

A full-page background image of a forest. Tall, straight tree trunks are visible, with sunlight filtering through the dense green canopy on the right side, creating a warm, golden glow.

THE ORCHARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

A Letter from Pastor Colin Smith



The pattern of the Christian life is that the blessings we enjoy lead us to be encouraged and thankful for God's kindness, while the challenges we face keep us on our knees, knowing our dependence on God's mercy and power.

This has been the experience of our church, again, in 2022/2023, as you will see in the pages that follow.

Over the last year, we have been blessed to see people professing faith in Christ and being baptized. We have rejoiced as more people have returned to worship after the long setback of Covid. Many have grown in faith, hope and love, and we have every reason to be thankful for the work of God in, through and among us. We are also profoundly aware of the challenge of ministry in a world increasingly given over to misguided beliefs and inverted values. Our hope and our help are in God alone.

I am very thankful for the continued dedication and commitment of our Campus Pastors, our staff and our Church Board. We know that our calling is to serve the congregation, and we count this a privilege and a joy.

Every member of the body of Christ has a vital role to play, and I have been moved in this last year by a fresh appreciation of the remarkable works of God's Spirit in and through the members of The Orchard.

The ministries of the church are sustained by the generosity of the congregation and by hundreds of volunteers who serve faithfully, year after year, sustained by a deep love for God and for people. Thank you. Many of our members are also seizing opportunities to show the love of Christ and share the hope we have found in Christ across the communities in which we live and around the world. Thank you. Some of our members have suffered greatly, and the steadfastness of their faith under trial is an inspiration to us all. Thank you.

One focus of our Board's attention over this last year has been to refresh our mission and vision and to more clearly articulate the values that shape our life and ministry together. I look forward to sharing this work at our annual meeting. We are currently searching for the right person to fill the role of Executive Pastor, and we need to find a long-term home for our Northfield congregation. We look to the Lord for His provision.

May the Lord keep our hands raised in praise and our knees bent in prayer as we continue to serve Him together.

In Christ,

Colin S. Smith
Senior Pastor

ROOTS

Roots anchor and provide a steady stream of nourishment.

In much the same way, singing, praying, reading and learning from God's Word together in church cultivates a rich environment for your soul to be rooted in Jesus Christ.

1,910 MEMBERS

1372 LIVESTREAMS

212 SERMONS PREACHED

LIFE

Life in Christ includes drawing close to people who pray together, study God's Word, and regularly encourage one another in becoming more like Him!

457 ORCHARD KIDS

300 YOUTH GROUPS

182 LIFE GROUPS

FRUIT

God wants His followers to bear fruit through our character and our conduct. At The Orchard, you are invited to bear fruit for Christ by praying, giving, serving, and inviting others to join us.

532 AWANA

50 BABY DEDICATIONS

41 BAPTISMS

Ministry Highlights

"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."
2 Corinthians 4:5

The Orchard Arlington Heights has much to be thankful for as we reflect on all that the Lord has done in 2022-2023. First and foremost, we thank God for the many ways He guided and provided for the Next Project. From the funding to the construction, the Lord's goodness and sovereign hand has been evident to us in many ways. As a result, the all-new Student Ministries Center opened and has quickly become one of the most used ministry spaces on campus. From weekly Youth Group gatherings to larger events like our recent Women's Event, this refreshed space has already proven to be a timely and effective asset to our ministry. Lastly, we are so grateful for the many ways the Lord has grown and strengthened us as a church family. Across the board, attendance and participation are trending upward, and already 68 new members have been added to our fold since the start of 2023 alone. Though more can be said, 2022-2023 laid a firm foundation, giving us plenty of traction to continue running the race for Christ with momentum in 2023-2024 and beyond.

Ministry Impact

- **23** Baptisms
- **77** LIFE Groups
- **237** Average attendance at Awana
- **171** Average attendance at Pray First
- **78** New members welcomed in 2022
- **68** New members welcomed in 2023

Story of Impact ORCHARD KIDS

It has been a fruitful season for Children's Ministries at The Orchard Arlington Heights. From our large Awana Sparks Fun Fair to our regular Orchard Kids Pray First gatherings, the Lord has provided an abundance of opportunities to minister to children in our church with the good news of the gospel. To give a recent example, at our March Orchard Kids Pray First, a kindergartner not only confessed faith in Jesus, but shortly thereafter was compelled to share this good news with his neighbor. Though only 5 years old, this child is already bearing fruit for the Kingdom! This is what fuels us to press onward and shepherd these children in the light of God's Word and the hope of the gospel.

Heather Safford

Director of Children's Ministries



Looking Forward

Pray that we finish the Next Project strong and that it results in much fruit for the Kingdom.

Pray that we grow in evangelism to better reach our community with the Gospel.

Pray that we elevate our pastoral care efforts to better help our members in their walk with Christ.

Pray that we rejuvenate our sense of purpose for the future by reflecting on all that God has done in and through our congregation the past 70 years.

Ministry Impact

- “Rooted & Ready” capital campaign. We have raised **\$2,000,709** toward our **\$2.5** million goal.
- **21** LIFE Groups completed The Trellis, the first course in Growing at The Orchard.
- **725** in worship attendance, with a high of **802** (up 37% from last year).
- **17** Safe Families involved.
- **108** children attended our Summer BLAST Day Camp.
- **240** welcome packages distributed.
- **61** LIFE Groups.

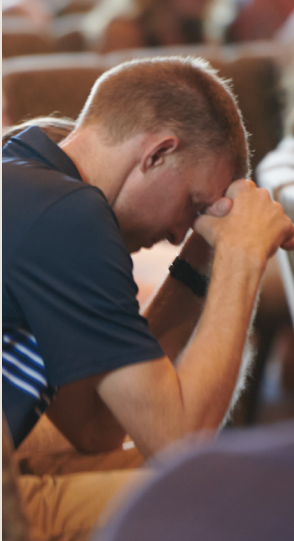


- **37** new members.
- **16,041** specialty coffee drinks given away in our new café.
- **106** children attended Awana (up 30% from last year).
- GriefShare was launched, **40** individuals attended—many from outside our church.
- **930** individuals attended, and **110** people served at Easter Eggstravaganza.
- **1190** at Easter 2023 worship services (998 in 2022).
- Pray First participation doubled this year.



Looking Forward

There are so many exciting things happening here in Barrington. Many new babies have been born, we’ve celebrated several baptisms this spring, we’re seeing record attendance and – of course – we’re enjoying all our new and renovated ministry spaces! Further, our focus has been on outreach in this season. Each person in our congregation was asked to identify three individuals they’d like to see come to Christ this year, and we are praying and acting to that end. May God receive great glory for what He’s doing!



3 PRAYER REQUESTS

Financial completion of Phase 1 of Rooted & Ready.

Boldness and intentionality to share the gospel of Jesus with those closest to us.

Wisdom and obedience as we pursue what might be next as a congregation to bring great glory to the Lord.



Story of Impact LIFE GROUPS

I saw a woman at church one weekend that I didn’t recognize. After I introduced myself, she told me she was interested in a LIFE Group. I invited her to my LIFE Group, which she joined last November. There, she shared how she had just found out that she has a tumor on her heart. She was stunned by this news but rejoiced in God’s provision of a LIFE Group at the same time. She wasn’t connected before, but now has women praying for her! She had heart surgery in January, which went well. Recently, she shared that she feels LIFE Group is “like therapy...just cheaper” because her burdens are lifted each week. We shared how it is really the Holy Spirit who does that through the truth of the Word of God. She’s thrilled to be growing.

***Story courtesy of Laura Kleinschmidt**
Director of Women’s Ministries



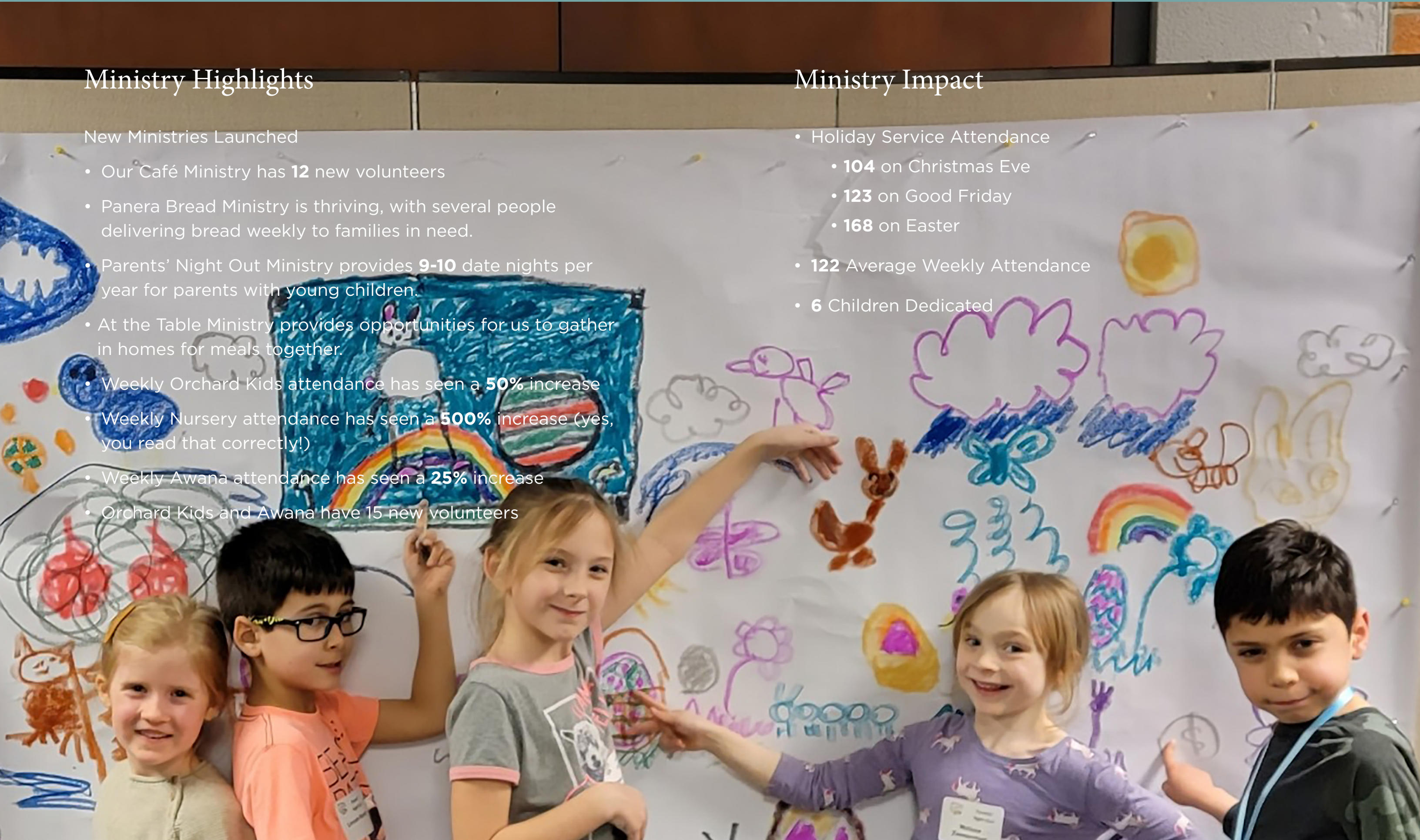
Ministry Highlights

New Ministries Launched

- Our Café Ministry has **12** new volunteers
- Panera Bread Ministry is thriving, with several people delivering bread weekly to families in need.
- Parents' Night Out Ministry provides **9-10** date nights per year for parents with young children.
- At the Table Ministry provides opportunities for us to gather in homes for meals together.
- Weekly Orchard Kids attendance has seen a **50%** increase
- Weekly Nursery attendance has seen a **500%** increase (yes, you read that correctly!)
- Weekly Awana attendance has seen a **25%** increase
- Orchard Kids and Awana have 15 new volunteers

Ministry Impact

- Holiday Service Attendance
 - **104** on Christmas Eve
 - **123** on Good Friday
 - **168** on Easter
- **122** Average Weekly Attendance
- **6** Children Dedicated



Story of Impact THE KIM FAMILY



”
“The Kims display
joy in serving
the Lord”
”

One of our newer families, the Kims, have been a great blessing. Jun and Joyce, along with their daughters Isabelle and Vivian, began attending Itasca in the summer of 2021 and immediately found a home here. After a year of attending, Jun began serving as a guitar player on our worship team, and Joyce began serving in Orchard Kids on Sunday mornings. Jun and Joyce have extensive experience in serving in music and teaching, and they have displayed joy in serving the Lord. Even in the midst of their busy work schedules, Jun and Joyce commit to bringing their daughters to Awana every week to learn God’s Word and experience blessing through our Parents’ Night Out Ministry. The Kims are an answer to our prayers, as Itasca has been praying for more volunteers to commit to serving in both the Worship and Orchard Kids ministries. We are grateful for many families, like the Kims, who are demonstrating commitment to Roots, Life, and Fruit in our church body.

Looking Forward

Pray for fruitfulness in our new Men’s Ministry launching in 2024 (1 Kings 2:2).

Pray that many among us will complete Growing at The Orchard’s Trellis curriculum before 2024 (2 Timothy 1:13).

Praise that many kids from Orchard Kids and Awana will be advancing to Youth Group this fall.

Praise for the Lord’s provision of major facility upgrades.



Ministry Highlights

Last Fall, we began our ministry year with a sermon series titled, Hearts Wide Open. We looked at Paul's own practice in ministry: Paul opened his heart wide to the Corinthian church and urged them to widen their hearts. It was an encouragement for our congregation to develop deeper fellowship with each other. This call to fellowship was bolstered by Pastor Colin's series, Growing in Love this spring. By God's grace, His Word has been bearing fruit in our congregation.

Over the past year, our people have been growing in their fellowship with one another. When you look around, people aren't just coming to the service and leaving. They are sticking around to talk to each other, encourage each other and pray for each other. At our annual Chili Cook-off in February, more than 80 people stayed to eat chili and connect with one other.

This fellowship has spread beyond Sunday mornings. Several new LIFE Groups have started over the past year where members encourage and pray for each other. God is doing a great work to knit our people together in love so that we can reach out to the world with the love of Christ.



Ministry Impact

- **80** people attended our Good Friday Service this year.
- **18** students have been coming to youth group on average.
- **6** new members are joining our congregation.
- **5** people were baptized.
- **3** new LIFE Groups have started over that last year

Looking Forward

- Pray that families who are involved in Awana and Youth Group become regular attenders.
- Pray for volunteers and facility upgrades that would help support our growing youth ministry
- Pray that God would use this ministry to give a solid foundation to our students in this world.
- Pray that God would help us to be effective at reaching younger generations, particularly young adults and young families.
- Pray that our partnership with the park district to support community events gives us opportunities to reach families in our community.

Story of Impact

Two years ago, God saved my life from a 70% blockage in both carotid arteries. During a Sunday service before my surgery, a fellow believer prayed over me that God would deliver me. Two weeks later when they were preparing me for surgery, their tests showed that my blockage had decreased by more than 40%. The doctors were astonished. I wasn't.

Seven months ago, the doctors told me I had bone marrow cancer with no hope of a successful transplant. The complications caused me to become so weak that I could not attend church, and I spent most of my time in bed. In spite of all the times God had miraculously saved my life, I started to believe he would not do it again.

But God's Word began to work in my heart. Pastor Colin taught that "Isolation from the Church of God (the body of Christ) destroys love." When I was finally able to go back to church, Pastor Justin taught on trials and tribulations, and how feelings can get in the way of faith. I saw that what I was going through was nothing compared to what Christ went through to redeem me. My LIFE Group listened to my questions and directed me to speak God's promises out loud. They pointed out that I needed to exercise my faith as well as my body.

Through all this, I have decided that I should focus on worshipping God and praying for others in the body of Christ. I was filled with peace and could feel the love of God envelope me. I heard Him say, 'You have more to do for Me.' My focus now is to be a prayer warrior and to let God take care of the rest.

JOHN PUZZO, *Member*



Ministry Highlights

“Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

We know that prayer is a command, a privilege and a means by which God brings about His sovereign will in the world. Prayer is an admission of our dependence, a declaration of God’s omnipotence and a gift that pulls open Heaven’s own ear.

It is good and right to pray. Which is why I’ve been so thankful for how God has been at work in our congregation this year:



- Since moving our monthly Pray First gathering to right after our worship service, we’ve seen an explosion in participation that’s remained steady all year. Members have stepped up to lead us, newcomers have been courageous and joined us, and even our kids and students have begun to pray with us. It’s been a joy to watch our church grow in its commitment in coming together to pray for our ministries, missionaries and each other.
- Another way in which God has been at work in our congregation is through the prayers of our deacons. Each week, our deacons pray for every request that’s been typed out on our Connection Cards. And each Sunday, any number of our deacons are available for prayer up front immediately following the service. People in our church have told me about the burdens they’ve felt were lifted and the comfort they’ve received as a result of being prayed for in person by our deacons.
- Finally, God has been moving in our congregation through our weekly pastoral prayers. Each Sunday morning, we join our hearts together to thank God, confess our sins, exalt Christ and ask for help. One weekend last May, we broadened the scope of one of these pastoral prayers and prayed for Ethiopia, specifically for the need that the local Christians there have for Bibles. One week later, an anonymous person dropped a \$3,000 check into our offering box for purchasing Bibles to send around the world.

Ministry Impact

- **60%** of our members are actively involved in LIFE Groups.
- **70** kids receive the truth of the Bible at Awana.
- **52** people indicated that they are new to The Orchard since September '22.
- **200+** (with another 50 in Orchard Kids) people in total worship attendance this year

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, we've been on our knees asking for the Lord's direction and help as we seek out a long-term home for our congregation. We are grateful to God for giving us people who are gladly and consistently praying over this important season in the life of our church. We are eager and expectant for what He will do! In all things, it is good and right to pray. To God be glory.



Ministry Highlights

It's been encouraging to see the growth in our congregation over the past two years. We started with 40 people coming out to one service in the middle of the pandemic, and now we currently average 200 people between our two services. Multiple people have stated that they decided to stay at Vernon Hills because of the welcoming and warm community. It's truly been a blessing to welcome others as the Lord has welcomed us!



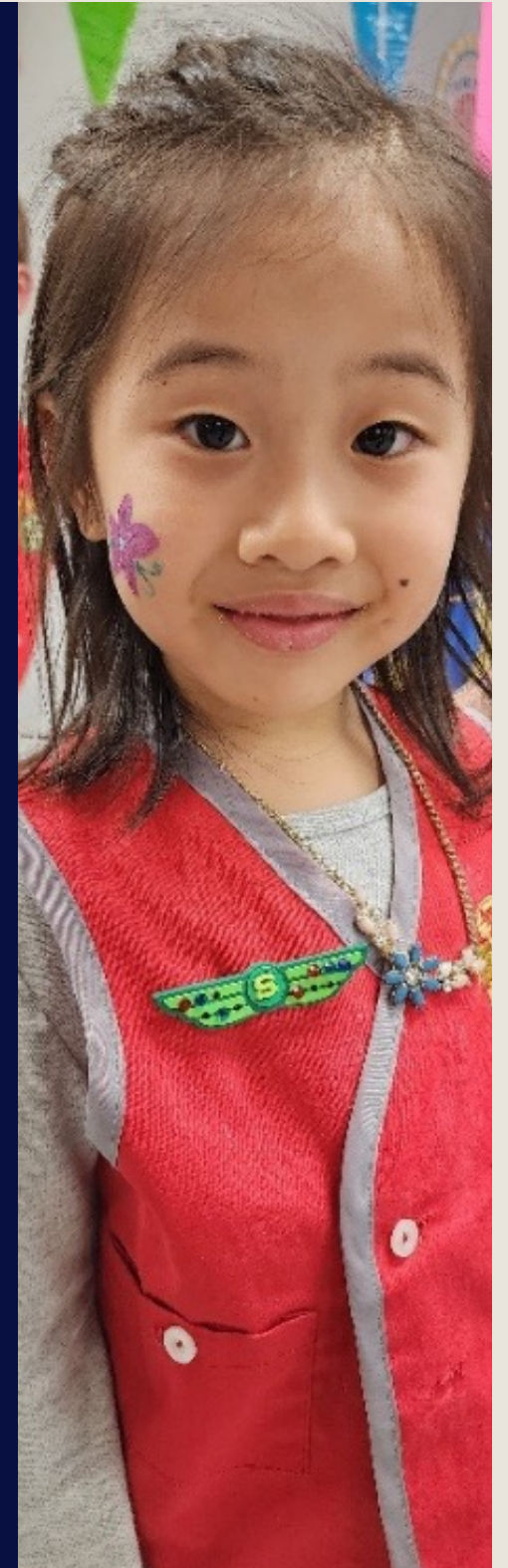
Ministry Impact

Orchard Kids: average attendance has increased from 30 to 50 since last year!

Men's Ministry Gatherings: attendance increased from 31 to 49 from October 2022 to February 2023.

LIFE Groups: We added 2 new young adult LIFE Groups and expanded our LIFE Group number from 11 to 13 in 2023. We have 2 large groups which meet at church on Friday night and Sunday morning. Our people have been stepping forward to co-lead and be helpers.

Youth Ministry: Over the last month, our youth group attendance has increased on both Sundays and Wednesdays. We are averaging 13+ students at our Sunday meeting and 11+ students at our Wednesday meetings.



Looking Forward

Orchard Kids is growing fast! In March, we hit our highest attendance number: 56 kids across 5 classrooms! We are thankful that we are experiencing growing pains as we try to open additional classrooms and make space for new families.

We are also looking forward to opening Sunday school for children during our 9 a.m. service. Currently, our children's programming is only offered at 10:30 a.m. Our hope is that we can reach more children and families by offering Sunday school during both services.

Our vision for LIFE Groups is not just to start new groups, but to multiply them by sending people from current groups to create new ones. Our people are willing to move from their existing groups to make room for new people.



Story of Impact

It has not been the easiest journey trying to open a campus in the middle of a pandemic. But it's been amazing to see how everyone in our congregation has been so positive and motivated for the work of the gospel. It is truly because of everyone's hard work and commitment in our congregation that we are where we are today.



The Orchard Global Ministries are focused on evangelism, church planting and developing leaders in the Balkan region of Europe, and Central, South and Southeast Asia. Many of our partners serve in restricted and hostile countries.

- **76** missionary partners and 9 organizations supported worldwide
- **90%** of Global Ministries budget devoted to Evangelism, Church Planting and Leadership Development
- **2** members of The Orchard sent 4 months to Albania; one sent 6 months to Turkey; 2 sent 2 months to Dominican Republic
- **29** people sent to Albania, Greece, and Hungary for Summer Mission Teams
- **6** members sent to Philippines for short-term partner care
- **10** people sent on prayer/vision team to Antalya, Turkey
- Praying to send **3** teams to Balkan region, one team to Turkey, and one team to SE Asia in 2023-24



WILL AND MACKENZIE HOPKINS in Tirana, Albania
God has ordered the steps of Will, Mackenzie and baby Oakes, as they prepared to leave The Orchard Arlington Heights congregation in March 2023 to serve full-time in Albania. “We have seen close-up how God is moving in the Balkans to bring people to Himself. Overwhelming peace and excitement fills our hearts as we look forward to joining the Pioneers team to serve in the beautiful city of Tirana, Albania, working with Roma Gypsies through evangelism, social development and church planting.



[View a video from the Hopkins'](#)



SIKORA’S 2ND YEAR IN DURRES, ALBANIA

Todd and Penni Sikora first visited Durres, Albania, in Spring of 2021, praying for the Lord to provide teachers at the American Language School. Those prayers were answered when Todd and Penni served for five months that Fall. Deep connections were forged with Kujtim and Lauren Rushiti (sent from The Orchard, 2016), and they returned to teach in Fall 2022. “My faith has grown by serving in Albania since I cannot depend on myself as I do at home. I am constantly asking the Lord to help me teach English well. As I see how He works things out, my faith grows. We strive to glorify God so that others may see a reason for the hope we have! In Durres, there are very few evangelical churches; we can share our lives and faith with people who don’t have interactions with Christian believers. Our desire is that others from The Orchard would serve in this way to meet the needs of the school and Durres Evangelical Church”



View a video from the Rushiti’s.

MOZAIK CULTURAL CENTER AND RANDY SPARKS, TURKEY

The providential connection of The Orchard with the Mozaik Cultural Center began in November 2020 when James Bultema was recommended by a long-supported partner, Keith Dunn. James shared his vision to reach the city of Antalya with the gospel at the planned Mozaik Cultural Center. The Orchard had already been praying for opportunities to extend our Via Egnatia reach into Turkey. During 2022, prayer teams visited and Randy Sparks from The Orchard Arlington Heights joined the Bultemas, serving short-term in Antalya in anticipation of the April 2023 grand opening of the new Mozaik Cultural Center. The Lord has allowed The Orchard to invest \$125k toward this center in a prime location near the university with vision to reach the community with the eternal hope of Christ.



View this video of the Mozaik.

JAIN, SAVELLA, LEINBACH IN SE ASIA

Fred and Yoly Jain and Dave and Ginette Leinbach, attendees of The Orchard, returned to serve again for two weeks in a supporting role at a respite retreat for full-time workers in the Philippines, listening, caring, praying, and sharing. Fred said, “I have heard the stories, sacrifices and experiences of our partners in personal conversation. I have seen their acts of love, care and selflessness to each other, and I am impressed by their faithfulness, dedication and sacrifice to serve the Lord despite the hardships in their ministry. I desire for others from The Orchard to be blessed by the stories of our partners in ministry in the Philippines and to be blessed by their love and friendship.”



View this video from their team.

Pastor Tom Olson THE ORCHARD BARRINGTON

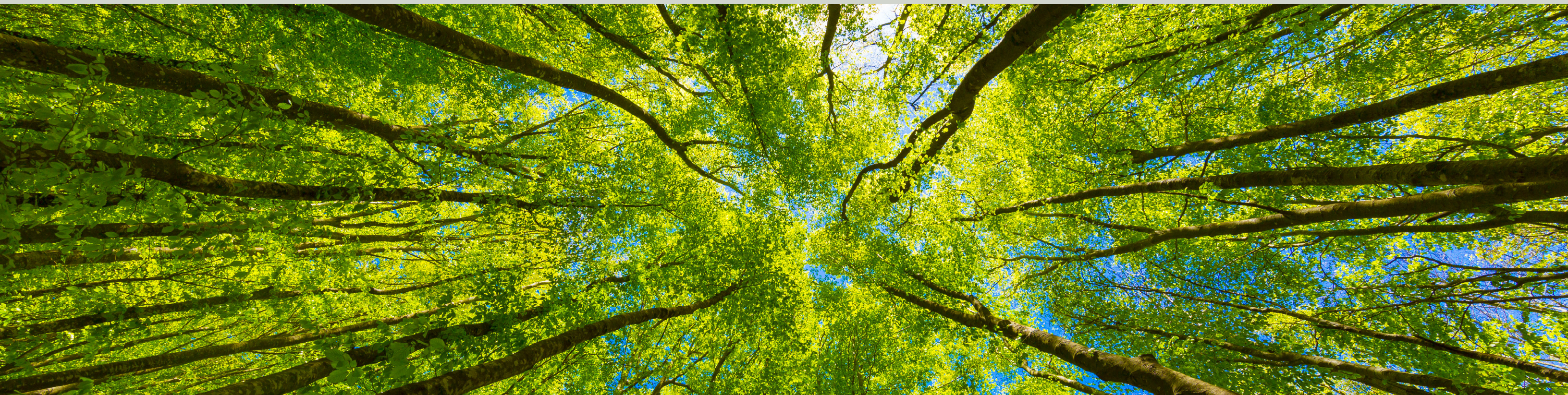
About two years ago, our six campus pastors set out to develop an in-depth curriculum called "Growing at The Orchard," which, as the name suggests, is about helping our congregation grow in Christ. Our goal was substantial. The curriculum would be made up of three distinct classes, each class containing twenty sessions. Two years later, "Growing at The Orchard" is well underway!

The first of the three classes, "The Trellis," focuses on how the church helps you grow. We piloted this class in the 2021-2022 ministry year and then recorded all the sessions. And now, here in the 2022-2023 ministry year, about 50 LIFE Groups - across all six congregations of The Orchard - are utilizing "The Trellis" curriculum!

The second of the classes, "The Trees," focuses on how we can cultivate our own growth in Christ. We just piloted this class in the Spring of 2023, and we're in the process of recording all the sessions. This class will be launched to LIFE Groups in the Fall of 2023!

We'll pilot the third and final class, "The Arborists" this fall. This class is on leadership - how we can help others grow in Christ. "The Arborists" will launch to LIFE Groups in the Fall of 2024.

Each of these twenty-session classes, "The Trellis," "The Trees" and "The Arborists," are intended to be evergreen. You and your LIFE Group can start them anytime. If you'd like to participate in this curriculum, please contact your pastor at The Orchard.



Highlights

The mission of The Orchard School of Ministry is to raise up pastors who will serve churches here and around the world. At the heart of this venture is developing residents and interns who serve alongside our pastors while preparing for a lifetime of vocational ministry. One aspect of The Orchard School of Ministry is the Certificate of Pastoral Ministry. This three-year program provides aspiring pastors with the benefit of church-based training along with coursework taught by experienced, theologically trained pastors.

- Three new students began the Certificate of Pastoral Ministry, for a total of eight.
- Residents have preached at 15 other churches in addition to The Orchard, gaining valuable preaching experience. The goal is to preach 10 times/year.
- Several residents have participated in Global Ministries trips.
- Residents are leading LIFE Groups, teaching at Awana and youth group, assisting with funerals, conducting membership interviews, making hospital or home visits, and meeting newcomers, among other things.



Testimony



Over the years, I have had an increasing sense of burden and calling from the Lord to preach the Gospel. I started exploring graduate programs offered by seminaries in the area, but I found them to be expensive, especially due to the life stage we are in, raising three children.

I was already experiencing the joy and fruits of ministry as a lay leader at The Orchard and wondered if I would be able to continue that while pursuing a full-time seminary program. On my exploration, pastors and elders affirmed my calling and the door for the Certificate of Pastoral Ministry was opened. This was an answer to prayer. I now had the option to pursue theological training part-time while getting paid, gaining hands-on training to sharpen my skills and experience the joy of ministry.

The program is designed to gain deeper understanding of our faith, theology and doctrine and learn from experienced pastors. I also love that this program provides hands-on experience, so that upon graduation I will have the ministry experience required to perform my role as a pastor. This includes various touch points with the people we serve such as prayer care, preaching, teaching children, hospital visits, membership process/interviews, budgeting. This will give me a well-rounded experience to hit the ground running. This program is preparing me for a lifetime of studying His word and joyful ministry.

I have grown much in my first year in the program by becoming less anxious about the future. When I am instructed with His Word and truth, my heart overflows with love and gratitude for the Lord! Vocationally, this program equips me with the lessons, tools, network and resources to learn at a fast pace and to put the learnings to practice immediately.

JOE WELLINGTON



\$10.5 MILLION

Given to General Fund

FULLY FUNDED

ALL Global Ministries

- Over \$1.35M given for the NEXT project to renovate the Student Ministries Center.
- Over \$1.94M given for the Rooted & Ready project at Barrington to renovate fellowship spaces including the Main Entrance, Café, Student Ministries and Special Needs Sensory Room.

We thank God for all
He has done this year!

THANK YOU!



Orchard Ministry Development teaches excellence in stewardship and generosity, especially with gifts that are not immediate cash. In 2022, we hosted five events, both in-person and webinar, educating members and friends of The Orchard about generosity and God's purposes with Wills and Trusts. This year, 110 households participated in these events.

Pray that every member of The Orchard would proactively plan and take action to make their generosity intentional, cheerful, and meaningful.

Pray that all who would benefit from knowing about legacy and asset giving would learn and understand the potential impact for themselves, their families, and God's Kingdom.



"As a first-time home buyer, I knew I needed to get some other parts of my life in order. The Wills and Trust seminar was helpful, and the process to complete all my documents was simple. It's truly an amazing gift made available to those of us at The Orchard through OMD. Now, I'm better prepared for the future. I'm so grateful for the generosity of OMD!"

Anonymous



Watch a video from OMD
Executive Director, Val Hogan

OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS, OPEN THE BIBLE HAS... CHANGED ITS NAME

One of the largest projects we embarked on was [changing our name](#) from Unlocking the Bible to Open the Bible. While our name has changed, our DNA is the same. We look to open the Bible for people, help people open the Bible for themselves and equip people to open the Bible with others.

LAUNCHED A NEW WEBSITE

Since launching our [new website](#) in June 2022, we have seen remarkable results, with traffic more than doubling on a monthly basis. We estimate nearly 5 million people from over 230 countries will visit our new site in 2023!

LAUNCHED SEVERAL NEW PRODUCTS

[Open the Bible for Leaders](#) provides sound Biblical teaching for the next generation of church leaders. [Open the Bible Story](#) helps people to grasp the Bible story by providing three different journeys through scripture. [Six Hours that Changed the World](#), a devotional that captures the essence of the gospel by focusing on the words Jesus said the day He was crucified.

LAUNCHED A NEW UK-BASED MINISTRY

In June 2022, we established [Open the Bible UK](#). Executive Director John Martin started his role in October. Under John's leadership, we will invest in spreading the gospel throughout the UK, using our daily program, website, numerous technology tools and local volunteers to reach listeners.

REACHED THOUSANDS ON TV DURING HOLY WEEK

The story of the thief is powerful around Easter, as it embodies the essence of what Jesus did for us at Calvary. This year, we aired Heaven, How I Got Here: The Story of the Thief on the Cross on network TV in 8 large US cities on Fox, NBC, and independents like WGN in Chicago. We estimate nearly 100,000 people viewed the film; we designed a web page with [additional resources about heaven](#) as a follow-up for viewers.

LAUNCHED A SPANISH MINISTRY

During Holy Week, we partnered with TGC-Español to promote the Spanish version of Heaven, How I Got Here: A Night with the Thief on the Cross. On the first day the film aired, it had over 8,000 views; we expect over 20,000 in total. We aired the Spanish version of the book on TransWorld Radio and OnePlace. Next, we hope to launch a Spanish website, develop radio specials, translate resources, use social media, and partner with organizations to distribute our Spanish content.

EXPANDED OUR MINISTRY CARE TEAM

We have always viewed our nearly 10,000 donors as partners in our ministry. Our Ministry Care Team is an important link and valuable connection to our supporters and ministry. Through this dedicated team of volunteers and employees, we connect with thousands of people each year and provide support, prayers, and gospel resources to help them in their walk. This team is a vital part of fulfilling our mission of, "...multiplying believers who are rooted in the word of God, growing in love for Christ and bearing fruit around the world."

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS 1330 N. DOUGLAS AVE.,
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60004

BARRINGTON 1301 S. GROVE AVE.,
BARRINGTON, IL 60010

ITASCA 716 E. GEORGE ST.,
ITASCA, IL 60143

MARENGO 20911 RATFIELD RD.,
MARENGO, IL 60152

NORTHFIELD 315 WAUKEGAN RD.,
NORTHFIELD, IL 60093

VERNON HILLS 870 WEST END CT.,
VERNON HILLS, ILLINOIS 60061

