



FIRST PRES
COLORADO SPRINGS

Living Sent

Mission Engagement Annual Report 2024



*“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.”*

MICAH 6:8

Dear First Pres,


God calls us to be like salt in the world. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus instructed His disciples to be the “salt of the earth.” But what does that mean? Salt serves as a natural preservative; when rubbed into meat, it prevents decomposition and spoilage. Similarly, Christ followers play a role in preserving the world from falling apart. Salt also acts as a spice, enhancing flavors and tones when sprinkled on food. Likewise, Christ followers are meant to be present in the world, drawing out and emphasizing the good and beautiful things that reflect God’s goodness and beauty.

Following the command of the prophet Micah is one way to stand out as salt in the world. While others may wield power for personal gain or manipulate terms like ‘justice’ to serve their own agendas, Christ followers act justly according to God’s own standard of justice. Rather than viewing mercy as weakness, they embrace it because they themselves have

received forgiveness from Christ. Instead of projecting pride and self-assurance, Christ followers walk humbly, following the example of a Savior who taught that the greatest act is to give oneself for another.

Living Sent catalogs our efforts as Christ followers in Colorado Springs and beyond. Take a moment to pray for these ministries, and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. Perhaps this year, you’ll be called to step out and follow Christ into one of these missions—to “act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God” in a world that desperately needs it.

Yours in Christ,



Tim McConnell
Lead Pastor



“He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.”

DEUTERONOMY 10:18-19

Welcome Friends!

“This is what the Lord says:

‘Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,’ declares the Lord.”

JEREMIAH 9:23-24

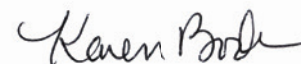
At First Pres, we are fortunate to be people who partner with God. Whether locally or globally, the term “Mission Engagement” defines God’s people actively participating in His mission. And what is that mission? It is for the world to know Jesus Christ—His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. One powerful way to communicate the gospel of Christ is through our actions; we become the hands and feet of Jesus to those who may not yet know Him. Often, Christ engaged with others through storytelling to reach their hearts. The story of the Good Samaritan exemplifies Jesus demonstrating love for others through acts of mercy, lovingkindness, righteousness, and justice.

Jesus engaged religious leaders by asking questions, but they also posed questions to Him. After answering Jesus’s question about the greatest commandment—“Love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself”—a lawyer sought to justify himself and asked, “Who is my neighbor?”

What followed was the story of the Good Samaritan. While there are many themes in this story, for this issue of *Living Sent*, we focus on the Good Samaritan’s actions: he stopped, poured oil and wine, bandaged wounds, placed the injured man on a donkey, brought him to an inn, provided money, and promised to return to check on him.

The Samaritan interrupted his journey, pausing to compassionately assess the man’s wounds. With oil, wine, and bandages, he cared for the assaulted man, demonstrating lovingkindness. By using his own resources—oil, wine, bandages, and even his donkey—the Samaritan displayed generosity. Righteousness extends beyond personal piety; it involves being generous with one’s resources. Consider this: the Samaritan gave items he might need for himself in the future. Finally, by taking the injured man to the inn and promising to return, the Samaritan exemplified justice—he sought to make right what had been wronged, bringing healing to the injured man.

Each of us, along with our local and global partners, strives to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Through our actions, we proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. *Living Sent* showcases our partners who engage in God’s mission, becoming Light and Life for the City.



Karen Boden
Assistant Missions Director



INTRODUCING

Rev. Ellen R. Dawson

MISSIONS PASTOR

We are happy to introduce our new Missions Pastor, Rev. Ellen Dawson. Ellen comes to us from Pittsburgh, PA where she served as an Associate Pastor for eight years. Her previous work includes Campus Ministry at Marshall University and The University of Arizona, work in various congregational settings, and several years in public relations. Ellen's experience in Global Missions includes her work with World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a year of service in Guatemala with the Young Adult Volunteer program, and leading the New Wilmington Mission Conference's Summer Service Team to Nepal. In her capacity as a pastor, she has led mission teams to Peru, Las Vegas, Miami, Costa Rica, West Virginia, Maryland, Guatemala, and Haiti; she has also been on mission teams to Jamaica, Vietnam, and Mexico. Ellen is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (MDiv) and Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio.



Compañerismo. I added this word to my vocabulary early on in my year of service in Guatemala. I had heard it repeatedly in worship, prayers and conversations about Presbyteries in the U.S. *Compañerismo* means partnership in the context of the church, so I committed the word to memory. But a few months into my time there, I realized something that was both interesting and beautiful: my Spanish-English Dictionary actually defined *compañerismo* as “camaraderie + friendship; companionship; team spirit.” I think that’s a pretty accurate way of defining a healthy, thriving, gospel-focused mission partnership.

I look forward to working and walking alongside you and our mission partners as we continue to build relationships, collaborate, pray, laugh and learn together. My deepest hope is that we will authentically seek how God is calling us to be a part of His global purposes. What a joy that we get to discover that together, in partnership, as we strive to be followers of Jesus who are Living Sent.

Rev. Ellen R. Dawson

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

MICAH 6:8



חֶסֶד *Chesed*

Mercy

1. devotional piety of people towards God and of love or mercy of God towards humanity
2. kindness or love between people



מִשְׁפָּט *Mishpat*

Justice

1. advocates for the poor and the oppressed, especially widows and orphans
2. equal rights for the rich and poor, female and male, foreigner and native born
3. raising honor and covering shame



רַחֵם *Racham*

Love

1. acts of charity and fairness
2. a commitment to ethical behavior and social justice
3. ensuring the well-being of others and maintaining the moral integrity of the community



צְדָקָה *Tzedakah*

Righteousness

1. aligning one's actions with divine justice and righteousness
2. giving to those in need reflecting an obligation to create a just and compassionate society

Our Local Partners



Catholic Charities
ccharitiescc.org



Family Life Services
flscs.org



Hope and Home
hopeandhome.org



Pikes Peak Young Life
pikespeak.younglife.org



COSILoveYou
cosiloveyou.com



Family Promise – IHN
ihn-cos.org



Life Network
elifenetwork.com



Springs Rescue Mission
springsrescuemission.org



Crossfire Ministries
crossfireministries.org



Fostering Hope
fosteringhopefoundation.org



Lutheran Family Services
lfsrm.org



The Place
theplacecos.org



Dale House Project
dalehouseproject.org



Greccio
greccio.org

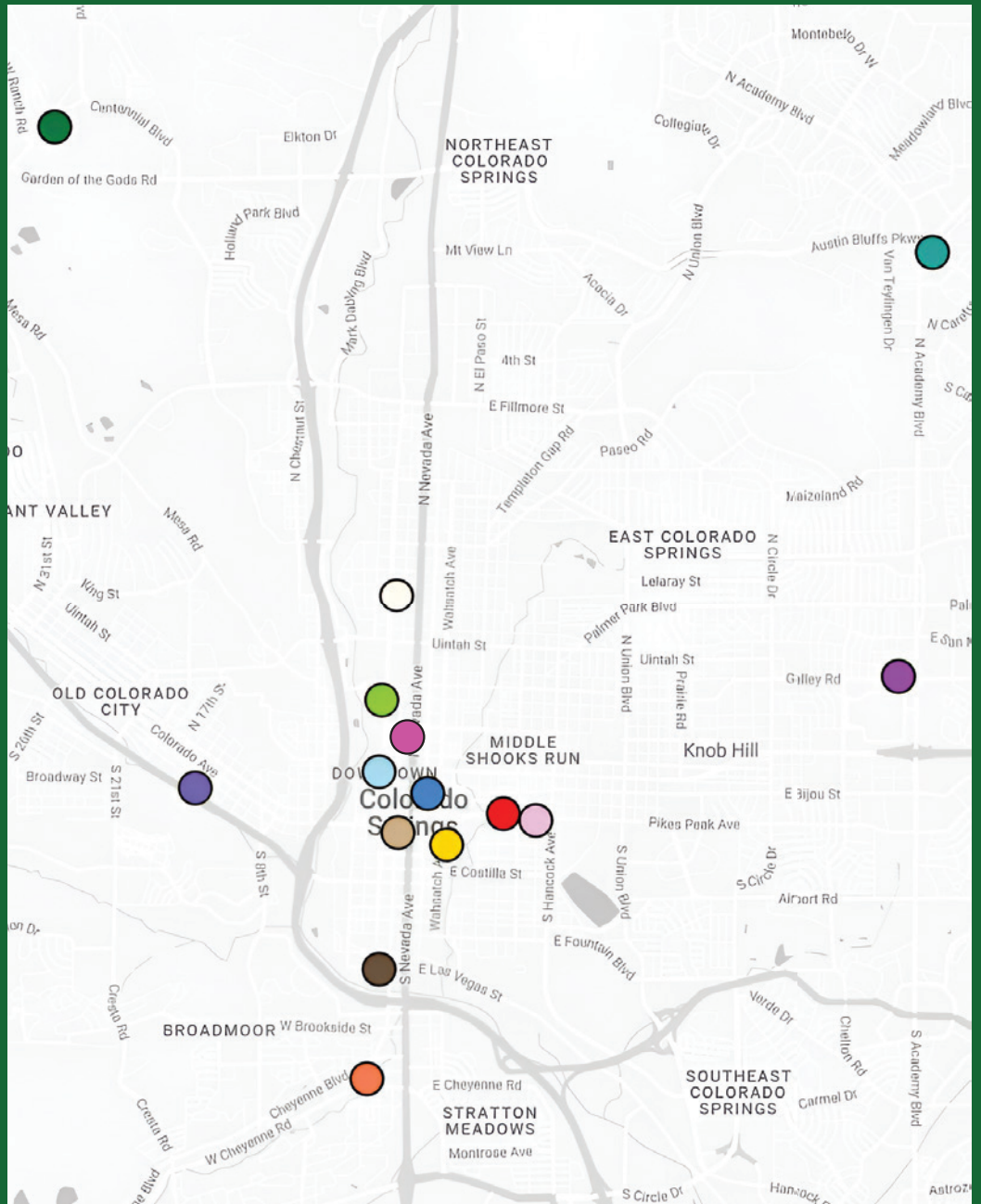


Pikes Peak Academy
pikespeakacademy.net



Thrive Network
thethrivenetworks.org

- Catholic Charities**
- COSILoveYou**
- Crossfire Ministries**
- Dale House Project**
- Family Life Services**
- Family Promise**
- Fostering Hope**
- Greccio**
- Hope and Home**
- Life Network**
- Lutheran Family Services**
- Pikes Peak Academy**
- Springs Rescue Mission**
- The Place**
- Thrive Network**





A Place to Call Home and Flourish

Family Life
services™

Moms build futures here

Family Life Services help single moms and their children leaving homelessness or domestic violence build new futures through faith-based community.

BY THE NUMBERS

9 families in residential program in 2023

25 families in outreach program in 2023—
Women of Courage

1200 vulnerable neighbors served over 82 years

800 volunteers served in 2023 including those from First Pres

“I used to never talk...I never looked people in the eye...My abuser wouldn’t let me work—he cut me off from everything. When I got to FLS, I was able to ‘see’ again. Because of FLS, I found my faith—and myself—again.”

It’s painful to imagine any mother uttering these words. But when Stephanie and her daughters moved into an apartment on the FLS campus, she finally had space to breathe. Step by patient step, her confidence as the dignified head of her household was restored. Like a butterfly emerging from a cocoon, her true self blossomed. Fear dissipated. The faith she’d known as a child flourished in a greenhouse of grace. Stephanie acknowledges that roadblocks to her growth were plentiful, and she often felt like she was failing. However, she emphasizes, “The amount of grace FLS shows moms during the ups and downs—the patience and time to figure things out when twists and turns happen—built my faith.”

At FLS, each single mom receives personalized coaching. Stephanie credits her coach, Jamie, with consistently guiding her to relevant Scriptures





▲ Stephanie (second from right) and her children

during challenging times. “Jamie is very wise,” Stephanie reflects. “I never felt judged. She’s a skilled redirector, always helping me refocus when I was overwhelmed.”

Community plays a crucial role at FLS. Single moms gather in groups every Monday night, reinforcing the message that they are not alone. Stephanie appreciates this sense of camaraderie: “We’re all in the same situation. I’ve learned how much community matters.”

Although Stephanie and her daughters have transitioned to stable housing off the FLS campus, she maintains her connection through FLS’ outreach program, Women of Courage. In this program, moms living off-campus support each other in pursuing life changes. Stephanie is mentored by a specifically trained, mature Christian woman, continuing the work she began

on campus to build a brighter future for herself and her family.

The scared woman who once avoided eye contact and rarely spoke has transformed. Through coaching and community, she learned the tools to break free from that oppression. Stephanie says, “FLS brought out the old me. I found independence and confidence. I now look people in the eye without fear. With my job, I’ve learned how to budget my finances—I’d never done that before. Now I have a safety net in my savings, and my long-term goal is to own my own home.”

Being a single mom remains challenging, but FLS equips these women with resilience. Stephanie, no longer in danger, joyfully shares her story. She feels empowered to use her voice to encourage other moms and to build a new future for herself.

LET’S PRAY

- That every mom and child we serve would come to know that God loves them, is for them, and wants to help them build a better future.
- Those who serve families will boldly walk through doors God opens and patiently wait where He hasn’t yet so that we are aligned always with where God leads.
- 20 new mentors for our community.



Pikes Peak Academy is a Christian alternative high school dedicated to serving mostly unchurched, low-income families whose teens are at-risk of not graduating.

BY THE NUMBERS

31 years serving youth at-risk

680 students and families have been impacted since 1993

\$280,000 awarded in scholarships

150 volunteers in 2024

Coming Alongside Students to See More for Their Lives

Victoria, a 2024 graduate of Pikes Peak Academy (PPA), left an indelible mark on the school community. She candidly shared, “When I arrived at PPA, I was angry, lost and struggled to express my feelings in a healthy way.

“What PPA taught me is that it’s okay to feel frustrated, but not to let that frustration consume me. They encouraged me to open up about my struggles, reassuring me that some people genuinely want to help.

“Unbeknownst to them, they guided me through challenging times, and all I can say is...Thank you!”

Pikes Peak Academy serves as a vital bridge between the public-school system and traditional Christian school alternatives in Colorado Springs. It caters primarily to low-income students who have left the public-school system—either voluntarily or involuntarily—and face barriers to accessing quality private education. These students are at risk of not graduating.

PPA’s innovative Learning Pathways program aligns with each student’s academic needs and career interests. By providing experiential learning opportunities, PPA allows students to explore various career paths while discovering their unique identities and how their skills connect with those paths.

Most of PPA’s students are unfamiliar with the gospel of Jesus Christ upon enrollment. Within a caring, Christian environment, we nurture their academic, interpersonal and employability skills. Through intentional relationships, we introduce them to Jesus and offer them an opportunity to respond to His message. Our community thrives thanks

LET'S PRAY

- Our students would come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.
- God would continue to provide 89% of our annual budget in serving mostly low-income families.
- The Body of Christ serving here would love one another very well.

to dedicated PPA staff and over 100 volunteers who serve as tutors, mentors, life skills teachers, office assistants, lunch cooks, board members and IT/maintenance workers. PPA embodies the spirit of 1 Corinthians 12:18 and 20: "God has

placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. As it is, there are many parts, but one body." Together, we glorify God by fostering growth in staff, volunteers, students and their families.

▼ The Graduating Class of 2024





Bill and Sharon A. are called to Colorado Springs as part of a team focused on Diaspora Outreach and Church Mobilization. their work ministers to the unreached refugees where they live.

Reaching the World Here in Colorado Springs

Bill and Sharon, as Friends of Afghans, express gratitude for your partnership in sharing the gospel with Afghans. They extend lovingkindness by reaching out and revealing what Jesus is like. As part of the body of Christ, they embody the answers that Jesus provides. Their work centers on ministering to unreached refugees in Colorado Springs. Driven by God's calling, they engage with Muslim refugees throughout the city, offering two weekly English classes and a monthly gathering called Chai Khana. Afghans appreciate these community-oriented events. Year-round activities, including events like "Pizza and Pilau" at First Pres, foster lasting relationships. Bill and Sharon assist the church in meeting practical needs for Afghan families as they establish new lives in America.

Bill and Sharon's passion extends to people groups worldwide who remain unreached by the gospel. Although these unreached individuals may seem invisible to the North American Church, their hopes and challenges intersect with our daily concerns. Remarkably, people from these areas are migrating into our neighborhoods at unprecedented rates. Bill and Sharon believe this is not coincidental; rather, God is using this massive migration to make His Name known among them. The church has a unique opportunity to engage with unreached people personally—learning their names, hearing their stories, understanding their families, and sharing in their dreams.

LET'S PRAY

- We would rely on God and be bold in sharing God's Word.
- For new Afghan believers.
- We would be intentional (Colossians 4:5-6) and ask God to prepare the hearts of those who will hear about Jesus.

By welcoming and embodying Christ's lovingkindness, the church fulfills its mission.

Emily, a churchgoer, initially harbored suspicion and negative feelings toward Muslim refugees. However, her involvement in an English class for Afghan refugee women changed her perspective. Assigned to watch the children, Emily not only connected with them but also formed relationships with some of the mothers. One such relationship blossomed when Fariba, an Afghan mother, invited Emily for tea. Their interactions continued, and now the Afghan children in Fariba's family affectionately call Emily their grandmother. Emily, in turn, considers Fariba her best friend. These transformative relationships exemplify the church's ability to extend Christ's welcome and love to those who are often overlooked—the least and the lost. By sharing Jesus's faithfulness, Bill, Sharon and the entire community participate in God's great commission.

Their desire is to support First Pres in building and nurturing these redemptive relationships in Colorado Springs, especially among diaspora populations from countries with limited access to the Gospel. Through these efforts, they glorify God as He faithfully gathers His family from every tribe, tongue and nation.

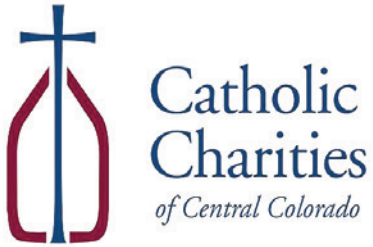


BY THE NUMBERS

14 leaders directly equipped

13 leaders indirectly equipped

381 people served



Strengthening Community and Family Stability

Catholic Charities provides essential human services that improve the physical, mental and emotional health of primarily those who are low-income, at risk or facing homelessness.

Catholic Charities' programs are strategically designed around three core goals: maintaining or achieving stable housing, increasing household stability and improving access to essential services. Since our establishment in 1968, our services have expanded significantly. We now offer a daily hot meal, food pantry, behavioral health support, individual and family counseling, case management, legal immigration services and more. Among our largest initiatives is Family Connections, situated at the Hunt Campus in the Hillside neighborhood.

Our overarching objective within Family Services is to enhance community and family stability by ensuring that families have access to the essentials they need to thrive. Many families struggle to meet foundational needs, including stable and affordable housing, utilities assistance, food resources and quality childcare. Recognizing that a parent's progress depends on meeting these basic needs, we prioritize immediate assistance. Families receive support not only for their material needs but also through no-cost parental and early childhood education

classes. As we deepen trust and relationships with parents, we witness increased engagement and momentum.

Looking ahead to 2025, we anticipate opening 24 transitional housing apartments on the Hunt Campus. This initiative aims to move parents and children from the streets and shelters into stable housing. By doing so, we strengthen the existing Hillside neighborhood while preserving the historical significance of the Hunt Campus. Hunt Family Housing will serve as a foundation, allowing families to participate in additional programs focused on parenting skills and family goals.

We are grateful for the support we receive for our family programs, including generous contributions from First Presbyterian Church. Exciting developments lie ahead, and we eagerly anticipate the realization of this project. The need for supportive services in Colorado Springs remains significant, and Catholic Charities remains committed to assisting the most vulnerable members of our community.





BY THE NUMBERS

14,570 unduplicated people served through all programs

79,934 meals served at the Marian House Kitchen

1,773 people were served with rent and utility services

4,267 people received family support (2,705 children)

338 households served with medical appointments

210 people helped with counseling and behavioral health services

The pressing need for this project is an ongoing campaign to raise funds for the facility's operational costs to support all 24 apartments.

As Alexander, a Catholic Charities client, expressed:

“Because of Catholic Charities, my family has a roof over our heads, access to food, and medical attention. But most importantly, we have hope.”

LET'S PRAY

- For those who struggle, that they may be guided onto a path of stability, renew their hope, and feel His divine presence, comfort them in times of need.
- For our volunteers and staff members, God to work through us to bring His love and compassion to the vulnerable in need of hope.

List of Individual Missionaries

- **Nabil Ajamian**
with Voice of Truth
Translation Editor: Arabic
- **Rev. Sharon A.**
with Mesa Global & EPCWO – USA
- **Ted & Brandy Cox**
with Greater Europe Mission
United Kingdom
- **Carol Crom**
with Entrust – USA
- **Darrell & Annette Dooyema**
with Navigators – Norway
- **Clyde Elliot**
with FCA – Colorado Springs
- **Jeff Hayes**
with Common Ground
Translation Editor: Arabic
- **Gary & Mary Lee Hipp**
with Navigators – South America &
Southeast Asia
- **Jason & Susi Jensen**
with Intervarsity – USA
- **Dan Jessup**
with Young Life – Latin America
- **Randy Larsen**
with EMI – USA
- **Mark & Leigh Ann Looyenga**
with Navigators – USA
- **Sean & Angie McKelvey**
with Pioneers
- **Andy Morrison**
with Young Life College – At UCCS
- **Chris Morton**
with Navigators – United Kingdom
- **Carlos & Becki Pinto**
with Mesa Global – Ecuador
- **Floyd Preston**
with Lutheran Family Services – USA
- **Bill Stackhouse**
with Young Life MCYM – Virginia
- **Andrea Tepley**
with Mission Training International – USA

List of Global Partners



PARTNERS IN CUBA

- *First Presbyterian Reformed Church of Havana*

PARTNERS IN GUATEMALA

- *Proyecto Socorro, San Pablo*
- *Poema (Vida Joven), Patzun*

PARTNERS IN MONGOLIA

- *Mongolia Campus Crusade for Christ*

PARTNERS IN EGYPT

- *Heliopolis Evangelical Church, Cairo*
- *Better Life Team (VCI), Cairo*
- *The Bible Society of Egypt, Cairo*
- *The Center of Love, Cairo*
- *Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo*
- *Sudanese Displaced Children's Learning Center, Cairo*



Meet Edi Xican, founder and director of Poema!



First Pres has partnered with our sister church, First Presbyterian Reformed Church of Havana for over 10 years.

Cuba in Crisis

Cuba finds itself at a crossroads, grappling with profound decisions both nationally and within our partner church, First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Havana. The Cuban people endure hardships, including food scarcity, daily power outages lasting four to twelve hours, soaring inflation due to the devaluation of the peso, shortages of medical supplies and government crackdowns on dissenting voices. Faced with these struggles, individuals must weigh whether to remain in their beloved homeland, despite the absence of relief, or seek refuge elsewhere.

Meanwhile, our partner church confronts significant choices of its own. In the past five years, they have sought their third new pastor. Rejecting the elders' recommendation in spring 2024, they

temporarily appointed an almost-retired interim pastor. However, the scarcity of available pastors has become evident. Many potential candidates have recently emigrated to other countries. Additionally, lay leaders—whom we've collaborated with over the past sixteen years—have also left Cuba. Those who remain shoulder not only their church responsibilities but also the burden of supporting fellow members.

Our support remains steadfast.

In March 2024, we transported eight hundred pounds of medicine, demonstrating our commitment. Our presence and generosity convey that we care deeply, refusing to forget the Cubans during their time of need.





First Pres' partnership with Heliopolis Evangelical Church demonstrates God's faithfulness to those in the 1% window.

God is on the Move as Always in Egypt

In 2023, a team gathered to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of Heliopolis Evangelical Church. With a rich history of bearing witness to Jesus and teaching Scripture, the congregation holds services on Friday and Sunday mornings, along with a Saturday service tailored for young adults, drawing three to four hundred attendees. Beyond its central location, the church has planted congregations throughout Cairo, including some in upper Egypt. The Sunday School program continues to thrive, necessitating the lease of an additional building to accommodate over eight hundred children.

The church's compassion extends to middle-class families grappling with rising food costs and the devaluation of the Egyptian Pound. These families, often too proud to ask for assistance, now find themselves in need. In a remarkable turn of events, God answered their prayers in December. The congregation secured a building that will house a

medical clinic, a school and a space for a new congregation. The urgent need for 1,000,000 Egyptian Pounds was met within ten days, allowing them to begin necessary renovations.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese School serves children from families forced to flee Southern Sudan. The curriculum, taught in English, places a strong emphasis on Scripture. Through the Give Back the Blessing initiative, breakfast is provided for students, teachers and staff.

The Bible Society of Egypt plays a critical role in making the Bible accessible to all. While it is illegal to give a Bible to a Muslim (considered proselytizing), there is no prohibition against Muslims purchasing a Bible. The society operates bookstores across the country, where seekers of the Word of Life visit daily. Additionally, they are diligently working on a modern Arabic translation and have already produced an audio Bible in contemporary Arabic.





Entrepreneur Training in Holistic Setting



Poeima, a Christ centered ministry, mentors young entrepreneurs and those wishing to start a non-profit outreach.

Poeima, founded by Edy Xicay, aims to equip young adults in the Guatemalan community of Patzun who dream of launching small businesses or non-profits. Edy established a mentoring structure that emphasizes business planning, spiritual growth and personal development. In his own words, “It’s a holistic program for individual development. Our goal is to cultivate a community of transformed young entrepreneurs who become change agents in their homes, communities, workplaces, ministries and churches—offering their gifts and talents for the common good.” Beyond Edy’s coaching, Poeima collaborates with other mentors who have completed the program or possess valuable resources for the mentees.

One notable outcome of Poeima’s guidance is a technology-based venture involving some participants. Edy shared a story of two young men who had emigrated to Canada for work but returned to Patzun due to a business initiated through Poeima. Another success story emerged when a mentor not only supported a young entrepreneur but also reached out to a family abandoned by the father. The mother expressed deep gratitude for the mentor’s impact on both the Poeima participant and the entire family.

Additionally, Edy’s wife, Karen, plays an active role in the ministry by providing outreach to local children. The program includes Bible lessons and engaging activities. Interestingly, this effort has also connected with some of the parents, extending the program’s influence beyond the children themselves.



Proyecto Socorro provides purified water to residents, which allows them to help in other ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

*A Christ-
centered
Ministry
Providing
Clean Water
and Much
More*

The Morales family, leaders of Socorro, are deeply committed to serving their fellow citizens in San Pablo, Guatemala, and beyond. Their ministry began with a focus on water purification, a critical need in the community. Not only do they operate a small water treatment plant, but they also deliver clean water to areas where residents struggle to access it. This initiative not only addresses a basic necessity but also provides employment opportunities for locals. Remarkably, the provision of clean water has become a gateway for sharing the good news of Christ with students in local schools.

Edgar, the founder and father, regularly visits these schools, where he is warmly received by students. Despite many objections, San Pablo's educational institutions recognize his unwavering commitment to being an ambassador for Jesus. The Morales family's community connections have allowed daughter Loly to engage in a scholarship program for area students. As a former elementary school principal, Loly now mentors these young scholars. Sons Eliu and Jonathan actively participate in the water project and enjoy high regard within the community. Eliu also encourages church involvement in various holistic causes.

Beyond water-related efforts, Socorro volunteers organize a children's church at the Morales home. Additionally, they extend support to single mothers engaged in small businesses, providing microcredits and other assistance. During monthly video calls, the Morales family consistently expresses gratitude for their partnership with the people of First Pres. Their tireless work exemplifies Christ's love in action.





First Pres has two partner ministries in Mongolia, Reaching Mongolia and Mongolia Campus Crusade/YoungLife. This article highlights the Capernaum Ministry of Mongolia Campus Crusade/YoungLife.

Just if They See Jesus

“My heart breaks whenever I think about children with disabilities staying home alone, longing for friendship and the opportunity to go to school,”

says Chuka, leader of Capernaum Ministry. During the COVID-19 quarantine, we recognized the need for assistance in various locations across Mongolia. After multiple trips, fellowship, training and sharing the gospel, we successfully influenced two local school teachers to accept Christ and establish centers in their towns to support children with disabilities. These centers, aptly named “Light,” bring hope to dark homes.

Mongolia has approximately 110,000 people with disabilities, many of whom lack access to essential care programs due to social unawareness and inadequate government policies. Capernaum

Ministry, a branch of Young Life under the Mongolia Campus Crusade for Christ (MCCC), is committed to reaching out to these individuals with both physical and spiritual support. With five staff members and 20 volunteers, the ministry operates six centers in three major Mongolian cities. Their ambitious goal is to establish an additional four centers within the next three to five years.

Temuulen, battling muscular dystrophy since age ten, faces a progressive muscle disease with no known cure. Tragically, his older brother succumbed to the same illness a few years ago, leaving the entire family acquainted with its devastating impact.

At age 15, Temuulen attended the Capernaum Outreach camp, where he encountered Jesus. Despite physical limitations, he actively participated in nightly Bible reading sessions via Zoom during the COVID lockdown. With his parents’ assistance, he followed along on the screen. Through his unwavering pursuit of Christ, his parents also accepted Him into their lives.

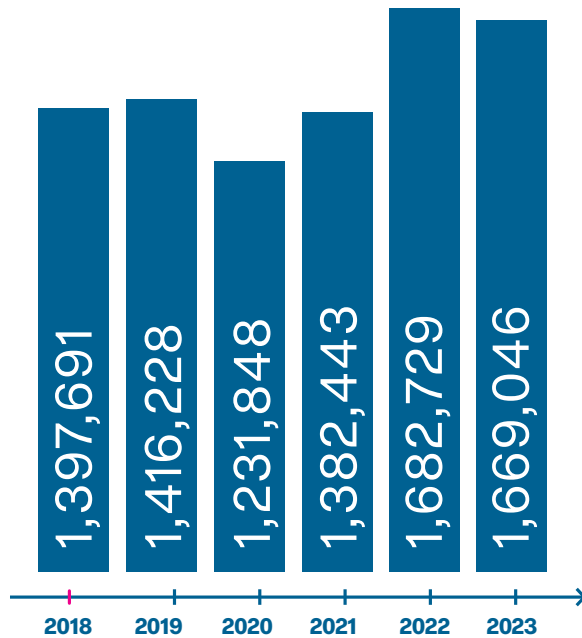


Financial Snapshot of Outreach Giving



First Pres has averaged an outreach giving of approximately 17% of all income into the church over the last eight years.

This includes individual gifts, Give Back the Blessing, Something Significant for Christmas, disaster relief, giving from Sunday Community Groups to partners and proceeds toward ministries from the First Pres Foundation.



GIVE BACK THE BLESSING

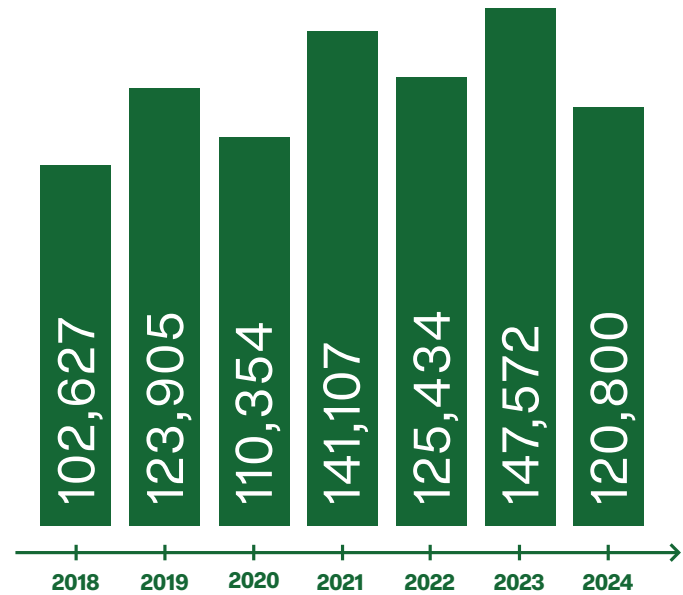
Our 2024 Give Back the Blessing contributed from Palm Sunday to the middle of April, approximately \$125,000 to give funds to Solid Rock Corporation for an Aquaponics Greenhouse (\$60,000), Sierra High School's Food Pantry (\$20,000), and Sudanese Displaced Children's Learning Center (\$30,000).

Solid Rock Corporation's Aquaponics Greenhouse will be built on District's 2 Schools unused land. The vegetables grown will be given away

for food as well as sold to make the project self-supporting and self-sustaining. Sierra High School with the help of First Pres members, created a food pantry on COSILoveYou's CityServe day. Faculty and students will run the pantry offering non-perishable foods. Our hope is to continue to develop a warm and supporting relationship with Sierra High School. Finally, The Sudanese Displaced

Children's Learning Center in Cairo will offer a nourishing

breakfast to the children and staff, which in some cases is the only good meal they get all day.



Mission Engagement Annual Events

FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

OCTOBER 5

OCTOBER 6

DECEMBER

APRIL 13, 2025

MAY 3, 2025

JUNE 7, 2025

CROSSFIRE MINISTRIES FOOD COLLECTION

COSILOVEYOU CITYSERVE

COMPASSION SUNDAY

SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT FOR CHRISTMAS

GIVE BACK THE BLESSING—PALM SUNDAY

COSILOVEYOU CITYSERVE

LIFE NETWORK'S WALK FOR LIFE

