OVERLAND MISSIONS



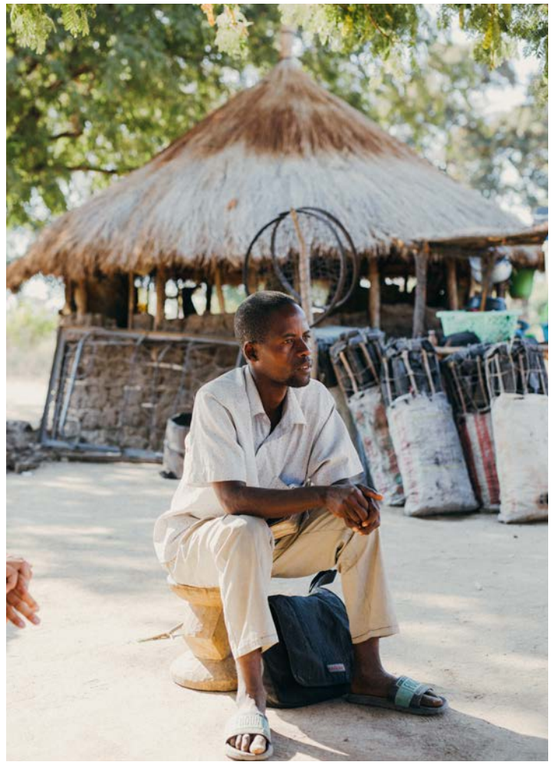
Taking the Gospel to the most remote people groups around the world

OVERLAND

The Gospel arrives in every people group with the same power and has the same result every time. The simplicity of the message is enough and the product is a night and day transformation amongst people. The Gospel goes beyond culture, race, education and heritage. If a person says yes to an appeal from Heaven, they get all of Heaven's promises. As Sharon and I traveled the world in 2024 and ministered amongst our teams in every region, I can say with confidence that our worldwide team is consistent and shows great leadership as ambassadors of this Gospel. As I look across our growing team of hundreds of young leaders, I am encouraged and blessed to know they stand on their own feet in communicating the Gospel with truth and power. They have positioned themselves in the nations with the only answer--Jesus Christ. In this report are only a few of their stories from 2024. We hope you will be blessed by all the testimonies contained within this magazine. All glory belongs to Jesus.

Philip & Sharon Smethurst
Founders







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Tribal leaders are the key to rural nations

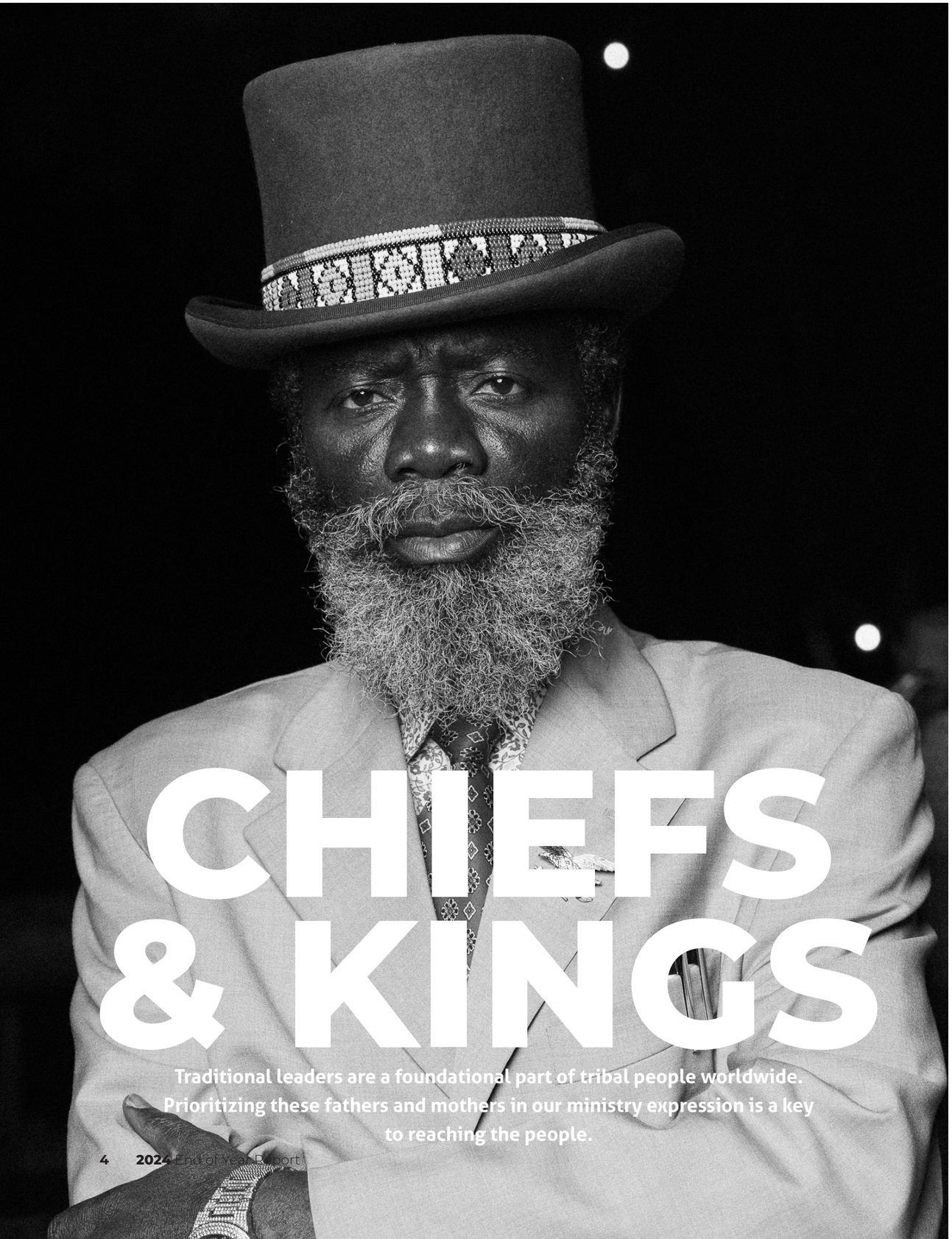
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CHIEFS & KINGS

Traditional leaders are a foundational part of tribal people worldwide. Prioritizing these fathers and mothers in our ministry expression is a key to reaching the people.

Jesus - The King of Kings

In 2016, Overland Missions launched Tribal Chaplaincy with the desire to see every traditional leader reached with the Gospel. We committed to raising up a chaplain for each chief who had been chosen by that chief to act as a spiritual advisor. Since the launch of the program, we have successfully trained over 300 chaplains in Zambia and have expanded the program to Zambia, Zimbabwe, DR Congo, and Angola.

The ministry of these chaplains has been transformational for the traditional kings and queens of Africa. Many of these leaders have started leading their people in a godly manner by banning the practice of witchcraft, overcoming addiction, and restoring their families—all while preserving the rich history of their culture.

In 2022, we hosted the "King of Kings" event which brought together 376 dignitaries from 32 African nations. Since the event, we have deepened our relationships with many of these kings and queens. In August of 2024, we were able to host 20 dignitaries from F.A.T.A. (Forum for African Traditional Authorities) at our logistical headquarters in Zambia. These leaders came from all over Africa, and our primary goal was to prioritize their spiritual well-being by having meaningful gospel-centered conversations on an individual level. We also provided a space for them to write and finish their F.A.T.A. Constitution and brought in some international business voices to speak into some of their economic development concepts.

During the gathering, one of our leaders shared a message on the supremacy of Jesus and the necessity of leaders to stand on a spiritual foundation of submission to Him. As Kings and Queens, these men and women carry a responsibility to lead their people, and their response to the message brought a powerful administration of the Spirit of God. Kings expressed intense emotion as they tried to put into words what they experienced during the time of teaching. One king shared that he went to his room and wept for hours. Another, a Muslim sultan, testified to the presence of the living God and exclaimed, "I did not realize you were friends of God." After the meeting, one of the kings opened the entirety of his predominantly Muslim nation to our team by invitation.

Another avenue that is important for this continued expansion is the development of the King's Center. The King's Center is found at our Rapid 14 logistical base and is spread out over 15 acres of land on the Batoka Gorge of the Zambezi River. It will boast 12 chalets, a foyer, a library/lounge, and a kitchen dining area. Currently, ten chalets are complete, and we have broken ground on the superstructure that will hold the foyer and lounge. Each building is unique to itself within the rugged terrain of the riverside gorge.

The King's Center will serve as a retreat sanctuary for African royalty. Our team has learned how to honor protocol while also creating a space for these leaders to share a meal, pray together, and have one-on-one conversations. These simple liberties are not normal in the traditional settings these leaders live in, as they carry the heavy weight of their people groups. Additionally, the King's Center serves as a mutual ground for having transparent conversations and resolving issues between two royal parties. This center is an opportunity to remove distractions and allow for leaders to be renewed by the Word of God. The purpose and the structure are truly one of a kind.

Between the King's Center, the Tribal Chaplaincy movement, and the deepening relationships with traditional leaders, Africa is being transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ from the top down, in faith that these kings will impact their people greatly. In 2025, we will continue to work together to steward the grassroots movement of reaching every soul in the remote and neglected corners of the world.

LEADERS CONFERENCE

It can be difficult to fully comprehend the nation-shaking that is happening in Zambia, Africa. When we speak of disciples and spiritual leadership in Zambia, we are almost always speaking of second and third generations of ministry reproduction. Decades of seeds sown have resulted in an abundant harvest in this nation that has flung its doors, chiefdoms and hearts open wide to receive.

Mwinilunga is an Overland base of ministry tucked into the northwest corner of Zambia, strategically bordering Angola and Congo. Located a 6-hour drive from the nearest town and surrounded by the rural Lunda people, the Mwinilunga team is staffed by a hardworking team of Western missionaries. However, much of the incredible pioneering work is carried and multiplied by the massive team of 34 full-time Lunda ministers who are ministering even further out into the bush, reaching their own people group. With the help of these local partners, the Mwinilunga team has trained 200 men and women in the last 4 years alone.

These 200 men and women are operating in weekly ministry. This ministry includes discipling children in our Kids on Fire ministry, evangelism from home to home across the chiefdom and daily Bible studies. This is the generational discipleship Jesus was speaking of when He told the early apostles that they would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses in every corner of the earth.

In 2024, these powerful men and women were brought to our Mwinilunga base as a unified group and hosted the area's third annual regional leadership conference. Together they exchanged kingdom strategies for the region and grew in their stewardship of the gospel message. The conference served as a celebration of kingdom expansion and encouragement for those who have devoted their lives to equipping their neighbors just as Jesus did.

What a privilege to prioritize the empowerment of local leaders, confidently knowing that the life of Christ within them will produce what is necessary to win the whole nation.



WHQ TEAM EXPANDING



As Overland missionaries launch into new villages, nations, and regions of the world, our World Headquarters is the often unseen drive behind it all. In 2024, the WHQ team expanded from occupying every space on the top floor of our office building to filling both floors of the entire building. The physical space we're developing as a team is more than just an office—it's a hub of ministry, innovation, and strategic support, ensuring that ministers in 19 nations can continue to make a global impact for the Kingdom of God.

The newly renovated downstairs area will be a powerful, multi-functional center to gather our team and to minister to the public. We are planning revival nights, worship sessions and outreach opportunities in this new space, where the same heartbeat and fire we carry to communities across the world will echo for the community here in Cocoa, Florida.

The WHQ team touches every aspect of our mission. From managing land and vehicle purchases, to processing donations, booking flights, and mobilizing teams to far-reaching corners of the world, they are the backbone that enables the ministry to thrive. They are deeply involved in the lives of our missionaries, offering support that alleviates burdens and frees the missionaries up to focus entirely on the work in front of them. Without this infrastructure, the on-the-ground work in the nations would simply not be possible and would grind to a slow crawl. Every testimony of someone touched by God in a rural thatch home 10 hours from the tar road, or a story of miraculous healing amidst a busy Middle Eastern street traces back to the people who have sown their lives to labor daily in our WHQ.

As our team and global presence increase, so too must our capacity to support them. To reach the lost, we need individuals who are not just skilled but who are driven by the vision of seeing God's Kingdom advance through administrative operations. Our WHQ is poised to meet the needs of the world—are you ready to be a part of it?



Aerial shot of the new land in Brazil

LAND EXPANSION

Mozambique

In 2016, we purchased a base in Mozambique's Inhambane province to serve as a launchpad for ministry to the nation. In 2017, that base was decimated by Cyclone (Hurricane) Dineo. The Mozambique team was forced to turn their eyes towards rebuilding before they had even gotten started. During the reconstruction, our team intentionally left doorways in the property wall that opened to surrounding properties. This was done in faith that the Lord would not only help them to rebuild–but also expand.

Seven years later the team is negotiating a deal to acquire those very properties. The open doorways are being walked through, just as we had hoped.

In the kingdom of God, expansion is inevitable. When a surrendered believer comes under the anointing of heaven and walks out an apostolic vision, the Lord's victory avails, regardless of circumstance. The tipping point of expansion and fruit in the ministry waits on the other side of a decision to stand our ground. Often, there is no great change of strategy that would precipitate a breakthrough. But always, there is brutal, steadfast, radical — standing.

A few of our longstanding sectors have weathered the years of standing and are now approaching the point of taking off in the curve of exponential growth. These teams have planted their feet when persecution tried to drive them out. They have cultivated and been faithful with the hearts of people and stewarded the Word of God amid a perceived standstill. In 2024, much of that faithfulness has seen a landslide into expansion.

Cambodia

In Cambodia, we recently purchased land to start the construction of a base that will meet the growing needs of the team. For years the missionaries on the ground ran ministry through rentals and other connections, and soon this will no longer be necessary as we build something more permanent.

The plot of land spans 50 acres and sits next to a mountain that has been known by locals to be a place for the "dwelling of gods". Ancient kings used to come to this mountain to be endowed with power from above, and people still go to the temple today in vain attempts to be filled with greater power. Our team is filled with zeal to establish authority near a mountain that has represented the peoples' striving after the presence of false gods. This mountain will now be a place that hosts the presence of the one true God.

At Overland Missions, we prioritize family structures and community. When we build pioneering bases, it is to develop a unified purpose amongst Western and local missionaries. In Cambodia, like in many of our international bases, the infrastructure will be there to host training for indigenous leaders and for AMT, all of it on our own land and on our own terms.

Expansion does not necessarily mean more buildings. In a secure nation in SE Asia, we have seen forward momentum even in the face of communism and persecution.

Since its launch in 2018, the operation of this particular nation has required meticulous movements to prevent detection. These strategic movements have allowed the team to remain in the country long-term. When this team first launched into the country, their "cover" was centered around teaching English, and this proved to be successful.

The team was able to keep visas, remain secure and still contribute to the ministry. To keep up the cover, they had to work the business which took a substantial amount of time



Constructing the new base in Southeast Asia

away from the ministry amongst the people. It was working, but they were craving more time availability to deepen the work.

In the last two years, the strategy has shifted which has opened up greater possibilities to reach the nation. Many people in this location struggle with farming and maintaining sustainable farming habits. The standard practices of local farming often lead to the destruction of resources and even greater poverty. It was a need that our sector team saw, and they started exploring how to address it. After some collaboration with other Overland missionaries, an idea presented itself.

There is a curriculum that Overland has used in many areas called "Farming God's Way." This curriculum uses Biblical principles to provide a sustainable way of farming that can be done using widely available resources. With this curriculum, we shifted our English cover to operate as "farming consultants" that help farmers with their crops. Since the curriculum is based on Biblical principles, it allows us an avenue to share the gospel with each village.

We presented the material to local authorities to receive clearance to teach the material. They loved the idea and even granted us permission to visit more remote villages that otherwise would have been completely off-limits for our team. We received this approval even when we made it clear to the authorities that the only way to teach these practices is through the Bible!

With such success, we immediately set out to purchase a plot of land. The plot operates as a "comparative garden" that can show how effective Farming God's Way is compared to traditional methods. The team will be able to tell other villages through demonstrations, photos and statistics how this style of farming has led to abundant fruit. It will also serve as a place to invite local officials who can view the test plot as we seek to build relationships and attain access to other provinces.

This strategy shift is a miracle for our movement in the nation. In a country that requires the highest level of security, we have been given full permission to expand and freely share the hope found in the kingdom of God.

Expansion does more than simply meet tangible needs. It sends an intangible message to the community that we are invested. It says that we're sticking around.

Zambia

The sector team in Kalene Hill, Zambia has seen the power of being able to communicate that message to the local people. The team spent the early years renting facilities from an old missions base, but the time came to launch into our own property. The sector was able to meet with chiefs in the region and spent hours scanning the chiefdom over Google Earth for possible plots. They walked miles through heavy bush, scouting for a plot that could be established as a base for launching missionaries.

Recently the team chose a location and quite literally put their tent poles in the ground—staking a claim for Overland Missions and the work of God.

This Kalene Hill base is located in a specific chiefdom where no missionaries have previously settled. This chiefdom is home to some of the most neglected people in Zambia. Many of these people are without a church, simply because there is not a church within walking distance of their homes. At first, the people asked: "Why are you here?" But when they heard that the team came carrying the Word of Life, they became hungry to hear about Jesus and gather together in His name. By building a base in Kalene, we are communicating to historically neglected people that we are here to stay.



Ultimately, these bases are meant to host the presence of the King of Kings. We are constructing a dwelling place for families and teams and a dwelling place for the Spirit of God. We are building more houses for families, but ultimately expanding the house of the Lord.

Kingdom expansion comes as a result of daily, immovable faithfulness. As we remain fully persuaded of the deposit entrusted to us, we walk in the fullness of our identity and bring hope to those who have never heard who they are in this great kingdom.

Radical Discipleship

It was five years ago when our team met Salim through our partnership with a local clinic. He was seeking medical treatment as a refugee from Iraq who had experienced severe torture during the war. Although we met many refugees with complex problems, for some reason, Salim stuck out. He was very genuine and received the message of the Gospel eagerly.

Over time, he became like family to us and we were shocked when he eventually told us the Lord was stirring his heart to return to his home country that he had initially left due to persecution and political retribution. It was no small decision to go back; it could cost him his life.



Simultaneously in 2022, our team was planning to launch the first base in Iraq. However, after two reconnaissance trips, they were blacklisted from the country and decided to relaunch the team to Lebanon, putting Iraq on the shelf.

Our honest expectations of Salim's return were modest: we hoped he might find a job and start a new life of limited kingdom impact, due to his high-risk situation. We truly underestimated the power of healthy community and discipleship.

Within a year of moving back to Iraq, Salim was abducted again by gangs, tortured, and nearly died. Yet, he survived and continued to share his faith powerfully with others. His boldness and determination to spread the Gospel cost him everything, but gained hundreds of souls for the Kingdom. Salim now labors with a team of twenty locals who meet and strategize daily on how to win the country for Christ.

If there is one thing that has been learned from this story, it is that human wisdom can, at times, hinder a movement more than the enemy. If we become too fixated on our plans and strategies, we can get in the way of what God wants to do supernaturally.

Since then, we have been able to send teammates in and out of Iraq to partner with Salim in his ministry. Similar stories continue to unfold across the region. As we stay faithful and devoted to making disciples, they go on to reach some of the darkest corners of the earth that we could not. This is the Kingdom.

New Territory

Since our team in Egypt launched in May 2022, there have been countless testimonies of breakthrough and transformation. We initially launched to Cairo where we have been involved with various ministries to the Sudanese population, mobilizing the local Christian community, as well as evangelism into unreached Muslim areas. Among these pioneering efforts have been frequent vision trips to the south of Egypt (the upper Nile) to begin working in areas that are widely untouched by most missionaries in the country.

On one of our returning trips to the area, we visited a man from a small village that we had met months prior. He was Muslim and was practicing witchcraft, but radically accepted Jesus after our time together.



Although our encounter was authentic, the expectation was that he had probably regressed into his old ways. This often happens when someone believes quickly but does not have consistent discipleship afterward. Much to our surprise, when we sat down with the man five months later, he told us he had read the Bible we gave him and had stopped attending mosque (which we never even told him to do). However, this good news was hardly the highlight of the day.

As we were reconnecting with this man, another teammate on the other side of the village was approached by a boy. The young boy said he recognized our team as the foreigners who came and restored the man in the village's marriage. It turned out that this same man who had accepted Jesus had been divorced when we met and had since reconciled with his wife. The whole village had learned of what happened and were eager to meet the people who brought transformation to his life. Not only was one man changed by a single encounter, but it permeated an entire village creating an open door for our team in a very unreached area.

This is just one of many stories unfolding in Egypt as our team expands into new territories in the nation. Egypt, with a population greater than California, Texas, and New York combined, is a massive nation with great influence. Our team will be launching a new sector into the area of the Upper Nile in 2025.

MENA

TANZANIA & ZANZIBAR

Multiplying Disciples

Zanzibar, a beautiful island chain off the coast of Tanzania, was historically the slave-trade capital of the world and an access point into Africa for Islam. Our team is currently working diligently so that as the gospel saturates the island, what was once a port of darkness becomes a safe harbor for people to find their home in Christ.

With a team of 11 Western and 38 local missionaries, we are reaching the people of Zanzibar through a multitude of methods including a women's recovery center, training schools, radio stations and public revival services. Missionaries are pouring out their lives so the Zanzibari people will know the power and reality of the one true God.

Team Zanzibar has launched a woman's house which serves as a safe haven for women leaving a life of prostitution and addiction. This ministry has been operating for years through various rental spaces, but in 2024 we were able to purchase property where these ladies will eventually live, heal, learn, and gain practical skills for the future. One missionary is ministering on a radio station weekly that reaches 2 million people sharing stories of salvation, healings, and deliverances. We also opened up two events to the public - a house of worship and revival services. The house of worship provides a space for people on the island to unite, worship and pray for breakthrough on the island, while the revival services are being hosted in public venues within eyesight of government buildings and mosques. There is a mighty move of God happening and our team sees hundreds of Muslims come to Jesus every year.

In 2021, a pioneering team launched across the narrow strait of the Indian Ocean from Zanzibar to the mainland of Tanzania. This nation is home to many people groups, one being the Maasai tribe. After three years of building relationship with them, we are currently working with local churches and disciples to plant a church for the Maasai that will be a place of worship for four villages. We are also in the early stages of establishing tribal chaplaincy thanks to close relationships with five chiefs. These chaplains will be trained in April of 2025.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will launch the first Overland Mission Training (OMT) in Tanzania to train and equip locals for the ministry. Our team recently spoke at an event with 250 pastors and bishops, who represent 1500 churches in Northern Tanzania. This meeting served as a connection point to cast a vision to local people to unite so we can reach the remote and unreached areas of Tanzania. Joining hands with local believers in both Zanzibar and Tanzania will aid in Kingdom advancement and a revival that will eventually impact the whole Swahili coast.



AMT

ADVANCED MISSION TRAINING

Overland has an ongoing priority: protect the move of the Spirit of God above all else. This strategy has kept us on a course of steady, lasting growth for over 25 years.

This steadfastness has produced committed individuals who have counted the cost and who rely on the person of the Holy Spirit in both their personal lives and ministries. The way that we train these international individuals is through our three-month Advanced Mission Training program (AMT). AMT is designed to spiritually and practically equip missions-minded believers with the skills necessary to make an eternal impact in the nations. Each year, our training enlarges and expands kingdom footprint in the world.

In 2024, our AMT program welcomed over 80 students across five nations, each arriving with a willingness to give their lives for Christ's sake and be trained to carry the gospel to every tribe and nation.

Much of our success in student retention over the years can be attributed to our team's dedication to seeing the body of Christ enabled and sent out into the same nations we love and labor over. A unique element of our program and one way our greater team gets involved is our two-phase system. Students begin their training by spending six weeks in Zambia at our Rapid 14 logistical base, the launching point for all of our ministries.

The second six weeks are carried out both in Zambia and across one of our five outlying international bases. Students have the opportunity to complete their remaining six weeks of training in the cities of Southeast Asia, amongst Muslim people in the Middle East, or along the eastern coast of Africa in Zanzibar or Mozambique. Our newest phase will launch next year and will take students into Brazil as they see what it takes to become a career missionary living on the Amazon River. The success in sending students to new locations after only six weeks is the real-world application of learned skills and the exposure to our greater team's work on a very personal level.

Although AMT will rise to accommodate an exciting 75 students per class in 2025, we will not compromise the intentionality of our program or our emphasis on longevity over rapid growth. We will continue to protect the anointing, pursue the nations with excellence, and deploy capable laborers who, out of love for their Heavenly King and His people, will gladly fulfill the great commission mandate no matter the cost.

At a time when invitations into nations far outnumber our deployed missionaries, AMT is essential in meeting the appeal we currently feel as an organization. As more full-time missionary commitments are made, more kings and chiefs are met with biblical council, and their people are provided with evangelism and discipleship. More children are empowered with the truth. More local people are commissioned to share the gospel to their neighbors. More healings and miracles testify of the power of God. At Overland Missions, every student who becomes a missionary is another ambassador of reconciliation, populating heaven with God's redeemed.

Training up the next generation of full-time missionaries



The official opening of our new classroom in Zambia



Establishing camp just outside of a rural Zambian village

EXPEDITIONS

Overland's expedition department is another example of growth born out of reliance on the Holy Spirit and hard work. The expedition leaders who staff the department are pioneering more unreached territory than ever before. This year we led 42 expedition trips into 14 nations, reaching a total of 25,000 people with a face-to-face presentation of the gospel. This is only the beginning of our reach within these countries and the move of God that awaits those who call them home.

Although traditional expeditions continue to be the spearhead for much of our ministry, we witnessed incredible fruit in 2024 from reconnaissance, state-side ministry venues and sectors, and indigenous-led local expeditions, all important expressions of the expedition department.

Traditional expedition teams are usually staffed and filled with Western short-term missionaries. Alternatively, a local expedition is run completely by powerful indigenous leaders and filled by a team from their own nation. In 2022, the first completely Zambian-led team traveled into Congo as a powerful group of 12 short-term international missionaries. Since then, four more local-led expeditions have taken place. In 2024, a Zambian expedition leader traveled with five other Zambians to the neighboring nation of Malawi. During this trip, nearly 400 people received salvation and deliverance from demonic oppression, most of them from an Islamic village.

We intend to send more local expeditions out of Zambia into surrounding countries. This creates an infrastructure that supports local ministers working as sector missionaries in those areas. Over the next few years, we will see local expeditions become a routine part of our ministry in every nation we minister in.

Reconnaissance serves our global vision by locating the unreached and setting the scene for long-term work. We ran eight reconnaissance trips this year. Two of them, Senegal and Indonesia, established connections for our 2025/2026 launch teams and opened the door for a rush of ministry to follow. Our other trips included a month-long truck trip from Zambia to Malawi and a backpacking expedition in Madagascar. These trips are unique and often very physically and spiritually demanding, yet the testimonies they produce set nations on a course of deep surrender to a miraculous God.



Overland's expedition missionaries spend a portion of every year mobilizing the Body of Christ in Western nations. In 2024, explosive growth came out of our state-side sector ministry. We recruited people to serve in a short-term trip to the nations, but we also saw them saved, discipled, and planted into flourishing churches in their communities. Our expedition sectors are powerful opportunities to bring our overseas ministry vision to America's door in areas like Pittsburgh, Jacksonville, and Michigan.

We will never tire of celebrating the movements of believers in the nations. We will continue to go the distance and strategize our way to the forgotten. We will put the same amount of effort into reaching every nation and people as Christ did when He ran after us. He gave His all and so will we, until all have heard.

MUHAKAONA WORSHIP



Driving through the forested mountains of southern Angola, we ventured to locate an elusive people group: the Muhakoana. Other missions organizations weren't sure if they had been reached and online research proved helpless to gain intel on this elusive, nomadic tribe. Just as the sun was setting, we wove through the brush and pulled up to the home of a small family. With no real way to communicate or even confidence that this was the tribe we had long heard about, we rolled down the window and asked, "Muhakoana?" "Sim, Muhakoana," they replied in the only Portuguese they knew. This small interaction launched what we understand to be the first gospel exposure for the Muhakoana people.

On the first extended trip to pioneer ministry amongst the Muhakoana, we set out to write a song in the Oluhakoana language, intending for it to be a prophetic declaration for the Muhakoana to sing. The challenge of translation in these early days was no small feat. From Portuguese to Olukuvale, where the written language is still being created by our disciples, then Olukuvale into Oluhakoana which has no written language, the lyrics were workshopped and a simple, yet powerful song was birthed.

Gathered around the fire for a night of preaching and ministry, we began to teach this song to the Muhakoana. Little by little, it caught on, and soon they were singing a name that would change their lives: the name of Jesus.

The next day, the sounds of the morning almost overpowered a quiet melody off in the distance. At first, it sounded like someone was listening to a recording or watching videos from the night before, but the song got louder. We looked to see a group of young kids who had walked miles to our campsite. With huge smiles, they sang at the top of their lungs the very first worship song to ever exist for the Muhakoana people.

As Overland Missions focuses on meeting people's primary need of a revelation of Jesus Christ, our Water Projects department carries this same vision while simultaneously meeting remote people's physical need for clean and accessible water.

In the last year alone the team has been able to repair and/or install over 100 hand pumps across the nation of Zambia, and even crossed the border into neighboring Zimbabwe to install a solar well pump.

Well repair in Africa is a massive need that requires a lot of literal moving parts. Tracking the movements and inventory of these parts can oftentimes be more difficult than the repairs themselves. Water Projects was able to revamp their logistics management of storing inventory and tracking repairs with a new system which has dramatically improved the operations of our team.

In 2024, the Water Projects Department trained fourteen new local leaders, equipping them to repair wells in their areas of ministry. This means that over sixty local people have been trained through our program and are out in the field actively repairing wells while simultaneously preaching the Gospel.

A well repair serves as a valuable opportunity to gather the community. It's common for people in the village to gather around as we fix the pipes and become curious about what we're doing. As the people gather, we take time to preach the gospel and pray for the sick.

As the department becomes more established, we are looking to launch well-repair training for our teams in Mozambique and Angola, which will meet the needs of communities in those regions. Water Projects is a wonderful strategic tool that brings clean water to remote villages and promotes the understanding that the living water of Jesus satisfies all thirsty hearts.



WELL DRILLING

Building Along the River

Brazil is Overland's longest-standing nation for ministry because it has hosted the longest presence of a current Overland missionary. Our Vice President and Co-founder, Sharon Smethurst, was raised in Brazil as a child to a missionary family and after sowing her own life into the nations as an adult, returned with our Overland team to continue transforming the region for Jesus. For over two decades, we have sent hundreds of expeditions down the Amazon River. These teams have shared the gospel amongst the thousands of river villages dotting the Amazonas region, one of the most unreached locations on the globe. It has been an assignment requiring unprecedented grit and faithfulness to the mission, and it comes at a great personal cost to the committed missionary team.

Sector ministry, our model for long-term discipleship, began in Brazil with the purchase of houseboats. These houseboats allowed us to live and minister along the banks of the Amazon River. But even in these early days, our team realized that although the riverboat strategy was working, there needed to be an expansion plan that could multiply disciples. They began to brainstorm: How can we create space for a bigger team and handle the growth that is sure to come?

In 2021, our Brazil team started to walk in faith regarding a land acquisition that would support the expansion. In a chance encounter with a stranger, they were able to find the perfect spot for the base. The property sits directly on the edge of the Popunhal River, a tributary to the Amazon.

Since then, we have begun the hard labor of building a permanent base that will anchor and advance the move of God in the area. The water tower has been built and foundations have been laid. Structures are being completed to make the land livable for long-term missionaries and short-term students along with the electricity and plumbing being finalized throughout the base. By the middle of 2025, our team is hoping to permanently move on to the base and use it as a launching pad into more ministry along the many rivers of the region. The team trusted God for a strategy that would allow the work to expand and multiply, and the multiplication is exponential as the base is developed and inhabited.

How does construction allow for multiplication? This year, the team purchased a "flutuante" (or floating dock house) to have at their still-developing base to function as a classroom as they built on the property. The team put the flutuante to use right away and hosted our first in-person Overland Mission Training (OMT) in Brazil—and all the classes were held on the dock house! Through this intensive training, we were able to raise up six Brazilian missionaries and offer them assignments in the ministry.

These Brazilian missionaries being trained through OMT is exciting for many reasons. Overland has teams in other Portuguese-speaking countries such as Angola and Mozambique, and these countries are desperate for missionaries who can speak Portuguese and easily jump into ministry. With the hunger we are seeing from local leaders in Brazil, we are excited to see Brazil develop as a first-fruit nation in the South American region. We are already sending Brazilian missionaries from their own towns into the remote river region, but we want to see Brazilian missionaries sent to other Portuguese-speaking nations around the world.

While building and training, the team has still been diligent to the foundational reason they're in Brazil – the remote people. Starting with a 4-hour ride on an aluminum fishing boat, our team heads down the river to spend 1-2 weeks in the communities at a time and connect with disciples. They spend time going from house to house to share the gospel and host night meetings to welcome people in to hear the word of God. But as with any missionary assignment, much ministry happens without a pulpit. Many impactful testimonies come from the moments where we can simply break bread together with the people and build relationship. This style of ministry embodies Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, "...we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves." The truth of God settles into the hearts of people in times like these.

As we seek to establish the Kingdom of God in Brazil, we are reminded that we are part of a Kingdom that cannot be shaken. The Amazon River has been known for tribes trapped in darkness, but we are convinced that this will be a place where rivers of true living water will flow. As we remain faithful to the ministry that has been entrusted to us, we are excited to see how the Lord uses our team to reach the people of the Amazonas Region, the nation of Brazil, and the Portuguese-speaking countries of the world.

BRAZIL EXPANSION







SALVATIONS IN ANGOLA

Some assignments require grit and determination that is radical for even the most experienced missionaries.

We live in a rapidly changing world. But the message of the gospel, and the biblical method of reaching people, has not changed since the Book of Acts. At Overland Missions, we are committed to the same first-century gospel the early apostles used to "turn the world upside down!" (Acts 17:6-7)

Since 1999, Overland Missions has not strayed from the most basic biblical commands that allowed the first-century church to walk in power. We GO to the farthest corners of the world, we PREACH the Gospel in its fullness, and we trust the Holy Spirit to DEMONSTRATE the miracles of salvation, healing, deliverance, and empowerment. We have always been a team of young, zealous believers whom some may label ill-equipped for the massive task at hand. But we run, confident in the reality that the Holy Spirit's indwelling is the greatest wisdom available.


Crossing rural Angola as a team

In every place our feet touch, there is a need for solutionists who carry an answer to life's greatest questions. People groups across the world, many of whom have been unreached and neglected by the Church, are looking into our eyes and asking: "Do you have an answer to my pain? My sickness? My emptiness?" Our missionaries travel for hours, days and weeks to answer with a resounding, "Yes." Then, they proceed to spend their lives speaking the truth of God into the people and discipling those who desperately want Him.

This scenario plays out specifically in the Namibe desert in Southwest Angola. There, Kuvale, Muhakaona and Himba people live neglected and nomadic, isolated from the life-giving message of Jesus. They live at the tops of mountains and at the end of impossible roads. They are out of reach of cell network and fuel stations. But the difficulty of reaching them does not intimidate missionaries who are invigorated by adventure and inspired by the gospel.

Through the leadership of our full-time team in Angola, these tribes are being reached in a historic way. In 2024, our team reached out to the Himba of Angola for the first time. They traveled with their disciples from the neighboring Kuvale tribe. When our missionaries in Angola landed eight years ago and strategized who to reach first, the Kuvale were an obvious answer. They are known as the "trouble-makers" of the area: the cattle stealers, the fighters and the drunkards. Nine years later, God has done a work amongst the Kuvale, and many are now ministers in their own right, making disciples who make disciples.

When Kuvale ministry partners traveled with our Western missionaries to the Himba people, they communicated this:

"These Himba will be suspicious of us. They have never been offered anything for free from a Kuvale without an expectation of payment in return. But we offer them good news—for free!"

The Himba people received our team with celebration and open faces, eager to hear the message they brought. They responded to the preaching of the word as a group, stepping forward to affirm their place alongside a great cloud of witnesses. There, under a shade tree in the middle of the desert, no microphone or worship music was playing softly in the background. But the power of the Gospel did its complete miraculous work in a moment, transforming darkness into light. His power truly transcends language, culture, and economic barriers. He changes, in a moment, what has stayed the same for generations.

To carry out this mission in Angola, our missionaries must embody grit and determination in a way that is hard to imagine as an outsider. For several years, our team has ministered to the Mungendelengo Tribe, a little-known people group who reside on the top of a mountain. In animistic traditions, mountaintops are often spiritually significant places, and this one is no different. It is home to a famous "shaman" or spiritualist, who controls the spiritual atmosphere of the village.

The trek to reach the village is a six-mile hike, on foot, up the mountain. All provisions must be traveled with, so our missionaries hire donkeys to carry tents, food, and water. Modern conveniences are non-existent, and it is truly like traveling back in time. Arrival at the top of the mountain is sometimes met with resistance, especially during traditional ceremonies involving witchcraft. However, consistency with these visits and continued preaching have led to growing interest in the gospel and many decisions among the people to follow Jesus. One woman of the Munguendelengo Tribe expressed,

"If you had just come once, it would be like you were playing a game. But you continue to come back, so it is like instead you care deeply for us."

For 25 years, Overland Missions has been an organized and team-focused expression of ministry, and our goal remains the same. We will always take the toughest roads to get to the most remote people and declare that the gift of salvation is for all. In Angola, and all over the world, Overland missionaries are truly gaining the reputation of those who are turning the world upside-down by doing whatever it takes to reach the one.


Preaching to the Kuvali Tribe

DR CONGO

Sending Zambians

The Democratic Republic of Congo has historically been known for corruption, conflict, and instability; but revival is rapidly spreading through our team's radical commitment to unity and diversity.

Our team in the DRC doubled in the last two years. We now have 23 full-time missionaries. Of those, four are American, six are Zambian, and thirteen are Congolese. The differences in the outlooks, upbringings, and approaches to life and ministry in the diversity of this team have proven to be an incredible benefit.

The unprecedented move of God in Zambia has worked to empower the Zambian people by breaking off the chains of limitation and uprooting lies of lack over them. As our Zambian team members break open new areas of the Congo, Congolese believers also grab ahold of God's call on their lives by releasing the limitations of their nationality and letting God's word define them completely.

Our 13 Congolese team members/missionaries have unmatched grit, and they're channeling it all into the gospel going forth in their country. Their resilience and ability to move forward in chaotic environments means that momentum for the kingdom moves consistently forward, even in a notoriously unstable nation.

We also see foreigners catch the ear of locals in a way that someone from their home region may not be able to do. An outsider can push the boundaries of cultural norms and freely call people to a higher, heavenly standard. At one revival meeting in 2024, one of our American missionaries stood on top of his vehicle to preach as hundreds of people gathered



around to hear the message he brought. As he challenged the strongholds and mentalities of Congolese culture that didn't align with the freedom and truth of God's word, many gave their lives to Jesus.

On the same trip, the team had planned a meeting under a nearby tree with good shade, but the crowd grew so large that a local church invited them to gather in their building that could hold 500 people. Even in such a large space, hundreds more spilled out of the doors and leaned into the windows hungry for a touch from Jesus and a fresh revelation of God's love. The altar couldn't hold the flood of people receiving salvation, healing, deliverance, and empowerment from Heaven. As the team left that day, one man ran after them to say, "Although you're leaving, I am not sad. Because of what you shared, I know that Jesus remains with me."

As a unified missionary family, the Congo team pioneered seven chiefdoms in 2024 and are actively, through the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, rewriting the history of what has previously been known as a nation of darkness.

Generational Effect

Patrick is a Zambian whose parents joined our Overland team in the early days of building our Rapid 14 base. Their lives were transformed by the Lord and the all-consuming love of God quickly reached their son. As Patrick grew as a young man exposed to the Overland team, he began to attend a local Overland Missions Bible study, and through this fellowship was set on fire for kingdom work around the world. He and four other young men from this Bible study began partnering with our Expeditions department on short-term trips, and the rest is history. Over the last five years, each of these young men have joined Overland as full-time missionaries.

In 2024, Patrick launched to the Congo and jumped straight into Swahili language learning. After a few months of committing himself to his studies, he was itching to begin his ministry. Our Congo leadership agreed that he was ready to take his own sector, and he held nothing back. On one of his first trips into the Mwilu chiefdom, Patrick was stopped by the local authorities to check his documentation. Even with the proper paperwork and permissions for ministry and travel, he was detained by the police for hours with no explanation. Though this detainment felt like an interruption, the incident led to Patrick crossing paths with a local pastor who was eager for a move of God in his village.

As Patrick preached the word and ministered in this pastor's village within the Mwilu chiefdom, people were miraculously touched by God and surrendered their lives to Him. Patrick continues to visit twice a week, and these disciples have been so hungry and moved by God that when Patrick isn't around, they walk far distances to share the gospel in other villages and bring revival by the Holy Spirit.

What began with Patrick's parents being touched by God and working with the team, continued in the obedience of their son, and is ultimately leading to a cultural shift in a chiefdom a country away. From one generation to the next, from one country to another, the move of God has no end.

"I know that Jesus remains with me."

- New believer in Congo



OVERLAND MISSIONS MUSIC





Overland Missions Music (OMM) released two albums this year: Behold the Lamb and Airstream Sessions. The goal of this creative focus is far beyond releasing music on streaming platforms, but rather to magnify the sound of Jesus throughout the entire world.

In March of 2024, we sent a team to Indonesia to scout ministry opportunities for a permanent launch in 2025. As they prepared to go, the team discreetly made contact with a local pastor, without sharing the name of Overland Missions. They landed in the country and got into a taxi with the pastor. The pastor proceeded to plug a thumb drive into the taxi's dash to listen to his own music as they drove. Imagine the team's shock when the song that played through the speakers was, "I Give You All," an Overland Missions song! He had met us without ever meeting us and understood our hearts immediately. This song created an instant connection for long-term work, ahead of our full-time team launching to Indonesia in March of 2025. We are eager to see more testimonies like these as our musicians continue reaching the most remote places of the world, even when they haven't set foot there themselves.

Every song published by OMM is written by missionaries in the foreign field. These albums had over 30 contributing writers, all of them Overland missionaries focused on ministering to remote and neglected people. These missionaries write songs in the context of the culture and language they are immersed in, as a way to bring people into an encounter with God. There are currently eight songwriting pods amongst our teams around the world that meet monthly, stirring creativity and soaking in the presence of God. This model will continue to bring a beautiful and theologically accurate sound to the globe.

The newest album is a Live recording of our already published songs and is now available to stream on all platforms. Give it a listen!

ANY ROAD
ANY LOAD
ANY TIME



2024
END OF YEAR REPORT

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