

# Kistler "Once Upon a Circus" campaign awes and amazes

Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, welcome to the greatest show on earth!" These words have taken on new meaning as the Kistler family travels the territory sharing their faith through a circus-themed campaign.



Through their awe inspiring acts, Captains Kerry and Jil Kistler, along with their children, Christy, 13, and Jeremy, 17, share the gospel and remind audiences to keep Jesus Christ center stage. Each four-day campaign commences with a Sunday morning message and continues nightly, concluding Wednesday evening with a dramatic gospel presentation.

Main character Brother Gilbert, played by Jeremy, narrates each day by reminiscing with audience members about his work on a 1920s circus. As the campaign unfolds each meeting recounts another adventure of Brother Gilbert's, showcasing the unique talents of each Kistler family member.

Around the territory lives have been touched through this campaign. In Wyandotte, Mich., two new seekers have become active members of the corps as a result.



Another audience member in Wyandotte, who is part of the nearby adult rehabilitation center, testified that God spoke to him about his struggle with substance abuse as Captain Kistler revealed a chalk art illustration. Kistler's art depicted a tight-rope walker teetering precariously on his line, all the while unknowingly protected by the hands of Jesus.

Corps Officer Captain Amy Voss reported that the campaign reminded her of the need for Jesus to be the center of our lives and of our ability to live for God by example.

Captains Daniel and Nivia Paredes of the East Chicago, Ind., Corps were floored by the harvest that resulted from the campaign. Not only were 24 seekers introduced to the corps by the performances, but the Paredes saw 12 people receive Jesus as a direct result! One particular audience member, a single

mother of two who is going through a very difficult time, attended all five performances and brought family members along with her. She testified the Lord changed her life once she started attending The Salvation Army after the performances.

When the Kistlers visited Princeton Ind., Corps Officers Captains David and Shanda Minks were reminded

just how much the Lord can exceed expectations. In a sanctuary that seats 80 people, the last night of the campaign overflowed with 200! David rolled in several sets of bleachers to accommodate the visitors, and during an interactive portion of the performance Kerry could barely wade



through the tightly packed room. An ongoing joke that David would shave his head if the performances saw an evening over 200 proved a reality, and when asked



to keep their focus on Jesus. Anything we can do to get them there, help them get through or create a stronger foundation in Jesus is what rewards us and is what this work is all about!"

how the campaign impacted the corps, Captain Minks proudly reported, "Staff and corps members were reminded that God can exceed your imagination. We can dream big, but the Lord dreams bigger!"

God has blessed the Kistlers' campaign with success and has empowered corps to dream bigger. When asked what blesses her most about their ministry, Jil replied, "Encouraging audiences

