

The
Chalmers
Center

2019 MINISTRY REPORT

Celebrating 20 Years of Equipping Churches



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“Any effective and sustainable poverty alleviation must consider the condition of people’s hearts.” —Brian Fikkert



20 Years of Equipping the Church

In an era in which many have lost faith in the church, our commitment is unwavering.

Why?

The problem of poverty is so complex that there simply is no hope without the **transforming power of Jesus Christ**.

The Bible teaches that the local church is the embodiment of Jesus, so it is impossible to **address the deep-seated causes of poverty without it**.

The Chalmers Center exists to help the church to be the hands and feet of Christ to a hurting world—by helping people who are poor in ways that truly help.

By God's grace alone, we've provided programs, resources, and training to **equip thousands of churches to help people break free from the material, social, and spiritual bonds of poverty**.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Fikkert". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Brian Fikkert
Founder & President

Mission & Vision

Vision:

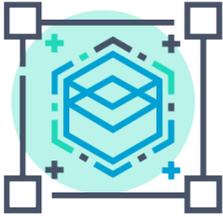
Jesus restores all creation, and poverty is no more.

Mission:

We equip local churches to address the broken relationships at the root of material poverty, living out Jesus' Kingdom today.



Our Strategic Anchors



Create tools that help churches to improve, adopt, or design new, contextualized poverty alleviation ministries.



Distribute our tools and framework widely and effectively across various channels.

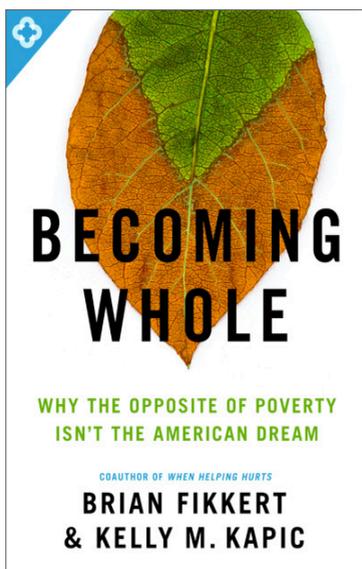


Sustain and grow our work through increased revenue-generating activities and contributions from a diversified mix of financial resource partners.



Create Tools & Resources for the Church

For over 20 years, the Chalmers Center has created quality tools and resources to help churches teach and train people how to help break the cycle of poverty. Close to half a million people have purchased the book, *When Helping Hurts*, alone! Today, we continue in the same commitment to create excellent resources to equip churches. This year, we released many new ones, including:



Becoming Whole

The story of the American Dream doesn't add up. There's hope for all of us in a different story. Through *Becoming Whole*, you'll discover how to be reshaped by God's story of change!

becomingwholebook.com



A Field Guide to Becoming Whole
coming out September 3rd, 2019

From the Director of Online Learning

The local church is at the heart of community transformation and our online training initiative provides support for whatever part of the journey a church finds itself.

From rethinking poverty to holistic financial ministries—studies for individuals and small groups, as well as

finding ways to engage the entire church and the surrounding community—we are here to support the local church as they walk alongside the materially poor.



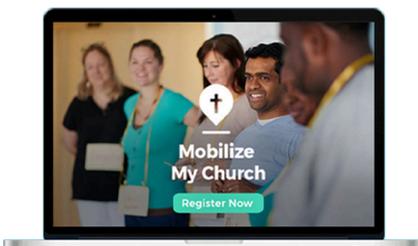
Abigail Sebesta
Director of Online Learning



Helping Without Hurting: The Basics

Discover a biblical framework for helping people in poverty! Through this course, you'll learn how to walk with the poor in humble relationships instead of providing temporary handouts.

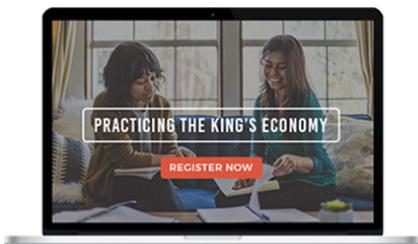
hwthebasics.org



Mobilize My Church

Turn your passion for local ministry into a plan for action! Guide a handful of passionate leaders through a process to energize your entire church—and move forward together to love your neighbors.

mobilizemychurch.org



Practicing the King's Economy

Through this online course, you'll discover new ways to live out the Kingdom of God and impact your community in your everyday habits at home, work, and church.

practicingthekingseconomy.org/course



Faith & Finances

Low-income people face unique financial challenges that keep them in poverty. This online course equips you to help them overcome these obstacles and learn to manage their money well.

chalmers.org/faith-and-finances

IMPACT: Church-Equipping Resources



When Helping Hurts

461,704
copies sold



*Helping Without Hurting
In Short-Term Missions*

39,630
copies sold



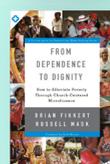
*When Helping Hurts:
The Small Group Experience*

32,853
copies sold



*Helping Without Hurting
In Church Benevolence*

17,911
copies sold



*From Dependence
to Dignity*

4,329
copies sold



Practicing the King's Economy

4,747
copies sold

**Numbers refer to lifetime sales*

Equipping the Church

The Chalmers Center equips church leaders across the country to help their congregations build deeper relationships with people in poverty.

Located in the Broadmoor neighborhood of Jackson, MS, Redeemer Church Jackson is a multiethnic church that seeks to engage with materially poor people in their community through a housing renovation initiative, programs for youth and children, and other ministries.

Lay leaders like Levi & Kateri Gill are at the heart of Redeemer's efforts to serve their city. In 2017, Chalmers trained the Gills to start a *Work Life* jobs-preparedness class at Redeemer. Since then, they've mobilized a team of leaders and volunteers at the church and launched their *Work Life* ministry.

But after successfully running two classes, Levi and Kateri realized something was missing: people! Even though *Work Life* participants benefited from the class and

found jobs, only a few signed up each time Redeemer offered the class.

"We're a diverse congregation, but economically we're all very similar," Levi says. "The church just didn't know many low-income people in the community to invite."

They decided to put *Work Life* on hold temporarily and find ways for the church to build stronger relationships with their neighbors in Jackson. That's when they discovered *Are You a Good Neighbor?*, an online resource from Chalmers designed to help churches know and love people who are poor in their communities.

The Gills offered *Are You a Good Neighbor?* as a Sunday school class at their church. Every week, a group



of 20-30 people watched videos, discussed what they were learning, and prayed. Together, they deepened their understanding of poverty and explored new ways to engage with their neighborhood.

The class sparked a valuable ongoing conversation at Redeemer, strengthening the existing *Work Life* team and getting new people interested in getting trained to serve as mentors in the class.



“Are You a Good Neighbor?” sparked a great ongoing conversation at our church. It opened the door for us to invite new people to our next volunteer training for *Work Life*.”



Levi & Kateri Gill
Redeemer Church
Jackson, MS



Partnerships for Expanded Reach & Impact

We are capable of more together than we are alone. With like-minded partner organizations, the Chalmers Center is dedicated to cultivating key initiatives to equip more churches for Kingdom impact in our mission for poverty alleviation.

From the Director of U.S. Programs

There continues to be a need to equip churches with tools that are designed to bring people together across socioeconomic lines and meet low-income people where they are. As American society becomes increasingly polarized, we hold to the truth that the Kingdom of God has a different agenda.

The best way for God’s people to combat the criticism and cynicism of the world is for local church congregations to be known for their loving, practical ministries.

“Making disciples” as Christ commands extends beyond saving souls to developing skills like finding joy and dignity in our work, managing the financial resources God gives, and living in authentic community with others.



Jerilyn Sanders
Director of U.S. Programs

In the U.S.

The Chalmers Center reaches U.S. churches through our network of Lead Trainers and like-minded strategic partners like Love INC. Together, we have:

2019

- Equipped 148 churches and organizations
- Reached 1,491 people

Total to Date

- Equipped 1,251 churches and organizations
- Reached 5,947 people

From the Director of International Programs

We continue to witness grievous poverty in the Majority World.

We receive so many requests from Kingdom-centered organizations and churches expressing the need to serve more people living in poverty. These requests—from large-scale and small scale, mission aligned partners/organizations—are so numerous that we cannot fulfill all of them with our current capacity.

The Chalmers Center is committed to working through local churches and ministry partners because they understand the holistic nature of poverty and are close to the people in need within those communities.



Daniel Ryumugabe
Director of International Programs

In the Majority World

The Chalmers Center reaches local churches around the world through our local partners in West Africa and strategic partners like **Compassion International**, **Tearfund**, and **HOPE International**. Together with these partners, we have:

2019

- Equipped 2,723 churches and organizations
- Reached 150,711 people

Total to Date

- Equipped 8,714 churches and organizations
- Reached 860,147 people

Total Organizational:



TODAY: We are reaching 152,202 people in a year through 7 established partner-organizations.



LOOKING AHEAD: Our two-year goal is to increase the number of partner-organizations and churches in order to exponentially grow the number of people reached.



GOAL BY 2021: 10 established partnerships & approximately 500,000 people reached.

Sustain & Grow

We believe the Chalmers Center's greatest opportunities for future impact are going to be built by:



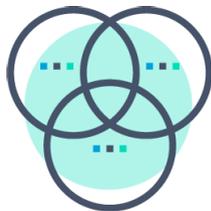
Innovating

We will focus on structured innovation programs so that we can equip more churches with research, resources, and tools to implement effective, biblical poverty alleviation programs.



Creating

We will continue to develop and advance quality content, curriculum, online learning opportunities, and programs.



Connecting

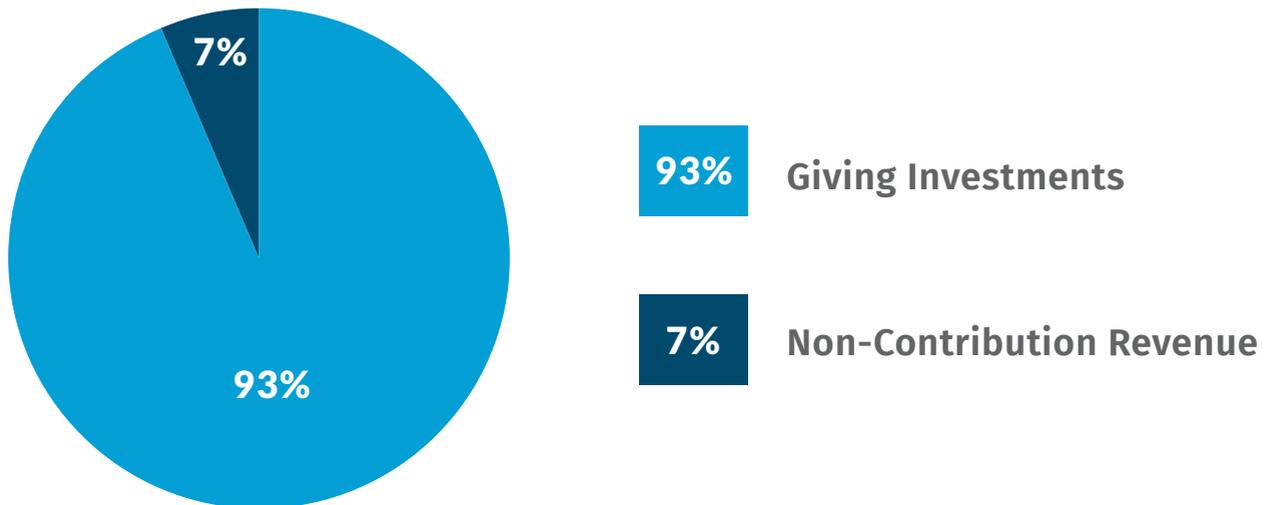
We will continue to establish collaborative partnerships providing exponential reach and avenues of access for churches of all sizes to help more people and communities.

When you invest with us, you are making an impact through our network of partners!

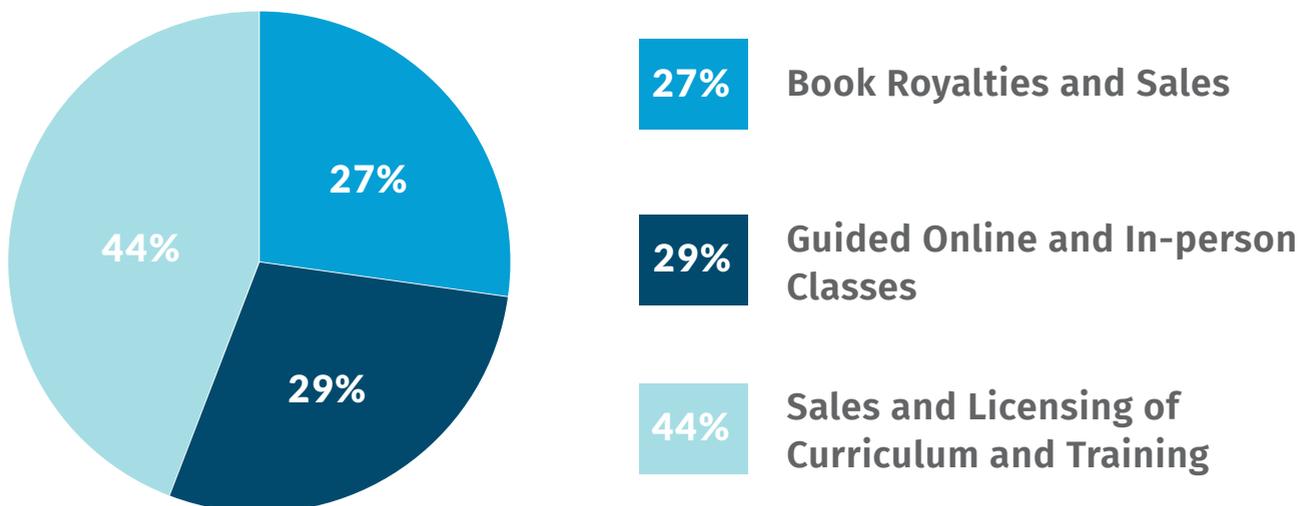


Analysis of Support

2019 Revenue



Non-Contribution Revenue



Friends & Partners

Thank you for your generous investment of prayers and financial gifts over the past year. It is humbling to witness what God does through the obedience and faithfulness of His people, and I am honored to have a part in this journey with you.

When I am asked why we work through the local church, I explain that none of us can do this alone. We as the body of Christ—manifested in the church—have a unique role to play in the restoration of the broken—and we are all broken.

The church should be a place where hurting and broken people find support, help, and a place for healing from the material and spiritual bonds of poverty. Coming together in the transforming love of Christ is the power to change, to break bonds, to heal, and become whole.

Over the next two years, we will advance the way we equip thousands of churches by:

- Creating additional courses in our online learning environment
- Releasing *A Field Guide to Becoming Whole* and creating a curriculum around it that will become our flagship resource articulating all aspects of our biblical theory of change
- Introducing a new curriculum and training process centered around innovation as well as an adaptation of our savings groups curriculum called *Restore: Savings for Early Youth*

As we enter into the future of serving the church and the new year of opportunities, I am especially grateful for you and all of our ministry partners.

Thank you. I look forward to entering our new year together.

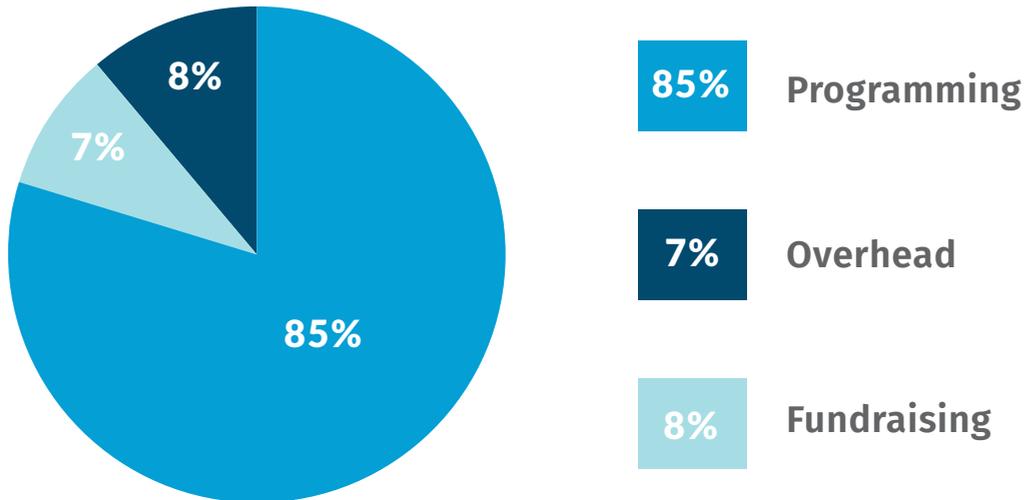


Michael Briggs

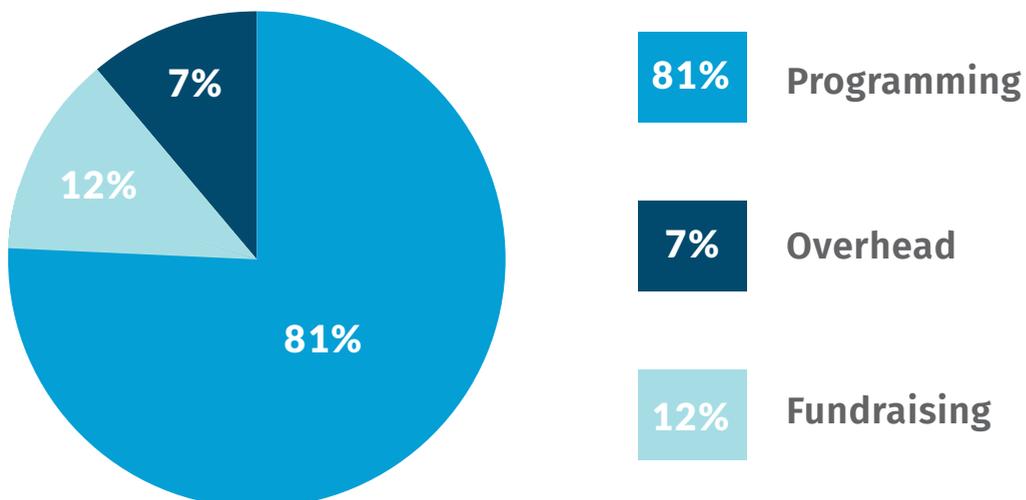
Executive Director

Ministry Expenses

2019 Actual Expense



2020 Projected Expense



STAY CONNECTED

Want to hear more about local churches walking with people in poverty? Follow us and stay up-to-date!



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chalmerscenter



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