

GRACE CREEK CHURCH

MISSIONS IMPACT 2022





Dear Grace Creek Church,

Our goal with this Missions Impact Report is to celebrate the incredible ways your generosity has impacted our region and world. As Grace Creek Church grows, we can serve our city, region, and the world in more ways. Whether you are new to Grace Creek Church, or you've been here for years, I hope you continue to step out by serving those in need and building spiritual family in the process.

I'm excited to see the impact Grace Creek Church is having locally on Third Saturday Serve as we celebrate a strong second year of consistent impact. Our Missions team has doubled in size, and we continue to show up, making a huge difference all over East Texas as we reach people. When disaster hits our region, you jump into action to provide needed relief, like after the tornado hit Upshur County in March of this year. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

We continue to love on Single Moms and Widows in our church by providing life-giving experiences for them to know the love of God, feel the power of generosity, and experience spiritual family as it transforms their families.

We continue to have a global impact as we support mission organizations and missionaries by planting churches worldwide. Our Mission Trips in 2022 were incredible. We saw a move of God, and let me tell you, the stories we've heard from all ages blow me away! We are so excited about the Mission Trips for 2023 and the amazing stories to come.

While these stories inspire us, I pray that we understand it's not about "doing missions" as much as it's about living missionally each day. This is real missional impact.

Honored to be your Pastor,

Pastor Matt & B. Benson

In 2022, our church will give

\$365,091.49
TO MISSIONS!

This includes YTD, forecast cash gifts, and in-kind donations.

In addition,

**1,365 Grace Creek Church volunteers served
8,813 hours this year, valued at \$263,949.35!**

We support local and global missions organizations, missionaries, church plants, and more.

SERVE DAY 2022

60 PROJECTS

622 VOLUNTEERS

1,866 HOURS OF SERVICE

\$67,286.70 IN DONATED SUPPLIES & VOLUNTEER TIME

Delivery of Caring Casseroles to Bel Air Apartments

Kids Jam & Adult Bible Study at Longview Square Apartments

Encouraging First Responders

Local Non-Profit Facility & Grounds Support

Keep Longview Beautiful Street Clean-Up Projects

Front Yard Worship

Homeless Shelter Outreaches

Local School Outreaches

Front Yard Worship

Longview Dream Center

Nursing Home Outreaches

SAVE THE DATE

SERVE DAY 2023 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

There are opportunities for individuals, families, and small groups to serve together in various projects throughout our community.





“The elderly homeowner we served is in very poor health and couldn’t take care of her yard. She was grateful to the point of tears that we took the time to come and help her. Our group was all on the same page that this was bigger than any one of us and we’re blessed to have the time and ability to bring a smile to her face.” – Gabriel



“At multiple nursing homes, we were able to play bingo, give manicures, and lead residents in worship. I got to sit with an elderly woman who could not visit with her family this morning. When we started talking, she was angry with God, but we had a great conversation. As we prayed with her, she opened up after being very hesitant. By the end of the conversation, she was able to recall times when she had seen God’s goodness in her life.” – Whitney



SINGLE MOMS & WIDOWS

At Grace Creek Church, we have a God-given burden to care for single moms and widows. James 1:27 says, “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” Thank you for not only meeting practical needs but also providing avenues for spiritual growth for these women and their children.

MOTHER’S DAY BRUNCH

On the Saturday before Mother’s Day, Grace Creek Church hosts a beautiful Mother’s Day Brunch for our Single Moms and Widows. There are opportunities for women to take their next steps as they have love and generosity poured on them from our Missions Team, generous local supporters, and a special message of encouragement.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SHOPPING SPREE

We all know the hustle and burden of the back-to-school season in a family’s life. We try to ease the transition for single-parent families and foster families by providing school supplies in their time of need. We encourage our entire church to donate school supplies that gives us this moment to pour out love, prayer, and encouragement to single parents and their children.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Each year at our annual women’s Christmas event, our Pastors take a special moment in service to honor and pray over our Single Moms and Widows. We also take this time to provide a special gift for these women who deserve a moment of recognition.

CHRISTMAS COMPASSION

At Christmastime, we take a moment to help our Single Moms with children living at home by providing gifts that these moms can give their children. We don’t believe any child should miss out on receiving gifts, and we love to provide lift for our Single Moms in need.





Tyrai is a single mom who grew up in church, but after her stepdad committed suicide in 2012, she turned her back on God. She said, *“I didn’t understand how there could be a God out there that loves me if He took away the person I loved the most. So about nine years went by, and I did everything ungodly and even battled the same issues my stepdad struggled with, from drugs to suicidal thoughts.”*

During this time, Tyrai’s mother consistently took her two girls to church.

“Every Sunday, my kids would come in my room dressed and ready for church and would ask me, ‘Mommy, why don’t you go to church?’ So finally, I went and even witnessed my oldest daughter getting baptized. But it wasn’t until the Mother’s Day Brunch for Single Moms and Widows that something clicked. Ms. B was telling her testimony of how God saved her, and I felt like if Jesus could do it for Ms. B, He could do it for me too! I knew that was the day I fully said yes to Jesus.”

Tyrai was baptized with her youngest daughter in August this year. This is just one of the amazing testimonies of how families are impacted by the love of Jesus and the generosity of our church. She now serves on our Missions Team, where she can share her story with other single moms and make a difference.

LOCAL MISSIONS

THIRD SATURDAY SERVE

On the third Saturday of each month, Grace Creek Church goes into the community with various serving projects that meet real needs. There are opportunities for individuals and families to serve together. Serving meals to the homeless, providing groceries or free clothing, supporting local nonprofits with various projects, working with the City of Longview to clear up code violations, and even serving our widows with projects around the house are just a few of the many ways we serve our region monthly.

“It’s an honor to serve on Third Saturday Serve. We get to be the hands and feet of Jesus. I love the opportunity to serve at the homeless shelter by praying with the ladies, playing games, doing crafts, and just loving on them. We get to bring them hope by sharing laughter with them, inspiring them, and hearing their testimonies. One of the ladies we serve consistently was saved at Grace Creek on her first visit and was baptized this August! Amazing! Our team is impacted as well. They really don’t know what to expect the first time they serve, but they certainly do not expect all the love they receive while serving others. I would like to say ‘thank you’ personally to Grace Creek Church for giving me this opportunity to serve and be the hands and feet of Jesus.” – Wendy

SKILLED PROJECTS

Our Skilled Projects Team consists of a group of men and women with various gifts and talents who complete simple to complex projects for single parents, families in need, the elderly, and those living with disabilities.

DEAF INTERPRETATION

Grace Creek Church is one of only a few churches blessed with the ability to provide interpretation services in East Texas so that the deaf and hard of hearing can engage in a church service. We offer ASL interpretation every week during our 9:15am service and small groups for the deaf to engage in spiritual family.

TORNADO RESPONSE

Just after the EF-2 tornado hit in March of this year, our Missions Team stepped into action. In partnership with other local churches and local authorities, we were able to serve dozens of families who had lost everything. From digging people out of their homes to providing basic needs in the aftermath, Grace Creek Church provided relief to those who were most impacted.





beyond

Beyond is a church-wide journey to inspire us to live and give beyond ourselves. No matter where we are in our walk with Christ, He's always encouraging and inspiring each of us to take our next step and do our part in reaching people and building lives. Together, we'll grow in our relationship with God and build our faith as we look beyond where we are to the place He's calling us to go.

WHAT GOD'S DOING

It is incredible to see what God is doing here at Grace Creek Church. The impact we have had in-person and online goes beyond what we could have ever imagined when we first set out in 2009 to build a church in East Texas that would reach people with the life-giving message of Jesus Christ. With the expansion of our Online environment in 2020 and our weekend service reaching over 2,500 people in-person and online, there is certainly cause for celebration! However, with the continued growth comes challenges that can impact our first-time guest experience and ultimately influence how we reach people and build lives.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

To continue caring for every person who walks in the doors at Grace Creek, our physical footprint needs to expand--including the Next Gen space, Commons, and parking lot. Beyond began in October 2021, and with Phase One fully funded and completed, we're excited to start raising funds for Phase Two and Phase Three of our project.



COMPLETED: SUMMER 2022

PROJECT

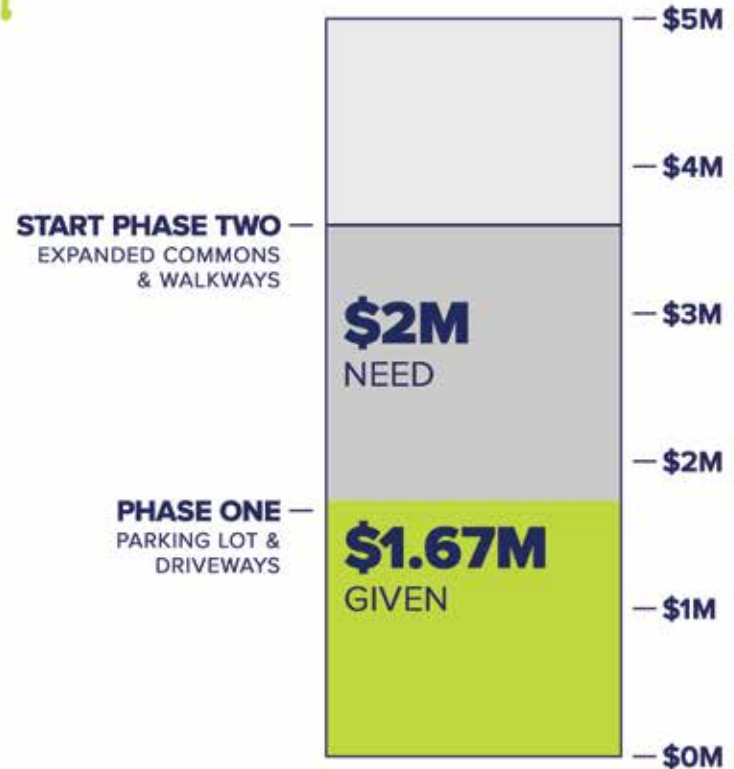
Next Step & Need

Our next step in the *Beyond* project is to start construction on the expanded commons and walkways. The financial need to take this step is another \$2M cash towards the project need.

NEED
\$2M

TO START
PHASE TWO

We are asking the entire Grace Creek family, new and old, to prayerfully consider giving their best cash gift towards this need.



TO GIVE AND LEARN MORE, VISIT: GRACECREEKCHURCH.COM/BEYOND

GLOBAL MISSIONS

CHURCH PLANTING PARTNERSHIPS

This year we've partnered with the Association of Related Churches (ARC) to see 43 churches planted within the United States.

ARC is a cooperative of independent churches from different denominations, networks, and backgrounds that strategically resource church planters and pastors to help them reach people with the message of Jesus.

SURGE NETWORK

Through our partnership with Surge, we will plant 13 churches across the globe this year. These indigenous church planters launch reproducing churches that train disciples and start Christian communities.

Thanks to the steadfast work of thousands of foreign missionaries over hundreds of years, Surge was able to birth a new era of missions centered around empowering qualified native workers to spread the Gospel to their own people. A native speaks the language, understands the culture, and lives comfortably in the same conditions as the people they evangelize.



Alfred Golloshi
SELENICA, ALBANIA

"I grew up in an Atheist family, and my father was a communist leader. I became a Christian right after the fall of communism in Albania at the end of 1991. When Albania was still communist, Selenica was a booming mine town, but after the fall of communism, many left the region, leaving the town without resources and work. Those living here are poor and desperate for hope. I know God has led us here to bring those still living here the true hope that comes in knowing and following Jesus Christ."

— Alfred

Please partner with us in praying for these pastors as they minister in the following countries.



Habibou Cisse
NIGER



Reynaldo Dinglas
PHILIPPINES



Ernie Manugas
PHILIPPINES



Dunia Espinoza Granados
COSTA RICA



Mirian Elizabeth Aldana
HONDURAS



José Dionisio Meza Vargas
NICARAGUA



Marcelito L. Merabuena
PHILIPPINES

Herme Jesús Rojas Peña
CUBA

Julio Rafael Perez Rivero
CUBA

Dayan Reyes Ricardo
CUBA

Names & Locations Restricted
PAKISTAN

Names & Locations Restricted
UNITED KINGDOM

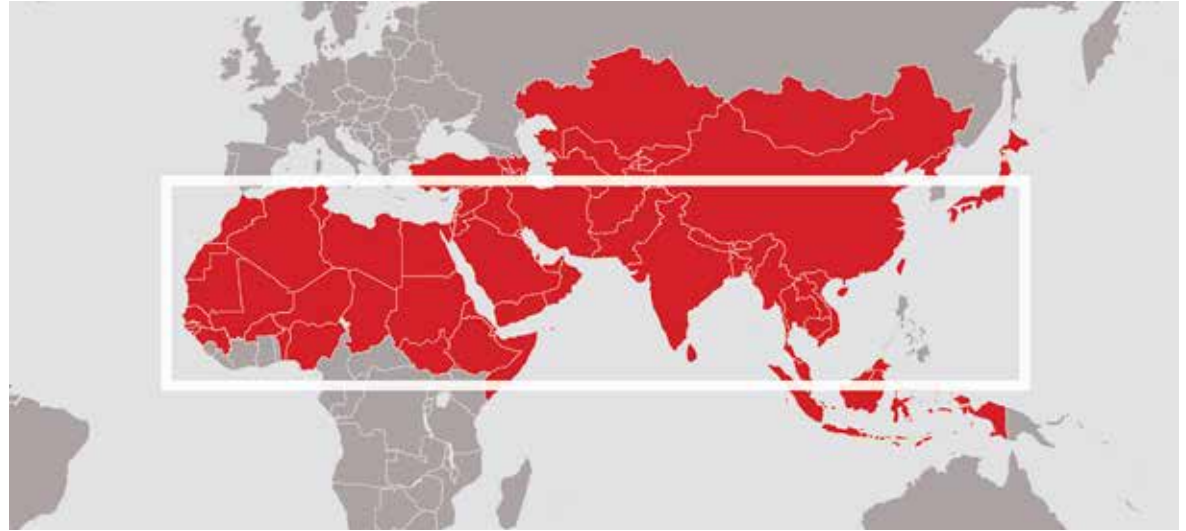
MISSIONARY SUPPORT



JAKE & HANNAH M.

ZANZIBAR, AFRICA

Jake and Hannah M. have seen time and again that their willingness and boldness with the Gospel has changed lives. The islands of Zanzibar have been long captivated by oppressive religion. Still, the Overland missionaries we support there have seen incredible fruit as the Gospel spreads among many in a strict Muslim environment.



THE 10/40 WINDOW

UNDISCLOSED MUSLIM NATION

Sofia was born and raised as a Muslim in a Muslim nation. She encountered Jesus during college, and that changed everything for her. Sofia is uniquely called by God to reach the unreached

and works in the US and the 10/40 window. She has had the privilege of seeing God show up in people's lives, and she believes no one is too far from His reach.

2022 MISSION TRIP RECAP

Grace Creek Church sent a total of 38 short-term missionaries to the Los Angeles Dream Center in 2022 to support the ministry of a local church, Angelus Temple. From playing with neglected kids in under-resourced neighborhoods to handing out food and other necessities to those experiencing homelessness on Skid Row, we experienced so much ministry and life change.



GRACE CREEK STUDENTS
LA DREAM CENTER
March 2022



GRACE CREEK MISSIONS
LA DREAM CENTER
July 2022

“When we got to the LA Dream Center, it was a bit scary because it was something I wasn’t used to. But I soon came to realize that things were different. People needed things like food, water, and shelter. There were more people experiencing homelessness than I was used to seeing back home. Even though they were hungry physically and spiritually, some of the individuals I met were further on their walk with God than me. That impacted me. I learned that missions isn’t just going far away, but it’s just reaching out and spreading the Gospel to everyone.” – Aiden, Grace Creek Student



“I had the amazing opportunity to go and serve at the LA Dream Center with my awesome Grace Creek Students team! We volunteered with six different outreach programs within the Dream Center. Throughout the week, we were able to hear our project leaders’ testimonies as well as share our own. I can speak for my whole team when I say that this experience truly opened our eyes and hearts. Thank you to everyone who supported this trip and prayed for us as we spread the word of God. I can’t wait to see how God can use this trip to further impact my life and yours.” – Leila, Grace Creek Student



“God called me to my first mission trip, and it was absolutely incredible. This trip has helped me see through the eyes of Jesus, and my heart is forever changed. I no longer see homeless individuals the same way I used to. I’ve begun growing in compassion for the broken, hurting, and lost. God has removed the scales of judgment that were on my eyes. I’m encouraged to use my voice to share the Gospel without fear. I’m asking God to help me have eyes to see his mission for my everyday life. I had a moment of new understanding that my city and neighbors are my mission field. God used the Dream Center staff and volunteers to help me better understand what Jesus said in John 9:5 – ‘While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ My desire is to be the light wherever and for whomever, He places in my path.” – Lori W.



“I had a lot of fear going on my first mission trip. People kept asking me if I was excited and ready, and I kept saying yes, but inside—I really wasn’t! We were prepared well, but I still felt inadequate. After the sendoff from the church staff and our families that morning, I felt at peace and knew the entire process would change me. From the moment we got to LA, I knew the week ahead would be challenging and rewarding. The most impactful moment for me was on Skid Row. For the first time ever, I prayed out loud with a man who asked for prayers for healing from an injury. He must have been able to tell that I was nervous because he put his arm on my shoulder and said, ‘Don’t be shy, Kevin. You can do this!’ At that moment, I felt like he did more for me than I did for him.” – Kevin S.

2023 MISSION TRIPS



Join us for an incredible weeklong mission to the LA Dream Center in Los Angeles, California, where we will have the opportunity to be a part of many of the life-changing outreaches that take place daily. From playing with neglected kids in under-resourced neighborhoods to handing out food and other necessities to those experiencing homelessness, we will get to bring hope and help to the people of Los Angeles. Apply today, and we will resource you to raise funds, prepare spiritually through a small group, and have an amazing time as we serve Jesus and others.

To learn more, visit gracecreekchurch.com/missions.

LOS ANGELES DREAM CENTER

JANUARY 23 – 29, 2023

Ages 18+

MARCH 13 – 19, 2023

Ages 15 – 30



BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA

JULY 1 – 8, 2023

Ages 18+

Join us for an amazing weeklong mission to Belize in partnership with Compassionate Hearts Alliance as we provide medical clinics and ministry in St. Margaret's Village. Applications will open in January 2023. We will resource you to raise funds, prepare spiritually through a small group, and have an amazing time as we serve Jesus and others.

To learn more, visit gracecreekchurch.com/missions.



For more information, to serve locally,
or to apply for a mission trip, visit
gracecreekchurch.com/missions



gracecreekchurch.com