



THE DISTRICT CHURCH

ADVENT OFFERING 2021



*“Rejoice in hope, be patient in
tribulation, be constant in prayer.”*
Romans 12:12

DEAR CHURCH,

Each year we take up a special offering that we give away to the cause of Christ here in DC and across the world. We give to our mission partners that we work with throughout the year to help meet critical social needs and proclaim Christ.

This Advent Season, our theme is called The Waiting Room. Many of us can relate to the boredom and stress of being in the waiting room for an extended period of time. Airport lines, doctors offices, or even on Zoom. The Waiting Room is about allowing God to do something in us before He does something through us. But it requires patience.

If there is one word to describe the Advent season it is the word “waiting.” Two thousand years ago, the people of Israel were waiting for the Messiah to deliver them, and to bring salvation and the forgiveness of sins to the world. And today we find ourselves in the waiting room, longing for the return of Christ, when he will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Last year, we raised \$154,344.03 through the generosity of hundreds of people in our church who gave sacrificially to bless our neighbors here in DC and across the world.

In this year’s booklet, we are highlighting our local and global partners and how you can support them in prayer. Will you ask God to lead you in how you can give over and above your regular giving to our 2021 Advent Offering?

Together in the gospel,

Pastor Aaron Graham

Lead Pastor



LOCAL PARTNERS

DC127 is dedicated to protecting children by empowering and preserving families. We provide wraparound services to [biological, foster, and adoptive] parents and grandparents who are isolated, overwhelmed, and under-resourced. We

walk with foster families through every stage of the fostering process--from getting licensed to supporting a child in their home. DC127 is committed to providing prevention services and resources to stabilize families so that every family has a chance to thrive.



PRAY: Families experiencing isolation or loneliness. Teen parents navigating aging-out of foster care without a caring community. Parents searching for employment with no success. Families who have lost loved ones to COVID-19. Parents experiencing financial constraints. Parents searching for stable housing and food security for their families.

DC127 is well positioned for sustained growth across all program areas. We welcomed 2 new team members who are making a significant impact in their respective roles. We are adding a newly funded position to increase our population served. DC127 remains committed to ensuring families are stable, resourced and children are protected and nurtured in safe loving homes. Our goal is to add more church partners to serve new families by providing faith affirming opportunities to serve.

CHURCH PLANTS

LA CHAPELLE, GATINEAU, CANADA

Through COVID Pastor Josias worked hard with a core team of 80 people in Gatineau to prepare for the church's big launch. While COVID restrictions made physical gatherings impossible the church still had more than 30 people in small groups and great

activities have been done in the City to help people in need through the "I Love Gatineau" initiative.

In October 2021 LaChapelle Gatineau was finally able to launch and begin meeting in person! Between 70 and 80 people are coming each week and the church continues to grow.



PRAY: That the Lord would only increase their momentum after this in-person launch and for people to feel safe and be healthy as they gather together.

NATIONAL PARTNERS

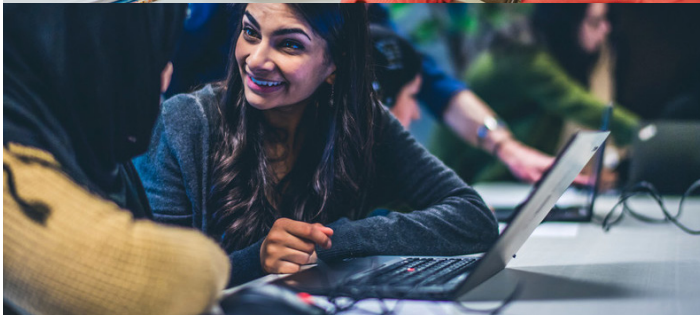
WORLD RELIEF, BALTIMORE, MD

World Relief provides legal services to those filing for asylum. For those who pass their initial screening for having a reasonable fear, about 90% who have a legal representative are granted asylum.

Thanks to your generosity in the last two months alone World Relief has been privileged to resettle over 600 Afghan refugees. Families have been welcomed with the hospitality of Christ and provided with vital services that will help them not just survive,

but thrive. Thousands more are now on their way to safety. There is still much work to be done. There are currently eight military bases across the U.S. hosting over 53,000 Afghans who have yet to be released. As we confirm partnerships across our network, we're exploring how we can accommodate up to 7,000 of these brave families for resettlement between now and March 2022. The next four months will be crucial to ensuring our new Afghan neighbors are supported and set up for success in their new homes.





PRAY: Success at the 2nd chance citizenship interview for a refugee from Ethiopia. She is struggling with English language requirements due to being an Amharic speaker and spending many years without education in the refugee camp. Her ESL classes in the U.S. did not prepare her enough for the citizenship test which she failed the 1st time.

- Timely approval on a DACA renewal for James from Trinidad who will lose his job if USCIS does not approve his work permit in time.
- Smooth transition from our smaller space to the newly renovated larger office space on a new floor of our headquarters: setting up furniture, moving files, setting up technology and computers, etc.
- Favorable decisions on crime victims' applications for work permits. New regulations may reduce their waits from 5-8 years to 1-2 years.
- Wisdom to develop our program to immigrants experiencing homelessness who have their green cards stolen in their unstable living environment.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

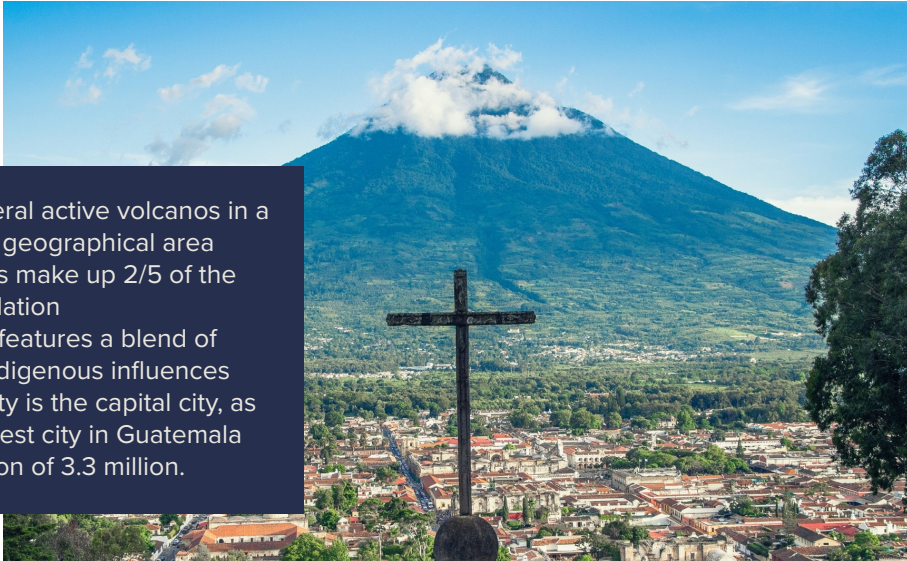


GUATEMALA COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT

GUATEMALA, officially known as the Republic of Guatemala, is a Central American country famous for its vibrant mix of Mayan and Spanish cultures. Guatemala's abundance of biologically

significant and unique ecosystems contributes to Mesoamerica's designation as a biodiversity hotspot.

- Features several active volcanos in a relatively small geographical area
- Ethnic Mayans make up 2/5 of the country's population
- Local cuisine features a blend of Spanish and indigenous influences
- Guatemala City is the capital city, as well as the largest city in Guatemala with a population of 3.3 million.



FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, GUATEMALA

Food for the Hungry seeks to end ALL forms of human poverty by going to the hard places and walking with the world's most vulnerable people. We have been working with Food for the Hungry in the Ixil region of Guatemala for the last two years as they provide access to education, a strengthened identity in Christ, and a call to service in their communities for 1,300 adolescents. We will continue to partner with them here in 2022.

STORY SPOTLIGHT: Lucy is a student from the community of Tixelap-Cotzal in the Ixil region of Guatemala. As the second

eldest daughter of a large family (12), low-income, and with a father with a disability, Lucy worked hard to support the household expenses while continuing her studies. This affected her emotionally, physically, and spiritually. Recently Lucy entered the scholarship program through Food for the Hungry and has been receiving much-needed support. She has been part of the training program at her local church that we are helping to sponsor to help encourage her to achieve her God-given potential. Soon she will graduate with a degree in accounting. She hopes to pursue a university education after graduation.



KEY CHALLENGES: 2.7 million people are affected by food insecurity | 50% of children under 5 are stunted | 36.1% of the population does not have access to safe sanitation.

PRAY:

- That the children in the Guatemalan communities grow up with a relationship with Christ, having hope for the future.
- That malnutrition can be holistically addressed for children under the age of 5.
- That those affected by Food Insecurity will be provided sustainable solutions and be the agents of change in their own communities.
- For protection from natural and man-made disasters





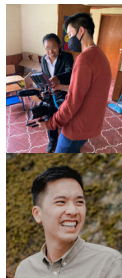
Because all of the girls that Kids Alive works with are under 18 and survivors of sexual violence, their faces are obscured for their safety.

KIDS ALIVE, GUATEMALA

Kids Alive has been serving vulnerable children here since 1992. Our Source of Hope School in the poverty-stricken town of Zapote is offering holistic care, education, and the good news of God's love to over 200 children; our Oasis programs in San Lucas and Escuintla care for girls who have been sexually abused and

traumatized and need emotional, medical, legal, and educational help to rebuild their lives.

In the midst of COVID-19 Kids Alive was able to provide meals and other basic goods to more than 250 families in the communities where they work. We also responded to school closures with innovative educational programs and activities to keep our students on track as much as possible.



PRAY:

- For our upcoming court cases, that justice would be done, and the victims would feel safe throughout the process.
- For each girl in our Oasis program, that trust will be built so we can help them heal from the horrific trauma they have endured, and for their victory in Jesus.
- Pray for Adam Joe who has been sent by The District Church to minister through Kids Alive at Oasis. Pray that God continues to sustain him as he uses his gift of storytelling to capture the stories of those who are being released from poverty and injustice.



THIS ADVENT OFFERING WILL ALSO HELP OUR OTHER MINISTRY PARTNERS:

- 2nd Evangelical Church, Athens, Greece.
- Arrabon, Richmond, VA.
- Apartment Life, Ballston, VA
- Cristiana Children Home, Bapatla, India.
- Fuel Youth, Liberia
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Washington, D.C.
- Children Community Center in Transnistria, Moldova
- New Generation, Burundi
- Questscope, Jordan
- Creative Hands, Athens, Greece
- Just Homes, Washington, D.C.
- Little Lights, Washington, D.C.
- Samaritan Inns', Washington, D.C.
- Mavuno Church, Nairobi, Kenya
- Neighborhood Church, Washington, D.C.
- Thirst Church, Washington, D.C.
- Peace and Hope, South America
- Food for the Hungry - Cambodia
- Christian Legal Aid - Washington, DC
- Young Lives, Washington, DC



CHILDREN COMMUNITY CENTER,
TRANSNISTRIA, 2021



GIRL RIDING HER BIKE DURING COVID
EDUCATION, FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY,
CAMBODIA, 2021



LA CHAPELLE, MONTREAL, 2021



CHILDREN COMMUNITY CENTER,
TRANSNISTRIA, 2021



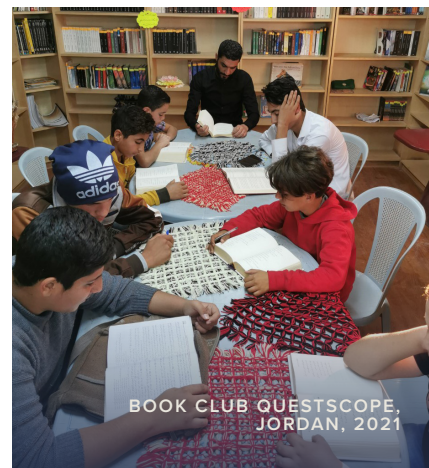
WOMEN
WORLD RELIEF, 2021



ZA ATARI
CAMP QUESTSCOPE,
JORDAN, 2021



KASEM QUESTSCOPE, JORDAN,
2021



BOOK CLUB QUESTSCOPE,
JORDAN, 2021



COLLEGE CAREER READINESS
LITTLE LIGHTS, 2021



SULTANI FAMILY



APPLES CHILDREN
COMMUNITY CENTER,
TRANSNISTRIA, 2021



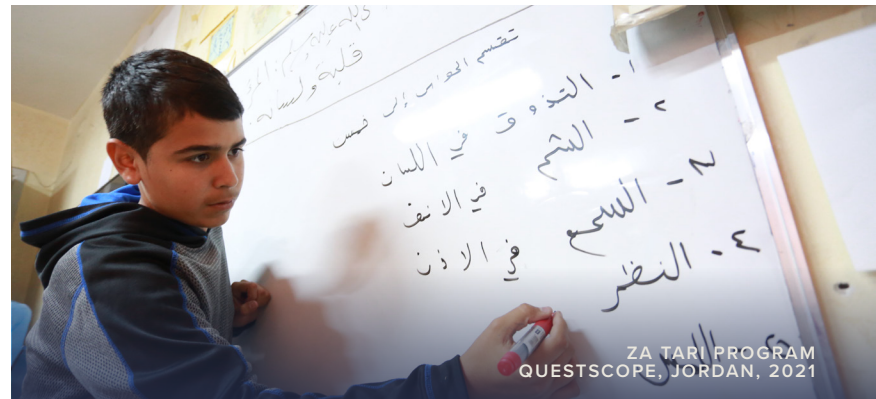
SARUM FAMILY
FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY,
CAMBODIA, 2021



LEARNING HUB
DURING COVID
LITTLE LIGHTS, 2021



MEAL DISTRIBUTION
LITTLE LIGHTS 2021



ZA TARI PROGRAM
QUESTSCOPE, JORDAN, 2021



AQUARELA QUESTSCOPE,
JORDAN, 2021



YOUNG GIRLS
NEW GENERATION, BURUNDI, 2021



**TO GIVE PLEASE VISIT [DISTRICTCHURCH.ORG/ADVENT](https://districtchurch.org/advent)
PLEASE MAKE ALL GIFTS BY JANUARY 7, 2022**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
THE DISTRICT CHURCH**

