

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



# PLOT TWIST

*A story that could only be written by God*

To say life took some unexpected turns in 2021 would be an understatement. For many of us, the past two years have been some of the most unusual in our lifetime.

We've faced a worldwide pandemic that feels like it will never end. Our culture seems to have lost belief in fundamental truth. People are overwhelmed by the crisis in Afghanistan and unrest in other parts of the world. Political and racial tensions are a constant theme in our daily lives.

Unexpected twists have been a part of the past year for OneWay as well. And yet, the unforeseen turns have been full of hope. We've been caught by surprise in such incredible ways, it can only be explained by a powerful God who is still working miracles throughout the world.

Thanks to our faithful partners, we are humbled to be a small part of what God is doing. He is drawing people to Himself. People are praying. Unreached people are hearing the Bible in their own language for the first time. Lives are being changed.

We hear stories each week that fill us with awe and hope. As we look back at 2021, we invite you to join with us in rejoicing at plot twists that are so unexpected, they can only be part of a story written by God.

## OUR MISSION

*To activate people to exalt Christ and advance His gospel to the multitudes.*

## OUR VISION

*To see countless people come to a saving faith in Christ as God's people joyfully engage in reaching them.*

On the cover: A OneWay Africa Jesus Film Rider is ready to spread the gospel in Ghana.



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*Walking to retrieve water is a daily part of life in Ghana. OneWay builds relationships with villagers by providing locally-made water filtration units.*

# MISSION POSSIBLE

## *Letter from the President*

He was disheartened. So many people. Multitudes. And they were lost, harassed and without direction.

Yet the people were reachable and teachable. The problem? Few workers. Simply put, there just weren't enough people putting forth the effort to come alongside and help them (see Matthew 9:36-37).

Two thousand years later, Jesus' heart still aches. Lost, reachable multitudes. But minimal effort to reach them.

***While many of God's people today long for a more compelling life purpose, the world is desperately in need of a compelling life Savior.***

THIS is why OneWay exists. To help people reach people. To rally everyday believers to lay down their lives and their small dreams for the Greatest Cause in the world.

The following pages are filled with stories of how God used the collective efforts of the OneWay family to drive this mission forward in 2021. Praise the Lord.

## HIGHLIGHTS: MULTIPLIED IMPACT IN 2021

In North Africa and the Middle East, our Streams of Living Water partners met their expansion goal by launching new missionary training schools in four nations. One highlight of the year was an outreach in which more than 14,000 came to Christ (see pg. 28).

OneWay Africa, an amazing movement of Africans reaching Africans, saw a long-time goal realized as God provided a new facility from which to train and send scores of new workers in the years to come (see pg. 16).

Our media ministries like PrayerCast and Mission Network News mobilized believers to pray and take action for the lost through an estimated 45 million views or listens across TV, radio and the internet.

The year also included a major focus on translation of PrayerCast videos, which will significantly multiply those numbers in years to come.

We also celebrate how God continued to provide for the growing work over the past fiscal year. Special efforts such as our Giving Tuesday and *Hydrate: Body and Soul* initiatives were pushed over the top by generous partners. Multiplied giving means multiplied going. More workers sent. More tools in their hands. More people coming to Christ.

## LOWLIGHTS: NOT WITHOUT CHALLENGES

With all the encouraging impact in 2021 also came some heartbreaks and calls for endurance.

The year began with the devastating loss of a long-time friend of OneWay, Jeff Burchett. Those who knew Jeff continue to mourn his loss and be inspired by his example (see our blog post entitled "A Legacy of Extravagant Love" at [owm.org](http://owm.org)).

We also expected to have a new U.S. headquarters by this time, having sold our former facility in search of more space just before COVID-19 hit. Economic conditions, commercial real estate uncertainties and new hybrid work patterns have led us to tread carefully in determining the next base for the U.S. team. We are patiently asking God to lead the way forward. And He will!

## A FINAL WORD

Friends, the world is reachable. As Jesus put it, "The harvest is plentiful." But we must work while there is still time. There is nothing more important than multiplying the spread of the gospel. Together we are doing that. Together we can dream bigger dreams, take bigger risks and see more lasting fruit. Thanks for being with us this far. Let's not stop now. Let's be fruitful and multiply. ***Let's reach people.***

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Thompson".

Michael Thompson  
Founder and President





*The OneWay team gathered for a staff retreat in September 2021 after more than a year of working remotely.*

*"We don't want to just excite people. We want to deploy them. We want to help unite them to pray, to give, to serve — to get totally engaged in exalting Christ and advancing His gospel to the multitudes."*

*~ Michael Thompson*

# WHAT WE DO

*OneWay is a family of media and missions ministries reaching the lost and rallying the church.*



## PRAYERCAST

Activating world-changing prayer for the lost through free, compelling multimedia resources

## MISSION NETWORK NEWS

Informing multitudes about stories that matter and empowering them to take action



## ONEWAY STUDIOS

Creating resources that rally the Church and reach the lost through audio, video and story



## ONEWAY AFRICA

Proclaiming God's word to the unreached and resourcing local church-planting movements



## STREAMS OF LIVING WATER

Recruiting, training and sending workers to the Middle East, North Africa and beyond



## GOSPEL ADVANCE

Equipping and encouraging local leaders as they plant churches among the unreached



## YOUNG ADULTS

Giving young people opportunities to use their gifts and talents to reach people





*Reagan, Afrifa, Jonah, Clement, Dela and Cyrus (not pictured) ride for the glory of God!*



# BOLD CALLING

## *Africa outreach starts with six young men on motorcycles*

"The nations are ready!" the group of young men shout in unison.

Geared up in black jackets, helmets and gloves, each of the six men is ready to head into the bushland on his motorbike specially configured with thick tires to navigate difficult terrain. They must be willing to go anywhere, sleep anywhere and eat anything as they ride across remote parts of Ghana, West Africa, spreading the Good News of Christ.

They are known as ***The Jesus Film Riders***.

While most of these courageous travelers are college graduates, they have chosen to forego a typical marketplace career. Instead, they are dedicating several years of their lives to telling their countrymen about Jesus.

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## (CONTINUED)

They spend long hours speeding across the bush, often on unpaved roads, to reach remote villages. At times, they might have to push their bikes through water or balance them on a canoe to make it to their destination. They face danger from both people and animals as they travel through the darkness of night.

*The Jesus Film* Riders are often the first contact many people in remote villages of Africa have with the gospel. They have a lot of work to do in each location before they are granted the privilege of showing *The Jesus Film*, a powerful gospel tool that has been seen by more than 5 billion people worldwide since 1979.

First, they establish relationships with villagers. When able, they deliver water filtration units to open doors and provide practical help to the community.

*OneWay Africa has delivered more than 550 water filtration units in 2021 alone to help solve a chronic problem for thousands of people without access to clean water: the same water they need for daily survival is often a source of water-borne illness.*

Once a rider has built trust in the town and secured permission from a “man of peace,” he is able to show *The Jesus Film*. After the showing, the rider shares the gospel and invites people to come forward to accept Christ.

Since OneWay Africa’s *Jesus Film* Campaign was launched in 2012, more than 238,000 unreached villagers have seen the life of Christ on screen. Amazingly, 28,969 of these have received Jesus as their personal Savior.

The rider’s time in a village continues in disciple-making ministry. He stays and leads small group discipleship meetings using tools like the BiblePlus+ audio players.

Since 2012, the OneWay Africa team has distributed more than 13,500 audio Bible units to people in central Africa.

The players not only include an audio Bible in the village’s local language, but also teaching, Bible stories, worship songs and local health information.

At a cost of \$50, the solar powered BiblePlus+ units operate even without a cellular signal. Wi-Fi hotspots allow messages to be shared with multiple phones simultaneously. For villages where people have mobile phones, a micro SD version of BiblePlus+ can be provided for only \$10 and includes partner videos and Android Bible Apps that can help teach reading while listening to the Bible.



The OneWay team has provided BiblePlus+ audio players in six languages, allowing thousands of people to hear the Bible — many for the first time. Several more local translations are in the works.

As people in these villages grow in their faith, the small group eventually grows into a larger group and quite often a new church is born.

*Nearly 230 churches have been planted in the past nine years.*

The riders continue to support the village church with teaching and resources for several months, eventually heading back out onto the road to reach another village.

OneWay Africa has reached thousands with the gifts of clean water, BiblePlus+ units and *The Jesus Film* thanks to the generosity of partners who fuel the mission.

***Thousands more are yet to be reached. You can help reach people for Christ with a gift to OneWay Africa through check or online at [owm.org/donate](http://owm.org/donate).***



*238,542 people have viewed The Jesus Film since 2012, resulting in 28,969 confessions of faith.*



*“When I first saw The Jesus Film and saw Jesus speaking our language, Fulfulde, and saw He was dressed like us, I then felt for the first time that Jesus came also for the Fulanis.”*  
~ a BiblePlus+ recipient



## ONEWAY AFRICA HIGHLIGHTS:



*11,239 people viewed The Jesus Film in 2021, resulting in **1,058** confessions of faith*



*3,730 BiblePlus+ players and SD cards distributed in 2021; **13,539** since 2012*



*550 water filters distributed in 2021; **2,675** since 2012*



# BREAKING NEWS

## *MNN challenges listeners to find their place in the story*

As Mission Network News celebrates 30 years of impacting the world with stories from the missions community, the team doesn't take for granted the fact the news organization is still going strong.

Only five years ago, the MNN team was facing an uncertain future after its parent organization dropped its partnership. Difficult circumstances and personal losses had challenged the news outlet, threatening its very existence.

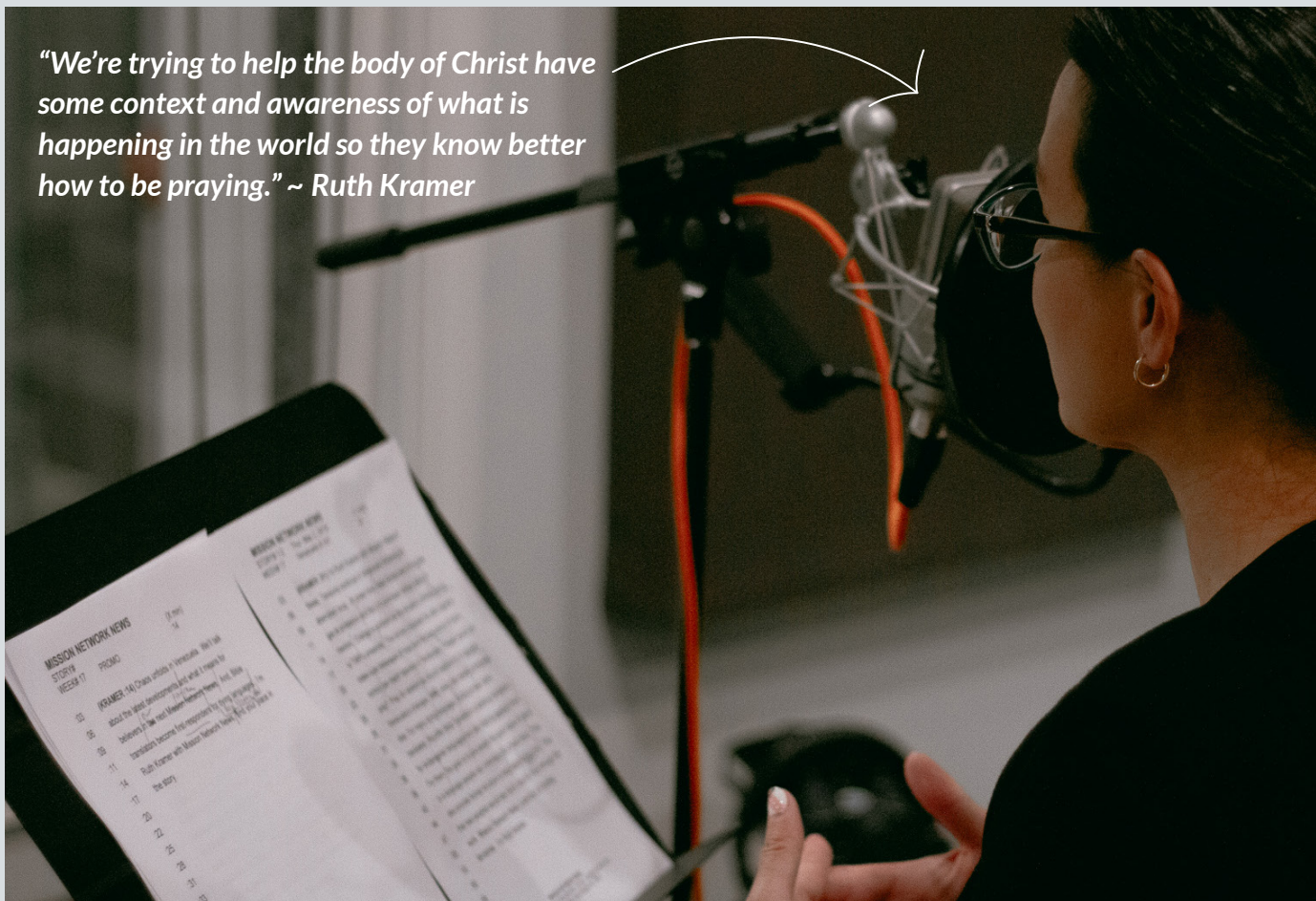
At about that same time, OneWay President Michael Thompson had stumbled across a booth for the organization at a missions conference. He was impressed with how their kingdom-focused news coverage lined up with OneWay's mission to call believers to pray and act on behalf of the lost.

*"When you can notify millions of people of what God's doing, that's a big deal," Thompson said. "That's something OneWay wanted to not only be a part of, but to take and propel forward in the decades to come."*

He connected several months later with Executive Producer Ruth Kramer after learning the news organization was officially looking for a new home. Thompson saw MNN as a perfect fit for OneWay's vision to use media to rally the church to take action for the lost.

"When you start praying for people, you can't be indifferent to their circumstances anymore," Kramer said. "And that's what we're encouraging people to do."

*"We're trying to help the body of Christ have some context and awareness of what is happening in the world so they know better how to be praying." ~ Ruth Kramer*





MNN joined the OneWay family in June 2016. The network produces three stories, five days a week, inspiring Christians to find their place in the story by asking God how they can pray, give, go or advocate as a result of the news they hear.

The listener-supported radio broadcast can be heard on 650 radio stations in 36 countries.

"Mission Network News provides that opportunity for you to be encouraged, to be strengthened, to be motivated to pray and just to be excited about what God is doing in the world," said Tom Atema of Heart for Lebanon.

**To become a monthly partner in getting Kingdom news and opportunities out to multitudes each month, go to [owm.org/donate](http://owm.org/donate).**

“

*We rely on MNN to bring us stories of what's happening with Christians around the world and how God is using his people to serve and engage the concerns of others in places and spaces we could scarcely imagine.*

~ Carmen LaBerge of Faith Radio Network's "Mornings with Carmen"

”

## MISSION NETWORK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS:



**780 stories** were produced by Mission Network News this year



**650 radio stations** in 36 countries broadcast MNN stories



**975,000 people** are estimated to hear MNN stories daily

Sign up to receive MNN stories in your inbox at [mnnonline.com](http://mnnonline.com) or listen in Apple Podcasts.





# BUILDING BRIDGES

## *OneWay's new COO brings management skills to link people to the gospel*

When a chance yet God-ordained encounter brought David Morrill together with a OneWay board member in late 2019, the two men began to imagine how Morrill might be able to fill a pressing need at the ministry.

OneWay's then part-time chief operating officer had announced he was stepping back from his role to make room for a full-time leader. The OneWay board member shared with Morrill the need as well as OneWay's vision to see multitudes come to a saving faith in Christ. It was the same vision the Lord had given Morrill, who had retired after spending 37 years building bridges as a structural engineer.

Both Morrill and the board member believed they had found a perfect match.

"I love the fact that OneWay is not just maintaining what we are doing today, but wanting to grow so that more and more of the unreached people groups of the world will be introduced to Jesus for the first time," said Morrill, who joined the OneWay team in May 2020.

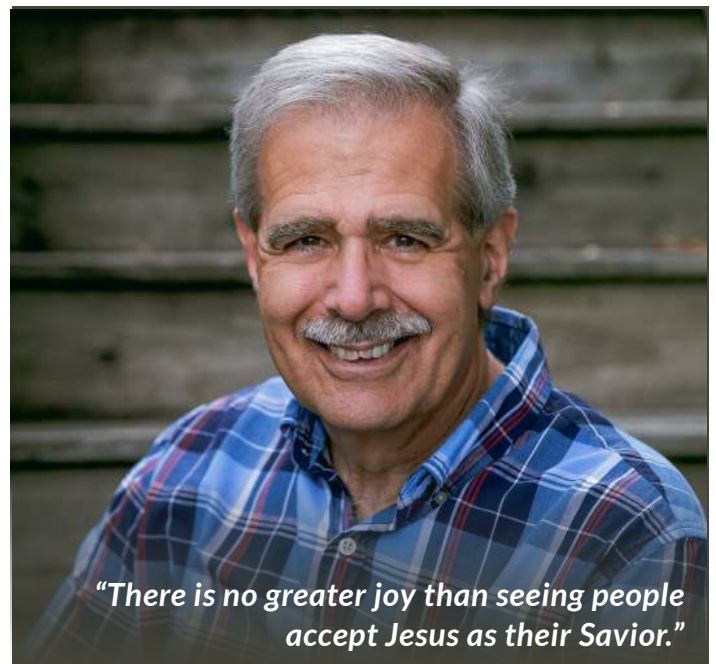
Morrill brings a systematic way of thinking and a practical approach to keep projects and people on track, yet feels a sense of personal responsibility for the well-being of those he leads.

***"David's detailed engineering mind balances my visionary, broad-stroked approach to ministry," said OneWay founder Michael Thompson.***

"He's very capable of translating vision to the day-to-day. But what I love most is David's heart. He has a pastor's heart for the team and a passionate love for the lost," Thompson said.

With a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois, Morrill built not only bridges, but also management and administrative skills during nearly four decades as a structural engineer. He also served in a variety of roles at his church, from Adult Sunday School teacher to Deacon to Administrative Pastor.

He now uses those skills at OneWay to build bridges for the gospel, while managing a thriving ministry team across the globe. Morrill says he is privileged to work with an incredible group of department directors and an awesome CEO, and together they make sure that the daily operations and vision of OneWay are carried out.



***"There is no greater joy than seeing people accept Jesus as their Savior."***

His colleagues agree that he's a great fit.

"David works tirelessly for the cause of the Great Commission, and his motivation is to see lives touched and transformed by the gospel," said Cinthia Yee, Director of Shared Services.

The most rewarding part of his job is seeing people accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, Morrill said. But having the privilege of working with dedicated, godly people who are committed to the same vision is a close second.

David is an avid pickleball player. He also enjoys a good mountain hike. He and his wife, Deborah, have two grown children and four grandsons under four years old.



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

## U.S.-BASED TEAM



The U.S.-based team worked remotely all of 2021, after selling our facility in February 2020. While we miss the community and collaboration of working in person, **moving to a hybrid work environment has helped us grow our remote workforce and expand our use of technology to meet regularly with international teams.**

## ONEWAY AFRICA



OneWay's generous partners gave more than \$39,000 to the **Hydrate** initiative to provide **clean water and God's Living Water to Africa**. A team traveled to Africa this fall to deliver **400 BiblePlus+ solar units and nearly 1,000 SD cards.**

## ONE80



OneWay launched a new podcast called **One80**, which tells stories of spiritual transformation from around the world. Visit [one80podcast.com](https://one80podcast.com) to learn more.

## YOUNG ADULTS



OneWay Young Adults created a **residential program** for interns and year-round residents.

## STREAMS



Streams of Living Water sent out teams to visit villages in South Sudan. In the first two weeks, **14,783 people accepted Christ as Savior.**

## ONEWAY STUDIOS



OneWay Studios translated nine Prayercast videos into **nine languages**. The videos are the first round in a series to rally the church to pray for **Unreached People Groups** in the greater Middle East.

## MNN



Mission Network News **celebrated 30 years** of sharing timely reports of God at work in the midst of world events.

## GOSPEL ADVANCE



Gospel Advance translated its **Heart Bible curriculum into three languages**, with two more close behind. The team **launched a new website** at [heartbible.com](https://heartbible.com) to provide training to leaders.

## PRAYERCAST



Prayercast translated all **142 videos from the Love Muslims project into Arabic** and launched social media channels to reach an Arab audience.



*The OneWay Africa team meets with Beth Beckman, who leads the BiblePlus+ initiative.*



# UNEXPECTED ANSWER

## *The door God opened was on the other side of the world*

After more than a year of praying, pursuing leads, working with realtors and visiting properties for a potential OneWay headquarters in the Chicago area, our team this summer decided it was time to pause all of our human efforts at finding a new home office.

We launched 40 Days of Prayer for our new facility in June and asked our OneWay partners to pray with us that God would give us direction for our next U.S. headquarters.

While we were focusing on the United States, God was working miracles in another part of the world.

At the OneWay Africa headquarters in Accra, Ghana, the team also had outgrown its facility.

***The Africa team wasn't necessarily looking for a new building, but God provided anyway!***

Students often slept in tents outside of the Philip Center, which has been the hub of training, outreach and offices. Because OneWay rents this property, staff members were limited in what they could do there.

Just six doors down from the Philip Center, a facility became available during the 40 Days of Prayer. Because of the generosity and faithfulness of supporters who have given in the past to enable OneWay to grow and expand its reach to the lost, OneWay was in a position to quickly respond to this opportunity.

The Africa team closed on the building in October and plans to use the facility to train and send scores of workers in the years to come.

***"I would say that was a direct answer to prayer," said OneWay Africa Director Ray Mensah. "The 40 Days of Prayer undertaken by the OneWay family opened the doors. Everyone says the Lord has given us this facility."***

The new property will include residential housing for students, a training center, a prayer room and offices. It will also house a media studio as part of OneWay's long-term vision to see regional bases create relevant and impactful media content for local audiences.

"It has been my dream and vision to have a permanent place for OneWay in Ghana while I was still director," said Mensah, who has been leading the Africa team for the past 20 years. "I thank the Lord that it has become possible now. Glory to God!"

OneWay leaders continue to pray for clarity and pursue leads for a facility in the Chicago area.

***Please continue to pray that God will guide us as we seek His direction for our next home and provide the resources to expand our work throughout the world.***





*"We seek to leverage the use of this new facility for the expansion of God's Kingdom on earth."  
~ OneWay Africa Director Ray Mensah.*

*Ray Mensah and his wife, Cynthia, along with Sarah Ameyaw, Advancement Director for OneWay Africa, receive the keys to the new building.*





*This photo was taken in rural Ghana in October during a trip  
OneWay's David Sadik took back to the country where he grew up.*

# A 20-YEAR PRAYER

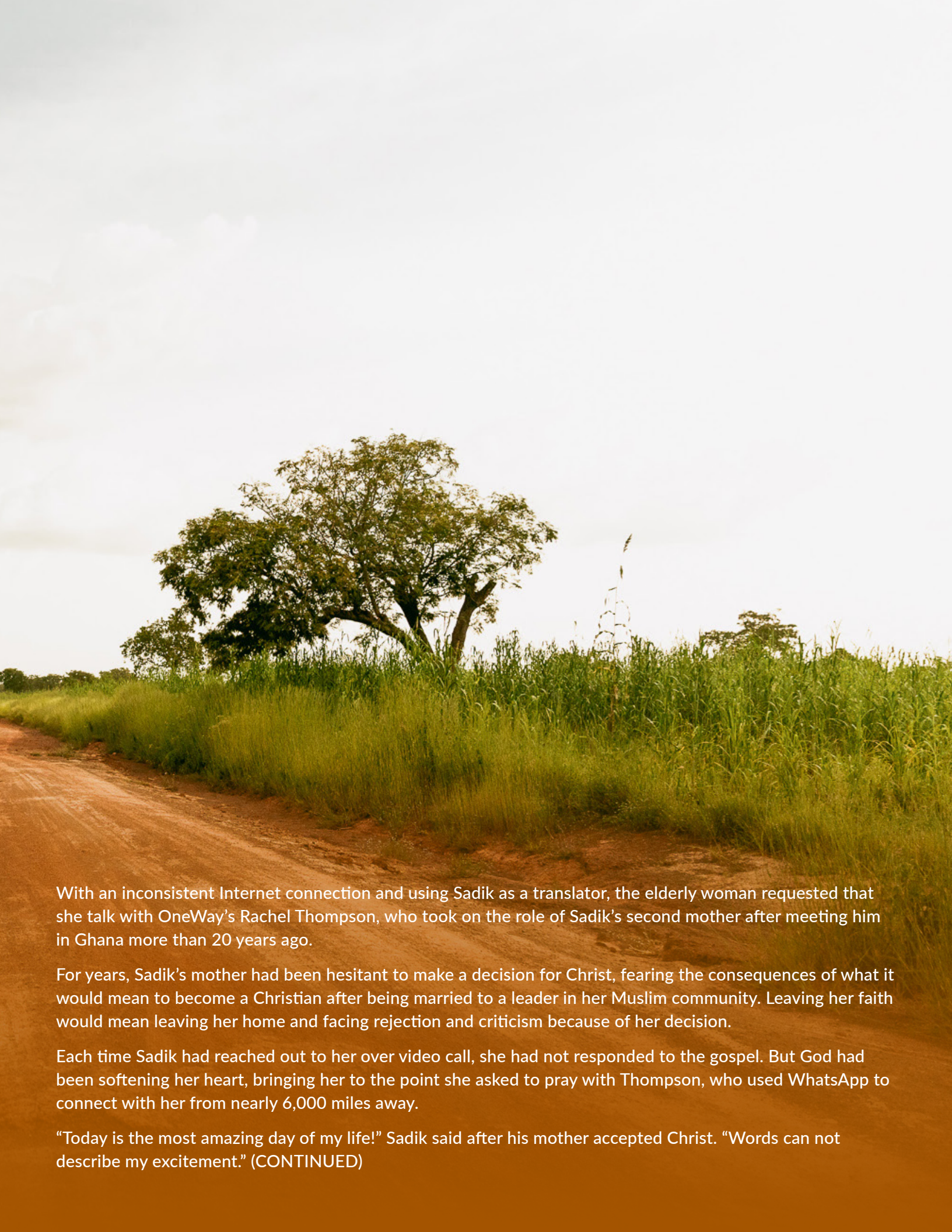
## *God draws staff member's Muslim family into His Kingdom*

Twenty-four years after leaving the Islamic faith and accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior, OneWay staff member David Sadik returned to Ghana in October to share the gospel message in person with his elderly mother.

The moment that she accepted Christ was a culmination of more than two decades of prayer by Sadik and the team at OneWay for David's family — a long line of Muslims who were well known in their village.

"I've felt like finally, my prayers have been answered because it's been a long, long, long, long wait, and I've always been praying," Sadik said.





With an inconsistent Internet connection and using Sadik as a translator, the elderly woman requested that she talk with OneWay's Rachel Thompson, who took on the role of Sadik's second mother after meeting him in Ghana more than 20 years ago.

For years, Sadik's mother had been hesitant to make a decision for Christ, fearing the consequences of what it would mean to become a Christian after being married to a leader in her Muslim community. Leaving her faith would mean leaving her home and facing rejection and criticism because of her decision.

Each time Sadik had reached out to her over video call, she had not responded to the gospel. But God had been softening her heart, bringing her to the point she asked to pray with Thompson, who used WhatsApp to connect with her from nearly 6,000 miles away.

"Today is the most amazing day of my life!" Sadik said after his mother accepted Christ. "Words can not describe my excitement." (CONTINUED)

**(CONTINUED)**

OneWay's Michael and Rachel Thompson first met Sadik about 24 years ago while they were serving as missionaries in Ghana. Michael was walking on the beach in the city of Tema when the young man approached him and asked to talk.

Since then, Sadik's story has woven in and out of the story of OneWay.

***In many ways, this one story of a family in Africa represents the stories of countless others whose lives have been transformed by Christ because of the ministry of OneWay.***

When David Sadik, then known as Abu, first met the Thompsons, his family had sent him to live with extended relatives since they were unable to support him. But these family members weren't much better off, so the young man was basically living on the streets.

The Thompsons hired Abu to run errands or navigate them around town. Eventually, Michael began teaching Abu to help in the studio they were building. They shared Christ with him during many conversations about their faith. But Abu had been raised in a strong Muslim family. In fact, his father was head of the Muslim mosque back in his home village.

***After many months, Abu said Jesus revealed Himself to him in a dream. He made the bold decision to follow Christ, even though it might mean rejection by his family.***

Two years later, after the Thompsons had relocated to the U.S. and officially founded OneWay, they took a team back to Ghana, where they linked up with Abu, now called David, and other African teammates for a month of outreach. This trip would turn out to be the impetus for the work that OneWay now does in Africa.

As they traveled across the country, David begged the team to take a huge detour through the bushland

to visit his father in a far-off village. Exhausted, the team still agreed. They pulled up to the village late at night, and David's father agreed to see the visitors. Throughout that night, they stayed up talking to him about Christ.

Miraculously, at the end of that conversation, the man who had been the leader of his Muslim mosque accepted Christ as his Savior.

"This is the message I've been waiting to hear my whole life," the elderly man shared at the time. He passed into eternity a few years later.

Since then, David moved to South Africa where he lives with his wife and son. Earlier this year, as the OneWay team worked remotely because of COVID-19, the staff realized it would be possible to bring Sadik on as a staff member to help with audio and video editing — the skills he had begun learning decades before in Ghana.

David continued to cry out to the Lord for the salvation of his family living in Ghana. Other than his father, who passed away in 2003, David was the only one in his large family to accept Christ.

***"That felt forever," Sadik said. "I asked God, 'Why couldn't You at least talk to at least one of them? It can't just be me only.'"***

Late this summer, Sadik met with his family over a video call. His sister asked to pray with him to accept Christ. Seeing her decision, his two brothers also accepted Jesus as their Savior. His mom was listening to their conversation, but she wasn't ready.

In October, OneWay needed to send a video team to Ghana to work on a project. Leaders sent Sadik with the dual purpose of helping with the project and meeting with his mother.

It has been a long journey of prayer for David as he waited for his family's salvation. But Sadik said he knows God was working the whole time.

"I know that even me not being there in person, just by praying, He listens, and He's answering the prayers right now," Sadik said. "A lot of prayers have been said, and God has been working in their hearts."



*David reads his mom an email from Michael Thompson, telling her the same gospel message he had explained to her husband 20 years ago.*



*"It's really very exciting and emotional because I've been waiting for this for a very long time."*

*Michael Thompson met David Sadik 24 years ago during a chance encounter on the beach in Ghana.*





# CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

## *Praying for Muslims changes hearts and those praying*

"This experience has impacted me so much that I feel changed in the way I see the Muslim world."

That is the reaction of one of the PrayerCast follower who joined in the Ramadan Prayer Challenge in 2021. The 30-day initiative gained more than 189,000 video views in April and May, as the PrayerCast team called on believers to pray for the world's 1.8 billion Muslims.

*"This is my first time to participate in Ramadan, and it is changing my life," one follower said.*

"The first week of fasting and praying was so enriching as I tried each day to research the focus of the day to understand more fully what I was praying for."

Thanks to the support of our PrayerCast partners, we were humbled to be able to unite people in prayer for Muslims during their 30-day period of fasting this spring.

God is working! More Muslims have turned to Jesus in the past 15 years than in the previous 1,400 years combined.

The PrayerCast and OneWay Studios teams also completed new video translations into nine new languages in 2021. The videos are part of a project challenging people to pray for Unreached People Groups in the Greater Middle East who might go their entire lives without ever hearing the name of Jesus.



*More than 40,000 video views were in Arabic during The Ramadan Challenge.*

## PRAYERCAST HIGHLIGHTS:



*More than 36.9 million views of PrayerCast videos this year*



*PrayerCast videos were translated into nine new languages*



*People from 170 countries followed PrayerCast campaigns*



# IN THE FLESH

## *God brings Prayercast video to life for couple going overseas*

David and Anna\* are a young couple preparing to serve the Lord as missionaries with OneWay in Asia.

In May, they were encouraged by a Prayercast video that told the story of a Muslim woman named Gulya\*. The woman in the video had been abused and beaten by her husband, but experienced the life-changing love of Christ as she worked as a housekeeper for a missionary family.

David and Anna traveled in August to do field training in the area where they will eventually serve.

While they were there, they met a local believer. He was passionate about Christ, and told them his transformation story.

As he remembered the abuse and neglect at the hands of his father and his mother's breaking point when she was preparing to kill herself and

her children, David and Anna looked at each other in disbelief.

***This man was telling them the exact story from the Prayercast video that God had used as an affirmation of their decision to go overseas.***

They showed the video to the man, and he confirmed that it was his mother's story. The young man asked if they would like to meet his mother, and of course, they agreed.

The woman is now faithfully serving the Lord through conferences with women throughout the rural regions in the country, counseling them, sharing Christ and being a witness to the Lord's transformation in her life.

*\*not their real names*



***Gulya's story had been confirmation for a young couple on their calling into missions.***

 PRAYERCAST.COM







*Five summer interns, one year-long resident and two young adult staff members grew professionally, relationally and spiritually this summer.*

*"This summer internship has been such a rich experience for me as I've gotten to know so many great people and work on projects that are impacting the Kingdom."  
-Ellie (2021 intern)*





# A SUSPENSEFUL SEARCH

## *God brought “The Blue House” only days before interns arrived*

At the beginning of 2021, Hannah Thompson, director of OneWay’s young adult program, had a vision to radically change the way OneWay’s summer interns would live and work.

She didn’t want a sequel to 2020 when 14 interns worked remotely, only seeing each other on computer screens. Instead, she imagined buying or renting a house to create a close community experience for the incoming group of college students.

There were only a few problems.

In early 2021, the world was still largely shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Would it be possible to bring a group of college students to Illinois to live and work together in such a close environment, not knowing what shifts might happen due to the pandemic?

As winter turned to spring, the pandemic was starting to ease as well. But a new challenge threatened Thompson’s plan: the real estate market was going crazy.

Each week, she searched for properties that might be suitable for a group of college students to live together. But as fast as she could book a showing, the property would be sold. The same was true for rentals.

By May, students were signing their intern agreements to work at OneWay for the summer, but residential options were still slim. With only weeks to go before the students would arrive, Thompson found a house in Naperville that looked perfect for OneWay’s needs.

The 1950s Cape Cod had five bedrooms, a renovated kitchen and a basement that could

be used for a recording studio. The realtor also had 20 applicants.

With only days left before the interns were set to move to the Chicago area and after intense prayer by the OneWay team and friends, Thompson received a call from the realtor, who let her know the OneWay application had been approved. The team reached out to OneWay partners for donations of furniture, appliances, lamps and kitchen supplies. In a matter of days, the light blue house near downtown Naperville was transformed into a quaint and cozy living space for six young women.

The property, soon affectionately known as the “Blue House,” became the hub of worklife and community, for the six occupants, as well as two interns who lived at home but commuted to the Blue House to work or for community events.

***“It’s incredible to be able to collaborate each day,” Thompson said. “But even more so, to encourage and run alongside each other as we grow in love for the Lord, our work, and each other... all while having a blast!”***

Because of OneWay’s faithful partners, our interns had a life-changing summer. Several year-long residents are living and working in the house the remainder of the year.

***OneWay leaders are praying that we will be able to expand our internship program by finding a house and residential staff for male interns and residents in 2022.***



*“Having a space to live, work, grow and hang out together has totally transformed the way we work.”*

*~ Hannah Thompson*



*Three year-long residents and two OneWay staff members live and work in the “Blue House” this fall.*

## YOUNG ADULTS HIGHLIGHTS:



**Five summer interns** helped with communications, audio production, worship and video editing



**Three year-long residents** are working in communications, design and worship



**Students grew in three key areas:** professionally, relationally and spiritually

# THE BEST BOOK

## *Two ministries of OneWay intersect to provide thousands of Bibles*

As one of the U.S.-based staff members for the Streams of Living Water ministry, Pat Ritacco often begins her day by reading world news reports provided by another OneWay ministry, Mission Network News.

Early in 2021, Pat read a story produced by MNN about a group called Mission Cry that collects used Bibles and other Christian books and sends them around the world to be distributed by missionaries. Pat was so impressed by the story that she made a mental note about the organization.

"I have loads of Christian books and know quite a few others who do as well," she said. "I thought it might be something we could get together on and send books to Mission Cry who would then distribute them to places that could really use them."

A few months later, Pat was part of a conversation with the Streams team about the need for Bibles in South Sudan.

The need for Bibles in that area was great. Last winter, more than 14,000 people came to Christ during evangelistic campaigns in the regions of Aweil and the Nuba Mountains. Since English is taught in schools there, English

Bibles would be of use to new believers.

***A supporting church offered to purchase 10,000 Bibles to be distributed, but Streams wasn't sure how to deliver such a large quantity of books.***

That's when Pat remembered the Mission Cry story. She reached out to the organization, and Mission Cry was excited to be part of the project. With the help of additional funding provided by Mission Cry and other supporters, Streams was able to fill an entire container of nearly 30,000 Bibles to South Sudan.

Delivering the Bibles included its own share of obstacles.

The container of Bibles was stuck at sea for two-and-a-half months this spring and summer. The container spent another 42 days in port and then traveled overland by truck for nine days.

Finally, after months of praying, the Bibles arrive in Juba this summer. They will be used in campaigns in the regions of Aweil and the Nuba Mountains this fall.



***More than 30,000 Bibles made it to South Sudan in summer 2021.***







## STREAMS OF LIVING WATER HIGHLIGHTS:



**More than 700 Arab believers** attended the Annual Mobilization Conference in north Africa in September



House of Hope celebrated **10 years of ministry**, caring for 48 girls who have survived civil war in South Sudan



**Five Tyrannus Missionary Schools** opened in North Africa and the Middle East to train future church planters. Two more schools will open in late 2021 or early 2022



**More than 14,000 people** accepted Christ as Savior during a two-week evangelistic campaign in South Sudan



## GOSPEL ADVANCE HIGHLIGHTS:



Launched **heartbible.com** website



Translated curriculum into **three languages** in 2021 with two more close behind



The Equipping Evangelist completed **multiple in-person and zoom trainings** in the U.S., Greece, Middle East, Central Asia, Honduras, Venezuela and Guatemala

*“When we told Bible stories, all of the youth and women listened with smiles on their faces.”*



*Miguel and Laura are part of the Gospel Advance team in Greece where they work with refugees.*





# TELLING THE STORY

## *Gospel Advance teaches people to share the Bible through stories*

For Christians living in parts of central Asia, preaching about Jesus would put their lives in danger. But when OneWay's Equipping Evangelist\* traveled to that region in May, he taught leaders there a safer way to share the stories of Jesus.

The Equipping Evangelist (a traveling evangelist for OneWay's Gospel Advance ministry) trained more than 40 leaders in central Asia to use Heart Bible for the Nations curriculum to share the words of the Bible in a story format.

"When we told Bible stories, all of the youth and women listened with smiles on their faces, and we have no problem," explained Andrew and Maria\*, a couple who caught the vision and immediately put the training into practice. "You have to understand that hardly any of these people have heard anything about the gospel. But they kept asking for more stories."

Using the Heart Bible for the Nations material developed by the Equipping Evangelist made a big difference in their ministry this year.

Andrew and Maria lead a team of 35 believers who regularly travel to remote villages in that area with the good news of Jesus Christ to plant new churches. From June to August,

they held eight three-day Bible camps: five for children and youth, two for women and one for families.

*"Living in remote villages, these very poor people had never seen anything like this," they said.*

*"They discovered a new world for themselves ... through the stories of God."*

The Gospel Advance team at OneWay launched a new website this year to make the Heart Bible for the Nations curriculum easier to access at [heartbible.com](http://heartbible.com). The curriculum was translated into three languages this year, with two more close behind. The website will be translated in several more languages by the end of 2022.

The curriculum is used in about 15 countries around the world, helping multitudes of people gain a better understanding of the Bible through storytelling.

***The support of OneWay partners allows the Equipping Evangelist to train leaders who are impacting multitudes of people for Christ.***

*\*names withheld or changed for security purposes*

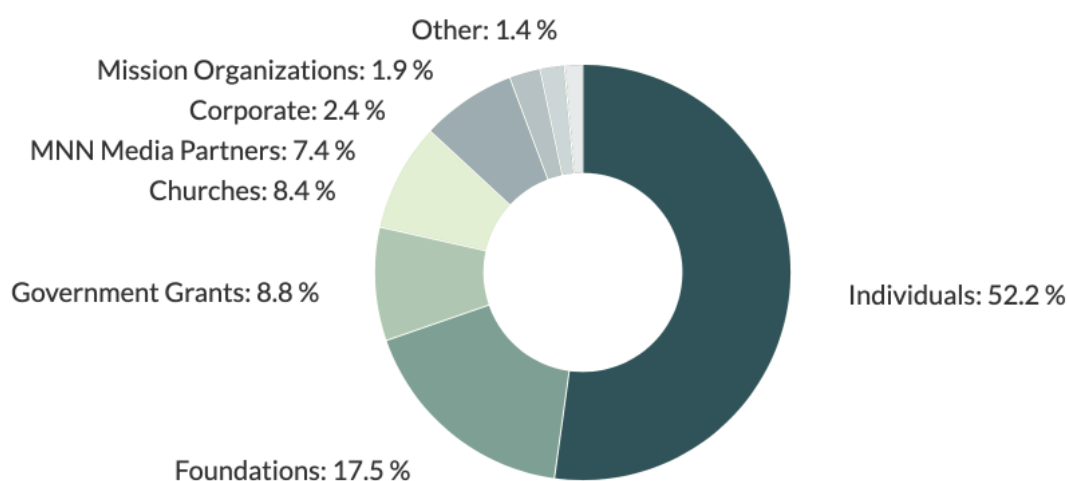


# FINANCIALS

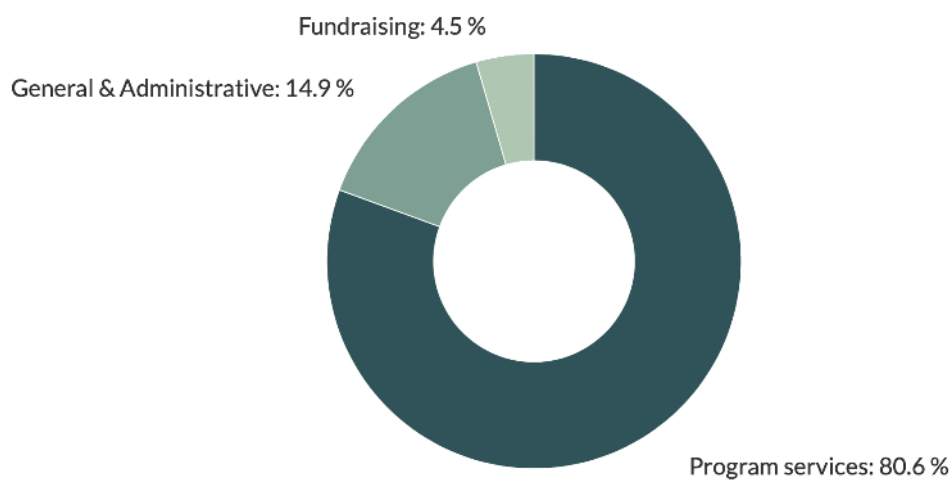
*Reaching people is a team effort. We are profoundly grateful for those whose generosity is impacting lives for Christ worldwide. Our goal is to be as effective and efficient as possible as we pursue strategic gospel-centered initiatives.*

*Here's a look at our fiscal year 2020-21 numbers:*

**TOTAL INCOME: \$1,950,787**



**TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,673,339**





# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*OneWay Ministries is an incorporated non-profit organization and is an IRS registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The governance of our organization is stewarded by gifted individuals from diverse backgrounds who provide time, counsel and wisdom to the leadership of OneWay.*

## JOHN COVINGTON, CHAIRMAN

Consultant, Trisessential

## MICHAEL THOMPSON, PRESIDENT

Founder & President, OneWay Ministries

## ANDY PETERSON, TREASURER

Senior Staff Fellow, Society of Actuaries

## EUGENIA WALSH, MD, SECRETARY

Family Medicine Physician

## GEORGE MURRAY

Former President & Chancellor, Columbia International University

## JOHN F\*

Missions Leader

## VICTOR CHANG

Mediator, Conflict Resolution Mediation

## BRIAN DIXON

Author and Entrepreneur

*\* Name withheld for security purposes*

# THE NEXT CHAPTER

## *What's next for OneWay in 2022 and beyond*

*Praise God for the incredible work He has done in 2021. Even in the midst of so much chaos and turmoil in the world around us, He continues to amaze us in unexpected ways. We pray that He will use OneWay to reach multitudes in the years to come, resulting in lives changed for eternity.*

### MEDIA

Media remains a huge component of our fast-changing world. At OneWay, we feel uniquely called to increasingly leverage this tool to rally and equip the church to reach people.

In the next ten years, OneWay is aiming to use media to rally and equip 100 million believers from the nations. We have a long way to go. In the coming year, our goal is to launch a new media network that will leverage technology and media to unite believers in worship, mission and advancing the gospel. It is a God-sized vision that will require us to more than double our U.S. team. Perhaps God is calling you?

### MISSIONS

We also plan to expand the number of national missionary sending bases from two to 10 in the next 10 years, with at least one being added in 2022. These new bases will add to our locations in West Africa and the Middle East and will serve as mobilizing hubs to help recruit, train and send thousands more workers among the unreached.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can be part of reaching multitudes for Christ in the coming year. Your year-end gift will help impact lives for eternity.

To make a donation, visit [owm.org](http://owm.org) or use the enclosed envelope. To give a stock or IRA-related gift, please contact [Rachel@owm.org](mailto:Rachel@owm.org).

**The OneWay Africa team brought the gift of clean water to a village in Africa in October.**







# LET'S REACH PEOPLE

*What part will you play in what we call “the greatest cause in the world”?*

*You are a vital part of reaching people for Christ through OneWay when you:*

## PRAY

Be a strategic partner through prayer. Download our latest prayer guide at [owm.org](http://owm.org) or sign up to receive ministry news by email so you can pray.

## GIVE

Help us close out 2021 and advance the work in 2022 by making an end-of-year gift. You can also become a monthly partner, support a staff member or give to a special project or program. Visit [owm.org](http://owm.org) or use the enclosed envelope.

## SERVE

If you'd like to serve as a volunteer, contact us about opportunities at [mail@owm.org](mailto:mail@owm.org). Or maybe you'd like to join our staff?

## INTERN

If you're a young adult who needs an internship, wants to take a gap year, or would like to explore your gifts, email [internships@owm.org](mailto:internships@owm.org).

## LISTEN

Listen to our podcasts, including Brand New Day with Michael Thompson, One80 or Mission Network News' daily report. Check out OneWay's music and free resources at [owm.org](http://owm.org)

## SUBSCRIBE

Get Prayercast videos, Mission Network News stories or podcasts in your inbox. Sign up to receive our weekly email with our latest media and news from the field. Just tell us what you'd like at [mail@owm.org](mailto:mail@owm.org).

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