



grace

at the fray

Serge

12-Month Ministry Report 2015/16

friends,



This year, Serge held its triennial mission-wide conference. I wish you had been there.

More than 500 people gathered for a week to preach the gospel to our own hearts even

as we seek to share good news with others. We were there to be renewed and celebrate God's grace at the fray.

It was a family reunion of sorts (which is why I wish you had been there). In fact, it was the largest such gathering we have ever had, because this mission has grown larger than ever before—with more than 250 missionaries in 20 countries.

After the mission-wide conference, a Serge missionary serving in Burundi wrote: *"I love Serge and our core values of ministering from weakness, the centrality of the gospel, Kingdom-centered prayer, and people-focused ministry."*

She went on to say: *"People have suffered a lot in the last couple of years. There were a lot of tears and grief, partly related to the unique challenges of this kind of [missionary] work, partly related to the struggles everyone faces in life. And yet, there was a resounding note of hope in each story."*

In her words, I see the juxtaposition of hope and sorrow, need and provision, sacrifice and celebration. These things mark the life of this mission—and our lives together in Christ. In fact, that's why we have the name Serge—a sewing stitch that brings two pieces of fabric together. The stitch is the grace of God that meets us in this fray.

In this report (covering June 2015 to May 2016), you will see how your partnership with Serge has resulted in tangible representations of God's grace at the fray. You'll see it in a story about *reaching* people with God's Word in Bundibugyo, Uganda; a testimony of *renewal* from a pastor in California; and a report on *restoration* taking place through a British second-hand store.

Thank you for walking with us to make all of these things possible.

I hope these pages bring a little bit of the mission-wide conference experience to you. We serve a great God. He is doing great things all over the world. Let's celebrate and give thanks for His mission of bringing grace to the fray.

Yours, in Christ,



Bob Osborne

PS If you're wondering how the "big picture" of Serge's work fits together, check out page 2, where our communication director shares about her journey with Serge.

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Photo: Serge missionaries gathered for worship at a mission-wide conference.

Loving Jerks and Meeting Serge

by Eileen O'Gorman

I remember one of the first times I came into contact with Serge (then World Harvest Mission). It was on one of those early summer Saturday mornings. I had given up precious free time to hang out in a church cafeteria and listen to people I barely knew—but had heard good things about.

Specifically, I'd gotten wind of a weekend teaching event based on the *Sonship* course. Friends were testifying that *Sonship*, taught by World Harvest, helped them really turn a corner and have new freedom and joy in their walk of faith in Christ. With my friends' enthusiasm in mind, I figured this was worth a Saturday morning sacrificed.

The speakers—Steve and Jeff—were engaging. They knew how to tell stories. Steve kicked off the time by sharing a chart comparing orphans vs. sons (or daughters). He said that over the course of history, lots of really driven, really successful people actually had started life as an orphan.

Their drivenness came from a lack of security. One speaker talked about, "How to love a jerk." And I thought, these people are kind of gritty, raw—I could smell freedom.

This weekend, along with several other moments in that season of my life, were turning points when I learned that I could not only be saved by grace, but also live by grace. I'm still learning that lesson, by the way.

Serge originally developed *Sonship* and lots of other resources for a group of international staff who were serving all over the world in frayed and fraying places.

Somewhere along the line, I discovered that this same organization was not only providing mentoring, conferences, and resources in what we commonly call “spiritual renewal” in the U.S., they also sent out missionaries. What I didn’t realize was that sending missionaries had actually started first.

Yes, Serge originally developed *Sonship* and lots of other resources for a group of international staff who were serving all over the world in frayed and fraying places. Just like me, as these people engaged in mission, they needed reminders to constantly apply the good news of Jesus to their own lives.

So the coin flipped. I could see that the effective renewal work Serge was carrying out among people engaged in international mission was actually becoming a blessing to the American church.

I don’t know which side of the coin you have encountered in your contact with Serge. Maybe you know Serge as the *Sonship* people (renewal). Maybe you are walking with a Serge missionary. Maybe you’ve served on a short-term team.

Whatever your Serge experience is, I hope this report gives you a view into an organization that is deep, wide, and seeking to respond to God’s Spirit’s leading to be a blessing as far as the curse is found.

And I hope you are reminded of the good news of the gospel. It’s for you, for me, for missionaries, and for those who are yet to believe.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Eileen O’Gorman serves as Serge’s communication director. She is a graduate of Covenant Theological Seminary, member of New City Fellowship in St. Louis, Mo., and loves getting to know the Serge staff serving all over the world.

NEW Resource Releases

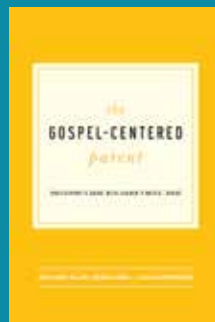
Over the past five years, Serge has released more books and small group studies than in all prior years of ministry combined! New resources have been published for adults, teens, and pre-teens. From June 2015 to May 2016, these new titles made their debut.



ON MISSION: DEVOTIONS FOR YOUR SHORT-TERM TRIP

by Patric Knaak

A 10-day devotional/journal that guides believers deep into Scripture, helping them understand how Christ’s life and ministry connect with the work they are doing “on mission.”



THE GOSPEL-CENTERED PARENT

by Rose Marie Miller, Deborah Harrell, and Jack Klumpenhower

A study to help moms and dads parent from a position of faith, not fear. Applies the gospel of grace to everyday issues—like thwarted plans, disobedience, and anger.



A CHAMELEON, A BOY, AND A QUEST

by J.A. Myhre

This beautifully written children’s adventure story draws the whole family into an encounter with good and evil and the truth about hope, happiness, and what it means to be human. Written by physician and Serge, East Africa Associate Area Director, Jennifer Myhre.

Get an overview of all Serge Resources
at serge.org/resources



REACH

The Birth Pains of Glory

Celebrating the First-Ever Lubwisi Language New Testament

By Tim Hoiland

It was a day more than 30 years in the making.

On Saturday, July 29, an estimated 500 people assembled on a soccer field at Christ School in Bundibugyo, in a town in Western Uganda. Attendees came from the other side of the village and the other side of the world, all eager to celebrate the dedication of the New Testament in Lubwisi, the language of the Babwisi people.

"What a beautiful thing it was to witness a people group receive for the first time ever God's Word in their own language," says Lesley Stevens, Serge Bundibugyo team leader. "It was said by a Ugandan leader that the people here used to think that God must only hear them if they prayed in languages that the Bible was written in. But now they know God hears their hearts and must love them because His Word is now in their heart language."

This article is an abbreviated version of an article about the Lubwisi New Testament that first appeared online. Read the full article at serge.org/lubwisi.

The remarkable story of how this moment came to fruition dates back to the early 1980s. In 1986, a Serge missionary couple* began visiting Bundibugyo from the other side of the mountains. Within three years, a team was established in Bundibugyo, representing the first time long-term missionaries had served internationally with Serge. Along with the Ugandan Presbyterian Church, the team disciplined young pastors, developed a clean water project, provided medical care, and founded Christ School, a secondary boarding school which today has more than 300 students. They also helped to lay the groundwork for a translation of the Bible.

The Lubwisi translation project was formally initiated in 1991 by Rich and Alie Benson, Serge missionaries who were trained by Wycliffe Bible Translators. After the Bensons returned to the United States, the project was handed over to Waller and Mary Tabb, of Wycliffe, in 1994. Since the Tabbs were the organization's only missionaries in Uganda at the time, Wycliffe formed a partnership with Serge and the Tabbs joined the existing Bundibugyo team.

"They could sit from morning to evening looking at every word, every verse, every chapter to make sure the Lubwisi meanings were clear." —Rev. Charles Musinguzi

Over the years, a group of local pastors from a variety of denominations formed a translation review committee. As each book of the New Testament was completed, they would review it carefully, ensuring it was consistent with the Lubwisi language and providing input on key biblical terms.

"They could sit from morning to evening looking at every word, every verse, every chapter to make sure the Lubwisi meanings were clear," says Charles Musinguzi, a Presbyterian pastor who, in more recent years became the head translator, along with Bishop Hannington Bahemuka of the Charismatic Episcopal Church.

Waller Tabb is quick to acknowledge the range of people who have contributed to the project. "We've had people praying for this translation every day for 20-plus years," he says. "Of course, the translators had to do their part—and be faithful in it ... Each partner was essential to the work, and each needed to persevere in it, too."

As he reflects on the significance of the completed New Testament, Tabb is grateful for what has been accomplished but also hopes that interest would extend beyond the New Testament. "We pray the people themselves would demand that there be a complete Bible in Lubwisi," he says, "and that they would give of their time, money, and other resources to make that happen."

"The main purpose," Musinguzi says of the translation, "is to see hearts transformed into the image of Jesus."

In the days leading up to the dedication ceremony, guests began arriving from elsewhere in Uganda and from around the world. Included among them were some of Serge's pioneering missionaries who had helped to establish the work in Bundibugyo many years ago.

"What a rare opportunity it was to have everyone together to celebrate this great event," wrote Brent and Alisha Justice, who serve with the current Serge team. "Our homes were overflowing, many of us throwing mattresses on the floors to accommodate our guests. But our homes were also overflowing with laughter, stories, and many shared experiences. We felt very encouraged and loved by the previous missionaries that have served in Bundibugyo."

Two nights before the big gathering, a massive thunderstorm rolled through Western Uganda, rattling windows, jolting beds, and "literally shaking the foundations of this place," recalls Serge member Sarah Crane. "There is a mighty thing happening, and the creation is trembling and groaning with the birth pains of glory here in Bundibugyo."

***THIS FAITHFUL COUPLE CANNOT BE NAMED DUE TO SECURITY MEASURES AROUND A CURRENT ASSIGNMENT.**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Hoiland is a writer who grew up as a "missionary kid" in Guatemala with parents who served as Bible translators.

Global Outcomes

June 2015 to May 2016

All over the world,
Serge missionaries walk into
the fray as witnesses to and
bearers of God's grace.

The following are snapshots
of Serge's work in **reaching**
(evangelism and church planting),
renewing (discipleship), and **restoring**
(works of justice and mercy).

U.K.

Serge staff are witnessing people come to faith from Hindu, Jain, Sikh, Muslim, and secular backgrounds. A fifth ASHA shop was purchased and opened (see page 10).

IRELAND

The second *Come to the Table* gathering was organized by Serge staff to offer renewal and encouragement to Irish church leaders.

SPAIN

There are now four Serge teams functioning in Spain, either beginning churches or mentoring church planters.

NORTH AFRICA

A small but growing team had been established. Learn more about the team's work for Transformation.

U.S.A.

476 Christian leaders were encouraged and equipped through *Mentored Sonship* and *Disciple Training* (see page 8). Three new books released (see page 3).

NICARAGUA

With help of *Young Life*, a Youth Church was launched in Granada, meeting on Saturday evenings. It is attracting new young people to the church.

PERU

The first Serge missionary staff to serve in Peru were appointed. Work will begin with a medical focus.

CHILE

In Quillota, new doors are opening to mentoring indigenous leaders among various churches/denominations.

More than
250 missionaries
serve with Serge
around the world.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Burundi, Kenya,
South Sudan, Uganda

ASIA*

Japan, Philippines

EUROPE

Austria, Czech Republic,
Ireland, Netherlands,
Romania, Spain, UK

LATIN AMERICA

Chile, Nicaragua

NORTH AFRICA*

*Not all locations are
listed due to missionaries
serving in fields where
great sensitivity is required.

NETHERLANDS

Serge staff are regularly leading people through the *Alpha Course*, an introduction to Christian faith, in a country where only between 1% and 3% of the population attend church.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Faith Community Church in Prague heightened its response to the Europe refugee crisis, including adding a part-time refugee assistance coordinator to its staff.

AUSTRIA

The first group of "Ruling" Elders was trained and ordained for New City Wien (Vienna) Church.

ROMANIA

A team began an English-language Bible study seeking to reach some of the 100,000 students who study in Cluj each year.

JAPAN

Serge led the "Transformative Disciple Making" track for the Church Planting Institute of Japan's annual conference.

AFRICA

Business started by a Serge in its first months of profitability. Learn more about Serge Business information on serge.org/b4t

SOUTH ASIA

Spiritual eyes are being opened in a hard-to-reach region, and 70 Christian fellowship groups started in 50 different villages over one year.

PHILIPPINES

A new team has begun serving in Cavite, primarily focused on theological education for Asian church leaders.

SOUTH SUDAN

The team needed to evacuate due to ongoing violence. Partnerships remain with the local church and community.

UGANDA

The Lubwisi New Testament was published (see page 4).

BURUNDI

Training was provided for 250 medical and other health students in Kibuye. A weekly Bible study started meeting with students using "Sonship for Africa."

KENYA

A new team started in Chogoria, focused on training medical doctors and other health workers.

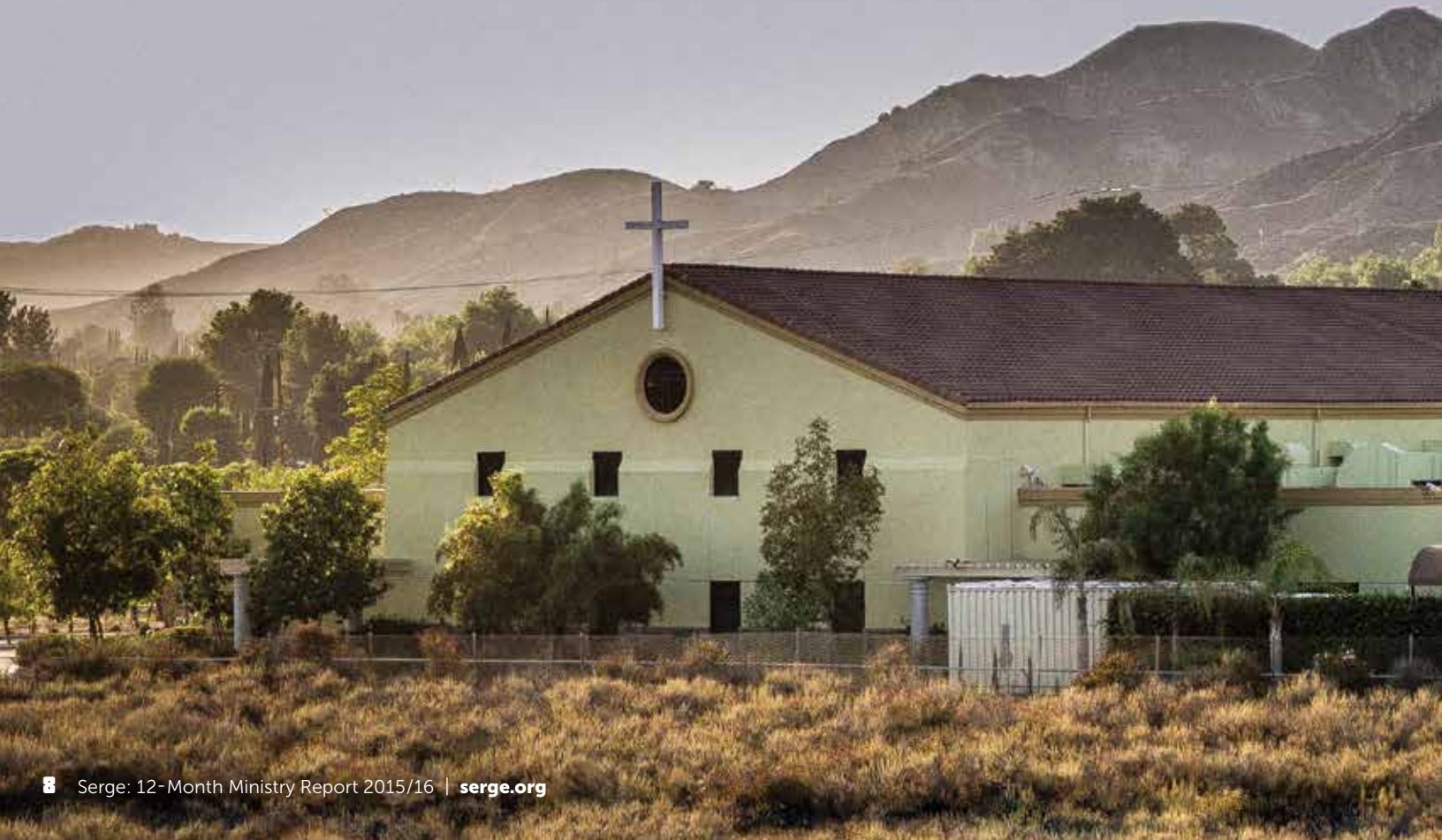
RENEW

Going Deeper in Gospel Truth

Pastor as Chief Learner Among Korean Immigrants in California

by Andrew Shaughnessy

When Korean immigrants arrive in Los Angeles, they know that opportunities are close at hand. The key to realizing these opportunities will be hard work. And often, this approach yields positive results such as employment, education, and home ownership.



Yet, how is it possible for a people who swim in a performance-driven, immigrant culture to receive the love of Christ, which is offered freely, without condition? How can they pass their faith to their children, even as they raise them to succeed in this new world?

This is the context in which Tae Kim, pastor of All Nations Community Church, is zealous to not only explain but also apply the gospel in his own life and in the lives of those he leads. He loves seeing people discover that their faith indeed is about good news.

"Many Korean immigrants are religious; many have a lot of passion to follow Christ," Tae explains. "And the thought is, if you are a Christian, you have God on your side. Work hard, and God will reward you. Cover up your failures and don't talk about them."



Yet, over time, this way of living as Christians can be draining and ultimately deadly.

"I think many in my church are just tired, following God," Tae says.

Over the past two and a half years, Tae has led more than 15 small groups at his church, as well as his family, through Serge's *The Gospel-Centered Life* series. This past spring, he took the whole church through a nine-lesson sermon series based on *The Gospel-Centered Life*.

It has been a journey with some growing pains and pushback, but one that has helped Tae and many in his congregation tap into deep heart issues and grapple with the truths of grace and the realities of their own blind spots and sins.

Even as Tae has led and continues to lead his congregation into gospel-centeredness, he has the wisdom to know he is on his own journey of gospel-application in his own life.

So, he recently spent 12 months going through *Mentored Sonship* with Serge Mentor Bill Hawk.



Rev. Tae Kim

"It has to start with me," Tae says. "I felt like *Mentored Sonship* was the next step for me to grow, and I really wanted that experience of being mentored through gospel themes. The materials are very familiar, but having somebody there who is able to ask more probing questions helped me. It's been wonderful."

To help his congregation appreciate the reality of gospel riches, Tae has taken up a practice of recording personal stories and sharing them from the pulpit and in one-on-one mentoring. "I have become a very open book to the people in the church," Tae says. "I have to be able to explain to others how the gospel is operating in my heart."

On the other side of that coin, Tae has not been shy in digging deep into cultural sins at work in his church.

"I have been addressing people's motives," Tae says. "There's so much shamanistic thinking in the Asian culture—doing things to please God and be accepted through behaviors. People are beginning to really look into their hearts. They see their jealousy, their idols ... I see this creating change in people's lives."

Tae and the church elders are already looking into the best ways to expand and make *The Gospel-Centered Life* available to more people next year through small groups and individual discipleship.

"It's been a huge paradigm shift," Tae says. "As I keep returning to this gospel theme, hopefully God will give us much grace to understand on a deeper level."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrew Shaughnessy is a writer who has served with Serge in Central Africa and South Asia.



RESTORE

Belonging and Hope: Offered at the Neighborhood Secondhand Store

By Tim Hoiland



When Bob and Keren Heppe arrived in London as missionaries in 1994, they could not have foreseen what shape their eventual ministry would take, but they had some inklings.

“Our team had the conviction that the church should present a gospel that not only offered salvation in terms of forgiveness and eternal life, but also provide the means by which broken image-bearers can become functional and productive in community,” Bob says. In addition to engaging in church planting, the Heppes felt led to provide economic opportunities.

As a way of building relationships and sharing the gospel, Keren and other teammates began volunteering at a charity shop (or secondhand store) connected to a church in Southall, a South Asian neighborhood in London. Soon, it became clear that such a shop created relational and evangelistic opportunities.

Go Online

This article is an abbreviated version of an article about ASHA that first appeared online. Read the full article at serge.org/asha.

"From those early beginnings, we discovered people would come into the shop, buy South Asian clothes, and return week after week," Keren says. In fact, the first member of New Life Masih Ghar, the church the team was working together to start, was a friend they initially met at the shop.

Through New Life Masih Ghar, Bob and Keren soon met an Indian young woman from Kenya named Muno, who had come to England to pursue a master's degree. A Christian with a Sikh background, Muno was surprised to meet other Christians—primarily from South Asian countries—who had Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh backgrounds. Until this point, she had felt alone in her newfound faith.

When Muno completed her degree, she wanted to stay in Southall to serve in some way through the church. Simultaneously, a real estate agent who was well known to the Heppes was closing her office and offered her building to the team. The building happened to be in an ideal location, in the heart of the ministry area of New Life Masih Ghar, on a road where thousands of South Asians passed by each day.

Feeling ill-equipped but sensing a providential combination of need and opportunity, the Serge team opened the first ASHA Shop in 2001.

"Today, we estimate that about 40 percent of the people in our church are connected through the shop." —Keren Heppes

ASHA means hope in several North Indian languages. "We put our ASHA sign up, and local people recognized that it was an Indian charity shop," Keren recalls. "They had never seen such a thing. Donations just started pouring in from Indian and Pakistani Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs."

The team had three broad goals for the shop. First, they wanted it to be a hub for evangelism and community in their ministry area. Second, they wanted to provide real jobs for people who needed them. And finally, they wanted to generate income for the Kingdom; enough income to cover not just



paychecks, rents, and utility bills, but also to fund ministry needs locally and in the developing world—particularly in South Asia, the place so many of their neighbors had once called home.

Within a year, the business was earning enough to employ Muno and another part-time worker. Meanwhile, their hopes for evangelistic opportunities were abundantly realized.

Today, ASHA has expanded to five locations throughout London and has 20 full- or part-time employees. Year by year, the shops are able to hire more people while contributing larger amounts to fund ministry locally and internationally.

Bob and Keren are quick to acknowledge that this has happened through countless hours contributed by Serge staff in London and local church members.

The ASHA shops have become treasured community gathering places—for church members and neighbors alike. Sometimes, people stop by simply to have a cup of tea and to chat. "People may not be willing to go to a church, but they are willing to go to the shop," says Keren. "Today, we estimate that about 40 percent of the people in our church are connected through the shop."

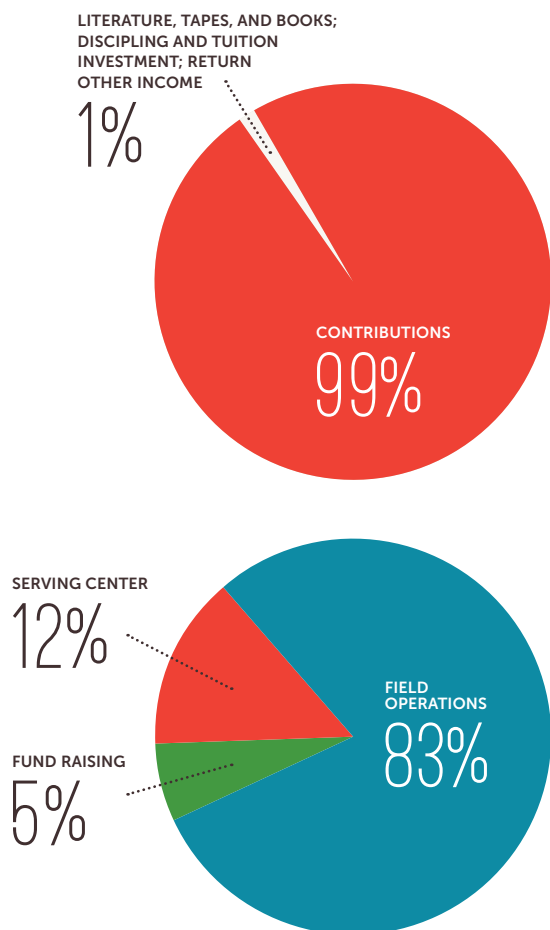
"People ask why ASHA is successful," Keren says. "I just say, 'God's grace and mercy.'"

The ASHA shop is part of Serge's broader Business for Transformation (B4T) model, which emphasizes combining business and more traditional missionary ventures as a way to share the gospel, mainly among least-reached populations. Learn more about Serge's work in Business for Transformation at serge.org/b4t.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR see page 5.

Fiscal Year 2016 Finances

June 1, 2015 to May 30, 2016



REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions	\$ 14,129,396
Discipling and tuition	45,691
Literature, tapes, and books	35,083
Investment return	(\$37,023)
Other income	105,937

Total Income \$ **14,279,084**

EXPENSES

Field operations	\$ 11,482,466
Serving center	1,713,291
Fund raising	627,695

Total Expenses \$ **13,823,452**

ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 182,539
Board-designated missionary and project funds	6,021,054
Subtotal	6,203,593
Temporarily restricted	150,961

Total Net Assets \$ **6,354,554**

Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability
Serge is a member of ECFA,
following its strict accounting standards.



Enhancing Trust

Board of Directors

2015/2016

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Church Planter
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Kirby Turnage
Orthopedic Surgeon
Pensacola, Fla.

respond

To support Serge's work globally or learn more about a specific program, call 877-255-9907. You can also donate online at **serge.org/give**.

Give Stocks, Bonds, or Mutual Funds


To transfer securities to Serge, call 877-255-9907 or email Dwight Coffey, **dcoffey@serge.org**.

Create a Legacy

Serge is delighted to offer complimentary estate and gift planning services to prayer and financial supporters. To find out more, call 877-255-9907 or email **partner@serge.org**.

Stay Connected

To stay connected with Serge's resources, mentoring, and mission, follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Sign up for our e-newsletter by emailing **communication@serge.org**.

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[GraceAtTheFray](https://www.instagram.com/GraceAtTheFray) 

Serge means “joining together rough edges to form a smooth seam.” We see God weaving together the ragged parts of our lives with His goodness, making the tattered beautiful. This is the power of the gospel at work in and through us, transforming our weakness and the world’s brokenness — God’s grace at the fray.

Core to Serge is the belief that we need the gospel as much as anyone else. So as we seek to make the gospel known to others, we desire for this same grace to continually renew our lives.

Photography in this report by: Jack Myhre, Andrew Shaughnessy, Mark Stewart, and Naomi Lee.

Serge

Grace at the Fray

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