



The  
Chalmers  
Center

# MINISTRY REPORT 2020



Thank you for your generous support of the Chalmers Center!

Your prayers and financial gifts play a vital role in our mission to equip local churches around the world to address the broken relationships at the root of material poverty.

Now, more than ever—in the face of a global pandemic, uncertain economic times, social unrest, and racial injustice—we remain deeply committed to that mission.

In 2020, we focused our efforts on areas that allowed the Chalmers Center to faithfully carry out our mission while remaining flexible in the face of uncertainty. We're excited to share the results of these initiatives in this report!

Yes, these are trying times, but we remain thankful for the role God has given us and for your partnership.



**Michael Briggs**  
Executive Director



**Brian Fikkert**  
President & Founder

To address the most pressing needs of the churches we serve,  
in 2020 we focused our work on 3 key areas:



### 1. Deepening Relationships

We've invested time and technology into connecting with churches and our partners.



### 2. Digital Delivery

Through online training, we've reached hundreds of churches and ministries with our principles.



### 3. Kingdom-Centered Innovation

We've developed new curriculum and training to equip churches to tackle today's challenges.

# SUPPORTING CHURCHES IN WEST AFRICA

*The social and economic effects of the global pandemic have created serious hardship for communities in West Africa. But in the midst of the crisis, local churches have been a key source of support.*

In the Majority World, the Chalmers Center equips churches to start savings groups—groups of 10-20 people who save and lend their own money to one another. Savings groups allow people living in extreme poverty to experience greater financial stability without becoming dependent on outside resources. The groups also provide an opportunity to communicate the gospel and to apply it to people's lives.

The coronavirus pandemic has posed a major threat to the health, social, spiritual, and economic wellbeing of savings group members. Movement restrictions have forced many groups to suspend meetings. As markets failed, many savings group members began using their savings to buy food and other necessities to support their families. Throughout the crisis, reliable information about coronavirus and disease prevention has been scarce—especially in remote rural villages.



To mitigate the impact of COVID-19, the Chalmers Center coordinated with our West African trainers to use technology—cell phones, text messages, and WhatsApp—to provide crucial health information and support to churches and savings groups in some of the remotest villages in West Africa.

These efforts have provided spiritual, social, and emotional support that members of savings groups have been unable to receive from group meetings due to COVID-19. It has also helped isolated villages get key information on how to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Together with our partners in West Africa, we have:



2020

Equipped 572 churches and organizations to launch 5,098 savings groups



Reached 91,816 people

*“Savings groups have proven incredibly flexible during this crisis. With support from Chalmers, churches are coming up with their own creative ways to overcome the effects of COVID-19 in their communities”*



**DANIEL RYUMAGABE,**  
*Director of Church & Partner Relations - Majority World*

## DIGITALLY EQUIPPING THE CHURCH

*From online courses to live webinars, we're reaching hundreds of churches and ministries with our training and principles in powerful new ways.*

In 2018, we set out to make our poverty alleviation principles accessible in new digital formats. Since then, we've created 6 online training courses and launched the *Helping Without Hurting* Online Library, which bundles nearly all of our online training. We've also begun distributing our content and principles through our blog and webinars.

By God's grace, our online learning opportunities played a key role in Chalmers' ability to continue serving the church during the pandemic. We found that webinars are an effective way to provide content to churches quickly during this crisis.

In April, we conducted a webinar, “Innovating in a Crisis.” We followed it up with the Innovation Crash Course, which provided the foundations for our new, emerging Kingdom-centered innovation process.

We also partnered with Made to Flourish to offer a webinar entitled “Benevolence in an Economic Crisis.” In late May, we followed up by launching our latest online course, *Helping without Hurting in Benevolence Ministry*.



In the year ahead, we're looking forward to launching new courses centered around biblical poverty alleviation principles drawn from our recent books, *Becoming Whole* and the associated *Field Guide*. We're excited to see how God uses these new resources to equip local churches!

*"With so many people staying home and looking for new ways to learn, our people are loving these online courses. Our volunteers' response to the online course has been incredibly positive."*



**DARA LYNN NYKAMP**  
*Director of Curriculum Development, Crossroads Prison Ministries*

### Through our digital platforms, in 2020, we:



Reached 340 churches and ministries and 2,155 participants with online training



Launched 2 new online training courses



Hosted 2 webinars with 1,287 participants



Reached 7,837 people via our email list, with 128,871 visits to our website

## EQUIPPING CHURCHES TO LIVE OUT GOD'S KINGDOM

*We're equipping churches all over the world with tools to creatively address the challenges of today—and to flourish in the future.*

The Kingdom-Centered Innovation (KCI) Team at Chalmers is using the latest developments in social innovation and design thinking to help churches use Chalmers' Principles to create innovative new ministries that fit their context.

This year, we began development and testing of new innovation curriculum and training designed for both U.S. and Majority World churches.



In the Majority World, our team piloted a new innovation curriculum designed to help churches in poor communities identify local challenges and solve them using local resources. For example, one church in Togo mobilized to repair a road to their local market.

In the U.S., our team piloted a similar innovation curriculum and training process with the Pegasus Fellows Program in Dallas, TX. We also offered an introductory version of the same curriculum via our online Innovation Crash Course, which helps churches use basic design-thinking processes

to start or improve ministries to their communities.

Our team is also working to develop economic development interventions that Chalmers or other organizations can scale in the U.S. Beginning this summer, we assembled three diverse virtual teams to start exploring ways Chalmers might equip Christian businesses, owners, and leaders to live out God's Kingdom by employing materially-poor people in their companies.

### Through our innovation efforts, in 2020, we:



Developed and tested a new innovation curriculum and training process with 70 people in the U.S. and 330 people in West Africa



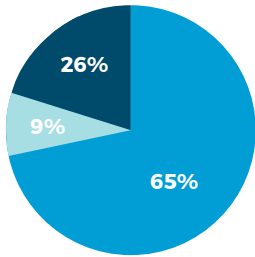
Reached 173 people online via the Innovation Crash Course

*"One of the biggest challenges in poverty alleviation is encouraging people to mobilize. We're seeing churches take initiative to affect change in their environment with no outside resources. That's an outrageous success!"*



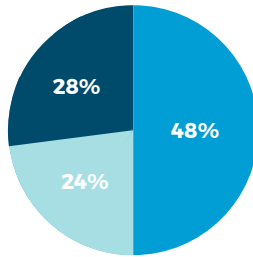
**BRIAN FIKKERT,**  
*President & Founder*

# ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT



## 2020 Revenue

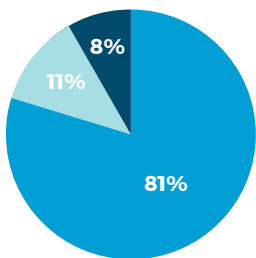
- 26% Donations
- 65% Grants
- 9% Non-Contribution Revenue



## Non-Contribution Revenue

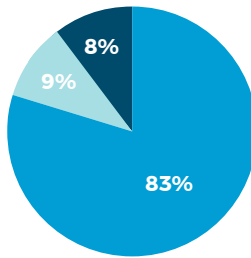
- 28% Book Royalties and Speaking Fees
- 48% Sales and Licensing of Curriculum and Training
- 24% Guided Online and In-Person Classes

# MINISTRY EXPENSES



## 2020 Actual Expenses

- 8% Overhead
- 81% Programming
- 11% Fundraising



## 2021 Projected Expenses

- 8% Overhead
- 83% Programming
- 9% Fundraising



**Keep your eye on your inbox!**

*We've got more exciting stories of impact to share with you—be on the lookout for emails from the Chalmers Center soon!*

Join our email list at [chalmers.org/subscribe](http://chalmers.org/subscribe)



**THANK YOU! WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP.**

Your support makes a difference! You enable us to equip churches to address the broken relationships at the root of poverty.



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507 McFarland Road, Suite B Lookout Mountain, GA 30750 • 706.956.4119 • [chalmers.org](http://chalmers.org)