

From **Intention** to Impact:

The State of Impact Measurement in Christian Impact Investing and Philanthropy

A groundbreaking study on the state of impact measurement
in Christian impact investing and philanthropy.

Executive Summary

The Christian impact ecosystem represents \$100 billion in faith-driven investment strategies globally¹ and over \$800 billion in annual Christian giving², yet a critical question remains: How do we measure what truly matters? This report, based on 90+ interviews with funds, foundations, businesses, accelerators, charities, and advisors, reveals both the challenges and opportunities in Kingdom impact measurement—across both investing and philanthropy.

The opportunity is massive: Christian church members hold an estimated \$22.4 trillion in public market investments³, yet only a fraction actively seeks Kingdom-aligned strategies. Meanwhile, foundations and donors struggle to track whether their giving creates lasting transformation. With 88% of Christians with investable assets wanting values-aligned investments⁴, and funders increasingly asking grantees to demonstrate outcomes, the demand for credible impact measurement has never been more urgent.

This comprehensive study, based on 90+ interviews with leaders across the Christian impact ecosystem, reveals both sobering realities and exciting opportunities for transformation.

Market Scale



\$100 billion

Current Christian impact investments globally



40 new funds

Launched in the last 5-10 years



\$557 billion

Given in charitable donations from Christians annually in the U.S. alone²

Measurement Reality

67%

of interviewees cited **lack of standardized metrics** - "Each foundation has own reporting and that can be exhausting" (International Charity)

50%

of interviewees mentioned **resource constraints** as a major challenge

45%

of interviewees identified **data collection burden** as a key obstacle

40%

of interviewees **struggle to connect measurement to decision-making**

Demand Signals

88%

of Christian investors **want values-aligned investments³**

84%

of faith-driven investors **expect regular impact reporting⁴**

88%

would change advisors to **access Kingdom-aligned investments³**

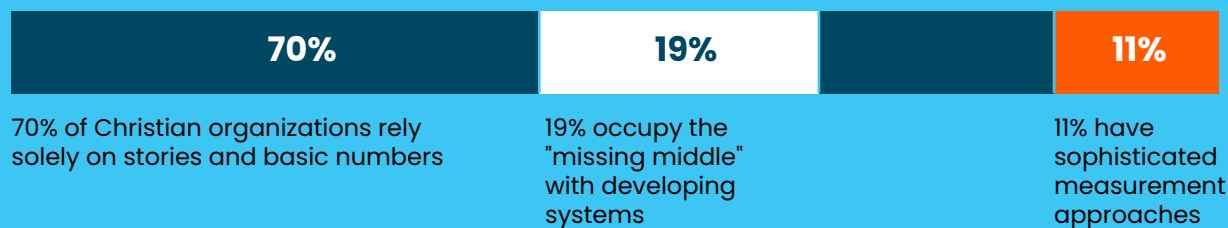
¹ Pragma Advisors. "Investment Market Study: Sources of Capital for Frontier and Emerging Markets." 2024.

² Johnson, Todd M., Gina A. Zurlo, and Peter F. Crossing. "Status of Global Christianity, 2024, in the Context of 1900-2050." Center for the Study of Global Christianity, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, 2024. <https://www.gordonconwell.edu/center-for-global-christianity/resources/status-of-global-christianity/>

³ Kingdom Advisors. "Report on the Christian Financial Industry 2025." Kingdom Advisors, 2025.

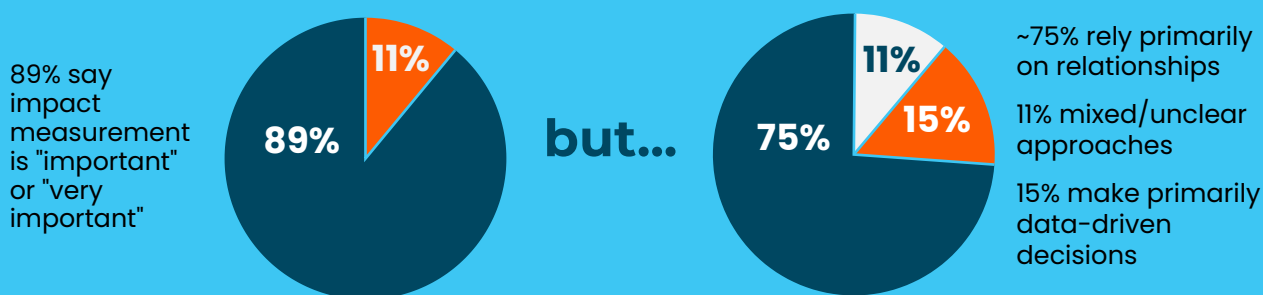
⁴ Eventide Asset Management. "Eventide Christian Investors Survey." October 31, 2024.

The Measurement Maturity Gap



Organizations cluster at opposite ends of the spectrum: **70% rely on basic anecdotal evidence, 19% occupy the 'missing middle' with developing systems, while only 11% have sophisticated measurement approaches.** The practical middle ground remains underpopulated, leaving most organizations without actionable measurement approaches.

The Trust Paradox



While 89% of faith-driven investors say impact measurement is "very important," fewer than 20% actually make decisions based primarily on data. "We fund people, not programs" remains the dominant philosophy, creating both strength and vulnerability in the ecosystem.

The Integration Challenge

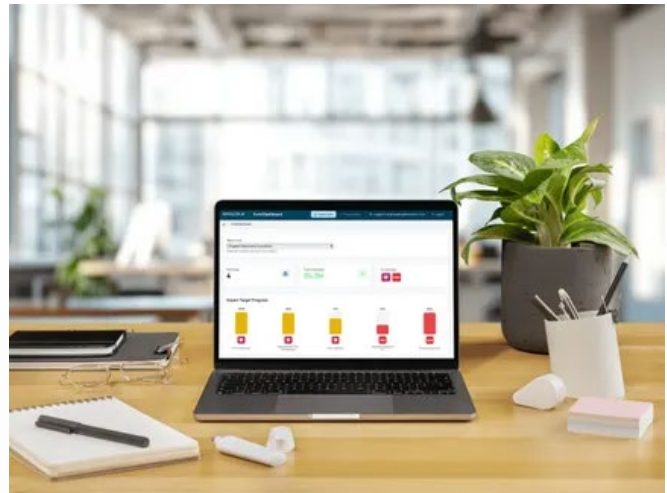
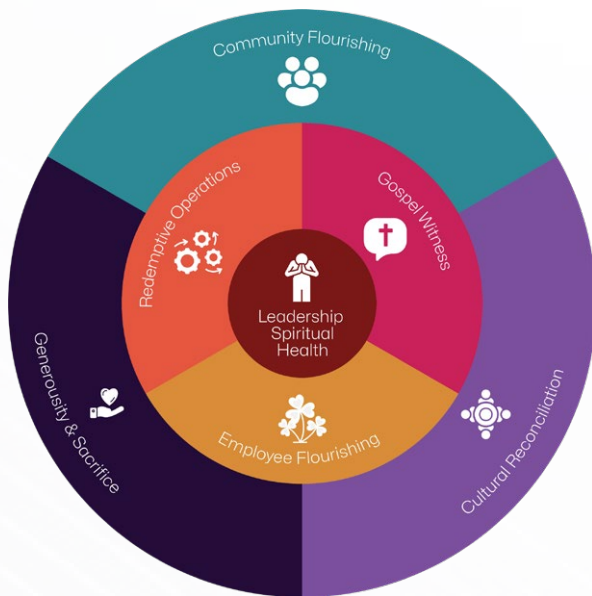


Few have successfully integrated spiritual metrics throughout operations

Spiritual impact remains disconnected from business and social metrics in most organizations. Current approaches treat spiritual outcomes as add-ons rather than integrated elements of holistic transformation.

Three Critical Opportunities for Transformation:

1. **Common Language:** The Christian Impact Framework (CIF) offers standardized metrics while honoring diverse contexts
2. **Practical Tools:** Solutions like the Apollos platform provide accessible dashboards bridging the measurement gap
3. **Collaborative Learning:** Emerging communities of practice enable shared wisdom across stakeholders



First Step' Recommendations by Stakeholder Group:

- **Funds:** Start with 3-5 portfolio-wide indicators while inviting company-specific metrics; invest in founder-friendly tools
- **Foundations:** Build grantee measurement capacity; standardize core questions
- **Businesses:** Integrate a few spiritual metrics into operations that align with your business model; join learning cohorts
- **Charities:** Focus on defining outcomes in your theory of change and finding right-fit approaches to capture these
- **Accelerators:** Embed measurement in program design from day one
- **Advisors:** Develop Kingdom impact expertise; curate resource libraries

The time is ripe for transformation. With emerging frameworks, practical tools, and growing collaboration, the Christian impact ecosystem stands ready to move from intention to measurable, Kingdom-advancing impact.

Endorsements

I wholeheartedly recommend this report as a strategic and much-needed contribution to the global Kingdom impact conversation. Across Europe, we are witnessing growing momentum for values-aligned investing and more intentional generosity, yet this report clearly exposes the measurement maturity gap and the pressing need for shared language. I particularly value its thoughtful integration of spiritual, social, and financial dimensions — offering a holistic vision of Kingdom impact.

Dusan Drabina – Generosity Path Regional Director for Europe; TrustBridge Global Foundation European development

In our community of Christian philanthropic leaders, one of the most persistent questions is whether our generosity is truly achieving the impact we intend. The State of Christian Impact names the gap between aspiration and practice with clarity and offers a thoughtful, practical framework to help our sector steward resources with greater faithfulness and effectiveness.

Steven Mayer – Executive Director at Professionals in Christian Philanthropy

Kingdom impact is bringing what's been lacking for a long time—an objective framework to learn and deepen spiritual impact. This isn't about an ultimate judgement on an organization but about better accountability and stewardship.

Greg Spencer – CEO & Co-Founder at Common Good Marketplace

It has been said, “what gets measured, gets done.” This report will help Christ-followers steward their resources and businesses towards greater impact, bringing glory to God and flourishing to our world.

Dana Wichterman – Advisor at Impact Foundation, co-author of *Stewards, Not Owners*, and angel investor

As demand for faith-based investing grows, the development of an increasing ability to articulate and validate claims of spiritual and social impact is essential. This report outlines a blueprint for what it will take to develop clarity and consistency while recognizing the distinction between our responsibility for faithfulness and God's role in fruitfulness.

Tim Macready – Head of Global Advisory at Brightlight

James Waters has produced a seminal study that imagines what Christian charities, non-profits, businesses and investment organizations, desiring to produce Kingdom Impact, would look like if they had a common understanding of what Kingdom Impact means and how to measure it. This study not only imagines it, but backs it up with theological perspectives, data, analysis, and “on the ground experience”. A great read with encouraging action points.

Jan Kupecz – Executive Director at Canadian National Christian Foundation (CNCF)

This study is breathtaking in its scope, packed with evidence and rigorous research that back up the information it presents, and convicting in its content. It provides not only an assessment of the current state of Christian impact measurement across sectors and actors, but also key guidance for Christian investors, businesses, nonprofits, and foundations on the latest thinking around Christian holistic measurement tools and resources available, including those for spiritual metrics. A must-read for all those who seek to faithfully steward the resources that God has provided!

David Bronkema – Professor of Business and Leadership at Eastern University

Resources and Further Reading

Foundational Texts

- "The Steward Investor" by Donald Simmons
- "Business as Mission" by Mats Tunehag
- "When Helping Hurts" by Corbett & Fikkert
- "Kingdom Calling" by Amy Sherman
- "The Call" by Os Guinness
- Christians in an Age of Wealth: A Biblical Theology of Stewardship, by Craig Blomberg.
- Living at the Crossroads: An Introduction to Christian Worldview, by Craig Bartholemew & Michael Goheen.
- Mensuram Bonam, Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

Market Research & Analysis

- Pragma Investment Market Study: "Sources of Capital for Frontier and Emerging Markets"
- Kingdom Advisors: "Report on the Christian Financial Industry 2025"
- Impact Foundation studies on philanthropic effectiveness

Measurement Specific

- IRIS+ System Guidance (iris.thegiin.org)
- "The Goldilocks Challenge" by Mary Kay Gugerty & Dean Karlan (2018)
- "Mission and Metrics" by Peter Greer, David Weekley, and Missy Williams (forthcoming 2026) - Accessible practitioner guide to nonprofit monitoring and evaluation
- Impact Frontiers resources and the Impact Reporting Norms: <https://impactfrontiers.org/> and <https://impactreporting.org/>

Theological Foundations

- "Creation Regained" by Albert Wolters
- "The Mission of God" by Christopher Wright
- "Generous Justice" by Timothy Keller
- "The Economics of Honor" by Roelf Haan
- Center for Faith + Work theology papers

Practical Tools

- Apollos Impact Dashboard (kingdomimpact.co.uk/apollos)
- Sopact Theory of Change builder
- GlobalGiving project reports
- B Analytics platform
- 60 Decibels Lean Data tools Leonardo Impact
- Leonardo Impact

Networks and Communities

- Faith Driven Investor (faithdriveninvestor.org)
- KIF Spiritual Impact Learning Community
- Accord Research Alliance
- Christian Impact Framework community
- Business as Mission Global (bamglobal.org)
- Praxis (praxis.org)
- Christian Economic Forum
- Kingdom Advisors (kingdomadvisors.com)
- Redemptive Real Estate

Glossary of Key Terms

Apollos Dashboard:

Kingdom Impact's measurement platform designed specifically for faith-driven organizations

Attribution:

Determining which outcomes can be credited to specific interventions versus other factors

BAM (Business as Mission):

Using business as vehicle for holistic transformation and Gospel witness

Beneficiary Voice:

Direct input from those served by programs about their experience and outcomes

CIF (Christian Impact Framework):

Standardized framework for measuring Kingdom impact across six dimensions

CKA (Certified Kingdom Advisor):

Designation for financial advisors trained in faith-aligned financial planning

Christian Impact Fund:

For purposes of this report, an investment vehicle that (1) explicitly integrates Christian faith values into investment criteria, (2) seeks both financial returns and measurable Kingdom impact, and (3) is led by or accountable to Christians seeking to steward capital for God's purposes

Impact:

Long-term, sustainable change in lives and communities, distinct from outputs or outcomes

Kingdom Impact:

Transformation aligned with God's purposes including spiritual, social, economic, and environmental dimensions

IRIS+:

Impact measurement system developed by GIIN (Global Impact Investing Network)

Lean Data:

Low-cost, technology-enabled approaches to gathering impact data

Logic Model:

Visual representation connecting inputs → activities → outputs → outcomes → impact

Measurement Maturity:

Organization's sophistication level in impact measurement practices

Outputs:

Direct products of activities (e.g., trainings delivered, loans distributed)

Outcomes:

Changes resulting from outputs (e.g., increased income, improved health)

Theory of Change:

Comprehensive description of how and why desired change is expected to happen, connecting activities to ultimate impact

Trust Paradox:

Simultaneous belief in importance of measurement and practice of decision-making based on relationships

About Kingdom Impact and the Author

Kingdom Impact is a pioneering organization dedicated to measuring and growing the Kingdom impact of organizations worldwide. Through innovative tools like the Apollos Impact Dashboard and initiatives like the Christian Impact Framework, Kingdom Impact serves faith-driven investors, foundations, businesses, and nonprofits in their journey from intention to measurable impact.

Founded on the belief that faithful stewardship requires thoughtful measurement, Kingdom Impact provides:

- Accessible measurement tools designed for faith-driven organization
- Training and capacity building in Kingdom impact measurement
- Research and thought leadership advancing the field
- Convening spaces for collaborative learning

About the Research Team

This report was produced by Kingdom Impact's research team in collaboration with partners across the global Christian impact ecosystem. Special thanks to the 90+ leaders who generously shared their experiences, challenges, and dreams for Kingdom impact measurement.

Contact Information

To learn more about Kingdom Impact's work, explore the Apollos Dashboard, or engage with the Christian Impact Framework:

Website: www.kingdomimpact.co.uk

Email: info@kingdomimpact.co.uk

Apollos Dashboard:
www.kingdomimpact.co.uk/apollos

Christian Impact Framework:
www.linkedin.com/company/christian-impact-framework-project

Join the Movement

The journey from intention to impact requires collective effort. We invite you to:

- Participate in CIF workshops
- Pilot the Apollos Dashboard with your organization
- Join measurement learning communities
- Share your impact measurement innovations
- Partner in advancing Kingdom impact measurement

Together, we can ensure that the billions in Christian capital truly advance God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
- Galatians 6:9

May this report inspire and equip you for faithful, measured, Kingdom-advancing stewardship of all God has entrusted to you.

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2. Johnson, Todd M., Gina A. Zurlo, and Peter F. Crossing. "Status of Global Christianity, 2024, in the Context of 1900–2050." Center for the Study of Global Christianity, Gordon–Conwell Theological Seminary, 2024.
3. Kingdom Advisors. "Report on the Christian Financial Industry 2025." Kingdom Advisors, 2025.
4. Eventide Asset Management. "Eventide Christian Investors Survey." October 31, 2024.
5. This is the total of global Christian philanthropy that goes beyond local church giving plus Christian impact investing globally.
6. Giving USA Foundation. Giving USA 2025: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2024. Chicago: Giving USA Foundation, 2025.
7. National Christian Foundation. "2024 Annual Report." NCF, 2025.
8. Here we are referring to investment capital seeking financial returns, even if concessionary, rather than charitable grants.
9. Christian Impact Fund: An investment vehicle that (1) explicitly integrates Christian faith values into investment criteria, (2) seeks both financial returns and measurable Kingdom impact, and (3) is led by or accountable to Christians seeking to steward capital for God's purposes.
10. Center for the Study of Global Christianity, Gordon–Conwell Theological Seminary. Based on Association of Certified Fraud Examiners methodology. See Johnson, Todd M. "Tracking \$62 Billion in Ecclesiastical Crime." International Bulletin of Mission Research 47, no. 1 (January 2023).
11. Bloomberg Intelligence. "Global ESG Assets Predicted to Hit \$40 Trillion by 2030." 2024.
12. Eccles, Robert G., and Svetlana Klimenko. "It's Time to Change How ESG Is Measured." Harvard Business Review, July 2024.
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18. We acknowledge that relational assessment—evaluating leader character, organizational health, and strategic alignment—constitutes valuable data. However, this report distinguishes between organizational capacity assessment (often relationship-based) and external impact measurement (transformation in beneficiaries' lives). The Trust Paradox describes the gap between stated importance of the latter and its minimal role in actual decision-making.
19. Hoksbergen, Roland. "Approaches to Evaluation of Development Interventions: The Importance of World and Life Views." World Development 14, no. 2 (1986): 283–300.
20. Business as Mission Global Think Tank. "How Are We Doing? Measuring the Impact and Performance of BAM Businesses." May 2014.
21. Chalmers Center. "Christian Ministry Design Principles." 2024.

Note on Interview Statistics: Percentages derived from interviews represent a systematic analysis of 87 interviews conducted between January and June 2024, with an additional **10+ validation and follow-up conversations** extending through January 2025. Organizations were classified as 'Basic' if they relied primarily on anecdotes and basic output tracking, 'Intermediate' if they had established survey systems or regular data collection processes, and 'Advanced' if they employed third-party validation, sophisticated frameworks, or comprehensive measurement systems.



Part I:

The Landscape



1.

Introduction

– Who This is For & The Kingdom Impact Imperative

The \$260 billion¹ question facing Christian impact investors and donors isn't whether to invest for Kingdom purposes—it's how to know if those investments are actually advancing God's Kingdom. As stewards of resources entrusted to us, we bear responsibility not just for financial returns but for eternal impact. Yet our research reveals a troubling gap: while the desire for impact measurement is nearly universal, practical implementation remains elusive for most.

This report emerges from 90+ in-depth interviews conducted over 18 months with leaders across the Christian impact ecosystem. We spoke with fund managers overseeing billions in assets, foundation executives distributing millions in grants, business owners integrating faith and work, charity leaders serving vulnerable communities, accelerator directors nurturing Kingdom entrepreneurs, and advisors guiding faithful stewardship.

Why This Report, Why Now

Three converging factors make this moment critical for advancing impact measurement:

- Growing Sophistication: Christian donors and investors increasingly expect accountability beyond financial returns
- Emerging Standards: Frameworks like the Christian Impact Framework offer common language without compromising context
- Technological Enablement: New tools make meaningful measurement accessible to organizations of all sizes

Who This Report Is For:

- Impact fund managers seeking to demonstrate holistic returns to investors while supporting portfolio companies
- Foundation leaders wanting to understand the true effectiveness of their grant-making and compare outcomes across diverse portfolios
- Business executives integrating Kingdom values into operations and needing to track spiritual alongside financial metrics
- Charity directors needing to satisfy donor expectations while maintaining focus on transformational mission
- Accelerator programs developing measurement frameworks that serve entrepreneurs without burdening them
- Advisors helping clients align investments with faith values and assess Kingdom impact

¹ This is the total of global Christian philanthropy that goes beyond local church giving plus Christian impact investing globally.

How to Use This Report

Each section includes specific insights for different stakeholder groups. Look for practical tools, case studies, and action steps relevant to your context. The report builds from landscape analysis through current challenges to emerging solutions and concrete next steps.

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the generous participation of 90+ leaders across the Christian impact ecosystem who shared their experiences, challenges, and dreams for Kingdom impact measurement. While maintaining anonymity as promised, we deeply appreciate the time and wisdom each contributed to this research.

This report has also benefited greatly from the insights and careful review of several colleagues across the Christian impact ecosystem. We are particularly grateful to Tim Macready, Endel Liias and David Bronkema, whose thoughtful feedback strengthened both the theological grounding and practical relevance of this work. Any remaining errors or oversights are, of course, our own.

Special thanks to [AIM Partners](#) (Aslan is Moving) for their support in making this comprehensive study possible.

Methodology Note

Our research included:

- 90+ semi-structured interviews (45–90 minutes each)
- Analysis of dozens of impact reports and measurement frameworks
- Review of secular best practices and academic literature
- Participation in sector convenings and workshops
- Testing of emerging tools and frameworks with practitioners

Interviews were conducted under Chatham House rules to encourage candor. Organizations are named only when sharing positive examples with permission.

The findings in this report align with the conclusions of a forthcoming practitioner guide, *Mission and Metrics* (Greer, Weekley & Williams, forthcoming), which draws on the authors' combined decades of experience across nonprofit leadership and strategic philanthropy. Their work independently validates several of our core findings, including the measurement maturity gap and what they term the dual imperative of "*proving and improving*" impact. They note that "*only 3% of American givers even claim to have done any research comparing the effectiveness of various nonprofits*"—a statistic that underscores the donor-side dimension of the challenge we identify.

2.

The Rising Tide: Growth and Evolution of Christian Impact Capital

The landscape of Christian capital deployment has transformed dramatically over the past decade. What began as isolated efforts by pioneering investors has evolved into a significant ecosystem spanning both traditional philanthropy and emerging impact investment strategies.

The Scale of Christian Capital

The numbers reveal an ecosystem of enormous scale but uneven deployment:

Traditional Giving Dominates

- **Global Christian giving: \$800–900 billion annually³**
 - **82% (\$735 billion) remains within local church operations** for salaries, buildings, and programs
 - Only **5.8% (\$52 billion) reaches global missions and development work**
- **U.S. religious giving: \$146.5 billion in 2024⁶**, representing 23% of all U.S. charitable giving
 - Christians account for **85–95% of religious giving** in the United States
 - Religious giving has declined dramatically from **62–63% of U.S. philanthropy in the early 1980s** to just 23% today
 - Major intermediaries like the **National Christian Foundation** channel approximately **\$2.1 billion annually**

Investment Capital Remains Largely Untapped

- **\$22.4 trillion held in public market investments by Christian church members in the U.S. alone⁴**
- Total faith-aligned investment capital is hard to pin down, but estimates suggest:
 - \$100bn+ in Christian public mutual funds & ETFs
 - \$100–400bn in separately managed account (SMA) strategies
 - \$50–200bn in Christian real estate strategies

Yet only \$100 billion in faith-driven private market investment strategies globally
— less than 0.5% of Christian-held capital¹²

And of that, the Pragma study identifies just **\$3 billion** flowing through 40+ organizations frontier markets – a fraction of what's needed given the material and spiritual poverty in these regions

⁶ Giving USA Foundation. Giving USA 2025: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2024. Chicago: Giving USA Foundation, 2025. Researched and written by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

⁷ National Christian Foundation. "2024 Annual Report." NCF, 2025. <https://www.ncfgiving.com/>

⁸ Here we are referring to investment capital seeking financial returns, even if concessionary, rather than charitable grants.

This stark gap between the \$22.4 trillion in Christian-held investments and the \$100 billion deployed through faith-driven strategies highlights both the massive opportunity and the critical need for robust impact measurement to build investor confidence and demonstrate effectiveness.

Rapid Growth in Faith-Driven Investing

Despite representing a small fraction of overall Christian capital, the impact investing segment shows remarkable momentum:

- **50+ Christian impact funds⁹ actively deploying capital**, up from fewer than 10 in 2010
- **140% growth in faith-based investment strategies** over the past five years
- Increasing sophistication in both financial structuring and impact measurement approaches
- Growing ecosystem of support organizations including accelerators, advisors, and networks

The Challenge of Effectiveness

The scale of Christian capital reveals troubling inefficiencies that underscore the urgency for better measurement and accountability:

- **\$62–86 billion lost to church embezzlement annually worldwide** — exceeding the entire global spend on foreign missions (\$55 billion)¹⁰
- Declining donor confidence reflected in religious giving's shrinking share of total U.S. philanthropy
- Limited evidence of systematic impact measurement across the vast majority of Christian organizations

This landscape—characterized by enormous scale, concentrated allocation patterns, emerging innovation, and persistent accountability gaps—sets the stage for understanding why impact measurement has become not merely helpful but essential for the future of Christian capital deployment.

Christian Impact Ecosystem Growth

Christian Impact Funds



Christian Giving Infrastructure



⁹ Christian Impact Fund: For purposes of this report, an investment vehicle that (1) explicitly integrates Christian faith values into investment criteria, (2) seeks both financial returns and measurable Kingdom impact, and (3) is led by or accountable to Christians seeking to steward capital for God's purposes.

¹⁰ Source: Center for the Study of Global Christianity, Gordon-Conwell

Infrastructure Development

The ecosystem benefits from growing institutional support. Firstly on the for-profit side:

- **25+ major financial firms** now support faith-based advisor communities, including LPL Financial (22,000 advisors), Ameriprise (1,200+), Morgan Stanley (400+), Raymond James (500+), and Edward Jones (135+)³
- **3,800+ Kingdom Advisors members** including 1,750+ Certified Kingdom Advisors® (CKA) Firms like LPL Financial and Morgan Stanley have launched dedicated faith-based investment models
- **60,000 people annually** seeking faith-aligned financial advisors², with **5,000+ advisors** in faith-based communities across major firms managing \$50–100M each in client assets
- **Educational institutions increasingly integrate Kingdom perspectives** into financial planning curricula
- **World Council of Churches (WCC):** The WCC (352 member churches, 500+ million Christians) has championed economic justice since 1948 — pioneering church divestment campaigns, founding Oikocredit (1975), and coordinating ecumenical advocacy on sustainable finance through ACT Alliance and the Ecumenical Panel on a New Financial and Economic Architecture.
- **From the Catholic Church:** The Vatican has convened three major conferences on impact investing since 2014, with Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'* (2015) catalysing Catholic institutional engagement. The Catholic Impact Investing Collaborative (CIIC) now coordinates pledges from institutions with \$40B+ in combined assets, while the 2022 Mensuram Bonam document provides faith-consistent investment guidelines aligned with Catholic Social Teaching.

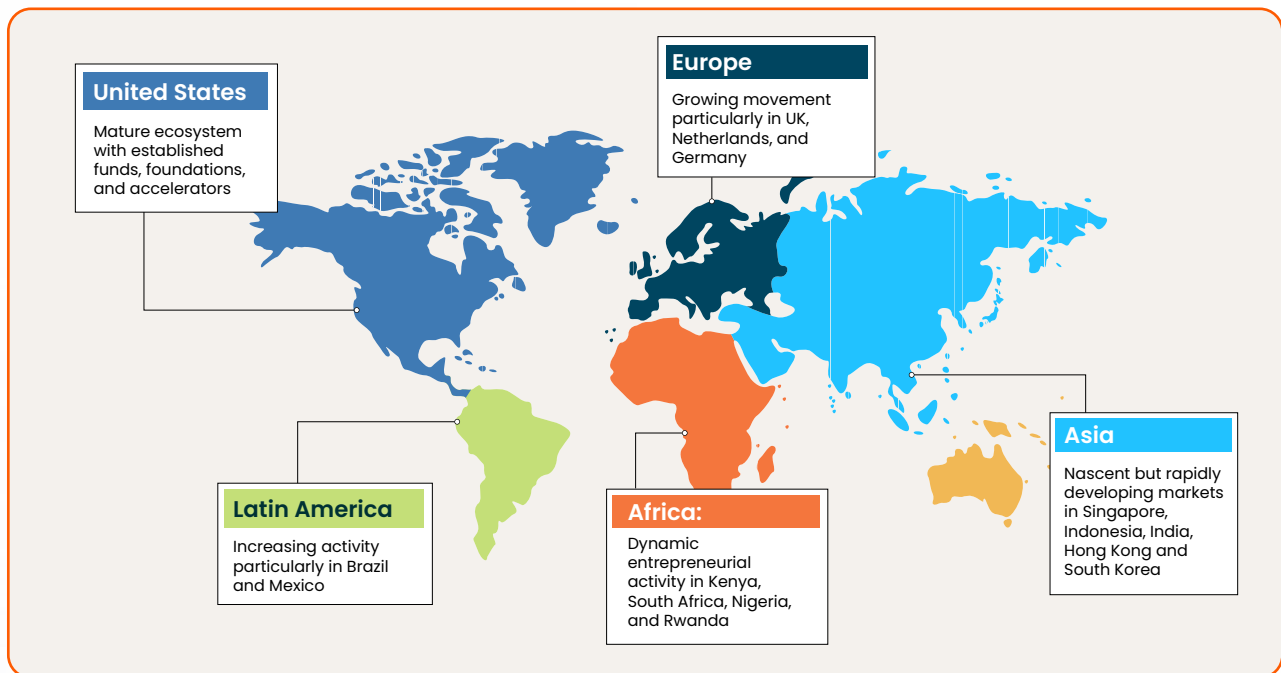
Meanwhile, on the non-profit/charitable side of the ecosystem:

- **Peer networks:** Accord Network connects 165+ Christ-centered relief and development organizations (\$6B+ combined revenue) for shared learning and coordinated response, including on impact measurement (e.g. the KIF Spiritual Impact Learning Community)
- **Microfinance infrastructure:** Oikocredit (~€1B deployed across 62 countries) and HOPE International's Microfinance Accelerator Program provide capital and capacity building to Christian MFIs globally.
- **Capacity building:** The Chalmers Center has equipped thousands of churches and nonprofits with poverty alleviation frameworks through training programs built on "When Helping Hurts" principles.
- **Collaborative giving vehicles:** Initiatives like SWGP Collaborative Giving Funds bring pooled resources, professional diligence, and donor community to cause-specific Christian philanthropy.
- **Capital deployment platforms:** NCF (\$2.6B channeled in 2024), TrustBridge Global, and similar vehicles help donors and foundations deploy charitable capital strategically across the Christian ecosystem.

This infrastructure creates a significant opportunity for standardized impact measurement adoption.

Geographic Distribution

While the United States dominates with over 70% of Christian impact capital, emerging hubs are developing globally:



Notably, Pragma Advisors' study of faith-driven private market funds reveals a striking allocation gap: of the \$3+ billion they surveyed in funds with frontier market exposure, less than 4% (\$100+ million) intentionally prioritises regions in North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. When viewed against Brightlight's estimate of \$100 billion in total faith-driven investment strategies, this suggests that less than 0.1% of the broader faith-driven investment universe targets these frontier regions — home to 5 billion people, 90% of whom do not identify as followers of Jesus. **These regions, despite housing two-thirds of the world's population and 400 million living below the extreme poverty line (\$2.15/day), attract less than 10% of global private investment⁴.** For every \$100,000 earned in these regions, only \$1.83 is given to spiritual needs⁴, highlighting massive opportunity in frontier markets where both economic and spiritual needs are greatest.

Stakeholder Ecosystem

Our research identified six primary stakeholder groups, each playing crucial roles: (percentages are from the interviews conducted)

1. **Impact Funds (20% of interviewees):** Managing capital from multiple investors for Kingdom-aligned businesses
2. **Foundations (18%):** Deploying charitable capital for transformational purposes
3. **Businesses (25%):** For-profit enterprises integrating faith values throughout operations
4. **Charities (15%):** Nonprofit organizations serving vulnerable populations
5. **Accelerators/Incubators (12%):** Programs nurturing faith-driven entrepreneurs
6. **Advisors/Intermediaries (10%):** Professionals guiding Kingdom-minded capital allocation

The Demand Signal

Multiple forces are driving increased focus on impact measurement:

- **External Accountability:** Investors, donors, and boards increasingly demand robust impact reporting
- **Investor Expectations:** 84% of faith-driven investors want regular impact reporting⁵
- **Generational Shift:** Millennials and Gen Z demand transparency and measurable outcomes
- **Learning & Improvement:** Organizations want to understand effectiveness and adapt programs based on evidence
- **Regulatory Environment:** Growing reporting requirements creating infrastructure applicable to faith-based investing – however currently this seems to affect the Christian impact space minimally
- **Competitive Pressure:** Secular impact investing setting standards Christian investors should be aware of – but currently there appears to be little competitive pressure felt within the Christian ecosystem

"The days of simply trusting that our investments are doing good are over," shared one foundation executive. "Our board wants data, our donors expect evidence, and frankly, faithful stewardship demands we know our actual impact."



3.

Faith at the Frontier: What Makes Kingdom Impact Distinctive

The secular impact movement has made significant progress in standardizing how we measure social and environmental outcomes. The [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) provide 17 goals and 169 targets adopted by all UN member states. The [IRIS+ system](#) offers over 600 standardized metrics used by impact investors globally. ESG (Environment, Social & Governance) frameworks have channeled over \$30 trillion into more responsible investing¹¹ (Bloomberg Intelligence, 2024), even as debates continue about their effectiveness.¹²

Even the most comprehensive secular frameworks for human flourishing, such as [Harvard's pioneering research on human flourishing](#) across multiple dimensions, understandably operate within universal assumptions. The recent [KIF Learning Community](#) symposium highlighted how a Christ-centered understanding of human flourishing fundamentally differs — recognizing humans as created in God's image, designed for relationship with their Creator, and finding ultimate purpose in glorifying God. This spiritual dimension isn't merely additional to wellbeing; it transforms how we understand and measure all other dimensions.

These frameworks provide valuable structure for measuring impact outcomes on society, yet they exclude spiritual dimensions of human flourishing. This gap isn't merely academic — it reflects fundamentally different understandings of what constitutes true transformation.

The Four-Bottom-Line Framework

While secular approaches typically focus on three dimensions (profit, people, planet), a “Kingdom impact” approach encompasses four interconnected areas:

- **Financial:** Sustainable operations and appropriate returns
- **Social:** Human flourishing, dignity, justice, and community transformation
- **Environmental:** Creation care and sustainable resource stewardship
- **Spiritual:** Faith development, discipleship, and eternal impact

A Kingdom impact is holistic but also integrated — It recognizes that humans are inherently spiritual beings. Material provision without spiritual nourishment treats only symptoms, not root causes of brokenness.

Another way to frame it is that Kingdom impact encompasses all transformation aligned with God's purposes — including what might be termed Great Commission impact (evangelism, discipleship), Great Commandment impact (loving neighbour through social transformation), and Creation Mandate impact (environmental stewardship). These are not separate categories but integrated expressions of God's redemptive work.

¹¹ Bloomberg Intelligence, 2024
<https://www.bloomberg.com/company/press/global-esg-assets-predicted-to-hit-40-trillion-by-2030-despite-challenging-environment-forecasts-bloomberg-intelligence/>

¹² <https://hbr.org/2024/07/its-time-to-change-how-esg-is-measured>

"We can't separate these dimensions," explained a BAM business owner in Kenya. "When we provide jobs, we're addressing economic needs, building community, caring for creation, and creating contexts for spiritual conversations. It's all integrated."

Importantly, Kingdom impact measurement need not replicate existing secular frameworks and indicators. Many established approaches already address economic, social, and environmental dimensions effectively (For example, the IRIS+ indicators have excellent measurements for job creation.) Rather, what's needed is the integration of the spiritual dimension that transforms all others. This is why frameworks like the Christian Impact Framework (CIF) are designed to complement, not replace, existing standards while adding the distinct Kingdom elements that secular frameworks exclude.

How Faith-Driven Impact Differs: The Kingdom Distinctive

While secular social impact frameworks provide useful structure, Kingdom impact transcends these categories:

1. **Eternal Perspective:** Success measured not just in temporal outcomes but eternal significance
2. **Holistic Human Flourishing:** Recognition that humans are spiritual beings requiring more than material provision
3. **Redemptive Purpose:** Business as vehicle for restoration, not just wealth creation
4. **Covenantal Relationships:** Deep, long-term commitments beyond transactional interactions
5. **Prophetic Witness:** Demonstrating Kingdom values in marketplace contexts

Holistic Transformation: Individual, Community, and Systemic Change

Kingdom impact operates taking into account the need for holistic impact at multiple levels:

- **Individual:** Personal transformation through encounter with Christ and dignified work
- **Household:** Family stability, generational change, and breaking cycles of poverty
- **Community:** Social cohesion, local church strengthening, and cultural renewal
- **Systemic:** Addressing root causes of injustice and modeling Kingdom economics

The Stewardship Imperative

Biblical foundations for measurement emerge from core theological principles:

1. **Wise planning with open hands:** "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps" (Proverbs 16:9)
2. **Accountability:** "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded" (Luke 12:48)
3. **Fruitfulness:** "By their fruit you will recognize them" (Matthew 7:16)
4. **Faithfulness:** "Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:2)
5. **Transparency:** "Everything exposed by the light becomes visible" (Ephesians 5:13)
6. **Excellence:** "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart" (Colossians 3:23)

As established in the Nicene Creed, we believe in "one holy catholic and apostolic Church" working toward God's Kingdom come, "thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." This universal mission demands wisdom in prayerfully planning for and measuring progress toward these eternal purposes, not merely temporal outcomes, guided by these theological principles and an openness to the guidance of the Spirit.



Part II:

Current State Analysis

As per the Methodology note above, the following statistics are derived from a systematic analysis of 76 interviews conducted between January and June 2024 across the Christian impact ecosystem, plus an additional 15 since for validation and case studies. Each interview was coded for explicit statements about the importance of impact measurement and categorized by measurement sophistication based on described practices.



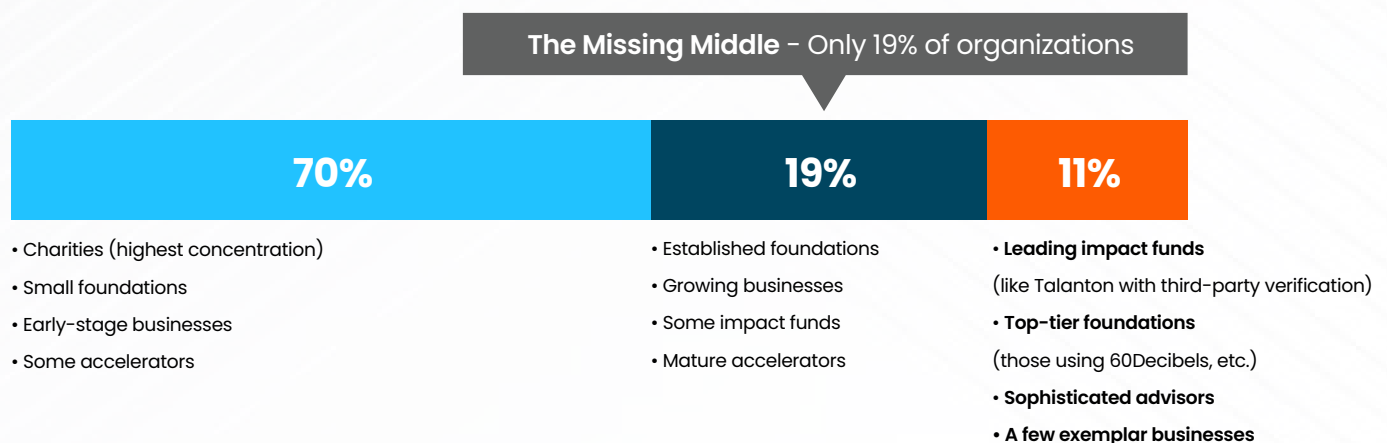
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Between Anecdotes and Analytics: How Impact is Measured Today

The current landscape of impact measurement in Christian organizations reveals a striking paradox: while nearly everyone agrees measurement matters, actual practice varies wildly. Our research uncovered a "measurement maturity gap" that characterizes the sector.

The Measurement Maturity Spectrum

Based on your verified data, here's where stakeholders typically fall:



Quick Reference: The Impact Chain

- Inputs: Resources invested (money, time, people)
- Outputs: Direct products of activities (trainings delivered, loans disbursed)
- Outcomes: Changes in participants' lives (increased income, changed behaviour)
- Impact: Long-term, sustainable transformation attributable to the intervention

Organizations fall into three broad categories:

Basic Level (70% of organizations)

- May have goals and plans, but theory of change not articulated
- Rely primarily on stories and testimonials
- Track activities or simple outputs (people served, dollars distributed)
- Annual reporting focused on activities
- Minimal data infrastructure
- Donor-imposed measurement seen as burden by charities

Intermediate Level (19% of organizations) – The "Missing Middle"

- Some formalised impact planning, but not yet integrated with measurement
- Combination of stories and basic metrics
- Some outcome tracking beyond outputs
- Regular but not systematic data collection
- Excel-based tracking systems
- Measurement informs some decisions

Advanced Level (11% of organizations)

- Comprehensive theory of change
- Regular outcome and impact measurement
- Integrated data systems
- External evaluation and verification
- Measurement drives strategic decisions

The Impact Foundation's 2024 survey validates this distribution, finding that while organizations selected 140 different metrics (including 56 standardized options provided by Impact Foundation), many failed to report actual numbers¹³. Only 21 of 43 investment funds in their survey actively measure impact, and 15 of their pre-set metric options received zero responses, highlighting the gap between measurement intentions and practice.

The Resource Reality

"So many foundations that are one or two people – may have lots of money but low staff so expertise to think about that can be limited," shared a US foundation executive.

This capacity constraint affects measurement in two ways: foundations and funds struggle to analyse impact across their own portfolios, and they rarely fund measurement infrastructure in grantee organisations – creating a cycle where neither party develops robust capabilities.

Resource constraints emerged as a major challenge across interviews, with organizations consistently citing:

- Limited staff capacity for measurement activities
- Prohibitive technology and infrastructure costs
- Donor restrictions preventing overhead spending on evaluation
- Lack of board expertise in impact measurement
- Difficulty accessing technical support and training

These constraints create a vicious cycle where limited resources prevent good measurement, which in turn limits funding opportunities.

Furthermore, the consistency of these challenges points to a collective problem requiring collective solutions. When every organisation struggles with the same gaps independently, the answer isn't 100 separate solutions – it's shared infrastructure: common frameworks, impact standards, and collaborative learning communities.

Current Practices by Stakeholder Type

Our interviews revealed distinct measurement practices by stakeholder type:

Stakeholder	Common Metrics	Tools Used	Frequency	Key Gaps
Foundations 	• Dollars granted • Number of grants • Geographic reach • Compliance reports	• Grant reports • Site visits • Annual surveys • Financial audits	• Quarterly reports • Annual compilation • Ad hoc analysis	• Cross-portfolio comparison • Long-term outcomes • Spiritual metrics • Cost-effectiveness
Impact Funds 	• Jobs created • Revenue growth • Capital deployed • Portfolio survival	• Investor updates • Dashboard tools • Financial models • Impact reports	• Quarterly to LPs • Annual impact report • Deal-by-deal tracking	• End-user voice/feedback • Spiritual integration • Attribution challenges • Depth vs. breadth • Standardized metrics
Businesses 	• Employee satisfaction • Customer metrics • Revenue/profit • Community engagement • Jobs created • Faith conversations	• HR surveys • CRM systems • Financial software • Social media	• Monthly operations • Annual reporting • Sporadic impact	• Kingdom metrics • Holistic integration • External validation • Stakeholder balance
Charities 	• Participants served • Programs delivered • Volunteer hours • Budget efficiency • Poverty indicators	• Program records • Donor database • Excel tracking • Story collection	• Monthly activities • Quarterly donors • Annual report	• Outcome measurement • Robust theory of change • Lasting transformation
Accelerators 	• Companies launched • Survival rates • Capital raised • Jobs created	• Application data • Alumni surveys • Investor reports • Case studies	• Cohort tracking • Annual alumni • Success stories	• Long-term tracking • Spiritual formation • Ecosystem impact • Depth of change

By comparison, the Impact Foundation's 2024 survey validates the measurement maturity gap we identified, finding that only 21 of 43 investment funds actively measure impact despite responding to the survey. While the survey shows movement toward more flexible "menu of metrics" approaches — with respondents able to choose from 56 default metrics plus custom options — this flexibility comes at the cost of standardization and indicator quality control. The result: selected metrics often go unreported, and 15 default metrics received zero responses, suggesting that choice without guidance may not solve the measurement challenge.

Christian philanthropy faces similar limitations. One foundation leader noted: *"Most request a post-grant report - ask about objectives last year and progress on each objective - self reporting a) limited, and b) done by an amateur."* Whether in impact investing or grantmaking, the ecosystem generally lacks the infrastructure to move beyond basic self-reported outputs

Comparison with Secular Best Practices

The Christian impact sector lags behind secular counterparts in several areas:

- **Standardization:**
Secular impact investing benefits from frameworks like IRIS+ and GIIN
- **Technology:**
Major foundations use sophisticated platforms like Salesforce Nonprofit Cloud
- **Financial investment in monitoring & evaluation:**
Industry standards recommend 5-10% of budget for monitoring and evaluation of grants (DCED¹⁴, Kellogg Foundation) though actual industry norm is 3.7%¹⁵; few Christian organisations interviewed aligned to these benchmarks. For impact investing, best practices are 0.25-0.5% of AUM spent on impact management^{16,17},
- **Expertise:**
Dedicated impact measurement roles common in secular space, rare in Christian organizations

¹⁴ DCED Webinar on Measuring Results in Challenge Funds, FAQ #9: <https://www.enterprise-development.org/implementing-the-dced-standard/dced-webinar-measuring-results-challenge-funds/>

¹⁵ The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. (2014). Benchmarks for Spending on Evaluation. Available at: hewlett.org

¹⁶ BlueMark. (2025). Making the Mark VI: Benchmarking Impact Management Practice. BlueMark 2025 Report.

¹⁷ Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN). (2025). State of the Market 2025: Trends, Performance and Allocations. GIIN Report Summary.

Why This Gap Matters

This measurement sophistication gap has real consequences for the Christian impact ecosystem – both philanthropy and impact investing. Without standardized metrics, Christian investors and donors struggle to compare opportunities and make informed allocation decisions. Limited technology adoption means organizations spend disproportionate time on manual data collection rather than analysis and learning. The under-investment in measurement expertise leaves many organizations collecting data they don't understand or act upon. And the lack of accountability means that it becomes difficult to know, beyond intuition, whether capital is making a difference.

Perhaps most critically, this gap undermines the sector's credibility with both secular partners and the next generation of Christian leaders who expect data-informed approaches. When Christian organizations lag behind secular counterparts in demonstrating impact, it reinforces perceptions that faith-based work is less rigorous or effective. This credibility deficit can limit funding opportunities, partnership prospects, and talent attraction.

However, Christian organizations excel in:

- **Relational depth:** Long-term presence and trust in communities
- **Holistic perspective:** Recognition of spiritual dimensions
- **Perseverance:** Commitment through difficult seasons
- **Local integration:** Deep cultural understanding and partnership

This is especially true of Christian charitable organizations, who have a long history of developing best practice in this space, while the Christian impact investing ecosystem is more nascent.

The challenge isn't to abandon these distinctive strengths but to combine them with measurement sophistication that matches the sector's growing scale and ambition.



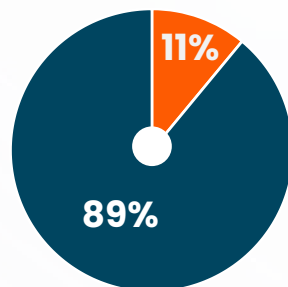
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The Trust Paradox: Relationships Over Reports

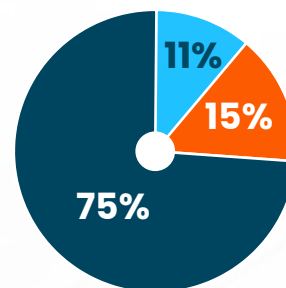
Perhaps no finding emerged more consistently across interviews than what we've termed the "Trust Paradox": the simultaneous belief that measurement is essential and the practice of making decisions based primarily on relationships rather than systematic data.¹⁸ We acknowledge that relational assessment – evaluating leader character, organizational health, and ...

The Numbers Tell the Story

89% say impact measurement is "important" or "very important"



but...



15% make primarily data-driven decisions ~75% rely primarily on relationships 11% mixed/unclear approaches

"We Fund People, Not Programs"

This philosophy, articulated in various forms across dozens of interviews, captures the essence of relationship-first decision-making in Christian philanthropy and investing. As one US foundation leader explained: *"We don't back ministries, we back horses – it's all about the Executive Director. The ministry is never going to be any better than the Executive Director."*

This approach reflects deep-seated convictions in the Christian impact ecosystem:

Theological Foundations:

- Character matters more than competence alone (Proverbs 22:1)
- Discernment of calling requires knowing the person (1 Thessalonians 5:12)
- Long-term Kingdom work requires long-term relationships (Philippians 1:3-6)
- Trust is built through proximity and time, not spreadsheets

Practical Wisdom:

- Track records speak louder than proposals
- Crisis response reveals true character
- Personal knowledge enables flexible support through challenges
- Relationship creates accountability that contracts cannot

¹⁸ We acknowledge that relational assessment – evaluating leader character, organizational health, and strategic alignment – constitutes valuable data. However, this report distinguishes between organizational capacity assessment (often relationship-based) and external impact measurement (transformation in beneficiaries' lives). The Trust Paradox describes the gap between stated importance of the latter and its minimal role in actual decision-making. As one foundation leader noted, grantee impact reports are typically both "self-reporting a) limited, and b) done by amateurs" – suggesting that even when external impact data is collected, its quality and use remain limited.

Historical Context:

This relationship-first approach isn't unique to current Christian philanthropy — it reflects centuries-old patterns of patronage, mentorship, and guild systems. In many ways, it's a return to pre-modern funding models that prioritized relationship over rationalization. Moreover, from a Kingdom perspective, relationships are not merely instrumental to Kingdom work but constitutive of it — part of the transformation being sought, not just a means to assess it (see Hoksbergen, 1986)¹⁹.

This relationship-first approach brings distinct advantages:

Strengths of Relational Funding

- Deep due diligence through personal knowledge
- Flexibility to adapt as circumstances change
- Perseverance through difficult seasons
- Accountability through ongoing relationship
- Wisdom transfer beyond just capital

The Shadow Side

However, our research also revealed significant challenges. As one foundation executive noted, there's a *"high level of sensitivity to not be over reliant on data,"* which can lead to:

- **Bias Risk:** Funding flows through existing networks, potentially excluding worthy organizations
- **Scale Limitations:** Personal relationships don't scale efficiently
- **Succession Challenges:** What happens when key relationships change?
- **Accountability Gaps:** Difficult conversations avoided to preserve relationships
- **Learning Barriers:** Without data, hard to identify what's actually working

Without robust impact data, capital flows to leaders who are compelling rather than necessarily effective. Character matters — but without measurement, we often use confidence as a proxy for competence, and charisma as a substitute for evidence.

Finding Balance

Mature organizations are discovering both/and approaches:

"Relationships give us context for the data, and data gives us accountability in relationships," shared a fund manager. *"We start with trust but verify through measurement."*

Decisions may involve two distinct phases: strategic evaluation (is this the right opportunity?) and confirmatory audit (are the claims accurate?). Relationships excel at the former — assessing leader character, organizational alignment, capacity to deliver. Measurement excels at the latter — verifying outcomes, tracking progress, validating impact claims. The problem isn't that Christian funders use relationships; it's that strategic evaluation rarely incorporates systematic impact evidence, and confirmatory audit rarely goes beyond financial verification. Standardized metrics don't replace relationships — they enhance them by creating shared language for the conversations that matter most.

¹⁹ Hoksbergen, 1986. World Development, 14(2), 283-300.

The Role of Trust in Christian Philanthropy

Trust operates at multiple levels in the Christian ecosystem:

- **Theological:** Trust in God's sovereignty over outcomes
- **Communal:** Shared faith creating presumption of good intent
- **Historical:** Long-term relationships building credibility
- **Cultural:** Honor/shame dynamics in many global contexts
- **Practical:** Resource constraints making formal systems difficult

The challenge isn't replacing trust with measurement but enhancing trust through appropriate accountability. As one advisor noted, *"Good measurement actually builds trust by demonstrating faithful stewardship."*



6.

The Spiritual Measurement Challenge: Quantifying Kingdom Impact

No challenge in impact measurement proves more vexing than capturing spiritual transformation. How do you quantify a changed heart? What metrics capture the movement of the Holy Spirit? These questions surfaced in every single interview, revealing both the centrality and complexity of spiritual impact measurement.

Yet progress is being made. Over the past decade, Kingdom Impact has developed a library of spiritual impact tools, validated assessment instruments for leaders, businesses, and charities, and a comprehensive database of spiritual metrics drawing from leading frameworks globally. The KIF (Kingdom Impact Framework) Participant survey has been psychometrically validated for measuring spiritual vitality across diverse contexts.

Organizations like **Eido Research** have trained over 100 organizations in faith-based impact strategy and evaluation, developing tools ranging from the Impact Strategy Model to comprehensive evaluation frameworks. The **Business as Mission movement** has pioneered thinking on "quadruple bottom line" impact — integrating spiritual outcomes alongside financial, social, and environmental measures—with extensive work on metrics and accountability documented in BAM Global publications²⁰. Major players in the faith-driven investing space are recognizing the urgency, with organizations like **Faith Driven Investor** hiring dedicated impact positions to develop robust measurement approaches. Still, significant challenges remain.

The Integration Problem

Most organizations treating spiritual metrics as add-ons create artificial separation:

Common Approach – Spiritual Metrics in Isolation:

- Number of Bibles distributed
- Church attendance figures
- Conversion statistics
- Prayer meeting attendance
- Baptism counts

²⁰ Business as Mission Global Think Tank: How Are We Doing? Measuring the Impact and Performance of BAM Businesses. <https://www.bamglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/BMTT-IG-Measuring-BAM-Impact-Final-Report-May-2014.pdf>

The Artificial Divide

"We report jobs created to our investors and salvations to our prayer partners," explained one fund manager. "But that's not how transformation works—it's all interconnected."

This separation creates multiple problems:

- Reinforces sacred/secular divide
- Misses integrated transformation
- Satisfies neither audience fully
- Undermines holistic mission
- Reduces spiritual vitality to numbers

Western Assumptions versus Global Realities

The challenge intensifies in cross-cultural settings where Western measurement frameworks often miss how transformation actually occurs. Western approaches emphasize individual decisions, quantifiable outcomes, linear progression models, verbal confessions, and program-based discipleship. Yet global realities reveal communal transformation patterns shaped by honor/shame dynamics, cyclical understandings of growth, demonstration over declaration, and relational discipleship models that resist neat categorization.

As the [KIF Learning Community](#) has discovered through deep dialogue and learning, effective spiritual impact measurement requires deep contextualization – finding indicators that authentically capture transformation within each cultural framework rather than imposing Western categories universally.

"Western metrics miss how the Gospel transforms our communities," shared an Asian business owner. *"One family following Jesus influences the entire village in ways your spreadsheets can't capture."*

Measurement Approaches: From Conversion Counts to Holistic Flourishing

Organizations historically have relied on traditional metrics when it comes to spiritual impact – salvation decisions, Bible study attendance, church planting numbers, Scripture distribution, and evangelistic contacts. While these remain common and helpful to a degree, emerging holistic indicators now include spiritual vitality assessments, community transformation indices, relationship quality measures, Kingdom value integration, flourishing frameworks, and character development tracking. Critically, they also are starting to distinguish between salvation (initial faith decision) and discipleship (ongoing spiritual formation). This shift reflects growing recognition that spiritual transformation encompasses more than individual decisions and requires measurement approaches that capture the full breadth of Christ-centered human flourishing.

Emerging Solutions and Collaborative Frameworks

Promising innovations are emerging from practitioners on the ground. The **KIF Learning Community** brings together organizations dedicated to more robust, holistic measures of Christ-centered human flourishing. Many of these organizations are demonstrating what is possible when you combine robust theories of change, theological rigour, with contextualised indicators. As some of the case studies below capture, these include validated measures of discipleship as well as holistic, Christ-centered measures of human flourishing.

Meanwhile the **Christian Impact Framework (CIF)**, detailed in Section 10, offers a comprehensive approach for funders and investors, as well as the practitioner organizations, seeking common language while honoring diverse contexts.

The recognition of spiritual impact measurement as a distinct discipline is growing across the ecosystem. In their forthcoming practitioner guide *Mission and Metrics*, Greer, Weekley and Williams (forthcoming) emphasise that *"for Christian organizations, spiritual metrics are essential"* while acknowledging the inherent complexity. Their conclusion aligns with this report's findings: that the challenge isn't whether to measure spiritual impact, but how to do so with both theological integrity and methodological rigour. They offer a compelling theological foundation: *"Love always leads to listening. Listening leads to learning. Learning leads to program improvement."* This reframes measurement not as bureaucratic compliance but as an expression of neighbour-love—a posture that transforms data collection into spiritual discipline. Their finding that *"transparency doesn't erode trust—it builds it"* also supports our recommendation that organisations share honest results, including challenges and failures, with their stakeholders.



Theological Foundations for Measurement

The question of whether to measure spiritual impact at all generates considerable debate within Christian circles. Some argue that because transformation is ultimately God's work, attempting to measure it borders on presumption or irreverence. Others contend that spiritual realities are simply too mysterious and complex to capture through metrics. Yet Scripture itself provides clear guidance for spiritual assessment while maintaining appropriate humility about our role in transformation.

1• The Stewardship Imperative. Scripture consistently affirms that those entrusted with resources must give account. "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2) establishes accountability as intrinsic to stewardship. "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded" (Luke 12:48) reinforces this expectation. And the biblical emphasis on wisdom – "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps" (Proverbs 16:9) – affirms that careful planning and assessment honour God, even as we trust Him for outcomes.

2• The Legitimacy of Measuring Fruit. Some worry that measuring spiritual outcomes is presumptuous, but Scripture itself points us toward observable fruit as evidence of genuine Kingdom work. "By their fruit you will recognize them" (Matthew 7:16) suggests that authentic transformation produces observable outcomes – not immediately, but over time. The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13) distinguishes between seed that produces thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold, implying that varied outcomes are both expected and discernible. The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) – widely understood by Bible scholars as addressing stewardship of whatever God entrusts, not merely financial resources – shows the master returning to assess what was produced with what was given. Measuring fruit isn't claiming credit for the harvest; it's attending to what God is doing.

3• The Humility of Co-Laboring. Yet measurement must be held in tension with recognition that "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6). All eternal fruit is ultimately caused by God, not our programs or strategies. As the KIF Learning Community discussion paper on contribution and causation notes, this creates a necessary "tension of humility" – we must evaluate our contribution to Kingdom outcomes while acknowledging that transformation depends on divine work and personal engagement (John 15:5). We are co-laborers with Christ (1 Corinthians 3:9), responsible for faithful evaluation without claiming full causation.

4• The Faithfulness and Fruitfulness Model. This theological tension suggests a both/and approach: ensuring we act in obedience to biblical and best practice principles (faithfulness)²¹, while also assessing the outcomes of faith-driven work (fruitfulness). Understanding how transformation happens – the mechanisms of impact – becomes as important as whether it happens. Christian organizations must balance spiritual humility with practical stewardship, ensuring that while we acknowledge divine sovereignty, we also make evidence-informed decisions. As Scripture reminds us, "By their fruit you will recognize them" (Matthew 7:16), while simultaneously pointing to the Holy Spirit as the source of that fruit (Galatians 5:22-23).

²¹ Chalmers' Center Christian Ministry Design Principles are a great resource for operating according to biblical principles: <https://chalmers.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Ministry-Design-Principles.pdf>

Part III:

Stakeholder Deep Dive – Pain Points and Dream Scenarios



7. Universal Challenges: What Keeps Leaders Up at Night

Across all stakeholder groups, certain challenges emerged with remarkable consistency. These universal pain points reveal systemic issues requiring collaborative solutions. We include challenges mentioned by 40–45% of respondents as some appear disproportionately in specific stakeholder groups (see table above).



1. Difficulty Measuring Spiritual Impact (100% of interviewees)

Without exception, every leader interviewed struggled with spiritual measurement. "How do you quantify or qualify a spiritual journey?" asked an African business leader, capturing a question that surfaced in every single conversation. Even organizations with sophisticated financial and social metrics found spiritual transformation elusive. Yet as another business leader observed, "Spiritual impact measurement and tracking is ripe for disruption" – the challenge is urgent but the opportunity is real.

Common struggles include:

- Reducing mystery to metrics
- Cultural differences in spiritual expression
- Long-term nature of spiritual growth
- Privacy and sensitivity concerns
- Attribution challenges

2. Lack of Standardized Metrics (67%)

The absence of common frameworks emerged as a persistent frustration. "Each foundation has its own reporting and that can be exhausting for a small to medium sized NGO," explained one international charity leader. Organizations cannot compare performance across contexts, limited teams waste resources reinventing measurement approaches, and donors receive inconsistent reporting that creates confusion rather than clarity.

The problem manifests in:

- Inability to compare across organizations
- Teams reinventing measurement approaches
- Donor confusion from inconsistent reporting
- Missed learning opportunities
- Inefficient use of resources

"Need foundation-non-profit agreement of what is important in programming," emphasized one US foundation executive. Without such agreement, the sector continues to fragment, with each funder creating bespoke requirements that overwhelm implementers.

3. Resource Constraints (50%)

Limited resources affect measurement across three critical dimensions:

- **Financial constraints** mean organizations cannot afford sophisticated systems, evaluation consultants, or technology platforms – particularly when donors won't fund "overhead."
- **Human resource limits** leave organizations without dedicated measurement staff or technical expertise, forcing founders and CEOs to wear yet another hat.
- **Time pressures** create impossible trade-offs where measurement competes directly with service delivery, resulting in reactive rather than strategic approaches to evaluating impact, and no time for reflection and learning.

As one US foundation leader observed, "*So many foundations that are one or two people – may have lots of money but low staff so expertise to think about that can be limited.*" This capacity gap affects funders and implementers alike.

4. Data Collection Burden (45%)

The practical challenges of gathering meaningful data consistently emerged across interviews, particularly for organizations serving vulnerable populations in difficult contexts:

- Remote locations with limited connectivity; sometimes literacy barriers
- Cultural resistance to formal surveys
- Power dynamics affecting honest responses
- Survey fatigue

5. Unclear Connection to Decision-Making (40%)

Many organizations collect data without clear purpose:

We have filing cabinets full of reports that no one reads," *admitted one foundation executive.*
"We measure because we're supposed to, not because it drives decisions."

This disconnect manifests in:

- Data collection without analysis
- Reports without recommendations
- Metrics misaligned with strategy
- Information overload
- Lack of feedback loops

The Cumulative Effect

Taken together, these challenges create a reinforcing cycle:

1. Limited resources prevent good measurement
2. Poor measurement limits funding opportunities
3. Reduced funding further constrains resources
4. Frustration leads to measurement avoidance
5. Lack of data perpetuates the cycle

Breaking the Cycle

Leaders who've made progress share common strategies:

- Get clear on the organization's impact strategy or theory of change
- Start simple with "good enough" metrics
- Integrate measurement into operations
- Invest in basic technology infrastructure
- Celebrate small wins to build momentum and learn together as a whole organization

The following sections explore how the ecosystem is responding to these challenges: Section 8 captures stakeholder-specific experiences and aspirations; Section 9 introduces the Christian Impact Framework as emerging common language; Section 10 profiles organizations pioneering measurement innovation; and Sections 11-12 outline the paradigm shifts and practical steps needed to move forward.

8.

Stakeholder Perspectives: Pain Points & Dream Scenarios

While universal challenges affect everyone, each stakeholder group faces unique obstacles shaped by their particular context. Yet when asked to envision ideal measurement, remarkably consistent themes emerged across all groups. (See Section 12 for practical next steps by stakeholder.)

Impact Funds: Balancing Multiple Bottom Lines



Key Pain Points:

- **Impact measurement difficulties (60%):** "Our LPs (Limited Partners) want IRR (Internal Rate of Return), our entrepreneurs need patient capital, and communities need transformation. Measuring all three feels impossible."
- **Data integration challenges (40%):** Aggregating impact across diverse portfolio companies with different models, metrics, and maturity levels
- **Resistance from entrepreneurs (30%):** "Our founders are already overwhelmed. Adding measurement requirements can break the camel's back."

Unique Challenges:

Funds struggle to demonstrate additionality of capital, aggregate impact across diverse portfolio companies with different models and metrics, and balance entrepreneur burden with investor accountability.

Dream Scenario:

A portfolio intelligence platform providing real-time visibility across all investments, with standardised core metrics that don't burden founders. Pattern recognition across the portfolio, automated investor reporting, and the ability to spot where support is needed most.

Foundations: From Activities to Transformation



Key Pain Points:

- **Clarity and communication (67%):** "Our board wants simple metrics, but transformation is complex. How do we communicate nuance?"
- **Tracking and reporting spiritual indicators (50%):** Navigating religious expression restrictions while maintaining Kingdom focus
- **Scalability issues (33%):** Systems that work for large grants overwhelm smaller partners

"Our board wants simple metrics, but transformation is complex. How do we communicate nuance?" — Foundation, US

Unique Challenges:

Power dynamics affecting honest feedback, tracking outcomes beyond grant periods, and comparing across diverse program areas create persistent difficulties. Geographic complexity compounds the challenge, with limited infrastructure and cross-cultural metrics varying by ecosystem stage.

Dream Scenario:

A living library of sector wisdom – cross-foundation data sharing, failure analysis alongside success, cost-effectiveness comparisons, and collaborative learning communities that build the evidence base for the whole field.

Businesses: Integration Without Compromise



Key Pain Points:

- **Lack of standardization (67%):** "Every investor wants different metrics. We need one system that works for operations AND impact."
- **Balancing qualitative vs quantitative (50%):** Pressure for hard numbers while knowing stories convey transformation
- **Theory of change needs (33%):** Connecting daily operations to Kingdom outcomes

Unique Challenges:

Competitive pressures limit transparency, integrating measurement without bureaucracy proves difficult, and protecting proprietary information while demonstrating impact creates tension.

Dream Scenario:

Impact measurement woven into normal business rhythms – CRM systems tracking customer transformation, HR platforms monitoring employee flourishing, supply chain tools measuring partner impact, and financial systems allocating true costs.

Charities: Doing More with Less



Key Pain Points:

- **Resource constraints (50%):** "Our donors barely cover programs. How can we afford evaluation?"
 1. If donors had more evidence of transformation, perhaps it might not be so difficult to cover the costs of programs.
 2. If you had more evidence of transformation, perhaps you might no longer need to fund some of your programs if they're ineffective.
 3. Isn't knowing whether you're making a difference non-negotiable? Why is measurement an optional extra?
- **Changing goals (33%):** Donor priorities shifting faster than programs can adapt
- **Data gaps (33%):** Serving populations where formal data collection is nearly impossible

Unique Challenges:

Resource constraints dominate. Serving populations where formal data collection is nearly impossible, managing multiple funders requiring different reports, and balancing emergency response with systematic measurement create daily trade-offs.

Dream Scenario:

Simple tools that capture transformation stories alongside basic metrics — funded as part of grants rather than squeezed from overhead. Better evidence could ultimately unlock more funding and sharpen strategic focus. Donor portals where supporters experience impact rather than just reading about it. One charity director expressed it vividly: *"I dream of donors experiencing our impact, not just reading about it—virtual reality field visits, beneficiary video updates, real-time prayer requests."*

Accelerators: Building Measurement Culture



Key Pain Points:

- **Perception of workload (50%):** *"Entrepreneurs see measurement as distraction from building their business"*
- **Resource allocation (33%):** Balancing support for current cohorts with tracking alumni
- **Identifying success metrics (33%):** What defines success — survival, scale, or transformation?

Unique Challenges:

"Entrepreneurs see measurement as distraction from building their business." Accelerators struggle with early-stage attribution challenges — how much of an entrepreneur's success came from the program versus other factors? A critical challenge is how to maintain alumni engagement for ongoing data collection long after graduation.

"The primary thing is staying connected to these people and not making it a once-off experience but a relationship that you keep on building." — Accelerator

Dream Scenario:

Longitudinal tracking that follows every entrepreneur's journey for decades, revealing what truly drives long-term success. — both in them as individuals and through the impact of their ventures. Peer benchmarking, pattern recognition for success factors, mentor matching based on data, and ecosystem-wide impact visualisation. Measurement embedded from day one that entrepreneurs see as valuable coaching, not compliance.

Advisors: Confidence Through Complexity



Key Pain Points:

- **Confidence in data (50%):** "How do I know these impact claims are real?"
- **Comparative analysis needs (50%):** Clients want to compare options but no standards exist
- **Due diligence burden (33%):** Each fund requires deep dive into unique metrics

Market Pressure for Values Verification

- 88% of Christian investors want values-aligned investments, but advisors lack tools to verify impact claims³
- 50% of high-net-worth religious investors prioritize advisors who share their values²
- Major firms developing faith-based models require standardized metrics for compliance and marketing
- Without credible impact measurement, advisors risk losing clients who would change firms for better values alignment³

Unique Challenges:

"How do I know these impact claims are real?" Advisors serve as crucial intermediaries, but often lack the standardized information needed to confidently guide client capital toward Kingdom impact. They need to evaluate claims, compare opportunities, and translate complex impact stories for clients with varying sophistication.

Dream Scenario:

A comprehensive platform with standardized impact reporting across funds, due diligence templates, client education resources, impact portfolio tracking tools, and integration with financial planning software. Each advisor influences 50–200 client relationships – equipping even 10% with impact measurement tools could redirect \$25–50 billion toward verified Kingdom impact.

The Advisor Multiplier Effect:

Financial advisors represent a critical leverage point for Kingdom impact measurement adoption. The 5,000+ faith-based advisors at major firms (see Section 2) each influence dozens of client relationships—and with 60,000 individuals annually seeking faith-aligned advice, demand is outpacing supply. As institutional support grows, advisor demand for credible impact data can drive fund-level measurement improvements across the ecosystem. Equipping even a fraction of these advisors with standardised impact tools could transform the sector's approach to accountability, and shift a huge amount of wealth towards measurable Kingdom impact.

Word cloud showing most common dream scenario responses



Common Aspirations Across All Groups

Despite diverse contexts, dream scenarios when it comes to impact measurement and management for the Christian impact ecosystem converge around several principles:

Simple, Integrated Dashboards

- Visual representations over dense tables, mobile-friendly for field access, real-time or near-real-time data, drill-down capability for details, and automated report generation.

Real-Time Intelligence

- Moving from backward-looking reports to forward-looking intelligence with predictive analytics, early warning systems, and actionable recommendations rather than just data.

Balanced Storytelling

- *"Numbers tell us what, stories tell us why,"* explained one director. Organizations want quantitative metrics for scale alongside qualitative insights for depth, video testimonials with statistics, and beneficiary voice prominently featured.

Benchmark Comparisons

- Organizations crave context through sector-specific benchmarks, geographic comparisons, maturity-stage appropriate metrics, best practice identification, and peer learning opportunities.

Notably absent from most dream scenarios was participatory measurement – approaches where those served own and drive the assessment process. This matters because measurement that empowers communities to assess their own transformation aligns with principles of dignity, sustainability, and locally-led development that many Christian organizations espouse.

These shared aspirations – dashboards, benchmarking, real-time intelligence – point toward collective solutions rather than every organization building independently. Shared infrastructure, common frameworks, and collaborative learning communities can provide what individual organizations cannot efficiently develop alone.

Part IV:

Emerging Solutions and Market Opportunities



9.

The Christian Impact Framework Project (CIF): Building Common Language

The Missing Measurement Standard

While robust frameworks exist for social and environmental impact (UN SDGs, IRIS+ metrics), no standardized way exists to measure spiritual impact. This creates the challenges documented throughout this report – inability to verify impact claims, no basis for comparing opportunities, and "faith-washing" where organizations claim Christian identity without demonstrating Kingdom outcomes.

The Christian Impact Framework (CIF) Project addresses this through a collaborative, cross-denominational initiative developing standardized goals, outcomes, and indicators for spiritual impact alongside social transformation. The framework aims to be:

- **Open source and free** – accessible to all, supporting transparency
- **Cross-denominational** – developed through global consultation across Christian traditions
- **Complementary** – works alongside existing frameworks like SDGs and IRIS+
- **Practically validated** – tested with real funds and organizations

From Consultation to Consensus

The framework emerged through extensive global consultation. Phase 1 (2023–2024) established an advisory board, built global practitioner networks, and confirmed eight impact funds to pilot the framework. Initial workshops at the Christian Economic Forum and Belmont University gathered stakeholder input to produce preliminary impact goals.

Phase 2 (2024–2025) expanded consultation globally through in-person workshops in Nairobi, Cape Town, and Quebec, plus online sessions with networks in Germany and across Africa through Ziواني. An online stakeholder consultation gathered additional input, with analysis revealing common themes across diverse Christian traditions and geographies. A pilot focus team on Gospel Witness tested the collaborative development process, establishing the model for subsequent goal areas.

This consultation engaged diverse stakeholders – funds, foundations, businesses, charities, accelerators, and advisors – across multiple continents and Christian traditions, ensuring the framework reflects global Kingdom priorities rather than any single perspective.

The Seven Christian Impact Framework Goals

The CIF defines seven interrelated goals expressing Kingdom transformation:

1. Leadership Spiritual Health

Foster spiritually grounded and character-driven leadership demonstrating accountability, mentoring future leaders, and serving with humility and vision.

Key outcomes: Spiritual & character formation, accountability & transparency, vision and calling, mentorship & discipleship, servant leadership

2. Redemptive Operations

Establish operational practices that integrate spiritual principles, exemplify transparency, and pursue excellence to create redemptive and transformative systems.

Key outcomes: Redemptive practices, spiritual integration, operational excellence & integrity, transparency & accountability, stewardship & resource management

3. Employee Flourishing

Promote holistic employee well-being through fair compensation, opportunities for personal and professional growth, and environments that foster spiritual, mental, and physical health.

Key outcomes: Fair compensation & benefits, employee well-being (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual), professional growth & development, employee ownership & financial empowerment

4. Gospel Witness

Encourage discipleship, spread the gospel, integrate faith into organizational missions, and support church growth and planting.

Key outcomes: Evangelism, Gospel integration, Access to local church, Scripture engagement, Discipleship, Evangelism, Missional multiplication

5. Community Flourishing

Foster holistic community transformation through spiritual vitality, relational cohesion, identity restoration, creation stewardship, and local leadership development that enables communities to flourish according to Kingdom values.

Key outcomes: Spiritual vitality & faith community, relational wellbeing & community cohesion, identity dignity & personal transformation, creation care & vocational stewardship, community capacity & local leadership

6. Generosity & Sacrifice

Cultivate a culture of generosity that prioritizes supporting the vulnerable, sharing resources, and encouraging volunteerism to advance mutual prosperity.

Key outcomes: Increased charitable giving, volunteerism, mutual prosperity & sharing of resources, supporting the vulnerable

7. Cultural Reconciliation

Build unity and justice across cultures by addressing historical injustices, celebrating diversity, and promoting creativity and beauty as reflections of God's Kingdom.

Key outcomes: Promoting unity in diversity, addressing & restoring historical injustices, celebrating cultural differences, fair and just treatment across cultures, creativity & beauty



Moving from Goals to Measurable Indicators

Phase 3 (2025–2026) focuses on translating these goals into practical measurement tools. Focus teams – each comprising 10+ impact practitioners, fund managers, and theologians – are convening for each goal area to co-create detailed outcome statements (definitions) and example indicators for each outcome. These indicators will directly be able to be used by practitioner organizations in their impact measurement and management. The collaborative process ensures indicators are both theologically sound and practically implementable across diverse contexts.

The framework will be tested with multiple impact funds including Talanton, Heron Ventures, Ibex, Verdant, ReFrontier, Fireroad, and Jeremiah Fund. These planned pilots will document implementation processes, surface practical challenges, and validate the framework's utility in real investment decisions. Early interest and usage of the framework from wealth advisors including **Brightlight, WealthSquared, and Eversource**, along with foundations like **Pinetops and Pilgrim**, demonstrates growing demand for standardized Kingdom impact frameworks.

Phase 3 will deliver the complete framework through a public website, comprehensive guidance notes, and case studies demonstrating practical application across different organizational types and contexts. The vision: an open-source, globally **accessible resource** enabling any Christian organization to measure and communicate Kingdom impact with credibility and consistency.

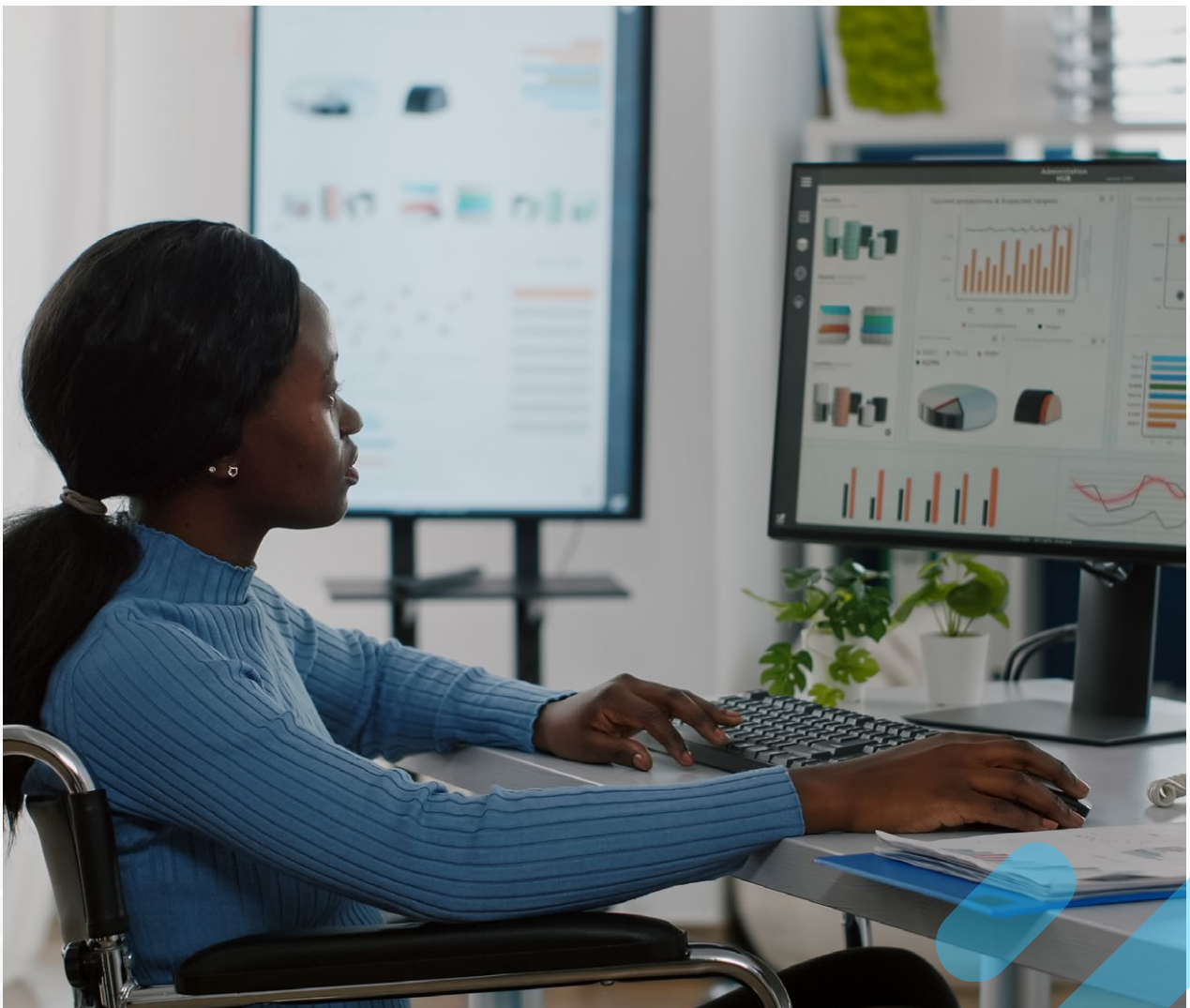
The Coalition Model

Rather than single-organization ownership, the CIF is moving towards a **Global Impact Coalition** stewardship model, building partnerships with networks such as **FORGE, Christian Economic Forum, Ziwani, and Lausanne Movement**. This collaborative governance ensures no single entity controls Kingdom impact standards, building trust and adoption across the diverse Christian impact ecosystem.

10. From Aspiration to Action: Measurement Innovation Across the Ecosystem

The measurement challenges documented throughout this report are not insurmountable. Across the Christian impact ecosystem, pioneering organizations are demonstrating what's possible when rigorous methodology meets practical innovation. Their approaches offer replicable models for different contexts and stakeholder types.

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For Charities: Proving Spiritual Impact with Academic Rigour



International Care Ministries (ICM): Spiritual Metrics with Secular Validation

ICM has tackled head-on the challenge many Christian organizations face: proving that spiritual programming creates measurable change. Working with researchers from Northwestern University and partnering with Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) on randomised controlled trials, ICM has demonstrated that their Transform programme's values component correlates with improved economic outcomes—not despite but because of its spiritual foundation.

The organization invested heavily in developing validated spiritual impact metrics, iterating through over 140 survey questions since 2011 to assess where participants are in their faith journeys. Their five-year Transform Innovation Lab, funded by the Global Innovation Fund, rigorously tests programme variations across the Philippines. Historical data among Transform programme participants show measurable improvements: 146% increase in household income, 46% increase in hope, and 35% increase in self-worth.

As one secular economist noted: *"ICM's dedication to evidence and transparency means their work is not just helping the direct recipients in their programs, but ultra-poor people in other parts of the Philippines, other parts of Asia, and other parts of the world."* — Dean Karlan, Professor of Economics, Northwestern University

Key Learning: Rigorous measurement of spiritual outcomes can build credibility with secular funders and researchers. When spiritual programming demonstrably improves material outcomes, it strengthens the case for holistic, Christ-centred approaches.



HOPE International & Living Water International: Holistic Flourishing Frameworks

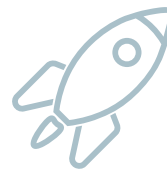
These organizations have evolved beyond simple output metrics toward comprehensive flourishing frameworks. HOPE International's approach captures physical, social, spiritual, and personal restoration—recognising that transformation cannot be reduced to any single dimension. Their research with 299 Zambian savings group members documented not just financial improvements (members 2x more likely to withstand financial emergencies) but spiritual growth: "Because of hearing the Word of God frequently, the Holy Spirit is changing me."

Living Water International pursues *"the physical, spiritual, and social flourishing of all people"* through their WASH Program Area model—working in specific geographic locations for 5–7 years to enable longitudinal tracking and robust baseline–endline comparisons. Their monitoring and evaluation system examines each region before, during, and after programme implementation, with external consultants documenting outcomes and providing recommendations for continuous improvement.

Key Learning: Flourishing frameworks that integrate spiritual and social outcomes require longer time horizons but yield deeper evidence of transformation. Five-to-seven year engagements enable measurement that shorter interventions cannot capture.



For Accelerators: Embedding Measurement in Culture



Sinapis: Integrated Measurement from Day One

Sinapis has achieved what many accelerators struggle with: making measurement integral rather than burdensome. By embedding impact tracking into their curriculum from the start, they've built a culture where entrepreneurs see data collection as essential to their Kingdom business journey.

Their annual alumni surveys track economic, social, and spiritual impact across 3,370 graduates in 14 countries. The results demonstrate integrated Kingdom impact:

- **Economic:** 153% compound annual growth rate in revenue; 80% business survival rate after 3 years; \$105.7M investment raised by alumni
- **Social:** 11,621 new jobs created; 58,105 dependents impacted; 367,000 individuals impacted through supply chains; 70% say Sinapis saved their business from failure
- **Spiritual:** 72% of alumni have seen someone come to Christ through their business; 49% actively guide others in discipleship through their work; 32% are helping move 5+ people along their discipleship journeys

As one graduate noted: "The curriculum was amazing and each session was educational. I was helped to gain courage to move from idea to action with a Kingdom mind, write a mini business plan to guide my business journey, build a foundation of integrity, excellence, and biblical values, understand my purpose, and more."

Key Learning: When measurement is woven into programme design rather than added afterwards, participation rates and data quality improve dramatically. Entrepreneurs embrace measurement when it helps them build better businesses.



For Businesses: Stakeholder Voice and Employee Flourishing



Kentegra: 60 Decibels Partnership for Farmer Wellbeing

Kentegra Biotechnology, working with over 28,000 pyrethrum farmers across Kenya, has partnered with 60 Decibels' Farmer Thriving Index to systematically measure farmer wellbeing beyond simple economic metrics. The standardised survey covers living standards, food security, resilience, and outlook on farming — capturing whether farmers are thriving or merely surviving.

Combined with Kingdom Impact's Assessment of Culture & Employee Flourishing, Kentegra demonstrates how businesses can measure holistic impact across their entire value chain. The 60 Decibels methodology uses local enumerators conducting phone interviews in local languages, providing third-party validation that goes beyond self-reported company metrics.

Key Learning: Third-party measurement of stakeholder experience — whether farmers, employees, or customers — builds credibility that self-reported metrics cannot. Standardised tools enable benchmarking across industries and geographies.





For Impact Funds: Portfolio-Level Intelligence

Talanton: Decodis Partnership for Job Quality Measurement

Impact funds face a unique challenge: aggregating meaningful data across diverse portfolio companies. Talanton has developed a comprehensive framework for evaluating job quality across three pillars: Predictable (stable income, clear expectations), Dignified (safe conditions, growth opportunities), and Generative (creating real value that compounds).

Partnering with Decodis for community research, Talanton measures real impact on real families. At portfolio company Biofarms, contracted farmers experienced an **86% increase in income** compared to baseline. But the impact goes beyond numbers—when asked what they valued most about increased earnings, the most common response was the ability to pay school fees for their children.

At Masaka Farms in Rwanda, more than half of all employees are deaf women who might otherwise face significant barriers to employment—demonstrating that job quality and business success aren't competing priorities.

Key Learning: Defining "what makes a good job" enables consistent measurement across diverse investments. Rigorous community research reveals impact that standard metrics miss.





Technology Enablers: The Emerging Platform Landscape

Several organizations are developing tools to make sophisticated measurement accessible:

Leonardo: Founded by 3 Christian entrepreneurs, leonardo helps impact-focused organisations and investors collect, audit, and report impact and ESG data without the usual headache of messy, missing, or low-quality information. Beyond self-reported company data, leonardo captures and validates primary impact evidence—including social & spiritual impact—by listening to the people affected by products and services. Through their EU-funded initiative “voices of impact” and in partnership with the Technical University of Munich, they leverage AI to analyse qualitative stakeholder feedback and to verify impact at scale.

Sopact: Purpose-built for nonprofits and social enterprises, Sopact's platform connects data from over 300 systems, assigns persistent participant IDs, and uses AI to generate insights in minutes rather than months. Their approach eliminates the “80% cleanup time” that plagues most measurement efforts, enabling organizations to spend time on learning rather than data wrangling.

Common Good Marketplace: Recognised by the World Economic Forum, CGM is pioneering the concept of Verified Impact Assets (VIAs™) — transforming positive social outcomes into measurable, tradeable assets. This innovation could eventually enable impact to be valued and exchanged much like carbon credits, creating new funding mechanisms for high-performing organizations.

Apollo Impact Platform: Kingdom Impact is developing a platform specifically designed for faith-driven organizations, combining the Christian Impact Framework with automated data collection, AI-assisted analysis, and portfolio aggregation. The goal: make sophisticated measurement accessible to the 70% of organizations currently stuck with basic approaches.



Cross-Cutting Success Factors

These innovations share common elements:

1. **Integration over Add-On:** Measurement woven into operations, not bolted on for reporting
2. **Stakeholder Voice:** Direct feedback from those experiencing impact, not just organizational self-assessment
3. **Appropriate Technology:** Tools matched to actual capacity—mobile-first, offline-capable, multilingual
4. **Third-Party Validation:** Building on external research and standardised benchmarks where possible that build credibility
5. **Iterative Development:** Starting simple and improving based on what works in practice
6. **Both/And Measurement:** Quantitative rigour alongside qualitative storytelling

As one leader noted in our interviews: *"Our best measurement innovations came from our biggest measurement failures. Each mistake taught us what actually works in our context."*

The organizations profiled here demonstrate that robust impact measurement is achievable—not just for well-resourced institutions, but increasingly for the "missing middle" that represents most of the Christian impact ecosystem.



Part V:

The Path Forward



11.

Five Paradigm Shifts for Kingdom Impact Measurement

The path forward towards more robust and meaningful Kingdom impact measurement will not just come through better tools — it requires fundamental shifts in how organizations think about impact data. The innovations documented in Section 10 — from ICM's validated spiritual metrics to Sinapis's longitudinal entrepreneur tracking — demonstrate these paradigm shifts in action. What follows are the mindset changes required to move from measurement aspiration to implementation.

1. From Compliance to Culture: Embedding Measurement in Organizational DNA

Old Paradigm: Measurement as necessary evil for donor/investor compliance

→ **New Paradigm:** Measurement as core expression of Kingdom values and stewardship

"We're passionate about it, and don't want the world to have all the fun defining this."

— Fund, South Africa

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE: This shift from external compliance to internal passion marks a fundamental transformation. Organizations demonstrate this when staff request data for decisions rather than dreading reporting deadlines; when board meetings start with impact updates rather than relegating them to appendices; when failure analysis becomes normal rather than threatening; when measurement language enters daily conversation rather than annual reports. The organization develops a culture where asking "what are we learning?" becomes as natural as asking "what are we doing?"

Signs of maturity:

- Leadership references impact data in strategic decisions
- Staff can articulate the organization's theory of change
- Programs adapt based on measurement insights
- Funders receive updates on learning, not just activities
- Failures are discussed openly as learning opportunities

As one global charity discovered: *"Measure what matters—that led into weeks of personal retreat, team retreat. What really matters?"* This deep reflection transformed measurement from burden to blessing.

2. From Perfection to Progress: Starting with "Good Enough" Metrics

Old Paradigm: Wait for perfect measurement system
→ **New Paradigm:** Start simple, improve iteratively

The opposite of "good enough" measurement isn't excellence — it's paralysis. Several leaders described being frozen by the impossibility of perfect measurement. "Waiting for me to figure it out! — nothing yet." Meanwhile, organizations making progress simply started: embedding surveys into existing programs, tracking a handful of key indicators, and improving iteratively. The question isn't whether measurement is perfect, but whether it's happening at all.

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE: This doesn't mean avoiding measurement — it means starting appropriately. Organizations demonstrate this shift by beginning with their 'theory of change' or impact strategy, be they a funder or partner organization — clarifying the transformation they seek before selecting any metrics. They might then identify 3-5 key indicators they can actually track with current resources. Initial data collection is simple: spreadsheets, quarterly surveys, periodic check-ins. As capacity grows, they add sophistication. Crucially, they recognize that "good enough" measurement used consistently beats perfect measurement that never happens.

Practical progression:

- **Foundation:** Articulate clear theory of change
- **Start:** Track 3-5 key indicators with simple tools
- **Stabilise:** Establish quarterly rhythm of data collection and review
- **Expand:** Add outcome measures as capacity allows
- **Integrate:** Connect measurement to operations and strategy

A Kenyan accelerator envisions the evolution: "Can imagine a bot giving valuable information to entrepreneurs on a regular basis—gives advice even financial" and "If could find a way to get more reliable information not just self-reported; e.g. bot checks revenue data." Starting simple today enables sophisticated solutions tomorrow.

3. From Isolation to Collaboration: Shared Learning Approaches

Old Paradigm: Proprietary measurement systems and hidden results
→ **New Paradigm:** Shared frameworks, open data, collective learning

*The body of Christ should be working together, not in isolation. Scripture reminds us that "the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'" (1 Corinthians 12:21) — we are interdependent members of one body. Yet too often, organizations develop proprietary measurement systems, guard their methodologies, and miss opportunities for shared learning. As Greer and Horst argue in *Rooting for Rivals*, Kingdom effectiveness comes through collaboration rather than competition — a principle that applies as much to impact measurement as to program delivery. When every organization reinvents measurement approaches independently, the ecosystem wastes resources and slows collective progress.*

The Christian Impact Framework exemplifies this shift — developed collaboratively across denominations, geographies, and organizational types rather than by any single entity. Meanwhile, learning communities such as the Accord Research Alliance and Accord's Formation and Care Alliance, or the KIF Spiritual Impact Learning Community create space for practitioners to wrestle together with measurement challenges, sharing both successes and failures. Furthermore, networks like Professionals in Christian Philanthropy facilitate discussions where foundations compare notes on what's working.

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE: The Christian Impact Framework exemplifies this shift — developed collaboratively across denominations, geographies, and organizational types rather than by any single entity. Meanwhile, learning communities such as the Accord Research Alliance and Accord's spiritual Formation and Care Alliance, or the KIF Spiritual Impact Learning Community create space for practitioners to wrestle together with measurement challenges, sharing both successes and failures. Furthermore, networks like Professionals in Christian Philanthropy facilitate discussions where foundations compare notes on what's working.

Collaboration in practice includes:

- Publishing methodologies openly so others can learn and improve
- Co-creating indicators with peer organizations serving similar populations
- Standardising reporting to reduce burden on grantees and portfolio companies
- Organizations realise that standardised metrics benefit everyone by enabling benchmarking, reducing reporting burden, and accelerating collective learning.

4. From Measurement to Learning: Creating Feedback Loops

Old Paradigm: Collect data for reports then file away
→ **New Paradigm:** Use data continuously for improvement

The most mature organizations don't just collect data — they systematically share findings back with those measured and act on what they learn. This means embedding measurement into organizational rhythms rather than treating it as an annual reporting exercise. Staff discuss impact data in regular team meetings. Quarterly reviews compare actual outcomes against theories of change. Leadership adjusts strategies based on what's working and what's not.

The feedback loop cycle:

1. **Ask:** Gather input from stakeholders – program participants, employees or community members
2. **Listen:** Analyse what stakeholders are saying, looking for patterns
3. **Act:** Make changes based on feedback, communicating what and why
4. **Share:** Report back what changed because of their input
5. **Repeat:** Build feedback into regular organizational rhythms

For Christian organizations, closing feedback loops reflects biblical principles of listening, humility, and servant leadership — ensuring resources address actual needs rather than assumed needs.

5. From Secular Adoption to Kingdom Innovation: Distinctive Approaches

Old Paradigm: Adopt secular frameworks wholesale
 → **New Paradigm:** Develop Kingdom-distinctive innovations

While secular impact measurement provides valuable foundations, Kingdom impact requires innovations that honor both rigor and spiritual reality. These aren't theoretical aspirations — organizations are pioneering approaches that integrate faith authentically:

- **Prayerful strategy development** as modeled by HOPE International, where strategic planning begins with seeking God's direction rather than purely analytical planning
- **Attunement to the leading of the Spirit of God** through practices like those developed by *Attune to Grow*, listening for God's guidance in organizational discernment
- **Integrated spiritual + social metrics** as demonstrated by ICM, with validated measures spanning both domains simultaneously
- **Regular entrepreneur check-ins** like Fireroad Ventures' approach, combining standard employee pulse surveys with human flourishing questions for their entrepreneurs
- **Chalmers Center Ministry Design Principles** — providing solid guidance for Christ-centred development work
- **Faith and work integration assessments** like Best Christian Workplace's robust assessment, or KI's Redemptive Business Assessment, combining operational excellence with Kingdom distinctives
- **Discipleship journey tracking** as Sinapis demonstrates, measuring how businesses create spaces for spiritual formation — 72% of their entrepreneurs report seeing someone come to Christ through their work

The effect: measurement systems that honor Kingdom distinctives while maintaining methodological rigor, demonstrating that spiritual transformation can be tracked with the same seriousness as economic outcomes — without reducing mystery to metrics or claiming credit for fruit only God can produce.

The Cumulative Effect

These shifts work synergistically:

- **Culture change** enables starting simply
- **Simple starts** facilitate collaboration
- **Collaboration** accelerates learning
- **Learning** drives innovation
- **Innovation** reinforces culture

Organizations embracing all five shifts report transformational results in both measurement practice and Kingdom impact.



12. Practical Next Steps by Stakeholder

The paradigm shifts outlined in Section 11 point toward a transformed approach to Kingdom impact measurement. But transformation requires concrete action. This section translates insights into practical steps for each stakeholder group, drawing on the innovations documented in Section 10.

The most effective organizations invest upfront in developing robust frameworks, then balance standardization with contextual flexibility. They build measurement into existing operations rather than creating parallel systems, and they prioritize learning over proving.

For Impact Funds and Investors



1. Develop your fund's Theory of Change before selecting metrics

Clarity on what transformation you're investing toward determines which metrics actually matter — Talanton's focus on "what makes a good job" and SAAD's Impact Measurement Framework exemplify this approach.

2. Create a hybrid approach: 3-5 core metrics plus context-specific indicators

Standardized core metrics enable portfolio intelligence while optional indicators honor portfolio company diversity. Consider classifying metrics within the Christian Impact Framework (CIF) to enable cross-fund comparison and ecosystem learning.

3. Partner with third-party validators for credibility and efficiency

Outsourcing specialized data collection (like beneficiary feedback) to external firms adds credibility while reducing portfolio company burden.

4. Include spiritual metrics in due diligence, not just post-investment

Measuring spiritual impact only after investing signals it's secondary to financial returns.

5. Build measurement capacity as part of value-add, not compliance

When entrepreneurs develop internal capability to use impact data strategically, measurement becomes sustainable beyond fund involvement.

For Foundations



1. Fund measurement capacity, not just measurement

Leading secular foundations allocate 3–10% of each grant toward measurement infrastructure (staff time, tools, training), addressing the reality that most organizations lack capacity for sophisticated reporting. This investment pays for itself: better evidence ultimately makes grantmaking more effective by identifying what works — and what does not.

2. Assess organizational health holistically, not just program outcomes

Evaluating governance, leadership, financial management, and mission effectiveness recognizes that healthy organizations produce sustainable impact.

3. Adopt common frameworks rather than creating proprietary requirements

Every foundation with unique reporting templates contributes to grantee exhaustion; shared frameworks like CIF enable cross-portfolio learning. Consider flipping the default: when you build alone, only you benefit; when you adopt shared approaches, the whole ecosystem gains access to better information and specialist expertise.

4. Close the feedback loop with grantees

Share what you learned from aggregate portfolio data and other organizations back to individual grantees. Impact measurement should be circular, not extractive — grantees benefit from the insights, not just funders.

5. Convene grantees around shared measurement challenges

Quarterly cohort calls where grantees discuss common obstacles could transform reporting from compliance to collaborative learning.

For Businesses



1. Develop an impact strategy rooted in your business purpose

Articulate your Theory of Change before selecting metrics: how does your specific business model create both economic and Kingdom transformation?

2. Start with employee flourishing before external impact

Internal culture measurement (employee well-being, spiritual formation, workplace practices) is easier to implement, reveals Kingdom distinctiveness, and is within your direct control.

3. Integrate impact questions into existing business rhythms

Add Kingdom questions to employee pulse surveys and team meetings rather than creating parallel measurement systems.

4. Find authentic ways to capture customer/beneficiary perspective

Post-interaction surveys, quarterly feedback calls, or annual stakeholder interviews ground impact claims in beneficiary voice.

5. Partner strategically for spiritual formation

If spiritual transformation is part of your impact thesis, consider partnerships with local churches or ministries with proven discipleship capacity.

For Charities and Non-profits



1. Invest in a robust Theory of Change before selecting metrics

Right-fit measurement matches your actual change pathway and organizational capacity, not aspirational claims or donor templates.

2. Use lean data approaches focused on learning, not just proving

Focus measurement on what actually informs program improvement and strategic decisions, then translate those insights for funders.

3. Capture program participant voice directly, not through staff assumptions

Use validated feedback tools like Listen4Good's 5-question survey and combine traditional surveys with periodic focus groups or interviews for depth; and explore AI tools to analyze qualitative responses at scale. Where appropriate, build toward participatory approaches where communities develop capacity to assess their own transformation over time.

4. Join peer learning communities rather than figuring out measurement alone

Sector-specific cohorts can accelerate learning from others' experience.

5. Build measurement into program design from the start, not as afterthought

Baseline data during intake, progress tracking during delivery, and outcome assessment at completion create natural measurement flow.

For Accelerators and Capacity Builders



1. Teach measurement as a core entrepreneurial competency, not add-on reporting

When entrepreneurs learn to track impact not just for investor pitches but also for strategic decisions, measurement becomes integral to business practice.

2. Build peer learning into cohort culture

Creating shared dashboards where cohort members compare impact metrics alongside business metrics normalizes measurement and surfaces innovations.

3. Track alumni longitudinally, not just during program participation

Sinapis's tracking of 3,370 graduates over multiple years reveals sustained impact that short-term assessment misses.

4. Maintain relationships through interviews and conversations, not just surveys

Make alumni connection part of organizational culture through regional gatherings, mentorship matching, and ongoing resource provision.

5. Iterate frameworks based on cohort feedback

Create feedback loops where entrepreneurs share what metrics are useful versus checkbox compliance to build ownership.

For Wealth Advisors



1. Develop fluency in Kingdom impact frameworks like CIF

Understanding frameworks enables you to help clients translate Kingdom values into concrete investment criteria and impact goals.

2. Connect clients to validated investment opportunities with robust measurement

Build relationships with funds and platforms that have measurement infrastructure already established rather than verifying claims yourself.

3. Ask impact questions early in client relationships, not as afterthought

"What Kingdom impact do you want your wealth to have?" surfaces deeper values and enables holistic financial planning aligned with faith.

4. Help clients think portfolio-wide about Kingdom alignment

Support clients in evaluating Kingdom alignment across entire asset bases, including public equities, real estate, and legacy planning, not just "positive" investments.

5. Expect robust impact measurement from funds you recommend

Your due diligence questions signal what matters. When advisors consistently ask about measurement practices, funds respond — your expectations shape what the ecosystem considers essential.

Common Principles for Taking Action

Regardless of role, effective Kingdom impact measurement shares common characteristics:

- **Starts with clarity on purpose and theory of change**
 - Metrics follow mission, not vice versa
- **Balances rigor with sustainability**
 - Appropriate to organizational capacity and resources
- **Integrates into existing rhythms**
 - Embeds in operations rather than creating parallel systems
- **Prioritizes beneficiary voice**
 - Centers those experiencing impact, not just implementers
- **Builds peer learning communities**
 - Accelerates innovation through shared challenges
- **Measures to improve, not just prove**
 - Uses data for strategic decisions, not merely reporting

The pathway from good intentions to Kingdom transformation runs through systematic attention to what actually changes in the lives of people and communities we serve. These next steps represent starting points, not exhaustive lists. The key is to begin. Imperfect measurement used consistently beats perfect measurement that never happens.

13. A Vision for 2030: The Transformed Ecosystem

Imagine stepping into the Christian impact ecosystem five years from now. The transformation is palpable, built on the foundation of meaningful measurement driving Kingdom advancement.

What Mature Kingdom Impact Measurement Looks Like

Morning in Nairobi, 2030:

Sarah, CEO of a Kingdom business, starts her day reviewing the automated impact dashboard. Employee wellbeing scores improved 12% this quarter—she makes a note to celebrate at this morning's devotion. Customer transformation stories populated overnight, including one about a family whose business grew enough to send their daughter to university. The predictive model suggests increasing microloan sizes in the eastern region based on spiritual vitality indicators correlating with business success. She forwards insights to her investor WhatsApp group, where three other portfolio companies are already discussing similar patterns.



Afternoon in Atlanta, 2030:

The foundation board meeting begins with interactive impact visualization. Board members explore a 3D map showing transformation hotspots across their portfolio. They notice spiritual metrics lagging in urban programs compared to rural—spurring rich discussion about contextual approaches. The AI assistant highlights that programs integrating local church partnerships show 3x the lasting impact. They vote to shift 20% of the budget toward church-centered initiatives, confident in the data supporting this strategic pivot.



This transformation won't happen automatically—it requires the paradigm shifts outlined in Section 11 and the practical steps detailed in Section 12. But the trajectory is possible.

The Transformed Ecosystem

By 2030, the Christian impact ecosystem will be characterized by:

- **Shared infrastructure** — common language, definitions, and indicators enabling cross-organizational learning; open-source tools freely available; collective learning as the norm
- **Participatory innovation** — all stakeholders' voices shaping what success looks like; cultural adaptations honored within coherent frameworks; safe spaces for experimentation and rapid sharing
- **Kingdom distinctives** — data demonstrating the effectiveness of Christ-centered approaches to human flourishing; relational and spiritual metrics pioneered by Christians; local churches validated as credible impact partners

The path from intention to impact is clear. The tools exist. The community stands ready. The Kingdom awaits our faithful stewardship.



Conclusion:

The Faithful Steward's Call

As we conclude this journey through the landscape of Christian impact measurement, we return to fundamental questions of faithfulness and stewardship. The parable of the talents reminds us that faithful stewardship requires accountability for outcomes, not just good intentions. As one South African fund manager expressed the urgency: *"We're passionate about it, and don't want the world to have all the fun defining this."*

The Parable Revisited

Jesus's story of three servants entrusted with resources while their master traveled contains profound insights for impact measurement:

- The master expected not just preservation but multiplication
- Each servant received different amounts but faced the same expectation:

faithful stewardship

- The servant who buried his talent out of fear faced judgment
- Accountability came through demonstration of results

The parable reminds us: the master didn't ask for good intentions. He asked what happened with what he'd entrusted. That's why we measure.

Measurement as Spiritual Discipline

Far from reducing mystery to metrics, thoughtful impact measurement becomes a spiritual practice:

Measurement as Worship – Carefully tracking God's work through our efforts honors Him as the source of all transformation. Each data point collected with reverence can become an act of worship.

Measurement as Discernment – Regular reflection on impact data creates space for hearing God's voice about direction, correction, and celebration. The Holy Spirit can speak through patterns and outliers alike.

Measurement as Confession – Honest assessment reveals our failures and limitations, driving us to dependence on God's grace and power. Measurement keeps us humble.

Measurement as Testimony – Documenting transformation bears witness to God's ongoing work in the world.

The Opportunity Before Us

We stand at an inflection point. The Christian impact ecosystem can choose:

Path 1 – Status Quo: We can continue with fragmented efforts, measurement as compliance, and the trust paradox where 89% value measurement but only 15% use it for decisions. We can accept lagging behind secular standards while missing what makes Kingdom impact distinctive.

Or, we can choose transformation:

Path 2 – Transformation: embracing collaborative approaches, making measurement central to organizational culture, building trust through transparency, and pioneering innovations that demonstrate the effectiveness of Christ-centered approaches to human flourishing.

The choice seems clear, but change requires courage — moving beyond comfort zones, risking failure, investing resources, and trusting God with outcomes.

The Call

The tools exist. The community is ready. What we lack is not resources but resolve. Start where you are: choose one thing to measure differently this quarter. Connect with others on the same journey. Share what you learn. Build momentum through small wins. Every day we delay is a day we potentially misdirect Kingdom resources and miss what truly advances God's purposes.

Final Reflection on Kingdom Transformation

The purpose of our measurement is to advance God's Kingdom. We are called to steward – to plant and water, and observe for growth. Yet our ultimate measure of success is obedience and faithfulness, not fruit.

Let us get comfortable to sit in the tension: called to steward diligently, yet give Him all the glory. Let us ask good questions: Do our metrics help us love God and neighbor more effectively? Does our data drive decisions that reflect Jesus's priorities? Are we measuring what matters for eternity?

From intention to impact—the journey requires only our faithful next step.

May we steward well what God has entrusted to us, measuring our impact not for our glory but for His, not for temporal success but for eternal significance, not in isolation but in community.

To God be the glory for the transformation He is working through His people in the marketplace, in ministries, and in communities around the world.

Amen.



Appendices

Methodology Note

This report synthesizes findings from comprehensive research conducted between 2023–2025:

Research Design:

- Semi-structured interview protocol with 7 core questions plus stakeholder-specific probing questions – 76 coded interviews plus 15+ supplementary conversations for validation and case studies
- Purposive sampling for maximum variation; Snowball referrals from initial contacts
- Average interview length: 62 minutes (range: 45–90 minutes)
- Conducted via video call (85%) or in-person (15%)
- Chatham House rules to encourage candor
- Recorded and transcribed with consent
- Thematic analysis using qualitative analysis and AI software

Representation

- Size diversity: organizations from \$50K to \$2B+ in assets/revenue
- Global representation (30% US, 25% Africa, 20% Asia, 15% Europe, 10% Latin America)

Stakeholder Distribution (initial sample):

- 15 Fund managers/partners
- 14 Foundation executives
- 19 Business owners/CEOs
- 11 Charity directors
- 9 Accelerator program leaders
- 8 Advisors/consultants

Secondary Research & Validation

- Impact reports and measurement frameworks reviewed
- Sector reports and studies (including Pragma Investment Market Study, Kingdom Advisors Christian Financial Industry Report, Impact Foundation Survey)
- Draft findings reviewed by 10 sector thought leaders prior to publication.

Limitations:

- English-language interviews may underrepresent non-English contexts
- Self-selection bias toward measurement-interested organizations
- Resource limitations prevented inclusion of beneficiary voice directly

Future Research Needs:

- How can we better incorporate beneficiary voice directly into measurement?
- What predictive indicators best identify lasting Kingdom transformation?
- How do measurement practices differ across global cultural contexts?
- What role might emerging AI technologies play in democratizing measurement?



KINGDOM
IMPACT 