



Forging innovative
paths to **reach the ends**
of the earth.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



REVIEWING THE PAST, **ENVISIONING THE FUTURE**

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THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE MISSION | SINCE 1890

LETTER FROM OUR **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR**

“*We have long kept a commitment not only to plant churches, but also to work with local believers wherever God opens the door.*”



“In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.” (Proverbs 16:9, NIV)

When I became TEAM’s international director in 2019, our staff and I were excited to see how we could reach more people with the Gospel of Christ. We didn’t know we were building our foundation for a COVID-19 world – but God did.

As countries tighten travel restrictions, I’m grateful for how God has used TEAM’s work and reputation to keep doors open. TEAM education workers have been invited back to their fields as essential staff. Missionaries in high-security regions have earned local favor by building Christ-centered businesses. And although our short-term trips are limited, we’ve seen alumni show their commitment by raising funds for relief efforts on the field.

Meanwhile, God has created opportunities with international churches who need quality staff. Despite the restrictions of COVID-19, our world is still more globalized than ever before. Expatriate workers need discipleship and equipping to be Christ’s hands and feet in foreign lands. We are recruiting committed believers to fill this need in churches around the world.

These new pathways are a natural extension of TEAM’s 130-year legacy. We have long kept a commitment not only to plant churches, but also to work with local believers wherever God opens the door. We recently revised our mission statement to ensure that we sustain this focus.

Our new statement reads: “Our mission is to partner with the Global Church in sending disciples who make disciples and establish missional churches to the glory of God.”

As we move forward, we are also concluding a six-year plan to strategically use funds from the sale of an asset. God graciously provided these funds several years ago to allow TEAM to grow in new ways. Now, we are transitioning to our long-term plan to sustain these programs solely through the generosity of kind friends like you.

I hope you feel the excitement I do as you consider all the ways God can use us to fulfill this mission. As we look to the future, I am grateful for your faithful partnership and for the One who establishes our steps. Pray with me that the Lord will use us, together, to do many great things for His glory.

For His kingdom,

Dave Hall | International Director

**OUR
MISSION**

TEAM’s mission is to **partner with the global Church** in sending disciples who make disciples and establish missional churches to the glory of God.

**OUR
VALUES**

- God Dependence
- Church Focus
- Creative Vision
- Lifelong Learning
- Passionate Service
- Caring Community



HOW WE SERVE

- Church Ministries
- Community Development
- Creation Care
- Creative Arts
- Entrepreneurial & Business
- Hospitality
- Justice Ministries
- Medicine & Healthcare
- Sports & Recreation
- Teaching & Education
- Training Leaders & National Missionaries
- Translation & Linguistics

WHO WE SERVE

- Urban Populations
- Buddhists
- Muslims
- Hindus
- Unreached People Groups
- Post-Christian/Post-Modern
- Indigenous/Tribal
- Diaspora
- Professionals
- University Students
- Disabled & Disadvantaged
- Youth & Children



APPOINTEES



INTERNATIONAL CHURCHES: A GATEWAY TO THE UNREACHED

**Names were changed for privacy*

In a world where missionary visas are increasingly hard to get, Hunter and Wendy* are doing something truly remarkable.

They're moving to a Muslim-majority country where local churches operate underground. They'll work to make disciples among unreached people groups. And they'll do it with the local government's approval.

It sounds impossible, but opportunities like this are opening around the world, thanks to international churches.

"It's kind of amazing because it's a Muslim country, and it's illegal to become a Christian there, ... but I'm going to have 'pastor' in my visa," Hunter says.

COMMITTED TO THE UNREACHED

Hunter and Wendy have been focused on unreached people groups for over a decade. The couple met on a mid-term mission to Central Asia. After seminary, they moved to a New York college town where less than 1 percent of the student population has any connection to Christianity.

In recent years, Hunter has served as an associate pastor. However, in 2019 he and Wendy started praying about finding a senior pastor role.

During that time, God reminded Wendy of all the cross-cultural skills they already had. Why not consider going overseas again? Hunter started looking at job boards and found an opening in North Africa.

The role was in a city with a thriving expatriate community. And although converting to Christianity is illegal for citizens of the country, foreigners are allowed to practice whatever religion they choose.

This means international church staff can openly minister to unreached people groups – as long as they come from another country. This is true even if that country has its own restrictions against conversions.

A NEW PROGRAM AT TEAM

After accepting the new job, Hunter and Wendy connected with TEAM to be part of a new international churches program. Although TEAM missionaries have planted international churches for many years, the new program seeks out existing international churches and helps fill staffing needs with qualified workers.

These workers will minister to unreached expats, as well as teaching believers how to make disciples in foreign countries. Hunter and Wendy are also excited to serve other frontline workers, partnering with them in full-time ministry.

"It seemed like there's not really organizations out there that are doing what TEAM is trying to do with international churches," Hunter says.

Hunter and Wendy are the program's first appointees, but other international churches are reaching out for collaboration. And with your faithful partnership, we're confident that God will raise up workers to do what once seemed impossible.



ONE MISSIONARY, A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

If you ask most of our supporters how they heard about TEAM, they'll likely tell you about a missionary. Someone asked for their help in sharing the Gospel, and they joyfully gave it. Few realized just how far their generosity would reach.

Five years ago, if you'd asked Jenn and Mike Chang about TEAM, they only would have told you about the missionary-surgeon they supported, Stacy Zabriskie. But in 2015, TEAM hosted a vision trip to Zimbabwe, inviting everyone who supported a TEAM missionary there.

"We thought that this would be a meaningful way to spend our 10-year anniversary and get to see Stacy in the mission field," Jenn says.

They got on the plane, eager to see their friend. **By the time they returned to Chicago, they would see missions in a whole new light.**

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON MISSIONS

As Jenn and Mike toured Zimbabwe, they saw that TEAM's work went far beyond the hospital where Stacy served. She had co-workers teaching job skills, building sustainable farming platforms, teaching in schools, all while sharing the Gospel.

Not only that, but the couple saw how TEAM supported the missionaries, making sure they had the rest and structure they needed to succeed.

"Everyone just really gave us a new perspective of missions," Jenn says.

It used to be about how much missionaries needed them. Now, Jenn says, "They don't need me, but I have this amazing opportunity to be a small part of what God is doing."

The Changs pledged support to two additional missionary families, as well as a scholarship fund for a local student. With their new mindset, they were eager to see how God could use them.

ON MISSION HERE AND ABROAD

Five years after the vision trip, Jenn and Mike have stayed in touch with their tour group. They meet online, monthly, to pray for missions in Zimbabwe and beyond. When Jenn's turn comes, she shares about a nonprofit she and Mike started shortly before the trip. Like missionaries across the sea, they're using education to point Chicago's young people to Christ.

As the ministry grows, the Changs' missionary friends offer support of their own – encouragement, prayer and finances. And in that way that only God makes possible, His Gospel spreads across Chicago, throughout Zimbabwe and into all the world.



A YEAR OF MOVEMENT

20 New Missionaries
Mid-term and long-term missionaries deployed to the field

48 Ministry Areas
Country or region of the world

193 Ministry Initiatives
Individual ministries at the local level

32 Appointees
New mid-term and long-term missionaries preparing for the field

291 Sending Churches



MISSIONS



GOD'S PROVISION THROUGH GOD'S PEOPLE

Sources of Funds

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Donor Support | \$36,000,837 |
| Investment Income | (\$706,394) |
| Currency Translation and Pension Loss | (\$2,210,918) |
| TOTAL – ALL SOURCES OF FUNDS | \$33,083,525 |

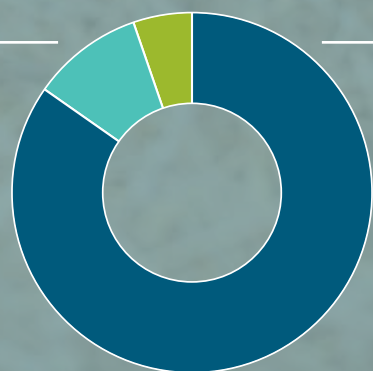
Expenses

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Church Planting and Related Ministries | \$35,650,451 |
| Management and General | \$4,358,160 |
| Fundraising | \$2,252,955 |
| TOTAL – ALL EXPENSES | \$42,261,566 |

The excess of expenses over sources of funds is the result of an increase of \$2.8M to TEAM's pension liability, as well as approximately \$1M in investment losses due to market declines at the start of COVID-19. The additional losses are the result of spending down accumulated designated funds for ministry projects, as well as budgeted general fund investments. TEAM has budgeted additional general fund investments over the next two fiscal years.

Where Your Money Goes

- Programs - 84.3%
- Program Support - 10.3%
- Fundraising - 5.3%



TEAM thanks you for your gifts and prayers that have made 2020 an opportunity for being and building the Body of Christ.

A complete and audited financial statement is freely available upon request.
Please call 1-800-343-3144 or mail your request to: PO Box 969 Wheaton, IL 60187-0969.

ON THE FIELD



ONE MAN'S 30-YEAR SEARCH FOR A BIBLE

When Diyar received his first Bible, he knew he'd found something special. Unfortunately, someone else knew it, too – which is why they stole it from him.

Bibles aren't easy to come by in Diyar's Middle Eastern country, but he was determined to find another one. His search would take 30 years.

Diyar got married and had children. He told his wife, Talora, about his hunt for a Bible, and she started looking, too. Then, last year, Talora went to a wedding that would change Diyar's life.

A TEAM missionary named Poppy was going to the same wedding. She had asked her supporters to pray for opportunities to share the Gospel.

Talora and Poppy didn't meet until the very end of the night. **But when Talora found out Poppy was a Christian, she seized her chance.** She asked for Poppy's phone number.

Two months later, Diyar called Poppy with a request: Would her husband be willing to study the Bible with him?

Poppy's husband, Russ, eagerly agreed to the study. And as Diyar heard God's redemptive plan, he realized he needed to give his life to Christ! Not only that, but Diyar wanted his wife and kids to join him.



Diyar asked if Poppy would homeschool his kids alongside her own. He wanted them to get a Christian education. **Now, Poppy is sharing the Gospel with Diyar's kids on a regular basis!**

Thank you for your faithful gifts and prayers. God is using you to do a great work in the lives of Diyar and his family. We pray that many more like them will come to know Christ in the coming year.



A VISION FOR THE WORLD'S CITIES

It might seem like a strange time to invest in cities. Around the world, COVID-19 brought urban centers to a frightening standstill. Headlines spoke of an “exodus” to the suburbs.

Yet, while others flee, TEAM missionaries continue to see God changing lives in urban communities. Churches are growing, disciples are making disciples – and TEAM is sending more believers to serve among the world’s cities.

Despite the risks of city life, it still offers incredible advantages for people in less developed parts of the world – better jobs, electricity, running water. And for TEAM missionaries, that means the world’s cities are still overflowing with opportunity.

FINDING NEW WAYS TO CONNECT

TEAM’s work over the last 130 years is a clear testament to the power of urban outreach. Missionaries in global cities have served refugees, atheists and many others seeking something to make them whole. **Again and again, Christ’s love redeems and restores lives.**

Traditionally, this cross-cultural, holistic work has been seen as something only a formal missionary could do. But connecting with people as a traditional missionary is harder in the city than it is in a rural area.

“**...TEAM has been creating more ways for ordinary Christians to take their faith abroad.**

“When you drove out into the bush, in a truck that nobody had ever seen before, you created a lot of attention,” says Executive Director of Global Ministries Ray Williams. “People wanted to come out and find out who you were and what you were there for.”

In the city, foreigners may stick out a little, but locals are more likely to keep to themselves. Further, Williams says, “[If] people don’t know where you fit, they’re going to be a little leery getting connected with ... somebody who shows up and doesn’t have a real job.”

In the face of this challenge, TEAM has been creating more ways for ordinary Christians to take their faith abroad.

MOBILIZATION

Some will work in international churches (see page 7). Others will take their current jobs abroad, start businesses, teach ESL and more – all while living out their faith as ordinary, missional believers.

A CASE STUDY IN WEST ASIA

In one West Asian city, an international church serves as a hub for ministry. Expatriates and locals attend Bible studies, English classes and other activities where they can encounter Christ. Then, they learn how to make disciples themselves.

Trained counselors at the church started a center to serve cross-cultural workers, helping them flourish in long-term ministry.

Most recently, TEAM workers started an artisanal food company, providing jobs for people in need while also sharing the Gospel.

All of these ministries are interwoven, creating a Gospel network that equips believers across the entire city. **Together, locals and expatriates, missionaries and professionals serve as one Body, united under one call.**

EXPANDING THE VISION

Today, TEAM is working to expand this vision to more populous cities around the world.

“In order to make disciples, you have to go where the people are,” Williams says.

The world’s cities offer opportunities for believers of all backgrounds. The question is, who will step into them and deliver the message of hope they’ve been waiting for?



But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus — **the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.**

ACTS 20:24

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT.
THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE.

LOOKING TO THE **FUTURE**



Open new doors to reach more nations.
BECOME AN IMPACT MAKER.

God is giving us opportunities to reach the nations like we have never seen before.

Unreached people groups are filling the world's cities, where they can hear the Gospel for the first time. Professionals are learning how to take their jobs abroad and be witnesses in the workplace. International believers are eager to serve in cross-cultural ministry, bringing new insights and perspectives.

Will you join us as an Impact Maker?

Impact Makers are faithful followers of Christ who pledge financial support to TEAM — at any amount — for three years. Their gifts go beyond personal missionary support, providing critical resources for all TEAM workers around the world.

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team.org/impact

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— igniting Kingdom impact —

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