

CPC

MISSIONS GUIDE



WORLD VISION - ZAMBIA

DEAR CPC FAMILY,

At Christ Presbyterian Church, we believe the gospel moves. It moves across boundaries, into neighborhoods, across cultures, and into the places where people are hurting and longing for hope. And because the gospel moves, so do we. God has invited us not simply to believe the good news of Jesus, but to participate in what he is already doing in the world. Missions is not something that happens someplace else, it's part of what it means to follow Jesus wherever we live, work, worship, and go.

That is why we hope this year's Missions Guide is more than a collection of organizations and opportunities. It is an invitation to look up and look out, an invitation to notice where God is already at work, and an invitation to ask how we might join Him. For some of us, that will literally mean going. For others, giving, praying, building relationships, or offering our particular gifts and skills. There is no single way to participate in God's mission. But there is a place for every one of us.

We are especially excited about the ministries represented in this year's guide because they give us a glimpse of the beautiful breadth of God's mission. They are serving in different places, among different communities, and in different ways. Some are meeting immediate needs; others are investing in long-term transformation. Some are proclaiming the gospel through words, others embodying it through acts of love and service. Together, they remind us that the gospel moves everywhere, and that all of life can become an opportunity to participate in what God is doing.

We also hope this guide moves us beyond simply knowing about missions toward a deeper sense of relationship and engagement. What if God desires to knit our hearts to these ministries and these groups served through our thoughts, prayers, offerings, and experiences? Read through these pages slowly. Notice what catches your attention. Pray for the people and ministries represented here. Ask God where he might be inviting you to step closer. You may discover an opportunity you never knew existed, a person you are meant to meet, or a place where God has been preparing you to serve.

Our prayer is that this guide would not simply tell you what CPC is doing in missions, but help you recognize that you have a place in what God is doing too. The gospel is moving. May God give us eyes to see it, hearts to respond to it, and courage to follow wherever it leads.

Petey

PETEY CROWDER • SENIOR PASTOR



OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL - COLOMBIA



CHALLENGE MINISTRIES

What we talk about in church isn't meant to stay in the sanctuary. It's meant to go with us into the world. The Gospel moves everywhere: in our workplaces, our schools, our neighborhoods, and even to the **ends of the earth**.



CHALLENGE MINISTRIES - SHILOH SITE

MISSIONS AT CPC

For more than 65 years, CPC has sought to live as a missional community, beginning with a small group of dedicated members and growing into a vibrant, intergenerational church.

We continue to pursue justice, practice mercy, and promote Christian faith formation through mutual giving, learning, serving, and relationship building. From alleviating poverty in our own community to supporting sustainable development projects globally, we seek to be open to how the Gospel is moving here and everywhere.



YOU MAKE AN IMPACT!

CPCERS SERVING LOCALLY: 114
CPCERS SERVING GLOBALLY: 27
TOTAL MISSION TRIPS: 4
SERVING SATURDAY ATTENDEES: 286
TOTAL LOAVES & FISHES EVENTS: 54



As you read this guide you will notice "Pray with Us" sections. We invite you to pray for CPC Missions now and all year long using these prompts.

PRAY WITH US:

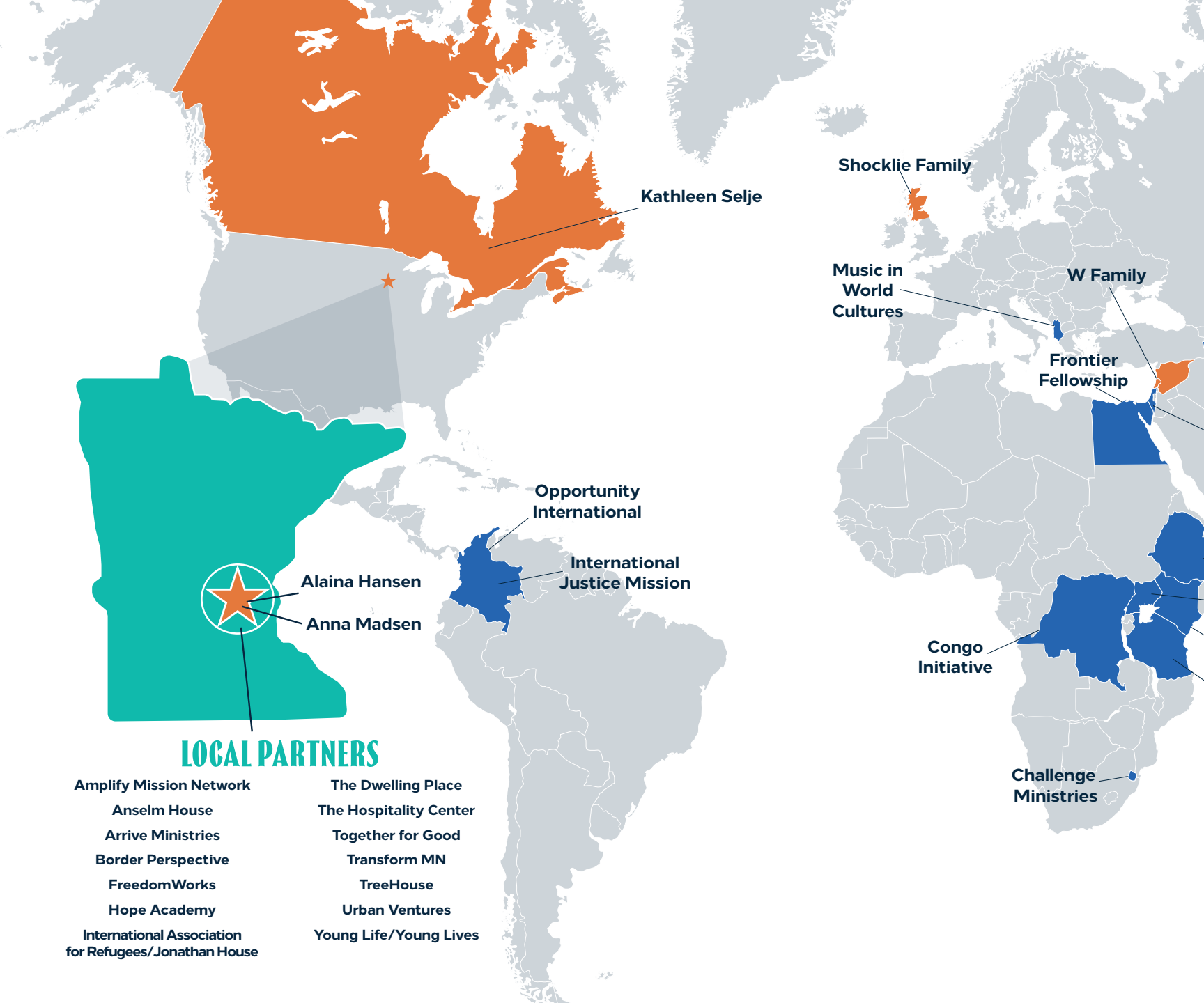
God, we pray for our Missions giving process. We ask You to guide CPC and our Mission partners in stewarding these financial recources with wisdom and discernment.

MISSIONS GIVING AT CPC

When you give to CPC your giving is going to Missions. 10% of our giving budget goes out the door to support our local & global mission partners (see list on pages 7-12). This fiscal year, from June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027, our community is committed to giving away **$659,000**. Ten percent isn't a magic number, but it is a Biblical idea that can be a helpful guide for growing in personal generosity. We believe it can also be a meaningful expression of who we want to be as a church: a people who intentionally live with open hands and look for ways to extend the reach of the Gospel.

We're excited about what this generosity makes possible. It allows us to invest more deeply in trusted, long-term partnerships while also creating space to respond to new opportunities God places before us—both here in our community and around the world.

Because the Gospel moves, we want to be a people who move with it. We give with open hands, trusting that God can use what we offer in ways we could never accomplish on our own. And as we open our hands to give, we open our hearts to receive. What might God want to do in and through us at CPC as we seek to live generously?



LOCAL PARTNERS

- Amplify Mission Network
- Anselm House
- Arrive Ministries
- Border Perspective
- FreedomWorks
- Hope Academy
- International Association for Refugees/Jonathan House
- The Dwelling Place
- The Hospitality Center
- Together for Good
- Transform MN
- TreeHouse
- Urban Ventures
- Young Life/Young Lives



MISSION PARTNERS

THE GOSPLE IS MEANT TO MOVE EVERYWHERE.

GLOBAL PARTNERS

Challenge Ministries, Eswatini

Discipling people, strengthening families, and empowering communities toward lasting Kingdom transformation by restoring the emotional, spiritual, and physical inheritance lost to a generation impacted by HIV/AIDS and poverty.

Congo Initiative, Democratic Republic of Congo

Developing Christ-centered leaders in the DRC through higher education, community development, and programs that promote peace, justice, and flourishing.

Frontier Fellowship, Egypt

Coming alongside indigenous Christian leaders and U.S. churches, equipping and supporting them as they share the Good News and engage unreached groups in the Middle East where His Kingdom is not yet known.

His Heart for Africa, Uganda

Sharing the love of Christ by providing quality education and necessities for students in Jinja and caring for elderly members of the community.

International Justice Mission, Colombia

Partnering with local law enforcement to protect and rescue women and children from violence, strengthen justice systems, and help survivors find safety and restoration.

Nazareth Evangelical College, Israel

Training and equipping Christian leaders through biblical and theological education and preparing pastors and ministry leaders to faithfully serve the Holy Land.

Music in World Cultures, Albania*

Using music, cultural understanding, and discipleship to connect with communities, break down barriers, and build bridges to share the Gospel of Christ, strengthen the local church, and empower every voice to worship Him.

Opportunity International, Colombia

Helping families living in extreme poverty build sustainable livelihoods, access quality education for their children, and create brighter futures through dignified work that strengthens families and communities.

Pars Theological Centre, Iran

Equipping biblically rooted, theologically trained, spiritually mature pastors and leaders to share the light of Christ throughout Iran and the Persian-speaking world, where believers cannot freely worship or follow Jesus openly.

Praxis, Kenya

Working with Christian entrepreneurs, investors, and thinkers to catalyze a redemptive entrepreneurship ecosystem across Africa that addresses some of the continent's most pressing challenges.

Tanzania Health Partnership, Tanzania*

Supporting compassionate, Tanzanian-led healthcare by providing excellent care to hospital patients and thousands of rural families through maternal and child health, specialist care, and community outreach.

World Vision, Ethiopia

Working to end global poverty by partnering with communities for lasting change, starting with clean water and empowering local leaders to lead them toward thriving futures with supportive believers united behind them.

***NEW PARTNERS JOINING US IN 2027.**

PRAY WITH US:

God, strengthen our global partners as they faithfully serve communities around the world. Bless their teams and leaders as they navigate serving in both welcome and unwelcome places. Bless the work of their hands and the people they serve, bringing hope, healing, and the transforming power of the Gospel. Open our eyes to where You are already at work, and draw our hearts more deeply into where the Gospel is moving. Remind us that we are one body in Christ, and grow our love for our brothers and sisters abroad. As You have called Your people to proclaim the Gospel to all the world, may Your name be known among every nation!

MISSIONARIES


HARNIESS FAMILY


SHOCKLIE FAMILY

★ For the safety of missionaries serving in regions where Christianity is restricted or dangerous, we are not sharing their full names.

Alaina Hansen - Young Life, Edina*
Building friendships with students in Edina, meeting them where they are to introduce them to Jesus, inviting them into community, and walking alongside them as they explore their beliefs, grow in faith, and have fun together.

Alex and Dana – Frontier Fellowship, South Asia ★
Sharing the Good News of Jesus with unreached people groups and equipping U.S. churches to come alongside indigenous ministry leaders in South Asia, while also serving international students.

H-C Family – Loom International, South Asia ★
Partnering with communities to reduce vulnerability to human trafficking and social injustices, sharing the hope of Christ, and walking alongside individuals as they build sustainable livelihoods and thrive in their local communities.

Harniess Family – YWAM, Malaysia
Sharing the love of Jesus by discipling university students and young adults, serving refugee and disadvantaged communities through outreach programs, and equipping the next generation of leaders to live out their faith.

Kathleen Selje – Navigators, Canada
Guiding university students to discover Jesus and equipping them to pass on their faith to others.

Shocklie Family – The Antioch Partners, Scotland
Planting churches in Edinburgh where people can find authentic community, grow as disciples, and experience transformation through Jesus Christ.

Anna Madsen - Serge
Equipping missionaries, ministry leaders, and all believers with resources for ongoing spiritual renewal, while creating and developing tools to support their growth and formation.

W Family - Cedars Network, Lebanon ★
Empowering communities through job training and discipleship among Syrian refugees and low-income Lebanese families.

PRAY WITH US:

God, hold our missionaries close as they follow Your calling on their lives to serve across cultures. Give them strength for the hard days, joy in the blessings found in their daily lives and relationships, and boldness to faithfully share the hope of Christ. God our Protector, protect them; God our Provider, provide for their needs; and God who never leaves or forsakes us, remind them of Your presence as they draw near to You. May their lives and ministries make You known to the ends of the earth.


ANNA MADSEN


ALAINA HANSEN

*NEW PARTNER
JOINING US IN 2027.

LOCAL PARTNERS

Amplify Mission Network
Connecting Christian business leaders with emerging Minnesota nonprofit ministries to amplify Christ's work in the world.

Anselm House
Serving the University of Minnesota by connecting faith and knowledge with all of life, equipping Christians to live faithfully in their vocations.

Arrive Ministries
Providing essential services and practical assistance to refugees and immigrants in Minnesota to promote self-sufficiency and integration into their new communities.

Border Perspective
Equipping and mobilizing people of faith to understand the unique challenges and gospel opportunities at the U.S.-Mexico border while serving border communities.

FreedomWorks
Providing a comprehensive, faith-based reentry and recovery program focused on supporting individuals released from incarceration.

Hope Academy*
Providing a remarkable and accessible Christ-centered education while partnering with families for discipleship and academic success.

International Association for Refugees/Jonathan House
Supporting asylum seekers through housing, practical assistance, and community as they navigate forced displacement together with the local church.

The Dwelling Place
Providing healing and hope to women and children affected by domestic abuse through supportive wrap-around services and a safe, Christ-centered, transitional place to call home.

The Hospitality Center

Serving international students and scholars in the Twin Cities by sharing the love of Jesus through hospitality, building relationships, and welcoming them into community.

Together for Good

Keeping families together by providing early support to vulnerable children and families and creating pathways for the local church to come alongside them through relational, transformational care.

Transform MN

A network of churches connecting Christian leaders, engaging complex issues through a biblical perspective, and equipping churches to transform their communities through witness and action.

TreeHouse

Bringing living hope to teens facing difficult life circumstances through caring relationships, mentoring, and Christ-centered programs that lead to life transformation.

Urban Ventures

Supporting youth in one of Minneapolis' most under-resourced neighborhoods through education, mentoring, family support, and programs that strengthen the community.

Young Life/Young Lives

Inviting young people and young moms in North Minneapolis to experience life as God designed it to be lived.

*NEW PARTNERS JOINING US IN 2027.

PRAY WITH US:

God, deepen our love for our neighbors and give us eyes to see where You are already at work in our community. Strengthen our local church and ministry partners as they faithfully serve with compassion, wisdom, and the hope of Christ. Bring lasting flourishing to the people and places our partners serve, and draw us more deeply into the relationships and opportunities You have set before us.


JUST



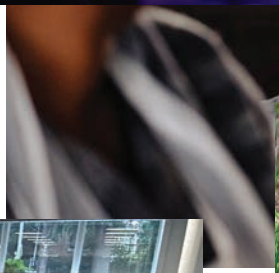






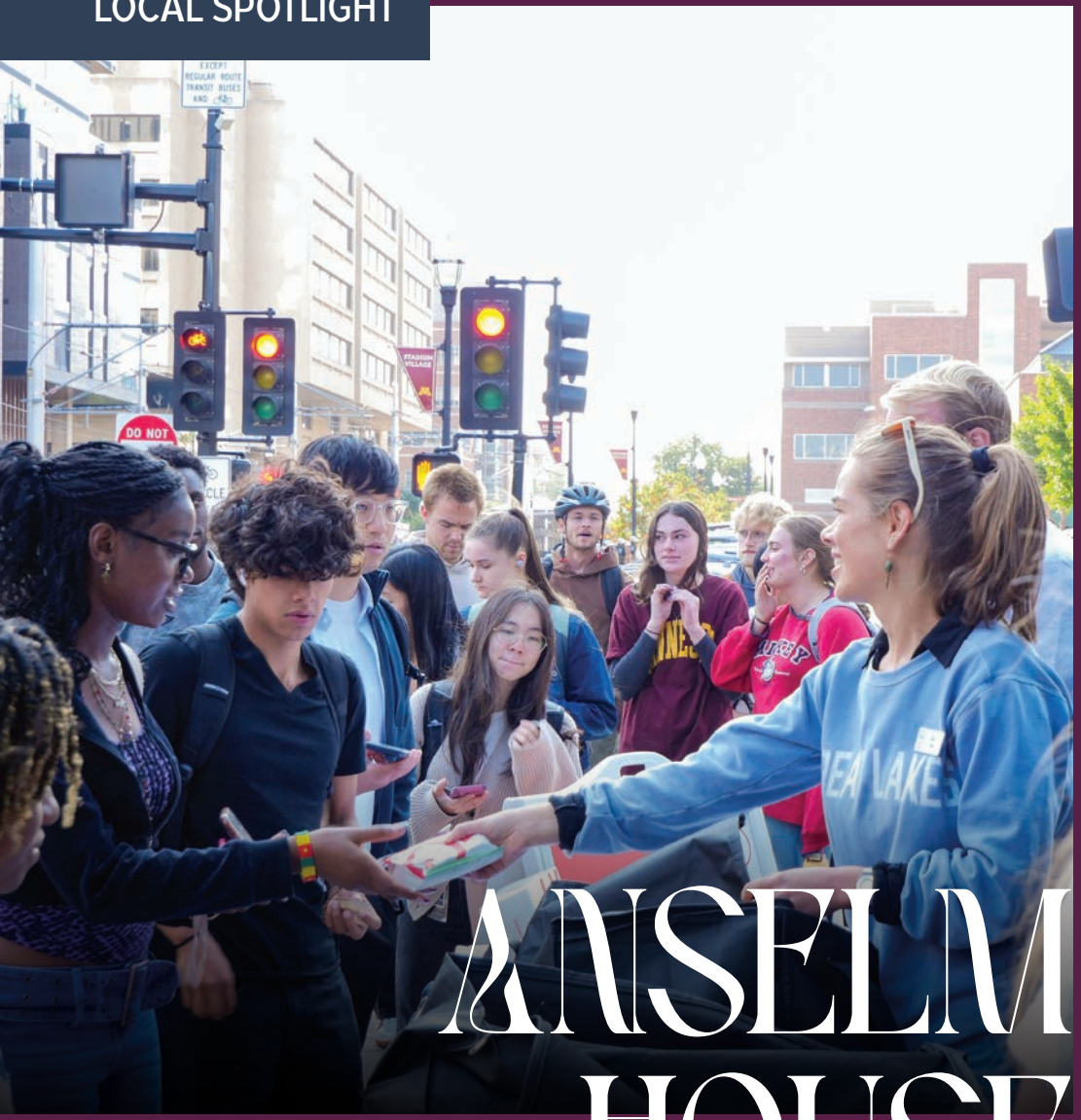












ANSELM HOUSE

Like many students, Rose* walked down the stairs in search of the free coffee.

A friend had told her about a study place on the University of Minnesota's East Bank. "It will really become your spot," she said. So, one afternoon Rose came to Anselm House, found a couch near the Saint John's Bible on display, and opened up her textbook to study. Soon after, she was invited to tea time where she walked into a conversation about quantum mechanics and theology.

"I had never heard a conversation like that anywhere on campus," Rose said. "I knew I was with the right people."

Rose grew up in Iran, in a nominally Muslim family. Bibles were not available there, and almost everything that she knew about Jesus' life she learned from the Quran—and, improbably, from an international Christian children's cartoon picked up by her family's illegal satellite dish. She recalled a time when she was four years old, sick with a fever and alone in her bedroom. "I had seen that when Christians are sick they pray to Jesus and clasp their hands together," she said. So, Rose clasped her hands and prayed that God would heal her, just like on TV. "I really felt Jesus touching my head and my fever was healed. It was insane," Rose said.

As an adult, she rejected Islam but was certain that God was real. Her family had encouraged her to be curious and to explore philosophy, but she didn't

have anywhere to go for answers to her deepest questions. Anselm House exists for students like Rose. Nearly 3,000 students pass through its doors each year, and close to half are not Christian. Some have never heard the Gospel, others have sat faithfully in Sunday school for 18 years. Anselm House meets them where they are and invites them further up and further in, offering the resources of a small Christian college inside one of the country's largest public universities.

Hospitality is the first step. Through free coffee, daily tea times, and a weekly waffle bar, students are welcomed and accepted as they are. "The moment you step down those stairs, you are seen, you are loved, and you are cared for in the most genuine way," Rose said.

"If God is truth, every alley ends with Him."

But it doesn't end with hospitality. After relationships have been cultivated with students, they are invited to join Fellows—a three-year program of Christian education. In Rose's first year, she read through the Bible, and in the second she learned about Christian character, vocation, and what it means to live a faith-filled life. "It's not a Bible study exactly and it's not just a conversation," she said. "It's a place to have deep conversations that are guided by tutors."

She was baptized just before Easter during her first year as a Fellow. It was not a decision she made lightly, because converts are severely persecuted in her home country. She's not sure if she will ever be able to go home.

Today, Rose is pursuing a master's degree in theology while working in a neuroscience lab. Anselm House helps students and faculty break down the artificial barriers between their academic studies and their faith in God, equipping them to bring their faith into the laboratory, the lecture hall, and wherever God sends them next.

"If God is truth, every alley ends with Him," Rose said.

* First name changed to protect her identity.



PRAY WITH US:

FELLOWS 2025-2028

Lord, we lift up the incoming class of Fellows for the 2026–27 academic year. Prepare them to study with open hearts and minds. We pray over the Fellow tutors, that You would give them grace and humility as they mentor and facilitate conversations. And may Your renewal come to fruition at the University of Minnesota through the work of Your people – thousands of faculty, students, and campus ministers.



DR. HONORE BUNDUKI

When possible, CPC has the joy of connecting mission partners. Earlier this year, Dr. Honore Bunduki, president of Congo Initiative's Christian University in the DRC, visited CPC and had the opportunity to share and engage with students at Anselm House's Wisdom and Waffles on the University of Minnesota campus. It was a beautiful picture of ministries with parallel missions coming together from opposite sides of the world to glorify God and encourage one another.



HOPE ACADEMY

When Tian entered middle school at Hope Academy, he was struggling as he navigated the challenges of adolescence and his parents' divorce. Academics felt unimportant, and his behavior reflected it.

In fact, Tian was suspended every year from sixth through ninth grade. Many people might have written him off as disruptive, defiant, or unlikely to succeed. But Hope Academy's teachers saw something different.

"My teachers saw hope and potential in me and encouraged me that I could do the work. A shift in my attitude and my behavior began to take place. Hope Academy provided a place for me to ask questions and to seek out answers. It built a framework of faith in me," Tian said.

While Minnesota is often hailed for its strong educational system, the reality is that 25% of Minneapolis seniors won't graduate on

time, and there are large achievement gaps across race and class. Hope Academy began in 2000 to combat those very issues, and their graduation rate, over all the years as a K-12 school, is at 97%. Last year's graduation rate was at 100%! In addition, the average Minnesota student attends only 75% of the school year, but last year's Hope Academy students attended 91%! CPC is grateful for the opportunity to come alongside Hope Academy as they seek to love and serve their neighbors in Minneapolis. Through this work, they are seeing God move in incredible ways, transforming what started with just 35 students to more than 650 K-12 students today.

Through hard work and perseverance, Tian completed high school, started community college, and eventually received an Acts6 scholarship to North Central University. Today he is getting his master's degree while also working as a financial advisor at Thrivent, viewing his career as both a profession and a ministry. "I'm so grateful for the role that Hope Academy has played in my life. I'm so thankful for a mom who supported me, teachers who believed in me and prayed for me, and classmates I'm still connected to. And most of all, I'm grateful for a God who is so faithful," he said.

"My teachers saw hope and potential in me."

Tian's story is just one example of how Hope Academy is on a mission to foster hope in God in Minneapolis by providing youth with a quality, Christ-centered education. Through a classical, biblical curriculum, high standards for everyone in the community, and a donor-funded partnership model to provide an exceptionally affordable cost, they partner with families to seek excellence for their children. Hope Academy believes each child is an image-bearer of God and wants them to know the hope this offers for their lives, studies, and future.

And God continues to open doors for Hope Academy. After recently completing a capital campaign, they have doubled the size of their campus with a new high school and gym, and a new Chapel Auditorium is nearing completion. This expansion will allow Hope Academy to grow to 1,200 students over the next decade, fostering hope in God for students and for the city of Minneapolis.

PRAY WITH US:

God, bless the faculty, students, and families who call Hope Academy their school. We pray that students within the inner city of Minneapolis will experience God's hope for their lives, studies, and future. We praise you for your continued work through relationships, values, and education this ministry fosters.



TIAN, HOPE ACADEMY



CHALLENGE MINISTRIES

For nearly 30 years, Challenge Ministries has been sharing the hope of the Gospel and serving vulnerable children and rural communities across Eswatini, a small country in Africa formerly known as Swaziland. Their mission is centered on resourcing Kingdom transformation through discipleship, family strengthening, and community empowerment.

Eswatini is a beautiful nation with a rich culture and deep spiritual heritage. However, many families continue to face the lasting effects of poverty, HIV/AIDS, fractured families, spiritual darkness, and a generation of orphaned and vulnerable children.

PRAY WITH US:

God, strengthen Challenge Ministries, their staff, and leaders as they faithfully serve. Give them wisdom, courage, endurance, and provision for the work before them. Surround the churches, families, and children they serve with Your presence and protection, especially in places marked by spiritual darkness and brokenness. Deepen CPC's partnership with our brothers and sisters in Mlindazwe, that we may walk together in faith, prayer, and mutual encouragement, joining You where the Gospel is moving.

Challenge Ministries asked what it would look like for the local church to reach people across Eswatini, and God gave them a bold vision: to plant a church within walking distance (five miles) of every person in the nation. From that vision grew In-Community, By-Community (ICBC) sites, where a local church, preschool, and gathering place come together to serve the surrounding community and share the hope of the Gospel. Local, biblically trained pastors live on site and shepherd these churches, serving without a salary while supporting their families through livelihoods such as farming, making block, and raising chickens.

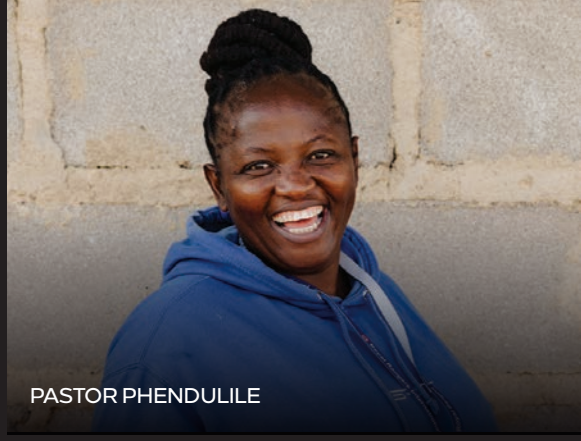
As Christians, we are called to encourage one another and build one another up. This is at the heart of why Challenge Ministries developed its Church-to-Church Partnership program. Through these partnerships, churches are paired with an ICBC church to build a deep, ongoing relationship rooted in prayer, encouragement, shared ministry, and learning from one another.

In June 2026, a group of CPCers went to Challenge Ministries in Eswatini on a mission trip. They travelled to our new ICBC partner Mlindazwe, a rural community. They witnessed firsthand what God is doing through Challenge Ministries and were welcomed with open arms.

Greeting them was Pastor Phendulile, a woman faithfully serving as pastor in a cultural context where female pastors are uncommon. Her ICBC site serves 80 people and continues to grow, including 45 children who attend its preschool daily. Ministry there is woven into the everyday life of the community. Before long, the building was filled with laughter as she unexpectedly invited all of the children to jump up and dance the Electric Slide together during their lesson, much to the delight of the CPC team.

Alongside its work strengthening the local church, Challenge Ministries is also entering a new chapter in its orphan care and family strengthening ministry. For many years, Challenge Ministries has operated Bulembu Children's Homes from an abandoned mining town they purchased and transformed into a place where ministry could flourish. Using the existing buildings and infrastructure, they created safe homes for vulnerable children and staff, multiple schools, and spaces for commerce. What was once an abandoned mining town became a place where children were cared for, families were strengthened, and ministry took root.

However, more recently, valuable mineral deposits were discovered in the area, and the government expressed interest in reclaiming the town. This meant Challenge Ministries would need to find a new home for the ministry that had grown there over many years. In the midst of that uncertainty, God provided land closer to the capital city of Mbabane, a piece of untouched land where a new chapter could begin. Challenge Ministries named it Shiloh, meaning *place of peace*.
The first homes are already taking shape,


PASTOR PHENDULILE

with construction underway. The master plan includes 24 homes for orphaned and vulnerable children, where they can receive care and support while being prepared for reunification with safe, extended family whenever possible. Years of intentional partnership with the Eswatini government have also opened the door for Challenge Ministries to establish a reuniting ministry, and the Shiloh Homes will be the hub to train and equip guardians and foster parents to care for children and welcome them home. As miracles continue, the land will also include a preschool, staff housing, space for parents and ICBC pastors to receive training, and church welcoming both Challenge Ministries and people living in the surrounding community.

As we begin this deeper season with our brothers and sisters in Eswatini, we are grateful for the opportunity to witness what God is already doing to bring hope, healing, and Kingdom transformation, one life at a time. We pray this is the beginning of a lasting partnership marked by mutual encouragement, shared ministry, and God's faithfulness.

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT

Praxis is a venture-building ecosystem awakening redemptive imagination. They support founders, funders, innovators, and culture makers motivated by their faith to address the major issues of our time. As God continues to grow a movement of redemptive entrepreneurs around the world, Praxis saw an opportunity to invest in that momentum and launched its first-ever Africa-based Accelerator, a program designed to equip Christian entrepreneurs with mentorship, community, and resources as they develop and grow their ventures.

The inaugural cohort brought together 14 Fellows and 12 ventures from eight African countries, with entrepreneurs working on issues including healthcare, financial solutions, job creation, sustainable agriculture, child development, and education. Together, they are exploring what it looks like to build ventures that reflect their faith and contribute to the flourishing of others.

For many Fellows, the Accelerator has become a place where faith and work can come together in ways they have long hoped for. "I was looking for, first of all, a community where I can come alive and come as a Christian, but also learn from other Christians doing business," one Fellow shared.



PRAY WITH US:

God, You are the ultimate Creator, bringing beauty, imagination, purpose, and possibility into being. Thank you for the unique gifts You have placed within each of us, and for the work of Praxis as they catalyze those gifts in entrepreneurs across Africa and around the world. Guide and strengthen these entrepreneurs as they follow where You are leading. Give each one courage to use their gifts to bring hope and address the needs around them. Strengthen the mentors who walk alongside them, offering wisdom, encouragement, and discernment along the way. Help us recognize and faithfully use what You have entrusted to us, wherever You have placed us, and join You where the Gospel is moving.



PRAXIS

Jeff Dykstra, CPC Member and a Venture Partner at Praxis who is leading this first cohort, reflected, "For many Americans, the image of Africa can be associated with AIDS, war, famine, and corruption. These talented entrepreneurs are building scalable businesses and non-profits that are re-writing that narrative, and doing that in ways that show **how** we build is just as important as **what** we build."

The cohort gathered for the first time in Nairobi in January, 2026 and later shared their ventures on stage at the Praxis Summit in Napa, CA in May. Along the way, they have been learning from one another, growing as leaders, and exploring how their faith can shape not only what they build, but who they are becoming.

At the heart of the Accelerator is the belief that who entrepreneurs are becoming matters just as much as what their ventures become. For these entrepreneurs, that means practicing the integration of faith and work, bringing what they believe about Jesus into the decisions they make, the organizations they are building, and the way they lead. It is a picture of what it can look like to live out our faith in all of life, recognizing that our work is not separate from our life with Jesus, but one of the places where we are invited to faithfully follow Him.



MARIE - ALIX, HEAL BY HAIR

When **Marie-Alix** lost her husband while she was pregnant, she turned to her hairdresser to help her process the deep grief and loss. In the midst of receiving that practical support, she began to wonder: What if she could train hundreds, or even thousands, of hairdressers to serve women facing depression and other mental health challenges in places like her home country of Togo, where mental health professionals are few and far between?

That question grew into Heal by Hair, a new nonprofit that expands the imagination on ways to care for women facing struggles they may only feel safe enough sharing in the beauty chair. CPC is grateful to come alongside Marie-Alix and other founders who are building organizations that seek to change systems and not just outcomes.

DANA & ALEX



Alex was born in South Asia into a Hindu family. He grew up studying and exploring Hinduism, Sikhism, and Islam, searching for peace and truth. It wasn't until he began following Jesus that he found the peace he had been searching for.

South Asia has the highest concentration of Unreached People Groups in the world. In a large portion of South Asia, there is little or no access to the Gospel. Because of that, Alex followed a calling on his life to become a church planter so others could experience the freedom he had found in Christ.

As Alex and Dana ministered in South Asia, they began to see another overlooked need. The ministers faithfully working to see the Gospel move throughout South Asia were also facing immense persecution. They saw a need to bring these ministers together, not only to encourage one another, but also to build unity and meaningful relationships among themselves.

Isolation and a lack of meaningful friendship contribute to burnout among church planters in South Asia. Alex and Dana began asking: What would it look like to create a place where these ministers could come together, rejuvenate, encourage, and strengthen one another?

But bringing that vision to life required resources and, even more importantly, a safe place where church planters could gather. Through relationships with local authorities and a trusted Frontier Fellowship partner, Alex and Dana secured a location where around 100 church planters from across South Asia could gather. They launched the first South Asia Church Haven Conference (SACH) in September 2026 with the vision of creating a cross-cultural experience for both church planters in South Asia and US churches to learn more together and hear firsthand stories of how the Gospel is moving in South Asia.

God has used Alex and Dana in another unexpected way, integrating their faith with another passion: skydiving.

The need in South Asia is enormous. And yet, Alex and Dana are seeing the Gospel move in amazing and unexpected ways. The Holy Spirit is transforming hearts, drawing people to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and revealing the hope found through His work on the cross. God is at work, and Alex and Dana are faithfully living out the call on their lives.

After leading ministries in South Asia, Alex moved to the US expecting to continue relational ministry. Then COVID-19 made it difficult to build relationships, and what had defined him and his ministry suddenly seemed out of reach.

Looking for something new, Alex discovered a skydiving drop zone in



Wisconsin, something he had always wanted to try. He planned to make one jump, but instead found a community where people genuinely cared for one another. As friendships grew, he discovered that some were skeptical of Christianity and might never have chosen to talk with him in another setting. But through their shared interest in skydiving, genuine relationships began to grow. Alex kept showing up and eventually earned his skydiving license.

After a significant loss in the skydiving community, a friend approached Alex and said, "I want to learn more about God." That conversation led Alex and Dana to open their home to skydivers and others, sharing meals, worshiping, praying, studying Scripture, and walking through life together. More than two and a half years later, the community continues to meet.

Alex never expected skydiving to become part of his life and ministry, but God opened an unexpected door. Sometimes the place where God calls us to serve is the place we never expected to find ourselves.

RESPONDING IN LOVE

When urgent needs arose in our city and around the world this year, CPC supported trusted ministry partners who were already serving in the midst of those neighborhoods. Through prayer, generosity, hospitality, and hands-on service, our congregation came alongside these partners to care for people in the midst of difficult and uncertain seasons.

One way we were able to respond was through our Crisis Relief Fund, a designated fund that allows CPC to support organizations facing critical or unexpected needs. This year, $85,000 in crisis relief was given to organizations responding to urgent needs both locally and globally. During Operation Metro Surge in Minnesota, funding was distributed to Urban Ventures, Arrive Ministries, IAFR/Jonathan House, Urban Village, a neighboring ECO church, and Transform MN, all caring for neighbors affected by immigration-related uncertainty and unrest. Additional funding supported Pars, Nazareth Evangelical College, Congo Initiative, Serge, and Kivu Care as they responded to seasons of hardship, the war in Iran, and the Ebola outbreak in Congo.

ARRIVE MINISTRIES TEAM

When Operation Metro Surge placed added pressure on our mission partner Arrive Ministries, CPC found a simple way to care for the dedicated team showing up day after day to serve our immigrant neighbors. For two months, CPC coordinated and provided lunches for the Arrive Ministries staff three days a week, with CPC volunteers preparing meals and arranging deliveries to their offices in the middle of long and demanding days. One Arrive staff member shared:

"Truly, every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday felt like Christmas morning. It gave our staff the opportunity to eat and be unburdened, but also just laugh and connect with one another. And I am not exaggerating when I say that CPC and this kindness will be talked about for years to come in the Arrive Ministries


ARRIVE MINISTRIES


NOÉ AND BETHANY KASALI





hallways. We just felt so cared for and seen during a really hard time."

God used a simple invitation to lunch as an opportunity to remind the Arrive team that they were seen, cared for, and surrounded by a church grateful for the Kingdom-honoring work they were doing.

PACKING EVENT

CPCers also responded to immediate needs shared by our local ministry partners. Many of you donated food through food drives and deliveries, fulfilled Amazon wish lists, volunteered with local organizations, and wrote notes of encouragement in both Spanish and English to remind our neighbors that they are not alone.

One CPCer simply asked, "What can I do to help our neighbors?" That question grew into an invitation for others to join in, and more than 250 people came together at CPC to provide supplies and pack over 1,000 Care Packs for VEAP, a local food bank. Just days later, an immigrant neighbor of a CPCer who attended the event received one of those Care Packs on their front doorstep, marked by three perfectly placed rolls of toilet paper and an abundance of pantry essentials. What began with one person asking how they could help multiplied into a response that blessed both those who gave and those who received.

KIVU CARE

Across the globe, that same posture of coming alongside those in need took us to eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. As Ebola spread through the region, families and frontline workers faced another difficult season in a place already experiencing conflict and displacement. Through the ministry of Noé and Bethany Kasali, whom we have had the joy of getting to know at CPC this past year, we helped support their response through trauma care, food assistance, and practical resources like handwashing stations.

Their team created peaceful spaces for health care workers, Red Cross volunteers, and grieving families to receive care and be reminded of the hope they have in Jesus. One participant in Beni shared what that looked like for her after losing her mother: "My mom liked to sing. During the session, the Kivu Care team allowed me to sing some of her favorite songs. That was my comfort after losing her to Ebola." In a season of grief, a simple song became a reminder of God's presence and the hope we have in Christ.

In the midst of a difficult season, we had the joy of seeing the Gospel moving outward, stirring our love for our neighbors near and far and accepting the invitation to join God in the work He is already doing around us. None of this would have happened without the faithful ministry partners and the opportunities God gave us to respond. We are grateful for every person who prayed, gave, and showed up. Together, these acts of faithfulness, both simple and significant, became beautiful expressions of Christ's love.



THE DWELLING PLACE
CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2025

CPC gives 100 percent of our Christmas Offering to a ministry partner, creating a tangible way for our congregation to bless the work God is doing throughout our city. In 2025, our Christmas Offering recipient was The Dwelling Place, and we had the special opportunity to engage with their ministry throughout the Advent season.

The Dwelling Place provides safe, transitional housing and Christ-centered supportive services for women and children who have experienced domestic abuse.

2025 was a historic year for The Dwelling Place, marked by a bold prayer and the largest expansion in the organization's history. A new Program Center was taking shape, meeting growing childcare needs and making possible a shared dream: mothers and children healing in the same place, at the same time, surrounded by the love of Jesus.

Last fall, The Dwelling Place still needed $200,000 to complete the Program Center renovations. They didn't know where the money would come from, but they trusted God would provide. When CPC learned about the need, The Dwelling Place was chosen as our Christmas Offering recipient. And, as only God can do, hearts at CPC were moved to give generously. The Dwelling Place called this a miracle, describing the historic year as one that reflected "God moving through His people, miracle after miracle."

620 ITEMS
were donated including personal hygiene, cleaning, and household essentials.

50 CPC
volunteers served over multiple Serving Saturdays

$201,774.22 GIVEN
through CPC's Christmas Offering, allowing The Dwelling Place to complete Phase One of their Program Center.

In 2026, 100 percent of what was joyfully given to our Easter Offering went to our longtime global mission partner, World Vision, as we enter a new season of partnership in Ethiopia.

CPC's partnership with World Vision spans 45 years, with the past 15 years supporting their work in Moyo, Zambia. We praise God for the ways He has been at work in Moyo, as local leaders have become empowered and equipped to build sustainable livelihoods. As that chapter comes to a close, God is opening a new door for CPC and World Vision in Ethiopia's Lower Rift Valley, and this year's Easter Offering helped begin that new chapter.

It's hard to imagine going to a health clinic for medical care, bringing a sick child, or welcoming a new baby into the world without running water. Yet in many rural communities where World Vision works, more than half of the health clinics do not have running water or basic handwashing facilities, contributing to preventable infections and illness. Without reliable access to water, families may spend hours carrying water long distances just to meet their daily needs.



WORLD VISION
EASTER OFFERING 2026

$125,000 GIVEN
through CPC's Easter Offering to bring clean water to a new healthcare facility in Ethiopia's Lower Rift Valley.

PROVIDED CLEAN WATER
for handwashing stations, toilets, and showers throughout the facility.

HEALTH WORKERS TRAINED
and equipped to provide better care for patients and families.

PROVIDED CRITICAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES
to help deliver dignified, lifesaving care.

FAITH LEADERS TRAINED
and equipped to reinforce healthy practices and messages throughout the community.

During Lent, CPC had the opportunity to experience a small glimpse of that reality. Many of you carried 45-pound jerry cans the short distance across the Great Room, taking a small step toward understanding what so many people around the world do each day to collect water. Others took a short quiz to measure their own water consumption, offering a new perspective on how much we rely on clean water flowing directly from our faucets.

Jesus calls us to see the needs around us and respond with compassion: "...I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." Matthew 25:35 (NIV). May offerings like this shape a posture of compassion that we carry into the simple, everyday rhythms of our lives.



SERVING SATURDAY



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICE (CES)

"We love serving as a family on Serving Saturday because it gives us a chance to model how to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our kids. It also gives us a chance to learn about organizations and the community outside of our "bubble". Our kids love serving and always ask when the next Serving Saturday will be."

- JENNY KILBER, CPC MEMBER

PRAY WITH US:

God open our eyes to the needs around us. Help us look beyond the windows and walls of our church and use our time, gifts, and compassion to serve our neighbors in an even bigger way this year!



CPCER'S SERVED A TOTAL OF 11 LOCAL NON-PROFITS IN 2026.

UPCOMING DATES

NOVEMBER 7, 2026

FEBRUARY 20, 2027

JULY 10, 2027

Serving Saturday is a meaningful opportunity to join other CPCers as we partner with local nonprofits to love our neighbors and serve our community well. We take care of the planning, so you can simply show up, serve, and make a difference!

Mark your calendars and bring your friends or family along for a morning of serving our community together, from 9:00AM to 12:00PM.





FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MOBILE PACK

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, April 24, 2027

Join us for a special all-day packing event at CPC! Turn hunger into hope with your own two hands as we work together to pack 100,000 nutritious meals through Feed My Starving Children.

TRIP REFLECTIONS



"God is moving in SO many ways in beautiful Eswatini! He is reclaiming darkness and turning it to light all throughout the country. Through Challenge Ministries, God is bringing hope to hopeless situations and drawing people to know Him deeper. My heart was reminded of how vast the care of God stretches – He is moving all around the world in all spaces and places – here in my life in Minnesota and all across the world."

- ABBEY SEGURA

ESWATINI TRIP WITH CHALLENGE MINISTRIES



"This year's trip to Milwaukee was not only such a fun experience but also made God's love especially evident. My group in particular worked with adults with special needs and everyday we got to experience the joy of the Lord and grow in community with each other and our many new friends we met along the way. CPC mission trips have revealed so much to me about God and have shaped me into the kind of Christian I choose to be today and I couldn't be grateful for my experiences!"

- EMMA FRANSEN

MISSION MILWAUKEE HIGH SCHOOL TRIP



"This was my third visit to Moyo, Zambia, and over the years I have witnessed dramatic transformation. Homes once built from thatch have become sturdy brick houses, clean water is accessible throughout the community, mothers and babies are healthier, and children are attending school and dreaming of brighter futures.

But the faith, joy, and passion of the people of Moyo transformed me as well. It was an honor to walk alongside such a dedicated, God-loving community whose members worked together selflessly and joyfully to move their community forward. They reminded me that compassion, perseverance, patience, and the love of God have the power to change lives. I will carry the people of Moyo forever in my heart."

- RHONDA MARCHUK

ZAMBIA TRIP WITH WORLD VISION



"In 2022, Pastor Emily asked if I would join a Mission Trip to Cartagena, Colombia, to see firsthand how Opportunity International (OI) was implementing its Graduation Model program to help people move out of ultra-poverty. It changed my life. God broke my heart for what breaks His. Since then, I have been back several times; I am on the OI Colombia Board, and I help provide Mental Health training for the staff serving the villagers who are in the graduation program.

I have been a part of the graduations of over 700 families whose lives have been changed forever by this program. God is on the move and it is an honor and a privilege to serve. I'm so grateful that I was asked to go and that I said yes."

- TODD MULLIKEN COLOMBIA TRIP WITH OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL

2027

MISSION TRIPS

Join us as we build relationships, serve alongside others, and step into what God is doing around the world.

JAN

MALAYSIA WITH HARNIESS FAMILY • JANUARY 21-31

Serve and learn alongside our missionary partners, the Harniess Family, as they share the love of Jesus with families, refugees, and university students in Malaysia. Build meaningful relationships and learn how they care for people's physical, social, and spiritual needs while discipling university students and equipping young believers.

JULY

ESWATINI WITH CHALLENGE MINISTRIES • JULY 22-AUGUST 2

Serve alongside Challenge Ministries, build genuine relationships, and witness resilient faith as you experience their vision of long-term Kingdom transformation. Come alongside the work of rebuilding the emotional, spiritual, and physical inheritance lost to a generation impacted by HIV/AIDS and extreme poverty, and see how the hope of Christ is shaping future generations. Families of all ages are welcome!

OCT

EGYPT WITH FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP • OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 7

Build friendships and learn from the witness of our Egyptian brothers and sisters as they follow God's invitation to share the love of Jesus throughout the Middle East. Visit several ministries and ministry partners in Egypt, gaining a firsthand glimpse of the Gospel at work through a growing movement of Egyptian churches and cross-cultural workers.

We want everyone at CPC to be able to take part in a life-changing Mission Trip. We can help make trips more financially accessible through scholarships. Reach out to **missions@cpcedina.org** to learn more.

GET INVOLVED

SERVE WITH LOCAL NON-PROFITS

Looking for a way to live out your faith and serve in our local community? Whether you have an hour or two, or a year to give, there are many ways to serve alongside CPC's local mission partners: from baking cookies and serving meals to tutoring children, hosting international students for a meal, mentoring men returning from incarceration, or walking alongside newly resettled refugee families.

Scan the QR code for a list of current serving opportunities, or email CPC's Missions Team at **missions@cpcedina.org**, and we will follow up with more information.



LOAVES AND FISHES

"Deb and I serve because we believe that our faith must be shown in action – loving God and loving our neighbors. I once thought mission work meant serving others somewhere away from the Twin Cities area, however Loaves & Fishes has shown me there are many needs right here in our own community. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and I see that in the faces of the volunteers who prepare and serve the food each first and third Friday of the month."

-RICH FORSLUND

PRAY WITH US

Another opportunity to get involved is through prayer. Pray for our local and global mission partners, missionaries, and the people they serve as they seek to share the hope of the Gospel and transform communities for His glory.

We also host two ongoing opportunities to join with others in prayer: Egypt Prayer Gathering and IJM Prayer Time. Both include updates and time to pray for specific ministry partners, their leaders, and the communities they serve. Visit **cpcedina.org/events** for more information.

FRIENDS OF MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

Scan the QR code to sign up for the Friends of Missions monthly newsletter to stay connected to how God is moving locally and globally through CPC.



SERVING SATURDAY

MISSIONS CARE & ADVISORY TEAMS

Want to learn even more about our mission partners and build meaningful relationships with them? Consider joining a Local or Global Mission Care Team! Throughout the year, these teams of lay people encourage, pray for, and come alongside our mission partners in a variety of ways. Or, join our Missions Advisory Team to help strategize and discern how we partner with our mission partners. To learn more, contact our Missions Team at **missions@cpcedina.org**.

LOAVES & FISHES

Since the 1980s, CPC has partnered with Loaves & Fishes to prepare and serve warm, homemade meals to our neighbors in need. For many years, CPC volunteers gathered in Fellowship Hall to cook meals before delivering them to a Loaves & Fishes site in Minneapolis. While the locations and the way we serve have changed over the years, our partnership has remained strong.

Today, CPC serves with Loaves & Fishes on the first and third Fridays of each month in Bloomington. We invite you to join us in this tangible way of serving our neighbors, whether you come for a single Friday or make it a regular part of your rhythm of serving. Last year, CPC volunteers prepared and provided more than 2,200 meals to 708 neighbors! Learn more on CPC's website or contact our Missions Team at **missions@cpcedina.org**.

Act justly, love mercy,

WALK HUMBLY.

-MICAH 6:8



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Church

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