



Central Connection

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



Courtney Grau

development principles and practice, mentoring practices, faith development, quality youth program elements, and youth culture.

"The Good Soil Initiative appealed to me for so many reasons, but most importantly it is my heart, my passion to be an effective youth leader for Christ," said Ryan Read. "The training has given me numerous tools to obtain that goal. Jesus commanded us 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,' (Matthew 28:19, NAS). Youth are a nation, correct?"

Persons interested in becoming a youth development coordinator must have a bachelor's or associate's degree with a minimum of two years experience in progressively responsible youth development work, or an equivalent combination of education, training or experience. They may apply for the Good Soil Initiative through their corps officer.

Corps interested in having a youth development coordinator should contact their divisional youth secretary.

Volume 42, Number 11

November 2012

Central cultivates Good Soil

by Captain Willie DeJesus

The territorial youth department has launched The Good Soil Initiative (GSI), a new program to deploy youth development coordinators in select corps throughout the Midwest. The goal is to have 60 youth development coor-



good soil initiative



Captain Willie DeJesus and Ryan Read

dinators trained and placed in strategic locations in the next six years to work with youth in their development and service to their communities.

Youth development coordinators will work with youth, neighborhood organizations, parents, teachers, corps leaders and other interested individuals to provide healthy and safe communities; opportuni-

ties to learn, discover and practice love for God and neighbors; and to obtain needed skills to participate in family life, corps, neighborhood, state and country.

GSI will provide for youth development coordinators to be resourced and developed through ongoing training and support at the annual Developing Youth Leaders Seminar in February which also is open to all fulltime youth workers in the territory.

The first four coordinators selected to participate in the Good Soil Initiative are Courtney Grau at the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Corps (Heartland Division), Ryan Read at the Racine, Wis., Corps (Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division), Kelly Summit at the North Platte, Neb., Corps (Western Division) and Melinda Willenborg at the Mattoon, Ill., Corps (Midland Division).

The initial training includes youth

Buzz Aldrin inspires Rockford to reach for the stars

by Lt. Colonel Marlene Chase

Enthusiasm mounted as more than 1,000 people joined together for the Rockford, Ill., Salvation Army's annual civic luncheon featuring Astronaut Buzz Aldrin. Elected officials, local celebrities, advisory board members, Salvationists and friends gathered to celebrate advances in the community and to "Reach for the Stars" in service and innovation.

Rockford Alderman Franklin C. Beach was master of ceremonies, and Major Randy Hellstrom, Winnebago county coordinator, thanked the community for its outstanding support. "There is tremendous power in a community that cares and rallies



around its friends and neighbors," he said. "We need you, and we need each other."

The Honorable Judge Rosemary Collins of the 17th judicial circuit

court thanked the Army for its Women's Restorative Justice Program and introduced the newest graduate, Felicia Meyers. "With the help of the Army, Felicia and others again become contributing members of our society," said the judge.

Service awards were presented by Advisory Board Chair Helen Hill and Vice Chair Greg Graber. The Community Service Award was given to the Rockford Woman's Club for their support of the Restorative Justice



Program over the last decade. Slumberland Furniture received the Corporate Award for donating mattresses and box springs to deserving families in the community, and volunteer Steve Polaski was given the

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Photos by Erik Hanson

Together, a winning team

by Colonel Dawn Heatwole
Territorial Secretary for Women's Ministries



This past summer I tuned into the Olympics night after night. I just loved watching the athletes give their very best and go for the gold. Often their stories were even better than the competition. I am amazed by the sacrifices they and their families made to bring them to the point of even competing in the Olympics.

The athletes train hard, many in difficult circumstances. They put all other pursuits aside to concentrate on their mission: being the best in their sport. They eat certain foods and avoid others, confer with

coaches and watch film, and practice relentlessly. They have a team of doctors, trainers, coaches and family who help to get them to their goal.

One of the key points our territorial leaders, Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler, have shared is that as Salvationists we should be pursuing mission. What does this look like? I believe many corps across the territory are pursuing mission locally. They are finding unique ways to reach out to people in their communities through backpack giveaways, Christmas toy shops, feeding programs and shelters,

after-school and literacy programs, and so much more.

But how do we, as individuals, pursue mission? We need soldiers who'll come to the corps during the week and make contact with those who come for assistance but don't know the corps is a place of worship. We need advisory board members who are willing to teach them a class on budgeting or personal finance.

Is pursuing mission just the officers' fight? No! Each and every one of us is needed. Just as it takes a whole team of people to get an ath-

lete to the Olympics, it takes all of us to accomplish our mission and to help people see The Salvation Army is more than a social service agency. We are that, but so much more. We have the privilege to offer the Living Bread with our food baskets. We have the opportunity to introduce people to the Living Water when we are out on the canteen.

Don't allow busy schedules or other obstacles to keep you from becoming involved in pursuing mission. You're needed to accomplish what Christ has set out for The Salvation Army.

Buzz Aldrin at Rockford luncheon

Continued from page 1

Individual Service Award for decades of service in the Night Patrol mobile feeding program for the homeless.

Keynote speaker Buzz Aldrin brought the crowd to its feet in sustained applause before his first word was spoken. Aldrin recounted how he and Neil Armstrong made their historic Apollo 11 moonwalk, becoming the first humans to set foot on another world. They spent 21 hours on the lunar surface, proudly planted the flag of the United States, and returned to document their unprecedented findings.



Award winners (l to r) Steve Polaski, Nancy Whitlock, president of the Rockford Woman's Club and Wade Kemmet, manager of Slumberland Furniture.

Upon his return, Aldrin was decorated with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest American peacetime award, and in 2011 was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the

nation's highest civilian honor.

"We came in peace for all mankind. That was the spirit of the Apollo venture," he said, reflecting on the amazing teamwork that overcame obstacles in reaching the moon.

"Everyone on earth felt like they had contributed, and that holds a value beyond measure. We were welcomed back as heroes, not just as three guys, but for what we represented. The United States had accomplished the impossible."

Expressing admiration for The Salvation Army's work, Aldrin said,



Majors Randy and Kathleen Hellstrom with Buzz Aldrin.

"They do so much for people, especially those in great need."

He gave candid testimony to his own struggles with alcoholism and depression, which plagued him after returning from his historic moon walk. Like Felicia Meyers, who witnessed to healing through the Restorative Justice Program, Aldrin chose the road to recovery. "Giving myself in service set me on the pathway to my own recovery," he said.

As one of the leading space exploration advocates, Buzz Aldrin continues to chart a course for future space travel from earth to the moon and on to the stars. "We can do these things again," Aldrin said. "You, too, can accomplish great things as you reach for the stars."



The Chicago Staff Band presents Sounds of the Season with pianist Richard Phillips

Richard has always had a flair for music. In 1984 after his formal training as a pianist and trumpeter at the United Kingdom's Royal College of music, he was employed by the United Kingdom Territory's Music Editorial Department. In 1994 he was promoted to the department's head and was responsible for all of the Army's music publications in the U.K.

Richard has toured the USA, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Australia and New Zealand as a pianist and conductor and for 13 years was the accompanist for the acclaimed International Staff Songsters. He and his wife, Lyn, are members of the Kettering Corps where he serves as bandmaster.

Bandmaster Phillips has many published compositions and arrangements to his credit, including several band and choral works published by The Salvation Army. Since 2004 he has been a music teacher and is presently the head of music performance at the Thomas Deacon Academy, one of England's largest, in Peterborough. He has recorded five solo piano CDs, including his most recent release, *The Sound of Inspiration*.

Saturday, November 24, 2012 - 7:00 pm
Edman Chapel, Wheaton, Illinois

For FREE tickets contact The Salvation Army, Music and Gospel Arts Dept.

(847) 294-2134 e-mail: CSB_tickets@usc.salvationarmy.org

This concert will be recorded. Pre-school children not admitted.



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Child sponsorship fundraising ideas
Excerpt from Advent materials
Women's ministries ideas from Captain Ruth Gibbons
How to set up a Christmas corps post office
Contact information for Centralites overseas



Committee addresses married women officers in leadership

A territorial ad hoc committee on married women officers in leadership has been formed to develop a strategy to be more successful in recognizing, developing and utilizing the gifts and skills of women in leadership. Lt. Colonel Susan Bukiewicz, Metropolitan divisional director of women's ministries and officer development secretary, has been asked to serve as chairperson of the group. Here she shares her perspective:

I'm challenged by this opportunity and am grateful for the visionary leadership of Commissioners Paul R. and Carol Seiler. As a married woman officer, I am concerned the gifts, skills and abilities present in married women officers be recognized and celebrated and that the Army would be creative in the delegation of appointments.

While we are part of a ministry couple, we also have our own calling, commission, ordination and

rank. We should not have to search for our "niche" as we serve alongside our husbands. For decades, we have been proactive in honing our skills, increasing our education credentials, and developing as leaders.

I have been blessed to know married women officers from my mother's generation to my generation and beyond whose ministry has distinguished The Salvation Army in hundreds of communities in the Central Territory. We are business administrators, preachers, writers



At their first meeting last month, members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Married Women Officers in Leadership include: (front row, l to r) Captain Heather Holman, Lt. Shannon Martinez, Colonel Dawn Heatwole; (back row, l to r) Major Julie Aren, Major Evie Diaz, Lt. Colonel Susan Bukiewicz (chair), Lt. Colonel Renea Smith, Captain Nancy Azuaje, and Captain Rebecca Simmons.

and counselors. We sit on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) boards and are members of the Ministerial Association. But in the Army are we accurately acknowledging the work and contribution women make as individual officers, married or not?

We have great examples in our recent past of married women officers receiving non-traditional

appointments. May I use our Founder's quote appropriately? "That and better will do." Our committee work will include proposing ways to prepare married women officers for leadership opportunities, suggesting ways for appointments to reflect this reality, and offering options that acknowledge the varying interests and skills of married women officers. These are exciting days.

Gateway City calls

Captains Patrick and Karen Holness are back in the Central Territory serving as the St. Louis Euclid, Mo., corps officers after a three-year appointment in their native Jamaica.

Patrick and Karen most recently were corps officers for the Havendale Corps in Kingston, Jamaica's capital city. They not only ministered to the community but to the residents of the Army's School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, The Nest children's home and the Francis Ham home for retired officers.

"Busy days lie ahead," said Karen of their new appointment at this vibrant urban corps. Over the past couple of years the St. Louis Euclid Corps has experienced a growth spurt in attendance and soldier enrollments. The congregation is dedicated to evangelistic outreach and discipleship.



Raised as Salvationists in Jamaica, Karen and Patrick interned at the Chicago Midwest, Ill., Corps before entering the College for Officer Training in 2005. Their first appointment was to lead the Detroit Temple, Mich., Corps. Two years later they received the overseas appointment to their homeland.

Soldiership skyrockets



Des Plaines, Ill., Corps Officer Lt. David Martinez recently enrolled 18 senior and two junior soldiers from the corps' dynamic Hispanic ministry. The new recruits entered the chapel while the band played a rousing processional. All three of the corps' congregations (Hispanic, English and Russian) joined together for this special occasion, proclaiming their unity in Christ as they sang "Onward Christian Soldiers." The lines "We are not divided, all one body we, one in hope, in doctrine, one in charity" took on even greater meaning.

Staying the course

by Major Rachel Klammer

I recently completed a 5k run/walk for Parkinson's research. I have had the disease for eight years and have family and friends who've been recently diagnosed.

Joining me in the race was Aux. Captain Dana Cook, corps officer in St. Joseph, Mo. She had been wanting to run a 5k when we met at a women's group and decided to join me. Together we raised \$2,000! The Kansas City Adult Rehabilitation Center beneficiaries and staff donated \$255; I am the chaplain there.

On race day instead of wearing the t-shirt that had been given out, Dana showed up in one she'd made that said, "Running for Rachel." The runners group started, and Dana was off running her first 5k. The walk began. I was an untimed walker. I wasn't in it for the time but to raise money and to scratch another thing from my "bucket list."

I was last as people passed me. My husband, John, rode my scooter just in case I got tired. But I come from a family where we were taught "can't never do anything without trying." Though the quote is terrible grammar, I still hear my



mother say it when I want to quit.

As people passed they'd say "good job" to encourage me. Those "God moments" provided the energy I needed to continue. During the last half mile Dana came to walk with me. This was another God moment. So tired, I asked her to pray, and John quoted every "race" scripture he could think of. Applause greeted us as we crossed the finish line and the announcer told those gathered I had Parkinson's and was the top fundraiser.

During that race I saw the trials of staying on course and wanting to quit, but I believe that when I get to heaven there will be a crowd of people applauding me and saying, "Well done."

“Mailman!”

During the advent season, there's an extra flurry of excitement at the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps after each Sunday morning worship service. That's when Christmas cards are distributed by the Norridge Post Office!

This highly successful fundraiser not only has raised more than \$6,000 for World Services/Self-Denial since 2008, it's been a contributing factor to the ever-deepening love and care for each other in the Norridge Corps family, a large number of whom are relatively new to Christ and the Army.

The post office is just one of several creative ideas Blythe Marinelli, the corps' missionary sergeant, has devised for raising World Services funds.

“Postage stamps” are sold in a choice of designs for five dollars per sheet of 30. Cards are “posted” in a decorative mailbox in the corps lobby, then sorted for delivery during the worship service by junior church members as a community service project.

After the service, Blythe's fifth- and sixth-grade Sunday school class serve as postal elves to help distribute the cards, which aids the children in learning names and faces.

“Sending and receiving cards has been transformative for many at the corps,” said Blythe. Several people now sit down each year with a copy of the corps directory and address cards to everyone in it, even if they barely know them.

Blythe has learned effective World



Blythe Marinelli and the seasonal Norridge Post Office!

Services/Self-Denial fundraising needs continued momentum throughout the year. “People are most responsive when they get something tangible in return,” she added, such as the popular “Norridgian” hoodies, *Dominus Providebit* (“God Provides”) t-shirts, a corps cookbook loaded with great recipes or even tubes of M&Ms to be returned full of quarters.

Major Lesa Davis, corps officer, concurred with Blythe's observations about keeping the momentum going.

“When you have only one or two emphases per year, people write their checks then don't give World Services another thought, she said. Successive campaign ideas keep the excitement—and commitment—high throughout the year!”



Enrich your corps' worship this Advent by finding the answers to questions like this:

Why the Nativity?

The “Why the Nativity?” worship series contains high-quality, ready-to-use Sunday worship outlines and sermons, as well as program ideas for activities throughout each week of the Advent season.

See your corps officer for more information.



Five Days Until Christmas

by Captain Rachel Stouder

It's five days until Christmas. According to my daughter's paper rings; Every Sunday I say something trite, like “Wow, can you believe it's already almost Christmas?” When really, I feel like Christmas has been dragging me through its fa la la la.

For weeks now I have felt the seeds of cynicism, watered by a desert of exhaustion, growing and stretching like tiny vines through all the merry places of my spirit.

I've never been the kind to have to sing through gritted, angry teeth, But getting through the line, “It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year” was like swallowing glass.

My children are starving for my attention—no, not just my attention; my presence.

My volunteers are either driving me crazy or making me feel bad for all the work they are doing.

It feels good just to sit next to my husband in the van for five minutes.

The corps has felt like a graveyard too many funerals, and so many buried under their own struggles.

My decorations are up. The parties are done (praise God). My gifts are wrapped. Topsy's popcorn sits in my living room.

I went to a holiday concert—a great one, even.

And yet I find this war within me. We're giving away all of the Adopt-a-Family presents

And our huge distribution is tomorrow. But I feel utterly disconnected. Completely.

Entirely. Detached.

It's a strange feeling, really, to be so thoroughly *for* everything Christmas is about

but to feel so far from having represented even an ounce of it. Christmas is coming.

In five days, as a matter of fact. And I'm terrified of missing it.

Do I want to start this season over? My weary body screams, “ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!”

But in my spirit, I would love a do-over.

What happened?

I prayed in the beginning that I would be one among a flock of true worshippers this season.

I don't know about the rest of the flock, but I failed.

Failed. You didn't fail.

I did.

For a girl whose supposed favorite word is “INTENTIONAL,”



...I've been anything but. Wow. How did this happen? Should I have had a special Christmas devotional book?

Should I have listened to more Christmas music?

No (although not a bad idea, either of them).

Classic: I got caught up in doing. I abandoned being.

I don't even know when it happened. I'm not confident at all that I even started out right.

Drat.

Drat a whole lot, and deep, deep sigh. So now what?

It's five days until Christmas. According to my daughter's paper rings.

I'm terrified it's too late.

Do I harden up?

Callous up?

Prepare myself to ignore the disappointment?

Or is it yet redeemable?

I want to write something eloquent and picturesque about bringing my broken and mangled

or torn and shriveled or dirty and scraggly Christmas pieces to You for Your repair.

But I don't even know at this point what it would or should look like.

So

I just bring You Me.

I'm sorry.

Please forgive my foolishness.

I know better.

But I wasn't better.

Father, will you restore me to my right mind

and also to a heart overflowing gushing

all messy (yet organized and intentional) with worship?

Nothing is impossible with You.

Nothing.

It's five days until Christmas,

According to my daughter's paper chain.

And I desire to relish every single one.

To worship—to be a worshipper

in everything I do.

O come, let me adore You,

Christ my Lord.

Season's greetings

It's easier than ever to send Christmas greetings to Centralites serving in overseas appointments! Email an encouraging word or send a card, not only at Christmas but throughout the year!

See our “Get Connected” website for email and postal addresses. www.usc.salvationarmy.org/getconnected



Disciples of the Cross welcomed

The Disciples of the Cross session of first-year cadets received a hearty public welcome by the territory at the Chicago Mayfair, Ill., Community Church.

Lt. Colonel Jeffrey Smith, territorial secretary for personnel, greeted the Friday evening audience of supportive friends, family and officers. In a video, members of the "Disciples of the Cross" session gave their thoughts on what the session name meant

corps officers and divisional candidates' secretaries escorted their cadets to the platform. This enthusiasm was captured in a rousing rendition of "Spirit of the West" (Dudley Bright) by the Chicago Staff Band, which enriched the program through the night.



Photos by Andrew Grey



to each of them and during the service shared what they'd left behind to follow Christ.

Colonel Dawn Heatwole, territorial candidates' secretary, presented the individual members of the session, adding that many had overcome obstacles to be obedient to God's call. The joy was contagious as

First-year Cadets Megan Hartley and Cristian Lopez prayed their sessionmates would never lose their focus on Christ, and second-year Cadet Tonia Collins asked God to shape and use the Disciples of the Cross.

The session flag was presented to Cadet Jonathan Tamayo by Majors Paul and Paula Fleeman, who'd led the College for Officer Training for the last four years. (They now lead the Western Division).

Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, territorial commander, emphasized discipleship in the evening's message. He encouraged cadets to

"just not bring people to the cross but *through* the cross into discipleship and transformational living."

Citing passages from Luke and examples of counter-culture ministries going on today, he reminded all present of Jesus' examples of unexpected encounters. "Sometimes in our area of expertise we may think we know the answer—as Simon did in his response to Jesus. But in obedience, 'because you say so, Master,' Simon put his net out again in deeper water," said the commissioner. "Are there disciples here who need to be obedient in deeper water?" the commissioner asked as a final challenge.



A cadet's Christmas practicum

by Cadet Carolina Yanez

On Christmas Eve as we left for our winter break from the College for Officer Training (CFOT), we stopped and rang bells as a family at the kettle where my husband and I had rung during the season. It might seem surprising since we'd been out in the cold ringing bells for over a month, but we thought it would help our girls understand why we'd been so busy and would prepare them for the reality of future Christmases in our beloved Army.

For the past two years, first-year cadets have participated in the Christmas season in a more varied way through Christmas Practicum 1 (CP1). Last year our CP1 team was assigned to the Chicago Lawn, Ill.,



Corps, led by Captains Luis and Raisi Zambrano. From Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve, we were given many opportunities to serve. We became familiar with Christmas software, toy and food distribution, driving routes, counting kettle funds, bellringing and leading Sunday programs. During December we also visited schools to bring joy to children with songs, puppets and small gifts and the

Cook County Jail where each cadet preached the Gospel.

At the corps it was inspiring to see volunteers who daily helped with everything from doing custodial work to putting together food baskets to preparing meals. They stood with us on distribution days, giving out hot beverages and talking with those patiently waiting in line. These experiences helped us become close to volunteers and corps members. We learned much from the officers' example of love, compassion, leadership and hard work. And our Christmas practicum was the perfect time for us to worship as a family when our daughters joined us on Sundays for Sunday school, worship service and Bible studies.

On weekday mornings at the corps we'd shared a cup of coffee and a devotional with the kettle workers and later drive to our assigned kettle location. After a few days, people recognized us, and would stop to say hello and donate. On many occasions they'd bring a much-appreciated hot beverage or would sing carols with us helping the hours pass faster.

I'll never forget the cold morning I stood outside Macy's when a woman approached me. Teary-eyed,



The Yanez family

she thanked me for serving in The Salvation Army and shared that as a child she, her siblings and their single mother were provided shelter by the Army after their house caught fire only days before Christmas. It was wonderful to see her love and trust in our organization but even more wonderful to share Christ with her.

We have so many opportunities to touch other people's lives, even with a simple "God bless you." The red kettle God laid on Captain McFee's heart in San Francisco more than 100 years ago brings hope to millions today, and I am so glad my family has the opportunity to be a part God's work.



Jesus, take the wheel

by Craig Dirkes

The odds of how Tom Canfield arrived at the Minneapolis, Minn., Adult Rehabilitation Center are nothing short of mind-boggling—specifically, the odds of him meeting the man who brought him there. There's only one explanation: divine transportation.

It happened in May 2005. Tom, now 43, had just been released from a Wisconsin jail where he'd arrived naked, addicted to meth and weighing a paltry 115 pounds. "I wanted to die, but there was nothing in that cell I could use to kill myself," he said.

Upon release, Tom needed to get to the rehabilitation center, located 100 miles away, but he had no money for a bus ride, and his friends and family refused to give him a lift. His only option was an old man sitting in the jail's lobby. Tom pleaded for a ride, and the man agreed.

They were complete strangers, or so they thought. The man had spent years hating Tom for his part in a family tragedy. In turn, Tom had spent years hoping he'd never have to meet the man.

How could two men who'd never met have so much history? During their drive to Minneapolis, they discovered each other's identity. What happened next was incredible.



Early years

To understand their miraculous encounter, you must first know Tom's backstory. And it's not pretty.

Tom grew up on a small farm near New Prague, Minn. His parents divorced when he was a boy. By high school, he was getting high or drunk every day. He somehow made it to college, where he brought new meaning to the phrase "higher learning."

"In college I was addicted to alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, meth—anything I could get my hands on," he said. "I had never liked myself. Alcohol and drugs helped me live in my own skin, made me feel powerful."

He was a functional drug abuser throughout college, graduating in 1990 with a degree in computer science. In that time, he fathered two children. He started working after graduation, though not in his field of study. "I was making an enormous amount of money selling drugs," he said.

A year later, he was busted with \$60,000 worth of LSD and seven pounds of marijuana. His parents pooled their money and got him released on bail. Tom fled Minnesota with his girlfriend and changed his identity.

Fugitive

Tom and his girlfriend moved to Vermont, where they lived and manufactured drugs for almost a decade. Along the way, they had three children.

"We lived north of Stowe on 200 acres of land," Tom said. "We were self-sufficient and grew all our own food. We also grew psychedelic mushrooms and marijuana—two mushroom harvests a year worth \$50,000 to \$60,000 each, and three pot harvests worth \$20,000 to \$30,000 each." The couple laundered their profits through their jewelry business. But nine long years of selling drugs took its toll.

"I got shot during a drug deal gone bad," he said. "The bullet entered my wrist and exited my elbow. My partner at the time, he got shot in the gut."

By 2000 Tom was a head case. "I was using so much heroin and cocaine, I turned into a monster," he said, adding his girlfriend took their three kids and left. "I was being followed and watched. The cops even had helicopters flying over my place. I was holed up in the house doing drugs, completely paranoid."

Enough was enough. In 2001 Tom called his mother and said he needed to come home and get sober. "I grabbed a few bags of clothes, a bus ticket and moved in with my mom," he said.

Losing battle

Tom stayed sober for a few years, worked several jobs and convinced his ex-girlfriend to move to Minnesota with their kids. But his attempt at sobriety fell flat. In 2003 he reverted to drugs and destroyed everything he'd worked to rebuild.

"I started dealing meth," he said. "By 2004 I was homeless, and nobody I knew wanted anything to do with me. I spent most of my time in casino hotel rooms making false identities for Minnesotans. I was cooking meth, but using it all before I could sell it."

In February 2005 an emaciated Tom lay naked and passed out in a scuzzy Wisconsin hotel room. He had just sold a few rocks of meth. Soon after, his customers got busted—and sang like canaries.

"The cops found out about my operation, came in my room and found everything," he said. "When they hauled me off to jail, I was wearing nothing but a bed sheet. I literally laid there in jail, alone, as a bare-naked soul. All I could think to do was pray. I said, 'God, if you're really out there, I need help.'"

The old man

Tom spent the next three months in jail in Siren, Wis. A county attorney said he was looking at 12 years in prison. Tom begged for mercy, asking to go to rehab before his sentencing. The attorney agreed, saying he could enroll in The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center in Minneapolis.

"The problem was I had no way of getting there," Tom said. "I got on the phone and called everyone I knew, but nobody would talk to me. Then I remember that big jail door slamming behind me."

As he exited, one person was in the waiting area: a scraggly old man with long hair. "Given my hippie past, he looked like someone I could relate to," Tom said. "I told him I needed help. He said he was there visiting a friend, but when he was finished, he'd see what he could do."

The wait was excruciating. With tears streaming down his face, Tom prayed, "God, please get me to The Salvation Army. There's nobody else to help me."

The man came back out. Turns out he was from Fridley, Minn., just 10 miles from the rehabilitation center. He told Tom to hop into his car. During the ride, a startling revelation surfaced: the man was the father of Tom's former drug partner who'd been shot in the gut in Vermont five years earlier.

"It still gives me chills," Tom said. "Of all the hundreds of thousands of people who could have been at the jail, on that day, during those few minutes, it was this guy."

They talked and talked. Tom learned Steve* had spent months in a hospital bed and almost died. The



man had blamed it all on one person—Tom—the very person he was driving to rehab. "Then," Tom explained, choking back tears, "the old man said because of the ordeal with his son, he came to know the power of Christ. He said he learned how to forgive me for doing that to his boy."

Tom and the man became friends and still talk to this day. Their encounter was Tom's first glimpse of Jesus' love. At the rehabilitation center, it came into full view.

Reborn

Walking into the rehabilitation center, Tom knew it was the right spot. "Everyone there was so happy," he said. "I'd never seen anything like it before. It completely freaked me out."

Tom spent the next nine months getting sober, attending counseling and spiritual classes, developing relationships and surrendering his life to Christ.

"I had an addiction to drugs and the lifestyle of being a drug dealer, making hundreds of thousands of dollars a year—and God washed it all away," he said.

By the time his day of sentencing came, December 1, 2005, Tom's faith was unshakeable. He prayed for God's will to be done, even if it meant spending the next 12 years in jail. Several Salvation Army staff members spoke to the judge on Tom's behalf. His sentence: one year. In retrospect, he's thankful

for the jail time.

"That one year in jail turned out to be a blessing," he said. "I spent the whole time writing letters to the hundreds of people I'd hurt. It taught me the true meaning of forgiveness."

One of those letters was to an aging couple he bilked out of thousands. He'd used their identity to buy a \$5,000 snowmobile, then sold it to buy heroin.

"That man and his wife were Christians, and they came to visit me. They said they forgave me and didn't want any restitution," Tom said. "They came in every week after that and had Bible studies with me."

Tom's time in jail was the last bit of work needed to restore his spirit. Since then, he's never looked back. He was married in August and has repaired the broken relationships in his life. Though his oldest son died in a rock climbing accident several years ago, he remains close with his four remaining kids.

Best of all Tom's relationship with God gets stronger every day.

"God and His love are 100 percent real," he said. "Whether you're a drug addict or a wildly successful person, without Him, you're lost. If you receive Him, a light will come on inside your head. You'll discover, with great clarity, the truth about why we're here and what's happening in the world. He's knocking. Let Him in."

*name changed



Buoyed by the Army

After traveling the world with the U.S. Navy, single-mom Senior Chief Regina Hawley and her youngest son, James II (J2), finally settled in the suburbs of Chicago. Regina took little notice of The Salvation Army building she often passed running errands—until one day, three years ago. Looking for volunteer work, she decided to stop in.

"I asked if they needed volunteers, and Sister Gorton [Major Miriam

Gorton, then corps officer] introduced herself to me," said Regina. "She told me about the worship services held there, and so I went home and looked it up online. I saw services were called 'holiness meetings,' and that's when I knew they had me!"

Regina was born and raised in Georgetown, Dela., and her path to salvation wasn't necessarily unconventional. She and her seven siblings grew up in church, and she came to a personal relationship with the Lord in her teens. God's provision, however, was evident.

"I was an unwed teenage parent," Regina said. "Yet God really blessed me and my oldest son; it was because of God's help I was able to raise Antonio."

In 1987 Regina enlisted in the U.S. Navy; Antonio traveled with her as the Navy took them all over the globe. Later she got married and had J2.

After meeting Miriam at the

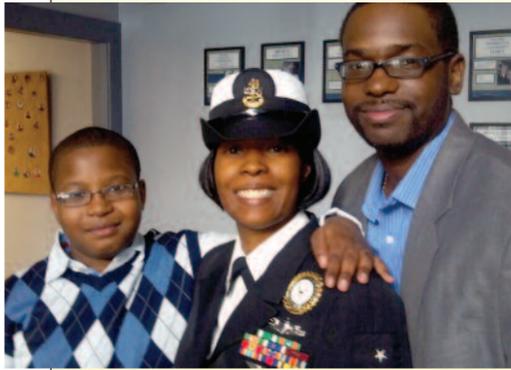


Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., Corps, Regina and J2 visited the services a few times. Regina not only was impressed with the people but with how strongly she felt the presence of God. She was going through a difficult time, and the extra support was needed. "Everyone was so kind, and no one was judgmental," recalled Regina.

Regina and J2 have found strong community and support at the

Oakbrook Terrace Corps, now led by Captains John and Johanna Pook. Regina loves her women's ministries group called "Lifetime," and J2 enjoys children's ministries and the Cub Scout program. "It's been an incredible blessing to me in my spiritual walk," Regina said.

It feels so much like home, Regina decided the corps would be the perfect place to hold her retirement service from the U.S. Navy this year.



Regina at her retirement service with sons J2 (l) and Antonio (r)

Keeping pilots grounded!

Irene Doornbos is a sprightly, charismatic and quick-witted British lady with silver hair, sparkling blue eyes and a lilting, Liverpoolian accent that only emphasizes the humor and drama of her many stories. She not only keeps her many friends at the Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps entertained with her tales but several airline pilots who she accommodates in her house when they're on layovers at nearby O'Hare International Airport!

A native of Liverpool, England, the aptly named Irene Jolley met Andrew, a U.S. Army soldier, devout Christian and the love of her life, during World War II. They married soon after the war ended and eventually settled in Andrew's hometown of Chicago, Ill., After having three children, the family moved to suburban Park Ridge for its excellent schools.

After Irene was widowed, she found going to her old church in Park Ridge too painful; the memories of Andrew were too pervasive. A friend encouraged her to attend The Salvation Army in Norridge, a nearby suburb. It changed her life. Irene felt embraced and loved as she emerged from the shadow of grief. Her charm and friendliness returned to the forefront, which is



Irene helps repackage donated bread.

why one Sunday morning the welcome sergeant seated a visiting airline pilot next to Irene knowing she would chat with him!

They became fast friends. Irene learned that when James was in town he stayed in nearby "crash pads"—apartments equipped with several bunk beds for pilot layovers. She invited him to stay at her house, instead. And, thus began a long procession of referral-only guests who've not only adopted her as "family in Chicago" but who've flown her out to meet their own families across the country!

Irene's children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild live in other states, so they're grateful their 85-year-old mother is well cared for by corps members, Corps Officers Captain Brian and Major Lesa Davis and Irene's pilot friends. Irene views this enterprise not only as great fun but as ministry. She cooks, does a bit of laundry and freely shares her faith with her guests, as well as reads scripture and prays with Christian pilots.

Additionally, Irene volunteers regularly at the corps.



Irene Doornbos reads scripture with pilot Joe Wech, who also volunteers at the corps when he's in town.

Ministry growth spurt



Growth in the Cloquet, Minn., women's ministries group has been fast and furious; weekly attendance increased from five to 20 women in mere months! Earlier this year Lt. Colonel Rebecca Sjogren, Northern divisional director of women's ministries, presented 15 ladies with a long stem rose as they were enrolled in the program.

"We have a small corps building in a small town, but our hearts are huge and full of love for Jesus!" said Captain Ruth Gibbons, corps officer and women's ministries leader. "The Bible studies are the

best attended groups; these women are very thirsty for the word."

The growth began when Ruth and four other women started volunteering at the local outreach center by preparing lunch once a month for people in the community. "We would sit down and have a cup of coffee with the ladies who showed up and invite them to our group," said Ruth.

Another reason for the increase was moving group meetings to a more convenient time, Monday night right after the thrift store closes. Two ladies who work in the thrift store started attending and inviting customers to join.

The group follows the four-fold program of worship, service, fellowship and education, and no matter their focus Ruth reports they always have a good time. So much so, in fact, that Ruth has seen a few starting to attend worship services.



Judy Johnson, Jackie Meyer and Roxanne Laughlin.



God's faithfulness proved

Having served as officers for more than 45 years, Majors Robert and Alice Scott retired from their most recent appointments in the Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division, where Robert served as divisional development consultant and Alice as volunteer services director with the additional appointment of moral and ethical issues secretary.

The Scotts' retirement service, led by Divisional Commander Major Thomas Bowers, was a celebration of God's faithfulness to them over the years.

Lt. Colonel Marvin Dahl performed the retirement ceremony, Captain Michael Wolfe read the scripture, and Major Jacalyn Bowers prayed. Lt. Colonel Barbara Getz presented a glowing tribute to Alice, and Major Ralph Hansen did the same for Robert.

Both Robert and Alice are first-generation Salvationists. Alice was commissioned in 1967 as a lieutenant with the "Witnesses to the Faith" session and appointed to Council Bluffs, Iowa. Robert was commissioned the following year with the "Messengers of the Faith" session and appointed to Des Moines! They married in 1969 and served in several Iowa corps; at one point Robert also served as the Quad City coordinator.



After several years in Wisconsin corps, the Scotts returned to Iowa where Robert served as the city coordinator in Des Moines, followed by the same role in other Michigan and Indiana cities.

After serving in Southfield, Mich., as Kresge Center directors, the Scotts were appointed to the Indiana Divisional Headquarters as development director and league of mercy secretary, then to Lansing, Mich., where Robert was the area commander and Alice director of special services. In 2009 they were appointed to the positions from which they retired.

Celebrating service

After starting her fulltime service in the Army in 1992 as an envoy in Detroit, Mich., Major Phyllis Blinks spent her ensuing years providing meaningful ministry in the Kansas and Western Missouri Division.

Her retirement—truly a Celebration of Service—was held at the Independence, Mo., Corps. Lt. Colonels Ted and Nancy Dalberg conducted the retirement ceremony, and tributes were given by Phyllis' son, Roy Johnson, Major Butch Frost and Lt. Mary Kim, among others.

Mary recalled a recent divisional headquarters devotional during which Phyllis spoke. "She said something that sums up her life and attitude: 'I wake up for a praise moment!' Whatever comes her way,

praise and thanksgiving are never far from Phyllis' lips because Christ is always at the center of her life," said Mary.

A year after starting as the administrator of the Bagley Community Service Center at the Detroit Harbor Light, Phyllis became an auxiliary captain. In 1996, she was appointed to lead the Kansas City Bellefontaine, Mo., Corps with the additional responsibility of serving as the divisional multicultural ministries director. She became a captain in 2000.

In 2003, Phyllis was appointed to serve as the chaplain for the Booth Manor senior residence, which was followed by divisional appointments as social services chaplain, community care ministries secretary and older adult ministries secretary until health concerns led to an early retirement.



Major Phyllis Blinks (second from r) and Lt. Colonel Ted Dalberg with flagbearers Majors Charles and Sharon Smith.

A grace-filled journey

Majors Maxim and Betty Grindle, of the "Companions of Christ" session, retired this year after a fruitful and grace-filled 35 years of officership. "The joy was seeing people's lives changed by the power of Jesus Christ," said Betty.

Best friends Majors Jim and Elizabeth Beardsley presided, while the retirement ceremony was conducted by Maxim's brother, Lt. Colonel David Grindle. Themed "Grace Alone," the service consisted of songs, stories and tributes from many of the Grindle's family members and friends.

"The highlight of our service was the friends and family who took time out of their busy lives to come share this special day with us," said Betty. "It was wonderful to see people from various appointments all

in one place and to have so much of our family there was a special blessing."

Each of the Grindle's 11 appointments held special meaning for them with its own set of joys and trials. After their 1977 commissioning as single officers Betty served as the assistant corps officer in Mishawaka, Ind., while Maxim served as the assistant corps officer in Jackson, Mich. They were married in 1978, and together served in diverse capacities from leading corps to administrative appointments to directing social service programs.

In retirement the Grindles look forward to traveling, spending time with loved ones and becoming active in their corps. "And this winter, we plan to go on a cruise!" Betty exclaimed.



Majors James and Elizabeth Beardsley congratulate Majors Maxim and Betty Grindle on 35 grace-filled years of service.

Looking for your mission?

Are you an action-oriented leader who loves and serves the Lord?

Then perhaps it's time to consider if God is calling you to be an officer with its unparalleled opportunities to accomplish work for His Kingdom.

As an officer you can

- **Help people find a personal relationship with Jesus**
- **Provide meals for the needy**
- **Comfort survivors of natural disasters**
- **Teach and nurture others in their faith**
- **Find great joy in service to others**

Visit www.usc.salvationarmy.org/candidates

A safe place for veterans

by Rich Draeger

If you've ever wondered if one person could really make a difference, meet Bob Johnson. He's all the proof you'll need.

Bob began volunteering in 2004 with The Salvation Army in Peoria, Ill. He ran a breakfast program for homeless men who slept each night in the Sylvia Fites Family Service Center. When Bob learned a number of them were veterans, he often spent his own money to help them. But as a Marine Corps veteran himself, he longed to do more.

In 2005 as an employee Bob began lobbying Norma Weaver, Heartland divisional social services director, for more veterans' programs and lining up support for a veterans' assistance center from everyone from local veterans groups to area legislators.

In 2010 work began on the prop-



erty next to the family center. Volunteers, many of them veterans, began rehabbing the building. Support came from the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Habitat for Humanity, the Kyle Harrell Memorial Fund, Sears retirees, the Peoria Labor Temple, local businesses and several anonymous donors. They provided furnishings, funds, labor and supplies. Bob headed up a special group of volunteers who did much of the remodeling.

Last November The Salvation Army Veteran's Outreach Center opened. Its service to veterans and their families and support to other veterans groups

has steadily grown. In February alone, more than 90 veterans or their spouses sought help. Services are designed to meet needs without duplicating what is provided elsewhere. The program is run totally by volunteers.

"This place is really taking off, and it is neat to see all the veterans who are here helping," said Bob.

Indeed, on any given day the front desk is manned by veterans. Howard Daymude, a Purple Heart recipient and Viet Nam veteran, is one of them. "I come in most Tuesdays and Thursdays to help out. I think these vets feel comfortable coming here and seeing fellow veterans," he said.

As part of the offerings, a Health Care for Homeless Veterans program coordinator helps them find permanent housing. A counselor from the VA Medical Center is available, and there are several computers with internet access to assist with resumes and job searches. A member of the Employment Security Office also presents workshops and provides individual assistance with the Illinois Job Skills



Match program. Recently, the Springfield, Ill.-based Honor Flight group began utilizing the center for training.

"We have a vet-to-vet peer group that meets each week and a weekly Bible study group as well," said Rich Glavin, an outreach worker along with Bob. "Every time Bob and I can get out in the community and speak to groups, we see an increase in activity."

Rich shared that an elderly woman recently stopped by looking for information on pensions. They determined she was eligible for benefits from her late husband's military pension, and soon she'll be getting an additional \$1,100 each month.

He concluded, "It's a great feeling to be able to help these veterans and their families."



Citizen soldiers

Real life stories of Charlie Troop

by Sgt. Jason M. Hale

Last year we began filming a documentary about the boys of Charlie Troop, a group of soldiers from the Michigan National Guard who were preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. Our goal was to capture what it's really like for these "Citizen Soldiers" and their families to go through a year of war. Afghanistan was going to be a difficult assignment as the fighting in that country, with the brutal, mountainous terrain and tribal tension, was getting worse. The families of soldiers who carry this burden in their daily lives back home are often left out in the retelling of war, so we spent countless hours filming them as they prepared for this separation and left cameras with some to capture what life is like with their loved ones overseas.

On May 20, Charlie Troop endured one of the worst attacks on any National Guard unit during the war in Afghanistan. Ten soldiers were medevaced off the battlefield that day, one with a broken back, another lost both his arms. Sgt. "Doc" Howland, a medic who was in one of the trucks that hit an IED (improvised explosive device) during the ambush, just a few weeks earlier had watched on Skype as his wife gave birth to their first child. By pure heroism, Doc gave medical aid while under fire, saving one soldier's life before the effects of the IED blast forced him to be air lifted out as well. It was an incredible act of bravery and selfless service.



These are the types of men who valiantly have served our country during this decade of war, and these are the stories we want America to know. You can show your support to the soldiers and families of Charlie Troop, see pictures and get updates about the documentary by "liking" and leaving a message on our fan page at [Facebook.com/AfghanistanBound](https://www.facebook.com/AfghanistanBound).

Sgt. Jason M. Hale has served in the National Guard for six years, is an Iraq war veteran and was deployed to Afghanistan as a sniper with Charlie Troop. The "Citizen Soldiers" film is his first, full-length documentary and is being produced by Los Angeles-based Lamplight Entertainment. Jason's family has been involved with The Salvation Army for four generations.

Mending hearts and lives

Every Thursday morning six ladies from the Grand Rapids Fulton Heights, Mich., Corps' community care ministry converge on the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Needle and thread in hand, they're ready to sew their way into the hearts and lives of those who've served our country. The 700-bed facility has been in operation for over eight decades, and Salvationists have been serving them since 1948.

The volunteers, led by retired officer Major Cecil Tekautz, not only mend holes, sew patches, alter pants and replace zippers, but they're a spiritual encouragement.

"They offer prayer and encouragement; there's a great camaraderie in the group," said Major Valerie McDowell, corps officer. "They consider this ministry a privilege and extend interactions beyond Thursday mornings. One member comes back on Sundays to bring a veteran to chapel."

Something that makes this ministry unique is its longevity. Ruth, 95, started volunteering in 1952! Her daughter started helping when she was only 5, and now she's 65 and still volunteers!

Marge and her husband, Mike,



Captain Trevor McClintock visits a veteran.

have been volunteering for 35 years. Every other week they visit nearly 200 men, initiating encouraging conversations and asking for prayer requests. "I didn't ask for the job all those years ago, but no amount of money could make me stop," said Marge.

At Christmas and Easter corps band ensembles stroll the corridors playing carols and hymns; in the summer Salvationists serve refreshments at the veteran's carnival; and one dedicated volunteer, Betty, has knitted and donated 35 afghans, much to the delight of the residents.



Army Lake Camp celebrates 90 years

Just southwest of Milwaukee, Wis., situated on Army Lake and surrounded by 200 acres of trees, hills and valleys, sits Army Lake Camp. Founded in 1922, it celebrates 90 years of operation this year.

"Our biggest goal for the year is to raise awareness of our camp and regain some of its history," said Stacie Farris, Army Lake Camp director. "Part of what makes camp special is the wonderful memories and experiences of the people who attend, and much of that history has not been recorded."

Army Lake Camp is a year-round facility. During the summer it's primarily used for Salvation Army kids, teen, sports, music and high adventure camps, but during the fall, winter and spring it's rented out for retreats and other events.

The grounds are beautiful with over 30 buildings situated among the trees. "It's perfect for camp and retreats," said Stacie. In total the buildings hold up to 400 people, and the camp offers a sports field, archery, paintball, challenge courses, pontoon boats, paddle boats, and more! Stacie reported that charming

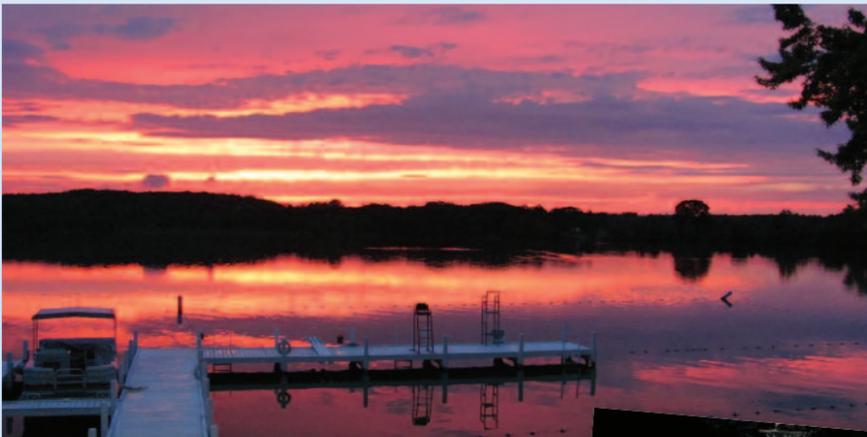


hayrides and a corn maze take place in the fall.

Stacie, who worked at Hidden Falls Camp in the Indiana Division many years prior to taking the position as camp director in 2011, has been in camping ministries for 17 years.

"Growing up I went to a lot of youth retreats and camps, and it was during those times I experienced the most growth in my relationship with God," Stacie said. "It put me on the right path, and I love being able to offer that opportunity to other people."

To share your Army Lake Camp story, contact Stacie at Stacie_Farris@usc.salvationarmy.org or 262-642-6400.



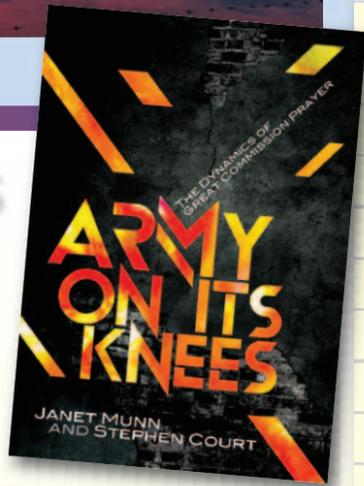
Army on its knees

by Lt. Colonel Janet Munn and Major Stephen Court
Reviewed by Major Julie Forrest

A *Army on its Knees* is a Holy Spirit-inspired book from beginning to end! It is very useful for personal development and equally as useful in a small group setting. Written with passion, you can't help but catch the urging and focus of the writers to engage with God. Throughout the book there is a persistent plea to seek God's face, and although *Army on its Knees* is particularly focused toward The Salvation Army, it is equally relevant to any church seeking spiritual renewal.

A highlight is the final chapter, "The place where God dwells: a house of prayer for all nations." This chapter explores God's dwelling place and brought fresh understanding of God's Word to me. Throughout the book there are many "how to" pray explanations which are clearly set out, all firmly based on Scripture, and there is a beautiful blend of ancient and modern writings, bringing variety and depth.

Even the appendix makes good reading as the General's invitation



to the Worldwide Prayer Meeting joins with the plea of the book itself. This book is inspirational and compels the reader to invest time and energy to join an Army on its knees.

PRAYER CENTRAL

The Salvation Army

USA Central Territory

December Prayer Calendar

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



Meet Ceamona

Ceamona (Mona) Taube, territorial sponsorship and mission support coordinator, comes to her new position at headquarters from being the children's ministries manager at the Grand Rapids, Mich., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center for two years.

In her new role she's liaison between sponsors in the Central Territory and Salvation Army children's homes overseas.

"My biggest focus will be gathering and communicating information about our sponsorship partners in practical ways," said Mona. "I'll be available to present information to corps, camps, Kroc Centers and other Army facilities to educate them about supporting world missions."

Mona graduated from North Park University in Chicago Ill., with a degree in education. She loves to travel and experience new cultures, having been to South Africa with summer mission teams, Thailand in college, and Canada with a team to share the gospel at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. She also led a Central summer mission team in 2008.

Mona was born and raised in St. Charles, Ill., and dedicated at the St. Charles Corps. Growing up very



involved in corps activities, Mona attended Central Bible Leadership Institute every summer, where she met her future husband, Jonathan. They were only teenagers, but a true romance blossomed. They've been married three years and have a dog named Wendel.

It was also during a Salvation Army camp that Mona committed her life to Christ. "I believe it was Christy Mantel [adult friend and mentor] who prayed with me," said Mona. "That was my point of salvation, but it's been practical things along the way, like missions trips, serving at my corps and being in relationships with other believers, that have encouraged me in my Christian life." 



The gift of hope

Trying to keep the "Reason for the season" this Christmas?

Give the gift of hope to children at Salvation Army children's home overseas. For less than \$1 a day, or \$25 a month, you can sponsor a children's home or school in a friend or family member's name.

To donate contact Ceamona Taube at missions@usc.salvationarmy.org or (847) 294-2065.

Applications being accepted now for Global Mission Teams

Adults (age 18+) are invited to apply for 2013 Global Mission Team projects.

global mission team



Activities can range from evangelism and programming to light construction.

For more information visit www.centralmissions.org or email missions@usc.salvationarmy.org

Promoted to Glory

Mrs. Major Bergliot Strand

Mrs. Major Bergliot (Bergie) Strand was promoted to Glory on August 21, 2012. She was 82.



Bergie was born in St. Paul, Minn., to Arthur and Hilda Emilsen. Her family attended the Payne Avenue, Minn., Corps, where she and her sister were faithful soldiers. In 1947 her corps officers, Brigadiers Gunnar and Esther Erickson, sent Bergie to training. She was commissioned in 1948 and served as a single officer until 1950. She married sessionmate Harlan Strand, and together they served at corps from Holdrege, Neb., to Chicago Austin, Ill., and were blessed with three children.

After leading the Irving Park, Ill., Corps for 13 years, they retired in 1976 due to Harlan's health. In 1981 they were called to Minneapolis, Minn., to run the Booth Manor Apartments and later moved back to the Chicago area, where Bergie helped at the territorial conference center in Des Plaines.

Bergie's greatest joys were serving God, helping people and spending time with her family.

Bergie was preceded in death by Harlan and survived by children Karl (Laurie), Rick (Ursula) and Inga; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Major Jeanne MacDonald

Mrs. Major Jeanne MacDonald was promoted to Glory on August 26, 2012. She was 86.



Jeanne was born to Salvation Army officers Oscar and Chrystial Agre in Beloit, Wis. She received her call to officership during a Sunday morning service while her father was preaching in Saginaw, Mich. She was commissioned as an officer in the summer of 1945.

The following December she married John MacDonald, and their marriage was blessed with two wonderful daughters.

The MacDonalds served in both the Southern and Central territories. Their officership consisted primarily

of corps appointments except for the New Orleans, La., welfare service department and their final appointment at the Detroit, Mich., Harbor Light. At the Harbor Light Jeanne said she felt God gave her daily confirmation of her calling as she listened to the incredible testimonies of the men.

The MacDonalds retired in 1989. After retirement they lived far from a corps so Jeanne continued to minister as the music chairman at a local Bible church in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Jeanne was preceded in death by her daughter, Joy. She is survived by her husband, daughter Barbara, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Major Bettie A. Cedervall

Major Bettie Cedervall was promoted to Glory on September 10, 2012, from her home in Jefferson City, Mo. She was 39.



Bettie was born to William and Susan Butler in Dover, Ohio, where she was brought up and active in the Lutheran church, becoming a deacon, leading the youth group and helping with visitation. Having such a natural inclination to serve, she volunteered outside her church assisting with youth activities at the Dover Corps where Kevin Cedervall attended.

She was enrolled as a soldier in 1992 by General Eva Burrows and married Kevin a year later. During Congress that year their call to officership was confirmed, and the Cedervalls entered the College for Officer Training in Chicago as part of the "Messengers of Truth" session in 1994.

Commissioned in 1996 the Cedervalls, along with their two children, served at corps in Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota and Missouri.

Bettie was a caring, warm-hearted person evidenced by her love for people and the many hours she spent serving others. In her spare time she enjoyed scrapbooking and crocheting.

She is survived by her husband and children, Christina, 17, and Johnathan, 13; her parents Harry and Susan Butler; and one sister, Becky (Greg) Marsh.