



NEWS BRIEF

The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division • 5040 N. Pulaski Road • Chicago, IL 60630

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Melanie Scofield
melanie@scofieldcompany.com
708-289-9047
Kevin Morrissey
kevin@scofieldcompany.com
773-936-1244

CHICAGO DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY DISASTER SERVICES TO COMMAND EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS IN NEW ZEALAND

Major David A. Dalberg to Report March 13 for Six-Week Tour of Duty

March 8, 2011 (Chicago) – Major David Dalberg, Director of Emergency Disaster Services for The Salvation Army’s Chicago Metropolitan Division, will assume the role of Incident Commander to Relief Efforts for The Salvation Army’s earthquake emergency services in Christchurch, New Zealand. He has been assigned to a six-week tour of duty.

“We are pleased to send one of our own to assist in ongoing relief efforts in New Zealand,” said Lt. Col. Ralph Bukiewicz, Commander of the Metropolitan Division of The Salvation Army. “Major Dalberg’s extensive experience in disaster response will be a real asset, and his assignment comes at a critical point, as response efforts shift from immediate response and rescue to sustained support throughout the long-term to help the people of Christchurch attain stability, whether in their own homes or through temporary relocation efforts. We wish him Godspeed in this endeavor, and our prayers are with the people of Christchurch as they recover in the aftermath of this disaster and rebuild their lives.”

Major David Dalberg has served as Director of Emergency Disaster Services for The Salvation Army’s Metropolitan Division since 2005. He oversees Salvation Army disaster services throughout the greater Chicago area, including 12 surrounding counties. He is The Salvation Army’s EDS liaison to the City of Chicago Office Emergency Management and Communications, Chicago Fire and Police Departments and statewide not-for-profit organizations. In 2010, Salvation Army emergency responders assisted OEMC and the Chicago Fire Department in 374 disaster calls and aided 124,806 disaster victims in metropolitan Chicago, from major flooding to individual home fires.

More than 120 Salvation Army personnel are currently on the ground in New Zealand providing emotional support to residents and identifying people who require additional services. These include elderly people living in isolation, those with chronic health conditions and others who are particularly stressed. Such cases were followed-up by “flying squads” of 12 Salvation Army officers with a large team of volunteers delivering food, water and other goods to those in need.

As of March 2, Salvation Army emergency services workers were serving more than 4,700 meals a day to 1,570 people at welfare centers. This included meals for fellow emergency response workers hosted at The Salvation Army’s community ministries center in Linwood. During the day, Linwood Community Ministries delivered 382 food parcels to residents who were without transport and provided 212 food parcels to people arriving at the center for help.

-more-

ADD 1 – DALBERG TO JOIN EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE EFFORTS IN NEW ZEALAND

Salvation Army buildings around Christchurch sustained substantial damage in the quake. With warehousing secured in the Christchurch suburb of Hornby, The Salvation Army is coordinating the movement of bulk goods, heavy transport and accommodation. These developments will allow a substantial scaling-up of operations for the longer term.

Meanwhile, The Salvation Army's Canterbury Earthquake Appeal reached NZ\$6.2 million. Of this total, \$1.6 million was raised through a \$3 text initiative organized by Westpac Bank. [Click to Donate to New Zealand Quake Relief](#)

“The Salvation Army was up and running almost instantly,” said Emergency Services Coordinator Major Rex Cross. “We are thrilled with the local response and realize that it's going to be a lot harder and longer this time.”

The earthquake hit the South Island city of nearly 400,000 people on February 22 just before 1 p.m. local time and measured 6.3 on the Richter scale. The earthquake came on the heels of a September 7.1-magnitude quake, with an epicenter further from the city, which caused no casualties. The latest death toll from the earthquake is 166, but is likely to rise above 200 as the search for survivors was officially called off March 3. Rescue efforts have been further complicated by strong aftershocks and widespread loss of power and water. The Christchurch area accounts for almost 10 percent of New Zealand's population.

Previous to his work in Chicago, Major Dalberg served as Emergency Disaster Service Director of the Army's Heartland Division and as National Disaster Services Coordinator from 1997 to 2004. In this role, he served as national liaison to FEMA. He participated in Army response efforts to Hurricane Katrina, 9/11 and the Oklahoma City bombing, as well as flood disasters in Minnesota and North Dakota. He served as incident commander for the 1994 Northridge earthquake northwest of Los Angeles.

The Salvation Army is the largest direct provider of social services to people in need in Greater Chicago. The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division serves people in need in Greater Chicago, northern Illinois and northwestern Indiana. Among the assistance provided are youth programs; early childhood development services; feeding programs for homeless adults, children and seniors; emergency lodging for families and individuals in crisis; disaster relief; senior housing; spiritual counseling and substance abuse rehabilitation programs.

For more information about The Salvation Army Metropolitan Division or to donate or volunteer, please visit www.salarmychicago.org or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-825-2769).

###