigan-based company. For the past five years, Colony Group has provided integrated marketing solutions, project management and consulting services for clients in market segments such as government, retail, outdoor and nonprofit organizations.

Now as a consultant for the territorial youth department, Bruce manages communication between The Salvation Army and its partner organizations for TSAO. He has played a key role in developing TSAO curriculum and implementing crucial elements of curriculum at Echo Grove Camp. Going forward, Bruce’s focus will be on expanding TSAO to other divisions and camps within the territory.

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Forget the box... think outside.

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Living expectantly

My worst day as an officer is better than any I’ve had in the corporate world! Whether I’ve been in the middle of the settee season, standing knee-deep in dirty water from a burst pipe or getting told off by a client, I can’t imagine doing anything else,” exclaimed Scott. Captain Scott Shelbourn, who with wife Jolinda, serves as Western Divisional youth secretary, Scott is also the assistant candidates’ secretary. His joy in the journey of officership isn’t only evident, it’s contagious!

Although Scott wasn’t raised in the Army, he heard God’s call to His service as a child. But growing up he became a talented athlete in football, track and swimming and saw his future in sports. In fact, he anticipated an athletic scholarship until a blown-out knee took him out of competitive sports. His coaches—once valued mentors—no longer had time for him, and his sports friends drifted away.

Although painful, this period was a turning point. Scott realized how much he valued his freedom of choice, but he also started to see how his life was out of control. It was just what Scott needed to make the transition from a secular career to fulltime ministry.

“God used those two years as an enormous paradigm shift for me, from a life based on gaining as much as possible to one of giving as much as possible,” said Scott. Commissioned in 2001, the Shelbourns served at two corps, landing in a capital campaign in the second appointment. Scott’s corporate background came into enormous play in building a new transitional homeless shelter.

Said Scott, “I never used to live expectantly, but I do now, eagerly awaiting each new surprise God has for me.”

Newest accepted candidate

Kenyon Sivels

Bloomington, Ind., Corps Indiana Division

Kenyon Sivels is currently a Ministry Discovery participant at the Bloomington, Ind., Corps. He has an incredible testimony of God’s faithfulness through difficult circumstances. His family came to know The Salvation Army in Omaha, Neb., through social services. The chaplains of these programs invited Kenyon and his brother to attend the corps and they accepted.

Though Kenyon and his family attended another church for a while, they came back to the Army.

Kenyon is a graduate of the University of Michigan where he found being involved in Christian groups on campus helped build his faith. He has had several opportunities to be a part of accountability and discipleship groups and is anxious to share his passion for ministry with others as an officer. Kenyon’s corps officers are Lts. Jonathan and Catherine Fitzgerald.

Standing at the crossroads

Enrique and Chrissie Coreano followed God to Guatemala. They routed them back to Minnesota and The Salvation Army.

When Enrique and Chrissie Coreano got married in 2003, they committed to serving God together in fulltime ministry. At that time they felt God was leading them to missions in Guatemala. They planned for the next three years and went overseas in 2006.

“When we moved to Guatemala, we had planned on living there for the rest of our lives,” explained Enrique. “But God had a different plan.”

After two short years, the ministry shut down. They found themselves at a crossroads. They prayed and trusted God to guide the next steps they should take. They returned to the States. Despite the challenging U.S. economy, Enrique found a job as outreach ministries supervisor for the St. Paul Citadel, Minn., Corps, and Chrissie returned to nursing.

Though they recognized God’s provision, the first year back in Minnesota was one of the hardest in their lives. Hurt and disillusioned, they struggled to understand what God was doing. They struggled to hear His voice in regard to their future. However, in time their broken hearts began to heal as they served God at the corps.

“If you’d asked me before Enrique got his job here what I knew about The Salvation Army, I would have said I bought my first car from one of its thrift stores,” Chrissie laughed. “They now know it’s so much more. It has been exciting to learn about the Army and become involved in its ministries. Enrique supervises the afterschool program and summer day camp. He also teaches a youth Sunday school class. Chrissie is on the corps council and is the Sunday school teacher for the young adults. She also worked for a week at the Northern Division’s Northwoods Camp last summer as the nurse. Both Enrique and Chrissie volunteer for corps outreach and special events.

But a yearning for fulltime ministry has persisted. They now see it was no accident that when they stood at the crossroads, they met The Salvation Army. God is still guiding them, they believe now toward officership.

“When life throws unexpected twists and turns, people tend to think that God changed His plan or question what He is doing,” said Enrique. “Even though change is hard for us, we know that God’s plan never changed. He knew we would be right here, right now. And isn’t it reassuring to know that God is in control?”

Enrique and Chrissie Coreano followed God to Guatemala. They routed them back to Minnesota and The Salvation Army.
Danielle Stickland of the War College in Vancouver powerfully taught about God’s calling to radical holiness. She spoke on the Israelites’ oppression. They cried out to God, and He sent Moses to help them. However, once Moses started helping, the Israelites asked him to stop because they knew it would get worse before it got better. But it was vital if they were going to be free.

Danielle described how it’s the same for us. We have become oppressed by things in our culture. We’ve let them invade our lives and made compromises. But we have a choice. With God’s help we can throw off the oppression. Though it might be messy, we can choose to be the people God has called us to be.

We learned that while holiness is personal, it also needs to be demonstrated corporately. We learned different prayer techniques, participated in 24/7 prayer, became aware of social justice issues, and dug deeper into our 10th doctrine on being holyly sanctified. In essence, we learned about what The Salvation Army should be, and we were challenged to make it a reality in the present age.

It would be easy for those of us who attended this conference to bond together and talk about possibilities, but nothing would happen! If The Salvation Army is going to be a holiness movement and storm the forts of darkness, we all need to be awakened from our slumber and start living out our holiness teaching. This awakening begins in our corps.

So, here’s the challenge for all of us. We are called to be holy. It’s not for tomorrow or for the next generation. The time is now! We’ve created a Facebook page titled “USC—Called to be Holy” to link our territory, share ideas and offer encouragement. Check it out. Then, join the group. Together, let’s fulfill our calling.
Interview with General-Elect

Lt. Colonel Laurie Robertson, international communications secretary, editor-in-chief and literary secretary, talks with the General-Elect about God, herself, the Army and our modern age.

Please tell us about yourself and your background.

Recently I contributed to a book in the Australia Eastern Territory, and this is how I described my background.

I was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, as the youngest of 13 children. My mother was British, migrating to Canada with her parents when she was 17 years old. My Canadian father was a coal miner. You can’t grow up in a large family, having a mother with a keen mind and a fiery spirit and a father as gentle as a lamb and selfless as Jesus, without being influenced. I am my mother’s child by nature, and my father’s child by desire.

The coal mining town and political environment in which I was raised also affected the way I view life and I thank the Lord for this. The marginalised, the poor and the addicted were part of the community landscape, and my parents were committed to seeing things change for the hurting. This was consistent with what I later learned to be the Lord’s mission—and the Army’s.

Can you please describe your thoughts and feelings when you were nominated for and then elected as General of The Salvation Army?

When I was nominated I felt it was an affirmation from my peers. My overall feeling was that ‘this is of the Lord.’ He had been speaking to my heart through Scripture, and although I had not intended to, I accepted nomination in obedience to the Lord. I felt that I had to wait to see what He wanted me to do. When I was elected I was humbled, but I had a real sense that this was the Lord’s doing. To me it was a miracle. It was a work of grace.

In what ways is the High Council a daunting experience?

It is daunting—and this was my third High Council—because the whole Salvation Army world is watching and wanting the leaders to get it right. I don’t mean that in terms of it being a human decision, but that Salvationists are wanting the leaders to be open to the Spirit of God. High Council members want to be sensitive not only to God but also to Salvationists who are trusting them with this decision.

How is the election of a Salvation Army General different from the election of a political leader?

Well, there is no lobbying, for one thing! The major difference is that it is bathed in prayer. Unlike a political election, only a certain group have a vote yet all the Salvationists are praying for the High Council members to be granted wisdom by the Spirit.

Please describe spiritual leadership in a Salvation Army context.

I have very deep convictions about spiritual leadership, and for many years I taught classes on spiritual authority. To me the first point of spiritual authority is that power belongs to God. The power that He delegates to us has to be a power of love, the power to die to self, the power to live for others, the power for people and not over people.

Also, whatever gifts He’s given you influence how you serve. So if He has given the gift of leadership, you serve best when you lead. If He has given the gift of preaching, you serve best when you preach. For everybody in spiritual leadership, we come under the authority of God. Ours is a delegated influence.

How do you connect with God?

For many years now I have set aside an hour of devotional time in the morning, but I am aware of the presence of the Lord all through the day.

Because I live alone I have a lot of private time. I like to have day retreats. When I have a Saturday free, I like to spend quality time in the Word and reading a good book. But mainly I love the Word. I pray the Word.

Jesus said to go into the closet to pray. The closet to me is the Psalms. When I enter the Psalms I meet with Jesus. I guess I could say that of the whole Bible. The Bible to me is where I enter into the presence of God and I hear His voice, and so I pray the Bible back to the Lord.

Please outline the Army’s mission and explain how it is relevant and valid around the world today.

Well, everybody seems to quote Retired General John Gowans and I, too, think he captured the mission of The Salvation Army in his phrase ‘Save souls, grow saints and serve suffering humanity.’

Salvationists seem to know instinctively that the Army was raised up by God to connect people to Jesus. They also know that we believe that people can be holy now, that they can be Christlike. It’s in our DNA to serve. So that is the mission of the Army and those are the guideposts for us.

How is it relevant? Well, the world needs Jesus. That’s pretty relevant, isn’t it? The ill’s of mankind are not going to be addressed by any other means, except through the Cross of Christ. When we talk about the relevance of holiness, this world needs to see that the people of God make holiness believable. It needs to see authentic, day Christians who live out the life of Jesus and do not just talk about it.

There is suffering humanity. All we have to do is watch television on any given night or look around our communities and say: ‘We need Christians with their sleeves rolled up.’

How is The Salvation Army distinctive from other Christian denominations, missions and movements?

I have often felt that our name not only identifies us but also tells us what our mission is. I love the fact that our very name is Salvation, and for the Salvationist that salvation means everything. It means salvation from sin, it means a full salvation that invites us to holy living. It is salvation for the whole person. This salvation moves us to address human need and to do so in His name. We are known for serving suffering humanity.

We are also an ‘Army’ which reflects mobility, flexibility, discipline, active service. That’s distinctive.

Our symbols are distinctive and our worship is often very spontaneous, as it should be. I love the Salvation Army’s testimony period and where it has been lost it needs to be revived because we are in a day and age that loves to share and hear stories.

I think our mercy seat is brilliant—and I don’t mean to be sacrilegious in saying that! There is something about being in worship and knowing that the Word of Christ, when proclaimed, can be responded to then and there. To me there’s always something special about kneeling before God in front of the community of faith. It’s not just coming to the Lord, believing He meets us there. You know you are surrounded by people who have seen your commitment, and that they also covenant to pray for you.

I truly believe in our stand on the sacraments. The Lord needs some part of the Church to prove that you don’t need ceremonies to be truly saved, committed and Christlike. That in no way is a negative comment about how other people view the sacraments, not at all. The Lord has brought us all up with different views of things, and I feel the Army’s teaching is sound. It’s a wonderful prophetic witness.

Is it important for people who worship at the Army to commit to junior soldiership, soldiership and local officership leadership?

I am absolutely convinced we have to be asking people to step up and sign up. I often use that phrase. Jesus called people to radical discipleship and in The Salvation Army that is soldiership and officership.

We need to be asking people not just to be members of the Army, we don’t see soldiership as membership or officership as professional clergy. Our people must believe the Army was raised up by God to be at war against anything that limits the human spirit or keeps it in bondage. We need a fighting force, and soldiership and officership are that for me.
What are some of the strengths of the Army worldwide?

Our name bears are known in most places and are found trustworthy. Trustworthiness is a huge part of what makes us effective. People trust us and we never want to lose that.

Another strength of the Army, I believe, is its message, which is so clearly defined. You would be hard pressed to find a Salvationist who did not know the mission. There is something about being very clear about our purpose that makes The Salvation Army as effective as it is. Our visibility is also a strength. People recognize our uniforms and logos.

We have a long history yet we are known in society as an organization that is able to change its methods to relate to each generation while holding true to its essential principles. We must continue to do this, to be adaptable and flexible but principled.

How can the Army use these strengths to love and introduce people to Jesus Christ?

Because we are trustworthy, the Army does have an entrance point in people’s lives. There is a graciousness about evangelism that the Army must have. We have so many open doors of opportunity through our service to suffering humanity. We can touch people’s lives, not just to help with their social needs, but to reach into the deep recesses of their hearts with the good news of Jesus. This means that we need to pray for such opportunities and then when they come, to take advantage of them with grace and clarity.

What will be the main challenges facing you as General?

It is a challenge to serve in a very complex world without losing sight of our mission. We must also serve in a secular world and never be ashamed of Jesus. Both will take courage, wisdom and grace.

And for the Army, would they be the same sort of challenges?

Yes! We are all called to serve the present age. Sometimes we use the term relevance. Well, relevance is fine as long as we don’t mean compromise. While serving the present age, there are some things that we could never compromise. The primary one is the universal saviorhood of Jesus. He is the only Savior and we must never compromise our stand on the gospel.

Please comment on the importance of bringing children to personal faith in Jesus Christ?

What specific plans do you have in mind regarding the spiritual nurture of children?

This is a passion for me and it’s not just about spiritual nurture. I am passionate about bringing children to Jesus. I guess I served in the School Movement and the Bus Ministries and it seems to have died out.

I am surprised at how many corps don’t have youth or children’s ministry. The Salvation Army needs to focus on reaching children for Jesus.

There are children in dysfunction- al homes, there are children in violent neighborhoods, there are children who will grow up without the gospel at all. The Salvation Army needs to make reaching children for Jesus and training them up in the faith one of its main priorities. This will be a major focus of my ministry.

How do you hope to use the latest technology in communicating with the worldwide Army? A question has been asked already: Are we going to have a blog?

I like using technology actually. I just love it! We need to explore every means to use technology to best advantage in order to fulfill our mission to the world.

As for a blog—again, for me it would be a matter of finding the time. But more importantly, I hope to visit and travel frequently, and I know from experience that in many parts of the Army world, it can be extremely difficult if not impossible to get online. But the Office of the General will require me to communicate by every means possible. I will do that. For many, they will expect to hear of these travels through a blog. Others will come regular electronic letters. But best of all is face-to-face contact and travel- ling will give lots of opportunity for this.

What do you imagine or hope The Salvation Army will be like at the end of your term as General?

In what ways might it be different to what it is like today?

I don’t really have a good answer for that, so I haven’t even started yet! All I know is I am committed to upholding the name of Jesus. I am absolutely confident that when we do that, the Spirit of God blesses The Salvation Army.

I do believe in revival and pray for it on a regular basis. There has been revival in some places. We have certainly been an Army in renewal.

I have a sense deep in my spirit that God is wanting to do something in the Army, through the Army, that I can’t quite articulate. There is a sense of His Spirit moving, and me saying: ‘Keep faith with who I am, keep faith with what I have given the Army to do.’

If at the end of my term this message has been communicated and the Army’s strong sense of identity and commitment to mission continues to impact society, then He will be pleased. And if He is pleased, that’s what matters most to me.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I have to thank The Salvation Army. I’ve had hundreds of messages from all over the world and I am a bit overwhelmed by it all. I want to thank people who offered Scripture: people keep sending me Scripture. People offer congratulations but they also promise prayer support. There is no greater gift that someone can give to me. I need prayer.

I would love to be strong and energetic and healthy and totally committed to what the Lord called me into this position for. I just want to do what He has called me to do.
Small groups bring big growth

The Independence, Mo., Corps continues to grow by leaps and bounds. The reason for the record attendance, according to Corps Officers Majors Butch and Lisa Frost, is an old concept with a new twist: small groups. The twist? Creating small groups that incorporate common interests from volleyball to wood-working to scrapbooking during the meeting time. They’re calling it SA Group Life.

Not just playing games

These are just some of the exclamations heard around the room on family game nights at the Livingston County, Mich., Corps. Captains Aaron and Jennifer Ortman, corps officers, report the game nights have been a huge success; entire families have been attracted by the fun, including families of youth who non-
mally attend corps activities and worship services by themselves.

Relationships are being forged in the informal, comfortable atmosphere as people interact while playing the games. The evening also serves as effective outreach as people learn more about the corps and what it offers.

Family game nights are held quarterly, and everyone is invited. Many bring a snack to share. Sometimes the corps pulls out a deep fryer, and it becomes a game to find the best deep-fried concoction! Past game nights have attracted up to 50 people, both regular corps attendees and those only seen once in a while.

“It’s always a fun night with the young teaching the not-so-young how to play video games. And, in turn, they learn how to play ‘non-animated’ board and card games!” said Jenny.

SA group life basics

Number 1: Survey your corps to determine how many people are interested in which types of extracurricular activities. Narrow down your feedback to include viable possibilities in which there will be enough people to form a group.

Number 2: Recruit leaders to head up each SA Group Life group, and equip them for the task. Ensure they have the resources necessary— including a budget—to effectively run their activity and devotional time.

Number 3: Organize childcare for small group evening meetings. The point of these outreach groups is to reach entire families, and Major Lisa Frost has found it to be limiting to exclude parents who need childcare.

Number 4: Promote, promote, promote! Promotion is vital to getting people involved. Create flyers, posters and brochures to educate everyone about what SA Group Life is all about. Also, don’t forget to use technology to your advantage. Lisa writes updates about successful SA Group Life meetings on her Facebook wall and has been incredibly blessed by loads of positive feedback!

Number 5: Be flexible! Pay attention to the changing needs and interests of participants old and new, and be flexible to create or amend groups as needed.


12 reasons every corps should invest in junior soldiers

byEnvoyStevenBussey

Analyzing the 10 junior soldier courses that cover a five-year period, I’ve become absolutely convinced that if every corps invested in the junior soldier program, it could change the world! Here are the 12 reasons why:

1. It grounds our kids in biblical knowledge.
2. It lays a foundation of sound doctrine in their lives.
3. It connects kids to the historic Salvation Army by familiarizing them with our history, key personalities, structures and symbols.
4. It relates all this to the challenges of childhood and early adolescence.
5. It approaches kids from a theology of childhood that emphasizes agency—the belief that children can be saved, sanctified, discipled, engaged in ministry and that they can even suffer, if need be, for their faith.
6. It focuses on a covenantal pledge (promise), a sacred rite of passage that helps children confirm their faith.
7. It sharpens their minds so they can think about their faith as they navigate the pressures of today’s child/youth culture.
8. It is standardized nationally so that wherever children move, they will be able to continue their training.
9. Research has shown if a person puts 10,000 hours of practice into something, it can really define the impact he or she will have later in life. Junior soldiers starts the discipleship journey at a very young age, allowing children to put in the time to gain knowledge and engage in discipleship and ministry experiences.
10. Junior soldiers leads the child toward active faith. It breaks the misunderstood perception that kids need to be passively kept at bay until they are “old enough” to engage in ministry.
11. The uniform and the promise unite our kids with a historic and worldwide movement of peers who are committed to a similar standard.
12. And hey! It’s a load of fun, too!

What would The Salvation Army look like in 18 years if we all committed to this? Who are the leaders to whom we are passing on this sacred trust? How are we training them?

Envoy Steven Bussey is co-director of the Railton School for Youth Worker Training in the Eastern Territory. Reprinted by permission from Good News!

Youth are the key

When we arrived in 2006, there was only one junior soldier attending our corps,” said Captain Kelli Trejo, who leads the O’Fallon, Mo., Corps with her husband, Captain Jesus Trejo. Current rolls have reached nine with more on the way!

Right away Kelli realized they needed to recruit leaders and start Sunday school classes for the children. “As a parent myself and corps officer in a previous appointment, I felt strongly about starting solid youth activities in our corps,” Kelli said.

By the fall the Trejos implemented sunbeams, corps cadets and girl guards, followed closely by adventure corps for the boys and vacation Bible school. Most character-building evenings begin with supper.

“The needs of these children were twofold: not only did they require spiritual food, they required physical food as well,” said Kelli.

Once the young people started attending Sunday holiness meetings, their parents began to take notice. One father started coming to church with his children because he wanted to be a positive example. Now he and his wife are faithful attendees.

January 1, 2011, was the one-year anniversary for junior soldier Jaelyn Blake. Kelli met Jaelyn and her mom at their community Christmas dinner. Shortly thereafter Jaelyn started participating in corps activities. Jaelyn encourages her mother to pray and make decisions based on the Christian principles she’s learning in junior soldiers.

“The growing youth programs have allowed us to build a healthier corps,” said Kelli. “My husband and I agree that a healthy corps has people of all ages, and our junior soldiers program has allowed us to bring entire families to Christ!”

Already four families have started attending Sunday meetings with their children. “Our prayer is for more,” said Kelli.

A ray of sunshine

Every year a few junior soldiers are honored by National Headquarters as outstanding. This year seven-year-old Caitlyn Bell, who started attending the Chicago Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center with her family as part of the launch team a few years ago, is being honored.

Caitlyn accepted Christ as her personal savior at home during family prayer time. But it wasn’t until junior soldier prep classes that she fully understood the meaning behind having Jesus in her heart. She now knows about the Holy Spirit, too.

“The Holy Spirit living inside of me makes me feel proud about myself and not ashamed to say that I love God,” she said. “It makes me feel like God came into my heart and took over. It makes me act nice and want to do good deeds for other people. The Holy Spirit makes me want to shout out to the world how good God is to me and how good He makes me feel.”

Not only is Caitlyn an exceptional junior soldier, but she has a lovely singing voice and was invited to sing at the Metropolitan Division’s Starlighter dinner a couple of years ago. She also had the honor of introducing Governor Pat Quinn at the Chicago Kroc Center groundbreaking.

Caitlyn is known for her friendly and inclusive disposition. When she isn’t hanging around her family at the corps, you can find her with her best friend Aaliyah; the two are practically inseparable.

“She’s just like a ray of sunshine, sweet and charming,” said Major Darlene Harvey, Kroc Center officer for congregational life and program development. “We’re thrilled to have her and her family in our corps.”

Good News! research has shown if a person puts 10,000 hours of practice into something, it can really define the impact he or she will have later in life. Junior soldiers starts the discipleship journey at a very young age, allowing children to put in the time to gain knowledge and engage in discipleship and ministry experiences.

12 Junior soldiers leads the child toward active faith. It breaks the misunderstood perception that kids need to be passively kept at bay until they are “old enough” to engage in ministry.

11 The uniform and the promise unite our kids with a historic and worldwide movement of peers who are committed to a similar standard.

12 And hey! It’s a load of fun, too!

What would The Salvation Army look like in 18 years if we all committed to this? Who are the leaders to whom we are passing on this sacred trust? How are we training them?

Envoy Steven Bussey is co-director of the Railton School for Youth Worker Training in the Eastern Territory. Reprinted by permission from Good News!

The O’Fallon junior soldier brigade.

Caitlyn and her best friend, Aaliyah

Caitlyn introduces Governor Quinn at the Chicago Kroc Center’s groundbreaking ceremony.

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A dazzling array of speakers and celebrities will address the National Advisory Organizations Conference (NAOC), April 28-May 1, 2011, at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla.

Members of advisory boards, advisory councils, women’s auxiliaries and service units will come away with a deeper, more unified understanding of The Salvation Army mission, while top-ranked entertainment and exciting family activities provide fun and relaxation.

**Symposiums**

Strategic planning
Women’s auxiliaries
Young adult initiatives
Social media
Disaster services
Fundraising
Advisory board development
Digital marketing and fundraising
Social justice
Risk management

**Workshops**

Developing a pro-active recruitment plan
Reaching out to the Hispanic community
Innovative image development
Vision for Kroc Centers in the USA
Imagine Doing the Most Good in real time
Taking compelling photos
Planned giving—preparing the way
New look officer for the 21st century
Waking up Eutychus
Doing the Most Good Week—branding campaign
Changing the public conversation on social problems

The work of The Salvation Army officially opened in the Turks and Caicos Islands on January 1st and the Solomon Islands on February 1st, making them the 122nd and 123rd countries in which the Army operates.

A Central Territory Global Mission Team performed home visitations, conducted open-air events and held the country’s first Salvation Army worship service last fall. Since then, weekly meetings have received a positive response.

In 2005 the Papua New Guinea Territory located west of the Solomon Islands proposed a feasibility study, which was funded by the Australia Eastern Territory. In 2009 Major Soddy Maraga (Papua New Guinea Territory) was appointed to give oversight to the hedging work, which continued to receive funding from the Australia Eastern, as well as Australia Southern, territories. By the end of 2010, worship meetings were taking place regularly, soldiers were being enrolled and local officers commissioned. Two soldiers have already expressed a desire for officership.

Pray for the newest members of our global family.

123 countries fly Army flag!

**Speakers**

Just a few of the guest speakers include:

**Jenna Bush Hager**
The keynote speaker, this former First Daughter inspires national audiences with the stories of hope she shares as a contributing correspondent on NBC’s “Today.” She’s also an active teacher and UNICEF chair.

**Tom Tierney**
Named in 2009 as one of The NonProfit Times’ Power and Influence Top 50, the Harvard Business School graduate is chairman and co-founder of the Bridgespan Group and co-author of the recently released book, *Give Smart: Philanthropy That Gets Results.*

**Selected Writings by General Shaw Clifton**

Selected Writings Volumes 1 and 2 are the seventh and eighth books written by General Clifton to be published by the Army.

The General has personally selected all that is included. He has chosen the articles and papers from his writings...which hitherto have mostly been confined either to the pages of *The Officer* magazine, which has an officially restricted circulation, or to those in senior leadership in The Salvation Army.

"Volume 1 consists entirely of some of my early articles in *The Officer.* Volume 2 ranges more widely and comes right up to date, often dealing with key matters of international Army policy," said the General.

**Evangeline Booth Award Recipients**

Bill and Gloria Gaither’s musical collaborations have produced 700 popular gospel songs, won multiple Grammy Awards and earned them “Songwriter of the Year” from GMA eight times.

**Peter Sheahan**
Peter is a globally recognized entrepreneur known for transform ing traditional business practices and acclaimed for his Millennial Generation (“Gen Y”) expertise.

Our very own national leaders, Commissioners William A. and Nancy L. Roberts, will be prominent throughout the event.

For more information and registration visit www.mysaoard.org

**Michael Flaherty** is the president and co-founder of Walden Media, which creates innovative education programs and produces beloved family films such as “The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe” and “Charlotte’s Web.”

The Turks and Caicos consist of 40 islands and cays located east of Cuba and north of the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The Army first entered the islands in 2007. A year later, Captains Matthew and Rebecca Trayler (USA Southern Territory) were appointed as development officers under the Caribbean Territory.

The keynote speaker, this former First Daughter inspires national audiences with the stories of hope she shares as a contributing correspondent on NBC’s “Today.” She’s also an active teacher and UNICEF chair.

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**Selected Writings Volumes 1 and 2**

*Selected Writings Volume 1* (covering 1974 to 1999) and *2* (from 2000 to 2010) by General Shaw Clifton will inform, inspire and surprise. These books succinctly, yet incisively, cover a wide range of vital subjects from moral and ethical issues to spiritual teaching and Salvation Army processes and policy. They provide an insight into the heart and mind of the author as he shares from his practical experience and challenges faced.

General Clifton, LLB, BD, PhD, AKC, was elected world leader of The Salvation Army in 2006. During his term as General he has led the Army through a significant period of worldwide expansion with the Army commencing ministry in 10 countries. With his wife, Helen, he has served as an officer of the Army on five continents, living in Zimbabwe, the USA, Pakistan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. His ministry in the spoken and written word is founded on his personal experience of Christ as Savior and Sanctifier.

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Delegates engage in evangelism at a public park.

by Major Michael Mills

I was excited to attend the National Seminar on Evangelism (NSE), held yearly in Colorado Springs, Colo. It brought to mind one of the loves God laid on my heart long ago: sharing Christ with people. After serving God as an officer for more than 33 years, I was interested to see if there was anything “new” in evangelism that I’d missed out on.

No. It is and always will be about building relationships, whether short-term or long.

On a day off, I visited Pikes Peak and had the opportunity to share Christ with a young man and his family. It started with a casual conversation. I asked questions about his hometown, job, family and church. Then I shared about God’s love. I pray He will continue to speak to their hearts. (All we’re required to do is share; it’s up to the Lord to speak.)

The NSE outreach team I was on spent its time sharing with the homeless and working poor at a Salvation Army canteen feeding program. Some diners didn’t want to talk. Others were willing to listen. A few shared their stories. Some members of our group spent extended time with a couple of individuals, not only leading them to Christ but directing them to programs that could help. I observed nervous Salvationists blossom into vibrant witnesses.

Afterwards the team grabbed dinner at a fast-food place. We discovered the Lord was still at work. A server came out from behind the counter to offer us free ice cream samples, which gave us an opportunity to chat with her. When we learned she’d been “clean” for 81 days, we all cheered!

When we prepared to leave, she asked if we’d pray with her. The 12 of us held hands. As we left we heard her telling co-workers, “I’ve never had a time of prayer—especially for me—at work!”

Evangelism is and always will be about relationships. It starts with our relationship with the Lord and grows into a life of obedience, commitment and love for others.
I in the morning hours of January 19, 2011, with shouts of “Hallelujah, Praise the Lord,” one of the Lord’s most Valiant and powerful forces for the Kingdom, Commissioner Andrew S. Miller, entered the gates of Heaven. What a homecoming it must have been as he was greeted by his daugh- ter, Martha, other family, friends and those who received the Lord because of his ministry. You would often see “Andy,” as he was affectionately known, at the altar leading a lost soul to the Lord. He wanted to make sure that everyone—whether a homeless man on the street or an important government official—heard the Gospel.

Though he was commissioned in the Eastern Territory and served as a single and then married officer (with Joan) in several appointments in that territory, he had a special connection with the Central Territory. He served as unified commander for Greater Chicago [1971] and then as chief secretary for the Central Territory. His emphasis on holiness and visionary leadership had a lasting impact. He eventually became the national com- mander.

Trying to describe Commissioner Andrew Miller, two words come to mind—efficiency and passion. He was a man of high energy and drive. When he walked into a room, you could feel the electricity. His passion was preaching and leading souls to the Lord. He preached with fire and conviction, and many responded to the leading of the Holy Spirit. He was nationally known, having spoken from well-known pulpits such as St. James Episcopal Church in New York City. Andy was also a skilled practitioner of public relations and was known for his light, open approach.

Perhaps his greatest legacy to the Army is in his children and grand- children, who continue to serve in the Midwest and beyond, even inter- nationally with Commissioner E. Sue Swansons being stationed at International Headquarters.