

The
Chalmers
Center

MINISTRY REPORT 2018





MINISTRY REPORT

CELEBRATING IMPACT & INNOVATION

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**WE HELP THE CHURCH LOVE THE POOR
IN *EFFECTIVE, BIBLICAL* WAYS.**

At the Chalmers Center, our mission is to equip churches to walk alongside people who are poor, breaking the spiritual, social, and material bonds of poverty.



LET'S CELEBRATE!

Dear ministry partner,

It's been an exciting year at the Chalmers Center! We embarked on a new three-year strategy designed to unleash churches all over the world to live out the Kingdom of God as they walk alongside people in poverty.

It's been exciting to see the ways that God has already blessed the new initiatives we've undertaken. Here are few highlights to celebrate from this year:

- We launched our first online course, ***Are You a Good Neighbor?***, as part of our strategy to make our resources more accessible to churches through online learning
- We released a new book resource, ***Practicing the King's Economy***, designed to help churches re-disciple their members around a vision of the Kingdom of God
- Together with our partners, we equipped 795 churches globally, bringing our total to more than 6,564—and developed new strategic partnerships that will help us reach thousands more

All of this is possible because of God's faithfulness and support from people like you! As we prepare to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Chalmers Center this year, we can't wait to see what God has in store for us—and for the churches we serve!

BRIAN FIKKERT
Founder & President

MICHAEL BRIGGS
Executive Director

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH ONLINE LEARNING

Through online learning, Chalmers is making paradigm-shifting resources more accessible to local churches.

Located in the heart of Colorado Springs, First Pres has always served its community and reached out around the world. The church has a 150-year history of local and global outreach, and they've often turned to resources like *When Helping Hurts* or *Helping Without Hurting in Short-Term Missions* to equip their members for that work.

"The outgrowth of that has been a shared understanding of who the poor are, what the different models are for helping them, and what our role is as a church," says Susan Buenger, Associate for Global Mission at First Pres. "It's helped us decide what are we going to fund, and what our strategies are going to be."

As part of First Pres' Wednesday evening discipleship program, Susan recently took a group of 18 people through Chalmers' new online course, *Are You a Good Neighbor?*. Released in October 2017, the course is designed to help individuals and churches begin building personal relationships with low-income neighbors in their communities.

Although much of the learning in *Are You a Good Neighbor?* happens online, the course encourages participants to join with others and go through the material together. Susan also invited the church's ministry partners from local organizations to participate.



The course challenged the group's assumptions about poverty in their city. It also brought church members and the local organizations they support together in new ways. One of the most powerful moments was when the group was tasked with writing prayers of lament for the poverty in their city. As they heard one local ministry partner share his prayer of lament, the whole room was moved to tears.

"As a church, we're interested in our local ministry partners as people," Susan says. "They're serving a lot, but they never get served. The course was a really healthy way for us to care for them and enhance our relationships with them."

WHAT'S NEXT?

This year, we're building on the success of *Are You a Good Neighbor?* by enhancing our existing online courses—and developing several new courses designed to equip the church to walk alongside people in poverty. Join us in prayer for these new resources!

For more information about *Are You a Good Neighbor?*, visit areyouagoodneighbor.org

"I'm always looking for new resources. We can trust what Chalmers puts out to be consistent with our theology, our strategies, and our missiology."



Susan Buenger

Associate for Global Mission
First Pres, Colorado Springs



IMPACT: *Online Learning*



2 COURSES RELEASED

Are You a Good Neighbor?
Are You a Good Neighbor?
Small Group Experience



1 COURSE IN PILOT

Mobilize My Church



PROGRESS

205 churches & organizations
registered

A SHARED VISION OF GOD'S KINGDOM

We're joining with strategic partners around the world to develop biblical, innovative approaches to poverty—and to equip more churches than ever before.

This year, we're celebrating our emerging partnership with Tearfund, a UK-based church-equipping organization. Tearfund has mobilized a worldwide network of more than 154,000 local churches in some of the most challenging places on earth.

In March, we joined with Tearfund to start a savings group pilot in Burkina Faso using Chalmers' Restore: *Savings* program. Together, we're launching savings groups as part of

Tearfund's Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) ministry, which empowers local churches with the tools to foster change in their communities. Over the course of 18 months, Chalmers and Tearfund will launch 220 savings groups within churches already participating in the CCM model.

Tearfund and Chalmers share a love for the church and an understanding that poverty is the result of broken relationships with God, self,



others, and creation. Both Restore: *Savings* and CCM emphasize the local church as central to the process of restoration in a community.

This pilot will allow Tearfund to explore how church-centered savings groups complement the Church & Community Mobilization process and empower churches with more effective options to solve problems in their communities. Chalmers will also learn from Tearfund on how the CCM model can improve the design of Restore: *Savings* and future Chalmers programs.

As we embark on this new partnership, join us in celebration and prayer for what's ahead!

“I am convinced we have an opportunity to build a savings group component into our Church and Community Mobilization model in West & Central Africa. Savings groups that target the extreme poor may just be the ideal entry point for the church in seeking to engage its community.”



Francis Wahome
Assistant Head of West Africa Region
Tearfund



IMPACT: *International Programs*

This year, we:



EQUIPPED
457 churches



LAUNCHED
1,143 savings group ministries



IMPACTED
17,145 people

**CUMULATIVE TOTAL
CHURCHES EQUIPPED**

5,592

FINDING NEW COMMUNITY THROUGH FAITH & FINANCES

When one Ohio couple called Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC), they asked for help with housing. But what they found was a supportive community.

When Elmer and Dawn contacted Love INC of Greater Holmes County, Elmer was recovering from drug addiction, and the couple was working to regain custody of their three children. They were regularly attending a local church, where a family had opened their home as a temporary place to stay. Although they both had jobs, they needed help reaching their ultimate goal: building savings to secure their own housing.

“Elmer and Dawn signed up with two others from their church to join our *Faith & Finances* class,” says Vicki Conn, Director of Love INC of Greater Holmes County. “Every week, they came to the class and reported how much they had in savings.”

Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) is a national network of 137 affiliates that connect local churches and mobilize them to transform lives and communities. Love INC’s network represents more than 7,800 churches in 29 states across the U.S.

We’ve partnered with Love INC to train their affiliates to offer our *Faith & Finances* financial education program as part of their comprehensive transformational ministry model, which provides long-term relational support to people like Elmer and Dawn who want to make significant changes in their lives.



Through *Faith & Finances*, Elmer and Dawn discovered biblical principles for managing their money. More importantly, they were surrounded by a community of people from local churches who were willing to walk with them through the process.

Eventually, Elmer and Dawn saved enough to purchase a mobile home—and celebrated after closing with their friends from *Faith & Finances*. They were able to buy a few essentials for their new home, and Love INC and their church provided furniture, linens, cleaning supplies, and cookware—all donated from local churches.

Today, Elmer and Dawn are continuing their journey toward reuniting their family—and they have a network of people with them every step of the way.

“We had budget coaching before *Faith & Finances*, but this has made the process so much more transformational. It’s changed the lives of our participants—and the lives of our volunteers.”



Vicki Conn
Director
Love INC of Greater Holmes County



IMPACT: *U.S. Programs*

This year we:



EQUIPPED
133 churches & nonprofits



LAUNCHED
241 *Faith & Finances* financial
education ministries

49 *Work Life* job preparedness
ministries



IMPACTED
2,219 people

**CUMULATIVE TOTAL CHURCHES &
NONPROFITS EQUIPPED**

767

POTLUCK COMMUNITY: A PICTURE OF THE KINGDOM

This year, we released a new book resource designed to help churches re-disciple their members around the vision of the Kingdom of God.

Written by community development practitioner Michael Rhodes and Chattanooga pastor Robby Holt, *Practicing the King's Economy* explores practical ways for Christians to live out the Kingdom of God in their work, church, family, and home.

Michael recently sat down with us to talk about why he wrote *Practicing the King's Economy*, why living out the Kingdom of God matters, and what he hopes the church will discover through this new book.

What motivated you to write *Practicing the King's Economy*?

Michael: The motivation for the book came from my own experiences. I grew up in an affluent Christian community. After I graduated from college, I moved into a very poor neighborhood and went to work at a nonprofit called Advance Memphis.

That brought me face-to-face with the problems that materially poor people experience with unemployment, broken educational systems, and broken housing policies. I saw how an organization like Advance Memphis could really help people make substantial changes in their lives through work and entrepreneurship. It gave people a second chance.

The problem is that most people won't take the risk to hire someone with a criminal record, or a refugee who speaks broken English, or an aspiring entrepreneur from a low-income community.

That happens in part because the church has disciplined people to make as much money as they can, and give away their leftovers. People are disciplined to fund soup kitchens, not to fundamentally alter the way they operate in the marketplace.

But what if instead of a soup kitchen, the goal was a potluck where everybody got to bring something to the table? That would require us to practice economic justice, inclusion, and mercy in the ways we earn, spend, save, and give.

Read more from our interview with Michael Rhodes online at blog.chalmers.org/potluck-community

“If you believe in the Kingdom of God, everything must change. It confronts every aspect of our lives and calls us to greater things.”



Michael Rhodes

Instructor at the Memphis Center for Urban Theological Studies
Co-Author of *Practicing the King's Economy*

IMPACT: Church-Equipping Resources



When Helping Hurts

432,908
copies sold



*Helping Without Hurting
In Short-Term Missions*

33,558
copies sold



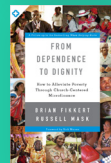
*When Helping Hurts:
The Small Group Experience*

29,034
copies sold



*Helping Without Hurting
In Church Benevolence*

14,291
copies sold



*From Dependence
to Dignity*

4,041
copies sold



Practicing the King's Economy

4,382
copies shipped

**Numbers refer to lifetime sales*

FINANCIALS

This year, God richly provided for our financial needs. We've seen a 22% increase in contributions over last fiscal year—a testament to the generosity of our financial resource partners!

At the same time, our staff has worked to diligently steward our finances, intentionally seeking ways to accomplish our work more effectively and reduce operational expenses. We saw a 23% reduction in overall expenses compared to last year.

We are encouraged by our partners, who have shared their kind words, prayers, and finances as we continue growing our presence in online learning and in Kingdom-centered innovation.

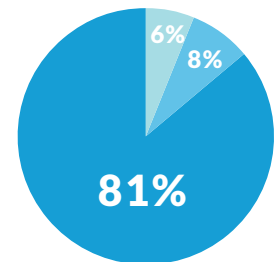
WHAT'S AHEAD

As we begin the work God has set before us in the next fiscal year, we're in a strong financial position. We plan to increase our budget over last year by 7.4%. We will invest this increase primarily in creating our online learning platform, growing Kingdom-centered innovation, and expanding our development team.

2018 FINANCIALS

81%	PROGRAMS: \$1,648,555
8%	DEVELOPMENT: \$146,211
6%	ADMINISTRATION: \$121,106

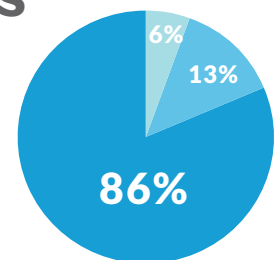
TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,915,872



2019 PROJECTIONS

86%	PROGRAMS: \$1,911,852
13%	DEVELOPMENT: \$306,041
6%	ADMINISTRATION: \$134,165

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$2,352,058



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](https://facebook.com/chalmerscenter)



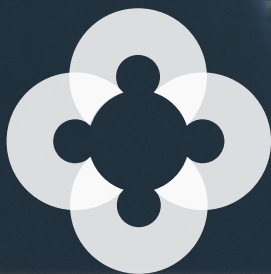
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