



COME OVER & HELP

2023 Issue 1

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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

Administrator & Project Director



Mr. Greg Slingerland

Communications Director

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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Committee of Recommendation

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

Dr. Joel R. Beeke

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

Dr. Gerald Bilkes

Professor at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI

Pastor William Boekestein

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

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President of OnePassion Ministries.

Pastor David Lipsy

Pastor of Heritage Reformed Church, Burgessville, Ontario

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

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Pastor Peter VanderMeyden

Emeritus Minister of Free Reformed Churches of North America

Mr. Paul Washer

General Director of HeartCry Missionary Society, Radford, Virginia

Your Impact

By Greg Slingerland

Dear Friends,

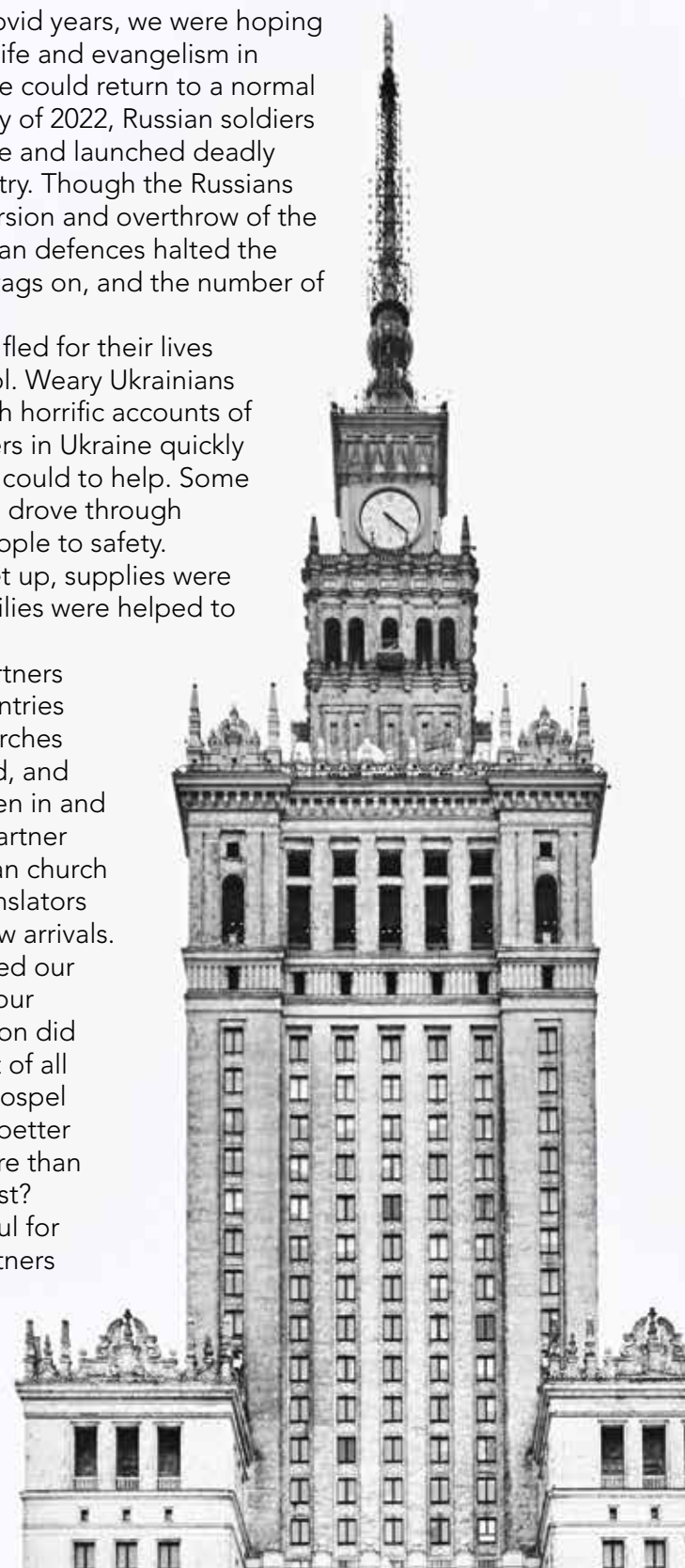
After the turbulent Covid years, we were hoping for a year where church life and evangelism in Central & Eastern Europe could return to a normal cadence. In late February of 2022, Russian soldiers crossed over into Ukraine and launched deadly attacks all over the country. Though the Russians planned for a quick incursion and overthrow of the government, the Ukrainian defences halted the advance. The fighting drags on, and the number of deaths continues to rise.

Millions of Ukrainians fled for their lives from places like Mariupol. Weary Ukrainians arrived at the border with horrific accounts of trauma. All of our partners in Ukraine quickly pivoted to do what they could to help. Some were enlisted, and some drove through war-torn areas to get people to safety. Refugee centres were set up, supplies were acquired, and many families were helped to leave the country.

At the border, our partners in the neighbouring countries jumped into action. Churches and homes were opened, and many refugees were taken in and cared for. Many of our partner churches added Ukrainian church services or Ukrainian translators to accommodate the new arrivals.

While the war impacted our plans, the ultimate mission did not change. At the heart of all the efforts to help, the gospel remained central. What better hope and comfort is there than the gospel of Jesus Christ?

We are deeply thankful for how you upheld our partners in your prayers and so generously supported the mission and vision of Come Over & Help. In the following pages, you will see how you have made an incredible difference in so many lives.



Ukraine Relief

Over **1.8 million USD** were raised for the purposes of Ukraine relief. These funds helped with the relief efforts in Ukraine and aided the refugees in the surrounding countries. Thank you!



Your efforts remind us of the words of the Apostle Paul from Philippians 1:3-5: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Indeed, without your partnership from the first day we would not have been able to help in all these ways.

—Reformed Presbyterian Church of Central
and Eastern Europe Ukraine Relief Committee



Dear Come Over & Help supporters,

Your ministry makes such a big difference, for so many years, for so many souls, I think for eternity. So many Ukrainians can feel your care and love, and God's touch through your help.

We understand very well that the world is tired already of our problems. Moreover, there are many pains and problems besides those in Ukraine. But we believe and know that God is not tired, and His Church, which is sustained and inspired by His Spirit, is not tired.

Almost every day, we receive sad news about our killed and severely wounded soldiers. The wounded are brought to our hospitals almost daily. Our brothers visit them every day, sometimes just spending a few minutes with them, praying for them. They are from different cities of Ukraine and do not have relatives or friends here, so such visits are very important.

We continue to serve here with the great help of the Lord and with your great participation in many ways that the Lord allows. Thank you for not getting tired of us. We pray for you every day, thanking the Lord for you. We do understand that you also face many challenges and difficulties, because we all live in the sinful, fallen, hostile world.

—Olga Drobko, Rivne Grace Church



I would like to add that the help we bring is not just about feeding people. This is to give them hope. Remind them that they are not forgotten and abandoned. It is to encourage and comfort those who are scared. And we do this together.

—Andrey Malov, Ukraine



Making a Difference

By Raymond Roth



I regularly reflect on the work of Come Over & Help and wonder, “Are we making a difference? If we disappeared, would anyone notice?” We live in a world of global movements, a world that operates on the scale of billions and trillions of dollars, a world of multi-national not-for-profits with their own office complexes, warehouses and planes. And then there are Christian mission organizations proposing to catalyze human flourishing, renew cities, generate structural change, advocate for generous justice and social transformation, usher in the kingdom of God, and create shalom. How does our modest vision of ‘thriving, Biblically faithful churches serving Eastern Europe’, and our ‘drop-in-the-bucket’ budget of \$1.85 million USD fit into such a world?

But then I’m reminded of the parable of the leaven spoken by Jesus: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened” (Matthew 13:33). Leaven or yeast seems but a trivial ingredient – until you forget it in your baking! It acts unseen, imperceptibly. But when it does its work, its effects are pervasive and unmistakable. So is the kingdom of God. It doesn’t grow on account of fanfare, bold pronouncements, and vast sums of dollars. It grows because God is at work, through His church, usually in small and hidden ways. Using little-known instruments. Through the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of individuals. Undetected in His movements, but

unmistakable in His effects. That encourages me.

And when I flip the wide-angle lens over and zoom in for a moment, our impact becomes clearer.

What about Anna, the elderly widow in Romania, whose life is ebbing away in loneliness and worry? To her, the weekly visit from the care worker, the kind words and warm touch, the weekly Bible study – they mean everything to her!

What about Aleksandr, the young Ukrainian lad who knows nothing but poverty, neglect, disorder? To him, the daily care center is a safe place of love, kindness, provision, order. To him, a new world has opened!

What about Ferenc, the middle-aged Hungarian businessman who tried the pleasures of life and found nothing but bitterness, who lived a life of quiet desperation, wondering what it’s all about? To him, the pastor up the street who showed him kindness, invited him to church, listened to his questions, and brought him to Jesus – he cannot imagine where he would be if not for the mercy of God shown to him through that pastor!

What about Luda, the young Belarusian mother who wonders how she can raise her children in the fear of the Lord, but gets no help from her unbelieving husband, and sees such a world of sin within and without? To her, the wise, biblical and encouraging counsel she receives through the book, in her own mother tongue, ministers hope and joy to her soul and gives her

the courage to go on.

What about Oleg, the alcoholic, abusive father from Russia, who so desperately wants to rise above his anger and lack of self-control, but just can’t find the wherewithal to overcome his habits? To him, the Christian counselor at church, who so patiently and wisely probes and diagnoses the heart issues, and applies the healing power of the gospel, means everything!

What about Edgars, the young Latvian, who feels, ‘Woe is me if I preach not the gospel’, but feels so unlearned, insufficient? To him, the classes at the Reformed seminary and the internships in his local church have given him grounding and confidence in God and in His Word. He now goes forward, feeling more than ever his weakness, but with firm confidence in the sovereignty of God and the power of His Word. To him, the theological anchoring he’s received will stabilize and encourage him through a lifetime of gospel ministry!

What about Nastya from Ukraine, with her criminal past, whose shackles have been broken through the ministry of the rehabilitation center? She knows that if it were not for the evangelist who came to the prison to speak to the inmates about Jesus, the friend of sinners, and who invited her to enter the rehab program upon her release, she would still be in bondage to her past life.

So, does Come Over & Help make a difference? Some might say no. “No, I don’t see anything changing in Eastern Europe. Just the same, perennial problems – corruption, poverty, alcoholism. Bigger measures and means are needed. Political. Economic. Educational.”

But if you could ask Anna, Aleksandr, Ferenc, Luda, Oleg, Edgars, Nastya, and thousands of others whose lives are touched by the ministries we support, I think you would know that, by God’s grace, yes, our ministry does make a profound difference to men, women, boys and girls – praise the Lord! Pray that the board and staff of Come Over & Help and all our partners in the field would not

become weary in doing good, but would know and believe that “God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to

bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption – that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the Lord!’” (1 Corinthians 1:27-31).

“...if you could ask Anna, Aleksandr, Ferenc, Luda, Oleg, Edgars, Nastya, and thousands of others whose lives are touched by the ministries we support, I think you would know that, by God’s grace, yes, our ministry does make a profound difference to men, women, boys and girls – praise the Lord!”



Church Support

Over 95 churches were helped through your gifts to Come Over & Help. The goal of church support is to help churches become thriving and flourishing churches that can stand on their own and begin to plant other churches.

We do this through the following means:

 <p>General budget support</p>	 <p>Church rental help</p>	 <p>Diaconal assistance</p>
 <p>Evangelism</p>	 <p>Pastor family medical expenses</p>	 <p>Ongoing vehicle support</p>
 <p>Vehicle purchase assistance</p>	 <p>Teaching & study resources</p>	 <p>Administrative support</p>
 <p>Capital expenses</p>	 <p>Church plant support</p>	 <p>Mentorship program</p>



A church in Eastern Russia was given funds for much needed repair. A team of volunteers completed the job.



Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary was helped with broadcasting equipment to reach out to students from across Eastern Europe and Russia



Relief supplies were provided to Roma communities in Romania



In the last period, I invested more time with addicted people. So, I try to learn more about them, and to study and prepare myself to counsel them. I would also like to thank you for the books that we have received through you and which are very useful tools for me in this work. We are very grateful to you, for your financial help to modernize our online transmission systems. We broadcast our services on YouTube and Facebook too. After we improved our broadcasting system with your big help, almost a double number of persons started to follow or watch our broadcast worship and Bible studies. We are glad for these people, but now we try to get them to start attending our services not only online, but also live.

—Pastor Molnár Sándor, Romania



Elderly Ministries

Over 200 at-risk Romanian seniors are regularly visited and cared for with spiritual, physical, emotional, and social help through the Naomi's Smile program.



A special summer camp was held in Romania just for seniors

Children & Youth Ministry

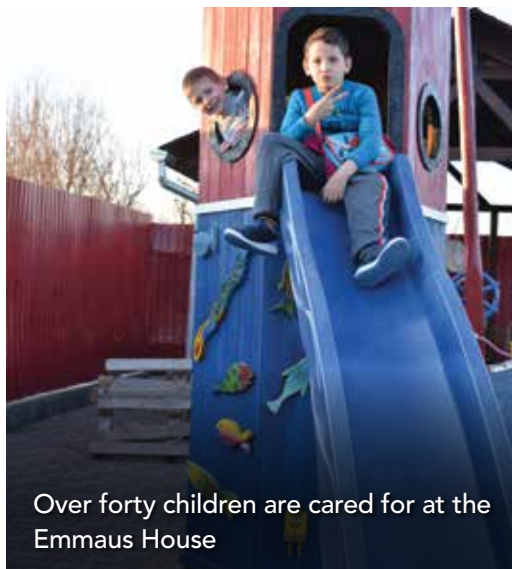
"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

One of the necessary ingredients to have a thriving church is to reach the hearts and minds of children and youth. To that end, Come Over & Help endeavoured to help in the following ways:

- 3 children's homes; 75 children
- 24 adopted orphans supported (Yakutia, Russia)
- 6 daily care centers for at-risk youth – over 100 children helped daily
- 2 teenager's clubs
- Onesimus program – 40 youth/teens – ongoing mentorship
- 5 summer outreach camps



Disadvantaged children in Romania are given daily help through daily care centers



Over forty children are cared for at the Emmaus House

Ministries of Mercy

Thousands of families have been helped through the WinterHelp program in the past year. We are thankful for the schools, families, and churches that have donated to this fund. Due to the war and the disruptions in oil and gas prices, winter was especially difficult. Through your giving, families in Eastern Europe were supplied by local churches with food, clothing, medicines, firewood, housing, and fuel.



Theological Education & Training

Biblically faithful churches need men who are trained in seminaries that hold Scripture as the literal and inerrant Word of God. We are thankful to be able to partner with four Reformed seminaries that train pastors and evangelists for gospel ministry.

Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine

Come Over & Help supports 3 local instructors

Tyumen Reformed Bible School

Come Over & Help covers the travel costs for students coming from all over Russia

Balkan Theological Seminary

Come Over & Help supports the mission internship program, curriculum development, and has helped with some building repairs

Baltic Reformed Theological Seminary

BRTS is given support for administration, development of 'Russian Theological Education' and 'Biblical Counseling' programs



Belarusian seminary students

Besides these four seminaries, Come Over & Help has assisted with three Bible school training programs for training in-ministry pastors and office-bearers in Russia, Romania, and Latvia. Through your help, seminary students and interns were given support in Russia, Belarus, Romania, Poland, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, and Latvia. In Belarus, the Reformed Study Centre continues to provide a place for study, fellowship, classroom space, and support for Belarusian seminary students and pastors. Conferences for pastors and for lay-people were held in Russia, Hungary, Serbia, Belarus, Lithuania, Armenia, Slovakia, and Czech Republic.



The summer was a time with a lot of rain, much more than usual. The roof of the Balkan Theological Seminary (BTS) was severely damaged by the storm and hail; all of our rooms had leaking ceilings, and water was coming in most of the rooms. We prayed a lot, and I also corresponded with brother Raymond who positively replied to my request for help. Thus, we received 4000 USD which helped us renovate the roof. Praise God, BTS has new metal roof tiles now. We managed to renovate it and replaced the old roof tiles with new ones just a few days before the new semester started. Students and church volunteers helped with the work. We appreciate the help of Come Over & Help very much and I thank you on behalf of BTS leadership and all the students.

—Emanuel Ralevic, Balkan Theological Seminary



Evangelism & Outreach



I can say that the work of God's hand was very clearly seen in our lives and ministry, and despite all the craziness of the events around us related to the war, every moment and every detail is in His control. He directs everything so that the development of counseling continues and teams succeed in ministry to strengthen His Church. Praise Him! Dear friend, thank you for your prayers and participation in God's work!

—Alexei Tolochyants, Ukraine, Coram Deo counselling ministry



Pastor Mazepa visited prisons in Kyiv while Pastor Vadim visited prisons in Zaporozhe, Ukraine.



Special Christmas and Easter evangelism dinners were held for hundreds of people in Oradea, Romania.



Pastor Visky continued with his ministry to the inner-city children of Oradea and to the Roma people in the outskirts of the city.



In the far reaches of Russia, churches in Yakutia evangelized to the Sakha people.

Literature

40,470 books were distributed in 13 countries, 14 languages (Albanian, Czech, Hungarian, Kazakh, Khakas, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovakian, Ukrainian, Yakut).

Some of the titles we were involved with in 2022:

Author	Title	Language
Ryle	Holiness	Hungarian
DeYoung	Taking God at His Word	Ukrainian
Augustine	Confessions	Serbian
Multiple authors	Psalter	Romanian
Lloyd-Jones	Romans 11	Romanian
Bavinck	Reformed Dogmatics	Russian
Multiple authors	Valley of Vision	Ukrainian
Tripp	Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands	Ukrainian
Ortlund	Marriage and the Mystery of the Gospel	Kazakh
Pink	Who is in Control?	Latvian
Bunyan	Pilgrim's Progress	Slovakian
Tripp	New Morning Mercies	Czech



Finally, I hold in my hands *Encountering God through Expository Preaching*. It's a book that many people have waited a long time for. Right after it was published, I sent a box of books to the West of the country. Next week, I am sending some more. It's the first textbook for the students of expository preaching courses in Kazakh. We thank God for the partnership with Come Over & Help who made it possible to publish this important book.

—Pastor Denis Boris, Almaty, Kazakhstan



We thank God for your ministry. Thank you for your vision and your great dedication to service! I can testify and say that your ministry is making a real difference! The books that were printed with your support are a very special blessing! For example, hundreds of pastors have had a rethinking of their vision after studying the *Dear Timothy* book in groups. My wife and I experienced a great blessing through the *Refresh* and *Reset* books, as well as through all others. We have hundreds of testimonies from many Christians whose lives were changed after reading DeYoung's books we now have in Ukrainian.

—Pastor Andriy Korniychuk, Rivne Grace Church, Ukraine



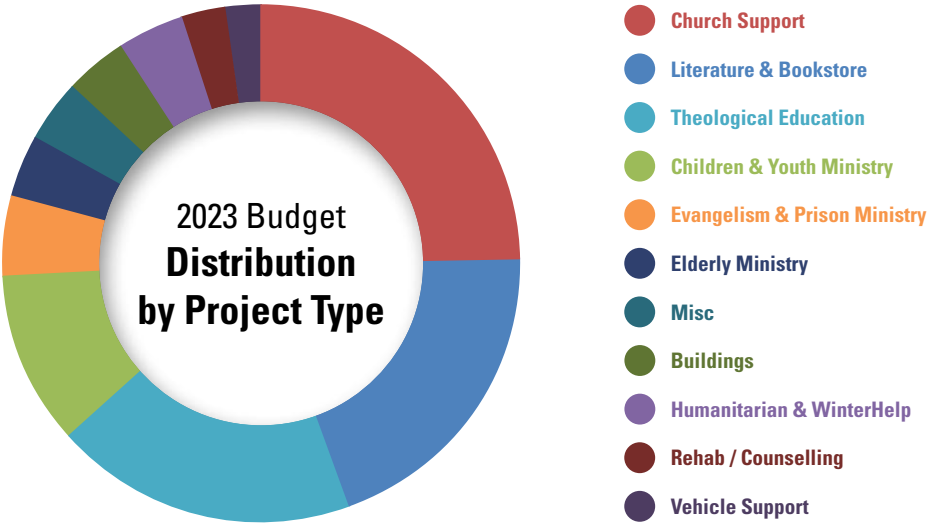
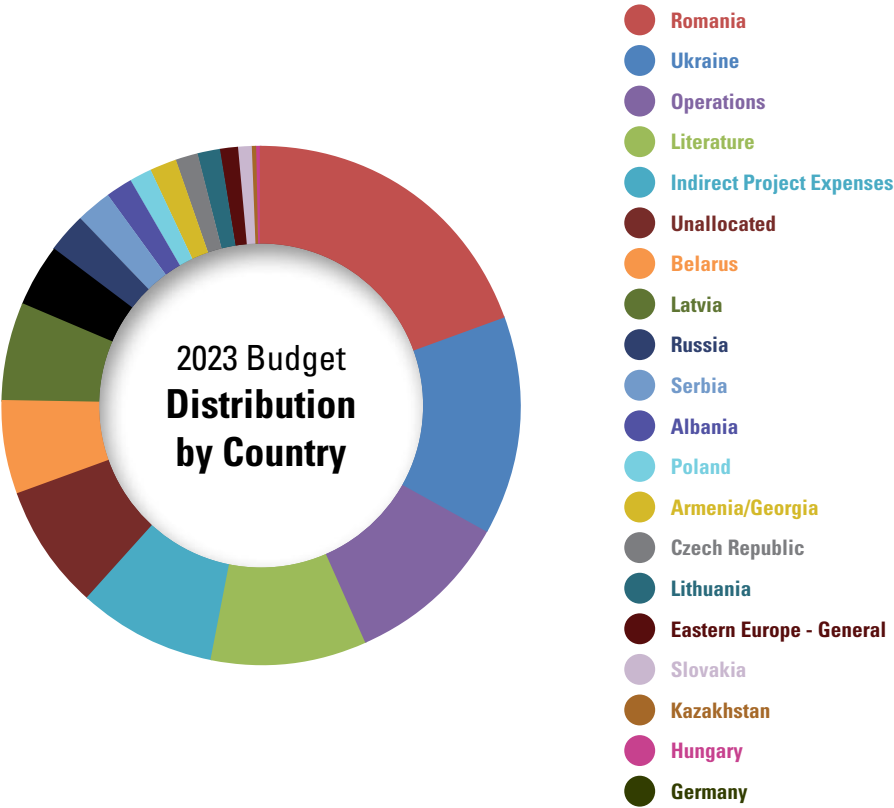
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Come Over & Help 2023 Budget: **\$1,851,000 USD or \$2,483,000 CAD**

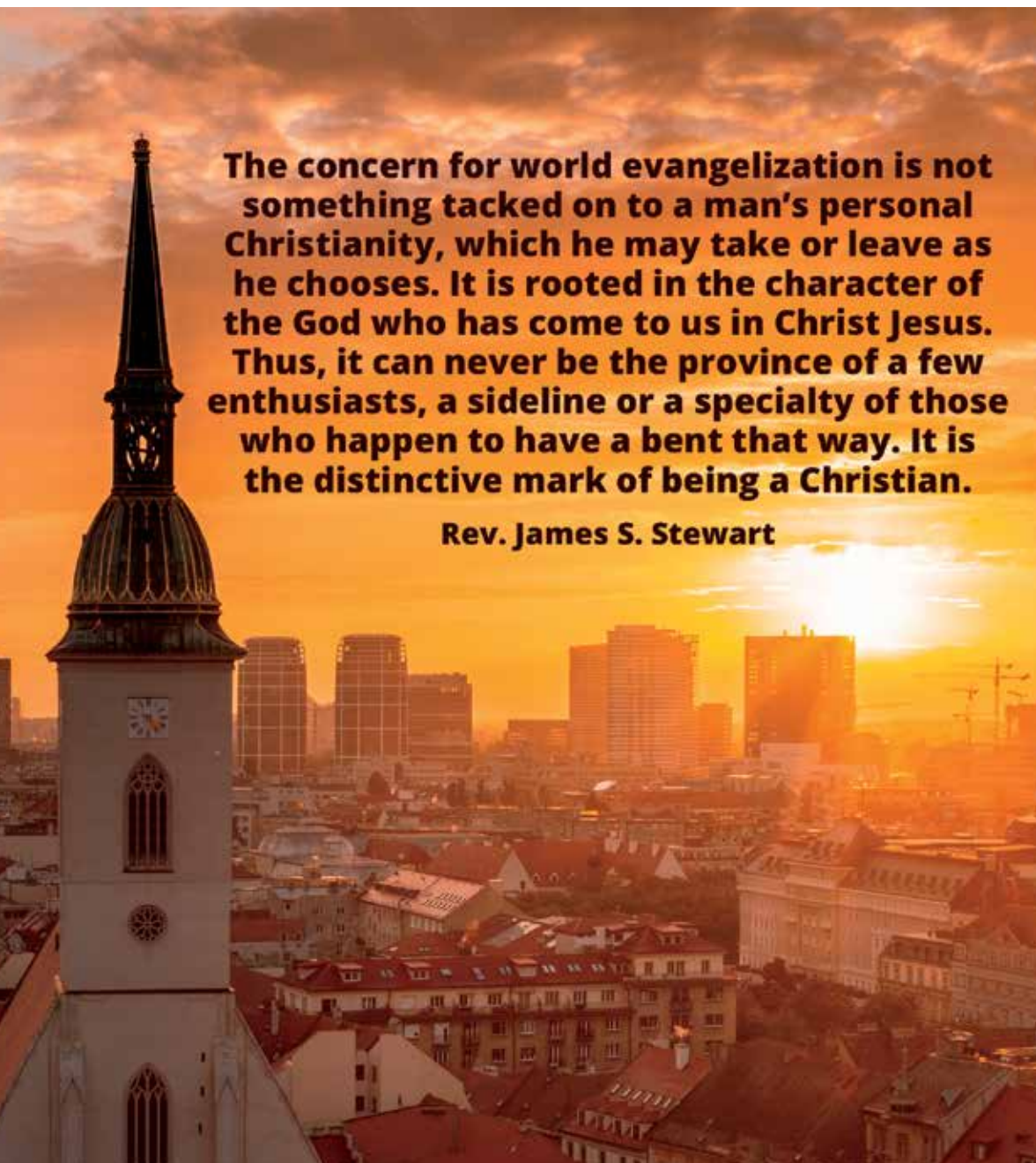




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The concern for world evangelization is not something tacked on to a man's personal Christianity, which he may take or leave as he chooses. It is rooted in the character of the God who has come to us in Christ Jesus. Thus, it can never be the province of a few enthusiasts, a sideline or a specialty of those who happen to have a bent that way. It is the distinctive mark of being a Christian.

Rev. James S. Stewart



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Rev. James S. Stewart