

Global Mission Report



Celebrating 2023



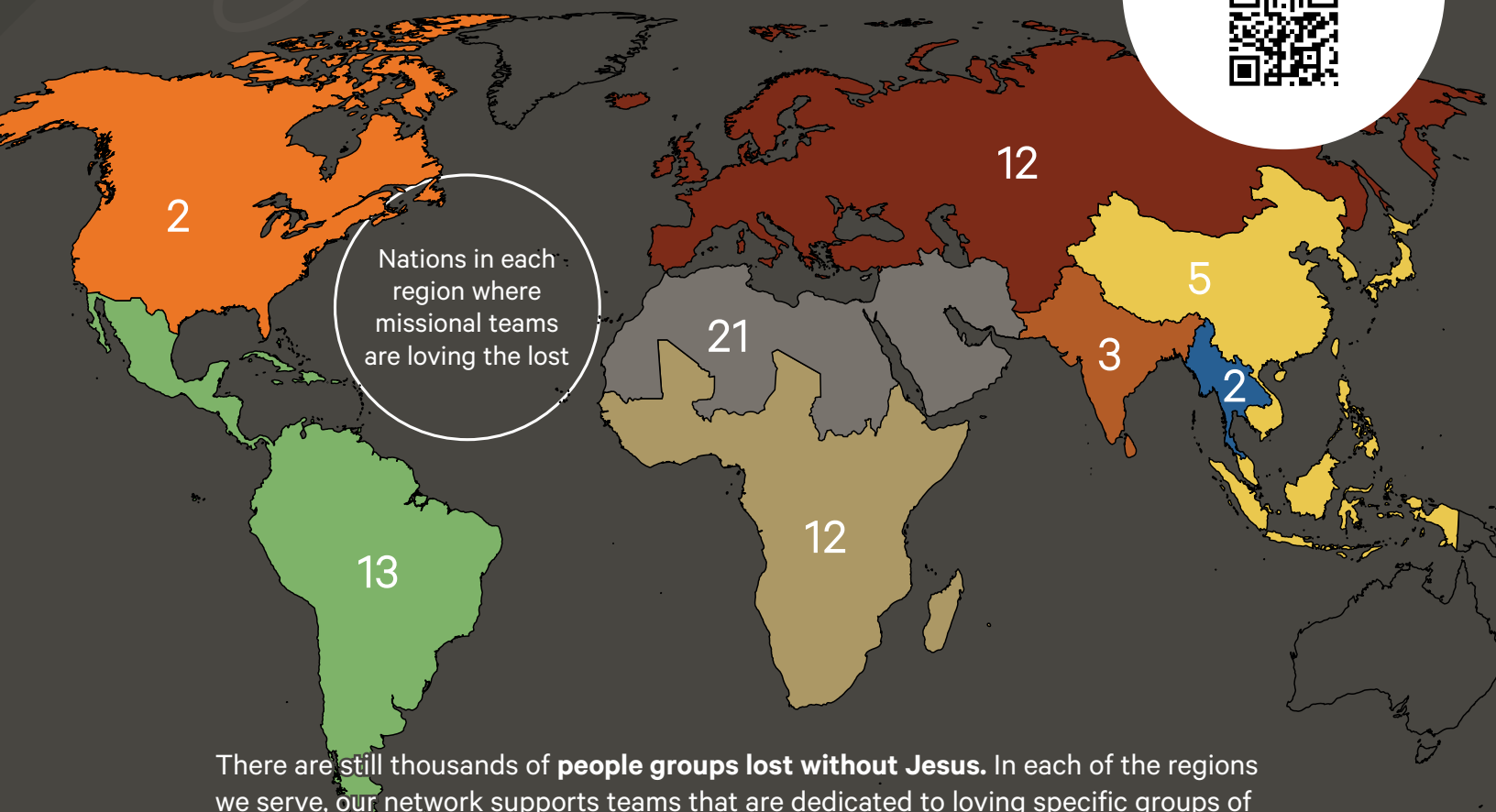
multiply

Our Family ON MISSION IN 2023

God is on a Mission. Jesus sends disciples, empowered by the Spirit, on God's mission to love, reconcile, and transform people of all nations.

Joining God's Mission. Together, we send disciples to make disciples who make disciples, that the world may know Jesus.

View online at
multiply.net/report



There are still thousands of **people groups lost without Jesus**. In each of the regions we serve, our network supports teams that are dedicated to loving specific groups of people. The three categories below make up our strategic focus.

SENDING OUT MISSIONARIES

In 2023, **285 MB churches** in the U.S. and Canada were involved in supporting these teams and **79 long-term workers**, sent from North America, served on teams around the world.



PARTNERING WITH NATIONALS

In 2023, we continued to encourage nationals in **70 nations**, walking closely with them and connecting them with North American prayer, giving, and missionaries where needed.



HELPING DISCIPLES MULTIPLY

In 2023, **668 everyday disciples** participated in **13 Mission Training Programs** based in North America, and thousands more in our global network participated in similar training worldwide.

together that the world may know *Jesus*



INTRODUCTION:

Giving and Receiving in God's Kingdom

Thank you for your prayers and support! In this year's report, you will read stories of the various ways that together, we have the privilege of proclaiming and living into the transforming hope found in Jesus Christ. What a joy to be part of this kingdom work as God is writing new stories in every region, including the U.S. and Canada! We continue to send global workers from North America to support and come alongside the work of national leaders in each of the regions we serve. Our desire is to partner in mutuality, where we recognize that we have as much (or more) to receive as we have to give.

In many of the countries where we serve, we don't have global workers (missionaries) from North America, but our Regional Team Leaders connect, encourage, and equip the national, local workers who are laying down their lives in love and obedience, often serving in the midst of persecution and war. Again, we have so much to learn about the role of suffering in our faith and witness from believers in places like the Middle East and North Africa.

You will also read stories about local disciples like you and me who are simply living out their faith and hope in Jesus in their everyday lives. We are all called to be disciple-makers in our local context, joining in God's great story, and encouraging each other along the way in relationships that develop and deepen over time. I think of the apostle Paul who said to the church in Rome, "I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith" (Romans 1:11-12). We all have something to contribute to others, and also something to receive as we take a learning posture.

The Spirit of God continues to send people with the passion and love of Jesus to the most remote regions of the world, as well as to our next door neighbors. Each one of us is invited to join God in this kingdom story, serving the Church on God's mission wherever he has placed us.

Thank you for supporting and joining this work together, so that the people of all nations may know Jesus.

"He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit" (Ephesians 2:17-18).

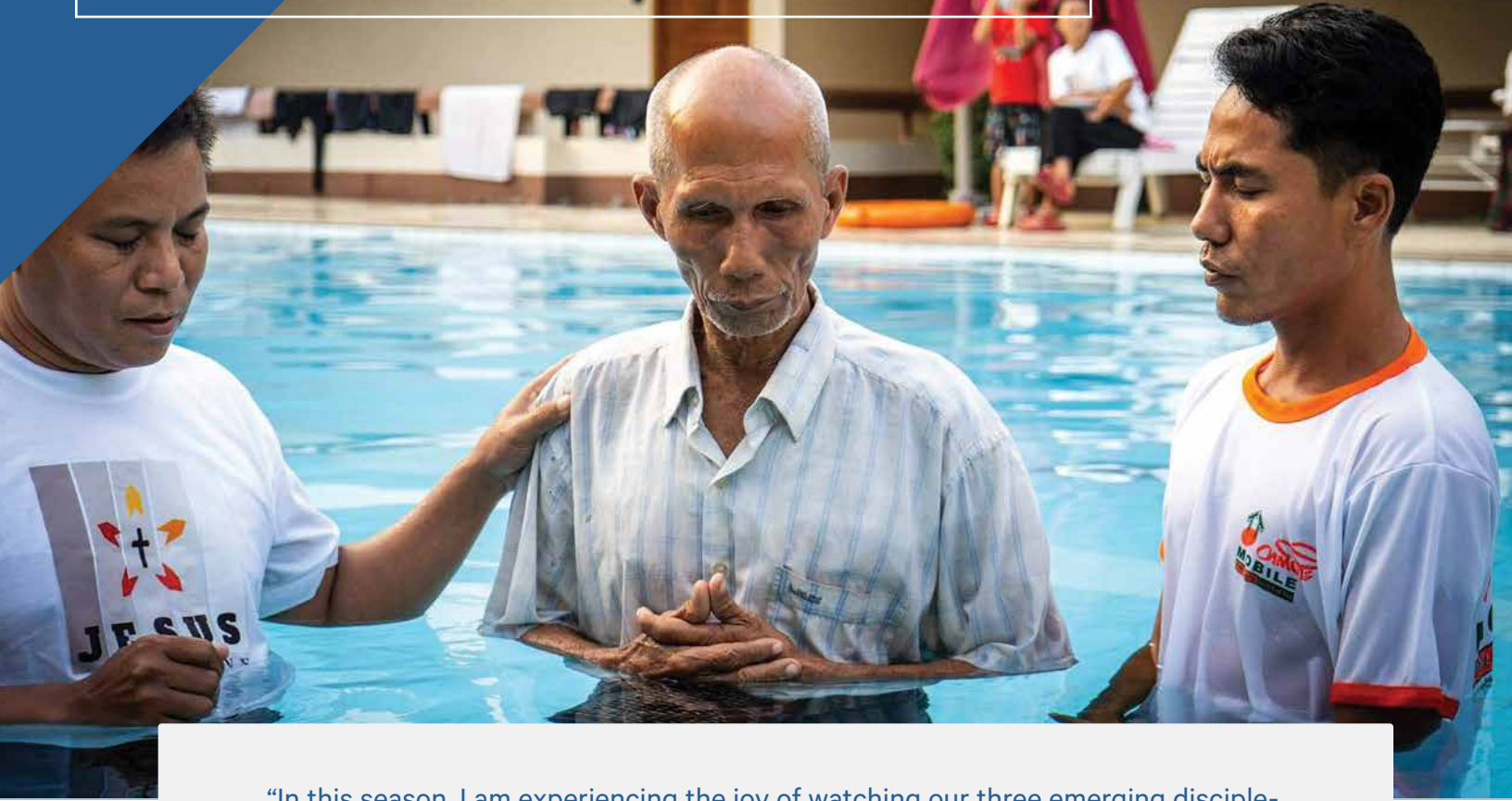


Bruce Enns

GENERAL DIRECTOR



SOUTHEAST ASIA



“In this season, I am experiencing the joy of watching our three emerging disciple-making movements grow like never before! Daily, I receive testimonies from our evangelists and pastors about miracles of healing and answered prayer that are opening the hearts of Buddhists to Jesus. As well, many of the new churches are meeting in open rice fields and war zones—their single-minded focus on discipleship moves me to keep serving our national teams with all my heart.”

~ LOUISE SINCLAIR-PETERS, REGIONAL TEAM LEADER



Sending North American Missionaries



WE CELEBRATE

- > A family from Canada that is participating in the FOCUS Internship has arrived in Samut Prakan Province in Thailand to serve our newest cluster of churches among Myanmar migrant workers. Local church leaders have welcomed them with open arms into the Myanmar community and they are assisting them in language learning.



Partnering with Nationals

WE CELEBRATE

- > Our Thai pastors have a saying, “Pray hard. Work light.” Our Thai churches on the Eastern Seaboard have been gathering weekly for fasting and prayer. When Pastor Knot met Aunty Rada, she was bedridden and groaning in pain. She had not walked or slept peacefully for seven years. She had given up all hope and wanted to die. Then Pastor Knot walked into her house and shared the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and asked God to heal Aunty Rada. That day, Rada stood up and walked without pain! Since then, one by one, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews have heard Rada’s testimony and have experienced God’s miraculous healing and put their trust in Jesus Christ. Now, there are over forty people who have come to believe in Jesus based on Aunty Rada’s testimony. Hallelujah! This is how the multiplication of disciples works in Southeast Asia.



Helping Everyday Disciples Multiply

WE CELEBRATE

- > As we look back over 2023, we are praising God for an unprecedented harvest. We celebrate the simple, yet intentional discipleship practices of our national leaders. Last year, our Thai and Myanmar leaders planted 30 new house churches and baptized over 360 people into the family of God! Hallelujah!



EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA



“Europe is a Post-Christian continent. God has placed us here to plant local churches that make a difference in the society. In Central Asia, the countries are turning more and more towards a radical Islam. We want to use the window of opportunity to multiply disciples in this region.”

~ JOHANN MATTHIES, REGIONAL TEAM LEADER



Sending North American Missionaries

WE CELEBRATE

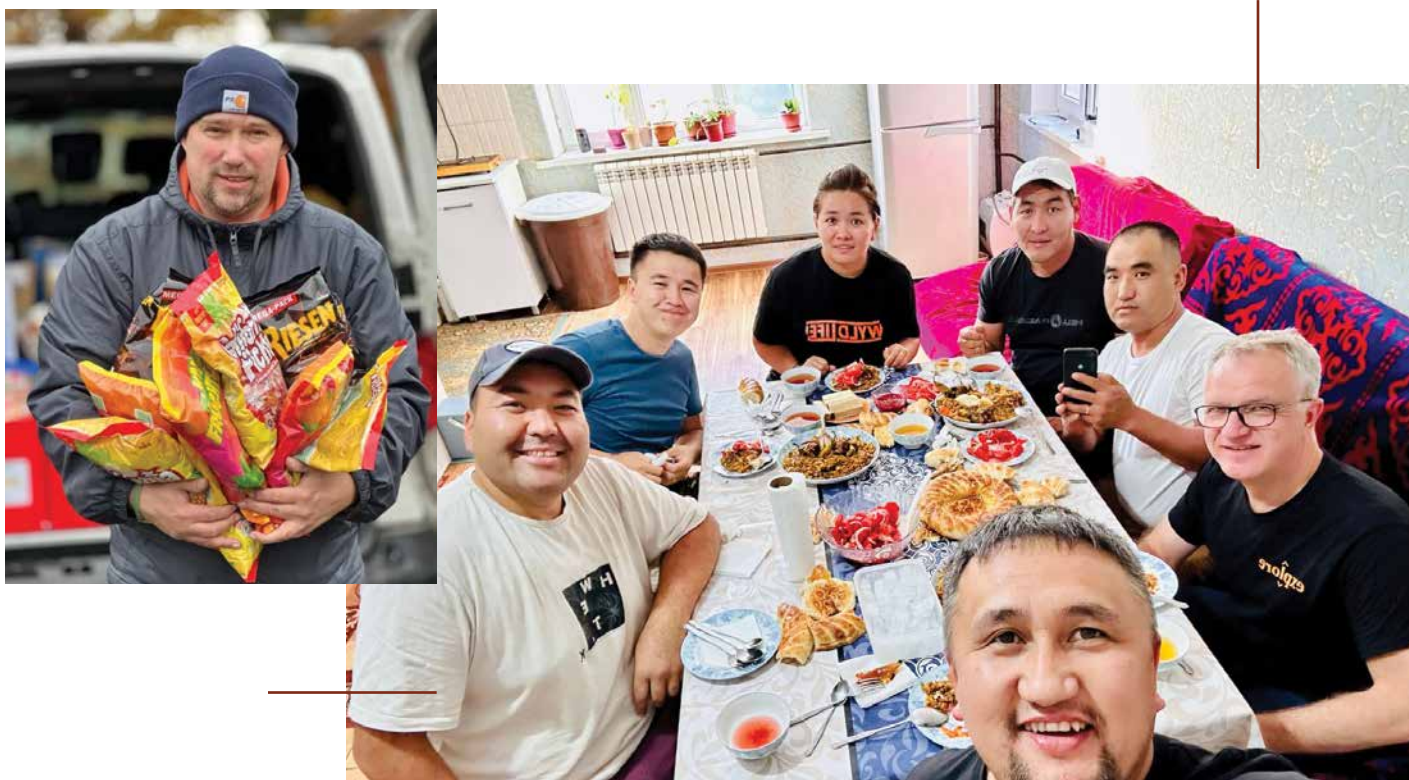
- D & M are involved in the church in Linz, Austria, and are also coaching the North American workers in Europe and Central Asia.
- Sarah Reed is serving the church in Steyr, Austria, and helping with mission training programs in Europe.
- Jonathan and Joanna Pharazyn-Gutierrez are supporting the work in Portugal.
- Alex and Carla Suderman are supporting the church plant in Dortmund, Germany.
- Paul and Sarah Raugust are active in the church in Montbeliard, France, and working with refugees, as well as hosting teams from TREK-Europe.
- A & R and another couple from Canada are a great blessing in Central Asia.
- Russ and Marjorie are in their final terms of service in France.



Partnering with Nationals

WE CELEBRATE

- > A growing team of German church planters are serving in Germany, with five church plants underway currently and more to be added.
- > Gediminas and Kristina Dailydė are leading the ministry in Lithuania, pastoring the 180° Church and hosting teams from TREK-Europe.
- > One of our national partners in Central Asia is now leading fruitful ministry in three countries.



Helping Everyday Disciples Multiply

WE CELEBRATE

- > Akjol and Raissa are discipling a growing number of people in Central Asia.
- > Sypatai and Perizat are reaching out to several new locations in Central Asia, especially in villages with no access for foreigners.
- > Marcella and David Taquet are working with refugees in France.
- > Johanna Neudorf, from Paraguay, is supporting the growing church plant in Dortmund, Germany.
- > Markus and Jenny Neumann are preparing to go to Madagascar, where Jenny is originally from and where she previously served among local women.
- > Margarete Daiker is working as a teacher for blind children in Central Asia and is involved in discipling their parents.

**SENDING
OUT
MISSIONARIES**



PARTNERING
WITH
NATIONALS



HELPING
DISCIPLES
MULTIPLY

Why We Send North American *Missionaries*

Jesus' Great Commission was given to all disciples for all times. This includes disciples in North America in the twenty-first century. We celebrate that the global Church is stepping up to take her rightful place in God's mission and yet that doesn't mean that North Americans should now step back or just contribute financially. Over 40% of the world's 8 billion people still do not have a viable Christian witness! The harvest is still plentiful and the workers are still few. In love and obedience to our God, we must continue to send workers!

However, our role is changing. Many within the global Church are asking us to truly partner with them in their local efforts to reach the lost, knowing that we are better together. It is especially in our diversity, when God's people are united unto his mission, that the world sees the effect of the love of Jesus in action and takes notice. This kind of witness is only possible when people are sent from everywhere to everywhere and join together unto a common mission. If we stop sending missionaries from North America, multitudes of lost people will miss out on seeing and hearing the Gospel in their lifetime.

Jesus PRAYED, "...THAT THEY MAY BE PERFECTED IN UNITY, SO THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW THAT YOU SENT ME, AND LOVED THEM." JOHN 17:23

As the mission agency of Mennonite Brethren churches in the U.S. and Canada, Multiply is committed to equipping and sending North Americans into global mission. As we send, we look for invitations and assignments that add value to what God is already doing through the local church where possible. Some of our workers from North America are involved in equipping and mentoring national partners, such as Jeremy and Adrienne Penner in their ministry among Myanmar church leaders in Thailand. In addition to making disciples, some of our workers are also providing administrative support to national leaders in their host countries, like Travis Jost in Burundi or Rebecca Hiebert in Thailand. Others are working closely with local churches to find contextual ways to reach the unreached together, such as Robert and Marlene Baerg in Mongolia or Paul and Sara Raugust in France.

The Church of Jesus Christ is truly a global family that is engaged in a global mission, so we are excited about finding our place in that mission and working together effectively with our brothers and sisters, *that the world may know Jesus.*



Endings and Beginnings

THE STORY OF
KYLE AND DANAЕ SCHMIDT,
GLOBAL WORKERS IN UGANDA

In February 2022, Kyle and Danae Schmidt returned to the U.S. after completing a three-year apprenticeship as global workers with Multiply in West Africa. Unsure of their future, the couple decided to embrace a time of debrief and discernment.

“It was so important for us to unpack our experience,” said Danae. “We had some strong feelings about what went well and what didn’t. We needed to sift through the dirt to find the gold. After two months of debrief, we knew that God had clarified our identity and calling.”

However, after meeting with Multiply leaders and ministry partners in West Africa, it was discerned that the couple would not return long-term to that ministry assignment. “It was a very difficult decision to make,” said Kyle, “yet we also had incredible peace that our Father was leading us into a new season of fruitful service somewhere else.”

“We still very much wanted to be involved in the work of the Gospel in Africa,” said Danae. “We were eager to invest our passion for discipleship and our practical skills in coming alongside local leaders to further their ministry.”

As they waited for clarity, God reminded Kyle and Danae of his goodness. “Over and over again, we heard the Father saying that we could trust him,” said Kyle, “not just in the good times, but also in the challenging times, when things felt less than perfect. The Father is always faithful. He doesn’t make mistakes.”

Before long, another opportunity was presented to Kyle and Danae, this time in Uganda, with national partners, Robert and Esther Mponye, who had started a ministry for vulnerable children and were overseeing a network of churches, a Bible school, vocational school, medical clinic, evangelistic outreaches, agricultural projects and more.

After a short trip to Uganda, Kyle and Danae returned to the U.S. to share the vision for what they felt God was calling them to next. “We are excited about what God has in store for us in Uganda,” they said as they prepared, “but our first several months will be filled with observing, asking questions, learning the language, and getting to know people. We trust the Spirit will lead us into the work he has set aside for us there.”

Kyle and Danae moved to Uganda in late September 2022, and immediately focused on acclimating to their new surroundings. “We want to come in slow and low with our ideas and our gifts,” said Kyle.

During the past year, the couple has found their way in Uganda, and they quickly became excited about what God had for them in this new place.

“We are delighted to have them in Uganda,” said national partner, Robert Mponye. “They are clearly becoming a part of what our Father is doing here. Even when they arrived, we felt right away that we had received teammates, not strange missionaries!”

FOR THE FULL STORY ON OUR WEBSITE, GO TO [MULTIPLY.NET/STORY/ENDINGS-AND-BEGINNINGS](https://multiply.net/story/endings-and-beginnings)



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



“Our annual summit of leaders revealed a growing sense of mission among our African friends. We’re also very expectant with new frontiers: Ethiopia and Namibia.”

~ DOUG HIEBERT,
REGIONAL TEAM LEADER



Sending North American Missionaries

WE CELEBRATE

- > Sean and Amy Hildebrand will be arriving in Uganda in January as long-term missionaries. We’re excited about them joining the team as well as for their close connection with Northview Church. We’re sure there will be so much mutual benefiting from these connections.
- > It’s exciting to see Uganda becoming a hub for missionaries and for hosting teams. A vision team trip recently visited and was deeply impacted. A TREK team will arrive in the days to come. Melanie Wiebe has also arrived as a FOCUS intern.



Partnering with Nationals

WE CELEBRATE

- > Safari has now been in the southeast of DR Congo for over a year. His ministry in Situ is growing at a deliberately slow pace as he works at discipling families as well as young people in a whole-life way, knowing a gathering of believers will emerge. In the meantime, his teaching and discipling in the Kivu provinces of DR Congo is bearing much fruit. He is seeing change in how Church leaders understand the church, its purpose, mission, and their roles. Josue Selamani is a medical doctor who has been part of the MB church in that region most of his life. Recently, through Safari’s work, Josue’s eyes have been opened. He is asking very good questions about church and he’s using his own funds to go on mission trips, empowering the existing church.
- > Robert and Esther Mponye in Uganda continue to be used by God in their country. Their focused work of evangelism and discipleship, and walking alongside leaders, continues to bear much fruit. Our partnership in Uganda only grows.
- > An exciting new partnership is developing in Namibia. Esperance is a Burundian medical doctor who fled the crisis in her country in 2015. Arriving in Namibia, she felt God calling her to start a church as people kept coming to her for spiritual direction. After she received some discipling from Pastor Alexis (Burundi) and a recent visit, Esperance has now joined our Africa Leader Summit. She is a powerful woman of God, but very alone in Namibia, a spiritually dark place. We’re excited to see where this partnership goes.



Helping Everyday Disciples Multiply

WE CELEBRATE

- > Discipling for Development (D4D) continues to be a powerful ministry in Burundi that expands the vision of local believers to a kingdom perspective through discipleship and practical training. Samuel, our Burundian partner, leads this ministry and Travis Jost, long-term missionary from Wichita, Kansas, continues to grow his training contribution. This is resulting in tremendous impact as local pastors are contending for transformation in their villages and cities.



EAST ASIA



“The East Asia region is very diverse. Japan has had an MB conference of churches for many years. The other nations in the region have churches that are much younger, and are considered new or emerging conferences. But whether older or younger, God is at work throughout the region as the Gospel is being proclaimed, disciples are making disciples, leaders are being trained, and churches are emerging. Praise God!”

~ BOB DAVIS, REGIONAL TEAM LEADER



Sending North American Missionaries

WE CELEBRATE

- In Japan, long-term missionary Cory Giesbrecht recently attended a nationwide summit on evangelism, which is held once every seven years. It was held in Gifu, a small city in one of the least-reached areas of Japan, where the mayor happens to be a deeply committed Christian. Cory said, “I was amazed how the presence of God fell upon us at this gathering.” – “However, we shouldn’t be surprised when God answers our prayers! In the middle of this summit, God brought together a group of us that were hoping to do evangelism in Gifu city. We agreed to go to the train station in the evening. While we were worshiping and witnessing to people, the mayor of Gifu joined us! It was a very encouraging feeling to be sharing the Gospel with the mayor of the city behind us. As I was reflecting on this, I realized that Jesus (the King of Kings) is always with us when we are out witnessing! It is so easy to forget this and to feel very alone out there!”



Partnering with Nationals

WE CELEBRATE

- **Mekong (Khmu):** Last year, one of the Khmu MB conference leaders called BK took a small team across the border to a restricted area. The purpose of this vision trip was to explore and discern opportunities to preach and teach in that region. On this trip, the team met a few believers and pastors with whom they have been building relationships. They now plan to assist the churches by providing discipleship and leadership training to see the Gospel penetrate this region.
- **Philippines:** About twenty years ago, Sam Arcano and his team in Baguio started a community outreach concert called October Praise. Over the years, it has grown to include many other churches and has even spread to other cities in the Philippines, and even to Hong Kong! Sam reports that, at this year's event in Baguio, over fifty young people responded to the invitation to live for Jesus and his kingdom.

Helping Everyday Disciples Multiply

WE CELEBRATE

- **Philippines:** On the island of Palawan, in the city of Brooke's Point, and a group of about 10-12 local independent churches are being equipped for service and leadership using Multiply's Missional Leadership Training. These churches have been under-resourced in leadership development and are very blessed to have Sam Arcano coming to them several times per year to do the training in one of the local churches. Over 100 people have received the training over the last three years.
- **Northern Thailand (Changed Life Center):** In Chiang Khong Thailand, the staff and students are making disciples who make disciples. At CLC there are about twenty high school students who live there Sunday through Friday and are being taught to share their faith at school and in their home villages. They are also being taught music and are given the opportunity to train as worship leaders. Every year at Christmas time they visit local schools to present the Gospel to students, staff and families.
- **Northern Thailand (Chiang Mai Khmu):** The local pastor and church planter, Chalorm, has developed an outreach team that frequently goes out into unreached villages to share the Good News through praying for the sick and oppressed, and preaching the Gospel. They are witnessing many conversions and baptisms, and several new house churches have been started.





MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA



“We began 2023 by facilitating a mission school in North Sudan that turned into a church-planting movement, then watched as the military in that country turned against itself and its own citizens, destroying major cities, seizing and burning down churches, and scattering our beloved friends far and wide. Many are now preaching the kingdom of Jesus in refugee camps in neighboring countries.”

~ NASSER AL'QAHTANI, REGIONAL TEAM LEADER



Sending North American Missionaries

WE CELEBRATE

- > Two new full-time workers have been mobilized from the U.S. named CD and JH. They are both working closely with regional leadership and serving the River of Life network in a support role, providing administrative and relational assistance to the vast network of Indigenous leaders across the region who are involved in evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. Both workers are committed long-term and are in need of relational and financial support. Due to their frequent travel throughout the region and their contact with national leaders, their full names will be withheld and only initials will be used in communication. Please respect this restriction.
- > In May 2023, an ACTION team from the U.S. was sent to the Middle East to engage in relationship building and evangelism through rock climbing in the mountains of the Arabian Peninsula. While camping, they encountered many locals and had the opportunity to share the Gospel. Their small team was very intentional about turning conversations to spiritual matters and praying for people. This program is being planned again for July 2024.



Partnering with Nationals

WE CELEBRATE

- A gathering of national leaders from across the region was planned for October 2023 in a Middle Eastern country, but the recent unrest that unfolded in the Gaza strip threatened to disrupt those plans. However, emboldened by the strong desire of the leaders to be together, the Summit Gathering did happen and was a great success in terms of strengthening relationships and sharing resources. Team members from across the region joined together as family for a significant time of worship, teaching, fellowship, prayer, and hearing each other's stories. They worshiped in Arabic and English with everyone united by a common purpose of glorifying Christ. For everyone who attended, they went away refreshed and empowered.
- In this region, we are working alongside local leaders in twenty-one countries. These leaders have voluntarily chosen to be part of our River of Life network because of the value it brings in connecting them to the larger body of Christ. Our goal is to bring culturally-appropriate training that leads them deeper into relationship with Christ and empowers them to reach their own people.
- The work being done in this region is getting the attention of other agencies and denominations and the opportunities for fruitful partnerships are increasing.

Helping Everyday Disciples Multiply

WE CELEBRATE

- Our national partner in Egypt was formerly a missionary in Sudan. In recent years, he has helped us host mission training events for local believers in Sudan. The most recent training event was earlier this year, which brought together a group of young leaders that were trained and then sent out to share the Gospel on the streets. It was a transformative experience for the participants. Since that event, the Gospel has multiplied in that country and there are now four generations of impact in people's lives as a result. We are currently implementing a two-year strategy that will provide at least six installments of Bible teaching and training, so that a group of about forty young church leaders could receive valuable investment in their lives on three main topics: discipleship, missional living, and leadership training. "All of these young believers in Sudan are from non-Christian backgrounds," said our national partner. "They have given their lives to Christ and have a deep desire to reach out to their communities with the Gospel."

SENDING
OUT
MISSIONARIES



**PARTNERING
WITH
NATIONALS**



HELPING
DISCIPLES
MULTIPLY

Why We Partner With *Nationals*

“I TELL YOU, OPEN YOUR EYES AND LOOK AT THE FIELDS! THEY ARE RIPE FOR HARVEST.”

- *Jesus* (JOHN 4:35)

The mission of God to love, reconcile, and transform people of all nations is too big and too important for us to engage without partnership. At Multiply, we believe in partnering with nationals as they lead the local expression of the Church. We seek to honor what God is already doing through local believers and to support them and their vision for reaching lost people in their nations. As we develop relationships with local leaders and churches, we are often invited to partner with them through prayer, giving, and serving alongside them. Potential partnerships emerge when there is alignment on mission strategy and shared values.

We believe that nationals are best suited to serve churches in their context and to sustain movements that will last long after foreigners are gone. Local believers know their language, culture, and context, and have the practical advantage of being able to gain access to remote (and unreached) areas. Additionally, as many nations restrict access to foreigners, it is not surprising that Multiply's primary mission strategy in regions like South Asia, North Africa and the Middle East has become to encourage and support the faithful work of national partners.

Multiply is also thrilled to have missionaries from North America serving long-term alongside national leaders like Robert and Esther Mponye in Uganda and Pastor Naat in Thailand. For any of these partnerships to work, our posture needs to be that of a servant and encourager, not a director or owner. This posture was best modeled by Jesus who took on the very nature of a servant, loved his disciples well, and encouraged them to join God's mission in the world.

We are thankful that the Good News of Jesus is spreading like never before and that there is opportunity to serve the vision of local believers in so many nations. As we strive for mutuality in partnerships, we realize that humility and patience are essential. And by the grace of God, those healthy partnerships produce strong disciples, churches, and leaders, unto the glory of God and the revealing of his kingdom on earth.



Who's Calling?

"That's strange, who could be calling us from Korea?" Pastor Bank in Thailand said to his wife as he looked at the international number on his cell phone.

When he finally answered, a Thai woman politely said, "Are you a Thai pastor living in Chachoengsao?"

"Yes," Bank answered. "How did you get my contact information?"

"Google maps," the woman answered simply. "Since moving to Korea for work, I have become a believer in Jesus Christ. I really want my parents to know the Lord as well. The only problem is that I don't know any Christians in Thailand. So, I looked on Google Maps for the nearest church and I found you. Would you be willing to go visit my mom and dad and share the Good News with them?"

"Of course! I would be happy to!" Pastor Bank answered.

That week, Bank went to meet the woman's parents. He was surprised to experience a genuine interest from the elderly couple

who were devout Buddhists that had lived in the same village and worshiped at the same Buddhist temple for over seventy years. That day, Bank led the parents and a few neighbors to repent of their sin and put their faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation.

A few weeks later, the mother phoned Bank and said, "Okay, you can come teach us now. We have finished building."

Building what? Bank thought to himself. A little confused but very curious, Bank immediately went to visit the older couple. As he followed them into their convenience store, he noticed new walls at the back of the store. When he opened the door and walked in, he saw a beautifully decorated room, complete with a cross, a flat screen TV, flowers and ten chairs all neatly set in rows. "Wow!" Pastor Bank exclaimed. "This is amazing!"

"Well, I thought we needed a place to worship Jesus," the elderly woman answered. "I want to give this property to God."

Standing outside the church, still marveling at all that God had done, Bank watched as a woman walked past the store. Noticing the cross, she said, "Is this a church?"

Bank, still in shock, hesitated before answering, "Um, yes, yes, this is a church." Noticing her accent and her beautiful tanaka-painted face, he asked, "Are you from Myanmar?"

"Yes," she answered. "There are about sixty of us Myanmar people working in the factory across the street."

"Well, they can all come too!" Bank said, pointing to the church building. "We even have a Myanmar pastor for you," Bank announced with new faith and confidence.

"Oh, thank you, Pastor!" the woman said as she ran back to work.

So, last month, this elderly couple hosted their first ever evangelistic outreach at the local school, and about 250 people came! Both Thai and Myanmar pastors from our MB churches brought teams that shared powerful testimonies of the saving power of Jesus Christ. Two aunties were miraculously healed and over thirty people stood up to invite Jesus Christ to forgive their sins and then thanked God for giving them eternal life.

FOR THE FULL STORY ON OUR WEBSITE, GO TO [MULTIPLY.NET/STORY/GOSPEL-JAIL](https://www.multiply.net/story/gospel-jail)



CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA



“We are experiencing a great movement of revival among young believers, and we are overwhelmed by requests to help them engage in mission and provide them with mission training. As well, the Gospel is spreading like wildfire among the least reached people groups in our region as God is doing signs and wonders through his people.”

~ EMERSON CARDOSO, REGIONAL TEAM LEADER



Sending North American Missionaries

WE CELEBRATE

- Pablo and Marcela Chavez and their family just completed their first year of ministry in northern Peru. They were mobilized by Spanish and English speaking churches from the Western U.S. As they adapt to life in Peru, they report that God is giving them favor with the MB church leaders and pastors, gaining trust through shared meals and ministry experiences. They continue to work toward helping Peruvian pastors fulfill their God-given ministry of discipling others and reaching out to those in their communities who still need to experience the love of Christ.
- For more than two years, brothers from North America have been coaching us on how we can serve Indigenous people in our region. This year, we invited John Johnstone and several others to come and visit Indigenous communities in the Amazon. They brought gifts with them from their First Nations people, as well as their own personal gifts, and their experiences with God in their local context. Our people did the same, and the moments shared together brought God’s healing for both lands. The fruit of this visit has now spread and is impacting three more ethnic groups in the depths of the Amazon.



Partnering with Nationals

WE CELEBRATE

- › Our mission family has been blessed by a new partnership with Marco Aurelio, the leader of a network of churches in Costa Rica. Marco was introduced to us through the ministry of Disciple Making International (DMI). He works throughout Central America, reaching people with the Gospel, offering connections, and caring for pastors. These relationships have opened new doors to discipleship and leadership training.



Helping Everyday Disciples Multiply

WE CELEBRATE

- › Last year, the son of an Indigenous chief was brought to our missionary boat passed out drunk. His name was Ademir. This was his father's attempt to save his son's life. For three days, Ademir stayed in the cabin of the boat, being fed and kept hydrated. He was also given a devotional book to read. When he recovered his strength, he asked why he was being cared for like that. The answer was, "Jesus." Ademir immediately surrendered his life to Jesus, jumped back on his canoe, and went back to the village. Our Indigenous leader, Charles, discipled this man for a year, and walked with him. The transformation in his life went so deep that today we not only celebrate Ademir as a full member of our missionary team in the Amazon, he is also one of the main pilots of our missionary boat.



SOUTH ASIA



“This year, God is doing new things, bringing new life to those seeking him, as well as reconciling and renewing the church in unity and mission.”

~ DH, REGIONAL TEAM LEADER



Sending North American Missionaries

WE CELEBRATE

- > In regions like South Asia, there are many restrictions that make it difficult for North Americans to live and serve on a long-term basis within the region. Although Multiply does have workers in South Asia who have creatively overcome obstacles to remain and serve effectively, it has become a strategic priority for us to partner with nationals and find ways to serve the vision for mission that God has given them for their region.





Partnering with Nationals

WE CELEBRATE

- > The oldest and largest MB Conference in the world has experienced a remarkable and growing unity that has resulted in a shift within leadership. We rejoice as we see God's Spirit at work—drawing people together and bringing a renewed focus on the mission of the church.
- > Despite growing opposition to Christianity, many people have been asking for prayer when encountering difficulties or illness. In the face of what appears to be a hopeless situation, God has been breaking in—bringing healing and new life. This year, a significantly higher number of people have asked to be baptized as they seek to live out costly discipleship.
- > There is a tribal group that lives in the hills where the villages are often isolated and access is restricted to local people only. Some villages are very difficult to reach, sometimes involving a lengthy journey by motorcycle, on foot, and then by boat. Over the last year, three local workers are being supported as they follow God's calling to bring the Good News of Jesus to their own people. They know the culture and language, as well as have the freedom to travel unrestricted.



Helping Everyday Disciples Multiply

WE CELEBRATE

- > There are many villages without any witness to Jesus. However, local pastors often focus only on leading their own congregations in their villages, without seeing the need right next door. This year, eleven local pastors have decided to spend two days a week reaching out to their neighboring villages. As these pastors focus their efforts on their neighbors, their own congregations will also be challenged to pray and join them in sharing the Gospel.
- > Twice a year, local churches discern and send young people to attend a five-month discipleship training that prepares them to live and share the Good News of Jesus. Following a time of practical ministry, these graduates return either to serve in their local churches or begin planting new churches themselves. Over the last few years, hundreds of young people have been trained and sent out!
- > Forty-eight church planters have begun the first module of Missional Leadership Training (MLT) this fall. They gathered initially in person and then have continued the training online since they are from several different states. MLT is intended to provide biblical training for leaders who do not have access to formal training in their context. These leaders can then equip their local churches to participate in God's mission.



NORTH AMERICA



Receiving Missionaries

WE CELEBRATE

- > Andriy and Luda Zolotaryov are a pastor couple who live on the west coast. When they arrived from Ukraine just over a year and a half ago, they saw tremendous need among their fellow Ukrainians who had been traumatized by the war and by emigration. They planted a church and began to serve in the community, helping newcomers from many different cultures settle. Their church quickly grew to about 100 people, a third of which were new believers. The Zolotaryovs have a vision for partnership, which includes various community agencies, and they are shining the light of Jesus and finding many open doors. Multiply is partnering with this couple to support their church-planting ministry and their reach into the immigrant community. They are also proving to be a resource for other church-planting work among newcomers, with insight into the challenges of planting churches within a refugee population who have great physical and community need. Please pray for this couple and our work as we learn together how to better equip others within the North American context to reach the unreached.
- > In a Canadian city with a large Punjabi population, a small group of Punjabi believers, led by Indian missionaries to Canada, meets every Saturday night for prayer and worship. One sister, a widow, has a daughter-in-law who is closed to the Gospel and views Christianity as a Western religion. The group was praying for a miracle, and God answered that prayer. While shopping, the daughter-in-law met another woman who took interest in her and prayed for her. After the encounter, the daughter-in-law shared with her mother-in-law that she felt a peace that she had not experienced before. We praise God for the boldness and sensitivity of this other woman, to pray for our friend who is now more open to Jesus and to her mother-in-law. Continue to pray for a full revelation of Jesus in her life.

Partnering with Immigrants

WE CELEBRATE

- > A new story is emerging as we have begun to work with African immigrants from eastern DR Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi who are now based in North America. Seven pastors hailing from the same African people group gathered together and invited Doug Hiebert to join them. They explained that, since 1972, the word to their people group has been that they would be a light to the nations, and they are longing to see that word fulfilled. Doug was asked if Multiply might work with them and help them to fulfill their prophetic calling to reach people from many nations for Jesus. These men are deeply committed. Doug woke up at 2:00 AM one morning, after a long day of meeting with these pastors, to a strange but familiar sound. It took him a minute to recognize and then he realized that it was the sound of these African brothers all praying together, at the same time, out loud in a room adjacent to his. They continued until 4:00 AM! We are actively engaging their vision to reach the nations!



Helping Everyday Disciples Multiply

WE CELEBRATE

- > In July, Fresno was host to SOAR, our ten-day mission training program, with fifty participants from nine Central Valley churches: five Hispanic and four English-speaking. Relationships were built and strengthened between the various MB congregations as participants from various cultural backgrounds came together to serve cross-culturally in the Fresno area. The teams worked together to serve the homeless at various local ministries, and also partnered with a ministry that serves people coming out of human trafficking. One of the highlights for the teams was visiting a mosque, after which participants learned from Nasser al'Qahtani about how to build friendships and talk about Jesus with Muslims.
- > The current FOCUS Internship has seven participants: two families and three singles. After two months of training, the interns are on assignment until the end of April: in Thailand with Jeremy and Adrienne Penner, in Central Asia, in Uganda with Kyle and Danae Schmidt, and at local churches in North America.
- > Two recent FOCUS Interns have been working among immigrants in the Winnipeg area and reaching out to their neighbors by hosting dinners. At the start of each meal, the presence of Jesus is acknowledged clearly to everyone. At a recent dinner, people were sharing freely and the hosts wondered how God might take the conversation deeper. Suddenly, a Chinese woman who had arrived late, interrupted and shared a brief testimony of how Jesus changed her life, setting her free from fears and hurts to know God's purpose for her life. The whole group was impacted. After some silence, the Middle Eastern woman beside her exclaimed, 'I follow Islam, but with what you shared, can I visit your church sometime?' It was a beautiful reminder of how Jesus meets with us when we acknowledge him and come together with anticipation.
- > Multiply is partnering with Fort Garry MB Church (Winnipeg, MB) to host Discovery Bible studies for new immigrants. The studies have experienced significant growth this fall, exceeding goals for this year within the first few months. A group of about a dozen new immigrants who are curious about Christianity have started to gather, sharing meals together, and studying the Bible every Tuesday. A few have come to faith and are now reaching out to their friends. One of them has already been baptized and they are preparing to start another group with the purpose of reaching people in another area of the city.

SENDING
OUT
MISSIONARIES



PARTNERING
WITH
NATIONALS



**HELPING
DISCIPLES
MULTIPLY**

Why We Help Everyday Disciples *Multiply*

“I CHOSE YOU AND APPOINTED YOU SO THAT YOU MIGHT GO AND BEAR FRUIT—FRUIT THAT WILL LAST.” - *Jesus* (JOHN 15:16)

We love sending missionaries and it's an honor to partner with national leaders, and yet the Gospel has the greatest impact in the world when everyday disciples follow Jesus on his mission. He calls each and every one of us to make disciples through small acts of love and obedience, regardless of our title or position.

In Jesus' upside-down kingdom, everyday disciples are central to his multiplying mission. Fast-growing movements are organic, grassroots, and light on their feet. They are typically not encumbered by hierarchical leadership structures, administrative protocol, or facility-oriented programs. Movements are guided primarily by the Holy Spirit through groups of people who are living out core values, exercising habits of the heart, and embracing a shared vision of a preferred future. In many nations, we are currently seeing movements with amazing growth and new believers multiplying, much like what you may have heard is happening through the underground Church in China.

As we've looked into what is being practiced by multiplying disciple-makers in these movements around the world, we've discovered something unexpected. They are not powerful leaders with secret strategies but ordinary people who know that God is with them. Their practices include spending

time with their neighbors, sharing meals together, listening to their stories, and sharing their own. God's mission is for every one of us.

At Multiply, we are passionate about encouraging and equipping everyday disciples, whether through our mission training, our resourcing workshops, or one-on-one mentoring relationships.

We have recently focused our mission training programs on actively engaging participants in God's mission locally, where they can practice loving their neighbors and making disciples in the midst of their training. For example, even in our week-long, church-based program like SOAR, participants come together not only for mutual learning and encouragement, but they are mobilized to engage in mission in their local context. SOAR participants are the everyday disciples who become disciple-makers.

We're also working on some exciting new resources that will help multiplying disciples around the world to mentor and learn from each other. Please join us in praying for God to lead us and feel free to reach out to your Regional Mobilizer to explore ways you can join God's mission wherever you are.

“THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW.”
- *Jesus* (LUKE 10:2)



As We Go

Recently, two of our U.S. Mobilizers, Joanna Chapa and Stephen Humber, hosted a partnership workshop in South Texas. They invited MB churches in the Rio Grande Valley to come together and talk about different ways to partner on mission, and how to partner in healthier and more honorable ways.

“There was momentum in the room,” said MB Pastor, Josue Contreras. “I could feel it. It was exhilarating.”

Pastor Josue had brought a group of eleven people from La Joya MB Church. “We had been wanting to dive deeper into what it meant to reach our community with the Good News,” said the pastor, “and this workshop inspired us to take some immediate steps.”

After the workshop, Josue and the others from his church began to gather for one hour before their weekly Wednesday prayer nights. “It brought a new sense of purpose!” he reported. “I could see that life was being birthed, and we were growing in the understanding that evangelism was not

just a special event or program, but something we were meant to do all the time, along the way. We came up with a play on words in Spanish to express this: *Evangelizando Ando*, meaning ‘evangelizing as we go.’”

After eight weeks, the prayer group decided to start rotating a weekly meeting at each other’s homes or businesses, inviting family, neighbors and friends to join and hear the Good News. At one gathering, they saw eight people commit their lives to Jesus as their Lord and Savior! For the group, those moments were priceless.

“The day after that gathering,” said Josue, “we met with Joanna over a meal of street-style tacos and shared about our experience, how it has spurred us on in our desire to see the Good News spread not just in our local communities, but also around the world.”

Joanna shared with Josue and his group about how the world needed to hear news that is truly good, not just good for some, but good for every people group, everywhere. “This good news, this best news,” she said, “has a name: Jesus!”

“There are eight billion people in the world,” said Josue, “and over three billion have not yet had the chance to meet Jesus. Our hearts have to beat to the rhythm of God’s heart, Joanna told us. This is what partnership means, being in sync with God’s heart to bring the best of news to the world, together.”



FOR THE FULL STORY ON OUR WEBSITE, GO TO [MULTIPLY.NET/STORY/AS-WE-GO](https://multiply.net/story/as-we-go)

Financial Overview



Fiscal Year in \$USD: June 2022 - May 2023

For this fiscal year, our Board of Directors authorized us to invest \$550k from our accumulated reserves to further support our expanding global ministry and the IT systems that support it. Our total usage of reserves was \$448k. This anticipated deficit was further offset by better than expected results in our Operating Fund, resulting in a smaller deficit of only \$275K. Last year's comparative numbers reflect significant cost reductions due to COVID as well as unexpected one-time revenues.

Net Results

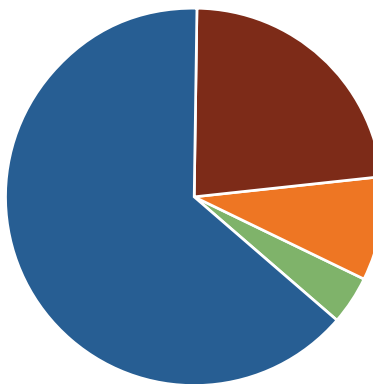
Fiscal Year Ended:	May 31, 2023	May 31, 2022
Revenue:	\$ 10,553,563	\$ 10,410,659
Expenses:	\$ 10,828,328	\$ 9,995,026
Net:	\$ (274,764)	\$ 415,633

In addition to the net results shown here, our global workers and ministry projects have deployed \$593k of their restricted reserves which are held separately on our balance sheet. Combined, these projects have \$3.7M of reserves.

How Your Gifts Were Put to Work

Missional Teams Loving the Lost | 64%

- Central & South America | 9%
- East Asia | 7%
- Europe & Central Asia | 14%
- Middle East & North Africa | 3%
- North America | 3%
(Indigenous & Immigrants)
- South Asia | 3%
- Southeast Asia | 15%
- Sub-Saharan Africa | 5%
- Worldwide Initiatives | 5%



23% | North American Church Engagement

- 18% | Facilitating MB Church Partnerships
- 5% | Mission Training Programs
(Includes Short-Term Mission Programs)

9% | Administration

Finance, IT, Legal & Governance

4% | Human Resources

Wellness, Equipping & Long-Term Training

Our Generous Donors

Individuals & Families

47%

Estates & Foundations

35%

12%

6%

Churches

Businesses

This financial summary represents the work of Multiply Network funded by US and Canadian churches and donors.

For more info, contact our Director of Finance, Jeff Friesen at JeffF@multiply.net

Our Leadership

Multiply is honored to work in close collaboration with both the U.S. and Canadian Conferences of Mennonite Brethren Churches as their global mission agency. Our Board is made up of representatives from each conference.

More information on our Board and Executive Leadership Team can be found at multiply.net/about



Thank you



for praying



for giving



and serving.



Together

we send disciples

to make disciples

who make disciples

that the world may know *Jesus*

Let's connect: **together@multiply.net**

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facebook.com/multiply.net
@multiply_northamerica
1.888.866.6267

300-32040 Downes Road
Abbotsford, BC Canada
V4X 1X5

4867 E. Townsend Avenue
Fresno, CA United States
93727-5006