

# REACHING OUT

The Outreach Foundation Newsletter • Spring / Summer 2024

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# Looking Forward

The Outreach Foundation had a wonderful 2023. It was as if God rained manna from heaven as financial income blossomed. As we move forward into 2024 and beyond, we have welcomed four new team members and diligently developed a new 2030 vision. We now turn our focus toward:

*Fueling the global mission of Christ by growing trusted relationships.*

While our commitment to our global partners remains steadfast and unchanged, we do have four new areas of concentration for the next six years.

1. Empowering global partners to be the presence of Christ in three new hard areas.
2. Engaging 150 domestic churches and 15% more individuals to take a step forward in meaningful mission investment.
3. Equipping 28 international partners with contextualized resources that reproduce disciple-making disciples to the 4th generation.
4. Exchanging compelling stories of transformation from every partner.

This is an exciting time. Thank you for all you did in 2023. Your generosity and trust encourage us to do even more.

We look forward to 2024 and beyond, and we hope you do too.

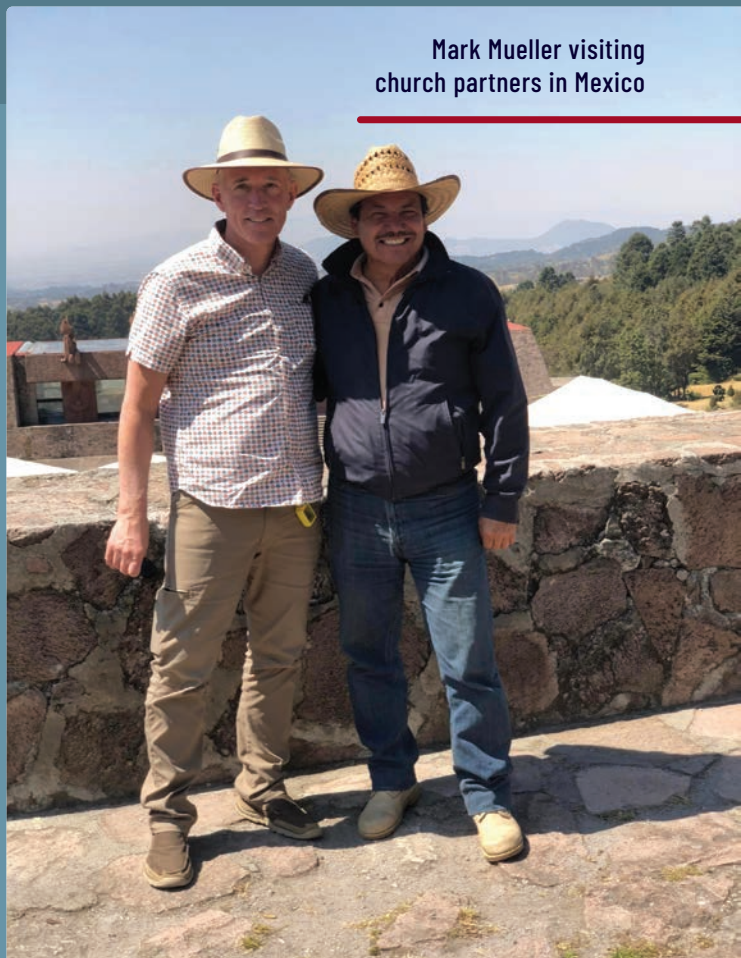
Blessings!

**Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller**  
Executive Director

*"...in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"*

Acts 20:35

**Mark Mueller visiting church partners in Mexico**





Reverends Abby and Cort Gatliff preparing to serve communion in a Persian Christian worship service

## Our 2030 Vision

The staff of The Outreach Foundation, along with our exceptional Board of Trustees, have been doing a lot of thinking and praying about where God is leading us as an organization as we approach our 50th anniversary. We feel God has given us a clear mission and vision forward. While the words might have changed to reflect our current calling more accurately, our mission is as it always has been, fueling the global mission of Christ by growing trusted relationships. First and foremost, we are about fueling the global mission of Christ. It starts, however, by growing trusted relationships with mission partners, partner churches, and committed individuals.

Through both our existing relationships and new ones being cultivated, we have seen a need to raise a new generation in the global mission space, which is why our 2030 vision is worded "to fuel a new generation of maturing leaders who will keep the Global Church at the forefront of missional focus." Everything we are doing now and each new initiative we begin will be about raising this next generation of leaders. We must start identifying these leaders now so that we can begin the process of fueling their passion for the mission of the Global Church.

Our vision will be guided by the pillars upon which The Outreach Foundation is built. We are spirit-led rather than cause-driven, and value partnership more than sponsorship, listening rather than telling, and "we over me." For us, integrity is more important than compromise and we look for progress rather than perfection and growth, not comfort. These values help govern the work we do and push us as an organization toward where God is calling.

God is calling us to more and we hope you will be a part of it!  
Visit our website for more information on our new mission,  
vision, and values: [www.theoutreachfoundation.org](http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org).



# Fueling Christ's Mission in China

*"The Outreach Foundation has been a friend to Chinese Christians for decades. I'm honored to be part of this amazing legacy!"*

*- Bin "Chris" Wang*

## Welcome Bin "Chris" Wang as our China Mission Specialist

The Outreach Foundation is pleased to announce that Bin Wang, or Chris as we know him in the United States, has joined our team as China Mission Specialist. He is an amazing young man and a close disciple of Jesus Christ. Chris will be working 20 hours per week, serving to deepen and extend the work of The Outreach Foundation both in China and among Chinese living in diaspora.

Chris is a Chinese national whose life was miraculously changed in 2003 when he was in college. He confessed Jesus Christ as Lord as a response to God's call to him in a vision. Chris served the Church in China as a pastor for over 12 years. Since 2008, he has played a pivotal role in the development of our partnerships in China and has received teams from The Outreach Foundation in Suzhou, his home city.

Chris Wang (middle) with Tom Boone (left) and Mark Mueller (right)



Chris holds a Master of Arts in Theology from Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, China (2008) and a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary (2012). In 2020, Chris relocated to the U.S. with his family for further theological studies concentrating on missional leadership. He lives in Charlotte, NC, with his wife Qian "Vivid," and two wonderful girls, Ying Ya (Christie) and Jing Wei (Valerie). They are members of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

We are excited that the church leadership in China has invited The Outreach Foundation to a broader presence in China. Chris brings essential expertise and connections to make this possible in mainland China, Hong Kong, and the diaspora. The word of the Lord is spreading in China, despite the increased pressure against Chinese Christians. The most remarkable Christian growth has happened among college students, peasant migrant workers, and the professional marketplace. They mostly reside in megacities like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Suzhou. This phenomenal rise of the urban Christian movement in China and among Chinese living in the U.S. merits serious engagement from our congregations. We stand in awe of our Lord who at this challenging time between our countries has said "Go deeper!"

If you or your church would like to know more about the work we are doing alongside Chris in China, and how to support this ministry, please visit [theoutreachfoundation.org/china-partnership](https://theoutreachfoundation.org/china-partnership). If you would like to connect with Chris Bin Wang or Tom Boone directly, you can send them an email by visiting [theoutreachfoundation.org/our-team](https://theoutreachfoundation.org/our-team).

Chris Wang translating for a guest preacher in Suzhou, China







The Chili Cook-Off got “heated,” raising money for The Outreach Foundation and its partners

## GRATEFUL FOR OUR CHURCH PARTNERS

# FPC Mooresville, NC Sharing and Sending

For the congregation of First Presbyterian Church in Mooresville, NC, it's not enough to just share financial resources with their mission partners, they are sending covenant partners to serve alongside them as well. Within the last five years, FPC Mooresville has rekindled its partnership with The Outreach Foundation thanks to the leadership of its pastor, Reverend Dave Rockness. Pastor Dave said this about his church's engagement with The Outreach Foundation, “The value of the partnership with The Outreach Foundation is that you guys are doing the ‘in the trenches’ work that makes it easy for us to contribute financially. You can also bring us to those experiences or bring those experiences to us.”

One of those experiences was having Dariush Golbaghi from Safehouse Ministries come and speak at FPC Mooresville this past fall. Dariush is a key part of The Outreach Foundation's Persian Diaspora Partnership, and he loves to tell the stories of the Persians he works with. The other experience Pastor Dave alludes to is that Vic Petrenko, an elder at FPC Mooresville, is traveling on an upcoming Outreach Foundation trip to Ukraine. Among other aspects of his trip, Vic will be helping to hand out Individual First Aid Kits or IFAKs that are crucial to saving the lives of Ukrainian soldiers on the frontlines. FPC Mooresville is just one of the many church partners that send their members on trips with The Outreach Foundation each year, helping fuel the global mission of Christ in the process.

In addition to budgeted support, FPC Mooresville recently did a Chili Cook-Off. Proceeds from the event were donated to help partners here at The Outreach Foundation. We celebrate church partnerships like FPC Mooresville that demonstrate the deeper calling of partnership over that of just sponsoring one of our partners financially. We invite you and/or your church to take the next steps toward a deeper partnership with The Outreach Foundation. Reach out to our staff and let us help get the conversation started!

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# A YEAR OF BLESSING

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Through God's grace, 2023 was a wonderful year for The Outreach Foundation. Thanks to many generous donors and churches, we received over \$8.9 million in gifts with partnerships, programs, and projects being funded as well as administrative and fundraising expenses. New partnerships including initiatives in Central Asia, the Arabic Peninsula, and China Provincial Development are helping to fuel the global mission of Christ in broader ways. As we celebrate 45 years of global ministry through The Outreach Foundation, God continues to bless us abundantly! We thank our wonderful donors and partner churches for their generosity and support.

**Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller**  
Executive Director

## Ways to Give

Recurring  
Gifts

Planned  
Giving

Donor Advised  
Funds

IRA Qualified  
Distribution(s)



[theoutreachfoundation.org](http://theoutreachfoundation.org)



# OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS



Haiti



England

Germany



Mexico

Cuba

Haiti

Brazil

Ghana

Zambia







Lithuania



Pakistan

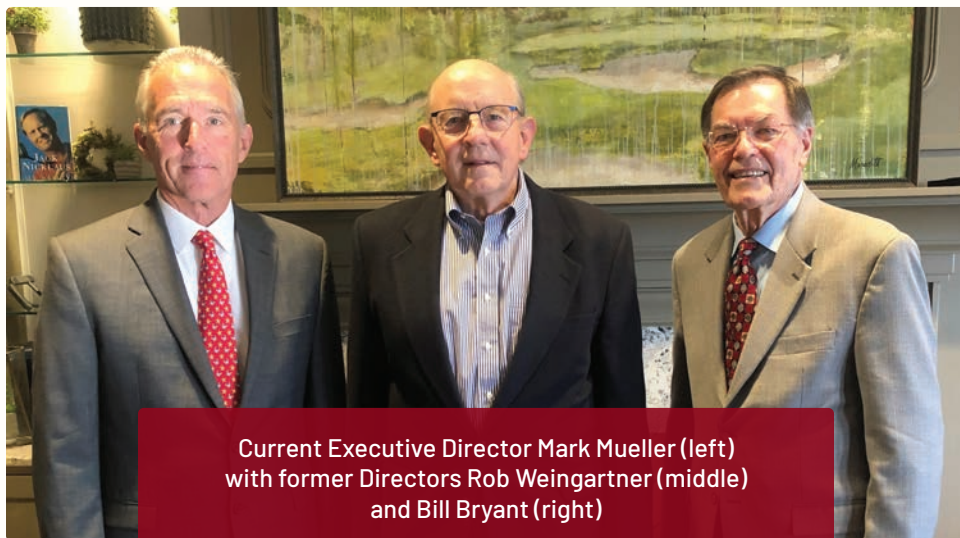
# 45 Years of Fueling Global Missions

## Fond Reflections and Hopeful Outlooks

Founded in 1979, The Outreach Foundation celebrates 45 years of global ministry this year. While talking with donors, trustees, pastors, and lay leaders this winter, we heard rich reflections and insightful observations about our executive leadership here at Outreach. These skilled, tireless, and Spirit-filled executive directors have been a blessing to The Outreach Foundation. Around the globe, much has changed socially, politically, and economically; but the ministry of The Outreach Foundation has remained Christ-centered and partner-focused. We've also been alert to the ever-evolving needs and circumstances of God's people through disasters, war, persecution, and explosive growth of the global church.

*"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9*

God prepared and equipped Rev. Dr. Bill Bryant, Rev. Dr. Rob Weingartner, and Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller for faithful service to the local church in the U.S.A. before calling each one into service, first as trustees, then serving on staff, and transitioning into executive leadership with The Outreach Foundation. Bill, Rob, and Mark are strong leaders and effective communicators; measured in their thinking yet moved by the Spirit in their decision-making. Each has been effective in their recruitment and cultivation of trustees, and artful in the mobilization of trustees' gifts and talents.



Current Executive Director Mark Mueller (left)  
with former Directors Rob Weingartner (middle)  
and Bill Bryant (right)

Over the decades, each executive director has built a team of staff members who work collaboratively with one another as well as with global partners. Under Mark's capable leadership, trustees and staff have a new mission and vision statement.

*The 2030 Vision of The Outreach Foundation is to fuel a new generation of maturing leaders who will keep the Global Church at the forefront of missional focus.*

**Ralph Wheeler**  
Donor Relations

# Help Us Welcome Our New Staff!

Here at The Outreach Foundation, we believe in “we over me.” That means we believe our individual strengths are God-given and should be nurtured as we build an environment of trust. Developing God’s gift of shalom in our relationships among staff, trustees, donors, and partners is at the forefront of how we have structured our organization. It’s because of our emphasis on the WE that bringing on the right staff is crucial, and we believe our three newest staff members embody this ethos.

**Daniel Susenbach**, our new Associate Director for Mission, felt God’s calling to the nations after going on his first mission trip when he was just 16 years old. When Daniel graduated high school, he immediately joined Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and spent the next decade serving on the mission field. Daniel’s passion for the nations has taken him to more than 75 countries. His life calling is to help others discover and develop their full potential in Christ through teaching God’s word, making disciples, developing leaders, and impacting the nations through cultivating long-term missional partnerships. Daniel lives in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, just outside of Denver, CO, with his wife Beccy, and three wonderful kids.

**Jeremy Churchill**, our new Director of Communications, comes to us with a wealth of knowledge surrounding communications in the areas of email marketing, website development, social media content creation, and video editing. Jeremy hopes to take our communication to the next level by telling our partners’ compelling stories in new and exciting ways. Jeremy is also a seminary student and ordination candidate with A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO). Jeremy, his wife, and their two children live outside of Charlotte, NC.

**Cindy Holman**, our new Controller, comes to us with an abundance of experience in finance, accounting, and business management. After earning her degree in Business Administration Management, Cindy has spent the last 25 years working in the finance department for the legal and medical fields. A long-time passion of Cindy’s is giving back to her community through outreach opportunities where she can help those in need. Cindy has been a lifelong member of the Baptist Church in Louisiana, Texas, and now Tennessee.

We are excited about these new staff members and cannot wait for you to meet them if you haven’t already! Please pray for them as they jump headfirst into their work here at The Outreach Foundation.



Daniel Susenbach



Jeremy Churchill



Cindy Holman



# Reaching the Lost, Training Leaders, and Restoring Lives

## A Snapshot of Our México Partnership

From the windswept high desert highlands of central México to the sweltering tropical jungles of Southern México, the Spirit of God is on the move in a mighty way in this predominantly Catholic country. The Outreach Foundation has been partnering with the National Presbyterian Church of México (INPM) since 2021 to advance the gospel in multiple ways. The Presbyterian church is alive and thriving south of the border with 6,000 congregations and over three million members.

**REACHING THE LOST** – One of the key priorities of the Presbyterian Church in México is planting new churches where there is minimal evangelical church presence. Outreach Foundation donors and church partners help support a church plant in the southern city of Tapachula which focuses on ministering to the +30,000 immigrants that come across the nearby border with Guatemala. We also support a vibrant new church for the next generation in the southwestern state of Oaxaca, which includes youth and young adult ministries and regular evangelistic outreaches. Executive Director Mark Mueller and Trustees Rev. Deena Candler and Doug Nielson recently completed a trip to México with the INPM leadership team where multiple new church plant/church revitalization opportunities were identified. In the high desert state of Hidalgo in central México, we met Pastor Noe and his congregation at Santa Rita church. They have a vision to reach six neighboring villages with the gospel message and God's Word. The unique twist is that a majority of the population in this area are Otomí Indians, and many speak Otomí as their first language. The Outreach Foundation is looking to come alongside Santa Rita to help print New Testaments in Otomí as well as build a roof over their large patio area so they can hold evangelism campaigns.

Later during our trip, we flew south to the heart of the Mayan world in the Yucatán Peninsula. We met with the Presbytery of Sac Be in the colonial town of Izamal. This presbytery has a vision to revitalize churches in the area. The Outreach Foundation is excited about partnering with this presbytery to hire a pastor for the church in Izamal that has been without one for an extended period.



The church congregation of Santa Rita, México

**TRAINING LEADERS** – The Outreach Foundation is also partnering with the INPM to sponsor leadership training events to help church leaders faithfully lead their flocks and re-energize their personal walks through accountability groups. These one-day conferences use an interactive curriculum taught by experienced Mexican pastors and have reached hundreds of pastors, elders, and deacons over the past year. These conferences will continue in 2024 as the INPM team attempts to reach as many of their 76 presbyteries as possible.

**RESTORING LIVES** – The Outreach Foundation also has the joy of working with Centro Shalom (Peace Center) located on the outskirts of Tapachula, Chiapas. Centro Shalom focuses on providing residential rehabilitation services for men with drug and alcohol addiction. The men (a combination of locals and immigrants) at the center receive treatment and counseling to help them recover from their addiction as well as spiritual mentoring. Approximately 1,400 men have gone through the three-month program over the past 13+ years.

God is using this ministry in a major way to heal the hearts and minds of men who need His healing touch.

**Written by Doug Nielson**  
Outreach Trustee

# Israel/Lebanon/Palestine Appeal

As war persists in the Middle East, The Outreach Foundation is continuing our work with the Synod of Syria and Lebanon to help supply shelters they have opened for those fleeing southern Lebanon due to fighting along the Lebanon-Israel border. These supplies help provide basic care such as food, medicine, shelter, and clothing. If you'd like to support this work, please visit [www.theoutreachfoundation.org/israel/lebanon/palestine-relief](http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org/israel/lebanon/palestine-relief). Let us bring God's gift of hope during these increasingly difficult days.



# Resurrecting and Rebuilding Hope in South Sudan

## The Church at Nasir

In 1912, American Presbyterian missionaries settled in the village of Nasir in southern Sudan. Over the next 45 years, they established a church, hospital, and schools, sharing the Good News of Christ's redeeming love among the Nuer ethnic group of southeastern Sudan. When civil conflict erupted in the 1960s, the missionaries were forced to leave. But the seeds of faith remained. The unrest lasted for decades and millions were displaced.



Elizabeth, a teacher who lost her husband in the conflict, was one of those. By God's grace, she escaped with the 30 children from her class, and walked 240 miles to safety in a refugee camp. She came with her faith and joined others in establishing the church in the camp. She organized (through her church and with the support of The Outreach Foundation) a widows' group that cares for hundreds of unaccompanied refugee children. Everyone in the region has experienced trauma. The conflicts have left survivors with physical, spiritual, and mental scars. A high priority of the displaced Presbyterian Church of South Sudan is the need for trauma healing. Outreach has been faithfully supporting this work in the camps, by working closely with John Jock Gatwech, a compassionate teacher and experienced leader, to train trauma healing trainers and establish healing groups. They have also established preschools and adult literacy programs distributing 12,000 Bibles in the Nuer language.

A ceasefire was declared in 2018 and security is slowly returning to eastern South Sudan. Some of the refugees have been in camps in Ethiopia and Kenya for a decade and are eager to return to their homeland. Others remain afraid of facing the destroyed infrastructure, eroded farmland, and mass graves in their home area.

In this context of both fear and longing, our Presbyterian family in Nasir, South Sudan, is rebuilding their war-torn church. It will be a beacon of hope, a place of worship, refuge, and community. The Outreach Foundation has joined South Sudanese Presbyterians to renew a pledge to complete the church. It will be their "Zion." We look forward to the day when we can worship with them in their sacred space!







Powell Jones, Outreach trustee (far right), with his team in Nuremberg Germany

# You're Invited!

## Travel with us in 2024

Outreach Trustee Powell Jones from First Presbyterian Church in Thomasville, GA, traveled with The Outreach Foundation to Germany, visiting some of our Persian friends in diaspora. One thing that stood out to Powell was seeing the work of the Holy Spirit first-hand in the lives of the Iranians. Powell writes, "I do not remember in 25 years of global mission trips seeing new believers come to Christ. During this visit to Germany, four individuals gave their lives to Jesus Christ. One of those was baptized in a special private ceremony. Our team was impacted by the passion and courage we witnessed during our visit." Powell is one of many travelers who come back from our trips with a new perspective on the global mission of Christ being lived out by partners around the world. We invite you to learn more about our upcoming trips and ask that you prayerfully consider if God might be calling you to travel with us here at Outreach.

### UPCOMING TRIPS

**United Kingdom  
and Portugal**  
August 25 - September 4

**China**  
October 11 - 21

**Germany**  
September 10 - 18

**Türkiye**  
November 3 - 13

For more information about upcoming trips,  
please visit [theoutreachfoundation.org/trips](https://theoutreachfoundation.org/trips) to learn more



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