

Kingdom Builders

2024



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Matthew 16:24–25 (NIV)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.”

Jesus spoke these words to his disciples moments after harshly rebuking one of his closest friends and followers, Peter. Jesus was trying to teach his disciples a central, non-negotiable part of his plan: his death. For those who might not be familiar with this, Jesus' death is foundational to the Christian faith. The whole purpose of his life led to the cross, and not only did he know this, but it was his plan and choice. Understandably, Peter didn't like this part of the plan so he took Jesus aside and tried to put him in his place by saying things like, “Don't talk like that,” or “That's morbid thinking. Think positive, Jesus!”

I have to pause and say that I get where Peter is coming from. If I was a follower of Jesus, the last thing I'd want to hear is him trying to tell me that he HAS to die for his plan to work; I'd want to find another way. But the reality is that there is no other way. So, Peter gets the ultimate smackdown of his life when Jesus shouts at him, “Get behind me, Satan! You do not have in mind the things of God but the things of man.” Ouch. This is a hard lesson for Peter but a necessary one that we all need to learn. Am I more concerned with my wants and desires or God's?

From this point, Jesus goes on to teach a simple 3 step plan to be one of his disciples: **deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.**

Pretty straightforward, right? Straightforward? Yes. Easy? I'm not so sure.

Deny Yourself

Greek: ἀπαρνέομαι = to act in a wholly selfless manner

This is the first step, and it is imperative that we pause and ask ourselves if we are willing to live this first step out faithfully every day. New Testament scholar R. T. France says concerning this phrase,

“In the light of what follows, it must mean here to dissociate oneself from one's own interests, which in this case means the willingness to risk one's own life. It means putting loyalty to Jesus before self-preservation.”

So, before I start living for Jesus, I must first stop living for myself. Let me repeat that one more time. **BEFORE I START LIVING FOR JESUS, I MUST FIRST STOP LIVING FOR MYSELF.**



How does it feel when you read that? What's going on inside of you as you think about this act of denying yourself? Are you okay with it or are you resistant? If you don't acknowledge this step and submit to its primacy, you will not be able to move forward in your new life with Christ. In fact, I believe this is so important for us as a church in 2024 that through the council of fellow believers and that of the Holy Spirit, this boiled-down, easy- to-understand summary of self-denial is going to be our theme for the year 2024:

Bigger Than Me

That's it. This year is a year that we need to recognize the Gospel, life with Jesus, healing, joy, breakthroughs, reconciliation – all of it – it's bigger than me. That's essentially the message of Jesus to Peter in his rebuke. Peter wanted Jesus to be with him always. He wanted to keep being a part of the amazing ministry of Jesus and go on to see bigger and even better ministry take place throughout Israel and even the Roman Empire. Peter wanted life with Christ to fit his vision of the future. But Jesus'; message to Peter was simple. "This isn't about you. Its bigger than just you."

Church, the Gospel is Bigger Than You. Jesus says in John 14:2 that his father's house has "many rooms." Living with Jesus isn't a 2-bedroom home. Living with Jesus is like the world's biggest resort. The majority of times in Scripture where you see the pronoun "you" its plural. That means whenever you think the bible is addressing just you, it isn't. most of the time the pronoun "you" is plural meaning its addressing a whole community. You and I are just a part of that whole.

Now I didn't even get into the taking up your cross and follow me section. Don't worry. Throughout this year, I will. For now, we can't move on to the other two until we first settle into this first part of the process. I'd like to invite you to finish this moment with me by talking to God and telling him that you are stepping into this truth. Say it out loud right now, **"it's bigger than me."**

-Pastor Justin Czubkowski



every starts



Tithing is the biblical practice of giving 10% of your income to support the operation of the local church organization. We see the first account of tithing in the book of Genesis when Abraham blessed a priest of God by giving him 10% of everything he owned. His example shows us that tithing is a grateful response to God's blessing, not a means of getting more out of Him. And this is the same attitude we should have today as we faithfully give to the local church.

Later in the book of Leviticus we see this practice as a means of providing for the priests, funding the temple, and serving the people through teachings, celebrations, and other rituals of the culture. We employ the

same mindset as we set our annual (see below). Your tithes go to pay the staff, upkeep the properties, and fund church events for all who attend.

So what do we mean by "tithing is our starting point?" We mean that before we ask people to give to Kingdom Builders, we need them to be faithful with their tithes. Why? Because without the church, there is no Kingdom Builders!

At GT Church we strive to be transparent with our finances so that those giving can support the church's function with full assurance. We thank you for your tithes because they ensure the continuing existence of GT Church.

2024 budget

Staff Salaries & Benefits.....	47,000
Operating Supplies.....	6,750
Ministries.....	4,300
Utilities & Maintenance.....	35,700
Insurance	12,850
Miscellaneous.....	4,900

Kingdom Builders

Let's celebrate 2023!

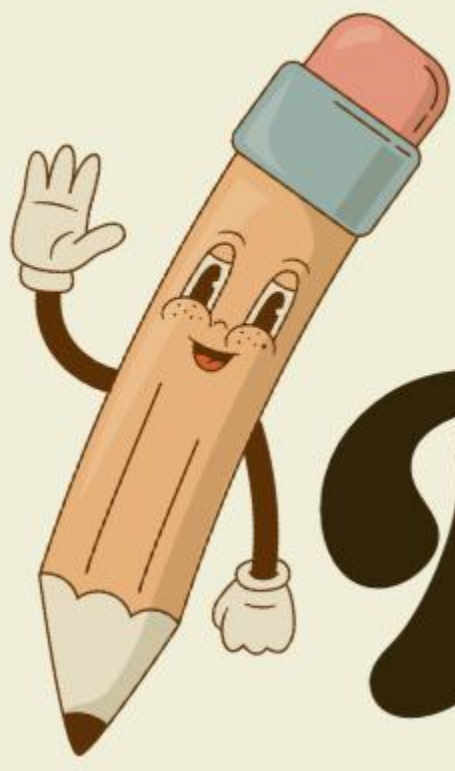
We made a goal to bring in \$35,000 and support some groovy ministries like Project Rescue, Teen Challenge, all of our missionaries, and lots of others. And guess what?

We brought in \$39,614! That's \$39,614 that went out locally, globally, and to the future leaders of the church. We recognize the sacrifice it took for a lot of you meet this goal, and we want to thank you for your great generosity!

What about 2024?

Well, we have a lot to look forward to in 2024 and it's going to be a little different from last year. For one, we're focusing on Global and Local initiatives this year (don't worry, we'll bring back Future in the future). You might recognize some of the ministries from 2023 and we're introducing a brand new ministry that one of our very own missionaries is a part of. Check them out in the pages ahead.

Despite these changes, the heart of Kingdom Builders has not changed. **We want to see His Kingdom Come, and we do this by being a part of something that's bigger than ourselves.** All of the initiatives we're giving to this year were picked for that reason exactly: because giving to them means giving to something greater than the individual self. As you plan your giving this year, will you first plan to give God 100% of yourself? We'll take what's leftover, and we know that it'll surpass anything we hope to bring in, to His glory!



Plan.

What's your plan?

\$ _____

Prayer for your plan:

Dream.

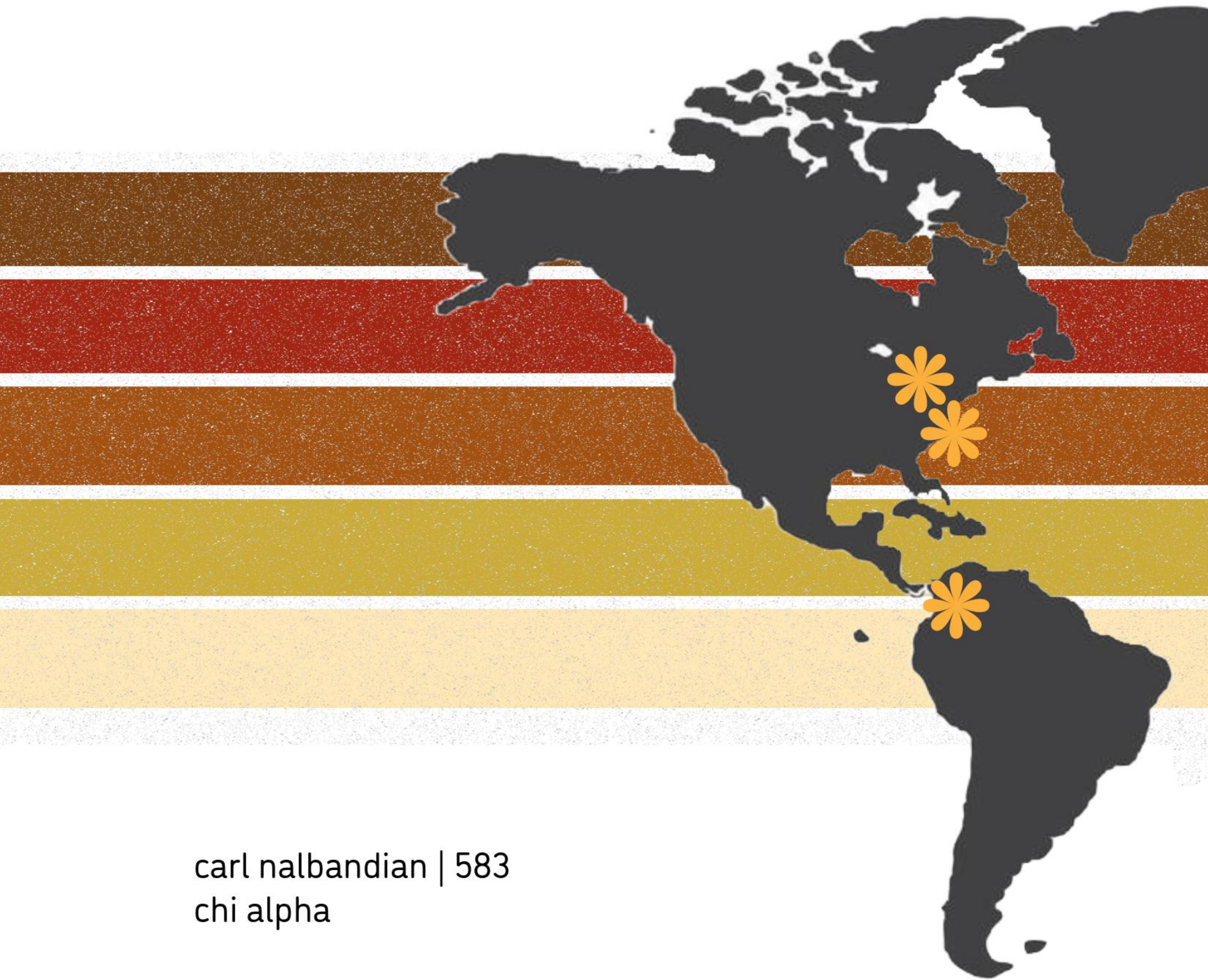
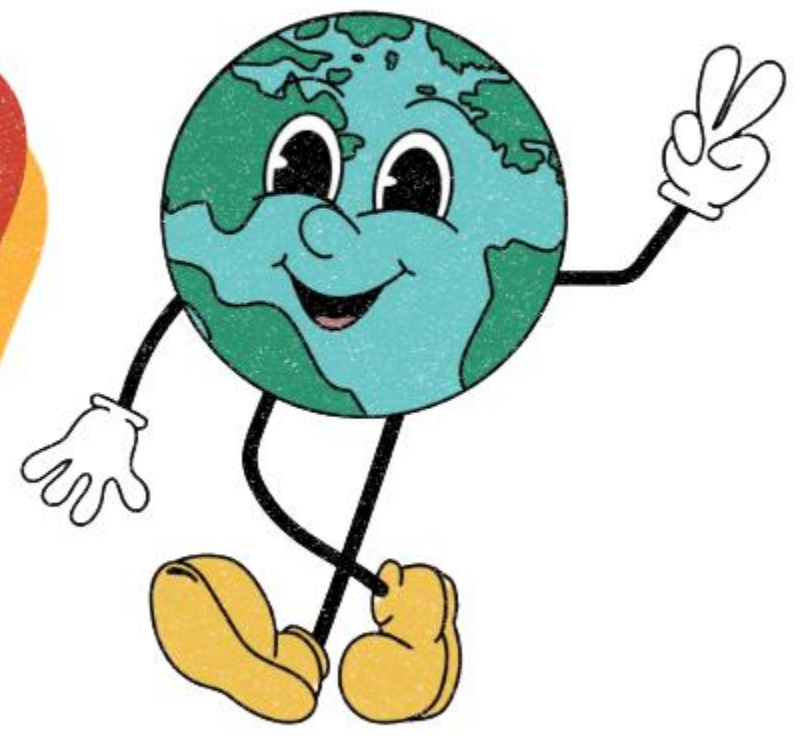
What's your dream?

\$ _____

Prayer for your dream:

2 Corinthians 8: 5
They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us

Global



carl nalbandian | 583
chi alpha

teen challenge | 3700
addiction recovery

paul robinson | 583
columbia

stephen wallace | 583

finland

patrick o'loughlin | 583

ireland

ana dascalescu | 583

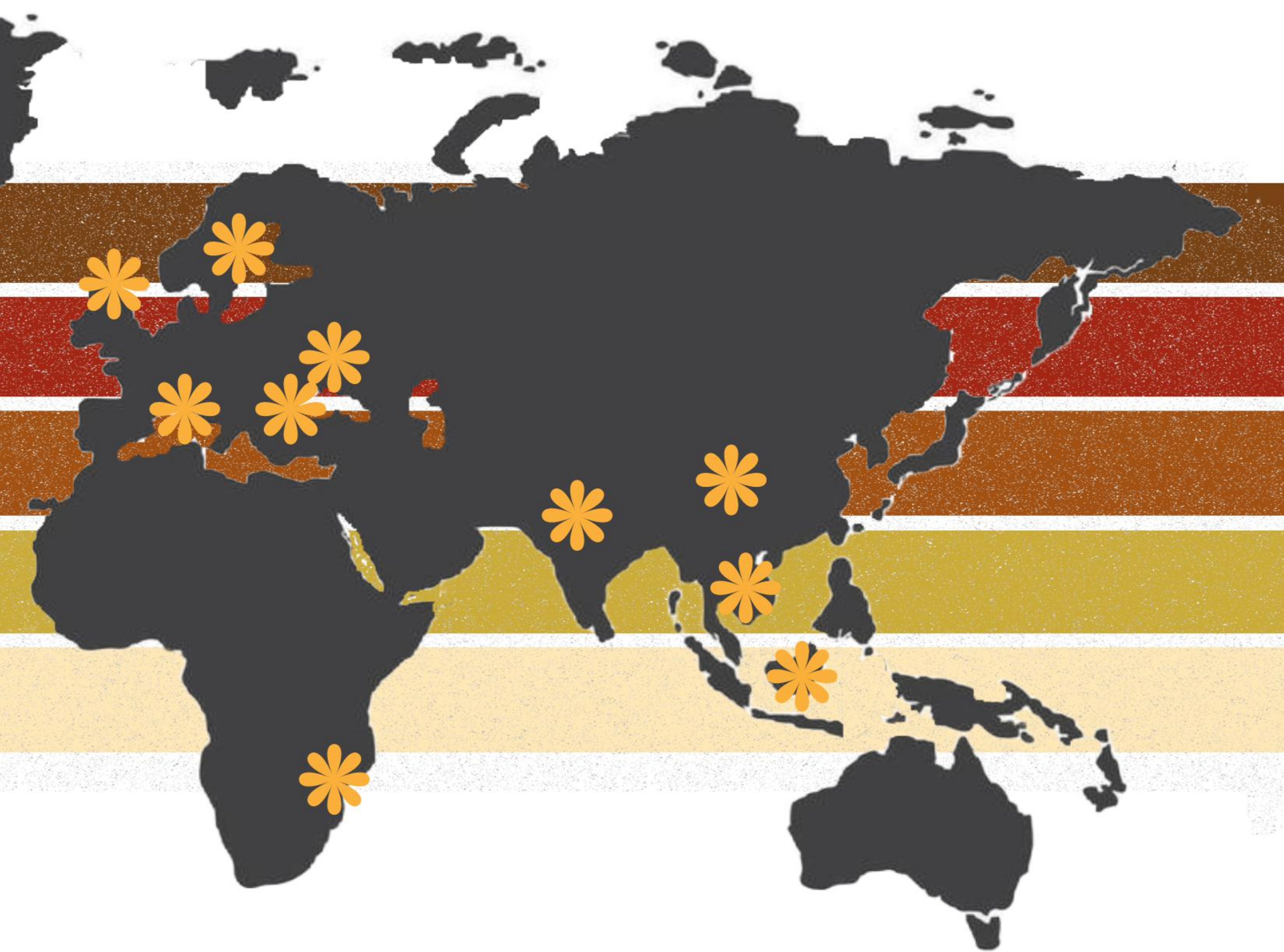
romania

ronald jones | 583

ukraine

livedead | 3700

underground ministries in China



bob rose | 583

italy

steven ellis | 583

india

sara bricker | 583

cambodia

argentis matos | 583

mozambique

vinna vogelezang | 583

sensitive

tim pollick | 583

indonesia

Local

GT Masterclass | 4000

For over twenty-five years, Tim Enloe has traveled the world with his wife, Rochelle, teaching others about the Holy Spirit. His disarming, transparent teachings are followed by powerful seasons of prayer and receiving from God. Many people experience forgiveness, physical healing, Baptism in the Holy Spirit and other miracles at these events. These highly focused sessions will emphasize personally understanding, experiencing and flowing in the Holy Spirit's power.



Dr. Michael Caparelli is back with his ministry Unmuted which has inspired people worldwide who have lost their identity through suffering from traumatic experiences. The mission of Unmuted is to give victims of various kinds of traumatic experiences their voices back.

Michael Caparelli holds a PhD in Behavioral Science with an emphasis upon addiction psychology, 16 years of pastoring experience and a working relationship with Teen Challenge for 17 years. He delivers the message of God's restorative power in churches, prisons, universities, talk shows and men's conventions across the nation.

Food Pantry | 3600



Open every 2nd Saturday and 4th Monday of each month, our food pantry has provided hundreds of meals, hygiene product, and baby care items to families in need in our community. The pantry has also led the charge on our Thanksgiving Baskets program where we provide a full Thanksgiving meal to those who could not otherwise afford one. GT Church is to glad to be able to bless our neighbors through the Food Pantry!

Building Fund | 20000

Our church has gone through several rounds of architects in the past leading us to believe one thing: we want to see this church grow! It is the vision and the privilege of the current pastor to see GT Church realize this dream by getting the plans finalized and starting construction. In 2024 we have the opportunity to plant the seeds of the changes coming in 2025!



Schedule

FEBRUARY

Food Pantry
3,600

APRIL

Building
3,900

JUNE

Building
4,000

MARCH

Masterclass
4,000

MAY

Missions 1/2
3,500





AUGUST

Building
3,800

OCTOBER

Building
3,300

DECEMBER

Building
5,000

JULY

LiveDead: China
4,000

SEPTEMBER

Teen Challenge
3,700

NOVEMBER

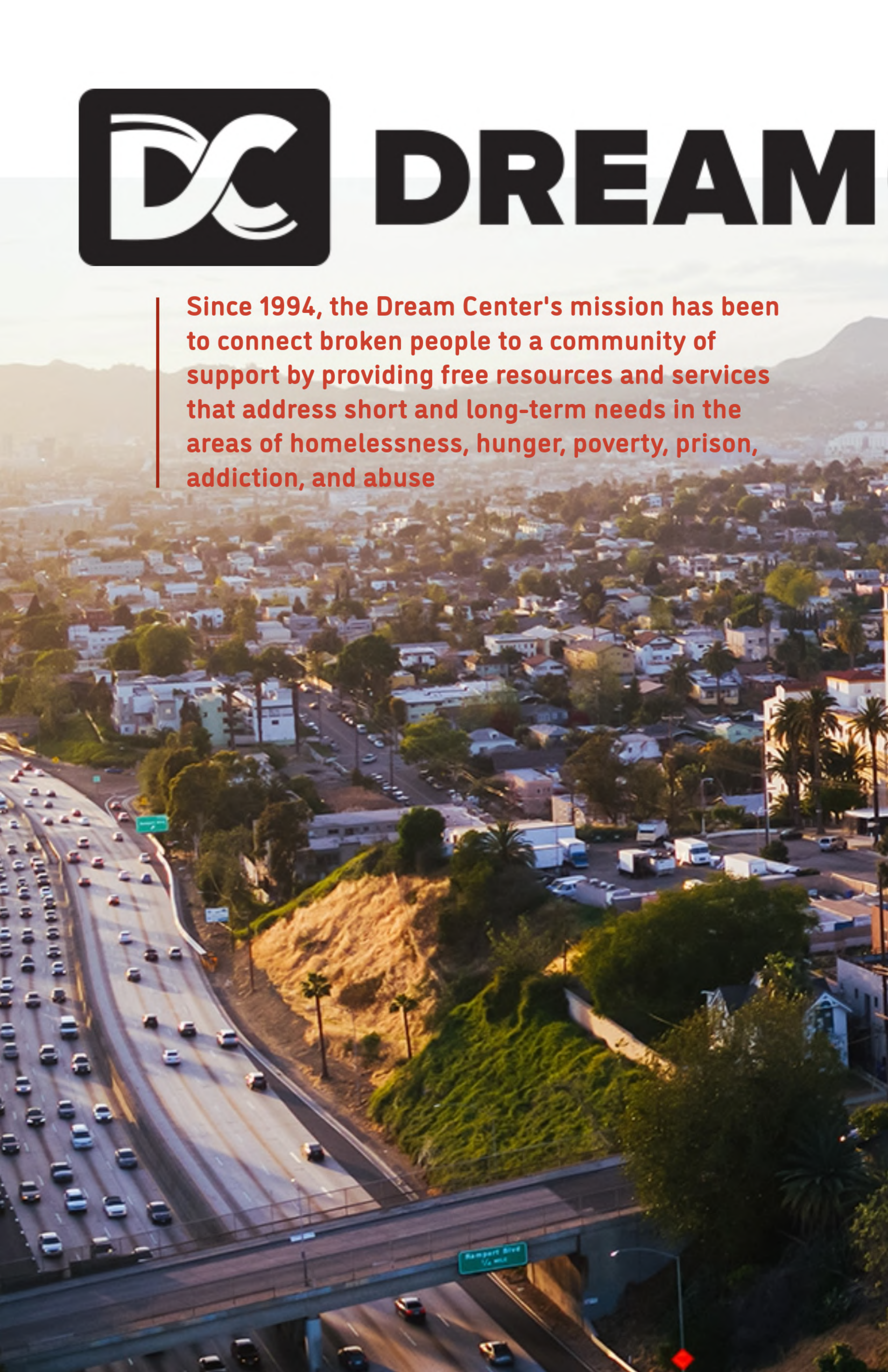
Missions 2/2
3,500

\$42,000



DREAM

Since 1994, the Dream Center's mission has been to connect broken people to a community of support by providing free resources and services that address short and long-term needs in the areas of homelessness, hunger, poverty, prison, addiction, and abuse



CENTER

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, showing a mix of residential and commercial buildings. In the foreground, a large, multi-story building with a white facade and a red-tiled roof is prominent. The city extends to the base of a mountain range in the background, with the Hollywood sign visible on a distant peak. The sky is clear and blue.

We're taking
7 people
July 29 - August 3
\$1,200

GT Church Members



Adrienne Ash

Curtis Ash

Rischel Calangi

Kelvin Chairman

Lynne Chairman

La'Tisha Channiel

Harold Chestnut

Eve Czubkowski

P. Justin Czubkowski

Melody Easy

Consuelo Garcia

P. Chase Hill

Katrina Hill

Shereal Keis

Joseph Kromelbein

Bill Laffey

Tena Laffey

Breasia Love

Brenda Love

Tracy Matarazzo

Elizabeth Ott

Audrey Richardson

Rosa Rodriguez

Denise Rhudy-Robinson

Brandon Smith

Vivalyn Smith

Esther Vargas

Lavon Walker*

Stephen Williams

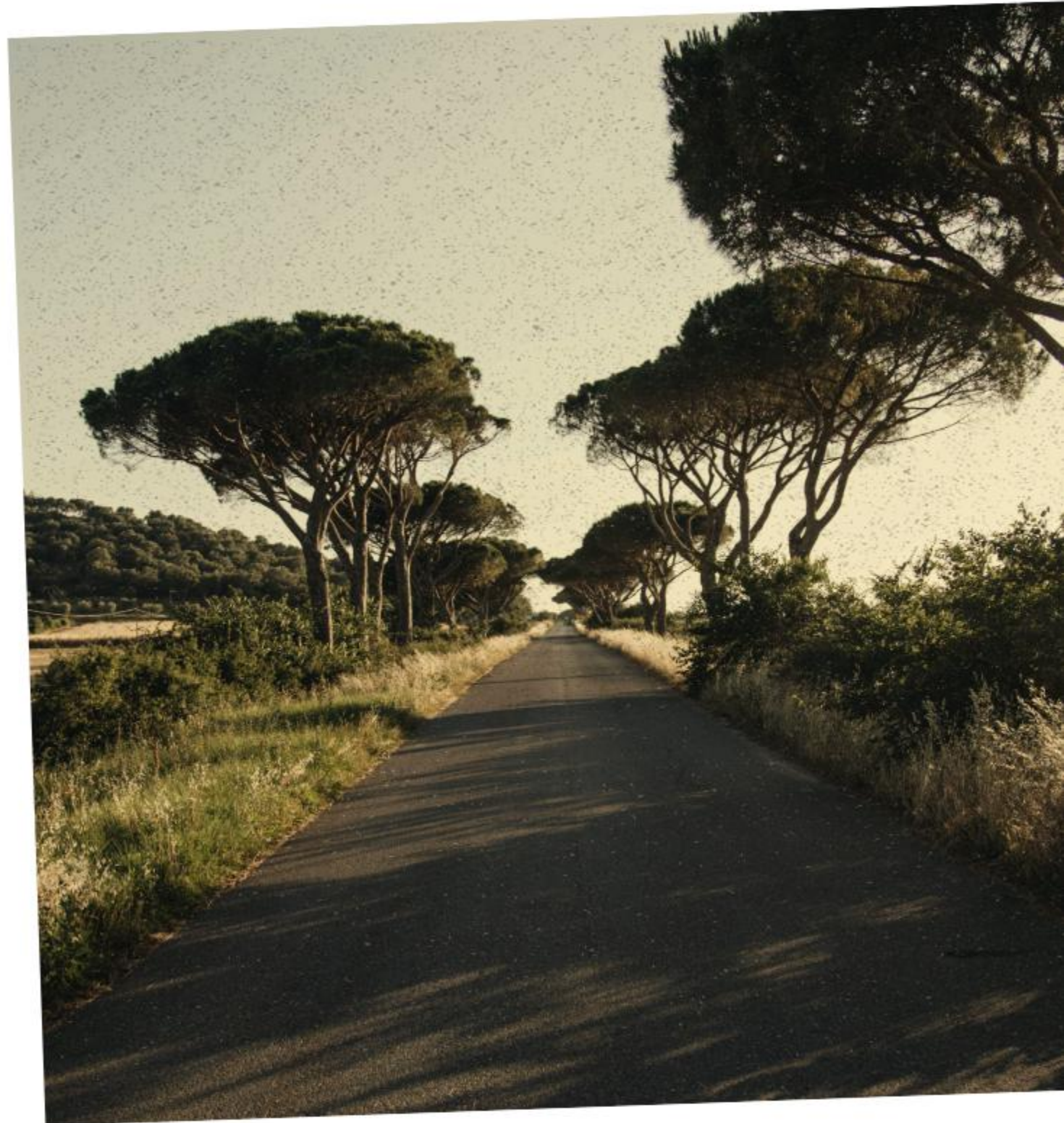
***Honorary Member**



Deny Yourself.



Take up your cross.



Follow me.



GT CHURCH