

## Truth-Centered Transformation in Haiti

In 2020, HarvestCall's Gospel Centered Community Development (GCCD) committee adopted a program in Haiti called Truth-Centered Transformation (TCT). TCT is a five-year program taught by local church leaders that is designed to equip churches to apply God's truth to their lives, serve their communities, and learn basic life skills. As a part of the program, Haitian believers are challenged to do "Acts of Love" for their neighbors. These "Acts of Love" give witness to Christ's love and affirm to these believers that God can use their gifts and time to bless others.

Haitian pastor Peterson Benjamin, who leads the program, mentors and teaches the TCT material to area church leaders who then do the same for their churches. HarvestCall's role is to provide mentoring and guidance to Pastor Peterson, help adapt the TCT program to the Haitian context, and to provide program oversight. Currently, there are 28 churches who are participating in the program at various stages. Last summer, the HarvestCall committee that has oversight for the program made a trip to Haiti to evaluate the progress of the program after the first year.

In meeting with church leaders throughout the week, the team learned that the churches have historically struggled to find time and desire to discuss spiritual things as a church body. This is caused by the physical and mental demands on most Haitians who are struggling to survive on a daily basis. Pastor Gean Vilnor of Ti Canal says "In Haiti, each person is trying to find bread to eat, so they don't have time to think together like we do in the training. It is everyone trying to work for themselves."

A large component of the TCT program is conversation about Biblical teaching and its application to daily life. Almost without exception, the pastors and deacons conveyed the blessing and benefit that came from these discussions and praying together as a church about their application. Pastor Erole says, "In Haiti we need to be [guarded], because you might take

my money. [So, in the program, we teach them that] they have to understand and trust each other. In everything you do, the first thing you need is to... believe in each other, then we can go together, then things can build. If I don't want to believe in you, we can do nothing together. But, they didn't want to organize themselves, so they needed someone to help them put their heads together."

The hearts of these Haitian believers were moved to plan and complete various "Acts of Love." Examples of acts of love include visiting unbelieving neighbors with a gift basket of items donated by members of the church, visiting and praying with elderly or struggling church members, planning to build a sanitary latrine in an area where there was no such facility, creating a church administered mutual fund that provides

microloans to church members for business opportunities, building a road to improve access to a church located on a mountain, and providing materials for a well-drilling project. All of these projects were planned and funded by these Haitian church families.

While Haiti continues to suffer many economic, political, and natural disasters, the GCCD committee members left Haiti very encouraged by the evidence of God's hand working in the Haitian church, despite so many overwhelming obstacles. Please continue to pray for this ministry and that the name and reputation of Jesus would continue to be lifted up.

By Dale Koch

## Supporting Our Missionaries

One of HarvestCall's Guiding Principles is Commitment to Our Missionaries, which states "In light of biblical examples and principles, and as an expression of love for our brethren, we will properly assess, equip, and support those who are sent as missionaries." As people make a commitment to serve on the field, we pray that we can serve them well through prayer and practical ways.

Over the years, HarvestCall has strengthened assessment and resourcing prior to someone being sent to the field. Once someone has committed to long-term, multi-year service, we also want to support them well. The following are just some of the ways we strive to show this support.

### Sending Church Engagement

When your congregation sends a missionary, there are many ways to support them. Before a missionary moves overseas, they are asked to identify a mentor, with whom regular connections will be made. This may be a person they already know or in some cases, it is a former missionary who can guide them through some of the ups and downs they may encounter. When there is a trusting relationship like this, the mentor can also provide helpful outside perspective to challenges that may arise.

In addition to the mentor role, many churches form prayer teams to regularly intercede for their missionaries. Many of our sending churches also have an advocate team to facilitate planning and communicate specific needs to the congregation. For example, a missionary family may be coming back to the States for a couple weeks and could use a vehicle during that time. When that need is shared to the church, it can bless both the missionary and the congregant who can fill that need with a spare vehicle.

### Counseling

Missionaries encounter a variety of stressors as they navigate a new language and culture, as well as come in close contact with potentially traumatic experiences such as natural disasters, unrest, and conflict. At times, they may struggle through seasons of depression, anxiety, or marital tension. Being in a different environment can also compound a missionary's sense of isolation as they go through challenges. Due to these risks, there can often be benefit from a missionary receiving counseling support, either through weekly remote services or intensive programs that specialize in caring for those in ministry. HarvestCall sees access to counseling as key to combating burnout and partners with different organizations to ensure this resource is available to those serving.



### Sabbaticals

Once someone has served on the mission field for a length of time (typically 7-10 years), HarvestCall would like them to take a sabbatical. A sabbatical is an extended time away from the field, typically lasting 3-6 months. A missionary is often in their work 24-7 and time away from their typical environment and daily routines can be in a healthy way. It can also allow time for missionaries to reconnect with their extended families, friends, and sending churches that is not always possible through their shorter furloughs each year. By providing this time of rest and reflection, we pray our missionaries can continue service renewed and inspired for the future.

facilitate processing

time for missionaries to reconnect with their extended families, friends, and sending churches that is not always possible through their shorter furloughs each year. By providing this time of rest and reflection, we pray our missionaries can continue service renewed and inspired for the future.

### Servant Fund

The Servant Fund is a way to financially support our missionaries, enabling them to focus on their ministry versus fundraising. This fund covers our missionaries' monthly expenses, provides them a stipend for discretionary spending, and provides a modest amount for retirement. While the Servant Fund will never make a missionary "rich" by American standards, we do strive to provide reasonable support so someone does not feel financially behind when they return to the States.

While we will never alleviate all the stresses a missionary may encounter, we pray that by providing these services, we can support individuals to focus on relationships and the ministry God has before them.

For questions or suggestions on ways to better support our missionaries, please reach out to Amber Miller, Missionary Care Director at amiller@harvestcall.org

By Amber Miller

### 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@acharvestcall

### 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)



**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

What God is doing through HarvestCall at home & abroad

## Update

Year End 2022



## A Summer in Ixtlán

The following article shares the experience of Destiny Herrmann, who was an intern to the school in Ixtlán this past summer. Serving in a short-term capacity, either in an internship or through a short visit, is a great way to gain experience, get exposure to various missions, and to encourage long-term workers. If you have an idea of how your experience or interests may be used in a mission of HarvestCall, please reach out to discuss possible options.

This summer I flew down to Ixtlán, Mexico, to serve and learn alongside the church and school ministry there. Armed with a basic understanding of Spanish, an almost-complete degree in bilingual education, and a heart to serve, I jumped into life there.

Ixtlán is in central Mexico. Currently, HarvestCall supports a church, a school, and a missionary couple (Matt and Ruth Gerber - Washington, IL) in this beautiful little town.

My main purpose during the summer was to help in the school. There is currently an elementary school and middle school connected with our church in Ixtlán.

At first, I spent a lot of time observing. As the summer progressed, I had the opportunity to either work one-on-one or with small groups of students which I really enjoyed. And, by the end of the summer, I spent several days as a substitute teacher. Throughout these



▲ Destiny with the second grade ►

different experiences, I loved being able to see the many different aspects of daily life in the school! One of my favorite parts of the day was seeing all of the students together in the morning, singing Cristo Me Ama (Jesus Loves Me) or

continued inside



The Plaza, just a few blocks away from the guesthouse ▲

Update  
Year End 2022

To learn more about TCT, visit [www.tctprogram.org](http://www.tctprogram.org)

Year End 2022

Update



Year End 2022

Update



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



## A Summer in Ixtlán

### CONTINUED FROM FRONT

another song. Then, after a prayer, we would start our day.

I also had the privilege of seeing first-hand how God is working in the community of Ixtlán. One way is through the values class that Matt teaches. By offering a high-quality education, they also have the opportunity to share the Bible with every student who attends the school. I loved helping and observing as these students learned about the Old Testament characters, sin, Jesus, God's love and more. There is a lot of freedom to teach these lessons through the values class, and I am encouraged knowing the power that God's word has to transform these children's lives.

On Friday evenings, kids from town – mostly those with connections in the school – would come to the school or church for games and a Bible lesson. This was one of my favorite activities each week. I enjoyed playing games with the younger children and having more serious conversations with the older children. Please pray that God will bless this outreach as seeds are being planted in the hearts of these young people!

But I can't think about how God is using the school in Ixtlán without thinking about the teachers as well. Throughout the summer, I was able to get to know many of them, and I learned so much from working with them. I was thrilled to see/hear firsthand how they have been impacted by working at a Christian school. Please pray that the

#### ▼ All of the students singing in the morning



teachers will continue to desire to know God and his Word!

Sundays and Thursday evenings were spent in church. On a typical Sunday, about 40 people (including kids)

attend. The worship begins with the Sunday school students singing up front, and then we would learn about God's word together. I encourage you all to pray for this special congregation of brothers and sisters: that they would grow in number and also in a deep knowledge and commitment to Christ and one another.

After spending this summer in Ixtlán, I believe that it's vital that we support the ministries that God has entrusted to our church. Please pray for the church, school, and Matt and Ruth Gerber! Also, there are opportunities to support them financially through HarvestCall or by sponsoring a child. For those of you who are sponsoring a child – thank you! The students would sometimes talk about their sponsors, and one little girl even showed me a Christmas card from her sponsor. Please keep writing letters and telling your child about yourself. It means more

Some of the 4th graders learning how to talk about health problems in English ►

▲ The school teaching staff



▲ Morning flag ceremony



than you might think. Also, if you'd be interested in visiting the Ixtlán church, or getting more involved in some way, feel free to reach out to Kirk Plattner (kplattner@harvestcall.org). We have an exciting opportunity to come alongside the work God is doing!

by Destiny Herrmann

EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE,  
THEY LABOUR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT. ▲ PSALM 127:1A

### SMALL CHURCHES

## Bolstering & Building Relationships

If you were asked to write down one word to describe what it means to “bolster” a small church, what word comes to mind? Often, HarvestCall's USA Bolstering Committee is asked this question. Put simply, bolstering means to “strengthen” or “support” a small church.

Today, there are five churches where work is underway to bolster (or strengthen) them – Kitchener, ON; Prescott, AZ; Lamar, MO; Wichita, KS and the newest location in Valparaiso, IN. Each is in a different place in what's called the bolstering process, which is simply a framework with tools used to help strengthen the small church and highlight areas they need assistance.

So how does a church become part of the bolstering process? To start, the elder who has oversight for the small church congregation has conversations with the leadership of HarvestCall and the USA Bolstering Committee. Much prayer for God's direction and many other factors are discussed before a bolstering effort is given the green light to move forward.

### What's involved in the bolstering process?

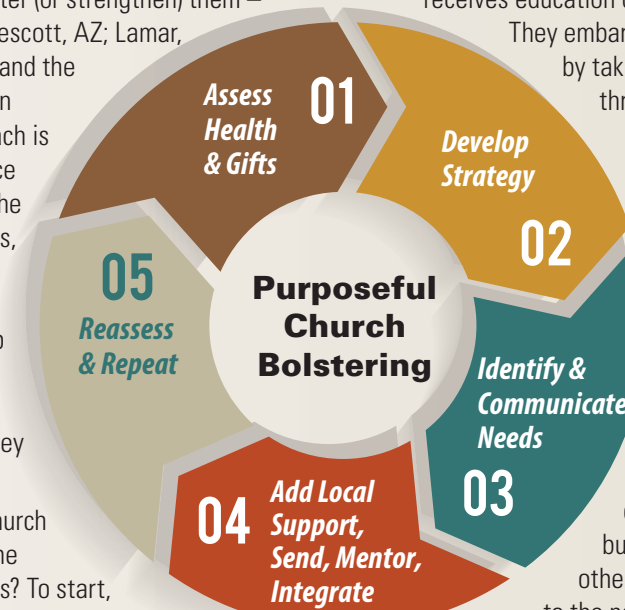
To start, members from HarvestCall's USA Bolstering Committee partner with the local congregation to form a local bolstering committee. The goal is to have a cross section of both local and broader national church representation. In Wichita, for example, there is a nine-person committee consisting of the elder (who has oversight for the church), local ordained deacon as well as several other brothers and

sisters. Two USA Bolstering Committee members provide guidance and, there is also neighboring larger church representation from Lamont and Kiowa, KS.

After the local committee is formed, the church receives education on the bolstering process.

They embark upon their journey by taking a gifts assessment through ACCFS. The gifts assessment helps the members and congregation understand what skills and talents they have and where gaps exist. For example, do they have gifts of teaching, administration, or evangelizing? If so, the committee will try to build off of these strengths; otherwise they can reach out to the national brotherhood to ask for assistance.

Taking the gifts assessment also helps with conversations to develop a “vision” for the church congregation, which is the next step in the process. While all Apostolic Christian Churches are part of the national church's vision and mission, it's helpful for the small church to have a local strategy for living into the purpose, vision, and mission. This provides direction and potential areas of focus including community outreach. Additionally, it helps provide clarity to brothers/sisters thinking to relocate.



◀ College students – consider attending one of the great schools in the Wichita area

Youth, young adults and college students gather from Denver, Bern, Sabetha, Fort Scott, Kansas City, Taylor and Morton ▼



### Why bolster churches?

Bolstering a church provides support for the congregation. This can come in many ways. Communication, for example, can provide focused prayer within the congregation and from the national brotherhood. And, through prayer and awareness of needs, hearts can be moved to help and possibly relocate. There are also internal blessings that can happen within a church including greater cohesiveness between brothers and sisters as they find out their giftings and understand better ways to work together. As there is a concerted effort to spread the gospel into the community, God can move in people's hearts and provide the increase.

### What can you do to help?

- Many have asked how they can help with the bolstering work or with our small churches in general.
- Build relationships regularly with those in small churches to support and encourage them.
- Be intentional in worshipping at a small church. As vacations, business trips and other travels take you near a small church, reach out to the local brethren and worship with them.
- Pray that God will strengthen those in these five small churches and provide the increase through souls coming in repentance, and calling couples, families and singles to move to support the small church. And, pray for God's peace among the brothers and sisters as they work together.

### The Overarching Goal for Bolstering – A SELF SUSTAINING CHURCH

The local church can bear witness to the name of Jesus by fully living into the scriptural teachings to:

**Nurture the believer,**  
**Share the gospel with the lost,**  
**Contend for the faith and preserving sound doctrine,**  
**and Meet the needs of the community through acts of service.**

When we are faithful to our calling to put the whole Word of God into practice, we can count on God to give the increase in his way and his time, resulting in a church that consistently bears fruit.

▲ Cross border travel and fellowship in Heidelberg/Kitchener, ON  
◀ Brothers and sisters can help with VBS



What God is doing through HarvestCall at home & abroad



# Update

Year End 2022

◀ Bolstering churches in Prescott, AZ; Valparaiso, IN; Lamar, MO ▼



### What's Next?

The USA Bolstering Committee will continue to provide support for the small churches going through the bolstering process. In addition, there is an effort underway through HarvestCall's Church Establishment Committee to seek feedback on the bolstering framework (and tools). Bolstering efforts have been operational since 2015, and the goal is to understand what is working well and where improvements can be made. If you would like more information on the bolstering framework and work underway in our small churches, e-mail mgrimm@harvestcall.org.

by Gwen Leuthold

WHEN WE SPEAK OF CHURCH WE SPEAK OF  
PART OF OR ALL OF CHRIST'S BRIDE