



ON MISSION

review

OCTOBER 2022

Celebrating parents
who choose life!

CompassCare story on page 40.

KINGDOM
COME



you are
warmly invited

On Mission Review isn't able to hold all the news on what God is doing through Kingdom Come and our ministry partners! That is why we created On Mission Online. We can't wait to share with you exciting partner updates, inspiring stories, and prayer requests at thechapel.com/kingdomcome.

Be sure to also check out our monthly podcast, volunteer opportunities chart, and some other features designed with you in mind. If you would like monthly updates sent directly to your inbox, be sure to subscribe!



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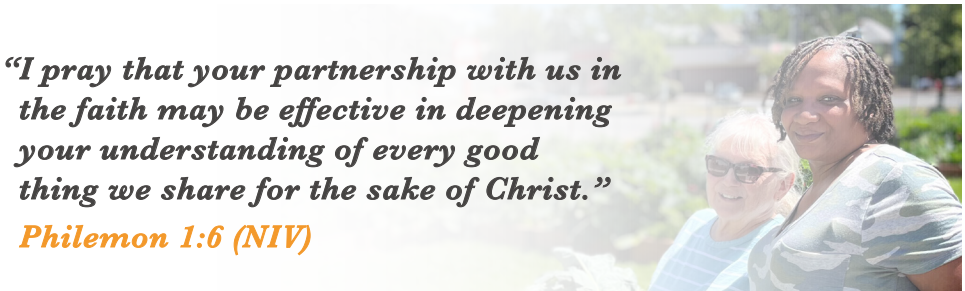
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THANK YOU

for your partnership & support!



**KINGDOM
COME** 



“I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ.”

Philemon 1:6 (NIV)

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Reader,

Have you ever considered what the Apostle Paul meant when he instructed the Colossians to “... ‘clothe’ yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience” (Col. 3:12b)? I’m sure he wasn’t referring to a neon orange tee shirt with these words ostentatiously plastered across the front and back in giant black letters for everyone to see! Although Paul’s instruction might sound poetic, nice, or even easy, it takes real strength and courage to truly live this out in our daily lives. If we are wearing these virtues, we will be different from others and pulled outside of our comfort zones into places that need the light of the gospel. In a sense, we will be wearing our hearts on our sleeves, showing our love for God through loving others. This is a choice we make each time we choose how we interact with another person, from our spouse to the stranger behind us in the grocery store checkout line.

But where do we begin? In his book *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis wrote, “Do not waste time bothering whether you ‘love’ your neighbor; act as if you do, and you will presently come to love him.” For more insights on Paul’s



instructions to the Colossians, we are also engaging the help of our Kingdom Come ministry partners. In this issue of *On Mission Review* we are taking a look at how several of our partners are fleshing out this teaching in their daily lives. We hope their real-life stories and articles will inspire, equip, and mobilize you to live more as a disciple of Jesus each day. Because these stories, along with each of our own stories, become part of the Greater Story of reaching every man, woman, and child with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

For the sake of the Kingdom,

Amy Tartick



— Want to hear —

STORIES & UPDATES

— directly from our partners all —
— over the world? —

Well, we've got you covered!
Tune into Kingdom Come's
monthly podcast for all that
and more. Just search "**Kingdom
Come The Chapel**" wherever you
find your podcasts or visit us on
thechapel.com/kingdomcome!



Kingdom Come | Mars Hill

WHO, HOW, WHAT, AND WHY OF PARTNERSHIPS

by Michael Ramos, Kingdom Come Director



I started to write out a list, off the top of my head, of the many different names of the unique partnerships that we join with in ministry here at The Chapel through Kingdom Come. You can see the complete list in our partner directory in the back of the magazine, or you can go to our website at thechapel.com/kingdomcome and hear more about them in their own voice on our podcasts. Many of the names will reflect some type of positive direction or optimistic goal: Every Child, Patch our Planet, Global Mission, Bridges, Journey, The Rock,

Hope Rising, Prince of Peace, and so on. These are good names, but I just started to reflect more about the “**why**” we partner with them, versus the “**who**” we partner with identity.

I stopped and started to write down **who** they really are to us. Here is what I came up with. They are: church planters, well diggers, Bible translators, culture changers, life exchange guides, disaster recovery specialists, strategy claimers, baby deliverers, food distributors, furniture providers, athlete challengers, independence

drivers, teachers' lifesavers, clothing distributors, bottle and can collectors, refugee representors, children mentors, academic advisors, heart counselors, garden growers, adventure leaders, covert influencers, just to name a few. And all are leading toward being a *Community Engager, a Seed Planter, a Disciple Maker, and/or a Gospel Proclaimer*.

These descriptors might not be accurate, but if you read deeper into what I'm trying to say and reflect on the daily experiences that our partners are invited into, I think you will see the **“how”** and **“what”** our partners do more than just their names listed in our *On Mission Review*.

In Acts 17:16, the Apostle Paul is waiting on his friends, Timothy and Silas, who are on a long walk to meet up with him. And while waiting in the city of Athens he is bothered by all the idols that are influencing the people. So as verse 17 states, Paul “reasoned” with the people. This meant he spent time with them, challenging them to think and live a different way than what they had been used to doing. Later in the same chapter, Paul lets those willing to listen know that *“The God who made*

the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth...” and that *“in him we live and move and have our being.”*

Our partners have been led into the unique life paths of others. Like Paul, they use what they know and see around them and “reason” with all those that God guides into their paths. As Paul took the initiative to invest in the lives of all who would listen, so do our partners, our friends who carry the Good News of Christ!

As I have mentioned before, we hope you are encouraged by what our Kingdom Come friends share of their experiences with discipleship, and how they invest their lives into the lives of others. Through Kingdom Come, we are intentional in partnering with ministries and organizations that we believe seek to make Christ-centered change in the lives of those with whom they engage. My continued hope is that in each of the stories you read, you will be encouraged and challenged by the efforts being made toward leading someone to Christ and by how our partnerships are spending intentional, quality time investing into future spiritual multipliers.

PRESSING FORWARD

by Jerry Gillis, *The Chapel*

Hello, Chapel family!

As we reflect back on the last two years of life and ministry, we see they have been unlike anything we have ever experienced before. 2020-2021 saw the challenge of dealing with a global pandemic and all the difficulty it brought on every level. But even in the midst of that, God has shown Himself faithful to His people and to the local congregation we call The Chapel.

Thankfully, the mission that God has given His people remains unchanged. We are still pressing forward to ensure that **every** man, woman, and child in our region has a repeated opportunity to see, hear, and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The way to reach **every** man, woman, and child in our region is for each man, woman, and child in the Body of Christ to do his/her part in the mission. That's why we continue to press into the vision of seeing every disciple of Jesus fully transformed and mobilized in the mission as they love God, love the Church, and love the world. And that is also why we have structured our ministry to reach into specific geographies, to partner with the greater Body of Christ locally, nationally, and globally, and why we have endeavored to eliminate any debt

in order to free up money to fan the flame of mission here in WNY and all over the world.

This year, as we concluded a five-year focus on these very initiatives, God has shown His faithfulness in remarkable ways. We have a ministry presence in Getzville, Lockport, Cheektowaga, and Niagara Falls. This allows us to target ministry in each of these locations, and has given us an intentionality within those geographies that allows us to meet specific needs and impact those communities with the love and truth of Jesus. While we remain One Church in four locations, we can hold the same mission and vision while tailoring it to the communities we are called to serve.

In addition, we continue to resource the greater Body of Christ in our region, our nation, and around the world through our Kingdom Come partnerships. As you read through this **On Mission Review**, you will find story after story of God's activity in revealing the Kingdom of God among us. We are resourcing these partners through our financial giving, our volunteer service, and through our prayers and strategic counsel. And we are doing all of this TOGETHER! We

have been able to release millions of dollars over the last number of years to amplify the work of God happening all around us. Whether that is planting dozens and dozens of congregations in the greater WNY area, or partnering with families and services to provide homes for children, or providing material goods like food, clothes, school supplies, housing and building repairs, or even partnering globally to enhance Christian education, drill water wells, provide medical care, and create micro-finance opportunities, we are all doing this as we partner together to give, pray, and serve. We pray you have had the joy of joining God on this journey of kingdom generosity!

As we noted last year, we also wanted to see the debt in our ministry retired. Obviously, five years ago we were unable to foresee the world shutting down over a lengthy period of time. But even though forty percent of that five-year window involved a global pandemic, God has allowed us to give generously together to nearly see the finish line of debt retirement. We have only a few more miles to travel to cross the finish line. We encourage you to continue giving and praying so that we can be in a position to be

even more generous as a congregation to fuel the efforts of the kingdom here and around the world. What you have done in faithfulness to God and in overflowing generosity is to be commended – thank God for His kindness to us!

Finally, please know this: God will do His good pleasure among us as we submit ourselves fully to Him. If you aren't praying faithfully for this ministry and the partners we lock arms with, would you begin today? If you aren't serving the Lord somewhere – through our local church or maybe with one of our partner ministries – would you ask the Lord where He wants to use you? And if you aren't giving to the work of The Chapel as we release funds and people into the mission, would you begin today? These challenges are less about needing something *from you*, and more because we want something *for you*. We want you to become more and more transformed and mobilized into the life and work of God's kingdom so that together we can experience the blessing of life in Jesus, and press forward into the amazing mission of reaching every man, woman, and child with the gospel of Jesus Christ!

WHO ARE WE?

by Dwight Smith, Saturation Church Planting



The question, “Who am I?,” sounds quite philosophical. At its root it can be. But Jesus gives His disciples a very practical, easy-to-identify answer.

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35 (ESV)

To what kind of love is Jesus referring? The highly emotional feeling we experience all too often? Or perhaps the glib addition to the end of a phone call with a family member, “Love you”?

In the previous verse, Jesus has already answered the question. “Love as I have loved you.” Love means loving as Jesus lived and loved. Love cannot be separated from living, from action. How did Jesus love them? Jesus’ love, while filled with all kinds of truly human affections, is first and foremost quite distinctive. Biblical love is much more demonstrative than emotive. The disciples could see His love in action.

1. In John 8:28 and 14:24, **Jesus showed them the Father.** “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.” This faithful representation of God the Father is connected to our love of the Father in 14:24. “Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.” Love urges us daily to keep the words of Jesus and the Father.
2. In John 14:10-24, **Jesus showed them obedience.** He concludes the passage, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word... And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.”
3. In Matthew 9:1-13, **Jesus showed them sacrifice in action** – mercy! He concludes the challenge with, “Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but



sinners.”

4. In John 10:7-18, ***Jesus showed them provision for the weaker.***

In verse 15, He emphasizes, “just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

5. In John 14:1-4, ***Jesus showed them a glimpse of eternity.*** “In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?”

Love in action conforms to its intended nature. Love is to be demonstrated! We demonstrate God’s love for us, as seen in Jesus when we:

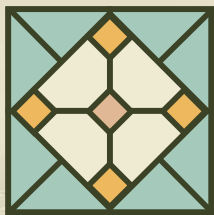
- ***let others see*** our Heavenly Father;
- ***obey*** the words of the Father;
- ***act in mercy***, not just sacrifice;
- ***lay down our lives*** for the weaker, the unprotected;
- ***refresh our commitment to***

eternity as our home, and do not allow ourselves to be fooled into giving too much authority to the world we live in.

We in the global SCP vision want to see every person in the world with an opportunity to be reconciled to God. And we realize that one of the most powerful elements in this vision is the demonstrative power of love in action through our daily lives. Our lives are more important than we think! Churches filled with this kind of distinctive people multiply themselves, and the gospel message is spread naturally across their communities.

Feeding hungry people, building homes for the needy, fighting for political justice, and protesting against the slaughter of unborn babies are all worthy actions. But as important as these things are, they pale in comparison to a life transformed from the inside out through death to sin and resurrection to new life in Jesus.

The promises made to us by God will



CHURCH OF WNY

**The Church of WNY is
not a place or a building.
It is a people: God's
people. The Church of
WNY is growing in unity
in our region to saturate
communities with the
Good News of Jesus Christ.
Come visit us at
churchofwny.com
to see how lives are being
changed through a
personal relationship with
Jesus all across WNY!**



naturally compel a daily holiness to form in us. This is why Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 6:17, "Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them..." Being the children of God, we are to live separate, distinct lives from the world out of which we were rescued but in which we still live. His people are His design.

God does use many other things to call people's attention to His Gospel. *However, it is the shocking impact of a life transformed which calls most to those who are still without Jesus.* A life that was once self-centered and unloving is changed. One which was as stingy, complaining, and manipulative as everyone else is now transformed. What other explanations can be given? The incarnation of growing holiness is a difficult reality to debate!

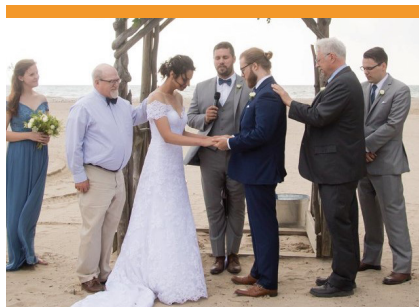
This brings us full circle back to my original contention: our lives are more important than we too often think. For they either corroborate or bring into question what we say!

We have a great need every day to cleanse the defilement of flesh and spirit. We need to guard our hearts and minds in such a way as to give the Spirit of God and the Word of God access to correction and maturing love in action.

This love was designed by the very nature of God, modeled by Jesus our Savior, and is empowered in us through the Holy Spirit. This love was made to be seen!

WHAT DID THE GRADUATES LEARN?

by Paul Decker, *Campus Ambassadors*



I was pondering this question not too long ago. Through the years, I have tweaked my discipleship method, always desiring to become more effective. I am often asked what materials I use to do discipleship. My answer is the same every time and it comes with a smile. I say, “The Bible.” I’m not trying to be funny in spite of the silly grin on my face. Simply put, the Bible is all I need.

I know what many of you are going to say. “Look, that’s not fair. You are in ministry fulltime. You have studied this book almost your whole life.” Those are fair statements. It is a distinct advantage I have. The truth, though, is that the Scriptures are accessible to everyone. There is always something to gain even just reading through it.

This reminds me of one of the saddest conversations I had with one of my parishioners here in Buffalo. Here is what he said to me, “You are a good

speaker, Pastor Paul, but there is nothing ever new to me here. I’ve gone to church all my life. I even went to Bible school. But I’ve heard everything before. I know all the stories. There is nothing new for me.”

I have never had that experience. It seems to me that the more I study, the more gems I find. Often a student will hear me say, “I’ve never seen this before. This is the coolest thing ever!” It’s not like I have never read or studied the passage before. It is just that knowledge builds on knowledge.

This happened recently when I was studying the book of Numbers with Chris. I know what you are thinking. Numbers? Yes, Numbers. The student chooses what book we will study and Chris chose Numbers. Admittedly, I never did a sermon series on Numbers, nor do I ever recall doing a Bible study on it. That being said, as he was reading it out loud, I was getting more and more excited, because I saw motifs that begin in Genesis and finish in Revelation.

One example of why I think I have the greatest job in the world is that I get to watch students become excited about studying God’s Word, and then see them challenged to live it out in the secular environment. I asked one of

my former students, Rachel (Dorogi) Carbrey, about her experience in the one-on-ones we did together.

Paul: What do you remember about our first meetings?

Rachel: You would often start our meetings with a funny story you had just remembered, or something interesting that happened to you, usually ending with a pun. We'd laugh together, and then we dug into the deeper stuff. I really appreciated your willingness to laugh as well as your willingness to ask tough questions.

Paul: What did we study together?

Rachel: We studied Ruth, Esther, and 1 Samuel together.

Paul: What are some big life lessons you learned?

Rachel: You helped me realize I need to be more patient with myself. You helped me become more self-aware, and most importantly, to trust God in new and essential ways. Your confidence in Christ was instrumental in the building up of my faith.

Paul: Any conversation that was particularly memorable?

Rachel: You loved to retell how you saw my husband and me fall in love before we even knew ourselves. Your assurance and approval meant so much to us.

(Paul: I had the privilege of watching the light turn on when she realized marrying

Paul was the right thing to do and that it was what she wanted to do. There is more to this story, but trust me — it was a Holy Spirit moment.)

Paul: What is the long-term benefit of our one-on-one relationship?

Rachel: I do hope to, and have begun to mentor others as you cared for us as your students.

Doing one-on-ones was incredibly helpful for me during some difficult years in my life. I am thankful for your stability and honesty in helping to guide me through this crazy life. You saw us as your children and wanted the best for us, and it meant the world to me to know someone like that had my back. I hope one day to support others the way you mentored us and built us up in our faith.

Paul: Where are you now?

Rachel: Currently, I am happily married (for three years!) and teaching special education after graduating with a Master's degree. I am continuing to pursue God and love my neighbors daily.

(Paul: Rachel did her undergraduate degree at St. Bonaventure University and received her graduate degree at Buffalo State College in 2020.)

Campus Ambassadors is on university and college campuses across the United States and Mexico, forming communities through which students are transformed by the power of Jesus Christ.

THE GOSPEL AND A CUP OF COFFEE

by Matthew Johnson, 716 Ministries



“Can we make a difference with how we consume the coffee we drink?” This question led to the creation of Three Stories Coffee company, a direct trade, locally roasted, not-for-profit company in 2017. On March 7, 2022, 716 Ministries expanded this original project by opening Three Stories Coffee and Café, a full-service coffee shop and café located in the historic Broadway-Fillmore district on Buffalo’s East Side.

Three Stories Coffee and Café represents the latest social enterprise of 716 Ministries. Each business that we start is about redefining the bottom line: creating access to programs and services that make a real difference in the communities we serve. We don’t hire people to sell coffee, we sell coffee to hire people.

General manager Herm Cooks says, “Our staff looks like the neighborhood, and the future will be bright for the

members of our team.” Cooks, a Buffalo native and trustee of True Bethel Baptist church, brings more than 30 years of culinary experience as well as an unwavering commitment to living out his faith in Christ through service to others.

716 Ministries’ approach to living and sharing the gospel is multifaceted. In addition to Three Stories Coffee and Café, our social enterprise businesses also include BUILD 716, a licensed residential and commercial construction company, and SERVE 716, a facilities management company providing maintenance, landscaping, and janitorial services. These create employment and career building opportunities for people throughout the 716 area code. Employees work with staff to gain skills and set career goals for opportunities within 716 Ministries and beyond. These social enterprise businesses not only provide employment, training, and career opportunities, they also help fund TRAIN 716, the workforce development component of 716 Ministries. Participants in our workforce development programs are primarily people from underserved communities, asylum seekers, refugees, and individuals recovering from addiction.

The heart of our workforce development program is TRAIN 716 Work Readiness, a life skills program that is rooted in Scripture and instructed by 716 Ministries staff and volunteer Christian instructors. All 716 staff, from directors to new hires, complete this program as it is central to what we do. Lessons include conflict resolution, time management, budgeting, communication, resume building, vocational/career planning, and mock interviewing. These lessons create an environment and space to build relationships and have important conversations. Each participant in the program works with a mentor who provides an extra layer of support. It is often in these relationships with mentors and instructors where people have the opportunity to see, hear, and respond to the gospel.

TRAIN 716 also runs credentialed programs in construction and customer service through which participants earn nationally recognized certifications and are connected with employers upon program completion. Beginning in October, Three Stories Coffee and Café will serve as the hands-on training site for participants in the customer service program. In addition, 716 Ministries hires directly from these programs and continues to provide training and mentoring.

So every cup of coffee, breakfast sandwich, or lunch panini that you buy at Three Stories Coffee and Café supports a coffee farmer,

provides employment and training for a 716 employee, funds workforce development training, and helps create time and space for a mentor or instructor to live and share the gospel with native Buffalonians and new neighbors from around the world. Plus, the coffee is excellent, and the food is delicious!

There are multiple ways to get involved in this ministry. We are always looking for mentors and instructors to invest in the lives of our program participants and employees. We provide training for both instructors and mentors. It is a fantastic opportunity to live and share your faith. Our staff and volunteers learn, grow, gain wisdom, and build lasting relationships by spending time with the amazing people that go through our programs and by listening to their stories. You often gain as much or more than you give.

Please consider supporting 716 Ministries through your prayers, by volunteering, or by stopping at Three Stories Coffee and Café (1021 Broadway, Buffalo, NY) for some delicious food and a cup of coffee.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE?

If you are interested in mentoring, contact Sarah Welton-Lair at sweltonlair@716ministries.org.

If you are interested in becoming an instructor, contact Matt Johnson at mjohnson@716ministries.org.

FROM DARKNESS TO GOD'S MARVELOUS LIGHT

by Malini Asirvatham, Hindustan Bible Institute & College



Editor's note: this story contains adult themes and might not be suitable for young children.

About seven years ago, God gave me an opportunity to visit one of the red-light areas in West Bengal. The day I walked through the area broke my heart as I saw young girls who were sold to the flesh trade.

When I saw several children in the colony and inquired about them, I understood that they were the children of these workers. I started to interact

with these kids trying to find out what they wanted to become when they grew up. One of them was a pretty 12-year-old girl. I asked her about her future plans, and she told me that she wanted to become an English teacher. That truly encouraged me. But then I heard a few of the women that followed me laughing as this little girl gave her response.

I asked them the reason for their laughter and one of the women told me, "The girl thinks she is going to be a teacher, but next year she will

be enrolled into this trade and her mother will make the biggest money as this girl is a virgin.”

It just broke my heart. I came back to our center with a lot of pain and tears, not knowing how to handle this grave situation. When I was praying to the Lord about this challenge, God laid on my heart to educate the children so that they can have a better future other than getting drawn into this ruinous and immoral trade.

God enabled the ministries of HBI to start a program for these children called “Drop In Center.” Our center staff volunteered to teach these children to read, write, and do math. This then created an interest in them to go to school. At the Drop In Center, they are taught biblical values as well. What we started as a small initiative has now resulted in more than 250 children in attendance.

Praise God, now more than 70% of the children are enrolled in the local schools. They come to our center

in the afternoon and stay until the evening. At the center, our staff shows them God’s love, helps them to do their homework, and teaches them biblical values.

One girl’s story: My name is Roshni. I never liked to go school and my mother never forced me to go because she was very happy that I stayed at home and did domestic work. But one day I was invited to the Drop In Center. When I attended the first class, I got a lot of interest to study. I started going to school regularly and to the Center also. Today, I have completed my 10th grade and whatever I am is because of the Drop In Center. I want to thank all of you who are helping me in my studies. I want to thank Jesus.

Through the work of the Drop In Center, we are seeing many lives transformed, and we give all the glory and honor to our living God! After seven years of our efforts, God has done tremendous work among these people:

- We have 250 children attend our Drop In Center on a regular basis.



- Almost 70% of the children in the slum are going to nearby government schools.
- Some of the children go to work but after work they come in for special tutoring in our Center.
- When they come to the Center, they come neatly dressed, clean, and properly groomed.
- Ten of the teenagers have personally understood the love of Christ and have accepted Christ. They regularly attend the church at our Center.
- About eight mothers have accepted Christ and are part of the church.
- We have started an adult literacy program for the mothers of these children and 32 mothers are attending the program.
- We have direct access to all the homes of these children. We visit regularly and pray with the family.
- We are invited to all their family

functions and community celebrations.

We continue to work with these children. Our desire is that none of the children go into that ruinous trade but instead be educated, grow in the Lord, and have a bright future.

From our Kingdom Come team:

A very special note of congratulations to Malini Asirvatham, who is now serving as Executive Vice President of this organization! Please join us in praying for Malini as she undertakes this role, that God would continue to use, strengthen, and give her wisdom for His glory!

Hindustan Bible Institute is committed to giving every man, woman, boy and girl an opportunity to hear, understand and respond to the gospel and be disciplined into worshipping communities by developing God-class transformational leaders in the context of formal, non-formal, cross cultural and next generation leaders to disciple the whole nation of India.



DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY ↕

Have you asked any of these **questions...**

What is sin and why do I need to be saved from it?

What is baptism?

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus
Christ and grow in Him?

How is a Christian supposed to live?

These are great questions for anyone seeking a deeper relationship with God to ask. We want to help! You are invited to join us as we walk through a series of learning environments called The **Discipleship Pathway**. Whether you're a new believer or a well-seasoned Christian, the Pathway is designed to encourage and strengthen you as a follower of Christ. At each step you will gain greater biblical understanding, connect with like-minded people, and become better equipped to live out your faith.



Visit thechapel.com/discipleship
for more information.



A TASTE OF KINGDOM COME

by Abigail Largis, The Chapel

Hospitality gives us an opportunity to celebrate different cultures, upbringings, personalities, and abilities. It is an offering to those around you, an act of service that communicates humility and love. We are called to love and serve people. With a “yes” on the table, the Lord can use the smallest offering to soften even the hardest heart. God can transform our offer of a cup of tea or a batch of cookies into an extraordinary blessing!

In an effort to inspire your inner host or hostess, the Kingdom Come team presents a collection of recipes from our partners across the globe.

These recipes have been used to bring people together for community and fellowship in all sorts of contexts (and flavors). We hope that you, too, will use them to serve, bless, and celebrate those around you. More handpicked recipes from our partners can be found on our website at thechapel.com/kingdomcome.

May the Lord bless your table and give you opportunities to share His Son with those you welcome into your home.

“Taste and see that the Lord is good...” Psalm 34:8a.



ARABIC COFFEE



INGREDIENTS

2 cups + 2T water
3 T finely ground light roast coffee or 4 T beans to grind fresh
1 T cardamom pods (green), coarsely ground
1 clove, whole
saffron, small pinch
½ tsp rose water (for cooking)
sugar, as needed

Optional: add cream.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prewarm your serving coffee pot with hot water. (Note: Remember to empty it before filling with your Arabic coffee!)
2. In a small saucepan, bring the water to boil.
3. Add coffee and bring to a boil. Once boiling, lower heat and simmer for 10 minutes.
4. Add cardamom and clove and simmer for another 5 minutes.
5. Remove from heat and stir in rose water and saffron.
6. Strain the coffee through a sieve into the EMPTY coffee pot.
7. Serve immediately in small espresso-sized cups. Add cream and sugar to taste.

Bonus tip from Abby:

Try it with baklava!

Courtesy of Israel Firstfruits in honor of Naeem, their coffee connoisseur. (Adapted from Arabic Qahwa with Cardamom, linsfood.com)

PIKLIZ

This bright and fiery Haitian condiment (pronounced “pick-leees”) is traditionally served with other Haitian dishes such as griot (fried pork), poulet (chicken), tassot (goat or beef), or alongside plantains.

Pikliz plays a staple role at meal times.

Mix together in a bowl:

- ½ green cabbage, shredded
- ½ green bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 2 carrots, grated
- ½ white onion, sliced in strips
- ½ purple onion, sliced in strips

Mix in a food processor or blender:

- 2-3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 green shallots
- 1 habanero or scotch bonnet pepper, remove stems
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes
- ¼ cup vinegar
- Juice of one large lime

Pour blender mixture over vegetables, and mix together. Refrigerate leftovers.



Courtesy of Mission of Hope, Haiti



ALWAYS PRAY & NOT LOSE HEART

by Bernie Elliot, Covenant Church

Jesus once told a parable in the hopes that His followers would “always pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1 ESV). As many of us know too well, however, it is easy to become discouraged in prayer. Heaven’s cell service, as we perceive it, seems spotty. People we love suffer heartache and hardship. Members of our community appear unresponsive to the gospel.

Many years ago, David Wells wrote an article on the nature of prayer as rebellion – “rebellion against the world in its fallenness, the absolute and undying refusal to accept as normal what is pervasively abnormal.” Covenant Church was planted with this “rebellious” DNA.

We were unwilling to accept living in a community in Central New York with inadequate access to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since planting, we have endeavored to be a people of prayer. One specific thing we have been praying for is “that God may open a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ” (Colossians 4:3). We have been praying that this would happen in the context of relationships at home, in our schools, and in the workplace. And God has been extraordinarily gracious.

Some months ago, Deb asked me and others to pray for her brother, Tim. He had attended a church many years ago but had ultimately



rejected Christ. The Lord gave Deb a recent opportunity to have another pointed gospel conversation with him, and for the last six weeks, Tim has been worshipping with Covenant. This past week he met me for coffee and shared that he was overwhelmed by the idea of the resurrection of Jesus. Through God's gracious encouragement, we have not lost heart and will continue to pray for Tim's salvation.

This past year, Jeremy and Tricia, one of the couples that were part of our core team, took a homeless high school student into their home. George has been regularly attending our worship services for the past eight weeks and people

in the congregation are building relationships with him. He was thrilled weeks ago when we gave him his own Bible. Once again, through God's gracious encouragement, we have not lost heart and will continue to pray for George to be reconciled to his Creator.

Tom and Doug, two members of Covenant, both work in the same office. They share space with Nicole. Nicole was raised as a nominal Catholic and, while she attended sporadically during childhood, she stopped going altogether in her teenage years. Tom and Doug frequently and openly have conversations about Christ and the church. She began attending after



a simple invite. Tom began to send her the songs that the congregation would sing the next Sunday because they were so unfamiliar to her. This enabled her to engage the gospel in song throughout the week. And again, through God’s gracious encouragement, we have not lost heart and will continue to pray that Nicole might accept, receive, and rest in Christ Jesus alone.

Toward the end of his article David Wells wrote, “Petitionary prayer... flourishes where there is a twofold belief: first, that God’s name is hallowed too irregularly, His kingdom has come too little, and His will is done too infrequently; second, that God Himself can change this situation.” We have looked around at our community and have seen the fruit of unbelief. Although we live in a “put together” suburban community, we see families in turmoil, marriages splintering, and people in the cruel grip of substances. God’s name is not set apart as holy in Baldwinsville. Many do not even acknowledge a Creator. We know a new congregation can’t ultimately change that. The Holy Spirit alone can change the hearts of those mired in rebellion and the resulting ruin. And so, we pray. We pray knowing that God will “give justice to His elect, who cry to him day and night” (Luke 18:7). A wise old Scottish Bible teacher remarked, “The really vital question is not whether God will respond to



prayer, but whether there will be faithful people who have persisted in prayer.”

May God’s Spirit continue to strengthen us to be a people of prayer as we pray for Tim, George, Nicole, and others like them. And may God’s Kingdom come in Baldwinsville, in Central New York, in these United States, and to the farthest reaches of the globe.

Covenant Church exists to glorify God by equipping all of Christ’s people to live faithful lives of worship as we give every man, woman, and child in our community repeated opportunities to hear and respond to the gospel without coming or going anywhere.

HOPE IS ALIVE

by Steve Tybor and Chandler Gurley, *Eight Days of Hope*



Do you believe hope is alive? Have you heard the word so much that it has lost its meaning? Give us a few minutes to assure you that hope isn't just an overused term and that it is very much alive today.

The world defines hope as expecting something to happen. When we are hopeful, we desire for a certain need or dream to be met. As followers of Jesus, hope isn't just an expectation with an outcome to follow, it is much more than that.

“This **hope** we have as an anchor of the soul, a **hope** both sure and steadfast” (Hebrews 6:19 NASB).

At Eight Days of Hope, we are faced with many families that are expectant, desiring help after natural and human disasters. Many are at their lowest - desiring or dreaming isn't a reality anymore. Hope seems to have slipped away and has the potential of never returning.

“But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the **hope** of salvation” (1 Thessalonians 5:8).

What do you do when you are standing in the doorway of a home that has been hit by an EF-4 tornado,

or is dripping with flood waters from a hurricane? What do you do when a survivor of the fastest growing crime in the world needs a safe place to receive help and healing? Where is hope at that moment, and is it strong enough to offer peace, relief, and assurance?

“If indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the **hope** of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven” (Colossians 1:23).

See, hope isn’t something you or I can manufacture or create out of nothing. It has to be strong, unwavering, and sure. Families walking through the devastation of a storm or trauma that the human body has endured need a hope that doesn’t just produce a result, but that has a heartbeat.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through

the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3).

Hope is sure because Jesus is sure.
Hope is strong because Jesus is strong.
Hope matters because Jesus matters.
Hope is alive because Jesus is alive.

Today and every day, we have to hope. We must believe that Jesus is the very definition of hope. A promise that He will never leave nor forsake us. An assurance that He is able to handle the burdens caused by wind, water, and people, as well as the situation you are walking through right now. A hope that doesn’t move. An anchor. One that will never be shaken.

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, **fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ**” (1 Peter 1:13).

It is very simple to test if hope is alive in your life. Is Jesus?



Eight Days of Hope (EDOH) is a Christian nonprofit organization that exists to love and serve those in need. Through disaster relief, safe house construction, and feeding, EDOH strives to bring help and hope on a moment’s notice.

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS HAS MANY FACES

by Jeff Hackett, MissionGO



Short-term missions can look very different in diverse settings and cultures. I am talking about the method of missions. A generalized picture of short-term missions is when a group of people, often from the same church, travel together for a week or two to a different country. There they serve the missionaries and the nationals in proclaiming the gospel. These trips can be very important and effective if done properly. The leader can have many goals for the group such as proclaiming the gospel, sharing testimonies, assisting a ministry in outreach or

construction, encouraging the missionaries, and bringing resources to meet various needs. All of these are good and show compassion, kindness, and love. But often this is done only from the perspective of the short-term traveler, which can lead to a “look what we did” attitude and mindset.

There must be more to short-term missions than just what we “DO.” A short-term mission experience must include elements of teaching, education, discipleship, and relationship building. The groups must learn to question “Why are we doing this? What are



the effects of what we are doing? How is this experience changing me to be more like Christ?" We live in a culture where wealth, when compared to most of the world, is commonplace. We love when we can take money to poorer cultures and bless them with food, clothing, and other needs. But many times we don't ask the question, "Is this helping them or hurting them?" It comes back to learning from the missionaries and asking questions. I love to take people on all sorts of mission trips; for example, medical, construction, first responders, and serving with ministries who deal with human trafficking, orphans, and education. But if all we do is go and "DO," we have missed so much of what God wants to "DO" in us!

Recently I took a small group from WNY to Costa Rica. The missionaries showed us a video on poverty, and many in the group were moved. As we discussed what we learned from the missionaries, the group realized how they can serve within their own local community with a different perspective than they had before the trip.

On another recent trip with a group of high school seniors to the Dominican Republic, one of the students revealed he had been questioning his faith. After many discussions and hearing the testimony of a missionary, he renewed his relationship with Christ.

Short-term missions is a part of discipleship and our spiritual journey in becoming more and more like Jesus.

Any short-term mission experience should lead us into more missional living daily. If I am not moved to show compassion, kindness, gentleness, patience, and grace to the people I interact with daily after a trip, then I “missed the mark” in allowing the Holy Spirit to transform me.

Missions should not be associated only with travel. If I serve with my local city mission, my church, or food bank, I am doing missions. If I share my testimony with a co-worker, neighbor, or friend, I am doing missions. If I assist someone with special needs or the elderly, I am doing missions. If I sit with someone just to be with them, I am doing missions. We can learn so much about God and His love by serving, listening to, and loving others.

Are you living missionally? Maybe getting outside your comfort zone and doing a short-term mission trip will be what God uses to transform your heart to be more like His.

Jeff has served in missions full time over the last 18+ years. He serves local churches in WNY and North America to help them mobilize their people for missions. He trains and travels with groups to Central America and the Caribbean.

MissionGO encourages and serves missionaries who are called by the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord as He leads them in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



IT ONLY TAKES THREE CIRCLES

Have you ever wanted to share your faith with family or friends, but didn't know how? One way is to turn everyday conversations about our "broken world" into conversations about Christ. The goal of explaining the Three Circles to our friends and family is to help us share our faith easily and prayerfully, and to see them respond.

The Three Circles illustrates God's design, our brokenness, and the good news of the gospel. And all you need is just a pen and paper, or even a napkin!

So how do you start the conversation? It could go something like this:

"I believe that we live in a broken world, full of hurting people who hurt each other. We try to escape brokenness by focusing on things like money, drugs, gambling, or other hurtful things. But all this just leads to greater brokenness. It can look like this."

Draw a circle and label it "Brokenness."

Draw a jagged line through the center showing a broken world.



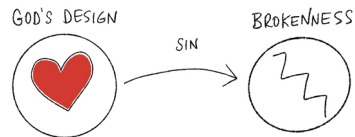
Start a second circle on the left and write "God's Design" above it.



"But 'brokenness' was not God's original design. God's design was perfect, like Himself, with no brokenness present."

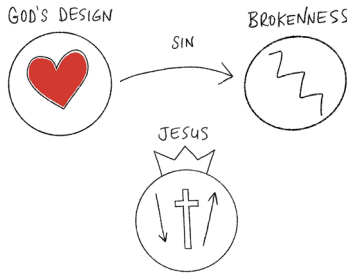
Then, draw a heart to symbolize God's love.

Next, draw an arrow from God's Design to Brokenness and label it "Sin."



"Each of us has rebelled against God and walked away from His perfect design. The Bible calls this rebellion sin, and this leaves us in brokenness. Are you familiar with the concept of sin? Have you seen this in your own life?"

Now, draw a third circle below and between the first two and write “Jesus” above it.



“God saw that we could not escape our brokenness on our own, so God demonstrated His love towards us!”

Draw a down-arrow below Jesus’ name inside the circle.

“God sent Jesus to the earth. Jesus is perfect and lived a perfect life, because He is God.”

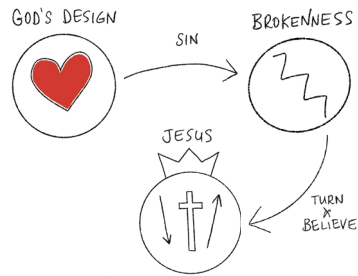
Next draw a cross next to the down-arrow.

“He suffered a horrible death on a cross to take our sin upon Himself.”

Then draw an up-arrow next to the cross.

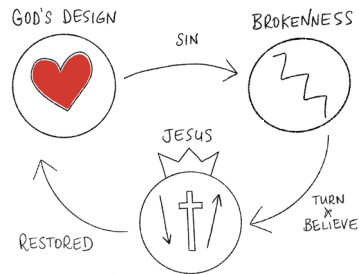
“Then Jesus rose again proving that He has power over sin and death! He’s alive!”

Now, draw a line from Brokenness to Jesus, draw a king’s crown, and write “Turn and Believe.”



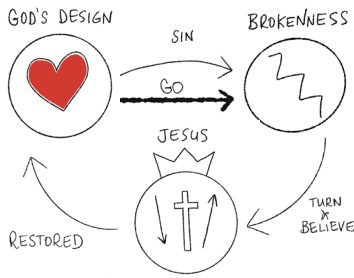
“Jesus tells all people to repent and turn from their sins. He also tells us to believe that He died for your sins and that God raised Him from the dead. Jesus wants you to follow Him as king of your life. Jesus promises that if you do that, you will be forgiven and restored back to God’s design!”

Draw a line from Jesus to God’s Design and label it “Restored.”



“If we turn and believe in Jesus, we leave this world of brokenness and are restored into a relationship with God to pursue His design.”

Draw a line from God’s Design to Brokenness and write “Go” above it.



“More than that, God then sends us back into this “Brokenness” to tell others about the Good News of Jesus Christ.”

After the diagram is drawn ask: *“Where do you see yourself? Are you in God’s perfect design or are you currently in brokenness?”*

Their answer to this will show you where they see themselves in relation to God and give them an opportunity to respond to follow Jesus. If ready, ask this question:

“Would you like to ask Jesus into your life right now? It’s a faith step through prayer, and prayer is talking with God. God knows your heart and is not so

concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. If you are ready, you can pray words something like this:

Lord Jesus I need You. Thank you for dying on the cross in my place for my sins. I believe in You. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of my life and make me the kind of person You want me to be.

The Bible tells us that, “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:12-13).

** Three Circle concept used with permission from NAMB.*

WANT TO GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

For answers to questions you might have or resources to help you understand how to grow in your relationship with God, email us at thechapel.com/contact-us.



COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community Groups at The Chapel enable us to Love God, Love the Church, and Love the World by using the strength of relationships. Walking through life alongside our brothers and sisters not only grows honest friendships, but also deepens our nearness to God. To discover more about Community Groups or to find a group meeting near you, please visit thechapel.com/community.



WHEN WE SAY NEVER, GOD SAYS "WATCH ME"

by Abigail Largis

with Alex & Sherri Belmar of Christ Together/Presidir

Have you ever said “no” or “never again” to God? Perhaps He wanted you to talk to that person that you just don’t like, or perhaps He was nudging you to step out of your comfort zone and you just were not going to do it... again. How well did that work out for you?

This story is of God’s unifying movement currently sweeping through the Church in Barcelona, Spain. But it surprisingly started with an “I am never doing that again, Lord” declaration. Alex and Sherri Belmar have lived and served all over the globe. They are on fire for the Lord and the pursuit of gospel saturation on a global scale. Passionate specifically for the Spanish-speaking church, the Belmars have spent the last several years of their ministry working to develop the Hispanic Church in South and Central America, as well as in the United States. In the 90’s, they also spent some time in Spain. Alex, after he and Sherri felt called elsewhere by the Lord, claimed that he would never return to Spain for

ministry. The Lord had different plans.

In 2019, Alex received a call from our own Pastor Jerry Gillis, inviting Alex to go on a trip to Spain with him to network, brainstorm, and dream about the Church there. Alex knew after that trip that God was on the move, specifically in Barcelona. Since then, a group of about 150 pastors from several denominations and backgrounds have come together under one goal: gospel saturation. The pastors in Barcelona are unifying in a way that the Church in Spain has never seen before.

Most of the pastors that Alex works with are bi-vocational. This means that they have a separate full-time job to pay the bills, and their ministry work is on the side. Many of them work full time in the secular world and are only able to devote two to three hours a day on ministry work. That doesn’t even take into account the demands and expectations of being a husband or father. It is very difficult to be a full-time, funded

pastor without a formal theological education. For most, that goal is out of reach. Thus, juggling two jobs is necessary to survive. Using the Christ Together material that has successfully trained, equipped, and mobilized many pastors in the United States, Alex is working to bridge this education gap to disciple and build up better pastors, leaders, and missionaries for Christ.

One of the foundational tools he uses is Christ Together's *Gospel Saturation Primer*. This primer was "designed to be one such tool that works to understand God's mission through His church. We want to create a shared language for a shared culture sent on a shared mission" (pg. 3). The key word here is shared. We are all on one mission – whether we are looking at the Church of WNY or the Church in Barcelona, Spain. That mission is to advance the Kingdom of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the only thing that can truly unify the historically divided Church in Barcelona.

Marked by conflict, persecution, and nationalism, Spain has struggled with societal and cultural division for a very long time. This has contributed to a phenomenon that is similar to what we see in the States: resistance to the Church except in the rare seasons of partying for the sake of tradition (holidays and

festivals). This exploitative and, at times, heretical use of the gospel and the Bible is a great challenge to overcome for Christians in Spain. In many ways, Alex shared that they want to do things differently. Why not celebrate what the Lord has done today? We don't have to wait! We have something to celebrate every day. This authentic, daily celebration of what Christ has done for us is what pierces through division, hesitancy, and resistance.

If we believe that God's mission is for every man, woman, and child to be transformed by the gospel (i.e. gospel saturation), how is God going to accomplish this? The answer is through the mobilization of His Church. God mobilized Alex back to Spain to train, disciple, and mobilize pastors who can then do the same with their congregations. Addition quickly turns to multiplication. "We must believe that the church's greatest asset to seeing a movement of God rests not in the gifts and abilities of our current leaders, but the seed of the gospel that lies within every transformed follower of Jesus" (pg. 34-35 of Primer). We all have a part. Alex recognized this and moved forward in anticipation of what God was going to do. The pastors he continues to mentor and train are anticipating the same. Are you?

THAT IS JUST WHAT I NEED!

by Jim Harden, CompassCare



Through prayer, mentoring, and ethical medical care, the Church through CompassCare faithfully served Lily, helping reorient her to a proper relationship with her Creator and her preborn baby.

After making an appointment with us, Lily* arrived at our CompassCare office in physical distress. The receptionist, seeing her suffering, quickly responded to her need by alerting her nurse, who gently guided her into an exam room, giving Lily a basin and some anti-nausea medication.

After her nurse got her as comfortable as possible, Lily shared that she suffered from severe nausea when pregnant. She thought she needed to abort because she couldn't handle being so sick with no support. On top of this, Lily had just left her abusive boyfriend and was worried this pregnancy would prevent her from moving on with her life. She confessed that she just wanted this pregnancy behind her so she could feel better and move on with her life. As Lily talked, she visibly relaxed, confiding in her nurse that she felt better just having someone listen to her.

When her nurse performed an ultrasound exam, it revealed an eight-week-old baby with a strong heartbeat. Though visibly moved, Lily remained convinced she needed an abortion.

Lily's nurse offered her two things that got to the core of her true need. First, a right relationship with her Savior, Jesus Christ. When presented with the gospel, Lily leaped at the chance to have a relationship with God. She repented of her sins and surrendered her life to Jesus!

Second, Lily's nurse offered her a friend to support her, a MotherCare mentor. These mentors are mature Christian women, equipped to walk alongside each mother through pregnancy and beyond. MotherCare is designed to connect women from local churches with CompassCare patients for ongoing care and support. Lily responded eagerly, "That is just what I need!" Before leaving, Lily set up another appointment. Shortly thereafter, the PrayerNet team was alerted through email to pray for Lily as she went home to finalize her decision about the pregnancy.

Lily connected with her MotherCare mentor, Valerie, who instantly took her under her wing, happily and generously serving this young mom. Yet Lily still struggled with her pregnancy decision and nearly canceled her return appointment with CompassCare. Valerie stepped up again by offering to give her a ride and watch her other kids during the appointment, which Lily gratefully accepted.



Lily was still stressed about the pregnancy, but again her nurse noticed her relaxing as she was given time to share her feelings. Her nurse told Lily she remained committed to helping her and giving her the support she needed. Lily confessed she had an abortion appointment set up for that week. Unwilling to give up, Lily's nurse offered to meet with her again beforehand, so Lily scheduled a third appointment.

For five long days, neither CompassCare nor her MotherCare mentor heard from Lily. Another PrayerNet went out asking for prayer on her behalf. Then Valerie received a text from Lily saying she had changed her mind about the abortion, that she was keeping her baby, and wanted to connect again!

Lily has since given birth and is joyfully parenting her baby girl, Janelle. Janelle would have been aborted if not for the love and care of the Church acting through CompassCare. Lily's ongoing friendship with her MotherCare mentor has proven critical to her ability to carry her baby to term and to parent. Valerie regularly visits with Lily. They study the Bible together, and she continues to be a

source of counsel and support for Lily and her family.

Lily is one of hundreds of stories of how the Church, through CompassCare, is standing strong on behalf of women and their preborn boys and girls, for God's glory.

CompassCare is a pro-life organization providing ethical medical care and comprehensive community support to women seriously considering abortion with the mission of "erasing the need for abortion by transforming a woman's fear into confidence."

**Disclaimer: Names and details have been changed to protect patient confidentiality.*

WANT TO SERVE AS A MOTHERCARE MENTOR?

MotherCare is designed to connect mature Christian women from local churches with CompassCare patients for ongoing care and support. Contact CompassCare's Resource Coordinator, Cyndi Perry by emailing cyndi.perry@compasscare.info to learn more.

THE GOSPEL WRAPPED IN A SANDWICH:

AN INTERVIEW WITH NICK CALANDRA,
HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS

by Amy Tartick, The Chapel



Waking up each morning rain or shine without a roof over their head or a place to call home is a reality for literally thousands of people in Erie County. Homelessness knows no racial, ethnic, or gender limitations as it impacts men, women, and children of all ages. There are several remarkable ministries reaching into the homeless community to offer food, clothing, and other essentials while building relationships that can

lead others to meet Jesus as Savior and Lord.

For more than 30 years, Hearts for the Homeless has been wrapping the gospel in a sandwich and offering life-giving food to people who live on the streets of Buffalo, NY. We recently connected with Nicholas (Nick) Calandra, who serves at the helm of Hearts as president and CEO of the ministry. Nick is a husband and father of two boys. He has a special story and

insights to share, so please settle in and join us for the conversation.

On Mission (OM): It is great to have you with us, Nick. Could we begin with you sharing about your journey and how you were connected with Hearts for the Homeless (Hearts)?

Nick: I feel blessed to be leading Hearts, and am grateful for being motivated daily to learn and grow as a leader and person of faith. I appreciate more and more the opportunity to be involved in vocational ministry where I can serve God and lead others to significantly impact lives by nourishing them physically and spiritually. Now it is important to note I didn't always have such a conviction in my outlook. I've been involved with Hearts for well over 10 years now. Several years into my time, things changed significantly for me. Although I can point to the afternoon I accepted the free gift from God and gave my life to Jesus, not everything changed overnight. That moment was the start of my trust and belief that I couldn't do "it" alone but that I could only do "it" with Jesus - that I needed Him. The "it" being everything. From that moment on, trusting in God's timing versus my timing was the beginning of a lifelong journey to truly serve the Kingdom with the gifts God has given me. Interestingly, my salvation happened during an altar call by Pastor Eric Johns at the annual Christmas Eve dinner where Hearts

was feeding the homeless in the Forbes Theater located in the former Buffalo Christian Center. Because I had family members in ministry, I had been attending and helping with the event since I was a young child. It is amazing to see how God puts moments and experiences in our lives! To this day, the annual Christmas Eve dinner is my favorite event of the year. Without going on forever, because it is easy to do when such dramatic change occurs in one's life, I'd summarize my journey to salvation as the story of Hearts. It was through relationship ministry that I grew closer to God. It was not forced or in exchange for anything. It was not part of a societal process or expectation. Rather it was through experiencing first-hand faith and His love for us through seeing others express that faith and love for others through ministry.

OM: It is hard to believe that Hearts for the Homeless began more than 30 years ago. What were some of the steps that brought Hearts to where it is today?

Nick: When reflecting on the over three decades of ministry, it's hard for me not to think of all the small steps along the way. The day in and day out commitment that volunteers, donors, and staff members have had and still have for the organization; the faithfulness of God, the desire to serve and trust in Him, and the continual compassion for serving with dignity. Paired with thousands upon thousands

of hours of hard work and personal sacrifice by all of our stakeholders.... I remind myself and my team that we are here today because we are standing on the shoulders of giants. In 2012, a few years into my time with the ministry, the [Hearts] founder shared with me, "It is not possible to suddenly be faithful in big things if you have not already been faithful in the small things! ... Only then, will you be given responsibility for bigger and more important things."... Walking that out daily is a big part of the Hearts story and a significant part of what brought Hearts to where it is today.

OM: *The mobile soup kitchen has been a consistent element of the Hearts ministry over the years. How did this all get started, and what does the feeding program look like today?*

Nick: There are many reasons why individuals cannot or will not receive services in homeless shelters or sit-down dining settings. These reasons range from mental health challenges to substance abuse, and also include interpersonal skills. Sometimes individuals voluntarily choose to be on the street, and other times behavior has resulted in the street being their only option. The Mobile Soup Kitchen started by going out on the streets of Buffalo looking for the chronically homeless who were living on the streets. The goal was to first feed people, because without this basic human need being met, it

is next to impossible to connect with them on anything else. The act of providing food and other items with dignity is a way to show people Jesus' love for them: the gospel wrapped in a sandwich (C. Spurgeon). After meeting basic human needs, building a relationship with others is at the core of who we are – the same as back in 1990 as it is today.... Meeting the basic needs of food and water are now always paired with other items such as clothing, shoes, blankets, and toiletries....

OM: *It seems Hearts is bursting at the seams with new opportunities. Could you share a little about the Harvest Food Pantry and why you decided to implement a "client choice" distribution method? What is this method and how is this approach helping shoppers at the pantry?*

Nick: The Hearts Harvest Food Pantry is such a special program. For decades, our programs have largely been off-site, such as the longstanding Mobile Soup Kitchen. With the 2021 dedication of the Hearts Harvest Food Pantry, we are welcoming our neighbors in need to receive support and services at our own campus. Through this food pantry, we are able to build relationships with our neighbors in Riverside, both families and individuals. Riverside has one of the highest poverty rates in Buffalo. The neighborhood is diverse with a mix of long-time residents and



refugees. It is not uncommon to hear several languages throughout the day. We often hear children translating for their parents. As clients move through the pantry and select food items they enjoy cooking and eating, they are participating in “client choice” distribution. Simply put, there is dignity in choice. Choosing food, much of which is fresh and perishable versus just being given a bag or box of items, can be empowering and uplifting. It is our hope that someday a child looks back and asks the question, “That was a food pantry?” This client choice approach is helping aid people by providing them access to fresh items and to pick items they enjoy. We often see families and individuals in need coming back to our pantry and this creates that opportunity for us to minister to them and develop a relationship with them. The food serves as an opportunity to form a trusting relationship. Hearts provides a “hand up” to those in need by sharing the love of Christ.

OM: *It must take a significant*

number of people to keep everything in motion at Hearts and you’re still growing! How do volunteers factor into what Hearts is able to do in the community, and what do you look for in volunteers?

Nick: Volunteers make our work in the community possible. It does take a significant number of people volunteering to keep everything in motion. Our volunteers have such amazing hearts. They are giving their time to serve the community and make a difference in the lives of others. We look for volunteers that have the desire to serve and are willing to be flexible. I was reminded years ago that the mission field is not just overseas but right here in our backyard, too. Volunteers come to us with all different backgrounds. This diversity creates an opportunity for everyone to experience new interactions with others, and the opportunity to grow relationally and spiritually. Our volunteer opportunities range from being very broad while some can be

specific to a skill set. But for the most part, we are able to find a role for almost everyone.

OM: *What do you see that gets in the way of people serving the vulnerable? How can these roadblocks be removed?*

Nick: Ourselves. We often get in our own way or we don't know how to do it on our own. And when I say "on our own," I don't mean we each have to start a new ministry. In fact, often that idea of us having to start something new becomes the roadblock.... Serving the vulnerable can be intimidating because sometimes we don't think we can relate.... Vulnerable people are still people, they are our brothers and sisters. Hearts is able to facilitate many opportunities to help you remove the roadblocks that get in the way of serving. As people of God, we are called to serve the hurting and broken. We want to invite you to join us in serving the vulnerable.

OM: *How can we better understand who is our neighbor? Where do we start?*

Nick: For me this answer is simple: we start by starting. Not by starting a conversation or starting an email but by starting to serve. Go outside, outside the church walls, outside our comfort zone, outside our communities - go outside and serve. Our doors are open to those who want to serve. Hearts is an extension of the church, and we are here to help you understand our

neighbors through serving them... Start something that will inevitably change your life as much as, and likely more than, those you are serving. Start. I hope we see you soon!

OM: *What is next on the horizon for Hearts? How may we best pray for you and your team?*

Nick: Earlier this year we announced an expansion of our work related to food insecurity. With the launch of Hearts Food Pantry Express, we will take the client choice food pantry distribution concept to neighborhoods outside of Buffalo. By using a large bus as a food pantry, Hearts will, for the first time in our history, consistently serve communities outside of Buffalo. Please pray for this program and the lives that will be touched because of it. Initially, we intend to serve two additional communities each week, 52 weeks per year. We pray that continues long into the future. Additionally, our board of directors are talking and praying over several ways Hearts can further support the homeless in Buffalo, as the need in our community is so great. Through existing and new relationships, we are hoping to build deeper partnerships and, if it is God's will for Hearts, we may see more new programs for the homeless in the near future.

Editor's note: *This interview has been edited to fit our On Mission Review format. The full interview is available at kingdomcome.thechapel.com.*

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Updates from our CPI Church Planters

What happens when a pastor receives a Church Planting Initiative grant to launch a church or completes the Residency Program? Well, there is quite a bit more to the story. You are invited to join us on their journey and in praying for CPI's church planters and their church families. Here are a few updates and prayer requests from them.



HOUSE OF GRACE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

*Emmanuel Amani
Residency Class of 2020*

Praise God, hopefully you're doing well by the grace of the Lord! It is through God's merciful assistance that the House of Grace International Ministry church family is doing very well. Despite Covid-19's hit, we can say that the Lord has been an Ebenezer* to us. He is always there for us and continues to meet our needs. We lost three people during this pandemic. Although we miss them, we truly trust God that we will see them again on Resurrection Day!

We ask you to please keep us in your prayers. Our church family would like to purchase our own church premises and we are seeking God's wisdom and provision.

**Ebenezer is from the Hebrew language and literally means "stone of help." See 1 Samuel 7:12.*



NEW STORY CHURCH

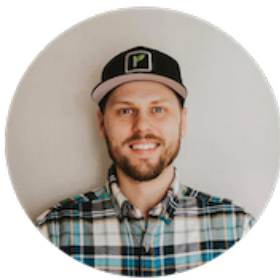
Scott Lackey

Residency Class of 2020

We have been meeting as a church for two years! We are focused on joining God by participating in the New Story that He is writing in our city. Through God moving at New Story, more than 30 people have given their lives to Christ, 90 people serve on our story team, and over 100 people are connected to a Story Group. We are blown away by our church's heart to serve in our community. One week after the tragic shooting on May 14, we collected 53 bags of groceries for Operation Hope. Every month, we serve somewhere in our community, and we have given generously to our various ministry partners. People are discovering what it means to find their New Story in Christ.

We, as the Church, are writing a New Story of new life and creation. We are grateful for all that God is doing and we are going to continue to say "yes" to whatever He calls us to do!

Please pray that we continue to reach more people and that we eventually find a permanent building.



theWELLbuffalo EBENEZER CAMPUS

CJ Ahrens

Residency Class of 2020

God is on the move in West Seneca! As we continue to pray for revival, we see lives encouraged daily by the welcoming, Spirit-filled atmosphere on campus.

The vision of being a light to the surrounding community has brought us countless relationships and opportunities to serve hundreds of families in our mission field. The Ebenezer Campus has quickly become a refuge for the lost, broken, and needy, as well as an ever-flowing conduit for God's love to spread beyond our four walls.

Our various on-campus ministries, including two Christ-centered recovery ministries, re:generation (Mon. 6:30pm) and Collateral Hope and Recovery (Wed. 6:30pm), account for many lives turning to Christ from crisis. They give us a fighting chance to paint a picture of God's mercy. Our outreach continually grows, enabling us to reach those with needs through our on-campus "Ebenezer Free

Store,” which provides clothes and household items throughout the year

We have engaged with our community and God has claimed 2784 Seneca St. as His battlegrounds for redemption! Our monthly worship nights held in our Battle Grounds Café have served to be a great way for us to wage war against sin and circumstance.

Neighborly reviews continue to encourage us to offer our space for God’s purpose and plan. He has not disappointed us yet! This Campus is open for the broken; a church without broken people is a broken church.

Be in prayer for us as we strive to fully engage with each and every life that enters our ever-growing Sunday gathering. Pray for our leaders, and the leaders to come. Pray that God has His way in West Seneca and our surrounding community by bringing the revelation of His amazing grace to every man, woman, and child. A revival is on the horizon!

**SHERIDAN PARKSIDE
LIFE CENTER**

Eric Napoli

Grant Recipient 2018

Greetings from Sheridan Parkside Life Center!

God has been doing so much in our first year since the launch. In June of 2021, we opened the doors and officially had our grand opening on

October 10. It has been a busy season that has continued to bring more and more people into our facility to learn of the hope of Christ as we serve dignity, value, and joy to the whole neighborhood.

Our focus is solely to reach the 1,000 homes of Sheridan Parkside. As a ministry, we have the free laundry open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We are expanding to Thursdays and possibly one Saturday a month as volunteers continue to come. The need is certainly there.

We have our free adult clothing pantry open at the same time as the laundry and have set ourselves up as a casual, self-serve café. Our partnerships with Olive Garden, Panera, Paula’s Donuts, and the Goodness Project are helping to make that a reality.

Our Healthy Cooking Kitchen is now operating every other Tuesday with Chef Steve teaching practical and delicious menus for making in the home.

Our outreach to Holmes Elementary School is a strong element of our reach into the community. In May, we will host our second Teacher Appreciation Luncheon to serve all the staff and administration there. We are also meeting with the school social workers to consider where we might effectively touch the most needy families of Parkside and the Holmes’ family community.

Our community church operates as a multi-denominational outreach. We have been open since June of 2021, holding a weekly service on Sundays at 4pm and a community dinner at 5pm. The service is largely relationship building. We hear the good things that God has been doing, teach each participant, and search the Scriptures to hear what God wants to say to our hearts.

Out of this community church, our first outreach to the Collins Correctional Facility developed. Through all of these efforts, we are looking to the future to see what servants and leaders God will be building in our midst.

We are very grateful for your partnership with us. It has been a very busy and fruitful year. It is time for us now to develop new leader positions, look for interns, and assess how we can provide for these servants during their work with us.

Thank you for not forgetting about us, and for desiring to know what God is doing in our midst. I know you have a lot on your plates there and we appreciate all the prayer support you can send our way. Volunteers are welcome too!



**ONE CHURCH
(MEDINA CAMPUS)**

Rick Rouse

Grant Recipient 2017

We are grateful for the CPI grant to help us launch our Medina Campus. It's hard to believe it is four years old already! We continue to see believers grow their faith and own the mission. Our latest news is that we purchased our own building and opened at the new location in mid-September. The new location is in the center of town. We will no longer lease!

Another exciting event was launching a new campus in North Tonawanda on Easter Sunday. There have been new commitments to Jesus and the launch team has been awesome in continuing to build the church.

When I think about these past years, God has led and directed us to build the kingdom by growing One Church from one church in one location in Akron to one church in three locations. We are looking forward to seeing where number four will be!

REASONS TO CELEBRATE

by Amy Tartick, *The Chapel*

It was a very special day in the Greater Buffalo area as six church planters graduated from the Church Planting Initiative Residency Program on June 8, 2022! Participants in the program, along with their wives, the CPI Directional Team, supporters, and others filled the special event meeting room at Three Stories Coffee on Broadway in Buffalo, NY. Here, we celebrated what God is accomplishing through these church planters. This was the second graduating class from the Residency Program.

The Residency Program was launched in 2019 with main components of training for church planting and soul care coaching, where pastors learn to attend to the issues of the heart for themselves and others. Currently, CPI offers two tracks for applicants to the Residency Program. The first is for Residents: church planters who have either launched a church in the past 12 months or are planning to launch a church in the next 12 months. The second is for Auditors: pastors with previously established congregations which have been gathering as a church for more than a year. For auditors of the Residency, the training and community fellowship offered by the course is an opportunity to

grow and connect with like-minded church planters.

The CPI Class of 2022 has four graduating residents who have launched, or will shortly begin, new expressions of the Body of Christ in our region! The two remaining graduates were auditing the program as they have pre-existing churches.

Here are a few updates from the graduates.

CAVE OF DAVID

Jonathan Bokongole

Jonathan Bokongole is a relative newcomer to the USA, arriving to our shores from the continent of Africa. His heart language is French. Although he is still learning English, he disregarded the language barrier and joined the Residency Program.

Jonathan Bokongole's update:

By God's grace the church and I are doing well. Sometimes people are showing up, and other times the number decreases. But, we keep hoping God Himself will help us grow as the work belongs to Him. Please pray for our church as we ask God to provide our own place. The rent where we are now is a lot for us as a new church. If we had our own building, it would be better.



Until we enter into His glory, we also ask for prayer that God will give us strength and perseverance to continue to endure in this period of tribulations. Thank you and God bless you!

THE GARDEN CHURCH

Frankie Andrews

We launched a Celebrate Recovery meeting officially at the beginning of the year. Now, we are preparing to roll out two Step Studies alongside our regular Sunday night recovery meetings – one for women and one for men. We also installed a community garden in the front yard of our facility in partnership with Imagine Community Gardens. We have 20 raised beds, 14 of which are being cultivated by a diverse group of neighbors from our community. Not only have

these families been able to grow food to eat for themselves, but also, in two weeks alone, we produced a surplus that provided more than 400 pounds of fresh organic produce. We distributed this surplus to our neighbors throughout our community. In addition, we launched a deep dive book study where we are learning how to love like Jesus across dividing lines. We met two of the people involved in the study through the garden. We continue to partner with other ministries and churches such as Pastor Steve Johnson of Anchor Church Buffalo and RAWTools Buffalo, Pastor Stephen Kulu of New Generation Church (we have provided them space in the garden for their church to have a dedicated bed), Pastor Scott Lackey of New Story, Andre “Shep” Clark of New Direction, and many other pastors/ministries in our area and throughout Buffalo. We are looking forward to our next season as we continue to impact our community by being the Church, to then earn the right to invite them to church services.

Please pray for wisdom in our next steps as we begin planning and preparing for what and when a Sunday worship experience may look like. Also, please pray for continued finances to make all of the needed upgrades to the property, so that we can increase our opportunities to impact our community and expand the Kingdom.

CHRIST CENTRAL BUFFALO

Chris Jhu

The first birthday in Korean culture is an important one. In times of poverty and hardship, many children wouldn't survive the year. Families and communities celebrate a first birthday as a victory of life and hope for the many years to come. The fifth year of a church plant often feels like that, and by God's grace we at Christ Central Buffalo celebrated our fifth birthday in February of 2022. Survival is no reason to rest, but it is reason to give thanks. And we give thanks to God for the many friendships and partnerships we've formed in Western New York over these years, especially this past year.

One of those exciting and growing networks that is making our church more effective in our mission is the Church Planting Initiative. This last year we were able to send Pastor Chris Jhu to participate in the Church Planting Residency Program with a number of other church planters. Through this series of classes and dialogue, we not only grew in our skills and philosophy of our church mission, we developed real partnerships with a diverse company of pastors and churches aimed at the same goal. We are joyfully confident that God will reach our region with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and He will do it through a unified church witness.

You can pray for us in the following ways: that God would strategically place our congregation in a new neighborhood, that we would refine our mission focus, and that we would deepen the discipleship of our people.

THE JOURNEY CHURCH *Art Hall*

The Journey Church would like to thank The Chapel, the Church of WNY, and Kingdom Come for recognizing and supporting our ministry endeavors.

The Journey Church started a new Groceries-To-Seniors Ministry Initiative at the onslaught of the pandemic two years ago. To date we have raised more than \$100,000 from our donors and partners to deliver free groceries to our seniors in Buffalo, NY.

Earlier this year on May 14, a mass shooting at our local Tops Market claimed the lives of many people and closed the store. Due to this tragic event, we supported the seniors near the grocery store on Jefferson Avenue and throughout the city until Tops could reopen. We continue to provide groceries to seniors in need. Thank you again for your encouragement, love, and support. God bless you all.

STEWARDSHIP & GENEROSITY

by *George Fu, The Chapel, Finance Manager*

In response to the Great Command by our Lord Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20), we often think that we need to be a missionary going abroad to proclaim the gospel to people living in a remote village in the 10/40 window.* We may also ponder where and how to fire up our church's mission: to ensure every man, woman, and child has repeated opportunities to hear, see, and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ. This mission is never too difficult for us or beyond our reach. It is up to our minds and hearts to obey and follow the Lord's calling.

When thinking of stewardship and generosity, we should be reminded that God has been gracious to us in giving us life, reasoning, talents, time, finances, and family so that we can fill up the earth and cultivate it (Genesis 1:28). To restore the creation from the fall, God prepared salvation by sending His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins so we shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). As a result, we are commanded to spread this Good News, in season and out of season, to unbelievers. We can start living out this mission in our family circle, workplace, school, church, college campus, and communities – wherever the Lord leads and calls us. We don't

have to go far.

One of our Kingdom Come partners, International Students, Inc. (ISI), manifests a good example of stewardship and generosity. In obedience to Christ's command to love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:31), they faithfully share Christ's love at two colleges in Buffalo with large international student bodies: UB with 27% international students and Buffalo State College with 8%. ISI programs and services have helped many international students and their families whether they are Christians, have a different religious faith, or even no faith at all. Many brilliant young minds have been transformed by the gospel through ISI. When they return to their home countries, these students will bring the gospel with them and, as a result, will touch many unsaved souls across borders.

ISI and many other Kingdom Come partners continue to exert influence on many lives and souls of internationals on campuses across the United States. We should all be prompted and encouraged by the work of Kingdom Come and join the mission to help spread the Good News!



**The 10/40 Window is located between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude on the globe. The area includes countries in Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East where Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, atheists, and other non-Christians are in the majority.*

WHAT A YEAR!

by Ted Miller, The Potter's Hands

Wow! What a year! Where would we be without God leading us, guiding us, protecting us, and blessing us? Just one example of God's blessing was Donation Day on April 30, 2022, at The Potter's Hands.

We helped 134 families in 2021, and our pace has been even faster in 2022. We were running low on furnishings so we decided to do donation pickups for Donation Day. What an amazing day it was! The Lord blessed us with great weather and more than 50 volunteers. All who came had a heart of kindness, willingness, and humility to do whatever was asked of them promptly. We had the right mix of warehouse workers, people able to do the pickups, and the right vehicles needed to accomplish the work. So, we got things cleaned and organized, did 33 separate donation pickups, and moved everything inside

the warehouse. We enjoyed fellowship throughout the day which, of course, included food. And, as a result, the warehouse was completely full at the end of the day.

We are now able to help many more families because of it. And it is all because God blessed us on that day with volunteers, weather, and everything else we needed. We are still praising the Lord for the awesome attitudes, willingness, harmony, and smiles of everyone who came that day. In this day and age, it is a blessing that God's people can come together and serve Him with holiness, love, mercy, and grace.

The Potter's Hands is a ministry in the Buffalo area that assists families who are restarting their lives with things needed for their new home. This includes household items, Bibles, gift cards, encouragement, and prayer.



FORGING AHEAD

by Laurie Hart, *Every Child*



One thing that didn't close down during the pandemic was the need for foster care and adoption ministries. Sadly, children around our nation and community have continued to come into care. Ministries like Every Child have played a vital role in supporting children and families facing crisis in our area.

This year, Every Child has continued to answer the call. I've had a front row seat to watching new foster families compassionately open their homes, and volunteers wrap around these families to offer support. I've seen Care Portal responders fill in the gaps with kindness, and volunteers clear their schedules to patiently offer child care during the Relational Parenting support groups. In addition, Every Child has coordinated special events for foster and adoptive families aimed at sharing the love of Christ to help children and their caretakers simply have fun together.

Our work in multiple counties has led to tremendous growth on a regional

level. Every Child's events, trainings, and activities are bursting at the seams in Chautauqua County. Every Child has also forged wonderful relationships with the Niagara County Department of Social Services, where we are working side by side with a spirit of humility and patience.

It's an exciting time to be involved with Every Child. God is moving and we are excited to see what He has for us next! There is a place for everyone in this ministry. No role is too big or too small. We welcome you to be part of Every Child if you feel the Spirit prompting you to get involved!

The Every Child ministry is a collaborative effort of multiple churches across WNY all working together to help meet the needs of anyone involved with foster care or adoption. Every Child is designed to help meet the needs of children and families before, during, and after a child enters into care. All programs are based on Christian principles and presented with a desire for others to know Christ through our actions.



Scan here to visit
every-child.com



Scan here to learn
more about Care Portal.

DONATION HUB

Do you or someone you know need non-perishable food or basic hygiene items?

We have good news: Donation Hub items are free and available to take, no questions asked, during the open business hours of all Chapel campuses! Please contact us at (716) 631-2636 with any questions.



*We love because He first loved us.
1 John 4:19*

CROSSPOINT CAMPUS

by Jon Cook, The Chapel

The Chapel is one church in four locations. We believe that God has placed each of our campuses in specific communities in order to impact each of them with the gospel. Not only do we want our campuses to be places for those who live nearby to come to us, but we also want to mobilize into our communities to engage with people where they are at. We are praying continually that God would open doors for this and make it clear how we can be present in the community around us. At the CrossPoint campus, God has provided some wonderful opportunities for this in 2022.

Our team connected with some incredible people within the town of Amherst. These people are involved in supporting the daily needs of our community, and who lead efforts in areas like senior services, youth mentoring, and student support. Through our conversations, we were invited to participate in the shaping of a new Community Center just down the street from our CrossPoint campus.

Early this summer, the Donation Hub at the CrossPoint campus collected clothing for school-aged children. King's World also encouraged children to donate school supplies. We took all of these items and partnered with the Sweet Home School District to facilitate a "Pop-Up Clothing Pantry" at the new Amherst Community Center in August. Families from the surrounding neighborhood came and received items they needed for the fall. Our church was able to meet their needs, be present in our community, and forge a partnership with our town and a local school district!

In September, we held our second Serve Day event. In 2021, we were amazed with how God opened doors for us to serve at Windermere Elementary School and the surrounding neighborhood. Building on the momentum from last year, we found open invitations and even excitement from our community at the idea of us doing this again! This year, we aimed to serve students, seniors, and a local community through the Serve Day mobilization effort. Having formed relationships with stakeholders in our community, we were invited to serve in three distinct areas. First, we served at a Community Center down the street. Teams of volunteers painted the interior and cleaned up the exterior space. Second, the local Senior Center provided us

with the names of several senior citizens who needed assistance in their homes. Teams of volunteers visited homes to help move heavy items and helped out around the house. Third, we partnered with Heim Middle School to clean up and outfit their courtyard spaces so they could be used more effectively for the students. Then, finally, we hosted a neighborhood cookout near the Community Center and invited nearby residents to come and hang out with us. Some incredible conversations were had, and it was a wonderful day to be the light of Christ in our community.

These events have had a great impact on our town and gave our church an opportunity to be the light of Christ in our local geography. I look forward to more opportunities like this in the future. I'm even more excited, though, for the ongoing partnerships that we have here with our community leaders. These partnerships open up opportunities for the people of our church to participate in spaces like a town community center, an area neighborhood, a senior center, or a local public school. I'm hopeful that these highly visible efforts will lead to regular opportunities for us to intentionally and consistently bring the hope of the gospel as we mobilize into our own communities.

KINDNESS & COMPASSION

by *Leroy Wiggins, The Chapel Cheektowaga Campus*

Kindness and compassion... back on display! Not that we ever stopped of course... but we did need to adjust during those COVID-19 days. Re-engagement with our partners has been a sweet story of putting Jesus on display... both abroad and locally.



Over the past twelve months, we have been able to resume our Kingdom Come partnership abroad with the sending of teams to Mission of Hope (MOH) in Santiago, Dominican Republic (DR). We do this while we prayerfully await the opportunity to resume our mission trips with MOH to Haiti. Locally, we have begun a really sweet community partnership with Buff-Sci Charter Middle School, located within a one-mile radius of The Chapel Cheektowaga Campus. That's owning your sphere of influence!

Captured below are two different stories on what it looks like to live out Colossians 3:12, "...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience," in the context of two very different geographies and cultures.

MISSION OF HOPE: The DR is a country covering the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean, while Haiti comprises the western third. MOH provides opportunities to serve the Haitian/Dominican communities from their Santiago campus. MOH seeks the same vision for both countries – life transformation for every man, woman, and child through the gospel message. They accomplish this by being the hands and feet of Jesus through tangible work.

There is a large Haitian population in the DR. Our mission engagement with both people groups has given us the opportunity to enlarge the Kingdom through various work projects: construction, mobile medical clinics, children's ministries, and relational ministry time in the local villages. We worship together, and are ministered to, through the joyful singing of the congregations and the teaching of local pastors.

Our serving with MOH has allowed us to express Christ's compassion and kindness to the Dominican and Haitian people, side-by-side with one another. God is allowing us to partner with Him as He uses us in the reconciliation and Kingdom expansion of both beautiful peoples.



BUFFALO SCIENCE CHARTER SCHOOL: In 2021, the Cheektowaga campus participated in Serve Day in the Schiller Park area bordering Cheektowaga and Buffalo. Buff Sci Charter School lies in that community. The principal warmly welcomed us to the amazing grounds, which used to be a convent. We fell in love with the campus, but we fell more in love with the students, comprised of many different ethnicities. This serving opportunity consisted of tons of gardening, general clean up, and the assembling of school furniture.

As a Chapel campus, we have adopted the school as a place of continued service and engagement. This past spring, we returned to Buff Sci and again did general clean up and yes, tons of gardening. What made this time even sweeter was the presence of not only students but Buff Sci staff members, block club members and families whose children attend school. It was a blast! We were able to share the gospel with a few of the families and began to form new relationships.

We had the privilege of serving several of these families at Christmas time with trees and gifts. It was through the delivery of these Christmas items that we met a downstairs neighbor of a Buff Sci family. They needed beds for their children. Through The Potter's Hands ministry, we were able to deliver four children's beds.

We are truly blessed to be able to engage with the school in the name of Jesus. God has opened this door for us! We pray it will stay open and that we can have a positive impact on the school and neighborhood. By the way – the principal and her grandmother have frequented the Cheektowaga Campus on several occasions. How cool is that!

LOCKPORT CAMPUS

by Edwin Perez, The Chapel Lockport Campus



In thinking about Colossians 3:12, there are multiple stories to illustrate how the Lockport Campus has lived this out this past year. The holiday season was a wonderful way for our church to engage the City of Lockport as we participated in Light Up Lockport, a community-wide event during the Christmas season. Our campus was able to be a venue for those within the community to ride a train, grab some hot chocolate, eat some food, and receive Christmas Eve invitations for our services. There were so many folks that came through this experience and there were wonderful conversations with people from within the community. In addition to this, on that same day, we were able to give away seventy-five Christmas trees to those in

need. We had the unique and special opportunity to see different churches and local partners join in the distribution of the trees. It was beautiful to witness local law enforcement helping give trees to those in the community. All in all, it was an encouragement for our congregation, the community, and all those who took part on that day.

During this past Easter season, our church was able to connect with a handful of local elder care facilities to help demonstrate care, kindness, and compassion to them. The response was incredible. We shopped for items and put together care packages that were delivered to those in local facilities in Lockport. Together, we were able to give away 265 care packages to

four different care facilities within Lockport. Moreover, we delivered these packages on the Saturday before Easter to help remind every recipient that there is a God who loves them, who cares for them, and who has not forgotten about them. To hear some of the stories and read the cards that we received in gratitude was truly humbling and was a reminder of why we do what we do. We want to continue to clothe ourselves with the life of the Spirit so that people like those in local elder care facilities can hear and see Jesus through us.

This year we have also seen a handful of families at our campus walk through some significant trials. Whether sickness, loss, or other unique challenges, it has been

a difficult road for a handful of folks, as I am sure it has been for many who are reading this article. However, what encourages me is to see the way the Body of Christ has come together to help take care of one another. Whether giving gift cards away, preparing meals for each other, writing encouraging notes, or forming prayer groups, it has been powerful to witness how the people of Jesus in Lockport have demonstrated so much compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience to one another. And it has been pretty remarkable to be a part of all this!

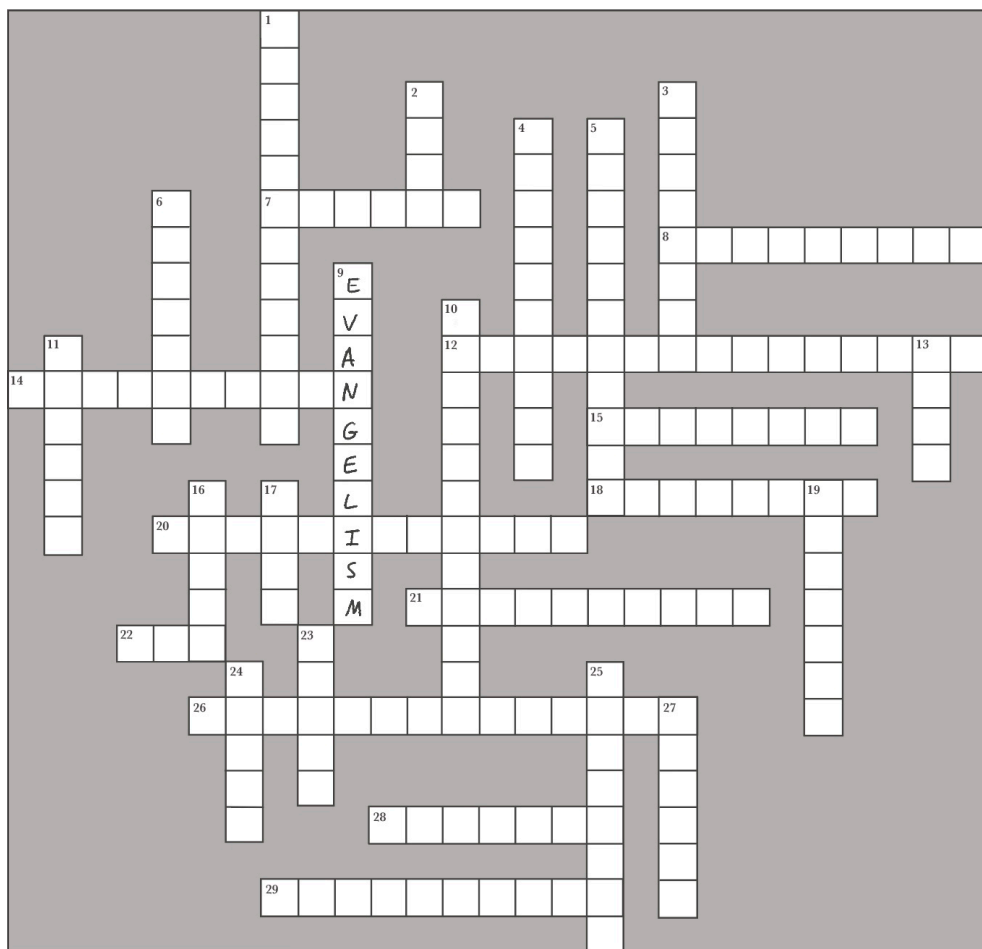
I am grateful for all that God has done throughout this past year, and I look forward to all that He will continue to do!

NIAGARA FALLS CAMPUS

*For an exciting update on our Niagara Falls Campus,
please visit kingdomcome.thechapel.com*



Kingdom Come
CROSSWORD PUZZLE



You will find the answer key on our website at thechapel.com/kingdomcome.

DOWN

1. Learning to follow Jesus (pg. 15)
2. ____ God ____ the Church
____ the World
3. Attending to issues of the heart
(pg. 54)
4. _____ Church Planting
International
5. Better together (pg. 8)
6. Discipleship _____
(pg. 22)
9. Spreading the gospel
10. Pastors that serve a church
and are employed elsewhere are
_____. (pg. 38)
11. Three Stories _____ Co.
13. Place to meet friends and chat.
16. ...every man, _____, and
child...
17. Accepting Jesus as Savior gives
new _____.
19. Arts, social norms, and customs.
23. What we all need. (pg. 13)
24. Youngster
25. Considerate behavior (pg. 33)
27. Good News

ACROSS

7. Communication with God.
8. Join a _____ Group to
meet new friends.
12. The best ministry partnership
model establishes _____
14. Clothe yourselves with
_____ (Col. 3:12).
15. Valuing others above self
(Phil. 2:3).
18. Difficult to learn. (pg. 6)
20. Action for the sake of a mission.
(pg. 39)
21. What is in the way
22. On mission to reach every

26. Launching a new expression of
the Body of Christ.
28. _____ of Hope
29. Mild-mannered (pg. 65)

Community Volunteer Help Wanted

BUFFALO CITY MISSION

Volunteers are the heartbeat of the Buffalo City Mission! With the help of volunteers like you, all of our programs and services are made possible to change lives at the Mission every day. For more information on how to volunteer with us, visit our website at buffalocitymission.org/volunteer or contact Heather Mattiuzzo at (716) 854-8181 ext. 407 or hmattiuzzo@buffalocitymission.org.

CAMPUS AMBASSADORS

We are looking for volunteers to provide rides for students to church, as well as to help facilitate Common Grounds, a free food and coffee event held weekly during the school year (UB North campus in Commons 200). If someone has skills they think could help our campus ministry, please contact Tim Stewart at (716) 263-8809.

CRU

We would love assistance from men and women with teaching gifts to potentially help speak at our weekly gathering (a co-ed group of 10-70 students depending on the university). Also, if you (or your small group) love to cook, we have several outreaches during the year where we could use assistance providing food for students. If interested, please contact

Matthew Girdner at (585) 414-9794 or Matthew.girdner@cru.org.

EVERY CHILD

Every Child is in need of people willing to join our CarePortal Responder community. Responders are the key to helping us make meaningful connections to families in need to someone that has something to give. Learn more by visiting every-child.com/careportal.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES, BUFFALO

FCA is seeking qualified adult huddle leaders to help walk middle school and high school athletes through Scripture, as well as volunteers to serve at annual events. Contact Amber Wing at awing@fca.org for more information.

GOOD NEWS JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry of Niagara County has a need for additional prayer team members. If you have a desire to strategically pray for this life-changing ministry, please reach out to Chaplain Bill Whitmore at bill.whitmore@goodnewsjail.org.

HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS

Hearts has volunteer opportunities available in our thrift store, food pantry, mobile soup kitchen, and our commercial kitchen! Visit our website

to find available volunteer time slots! Please contact Skylar Shurr at (716) 755-2426 (call or text) or email at sshurr@heartsthehomeless.org.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS

Interested in ministering to international students from UB? Consider becoming a friendship partner with IFI! Through this opportunity, you and your family (or small group), can show the love of Jesus through simple acts of hospitality and friendship. For more information, please contact Bruce Fulcher at b.fulcher@ifiusa.org or (716) 228-4474.

JERICHO ROAD COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Love to cook? We have a place for volunteers to assist in our kitchen at Vive Shelter. Volunteers are also needed on our Spiritual Care Team. If you are interested, please contact Krista Schwartzott at krista.schwartzott@jrhc.org. For more information, you can also visit jrhc.org/volunteer. *Please note that all volunteers must be 18+ or volunteer with a parent or guardian. All volunteers must be fully vaccinated.*

KINGDOM BOUND

Each year the annual Kingdom Bound festival recruits over 300 volunteers. We would love to have you join our team. If interested, please contact Danielle Rose at volunteers@kingdombound.org or (716) 633-1117 ext. 126.

LOCKPORT CARES Lockport CARES needs daily Direct Care volunteers to serve our guests. In a given week we need to fill thirty (30) shifts, and each shift must be filled with two persons. If you are interested in volunteering with Lockport CARES, please contact Dani Kelkenberg at (716) 438-2273 or by email at adminassist@lockportcares.org. *Background checks required.*

LOCKPORT CARE NET PREGNANCY CENTER

We have volunteer needs with the following positions: Peer Counselor (training required) to work one-on-one with clients, Office Worker to help with day to day operations, and Fundraising Committee to help with events in the community. General work and prayer are always needed! If interested, please contact Lori Mead at (716) 434-1771 or lmead@lockportcarenet.com.

NIAGARA GOSPEL RESCUE MISSION

We need volunteers for painting, food pantry organization, cleaning, baling of salvaged clothes (this is an off-site project), mentoring (for qualified individuals), 3M ministry (meals, music, message), outside landscaping, and various other projects. If interested, please contact Donna Stevens on her cell at (716) 946-6163.

OPOVERWATCH

OpOverwatch utilizes outreach and benevolence projects as ways to bring the knowledge of Jesus Christ to law enforcement. If you have skills in promotion, graphic arts, solicitation of businesses, or event planning, embrace the mission of OpOverwatch (OpOverwatch.org), and would like to volunteer, please email Steve Ritchie at sritchie@opoverwatch.org.

PEOPLE AGAINST TRAFFICKING HUMANS (PATH)

PATH is in need of volunteers for evening and afternoon van drivers, evening clean up (including vacuuming, disinfecting surfaces, and cleaning the bathrooms) and kids room help specifically on Friday afternoon. If interested, please contact Becky Symon at (716) 601-5678 or via email at rebecca.symon@pathofwny.org.

SAVING GRACE

Saving Grace needs volunteers to help with porch/deck repairs, as well as an ongoing need for painting and landscaping work. This includes lawn care, weed pulling, trimming, and gardening. If you are interested, please contact Trace Gillis at trace.gillis@sgmworld.org.

SONRAYS

If you're interested in getting more involved with SonRays, please go to the Volunteer tab on our website (sonraysministries.com) to sign up for

our volunteer email list or call our office at (716) 695-9494.

THE POTTER'S HANDS

Looking for a workout with purpose? Volunteers are needed to help once a month on a Saturday morning for delivery/pickup of furniture (need to be able to carry heavy furniture). Help is also needed on Wednesday mornings at the warehouse to sort, clean, and organize donations, move furniture, and help with appointments. If interested, please contact Teddy Miller at donationcenter@thechapel.com or (716) 222-0791.

THE TEACHER'S DESK

The Teacher's Desk is in need of volunteers to help open, sort, and package products, as well as help teachers load their cars. If interested, please contact Christine Witten at volunteer@theteachersdesk.com.

TOTAL BREAKTHROUGH

We are looking for Prayer Partners to help respond to the prayer requests we receive weekly. This is a fully remote volunteer opportunity consisting of communications via phone and email. If interested, please contact Dominic Secchiaroli at youaretheverybest@outlook.com or by phone at (716) 994 2942.



Ministry Partner Directory

5 LOAVES FARM

5loavesfarm.org
(716) 803-9241

716 MINISTRIES

716ministries.org
(716) 828-8681

BUFFALO ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE

nyatc.org
(716) 855-0602

BUFFALO CITY MISSION

buffalocitymission.org
(716) 854-8181

BUFFALO MYANMAR MISSION CHURCH

facebook.com/bmmconlinemedia
bmmcnewyork@gmail.com

BUMP

bumpbuffalo.com
buffalourbanmission@gmail.com

CAMPUS AMBASSADORS

campusambassadors.org
Paul Decker
paul.james.decker@gmail.com
Tim Stewart
tstewart@buffalo.edu

CHRIST TOGETHER

christtogether.org
info@christtogether.org
Alex and Sherri Belmar (Presidir):
christtogether.org/es

CHRISTIAN CENTRAL ACADEMY

christianca.com
(716) 634-4821

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING MINISTRIES OF WNY

ccmwny.org
(716) 632-3200

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL & DENTAL ASSOCIATIONS

cmdaofwny.org
(716) 517-7457

CHURCH ON THE BEACH

churchonthebeach.ca
churchonthebeach@hotmail.com

CHURCH PLANTING INITIATIVE (CPI)

churchofwny.com
info@churchofwny.com

COMPASSCARE

compasscare.info
(716) 800-2306

COVENANT CHURCH

covenant315.org
(315) 401-4804

CROSS TRAINING ATHLETICS

go-cta.com
(716) 393-3744



CRU

cru.org/communities/campus/us/
buffalo
Justin Crawford
justincrawford@cru.org
Autumn Fries: autumn.fries@cru.org
Thomas Rodrigues
thomas.rodrigues@cru.org

CRU/BRIDGES

bridgesinternational.com
Matthew & Megan Girdner
matthew.girdner@cru.org
Jason Beedon
jason.beedon@bridgesinternational.
com

EDUNATIONS

edunations.org
(412) 522-4756

EIGHT DAYS OF HOPE

eightdaysofhope.com
(662) 844-6934

EVERY CHILD

every-child.com

**FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN
ATHLETES BUFFALO**

buffalofca.org
(716) 807-1397

FIREHOUSE CHURCH

Jim Swinnerton: (716) 893-1840
swinnj51@gmail.com

**FIRST CALVARY MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH**

firstcalvarymbc.org
(716) 852-0229

**FIRST SHILOH BAPTIST
CHURCH**

firstshilohbuffalo.com
(716) 847-6555

**GOOD NEWS JAIL
AND PRISON MINISTRY**

goodnewsjail.org
Bill Whitmore
bill.whitmore@goodnewsjail.org

HBI GLOBAL PARTNERS

hbiglobalpartners.org
(877) 424-4634

**HEARTLAND GOSPEL
INITIATIVE**

Jim Murphy
Contact the Kingdom Come office:
info@kingdomcomewny.com

HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS

heartsforthehomeless.org
(716) 877-3536

HOPE RISING TOGETHER

ltlol.com
(716) 458-0785

HOUGHTON COLLEGE

houghton.edu
(800) 777-2556

**IMAGINE COMMUNITY
GARDENS**

gardensbyicg.org
info@gardensbyicg.org

INDIA GOSPEL LEAGUE

iglworld.org
(888) 352-4451

**INTERNATIONAL
FRIENDSHIPS, INC.**

buffalo.ifiusa.org
Bruce Fulcher: b.fulcher@ifiusa.org

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
INCORPORATED**

internationalstudents.org
Scott Matheny
smatheny@isionline.org
Kathy Matheny
kmatheny@isionline.org

ISRAEL FIRSTFRUITS

israelfirstfruits.org
info@israelfirstfruits.org

JERICHO ROAD CHC

jrhc.org
(716) 348-3000

**KINGDOM BOUND
MINISTRIES**

kingdombound.org
(716) 633-1117

**LOCKPORT CARE NET
PREGNANCY CENTER**

lockportcarenet.com
(716) 434-0251

LOCKPORT CARES, INC.

(716) 438-2273

LUMBER CITY CHURCH

lumercitychurch.com
(716) 260-2757

MISSIO CHURCH

missiochurch.org
(315) 299-4101

MISSION OF CHRIST CHURCH

175 Potomac Ave
Buffalo, NY 14213

MISSION OF HOPE

missionofhope.com
(512) 256-0835

MISSIONGO

missiongo.org
(716) 688-5048
Dennis Campbell:
dcampbell@missiongo.org
Jeff and Cindy Hackett:
jhackett@missiongo.org
Jesse and Bria Pohle:
jpohle@missiongo.org

**NEW DIRECTION
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

ndcfmedia1449@gmail.com
(716) 895-4916

**NEW GENERATION
MINISTRIES**

thenewgenerationministries.com
(716) 259-8005

**NIAGARA GOSPEL
RESCUE MISSION**

niagaragospelrescuemission.com
(716) 205-8805

OPOVERWATCH

opoverwatch.org
opoverwatchministry@gmail.com

PATCH OUR PLANET

patchourplanet.org
(404) 281-8927

**PEOPLE AGAINST
TRAFFICKING HUMANS
(PATH)**

pathofwny.org
(716) 601-5678

**PRINCE OF PEACE
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

princeofpeace.us
(716) 844-8717



PROJECT MONA'S HOUSE

projectmonashouse.com
(716) 795-6622 (MONA)

RELIANT MISSION

reliant.org
Ryan Kozey
ryankozey@reliant.org

RENEWED HOPE

thechapel.com/ministry-relief
(716) 631-2636 x230

RENOVATION CHURCH

therenovationchurch.com
(716) 819-4100

**RESOURCE COUNCIL
OF WNY**

facebook.com/RCWNY
(716) 259-9844

RESPONDERS ON A MISSION

roamintl.org
info@roamintl.org

RESTORATION CHURCH

restorationbuffalo.com
(716) 541-0794

**SARANSTHAN
INTERNATIONAL
FELLOWSHIP**

facebook.com/Saransthan
(716) 464-3905

**SATURATION CHURCH
PLANTING INTERNATIONAL**

scpglobal.org
info@scpglobal.org

SAVING GRACE MINISTRIES

sgmworld.org
(716) 893-1840

SET FREE, INC.

setfreeinc.org
Al Warner
awarner@setfreeleaders.com

**SHERIDAN PARKSIDE
LIFE CENTER**

splifecenter.org
(716) 205-3254

SONRAYS MINISTRIES, INC.

sonraysministries.org
(716) 695-9494

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION
EXPERIENCE**

spiritualformation.courses

SUMMIT LIFE CENTER

summitlifecenter.com
(716) 298-8600

TABERNACLE OF PRAISE

tabernacleofpraisebuffalo.com
(716) 856-5781

THE ANCIENT PATH

liveglobal.org/unreached
theancientpath@liveglobal.org

THE JOURNEY CHURCH

journeychurchbuffalo.com
(716) 202-0595

THE POTTER'S HANDS

thechapel.com/pottershands
donationcenter@thechapel.com

**THE ROCK
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

rockcle.org
(216) 429-2636

THE TEACHER'S DESK

theteachersdesk.org
(716) 348-3412

TOTAL BREAKTHROUGH

totalbreakthrough.org
(716) 531-4250

TRUE HAPPINESS MINISTRIES

31 First Street, Krishnadoss Road
Mangalapuram, Chennai, TN INDIA
600012

VILLAGE CHURCH

villagechurchbflo.com
info@villagechurchbflo.com

WINGS OF COMPASSION

PO Box 338, Buffalo, NY 14205

WONDER CHURCH

wonderbuffalo.com
hello@wonderbuffalo.com

**WORLD HOPE
INTERNATIONAL**

worldhope.org
(703) 923-9414



Our **Church Center App** is a great way to connect throughout the week! You can check campus specific news, listen to current and past messages, and access community group information, event registration, giving, and more. To download the app, visit the Apple App store or Google Play store.



 church center



STIR

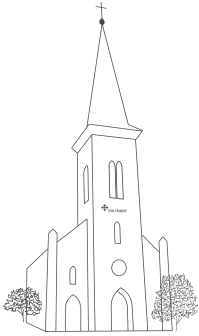
CAFÉ + RESOURCE CENTER

Visit Stir! The Chapel's Café + Resource Center is located in our CrossPoint Campus. Stir is a great place to pick up a resource recommended by our pastors or a beverage and snack. We would love for you to stop in on a Sunday morning before or after service. Enjoy your favorite beverage and snack as you spend time studying and reading at Stir.

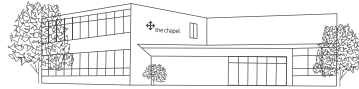
Stir is open every Sunday morning!



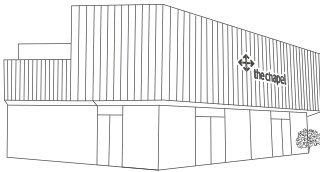
*On mission to ensure that every man, woman,
and child have repeated opportunities to hear
and see the **Gospel of Jesus Christ.***



LOCKPORT CAMPUS
25 Walnut Street
Lockport, NY 14094



NIAGARA FALLS CAMPUS
520 66th Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14304



CHEEKTOWAGA CAMPUS
200 Thruway Plaza Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225



CROSSPOINT CAMPUS
500 CrossPoint Parkway
Getzville, NY 14068