Being wise at Christmas

by General Shaw Clifton

Wisdom is a precious thing because it is rare. Have you noticed that during the high celebration seasons of the year it becomes even more rare? It all depends on how you celebrate events like birthdays, wedding anniversaries, retirements, sporting occasions or the great annual religious festivals.

Christmas is perhaps the most famous such religious festival. How strange it is that so many folk mark it in a way that is totally empty of Christ, the one whose birth is being remembered. Wise, truly joyful celebration does not go hand in hand with shallowness or with rowdy inebriation.

Wise men and women prepare with carefulness for Christmas. The Advent (“The Coming”) Season, covering the four-weeks leading up to Christmas, provides this opportunity. Week by week, in our reading of Scripture or in our worship, we can go gradually deeper and deeper into the wonder of God’s plan to give us a Savior, so that when Christmas Day arrives we again have a firm grasp of the miraculous depth of it all. A Savior for my soul! A Savior for my sinful self! A Savior to befriend and guide me all my life long! Now that is cause for celebration!

I love to read in the Scriptures about the “Wise Men” (sometimes called the “Magi”) who traveled a long and hard road to Bethlehem to find our Savior Jesus in the moments after his birth. In the second chapter of Matthew’s Gospel we have a clear account of their involvement. We see how their wisdom was used by God.

They searched for Jesus in order to worship him. That was wise. They refused to give up despite the hardness of the journey. That was wise. They sensed instinctively that this unique birth was a cause for joyfulness. That was wise. They offered the Savior Jesus their most precious things. That was wise. They refused to be deceived by the evil intentions of King Herod. That was wise. Instead they responded obediently to divine guidance. That was wise.

Can each of us this Christmas be wise in similar ways? How wonderful that we can be wise men or wise women or wise young people in offering to the Savior our most precious gifts of love and service all our days, and that by the indwelling grace of his Holy Spirit we can in glad obedience answer his call to be his loyal disciple.

A happy and blessed Christmas and New Year to you all.

“Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” calls on Salvation Army

by Craig Dirkes

Staff and volunteers from the Albert Lea, Minn., Salvation Army are used to mass feedings during disasters. But for a week this fall they served 300 meals a day in happier surroundings: the set of the ABC reality series “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” which was filming an episode in town. The Emmy Award-winning show features designers, contractors and hundreds of workers who have seven days to rebuild an entire home of a family in need.

Captain Jim Brickson, corps officer, worked virtually day and night helping staff and volunteers serve meals, drinks and snacks to hundreds of locals and the show’s staff.

“Everyone was amazed at how fast we’re able to set up, but that’s what we train for,” he said.

The Salvation Army partnered with Albert Lea resident Kim Nelson, who producers asked to coordinate catering three meals a day from local vendors. The Salvation Army helped Nelson serve the meals and keep them warm inside a canteen.

The family of five selected for the episode lived in a dilapidated farmhouse that had mildew, a leaky roof and no insulation. The father lost his arm in a farm accident yet is still able to work as a mechanic. The mother is a teacher at a nearby Christian school and suffers from...
Standing alone
by Commissioner Barry C. Swanson
Territorial Commander

Voting is a uniquely democratic experience. Like millions of other Americans, I recently found myself standing in line waiting for my turn to cast a ballot. Looking around I could see an inspiring mosaic of faces representing our country. Every ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic group was present, unified by the fact we are of one nationality. It was, and always has been, an awesome experience for me.

We now know the results of the election. Local issues were settled and offices filled. Also, after months of campaigning, millions of dollars raised, and countless rallies and interviews held, we have a new president. His name is Barack Obama, and his election victory was remarkable for many reasons. History will record that on November 4, 2008, a person of African-American descent was elected to this nation’s highest office. I will be praying for Mr. Obama just as I did for Mr. Bush, asking God to make him an obedient servant of the people and a willing instrument of Divine authority.

But even as election hysteria subsides, the sensation of standing alone remains with me. It occurred to me there is a spiritual comparison to be made because it is in areas of Christian faith that we must also be prepared to take a solitary stand and cast our vote for Jesus Christ. Every believer has encountered times of spiritual opposition. In that moment we gain honest insight into our relationship with God.

I picture a child in a schoolyard standing alone. There is a teenager in a classroom suddenly standing alone.

The university student is in the campus coffee shop realizing he or she is standing alone.

An employee facing an ethical dilemma in the workplace finds himself or herself standing alone.

As we decide to take our stand for Christ in difficult situations, there is one truth we must never forget. He is, in fact, beside us. His very name, “Immanuel” (God with us), tells us everything we need to know. We are not alone.

The Advent season is an opportunity to reflect, again, on that truth. When we do, it becomes clear that standing alone for our faith is not a humiliation but a privilege. We express our values proudly while publicly aligning ourselves with the God who is with us.

May each of us accept and experience all the blessings of Christmas.

Celebrating African heritage
by Karen Young

We were there from the beginning,” said Lt. Colonel Abraham Johnson, referencing contributions to the Army since 1869 of people of African descent, a term used to describe black Americans, Caribbean and African Salvationists. Much of that history is chronicled in a new book, Soldiers of Uncommon Valor: the history of Salvationists of African descent in the United States by Warren L. Maye.

History was celebrated—and made—as delegates gathered for the biennial African Heritage Retreat in Overland Park, Kan. Special guests Lt. Colonels Abraham and Louise Johnson, Eastern Territory, brought their love of history and music to the event. Sponsored by the Kansas and Western Missouri Division, the weekend was hosted by Corps Administrator Envoy Dale Simmons and soldiers of the Kansas City, Mo., district.

Major Andrew Miller, Reggie Ferguson and Lt. Colonel Abraham Johnson.

Flood of generosity
In the devastating wake of historic flooding in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, this summer, thousands were affected and hundreds left homeless. Already a hard situation for the able-bodied, it was particularly difficult for those with physical handicaps. Sherri Wolf was one such person left homeless by the flood until a generous Florida couple, John and Betty McGuire, decided to take one last drive in their large, well-equipped recreational vehicle up to Cedar Rapids where donating it could “do the most good.” It fit Sherri’s housing needs perfectly, and she was delighted to be able to thank John and Betty personally.

New Revelation presents the gospel through mime.

Belleville Corps. Friday evening the Kansas City, Mo., Blue Valley Corps praise team, divisional band members and Chicago’s TSA Madison Street choir (Chicago Temple) opened the multi-cultural celebration. Saturday offered a variety of workshops with an emphasis on worship, music and leadership opportunities and a lively Q & A session on black history. Saturday evening featured a pool party outreach and concert by The Black Angels dance group, New Revelation mime and dance group and TSA Madison Street. Majors James and Valerie McDowell, former missionaries to Kenya, spoke about the Army’s ministry there and its explosive growth.

“The call is urgent to regroup and train people of African heritage,” said Colonel Johnson. “When we work, pray and work through our differences to further our unity for God’s Kingdom, God’s blessings come.”

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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.

Get Connected!
Here’s what you’ll find this month on our webpage
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Clips
Equipped for Battle
Worship arts retreat audio podcast

Resources/Links
Ashbury College
The Soldier’s Covenant
Emergency disaster services website
Online Red Kettle
World Missions Bureau website
Officer Candidates’ website
SMT music video

Web exclusives
The SA in Argentina, South America
East Territory
Excerpt from Warren Maya’s new book, Soldiers of Uncommon Valor

serious medical conditions.

The captain said although The Salvation Army probably won’t be on TV when the show airs this month, that’s not important.

“The community sees us here. That’s what matters,” he said. “As everyone in The Salvation Army knows, we are a ministry of presence.”

Continued from page 1

New Revelation presents the gospel through mime.
St. Louis ARC reaping what’s sown

The harvest of new soldiers is going strong at the St. Louis, Mo. Adult Rehabilitation Center (ARC). This past fall, seven beneficiaries were enrolled as new soldiers, and one received reinstatement as a soldier at a Sunday morning worship service that also commemorated the transfer of two soldiers to the St. Louis Temple Corps.

The interesting thing about this report, as Corps Officer Daniel Scheler reports, is that these new soldiers had signed up for a 12-week recruitment class for adherents. But as they progressed in the class, the Holy Spirit led their searching hearts to a deeper commitment. Program graduates still living and working at the ARC until ready to live independent lives, the men had all been freed by God from the grip of substance abuse, but all were still smokers—a definite no-no in The Soldier’s Covenant (see the Get Connected website for more information).

But, after making it a matter of intense prayer, God lifted the desire to smoke from all of these men. They’ve become big inspirations to their fellow beneficiaries, and interest in the next 12-week “adherents” class has grown.

Never too late

Weta Thompson has been attending the Traverse City, Mich., Corps for awhile now. “She asked me if it would be possible to get enrolled as a member of our church,” said Major Bruce Jennings, corps officer, who assured her she could if she met certain requirements. “Well, don’t wait too long,” she said. “I’m 92, and I would like to be enrolled before I go.”

Major Jennings and his wife, Mildred, met in Weta’s home for soldiership classes, and Weta was recently enrolled.

East Chicago produces harvesters

After being closed for several years, the reopened East Chicago Corps was thrilled to enroll its first four senior soldiers. Captains Daniel and Nivia Paredes, corps officers since last year [the corps reopened in 2006], were honored to hear the testimonies of the newest soldiers as they confirmed the steps they were taking to demonstrate this new level of commitment to the Lord.

Rosa Perez has been attending the corps (which had continued meeting unofficially for Sunday worship at a soldier’s home) for three years and is now the corps cadet leader.

Leticia Marquez, a long-time Christian, has been attending for a year and is the Sunday school new-believers class teacher. Armando Marquez is the corps’ soccer coach; he starts every game with prayer and teaches youth about God. Nivia Patricia Paredes is the beginning band instructor, teaches junior church and helps in the nursery.

“Now the ‘harvest’ is ready to continue picking the fruit,” exclaimed Daniel. “They’re excited to implement new plans for this year, trusting that God is in control of everything.”

From folk dancing to folk saving!

It was their love of Argentinean folk dancing that brought Mauricio and Melisa Gutierrez together, but it was their deep love for God and lost souls that brought them to officership.

Members of the Prayer Warriors session, the Gutierrezes entered the South America East Territory’s Training College in March 2008. The principal and assistant principal there are Centralites Majors John and Nancy Mowers; they were responsible for arranging this training of in second-year cadets for commissioning in late 2009.

Melisa is a third-generation Salvationist with family in leadership positions at her home corps in Bahia Blanca. Since she was a teenager, Melisa has been involved in sacred dance. The act of worship through movement has greatly influenced her close relationship with God.

As a teen Melisa also joined an Argentinean folk dance performance group, which traveled around the region. It was on a visit to a town 23 miles from Bahia Blanca that Melisa’s regular dance partner was unable to perform. Local folk dancer Mauricio gallantly substituted for him. The two clicked; soon Mauricio joined the troupe and began making the 46-mile roundtrip to Bahia Blanca for rehearsals. He thought it strange that the group practiced in a church (the Villa Delina Corps in Bahia Blanca), but soon began attending it with Melisa.

Raised Roman Catholic, Mauricio accepted Christ as his Savior in his mid-teens at an evangelical church. Jesus changed his life. He continued attending the church for two more years but disliked the harsh pastor. Soon afterward God led him to Melisa and The Salvation Army.

As a young adult, Mauricio felt God’s call to officership but Melisa, who is very close to her family, was resistant. So he began praying for her! Married now for almost two years, Melisa realized after a year of mutual prayer that her love for people would be best utilized by God as an officer! Mauricio is particularly passionate about evangelism, and Melisa loves women’s ministries and youth work. They’re happy to be here but look forward to serving in their beloved home country.
Can you imagine how sad the Booth children must have felt when on Christmas Day of 1868 their father burst out, “I'll never have a Christmas Day like this again!” Jane Short, who worked in the Booth home, related this story. It seems the old General had determined the children should have a happy, old-fashioned Christmas. Preparations were made for a great family festival. However, when he returned from preaching at Whitechapel on Christmas morning, the General was pale and haggard. Though he tried to enter into the fun, it was no use; he relapsed into silence and gloom. He then told them of the terrible conditions of the poor he’d seen. Every Christmas Day from then on was spent with the Booth family delivering food to the poor.

So The Salvation Army’s Christmas food distribution began and continues to this very day.

Can you imagine...

How sad it would be for any child to wake up on Christmas morning not to find at least one toy with his or her name on it.

Commander Booth Tucker wrote an article in the 1903 December edition of *Country Life in America* magazine. He referenced a feeding program begun five years before which included the distribution of toys. Booth Tucker said, “It is a grand tribute to the open-handed generosity of the American public that all our guests were amply provided with an excellent Christmas dinner, besides the distribution of large quantities of clothing, fuel and toys.”

Today The Salvation Army in most cities with corps operates toy shops where parents in need are allowed to choose toys to give their children, who need never know the gifts came from the Army.
Can you imagine…

Envision a huge Christmas tree—40 to 50 feet tall—covered with hundreds of lights, each representing a $100 donation to The Salvation Army’s Christmas effort. The Tree of Lights was organized in 1947 to help keep the Army’s yuletide activities and need of funding before the public. Major Olin Brigman, public relations director for St. Louis, Mo., at the time, is credited with implementing this program.

Today the Tree of Lights is used across America, keeping the public informed of progress in meeting the financial goal for our Christmas effort.

Can you imagine…

Christmas is the worst time of year in correctional institutions. More good conduct records are broken, more escape attempts are made, and more fighting occurs at this time.

Brigadier Raymond Cameron had a heart for prison ministry. Driving home one night he prayed for a way to help alleviate these problems and to strengthen family ties of inmates at Christmas. Prison Toy Lift popped into his mind. With The Salvation Army’s help, perhaps children could receive a gift directly from their father in prison.

That Christmas of 1954 found the brigadier stationed in Green Bay, Wis., which housed the State Reformatory. Warden Powers, a board member, welcomed the brigadier’s idea. Salvationists took sample gifts to the prison, and inmates were given order sheets and cards to write to their children. Home league ladies wrapped and prepared the toys for shipping; 350 toys—making up 130 packages—went out to 30 states and three foreign countries. I was privileged to be stationed in Green Bay for four years. We mailed out thousands of packages to almost every state and many other countries. The program has been adopted by The Salvation Army nationally and in two other countries, making Christmas brighter for children of prisoners.

Can you imagine…

This holiday season, go into a mall, bank or Wal-Mart and you’re likely to see a Christmas tree covered with paper angels, hundreds of angels—and each one has a name!

The Salvation Army Angel Tree program was the brainchild of Majors Charles and Shirley White in 1979. While stationed as corps officers in Lynchburg, Va., they met with the manager of a new mall who asked if they could use a beautiful Christmas tree.

Passing a Hallmark store, they noticed a Christmas card of three angels. They envisioned cutting the angels apart, typing a child’s needs on it, placing the card on the tree and asking people to make a happier Christmas for that particular child. The first Angel Tree had 182 angels.

Today Angel Trees appear in cities and towns across the U.S. and have brought joy to thousands of needy children.

Can you imagine…

You can receive the most priceless gift in the world this Christmas—a gift that grows more valuable each year—simply by asking the Christ of Christmas to forgive your sins and to live in your heart. Remember, He is the reason why The Salvation Army helps people at Christmas and all year long. Imagine that!
Christmas with elegance
by Captain Jamie Winkler

Walking in, people weren't sure what to expect. They'd been told this would be an evening where the red kettle would ring for Christmas.

The dinner was a true community effort—400 volunteers, local businesses and a culinary school helped prepare and serve a holiday turkey dinner with all the fixings.

A maître d’ greeted and ushered guests into a beautifully decorated room with thousands of Christmas lights shining like stars from the ceiling. A harpist played soothing seasonal sounds as families enjoyed their meal. Then the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Divisional Band provided the classic sound of brass performing traditional Christmas carols.

A local radio host introduced the evening’s entertainment: the Fond du Lac Children’s Choir; a dramatic community theater recitation; the Cornerstone Worship Ensemble, the high school’s renowned chamber choir, plus Santa and his elves, of course.

It was a night to remember as the true spirit of Christmas was shared through acts of service, song and voice proclaiming God’s love manifested for us in the humble form of a baby born in a manger.

Bells over adversity

Brandon Braithwaite is a fighter. Although physically challenged from multiple sclerosis and in a wheelchair, Brandon hasn’t been deterred from living his life even though others might think his circumstances daunting.

For almost five years now, Brandon has been a valued kettle volunteer for The Salvation Army in Omaha, Neb., wheeling himself over a mile to an annual spot outside a large grocery store. Draped in a blanket for extra warmth and wearing a Santa hat, he rings the bell in each hand and greets each passerby with a smile and a “Merry Christmas.”

Why is Brandon so motivated to sit out in the cold and ring bells for The Salvation Army? It’s because the Army “helped me when I needed it,” explained Brandon. “Now I can return the favor and help those in need.”

Last year Brandon logged in more than 70 volunteer hours while at the kettle. During this year’s bell-ringing season, he hopes to break his personal-best record of 100 hours.

Des Moines kettle queen extraordinaire
by Arvid Huisman

Of all the Salvation Army’s red kettles in Des Moines, Iowa, only one is labeled. That one is reserved for Begie Hefner who’s become an extraordinary fundraiser for The Salvation Army. In fact, the Des Moines Register dubbed her “Kettle Queen.”

Each December Begie Hefner sets up the red kettle and tripods on the front porch of her suburban Clive home where she, her husband Fred, and son Tom and his wife Erin host four open houses for some 300 guests. Last year her guests gave almost $10,000.

“I’ve been hosting Christmas open houses for more than 30 years,” said Begie. “Fifteen years ago I asked the city coordinator if I could have my own kettle so I could invite my guests to contribute. He complied, and the first year we collected more than $2,000.”

Having been an advisory board member for two decades, Begie said, “I love what The Salvation Army does for needy families, especially for the newborns and children of all ages. In particular I admire the [Des Moines Citadel] day camp program.”

Begie’s kettle is a symbol of what one person can do to help others. “Anyone can do this,” she said.

Shop with a cop!

Majors Douglas and Sandu Rick present an appreciation plaque to Erik Estrada.

The Salvation Army’s Christmas efforts.

The first is “Shop with a Cop at Target” where Muncie police officers and county sheriffs each take a child to Target. Each child is allowed to spend $100; the money is raised by law enforcement earlier in the year. Last year, the program had a special celebrity guest—Erik Estrada of the classic CHiPs TV show about California Highway Patrol officers. At Meijer, Erik spent the day loading food into carts and having his picture taken with families. The next day at Target, he interacted with officer/child shoppers, posed for pictures and signed autographs.
Worship warriors ascend to new heights

by Martin Rowden

Over 100 Worship Warriors met at Camp Wonderland for the Worship Arts Retreat organized by the territorial music and gospel arts department. Delegates represented most divisions of the territory, other U.S. territories, the Australian Southern Territory and the Canada and Bermuda Territory.

All sessions and workshops were developed from the weekend’s theme: Worship Warriors Ascending in Worship (“let us enter the throne room and receive our marching orders”)—Descending to War (“let us worship God and enter into the battle.”)

From the outset it was clear this was a spiritual retreat as we studied Psalms 120-134, the Psalms of Ascent. Like the Jewish people, we experienced ascending in worship to a holy place where we worshiped God and were equipped for battle.

During the main sessions shots were fired, that is, “gospel shots” as in earlier days, but with explanation and teaching from William Himes, Graeme Press, Major Kevin Metcalf and territorial leaders in earlier days, but with explanation, expanded in worship.

During Sunday morning’s worship experience, Territorial Commander Commissioner Barry C. Swanson reminded us that in this spiritual war we are well prepared for victory when we have the full armor of God available and we are ready. However, ministry is our responsibility. He challenged, “Where is God directing you in ministry?” As we sang, “Let it begin with me,” I’m sure most delegates had received their answer and left determined to put it into practice and be like Jesus wherever they lived.

Cadet Mary Kim summed up the experience: “I was blessed, encouraged, equipped and fed from the Word in true Spirit worship. I know that God will use this weekend as the impetus for God-honoring, focus-ascending, victory-filled worship.”

During the break-out sessions, including preaching skills, vocal and instrumental rehearsal and performance techniques, praise band, drama, dance and media presentation. The Salvation Army continues to produce good music as demonstrated during the new music reading sessions. We are certainly blessed with abundant quality worship tools to use in our ministry.

Another source of equipping for battle was evident in the networking which happened during meals and fellowship, as well as a display of useful materials provided by Resource Connection.

Attention high school juniors and seniors!

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January 29-February 1, 2009 Wilmore, Ky.

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---Mustard Seeds---

JANUARY 2009

PRAY FOR:

1. God to use you in His plans for this New Year
2. Refreshed spirits for officers and their families
3. Students heading back to school
4. Worshippers committed wholeheartedly to God
5. The Des Moines, Iowa, Corps
6. The Fond du Lac, Wis., Corps
7. The territorial leadership retreat
8. The Williston, N.D., Corps
9. The Traverse City, Mich., Corps
10. The Western Division’s Future Officer Fellowship retreat
11. Zeal for reaching individuals who don’t know Christ
12. Candidates for officership
14. The Salvation Army in Jefferson City, Mo.
17. Greater awareness of the cultures within your community
18. Reconciliation within your family, corps and community
19. The Kansas City Bellefontaine, Mo., Corps’ Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration
20. The Albert Lea, Minn., Corps
21. The territorial executive council meeting this week
22. The East Chicago, Ind., Corps
23. The “I’ll Fight Celebration” at Army Lake Camp, East Troy, Wis.
25. The Salvation Army in Myanmar
26. The Kistlers’ ministry at the Davenport, Iowa, Adult Rehabilitation Center
27. The Northern Division’s women officers’ retreat
28. Character-building programs at your corps
29. The Asbury College preview weekend
30. The St. Louis, Mo., Adult Rehabilitation Center
31. The Munda, Ind., Corps

Territorial Prayer Calendar

Calendcal

The Traverse City, Mich., Corps
The Williston, N.D., Corps
The Fond du Lac, Wis., Corps
The Des Moines, Iowa, Corps
The Traverse City, Mich., Corps
The Western Division’s Future Officer Fellowship retreat
Zeal for reaching individuals who don’t know Christ
Candidates for officership
The Youth Commission in Alexandria, Va.
The Salvation Army in Jefferson City, Mo.
The National Advisory Board meeting in New Orleans, La.
Greater awareness of the cultures within your community
Reconciliation within your family, corps and community
The Kansas City Bellefontaine, Mo., Corps’ Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration
The Albert Lea, Minn., Corps
The territorial executive council meeting this week
The East Chicago, Ind., Corps
The “I’ll Fight Celebration” at Army Lake Camp, East Troy, Wis.
The ministry of the Chicago Staff Band in Lansing, Mich.
The Salvation Army in Myanmar
The Kistlers’ ministry at the Davenport, Iowa, Adult Rehabilitation Center
The Northern Division’s women officers’ retreat
Character-building programs at your corps
The Asbury College preview weekend
The St. Louis, Mo., Adult Rehabilitation Center
The Munda, Ind., Corps

Asbury College preview weekend

Asbury wants YOU

Cadet Mary Kim summed up the experience: “I was blessed, encouraged, equipped and fed from the Word in true Spirit worship. I know that God will use this weekend as the impetus for God-honoring, focus-ascending, victory-filled worship.”

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ST. PAUL, MINN.—Despite disastrous economic conditions, the Twin Cities Salvation Army still raised $179,000 at its fundraising breakfast themed "Ignore No More." Nearly 180 business leaders attended the event, which featured poet speakers, a video presentation, and live interviews with clients. "Giving to The Salvation Army is an ironclad investment guaranteed to yield the highest return possible—a changed life," said Paul Ruden, advisory board chair.

LEONARD, MICH.—Twenty-one girl guards and rangers attended the Eastern Michigan Division’s first youth pleasant beach. The event was planned for youth who had completed the required hunter safety course taught by Safari Club International. The event was sponsored by Lapeer County Pheasants Forever.

FINLAYSON, MINN.—The Northern Divisional Women’s Ministries Camp, led by Majore Rebecca Sjogren and Donna Leedom, provided more than 240 women the opportunity for relaxation, pampering, fellowship and reflection this fall. Special guests included Assistant Territorial Women’s Ministries Secretary Major Barbara MacLean and singer/author Kim Boltin.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—Nearly 4,400 central Indiana children received coats, jackets, hats, gloves, and scarves at the Coats for Kids annual event sponsored by The Salvation Army, NTFY-13 and Tuchman Cleaners. The day involved more than 300 volunteers and staff, including Indiana Pacers basketball and Indiana Colts football alumni and cheerleaders who entertained the children. Coats for Kids is in its 22nd year.

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SA continues Myanmar recovery

Salvation Army officers and personnel from Myanmar continue working alongside international deployees to help people affected by devastating Cyclone Nargis in May.

The committed and dedicated response of Salvationists in the area has meant a continual program of feeding and support. When food distribution concludes at the end of this month, support will have been provided for at least 26 villages and communities in regions surrounding Yangon, the country’s capital, for more than seven months. At least 25,000 people have been provided food and survival equipment.

In five locations, The Salvation Army is providing materials for home repair and reconstruction. When completed, more than 1,000 homes will have been rebuilt or repaired, meaning that well over 5,000 people will have been provided with safe housing.

The response has meant a significant commitment of personnel and finances, with in excess of $1 million having been spent or committed. Major Mike Caffell, field operations officer for International Emergency Services, has been to Myanmar and seen the scale of devastation and the difference made by Salvation Army teams.

"It has been a privilege to work with the highly committed Salvationists and officers of the Myanmar Region," he said. "In addition to the normal service they give for their work, these people have given of themselves continually in support of their fellow country-people in order to bring relief and some hope after the difficulties they have been facing."

Much more needs to be done before life can return to some semblance of order.

Funds are being sought so the program can continue as long as it is needed. Donations can be made online.

Around the Territory

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.—Autumn heralded The Salvation Army and Grace Episcopal Church dedication of the Lohman Prayer Garden. The colonel will long be remembered for his preaching and counsel.

Jefferson City corps officers; Major Elmer Trapp; the Rev. Shariya of the Lohman Prayer Garden; Major Mathews and Sheriff Greg White, Jefferson City Advisory Board member.

Centenary salute for Williston

January 1908 marked the debut of a Salvation Army outpost in Williston, N.D., a town founded just 21 years earlier. Proclaiming itself then and now “The City of Opportunity,” little Williston and the outpost matured together. Over the years, the town and corps have been mutually supportive through growing pains and victories, two world wars and economic booms and busts.

Williston is in a boom time thanks to oil, explained Corps Officers Majores James and Claire Castor. But, busts over the years have been devastating as people left to find new jobs.

In the community’s eyes the corps has been a rock and refuge. Support from businesses and residents runs high, and the whole town has been behind the year-long celebration of the corps’ 100th year.

The Moore Lodge provided a February chili fest; the corps band headed Williston’s annual parade in May and the corps hosted a carnival in August which was so successful the advisory board wants to make it an annual event. The final event was a gala dinner in October.

Advances in outreach programs have been set over the years by more than 80 corps officers. The corps building also has seen changes. For the first 60 years, an outdated brick building was the heart of ministries. In 1968, the corps moved next door to accommodate youth activities and a thrift store. A 1989 remodel provided more space. In 2003, the thrift store moved, leaving room for after-school programs, computer classes and monthly family movie nights.

The corps, now under the leadership of Maj. Brian Glassco, Maj. Dorothy (Derrick) Wilkes; two sisters, a brother and four grandchildren, continues to grow. Williston is in a boom time thanks to oil, explained Corps Officers Majores James and Claire Castor. But, busts over the years have been devastating as people left to find new jobs.

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ST. PAUL, MINN.—Despite disastrous economic conditions, the Twin Cities Salvation Army still raised $179,000 at its fundraising breakfast themed "Ignore No More." Nearly 180 business leaders attended the event, which featured poet speakers, a video presentation, and live interviews with clients. "Giving to The Salvation Army is an ironclad investment guaranteed to yield the highest return possible—a changed life," said Paul Ruden, advisory board chair.

SA continues Myanmar recovery

Salvation Army officers and personnel from Myanmar continue working alongside international deployees to help people affected by devastating Cyclone Nargis in May.

The committed and dedicated response of Salvationists in the area has meant a continual program of feeding and support. When food distribution concludes at the end of this month, support will have been provided for at least 26 villages and communities in regions surrounding Yangon, the country’s capital, for more than seven months. At least 25,000 people have been provided food and survival equipment.

In five locations, The Salvation Army is providing materials for home repair and reconstruction. When completed, more than 1,000 homes will have been rebuilt or repaired, meaning that well over 5,000 people will have been provided with safe housing.

The response has meant a significant commitment of personnel and finances, with in excess of $1 million having been spent or committed. Major Mike Caffell, field operations officer for International Emergency Services, has been to Myanmar and seen the scale of devastation and the difference made by Salvation Army teams.

"It has been a privilege to work with the highly committed Salvationists and officers of the Myanmar Region," he said. "In addition to the normal service they give for their work, these people have given of themselves continually in support of their fellow country-people in order to bring relief and some hope after the difficulties they have been facing."

Much more needs to be done before life can return to some semblance of order.

Funds are being sought so the program can continue as long as it is needed. Donations can be made online.