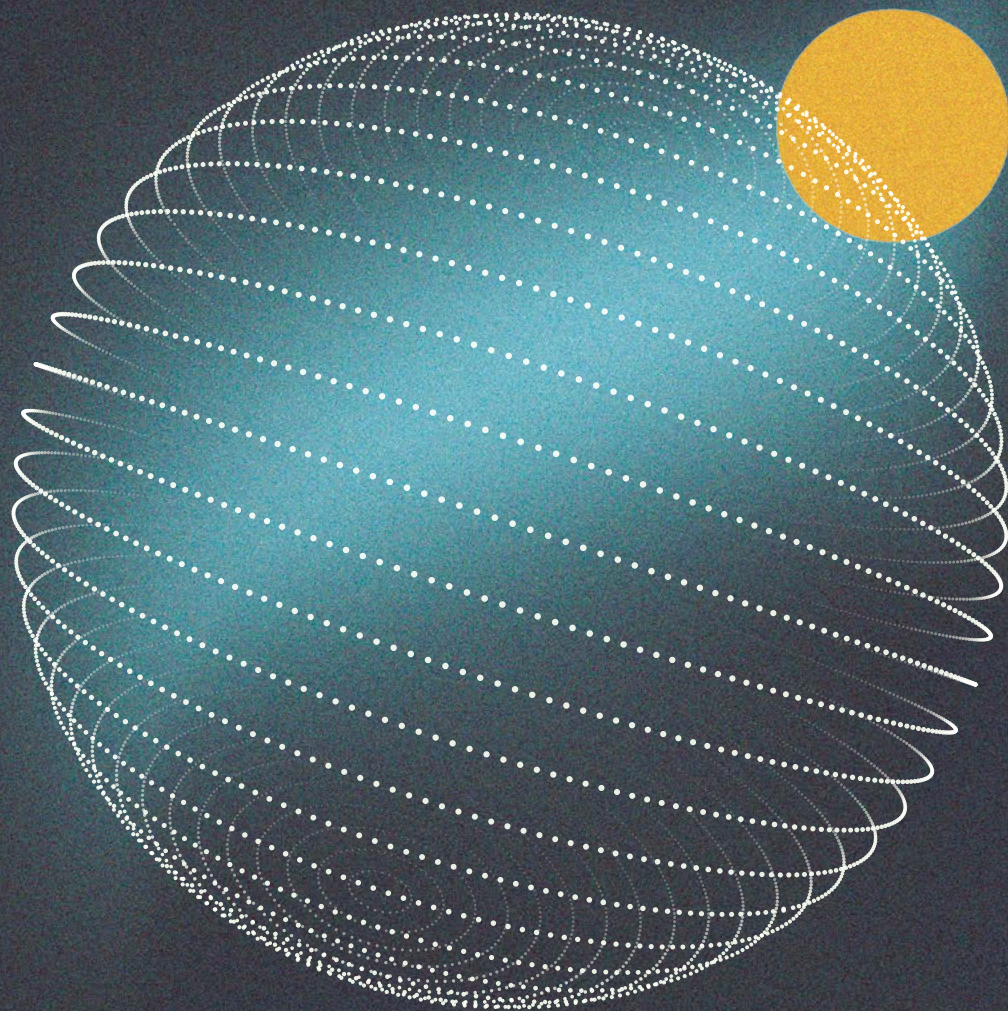


A Light for the Nations



2023 World Missions Annual Report

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Meet Andy C.

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Dear 2PC Friends,

We are honored to be chairing the 2023 World Missions Conference! So far it has been an exciting journey of faith for us as we have seen the Lord work dramatically in our hearts while navigating the conference process. We chose as the conference verse Isaiah 49:6 and from it the theme—

“A Light for the Nations.”

This describes what we feel is the Lord’s desire for this year’s conference: to motivate our church family to be “lights” to countries around the world. Being “lights” can take different forms for everyone—going abroad to proclaim the Gospel as missionaries, encouraging our missionaries by connecting with them at the conference, serving our missionaries with Christ-like selflessness on short-term trips, and supporting our missionaries financially and prayerfully from home. In simple words, **get involved** in missions!

John + Lucy Wepfer

World Missions Conference Chairs



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Meet Andy C.

A Light for the Nations

Our theme for this year's conference comes from Isaiah 49:6, "I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." The entire chapter is theologically rich and full of dynamic tension. It opens by addressing distant nations, "the coastlands," that need the restoration that will be accomplished by and through Yahweh's servant. Yet the entire context of Isaiah, including the first half of 49:6, speaks of God's people themselves in need of restoration and redemption.

So while the people of God were designed to participate in bringing God's light to the nations, they stand in need of that very same light themselves. In Isaiah's day, the nations that stood in need of God's salvation started with the very nation that represented the presence of God. Perhaps that is not so different from our own day?

Furthermore, the Servant spoken of appears to speak both of a future individual servant, who we understand to be Jesus, while 49:3 speaks of Israel as God's servant. There is a way that this passage speaks both of an individual "Servant of the Lord" and of a community that functions collectively as the "Servant of the Lord." We would identify the people of God as those who are in Christ, who are now empowered by His Spirit to reflect that light and to function as announcers of this restoration. So while only Jesus is the Light for the nations, it is the very people of God (Acts 13:47) who function as representatives of that light among the peoples of the world.

Finally, there is dynamic complexity in regard to timing. When and how will this salvation be brought about? Wasn't there an initial restoration of God's people in the Old Testament when they returned from captivity? There were certainly elements of this light that were revealed by the righteous remnant in the Old Testament to the nations that surrounded them. Of course this was fulfilled in greatest measure through Jesus, the true Israelite who literally and completely

**I will make you as a light
for the nations, that my
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brought salvation to mankind. But His good news needs to travel. It is through the body of Christ, the people of God, beginning with Paul and Silas, that this light actually spreads to the ends of the earth. Just as Jesus said "I am the light of the world," (John 8:12) he also said, "You are the light of the world," (Matthew 5:14) spreading His light to all tribes, languages, people, and nations.

So as you read about our partners in this report, and meet them during our upcoming conference, recognize that we are all designed to function as light for the nations. Our Biblical identity and function is more than being rescued from flames and learning to be good citizens. It certainly includes that. But our identity is actually to be, as a collective whole, a light to the nations, so that God's salvation might reach to the ends of the earth. In a world constantly bombarded with threats of darkness, let us ask God to renew our vision and our identity as light for the nations through the upcoming conference weekend.



Dan

Pastor to World Missions

Missionary Partners

The Next Generation

The past three years brought dramatic shifts to our world.

The pandemic shut down the travel industry and made international missions far more complicated. Political tensions exposed division at home and increased the need for attention on domestic concerns. Some foreign governments waged new wars on neighboring countries, and others openly imprisoned pastors and destroyed church buildings. And while we might expect all this to mean fewer new missionaries heading overseas, instead this year was one of the best ever for commissioning new workers for the field. Meet some of our newest mission partners from the 2PC family.

The Family Business

Allison graduated from White Station High School in 2013, attended Rice University for her undergraduate degree, and Washington University in St. Louis for medical school. She now works in Houston as an Occupational Therapist at Texas Children's Hospital. But for more than a decade, she has desired to return to Central Asia.

"Throughout my life," Allison says, "God has continually placed in my heart a desire to serve people with disabilities. As a teenager, the times I felt closest to Him were serving in ministries like Young Life Capernaum in Central Asia or Camp Blessing in Texas. No matter which side of the world I was on, ministry with people with disabilities taught me more about God's character than anything else."

She completed her field work for Washington University in Central Asia, where she was struck by the overwhelming need and the opportunity. "Medical and social services for people with disabilities in Central Asia are practically nonexistent, and many of my friends with disabilities would sit at home all day with nothing to occupy their time. While I prayed through how God would have me serve people with disabilities, occupational therapy emerged as a natural fit."

Occupational therapy (OT) is a healthcare profession that focuses on promoting people's independence in their necessary daily activities. In pediatrics, this involves helping children with disabilities with motor skills, social skills, and self-help skills to develop independence across all areas of their life.

"As a pediatric OT, I also spend a lot of time with parents, teaching them how to support their children in developing these skills and carry over therapy techniques to the home setting. God placed one particular city on my heart during graduate school. He opened doors for me to travel there to conduct research with parents of children with disabilities and complete a four-

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My heart aches for the families who believe the lies and stigma around their children with disabilities.





Allison



month clinical rotation among parents of children with Down Syndrome,” Allison says.

Traditional Central Asian culture has long held a view that a child born with a disability is the result of the sin of the parents (consider John 9) or possibly a curse placed upon the family. Such views are traumatic for parents and children alike and often destroy marriages.

Families need education, care, and resources to learn about the issues they face.

“Families would tell me stories of doctors advising them to abandon their children with disabilities or institutionalize them, instead of giving true medical advice and support. My heart aches for the families who believe the lies and stigma around their children with disabilities,” says Allison.

Families need education, care, and resources to learn about the issues they face. Even more, they need to know that God is present with them each day, has deep redeeming love for them made known through Jesus, and will provide special grace and beauty that can only be experienced from such a vantage point (see Damoff, *Parting the Waters*).

Allison will work to bring this message to families in Central Asia and expand the resources available to them. The local Christian community has begun to develop ministries to such families, and Allison will help resource these programs while also serving through the local medical system.

Sharing Christ with Central Asia

While newlyweds Jackie and Paul are not new to Central Asia, they are both changing fields to begin married ministry life in a new context. Jackie is moving from Indonesia, where she served for six years, to Bishkek, while Paul is just hopping across the border from a neighboring country where he served for two years.

"We are thrilled to be returning to Central Asia as a married couple. There are opportunities for us to connect with non-believing communities in our city, and we pray this will result in many churches being planted in our city. We are particularly excited to partner with our national friends as we minister to teens with disabilities and their families, using these programs to demonstrate Christ's love for the world," they write. Together Paul and Jackie will serve on a church planting team as well as partner with the growing ministry of Young Life Capernaum in Central Asia.



Jackie + Paul

Equipping the Next Generation

Dan and Catherine will return to Central Asia after 12 years here at Second. Although they initially went there in 1993 as church planters, they are returning to help train and equip the next generation of church leaders. They will serve through World Outreach's International Theological Education Network, building a network of church-based training centers in several regional hubs.

While Dan previously served as the senior pastor of the developing network of churches in the Evangelical Reformed Church of Central Asia, he will now serve under those pastors, equipping their disciples with tools to study and teach the Bible. Catherine will support the Capernaum Ministry regionally, both through teaching Theology of Disability courses and by supporting and coaching their staff.



Dan + Catherine

Campus Outreach Memphis

Launching Birmingham, England Team

Our 2PC-based Campus Outreach Memphis is helping to pioneer a new kind of team in Birmingham, England. Meghan Rintoul and Adam and DeAnna Hoyt plan to join this work in summer 2023. They will engage students in England who come from Muslim communities that are currently or historically from Muslim countries in North Africa and the Middle East. Society in the UK is very different than it was 100 years ago, or even than it was 25 years ago.

Meghan writes, "I think Birmingham is super strategic in the fact that at the University of Birmingham, there are over 150 countries represented. My prayer is that the students we reach would be raised up as leaders and sent back to countries that as an American, I wouldn't have access to, to reach their families and communities for Christ!"

Meghan began to sense her call in 2016, when she served on a project in Thailand. God continued to guide her in that direction through her project in Zambia in 2022, where she "was overcome with joy and vision for God's heart for the nations. For the first time, God loosened my grip on staying in Memphis." It was then that she began to dream about living overseas.

This summer she plans to move to Birmingham, England, where she will work as the assistant to the regional director, helping to build an administrative resource team. She will also join the staff team at the University of Birmingham, building relationships with the team and students.

While she knows it will be very challenging, she is looking forward to "relating with a lot of people who look nothing like me, sound nothing like me, and come from completely different



Meghan Rintoul

backgrounds. My dependence on the Holy Spirit to move in people will have to be great when it comes to building those relationships."

Andy Cheely, currently serving as the Director of Operations for CO Serve, writes, "Most of these students are first- or second-generation immigrants who are bi-cultural and bi-lingual. I believe that as they come to trust Jesus and are disciplined to walk with Him and equipped as laborers themselves, they become gatekeepers to places and people in traditionally hard-to-reach areas. One of the most recent new believers of the Birmingham UK ministry this semester is an Iranian student who has, since her faith in Christ, introduced her sister and brother-in-law to Jesus as well."

Unexpected Opportunities

Adam Hoyt and DeAnna Deere were heading in very different directions when the Lord brought them together. Adam was preparing to return to India, where he had served for three years in cross-cultural mission work. DeAnna was preparing to join the LEAD team with Campus Outreach in Lusaka, Zambia. When the Lord brought them together as a couple, they had a lot of figuring out to do!

After two years of prayer, they feel that God has called them to this new work in Birmingham, England. They are encouraged by the alignment of strategy on a mission field, a healthy team, a local church to integrate into, and a place to raise a family that also has high potential impact to engage unreached people. Students in Birmingham come from places like Pakistan, Iraq, North Africa, and other areas of the 10/40 window.

Adam and DeAnna look forward to living in the Muslim community in Birmingham, building relationships with students, and sharing Christ with those who have not heard. They pray that God would save many and send them out as His disciples to some of the most unreached places on the globe.



DeAnna, Adam, and Hallie Hoyt



Campus Outreach Memphis Staff Return to Field

Campus Outreach Memphis is excited to send Alicia Hubbard and Maddie Lebeter back to their fields of service. Last December Alicia completed a two-year LEAD assignment in Lusaka, Zambia, and is eager to return this summer.

Maddie served on a LEAD team in Khon Kaen, Thailand, from 2017-2019 and hopes to return this spring to serve with Brian Firpo in Chiang Mai, Thailand.



The Avenue Sends First Missionary Members to Serve Refugees

Our most recent daughter church, The Avenue, is preparing to send out its first missionary members.



Aaron and Katie both grew up in missionary field settings—Katie in Turkey, and Aaron in Spain. Aaron teaches ESL in Memphis while Katie runs a small photography business. However, they now feel a strong call to pursue missionary service. They are particularly drawn to those displaced by war and unrest in the Muslim world. After considering a variety of fields, they have settled on a country in the Middle East, whose population is now 1/3 refugees from surrounding nations, including Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Iran, and Sudan.

Integrating into local culture to effectively serve alongside national partners is not simple. It requires learning traditional Arabic, then building on that base to learn the specific dialects spoken by the refugees. But that is just the beginning! It involves understanding and entering into a variety of customs and life patterns very different from those in the West. Social events, holidays, food, family, and even taboos are all very different in the Middle East. They will seek to build their understanding of Middle Eastern culture to humbly engage those displaced by war with the unique love of Jesus. They plan to be involved in home visits, food distribution, and ESL as ways to serve and care for these displaced people.



Cierra grew up in North Carolina and after graduating college, moved to Memphis to assist refugees from all around the world. She served with World Relief, helping to resettle refugees, and is now preparing to move to the Middle East. Cierra has wanted to work with Muslims since she was young. In middle school, she was captivated by a novel that introduced her to this world and has been led by God to pursue this calling in many ways over the years.

Cierra participated in World Outreach's Mission Cohort as a college student and travelled with the group to Michigan, California, and the Middle East. She has now joined our presbytery's Engage 2025 team in the Middle East and hopes to move there this summer. Like Aaron and Katie, Cierra will work hard on learning the language and growing in cultural understanding to serve Syrian refugees in her new city.

Strategic Partners

Strategic partnership is one of the key ways in which Second Presbyterian connects with ministries around the world, focusing on supporting national movements and nurturing connection with them through the years.

Each strategic partnership has a liaison: someone from 2PC who commits to pray for a region of the world, to lead regular short-term trips, and to respond to the needs of our partners and encourage them in the work they are doing. We spoke to three of these liaisons this month, asking them to reflect on what they learned by serving in this role.

Unlocking the Power of Partnerships

"The thing that impressed me most about the work in Argentina was the level of faith that both Marcello [Robles] and his father had and the way they counted on Christ to meet their needs on a daily basis," Bill Martin said.

Bill has been Second's strategic partner liaison to Argentina for 24 years. "When I first took this job, I said, 'I'll only do it if you will let me do it for 10 years, because it's going to take that long to understand what's going on and to build trust with our partners.'" One of the primary ways Bill serves our partners in Argentina is by coming alongside pastors in the presbytery and encouraging them. He strives to meet their needs and help them in whatever way he can.

That work is much more effective when done in the context of relationship. Bill and others from Second have worked for decades to nurture a flourishing, supportive relationship with our national partners in Argentina. "These relationships took time to develop. By going regularly, by being involved in community and their lives, by meeting families, having meals, and being involved in worship—those things help us to understand the challenges they are facing," Bill said.

John Good, who has served as the strategic partner liaison to Kazakhstan for 12 years, helps lead short-term teams of college kids to serve with Young Life and provides seminars for national leaders.

"I pictured an old, dark, bleak mundane society where people were relatively unfriendly," John says of the first time he visited Kazakhstan. "But then I got off the plane at two in the morning and was met by extremely friendly people! On the first day we were there, I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the mountains to the south, and my impression completely changed. I was struck



Buenos Aires, Argentina

by the passion that our ministry partners have for the gospel and the compassion they have for other people."

John observed that ministry was done very differently in Kazakhstan. In the U.S., he noticed, we often have our lives during the week and then set Sunday aside for worship. After Sunday, we get distracted and return to our regular lives. With the folks he met in Kazakhstan, however, there was no *regular* life: ministry was 24/7!

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Anyone who takes a short-term mission trip gets far more out of it than they could possibly ever give to the people they served.

"They are more passionate about the work they are called to do for God, and there's a lesson to us in that," said John. "There's no reason why we can't approach it the same way. We can tune out the distractions; we can approach our own culture and society in the same way."

Alan Hammond, who serves as the strategic partner to India, was encouraged by the prayer lives of the people he met. He visited a prayer room that was open 24 hours a day and had a constant stream of people coming through, praying for people to hear the gospel and come to faith. "The ministry really impressed me as an oasis in the middle of an enormous amount of poverty, deprivation, and spiritual darkness," Alan says. "The believers there are praying and depending on and seeking Christ far more than we do, and the work that He is doing there through those people is phenomenal. We could learn a lot from them."

All three men encourage members from Second to get involved in both short- and long-term missions. "You'll find that whatever it is you have going on in your life that would keep you from going is actually insignificant in the grand scheme of things," Bill says. "You'll find that your

eyes will be opened to a deeper relationship with Christ. Being in America, we don't always understand how deeply we can abide in Christ."

John encouraged everyone to consider whether missions might be for them. "We're all called to at least think about [going] and pray about it—but if you have the opportunity and the means, it's an unbelievable way to experience God's grace and to experience the immense satisfaction of Christian fellowship that you are able to have when you are on these trips."

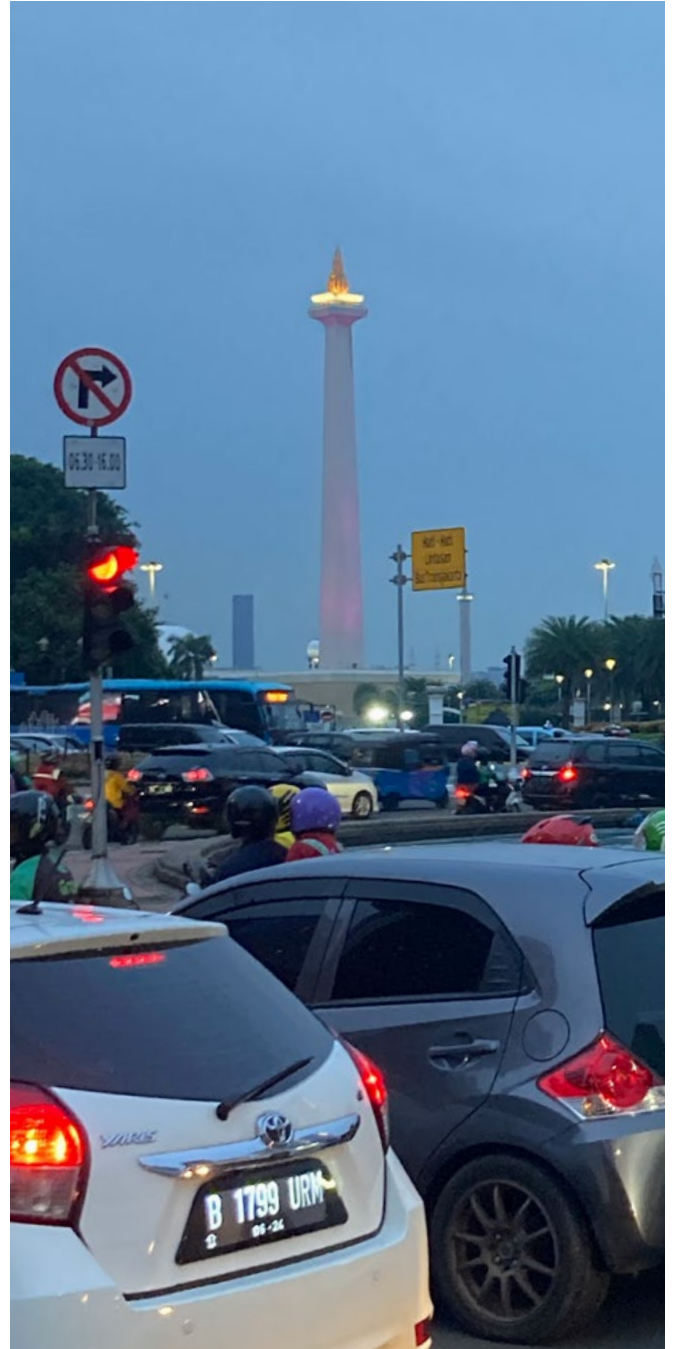
"Even though [you] may be hesitant or afraid or think [you] may be uncomfortable, I think you should just turn your fears over to the Lord and try and it," says Alan. "You just don't know what it's like until you get over there and see the need. No amount of pictures or story-telling or testimonies can show you what a place has to offer when you give yourself to that mission."

Despite the many needs and opportunities available, these men remain committed to the same strategic partnerships year after year. John explained that his commitment was based on having built close relationships with people who are now some of his best friends. Furthermore, he said, the need is extremely compelling. "Their resources are significantly less. They don't have as large a pool to draw from and there's a lot more work to do, a lot more people to reach. By going, I can incrementally help in that."

Alan said his choice was based on a combination of seeing the need and realizing that he was both willing and able to help. "They are doing a ridiculous amount of work. It's an amazing, multi-faceted mission, and they are really impacting that area of India for Christ."

"Anyone who takes a short-term mission trip gets far more out of it than they could possibly ever give to the people they served," said Bill. "You see the family of God in a more holistic way; you see how they worship and their love for the Lord Christ and the level of faith that they have."

Strategic partnerships create a support system for those doing ministry in other countries. By continuing to maintain these partnerships, we can pour into our missionaries and national partners, doing our part to reach the nations for the gospel.



2PC Team with Indonesia Strategic Partner Tezar Putra



Special Projects

In early 2022, the world waited with bated breath as news headline after news headline reported on Russia's impending invasion of Ukraine. In late February, those fears were confirmed: Russia and Ukraine were at war. As a result, Europe was facing its largest refugee crisis since World War II.

By May, *eight million* Ukrainians had fled their homeland.

Hope in the Face of Suffering

God's Work Through Our Partners in Ukraine

Across the Atlantic Ocean (5,623 miles away, to be exact), 2PC members rallied together to form the Ukraine Relief Fund, collectively contributing over \$100,000 to be distributed to our boots-on-the-ground ministry partners in Eastern Europe. This is the story of how two of our partners have used your generous donations to care for the displaced and the afflicted, both in and beyond the borders of Ukraine.

Last April, one of our partner organizations, Hope to People, shared the story of Constantine and Anastasia, a young married couple from Mariupol who experienced God's abundant mercy and salvation in a myriad of ways at the start of the war. The couple welcomed their first son the very same month that Russia invaded. Although their city endured 72 consecutive hours of shelling, God protected this young family. Bombs devastated nearby homes, but only the outer walls of theirs sustained damage. The day before Russian soldiers cleared their district, they fled on foot through backyards—"you simply can't walk the road, or you will die."



God watered the seeds planted long ago in their hearts and gave them growth in the chaos of war.

They hitched a ride to Zaporizhia and were hosted by the church. They went from there to Kamyanske and then Rivne city. All along the way, God's people served them. When offered Bibles, they readily accepted them and shared that as children, they had heard about Christ from Christian camps they attended. God watered the seeds planted long ago in their hearts and gave them growth in the chaos of war. In response to Pastor Serhiy Timofeev sharing the Good News of Christ, Constantine asked what he should do. That night, Constantine prayed with Pastor Serhiv, asking Christ to save him and forgive him of his sins.

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Eager to know and serve this great God of deliverance, Constantine downloaded the Bible app to his phone and began helping evacuate others from Mariupol. He told one of his drivers, a fellow believer, that he was no longer afraid of death, “since I’m one of you.”

Although God spared Constantine, Anastasia, and Timothy from death, it is estimated that more than 7,000 Ukrainian civilians have died in the war—not to mention the up to 13,000 Ukrainian troops whose lives have been lost since Russia invaded. Many fallen troops means many grieving mothers.

This past October, one of our missions partners, Misha Dubovik, held a retreat specifically for mothers who have lost sons since the invasion. In total, 18 mothers attended the retreat in the Carpathian Mountains. Misha writes, “The first evening seemed to be the most difficult. We heard all 18 tragic stories. Lyudmila buried two sons at once. Oksana’s son went missing in the war six years ago. Svetlana, Natalya, Nadia, and Lydia have not yet received the bodies of their sons who died in March. Each mother heard another 17 death stories. Each mother perceived her grief as the greatest. But after that evening, they realized that they had one great, common grief.”

Each morning, the group of grieving mothers read psalms together, “which became a healing balm for their war-wounded souls.” In the evenings, they went through lessons developed by the Trauma Healing Institute.

In addition to processing, reading, and praying, the women hiked in the soaring mountains, swam in the swimming pool, breathed deeply in the sauna, marveled at waterfalls, explored the local museum, and experienced the tender love of Christ through the ministry of a professional massage therapist, Dana, who herself knows the Lord and spoke to the women of His goodness.

Towards the end of the retreat, the women began to smile. A mother named Tanya shared that it was the first time that she had smiled since she lost her son. “Death hovers over Ukraine,” Misha writes, “but on the dark background of war, the flowers of the heavenly Kingdom are blooming!”

**Death hovers over
Ukraine, but on the
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are blooming!**

Love + Learning

Theological Education

Equipping national leaders and developing local theological education opportunities is a fundamental key to church growth in strategic areas. Your giving has helped the Overseas Council develop a unique training center in Algeria to equip pastors and church leaders with a better understanding of the Scriptures.

The Persian Bible Institute serves Iranian refugees who fled their country after turning to faith in Christ. While these pastors await placement by the UNHCR, which takes a minimum of three years, they serve the local Iranian community by planting churches and mobilizing care and resources.

Much further south, our own 2PC member, Allison Neubert, serves with a Campus Outreach South Africa team. Your support has helped many on her team continue, and nearly complete, their theological education through a local seminary. Our prayer is that these believers are being equipped to multiply their ministry in their own countries and beyond.

Early Childhood Development

2PC partners Robby and Joyce Hamd launched the Philemon/GROW Project years ago to help under-resourced families in Beirut. This early childhood development center serves children ages two to four, many of whom are refugees. They come from a variety of backgrounds, nationalities, and even religions.

Through education, developmental play, music, recreation, and healthy interaction with a diverse staff, these children who have suffered significant neglect are introduced to the love of Christ.

The program is now developing its second site in Lebanon and is in discussions with other partners in places like Syria and Morocco.

Our prayer is that these believers are being equipped to multiply their ministry in their own countries and beyond.



Campus Outreach South Africa Team

Short-term Trips

All Christians are called to the Great Commission—to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). We do that in a variety of ways, from sending missionaries to the field and supporting their efforts to helping fund missions organizations and taking short-term trips to serve alongside our partners.

Short-term trips have enormous faith impacts. They often lead to better global perspectives on poverty and wealth, increased generosity to and engagement with partners around the world, and deep, life-long commitments to kingdom work. In this section, take a “trip” with us to Kazakhstan, Buenos Aires, and Athens where three teams took trips this past year.

The Power of Unconditional Love

Short-term Team Brings TLC to Mothers of Children with Special Needs

Mothers of children with special needs have special needs of their own. Last fall, the Kazakhstan women's short-term mission team stepped into this ripe ministry opportunity to share God's love with families who often feel ignored and isolated.

Catherine led the team in a collaboration with our partners in Kazakhstan. The local Capernaum team regularly hosts a camp for special needs kids, and the team from Second, along with local staff and volunteers, provided a parallel camp for their mothers.

"We planned a camp with lots of TLC for the moms, introducing them to gospel truth through relationships and appropriate messages for those coming from a non-church background," says Catherine. "We had no idea how effective it would be for the moms to receive this loving care and to see their kids receiving the same kind of care."

Many of the mothers were touched to witness the volunteers' unconditional love for their children. One participant shared, "No one loves my son except family. No one in the world cares about my son. But when I saw volunteers loving my child unconditionally, I wanted to know more about this God."

One amazing development from our partnership with the Capernaum Ministry in Kazakhstan is the formation of a national volunteer team to follow up with camp participants. This team offers consistent connection and ministry throughout the year, and some of the women who have come to faith have become part of the

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leadership team themselves. One of Catherine's joys is seeing the continuity and effectiveness of this ongoing ministry. It is now being introduced into the structure of the Capernaum ministry throughout the former Soviet Union.

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Parting the Waters

Most years, Jeanne Damoff joins the team as the primary speaker at the camp. Catherine has enjoyed a long-time personal connection with Jeanne, who attended an EPC church in Marshall, TX and has a unique testimony that equips her to connect with mothers of special needs children. Her son Jacob had a near drowning accident in the early 90s which left him with a brain injury.

Jeanne wrote the story of how God saved Jacob's life and is now using Jacob's disability in very special ways in her book, *Parting the Waters*. She describes their family's experience in terms of losing a precious jewel that drops to the bottom of a lake. That loss also produces ripples in the water, ripples that reveal surprising and uniquely beautiful reflections of God's glory.

She talks about God's upside-down Kingdom and how He uses the weak things of the world to bring Him glory and how through brokenness and suffering, we often find great jewels. With support from Second, this book has been translated and published in Russian and is being used throughout the former Soviet Union.

The stories were heartbreaking, and the needs seemed insurmountable. But God!

Creating Room for Relationships

There are Capernaum volunteers who assist the kids 24/7 throughout their camp. The mothers have nearby but separate facilities and for some, it is the first time they have not slept in the same room with their child since they were born! The opportunity to connect with other women and the security of knowing (and periodically seeing) their kids being cared for works wonders in their souls.

Catherine shares, "The relationships that are formed during these camps are powerful. As the women experience the love of Christ, they open up to the other women and even begin to be open to God again. Team members are invited into the suffering and isolation these women experience and as a result, they pray more fervently and personally for their needs."

Nina Tayloe joined the trip, admitting she was initially reluctant. "I received an invitation from Catherine [to join this team] and was fairly certain that Kazakhstan was not my assignment. However, every prayer was answered with a definite 'Yes!' I had no idea what to expect but knew that I was desperately in need of the Holy Spirit. He proved to be absolutely faithful in my weakness," she says.

Nina led intercessory prayer for women at the conference. "I experienced the miraculous movement of the Spirit, as He brought healing to each dear lady who came for prayer. The stories were heartbreaking, and the needs seemed insurmountable. But God! There was one woman who will be forever my greatest stone of remembrance of God's amazing grace. He touched and lifted this one out of utter darkness and despair to laughter and dancing. One sweet friend gave me a jewelry box and said that she came empty but was leaving filled. Kazakhstan will always be my special place," Nina says.

As Catherine is preparing to move back this summer, she hopes women from Second will continue to come and both bless and be blessed by these Central Asian moms of very special children.

Short-term Trips, Long-term Impact

Argentina Young Adult Trip

Last fall our young adults returned to Buenos Aires for the first time since October 2019. As they prepared, the team prayed for three things: for God to prepare good works for them to walk into, for safety and unity as a team, and for the chance to be a blessing as they would also be blessed.

Philip James shares how God answered those prayers. “As only God could ordain, our brothers and sisters at La Misión comforted members of our team as we dealt with various tragedies and personal circumstances back home; multiple deaths and severe illnesses threatened to direct our team’s focus inward instead of loving and serving in Buenos Aires. But God indeed led us into good works and good conversations,” he says.

The team served alongside early childhood teachers during a multicultural day festivity where record numbers of community members came from the nearby shanty town to celebrate. There, Christian staff and church members sought to build bridges with these unreached people.

“We also studied scripture and shared testimonies of God’s faithfulness with small group leaders, whom we did not realize were ready to give up on their church roles because of the immense burden and burnout they experienced. In these and in many other instances, we praise God for answering our prayers and allowing us to witness His goodness and glory through the faithful work of missionaries, church staff, and church members throughout Buenos Aires,” he adds.



Marcelo (front left), the senior pastor of La Misión, hosts a diverse small group at his home.

Athens Strategic Partner Visit

Tee and Tracy Shipmon accompanied Brad and Bri Morrow to reconnect with our Greek partners after a similar hiatus in travel. Tee shares, “I love to learn from our Greek partners how they look for ways to show Jesus’ love among the large immigrant and refugee populations in Greece.”

Brad, who is currently serving as a pastoral resident, was able to experience church planting in action. National partner George Tolia is planting a church in a student district, and Brad witnessed a church plant already planting a “grand-daughter” church. These churches minister to the local community in creative ways while also serving the refugees in their midst.

The advancement of the gospel is not dependent upon our resources, man’s giftedness, or a certain cultural setting but on the faithfulness of God.

“The Lord really used our time in Greece to shift my perspective on ministry,” Brad recalls. “Seeing effective, Gospel-centered ministry being done in that context left me convinced that it is truly the Lord doing the work. The advancement of the gospel is not dependent upon our resources, man’s giftedness, or a certain cultural setting but on the faithfulness of God. I saw this so clearly during my time in Athens.”



Brad + Bri Morrow at the Areopagus, where Paul first preached in Athens.

Short-term Trips

Using a budget of \$140,000, Second traditionally sends out more than 150 church members each year on 12-15 short-term trips to serve alongside our partners and learn from their ministries.

In 2023, we plan to send teams to serve our partners in the countries listed below.

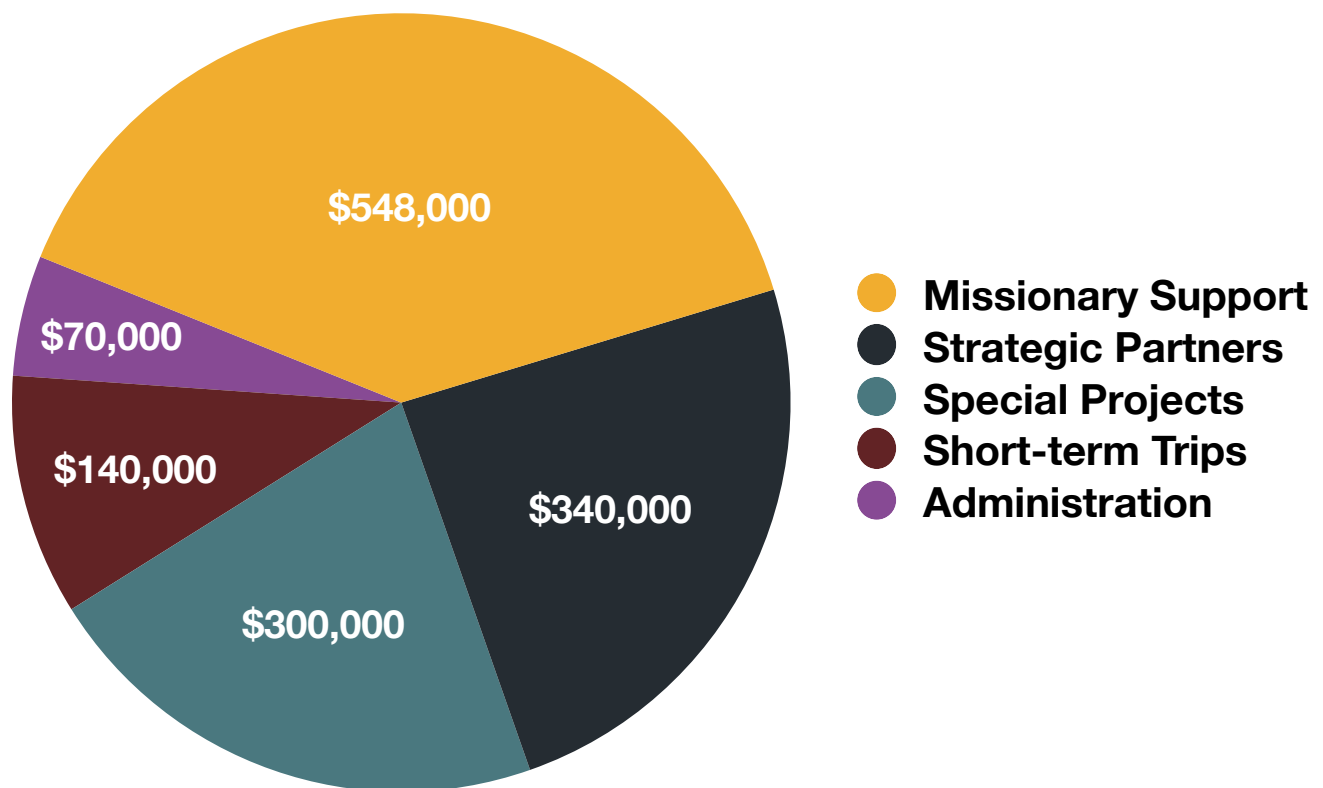
COUNTRY	TRIP DATES	TEAM LEADER(S)
Zambia CO CCP	May 15–June 15	Tony Dentman + Elena Lopez
Cambodia	June 6–15	John Walpole
Thailand CO CCP	June 7–July 21	Sarah Lewis + Marc & Sherry Lewis
Indonesia	July 14–24	Brett Wynne
Mexico Youth Team	July 15–22	Will Nease
Malawi	July 18–27	Rob Crump
Mozambique	August	Mike Cross
Greece	September 30–October 7	Brad Morrow + Tee Shipmon
Argentina	October 7–14	Philip James
India	October	Alan Hammond
Kazakhstan	TBD	John Good

Please contact the World Missions office for more information.



2023–2024 World Missions Budget

Total Budget: \$1,400,000



Goals + Initiatives

1 Send
three new long-term partners and three new first responders to strategic service opportunities.

2 Send
ten short-term teams on reconnaissance and service trips to encourage and support the work of our partners.

3 Welcome
our new Director of World Missions, Andy Cheely, and introduce him to our church and our mission partners.

4 Engage
our Parishes in direct prayer and support of our many world mission partners.

Respond to the Great Commission

World Missions Sunday is March 5

On World Missions Sunday, March 5, part of the service will be dedicated to committing ourselves to the Lord's work around the world by committing to pray, give, and/or go.

Remember, at Second the World Missions budget is separate from the general budget of the church, supported exclusively by your giving designated for world missions.

Pledge online at 2pc.org/wmc or use a pledge envelope from the pew racks on March 5.

A Word from Our Stewardship Chairs

Our gracious God sent to us His son, Jesus, ultimately fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy of "a light for the nations, that [God's] salvation may reach to the end of the earth." God has given us, His people, the extraordinary responsibility and privilege of bringing that light of salvation to our city, our nation and the world.

Our family has been blessed to serve and work with pastors, teachers and other laborers in Asia, Europe, Africa and South America. We've seen first-hand the impact of your prayers and faithful gifts on the lives of brothers and sisters who had formerly lived in darkness and are now walking in the light of Christ.

Join us as we prayerfully consider the Lord's call on our lives, our time and our treasure and seek His leading as we put our faith into action through praying, giving and going.



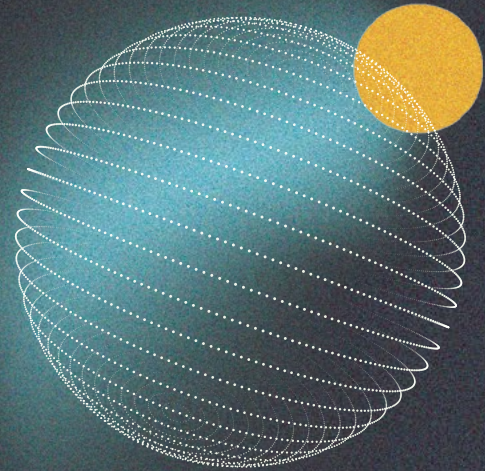
Alan + Kathy Hammond

Alan + Kathy Hammond

World Missions Stewardship Chairs

A Light for the Nations

MARCH 2–5



World Missions Conference

| 23

March 2

11:30 am

Women's Luncheon

7:00 pm

Women's Dessert

March 3

5:30 pm

Missionary Appetizer Reception

6:15 pm

KidMission

6:30 pm

WMC Banquet — Fellowship Hall

9:00 pm

Young Adult After Party

March 4

8:00 am

Breakfast with Missionaries —
Fellowship Hall

8:45 am

KidMission

9:00 am

Morning Session

10:00 am

Break-out Sessions

Noon-Evening

Parish Gatherings with Missionaries

March 5

8:15 + 11:00 am

Sunday Morning Services

9:40 am

Missionaries in Sunday School

6:00 pm

Sunday Night Worship



Keynote Speaker: Julius Kim

Julius Kim (MDiv, Westminster Seminary California; PhD, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) is president of The Gospel Coalition. Julius also serves as associate pastor of New Life Presbyterian Church and visiting professor of practical theology at Westminster Seminary California, where he previously served as dean of students. He is the author of *Preaching the Whole Counsel of God* and numerous articles. Julius and his wife, Ji Hee, have two daughters and live in Escondido, California.



KidMission: Kyrgyzstan

Our annual KidMission is a wonderful way to introduce your children to the needs and work of missionaries around the world. Beginning with a pizza supper on Friday night and then continuing Saturday morning after the pancake breakfast, KidMission is a great way for JK-6th grade children to learn about how God is building His church in a particular country. This year, kids will “travel the world” with our partners to Kyrgyzstan. They’ll learn about the country’s culture, play games, make crafts, and much, much more.

Registration for KidMission is required (visit 2pc.org/wmc). KidMission starts on Friday and 6:15 p.m. in C100. Pizza will be served. Drop-off on Saturday begins at 8:45 a.m. Nursery is also available by reservation for children ages 3 and under for Friday night and Saturday morning.



Parish Gatherings

For many years, our members have interacted with our missionaries during conference week through Cottage Meetings. This year, our missionaries will be visiting with you through Parish Gatherings.

Watch for emails from your parish leaders for details about when your parish will gather. We’ll also post a full schedule at 2pc.org/wmc soon!

Meet Andy C.

Andy and Brooke C. are no strangers to the 2PC family. We've supported them as global partners, first in East Asia and then with CO, for almost 25 years. Your love and care for them have been a means of God's calling them to move to Memphis this summer to return a portion of that love and care to you as Andy becomes our new "Global Impact Director." As newly minted empty nesters, you'll see their two daughters, Abbie and Esther, coming and going when they are in town from their respective university studies. The family writes...

"We love Second Presbyterian Church and her historic commitment to taking God at his word. You have taken stands for what God says is true in the face of the world's open challenges and hostility. Nowhere have you demonstrated that more than in your participation in the task of making disciples of every people group. Second is a going church, sending our members to live and work among those who have not yet had the chance to say "yes" to Jesus. Second is a praying church, lifting up our partners and projects in personal, corporate, spontaneous, and planned times of intercession. Second is a welcoming church, throwing open her arms to people of multiple languages and ethnicities that have arrived in Memphis without yet knowing the risen Savior. Second is a giving church, sacrificially offering resources to reach teeming cities and remote villages with the gospel, to teach children's Bible clubs and seminary students God's word, to translate the Bible into unwritten languages and Bible study tools for restricted populations, and to demonstrate the gospel in deeds of love and mercy. We are humbled and eager to link arms with you and be used by the Lord to strengthen you in this work to see His kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven."

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Left to right: Esther, Brooke, Andy, and Abbie



