

# Update

Winter 2022



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**HarvestCall.**

## Sharing the Gospel

### WITH TENDER HEARTS

The mission of HarvestCall's child sponsorship program is to "provide a Christ-centered education to needy children."

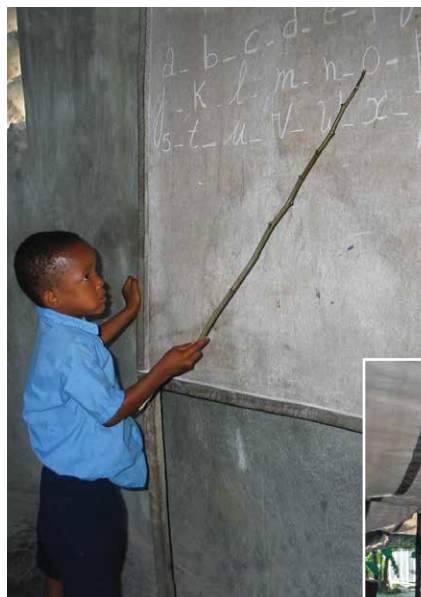
Child Sponsorship directly supports the education (tuition, uniforms, books) of over 1,800 students in five countries: Haiti, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, and Zambia.

In addition, the program also sponsors ~135 schools in Haiti, with the gospel message reaching ~15,000 students annually.

Widespread poverty, high crime and corruption, large-scale unemployment and underemployment, rampant violence, inadequate education, and lack of strong institutional Christian influence – these challenging themes are consistent across the five countries served by Child Sponsorship, although each country has its own history and story.

### Haiti

Haiti is the third largest and most populous country in the Caribbean. Historically poor and politically unstable, Haiti has the lowest "Human Development Index" in the Americas, a measure of a country's health (quality of life and longevity), education (access and literacy rate), and income (living standards).



*Of the ~135 schools we sponsor in Haiti, approximately half were either destroyed or severely damaged by the August earthquake. HarvestCall designated funding for Child Sponsorship to provide 150 tarps to schools so they can temporarily resume classes until they can implement a more permanent solution. ▼*



Regarding education, more than 80% of Haiti's primary schools are privately managed by churches, communities, and for-profit operations, with little government oversight. This is where child sponsorship can really make a difference: many young children don't have access to public education and their families can't afford the costs of private education. Due to the lack of public funding for education, Haiti ranks in the bottom 10% globally for literacy rate (49%).

### Guatemala

Guatemala is one of the most populous and poorest countries in Central America. Guatemala exhibits one of the most unequal income distributions in the hemisphere – nearly two-thirds of its ~18 million people live on less than two dollars per day, with many involved in subsistence agriculture. Guatemala's social development indicators – such as infant mortality, child malnutrition, and illiteracy – are among the worst in the region.

Many Guatemalans do not attend school (4.1 was the average years of schooling completed a decade ago), but work at a

*continued inside ►*

**TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO: AND WHEN HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT. ▲ PROVERBS 22:6**



# Sharing the Gospel with Tender Hearts

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT

young age to help sustain their families (2019 per capita income was ~\$8,600 compared to ~\$62,500 in the U.S.). The educational structure needs an overhaul — schools often don't have enough supplies and some don't even have chairs and desks. Around 25% of Guatemalans over 15 are illiterate, the highest rate in Central America. In addition, only 2% of Guatemalans attend universities, while 70% of high school graduates in the U.S. attend college.

### Jamaica

While Jamaica isn't known for the stark poverty represented by Haiti, almost 40% of its nearly 3.0 million population live on less than \$2.50 per day, the "official" poverty line as defined by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).



▲ A gospel-centered education helps Mexican youth make better choices as adults

With a shrinking economy critically dependent on declining mining and agricultural industries, many Jamaicans have had to depend on lower-paying services work, heavily reliant on a cyclical tourism industry. The result is extremely high unemployment at 13%, with that rate doubling for young people — a significant crisis for the country which contributes to the despair that drives crime and violence.

With many families out of work or involved in low-paying service

jobs, education is one of the first areas to suffer — many Jamaicans can't afford to send their children to school. This issue is especially acute for Deaf children, which has been the focus of Child Sponsorship in Jamaica for ~20 years.

### Mexico

Mexico is a developing country with a large population and robust economy. However, the country continues to struggle with social inequality, poverty, and extensive crime, highlighted by a pervasive drug cartel presence that openly challenges governmental authority and profoundly impacts the safety of its citizens and visitors.

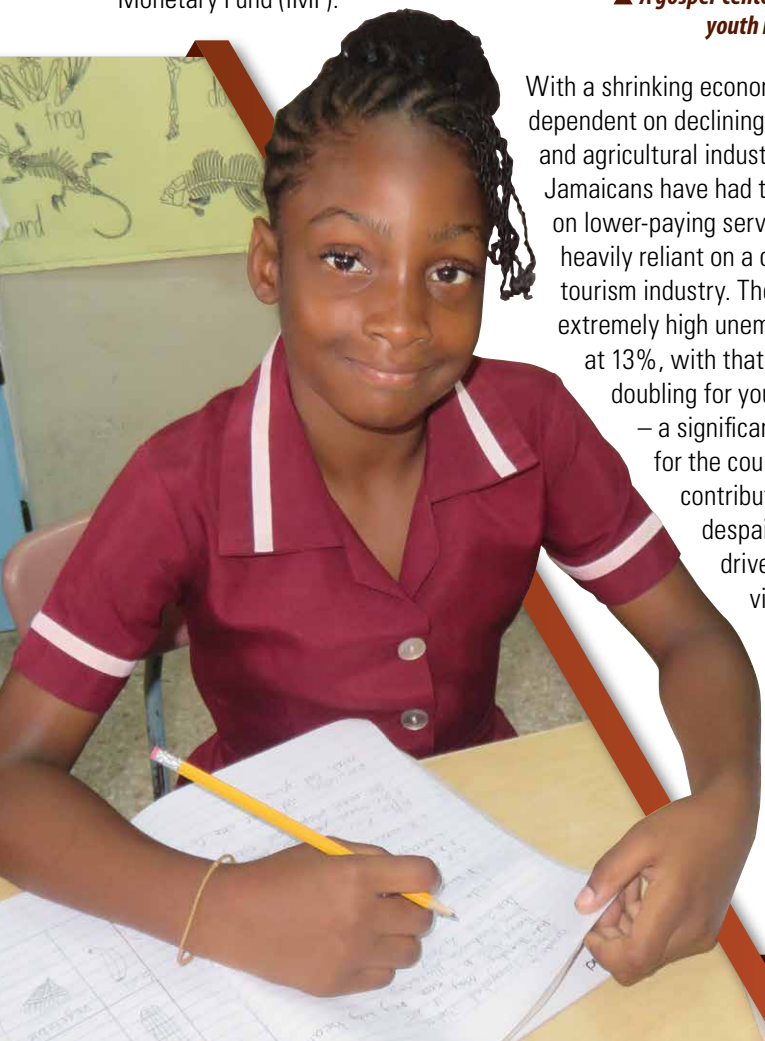
While Mexico has a very organized educational system, there are still major pockets of impoverished population in rural areas and within the slums of the large cities (estimated at 25-30% of the population) who can't afford to attend school and aren't exposed to the gospel message. HarvestCall's child sponsorship program focuses on some of these schools in the larger urban areas.

### Zambia

While Zambia has a stronger economy than several of the countries we serve, ~60% of Zambians live below the national poverty line (the rural poverty rate is ~80%) and struggle to access the basic necessities of life, let alone education. Most rural Zambians are subsistence farmers, and unemployment and underemployment are serious problems in the urban areas. Several social indicators continue to decline, highlighted by a short life expectancy (41 years) and high maternal mortality rates (830 per 100,000 pregnancies).

Another special issue associated with Zambia is its high orphanage rate, due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Orphans represent nearly 10% of Zambia's 13 million population, which is the focus of HarvestCall's child sponsorship program in Zambia.

*Sponsorship helps provide schooling for  
Zambian orphans ►*



▲ In Jamaica, our child sponsorship has been focused on Deaf children

**BUT JESUS CALLED THEM UNTO HIM,  
UNTO ME, AND FORBID THEM NOT:**



▲ *Without sponsorship, very few Guatemalan children would be able to attend school*



### PRAYER REQUEST

Life in the countries served by HarvestCall's child sponsorship program is difficult, especially for the abundance of population who live near or below the poverty line. These are the families Child Sponsorship targets to serve, to help their children become more productive adults and to provide an opportunity for them to hear the gospel message while they have young tender hearts. Pray that God will move our brotherhood to expand this service to many more young children.

**By Ken Rinkenberger**

## Magdalena — the New Frontier

It is likely many of you reading this article have been to CVE in Magdalena, Mexico and are wondering how Magdalena could be a "new frontier." After all, the CVE ministry has been in place for nearly 20 years. We are thankful for the brotherhood's investment in the mission of CVE over this time and ask that you continue to support this mission as we chart a new course for the future.

So is Magdalena a "new frontier?" Not really, but yes! Have you ever had a situation in which you went through an experience, and realized at the end you were a different person? You have profound gratitude for the lessons learned and trust it was the divine leading and love of God, even though it has been challenging. This has been the experience at CVE. Our missionaries there thank God for how he has led the ministry over the past decades and given life and hope to many children and families in the Magdalena community.



### CHANGES WHICH REQUIRE A NEW DIRECTION

At the same time, it is clear God is leading CVE down a new path, and they give God the praise for this as well. There are several factors that have been significant in clarifying God's direction.

1. Childcare ministries across the globe are moving away from residential facilities towards long-term, family-based or foster care approaches. In these cases, there is an effort to support a family so they can keep a child in their home. CVE can assist in this.
2. There are few believers from either Mexico or the U.S. willing and able to devote the time and energy needed to care for traumatized children in a residential setting.
3. CVE desires the long-term fruit of the gospel in Magdalena to be a thriving local church, which will require more time invested in the Magdalena church.
4. CVE is deepening their commitment and investment to the process of learning and listening to those in the community. This asset-based approach will be used in navigating and assessing the ongoing effectiveness of ministry.





# Update

Winter 2022

*Caring for horses provides opportunities for biblically-based conversations*

◀ *Cooking classes are just one activity in the new after-school program*

## A New Way to Serve Children and Families

What is the new frontier? It is a vision for community-based outreach and discipleship to children and families. God has continued to bless the school on the CVE campus, called CVV, and we are immensely excited about the direction of Hilos, the new after-school program which began this fall. Additionally, CVE's summer program, will seek to include more children from the community. Both Hilos and the summer program are focused on sharing the love of Jesus through relationships, biblically based social-emotional group times, as well as classes like art, cooking, horse care and riding.

Trusting the Lord's guidance, the CVE team is excited about the new direction. Missionary opportunities will continue, but in a more loosely-defined "frontier" form. Consider serving with us. We are interested in how God could use your gifts of teaching, outreach, and discipleship in ministry opportunities in Magdalena. And we invite you to pray with us. We are thankful for the faithful prayers of the church, and the knowledge that those who have walked with us in the past are committed to supporting God's work through CVE in the future.

**By Kirk Plattner**

Considering these factors, CVE is at an inflection point. The board recently confirmed a significant shift is necessary. While the vision remains to care for children and families in Magdalena – and CVE is committed to continuing care for the children they currently have on campus – a decision was made that **CVE will no longer be accepting new cases of full-time childcare residents.**





**AND WHATSOEVER YE DO, DO IT HEARTILY, AS TO THE LORD, AND NOT UNTO MEN; KNOWING THAT OF THE LORD YE SHALL RECEIVE THE REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE: FOR YE SERVE THE LORD CHRIST. ▲ COLOSSIANS 3: 22-23**

## Our Call to Live Missionally

Many years ago, the English theologian Charles Spurgeon said "Every Christian is either a missionary, or an imposter." While this statement seems extreme at first glance, it does challenge us to be sharing Christ in the normal course of our daily lives – even if we aren't technically a missionary.

The practical reality is that most Christians will not move away, start a ministry in a different state or country, or be heavily involved in an official mission that is beyond the needs of a local congregation. Many live in the same community they grew up in, attend the same church, follow a local career path that fits their skillset, and live what our modern society would describe as ordinary lives. And that's fine.

But, every believer is charged to live missionally. HarvestCall defines "missionary" as "a follower of Christ sent for a role purposed towards the fulfillment of the Great Commission" which usually entails going to a foreign country. That certainly applies to some, but living missionally applies to each of us, right where we live.

Every life has equal value in the eyes of God. We all have a common purpose to "teach all nations" in different ways. Here are a few questions to inspire and challenge us to live missionally:

- How often do I stop and think about the reality of what faces unsaved people when they die?
- Do I have specific and growing relationships in my life with believers to both disciple and be discipled?
- Do I have specific and growing relationships with unbelievers in my community with the purpose of getting to know them in friendship and leading them to Christ?
- How am I participating in building the love, spiritual health, and growth of my local church?
- How often do I speak the gospel to myself? To my family? To my church small group? To my neighbor? To an unbeliever?
- Am I faithful in prayer each day?

- Are there ways that I could be helpful in supporting local and global missions and missionaries? Each of the HarvestCall USA ministries seeks to equip and mobilize our brotherhood to grow in a culture of evangelism and discipleship.
- The Winter Rebuilding Ministry uses the avenue of home construction to create opportunity for cross-cultural learning, relationship building, and sharing the gospel.



▲ *Helping small churches with Vacation Bible School*

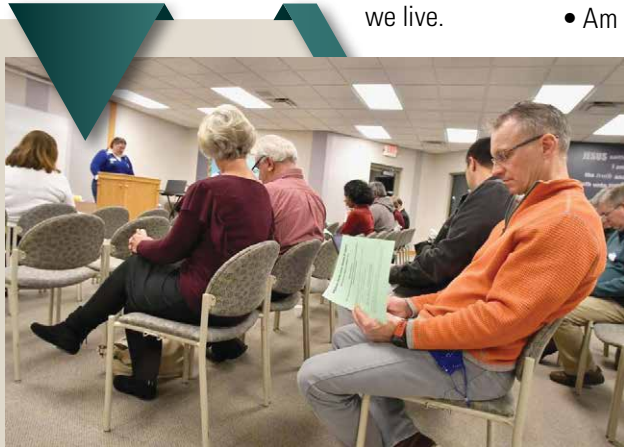
- The Kairos Ministry seeks to train and equip our brotherhood on outreach to the broad spectrum of Muslims.
- Both the Church Bolstering and Traveling VBS Ministries seek to encourage small church health, growth in local evangelism/discipleship, and cross-regional relationship building/support.

◀ *Let's look for opportunities to share Christ, wherever we are* ▼



- The Stateside Outreach Ministry is currently developing a pilot process of teaching, tools, and best practices for learning and growth in evangelism and local community outreach. May we each be spurred to lift the name of Jesus Christ high in our personal lives, sharing the gospel, discipling and being discipled, and supporting each other's missionary journey for God's glory, honor, and praise.

**By Mike Grimm**



▲ *Recently the Kairos team hosted an informational meeting at Bloomington church for anyone in the community interested in sponsoring Afghan refugees*



# The Wonder of Life

In the United States of America, believers have been burdened for decades ever since Roe v. Wade passed in 1973, allowing abortion to become rampant. As the HarvestCall Medical Committee, we want to help focus our minds on the truths of scripture as well as on the observable science of creation that magnifies the glory of the Creator. First, we affirm that an unborn child is alive. Sadly, many people today might deny this truth in order to pursue an agenda or deal with personal pain. To be sure, if an embryo was found out on some planet in outer space, that discovery would be hailed as proof that life exists outside our world and it would be regarded as one of the greatest discoveries in the history of humanity. Second, an unborn child is human and distinct from its mother. Every unborn child has its own DNA sequence from the moment of conception. Sadly, many people today would like to believe that the child is just part of the mother and that therefore, the mother has the right to decide life or death. These facts are settled, basic science. If we go deeper into embryology, the truths that we see are breathtaking. An unborn child has a heartbeat after just 21 days. Brain activity can be detected after six weeks and fingers and toes are formed after eight weeks. Without a doubt, the amount of growth and development in such a short time is astonishing and nothing short of a miracle. Now let us turn to Scripture and see what the Holy Spirit has to say! We read that in Old Testament Law, if two men were

fighting  
and it caused  
a pregnant

women to lose her child, the man at fault was to give "life for life" (Exodus 21:22-23). This solidifies the fact that God views every unborn child as human life, equal to the life of an adult. As Christians, we see all life as valuable and all life as equal. Furthermore, the well-known Psalm 139 beautifully describes the wonder of human life. David states that God "possessed my reins" and "covered me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13). This fact led him to praise God and rejoice because he was "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). The Bible teaches that children are a "reward" and a "heritage" from the Lord (Psalm 127:3). Let us for our nation and the leaders with tough decisions to make. We also want to pray for every unborn child

and for every mother who may feel that she has a difficult decision to make. Humanity is broken and life is hard. Some will make decisions they later regret. Praise God that through Christ, all sins – even abortion – can be completely forgiven!

All in all, we pray for life and for all to come to Christ for eternal life.

**By Anthony  
Baumann**

## STAY CONNECTED

*Prayer support is needed in every part of HarvestCall work. Here are two ways to learn about projects, how to be involved and how to pray specifically.*

**E updates** | Get occasional emails with news and info by going to the HarvestCall website ([www.harvestcall.org](http://www.harvestcall.org)) and selecting "Join our email list" on the home page.

**Social Media** | Engage with us on Facebook or Instagram for the most current information.

Facebook.com/harvestcall  
Instagram at aharvestcall



## HELP FINANCIALLY

Choosing "Where Needed Most" allows us flexibility to direct resources to ministries most in want. However, if you feel moved to support a specific project, just indicate that on the remittance envelope. If specified donations are greater than the need for any designated project, they will be rolled over to the General Fund.

An envelope is provided with appropriate boxes to check. Checks can either be given to your local HarvestCall Representative or mailed to:

**Apostolic Christian HarvestCall**  
PO Box 3797, West Lafayette, IN 47996

Or if you wish to donate online, visit the HarvestCall website at:  
**[www.harvestcall.org/donate](http://www.harvestcall.org/donate)**

*If you have an interest in outreach, this annual missions conference is for you!*

## Save the Date

**PROCLAIM & SERVE 2022 MISSIONS  
CONFERENCE IN GOODFIELD, IL**

**SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2022**

Schedule, workshops, sessions, speakers and registration at [www.proclaimandserve.org](http://www.proclaimandserve.org)



Winter 2022  
**Update**



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**HarvestCall**  
PROCLAIM CHRIST & SERVE OTHERS

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

PO Box 3797, West Lafayette, IN 47996  
[info@harvestcall.org](mailto:info@harvestcall.org) • [www.harvestcall.org](http://www.harvestcall.org)  
765-250-4295 Tel

M222-DG-0222-LPC-7.575M