



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)

Volume 40, Number 11

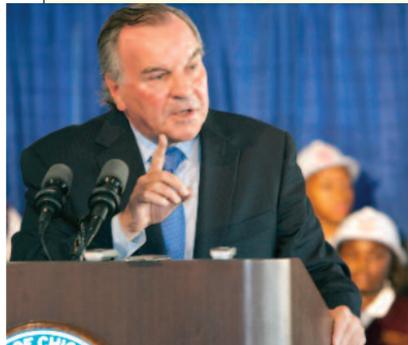
November 2010

Chicago breaks ground for Kroc Center

by Alyse Chadwick and Melanie Scofield

An enthusiastic crowd of about 500 people gathered at a 32-acre construction site on the South Side of Chicago to break ground for the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley each spoke passionately

of their support for the Kroc Center and The Salvation Army. Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler, Central territorial leaders, supported the event.



"In America today, given the challenges we are facing, it would have been easy to say that now is not the time for a project of this size and difficulty," said Commissioner Carol Seiler. "It would have been easy to say it's just too hard to make it happen. But at The Salvation Army, we say that the challenge, and the impact we can have on people's lives, is precisely the reason we can't give up. When we work together, and we have faith, we can literally turn dirt into dreams."

Continued on page 8

Photos by Andrew Grey and Emily Aukes

Festival of Gospel Arts—music for your soul!

June 10–12, 2011. Mark your calendars. Save the date.

You won't want to miss next year's Festival of Gospel Arts and Commissioning weekend at the Star Plaza in Merrillville, Ind. With special guests General Paul Rader (Ret.) and

Commissioner Kay Rader and songwriters Keith and Kristyn Getty, the weekend promises to put a new song in your heart.

Right from Friday's keynote you'll gain greater insight into God's Word as it's shared by General Paul and Commissioner Kay Rader, the Army's international leaders from 1994-1999. Known for strong and straight-forward biblical exposition, the Raders delve deep to unearth spiritual gems even from familiar passages.

If you are not familiar with Keith and Kristyn Getty, you certainly know Keith's music. In collaboration over the past decade with Stuart Townend, these two have crafted contempo-

rary songs of praise and worship that already are regarded as classics, including "In Christ alone," "How deep the Father's love," "Speak, O Lord" and "The power of the cross."

Now living and working in the U.S., the Gettys hail from Ireland, which is reflected in their music's soul and Celtic charm; you'll love Kristyn's lilting, clear voice contrasted with Keith's melodic arrangements and praise band accompaniment.

"We are looking forward to this opportunity to feature and affirm the music and gospel arts forces of the territory who faithfully minister in their corps week in and week out," said William Himes, territorial



music and gospel arts secretary.

With inspiring meetings and concerts featuring a wide diversity of expressions of praise from around the territory, as well as the Chicago Staff Band, each program is sure to renew your spirit, capped off with Sunday's ordination, commissioning and appointments of the "Ambassadors of Holiness" session.

Watch for more updates.



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Photo: Gettyimages.com

Do you have a screw loose?

by Lt. Colonel Merle Heatwole
Territorial Secretary for Business Administration

I picked up the phone and heard the panicked voice of my wife saying, "How soon are you coming home? One of the lenses from my glasses just fell out and I can't even tell if the screw is still there."

I was soon home to see if I could help. Unfortunately, the screw was not just loose, it was missing. I tried using a screw from an old pair of glasses, but it was the wrong size. Finally, I asked my wife where she

was when the lens fell out, and she told me she'd been in her car. I knew the chances of finding that tiny screw were slim to none but decided to take a look. Amazingly, I did find it and was able to restore her glasses.

It occurs to me that just as something as tiny as a screw totally disrupts the ability of glasses to serve their purpose, "minor" transgressions in our lives damage our true purpose. Though not a craftsman, I



took great joy in the fact I was able to restore those glasses and allow them to be used again for their original purpose. How thankful I am that God, our creator, is able to restore our lives when we have a screw loose.

In Psalm 51:12, David cries out to God after confessing his sin, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation" because he realizes only God can restore and make him whole again. God is a master craftsman

and is able to restore our lives regardless of the extent of our damage. When we turn to Him, He takes great joy in recreating us in His image and allowing us once again to serve the purpose for which we were created.

How about you? Do you have any loose screws that need to be restored? God's eager and ready to make you whole again!

O happy day!

This is the happiest day of my life,"

exclaimed 90-year-old Pastor Robert Abrahamson on the day he was enrolled as a senior soldier at the Superior, Wis., Corps. Major Jesse Collins from the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Divisional Headquarters officiated and also donated a uniform for him to wear.

Pastor Abrahamson and his wife, Dorothy (a mere 87 years old), had hinted at becoming members of The Salvation Army but never actually came out and asked. So, Corps Officer Major Rosemary Matson and her assistant, Connie Maki, asked them! Would they like to become soldiers when Majors Jesse and Kelly Collins visited the corps? Robert started to cry and said it would be a dream come true as he



has always loved The Salvation Army.

The Abrahamsons have attended the Superior Corps for a few years in between preaching at different churches and nursing homes. Two



years ago Robert lost nearly all his sight which put a stop to his preaching. However, with several wonderful messages memorized, he still "stands in" to preach at the corps when needed. And though his hearing is almost gone, he can still play the piano on Sundays.

Lois Hermanson also was enrolled with the Abrahamsons. She is very active at the corps, helping in the food pantry, community care ministries and wherever else she's needed. Lois wanted to become a soldier so badly she spent several hours studying recruits material at home. She practically answered Major Matson's questions at the end of each lesson before they were asked! What a blessing Lois is to the Superior Corps!

Major Matson said, "The Salvation Army in Superior is honored to have Lois Hermanson, Robert Abrahamson and his sweet wife, Dorothy, as three of our newest soldiers."

They bring the 2010 senior soldier enrollments in Superior to 20!

Firing a salvo

Teens and young adults from the Omaha, Neb., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center and the Norfolk, Neb., Corps joined together for two sessions of intense three-day discipleship called, "Salvos School." Not only did the youth commit to fully engage in the event, but to avoid distractions they participated in a media fast—no cell phones and other electronic media!

The first session of "Salvos School" took place in Omaha and was attended by 18 youth from both corps. The days were tightly scheduled and included at least one hour of prayer each day, praise and worship, small groups, service, evangelism training, and an open-air. Lt. Xavier Montenegro and Lt. David Martinez (then at Omaha Kroc) and Erica Johnson each took on different responsibilities. The participants benefited not only from having a sole purpose but from having a small group. They received personal attention and mentoring from the leaders.

The second session of "Salvos School" was held in Norfolk with 16 youth from both corps. Led by Lts. Xavier and Heather Montenegro and Lt. Bersabe Vera, the group stayed at a state park 15 minutes away. Camping, the youth interacted more and strengthened their relationships. The major service/evangelism project



was a community carnival attended by 500 people. Manning booths, the youth interacted with people from the community and demonstrated God's love. Sunday's highlight included a united bilingual holiness meeting held outdoors. After the meeting, the youth participated in a prayer walk near a home known for meth dealing and a porn shop. The second session of "Salvos School" ended in a time of prayer and reflection on God's leading in their lives.

"Salvos School" has motivated our teens and young adults to be intentional about growing spiritually and has given them courage to step out of their comfort zones for Jesus," said Lt. Xavier Montenegro.



Get Connected!

Check out our complementary material on the web.
www.usc.salvationarmy.org/getconnected

Resources/Links

Keith & Kristyn Getty's website
Chicago Kroc website
Child Sponsorship web page
Overseas officer and lay personnel addresses for Christmas cards
CCDA Conference
Volunteer resources
ISB celebrates 120
Planned Giving

Web exclusives

Honor Jr. Soldier
Bismarck's Secrets to Success with Volunteers
Salvo School devotional
Block Party planning tips by Rockford Temple
Interview with Sarah Kincaid about child sponsorship
Deno Fabbre's volunteer poem
General Paul Rader (Ret.) and Commissioner Kay Rader's full bio
Tribute to Brigadier Gunnar Erickson by his daughter



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Empowering others

by Laura Mszar

Passing through military check points in and out of the West Bank while suicide bomber attacks were on the rise was a routine experience for Whitney Schraw as a young college graduate. She worked in Jerusalem as a project coordinator to spur job creation in West Bank villages and

was involved in disaster relief.

Clearly, she was making the most of her Middle Eastern studies and degree in economic development. Back then she never imagined she'd work for The Salvation Army in her home state of Michigan. But when her graduate studies in London were cut short, she returned to Grand Rapids to figure out her next step—and came across a Salvation Army employment ad.

Now, over four years later, Whitney serves as utility program manager for Michigan. The program comes under the Salvation Army's emergency assistance umbrella which provides aid for low-income individuals and families or those newly in need. Whitney oversees the management of utility assistance funds and supports more



Whitney Schraw and her assistant Evelyn Olson at a customer assistance day in Detroit, Mich., last year.



Whitney pictured with LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and other utility and agency representatives from Michigan at Capitol Hill during advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C.

than 100 caseworkers who help those seeking assistance.

Michigan suffers from one of the nation's highest unemployment rates and bitter winter temperatures, ensuring no lack of need. According to Whitney, Michigan's 54 Salvation Army service sites that provide home heating help have seen a flood of new families seeking assistance. Of the 20,000 families who received aid last year, 75 percent had never before turned to The Salvation Army. April is the busiest month, when clients receive heating bills ballooned from the past five months as a result of a statewide optional deferral program for shut-off protection through winter.

While the immediate crisis is addressed, caseworkers help a client

make a comprehensive plan for the future by creating a budget, examining other areas where financial assistance may help free up funds to pay bills, and determining if improvements to a client's home would increase energy efficiency and thereby reduce cost. Whitney described this "layering of services" as a dignified way of approaching the financial missteps of the past.

"That's very empowering," she said. "As The Salvation Army, that's one thing we can do. We can talk about a plan, and a plan is something that empowers people to move forward and believe that their situation can get better. For many, having a plan means having hope, and hope is ministry."

Adapted from a national SA blog

Serving to save

Celebrating
20 YEARS

REMEMBER the Past
REJOICE in the Present
REIMAGINE the Future

CHICAGO 2010
CCDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
September 7-11

by Major Phil Aho

For the 20th national conference of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) there were 32 soldiers and officers from the Central Territory among the 3,000 CCDA delegates. We participated in workshops, enjoyed plenary sessions, perused exhibits, got inspired and reveled in beautiful late summer weather in one of the great cities of the world.

You might ask why we were there. Because it is a gathering—a rendezvous of sorts—of a wide range of denominations, organizations, movements and doctrinal persuasions who share a calling to serve in Jesus' name in under-resourced neighborhoods and a conviction that *we can change our world*.

The Salvation Army is perhaps the most widely recognized provider of services in the world "Doing the Most Good." We serve in Jesus' name through the cup of cold water, safe shelter for the night, programs

that offer children a safe haven from the streets, among many other ministries.

But increasingly we are becoming aware of the possibility to change the neighborhoods in which we serve. We are awakening to a fresh awareness of something we once were more passionate about—the salvation of the world.

In 1890 William Booth said, "Why all this apparatus of temples and meetinghouses to save men from perdition in a world which is to come, while never a helping hand is stretched out to save them from the inferno of their present life?" Salvation is both a matter of later—and now.

When pointing to the "S"s on our uniform, we often say "saved to serve." What if we remember that we "serve to save"?

Next year the conference will be hosted in Indianapolis, Ind., October 12-16, 2011. You can learn more about the CCDA at www.ccda.org and check out their Facebook page.

Combating homelessness

The Royal Oak Citadel, Mich., Corps, led by Captains Monty and Angela Wandling, received more than \$200,000 from a federal grant—originating with the American Recovery Act of 2009—to help people facing eviction or who are newly homeless.

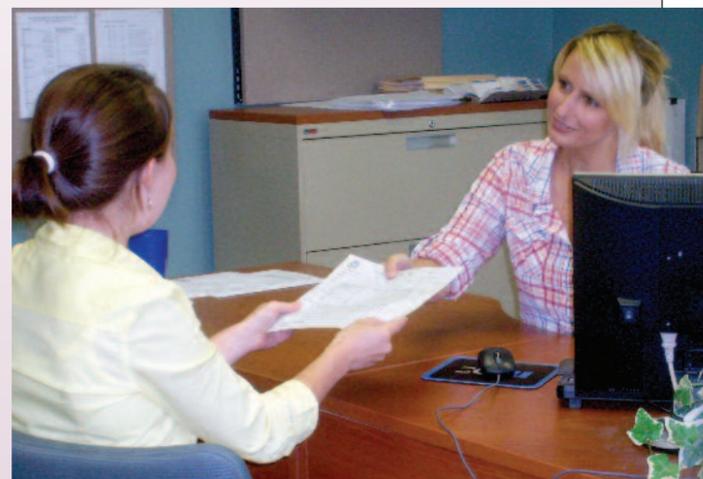
So far they've been able to help prevent homelessness for more than 40 individuals and families who've received court-ordered evictions or shut-off notices or who require hotel vouchers for shelter while they seek new employment.

"The majority of the clients we've seen have been families," reported Sally Derrough, homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program case manager for Royal Oak Citadel. "They might have lost a job and are on unemployment and, as a result, can't maintain the bills they once did. If it weren't for us, they would be homeless in between jobs."

Royal Oak City Planner Joseph Murphy intends to run a weekly blurb in the city newspaper and an ad on the public access television

channel to raise awareness about these helpful funds.

Many families might have gone unaided if it weren't for Katherine Bruner, Royal Oak director of community ministries. While browsing through the city's website for resources or referrals one afternoon she spotted a small sidebar that advertised an opportunity to receive Department of Housing and Urban Development funding.



"On a whim I applied for the grant," she said. Although other churches in the area had applied, The Salvation Army and a homeless shelter were chosen to receive it.

"I believe the reputation and manpower the Army has to offer is what got us the funds," said Katherine. "We're thrilled. We've never received a grant this big!"

Bismarck's the place to be

I was recently told the word on the street is, if you're Native American, The Salvation Army is the place to be," said Major Lee Morrison, Bismarck, N.D., corps officer with wife Melody. About 75 percent of the population served by the corps is Native

American. Understanding their culture and making breakthroughs have been hard-won accomplishments for the Morrisons, who arrived in Bismarck in 2008 to find a corps halfway through a building project, in debt throughout the prior decade and with only a dozen or so elderly people attending on Sunday mornings.

Although the corps is in a low-income area, building traffic was low because the food pantry and assistance office were elsewhere. The corps extension would solve that in a year, but what could the Morrisons do in the meanwhile to bring people into the building?

They decided to maximize use of the existing gym by attracting the most abundant local asset—young people—through a community center. The Morrisons obtained a grant for programming and equipment. Hoping for a couple dozen kids, they ended up with 150. The community center now has computers, homework help and special activities run by volunteers.

Lee, who's always enjoyed good

rapport with youth, was a bit unsettled by how quiet the kids were at first. He learned Native American children are raised to show great respect for their elders; it took a few months for them to interact more openly with him.

Lee observed the same behavior in parents visiting the community center. For almost six months he consistently greeted and smiled at one father who never responded. Then one day he gave Lee a big hug in response. That's when Lee realized he was making progress.

As a result of the corps' youth outreach its first senior soldier was recently enrolled along with six adherents. Some parents have started coming, and about a dozen teens attend a weekly Bible study. A territorial grant helped send 25 youth to summer camps, at which 21 of them accepted Christ. One teen who attended the Central Music Institute wants to start a praise team!

The Morrisons hope to bridge



more people into Sunday school and worship. They held vacation Bible school and introduced sunbeam and ranger programs this fall with young adults in leadership roles. And, the corps became debt-free this fall!



Bismarck's volunteer boom

by Craig Dirkes

What's with all the volunteers at the Bismarck, N.D., Corps? Volunteerism has grown from a few people to hundreds. How did it happen? Hard work.

"Really, really hard," said Corps Officer Major Lee Morrison, who helped increase volunteerism by leaps and bounds in 2009.

Volunteers have been coming out of the woodwork to help cook and serve meals, sort food shelf items, spend time with children and much more. Lee credits much of the volunteer increase to the spring flood of 2009, when The Salvation Army provided food, beverages and spiritual support to thousands of locals battling the rising waters of the Missouri River.

Lee said, "For a lot of the volunteers who helped us in that disaster, and a lot of the people we served, it was their first contact with The



Salvation Army. They liked us so much they wanted to keep helping the rest of the year."

Steve Heydt is a good example. During the flood, he joined dozens of his Starion Financial coworkers in helping to serve food. The group enjoyed the experience so much they rang bells (about 50 two-hour shifts) at Christmas. Steve, Starion's vice president of sales, service and development, went even further and became a Salvation Army advisory board member.

"I've always given money to bell-ringers, but now I'm really seeing what that money is doing for the community—whether it's during floods, helping people down on their luck or keeping a family's heat on," said Steve.

Earlier this year students from nearby University of Mary began an eight-week outreach project for the 140 children served by the corps' afterschool program. The students, all seniors majoring in occupational therapy, offered a host of activities aimed at building confidence, self-esteem and interpersonal skills. Other organizations providing volunteer help include Kiwanis International, Amvets and Rotary International.



by Jeff Curnow

Just Imagine, The Salvation Army's National Advisory Organizations Conference (NAOC), will be presented through the magic of Disney. From April 28-May 1, 2011, advisory organization members from across the U.S. will gather at Walt Disney World® and Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Fla.

Members of Salvation Army advisory boards, advisory councils and women's auxiliaries will learn about the best programs and services The Salvation Army has to offer. They will hear inspirational speakers and be given a glimpse of the Army's worldwide reach.

"The National Advisory Board (NAB) is an extension of the ministry of The Salvation Army, where people gather from around the United States to create

a better Salvation Army," said David Frauenschuh, NAB member from the Northern Division. "NAOC is an outreach of that mission to strengthen the Army, through the participation of every advisory organization. Board involvement [at NAOC] is critical to...make The Salvation Army stronger and ready to serve in a changing world."

Colonel Thomas C. Lewis, business administrator in Rockford, Ill., agrees, adding NAOC is consistently the "greatest conference our board members ever attend. They learn not only the 'how to,' but get a sense of the spiritual depth of wonderful Army programs. Every board member should attend."

A scholarship is available to all advisory organizations members to attend NAOC. Members should contact their local Salvation Army officer for details.



Exploring new dimensions

by Kara Langford

Exploring new dimensions, that's how Deno Fabbre describes his volunteer experience with The Salvation Army in St. Louis, Mo.

"It's a chance to do things you never would have taken time to do before and explore parts of you that were locked away," he said.

Recently retired, Deno has plunged head first into volunteering. According to his wife, he's busier now than he ever was running a local hospital—but Deno likes it that way. A Peace Corps veteran, he's always had a heart for service and was drawn to The Salvation Army for just that reason. Deno met the Army while working as an administrator at Alexian Brothers Hospital and was impressed by their genuine ministry to others.

"To me, that's what makes The Salvation Army different," he said. "The people I meet in The Salvation Army are deeply committed to serving others."

Deno has rung bells in the bitter cold at Christmas, helped men at the



St. Louis Harbor Light Center write and polish resumé's, and worked with the literacy program and music lessons at the St. Louis Temple Corps, among other things. "It's about basic human connection," he explains.

"Every time I walk away [from volunteering], I just feel like a better person," he said. "Volunteering with The Salvation Army makes me a more loving person; makes me grow through loving others. It's the perfect win-win."

The base of his service is about living biblically. It's also an opportunity for him to explore new dimensions of himself and experience new things while helping others.

"As you love other people you start to love yourself more and as you love yourself more, you're able to give more," he said. "To me, that's the secret."



A festival of new faces

by Major Kathy Hellstrom

Senior band and Sunday school members marched around the neighborhood inviting community members to an outdoor worship service and block party at the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps this fall. The enthusiasm must have caught because attendance topped more than 460 people!

The service commenced with a Sunday school opening to recognize dedicated students, teachers and retiring Sunday school superintendent, David Draper. This was followed by lively music, testimony and a gospel message, after which

seven people came forward to commit their lives to Christ and one to rededicate her life!

The block party began after the worship service. It was complete with carnival games, local mascots, food and even a rock wall. Many new contacts were made.

"It's not about having a big event," Corps Officer Major Randy Hellstrom said. "It's about the opportunity to touch people's lives with the love of Jesus Christ. We now have hundreds of new contacts which we will follow up through visitation, calls and letters."

Jesus in the crevices

by Kara Langford

I want to see the corps move from being a community center to the center of the community," said Lt. LeOtis Brooks of the St. Louis Temple, Mo., Corps. LeOtis and his wife, LaTonya, were appointed alongside Envoys Steve and Ketsia Diaz as leaders for the corps last year. The growth they've seen in this short time has been a blessing.

The corps serves an under-resourced, ethnically diverse area outside of downtown St. Louis. High school and college graduation rates and the percentage of families living below the poverty line are well below the national average. In fact, the majority of corps members and program participants have received social services of some sort.

"Not only is the neighborhood diverse, but the corps was a pretty good reflection of the neighborhood [when we arrived], so we could tell that some great groundwork had been laid," said Steve. But it's more than just ethnic diversity, according to Envoy Ketsia Diaz. There are people from all walks of life—spiritually, socially, economically—who feel comfortable at Temple.

A crucial prayer for the corps has been for leaders. When the Diazes



arrived, some great leaders were already in place but stretched thin. With an increase in youth program participation, Envoys Diaz saw a critical need for leadership to support that growth. God was faithful to answer those prayers, and on the corps' first night of youth programs this year, each program had both a leader and a parent helper. According to Steve, the parents, mostly moms from the immigrant community, are strong women who have the potential to develop into strong leaders.

"Last year on most youth nights, my job was to police the hallways," he said. "But [on our first night of programs] we had 56 youth in the building and the hallways were quiet, everyone was where they needed to be and it's not anything we're doing. It's God—and the mothers! Kids don't mess with moms."

One of the newest outreaches is a result of the earthquake in Haiti and a Haitian family who already attended the corps. The Diazes have been able to connect with a larger Haitian population and now English as a second language classes and Creole Sunday school are offered.

"My vision," said Steve, "is that we would take Jesus beyond the walls of the corps and into the crevices of this neighborhood."



Envoys Steve and Ketsia Diaz and son Kyle.

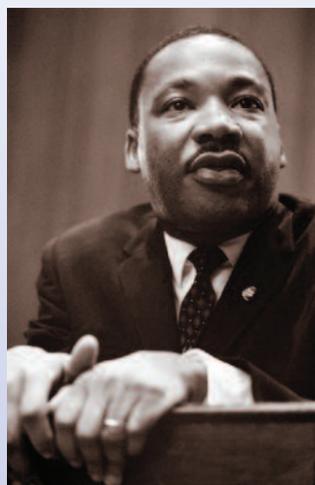
MLK, Jr., Day of service

Take the initiative to organize a service project in your corps for the community in honor of Martin Luther King Day, January 17, 2011.

Visit www.mlkday.gov

- Find opportunities to serve
- Download serving resources and materials
- Register your project

As Salvationists, it's our mission to engage soldiers and serve others for God's glory!



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Salt of the earth

by Craig Dirkes

Brigadier Gunnar Erickson served as an officer about as long as the average American lives. For 73 years he spread the gospel across the Midwest and abroad, from his days in Superior, Wis., during the Great Depression to building Salvation Army facilities in Haiti.

Gunnar was called to be in ministry in 1917. He was nine, living on a farm in southern Sweden with his parents and five siblings.

"The Lord came to me one night and said I was going to be His witness, but not in Sweden," Gunnar said. "I wasn't praying at the time—He just showed up. There was no doubt about what had happened. His voice was as clear as me talking to you."

Until he was promoted to Glory in September at age 101, Gunnar spread the Good News with a youthful spirit, physical stamina and a tack-sharp mind.

Early years

Gunnar moved to America by himself in 1928. He arrived in Evanston, Ill., where a family friend got him an apartment and a job laying cement. He was 20 and didn't speak a word of English.

He soon began attending a corps popular with young Swedes. At the corps he met friends, improved his English and renewed his fellowship with the Lord.

In 1933 he decided to become an officer. "I already had a good job, so when I decided to go to officer training college, a friend told me that I was foolish, that I would struggle all my life," Gunnar said. "The first few years, he was right."

After a year Gunnar was ordained, commissioned and appointed to the corps in Superior, Wis. At the time, officers received an allowance of \$150 a year.



"We averaged about 135 people at church every Sunday," he said. "I loved it. But that was in the middle of the Great Depression. We had no phone, no bank account and no money to pay me a wage. We couldn't even afford to heat the corps. In the fall I went to buy coal, but they said no, the corps already owed \$125. So we burned driftwood we found on the shore [of Lake Superior]—sometimes we gathered it when it was minus 25 outside. The corps was never warmer than 40 degrees that whole winter. But we survived."

Gunnar left Superior in 1934, spending the next five years bouncing between corps in Wisconsin and Illinois.

He met Esther in Chicago, where she also trained to be an officer. They were married in her home state of Minnesota on Nov. 6, 1937, spending \$40 on their honeymoon in the Black Hills.

Their marriage was blessed with two children, Miriam and John.



Midlife

By 1939 Gunnar's days of relocating year after year finally had ended. He and Esther spent the next 34 years in appointments in Duluth and St. Paul, Minn., and Chicago, Moline and Rockford, Ill., staying at each between three and nine years.

During his time in Rockford (1956–1964), a city known for its high density of first-generation Swedish immigrants, he began preaching 12-minute sermons in Swedish over the airwaves of a local radio station. An estimated 22,000 listeners tuned in every Sunday.

For decades he called in to the radio station to record sermons that aired week after week, year after year, no matter where in the world he was. Although he quit recording several years ago, his sermons are still broadcast to about 2,000 Swedish-speaking listeners a week.

Gunnar's final appointment was at what is now the St. Paul Eastside, Minn., Corps. At the corps he met a bright kid named Daniel Sjögren, a teenager on





fire for the Lord, now Northern divisional commander.

"Brigadier Gunnar was a humble officer. There was no job beneath him," recalled Lt. Colonel Sjögren. "He would join us in playing basketball and broomball. He was older, yet he could run circles around the other officers. Our respect was not given easily. But both Gunnar and Esther gained it in short order."

Retirement

In 1973 Gunnar retired—if you can call it that. Although technically he was finished working, he didn't stop preaching until 2006. For 33 years he was a regular

guest preacher at corps across the country, spending much of his time in Washington, Oregon, Montana and Northern California—all hotbeds for his favorite pastimes of hunting, fishing and golf. He also continued preaching in the Midwest.

During the '70s and early '80s, Gunnar would save his money for a year and spend it on mission trips to Haiti. He went on five such trips, spending months at a time building or upgrading Salvation Army facilities in the countryside and in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

He helped build schools, clinics and corps that still serve thousands of youth and adults although many of the facilities were badly damaged in the 7.0 earthquake that rocked Haiti on January 12, 2010.



"I love the people of Haiti," said Gunnar. "They are so happy, so beautiful. Regardless of how bad they had it, they were always happy."

"Working there was tough," he continued. "One time I built a corps in the mountains. To get there we had to ride a horse and cross the same river 17 times, all in the tremendous heat. At night there were so many mosquitoes—thousands of them. Every open

place on my body, there was a red spot."

He was once asked, "What is the secret to living 101 years?"

"No secret," Gunnar said. "I did not think I'd live this long. When I was growing up we didn't have refrigerators, so everything was salted: salted pork, salted herring, salted potatoes. I thought that would catch up to me, but it did not."

But perhaps Gunnar and Esther could indeed attribute their longevity to salt...the kind found in humility, thoughtful actions and service to Christ. They have been the salt of the earth.

"We did our best in life with the help of God," Gunnar said earlier this year, Esther's hand in his. "The people, we loved them and they loved us. We were proud to be officers of The Salvation Army."



Chicago Kroc Center

Continued from page 1



"The Kroc Center project presents us with an extraordinary opportunity to dramatically improve the lives of children and teens who need a

safe haven and positive alternatives to gangs and drugs," said Lt. Colonel Ralph Bukiewicz, Metropolitan divisional commander. "The Kroc Center is within three miles of 13 schools. It will offer a broad range of enriching afterschool and summer programs for kids with all interests. It will create jobs and stimulate the local economy. There has never been a more urgent need or a better time to support the Kroc Center."

"The Salvation Army's Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center represents a historic investment in the far South Side of Chicago," said Governor Quinn. "This center will provide a positive alternative to violence for our youth and will continue to strengthen the economy by putting hundreds of people to work and giving the entire community access to critical job training programs."

It was a grand celebration in signature Salvation Army style,

with crowd-pleasing performances by the Kroc Singing Company and Brass Ensemble.

"But it was the kids who stole the show. Several children who participate in Kroc Corps music and sports programs spoke straight from their hearts about how The Salvation Army had made a difference in their lives and their hopes for the future Kroc Center," proudly observed Kroc Administrators Majors Dave and Darlene Harvey.



monds where White Sox inner-city youth teams will play and train. The Chicago Bulls Charitabulls also announced a \$1 million grant. Chicago Bulls President and COO Michael Reinsdorf, legendary Bull Scottie Pippen and White Sox starting outfielder Carlos Quentin participated in the groundbreaking.

Thirty-three million dollars has been raised so far in the ongoing fundraising campaign to build and endow the Kroc Center. This amount is in addition to the \$109.8 million from the Joan Kroc estate awarded to the Chicago project by Central Territorial Headquarters. The Chicago Kroc Center will represent a total investment of \$159.8 million, the largest single investment by a social service organization in Chicago's history.

"For many years, The Salvation Army has been a big part of our city's success, supporting people in need and helping them rebuild their lives," Mayor Daley said. "And that commitment to Chicago has



Seven-year-old Caitlyn Bell, who brought the crowd to their feet with a rousing solo, said, "I've come to The Salvation Army youth programs with my family for the last year, and I love singing solos in the singing company. Because of crime, I can only play in the front of my house and my backyard. I am excited about the Kroc Center because it will give me a safe place to play. When the Kroc Center opens, not only do I want to play in the water park, I would like to have leading roles in the musicals and plays."

Chicago White Sox Charities announced it will donate \$1 million to the Kroc Center which will include baseball and softball dia-



improved the quality of life of all our residents and adds to the spiritual core of our community."

The Kroc Center has the potential to make a tremendous impact on the far South Side, with a particular focus on the serious issues of community violence and job loss. Helping to build a safer community will be a priority. About 2,500 people are expected to use the Kroc Center daily.

The Kroc Center Corps has offered for the past three years a wide range of arts, educational, sports and afterschool programs and summer camps for students at three schools near the Kroc Center site.

"For the past few years, I have been a part of Kroc programs," said Aaron Taylor, 13. "I planted a community garden, learned how to play drums. Last summer, I learned how to play golf and just last week I participated in a Chicago Bulls basketball clinic. The Salvation Army is allowing me, my family and my school to discover our talents and pursue our dreams. In the City of Chicago, we hear a lot about violence in the streets and how it takes the lives of many young men my age. The Kroc Center will provide a hope and a haven in response to the violence we see in the streets. The Kroc Center will allow dreams to stay alive."

Completion of the Chicago Kroc Center is expected in 2012. Visit www.kroccenterchicago.org

An extraordinary honor

Thirteen-year-old honor junior soldier Taylor Bartel loves reading, roller coasters, computers, his black pug Abe, playing video games and, most importantly, the Lord.

This year Taylor passed his honor junior soldier exam at the Rockford Temple, Ill., Corps with flying colors. With a regimen that consists of memorizing Salvation Army doctrine, possessing an in-depth understanding of scripture and completing three take-home projects, this honor is an accomplishment for any young Salvationist, but for Taylor, it means even more.

In 1996, a few days after his parents held their adopted newborn boy for the first time, Taylor was diagnosed with congenital cytomegalovirus, a virus

that attacked his nervous system while he was in the womb. In addition to causing symptoms similar to high-functioning autism, the virus manifested itself in Taylor with hearing loss. Although a surgical implant has increased his decibel



range, he continues to use sign language as his primary mode of communication.

In spite of attention and hearing challenges, Taylor's parents have watched him meet and exceed many goals. His



most recent accomplishment is a prime example.

"He is an incredible young man, one of the most intelligent, unique and lovable I have ever had the privilege to prepare for the honor junior soldier award," said Major Florence Moffitt.

During lessons Florence discovered Taylor's visual giftedness. He could read and comprehend what he was reading faster than any other child she'd known, spell far beyond his years and complete visual puzzles in record time.

It's also clear Taylor loves Jesus. By age five he told his parents that Jesus was in his heart. He asks his friends if they have Jesus in their hearts and even gave his own Bible to a friend at school who didn't have one.



Services streaming online

Five years ago Captain Alex Norton, Lansing, Mich., corps officer, read an article about a virtual church. It got him thinking. Now, geared with the technology to make it possible, Captains Alex and Aimee Norton host their own "virtual" congregation.



Captains Alex and Aimee Norton review their corps' service streaming with fellow officers in their division at councils.

The point, of course, is not to replace their regular Sunday holiness meeting with a computer broadcast but to reach people who might not or cannot otherwise step foot in the building, such as college students, the physically unable or older adults.

"The ultimate goal," said Alex "is to pull our online viewers into the physical community."

Before the online services started six months ago, Alex researched the prospect and realized the technology to stream services live was readily available and inexpensive.

"I couldn't believe how easy it was for me to establish; it's not rocket science," Alex said. "All you need is the know-how, a computer and webcam!"

They currently have 40 people viewing online almost every Sunday. Since the services take place live—in real time—viewers can send ques-

tions, prayer requests and even tithe during the service.

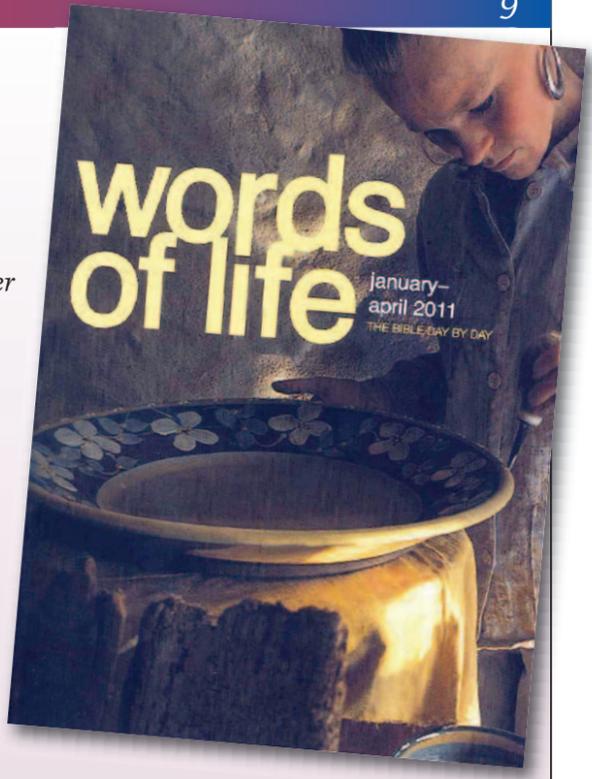
Alex hopes to see this emerging group of church "viewers" reached everywhere. "These are people we have never met before," he said. "They are educated men and women who have grown up with the internet and see it as an everyday part of their lives."

Having spent four years in their previous appointment in DeKalb, Ill., ministering to college students, the Nortons also have a heart to reach students from Michigan State University. Online services, they believe, are a great place to start.

Words of Life

January – April 2011

Meet God daily through prayer and praise... Enjoy a variety of bite-size Bible readings... Build a lasting library for further study



This edition of *Words of Life* starts with young King Solomon's singular initial task of fulfilling his father's vision by building the splendid Temple in Jerusalem. From a king using costly materials we turn to lessons from commonplace objects of pottery.

Guest writer Major Anita Caldwell challenges us to pursue the splendour of everyday holiness before the apostle John's writings aid our thinking as we move toward the Easter victory of our radiant Risen Lord. On Sundays we discover more nuggets in the Psalms.

"The mystery in a nutshell is just this: Christ is in you, so therefore you can look forward to sharing in God's glory" (Colossians 1:27, *The Message*).

Words of Life is written by Major Evelyn Merriam, an officer in the Eastern Territory.

Words of Life is published three times a year and is available through Resource Connection at 1-800-937-8896 or shop.salvationarmy.org

Men's ministries getaway

This fall men's ministries representatives from almost every division gathered to solidify details of the men's ministries conference in April.



"I'm not interested in holding just another men's event; I'm interested in men who can share the gospel with other men," said Major Daniel Hudson, territorial men's ministries secretary. "I want them to walk away and say 'I'm changed!'"

The conference, April 8-10, 2011, will be held at Lake Williamson in Carlinville, Ill. Delegates will participate in plenary sessions and workshops on issues such as family, finances, sharing the Gospel, and Christ in the workplace.

Daniel hopes to see men come away with the tools necessary to counsel other men on relevant issues of today. "We have many facing job loss right now," he said, "I'd like to equip our men to help those in these situations."

When delegates aren't engaged in seminars and team-building activities, they'll have time to explore Lake Williamson's impressive grounds which include two gyms, two racquetball courts, an indoor pool, and plenty of space for sports.

This conference is open to all men in the territory 18 or older, and online registration will begin in January. The conference goal is 1,000 delegates. Look for promotional material, further conference information and sign up sheets in your corps next month.

MEN EMPOWERED

TERRITORIAL MEN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE

APRIL 8-10, 2011
Lake Williamson Christian Center - Carlinville, IL

REGISTRATION FEES:
 Dorm - \$75 per person (includes meals & linens)
 Double - \$145 per person (includes meals & linens)
 Triple/Quad - \$125 per person (includes same)
 RV Spot - \$50 per RV (meals additional \$25 per person)
 Tent - \$35 per tent (meals additional \$25 per person)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 18, 2011





ISB to mark 120 years with Royal Albert Hall Event

London's Royal Albert Hall has been the venue for many great Salvation Army occasions and next year it will host ISB 120 marking 120 years of the International Staff Band (ISB). Our territory's own Chicago Staff Band will participate in this milestone event. Here, Major Christine Clement talks to project director, Malcolm Quinn, about the event.

CC: Malcom, when does ISB 120 take place?

MQ: The celebration weekend is June 3-5, 2011, but three bands will be touring the United Kingdom before those dates and others will tour Europe beforehand.

CC: Which bands are your guests this year?

MQ: Joining the ISB will be the seven other territorial staff bands from Amsterdam, Canada, Chicago, Germany, Japan, Melbourne and New York.

CC: That's a lot of organization. Why are you making such a big event of the ISB's 120th anniversary?

MQ: The inspiration and concept of the celebration came over two years ago from Territorial Music Director Dr. Stephen Cobb. It is a significant milestone and there will probably be a number of events coming to London in the next few years—Salvation Army and national events such as the 2012 Olympics. To celebrate in 2011 seemed the optimum time.

CC: What is the aim of the weekend?

MQ: Stephen has a very clear vision which we all share and are working very hard to 'make it happen.' The aim is to showcase all that is good and best in Salvation Army brass banding. There will be entertainment, evangelism, fellowship and we also want to ensure that there is a lasting legacy from what we strive to do.

CC: So, what's happening?

MQ: We are hoping that the bands that arrive ahead of June 3rd

will each have a tour which eventually converges on London for a day of music-making. All eight bands will contribute to an absolute feast of music, each band having the opportunity throughout the day to perform individually in the Royal Albert Hall for which concertgoers will be able to have an all day ticket. Saturday will culminate in a spectacular concert that evening with all eight bands participating. Massed items and new music specially commissioned for this landmark event.

CC: You said entertainment, evangelism and fellowship. You've only mentioned entertainment.

MQ: Yes, while prevalent throughout the whole of the weekend, our focus on fellowship and in particular evangelism, is specifically planned for Sunday. The bands will form up on Horse Guards Parade to march up the Mall to Buckingham Palace where they will play in the forecourt. We believe this will attract the crowds that will be in London that time of year. As the bands move up the Mall we will be ready to engage the crowd.

CC: And the fellowship?

MQ: Apart from the linking up with friends at the events there will be a private reception for all of the participating bands as well as former international staff bandmen.

CC: Can we afford this type of event?

MQ: Yes! We can and I believe it would be inappropriate stewardship of our resources if we did not cover costs and more. This event is being arranged in such a way that there will be no negative financial implications on the UK Territory. In fact, we anticipate that it will ultimately make a financial contribution, locally and nationally as well as internationally, to Salvation Army mission projects. More than 100 corps have already expressed interest in hosting a band and even before the tickets are printed more than 2,000 people have inquired about availability.

CC: Finally, how will an event in London help The Salvation Army in the USA Central Territory?

MQ: The involvement of the Chicago Staff Band, as with the other bands from their respective territories, recognizes the continuing evangelical service of banding in The Salvation Army and in their territory. We are looking at the possibility of streaming the event via the internet so people who cannot travel to London can be involved. International news coverage will also, we believe, stimulate further interest. We hope Salvationists in America's Midwest will be uplifted as they see their band marching down the Mall, representing their evangelical efforts throughout the territory.



Visit www.isb120.com for more details.



Generations of generosity

Bertha Coffin was introduced to The Salvation Army as a child in Georgia. Her father supported the Army with charitable gift annuities. Later, as a Kansas businesswoman, she began her own Salvation Army gift annuities in 1978. She recently started her 36th agreement and surpassed \$1 million with the Central Territory, which is celebrating 75 years of issuing gift annuities.

Bertha tells everybody she can why gift annuities are good both for her and The Salvation Army. "I enjoy helping The Salvation Army and also helping myself," said Bertha. "I have the blessing of getting the annuity income and have even used it to turn around and start more gift annuities."

Her generosity is touching the next generation. Her son is self-employed with no pension, so she has started several gift annuities which give her and then him guaranteed lifetime income. Bertha said, "I know that The Salvation Army is a safe organization to give to and I can trust them to make payments for me and my son. It's satisfying to know that my gifts will be helping many people."

One of Bertha's favorite verses is Proverbs 22:9 (NIV): "A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor." Bertha added, "I know that through The Salvation Army I'm providing food for both the body and the soul."

Ed Roberts, director of gift planning for the Kansas and Western Missouri Division, says he has been fortunate to work with Bertha for many years.

"Bertha is a breath of fresh air with her generosity, enthusiasm and Christian witness," he said. "She has been a blessing not only to me but many others in our division."



Ed Roberts, Bertha Coffin and Lt. Mary Kim.

Investing in your Salvation Army

As a soldier, adherent, volunteer or friend of The Salvation Army, you've already decided to invest a certain amount of your life in its ministries. Why not make it a part of your financial plan? A gift annuity, which can be established with a contribution as small as \$1,000, is a wonderful and practical way to make a charitable gift to The Salvation Army while receiving a fixed payment for life in addition to tax and estate planning advantages.

"Gift annuity donors can increase their income, cut their annual tax bills and may even save on capital gains tax while making a major impact on their communities," said David Himes, territorial planned giving consultant.

In a gift annuity, a donor transfers a specified amount of money or securities to The Salvation Army. In exchange, the donor receives payments on a regular basis for the rest of his or her life. Payments may be issued monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, annually or deferred for a later time. Payments may even be continued for the lifetime of a second person.

Because the payment amount is determined when the gift annuity is created, it never changes. A portion

of the principal (the gift used to fund the annuity) is automatically returned with each payment, which accounts for the tax-free portion of your gift annuity payment. And, because payments are backed by The Salvation Army's unencumbered assets, you can count on regular, timely installments.

For more information, click on the "Get Connected" link for planned giving or contact David Himes at (847) 294-2055.



PRAYER CENTRAL

USA Central Territory

December Prayer Calendar

My Prayer List	Day	Bible Reading	Pray for The Salvation Army
	1 Wednesday	Acts 19-20	Kansas City (Westport Temple), Mo., Corps
	2 Thursday	1 John 3-4	DeKalb, Ill., Corps
	3 Friday	Deuteronomy 13-15	Jefferson City, Mo., Corps
	4 Saturday	Nehemiah 5-9	"I'll Fight" Day
	5 Sunday	Psalms 140-142	Jamestown, N.D., Corps
	6 Monday	Song of Songs 1-2	Marshalltown, Iowa, Corps
	7 Tuesday	Revelation 1-6	Lansing (Citadel), Mich., Corps
	8 Wednesday	Acts 21-22	Marinette, Wis., Corps
	9 Thursday	1 John 5	Omaha, Neb., ARC*
	10 Friday	Deuteronomy 16-18	Midland, Mich., Corps
	11 Saturday	Nehemiah 10-13	Keokuk, Iowa, Corps
	12 Sunday	Psalms 143-145	Kokomo, Ind., Corps
	13 Monday	Song of Songs 3-4	Midland DHQ**
	14 Tuesday	Revelation 7-11	Lawrence, Kan., Corps
	15 Wednesday	Acts 23-24	Des Plaines, Ill., Corps
	16 Thursday	2 John	Joplin, Mo., Corps
	17 Friday	Deuteronomy 19-21	South America West Territory PIM
	18 Saturday	Esther 1-5	Lakewood (Temple), Minn., Corps
	19 Sunday	Psalms 146-148	Mason City, Iowa, Corps
	20 Monday	Song of Songs 5-6	Lansing (South), Mich., Corps
	21 Tuesday	Revelation 12-17	Captain George Katchanov (Canada)
	22 Wednesday	Acts 25-26	Marquette, Mich., Corps
	23 Thursday	3 John	Chicago (Kroc Center), Ill.
	24 Friday	Deuteronomy 22-24	Rockford, Ill., ARC
	25 Saturday	Esther 6-10	Jesus is the greatest gift to all!
	26 Sunday	Psalms 149-150	Monroe, Mich., Corps
	27 Monday	Song of Songs 7-8	Macomb, Ill., Corps
	28 Tuesday	Revelation 18-20	Lafayette, Ind., Corps
	29 Wednesday	Acts 27-28	Leavenworth, Kan., Corps
	30 Thursday	Jude	East Chicago, Ind., Corps
	31 Friday	Revelation 21-22	Kirkville, Mo., 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



--Mustard Seeds--



Curtrights mark 41 years

Majors Jerry and Nancy Curtright retired earlier this year after 41 years of service. At their insistence, there was little pomp and circumstance and few funds expended for this milestone in their lives.

True to their lifestyle and wishes, no invitations were sent announcing their retirement. The activities simply consisted of a brunch at the corps followed by the holiness meeting.

Forty-one soldiers, officers, advisory board members and volunteers gathered for the special occasion. The Curtrights shared the gospel, and Ricky Hayes provided special music. Members of the corps gave tributes. Major Richard Amick,



Indiana divisional commander, performed the retirement ceremony and presented the certificates recognizing 41 years of combined service. He said, "Majors Jerry and Nancy Curtright are humble servants of God and their Christian leadership will be truly missed."

Major Vicki Amick, divisional director of women's ministries, presided and offered a prayer of dedication.

Dear soul retires

by Major Carol Lemirand

For over 43 years Major Sally Michael has touched others with her humor, warmth, and giving as evidenced by friends and family at her retirement service at Eagle Crest Camp in Washburn, Ill.

Conducted by Brigadier Alta Forney, the service included stories about the many lives Sally has touched. Bryon Simmons summed it up when he sang, "Thank you... I am a life that's been changed."

Born in Muncie, Ind., Sally realized her calling to officership when a cadet brigade came to her corps. She entered training as a "Messenger of the Faith" and was commissioned in 1968. Her first appointment was to the St. Louis Emergency Lodge.

Sally served at various corps throughout the territory and became an integral part of many families as she served in seven of the 10 divisions. Sally's been an example of how to overcome obstacles with grace. She once took in two Polish women who were victims of a fire and had no place to go; another time she bathed the diseased feet of a transient man, treating him with



respect and dignity.

While in El Dorado, Kan., Sally was voted "Woman of the Year" by local business and professional women.

Sally thinks she'll cozy into a chair and watch "Gunsmoke" every day during retirement in Brown Deer, Wis., but her friends and family know she'll continue blessing others.

Unchained prayer

While you didn't sign your name, if you participated in the paper prayer chain project during the keynote session of Congress in June, someone is still praying for you—your job, your marriage, your corps—whatever the Lord laid on your heart to record in that moment. The inspiring prayer chains, composed of more than 2,000 requests recorded on slips of paper by individuals, have been divided for continued prayer among the 10 divisions, the College for Officer Training and retired officers by Lt. Colonel Dorothy Smith, territorial ambassador for prayer.

The prayer point person designated for each group receiving the chains was given the freedom to devise creative ways for continued prayer for the requests.

For example, Major Kim Hellstrom, prayer point person for the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division, distributed the prayer requests at officer councils earlier this fall. She spoke to her peers from her heart emphasizing continued prayer effects on

the territory.

The chains were generated when territorial leaders Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler gave a call to action following the response to General Shaw Clifton's Friday night message.

The Seilers urged delegates to write a specific next step they felt the Lord was asking of them. Hearts' desires written on paper strips—*discipleship, clear direction, my job, better relationships*—formed chains representing forward movement.

"Step by step let's walk together," encouraged Commissioner Carol Seiler after the chains were collected. The roadmap for any journey is prayer.



Promoted to Glory

Major Judith Eagle

Major Judith Eagle was promoted to Glory on September 6, 2010. After battling health issues she went home to be with the Lord at age 60.



Born to Partick and Doris Eagle in Escanaba, Mich., Judith was one of 12 children. She found Christ during an Army revival meeting and eagerly became a junior, then senior, soldier.

After high school Judith assisted at the Hancock, Mich., Corps. Now certain of her calling, Judith entered training. She was commissioned in 1972.

Her first appointment was to assist at the Princeton, Ind., Corps. From there she traversed the territory serving in corps from Indiana to Wisconsin. She also ministered at the College for Officer Training and the Indiana Divisional Headquarters before taking early retirement in June.

Judith is remembered as a hard worker who loved ministering to families, like the Rays, whose children went on to officership: Captain Tarryl Ray, Captain Richard Ray and Captain Tracey Walters.

She was preceded in death by siblings: Sharon, Pamela, Penny and Ricky. She is survived by siblings Michelle, Lori, Sandy, Denese, Sheila, Lonnie and Major Thomas (Rose) Eagle and brother-in-law Gary Fisher.

Mrs. Major Margaret Bell

Mrs. Major Margaret Bell was promoted to Glory on September 11, 2010. She was 80 years old.



Margaret was born to third-generation Salvationists Gerrit and Evangline Verhoeven. She attended the Muskegon, Mich., Corps as a child and participated in girl guards.

In 1948 she married Emory Forrest Bell; together they entered training and were commissioned in 1955. Their first appointment was as commanding officers of the Virginia, Minn., Corps

After serving in three appointments the Bells left officership but ensured their family of five was actively involved in their corps. After working in private industry for nearly 15 years the Bells returned to duty at the Evansville, Ind., Men's Social Service Center.

After many subsequent corps appointments the Bells retired in 1995 from Flint, Mich. During retirement Margaret continued to serve others with her warm smile and hospitality.

She was preceded in death by her son, Michael, and brother, Gerrit. She is survived by her husband; daughter, Peggy (Brad) Carey; son, George (Jennifer); daughter-in-law, Gail; brothers, Wilbert and Donald; five grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Send greetings 'round the world!

Don't forget to mail, email, twitter, facebook, mypage, carrier pigeon...your Christmas greetings to Centralite officers and lay people serving in overseas appointments around the world!

Doesn't matter if you don't know them—send cards and encouraging emails anyway, not only at Christmas but throughout the year!

See "Get Connected" for contact information.

