

A close-up photograph of a man wearing a blue turban and a matching face covering (neti). He is looking directly at the camera with a steady gaze. He is holding a young camel (calf) in his arms. The camel's head is visible in the foreground, with its mouth slightly open, showing its teeth. The background is out of focus, showing other camels and a bright, possibly outdoor setting.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

2023 Impact Report



Partners
INTERNATIONAL

In stillness
In darkness
In plenty
In need

I am the light of the world





Going beyond...

Partners International Canada focuses on church planting and community transformation in our world's least-reached or most persecuted places.

One in three people on the planet have limited or NO access to hear the good news of Jesus. There are no local churches in their language or region and they know no Christians personally. Many of these people belong to one of 7,391 distinct

unreached* people groups. These people predominantly live in places like the Middle East, North Africa and throughout the different regions of Asia.

We work in these difficult places because less than 3% of the world's mission work is done here and because only 1% of mission giving goes to these places that have no Christian witness, Bibles or Churches.

* A country, tribe or region is considered "reached" when more than 2% of its population are followers of Jesus.

At Partners International,
we aim to make Jesus
known where few or
none know His name and
provide opportunities for
people to experience
His extraordinary love
firsthand.

*“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said:
‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up
their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it,
but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.’”*

~ Mark 8:34-35

Dear Friends,

Last November, during my visit to our ministry partners in eastern Nepal, I was preparing a sermon from Acts 16 when a violent earthquake struck the country’s western region. My sermon took on new relevance.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas, imprisoned for sharing the gospel, gain their freedom when an earthquake miraculously opens the prison doors. While many would have fled, Paul and Silas did not prioritize their own physical freedom but instead focused on the spiritual freedom of the jailer and his family. Staying afforded them the opportunity to lead the entire family to Christ and baptize them in the pre-dawn light.

I am often confronted by the danger of where our partners work. Many, daily, live boldly and take great personal risks in order to see the power of the gospel revealed.

In this report, you will read the stories of bold leaders on mission with God to bring about spiritual transformation in the most difficult of places. Like Paul and Silas, threats and even violence do not dissuade our partners because their passion to see Jesus changing lives, communities and contexts compels them.

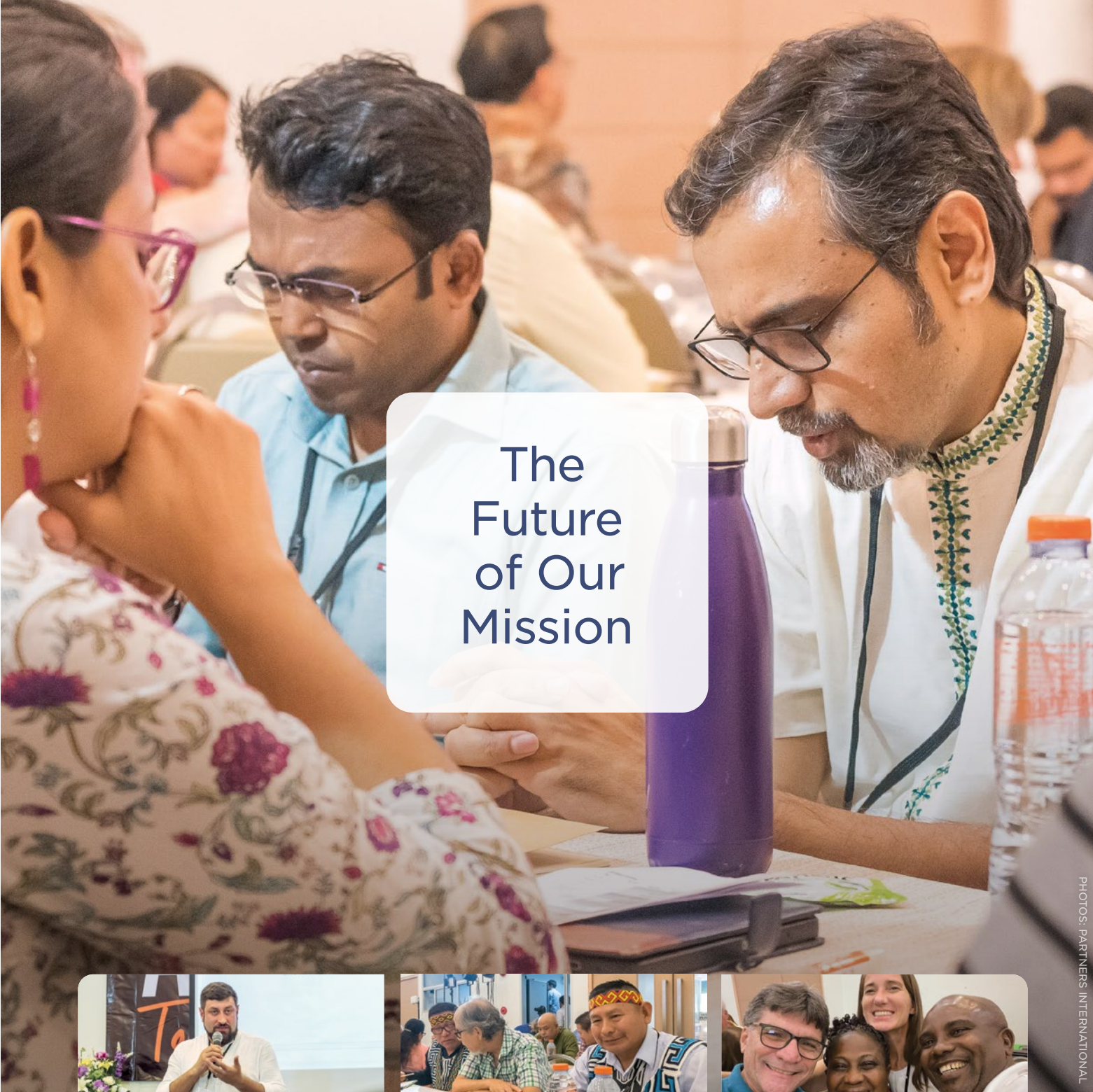
It is an honour to partner with these leaders and share their stories with you - our friends, donors and partners here in Canada. Thank you for partnering with us.

Darren

Darren DeGraaf
President, Partners International Canada



PHOTOS: CASANNA



The Future of Our Mission



This year, for the first time, we brought together all our partners to dream and plan in Thailand!

Our driving question was - How can we accelerate missions together?
Here is what our partners had to say about this event:

“It was an unforgettable experience exchanging knowledge, getting acquainted with other cultures and feeling that with God we are all brothers and sisters.” ~ Ana, Moldova

“Empowering, uplifting, and a glimpse into what all nations together before Jesus will be like.” ~ Daniel, Hong Kong

“The interaction of ideas from different perspectives and contexts helped deepen my appreciation of what I have and know and am already doing. New ideas were planted in my mind. Answers and solutions to unasked questions or issues were provided.” ~ David, Nigeria

Our partners appreciated that we sought their insights. One leader remarked:
“Once again, it proved that Partners International respects local partners’ vision and thoughts.”

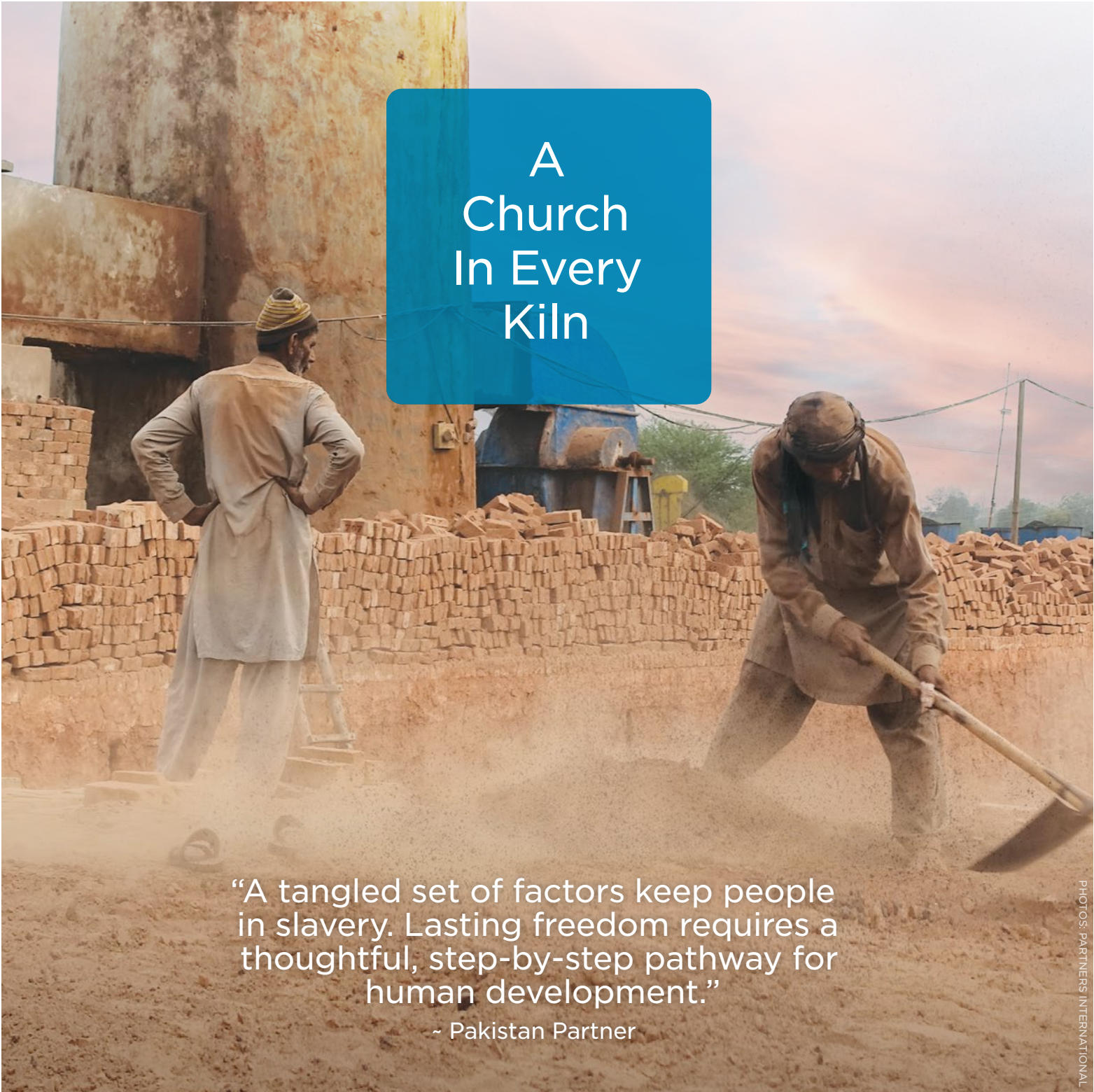
Prayer times were rich and worship was led in multiple languages. Our team from Partners International Canada was able to

listen, learn and inspire a shared vision for our shared future.

The gathering acted as a catalyst for future collaboration and learning. A few exciting joint projects moving forward include:

- 1. A digital platform to share resources and proficiencies.
- 2. Technology curriculum for children to young adults: Learning to thrive, protecting oneself and sharing the gospel in secular contexts.
- 3. Accessing crowdfunding to raise revenue for social justice programs.
- 4. Using YouTube to share the gospel in different languages and contexts.
- 5. Effectively utilizing our missions model framework to introduce people to Jesus.

The innovation teams assembled at the conference are already working diligently on these initiatives, crafting prototypes and pilot projects. Partners International Canada will spearhead the coordination of these efforts and we are confident that resources and models will be generated that many others can benefit from. Through these efforts, we can clearly see how our partnerships are shaping the mission models and manuals of tomorrow.



A Church In Every Kiln

“A tangled set of factors keep people in slavery. Lasting freedom requires a thoughtful, step-by-step pathway for human development.”
~ Pakistan Partner

PHOTOS: PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL

Approximately 3 million individuals in Pakistan endure the harsh reality of modern-day slavery, a significant number of whom find themselves ensnared in the notoriously unregulated brick kiln industry.

Though bonded labour is illegal in Pakistan, few are held accountable for this practice. Local leader David, an expert in this field, shares, *“Kiln owners wield significant influence, holding connections with the police, high bureaucrats and parliamentarians. In this way, they circumvent the laws and rules of government in place.”*

Children are often forced to work alongside their parents to fulfill arduous brick quotas. In this environment, young girls and women face heightened vulnerability to abuse, a concern that often remains unreported. Even when incidents are reported, they tend to be overlooked by law enforcement and the judicial system.

In response to this challenge, our partner pioneered a groundbreaking approach, known as Freedom Pakistan to liberate families trapped in bonded labour within brick kilns or serving as modern-day serfs for agricultural landowners. This initiative strives to emancipate individuals in all aspects of life, producing vibrant believers and communities of faith living whole lives in Christ and winning others for Jesus.

Through Freedom Pakistan, we guide families along pathways to enduring

freedom from slavery and generational debt. This involves offering human rights education, literacy classes, skills training, basic budgeting and math skills and a range of graduated income-generating opportunities, including sewing, small plot gardening, animal husbandry and fair-share farms where agricultural workers can earn good incomes. These activities run alongside Bible studies, prayer meetings and church plants open to all participants.

The Results:

- **A 65% reduction in family indebtedness**
- **16 families completely debt-free**
- **Zero additional debt taken this year**
- **40 families started small businesses**
- **Majority of children now attending school**

Even more exciting, **“Every kiln is now a community church,”** shares David. The power of the gospel and the love of God is demonstrated in these courageous and insightful locally-driven programs that are transforming communities in Pakistan.



\$3.0
Million

was invested in sharing the good news of Jesus through word and deed in the least reached parts of our world this past year.

“Every number is a name, every name is a life and every life is an eternity.”

~ Darren DeGraaf

265,125

Gospel Presentations

16,026

New Believers

6,823

People Baptized

723

New Churches (Communities of Jesus Followers)

3,202

Leaders in Training

470,688

People Served Through Health, Education, Economic and Relief Programs.

Gospel Waves in South Asia

In one region of Bangladesh, we trained and sent 11 evangelists to engage with seven unreached people groups. Over several months, **they shared the gospel with 2,460 individuals, leading 791 to Christ and baptizing 59.** This was accomplished using our church growth model that cultivates sustainable church planting movements in closed countries called Integral Disciple Making Movements (IDMM).

God’s Grace Echoes Across Africa

Despite extreme challenges in Kenya, from drought and hunger to soaring food prices and a devastating flood, our ministry partner, alongside a deep partnership with Richmond Hill Christian Community Church, still **shared the gospel with 14,200 people, saw 2,010 embrace Christ, baptized 1,740, planted 96 churches, operated a high school and served 20,000 individuals with medical care, relief, and microfinance.**

Amazon’s Uncharted Spiritual Frontiers

Supporting tribal missionary journeys into new and remote areas of the Amazon have resulted in the establishment of **43 new communities of faith, with 897 people embracing Christ.** Individuals like Juan Pacaya, a recent convert from the Amawaca tribe residing along the Yurúa River, express gratitude, saying, “You are reaching the places where no one goes.” Additionally, our local partner successfully made contact with five new tribes in the Amazon.

“In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world...”

~ Colossians 1:6

PHOTO: IVAN BANDURA

Building a Legacy in Southeast Asia

Established in 2007, our partner ministry, Vision Thailand, has flourished, with **50 churches planted** in the past ten years. Operating in 14 of 76 provinces, their compassionate programs focus on children, people with disabilities and migrant workers. **Over 54,600 Christian tracts have been distributed this year,** fostering engagement with thousands of individuals. Bible studies and prayer meetings thrive, attracting **16,380 participants seeking spiritual growth and connection.**



PHOTO: PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL

Upholding Integrity for Canadians

Your Gift to Partners International is a Good Investment

Contributing to Partners International is no ordinary gift—it’s an extraordinary investment. Throughout our 80-year history, we’ve committed to cultivating enduring global relationships that drive meaningful change. Every dollar received is strategically invested in the right people and programs to effectively share the gospel, plant churches, disciple believers, support the persecuted church and foster community transformation.

Key Highlights:

- Every partnership centres on cultivating **healthy, sustainable local churches dedicated to sharing the message of Jesus through word and deed** in their own and nearby communities.
- We prioritize least-reached areas, often receiving a mere 1% of mission giving.
- A remarkable 82% of every dollar designated for a project directly fuels on-the-ground initiatives.

Empowering the Canadian Church for Global Impact

Globally, Spirit-filled leaders are spreading Jesus’ good news in challenging places, offering valuable lessons and inspiration for the Canadian Church. Funds for donor development and administration are strategically used to share these leaders’ stories and connect Canadians to impactful global partnerships.

We offer consultation services to mission committees, church leaders and individual donors committed to reaching the least-reached corners of our world. Collaborating with churches, we help align global and local strategies, inviting Canadians to witness firsthand what God is accomplishing in places not commonly found on a map.

Key Requirements for Best Practice

This comprehensive approach requires expertise, staffing, oversight and investment. What may be labelled as “administrative costs” is, in reality, an investment in Canadian ministry integrity. Partners International Canada dedicates resources for skilled staff, auditors and internal policy development. Thorough evaluation ensures global partners maintain effective governance, leadership, audits and reporting.

Your Donation is in Good Hands

Your thoughtful, intentional and strategic donations are the cornerstone of effective ministry. Entrusted by donors like you, we ensure accountability in reporting and impactful outcomes that define our mission. Without your support, we couldn’t achieve the level of success and transformation that defines Partners International’s commitment to serving God’s purpose.

How We Quantify Mission Impact

We carefully assess various intentional metrics and gather field data from each local partner. This evaluation encompasses critical aspects, such as:

- Number of times the good news of Jesus was shared.
- Visits to unreached villages, towns and cities.
- Number of individuals baptized, recognizing the potential risks in persecuted regions.
- Establishment of Bible studies, house churches, or congregations.
- Number of individuals served through acts of love and kindness.

In addition, we gauge the vitality of every partnership using **50 key indicators**. These indicators are categorized under leadership health, strategy alignment, program effectiveness, capacity and sustainability.

13x the Impact!

Our coined phrase *13x the Impact* captures the incredible effectiveness of our ministry model. It is rooted in the evidence that our strategic approach consistently yields substantive spiritual fruit. We credit this success to elements such as a commitment to prayer, high-quality spirit-led local leaders, ongoing investment in innovation and an integral approach to mission (the whole gospel transforming the whole person - physically, spiritually, emotionally, socially and intellectually).

Continuous prayer, evaluation, feedback loops and ongoing improvements, along with steadfast capacity-building for local leaders ensure our ministry partnerships achieve significant outcomes with efficient financial investments. **Thank you for entrusting us to steward your gifts for God’s glory!**

Board of Directors (as of January 2024)

Jennifer Kilback (Chair)
Ann Chow (Vice-Chair)
Monica Elfstedt (Treasurer)
Mat Stevenson (Secretary)
Frances Choi
Phil Dempster
Michel Fahmy
Peggy Grall
Harding Ng
Matt Thompson
Stone Yu

“Partners International Canada’s independent and volunteer Board of Directors wholeheartedly endorse the ministry outcomes and financial statements in this report. Our role is to direct and protect the organization. We ensure accountability through regular reporting, board oversight, strong management policies and annual external audits.

Our goal is to ensure that your gifts help build the Church and transform communities through local leadership in the name of Jesus. We are deeply grateful for your support.”

Jennifer Kilback
Board Chair

All correspondence with the board can be made by sending an email to chair@partnersinternational.ca which will be sent directly to our Board Chair.

Charting Impact: Your Gifts Invested

Reported 2022-23

Figures are rounded to the nearest \$1,000. Partners International Canada has a fiscal year end of June 30. Audited financial statements are available on our website at www.partnersinternational.ca/annual-report.

	Fiscal Year End 2022/23	Fiscal Year End 2021/22
REVENUE:		
Revenue		
Contributions		
Designated Contributions	\$ 3,041,000	\$ 3,404,000
Undesignated Contributions	\$ 1,428,000	\$ 1,207,000
Other Income (rental, investment, etc.)	\$ 32,000	\$ 30,000
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 4,501,000	\$ 4,641,000
EXPENSES:		
Expenses		
International Programs	\$ 3,007,000	\$ 3,470,000
Support Services		
Fund Development	\$ 630,000	\$ 533,000
Administration	\$ 448,000	\$ 395,000
Facilities and Equipment	\$ 62,000	\$ 81,000
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 4,147,000	\$ 4,479,000
FUND BALANCES AT YEAR END:		
Operating fund	\$ 475,000	\$ 362,000
Designated fund (International Programming)	\$ 730,000	\$ 697,000

Partners International Canada works closely with our international partners to create annual project plans with budgets funded through gifts from our donor community. Funds are distributed monthly as targets are reached and reporting is completed.

Designated contributions are reserved for the specific program and projects to which they are given until a program or partnership ends. Fund balances reflect balances in specific partner accounts and our commitment to faithfully provide sustained and consistent monthly contributions. Fund balances, particularly undesignated balances, allow us to respond quickly to opportunities and emergencies as they emerge.

The Board of Partners International Canada keeps a modest reserve in our operating fund to ensure ministry continuation and capacity building of our team. We conduct an annual external audit, with details available on our website. We regularly audit our culture and workplace practices to ensure a healthy and effective work environment.



The Power of Church Partnerships

“We love that Partners International Canada empowers local ministries by coming alongside those representing the gospel in their own communities.”

PHOTO: PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL

In the beautiful city of Victoria, BC, Lambrick Park Church stands as a testament to the profound impact a local congregation can have on a global scale. In a recent meeting with Scott Anderson, the church’s pastor, we delved into Lambrick Park Church’s remarkable journey with Partners International Canada, our field partners in India and, more recently, in Moldova.

Over the past decade, Lambrick Park Church has forged an enduring relationship with Partners International Canada, marking a shift from partnering with numerous agencies in a smaller way to committing to a few partners for an extended term. **This strategic decision enabled the church to build strong connections with our local partners, fostering healthy, prayerful and mutual relationships resonating around the holistic gospel work being done.**

In our conversation, Pastor Scott shared how being in relationship with our partner in India, focused on anti-trafficking and rehabilitating children rescued from the sex trade, brought awareness to the congregation of the global realities of human trafficking and allowed them to make a difference. This partnership also helped them keep in touch with the same reality unfolding at home in Victoria.

In 2023, the church prayerfully determined that after a decade focused in India, the Lord was leading them to Moldova.

It felt like the providential hand of God putting the pieces in place when they discovered we had a local Moldovan partner with a well-established ministry there.

Partners International Canada coordinated a Discovery Trip for the church leadership to determine if a new long-term relationship was in the making. During their time together, the team was inspired by the leaders they met, the calibre of the ministry work among Moldovans and their relief work with Ukrainians. The Discovery Trip team members were profoundly moved after witnessing 30 new believers being baptized in a Ukrainian church during their visit. This solidified the church’s resolve to support and join with the work in Moldova.

During the Advent season, Lambrick Park Church leadership highlighted the new partnership with their congregation and raised over \$23,000 to provide aid to the Ukrainian Church through our trusted partners in Moldova.

Lambrick Park Church’s journey with Partners International illustrates the transformative power of long-term global church partnerships. Mutuality in Prayer, Learning, Encouragement, Impact and Relationship are only a few of the outcomes experienced by Lambrick Park Church and our field partners in India for the past decade and now continuing on into Moldova.



The Gospel in Dangerous Places

ABOVE: ANTON RYBAKOV
LEFT: VADIM BOGULOV

Zarina, one of our youngest missionaries, grew up in Central Asia in a Muslim family. After her father’s death, her mother struggled to provide for five children and Zarina saw limited options for her future.

However, she was convinced that learning Russian would broaden her opportunities. She discovered a nearby church with services in Russian. The congregation warmly welcomed her and as she learned the new language, her heart opened to the story of Jesus. However, upon discovering her attendance at church, her family prohibited it, insisting she was bringing shame upon them.

Despite her mother’s objections, Zarina continued to attend church. Her brother, angered by her defiance, sought revenge by beating her so severely she couldn’t attend school for months. But when she recovered, she returned to the church.

That same year, she became a follower of Jesus and was baptized. This was too much for her family and she was taken to her uncle’s home, where he beat her and kept her locked in a room. Her uncle planned to arrange her marriage to a Muslim man. After weeks of intense prayer, the Lord softened Zarina’s mother’s heart and she insisted that her uncle release her if Zarina agreed not to attend church any longer.

Zarina finished high school then moved to the capital, where she attended church again. A desire to work in full-time Christian ministry grew within her and she received a grant to attend a Christian University in a neighbouring country. There, she continued growing in her faith while earning a degree in social work and served with our partners in their well-developed youth programs.

At 26, Zarina felt called to return to her home country as one of our newest workers. Despite the real threats of violence and disownment from her family, God has given her a vision to work with the youth there - to bring the hope-filled message of Jesus to others.

In the past few months, Zarina gathered 30 young people in regular meetings to study the Bible and learn how to bring peace to their communities. Using an integral approach, she instills Christian values, fostering holistic growth. Her vision is for young people to know Jesus and to expand God’s kingdom in her country.

* Name changed to protect the identity of our courageous partner.

LOCAL

Every initiative is locally led by leaders serving their own communities.

COURAGEOUS

Our partners take significant risks to tell others about Jesus.

INTEGRAL

We invest in the spiritual, emotional and physical transformation of people.

CHURCH PLANTING
LEAST REACHED PEOPLE
PERSECUTED CHURCH
JESUS CHANGING LIVES
DISCIPLE-MAKING
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

We partner with local
leaders in challenging places
worldwide to **build the church**
and **transform communities**
in the name of Jesus.



PHOTO: LUCIAN COMAN



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