

# God's Kingdom Advances THRUGH WEAKNESS

12-MONTH MINISTRY REPORT JUNE 2021 – MAY 2022



God is at work growing multigenerational gospel communities ALL OVER THE WORLD.



# Dear friend,

**Thank you** for being a vital part of this mission of grace. The Lord has used you to establish churches and transform communities all around the world.

Because of your generosity, more people have heard and believed in Jesus — even in places where few have ever met a follower of Jesus.

One of my favorite memories of this year is our Company Conference. More than 670 people attended, including all the helpers who came to work with children, counsel our missionaries, and lead worship. Nancy and I scheduled every meal with Serge missionaries. We felt resurrected with hope meeting with these **amazing people you have sent to love the world**.

God is preparing a new generation of leaders here at Serge. Our emerging leaders were the key speakers for the conference. You would be proud of their powerful teaching and visionary leadership. We are in good hands.

Rose Marie Miller, our 97-year-old co-founder, spoke on the last day of the conference. She and several missionaries told stories illustrating how God has always grown our mission through suffering. It was a powerful reminder of how **God's Kingdom advances through weakness.** 

As these Serge missionaries told their stories, I saw God's grace over and over again. God is at work growing multi-generational gospel communities all over the world.



These stories will encourage you. And they're a small window into what God is doing through your generosity.

**Thank you** for your partnership. These stories are your stories.

For the world's good and God's glory,

Bob Osborne EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY, Serge missionaries brought the healing and saving work of Jesus Christ to hurting and lost communities all around the world.

YOUR CARE FOR MISSIONARIES and their families provided the extra support they needed to stay healthy while building gospel communities among people who have never known Jesus.

**THANKS TO YOU,** the sick are healed, the hungry fed, and gospel communities are established and grown. And people are meeting Jesus for the first time. You have been an integral part of God's grace reaching the fray.





### **3 NEW** BOOKS PUBLISHED

in The Gospel-Centered *Life in the Bible* series (1 John, Ecclesiastes, and Psalms) for a total of 10 books in the series





as Sonship mentors through Discipleship Lab

from June 2021 through May 2022

### **44 NEW MISSIONARIES APPOINTED TO 17 TEAMS**

including 15 appointed to 5 understaffed teams







Kapsowar, Kenya Rwanda South Asia



more than a 120% increase over last year – that's 432 people exploring missions opportunities

# You Are Building GOSPEL COMMUNITIES

### ...through **Medical Missions**

- Burundi's first pediatric hospital opened because of you. Patients now have play areas and no longer have to share beds or sleep on the floor at this 130-bed facility.
- Medical care is hard to access in rural Peru. You helped launch evangelistic mobile medical clinics. Medical missionaries collaborating with local pastors bring much needed medical and spiritual care to needy people. They're also planting new house churches in unreached communities.
- Kenya suffers from a shortage of qualified medical care professionals. You've sent Serge doctors to partner with a hospital in Kijabe to train and mentor medical students. They provide top-level medical care in pediatrics, anesthesiology, internal medicine, and emergency and critical care medicine. They are training more than 70 African medical students while also providing direct patient care. Mentoring and discipleship are key parts of this program. And more than 200 hospital workers and physicians have participated in the The Gospel-Centered Life study series.
- Vou sent missionary doctors to recruit and train anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists from many central African countries. One graduate will be the first pediatric anesthesiologist in her country! **You're equipping the next** generation of highly skilled African medical workers to bring top-level medical care to their communities.
- 665 malnourished children were cared for in the Bundi-Nutrition program in Uganda. Your care for medical missionaries meant they saw 415 discharged as cured after attending the program for just 10 weeks.



## ...through **Business** for Transformation

- In South Asia, a 3rd bakery opened, and the team is collaborating on a 4th. The bakeries are regularly nominated and win "best of" awards in their cities. They represent a successful pattern of planting self-sustaining businesses that rescue women from sex trafficking. They give them jobs and **introduce them to Jesus**, creating a brighter future for the women, their children, and their communities. Seeing the success of the first two bakeries, donors were eager to seed this third bakery.
- After four years the artisanal ceramic business in North Africa continues to flourish. Serge interns and apprentices have built relationships with indigenous people groups who specialize in rug making. This expands their product line of handbags and other products. Your support means this company can provide a market for North African artists and share the hope of Jesus with them. You're building gospel communities in some of the most unlikely places in North Africa.
- The last three years have been taxing on people all over the world, especially those in poverty. You've given people mental, emotional, and spiritual care. Serge counselors serving around the world have reported a marked increase in clients. They're creating new opportunities to offer real help and life-sustaining hope in Jesus Christ.
- You've opened doors for the gospel as ASHA shops sell second-hand South Asian clothing. The heart of the ASHA shops is their cafes, usually located in the back. These cafes often become a place of warm welcome for newly arrived immigrants who are afraid, lonely, and looking for friends.

The ASHA shops are designed to welcome people in and connect them with the love and hospitality of the body of Christ. The five ASHA shops have been so successful that they regularly send money back to South Asia to fund relief work.



#### In the foothills of the Himalayas,

a shepherd named Advik was struggling with severe depression. In this region, depression leading to suicide is becoming an epidemic.

Advik went to a Hindu priest for help. The priest replied, "You are depressed because you have angered one of the gods. Relief will only come if you sacrifice a goat." Advik obeyed, offering one of his best goats. But his depression persisted.

Advik returned to the priest, who told him, "One goat is not enough. One of the gods is still angry. Sacrifice another goat." Over time, the priest had Advik sacrifice 15 goats!

Advik heard about a Serge clinic. In desperation, he visited the clinic and met with a doctor and a counselor. They asked about Advik's depression, and he told them his story.

The counselor explained to Advik the biblical understanding of sacrifice from Hebrews 9. "The God of the bible sacrificed Himself for His people so that they would never have to sacrifice again."

Advik's eyes lit up. "I've never heard of this! Our gods would never sacrifice anything

> for us. They always demand sacrifice. Who is this God? Is He powerful?"

The counselor said, "Yes! He's the one who made all the mountains where the other gods sit. He is the creator of everything. You need no other sacrifices."

Besides a much needed visit with the doctor – **Advik** met Jesus that day! Your generosity made this meeting **possible.** Our vision is to build more of these clinics around the Himalayas in Hindu and Muslim regions.

# Your Global

God is growing His Kingdom around the world through missionaries and donors like you — *laying down our lives together* to share the gospel with others.

People will go to hard places and do hard things for a really long time when they know that someone has their back. **Thank you for** having these missionaries' backs.

Each of these dots represents a snapshot of the incredible gospel impact you have had in the lives of countless individuals, families, and communities.\*

#### USA

The US team returned to in-person events with weeklong and weekend renewal retreats. The Carolinas Hub is pouring into ministry leaders, ministering to police officers, and facilitating connections to global missions.

#### Guatemala

Around the largest urban slum in Central America, the teams grew in their medical care, teaching, and counseling ministry. They reestablished and doubled the size of the comprehensive diabetes program to 145 people. They helped shepherd Guatemalan counseling students through a master's program at the local seminary.

The team in the Andes mountains works with local church leaders to start evangelistic mobile medical clinics. They're planting new house churches in unreached communities. Now as directors of the Life & Work program, they disciple and lead the leaders. They continue to teach and mentor young people to find jobs and housing, and transition to living independently.

Chile

Peru

After ten years of ministry, including one of the strictest Covid lockdowns in the world, the team saw local church leadership lead in new and mature ways. This has freed the team to shift its emphasis to more remote churches in the south.

#### Netherlands

UK

The team trains and mentors in evangelism and the arts among Dutch church planters and global missionaries. They continue to serve as coach-practitioners, preach, teach workshops, and offer the Alpha course, seeing many come to faith.

#### A new church plant, contextualized for the South Asian immigrant community, began meeting weekly. Guests from the community's majority religion attend. They're studying God's Word and developing friendships within the church. Meanwhile, the demand for ESOL classes exceeds their capacity. The classes have led to good gospel conversations, and some students regularly attend church.

#### Ireland and Northern Ireland

The first church planting conference ever in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland happened in May. This church is represented over the whole island, North and South. Serge missionaries co-hosted and moderated sessions along with Irish church planters. They now have the exciting and challenging opportunity to start a youth group at one church and an international Bible study at another.

#### Spain

The teams in Spain have extended their outreach across different ages and levels of spiritual growth. They lead an Alpha course to help visitors understand the basics of the Christian faith. They saw more baptisms and new members join the church and restarted summer Vacation Bible School.

#### **Dominican Republic**

The team has been instrumental in restarting men's and women's ministries and other initiatives in a gospel-centered church. Disciples-Making-Disciples has grown from one class to five in less than a year. Three classes meet at one church and two at church plants in other communities. They're also mentoring church leaders in rural mountain communities.

Burundi

#### North Africa

The teams, projects, businesses, and resources are all growing. A team project partner has completed the first draft of The Gospel-Centered Life in a locally spoken language. They're using it with two test groups and have planned more testing in at least three other countries.

#### DR Congo

After being evacuated from their home last year, the team has returned to a safer, more stable location nearby. Rejoining the hospital network at a sister facility, they treat patients and teach medical students. The team also leads medical care and nutrition projects in a local refugee camp.

Burundi's first pediatric hospital opened this year. This long-awaited project is transforming medical care for children in the region. Along with medical treatment for patients, Serge missionaries provide teaching and discipleship for more than 60 medical students and 12 intern doctors. They also taught 10 courses for medical students.

#### Central Europe

New professions of faith and baptisms were held outside at a nearby lake. Missionaries are mentoring several pastor couples in Sonship, even as they work in coordinated effort with other European teams to provide ongoing physical and spiritual support to Ukrainian refugees.

#### **Czech Republic**

The refugee ministry began in 2015 and ramped up again when the invasion of Ukraine jolted the region. They provided more than 1,000 refugees with temporary housing and more than 6,000 free nights of lodging. The Prague teams host Monday dinners at church for 40-60 refugees a week, collect humanitarian aid, and work with other non-profit organizations to provide long-term housing. They also run a daily Ukrainian kids club in their church.

#### Austria

The team worked alongside other Serge European teams ministering to thousands of Ukrainian refugees. They care for the spiritual and physical needs of women, children, and the elderly showing them the love of Christ.

#### Romania

New teammates have strengthened the team's long-standing church discipleship ministry. Near a trash dump, they continue working closely with Roma teenagers on the city's outskirts. Together they design and create original products from recycled materials.

#### Middle East

The teams witnessed several baptisms this year. And another Business for Transformation coffee enterprise for local and export markets was launched.

#### South Asia

The region was ravaged last year with spikes in Covid variants. The teams continued to serve community needs, and present gospel hope to their neighbors. More people were baptized in Jesus' name, and a third bakery business opened, offering dignified work to women who had been trafficked into prostitution.

#### Uganda

Medical, educational, and community development teams continue to tackle complex issues in their fields. Water engineers expanded a gravity-flow water system to a difficult-to-reach part of the district. After 83 weeks, Christ School reopened with a record high of 380 students.

#### Kenya

The teams saw tremendous growth this year — in church planting, Sonship by Story training, youth discipleship, medical missions, and Business for Transformation.

#### Malawi

A new team in Malawi teaches seminary and counseling courses. They're part of training the next generation of African pastors.

Movements of grace reaching all people, renewing all believers, and restoring all things for the world's good and God's glory.

#### lapan

New teammates joined the team, growing their capacity for gospel renewal and mentoring of Japanese leaders. After seven years of investing in national church leaders, they're seeing those pastors bring gospel renewal to their communities.

Southeast Asia

The work continues to grow, adding more theological training and management. Church planters continue presenting the gospel to their local communities and to large refugee communities from neighboring countries. And another team worked with a partner ministry to open a bakery, laying the groundwork for future business ventures, to free women out of the sex trade and show them dignity and the love of Jesus.



# You Are Building GOSPEL COMMUNITIES

### ...through Church Planting, Pastoral Ministry, and **Discipleship**

- Collaborating with Serge missionaries, the Presbyterian Church of Ireland (PCI) planted a church for the first time since 1913! Your generosity has enabled Serge missionaries to stay in Ireland, and cultivate deep relationships with the PCI. The PCI also held their first ever church planting conference to envision a historic new era of church planting in the Republic of Ireland.
- Two Sonship Weeks happened: one in Malaga, Spain and one in Nashville, TN. Spanish pastors in Malaga experienced the first ever Serge-sponsored Sonship week entirely in Spanish. In the US, for the first time in many years, a weeklong transformational retreat was held for ministry and lay leaders.
- **Thanks to you,** gospel-centered resources continue to be translated into multiple new languages and taught around the world.
- In the spiritually dry earth of Spain, there are signs of new life. Their secular culture has been unreceptive to church planters for decades. But this year, Reconciliación Church saw more baptisms, a new women's group, and the addition of Sunday school. Spanish congregants have been inviting their friends, family, and neighbors. And the church has literally run out of seating. Your generosity has been integral to revitalizing this spiritually arid region of the world.
- An Arabic translation of *The Gospel-Centered Life* will soon be available in print and as a downloadable PDF for free.
- Vou're bringing Serge local here in the States. The Serge Hub in the Carolinas is pouring into ministry leaders and facilitating connections to global missions. More than 750 church members were discipled using Serge's Gospel Renewal Resources.



## ...through **Missionary Care**

When a missionary knows that someone has their back, they'll go to hard and even dangerous places with their family. Having their back is the secret sauce that creates longevity. And longevity exponentially increases impact. Because of Serge's increase in missionary families around the world, the Missionary



Care team has also expanded. This year, you've provided five new Missionary Care workers, including one specifically working with kids. And the first regional care team was deployed.

- **Thanks to you,** more than 200 Serge missionaries have been involved in leadership training. This training helps missionaries prioritize Kingdom values, build connections, and take more risks knowing Christ is with them. They learn to manage conflict well, equip and empower their teams, and demonstrate servant leadership in a way that ensures sustainability and longevity on the field.
- This year overseas intern deployment resumed. Nine firstyear apprentices were sent along with five second-year apprentices to North Africa, London, Dublin, and Spain. More than 20 percent of our apprentices choose to stay on the field long-term and have a greater impact because of your continued support. Those who return to the US do so with changed hearts, eager to continue their Kingdom work wherever they end up.
- Emergency evacuations are traumatic experiences. Getting missionaries to safety, debriefing, and counseling happened because of donors like you.
- Despite all the barriers of the last few years, new missionaries continue to sign up to go to share the love of Jesus with the hurting and lost. You helped make sure they're sent and cared for.
- After six long years, the Company Conference brought physical, emotional, and spiritual restoration to our missionaries all around the world. Many arrived hurting and discouraged. You provided counselors for their hearts, physicians for their bodies, and worship for their souls. One missionary wrote, "I came to the conference feeling low and discouraged, but left feeling quite the opposite. From feast to feast, it was a time rich in worship, teaching, and togetherness. You loved us well. You loved my kids well. The Lord knew exactly what our weary hearts needed. Thank you!"



#### Twenty years ago,

if you had asked Serge missionaries in Prague how God would use church plants and hostels – they would have never guessed it would be to help Ukrainian refugees.

Just two years ago, these hostels were shut down due to Covid. But, everything changed when Ukraine was invaded on February 24. Former cooks, servers, and cleaners returned and immediately began preparing unused rooms. These Ukrainian and Russian workers living in Prague knew refugees were coming.

The churches planted by Serge missionaries were also prepared to feed, clothe, and house refugees. They made lasagnas and giant pots of soup daily. And they continue to care for many who have become like family to them.

The Prague team is just 530 miles from the Ukrainian border. Through their partnership with local hostels and landlords, they provide 200 beds for refugee families. And **because of you**, they've housed more than 1,000 refugees providing more than 6,000 free nights of accommodations.

You've helped refugee families who have endured unimaginable losses. You've helped missionary teams in Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Cluj, and throughout Europe. They extend the love of Jesus to Ukrainian refugees through meals, necessities, medical care, job placement, kids' clubs, Bible studies, and prayer groups.

Because of their longevity on the field, missionaries have built healthy networks with local believers, churches, and relief organizations. Your generosity has made this possible, empowering them to meet and serve refugees with the love of Jesus. The Spirit is moving and working amid the suffering.



# **THANK YOU!**

You have made a difference. You've been essential to bringing God's grace to the fray.

You've been a part of receiving refugees with the open hands of Christ. You've helped seed churches and church planting movements. You've given Serge missionaries and their families the support they need to stay in hard places, building gospel communities. You've brought physical and emotional healing to the sick. You've given a future to the hopeless. You've offered Jesus to the lost.

Thank you for all the lives forever changed by your generosity.



# Prayer Requests for 2023

- The pioneering team in Nkhoma, Malawi, are creating a counselor training program for staff working at a home for abused girls. Pray for the staff and for the abused girls to experience the healing and love of Jesus.
- Eye Love Africa (ELA) wants to end treatable blindness. They'll train, equip, and disciple African eye care professionals to heal the blind in their home communities. Pray that God would transform African trainees to be the hands and feet of Jesus for the blind.
- Ukrainian refugees are beginning to envision a new life far from home. Pray that they will meet Jesus in this process. And pray for the missionaries as they help them find housing, employment, and community in their new cities.
- As Serge grows, a fourth member will be added to the Executive Leadership Team in August 2022. Lindsay Kimball will join as Senior Director of People Development. Pray for her in this new role while she continues to lead the Member Care department overseeing the care of all missionaries.

# SERGE LEADERSHIP

#### **EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Bob Osborne EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Josiah Bancroft SENIOR DIRECTOR OF MISSION

Matt Allison SENIOR DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### OFFICERS

Craig Wood CHAIRMAN Attorney Charlottesville, VA

Brad Allison VICE CHAIRMAN - OUTGOING SECRETARY/TREASURER Pastor Birmingham, AL

#### MEMBERS

Nancy Briggs Christian Ministry/Education Charlottesville, VA

Phyllis Calhoun Christian Ministry/Counselor Winston-Salem, NC

Andy Coats **Business Executive** Birmingham, AL

Tamara Ehlert, MD Facial Plastic Surgeon – retired St. Louis. MO

Loretta Erickson Business Executive – retired Fernandina Beach, FL

Irwyn Ince, DMin Pastor & Executive Director Washington, DC

Robert Kim, DMin Pastor & Professor St. Louis, MO

Jim Dickenson VICE CHAIRMAN - INCOMING Mechanical Engineer – retired Jacksonville, FL

Ivan Jones Chief Financial Officer Vacaville, CA

Horace Lamb CPA Arlington, VA

Kevin McMullen, MD Medical Director Indianapolis, IN

**Cindy Pfister** Education Nashville, TN

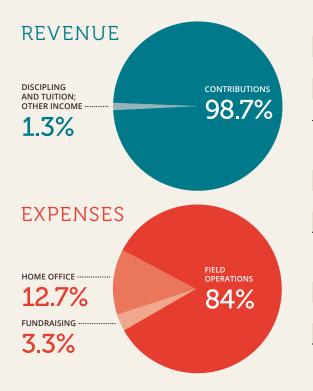
Jimmy Rousey CEO Investments – Banking Hustonville, KY

Michael Tibbetts, MD Ophthalmologist/ Business Executive Fort Myers, FL

Brian Whisler Attornev Oakton, VA

SERGE 12-MONTH MINISTRY REPORT 2021/22

#### FISCAL YEAR 2022 FINANCIALS June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022



#### **REVENUE, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT**

Contributions	\$ 24,731,677
Discipling and Tuition	140,420
Investment Return	-366,063
Other Income	184,241
Total Income	\$ 24,690,275
EXPENSES	
Field Operations	\$ 21,255,018
Home Office	3,216,260
Fundraising	843,276
Total Expenses	\$ 25,314,554
ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$ 2,170,236
Board-Designated Missionary and Project Funds	10,733,574
Temporarily Restricted	294,547
Total Net Assets	\$ 13,198,357



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

Enhancing Trust