



FIRST PRES
COLORADO SPRINGS

Living Sent

MISSION ENGAGEMENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**JESUS WENT THROUGH ALL THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES,
TEACHING IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES, PROCLAIMING THE
GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM AND HEALING EVERY
DISEASE AND SICKNESS.**

Matthew 9:35

DEAR
FIRST
PRES,

Welcome to this year's **Living Sent**.
Get ready to be inspired. The Lord
is at work in Colorado Springs,
shedding His love through you.

In these pages, you will find that
we are turning our heart once again
toward the Southeast portion
of Colorado Springs. Schooling,
nutrition, access to medical care
and prevalent violence impact this
corner of our city to the degree
that life expectancy is actually
lower for our fellow citizens living
here. The church is the Body of
Christ! The heart of Christ compels
us as His followers to do what we
can, when we can, to show love

and compassion
and to bring real, meaningful,
actual help in Jesus' name.

Yes, your church is living sent right here
in Colorado Springs. You can be a part of
it as we live out our mission to represent
the love of Jesus as **Light and Life for
the City**.

Yours in Christ,

Tim McConnell
Lead Pastor





HELLO FRIENDS,

In this year's **Living Sent** we will focus on what God is doing on the Southeast side of Colorado Springs. The Southeast is comprised of the 80910 and 80916 zip codes, with more than 62,000 people calling that neighborhood home. The city planning department describes the Southeast this way: "Compared with the city of Colorado Springs as a whole, Southeast Colorado Springs has a higher incidence of poverty, markedly lower life expectancy, disparities in community investment, less

access to healthy foods, and the least amount of tree cover."

1 John 3:17 says, "But if anyone has the world's good and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" The Word of the Lord is clear, friends. Over and over, we are told to care for the least among us—children, widows, and the poor. When I look at the Southeast side I see resilience, and diversity. I see folks like many of you, who have lived in this city for

**THEN I HEARD
THE VOICE OF
THE LORD SAYING,**

**“WHOM SHALL I SEND?
AND WHO WILL
GO FOR US?”**

**AND I SAID,
“HERE I AM.
SEND ME!”**

Isaiah 6:8



generations and want the best for their families. I also see brothers and sisters in need. I see places where hope can be restored, and the Kingdom of Heaven advanced.

First Pres has a rich history of mission engagement that crosses borders and cultures, and that history includes deep connections to the Southeast. As we reestablish those connections, in this year's edition of **Living Sent** we will highlight the people and organizations who are already answering God's call

to support the Southeast. And I ask all of you, will you join them?

Your Sister in Christ,

Sammi Satchell
Associate of Community
Development & Engagement



OUR LOCAL ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

ccharitiescc.org

Catholic Charities Provides Help and Creates Hope.



COSILOVEYOU

cosiloveyou.com

COSILoveYou is a City Gospel Movement in Colorado Springs. Our mission is to unite and ignite the local Church to love the city.



CROSSFIRE MINISTRIES

crossfireministries.org

Providing Hope and Encouragement to Our Community.



DALE HOUSE PROJECT

dalehouseproject.org

A community of young people finding a home away from home and preparing for what's next.



FAMILY LIFE SERVICES

flscs.org

Moms Build Futures Here.



FAMILY PROMISE - IHN

ihn-cos.org

Family Promise mobilizes our community by advocating for and empowering vulnerable families with children to achieve housing stability.



FOSTERING HOPE

fosteringhopefoundation.org

Fostering Hope strives to create an extended family that surrounds and supports foster families, and supports teens and young adults as they age out of foster care and establish their independence.



GRECCIO

greccio.org

Greccio's mission is to provide stable, safe, affordable housing, to offer resources for residents to achieve stability, and to promote solutions to the affordable housing needs of our community.



HOPE AND HOME

hopeandhome.org

Hope & Home trains and actively supports Colorado Springs foster families and foster parents all across Colorado who feel compelled by Christ's command to take care of "the least of these."

*Life*NETWORK LIFE NETWORK

elifenetwork.com

Cultivating a community in Colorado Springs that values life through the love of Christ.



LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES

lfsrm.org

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains is a faith-based, nonprofit human services agency providing adoption, foster care, older adult and caregiver, prevention, and refugee services.



PIKES PEAK ACADEMY

pikespeakacademy.net

Pikes Peak Academy is a private alternative high school that provides a quality education within a Christ-centered environment.



SPRINGS RESCUE MISSION

springsrescuemission.org

To see lives transformed and filled with hope as our community works together to fight homelessness, poverty and addiction.



SOLID ROCK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

solidrockcdc.com

Solid Rock CDC seeks to support a revitalized Southeast Colorado Springs that becomes a destination area for living, business development and diverse culture and attractions through innovative community collaboration.



THRIVE NETWORKS

thethrivenetworks.org

The Thrive Network's goal is to eliminate economic barriers by providing people in communities with tools to activate and launch their own success, primarily through entrepreneurship.



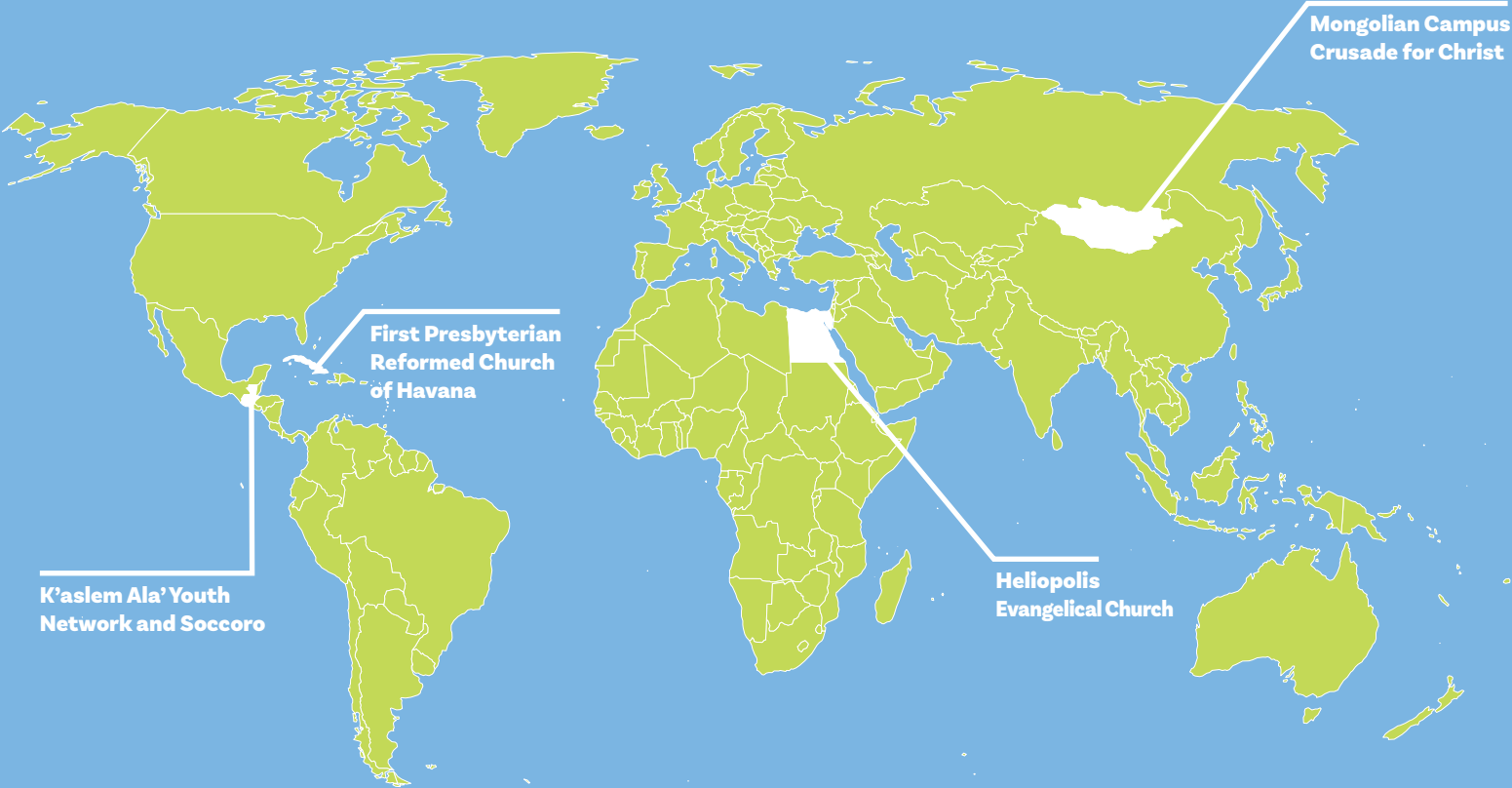
THE PLACE

theplacecos.org

The Place's vision is that all Colorado youth have safe housing, supportive relationships, and the opportunity for self-sufficiency and success.



OUR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS



**K'aslem Ala' Youth
Network and Soccoro**

**First Presbyterian
Reformed Church
of Havana**

**Heliopolis
Evangelical Church**

**Mongolian Campus
Crusade for Christ**

MISSIONARIES WE SUPPORT AROUND THE GLOBE

NABIL AJAMIAN

with Voice of Truth
Translation Editor: Arabic

SHARON AZBELL

with United World Mission
USA

TED & BRANDY COX

with Greater Europe Mission
United Kingdom

CAROL CROM

with Entrust
USA

DARRELL DOOYEMA

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with Common Ground
Translation Editor: Arabic

GARY & MARY LEE HIPP

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with Intersity
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DAN JESSUP

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Latin America

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USA

MARK LOOYENGA

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USA

SEAN MCKELVEY

with Pioneers

CHRIS MORTON

with Navigators
United Kingdom

CARLOS & BECKI PINTO

with United World Mission
Ecuador

FLOYD PRESTON

with Lutheran Family Services
USA

BILL STACKHOUSE

with Young Life MCYM
Virginia

ANDREA TEPLEY

with Mission Training International
USA

We seek to support a revitalized Southeast Colorado Springs...through innovative community collaboration.



SOLID ROCK CDC BLAZING A TRAIL



Pastor Ben Anderson is the definition of “living sent.” When asked why he serves the Southeast, his response was “because that’s my assignment. That’s where I’m called to work.” For over 15 years he’s been doing that work tirelessly, despite many personal challenges, including fighting cancer in 2017. “Within two weeks of getting out of the hospital, I was taking meetings and getting back to work to get the CDC off the ground,” he says. He formed a Community Development Corporation to help him do the work of the church with increased funding and support.

And there’s a lot of work to be done. The Southeast is a neighborhood with a lot of challenges; many would say that’s where the greatest needs are in our city. And Pastor Ben, in partnership with First Pres, has been at the forefront of meeting those needs. “First Pres was a strong partner with Solid Rock,” he says. “We hosted health fairs, back-to-school physicals for youth. When we did Backpack Bash we

did it together.” Over the last five years Solid Rock has continued to blaze a trail to inject resources into the community: taking on affordable housing, supporting at-risk youth, feeding the community with its wildly successful food pantry, offering business and finance education, and putting people back to work with job creation.

Asked why it’s important to invest in the Southeast, he says, “First of all, it shows spiritual ministry. That’s where the greatest need is. If you have resources that a community needs, and you’re not providing those resources, then you’re not living up to the greatest expectation you should be. A community of color needs to see that the church is working together to meet those needs.” In Ben’s eyes, it’s not about bringing people to church, it’s about the church reaching out and being a resource and solution to those in need.

Dressed down, wearing a white ball cap, Ben remains

optimistic. "I have a great relationship with First Pres and their leadership team," he says. "They helped us move out of Panorama. We have relied heavily on their support. And when First Pres shows up, they show up big, and we're able to touch a lot of families and make an impact in their lives. I don't think they understand the strength they have as a church."

Recently, First Pres and Solid Rock CDC partnered on Sierra High School's end-of-school year Spirit Day. CDC's Associate Director LaTrina Ollie says, "It was great having First Pres' partnership. 'They said no problem,' and swooped in to help, no questions asked. The school didn't have anything planned. It was all on us, and we gave them a great celebration. The kids had so much fun." In the future, we look forward to more projects with Solid Rock CDC. Pastor Ben says, "You have to be intentional. If you're not intentional it will never happen."

"YOU HAVE TO BE INTENTIONAL.
IF YOU'RE NOT INTENTIONAL IT
WILL NEVER HAPPEN."

Pastor Ben Anderson



Prayer Requests

Please pray for our affordable housing initiative:

- We have broken ground. Pray that construction continues smoothly.
- As we build we are in a lot of transition. Pray for God's grace to cover our staff, and the families we serve
- Pray for all the families in the southeast impacted by housing costs, and the ones who will be served by our affordable housing initiative



THRIVE NETWORK REVITALIZING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Thrive Network's goal is to eliminate economic barriers by providing people in communities with tools to activate and launch their own success, primarily through entrepreneurship.

"Teach a man not only how to fish, but how to own the pond," said Thrive Network Interim Executive Director Yemi Mobolade. Thrive Network is a local nonprofit and First Pres partner that is aiming to do exactly that for one of the most under-resourced parts of our city, the Southeast.

**"TEACH A MAN NOT ONLY
HOW TO FISH, BUT HOW
TO OWN THE POND."
Yemi Mobolade, Thrive Network
Interim Executive Director**

Started in 2015, Thrive Network is a four-month

business training program and mentorship network that is working to revitalize the Southeast through entrepreneurship.

Starting your own business can be an intimidating task for anyone, but for those without formal education, resources and support, it can seem nearly impossible. Thrive Network fills those gaps and helps remove barriers to entering the business world.

Participants in the program are taught everything from the entrepreneurial mindset and personal finances to how to write a business plan. But more than just curriculum, Thrive Network provides the professional and relational capital that's necessary to overcome those inevitable hurdles that all entrepreneurs face. By providing mentorship and support, Thrive Network has helped more than 75 business startups in its seven years of ministry, with over 30 of them still in operation. That's impressive, since nine out of 10 startups fail, according to Forbes.

First Pres has a long history of supporting ministry in the Southeast, and in 2017, during his tenure as the local Missions pastor at First Pres, Yemi and his team made the case for why we as a church should support the work of Thrive Network. “It is at the heart of the church to meet the needs of the city,” he said.

According to a survey—taken by leaders across the Southeast—that ranked

the 10 most important unaddressed needs of the community, promoting entrepreneurship was ranked the single most important issue that needed to be solved. Thrive, in partnership with First Pres, has stepped in to meet that need.

Thrive’s goal is to give people the tools to help themselves and provide “Shalom to the Southeast.” Out of entrepreneurship comes economic development. But more than

that, it creates leaders who go on to become pillars in the community. Over time this grassroots strategy of discipleship produces the kind of exponential impact that can revitalize a community from within.

As Thrive heads into its next season, the goal is to expand its ministry significantly. Thrive leadership hopes to offer an increased number of courses in Spanish to better serve the Latino population

in the Southeast. The goal is to start and support 20-30 new businesses each year. And they want to expand their network of mentorship volunteers. Finally, in the coming years they hope to open their own incubator and coworking space where they can host their classes and better support their graduates.

“I want to thank First Pres for its many years of partnership,” Mobolade said. “What Thrive has been able to accomplish is only possible through the generous support of our partners.”



Prayer Requests

- Continued prayer for Thrive programs and graduates
- Financial resources to expand their ministry and eventually open their own space
- Looking for former business owners and execs. to serve as mentors for our entrepreneurs. Please contact Andi Probst at andip@thethrivenetworks.org to get involved.

Life

NETWORK

Cultivating a community in Colorado Springs that values life through the love of Christ.

LIFE NETWORK

VALUING LIFE TRANSFORMING LIVES



Since 1983, one local nonprofit has been working tirelessly in our community to cultivate a culture of valuing life through sharing the love of Christ.

Life Network is an organization that is taking a holistic approach toward supporting women and families facing unplanned pregnancy in our city. Located at Galley and Academy, for nearly 40 years this institution has come alongside vulnerable women to provide education, medical care, mentorship and, most of all, hope.

“Every day in our city, there are women who are searching online for desperate options in the face of unexpected pregnancy,” said Life Network

President & CEO Rich Bennet. “On average, Life Network serves five to six women each day, half of whom are considering abortion.”

Life Network has come alongside more than 100,000 women since the organization’s inception. To reach these families they take a three-fold ministry approach of prevention, intervention and transformation.

Every year they reach thousands of students across the city through their educational programming. In partnership with more than 20 local schools and youth organizations, they educate students about healthy relationships, mental health awareness, and

“LONG BEFORE THE LIFE ISSUE WAS A POLITICAL ISSUE IT WAS A BIBLICAL ISSUE.”

**Rich Bennet, Life Network
President & CEO**

the intrinsic value that each of them possesses. In the end students are more equipped to make healthy choices and prevent unplanned pregnancies.

In the most vulnerable moments of an unplanned pregnancy, Life Network is equipped to intervene in the lives of their clients. They provide free medical



services and non-judgmental counseling. Here expecting mothers are given the chance to catch their breath as they are counseled regarding the various options they have when going through a pregnancy. Last year alone, the work done at these centers reached 1,159 clients, provided 786 free ultrasounds, and contributed to saving the lives of 278 babies.

Finally, but most fundamentally, Life Network seeks to transform the lives of the men and women they serve. Sadly, many of the parents who consider abortion as an option do so because of their difficult life circumstances and lack of support. Oftentimes, expecting parents will come to Life Network lacking in resources and support, and unprepared for the challenges of becoming a parent. Life Network counters that by providing a true network of support, encouragement and mentorship. After a couple of years of support, those parents who came



lacking leave transformed into empowered, confident and equipped parents. Far more than any practical

LIFE NETWORK SEEKS
TO TRANSFORM THE
LIVES OF THE MEN AND
WOMEN THEY SERVE.

help or resourcing, Life Network seeks to share the transformational love of Jesus Christ. Last year the ministry saw the

ultimate transformation of 61 decisions for Christ. In the first three months of 2022, they had already seen 28 more decisions to follow Jesus. Through this ministry's vital work, God is gathering those who feel lost and unsupported into His eternal family.

For more than 20 years, First Pres has helped Life Network cultivate a community in Colorado Springs that values life. Invaluable partnerships like this one are at the heart of what it means to be light and life for our city.



How can I help?

Be mindful of the fact that seven days a week there are women who are online and searching for what might be desperate options in the face of unexpected pregnancy. On average, half of the women who come to Life Network are considering abortion.

More volunteers are needed to help in the pregnancy centers, thrift store, and parenting coaching classes. Contact Kristin Ellsworth at kellsworth@elifenetwork.com to inquire about training.



HAVANA, CUBA

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF HAVANA

These last two years have been the most difficult for First Pres' partners at First Presbyterian Reformed Church of Havana of any of the 12 years we have served the Lord together. Economically they have been hit by the change of currency policies that have not only limited the salaries that the government pays—90 percent of the people work in government-run businesses—but it also has become more difficult to receive financial support from sources outside the country. There is an extreme shortage of over-the-counter medicines and food. Their public transportation systems are experiencing fuel shortages, which creates a great deal of difficulty because most Cubans do not own cars. The country and the church have seen many defections to other countries, which has caused a labor

problem not only for the country, but also for the church. The COVID crisis has caused a lot of isolation for the normally outgoing family-oriented Cuban people.

Being sent into this situation has caused the members of our church to develop new ways of supporting our Cuban partners. Once a month during the last three years we have conducted video calls to gain a better understanding of what the Lord is doing during these difficult times, but also how we can pray for them. Our interest in their concerns has been a big asset to them because many times they feel like they may be forgotten by the global church as a whole. After

hearing about their desperate need for medicine, food and financial support, together with them we devised a plan to help meet some of their needs. We asked our church to help; they sent five people with 850 pounds of medicine, as well as a large amount of financial support. Also during this trip, we were able to relieve some of Pastor Liudmila's stress of not having any time off for the last three years, by taking over her teaching and other program responsibilities for the week the team was there. We were the first Presbyterian Church to visit in two years. So, when the Lord sent this group to Cuba, they were representing not only themselves, but our church as a whole who sent them.





CAIRO, EGYPT HELIOPOLIS EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Dear beloved brothers and sisters at First Pres Church in Colorado Springs,

May the peace of God be upon you.

We at Heliopolis Evangelical Church in Cairo, Egypt, thank God for all that He has done with and through us in the ministry during the last year.

Though the pandemic impact had been severe all over the country, the mission of the church was graciously blessed as we started new ministries in five new places in Delta

and upper Egypt. We co-ministered with the churches in these areas to develop the quality of life of its inhabitants in various sides: spiritually, medically and educationally. The gracious gifts of First Pres have been a real support for us to accomplish this project.

Additionally, another gift from your dear church enabled us to host a huge performance about the Jesus Miracles that was attended by more than 3,000 people. The message of the gospel was openly

delivered and a class of “Alpha Course” was held to help the newborn people to start their lives with God.

Our dream for the new year is to start a program in which we are going to fully support 50 kids of the ages between 6 and 9 in one of the poorest villages in Menya governorate-upper Egypt. The church will take care of the whole living situation of those kids and their families until they reach the college. Also, we



are having a development plan for the whole village, especially on the sanitary and educational levels.

We pray that God may bless you as you bless us and others.

In Jesus,

Youssef Samir Habib

Senior Pastor

Heliopolis Evangelical Church
18 Cleopatra St., Heliopolis
Cairo
Egypt





SAN PABLO & SAN MARCOS, GUATEMALA

PROYECTO SOCORRO (RELIEF PROJECT)



1 Corinthians 12:7 mentions how God manifests Himself to each one of us and it is through the gifts and talents that He imparts to us as part of the body of Christ. We have seen the manifestation of God in every family we visited, in every young person who dreams of continuing to grow in their education,

in the mother of a family who struggles day by day to improve the living conditions of her children. It is there where we have felt the manifestation of God in what He has called us to do and in what we do.

First Pres is a part of the body of Christ that has accompanied us to respond to this call. We always thank God for the building of this brotherhood. First Pres, in these opportunities, is the manifestation that God



sees the reality of many needy families.

We have been able to minister through our service to community, especially with families like that of Genesis (a young girl) and Arnulfo (an elderly man). They have become part of our family.

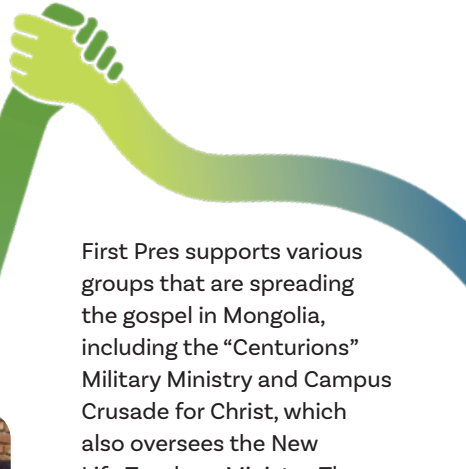
We continue to think and dream of creative ways to accompany the families of our community in processes that can contribute long term to the self-sustainability of each family and especially for young people and children. We are working on an initiative to guarantee food security

and sustainability for the most vulnerable families. Our desire is to see the holistic transformation of families through education, health, food sovereignty and their faith.

God has also allowed us this year to start children's church. We meet once a week with children from our community to share with them Bible stories, recreational activities and holistic formation. We dream of a new generation growing holistically for the development of our community.

Hugs,

Edgar and Eliu Morales



MONGOLIA VARIOUS MINISTRIES SPREAD GOSPEL

First Pres supports various groups that are spreading the gospel in Mongolia, including the “Centurions” Military Ministry and Campus Crusade for Christ, which also oversees the New Life Teachers Ministry. The Teachers Ministry began in 1998, has 14 staff members and 120 volunteers, and has reached more than 22,000 teachers through 18 branch movements while focusing on spiritual and professional development.

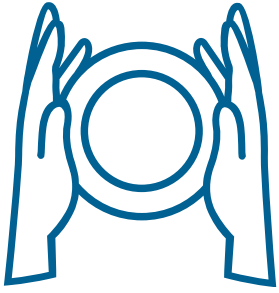
The vision of Mongolia Campus Crusade for Christ (MCCC) is to be actively involved in the fulfillment of the Great Commission through Christ-centered families. The “Homebuilders” couples small group series has been a valuable tool to equip churches and other MCCC ministries. Counseling is available, and we offer premarital and couples



coaching as well as parenting training. We’ve started a podcast and are working to increase our online presence but need more manpower to keep the online ministry going to bring truth, biblical principles and values to a society where family values have been degraded. As we expand our ministry to reach more families, please pray for more workers for the harvest field and financial resources.

The Military Ministry was started by two Christian cadets in the Military Academy in 1997, and a year

later they had 20 Christian cadets. The vision is to share good news with every cadet and officer, along with police and emergency personnel. They have 15 full-time staff members and about 200 member disciples. To reach 900 soldiers every year, they send at least 10 small teams to the army bases in the provinces. Through Bible studies and trainings, they raise Christian leaders among soldiers, while helping spread God’s values and presence to the nation.



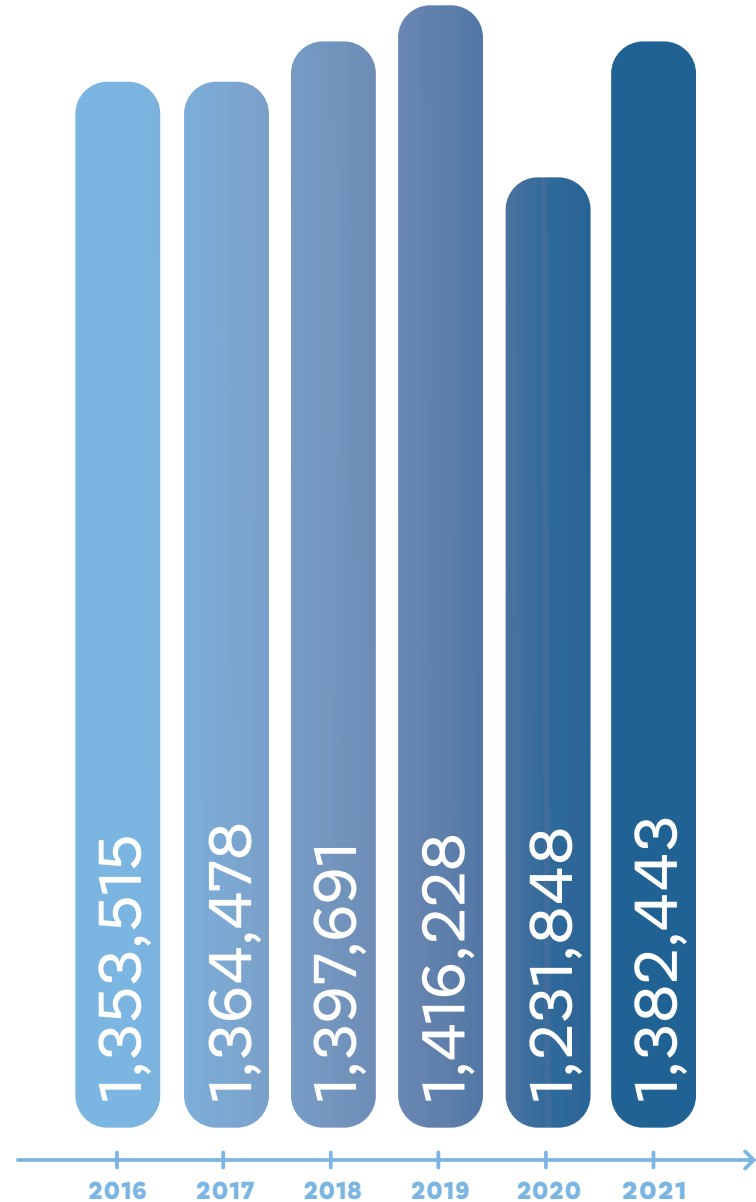
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT OF OUTREACH GIVING

Outreach giving for each of the last six years has averaged approximately 17 percent of all income into the church.

Part of our generosity picture includes individual gifts, gifts to programs such as Give Back the Blessing, Sunday Community giving to individual missionaries and organizations, and proceeds toward ministries from the First Pres Foundation.

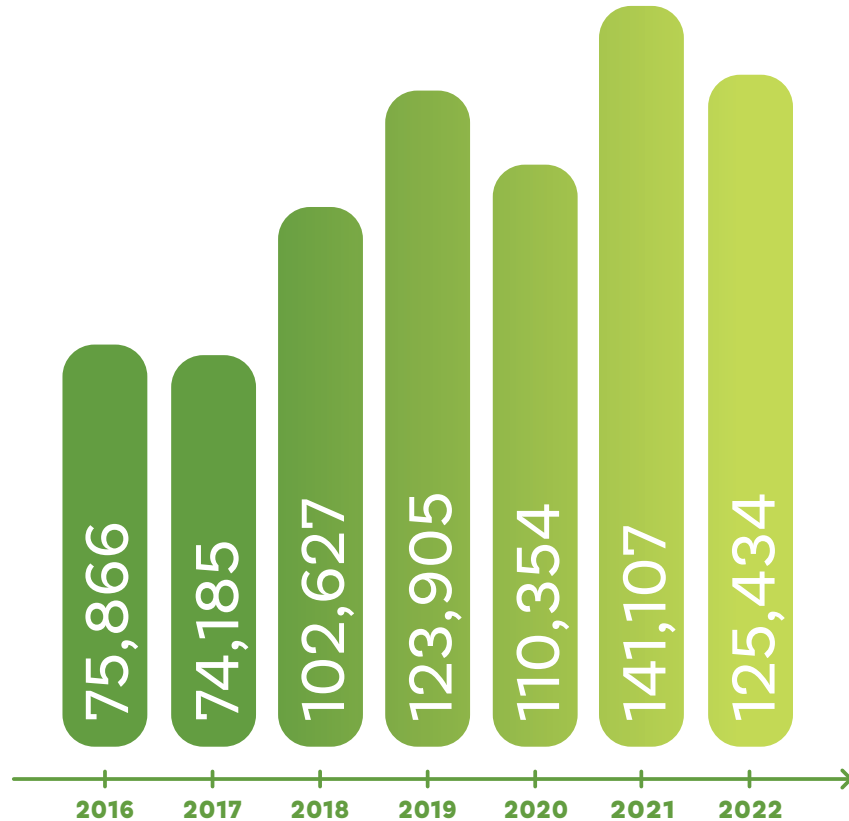
When disaster strikes, First Pres turns its compassion into action. This year, \$13,000 was given to Ukrainian relief aid. Regardless of the individual needs from year to year that arise, First Pres outreach giving has totaled 17 percent. The chart to the right shows annual outreach giving since 2016.

Thank you!





FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT OF GIVE BACK THE BLESSING



Generosity is a hallmark of First Pres and our congregation certainly came through in 2022! Taking to heart the message in Acts 20:35 that “It is more blessed to give than receive,” our faithful congregation made this year’s Give Back the Blessing yet another year in which we reached our monetary goal. The total of \$125,434 enabled

us to donate nearly \$30,000 to each of the selected four local mission partners for 2022: The Dale House Project, Pikes Peak Academy, The Place and Solid Rock CDC. Global partner Heliopolis Evangelical Church in Cairo, Egypt, was provided \$5,500 which was the maximum they asked to receive.

NEXT STEPS TO LIVE SENT



CITYWIDE WORSHIP

Friday, August 19 at America the Beautiful Park
(Cimino Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80903) at 5 - 7:30 p.m.

The Citywide Worship Gathering is a beautiful opportunity to worship as one Church, celebrating how God is continually transforming the city of Colorado Springs. This service is ecumenical, honoring a variety of Christian traditions. We will have elements of this gathering in both English and Spanish. All are welcome to come and worship! Learn more at cosiloveyou.com/citywide-worship



CITYSERVE DAY

Saturday, October 1

Mark your calendars for this annual citywide day of service as we assist schools, parks, local nonprofit organizations and neighborhoods to address some of the most prominent needs in our city on Saturday, October 1. Find more details by visiting cosiloveyou.com/cityserve-day



CROSSFIRE MONTHLY FOOD DROP-OFF

First Sunday of each month

Bring non-perishable food and hygiene items to help stock the Crossfire Ministries food pantry, which serves thousands of families in our community with nutritious food at no cost. Find the most urgent needs online by visiting firstprescos.org/crossfire-drop-off



Learn about more ways to live sent at firstprescos.org/missions

RALLY SATURDAY

August 13, 8 a.m.

Attend training that will equip you for the mission field, presented in partnership with World Challenge.



VISION WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Rally Saturday: August 13, 10:30 a.m.

Vision Sunday: August 14, 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
9:45-10:45 a.m. Adult Sunday Communities
11 a.m. Sanctuary Service

"TEACH A MAN NOT ONLY
HOW TO FISH, BUT HOW
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Yemi Mobolade, Thrive Network
Interim Executive Director



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