

ANNUAL REPORT | 2023



1 CORINTHIANS
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Transforming Communities Together



Rev. Dr. Alvin Sanders

“Here we go again, another condemnation,” I thought.

I was serving on a panel in a workshop that, to me, felt like yet another dance on the grave of the Church. I’ve been in enough of these to notice a distinct pattern. It starts with the premise of how to make things better, but then mostly focuses on—or even seems to revel in—just how bad things are. In the last few minutes, some nuggets of wisdom are shared, and then everyone leaves, though perhaps none the wiser.

To combat this, we partnered with Barna Group to prove the naysayers wrong. Together, we produced a rare resource for people who are interested in creating healthy local churches that engage their communities towards flourishing.

Don’t believe local churches do “some good” but are not creating radical community transformation. Don’t fall into the trap of apathy and condemnation. The research says otherwise! We’ve featured it in the pages ahead.

We had some challenges. We didn’t grow like we wanted and giving was down 6.6%. Yet we pivoted to a better strategy towards meeting our growth goals, and thanks to you we outperformed the national giving average, as Giving USA reports a 10.5% decline across the board.

It’s been six years since I became President and CEO, and I feel like we’re just getting started. God has big plans for us as we work to ignite healthy churches in every community of poverty. Thank you for joining us on the journey.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Alvin Sanders
President & CEO

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THE NEED

Equip the 95% of pastoral leaders who have no formal ministry training.

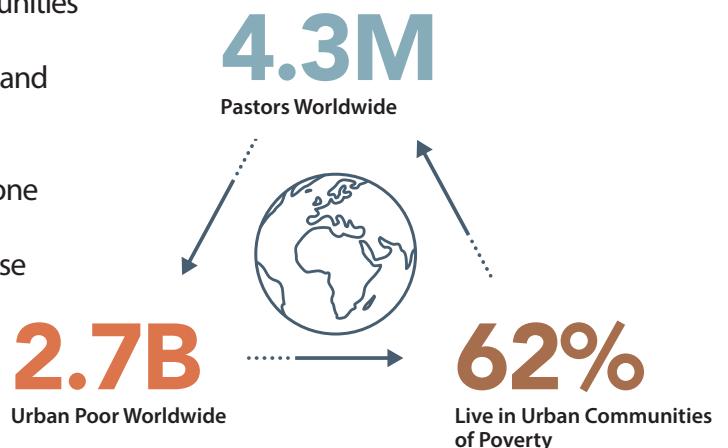
The need is great. According to the Center for Global Christianity, 95% of the world's pastors have not been formally trained for ministry — and most minister in urban poverty situations. Indeed, most of the world's Christians live in poverty.



The tough reality faced by men and women called to serve urban communities is that money and time are too scarce for them to engage in long, traditionally structured seminary training while devotedly serving God.

BUT... Building healthy churches in communities of poverty is practically impossible without training geared towards the specific needs and circumstances of the people being served.

So, everything we do at World Impact has one focus: making effective training resources affordable and accessible to as many of these urban ministers as possible.



OUR RESPONSE

We partner with denominations, ministry networks, and churches to ensure that these dynamic Christian leaders can be trained, no matter where they live. Our four core ministry programs are vital to their success.



CHURCH-BASED SEMINARY

World Impact's Church-Based Seminary, The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI), provides resources and trains urban church leaders. This training provides affordable and accessible seminary-level training for leaders in communities of poverty.



CHURCH PLANTING

The Evangel School of Urban Church Planting trains Christian workers to plant healthy churches among the urban poor. This training is designed specifically to equip teams to reach under-resourced communities.



PRISON MINISTRY

Through our Onesimus Workshops, we train church leaders and workers to succeed in discipling those who have been incarcerated. We also offer Church-Based Seminary training for those who are behind bars.



TRAUMA HEALING

World Impact's Trauma Healing program equips urban ministry workers and leaders to facilitate Bible-based healing groups. Participants can choose to receive training to lead their own healing groups — exponentially expanding the ministry.

Learn more about our programs at worldimpact.org/our-programs/

OUR VISION

A healthy church in every community of poverty.

Our redemptive poverty work affirms that it is God who does the rescuing, freeing people and communities from sin and oppression (Isaiah 60:16; 1 Peter 1:18–21). We believe that we all need rescuing because we are all fallen human beings. Our poverty work is a second commitment, after our salvation, to use our God-given time, talents, and treasures for the Kingdom. We maintain a radical solidarity with those who live in the condition of poverty. We admit our complicity in injustice, come alongside those who live in poverty, and enter into the work God is already doing.



THE IMPACT





SUPPORTING THOSE WHO GO

Dwight Whiting Shares His World Impact Donor Journey



MARY & DWIGHT WHITING

Dwight Whiting has never planted a church, led a trauma healing group, taken a Church-Based Seminary class, or ministered to prisoners. Yet, without people like him, World Impact could not train and equip urban ministry leaders. He has served World Impact for over 40 years as a generous donor and faithful friend.

“Just like I have changed over the years and grown, (so has) World Impact,” Dwight said. “But the love of Christ and the desire to make Christ known hasn’t changed.”

This prioritization of the Gospel urges him and his wife, Mary, to continue supporting World Impact. They wholeheartedly agree with the practical mission of training and equipping urban leaders, because they see Christ do the same in Scripture.

The Whiting’s support of World Impact has increased Dwight’s awareness of urban life and ministry and caused him to look beyond his immediate setting. He loves hearing the stories of lives being changed through programs in which he would not normally serve.

“God has not put it on my heart to be an urban pastor, but the people that are doing that need to be supported,” Dwight said. **“I believe God gave me the career and the means to support those who go.”**

Dwight grew up hearing that he must travel overseas to be a missionary. Instead, God has used his financial faithfulness to forge a 40-year friendship with World Impact that has offered hope to communities of poverty worldwide.

If you would like to join the Whiting’s in supporting the mission of World Impact, visit worldimpact.org/donate



DWIGHT WHITING

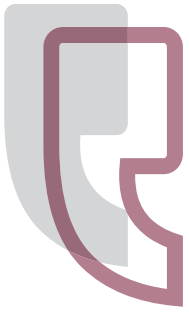
While in college, Dwight heard World Impact founder Keith Phillips talk about how urban America was ripe for the Gospel harvest—and the message stirred his heart.

He began supporting World Impact financially after beginning his engineering career. In 2004, he transitioned to a new career as a financial advisor, and he is currently part-owner of Auxano Advisors, a faith-based wealth management and financial planning firm.

TRAINED & COMMISSIONED



CHURCH PLANTING # OF PARTNERS – 247 # OF TRAINERS – 91 # OF WORKERS – 623



A BEACON OF HOPE

LifePoint Church Helps Their Underserved Community Flourish



STEPHANIE & JP CASTILLO



TAMMY & FREDDY GONZALEZ



HELEN & PASTOR LORENZO ELIZONDO

The neighborhood where Pastor Lorenzo and his wife Helen live and minister might not seem like the ideal place to pastor a church. From the steps of the church building, you can hear police sirens, see crime scene tape, and feel the gunshots vibrate the sidewalk. However, this is exactly why the Elizondos feels called to serve the community and work with World Impact.

LifePoint Church sits in the heart of Oak Cliff, an under-resourced and crime-ridden community in south Dallas, Texas. Crime, drugs, and broken homes have left this neighborhood searching for answers.

“The majority of our members have experienced tremendous brokenness, pain, and trauma in their life,” Pastor Lorenzo said. **“They’re justified in Christ, but they don’t know what to do with the burdens and the wounds they carry.”**

To minister to the congregation’s needs, Pastor Lorenzo and Helen organized a World Impact Trauma Healing group, and around 10 people participated.

Freddy and Tammy Gonzalez have been part of LifePoint since 2015 and both grew up in broken homes. Together, they have fought Freddy’s PTSD and Tammy’s pain from losing numerous loved ones.

JP and Stephanie Castillo, members since 2012, also experienced dysfunctional home situations and are building their family on the solid foundation of Christ.

Member and volunteer Darlene Mendez lost her mother to leukemia and her husband to divorce in the span of two years.

Each of these individuals praised the Trauma Healing program for its effectiveness in providing them with new beginnings in their healing journey. They are now equipped to both heal from their own trauma and walk toward healing with those in their community.

“There’s going to be a lady out there that’s going to feel like I did...I know I can help people that way,” Darlene said.

“This (trauma healing group) was a life-changing experience,” JP added. **“It completely caught me off guard how powerful it was and how practical each of the steps were.”**

In a place like Oak Cliff, only Christ can transform the brokenness and tragedy into wholeness and prosperity. Because of faithful servants like the Elizondos and LifePoint members, Oak Cliff can hear the Gospel preached and see hope restored to their community.



DARLENE MENDEZ

TRAINED & COMMISSIONED



TRAUMA HEALING # OF PARTNERS – 152 # OF TRAINERS – 289 # OF WORKERS – 608



RADICAL TRANSFORMATION



Hutchinson Correctional Facility Celebrates Their Second Church-Based Seminary Graduation

Located in Kansas, the Hutchinson Correctional Facility first welcomed World Impact’s Church-Based Seminary program (TUMI) inside its walls in 2013. This partnership came through the guidance of donor and advisor Pete Ochs and the first site coordinator, Josh Pearce.

Pearce commended the Church-Based Seminary program both in nature and in practice. It brings men together around the Gospel from different races and backgrounds, which is rare in a prison setting. Also, the curriculum performs an incredible balance.



REV. DR. DON DAVIS ADDRESSING GRADUATES REMOTELY

“I think it is a great hybrid of bringing down very high-level content into accessible spaces without lowering standards,” Pearce said.

Since the site began in 2013, 15 students have graduated in two different cohorts, one of which took place this past July. Each of these men are now empowered with the truth of the Gospel, seminary-level training, and the confidence that comes from completing the journey.

Pearce, the Chief People Officer of Capital III, was already involved with providing work for the inmates inside the prison walls. Many inmates were following Jesus, but they were desperate for something beyond a weekly sermon to build their spiritual maturity.

“One guy came up to me at the end (of graduation) weeping, and said, ‘This is the first thing I have ever accomplished in my life.’ He hadn’t finished high school, but he finished TUMI,” Pearce said.



Almost everyone at the prison can see changes in the Church-Based Seminary students, which allows them opportunities to minister to other inmates and gain trust with prison authorities.

World Impact’s mission is to equip leaders, which is exactly what happens at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility. These men are now trained to lead and point those around them to Christ, and the Gospel will accompany them effectively and fruitfully.

“In the middle of the night, you have someone really struggling...(prison authorities) would pull our guys out of their cell, have them sit outside those men’s cells, and talk them through the night,” Pearce said.

TRAINED & COMMISSIONED



PRISON MINISTRY # OF PARTNERS – 109 # OF TRAINERS – 156 # OF WORKERS – 1,357

TRAINED & COMMISSIONED



CHURCH-BASED SEMINARY # OF PARTNERS – 110 # OF TRAINERS – 110 # OF WORKERS – 4,366

ADVANCEMENTS 2023

PARTNER | REACH | EMPOWER



Notable advancements have been made this year, thanks to the help of our generous friends and partners. Here are some highlights:

We partner with denominations, ministry networks, and churches to ensure that these dynamic Christian leaders can be trained, no matter where they live. Our four core ministry programs are vital to their success.

During a fall trip to Africa, World Impact formed a partnership with church planting groups in Malawi and the surrounding countries. God is moving mightily in this region, and leaders are guiding many to salvation.

World Impact explored new partnership opportunities at Exponential Orlando 2023.

We helped provide pastors, church planters, and ministry leaders with the practical tools and inspiration they need to be more effective in their evangelism efforts.

World Impact, with another partnering organization, provided Trauma Healing training for a group of leaders from Bethesda Ministries in Evansville, Indiana.

During the training, we offer practical illustrations to demonstrate how trauma affects lives.

Through a rigorous training process, World Impact commissioned four church-plant teams to target an area in northeastern Ethiopia. In this area, 0.2% are considered followers of Jesus of the estimated 8 million people—about half the population of New York.

World Impact hosted an Onesimus Workshop for 35 leaders from a dozen churches and ministries in the Oakland/San Francisco Bay Area.

World Impact entered a time of transition as we unify our efforts across our core programs into a single vision to serve the Lord and raise Church leaders in every community of poverty. Rev. Dr. Don Davis, who has served World Impact for decades in many capacities, began a new role as Senior Executive Advisor to Dr. Alvin Sanders. We also introduced Juan Carlos Morarie as SVP of Programs.

FY23 RESULTS

Fiscal year 2023 by the numbers

633 PARTNERS

A ministry engaging in a World Impact program with its costs covered

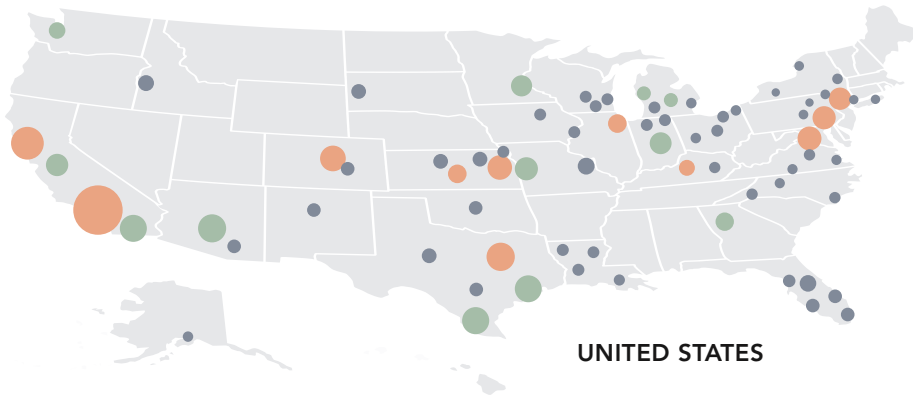
671 TRAINERS

A worker equipped to provide a World Impact program to other workers

7,162 WORKERS

A person who has participated in a World Impact program

OUR MINISTRY PRESENCE



MAP LEGEND

- 1-4 PARTNERS
- 5-9 PARTNERS
- 10+ PARTNERS

World Impact empowers urban church leaders around the world to reach their communities with the Gospel. Our Core Programs: Church-Based Seminary, Church Planting, Prison Ministry and Trauma Healing are vital to building and maintaining healthy churches in any community of poverty.

[Learn more at worldimpact.org/our-programs/](http://worldimpact.org/our-programs/)

WHERE WE WORK

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------------|
| BANGLADESH | HONDURAS | PAPUA NEW GUINEA |
| BELARUS | INDIA | RESTRICTED COUNTRY |
| BHUTAN | IRAQ | ROMANIA |
| CAMEROON | KAZAKHSTAN | RUSSIA |
| CANADA | KENYA | SOUTH SUDAN |
| COLOMBIA | MEXICO | SPAIN |
| DR OF CONGO | MOLDOVA | TANZANIA |
| ECUADOR | NEPAL | UKRAINE |
| ETHIOPIA | NIGERIA | USA |
| GHANA | PAKISTAN | ZAMBIA |

GLOBAL MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

KENYA
TANZANIA



16 PARTNERS
10 TRAINERS
69 WORKERS

INDIA



3 PARTNERS
3 TRAINERS
544 WORKERS

BANGLADESH



4 PARTNERS
6 TRAINERS
85 WORKERS



OUR FINANCIALS

\$7.3M

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE IN THE PAST FISCAL YEAR (ending 6/30/2023)

ALLOCATION OF TOTAL EXPENSES

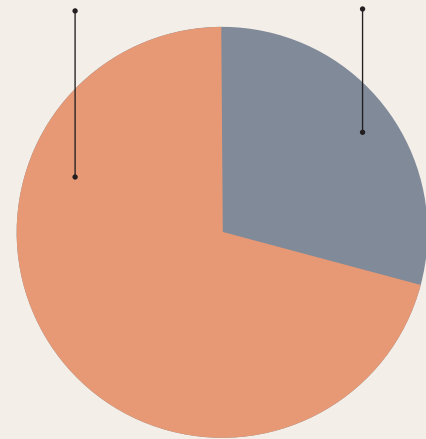
- 13% Administrative Costs
- 5% Capital Expenditures
- 1% Insurance
- 5% Other Ministry Costs
- 10% Property Expenses
- 12% Public Relations
- 55% Staff Pay & Benefits

IN FISCAL YEAR 2023, WE INVESTED

72% 28%

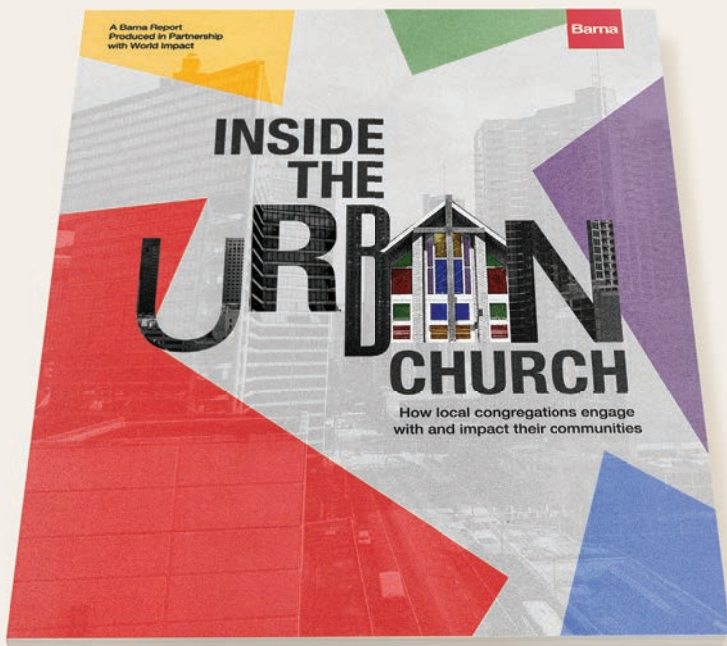
in Ministry Programs

in Operating Expenses



Operating within dense and diverse neighborhoods creates a special opportunity for up-close and lived-out ministry—as well as some unique challenges.

Introducing *Inside the Urban Church: How Local Congregations Engage With and Impact Their Communities.*



84% of urban churchgoers say, "If my church were no longer present in this community, it would be missed."

91% of urban churchgoers trust their church leaders to act in the church's best interest.

88% of urban churchgoers express a deep sense of community, saying they "feel welcomed and connected" at their church.

Metro residents both inside and outside the Church think Christian churches are well-positioned to address the problem of loneliness.

28% of churchgoers volunteer compared to **8% of unchurched** according to new data collected from 2,000 metro residents

We believe that trained urban pastors and leaders produce healthy urban churches which nurture flourishing neighborhoods. This study's findings demonstrate that this is not just theory, but reality.

– Alvin Sanders, President & CEO of World Impact



Learn more at worldimpact.org/inside-the-urban-church