

## **2015 'State of Cascade' Address...**

We are grateful to and praise God for the foundation and heritage He has established here at The Salvation Army Cascade Community Church through our SA Territorial and Divisional offices, SA Officers, leaders, church family, staff, and volunteers! Praise the Lord for His continued work in 2015!

We want to begin by saying thank you on behalf of Jodi, myself, Samuel and Michelle for the love and support that you have showered on us as a family. It is a privilege for us to share life with you and lead this our church.

First we want to take time to reflect on all we have to be thankful for. God has blessed us with many diverse ministries here at Cascade and it has also been a privilege to work alongside those in leadership roles: our Mission Board, Management Team, Pastoral Care Council, Budget Committee, Community Council, staff and volunteers.

If you are not aware our Mission Board: Sandra Gruenhagen, Bruce Ivany (CSM), Fred Jackson (retiring again), Derland Orsted (Ministry and Programs), Peter Roed (Business), Rob Studiman, Jodi Dunstan (Pastoral Care), Mark Dunstan

Pastoral Care Council: Luke Colbourne (Youth Director), Hilary & Fred Jackson, Peter & Esther Roed, Lynda and Jack Richardson, Jodi Dunstan, Mark Dunstan.

Heather Colbourne – Children's Ministry Coordinator

Budget Committee: Ken Bonnar, Bruce Ivany, Barb Reynolds, Mark Dunstan

Management Team: Sylvia Antonescu, Deb Lowell, Nate McCready, Barb Reynolds, Jodi Dunstan, Mark Dunstan

This has been another year full of challenges and wonderful claims to God's mighty work amongst us both here at the church and the Centre of Hope!

In the church, we have seen continued momentum in our ministry to children. We have shared the message of God's love through another successful VBS – where spiritual conversations with kids and parents have impacted the whole family (it provided opportunities to love on kids, hear the kids relay their understanding of God's love and how it has impacted their little minds and hearts); we started a quarterly Junior Youth Club (30-40 kids) – where kids from our church could invite their community friends to events to develop new relationships and breakdown barriers that people have about church; Cascade Community Arts Program – every Wednesday we have children come to learn and grow in their understanding of who they are and what God has gifted them in - (timbrel's, beginners band, drama, choir) – these ministries have been a blessing to us here as a church family and to the Care Homes that they have shared at; and our weekly Sunday School (15-20 kids a week). Thank you to Heather Colbourne and the numerous volunteers that pour into this ministry!

Looking ahead, we will continue to reach out to young families and engage in ministry that will connect young families to this church. We are blessed to have Corey Franson who will be filling in while Heather will be going on maternity leave. He will maintain and continue the momentum of this extremely important ministry to children. We are also blessed to have a government funded summer Children's Leader (Audra) starting with us on Monday, who will be working in both children and youth ministry over the summer months.

Youth ministry – as you may know we hired a Youth Director last summer – Luke Colbourne. We are very grateful for his hard work and ministry that has been effective in sharing God's love and teaching the young people about God's Word. While doing this, we have also been supporting Luke as he attends Columbia Bible College taking courses – growing in his knowledge of God's Word and youth ministry. I want to invite Luke at this point to come and share some brief highlights about the year.

Shared by Luke Colbourne: There is a lot to **Celebrate** about in the Youth Department!

In the last year we have had at least 90 kids have come through and visit our youth group; 60 of those kids came out for our All-Nighter event; and about 25 to 30 kids come out on a regular basis during the span of a month. Our weekly youth events average about 15-20 kids.

Over the past year, there were many times when I had to do Youth nights by myself. I am thankful that I now have 5 available youth leaders that I can schedule to help out. This year I taught and we learned a lot about community. We talked about what it means to be a part of a community and what makes a good community work.

We are seeing a lot of good changes in the Youth, as they grow spiritually. They are becoming a very accepting group that encourages each other, and supports each other through prayer. We have teens who are willing to help out on service nights, set-up and clean-up after youth events and regularly take leadership roles in ministries such as Sunday school, VBS and Family Sunday's.

We also have a small, but consistent group that comes out for bible studies. One of our youth, Colin (grade 11), has presently taken it upon himself to lead a 5 week discussion group using the "explore God" video series.

This coming year I plan to move forward with regular bible studies and worship nights. I would like to organize a retreat sometime next spring, as well as continue to encourage the youth to utilize their gifts and abilities within the church and the surrounding community. Thank you to everyone who supports the Youth Ministry through finances, service and prayer! We are truly blessed to be a part of such a loving, caring and Christ-centred family.

In the church we have also continued with Community Care Ministries to 2 homes in the community – 1. Sherwood Manor 2. Bevan Lodge. Thank you to Doreen and Laurie Elliot and the many volunteers who minister to these homes. I also want to thank Doreen and Laurie for their hard work and continued development of our extremely organized library. If you have not taken the time to visit, please do and engage in this free resource that we provide.

We are blessed to have both a morning and a night service. Thank you to Peter and Esther Roed for their continued commitment and leadership of the night service. Thank you to Ben Lowell who oversees our worship and sound ministry. Thank you to our worship leaders Sandra Gruenhage and Darrell Pilgrim, and Ben Lowell for their prayerful planning and discernment as they lead their teams. Thank you to all the worship team members for sharing their gifts and talents for God's glory as we join together as One Body, and they lead us to the foot of the cross each Sunday.

Prayer Shawl ministry started in 2014 – lead by Norlaine Woelk and Hilary Jackson, and the volunteers that prayerfully knit these shawls that have blessed and brought comfort to people in times of need. We have given over 40 shawls to people and there are about 30 more made and ready to bless others with.

Enjoy a weekly Men's breakfast and fellowship here at the church (Wednesday's at 8:30am). We also hosted a Saturday breakfast for over 30 men, with worship from New Life Church next door and appreciated our special guest Fire Chief Don Beer. Thank you to Bob Singleton for his leadership of this ministry, and to Andy Kwak for his hard work on the Saturday morning breakfast.

Thanks to Ben Lowell Jr. for his ministry and leadership of a weekly sports night here in the gym on Monday evenings from 7-9pm. It is a great workout and time to connect with one another!

Thank you to the Women's Ministry committee - as they have had a number of events and weekly groups over the year that have deepened relationships, keeping ladies and their families connected to this church. This group has also continued to raise funds for Partners in Mission – their recent 'Spring Up and Clean Up' event raised \$1,000.

We are a praying church – (can I get an Amen). We meet on Sunday mornings @ 9:30am in the family room, Lampstand prayers, Pastoral Care meet weekly and has been praying through the whole church family, along with weekly devotions with staff and volunteers. Please come and pray with us!

We are blessed here at Cascade with an awesome facility! The actual building has seen many groups from the community come through and rent the facility -- we have provided amazing hospitality to our community and have appreciated the support and ministry of Culinary Touch Catering under the leadership of Chef Mike and Inis – very glad to have them now as a part of our church family – and Chef Mike turns 50 years young today!

We have grown in God's Word and deepened our relationship with God through studying the Bible. We have had two different studies for both men and women this fall and winter, as well as the Scripture focus group that meets on Saturday's and one other group that meets weekly. As we look ahead this will be an even greater priority because it is imperative that we are growing in God's Word.

Many things to be thankful for within this church

In the community ministries at the COH and the TS stores – We continue to reach out with dignity to people, sharing God's love, and giving hope through – our new Pet Friendly

shelter, the Café, the SIL program, the Adult day program, the health and wellness programs, women's ministries, the Thrift Stores and so much more -- we are grateful to the many volunteers that provide so much support. In The Salvation Army we have a holistic approach to ministry that desires to support people mentally, physically and spiritually. We are thankful to God for the provision of a part-time Chaplain at the COH. This has been an incredible support for Jodi and I, along with clients, staff and volunteers. This year we have been challenged again (3 years ago) by a union vote. At present, half of the Centre of Hope is unionized through the BCGEU. Over the next year starting in June, Nate and I will be working with DHQ as we negotiate a collective agreement. Please continue to pray for us, our staff, volunteers and clients in these days.

As we look to the future, we plan to focus our programs at the COH to effectively develop more ways to help people reach better holistic health, well-being and security in life -- we really want to see our Thrift Stores flourish as they are a main source of funding for the ministries. We want to ensure that the spiritual aspect of the COH continues to be met and that chaplain services are always available

As we look to the future for our church, our main priority will be to offer more discipleship programs or small groups so that our church family has opportunities to continue to grow spiritually in the Word of God, and be transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ.

Our Second priority will be to maintain a strong focus on healthy children and youth programming.

Our Third priority is this new format for our Mission Board, which will bring even more intentional focus on ministry here – ministries that will connect us more as a family and foster biblical community, and overall growth of this wonderful church!

We will be offering a marriage enrichment day on October 17<sup>th</sup> for couples to be encouraged and challenged to maintain healthy marital relationships.

We are planning to have a church family retreat – hopefully in the Spring of 2016.

In order for us to keep moving forward and to hear your feedback (everyone 16+ fill one out – not one per household) on where we are as a church – Survey is very Comprehensive but easy to work through on Survey Monkey – handout one to each person.

Praise God for His Work within us and amongst us!!

Finally, no state of Cascade address would be complete if we did not share some brief details on the financial state of our church.

The past year:

- The Culinary Arts School closed in October and this was not easy, but needed. As a result, we have had a decrease in building rentals which does lower income.
- With this closure, there was also an income that came from the school using the space within the building, this too was lost.

- However, as shared previously, we are maintaining rentals and with the incredible support of Culinary Touch Catering, we are still able to offer food.
- I also want to thank Joyce and Deanna who have journeyed through this transition with such positive spirits – and in doing so have gracefully taken on additional duties that were previously done by the school. Thank you ladies for your hard work, patience and understanding.

Overall Budget: 3.7 million	Church Budget: 466,740
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- Children’s ministry is one of our priorities – our annual investment (programs, supplies, small group materials, expenses, training/conferences, events and wages) in this ministry is 40,000
- Similarly Youth ministry is another priority – our annual investment in this ministry is 56,500
- We function in a fiscal year that begins April 1 and ends on March 31
- In 2014 we budgeted \$280,000 as our annual Sunday tithing (with an additional 6K for loose offering or visitors). The actual tithing total was just over \$274K (5,942) and for this we are grateful. I do want to be clear that none of these dollars go to the Centre of Hope. These all remain in the church and the ministry that takes place here.
- Overall, at the end of March 31, 2015 the church ended the fiscal year in a surplus of 17K. However, this would not have been possible if we had not received:
  - A Grant for Children from our Thrift Stores for 20K
  - A Grant from Community Ministries (COH) for Management from the Officer for 25K
  - A Grant from DHQ for our Youth Director
    - Just last year DHQ established a program that provided funding for SA Churches to hire children and youth directors, as this is a Divisional and Territorial priority for TSA. We applied and were approved for this funding. The funding model is progressive over a four year period. In the first year which was 2014, we received 30K; this year 2015, we received 20K; next year 2016, we will receive 10K; in 2017 we will no longer receive any funding for this position – which means we have to generate these funds on our own if we want to continue to maintain a Youth Director on our Pastoral Team!
    - We are grateful for the forward thinking of TSA here in BC.
    - As you heard, we are connecting with youth in our community. This will remain a priority for Cascade in years to come, because if we do not, our church will not grow and we will eventually not have a church. Therefore, we as a church need to continue to get behind this ministry making it a priority for us to give towards.
    - It is important to realize that specific donations to areas are important, but if we do not receive our general tithing goal, then it makes it difficult on all areas of ministry because that is where the crux of the funding comes from.
- Overall year end for Cascade – 110,000 deficit (many factors)

- Looking ahead the COH building is now in great need of repair structurally and mechanically – over the next year we are looking at over a million dollars, followed by additional expenses again in 3-5 years.
- For the Church we are continuing to review our building to ensure we are planning ahead – we have a roof assessment up and coming – we are also going to be making changes in our lights to save on power costs.
- So what next?

Well, we were very close to our 2014 tithing goal – thank you.

We have a dedicated team who counts and records the tithing weekly. Jodi and I are not aware of who gives a particular amount.

- Based on average annual tithing of 197 people in our church family who are recorded:
  - 56% (112 people) – \$347/year
  - 13% (27) - \$1,376
  - 12% (24) - \$2,435
  - 5% (10) - \$3,325
  - 3% (6) - \$4,574
  - 4.5% (9) - \$5-6K
  - 3% (6) - \$7-9K
  - 1.5% (3) - \$10-12K
- Our tithing budget for 2015 remains the same at \$280,000 (+ \$5,600)
  - If we want to meet or rather exceed this, we will **all** need to give 7% more
  - **Yikes you say** – well if you take the 7% which translates into \$19,180 divide that by 197 people, divide it again by 52 weeks in the year, it would require each of us to give \$1.87 more each week.
  - I do want to encourage others who call this their church home who are not giving anything, to prayerfully consider giving what they can as an act of worship to God the Provider, to support His church here at Cascade and the ministries that we are doing together.

We appreciate your active support in the Body of Christ here at Cascade; we appreciate your tithe to this your church; as we look ahead to hopes and plans for the future, we really need everyone's active support and tithe.

Thank you for listening. God is the head of this church, the cornerstone and each of you are a part of the Body of Christ here! This is our church! With each new day, we pray that you embrace Cascade more and more as your church – your family ---- invest in it; be committed to it; connect more with all of its members; and above all else, spend time getting to know the one who is the head of this church and this family – God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit – the one ablaze within you!