



# COME OVER & HELP

2024 Issue 2



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## Mission Statement

Come Over & Help partners with churches in Eastern Europe to bring glory to God through gospel proclamation and practical ministry.

## Vision Statement

Our vision is to see thriving, biblically faithful churches serving Eastern Europe.



**Mr. Raymond Roth**

Director of Projects and Administration



**Mr. Greg Slingerland**

Director of Projects and Communications



**Mr. Adam Radsma**

Director of Projects

Come Over & Help is a non-profit organization with charitable status in Canada and the USA.

The foundation of Come Over & Help is the Bible, which is the Word of God. Come Over & Help adheres to the revealed truths and principles in that Word and to the Three Forms of Unity (Heidelberg Catechism, Canons of Dordt, Belgic Confession) and the Westminster Confession.

The board and staff of Come Over & Help are affiliated with Reformed, Bible-believing Churches and ministries.



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## Board Members

Mr. Bas DeLeeuw, Chairman

Mr. Rob Brouwer, Secretary

Mr. John Brink, Treasurer

Mr. Ross Derkson, Board Member

Mr. Fred DeVries, Board Member

Mr. Tom Moerdyk, Board Member

Mr. Scott Vanoostveen, Board Member

Pastor Arnoud Vergunst, Board Member

Dr. Sacha Walicord, Board Member

## Committee of Recommendation

The committee consists of those who endorse the vision and mission of Come Over & Help.

**Dr. Joel R. Beeke**

Pastor & Chancellor of Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI

**Dr. Gerald Bilkes**

Vice President and Professor at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI

**Pastor William Boekestein**

Pastor of Immanuel Fellowship Church (URCNA), Kalamazoo, MI

**Dr. Sinclair Ferguson**

St. Peter's Free Church in Dundee, Scotland

**Dr. W. Robert Godfrey**

President of Westminster Theological Seminary (West), Escondido, California

**Dr. Michael Horton**

Professor at Westminster Seminary California, Host of *White Horse Inn*, and Editor of *Modern Reformation* magazine)

**Dr. Steven J. Lawson**

President of OnePassion Ministries.

**Pastor David Lipsy**

Pastor of Heritage Reformed Church, Conway, Arkansas

**Dr. John MacArthur**

Pastor & President of The Master's College in Newhall, California

**Dr. Albert N. Martin**

Emeritus Pastor Trinity Baptist Church of Montville, New Jersey

**Pastor Conrad Mbewe**

Pastor of the Kabwata Baptist Church in Lusaka, Zambia

**Pastor Iain Murray**

Author and former editor of Banner of Truth Trust

**Dr. Jon Payne**

Senior Pastor of ChristChurch Presbyterian in Charleston, South Carolina

**Pastor Maurice Roberts**

Emeritus Pastor in Inverness, Scotland and former editor of the Banner of Truth (UK)

**Dr. Derek Thomas**

Senior Pastor of The First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina

**Pastor Peter VanderMeyden**

Emeritus Minister of Free Reformed Churches of North America

**Mr. Paul Washer**

General Director of HeartCry Missionary Society, Radford, Virginia

# Evangelical Compassion

By **Raymond Roth**

*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." – Matthew 9:36-38*

During the years of His ministry on earth, Jesus was confronted daily with the misery of the fallen human condition. Prior to this occasion, Jesus had been traveling throughout the cities and villages of northern Israel, teaching, preaching and healing. Day after day, as He rubbed shoulders with the common man, He sought to correct their ignorance and lead them to the truth, as well as relieve them of their present ailments.

In Matthew 9:36, it is as if our Saviour pauses from His busy schedule of dealing with individuals and their specific needs, and takes a step back to survey the crowds. In doing this, He is overcome with a renewed sense of their utter lostness. His heart is stirred as He sees the people – scattered, confused, straying sheep. What a great weariness it is to live without God! A view of these shepherdless sheep moves His gracious heart with deep compassion.

Let us see our fellowman as Christ sees them! Do we notice the many thousands all around us, scurrying about, fumbling their way towards a lost eternity? Do we see them as men, women and children being "drawn toward death" and "stumbling to the slaughter" (Proverbs 24:11)? And shall we remain unmoved, placid in our own security?

Jesus sees the multitudes as a potentially abundant harvest. The seeds have been planted, grown, matured, and now they stand in their rows, ripe and ready to be harvested, ready to be brought out from darkness and death, and brought safely into the storehouse of the kingdom of God. What is the limiting factor here? The fewness of the laborers. It is pitiful to see an abundant harvest die, fall over, and rot in the field because there was no one there to bring it in. That is the picture here. There is no shortage of lost souls across the globe, only a shortage of reapers!



Interestingly, Jesus does not introduce a multiplication scheme to on-board as many reapers as efficiently as possible. Rather, He urges the disciples to multiply their prayers to the Lord of the harvest. Why? Because we cannot manufacture laborers. It is God who sovereignly opens the eyes of men and women to see the vast harvest, who moves the hearts of His people with compassion for the lost, who calls, equips, and sends reapers into the harvest.

In our work at Come Over & Help, we increasingly experience and believe that it is ultimately God who is calling and sending workers into the harvest fields of central and eastern Europe and central Asia. We can educate and encourage and motivate, and we do. But ultimately, we rely entirely on the

Lord to lay His calling on men and women who have Christ-like hearts of pity for the lost, and a burden and a vision to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ (Ephesians 3) to a perishing world.

So we thank God for our partners who are already laboring sacrificially in the fields, reaping and gathering, and we pray for God to continue to raise up many more compassionate workers for His harvest in central and eastern Europe and central Asia. Please join us in praying to the Lord for more laborers, for His glory and our great joy! "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together" (John 4:35b, 36).



## A Friend of the Church in Eastern Europe

With deep sorrow we share with you that on April 9, 2024 the Lord took to Himself our dear and highly valued Come Over & Help board member, Dr. Gerald Rinze Procee at the age of just 70.

Reverend Procee was the original founder of Come Over & Help, North America. In January of 1997 he organized the first board meeting with members of different denominations and representatives from Kom Over en Help (Dutch sister organization) in attendance. He spearheaded this new endeavor and was the first to travel to Eastern Europe and the first to organize presentations about Come Over & Help. At the time of his death, he was the only "founder" still on the board. When he pastored a congregation in the Netherlands for ten years, he remained on the board and attended meetings by Zoom.

Reverend Procee was a man with great passion and pastoral care. That was evident in his ministries as preacher but also in his pursuit of improving theological education for ministers in Eastern Europe. He would never give up on churches who were not as "biblically sound" as we would deem

necessary. He would always look for ways to get them on the right path through seminars and especially by providing sound, biblical literature in their own languages. That vision has come to fruition beyond what we would have expected, and today there are many pastors in Eastern Europe who are well trained, sound in doctrine, preaching the gospel. Seminaries have been started in different countries with an ever-increasing number of students, called to service.

Reverend Procee was gifted with a brilliant mind (a masters in Economics and a doctorate in Theology) which also served so well in his board membership with Come Over & Help. He had great insights and an exceptional recall of events and people. He was also gifted with a strong constitution which served him well in his travels and excessive workload.

Upon hearing the announcement of his death, many who knew him well mused in their hearts, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

His gain is great loss for his large family, the churches, and Come Over & Help!

—Bas Deleeuw, Board Chairman



# Good News from a Far Country

By Raymond Roth

*“As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”  
Proverbs 25:25*

Five years ago, I traveled extensively throughout Belarus, meeting Reformed pastors and learning about the state of the church in Belarus. Most pastors were older men nearing retirement age, undoubtedly faithful and godly, but never having had the opportunity for in-depth training. Today, by God’s grace, the situation is remarkably changed. With our financial assistance, Minsk Reformed Seminary is busy training a cadre of young men for gospel ministry, in partnership with Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (PRTS) and the Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine (ERSU). The library of great Reformed books is increasing year by year, thanks in part to your giving. And recently I received this especially encouraging report from Pastor Sergey:



Pastor Ben (right), Pastor Sergey (middle), and Pastor Yaroslav

Hi Friends!

November has been full of events for me, and I will tell you about some of them. First of all, our church organized a theological conference on Nov 25. The conference was focused on the Trinity. The topics were:

1

**Jesus is Lord: The earliest Christian creed**

2

**The love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: The love of a lifetime**

3

**Do Christians and Muslims worship the same God? The answer from the Book of Revelation**

The speakers, besides me, were my co-pastor Ben Hornback, and Yaroslav Viazovski, the pastor of the Evangelical Reformed Presbyterian Church. This was the second time our church organized such a conference. **Many young people from different churches were attracted to it. We had more than 130 participants of different ages and from various denominations.** (Last year we had about 100 people). The youth, though, were still the largest number.

People had the opportunity to ask questions during the conference, and there were a lot of interesting questions. It was obvious that they were excited to hear about the Trinity and interested to discuss theology in general. We are already preparing for an even larger conference next year. Our team will start preparing in February.

**We hold such events to make Reformed theology popular among various churches and denominations.**

**And it works!** We have a group of about 10 young adults from a Pentecostal church joining our Reformed congregation right now. In the past month I have also created a new catechism course for new church members. I taught this course to four new people who have now become members of our church.

In addition, with God's help, I successfully completed the fall semester in the two seminaries where I am studying (Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine and Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary). This study helps me a lot in my pastoral work, especially in conducting meetings with new people who are just starting to come to our church. **I am very grateful for the opportunity to study and minister in the church. I pray that it will bring more fruit for God's kingdom!**

—Sergey Khomchenko,  
Pastor of Trinity Reformed Baptist Church, Minsk



More than 130 people attended a theological conference on the topic of the Trinity

**Thanks, friends, for standing with Come Over & Help** as we seek to be a blessing to God’s church and people in distant lands. I hope that reading this good news report from Belarus will be to you as cold water to a thirsty soul.

# Ukraine Relief

By Greg Slingerland

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine two years ago, nearly 2 million Canadian dollars have been sent to help with relief efforts in Ukraine. We are thankful for the incredible generosity and the love for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Here is a note from one of our partnering pastors, Rev. Mazepa:

Since the first days of the war you have been faithful friends to us. I remember that in the first days of the war when our people in panic bought up all medicines in the drug stores and many couldn't buy necessary medicines, you helped us to get in touch with churches in West Ukraine and paid for medicines. It allowed us to help many people in Kyiv. We understand that Ukraine still stands and exists only thanks to our and your prayers.

You would probably be surprised, but we thank God for this trial. It showed us how great, strong and merciful our Lord is. It changed the attitude of people toward the Church of God and to the Word of God. The Lord's Day now is the most important day of the week. The Word of God is powerful and gives us comfort, strengthens our faith and instructs us. We see how God loves and takes care of His children.

Thank you for your financial support and prayers.

May the Lord bless you.

—Pastor Mazepa, Church "House of God", Ukraine, Kyiv



Pastor Mazepa on a delivery

# Formation of a New Presbytery in Poland

By Rev. Sashko Nezamutdinov



A historic meeting that took place at Pastor Moner's house when the leadership of the four congregations came together to form the future Presbytery

The month of February marked a historic milestone – the formation of the Presbytery for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Poland. This is the first time in history that a Presbyterian denomination has been established in Poland.

While Poland has a rich history of continental Reformed movement, there has never before existed a structured Presbyterian church. The formation of this Presbytery lays the groundwork for building a nationwide Presbyterian denomination.

The Presbytery oversees and guides the churches. Made up of ministers and elder representatives from each congregation, the Presbytery provides accountability, fellowship, resources for

training, and helps coordinate shared mission efforts.

Someone has pointed it out to me that much of the work being done by us today in Poland is not just about planting individual congregations, but rather "denomination planting."

So far there are four established Presbyterian congregations that have joined together to form the Presbytery – in Kraków, Gdańsk, and two in Warsaw. While this is an exciting start, four churches for a nation of almost 40 million is far too few. Much work remains to be done in church planting so that many more people can hear the gospel preached in Poland. This unification under a Presbytery structure will allow the planting of more Presbyterian churches across Poland. It provides crucial organization and resources that individual congregations would lack on their own. We praise God for this historic moment and for the vision of Reformed leaders in Poland who have worked to make this Presbytery a reality after so many years of division and isolation.

At present, the Polish Church has six ministry candidates. I like to say that we have more pastoral candidates than we have churches for them. This means they will need to go out and plant new churches. Ideally, we would want a church in every major city of the country so that driving to the nearest Presbyterian church would never have to take longer than two hours.



The new Presbytery in Poland has a church in the city of Kraków, Gdańsk, and two in Warsaw

# Nazareth Day Center, Ukraine

*Come Over & Help* has been partnering with the Nazareth Day Center in Ukraine for many years. Here is the latest report from this vibrant ministry:

Our goal and mission are simple: happy children in their own families. Our primary task is to work with the whole family, namely to develop relationships with parents, motivate them to responsible parenthood, support them in times of crisis, and help them take better care of their children.



Nazareth Children's Day Center is a warm and welcoming place where children can spend their free time productively. We work with children, encourage them to succeed in their studies, help them with their homework, and provide them with books and school supplies if necessary. At the center, children have the opportunity to:

Get a hot lunch, groceries, clothes, shoes, and medicines

Learn the necessary life skills

Develop their creativity and create beautiful handmade crafts

Learn English with excellent teachers

Boys have the opportunity to practice freestyle wrestling in sports classes with their favorite coaches

Receive emotional and spiritual support

Make real friends with both other children and mentors

Learn about God in Bible lessons



Our goal is to help these children become kind, godly, responsible, and influential adults in the future.

We also visit families at home, meet with parents, counsel them, help them find jobs, and work to improve their living conditions.

Currently, we have about sixty children aged five to sixteen in the Day Center. There are six employees at the Center.

The schedule of classes and meetings is as follows:

**TUESDAY** English lessons and wrestling classes for boys

**WEDNESDAY** Work on school home assignments

**THURSDAY** Creativity classes for girls and wrestling classes for boys

**FRIDAY** Teenage meetings and consultations

**SATURDAY** Classes on practical life skills, Bible lessons

**SUNDAY** More than twenty children from the Day Center attend Sunday school and church services



**Currently, the biggest needs at the Center are:** warm winter clothes and shoes for children, dental treatment for children, grocery support for families, and financial support for the Center's staff.

# WinterHelp

By Greg Slingerland

Every year, various schools in Canada and the USA fundraise for Come Over & Help's WinterHelp campaign. Through their efforts, thousands of dollars are raised to help the local churches throughout Eastern Europe care for the vulnerable through the difficult winter months. This year we were especially touched by the efforts of a kindergarten class from Rehoboth Christian School in Copetown, Ontario. Together, they raised \$840 by doing special jobs at home and for family members. The students were excited that these funds would be used not only to bring comfort but also to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ. If you would like to get your school involved in Come Over & Help's WinterHelp campaign, email us at [info@coah.org](mailto:info@coah.org).



# A New Staff Member

Come Over & Help is pleased to introduce the newest member of our team, Adam Radsma. Adam will be taking up the role of Project Director and will help with the development of new partnerships in Eastern Europe, as well as assisting with existing partners.

Adam Radsma has a passion for seeing the Lord work through the gospel and equipping the church for preaching, evangelizing, and discipleship. Raised in a Christian community in the Niagara Region, Adam received a B.Sc. from DeVry Institute, and worked in engineering, project management, and sales roles in his early career before starting a specialized HVAC and solar business in 2008. He has been married to Kerri since 2001, and they have raised their five sons, ages 11-20, on a small hobby farm in Vineland. He attends Vineland Free Reformed Church where he has served as both deacon and elder, and in various leadership and teaching roles in church ministries. Adam is excited to be joining the ministry of Come Over & Help and is eager to meet the Come Over & Help partners in Eastern Europe and the supporters in North America. In his free time, when Adam isn't repairing fences and chasing escaped farm animals, he enjoys reading, travelling, and hiking the Escarpment trails near his home.



# A Roadmap for Come Over & Help

By Raymond Roth

The board and staff of Come Over & Help met late last year and spent some time defining a philosophy of ministry for our organization. We came up with the following statement to answer the question of **what** we do, and **how** we do what we do: ***Come Over & Help partners with existing local churches and ministries that are Biblically faithful, by assisting them to fulfill the great commission.***

## Let me break that down for you:

### PARTNER:

We commit to not take a dominant or leading role in our relationships with our partners, nor attempt to lead through money and resources. We promote equal and complementary partnerships. We strive for transparent and open relationships that build trust.

### EXISTING:

We are not a sending agency; we work almost exclusively with nationals. We affirm and support partners that have already demonstrated initiative and use of local resources, but whose impact can be amplified with our assistance.

### LOCAL CHURCHES:

Believing that the kingdom of God comes through the faithful presence, witness and ministry of local churches, our primary objective is to partner with local independent churches, church plants, church associations and denominations.

The board also re-committed to focusing our attention on the former Eastern-bloc countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus region, and Central Asia.

So everything Come Over & Help does is pushing us towards the mission outlined above. Our projects now fall under three main categories:



Equipping and Training



Church Planting



Mercy Ministry

As this exercise helped us to gain clarity on the purpose of Come Over & Help and our roadmap for the future, I hope it does the same for you. I also pray that this gives you a renewed zeal and hopefulness for the cause of Christ in this region of the world. By God's grace and with your prayerful support, we continue to help the Reformed church stabilize, develop and mature; we are encouraged by how God is building His church and making His name great!

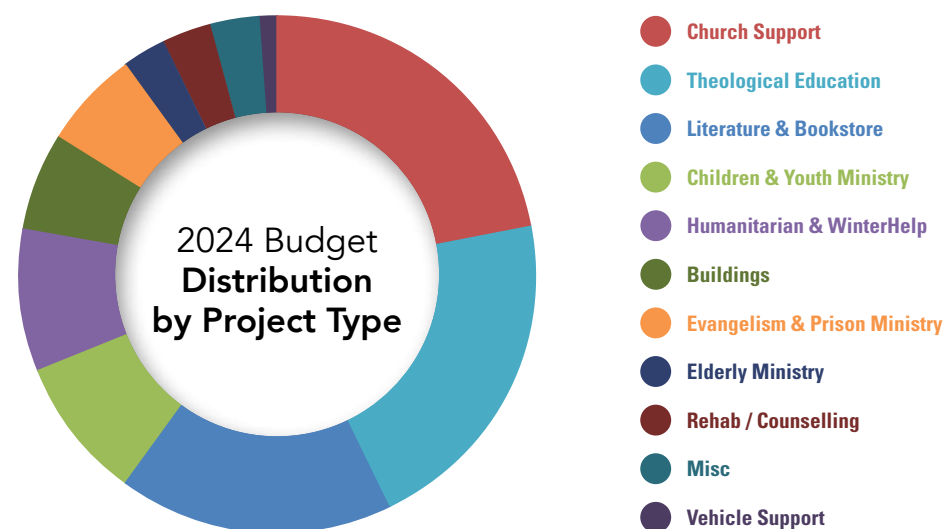
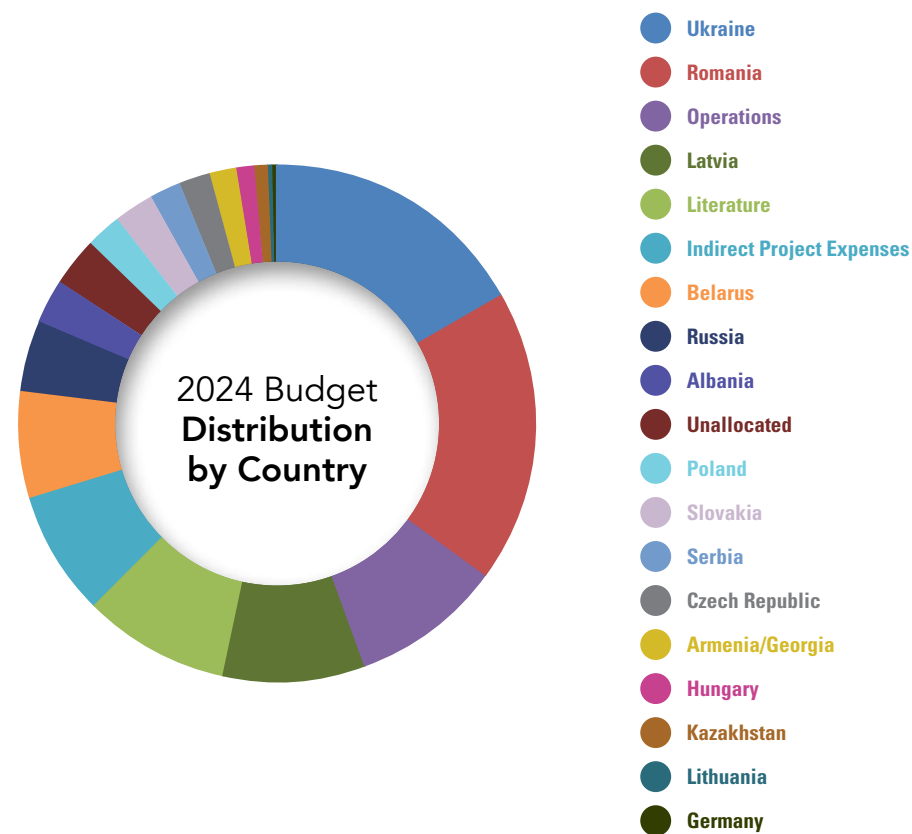
## Vision Statement

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## Mission Statement

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Come Over & Help 2024 Budget: **\$2,139,000 USD** or **\$2,923,478 CAD\***



\*USD to CAD conversion rate of 1.3668% as of 5/6/2024.





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**THINK NOT THAT THE ALMIGHTY HAS  
CEASED TO DO MARVELS - THE LORD  
OF HOSTS IS STILL THE KING  
ETERNAL, IMMORTAL, AND INVISIBLE,  
WITH AN ARM WHICH DOES  
WONDERS.**

**CH Spurgeon**



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