



# Hempstead Happenings

January 2011

## Christmas Musicale

On the evening of December 19<sup>th</sup>, the Hempstead congregation came together to celebrate Christmas through music.

The Young People's Band and Singing Company performed, as well as the Hempstead Corps Band and Songsters. Even the congregation joined in for a Carol Sing-Along to sing a few fun Christmas classics. Lovely solos and duets were presented by some of the young people; CJ Ezenyilimba & Chris Webster performed "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" as a tuba duet. Leah Rader performed "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" as her piano offertory. Meghan Ward & Francilla Saul presented a sacred dance to "God is with Us." It is always a blessing when so many talents are displayed in celebration of Jesus Christ.

Lt. Colonel Herb Rader shared his thoughts on the scripture found in Matthew 2. It tells of the Magi who were sent by King Herod to find Jesus. Once the Magi found the baby Jesus and worshipped Him, verse 12 tells us, "And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by a different route." Lt. Col. Rader shared with the congregation that once we find Jesus and worship Him, we must go back to our lives a different way. We know we have to keep moving forward, but on a different route.

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## True Joy in Christmas

The annual Christmas spectacular for the Greater New York Division took place on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Centennial Memorial Temple in Manhattan. A play about a mall employee struggling to find joy in working as the mall Santa Claus, taught audience members that realizing the meaning of Christmas, minimizes the impact made on our lives by everyday stress, in this case a very tough job.

Many of Hempstead's talented members played very important roles in this program.

**Gordon Ward**  
*Pit Band Conductor*

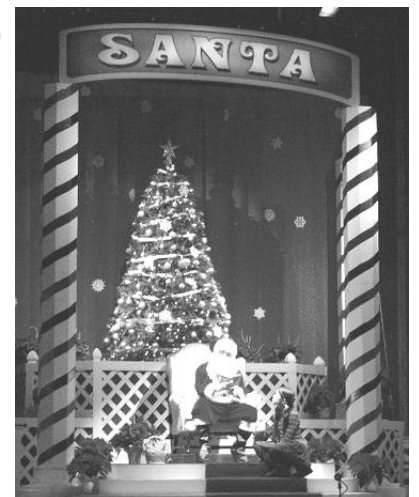
**Chris Ward**  
*Pit Band member*

**Stephen Ditmer**  
*Singer*

**Oscar do Santos**  
*Set Design (with Pablo Fernandez, Creative Arts Director)*



Cast joins together with audience to sing "Joy to the World"  
Led by Major Sherrylynn Moore and the Pit Band



## Eric Ki in Good Spirits

Just a short time ago, past corps member, Eric Ki, was diagnosed with cancer.

Gordon Ward and Chris Ward visited Eric Ki when he was in Rehabilitation and they found him in weak condition. Four days later, however, Lt. Colonels Herb and Lois Rader along with Mel and Francine Chung visited Eric who was sitting up and in good spirit. The hospital staff has been impressed by how quickly Eric is progressing through the recovery process. He was discharged to go home in time for Christmas and will be undergoing radiation therapy.

In fear of losing his ability to read after surgery, Eric has been memorizing the twenty-four verses of Psalm 139 so he may find comfort while in recovery. It is quite a testimony that even through trying times, Eric seeks God first.

### Psalm 139 :13-16

*"For you created my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."*



Major Steve Ditmer dedicates to God, Natalia Carina, daughter of Angel & Diana Lopez, through The Salvation Army Hempstead Citadel Corps on December 19<sup>th</sup>. Major Carol Ditmer blessed the ceremony with prayer.

## Kettle Update

This kettle season was a great success thanks to the many hours of dedication by those who helped to stand kettles and also to count the money. This year's kettle effort raised \$109,000; greatly surpassing the original goal which was \$93,000.

Anthony Saul showed such dedication, along with many dedicated volunteers, as they spent long hours each night counting and recording the money donated through kettles. The entire kettle effort was under the direction of Sidney R. Glee, Development Associate, with the support of Captain Jairo Ramirez, Assistant Corps Officer.



**THE SALVATION ARMY**  
**HEMPSTEAD CITADEL**  
 CELEBRATING **50** YEARS  
 1961 **50** 2011

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FALL 2011  
 MORE INFORMATION TO COME

Find us on Facebook

## January Prayer List

*"And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven." James 5:15*

- Corps Programs
- Eric Ki & family during his recovery
- Natalia Carina Lopez
- Captains James & Deborah Kissner, and Rebekah, Bethany, & Hannah, as they prepare to move to Williamstown PA.
- Lt. Colonels Norman & Louisa Wood as they prepare to take command of the Hempstead Citadel Corps.

If you would like to be uplifted in prayer by your corps family, Please contact the newsletter to be added to the prayer list.

## Blessed Visitation

During a time of year when many people are sharing stories of spending quality time visiting with family, Hempstead volunteers can share stories of visiting with people who may have otherwise been lonely.

Throughout the holiday season, under the leadership of Captain Raquel Ramirez, volunteers from Hempstead visited over 2,385 patients at various care facilities throughout Long Island. Each patient was visited individually and given a War Cry and PRIORITY Magazine.

On Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, following a time of fellowship, 30 volunteers divided into groups to visit four separate facilities. Each group consisted of musicians to play in a quartet, and volunteers to visit with the patients.

Many patients were visibly blessed by the music of the quartets. Some clapped along with up-beat songs and some were moved to tears as they said a heart-felt *thank you*. Even personnel came together to experience the music.

All soldiers, adherents, band members, and friends who visited during this season should feel appreciated. They brought special attention to some people who seldom receive it, and also showed love to some people who simply may have been in need of a special blessing.

## Watch Night Service

On New Year's Eve, twenty two members of the Hempstead congregation attended the Watch Night Service, including some of Captain Raquel Ramirez's family members visiting from the Dominican Republic

Captain Ramirez led the service and presented the devotional thought about the blessings God promises to all who obey Him. She challenged everybody to make their #1 New Year's resolution to live in obedience to Him in the new year.

After the sharing of testimonies of gratitude to God for His blessings throughout the year, everyone present held a lit candle and stood in a circle, symbolizing Jesus as the Light of the World, who would lead us all in the new year.

Thank you...

to Tom Mack for providing piano accompaniment for congregational singing.  
to Mel Chung for preparing turkeys and gravy for fellowship dinner.  
to all those who provided side dishes.  
to everyone who attended and shared the first hours of 2011 together.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It should come as no surprise to anyone who knows us that one of our favorite hymns for the New Year is contained in the Special Occasions section of The Song Book of The Salvation Army. Charles Wesley (1707-1788) penned these words in 1749, and they can be found in song number 915:



*And are we yet alive, and see each other's face? Glory and praise to Jesus give for his redeeming grace! Preserved by power divine to full salvation here, Again in Jesus' praise we join and in his sight appear.*

*What troubles we have seen, what conflicts we have passed, Fightings without and fears within, since we assembled last! But out of all the Lord has brought us by his love; And still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.*

*Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power, Which saves us to the uttermost, till we shall sin no more. Let us take up the cross, till we the crown obtain, And gladly reckon all things loss, so we may Jesus gain.*

As we write this, the New Year is still a few days away, and our minds wander to what may be in store for each of us in 2011.

Needless to say, the New Year will be a time of transition; for the Hempstead Corps as you welcome new commanding officers, for the Kisser family as we journey to a new mission adventure, and for the soldiers of the Williamsport, PA Corps as they prepare to welcome their 36th set of married commanding officers in their 119 year history.

We have been thinking and talking much about "traditions" these days; those rituals, practices, customs and habits which define and guide us, but which can also hinder growth and development

Without question, traditions are important. At an Officers' Councils on September 21, 2000, then-Major Lyell Rader was speaking on the Army's tradition as a Holiness movement, when he said: "What we have done, who we have been, and what we have believed is who we are."

Traditions are our distinctives. They make us who we are. But we must be careful not to allow traditions to so bind us that we can't see the value in positive change...in doing something differently...in not doing something (again and again) just because we've always done it that way in the past.

That's what got the Israelites in trouble again and again. When God, through their leaders, asked them to step out on faith and do something differently, they got nervous, frustrated or angry and then reverted to their old (read "ungodly") ways. And it was because of their stiff-necked stubbornness that millions of them never made it into the Promised Land.

Their traditions were a hindrance to them, just as the Pharisees' traditions were what brought them into face-to-face conflict with Jesus:

*He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ... Thus you nullify the word of God by your traditions that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."*

**Mark 7: 6-9 & 13, NIV**

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**Greetings from Captain Kisser**

(continued from page 3)

Well, 2011 promises to give us each many opportunities to try new things for the honor and glory of God. May we each resolve to seek God's guidance in our endeavors, to seek His strength so we don't resort to our old ways when the going gets tough, and to seek His leading in our respective mission journeys.

It has just recently been announced that our successors will be Lt. Colonels Norman & Louisa Wood. We ask that you would welcome them warmly, respond positively to their leadership, and be open to God's direction and vision for the Hempstead Corps which He will share through them.

May God bless you richly during this New Year.

**Captain James C. Kisser, Jr. CFRE**  
& **Captain Deborah L. Kisser,**

*Nassau County Coordinator  
& Nassau County Women's Division Representative,  
Hempstead Citadel Corps Commanding Officers*

**THE SALVATION ARMY MISSION STATEMENT**

THE SALVATION ARMY, AN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT, IS AN EVANGELICAL PART OF THE UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH. ITS MESSAGE IS BASED ON THE BIBLE. ITS MINISTRY IS MOTIVATED BY THE LOVE OF GOD. ITS MISSION IS TO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST AND TO MEET HUMAN NEEDS IN HIS NAME WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION.

THE SALVATION ARMY  
HEMPSTEAD CITADEL  
65 ATLANTIC AVENUE  
HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550

**Corps Schedule****Sunday:**

9:45 am Sunday School & Corps Cadets  
11:00 am Morning Worship  
11:30 am Junior Soldiers  
12:30 pm Coffee & Fellowship  
5:00 pm Prayer & Praise Meeting / Bible Study  
194 Front Street, Hempstead A.R.C.

**Monday – Friday**

9-4:30 pm Social Ministries/Community Care Ministries  
Pastoral Care – Corps Officers Available

**Monday:**

9-4:30 pm Officers' Councils – Quarterly  
Noon Nassau County Women's Division (Bi-Monthly)  
Evening Visitations  
5:00 pm Depart for Divisional Rehearsals

**Tuesday:**

9-4:30 pm Corps Finances  
4:00 pm Sunbeams  
Evening Visitations

**Wednesday:**

9-4:30 pm Sermon & Worship Service Preparation  
Evening Visitations

**Thursday:**

10:00 am Home League  
4-10 pm Junior & Senior Music Rehearsals/ Gospel  
Arts/Timbrels  
Sermon & Worship Service Preparation  
Nassau County Advisory Board (Bi-Monthly)  
Evening Visitations

**Friday:**

9-4:30 pm Staff Meetings (As scheduled)  
Sermon & Worship Service Preparation  
Divisional Events (As scheduled)

**Friday, as announced:**

7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study  
at Captains Ramirez' residence.

**First Saturday** of every month: Women's Breakfast

**Second Saturday** of every month: Men's Breakfast,  
(Breakfast at Venus Restaurant on Hempstead Avenue)