



September 17, 2011

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### Salvation Army

Lt Brad Burkett was the speaker at the Optimist Club on Saturday, September 17. He and his wife have been in Council Bluffs just over one year.

Brad was born in Chicago. His parents were in the Salvation Army, so he traveled a lot as a youth. He was in Haiti twelve years ago.

The Salvation Army was started by William Booth. He wanted to take the message of Christianity directly to the poor, homeless, hungry, and destitute in London. His message and services in a Quaker graveyard became an instant success.

The Salvation Army is now in over 200 countries. Their focus, especially in some overseas countries, is preventing human trafficking, schools and treatment centers, and orphanages. In the United States they focus on adult rehabilitation from drugs and substance abuse, domestic abuse shelters, and human trafficking committees.

With the Council Bluffs office in the Lakin Center, the Salvation Army works closely with the other agencies there. They help people with rent, mortgages, utilities, and food.

This year has been a busy year. The Salvation Army provided 1000 youth with back to school kits. They helped with sandbagging, providing hydration and safety kits. They are now providing clean-up kits.

Brad said that most of their money comes from donations. The bell ringers at Christmas provide about 50% of their funding. They also receive some funds from United Way and from estates and large donors.

Unlike many charities, the Salvation Army does not have a management hierarchy with highly paid staff. Pay for officers is based on years of service and family size, so executives may receive less than local area workers. Officers accept 3-7 year appointments. They can also volunteer for an overseas appointment, which is for three years. All officers are ordained ministers.

The Salvation Army welcomes donations at their thrift stores, food, and monetary donations. They especially need meat items and volunteers. More information about the USA Central Territory, which includes Omaha and Council Bluffs, is available at <http://www.usc.salvationarmy.org>. Brad and his wife

Cassandra are the officers for the Council Bluffs area.

### Meeting Minutes

Keith Denton and Chuck Nielsen provided jokes before the Optimist Club meeting on 17 September. President Dennis White opened the meeting with the pledge and Richard Vorthmann offered the prayer.

Chuck Nielsen, Dale Willenborg, and Bill Vorthmann contributed to the Youth Fund in recognition of Iowa State football win over Iowa. Kirk Vorthmann contributed because he helped catch a horse that was loose in Treynor. Jeff Jorgensen contributed because his new phone accidentally calls people, even very early in the morning. Keith Denton contributed for a variety of causes, including his granddaughter's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The wrestling team had a good turnout for can kennel sorting on Wednesday. Next month is a new Optimist Year, so membership dues are needed again.

Gary Funkhouser won the 50/50 drawing. Linnea White won the attendance drawing, but did not collect. There were 14 members and one guest at the meeting.

Homecoming is Friday with a parade at 1:45 and supper at the Elementary school 5:00-6:45. Les Harvey will be recognized before the football game, so Optimist members are encouraged to participate in the flag ceremony.

### Calendar

- Sept 14 – Can Kennel sorting for Wrestling Team, time: TBD
- Sept 28 – Can Kennel sorting for Wrestling Team, time: 4:00 p.m.

### Birthdays

- Sep 9 - Arlyn Norris (recognized)
- Sep 10 - Milli Harvey
- Sep 19 - Bob Hibbard (recognized)
- Sep 30 – Tim Greiner

### Anniversaries

- Sep 26 – Bill & Ann Vorthmann

### Speakers

- Sept 24 –
- Oct 1 -

### Programs

- Sep – Jeff Jorgensen
- Oct – Gary Funkhouser
- Nov – Arlyn Norris
- Dec – Chuck Nielsen