New Territorial Youth Band and Chorus launched

One never knows exactly how things will turn out when planning something that has never been done. Plans are made, details reviewed and expectations set, but the outcome is uncertain. So when the formation of a Territorial Youth Band and Youth Chorus was announced last summer, who knew what the response would be. While the territorial music and gospel arts department hoped young people throughout the territory would be interested and give up two weekends to rehearse and to perform at the Festival of Worship Arts in June, how many actually would and what would their ability level be?

Earlier this year the department got its answer when 63 young people showed up at Camp Wonderland on a weekend that resembled Alaska more than the Midwest. Traveling from as far away as Omaha, Neb., and Port Huron, Mich., the eager group of young people entered the chapel. As if coming home, they were comfortable in each other’s company and this familiar setting. Most have been recent students at Central Music Institute and have known each other for years. They greeted friends and quickly settled into the compact weekend schedule that included three rehearsals, one sectional, three small group devotionals and two mini-programs—all in less than 24 hours!

Continued on page 2

William Himes, territorial music and gospel arts secretary, the groups plunged into full rehearsals of challenging repertoire. Including players and singers from the Chicago Staff Band (CSB) and Bill Booth Theater Company (BBTC), the Territorial Youth Band (TYB) of 54 instrumentalists was led by Staff Bandmaster Himes and Peggy Thomas, while the Territorial Youth Chorus (TYC) of 34 voices was led by Joe Caddy and Meghan Pierson.

Throughout the weekend young people were challenged in their spiritual journey by small group studies based on the three movements (making a difference, making time and making progress) of “Quest” by Paul Sharman which the TYB will perform at the festival. As chaplain, Marty Thomas led the devotional periods in which participants broke into small discussion groups led by members of the CSB and BBTC.

After a time of fellowship, the TYB rehearsed cornet and trombone features with the CSB, while the TYC worked on special music for the Festival of Worship Arts. This was followed with an informal 30-minute

Continued on page 2

Leadership changes

Colonels Merle and Dawn Heatwole, currently Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries in the Central Territory, have been appointed respectively as National Chief Secretary and National Secretary for Women’s Ministries, effective October 1, 2014.

Lt. Colonels Jeffrey and Dorothy Smith have been appointed respectively as Chief Secretary and Territorial Secretary for Women’s Ministries in the Central Territory.

Effective October 1, 2014, they will take up their new appointment, with the rank of colonel.

STEPs grants infuse corps possibilities

Corps’ momentum from STEPs (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) is about to get a super charge of sorts. Territorial Headquarters is making a grant of $5,000 to each corps throughout the territory to help them specifically address a “vital few” goal as they advance the mission. “The grants represent the territory’s commitment to invest
**Too Creative?**

by Lt. Colonel Paul Smith

Territorial Secretary for Program

A t this year’s Regeneration Conference, spoken word artist Propaganda said: “Recently I was told I was too creative.” It made me wonder what would cause someone to be declared as too creative. Does the label perhaps stem from a perceived lack of predictability, or does it arise from the tendency to step beyond the bounds of what is seen as comfortable and safe?

Even though I’m often described as creative, I have to confess I also find comfort in structure. I’ve found I’m not alone. Anyone who has lived with or has worked with young people knows they flourish when they understand the rules and expectations and are given freedom to express individuality in reaching their potential.

Unfortunately, as a society we often communicate approval only when a person stays within the lines. As a result, our natural creativity which is a part of being created in the image of God is slowly conditioned away.

Maintaining the status quo mental- ity is a problem in almost every organ- ization. Pastor Eugene Cho, another Regeneration speaker said, “Status quo maintenance inevitably leads to decline.” We may think it’s safe and easy to spend our time and resources protecting and keeping the routines we have, but the reality is a mainte- nance strategy will ultimately lead to stagnation and death of an organization or in an individual. Jesus warned against this in the parable of the talents [Matthew 25:14-30] and when He said, “He who seeks to save his life shall lose it” (Luke 17:33).

In the natural sciences, the princi- ple of decline is known as the Law of Entropy. This law simply stated observes: in a closed system, energy will decrease over time. The cure to entropy is to inject new energy into the system or to unleash the poten- tial bound up in the system. I would suggest two sources of injecting energy into The Salvation Army and those who are part of it. The first source of energy is the infilling and empowering of the Holy Spirit [Acts 1:4-8]. It’s interesting to note the empowerment we see in Acts 2 came after a period of waiting and united prayer until God poured out His blessing.

I would suggest the second source of releasing energy in our lives and our Army is creativity. Pastor Cho said, “Creativity injects new energy into our ministries.” Ignite creativity is a core principle of “Creating a Shared Future.” Find, develop and pursue creativity. The territory is committed to encourag- ing, resourcing and rewarding cre- ativity which advances our mission. We must continually strive to find new ways to build authentic rela- tionships with people so we can share the Gospel effectively, help them to grow and ask them to join us in service.

Too creative? Impossible! Creativity comes from the Father, and all He has made is good.

---

**Territorial Youth Band and Chorus.**

Continued from page 1

CSB/BBTC concert featuring soloists Ben Kinzie, Paul Bowyer and Shaun Thomas. The Bill Booth Theater Company presented a thought-provoking sketch, and the evening con- cluded with Joe Caddy and Kaela McDougall singing the beautiful duet, “The Prayer.”

Saturday began with sectional rehearsals again led by members of the CSB and BBTC, followed by another full rehearsal and devotions. After lunch, groups assembled for their final rehearsal and group photos outside in 14 degree weather with snow showers! The retreat con- cluded with each group “trying out their stuff,” performing two numbers and seeing choired on by the others. The progress made in such short time was amazing.

With Marty Thomas’ final challenge, young people met in their small groups one last time, commit- ting to pray for each other until they meet again in June. It was apparent everyone was looking forward to meeting at the Festival of Worship Arts in Merrillville, Ind., June 6-8, where both groups will be featured prominently.

“Territory is blessed with a lot of wonderful young people—and many of them are in the first-ever TYB and TYC,” said Bandmaster Himes.

---

**STEPS grants**

Continued from page 1

intentionally as we create our shared future,” said Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, territorial com- mander.

At the juncture of all corps utilizing the new review tool for two years, this infusion of funds comes at a crit- ical time to reward creativity and solidify progress.

“Ultimately, this grant goes back to the idea that applying resources to an identified need that will make a key difference means corps can indeed take that next step in mission effec- tiveness. We believe the funds will be an encouragement to them and have impact,” said Lt. Colonel Paul Smith, territorial program secretary.

The grants will be administered by divisional headquarters teams work- ing in tandem with corps officers and local leaders to help them achieve goals they’ve already set. Referred to as the “vital few,” these specific goals that corps have chosen to focus on this year should bring about concrete change. The goal may focus on a challenge or an opportunity but must be seen to be significant.

The grants to the corps in the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division will serve as leverage to move concepts into action,” said Major Dan Jennings, divisional com- mander. “Many of our corps have great goals that are worth imple- menting but are limited in the resources to make those initiatives a reality. The grants will provide an opportunity to prioritize their efforts and invest where they can most increase mission effectiveness.”

Look for a large STEPs feature in Central Connection next month.

---

**Get Connected!**

Check out our complementary material on the web: salarmycentral.org

Resources/Links

Festival of Worship Arts and Commissioning registration

The Singing Company website

National Disaster Services website

Arms House website

Women’s Ministries Leadership Conference registration

Web exclusives

Women’s Ministries Leadership Conference full list of workshops

Why invite the Wheelers?

“What You’ve Done” by John Marshall

“Why We Became Soldiers” by Larry and Jenny Reed

The making of the Singing Co’s new album

Storm Song

With whom should we – Questions answered

Media

Storm Song clip
WMNI claims power of One at soldiers rally

by Major Lisa Mueller

hat do you get when you add 337 to the power of 1? In Kingdom-building math, you get OneMore4Jesus! Recently, more than 300 people gathered in the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division for a Power of One Soldiers Rally to celebrate soldiership and local officership.

The day began in energizing, united worship, including the Great Lakes Brass and Great Lakes Glee Club, the Niles, Mich., Corps teen dance team, and singing companies from the South Bend, Ind., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center and the Elkhart, Ind., Corps.

After junior soldiers were dismissed for their own rally, Divisional Commander Major Thomas Bowers shared a poignant message that’s been on his heart while he has led this division. He explored three possible reasons for the Army’s decline in membership. Providing biblical examples, he asked Salvationists to give God first place, to care enough about lost souls to do something, and to tap into the omnipotent power of God. “If each of us will commit to doing what we are capable of to win just one more person for the Kingdom, the trajectory of our division takes on an outstanding new direction!” exclaimed the major.

After being asked to win OneMore4Jesus, soldiers signed commitment cards and knelt in prayer.

Senior soldiers then attended workshops to equip them in winning others to Jesus. They learned how to develop and use their personal testimonies in evangelism and how to more effectively witness to family and friends, those who participate in corps programs, and those from other cultures and faiths.

Later they joined together for a recognition of soldiers who have reached milestones in service. Among those recognized were Majors Peter and Barbara Vander Vliet who were recognized for 16 years of faithful soldiership and exceptional service at the Elkhart Corps since their retirement. Herb Holtgren of the Michigan City, Ind., Corps, also was honored for 64 years of soldiership and local leadership, including being the corps treasurer and pastor for 30 years.

OneMore4Jesus is part of a three-year emphasis in the WMNI Division, including twice yearly Kingdom-building campaigns.

Singing Company releases Storm Song (EP)

by Nate Irvine

his month the Singing Company will release its six-song extended play (EP) album Storm Song, which includes three original tunes and three arrangements of well-loved songs “A mighty fortress is our God,” “Come Thou fount of every blessing” and “Be Thou my vision.” The original numbers tackle hard-hitting themes like repentance in “You alone are God” and perseverance in “Storm song.” In “Seven Woes” the Singing Company sings about the seven woes Jesus speaks over the Pharisees in Matthew 23:13-32.

This project gives the band an opportunity to be honest about what’s going on in our lives,” said Sam Arias, composer of “Seven Woes.” “The reality is that life is not great all of the time. What do you say when you find yourself in a storm? How do you worship?”

EPs typically contain more music than a single but are usually too short to qualify as a full album. Instead of releasing a full length album every few years, The Singing Company now hopes to release a new EP annually enabling resources to be more regularly distributed throughout the territory.

“The great thing is that worship leaders will still be able to download accompaniment tracks, chord charts and lead sheets in English and Spanish from our website as with our previous full-length albums,” said Eric Himes, band leader.

For more information please visit www.thesingingcompany.com.
I am thankful I grew up in a home where my officer parents taught me what it means to be a Christian. I accepted Christ at a young age, but it wasn’t until college that I gave all of myself to God. While in high school, I attended a Bible club where I heard a local officer say, “God uses everyone in some way. We need to ask God where He needs us.” As I prayed about this over the next couple of months, God spoke to my heart. Then at commissioning I realized God was calling me to be an officer. I prayed God would confirm His will for me. This fall I will begin training. God has shown me He wants me to serve Him full-time. I want to be a Christian leader, and I believe I can do that in the Salvation Army. I pray that people will come to know Jesus as Lord through my ministry.

The group’s guide archeologist Missy (center) elaborates on the finds.

Confirmation came when I led a friend to Christ! Despite set-backs and tests, I am certain God will continue to equip me for what He has called me to do. My part is to be obedient, continue to grow and to make the most of every opportunity to be and do what God wants.

Joseph’s corps officers are Captains Trevor and Rochelle McClintock.

Tami McBryde
Oshkosh, Wis., Corps
Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division

I was saved at age 14. At my first youth councils in Alexandria, Minn., I received my call to officerhood. Five months later my family (none of whom were Christians) moved to Kansas. After a lot of heartbreak, turmoil and distress, I felt too ‘damaged’ to serve God and turned my back on God calling me. I accepted Christ and re-entered the Salvation Army. I would serve the Lord in full-time ministry. I transferred to the Arnold, Mo., Corps to learn more about the Army and last October became a Ministry Discovery intern at the Belleville, Ill., Corps in preparation for officership.

Anthony’s corps officers are Major Matthew and Captain Debra Osborn.

Tami’s corps officers are Auxiliary Captains Don and Vicky Karl.

Anthony Nordan
Arnold, Mo., Corps
Midland Division

In 2008 I started working at a Salvation Army thrift store in St. Louis, Mo. Captain Gerhard Scheler, adult rehabilitation center (ARC) administrator, invited me to an Advent worship service the next year. I stopped believing in God and had not attended church regularly for nearly 10 years but decided to go. After that worship encounter I never looked back. I had found faith in Jesus and a church home. I became an adherent and then a soldier. The ARC was just what I needed. I was at a low point in my life, but with my new-found faith I could look forward to tomorrow.

My call to officerhood came in 2010 at the Congress. I’d been thinking about what I should do with my life and asking questions about officership. The captain explained and encouraged me to pray about it. I prayed about it all weekend and on Sunday felt a strong pull to proclaim I would serve the Lord in fulltime ministry. I transferred to the Arnold, Mo., Corps to learn more about the Army and last October became a Ministry Discovery intern at the Belleville, Ill., Corps in preparation for officership.

Anthony’s corps officers are Major Matthew and Captain Debra Osborn.

Digging Israel

by Captain Keith Graham

Tel Maresha is an antiquity site in central Israel’s southern lowlands. Found in the Beit Guvrin-Maresha National Park, the ruins of Maresha stand as testament to this once important town in Judah during the time of the First Temple Period. Our guided stop here was the last of our 10-day Biblical Educational Tour to Israel on such a note.

Our group’s guide was Missy, one of the resident archeologists. Her witty humor infused with unbridled passion prepared us for a four-story descent on wooden make-shift ladders to our dig site. We traversed through successive levels of connect-ed bell-shaped caves heaved in the beige colored limestone until landing on the dirt floor of cave 169 – 118, affectionately called ‘Right.’ There, like kindergarteners on a very cool science project, we got on all fours to gingerly unearth treasured bone scraps from a meal, pieces of ancient pottery, and even a coin—all last seen before the time of Christ.

As we left on our tour buses from this impres-sive place, I could only wonder what would be the spiritual implication of ending our time in Israel on such a note. Unlike Jerusalem, Korazim or Caesarea Philippi, Jesus never had anything to say directly concerning Maresha. But then just being able to li-t erally dig into its history reminded me that Israel’s past had already greatly affected my spiritual future for the better.

Ministry impact

Spiritual formation and worship was the focus of 87 percent of their meetings in 2013. Remaining meetings were youth related, including vacation Bible schools and after-school programs. Invitations to corps often come as a result of the STEP’s (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) corps review process, Major Joe noted.

Employment Opportunities

Program Specialist—Basic Needs
Program Specialist—Housing
Program Specialist—Vulnerable Populations

The group’s guide archeologist Missy (center) elaborates on the finds.

Newly accepted candidates

Joseph Hixenbaugh
Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps
Western Division

Our group’s guide was Missy, one of the resident archeologists. Her unique hands-on opportunity to be involved in an archeological dig.

The group’s guide archeologist Missy (center) elaborates on the finds.

I attended church regularly for nearly 10 years but decided to go. After that worship encounter I never looked back. I had found faith in Jesus and a church home. I became an adherent and then a soldier. The ARC was just what I needed. I was at a low point in my life, but with my new-found faith I could look forward to tomorrow.

My call to officerhood came in 2010 at the Congress. I’d been thinking about what I should do with my life and asking questions about officership. The captain explained and encouraged me to pray about it. I prayed about it all weekend and on Sunday felt a strong pull to proclaim I would serve the Lord in fulltime ministry. I transferred to the Arnold, Mo., Corps to learn more about the Army and last October became a Ministry Discovery intern at the Belleville, Ill., Corps in preparation for officership.

Anthony’s corps officers are Major Matthew and Captain Debra Osborn.

Digging Israel

by Captain Keith Graham

Tel Maresha is an antiquity site in central Israel’s southern lowlands. Found in the Beit Guvrin-Maresha National Park, the ruins of Maresha stand as testament to this once important town in Judah during the time of the First Temple Period. Our guided stop here was the last of our 10-day Biblical Educational Tour to Israel on such a note.

Our group’s guide was Missy, one of the resident archeologists. Her witty humor infused with unbridled passion prepared us for a four-story descent on wooden make-shift ladders to our dig site. We traversed through successive levels of connect-ed bell-shaped caves heaved in the beige colored limestone until landing on the dirt floor of cave 169 – 118, affectionately called ‘Right.’ There, like kindergarteners on a very cool science project, we got on all fours to gingerly unearth treasured bone scraps from a meal, pieces of ancient pottery, and even a coin—all last seen before the time of Christ.

As we left on our tour buses from this impres-sive place, I could only wonder what would be the spiritual implication of ending our time in Israel on such a note. Unlike Jerusalem, Korazim or Caesarea Philippi, Jesus never had anything to say directly concerning Maresha. But then just being able to li-t erally dig into its history reminded me that Israel’s past had already greatly affected my spiritual future for the better.

Ministry impact

Spiritual formation and worship was the focus of 87 percent of their meetings in 2013. Remaining meetings were youth related, including vacation Bible schools and after-school programs. Invitations to corps often come as a result of the STEP’s (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) corps review process, Major Joe noted.

Employment Opportunities

Program Specialist—Basic Needs
Program Specialist—Housing
Program Specialist—Vulnerable Populations

The group’s guide archeologist Missy (center) elaborates on the finds.

Newly accepted candidates

Joseph Hixenbaugh
Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps
Western Division

Our group’s guide was Missy, one of the resident archeologists. Her unique hands-on opportunity to be involved in an archeological dig.

The group’s guide archeologist Missy (center) elaborates on the finds.

I attended church regularly for nearly 10 years but decided to go. After that worship encounter I never looked back. I had found faith in Jesus and a church home. I became an adherent and then a soldier. The ARC was just what I needed. I was at a low point in my life, but with my new-found faith I could look forward to tomorrow.

My call to officerhood came in 2010 at the Congress. I’d been thinking about what I should do with my life and asking questions about officership. The captain explained and encouraged me to pray about it. I prayed about it all weekend and on Sunday felt a strong pull to proclaim I would serve the Lord in fulltime ministry. I transferred to the Arnold, Mo., Corps to learn more about the Army and last October became a Ministry Discovery intern at the Belleville, Ill., Corps in preparation for officership.

Anthony’s corps officers are Major Matthew and Captain Debra Osborn.

Digging Israel

by Captain Keith Graham

Tel Maresha is an antiquity site in central Israel’s southern lowlands. Found in the Beit Guvrin-Maresha National Park, the ruins of Maresha stand as testament to this once important town in Judah during the time of the First Temple Period. Our guided stop here was the last of our 10-day Biblical Educational Tour to Israel on such a note.

Our group’s guide was Missy, one of the resident archeologists. Her witty humor infused with unbridled passion prepared us for a four-story descent on wooden make-shift ladders to our dig site. We traversed through successive levels of connect-ed bell-shaped caves heaved in the beige colored limestone until landing on the dirt floor of cave 169 – 118, affectionately called ‘Right.’ There, like kindergarteners on a very cool science project, we got on all fours to gingerly unearth treasured bone scraps from a meal, pieces of ancient pottery, and even a coin—all last seen before the time of Christ.

As we left on our tour buses from this impres-sive place, I could only wonder what would be the spiritual implication of ending our time in Israel on such a note. Unlike Jerusalem, Korazim or Caesarea Philippi, Jesus never had anything to say directly concerning Maresha. But then just being able to li-t erally dig into its history reminded me that Israel’s past had already greatly affected my spiritual future for the better.

Ministry impact

Spiritual formation and worship was the focus of 87 percent of their meetings in 2013. Remaining meetings were youth related, including vacation Bible schools and after-school programs. Invitations to corps often come as a result of the STEP’s (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) corps review process, Major Joe noted.

Employment Opportunities

Program Specialist—Basic Needs
Program Specialist—Housing
Program Specialist—Vulnerable Populations

The group’s guide archeologist Missy (center) elaborates on the finds.
New disaster chaplaincy program launched in the Philippines

When Dr. Kevin Ellers, Central territorial disaster services coordinator, received the invitation to go to the Philippines to present disaster chaplaincy training, he says he was excited about the opportunity but dreaded the travel adjustment and felt fitting it amongst existing projects seemed impossible.

“Initially going to the other side of the world with a 14-hour time zone difference and over 24 hours of travel each way takes a huge toll, and the recovery time is not quick,” he said. “However, the more I prayed about it, the more clear it became it was something I should do. Now that I am back, I see the incredible work coming together to minister to people who have lost so much and will face many future disasters in this high risk area,” said Kevin.

The strategic plan being developed includes follow-up with the second course typically used by disaster chaplains titled “Grief Following Trauma” and a train-the-trainer course to teach leaders to teach future courses.

“In the first class I taught, all of the participants were from a disaster area and most had lost everything and were living in temporary homes. They continued to minister to their congregation and communities. You would never have known it as you listened to them talk and praise God in the morning worship sessions before class. The one word that you constantly heard was ‘unity.’ In midst of their suffering, they had an acute awareness that they needed God and each other.”

Filipino fellowship grows

The second anniversary of the Filipino American Fellowship, a ministry of the Eastern Michigan Division, was cause for great celebration, reported Major Romeo Alip, ministry director. More than 140 people attended the Sunday anniversary event which began with an enthusiastic worship service that included an interpretive dance by Filipino hula dancers of “How Great Thou Art” and a sermon by Major Romeo.

Major Mark Anderson, general secretary, welcomed the crowd, and Major Susan Anderson, divisional women’s ministries secretary, gave the benediction and blessed the meal that followed. Guests then enjoyed a heritage celebration organized by Major Evelyn Alip of folk dances, traditional songs—and more hulas! Retired officers from the Philippines, the Alips report the fellowship continues to grow by word of mouth among the region’s estimated 30,000 Filipinos. The group meets for worship and fellowship once a month at divisional headquarters and even has its own praise and worship team and hula praise team. Bible studies meet in homes during the week.

“They feel the love of God and of believers for each other here, and they appreciate the Army’s acceptance of them regardless of culture or religion,” said Major Romeo. “I believe some may become members of The Salvation Army, but for now we’ll continue to be a fellowship of believers winning many souls for God’s Kingdom.”

F or two months earlier this year Major Mike McKee coordinated relief efforts in the Philippines following the unprecedented destruction caused by November’s typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). While the initial urgent distributions of emergency food and water rations has all but ended, the work has shifted to helping the people recover from the damage to their homes, businesses and livelihoods. Many entire industries have been disrupted, and many families struggle to make ends meet since their source of income has been lost.

Committed to helping meet the long-term needs of families, The Salvation Army has been carefully listening to the people in the affected areas in order to develop appropriate responses to enable affected communities to regain their self-sufficiency. One recently completed project involved distributing fast-growing vegetable seeds, gardening tools and a small cash grant for fertilizer, etc. to 5,000 families. The seeds will give people in this farming area a source of food for the table with some left over to bring to the market.

Especially hard-hit was the coconut industry with farmers losing a staggering 33 million coconut trees. When investigating how best to assist these farming families, the initial thinking was to provide coconut seedlings for replanting the lost trees. Unfortunately, only an estimated 8 million seedlings were available in the entire region, leaving a huge deficit of families who could recover to pre-typhoon capacity.

With some lamenting this lack of resources, The Salvation Army, in consultation with local communities and universities, is developing large-scale coconut seedling nurseries to be located in the hardest-hit area in order to help the families meet their own needs and then to become a resource for other affected communities.

Along with projects to provide materials for roof repairs to 3,000 families and the construction of a new Salvation Army Community Center to provide a variety of services targeted at helping meet the long-term recovery needs of families (on land donated to the Army by the grateful community of Dulag), The Salvation Army is standing with the people of the Philippines in order to bring help, healing and hope to people who are working to recover from one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded.

Restoring hope in the Philippines

Over 160 leaders from the Salvation Army in Japan encouraged the chaplaincy program to be set up in the Philippines.

The disaster chaplaincy project in the Philippines is the result of the work Kevin did in 2012 in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami. With that project going strong, leadership in Japan encouraged the chaplaincy program to be set up in the Philippines.

In this new project The Salvation Army has partnered with other churches through the Philippines Council of Evangelical Churches and the Visayan Nazarene Bible College to select a group of people to train as disaster chaplains. This first series of training targeted the areas of Samar, Calbayog and Cebu City where over 160 leaders and students learned how to provide emotional and spiritual care in disasters.

“There has never been a national disaster chaplaincy initiative in the Philippines, so it is exciting to see the churches and communities working together to provide help,” said Kevin.

One recently completed project involved distributing fast-growing vegetable seeds, gardening tools and a small cash grant for fertilizer, etc. to 5,000 families. The seeds will give people in this farming area a source of food for the table with some left over to bring to the market.

Especially hard-hit was the coconut industry with farmers losing a staggering 33 million coconut trees. When investigating how best to assist these farming families, the initial thinking was to provide coconut seedlings for replanting the lost trees. Unfortunately, only an estimated 8 million seedlings were available in the entire region, leaving a huge deficit of families who could recover to pre-typhoon capacity.

With some lamenting this lack of resources, The Salvation Army, in consultation with local communities and universities, is developing large-scale coconut seedling nurseries to be located in the hardest-hit area in order to help the families meet their own needs and then to become a resource for other affected communities.

Along with projects to provide materials for roof repairs to 3,000 families and the construction of a new Salvation Army Community Center to provide a variety of services targeted at helping meet the long-term recovery needs of families (on land donated to the Army by the grateful community of Dulag), The Salvation Army is standing with the people of the Philippines in order to bring help, healing and hope to people who are working to recover from one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded.
Committed to mission excellence

This year an Army residence for older adults and two individuals serving in social services and disaster relief have been recognized for their outstanding ministry. Here’s a glimpse of their commitment to mission excellence.

Celebrating life

Durham Booth Manor, a Salvation Army residence in Omaha, Neb., for low-income people age 62-plus, could give a certain theme park in Florida a run for its money as the happiest place on earth.

This year receiving the award for program excellence and achievement, the residence has been hailed as a model for its warm and community environment which has been cultivated and sustained by its exceptional, caring staff.

“We offer much more than a landlord/tenant relationship; we celebrate life here,” said D.D. Launderville, Omaha senior services director. “We foster a caring family atmosphere among residents, as well as provide them with social and spiritual support.”

Throughout the year birthdays and seasonal events are creatively celebrated with parties, activities and special meals. New residents receive welcome baskets and warm invitations to get involved. Residents may attend Bible studies and other support groups; the Dora Bingel Senior Center offers programs, activities, fellowship and spiritual life support groups. The joy (Jesus, Others and You) Club meets every Friday for service projects, Christian book discussions and prayer.

Both D.D. and Lisa Ramold, Durham Booth Manor director, have been hailed as innovators in policy and practice. They’re highly respected and involved in the community, giving leadership to mutually beneficial collaborations. Each has been recognized for exceptional professional skills and service as resources in The Salvation Army and beyond.

Service Coordinator Mary Sawaged also is engaged in the community and is a tireless advocate for vulnerable older adults. She’s highly regarded by peers and residents alike for her resourceful problem solving and tenacity in locating needed services for residents to help them stay independent.

Both residents Ed and Rosa had been married for 60 years. When Ed passed away, Rosa’s grief was overwhelming and she had trouble with daily living. Her nine children knew they needed to make a plan so Rosa could remain in her home. Lisa met with the entire family (18 people) over several evenings and weekends to review Rosa’s immediate needs and mediate family decisions on helping her with finances, housekeeping, meals, transportation, grocery shopping and laundry. Rosa was able to live independently for another 16 years, surrounded by caring neighbors and staff.

In its most recent program recertification review, the manor received a 99 percent score; its previous three-year evaluation was 98 percent. HUD provides for rent subsidies and safe, sanitary housing; everything else comes from the Army, donations and community support.

Durham Booth Manor is “home, sweet home” for its residents.
The facility, which is located on the Lied Renaissance Center campus, also is hailed for its array of chaplaincy services and the spiritual care of its residents. The situation presents unique opportunities for Kingdom building as residents near the end of their lives. "Some residents regard it as a time for reconciliation with their pasts and to make peace with God and their families," said D.D.

Another unique approach is the manor’s Pastoral Care Plan which uses trained pastoral care representatives (PCR) to provide spiritual counseling. They work closely with manor staff to fulfill the Army’s holistic ministry. Flyers posted in common areas of the building list the chaplain’s name, picture and phone number and invite residents to call with questions, concerns, prayer requests or counseling needs.

Staff also keep the PCR posted whenever a resident enters the hospital and if the person desires further contact to discuss spiritual matters; they also follow up hospitalized residents with calls, cards and notes.

Residents are encouraged to attend weekly and Sunday activities at the Omaha Citadel Corps next door. Corps members often escort and assist elderly residents, a number of whom have become regular corps attendees.

In the 17 years since Durham Booth Manor opened, its 48 apartments have been occupied almost continually. “A few residents even have their parents living here!” said D.D. Currently, the oldest resident is 95.

“Some residents still work or volunteer. Several own cars and live pretty independent lives, while others may need a little extra help with shopping or other tasks. Although we respect the privacy of those who don’t want to socialize, we’ve seen most become successful, involved members of our community,” said D.D. who sees little miracles every day. “Even though technologically this is a landlord/tenants situation, they’ll never find a relationship like this!”

Another encouraging development from residents has been requests for memorial services to honor, grieve and celebrate the lives of deceased members of their community. This particularly has touched D.D., who’s had the longest tenure (since 1996) at the manor.

“We had a resident who came to us from living under a bridge. Dick had no family, so we were his ‘mommies’ making sure he got to doctor and hospital appointments. He was quiet around staff but talked freely with other residents about reconciliation. When Dick died, we didn’t expect many people for his memorial service. We were stunned when more than 75 people showed up from all over Omaha who’d known Dick from 12-step meetings; he’d touched so many lives. It still gives me goose bumps,” D.D. concluded.

In disasters he is incident commander and a disaster trainer. But no matter what role he plays, Rush is a servant. Wherever there’s a need for comfort and aid to people in crisis, you will find him. In The Salvation Army, he has what we call a ‘ministry of presence.’

In addition to local service with EDS, he has served during major disasters from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to the Joplin, Mo., tornado in 2011 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012. As a fellow lower of Christ, Rush is as content working humbly behind the scenes, making coffee and sandwiches on the canteen or shoveling mud from the home of a flood victim, as he is telling the Army’s story at a fundraising event.

In addition to serving on the advisory board and with disaster relief, he supports other Salvation Army efforts like the radiothon, toy shop and kettle campaigns.

Rush’s dedication to The Salvation Army’s mission is clear and strong. He fulfills Jesus’ mandate to bring salt and light to a hurting world. You could not find a more deserving recipient of the National ‘Sleeves Rolled Up’ Award.

Doris Rahmes has been praised for exemplifying the best in social work practice. Her outstanding insights, professional expertise and relational skills have earned her the respect of colleagues, clients and community partners alike,” said Dr. Linda Burkle, Western divisional social services director.

As the Program Coordinator for Community Support—Mental Health, under The Salvation Army’s behavioral health social services for the City of Omaha, Doris works with clients who’ve been diagnosed with chronic mental illness and who often exhibit substance-abuse issues. She has been lauded for her holistic ministry addressing their emotional, psychological, physical, social and spiritual needs.

Doris began her career working with youth, then transitioned to adults. “When you look at the behaviors, they’re all the same,” she said. “It’s working with people who can’t help themselves. We have to take it one day at a time.”

Doris has an innate ability to connect with people in crisis or who are experiencing mental illness symptoms. Her low-key, calm and attentive approach has been very effective in de-escalating tense and potentially dangerous situations.

Supervising three residential and treatment programs for adults with severe, persistent mental illness, Doris not only oversees staff and operations, she continues to work hands-on with some clients who are struggling with developing coping skills for their illness and ways of living independently and responsibly.

Alice Drake, director of behavioral health, said of Doris, “I appreciate her insights and sense of humor more than words can tell. She’s on top of things making sure each staff member knows what’s expected of them and how to do it.”

In disasters he is incident commander and a disaster trainer. But no matter what role he plays, Rush is a servant. Wherever there’s a need for comfort and aid to people in crisis, you will find him. In The Salvation Army, he has what we call a ‘ministry of presence.’

In addition to local service with EDS, he has served during major disasters from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to the Joplin, Mo., tornado in 2011 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012. As a fellow lower of Christ, Rush is as content working humbly behind the scenes, making coffee and sandwiches on the canteen or shoveling mud from the home of a flood victim, as he is telling the Army’s story at a fundraising event.

In addition to serving on the advisory board and with disaster relief, he supports other Salvation Army efforts like the radiothon, toy shop and kettle campaigns.

Rush’s dedication to The Salvation Army’s mission is clear and strong. He fulfills Jesus’ mandate to bring salt and light to a hurting world. You could not find a more deserving recipient of the National ‘Sleeves Rolled Up’ Award.

Doris Rahmes has been praised for exemplifying the best in social work practice. Her outstanding insights, professional expertise and relational skills have earned her the respect of colleagues, clients and community partners alike,” said Dr. Linda Burkle, Western divisional social services director.

As the Program Coordinator for Community Support—Mental Health, under The Salvation Army’s behavioral health social services for the City of Omaha, Doris works with clients who’ve been diagnosed with chronic mental illness and who often exhibit substance-abuse issues. She has been lauded for her holistic ministry addressing their emotional, psychological, physical, social and spiritual needs.

Doris began her career working with youth, then transitioned to adults. “When you look at the behaviors, they’re all the same,” she said. “It’s working with people who can’t help themselves. We have to take it one day at a time.”

Doris has an innate ability to connect with people in crisis or who are experiencing mental illness symptoms. Her low-key, calm and attentive approach has been very effective in de-escalating tense and potentially dangerous situations.

Supervising three residential and treatment programs for adults with severe, persistent mental illness, Doris not only oversees staff and operations, she continues to work hands-on with some clients who are struggling with developing coping skills for their illness and ways of living independently and responsibly.

Alice Drake, director of behavioral health, said of Doris, “I appreciate her insights and sense of humor more than words can tell. She’s on top of things making sure each staff member knows what’s expected of them and how to do it.”

In disasters he is incident commander and a disaster trainer. But no matter what role he plays, Rush is a servant. Wherever there’s a need for comfort and aid to people in crisis, you will find him. In The Salvation Army, he has what we call a ‘ministry of presence.’

In addition to local service with EDS, he has served during major disasters from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to the Joplin, Mo., tornado in 2011 and Hurricane Sandy in 2012. As a fellow lower of Christ, Rush is as content working humbly behind the scenes, making coffee and sandwiches on the canteen or shoveling mud from the home of a flood victim, as he is telling the Army’s story at a fundraising event.

In addition to serving on the advisory board and with disaster relief, he supports other Salvation Army efforts like the radiothon, toy shop and kettle campaigns.

Rush’s dedication to The Salvation Army’s mission is clear and strong. He fulfills Jesus’ mandate to bring salt and light to a hurting world. You could not find a more deserving recipient of the National ‘Sleeves Rolled Up’ Award.

Doris Rahmes has been praised for exemplifying the best in social work practice. Her outstanding insights, professional expertise and relational skills have earned her the respect of colleagues, clients and community partners alike,” said Dr. Linda Burkle, Western divisional social services director.

As the Program Coordinator for Community Support—Mental Health, under The Salvation Army’s behavioral health social services for the City of Omaha, Doris works with clients who’ve been diagnosed with chronic mental illness and who often exhibit substance-abuse issues. She has been lauded for her holistic ministry addressing their emotional, psychological, physical, social and spiritual needs.

Doris began her career working with youth, then transitioned to adults. “When you look at the behaviors, they’re all the same,” she said. “It’s working with people who can’t help themselves. We have to take it one day at a time.”

Doris has an innate ability to connect with people in crisis or who are experiencing mental illness symptoms. Her low-key, calm and attentive approach has been very effective in de-escalating tense and potentially dangerous situations.

Supervising three residential and treatment programs for adults with severe, persistent mental illness, Doris not only oversees staff and operations, she continues to work hands-on with some clients who are struggling with developing coping skills for their illness and ways of living independently and responsibly.

Alice Drake, director of behavioral health, said of Doris, “I appreciate her insights and sense of humor more than words can tell. She’s on top of things making sure each staff member knows what’s expected of them and how to do it.”

Doris Rahmes has been praised for exemplifying the best in social work practice. Her outstanding insights, professional expertise and relational skills have earned her the respect of colleagues, clients and community partners alike,” said Dr. Linda Burkle, Western divisional social services director.

As the Program Coordinator for Community Support—Mental Health, under The Salvation Army’s behavioral health social services for the City of Omaha, Doris works with clients who’ve been diagnosed with chronic mental illness and who often exhibit substance-abuse issues. She has been lauded for her holistic ministry addressing their emotional, psychological, physical, social and spiritual needs.

Doris began her career working with youth, then transitioned to adults. “When you look at the behaviors, they’re all the same,” she said. “It’s working with people who can’t help themselves. We have to take it one day at a time.”

Doris has an innate ability to connect with people in crisis or who are experiencing mental illness symptoms. Her low-key, calm and attentive approach has been very effective in de-escalating tense and potentially dangerous situations.

Supervising three residential and treatment programs for adults with severe, persistent mental illness, Doris not only oversees staff and operations, she continues to work hands-on with some clients who are struggling with developing coping skills for their illness and ways of living independently and responsibly.
At home in Kansas

It was a momentous occasion recently at the Indianapolis, Ind., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) as territorial leaders Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler enrolled 10 soldiers and six adherents, reported Envoy Steven and Pam McNary, ARC administrators.

Larry and Jennifer Silver, ARC employees, decided to become soldiers after seeing first-hand the impact of the center’s ministries on beneficiaries’ lives. The other enrollees were program graduates who, according to Envoy Pam, are “very valuable employees” of the ARC.

Hired at the ARC as a store manager in 2010, Larry left for a better paying job two years later. But, he couldn’t get the ARC out of his mind and returned. “Once I was back, I felt complete again,” said Larry. When Jennifer was offered a part-time accounting position at the ARC, she jumped at the chance to be involved in what her husband was so excited about. “Larry’s passion for the mission of The Salvation Army was compelling,” she said. The Silvers soon made the ARC their church home. And, now they’re asking the McNarys questions about officership!

“Having Larry and Jennifer as part of our ARC family absolutely thrills us” said Envoy Steven McNary. “They’re so willing and energetic in doing the Lord’s work.”

“We’re proud of each and every one of the guys,” added Envoy Pam. “They work really hard—one day at a time—and it’s working. This is such an awesome ministry!”

If you want joy, choose holiness

As I share more about the Holy Spirit and His role, I have found it a delight to know that Christianity is the only religion in which the founder claims to live in the person who believes in Him. He also claims to influence His followers, not from outside but from within.

Just as the sap indwells the branch or blood indwells the body, so it is with Christ. He dwells in us who are believers, to reproduce His character. The chorus says, “Oh to be like Him, Oh to be like Him, blessed redeemer, pure as Thou art.”

When we received Christ as our Lord, He came by the act of the Holy Spirit. It is the office of the Holy Spirit to reproduce in our lives the graces and qualities that reside in Christ who lives within.

Do you lack love, patience, peace, purity, power or joy? You and I can draw it from the One within. There is no need to envy the experience of the disciples whose hearts burned with in them on their walk to Emmaus. The disciples entertained Him for only one night, we can entertain Him all day long.

The chorus reads: He came right down to me, He came right down to me, To condescend to be my friend, He came right down to me.

Focused on what really counts

The child of Salvation Army officers Majors Mark and Sue Anderson, Amy has lived throughout the Midwest, but as an adult her heart resides in Kansas. Since taking up her post last summer as the Good Soil Initiative (GSI) youth development coordinator for the Wichita Citadel, Kan., Corps, she truly feels at home.

“When Major Gail Aho [then territorial youth secretary] asked me if I was interested in becoming a GSI youth development coordinator, I knew I wanted to be in the MoKan (Kansas and Western Missouri) Division,” recalled Amy. “I was there two years working at camp, and my heart has been for this place ever since.”

Amy fully submitted her heart and life to God at 18. “I started to really work on my relationship with God at that point. I dove into it. I now have such faith in Him and know how He answers prayers; this job is a great example,” said Amy.

Amy is passionate about working with youth—challenging them, bringing out their potential and getting them to know them on a deeper level. “All the kids know I’m on call for them if they need someone to talk to,” she said.

On a daily basis Amy prepares class and program materials and helps resource her corps cadet brigade and youth leaders. Among many other things, in the last 10 months Amy facilitated “I’ll Fight Day” projects, organized a fall festival and directed the Christmas musical. Right now she is gearing up for vacation Bible school.

The youth programs are large, bringing in as many as 65 youth, so Amy’s primary focus is working with those currently involved in the corps, but as programs develop more fully, she hopes to reach out more to the community.
Sioux Falls celebrates 125th anniversary

by Marcie Gothard

This spring the beautiful city of Sioux Falls, S.D., enjoyed a weekend full of music, drama and song as we celebrated 125 years of Salvation Army service in South Dakota. James Beardsley, ministry associate, planned an inspiring weekend of events commemorating our past with gratefulness and looking to our future with optimism.

Nearly 400 people attended the weekend festivities, March 21-23, which included meetings, a prayer banquet and a community concert, and featured guests Lt. Colonel Richard Vander Weele, assistant chief secretary, and Majors Paul and Paula Freeman, Western divisional leaders, and incorporated the corps’ praise team and the territorial drama troupe, the Bill Booth Theater Company (BBTC).

“The celebration weekend was an excellent mix of traditional and contemporary Salvation Army worship where we highlighted the Church, City of Sioux Falls and State of South Dakota which are all celebrating their 125th birthday in 2014,” said Major Thomas E. Riggs, Sioux Falls corps officer.

We reflected on our past, learning about what early Salvationists endured as The Salvation Army spread across the United States and into Sioux Falls. The following missive appeared in The War Cry of October 10, 1889:

SOiUX FALLS, Dakota, Attacked.

We have received the following log dispatch from Major Dale, respecting the opening of the flourishing city of Sioux Falls. “Sioux Falls, Dakota, opened Saturday night, American and Swedish troops to the front—send 150 Crys—prospect glowing.” Major Dale.

In November 1889 the Army found it had a host of friends. Like many Salvation Army openings, the Sioux Falls Corps’ beginning included arrests. But in this case, the men officers were released, and charges were brought against the sheriff who had arrested them!

We celebrated the present with music from the Sioux Falls Youth Choir, sponsored by the Army and led by Cowboy Alitino Moreno, and with U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, who shared about the State of South Dakota’s 125th anniversary which, along with the City of Sioux Falls, is being celebrated this year.

“I always wondered if the reason my dad had so many kids was to work the farm, but it might be so The Salvation Army had more volunteers,” she said. The congresswoman has rung bells at kettleless for several Salvation Army corps across South Dakota and says next year she plans on recruiting more family members to help.

Saturday evening held a wonderful concert for the community with the Sioux Falls New Horizons Band.

On Sunday we concluded the weekend with worship. Soldiers, officers, staff, advisory board members, guests and community members joined together to praise God for His many blessings.

Today The Salvation Army in Sioux Falls not only includes the full bevy of traditional corps programs, but a significant array of services from a night watch program that serves 500 meals each weekend to a transitional housing residential program.

From its first meeting in October 1889 to 2014, the Sioux Falls Corps has flourished because of the support of the community. With their continued support, we will continue to help those in need and win souls for Christ.

Women’s Ministries Leadership Conference

October 16-19, 2014

Delegates to the 2014 Women’s Ministries Leaders Conference will be delighted to choose from 46 enriching and enabling workshops, sure to help them get fit in mind, body and soul.

The Joy of Mentoring
Woman to woman, friend to friend, the spiritual ties that bind
Social Media in Women’s Ministries
Get connected with Women’s Ministries through Facebook, blogs, Twitter, texting and Pinterest.

The Power of a Praying Woman
Be empowered by God’s Spirit through intentional and focused prayer.

Fit for Body, Recipes and Cooking
Making fresh, thrifty, homemade meals is one of the best ways to give to your family.

Unplugged
Wrestling with keeping your emotions in check? Learn how to handle frustration and anger in a godly way.

Taking Care of the Caregiver
Not only survive but be revived in this blessed ministry

What Happens When Women Say “Yes” to God
The saved and sanctified woman is God’s servant who lovingly serves her family and those around her.

Worship through Dance
Let the music of Hawaii introduce you to a new aspect of worship as you learn Hula history and dress.

Digging Deeper
Learn how to understand the Bible the way God intended.

Coping With Stress
We can’t avoid stress, but we can change how we react to it. Come learn positive coping skills.

Online registration now available. Visit usc.salvationarmy.org

Art with a purpose

When high-school junior Lexi Felt started painting four years ago, she quickly realized abstract art was her favorite mode of expression. It allowed her to convey how she felt and what inspired her.

“Art is another way God has blessed me, and a new way for me to minister to others,” said Lexi, who attends the Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps with her family.

Growing up, Lexi has been active in corps programs, including girl guards, corps cadets, junior band, praise band and songsters. At school she’s involved in student council, choir, speech team, theater, service club and guitar club.

As a girl guard working on her Catherine Booth Award almost three years ago, Lexi first learned about Anne’s House, a long-term shelter and trauma-rescue service for young victims of human trafficking. It struck an emotional chord with Lexi; she held a school supply drive for Anne’s House residents and has held one every year since. She felt compelled to do even more, however.

Her dad, Ron, suggested Lexi hold an art show to benefit the ministry, and her corps officers, Captains John and Johanna Pook, agreed to hold it at the corps on a Friday evening.

More than 50 people attended the event. Guests enjoyed refreshments and music while perusing 30 abstracts by Lexi, as well as handmade soaps and artwork produced by Anne’s House residents.

By evening’s end, many paintings—and much soap—had been sold. Lexi even received several commissions to paint abstracts. More importantly, Anne’s House received increased awareness and support for its work, all through the ministry of a 17-year-old girl using her gifts for the Lord.
Overcoming obstacles

by Matt Wiegman

When Elizabeth first came to The Salvation Army, she was losing hope. Just released from the hospital, she’d come home to discover her electricity had been disconnected due to nonpayment. Her two children would soon return from her parents’ house four hours away, her husband was out of town with construction work, and the burdens of maintaining the household with inadequate resources and little guidance had caught up to her.

I thought she’d be an ideal candidate for Pathway of Hope. She met the program’s prerequisites and showed a desire to change her family’s circumstances and the aptitude to accomplish her goals. After hearing about the program, Elizabeth was enthusiastic to begin.

Many obstacles impeded her progress toward self-sufficiency. Her family of four—soon to be five—was living in a small one-bedroom apartment. She and her husband slept on the sofa, so the kids could share the only bed. Having grown accustomed to living without sufficient resources, she didn’t even recognize it as inadequate. With a recurring heart condition, she was not only underinsured but had lost her job on an industrial cleaning crew due to her inability to perform physical tasks. The loss of income meant she often missed meals which was especially troubling because of her pregnancy.

Each week that we met, Elizabeth seemed willing to work hard and discuss her alternatives. Circumstances she’d once considered a way of life quickly were labeled as obstacles, and a plan was developed to overcome each. A career counselor at WorkOne, a local unemployment office, gave her information on job openings that would align with her education and interests, as well as suit her physical limitations. Elizabeth visited the local Medicaid office, where she received aid for the duration of her pregnancy. She learned how to apply for food stamps, which The Salvation Army supplemented with food from our emergency pantry and Kroger gift cards.

Two months after enrolling in Pathway of Hope, Elizabeth was hired as a secretary at a welding company. The pay was more than she’d ever earned! If used wisely, it would sustain her family while her husband looked for consistent work. We set up a reasonable budget, and Elizabeth diligently notched expenses and was conscientious in spending. For the first time, she opened a savings account. She also pursued subsidized childcare.

A few months ago when Elizabeth came to my office for our weekly meeting, I was struck by the difference in her demeanor. When I’d first met her, she’d seemed scared and resigned to failure. Now, she was confident and excited about the future. Having received an offer to work fulltime for a construction company in Louisville, Ky., her husband would have steady employment and still be able to come home each night. They’d recently signed a lease on a new apartment with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a much larger living area. It’s modest by all accounts but represents a significant change. Elizabeth has space to cook and beds for all family members. For the first time, she spoke of her “home.” When her son is born, he will have a proper living environment. He also will have a wonderful example of how hard work and the proper use of resources can lead to a fulfilling, happy life.

Pathway of Hope Update…

• Pathway of Hope is now in all divisions.
• By September 191 corps and social service sites will be using the Pathway of Hope approach.
• As of January 380 families had participated in Pathway of Hope.
• Throughout the territory a new information management system has been introduced, making the process of tracking outcomes easier.
• Community support is being shown not only by local partnerships but in some locations through funding.
• By 2016 all corps in the territory will be trained in Pathway of Hope.

Connecting to culture

Throughout the year the Northern Division celebrates the many cultures that add to the Army’s vibrancy in the Central Territory’s most northern states.

Earlier this year 179 Lao, Hispanic, African-American, Korean and Anglo people gathered from corps in the area for a dynamic meeting at the Noble Worship Center Corps in Brooklyn Park, Minn. Guests were Captains Enrique and Nancy Arzuaje, territorial multicultural ministry secretary and director for Hispanic women’s programs.

Noble Corps teens kicked off the evening with a step routine and Mexican dance “Jarabe Tapatio,” which was followed by inspiring music led by the Noble praise team, then a meaningful time of prayer and singing in different languages.

Captains Arzuaje shared their testimony of leaving a country and culture they loved to follow God’s will for their lives and be true disciples in the U.S. They explained how Salvation Army officers welcomed them into the corps and made them feel loved by sharing and helping them. Now as officers themselves, they greatly appreciate serving new cultures as they were served.

Rounding out the meeting were inspiring testimonies including Steve Holbrook, a former convict and Muslim; Nancy Whaley, a Liberian refugee; and Geon Mai, a native of China who came from a background of ancestor worship. A potluck with international flair followed the meeting.

Corps like family

Corrine Granger began attending The Salvation Army in Mitchell, S.D., in 1952, bringing her husband and nine children with her. When asked why she came, she answered, “I felt at home here.”

In the 60 years she has belonged to the corps, it really has become family to her. When she experienced a house fire, the Army provided housing and meals for her young family of 11 while they searched for a new home. She has survived cancer more than once with the corps members by her side, praying for her and visiting her in the hospital. A corps member once donated blood for her since they shared the same blood type.

Corrine is a hardworking and dedicated soldier of the Mitchell Corps. Over the years she has served in many leadership positions. She taught girl guards, sunbeams and Sunday school. She has served on the corps council, attended camp with children, and even has preached when the corps was between officers.

Age doesn’t slow her down. At 80, she is still at the corps every day cooking for the lunch program. She also picks up food donations from local grocery stores, serves dinner on youth night every week, helps with children’s and women’s ministries, community care and disaster relief. Every Sunday she is the first person to arrive at the corps to unlock the building and start brewing the coffee. Every Christmas she volunteers as a bellringer.

“The Mitchell Corps is fortunate to have such a dedicated soldier working tirelessly with us,” said Captain Ruth Sellen.
Legacy of generosity

As a way to recognize and honor individuals or organizations that make an annual gift of $5,000 or more, The Salvation Army has established the William Booth Society (WBS). The Central Territory has active societies in six divisions.

The Metropolitan Division’s William Booth Society has grown from $2 million to nearly $6 million in total giving since its inception in 1999. WBS donors also have benefited the community in many ways from making additional donations to the Chicago Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center to providing hundreds of canned goods each year which fills the nearest food pantry. Monetary gifts have supported everything from sports programs to computers for after-school programs.

Gifts from WBS members are used at the local level creating a dependable source of funding for new or expanded operations. In the Midland Division, for example, one member holds an annual food drive in December. The community has responded by donating an average of 300,000 canned goods each year which fills the nearest food pantry. Monetary gifts are used at the local level creating a dependable source of funding for new or expanded operations.

The Heartland William Booth Society hosts a reception to commemorate the Army’s ministry after 9/11. William Booth Society member David Frauneshuh hosts the 2013 Northern Division’s Christmas party.

Volunteer relations director, “which helps them to feel greater confidence in us and a greater dedication to the mission.”

As a part of the William Booth Society, members receive regular recognition if desired, VIP treatment at events and meetings and an invitation to an annual reception. In the Heartland Division a recent reception hosted at divisional headquarters gave members an opportunity to see their gifts in action as they toured the shelter, childcare facility and family services wing.

“The reception brings together people who really care about others and have the financial capacity to help the Army, not only through financial gifts but by sharing ideas on how to make more friends aware of all the good things the Army does,” said Lynn Kunkle, William Booth Society member with his wife, Penny. “Most new people walk away with a better understanding and compassion for the Army.”

Go to www.salarmycentral.org if you follow the prayer calendar in the next year, you will have read through the Bible!
New shelter, new lives

It had served its purpose, but now it was time for the old, 1950s-era motel in Olathe, Kan., to retire from its reincarnation as a family shelter. The building could only offer families in need cramped accommodations in a hard-to-secure facility. And, the family services office could only be housed in a small building on the property of a shuttered gas station next door.

The unanimous decision was reached by corps officers Majors Mark and Teri Martsoff, advisory council members and the community in 2008. When news began to spread of the corps’ hopes for a new shelter, the community response was tremendous.

Foundations came through with pledges at a time when fundraising professionals predicted it would be unlikely. Among the generous givers were the Hall Family Foundation (Hallmark), Farmers’ Insurance, the Olathe Medical Center and the Mabee Foundation. An anonymous donor made a $100,000 challenge grant, which precipitated multiple contacts, and within 18 months the necessary $2.2 million had been raised.

Earlier this year more than 200 people participated in the dedication of the new Johnson County Family Lodge. Following a ribbon cutting, the rooms were opened for all to see, and many heart-felt words of congratulations and well wishes were exchanged.

An essay written after the dedication by campaign consultant John Marshall, “Everyone Deserves a Home,” served as a touching reminder of why the project was so important, reported Major Mark.

The lodge has 10 rooms enclosed by security fencing accessed by a coded entry system. Three units sit outside the fenced-in area and face the street. These units are designed to accommodate short-term, transitional housing.

The units include a combination living/dining room, bathroom, small food preparation area and a bedroom area that can accommodate up to four people in two sets of bunk beds. Residents prepare their own breakfasts, lunches and snacks plus weekend suppers; during the week, they receive a hot supper in the corps building.

“When the family services offices moved into the corps building, the dynamics of the lodge program changed with improved, intentional scheduling for case management, residents and staff,” said Major Teri.

“It’s a new approach for the staff, but we’re confident it’s a change that will work.”

Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Major Arline Sundell

Mrs. Major Arline Sundell, 88, was promoted to Glory in Madison, Wis., on February 21, 2014.

Arline Mae King was born in Sheboygan, Wis., in 1926. She was saved at the Sheboygan Corps at 13 and was called three years later to officership at youth councils, where she took to heart these words, “Where you realize there is a need, therein lies your call.” This guided the rest of her life.

Arline met Leslie Sundell at the corps and married him in 1944. She worked part-time for the Army until both answered the call to officership during a spiritual campaign in January 1949. They entered training that fall and were commissioned with the “Standard Bearers” session in 1950.

The Sundells served as corps officers in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and held divisional appointments in the Northern and Wisconsin/Upper Michigan divisions. After their retirement in 1967, they summered in Minnesota and wintered in Florida before settling in Madison, Wis.

Arline was a woman of strong faith and service to the Lord, appreciated for her kindness and deep understanding of others’ needs.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband and is survived by three children: Steve (Maureen), Matthew (Tracyl and Sherry), seven grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Captain Donald Meyer

Captain Donald Meyer was promoted to Glory on February 9, 2014. He was 89.

Donald was born to Edward and Bertha in 1924. As a child he accepted Christ and was active at the Gary, Ind., Corps, where he’d later meet his wife, Gloria Spangle, and receive his calling to officership.

After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Donald married Gloria. In 1947 she was re-appointed as an officer and he completed training, which he started before enlist-

ing. Together the Meyers served at corps throughout the territory as well as at the Evansville, Ind., Lodge and the Emergency Lodge in Indianapolis, Ind.

While their five children were young, the Meyers left officership and soldiered at the Elgin and Aurora, Ill., Corps. After their re-appointment in 1968, the Meyers served diligently until eventually retiring from Shelbyville, Ind., in 1986.

Donald was known for his sense of humor and friendly demeanor. He was an avid Cubs fan and adored music.

Donald was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by his children, Major Robert (Linda), Donald (Kimberly), Bruce (Linda), Major Timothy (Loi) and Joy (Pastor Samuel) Scantlen; 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Major Dorothy (Oppegard) Hoppes

On March 12, 2014, Major Dorothy Hoppes was promoted to Glory from her home in Minnesota.

Dorothy was born to Edward and Mable Oppegard in Fargo, N.D., where she started to attend The Salvation Army with her family.

With the help of her Sunday school teacher, Dorothy gave her life to Christ. She wrote in her candidate’s experience “I’ll never forget the hap-

iness I felt as I knelt and asked the Lord to come into my heart.”

Following her enrollment as a junior soldier, Dorothy was very involved in corps activities from corps cadets to the band.

In 1941 she was commissioned with the “Crusaders” session and sent to assist at the Fairmont, Minn., Corps, followed by appointments at the St. Cloud and Rochester corps. After a brief marriage that was blessed with a daughter, she served the rest of her officership as a single officer in corps, divisional and territorial appointments retiring from territorial headquarters as the Bible correspondence director in correctional services.

She is remembered for her lovely personality, hard work ethic and beautiful Christian spirit.

Dorothy is survived by her daugh-

ter, Carolyn Roock; sister, LaVerne (Robert) Stern and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial Service

The Central Territory will hold its annual memorial service in The Salvation Army section of Glen Oak Cemetery this month.

Please join us in remembrance.

Sunday, May 18

3:00 p.m.

Glen Oak Cemetery

4301 W. Roosevelt Rd.

Hillside, IL 60162