New worship series tackle two issues

by Evie Polsley

The beloved worship series created by the territorial music and gospel arts department will have twice the impact this year. The one-themed, 10-week series has been divided into two series, Good Sense and Risk It!, helping corps officers better prepare their corps members to tackle difficult issues Christians face.

Both series not only provide outstanding resources to enhance worship, but will equip Salvationists with biblical principles to guide them with finances and living a life of purity.

**Good Sense**

“Money makes the world go ‘round,” from the dark musical Cabaret is a miserably realistic description of the world’s fixation. As Christians we don’t have to be blinded by the shimmering allure of monetary obsession. Through biblical principles God gives us an accurate perspective on finances resulting in grace, joy and freedom. Designed to enhance the Good Sense budget course, this four-week series will help bring into focus the role of finances in holy living.

**Risk It!**

In a society filled with versions of the truth, purity may seem like an ancient artifact. Throughout the New Testament we are called to unearth this precious virtue and “as servants of God commend ourselves in every way,” (2 Corinthians 6:4, NIV). Risk It!, a six-week series, resonates God’s call for humanity to return to how He intended, uncontaminated by sin—pure. From surrendering worries and stress to the Lord to being anchored in convictions amidst the turbulent sea of tolerance, Risk It! will help us to be single-minded.

CBLI is still the place to be!

by Captain Sarah DiMaso

Each summer Central Bible and Leadership Institute (CBLI) is hands-down the place to be—no matter your age or spiritual development. If you come, you’re sure to receive a blessing just like the 550 campers who attended this summer.

**CBLI Kids,** age five and under, spent their days singing, taking walks and tractor rides, and playing hard. Jr. CB LI focused on Bible superheroes with the theme “Where Heroes Are Made.” How exciting it was to see my own sons’ new awareness to Bible stories. Lessons were complemented with fun activities like a water carnival.

Tween centered their thoughts on their mission as Christians. Each day lent itself to fun and quality Christian education. From games to swimming to praise and worship, they were ministered to and returned home ready to be witnesses.

One hundred and seventy-seven teens experienced a dramatic, life-changing week together studying the life of Joseph and how God meant it for good. “Dare to Share” peer groups focused on evangelization, and Steven Cooper, a Christian rapper from Kansas City, shared his powerful testimony. One of the week’s highlights was the creation of a 30-foot banana split, complete with 20 gallons of ice cream, 70 bananas and 24 cans of whipped cream!

About 60 young adults joined together to learn about the Kingdom of God with special guests Aaron and Cherie White from the War College in Vancouver, Canada. Days were filled with in-depth teaching, praise and small group Bible studies. Evenings were filled with afterglows like an 80s themed banquet and an awesome testimony night.

The adult track of which I was a part was also fun and full of quality Christian education and genuine worship. Each day began with teaching from the brilliant yet humble Dr. Roger Green, chair of the biblical and theological studies department.
A fter 42 years as active officers, my wife and I retire at the end of this month. We have been packing to move. During the process we have had moments to remember and reminisce. For instance, one rarely used garment bag still had a travel tag showing our address as Beckingham near London, England. We had been appointed to International Headquarters (IHQ), but we never went; the appointment was changed at the last moment. IHQ remains the appointment that never was.

I found a box of hiking gear: backpacks, Nalgene water bottles, bear warning bells, etc… That stirred memories of long ago hikes in the Adirondacks, Canadian Rockies, New Hampshire Presidential Range, the Swiss Alps. But we’re older now. Will we ever mountain hike again? Hmm. More memories in photos: recent disks from a digital camera, old fading black-and-white prints, circular trays of color positive slides, scrapbooks with torn bindings, super-8 videotapes. Were we ever that young? Did we really wear clothes that tacky? And viewing the 70’s, did the guys really wear our hair that long? That long!!

Memories from books, too. We love books, but a small retirement home means we should give some away. It’s hard to do. Underlings silently announce that once upon a time that sentence, that phrase, was meaningful. And now? We can’t remember why. We can’t remember it at all. "Senior moments" accumulate.

Okay, okay I’m indulging in nostalgia. Yes, but some day you, my Salvationist friend, will have to retire. You will sort, consolidate, downsize. You’ll have momentary uncertainty: "Should we trash this?" "What?! Goodness sake, no. That was from Linda’s first day in kindergarten. How can you even think of tossing that out?!" "Yes, dear, but she’s middle aged now."

Reminiscing about decades past makes me ponder about the 42 years and 13 appointments. Has it all mattered? Was this a useful life, well spent?

By the grace of God I say with certainty: Yes. But note I said by the grace of God. I am more sure now than ever that I have no ability, no smarts, no character to do the right or the good. It is only by the enabling of the Spirit of God, which is all grace. Remember the promise, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Phil 4:13) I no longer think that “all things” means everything and anything, as if stupendous quantity is the meaning. Instead, with the benefit years I think the verse means “The only things I ever did that mattered were by the grace of Jesus.”

By the grace of God I say this… with certainty. God called me to this life. I’m sure of it. I could have done other things but nothing else would have mattered for eternity in the same way. I am sure God loves a lost humanity, and longs to bring us back to Himself, back to divine fellowship. His wonderful plan is moving inexorably for fulfillment, and He is calling me toward that purpose. It’s humbling. It’s wonderful.

My Salvationist friend, live your life for God. Do what matters for eternity. I am certain you can, by the grace of God. And I am certain it will be worthwhile.

Welcome and Installation

Commissioner Barry C. and E. Sue Swanson

With special guests
Commissioner Israel L. and Eva D. Gaither
National Leaders

Sunday, October 12, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Mayfair Community Church
5020 N. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, Ill.

With the Word of God as our foundation, we as a Christ-centered and praying people will glorify God by becoming a spiritually healthy community of believers who are committed to wholehearted service and ministry in The Salvation Army.

Strengthened by His presence in us individually and corporately, we share a common passion for bringing people into an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ and meeting human needs in His name in the diverse communities where we serve.
The evening programs were amazing! Randy Bonifield’s concert blessed us with classics, new music and his personal testimony. Theater for the Thirsty, a three-person drama troupe, presented a spectacular musical on Daniel which compelled campers to line the altar seeking God. I was touched to hear the young people’s testimonies during the summer mission teams program. Two other excellent meetings featured Sherrie Trucker and Aaron and Cherrie White.

On awards night, a new scholarship award called Winning Woman was presented in memory of Major Sharon Green. Also during the meeting each track gave a presentation they’d worked on all week. The tweens’ recitation of scripture and beautiful, silent drama brought me and many others to tears. All groups bore witness that they’d grown closer to the Lord.

Inspiring Sunday meetings began and concluded the camp on a high note. The last Sunday featured the ministry of Commissioners Ken and Joy Baillie. The first Sunday featured Captains William and Cassandra DeJesus, Central officers who are serving in Argentina in the South America East Territory. An offering of $1,604 was collected on the first Sunday for Argentina. During the week, $3,051 also was raised for the Kenya West Territory. Our territory will match both amounts raised.

The communication arts program has seen explosive growth over the last decade. Combining a liberal arts education, technical training and a strong spiritual foundation, the college produces graduates who are culture shapers, equipped to be “salt and light” in the media. With the caliber of students surpassing its facilities, the college began planning to build a state-of-the-art communication arts center.

Commissioner Busby, then chair of the board’s Institutional Advancement Committee, thought of how the relationship between the college and the Army might be utilized to mutually benefit these two great institutions which seek to advance the cause of Christ. The answer seemed to be in Commissioner Andrew S. Miller, a quintessential communicator, well-known and well-loved, who not only held leadership positions in the Eastern, Central and Southern territories and as national commander, but attended Asbury College and served on its Board of Trustees.

A campaign was begun to raise the $2.5 million needed to propose naming the new Communication Arts Center in honor of Miller. All four territories have contributed, showing appreciation for Asbury College and the worthiness of honoring Commissioner Miller. Over 90 percent of the funds needed to propose naming the facility the Andrew S. Miller Communication Arts Center has been committed. To date $2,317,000 toward the $2.5 million goal has been realized.

The Army has deep interests in Asbury College, a relationship guaranteed not only by Salvationists who serve on faculty and staff but by the Salvation Army Student Center adjacent to campus. Interestingly enough it was Miller who established the Salvation Army Student Fellowship while divisional youth secretary in Southwestern Ohio and served on its Board of Trustees.

Yes, CB LI really is the place to be. The fellowship of like-minded believers, quality programming, rest and relaxation, family activities and worship left me renewed and ready to return to my appointment reenergized.
Roberto said, “God gave me a wonderful wife and two children, and now more than ever I prayed for a church where my family and I could grow spiritually and serve the Lord.”

God provided. The LaVillita Corps opened one block from his house. Roberto came to the corps to sign up his son for summer public school activities. “After a few minutes talking with Major Arias, I knew that the Lord had brought me to this corps,” he explained.

At her husband’s and children’s constant insistence, Elia finally came to the corps. “I walked into The Salvation Army and met the Lord,” she said. Wow!

While attending the territorial candidates weekend and experiencing the life of cadets, Elia said, “I saw how God prepares the saints for their fulltime service. This is where God was leading us.”

Roberto and Elia enter the CFOT with their two children Bertin (14) and Patricia (8). Their corps administrators at Chicago LaVillita are Carlos and Kerman Moran.

Erin Jones
Norridge Citadel, Ill., Corps
Metropolitan Division

Erin, a sixth-generation Salvationist, was on a mission trip to Haiti when she first experienced God’s call to officership. “I believe I heard God speak to me through Luke 9:57-62 where Jesus says to follow Him one should not hesitate,” she explained.

“Although I heard these words I still was not definite that officership was my true ministry,” she said. “I had just begun my ministry in education. I felt I could influence many lives that way.”

But the call to officership did not go away. “Although, I still feel that God called me to be a teacher, this was just the beginning of His call. In the past three years the Lord has continually spoken to me about a life in fulltime ministry. I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for my future,” Erin concluded.

Erin’s corps officers are Majors Stephen and Morag Voder.

Joliet, Ill., Corps
Metropolitan Division

It was while in the U.S. Army that a roommate led Joel to Jesus. He said of that time, “The Lord delivered me from drugs, alcohol and nicotine.” After the Army and since his deliverance, Joel faithfully served for 20 years in the music ministry at his home church. Yet, he knew God had something more for him.

Etta, who has been married to Joel for 18 years, also had been faithful to the church where her father was an associate pastor. After joining the gospel choir at the University of Illinois at Chicago, she recommitted her life to Christ.

They came to The Salvation Army, where Etta became the social service minister, and felt at home. During the call to officership at commissioning in 2007, they knew God wanted them to be officers. Etta said, “It was time for us to serve God to our fullest potential. We believe by being officers in The Salvation Army God will be able to reach lives through us.”

Joel and Etta bring with them to training their two daughters, Sarah [17] and Rebekah [8]. Their corps officers are Captains Thom and Cassandra Moffitt.

Jennifer Clanton
Wayne/Westland, Mich., Corps
Eastern Michigan Division

With seven siblings in a single parent home, Jennifer was taught an excellent work ethic by her mother. She came to The Salvation Army at age five when her mother started working at the Detroit Harbor Light. They became regular attendees, and in 1998 Jennifer was enrolled as a senior soldier.

She felt God’s call to be an officer at 15. It became the driving force in her life. However, by the end of high school she was fearful and “ran to college.” It was while at college a group of Christian friends encouraged her to follow God’s call. Then, Jennifer felt God saying, “It’s time to get serious and do My work.”

Jennifer enters the CFOT from Wayne/Westland, Mich., where she just said goodbye to her corps officers, Captains Matthew and Malinda O’Neil who moved in June, and welcomed Captains Derek and Joanna Rose.

Amy McMahan
Lansing Citadel, Mich., Corps
Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division

Coming through what could be described as a difficult childhood, Amy McMahan was invited by a friend at age 13 to attend The Salvation Army. “Although I had accepted Christ at a young age, I began my journey of holiness at the corps.”

At 16, she felt the call to officership at a youth councils but she didn’t acknowledge it publicly. “I felt I knew better than God. He had to have made a mistake.” After years of Amy living in denial, God gave her a verse that broke her heart: If Timothy 1:7—“God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but of power, love and self discipline.” She realized that God had not made a mistake.

Before entering training, Amy most recently was a ministry intern at the Lansing South, Mich., Corps. Her corps officers are Captains Jeffrey and Dawn Russell.
Project 24/29 raises awareness

If young people know about social justice issues today and participate in events like Project 24/29, I believe their eyes will be opened. Project 24/29 can open up someone’s eyes to the problems in today’s world. ...And if one person’s eyes are opened, it can be like a chain reaction across the youth,” said Claire James of the Ann Arbor, Mich., Corps.

Social justice movements have grown in popularity over the last few years, and Salvation Army youth are responding. Young people in the Central Territory are looking for ways to be involved in bringing not only justice but also Christ’s love to the oppressed.

Project 24/29 has been created in response to a grassroots demand for resources to educate and inspire young people to take action in global and local issues. The name Project 24/29 stands for the statistic that every 24 hours 29,000 children die from preventable diseases such as malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and acute respiratory infections. Over a weekend event, young people learn about a specific country, culture and its needs through educational activities, prayer, service projects and Bible studies. Before the event participants enlist sponsors to raise money for a territory overseas.

During the entire event participants, who are able, fast in order to experience hunger, even in a small way.

In the past year young people across the Central Territory have participated in Project 24/29 at their corps or as a divisional event. Participants have included: the Eastern Michigan and the Kansas and Western Missouri divisions, and the Oakland Temple, Ill., and Rockford Temple, Ill., corps in the Metropolitan Division. All participants worked hard to raise more than $2,600 for the Zimbabwe Territory.

Project 24/29 is invaluable in disciplining young people in their global role as followers of Christ.

To learn more, contact Sarah Kincaid at missions@usc.salvationarmy.org or (847) 294-2065.

Jamaican impact

by Kristin Caddy

This summer Majors Gary and Karen Felton returned home from Kingston, Jamaica, where they were the corps officers of the Havendale Corps since September 2005. Their responsibilities also included serving as administrators of the Havendale Basic School, a daily preschool program for 90 students between the ages of three and five. They also oversaw a daycare center for 15 children, and managed the living quarters and retired officers’ quarters in Green Bay, Wis.

During the past three years, much has happened at the Havendale Corps. Nine senior soldiers and 14 junior soldiers were enrolled; one candidate was sent to the Caribbean Territory’s Training College, and an adventure corps troop was begun. There were visits from four Central Territory global mission teams and one short-term mission team from the Kansas and Western Missouri Division that partnered with the corps in conducting vacation Bible school.

The Feltons say they’ve been impacted greatly by the experiences they had in Jamaica. Living next door to the corps, they have a new appreciation for what it means to be on duty 24 hours a day; they often had people coming to the door as early as 6:30 a.m. or as late as 10:30 p.m.

“They’ve been humbled to serve alongside national officers who sometimes lived without allowances because of the financial situations of their corps. The Feltons also were moved by the Spirit-filled Sunday worship services, which sometimes lasted two or three hours.

“We are blessed beyond our own comprehension,” reflected Gary.

The Feltons will assume their new appointments as Kroc Center corps officers in Green Bay, Wis., this fall.

Back in the saddle

Coming out of one of their several retirements over the years, Auxiliary Captains Al and Darlene Simmert are on their way to another exotic, demanding locale for overseas service: Pakistan.

Their prior overseas experiences with The Salvation Army and other missions organizations, plus Al’s years of experience as a corporate executive, presented a skills set the Pakistan Territory needs. The Simmerts were happily retired and active in their corps, helping out at other corps and going on short-term missions trips, when they received a phone call earlier this summer from the territorial personnel department. Al and Darlene were asked to consider a year’s service at the Pakistan Territorial Headquarters. Al will oversee the launching of large construction projects, and Darlene will serve as the child sponsorship coordinator, a role she fulfilled when the Simmert were administrators of the School for the Blind in Kingston, Jamaica.

“When they called and asked if we were interested, we said we’d pray and talk it over,” said Darlene. “But, we’ve always felt that if God lays us on someone’s heart for a situation where they think we’re needed, who are we to say ‘no’ to God?”

Although their many children and grandchildren, extended family and friends have mixed feelings about the Simmerts going on this new adventure, some are already planning on when they’ll go visit.

“I have to admit, change isn’t easy, especially as you get older. But our lives belong to God. In a way it’s like approaching death,” continued Darlene, a retired nurse. “I’m scared at the start of every new adventure, but I always know it’s going to be OK when we come out on the other side!”

African name change

The Congo (Brazzaville) Territory in the Republic of Congo will retain its name.

The Congo (Kinshasa) Territory is now the Democratic Republic of Congo Territory.

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When a friend invited me to attend a club called girl guards at The Salvation Army, I had little idea my life was about to change. The lessons learned in guards have proved useful throughout my life. We learned that working hard was worth it when you were earning money for camp. We learned it was important to help others, be honest and “to save and to serve.” Thanks to the timeless lessons we learned, not only can I make a bed with neat square corners, I compulsively reset silverware when a table is not properly set.

From camping, to pottery or swimming, I loved girl guard activities and attended troop meetings at every opportunity. While we always had fun, what kept me coming back was the genuine interest and unconditional love of my guard leader. She introduced me to her best friend, Jesus, and invited me to The Salvation Army, which eventually became as much a home as a church.

Today many young people still find an entry place into The Salvation Army through its character building programs. Last year across the Central Territory more than 1,300 new members were added to troops. In the Eastern Michigan Division, where nearly every corps has active troops, 86 young people and 27 new families were connected to corps programs through character building contacts.

According to surveys, 75 new junior soldiers and 27 senior soldiers enrolled in five divisions during 2007 had their initial contact with The Salvation Army through one of the character building programs.

If it has been a while since you visited one of the character building troops, you might be surprised at what you find. While many troops are traditional units, corps today have more freedom to determine how their programs will look.

In the Heartland Division one of the fastest growing groups is a service extension unit that is registered and resourced through divisional headquarters. The young people involved in the troop love to earn emblems, meet with friends, and learn many different things.

The Venturing Scout crew at Rockford Temple, on the other hand, is a focus group that concentrates on photography and...
Cold feet, warm heart

by Jerrie Miller

W hen General’s Guard April Kirach from the Royal Oak, Mich., Girl Guard Troop, started a service project, she was trying to meet the requirements for her Catherine Booth Award. April didn’t realize she was beginning a journey that would be about so much more than an award.

April organized a group of family and friends to go to a homeless shelter and give out clothes. “Some were just grabbing clothes and leaving, like they were embarrassed to be there. A few people took a lot of clothes, but most people did not,” said April. “When we asked them if they wanted another sweater, they said things like, ‘Someone else will need that,’ and, ‘I want someone else to be warm, also!’ They look out for each other.”

The most memorable part of the project for April was the sock table. Not many people give socks, so what they had were quickly claimed. One older man was so disappointed to learn the socks were all gone, he began to cry. Moved, April went home determined to do something.

She started a sock drive at her school, distributing flyers and placing boxes throughout the building. She set a goal of collecting 50 pairs of socks during the next week. Many of April’s teachers and fellow students responded. Most brought in a single pair of socks; others brought in packages. One teacher gave money to buy several packages. By the end of the week, 353 pairs of socks had been collected!

When asked how the project impacted her, she responded, “I am more mature in taking the lead on things and planning things on my own, I have learned skills that will be helpful to me in the future and help me to be more independent because of this project.”

April also knows she touched the lives of others. Several people told her that they were blessed because a young person helped them. She feels it’s important for older people she met to know that teens care about them and are involved in their community.

April believes her project was a success not only because many homeless people are warmer but also because she learned she can make a difference. “I have seen how people live without homes,” April said. “I will always want to help them.” April hopes others will follow her example and become involved, too.
Territorial Volunteer of the Year

Reed Craft

A member of the advisory board for the Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa, Corps for 30 years, Reed Craft was instrumental in getting the corps out of debt and saving it thousands of dollars in architectural and consulting fees. He worked closely on expanding the corps’ transitional housing project by acquiring a new building for the women’s shelter and renovating the former men’s shelter to accommodate men. He then gutted and refurbished the old men’s shelter, doing most of the work himself, for homeless families.

A member of the First United Methodist Church (where he serves on numerous committees), the Blackhawk County Planning and Zoning Commission, Kiwanis and the Cedar Valley Woodworkers Association (where he makes toys for the corps’ Christmas toy store each year), Reed also is involved in the upkeep of corps buildings and equipment. Additionally, he’s very involved in all aspects of the corps’ Christmas kettle campaign.

Territorial Group Volunteer of the Year

Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, University of Nebraska—Omaha

Five years ago, the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity at the University of Nebraska in Omaha approached The Salvation Army with an idea. They had heard about the Army’s “Adopt a Family” program on the radio. The plea to help low-income families had jolted the students into thinking about hunger and homelessness. They wanted to hold a food drive, but the Christmas break meant many students were off campus. They proposed a spring drive—good timing for food pantries because donors don’t give as they do during the holidays.

The fraternity was amazingly organized. Members recruited corporate partners, drop-off sites and other students. Monetary donations were matched by a national foundation. The commitment of these students has caught the attention of national media. To raise awareness of hunger and homelessness, more than 30 students spent each night of the drive living in cardboard boxes on campus to educate onlookers, raise funds and gather food donations. No matter how cold it’s gotten at night, not one student has ever backed off from sleeping outdoors since the drive’s inception four years ago; more than 20,000 items have been donated.

Family Volunteer of the Year

Tom and Jane Rogers

The Rogers have been outstanding volunteers for The Salvation Army in Omaha, Neb. They increased attendance and fundraising at civic luncheons with the precedent in 2001 of bringing in nationally known speakers.

An advisory board member since 1999, Jane chaired it from 2006 to 2007. She provided leadership during a particularly challenging time as the Western Division prepared its (successful) application for a Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center. As chairperson, she kept the board focused and moving forward during the complex process in spite of a change in divisional leadership.

When the Rogers learned an area corps needed renovations for its popular after-school and adult feeding programs, they contributed personally and formed community partnerships to help fund the project. The corps’ revitalization has allowed many more youth to enjoy this safe haven from the streets.

Three years ago the Rogers introduced an annual fall outing to a pumpkin-patch farm for underprivileged children involved in Army programs. Half of the children have never been outside the city limits.

Territorial Youth Volunteer of the Year

Alissa Desrocher

This young lady has been volunteering for The Salvation Army in Waukesha, Wis., since the summer of 2006 as a regular helper with its community meal program, which feeds up to 150 less fortunate people three nights a week. She even recruited her younger brother to help!

In 21 months, Alissa accumulated more than 650 hours of volunteer time. She sorted food in the corps pantry after the National Association of Letter Carriers’ annual collection drive, which brings in an average of 25,000 pounds of donations yearly. And, during the Christmas season, Alissa recruited volunteers from her school’s Key Club to help ring bells for the corps.

Because of her service, the corps instituted a youth volunteer of the year award and chose Alissa as its first recipient.

Omaha philanthropists and tireless volunteers Jane and Tom Rogers have made The Salvation Army their primary focus.
Miller

Continued from page 3

Everyone still does. Chances are if you're over 30 you've had a personal experience with this legendary officer. If you're not, you're the beneficiary of others who have known him. While in the Central for just 11 years as unified commander and then as chief secretary, Miller's emphasis on holiness and visionary leadership has had a lasting effect. He especially encouraged energetic, idea-laden young people, many of whom today are our territory's leaders at all levels.

“He was secure enough in himself to listen to other people’s opinions,” said Chicago Staff Bandmaster William Himes. “And he was open-minded enough to change his mind if he was convinced there was a better way.”

Recalling Miller’s gift of communication, Himes mused, “He also was a wonderful public presence for The Salvation Army, in that he knew what the public wanted to hear of praising and, of course, much to eat.

The Polings have been a blessing everywhere they've served; they know no strangers. They've served God and the Army for a combined 72 years as pastors in eight corps, two adult rehabilitation centers and a harbor light in the Central Territory. The Freeport, Ill., Corps is the place from which they entered honorable retirement.

Vern and Linda are passionate, personal, prayerful and ever present about their ministry and witness to the ‘whosoever.’

William Booth once said, ‘That and better will do.’ We’ll work hard to do better because of the Polings influence in our lives.

Continued from page 3

Asbury

Continued from page 3

Northern Kentucky in the 1950s!

Arguably, no other academic institution in America has contributed as much to the development of officer and soldier leadership. Many local and corps officers, a number of divisional and territorial leaders, three national commanders and a former international leader, General Paul Rader (Ret.), attended Asbury. Currently at Central Territorial Headquarters alone there are nearly a dozen officers who attended Asbury, including Commissioners Ken and Joy Baillie.

In addition to alumni, other Salvationists and advisory organization members who know Commissioner Miller are invited to help make the naming possibility a reality. For more information, contact General Paul Rader (PaulARader@aol.com), Commissioner John Bushy (jasbusby@msn.com) or Asbury College Vice President for Institutional Advancement Greg Swanson (greg.swanson@asbury.edu).

P roclaiming our Faith through Family and Friends was the day’s theme as 250 people gathered to celebrate the lives and service of two officers of excellence, Majors Vern and Linda Poling.

It was definitely a family affair! All five Poling children, their spouses, grandchildren and one great-grandchild made the sun shine brighter as we celebrated Vern and Linda’s officerships.

Heartland divisional leaders Majors Charles and Sharon Smith led us in honoring the Polings. It was a ‘good ol’ time’ of singing, praying,

Polings leave lasting effect

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Color of hope

by Evie Polsley

A house is built of walls and beams. A home is built with love and dreams," H. Jackson Brown, author.

A house is often more than a place to hang a hat—it’s a representation of the life one has built. For those unable to maintain a home due to age or disability, it can be depressing to watch what was once a pride and joy begin to decay. For the last two years the Sioux Falls, S.D., Corps has recruited volunteers to take part in Paint-a-thon, rejuvenating residences through a simple act of kindness.

‘By painting people’s homes we help their self-esteem, we give them
help and get excited when a home owner thanks them,” said Betty.

When a house is chosen The Salvation Army lets the home owner know they will be contacted by a Paint-a-thon team captain and together they choose paint colors for the home. Before the painting begins a lot of prep work such as scraping old paint, caulking and washing the home takes place. Many team members go beyond just painting like mowing the lawn to give the home nice curb appeal,

Rising from the ruins

by Amanda Waters

On May 4, 2007, the lives of Susan and Scott Reinecke—and thousands of others who called Greensburg, Kan., home—changed forever. An EF-5 tornado demolished 85 percent of the community and left 10 people dead. Today, nearly a year and a half later, the community is rebuilding with the goal of becoming a bigger, better—and green—Greensburg.

The Reineckes are a big part of that effort and say they couldn’t have done it without The Salvation Army.

Their story began the night of the disaster when the couple took refuge in their basement. Susan said, “I was terrified. Plain, flat terrified. We could hear all this noise, glass breaking; there was dust flying, water dripping.”

It took them an hour to dig out of the basement, then another hour to dig their way out of the house. There was splintered wood, sheet metal, glass, nails and other debris throughout the house. A pickup truck had landed on their porch.

“We couldn’t help but think God’s hand was over us,” Susan said. “When you look at the destruction, hundreds of people should have died.”

“The Salvation Army was the first agency we signed up with for assistance at a shelter,” said Susan. “We had a short interview with a very nice lady. She assessed our needs and determined how much money we could receive from The Salvation Army. That was just unbelievable financial assistance on the spot.”

Throughout the following months, the couple frequented the Army’s warehouse, which was referred to as “The Free Store” by Greensburg’s residents. Susan said, “That store was so much fun; there was such a variety of things to choose from, and we could go as often as we wanted.”

“We’re forever grateful to The Salvation Army for everything they’ve done,” concluded Scott. “It’s just been an overwhelming blessing.”

The Reineckes were featured in a 13-part documentary on Greensburg rebuilding as the country’s first “green” town, a model of conservation and energy efficiency. Produced by actor Leonardo DiCaprio, the series began airing this summer on the new Planet Green channel.
Heroes in the making!

Junior soldiers are smart people! Even at 7, 9, 13, you’re able to do a lot of good things,” exclaimed Commissioner Ken Baillie, territorial commander. “In fact, you can do anything that God asks you to do because God will enable you now or even when you’re old.”

Spiffy in their uniforms, 46 junior soldiers sat in rapt attention amid sparkling red star balloons with frosting smeared on most of their faces from cupcakes cleverly disguised as ice cream cones—a big hit! So was this luncheon with the Heartland Division which had the reward for the corps in the largest increase in junior soldier enrollments as part of a contest called Heartland Heroes. It ran for the first half of this year in conjunction with the “Come Join Our Army” initiative.

Representing the top two corps, kids and their leaders had come for the occasion to Central Territorial Headquarters from Iowa City, Iowa, which boasted an amazing 100 percent increase [18 new junior soldiers!] and Decatur, Ill., which had a four percent increase.

Among the luncheon’s highlights was a question and answer session with the commissioners. Honor Junior Soldiers China Hughes and Arielle Soemadi, whose uncensored inquiries included, “Just exactly what do cadets learn at the College for Officer Training?” and “We’ve read about the Slum Sisters in the Army’s history; does anything like them exist today?” Junior soldiers are smart indeed.

Each of the commissioners also shared inspiring stories. Commissioner Ken relayed an anecdote of junior soldiers in Russia, while Commissioner Joy engaged the junior soldiers with stories of how William and Catherine Booth each came to love and follow God at a very young age.

After relaying that Catherine Booth read her Bible through aloud eight times by age 12, Commissioner Joy Baillie urged, “Show me your Bible. I want to see it’s worn out. It means you’re learning to love God and follow His Word.” Flashlights were given to each child as a tangible reminder that God’s Word can be a light to guide them.

According to Valerie Soemadi, Iowa City junior soldier sergeant, the outing to Chicago showed the kids that the Army is bigger than just their corps; it lets them know they’re part of a bigger community of faith.

Captains Jim and Melissa Frye, Heartland divisional youth secretaries, accompanied Captains Terry and Jennifer Smith, Iowa City corps officers, and Majors Robert and Joyce Gauthier, Decatur corps officers. The junior soldier sergeant in Decatur is Mary Farrell. The Heartland Heroes contest was initiated by former Heartland divisional youth secretaries Captains Harold and Lisa Frost.

OCTOBER 2008

PRAY FOR:

1 New territorial leaders Commissioners Barry C. and Sue Swanston
2 The Eastern Michigan and Western divisions’ officers councils
3 Divisional men’s ministries camps
4 The Indiana Division’s lay leaders retreat
5 New believers on this Decision Sunday
6 The College for Officer Training (CFOT) Fall Festival fundraiser
7 The Flint Citadel, Mich., Corps
8 The Democratic Republic of Congo Territory
9 Disaster services training in the Midland Division
10 The Kansas and Western Missouri Divisional African Heritage Retreat
11 The Heartland Division’s junior soldier and corps cadet rally
12 The Harvest Festival Sunday ingathering
13 The Sioux Falls, S.D., Corps
14 The Central Territorial Headquarters Officers’ Councils
15 The Northern Divisional Officers’ Councils
16 Character-building programs
17 Delegates attending the Territorial Worship Arts Retreat
18 The new worship series
19 A special blessing on this United Divine Service Sunday
20 The Commissioners’ Conference in Alexandria, Va.
21 The Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Divisional Officers’ Councils
22 The Social Services Directors’ Forum
23 The Western Michigan and Northern Indiana Division’s school of ministry
24 Delegates attending the Children and Youth Ministry Conference
25 The auxiliary captains’ distance learning program at the CFOT
26 Women’s ministries on this Women’s Sunday
27 Salvation Army volunteers
28 Kroc Corps Community Centers
29 The St. Charles, Mo., Corps
30 The life-changing ministries of adult rehabilitation centers
31 The Metropolitan Division’s prayer and praise night for youth

---Mustard Seeds---
Making history come alive

I t was the opportunity of a life-
time for Major Gloria Stepke, director of the territo-
rial historical museum for the last three years. Determined to make the past come alive, interesting and relevant for today, Gloria’s efforts have been supported faith-
fully by Major Florence Molit, assistant director and an invaluable historical-
resource in her own right, and Jan Odell, the muse-
um’s long-time registrar.

When Gloria received an invita-
tion to attend the second-ever Salvation Army international histori-
cal conference, she leaped at the chance. It was held in Sydney, Australia, in conjunction with the biennial Tri Territorial Heritage Conference representing the Australia Eastern, Australia Southern and New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga territories.

Conference delegates spanned the globe from territorial and national museums, archives and private museums and collections. Session speakers included historians plus museum and archivist professionals from the Army’s International Heritage Center in London, the Royal Australian Historical Society, the Presbyterian Archives, the Australia Eastern Heritage Preservation Center, a private Salvation Army museum in Switzerland, the Korea Territorial Heritage Center, and the Singapore, Malaysia and Myanmar Territorial Archives.

Delegates also presented research reports; Gloria’s was on the origins of the prison toy lift program which began in her home state of Wisconsin in 1953. George Hazelt, an authority on William Booth and an Order of the Founder recipient, presented sayings of the Founder and exploded some myths surround-
ing him with “The Founder’s Folks.” A session was even held on disaster preparedness in preserving artifacts and documents.

The group also toured local muse-
ums and archives. Gloria learned invaluable new ideas not only from the presentations and tours but from the other delegates. She hopes to implement her new inspirations for new displays, maximizing museum space, making exhibits more interactive and child-friendly, incor-
porating new technology and setting a more dramatic atmosphere. One idea revolves around Gowans and Larsson musicals!

Advisory Board Member and champion bellringer Bego Hefner mans a kettle with her daughters-in-law Kim Hefner (center) and day camp employee Megan Burnett.

Christmas comes early in Des Moines

by Arvid Huisman

M ore than 5,300 fans cel-

berated Christmas in July in a Salvation

Army sponsored base-

ball game between the Iowa Cubs and the Omaha Royals. Kettles and bellringers were stationed at each gate in Des Moines’ Principal Park, and a volunteer crew collected non-

perishable food items for the Army’s two food pantries. Iowa Cubs man-

agement offered free admission in exchange for a donation of three food items.

Fans were greeted by Des Moines, Iowa, Citadel day camp staff and

Major Keith Petrie, Des Moines city coordi-
nator, throws out the first pitch.

children who handed out free candy canes to the first 2,000 visitors while Christmas tunes played from the sta-

dium’s public address system.

A brass ensemble played the national anthem, and Major Keith Petrie, city coordinator, threw out the first pitch. Major Petrie explained the Army’s mission and work during a 15-minute live inter-

view with the announcers broad-

casting the game on a local radio sta-

tion. Also, throughout the evening facts about The Salvation Army were displayed on the JumboTron.

Promoted to Glory

Captain Yalanda Harsh was promoted to Glory on June 28, 2008. Her last appoint-

ment was Oshkosh, Wis., where she served with husband Johnny as corps offi-
cers.

Yoley was born on December 25, 1949, in San Antonio, Tex. She mar-
ried Johnny on July 22, 1984, in Galveston, Tex. Together they were commissioner as auxiliary captains in September 1997, then promoted to full captains in September 2002. Besides Oshkosh, they served at corps in Blue Springs, Mo., Kansas City and Manhattan, Kan., and at the Kansas and Western Missouri Divisional Headquarters.

Yoley was gifted with a strong sense of spiritual discernment and loved talking about the Lord. Her faith was fierce, as was her prayer

life. Yoley loved people and they loved and appreciated her take-

charge approach to life and bubbly

personality. She particularly loved working in the corps’ feeding pro-

gram, having once owned a restau-

rant with Johnny.

Passed in death by sisters Lape and Dolores, Captain Yalanda Harsh is survived by her husband; daugh-
ters Tammy, Lisa and Yoley; son Felix; parents Felix and Mary Galvan; sister Sylvia; brothers Isidro, Jesse and Louis; and five grandchildren.

Readers’ Forum

Major Shirley Younts and Mrs. Janice OdeII appreciate the many expressions of sympathy and beauti-

ful flower arrangements they received on the loss of their brother Joe Younts, the last of five brothers. The sisters are the last of five girls.

Inspiring reads from

Resource Connection

Challenge your heart, mind and spirit with some of the new releases from International Headquarters and Crest Books.

Crest Books

Smoky Mountain High

by Frank Duracher

Major Cecil Brown, a native daughter of the western

mountains in North Carolina, devoted her life to rugged

mountain mission work during the first half of the 1900s.

Come Join Our Army

by R. G. Moyles

A retelling of the issues surrounding the

birth pangs and turbulent adolescence of this Movement.

International Headquarters

The Common People’s Gospel

by Commissioner Gunpei Yamamuro

Published in 1889, translated from Japanese by General Arnold Brown in 1988 and revised by Major Charles King in 2008, this classic reminds us of the gospel’s sim-

plicity.

Practical Religion

by Catherine Booth

First compiled in 1878, these addresses by the wife of the Founder cover a variety of subjects still relevant today. [Revised in 2008 for the Classic Salvationist Texts series.]

Purity of Heart

by General William Booth

Written by the Founder at age 71, by then a widower for 10 years and world-class celebrity. Instead of slowing down, Booth returns to the driving passion of his life: getting souls saved and sanctified.

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