

JUNE
2021

MISSIONS

CONNECTIONS
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

FUNDING THE MISSION OF JESUS IN THE WORLD



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THE CHALLENGE

AT CONNECTIONS, ALL WE DO IS MISSION.



**"WE EXIST TO FIX THE
BROKENNESS OF THE WORLD
BY CONNECTING AS MANY
PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO GOD,
TO OTHERS, AND TO THEIR
PURPOSE IN LIFE."**

Only when people are reconciled back into a relationship with God, are experiencing spiritually healthy relationships with other people, and are giving themselves to God's unique purposes for their lives do they come fully alive. Everything we do is specifically designed to help people make and maintain these life-giving connections. Every donation made to Connections supports the mission. Every dollar given goes to people, programs, projects, training, or tools that further our mission as a church.

TWO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE WHERE AND THE HOW

HERE, THERE, & EVERYWHERE

In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” We are intentional about fulfilling our mission in three areas:

- Locally - in our own communities and neighborhoods
- Regionally - in our surrounding areas
- Globally - around the world



OVER & ABOVE

In Malachi 3:9-10 God said, “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Tithes (meaning “tenth”), is the first 10% of your income. The Bible teaches us that this first 10% belongs to God, and is returned to Him as an act of love and faith.

Offerings are gifts given in excess of the tithe. When Jesus speaks about being generous, He is speaking about what we do with our money and possessions after we have given the first 10% to the Lord.

OUR MISSION FUNDING STRATEGY

TITHES ARE HOW LOCAL MISSION IS FUNDED.

Regular (General Fund) giving goes to support our church's efforts at fulfilling our mission in our local communities. This is where the tithe goes. General Fund giving goes toward items like the following:

- Our church building
- Salaries and training for our church staff
- Training and mobilizing volunteers
- Equipment and materials for ministries
- Equipment for our online church presence
- Advertising and promotions
- Helping members with pressing needs
- Serving projects in our community



OFFERINGS ARE HOW REGIONAL AND GLOBAL MISSION IS FUNDED.

Special (Mission Fund) giving goes to support our regional and global ministry partners. It is through the generosity of people, beyond the tithe, that we are able to have a wider impact in our region and across the world. This involves these current mission partners:

- His House Ministries, WMU
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes, SW Michigan
- FIGHT Ministries, The Dominican Republic
- Messenger of Grace Ministries, Uganda



A FAITH PROMISE

A FAITH PROMISE IS A COMMITMENT TO GIVING A SPECIFIC, SIGNIFICANT OFFERING OVER THE COURSE OF A YEAR TO SUPPORT REGIONAL AND GLOBAL MISSION ENDEAVORS.



Once each year we conduct a month-long campaign to raise funds to support our regional and global ministry partners. Whatever we raise during this campaign, in one-time gifts and pledges, becomes our budget for the 12 months following the campaign.

Our annual mission fundraising campaign is the only time during the year we request offerings for missions. During the remainder of the year we will report on what your donations are doing to make a lasting, positive difference in the world. The only exception to this is if a very significant, pressing crises arises.

Our goal for our 2021-2022 Mission Fundraising Campaign is \$35,000, or \$2,917 per month. This will enable us to keep our funding levels the same as the previous year.

REGIONAL PARTNER HIS HOUSE MINISTRIES

TEVOR ELLISON, ASSOCIATE CAMPUS MINISTER AT WMU



THE LEADER

Trevor became a follower of Jesus during his freshman year at Northern Michigan University through His House on that campus. He later attended New Tribes Bible Institute where he met his wife, Tyler. In 2015 he did an internship at His House at Western Michigan, and upon completion he joined the staff full-time. In this role, Trevor walks with non-Christian students as they explore the gospel. He teaches Christian students to find their identity in, and be transformed daily by, Jesus. And he equips and coaches Christian students as they share the gospel with those around them on campus. Through the ministry of His House, Christian students grow in their faith and seeking students come to faith in Jesus. These students go on to serve the Lord after they graduate, both here in the United States and around the world.



THE MINISTRY

His House Christian Fellowship is a ministry that reaches out to college and university students with the story of Jesus Christ. Currently, 12 Michigan colleges and universities have ministries. The purpose of His House is "to raise up students who are wise enough to seek Him, tender enough to love those around them, strong enough to influence nations, and excited enough to change history." His House reaches students from all over the globe who come to college in America. As an outreach to all students, the organization hosts a weekly worship service, runs various community groups (Bible studies), and organizes serving projects and missions trips.





REGIONAL PARTNER FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

TED MANNING, LAKESHORE REGION DIRECTOR

THE LEADER

Ted Manning is director for Lakeshore Region of FCA in Southwestern Michigan. As a founding member of Connections, he and His wife Kristie have had a profound impact on shaping our church.

He served as teacher, coach, and athletic director at Schoolcraft High School. During his tenure there he also began and oversaw the school's chapter of FCA, which impacted many students over the years.

Ted "retired" to work with FCA on a full-time basis. He now helps new huddles start, mentors campus leaders, along with planning and overseeing camps and events. He is also a part-time football coach. As busy as Ted is, he and Kristie find the time to time "mentor" their grandchildren who live in the area.



THE MINISTRY

The mission of FCA in Michigan is "to lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church." FCA works with students and coaches in public schools at both the High School and College level. FCA runs "huddles" (small group Bible studies at schools), camps, and international missions trips. They also mentor coaches in leadership. This organization is on the front lines of helping young adults on campuses come to faith in Christ and grow in their relationship with Him.

GLOBAL PARTNER

F.I.G.H.T. MINISTRIES DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PHYLLIS BRADY, DIRECTOR



FIGHT stands for “Freeing Individuals from the Grip of Human Trafficking.” This ministry exists “to prevent, rescue, and rehabilitate victims who are trapped in a system and society of oppression and abuse. We strive to be a voice for children who are dominated by the brutal world of modern-day slavery. Our purpose is to restore hope, healing, security, and safety to children through the power of Christ.”

FIGHT owns 16 acres in the DR and has built 2 safe houses (which Connections helped build through funding and sending construction teams). These safe houses are able to accommodate up to 10 rescued female survivors and their children.

The DR is the 4th ranked country in the world for exporting people into the sex trade. FIGHT seeks to both prevent and rescue women and children from this tragedy by providing shelter, counseling, and career training. This is all done in the name of Jesus, seeking to lead people into a personal relationship with Him.



GLOBAL PARTNER

MESSENGERS OF GRACE, UGANDA

BYARUHANGA VANA, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR



Messengers of Grace is a network of churches, schools, and medical clinics that operate in rural southern Uganda. Pastor Vana and Norah provide leadership for the entire MOG network. The vision of MOG is to raise up a generation of educated, passionate followers of Jesus who will become future leaders in Ugandan culture and change the course of the nation in a godly way.

Connections has built school buildings for the MOG Primary School in Lugando District that provides over 500 students with traditional education and spiritual formation. We also support the 15-person faculty and staff, as well as providing 2 meals a day and basic healthcare to all the students.

Connections has purchased, renovated, staffed, and supplied a regional medical clinic that treats thousands of patients each year. Treatments range from local diseases to injuries to maternity care.

THE GREATER CHALLENGE

TO GIVE GREATER FINANCIAL, PRAYER, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND ON-SITE SUPPORT TO OUR MISSION PARTNERS THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY.



THE FINANCIAL COMPONENT

Our goal is to raise \$35,000 in the month of June so we can fully fund our regional and global mission partners for the next year. Here is what we are asking you.

- Commit to giving over and above your regular giving to support our mission partners.
- Ask God for direction on how much He wants you to give.
- Respond by giving or pledging the amount God impresses on you.

DONORS	MONTHLY PLEDGE	ANNUAL TOTAL	
16	\$10.42	\$125.00	\$2,000.00
12	\$20.84	\$250.00	\$3,000.00
10	\$41.67	\$500.00	\$5,000.00
5	\$83.33	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00
3	\$208.34	\$2,500.00	\$15,000.00
1	\$416.67	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
			\$35,000.00

HOW TO GIVE

- **CHURCH APP.** USE THE "MISSION" CATEGORY UNDER THE "DONATE" TAB. YOU CAN EASILY SET UP A MONTHLY RECURRING DONATION HERE.
- **CHURCH WEBSITE.** USE THE "MISSION" CATEGORY UNDER THE "DONATE" TAB. YOU CAN EASILY SET UP A MONTHLY RECURRING DONATION HERE.
- **CHECK.** WRITE "MISSIONS" IN THE MEMO LINE.

DATE

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SERIES

NOTES

DATE / /

SERIES

NOTES

A large grid of small dots for taking notes. The grid consists of 20 columns and 30 rows of dots, providing a structured space for writing or drawing.



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