

REACHING OUT

The Outreach Foundation Newsletter • Spring / Summer 2021

**Your Gifts to the COVID-19
Emergency Appeal are
Making a Difference**

PAGE 2

**Tom Boone joins
The Outreach Foundation**

PAGE 4

**New Health Clinic in
Tete Province Opens**

PAGE 6

**Grateful for
Faithful Donors**

PAGE 12



Your gifts to the COVID-19 Emergency Appeal are making a difference... ALL OVER THE WORLD



Brazil



Syria and
Lebanon



South
Sudan

When Outreach launched the COVID-19 Emergency Appeal over a year ago, none of us could have grasped what the devastating effects upon the global community would be with over three million dead and economies devastated. Vaccines provide a glimmer of hope, but we know it will be a long time before large parts of the world can access them.

The Outreach Foundation is grateful for your faithful generosity during these past months as your gifts of over \$330,000 have allowed us to respond to urgent needs in 23 countries: Iraq, Syria, South Sudan, Rwanda, China, Cuba, Venezuela, Brazil, and so many more. Because Outreach has close relationships in these places, we can track the escalating challenges and respond quickly.

These gifts have provided food relief, tuition help for seminarians so that their studies could continue, salary support for pastors in impoverished villages, and refugee relief for those whose lives were already being lived on the edge of calamity. The Global Church has used these gifts to shine the Light of Christ upon those who might not yet know of him and to encourage the faithful to "hold on."

Outreach recently wired \$5,000 to the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPIB). Rev. José Pezini, Latin America consultant for Outreach in Brazil, shared this about Manaus, a large city in the northeast into which are flooding many COVID cases from the Amazon basin, "Manaus is being known worldwide in a terrible way. A new variant of COVID which is even more contagious and deadly has been found. Our hospitals are overcrowded, exhausted professionals are trying to save lives, and there is a shortage of oxygen for patients. Despite the help of many companies and agencies plus the federal government airlifting in more than 25 tons of oxygen, the pandemic is overwhelming. We are now exporting patients to other states as there are no more vacancies in our hospitals here." In response to the pandemic, the gifts from Outreach are being used in Brazil through the IPIB, to provide free medical, psychological, and legal guidance through a group of volunteer professionals for the entire community, and to provide food relief in impoverished areas of the capital city of Manaus and several villages located along the rivers of the region.

Thanks to your generosity, Outreach has also been able to send \$14,000 to support our family of faith of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. Those gifts for South Sudan have been sent to aid refugees in camps in Ethiopia as well as displaced women and children near Juba in South Sudan. The funds are providing essential protection against the virus and lifesaving food for many families.

In Syria and Lebanon, gifts for Outreach's COVID-19 Emergency Appeal have made it possible for us to send \$16,000 to support the emergency outreach ministries of Together for the Family (TFF), a ministry in Lebanon, which serves Syrian refugees in the Bekaa Valley. TFF has distributed free soap and sanitizers. Women and teenage girls in the sewing schools are making masks. TFF is also providing weekly food baskets to families in refugee camps.

These places and people, and many more Outreach partners around the world, are receiving help and hope in this difficult time because of the generosity of people like you.

Tom Boone joins The Outreach Foundation

The Lord changed the trajectory of my discipleship through The Outreach Foundation, and that is one reason I'm humbled to have joined this team. I first heard of The Outreach Foundation in Montgomery, Alabama where I was a pastor. The church I served was in need of some revitalization and the Lord put it on my heart that the way forward was to plug back into global mission. Not that I would rescue others, but that they would help restore my soul (Ps 23:3).

So, since 2011 I've come to value The Outreach Foundation's vision for a ministry of engagement and presence with the suffering church. And the Holy Spirit has used each of these experiences to expand my understanding of following Jesus. Disciples show up, "not because it's safe but because we're obedient" (Mark Mueller, Iraq trip 2012). I've been glad to show up in places like Mozambique, China, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Pakistan, Lithuania, and Central Asia. And with each stay, whether it was for a week or three years, my faith flourished more by being among dear brothers and sisters in Christ in difficult spaces.

It is a privilege to be part of this network that helps discipleship to flourish by inviting people to join God in His mission to bless every family on the earth (Gen 12:3)! As Associate Director of Mission, I look forward to coming alongside many churches across the U.S. I will be inviting them into this transformative work in China, Pakistan, and Europe. Also, I look forward to connecting leaders here with our global network of theological institutions for equipping emerging leaders among the nations to do Christ's work in their own contexts.

On the personal side Joy, my wife, and I have three adult children and now three grandchildren! We enjoy golf and travel together and are looking forward to getting our RV in mid-2022 to make trips domestically visiting church partners and donors. Please reach out to me at tom@theoutreachfoundation.org so we can connect!

Tom Boone

Tom and Joy Boone



Support The Outreach Foundation's Annual Appeal BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2021.

Look for more information in the coming weeks.

This year's Annual Appeal will feature this incredible painting by Outreach trustee, Lisa Culpepper. Lisa said, "This Middle East composite is a reflection on my visits to Lebanon and Syria with The Outreach Foundation. In the work, I have illustrated the intrinsic values of hospitality, respect for religious diversity, and the mystic beauty of the land. In the midst of economic collapse, war, political oppression, and unrest, Lebanon and Syria remain the cradle of our faith. As a trustee, of The Outreach Foundation, I am grateful for our relationships with our loving and committed partners there."



The New Health Clinic in Tete Province Has Officially Opened!

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your support for our Holistic Evangelism Project in Tete Province, Mozambique. You are helping us to build God's kingdom in so many ways. All praise and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am overjoyed to report that our health clinic in Tete Province in Mozambique has been officially opened! I received word from Sebber Banda, Project Manager for the Holistic Evangelism Project. Sebber said, "Clinic finally opened. We give all the Glory to God Almighty."

Sebber had not been able to visit Tete Province since last spring when the border between Mozambique and Malawi was closed due to the pandemic. She has been able to direct our efforts through communication with the project assistant director, Carlos, and the pastors who serve in Tete Province.

The new health clinic is in the rural village of Madzimaera. We have built a school and a church in this village and drilled a well. This clinic is about an hour's drive by vehicle to the nearest hospital in the border town of Zobue. Transportation to the hospital would be a formidable problem for the villagers who live around this clinic. There are no cars and most villagers travel by walking or riding bicycles.

The staff of the clinic will include a health assistant/clinic officer, a general nurse, a midwife, and a general technician. They will treat all but the most serious injuries and diseases and life-threatening maternal deliveries. There is a triplex that will house the staff. Lighting and electricity will be provided by solar panels and 12-volt batteries.

Thanks again for your faithful support. It is greatly appreciated!

Blessings,
Berry Long, Outreach trustee



Clinic Opening
Ribbon Cutting



Sebber and Carlos with Clinic Staff



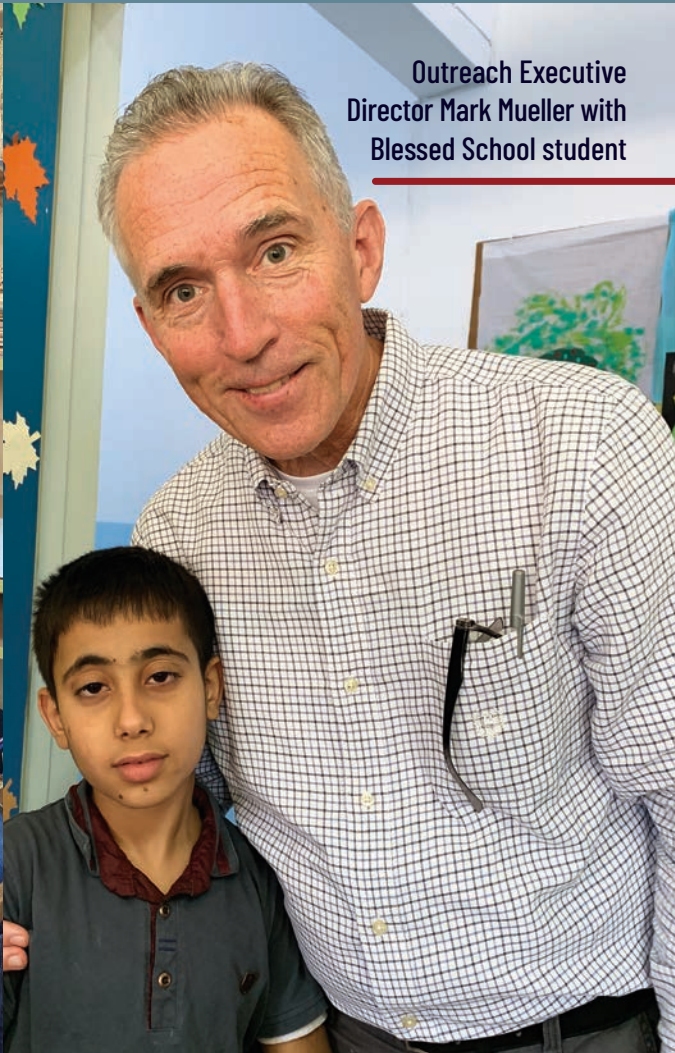
Sebber and District Commissioner Moatize

BLESSINGS FOR THE BLESSED SCHOOL

Founded by missionaries in 1868, the Blessed School in Beirut, Lebanon lovingly serves students with special needs. Located in a poor area of Beirut, it is one of only two such schools in a city of more than 2.5 million. Most of the students are young adults. At Blessed they learn not only reading and math but also life skills like cooking and cleaning. The school has craft shops where students can master basket weaving, caning, woodworking skills, or baking, and the items they produce are sold for their benefit, including small amounts of pocket money.



Blessed School
caning shop



Outreach Executive
Director Mark Mueller with
Blessed School student

On the other side of the world, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC recently sent a generous gift to The Outreach Foundation designated for where needed most. As Outreach Executive Director Mark Mueller considered where to direct the gift, he reached out to Westminster's Rev. Bill Brafford with several possibilities, including the Blessed School. Rev. Brafford advised Mark to choose and then we received the following note:

Mark,

Now that you have made the decision, I want to mention that the use of Westminster's gift for the Blessed School is especially meaningful to me and my wife Alice. Our second child was born with Down Syndrome and a heart defect, and she died following surgery in 1987.

Children with such needs and handicaps are dear to our hearts, and we are thankful that I could be a small link in this process. It is a joy to begin our relationship with The Outreach Foundation!

*Faithfully,
Bill*

What a beautiful example of how God is present in every situation and decision. We are grateful to partners in Lebanon and Charlotte and worldwide who share the Good News of Jesus!

Blessed School rhythm band



OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

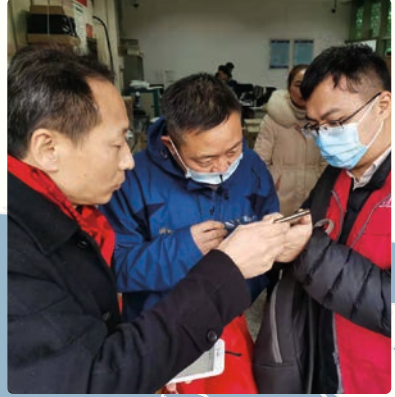


Covering Five Continents and Thirty-Seven Countries

Egypt



China



Rwanda



GRATEFUL FOR FAITHFUL DONORS

Despite a turbulent year, 2020 was filled with wonderful financial results for The Outreach Foundation. We enjoyed sound financial returns for the year. Revenue was down slightly, but expenses were as well. This news coupled with a small business grant (PPP) and encouraging investment returns provided The Outreach Foundation with one of its better years in recent memory.

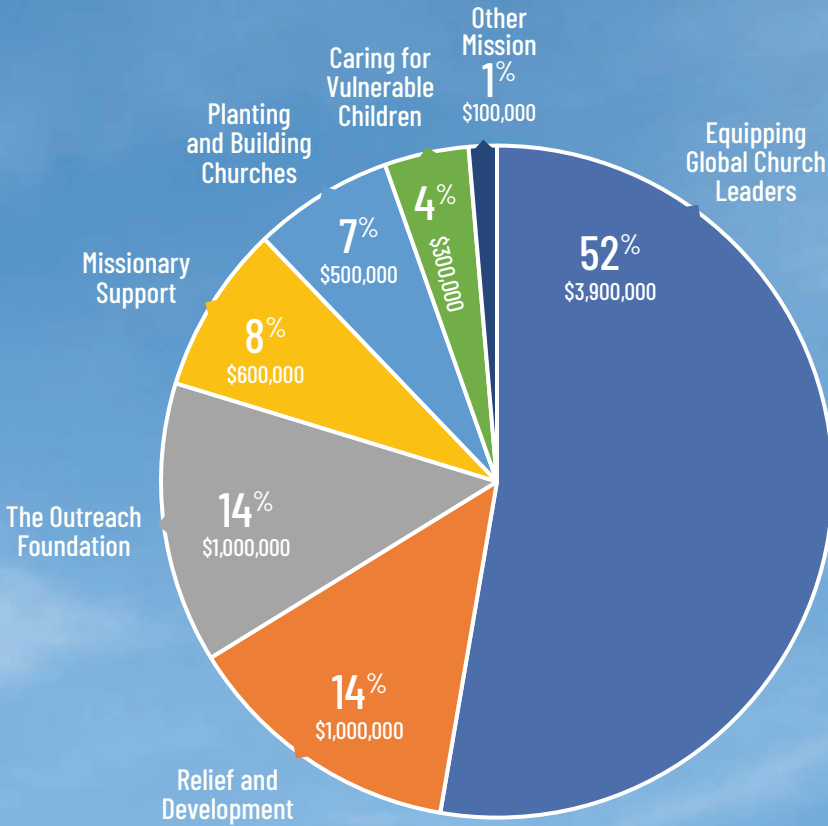
2020 saw the number of churches engaged in our work decrease slightly as did the size of the church gift. However, more individuals participated in our ministry and the total volume of all gifts increased over the prior year.

This good financial news enabled The Outreach Foundation to begin looking more toward the future. We welcomed the Rev. Dr. Tom Boone as Associate Director for Mission. In addition, new partnerships were formed and new projects were launched in Europe and Latin America. Our Board of Trustees increased from 24 to 30, and The Outreach Foundation positioned itself to be even more receptive to the workings of the Holy Spirit. The undergirding of this future was made possible by the financial information that you see in the newsletter. Detailed financial returns are available on our website.

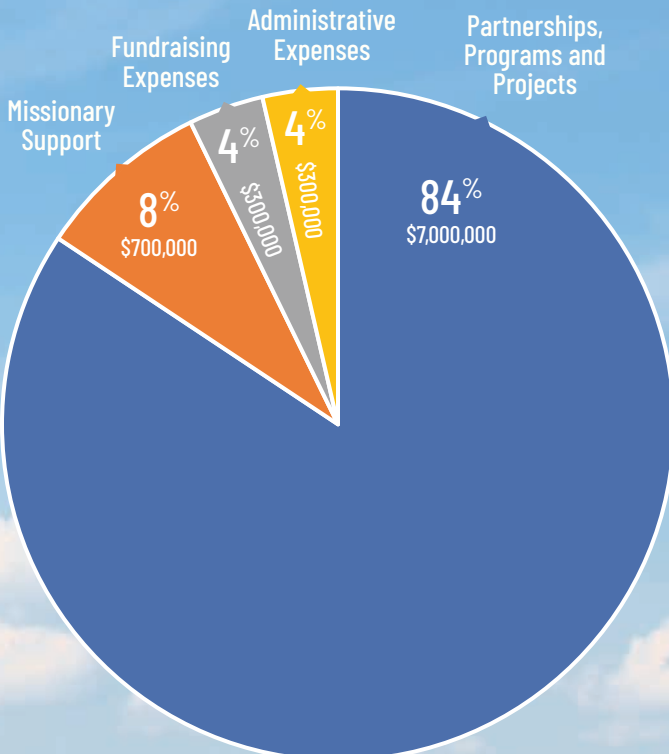
Projections for 2021 remain strong with investments and individual and church gifts indicating continued growth and resiliency amid these different and difficult times.

We are extremely grateful to all of our donors and give all glory and honor to God.

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS – \$7,400,000



2020 DISTRIBUTIONS – \$8,300,000



Equipping Leaders in South Sudan

I am pleased to share that on Saturday, January 23, 2021, in Addis Ababa, Dr. Thomas Donguande graduated from his Obstetrics/Gynecology specialty training. Thomas is a South Sudanese Presbyterian who trained in the medical school in Khartoum, then was selected for specialty training. He began the 4-year course at St. Paul's University in Addis with a tuition scholarship from the Government of Ethiopia in 2016. The Government of South Sudan was supposed to cover his living expenses, but never did. He was hosted at the compound of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Bethel Synod, walking distance to St. Paul's teaching hospital. Thomas needed help with rent and food. The Outreach Foundation was able to pay his expenses at the Bethel Synod guesthouse for his final two years.

In exchange for the support from Outreach, Thomas agreed to work in a teaching/clinical capacity with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. He will assist in teaching nurse-midwives at the nursing school in Kakuma, Kenya, and work at the hospital there in the refugee camp.

South Sudan is desperately short of OB/GYNs and nurse-midwives. They have the highest maternal mortality rate in the world and Thomas has dedicated his life to changing that.

Frank Dimmock
Africa Partnership Liaison



**Dr. Thomas
Donguande**

Giving through Donor Advised Funds

In April, The Outreach Foundation's trustees and staff endorsed a collaboration with the Presbyterian Foundation and the National Christian Foundation to make Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) available to our donors as a tool to help them reduce taxes and increase gifts to qualifying charities of your choice over time.*

Is a DAF right for you?

According to the National Philanthropic Trust, these investment accounts are growing in popularity. Perhaps the biggest advantage is the ability to make donations to your DAF and receive immediate tax benefits in the year you contribute to your DAF while allowing yourself to make grant recommendations for these funds over your own timetable. You can even name an heir to manage this giving account beyond your lifetime if funds remain in the account. Remember, a DAF can have an investment component to grow beyond the amount originally deposited in your DAF.

Why collaborate with the Presbyterian Foundation or the National Christian Foundation?

While the National Philanthropic Trust views DAFs as investment accounts with tax advantages, the Presbyterian Foundation and the National Christian Foundation also look at your DAF as your tool to leverage your giving from a Kingdom perspective.

Both collaborators are staffed with full-time experts in this area and have assets under management valued at billions of dollars. Both charge low annual management fees (capped at 1%).

Most community foundations or institutional providers require a minimum of \$5,000 or more to open a DAF. PF only requires \$2,500 and NCF has no minimum balance requirement. Both collaborators allow gift recommendations for as little as \$100.

If you are interested in giving through a DAF or would like to know where to begin, contact Ralph Wheeler at ralph@theoutreachfoundation.org to facilitate a conversation with an expert who can help.

**Note: This information does not constitute tax advice. Suggestions should be checked with a certified tax professional.*

CONNECTING MISSION LEADERS

A CONFERENCE FOR PEOPLE
PASSIONATE ABOUT MISSION

OCTOBER 14-16 | NASHVILLE, TN

Join us for CML as we discuss
the Future of Frontier Mission.

In today's rapidly changing global environment,
how is the Church called to engage in making the
Good News of Jesus known among the earth's
least-reached people groups?

Learn more and register at connectingmissionleaders.com



LIVING WATER

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' John 7:38

Outreach Executive Director Mark Mueller recently visited First Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Georgia. While there, he preached, taught, and attended "Muffins with Mark," but that's a story for another time.

FPC Columbus members Jill and Dan Gilbert own Whitewater Express on the Chattahoochee River. Among other accolades, Whitewater Express was chosen by the 1990 Olympic Committee to oversee all of the water sports for the 1996 Olympics! Their highly experienced team has safely provided over 1,000,000 trips and activities.

The Gilberts and their staff are experts in their field and love the water. They also love sharing the gift of water. In a note received after Mark's visit, Jill shared,

I'm enclosing a check for the money we raise at Whitewater Express for The Outreach Foundation. It includes the contribution we make per trip along with the money donated by our customers! Our staff was excited to turn it in and start a new jar! Please use the money for whichever location needs it the most.

Todd Luke's Cistern Ministry in Mexico received the gift. In and around Campeche, Todd shares the Gospel and access to life-giving water through generous partners like the Gilberts.

We have certainly been fortunate to make a living from water and are happy to have the opportunity to help others to be able to have access to fresh water. Y'all are doing such amazing work, and we are glad to play a small part!

Out of their hearts flow rivers of living water, indeed!





Completed Cistern in Mexico



Pouring a cistern roof in Mexico

Refuge, Rest, and Restoration in Syria

Najwa and Nahla are leaders in the Presbyterian Church in Homs, Syria, and like so much of our family-by-faith in Syria, they are in eager anticipation to see the completion of their Retreat Center which will serve the Church to equip and encourage, provide rest, and restoration, *gather in* for study and reflection and *send out* for mission and ministry. Several years ago, The Outreach

Najwa and Nahla



Foundation pledged to help the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon fulfill its vision to create, in Syria, what already existed in Lebanon at Dhour Schweir—a retreat and conference center that would serve their congregations but also the larger Christian community.

With 50 double rooms, each with a private bath, and a large conference hall, it will soon be filled with youth groups, families, women’s conferences, and much more. With stunning views of the peaceful, rolling hills which make up this “Christian Valley” not far from the border with Lebanon, and part of the small town of Amr Hosn with its own Presbyterian Church, it is easily reachable from most parts of the country, making it affordable for both congregational events as well as for personal respite.

The “hard part” of the construction (concrete, foundations, etc.) has been completed, despite the challenges of the past year and a half, and the finishing and furnishing phases will soon commence. The Synod anticipates that next summer will find it in full operation—a dream delayed but not denied—for the glory of God and the equipping of his saints!

We welcome your continuing partnership to help complete the Retreat Center in Syria.



Retreat Center during construction in 2020



OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.

381 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, SUITE 110
FRANKLIN, TN 37064

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



THEOUTREACHFOUNDATION.ORG

*The Outreach
Foundation is grateful
for your faithful
generosity over these
past months as your
gifts of over \$330,000
have allowed us to
respond to urgent
needs in 23 countries.*

Learn about COVID-19
response inside!