

# MAKING GOD KNOWN



CENTRAL BIBLE CHURCH



*Making God known by making disciples who  
are changed by God to change their world.*

## EXTENDED LEADERSHIP

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*Lead Pastor*

**Roger Sappington**  
*Executive Pastor*

**Teresa Boudreau**  
*Executive Director of Finance and Operations*

**Nathan Beltran**  
*Worship Director*

**Method Bigirimana**  
*ReGenesis Lead Pastor*

**Jenny Black**  
*Central Counseling Director and Women's Minister*

**Jesse Burns**  
*High School Minister*

**Brett Hansen**  
*Community Pastor and Men's Minister*

**Dani Perera**  
*Central en Español Minister*

**Ryan Rasberry**  
*Community Pastor and Care Ministries*

**Jon Rhiddlehoover**  
*Lead Community Pastor, Storehouse Director*

**Lupe Salazar**  
*Public Safety and Logistics Director*

**Libby Slaughter**  
*Communications Director*

**Stephanie Thomas**  
*Children's Minister*

**Toney Upton**  
*Lead Connections and Community Pastor*

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*Spiritual Formation Resource Manager*

**Yesenia Ornelas**  
*Missions Coordinator*

**Madison Upton**  
*Missions Coordinator*

## 2023 Elder Board

Chris Dykstra, *Chairman*  
Dale Bartel, David Chamberlain,  
Scott Cooner, David Daniels, David Locke,  
Bobby Olsen, Craig Porter



**CENTRAL  
BIBLE CHURCH**

[wearecentral.org](http://wearecentral.org)

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Some images are stock photos.





Dear CBC Family,

God has been at work in Central Bible Church, “making Himself famous” to our neighbors and the nations. I am so pleased at the impact that we are having together. All for the glory of our great, missional God!

In 2017, God enabled CBC to pay off our remaining mortgage debt and begin directing considerable financial and human resources toward our priority of mission. Since then, we have continued to increase our commitment to the Gospel, with about 19% of our General Fund budget directed toward local and global initiatives and about 12% of our attendees going on short-term trips to present Jesus through words and works.

This report is for you. I hope you’ll join me in celebrating every success we’ve been a part of in the last few years. Around the world, ministry leaders are being equipped, unreached people are hearing the name of Jesus, people groups are receiving their Bible in their own language, churches are being planted, and the least of these are having their needs met. I can’t believe we get to do this and am glad we get to do it...*together*.

Soli Deo Gloria,



David Daniels  
Lead Pastor

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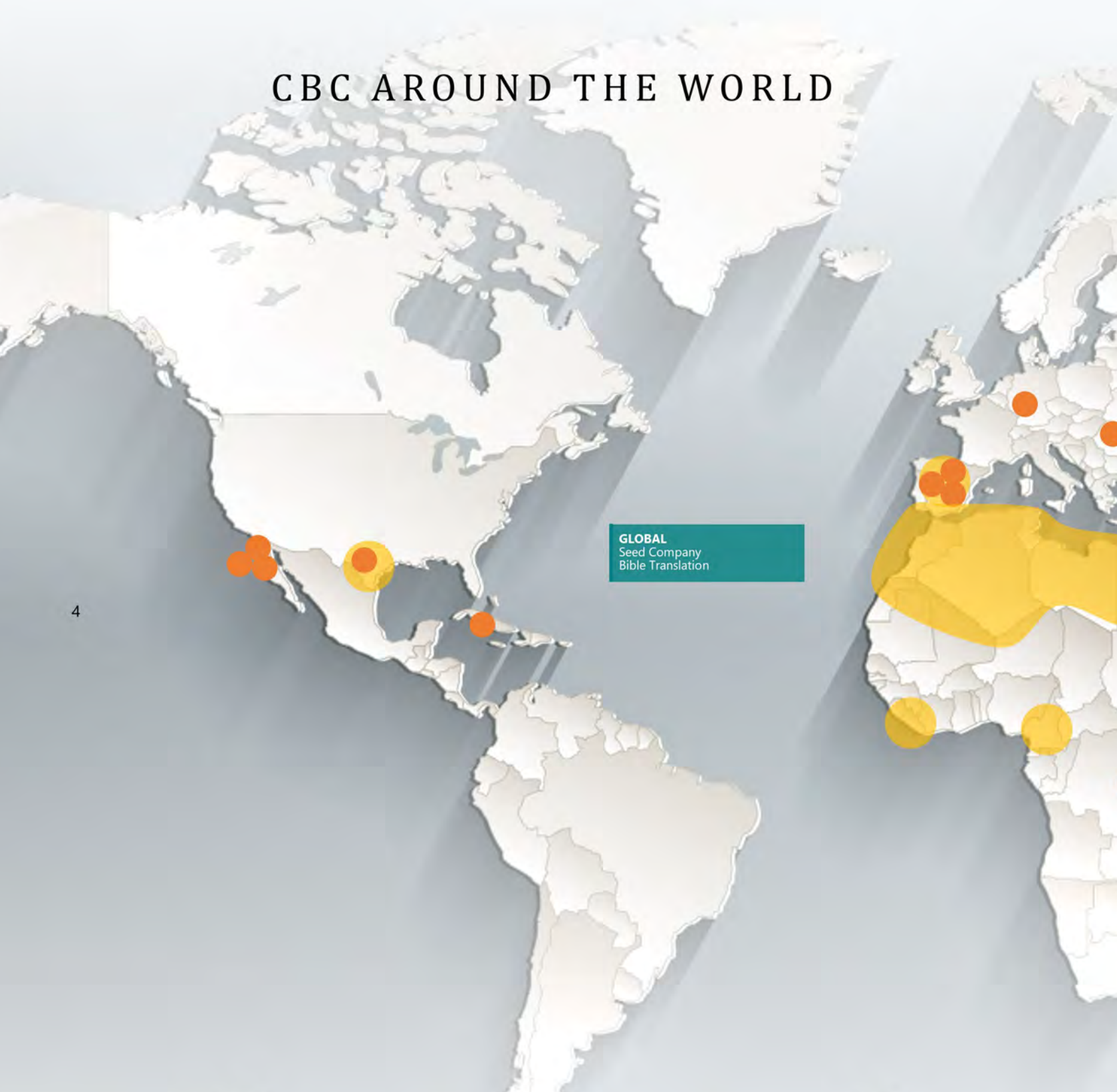
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# CBC AROUND THE WORLD



**GLOBAL**  
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## **BIBLE TRANSLATION**

Rendering God's Word into other languages for the purpose of making disciples



## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Cultivating Kingdom leaders whose vision, knowledge, character and skills are increasingly transformed for the sake of God's glory among the nations



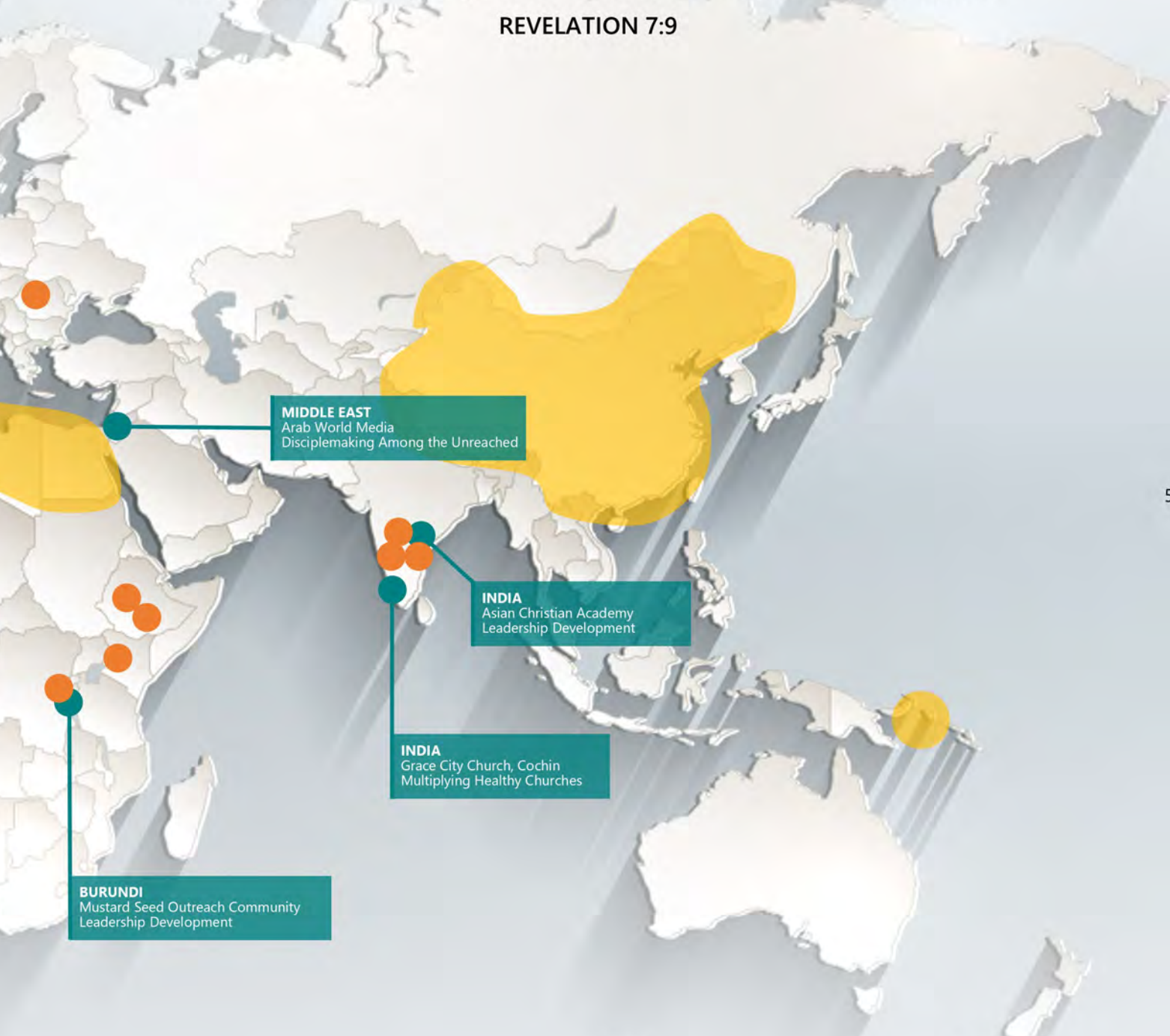
## **DISCIPLEMAKING AMONG THE UNREACHED**




Taking the Gospel to people groups who have no indigenous community of believers able to disciple their community



*After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.*

REVELATION 7:9



-  Global Partner Areas of Focus
-  Global Ministry Partnerships
-  2023 Short-Term Trips  
*(see pages 26-27)*



### MULTIPLYING HEALTHY CHURCHES EVERYWHERE

Planting, helping and revitalizing God-centered and Gospel-oriented churches in our city, country and world



### GLOBAL JUSTICE

Caring for the needs of the vulnerable in such a way that their rights are protected and lives are afforded dignity of people created in the image of God



Christians celebrate the completion of the Konta New Testament in southwest Ethiopia.







# A Family Reunion

Coming together to celebrate God's Word

By David Daniels

**The 70-mile journey from Jimma to Konta takes almost four hours over unpaved roads in southwest Ethiopia.** Our team of six Americans and as many Ethiopian nationals started the drive at first light to avoid the reported danger of rebels along the way. Our caravan crawled through potholes and around livestock obstacles kicking up dust that we could taste as well as see.

Worth every moment.

A large party welcomed us as we pulled up to the outer gate of the main Kale Heywet church in the area. It seemed that the whole village had come out to greet the visitors who had come from half a world away. But we were there to greet *them*. We had been introduced to the brothers and sisters in Konta in 2011 but we had never seen them face-to-face. This was a family reunion—a perfect day for celebration.

Central Bible Church learned about the Konta people through an invitation to sponsor a Bible in their mother tongue. Seed Company, a ministry that focuses on accelerated Bible translation, approached our leadership and presented the Goma, Gofa, and Dawro language cluster for the Konta, Oyeda, and Melo people. Though the churches in these regions were established and thriving, they lacked the Bible in their own language. Because the Word of God is central to *us*, we knew that we had to make it accessible to *them*!

The project was expected to be completed in 2016, five years after it started. However, as the deadline approached, the in-country team requested an 18-month extension to accommodate organizational, orthographic, and governmental obstacles. By the time the project was complete and ready to celebrate, civil unrest and Covid prevented us from joining our brothers and sisters.



Our reunion was a long time coming. And what a reunion it was! We were ushered to the front row of a church seating more than 1000 people. The service was underway with multiple choirs and testimonies. I preached from Jeremiah 15:16,

*Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart,  
for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.*

Children filed into the church and each quoted a memorized verse from the Bible. The translation team was honored for their years of faithful work. The whole congregation thanked Central Bible Church for our investment. And then we ate. Like family. People separated by miles and language, but united by one God revealed in His Word.

As we made the dusty drive back to Jimma, I thought about many other people—the Irayai and Tajik in central Asia, the Kisingombe in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Chuwabu in Mozambique, the Nkangala in Zambia, and the Nusha in east Asia. Each of these people have become our investment. Because of our commitment to Bible translation, thousands are finding, eating, and delighting in God's Word in their own language.



# CBC TRANSLATION PROJECTS



## Chuwabu II MOZAMBIQUE

947,000 Speakers

### Goals

New Testament portion, Genesis

**Completed: 2018**

*This project was mostly funded and adopted by a community at CBC who finished the task of translation.*



## Konta, Oyda, and Melo Cluster ETHIOPIA

156,200 Speakers

### Goals

New Testament, Jesus Film

**Completed: 2020**

*This project was included in the missions strategy of CBC and funded through our General Fund.*



## Irayai CENTRAL ASIA

15,000 Speakers

### Goals

Old and New Testament selections

**Completed: 2021**

*This project was included in the missions strategy of CBC and funded through our General Fund.*



## Kisingombe CONGO

168,000 Speakers

### Goals

New Testament selections and Audio portions

**Completed: 2023**

*This project was included in the missions strategy of CBC and funded through our General Fund.*



## Nkangala ZAMBIA

22,300 Speakers

### Goals

New Testament selections

**Completed: 2023**

*This project was mostly funded and adopted through individuals at CBC who finished the task of translation.*



## Nusha EAST ASIA

2,000,000 Speakers

### Goals

Old and New Testament selections

**Estimated Completed: 2027**

*This project was included in the missions strategy of CBC and funded through our General Fund.*





# God Speaks Our Language

By Scottye Perry

On the day of Pentecost, as the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, they immediately began to speak in languages that weren't their own. In the heart of Jerusalem, devout Jews from every nation listened in astonishment, exclaiming, "In our own tongues, we hear them proclaiming the wonders of God!" This divine moment, where the Gospel was declared in each individual's mother tongue, led to about three thousand souls coming to faith in Jesus in a single day.

This miracle is a testament to the power of God's Word in one's heart language.

Yet, as of August 2023, a staggering 1,393 people groups remain without a single verse of the Bible in their native tongue. While this challenge might seem insurmountable, with God, all things are possible. Remarkably, just a year ago in August 2022, that number stood at 1,708.

Seed Company, in collaboration with our partners, is

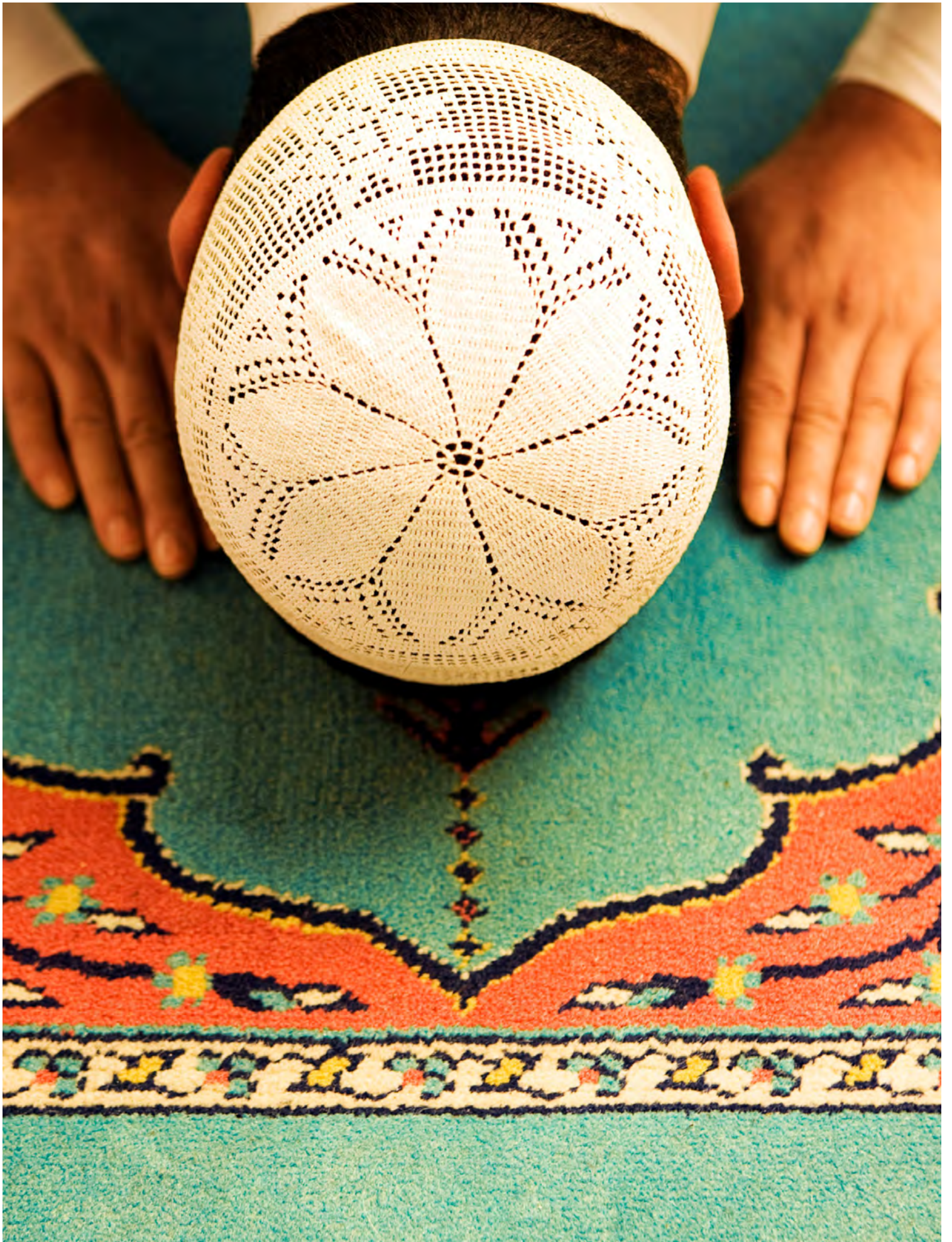
faithfully working towards two pivotal goals: By 2025: Scripture will be available in every language on earth. By 2033: 95% of the world will possess a complete Bible, and 99.96% will have access to the New Testament.

God is using Central Bible Church as a catalyst for this Great Commission work. Since 2012, your unwavering support has enabled nearly 3 million people throughout Africa, the Middle East, and East Asia to have access to Scripture in their heart language.

Seed Company is incredibly thankful for Central Bible Church. Our partnership, strengthened by your prayers and generosity, has allowed countless souls to encounter the Gospel, just like so many did on that first day of Pentecost. To God be the glory, and may our combined efforts continue to make God known and make disciples who are changed by God to change their world!

*Scottye Perry is the Director of Investor Experience for the President's Office at Seed Company.*









# From One Man to 69 Churches

Reaching the Muslim world through technology

By A Worker in the Field

In just two years, God has worked powerfully to grow the Sudanese church inside and outside of the country. In the fall of 2022, we celebrated 19 new believers from house churches in Egypt coming together to be baptized.

All of us at Arab World Media give praise to the Lord for how he used us to encourage and equip one man who went on to be the catalyst of a movement that has seen 69 house churches established.

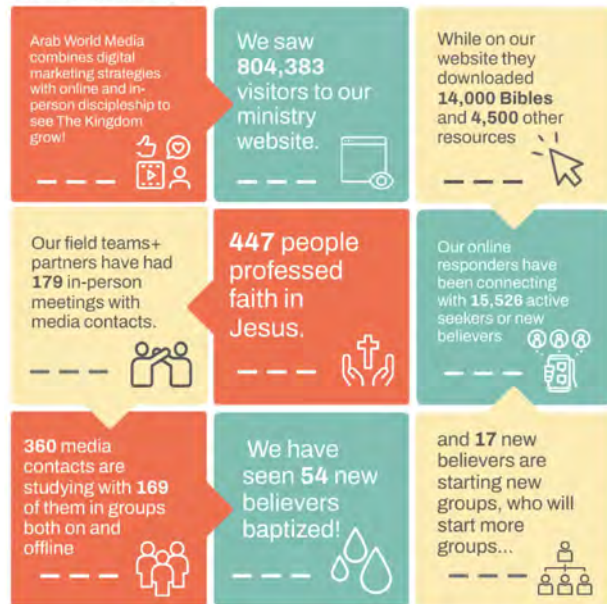
*"Mohammad, I will take this phone and call our families! They will kill you when they hear that you have left Islam and become a Christian. So choose! Stop reading the Bible and return to Islam, or be killed!"*

*"Habiba, I have experienced Jesus in my life and he has changed me. When I read the Bible it teaches me only to have one wife. It teaches me to be faithful to you and not cheat on you. Jesus teaches me to love you, take care of you, and be faithful to you."*

*"Okay, you can keep reading the Bible."*

The first step of a seeker's journey usually begins with something we refer to as 'belief disruption' – a moment, or moments, in a seeker's life, where what they always held to be true is suddenly shown to be false. For Habiba, it was the above conversation. For her husband, Mohammad, it was the Muslim-on-Muslim violence and oppression within his home country of Sudan.

After moving his family to Egypt, Mohammad discovered our website while searching online about Jesus. He spent some time chatting with our online responders. It wasn't long before he wanted to meet someone in person, so we connected him with a partner on the ground. They hit it off almost immediately and Mohammad jumped at the opportunity to join our partner's Bible study group.



How God has been multiplying outreach through media.

On the day Mohammad gave his life to Jesus in front of the group, they asked him, "What is the greatest need you have that we can pray for?"

He answered, "I want to see my wife and children join me in the Christian faith. For them to worship God as I worship God."

Habiba began attending Bible study with her husband and after having the same dream for seven nights, she made the decision to give her life to Christ. Mohammad, Habiba, and two of their children were baptized.

They went on to share with their friend Zuba, establishing a house church that grew and multiplied. We give praise for the sixty-nine churches that God has brought forth from Mohammad and Habiba's faith.



Devout Muslims make an annual pilgrimage, or Hajj, to Mecca to march around the Kaaba seven times and kiss/touch the Black Stone there.







# Church Planting Among the Unreached

Online connections bridging the gap

By A Worker in the Field

It is estimated that 2.5% of any people group are open for spiritual change. Global disciple makers often struggle to connect with those whom the Father is drawing to Himself. Media is a tool God is using in this generation to bridge that gap.

Every day there are more than 3.5 billion online searches. 18 million of them contain the word, "God." Through contextualized digital strategies, spiritual seekers can easily find the answers they are looking for and begin a friendship with believers who live near them. Since 2020, the Media to Movements team has equipped nearly 80 teams, both local and expat, serving among the unreached, to implement such a strategy.

Many of these teams have reported a 400% growth in face-to-face meetings and conversions with seekers over a two-year period! In the last 20 months, 62 of these teams have celebrated over 4,500 professions of faith, over 2,000 baptisms and over 800 new discipleship groups. Believers are learning to discover, obey and share all that Jesus taught through His Word in community, with the seedlings of new churches forming.

National church planters are becoming increasingly interested in integrating a contextualized digital plan to identify spiritually open people in their communities, especially among people resistant to Christianity living in high security risk places like much of North Africa, the Middle East, South/Southeast Asia and the Horn of Africa. It is in these very places where fruit is being produced.

One South Asian team began finding spiritually open people online last year, and they now rejoice in the 900+ people who have come to faith and the 150 new discipleship groups that have started among this



predominantly Hindu people group. Using best practices gleaned from other teams, they created short testimony ads, which have had a significant impact on their efforts. Their current challenge is leadership development. To address this challenge, our team hosted an Asian Media Summit where dozens of teams gathered to grow their skills in digital responding, content creation, marketing and how to move from a one-on-one leadership structure to developing leaders who develop other leaders who support a church planting movement.

This national team shares the story about Guman, a soldier in South Asia, who had a son who was incredibly sick. He and his wife had taken the boy to countless doctors and temples, but no treatment or religious ritual helped. Guman's worry always intensified while away at his military post.



One night, as he anxiously scrolled through his newsfeed, he saw an ad about how Jesus prays. Open to anything, Guman sent a message asking for prayer. A local believer responded by calling Guman and praying for his son in the name of Jesus.

The son's condition began to steadily improve. This fueled Guman's spiritual interest, so he decided to accept the invitation to meet with believers face-to-face. They shared the Gospel with him, and Guman followed Jesus during that first meeting, followed shortly by his

wife, son and mother!

He now meets regularly with this community of believers for Bible study and training, and has participated in forming and multiplying discipleship groups.

*This worker leads the Media to Movements team who equip global disciple makers towards fruitful digital to offline church planting efforts through personalized and mentored coaching and resourcing. Learn more at [mediatomovements.com](http://mediatomovements.com).*

# Putting Your Work to Work

Using your skills for Gospel service

By M.B., A Worker In The Field

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God doesn't intend our life at work to be separated from our walk with Him. It's not that we invite God into our work or business, but rather that God created work. We've discovered six keys that work and business provide to a cross-cultural global minister of Christ that could apply to you.

**Identity.** In answering the questions "Who are you? Why are you here?", having a job or business makes sense to people.

**Access.** In some communities and countries, missionary activity is not allowed, but business is welcome. Jobs and businesses can open the door and also help keep the door open.

**Relationships.** Carrying on further, as you work alongside people, you have loads of opportunity to be salt, light, and perfume.

**Blessings.** God has good things for us, and it's not all spiritual; it's real, tangible goodness. Jobs and businesses add value to people, families, communities, and countries.

**Example.** Having a job or business gives local believers an example of what it looks like to be a follower of Christ in their community.

**Honor/Worship.** When we leverage how God made us for His glory, we honor the Lord in how He made us. When we do all things unto the Lord, we can turn our work into worship.

While at university in North Africa, Kadoor met a professor who seemed different. The professor shared his faith in Jesus. After some meetings, Kadoor decided to follow Jesus. Kadoor then worked for a missionary who ran a fake tourism business. They said they did tourism, but really only did ministry. Each time he went into their office, Kadoor feared the police would arrest him.

Years later, M. B. saw Kadoor's integrity and hard work ethic, and asked him to be a business partner. Sitting in their new office, Kadoor asked M.B., "So, you really want me to find clients?" M. B. emphatically answered yes.

Later, Kadoor was sitting across from a client who asked him if he had watched the nationally televised series about minority groups the night before, which included North Africans who had become Christians. For the first time in Kadoor's life, he felt completely comfortable telling this "stranger" that he was one of them. Kadoor shared that since he had nothing to hide in business, he had nothing to hide in the rest of his life, including his faith in Jesus.



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# UNREACHED, NOT UNREACHABLE

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## THE 10/40 WINDOW

Most Unreached People Groups (UPGs) live in the 10/40 Window, an area comprising North Africa, the Middle East, and most of Asia, between 10° and 40° latitude.



**People Group** – “an ethno-linguistic group with a common self-identity that is shared by the various members.” The Greek word *ethne* (often translated “nations”) refers to people groups, as in “go and make disciple of all nations ...” (Matthew 28:19).

**Unreached People Group (UPG)** – “a people group with in which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians able to evangelize this people group.” Many scholars believe that a people group is unreached if it has less than 2% evangelical Christians.

There are 16,000+ People Groups in the world.  
There are estimated 7,000+ Unreached People Groups.

The religious background of most people living in the 10/40 can be described with the acronym T-H-U-M-B.

- T**ribal – hold animistic and superstitious beliefs and often turn to idols and witch doctors to appease the spirits.
- H**indu – believe in a great multitude of gods. Most Hindus live in India.
- U**nreligious – agnostic or atheistic, often due to Communism.
- M**uslim – believe in one god, named Allah, and his final prophet, Muhammed.
- B**uddhist – follow the teachings of the Buddha, seeking to rid themselves of desire to experience nirvana.



### Michael and Amber

The demand for Media to Movement coaching to church-planters among the unreached has kept Amber on full throttle and proven to be very effective, with many seeing more fruit more quickly. As an Area Leader, she has cultivated a strategic leadership team across three countries. The next plans include praying and mobilizing for new teams to be sent to new areas. Michael has been at the point of a growing, global Marketplace Ministries Resource Team, including sending bases in four countries, three regions of the world, and focused industry groups such as Agriculture, Education, and Sports/Fitness.

### Kent and Kimberly Rasmussen

Kent helps people groups develop writing systems where they don't already exist. Over the last four years, the Rasmussens lived in Yaoundé, Cameroon, engaging and investing in their local church while also teaching and mentoring colleagues in linguistics for Bible translation across Africa. In 2020, Kent started also programming software: A-Z+T helps community members work on their own language, even in limited access locations. More local involvement gives better ownership and sustainability of writing systems. The Rasmussens continue working toward the end that the Bible speaks fluently and with power in churches across Africa.

### Carlos and April Trujillo

Carlos is a professor at World Link Ministries' seminary in Madrid, Spain. He trains and equips nationals for church planting and ministry leadership at both the main campus and the extension programs located throughout the country. Carlos also teaches online classes at Bible Training Centers in Venezuela and Sierra Leone. This year, Carlos will teach at a new Bible Training Center in Brazil and aspires to assist with ongoing training in Uganda and India as well. In addition to teaching, Carlos and his wife April are actively involved in helping churches launch a viable marriage ministry using the ReEngage program.

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## FROM THE FIELD

### Global Partner Reports

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### Pat and Beth Andrews

As Director of Field Projects for the Pacific Region, Pat and his team partner with about 10 translation organizations to manage 67 languages doing translation and 28 interns learning translation skills. This year, 10 new languages started translation projects and 7 New Testaments were completed. Pat also made four trips to the Solomon Islands to work with two language teams as a translation consultant: the Toabaita team, who completed Luke, and the Zabana team, who completed Genesis. Goals for the next two years are similar: Make three trips each year to the Solomon Islands to train translators. His Pacific team will manage 67-75 language projects and 20-28 interns. They plan to start 10 new languages and 5 internships in each year.

### Steve and Tamara Dortch

Steve continues to remotely lead Via's mobilization ministry in East Asia, giving leadership to international expansion of Via's Generosity team. Tamara serves as assistant director of the Via Families team. Over the next couple of years, we look forward to continuing to develop new strategies, materials, and partnerships, as well as to refining our existing efforts toward mobilizing churches throughout the Majority World to reach people groups with little to no access to the Gospel. Steve will also continue remotely directing our regional ministry in East Asia as we seek to raise up new indigenous leadership. Finally, we are seeking God's leading on a possible international relocation in late 2024 or early 2025.

### Nate and Ginna Killoren

SIM is a diverse organization made up of 60+ entities around the world working together to *"make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in communities where He is least known."* Nate and Ginna serve these entities as they send and support Gospel workers so they can serve as long and effectively as God directs and allows. Nate helps SIM leaders assess and mitigate the unique risks involved in crossing barriers with good news in that context. Ginna provides medical guidance to Gospel workers, many of whom serve in difficult contexts. Both are often involved in responding when SIM workers experience difficult situations.

### Dave and Christy Johnson

In 2021, Dave assumed a leadership role within Wycliffe's global digital strategies team. The team collaborates with Bible translators worldwide, assisting them in creating websites and mobile apps to promote Scripture in their heart languages. Each week Dave remotely consults with teams from different regions. Over the past year, he has traveled to Cameroon, Ethiopia, and Thailand to work with about 20 language projects, and he plans to revisit these locations in the upcoming year to build upon what was started and to engage with new languages. He is also developing social media campaigns across various languages worldwide, encouraging people to engage with Scripture and connect with local churches.

### Ray and Ruth Ann Gorrell

We are privileged to meet some of the world's smartest university young adults. Often, they come from countries closed to foreign missionaries. At our recent Big Howdy welcome party at UTA there were 800 international students. We estimate that fewer than 3% know Christ as Savior. Also, the Great Commission is being advanced at our Friday evening ISI meetings! Students say: "I know nothing about your Jesus, but I want to learn!" The result is that individuals accept Christ as Savior. The next two years should be more great years of outreach. Thank you, CBC, for your partnership in the Gospel!





# The World Is Here

Building friendships with the nations in our city

Sometimes, the nations aren't very far away. Through our ministry to international students and classes to help immigrants learn English, CBC is introducing Jesus to a diversity of people.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MINISTRY

Robert, from the Desi region of the world, asked International Students, Inc. (ISI) volunteers a question. "Is that a Bible? I have never seen, touched, or read that book. You ask me if I have a favorite story from Scripture. I have no idea what you are talking about. Could I attend the ISI Bible study?" Robert got an advanced degree in engineering and was immediately hired after graduation. It would be difficult to meet someone more kind or intelligent. However, he was completely ignorant of our Old and New Testaments and their teachings.

The apostle Paul stated the problem another way. Romans 10:14 states, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?" The ISI ministry this past year has provided many opportunities to meet international students by picking up hundreds of them at the airport, helping them adjust to life in America, assisting them in finding used furniture, and driving them to Friday night meetings and meals where the students find a home away from home and grow to love their adopted families. When they ask, "Why do you help us? In our country, no one would do what you are doing," ISI volunteers respond that our God loves the foreigner and wants Christ-followers to assist and love international students.

Deep and meaningful relationships act as a doorway to Gospel conversations. If a foreign student trusts you, they will interact with what you have to say about anything, including salvation in Christ.



## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

We prayerfully teach English while showing people God's love in Christ Jesus. Our students gain language skills that improve their lives. One student from South Sudan testifies, "ESL changed my life and my English. In my first and second job lots of people made fun of me. It was tough, so I quit and went to work at Amazon where I found out about ESL at Central. Now I don't have to call my husband to help me. They can understand what I'm talking about. I can read the Bible, and I can understand what it says in English. I can sing a song. I cannot describe what ESL means to keep myself and my children close to God."

*Want to serve among international students at The University of Texas at Arlington or help our neighbors learn English to get ahead in life? Contact us at [missions@wearecentral.org](mailto:missions@wearecentral.org).*





# Loving Neighbors, Feeding Souls

How Storehouse is multiplying our local impact

Lisa came to Central Storehouse for food in the summer of 2022. Her job at a convenience store did not supply enough income to make ends meet.

A faithful volunteer sat with her during her visit, and they prayed together that she would receive a promotion and experience God's generosity. In just a few weeks, her supervisor gave her a raise! The next time she visited, Lisa gave God the glory for His provision.

That October, her sister Rachel, a single mom of 6 boys, came into the Storehouse and shared how thankful she was for the food, and said Lisa had received yet another raise. The team celebrated God's generous gift to this family, and as a group, prayed a prayer of thanksgiving to Him. The sisters declare that the Lord has strengthened their faith through their interaction with Storehouse volunteers who shared Scripture with



them and prayed for God to intervene in their lives. God continues to provide even more than we might hope for.

Central Storehouse, a food pantry ministry of Central Bible Church led by Storehouse Director Jon Rhiddlehoover and Operations Manager Craig Morris, seeks to love people and feed the souls of both the volunteers who serve and the Neighbors who come to receive

food. The Storehouse is an outgrowth of the church's participation in the Farmers to Families Food Box Program the government began during the COVID pandemic. Though that program ended in Fall 2020, the church recognized that having enough food for families in the area was still a severe and growing problem. A team of leaders began to research local faith-based food pantries and design what would become Central Storehouse.

Core values guided the team to form the ministry with priorities such as building relationships rather than

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*"I have volunteered at Central's Storehouse for over a year—for 4 to 8 hours per week. My joy is being able to sit with our neighbors, talk with them, and then pray with them. What a blessing this 'job' has been! I've witnessed to Muslims, cried with single moms, and cheered on people who were recently released from prison. At the Storehouse, we want to minister to the hearts and to the nutritional status of these dear neighbors. It is absolutely true that we are 'Loving neighbors, feeding souls.' The Storehouse is my mission field—I don't need to fly overseas, I just sit at my table and let God use me as He wishes."*  
—Suzy Finigan, Storehouse volunteer

*"I have never experienced the love and lack of judgment that the Storehouse brings. I have gone to many churches and received help but often they have not treated me well. The Lord calls us to love others and try to take care of those when they have a need. They are patient with me and encourage me during the challenging times of my life. No matter who I have a chance to sit with each time I visit, I walk away so uplifted and with hope that I can make it through another day. They have showed me what God's love is all about."*  
—Daniel Johnson, Storehouse Neighbor

*"My family loves to serve neighbors in need at the Storehouse. Volunteers welcome my four kids to serve with me, training them, loving them, and teaching them to love our neighbors. During a hard season in our life, the Storehouse was there for our family and supplied us with food. We have found sweet connection with neighbors who have been in suffering seasons of life and we've been able to see their excitement to get food and their emotional response to the love they receive. We will keep pouring out the love of Jesus on our neighbors."*  
—Lauren and Kenny Brayton, Storehouse volunteers









handing neighbors a box of food with no investment of care. The leaders aimed to both provide relief and help recipients be strategic about climbing their way out of their current hardships. During six months of prayer, research, and planning, partnerships began to form, donations were arranged, and food, shelving, tables, refrigerators and freezers, and volunteers began to pour into the ministry. It was obvious that the Lord was laying the groundwork of something that would be significant in the east Fort Worth Community.

The Storehouse officially launched on June 12, 2021. Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 until 6:00, the Storehouse serves approximately 450 households. Neighbors walk away with a shopping cart full of shelf-stable items, fresh produce, various frozen meats, breads, and dairy items. Neighbors are always taken aback by the variety of food available to them and the quantity they carry home. People’s freedom to choose what items they take home is an uncommon practice in local food pantries where a food box is given, often filled with items families do not eat or to which people are allergic. Allowing people to choose within this “client choice” food pantry is directly connected to our value to help strengthen people’s dignity.

Around 160 volunteers make the Storehouse possible. Critical to having food on the shelves when the Neighbors come is the daily grocery pick-up and stocking team. Another team focuses on health-conscious initiatives, one team works on a students’ initiative, and a leadership team meets monthly to review and plan.

On each day the Storehouse is open, thirty volunteers welcome, counsel and pray with the Neighbors, help them choose the food they want from the shelves, and run their food carts to their cars.

Storehouse leaders quickly realized that what the Neighbors needed went beyond food. They needed people who cared about them, and hope that can only come from personal devotion to Christ. Friend Zone team members sit with the Neighbors at small coffee shop type tables and have conversations about the challenges in their lives. They encourage, share Bible verses, and pray for their families. As a result of these extraordinary connections, there have been more than 800 professions of faith in Christ since the doors opened.

Fifteen volunteers now on the Storehouse team are former Neighbors who had come for Storehouse services. They now attend CBC and are embracing the 3 B’s of our spiritual pathway. Some have even traveled on short-term mission trips.

Although the Storehouse has many generous partners, the need continues to increase and access to quality foods fluctuates, so its leaders continue to pray for God’s incredible provision. There is also a continuing desire to see Storehouse Neighbors become more self-sustainable, with the right help and direction. The Storehouse team currently dreams of creating a work training program and conducting workshops to instill hope for change and equip people with skills that will result in being self-sufficient.



# And Justice For All

Impact updates from our Local Compassion Partners

Central Bible Church continues its commitment to global justice by partnering with local non-profit ministries to meet the needs of our neighbors. In addition to our Central Storehouse ministry, we support several other local compassion agencies who are making a difference among those facing poverty, the imprisoned, teens caught in sex trafficking, and families facing crisis pregnancies.



Central Bible Church has partnered with 6 Stones Mission Network for many years, both financially and with volunteers. The heart of 6 Stones is to share the Hope of Jesus, and to do that by mobilizing the community to be His hands and feet. With a service area of Hurst, Euless, Bedford and Grapevine, and a great relationship with HEB ISD, last year we served 23,000 neighbors, with 6,500 volunteers. Central Bible Church has provided volunteers and support to all our programs, including food, school supplies, an intramural soccer league, and resale partnerships, as well as taking lead roles in hosting Night of Hope Christmas parties and Community Powered Revitalization

6 Stones is focusing on Momentum and Momentum Generations, which are mentorship and discipleship programs for adults and high schoolers in the HEB school district. The 10-year goal of Momentum is to see 1,000 graduates whose lives are transformed both physically and spiritually.

As a close partner, Central Bible Church has tested out a pilot program, and we believe there is more to

learn from each other as we continue to serve the Kingdom together, including additional help with the Central Storehouse.

We are very grateful that Central Bible Church has also supported 6 Stones' successful capital campaign for our new Home for Hope, which will be completed in 2024. The new location is right next to the JPS Medical Home in Euless, and also in a food desert. The new building and location will provide 6 Stones the capacity to bring Hope to even more neighbors, including the addition of ongoing educational opportunities from community resources and sharing the Hope of Jesus. —

**Jen Leney**



Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex takes church to the people, one life at a time, with a goal to see each person find a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. During 2022, there were over 1,500 recorded spiritual decisions.

We have the privilege daily of hundreds of people coming to our front room in need of assistance for



their physical needs. This gives us a chance with each life to introduce them to the ONE who will restore their hope and bring peace. The resources provided may seem like a small thing, but they provide so many ways of sharing God's love. Just a few examples are:

Receiving a car seat, when you are not being able to bring a child home from the hospital without one.

Receiving a wheelchair when you are getting out of the hospital.

Receiving food when you have no food in the pantry when kids come home from school.

Receiving financial assistance when you have just received a termination notice on your electricity during the hot summer months, or when you have just received an eviction notice and about to lose your home.

Receiving gasoline assistance when you are about to lose your job.

The time that you come to volunteer and all your support and prayers make a difference—we thank God for you. —**Tillie Burgin**



FREEING YOUTH FROM SEX TRAFFICKING

Traffick911 exists with the sole purpose of freeing youth from sex trafficking by building trust-based relationships. Voice & Choice Advocates respond 24/7 to child sex trafficking victims recovered by law enforcement in North Texas. Advocates bring a backpack filled with essential hygiene items, a hot meal, and a warm smile to begin the process of long-term relationship-building and empowerment.

### **Family Program**

Recently, a young survivor we serve explained to us that while she was grateful for the way her advocate walked alongside her, she was struggling to go home to a family that didn't quite understand what she was walking through. Earlier this year, Traffick911 expanded our support to the parents and caregivers of the survivors we serve. Free counseling and connection to important community resources are available to our caregivers due to this expansion of services.

### **2023 Impact**

This year, Traffick911 advocates have served over 275 high-risk and exploited youth across North Texas. We've been able to advocate for these youth within systems and in their communities, walking alongside them on the long road to healing. In 2023, Traffick911 helped coordinate emergency funds so a young survivor could receive specialty rehabilitation, traveled across the country to help a child return home after being trafficked outside the state, and testified at the Texas legislative session to advocate for laws that will protect victims and survivors.

Traffick911 has been blessed to partner with Central Bible Church, and we look forward to what the Lord has for us in 2024.

—**Dominique Arce**



Metroplex Women's Clinic has been sharing Life and hope for 39 years since its founding by a courageous group of Central Bible Church members. Because of Central's partnership, MWC can provide free services and support needed to help desperate clients overcome barriers: empowering them to choose Life over abortion and build healthy families. MWC operates from a foundation of compassion, with all services undergirded by the Gospel. MWC seeks to Educate, Equip, and Empower. Services include Pregnancy and STI Testing, Ultrasound, Nurse Consultation, Options and Pregnancy Counseling, Case Management, Spiritual Mentoring, Materials Assistance, Classes for Pregnancy, Labor and Delivery, Infant Care, Breastfeeding, Toddler Parenting, Healthy Relationships, Bible Studies, Budgeting, Post-Abortion, and Miscarriage, and Infant Loss. Since 1984, Central Bible has supported MWC with prayer, baby bottle campaigns, volunteers, generous monthly support, baby showers, and in 2022 a new ultrasound machine! Because of the Lord using you, thousands of lives have been saved and thousands have come to saving faith in Christ. Thank you, Central Bible Church, for being "In it, for Life!" —**Lyn Veigel**





Our Missions Sunday celebrated all that God has been doing through CBC in the last 18 years and anticipated our church's continued commitment to the Great Commission. Our Sunday worship was followed by breakout sessions led by staff, elders, and Global Partners. Our Night of Worship and Prayer for the Nations aligned our hearts with God's heart. And a missions fair afterward gave an opportunity to connect with those we support around the world. What a special weekend together! #letthenationsbeglad





# Where In The World?

See where your church is making a Gospel impact Beyond

This year, Central Bible Church had almost 200 engagements in short-term mission trips. In a few instances, this total represents some of the same people traveling to multiple places. But this total largely represents unique individuals—about 12-15% of our regular attendees on Sunday morning. Such a high participation in going BEYOND reflects a culture of missional discipleship, a core value of CBC. Take a moment and pray for the people around the world who have been impacted by many from our church.

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## **ETHIOPIA**

January 17-28, 2023

5 on mission from CBC

Pastoral training and Bible translation dedication among the Konta people

## **MADRID, SPAIN**

January 8-21, 2023

1 on mission from CBC

Ryan Rasberry teaching at SEFOVAN Seminary

## **MADRID, SPAIN**

April 17-29, 2023

1 on mission from CBC

Tom Bulick teaching at SEFOVAN Seminary

## **ROMANIA**

April 25-May 2, 2023

2 on mission from CBC

Roger Sappington and Brett Hansen led pastoral training

## **SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

March 12-16, 2023

Spring Serve

62 (50 students, 12 leaders) on mission from CBC

Partnership with Ethnos Mission Center to lead a VBS for elementary age children

## **NAIROBI, KENYA**

June 9-17, 2023

18 on mission from CBC

Helping to mobilize the Kenyan church to share the gospel

## **MADRID, SPAIN**

June 23-July 1, 2023

14 on mission from CBC

Leading an English camp to connect kids and their parents to the local church



**Again, Jesus said, "Peace be with you!  
As the Father has sent me, I am  
sending you." —John 20:21**



**“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”**

—Matthew 9:37-38

**WOLISO, ETHIOPIA**

July 16-26, 2023

14 on mission from CBC

Serving the local church, caring for orphans, visiting church plants, training ministry leaders



**TIJUANA, MEXICO**

July 2-5, 2023

12 on mission from CBC

Partnership with YWAM to build a home for a family in need



**TIJUANA, MEXICO**

July 2-9, 2023

19 on mission from CBC

Partnership with YWAM to build a home for a family and share the Gospel in the Hope Zone through a block party



**ROMANIA**

July 7-15, 2023

3 on mission from CBC

Serving with Life Romania to host a camp for teenagers

**BANGALORE, INDIA**

July 28-August 12, 2023

1 on mission from CBC

Eric Wright training pastors at Asian Christian Academy

**BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI**

July 13-23, 2023

3 on mission from CBC

The Sappingtons and Method Bigirimana teaching a marriage conference in partnership with Mustard Seed Outreach Community



**CUBA**

September 19-30, 2023

3 on mission from CBC

Dani Perera and Craig and Barbara Prather leading a marriage conference and pastoral training

**CHENNAI, INDIA**

September 23-29, 2023

1 on mission from CBC

Tom Bullick teaching pastors and Christian leaders in partnership with World Link Ministries



**BANGALORE, INDIA**

October 29-November 11, 2023

1 on mission from CBC

Tom Bullick teaching at the Evangelical Theological Seminary at Asian Christian Academy

**TIJUANA, MEXICO**

November 19-22, 2023

17+ on mission from CBC

Partnership with YWAM to build a home for a family in need

**FRANKFURT, GERMANY**

December 28, 2023-January 2, 2024

11 on mission from CBC

Serving our Global Partners in the 10/40 Window through a retreat and children's programming







*However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace.*

—Acts 20:24





Students prepare to raise a wall when building a home with Homes Of Hope (YWAM) in Tijuana, Mexico. CBC usually takes 2-3 trips to this border location each year.





# Blessed To Be A Blessing

## Our church's commitment to mission accomplishment

By Roger Sappington

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It may surprise you that some of the biggest geopolitical conflicts around the world have to do with access to water, and especially to rivers. One such conflict between Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia involves who controls the flow of the Nile River. Several years ago, the dispute was escalated when Ethiopia began construction on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam—a \$5 billion project that would provide hydroelectric power to Ethiopia, but limit freshwater access to Sudan and Egypt downstream. The three countries involved in this water dispute all agree that the Nile River is a channel of blessing. Egypt and Sudan disagree with Ethiopia regarding whether Ethiopia has a right to dam up the river for their own use.

Like freshwater rivers, the Bible presents the Christian life as a channel of blessing. The life of Christ—his blessings and benefits—are meant to flow through the disciple in such a way that they extend to the lives of those around them. Sometimes, this truth is described with the phrase “blessed to be a blessing.”

In the twelfth chapter of Genesis the Lord called Abram (later Abraham) to leave his father's house and to go to a land the Lord would show him. If Abram would be obedient to this call, the Lord promised to bless him and make him into a great nation. It would also be the case that this man's blessing would be extended to others, even eventually to all the “families” of the earth (Genesis 12:2-3). Abram had been blessed to be a blessing.

Every follower of Christ has been called out of the world and offered entrance into the blessed kingdom of God's beloved Son (Colossians 1:13). This occurred when we heard the Good News and we placed faith in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins and the offering of new life by his Spirit. As God's children we now have access to “every spiritual blessing in the heav-





We no longer live for ourselves, but we live for Christ's glory among the "families" of the earth so they can experience the blessing of King Jesus and his kingdom of peace, righteousness, and joy.

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only places" (Ephesians 1:3). Those blessings include an inexhaustible list of benefits, but to name some of the most significant: love, peace, joy, forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, adoption, righteousness, security, salvation (justification, sanctification, glorification).

As with Abraham, the Lord has blessed us with all these spiritual blessings so that we can offer them to others as well. Here at Central Bible Church one of our Central Values states this truth — "We are Compelled by Gospel Generosity." This means that we are obligated/constrained/duty-bound to be generous with the words and work of the Gospel. We no longer live for ourselves, but we live for Christ's glory among the "families" of the earth so they can experience the blessing of King Jesus and his kingdom of peace, righteousness, and joy.

We do this by yielding our time, our talents, and our treasure over to Jesus and saying, "This is yours. You gave it to me in first place. Use it for your purposes in the world. Your kingdom come, your will be done."

Unfortunately, at times some believers can be like Ethiopia with the Nile River, wanting to "dam up" the blessings of God and use them for their own purposes. They are scared that if they allow themselves to be channels of blessing to others downstream, there will be nothing left over, especially as it relates to their time and treasure. However, God's Word says, "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered" (Proverbs 11:24-25).

Thankfully, at Central Bible Church, we consistently see God's people freely giving to others what the Lord has given to them and experiencing the joy of the giver who is enriched in every way!





Pastors and spouses collaborate during a marriage enrichment conference in partnership between CBC and Mustard Seed Outreach Community in Burundi.





# Pass It On

## Leveraging ministry resources to build God's church

By David Daniels

While on mission with a group from Central Bible Church, Charles Crawford was asked to lead an impromptu devotional for a group of leaders in Nairobi, Kenya.

He reached back into his memory of a recent men's Bible study and delivered a lesson on the life of Moses. Afterward, one of the leaders caught up with Charles and remarked, "You are obviously a trained Bible teacher. Thank you for sharing with us."

Truth is, Charles is a well-trained SWAT officer. Bible teaching isn't part of his regular repertoire. But Charles learned a sobering reality: Most Christians in Bible-teaching churches in the United States have greater Bible knowledge and ministry skills than most Christian leaders in the less-developed world.

This reality produces responsibility. We must pass on our resources to others.

One of our missional commitments at Central Bible Church is Leadership Training. So, we send our people to equip leaders in India, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Romania, Cuba, Spain, and beyond. The impact has been amazing.

### LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Through our partnership in Burundi, we developed a wonderful relationship with Jean Baptiste Nyandwi who launched Mustard Seed Outreach Community to "equip world changing leaders who are transformed to holistically impact the nation." He invests in the leadership of his country for the good of his country.

Several times a year, Jean Baptiste hosts 40-50 pastors from around his city to help them develop their ministry vision and skills. Leaders from Central Bible Church teach our 3B Spiritual Pathway (Belong, Become, Beyond) as well as lessons clarifying the pastor's

calling, commission, and care. Jean Baptiste has become so adept with the conference material that he leads 3B conferences all over his country.

One survey recently found that some two million evangelical pastors in the world have no biblical training. Forty-five percent of those pastors are in Africa. So, the impact Jean Baptiste is having is immediate and far-reaching. One commented, "I was highly motivated concerning the teaching on going BEYOND and I shall make it one of my priorities. I decided that I shall change how I minister, thus enthroning Christ into the center of all I do."

Our 3B training isn't offered only in Burundi. With *Next Step Church* translated into multiple languages, we have enjoyed the benefit of training leaders in Ethiopia, Romania, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, India, and Brazil. In January, Pastor David and other team members from CBC taught the material at the Evangelical Theological College in Addis Ababa and to ministry leaders in the towns of Konta and Durame.

In June, Pastor Jon Rhiddlehoover and global partners, Steve and Tamara Dortch, led the CBC mission trip to Nairobi that Charles joined. More than 80 pastors and church leaders gathered for a 3-day conference designed to mobilize churches to reach across common cultural boundaries and cooperate with the Gospel work. Breakout sessions described the spiritual pathway and focused on Belonging to Community and Going Beyond Into Your Neighborhood.

### MISSION, MARRIAGE AND GENEROSITY

Pastor Roger Sappington arrived at Central Bible Church in 2011 as Global Impact Pastor and immediately used his background and ministry skills to revive the heart of mission in our church. So, it wasn't surprising that he would be the best candidate to encourage the



church in Romania with a renewed vision for missions. In April, he travelled with Pastor Brett Hansen to connect with a longtime ministry partner, Iulian Avramescu, to lead a one-week conference on “7 Steps to Developing Missional Disciples.” Using the recently translated *Pasi Bisericii* (*Next Step Church* in Romanian), the two invested in the next generation of leaders, helping them embrace our missional God, missional community, missional discipleship, missional prayer, and a missional goal.

In July, Roger, his wife Kelly, and Pastor Method Bigirimana, spearheaded a Marriage Enrichment Conference for 50 ministry leaders and their spouses in Burundi. The four-day conference reinforced the biblical design for marriage, God’s calling on pastors and their spouses, and practical guidance in developing a godly marriage. At the conclusion, one pastor noted, “I had no truth in my marriage. I tried to deceive myself that I loved my wife, but it was flat hypocrisy. Different sessions have showed my responsibilities as a pastor and a responsible father of the family. I learned that a family has a song of love, a prayer of love, and a repenting and forgiving heart and understanding spirit.”

And, in Ethiopia, Dr. Todd Moore and Eric Wright led Generosity Conferences for local leaders to strengthen churches and encourage greater missional work.

#### **PREACHING AND SEMINARY PARTNERSHIPS**

We are pleased to invest in seminary students at Evangelical Theological Seminary on the ACA campus and SEFOVAN Seminary in Madrid, Spain. Various pastors and leaders at CBC travel regularly to teach 1– to 2–week courses to students there.

In addition, Pastor David trains preachers here and beyond, not only through seminary classes, but through a preaching cohort he leads among seven pastors in Texas. Through assessment and training, he is helping pastors develop this essential ministry skill.

#### **THE NEXT GENERATION**

Since 2008, David has been investing in the next generation of young leaders at Pine Cove’s gap year program called The Forge. In 2017, he began training leaders at Kanakuk Institute. Each of these gap year programs enrolls 50-75 recent college graduates for a nine-month intensive program where they learn about community, a Christian worldview, and a coherent systematic theology. In February, April, and October of 2023, Pastor David returned to teach a concise Old Testament overview as well as the doctrine of the Trinity and Gospel themes in the story of Joseph.



## Starting A New Chapter

*A new field in Africa*

By Gary McKnight

Elizabeth and I are thrilled to have just started full-time ministry in Liberia! We visited the country for the first time in July 2022, when I taught two intensive courses at the Evangelical Seminary of West Africa (ESWA). Our hearts were immediately drawn to the dear people of Liberia, who have been traumatized by the after-effects of the Liberian Civil War (1989-2003), the Ebola crisis (2014-16), grinding poverty (9th poorest country in the world), and tremendous spiritual need.

In Liberia, as elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa, leadership development has not kept pace with the tremendous numerical growth of Christianity. Often people are “like sheep with no shepherd.” Consequently, it is easy for professing Christians to succumb to heterodox beliefs such as the prosperity gospel and mixtures of Christianity and African Traditional Religion.

Dr. Ramesh Richard has observed that “Pastoral health affects church health, and church health affects societal health.” That is why our teaching ministry at ESWA, where most students are already pastors, is so vital.

I teach and serve as Vice President for Academic Affairs. I am responsible for training of our resident faculty, course and instructor scheduling, curriculum revision, etc. God has prepared me for this role in a variety of ways, including over 30 years teaching in higher education (almost 20 in Africa).

Liz, with 28 years of experience in high school and beyond, will teach and help with administration at ESWA, as well as serve in the church and community.



# Tools They Can Use

CBC resources to equip leaders around the world

By David Daniels

One of the things that stood out to me on a 2013 mission to Gitega, Burundi, was how pastors treasured the resources we gave them. New Bibles, handouts, notepads, and pens. Each thing was a precious tool for ministry, rare commodities in a country with so little.

It was there that the Lord gave me a vision of writing a book. Not *any* book, but a narrative to parallel the lessons we were teaching on BELONG, BECOME, and BEYOND. I wanted to make sure that pastors with very little ministry training would have resources to use for missional discipleship.

*Next Step Church* was written in 2016 and immediately translated into Kirundi so that printed copies could be handed out in our next training conference. Since then, this simple book has been translated into Tamil, Spanish, Runyankole, Romanian, and Amharic. We are presently having conversations with a leader in Kenya to translate the book into Swahili. Central Bible Church funds the translation and printing costs for these books as part of our commitment to pastoral training around the world.

And the need is great.

As we handed out the first copies to pastors in Bujumbura, I asked my host, "If a pastor in Burundi wants to get a book in your language to read this weekend, how many different Christian books does he have to choose from? How many Christian books have been translated in your language?"

He held up a copy of *Ishēngero Ritērā Intāmbwé* (*Next Step Church* in Kirundi) and replied, "This is it. Except for a few commentaries, this is the only book I know in my language to lead pastors." What a privilege to help ministry leaders take the next step!



**Top Row:** Spanish, Romanian, Tamil (India).  
**Second Row:** Amharic (Ethiopia), Kirundi (Burundi), Runyankole (Uganda).  
Swahili is presently being edited for use in Kenya and other African countries.

It takes about six months for a copy to be translated and the translation to be checked by a native speaker in-country. Except for English and Spanish copies, all translations are printed in the countries they represent.





# A Jubilee Celebration

Asian Christian Academy marks 50 years on mission

By Dr. Stephen George

**Fifty years ago, the vision for an educational and service institution was born with the creation of Asian Christian Academy.**

Dr. Isaac John, a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, returned to India to start a school and social services agency that would speak to the needs of those living in India (now the world's most populous country).

Dr. Joy George and his family joined Dr. John in this effort and shortly thereafter became president of ACA. Under Dr. Joy George's leadership, the school established a number of service agencies including a seminary, a K-12 school, the Agape Hospital, the House of Joy youth hostel, a Bible college and a self-sustaining agricultural campus near Bangalore, India.

For the last five years, Dr. Stephen George has served as President and has helped ACA establish a world-class research library, a media/technology center, the Ray of Hope Center for autistic children (one of only a few in all of India), the beginnings of an Arts and Science College and the ACA Culinary and Agricultural Science Institute, the first farm-to-table fine dining culinary school in India.

ACA has been doing many great things over the last half century. Perhaps the greatest proof of the fine work of this institution is the profound impact it has had on the lives of the people it has served. Take for example, Solomon and his wife Shoba. Solomon began his life as an orphan and became a Christian through the influence of his boarding home. After college, Solomon continued his studies at Evangelical Theological Seminary (ETS) at ACA. He graduated with a master's degree, is now working on a PhD at ETS and is also serving as the Seminary Chaplain, helping organize weekly chapel services.

Shoba came to ACA at the age of 4 after the death

of her mother. She experienced the love of Jesus through the House of Joy and the education of the ACA K-12 school. Shoba attended a nearby college with the financial assistance of ACA and soon came to the age of marriage.

Some of Shoba's extended family pressured her to marry someone from her caste. Shoba, a follower of Jesus, wanted to marry a man who was also a follower of Jesus. Friends at ACA began to pray and soon Solomon and Shoba were introduced to each other. Solomon and Shoba shared the experience of finding Jesus while orphans and both were deeply impacted by the love and care of the leadership of ACA. They have now been married almost seven years and have two lovely children, Salina Grace, their 6-year-old daughter, and Sasson, their 8-month-old son. (Sasson, Hebrew for "joy," is a daily reminder of how God has blessed Solomon and Shoba through the love and leadership of ACA.)

Central Bible Church has had a long history with ACA. In its early days, Dr. Elliott Johnson, a CBC stalwart, traveled to India to teach in the ACD Seminary. In the early 2000s, Stephen George and his wife Rachel attended CBC while studying at UTA and were active members of the Northstar Community Group. Many members of CBC have traveled to ACA over the years to serve during summer months at the House of Joy, the ACA K-12 School, the Agape Hospital and the ETS Seminary. Dr. Tom Bulick, Dr. David Daniels, Dr. Roger Sappington, and Eric Wright, along with others from CBC, have spent many hours teaching and sharing in this wonderful place of God's grace in India.

*Dr. Stephen George is President of Asian Christian Academy.*





# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

# 19%

Portion of the CBC General Fund budget allocated to local and global mission = \$890,000



# 3

Number of translations of **NEXT STEP CHURCH** to equip ministry leaders around the world: Amharic, Romanian, and Swahili (in process)

# \$195,370

Amount raised by participants to fund their short-term missions. This amount is over and above the amount allocated in the Central Bible Church budget for missions.



# \$105,000

**CONTRIBUTED TO 6 STONES**  
To assist in the construction of a new ministry center in Bedford

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS INCORPORATED

249 students from UTA have participated in at least one Bible study or church. ISI celebrates 9 known professions of faith among UTA international students

友誼



Number of countries where CBC has had missional impact in 2023

# 60

High School and Junior High students and leaders on SpringSERVE in San Antonio



# 9000

## BACKPACKS and SUPPLIES

Distributed by Mission Arlington to students going back to school



*Making God known by making disciples who are changed by God to change their world.*



**18**

SHORT-TERM TRIPS

ETHIOPIA  
KENYA Spain  
Romania  
INDIA Mexico  
Burundi  
GERMANY CU  
BA



**160**

Volunteers serving at Central Storehouse during the year



**12.1k**

Unique visitors to [nextstepdisciple.org](http://nextstepdisciple.org)

**187**

Short-term trip participants on individual and team projects



**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

**136** Adult Students

**81** Children

**28** Volunteers



**POUNDS OF FOOD**

Distributed to neighbors at Central Storehouse from October 2022 to October 2023



**949,649**



Babies Rescued at Metroplex Women's Clinic

**1093**



**31%**

Central En Español growth in attendance





Approximately 3.4 million people live in city and surrounding area of Kochi (Cochin) India. The metro center is home to about 830,000 with Hindus and Muslims making up about 60% of the population.





# A Place For Joe

A growing church plant in India connects with their people

By Ben George

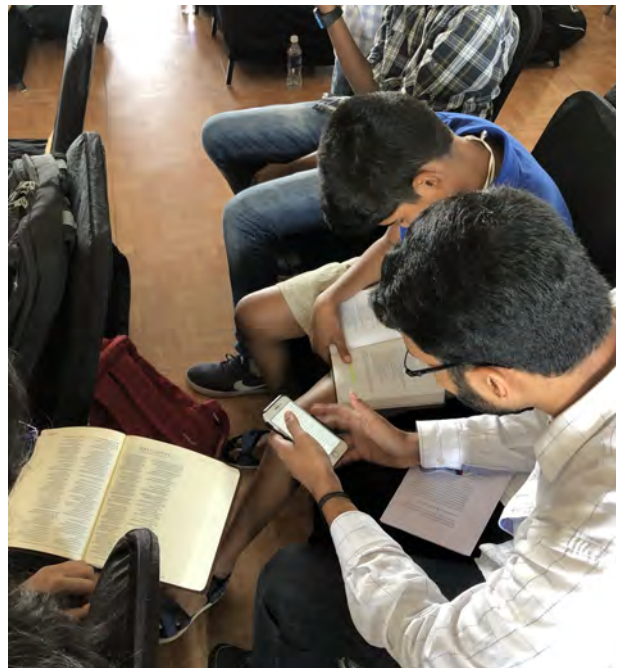
Church planting is an exercise in faithfulness. Slow and steady, the success in establishing a new church requires faithfulness. So, when a church planter sees fruit, each new believer confirms the importance of staying the course in their calling.

Grace City Church was planted in May of 2022, and one of the biggest supporters of this church plant was Central Bible Church. God has been slowly adding to our numbers, and we have been encouraged to see how God creates new life in spiritually dead people. People like Joe.

Joe started coming to our church six months ago. He didn't believe in Jesus, but he enjoyed the company of Christians, and our members befriended him. Joe had a lot of intellectual obstacles in his mind against Christianity, especially regarding the resurrection of Jesus. One of our members, Joel, asked him if he would be willing to read a book on apologetics together, and Joe agreed. For the next few weeks, they read *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel, and Joe's intellectual objections to Christianity were removed. Joe later said, 'It was the fact that the disciples were willing to die rather than abandon their belief in the resurrection that I found so compelling, and that's when I believed that Jesus rose from the dead.'

At this point, Joe started to read the Bible, and while reading the Gospel of John he eventually believed the truth of the Gospel. He started attending a Thursday Bible study, and began to genuinely pray to God for the first time in his life.

We have seen Joe's transformation over the past six months—first from saying that Christianity isn't true, to saying it might be true, to believing it is true, to now



being so convinced that it is true that he is willing to die in defense of it. Joe was baptized in July and is now a member of Grace City Church.

Cochin is a city of 3 million people, yet there are only 4 evangelical English-speaking congregations. Many people come from different parts of India to Cochin for work or the university, so the opportunity for a Gospel-centered church is great in the city. Pray that more churches would be planted in Cochin, and from Cochin to other parts of India and the world.

*Ben George is part of the church planting leadership team for Grace City Church. Previous to this ministry calling, he served with his family at Asian Christian Academy and still trains leaders for India there.*





# All In The Family

## Church planting on our campus

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**Sarah, a devoted grandmother, faithfully brings her two young granddaughters to church whenever she can. Their parents want nothing to do with church or the Lord, and Sarah knows she plays a crucial role as the link between life and death for her family.**

Her oldest granddaughter, 11, recently expressed a desire to be baptized. It is heartwarming to witness these young sisters' deep love for Jesus as they courageously pursue their faith, with their grandmother as their ally. The church where Sarah and her granddaughters are finding life change through Christ is one that only started meeting last year: our Central en Español congregation.

Every Sunday on the Central Bible Church campus, three congregations meet to worship the Lord. In the Main Building, the CBC congregation worships in English. In Campus North B, Central en Español worships in Spanish. And in Campus North C in the afternoon, ReGenesis Bible Church worships in Swahili and Kirundi.

As part of our mission to make God known among our neighbors and the nations, we have embraced our opportunity to make room for these neighbors from other national backgrounds to meet together and grow

in Christ as part of our extended CBC family. Our commitment to Multiplying Healthy Churches Everywhere also includes supporting these church plants in our midst.

Our partnership with ReGenesis began in 2009, when CBC offered worship space to a group of Christian refugees from civil unrest in Africa. The congregations developed a relationship, and ReGenesis kids started participating in CBC's Children's and Student Ministries. Method Bigirimana, then a ReGenesis elder, became its Lead Pastor in 2014 and joined CBC's staff full-time in 2017.

Today, ReGenesis has more than 200 regular attenders. It ministers throughout the week via WhatsApp, exchanging texts, publishing audio and video prayers and messages daily in Swahili and Kirundi-Kinyarwanda, and sharing sermons. Church members often send these messages to friends in Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, so the Gospel preached here is truly reaching the nations.

Method, along with wife Valerie and daughter Vania (his two grown sons now live in New York), tirelessly serves their congregation and the greater African refugee community in the area—counseling people, mediating, and providing a great deal of practical assistance for refugee families. Some church members also help



*When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him.  
The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born.  
Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt.  
I am the LORD your God.*

**Leviticus 19:33-34**

with things like driving, grocery shopping, and medical appointments, spreading God's love as they do. ReGenesis has had great impact on its community, and has thrived, with most of its students going on to college. According to Method, its "relationship with CBC is beyond partnership, beyond friendship, beyond relationship. It's the body of Christ."

A newer addition to that "body of Christ" partnership is Central en Español. CBC's Hispanic ministry began with a Spanish language Community Group in 2017, which soon expanded to two. Though attendance dropped during the pandemic, the Fort Worth population is more than one-third Hispanic, the Hispanic population in the U.S. is growing quickly, and the Central Storehouse food pantry also brought many Spanish speakers to our campus. It became clear that offering further ministry in Spanish would greatly increase our ability to serve these neighbors well and help them to know and grow in Christ. (While many Hispanics do speak English, and we offer ESL classes, it's often easiest to learn Scripture and worship the Lord in the language of our hearts.)

In 2022, CBC brought Dani Perera, a native of the Canary Islands in Spain, to Texas as the Central en Español Minister, along with his wife Carol Rojas and their three daughters. Dani and Carol originally connected

with CBC as seminary students in Madrid, when CBC visited on a mission trip. Later, they attended CBC for two years while studying at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dani then pastored a church in Tenerife for four years, but coming back to CBC was a kind of coming home.

Central en Español launched its first worship service on Easter 2022, and now has 80+ people attending weekly. It follows the same sermon series as the English-speaking CBC congregation, with *The Scrolls* Bible study offered in Spanish as *Los Pergaminos*. The congregation has active Community Groups, prayer groups, social events, Bible studies with CBC's Women's Ministry, and classes that align with CBC's JRNY classes. Best of all, they regularly see and celebrate life transformation, as some people meet Christ for the first time, some have traded legalistic rituals or superstitions for the freedom of God's grace, and others experience restoration of relationships and hope. At Central en Español, the love of Jesus changes hearts and lives every week.

*Portions of this article were written by Carol Rojas and Alison Dellenbaugh. Anyone at CBC is welcome to attend the ReGenesis or Central en Español worship services on any Sunday.*





# Clicking For Life-Change

Resource website with a missional goal

By Alison Dellenbaugh

In this increasingly digital world, we can make God known both close to home and around the globe by offering ministry resources online, greatly expanding our reach.

In January 2023, after much planning, Central Bible Church launched NextStepDisciple.org, a website providing free biblical and life application resources. Through articles, devotionals, sermons, short videos, *The Scrolls* and other Bible studies, and more, NextStepDisciple.org seeks to equip people to be effective in their calling as Christ's ambassadors to the world. While the site's first audience is the people of CBC, it aims to reach beyond our area to strengthen both ministry leaders and anyone interested in growing in their faith and spiritual formation.

First envisioned by Executive Pastor Roger Sappington, the site was constructed by CBC member and technology expert Sean Fousheé, who also designed the interface and provides ongoing upgrades and support. CBC staffer Alison Dellenbaugh edits the content and manages the site. Contributors include pastors, staff, and lay leaders from Central Bible Church, as well as others who partner with us. The site recently won a 2023 Best In Class award from the Evangelical Press Association.

Next Step Disciple currently offers more than 800 different resources by more than 50 contributors! It averages around 40,000 page views monthly, and has had more than 12,000 unique users. While most are from the US, we've had visitors from 106 countries. Germany, Singapore, Ireland, Czechia, Australia, Kenya, Israel, and even China are well represented by our viewers. We've even had visitors from Kazakhstan, Iraq, and South Sudan!

The website covers topics as diverse as anxiety,



singleness, prayer, missions, conflict, suffering, adoption, leadership, profiles of various ministries—and even the faith lessons of gardening and beekeeping. It also offers the full content of multiple books from Central Press, including PDFs of Lead Pastor David Daniels' book *Next Step Church*, written for pastors around the world, translated into six different languages.

The site is updated with new content every week. If you haven't browsed it yet, or haven't visited recently, go to NextStepDisciple.org to check it out anytime.

*Alison Dellenbaugh is Spiritual Formation Resource Manager at CBC and manages the content for our resource website.*









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