



THE CHALMERS CENTER
2021 ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORT

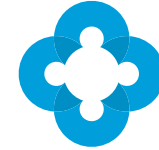
**The local
church
is God's
strategy,**

**and so
it will
always
be ours.**



We equip local churches

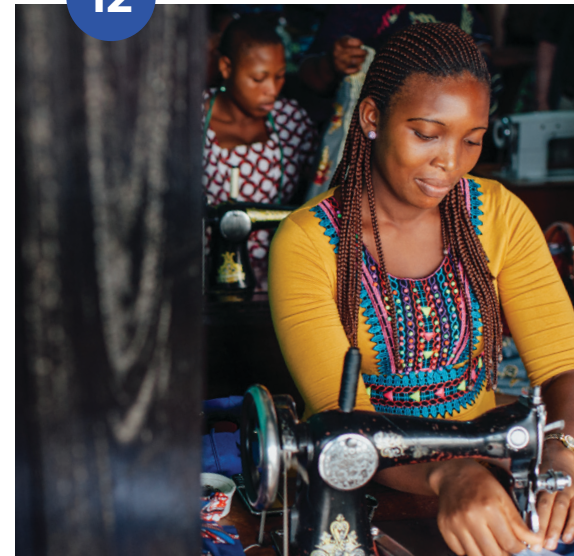
to address the broken relationships at the root of material poverty, living out Jesus' Kingdom today.



The
Chalmers
Center



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We need a new story.

God designed the Church to act as His agents of reconciliation in our broken world, demonstrating His Kingdom in word and deed.

Jesus delighted in sharing this Good News among the hurting, weak, and poor.

Yet we often find the Church doesn't understand how the Gospel relates to material poverty, or what to do about it.

While longing for justice and reconciliation, we settle for short-term solutions that fail to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the people we're trying to help.



AT CHALMERS WE BELIEVE:

- + **Poverty alleviation is the ministry of reconciliation.**
- + **The local church is God's strategy.**
Our poverty alleviation ministries must be "rooted in and lead back to" the local church.
- + **The Church is full of many gifts.**
When local churches are able to use their gifts, they are unleashed to proclaim and demonstrate the Kingdom of God.
- + **In focusing on local assets, not just on needs.**
This allows us to engage in dignity-promoting, rather than dependency creating poverty alleviation ministry.
- + **Learning and practice go hand in hand.**
Together, we are improvising the Kingdom of God, which requires a posture of humility and a readied willingness to adapt.

The local church is God's strategy, and so it will always be ours.

God has let us in on his plan to restore all of creation—the Church. He has commissioned and empowered His people—you!—to live into His new creation.

As the Church, we have the answer to the profound brokenness faced by communities around the world.



A NEW STORY

Our Kingdom calling is to *engage, encourage, and equip* the Church by communicating God's Big Story and how it relates to poverty alleviation.

This is why Chalmers is committed to equipping the local church to live as the embodiment of God's Kingdom here and now—the place where the causes of material poverty are addressed in a loving community under the authority of Jesus.

Together, the Church can help to restore materially poor people to flourishing participants in God's Kingdom by enabling them to enjoy reconciled relationships with God, self, others, and the rest of creation.

See how the support of partners, like you, is giving churches and church-equipping organizations a better understanding of God's paradigm-shifting story—and each of our roles in it.

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Dear friends,

I have felt called to help poor people ever since I was a kid. Toward that end, I was able to earn a Ph.D. in economics with a specialization in poverty alleviation. But a lot has changed since my graduate school days. For although I continue to believe that sound economic analysis is part of the solution to poverty, I have come to believe that the field of economics is part of the problem as well.

Let me explain...

Like much of Western Civilization, mainstream economics reduces divine image-bearers to purely material creatures. As a result, most approaches to poverty alleviation focus on helping poor people to consume more material things. This is true of our global and national economic policies, and it is true of our individual approaches to poverty as well. For example, this is the approach that we use when we put a quarter in the hand of a homeless person: We give a material resource—money—hoping this will solve the problem somehow.

To be sure, helping people to consume more is part of poverty alleviation. But human beings aren't just physical creatures. In addition to bodies, we have souls. Moreover, we are deeply wired for relationship. I know it sounds a little strange, but human beings are highly-integrated, body-soul-relational creatures that are hardwired to enjoy loving relationships with God, self, others, and creation. According to our Creator, this is what human flourishing looks like, for this is how He made us.

This truth profoundly shapes God's goal for the homeless person and His ways of achieving the goal. You see, in contrast to the story of mainstream economics, healthy relationships are both the goal and the way of achieving the goal. There are no shortcuts, and there are no alternatives, for this is God's redeeming story for the homeless person—and for all of us.

For over two decades, the Chalmers Center has equipped local churches to better understand God's story as it relates to poverty alleviation. Why bother with the local church? It's a mess! I assure you, I'm as frustrated with the current state of the U.S. church as anybody. **But the church remains God's primary strategy for accomplishing His purposes, and so it will always be ours as well.** We believe that God's word is true, that His plans are unchanging, that the church is Plan A, and that there is no Plan B.

Indeed, we see God using the Chalmers Center to equip thousands of churches all over the world to live into God's story by restoring poor people to flourishing participants in God's mission. It works because God makes it work!

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

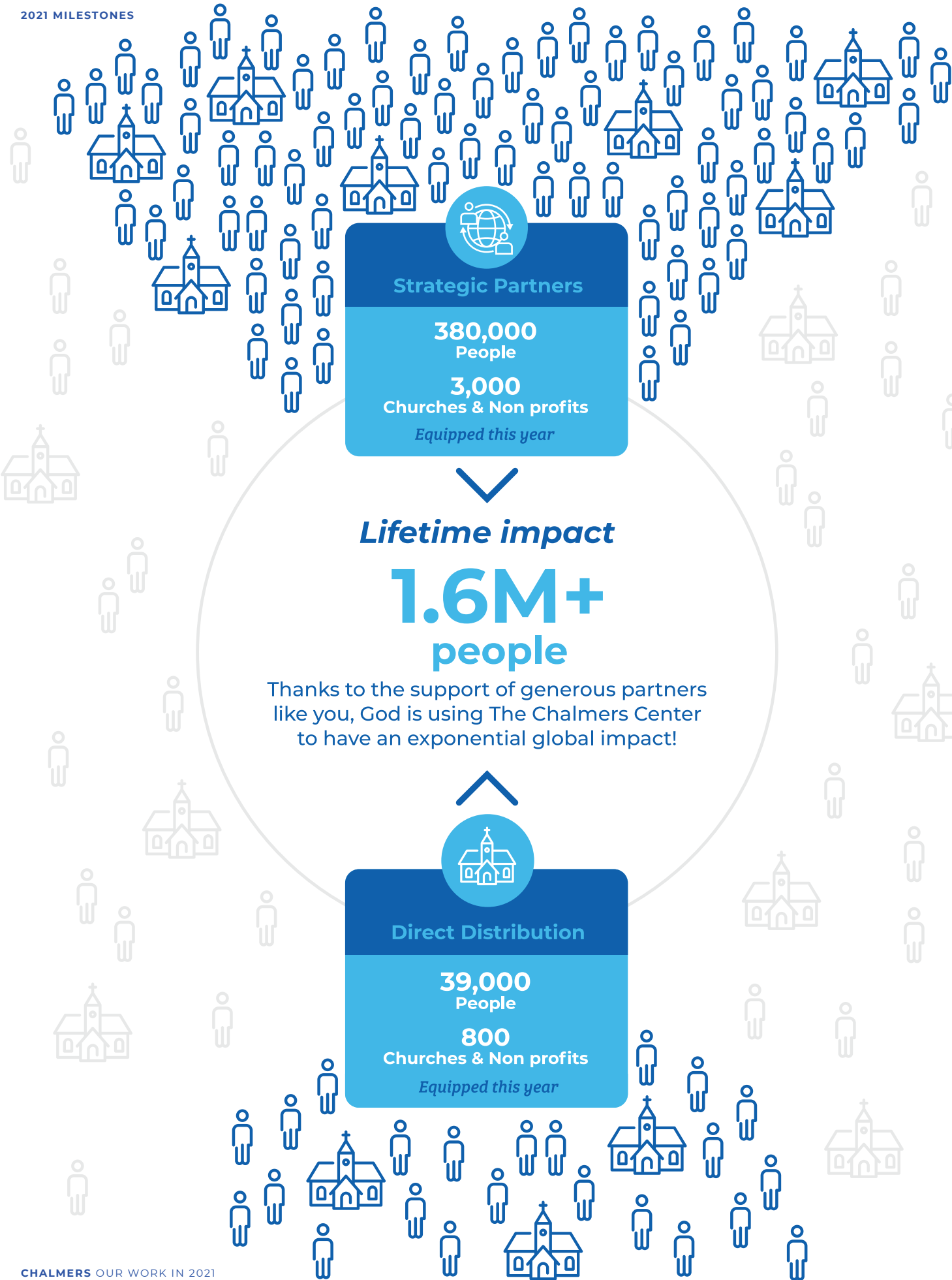
Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly!

Brian Fikkert

Dr. Brian Fikkert
Founder & President



2021 MILESTONES



THIS YEAR,
WE'RE CELEBRATING



545

churches with
savings groups



1,552

church facilitators
trained



20,475

savings group
participants



5

countries in
West Africa

Since *Restore* launched in 2012,
our partners in West Africa have
launched 9,300 savings groups,
empowering over 133,000 people.



Transformation in the midst of crisis

In 2013, Chalmers' local partners first pioneered savings groups in Central Ghana. Many groups were started over the years, but interest in the groups fell short of expectations.

Fast forward to 2020 and God did something unexpected. We asked our local partners how we could best help support them during the pandemic. Their response? Cell phones and prepaid phone cards.

Our local leaders knew communication was key to supporting their newest savings groups - that ongoing training and Christian community would provide vital support to enable the groups to remain safe and active during crisis.

With the generous support of partners like you, we provided the tools our trainers needed to communicate with facilitators during the pandemic—even those in the most remote villages.

As a result, savings groups began to multiply. In just seven months, 60 new groups began, and now over 500 savings groups have launched—doubling the number of groups started in our first five years combined!

While the growing number of groups is encouraging, it's the transformation we see in the lives of group members that's truly exciting.



"Prior to the savings group ministry, the situation in this village was so dire that we had no hope in life.

Before this ministry, there were many times when we were financially crippled and overwhelmed. Worst of all, we never had the money we needed to invest in our farms. But now all that has changed.

I'm now able to support my husband in his farming activities with the payouts that I get from the savings group. I have been able to start two savings groups; one has 26 members while the other has 31. The savings group ministry is of immense help to us and we are so grateful to God for this."

**GLADYS,
SAVINGS GROUP TRAINER, GHANA**

As we hear story after story from our partners around the world, one thing is clear—through the support of partners like you, God went before us this year.

Your continued support is making more stories like Gladys' possible as our local partners in West Africa continue ministry in the midst of uncertainty.

DISCOVERING A BETTER WAY

Innovate unleashes churches to pioneer Kingdom-centered poverty alleviation solutions.

This year, 145 people from Chattanooga to Zimbabwe joined Chalmers to learn our proven framework for pioneering Kingdom-centered poverty alleviation solutions that allow communities to truly flourish.

Inspired by the ministry design principles in *Becoming Whole*, the accompanying *Field Guide* and the ongoing work of Chalmers Center staff, this new course has been years in the making.

"Innovate is such a clarifying process for churches and Christian ministries. Teams are building stronger relationships with their stakeholders and seeing ministry design as something to be done with people rather than for them."

TABITHA KAPIC, CHALMERS DIRECTOR OF INNOVATION



LEARN MORE
about *Innovate* opportunities for
your team at: chalmers.org/innovate

Integrating the best practices of design thinking and God's biblical story of change, *Innovate* teams are equipped to:

- **Address** the broken relationships at the root of material poverty.
- **Apply** the design thinking process and principles to their ministries.
- **Develop** creative, sustainable solutions that help communities flourish.

Innovate is providing the Church with new tools to creatively improvise the Kingdom in their context—transforming how they view and do ministry now and in the future.

The eager response and creative solutions from our first *Innovate* cohorts leave us excited to see more churches developing Kingdom-centered solutions.

"Our country has over 85% unemployment, but we are learning with Chalmers that poverty is not just a problem for us, but for the whole world."

We are learning the importance of human flourishing and that every way we help is all about God's story of change.

Thank you for helping us learn and I wonder where you are taking us next!"

PARTNERS IN
TRANSFORMATION,
ZIMBABWE



THIS YEAR,
WE'RE CELEBRATING



260

participants in
Chalmers' new
innovation courses.



7

countries
represented:
Barbados,
Canada, Ecuador,
Philippines, U.S.,
Zambia and
Zimbabwe



43

people formed three
teams to design and
test new economic
development
interventions.

Real poverty alleviation is about *how* you get things done, not just about *what* gets done.

BECOMING WHOLE, BRIAN FIKKERT & KELLY M. KAPIC

3 WAYS

Our resources and training are equipping local churches



Create tools to help churches improve, adopt, or design new, contextualized poverty alleviation ministries.



Distribute tools and framework widely and effectively across various channels.



Sustain and grow our work through revenue-generating activities and diversified financial partners.

The local church is God's strategy—and so, it will always be ours.

This year
35,000
PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH RESOURCES

This year
384,000
PEOPLE REACHED
THROUGH TRAINING

Equipping local churches worldwide

As it understands the heart of Jesus for the weak, poor and hurting, the Church begins to foster a community whose worship, story, practices, systems and people seek to reconcile the broken relationships at the root of material poverty.

At Chalmers we equip the Church by developing proven resources and training for local churches to walk alongside the poor. Again this year, God used your support to help engage, encourage, and equip the Church.



+ **Revised *Restore*** (formerly *Restore: Savings*), our savings group curriculum, in partnership with field partners and savings group experts.



+ **Launched *Helping Without Hurting in Africa*** to help train leaders in Africa to proclaim the gospel in word and deed.



+ **Chalmers Coaches initiative** trained 23 leaders who will help to exponentially scale our work with Majority World partners.

+ **Pivoted *Faith & Finances* financial literacy facilitator training** to a coached cohort, increasing the course completion rate by 40%.

+ **Expanded our jobs ministry curriculum, *Work Life* to include:**

- Coached distance-learning certification
- Site certification model
- Trauma-informed perspective
- A deeper focus on mass incarceration
- Additional support through pre and post-training resources

Together, we're helping people on the margins find and keep meaningful work through *Work Life*.

"The people we work with are often coming out of generational poverty, deep trauma, or addiction. They've often put their dreams on the backburner.

But with Work Life as part of our program, we're able to help them get back on their feet."

ALAN MURDOCK,
PROJECT CONNECT NASHVILLE



Chalmers has unlocked the potential of our community.

RICHARD YAO, COUNTRY DIRECTOR
CÔTE D'IVOIRE, TEARFUND



NEW THIS YEAR
Chalmers' NEW Global Strategic Partnerships department is building capacity to equip missionally aligned organizations.

New possibilities in partnership

God has uniquely positioned Chalmers to equip the church to continue in His mission.

For over two decades we've had the privilege of working with incredible global partners. This year, your support paved the way to launch a new, dedicated Global Strategic Partnership team—focused on expanding our resources for existing partners and making room for new partnerships with like-minded organizations around the globe.

"The teamwork and support from the Chalmers staff have enabled us to multiply our efforts as we witnessed exponential growth in the midst of the pandemic."

TIM TOLOSO, SAN ANTONIO REGION DIRECTOR,
FAITH & WORK | FAITH & FINANCES, STCH MINISTRIES

For Tearfund, a Chalmers partner with operations in West Africa, our new partnership capacity has provided the support they needed to exponentially—and effectively—scale the reach of their savings groups in Côte d'Ivoire.

"Chalmers has unlocked the potential of our community... Within three months, we mobilized the equivalent of \$7000 with six saving groups."

This is something we have never done before. We now have a dream for a better future. Chalmers helps open our mind, our heart, our eyes in such a way that we will get out of extreme poverty very soon. Poverty will be ranked as a past event shortly in our community."

RICHARD YAO, CÔTE D'IVOIRE COUNTRY DIRECTOR,
TEARFUND

Your generosity continues to have an exponential impact as we equip our partners all over the world to walk alongside the poor.



GOD IS AT WORK
THROUGH STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIPS

Alliance for Children
Everywhere

Center for Community
Transformation Fresno

Christ's Hope
International

Citygate Network

Compassion
International

Five Talents

Food for the Hungry
Canada

HOPE International

Love INC

Made to Flourish

One Child

Prison Fellowship

Saddleback Church
PEACE

STCH Ministries

Tearfund

OUR VISION

Jesus restores
all creation,
and poverty
is no more.

To see materially poor people restored as flourishing participants in God’s mission: image-bearers who enjoy loving relationships with God, self, others, and the rest of creation.

We’re
growing
together

With your support, Chalmers is growing to meet the ever-increasing demand to bring equipping resources to the local church as it forms and fosters Kingdom community and addresses the root causes of material poverty.

OUR GOALS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS:

- + **Communicate God’s paradigm-shifting story**
See the Church gain a better understanding of God’s paradigm-shifting story and our role in it.
- + **Scale existing innovations and interventions**
Expand the use of our programs—which embody God’s story—across the world and adapt for use in other sectors.
- + **Help others innovate**
Equip others to improvise God’s story by designing solutions that fit their context, culture and community.
- + **Create new innovations and interventions**
Develop ways to share God’s story through new innovations and economic development interventions.
- + **Build infrastructure and sustainability**
Grow the Chalmers team and culture to live out the mission God has called us to in a way that aligns with our values.



Join a community equipping churches to walk alongside the poor.

"We donate to Chalmers because they take a decentralized approach, not the approach of elitists."

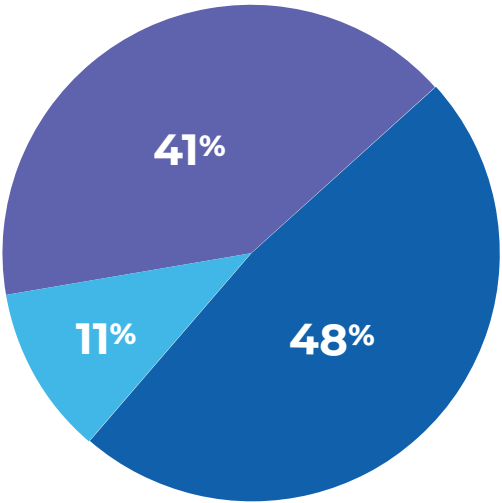
Chalmers comes alongside by providing training, curriculum, inspiration and counsel to individuals, churches, non-profits and neighborhoods. This frees the Holy Spirit to provide insights, solutions and action through both those who serve and those being served."

VINCE & PAULA LEONG,
CUPERTINO, CA

Join our community
of generous givers, like you:
chalmers.org/give

TOTAL REVENUE
\$2,299,912

- Donations 41%
- Grants 48%
- Non-Contribution Revenue 11%
 - Royalties & Speaking: 24%
 - Licensing of Curriculum & Training: 33%
 - Guided Classes: 43%



MINISTRY EXPENSES	FY21 ACTUAL	FY22 PROJECTED
Program	\$2,167,723	\$2,694,013
Development	\$333,780	\$410,935
Administrative	\$207,356	\$188,061
Total	\$2,708,859	\$3,293,009

END NOTES:
View our complete audited financial statements at www.chalmers.org/finances.
Field photography: Ryan Estes | Cover photo: Unsplash | Layout design: Honeystreet



Leadership Team

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Dr. David Norman
VP of Development



Thank you for equipping local churches around the world.

Together, we’re leaning into God’s story and helping churches better understand the heart of Jesus for the poor. As a result, thousands of churches all over the world are being moved to serve people and foster communities that help to restore materially poor people to flourishing participants in God’s mission, giving the world a clearer picture of God’s Kingdom.

We praise God for your partnership in this work!



MICHAEL BRIGGS,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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