

See Differently

TOGETHER IN GOD'S GLOBAL MISSION



MISSION REPORT 2021



THE
PEOPLES
CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

Each follower of Jesus is called to live on mission in an age of a global pandemic.

This report has been developed with that reality in mind. This is not merely a “feel-good” praise report. It is vitally important to know and read, especially with the challenges we presently face. It is written with the hope that through these stories and images, *“... the eyes of our hearts will be opened so that we can know the hope of our calling as His holy people.”*
– Ephesians 1:18

We see so much in our world today. We can be overwhelmed and distracted by the news around us – which are often stories of suffering and images of conflict. But as a gospel-centered and globally engaged church, we know that the injustice and unrest are only a part of the picture.

God is not surprised by our present circumstances. He always has a good and able plan, and we are called to be those who see and share the good news of His redemptive work.

When we see images of those suffering in hospitals or those who are trapped in isolation, we know of and we support those who are faithfully sharing Christ’s hope online, dropping care packages off at doors, making phone calls, standing at windows with encouraging signs, and sharing the love of Christ in ways we never imagined before.

When we see images of the war continuing to rage in Yemen, we know of and we support the faithfulness of believers there, and the brave ways they continue to minister to their neighbours.

When we see images of the rows of new graves in Brazil, we know of and we support the faithful teams of believers who are taking equipment and medicine to the frontlines of this epidemic.

When we see the brutal conflict in Nigeria, we know of and we support the baptisms of hundreds of new believers as local pastors continue to courageously share the Word of God.

Our hope is that this report will help you to see Christ in the midst of the challenging situations through people of faith and vision – people just like you! As we are encouraged and challenged to see and know differently, we are also called to help others to see and know Christ at work in their own lives and in our world.



Sandra Ryan
Global Mission Pastor

WE ARE TOGETHER IN GOD'S GLOBAL MISSION.

Growing the body of Christ for God's global mission has been our calling as a church since the very beginning.

God's global mission is His invitation to us - to all who have experienced His redemption to actively go out and participate in His ministry of reconciliation. God desires for all people to know and experience His loving redemption and reconciliation through Jesus Christ.



All this from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

The whole Church taking the whole gospel to the whole world.
– The Lausanne Covenant

Global mission is all about sharing the good news of Jesus with people everywhere – from right outside our very own doorsteps, to communities all around the world.

As a church, we do this together with our global partners. God calls us to obediently go and humbly welcome; to generously give and graciously receive. Christ's Church is global, and He longs for us to live in the truth of our unity and the connectedness of His kingdom.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one else could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

– Revelation 7:9



THE LOVE OF CHRIST

God's mission is demonstrated in the love of Christ, and the unchanging foundation of our mission is rooted in His holistic ministry of compassion, justice, and evangelism.

COMPASSION

The love of Christ
in the context of sin, pain, and need.

**We respond to need in
loving, life-giving ways.**

Jesus was filled with compassion. He reached out His hand and touched the man. "I am willing," He said. "Be clean!"

— Mark 1:41

JUSTICE

The love of Christ
in the context of oppressive systems, corrupt
structures, and hurtful relationships.

**We seek to transform unjust systems
and unhealthy relationships, with love.**

"Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first.

— John 8:7-9

EVANGELISM

The love of Christ
in the context of lies, doubt, and accusations.

**We speak the truth in love so that all can know
and share the gospel with understanding.**

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

— John 8:31



*The mission of God flows from the love of God.
The Mission of God's people flows
from our love for God and for all that God loves.*

- The Lausanne Covenant

MISSION RESOURCE ADVISORY

Our Mission Resource Advisory (MRA) is a committee of advisors who commit to prayerful discernment of the mission strategy and priorities of The Peoples Church. From this prayerful and strategic perspective, they carefully consider how mission resources are shared with our partners. The MRA examines the details of each application for support from our mission partners and submits their recommendations to our Board of Directors for approval. Once approved, resources are released with blessing to our partners around the world. Members of this advisory represent diverse cultural perspectives and gifting, and are appointed based upon their experience and commitment to mission.



Zareh Zetlian

Coming to Canada from Lebanon, Zareh brings an important perspective as a diaspora missionary. He is gifted in organizational project management and combines this gifting with a pastor's heart. As Missionary Care Pastor for the church, he brings unique insight into the ministries of our missionaries.



Laura Dobrowolski

With a background in law, a gifting for strategic planning, and a commitment to mission, Laura has been a key contributor to the mission direction and international relationship building at The Peoples Church. She also serves as the Executive Director of our partner organization, International Association for Refugees (IAFR).



Greg Holohan

Greg's full-time ministry is in the financial world, where he shares his vision for the use of finances for Kingdom purposes. Greg is also committed to the mission team ministry in Mexico, travelling annually to partner with Bill and Tammy Woods and their vibrant ministry in Chiapas.



Sally Lee

Sally is committed to making her work in project management with a major financial institution a daily ministry. She and her husband have served overseas in Asia with OMF and now serve as a family in their community of Willowdale. Sally is also leading the development of a project management system at the church, which will enable us to support our mission partners even more effectively.



Carlos Lopez

Carlos has been actively involved in mission with the church for 17 years. As the pioneer of Viva La Verdad – the Spanish production of Living Truth, Carlos now serves as a missionary leading TELL Ministries, developing Christian leaders across Latin America.



Paulson Ong

Paulson's role as a private financial consultant gives him many opportunities to minister with the love of Jesus and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In addition to the daily commitment of his family to be good neighbours to those in their community, Paulson serves on the Board of Directors at the church and as an advisor in the Global Mission department.



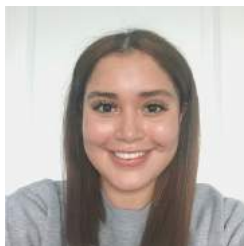
Joseph Addy

Joseph serves on the pastoral team at the church as our Life Groups Pastor. With a strong background in international development and global pastoral experience, he provides wise and godly direction to our global mission engagement.



Steve Mogdan

With a heart for mission, and gifting in both financial analysis and strategic planning, Steve has been involved in helping to direct mission at The Peoples Church for many years. Steve has visited our partners in South Asia and Africa and has served in both the youth ministry and refugee ministry here in Toronto.



Aida Quinonez

Aida is a leader in our Youth Ministry and a member of the Youth Mission Team to the Dominican Republic. She is passionate about spreading the gospel and has a biblical vision for sustainable collaborative ministry. She is committed to fostering Christ-like love through everything she does.



Nelson Chang

Nelson has served in the mission department at the church for many years, helping to develop our Newcomer's ministry and encourage our congregation to welcome effectively. Nelson has a particular vision for local engagement and innovation ministry.

MISSION PRIORITIES



Our mission priorities provide a practical framework for living out our calling as a church in God's global mission. They are discerned by our MRA and leadership in prayerful response to the opportunities of our times, and the gifts we share as a church body.

Mobilization
Migration
Communication
Innovation



As you read the following pages of this mission report, take some time to ask God about what He is revealing to you about His global mission, and how He is inviting you to be a part of what He is doing in our world.

*We pray that the eyes of our hearts will be opened so that
we can know the hope of our calling as His holy people.*

EPHESIANS 1:18

See Differently



IMAGE COURTESY OF ALABASTER CO.

SEE MOBILIZATION DIFFERENTLY

*And then Jesus told them, "Go into all the world
and preach the Good News to everyone."
- Mark 16:15*



For many years, we were considered a “missionary-sending” church, but sending missionaries was only one part of how God was leading us to share the love of Christ with every nation of the world. It would be much more accurate to say that God has called us to be a “missionary-mobilizing” church.

One of our mission partnership criteria is that the ministries we support are committed to developing and mobilizing leaders. Of our 216 supported missionaries, one third of them are indigenous leaders serving their own people in situations where local financial support is simply not possible.

These missionaries represent only a fraction of the indigenous global leaders we help mobilize for mission through online training programs like TELL in Latin America; leadership conferences like Jossour in the Middle East; and missionary teams like Friends of Nepal. Our partners are always developing

innovative and culturally sensitive training programs and ministry models to develop and deploy missionaries.

We also recognize and rejoice that God is sending missionaries to Canada, and we are blessed to welcome missionaries who come to us from around the world through diaspora migration. Working closely with our partners like Tyndale TIM Centre and Lausanne Canada, we seek to train and integrate these mission leaders into Canadian churches, or prepare them to be mobilized to global locations, sometimes returning as rebound missionaries to their home countries.

Our greatest mobilization in mission by far, is within our own congregation, as each person commits to making their neighbourhood, school, and workplace a daily ministry for sharing the good news of Christ. The mobilization of missionaries in our neighbourhoods and around the world continues to be the primary commitment of our church as we engage in God’s global mission.



In India, Women have lower rates of literacy and education, and domestic abuse is a widespread problem. Some young girls get dedicated to the ancient service of temple prostitution.

OPERATION WORLD 2021

Our Faith Promise gifts helped to construct a dormitory for women at a Bible seminary in Southern India where women are being trained in the Bible, theology, and a trade so that they can return to their rural villages and support themselves as they plant churches.

We Pray

- For our missionaries around the world, particularly those serving in places that are hostile toward Christians
- For our church, that we would all be mobilized in the place God has called us to serve
- Thanksgiving for all the missionaries God is sending to us in Canada from around the world

Engage

- Continue to pray for our global missionaries by joining our weekly missionary prayer email.
- Discover more about how to be mobilized as a missionary in your workplace or with one of our mission partners.

Contact our Missionary Care Pastor, Zareh Zetlian to learn more about the above opportunities: ZarehZ@ThePeoplesChurch.ca

- Who in your circle of influence could you share the gospel with this week?

SEE MIGRATION DIFFERENTLY

*“Those who had been scattered
preached the word wherever they went.”*
– **Acts 8:4**

Global migration is one of the most powerful ways God has spread His gospel throughout history. During these days of the global pandemic, it has felt as if the world came to a stop – which has been frustrating for us but devastating for those who are vulnerable.

Refugees who were fleeing dangerous situations are trapped in ‘in-between’ spaces, unable to move forward and unable to go back. The pandemic has separated loved ones, and fear has caused people to become less welcoming when people need to be welcomed the most.

Migration continues to be considered problematic in political arenas and in the media, but the Church sees that God is still at work in this movement of people. He continues to bring new life to His people and to His Church through migration.

At The Peoples Church, we see God at work in global migration and eagerly join Him there. Supporting migration ministries in Greece, Colombia, Uganda, Egypt, Malawi, Kenya, Lebanon, and Spain, we see unprecedented opportunity to share the gospel with people who are open and willing to hear about a God who lovingly welcomes them.

Here in Toronto, we are intentional about welcoming people well, and ensuring that they are integrated into the life of the Church. Our Newcomers Ministry and Refugee Welcome Ministry are our most vibrant outreach ministries. International students are coming to know Christ and becoming godly leaders here in Canada or back in their home countries. Refugees are finding hope and healing as they hear the gospel that was silenced in the countries from which they fled.





The outpouring of support in Canada isn't absolute; racism is still present. Refugees deal with poverty, and often don't understand our systems, culture and processes — and can face discrimination. Many struggle with language barriers. And losing one's home leads to other questions: How do I start over? What's my purpose? Where do I belong?

CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES

We are active in welcoming newcomers to Canada in the name of Jesus through our newcomers and refugee ministries. Over 70% of our baptisms last year were people who had immigrated to Canada and heard the good news of Christ. New Canadians are bringing new life to our church and communities!

We Pray

- For those who have been forced from their homes and face uncertain futures, particularly during the pandemic
- For those who are separated from their loved ones – that they would be comforted in their separation and reunited as soon as possible
- That we would be a welcoming church – ready to see the gifts of those who are being sent by God to our church

Engage

- Join our Newcomers Ministry by becoming a host or an employment mentor for a newcomer. You can also teach or assist in our weekly ESL classes. Contact our Newcomers Ministry Pastor Nelson Chang: NelsonC@ThePeoplesChurch.ca
- Join a team that shares a meal at a refugee home each month. Contact The Peoples House Manager, Lara Boghos: LaraB@ThePeoplesChurch.ca
- Explore international opportunities to serve in refugee camps and settlements. Contact our Missionary Care Pastor Zareh Zetlian: ZarehZ@ThePeoplesChurch.ca

SEE COMMUNICATION DIFFERENTLY

*It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel
where Christ was not known...
– Romans 15:20*



Media has taken an inordinately important place in our daily lives during this pandemic. While we should be aware of the potential dangers of technology and media, we must also embrace the remarkable opportunities media provides for sharing the gospel when used correctly.

Our partners around the world are able to worship with us through our online Sunday gatherings, and our online Life Groups make it possible for those who are shut in to be included. Online training for Christian leaders in Latin America, discipleship

lessons for refugees in Europe, Biblical Family Values television programming in the Middle East, and Bible teachings via radio broadcasts in Iran, are just a few of the media projects we support around the world to share the gospel and disciple believers.

We know that online teaching and gatherings can only ever supplement in-person relationships in the church – media cannot replace relationship. However, media and caring relationships are a powerful combination for sharing the gospel and discipling believers.



Despite its nominally Christian majority, Montreal and the larger Quebec Province are among the most underevangelized regions of North America. A 2008 Léger poll found that only 6 percent of Quebec's 6 million Catholics attended weekly Mass, down from 90 percent in the 1960s. About 7 percent of Quebecers are Protestants, and less than 1 percent identify as evangelical.

CHRISTIANITY TODAY

In Quebec, our mission partners at [Aujourd'hui L'Espoir](#) use television and radio broadcasting to share the gospel with rural Quebec. Their Hope Line call center offers the opportunity for listeners to engage in real conversations, after which they are offered to be connected with a local church for personal follow up.

We Pray

- For the people of Quebec, that more and more would experience the love of Jesus
- For believers in Iran who are unable to gather freely together, but have access to learning about faith through media
- For our own Media & Communications team, that they will be Spirit-led and effective in sharing the gospel and discipling believers
- For media outreach in countries that are closed to the gospel

Engage

- If you speak French, consider spending some time working with the [Aujourd'hui L'Espoir](#) team through their Hope Line. Contact our Global Mission Pastor, Sandra Ryan: SandraR@ThePeoplesChurch.ca
- Use your social media presence to sensitively share the gospel or encourage believers.
- Volunteer with our Media & Communications team to help produce quality Christian media content and programming. Contact the team: Communications@ThePeoplesChurch.ca

SEE INNOVATION DIFFERENTLY

*He sent them out to proclaim the
kingdom of God and to perform healing.
– Luke 9:2*



Each person who believes in Jesus is called to minister in the areas they study or work. But sometimes, God calls people out of existing social models and systems, and gives them vision for innovative initiatives that develop just models of ministry based on sustainable kingdom principles.

At The Peoples Church we want to support these kingdom initiatives and see how God can do a new thing through His people. This past year, we hosted our fair-trade market online so that we could continue to support industries that seek to do business using fair production and distribution models. We are also exploring new possibilities with our partners at FaithTech as they develop new kingdom models for how media is used.

Our partners at [TearFund](#) are active in sustainable

farming initiatives across Africa and Latin America, particularly in areas where famine or flooding has devastated whole communities and restoration is about finding ways to heal the land. Using a church-based development approach, they work with communities to find new ways of sustainable living.

This past Christmas we raised awareness and funds for the [Mully Children's Family](#) (MCF) ministry in Kenya, which models the power and beauty of applied biblical principles of justice, creation care, and sustainability. In addition to caring for orphans, they have changed the climate of their region by simply implementing kingdom principles of living.

There are many ways to live justly in our broken society, and as a church we want to actively pursue these kingdom models with our partners.



We shall awaken from our dullness and rise vigorously toward justice. If we fall in love with creation deeper and deeper, we will respond to its endangerment with passion.

HILDEGARD OF BINGEN (1098-1179)

Our partners at 24/7 Prayer are launching a spiritual apprenticeship program that encourages just lifestyle practices and creation care through training in organic farming and artisan trade. Spiritual practices such as prayer, Bible study, and loving service are combined with the rhythm of planting, growing, and producing, to encourage a deeply spiritual and fruitful lifestyle of discipleship.

We Pray

- For workers around the world who are not receiving fair wages for their work
- For a change of heart in those areas of our living that perpetuate unjust practices and systems
- For creative and courageous new models for Christian living and ministry based on sustainable kingdom principles

Engage

- You can learn more about the apprenticeship at Integrity Farms by visiting their [website](#). Contact our Global Mission Pastor Sandra with any questions: SandraR@ThePeoplesChurch.ca
- If you have a new and innovative idea for mission, reach out to a pastor and share the idea with them!
- Explore more about our mission team experience with our partner MCF in Kenya. Contact our Missionary Care Pastor Zareh Zetlian: ZarehZ@ThePeoplesChurch.ca
- Change your buying practices to reflect fair trade practices by buying locally or accessing international goods through groups like [Buy Good Feel Good](#).
- Be intentional about shifting something in your lifestyle to reflect a desire to engage in [creation care](#).

*Your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

MATTHEW 6:10



IMAGE COURTESY OF ALABASTER CO.

Our partner Mully Children's Family in Kenya has changed the climate of the region by implementing kingdom principles of living. Areas that were once dry and arid are now green and cool.



SEE MISSION TEAM EXPERIENCES DIFFERENTLY

Mission team experiences are one of the most effective ways we stay connected with our global partners, and a vital component in discipleship at our church. Many mission team participants have described their experience as life-changing.

We send teams to different communities in our world and welcome teams here in Toronto, to learn and grow together. Through our teams we are able to share encouragement and create strong connections within our congregation and our global mission partners as we serve Christ together.

The only mission team we were able to send out in 2020 was our Youth Team that travelled to the Dominican Republic. The team had to return much earlier than planned due to travel restrictions that were instituted in March 2020.

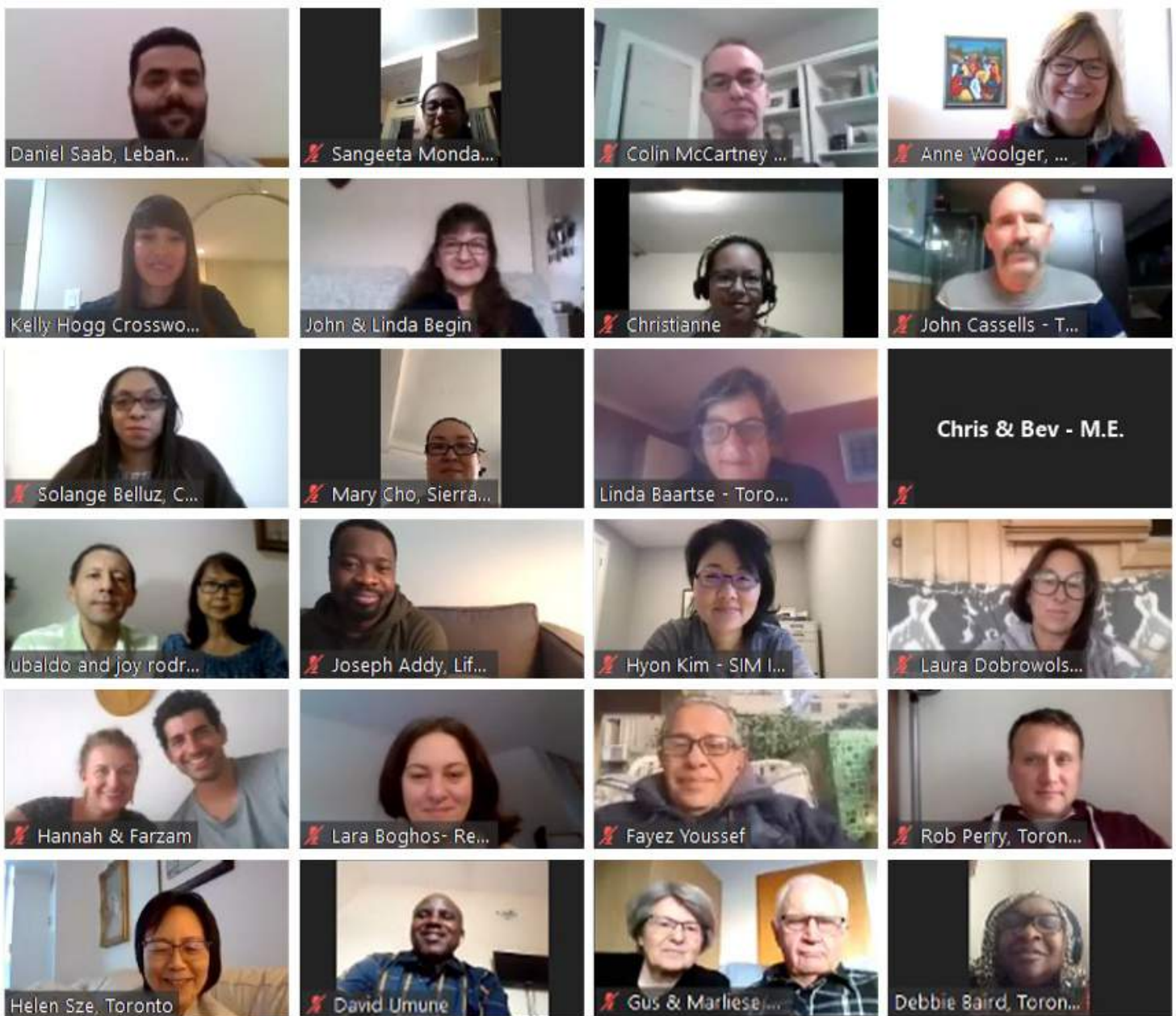
The young people on the team were heartbroken at having to return so soon after their arrival. The disappointment of this unexpected return taught

each team member much about trusting God with our disappointment and allowing Him to work His purposes despite our unfulfilled plans.

All subsequent mission team experiences remain suspended until travel restrictions are lifted and it becomes safe to travel and visit our international partners again.

This break in travelling has created a new virtual mission team experience where we have been meeting with our international partners online for prayer, worship, and to learn about what God is doing in their ministries. We have met online for fellowship with our partners in Mexico, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Lebanon, and the Middle East. Although it is not the same as travelling in person to experience their ministries, these online gatherings have created possibilities for many more to participate and stay connected with our international partners, and we are so thankful for the technology that makes these connections possible.

If you are interested in being informed of online opportunities to meet with our international partners, or if you would like to learn more about future mission team experiences that we are planning once travel restrictions have been lifted, please contact our Missionary Care Pastor Zareh Zetlian: ZarehZ@ThePeoplesChurch.ca



AN ONLINE PRAYER GATHERING OF OUR MISSIONARIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD!



SEE URGENT BENEVOLENCE DIFFERENTLY

...Come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; Lord, do not delay.
– Psalm 70:5

When crises occur in our world, we are able to respond with support promptly, effectively, and generously – this is the power of our Faith Promise giving. Through our consistent and faithful giving, God continues to provide a store of resources so that we can support the urgent needs of our partners serving in areas that are facing emergency situations. A portion of our Global Mission budget is allocated specifically for global crises. Once funds are gifted to our partners in need, the resources are again replenished by our faithful, consistent giving.

It is always a concern to ensure the resources that are sent during a crisis actually get to the people in need. We always send our Faith Promise gifts to trusted partners who work with the local church network in the crisis area so that the response is reliable and holistic – meeting not only physical and material needs, but emotional and spiritual needs as well. When the attention of the world has moved on to new matters, God’s people are still working with disaster-affected communities to bring about long-term recovery and healing.

In 2019, we came together to support our brothers and sisters facing the refugee crisis in Venezuela. The community gardens that were planted with our gifts by the local churches are now thriving and helping to feed people as they rebuild their communities.

This year, the needs caused by natural disasters were compounded by the pandemic, causing the need for urgent benevolence to be even greater than usual. In addition to providing support during Cyclone Amphan in India, severe flooding in Nepal and Bangladesh, and the tragic explosion in Lebanon, we were able to provide prompt, effective, and generous support to our partners in seven countries facing overwhelming circumstances during the pandemic.

Urgent benevolence is a clear testimony to the love and care of Christ when crises affect His people. Consistent and faithful giving has encouraged many, at the most difficult time of their lives, to “praise their Father in heaven” for His answer to prayer.





Earlier last month, local authorities advised digging graves, as they did not foresee receiving oxygen tanks... Together we provided more than 50 oxygen tanks to the towns of Canutama, Lábrea and Pauni. In one of the tank deliveries, a hospital director shared, "The tanks arrived just in time. We were practically out of oxygen."

PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL

Our partners in Brazil received our Faith Promise gifts to bring PPE, oxygen, and food to their people living along the Amazon River who were battling COVID. They brought the hope of Christ and answered the prayers of a people living in fear, hunger, and isolation.

We Pray

- Think of one disaster that happened in the past year, and pray for the communities that are on the slow road to rebuilding their lives
- Thank God for first responders all over the world, and pray for strength and protection
- Pray for governments and aid workers to be honest and fair in getting aid to their people in crisis

Engage

- Continue to pray and give generously as a consistent spiritual practice so that in times of crisis we have resources to send promptly to our global neighbours.

FAITH PROMISE

Every year, during our Global Mission Conference, we get to be challenged and inspired for God's global mission in new ways – and one main way is through our Faith Promise.

Faith Promise is a prayerful pledge we get to make individually, and together as a church for global mission in the coming year. The promise is between each of us and God, and it is important to remember that it is not about how big or small the amount is – God is interested in our hearts and our faith-filled generosity.

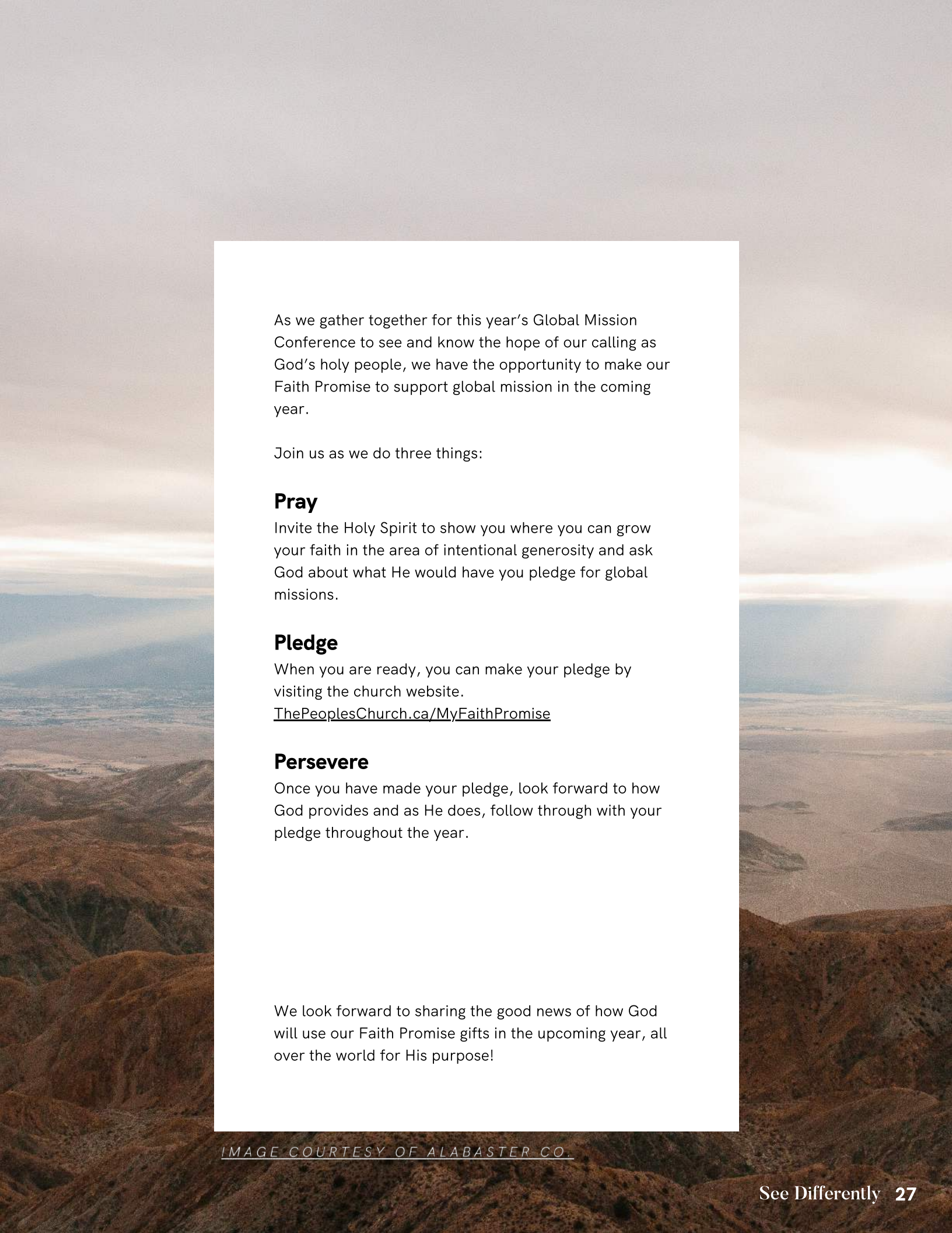
He takes what we give in faith and multiplies the impact in incredible ways all over our world for His purpose. This report contains just a sample of how we get to be a part of something so much bigger through our Faith Promise.

Faith Promise is a spiritual practice and an important way of being on mission through a lifestyle commitment.

When we give to support global mission, we are not supporting others so that they can do mission on our behalf. We are on mission with Christ together. We give because as believers, we share what we have with one another in ministry. We are missionaries supporting missionaries.

At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need.
– 2 Corinthians 8:14

IMAGE COURTESY OF ALABASTER CO.



As we gather together for this year's Global Mission Conference to see and know the hope of our calling as God's holy people, we have the opportunity to make our Faith Promise to support global mission in the coming year.

Join us as we do three things:

Pray

Invite the Holy Spirit to show you where you can grow your faith in the area of intentional generosity and ask God about what He would have you pledge for global missions.

Pledge

When you are ready, you can make your pledge by visiting the church website.

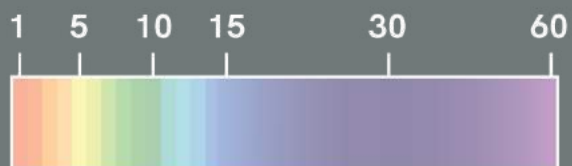
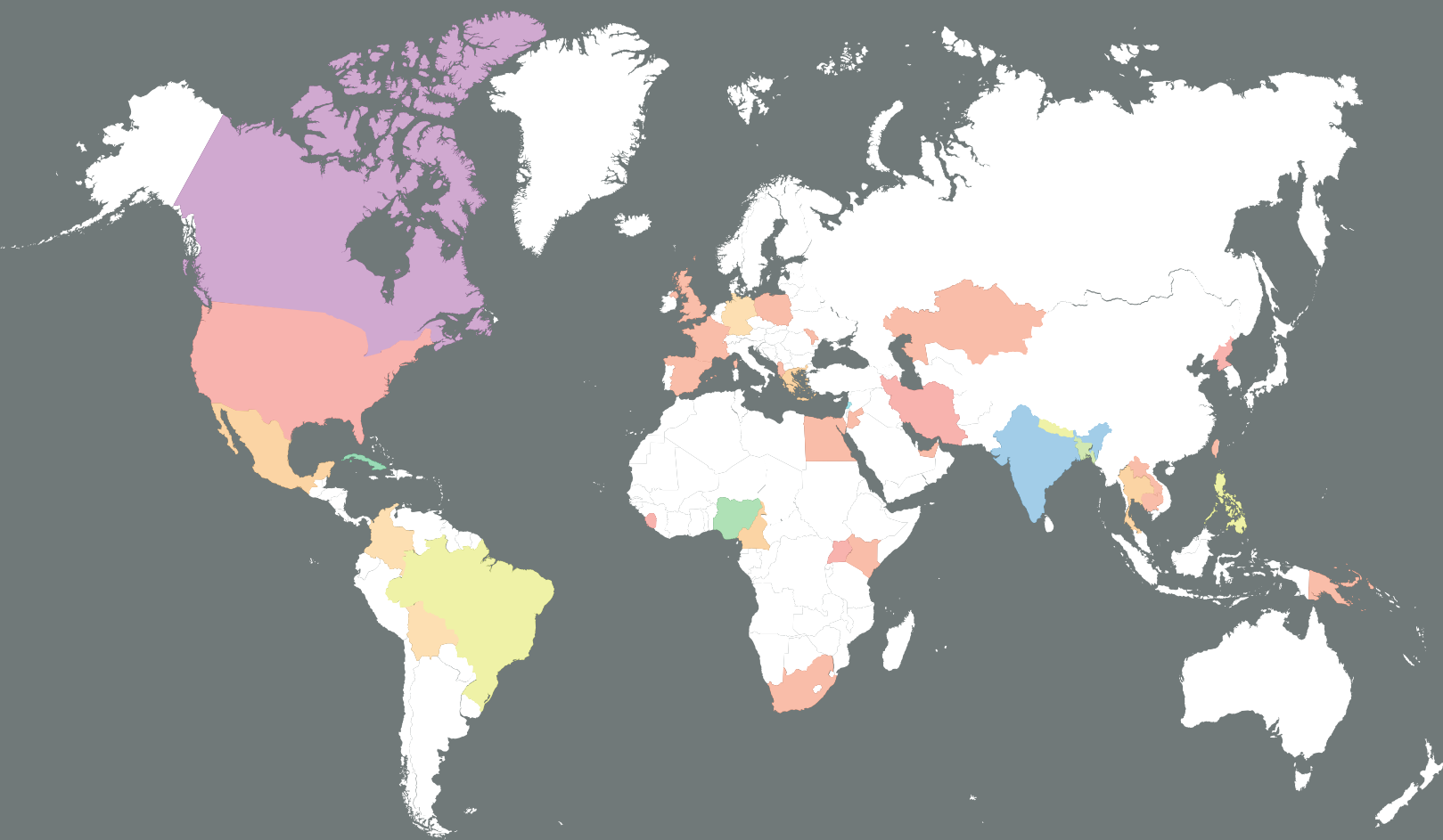
ThePeoplesChurch.ca/MyFaithPromise

Persevere

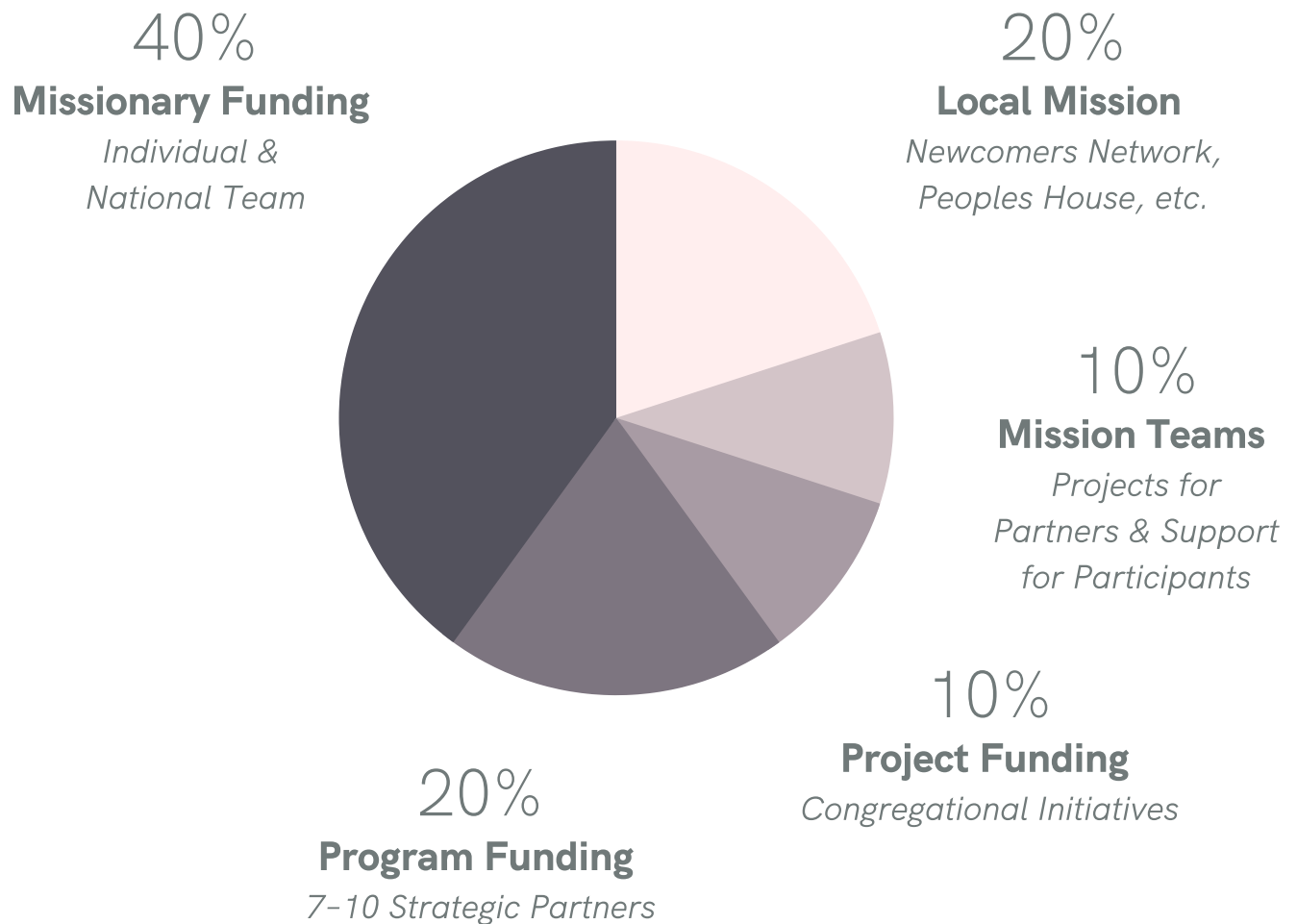
Once you have made your pledge, look forward to how God provides and as He does, follow through with your pledge throughout the year.

We look forward to sharing the good news of how God will use our Faith Promise gifts in the upcoming year, all over the world for His purpose!

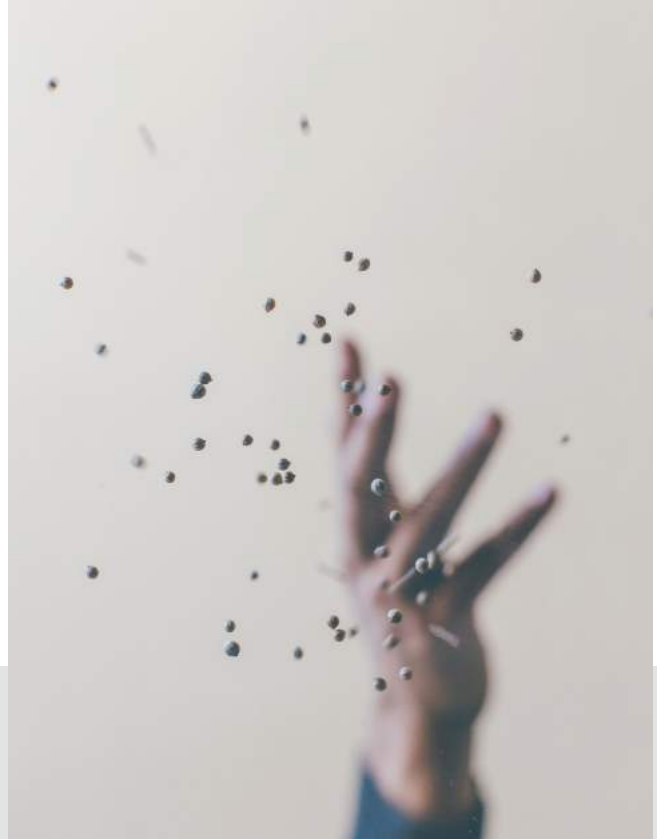
OUR FAITH PROMISE GIVING CURRENTLY
SUPPORTS 216 MISSIONARIES SERVING IN 43
COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD



HOW OUR GLOBAL MISSION FUND IS DISTRIBUTED



Although we are deeply aware of the sin and suffering in our world, we see and trust the redemptive work of Christ in the midst of the sin and suffering. Each one of us has a specific calling, together in God's global mission.



*The Spirit of the Lord is on us, because He has anointed us
to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.*

LUKE 4:18-19

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