Global prayer takes flight

In response to the General’s global prayer initiative, the people of the Central Territory are rising to the challenge with their usual drive and creativity.

Sherrie Trucker, Northern Division, said almost 50 people have signed commitment cards, each received a prayer journal and lapel pin in return. Global prayer topics are emailed and posted on Facebook so people can pray at home, with chat groups or at corps.

When Major Debra Richardson ran a PowerPoint “commercial” on the initiative before each meeting at pilgrimage, Salvationists in the Midland Division responded strongly. And, in the Kansas and Western Missouri Division, more than 100 people joined the “Mokan Mighty Prayer Team,” including inmates ministered to by the Pittsburgh, Kan, Corps, reported Major Cheryl Miller.

Major Yaneth Fiquea, Eastern Michigan Division, said the Dearborn Heights Citadel Corps began a year-long prayer emphasis, “Pray for Reign.” A five-week sermon series on prayer will include messages by Lt. Colonels Jeffrey and Dorothy Smith, territorial personnel secretary and territorial ambassador for prayer, respectively.

Major Judy McPherson reported adult rehabilitation centers have opened their chapels for early-morning prayer, and Captain Yvette DeGeorge said two prayer groups at the training college are meeting.

Major Florence Moffitt supports global prayer through the retired officers’ newsletter. “Some of us have been prayer warriors for 60 years or more,” she said. “Imagine what could happen by harnessing the prayer power of retired officers worldwide!”

Major Vicki Steinsland, Western Division, said corps are holding home-based prayer circles, assigning prayer slots and incorporating global prayer into ministries. Corps and shelters in the Heartland Division are meeting for prayer and displaying requests, reported Major Miriam Geeton.

Major Barbara MacLean, Indiana Division, encouraged corps officers to designate prayer coordinators to present weekly requests, recruit prayer partners and report prayer victories. Corps in the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division were quick to join the global prayer meetings, reported Major Kim Hellstrom, as were corps in the Metropolitan Division, according to Major Sandy Turner, who posts requests on the divisional webpage.

The Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division imprinted pens (“Join the General for Prayer Every Thursday”) for corps distribution, reported Major Debra Pascoe. She said, “It’s an honor to approach His throne with Salvationists worldwide. Exciting days are ahead!”

Weekly topics may be found at www.salvationarmy.org/thegeneral
Living a gold standard life

by Colonel Merle Heatwole
Chief Secretary

Exit summer, athletes from all around the world will gather in London, England, for the Olympics. Each of them will have one goal in mind: to win a gold medal. While I’m sure that most of them would be thrilled to win any type of medal, I have never heard any athlete say their ambition is to win a bronze medal. They always go for the top prize. Even if they don’t win, they want to know that they have given it their very best effort.

One of the core principles we have identified for our territory is to “uplift consistently.” At first glance, it would be easy to think that this principle focuses only on promoting a sense of encouragement within our corps. While encouragement is definitely needed and should be a vital part of our corps ministry, we also need to recognize that this principle encourages us to lift up a high standard of ministry and service, a gold standard.

Over the past several weeks, I have been studying the account of King Solomon building the temple as recorded in the books of 1 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles. As you read these accounts, it becomes evident that Solomon and his father, David, only wanted to use the very best materials in the construction of the temple. Nothing less would be acceptable for building God’s temple. Based upon today’s gold prices, the gold David provided for Solomon to use in the construction of the temple would be worth billions of dollars and yet there was never any consideration given to using lesser-quality materials. God’s temple deserved the best.

This caused me to ask myself, “Am I always giving God my very best service?” “Am I living a gold standard life or am I content to give God a mediocre effort, just going through the motions but not really giving it my best effort?”

If we are to “uplift consistently” throughout our territory, it will require us to strive for the gold standard in our prayer lives, our worship, our conversation and behavior. Colossians 3:23 [NIV, 1984] reminds us, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” Let’s give God our very best and go for the gold.

Exciting things have been happening at the Lincoln, Neb., corps. Over the past year since its members have become “contagious Christians!” Last year Captains James and Angie Pennington, corps officers, invited Majors Joseph and Lois Wheeler, territorial evangelism and spiritual formation secretaries, to conduct evangelism training.

The Penningtons, who’ve led the corps since 2009, felt the time for such training was right. “We needed to think outside of the box. We had most of the leadership in place for the corps to grow and thought our people were ready,” said James, who reports attendance has grown in just about every area of corps life as members have become more comfortable with inviting people.

“I believe the Wheelers planted the foundation for our members to become more friendly and inviting. We had a great turnout for training, including teens who wanted to invite their peers,” he continued.

The corps does Outreach through events and programming. “But to be truthful, we’ve had minimal, long-term results in corps growth. Now when I look at our growth and number of seekers, I see it all boils down to developing intentional relationships with un-churched friends, volunteers, clients and family,” said James. “Basically, it’s not going to come unless we ask them. And, if the person is greeted and genuinely made to feel welcome and comfortable, they might even come back! One teen invited her friend, and the friend invited her grandmother. That’s how it works!”

Growth also is occurring with enrollments which stretch across the age spectrum. “Some enrollments came simply from us asking regular attendees if they wanted to become soldiers. Some people had been coming to the corps for years and the friend invited her grand-mother. That’s how it works!”

Growth sometimes new approach has been natural and easy for everyone at the corps. “In fact we lost some people because they were unwilling to adjust to some of the changes,” said James. “This has been difficult for us, but we’ve been able to move beyond it. I can’t always explain how God works, but I know He’s working!”

The CD comes with a booklet containing the song words written by General John Gowan (Rtd). The first CD in the series, featuring General John Larsson (Rtd), playing piano arrangements of songs from the Gowan and Larsson musicals has been released. The CD highlights music from two of their most influential works: Jesus Folk and Spirit!

Many of the 32 songs featured are well-known; 10 of them made it into the current edition of the Salvation Army Song Book. “The lyrics of these songs,” writes General Larsson, “have become part of the mental furniture of thousands of Salvationists, often without them knowing that they originated in one of these two musicals. Favorites include: “He came to give us life in all its fullness. “You know I love you,” “Ask, ask, ask and it shall be given,” “Burning, burning,” and “To be like Jesus.” The CD comes with a booklet containing the song words written by General John Larsson (Rtd).

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Check out our complementary material on the web.

Resources/Links
Quincy Kroec website
ITF Day website
Child sponsorship web pages
Adult Rehabilitation Centers Command web pages
KEM’s website
General’s website
Wheelers’ website
Web exclusives
How to plan a 5K fundraiser by Megan Harfe
General Larsson’s feature, “Keying in Jesus Folk and Spirit!”
Advent material excerpt
Creative youth program ideas by Captain Shannon Tress
Tips on getting donations of instruments for programming by Major Carol Leman
More about the SA in Sweden and Haiti
Advent action song call to missioning by Major Robert Döbler
More Vueller family adventures
SATERRN timeline of development
Clips from Perspectives CD
Central Territory overseas personnel contact information

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Army on the advance

Last year the Army’s international leadership asked each territory to create a new appointment, secretary for spiritual life development, to promote spiritual maturity through the practice of certain disciplines. This position in the Central Territory is currently held by Captain Carol Lewis, who also serves as the territorial evangelism and corps growth secretary.

Spiritual life development in the Central Territory has seven primary emphases meant not only for the personal spiritual growth of Salvationists but for holiness as a body of believers in corps communities. The emphases are: the study and application of God’s Word, the pursuit of personal and corporate holiness, relevant worship, mutual accountability through small groups (Bible studies, prayer cells, Sunday school, mentor relationships), personal disciplines (prayer, Bible study), the cultivation of faith (recruitment and training the spiritually mature) and missional fellowship.

“Missional fellowship calls for Salvationists to be fully engaged in corps life, accompanied by a sense of ownership and belonging,” said Carol. “The inward part is our commitment to be engaged through our relationship with Christ; the outward part is to take our unique Army ‘salvation’ fellowship into our communities, get its pulse, and bring others to Christ for engagement in spiritual life.”

She continued, “My predecessor in this position, Major Dan Jennings, referred to this international call to spiritual life development as a multi-dimensional thought. Holiness is relational; we are a holiness denomination. Our interactions among ourselves and others, and even our administration, emphasis meant not only for the spiru- tual development, to pro-

Locations: 44. Miles: 25,000. Ministry: priceless.

Going the distance

This pretty much encapsulates Majors Joseph and Lois Wheeler’s past year as territorial evangelists and spiritual formation secretaries. Just 10 years from retirement, they seem to have hit the accelerator—and they’re loving it! It is, perhaps, the pinnacle of their more than 35 years of officerhip.

They believe their current appointment benefits from a well rounded set of life and ministry experiences which help them identify with others and meet their needs. It also draws on a deep, long held passion about spiritual formation: as much as evangelism is vital, spiritual growth is essential. Where many might find driving long distances (say from Boone, Iowa, to Detroit, Mich. in one fell swoop), having just two to three days home at a time, living out of motels or being billeted in officers’ homes exhausting, the Wheelers seem to thrive.

It’s places like Lincoln, Neb., where they held a very successful “Contagious Christian” seminar that keep them going. “The spiritual depth and richness that the Wheelers brought to our corps is genuine and heartfelt,” said Captain James Pennington. “You could tell that they really care for and about the people they minister to. Their presentation style was relaxed and open. The Spirit moved as we had in excess of 25 soldiers each night come out with a desire to share their faith with those they have come in contact with. The end result has been growth, spiritual and numerical, in the corps with more seekers at the altar and more visitors to the corps.” (See story on page 2)

While they offer a bevy of meetings and seminars, the Wheelers are willing to do whatever is needed: assist with vacation Bible school, afterschool or senior programs, provide devotions at shelters, visit soldiers in the hospital, wash dishes after a corps meal. “We see ourselves as servants,” they explained. They even involve their minia
ture schnauzer, Gracie; this sturdy, affectionate 21-lb. girl packs big impact, providing a point of connection with people and even performing sometimes.

Since taking up this appointment in July 2010, the Wheelers have visited 35 primarily small to mid-sized corps, two camps, and nearly half of the territory’s adult rehabilitation centers.

They rarely say no. They insist: “We just wouldn’t want to miss out on what the Lord’s doing.”

To book a campaign, visit the Wheels’ website. We’ll link you through Get Connected.
Ever since Lts. Ronald and Bridgette Amick arrived as corps officers at the Moline Heritage Temple, Ill., Corps three and a half years ago, they’ve encouraged their people to regard the corps as their own. “We wanted everyone to have a role in corps growth. What better way than to give everyone a position and allow them to run with it so God can use their gifts for the corps and community,” said Ronnie.

The Amicks recently enrolled and gave ministry assignments to eight, enthusiastic senior soldiers. [Two junior soldiers were also enrolled.]

Ronnie attributes the increased interest in soldieryship to people wanting to be a part of a ministry that changes lives in the community and worldwide. People report they feel loved and accepted at the corps. “We have a laid-back, family style of worship,” Ronnie continued. “Our chapel has flexible seating, coffee tables and note pads. The service is fun yet worshipful. People feel welcome to come dressed casually and are comfortable inviting others.”

Ronnie and Bridgette determine ministry assignments by meeting with individuals, discovering their gifts and watching them in action. “One of our new senior soldiers, Joe Maddelein, has become a new creature in Christ from being an alcohol abuser.”

Said Joe, “It’s hard to put into words what God has done for me. It’s just weird—I love the new me!” His son, Dalton, another new senior soldier, said, “The Bible is becoming real to me because of my dad.” Joe serves as the men’s ministry leader, while Dalton helps with warehouse organization and youth program publicity.

Another new soldier, Sara Hurry (sunbeam leader and transportation sergeant) said, “I love how God takes things and makes them new, then allows me to serve Him.”

Other new soldiers are Michelle Lamaster (pamphlet sergeant), Joe Lamaster (quartermaster), Caleb Kraklow (coffee shop helper, warehouse, youth), Phaima Kraklow (girl guards, youth), and Sierra Hurry (nursery assistant).

Ronnie tells soldiers not to see their positions as authority roles but as ministries to people. “Joe has a heart for men, particularly those in the adult rehabilitation center in nearby Davenport, Iowa. This fall we kicked off a new men’s program, ‘Band of Brothers.’ And, Michelle loves talking about our corps in the neighborhood, while Sara enjoys chatting and laughing with people as she picks them up for programs,” Ronnie concluded.

Encouraging ownership

Marinette celebrates 120

When I got here last year the previous officer had done a lot of research on Marinette Corps’ history,” said Captain Leanna Tuttle, Marinette, Wis., corps officer. “I did the math and figured out we’d been active 120 years. We decided we needed to do something big!”

With the help of the advisory board, soldiers and corps ministry intern, Megan Hartley, the 120-year celebration kicked off with a 5K walk/run called “The Celebration Fun Run,” which raised money for Marinette’s food pantry and social service programs. The fundraiser was such a success, they’re already planning to host another one next year.

Following the run, the corps held festivities in a nearby park with everything from bounce houses to live music. Door prizes were distributed to collect information on unchurched people in the area. Out of 166 in attendance that day, the corps will follow up with 25 people who showed interest in learning more about Army programs.

Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Divisional Commander Major Robert Thomson spoke on Sunday morning about what it means to be a Salvationist, and Major Joe Wheeler, territorial evangelist and spiritual formation secretary, led worship.

Also during the service, retired officer Major Pearl Polumaki gave a tribute to Kurt Berge, who has been a soldier at Marinette for 66 years! His wife, Arlene, a soldier for 69 years, was promoted to Glory earlier this spring.

Marinette’s kick-off run raised nearly $1,000.

Advent Resources 2011

God with Us

Enrich your corps’ worship this Advent season with the God with Us series of high-quality, ready-to-use Sunday worship outlines and sermons, as well as program ideas for activities throughout each week.

Discover Immanuel—God with Us—this Advent!

See your corps officer for more information.

New soldiers Joe and Dalton Maddelein.
New Perspectives CD

Reviewed by William Scarlett

This lifetime CD gives us a rare opportunity to hear a whole career of music-making by an outstanding artist, Peggy Thomas. Her talent was evident from the very beginning, whether weaving a beautiful melody like "Share My Yoke" or showing her extraordinary technique on demanding solos like "Jubilance" or "Joyous Song." Young brass players can learn to play better just by listening to this CD. "Listen and copy" has been a wonderful way to acquire good habits of making music probably ever since David played on his harp.

When Peggy came to me for some lessons on orchestral trumpet playing some years ago, it was obvious she had superior talent. Her goal at the time was to prepare for a career in a symphony orchestra. It was my opinion that she “had what it takes” to reach her goal. In fact, the technique she developed by playing cornet solos was more than is needed to play orchestral music. But God had other plans for these gifts, and certainly He has blessed her talents for His work as we hear on this CD.

The Perspectives liner notes are unique, too, in another way. Peggy gives a short biography on her career preparation, her family, on worship, reaching for her eternal goal and an interesting account of her attempt to break the barrier of “No women are permitted in Salvation Army staff bands.” No real reason existed except, “This is the way it’s always been ever since William Booth.” To her credit, Peggy refused to accept “No.” and today she is the hero of women staff band members all over the world.

Peggy’s musicianship extends beyond the cornet in her hand. Give her a baton and she becomes a very talented bandmaster as well. Having observed her working with the best students at Central Music Institute for the last 17 camps, I’ve seen how she is able to inspire them to play above their current level. Her leading gets results that rival some of the best brass bands anywhere.

More than displaying artistry, this CD shows Peggy’s dedication to honoring God with her gifts. Bravo, Peggy. Your example is Psalm 150 in action, “Praise Him with the trumpet”—and cornet, too!

Let the music play!

by A/Captain Dana Cook

As I sat in my chair during the Festival of Worship Arts and heard Bandmaster William Himes challenge the Central Territory to have live music in every corps’ worship music by 2020, my heart was stirred. Listening to this challenge and seeing the bands that have been established with young people throughout the territory, I knew the St. Joseph, Mo., Corps was up to the challenge.

For the last two years we have prayed for live worship music either with a praise and worship band, a piano player or a brass band. Returning from the festival, we felt the Lord wanted us to set up band chairs on the platform and pray for the empty chairs to be filled.

The Lord gave us the opportunity to send 16 students to our divisional music camp this summer; 13 of those registered for the instrument track. After our young people returned from music camp, the band members sat in their places on the platform. Our band is small, but we are able to hear four parts as they provide preliminary music, accompany congregational songs, and play the offertory.

Our congregation is so proud of our band that after every song they applaud. They simply love hearing and seeing the instruments being used for God’s glory. We know that God answers prayer for He has blessed our corps by filling the empty chairs on the platform with musicians and instruments that provide beautiful music. We pray that our band continues to grow and play music that honors God and that He is pleased with our music offering.

Bridged by the band

When Major Carol Lemirdan, Waukesha, Wis., corps officer and Dr. Martin Rowden, Wisconsin and Upper Michigan divisional music director, made plans to start their first band class outreach for local elementary school children, they had no idea how perfect God’s timing would be.

Music funding in the nearby schools had recently been cut, and principal Dr. Janice Kirkel was elated to encourage her students to study music at the corps.

Classes, which started in March 2011, last from 4:30 p.m. to about 5:30 p.m. every Monday and continue year round. Many students actually enrolled in day camp so they’d be able to stay afterward for Monday night practice. Students range between the ages of four and 12 and play mainly brass instruments, with a couple on piano and keyboard.

“It’s a good learning experience and it will shape them [stu- dents] for school later,” said Lisa Williams, parent of four-year-old Payton who plays the keyboard.

“It’s a wonderful program.”

Behind the scenes students and parents don’t realize how much God’s hand of provision made band classes possible.

Initially horns were bought with Fighting Forces Funds, but the student count kept rising and the program borrowed instruments from divisional head- quarters. Wanting to ensure each child had an instrument, Major Carol wrote a news release for local papers and an advertisement for Craigslist. Within a couple of months instrument donations and musical equipment came pouring in. It was nothing short of a miracle.

“One area judge’s wife matched her hus- band’s trumpet over to the corps saying he hadn’t played it in years!” said Carol.

The band program bolstered attendance in summer day camp, but ultimately, the Lemirdans would like to see bridging from band classes into the corps, starting with solid character-building troops.

“Our hope is to connect with families and see some growth in our corps,” said Carol. “It may take a couple of years, but this is the vision shared by the corps; we are praying for leaders and know we are praying in God’s will, so it will happen.”
The long-awaited grand opening of the Quincy, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center is now just a memory. On September 18, 2011, hundreds of people joined with The Salvation Army in celebrating not only the opening of a beautiful new building but an anchor for our community.

The Sunday morning worship and dedication service and afternoon grand opening celebration concluded a week of soft-opening events that included many groups, individuals and families visiting and trying out the facilities.

As the crowds began to fill the worship theater Sunday morning, their faces showed awe and amazement. The brass band, praise team and youth chorus provided wonderful music to set the tone for a message on being “salt and light” in our community and world by Commissioner Carol Seiler, territorial coordinator for strategic mission planning. She then presented the Kroc Center flag to Senior Kroc Officer Major Dan Jennings and Midland Divisional Commander Major Lonneal Richardson.

At 2:00 p.m., more than 2,000 people gathered in the Kroc Center Galleria for the grand opening. Following welcome comments by Major Jennings, Mayor John Spring presented a proclamation recognizing the day as “Salvation Army Quincy Kroc Center Day.” Eighteenth District Congressman Aaron Schock read a congratulatory letter from former First Lady and National Salvation Army Advisory Board member Laura Bush. Quincy Advisory Board Chairman Gerry Kettler added words of support and congratulations prior to the ribbon cutting.

The doors are now open for individuals and families to experience all the center has to offer. Whether worship, a spinning class or the aquatics center, there is something for everyone. Many of the programs are designed to strengthen families. With music, art, fitness or recreation, there are programs for individuals, youth, seniors and families.

The Quincy Kroc Center was designed utilizing the Mississippi River as inspiration. Elements of the river are seen throughout the center. The Kroc Center will be a LEED-certified facility (Leadership in Energy Efficient Design) with numerous “green” applications throughout—sky lights, recycled materials, recycling receptacles, lots of glass and innovations from technology. The building is 98,000-square-feet and encompasses an entire city block.

The building consists of a 500-seat worship theater; Huck’s Hideout child-watch area; The Meadows conference space with state-of-the-art audio/visual systems; The Ledge, a cutting-edge game room; a 63,000-plus-gallon aquatics center featuring a 157-foot slide and outdoor splash pad; Kroc Café; party rooms, classrooms, a rock climbing and bouldering wall; a cardio fitness area with the latest high-tech exercise equipment; a weight room; two group fitness rooms; a two-court basketball court with volleyball nets that lower from...
The beauty of the building, the “wow” factors built into each area, the helpful and friendly staff and the scripture verses pertinent to each venue provide inspiration.

People of all ages can find instruction through Bible studies, music and art classes, fitness classes and more. And the Quincy Kroc Center is a place where everyone can find involvement. Through membership, scholarships and free activities, there are classes, recreation and opportunities for everyone. Our Kroc Center is a place of inclusion and diversity, a place where lives can be changed for the better.
Salvation Army food pantries received donated goods from concert.
When Brook Borland met Cristian Lopez, she didn’t speak English well and he didn’t speak a lick of Spanish. “We did a lot of drawing pictures and hand motions for the first few months,” said Brook. “We slowly taught each other our own language.”

A year later Brook and Cristian got married and settled into the Albert Lea, Minn., area. It wasn’t long before their two beautiful children, Graceelyn, 6, and Cristian, 2, came along. Although the Lopezes seemed happy, God was missing. Brook’s faith took a turn after a 16-hour, round-trip drive to her grandmother’s funeral with Captains Jim and Lee Brickson, Albert Lea corps officers, who were officiating the funeral. During the trip, Brook asked the Bricksons burning questions about Christianity. She felt surprisingly comfortable pouring out her heart to them. The Bricksons invited Brook to the corps; shortly thereafter she started to attend.

Cristian’s belief in Christ would soon follow but independently of Brook. He found an evangelical Baptist church with a thriving Hispanic ministry. The comfort of his language drew him in. He might have stayed if it weren’t for the devastating tornadoes that hit Minnesota in the summer of 2010.

“When Cristian saw how we [the Army] ministered to those in need, and how our congregation put action behind our words, he started attending Sunday worship,” said Brook.

Another result of the Lopezes’ faithfulness is that Cristian’s brother, Mario, has started attending the corps regularly. He used to struggle with alcoholism but hasn’t had a drink in over a year. He’s also started to volunteer at corps activities and reads his Bible consistently.

With a strong faith, love for each other and hearts to serve, it’s no wonder the Lopezes feel called to officer. Although program services pull the children into the corps, it’s the love and acceptance the young people receive from adult leadership and staff that keeps them there. “It’s about opening your heart up to the kids,” said Shannon Thies, Pekin corps officer. “The families of our new children are starting to call us when they need pastoral help and are transitioning into the corps!”

One of the reasons children keep coming back to Pekin is the creative programming. For instance, to prepare the children for the Jamboree, the corps planned a girl guard sleepover and invited girls from the entire division! During the course of the evening, the girls earned all three badges required to attend the Jamboree and PJ party it up in a night complete with a leader-endorsed pillow fight.

During another exciting activity the children participated in a “top-secret” mission to drop gift packages with an encouraging message on the front doorstep of unsuspecting neighbors. “There was so much laughter on the bus,” reported Barb Higgins, territorial youth ministries director, who was the special guest for the weekend. “The kids absolutely loved it!”

Although programs pull the children into the corps, it’s the love and acceptance the young people receive from adult leadership and staff that keeps them there. “It’s about opening your hearts up to the kids,” said Shannon. “We expect the best out of them and hope the best for them; that’s what really matters.”
**Salvation Army flag flies in Togo, Africa**

The first Salvation Army officers arrived in Togo in April, initially under the oversight of Major Rockson Oduro, who later became the Territory’s new commander. While in Accra, Captains Ahouanganga had the opportunity to spend time with Major Oduro as well as staff from Ghana Territorial Headquarters.

A quarters in the town of Atakpamé has been renovated and prepared for the incoming officers. Their main task will be to coordinate and assimilate several current expressions of Salvation Army worship. These comprise some existing independent congregations with no previous denominational affiliation, and some which have been established by Salvationists who became soldiers while living in Ghana before returning to their home in Togo. There are also outposts established through initiatives from the neighboring Volta Division in Ghana. Other opportunities to expand the Army’s mission are emerging in Lomé, the capital of Togo.

Currently these various expressions are widely spread across the country—north, south, east and west—with Atakpamé in the center. One of the initial challenges facing the captains is to bring cohesion and unity between these diverse groups.

*From an International News Release*

**Voellers connect with Sweden**

The Salvation Army has been responding to a serious drought across much of the Horn of Africa, Kenya and Uganda. People, particularly children, are dying due to lack of food and water. Thousands of families have had poor harvests for the past five years and livestock have died. Salvation Army assessment teams have been digging regional boreholes and distributing water in tanks to surrounding villages along with food, sanitation products and other necessities. In some places the Army is the only non-governmental organization providing aid. Drought conditions are projected to last for some time. Donations to The Salvation Army Africa Disaster Fund will allow teams to continue providing vital assistance.

Major Cornell and Candace Voeller dedicated eight babies over the last 12 months!
Spreading hope in Haiti

Each day on their way to work in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Majors Robert and Rae Dobler see a large, tattered billboard with the words “Gen espwa!” (“There is hope” in Creole) amidst fading presidential campaign posters.

“Espwa, hope, for this land is seen in many ways,” said Bob who embarked with his wife, Rae, last fall on a three-year term of duty in Haiti. They serve on a team dedicated to rebuilding Port-au-Prince after the horrific January 2010 earthquake. Bob is the recovery and development finance administrator, and Rae is special projects manager.

Hope is seen in making child education a priority (most corps have schools). “We’re improving the quality of instruction, increasing teacher salaries (some as low as $10 a month), starting or improving school feeding programs and renovating or constructing modern facilities,” Bob said. Hope also is seen in the recent completion of a water filtration system at the Army’s camp and school in Luly, plus a Rotary International donation of 1,000 individual portable filters for all classrooms.

The Doblers live on the second floor (two bedrooms, washer, refrigerator and propane stove) of a house with a beautiful, fenced-in yard. Haitian officer friends live on the first floor. Water is delivered by truck to a cistern, then it’s pumped to a roof-top tank. Electricity is intermittent, available about 25 percent of the time. An inverter charges batteries to power the fridge, lights and fans; a back-up generator is used when needed.

Spreading hope in Haiti

Don’t forget to mail, email, Twitter, Facebook or 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.

My Prayer List

Day

Bible Reading

Pray for The Salvation Army

1 Thursday

Acts 19-20

Kansas City (Westport Temple), Mo., Corps

2 Friday

1 John 3-4

DeKalb, Ill., Corps

3 Saturday

Deuteronomy 13-15

“I’ll Fight” Day

4 Sunday

Nehemiah 9-9

Jefferson City, Mo., Corps

5 Monday

Psalms 140-142

Jamestown, N.D., Corps

6 Tuesday

Song of Songs 1-2

Marshaltown, Iowa, Corps

7 Wednesday

Revelation 1-6

Lansing (North), Mich., Corps

8 Thursday

Acts 21-22

Marquette, Wis., Corps

9 Friday

1 John 5

Omaha, Neb., ARG*

10 Saturday

Deuteronomy 16-18

Midland, Mich., Corps

11 Sunday

Nehemiah 10-13

Kokomo, Ind., Corps

12 Monday

Psalms 143-145

Midland DHQ**

13 Tuesday

Song of Songs 3-4

Moline (South), IL.

14 Wednesday

Revelation 7-11

Trenton, Mo., Corps

15 Thursday

Acts 23-24

Des Plaines, Ill., Corps

16 Friday

2 John

Joplin, Mo., Corps

17 Saturday

Deuteronomy 19-21

South America West Territory PIM

18 Sunday

Esther 1-5

Lakewood (Temple), Minn., Corps

19 Monday

Psalms 146-148

Mason City, Iowa, Corps

20 Tuesday

Song of Songs 9-6

Marquette, Mich., Corps

21 Wednesday

Revelation 12-17

Captain George Katchanov (Canada)

22 Thursday

Acts 25-26

Marquette, Mich., Corps

23 Friday

3 John

Chicago (Kroc Center), Ill.

24 Saturday

Deuteronomy 22-24

Rockford, Ill., ARG

25 Sunday

Esther 6-10

Thank God for Jesus—the greatest gift of all!

26 Monday

Psalms 149-150

Monroe, Mich., Corps

27 Tuesday

Song of Songs 7-8

Macomb, Ill., Corps

28 Wednesday

Revelation 18-20

Lafayette, Ind., Corps

29 Thursday

Acts 27-28

South Africa West Territory PIM

30 Friday

Jude

East Chicago, Ind., Corps

31 Saturday

Revelation 21-22

Kirksville, Mo., Corps

Go to www.prayercentralsusa.org for prayer updates.

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

The amateur radio antenna tower in Major Patrick “WV9E” McPherson’s backyard is so big it’s clearly visible on internet satellite photos. Through it Pat continues to conduct 40 national and six international network meetings each week for SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) even though he recently retired as its national director, a position he held since 2001.

Pat’s work as SATERN national director was recently recognized by Commissioner William Roberts, national commander, at a reception held at territorial headquarters. The commissioner expressed how glad he was that scheduling allowed him to be there to personally recognize Pat’s national service. After sharing a short history of SATERN and its impact, he said, “What began as four operators in Central Illinois has grown into a global network. This is a big deal!”

After a standing ovation, Pat responded that his work with SATERN had been a personal blessing. “It’s been God’s program, not mine,” he added. Pat also thanked his family for their sacrifice, having put up with the hours he’s spent on SATERN operations over the years and for the antennas and wires that had crisscrossed quarters and backyards!

SATERN was Pat’s brainchild; he realized its international potential from the start. In the ’70s and ’80s Pat did divisional emergency disaster services (EDS) work as a corps officer. He started SATERN in June 1988; its first international response occurred two months later. Since then SATERN has continued to grow. Its membership of more than 4,500 trained amateur radio operators has had a remarkable impact on the world by saving lives, reuniting families and relaying vital information.

SATERN often is the only link, not only to the outside world but among disaster responders when landlines and fragile cell phone systems are down. In 1998 the FCC designated the SATERN radio frequency for official emergency use. During the 9/11 response, operators from as far away as Australia and Germany checked in to help.

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005, international SATERN ran full force for 20 days; for the first time, a federal emergency call sign frequency was assigned to it. Two years later the Department of Homeland Security assigned special call signs to Pat and two other SATERN operators. Major Richard “VE3Nuz” Shirran of the Canada and Bermuda Territory has been appointed as the SATERN liaison and representative on the National Disaster Services Committee, fulfilling the responsibilities of national SATERN director. Pat heartily endorses Richard, who has the appropriate skills and passion first demonstrated when he relayed data from his Bermuda corps appointment during Hurricane Fabian in 2003!

Pat will assist in the transition and looks forward to being involved in the network from the field through his big, backyard tower.

Words to inspire and encourage

by Julia Hosking

Major Beverly Ivany woke up at midnight, strongly sensing God was speaking to her. She soon realized why: she needed to change her perspective on Priscilla and Aquila, a married couple involved in New Testament ministry (see Acts 18).

“That night, God reminded me that Priscilla is a married woman and the Apostle Paul often placed her name in front of Aquila’s when writing about them,” said Major Ivany, the new author of Words of Life, a book of daily devotional readings produced by The Salvation Army internationally.

“I felt God telling me to adjust what I had written to emphasize the significance of the married team and the importance of women to Him. I don’t think I would have noticed these aspects on my own. It is at times like this when I feel it’s the Lord guiding me, and we’re in this together.’

A new issue of Words of Life is published every four months. Each daily reading includes a portion of Scripture and a short devotional thought, such as the one on Priscilla and Aquila. Over the next three years, every book of the Bible will be covered under the overarching themes of faith, hope and love.

“The purpose of Words of Life is to inspire and encourage Christians through Scripture,” said Major Ivany.

“The readings are not cumbersome. They’re simply an opportunity for people to get into the habit of starting their day with God.”

Words of Life is available through Resource Connection, as well as certain Christian bookstores. Because of the international audience, Major Ivany needs to avoid North American terminology or anachronisms when writing her devotional messages.

“The books also have guest writers who represent a variety of countries as we try to relate to people around the world,” Major Ivany noted. “The benefit of it being an international publication is that on any given day, you know that other Salvationists and Christians are reading the same words as you and sharing in that intimate way with God. That connects and unifies us.”

Major Ivany comes to her appointment having written more than 100 articles for Salvation Army publications and three books: Kid Talk, Teen Talk and Mentorship: A Guide for Developing Healthy Mentoring Relationships.

I’ll Fight Day 2011

On Saturday, December 3, Salvation Army youth worldwide will minister to their communities through servant evangelism or simple, self-initiated acts of kindness.

Check out www.illfightday.com for more information and resources.

To subscribe to Words of Life ($26 annually), contact Resource Connection at 1-800-937-8906 or visit shop salvationarmy.org

“I’ve always enjoyed writing but have never done it as a fulltime appointment,” Major Ivany shared. “It is an extension of my thought life and spiritual life—it’s important for me to put down in words what is going on in my head and heart. I rely on the Lord for my writing, which has deepened my relationship with Him.

As noted on the back cover, Major Ivany wants to encourage people to “take time with the Father daily as you meditate upon His Word. Ask Jesus to interpret His Word and speak to your heart. And open yourself to the Spirit as He brings inspiration.”

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Words of Life...