

A Bethany International Publication

coMISSION

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President: Dan Brokke
Managing Editor: Randy Dirks
Designer: Dan Sanchez

6820 Auto Club Road, Suite M
Bloomington, MN 55438-2849
Telephone: 952-944-2121
Email: bethany@bethanyinternational.org
Website: bethanyinternational.org

Three Convictions

Of the 4,000 people from 199 countries who were standing and worshipping the Lord Jesus, only 10% were from North America. All of them were involved in missions and evangelism. During this 2010 Lausanne Conference on Evangelism in Cape Town, South Africa, I saw the Body of Christ and the world mission movement in a new light. Clearly God was at work in the global Church to accomplish His mission. And the Holy Spirit is the conductor of this “orchestra” from many countries.

A young leader recently asked me a question that I had not been directly asked before, “What are the core convictions concerning missions?” Three convictions immediately came to mind.

1. **We must increase our efforts to strategically engage unreached peoples.** To reach the hardest peoples and places with the Gospel is a matter of justice! Two thousand years ago, Jesus laid down His life for the sins of humanity. Yet today, 4 billion people have virtually no access to the Good News and little hope of ever knowing of Jesus.
2. **The American Church must be fully engaged in global missions.** We must not shrink back. We must not abdicate our responsibility. And we must not forget that the Great Commission is still in our Bible and must be fully obeyed.
3. **We must partner with the Church around the world.** While the western Church provided the lion’s share of workers during the 18th through the 20th centuries, the task that is remaining cannot be done alone. It must be done by working together!

WE (the Church in the West) MUST BE THERE! The role of the western Christian missionary is not over. We must not, and will not, withdraw from missions, but rather engage unreached peoples with an increased emphasis on partnering with workers from many nations.

Serving together,

Daniel H. Brokke
President of Bethany International



Mission Statement

*Take the church to where it is not...
and help others do the same.*

A DISCIPLE MAKING DISCIPLES IN MEXICO

By Kerry Olsson



Despite the influence of the Spanish during Mexico’s colonial era, the geographical isolation of Oaxaca’s individual villages and people groups, over long periods of time, have allowed them to maintain their unique languages and customs, beliefs and rituals — their ancestral traditions and to a extent their autonomy. For this reason, Oaxaca is the most ethnically complex state of Mexico’s 32 states and it is considered by many ethnologists and anthropologists to be most ethnically complex region in the entire world. This complexity has left Oaxaca’s villages largely unreached by missionaries for the past two thousand years.

The largest of Oaxaca’s indigenous peoples are the Mixtecs. In their own language, they are known as the “people of rain.” Among the Mixtecs, there are more than 50 individual people groups, each with its own unique language and traditions. The religion of the Mixtecs is animist, that is, they believe that all things, even animals and plants, natural phenomena, geographic features and everyday objects, have souls or spirits. Many communities have their own sacred places, like holy mountains or caves where they offer animal sacrifices to appease or ask for blessings from a particular god. They may have a god of the sun, corn, rain, fire, hunting, or even a god of death.

In one village for instance, the farmers must sacrifice the blood of a chicken to the god of the land before they can plant seeds. So how can Christians reach out to these isolated people groups who have resisted Western influence for centuries? First, it takes someone called by God, who has the courage and the faith to share the good news of Jesus Christ where it has been unwelcomed for hundreds of years... a person like Alejandro Rodriguez.

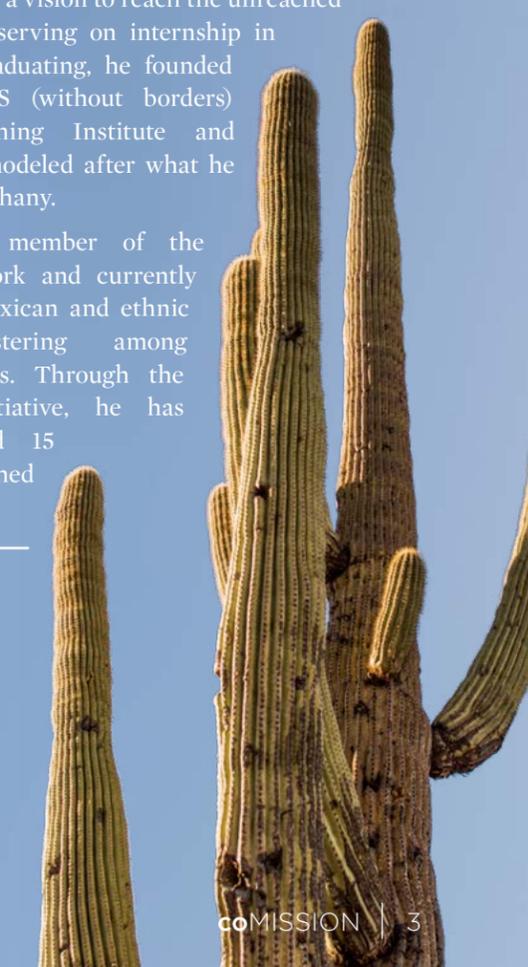
In 1996, God called Alejandro and Shayra Rodriguez to work in an unreached Mixtec village in the southern state of Oaxaca, Mexico. They had been there about 8 months, when a group of villagers grabbed Alejandro and started beating him. They put him in their local jail with the intention of hanging him via their indigenous customary law of “usos y costumbres” (customs and habits).

Friends in the community alerted the state police of the situation, and they came to his rescue. The police informed them that they should leave that community and that they would take no further responsibility. Alejandro and Shayra prayed and felt the Lord calling them to stay. They lived there for seven more years, and that they were able to plant a church that today is still alive and growing.

Alejandro is a graduate of Bethany School of Missions in Mexico. He caught a vision to reach the unreached of Mexico while serving on internship in Oaxaca. Upon graduating, he founded SIN FRONTERAS (without borders) Missionary Training Institute and sending agency, modeled after what he experienced at Bethany.

Alejandro is a member of the GlobeServe network and currently has numerous Mexican and ethnic believers ministering among 20 people groups. Through the ENGAGE500 initiative, he has officially adopted 15 additional unreached groups in Mexico.

Kerry Olsson
- Engage500
Research
Coordinator at
Bethany Int.





Are North America & Western Missionaries Still Needed?

If we don't stay on mission we will not get the task of the unreached done. But, we need revival, spiritual awakening, and embracing the Father's vision for all peoples.



Over the last three decades the number of North American missionaries serving overseas has decreased by 40,000 workers. The total number of missionaries from all nations has also sadly dropped from around 440,000 missionaries to 415,000 cross-cultural workers. The need for laborers, however, has not diminished, but instead it has increased! Yet the Church in America has pulled back. This is disturbing and tragic!

AN END TIMES PERSPECTIVE

Jesus' disciples asked Him one time, "What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?" (Matt 24:3 ESV). Jesus gave them a number of different signs, conditions and warnings. But one in particular stood out as the sign, "This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matt. 24:14 ESV)

Jesus' response regarding His coming was directly linked to accomplishing two significant things – bringing the Gospel to all places and all peoples.

A SPIRITUAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

The power and presence of the Holy Spirit are directly linked to being fully engaged in obeying His commands. The evidence of being a disciple of Jesus is obedience to Jesus. The birth of the church in the weeks following Jesus' ascension was initiated by two major markers: 1) The Holy Spirit's power; and 2) Being witnesses everywhere. The last words of Jesus before "a cloud took Him out of their sight" are found in Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth."

This command for the early Church to be witnesses through the power of the Holy Spirit has not changed. The powerful presence of the Holy Spirit and being bold witnesses at home and around the world gave birth to the Church and are essential to her future vitality and health.

AN OBEDIENCE PERSPECTIVE

In 1972 the World Council of Churches called for a 'moratorium on missions' after years of what they perceived as overreaching colonialization. While there certainly were valid concerns about the Church's approach



to missions, and corrections needed, the church also “grew increasingly timid about commending the faith to those of other faiths.” Many mainline denominations pulled back their missions work, especially evangelism and church planting, and increasingly focused on social programs without an emphasis on the gospel of the kingdom. Their decline accelerated with this decision.

Two years later, in 1974, the Lausanne Conference for World Evangelization was held in Lausanne, Switzerland. This was a conference of evangelical leaders, churches, and organizations that took a fresh look at the modern missions challenge. During this conference Dr. Ralph Winter introduced the concept of Unreached People Groups, thereby framing the Great Commission in terms of ethnic groups, rather than geo-political nations. This identification and definition brought a focus on reaching all nations/peoples. It caused a growth of missions among evangelical churches and mission organizations.

However, tragically, in the past 3 decades, much of the evangelical church in North America has pulled back from sending workers. No matter what reasons could be stated fundamentally, the implications are that the church in North America has shifted its responsibility for sending missionaries to the growing Church in the Global South

and East. The growth of the majority world church is tremendous, but it does not relieve us of our responsibility to obey Jesus’ command to “go.” (Matthew 28:18) We still have a role and a responsibility to be fully engaged. We must work alongside the global Church as partners and collaborators in the Gospel.

To be ready and engaged with the Father’s agenda, to be spiritually renewed and vibrant, and to obey Jesus, all of us must increase our efforts in strategic ways to make Him known “in all the world (geography) as a testimony to all nations (ethno-linguistic peoples).” (Matthew 24:14) Obeying Jesus’ commands is fundamental to our spiritual future and health!

WHAT IS OUR ROLE IN MISSIONS?

There is a Biblical example beginning in Acts 4 that tracks the story of Barnabas and gives some valuable insights about our role today. Barnabas sold land and gave the money to meet the needs of the early church. He advocated for the young Saul (Paul) and brought him to the Apostles. Barnabas disciplined the new believers in Antioch and then invited Saul of Tarsus (Paul) to join him. He took Saul on his first missionary journey – it started off as “Barnabas and Saul” and ended up as “Paul and Barnabas.” Barnabas was willing and ready to step out of the way to allow young

and fresh leadership to emerge.

Barnabas was no slouch! He was considered an apostle and a capable teacher and leader. He never stopped fulfilling what God had given him to do. His model of servant leadership applies to 21st century missions.

Barnabas was identified as “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith.” (Act 11:24) He was spiritually vibrant and healthy. And where he went, God worked as “a great many people were added to the Lord.”

WHERE GOD IS WORKING

The Holy Spirit works at the edges of the kingdom – at the front edge of spiritual advance. We the Church (no matter where in the world) must be active in personally proclaiming and demonstrating the Gospel of the Kingdom everywhere and among all peoples - in and beyond our own “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”

Here are some key ways we can serve and work together:

- **Sending new generations of workers (American and all nationalities).** Barnabas disciplined new believers, advocated for Saul (who became the Apostle Paul), and then looked for new, young leaders in whom he could invest. We too can identify, advocate, develop and invite others to join with us. Barnabas said, “Come

with me.” This is about seeing thousands of new North American and global workers being prepared and working together – building a global mission force.

- **Vision and strategy to reach the hardest places and peoples.** Together with our brothers and sisters in the global church, we need to share in vision and in developing strategies for effectively engaging unreached peoples and places.

Significant advances in initial access to unreached peoples, in seeing first believers and new churches established, and then seeing these become multiplying movements of new believers and churches. It is not just about seeing a few people come to Christ, but working together to see millions of new churches established in our lifetime. Leaving our egos at the door and working together, we labor towards a common goal and God’s glory.

- **Sharing competencies and skills learned from experience.** Current day breakthroughs are occurring in many people groups. Leaders and workers from North America and the global church are sharing what they are learning and ways that God is moving powerfully.

Lessons western mission workers have learned from

successes and from mistakes, especially in working cross-culturally, if shared in humility, can be passed on. After 2-3 centuries of modern mission movements, the western missionaries continue to have the opportunity to share as they stay actively engaged and offer freely of themselves. We find great openness from national missionaries and leaders in the Church in the global south and east to learn from our mistakes and successes.

- **Opening the door and facilitating access to strategic resources for maximum impact.** We can help to give access to scriptures (written and audio), evangelism and discipleship materials, language acquisition tools, leadership development, church multiplication, and at times financial support.

The advances that are being made among unreached peoples require that we align our energies and resources for sustained and multiplied impact. This is one way in which we are all in!

To continually have a voice at the table with missionaries and national partners from many other nations, we must fully and increasingly engage unreached peoples. We must freely and strategically bring the experience and resources that God has entrusted to us. We must obey Jesus's final commission until He says to us "Well done!"

Dan Brokke – President of Bethany International

Thoughts on The Need of Western Missionaries From Missions Experts

A "ONE-SIDED" CHURCH

The argument by many is that it's cheaper and more effective to send local missionaries because they have "home field advantage." Despite this logic, the church has proven to be most effective as a multicultural body harmoniously working together. I learned talking to international leaders and partners that some of the best trained missionaries come from the West, while other nations offer various strengths of their own. There are all kinds of historic and cultural animosities (i.e., Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs of India; the Sunni and Shiite Muslims of the Middle East; the Hutus and Tutsis of Rwanda, among others) that foreign missionaries have been able to transcend that local missionaries have not. Finally, there remain unreached peoples who don't have local Christians to reach them. The key is multi-cultural partnership.

Dr. Jim Raymo – Doctorate in Global & Contextual Leadership from Bethel Seminary and over 20 years of experience working with global missional leaders.

AN OUT-NUMBERED WORLD

There shouldn't be any debate over Western missionaries going overseas. Sometimes Christians argue that there are enough missionaries abroad and that the US needs to be evangelized. There is no denying that the US needs to be reached. However, the US contains about 300 million people compared to over 7 billion people globally. How can we justify just keeping all our own people at home when the need is so great overseas?

There are Western missionaries all over the world, including friends that we are supporting in Brazil, that are making a significant impact on the field. Why stop sending Western missionaries when God is clearly still working in and through them?

Dr. Ed Dudek – Doctorate of Ministry and Intercultural Studies from Bethany International University (Singapore) and 18 years of field experience in cross-cultural missions in Brazil.

A COLD HEART

The Bible says, "Where your treasure is, there your heart is also." I would say further that your heart follows where your children go. If the West does not send their people they will lack understanding and lose a personal connection to God's heart for the world and how He is working in missions. When we see our friends and family go on the mission field, it quickens our burden, passion, and urgency to be engaged in missions. I've heard it said, "We focus on the good and give up the best." If we only give our money we will lose sight of the best- the people that are being impacted and changed.

Dr. Randy Dirks – PhD in Intercultural Studies from Trinity International University and six years field experience in cross-cultural missions.

Freedom Becomes Real

Experience the Power of the Cross

“**H**ow can I experience a deeper work of Christ in my life?” As we know, the message of the Cross is the transforming power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. Though we were spiritually dead because of our sins, God brought us life and forgave all of our transgressions. We became new creations in Christ, born of the Spirit of God, and delivered from the guilt of sin.

This new life also involves the process of being saved. “For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (I Cor.1:18). What does that mean?

SIN NO LONGER IS THE MASTER

God's will for you and me is to be continually transformed into Christ's image by the work of the Holy Spirit (II Cor.3:18). This continual change was made possible only by what Jesus accomplished on the Cross when He broke the enslaving bondage of Sin. From God's perspective, when Jesus took away the sin of the world, you and I, as sinful persons, also were crucified along with Him (Gal.2:20). Therefore, whether or not we understand it, the day we were born again we also were separated from Sin as a master who had enslaved us (Rom.6:6, 9-10). As an evangelist from Uganda remarked, “I am blessed to understand that I am free from Sin as an enslaving master.”

HOW DOES THIS FREEDOM BECOME REAL IN OUR DAILY LIVES?

We can choose to see ourselves in the true light of the cross. In spite of feelings, we can count on and embrace the fact that we already have been separated from Sin as the enslaving master (Rom.6:11).

We also are released from the demands of the law and its condemnation. For too long many of us have been trying in our own effort to be righteous and acceptable before God (Rom.7:4-6). When finally embracing this truth, one pastor in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) said, “I have been struggling to live a holy life by keeping the law. Studying Romans, I discovered that the law cannot take



me to heaven nor make me righteous. I have to walk by faith in Christ and trust what He has done on the Cross. I have a new life, not under the law but under grace.”

SERVING IN LOVE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

This freedom becomes increasingly evidenced in our lives as we serve others in love by obeying from the heart the promptings of the Holy Spirit (Rom.7:6). We are to be men and women who through faith are continually filled with the Spirit and moment-by-moment controlled by His gentle and loving way (Eph.5:18). We are to “work out” our salvation with the reverential fear of God and a healthy concern to please Him. How can we do that? By God's power working in us to motivate, enable, and create in us both to will with determination and to effectively do what pleases Him (Phil.2:12-13). A leader from Nigeria testified, “Finally, by God's grace I have totally surrendered everything to Him – it has reactivated my total dependence on the Holy Spirit to live a life of victory over sin.”

How can we continue to experience the power of the risen Christ in our lives today? Not by trying to serve and please God in our own strength and goodness. But rather, by relying only on what the Lord Jesus did for us on the Cross. As Paul wrote in Galatians, “I am crucified with Christ but it is not I who lives but Christ lives in me” (2:20).

Dr. Ed Dudek – Faculty at Bethany Global University

OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

How Bethany Global University Empowers the Missionaries of Tomorrow

“Experience is a great teacher,” we have been told. Actually experience is just... experience. It takes more than an experience to produce learning. But, experience is an excellent platform for learning, and all of the BA degree programs of BGU incorporate this type of hands on learning. They learn culture by shopping in the local markets, language from local people, and doing ministry in a real overseas context.

& INTO THE HARVEST



“Being in Thailand... opened my heart and eyes to a broader perspective of what it truly means to be a follower of Jesus.”

—BGU Alumni



“Working in a team... gave me the chance to see that my weaknesses could be covered by others strengths.”

—BGU Alumni



Five Reasons Why *Experiential Learning* Works

1. SITUATION AND CONTEXT

When we step out of the classroom, what we have learned begs for application in the field. Living missionally in a different culture gives expression to classroom learning. Real life situations help apply learning to larger life issues.

2. CONTINUITY

Most of life-long learning is experiential. Past and present experiences form new concepts and future opportunities. Experiential learning engages important life skills like critical thinking, analysis and creativity.

3. AMBIGUITY AND COMPLEXITY

The ministry situations missionaries face every day are messy and cannot be put in a neat box. Growth as a disciple requires embracing ambiguity and complexity - best learned through guided reflection on these messy experiences.

4. REFLECTION

By reflection we do not mean passive contemplation. It is the ability to engage the immediate experience, reflect on it, learn from it, and create from it new responses and thinking.

5. COLLABORATION

Most “messy” situations in life are not encountered alone. We were not made to live independently. We each bring our own unique capacity to opportunities and collaboration allows each of us to share our gifts and learn from each other.

Going Global Vs. Being Global: My Take On The Global Internship

“Action” our media director whispered as I was stared down the barrel of his camera lens. I had just spent an hour and a half learning how to speak the Azeri language, but it felt more like 10 minutes. Even after practicing their alphabet, numbers,

basic greetings, and just enough vocabulary to help me complete a single task I was nervous. My mission: to record me using the language I had just “learned” to buy a kilo of onions at the local bazaar for that night’s dinner.

My palms were sweating as Nick gave me the nod to approach the vegetable seller in the local bazaar. The cameras were beginning to

attract a crowd of onlookers, so I moved in to get it over with.

“Salem! Necasan [Hello! How are you]?” I said with the warmest smile I could conjure.

“Yaxşıyam [I’m good].” the vendor said with a confused look on his face, so I proceeded.

“Bir kilo soğan olar [Can I buy one kilo of onions]?”

“yaxşı [ok].”

“Bir kilo naçayedir [how much is a kilo]? I asked, but I must have missed something as he rambled on too fast to understand. Nick took over from that point and the seller handed me the bag of onions. Our media director gave us a nod to let us know that he was satisfied with the shot. Mission accomplished.



Global Internship

Locations:

- France
- Slovenia
- Kenya
- Ghana
- Thailand
- Indonesia
- Georgia
- Two Restricted Access Countries



Nick continued speaking with the vendor and another lady selling spices as if they had known each other awhile. They loaded up my bag with a few extra vegetables and smiled. Nick explained that the two vendors were his go-to sellers that he buys from to bless them. Sometimes they shove a few extra items in his bag. It was amazing that Nick had only been in this country for ten months. It seemed like he had been living here for years.

The media team and I had been in Marneuli, Georgia for a few days now to experience what life was like for Nick Dobbs and the other

students during their 16-month Global Internship at Bethany Global University. We were there to capture various experiences, like learning a foreign language, on video, so others could get a feel for what happens on Global Internship.

As we walked back through the bazaar to the guys apartments, it was obvious that life was different here. Clothing was dark and/or muted and all the men wore long pants despite heat. Old men played board games on the sidewalks while young men roamed around in groups. All buildings were cement where exposed

wires and plumbing had been added on and jerry-rigged multiple times over.

I asked questions at every turn and the BGU students always had an answer. For example, the Azeri people were superstitious about the cold and believed that cold air (or anything cold for that matter) would make you sick. So, everybody wore warmer than necessary clothes, didn't open car windows, and feared fans. This was one of hundreds of details Nick had picked up through his time in Georgia. In ten months, he had grown to learn their language, history, customs, habits, and culture.

During the Global Internship students did more than simply *go* as missionaries but were sent to *know* and *be* among the people to open a door for the gospel. Bethany interns are on the field for the purpose of taking the church to where it is not.

Dan Sanchez - Director of Marketing at Bethany International



"By building into our programs guided, reflected and collaborative ministry, we allow our students to get the most out of the experience of ministry and learn at a deeper level. We may start in a classroom, but then we get them out of the classroom and into the harvest"

—Dr. Paul Hartford, VP of Global Training



"After my two years on campus and 16 month internship, I could be dropped anywhere in the world and know how to be an effective missionary"

—BGU Alumni





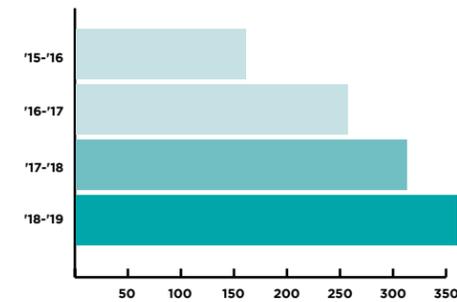
Bethany International Ministry Impact Report

BETHANY GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

During this past year, 309 full-time students were enrolled at Bethany Global University. For the prior school year, there were 256 students. Currently there are 32 students in the online graduate program.

In the fall of 2017, 55 students went on the Global Internship in comparison to 15 in the previous year. In light of the significant increase in students, three new Internship sites were launched. In fall 2018, we fielded 55 new interns. As a result, additional Global Internship field locations have been established.

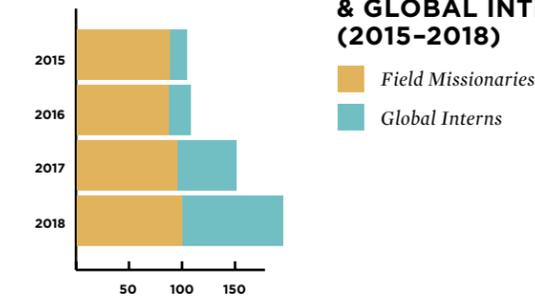
TOTAL ENROLLMENT (2015-2019)



BETHANY GATEWAYS

One hundred and two long-term missionaries serve with Bethany Gateways in 20 countries. Bethany Gateways has identified 12 strategic locations around the world that provide opportunities to engage with the least reached peoples. Some of these locations are: Kenya, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Thailand, Japan, and restricted access countries. These are platforms for strategic access and support of Bethany missionaries who directly and in partnership with national workers reach peoples and places where there has been little or no access to the Gospel. Gateways also partners with Bethany Global University for students to serve as cross-cultural missionaries.

FIELD MISSIONARIES & GLOBAL INTERNS (2015-2018)

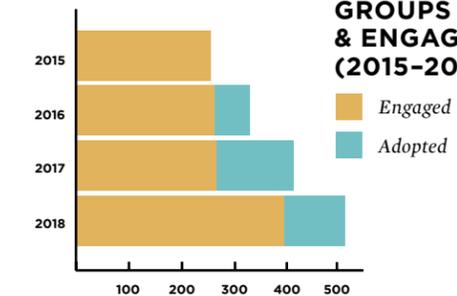


ENGAGE500

In 2015, God called us to focus on 500 of the most profoundly unreached groups, who are less than 0.5% Christian and have virtually no Christian laborers among them. As of August 2018 we have placed workers among 397 of these groups and have "adopted" an additional 118 of these profoundly unreached people groups.

Our network of 300 mission training schools prepares and sends 2,500 indigenous national workers each year as mission fields have become mission forces.

UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS ADOPTED & ENGAGED (2015-2018)

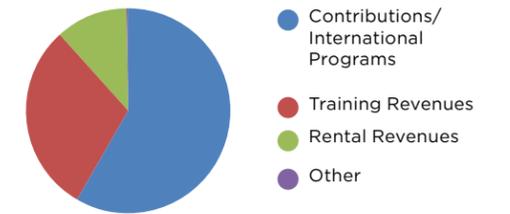


Bethany International Year End Financial Report

This report provides an overview and accountability regarding how financial resources were utilized to accomplish ministries of Bethany International.

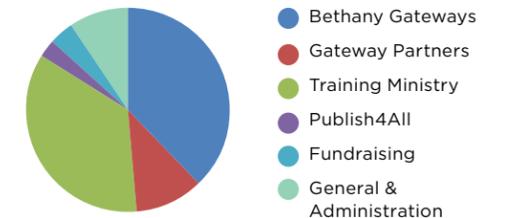
For the year ended June 30, 2018

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	Preliminary (in 000s)
Ministry Contributions	\$6,477
Training Revenues	\$3,317
Rental Revenues	\$1,268
Other	\$23
Total Operating Revenues	\$11,085



ANALYSIS OF OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Expenses	Amount
Bethany Gateways (international)	\$3,969
Gateway Partners (international)	\$1,191
Training Ministry (USA)	\$3,121
Ministry Community/Rental	\$1,329
Supporting Services	Amount
Fundraising	\$431
General & Administrative	\$1,014
Total Operating Expenses	\$11,055



Nationally Known Author Remembers Bethany

In 1948, Larry Christenson entered St. Olaf College in Minnesota. While there, he met Nordis Evenson. They married in 1951 and celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in December 2017 before they both passed away within four months of each other.

After Larry was ordained as a Lutheran minister, Larry and Nordis spent the next 35 years serving together in parish ministry. Their ministry went far beyond their own church. They spoke in churches and conferences on the charismatic renewal and family life, teaching and encouraging Christians in dozens of countries across six continents.

Larry and Nordis enjoyed a relationship with Bethany International that spanned over 50 years. Bethany published the books Larry wrote, beginning with Speaking in Tongues and including bestsellers like The Christian Family and The Renewed Mind, as well as the book Larry and Nordis wrote together, The Christian Couple. While they had a long and prosperous relationship with Bethany House Publishing, they treasured most the fellowship they had with the Bethany community. As part of their estate planning, they set aside a significant bequest to support Bethany's missionary outreach.

If you would like to learn more about how you can remember Bethany in your will or through a trust, please contact David Yerry at david.yerry@bethfel.org or by phone at (704) 236-1511.



coMISSION CONFERENCE

Fueling the Mission Through Prayer & Worship

Nov. 16-17 | Friday 2pm, 7pm
Saturday 10am, 2pm, 7pm

David Sliker
Guest Speaker

Jaye Thomas
Worship Leader

Register online at
BethanyInternational.org/coMission-Conf

