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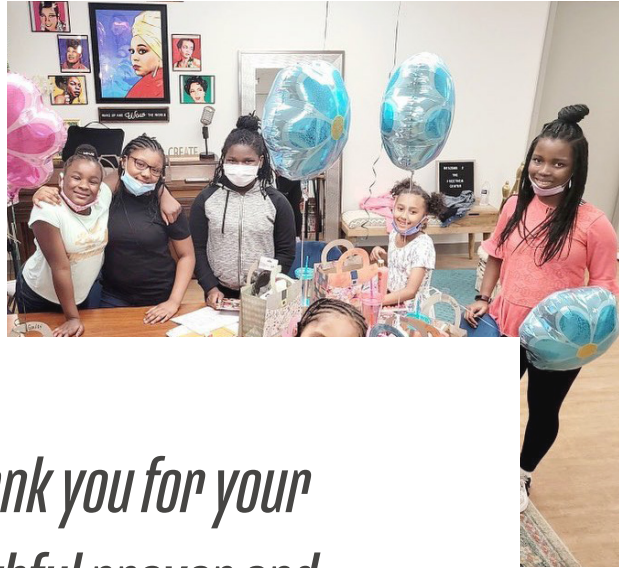
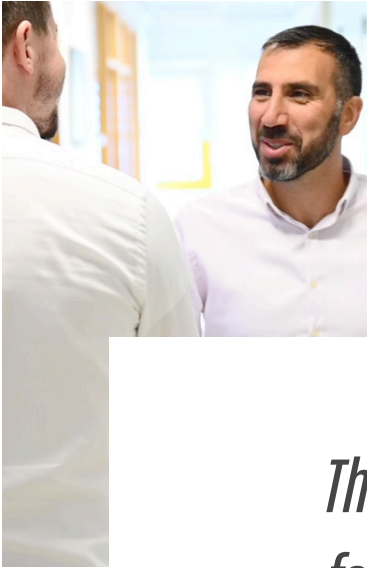
ON MISSION

review



**KINGDOM
COME** 

*Eight Days of Hope in action!
Read more on page 35.*



*Thank you for your
faithful prayer and
generous financial support
that help make our
KINGDOM COME
ministry partnerships possible.*



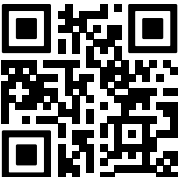
“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:3-6



YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED!

We are excited to invite you to join us
online at thechapel.com/kingdomcome.
There is so much God is doing through
Kingdom Come and our ministry
partners! We will be sharing partner
updates, stories, prayer requests,
and how to connect with our
partners, and some exciting new
features available only online!
*Remember to subscribe to the e-newsletter
so you won't miss a thing!*



*To learn more
about Kingdom Come,
scan this code.*

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by Amy Tartick



While most people would likely say this has been a year they want to forget, others state it has been a year to remember. In either case, “it has definitely been a hard row to hoe,” as my mother would say. Our Hope reminds us that, with some hoeing, weeding, sunshine and rain, good things have a chance to grow in a garden again.

Like a diamond under pressure, difficult times can bring clarity to what’s truly important as well as bring about unexpected blessings and opportunities when we keep our eyes on Jesus. Now more than ever, the necessity of Christian unity and partnerships in the gospel is crystal clear. As we prayerfully planned this issue of *On Mission Review*, our focus was drawn to the Apostle Paul’s greeting to the Philippians, “I thank

my God in all my remembrance of you...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now” (*Philippians 1:3-5*). “Partnership in the gospel” helps build unity into something God can use tremendously for His glory.

In spite of pandemic-caused challenges, the gospel is still going forward in incredible ways through our partnerships. Fire, flood, and earthquake survivors received relief and resources to rebuild their lives. Communities now have access to clean water. Victims of human trafficking have safe havens in which to heal physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. Local senior citizens were delivered much-needed groceries. New churches were planted. Christians began businesses with a Kingdom focus in places hostile to the gospel. First responders at home

and abroad were blessed with spiritual support while their tangible needs were met. And children in the foster care system found themselves placed into caring Christian homes. The list could go on and on!

Partnership takes many forms through Kingdom Come including prayer support, investments of volunteer hours, sharing resources, providing funding, and more. As I shared last year, our Kingdom Come ministry partners are resilient and with God's help, are finding ways to overcome obstacles to the gospel in reaching the hearts of every man, woman, and child. *On Mission Review* carries just a sampling of their stories and insights. You will find more posted throughout the year in our online *On Mission* magazine

at kingdomcome.thechapel.com along with a new podcast series!

Both of our publications, *On Mission Review* and *On Mission* online, are a labor of love that involves partnerships and investments of time, giftings, and talents from many people. To our writers, copyeditors, proofreaders, graphic designers, broadcast engineer, prayer partners, Kingdom Come supporters, and so many others who made this year's editions possible, please accept this heartfelt Thank You! We cannot do this alone, and words simply fail to express our appreciation for your involvement and investment in making these stories and articles possible.

On mission for the sake of the gospel,
Amy Tartick



**LOVE
GOD**



**LOVE THE
CHURCH**



**LOVE THE
WORLD**

SHARING THE VISION: THE BEAUTY OF PARTNERSHIPS

by Michael Ramos, Strategic Partnerships, The Chapel

Partnerships! From local ministries and organizations to global missionaries and ministries based overseas, the question I am often asked is, “What do we look for when we join in a Kingdom Come Partnership?”

Loosely defined, a partnership is a formal arrangement by two or more parties to manage and operate a business and share its profits. Our Kingdom Come partnerships are a way to share the resources of both ministries and celebrate together in the outcome.

We see partnerships as a reciprocal arrangement of shared opportunities,

servicing each other in intentional relationships and development that guides people to Christ. This strengthens their spiritual life, encourages biblical development, and leads to their reproducing themselves or causing multiplication. And to do this we use four partnership types:

The first type we refer to as *Community Relations*. In Matthew 5:16, Jesus reminds us to,

Let your light so shine before men,
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

What does this look like? It looks like an intentional pursuit of establishing a foundational presence



in our communities, serving both ministry and secular services, through a committed relationship and community support. It could be volunteering at the local YMCA or youth mentoring programs. It could be serving in the local food pantries or shelters. It could be attending and supporting local civic meetings or community events. Or, it could simply be faithfully patronizing your local restaurants and services to know who they are by name and letting them know who you are. Why? Because your Christ-centered character, without any expectations or hidden agenda, becomes a foundational presence in the community. And your presence indirectly invites the community to the Lord's house to learn more about who He is!

The second type of partnership is *Seed Planters*. Paul states in James 2:14-17,

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Seed Planter ministries are those which have created volunteer opportunities, that open relational and

conversational doors for us to share the love of Christ through community service by working with others or alongside others. To name just a few, let's start with Imagine Community Gardens or The Teacher's Desk, which allow for conversations about spiritual growth and development through gardening or through providing school supplies. How about Jericho Road, PATH, or Mona's House? These seek to reach out to the marginalized community and offer hope and care by the gift of time, medical care, or physical and emotional healing. These are just a few that give us both direct and indirect opportunities to engage with people in natural conversation, inviting questions about our own personal relationship with Jesus!

The third type of partnership is *Disciple Makers*. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus gave us direction to,



Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Locally and globally our partners engage in spiritual development with both individuals and in groups. They seek to see lifestyle change through studies or personal one-on-one discipleship. Ministries such as our Saturation Church Planting in India or Mission of Hope in Haiti spend mentoring time with pastors in their communities. Our U.S. sports ministries like Fellowship of Christian Athletes or Cross Training Athletes implement biblical principles as they engage in the sports discipline of young athletic leaders. Partnerships like these engage more often with believers who desire to grow in their relationship with Christ. The hope is they will then multiply themselves by sharing what they have learned with others through a disciple/discipler relationship.

And the fourth is our *Gospel Proclaimers*. It's easy to know who these are, right? They are ministries such as Total Breakthrough, who have

created a special Sunday Service after vendor conference events, so that participants can worship and hear gospel teaching. It is Responders on a Mission, who use Emergency First Responder training and support as the introduction to biblical teaching of Christ's purpose on this earth. It is para-church organizations like Cru or Campus Ambassadors that realize there is a small window of time to be with our college student community. It is our pastors. It is US! David, the psalmist said,

Sing to the Lord; praise his name.
Each day proclaim the good news that he saves. Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods. (Psalm 96:2-4)

God's message to reach every man, woman, and child is clear. It is the heartbeat of Scripture, and is the essence of partnership. Let me end by encouraging "Each of us use whatever gift we have received to serve others, and be faithful stewards of God's grace in the various forms of giftedness that He has given us to draw people to Him" (1 Peter 4:10, paraphrased). So that every man, woman, and child will have...well...you finish the rest!



Join us on the...

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

1. FOUNDATIONS

An environment that walks you through the fundamentals of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

***LEADS TO BAPTISM**

2. TEACHINGS

An environment that helps disciples live out the commands of Jesus through loving God, loving the Church, and loving the world.

3. MYCIRCLE

An environment designed to equip disciples to live missionally and engage in spiritual conversations with those in their circle of influence.

***LEADS TO MEMBERSHIP**

Do you have questions...

What is sin and why do I need to be saved from it?

What is baptism?

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and grow in Him?

How is a Christian supposed to live?

These are great questions to have for anyone seeking a deeper relationship with God! We want to help! You are invited to join us as we walk through a series of learning environments called The Discipleship Pathway. Whether you're a new believer or a well-seasoned Christian, the Pathway is designed to encourage and strengthen you as a follower of Christ. At each step you will gain greater biblical understanding, connect with like-minded people, and become better equipped to live out your faith.

Need more information? Visit thechapel.com/discipleship.

PARTNERSHIP AS A STRATEGY FOR THE CHURCH

by Jerry Gillis and John Camardo, The Chapel

Hello, Chapel family!

In the midst of a challenging season on a number of fronts, God's faithfulness has continued to give new opportunities for the church to reach every man, woman, and child with repeated opportunities to hear, see, and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is God's mission for His Church. We believe this mission can only be accomplished through all of God's people - seeing each disciple of Jesus fully transformed and mobilized in the mission as they love God, love the Church, and love the World.

This mission of the Church informs what we as a local body of believers choose to strategize toward. Partnership is one of our strategic efforts at The Chapel because we recognize that God created His Church to be interdependent. His mission is accomplished through all of His people, not just a select few. With this understanding, we look to bring more awareness to efforts of the greater body in our region (partnerships) and encourage participation of His people in their time, talent, giving, and prayer. Our Five-Year-Vision, shared

with our congregation over four years ago, reinforces the importance of partnerships on a local, regional, national, and global level because we see His Church active in those places.

As we enter the final year of this five-year focus, here is an update on what your faithfulness and God's provision have allowed to happen.

EXPAND

Engaging in community investment and campus multiplication

Our desire was to see all of our campuses in locations that served as outposts for the Church in the region. That included Lockport, Cheektowaga, and Niagara Falls.

As of today, we own the entire Lockport campus property, the entire Cheektowaga campus property, and the entire Niagara Falls campus property with no debt. We have paid for all improvements to the Niagara Falls property with cash on hand. Our hope is that by the time this article is shared, we will be meeting in the Niagara Falls campus!

PARTNER

Strategically connecting God-given resources to gospel-centered endeavors

We have seen a deepening of existing relationships and a number of new partnerships develop over the past four years. Over that same time we have seen God provide over five million dollars to be invested in those efforts of the church! So, know that as you look through the pages of this magazine and see all the good work God is doing through our partnerships, YOU have had a part in that as you have given and served.

RELEASE

Eliminating existing debt to create future missional capacity

We committed to avoid taking on any new forms of debt and to work toward debt elimination. As we have been expanding and partnering, we have made incredible progress to reduce debt significantly (by 50%) and, as of today, we have about five million dollars in outstanding debt that we would like to eliminate. This is down nearly two million dollars from last year! Praise God for His faithfulness.

Given all of this, what do we want to see happen in the next 12 months?

- 1. Phase two of the Niagara Falls building is in process to more fully utilize the entire facility (including community partnerships).*
- 2. We desire to continue to fuel gospel-centered partnerships and outreach efforts through Kingdom Come and our local campuses.*
- 3. We want to eliminate ALL of our debt in order to free up even more resources to forward the mission of God in our region, nation, and world.*

When I say “we,” I mean everyone that calls The Chapel their church family. We all play a part. Everyone is needed. The local church being interdependent and living as disciples of Christ means it is for all of us. God’s mission and this vision require the active participation of all of His people.

God is doing some incredible work in WNY! If you are already involved, we are thankful for your help in those efforts and grateful to serve alongside you. If you feel like you could engage more, come talk to us at one of our Connection Centers and join our entire Chapel family as we pray, gather, serve, learn, partner, and give – together!

IT ONLY TAKES THREE CIRCLES

Have you ever wanted to share your faith with family or friends, but didn't know how? One way is to turn everyday conversations about our "broken world" into conversations about Christ. The goal of explaining the Three Circles to our friends and family is to help us share our faith easily and prayerfully, and to see them respond.

The Three Circles illustrates God's design, our brokenness, and the Good News of the gospel. And all you need is just a pen and paper, or even a napkin!

So how do you start the conversation? It could go something like this:

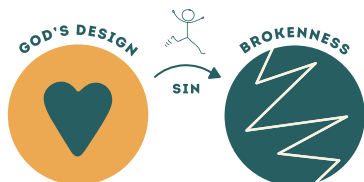
"I believe that we live in a broken world, full of hurting people who hurt each other. We try to escape brokenness by focusing on career things like money, drugs, gambling or other hurtful things. But all this just leads to greater brokenness. It can look like this."



"But 'brokenness' was not God's original design. God's design was perfect, like Himself, with no brokenness present."



"Each of us has rebelled against God and walked away from His perfect design. The Bible calls this rebellion sin, and this leaves us in brokenness. Are you familiar with the concept of sin? Have you seen this in your own life?"

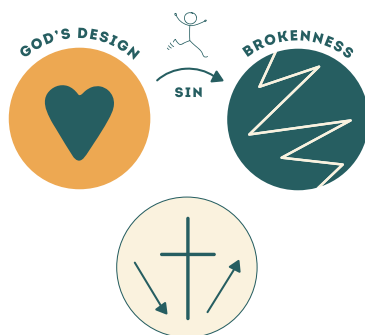


"God saw we could not escape our brokenness on our own, so God demonstrated His love towards us!"

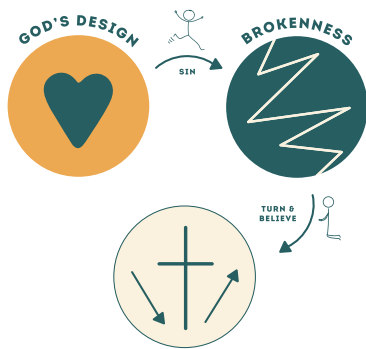
"God sent Jesus to the earth. Jesus was perfect and lived a perfect life, because He was God."

"He suffered a horrible death on a cross to take our sin upon Himself."

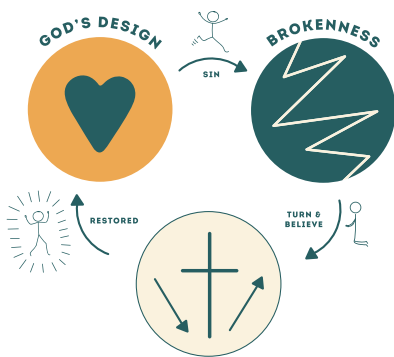
"Then Jesus rose again proving that He has power over sin and death! He's alive!"



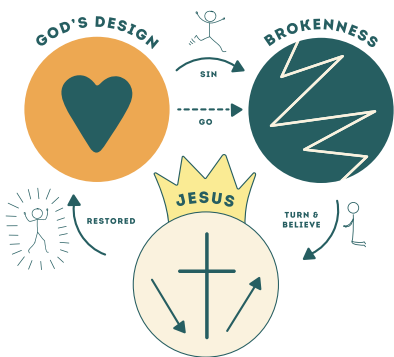
"Jesus tells all people to repent and turn from their sins. He also tells us to believe that He died for your sins and that God raised Him from the dead and to follow Jesus as king of your life. Jesus promises that if you do that, you will be forgiven and restored back to God's design!"



“If we turn and believe in Jesus we can leave this world of brokenness and be restored into a relationship with God to pursue His design.”



“More than that, God then sends us back into this ‘Brokenness’ to tell others about the Good News of Jesus Christ.”



After the diagram is drawn ask, “Where do you see yourself? Are you in God’s perfect design or are you currently in brokenness?”

Their answer to this will show you where they see themselves in relation to God and give them an opportunity to respond to follow Jesus. If ready, ask this question:

“Would you like to ask Jesus into your life right now? It’s a faith step through prayer, and prayer is talking with God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. If you are ready, you can pray something like this:

Lord Jesus I need You. Thank you for dying on the cross in my place for my sins. I believe in You, and I open the door of my life to receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life and make me the kind of person You want me to be.

“The Bible tells us that ‘Whoever has the Son has life, whoever does not have his Son, does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the Son of God so that you may know you have eternal life’ (1 John 5:12-13).”


For answers to questions you might have or resources to help you understand how to grow in your relationship with God, email us at thechapel.com/contact-us/.

Three Circles concept used with permission from NAMB.

Resource: youtube.com/watch?v=5W8ynRMr59k

GREATER BODY PARTNERSHIPS: WHAT THEY ARE AND WHY THEY MATTER

by Ryan Kozey, Reliant Mission



One of the most powerful things for the everyday follower of Christ to see is the collective effort of all of God's people toward one mission. We believe that God desires to see every man, woman, and child have repeated opportunities to hear, see, and respond to the gospel message of Jesus Christ. When you really get down to the granular level of that belief, you start to realize that no single church or ministry is going to accomplish that on its own. It is in that moment that leadership within local churches and ministries is (and should be) sobered by the task at hand.

When churches and ministries start to embrace that reality, they must honestly look at the people and resources they have been entrusted to steward. In all cases, those who lead and are seeking to mobilize resources recognize they do not have enough of all those things to do this alone. So they get to know other leaders and ministries in the area. They begin to work with a wisdom of interdependency. For instance, I have heard conversations like this over the past handful of years in Western New York and elsewhere:

“Your ministry is amazing at serving

teenage moms. Instead of starting a ministry to compete with that, I am going to shine a light on that and encourage our people to use their time, talent, and treasure to help in the work that you are already doing.”

“We want to plant a church. You and four other churches want to plant a church, and we all want to do that in the same area. Why don't we all try to plant a church together?”

“Our small group wants to help in the fight against human trafficking in our region. We know there are other small groups in our church and a few others that feel the same way. It seems as if God is really using your ministry to help fight human trafficking. What do you need and how can we help?”

These are real conversations I have experienced first-hand or through the testimonies of others. Real, everyday people who had a vision to start something that would ultimately help to bring gospel presence and proclamation into a region. Real, everyday people who found out about a ministry or vision and felt compelled to partner, helping to bring it into reality. What I have been describing is

called Greater Body Partnership. The older I get, the more I have begun to appreciate how important this is in a region. Honestly, I think God is doing something incredible in and through it. The fruit I have seen manifests itself in a few ways:

- Leaders in churches and ministries have been humbled to see that they desperately need one another for the full saturation of the gospel in a region.
- Everyday followers of Jesus see that joining God on His mission is not just for leaders. It includes them as well.
- Leaders and everyday followers of Christ realize that, collectively, they can do more together than if they were to attempt something on their own.
- Kingdom stewardship (effectively investing people, time, talent, and treasure) grows and helps form relationships, causing competition to subside.
- Everyone is sobered by the overwhelming idea of every man, woman, and child having repeated opportunities to hear, see, and respond to the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

The great blessing of this sort of change is not only for Christians. It also begins to paint a picture for those who are skeptical of God. In

essence, this type of partnership and interdependence becomes a sort of proclamation of the gospel to our region. It has set the table for conversations that I have had several times. When skeptics see ministries and churches working collaboratively with one another for the good of the region, it begs a question as to why churches/ministries would do such a thing. As more of those moments present themselves to the body of believers in a region, it is my sincere hope they will speak of the transforming power of the gospel—not just in their lives, but also in the life of their ministries or churches.

Greater Body Partnership is vital to seeing full gospel saturation happen. It takes time, but it bears great fruit. May God continue to enhance it in Western New York and around the world. Amen.

Ryan Kozey serves as the Systems Developer and Ministry Team Development Coach for Reliant. Additionally, he helps to support the work of Collegiate Network (a college campus church planting group), Saturation Church Planting North America (SCPNA), and Christ Together (CT). He provides coaching to church planters, and helps to formulate strategy for churches examining health and discipleship culture. Locally at Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, OH), Ryan is also involved in helping to lead an international student ministry known as Global Connections, providing international students help with food, furniture, language, clothing, and transportation.

BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO AMERICA'S HEARTLAND

by Jim Murphy, The Heartland Gospel Initiative



The Heartland consists of states making up the middle of our country. Its exact boundaries vary, ranging from twelve to nineteen states. Some of the flagship states that make up the Heartland are Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, and Kansas. They have large rural communities driven by agriculture and are sometimes called ‘flyover states’ because, in the minds of many, they are easy to overlook.

The Heartland is not a homogenous community and culture. Some of the largest cities in the country are located here. Major industry and racial diversity also make up its rich history and culture. Upwards of 98 million

people make up the Heartland, according to research done by the Brookings Institute in 2018. This is close to 30% of the U.S. population! There are many challenges and needs to be found in our nation’s heartland, and gospel movement is the most important.

The Heartland Gospel Initiative (HGI) exists to glorify God by striving to see faithful and partnered expressions of the Church in every county of the Heartland, giving every man, woman, and child repeated opportunities to hear and respond to the message of the gospel.

There is a special desire to see this work occur in the many forgotten places throughout this vast and important region. These are third tier cities, county seats, small towns, and less-populated counties. Many of these do not have a gospel-centered congregation and/or have not seen a new Kingdom work in years. Our prayer is this would no longer be so.

HGI is striving for a faithful gospel-centered congregation in each county to be either planted, partnered with, or repurposed to see this vision fulfilled.

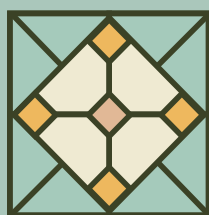
We are partnering with congregations, networks, and denominations who share this vision and mission, as no one ministry can do the work alone. HGI's ministry focuses on three core strategies to accomplish this mission:

- Geographic Intentionality
(county by county, state by state)
- Leadership Development
(leveraged for the mission and empowerment of Christ's people)
- Discipleship (measurable and distinctive)

The need is great. In many places throughout the Heartland, moralism is the primary message of the church, rather than the gospel of Jesus Christ. Congregations holding to a more

orthodox view, by and large, do not have a sense of urgency in either the mission or discipleship. A person could live his entire life in a small town or county and never hear the gospel, even with a congregation down the street. Evangelistic fervor, missional congregations, and outside-in thinking are rare in many parts of the Heartland, rendering thousands upon thousands to go through life with an incomplete view of Christ at best, or never having any understanding at worst.

We cannot do this alone and are deeply grateful for The Chapel's partnership with us. Simply put, this is an overwhelming mission. But not an impossible one, for it is a part of God's mission in the broader world. We thank Him we are not in this alone!



CHURCH OF WNY

The Church of WNY is not a place or a building. It is a people: God's people, who are located all across WNY. The Church is uniting in our region to saturate communities with the Good News of God's plan of redemption. Come visit us at churchofwny.com and see how lives are being changed through a personal relationship with Jesus!



MISSIO CHURCH AND IBER: A TELESCOPING JOURNEY

by Jordan Stinziano, Missio Church

The idea of “telescoping” seems to be one of the more difficult concepts for people to understand. We have been trained to embrace, through generations of observation and participation, the traditional understanding of church missions programs: A local congregation has relationships with missionaries around the world, they financially support those missionaries and even, from time to time, send teams to visit and minister alongside them. But telescoping, properly understood, is something more. It begins with a convictional understanding of what God wants to do in the place that you live, knowing that He wants the same thing everywhere: namely, that the gospel would be accessible to every man, woman, and child through a growing, maturing expression

or expressions of His people. Telescoping is a commitment, then, to come alongside another congregation, somewhere else in the world, and help them do in their location what God wants.

At Missio Church, in Syracuse, NY, we planted in 2008 with a desire to see the 500,000 people in our county have repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel. We also desired to be actively involved in the evangelization of the seven billion inhabitants of the world at that time, but we had no idea how. We began partnering with Saturation Church Planting International (SCPI) and developing both relationships and strategies on how we could actively telescope. It was not long before we were involved in Cuba, Ukraine, India, East Asia, and Italy. As we began

to determine what telescoping looked like for us, we began to understand that it was partnering with the leadership in each of these places and helping them grow in their understanding of the vision. We could then leverage whatever leadership assets we have to assist them in developing strategies to train and grow their people.

One such example is in the city of San Salvador. The church is Iglesia Bautista, El Redentor (IBER). I became involved with IBER through an introduction from Alex Belmar. In my work with SCPI, we asked Alex to introduce us to some congregations in Central America who might be open to the work we were doing. Miguel Angel Lopez, the Pastor of IBER, was the first man that he introduced me to. On that first trip, some five or six years ago, we spent a few days envisioning some pastors from various local churches. But the more time that Miguel and I spent together, the more I began to believe that he might be one of the key men we were looking for in this region. As I heard his heart for the Lord, for the Church, for his city, I believe God began to knit our hearts together.

IBER was and is a congregation that is well postured to be what we call an “Antioch” church for San Salvador and for the region: a church that helps resource other churches to grow their people

into the vision of saturation for the gospel. Miguel and I began to talk about ways our congregations could work together in this. On subsequent trips down, I would often bring other leaders with me to help address some of the concerns that he had. Other times we would help train his leaders or envision another group. Here he could see the value of interdependency and building a team. We often had the privilege to invest in many of his leaders or other leaders throughout the city, training them in whatever he saw the need for, reinforcing what needed to be strengthened.

Today, after a few years, IBER is a church for the region. They are leveraging their people for the sake of taking the gospel to two million people in San Salvador and the nation of El Salvador. Miguel has raised up a team of leaders in a number of congregations for this task, as well as for the evangelization of Central America (48 million people) and the Spanish speaking world (roughly one billion people).

In July 2021, I had the pleasure to join the IBER team in Falls Church, VA, as they were envisioning and training the leaders of a Spanish speaking congregation there. I sat in the back of the room for four hours with a smile on my face, rejoicing to see once again how God is at work around the world through all of His people.

HEALTHCARE AND CLEAN WATER FORM A GREAT PARTNERSHIP IN KOMAO

by Amy Tartick with Myron Glick and Kate Vacanti



In most areas of the United States, a person only needs to turn on the tap to access clean water. In other places around the world, there are no indoor plumbing, public utilities, or water wells, and the nearest place to draw water is an open swamp or stream miles away. It is hard to comprehend that, in our modern times, approximately 785 million people still do not have access to clean water, making this a global crisis.

Sub-Saharan countries in Africa are among the hardest hit areas on the planet. According to the CDC website, in Sierra Leone only two percent of the population have access to

clean, readily available drinking water. Proper sanitation and access to clean water are intrinsically linked to health, as they significantly deter the spread of water-borne diseases like cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid.

Partnering healthcare with clean water is wonderful not just in concept but also in real life. Kingdom Come recently had the privilege to have a small role in one such partnership with Jericho Road CHC and Hope Rising Together (Let Them LOL) in Komao, Sierra Leone. We were able to catch up with Dr. Myron Glick and the team at Jericho Road Community Health Center, along with Kate Vacanti and

her team with Hope Rising Together, to give us an inside look at the projects in Komao.

On Mission (OM): Where is the village of Komao located and how did you become aware of the people living there?

JERICHO ROAD CHC (JR):

Komao is located in eastern Sierra Leone, about an hour's drive south of our original global location, Adama Martha Memorial Community Health Center, in Koidu. We actually started providing primary care services here several years ago, as part of the village outreach our team at AMMCHC does on a monthly basis. Komao was selected as a monthly outreach site because we were frequently seeing patients from this village at AMMCHC. They often had easily treatable illnesses that typically stem from lack of clean water and proper sanitation.

OM: What were your thoughts when you first visited Komao and what were the immediate needs evident during that visit?

JR: When we began conducting monthly one-day clinics in Komao, we realized that the village really needed more consistent access to primary care, clean water wells, and better sanitation to holistically tackle the health needs there. This is the site of a former mining company. The company clearly did not take care of the local population. There are no sanitation systems or latrines. People are drinking and cooking with the same water that is

also used for bathrooms, bathing, and washing clothes. Unsurprisingly, there are lots of preventable illnesses among both adults and children here, which could be easily managed with clean water access and appropriate latrines.

OM: Understanding that currently JRCHC has new projects in multiple countries, what drew you into praying about a new clinic in this particular village? Was this a decision that kept your team up at night in the process or just an easy yes?

JR: This project was on our radar for years, I think as far back as 2017. We knew the people in Komao needed assistance but we had other projects going, as you mentioned. The time wasn't right for us. But Phebian Abdulai, our medical director in Sierra Leone, kept up communication with the village leadership, and they eventually volunteered to give us both land and buildings that were left behind when the last mining company left the area. She started coming up with plans for how we could renovate those buildings and manage staffing between our other sites in Sierra Leone.



OM: How is the Komao clinic going and what led you to take on clean water wells for this village in addition to the clinic?

JR: So far, everything is going very well. The local residents are very supportive of the clinic. We are already averaging 10 deliveries and 550 visits monthly. The need for clean water wells was so apparent. It didn't make sense for us to set up a primary care clinic in Komao and not try to do something about the root cause of many of the illnesses we were seeing. We were already connected to Let Them LOL/Hope Rising through the Sierra Leone Alliance, so we were hopeful we wouldn't have to figure out how to dig wells on our own!

OM: Could you share a little bit about how Hope Rising/LOL started in Sierra Leone? How many clean water wells has Hope Rising drilled and how are they maintained?



HOPE RISING TOGETHER - Let Them LOL (HR): Hope Rising began in 2009 when we learned that nearly one billion people in our world didn't have access to clean drinking water and that every day 4,000 children were dying from water related diseases. In the first six weeks of our existence, we raised enough funds to drill one well and sent a small group to Sierra Leone to see it drilled. To date, Hope Rising has drilled 140 wells and provides routine maintenance to 107 wells annually. Other area organizations have committed to maintaining the remaining 33 wells. When a well breaks, it is devastating and life-threatening for a community. Our water team visits wells to perform preventative maintenance on all pump components and assess water quality and pump volume. We also repair wells drilled by other organizations in the event they are left in disrepair. In some cases, we have drilled an entirely new well to ensure a village has this most vital resource.

OM: What were you doing when you got the word about Jericho Road's desire to provide clean water wells in Komao, and what was your first reaction to the opportunity to partner with them on this project?

HR: When Jericho Road first shared about their needs in Komao, we did not hesitate to offer our assistance in devising a plan... [W]e committed to finding donors to fund two of the wells while reaching out to The Chapel to fund the well at the clinic through the

Sierra Leone Alliance. With Jericho Road's commitment to finding donors for the remaining two wells, and knowing their mission and the impact of their work, we knew that our efforts to assist them with clean water would make a substantial impact on this region of the country.

OM: How does having clean water for the first time change a village?

HR: Having access to clean water completely transforms a village. There is the immediate impact of seeing a decrease in water-borne illnesses and an increase in the overall health of community members. The long-term impact is infinite. Women and children no longer have to spend the entire day travelling dangerous paths and roads to transport water from often-times contaminated sources. Children are able to attend school and receive their education, and community agriculture activities are able to adequately grow, providing better nutrition and basic resources for the community while creating economic growth opportunities for the future.

OM: Digging five water wells for one community is a huge undertaking! How is a project like this implemented and what is the current progress on the wells?

HR: The well digging process in Sierra Leone is very labor-intensive and time consuming. Once approval has been granted by tribal and community leaders, each well begins with area

surveying and exploratory digging to determine soil context and water table depths. Once a successful core is taken, our team determines the type of well required. It will either be drilled or hand dug. A well can take anywhere from a couple weeks to a couple months to complete depending on the soil variables, water table complexities, and the weather. We have completed all five wells for Jericho Road and look forward to hearing about their impact.

OM: How would you describe this partnership with Hope Rising and how does it impact your work in this village?

JR: Our partnership with Hope Rising was critically important in getting the clean water project done. Jericho Road does not have any expertise with drilling wells, so partnering with a like-minded organization in Sierra Leone who has expertise in well drilling was incredibly helpful.

OM: How does a partnership like this one shape your efforts in Sierra Leone?

HR: Our partnership with Jericho Road provides us the opportunity to support other like-minded organizations working in different parts of the country with the vital resource of clean water while supporting our efforts with a shared knowledge and networking base within the health-care field. Working together, we can create sustainable solutions for the health and life challenges that our

people face, and help the people of Sierra Leone embrace a better future.

OM: What do you see as success with these wells? Will you be looking for future partnership opportunities together?

JR: Providing clean water to villages, which previously did not have a reliable source of clean water, is huge. It empowers local folks to live more healthy lives. It allows children, especially girls, to be able to go to school instead of working all day transporting water. Clean water prevents illnesses and ultimately saves lives. Jericho Road would love to partner again in the future with Hope Rising and others to bring clean water to other communities we serve.

HR: When a community lacks the most basic and vital resource, all other development efforts are hindered... If our support with providing clean water helps Jericho Road overcome the hurdles they've faced in providing basic holistic health care to this community, then that is a big success. We would welcome future opportunities like this with Jericho Road as well as with other like-minded organizations working to serve the people of Sierra Leone.

Editor's note: This interview has been edited to fit our On Mission Review format. The full interview is available at kingdomcome.thechapel.com.



TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE...

by Michelle Nipp, Israel Firstfruits

Ecclesiastes 4:9 tells us, “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.” A mark of the Kingdom of God is partnership, the kind of redemptive relationship that produces good fruit. People are heaven’s treasure – its most valued resource – which is why we, as believers, are called to cultivate and steward relationships. There is something remarkable and beautiful about God’s design for us to walk with one another to fulfill His purposes.

At Israel Firstfruits, “Walk Together” is one of our core values:

We are better together. God’s Kingdom is wondrously diverse! It includes men and women from every nation, ethnicity, and social class. We are called to be One in Messiah, and believe a fuller expression of the Kingdom of God requires honoring and embracing each other’s unique identity and giftedness. Unity is not uniformity but the choice to walk together in relationship and

in service to one another. This kind of unity unleashes new life, fosters creativity, and releases blessing.

In our context, we especially believe it is essential that Jews and Arabs choose to walk together.

Mordechai Wiseman, Firstfruits’ founder and International Director, and Naeem Barhoum, COO and Israel General Manager, exemplify this value. A Messianic Jew and an Arab Christian respectively, they are a unique example of Kingdom partnership. To the outside world, this is an enigma. To us, it represents a shared heritage as the children of Abraham who are committed to serve as One in Messiah.

This value extends to our entire team and community, which includes Jews, Arabs, and Gentiles from all nations. Despite our differences, we choose to partner with one another – to walk together – to see God’s Kingdom come on earth.



Life as a Believer in Israel

From the barren wilderness of the Negev to the lush green shores of the Galilee, the idea of Israel – the Holy Land – is replete with biblical imagery. It's the location of Jerusalem, the Holy City. The land of the Bible, the holy Word. The birthplace of Jesus, our Messiah.

But Israel's reality today is a far cry from her spiritual origins. The truth is, Israel is a hard place to live. For believers, life is even harder.

Today, there are nearly nine million people living in Israel. Of those, only an estimated 30,000 are evangelical believers. That's less than 0.3%! Choosing to follow Jesus comes with tremendous risk in both Jewish and Arab traditions: those who choose Jesus face disownment from their families, rejection from their communities and even excommunication. The relational loss can be devastating.

Many believers are also new immigrants, members of a minority, or come from lower socio-economic backgrounds, which often results in various forms of discrimination. Despite Israel being a democracy, religious freedom is not guaranteed, at least not in the way many Westerners define it. Believers face regular and systematic persecution, at times outright antagonism, from religious organizations and certain government offices. The unsettling reality is that the

typical believer feels discouraged, disempowered, and alone.

Kingdom in the Marketplace

When entrepreneurs, business leaders, and marketplace professionals come to Israel Firstfruits, they are often in this difficult place. What they discover, however, is more than business or career counseling; they encounter a community of like-minded believers pursuing their marketplace callings and fulfilling their God-given purposes.

Though often regarded as secular or temporal, the marketplace has powerful redemptive significance. It is where people use their God-given gifts and talents to create and exchange value and blessing. This makes it inherently sacred and good.

This is what makes marketplace partnerships so compelling. They present a dynamic opportunity to cross any divide and encounter God's Kingdom. As believers bear fruit in the marketplace, they express the image of God. Our work becomes our worship, giving glory to God. The gospel was first spread through the marketplace, and it is through the marketplace we continue to demonstrate God's power.

The Power of Kingdom Partnerships

The outcome of these redemptive partnerships is nothing short of

the divine. Through them, God demonstrates His love for creation and reveals Jesus.

At Firstfruits, we see this in action. Elie is one example. A Jewish believer who graduated from the Kingdom Business Course, she developed specialized language courses for medical professionals. While she teaches Hebrew, she also shares her faith.

“I am able to be a light to so many people. I can share my faith with both locals and foreigners, many of whom are Arab Muslims. Some of these doctors come from Muslim countries – and I get to share with them about Israel and my faith. One Muslim doctor from an African country became a believer through my testimony. I never dreamed I would be sharing Jesus with so many people!”

Another example is Gassan, an Arab believer from Nazareth. Another

course participant, he opened a restaurant so he could be an example to others. He stated, “I wanted to set an example for the youth. I wanted them to see how a believer could manage a successful business while serving the Lord and living a Christian life.”

By partnering with women and men like Elie and Gassan, walking with them to see them fulfill their marketplace callings, we are seeing God’s light and love demonstrated in Israel!

Jesus said that His disciples would be known by their love for one another. At Israel Firstfruits, our purpose is empowering marketplace leaders and growing businesses in Israel to advance the Kingdom of God. We accomplish this through relationship – the decision to walk together in genuine partnership. Though it is not always easy, it is always worth it. Truly, two are better than one!



Israel Firstfruits empowers marketplace leaders and grows businesses in Israel to advance the Kingdom of God.



RESTORATION AND HEALING AT THE CLINIC OF HOPE

by Jill Henn, Mission of Hope



He arrives early, while the sun is still low in the sky. The rows of people are just beginning to fill the benches outside the bright green walls of the clinic. Pastor Olkine hops off his motorcycle, dusts himself off, and as he walks he flips through the pages of his tattered Bible to Luke 19—to a story of hope for those desperately seeking help. When he arrives at the medical clinic each morning, Olkine is met with hurt, brokenness, and need. But what he knows to be true is the help these families really need goes far beyond any physical ailments that brought them there.

When patients arrive at the Clinic of Hope, they are seeking restoration. They need life-changing healing, which is both physical and spiritual. For the past year, Pastor Olkine has been leading a morning devotional and prayer time with all those who

come to seek medical help from the clinic.

“It is amazing to see the direct correlation between physical and spiritual healing,” he shared. “The doctors have a really big job to do, and I love being able to assist them by offering patients a space for spiritual restoration as well.”

Just a couple of weeks ago, a woman named Marie, who didn’t know anything about Jesus, came to the clinic in need of medicine. After Olkine had shared his message, he asked Marie if she had ever attended church. Embarrassed, she confessed she had never been because she had no nice clothes to wear. He then took her aside, talked with her and gave her the space to share openly. Something inside her heart was healed that morning. Marie accepted Christ into her life, and her entire demeanor

changed before she took her first steps inside the clinic doors.

“I don’t work against the doctors,” Olkine said. “They have life-saving jobs to do. We work alongside each other, as a team, to bring both physical and spiritual healing. That is the only way I know to find real and lasting life transformation.”

Because of the faithfulness of gospel-centered partnerships, Mission of Hope is serving people across Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and beyond who are in need of help, just like

Marie. Pastor Olkine also leads devotions at the School of Hope, and students have accepted Christ because of the truth they have heard during those times. Partnering together to provide an opportunity for every man, woman, and child to have repeated opportunities to hear and respond to the gospel is a great gift. Please join us in praying for Olkine and pastors across the Caribbean as they proclaim the hope of the gospel to those in their community – no matter the hurt they encounter.

*As an organization following Jesus Christ, **Mission of Hope** exists to bring life transformation to every man, woman, and child. We currently work in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Key West, FL. We believe nations can be transformed one life at a time by focusing on nutrition, education, medical care, and church advancement.*

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community Groups at The Chapel **enable us to Love God, Love the Church, and Love the World** by using the strength of relationships. Walking through life alongside our brothers and sisters not only grows honest friendships with them, but also **deepens our nearness to God**. To discover more about Community Groups or to find a group meeting near you, please visit **thechapel.com/community**.

THE GREAT COLLABORATION

by Will Plitt, Christ Together



The Apostle Paul challenges us to think deeply about the spirit and posture of working together to see every man, woman, and child have repeated opportunities and access to the good news of Jesus. In Philippians 1:18 Paul wrote, “What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.”

In that same spirit, Christ Together (CT) serves to build a common table for churches, denominations, and networks to come together in prayer, conviction, and movement for what God wants in their cities. Currently, we are seeing this happen in 93 cities across the US and Canada. The great collaboration means we need every gospel church operating at their full Kingdom potential if we are going to see gospel saturation in a geography. One of the gifts to the church Covid-19 has afforded us is to show churches how much we need one another. In city after city, this has shifted the vision from simply important to urgent, and you need all of these elements in play in order to see traction.



Through continued learning and innovation, CT came to the realization that while we have always had a clear message that rises up out of Scripture, we did not have a clear method to help cities move toward the realization of that vision. From cities like Austin and Buffalo, we finally developed a clear method which we called City Engagement Pathway. This resource has proved to be a game changer in assisting a group of churches in a city to strategically move the vision forward.

We first piloted this resource in six cities, and have since seen it grow to 16 cities within two years. One of these cities that is now gaining significant traction is Winston-Salem, NC. The churches of CT Triad have taken personal responsibility for 1.7 million people (cttriad.org). As in every other city, the vision began in the hearts of a few key leaders who were broken over the state of lostness across the Triad. *[The Triad in North Carolina is named for three major cities in the area: Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and High Point.]* Roughly 74% of the people that live there are

not connected to a local church and do not know Jesus. Once a shared conviction was owned by multiple leaders for what God wanted, it kept leaders at the table. They simply could not opt out. Since the initial gathering, we have seen our “table” grow to more than 75 churches collaborating at differing levels. We must remember this is first a call to conviction before it is a call to action.


Taking the time to establish trust with one another provided the necessary environment for CT Triad to launch different strategies, such as a 12-month collaborative church planting residency called the Triad Church Multiplication Initiative.

In closing, here are a few radical minimums we have identified that are transferrable regardless of culture or context, to see a vision for gospel saturation happen in cities:

- Changing the scorecard for how churches measure success; what becomes normal for the majority takes time.
- The “why” of Kingdom collaboration has to inform the “what” and “how” of our strategy.

- Collaboration must be viewed as a necessity over a nicety.
- Churches must come to a place of deep brokenness over the state of lostness.
- There has to be a commitment for every church to be able to define a disciple, have a plan for making one, and a willingness to measure whether you are actually doing it.
- There has to be a commitment to collaborative church planting.
- Pastors need to view themselves as not only The pastor of A church, but A pastor of The Church in their city.

Christ Together cannot thank The Chapel and the Church of WNY enough for modeling to other cities what it looks like when no one is concerned who gets the credit besides Jesus. Based upon what we have seen God do in your region, we have helped other cities go farther faster. May God continue to richly bless you as you strive toward the fulfillment and completion of the Great Commission in Western NY and beyond.



Christ Together is comprised of churches and Kingdom leaders, networks and denominations, that desire to serve churches and their leaders through providing a way for the Church to join God on His mission. They initiate conversations and create environments for Kingdom leaders to pray, learn, strategize and act in concert with God’s vision in their community, town, city, or region.

FROM NATURAL DISASTERS TO HUMAN DISASTERS: LOVING AND SERVING THOSE IN NEED

by Hannah Fletcher, Eight Days of Hope



Ministry is ever-changing, and often God calls us to adapt what we think is best in order to take hold of His perfect plans. At Eight Days of Hope (EDOH), bending to the call of God is a constant reminder to hold loosely our ideas about what loving and serving those in need should look like.

Providing Hope | When we started responding to natural disasters in 2005, we knew God was opening a door we never fathomed we would walk through. From our first rebuilding trip for Hurricane Katrina to our most recent Rapid Response trip in Lake Charles, Louisiana, in June of 2021, God has allowed us to stand as a source of hope on the frontlines of despair.

Harold Dawson, an EDOH Rapid Response Manager, shared, “The Rapid Response arm of the ministry is one of my favorite parts of it all. We serve people, who in many cases have lost huge parts of their lives. Despite all that has happened, they can still see blessings in their lives. We serve an awesome God!”

In 2021, our nation began recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic. While the world tried its best to rebuild a sense of normalcy, disasters kept coming. From a tornado in Alabama to flooding in Kentucky and Louisiana, the devastation crushed what hope remained for those facing the impact of the pandemic. Gently, God reminded us that serving is messy, it interrupts our plans, but more importantly, it glorifies Him.



It's on these Rebuilding and Rapid Response trips that we see the impact of what providing a glimpse of hope creates.

Alan and Tina Haley, EDOH missionaries, shared, "Rapid Response has a special place in our hearts because the homeowners' emotions are so raw by the recent tragedy. It's almost as if God has opened their hearts to see and accept the love our leaders and volunteers show to them."

Building Hope | With our roots embedded in disaster relief, we stood in faithful uncertainty when God showed us to expand from serving those facing natural disasters to include those overwhelmed by human disasters. EDOH Buffalo launched in 2019 and is uniting a community in taking care of their neighbors.

The first outreach took place in the University District, building hope

through free home repairs like roofing, painting, and carpentry, for over 350 families by utilizing the work of 1,500 volunteers and countless local churches and businesses.

"Buffalo is so special because there is a spirit of gratitude among the families we get to serve. They are so appreciative for anything we are able to do. It makes us realize these families are doing their best to take care of their homes, but they just need a hand up along the way," said Curtis and Belinda Conerly, EDOH Missionaries.

In July of 2021, EDOH Buffalo returned to the Masten District. The efforts of 1,190 volunteers and 60 local churches and businesses allowed over \$1 million of work to be completed for 202 families. Roofs were replaced and porches were repaired, but most importantly, hope was brought to the City of Buffalo.

Restoring Hope | Unfortunately, poverty and pandemics are not the only human disasters facing our nation. When our leadership became aware of the human trafficking crisis, we knew God was calling us to the front lines of response. Once again, we stood in anticipation of how He would use a construction nonprofit to help human trafficking survivors.

In 2019, our Safe House Construction Ministry was launched to partner with existing organizations. By building or remodeling to add additional capacity, we enable safe houses to serve

survivors better. Our goal is to use our God-given skills to play a role in restoring hope for these survivors. We have traveled from Texas to New York, completing six projects in four states with our seventh project planned in South Dakota for the fall of 2021.

Adam Hames, Safe House Construction Manager, recently told us, “My heart’s desire is that one day we will not be needed to build housing for those rescued from modern-day

slavery. However, as long as the need is there, we are called by God to help the brokenhearted in Jesus’ name.”

Ultimately, our mission to love and serve those in need was never ours to dictate. We continue to see that as God calls us into the unknown. Today we stand as servants of God, willing and ready to change what we deem is best for the opportunity to walk in God’s will, offering an earthly glimpse of His eternal hope to anyone in need.



Eight Days of Hope is a Christian, nonprofit organization that exists to love and serve those in need.



PARTNERSHIP AMONG FIRST RESPONDERS

by Brandon Vizzi, Responders On A Mission International

When **Responders On A Mission International** (ROAM) first launched in 2011, we had a focus on international outreach and missions. As the ministry continued to grow, we saw an increasing need for first responders within the United States to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ so we began to pray about what that would look like. Over the last several years, God has allowed the ministry to explode in a way our human minds never thought possible!

We have had four members graduate from The Chapel's Lay Counseling program, and we now provide biblical counseling and PTSD support groups for first responders. There are several firefighters, paramedics, police officers, and military service members who have reached out for counsel, some locally here in Western NY, others in different locations across the United States.

What makes ROAM unique is the biblical counselors who are first responders currently working in the field. That makes the biblical counseling relatable to others who are struggling. In cooperation with The Chapel's counseling ministry, we also have bi-weekly support groups for first responders.

Out of the support group in Richmond, VA, I received a phone call from a friend and ministry partner who is a flight paramedic. This medic came to know Jesus Christ in 2016 through ROAM's ministry, and he has since grown to lead support groups and become a missionary in his workplace. During our phone call, he shared with me that after much prayer, his wife had accepted Jesus as her savior, and they are now discipling their four children in the ways of the Lord! What an answer to prayer and a testimony to the power of the

gospel in his life! This is one small example of the impact that ROAM has on the lives of first responders.

We have missionaries we partner with in Honduras and the Dominican Republic. Currently in the Dominican Republic, we have a network of churches, fire departments, EMS stations, and police stations that all work together to share the gospel of Jesus to unreached first responders. The firefighters and police officers hold a Bible study and discipleship training every other week, and we lead teams of American first responders on mission trips twice a year to provide biblical training and emergency response training to the Dominican first responders.

In Honduras, we currently work with two fire departments and three missionaries. You may recall in November of 2020, Honduras was hit with two back-to-back hurricanes which caused widespread flooding and destruction. ROAM launched a campaign to raise \$4,000 for the firefighters to help them rebuild. The funds were raised within six weeks. During that whole time the missionaries were



providing biblical counseling to the Honduran firefighters and sharing the gospel of Jesus with them. Several firefighters accepted Christ and began to grow as disciples. A few weeks later, the \$4,000 raised provided much needed beds, tables, chairs, and kitchen appliances. This allowed us to show the firefighters in Honduras that they are not forgotten. They are children of the one true King, and their needs will be met not just spiritually, but tangibly too!

Thank you to all of our Kingdom Come partners and The Chapel for partnering with us to share the gospel to first responders who may otherwise have no meaningful exposure to the life-changing power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



THE LETTER THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

by Kate Scaduto, Project Mona's House



Recently, one of the women living at Project Mona's House finally received some long-awaited news. Jessica (not her real name) first arrived at Project Mona's House in 2020, after gaining her freedom from the dark world of human trafficking. At Project Mona's House we transform victims of human trafficking into survivors and witness them blossom into overcomers. When Jessica was brought into her room at our restoration home, the hopeful expression on her face suddenly vanished. In the corner stood a mirror, where her reflection stared back at her. She swallowed hard and quietly asked for the mirror to be removed. The mirror was swiftly taken away, but the lasting effects of her reflection could not be erased as easily.

Each day Jessica was given the proper time, guidance, and resources that are necessary for healing. The women that we serve at Project Mona's House have access to free group sessions with licensed professional counselors and various skills-based development opportunities at our drop-in center, the FreeTHEM Center, located in Buffalo, NY. Young girls ages seven to seventeen, women 18+, and their families have access to the FreeTHEM Center on an as-needed basis so that they have an equal opportunity to succeed and gain independence.

After months of guided and personal healing, Jessica began to learn what real love is, how to receive love, and



above all, how to love herself. Around this time, she bravely asked to have a mirror placed in her room again. Jessica was finally ready to embrace all that she is and all that she has the capacity to become.

Once Jessica reached this milestone, she felt ready to restore her life in other facets. She expressed interest in joining the workforce to begin saving



money for her future. The members of Project Mona's House work hard to forge good relationships with local businesses in the Western New York area to secure employment for women in our program. After searching for job openings, Jessica proudly landed two interviews and began working shortly after.

Jessica began saving her money and following the advice of our financial advisors, all amid a global pandemic. At the beginning of 2021, after months of hard work and dedicated saving, Jessica received a pre-approval letter to purchase property of her own. Over the past few months, she officially began the process of looking

for a house. Ultimately, she would like to own multiple properties one day, something that her parents were never able to dream of doing.

At Project Mona's House, we are dedicated to shouting our message loudly from the mountain tops, which we accomplished while walking 902 miles along the Underground Railroad during the Spring of 2021. We amplify overcomers' voices through our film *Sold Next Door**, which further paints a picture of trafficking in our community. Finally, we believe that small steps forward forge the path to the future and facilitate the healing process in a safe place that feels like home.

*The film *Sold Next Door* can be seen at projectmonashouse.com/soldnextdoor.

Project Mona's House seeks to shed light on the terrible crime of human trafficking and facilitate the healing process among survivors by raising awareness, leading prevention efforts, providing safe housing as women rebuild their lives, and challenging the practice of bodies being used as commodities.



THEY NEVER QUIT

by Michael Ramos, Kingdom Come

I own a T-Shirt that reads on the front, “I’ve been afraid... I’ve been exhausted...I’ve wanted to quit more times than I can remember,” and on the back it reads, “**I just never did.**” And as I talk weekly with different mission organizations and churches we are blessed to be serving with, I want you to know they are all “living” what this shirt says...**They Never Quit.** During the fear and unknown of this pandemic, they have not stopped sharing Jesus with the communities they are committed to through their words and actions.

It has been through “Zoom call” discipleship training and online teaching. It has been through food donation rallies and strategic distribution. It has been through our partners’ persistent requests to visit senior citizen homes or elderly shut-ins. It has been by walking the streets and caring for the stranded or homeless, cooking and distributing small meals, encouraging hope, and praying for their needs. It has been through the creation of unique in-person meetings with all the guidelines in place and hoops jumped through, so that the teaching of the Bible and the gospel of Jesus Christ did not get

ignored during this struggle. One thing was always obvious: **they were never going to quit!**

We still believe that partnerships is a relationship arrangement we intentionally pursue together to engage in gospel conversations. It is an all-out investment of planning, caring commitment, and time. It’s about making the most of opportunities to be present and compassionate, listening to the hurts and struggles of people, helping with tangible care, and explaining that we do this because of the life we have and live in Jesus.

*“Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”
Hebrews 10:23 (NIV)*

My encouragement is that you will continue to pray for each and every one of our partners as they “**Never Quit,**” even when obstacles are put in front of them, to lead someone into a personal relationship with God through accepting what His Son has done for us all on the cross.

MORE THAN 400,000 CHILDREN

by Amy Tartick with Steve Poissant





Every child needs a family, especially in our broken world. Although most children live and grow up within the comfort and love of their birth family, others are not so blessed. For them, it can seem like everything radically changes in just a moment as they are plunged into the foster care system.

Nine years ago, Steve Poissant and his wife, Laura, who were heavily involved in the foster care community, learned their lead pastor was committing their church to do something to help these children and their families. After Steve's first meeting with the church leadership team, he offered his services. It was clear to him the Church in our region was ready to do something and the foundation of the Every Child ministry was soon established.

Today, Every Child serves as a foster care and adoption ministry made up of multiple churches throughout Western New York. Their mission is to clear the way for the full expression of the gospel in WNY to care for children in need, both locally and globally. They have worked diligently to establish strong ties within local social services departments as well as the foster/adoption agencies in our region. Some of the offerings Every Child brings to the table are trainings, support programs, and recruitment of new foster/adoptive families.

We invite you to join us at the table as Steve talks with us about what it means to be in foster care and how Every Child is helping children and families in crisis.

On Mission: *Before we jump into talking about Every Child, help us understand an orphaned child and a foster child. Typically, a child was deemed an orphan when he/she has lost both parents to death. Today we hear more about the break-up of the family with one or both parents abandoning or losing their children by the courts because of child neglect. How has this shaped what these terms mean in today's world?*

Steve Poissant: By definition to say a child is an "orphan" would indeed indicate both parents were deceased and the child has no biological relative to care for them. However, the definition of foster care refers to a period of time in which a child lives with and is cared for by people who are not the child's biological parents, usually as a result of circumstances



that prevent the child from being safe in their own home... Both situations require the world to take a posture of caring and compassion towards the child and the family in crisis regardless of the circumstances that led them to the need for someone to care for them.

OM: *What is it like for a child to enter the foster care system in NYS, and what are the most common reasons a child enters the system?*

SP: At the core, it can be very scary. Imagine waking up tomorrow morning to someone knocking on your front door, and when you open it, they introduce themselves as the person who is going to take you to your new family. Your new family has been waiting a very long time for you to arrive and their excitement shows when you get there. You aren't given any time to pack your belongings, no goodbyes, and you don't know when you are going to see your own family again. Of the over 400,000 children in the foster care system in the United States, this could have easily been their reality. Despite the fact that many of them are victims of neglect and abuse, they still have very strong attachments to their family and places of origin.

OM: *In light of what you just shared, what does Every Child primarily do to help these precious children?*

SP: Our number one goal when helping a child or family in need is to make sure they have the ability to feel lovable, capable, worthwhile, and responsible. This of course can take time as children and families in crisis do not process what is happening around them, so we begin by meeting some immediate needs they may have while sharing a quick



introduction to the Bible. By helping them to see how God loved us first and that our actions are driven by this belief, they can begin to see by accepting Christ into their lives they can experience the same thing. I have seen it time and time again that through our words and acts of kindness, we help families to see what it means to be a believer and how our acceptance of Christ into our lives changed us forever. This same principle is used when we work with the parents and volunteers as well.

OM: *In James 1:27 and Exodus 22:22 (and other passages), the Bible is intentionally specific about caring for “widows and orphans.” How do you see Every Child applying these Scriptures in practical ways?*

SP: It goes without saying that often sadness and heartache are the two most common feelings of children coming into care. In contrast, they are also the two feelings that keep most people from signing up to do anything about it. James 1:27 reads, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” These words clearly call each

of us to step into the messiness of foster care and adoption, but it doesn’t state that we have to bring children into our home. No, it simply calls us to care for the orphans, and Every Child has implemented many practical ways for us to answer that call. Sometimes it’s a simple phone call or text to a new family to let them know we are praying for them, or maybe helping a new church establish a foster/adoption care culture in their congregation to raise awareness. Everyone can do something.

OM: *Training must be a crucial component in becoming a foster or adoptive parent along with providing respite care for a foster family. Are there other ways the average person, family, or even a Community Group could help?*

SP: Our ministry has always been focused on finding ways that allow everyone to do something. Individuals, families, or even groups can sign up to attend any of our trainings. For those that want to be connected to a specific foster/adoptive family and help provide them support, we offer the Wrap-Around Volunteer training program...Our newest volunteer opportunity is through CarePortal.

OM: *Could you tell us a little more about Wrap-Around Volunteer Supports, and how impactful have they been to the foster families you serve?*

SP: *The Wrap-Around Volunteer Support program is meant to give people the chance to help care for vulnerable children and the families that have welcomed them into their homes. Families that foster and adopt children are taking on a whole bunch of “stuff” that many people will never see or understand which can feel very isolating and overwhelming at times. The volunteer support program is designed to help these families feel the love of Christ through the presence of believers in their homes and the acts of service they provide. Service acts could be making an occasional meal, visiting to help fold laundry, playing with the children for a couple hours so the adults can have a much-needed date night, or even a simple text or phone call to say you are praying for them. Currently, we have 34 families on our list that are either receiving support or still waiting to be matched with a support person or group. This is one area that we are always looking for new volunteers to participate.*

OM: *You also mentioned CarePortal – what is it exactly, when did it launch/start locally, and how does it work?*

SP: *We first learned about CarePortal during a global conference some of our leadership team were attending about two years ago. As our ministry grew and the requests for both material and relational support also grew we needed to find a way to engage more churches quicker. Our research led us to our newest*

endeavor, the implementation of a technology called CarePortal... CarePortal gives workers an opportunity to enter family needs into the portal through their smartphone or laptop as they are uncovered in the field. Once entered, the need is then sent out to each participating church within our network of churches, all in real time. Volunteers or responders, as they are referred to in CarePortal, see the needs and can respond by clicking a button that says “yes I can help.” Responders have three options: they can acquire the item(s) needed and deliver them to the family, they can click “I will pray for this need” button, or they can donate money to a connecting church to purchase the items and have them delivered to the family. All this is done with the church remaining as the point of contact between the worker and the family.

OM: *CarePortal seems like a great way to help with tangible needs for children and families. How do you sign up and does it cost anything? Could one person sign up and act as a liaison for their Community Group to be kept up to date on current needs?*

SP: *There is no cost for anyone to sign up to be a responder and in fact we have many churches within the network currently looking for people to join their response*



teams... CarePortal is designed to accommodate individual registrations as well as Community Groups... As always, we are just a phone call or email away, should anyone need help signing up. The best way to sign up to become a responder is by visiting careportal.org/get-involved.


OM: What kind or type of needs have been met through the WNY CarePortal so far?

SP: Locally we have met all kinds of needs ranging from beds, to linens, tables and chairs, and even a stove and window air conditioner unit. Although these are some big-ticket items the biggest need that has been met through all of this is the need for connection. Each of those families found the courage to ask for help and not only received the material items they requested, but also a new connection to a believer in their neighborhood. To feel connected to positive role models in their own communities is a need many of the families didn't even know they had until they were connected to a responder.

OM: What do you hope to see happen in the next six months overall for Every Child, especially with the Wrap-Around Family Ministry and CarePortal?

SP: In the few short years we have been operating, we have helped support over 40

families through our wrap-around volunteer program. In less than two months, CarePortal has been able to meet the needs of 23 children in Niagara County which translates to an economic cost savings over \$10,000. Numbers are great but what really matters is our ability to say that we are impacting lives by bringing the gospel to the people we serve and asking them to give their lives over to Christ. Arguably, the population that our ministry tends to work with can be among some of the most disconnected individuals in our communities. Each day we come into contact with people who have lost hope, people who don't believe a God could exist at all because in their words, "If He was real then this wouldn't be happening to them." It is our prayer, volunteers continue to take that step of faith and come to a training class to learn how they can help support those that are still searching for hope. We pray our efforts around CarePortal in Niagara County continue to demonstrate how the Church needs to be a part of the solution to the problems facing so many families, and that those efforts will inspire other counties to implement the technology as well. Foster care and adoption is hard work, but ask anyone involved in it and they will tell you it has been worth every tear, heartache, smile, and laughter they have put into it. Our hope is one day, we are going to have families waiting for children, not children waiting for families.



Every Child provides many opportunities so that everyone can do something to help a child in crisis. To learn more, please visit every-child.com.

Editor's note: This interview has been edited to fit our On Mission Review format. The full interview is available at kingdomcome.thechapel.com.

New Churches Bring

Each year, the Church Planting Initiative has the privilege of training men called to become church planters and supporting their efforts for gospel saturation in our region. Hear from four of our CPI alumni on how the Lord has been using them in WNY.

Sheridan Parkside Community Church

by Eric Napoli

We are operational! After three years of working with the town and contractors, we have now been able to bring people into the building for ministry and for worship. Our 16 weeks of door-to-door food distribution to Sheridan Parkside through Eight Days of Hope really set us up well.

SPCC had a kick-off BBQ on June 20, with over 100 residents and supporters coming through for our Open House. Then on June 27, we had our first worship service - an intimate circle of

church fellowship, prayer, testimony, song, and devotional. Each week we have a fellowship meal. And so far, we are growing a wonderful community of believers and seekers.

We are nicknamed “The Community” for good reason as we are doing life together at every level, and learning to bring dignity, value, and joy to every resident in Sheridan Parkside.

To learn more, visit spcommunitychurch.org



New Stories of Christ

New Story Church

by Scott Lackey

Every person's life is telling a story. In the summer of 2020 we launched New Story Church, so that people can discover the new story that Jesus has for them. In our first year we have witnessed many people discovering the new story Jesus has for them. One of our members, Michelle Victor, had this to say about the impact of New Story: "I wholeheartedly believe that New Story is what God intended the Church to be for His people. The values, intention and content are so true to His Word which is powerful and has truly transformed my faith, witnessing the church working the way it is. I'm grateful to be a part of it."

In our first year we had our first worship night with 130+ people, and in June we had our first ever block party with more than 220 people in attendance. Sunday, September 12, marked our one-year birthday. During both services, we celebrated everything that God has done in our first year and cast vision for the future! God is moving in His Church in an incredible way! Thank you Kingdom Come and CPI for playing a part in New Story Church, reaching people with the hope of Jesus.

To learn more, visit newstorybuffalo.com.

Mission of Christ Church

by Yoshau Bashizi

For the past three years, the Church Planting Initiative has been a tremendous blessing to me and the Mission of Christ Church. It has been amazing for me to work with people who have an overwhelming passion for the gospel of Jesus, and who are committed to make sure that every man, woman, and child has a repeated opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The pandemic has affected people in so many ways, especially churches, minorities, and refugees. Many churches and businesses have closed for good. Fortunately, Mission of Christ has survived because of the church family of Western New York, which provided support to keep its doors open.

Mission of Christ Church is in a unique situation due to the kind of population it reaches. The majority in the congregation are newcomers (refugees), whose lives are up and down. They have experienced the same challenges with Covid-19, racism, and other difficulties as everyone.

However, for our people it has been like experiencing trauma a second time. Having fled wars, and then seeing people killed on live television made people here suffer mental trauma. In addition, these families (most having no academic education) had to help their children adapt to remote learning since school was closed. Thankfully, during that time, I was around to assist children with their remote learning, and could help the elderly who were at risk with their shopping.

Where it goes from here I don't know, but I trust that God is in control. I'm very enthusiastic about the ongoing ideas that CPI has to promote ministries locally, and for its commitment to the gospel.

Thank you for supporting me to do what God has called me to do!

To learn more, visit kingdomcome.thechapel.com/kingdom-come-podcast-church-planting-in-wny.

The Journey Church

by Arthur Hall

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak in 2020, The Journey Church (TJC) launched an emergency response initiative: “Groceries to Seniors” (GTS). We wanted to be able to assist the most vulnerable population with a free bag of groceries. Many of these seniors (60+) were volunteers and participants in our community engagement activities and outreach events. As the pandemic increased, seniors were forced to stay in their homes. Access to resources became difficult, transportation was limited, and their budgets were stretched.

We connected with our community partners to coordinate a system for referring seniors in dire need. Through those partnerships, we were able to access a pool of seniors in need. We received many donations from individuals, organizations, and foundations, including the Covid-19 Community

Response Fund. We partnered with Manna @ Northland as our distribution site. Manna included a hot meal for the seniors. As a result, GTS has been able to provide seniors with free groceries and a hot meal throughout much of 2020 to the present.

As 2021 began, we received additional support from established and new donors. In March of 2021, The Journey Church was the recipient of the Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) Community Development Award for addressing “Livability” in urban communities. To date, we have raised over \$100,000. We’ve been able to expand the ministry, partnering with black-owned and operated restaurants throughout the city to provide a hot meal to seniors in addition to their grocery bags.

To learn more, visit journeychurchbuffalo.com.

Congratulations to the 2021/22 Church Planting Initiative Residents! All residents receive a full scholarship to the program as a gift from the CPI supporters. Please remember to pray for these residents and their families during this season of training and as they launch new expressions of the Body of Christ in our region.

Frankie Andrews, Jonathan Bokongole, Daniel Boutwell, II, and Brian Kay.



DEVELOP, TRAIN, EQUIP, SEND

by Dan Trippie, Restoration Church

Why the Church Planting Initiative

The result of gospel saturation is church planting. We believe when Christians are mobilized to share God's grace story, people will come to faith in Jesus. And when people come to faith in Jesus, they are gathered into churches for discipleship. Thus, church planting is the natural result of ordinary Christians sharing their faith in the everyday rhythms of life. Restoration Church partners with the Church Planting Initiative (CPI) because we share a common belief that gospel saturation will result in the formation of new churches.

We also know that new churches need unique support. Planting a church is hard work. Anyone who has planted a church, or helped to plant a church, knows the struggle. The work is often lonely and discouraging – it tests the faith of all those who accept the call. After thirteen years of church planting in WNY, we have some bloody knuckles and scars on our knees. The best lessons are often the ones learned

from afar. We partner with CPI so newer church planters can learn from our mistakes.

We partner with CPI because no single church can reach a region. When Restoration Church was planted in 2008, we had a vision for the region. But we quickly learned that WNY is a vast and diverse community. No one church can understand all the unique nuances and concerns that affect a region. Therefore, we believe working together with various churches is the best way to see every man, woman, and child have repeated opportunities to see, hear, and respond to the gospel.

Update on Restoration

In September 2008, a small group of believers asked the question, "What does God want for Western New York?" Thirteen years later, Restoration Church is living out the answer to that question. We believe that God wants every man, woman, and child to have repeated opportunities to experience the restoration

of the gospel. Thus, the vision of a gospel-saturated WNY animates Restoration Church.

Nevertheless, we recognize that gospel saturation requires the full mobilization of all God's people. To accomplish full mobilization, we realized we need to train leaders at every level. Therefore, in 2021 we launched a new internship/residency program. Our interns and residents receive training in four primary areas.

First, our interns/residents receive theological training through our partnership with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Interns and residents can receive a fully accredited seminary education without moving from WNY.

Second, interns and residents spend several hours each week in a guided soul-care environment. The focus of soul-care time is to form the inner-person to grow in the fruit of the Spirit.

Third, interns and residents spend time learning how to preach and teach God's word in a post-Christian culture. Romans 10:17 tells us that "faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of God." But many times, the changing

cultural values make it difficult for unchurched people to understand the glorious message of the gospel. So we spend two hours a week training interns and residents to exegete not only the biblical text but also the WNY culture. Since God uses His word to awaken souls, we believe it is vital to equip as many people as possible to teach the word of God in a culturally accessible manner.

Fourth, interns and residents learn leadership principles. In 2015, before Pastor Daryl Largis went to heaven, he trained our team in practical leadership principles. Pastor Daryl's legacy continues to serve us well as we build upon his material to train additional leaders.

As we begin another year in gospel ministry together, our love and appreciation for The Chapel grows deeper. We recognize it will take every gospel congregation in WNY to saturate our region. And we realize that every congregation plays a unique part in testifying to Christ's resurrection. We are grateful for the long and enduring partnership between The Chapel and Restoration Church, and we look forward to serving together for decades to come.



Restoration Church exists to see every man, woman, and child have repeated opportunities to experience the restoration of the Gospel.

STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY | OUR STORY

by Members of The Chapel



When my husband and I married several decades ago, he had a factory job that basically paid minimum wage. A little more than a year later, our first son was born. Two other children soon followed. In spite of the many challenges we faced, I loved this season of being a full-time wife and mother at home. In the beginning, I put together the “perfect” budget – well, almost perfect. My heart ached when I realized that our income would not meet our financial obligations, much less allow for even a small amount of giving to our church. After several months of trying to make things work, it seemed hopeless.

My husband has a very generous

heart and soon tired of “my budget.” Following his guidance, I put my plans aside and trusted God, praying for provision so that we could pay our bills and at least give something to our church. On Sunday I would dig in my purse for grocery money change or my husband would pull a dollar or two from his wallet that he hadn’t used to fill the gas tank. We soon began to tithe on a regular basis. Our children always liked to put what we had in the offering plate for us. God faithfully provided so that everything was paid at the end of each month and we could give! Glory to God!

We found other ways to steward the time and talents God had entrusted to us, too. We opened our home

to host a Bible study, volunteered to teach Sunday school, and led a youth group when our children were quite young. Our trust in God grew, and He made a way for better employment and business opportunities! He put people in our path that needed help in ministry. God blessed us with the ability to help them financially and with tangible resources, and we became friends by serving beside them.

Generosity and stewardship go hand in hand. Both are needed to grow spiritually and advance the gospel. Several Scripture passages teach us that God provides for our needs and that every good gift comes from our Father in heaven (James 1:17). We hope our story will encourage you to ask, “What are you willing to give back to God?”



“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV)



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MENTORING: A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

by Wayne and Sylvia Muhr, The Chapel Cheektowaga



What does partnership mean and look like at our Cheektowaga Campus? Wayne and Sylvia Muhr are a retired couple who have served faithfully for many years in the 716 Ministries mentoring program. Here is their story.

When we retired from our work life, we both wanted to be involved in a ministry that would help people in a practical way. We were not sure what this ministry would be and how we could fit in. During a Kingdom Come Sunday at CrossPoint, Wayne connected with Bob Gibson of 716 Ministries. What a blessing this has been in our lives.

716 Ministries offers a soft skills

program that prepares people from all walks of life - immigrants, people who have been incarcerated, and people who need a helping hand to change careers or begin a new one - to successfully enter the workforce. The objective is not only to help them complete the material but also get to know the people, pray with and for them, and demonstrate who Jesus is. Mentors attempt to maintain a relationship after the program ends to keep in touch and assist them with problems they may encounter in their job search.

This soft skills program helps them with interview skills, résumé building, time management, understanding their strengths and weaknesses,

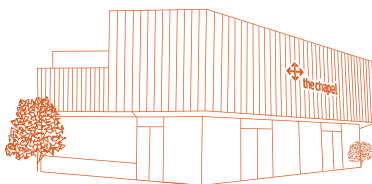
and life skills such as budgeting and conflict resolution. Scripture references are incorporated into the lessons. Our goal is for them to see that God is present and has a plan for them, and that the Bible has practical applications in the world today.

We began as mentors, and it was a life-changing experience. We connected with people who came from other countries and knew very little English. They were anxious to know how to get a job and live successfully in our country. We have met people from different neighborhoods and listened to their stories. This taught us to understand people who are very different from us but also like us, because they are made in God's image. We have become more involved in other areas and look forward to new classes and meeting new people. Wayne has been able to use his skills in construction to teach men and women preparing for the construction industry.

In Acts 20:35 Paul tells us to reach out and help one another. 716 Ministries makes this so easy and natural. They provide guidance and the materials to encourage interaction with people we have never met result in an outcome of sharing. We assist them practically and help them achieve their goals. Many of these people have become friends who come to our home for dinner, games, and great discussions. Wayne worked with a man from Iraq who was difficult to understand at first but by the end of the program, this man said Wayne is now part of his family.

Philippians 1:3-5 is the theme for this edition of *On Mission*. The people at 716 are our partners in prayer, teaching, and loving people who come to the classes. While the goal is to help them navigate in our world, it is also to share Jesus with them and show them that He loves them and knows them. It is a privilege to be part of this ministry.

DID YOU KNOW: *Cheektowaga comes from the Erie-Seneca Indian word, Ji-ik-do-wah-gah, or "place of the crabapple tree." The earliest Indian dwellers were Neutrals, who lost their lands to the Seneca tribe of the League of the Iroquois. For almost a century, this area remained hunting and fishing grounds of the Six Nations.*



LIVING WATER

by Edwin Perez, The Chapel Lockport



We are excited and grateful to continue to be a part of what God is doing within the Lockport community. We know that He is actively at work, and His mission continues to play out in our context. As God's mission goes forward, partnerships are a vital and integral piece to who we are and what we do.

Earlier this year, we had the opportunity to cast vision to our campus about how we want to move forward with key partnerships in the City of Lockport. While we have many partners and friends within the community, we are going to continue to target a few close partnerships that are within a two-mile radius of our campus. This is because we believe that some of these partners

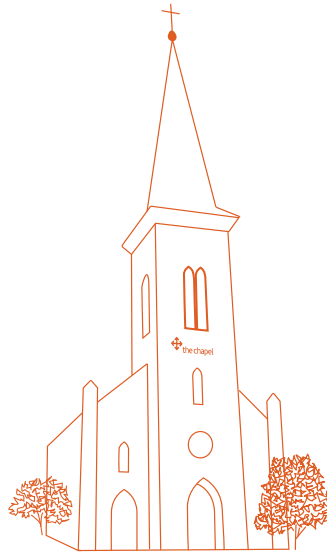
will help to create an opportunity for people to serve and to engage the mission. We are looking forward to seeing what God will do with this!

In addition, we have been able to grow relationships with other Lockport churches. These local churches share our heartbeat to give people repeated opportunities to hear and see the gospel. This is because we know in order for the saturation of the gospel to take place within the geography we are in, it will require more than just our church expression. It will require every man, woman, and child who knows Jesus to reach those who do not. We wholeheartedly believe that this is about the whole of the Church reaching the whole of the city. As such, we are eagerly excited about

how God is using various churches to strategize together, to fellowship together, and to be intentional about how we all have a part in mobilizing our people to be that repeated opportunity in and through the City of Lockport. Through partnerships and relationships with other organizations and churches, we are excited about how God is going to continue to move.

When thinking about Lockport, you might already know it is named from a set of Erie Canal Locks located within the city. If you have never been to the Lockport Campus, it is incredible to think that the campus sits right next to this historic canal and locks. There

is a powerful reminder of our mission when looking at the Erie Canal because these waters gave life to the city that we are in. In the same way, because of Jesus we have the opportunity to experience living water and this Living Water gives life to who we are as the people of God. We want to continue to see streams of living water flowing from our lives to those within the community. We are grateful God has called us to such a task and we pray that through every partnership we have in Lockport, every man, woman, and child would have repeated opportunities to drink in the living water that only Jesus provides so none would have to be thirsty again.



Did You Know: *The Town of Lockport was incorporated in 1824 and drew its name from a set of Erie Canal Locks within the city. It grew to become the first city in Niagara County in 1865.*

A NEW SEASON

by Jon Cook, The Chapel CrossPoint



This year has been an encouraging new season for the campuses of The Chapel. We're one church with one mission, but we're also one church that gathers in four distinct locations. We know God has placed each of these locations purposefully into communities within our region. While that isn't news around here, I believe God has used this pandemic season to instill a renewed and heightened desire to connect with our local church family and to engage the local community around us. In 2021, we've put an emphasis on those things at our campuses. As we began to pray about what that might look like at the CrossPoint Campus, God began to clarify a few opportunities that we

got very excited about!

The first was "Serve Day" at The Chapel. As part of the focus to connect together as a church and engage the local community around us, each campus set out to identify a project within their area that they could participate in. The hope was that it would bring a tangible benefit to the community and allow for many gospel opportunities. God opened a door for us at Windermere Boulevard Elementary School through a relationship with a volunteer in our church. The school was interested when we first reached out, but it was at our in-person meeting in August that it became clear that God was doing something incredible.

Windermere Elementary School serves over 600 children in the Town of Amherst. More than one hundred of them do not speak English as their primary language, and many of their households are below the poverty line. The principal of the school, Mrs. Julie Flanagan, showed us to a courtyard in their school that was overgrown and unkept. She shared that this was an area she had walked by for almost 15 years, wishing that it could be utilized for outdoor classroom space or as an extension of their library area, but the school lacked the resources and time to make any major improvements to that space. We shared that we would love to help with this project and simply wanted to bless the community and partner with the school in meeting a need. Mrs. Flanagan was overwhelmed with gratitude. In October, many volunteers from our campus came to Windermere Elementary to revitalize their courtyard, making it usable as outdoor classroom space. We also served many households in the surrounding neighborhood and spoke to and prayed with many people. We're excited not only for this one day of service, but also for the ongoing relationships we've established.

The second opportunity at our campus is the Donation Hub. This new initiative came from the same desire to engage the local community around us and foster connection. The Donation Hub is accessible to anyone who walks through our door. That includes those who are in need

directly, and also anyone at our church who wants to be a blessing to someone they know. We stock essential items such as canned goods, diapers, wipes, and mac and cheese. As people gather for worship on Sunday, they can bring items from the "shopping list" and simply drop them at a station by the entrance. As people are leaving, they can pick up any of those items, either for themselves or to give to someone in need. In the back of our facility, there is a larger area that will be used for bulk pick-up or drop-off. A group of incredible volunteers have begun to take ownership of this effort, allowing it to run successfully!

In my view, that's exciting for a number of reasons. First, it positions us to be able to immediately care for anyone who comes to us with these needs. When someone walks through our door lacking food or essential supplies, we can ensure they don't leave our campus without those needs being met, while also providing an incredible opportunity to pray with and share the hope of Christ with them. Second, it allows us to be sensitive to the needs of the community and stock items based on what we're hearing is needed at the time. We're partnering with town officials and school district leaders who are sharing the needs they observe in the community, and we're looking to utilize the Donation Hub to help meet those needs. Third, it empowers the people of our church to indirectly serve many people while directly empowering those in our church

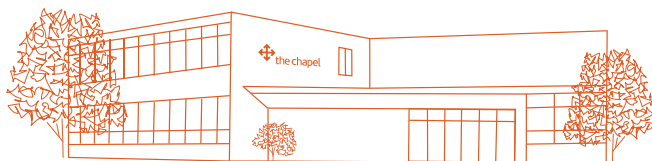
who are aware of a need. Everyone who brings in an item is contributing to the love demonstrated through generosity, and those who come into contact with someone in need has an easily accessible resource. Finally, the Donation Hub is a visible reminder to anyone who comes onto our campus that we are a people of love

and generosity. I love that this is now a permanent fixture at our campus and reflects that value to anyone who comes here.

We're excited for how God has led us this year and for the furthering of these relationships and opportunities here in our community!



Did You Know: *The consideration to build our CrossPoint campus was initially rejected! Even though it was a vacant lot, the developer was considering other options, but later came back to us and we are the only local free-standing church in Western New York within the confines of a business park community.*



For an update on our Niagara Falls Campus, please visit kingdomcome.thechapel.com

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

716 MINISTRIES is in need of volunteers who would like to serve as mentors to develop relationships with our trainees and share Christ's love. Other opportunities are also available. If interested, please contact Mikalah at (585) 213-1442 or mthomas@716ministries.org.

BUFFALO CITY MISSION'S foundation is the love and compassion of Christ as we serve the hungry, poor, and homeless. Volunteers are needed to partner with us to serve our community in need. Please visit our website at buffalocitymission.org for volunteer opportunities.

CHURCH ON THE BEACH is an evangelistic outreach to US/Canadian beach-goers. Are you willing to serve 7-11am summer Sunday mornings at Crystal Beach, Fort Erie, ON Canada? Help is needed with set-up, hospitality, prayer, deaf interpretation, evangelism, and baptism. Contact Neil Boron at (716) 984-2305 or nboron@crawfordmediagroup.net for more information.

COMPASS CARE PREGNANCY SERVICES has ongoing volunteer opportunities and needs receptionists, facility and grounds maintenance, Vision Tour hosts, and administrative support. There are also opportunities to volunteer to help with the Annual Walk for Life and event planning,

along with skilled help with plumbing, electric, and painting. Reach out to Dean Condon at dean.condon@compasscare.info for details.

EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE offers opportunities for volunteers to come serve with us at our Buffalo Satellite once a month. These days are reserved to help us prepare to respond to upcoming disasters and more. For further information, please email us at info@eightdaysofhope.com.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES needs Huddle Leaders to help guide high school and middle school athletes on a 100-day journey through the New Testament called FCA Training Camp in March 2022. Visit buffalofca.org/trainingcamp to learn more.

HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS Get involved, serve God, serve the community at Hearts' latest outreach, Hearts Harvest Food Pantry, Mondays: 10am to 4pm; Fridays: 9am to 2pm. Other opportunities to serve the homeless also available. Check us out online at heartsforthehomeless.org/volunteer/.

HOPE RISING TOGETHER (LET THEM LOL) We have volunteer opportunities for adults, teens, small groups, and families that include assembling

meal kits, assistance with annual fundraising events, and ongoing child sponsorship projects. Contact Michelle Stockton-Traylor at michelle@hoperisingtogether.com or (716) 458-0785 for more info on how you can help.

IMAGINE COMMUNITY

GARDENS offers many volunteer opportunities any Saturday (10am-12pm) throughout the season. Enjoy fresh air and sunshine while being a blessing to others in the community. Help is needed with general landscaping maintenance (trim bushes, weeding, and more). Please visit gardensbyicg.org or email info@gardensbyicg.org for more information.

KINGDOM BOUND has more than 400 volunteers serving at the annual festival held at Six Flags Darien Lake Theme Park each year. There are many opportunities to serve. In addition, Kingdom Bound has volunteer opportunities at concerts and special events held throughout the year. Contact us at volunteers@kingdombound.org.

LOCKPORT CARES needs volunteers who are responsible for greeting, serving, and loving on our guests in our shelter. There are three shifts available (7-10am, 6-8pm, and 8-11pm) and we welcome anyone to come and shadow for a shift. Call our Volunteer Coordinator, Jane Trombley, at (716) 438-2273 for details.

NIAGARA GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION

If you like donning an apron and cooking up a storm then volunteer with NGRM! Kitchen help is always appreciated and our 3M ministry (music, message, meal) is restarting soon. If you're handy with a hammer, paintbrush, or wrench, we have small carpentry, plumbing, and painting projects right up your alley. Help with the front desk is also needed. To learn more, contact Donna Stevens at (716) 946-6163.

OPOVERWATCH

Remodeling is taking place in our new building and we can use all kinds of skilled labor. Let us know what skills and/or licenses you have and we can utilize your gifts and talents. Contact us at opoverwatchministry@gmail.com to learn more.

RESOURCE COUNCIL OF WNY

is currently seeking dedicated volunteers to paint indoors/outdoors, refinish woodwork throughout the community center and replace flooring in carpeted rooms. If you can share your gifts and time with us, contact Catherine Roberts, President/CEO at croberts@resourcecouncilwny.org.

SAVING GRACE MINISTRIES

has many volunteer opportunities at our various sites including Grace House, Patriot Heights apartments, Firehouse Church, and the Resource Council of WNY. Opportunities include labor, helping hands, tutoring, mentoring children,

youth, and adults, along with Bible study participation, and community outreach. For more information contact Braden Matuszewski at braden.matuszewski@sgmworld.org or Terry King at terry@sgmworld.org or 716-893-1840.

THE POTTER'S HANDS

Join our team to serve others!

Volunteers are needed Wednesday mornings to clean/organize the warehouse, and Saturday mornings for deliveries/pickups. One-time service opportunities can be scheduled. Contact Teddy Miller at (716) 222-0791 or donationcenter@thechapel.com for details or to sign up.

THE TEACHER'S DESK

invites you to volunteer to help with opening, sorting, and packaging products, filling shopping carts and loading teachers' cars with supplies, along with a variety of other tasks that change daily. To learn more, contact Christine Witten at volunteer@theteachersdesk.org.

TOTAL BREAKTHROUGH

is looking for a volunteer prayer partner to follow up with prayer requests received by our ministry. We receive numerous prayer requests throughout the month. Looking to correspond via phone or email, whichever is provided by the request. Contact Dominic Secchiaroli at youaretheverybest@outlook.com for details.

VISIT STIR...

...or any Chapel Campus Café, where you will find a friendly smile, a freshly brewed beverage, and a delicious snack to brighten your day, along with great resources recommended by our pastors to help in your personal spiritual development. We would love for you to stop in on a Sunday morning before or after service.



S T I R

MINISTRY PARTNER DIRECTORY

716 MINISTRIES

716ministries.org
(716) 828-8681

AFRICA INLAND MISSION

aimint.org/us
Joel Gerberich
joel.gerberich@aimint.org
Dan Fleming
dan.fleming@aimint.org

BUFFALO ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE

nyatc.org
(716) 855-0602

BUFFALO CITY MISSION

buffalocitymission.org
(716) 854-8181

BUFFALO MYANMAR MISSION CHURCH

Facebook.com/bmmconlinemedia

CAMPUS AMBASSADORS | PRAYER FURNACE

campusambassadors.org
Paul Decker
paul.james.decker@gmail.com
Tim Stewart
tstewart@buffalo.edu

CHRIST TOGETHER

page 32
christtogether.org
info@christtogether.org

CHRISTIAN CENTRAL ACADEMY

christianca.com
(716) 634-4821

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING MINISTRIES OF WNY

ccmwny.org
(716) 632-3200

CHURCH OF WNY CHURCH PLANTING INITIATIVE

page 52
churchofwny.com
info@churchofwny.com

CHURCH ON THE BEACH

churchonthebeach.ca
churchonthebeach@hotmail.com

COMPASSCARE PREGNANCY SERVICES

erasingtheneed.com
(585) 232-3894

CROSS TRAINING ATHLETICS

go-cta.com
(716) 393-3744

CRU

cru.org
Justin Crawford
justincrawford@cru.org
Autumn Fries
autumn.fries@cru.org
Thomas Rodrigues
thomas.rodrigues@cru.org

EDUNATIONS

edunations.org
(412) 522-4756

EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE

page 35
eightdaysofhope.com
(662) 844-6934

EVERY CHILD**page 44**

every-child.com

(716) 631-2636

**FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES**

buffalofca.org

(716) 425-8792

**FIRST CALVARY MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

firstcalvarymbc.org

(716) 852-0229

**FIRST SHILOH BAPTIST
CHURCH**

firstshilohbuffalo.com

(716) 847-6555

**GRACE COMMUNITY
WESLEYAN CHURCH**

175 Potomac Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14213

HBI GLOBAL PARTNERS

hbiglobalpartners.org

(877) 424-4634

**HEARTLAND GOSPEL
INITIATIVE****page 18**

Jim Murphy

Contact the Kingdom Come office:

info@kingdomcomewny.com

**HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS
OF WNY**

heartsforthehomeless.org

(716) 877-3536

**HOPE RISING TOGETHER
(LET THEM LOL)****page 22**

hoperisingtogether.com

(716) 458-0785

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

houghton.edu

(800) 777-2556

**IMAGINE COMMUNITY
GARDENS**

gardensbyic.org

info@gardensbyic.org

INDIA GOSPEL LEAGUE

iglworlworld.org

info@iglworlworld.org

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
INCORPORATED**

isionline.org

Scott Matheny

smatheny@isionline.org

**ISRAEL FIRSTFRUITS
CENTER FOR ECONOMIC
ADVANCEMENT****page 27**

israelfirstfruits.org

info@israelfirstfruits.org

**JERICHO ROAD COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER****page 22**

jrhc.org

(716) 348-3000

**KINGDOM BOUND
MINISTRIES**

kingdombound.org

(716) 633-1117

**LOCKPORT CARE NET
PREGNANCY CENTER**

lockportcarennet.com

(716) 434-0251

LOCKPORT C.A.R.E.S.

Kevin Wing

(716) 438-2273

MISSIO CHURCH**page 20**

missiochurch.org
(315) 299-4101

MISSION OF HOPE**page 30**

missionofhope.com
(512) 256-0835

MISSIONGO

missiongo.org
(716) 688-5048
Jeff Hackett
jhackett@missiongo.org
Jesse Pohle
jpohle@missiongo.org

NEW DIRECTION CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

facebook.com/New-Direction-Christian-Fellowship-377211763114427
ndcfmedia1449@gmail.com

NIAGARA GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION

niagaragospelrescuemission.com
(716) 205-8805

OPOVERWATCH

opoverwatch.org
opoverwatchministry@gmail.com

PATCH OUR PLANET

patchourplanet.org
(404) 281-8927

PATH, INC. & ENRICHMENT CENTER

pathofwny.org
(716) 601-5678

PRESIDIR

christtogether.org/es
sherritogether.com
Alex & Sherri Belmar

PRINCE OF PEACE

princeofpeace.us
(716) 844-8717

PROJECT MONA'S HOUSE**page 40**

projectmonashouse.com
(716) 795-MONA

RELIANT MISSION**page 16**

reliant.org
Ryan Kozey:
ryankozey@reliant.org

RENEWED HOPE

thechapel.com/ministry-relief
(716) 631-2636

RENOVATION CHURCH

therenovationchurch.com
(716) 819-4100

RESOURCE COUNCIL OF WNY

resourcecouncilofwesternnewyork.wordpress.com
(716) 259-9844

RESPONDERS ON A MISSION**page 38**

roamintl.org
info@roamintl.org

RESTORATION CHURCH**page 50**

restorationbuffalo.com
(716) 541-0794

**SARANSTHAN
INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP**

facebook.com/Saransthan
(716) 464-8150

**SATURATION CHURCH
PLANTING**

scpglobal.org
info@scpglobal.org

SAVING GRACE MINISTRIES

sgmworld.org
(716) 893-1840

SET FREE, INC.

setfreeleaders.com
Al Warner
awarner@setfreeleaders.com

SONRAYS MINISTRIES, INC.

sonraysministries.org
(716) 695-9494

STRONG ACADEMY

(716) 474-8455

SUMMIT LIFE CENTER

summitlifecenter.com
(716) 298-8600

**TABERNACLE OF
PRAISE CHURCH**

tabernacleofpraisebuffalo.com
(716) 856-5781

THE JOURNEY CHURCH

facebook.com/thejourney4buffalo
(716) 202-0595

THE POTTER'S HANDS

donationcenter@thechapel.com

THE TEACHER'S DESK

theteachersdesk.org
(716) 348-3412

TOTAL BREAKTHROUGH

totalbreakthrough.org
info@totalbreakthrough.org

TRUE HAPPINESS MINISTRIES

31 First Street, Krishnadoss Road
Mangalapuram, Chennai, TN INDIA
600012

VILLAGE CHURCH

villagechurchbflo.com
Info@villagechurchbflo.com

WINGS OF COMPASSION

PO Box 338, Buffalo, NY 14205

WONDER

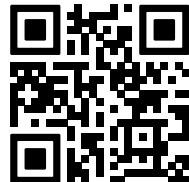
wonderbuffalo.com
hello@wonderbuffalo.com

**WORLD HOPE
INTERNATIONAL**

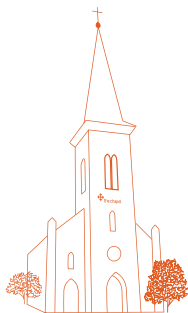
worldhope.org
(703) 923-9414

*For more partner stories visit
thechapel.com/kingdomcome*

*For a list of direct
links to our Kingdom
Come Partners,
scan this code*



*On mission to ensure that every man, woman,
and child have repeated opportunities to hear,
see, and respond to the **Gospel of Jesus Christ.***



LOCKPORT CAMPUS

25 Walnut Street
Lockport, NY 14094



NIAGARA FALLS CAMPUS

520 66th Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14304



CHEEKTOWAGA CAMPUS

200 Thruway Plaza Dr.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225



CROSSPOINT CAMPUS

500 CrossPoint Pkwy.
Getzville, NY 14068

*Visit thechapel.com
or scan this code
to learn more about
The Chapel*

