



Central Connection

The Salvation Army / USA Central Territory
News and Views from the Midwest

"We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future." Eph. 4:3,4 (NLT)

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Grand, rapid Kroc growth!

Just six months after the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center opened in Grand Rapids, Mich., more than 5,300 people have become members and nearly 19,400 have purchased day passes.

"We are so excited and thankful the community has embraced the Kroc Center in such a marvelous way. We



weren't sure what to expect because there's nothing like it in the area. We hoped we'd be where we are by now and are humbled that so many people have visited and joined us," said Stephanie Denton, director of marketing, membership and public relations. "By our first-year anniversary [November 2011], we're projecting 10,000 members."



Stephanie believes the center's primary attraction is its holistic approach; spiritual, physical, emotional and relational emphases are evident throughout the building. Kroc Center officers—Major Marc Johnson, senior officer; Major Karen Johnson, program development officer; Captain Peter Mount, congregational life officer, and Captain Catherine Mount, youth development officer—make it a point to greet members and guests and to minister to them when opportunities arise. They also visit the homes of people who've attended worship services. A monthly "I'll Fight Day" sends volunteers into the community to rake leaves, shovel sidewalks and deliver cookies.

"The entire Kroc Center is a worship space. We meet people's spiritual needs on a treadmill or in the pool just as much as we do in our



Major Marc Johnson, senior Kroc Center officer (r), with R.J. (the Kroc mascot) and Brian Dent, the Kroc Center's 5,000th member!

Sunday worship services," said Major Marc Johnson. "Our goal is to meet people where they are and transform them holistically."

Many who've come to the center looking for fitness have joined Sunday morning worship; a decision to open the fitness equipment area on Sunday mornings has borne significant fruit. Many who see and hear the bilingual worship begin attending. Prospective-member tours also have attracted individuals and families to worship.

Commissioner Carol Seiler, territorial coordinator for strategic mission planning, commented, "In our attempt to provide a holistic approach and ministry to the people we serve through the Kroc Centers,

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Army responds to Japanese crisis

The Salvation Army in Japan has transitioned into long-term disaster recovery planning after its initial response to provide vital assistance to people affected by the March earthquake, tsunami and resultant nuclear power plant disasters. Hardest hit was a 1,200-mile stretch of northern Japan's eastern coast.

Emergency services teams left immediately from Tokyo to feed and distribute basic necessities to survivors and evacuees in Sendai (the



A Salvation Army emergency canteen distributed hot drinks in Sendai.

city nearest the epicenter of the natural disasters), Koriyama, Shirakawa, Mito City and the area surrounding the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant (the power plant in most critical condition).

In Tokyo, the Army opened its headquarters to feed and shelter stranded commuters. Rail and road systems were severely affected, and gasoline shortages hampered relief work travel; the normal 250-mile, six-hour drive from Tokyo to Sendai took 20 hours.

The Korea Territory sent 100,000 bottles of water and 5,000 first-aid kits, while The Salvation Army World Services Organization in the U.S. sent blankets among other items. Emergency service personnel from International Headquarters (IHQ) arrived to assist with relief efforts and planning.

Major Raelton Gibbs, an IHQ emergency worker, reported, "The work that's been done [by the territory] is commendable, from feeding programs...to the distribution of blankets, water bottles, bread and diapers." The Salvation Army has paid particular attention to areas hard-to-reach by the government and other agencies. Teams continue to provide food and water in Sendai and Yabuki-cho, both of which are near Fukushima but outside the



A Japanese officer hands out prepackaged meals in Sendai.

exclusion zone set up around the nuclear power plant.

The financial response from around the world to The Salvation Army Japan Disaster Appeal has been considerable in enabling a long-term response. The Japan Territory is considering building temporary accommodations and providing household goods and equipment.

Commissioner Makoto Yoshida, territorial commander in Japan, is grateful for the practical and spiritual support that has been offered

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Note: Read a first-hand account from Captain Christopher Marques on page 8.



The line of people seeking assistance at the Sendai Corps stretched for blocks.

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Moves

by Lt. Colonel Jeffrey Smith
Territorial Secretary for Personnel



It's that time of year in our Army when many officers and soldiers are thinking about the annual event we all call "June Moves." Soon, the announcement will be made, and officer families will begin packing and preparing for the conclusion of their present ministries and the start of new ones in different locations.

There will be upheaval, sadness, loss, anticipation, fear, excitement, relief and anxiety. Every human emotion is part of the possible response to this sort of news—both for soldiers and for officers and their families. Dealing with emotions is part of the process. It's not unique to the Army. While it may be exaggerated in our organization because nearly all moves happen at the same time, people in our society move fairly regularly, and, in some professions, more than others. It was true in the early church. Even in New Testament times, church leaders were redeployed in order to support and foster the growth of the church. Paul experienced many farewells in

his ministry. You can read a particularly emotional account in Acts 20:13-37.

The itinerant model of church leadership which the Army uses has deep roots indeed!

Today we are working hard to make the average length of appointment between four and five years. There is lots of discussion about what is the optimal length of time, but there is no one answer for every appointment or every officer. What is clear in our organization is that moves are necessary in some order of frequency. This means adjustment to change is part of the landscape of The Salvation Army. A key concern is how to make the most of the opportunities each change offers us.

Here are some suggestions:

Accept the fact that officers move. This advice is for both officers and non-officers. Moving is neither unique nor unusual, or unnatural. Availability to serve where we are

needed is part of an officer's commitment just as welcomes and farewells are part of life as a soldier, employee or volunteer.

Trust that God is at work in the process of moving. No one I know takes moves lightly. Our highest goal is to strengthen the Army and build God's Kingdom through strategic deployment of leaders. We believe God wants to guide us, and we seek His guidance throughout the process.

Determine to pursue opportunities that change offers: chances to make new friends and deepen acquaintances; opportunities to learn and develop new skills; chances to grow in leadership and faith. These opportunities exist no matter how we are affected by an officer's move.

I suppose I think more about moves than most of you since it is a primary responsibility of my appointment. I don't determine them alone, but I do give oversight to the process. I face the task with great optimism based on two key convictions.

The first results from the testimony of several deeply spiritual and wise local officers I have known over the years. Their testimony was that each set of officers brought unique gifts and skills that God used for the good of their corps.

The second comes from a deep assurance I have that the Army cannot appoint me where God cannot use me. God helped me with this even before I signed up. It was part of the process He took me through to prepare me for the discipline of officer-ship. I claim it not only for myself but for every officer.

I am very aware that our human decisions are not perfect. I know that after doing the best we can and sending out the move list, we will likely find, in hindsight, that there were things we might have done better. There are no perfect plans, and improvement is always possible. But, ultimately our shortcomings are covered in God's provision. I cannot be appointed beyond the reach of His grace or His goodness. No matter where I am or whom I serve with, God will have important work for me to do. These are things we can all depend on!



Grace, grit and the good life

by Lt. Colonel Marlene Chase

On the day of Pentecost 120 souls waited in one accord to see what God would do. In Rockford, Ill., 120 soldiers and friends of the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps, hungry for God's Spirit, likewise gathered to participate in a holiness seminar. God blessed from beginning to end through the faithful ministry of General Paul A. Rader (Rtd.) and Commissioner Kay Rader, former

international leaders of The Salvation Army (1994-1999).

Speaking of "grace, grit and the good life," General Rader urged delegates to "re-think possible." He quoted Founder William Booth's words: "It is possible to have and keep a pure heart." He noted a critical disconnect between faith and behavior that can leave us deaf to the call to holiness. "But God gives grace upon grace—a ceaseless supply of grace that gives us strength for the long obedience," he said.

Throughout the weekend, the Raders underscored the privilege and discipline of the holy life and jointly encouraged delegates through their inspired teaching and preaching. Commissioner Kay Rader suggested a triad of grace notes that embellish life and lead to a flourishing finish. "Let God satisfy your deepest hunger," she said. "God provides a forever feast with the Bible as our menu."

Thirty-eight of the 48 retired officers who live and worship in Rockford enjoyed dinner with General and Commissioner Rader in a period of sharing and inspiration.

Majors Randy and Kathy Hellstrom, corps officers, called for earnest prayer for an outpouring of God's Spirit on Sunday morning where once again the Raders ministered to a crowd of more than 300 people and participated in the enrollment of two senior and nine junior soldiers with a prayer of dedication.

In his message, General Rader encouraged soldiers and friends to "make it your goal to please God by seizing the moments of grace He gives, by keeping clear the path to the cross, and by living clean before God." Many sought the blessing of a clean heart at the close of the service.



Photos by Diane Tocher



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Kroc center

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it is our intention that Kroc Center facilities are open on Sunday mornings so individuals coming in to the centers can see that our faith is as important to us as any other aspect of our lives.

"We don't want to keep our worship services in silos, but want to provide, in plain view without shame, the fact that we worship God corporately," she continued. "If the Kroc Center facilities are not open on Sundays, an unintended consequence could be that our members never connect that our celebration of faith is a natural and meaningful expression of who we are."

The center's gymnasium and pool are the most popular recreation offerings, followed closely by the fitness area. Also popular are health and wellness classes, particularly zumba (a dance-based fitness program), and drop-in art classes.



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Resources/Links

Festival of Gospel Arts registration form
Multicultural Conference registration form
CMI registration form
Asbury University
Current Biblical Education Tour information
New Planned Giving commercial and web pages
Grand Rapids Kroc Center website
Central Territory's Hispanic newsletter
I'll Fight Day
Candidates web pages

Web exclusives

More on the SA in Spain and Japan
Commissioner Busby's reflections on Miller
Salvation Army notables at Glen Oak
Grand Rapids Kroc Center's monthly I'll Fight Day
International Staff Bandmaster Stephen Cobb full bio



Miller Center a game-changer

The new Andrew S. Miller Center for Communication Arts is a "game-changer" for Asbury University. It will allow new collaborations across multiple disciplines and immerse students in creativity. A crowd of alumni, students, faculty, staff, community members and Salvation Army leaders gathered this spring to celebrate its completion.

Commissioner Andrew S. Miller served on Asbury's Board of Trustees from 1967 to 1997 and was, in the words of General Paul A. Rader (Rtd.), former international leader of The Salvation Army and past president of Asbury University, "a consummate communicator."

"We're thrilled for the realization of a dream and the great future for Asbury and the cause of Christ in the world," General Rader said. "This new building will be a useful platform for equip-

ping students to shape the culture for the Kingdom."

General Rader and Commissioner John Busby spearheaded a sub-campaign to raise \$2.5 million to name the building in honor of Commissioner Miller. Amazingly, the final donation to reach the goal was made the day of Commissioner Miller's funeral, a little over a month before the center's dedication. At a dedication luncheon, a video saluting Commissioner Miller was shared and his son, Major Andrew S. Miller, spoke.

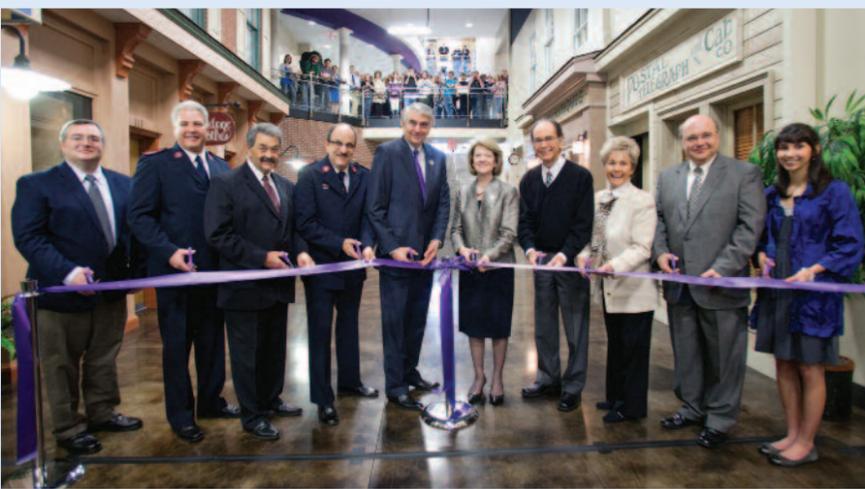
The vision for a place in which to train communication arts students



in journalism, film and other media disciplines has been nurtured for years by Dr. Jim Owens, dean of the School of Communication Arts.

Asbury President Dr. Sandra Gray reflected on the symbolism of the building. Circular windows symbolize the unending love of Christ, while other windows contain cross-

es, she said, and even the pillars at the entrance of the building stand for pillars of faith: holiness, evangelism, love, peace, hope, joy, worship, and prayer. As students move through the building, they can exit through a back lot set of "Main Street" storefronts in much the same way they will one day leave the university setting for the wider world.



Quadruple the blessing



by Major Debbie Richardson

I recently had the privilege of participating in a quad-divisional officers' councils in Branson, Mo. Two divisions each from the Central and Southern territories joined together for this Spirit-filled event. They included: Midland, led by Majors Lonneal and Patty Richardson; Kansas and Western Missouri, led by Majors Charles and Sharon Smith; Arkansas and Oklahoma, led by Majors Ken and Dawn Luyk; Kentucky and Tennessee, led by Majors John and Marthalyne Needham.

Dr. Carson Pue, best-selling author and president of Arrow Leadership, led sessions on being "Spirit built and battle ready." He urged us to guard against neglect in our marriages, families and health and to be watchful for discouragement, exhaustion and coasting in our ministries. We were encouraged to equip ourselves for day-to-day struggles that are, in fact,

spiritual battles and to remember God has got our backs.

Accomplished musician Ken Medema worked his magic at the piano, wrapping up the sessions with impromptu songs that captured what had transpired. Sometimes the songs brought laughter and at other times tears, but they were always reflective. Ken also favored us with a dinner concert.

Each session featured "From the Frontlines," which gave insight into what is happening in the various corps in the four divisions.

Divisional secretaries for program, Majors Barb MacLean, Andrew S. Miller, James Hall and Mark Harwell, shared the collective responsibility for planning and executing the event which included a special conclusion with Commissioners Israel L. and Eva D. Gaither, recently retired national leaders.

We were challenged by Commissioner Eva, citing Max Lucado's book, *Outlive Your Life*, to "pay attention to the legacy we leave, making sure it is meaningful [to the Kingdom]," and by Commissioner Israel to protect our calling by keeping our hearts on the altar of holiness. The time passed too quickly as we devoured every morsel of wisdom they imparted.

We left the councils knowing we are battle ready!



Leadership changes

Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, Central territorial commander, recently announced the following changes in leadership for the territory:

Colonels Dennis and Sharon Strissel

most recently leaders of the Ghana Territory, have been appointed as divisional commander and divisional director of women's ministries for the Eastern Michigan Division, effective July 1, 2011.



Majors John and Theresa Turner

currently general secretary and divisional secretary for women's ministries in the Eastern Michigan Division, have been appointed as divisional commander and divisional director of women's ministries for the Indiana Division, effective June 22, 2011.

Please pray for the Strissels and Turners as they take up these new responsibilities.

Newest accepted candidates

Lennard Cossey

East Chicago, Ind., Corps
Metropolitan Division



Lennard is an evangelist. He loves to share Christ with others and even had the opportunity to share his faith while working with at-risk children in a group home setting. Lennard was

blessed to grow up in a large family. His parents instilled in their children from a young age the importance of living out their faith. Lennard felt the call to officership at a men's camp in 2009 and has found peace in answering it. He follows in the footsteps of his father and grandfather who were both ministers. Lennard's corps officers are Captains Daniel and Nivia Paredes.

Jeff and Terri Olson

Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps
Metropolitan Division

Jeff and Terri have served as soldiers at the Norridge Citadel Corps for many years but just recently felt led to become officers and met with their corps officers who confirmed their decision. While Terri has been

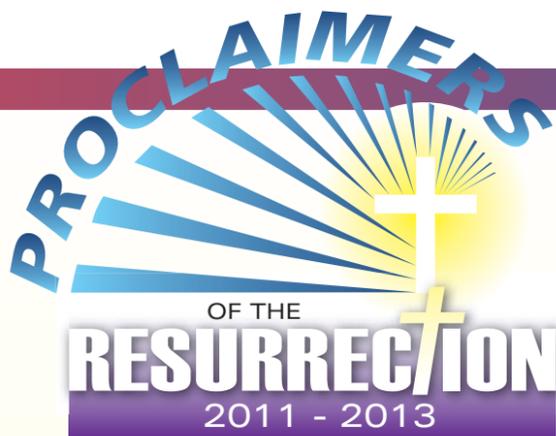


in The Salvation Army her whole life, Jeff came to the Army as a young man through an invitation from his future brother-in-law, Randy Cox. Jeff and Terri look forward to what God will do through—and in—them as officers. They will attend the CFOT with their children, Cassidy and Cody. Their corps officers are Majors Steve and Morag Yoder.

William and Taylor Brutto

Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps
Metropolitan Division

Bill and Taylor joined The Salvation Army by different avenues. While Taylor is a sixth-generation Salvationist, Bill came to the Army for employment. Seeing the



1 Corinthians 15:12-19

ministry up-close, he wanted to be a bigger part of it. Bill now works for Metropolitan Division Headquarters as corps community center advancement manager to develop outreach and evangelism programs. As an intern at the Des Plaines, Ill., Corps, Taylor is



involved in many different aspects of ministry. Bill and Taylor will enter the College for Officer Training (CFOT) with their four-month-old son, Joshua. Their corps officers are Majors Steve and Morag Yoder.

Cadet summer assignments

The Friends of Christ will serve in the following locations this summer.

Cadets

Kirsten Aho
John & Kerry Bartsch
Brian Bump
Jasen & Kimberly Elcombe
Bryan & Teri Ellison
John & Judith Fetzer
Melissa Heatwole
Shane & Jeanette Jensen
Pamela Kasten
Karissa Loos
Daryl & Cherie Mangeri
Matthew & Marisa McCluer
Lorna Nelson
Esteban & Karen Pommier
Melissa Richardson
William & Larisha Richardson
Kevin & Mary Robbins
Raymond Roberson
Jacob & Melinda Tripp
Tomas & Martha Valladeres
Elizabeth Wright

Corps

St. Joseph County, Ind., Kroc Center
Plymouth, Mich.
Traverse City, Mich.
Kankakee, Ill.
Dearborn Heights Citadel, Mich.
Midland, Mich.
Rapid City, S.D.
Livingston County, Mich.
Kansas City Northland, Mo.
Waukesha, Wis.
Oak Creek Centennial, Wis.
Bismarck, N.D.
Belleville, Ill.
Springfield, Mo.
Omaha, Neb., Kroc Center
Decatur, Ill.
Lafayette, Ind.
Kansas City Bellefontaine, Mo.
Wichita Citadel, Kan.
Elgin, Ill.
St Louis Gateway Citadel, Mo.

Campaigning for Christ

Every year cadets from the College for Officer Training embark on an exciting week-long mission opportunity known as spring campaigns. This year eight brigades traveled across the territory to corps and institutions proclaiming Jesus Christ. Here's Cadet Jason Bigelow's first-person experience.

I was thrilled to learn my brigade would be traveling north to Green Bay, Wis., in my home division. I knew we could expect a warm welcome, gracious hospitality, and a corps full of vibrant ministry.

What I didn't know was that this wasn't going to be an average campaign opportunity! Green Bay is about to become home to one of the new, state-of-the-art Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Centers which will be starting a new congregation. This meant my brigade would not only be plugged in to a busy corps, but we'd receive a quick and powerful education in "all things Kroc."

We arrived in Green Bay to find a busy team of employees working diligently in a small temporary office just down the street from the Kroc Center construction site. This team of Kroc and Brown County Salvation Army employees met with us throughout the week, teaching us their areas of expertise, including development, program, marketing, operations and more! We received a

quick, but efficient, education in the challenges and opportunities in developing this community center.

We were able to participate in some of the bridge-building activities underway to create relationships in the surrounding neighborhoods. At the nearest elementary school, we were able to chat and play with children during their recess. At a local middle school, we spoke with students and parents about the opportunities soon to be available to them. We also can-

vassed the neighborhood and presented residents with information on programs and services, including youth, fitness, and senior activities, that will be offered. There is excitement in the air as many families look forward to the Kroc Center opening in September.

We were blessed to become part of the ministry team at the Green Bay Corps. My brigade participated in youth and young adult programs, Bible studies, women's and men's ministries, and senior center activi-

ties. We also served meals in the corps' daily lunch program. Perhaps one of the most fun

aspects was hosting a family carnival promoting the upcoming vacation Bible school. The week culminated with a Sunday morning packed with worship, celebrating how great it is to know and be known by our loving God.

While this may not have been an average spring campaign, we left with the familiar feeling experienced by cadets anytime we venture into the territory. We go hoping to bless those we encounter but return finding we have been blessed to participate in the work God is doing through the officers, soldiers and friends of The Salvation Army.



Here am I; send me!



There's a difference between a good life and a great life," said Lt. Dana Hixenbaugh, Aurora, Ill., associate corps officer, who knows undoubtedly officership is her calling. "I could never have experienced the height of peace and joy doing anything else," she said.

Before officership Dana planned to be an elementary school teacher. In spite of the small voice urging her to be an officer, she tried to compromise with God. "I'll teach by trade but attend the Army as a soldier," she said.

Three times the Lord called her to officership using the same verse in Isaiah, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me.'" (Isaiah 6:8, NIV)

Dana recalled, "I finally said to the Lord, 'Send me!'"

The transition this past year from the College for Officer Training into fulltime ministry has been good but challenging. Although busy from morning to night at the college and then at the corps, she found training much more structured; time with the Lord was built into the schedule, and learning situations were planned, not spontaneous.

After meeting time-management



Dana and her fiancé, Jason Bigelow, met in training and plan to be married in June.

challenges, Dana hasn't looked back. She finds joy in the journey by helping people spiritually, mentally and emotionally. With parents who are also officers, Dana feels blessed to share the benefit of her happy upbringing and loving family with others.

"There are so many people out there hurting; I want to be able to share the love and joy I've experienced with them," she said.

One of the most rewarding aspects of her first appointment is seeing God use her desires and abilities in ways she didn't expect.

"I've gotten even more opportunities to do the things I love than I could have imagined," Dana said. "I lead the corps' youth ministries, travel, participate on praise teams and experience things I'd never dreamed of. If I had followed my own plan, I'd still be in Nebraska."

To top it all off, if it weren't for officership Dana might not be marrying the love of her life, Jason Bigelow. They met in

Dana had the great honor of being ordained and commissioned by now retired General Shaw Clifton last June.

training last year and plan to be married right after his commissioning this June.

"Jason is above and beyond what I could have imagined as my ministry partner and husband to be," Dana said. "His abilities complement mine, and he spurs me on in my relationship with Christ!"



Throughout the last year Dana has worked diligently to serve the Aurora Corps youth ministry.

Cadets schooled in women's ministries

by Cadet Cindy Marquis

Creativity and energy abounded at the Women's Ministries Seminar at the College for Officer Training, which was attended not only by women cadets but men as well!

Major Carol Wilkins, territorial associate secretary for women's ministries, led the cadets in a game of *Jeopardy* in which categories were related to the history, activities and guidelines of women's ministries. It was a fun way to learn the essentials! Then Major Darlene Harvey, congregational life officer for the Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, shared her insights on balancing ministry.

Our creative minds were put to the test when Major Charlene Polesley, territorial assistant secretary for women's ministries, gave cadet



Male cadets also learned much about women's ministries.

teams random household items and challenged us to devise programs based on them. Results included homemade spa days, "spiritual gift" parties, nature walks, Passover Seder dinners, global-culture "Skype-fests" and more!

Proving that creativity can change everything, Linda Faye Jones, women's ministries administrative assistant, did the impossible when she made learning about statistics fun! She used M&M's to represent people and reminded cadets statistics reflect on their ministry.

Major Lisa Frost, Independence, Mo., corps officer, conducted the enrollment of Cadets Laura Amick and Linda McCormick as members of The Salvation Army's Women's Ministries. Lt. Colonel Dorothy Smith, territorial officer resource and development secretary, asked us to "Consider the Lilies" in her devotion at the annual luncheon.

The afternoon session offered a carousel of programming ideas from Major Gay Ann Fulton (Bible study), Major Marty Hudson (ladies' nights out), Major Charlene Polesley (knitting and felting), Major Lee Ann Thompson (fundraising) and Lilibeth Rapley and Ingrid Leyva (out-reach events).



Major Lisa Frost and Major Carol Wilkins address cadets.



A cadet enthusiastically responds to a *Jeopardy* game featuring women's ministries categories.

Ambassadors of Holiness



Pray for these cadets as they prepare for their ordination and commissioning as lieutenants and receive their first appointments on Sunday, June 12, 2011, in Merrillville, Ind.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| David and Laura Amick | Richard and Linnea Forney | William Rutledge |
| Becky Barringer | Lynn Lopez | Daniel and Claudia Simmons |
| Jason Bigelow | Cynthia Marquis | Randy and Debbie Stahl |
| Jeremy Fingar | Linda McCormick | Julie Tamayo |
| | Rodney and Kristina Morin | |

Lessons from my mother

by Captain Lisa Mueller

The three things my mother most enjoyed were speaking, reading and writing. These were the things she was good at. These were the things she loved. I can't think of a better preacher, male or female. She simply devoured books, first her Bible, then Christian literature, and even the latest mystery thriller. Her pen pal list was a mile long. She wrote to someone from every city she'd ever lived in and corresponded with 10 inmates.

The irony was not lost on my sisters and me that the things she most loved to do were the very things a stroke rendered her incapable of doing.

In 1992 she began the discipline of journaling. Her journals contained her activities, thoughts and prayers—glimpses into her spiritual journey. When she finished a year of journaling, she labeled the series of books for one of her five daughters and then proceeded to the next year. The irony was not lost on my sisters and me that the things she most loved to do were the very things a stroke rendered her incapable of doing. She became ill in July and by Thanksgiving had another setback. Doctors said the damage was irreversible and it was only a matter of time before she died. I traveled to Michigan for what I thought were her final days.

My sisters and I began to mourn the loss of her wisdom and advice. You see, my mom had held our family together all our lives. As we began to contemplate life without her, we became desperate. We weren't ready. We couldn't imagine life without this spiritual giant. So we began to pray God would teach us in those last days what He wanted us to know from our mother's life.

She knew it's not about dying; it's about living.

How were five faltering daughters with their own families and ministries going to make it without some parting wisdom? I

received a call from one of her good friends who said mom told her if we ever got to this point to tell the girls to read her journals. We thought they were our inheritance, but mom had something else in mind. They returned to us our mother who could speak, read and write. While spending 14-16 hours a day at her bedside, we read her precious journals. Life lessons were on every page.

We read her adventures of the day: doctor appointments, goings on at her corps, travels with my father. We read her prayers. Her entries reflected a godly woman who wanted to be with her Savior but who also wanted to keep living. She knew it's not about dying; it's about living.



When I got on an airplane after Thanksgiving, I thought I was going to see her die. She'd always said she wanted her daughters to gather and sing her into the presence of her Savior. So we gathered; we sang. We covered the song book—and then some. We prayed. We cried. We reminisced. We pleaded with God to end her suffering. Several times we thought she was gone; then she would wake up and mumble. My sisters were pretty sure it sounded like, "Good girls." I'm not entirely convinced she wasn't saying, "Good grief, girls." The doctors just shook their heads. The nurses said elaborate good-byes before their days off. But she wasn't dying.

As hours turned into days and days into weeks, we began to ask ourselves what was going on. One by one, we began to wonder if it

was possible—just possible—that we had been summoned not to watch her die but live? And to read the journals she had so painstakingly kept for such a time as this? So, we began to watch my mother live. We read her words and learned about her life and her great love for our father. We read her prayers and realized her life was a prayer. The journals revealed her innermost thoughts and heart cries, joys and sorrows, sins, confessions and reconciliation to God.

I stopped asking God why He hadn't taken her home and began asking Him what I could learn.

I stopped asking God why He hadn't taken her home and began asking Him what I could learn. He clearly had something else in mind. Can you think of any other circumstance that could take five officers away from their appointments at Christmas? I believe that time in my life was ordained so I could learn again how to be reconciled to Him, how to have the hope of Heaven while living, not dying.

My mother sometimes failed. She disappointed herself and her





Heavenly Father. Thanks to her journals, I know more than I ever wanted about this. However, she took to heart Philippians 3:13-14: "...But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Though painful memories are stamped on our hearts and minds, we don't have to be imprisoned by our pasts. Perhaps we've said or done the wrong thing. Maybe we've failed relationships. We've failed our children or parents. All of us have failed ourselves. But God's Word says don't be bogged down by past failures. Dwelling on them will stop us from moving forward. I became a mother at age 20. Did I make mistakes? You bet I did. I do to this day. But we must learn to get over it.

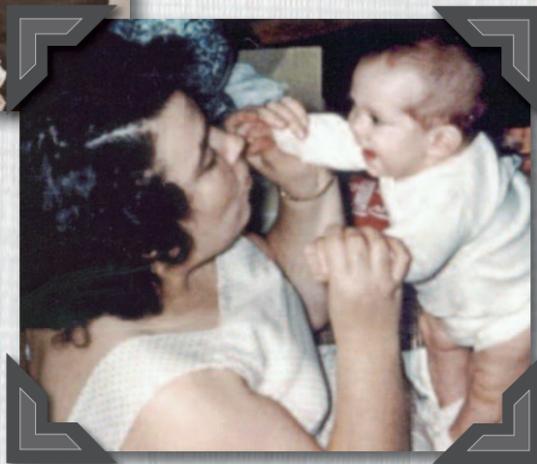
My mom confessed her failings and pressed on. In her journals, she doesn't dwell on the past. If it was covered, it was covered. Christ died on that cross to offer us forgiveness. We need to forgive ourselves and each other. "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Col. 3:13

In her journals, she doesn't dwell on the past. If it was covered, it was covered.

I was astonished to learn from her journals there were some people she actually didn't like! She wasn't perfect. She was tempted to hold an occasional grudge. Of course, it never lasted. Within a few paragraphs she was pouring out her heart to God, asking His forgiveness. She knew grudges destroy marriages, break up families, ruin friendships, split churches. They are not only destructive to others but to ourselves. Harbor a grudge, and it can destroy you—if not physically, then emotionally and certainly spiritually.

Jesus told a parable about a servant who was forgiven a huge debt by the king and then refused to forgive someone else a tiny

amount. The unforgiving servant landed in prison. Unforgiving servants always end up in prison—prisons of anger, guilt and depression. But we can be set free. Can you forgive your parents for what they have or haven't done? Can you forgive your children for not living up to your dreams for them? Can you forgive a friend who betrayed you? God says deep-seated resentment has to go. Romans 12:18 says, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Do all you can to restore relationships. It may mean asking for forgiveness, but God will empower



you. For you see while Christ died to set us free, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to be free.

Her spiritual walk never became mechanical or ritualistic.

I found that my mother, the woman I thought perfect, struggled with sin. Yet, she cried out to God for forgiveness and awareness of her transgressions. She wanted to know her shortcomings. She never thought she'd arrived. Her spiritual walk never became mechanical or ritualistic. She laid her strength and weaknesses before God daily. She realized one simple and seemingly insignificant ungodly habit can become a besetting sin. She didn't offer excuses or rationalize behavior.



She knew our opportunity for witness, ministry and service is jeopardized when we live with ungodly thoughts, words or deeds.

I returned home in December because my mother was still living. I didn't understand then, but I do now. If my mother had died that first night, what lessons would I have learned?

She lingered for 10 long months, under the gentle care of hospice for the last five. I journeyed home to Michigan yet again for Mother's Day. Leaving my own family, I sat by her side and continued to learn as she lay living. Somehow, I was not surprised she lived until my sister Carol gave birth to beautiful Isabel. Mom promised she'd live to see this grandchild. And after being comatose for three days, when Isabel was placed on her chest, my mother managed to lift her hand to bless Isabel's life and kiss her head.

I found that my mother, the woman I thought perfect, struggled with sin. Yet she cried out to God for forgiveness.

While some might question those months of pain and lingering, my dad took every day to say goodbye. I was honored to see mom pass from death to life. I held her hand and watched my mother—the one who gave birth to me, loved me when I didn't deserve it, forgave me easily and taught me how to love—enter Heaven.

Having been in a coma for several days, her eyes opened clear and bright. Her face glowed; her wrinkles faded. She looked toward Heaven and said, "Oh!" Two sisters and I looked at each other. We knew beyond a doubt she'd just seen Jesus! We knew. Having witnessed this miracle, no one can ever tell me there is no Heaven, no Savior. Her last moment on earth taught me that. It sealed in my heart forever that it's all real, that this life matters because we have eternal life.

Scripture from NIV, 1984

Captain Lisa Mueller and her husband, Robert, are corps officers at the St. Paul Citadel, Minn., Corps. Lisa's sisters, Major Cindy Strickler, Lt. Colonel Susan Bukiewicz, Major Lori Meyer and Major Carol Wurtz all serve with their husbands in the Central Territory.

An amazing journey

by Captain Jeff Carr

My wife, Valerie, and I are privileged to lead the vibrant and growing Madrid Central Corps (Spain Command). Our predecessors built an amazing ministry, and we are honored to continue this work alongside dedicated soldiers.

Madrid Central has a full array of corps programs and social outreach ministries. With the Central Territory's help, the corps recently purchased a new van, a necessity for the corps' work throughout the community. The van is used for corps programming, weekly street feeding, food distribution and much more; it advances the scope and depth of the Army's mission in Madrid.

One of our most significant ministries is to Madrid's homeless, many of whom depend on it. Every Friday night volunteers cook and distribute bowls of soup and sandwiches to those on the streets, meeting not only their physical but spiritual needs. Through this program we've witnessed amazing transformations as men and women have come to Christ. In fact, some of our most dedicated soldiers were once ministered to through this program. In conjunction with our corps breakfast pro-



gram, the Army in Madrid is known for giving help and restoring hope.

Last Christmas the corps council changed the way we distribute Angel Tree gifts. Instead of parents coming to corps, uniformed soldiers delivered the presents to each family, meeting them face-to-face and offering to pray with them. Many of these families are part of our after-school program where our volunteers are a positive witness to the youth. Through all of our social out-



reach programs we have seen individuals and families come to our Sunday worship services and join our weekly corps programs.

Last summer the Madrid Central Corps sent two delegates each to Central Bible and Leadership Institute and Central Music Institute with the Central Territory's help. This was an incredible opportunity for our youth to grow in their faith, understanding of the global Army,



and leadership training to advance our local Army.

It has been an amazing personal and spiritual journey in ministry, working side-by-side with the dedicated soldiers of the Madrid Central Corps.



Though the earth shake

Captain Christopher Marques from the USA Central Territory arrived in Tokyo at the beginning of February to serve as assistant to the territorial youth secretary at Japan Territorial Headquarters (THQ). Here are his reflections on the disasters this spring.

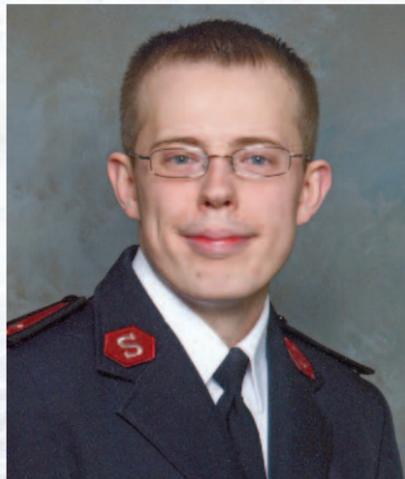
by Captain Christopher Marques

One month after the massive earthquake and tsunami, people are going about their business, returning to work, enjoying their free time and moving about the city here in Tokyo. But deep down, many are still shaken by the continuing aftershocks and pollution from the nuclear plant at Fukushima.

I had been here a little over two months and was still at the beginning stages of adapting before all this happened. Not being fully fluent yet has given me a lot of time to think, be quiet, listen more and speak less. And recent events have pushed me to work, serve, pray and read God's Word like I never have.

Disaster and danger are always possibilities no matter where you live. This disaster has challenged yet another generation of Japanese about what really matters. Yet, as things return to normal, I fear people gradually may forget, just as the rest of the world will move on. After reading Matthew 7:24-27, I pray this will not be a lost opportunity for people to rebuild the foundation of their lives on Jesus Christ.

Since the time of the Old Testament, not much has changed. We are still a people who cry out for God's help, but quickly tend to return to our former ways or forget about Him. This is perhaps the greatest danger we face, no matter where we live. It's far more deadly than any disaster or physical harm we might face.



I am very grateful for foreign aid and help, especially from the United States and other territories. Most importantly, I am thankful for prayers that have been offered on our behalf. Even now, this disaster has not stopped the Japan Territory from praying for our brothers and sisters around the world in our THQ and personal devotions. We are mindful that we are part of a global family of God, and we must continue to lift each other up to the throne of God's rich and boundless grace.

I recommend we all take time to read 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. I am thankful for God who comforts us in any situation. But we are not to hoard that comfort. We are challenged to share it with others who desperately need it. Sometimes, we feel the sentence of death in our hearts (whether physical or spiritual), and we are reminded to place our faith and trust in God, who is our only real hope.

A heart for Haiti's children

by Lt. Colonel Ruth Bonifield

Nine-year-old Mikayla Dixon is a busy young lady. She's a sunbeam, junior soldier, ballerina, member of her school choir and—perhaps most importantly—a prayer warrior. She's prayed like this since she was a little child. Early in life when something unusual would happen, she'd ask her mother, "Have you prayed about it?"

Her prayers right now are especially focused on the children of Haiti. Even before the earthquake in Haiti, Mikayla was burdened for them. Though her parents, Mike and Carrie, are careful about what she watches on TV, believing much of it too graphic for their children, Mikayla once saw a television show about five street children in Haiti who bathed in muddy water inundated with trash. It broke her heart.

Last year, like many other families, the Dixons participated in "A Million Meals for Haiti," packing meals for people in that country. When they saw a television interview about the items being distributed to families, Mikayla was gratified to know she'd been a part. She wrote in her journal that she wanted to give all of her money to the children of Haiti.

So, when Mikayla's grandmother gave her a children's craft book, an idea unfolded. She began making



crafts to sell with the goal of raising \$200 for Haiti's children. She took her products to school and set up a table in the teacher's lounge. Some of them not only bought items but asked Mikayla to pray for their own families. She also set up her table in the Independence, Mo., Corps foyer and at the divisional women's camp.

All totaled, \$300 was sent to Major Robert Doliber to be used for Haiti's children. The funds were used to purchase material to make uniforms for children at the Bethany Children's Home.

When words fail, music speaks

Meghan Pierson, an accomplished musician, singer and Chicago Staff Band member, was recently honored as music educator of the year by her school district. She teaches at Glenn Westlake Middle School in Lombard, Ill., and attends the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps with her husband and daughter. Meghan is in the band and songsters, leads singing company and gives private piano lessons.



Young singers follow Meghan in vocal exercises that include stretching.

During the school day Meghan teaches general music and holds choir rehearsals before and after school hours.



One of Meghan's young piano students plays under her watchful eye.

"Two years ago I started with 22 singers; today we have three choirs totaling more than 80 students," said Meghan. "I truly feel blessed to be in this position. Administration believes in teaching the whole child and is in full support of the fine arts."

Meghan continued, "Music education not only increases cognitive development, standardized test scores and reasoning capabilities, it offers students an outlet to express themselves. In a world sometimes devoid of beauty for our children, music comes to the rescue time and again."

After her older sister joined sunbeams, Meghan's family began attending The Salvation Army in suburban Detroit when she was three years old. When Meghan was age five her sister taught her how to play the C-scale on the alto horn; a year later Meghan begged her par-

ents for piano lessons.

"While other parents were forcing their kids to practice, I was being constantly asked to stop!" Meghan recalled.

Throughout high school Meghan remained involved at her corps along with marching band, four choral groups and school musicals. Her choral director guided Meghan into music education; she earned a bachelor of music arts degree in choral music education with an emphasis in piano performance from North Central College, Naperville, Ill. Meghan's first teaching job almost became her last, however!

"I walked into the middle school on my first day thinking I was going to change the world. Instead, I found gangs and insubordination," said Meghan who changed everything about her teaching style to capture her students' interest and to help them have fun while they learned the fundamentals.

Needing a job closer to home after her daughter's birth, Meghan



Meghan particularly enjoys directing performance groups.

switched to elementary education; wiggly, weepy kindergartners became her biggest challenge! Once more she figured out how to captivate her students.

However, it wasn't until Meghan taught a class of severely disabled children that she realized the full value of music education. She said, "It's not about performance but about the joy students get from creating their own music. Where words fail, music speaks."



Meghan poses with the Chicago Staff Band alto horn section.

CSB kicks off Peoria celebration

by Rich Draeger

The Chicago Staff Band (CSB) helped kick off festivities this spring to commemorate the 125th anniversary of The Salvation Army in Peoria.

The band spent Saturday at the Peoria Corps with about 150 youth and leaders for a divisional music day and then brought their talents to bear at an evening concert.

Approximately 140 people filed



into the Dingledine Music Hall on the campus of Bradley University to hear Bandmaster William Himes and the CSB. Those in attendance also enjoyed a Salvation Army memorabilia display in the foyer, including a presentation from a Salvation Army Doughnut Girl.

The band concluded the weekend by participating in two Sunday services at Bethany Baptist Church.

The Salvation Army in Peoria will highlight Evangeline Booth at its annual community luncheon this month and will hold a special anniversary gala this fall. The gala will feature an historical retrospective on The Salvation Army in Peoria and will include a special video and past divisional leaders to wrap up its anniversary celebration.



CMI Central Music Institute

August 11 – 21, 2011

Camp Wonderland

CMI continues its tradition of excellence with two international guests.

Dr. Stephen Cobb

Dr. Stephen Cobb, territorial music director for the United Kingdom Territory, has been the bandmaster of the International Staff Band (ISB) since 1994. A music educator by profession and training, he completed the degree of doctor of musical arts in instrumental conducting in 2006 at Salford University.

Steve has led the ISB through an exciting period of innovation that has raised the band's profile significantly in the music world. His innovative leadership in Salvation Army music has brought a renewed vigor to that great musical tradition. In 2010 he received the Iles Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians for his contributions to brass bands and their music.



Cathie Koehnen



Cathie Koehnen received her bachelor's of music degree at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, and her bachelor's of education degree at the University of Toronto. She has been the vocal guest at many divisional camps and has been on the faculty of the Canada and Bermuda Territorial School of Music for many years.

Cathie has taught high school instrumental and vocal music for 17 years, has a business teaching piano and currently conducts the Ontario Central Divisional Youth Chorus. She lives in suburban Toronto with her husband, Peter, and two sons, David and Jesse.



Holy Land impressions

Participants from this year's Biblical Education Tour (at 90 people the largest in seven years) were asked to share their thoughts as the group visited significant locations. Here are just a few of the sites and impressions made.



Western Wall

"I never knew prayers left at the Western Wall were kept and buried; it was such a blessing to pray and physically leave burdens there."

—Major Jan Sjogren



En Gedi Springs

"Walking up to the springs at En Gedi brought to mind the story of David fleeing Saul and seeking refuge there. Being in this Promised Land has blessed me; He's my strength and redeemer."

—Major Kathy Hogg



Masada

"We may leave this land with sore muscles, but we have a new song in our hearts for Israel. We arrived as pilgrims on a journey but will return home blessed beyond measure."

—Major Christie Van Zee



Prayer in Garden

"Making a third pilgrimage allowed me to reflect on past trips. My circumstances have changed but memories, such as Gethsemane's peaceful serenity, continue to calm my soul. The Christ who bore sorrow and pain...draws near when I need Him."

—Major Wes Green



Sea of Galilee

"The boat ride on the Sea of Galilee was inspirational; we worshiped together in song and spirit. [A crew member shared a] testimony of coming to know Jesus as he took Christian groups out on the sea. May our lights so shine before men!"

—Anonymous

Rebuilt, barrier-free building

The Bay City, Mich., Corps, led by Majors Micheal and Shirley Myers, recently dedicated its new barrier-free building in a packed celebration service. Attendees spilled over into an adjacent room occupying all 220 seats available between both spaces.

The service flowed with musical accompaniment from the Flint Citadel Band and special guest appearances by District State Senator Mike Green and State Representative Charles Brunner. Bay City Mayor Chris Shannon honored the Army by presenting Lt. Colonel Norman S.



Bay City Mayor Chris Shannon presented Lt. Colonel Norman S. Marshall with a key to the city.

Colonel Smith gave the dedicatory address to a crowd consisting of soldiers, beneficiaries, advisory board members and donors. In his message he challenged the corps to reach out to fill the new building with people from the community. Others, such as Bay City resident John Tripp and soldier Vina Wisniewski, expressed appreciation for the Army and excitement over the new building.

The corps and advisory board have prayed for this new barrier-free building to accommodate the needs of their congregation and community for more than 25 years. Prior to the new building, the corps was very difficult for disabled or wheelchair-bound individuals to access.

The new 10,000-square-foot facility welcomes everyone to enjoy its spacious chapel, state-of-the-art kitchen, comfortable dining room and updated computer lab. In addition to creating space for congregational growth, the building will create opportunities for collaboration with other organizations. Already two local groups, including the United Way, have contacted the Army about joint service opportunities.

According to Major Micheal, God's leading and provision were clear through the process. "I thank God for the miracles accomplished through the donors, soldiers and everyone who shared this dream," he said. "Once God gave us a green light, everything else fell into place."



Lt. Colonel Jeffrey Smith shares an insightful dedicatory address.

Marshall, Eastern Michigan divisional commander, and Lt. Colonel Jeffrey Smith, territorial secretary for personnel, with a plaque and "key to the city" for its commitment and dedication to the community.



Majors Shirley and Mike Myers paid tribute to Jim Klemm, Bay City volunteer of the year.

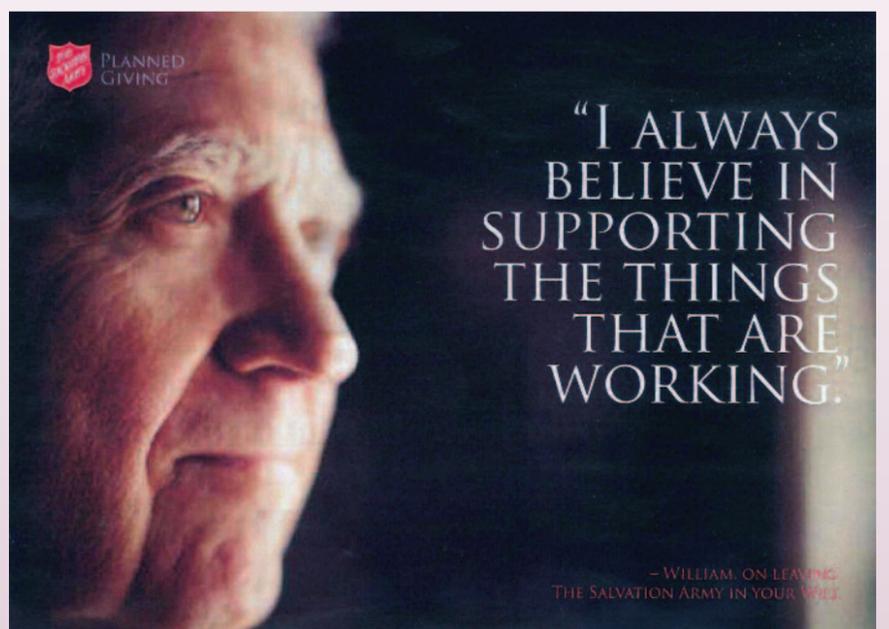
Promoting planned giving

In the last month you may have noticed television commercials encouraging viewers to consider making a legacy gift to The Salvation Army through their wills or by obtaining charitable gift annuities.

This national campaign features airtime on popular television networks including CNN, A&E, CNBC, Lifetime and more. Additional components include 30- and 60-second radio advertisements, print ads and web based banner ads and pop-ups.

The Richards Group, a public relations firm that's worked with the Army on a few promotional campaigns in recent years, developed the poignant commercial featuring real-life donors on why they support The Salvation Army through planned giving.

"Like many other campaigns the Richards Group has done for us, it's not the Army talking; it's others talking about the Army," said David Himes, territorial planned giving consultant.



—WILLIAM, ON LEAVING THE SALVATION ARMY IN YOUR WILL

ONE

"FOR HAVE ONE MASTER, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL... EVERYTHING YOU ARE AND THINK AND DO IS PERMEATED WITH ONENESS"

The Salvation Army
MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES CONFERENCE
 October 14-16, 2011 • Westin Hotel, Itasca, IL
<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/USCSA> • \$150/pp or \$125/groups 5+

SPECIAL GUESTS

MARK DEYMAZ Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas	EFREM SMITH Evangelical Covenant Church	NAEEM FAZAL Mosaic Church of Charlotte, NC	ROBYN L. AFRIK Global Career Development Facilitator
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The Salvation Army
PRAYER CENTRAL
 USA Central Territory

June Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Wednesday	Jeremiah 47-52	Adrian, Mich., Corps
	2 Thursday	Luke 7-8	Chicago (Central), Ill., ARC*
	3 Friday	Galatians 1-3	Lt. Colonels Bradford & Heidi Bailey (England)
	4 Saturday	Exodus 37-40	Bloomington, Ill., Corps
	5 Sunday	1 Kings 5-9	Anderson, Ind., Corps
	6 Monday	Psalms 66-68	Arkansas City, Kan., Corps
	7 Tuesday	Proverbs 2-3	Aurora, Ill., Corps
	8 Wednesday	Lamentations	Congo (Brazzaville) Territory PIM
	9 Thursday	Luke 9-10	Alton, Ill., Corps
	10 Friday	Galatians 4-6	Albert Lea, Minn., Corps
	11 Saturday	Leviticus 1-3	Aberdeen, S.D., Corps
	12 Sunday	1 Kings 10-13	"Ambassadors of Holiness" Session
	13 Monday	Psalms 69-71	Alma, Mich., Corps
	14 Tuesday	Proverbs 4	Beloit, Wis., Corps
	15 Wednesday	Ezekiel 1-6	Eastern Michigan DHQ**
	16 Thursday	Luke 11-12	Alpena, Mich., Corps
	17 Friday	Ephesians 1-3	Burlington, Iowa, Corps
	18 Saturday	Leviticus 4-6	Bedford, Ind., Corps
	19 Sunday	1 Kings 14-18	Dodge City, Kan., Corps
	20 Monday	Psalms 72-74	Belvidere, Ill., Corps
	21 Tuesday	Proverbs 5-6	Kirsten Witthoff (Republic of Georgia)
	22 Wednesday	Ezekiel 7-12	Arnold, Mo., Corps
	23 Thursday	Luke 13-14	Austin, Minn., Corps
	24 Friday	Ephesians 4-6	Beatrice, Neb., Corps
	25 Saturday	Leviticus 7-9	Battle Creek, Mich., Corps
	26 Sunday	1 Kings 19-22	Eau Claire, Wis., Corps
	27 Monday	Psalms 75-77	Chicago (North Side), Ill., ARC
	28 Tuesday	Proverbs 7	Summer Mission Teams
	29 Wednesday	Ezekiel 13-18	Ann Arbor, Mich., Corps
	30 Thursday	Luke 15-16	Canton, Ill., Corps

Go to www.prayercentralusa.org for prayer updates.

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

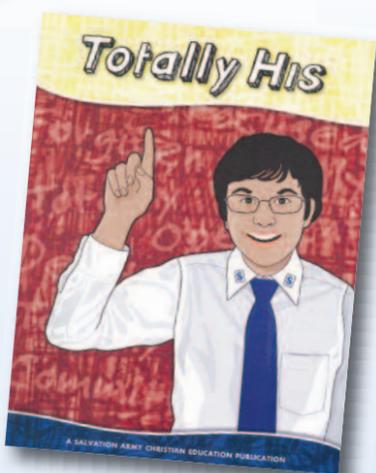
* = Adult Rehabilitation Center
 ** = Divisional Headquarters
 PIM = Partners in Mission

Totally His updated

Last year International Headquarters changed the junior soldier promise to align the wording globally. While this has not changed the essence of the promise, it has affected the curriculum. The newly edited *Totally His* junior soldier preparation course is now available. It reflects the wording adjustments and includes resources like enrollment checklists and junior soldier dedication ceremonies.

For those who are new or who are unfamiliar with the junior soldier program, it starts with *Totally His*. Children begin the discipleship journey at a young age with this preparation course. In six lessons, the material helps prospective junior soldiers understand the meaning and biblical basis for the promise. It also introduces Salvation Army history, terms and ministry. Most importantly, it gives each child the opportunity to make a decision to receive Christ.

The territorial youth department will provide the new edition of *Totally His* at no charge to corps that request it. Corps officers can download the new material from a database on Lotus Notes or can email the territorial youth department at USC Youth/USC/SArmy.



--Mustard Seeds--



Harbor Light is like home

by Major Sandy Rowland

Lives are changed every day at the Detroit, Mich., Harbor Light. The story of Marine Lance Corporal David Burton is a perfect example.

In 2010, while on leave from Camp Pendleton in California, David visited the Harbor Light to attend Sunday morning worship services. During the service he asked if he could make a presentation. In full uniform, Burton told those present, "Two years ago I was a client at Harbor Light. I didn't make it the first time—but I did make it the second! Whenever I am back in the

States I have to come to Harbor Light. It is my home. It is where I feel most loved. I accepted the Lord here, and my life was changed forever."

David presented an American flag to Major Ed Rowland, Harbor Light System director, and Envoy Artee Lewis, in charge of the Harbor Light Corps. He told how he had been a part of a team working to gain control of the city of Marjah, the Taliban capital of Afghanistan. After a month-long battle, they took control. David and his gunner rode in their armored vehicle through Marjah and spontaneously flew the American flag. With tears in his eyes, David explained how motivating seeing the flag waving was for the U.S. ground troops lining the streets of the embattled area.

As David received a standing ovation from those at the Harbor Light, he said, "I wanted this flag to be in a special place, and the Harbor Light will always be that special place for me."

Lance Corporal Burton expects to be deployed to Afghanistan again this year. Please pray for him.



Around the territory



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, MO.—This year corps members wanted to thank and affirm local first responders for their courage and dedication to the community. During a special Sunday service Kansas and Western Missouri Divisional Commander Major Charles Smith shared words of appreciation, and Major Sharon Smith offered a prayer of dedication and protection over them. Corps members participated by baking goodies for gift bags. Before the service was over, Auxiliary Captain Chuck Cook, who leads the corps with his wife, Dana, reminded everyone, "What we run away from, these fine individuals run to!" Last year the corps held their first affirmation service for leaders and soldiers.

Japanese crisis

Continued from page 1

from across the world. He reports many of the stranded commuters who were given food, drink and shelter on the night of the earthquake sent letters of thanks, some with a donation for the relief work.

Centralite Captain Christopher Marques, who arrived to serve at Japan's territorial headquarters just weeks before the quake, reported severe aftershocks continued long after the initial 9.0 quake.

By early April, 12,468 people were confirmed dead and 15,091 were missing.

From International News Releases as of April 6, 2011



WARREN, MICH.—The corps hosted its sixth annual chili cook-off and family fun event to benefit corps programs. For minimal admission participants enjoyed a chili dinner and evening activities such as a chili-tasting contest, bake sale and family fun center complete with bounce house and games. Corps Officers Majors Roger and Joy Ross were thrilled by its success.

Join us in remembering

In honor of those who have gone before us, the Central Territory will hold its traditional memorial service in The Salvation Army section of Glen Oak Cemetery.

**Sunday, May 22nd
3:00 p.m.**

**Glen Oak Cemetery
4301 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Hillside, IL 60162
(708) 344-5600**



Saluting God's warriors

A small notice in an April 1925 *War Cry* announced the acquisition of land in a new cemetery just west of Chicago as "a suitable burying place for Salvationists who have laid down their swords."

The next month on Memorial Day, a large crowd gathered at Glen Oak Cemetery to hear Commissioner William Peart dedicate this holy acre to God and those who'd spent their lives in His service.

The following May, a simple yet elegant granite monument was dedicated at Glen Oak with great fanfare. A 1926 *War Cry* reported several cars had stopped on a busy road nearby to enjoy the territorial staff band and singing of the multitudes; many stayed throughout the service.

"Just how far God used the meeting to impress the shortness of life on these [passers-

by], only the heavenly records can tell," added the writer.

In his dedicatory remarks, Commissioner Peart referenced "the honored dead who fought for this country's independence, those who fell in the Civil War and those who died for the sake of liberty in the great World War." Memorial wreaths were laid on five graves (reburials to consecrate the ground, said the commissioner). A large purple wreath was suspended over the monument.

Thus began the lovely and meaningful tradition of an annual salute to Salvationists with a Memorial Day remembrance service.



Promoted to Glory

Major Randall Sjögren

On March 22, 2011, Major Randall Sjögren was promoted to Glory with his family by his side. He slipped away at only 57 years old.



He was born to Bertil and Betty in St. Paul, Minn., just five minutes after his identical twin and best friend, Russell. Rand excelled in music and participated in many corps activities surrounding this passion. After high school Rand and Russ attended college before being called to officership.

While in training Rand and Russ met the Garrington sisters, Debbie and Jan, whose parents were stationed at the college. The girls were immediately drawn to the blonde twins from Minnesota. After commissioning Rand and Debbie were

married on June 16, 1976; Russ and Jan married exactly one year later.

The Sjögrens served in nearly every avenue of officership from corps to divisional, territorial, national and international headquarters. Having completed a degree in business management after training, Rand excelled in finance and business administration and particularly cherished his experience overseas as an international auditor.

Rand was a quiet, gentle man and is remembered as a sterling example of holiness, a gifted musician and a devoted family man who will be greatly missed.

He was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Abigail Seiler. He is survived by the love of his life, Debbie; daughters Evie (Kevin) Polsley and Erika (Bryan) Seiler; granddaughter Ellie; siblings Major Russell (Jan), Karen (Russ) Marschinke, James (Petra), Lt. Colonel Daniel (Rebecca), Doug (Barb) and many beloved nieces and nephews.