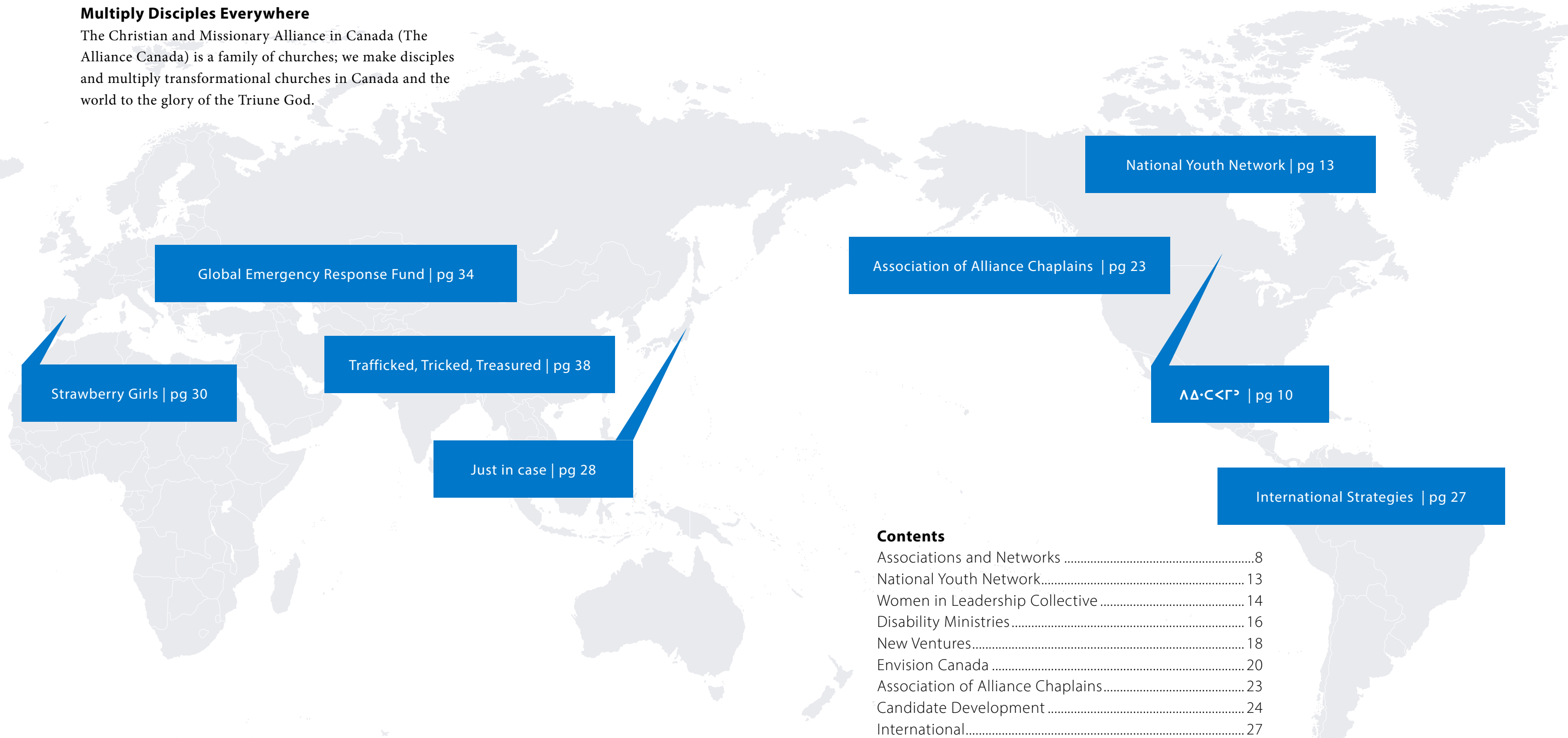


# *2023 Annual Report*



**Multiply Disciples Everywhere**

The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada (The Alliance Canada) is a family of churches; we make disciples and multiply transformational churches in Canada and the world to the glory of the Triune God.



Global Emergency Response Fund | pg 34

Strawberry Girls | pg 30

Trafficked, Tricked, Treasured | pg 38

Just in case | pg 28

National Youth Network | pg 13

Association of Alliance Chaplains | pg 23

ΛΔ·C<Γ? | pg 10

International Strategies | pg 27

**We're part of a global family**

The Alliance Canada is part of a worldwide family called the Alliance World Fellowship—made up of 22,000 churches in 88+ countries and more than 6.2 million members. Find out more at <https://awf.world/>

**Contents**

- Associations and Networks .....8
- National Youth Network..... 13
- Women in Leadership Collective ..... 14
- Disability Ministries ..... 16
- New Ventures..... 18
- Envision Canada .....20
- Association of Alliance Chaplains..... 23
- Candidate Development ..... 24
- International..... 27
- Global Emergency Response Fund ..... 34
- Tricked, Trafficked, Treasured ..... 38
- Finances ..... 41
- Leadership..... 42

## Letter from the President

Dear Alliance Family,

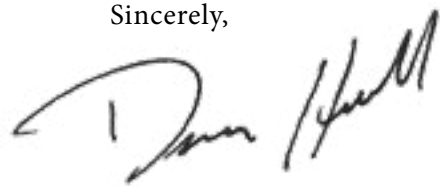
Change has clearly been a prevailing theme throughout 2023. We're trying new things, evaluating our processes, and exploring new ways of being efficient, all while remaining committed to the mission of multiplying disciples everywhere. We planted 10 new faith communities across Canada last year. International workers ministered to 60 least-reached people groups in 30 countries, and we deployed 10 new international workers. We continue to emphasize and support local partnerships, and we remain committed to proclaiming the name of Jesus throughout Canada and across the globe. Your generous support and partnership in the Gospel has been instrumental in fuelling these endeavours and advancing God's mission, impacting lives and communities around the world. For this, we are profoundly grateful.

God is truly at work in and through The Alliance Canada. I am filled with great anticipation for what is to come. I am convinced that John 15 will provide a foundational theme for The Alliance Canada in the coming season. A deeper connection to the Vine will result in greater fruitfulness as we remain faithful to Jesus in uncertain times. I believe the Lord is going to do more than we can imagine, and move in ways we have yet to dream.

The Lord has clearly been with us, and He has already gone ahead of us. We are but following His lead one step at a time. I am truly grateful and honoured to share in this assignment with you all. Be encouraged by these stories of God's continued faithfulness to The Alliance Canada.

All for the name and fame of Jesus!

Sincerely,



Rev. Darren Herbold  
President, The Alliance Canada

*“A deeper connection to the Vine will result in greater fruitfulness as we remain faithful to Jesus in uncertain times.”*

## Letter from the Chair of the Board

2023 was characterized by beginnings and endings. We've explored and tried new things. We've focused on realignment, redeployment, and reallocation of resources. The Alliance Canada board of directors has served with intentionality and integrity, which required significant prayer, hearts attentive to the Spirit, and minds informed by the Word of God. As our board has prepared for General Assembly 2024 and the upcoming election of new board members, I've also been focused on ending well.

As Board Chair, my tenure will come to an end at General Assembly 2024. As this change approaches, I want to emphasize that I believe succession plans should be normative. This year, the board has prepared the way for the leaders who will inherit the charge to preach the word and be prepared in season and out of season. It has been a privilege to have served a number of presidents during my tenure on the board. It is a delight to see our current president building staff, enhancing safe ministry, and doing the heavy lifting it takes to develop a strategic plan.

I remember a particular prophetic statement from one of our Alliance churches: There is more ahead of us than there is behind us. I look out the window at the Bay of Fundy as I write this letter. I see ships passing, some with rumbling engines, some silently slipping by, pushed by the wind. I'm mindful of these lines from Ella Wheeler Wilcox:

*One ship sails east,  
and another west,  
by the self-same winds that blow,  
'Tis the set of sails  
and not the gales  
that tells the way we go.*

May the Spirit of God fill us, and may He drive us toward His will, making this vision a reality in our day: That we become a Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused movement multiplying disciples everywhere.

Sincerely



Rev. Jeff Sensenstein  
Board Chair, The Alliance Canada

“O God, with all our hearts, we long for you. Come, transform us to be Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused people, multiplying disciples everywhere.”

The stories featured in this report highlight areas where God is at work in our denomination.

The last line of the prayer—multiplying disciples everywhere— encapsulates our purpose and what we do as a movement. Our DNA is, and always has been, to make disciples who make disciples where Jesus isn’t yet known. We are committed to deep abiding with Jesus (John 15:5) and to his courageous imagination (Ephesians 3:20) working in and through us for his name and fame.

▼ Photo courtesy of Kamloops Alliance Church

Last year, in Canada, we had:

**117**  
Newly licensed workers

**426**  
Alliance churches

**1644**  
Official Workers

**3**  
New Churches

NEW WORKER PROFILES

117 new workers received their licenses in 2023—and some of their stories are featured throughout this document. Sending new international workers remains one of our highest strategic priorities because we’re a movement that is committed to being obedient to Jesus and his Great Commission.



**Jason Balzer**  
Student Ministries Pastor  
Foothills Alliance Church in  
Calgary, AB

If you didn’t know, students are some of the best people to spend time with! I have the privilege of joining an already strong youth ministry at Foothills. We see students pursue Jesus in every aspect of their lives, from getting baptized and inviting their friends to starting Alphas in their schools. Nothing brings me more joy than to see a student get to know Jesus with such intimacy that their entire life is transformed. Our students are faced with incredible challenges, more than when I was in school just a few years ago, yet they are incredibly resilient and insightful when it comes to life’s toughest questions. Join me in praying for this next generation.



**Ricky Yu**  
Pastor in English Ministry at  
Scarborough Mandarin Alliance  
Church in Scarborough, ON

The Christian and Missionary Alliance began as a Gospel movement of healing, and I still see a great need and relevance for holistic healing, especially in a post-pandemic age. I am honoured to be part of this spiritual heritage.

Holy Spirit is constantly at work and pointing to Christ! In our local church context, God continues to provide and pour out his blessings in unexpected ways when we live with an expectant faithfulness towards God.

Between the pulpit and the lectern, what gives me the most joy is seeing God’s truth in scripture, proclaimed from sincere hearts and received and treasured by faith. I continue to turn towards Christ in worship with the congregation. “Blessed are the pure at heart, for they shall see God,” Amen!



### **Associations and Networks**

The Alliance is rich in diversity and spiritual heritage including millions of believers of various ethnicities and languages. About 35 percent of Alliance churches in Canada are primarily composed of people with a common ethnicity and/or language other than English. As Canada welcomes new Canadians, these churches and congregations are vital ministries to reach and support first-generation immigrants.

### **Conference of Filipino Alliance Ministries**

Central Edmonton Alliance Church is a vibrant congregation with an identity rooted in the proclamation of the Word, worship, prayer, deeper life, and missions. What began as a Bible study between five Filipino university students in the summer of 1983 blossomed into a weekly gathering of Filipino Christians from Edmonton. It became the first Filipino evangelical church in Edmonton and the first of what are now almost thirty Filipino Alliance churches in Canada. They played a significant role in founding the Conference of Filipino Alliance Ministries (CFAM). Central Edmonton Alliance Church has also mobilized over a dozen leaders, either as pastors to the growing number of Filipino congregations in Canada, or as international workers overseas.

**12+**  
Leaders mobilized  
into mission

### **Canadian Chinese Alliance Churches Association**

After nearly 5 decades, the Canadian Chinese Alliance Churches Association (CCACA) has grown to more than 100 congregations in Canada. Our churches reach out to diverse communities of Chinese immigrants, and we have mobilized 42 International Workers (70% to the Chinese diaspora and 30% on cross-cultural mission). This year, Aaron Tang resigned from his role as Executive Director in order to become Director of the Chinese Alliance World Fellowship. He was succeeded by Tommy Tsui, who brings a great deal of experience to the role.

Engaging the next generation within our churches is especially challenging. We must overcome the generation gap caused by language and church culture in order to raise the sense of ownership among next gen leaders and congregations as we focus on outcomes and integrate more deeply with The Alliance passion and vision.

**100+**  
Congregations  
in Canada



## Indigenous Alliance Churches of Canada

Howard Jolly, Executive Director

I am thankful for the support and encouragement we've received from the districts, churches, and donors.

We changed our name from First Nations Alliance Churches of Canada to Indigenous Alliance Churches of Canada (IACC) to reflect our desire to include all Indigenous groups that are First Peoples of Canada. We are thankful that this was approved and blessed by the Board of Directors.

In October, we launched a ministry on YouTube called Piwitapamin (a Cree phrase that means "Come sit with me") that airs every two weeks on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. central. I am gradually learning how to host this growing ministry. I work with an Indigenous Advisory Committee on the program's content and vision, and I praise the

Lord for the IACC Committee's blessing and ownership of this program.

Piwitapamin means sit with me as I tell my story. In the beginning, I did most of the storytelling. I talked about the repercussions of my Residential School experience. It was a privilege and a joy to have my son Joel as the first guest on the show. He talked about his own experience being impacted intergenerationally by Residential School. Other guests include Larry Wilson, the former pastor of First Nations Community Church in Winnipeg and former Executive Director of IACC, talked about how colonialism has effected his Indigenous identity. Josh Dueck, a Steinbach Bible College (SBC) professor who works with Indigenous students, shared how he was influenced by the Foster Care system,



▲ Larry Wilson and Howard Jolly from the episode *God Speaks Through Creation*



Watch Piwitapamin

which has similarities and connections to the 60's scoop. I believe the powerful stories of these and other guests have led to deeper connection and desire for reconciliation.

My vision for this program is for the healing of my people in the name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, for the glory of God. I love my people, many of whom still need to heal from the impact of colonialism, Residential Schools, and racism. Hearing the stories of people who struggled and found healing in Jesus, processing their past according to his teachings, can cause others to fall in love with him. Many of our struggles are connected to our history with the Caucasian community, but it is not the past that will determine our destiny; it is our response to it.

The biggest reason for the chaos in Indigenous life is a pervading identity crisis. This program highlights stories of people who found life in Jesus when he spoke truth into the lies that held them captive. I am amazed and proud of those who courageously opened their hearts on our show, and I hope people see our passion for healing through Jesus Christ. Please pray for this program. Pray for God's leading, wisdom, blessing, and guidance as we move ahead. Pray that it will be fruitful for the kingdom of God.

We are humbled and thankful for your support, prayers, and encouragement.

Kitchi-meegwetch (Thank you very much)



## Youth Ministry Network Team

Geoff Stewart, Chair

The past year has been one of connection and growing unity. On both coasts, The Alliance was a title sponsor of the Canadian Youth Pastors Summit. This event, organized by the Canadian Church Leaders Network and Youth Worker Community, is, in my opinion, the most impactful and strategic conference available to Youth Workers in Canada.

At the recent East Coast conference, 17 different denominations were represented, and 1 in 6 delegates was with the Alliance. We were the best-represented denomination at both the East and West events. After attending both events, I was blown away by the engagement of our workers as they lean into these conferences.

One of the goals of sponsoring events like these is to raise the profile of The Alliance so that youth pastors know that we believe in Next Gen Ministry and that we are the best place for a person to thrive in long-term ministry. Having the conference hosts affirm our priority around Next Gen Ministry was a special moment.

As we focus on the next season, we are looking towards continued resource creation, connecting, and relationship building across the country. It is important to note that as we embark on creating more resources for youth workers, we will partner with organizations from other denominations to serve as many youth workers as possible across Canada. Expanding our partnerships is how we will reach a generation.

◀ Photos courtesy of Canadian Church Leaders Network



### NEW WORKER PROFILE



**Emma Grootenboer**  
Intern Director of Children's  
Ministry at Wellspring Church in  
Burlington, ON

I became a licensed worker in August 2023. I have been so encouraged by this community already, and it is such a blessing to be a part of what God is doing in this city.

Recently, God has been bringing new families into our church through the Kids Ministry, as kids are excited to invite their friends from school to church. It's so powerful to see the Spirit at work in these families as he continues to grow this ministry. I am so excited to be able to partner with the Spirit and show the love of Christ to these kids so they can build a firm foundation for their lives on their Saviour.



## Women in Leadership Collective

Mardi Dolfo-Smith, Chair

Story written by Vicki Bowker

Susan Levert's days are full of the busyness, noise, and chaos that comes with doing life with two preschoolers. There are always little hands reaching out for her, tasks around the house, tears to be wiped, hide and seek to be played. Yet, into the typical messiness of living, she finds herself called into the sacred space of hospitality, of bringing the beauty of Jesus to her table.

This calling to hands-on community had been stirring in Susan and Brant's hearts for quite some time. Through their ministry experience in North America and overseas, they knew people were hungry for God but uncomfortable with "church." Still, when they sat around their dining table, conversations would flow with ease and vulnerability. After three years of praying with other couples, and in God's perfect time, the door opened to move to the small town of Renfrew, Ontario, and the Church @ the Table was born.

Whether serving tea for two or a feast for fifty, Susan finds herself partnering with Jesus. Like the young boy who offered his five loaves and two fish, she has learned that when you give even the simplest of what you have, Jesus multiplies it into valuable relationships. When the kitchen fills with the comforting fragrance of a home-cooked meal, and the noises of happy guests fill their home, Susan knows without question why this is her calling.

The church of Jesus does not have to look as it has for decades: a big building, big programs, and a big budget. Hearts are what is necessary—and time—and this is what Susan offers to God as her "sacrifice of praise." Her heart, her hands, and her time.

The Women in Leadership Collective is a community of women and men passionate about connecting women leaders with opportunities to be celebrated, empowered, and equipped.



## NEW WORKER PROFILES



**Katsairee Zee**  
International Worker, Japan

I am joining the team in Japan doing church development ministries in the Tokyo area. I never thought the Lord would call me to a developed city like Tokyo. I've realized that even though Japan is an "open country," the Japanese are the second largest unreached people group in the world. The Greater Tokyo Metropolitan Area has a population roughly the same as all of Canada, yet many still have not heard of the Good News of Jesus. The Lord has opened doors to relationships between me and a group of single, Japanese working professionals. I'm excited to see how He will reveal Himself to them. I also look forward to partnering with other believers to create discipling communities in Tokyo.



**Dong "Danny" Do**  
Lead Pastor at London Vietnamese Alliance Church in London, ON

I have been a member of the London Vietnamese Alliance Church since 2010, and I accepted the role of pastor in June 2023. I consider myself very blessed to be able to serve God and his Church—and very thankful to the church for loving and accepting a rookie like me.

It has been amazing to witness God's grace and love pouring into our church in the past year. The church is taking an interest in learning God's word like never before. Everyone is opening up to each other and building deeper relationships. I am excited to see God disciple us at London Vietnamese Alliance Church this year.



## Disability Ministries

Cynthia Tam, National Coordinator of Disability Ministries

I met Ellen\* and her daughter, Helen\* (not their real names), at a church one Sunday to catch up on their lives. Helen is a young adult who uses a powered wheelchair for mobility and an iPad for communication. Ellen told me about the many things Helen has accomplished lately, including an invitation to speak at a national conference about the future of the Canadian church. As I congratulated Helen, Ellen remarked on how far the church has come for them as a family. When the family first attended a church service when Helen was 10, they were asked to join the families with babies and toddlers instead of coming into the sanctuary. They felt so rejected that they didn't attend church again for many years. "Things have changed over the years, thankfully," Ellen said, and Helen nodded in agreement. In their current church, people recognize Helen as a gifted young woman and welcome her into all aspects of the community.

The Disability Ministries is an equipping ministry that supports churches in their work with people who have disabilities. Over the years, I have seen how God has moved his churches to become welcoming communities for people with disabilities. At a webinar with the children's ministry workers last year, I was delighted to hear how the children's pastors were embracing the concept of 'ministry with' and moving away from offering 'ministry to' children with disabilities. The preposition indicates a significant shift of posture from seeing people with disabilities as ministry

receivers to recognizing them as bearers of spiritual gifts for the common good of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:7). Besides offering webinars, Disability Ministries has organized and sponsored an annual conference for church workers to share and learn from one another.

Through these and other initiatives, we hope to continue equipping the church to better serve and empower those with disabilities for ministry.

The Howell Family ▾



I grew up at Foothills Alliance in Calgary and went to Ambrose University. I love the opportunity to serve in The Alliance in a new province and a slightly different culture. I'm excited about what God is doing in this new generation, and I love being a part of how he is bringing his kingdom to earth through students here in Chilliwack.



**Everitt Bron**

Youth and Young Adult Pastor  
at Chilliwack Alliance Church in  
Chilliwack, BC

### Mike and Nikki Howell

International Workers, Senegal

We are working in church development and are currently studying French and Wolof. We hope to be involved in planting a contextualized church among the unreached Wolof people group.

One thing we are continually learning as new workers is how much humility is required to learn a new language and enter a new culture. Sometimes, we joke that our work is mainly putting into practice James 1:19, "Everyone should be...slow to speak"—at this point, we have no other choice!

But I don't think this bothers God like it bothers us. A cool reminder of this is built into the Wolof language. In English, we ask, "Do you speak English?". But in Wolof, when asking if someone is proficient in the language, they use the verb "to hear or understand." "Do you hear/understand Wolof?". Even this simple reminder is so helpful on days when it feels like our tongue is not cooperating. It brings us back to the command that precedes being slow to speak: being quick to listen—something that is so necessary when sharing the love of Jesus.

## New Ventures

David Enns, National New Venture Developer

The goal of New Ventures is to help churches be faithful within their context and across their region. As areas across Canada develop and change, new congregations in new sites will emerge. We want to multiply these churches for new Canadians in growing cities, and help them adapt to changing contexts.

We need healthy, existing churches and new expressions of faith in order to make disciples in Canada. Consider some of our most recent New Ventures. Disciples are being made in Dundas, Lights Manitoba. Churches are caring beyond their neighbourhood in Dauphin and in Bonny Doon. New Canadians are being engaged at New Life in Surrey and Newmarket Spanish.

The Districts have set ambitious multiplication goals for 2024. Together we are aiming for 19 New Ventures in 2024, 21 Discerning Communities and 13 Apprentices. This means we are hoping for a New Agreement every 10 days! We are also anticipating 27 New Licensed Leaders for New Ventures Initiatives. Finally, we want to increase church participation from 13% to 20% across the country.

10

New Ventures started

3

Discerning Communities

5

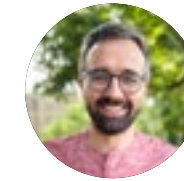
New Apprentices

18

New Agreements

the180 Church

Willy Versteeg, Before coming to the180, I worked for many years in University student ministry with Power to Change, where I had contact with many churches across Québec. I noticed that The Alliance churches were consistently mission-oriented and excited to help share Christ wherever they could. Over the past few months at the 180, I've grown immensely in communicating Christ to a diverse congregation, and I'm praying that we continue to see new life and restored relationships in the coming year.



**Willy Versteeg**

New Ventures pastoral apprentice at the180 Church in Laval, QC



## Envision Canada

Kris Corbin, Envision Coordinator

Envision helps districts and churches identify, equip, and launch the next generations of young leaders (ages 18-28) through unique experiences that develop the deeper life and sense of mission.

Globally, some of the experiences we offer include:

- Short-term missions trips for churches
- 12-week gap programs in Thailand
- 6 to 8-month internships in Mexico City or Thailand

*“God has grown me and taught me so much through the three months I had in Thailand... I always had this notion that the best way to serve Christ was to move overseas and spread the Gospel. JSEM reinforced the idea that we can serve God from wherever.”*

JSEM Student, Male, age 18

Through Greenhouse, our mentoring initiative, we match young leaders with an experienced Alliance mentor and place them in an online cohort of peers for 12 weeks of intentional mentorship and community. We’ve seen growth and leadership development in our participants and mentors as they learn from each other’s backgrounds, vocations, skills, and spiritual journeys.

*“Greenhouse provided me with a space to grow intentionally through writing goals and having accountability. I experienced grace, listening ears, and insight that encouraged my faith. I have enjoyed the opportunity for discussion about real and applicable subjects.”* Greenhouse Participant, Female, age 20

*“I think (Greenhouse) is a really good way to get plugged into the Alliance family”*

Greenhouse Participant, Female, age 22

# 2

Interns

# 4

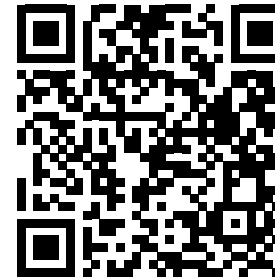
Justice Semester  
Students

# 7

Trips

# 10

Greenhouse Pairings



← Sign up for Justice Semester in Phuket, Thailand (pictured below)





**Diane Down**  
Pastor of Missional Engagement  
at Kamloops Alliance Church in  
Kamloops, BC

I am excited about how our leadership is deliberately pursuing formation avenues that create an environment conducive to the work of the Spirit and renewal. We are equipping folks for prayer and pointing them toward a life of freedom through confession and sacrificial living. This pursuit has no instant results; however, the encounters with Jesus are deep and profound.

Arriving at this stage was a long and bumpy journey. I am 58; I grew up and served for over 30 years in conservative evangelical churches where licensed roles, for various reasons, were not available to me. I had determined to live out my life stewarding my time, talent, and treasure as a volunteer. But when this position opened, I applied with trepidation, knowing the ecosystem had changed in our church, but dreading the potential rejection. However, the vision for what could be, and the passion, leadership, and drive I brought to the position helped me move forward.

There has been a settling in my spirit—unlike anything I’ve experienced before in vocational roles. I am so grateful for the voices of my spiritual director and the discernment of our elders to affirm and confirm this calling in my life.

Post-COVID, our church (like most) is in a phase of recalibrating and focusing on essentials. How we engage in global and parish missions in this era is an exercise in creativity as we consider our theology of risk, support, and coming alongside in times and places where we cannot always go. We are seeking the Lord, asking for discernment in how to engage in local ministry during these complex times.

## Association of Alliance Chaplains

Don Neufeld, National Coordinator

Chaplaincy: Lessons from Lazarus (John 11:38-44)

“Take away the stone”

When Jesus asked them to roll away the stone, the bystanders, family members, and community were probably shocked and offended. As a prison chaplain, I have the responsibility to create a safe space for individuals to share their story, confess the weight of their sin, and hear the words of Christ. One of the biggest barriers to redemption is the unwillingness of some to roll away the heavy stones of judgment, condemnation, guilt and shame. But when God rolls away these cold stones, it can open the darkest soul to the redemptive work of Christ and His resurrection life.

“Lazarus, come out!”

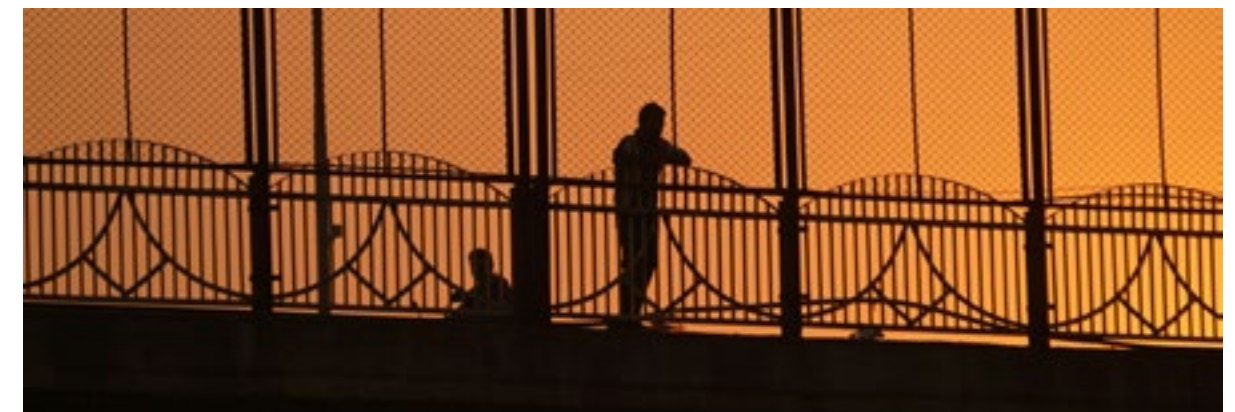
Redemption is not a human work, it is God’s work, afforded through the hearing of the gospel and the ministry of the Spirit. Prison chaplaincy provides a unique opportunity

to speak the word of God daily to the same individuals. I continually pray that they would hear Christ calling them by name. I firmly believe God’s word will not return void, but will accomplish the purpose it was sent for. It’s amazing to see how God’s word, through the ministry of the Spirit, brings light and new birth and expels the darkness of sin and death.

“Take off the grave clothes and set him free”

I believe we have a shared calling to help remove the grave clothes of the past and promote freedom from sin. The work of redemption is God’s work, but God also commands us to share in His work of sanctification. Chaplaincy deals with the ugliness of sin in many ways. This work is impossible without God, but the opportunity to see even one life transformed by the power of the Gospel makes sharing in this work a great privilege.

Written by Darren Donas  
Prison Chaplain in Kamloops, BC



## Candidate Development

Paula Jones, Director

Candidate Development is the relational process of joining those considering cross-cultural ministry as part of God’s design for their lives. We work with a potential candidate’s community during their journey toward international placement with The Alliance. We sent ten newly appointed international workers in 2023, and we had thirty-three candidates in active development toward potential placement. As of December 31, 2023, four apprentices and sixteen additional candidates are eligible for placement in 2024.

We adjusted our processes to increase collaboration, cultural fluency, equipping, efficiency, and reduce costs. For example, we collaborate with New Ventures so that candidates can find their best fit for ministry based on their experiences and gifting—whether overseas or domestic. We also combined two events: one for new international workers departing to the mission field and one for international workers returning to Canada from the mission field. At this event, newly commissioned international workers were encouraged through conversations with others who had already gone through what they were about to experience.

We continue to look for new ways to make preparation, processing, and placement of new workers more efficient. In 2024, we’ll evaluate the apprenticeship program and professional development baselines for ongoing development recommendations. I am encouraged by the young generations who are solid in their faith, conscious of the cost, and committed to following Jesus!

**10**

New International Workers in 2023

**20**

Candidates eligible for placement

**33**

Candidates exploring their calling

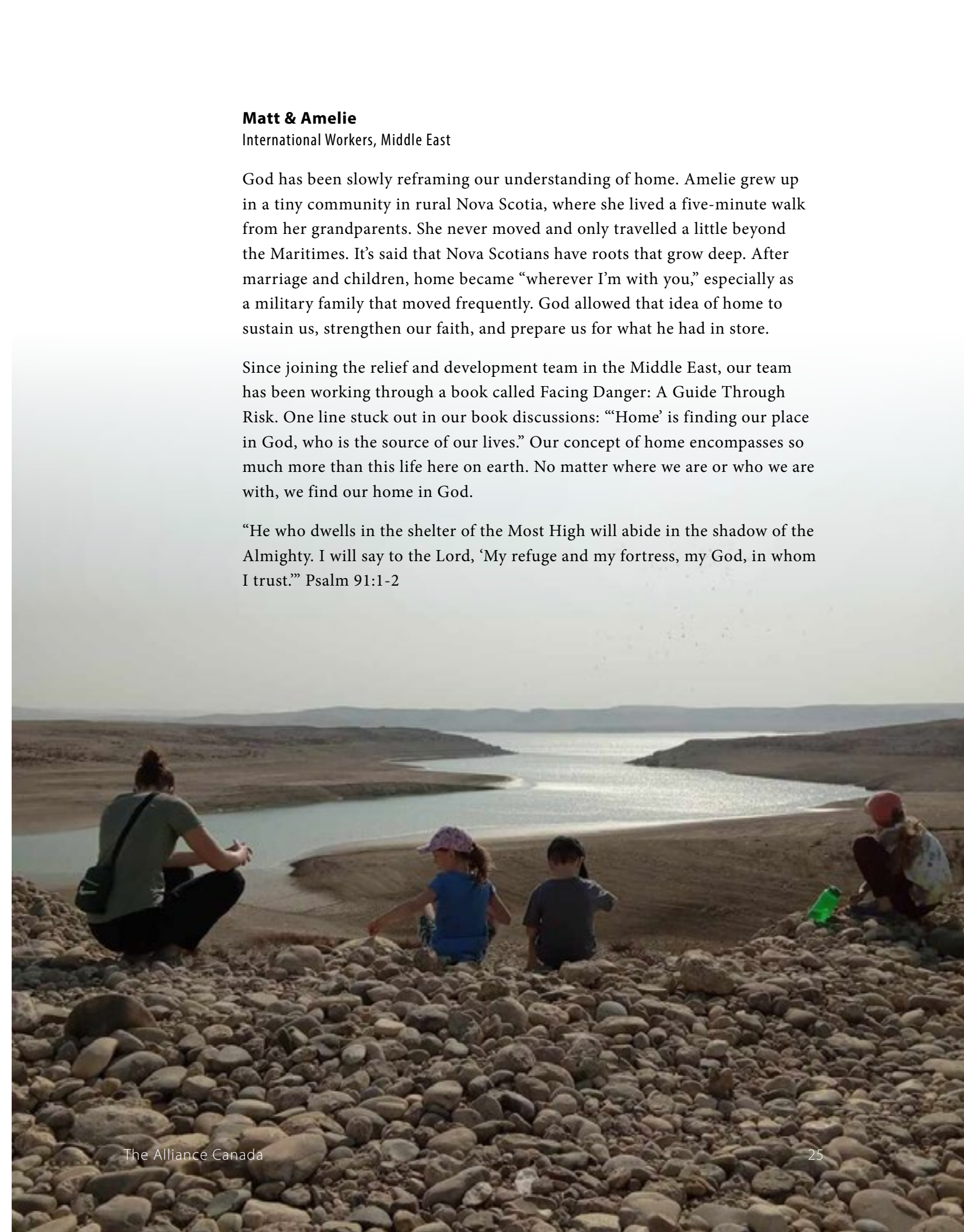
## Matt & Amelie

International Workers, Middle East

God has been slowly reframing our understanding of home. Amelie grew up in a tiny community in rural Nova Scotia, where she lived a five-minute walk from her grandparents. She never moved and only travelled a little beyond the Maritimes. It’s said that Nova Scotians have roots that grow deep. After marriage and children, home became “wherever I’m with you,” especially as a military family that moved frequently. God allowed that idea of home to sustain us, strengthen our faith, and prepare us for what he had in store.

Since joining the relief and development team in the Middle East, our team has been working through a book called Facing Danger: A Guide Through Risk. One line stuck out in our book discussions: “‘Home’ is finding our place in God, who is the source of our lives.” Our concept of home encompasses so much more than this life here on earth. No matter where we are or who we are with, we find our home in God.

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’” Psalm 91:1-2



188

International workers\*  
around the world

33

Countries with  
international workers

16

Creative access  
countries\*

10

Newly deployed  
international workers

65

Least-reached people  
groups engaged

Note: statistics as of December 31, 2023

<sup>1</sup>Includes 29 affiliated, non-licensed professionals

<sup>2</sup>Creative access countries restrict traditional ministry activity.

## International

Damien Lee, Vice President

Global Ministries identifies, develops, and deploys international workers to multiply followers of Christ into movements of faith communities. Everything we do is motivated by our commitment to multiplying disciples everywhere—especially in places where the population has yet to encounter Jesus. Our workers develop worldwide partnerships, mobilize local believers, and support the Global South in fulfilling the Great Commission.

The dramatic shift in global Christianity over the past few decades is forcing us to strategically reconsider how we do things. How can we, as a group of Canadian churches, have a realistic impact among the least-reached and hardest to reach people groups of the world? How has God equipped us to engage in His plan to bring access to Jesus in a world that is overwhelmingly complex?

## International Strategies



### Church Development

We facilitate gatherings to bring about the birth, development, growth, and multiplication of viable churches where few have ever heard the name of Jesus. We aim to establish self-governing, self-propagating, and self-supporting communities that can effectively and intentionally reach their own people and beyond. International churches are an important part of this strategy, as they catalyze global mission mobilization through discipleship of transnational migrants in the global diaspora.



### Relief & Development

Demonstrate the Gospel by responding to short-term crises and long-term needs, especially among the poor and vulnerable. In partnership with The Alliance World Fellowship (AWF), churches, non-government organizations, and others, we engage in relief efforts for the victims of disasters like earthquakes, floods, droughts, and wars. Our goal is not to do development ‘to’ people but ‘with’ people. As such, we work in concert with local partners in project preparation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.



### Marketplace

We mobilize Marketplace international workers as ambassadors of Christ to enter cross-cultural contexts through their profession. They carry the Gospel wherever they go, making disciples among the least-reached and the global diaspora. Business for Transformation (B4T) is an important partnership of entrepreneurs and investors within the Marketplace strategy. Business For Transformation maximizes social, economic, environmental, and spiritual transformations in communities through sustainable, kingdom-impact businesses, especially within vulnerable sectors.

## Church development

Establish, grow, and strengthen reproducing faith communities among those with little or no access to the message of Jesus.

### New faith communities

God continues to move and use the Church Development teams. Before the COVID pandemic, Petr and Celst, along with C&MA US partners, established a community centre to reach out to the significant North African Muslim community in a town outside of Madrid in Spain. This past year, God surprised them by bringing a group of Persian men whose hearts were ready to receive the Gospel into the centre. They were so hungry for the Word that they went on to facilitate the Al Massira program—a course designed for Muslims to examine their beliefs and understand who Jesus truly is. This eventually birthed a faith community among the Persian-speaking ‘sons of Ishmael.’ Praise God for how he calls people to himself—especially those who have never experienced his grace, mercy, and love.

### Just in case

We continue to work in the hardest and darkest places where people are very resistant to the Gospel—such as Japan. This past Christmas, Carol, an international worker, invited a few Grade 1 and 2 girls from their neighbourhood to bake cookies with her in her home. Three confirmed that they would come, and she planned to give each a book on Advent and an ornament to remember the story for each day leading up to Christmas. She wrapped three books and placed them under the Christmas tree, but Carol felt prompted by the Holy Spirit to wrap one extra book. After the three girls arrived, there was another knock on the door. Aiko\*, a girl from the neighbourhood, had seen the three girls enter Carol’s apartment and wondered if she could join them, too. Carol welcomed her and quickly put the fourth book under the Christmas tree. Together, all the girls opened their presents. Aiko was ecstatic, but Carol wondered how her parents would react because Aiko had never heard the Christmas story before.

Afterward, the international team hosted a Christmas party. They invited families from the apartment complex and then asked each of these families to invite their friends too. One of the neighbours invited Aiko and her family. Aiko’s mom thanked Carol and shared how much Aiko enjoyed reading the Advent book. This Christmas party opened the door for meaningful conversations and, more importantly, new connections. Because Carol was obedient to the nudging of the Holy Spirit, the team has begun having conversations about Jesus with Aiko and her family.



## Relief and Development

Participate in God's mission of holistic transformation, proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel as we walk with the poor and vulnerable, and address short-term crises and long-term needs.

### Anti-Trafficking: The Strawberry Girls

A group of about two dozen Alliance anti-trafficking workers in eight countries recently gathered online to share about their work, encourage and pray for one another, and look for ways to collaborate. Two international workers are on a multinational team in Spain that works with trafficked and at-risk women.

▼ Scars of Glory; Artwork courtesy of Kim Peters



They write describing their work:

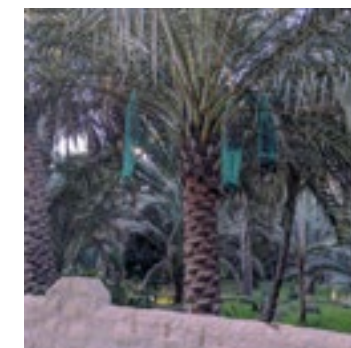
*Born into poverty and devastation in your homeland of Morocco, what if your shame was unbearable? What if the only hope you had was to somehow, somewhere, make enough money to be released from that social prison? You have no skills, cannot read or write, no experience outside your four walls, and no money to go anywhere. What if one day a person comes to you offering the gift of a lifetime: an opportunity to work for a short season just across the sea in Spain— “El Dorado,” a “land with streets paved of gold”? They hire people like you to pick a few strawberries for a few months, and you can send your earnings home, liberating you and your family from all your problems. Would you risk it? I would. And so do they.*

*What awaits them is hell. Living like filthy animals in an inhumane “Sea of Plastic,” these girls are exploited and abused in every way, then deceived, drugged, picked off, and soon caught in another web of no escape—the brothel. If and when they are rescued, they have a story to tell. These women have names, faces, personalities, histories, hopes, and dreams.*

This team of Alliance workers advocates for change in the culture through art and creativity. They also befriend and disciple these women towards Jesus.

Learn more at [strawberrygirls.org](http://strawberrygirls.org) and [thealliancecanada.ca/gift/strawberry-girls/](http://thealliancecanada.ca/gift/strawberry-girls/)

## NEW WORKER PROFILES



### Brandon and Keryn

International Workers, Middle East

We are serving in the Middle East doing church development among a least-reached people group still without a single developed church of their own. We arrived here six months ago and were greatly encouraged and challenged by the metaphor of the date palm tree. Date palms are an important part of the local agriculture. In John 15:16, we read that as believers, all of us were chosen by God to “go and bear fruit—fruit that will last...”

Fruit trees naturally bear fruit, but only after years of development and the wise care of a good gardener. We trust that our team will soon bear much fruit and see many enter the Kingdom of God. We can't make the fruit mature, but we can prepare ourselves to be strong and dependable nets—ready to catch and receive the fruit when their time has come.





**Roger Pun**  
Lay Pastor South Edmonton  
Alliance Church in Edmonton, AB

Born in Hong Kong, I surrendered my life to Christ at the 1982 Joint Missions Conference in Regina. God's grace has granted me opportunities to serve in the Kingdom and witness Christ throughout my secular career. From 2013 to 2019, while living and working in Kazakhstan, God gave me the opportunity to participate in a cross-cultural mission with the Atyrau Christian Fellowship. After retiring, I responded to God's call to complete my Master of Divinity degree at Ambrose University. I am now serving as Lay Pastor at the South Edmonton Alliance Church.

My prayers and burdens are for the men in my church. Our challenge is to inspire and motivate the 65 to 75-year-olds to come out of the shadows and realize their purpose in the Kingdom. Secondly, we are to motivate, encourage and equip the 40 to 65-year-olds to lead. I thank God for the opportunity to serve as Lay Pastor.

I moved from China to Canada in 2010 and accepted Jesus in 2011. Before becoming an international worker, I served as a Mandarin Pastor at Emmanuel Alliance Church of Ottawa (my mother's church). I arrived in Mexico City in November 2023 to start my missionary journey, focused on church planting and development with Mandarin-speaking Chinese people in Mexico City.

Becoming an international worker and living in a new place has been an amazing journey full of frustration, hope, loneliness, and comfort. I'm aware of God's presence at all times; he secretly planned the timing and rhythm and made it all come together. Before he met my practical needs, he taught me that to believe every prayer and wait is worthwhile. I learned that I need to give up my preferences and stubbornness and obey him completely if I want to receive the best thing God wants to give us: hearts that are renewed and changed on the journey of following Jesus, and a life more aware of him, dependent on him, desiring him, and loving him!



**Shiqin Hong**  
International Worker, Mexico

## Marketplace

Engage people with your vocational skills as ambassadors of Christ in cross-cultural contexts and receive care, community, and coaching from Alliance teams.

### Connected with community

Our marketplace professionals share the message of Christ wherever they go. Ralf and Patti, a Brazilian-Canadian couple from Beulah Alliance Church in Edmonton, AB, serve as marketplace workers. They work as a teacher and counsellor in an international school in South Asia. Because of their connections to the expat community, Ralf and Patti regularly encounter Brazilian fashion models working in their city and have led some to faith in Jesus! When the models' employment contracts took them to other countries, Ralf and Patti connected with our network of international churches and found faith communities where their friends could continue to be discipled and developed in their faith.



## Global Emergency Response Fund

Mark Jones, Relief and Development

This fund allows us to quickly respond with compassion to places that are struck by tragedy and allows us to bring relief and humanitarian aid for disasters such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, and war.



▲ Aftermath in Antakya, Türkiye

people and injuring more than 100,000 others. The Church in Türkiye stepped in to help, not only with immediate needs but also to support victims in the long term. The government designated areas in Iskenderun and Antakya as shelter cities for those who had lost everything. The Alliance partnered with three local churches to help provide a large number of resources for these communities, including:

- Tents
- Water and food
- Shoes and clothing
- Gas tanks for cooking
- Kitchen equipment
- Home repairs
- A children's centre with school supplies, toys, and other resources
- A counselling centre with PTSD professionally trained counsellors
- Rebuilding of homes

The priority for implementing relief programming is to resource and partner with local believers, a national church( when possible), or a local Christian relief agency.

Thank you for your generosity. Your sacrifices and gifts are tangible expressions of Christ's love through practical acts of service. Below are some of the areas impacted by the Global Emergency Response Fund in 2023.

### Türkiye

Two catastrophic earthquakes struck Türkiye in February 2023, killing almost 45,000

As the church has continued to serve these people, many have given testimony to the difference they saw in the love and help they received from Christians. Over \$110,000 has been sent to Türkiye to aid this project.

### Middle-East Conflict

It is difficult to watch the painful conflict unfold in the Middle-East as events have escalated since the October 7 Hamas attack—when thousands died and many hostages were taken. As Israel responded to the attack, the war between Israel and Hamas has had devastating and long-term effects on the Gaza Strip. In the war's early days, more than 17,000 Palestinians were killed, the majority being women and children. As the war raged on, a large number of Palestinian Christians fled to Australia, who graciously received them. Other believers trying to get out had to wait for clearance to cross the border. Some of those waiting lost their homes, making immigration their only option. Unemployment has peaked, leaving many in Gaza without means to provide for their families.

Because of your generosity, we raised over \$36,000 to help provide for individuals and families in need, including:

- Medical help
- Clothing and hygiene kits
- Food parcels
- School fees

Although the need is still vast and overwhelming for those on the ground, each face-to-face meeting brings an opportunity to encourage and help individuals in meaningful ways. God's love is being communicated through these encounters.



▲ Gaza City

### Syria

In Aleppo, Syria, The Alliance partnered with CAMA (The US Alliance) and the Syrian National Church to aid a community that had suffered a severe earthquake. Fixing damaged homes, providing people with funds to pay rent, and establishing new projects to help with relief for individuals were just a few ways they assisted the community. Around 200,000 USD has gone towards this initiative.

### Morocco

After an earthquake shook Morocco in September 2023, The Alliance was able to come alongside a small business owner there to help the community in a variety of ways. \$5,000 was sent to help with sanitation, shelter provision, and other immediate assistance. We also provided basic medical supplies and food in remote areas that were hit the hardest, such as areas just outside Marrakech.

### Nepal

Nepal is in the top twenty of the most multi-hazard-prone countries in the world. In November 2023, a devastating earthquake struck the far western parts of Nepal—killing 154 people, injuring approximately 360 others, and damaging or destroying 55,000 houses. Within three days of the disaster, teams sprang into action and worked alongside local churches to provide immediate relief supplies, including food, warm clothing, blankets, tarpaulins, and mattresses. Following this initial response, they began working to build temporary shelters for people while they waited for permanent structures to be rebuilt.

One of the individuals receiving a new shelter was Mr. Karna Bahadur Nepali, a blind 47-year-old local pastor whose house was severely damaged by the earthquake. Mr. Karna, his wife, and four siblings are so grateful to have been provided for in this way during such a great time of need.

This project was a significant Alliance World Fellowship partnership between Canada, Hong Kong, Australia and the USA. Because of your faithful giving, over \$170,000 was contributed.

### Poland and Ukraine

Prior to the start of the war on Ukraine in 2022, The Alliance Canada had little to no ministry involvement there. However, with the outpouring of generosity after the war began, it became clear that God was making a way to share His Good News with suffering people.

The Alliance partnered with Good Works Mission, an NGO associated with Polish churches. These churches ministered to Ukraine through food and supply convoys, outreach ministries for Ukrainian refugees, and language classes to assist women in finding jobs and students in attending schools. Ukrainian churches in Poland were formed and are still growing. The Warsaw North Church created a media ministry, transmitting multiple programs on different platforms, and is proclaiming the Gospel throughout Poland, Ukraine, and Russia.

Because of your generosity, over \$950,000 has been sent to support these projects. What was once a closed door, God has now opened wide, and he is doing amazing works through his church.



## Tricked, Trafficked, Treasured

Over sixteen years ago, two Southeast Asian women felt a stirring in their hearts. As they prayed about what God might be calling them to do, they encountered a mother with terminal cancer. She had a daughter trapped in an unsafe situation due to human trafficking, and she asked these two women to find her daughter and keep her safe.

By God's grace, they were able to find the daughter. One of them even welcomed her to live in her home. This girl was given a safe space to live, and a place of hope, healing and rehabilitation. She became the first beneficiary of the project here called "Tricked, Trafficked, Treasured."

The problem of human trafficking is evident within this Southeast Asian country. Separate homes have been added throughout the years to provide more housing and full-time care for women and girls in need. Tricked, Trafficked, Treasured offers holistic care: physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. The project provides opportunities for growth, development, training and work. In addition to homes, they've added a jewellery store, hair salon, coffee shop, and organic farm.

Today, Tricked, Trafficked, Treasured continues to help women and girls, and their ministry has grown to include helping men, families, and communities as well. They offer safe housing, safe work, and safe education for those at risk of exploitation or those who have already been exploited. Safe housing is provided to girls and women who have no other support or safe place to go. Safe work is done through the business of the café, jewellery store, hair salon, bakery, and organic farm (pictured on the right). Safe education is done on-site at the various businesses, and also at the newly added vocational training centre.

The vocational training centre site was purchased in Summer 2022. The renovated continued until mid-2023. Thanks be to God for all those who donated to the Approved Special "Tricked, Trafficked, Treasured." This site includes project offices and classrooms for teaching, a café, bakery, sewing room, and hair salon – all places for vocational learning.

In February 2024, the vocational training centre received its first eight students, all from difficult situations in the countryside. Six girls are studying in the salon; two girls are studying in the café. Tricked, Trafficked, Treasured is thankful for the opportunity to walk beside these students on their journey of growth and development. Praise be to God!





## Finances

Ken Pelissero, Director

We view all our resources and possessions as God-owned and we use them with integrity, accountability, and maximum effectiveness. Email [communications@cmacan.org](mailto:communications@cmacan.org) to request a copy of our audited financial statements.

<b>Global Advance Fund (GAF)</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		
General contributions	12,293,825	12,948,646
Estates and legacies	691,564	818,640
Support Contributions	649,526	405,748
Investments and other	1,049,255	329,612
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,684,170</b>	<b>\$14,502,646</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
International	9,525,195	9,865,128
Central	3,591,544	4,262,025
National	2,249,690	2,516,117
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,366,429</b>	<b>\$16,643,270</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency)</b>	<b>(682,259)</b>	<b>(2,140,624)</b>
<b>Approved Specials \$ (Non-GAF)</b>		
Total Designated Funds Allocated	<b>\$7,076,643</b>	<b>\$6,604,172</b>

## Board of Directors

The board of directors is comprised of 12 elected members. They are responsible for overseeing the operations of the Alliance and ensuring that the decisions made at General Assembly are executed properly.

**Hérault Alphonse**

**Jon Carlzon**

**Matthew Chiu**

**Mardi Dolfo-Smith**, Vice-Chair

**Mandy Ralph**, Secretary

**Darren Herbold**

**Cheryl Smith-Debanné**

**Stan Man**

**John Quigg**, Treasurer

**Tony Sammut**

**Jeff Sensenstein**, Chair

**Chris Throness**

To learn more about the board of directors, visit [thealliancecanada.ca/leadership](https://thealliancecanada.ca/leadership)

## Executive Leadership

The president provides strategic vision for the Alliance, is elected at General Assembly, and serves four-year terms.

**Darren Herbold**

President

**Ryan Graham**

Vice President, National

**Damien Lee**

Vice President, International

## District Superintendents

District Superintendents are elected by their districts to oversee the licensing and ordination of the workers and ministries of the churches located in their region.

**Mark Peters**

Canadian Pacific District

**Shane Gould**

Central Canadian District

**Matt Boda**

Western Canadian District

**Mabiala Justin-Robert Kenzo**

Saint Lawrence District

**Bernie Van De Walle**

Canadian Midwest District

**Curtis Peters**

Eastern Canadian District

To learn more about District Superintendents, visit [thealliancecanada.ca/districts-associations](https://thealliancecanada.ca/districts-associations)

All leadership positions are of those serving active terms as of December 31, 2023.

Internally Displaced Persons camp in the Middle East. Scan the QR code to hear their story.



# Thank you

Your financial and prayerful support enables our Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered, Mission-focused movement to make Jesus known.

Visit [thealliancecanada.ca](https://thealliancecanada.ca) to read updates and stories about the work we're doing.



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# MULTIPLY DISCIPLES EVERY- WHERE