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.

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 contemporary 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.

Chicago breaks ground for Kroc Center

Continued on page 8
**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 exclaim: “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!

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**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 her sweet wife, Dorothy, as three of our newest soldiers.”

They bring the 2010 senior soldier enrollments in Superior to 20!
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 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 therefore reduce cost. Whitney described this “layering of services” as a diversified way of approaching the financial missteps of the past.

“Tha’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 is having hope, and hope is ministry.”

Adapted from a national SA blog

Serving to save

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 revealed 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—a wide range of denominations, organizations, movements and doctrinal persuasions who share a calling to serve in Jesus’ name 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 Monte and Angela Wanding, 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 unheard 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!”
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!
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 Salvation Army's harbor light center write and polish résumés, 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. LoOtis Brooks of the St. Louis Temple, Mo., Corps. LeOtis and his wife, LaTonya, were appointed alongside Envoys Steve and Ketisia 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 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 Envoys Ketisia 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 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 Crocle 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.”

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!
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
“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.”
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 Bukowski, 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 Corps 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.

Seven-year-old Caitlyn Bell, who brought the crowd to their feet with a soaring 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 diamonds where White Sox inner-city youth teams will play and train. The Chicago Bulls Charities 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 $158.8 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 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
Fõrty 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.

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 questions, 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.

This fall men’s ministry 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.

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.

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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: 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 band members.

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.
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 Missouri Division. Bertha’s 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.”

For more information, click on the “Get Connected” link for planned giving or contact David Himes at (847) 294-2055.
Sally's been an example of transient man, treating him with grace. She once took in two Polish women who were victims of a fire and became an integral part of many families as women who were victims of a fire... She was voted “Woman of the Year” by the St. Louis Emergency Lodge.

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.

For 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 working officer who loved ministering to families, like the Rays, whose children went on to officer ship; Captain Barry Ray, Captain Richard Ray and Captain Tracey Walters. She was preceded in death by siblings Michelle, Lori, Sandy, Denese, Sheila, Lonnie and Major Thomas (Rose) Eagle and brother-in-law Gary Fisher.

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 paper 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, terri- torial ambassador for prayer.

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

For example, Major Kim Helstrom, 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—discip- lship, clear direction, my job, better relationships—formed chains representing forward movement.

“Step by step let’s walk together,” encouraged Commissioner Carol Seiler after the chain was collect- ed. The roadmap for any journey is prayer.

Dear soul retires

by Major Carol Lemirrand

For over 43 years Major Sally Michael has touched others with her humor, warmth, and giving as evidenced by 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 officer ship when a cadet brigade came to her corps. She entered training as a “Messenger of 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 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.

Indian divisional commander, per- formed the retirement ceremony and presented the certificates recog- nizing 41 years of combined service. He said, “Majors Jerry and Nancy Curttright 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 ded- ication.

Curttrights mark 41 years

M ajors Jerry and Nancy Curttright reitred earlier this year after 41 years of service. At their insistence, there was little pomp and cir- cumstance and few funds expended for this milestone in their lives.

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

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