“Joyful Intercessors” welcomed with prayer

Salvationists from across the territory arrived in scores to welcome the “Joyful Intercessors” session to the College for Officer Training (CFOT) at a distinctive Cadets’ Welcome meeting. The theme “Intercession” was portrayed in song, prayer and a three-part message by Commissioner Carol Seiler.

Territorial Candidates’ Secretary Major Tricia DuBois introduced the 32 cadets one-by-one as they came forward to pray with their divisional leaders. During this more subdued but powerful presentation, the congregation quietly prayed for each cadet, holding their applause. But when Lt. Colonel Ralph Bukievicz, territorial secretary for personnel, officially welcomed the new cadets the crowd erupted. The colonel also took a moment to recognize Dr. Harold Burgmayer on his debut as Chicago Staff Bandmaster.

Commissioner Carol Seiler opened her message with a focus on the joy of intercessory prayer. “It’s a privilege to take others to the Lord in prayer,” she said. She continued, “It’s an opportunity to do for others what they can’t do on their own, until they can.”

In her introduction of the session, CFOT Principal Major Cherri Hobbins acknowledged 22 first-generation Salvationists, a great array of work backgrounds from teachers to counselors and even one dirt-mover, and many family units—with 22 children and one on the way. “An explosion of children has hit the campus!” Major Hobbins declared.

She also introduced the session standard bearer, Cadet Donna Thammavongsa.

After a time of worship by the CFOT praise team, the commissioner continued with the importance of persistent intercession, citing the story of Moses, who wouldn’t give up praying for the Israelites.

An upbeat “How Can I Keep from Singing” by a united cadet chorus followed a poignant testimony by Cadet Clayton Bledsoe, who found the Lord—and his sobriety—at an adult rehabilitation center before hearing his call to officership.

Commissioner Seiler wrapped up her message pointing to the ultimate intercessor, Jesus, who is the only one able to allow us to enter into the presence of a holy God. During a time of response as the congregation sang “Somebody Prayed for Me,” many people went forward to pray with each other and the new cadets, putting into practice the discipline of interceding for one another.

“PhilanthroFEED” fits the bill in St. Cloud

It’s getting harder and harder to find a business in St. Cloud, Minn., that hasn’t sponsored a meal at The Salvation Army. This year, the St. Cloud Corps is on track to welcome 50 to 60 sponsors of its “PhilanthroFEED” program, which allows local businesses and organizations to purchase an entire community meal for as little as $250. Not only do sponsors purchase the food, they also serve it.

“There are very few charities where you can directly hand out your donation to the people benefiting from it,” said Development Director Jim Muellenbach, adding that up to 180 people eat lunch at The Salvation Army every weekday. “I think that’s a big part of PhilanthroFEED’s success.”

Success, indeed. The program started in 2013 with 10 sponsors and grew to 29 sponsors in 2014. As of this summer, it already had 24 sponsors. “If and when we reach 50 sponsors this year, that’s a savings of about $25,000—money we can use for other important programs,” Jim said. “The nice thing is, most of the sponsors who sign up once, sign up again.

Texas Roadhouse is a good example. This past summer the steakhouse sponsored its sixth meal in less than two years.

“This is right up our alley. We like to do things for vets,” said the restaurant’s co-owner, Tiffany Mason, noting that The Salvation Army serves a large number of veterans from the local VA Medical Center. She helped serve the meal with three Texas Roadhouse employees and three employees from another repeat supporter, St. Cloud Toyota Scion, a two-time sponsor.

Continued on page 3
A mission like Paul’s

by Commissioner Carol Seiler
Territorial President of Women’s Ministries

It is not the church of God that has a mission, but the God of mission who has a church.” The 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, who served from 2003 to December 2012, is credited with these words. I found the quote as we were cleaning out files in preparation for moving our offices to the new Central Territorial Headquarters. The process slowed for me as I found treasures that had been tucked away.

We talk about “mission alignment,” ‘mission focus’ or ‘mission drift,’ and sometimes even ‘mission identity’ challenges. By changing the order of the words in the archbishop’s quote, I am reminded The Salvation Army’s mission is parallel with the mission given to the Apostle Paul described in Galatians 2:1-10. This was a reflection of his meeting in Jerusalem with the “esteemed leaders” (NIV phrase) where the purpose was to make sure Paul was on target.

He had been converted and preaching for 14 years, traveling primarily to the Gentiles, and finally he and Barnabas met with the other apostles. When verses 7 and 10 are set beside each other, Paul’s “mission statement” and The Salvation Army’s mission statement contain the same two approaches.

“One on the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised…” (NIV phrase) where the purpose was to make sure Paul was on target.

The convoy traversed the Michigan roads for 30 miles, breaking halfway for refreshments in Dearborn Heights, Mich., and landing at the Wyandotte Downriver, Mich., Corps for a barbeque lunch.

The 2015 Boundless Bible reading challenge was accepted by 43 people at the Wichita West Orchard, Kan., Corps. Most participants have been doing the study independently, but children in the first-to-fifth grade Sunday school class have been doing it together!

During the week the kids do four readings, then on Sundays we do the fifth reading together and have a lesson based on that week’s readings,” said Corps Officer Lt. Kerry Bartsch, who teaches the class. “Because we’re reading whole books of the Bible, it gives us the opportunity to go deeper than traditional Sunday school stories, and using the study guide has helped the kids ask questions about sections they may not have heard or understood.”

Lt. Kerry said the children also are becoming more confident in their reading skills, taking turns to read out loud in class. She was particularly blessed to see a pair of brothers bond this year as the older one helped his younger brother with the daily readings.

“The kids love the Bibles they received and are becoming disciplined in reading them on a regular basis. As their teacher my goal is to create a love for God’s Word,” the lieutenant concluded.

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Ride for the Red Shield

On a beautiful, sunny day seemingly made for a motorcycle ride, 29 people joined together to participate in the Plymouth, Mich., Corps’ inaugural fundraising “Ride for the Red Shield,” which raised nearly $800 to support corps outreach and community programs.

The event was the brainchild of Sandra Kol linger, Plymouth volunteer and special events coordinator. Biking is a part of her life; not only are her husband and father bikers, she, too, in the last five years has picked up the hobby. So, she is familiar with the networks and culture.

“It’s a new demographic for us, and I thought it would be good to do something fun while raising funds for the Army at the same time,” Sandra said. She also wanted to help new groups of people in the community become more familiar with Army programs, services and volunteer opportunities.

The day started with registration followed by an optional tour of the Plymouth Corps with information about the Army. Corps program information also was provided to participants as part of the registration gift bag. After a prayer led by Major Keith Bailey, Plymouth corps officer, the group headed out, led by Sandra as the road captain (a term given to the person who makes the route and ensures the safety of the riders).

The convey traversed the Michigan roads for 30 miles, breaking halfway for refreshments in Dearborn Heights, Mich., and landing at the Wyandotte Downriver, Mich., Corps for a barbecue lunch.

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PATHWAY of HOPE 
coast to coast

by Maribeth Swanson
Territorial Social Services Secretary

PhilanthroFEED

Continued from page 1

PhilanthroFEED is an attractive charitable activity because it’s fun and affordable. In some cases, it doesn’t even cost a dime. In April, students from a local elementary school held a spaghetti drive, then hauled the noodles and sauce to The Salvation Army and served it.

The program is also important because it gets the public involved with helping their community year-round, and introduces new donors and volunteers to The Salvation Army.

PhilanthroFEED saves The Salvation Army in St. Cloud thousands of dollars that can be repurposed for its free 69-bed transitional shelter, which is expensive to operate and almost always is filled to capacity.

In addition to housing, PhilanthroFEED helps offset the rising cost of the Army’s food shelf, which has seen a 200 percent growth in new families in the last few years.

PhilanthroFEED sponsors have two main options: purchase an evening or weekend meal for $250, or a weekday lunch for $50. A third option is available to restaurants and other food service companies: cater a meal themselves. That’s what Texas Roadhouse did, providing trays of piping hot pulled pork, corn and baked potatoes.

“Every time we’ve done PhilanthroFEED, we’ve catered the whole thing,” said Tiffany. “The people coming to eat are happy to have something different.”

As for the volunteer component of PhilanthroFEED, it’s simple: Bring a few people from your business or organization, and help serve meals for a couple hours.

with more than 240 corps and social service units being trained. The Central’s pioneering work has inspired the other three U.S. territories to commit to scaling the core model, and a National Pathway of Hope Committee has been established to share best practices and ensure alignment to the POH model.

Given the Central Territory’s experience and expertise in developing the POH model and the client database management system, territorial and divisional staff have supported training in the other territories. Linda Brinker, territorial POH project manager, and I have led sessions in New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Denver and Honolulu. POH also has gone international. In October Linda and Sherrie Trucker, Northern Division POH regional coordinator, led implementation for five corps in Toronto.

I’m amazed at the level of interest and the rate POH has been adopted across the Army. The General even acknowledged the Central’s work in developing POH in one of his presentations at the Boundless International Congress this year.

The real impact of POH begins after the initial training. Since the training in Atlanta in January, every division in the Southern Territory has initiated POH in at least one corps. Eleven corps have active cases; another five corps will be added by the end of this year for a total of 16 units fully implementing POH.

Major Michele Matheos, POH director for the Southern Territory, reports, “A total of 56 families have entered the program. As I talk with those involved in POH, especially corps officers, there is much excitement about what is happening and where it is leading. New partnerships with community agencies, improved relationships with donors, passion from advisory board members and engagement with corps members are just a few of the positive things being shared.”

The Western Territory currently is implementing POH in four divisions: Golden State (San Jose area), Hawaii and Pacific Islands (Oahu), Intermountain (Colorado) and Southern California (Orange County area). The Southwest (Arizona) and Cascade (Portland, Ore.) divisions are being added this fall. Officers and staff are excited to see POH families take steps toward increased stability, from a single mother in Orange County, Calif., who just obtained a part-time job to a family in Honolulu who’s obtained housing and employment and is continuing their education at a local community college.

These families are moving from crisis and vulnerability to stability, and their children’s futures are brighter. While engaged in POH, the 126 families have seen an average 15 percent increase in earned income.

The Eastern Territory launched its first POH corps in Ohio in May. The initiative is now in the Northeast Ohio, Massachusetts and Eastern Pennsylvania/Delaware divisions. While in the initial implementation stage, the Eastern Territory has been instrumental in translating the POH manual and training materials into Spanish. These resources will become increasingly valuable as POH continues to grow in culturally diverse communities.

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Unforeseen blessings

Three years ago out of the blue, Ken Tregellas, corps-sergeant major and employee at the Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, Mantle B-Cell Lymphoma. Everyone was stunned. He’d always been in such robust health that he could work ‘round-the-clock and was virtually synonymous with The Salvation in his community.

Ken immediately underwent six months of chemotherapy, followed by a stem cell transplant. It was a trying time not just physically but emotionally as he watched the toll it took on others, especially his family. Nevertheless, he continued his extensive corps ministry including leading the Christmas kettle effort, Boys Club and singing company, helping lead recruits’ classes and serving as percussionist in the praise band, using his exceptional culinary abilities in the corps’ kitchen, and coaching basketball and soccer teams in community center sports leagues.

After the stem cell transplant, Ken’s disease went into remission, but nine months later the cancer returned. This time chemotherapy wouldn’t work. Another stem cell transplant, with just a 50 percent likelihood of success, was the only option. Ken’s family began being tested for a match.

“I’ve got an amazing wife,” Ken said of Cindy, his high school sweetheart. “Even through the hard times, she’s always been there; we’ve always worked it out. We’ve got something pretty special.”

In fact, it was Ken’s marriage that brought him to the corps when they were young. He left The Salvation Army at 15, but at 27 with a young child and a struggling marriage he came back. “I remember my father always telling me if you get to a place where you don’t know where to turn, you can always turn to The Salvation Army,” said Ken. (He has attended and served at the Oak Creek Centennial Corps for more than two decades now and considers it a privilege.)

While his family members were being tested, something miraculous happened. The Food and Drug Administration approved a new drug, with just a 50 percent likelihood of success, for a cancer that is almost universally fatal. Ken, who was under the care of the VA, received the medication and his disease went into remission for nearly two years.

“We have no idea how long it will work. It could work forever or only a few months more,” said Ken.

Instead of breaking Ken’s faith, cancer has motivated him to serve God even more. “I think the realization of your humanity comes out when you’re so sick,” he said. “I want to do as much as I can while I can. We have hundreds of people in this building every day, and it’s important to share my faith with them. I got a second chance, and a third chance, and I want to make the most of it.”

Editor’s note: Ken was awarded the Certificate in Recognition of Exceptional Service this year.

Exploring spiritual care in disasters

More than 70 key leaders, representing diverse communities of faith and several government- and non-governmental agencies from 23 states, met at Central Territorial Headquarters for a National Disaster Spiritual Care (DSIC) Summit to discuss the Disaster Spiritual Guidelines in 2014 by the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

“The event brought together voluntary organizational response leadership from local, regional, state and national levels for conversation regarding pertinent issues and challenges as we seek to operationalize the guidelines,” said Kevin Ellers, territorial disaster services coordinator.

“It was wonderful to see people from diverse organizations, backgrounds, traditions and faith communities put their differences aside and come together to discuss the importance of strategically integrating spiritual care within disaster operations. It’s all about helping survivors draw on their spiritual resources to get through some of the toughest times in their lives,” he continued.

Topics of discussion included coordinating disaster spiritual care among VOAD member agencies and state VOAD emotional and spiritual care committees; working alongside government agencies in the coordination of spiritual care, such as the Department of Defense or law enforcement; overviews of various state emergency operations plans and managing DSIC within them; site security/identification badges; providing spiritual care while working with mental health providers; negotiating conflict, competency training and implementation.

Facilitators during the summit included the primary writers of the guidelines, as well as those responsible for implementing them at state and local levels. Participants were asked to define positive impacts, identify the challenges of implementing and determine the next steps for more fully integrating DSIC within disaster operations. Delegates then were challenged to take strategic steps to implement the guidelines within their organizations, as well as within their local and state emergency operations plans.

The results of the summit will be reviewed by the NVOAD Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee to formulate future goals.
Freedom Center opens on Chicago’s west side

by Jacqueline Rachev

With cheers and shouts of joy from hundreds of community residents, city representatives, donors and supporters, The Salvation Army held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Freedom Center in Chicago’s West Humboldt Park neighborhood. Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr., 27th Ward joined Captains Merrill and Nancy Powers, administrator and program development officer, and Metropolitan divisional and territorial leadership to celebrate the opening of the state-of-the-art campus.

The massive six-acre campus houses the Harbor Light Center substance rehabilitation program, the Pathway Forward community-based corrections program and a corps community center. It also serves as the base for the Mobile Feeding and Outreach program.

The Freedom Center has the potential to make a tremendous impact on the West Side of Chicago, with a particular emphasis on addressing the issues of violence, crime and unemployment. Helping to build a safer community will be a priority. It is expected to serve an estimated 22,500 people each year.

“The Freedom Center, and particularly the new corps community center, presents us with an extraordinary opportunity to dramatically improve the lives of children and teens on the West Side who need a safe haven and positive alternatives to gangs and drugs,” said Lt. Colonel Charles H. Smith, Metropolitan divisional commander. “The corps community center will offer afterschool programs, summer camps, educational and recreational opportunities for young people. The Freedom Center will serve as a beacon of hope on the West Side, providing worship services, job training and access to a broad range of social services for families and local community residents.”

After the ribbon cutting, guests toured the facility and enjoyed lunch prepared by a chef whose life was transformed by the Army’s programs.

Committed to restoration

Their story isn’t a simple one, nor do they profess flawless lives. But Envoy Merle and Cheryl Miller have practiced trusting and obeying God’s guidance over the years, the last 18 of which were spent as administrators of the Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) in Detroit, Mich.

A native of Ohio, Merle served as a corps officer in the Eastern Territory. After stepping out of the work for several years, he became an employee in the Western Territory in 1992 with “an even stronger spiritual calling, this time with more experience and a sturdier business sense,” said Merle.

Returning to Ohio, he had his first exposure to ARC ministries and in 1995 relocated with his two young daughters, Sarah and Molly, to work at the Hartford, Conn., ARC. There God brought Cheryl—a fourth-generation Salvationist, children’s minister and thrift-store supervisor—into their lives.

After marrying in 1997, the Millers accepted ARC positions in the Western Territory. Although the rehabilitative environment was new to Cheryl, she knew the ARC was where God wanted her.

“I’d been searching for my purpose, and God certainly answered. I was able to use the skills I’d acquired [20-plus years in fashion retail], but more importantly I was able to see God working in the lives of those who came to Him completely broken. I watched firsthand how He restored the lost,” she said.

A year later the Millers arrived at the Southeast Michigan ARC. Numerous building and maintenance issues invoked a grim atmosphere for recovery. Their first priority was renovating the facility into an environment conducive to healing.

“There were many challenges to gain the income necessary to support the best programs possible to meet the needs of the people God asked us to serve,” said Merle. With only a few thrift stores, the Millers focused on the prayer of Jabez (1 Chronicles 4) and the parable of the talents (Matthew 25), asking God to enlarge their territory and multiply their resources.

When the renovations were complete in 2006, it became apparent to the Millers the same opportunity for restoration should be made available to women. In 2011, the Southeast Michigan ARC Women’s Campus was opened, a 9-bed facility dedicated to and staffed by women.

With men’s and women’s campuses, 34 thrift stores, three warehouse, extensive programming and housing, God has used the Millers through the Southeast Michigan ARC to help thousands find salvation and productive lives.

A women’s campus resident said it best, “Many people say they’ll help you. The Millers actually do. They are the hands, feet and heart of God. Their work helped save my life.”

Envoy Merle Miller and the Southeast Michigan ARC Singers

Achievement downriver

After a 17-year drought, the Wyandotte Downriver, Mich., Corps is celebrating three girls earning their Commissioner’s Sunbeam Award: Jessica Navaratni, Lechuna Quick and Brooke Mickel. “I’m extremely proud of these girls,” said Captain Heidi Real, corps officer and sunbeam leader with Jonida Blevins. “They achieved the goal by being persistent and not giving up. They’ve set a great example for the other girls in our corps.” According to the captain, all three are eager to become girl guards.
Historic highlights of

As we look toward moving the mission forward in the new year, we
God’s faithfulness

We reflect with thanksgiving on our great heritage and God’s blessings.

1920
Till Mansion purchased to house School for Officers Training in Chicago

1933
Commander Evangeline Booth leads territorial congress in Chicago

1947
Tree of Lights started by Major Olin Brigman in St. Louis, Mo.

1953
Prison Toy Lift program launched in Green Bay, Wis., by Captain Raymond Cameron

1959
Hispanic ministry started by Raul Guerrero in Chicago, who later received the Order of the Founder

1988
Korean ministry launched in Chicago by then-Majors Paul and Anna Kim

1988
Satern (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) started by then-Captain Patrick McPherson

2009
Territory’s first Kroc Center opens in Omaha, Neb.

For a fuller timeline of events, visit our website
2015 Paul and Kay Rader Scholarship recipients

by Rob DeGeorge

Each year Central Salvationists make their way to the halls of institutions of higher learning. However, in these difficult economic times students are looking for resources to assist them with the costs of college. The Paul and Kay Rader Scholarship was established for just that purpose.

Applying and meeting the scholarship’s criteria, five Salvationists have been selected for this year’s $5,000 scholarship award for minority students.

One of the scholarship’s goals is to encourage and highlight the active participation of Salvationist students in corps while undertaking full-time coursework. Here is a snapshot of this year’s recipients.

Paigit Souvannasone is a nursing student at Grand Canyon University who attends the Madison Genesis, Wis., Corps and is active in youth ministry as well as the praise band.

Marjorie Remy from the Waukegan, Ill., Corps is a sophomore at Olivet Nazarene University who serves as a Sunday school teacher and provides nursery care during worship services.

Kamaria Gage serves as a member of the corps band and praise team while she attends St. Louis University as a junior studying medical laboratory science.

Andrew Mahone attends Missouri Baptist University as a business major and soldiers at the Sterling-Rock Falls, Ill., Corps where he is a corps cadet and serves as sound technician for the worship team.

“With the help of this scholarship, I’m able to go to class without worrying about being in debt with loans,” said Andrew.

“Thanks to The Salvation Army for investing in my future.”

Finally, as a senior soldier at the Chicago, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center, Pierce Cruz is undertaking studies as a freshman as a fine arts student at Trinity Christian College.

Each exemplifies the ability to serve now while investing in their future and is an encouragement to others.

For details concerning the Rader Scholarship, contact ORDU2C@usc.salvationarmy.org.

by Captain Mary Kim

I am often reminded as an officer in The Salvation Army that my brothers and sisters in the body of Christ are never distant or isolated. Even with the vastness of globalization, we are connected, and never more clearly for me than in moments of crisis, especially when it involves a sick child.

As an officer, I have had the privilege of ministering many times at the hospital bedside of children and their families in their moment of need. Sometimes I have not known them and may never see them again, but it is precisely in these moments that our international, yet intimate, Salvation Army comes into full view once again for me. I can access a worldwide network of support and powerful prayers of an Army that fights on its knees for those in need—the least, the lost, the forgotten.

Recently an officer friend in the Southern Territory texted to ask if I could visit her friend whose son was having a heart transplant nearby.

Now serving in the Arkansas and Oklahoma Division (AOK) in the Southern Territory, she asked if I—a Korean-born, American-raised officer now serving in St. Louis, Mo.—could minister to a family from AOK whose mom is Filipino-American with a family that has lived on both U.S. coasts and now resides in Oklahoma. Through Facebook and social media, prayer chains were started, not only in the Southern and Central territories but literally spanning the Salvation Army world. The family continues to need our prayers and support.

I am so thankful and honored to be an officer in this international, yet intimate, Salvation Army.
Understanding the Holy Spirit

by Lt. Colonel Daniel Sjögren
Territorial Ambassador for Holiness

The first step in being filled with the Spirit is understanding. There are truths God has revealed to us in His Word, and we need to understand them.

God has given us His Holy Spirit, and the fact that He now lives within us is important for us to know. If we have accepted Christ as our Savior, the Spirit of God lives within us. We need to remember we do not always feel His presence, but it is the fact of Christ, and God cannot lie. We must accept this fact by faith.

I want to remind you that God commands us to be filled with the Spirit. It is His will for you and me, and He wants us to fill ourselves with His Spirit. He doesn’t give us the Holy Spirit grudgingly or unwillingly.

Praise God! He wants us to live our lives controlled and guided by the Holy Spirit. ‘If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts [the Holy Spirit] to those who ask him!’ Matthew 7:11 (NIV) We must understand that if we should fail to be filled with the Spirit, it is not because of God. It is entirely our own fault.

However, before we can be filled with the Holy Spirit, we must deal honestly with every known sin in our lives. This may be very painful for us, but there will be no filling by the Holy Spirit outside of cleansing from sin.

I remember winter on the farm. Often the water pipes for the animals would freeze, and a blowtorch was needed to melt the ice at an elbow in the pipe. It is the same with sin in our lives. Sin is like the ice; it keeps the Holy Spirit from flowing. Let’s clear the blockage and restore the flow of the Holy Spirit through the fire of repentance.

For congregation all life.

Harpers’ triumphant faith

Throughout their officer journey, from mountaintops of accomplishments to valleys of the shadow of death, Majors Stephen and Diane Harper have emerged triumphant by God’s grace into retirement which was celebrated by more than 300 friends and family at Camp Wonderland. In fact, the numerous health crises faced by Major Diane over the years became a hallmark of her ministry as God used her steadfast faith and unwavering joy to strengthen and inspire others.

During the retirement service, Major Steve was honored for being the first African-American officer in the territory to achieve 45 years of unbroken service, and Major Diane was saluted for her 41 years of officerhip. Colonels Thomas and Mary Lewis conducted the retirement ceremony.

Steve Harper, Jr., presented a tribute, as did Major James Birney (Major Steve’s 1971 ‘Victorious’ sessionmate) and Major Cecilia Senn (Major Diane’s 1974 ‘Followers of Christ’ sessionmate). The song, ‘I’ll be changing after You,’ was selected ‘because it tells our story,’ said Major Diane.

‘Each and every day, we’ll continue to chase after the Father.’

Steve met the Army as a teenager in Kansas City. Kan.,; he felt God’s call to officerhood soon after becoming a soldier. His first appointment as a lieutenant was to the St. Louis Euclid, Mo., Corps, where he met Diane.

As a youngster, Diane would sneak out of church with her sister to attend the Army! She surrendered her life to God’s will during a childhood hospitalization; as an adult her Army experiences and budding relationship with Steve confirmed her call to officership.

They married after Diane’s commission and served as corps officers in St. Louis Euclid, Mo., and St. Louis Euclid, Mo., for congregational life.

Majors Andy and Cheryl Miller opened the corps’ holiness seminar to the public, and several advisory board members attended. The weekend consisted of a Friday evening session, three sessions on Saturday and a Sunday morning service. Major Andy reported a good response at the altar.

At the Janesville, Wis., Corps, the Sjögrens not only taught on holiness and got to know the congregation, they organized, cooked and served a Swedish pancake breakfast.

‘They were our instructors, our cooks and servers,’ said Major Robert Fay, corps officer. ‘It was a real and practical demonstration of Christianity and holiness at work. Our people responded to how disarming and personable they are and appreciated their unique presentation and ministry.’

Captains Scott and Shanais Striszel, then-Brainerd Lakes, Minn., corps officers, held a corps family retreat with the focus of holiness. ‘A number of our corps members really seemed to blossom and open up,’ said Captain Scott. ‘I, too, came away with a new sense of holiness and how it can apply every day.’

A journey of holiness

Embarking on their third year as Territorial Ambassadors for Holiness in the Central Territory, Lt. Colonels Dan and Rebecca Sjögren continue to teach and preach on holy living at corps retreats, services and other Army events. In the last year they’ve taught in every division, equivalent to 125 sessions, touching over a thousand lives.

‘We’ve seen a genuine seeking of the Holy Spirit,’ said Lt. Colonel Dan, while Lt. Colonel Rebecca added, ‘We’re receiving affirmation from officers who want to prepare and deliver more sermons on the topic of holiness.’

As they travel the territory, the Sjögrens approach this ministry jointly, with each of their unique giftedness and perspective complementing the other and thereby more effectively communicating the message.

Occasionally this year they have been joined by retired officer Major Herb Luhn, who shares aspects of his book, Holy Living—The Mindset of Jesus.

‘The Sjögrens’ easy and laid back style and the research by Major Luhn was a great combination,’ said Major Andy Miller, Quincy, Ill., Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center officer for congregational life.

Majors Andy and Cheryl Miller opened the corps’ holiness seminar to the public, and several advisory board members attended. The weekend consisted of a Friday evening session, three sessions on Saturday and a Sunday morning service. Major Andy reported a good response at the altar.

Find your place in God’s global mission and have a blast while you’re at it! To attend Urbana, follow these simple steps:

Visit www.urbana.org/register to register for the conference. The cost is $459 for students and $559 for non-students through November 18, 2015, and $519 for students and $619 for non-students afterward.

Complete the housing form at www.centralyouthnetwork.com/event/urbana15/to reserve hotel, train passes, four lunches and the kindred session—all free-of-charge!

First-time delegates will receive $100 scholarship reimbursement in the mail after registering and completing the housing form. Transportation to the conference may be available through your diocesan youth department.

Questions? Contact Zane Koehler at Zane@ustyouth@usc.salvationarmy.org.
STEPS incentives yield bang for the buck

Corps have been using their STEPS (Strategic Tool to Engage Potential) incentive grants over the last year to take the next step up in the vital few areas that can yield a significant difference in their ministry. Whether evangelism and outreach, spiritual growth or youth development, worship or building improvements, corps anticipate the intentional investment in these creative efforts will result in greater corps vitality and community engagement.

The Independence, Mo., Corps invested in youth development by purchasing round tables, educational materials and athletic equipment for the afterschool program. According to Majors Dean and Patricia Towne, corps officers, more than 60 children from lower income families come to the Army weekly for help with their studies by afterschool program staff and a volunteer teacher. The funds also allowed the purchase of storage cabinets and materials for the young people to participate in additional math, science, art and reading activities.

To reach out to their community, the Detroit Temple, Mich., Corps held a festival in their parking lot featuring carnival games, free refreshments and informational booths. According to Envoy Arte Lewis, this gathering not only had a positive impact on the neighborhood but on the congregations as well. "The vitality that was experienced was a renewed sense of knowing that when people come together they can make a difference," he said. Energized, the corps has held two more outdoor events.

A new Hispanic ministry was started at the Waukegan, Ill., Corps to minister to this growing population in their community. It began with a Wednesday night Bible study in Spanish. Further strengthening this endeavor, Captains Daniel and Tanya Parades (appointed as corps officers in June) started a Thursday-night prayer group and Sunday school class and a nearby school invited the captians to promote the corps’ youth music, character-building and after-school programs.

The Boone, Iowa, Corps used the funds to increase the number of functional rooms for programming from two to seven! Redesigned, reduced clutter and better storage have made the difference. According to Lt. Pam Kasten, corps officer, the changes have increased the corps’ ability to provide ministry and allow for corps growth. Visiting the corps now you’ll find a room with a half chalkboard wall and pint-sized table and chairs for toddler Sunday school and moonbeams, attached to a separate dedicated space for the nursery. Another area is the gathering space for elementary Sunday school and sunbeams, while in yet a third girl guards meet and crafts are made. Added walls created an additional open space which is used for Cub Scouts and adult Sunday school as well as other programming. The lieutenant concluded, “Corps people now have pride in their building and are able to work on corps growth because the space is prepared to accept new people.”

To extend their service and foster relationships in the community, the Vincennes, Ind., Corps developed and trained an emergency disaster services response team. Currently there are eight to 10 members ready to respond when a disaster strikes. Emergency supplies and a box trailer also were purchased in preparation for disaster response. Prominently marked with Army shields on the back and sides, the trailer also reinforces the Army’s presence in the community when used to pick up food and other donations, reported Lt. Curtis and Captain Laura Lunnam, corps officers.

The Belleville, Ill., Corps wanted to see young adults grow in their faith and an increase in their attendance. Captain Heath and Major Anita Sells, corps officers, mentored them, increased peer and intergenerational Bible studies, and provided other spiritual direction resources like prayer guides, books and music. Fellowship and service opportunities also were expanded, including quarterly fellowship events such as a Super Bowl Party and video game tournament. Lastly, a Facebook page was created to communicate with this targeted age group.

A new program called EnCorps has been created at the Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps, led by Majors Bob and Rae Dibber, who are stationed in Haiti.

The Champaign, Ill., Corps used the funds to purchase translation equipment so French-speaking Congolese men, women and young people who have joined their fellowship can have a more meaningful worship and Bible study experience. According to corps officers Majors Tom and Julie McDowell, the corps also sees the potential of using the translation equipment to reach other non-English-speaking immigrants with the gospel. In addition to the equipment, the corps was able to purchase French Salvation Army song books through Majors Bob and Rae Dibber, who are stationed in Haiti.
In an effort to bridge the gap between the corps and nearby Ferris State University the Big Rapids, Mich., Corps debuted the "Talking Donkey Café" young adult coffee shop. It’s open Friday nights during the school year and is complete with free coffee, doughnuts and a different band or musician each week. "Not only did we want to give students another option besides partying, our main objective was to share about Salvation Army programs and service opportunities," said Lt. Chris Karlin, corps officer. It’s already resulted in college student volunteers, and the lieutenant expects much more. "I don’t think we’ve seen the full outcome. This is going to be a beneficial relationship for years to come!"

The St. Paul Eastside, Minn., Corps started a men’s ministries group that meets twice a month for fellowship and spiritual growth opportunities. Starting with six men, the ministry attracted others as word spread in the corps and community. Envoy Mike Fuqua, corps administrator, reported the camaraderie and cross-generational caring that has emerged is very special. Group activities can range from fishing to visiting museums or going to car shows. Some men also have started attending the corps’ monthly prayer breakfast, which the envoy finds encouraging.

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No greater return

If God gives us a chance to save someone’s life or give them a sense of worth, then there’s no greater return on our own lives,“ said Dale Bailey, senior clinical chaplain for the Ellsworth Correctional Facility in Ellsworth, Kan.

Driven to make a difference in the lives of incarcerated men, Dale has been hailed as one of the most innovative chaplains within the Kansas Department of Corrections. This year he was selected for The Salvation Army Chaplain of the Year Award.

Director of the Ellsworth Spiritual Life Center (SLC), a freestanding, 9,000-square-foot structure on the prison’s grounds, Dale helped spearhead the center’s construction and established the Right Track Foundation to accommodate faith-based funding streams to its programs from sources focused on education, public safety, mental health and re-entry skills.

Dale played a pivotal role working with Ernest Jones, Kansas and Western Missouri divisional correctional services director, to establish The Salvation Army’s New Beginnings reentry program to help men make the transition back to their families and communities.

He also oversees Faith Builders International Ministry Academy, a nine-month video course for correctional ministries, and the SLC Dinner Theater, a public fundraising endeavor featuring performances by inmates. In addition, Dale and a ministry team of ministry-custody inmates travel throughout Kansas to speak on the SLC’s work and give presentations at schools and churches.

Caring for the incarcerated

Central Territorial Bible Correspondence Director Melody Rosa has worked tirelessly to develop and promote the Bible Correspondence program, not only in the Central Territory but nationally. Currently over 2,800 incarcerated individuals are participating in the Bible studies she coordinates. Each month an average of 55 new students join.

Not only has Melody developed numerous promotional campaigns to recruit students, most recently sending Bible correspondence course information to more than 500 correctional institutions in the Central Territory, but she cares deeply for the men and women who participate.

“She prays over the requests that are sent in and recruits others to pray with her,” said Major Edward Tutewiler, Metropolitan divisional correctional service chaplain. She also has generated a group of 65 devoted volunteers who grade lessons and send Christmas and birthday cards to all of the students.

Melody began her career in correctional services in 1992, assisting Major Bee Keyte, then-Bible correspondence director. “I continue to praise God for choosing gifted and consecrated leaders to set the foundation for my journey in correctional services,” said Melody. In 2000 she was promoted to director and had the privilege of participating in the committee to update the basic level Bible correspondence materials for the nation.

Currently Melody is working on implementing an electronic platform to interface with state and federal facilities. She also has been proactive in making the Bible correspondence courses more cost effective.

This summer Melody received the National Award for Excellence in Corrections.

A fulfilling journey

As long as the Lord is with you, anything can be accomplished,” said Major Quentin Boyle of his 16 years of service with the Kansas and Western Missouri divisional commander and Major David Harvey, senior Chicago Kroc Center officer.

The Boyles celebrated their recent retirement with friends and family at a luncheon held at the Ottawa, Ill., Corps. It was officiated by Major David Harvey, senior Chicago Kroc Center officer, a dear friend of the Boyles who led Major Quentin to Christ.

Heartland Divisional Commander Major Kelly Collins presented the service with prayer. After Major Darline Harvey, Chicago Kroc Center officer for program development, shared scripture, there was a time of sharing among the Boyles’ friends and family, including anecdotes from some of the Boyles’ four children and 11 grandchildren.

The Boyles entered training from the Oak Creek Centennial, Wis., Corps and were commissioned in 1999 with the “Faithful Intercessors” session. Their service spanned three corps: Hancock, Mich., Muscatine, Iowa, and Ottawa, Ill.

Major Quentin said the most meaningful aspect of his officer’s service was helping people and seeing them come into the saving knowledge of Christ.

Although the Boyles leave active service to settle in Milwaukee, Wis., they consider it more of a new time of ministry than a retirement. They look forward to enjoying the opportunities the Lord continues to place in their path as well as being able to spend more time with family.