

20

22

23

ANNUAL
REPORT

A SNAPSHOT OF HOW GOD IS
ON THE MOVE AT
GRACE CENTRAL COAST



A LETTER FROM PASTOR TIM

Family of Grace,

In C.S. Lewis' beloved classic, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Mr. Beaver tells the Pevensie children, "Aslan is on the move!" Aslan, of course, is the Christ-figure in *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

Through our "Life in Jesus" series in the Gospel of John this year, we've seen Jesus "on the move" toward His death on the cross, giving us life.

God is on the move here at Grace Central Coast! In so many little and big ways. In so many individual lives and in our life together. God is on the move at every campus.

Our 2022/23 Annual Report is our attempt to capture and freeze frame God on the move among us. It's difficult to capture because the movement of God among us can't truly be measured. It's too FAST, and it's too BIG. And yet, trying has been so fun, humbling, and encouraging!

We want you to be humbled and encouraged with us. As you read through our 2022/23 Annual Report, ponder God "on the move" in your own life. Let Psalm 77 and your reflections move you!

*I will remember the deeds of the LORD;
 yes, I will remember your wonders of old.
 I will ponder all your work,
 and meditate on your mighty deeds.
 Your way, O God, is holy.
 What god is great like our God?
 You are the God who works wonders;
 you have made known your might among the peoples.
 -Psalm 77:11-14*

Thank you so, so much for your investment and engagement at Grace Central Coast! Your joyful, generous serving and giving make possible all that happens in our church! Together we are helping people find and follow Jesus.

With you,

Pastor Tim for the Grace Central Coast Leadership Team



contents

	Our Year in Pictures	2
	North County Campus	4
	SLO Campus	6
	Five Cities Campus	8
	Timeline	10
	2022/23 Financial Report	12
	2023/24 Budget Preview	13
	Staff and Leadership	14
	Ministry Highlights	16
	Looking Back and Forward	18



COVER: MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GATHERED AT WHISPER CANYON CHRISTIAN CAMP FOR BASIC, AN ANNUAL WEEKEND CAMP. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE CAMP WAS HELD AT THE LOCATION AFTER RECORD-SETTING RAINS DAMAGED THE CAMPGROUND AT LOPEZ LAKE.

ABOVE: READY, SET, GO! KIDS HUNT FOR EGGS ON EASTER SUNDAY AT THE NORTH COUNTY CAMPUS.

OUR YEAR IN PICTURES



260 MEN
ATTENDED
MEN'S
HUDDLES



22 BABIES
WERE
BORN



100
STUDENTS
WENT TO
HUME LAKE



150 WOMEN
ATTENDED
WOMEN'S
BIBLE
STUDY



WE SANG
22 NEW
WORSHIP
SONGS



MORE THAN
2,000
PEOPLE
JOINED US
ON EASTER



CHRISTMAS
WAS ON A
SUNDAY
THIS YEAR



152
SERVED IN
GRACEKIDS
MINISTRY



138
GROWTH
GROUP
LEADERS





new to North County Campus **54**

DESCRIBE THE NORTH COUNTY CAMPUS IN THREE WORDS:

baptisms **4**

"Friendly, warm, alive"
Susee Glover

average Sunday GraceKids attendance **61**

"Warm, family, inviting"
Cari Puerling

"Intimate, growing, joyful!"
Cameron Smith

GraceMen in midweek studies **35**

"Toys, snacks, Jesus' friends caught fish"
Aaron Puerling, 3 yr old

"Home. Supportive. Opportunities."
Brian Farrell

NORTH COUNTY

There is joy in this house of the Lord! With our unique worship style, monthly Wild Nights, and dream-team facilities work crew, this year our North County Campus celebrated three years since the Campus launch in 2019.

While maintaining his GraceYouth responsibilities, this year Morgan pivoted to a full-time position as Assistant Campus Pastor.

We are in the community, for the community. In late August, we rejoiced over the neighborhood turnout at our Outdoor Worship Night. We have also begun a partnership with Casa Grande apartments to care for our neighbors, and we're excited to see our church spill out into the North County area.

"I am excited to focus on sharing the Gospel in word and deed, alongside a great group of people. I am leaning into the joy of ministry!" he said.

"I am leaning into the joy of ministry!"

This transition has allowed Pastor Miles to step into a new role as our Executive Pastor. "I am really looking forward to being able to serve the entirety of the Grace Central Coast family in this new role."

Throughout the year, we have witnessed the goodness of God with our Sunday morning service attendance growing to an **average of 140 people**. Reflecting this same energy, our GraceKids ministry fills Sunday School classrooms with eager and inquisitive children who are seeking Jesus with innocent faith.

Our GraceYouth program continues to thrive and grow with Morgan Crawford leading.

The Gospel continues to go beyond Sunday Services. It is entering into living rooms and around dining room tables at our **8 Growth Groups** meeting throughout the week. A few of our GraceWomen brought the light of the Gospel through their service to Bryan's House Recovery Home, loving on mothers and their children. As God moves in the hearts of our people, we see people moving towards radical Gospel living. To God be the highest glory!



125 involved in Growth Groups

24 average GraceYouth attendance

38 women involved in MOPS North County





SAN LUIS OBISPO

62 volunteers who serve in GraceKids

704 average Sunday morning attendance

815 number of people served by God's Storehouse each month

12 baptisms



Vibrant is a word that fits the SLO Campus well. Since last June, we have been in full motion, with our Worship Center filling up on Sunday mornings and the rooms on campus bustling with activities throughout the week.

"I've seen so many new faces!" Pastor Chris Rhodes, who moved into the role of SLO Campus Pastor in February, said. "The number of families and individuals who have come anew and plugged in is remarkable."



But the SLO Campus is more than the building we meet in. Our campus is the people who worship here on Sunday and who serve here midweek. It doesn't stop when we step outside the church building.

We've had **162 new guests** visit the SLO Campus this past year, and many have gotten connected to ministries and growth groups.

"I've seen so many new faces!"

The SLO Campus is the **35 growth groups** that meet each day of the week. It is the families whose gospel conversations continue after Sunday School. It is the **40 people who serve at God's Storehouse each Saturday** to give fresh, healthy food to those who need it. It is the employees and business owners who take the light of Christ with them to their workplaces. It's the **180+ GraceCollege students** who take the Gospel seriously and live it out in vibrant ways.

This past year was also marked by transition. Pastor Ken Peet, who has spent 40 years serving in different roles at the SLO Campus, most recently Campus Pastor, moved into the role of Care Pastor. He called the past year sweet and significant, noting the gatherings big and small that have resumed in full force.

"The Lord has blessed us with an awesome facility that we are able to share with many community groups and organizations on a regular basis," Ken said.

And the SLO Campus is growing! We are praising God for people who have started attending this campus over the past year, and for those who have given their lives to Christ.

ASK SLO CAMPUS

What's your favorite midweek activity at Grace?

- MOPS and Women's Bible Study! The community is incredible! - Megan Judkins
- Grace College!!! So wonderful to be surrounded by other students following Jesus. - Olivia Ooms
- Growth Group! This is where I feel challenged and supported in my walk the most! - Tobi Rossi

What is your favorite thing about Sunday mornings?

- I look forward to helping in the first grade classroom where we learn the attributes of God, then worshipping with my mentor's family in the second service. - Olivia Reeves
- Something I love is looking across the room during worship and seeing hundreds of people singing to Jesus as King. I love that. - Darren Nelson, College & Young Adults Pastor

Describe the SLO Campus in three words:

- Vibrant, all-ages, and Christ-centered** - Brendan Clark
- Growing!! God-fearing!! Intentional.** - Gabby Miller,
- Community, loving, service.** - Kat Olah
- Fun. Serious talking. Food.** - 9-Year-Old
- Welcome, active, engaging.** - Kline Nickel
- San Luis Obispo.** - Chris Rhodes, Campus Pastor



DESCRIBE FIVE CITIES IN 3 WORDS:

194

AVERAGE SUNDAY MORNING ATTENDANCE

"Vibrant. Caffeinated. Growing."

Ethan Lee, Five Cities GraceYouth Coordinator

"Committed - Fierce - Friendly."

Tammy Delisle

"Welcoming, growing, neighborly."

Travis Vazquez

"Authentic. Inviting. Well-managed."

Ryan Ouimette

"My heart's family."

Grace Murray

3X

THE AMOUNT GRACEYOUTH HAS GROWN THIS PAST YEAR

35

VOLUNTEERS HELP WITH GRACEKIDS

11

GROWTH GROUPS

1

FULL YEAR OF GRACEYOUTH AT FIVE CITIES

9

BAPTISMS IN THE PAST YEAR

FIVE CITIES

Our Five Cities Campus has got Gospel instinct. In other words, we are loving people the way Jesus loved, serving like Jesus served, and giving like Jesus gave.

Bret Martin, our Five Cities Campus Pastor, raves about this past year at every opportunity he gets.

"It's been a year of growth across our Campus - marked by increased excitement, increased participation, and increased capacity to join God in helping people find & follow Jesus."

Bringing fresh youth activities and always a fresh fashion choice, Ethan Lee, our GraceYouth Coordinator, continues to point our 24 students towards Jesus. Their recent study on prayer has electrified the youth

8

towards intimacy with Christ and vulnerability with one another. Over the school year, attendance at Thursday evening youth group tripled in attendance.

"It's been a year of growth across our Campus!"

For the first time ever, our GraceWomen joined together for a Seder Dinner, remembering and reflecting on the words of Jesus at the Last Supper. Sunday School classrooms are hitting max capacity, and this year saw the launch of our 4th-5th Grade Wild Nights at the Five Cities Campus.

Ministry is fast-paced and dynamic, and God's people continue to mobilize the good news of Jesus. We saw this in the filling of the Ukraine shipping container as Grace Central Coast rallied to gather supplies, package boxes, and invest in this project together. The Gospel continued to spread through the unprecedented generosity towards buying furnaces for Ukrainians in need, raising \$76K towards the launch of the Immigrant Hope office, and so much more.

We celebrate a fourth Women's Bible study group launching this year and the steady faithfulness of our GraceMen gathering in their weekly studies. Individuals are not just finding a church to attend at our Five Cities Campus. People are finding a family -- finding a home.



8

YEARS SINCE THE FIVE CITIES CAMPUS LAUNCHED

2.5

MONTHS TO FILL THE UKRAINE RELIEF SHIPPING CONTAINER

6

BABIES BORN AT FIVE CITIES



9

2022-2023



June 5
Celebrate Grace 2021/22

June 12
FORMED Series begins
Child Dedications

June 27-30
Junior Day Camp

July 31-August 7
Hume Lake

August 28
Growth Group Leaders Summit

September 11
Pursuing Gospel Culture Series begins

September 13
Women's Fall Bible Study begins

September 20
GraceCollege Fall gatherings begin
Bethany Vazquez is hired as Communications Coordinator

October 15
Covenant Membership Class

October 26
GraceYouth Mocktober

October 2
Fall Kick-Off
John Series begins

November 6
Orphan Sunday

November 4-6
Welcoming Children Home Conference

November 12
GraceCollege Fall Fest

November 11-12
GraceYouth Awaken Conference

November 17
GraceWomen Worship Night

November 13
Foster Care Stocking Drive begins

November 19
Men's Huddle

January 8
The Giving Tree launches

January 13
Group from Grace Central Coast goes to Los Osos to help with flood relief

December 24
Christmas Eve Services at each campus

December 25
Christmas Day services at each Campus

January 20-21
HOMEGROWN Marriage and Family Conference

January 27
Will Harington is hired as Tech Director

January 28
Covenant Membership Class

January 29
Baptism Sunday

January 31
Women's Winter Bible Study Launches

February 15
Senior Luncheon

February 12
New to Grace Brunch

February 26
Pastor Chris becomes SLO Campus Pastor

March 21
AWANA Grand Prix Races

March 24-26
GraceYouth BASIC at Whisper Canyon

April 7
Good Friday All Campus Night of Worship

April 16
Pastor Morgan becomes Assistant North County Campus Pastor & Pastor Miles becomes Executive Pastor
Adoption and Foster Care Pizza Social

April 9
Easter Sunday

May 6
GraceWomen Spring Solree Covenant Membership Class

May 21
Baptism Sunday

May 14
Child Dedications

June 4
Celebrate Grace 2022/23

FINANCIAL REPORT

2022/2023
LAST YEAR



\$3,025,870
TOTAL GIVEN TO GRACE

\$2,847,676

MINISTRY FUND GIVING

\$178,194

CARE FUND GIVING

\$2,659,813

2022-2023 EXPENSES

\$187,863

2022-2023 SURPLUS

WHAT ARE SOME NEEDS THAT OUR CARE FUND HELPS MEET ?

- Flood relief for families in Los Osos
- 300 furnaces for Ukrainians in need
- Monthly Rent assistance
- Supplies for expecting mothers through Lifeline Pregnancy Center
- Therapy/counseling for church members
- Food for God's Storehouse
- Washer & dryer for a needy family with a special needs son

\$501,814

NORTH COUNTY
CAMPUS GIVING

\$2,038,471

SLO CAMPUS
GIVING

\$307,391

FIVE CITIES
CAMPUS GIVING



MINISTRY FUND BUDGET

2023/2024 | THIS UPCOMING YEAR

TOTAL 2023/2024 BUDGET & GIVING GOAL

\$3 MILLION

Central Services Total

\$1,480,463

Administration & Facilities

\$95,614

Ministries

\$386,750

Staffing

\$873,099

Growth & Capital Projects

\$125,000

CENTRAL SERVICES

North County Campus Total

\$213,711

Facilities

\$49,474

Ministries

\$16,500

Staffing

\$147,737

NORTH COUNTY CAMPUS

SLO Campus Total

\$990,706

Facilities

\$147,562

Ministries

\$48,600

Staffing

\$794,544

SLO CAMPUS

Five Cities Campus Total

\$315,120

Facilities

\$62,483

Ministries

\$11,750

Staffing

\$240,887

FIVE CITIES CAMPUS



Scan this QR code to check out this year's full budget, or visit gracecentralcoast.org/series-celebrate-grace

**numbers include estimated 5/31 Payroll and 5/28 Giving

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ministry Staff Team



Morgan Crawford Assistant Campus Pastor
Ben Ernstrom Middle School & AWANA Coordinator
Marina Garcia GraceKids Coordinator
Will Harington Tech Director
Emily Head GraceKids Coordinator
Chérie Hunt Family Care Coordinator



Dori Iunker GraceKids Director
Jessica Jantos GraceWomen's Care Director
Ron Johnston Business Administrator
Ethan Lee GraceYouth & Tech Coordinator
Bret Martin Campus Pastor
Darren Nelson GraceCollege & Young Adults Pastor



Miles Nelson Executive & Campus Pastor
Bekah Nicklas Communications Director
Ken Peet Care Pastor
Chris Rhodes Campus Pastor
Nick Shorts GraceYouth Pastor
Al Stredler Missions & Assistant Campus Pastor



Tim Theule Lead Pastor
Bethany Vazquez Communications Coordinator

"It has been a joy to serve with our staff and under the elder team for over 30 years. The unity of spirit and purpose has been steadfast, with people always there to support and help to accomplish the task of helping people find and follow Jesus."

AL STREDER, ON STAFF SINCE 1992

- CENTRAL SERVICES
- NORTH COUNTY CAMPUS
- SLO CAMPUS
- FIVE CITIES CAMPUS
- EXECUTIVE TEAM

Support Staff Team



Ellie Amesse Administrative Assistant
Karin Bruck Bookkeeper
Lily Cheney Communications Intern
Luke Ernstrom Tech & Facilities Assistant
Ryan Garcia Tech Assistant
Susee Glover Administrative Assistant



Faith Phillipps Administrative Assistant
Rick Russell Facilities Manager
Brianna Tomlinson Worship Leader
Jeniene White Administrative Assistant
Thomas Zaldivar Worship Leader

Governing Elder Team



David Beals **Wayne Brown** **Jim Burleson** **Kris Couch** **Dave Cumberland** **Jeff Martin**



Steve Potratz **Roland Rounsevell** **Dan Snyder** **Todd Talley**

ministry highlights

WE TOOK AN INSTAGRAM SURVEY ASKING YOU WHICH MINISTRIES YOU WANTED TO HEAR MORE ABOUT - AND HERE THEY ARE.



GOD'S STOREHOUSE

Despite record breaking storms, worldwide pandemics, and social and political turmoil, God's Storehouse remains a constant. Every Saturday morning from 8 AM - 10 AM this food pantry seeks to share the Gospel by helping meet the nutritional and spiritual needs of others.

Volunteers arrive at 7 AM to pray together and begin preparing bags of groceries for the **34 home deliveries** across the county while individuals (and families) stand in line on Osos Street. Hundreds of pounds of donated food from local businesses are distributed each week. The Gospel permeates into every corner of this ministry, from the cup of piping hot coffee served in the park, to the estimated **72 thousand pounds of food distributed this year**, to the prayer cards made available to anyone that enters.

We believe this ministry is one of many ways Grace Central Coast is able to be the hands and feet of Jesus during the week.



GRACE COLLEGE

Lives are being transformed by the Gospel in our GraceCollege Ministry. Stories of God's life-altering, all-consuming, redeeming grace continue to surface, and we pray expectantly for more. Under the shepherding of Pastor Darren along with the guidance mentors and student leaders, GraceCollege is exploding with energy and passion for Jesus.

With an **average of 180 students worshipping each Tuesday evening** at the SLO Campus, students take what they learn into their communities, classrooms, and Growth Groups. They consistently bless our church by their service and presence. These students have gathered on their college campuses to share the Gospel with peers, and accountability groups have sprung to life in humble garage spaces.

This year the group embarked on a weekend prayer retreat with the purpose of pausing from the busyness of life to be still with God and others. While so much more is happening than what can be expressed here, we actively wait on the Lord to see what else He will do among GraceCollege in the coming year.



ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE

Caring for the fatherless: that's what this ministry is all about. Its goal is to find a home for every child and support for every home. This ministry team seeks to train and support foster and adoptive families and to raise up a team of Support Friends for every foster family. Three realities compel this team to ministry:

1. Family is created by God.
2. The Gospel is all about adoption.
3. The Bible speaks repeatedly about God's care and our responsibility to care for the fatherless, as the people of God.

On November 5th, 2022 we hosted a "Welcoming Children Home" conference with breakout sessions and panels. Bishop Blake, our keynote speaker, then reminded our church family on Sunday of our own Gospel adoption that should motivate us towards the fatherless.

At Grace Central Coast we have **25 Foster & Adoptive Families and 40 Support Friends**. We always desire to see more leaning into this ministry!



WOMEN'S HIKING GROUP

We live in a beautiful part of the world, so why not get out and explore while building friendships with other women? That's the idea behind the Women's Hiking Group, which gets together twice a month to spend time in God's creation.

The hikes take place on Tuesdays and Saturdays and include treks through Pismo Preserve, the Cal Poly Architecture Graveyard, and Bishop Peak. The group adjusts its pace to the skill level of the hikers, and they encourage beginning hikers to get involved!

All in all, the group **hiked a total of 86 miles this past year**, and they have no plans to slow down. Group members say that it's a great way to meet new women, deepen friendships, and share life with one another -- all while getting some exercise.

We believe niche groups like this one can help believers have the space and opportunity to connect and create Gospel-based friendships.

To learn more about any of these ministries, you can visit gracecentralcoast.org

LOOKING BACK & FORWARD

AFTER DECADES OF MINISTRY, THE BEST IS STILL TO COME

BY BETHANY REEVES VAZQUEZ

Every Monday, Lorraine Maksoudian comes to the church office to send letters to first graders.

The envelopes she sends contain a personal note and a copy of that week's lesson, and they go out to each kid on her roster who wasn't able to make it to Sunday School.

"Everyone likes to get something in the mail," Lorraine told me, "that isn't an ad or a bill."

Lorraine, known by her students as "Grandma Maksoudian," has attended Grace since 1963, when she and her husband Leon moved to San Luis Obispo from Minnesota. Her time as a Sunday School teacher began in 2002, when GraceKids Director Dori Lunger couldn't find anyone to teach the first grade class.

"She was beating the bushes and could find no one," Lorraine said. "She said, 'I think I'm just gonna have to let all the parents of the first graders know that this year, there will be no first grade Sunday School class.'"

It was the same year Lorraine's oldest grandson was 6, and through him, she knew many of the kids who would be in the first grade class. Until then, Lorraine had been a consistent member of the church choir and wasn't in a hurry to leave.

"I asked myself the question, 'Lorraine, you have fewer years left to live than what you have lived. And where are you going to make the biggest impact for God's kingdom? Being one of forty members singing in the choir, or teaching first grade Sunday School?'" she said.

She said she became a teacher by default, but the decision has brought her joy for the more than 21 years she has been doing it.

"Don't tell (Pastor) Al, but I honestly did not miss singing in the choir. I did not miss it, because I was so full of joy with the children."

In Grandma Maksoudian's class, the first graders learn the attributes of God by going through the alphabet. A stands for Almighty. L stands for Love. T stands for Trinity.

"These are not fluff things," Lorraine said. "They are really foundational. It's really really solid stuff."

Ceslie Patty has been teaching the kindergarten Sunday School class for 26 years.

"Stuff 'em full of God's word," Ceslie said. "If you dumb it down, they don't get as much out of it as if you raise the bar."

"Where are you going to make the biggest impact for God's kingdom?"

Ceslie first attended Grace in 1979, and returned three years later after spending time at another local church. Before meeting her husband David while attending Grace, she was a kindergarten teacher in San Luis Obispo - a job that gave her the skillset she now uses each week in her Sunday School classroom.

"I really enjoy teaching kindergarten," Ceslie said. "It's like my thing."

She started teaching Sunday School when her daughter was 4 and the church needed a kindergarten teacher. 26 years later, she still shows up each Thursday to prepare a weekly lesson - which includes a craft, a song, and a monthly Bible verse.

"They let me stay, and they keep letting me stay year after year," she said. "It feels like I'm doing something purposeful and meaningful and pouring into these kids' lives."



ABOVE: CESLIE PATTY TEACHES KINDERGARTNERS THE DAYS OF CREATION IN 2009. RIGHT: CESLIE TEACHES THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT THIS YEAR. BELOW: LORRAINE MAKSOUDIEN TEACHES HER FIRST GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS IN 2011 AND IN 2023.

Ben Ernstrom, a current Cal Poly senior, grew up at Grace. Long before joining the staff at Grace, he attended Ceslie's and Lorraine's Sunday School classes.

"I remember going to Mrs. Patty's class," Ben said. "She would always put a ton of effort into the craft and it would all be connected to a Bible verse."

He also remembers her annual Noah's Ark Party - which she still hosts at her house each spring - and the graham cracker craft that she still does with the kids.

As a first grader in Sunday School, Ben mentioned the objects Lorraine would bring in to accompany the lessons each week. He also remembered the care she showed to the squirrely kids in the class, since he used to be one of them.

"Young people, you have to show them again and again and again the gospel," Ben said. "You have to say it again and again before they'll take hold of it."

For the past year, Ben has been the GraceYouth Middle School Coordinator

at the SLO Campus, working with 11- to 14-year-olds on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. This year, he will also take on the role of AWANA Commander at Grace.

He says the people who taught and mentored him as he grew up helped fuel his decision to go into vocational ministry.

"I've had so many great teachers, leaders, youth leaders, and pastors pour into my life since I've grown up here," Ben said. "It's really sweet, and I credit all of them with raising me up in the church."

Both Lorraine and Ceslie told me that in their time attending Grace (60 and 41 years, respectively), the church has faced ups and downs, but through it all, they felt called to stay in ministry within this community.

"I'm 85. I'm going to be 86 in the fall. And for me, this is where God wants me to be. Why step back?" Lorraine said. "I want to live with that eternal perspective: I want to outlive myself. And this is a way of doing it."





45 NEW
COVENANT
MEMBERS

25
TOTAL
BAPTISMS

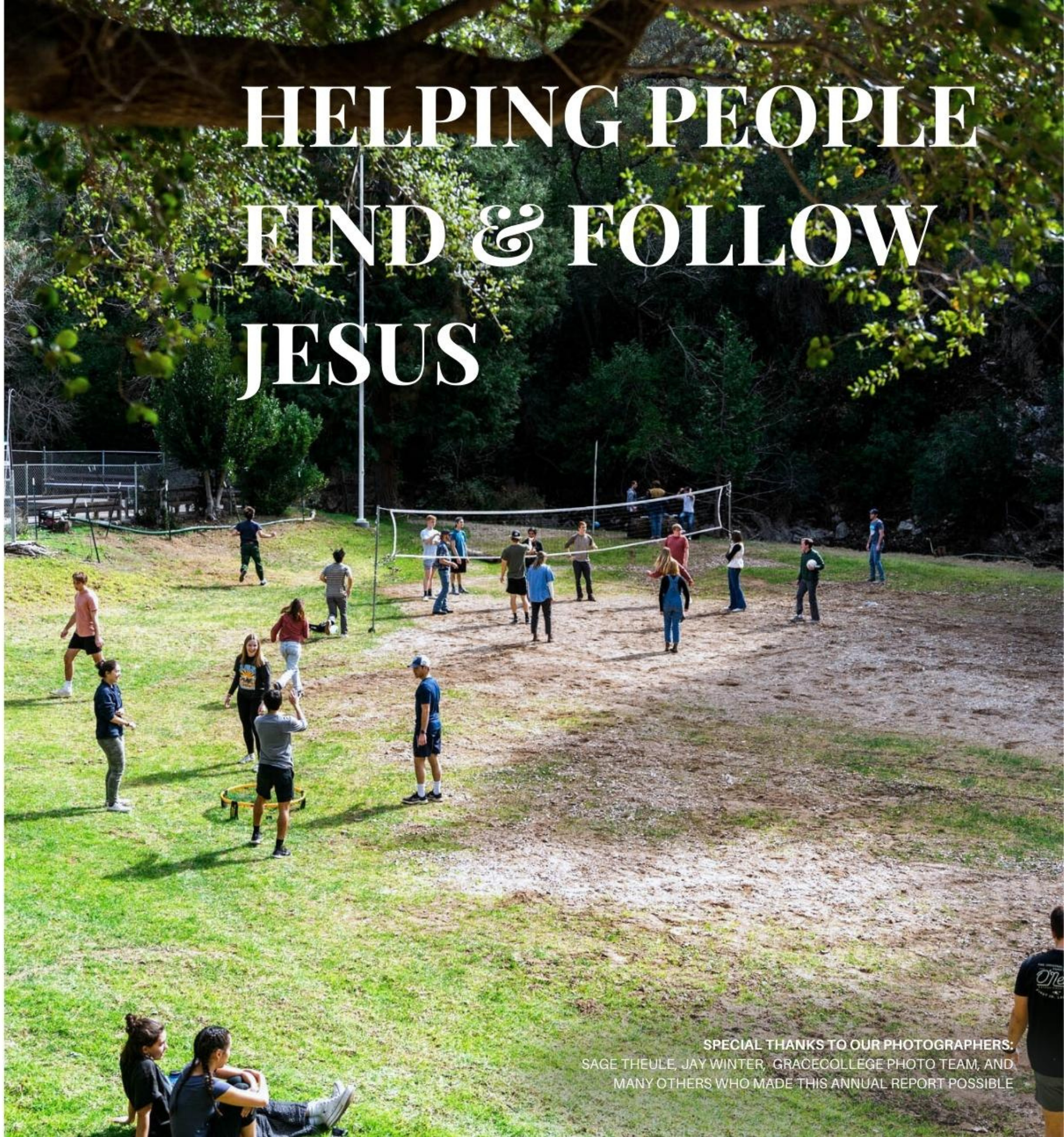
33 PAID
STAFF

62
MUSICIANS
SERVED ON
CAMPUS
WORSHIP
TEAMS

387
ATTENDED
HOMEGROWN

112
MOTHERS
INVOLVED
IN MOPS

HELPING PEOPLE FIND & FOLLOW JESUS



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS:
SAGE THEULE, JAY WINTER, GRACECOLLEGE PHOTO TEAM, AND
MANY OTHERS WHO MADE THIS ANNUAL REPORT POSSIBLE



GRACE
CENTRAL COAST

