



WORLD
GOSPEL
MISSION

WGM 115

YEARS OF SHARING THE GOSPEL

Introduction

When the Kenyan people greeted Loren and Lois Clark in 1949, they were welcomed with kindness and openness. While the people joyfully invited the couple to commune with them, they were reluctant to hear about the missionaries' God.

"We have our own God. We've heard of the British man's god and others' gods, and we don't want them. We don't need another god."

"Well, what do you say when you pray to your God?" Loren asked.

"Our God is like the sun. He isn't the sun, but He's like it in that He blesses the good and bad people the same. We all get the same chance with our crops and with our animals. And when we pray, we ask for His favor, and we ask that our children will live and grow strong. And we always end our prayers with, 'And remember, we are not the tribe that killed your son.'"

Loren rejoiced when he heard the Kenyan man's words. "We're talking to the same God. And you're right, His Son was killed, and it wasn't your tribe that killed Him. But what you need to understand is that God's Son died willingly. He did it out of love for us."

After that day, many of the people in their tribe came to know the Lord and accepted Him as their Savior.



When we glance back at the early beginnings of WGM, we discover stories just like this one. We see missionaries who listened to their communities and gracefully led them to the Gospel. We find missionaries who have opened ministries in over 40 countries, traveled through miles of thick jungles to discover remote villages, and survived uncertain times because God provided a miracle. WGM's story is overflowing with passionate prayer warriors and God-fearing families who trusted in Him with no hesitation, and they inspire us today to faithfully share the Good News.

Section I: Early History (1910–1950)

It was June of 1910 when a small group of leaders of the National Association for the Promotion of Holiness met to discuss a proposal to start a missions organization. After much prayer, the organization now known as World Gospel Mission (WGM) was established, and the first board of trustees began to make plans for the new organization.

Rev. and Mrs. Cecil and Ellen Troxel and Rev. and Mrs. Woodford and Harriet Taylor felt called to China and were appointed on June 10, 1910, to join the work there. A few months later, they arrived with Mrs. Beatrice Beezley's support from America as secretary of the China bureau.

Since the early days of WGM, the organization has been involved in Christian education to raise up the next generation of evangelists. In 1920, the Taylors started a legacy of evangelical education as they began working toward opening the Tientsin Bible Seminary in China.

SECTION I: EARLY HISTORY (1910–1950)

The first board of trustees included Iva Vennard, Beatrice Beezley, C.J. Fowler, H.F. Kletzing, and C.W. Ruth.



WGM staff lovingly call Mrs. Beatrice Beezley “Mother Beezley” and will often say she carried WGM in her briefcase.



After repeated issues with thieves damaging the school, the Taylors wanted to acquire a different location for the school. They had faith that the Lord would provide the funds to purchase a new building even though they were facing an economic crisis.



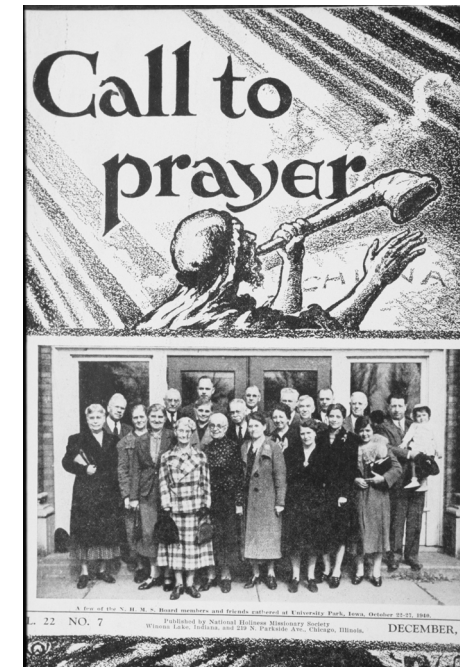
They received a school building at a reasonable price because of the belief that the building was haunted. The new building opened on the main street in Tientsin, China.

SECTION I: EARLY HISTORY (1910–1950)

After sending out the Troxels and Taylors to China, Mother Beezley and Iva Vennard agreed that the mission needed to make prayer a priority. They founded the first Prayer Band in 1913, where they met for six hours each Friday to pray for the growth of missions.

Prayer has been a foundational value for WGM. Even today, missionaries and staff tell stories of times when finances are settled just before a deadline, a heavy burden is unexpectedly released, and a hardened heart suddenly softens. Prayer Bands were the beginning of WGM's unwavering dedication to prioritizing prayer.

Mother Beezley published the first copy of the *Call to Prayer*, which began as a bimonthly magazine in 1919. Six years later, WGM's headquarters was officially established in the Kletzing Building of the Chicago Evangelistic Institute.



Kenya

Clara Ford, WGM's first missionary to Africa, arrived in 1929 to begin preparations for ministry in Kenya. Clara was the daughter of Jefferson Ford of the Friends Mission in Kenya, an organization that prioritized helping more young girls gain access to education. Three years later, the Smiths and Kirkpatricks joined Clara to expand their sphere of influence.

The first WGM missionary nurse, Gertrude (Trudy) Shryock, arrived to the Tenwek Clinic site in 1937 where she collaborated with other missionaries to build up the medical ministry.

When Trudy arrived in 1937, she slept for just a few hours and awoke to a large crowd gathered by her front door, knowing only that she was a missionary who could help the sick.

“ ”

“From that hour on, dependence upon the Great Physician was such as I had never dreamed possible, for every task was done AGAINST training— the training to pass the responsibility to a qualified medical doctor”



SECTION I: EARLY HISTORY (1910–1950)

Trudy worked to the best of her ability, but quickly realized she needed a trained doctor to assist her at the clinic. About two decades after her arrival, the hospital's first licensed doctor, Dr. Ernest (Ernie) Steury, began work at Tenwek. His time at Tenwek elevated the health of those in the village and changed the trajectory of their lives.

See page 29 for more on Ernie Steury.

Dr. Steury served with Tenwek for 35 years and concluded his time there in August 1994.



India

Anna McGhie first approached the board of World Gospel Mission asking for a Bible school in India, drawing from a vision God had given her for a training center to combat the poverty, superstition, and idolatry that plagued the country. Anna convinced the board to agree, and Rev. James R. Bishop left in 1937 to begin construction on the school.



“”

“We labored with native pastors who had not yet heard whether there be such a thing as a pure heart. How they grabbed at every ray of light and likewise, longed for a place where they could learn about cleansing in the fountain of His blood.”

Upon his arrival to India, Rev. Bishop saw a treeless, stony land where the school would be and stepped forward in obedience that the Lord would provide for a seminary.

Over a few decades, Anna’s vision steadily transitioned to reality. Today, the courtyards are covered with luscious greenery and alive with 80 young men and women enrolled every year.



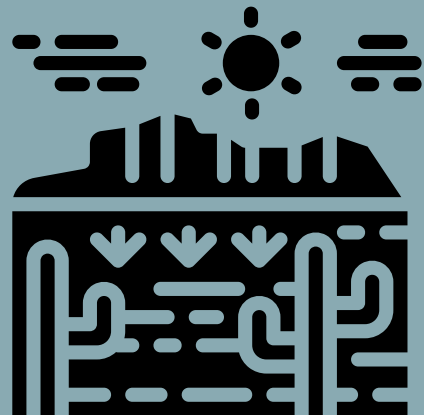
“”

“It looked barren but the eye of faith saw beautiful buildings, trees, and flowers, and a school.”

Texas/Mexico Border

Taylor Christian School in McAllen, Texas, began as a kindergarten for children of immigrant employees when it first opened in 1948. The founders of the school, Rev. and Mrs. Woodford Taylor, witnessed the student body grow tremendously as they accommodated more grade levels. In just a year, the student body tripled and the school expanded its influence.

The school closed in 2022, but the missionaries had built such an effective ministry separate from the school that they remained deeply involved with the community. In 2024, the Taylor Community Center, which exists in the same building that used to house the school, functions as a communal space for sports outreach, artistic classes, and conferences.



Mission Fields Added Between 1910-1950

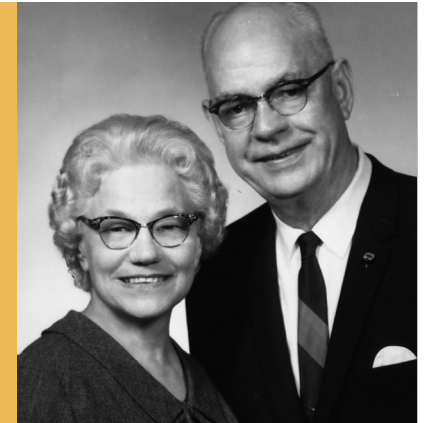


WGM's work expanded beyond China and soon included:

- Kenya
- India
- Burundi
- Texas/Mexico Border
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Guatemala

Section II: Expansion Beyond Borders (1950–1970)

Initiated by President George R. Warner in 1950, the White Harvest Crusade developed from the concept of the crops being ripe for harvest, a symbol for unreached people being ready to receive the Gospel: "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest" John 4:35 (ESV).



WGM's first permanent headquarters was established in 1942. It was a sixteen-room building in Chicago, Illinois, known as the Rev. C.W. Ruth Memorial.

WGM leaders were inspired to continue the growth of the organization after the success of the early years. Leadership implemented the White Harvest Crusade initiative to move the next generation to make a big impact. The initiative included the following goals:



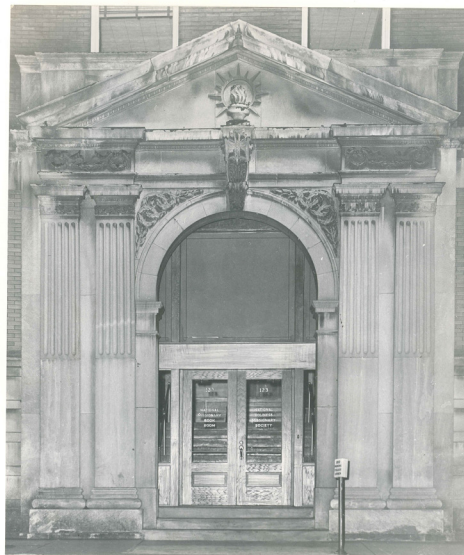
- A more adequate building for the headquarters base
- The appointment of 50 new missionaries
- The mobilization of a greater praying constituency
- The opening of two new fields
- Finances to cover the expanding ministry

SECTION II: EXPANSION BEYOND BORDERS (1950–1970)

The White Harvest Crusade initiative proved to be extremely successful. In 1952, WGM relocated to a larger facility in downtown Marion, Indiana, and added 55 new missionaries and seven new fields before the initiative was complete.

With the increase of missionaries came a need for more people praying to support them. By the end of the initiative, WGM reported 1,102 total Prayer Bands.

As the number of missionaries grew, staff prayed that finances could sustain WGM's expansion. Thankfully, God provided—and exceeded—with a 484% increase in income.



Men With Vision

Dr. Warner began contemplating how to encourage more men to take an active role in the Great Commission and join the mission field with WGM.

Between 1940 to 1960 in Africa, there were more single women serving than married couples with WGM (and there was only one single man reported to serve in Latin America and Kenya during those years).



SECTION II: EXPANSION BEYOND BORDERS (1950–1970)

Rev. Dr. Clayton Luce, who was the first president and a founder of Men With Vision (MWV), traveled for weeks proposing the idea to congregations across the United States. At WGM's annual missions conference in 1957, Dr. Warner and Rev. Luce met with a small group of men to begin a prayer fellowship. Men with Vision has since expanded from men's prayer groups to a nationwide group of men, women, and children who have taken hundreds of mission trips to over 25 countries.

Over the years, MWV helped build numerous WGM facilities, provided missionaries with vehicles while on HMA, and raised funds for fields to purchase new equipment.



MWV's first project was sending X-ray equipment to Dr. Ernie Steury at Tenwek Hospital. In a newsletter, Dr. Steury said, "The real value of the X-ray unit will not be measured just by how many patients are X-rayed, but by the number of souls reached for Christ through the use of this equipment."



Creative Ministries

After the second World War, technological advances made spreading the Gospel easier. WGM joined a growing community of organizations using small-engine airplanes to access remote jungle villages. In 1952, Jonathan Tamplin officially began WGM's aviation ministry called *Wings of Peace*. Jonathan would fly over the jungles of Bolivia many times to share the Gospel with unreached people groups.

The young man's experience in the military and aviation school equipped him to take on a new ministry with WGM. The ministry lasted nearly 50 years before coming to a close a few years after one of the planes was reported missing in 1998.

On September 28, 1998, John and Masako Trosen, with their children Isaiah and Sophia, left on a *Wings of Peace* airplane from Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Newlyweds Johnny and Lucy Mamani and Pastor Juan Carlos Suazo of the World Gospel Church accompanied them on their flight. Their plane disappeared mid-flight. After many search and rescue attempts, the plane and its crew have never been found.



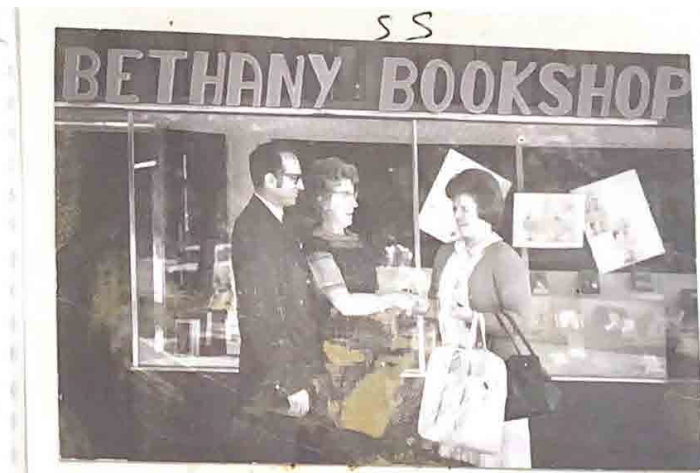
Returning from campaign.



1954



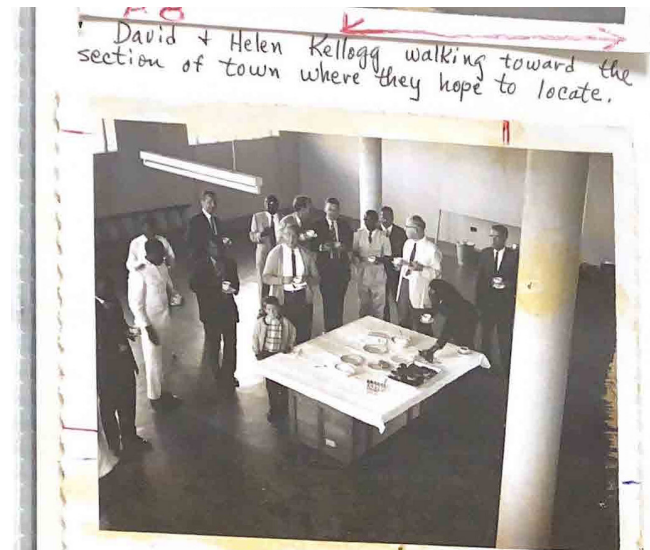
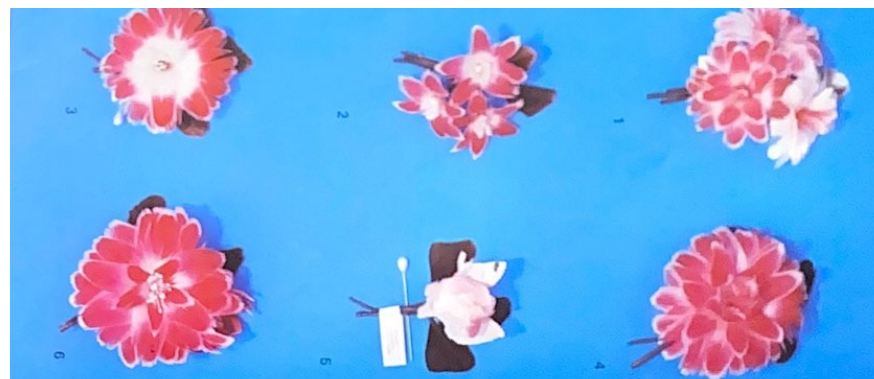
First landing at Guanay.



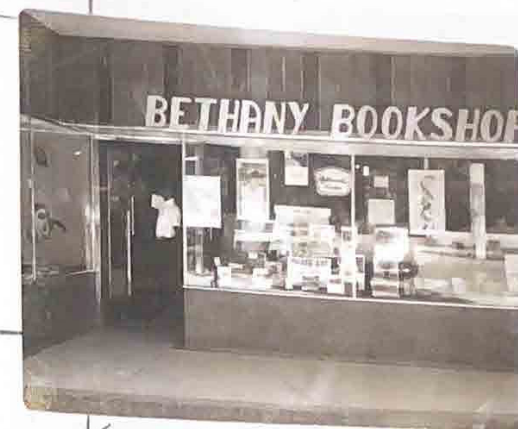
SS
1971 - The Kelloggs welcome Bonnie McCullough to Nakuru.

The Bethany Bookshop in Kenya was another ministry where missionaries could organically connect with the community and make the Gospel readily accessible to them.

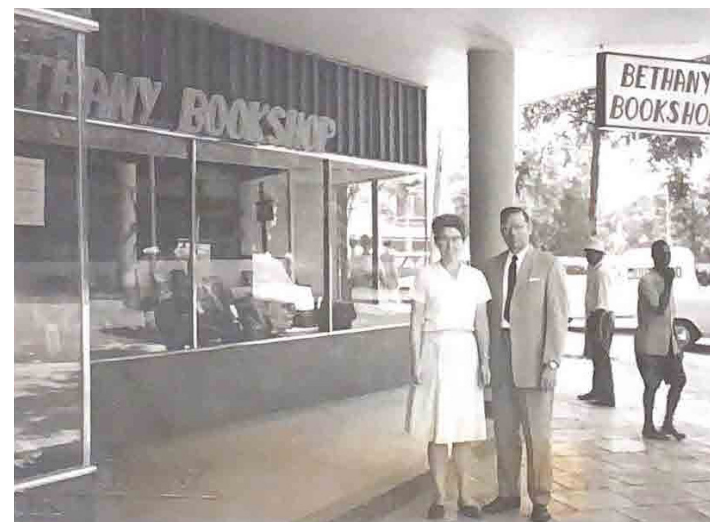
In 1966, David and Helen Kellogg opened Bethany Bookshop. It first operated as a bookstore, but later also offered training in accounting and office practices. Helen organized an affiliated ministry a year later that employed people with disabilities in making floral arrangements from flamingo feathers.



Opened July 4, 1966



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Nakuru



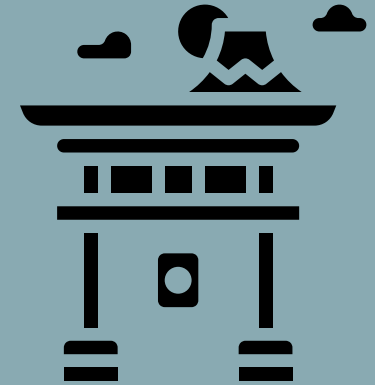


Around the same time, radio became a popular tool for evangelizing. By the conclusion of the White Harvest Crusade initiative, WGM missionaries were involved in radio ministries in Burundi, Brazil, and Haiti.

WGM and the Missionary Church of Brazil jointly sponsored the radio ministry that Dale and Bonnie Sloat began. In 1969, WGM was working with the Sloats to transmit 579 programs every month in four different languages using four transmitters. Several years later, Paul and Pat Shingledecker joined the efforts of the Radio Lumière, the evangelistic radio station in Haiti, and served there for 23 years.



Japan



Japan continued to expand WGM's educational ministry through a Bible college. David and Edna Kuba became the first WGM missionaries to enter Japan in 1952.

David served with Immanuel Bible Training College (IBTC) and Rikkyo University and regularly spoke at church congregations in Japan. He and Edna also established the WGM Student Center (later renamed Kuba Student Center) in 1960 where college students could gather for Bible studies.



David and Edna's grandson, Brandon, began serving in Japan with WGM in 2010. He has preached in many of the same churches that his grandparents did and currently serves alongside his wife in discipleship and English classes, Bible studies, and community outreach.

More missionaries joined the Kubas in Japan in 1964 to serve with IBTC. The global workers wanted to publish more theological materials in the Japanese language for their students, so they created the Wesley Book Club. By 1976, they had surpassed 50 Christian holiness books published in Japanese.



A favorite corner.
1965



Bible
Class
held in
Kuba
home.



1960

Vacation Bible School

WGM intentionally included the whole family unit in its ministries, and the VBS program in India is one example of this endeavor.

The VBS program arose from a need to give students at South India Bible Institute practical experience reaching a younger generation.

Mary and Lester Hamilton felt God's call to pursue the VBS ministry wholeheartedly and started doing it full-time. When they ran the first program in 1952, 75 children attended for the entire summer. WGM then reported a total of 25,000 children in 1960, and just 14 years after VBS had started, they served 50,000 children in one summer.

In 2024, the VBS program in India (now run independently from WGM) reportedly served 1,000,000 children with published written materials and music videos in 13 languages.

Kenya

WGM missionaries witnessed large groups of people coming to Christ in Kenya but quickly discovered a need for biblical training. The idea for Kenya Highlands Bible School (later renamed Kenya Highlands University) arose in 1932 and became a reality four years later.

In 1955, a WGM board member asked Mary and William (Hack) Smith to help build a physical building for the Bible College. They started their second careers as full-time missionaries with WGM and moved to Kenya to assist in the beginning of the Kenya Highlands Bible School.

Hack assisted with the physical startup of Kenya Highlands Bible School, which today, offers 14 undergraduate programs, 3 masters programs, a doctorate program, and a new seminary, launched in May 2025!

Hack and Mary later relocated within Kenya to help construct some of the facilities at Tenwek Hospital.

In 1984, Tenwek had reached a point in its development where it could not support patients with the limited technology available. Dr. Steury and Dr. David Stevens shared a dream for a hydroelectric power plant to be built near the hospital to provide 24-hour electricity.

At the time, patients were passing away because the hospital did not have access to electricity. After a series of miracles and diligent prayers, God provided everything needed for the hydroelectric power plant. In August of 1986, just two years after Tenwek missionaries cast the vision for a power plant, a dam and generator were built.

Dr. Steury transitioned to an administrative role and several years later, secured a large financial grant that helped Tenwek expand and replace a few outdated wards. The Lord brought Dr. Steury to Tenwek to help change the lives of those in Kenya.



In 2024, Tenwek was reported as one of the largest mission hospitals in Africa, with a 400-bed facility, multiple medical training programs, and several surgical, maternal, and pediatric services. To read more about Tenwek in 2024, see page 44.



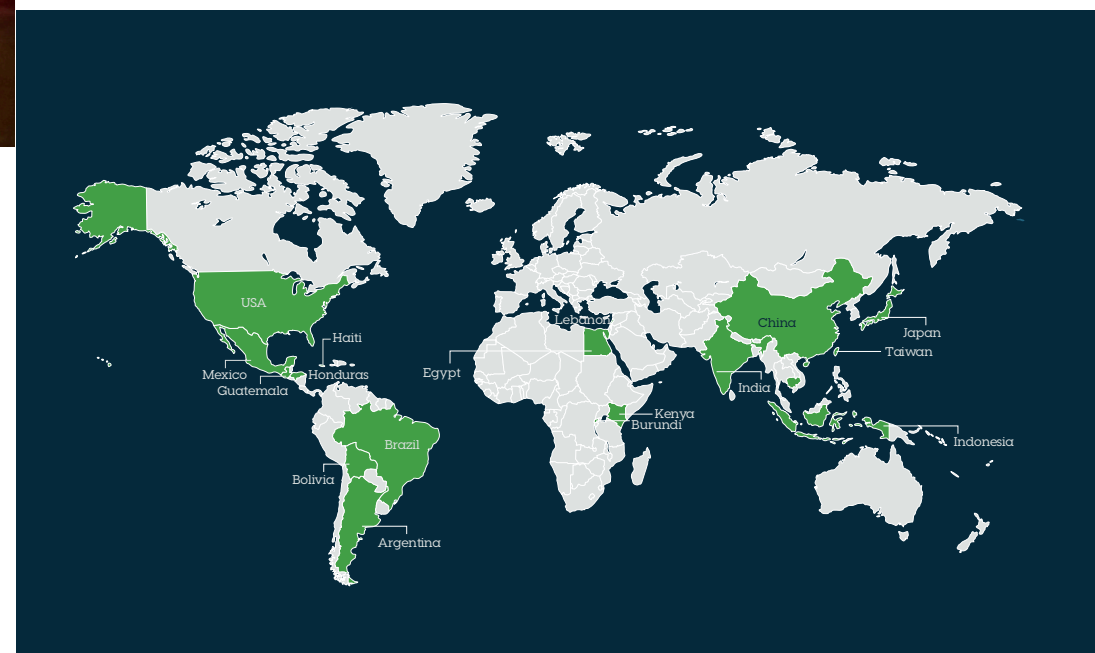
El Sembrador

In 1954, Don and Twana Hawk started a boarding school in Catacamas, Olancho, Honduras for underserved boys. El Sembrador was located on an 800-acre farm, which created the environment for the boys to learn practical farming and cooking skills.

The students learned much more than that, as their education prepared them for a different life. Only two years after the school opened, WGM reported that El Sembrador had equipped over 30 students with an education and practical life skills.

El Sembrador has remained a respected school for 70 years. Over 350 students currently attend the rural school and farm, which has 100 staff members.

Mission Fields Added Between 1951—1970



WGM's work continued to expand to the following locations:

- Bolivia
- Japan
- American Indian Field (now USA: Southwest Ministries)
- Taiwan
- Egypt
- Haiti
- Brazil
- Indonesia
- Argentina
- Lebanon

Section III: R.U.N. Initiative

As the 1960s came to a close, WGM was energized by the milestones the organization had reached so quickly and wanted to keep the momentum going.

In 1975, the mission moved again from the headquarters building in downtown Marion to the current location, the George R. Warner Missionary Center east of town. The following year, the building was dedicated during the June Celebration of Missions conference.

For many years, WGM hosted a conference called "Celebration of Missions" where missionaries, support staff, and their families would gather to share inspiring stories and celebrate the work that had been done.



Mr. M. J. Loew, the brother of a missionary, was impressed with the kindness and assistance given to his missionary sister, Mrs. Mary Gaylord, during the terminal illness of her husband. Mr. Loew offered WGM a three-story building in Marion on 5th and Boots Street. In 1975, when WGM expanded again, Mr. Loew helped the mission acquire the current HQ location of the George R. Warner Center.

SECTION III: R.U.N. INITIATIVE

During a 1980 Celebration of Missions event, WGM president, Dr. Tom Hermiz, announced the next Gospel-sharing initiative called R.U.N. (Reaching the Unreached Now). R.U.N.'s goal was to start ministries in three new countries before the end of the decade.

Prayer Lifeline

WGM's phone-in praise and prayer request line, Prayer Lifeline, started in 1982. The service began to share weekly prayer reports with Prayer Bands and other large groups of people quickly.



To commemorate the 75th anniversary of WGM and to publicize the R.U.N. program, six young people ran, in turns, from University Park, Iowa, where WGM was founded, to Upland, Indiana, a distance of 442 miles.



In 2024, the Prayer Lifeline (which was changed to an online newsletter) was sent out to over 600 people monthly.



U.S.A. Ministries

Southwest Indian School

Southwest Indian School (SIS) was opened in the 1950's by WGM missionaries Rev. and Mrs. Mendelhall. The school reported its peak enrollment at 180 students in 1975, which was more than double their total enrollment in 1960.

The SIS campus closed its doors in 1998, but the missionaries have continued to minister to the Native American community through Bible camps, retreats, and other events. The old school has been converted to C3, a community center.

WGM owns the C3 facility, but the ministries are independent. The ministries taking place on the old SIS serve the community by providing housing, education, and life skill classes. In 2017, 129 campers attended SIS over the summer and 16 of them made a new commitment for Christ.

Stockton Ministries

Peniel Mission, comprised of a string of rescue missions in cities along the West Coast (which later became part of WGM), opened its new headquarters in Stockton, California in 1949.

In 1957, Peniel combined its board of directors with WGM's, resulting in an administrative council composed of Peniel workers that had direct supervision over Peniel activities.



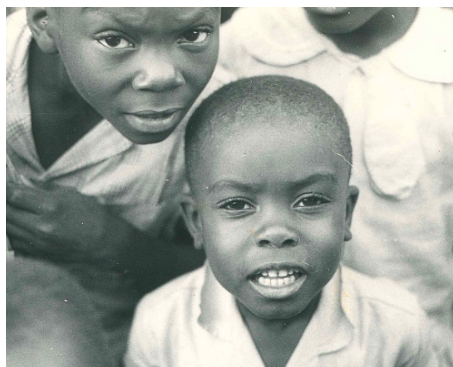
Idaruth and Annetta Garvic, and Mr. and Mrs. Stohl led the ministry in Stockton during its merge with WGM's leadership. They provided resources and activities to the community to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the families in the area.

Almost 50 years later, the ministry in Stockton has remained an outreach center. WGM missionaries provide programming at an after-school center for inner-city children vulnerable to addictions and the gang lifestyle.

North & South America

In 1972, WGM expanded the work to Haiti and began working with The Missionary Church in central Haiti.

Only two years earlier, the Honduran Holiness Church had expanded to the point that there were over 100 congregations and organized churches in the country.



Haitian orphans and their "mamas"

Theological Education by Extension

In 1990, WGM reported that 352 church leaders graduated with TEE, and all of the lessons were executed by volunteer African teachers in Kipsigis.

Lillie Mae Ammerman helped first launch WGM's TEE or "Theological Education Extension" program in 1972, which gave those who could not travel to a school the training that they needed to be pastors. Shortly after Lillie Mae arrived in Kenya, Loren and Lois Clark joined her efforts and took on leadership positions for the TEE program.

Charles and Chasalea Cramer were instrumental in expanding the TEE program as they served in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. They would often travel for days at a time on horseback to share TEE training with people living in remote areas.

This program has grown well beyond Kenya and Honduras to other regions. WGM now has TEE programs in Uganda, Mexico, Bolivia, and the U.S.

Bolivian Evangelical University



Missionary Meredythe Scheflen dreamt of an evangelical school in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, long before it became a reality. After months of praying, the Bolivian Evangelical University was accredited in 1980. It became the first private university in Bolivia and the first evangelical university in Spanish-speaking South America.

In 2024, their medical students helped serve about 6,000 patients per month out of their clinic. The university has approximately 2,000 students each year studying in one of their 18 fields of study.

Mission Fields Added Between 1971–1990



Yet again, WGM added more ministry locations:

- Nicaragua
- Bangladesh
- Los Angeles
- Haitians in Florida
- Spain
- Paraguay
- Tanzania

Section IV: D.A.W.N. Initiative & Present-Day WGM

Disciples to a World in Need (D.A.W.N), a 10-year initiative ending in 2001, aimed to add six new fields to WGM. WGM leaders aspired to grow its smaller ministries, increase the total number of missionaries to 350, and remain committed to the task of proclaiming the message of scriptural holiness to the ends of the earth. With the inception of D.A.W.N., WGM immediately got to work adding more fields.

Kenya Highlands Bible School missionaries Bill and Betsy Tarr graciously accepted their call to launch a new field in Hungary in 1992. Within a couple of years, they began teaching English classes there.

SECTION IV: D.A.W.N. INITIATIVE AND PRESENT-DAY WGM

Larry and Joy McPherson helped establish Uganda as an official WGM field in 1992. They served as leaders in Uganda, focusing their ministry on church planting and discipleship.

In addition to planting new fields, WGM was also creating and growing new ministry initiatives within existing fields. One of these projects was Kenya's "Least of These." This program, which was established in 2000, offered medical, nutritional, and educational support to children living in orphanages around Nairobi.





At Tenwek, construction began in July 2021 for the largest Cardiothoracic Center in sub-Saharan Africa. Russ White, WGM missionary and thoracic surgeon, raised a significant amount of funding for the building, and after years of prayer, the building was dedicated in October 2024.

Four months after its opening, cardiac surgeons began taking cases in the new building, opening up availability for other surgical departments to see more patients in other buildings at Tenwek. The new building includes a training hub for upcoming medical professionals and has created the opportunity for 300 new staff positions.

Marion, IN Headquarters

While WGM's ministries around the world expanded, its headquarters did the same. In 1996, an official website was published, which underwent a complete refresh in 2020.

In 2009, the *Call to Prayer* magazine became *The Call* and was changed from a monthly publication to a quarterly one. In 2023, the publication schedule was changed again to yearly, and sent out to active donors and ministry partners. Only a few years after WGM established a website, the *Call to Prayer* became available digitally.

Shifting Work

In 2000, WGM had just over five missionaries in creative access locations. Over 20 years later, WGM reported over 100 missionaries serving in the Greater Middle East.

WGM boldly embraced the call to share the transforming power of holiness across the Middle East which focused on continuing current partnerships, developing new opportunities, and looking for creative ways to send more missionaries.



College Ministries

WGM started its first college ministry in Japan as early as 1960. In 2025, the mission reported active college ministries at three universities in the United States: Asbury University, Ohio Christian University, and Taylor University.

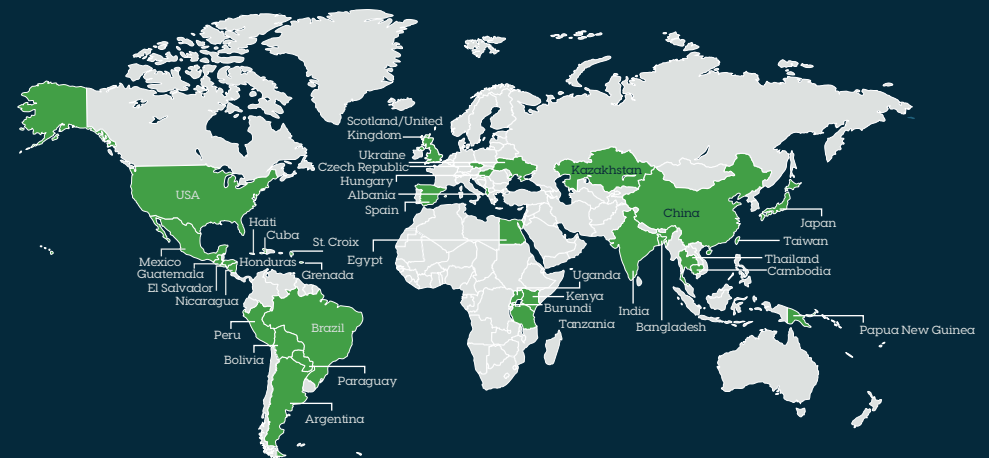
This ministry has impacted thousands of students who have answered God's call on their lives for missions work. Each year, the student centers from Asbury, Taylor and Ohio Christian universities are sending teams of college students to serve at WGM ministry locations.

As college students became more engaged, full-time missions work started to look much different than it had a century earlier. In 2024, WGM reported that a total of 44 global workers were internationally mobilized and that nearly half of those appointed in 2024 were under 30.

Internationally mobilized missionaries are any missionaries that are not from the United States but have moved away from their hometown to serve somewhere else.

CHAPTER IV: D.A.W.N. INITIATIVE AND PRESENT-DAY WGM

Mission Fields Added Between 1991–2025



During this time period, WGM continued to expand to include these ministry locations:

- Hungary
- Uganda
- St. Croix
- Cuba
- Papua New Guinea
- Ukraine
- Kazakhstan
- El Salvador
- Hispanic Ministries (USA)
- Peru
- Grenada
- Albania
- Cambodia
- Czech Republic
- Thailand
- Scotland/United Kingdom

CHAPTER IV: D.A.W.N. INITIATIVE AND PRESENT-DAY WGM

WGM has changed in many ways since 1910, but its commitment to prayer, scriptural holiness, and the expansion of the Gospel has stayed the same. Current missionaries stand on the shoulders of pioneers who took bold steps of faith.

God has done incredible things in and through the lives of the men and women in WGM's history, but this is just the beginning. WGM is prayerfully expecting God to continue moving through its global workers to transform the world.

What is God calling YOU to?



Go: The missionaries who have boldly gone to serve people across the world were leading lives just like you are now. They were called by the same God who lives in you. Where is God calling you to share the Gospel with the same courage as the missionary giants who have come before you?

Give: You can make a Gospel-sharing gift at www.wgm.org/give. For the last 115 years, missionaries have been sent by faithful donors. You can make a gift today to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth by sending more missionaries, providing them with training, and supporting them emotionally and spiritually.

Pray: Praise God for the work He's done in and through WGM. Praise Him for the lives turned toward Him and for the missionaries who faithfully obeyed, often without knowledge of their future. As we step into the future together, pray that God will expand the work He's already done through WGM and that our organization will represent Christ in everything we do.

