Commissioner André Cox elected General

Commissioner André Cox, a Swiss-British Salvation Army officer, has been elected as the 20th General. The High Council, 117 senior leaders of The Salvation Army from around the world who gathered outside London for the sacred task of choosing the next international leader, elected the new General.

The General accepted his new responsibility in a spirit of humility, saying that, irrespective of the rank he held, he had not moved away from his original calling to officership—to be God’s servant and to proclaim the gospel. General Cox shares his ministry with his wife, Commissioner Silvia Cox, who is the world president of women’s ministries. Together General and Commissioner Cox will lead the 1.5 million-strong worldwide church of The Salvation Army.

Born in Harare, Zimbabwe, to an English father and Swiss mother, André Cox spent his childhood years in Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom before moving to Switzerland, where he met his wife and from where they entered training. They were commissioned in 1979.

The 59-year-old General has vast international ministry experience. In the early years of officership, he held appointments in Switzerland and Zimbabwe. More recently he served as the territorial commander in the Southern Africa Territory, the Finland and Estonia Territory, and the United Kingdom Territory with its 126 countries around the world, yet we are one.”

When the multicolored elements are combined, they form a star, which is a prominent symbol on the Salvation Army flag. The outer part of the logo forms a circular shape, which is reminiscent of the earth. “This ties in with the congress theme Boundless—The Whole World Redeeming, with the logo’s shape reinforcing the Salvationist’s desire to see the entire world won for God. Lt. Colonel Eddie Holgood, International Congress 2015 coordinator, added, “This circular shape, which has no beginning nor ending, reminds us of the words ‘eternal,’ ‘never-ending,’ ‘limitless’... ‘boundless.’ God’s love, His salvation and His grace are indeed boundless and worthy of our acknowledgement and celebration during the course of our five days together in London.”

Additionally, the interlocking shapes in the traditional Salvation Army colors of yellow, red and blue infer the unity that is ours through our diversity. The Salvation Army is at work in 126 countries around the world, yet we are one.”

A video clip of the announcement may be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNI5-SuvvL4&feature=youtu.be

From an International News Release

Unveiling of logo builds 150th Anniversary Congress momentum

After a selection process lasting several months, the official logo for The Salvation Army’s 2015 International Congress has been revealed. Designed by Kim Hansen and Jan Aasmann Størksen from Norway, the logo will become a familiar sight in the lead-up to the congress, which is being held in London, UK, July 1-5, 2015, to mark the Army’s 150th international anniversary.

The logo is comprised of interwoven shapes, each of which resembles a dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit. Commissioner William Cochrane, international secretary to the Chief of the Staff, explained, “We are a holy-ness movement and this congress will express that from the outset. Additionally, the interlocking shapes in the traditional Salvation Army colors of yellow, red and blue infer the unity that is ours through our diversi-
ty. The Salvation Army is at work in 126 countries around the world, yet we are one.”

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The final choice for the logo was selected by the International Congress Planning and Advisory Council, on which Lt. Colonel Ralph Bukievics serves, working with international leadership, from approximately 40 submissions from around the Salvation Army world.

For the latest news follow @Boundless2015 on Twitter.
Staying power

by Commissioner Carol Sellor
Territorial Coordinator for Strategic Mission Planning

This summer an intriguing title crossed my desk courtesy of Bob Jones, Resource Connection secretary, and the Christian Booksellers Association. It was an “advanced reader copy.” No, I am not an advanced reader; it just means a copy circulated early to see whether there’s enough interest to buy it and also that the text may be changed in the final version.

The book was titled Called to Stay. The focus was on millennials (young adults) not leaving churches which are out of touch, dry and drifting from mission, but instead being called to stay and be change agents in them. I sent the book to Eric Himes, director of young adult ministries, for his thoughts. I wondered if the concept only resonated with this non-millennial who sometimes wishes to be 25 again.

What strikes me about the title is the contrast to how we often see being “called.” Perhaps it’s our Army culture, but being “called” almost always is linked to giving up everything and moving to a new venture to start over, whether that is officership, a job in another state or country, or leaving a non-Christian family setting.

Rarely do we think of being called to stay put, called to be Christ-followers in the irritating, mundane, less-than-ideal context of where we are. In fact, we are called to be faithful, called to be a voice that refuses to let others give up, called to struggle to see God’s presence over time and in situations that externally are dark.

I am just thinking out loud. I don’t intend to belabor the point or prevent any launching of new callings. But being “called” must remain grounded in God who is doing the calling. We must be sure we are seeking His purpose as we listen during times of decision. “Called to stay” could be translated “God hasn’t released me from His purpose in this place, yet.”

Reading this book, along with Orbiting the Giant Hairball by Gordon McKenzie, which encourages creativity without being absorbed into bureaucracy, makes me feel strongly that part of what will keep an almost 150-year-old Salvation Army healthy and vibrant will be those who find a way not to become part of the landscape but to shape it. It doesn’t mean to blend in or lose yourself but to be authentic in our individual and collective spiritual walks. We are, you know, “Creating a Shared Future,” and we need those who keep the “stay” from being “stale.”

Tour of Hope

by April Fetz

When Santa Rodriguez’s friends invited her on a day trip to tour The Salvation Army’s Hidden Falls Camp, she just couldn’t resist. She was curious about the different things The Salvation Army did.

This was Santa’s first camp experience. She was first in line at each stop, ready to try something new and learn from the campers. She was hooked.

It was also the first time several employees got a chance to experience camp, at least Salvation Army camp. The experience not only educated the employees but helped them do their jobs better from writing the Happy Camper newsletter to telling corporate donors about needs.

This summer the Tour of Hope traveled to the Indianapolis, Ind., Fountain Square Corps, the Ruth Lilly Women and Children’s Center (Block of Hope), and the Indiana War Memorial for a glimpse at the Donut Girl exhibit. At each stop, people learned what programs the facilities housed. They also heard the personal stories and ways The Salvation Army helped the people who visit and work at these facilities.

“Every time I get closer to The Salvation Army, I realize there is still so much that the Army does,” said Steve Gould, Brown County Advisory Board member, at a recent tour. “Today it was women in crisis. I had no idea there was something like that.”

Steve’s wife, Kim, attended the Tour of Hope as well. She was almost speechless: “Wow!” she said. “This has been mind opening. Very influential people should do it to get a flavor for what’s going on.”

For late breaking news, visit our website!

Log on to usc.salvationarmy.org/centralconnect
Building an “Army of Readers”

As children head back to school, The Salvation Army in Grand Rapids, Mich., is doing its part to promote literacy. With the Peter C. and Emajean Cook Foundation and support from Crowe Horwath and other community partners, The Salvation Army conducted its “Army of Readers” initiative for a second year to highlight the importance and joy of reading.

Over 35 young professionals and college student volunteers attended an orientation at The Salvation Army before visiting nearly 40 classrooms to read books and conduct special joint activities for approximately 900 children. Volunteers were paired up to read in two or three classrooms and to conduct activities ranging from antenna headbands to bandana decorating projects. Siona, from the Grand Rapids Montessori School, wrote in a thank you note, “Dear Army of Readers, thank you for reading us that amazing book! I loved the activity you made for us. My favorite part had to be the activity: I mean who in the world could come up with something so fun? I am so glad you came into our school!”

Grant to empower caregivers

The Metropolitan Division has received a $10,000 grant from the MetLife Foundation and the National Alliance for Caregiving to start a new volunteer-based caregiving program for vulnerable seniors in the Chicago area.

The division’s Family and Community Services plans to mobilize volunteers and resources in local congregations and the community to offer an array of direct services such as transportation, light chores and housekeeping, repairs and friendly visits, as well as resources, education and support for family caregivers, including in-home respite.

At the heart of the new Two Are Better than One program are trained volunteers who will provide this in-home support for a diverse group of vulnerable seniors and caregivers who are low-income, disadvantaged and suffer from isolation. Many of the at-risk seniors and caregivers with whom Family and Community Services works have little or no ongoing family or community support. It is hoped that this service will enable seniors to remain living independently longer and empower caregivers.

The Metropolitan Division is one of 10 locations nationally to receive a grant to replicate family caregiver education and support programs in their local communities. The winners were chosen based on innovation, collaboration, sustainability and effectiveness in replicating a program/best practice for caregiver needs in their own communities.

“The startup funds for these award-winning replication programs will offer caregivers in these communities a new quality of support that can make a positive difference in the challenges they face as caregivers,” said Gail Gibson Hunt, President & CEO, National Alliance for Caregiving.

According to a press release by the MetLife Foundation announcing the award, family caregiving has a value to society estimated at $450 billion per year—more than the value of home care and nursing care combined. At least 68 million adults provide critical care that helps friends and loved ones with debilitating illnesses remain in their homes and other community settings. An estimated 80 percent of all care received by older Americans is provided by family members.

Managing the competing priorities of work and family, in addition to caregiving, is stressful and costly and can exact a heavy toll, resulting in burnout and health problems. Experts anticipate that family caregiving will grow in the decades ahead.

Employment Opportunity

Multi-media Ministries Editor/Ministry

Tool Kit—USA Southern Territorial Headquarters, Atlanta, Ga. Plan/develop, implement, evaluate multi-media materials for ministry tool kit website. Ensure posted content meets established standards. Develop/administer marketing plan to grow site awareness/users lists. Create rich site content; support ministry leaders’ submissions for site and Southern Spirit Online (SSO). Monitor all communications; develop site’s appeal, functionality. Serve as key participant, content source on SBD team. Provide technical/creative assistance for communications bureau executive of Community Relations and Development Department. Requirements: active, uniform-wearing Salvationist in good standing; BA in related field and two years experience producing multi-media and/or web-based ministry resources or equivalent experience providing knowledge, skills. Complete online application for Job #166172 at www.salvationarmycareers.org. For more information debra_eider@uss.salvationarmy.org

Angela DeVries, Western Michigan and Northern Indiana divisional volunteer services director, not only helped to coordinate volunteers and lead the orientation session but participated in the reading event, too. She recalled that as she started reading, one little boy, who had been acting up, slowly made his way over to the reading area. Before long he was really into the book, raising his hand and answering questions. “When I packed up to leave he came over, gave me a big hug and thanked me for spending time with him,” said Angela.

Carrie Boer, from the Peter C. and Emajean Cook Foundation, which has served the West Michigan area for over 25 years, said, “We all recognize that education is vital and reading is the cornerstone. We’re helping our kids realize how reading opens so many doors, and I think this program has a special ability to bring a little bit of joy to reading as well.”

New EDS requirements

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Safe from Harm module, specific to disaster situations, has been added to the Introduction to Emergency Disaster Services course all volunteers are required to take. Those who have already completed the course must complete the new Safe from Harm module to have their badges renewed. This important new component has been added since people are even more vulnerable after disasters.

“In times of disaster people who are normally high functioning are not functioning at their full potential, which makes them more susceptible to predators,” said Kevin Ellers, territorial emergency disaster services coordinator.

Educating EDS volunteers on how to recognize danger signs is intended to add an extra layer of protection for vulnerable people in these disaster situations.

Approved trainers for the National Disaster Training Program will take an additional “train the trainer” course in order to teach the additional Safe from Harm module. As with other EDS curriculum, it is anticipated this course will be available online in the future.
The joy of junior soldiers

by Elizabeth Harvey

Fifteen years ago I was asked to teach a junior soldier class at the Omaha Citadel, Neb., Corps for the short term. I’ve been involved with and passionate about junior soldiers ever since! As a retired teacher, I believe in the importance of preparing young people for the future. In public schools we taught “life skills.” In junior soldiers we teach “eternal life skills.”

For the most part, our junior soldiers at the Omaha Citadel are a unique group because of their Sudanese backgrounds. Including and helping these young people become part of our corps has been an exciting learning process for all of us.

One way we’ve reached out to include youth is through an active group of prayer partners. An example of this mentoring approach is evident on our “Red Shirt” Sundays where the junior soldiers sit with their adult prayer partners during worship on these special mornings. The children make a bold statement in their red polo shirts, and some of the girls wear red berets or ribbons. Their mentors consistently offer words of encouragement, handshakes or hugs and a friendly smile to help keep them coming back each week.

In fact, our entire congregation has been welcoming to the junior soldiers, who’ve brought brothers, sisters and cousins to be part of our “little army.” The young people are growing into becoming members of the band, songsters, praise band and even the corps council, along with other positions in the corps, which is led by Captains Trevor and Rochelle McClintock. And, some of our junior soldiers have grown into senior soldier uniforms, committed to adult corps membership.

Isn’t the importance, the impact of junior soldiers, that our children be prepared to fill our ranks and join us in telling the sweet story? Whether a corps has one child or 100 children, the responsibility, the opportunity, is ours to guide and teach our children those all important “eternal life skills” that are part of the junior soldier curriculum.

Blessings in Fort Dodge

by Philip Hale

My life has changed 100 percent since my family started attending the Army. Being enrolled as a soldier means so much,” said Kevin Blaha, who was enrolled as a soldier by General Linda Bond at Congress this summer. “Since going there [Fort Dodge, Iowa, Corps] church is fun; the captains [Ronald and Carol Cook] make you want to go, and I enjoy being around them because they’re caring people.”

Kevin, his wife, Nancy, and their three girls aren’t the only ones who’ve become increasingly involved at the Fort Dodge Corps; attendance at weekly worship services has more than doubled, six soldiers and five adherents were enrolled this summer, and one altar call brought 45 first-time seekers forward.

“The increased attendance is due, in large part, to the love the Cooks show their daily diners,” said Major Vicki Steinisland, Western divisional program secretary. “They know their diners, they sit, eat, laugh and share together. They work together in the kitchen and dining room. They share their joys, sorrows and failures.”

When the Cooks arrived at Fort Dodge three years ago, diners queued up, prayed, picked up their food and left. “We started opening the doors at 7:00 a.m. for coffee, prayer and conversation. Our people can come in to talk and share with us,” said Carol. “And we’re never too busy to hear them.”

Ronald continued. “It’s a matter of getting to know them.”

People aren’t just invited from the diners program but from many aspects of ministry like youth activities, which is how the Blahas became involved. Every person who walks through the door is encouraged to attend the corps services and make it their church home.

The Hale family has served in corps for the short term. They were married that June, and have 81 years of combined service with The Salvation Army, during which time they were blessed with three children and six grandchildren.

The Hales have served in corps appointments from Evanston, Ill., to Bismarck, N.D., as well as at the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan and Northern divisional headquarters.

“The children make a bold statement in their red polo shirts, and some of the girls wear red berets or ribbons. Their mentors consistently offer words of encouragement, handshakes or hugs and a friendly smile to help keep them coming back each week.”

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Flanked by Captains Ronald and Carol Cook, some of the newest Fort Dodge, Iowa, Corps soldiers and adherents shop for uniforms and Bibles at Resource Connection.

New Members

April - June 2013

204 Senior Soldiers
44 Adherents
152 Junior Soldiers

Come our Army

Blessings in Fort Dodge

by Philip Hale

Majors Dale and Sharon Hale celebrated their ministry and retirement at the Lakewood Temple Corps in Maplewood, Minn., on June 15, which was also their 29th wedding anniversary. Majors Jim and Judy Garrington presided over the joyous service attended by over 150 friends and family. Lt. Colonels Daniel and Rebecca Sjogren officiated.

With the theme “Snapshots from Service,” Dale recounted five areas, or “snapshots,” for which he is grateful. These included his personal relationship with Christ, spiritual formation through education at Asbury College, his call to officiership, spiritual friendships he formed through the American Correctional Association as chaplain, and an awesome companionship with Sharon.

Sharon followed up with highlights of their children and grandchildren. Sharon and Dale met in Willmar, Minn., in 1971. Dale was commissioned with the “Lightbringers” session in 1972 and Sharon with the “Followers of Christ” in 1974. They were married that June, and have 81 years of combined service with The Salvation Army, during which time they were blessed with three children and six grandchildren.

The Hales have served in corps appointments from Evanston, Ill., to Bismarck, N.D., as well as at the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan and Northern divisional headquarters. “Every day I am very thankful for so many good friends who have supported and worked with me in this wonderful field of service,” said Dale.
Kevin and Megan Sechrest
St. Paul Citadel, Minn., Corps
Northern Division

Yielding Grace
2013-2015

Holy people for unholy times

When officer appointments were announced earlier this year perhaps the one that garnered the most attention—and drew the most questions—was new ambassadors of holiness. The questions did not have to do with the officers. Lt. Colonels Daniel and Becky Sjögren seemed a natural fit. But what did these new positions mean? What exactly would the Sjögrens be doing?

“We are going to attempt to fan the fire of holiness,” encapsulated Dan. “I believe we as a Salvation Army do well in understanding the need for salvation. But going further than that is what I would call the second blessing, holiness. I believe God is still looking for holy people. He has said, ‘Be holy as I am holy.’

The Sjögrens know it’s not impossible because of the indwelling and equipping of the Holy Spirit. “God sees our potential, and the Holy Spirit does His work in us,” explained Becky. Yet, they acknowledge not only do some people see holiness as unachievable but there isn’t an intense hunger for God as Americans are self-sufficient and, frankly, don’t feel they need Him. But, they say, if Salvationists focused on holiness, they’d experience fuller lives with a new depth of commitment and would make an even more significant difference in the world.

This new responsibility humbles them; yet, they’re comfortable with it. Dan grew up in the grand Scandinavian Division where holiness was preached and lived out by greats like Brigadier Gunnar Erickson. He gravitated to them. Becky’s early encounters with the concept of holiness were as a cadet, gaining an understanding and hunger for it under the guidance and teaching of then Lt. Colonels Norman and Marjorie Marshall.

“It’s probably going to be the most challenging appointment we’ve had so far in our career,” said Dan. “We feel that holiness has always been an integral part of our ministry and leadership, but now it is the number one priority.”

They plan to teach at various events such as officers’ councils, schools of ministry, divisional and corps retreats and seminars on topics like holiness in everyday living and leadership. They also foresee the opportunity of mentoring officers.

“We don’t want to isolate people or make them feel bad but receive them where they are,” said Dan. This kind of sensitivity speaks to their credibility for the new endeavor.

“Lt. Colonels Dan and Becky Sjögren are well known and respected leaders in our territory,” said Commissioner Paul R. Seiler, territorial commander. “With the recent change of appointments, to have leaders of this caliber available to help Salvationists to focus on holy living is a wonderful opportunity. What a grand future if every Salvationist, every day, wanted to be more like Jesus.”

Jessica Martinez
Milwaukee Citadel, Wis., Corps
Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Division

I was born in Lima, Peru, where I attended the San Martin Corps and accepted Jesus into my heart at age 8. At age 14, I began teaching Sunday school. It was a wonderful experience; I really understood the meaning and importance of being saved and even became the Sunday school president!

God called me to officership many years ago, but I didn’t always follow that calling. Then at a congress in Peru in 2010, He called me once more. I prayed about this for eight months and realized I couldn’t run away any longer.

I’m so excited and can’t wait to see how God is going to work in my life! The Lord has a plan for my life, and that plan is the best.

Jessica’s corps officers are Captains Geoffrey and Leticia Crowell.

As a child of officers in the Eastern Territory, I felt God’s tug at my heart toward Christian ministry when I was 14. I didn’t know, however, it would eventually lead to officership. I knew God required “something more” of me after marrying Kevin in 2004 and felt called to be a youth pastor. But by the time I became a mother to four children of our own, I decided to become a stay-at-home mom and schoolteacher. Kevin, who’d been raised in the Roman Catholic faith, became a soldier shortly after marrying me. He, too, knew God desired something more of him and began feeling the tug toward officership. Together we’re following God’s will for our lives and family!

Kevin and Megan’s corps officers are Majors Gary and Donna Van Hoesen.

They were announced earlier this year perhaps the one that garnered the most attention—and drew the most questions—was new ambassadors of holiness. The questions did not have to do with the officers. Lt. Colonels Daniel and Becky Sjögren seemed a natural fit. But what did these new positions mean? What exactly would the Sjögrens be doing?

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Stories of transformation

by Jesseca Lugo

I work with the Temple Houses, a Salvation Army incarnational ministry through the St. Louis Temple, Mo., Corps. It’s located in Benton Park West, a city neighborhood much like north Philadelphia, Pa., where I grew up.

This is my second experience with The Salvation Army. My first was as a participant in an after-school program similar to the one we offer. It was a refuge from home. My parents walked despair-laden lives lined with drugs and greeted by prison. I never bonded with my mother; a struggle I still battle with today.

Despite a difficult childhood, one person was able to get through to me: my godmother. She stuck by me with emotional and financial support and a loving home. Most importantly, she introduced me to Christ. My life was changed.

So when I see kids in our neighborhood, I see me. I’m 22, and I deeply empathize with these children. I work hard to help them and spend hours tutoring, listening and praying for and with them. It’s sometimes difficult, but I’m learning you can’t always know the impact you’re having in the life of a young person. Not only that, but I’m learning to accept they’re not always grateful for the help; it’s a difficult pill to swallow.

I’ve been changed as I’ve served others. I’m more prayerful and have a closer relationship with Christ as I’ve learned to let Him walk me through challenges. I want to save these kids from an even more difficult life, but in order to do that I’ve had to learn to walk with God and lean on Him.

My dream for these youth is not only to see them transformed by God’s love, but to see them giving back and ministering to others. My dream is to complete my City Vision College degree by 2014, so that I can continue to be with people in their places of need. I want to minister to young people. I want to help their lives to turn around. Just like mine did.

Her love changed us

by Kenneth Jones

I’m one of many people from Detroit who knew Margaret Cross, Detroit Brightmoor, Mich., corps sergeant major for many years. She was short, used a walker and always wore her uniform hat, but what I think we all remember most is her welcoming spirit.

Sitting in the chapel with her walker, if she saw you come into the corps she would get up and come over to greet you. “Welcome, we’re glad you’re here,” she’d say.

In our community we need a welcome. Detroit continues to have some difficulties. Maybe the most serious is how people of different races get along. In Detroit there’s a lot of black and white separation. That’s something else about Mrs. Cross: she was white. We learned from the corps and Mrs. Cross about loving one another and welcoming one another. We’re all brothers and sisters in Christ; differences in race don’t matter.

Mrs. Cross was courageous, and she loved her community. When she first came to the corps, she described herself as shy, but the day she entered the corps someone grabbed her by the hand and asked, “Can I call you my sister?” It changed her. She came to sharing her faith with just about anyone who’d listen.

A huge part of Mrs. Cross’ ministry was weekly visitations to the neighborhood taverns. She went places no one else would to share God’s love. Many came to know Mrs. Cross. During neighborhood parades guys would come out of the taverns to give her a hug, wave and cheer her along on the Salvation Army float. They loved Mrs. Cross, and she loved them.

Her love changed us. I’m even now still discovering how it changed me. I learned it’s not about what makes us different; it’s about the love we all have for each other in Christ.

I changed because of having God in my heart, and because of the great role model Mrs. Cross was to me. Now I’m welcoming others to enter the gate, first on to the road to salvation, and then as a brother in Christ.

Mrs. Cross was short; I am tall. She was white; I am black. She was old; I am young. But it doesn’t matter. We’re all just people reaching out to welcome others into the Kingdom of God.
God was faithful
by Captain Brenda McCoy

When my mother was little, she and her friends would climb over the fence to play on the daycare center equipment at the Peoria Citadel, Ill., Corps. Catching them one day, the corps officer offered to unlock the playground gate on Sundays if they came to church. Our family has attended the corps ever since!

My siblings and I participated in many activities; I was even a commissioned officer’s sunbeam and honor junior soldier. But, by my senior year of high school, I turned away from God because I wanted to sleep with my boyfriend. I got pregnant after Edward, was killed while driving graduation and had an abortion before starting college. Three years more children. We were together for 13 years when my youngest brother, another man— an alcoholic and substance abuser, “I love you; I want you.” In spite of my unfaithfulness to God, He remained faithful to me.

I was scared, alone and consumed with guilt. One night 1 cried out for God’s forgiveness. I heard Him whisper, “I love you; I want you.” In spite of my unfaithfulness to God, He remained faithful to me.

But less than a year later I met another man—an alcoholic and substance abuser—with whom I had two more children. We were together for 13 years when my youngest brother, Edward, was killed while driving drunk.

Edward’s death was a pivotal moment in my life. I got divorced and never felt more spiritually bankrupt, emotionally unstable and alone. I found restoration at the corps. For awhile I also attended another church hoping my children might be inspired by its many professional people of African-American descent. They, however, preferred the Army!

Humiliated, I became a senior soldier, then taught Sunday school, girl guards and junior soldiers. One day the corps officers asked me to preach. I was shocked, yet strangely prepared. I shared thoughts on the Christian life with the catch phrase, “Show up, Christian.”

Several weeks later, God asked, ”Brenda, do you realize you’ve never put Me first?” I replied, ”Why call me now after all the mistakes I’ve made?” His answer was simple: ”Show up, Christian.”

In 2003 I entered the College for Officer Training with my children Roman, Dietrich and Jasmine. Today I’m a corps officer, and my children are all senior soldiers.

Three generations of my family have been blessed through the Army. Dietrich works in ministry at the Chicago Kroc Center and is a member of the territorial praise team. And, both he and Jasmine have been on overseas summer mission teams. God is truly faithful.

Feeding His Sheep
by Jan Nowak

I am the social worker at the Niles, Mich., Corps. I am also a child of God, a servant, a friend, a mother, a daughter, a sister, an employee, a gardener, a reader, a writer, a singer—a bit of a Renaissance woman. I am Welsh and Bohemian. And I am proud of every bit of it.

One way the Niles Corps is impacting our community is through a program called ”Feeding His Sheep,” which provides weekend meals for elementary school students who might otherwise go without. Children who are on subsidized school lunch programs have their nutritional needs met through the week. But what happens to them on the weekends? What happens to the kid whose mom makes $1 too much to receive food stamps or the one being raised by her grandmother who lives on $674 a month from social security?

A little over three years ago, I was challenged to create a program that addressed the need for weekend nutrition for at-risk elementary age children. Our intent was not just to provide “calories” but to make a meaningful contribution to the children’s well-being through proper diet and nutrition, through balanced nutritional meals, and in the end to positively affect their school experience and educational outcomes.

Our solution was Feeding His Sheep which provides a nutritious breakfast, lunch and dinner for Saturday and Sunday. The program now serves up to 245 children who are identified by their school counselors.

On Wednesdays, backpacks are put together for a Friday distribution. Parent/teacher organizations and school staff help to distribute the backpacks in the 10 schools. Each backpack contains easy to prepare meals the children can manage on their own. The backpacks are returned on Monday for reuse. If the backpack is not returned, the child will not receive one again on Friday. This builds accountability for the parents and the children. It also increases attendance on those days.

Feeding His Sheep has done a tremendous job of community building. It involves many corps members working with parents, volunteers, children, teachers and school officials. And we are now seeing spinoffs into other Salvation Army activities.

But how has this program impacted my own life? I have always been passionate about serving people, but my natural sensitivities have been raised to the plight of the hungry. I am humbled God would use me in this way. God has made it clear to me we need to be feeding the whole person. I have grown spiritually, well beyond questioning my own ability; rather, I have plunged into joyful submission of God’s abilities. For that, I’m grateful.

Let me share a story about one recipient family. The parents had separated. Their two kids lived with the mom, but she was going blind and struggling. The school counselor discovered the dad wouldn’t take the kids on weekends because he had been downsized and was ashamed he could not feed himself, let alone the kids. Through Feeding His Sheep, the two children are now with the dad on weekends. I had no idea we would be a part of helping to keep children with their parents. Who would have thought a food program would help family members maintain relationships?

I am a person of hope. I believe we can change children’s lives, not just for a weekend but forever. We are not just affecting their academic performance or physical bodies. I believe we may actually be saving those kids.

What started as a job has woven its way into every aspect of my life. I can no longer separate my job from my life or my faith. It all blends together to make me who I am today.
Motown sound for Jesus!

Over the last 15 years, the Southeast Michigan ARC Singers have composed and performed gospel and inspirational music driven by a Motown sound. Supported by its band, Justified, this powerhouse of sound has released two albums to critical acclaim. Its latest, Pure Joy, received high praise and endorsements from the gospel music industry.

Envoy Merle Miller, administrator of the Southeast Michigan Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) since 1998, encouraged the formation of a singing group after realizing the ARC had much untapped talent under its roof.

In the years since, beneficiaries—some with professional music industry backgrounds—have treasured this outlet for their talents, not only spiritually enriching themselves but allowing them to share God’s message of hope with others.

In its review of Pure Joy, Gospel House Music called it ‘old-school gospel with an exciting new twist. The music will touch your heart and flood your soul with hope in Jesus Christ.” House remixes of two songs, “Prayer for Peace” and “Pure Joy,” were described as “guaranteed to make you dance for joy!”

“Their performances exceed professional standards,” said Merle of the group. “They do it all for the Lord with great humility.” Bill Koviak, assistant to the ARC administrator, served as the band’s general manager and booking agent. The group and band have performed across the country and in the Caribbean.

Singer/songwriter Charles Champion, group leader, described the ARC Singers (which alternatively stands for “Adults Returning to Christ”) as an ensemble of recovering people who want to show their gratitude to God.

Certificates for success!

The paper on which the certificate is printed is almost worthless but what it represents to the person who earned it is priceless.

Fifteen beneficiaries of the St. Louis, Mo., Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC), in cooperation with St. Louis Community College, earned Certificates of Work Readiness, pieces of paper that can make a difference to their futures.

The men spent 1,040 hours in on-the-job training, 76 hours in life management classes, and 42 hours studying other essentials. For their efforts, they also received 120 credit hours and 9.6 continuing education units from the college.

Major K. Kendall Mathews, ARC administrator, initiated the collaboration to put the men in situations where they can experience success. The ARC aims to inject confidence, courage and compassion into the men without compromising their faith, he explained. “We don’t know what our future holds, but we know Who holds our future,” he added.

Jennifer Williams, director of rehabilitation services, sees anxiety rise in the men when they near the end of their stays at the ARC. “We help them create an exit plan, but that isn’t always enough,” she said.

“With this certification, self-esteem is improved, as is their confidence in transitioning back into the world.”

Daniel Garcia sees his certification as the chance for a better future he never thought he’d have. A former landscaping laborer, he plans to pursue further education.

In love with an ARC man

I met Jerome after he was clean and sober, for the second time. He’s a graduate of the Omaha, Neb., Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC) and now employed as the ARC intake coordinator. At the time we met, he’d just celebrated what we call his “sobriety birthday.” It happens to be Groundhog Day, and I think it’s God’s funny way of reminding him he’d been there before.

We were married this June. It’s been a wonderful time, but not one without concerns knowing the possibility of relapse. As his wife, I share the mission of sobriety with him as well as the spiritual journey that lies ahead of us.

I’m not naive to the ways of an addict. 29 years ago I was married to one, a heroin addict. He is the father of my oldest child. I know beating addiction takes hard work and the willingness to embrace what God has to offer. I see this willingness in my ARC man.

While thumbing through the King James version of the Bible, a message from 2 Thessalonians 3 stood out. In it Paul speaks about not being idle but working “quietly” for your keep. This is what I see asked of the ARC men as part of their recovery process, and it’s what I see Jerome do every day: quietly earning his keep through seeking God, loving God and loving others through service.

Jerome is an example of this to me.

“All of our lives have been marvelously transformed through the saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” he said. “We just want to tell everybody we meet that Jesus truly does save.”

At the Family Congress this past summer, the ARC Singers and a 40-voice youth chorus from the Eastern Michigan Division opened the Friday night meeting. Their high energy performance brought down the house. The experience also provided a wonderful opportunity for the youth to learn from professionals, such as Michael Brock, ARC praise and worship director, and Charles Champion, who orchestrated the combined effort with youth.
CONSIDERING LIFE AS A JOURNEY IS NATURAL FOR MAJORS PHIL AND SHEILA DAVISSON, AND REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY’VE BEEN THEY HAVE FOUND GOD BLESSING, EQUIPPING AND USING THEM.

THEIR CURRENT JOURNEY HAS PLACED THEM IN A VERY DIFFERENT KIND OF APPOINTMENT WHICH IS CHALLENGING BUT ALSO A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE A NEW KIND OF MINISTRY.

BOOTH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE IS A SALVATION ARMY LIBERAL ARTS SCHOOL WITH DEGREES IN SOCIAL WORK, BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE, FILM AND ENGLISH, RELIGION, GENERAL STUDIES AND BUSINESS.

IT WAS A BIBLE COLLEGE WHICH CHANGED ITS FOCUS ABOUT SIX YEARS AGO. PROFESSORS MUST HAVE A PROFESSION OF FAITH, BUT NOT THE STUDENTS.

ACCORDING TO THE DAVISSONS, THIS DIVERSITY AMONG STAFF, FACULTY AND STUDENTS MAKES FOR VERY INTERESTING CONVERSATIONS. SINCE IT’S NOT VERY LARGE, IT IS EASY TO GET TO KNOW THE STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY WELL.

PHIL IS ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR EXTENDED LEARNING, WHICH MEANS HE ASSISTS PROFESSORS WITH PUTTING THEIR CLASSES ONLINE AND HELPING TO CREATE CLASSES AND FINDING INSTRUCTORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD FOR THOSE CLASSES.

TWO PROJECTS HAVE BEEN TAKING THE BULK OF HIS TIME: NEGOTIATING A WESLEY DISTINGUISHED COURSE, AND REWORKING THE INTRO TO OFFICERSHIP COURSE.

THE DAVISSONS ENTER THE NEXT YEAR BETTER BELTED AND WITH MANY CHANGES, THE DAVISSONS ENTER THE NEXT YEAR BETTER EQUIPPED, WITH WIDER UNDERSTANDING AND A DEEPER FAITH.
Around the territory The Salvation Army is supported by the talented and dedicated women of our auxiliaries. Whether dressed to the nines for fundraising fashion shows or donning Reeboks for a full day of volunteering at the Christmas toy shop, these ladies’ commitment is unmatched. They tirelessly give their time, skills, funds and influence to further the Army’s mission.

Volunteers extraordinary

Last year we clocked over 10,000 volunteer hours,” said Michelle Nimmo, Janesville, Wis., Women’s Auxiliary co-president with Paige Money. “That’s really huge! That’s why we can do what we do. We’re very active, and I love it!”

With 355 members and two major annual fundraisers that earned a combined total of nearly $40,000 this year alone, it’s no wonder.

“These ladies do something every month to support the Army,” said Major Ruth Fay, Janesville corps officer. “They’re very active; not only raising money, but they’re involved from start to finish.

Revitalization underway

The Metro Detroit Women’s Auxiliary is undergoing a period of revitalization much like they hope their city will.

Though small, with just 25 members, they’re powered by great camaraderie and are eagerly recruiting others to make a difference in the community through The Salvation Army.

Not content to just be involved seasonally, they take a hands-on approach and tackle a different service project each month. They put together personal hygiene bags for the Harbor Light, make 100 Easter baskets for children, ring bells at kettle stands during Christmas, bring school supplies to afterschool programs, and make sandwiches for the Bed and Bread trucks. On the fundraising front, their newest endeavor, a “Swing into Spring” luncheon, raised critical awareness of a new anti-human trafficking program the Army is introducing in the area.

“We may be small, but we’ve accomplished a lot, and we all work so well together for a common goal,” said Barb Popov, auxiliary president who has been involved for three years.

According to the major, a concentrated recruitment effort is underway not only to expand the group but to make it grow.

A shining star

Our women’s auxiliary is one of the finest in the Central Territory,” said Major Miriam Gorton, Heartland divisional women’s auxiliary secretary, about the group in Peoria, Ill. “If we need anything, they are there. Their goal is to help the Army financially, physically and spiritually. These women really understand the mission of the Army.”

According to Miriam one distinctive is their high standard for membership. Choosing to limit membership to 35, women feel it’s an honor to be included and understand the Army is counting on them to be wholly committed. It’s just not possible to be an auxiliary member in Peoria in name only.

Throughout the school year the women help in the childcare center, volunteering for nap watch and assisting in the shelter serving lunch. During the Christmas craze, they work on the Red Stocking and Share the Spirit parties, the Bear Tea, assist with the toy shop and wrap gifts. The women all work very hard. “Last year the women gave $180,600 to our Tree of Lights campaign,” said Miriam. It was the single largest donation.

But perhaps their biggest contribution is their annual fashion show fundraiser every October. All members participate to ensure it goes off without a hitch. The fundraiser is well known in the area and has tremendous support from local shops and boutiques. This year’s theme is “Project Runway. Make it Work.”

Mission motivated

According to Major Theresa Turner, Indiana divisional director of women’s ministries, the Indianapolis Women’s Auxiliary is a dynamic group of women who not only love The Salvation Army but its mission to spread the gospel. They’ve been active since 1965.

In July the 80-member auxiliary held its annual “Lassie Luncheon,” which raises funds specifically to support Indiana cadets. Thanks to this effort each cadet receives monetary support when they leave for training, at Christmas and in the spring. Cadets entering with children receive additional support.
The “Golf for Giving” fundraiser is the auxiliary’s largest yearly effort, with more than 100 golfers each year. The women plan, provide the materials, and support the event with manpower. After the golf outing, a silent auction is held. Last year the effort raised about $25,000.

This year auxiliary member Marcia Patton received the William Booth Award, one of the highest awards given by the Army for outstanding humanitarian efforts and substantial contributions of time, talent and/or financial resources to the work of The Salvation Army.

“Marcia has a passion for the Army, is a stabilizing force, focuses efforts on recruitment and continuously helps to make the auxiliary more effective,” said Theresa. “Not only is she active in the auxiliary but in her church as well. She is a great Christian witness.”

Majors Jolene Hull and Theresa Turner flank the Indianapolis Women’s Auxiliary executive officers at the May luncheon.

**October Prayer Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My Prayer List</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Bible Reading</th>
<th>Pray for The Salvation Army</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Tuesday</td>
<td>Numbers 22-24</td>
<td>Janesville, Wis., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Chronicles 11-15</td>
<td>Indianapolis, Ind., ARC*</td>
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<td>3 Thursday</td>
<td>Psalms 117-118</td>
<td>Farmington Hills, Mich., Corps</td>
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<td>4 Friday</td>
<td>Proverbs 28</td>
<td>“Disciples of the Cross” Section of Cadets</td>
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<td>5 Saturday</td>
<td>Jonah 1-4</td>
<td>Dubuque, Iowa, Corps</td>
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<td>6 Sunday</td>
<td>Acts 3-4</td>
<td>Men in Christ on this Decision Sunday</td>
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<td>7 Monday</td>
<td>Hebrews 5-7</td>
<td>Huntington, Ind., Corps</td>
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<td>8 Tuesday</td>
<td>Numbers 25-27</td>
<td>Kansas City Blue Valley, Mo., Corps</td>
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<td>9 Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Chronicles 16-20</td>
<td>Blue Island, R., Corps</td>
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<td>10 Thursday</td>
<td>Psalms 119</td>
<td>East St. Louis, N., Corps</td>
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<td>11 Friday</td>
<td>Proverbs 29-30</td>
<td>Grand Forks, N.D., Corps</td>
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<td>12 Saturday</td>
<td>Micah 1-7</td>
<td>Hasting, Neb., Corps</td>
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<td>13 Sunday</td>
<td>Acts 5-6</td>
<td>College for Officer Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Monday</td>
<td>Hebrews 8-10</td>
<td>Kansas &amp; Western Missouri DHQ**</td>
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<td>15 Tuesday</td>
<td>Numbers 29-30</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, Hls. Grand Rapids, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Chronicles 21-24</td>
<td>Austria, Hungary (Switzerland/ Austria/Hungary territory)**</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Thursday</td>
<td>Psalms 120-121</td>
<td>Kenuoka, Wis., Corps</td>
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<td>18 Friday</td>
<td>Proverbs 31</td>
<td>Freeport, Ill., Corps</td>
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<td>19 Saturday</td>
<td>Nahum 1-3</td>
<td>Flint Beach, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Sunday</td>
<td>Acts 7-8</td>
<td>Youth character-building programs</td>
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<td>21 Monday</td>
<td>Hebrews 11-13</td>
<td>Kansas City, Mo., ARC*</td>
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<td>22 Tuesday</td>
<td>Numbers 31-33</td>
<td>Kansas City Harvest Light Village Recovery Ctr., Kan.</td>
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<td>23 Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Chronicles 25-28</td>
<td>Chicago Temple, Ill., Corps</td>
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<td>24 Thursday</td>
<td>Psalms 122-124</td>
<td>Grandville, Ill., Corps</td>
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<td>25 Friday</td>
<td>Ecclesiastes 1-2</td>
<td>Harvest Grove, Palos, Ill., Corps</td>
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<td>26 Saturday</td>
<td>Habakkuk 1-3</td>
<td>Majors Robertson &amp; Karen (Hab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Sunday</td>
<td>Acts 9-10</td>
<td>Women’s Ministries</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Monday</td>
<td>James 1-3</td>
<td>Huron, S.D., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 Tuesday</td>
<td>Numbers 34-36</td>
<td>Holland, Mich., Corps</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Wednesday</td>
<td>2 Chronicles 29-32</td>
<td>Corps Cadets (teen discipleship) program</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Thursday</td>
<td>Psalms 125-127</td>
<td>La Grange, Wis., Corps</td>
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Go to [www.prayercentralusa.org](http://www.prayercentralusa.org) for prayer updates.

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

---Mustard Seeds---

**WE ARE USING SMART PHONES TO MAKE A DOCUMENTARY CALLED A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SALVATION ARMY OFFICER... OK...**

**C’MON... DO SOMETHING OFFICERISH...**

---ACTION---
Heart of a servant

By Lynda Magoon

Shawn a (in tie-dye shirt and sunglasses) served with Helping homeless youth

At The Salvation Army Quad Cities Community Center

Shawn a (center) with her parents and younger sister, Mikayla

Plus there is such a wide variety of volunteer opportunities from working with children to soup kitchens to the elderly.

Shawn a (in tie-dye shirt and sunglasses) served with Helping homeless youth

Helping homeless youth

By Craig Dirkes

The Salvation Army has expanded three of its food shelves in the Twin Cities area to specifically help homeless youth. Each location requires either identification or a permanent address and will allow guests to pick out their own food.

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Later that summer, Shawn a began working at The Salvation Army in Red Wing, Minn., where she majors in nonprofit administration.

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Promoted to Glory

Major Homer Fuqua

Major Homer Fuqua was promoted to Glory on July 6, 2013. He was 81.

Homer was the youngest of seven children born to Archie and Cora in 1931. He and his siblings came to know The Salvation Army in Decatur, Ill., where they became very involved in corps programs. Three of his siblings went on to be officers.

After discharge from the Army in 1961, Homer dedicated his life to the Lord. That year he also met Captain Laura Symonds, whom he married in 1962. After his commissioning with the “Defenders of the Faith” session, Homer and Laura served at corps in Michigan, Indiana, Montana and Kansas.

Following Laura’s death in 1990, Homer served in Carly and Vincennes, Ind. In 1991 he married Major Dorothy Lenon, and together they served as corps officers in Vincennes until they retired.

Homer’s lifelong desire was to see others come to the Lord. He is survived by his wife; children, Major Cindy (Barry) Corbit, Bruce (Dawn), and Ben; and six grandchildren.