***Hope-Strong***

**Worship Series – Week 3**

***Mission Strong Serve Strong***

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**S  Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. Please include the headings of each section in your bulletin. |

**Announcements and Offering**

***Move into the Neighborhood***

**Call to Worship:**

Jeremiah 29:5-7 says:

*5“Build houses and make yourselves at home.*

*“Put in gardens and eat what grows in that country.*

*6“Marry and have children. Encourage your children to marry and have children so that you’ll thrive in that country and not waste away.*

*7“Make yourselves at home there and work for the country’s welfare.*

*“Pray for Babylon’s well-being. If things go well for Babylon, things will go well for you.”*

(Jeremiah 29:5-7, *The Message*)

*Build houses and make yourselves at home* means that we should take up residency or permanency when we move into a community. *Put in gardens* confirms that we are not just here today and gone tomorrow but that we want to wait for the tulips to bloom in spring and daisies in summer, and that we want to reap a harvest in the fall. Our families are to be one with the community—going to school, living, working, and playing with our neighbors. We are to seek peace, showering our community with prayer. Our aim is to talk and walk the language of love that ushers in the spirit of peace that creates an environment receptive to receiving the Word.

(*Mapping Our Salvationist DNA*, pages 41-42)

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| **SB#938 – We have caught the vision splendid** | TB-394 – Austria | HTD1-T2 (3 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#349 – Yet once again, by God’s abundant mercy** | NTB-494 – Pilgrims | HTD5-T16 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#926 – O Thou God of every nation** | TB-394 – Austria  TB-407 – Regent Square | HTD1-T2 (3 vs.)  HTD4-T12 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#934 – The world is needing us** | TB-877 – same | No CD |
| **SB#943 – We’ve a story to tell to the nations** | TB-922 – We’ve a story to tell | No CD |
| **SB#954 – God’s soldier marches as to war** | TB-53 – God’s soldier | HTD4-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#955 – Hark, hark, my soul** | TB-486 – same  TB-494 – Pilgrims | HTD6-T8 (3 vs.)  HTD5-T16 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#960 – In the Army of Jesus we’ve taken our stand** | TB-692 – I’ll stand for Christ | HTD4-T7 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#964 – Lead on, O king eternal** | TB-223 – same | HTD8-T10 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#971 – Onward, Christian soldiers**  **HC#181 – Onward, Christian Soldiers** | TB-188 – same  HC-181 | HTD2-T10 (3 vs.)  HCD17-T11 |
| **SB#976 – Shout aloud salvation** | TB-823 – same | No CD |
| **SB#992 – Who is on the Lord’s side?** | TB-190 – Rachie | HTD2-T13 – (3 vs.) |
| **HC#153 – Storm the Forts of Darkness** | HC-153 | HCD14-T13 |
| **HC#221 – Servants of God** | HC-221 | HCD21-T11 |
| **SB#960 – In the Army of Jesus we’ve taken our stand**  **HC#271 – I’ll Stand for Christ** | TB-692 – I’ll Stand for Christ  HC-271 | HTD4-T7 (4 vs.)  HCD26-11 |

**Option #1 version (NIV) – Scripture Alive!**

**Leader:** 5 1Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**All:** 3But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. 4Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7Therefore do not be partners with them.

**Leader:** 8For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10and find out what pleases the Lord. 11Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14This is why it is said:

**All:** “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

**Leader:** 15Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. 18Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Ephesians 5:1-20, NIV)

**Option #1 version (The Voice) – Scripture Alive!**

**Leader:** We come to God as sinners; but He wants to transform our habits, attitudes, and practices into the ways of Jesus: to live, forgive, and love as He did. 5 So imitate God. *Follow Him* like adored children, 2and live in love as the Anointed One loved you—so much that He gave Himself as a fragrant sacrifice, pleasing God.

**All:** 3*Listen,* don’t let any kind of immorality be breathed among you. Any demoralizing behaviors (*perverse sexual acts, uncleanliness,* greediness, *and the like*) are inappropriate topics of conversation for those set apart as God’s people. 4Don’t swear or spurt nonsense. Don’t make harsh jokes *or clown around*. Make proper use of your words, and offer them thankfully in praise. 5This is what we know for certain: no one who engages in loose sex, impure actions, and greed—which is just a form of idolatry—has any inheritance in the kingdom of God and His Anointed.

**Leader:** 6Don’t be fooled by people whose sentences are compounded with *useless words,* empty words—*they just show they are empty souls.* For, in His wrath, God will judge all the children of disobedience for these kinds *of sins*. 7So don’t *be persuaded into their ignorance*; *and don’t* cast your lot with them 8because, although you were once the personification of darkness, you are now light in the Lord. So act like children of the light.

**All:** 9For the fruit of the light is all that is good, right, and true. 10Make it your aim to learn what pleases our Lord. 11Don’t get involved with the fruitless works of darkness; instead, expose them *to the light of God.*

**Leader:** 12You see, it’s a disgrace to speak of their secrets (so don’t even talk about what they do when no one is looking). 13-14When the light shines, it exposes *even the dark and shadowy* things and turns them into *pure reflections of* light. This is why they sing,

**All:** Awake, you sleeper! Rise from your grave, And the Anointed One will shine on you.

**Leader:** 15So be careful how you live; *be mindful of your steps*. Don’t run around like idiots *as the rest of the world does*. Instead, walk as the wise! 16Make the most of every *living and breathing* moment because these are evil times.

**All:** 17So understand *and be confident in* God’s will, and don’t live thoughtlessly. 18Don’t drink wine excessively. The drunken path *is a reckless path. It* leads nowhere. Instead, let God fill you with the Holy Spirit. 19*When you are filled with the Spirit, you are empowered to* speak to each other in *the soulful words of* pious songs, hymns, and spiritual songs; to sing and make music with your hearts attuned to God; 20and to give thanks to God the Father every day through the name of our Lord Jesus the Anointed for all He has done.

**Leader:** Wisdom is a rare commodity. Paul urges believers, then and now, to walk wisely. It involves living well every day. Time itself seems to be co-opted by dark forces. But when believers understand God’s will, avoid drunkenness, and allow God to fill them with His Spirit, they are able to walk wisely and live well. The Spirit-filled life is not just for a special few; it is the normal Christian life, and it affects everything, including how we live in community and how we treat others at home.

(Ephesians 5:1-20,The Voice)

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| **SB#682 – Thou has called me from the byway** | NTB-379 – South Shields | HTD10-T13 (3 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#418 – Every day they pass me by** | TB-797 – People need the Lord | No CD |
| **SB#680 – Those first disciples of the Lord** | TB-38 – Saved by Grace  TB-52/HC164 – Before the Throne  TB-55 – Sweet Hour of Prayer | No CD  HCD15-T14  HTD5-T22 |
| **SB#682 – Thou has called me from the byway** | TB-379 – South Shields | HTD10-T13 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#946 – A charge to keep I have** | NTB-156 – Southport  NTB-148 – Dennis | No CD  No CD |
| **SB#917 – Christ for the world, we sing** | NTB-197 – Harlan (slow)  NTB-198 – Moscow | HTD10-T2 (3 vs.)  HTD2-T2 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#935 – There are people hurting in the world out there**  **HC#203 – They Need Christ** | TB-886 – They need Christ  HC-203 | HCD19-T13 |
| **SB#439 – There is a message, a simple message** | TB-879 – There is a message  HC-139 | HCD12-T19 |

***First…We Pray!***

[Leader of the prayer time should use the Soul Training guidelines to guide the prayer time. The Soul Training box below should be included each week in the bulletin as a separate handout for the congregation to take home each week. List the following (condensed version) in the bulletin outline for prayer points during the prayer time.]

**Congregational Prayer Time**

**Soul Training – Hospitality**

**Leader:** Living in the kingdom of God involves loving others, because our King is a God of love. Living in the kingdom of God involves forgiving others, because our King is a God of forgiveness. In the same manner, living in the kingdom of God involves hospitality—inviting and including others—because our King is a God of hospitality.

* Reach out to someone outside of your comfort zone. Ask if they want to have coffee or go out for lunch. Listen to people. Become aware of the people around you and become a great listener.
* “Be a preparer.” Preparing involves doing small things that show you care for other people.
* Pay attention to the people you love.
* Welcome others into your “group.’

Pray for someone to practice hospitality and host them this week. Serve others!

**Pastoral Prayer**

***Serve Strong***

**Message – Serve Strong**

**Video - Serve Strong**

**Response**

What individual or family comes to mind when thinking of those in need? Whose face is imprinted in your mind? How can you provide practical service to this individual? How would this service give hope?

What service am I willing to provide one person/family until they are Hope Strong? Thank God for His strength enabling you to Serve Strong.

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| **SB#646 – How can I better serve Thee, Lord** | TB-15 – Here at the Cross | HTD4-T6 (3 vs.) |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#682 – Thou has called me from the byway** | TB-379 – South Shields | HTD10-T13 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#613 – O Jesus, I have promised** | TB-213 – Aurelia | HTD3-T3(3 vs.) |
| **SB#624 – Teach Me How to Love Thee** | TB-194 – same | HPCD1-T31/32 |
| **SB#630 – We have not known Thee as we ought** | TB-442 – Melita | HTD9-T11 (4 vs.) |
| **SB#766 – In the secret of Thy presence**  **HC#35 – In the secret of Thy presence** | TB-371 – same  HC-35 | No CD  HCD20-T13 |
| **SB#944 – What can I say to cheer a world of sorrow?** | TB-491 – Just Where He needs Me | No CD |
| **SB#946 – A charge to keep I have** | TB-156 – Southport  TB-159 - Trentham | No CD  HTD8-T17 (4 vs.) |
| **HC#30 – All That I Am** | HC-30 | HCD2-T10 |
| **HC#112 – The Potter’s Hand** | HC-112 | HCD10-T12 |

**Benediction**

20Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21equip you with everything good for doing his will,and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

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| **Vocal Benediction – HC#193 – Soldier’s Hymn** | HC-193 | HCD18-T14 |
| **Additional Optional Songs** | | |
| **SB#934 – The world is needing us** | TB-877 – same | No CD |
| **SB#959 – I’ll go in the strength of the Lord** | TB-433 – In the strength of the Lord | HTD4-T8 (3 vs. – Intro to each verse; extended ending) |
| **SB#819 – O church, arise, and put your armor on**  **HC#202 – O Church, arise** | TB-777 – O church, arise  HC-202 | No CD  HCD19-T12 |
| **SB#954 – God’s soldier marches as to war** | TB-53 – God’s soldier | HTD4-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#971 – Onward, Christian soldiers**  **HC#181- Onward, Christian soldiers** | TB-188 – same  HC-181 | HTD2-T10 (3 vs.)  HCD17-T11 |
| **HC#277 – We have caught the vision splendid** | HC-277 | HCD26-T17) |

***Hope-Strong***

**Worship Series – Week 3**

***Serve Strong***

***By Commissioner Barry Swanson***

**Scripture: Ephesians 5:1-20**

**Title:** **Serve-Strong**

**Key Verse:** Ephesians 5:15: “Be very careful how you live—not as the unwise but as the wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil”.

**Key Word:** Opportunity

**Aim:** A Hope-Strong life requires that I have the wisdom to see every opportunity as an opportunity for mission.

**Introduction**

“Because the days are evil…” (Ephesians 5:15) Paul could not have been any more prescient in describing this world of ours in 2018. Surely it is unnecessary to even begin to list the ways in which evil is manifested all around us every day, let alone in the world!

This becomes the next step as Paul challenges the church to remain “Hope-Strong” in its being, and in its living. We were never meant to be a reclusive, exclusive club concerned with our own comfort, safety and convenience. From the very beginning and culminating in the advent of Jesus, God’s people have been called to be active in mission; each one sent to be missionaries in every corner of the world and in every part of society.

Are we *living* for our mission? Do we see every relationship as an opportunity to influence someone for Christ? Can we acknowledge that “the days are evil”, or have we been lulled into a state of apathy and denial? If we expect to be a credible witness for the hope we profess, we had better make sure we are “Mission-Strong” in every opportunity we are given. The clue for how to do this is found in the first verse of chapter 5: “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children…”.

1. Live in Love (Ephesians 5:1)

It all comes back to identity. Be reminded of who you are, and whose name you bear. We are dearly loved children of God. As such will want to imitate our Father. This means, first of all, that we will live in love.

Need an example? How about: “just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and a sacrifice to God”. Paul nails it by removing every argument, excuse, justification or rationalization we might possibly use to “qualify” this assignment. God is the starting point of all mission. His love is absolute and unconditional and is dynamic, never static. A Christian person or church that is standing still contradicts the gospel, because true love, if it is from God, must flow to others or it cannot be authentic.

1. Live in Light (Ephesians 5:8)

Paul goes back to the familiar, yet always powerful metaphor of lightness and darkness to further clarify what “imitating God” looks like. The words *“You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord”* contain important information. What you were (darkness), you are no longer, and what you are now (light), is your permanent state because you are in the Lord. It is His light that is radiating through us. This light, as with natural light, is life giving, or fruitful, as Paul describes, and it will always produce a crop of goodness and righteousness.

Further, light, when allowed to shine, will expose fruitless deeds of darkness. This brings another dimension to the discussion of *why* we are concerned about mission. Not only is it the only way to expand the gospel footprint in our world, it allows this penetrating, exposing, radiating light of God to shine in dark places, exposing them as the evil strongholds they are.

Paul’s caution in verse 15 is to “*Be very careful, the, how you live- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil”.*

There it is. Every opportunity is a mission opportunity. Every conversation, encounter, transaction, communication, and interaction that we have has mission potential. The living out of our Hope-Strong message must be marked by a Mission-Strong lifestyle for every Salvationist. There is no provision for “maybe”. The stakes are too high. The time is too short. The need is too great.

[The Soul Training box below should be included each week in the bulletin as a separate handout for the congregation to take home each week.]

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| ***Soul Training***  Living in the kingdom of God involves loving others, because our King is a God of love. Living in the kingdom of God involves forgiving others, because our King is a God of forgiveness. In the same manner, living in the kingdom of God involves hospitality—inviting and including others—because our King is a God of hospitality.  Practicing hospitality makes us vulnerable, and this is why we refrain from it. As long as I spend time with people I know, people who are like me, I feel relatively safe. But if I open myself or my home to someone outside of my comfort zone, I may encounter something I do not like. This does not mean that we put ourselves in situations of risk: “Opening yourselves to the stranger is not equivalent to leaving your door unlocked and bringing strangers into your home. Hospitality does not mean you ignore obvious threats to personal safety.”  That said, we will still likely feel a bit uncomfortable. When we open ourselves to someone else we become vulnerable: What if they reject my hospitality? What if the situation becomes awkward? Knowing this is going to happen will help alleviate those fears. Simply remind yourself that feeling a bit uncomfortable is normal. Once you do it a few times, those fears will diminish.  Try to do two or three of the following suggestions this week.  REACH OUT TO SOMEONE OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE.   1. Ask if they want to have coffee or go out for lunch. This might be a coworker you   seldom connect with or someone who has few friends. Intentionally connect with someone who is different. Who might that be?   1. Listen to people Become aware of the people around you and become a great   listener.   1. “Be a preparer.” Preparing involves doing small things that show you care for other people. 2. Pay attention to the people you love: “You can put down the phone and listen to your coworker talk for a minute. You can shut off the radio and play checkers with your child…How much do people matter? How important is it to make room for others?” 3. Welcome others into your “group.’ Quite often we spend time in cliques, our usual group of friends at work or in our personal life. And there are others who would like to spend time with you and your friends but feel uninvited. This week invite them!   (Adapted from *The Good and Beautiful Community*, Following the Spirit, extending grace, demonstrating love, pages ) |