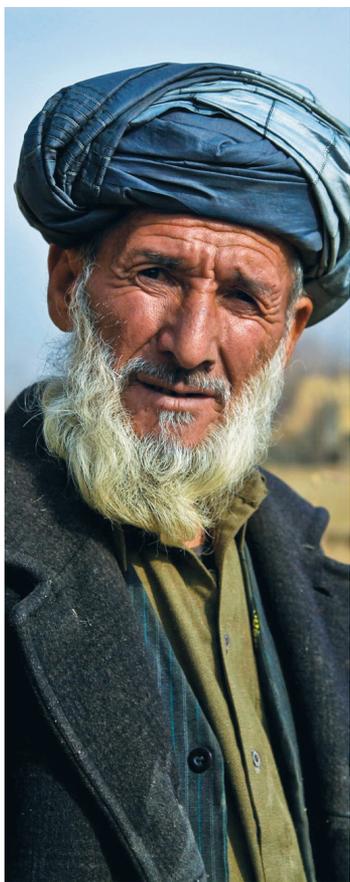


ANNUAL UPDATE 2018

Building on Our Heritage



Cultivating Christ-honoring transformation



“The Lord has done this, and
it is marvelous in our eyes.”

—Psalm 118:23 (NIV)

110 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

1909 was a relatively quiet year in the history of the world, though not without some notable events. In the U.S., William Howard Taft was sworn in as the 27th president and in world news Ernest Shackleton's Nimrod expedition ventured less than 100 miles from the South Pole.

One other incredibly important milestone was also put in place in 1909. You won't read about it on any timeline. You won't find it commemorated by a marker on the side of a road, or celebrated through an exhibit in any museum. But God set in motion a ministry that would eventually change the lives of countless Asians.

It started when a young woman in Chicago learned about the 3 million people in South China who lived on boats and in the fringes of society. Ostracized, marginalized and stigmatized, the "boat people" had no access to the wonderful good news of Christ's love. As Florence Drew listened to the stories of these forgotten Chinese, she heard the call of God to "Go!"

Like Abraham, who went out to a people and land he did not know, Florence obeyed her Lord. Without a missionary society, without fellow workers, she started on mission with God and lived the rest of her life among the boat people of South China. A few years later, with the help of her brother, a mission board was formed, and over time the organization grew to 24 people serving on 14 mission boats in three provinces.

Why do I tell this story? Because the launching of Florence's ministry 110 years ago marks the start of one of the mission agencies that would come to be known as Charstar. In the decades that followed, her work in South China joined forces with other groups in Asia, all committed to cultivating Christ-honoring transformation in communities where He is not yet worshiped.

As you read the following stories, you will see how God is still allowing Charstar workers, through the generous and prayerful support of partners, to carry out courageous, innovative and groundbreaking acts of service among Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and refugees around the world, and begin to reach the Deaf with the gospel as well as pursue new avenues of engaging the least-reached¹ through marketplace ministry. Such works of God prompt us to proclaim, "The Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes." Psalm 118:23 (NIV)



R. Stephen Coffey

Dr. R. Stephen Coffey
President and Director, Charstar U.S.



¹Least-reached: Those who have little or no access to a church that preaches the gospel in their language and in a culturally relevant way.

IN ALL HIS SEVEN YEARS



Building on Our Heritage in the Far East

Since Florence Drew arrived in China in 1909, Christar workers have followed in her footsteps, using a wide variety of creative means to bring the hope of the Christ to least-reached people throughout this region. As was the case in Florence's day, many who hear the gospel through these workers have never before encountered the good news.

The first time 7-year-old Haru* visited his American friends' house, he was hesitant. A shy boy, he spent over an hour in the entryway before finally joining Christar workers Thomas and Lindsay and their son for dinner and playtime.

Haru's fear of the unknown seemed like a huge obstacle to sharing Jesus with him in a culture in which the gospel is a largely foreign concept. Just one in 50 of Japan's people has access to a church that proclaims the gospel in their language and worships in a culturally relevant way.

But, Haru's shyness wasn't an obstacle to God. He was one of a dozen children who showed up for a three-day kids' day camp outreach held by Thomas, Lindsay and their coworkers, and he even brought a friend.

Throughout those three days, guest speakers clearly communicated God's deep love for all of the children. Following each Bible lesson, the campers split into small groups to talk about what they'd learned. During the first discussion time, Thomas asked Haru's group, "Who is loved by God?"

Shy Haru answered enthusiastically, "I am loved by God!"

Throughout the camp, Haru continued to prove he was not only listening, but understanding the lessons as well. Then, on the last day, as Thomas reviewed the gospel with his group, Haru spoke up again. "In all my seven years, this is the first time I've heard this!"

Although Haru didn't place his faith in Christ at the camp, Thomas and Lindsay thank the Lord for opening his young mind and heart. "We were amazed that he would, at his ripe old age of 7, recognize and articulate that this gospel is a message that everyone needs to hear," they share. "We continue to pray that God will water the seeds of truth that were planted in Haru's heart (and the hearts of the other children) to eventually bear eternal fruit for His glory."

EQUIPPED FOR HARD LABOR

Building on Our Heritage in South Asia

While working as a cloth merchant in India, Scotsman Benjamin Davidson developed a love for making Christ known to South Asians. In 1930, at the age of 69, he began the India Mission, the second organization of the three that would merge to become Christar. This ministry grew to over 250 churches, many of which were planted by believers from Hindu backgrounds. Today Christar workers continue to share the gospel in South Asia and equip local Christians to serve in least-reached communities.

In a region where more than 95 percent of the population is least-reached, Asha* was blessed not only to have heard the gospel but to be part of an even smaller minority: South Asian Christians who've been trained for ministry. In 2002, she graduated from the CHL Women's Bible School, a two-year program run by Christar workers that prepares believers to serve in their churches, homes and communities. Since then, God has worked through her efforts to create a ripple effect for His glory in communities where very few have been introduced to the message of Christ.

After her graduation, God used Asha and her husband, Vinay, to lead 80 people to faith in Him, start a church and train local men to lead it. With the church in the hands of these believers, the couple began ministry in a new village. Vinay now leads a team of 12 pastors who also serve in remote tribal areas, while Asha started teaching the Bible to Christian women in the village.

At these ladies' request, Asha began a training program in evangelism, discipleship, adult literacy and teaching children. Over four years, more than 50 women have been prepared for ministry.

Vinay often comments that without the disciplines of personal Bible study, prayer, hard work and thriftiness that Asha learned at CHL, the couple's ministry would not have thrived as it has. Asha agrees, "I am always grateful to God for the CHL Bible School for how it trained me in the Word and prepared me to serve the Lord even in 'unploughed' areas, where the soil is hard."



WHO SINNED?



Building on Our Heritage in the Middle East

During World War II, chaplain's assistant Allen McAnlis visited the Faraman Orphanage and Industrial School in Iran and caught a vision for its ministry to raise orphans in a Christian environment, help local farmers produce crops more effectively and plant a church. In 1950, he began the Iran Interior Mission, the third organization in Christar's heritage. Today Christar workers continue to meet the practical needs of least-reached people in the Middle East while communicating the message of Christ.

When Dan's* father visited him in the Middle East, he watched as his local friends observed the elderly man's gnarled hands and awkward gait. As soon as they saw the signs of the disability his dad has lived with for decades, they would ask, "Dan, who sinned: Him or his dad?"

"Each time, I could direct the conversation to the biblical perspective of sin ... and how salvation was sent by way of the prophet Jesus Christ," Dan recalls. "Many today carry the gospel story in their hearts because my father carried a blemish of the fall in his physical body."

Just like the disciples, who saw a man without sight and asked, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" the people in Dan's community assumed that a handicap was a direct result of misdeeds. But God has used his father's disability in a glorious way.

Now, through a new equine ministry, Dan hopes to introduce many more to the redemption found in Christ. Using therapeutic horseback riding, he and his teammates are seeking to help those living with disabilities better manage physical and mental challenges, as well as learn of the God who made them in His image and created them to know and worship Him.

In a place where those who are differently abled are frequently viewed with fear or disgust, therapeutic options are few and far between. By serving those often seen as an embarrassment or burden in the Middle East, Dan and his teammates also seek to impact the surrounding community as they communicate the inherent worth of every person in the sight of God.

CALLED TO RETURN

Building on Our Heritage Among the Marginalized

Throughout Christar's history, workers have shared the gospel with marginalized peoples. We praise God for opening a wealth of opportunities to minister among refugees and rejoice that many have responded to the gospel and gained a passion to share it with others.

As a young person in the Middle East, Hashem* assumed he was a Muslim. But, when he became an asylum-seeker in another Middle Eastern nation, reading a Bible he received from a friend opened his eyes to a completely different view of God. "In Islam God is always angry," Hashem explains. "But in the Bible I found a God who is love, a God you can call 'Father.'"

On Christmas Day 2005, he took a 4½-hour bus ride to attend a fellowship of believers planted by a Christar worker—his first time at a church. When a member of the pastoral team, who came from Hashem's homeland, invited Hashem to participate in Bible classes, he agreed.

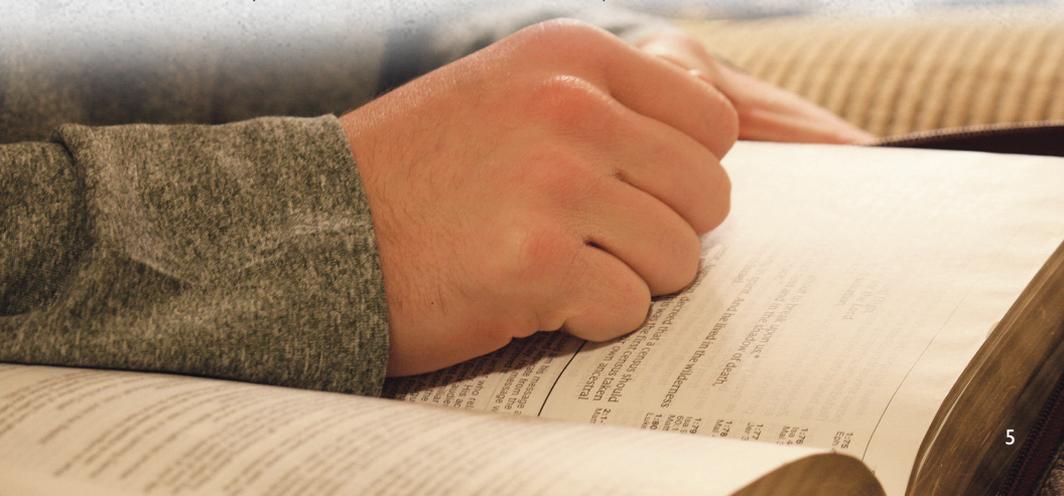
In early 2006, for the first time, Hashem prayed directly to God, rather than going through a prophet. "I want to know you. . . . If you are here, please show me a sign," he asked.

Around 3 a.m. Hashem awoke to a warm light in his bedroom. Once again he spoke directly to God, "Please come and please change my life as you want."

As a refugee, Hashem saw the Lord transform his life and the lives of many others. In partnership with Christar workers, he began a church in his apartment, starting with just five people. These workers helped him attend Bible school and disciplined him as he grew from a new believer into a leader in this fellowship.

After nine years as a refugee, Hashem resettled in Canada, where he met his wife. The two share a call to serve, and in January 2019 they began ministering together in the church in the Middle East that had begun as a meeting in his apartment years before—a church that has grown into a thriving fellowship with 120 to 150 people worshiping together weekly.

"When I share my testimony and I take a look in my past, I'm encouraged because I see how God worked in my life and how God still works in my life!" Hashem exclaims.



THE WAIT WILL SOON BE OVER



Building on Our Heritage Among the Least-Reached

Building on our heritage of reaching those without access to the gospel, Christar has begun seeking to bring the good news to the Deaf, a group that's often isolated from the larger community around them and without a way to learn of the hope Christ offers.

The 15,000 Deaf in Albania are still waiting for the gospel. But in 2019, for the first time, workers will be sent to these least-reached people! Several years ago, God used Trent and Angie* to help establish a church of Deaf believers in Eastern Europe. Now, as Christar workers, they'll soon begin serving among the Albanian Deaf.

The Deaf in Albania are just a fraction of the 70 million people worldwide who use a sign language as their primary language—a massive group among whom just two percent have been introduced to the gospel. Each Deaf community has its own language, culture and worldview, making it difficult for Hearing believers to reach out to them.

Sharing the good news through written materials also presents a challenge as most Deaf struggle to read. Trent explains, "Deaf people think in pictures—not words. So, the gospel has to be presented in this way." Yet only five percent of the estimated 400 sign languages worldwide have any Scripture portions available.

But, by God's grace, the Deaf in Albania will have the opportunity to know Christ! Through roles in education at a community center for the Deaf, Trent and Angie will meet needs within the Deaf community while building relationships through which they can share the gospel.

Trent and Angie's ministry is the first step in Christar's larger strategy to reach the Deaf in Albania and beyond. We eagerly and prayerfully anticipate what the Lord will do through their ministry and the service of others in Deaf communities around the world.

MINISTRY IN THE MARKETPLACE

Building on Our Heritage of Innovation

Many of the least-reached don't have access to the gospel because they live in countries that traditional "missionaries" cannot enter. But the majority can be reached by believers willing to serve God through marketplace ministry. As Christar continues to build on its 110-year heritage of bringing the good news to those with little or no access to it, we're excited to embrace the potential of Christian professionals who can work and serve where others cannot.

As university students, Leon and Tiffany* sensed God's call to serve Him across cultures. They didn't see Him open doors for them to minister outside of their homeland in the Far East as they pursued becoming "traditional missionaries." But He still had a plan to use them for His glory among the least-reached.

In 2015 Leon and Tiffany learned about the many asylum-seekers fleeing to Germany, many from communities where few have heard the gospel. And the Lord had already begun to prepare the couple to serve Him in that country: Leon had lived there as an exchange student and Tiffany had studied German, giving them a foundation in the language and culture.

Leon had earned a degree in computer science and had been working for an accounting firm in Hong Kong for over five years when he learned of an opportunity to transfer to an office in Germany. God opened the door wide and worked out all the details necessary for him and Tiffany to relocate to Europe.

"Applying for a job seems to be the fastest and easiest way to be on the mission field," Leon explains. In addition, he and Tiffany are excited by the prospect of needing minimal financial support from churches, freeing those fellowships' funds to support other workers. Leon's job also provides him and his family with a logical reason to be living as expats. He and Tiffany are able to build relationships with their neighbors, which, by God's grace, are leading to opportunities to share the gospel with people who've never heard it.



SERVING WORKERS WORLDWIDE



The Christar Mobilization Center U.S.

The Christar Mobilization Center U.S. (CMCUS) mobilizes and supports workers who serve in least-reached communities around the world, enabling them to cultivate Christ-honoring transformation among Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, refugees and the Deaf. Our staff in our Richardson, Texas office recruits, assesses, trains and serves believers who use the gifts and skills God has given them to make disciples of Christ and establish churches in places with little or no culturally relevant gospel witness.

CMCUS personnel come alongside those who serve across cultures as they prepare for the field, while they minister in least-reached communities and during home assignment (furlough). This includes:

- Mobilizing new workers.
- Delivering training programs and resources.
- Providing resources for cross-cultural families.
- Processing funds, overseeing insurance and tax reporting.
- Offering support for emotional and spiritual needs.
- Promoting project needs.
- Engaging individuals and churches in prayer for work and workers.
- Partnering with sending churches.

2018 Mobilization Highlights

The CMCUS Mobilization Department is blessed to recruit and train new workers who bring the hope of Christ to communities where few know Him. In the 2017-18 school year Christar mobilizers:

- Encouraged students to pursue cross-cultural ministry through 65 college campus visits.
- Shared about the needs of the least-reached and ways to be involved in reaching them at 20 churches.
- Participated in 64 conferences and other events.

By God's grace, and in answer to our prayers, throughout 2018:

- 27 individuals participated in New Personnel Orientation, a two-week conference that allows new applicants to get to know Christar and begin preparation for effective ministry.
- 13 individuals participated in Pre-Departure Orientation, which provides further training for cross-cultural ministry in areas such as team building, family issues and related topics.
- Nine new workers began long-term service.
- 24 workers began short- or mid-term ministry.



G5: Mobilizing the Next Generation of Marketplace Professionals

Christians with skills that are desirable in least-reached communities often aren't aware of how the Lord can use their careers to open doors to share the hope of Christ with people who've never been introduced to Him. Through a partnership with Liberty University in the G5 Project, Christar is giving the next generation of Christian professionals a firsthand understanding that their careers are pathways with eternal ramifications. Through roles in marketplace ministry, they can live and serve in places that cannot be reached using a traditional missionary model.

Each academic year Liberty adopts a country with the goal of engaging students in influencing numerous sectors of society by living out the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). For the 2018-19 academic year, Liberty has chosen to adopt Spain as its destination and partner with Christar as its host agency.

Through strategic exposure trips, internships and study abroad opportunities in Málaga, Spain, a city with a large and growing refugee population, Christar is enabling hundreds of Liberty students to discover how God can use their gifts and skills to cultivate Christ-honoring transformation in least-reached communities. This understanding increases the likelihood that students will pursue marketplace ministry long term after graduation.

The G5 Project is a rare opportunity to invest widely in the next generation of followers of Christ for the sake of the least-reached! By God's grace, many students will leverage their career skills in ways that help bring the good news to thousands of people who've never heard in places where "missionaries" cannot go—in Málaga and beyond.



2018 Member Care Highlights

Our Member Care Department provides support and resources for Christar workers while they're on the field and during home assignment. In 2018 the CMCUS Member Care Team:

- Cared for and equipped 51 workers through RENEW, restorative debriefing retreats.
- Provided one- or two-day in-office debriefs for 12 units (couples or singles).
- Visited workers during their home assignments.
- Provided transition coaching for three units.
- Consulted with 20 units via videoconference.
- Participated in three field conferences involving over 25 counseling/consulting sessions.
- Consulted with numerous sending churches about field workers' needs.
- Networked through Missio Nexus and collaborated with member care personnel from 15 other organizations.
- Prepared and taught numerous workshops on topics such as transition and self-care.

2018 Church Relations Highlights

The CMCUS Church Relations Department connects with churches that send and support Christar workers, helping these fellowships be involved in bringing the message of Christ to people who have never been introduced to Him. Church Relations staff works with sending churches to ensure that they are prepared in the event that the workers they support face a crisis. This team also offers trainings, including "Your FOCUS on the World" from Catalyst Services and Sixteen:Fifteen church missions coaching, that help local bodies of Christ more intentionally engage least-reached people. In addition, it provides resources to equip churches to send not only individuals but entire teams to serve cross-culturally, and seeks to partner with congregations to launch new church-planting initiatives.

In 2018 the CMCUS Church Relations staff:

- Contacted 239 churches.
- Completed 41 face-to-face visits with pastors and church missions representatives.
- Participated in six live missions training events.

2018 Financial Report

Donations:*

- Individuals: \$7,690,955
- Churches and Organizations: \$7,346,487

Total Donations: \$15,037,442

Expenses:

- Church Planting: \$9,456,518
- Training and Education: \$1,449,284
- Medical Work: \$437,417
- Mass Media: \$137,304
- Relief: \$58,006
- Administration: \$3,426,234

Total Program Services: \$14,964,763

* All incoming donations are assessed a 10 percent administrative fee to provide funding for office administration.

Christar Mobilization Center U.S.

Executive Team

Dr. R. Stephen Coffey, Director and President

Richard Barron, CFO and Treasurer

Mark Ciliberti, COO

Board of Trustees

Dr. Jeff Adams, Chairman

Mr. Mike Busch

Mr. Keith Carlson

Mr. Brian Gross

Mr. Will Heath

Mrs. Nancy Hulsey

Mr. Carl Jaedicke

Mr. Eric M'Barine

Dr. Marvin Newell

Mrs. Ruth Nystrom

Dr. Greg Parsons



1500 International Pkwy., Ste. 300
Richardson, TX 75081

800-755-7955 | info@christar.org | christar.org

facebook.com/christarusa  twitter.com/christarusa 
pinterest.com/christarusa  instagram.com/christarusa 



Christar is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is committed to the highest standards of biblical stewardship. As a long-standing member of the ECFA, we are in full compliance with their established standards for financial accountability, transparency, fundraising and board governance. Independent annual audits are conducted by CapinCrouse. Audit reports are available upon request: treasurer@christar.org.

©2019 Unauthorized use and/or duplication of this material without written permission from Christar is strictly prohibited.

Statistics on least-reached people taken from joshuaproject.net. Statistics on the Deaf taken from deafbiblesociety.com.

**Names have been changed, and images are representative.*