



global  
disciples



**NEXT  
STEPS**

to reach the least-reached

2023  
Annual  
Report



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**As Global Disciples, our vision is to see every person in the world have the opportunity to **choose and follow Jesus Christ.****

**We also want every North American Christian to grow in their passion to **reach the world.****



## Stepping Up: A LETTER FROM OUR CEO



Dear Friend and Partner,

What a year this has been!

As we entered our 2022-23 fiscal year, we were still catching up from the worldwide COVID-19 restrictions. We were flooded with requests from clusters of churches near **unreached people** groups asking for our help in equipping their people to reach out with the Good News of Jesus. What were we going to do?

After all, it's why we as Global Disciples exist—to **Equip People to Reach Their Nations**—especially those who have never had the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel! So, we stretched in every way that we could to respond to their requests.

Our international staff of **151**—all in their homelands in Africa, Asia, and Latin America—were united, passionate, and committed to do their part. The North America team—35 of us based in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Canada—jumped in with them.

We helped church clusters launch **741 new training programs**—twice as many new programs as any previous year. This took us to **3,135 active training programs in 71 nations** equipping people to multiply Christ-like disciples and locally sustainable fellowships among least-reached people.

You will see those results on the following pages, but let me say, it's led to **an average of 57 new church plants each week** and **1,187 new disciples** of Jesus being nurtured in these new fellowships. Praise God!

This growth requires us to stretch even more. We started our fiscal year 2024 on July 1 with about **\$2 million more in funding requests** than can be met by our fundraising capability in North America. So, we've asked our **eight National Foundations** to step up their support for training in their countries. After all, local sustainability is one of our guiding principles.

Here in North America, we're stepping up fundraising efforts to help close the gap between funding and our program growth. It will mean tapping the brakes on new programs internationally this fiscal year, but it provides an opportunity to take a breath and work on needed leadership development.

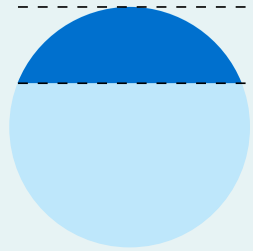
As you read this Annual Report, remember that this is God in action, His Kingdom coming in a broken, hopeless world. And you, as you pray and give, have made this possible! What a privilege to be **co-laborers with Christ!**

'til the Whole World Knows,

Galen Burkholder  
Founder & CEO

# The Need

# EQUIPPING PEOPLE TO REACH THEIR NATIONS.



**One third**  
of our world has  
not yet heard the  
Good News of Jesus.



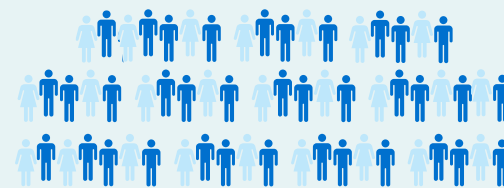
But we live in a time where  
many of those are within  
reach of a local church



Through our simple  
and effective strategy of  
training and coaching



Believers share the  
Gospel in their own  
nations and cultures



To multiply disciples and  
locally sustainable fellowships

## Our Response

Our Global Disciples model or approach is built on three phases of training working together to activate and support multiplication.

- Discipleship-mission training equips a disciple to go and make disciples and plant a church.
- Small business training provides a disciple-maker with a means of support and a presence or access to a least-reached community.
- Leadership training equips a disciple-maker to help a new fellowship grow and mature spiritually under Christ-like leaders and mentors.

Every training program is owned and operated by a local group or "cluster" of churches. For three years, Global Disciples provides a percentage in seed funds. By year four, local resources fully support the training.

### THAT'S HOW WE EQUIP PEOPLE TO REACH THEIR NATIONS.

It's only possible with your help, and by God's power, provision, and presence in our lives and mission. May this Annual Report offer you a closer look at what your investment through support and prayer has done and continues to do.

This is your work too. Thank you for being co-laborers in reaching the least-reached among the nations!



# Celebrate a Year in Action

By God's power and presence, and thanks to your support and prayers, Global Disciples makes it possible for people to reach the least-reached people of their own nations.

This fiscal year, Global Disciples partnered with **1,619 church clusters** and **3,135 training programs** around the world to train and send out more than **13,530 disciple-makers**. Thanks to their witness, **61,741 new believers** came to faith in Jesus Christ, and **2,996 new churches** or fellowships were planted. Praise God!

In addition, Global Disciples held **119 Directors Trainings**—a record number! Directors Trainings equip men and women to train disciple-makers, church planters, and leaders within their own setting. This led to **741 new programs** this year.

A church cluster—three or more churches or fellowships working in partnership—owns their training program and covers at least 55% of its expenses. Global Disciples then provides seed funds at 45%.

Each year, the church cluster increases their percentage: 70% in year two, and 85% in year three, with Global Disciples seed funds making up the difference.

By year four, the program is fully sustained by local resources. Of all programs started since 1996, **87% still train regularly** and equip people to reach their nations.

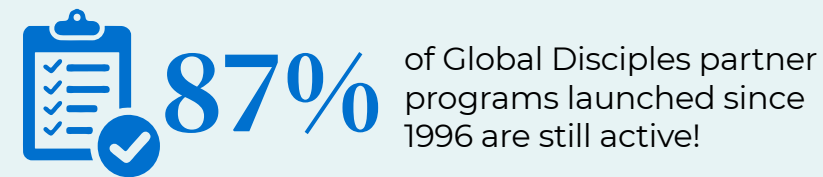
We also hosted **68 Annual Equipping Events**, gathering program directors and leaders from the church clusters together for additional equipping, prayer, fellowship, worship, and spiritual refreshment. These events renew the vision for reaching the least-reached and provide mutual encouragement among those who carry out the mission.

Thank you for supporting and praying for Global Disciples as we equip people to reach their nations.

# Global Disciples Impact



New This Year!



## PRAYER AND WORSHIP TRAINING

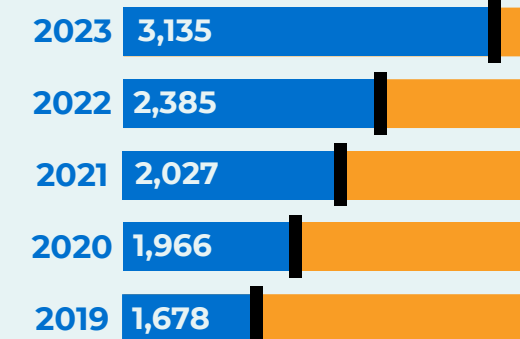
**Thirteen Regional Prayer Leaders** focus on expanding prayer movements by supporting local intercessory teams connected to each program. They lead monthly prayer and fasting days for directors and Global Disciples staff, and give on-site prayer coverage at Directors Trainings and Annual Equipping Events.

Our Regional Prayer Leaders led **14 Groundbreaking Prayer Trips** into unreached or challenging areas. This past year, **328 intercessors** were encouraged and trained through **13 Intercessor Equipping Events**.

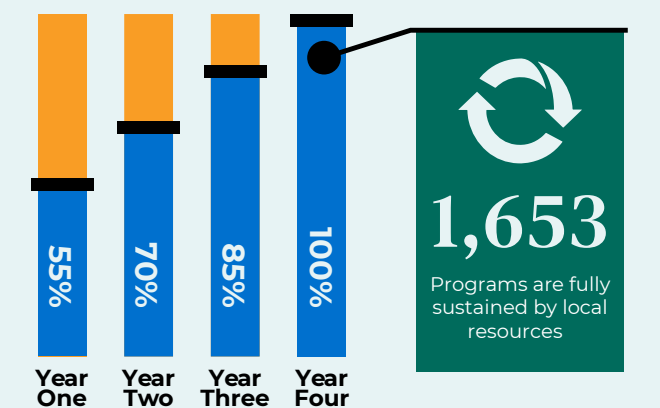
In its first full year, the **Worship Leader Training program** hosted **16 staff-led training events** in leading contextual, anointed worship and training worship leaders, especially for churches planted in least-reached areas.

Another **22 training events** were led by **volunteers** who completed the Worship Leader Training. This leads to increased, focused worship in training programs, Global Disciples events, local church worship, and outreach.

### Active Training Programs



### Local Church Funding



\* Reporting from calendar year 2022. All other data as of June 30, 2023.

# Continental Growth

Global Disciples makes it possible for the local Body of Christ in **71 nations** to reach their nations. *Lord, you establish peace for us, all that we have accomplished, you have done for us.* —Isaiah 26:12



# Where We're Going:

## INTERNATIONAL REPORT

We have no words to express our gratitude and praise to our God for all He has done and continues to do through the training programs in the Global Disciples Alliance!

Our vision—to see every person have an opportunity to choose and follow Jesus Christ—will only become a reality when each disciple of our Lord Jesus, from every nation and many vocations, does their part. As Global Disciples, we remain committed to equipping leaders selected by their clusters of churches to train and send out their near-culture workers.

We are incredibly grateful for the way each leader and their cluster of churches is equipping and sending out disciple-makers for church planting. It took Global Disciples 21 years to reach 1,000 programs and then four years to reach 2,000. We recently surpassed **3,000 active programs**—less than two years later!

This past fiscal year has been a great year of multiplication. We had set a goal to conduct 126 Directors Trainings, and **we completed 119**. As a result, we helped launch **741 new training programs** which are now training and sending out disciple-makers who make disciples.

We also successfully conducted all **68 Annual Equipping Events** we had planned, by the grace of God. Over **82% of the leaders working with us—2,447 people**—attended one of these events and were encouraged.

Many leaders make comments like this: *I have worked with many ministries, but Global Disciples is unique in its emphasis on spirituality, and the humility of the staff serves as a great model for me. Attending this Annual Equipping Event has strengthened my ministry for the long run.*

We thank God for His favor upon us and for the transformation and encouragement taking place in the lives of these leaders working with us.

Our theme for this new fiscal year is *Empowered to Overcome*, based on 1 John 5:4-5: *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?* (NKJV)

God gave us this theme, *Empowered to Overcome*, before we entered this fiscal year 2023-2024 with a budget gap between what we have, and the needs and requests for international training.

This creates an opportunity for increased local sustainability. At least **42** of the planned 81 **Directors Trainings will go ahead with local funds** covering expenses.

I believe this year ahead is the year to be empowered to overcome—overcoming all fear, temptation, persecution, and any obstacles in the way of advancing the Kingdom of God.

*Praise be to God, who in Christ always leads us in a triumphant procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of His knowledge everywhere* (2 Corinthians 2:14).

Tefera Bekere  
Chief Alliance Officer



# Come with Us:

## NORTH AMERICA REPORT

Global Disciples is riding a wave of multiplication around the world. It's exciting, it's faith-building, it fulfills many of our dreams. And it challenges and stretches us, as we seek to support this multiplication.

Our North American partners give so generously and faithfully. This year, we saw **7.9% growth in giving**. We are deeply grateful, especially in light of an overall drop in charitable giving in the U.S.

The annual Match Fund raised about \$2.2 million dollars. While that was around \$300,000 short of the goal, we see this not as a lack of generosity but a **lack of opportunity**.

What does that mean? It means that more people should be given the opportunity to know about Global Disciples, to pray for and give to this work of God.

Our support so far has come from individuals, churches, and business leaders in eastern Pennsylvania, parts of Virginia, Maryland, Florida, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Oklahoma, Missouri, and a smattering of other areas. That leaves many places across the United States where people don't yet know Global Disciples.

So, we want to **multiply geographic growth**—strengthening the Global Disciples footprint where we already have relationships and expanding in key states we've identified. This takes **advocates**—people working together in an area to promote, pray for, and provide for this work.

We are thrilled to see advocate-led efforts. In Florida, multiple families hosted a block party, gathering over 120 friends to hear our stories, and get involved. In Illinois, advocates hosted "Multiply the Harvest" fundraising events over the last two years. And several women meet regularly to pray for the least-reached and Global Disciples.

An advocate group in Oklahoma is five-years strong! They held vision-casting events, and a one-day training on our book, *Ordinary Disciples, Extraordinary Influence*.

We also want to **multiply demographic growth**—to introduce Global Disciples to new generations, more business leaders, church associations, and people whose passion for small business, sustainability, or leadership intersects with our mission.

**THE REACH**, a monthly giving community, is part of this expansion. It offers an entry point for people new to giving or new to Global Disciples. It builds engagement through stories, insider updates, and connections with others with a heart for the least-reached. Monthly giving also provides consistent funds through the year, and gifts of every size have a big impact!

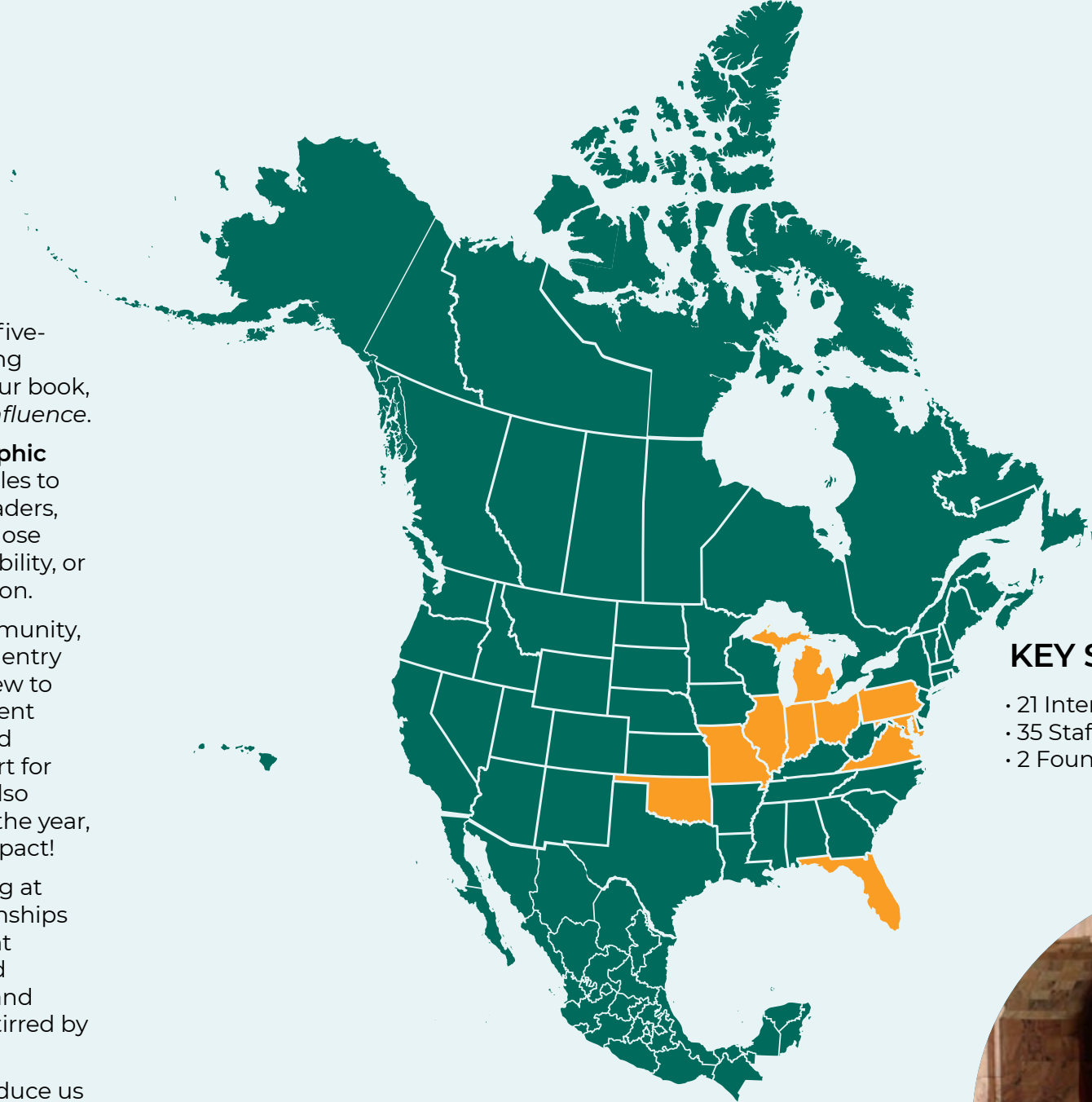
I often talk about "Kingdom building at the speed of relationships"—relationships are essential for the growth we want to see. So, we are asking God to lead us to conversations, communities, and connections with people who are stirred by this mission.

**You can help.** As an advocate, introduce us to your friends, invite Global Disciples into your networks, or connect those who want to know that God is at work today.

God is multiplying His good work around the world through our near-culture brothers and sisters. So, we must multiply support for them here in the United States.

Would you pray with us for **geographic and demographic growth**? We'd love to hear from you, to keep on building the Kingdom at the speed of relationships.

—Jerry Meadows  
Vice President for U.S. Partner Relations



**"We are asking God to lead us to conversations, communities, and connections with people who are stirred by this mission."**

### KEY STATES FOR GROWTH

- 21 Intercessory Teams
- 35 Staff
- 2 Foundations

## THE REACH.

**THE REACH** is Global Disciples' new monthly giving community. **THE REACH** community gets access to stories and first-hand reports from our Global Disciples partners. They can also connect with people who share a heart for the least-reached. [globaldisciples.org/thereach](http://globaldisciples.org/thereach)

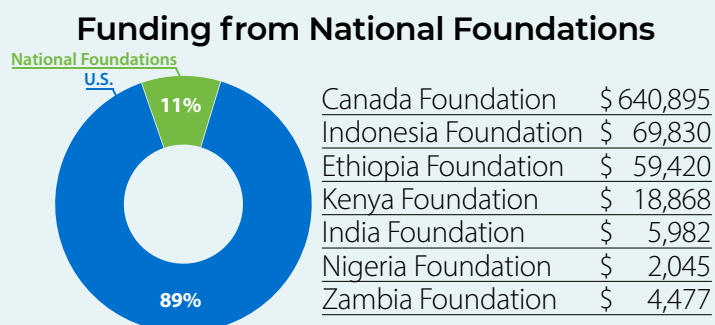
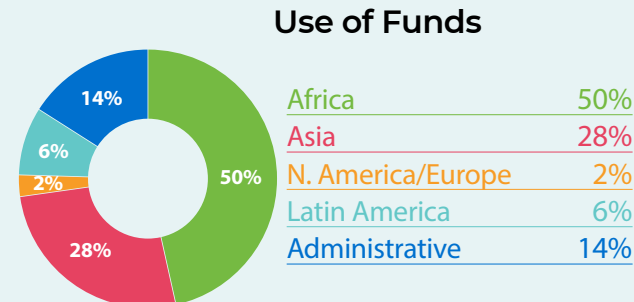
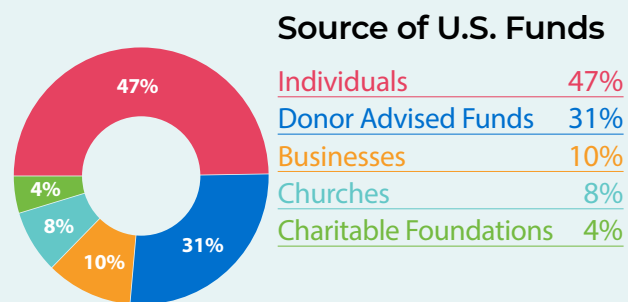


## Financial Reports

Source of Funds	Fiscal Year 2022-2023	Fiscal Year 2021-2022
Individuals	\$ 3,073,756	\$ 3,078,768
Donor Advised Funds	\$ 2,036,577	\$ 1,616,833
Businesses	\$ 669,887	\$ 664,328
Churches	\$ 527,522	\$ 480,806
Charitable Foundations (Grants)	\$ 280,341	\$ 284,076
Subtotal	\$ 6,588,083	\$ 6,124,811
Non-U.S. National Foundations	\$ 801,517	\$ 659,655
Total	\$ 7,389,600	\$ 6,784,466

Use of Funds	Fiscal Year 2022-2023	Fiscal Year 2021-2022
Africa	\$ 4,190,420	\$ 3,060,628
Asia	\$ 2,333,967	\$ 1,699,829
Latin America	\$ 537,486	\$ 525,483
N. America/Europe	\$ 178,094	\$ 202,783
Administrative	\$ 1,189,302	\$ 1,067,464
Total	\$ 8,429,269	\$ 6,556,187
Net	\$ (1,039,669)*	\$ 228,279

National Foundations	Fiscal Year 2022-2023	Income	Expense
Canada Foundation	\$	640,895	\$ 634,410
Ethiopia Foundation	\$	59,420	\$ 41,731
India Foundation	\$	5,982	\$ 5,982
Indonesia Foundation	\$	69,830	\$ 57,218
Kenya Foundation	\$	18,868	\$ 18,633
Nigeria Foundation	\$	2,045	\$ 1,291
Zambia Foundation	\$	4,477	\$ 4,672
Subtotal	\$	801,517	\$ 763,937
U.S. Foundation	\$	6,588,083	\$ 7,665,332
Total	\$	7,389,600	\$ 8,429,269



We are so grateful for those who invest in Global Disciples. Our funding comes from individual donors and families, churches and church networks, grants from charitable or family foundations, and legacy gifts.

This year, **1,848 donors** gave generously to assist Global Disciples in our training and multiplying efforts to reach the least-reached. Thanks to past giving, we could also utilize \$1 million from surplus funds to meet international program needs. We deeply appreciate each one who gives—often sacrificially—to accomplish this mission.

Our financial support also comes from **National Foundations** in Canada, India, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, Mexico, and Indonesia.

Each National Foundation is a registered legal entity formed by business and professional leaders who promote, provide for, and pray for Global Disciples activity in their nation and beyond. They are a strategic part of developing sustainability and multiplying financial resources to support growth.

This year, **seven National Foundations underwrote 11%** of our annual budget. Our National Foundations are also key prayer supporters—an investment that produces impact beyond measure!

### Global Disciples Canada

In God's grand design, we have the incredible privilege of being co-laborers in His call to "go and make disciples." Even in our fallen and broken world, the Kingdom of God is advancing, and the Gospel is still changing lives. Global Disciples Canada is doing its part through prayer and financial support.

This past year, faithful individuals, families, churches, and foundations generously funded **48 training events**, including **24 Annual Equipping Events** to encourage and equip local Program Directors as they train and send out disciple-makers and church planters. They also funded **24 Directors Trainings** to equip new program directors for discipleship-mission, small business, and leadership development. We are privileged to have a strategic role in equipping leaders near the unreached corners of the world...until the whole world knows!

—Andre Lesur, National Director

### Global Disciples Board of Directors

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 Radiographer/Senior Lecturer, Rovina Medical Diagnostic Services, Lagos Nigeria  
 Founder and President, Zook Interiors LLC., Ephrata, PA  
 Chief of Party, USAID SAFE, Lusaka, Zambia

# Next Steps:

## A LETTER FROM OUR NORTH AMERICA PRESIDENT

By this point in our Annual Report, you have read of the many accomplishments God, in His mercy and grace, has given us this past fiscal year.

Some accomplishments are worth repeating, including **741 new training programs; 2,996 new churches planted** (an average of **57 per week!**); and **61,741 people choosing to follow Jesus!** These results capture a year of tremendous impact. We praise God for allowing us to be part of His work.

In North America, you gave of your resources to support this work, resulting in **a record \$6.8 million in gifts** this past year. We sincerely thank you for trusting us with your resources and enabling the ministry to grow.

In Matthew 25:14-30, we find the parable of the talents, where those who are faithful with what God gave them are rewarded as He gives them more. In the same way, God has blessed our stewardship of the financial gifts given to us by opening doors for more programs and areas of impact in this coming year. We are trusting God to help us **raise an additional \$2.7 million** in gifts over last year's amount, so we can faithfully steward these new opportunities—despite reports that U.S. charitable giving is down compared to last year.

Join us in this stewardship as we move beyond our regional model to expand awareness of Global Disciples and multiply our network of prayer intercessors, volunteer advocates, and financial partners. We will not lose focus on our regions where people like you have been faithful in your support of Global Disciples. But we believe there are willing and generous partners like you in other states as well, and we want to connect and grow with them.

On a personal note, I am very excited to have joined this team. Global Disciples is filled with dedicated men and women across the world, united by our vision to give every person the opportunity to choose and follow Jesus.

I hope to meet many of you throughout the upcoming year at our various events. As you attend these events, please introduce yourself to me. I welcome the chance to thank you in person and get to know you better.

With Appreciation,

Jeremy Campbell  
North America  
President,  
Global Disciples



# The Circle of Significance

In taking the next steps to reach the least-reached, we must consider the *Circle of Significance*: a span of 25+ nations across Asia with the highest concentration of least-reached people groups in the world.

It is home to over 98% of the world's Hindus, Buddhists, and Taoists; 78% of the world's Sikhs; and 50% of the world's Muslims. The *Circle* includes 29 of the world's 46 megacities (cities with populations over 10 million).

Evangelical Christians make up only 4.2% of the population in this *Circle*. Political, religious, and cultural systems frequently hinder and even oppose the Gospel. Mission workers from other parts of the world are generally denied access. However, we have already seen that Global Disciples' near-culture approach and sustainable, adaptable model can assist local believers in reaching the least-reached.

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide our next steps in reaching people within the *Circle of Significance*.



Source: Mission Asia 24, City Vision, Joshua Project





## Thank you...

For supporting and praying for Global Disciples, as together, we take the next steps to see that every person has an opportunity to choose and follow Jesus Christ.

