

Equipping Leaders for the Next Generation

2022 BILD Annual Report



Greetings from BILD!

This year we have continued to be impacted by the prayer of Ephesians 3:14-21. We have seen the Spirit move in His Church. The churches around the world are multiplying and maturing. Leaders are growing strong and believers are becoming rooted. The Spirit is truly doing something amazing in our day. Through this report we want to briefly share how this work is continuing to grow, both in maturity and in numbers. We are blessed to continue this work that was started almost four decades ago, and we are grateful for all that have stepped up to support us in this work.

As I look back over the 2021-2022 year, it has been both challenging and rewarding. It has been a pivotal year in my family as my oldest son, Elijah, is preparing to graduate from high school and has selected the college he will attend this fall. Elijah and I had many conversations about the core issues to consider as he made this decision and set his life on a future course. It has also been a shaping year for BILD as we lost Keith Cook who was the Chairman of our BILD Board for many years and who was truly the patriarch of BILD's global vision and mission. His guidance and passion for BILD and for the global church was foundational and constant. His mentorship in my life is missed, while the work that was part of his legacy continues on.

This year we have been blessed with continuing opportunities to work closely with leaders all across the globe. We have been holding regular Executive Education Zoom meetings with the key leaders of our global partnerships. The core principles of

maturing and growing the church networks were processed together in dialogue. God maximized the effectiveness of these meetings in ways that I did not anticipate as a cohesiveness and common mindset emerged throughout this group of leaders who are so influential in their networks and in their countries.

It was a major milestone for BILD to launch Equip this past March. Equip provides a scalable and accessible online platform for church and network leaders to assist in the development of their people and provides a way to track the progress of their church/network training efforts. Equip has helped leaders to more strategically lead their networks and train their leaders.

Finally, the war in Ukraine has been very challenging to our partner church network based in Kiev. The war has placed a great burden on the church network as they seek to strengthen the churches throughout Ukraine and assist them with their many needs. The BILD global network has come alongside our Ukraine partner network to assist them in the many and varied needs of the churches and believers in Ukraine.

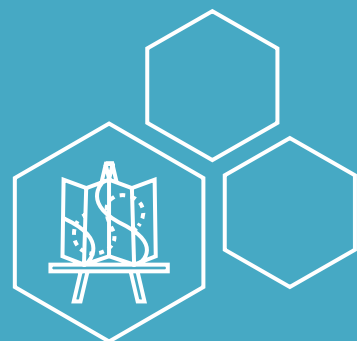
See more about these situations and events in the stories that follow and know that the support we get through resources, time, talents, and prayer from each of you makes this work possible.

Michael Vos
Chief Executive Officer



A Life Well Lived

Keith's Story



Keith Cook passed away Jan. 10, 2022, after a life well-lived. He served as Chairman of the BILD board from late 1996 until his death. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Elders of Ames-Des Moines CityChurch.

Keith started his faith journey on a farm near Greenfield, Iowa. His early days on a farm laid a lifelong foundation of connection to the land and the core principles of farming. These principles served him well in his faith as he knew the work of planting, tending, and harvesting the crop; a rich metaphor used by Christ to describe a life of faith in Christ. Keith left the farm in Greenfield and moved

to Ames, Iowa, as his parents Chuck and Vera moved for a job Chuck took with the Iowa State University Beef Farm. Because of the move, the Cook family joined a small Baptist Church on Ontario Road in Ames, Iowa. This strategic shift would lay the important foundations that had Keith on the path to becoming a foundational part of BILD (Biblical Institute of Leadership Development).

This small church in Ames was also targeted to become the ministry that became BILD. After Dallas Theological Seminary, Jim Schierling had apprenticed at the church pastored by Ray Stedman, author of *Body Life*. Jim was Jeff Reed's youth pastor in Cedar Rapids. When Jim moved to Ames, he agreed for Jeff to join him to continue to apprentice under him to be trained for ministry, instead of Jeff going to seminary. Together Jim and Jeff led the change of this church becoming an independent Bible church, which embraced the concept of equipping leaders within the context of "body life" as taught by Stedman. A result of the equipping model was the formation of the Ministry Apprenticeship Training (MAT).

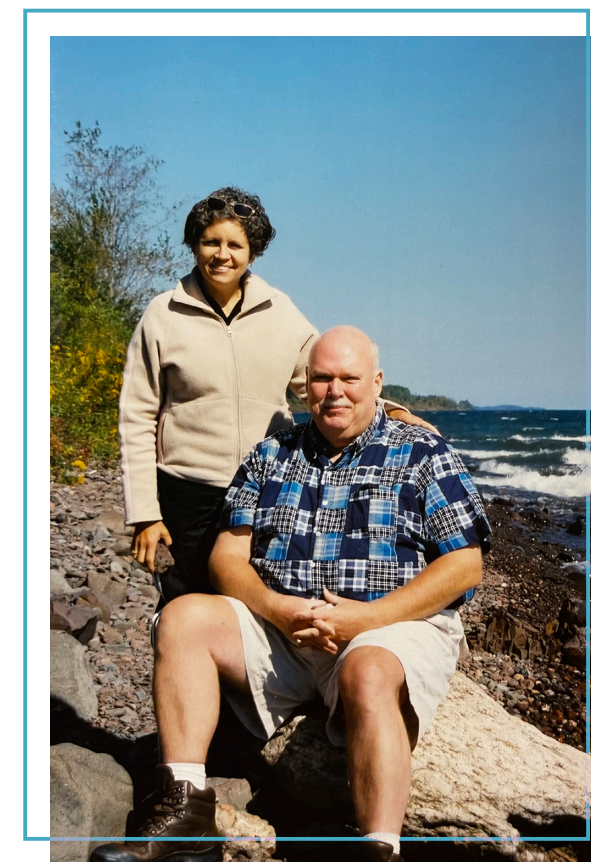
After high school, Keith graduated from Grace Bible Institute. He started a teaching career in southwest Iowa but soon left teaching to enter the University of Nebraska-Omaha. While at Nebraska, Carol and Keith made a decision that they needed to be part of a church community where they would be taught and able to serve the community. They decided that Ames, was their home because of church and family.

While working for Hy-Vee, their family moved around the chain's locations to move up in management. While they were working away

from Ames they kept coming back to Ames to stay engaged with their family and church family. Keith and Jeff connected because of their radical desire to see the church be what God intended it to be.

Carol brought a strategic perspective to their marriage. She was born and raised on the Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission in North India. Carol's father was an Iowa State University graduate that left for India to start a farm-based mission upon graduation. Carol's India experience laid sovereign foundations for her life, and after marriage these foundations were the beginning of Keith's India passion where he and Carol were committed to growing the presence of Christ's Church and impacting lives.

As Keith moved up the Hy-Vee management path, he was transferred to stores that took them away from Ames, but they never lost that connection to Ontario Bible Church and Jeff Reed. As Keith and Carol were living in Minnesota, the MAT program matured into a



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leadership development program that attracted interest across the evangelical community. They invited Jeff to have a conversation about the need to take leadership development to India and so BILD was born as an international ministry. As a couple, Keith and Carol were a powerful and dedicated team to growing the leadership development training. They suggested to Jeff that he travel to India because pastors needed the training there. Jeff captured their vision and set about growing BILD International with their support and the church's support. This meeting led Keith and Carol back to Ames where he left the managerial path with Hy-Vee and settled into paid work that freed him up to become an elder and Chairman of the Board with BILD. So Keith, Carol, and their two sons, Maxton and Jordan, set their life's purpose on developing leaders to serve the church internationally. This move back to Ames was their last move as they worked tirelessly for the growth of BILD and the recovery of the Way of Christ and His Apostles in the church and the church's mission to the world.

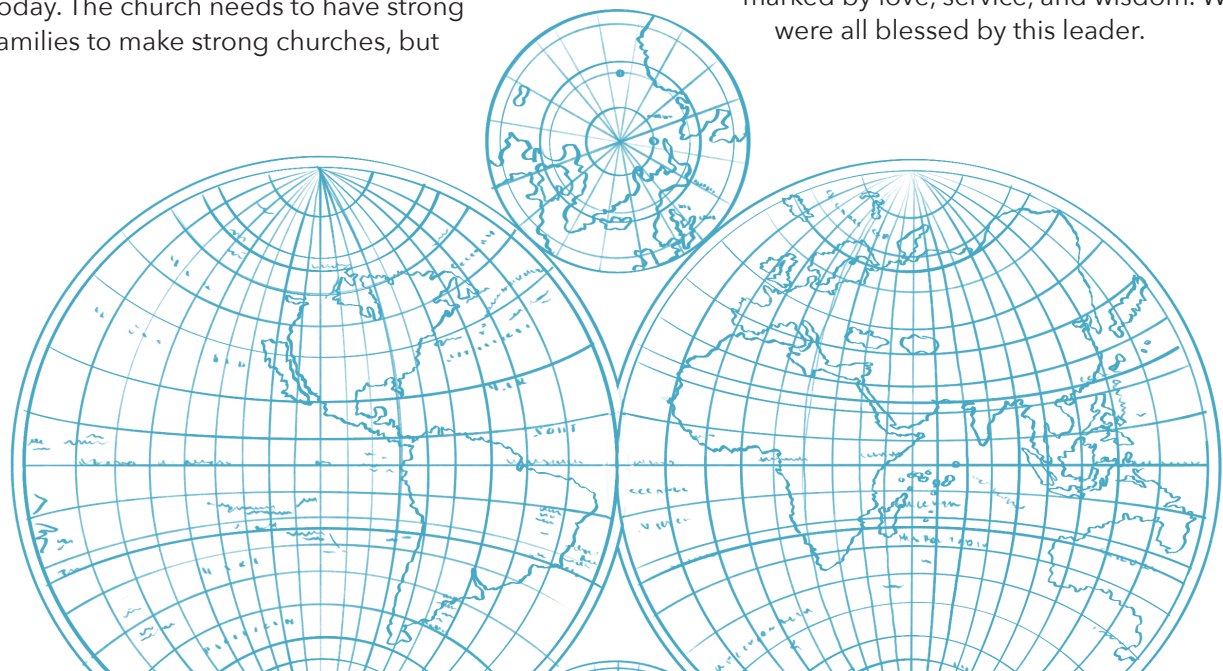
Keith lost Carol in 2006. Losing Carol was devastating, but Keith remained faithful and continued to serve. Eventually, he left his paid work and poured his life into the church and BILD as board chair. His presence at the BILD offices allowed him to provide valuable input in the daily work of BILD and also created a connection to international partners.

In late 2022, BILD held a virtual conference and provided the platform for Keith's last public words. As he reflected on his journey with BILD, Keith recognized the burden this ministry creates in a leader's life. His reflection, however, focused not on the hard work or the pressures of leadership but instead on his life's joys. "It was so nice to be here (Ames and the church) because my wife and I both felt we weren't getting what we needed (where we were). It wasn't a matter of knowing but that's why we kept coming back. We decided (Keith and Carol) to move back but it was God working in us. It wasn't any smartness on our part. God was leading us back here. I am thankful for what we have been able to accomplish here. As I said, it's been fun. It's been great here. I heard a song here by Keith Green, 'That Those That Come Behind Me Be Faithful.' This sentiment has always been a challenge to me. If we look back over the last 40 to 50 years, there have been some hard times. But by and large we have had a lot of fun over those years. I am thankful for them because it's brought us where we are today. The church needs to have strong families to make strong churches, but



you can't have any of this without leaders who are leading and know the Scriptures and are able to teach and correct from Scripture. If you aren't a part of an Apostolic group, you need to be looking for one. You need to be in on that, you just can't go it alone. So, look for that, become part of that, and God will bless."

What a beautiful last life reflection that emphasized working in your life to serve the church and be part of the work the Spirit is doing in your life, your family's life, your community, and around the world. His last words were focused on the work and the joy he experienced in a life of faithfully serving Christ as He builds His Church here and to the ends of the earth. Keith was a man that finished well and was marked by his faithfulness in his life, his family, his church, and the world. Here was a man that exhibited a life well lived, a life marked by love, service, and wisdom. We were all blessed by this leader.



Multiplying Impact

Global Leader Executive Education



BILD's goal is to accelerate the multiplication of churches and equip them to be solidly grounded in truth through the development of strong leaders. In order to focus on those leaders, we developed a program we call Executive Education for key leaders in each civilization. We organized leaders into the following groups and developed similar but specific programs for each: Global, China, Latin America, India, South East Asia, and Europe and Mediterranean. The purpose of this program was for all leaders to: understand the essential components of Jesus' instructions for fulfilling the great commission, understand the entire BILD University system and all the curriculum resources that are available to them, and to build trust and relationships among the leadership teams in each civilization and around the world.

As the series of meetings progressed, we saw our initial purposes being met. Leaders were recognizing gaps in their own theological understanding of the great commission. They began to see that the work of making disciples stretched all the way from leading individuals to believing in the gospel message into the development of complex apostolic networks that create connection and support among churches. This created a recognition and desire to make changes in their lives and brought them into closer alignment with biblical teaching. Some of these leaders had been introduced to these ideas, but were now at a point in their ministry to truly be able to grasp the concepts on a new level.

Along with the intentional purposes being achieved, we recognized unintended outcomes. Several of the church networks





Another unintended outcome was seeing these leaders turn around and replicate this program in their own context. They experienced the impact in their own lives and felt the need to share that impact with other leaders in their networks. We realized that this program was simple, repeatable, and transferable, and we look forward to seeing these networks develop as a result.

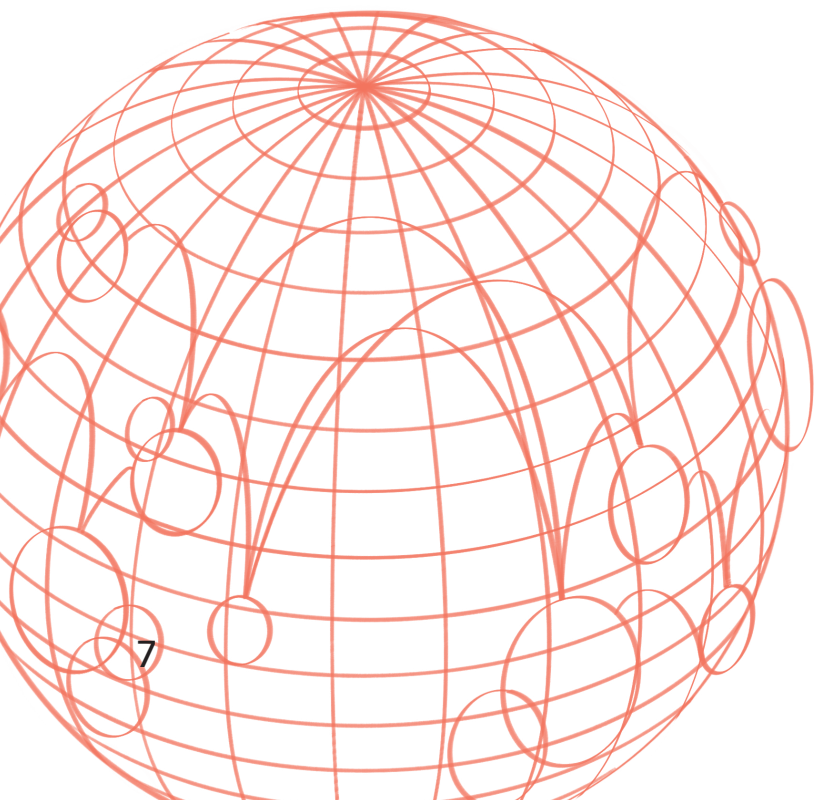


involved asked for input on building a network like we see in Acts in order to accommodate the needs of their churches and church leaders as their networks grew in size. They had a desire to model these networks after Paul's network in Acts and avoid falling into a denominational pattern. The outcome of these discussions was a recognition of the need for: framework documents on building networks like that seen in Acts, another Executive Education program to address this issue more specifically, and collaboration on a recognition system that can span all civilizations and the technology to back it.

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The work that went into executing these Executive Education sessions was intense. It required extensive preparation on both the BILD side as well as for the international leaders. Extended meetings on Zoom at times to accommodate time zones all over the world made for some very long days and nights, but it was well worth the effort. It was rewarding to see the life choices being made by these leaders to focus their work on bringing others along in order to better develop church networks that are biblically aligned and thriving.

As we reflect on our time with these dedicated leaders, our mind is drawn again to Paul's prayer in Ephesians... God wants us to have a full understanding of His plan with all the saints, with all the leaders of the church before and after us, across all time. We pray that you will join us in the work of equipping all of Christ's leaders so that we can attain full maturity and unity of the faith, and that God can turn his face towards us in the final days and say well done.



Timeless Principles, Modern Technology

The Impact of Equip



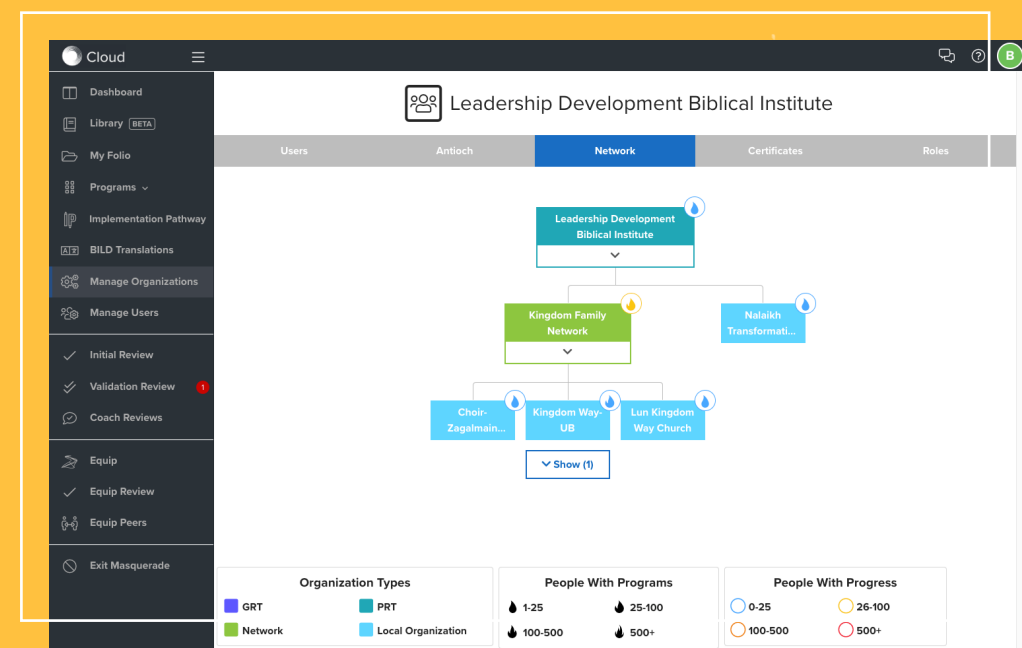
We live in a world of ever-evolving technology and information moving at breakneck speeds. It seems like the world is always changing and has moved to a place of few consistencies. Yet, there are still some consistencies that happen inside the context of the church. One of those consistencies is the expectation of all believers to become mature in their faith as followers of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:6-8 says, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ."

BILD has launched a tool, EQUIP, that helps with that process of learning and maturity.

EQUIP is a computer platform launched in April of 2022 that helps church members at any level participate in a maturity path. It helps users move through that path by creating an online equipping center that provides places to access important resources, modules, and templates. The platform also provides a place for the user to create or house work for demonstrating progress and growth. Upon completion of programs, the users will receive certificates and badges that recognize their hard work and progress.

EQUIP provides leaders the ability to manage and oversee their individual member's progress as they work through programs, creating a centralized location for tracking progress. Leaders and shepherds are

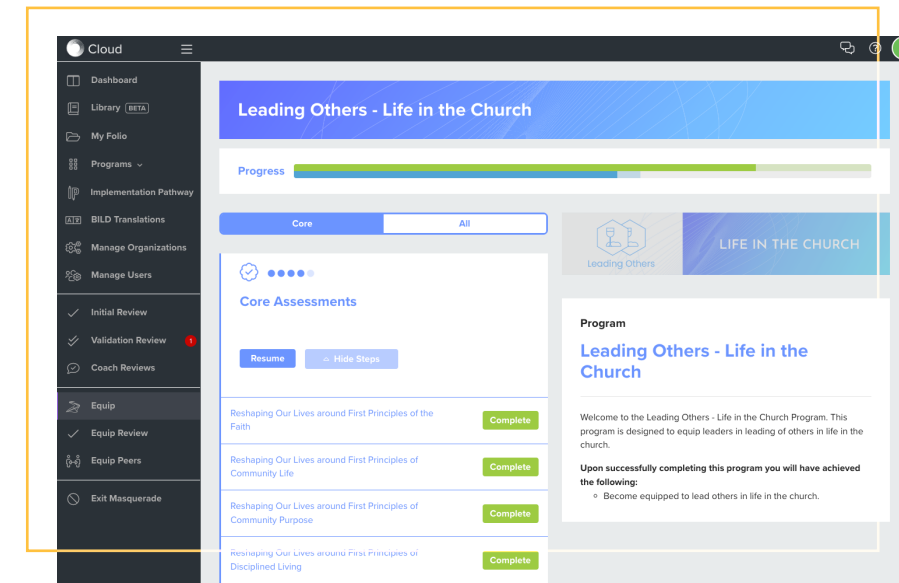


tasked with working with those in their flock to help them be rooted and built up; to be strengthened in the faith, and with EQUIP these leaders have a tool that will allow them to maximize time, effort, and scale. The EQUIP platform gives users clear expectations with their development requirements and a place to store their specific work; giving a place for demonstration of their growth. EQUIP also houses the BILD resources in one simple accessible location for convenience and guidance as they move through each step of the programs.

The technology does not replace the maturing process, but aids in it. Batbayar Dashdorj, a church pastor and president of Leadership Development Biblical Institute Mongolia, said the following about EQUIP, "... EQUIP is useful for those who use it. It makes it clear about the process of learning and encourages people who are using it. Church leaders can read and help how their people think and how they are learning as well as (they) see the growth. ... it encourages people to complete their learning and competencies. It helped them think through and make conclusions for what they were learning, which is to make a clear path for them to pursue and follow the way they learned."

Benito R, an international partner of BILD, mentioned that receiving certificates recognizing the progress made in the EQUIP programs is "extremely motivating" to keep moving forward on the learning path.

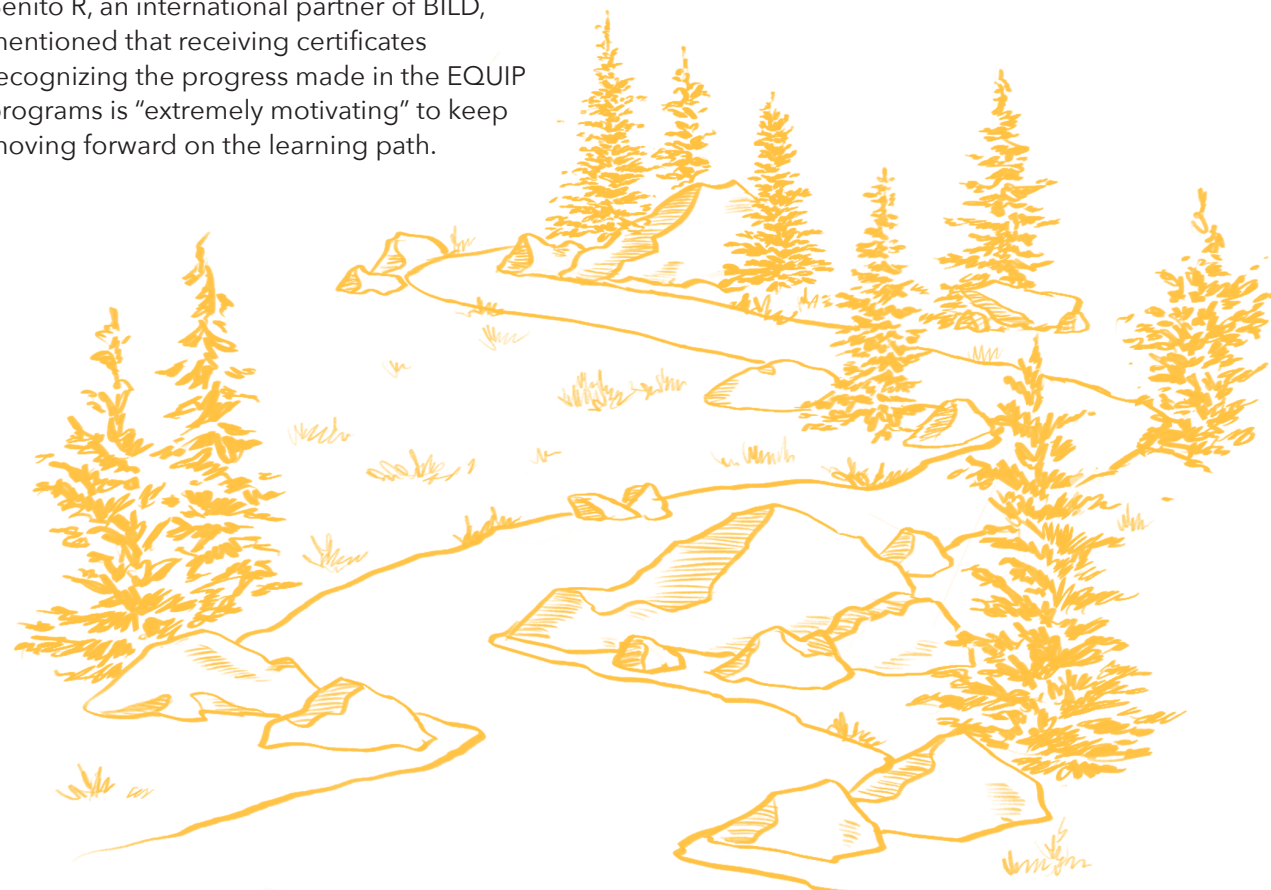
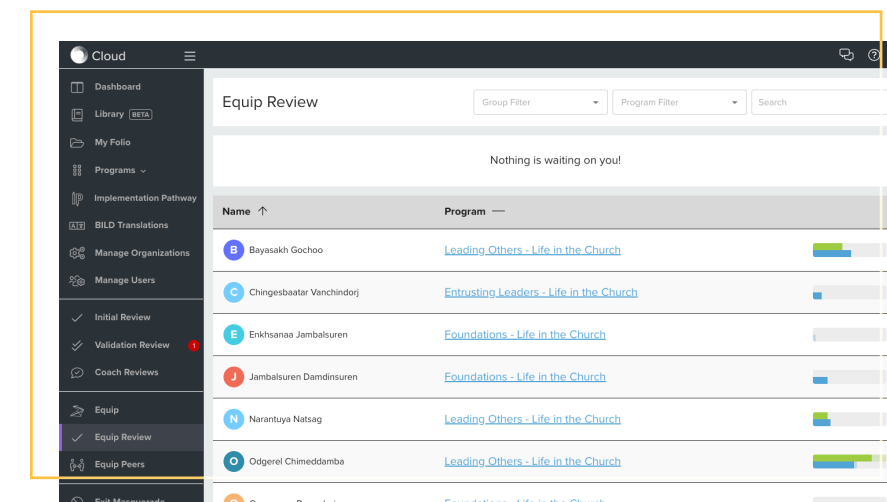
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EQUIP is a tool that is designed to also map out church networks and organizations. As leaders of churches use EQUIP to help mature the churches, leaders of church networks and groups of churches can use EQUIP to plan out and map out their own ministry context. They can see their groups of churches, the leaders of those churches, and the progress of the people who make up those churches. They can also enter all of the networks and churches they oversee and partner with, creating a visual map of their specific ministry sphere. With the EQUIP network diagram, these leaders can see the growth and progress of their network at either a simple

glance or with the detail to see the specific work of each member of those under their direction and care.

EQUIP is a simple, transferable, and scalable solution helping with the process of bringing all christians on a faith and development path. As network leaders and pastors around the world use and benefit from the results that EQUIP offers, they will strengthen their global partnerships and create a more one-minded christian community: A community dedicated to seeing the whole world impacted by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Doing Theology and Ministry in Wartime



How Establishment in God's Story is Helping the Ukrainian Team Remain Effective

How does the church respond in a time of war? Will it step up to the challenge of being a light to the world inside of one of the darkest times that civilization knows? Is the structure of the church one of the factors that will help it in meeting that challenge? These are questions that Anton Kaluzhny answered during a visit to the Ames-Des Moines CityChurch Network/ BILD International to give a report on the church in Ukraine.

Anton is the pastor of New Life Church Ukraine and has been a partner with BILD

International since 2017, when he attended his first BILD International Summit. Anton began to grasp the bigger vision of the work in the city of Kiev that he and his church are engaged in. Partnering with BILD International helped him form a vision and a plan for seeing Kiev become a strategic global city with a church network that has a passion for the progress of the gospel, not only in Kiev, but globally. Growth occurs there as Anton works with experienced leaders like Steve Galegor, a BILD coworker, who can come alongside to help with training and guidance.



Anton has been working through the BILD resources, and over the last four years he has felt the impact of his growth. The resource *The Story* helped him think clearly about his role in his life and the role that the church he leads would have during the war in Ukraine. *The Story* is the resource that walks a person through the metanarrative of the biblical story; God's story as revealed in the scriptures as interpreted by Jesus and His Apostles.

The Story helped Anton and the team put the war into a bigger context. Anton said, "I don't believe in accidents, so in 2021 we just translated *The Story*, and I took all my key cohort (leaders through it) ...we spent actually (a) whole year studying and translating."

"And then we saw that the situation in Ukraine is more and more serious and two months before war, all of us had the understanding that actually it will start, war will start." In February of 2022, the war started as Russia invaded Ukraine and began a war that continues today. As a result, the world has witnessed a devastation of lives, buildings, and infrastructures. The world has seen 7 million people displaced, the largest number of people since World War II.

Anton continued, "And that was the moment when we almost finished teaching *The Story*, and my brother brought up the idea that now we understand our Biblical metanarrative; it helps us to understand our role in our place in the faith, in the church, in the kingdom coming. But then he (his brother) started to say, 'Russians are destroying our national narrative, and if we lose, we lose our backstory, and without backstory, actually, Ukrainians cannot understand what we are doing and what our identity is.' We had a really deep conversation, and we started thinking that without the national narrative we cannot understand our national heritage, and as believers, as Christians, we have to know the metanarrative or we cannot understand (God's) story and both are needed to understand." Using *The Story* created more and more clarity between biblical metanarrative and national narrative to understand their specific role during the war.

Steve Galegor also helped. He was in contact with Anton every day as things ramped up to the war including the night before the bombs started to drop. Steve explained, "... technology becomes a huge tool in this, and the fact that we had an internet connection to



stay in contact was important to the idea of a global family and a global team." Steve was also able to travel to Ukraine and saw Anton and his church as they experienced war firsthand. Steve traveled by train overnight, after a bombing had occurred the night before. It was a 12-hour train ride, in the dark, with orders for no light in the train of any kind in order to keep passengers safe. Steve said his visit to Ukraine was important because he has a deeper partnership with Anton and his church. They are family. Steve mentioned that visiting them in this time of crisis created a strong sense of, "Hey, this is family, how are they doing in this hard time? We stand with you. We are family. We share these ideas, and these identities, and purposes and that right now is so very important." And what Steve saw when he got there was that Anton's church was acting like a family to those in the community, and that family, the church, were doing all they could to help.



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The idea of church operating like a family was a consistent theme from Anton and was how he claimed the church should respond at all times, including times of war. "I think after studying *The Story*...I saw this line from the beginning (of God's story) and it was very useful. Coming back to the church idea. What I see now in Ukraine (is) all (the) institutional churches during the war mess up. All institutional churches fall down. We see more clearly that (the church) is a community, and family churches can face war and help others walk through the war. And we see that the church is like a family in *The Story* and the book of Acts." Anton said we see in God's Story the importance of family, "through Abraham's family, Jacob's family, and Israel's family. So you understand that it's (church) more about family. And when we remember the first week of war and I observed all institutional mechanisms stopped working. But the family models kept moving. It's more like a family."

Anton went on to give an example of how institutional church thought was different, in his opinion, to how guidance from a church acting like a family would be. "As a pastor, I need to send people to help transport others. As an organizational leader it's too dangerous to send them. But looking from a family perspective we can talk and we understand it's too important to not support our family, so we ask 'who is ready?' These are our brothers and sisters, we have to go. It's risky, but we have to go."

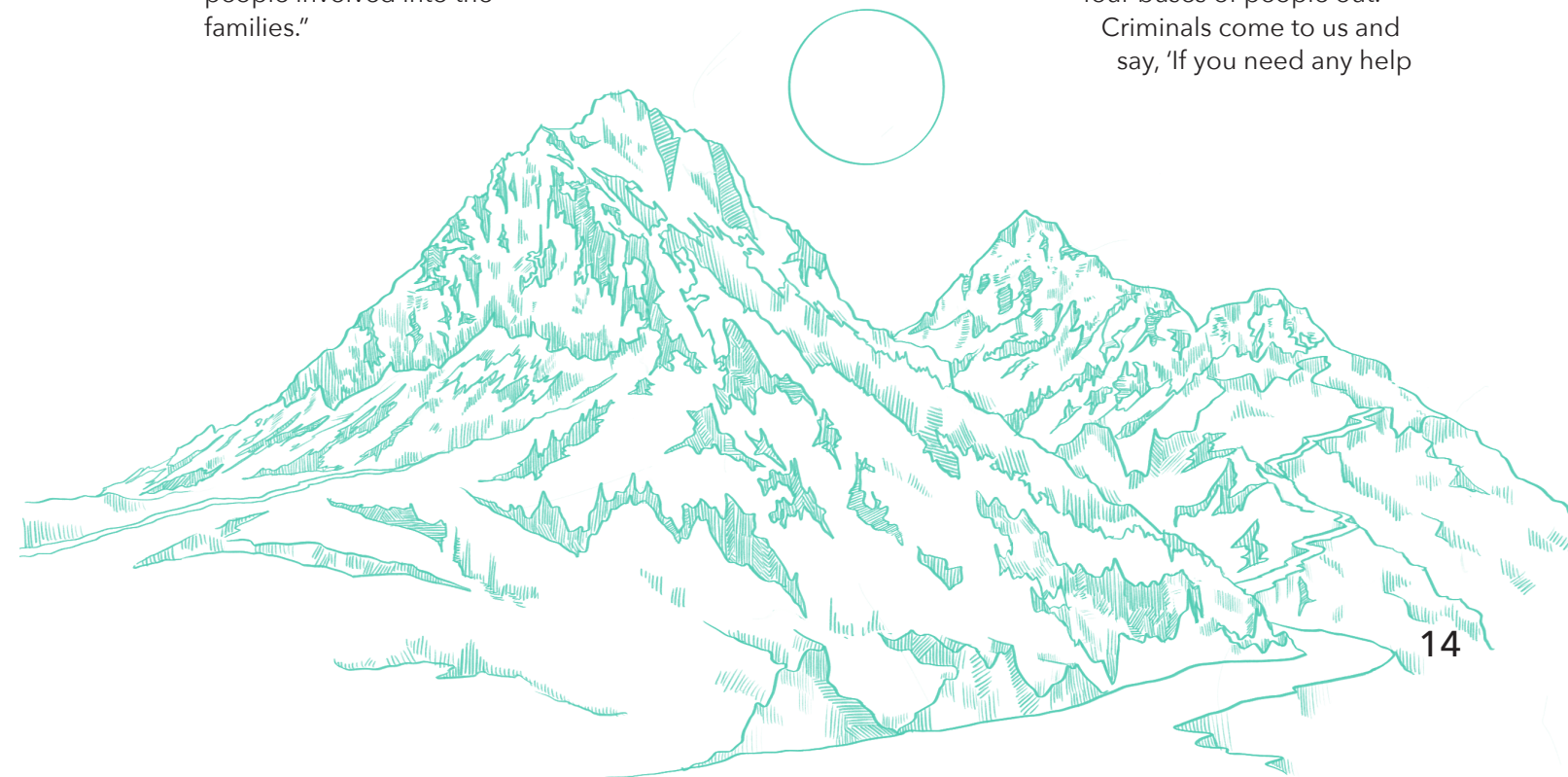
"Continuation of this problem is a lot of churches died because the churches had positional leadership. Many of those pastors ran away. A lot of churches in Kiev and Ukraine just closed up. They did not feel the responsibility to be in the role of being with their people in the darkest of times."

Anton also went on to explain the importance and need for a biblical church to exist during wartime. "During war it is easy to become like one more NGO or one more social organization. Every day you can distribute food, help people and try to help with the bad. It's very important to have this connection with *The Story* because...you know you have to do more and bigger things. You have to make disciples; you have to establish the church. Get the people involved into the families."

Anton then described how war accelerates all things. "War is a huge accelerator for all processes. It has accelerated paradigm shifts. It has accelerated more weddings." More weddings have happened in Ukraine since the war than in the last two years. It has also accelerated church growth.

The church in the town Sumy grew from 300 members to 600 members. Steve told a story about a 72-year-old neighbor woman who noticed something was happening at Anton's house where the church was meeting. She had no family left in the city as all of her children had left. She determined that what she was witnessing at Anton's house was a family and joined them daily, declaring that she wanted to be a part of what they were doing. She began to volunteer and now helps in the kitchen and with weeding flower boxes outside the church area.

Anton also reflected on how the attractiveness of this church expressing itself as a family got the attention of some local criminals, who also wanted to help. "Maybe in the third week (of war), locals started to understand that something is going on in our place. We have church in our home and people begin to wonder what is going on because we bring in a few hundred refugees and every night they send three or four buses of people out. Criminals come to us and say, 'If you need any help



with unloading some food or other chores, we will help you.”

Anton mentions that he does not feel alone as his church survives in the war. He has support and care from Steve and the BILD network, who have come around them to help meet financial needs and to uphold them in prayer and encouragement. He also has been strengthened by the relationships that occurred as he participated in BILD Executive Education via ZOOM with leaders of church networks from all over the globe. Anton feels supported by prayer and by knowing that others in the world are engaged in the same learning and battles as he is.

Anton asked that we all would continue to pray for the church in Ukraine as the war continues on. He gave some updates that many members in his church have been mobilized and put into active service including all four of the church’s Sunday school teachers. Russia has also attacked the Ukrainian infrastructure causing power

outages and blackouts making it a very stressful winter.

When asked after the war, what does the future hold for the churches in the Ukraine? He replied that he wasn’t sure because it’s hard to see the future while in this war situation. He does believe God is at work. “In a war you need to do some theology in culture to find solutions to problems you have never experienced before. So all of these ideas of justice and exile come to the forefront of thought during these times.” He also requested prayers. “We need your prayers, and we thank you for remembering us and keeping us in your hearts. Please pray for our leadership to have wisdom and make the right decisions.”

Anton also explained that you have to be linked to something bigger than yourself during a time of war. Things like God’s kingdom and knowing he has a family across the world who prays and cares for him. Anton ended by proclaiming, “God is Good.”



Financial Position

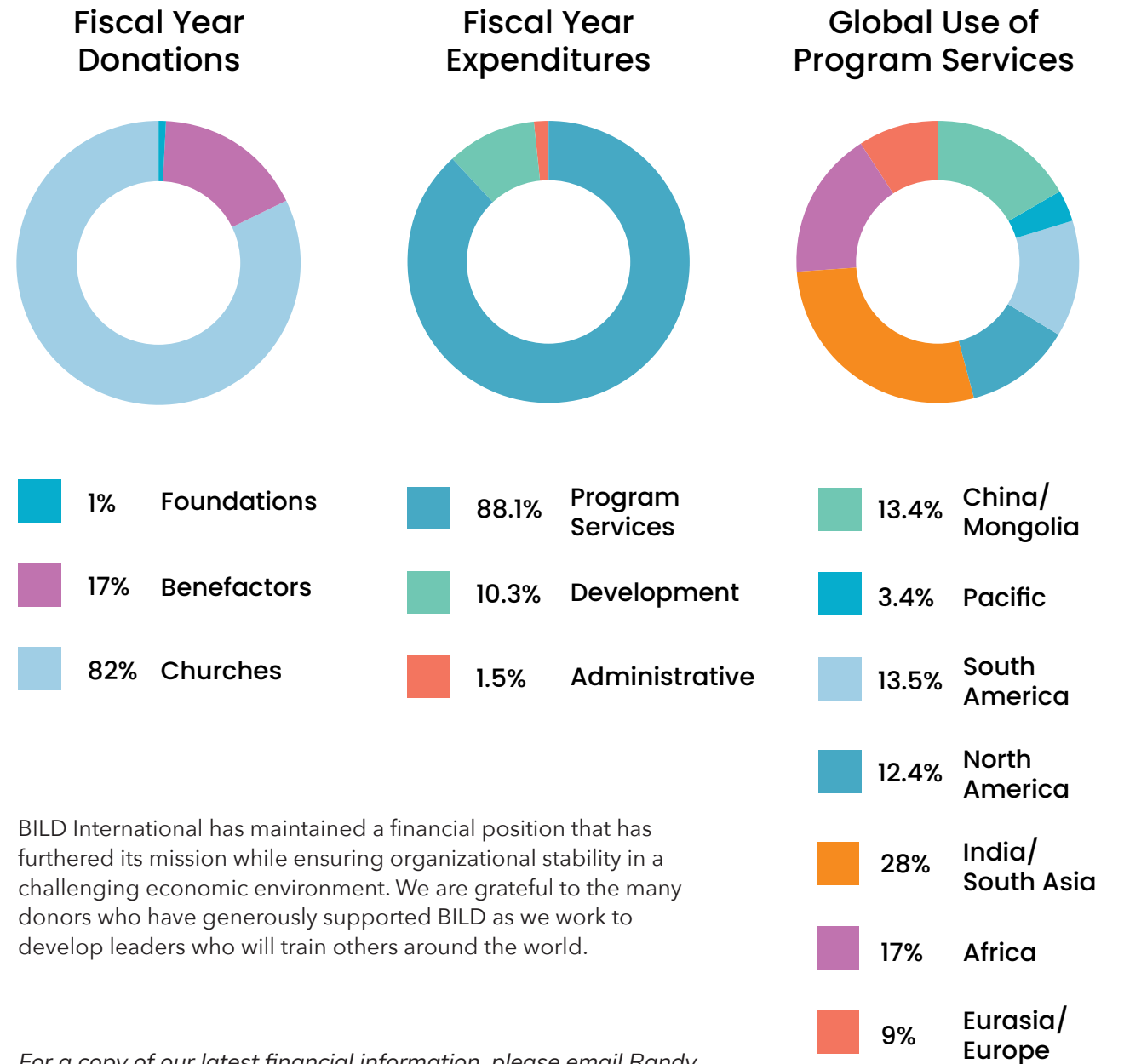


BILD International has maintained a financial position that has furthered its mission while ensuring organizational stability in a challenging economic environment. We are grateful to the many donors who have generously supported BILD as we work to develop leaders who will train others around the world.

For a copy of our latest financial information, please email Randy Wahl, Manager of Fund Development, at randy.wahl@bild.org.

A Closing Challenge

We believe that a new day is emerging for Christ's Church; a day where the gospel pierces the soul and its impact permeates our entire heart and mind. In this new day, entire families purpose their lives to align with His good news, prioritizing their love of each other through understanding their new way of living. This radical way of living grows, strategically and spontaneously, wherever churches have impact around the world. We believe in the radical commitments demonstrating God's wisdom by the very way these churches meet. These are churches with global impact. These are not lukewarm churches. This is Paul's vision told in Ephesians.

We believe the next Christendom is emerging now, in these years in which we live. We have the opportunity to give it shape. The teachings of the biblical text show us the great metanarrative of God, and how His people can take part in His Story. Today we participate in God's Story through Christ's strategy—the Church instructed and shaped by the apostles.

Emerging around the world are people and churches that believe that they have a role in shaping the next emerging Christendom. They have been given radical visions of what the church could be. Some are small, some larger, but they are each powerful. A global network

continues to emerge and is growing because of the transformative good news on which they are building their lives.

Our goal in this report is to show you how networks of transformative churches continue to emerge around the world. We've shown you networks of leaders who radically believe in building churches that demonstrate the hope of the gospel through the very way that they meet. Shaping the next Christendom will take generations.

In these past 12 months, we have been encouraged to see so many Chinese, Indian, Latin American, European and North American churches that have committed to the BILD team's work. This is similar to the churches of Macedonia who assisted Paul in his teams' work.

The apostolic authors of the New Testament prayed earnestly for their networks of churches. Like them, we pray for supernatural enlightenment to fully comprehend Christ's plan for the Church, understanding both individually and collectively how all of us can be part of God's plan. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is in all of us today! Be encouraged that networks of networks are being established all around the world. You too can be a part!

Michael Vos





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