

# ADVANCE

FALL 2022



## TOGETHER



A TRIBUTE TO MARK PATTON

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# OPENING LETTER: ADVANCE - FALL 2022

## Thoughts from the President

This is our 24th year of ministry! We are so humbled to realize that for almost a quarter of a century we have been partnering with the Church all over the United States in order to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. What an amazing honor and privilege.

This year we also surpassed another milestone that we would love to celebrate with you. In 2021, our annual giving increased past 5 million. This was an increase of \$600,000 from 2020. Once again, we are humbled. We are also inspired by the generosity of our partners. Even with things in our economy slowing down and a certain degree of financial uncertainty, the commitments of our partners to church planters

has not slowed down in the least.

This level of sacrifice and commitment is the very reason we can celebrate 24 years of ministry. It is the reason why we have seen such incredible results for the kingdom of God! There is something powerful to the connection that we share in Christ. The connection of ordinary believers to the extraordinary call of God for His Church.

Thank you for all that you have done and all that you are doing to partner with church planters around the world.

**Stephen Nelms** | *President*



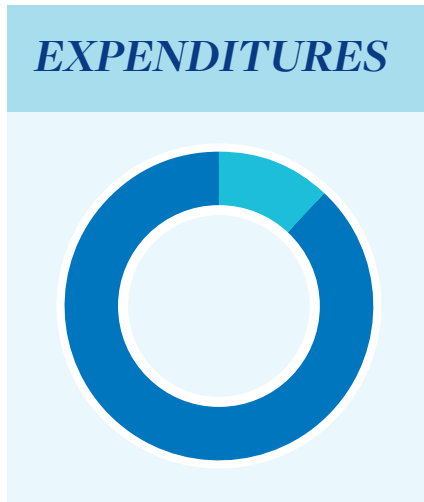
# FINANCIAL UPDATE

The uncertainty that encapsulated 2020 spilled over into 2021. Every aspect of life continues to have many uncertainties, and this is true in every corner of the earth. However, we are encouraged because even in the face of changes and uncertainty, we know that the God we serve is faithful, and He is sovereign over all things! This past fiscal year, we saw the Lord bless, grow, and sustain us in incredible ways. Believers worldwide were challenged by the difficulties that this world offers but were simultaneously encouraged by the grace of God and His Church worldwide. A special part of our ministry, and one we would not exist without, is you, our donors! You are a critical part of our ministry, and your partnership is allowing the Word of God and the hope of Jesus Christ to spread into all the earth!

Because of your faithful partnership with us, we strive to be as transparent as possible with how we use the finances God has given us. The financial figures highlighted on this page celebrate that the Gospelink family continued to share faithfully during a difficult year, for the honor and glory of Jesus Christ! Our commitment to you – to be a beacon of gospel-centered hope around the globe – remains unchanged. For those still needing to hear, who do not even know of their need for a Savior, let us move forward together with an urgent resolve to make Jesus known.

## The financial FIGURES

**CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED**  
**\$4,880,999**

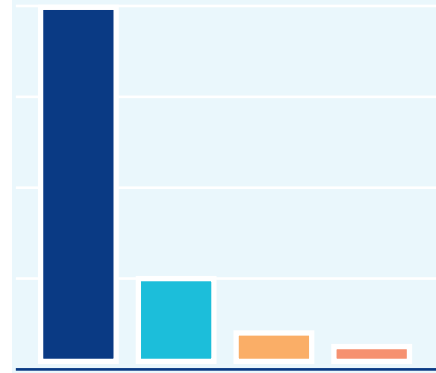


- **MINISTRY INITIATIVES**  
85.8% | \$3,943,497
- **OPERATIONS**  
14.2% | \$651,160

Of all the contributions expended in 2021, 85.8% was used to accomplish the mission programs while only 14.2% was used for operations.

**✓ REVIEW**  
 Complete financial documents & audits  
[Gospelink.org/Financials](https://Gospelink.org/Financials)

### EXPENDITURES PER MAJOR INITIATIVES



- **EVANGELISM & CHURCH PLANTING**  
\$2,361,868
- **THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION AT AIU**  
\$768,885
- **ORPHAN CARE FACILITIES**  
\$208,548
- **MEDICAL CARE & TREATMENT**  
\$43,805

**ANNUAL REPORT**

★★★★  
**CHARITY NAVIGATOR**  
 Four Star Charity

**ACHIEVED TOP RATING**



**MARK PATTON** faithfully served as a Missionary Representative with Gospelink for nearly a decade. On August 20, 2022 while ministering with the Gospelink preachers in Mozambique, the Lord called him home. He died doing what he loved...sharing the Gospel, discipling believers, and working among the many national preachers in Southern Africa.

When I received the news of his passing, I was shocked and moved to tears. How could it be? We all know that life is brief, but the end still often takes us by surprise. I will miss Mark dearly as will so many others who had the privilege of knowing him.

As I thought about Mark, so many memories flooded my mind. I first met Mark in Bible college over 40 years ago. We were both young men studying for the ministry. Mark would go to school and work Monday through Friday. Then, on the weekends, he would spend his time in Chicago sharing the Gospel and biblical truths with countless families. Mark was part of a ministry team that I had the privilege of leading. His enduring smile, his passion for ministry, and his endless enthusiasm made my task so much easier. On Saturday nights, after a long day of ministry, many of the team members would meet in a park in Chicago for prayer before returning home. Mark would arrive with a smile on his face and excitement in his voice as he told us of all the victories God had accomplished that day. Then he would pour out his heart to God on behalf of those families he was serving. Oh, how I loved to hear Mark pray!

After Bible college, we went our separate ways to serve in various ministries throughout America and beyond. Though I thought about Mark often during the years, as sometimes happens after college, we lost touch with one another. Over thirty years passed and then one day I received a call, "Hello Lewis. This is Mark Patton." Mark had called to inquire about Gospelink. What a joy it was to hear his voice after all those years! As I told him about the various ministries Gospelink was doing, I noticed that he was especially interested in the Bible college that had been started in Zambia, Africa. Sensing his passion for training and mentoring young preachers, I asked him if he would be willing to teach a course at Ambassador International University. It wasn't long before he agreed and took his first trip to Zambia.





During the past decade, Mark taught numerous times at AIU. His passion for ministry, his love of the Bible, and his concern for these young preachers was contagious. The students all loved Mark and looked forward to his visits. Seeing that there were no students enrolled at AIU from the nations of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, Mark worked with the Gospelink preachers in those nations encouraging them to send their young preachers to the college. Mark also spent about ten weeks each year traveling across the USA with AIU'S Voices of Zambia singing group seeking to raise sponsorship funds to enable new students to attend the university. Mark desired that these men be trained for the ministry and then return to reach the unreached people in their home countries. Believing that everyone should have a chance to hear the Gospel, Mark was passionate about taking the gospel to the many unreached people groups!

I am sure I will think about Mark often in the months and years to come (as the Lord gives me life). I will remember his dedication and commitment to the Gospel. I will remember his love for the Bible. I will remember his insatiable desire to read and learn. I will remember his service to the multitude of Gospelink preachers in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. I will remember the compassion he had for orphans and vulnerable children and the orphanages he helped to start in those nations. But one of my fondest memories will be of him mentoring the young preachers at AIU who would be sent out to reach their people with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

He was a faithful servant of the Lord, dedicated to the ministry, and passionate about the Gospel and helping others. Our ministry motto during those early years of theological training at the Bible college was, "For God, for souls, for Chicago." Remembering Mark's life, I think it should now be changed to, "For God, for souls, for the world." Mark poured out his life to advance God's Kingdom globally and in doing so, made an eternal impact. What an example to follow! May all of us live with this same urgency, passion, and purpose!

Although Mark may have taught for the last time at Ambassador International University in June 2022, his impact will continue. In honor of Mark's life and service to the Lord, especially at AIU, Gospelink has established the Patton Scholarship Fund.

- Lewis Nelms

***The Patton Scholarship fund*** was created with the same vision and passion that Mark Patton had: To continue training the next generation of pastors for ministry. This fund goes directly towards supporting AIU, and its students, to provide housing, food, Biblical education, and Theological training. Although Mark is no longer with us, we push forward and continue on. Mark loved AIU, and it is in his honor that Gospelink established the Patton Scholarship Fund. You can find more information at <https://gospelink.org/giveaiu> or by scanning the QR code.



With this scholarship we hope that in the years to come that hundreds of young men can be equipped for the ministry and be sent out to reach generations for Christ!

Mark Patton  
Scan Here

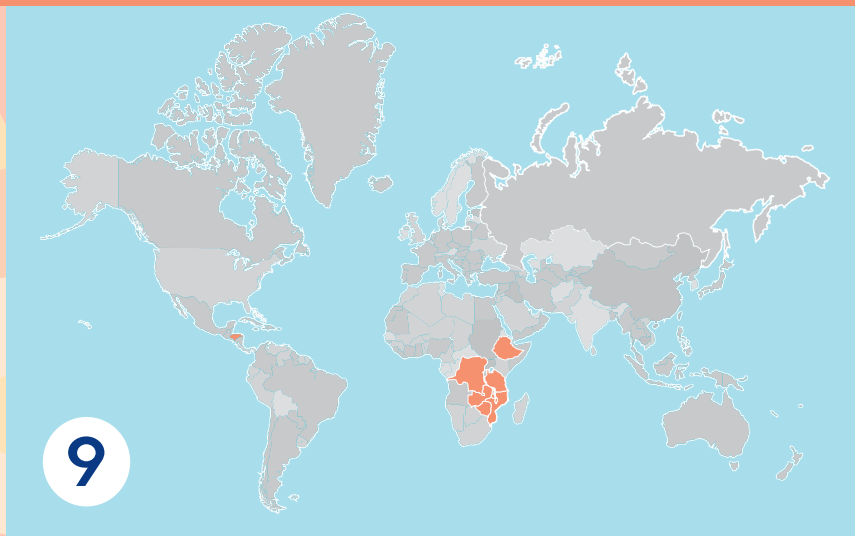


Together in the  
**SOUTH**

**920**  
PREACHERS

ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTRIES IN THE REGION



9

Ethiopia  
D.R. Congo  
Malawi

Mozambique  
Nicaragua  
Rwanda

Tanzania  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

**2021** BY THE NUMBERS



**8,887**

Number of Villages Reached



**143,081**

Number of People Who Responded to the Gospel



**516**

Number of Churches Planted



Kelly Zeramula | Tanzania | 21 Years



# TOGETHER IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE



What's the fastest-growing religion in the world? I ask this almost everywhere I speak. The first and most popular answer is Islam. Islam is growing fast – especially in those countries where it is already the dominant religion. The good news is that Christianity is growing faster. We know that Christianity is a relationship and not a religion, but compared to the other religions, it is growing faster.

Several years ago, I ran across a Penn State professor named Philip Jenkins. He is now teaching at Baylor University and is a popular speaker at evangelical and scholarly conferences across the country.

In his lectures and his book, *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*, Jenkins

highlights the geographic shift in Christianity globally. He predicts ... by 2050 the countries with the largest Christian populations will be the United States, followed in no particular order by Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria, the Congo, Ethiopia, Uganda, the Philippines, and China.

In 1900 Africa had 10 million Christians, about 10 percent of the population. By 2000 they had 360 million. By 2050 it should hit a little more than one billion. Jenkins says, “over the next 20 or 30 years I’ve seen nothing that would slow it down.”

What is causing the dramatic decline of Christianity in the West and the dramatic growth in the Southern Hemisphere? Jenkins attributes it to demographics and conversion. We don't have

any influence on the demographics, but we do have a part in the other reason for the growth of Christianity in the global South – conversion and discipleship.

Just a few years ago the experts were predicting that we would see 633 million Christians in Africa. Current estimates are that there are already 685 million Christians in Africa. When you help support a national pastor, church planter, or AIU student, you are having a direct impact on the growth of Christianity around the world. You are also having an impact on a particular family, congregation, and village. You are making a difference. Continue reading to see specific examples of how God is changing hearts and lives for eternity.



# ONE IS TOO SMALL OF A NUMBER TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS

John Maxwell teaches leaders that, “one is too small of a number to achieve greatness”. But what does this statement have to do with Gospelink? Everything! Tom Steffen and Ralph Winter believe that protestant missiology moved into the fourth era of missiology somewhere around the year 2000. (Steffen, Tom. 2010. *The Facilitator Era: Beyond Pioneer Church Multiplication*. Wipe & Stock, Eugene, OR: p. xii, 32-40.) One of the marks of this era is that the church has finally recognized and admitted that the indigenous pastors can do a better job of church planting than the career missionary from the west. Another realization is that missiology is moving away from pioneering to partnering with the indigenous church planters. This era is calling for a greater need for partnerships rather than functioning as a lone ranger.

Gospelink leadership was slightly ahead of this shift when it began partnering with indigenous church planters in 1998. But to be the most effective in this partnership with these indigenous church planters Gospelink would also have to expand its partnerships on this side of the pond also. Gospelink realized that CRU had developed a very effective tool called the Jesus Film and that they would provide solar-powered projectors to our church planters. Therefore, Gospelink formed a

partnership with CRU to provide these projectors. As our work expanded into the northern part of Mozambique we discovered that in many Muslim communities women were not deemed worthy of education. How then would we bring the gospel to oral learners? Another partnership had to be formed with Mega Voice out of South Africa which provided solar-powered talking Bibles in the tribal languages. Because of this partnership, many oral learners are coming to faith in Christ. These are just two examples of the many partnerships that Gospelink is engaged in. Remember I started this discussion off by saying, “One is too small of a number to achieve greatness”. However, your one small monthly contribution coupled together with another small gift, coupled together with another gift, allows Gospelink to do enormous things. Thank you for being a part of this “Facilitator Era of Missiology” and entrusting Gospelink with your contributions. Please continue to pray for us as we look to other mission organizations to partner with and by working together we can experience God’s blessings. Teamwork really does make the dream work! What an exciting time we are living in, and our Lord invites us to be a part of His kingdom expansion.





# MATTHEWS LONGWE

In January Joe Peppers called the Gospelink office. The church planter in Zambia that he and his wife Linda sponsor, Matthews Longwe, needed a motorcycle. Joe wanted to help, but also requested that we contact his other sponsors to see if they would help. Turns out, John Prater, the Field Director for Zambia was already scheduled to speak at Grove First Baptist Church (Grovetown, Georgia). As John was preparing the message for that Sunday, he discovered that Matthews was one of the church planters that the men's group at the church sponsors.

John reported to the church what a wonderful job Matthews is doing in evangelism. Two quarters ago, he reported that during the pandemic "outreach was not effectively conducted." He and his wife visited a local clinic where they presented the gospel to twenty-one people ... but "only nine out of the twenty-one received Christ." In his most recent report he and his wife went back to the clinic and "preached" to fifty-one expectant mothers there waiting to deliver their babies, but "only 19 received Christ." Many churches in the US would be delighted to have nineteen or twenty-one people saved in a whole year! I know Matthews is thankful for all who receive Christ, but apparently, he expects everyone who hears the Gospel to receive Christ! We should have that same kind of expectation. If you look at what God offers us: forgiveness

of sin, a relationship with Jesus Christ, and eternal life, why would anyone refuse this gift?

God has rewarded Pastor Matthews' evangelism efforts. He has also blessed him with a new motorcycle. Joe Peppers and Michael Smith, one of the members at Grove together gave the funds for the new motorcycle and for a wheelchair for one of his members. At that time, Matthews also needed \$45 a month to be fully sponsored. John presented that opportunity at the next three churches where he spoke. At the third church, a new sponsor came forward and finished what Matthews needed to be fully sponsored until the end of the year. Hopefully, that sponsorship will continue next year.

Joe and Linda have been blessed also. Joe says that Matthews it is like a member of the family. They began their relationship with Gospelink at least fifteen years ago when Gospelink founder, Lewis Nelms visited their church. Since then they have been on three mission trips to Zambia and were able to meet Matthews in person.

Michael Smith is planning on going on his first trip to Zambia next spring. Michael writes,

I prayed for several years, "God Bless me so I can bless others." God has answered that prayer many, many, many times. So, I feel that I must be a good steward of the blessings God provides. I only give to ministries that look to help the needy, protect our freedoms to worship, and (most important reason) to expand his Kingdom. I want to give to ministries that work to expand His kingdom locally, nationally, and internationally. Gospelink helps me to be a good steward.



# WHAT GOD IS DOING AT AMBASSADOR INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## JANUARY 2021 TO OCTOBER 2022

**January-March, 2021** – The Gerhart family joined the staff at the campus of AIU as the Vice-Chancellor.

After doing distance learning for quite some time, our students returned to campus! During these months, we completed the solar power project at the Chifundo Clinic. This enables the clinic to stand alone in its power requirements from the Genset. We completed six apartments at the front of the campus to house the Chifundo Clinic employees. We also were able to conduct a Replicate Seminar, during which time we trained students in one-on-one discipleship

**April-June, 2021** – We launched our distance learning program for the Master's Degree. The Salama stove factory began creating

stoves for the community, as well as training locals in making them. The hammer mill was completed and ready for grinding corn. We also built a daycare center for young students, broke ground in the construction of the H.E. Wyatt Administration building, and began the process of bringing ZESCO electrical lines to campus. San Diego Christian College students came and worked at the campus while also conducting community outreach. Many young people gave their hearts to Christ during this time!

### **July-September, 2021**

Construction continued on the H.E. Wyatt Administration Building. The Daycare center was completed as well as a wonderful playground for the kids. In August, Dr. Marjie brought a medical team to the campus and

Chifundo Clinic. They were a tremendous blessing to all they treated and shared the Gospel with. In September, our new 27-station computer lab was installed in the old administration building.

**October-December, 2021.** We completed the H.E. Wyatt Administration building and began occupying the 27 offices. We graduated the 10th senior class, with AIU's alumni now numbering over 200 graduates total. During this time, we completed the campus-wide Wi-Fi system.

**January-March, 2022.** The new school year began with a Bible Conference with four guest speakers as we welcomed back students. We introduced the new freshmen class of 27 men desiring to be pastors, church planters,





teachers, and evangelists, with the goal to reach their people for Christ. During this time, we began construction on the Carey Chapel, a gathering center that will allow the entire campus to meet together in one location. Plans were initiated for a Nursing Degree program.

**April-June, 2022.** After several break-ins, we installed cameras throughout the campus. We also began installing water heaters in the bathhouses. During this time, we were also able to purchase new mattresses for every student. Additionally, we started construction on a new bathhouse on compound 5 and the construction of a 3-bedroom staff house. A team from Shadow Mountain Community Church and San Diego Christian College came to work on this project, while also conducting evangelism in local schools and the community.

**July-October, 2022.** The walls of Carey Chapel were raised, and construction continues. The clinic is changing its database management system to a cloud-based system that connects the clinic to other medical facilities throughout the region. We began installing water heaters in the bathhouses. We received a gift

of the Logos Bible Software for our students for the next three years. The system has over 3,300 resources available to our students. The Salama stove factory continues to prove very beneficial for our campus, and for the local communities! In October 2022, we had our 11th graduation.



## CHRISTOPHER SAKALA

AIU Student

Christopher is a 2022 Freshman at AIU. He comes from Chipata, which is in Eastern Zambia. He comes from a family of five, with two brothers and two sisters.

By the time he was born, Christopher's parents were separated and no longer living together. He was raised by a single mother. Despite such a tough situation, Christopher's mother continued in the Christian faith, in which she also encouraged Christopher and his siblings to grow. Growing up, he remembers going to church regularly with his mother and siblings, although he was not yet a Christian at that time.

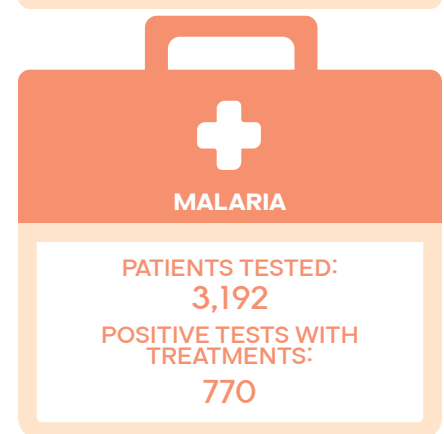
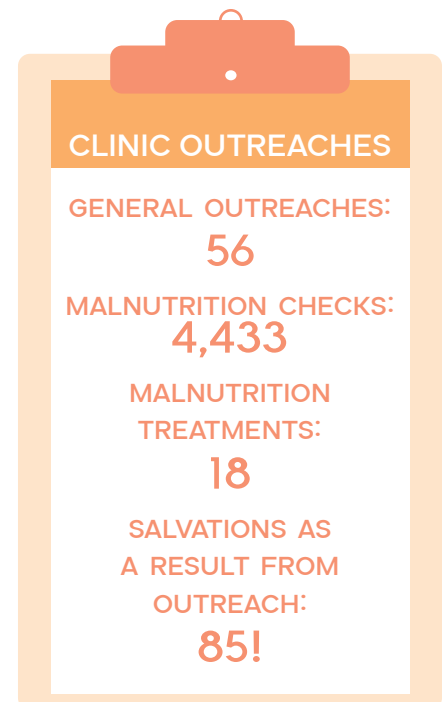
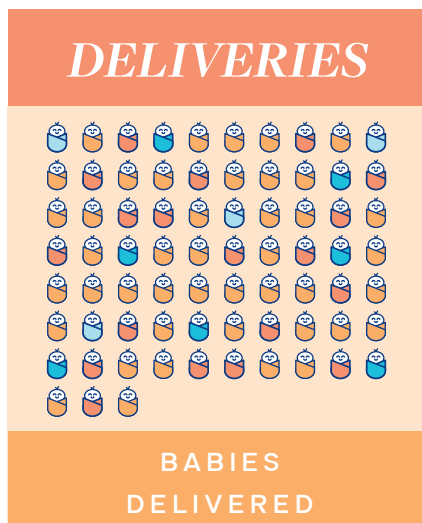
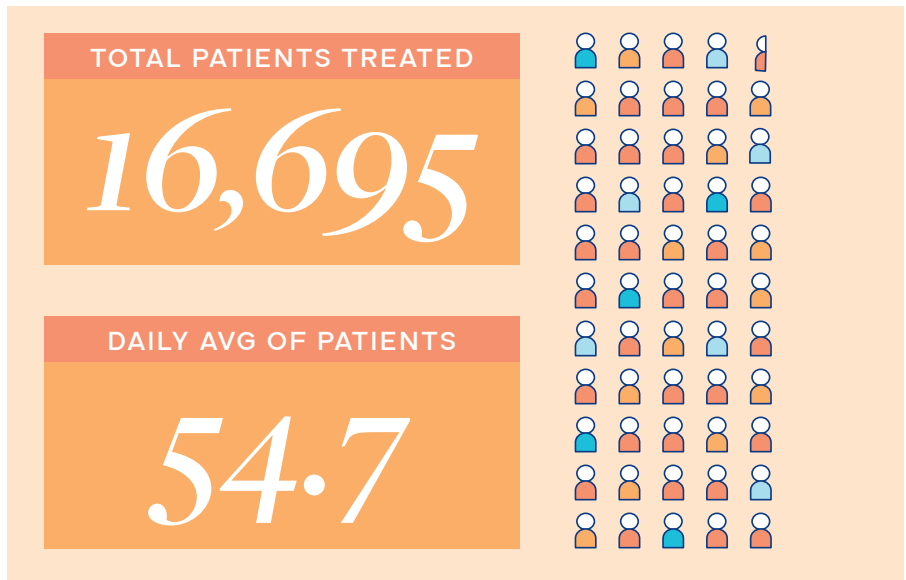
Once in high school, Christopher attended a series of Christian gatherings where God's Word was preached. It was the message of the vanity of the world without Jesus that took hold of Christopher's heart. He saw the need to believe in Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord. Following his salvation, Christopher yielded his life to God to use him. Since then, he has been serving the Lord in various ways. However, as he served, he realized that he needed to study more of God's Word.

Christopher is grateful for the opportunity to be at AIU. He considers it God's providence. He is thankful that he is learning the principles of interpreting the Bible so that he can teach it with clarity and all its power. His desire is that God will continue to cause him to stand firm in the faith and that he should find joy in the Lord.

After graduation, Christopher's plan is to be a teacher of God's Word in public and Theology schools. His prayer request is that God will open doors and provide for him to advance his studies in Theology.

# CHIFUNDO RURAL HEALTH CENTER UPDATE

The Chifundo Rural Health Center continues to be a beehive of activity, having seen more than 211,000 patients since the inception of its electronic medical record system in March, 2013. Chifundo currently has over 35,000 active individual patient charts. In 2021 and 2022, some of our sponsored students returned from school and began serving at Chifundo. These individuals have been hired by the Ministry of Health in Zambia. These hirings help bring Chifundo closer to long term sustainability! These new hirings include a community health assistant, a nurse, a dentist, and others. This means that our Ministry of Health housing, which is comprised of 3 duplexes, will have all but one unit filled. In a recent meeting with local tribal and community leaders, Chifundo was given a resounding report in regards to the level of care administered, particularly in the recently added dental services. We want to offer a special thanks to teams from Harvest Baptist and Center for Family Medicine for your dedication and service to Chifundo.





# HARVEST HOPE HOME UPDATE

Growth followed the life that was breathed into our nostrils when we lived in a garden that knew no sin. In that garden, there was no curse, no death—no hunger, no AIDS, no orphans. Africa has come a long way in the last 6,000 years. Despite the coming of the curse, the beloved Creator did not remove the blessings of growth from his creation. Growth exists in Africa. Freshened by rain, crops grow in the field; nourished by love children grow in a home! Such describes Harvest Hope Home on the western shore of Lake Malawi.

Six cottages, each with its own singular family, house a total of 58 children. A Primary school, in its fifth year, entertains 155 pupils in attendance. Obviously, this school extends as a ministry to children outside of Harvest Hope Home.

We have discovered that these children grow! Imagine that! Thus a pressing need arose—to begin a secondary school, and Form 1 (what we would call the freshman class in high school) began this year and currently numbers 33 students learning on the property.

Trials and disasters unceasingly seem to barrage the African continent; earlier this year hurricane force storms destroyed about 25% of Malawi's harvest. Yet Harvest Hope Home was spared with just minimal flooding, and the rice and maize and peanuts (reaped April-June) now in storage amount to three times the

need of Harvest Hope Home. Thus HHH will be selling crops for profit as well as distributing flour and rice to orphans and widows in the coming hunger season.

In similar comparison to farming, the cultivation and growth of souls requires toil, patience, and God's blessing. It is impossible in a short article to articulate each child growing from the care and tutelage of these godly parents. Rhoda finishes high school this year and thinks about becoming a teacher or a nurse. Regina teaches Little Ethel how to wash her clothes. Kumbukani and Blessings have learned the necessities of rice farming. Kelvin recently engaged in a lengthy conversation with a man from a neighboring village and led him to accept Jesus as his personal Savior. These all came as needy orphans but are beginning to bring forth fruit of both physical and spiritual maturity.

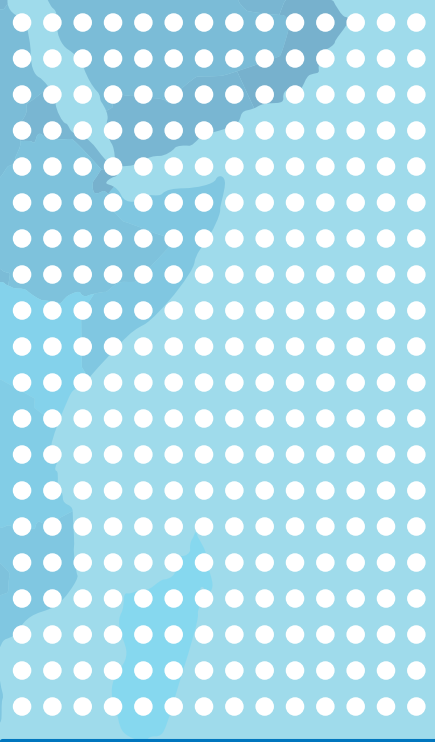
Growing! Praying! Watching the Lord of the harvest working! Expecting the same Lord to increase His fruit!



*Together in the*  
**NORTH**

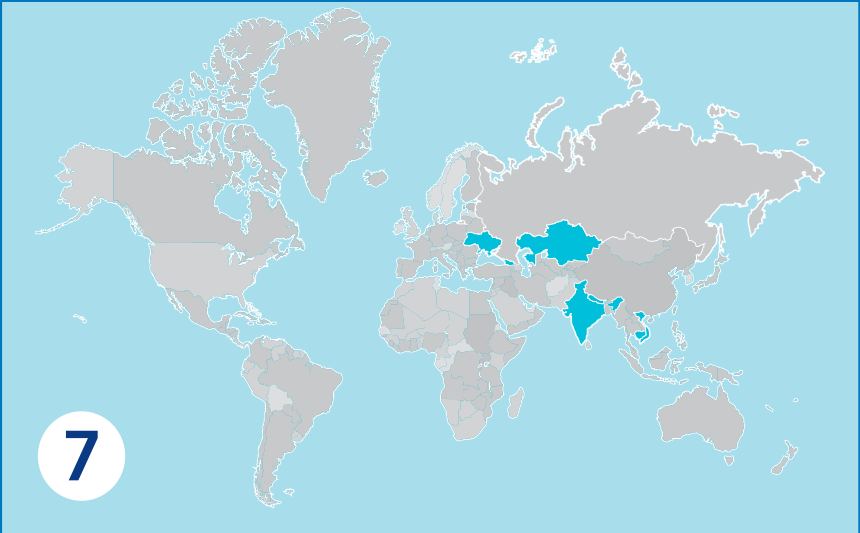
**290**

**PREACHERS**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**COUNTRIES IN THE REGION**



- |                              |                     |  |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Cambodia<br>Georgia<br>India | Kazakhstan<br>Nepal | Ukraine<br>Restricted SE<br>Asia Country |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--|

**2021** BY THE NUMBERS

**1,700**

**Number of Villages Reached**

**6,572**

**Number of People Who Responded to the Gospel**

**Pastor J. | 17 Years with Gospelink**

**191**

**Number of Churches Planted**



# TOGETHER IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE



The Apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 16:9, “For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.” This verse could be echoed by all of Gospelink’s international partners. The “wide doors” of ministry opportunity abound! And as the Gospel is proclaimed through those doors, not only does the ministry of making disciples become effective, but Satan - the Adversary - stands against those efforts. This spiritual resistance comes in various forms. The adversaries that Gospelink preachers face include such things as – war in Ukraine, Islam in Kazakhstan, Buddhism and ancestor worship in SE Asia, Hindu extremism in India, and ongoing Covid restrictions in Cambodia. The Adversary is always at work, blinding the hearts of people who desperately need the transforming power of the Gospel.

Good news! No adversary can stand against the power of the Lord. Jesus promised in Matthew 16:18, “I will build my church and the gates of

hell shall not prevail against it.” The church will continue to grow, not in the absence of adversaries, but in the midst of adversaries. Gospelink’s preachers in war-torn Ukraine have shared stories of conversion as people are turning to God in desperation. And how townspeople have flocked to church basements for shelter, but have also found the spiritual shelter that Jesus Christ offers. In Cambodia, God has used the “adversary” of the pandemic as a platform for Gospelink preachers to reach lost people with the message of Life. As one Gospelink preacher reported to his USA sponsor, “It is my joy to serve the Lord with you. I am thinking about your sacrifices as my tears roll down my cheeks. Your prayers make a difference in ministry and your faithful support is so helpful and encouraging.” In these last days, the time is now to join with Gospel efforts internationally. May God be glorified as we continue to faithfully connect with the church globally!



## I KNEW THERE WAS A GOD

*From a Gospelink preacher in a restricted Asian nation*

Our outreach ministry this quarter took us to a rural village where we met Mrs. Lang, who is a 62-year-old farmer. This village has many people who have never heard of the one true God. Mrs. Lang lives with her son's family. This family's tradition is to worship Buddha and idols. Mrs. Lang would often go to the temple monk for advice when making important decisions. Of course, she offered the expected sacrifices – fruits, incense, and money. Mrs. Lang also worshiped her ancestors and practiced good works in order to earn her way to heaven. However, Mrs. Lang's son often suffered from severe headaches. Mrs. Lang ran to many big temples to pray to the idols and seek help from the monks, but her son's headaches did not improve. When we heard about Mrs. Lang's life and struggles, we took some time to

share the Gospel with her and her family. After hearing about the one true God, and the salvation He provides through His Son Jesus Christ, Mrs. Lang said, "I knew there was a God. I often prayed to the idols and even to evil spirits. Many times I look up to the sky, seeing the creation - sun, moon, stars, wind, day, night, ... Now I know who is the Creator, and thank you so much for telling me about God, the TRUE ONE. And I know that He can save me from sin and hell. I knew there was a God! Now I know who He is. What must I do to be saved?" We led her and her family in prayer as they repented of their sins and came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. It was an honor for me to lead this family to Christ!





## UKRAINE UPDATE

The national preachers of Ukraine consistently share a common statement: "Our lives will forever be divided into two parts: Before the war and after the war." This sentiment does not stand as a complaint, though it is tinged with a sense of sadness as they witness the senseless destruction of cities and villages as well as the upheaval of people's lives. Their spiritual perspective assures them that this aggressive invasion from Russia is evaporating the numbing stupor of materialism that has slowly settled upon the former USSR. Though Satan comes to steal and kill and destroy, the Christians in Ukraine are watching their previously apathetic neighbors and relatives repent and call upon the Lord for salvation. All of the ministries of the Gospelink sponsored preachers have been thrown as it were into a "higher gear." Stepan Bokoch conducts baptisms every summer in the city of Dnieper. They are held in the Dnieper River with singing and garlands of floating flowers. This summer the scheduled location of baptism had to be altered at the last minute as city officials notified the church of an impending air strike expected near that spot.

Vadim Khlobass has been traveling across the country for the last three years in an attempt to plant a church in Mariupol. He has crisscrossed the country even more this year, but it has been behind the wheel of "humanitarian aid" vehicles, and instead of going into Mariupol, Vadim is trucking its



citizens out to western havens.

Alexei Ivanov is known for his alpha personality and ability to organize and administrate. If he had lived 50 years ago and depended exclusively on his personality and abilities without Christ, he might have climbed his way into Kremlin favor. But he did not live 50 years ago, and he does not live without Christ. He is a national preacher, and after getting his wife into Bulgaria, he returned to his city, Zaporozhe, a Russian target, to organize refugee evacuation and be a light to his country. His audacity and courage has enabled him to put Bibles into the hands of, and be a light to, Russian soldiers at refugee checkpoints.

Vitalli Laxh has watched the transformation of his city, Karkhov, once a prospering post-Soviet metropolis. The cares for the riches of the world slowly asphyxiated Karkhov's citizens over the last decade, but now missiles and tanks have torn away that facade. Vitalli and his wife have chosen to stay in Karkhov despite the perpetual bombing. Now as they visit different apartments, the doors are opened wide by people needing groceries, eager for prayer, and willing to listen to a message of hope.

Dickens called it the best of times and the worst of times. One's perspective tends to define "good" or "bad," but from heaven's perspective "great" things are occurring. The gospel is going out. . . and the meek and the broken are hearing it!





# Church Planting Initiative

Romans 15:21: "but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

3 years ago Gospelink began a new ministry platform called the Church Planting Initiative. The Church Planting Initiative, also known as CPI, is a ministry that is focused on using trained church planters to establish new churches in unreached/under-reached communities. It places a high focus on supporting effective Church planting in strategic locations. The CPI process includes 4 main stages:

- Discover: We discover church planters who are specifically called to plant churches in unreached communities.
- Train: They are equipped with skills and resources to preach, disciple, and plant the local church.
- Launch: Once trained, they are connected with a targeted area and deployed with the support, tools, and resources to start a new church.
- Sustain: Once founded, the church begins the process of forming the necessary structures to sustain the ministry.



As of the end of 2021, we had our first CPI ministry, located in Nepal, complete its 3-year cycle. This CPI had 22 Church planters and 2 Church Planting directors. During this CPI Nepal process, there were many powerful testimonies of how God was using these church planters to grow the Kingdom of God here on earth! There were many conversions, baptisms, and discipleship happening as these healthy, Bible-believing churches were being planted. Additionally, during this 3-year process, almost all of these church planters learned and established various ways to sustain themselves and their families as they continue on in ministry.





# Unique Ways to Get Involved

As you can see, Gospelink is involved in many different ministries, and in many different countries and continents. It is easy to read about all of these ministries and assume that your only contribution can be monetarily. We are here to say NO! There are so many other ways that you can serve with Gospelink! There are in fact many ways you can partner with us! For example, across the many countries and major ministries where Gospelink is involved, you can serve with us a volunteer!

You could assist us onsite, working alongside a Field Director and their ministry to our pastors and church planters. You could help in our home office with various tasks. There may be opportunities to serve at Ambassador International University, the Chifundo Rural Health Center, or the Harvest Hope orphanage and training and education center. Short-term trips become available from time to time which are excellent ways to expose yourself to missions and meet a short term need the ministry may have. You can connect with a Gospelink representative so they can present Gospelink at your church. You can select a certain ministry and hold special prayer times for it. You can help us with graphic arts and design.

Peter writes in 1 Peter 4:9-11, "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." So whether we serve God with our time, our talents, our treasures, or a combination of the three, we are to do it in a way that God will be glorified in everything!



## CONNECT WITH A CAUSE

✓ **CONNECT**  
WITH A CAUSE



Please **print**. Make checks payable to **Gospelink**.  
Mail your completed form to: **Gospelink, P.O. Box 1160, Forest, VA 24551**

*My Commitment:* (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- I WILL **GIVE FINANCIALLY TO GOSPELINK**
- I want to be contacted about **VOLUNTEERING**
- I am interested in **GOING ON A MISSIONS TRIP** with Gospelink
- I am interested in **HAVING A GOSPELINK REPRESENTATIVE** come to my church
- I want to **SPEAK** with someone about the Patton Scholarship Fund
- I want to be contacted to learn more about putting Gospelink **IN MY WILL**

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Questions? We are here. ☎ (434) 485-7007 | ✉ [Info@Gospelink.org](mailto:Info@Gospelink.org) | 🌐 [Gospelink.org](http://Gospelink.org) | 📍 P.O. Box 1160, Forest, VA 24551



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# *Legacy Fund*

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Billy Graham once wrote, “The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.”

Certain family traits pass naturally from one generation to the next – like physical attributes and personality characteristics. However, instilling values of faith and character may require a bit more effort. What values do you hope to nurture in your children and grandchildren?

Here are four everyday ways you can build a foundation of family values that will last for years to come:

1. Play together. Enjoying time together as a family helps ease tensions, establish a joyful home, and create a sense of belonging.
2. Pray together. The action of praying together helps cultivate gratitude, deepen family unity, build faith, and demonstrate how to trust in God.
3. Share together. Part of creating a strong family heritage is sharing from the heart. This builds a legacy of faith, nurtures connection, and keeps the lines of honest communication open, even as children grow into adults.
4. Give together. Families can give of their time by volunteering, collecting donations to support a local cause, or even giving financial gifts together. A way that you can give financially now, that will continue to have an impact for many years to come, would be a Donor Advised Fund.

A Donor Advised Fund allows you to fund a single giving account, then direct individual gifts to support charities you care about like Gospelink. A key example of a Donor Advised Fund would be a legacy fund – a certain fund designated in your will to contribute to Gospelink. This will enable you to continue to impact the world for spiritual good for many years.

Your legacy doesn’t have to simply end with family characteristics, but you can build a family legacy that lasts for generations!