

# 2023

## ANNUAL REPORT

opendoor.tv

# Dear Open Door Family,

What an incredible year it has been at Church of the Open Door!

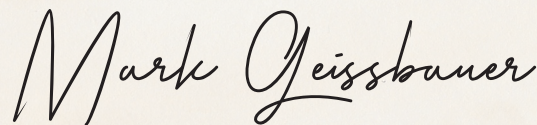
God has truly done some amazing things that exceeded our expectations. This Annual Report is intended to take a moment to stop and celebrate all that He has done at each campus. Looking back, the evidence is clear: God has certainly been good and faithful during our last fiscal year.

This report is also intended to say **THANK YOU** to each and every one of you! It is such a joy and privilege to serve daily alongside so many wonderful and dedicated volunteers, board/committee members, pastors, and staff who all join together to pursue our mission of **“Leading People in the Adventure of Becoming like Christ.”**

Your faithful giving of time, talents and treasures are making all of this (and much more) happen each day. We hope you enjoy the stories, stats, graphics, and updates on how God has used your faithfulness and generosity.

Another year has passed in the history of Open Door and we are grateful...but we also believe that **the best is yet to come!!!**

Thank you for playing such an important role in our church family!



**Mark Geissbauer**  
Executive Pastor



Note:

Most stats in this report reflect  
July 2022 - June 2023



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# 2022 - 2023

## REVIEW



Worship in the Park



Mindling 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration



True Girl Pajama Party





IF Gathering

Night of Worship  
 Passover Experience  
 Women's Retreats  
 Men's Backpack Trips  
 Mission Conference  
 Global Leadership Summit  
 Volunteer Appreciations  
 Bethlehem Walk  
 Sexuality Conference  
 Family Movie Nights  
 Adult Bus Trips  
 MOPS & MOMSnext  
 Pasta with the Pastors  
 Celebrate Recovery  
 Griefshare

& so much more...



Student Ministry Winter Retreat



Pigtoberfest



Serve Our City



# AMANDA'S STORY

*"My next step will be praying with people—particularly with patients in the operating room."*

Amanda grew up in a Christian family—she attended church her whole life and went to Open Door Christian Schools. Venturing into adulthood and her career as a nurse at Cleveland Clinic, she found herself wanting to take more ownership of her faith, but wasn't sure where to start. Leading up to the What's Your Next Step Excursion, she determined she should take the Next Step Survey.

The results hovered like a cloud in her mind, but she still couldn't see past the fog to discern what she should do. However, soon after taking the survey, she met with a patient in the OR as they were preparing for surgery. Amanda left the room because the patient seemed fine, but in reality, the patient was struggling. "By the time I came back with the rest of the team, she was crying," Amanda said. "I was kicking myself for the rest of the day for not being there for her when she obviously needed someone."



"That same evening, I met with my Next Step Coach. I told her that story and how burdened and convicted I felt for not doing or saying something. At that moment, I had a burst of clarity: My next step will be praying with people—particularly with patients in the OR." Amanda knew that this was going to be a stretching step for her. Being an introvert, she prefers to pray in private. In addition, she was concerned about how her coworkers might react.

However, Amanda was willing to get out of her comfort zone in order to grow. The next morning, she prayed in her car before work. "I asked God to open my heart and grant me courage to care for His people any way I know how." Later in the day, they brought another patient into the OR. This time, while the anesthesia team was preparing their meds, Amanda leaned in and asked how the patient was doing.

The patient admitted that she was nervous; then, she looked Amanda in the eyes and said, "Please be praying for me." Amanda saw God opening a window, and she asked the patient if it would be okay for her to pray with her instead. The patient nodded; Amanda held her hands while she prayed over her. Reflecting on the experience, Amanda said, "I can honestly say I felt like the Holy Spirit took over. There were six other people in that room; but at that moment, I didn't care if they heard me or not. I didn't even care if it was against the rules or not. All the noises drowned out, and it was just me, the patient, and the Father."

Once Amanda finished praying, the patient had a countenance of peace rather than nerves; she said, "It's in His hands." Amanda continued to hold her hand as she fell asleep.

"I still need to work on getting out of my comfort zone, but that incident confirmed that this is the next step that God wants me to take," Amanda declared.





At the beginning of the year, Dan was not a Christian, and his life was spiraling. He and his wife lived in Oregon; they considered relocating three hours south to Bend, Oregon. There, Dan might have an opportunity to pursue his creative passions and start a business, but he knew in his gut that he was moving in the wrong direction. He was out of a job, his health was declining, he was having chronic nightmares, and felt attacked everyday.

"I was very lost in life," Dan said. "We planned to take a trip to check out Bend and a local Community Makerspace to see if that was the place we wanted to live and start a business. But, the night before we left, I found myself saying aloud, 'God, I need a clear sign from you—so clear that I cannot miss it. What am I to do? What do I need to do?'"

The next morning, they visited the Oregon coast to see the beach before heading inland to Bend. A pile of logs and an out-of-place hat were positioned at the beach entrance. Dan paid the oddity no mind, but his wife pointed it out, so Dan took a closer look: the hat bore an embroidered bird and the words "Be Free Woodworking." Something about it stuck with him, and he remembered his prayer from the previous night. Was this the clear sign for which he had asked God?

God did not leave Dan wondering for long. Upon arriving at the Community Makerspace at Bend, he heard a fluttering in the engine. "I get out and I see a bird behind the grill; I pop open the engine and the bird flies out. I think back to the hat at the beach, and I was amazed. Only God could orchestrate that. I knew nothing was a coincidence."

# DAN'S STORY

Dan moved to Bend and started his own studio at the Makerspace, but he had not fully surrendered to the Lord, and he was miserable. "The Devil attacked me at every turn," Dan said. "The day before I was supposed to start building things, all my tools got stolen, and my health was getting so bad that I would spend my days with my face on the ground, unable to do hardly anything."

He had reached the lowest of lows, but there was a glimmer of hope. "Out of desperation, I gave my life to Jesus. He had been knocking at the door the whole time, and I had faith that he could save me." Within two weeks, he moved to Ohio where God led him to Church of the Open Door. Over the course of several months, God pieced Dan's life back together: his health was restored; his deepest wounds were healed; and he began growing as a disciple of Jesus. Any time Dan would doubt the direction he was going, birds would hit Dan's car again!



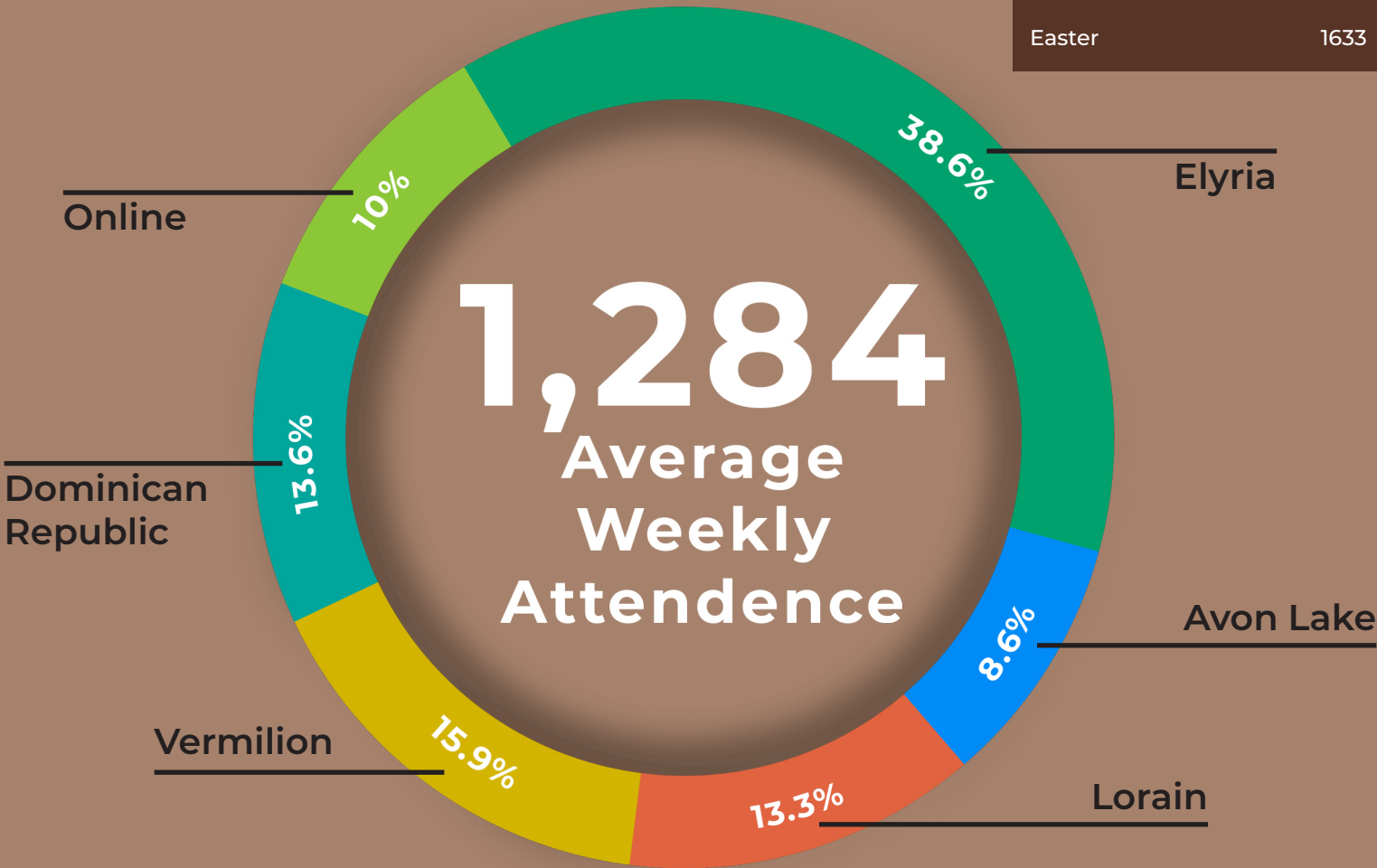
*"The Lord keeps developing me through Church of the Open Door and helping me serve others as I am learning who God created me to be. I am more free and happy than I have ever been in my life—all because of Jesus."*





# CAMPUS ATTENDANCE

Highlights	
Male	44.6%
Female	55.4%
Youth & Kids	25.5%
New Guests	1,048 <small>(799 Families)</small>
New Members	13
Special Services <small>(Attendees)</small>	
Christmas	980
Easter	1633



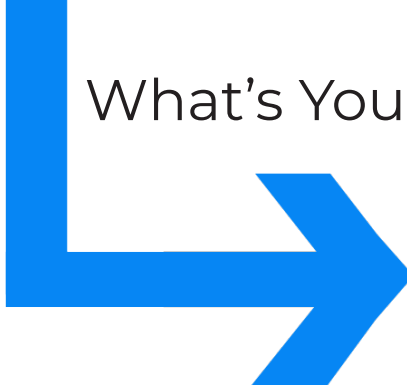
## Did you know?

Due to COVID, campus attendance in 2020 restarted at 470 and has progressively increased by nearly 300 each of the following years.





# What's Your **Next Step?**



## Spiritual Maturity Snapshot

(Based on church-wide WYNS Survey Results)

BEGINNING

YOUNG

MATURING

REPRODUCING

C

19%

50%

30%

Connected to God Through Word & Prayer

H

12%

50%

38%

Heart of Worship

R

14%

51%

34%

Relates with Other-Centered Love

I

3%

37%

42%

18%

Intentional Evangelism

S

23%

44%

32%

Spirit-led Servant

T

21%

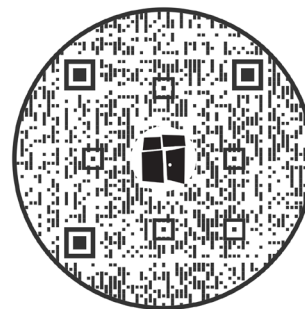
45%

33%

Trustworthy Steward of God's Resources



## NEXT STEP SURVEY



## ***Did you know?***

More than 225 people requested to meet with a coach about their survey results to find their next step.







## Deepen roots in Groups

*51% of people are  
in Groups*

### Disciple others through a DIG

4 new Discipleship Intensive  
Groups (DIG) launched!

### Devote yourself to God's Word

1,437 people regularly engage in our  
daily devotionals (app, website, or email)

### Deepen roots in Groups

There are currently 20+ groups that  
meet regularly



# Ministry Stats



# Discover Discipleship

**31**

Accepted Jesus

**43**

Baptisms



**Do Ministry as a Lifestyle**

520 regularly serve as  
volunteers

**Develop understanding  
through classes**

171 people attended a class

Alpha Course launch with  
24 people





Ready to give?  
Scan me!



## Financial Recap Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023

Budgeted	\$2,466,914
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Actual Giving	\$2,618,185
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Expenses Above Budget	\$67,135
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AMOUNT UNDER BUDGET!	\$84,136
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THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!!

# GIVING RECAP

## Fiscal Year 2023 Q1

BUDGETED	\$560,455
ACTUAL GIVING	\$549,960
CURRENT GIVING DEFICIT	\$10,495

## Additional Giving Stats

ONLINE GIVING	58%
TOTAL GIVERS	866
FIRST-TIME GIVERS	272

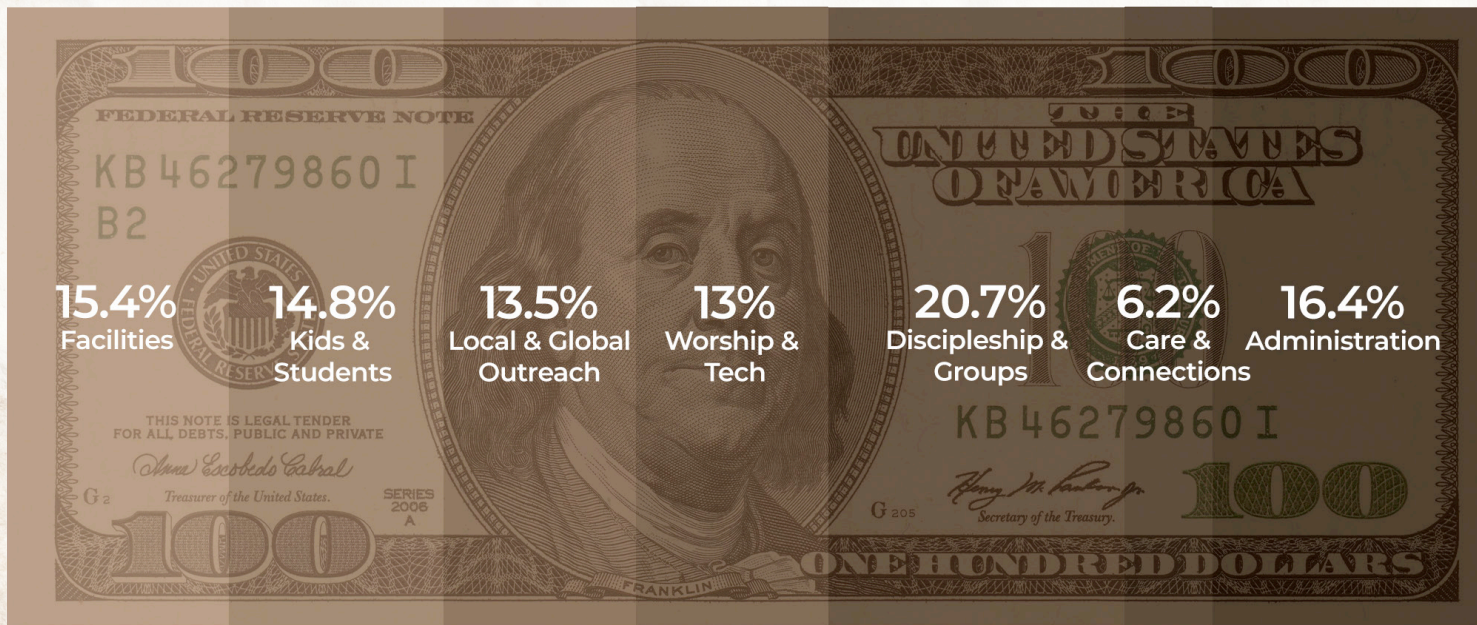
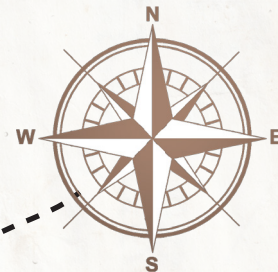


## Did you know?

We also recieved a significant refund on payroll taxes. This is a huge answer to our prayers as we are having to address some larger facility issues at most of our campuses (roof, HVAC, parking lot, etc).



# Where does your \$100 go?



## Where did the first Elyria Campus property sale proceeds go?

Community Outreach	\$26,000
Family Advocacy Ministry	\$10,000
Internship Program	\$10,000
Future Campus Savings	\$9,500
Facility Upgrades	\$32,000
Global Outreach	\$6,000
DR Campus Renovation	\$6,500

*\*not all proceeds have been spent, but are reserved for these purposes.*

***December is a crucial month financially for us!***

**Would you mind considering a special year-end gift to help us close our current deficit to enable us to impact more lives?**



# STORIES FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## GABRIEL'S STORY

I have been a Christian since 2015. Early on, I was a part of a group called “La Vid” (The Vine). It was where I grew and was discipled as a Christian, though my mother church was in San Pedro. For some of us, the group was all we had, and at that time, it was enough; however, for various reasons, La Vid stopped meeting, so many of us did not have a place to gather with brothers and sisters in Christ. For me, the closest thing I had was the San Pedro church, which was hard for me to get to every Sunday. I started visiting various churches around my neighborhood, but I wasn't ready to leave my San Pedro church.



During that time, I was able to be a part of a missionary camp, which is where I met Cheo. He's a member of the Kefale church\* (some of you might know him, since he is the driver at the church). As we talked to each other, we found out that he not only lives a 15-minute walk from my house but also that his church (Kefale) is right behind his house—so I said, “Alright, let's go!”

I visited Kefale on a Wednesday, and when I arrived, I found out that I already knew some people there: Pastor Tito, with whom I was going to take piano lessons but never did, and Yireth, who attended the same missionary camp that I did. Aside from that, everyone in Kefale church welcomed me as if I were their family! A month later, they invited me to sing at their Christmas event.

It has been a journey—an amazing one. This is the first time I can say for sure that I belong to a local church. The spiritual growth I am having cannot be described in words. I might not completely understand God's purposes—I still love my first spiritual family, but God has something here for me at Kefale. As I tell everyone that asks, “I am here to serve, and I want to do God's will.”

\*Kefale church is the Church of the Open Door DR Campus





## CELIMAR'S STORY

I am so grateful to the Lord for Las Brisas Proclama program—they have provided support and allowed me to have a place to belong. I remember joining the program in 2016 like it was yesterday. We started to meet under a tree, and with time, other kids joined as well, so we needed more space to meet. That's when Maria—better known as “Nuna”—found us a big house, and as we grew even bigger, she found an even bigger house: “Casa Blanca.”

At Casa Blanca, we started to learn valuable skills through classes like English, music, and sewing. Even though COVID introduced some challenges along the way, we are now able to do many activities without issues in a new area, and I praise God for providing food during that time! Now, I am part of the team and I have the blessing of pouring back into the program that made me who I am today. My job is to create a list of all the kids in the program, take their numbers and contact them, connect with their parents and pray for them, and decorate the place!

Want to learn more about  
our Dominican Republic  
Campus?

Scan Here!



## LUCECITA'S STORY

Thirteen years ago, I met the Lord when I visited a church, and I heard the song “Al Taller del Maestro” (At the Master’s Workshop). However, I didn’t visit the local church after that for 10 years. Even so, God is so good—He helped me find Kefale church three years ago, and then I felt the need to get baptized after one of Pastor Tito’s sermons. Since then, the Lord has been transforming my mind and heart.

My baptism was on September 23, 2023, and God keeps changing my thoughts and fears. He fills me every day—He is my supply and I trust Him completely. I will never get tired of giving thanks to God for His mercy and for forgiving my sins!



# INTERESTED?

JOIN A MISSIONS TEAM NEXT YEAR!



## 2024 MISSION TRIPS



JANUARY - INDONESIA

FEBRUARY - KENYA & BURUNDI

JUNE - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
(STUDENTS)

SUMMER - DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
(FAMILIES)



# LOCAL + GLOBAL OUTREACH

58

## LAS BRISAS CHILDREN SPONSORS

This ministry of our DR Campus provides kids the opportunity to learn life skills and God's Word, eat a meal, a safe place, friends, and counsel from our pastors and teachers.

\$49k+

## PEOPLE HELPED THROUGH BENEVOLENCE

We support individuals and families in need during times of hardship (house fire, loss of job, etc.). Last year, 66 people and their families were supported and received financial coaching.

5

## CARS GIVEN AWAY TO PEOPLE IN NEED



## Global Outreach Highlights

- New missionaries added: Tim & Karen Mindling (SEND International)
- Well completed in the Central African Republic
- DR Campus renovations almost completed

## Local Outreach Highlights

- Launch of Family Advocacy Ministry
- Adoption of Admiral King Elementary School in Lorain



## FOCUS ON PEOPLE > PROGRAMS

- Making sure everyone belongs & feels connected.
- Spending intentional time with people to connect, disciple and encourage.
- Assessing ministry programs and be more selective in offering.
- Focusing on volunteer, leadership development and appreciation.
- Sharing more Adventure Stories of what God is doing.
- Improving ways to become more intentional in engaging the Online Campus community.



# 2023 - 2024 LOOKING AHEAD



## EXTERNALLY > INTERNALLY FOCUSED

- Be more intentional about local outreach and evangelism efforts.
- Allowing each campus to identify a unique need in their community to make a difference.
- Be more intentional about prayer opportunities for our community and leaders.
- Focus on preparing the next generation for a life of outreach and mission.
- Continual expansion of partnership with the DR Campus and Las Brisas.



# DIVINE'S STORY



Divine Niyonsenga was an orphan living in Nyanza lac in the south of Burundi. She got married at a young age, but her husband and his family disparaged and rejected her with such ferocity that she fled to live on the streets. She found herself with no options; she had to sell her body in order to survive. For five years, Divine was caught in a cycle of hunger, desperation, and prostitution in order to provide for herself and her three children. Her future seemed as if it were decided for her—how could she ever dig herself out of this hole?



***“I have been changed and I have also changed others!”***

Everything changed when she met a group of people at Kickoff to Hope that told her about Jesus, and for the first time in her life, Divine discovered that she had value. She was made in the image of God, and He loved her so much that He sent His Son to pay the penalty of all her sin—and she could have a relationship with Him!

Jesus transformed Divine's mind, desires, and purpose. Through Kickoff to Hope, Divine acquired a sewing machine. She learned to be a seamstress instead of a prostitute.



Divine has continued to be discipled, and she is now sowing seeds of the Gospel in her own community. In fact, she leads two groups (60 women total) that are called Abanyamahoro (“People of Peace”) and Tuve mu buja dukore vyiza (“Leave Bad Jobs and Do Good Ones”).

Divine shares God's Word and encourages them through life's struggles. She has led 15 of these ladies to Jesus and 12 of them out of prostitution. Together, they have found belonging and life transformation; to God be the glory!







# YEAR-END GIVING PROJECT

## Kickoff to Hope in Burundi, Africa

(The poorest country in the world as per GDP per capita, and considered one of the least developed countries. Burundi was ranked as the World's saddest nation by the most recent World Happiness Report.)



The mission of Kickoff to Hope in Burundi is to help develop impoverished and disadvantaged people in two ways: to find Jesus and to help them build a sustainable future. For the last several years, God has led the ministry to assist hundreds of vulnerable women (such as former prostitutes who accepted Jesus, abandoned women, widows, etc.). All these women are now being discipled as well as trained in different skills (sewing, shoe making, agriculture, etc.) as a means to provide for themselves and their families. This is accomplished in partnership with the local church.



One of the main needs that these women are now facing is safe housing! Many of them live with their entire family in a small straw hut. This is very dangerous as fire can quickly destroy these make-shift homes making it very difficult for the children to get out quickly. These houses are also prone to leak or are destroyed during the rainy season. This then results in leaving these families homeless and exposed to the elements.

**It is our goal to bless the women and their families in Burundi with 15 houses! Each house costs \$1,500.**

Will you be willing to help this Christmas season? To give, mark your offering envelope "HOUSES" or text "HOUSES" to 440.323.4644.

Any gifts received beyond our initial goal to bless the families in Burundi will go towards our year-end deficit to impact more lives.

**5 WAYS TO GIVE**  
TO CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR



IN PERSON



MAIL



ONLINE



MOBILE APP

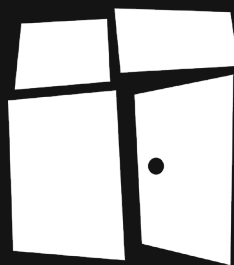


TEXT

*All contributions are tax-deductible.*







## **Church of the Open Door**

440.323.4644

[opendoor.tv](http://opendoor.tv)

[info@opendoor.tv](mailto:info@opendoor.tv)