



**50**  
YEARS

STATE OF THE MINISTRY REPORT 2021

**Celebrating 50  
years of ministry!**

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## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

A 50th anniversary is called the golden anniversary, one to signify life-long love. It's a befitting milestone for World Challenge, founded on a passion for the lost and driven by a desire to help the suffering.

It all started when God called David Wilkerson to New York City in 1958. This sprawling metropolis was an intimidating blend of racial tensions and clashing ideologies. In this environment, his street ministry saw gang members and drug addicts transformed after dedicating their lives to Jesus Christ.

Then, World Challenge was founded in 1971 to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of people not just in the United States but also internationally.

David wrote newsletters of encouragement as he recognized the Holy Spirit's power to overcome addiction and deep personal pain. The Spirit often laid it on his heart to support churches or

ministries in need, so he'd write requesting funds to support fellow believers in the wider world.

This passion to build up leaders and care for the poor is still at the heart of World Challenge's ministries to this day.

In these 50 years, David and Gary Wilkerson have gone to hundreds of conferences and evangelistic rallies, sent out over 700 monthly newsletters to hundreds of thousands of people and touched millions of lives.

As we celebrate 50 years of ministry, we look forward to the future with great anticipation of what God will do in his church in the next generation.

Thank you for celebrating with us all the Lord has done!



## World Challenge BOARD MEMBERS

### JOHN BUENO

John ran a school in El Salvador for many years to help the children of families caught in poverty before returning to the United States to support missionaries.

### CARTER CONLON

Carter joined the Times Square Church staff in 1994 and was appointed senior pastor in 2001. In May 2020, he transitioned into general overseer of Times Square Church.

### TIM DILENA

After pastoring in Detroit for thirty years, Tim served in NYC then Louisiana for ten years before becoming senior pastor of Times Square Church in May of 2020.

### CLAUDE HOUDE

Claude Houde is the lead pastor of Eglise Nouvelle Vie in Montreal, which has grown to more than 3500 in a part of Canada with few successful Protestant churches.

### ROGER JONKER

After graduating from UNT in 1976, Roger served at World Challenge until retiring in 2020. He also founded Father's Love Inc., a ministry that reaches at-risk youth.

### BARRY MEGUIAR

Barry owns the car company his grandfather founded in 1901 and runs a ministry called Revival Outside the Walls that teaches people how to share their faith.

### JIM PALUMBO

Jim is an entrepreneur, teacher, evangelist, church planter, founding member of Times Square Church and the president of The World Radio Network.

### GARY WILKERSON

Gary Wilkerson is the president of World Challenge. He is also the founding pastor of The Springs Church, which he launched in 2009 with a handful of people.

Gary Wilkerson, Bob Ditmer and Barry Maguiar during a recording of the Gary Wilkerson podcast.





## A Letter From OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

There is a world in desperate need of a word from God. There is a world suffering the pangs of poverty. There is a world living in fear, darkness, sickness and sin; there is a world that needs the powerful and life-transforming touch of God.

In such a world as this, God calls his people to be filled with faith, power and the Holy Spirit. He calls us to rise to the challenges of the day. This desire to meet those pressing challenges is embedded in our name.

World Challenge has been proclaiming from the pulpit, preaching on the streets, going to the poorest of the poor with life-changing solutions and the love of Christ for 50 years.

In this, our 50th year of vision, mission and carrying the light of the gospel to the world, we are as steadfast as ever.

We have not held back. We refuse to compromise. We will not water down the gospel; we will not become a secular humanitarian agency. We love Jesus, and we want to make him known; we want to bring the gospel to the world. We want churches and their pastors to be on fire for God. We want the lost to come to know Christ. We want the poor to have the gospel preached to them. We want widows and orphans to be free, thriving and fulfilling their God-given calling.

You have come into partnership with a ministry that deeply cares about meeting the needs of a broken world. You are the people of God with a vision and a passion to see his mission expand. You are the people of God who make ministries like this able to do all that God has spoken.

We need you. Without you we are incomplete; the body needs each other. Thank you for your continued, generous support. Thank you for your faithfulness in praying for our teams and the work being accomplished around the world.

With you in Christ,

Gary Wilkerson  
President



Podcast  
Downloads:

**37,399**



Video  
Views:

**315,852**



Webpage  
Views:

**5,226,531**



Social Media  
Engagements:

**6,033,854**

*\*cumulative numbers taken  
from July '20 through June 21*

## PODCAST MINISTRY

# Who Is God?

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the fragility of our everyday lives became evident, but another tenuous foundation was revealed in the unsteadiness of many believers' spiritual lives.

Gary Wilkerson was deeply concerned about this issue, and he began praying about the solution. He felt that God's answer lay in studying and understanding our Creator's character.

As Gary pointed out in a devotional, "You and I, more than anything else in our life, need to know a holy God, a loving God, a powerful God." A true understanding of God's character will help us stay firmly grounded in our faith, no matter what life throws at us.

Out of this heart, Gary has created a series of podcasts and devotions on the attributes of God as well as several 86 Seconds episodes focused on individual characteristics of the Lord. He recommends authors he's found worthwhile in the pursuit of knowing God better, and he is writing a book on the attributes of God.

At World Challenge, we believe that no pursuit is more worthwhile or more important than this: to know God better, to glorify him and to enjoy him forever.



*Gary Wilkerson has been devoted to preaching God's character and inviting believers to know their heavenly Father intimately.*

# Power of Preaching

“The Power of Preaching” is a 10-part video sermon series, created to exhort pastors and church leadership to humbly listen to the Holy Spirit and receive the Word to stir hearts and transform lives for God’s glory.

Gary Wilkerson kicks off the series with a message stressing the importance of following God’s leading, rather than your own desires as a pastor.

You can also hear from more pastors, including Claude Houde, R.T. Kendall and Voddie Baucham as they offer fresh insights regarding obedience to God, spiritual authority and holy leadership.

Whether it’s Tony Evans explaining how to make disciples or Tim Dilella breaking down practical ways to follow Jesus’ example, each sermon contains God-centered advice and sound counsel on the power of preaching.



## WITNESSING THROUGH VIDEO

# Deep Questions Call for Faith Answers

Faith Answers is an informative video series created to reach young people through addressing doubts and providing powerful evidence for hope in Jesus.

Evan Wilkerson takes on tough questions in 5-minute lessons to illuminate the Christian worldview. It’s inspired by 1 Peter 3:15, which says to always be ready to give an *apologia* (an answer, like a legal defense) for your faith. With this in mind, our videos pair historical truths and

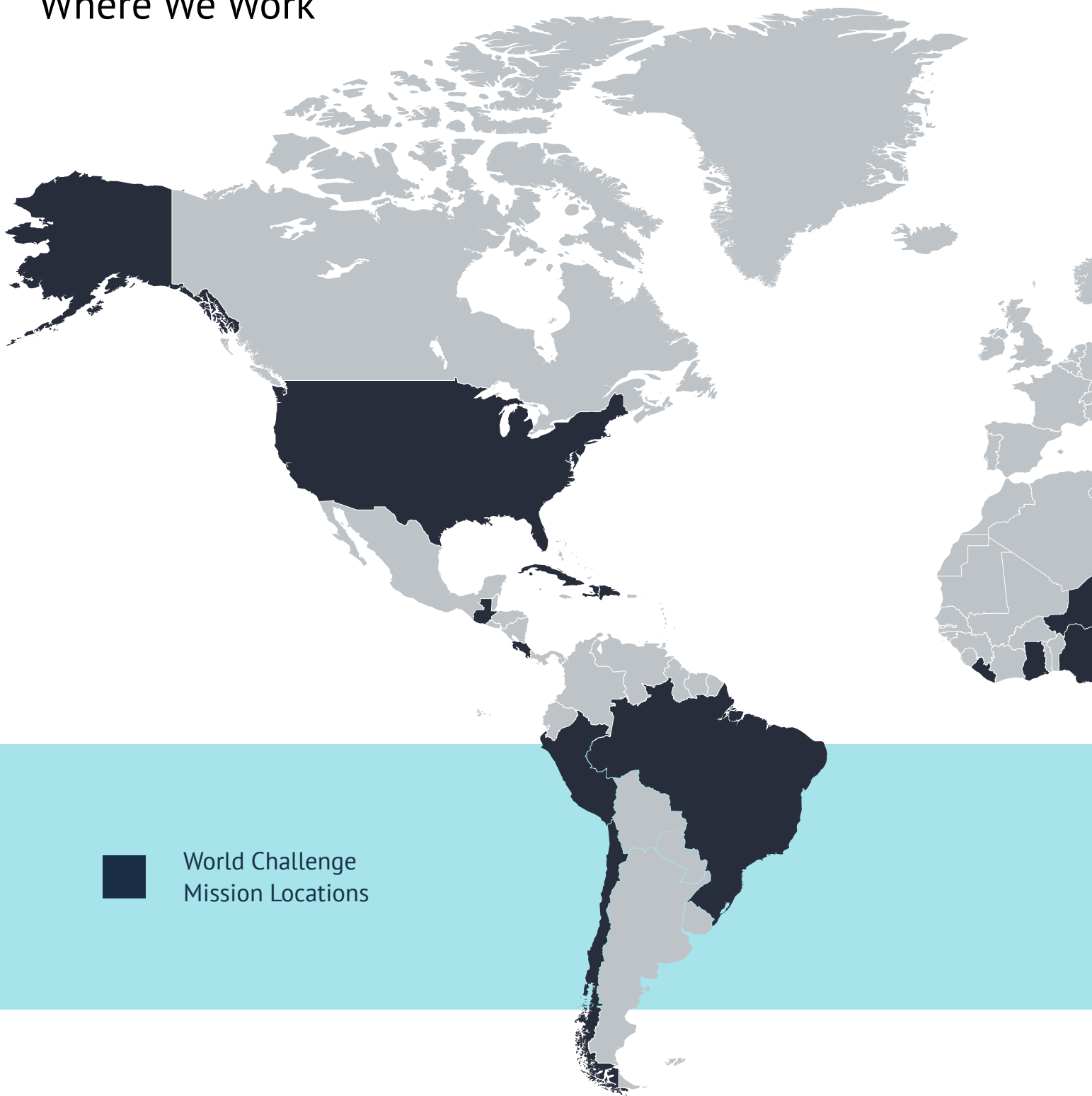
scriptural sources with good logic to bolster faith in the gospel.

Evan walks viewers through topics such as “Jesus the Son of Man” and “Can All Religions Lead to God?” Answers to these questions will equip and fortify young believers as well as draw in skeptics with truth and grace.

*Watch all the Faith Answers videos on our website under the Resources tab.*

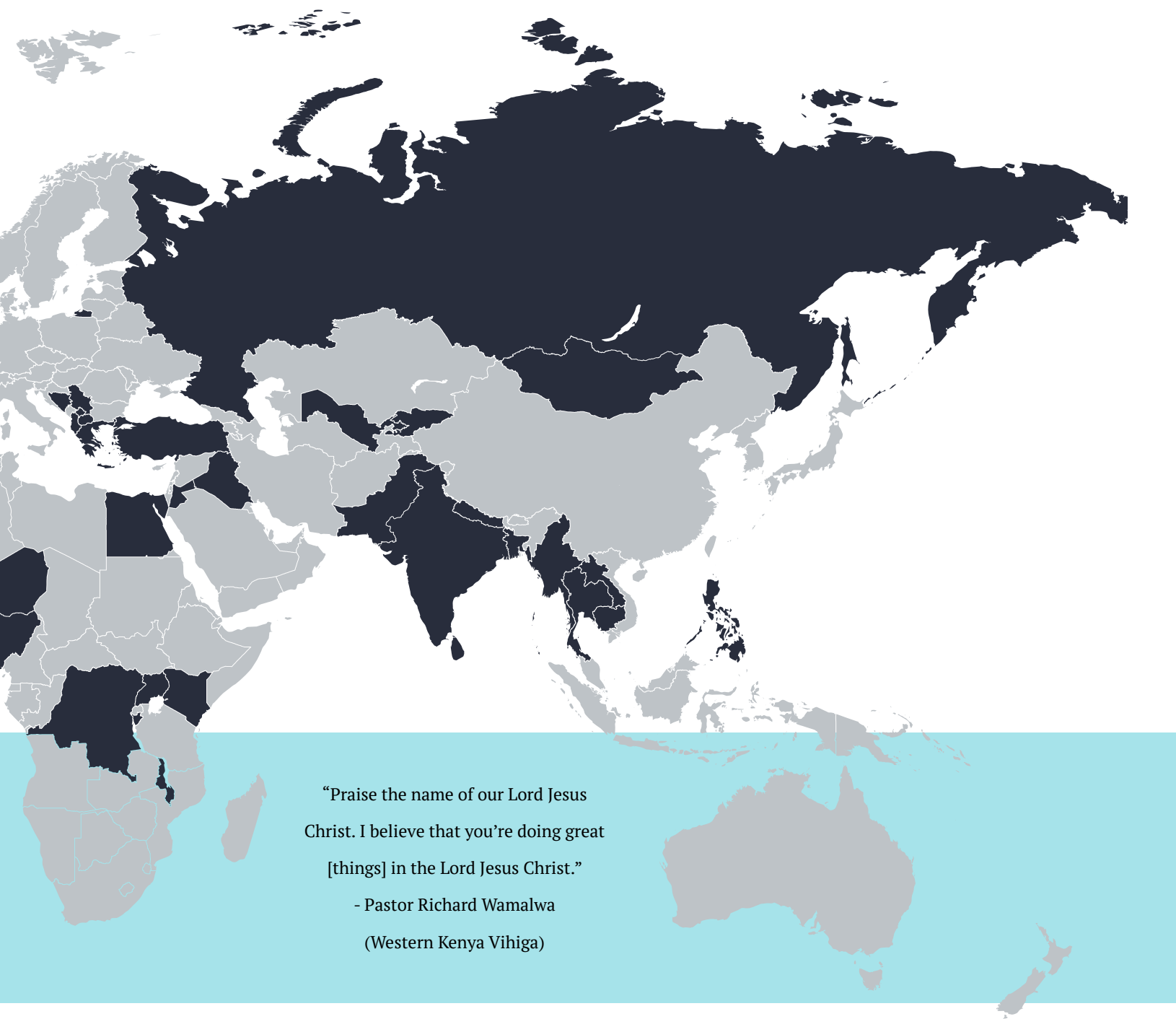
PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD

## Where We Work



World Challenge  
Mission Locations





“Praise the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that you’re doing great [things] in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Pastor Richard Wamalwa  
(Western Kenya Vihiga)

## MEDIA FOR GOD'S GLORY

### Voices for God

No more waiting for roaring planes to pass by during a podcast recording or considering neighbors with thin walls before composing on the keyboard.

Now World Challenge is equipped to continue creating media for the glory of God in a space made for this work. Equipped with a podcasting booth and a large area for music composition and recording, the new space has been converted from an automotive garage into the studio it is today.

While Kelly Wilkerson will use the studio to record worship songs and sound scores for missions videos, she also has a dream for the new space's future: to build a community. Here, young people gifted in music will bring their talents to glorify the Lord.

By helping them to steward their gifts from God, Kelly believes young people will be given an opportunity to stand strong apart from culture and serve the Lord with their voices.



## NEW OPPORTUNITIES

### Conferences on Hold, but God's Work Continues

COVID restrictions allowed World Challenge to innovate; with our newfound time, we developed several video series for believers to grow in their skills and calling.

With the "Attributes of God" series, Gary Wilkerson shares God's character and qualities with a heart for people to fully know God. "Trust

in God in Times of Crisis" instructs people how trust in him for every area of life.

"The Power of Preaching" is for pastors, to pour into them so they can serve with energy and reach the lost to a greater degree. More series are in the works as we look ahead with great anticipation for conferences in 2022.



## STEWARDS OF HEARTS

### Our Prayer Efforts Increase

In alignment with World Challenge's vision, the Prayer Line effectively encourages Christians in their daily faith.

In 2021, we have averaged 1,900 incoming prayer requests monthly through emails, phone calls, social media, the website and postal mailers.

People call daily with concerns and needs. Answering these are a team of three collaborators, our "stewards of hearts." Each phone call is a chance to display integrity and compassion and to point people to the unfailing love and unchanging character of God.

Amid a year when many people feel shaken, our Prayer Line workers walk with them through it, relying on God and reminding people nationwide of God's strength for all of us.

"I've used this prayer line on more than one occasion, and each time I've talked to a person that has a great deal of compassion and prayed earnestly for my situation.

Thank you for being there for us."

- Robert D.

### Online Bookstore Has Launched



This April, our new online bookstore officially opened. The store is easy to navigate and shares resources with people all over the country. Items are priced thoughtfully to cover production costs while staying affordable for you. Plus, all shipping is free. We have limited products handpicked with a purpose: to promote Christ's message and encourage believers today in their walks with God.

## KENYA

# Overflowing with Joy

Our long-time partner in Kenya runs an orphanage in Nairobi. For years, they rented land for the orphanage and a school, until their landlord raised rent to price them out. They reached out to us, and World Challenge provided funding to relocate the orphanage.

Funds were still needed to build a perimeter wall and drill a well. The well was crucial to provide water for the children and generate an income.

Not only that, but governmental restrictions dictate how many wells are allowed in close proximity, so time was of the essence. They needed to drill before others could dig wells nearby and take away their chance.

The budget to build the wall and borehole was \$48,000; they had to raise \$8,000 in order to start work.

Mark Buzzetta, the Global Director of Mercy Ministry, prayed about the funding, cobbled together the remaining budget and applied for a grant that would cover the remaining \$40,000. At the same time, he knew this meant he wouldn't have anything left for other ministries' needs that might arise for the rest of the year.

Then our Director of Partner Engagement, Dave Corsten, sent the news we received a donation of \$50,000 for the orphans fund. Not only did God provide the \$40,000, he added another \$10,000 on top of it. Our Lord is good indeed!







“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”  
Psalm 119:103, ESV

## HAITI

# Care as Sweet as Honey

One morning, seven leaders and twenty youth trekked out to the top of a ridge. Their anticipation built as they heard an ominous hum. Slowly, the group ventured closer to see what they had come for: a hive with bees hard at work.

Suddenly, friendly beekeepers popped out and beckoned the youth to suit up and join them!

Before anyone else dared, one girl went forward with absolutely no fear. Soon, all were discovering how to tend to bees and change the drawers, covered in bees' wax and dripping with honey.

In Haiti, World Challenge's partners face deeply enmeshed poverty and a sense of fatalism about the future. A complex history casts a shadow over the country and seems overwhelming. It will take a powerful and present God and the dedication of an entire community to show Christ's care and heal these wounds.

World Challenge's partner Osse St. Juste is faithfully working toward this goal. His team mentors teens and young adults in the

community. This trip to the honeybee farm was all made possible because of a beekeeping grant provided by World Challenge.

Osse said, “It was so much fun to see the excitement of some of the youth. Not only is the bee program expanding in the surrounding areas providing honey, income and pollination, but who knows what impact will come from a small group of youth that visited these hives?”

The whole group was excited to taste honey straight from its source, and the teens said it made them think about how food is sourced and future job possibilities.

Hope comes in a variety of ways. Every country's challenges vary, and it requires boundless creativity and sensitivity to the needs of each community to meet them.

Osse teaches youth in this community that they are all created uniquely by God and that he has good plans for their lives. As they continue, their hope for the future grows.



## PERU

# A Witness on Peru's Mountaintops

Many widows in rural Peru beg or sell food in the marketplace. Due to COVID lockdowns these women were suddenly left with no source of income.

World Challenge's partners in Peru work to serve widows in their community and provided food faithfully even during lockdowns.

These women have expressed tremendous gratitude, and they work alongside the team to clean and prepare meals with a happy heart.

Eufrosina was in the ministry when her crop of lima beans and potatoes failed. She cried out to the "true God" to provide for her. She was amazed to find everyday, sometimes in the smallest ways, God sustained her all year long.

Pastor Darwin told her, "God is not just interested in sustaining you here on earth. He is also interested in your eternal wellbeing."

Right then, God won her heart; she knew he was calling her. She accepted Jesus as her Savior! She did so even as the watchful eyes of the neighbors condemned her for leaving traditional culture to follow Christ.

Another widow, Modesta, was in the grip of alcoholism and knew she was powerless to overcome. She also gave her life to the Lord; now she leans on him daily to give her strength. She wants to know him more and has an awakening desire to share Jesus with everyone she can.

One of the eldest widows is frail, but she's so determined not to miss a meeting that she pays a young person to take her in a wheelbarrow. The journey is 20 minutes each way over a bumpy dirt road, but she is unwavering.

These ladies' dedication to the church, to fellowship and blessing one another is a constant encouragement to us.

## A LETTER FROM OUR CFO

# How funds were spent July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

*I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High. —Psalm 9:1-2*

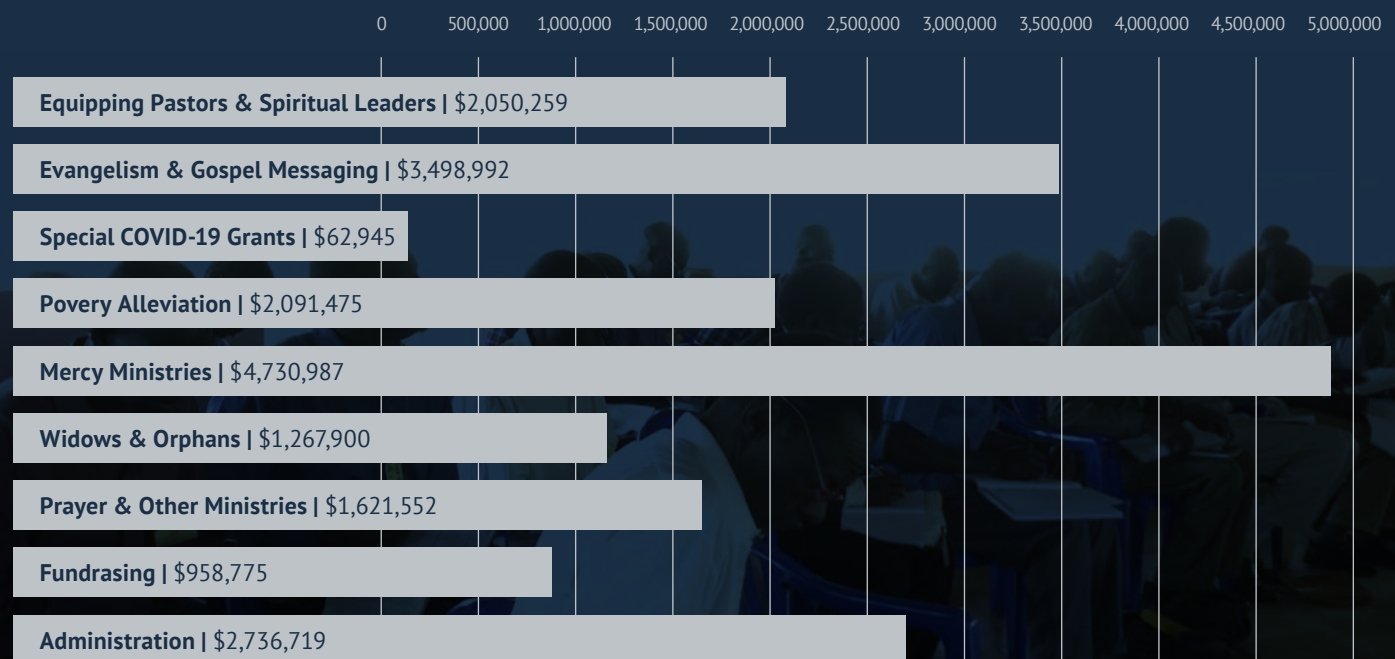
Thank you. Simply thank you. It's no secret that the past year or so was a tough one. As we each sought to make sense of it for ourselves and our families, World Challenge amped up its ministry to proclaim the gospel, encourage everyone with God's amazing love and challenge Christians to live bolder in biblical truth.

We couldn't have done this without the support of donors who partnered with us to make it happen. For most of 2020, we thought that contributions would decrease from the year prior, but our donors didn't stop. In December, donations poured in. We ended the calendar year with total contributions more than 1 percent higher than the previous year. Into 2021, we have been amazed as donors continue to share their passion for the proclamation of biblical truth and care for others who are hurting around the world.

For the six months ending June 30, contributions increased 35 percent from the same period last year. So, I say it again, THANK YOU! Thank you for trusting us with your contributions and partnering with us to share the gospel. Thank you for helping us lift up pastors and church leaders through many difficult situations. Thank you for helping us reach out to hurting people throughout communities who have little hope. Thank you for helping us encourage so many people with prayer and scripture.

Thank you.

Dawn Williams CFO







## THANK YOU

In some regards, this report just scratches the surface of how God used World Challenge to transform many lives this past year. Thank you for playing a vital role, funding the work God has called us to do. Oftentimes when one of our ministry partners receives thanks for a financial gift, they respond, "Thanks, but we are just playing our part and following through with what God laid on our heart." This is true, but our staff recognizes that ministry is a team effort, and we are so thankful you are on our team.

Ephesians 3:20-21 sums it up well. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." We certainly celebrate the work in our worldwide ministry; however, we do not want to miss the opportunity to celebrate you. We are grateful!

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worldchallengeinc



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