

2017 Ministry Report



The
Chalmers
Center

Fiscal Year 2017 Update

Our Mission

The Chalmers Center equips churches to walk alongside people who are poor, breaking the spiritual, social, and material bonds of poverty.





Why We Focus on the Local Church

Today, more than 767 million people around the world live on less than two dollars per day.¹ In the U.S., more than 43 million people live below the poverty line.² The reality and complexity of poverty can seem overwhelming.

So why does the Chalmers Center focus on working through local churches—churches that sometimes consist of only 30 or 100 people?

Part of Christ's mission on earth was to preach the gospel to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, and proclaim freedom to the captives. Jesus is in the business of restoring the complex brokenness that leads to poverty!

The church has the privilege of continuing that mission by serving as the hands and feet of Christ in a community. The church has a unique role in poverty alleviation, because it's where people—whether materially poor or not—encounter Jesus' compassion and transformative power.

That's why Chalmers creates resources and tools that equip local churches to recognize the brokenness that leads to poverty—and how Jesus' power can restore that brokenness.

As churches walk with people who are poor, they affirm their dignity, empower them with practical skills, and enfold them into the family of God. Through local churches, people in poverty are experiencing spiritual, social, and material transformation.

That's why everything we do begins and ends with the church.

1. *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016*, World Bank

2. U.S. Census Bureau data. Based on a family of four living on less than \$24,257 per year

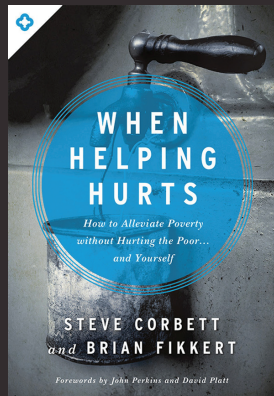
Equipping the Church to Live Out the Kingdom

Walking alongside people who are poor is a complex, long-term process. To do it well, churches need more than a few tips and tricks. It starts with embracing the message and practices of the Kingdom of God. That's why we provide resources designed to equip churches to live out the Kingdom in new and innovative ways.

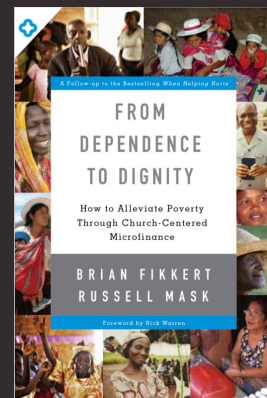
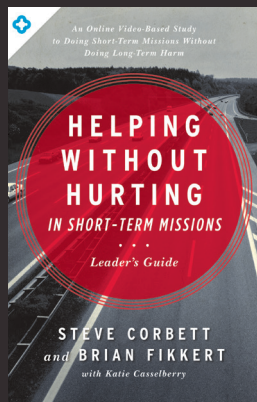


We equip churches to...

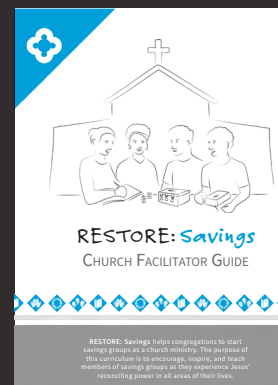
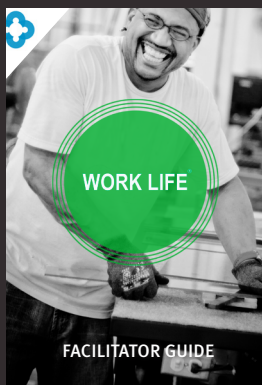
Re-disciple their members around the vision of the Kingdom of God.



Re-make their existing ministries to reflect a better understanding of the Kingdom of God.



Re-imagine the Kingdom of God by starting innovative new ministries.



Making an Impact Through the Church



Moving Beyond “Us and Them”

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

North Avenue Presbyterian Church has a 30-year history of urban ministry in Atlanta, GA. Located just blocks from homeless shelters and low-income housing, the church seeks to welcome people who are poor—but it hasn’t been an easy journey.

“We want to erase the paradigm of ‘us and them,’ and we’ve been intentional about that,” says Matt Seadore, Director of Missions & Outreach at North Avenue. “We had to look at ourselves and the unspoken messages we were sending materially poor people.”

Over the past several years, the church modified their worship services, schedule, and programs to be more accessible and welcoming for people who are poor. They hosted a Helping Without Hurting seminar and purchased copies of *When Helping Hurts* for the entire congregation. They were also one of the first churches Chalmers trained to start a *Faith & Finances* financial education ministry. Today, life at North Avenue looks very different than it did ten years ago.

“As we started making changes, we found that our church became a safe and comfortable place for people who are materially poor,” Matt says. “Once that happened, they began to tell their friends.”

Embracing Small Changes

ROLLING HILLS ESTATES, CALIFORNIA

Rolling Hills Covenant Church has a long history of joining with partner organizations to reach out to the surrounding community. But a few years ago, the church began to realize that some of their efforts might actually be causing harm.

“We were focused on providing handouts and food to people,” says Marcia Trani, Director of Compassion Ministries at Rolling Hills Covenant Church. “When I read *When Helping Hurts*, I knew God was calling us to something new.”

When Helping Hurts helped spark gradual changes at the church that continue to this day. The church started a new *Faith & Finances* ministry, and applied the principles of helping without hurting by making small changes to its existing ministries.

One example: the church converted its annual free school supply drive into a school supply store where low-income parents can purchase backpacks and other items for nominal fees. Simple changes like these have helped the church reinforce people’s dignity and avoid causing harm.

“It’s really neat to see the transformation that’s taken place over time,” Marcia says. “We talk and breathe these ideas now in our church, and we want to help without hurting in every ministry.”

Local churches all over the world are using our resources and tools to bring lasting change to their communities. From inner-city Atlanta to rural villages in Africa, these churches are demonstrating to the materially poor that Jesus is making all things new!



Strengthening Local Churches in West Africa

TOGO, WEST AFRICA

In West Africa, the Chalmers Center's network of local lead trainers equips church networks and denominations to use our Restore: *Savings* curriculum to form savings group ministries. These small groups meet weekly to pray, study God's Word, and save their own money together.

Savings group ministries strengthen local churches as they address the complex brokenness that leads to poverty. In savings groups, people experience financial restoration—but they also experience restored dignity knowing they are made in God's image. Using the money they save in these groups, people in some of the poorest places on earth are starting businesses and providing for their families.

"My husband died and left children to me. I had to fetch water for other women in my village to earn money to feed my family. It was very burdensome," says Essi, a savings group member in Togo. "But now I'm free because of the group. Using money from the group, I started selling soya and making a profit that allows me to feed my family."

Church-centered savings groups in West Africa provide an innovative ministry model for our strategic partners to implement in other parts of the world.



Discipleship Through Savings Groups

MALAWI, EAST AFRICA

Known as the warm heart of Africa, Malawi is a land of natural beauty and friendly smiles. It is also one of the least developed countries in the world. But the local church is on the move in Malawi, confronting economic challenges through community development.

Our partners at HOPE International use our Restore: *Savings* curriculum to establish church-centered savings group ministries all over the world, including Malawi. In these small groups, people welcome one another, worship, and study God's Word as they save together.

"We can now say no to moneylenders," says one savings group member in Malawi. "We are better connected together in our church, and we're reaching outside our community to share Jesus Christ."

Through savings group ministries, church members are able to invest in their businesses, household expenses, medical care, or education. They also experience discipleship and close-knit community.

Thanks to partners like HOPE International, more and more churches in Africa, Latin America, and Asia are forming savings group ministries.

Partnering for Global Impact

Our Partners



Advance Memphis

LINC North Texas

Assemblies of God Church Burkina Faso

Love INC

Assemblies of God Church Niger

Luvjeez Training Center Ghana

Center for Community Transformation

Memphis Center for Urban Theological Studies

Central India Christian Mission

Phil Training Center Mali

Compassion Togo

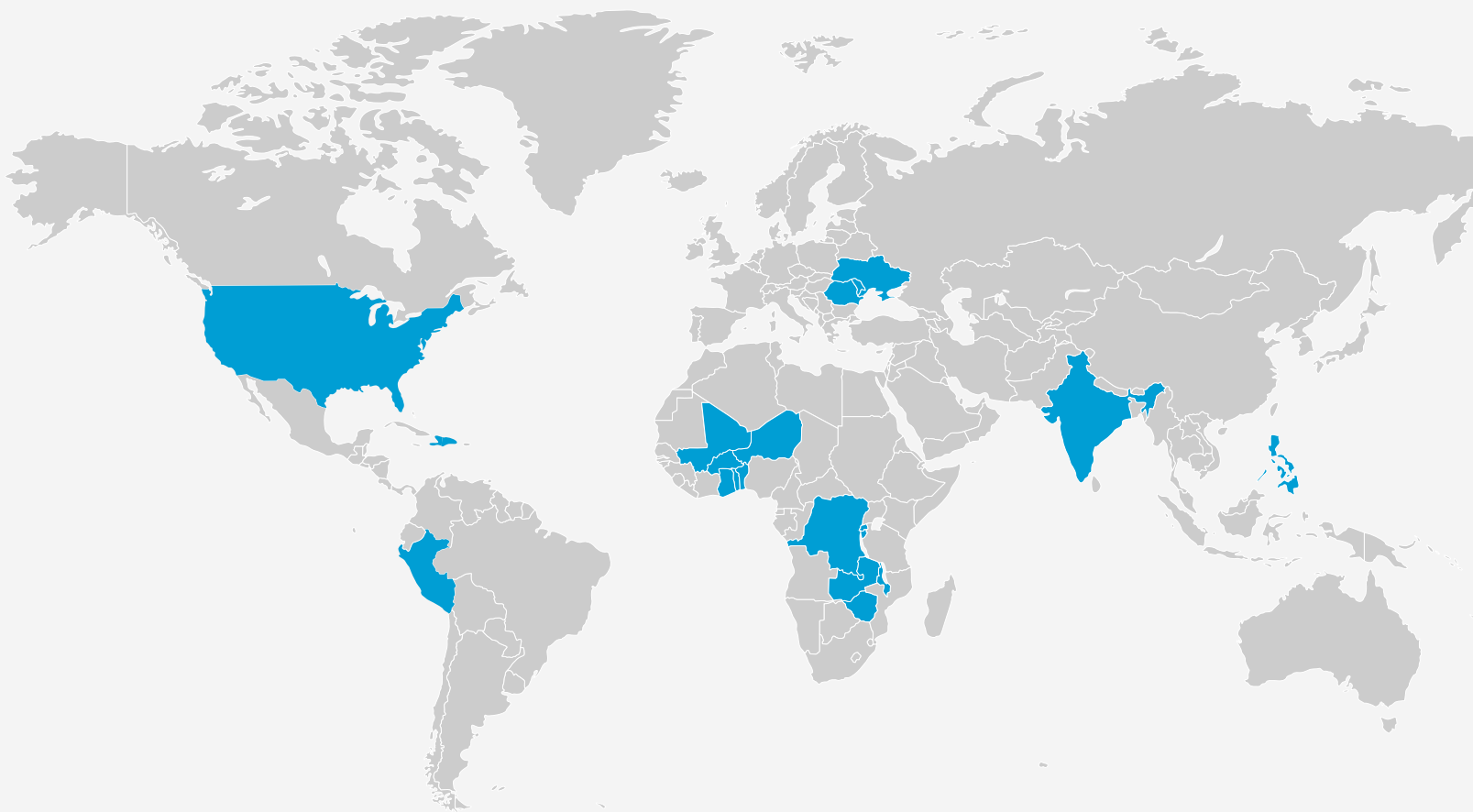
Royal Way Training Center Togo

HOPE International

Wycliffe Benin

Light of the World Training Center Togo

From Texas to Togo, our desire is to equip churches to impact communities all over the world—but we can't do it alone. That's why we've joined with like-minded partners who are using our resources and tools to equip local churches across the globe. Together, we're reaching more churches, and making a greater impact in the lives of people who are poor.



The paradigm-shifting message of *When Helping Hurts* has impacted countless churches. Together with our partners, we have also:



Equipped
5,000
churches



Impacted the lives of
600,000
materially poor people

Dear ministry partner,

Thank you for giving generously and enabling us to equip local churches all over the globe! Your gifts have helped create lasting change in people's lives.

For the last 18 years, Chalmers has been a thought leader in church-centered poverty alleviation. We've equipped thousands of local churches and church-equipping organizations through our books, resources, and training.

Over the next three years, we want to have an even greater impact—and unleash the church to live out the Kingdom in new and innovative ways. Our goal is to:

- Inspire churches with the message of God's Kingdom—and its implications for their ministry with the poor.
- Equip churches with principles and practices to improve their existing ministries with the materially poor—and launch new ministries at home and abroad.
- Train churches to live out the good news of the Kingdom in creative ways that go beyond Chalmers' products.

We're pursuing exciting new ways to reach more churches than ever, including online learning and additional strategic partnerships. As we make our resources more accessible to churches all over the world, we look forward to sharing even more stories of transformation with you!

We appreciate your continued prayer and support for these new initiatives.

In Christ,



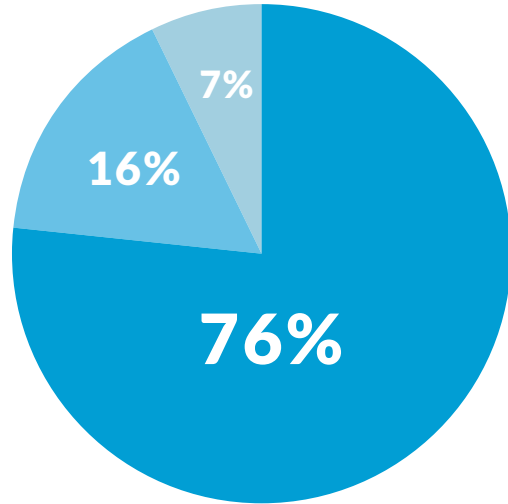
Michael Briggs
Executive Director



2017 Financials

76%	PROGRAMS: \$1,854,772
16%	DEVELOPMENT: \$397,070
7%	ADMINISTRATION: \$174,671

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,426,513

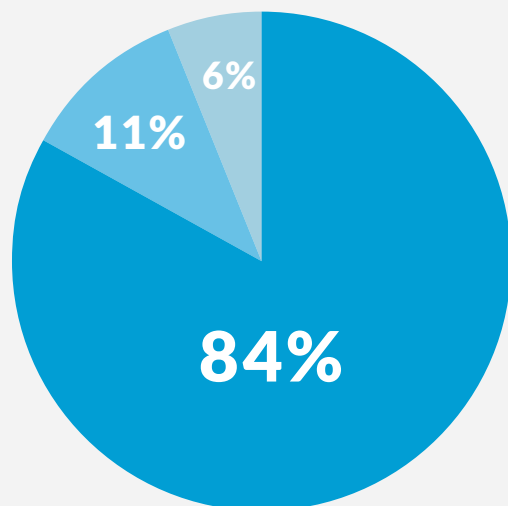


Unaudited figures as of August 30, 2017. Subject to adjustment.

2018 Forecast

84%	PROGRAMS: \$1,828,552
11%	DEVELOPMENT: \$229,703
6%	ADMINISTRATION: \$129,921

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,188,176





We're grateful for partners like you!
Your continued support enables us to equip churches to walk
alongside people who are poor, breaking the spiritual, social, and
material bonds of poverty.

TO MAKE YOUR GIFT:



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