In 2012, a small group of Kingdom Workers wrote a vision to guide the future of the organization. The group focused on the Royal Priesthood and the Body of Christ, uniting church members in mission work around the globe. The vision of this small group was formally adopted by the Kingdom Workers Board of Directors in 2013 and is shared below.

**Vision Statement from 2013**

In 2017, the name Kingdom Workers is synonymous with gospel-motivated action. The community of bold people and organizations, excited to be included in this brand, include donors, local and visiting volunteers, program recipients, partner organizations, and CELC leaders—all of diverse ages, nationalities, backgrounds, experience, and gifts. Working through Kingdom Workers due to its recent history of impactful, well-planned, innovative, and efficient mission programs, this team of people and organizations retains a closeness—enjoying the fellowship, spiritual growth, and change God has worked within their personal lives, and worked in the people around them.

As a result, Kingdom Workers is the leading organization for connecting people, ideas, and resources to mission fields and churches with expressed spiritual and physical needs. All this is done to the glory of God, compelled by the Great Commission.

We celebrate as this vision is realized among the thousands of people united in service through Kingdom Workers in eleven nations.

During 2018, we will create a new vision for Kingdom Workers—something which does not yet exist, but we will set before the Lord over the next five years. Please join us in this Great Commission work as a volunteer, donor, and prayer warrior!

Yours in Christ,

Bill Meier
President & CEO

Kingdom Workers is synonymous with gospel-motivated action.
In 2017, a typical volunteer donated an average of 45 service hours for a total of 91,040 hours.
Builders For Christ is commonly associated with building churches and worship structures. Sometimes, however, there is a special circumstance and the rules are bent. This year, Builders For Christ took on two exceptional building projects. One was rebuilding a home for a WELS couple who had lost their home to a flood in 2016, another was doing general maintenance on a building for encouraging inner city youth of Milwaukee in an after-school program. Volunteers even traveled to Linares, Chile, which you can read about on page 19.

I experienced the love of Christ in everyone. What an amazing God we have!

ALLIE LYO, FIRST-TIME VOLUNTEER
Sometimes you have to connect people to Jesus through innovative methods. In Grenada, we work through swimming lessons and sustainable farming.

CARIBBEAN

Members from Garden Homes Lutheran Church in Milwaukee partnered with Kingdom Workers to find ways to serve and support single mothers in their community. During the fall, they held a Family Day at Lighthouse Youth Center, a weekly Parent Café, and a Prayer Night. These programs are building bonds between the parents, families, and church.

Eliza, left, a refugee from the Congo, with two members at Chapel of Improvement in Las Vegas.

UNITED STATES

First Friends

In June, Kingdom Workers trained WELS members to serve as mentors to a refugee family from the Congo. Volunteers met with the single dad and his four kids once a week for three months. They helped the family with everything from understanding ESL class schedules to personal hygiene to completing school immunizations. Eventually, the relationship led to an invitation to worship. The family attends worship at Chapel of Improvement every week and recently, all four children were baptized.

Strong Families Matter

MILWAUKEE, WI

Members from Garden Homes Lutheran Church in Milwaukee partnered with Kingdom Workers to find ways to serve and support single mothers in their community. During the fall, they held a Family Day at Lighthouse Youth Center, a weekly Parent Café, and a Prayer Night. These programs are building bonds between the parents, families, and church.

406 PEOPLE SERVED

36 LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

AQUAPONICS

Aquaponics is bringing economic growth, environmental stability, and the gospel to the people of Grenada. In 2017, a mobile system was developed and used in trainings throughout the island. 311 people learned how to set up their own systems through scripture-based workshops.

“Aquaponics allows someone to differentiate themselves from the market and produce sustainable income from agriculture,” explains local volunteer, Aaron Sylvester.

VBS + SWIMMING

96 people learned to swim and attended Vacation Bible School at Grace Lutheran Church. One of our volunteer swimming instructors commented, “I’ve witnessed the production of the Holy Spirit first hand, and there is a lot of hope hinged on this week’s efforts.”

PEOPLE SERVED

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

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We’re excited about getting people plugged into God’s Word at a younger age in a meaningful way.

ANNA SHEROD,
APACHE FIELD MANAGER

There are two main programs on the reservation:

**GARDENING**
The local Apache youth groups run two gardens. Through planning, nurturing, and growing seeds, this program allows them to encounter Christ’s teachings. Taking a lesson from Jesus, gardening is taught through parables and fun work.

“We use the parables of Jesus to teach how to grow, and it’s great because the parables inform the gardening, and the gardening informs the parables,” Sherod explains.

**HOME REPAIR**
Many Apache families don’t have the knowledge necessary to maintain their homes, so local Apache volunteers hold workshops to teach home repair skills to residents. This creates a chance for local Apaches to immerse themselves in an environment of service while receiving hands-on training so they can fix their own homes.

Participants who reported getting in trouble at school decreased by 14% after involvement in the gardening program.

71% of participants now eat healthy foods, an increase from 62% prior to program involvement.

91% of participants like going to church, an increase from 81% prior to program involvement.

Participants who reported getting in trouble at school decreased by 14% after involvement in the gardening program.

26 visiting volunteers
88 local volunteers

2,334 visiting volunteer hours
1,380 local volunteer hours

303 local volunteers
409 people served

71% of participants now eat healthy foods, an increase from 62% prior to program involvement.

91% of participants like going to church, an increase from 81% prior to program involvement.
Malawian volunteers stepped up to serve 700 people this year through the Ministry to People with Disabilities. The ministry includes Home-Based Care, in which volunteers visit families to work on physical therapy, encourage caretakers, and share the good news of Jesus every week.

By bringing Worship at the Cross (Jesus Cares Ministry) along with education about physical and intellectual disabilities, this ministry connects people with disabilities to Jesus’ love.

One Malawian pastor commented, “The disability ministry has brought people to join us at our Lutheran church, and helped us to spread the Gospel.”

- 1,942 people served
- 700 of which are served by the Ministry to People with Disabilities
- 209 local volunteers
- 173 of which serve in the Ministry to People with Disabilities
- 100% of participants saw an improvement in daily living (walking, communicating, bathing, etc.)
- 95% of Home-Based Care parents and caregivers taught others about disabilities
- 80% of participants believe their child will be happy as an adult
- 100% of which are served by the Ministry to People with Disabilities
A team of seven volunteers, all South Sudanese people who now live in the United States and Canada, traveled to the refugee camp in Gambella, Ethiopia to share skills in sanitation and best practices for clean water. The volunteers taught 22 members of the South Sudanese church how to help others prevent disease and make nutritious meals, and trained local leaders in congregational and Bible class leadership.

Rev. Peter Bur shared, “Training the local volunteers in sanitation was so helpful for them. They also learned about keeping children healthy, keeping clean, covering food, storing water, and waste disposal for houses... All of that was so important for them.”

People were so thankful for the teaching and the water. I wish somehow you could have seen and heard it yourself.

TOR MINYIJA, SOUTH SUDANESE VOLUNTEER

You never know what will spark curiosity or compel someone to come through the door.

It started with teaching English lessons for Japanese people. About 50 students attend the English classes taught by mission worker Dave Reinermann every week. Here, they learn the language from a native speaker in a fun and friendly environment, and the Japanese pastors are able to lead short devotionals and witness to the students.

The program has grown to include Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Mito, led by local volunteers. These lessons welcome both Japanese locals and immigrants into the church building and family, and serve as an opportunity to share the gospel.

A high number for just one mission worker, this accounts for each time someone attended an event or class at the church.
Access to clean water is a blessing for the people of rural Timorese Lutheran churches and their communities. Eight villages now have water transported to central areas that are easily accessible and over 250 homes have purification systems so water no longer needs to be boiled over open fires. With these improvements, diarrhea and other water-borne diseases have been mostly eradicated.

Health fairs on varying topics were held with a focus on education and prevention. Health care providers shared knowledge and insights to help people understand how best to care for themselves. One participant, after attending one of the health fairs commented, “When I am healthy, I have the energy to serve God better!”

Workshops were led by US and local experts to train local teachers, parents, and children on the importance of reading. Reading is incredibly important to the intellectual development of children and gives them the opportunity to read and understand God’s Word.

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Workshops were led by US and local experts to train local teachers, parents, and children on the importance of reading. Reading is incredibly important to the intellectual development of children and gives them the opportunity to read and understand God’s Word.

- 2,553 people served
- 600+ books donated & distributed to five libraries
- 346 local volunteers
- 860+ impacted people
CHILE

Three mission workers serve as evangelists in Linares, Chile, teaching English part-time in private or public schools. Partnered with the local Lutheran congregation, they connect the people they meet to Jesus by inviting them to events at the church. Congregations in Santiago also welcomed two new mission workers in December.

The Christian Church of the Lutheran Reformation – Chile is a mission plant of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). Congregations in the cities of Santiago and Linares host Kingdom Workers.

Each mission worker is funded by a network of personal ministry supporters through Kingdom Workers. If you are interested in joining one of these personal support networks, please contact the Kingdom Workers office (page 23).

Santiago

Linares

The new sanctuary and meeting space is used for community fellowship and outreach events like Advent by Candlelight, which drew 45 people this year (over half of which were visitors).

In April, four Builders For Christ volunteers worked with the Chilean congregation on the new sanctuary. The new building was used to hold their Easter worship service and celebration.

Each mission worker is funded by a network of personal ministry supporters through Kingdom Workers. If you are interested in joining one of these personal support networks, please contact the Kingdom Workers office (page 23).

1,822
PEOPLE
SERVED

18
LOCAL
VOLUNTEERS

18
2017 ANNUAL REPORT
In our inaugural year, we were blessed to have been able to raise the funds to purchase a vehicle for our ministry in Chile. This car enables our mission workers to reach evangelism prospects with the gospel in evenings and off hours when public transportation is unavailable. Initial contacts with these prospects are often made through their English as a Second Language efforts.

Personal conversations regarding guilt, forgiveness, and grace have proven to take place more often during these evening visits. We are excited and grateful for the success in 2017 and look forward to raising funds for a special project in 2018.

Contact Don Whitlock with any questions about The Founders Circle at 414-241-1085

Founders Circle Directors: James Haag, Donald Whitlock, and Donovan Kemerley

Our Kingdom Builders’ Society was created to encourage our supporters to include Kingdom Workers in their estate plans and to thank those who have.

We sincerely thank all those listed here who have made generous gifts today or committed joyful gifts in the future so Kingdom Workers can have an impact in spreading God’s Word far beyond what anyone might imagine.

Arlene Agnew
Dan & Friends Carow
Bob & Debbie Carroll
Ray & Ruth Dusseau
Dick & Sandra Fossus
Bob & Sharon Garbe
Tim & Rita Geary
Vi Georgson
Jane Godfrey
Floyd & Flora Helling
Clarence & Ruth Jenkins
Chris & Lena Joch
Roger & Ruth Kamin
Duane Kettler
Elizabeth Kietzmann
Renee Kietzmann
Pastor William & Lorraine Kirschner
Jerome & Suzanne Knoop
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Ruth Westendorf
John & Virginia Wiederhold
Ed & Minnette Wolf
Dr. Thomas Zebeili

If you have included Kingdom Workers in your estate plans and are not listed here, please contact us at your earliest convenience at 414-257-3573 so we can include your name.
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