



2020

WORD MADE FLESH INTERNATIONAL

2020

IMPACT REPORT

A photograph of three children sitting at a dark wooden table. They are all wearing light blue face masks. On the table are several water bottles and a large blue mesh cup filled with many colorful pencils. The background shows a bookshelf and a potted plant.

finding grace amidst hardship

2020 proved to be the hardest year yet for so many around the world, and Word Made Flesh communities were no exception to this. Even in the midst of such great trial, we saw the Lord's goodness expressed through and through. We couldn't have continued our work without the generosity of people like you!

Photo from WMF Romania

Make a difference at wordmadeflesh.org/donate

A photograph of a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a red sweater, looking down at something in his hands. Two young girls are looking at the same thing with him. They are all smiling and appear to be in a warm, indoor setting.

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Photo from WMF Moldova



“Building relationships is a very important part of my role with Word Made Flesh Rwanda. I think that’s something unique about our community. There are many large organizations in this country, doing large-scale work. But there aren’t many small-scale organizations. WMF Rwanda is very deep in a very poor community, trying to do deep, good work.

It took a lot of time to build trust within the community, however. We had to push through a lot of doubt and some animosity from other people. But we kept showing up. We kept being present. There were a couple of years of very, very, very slow ministry. That was hard. Over the last year and a half, we’ve started to find our stride. But there were about three years of work that were very slow and very tedious. We were trying to get people to understand who we are and what we’re offering them.

During those difficult seasons, I had to embrace God’s timing and trust that He was working, even in the slowness. He was building something. He was going before us.

I had to remember the big yes that I had felt when I moved to Rwanda. In times when it felt like we weren’t accomplishing anything, I had to say yes, I was called here, that was real, and I’m not called to leave yet.

The places that God has brought us now, I couldn’t have imagined a few years ago. I wouldn’t have been ready for those places. In hindsight, I can see some of the purposes and fruit of the slow work.

We remain committed to serving our friends in Rwanda, at whatever pace the Lord takes us.”

Shelbye Renfro
Field Director, WMF Rwanda



Dear Friends,

Greetings on behalf of Word Made Flesh International!
Welcome to our 2020 Annual Report!
Thank you for supporting WMF’s work around the world!

2020 was a year of intense upheaval and travesty. Decimating the health of multitudes, COVID scourged the planet. As well, COVID-related social responses created factors that intensely exacerbated the immense burdens of insecurity and the lack in communities that were already struggling for their very lives to overcome debilitating harms of grinding marginalization and impoverishment. WMF staff walk alongside and work in such communities. They have witnessed the devastating consequences in these contexts.

Yet, in the midst of 2020’s hardships, much good also occurred.
Through God-inspired generosity of many people, Word Made Flesh International received bountiful blessings allowing for the strengthening and flourishing of ministry!

Word Made Flesh International in 2020:

- Grew in overall financial capacity
- Garnered GuideStar’s Seal of Transparency highest Platinum Status rating
- Gained GreatNonprofits top-rated seal

Word Made Flesh International pivoted in 2020 to navigate the new rhythms due to COVID, but therein also encountered innovative possibilities.:

- Alongside ongoing discipleship, advocacy, and community development work, WMF communities increased relief activities to meet dire needs in their areas. WMF International partners compassionately increased donations to cover the added fiscal requirements of these life-giving services.
- WMF International held its first fully online Annual Gala (an encouraging and successful endeavor)!

Clint Baldwin is the International Executive Director of WMF. After a quarter-century learning, teaching, and administrating in higher education with interdisciplinary focus on international and intercultural justice and peace, Clint brings a deep desire for transformative reconciliation, empowerment, and mutuality to be at work in all places and people as he guides Word Made Flesh International forward.

from the International Executive Director

Friends, overall, we have stayed the course.

As COVID rapidly spread in 2020, country after country began grounding flights, shutting down airports, and closing embassies. Much was unknown and uncertain. The WMF International Office team met, and the decision was prayerfully made to give space for staff in each of our communities around the world to decide whether they would return to their country of origin or whether they would choose to remain in their community of vocational calling. This choice was immensely significant in that no one knew when airports would next open, when embassies would again function, when distant family members might again be embraced. We were moving quickly as we relayed this information to the staff, that they had the option to choose what they wanted to do during these times. I had not had time to deeply consider how staff would decide. Therefore, I was profoundly moved when from community after community the replies came back, **“We choose to stay.”**

We choose to stay. Because of the witness of Jesus Christ -- the Word Made Flesh who came and dwelt among us -- “We choose to stay” is at the core of all we do.

Founded in 1991, and now 30 years later, in all of our work, in a variety of ways, over and over, because of Jesus and the ongoing witness of the Holy Spirit, Word Made Flesh International is about, **“We choose to stay.”**

Friends, thank you for partnering to make WMF’s ongoing work of substantive compassion sustainably possible.

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

Clint Baldwin



Bolivia

Abundant life for those affected by sexual exploitation in Bolivia



216 families received crisis support and **75%** of program participants experienced a decrease in overall vulnerability.



2,854 women were visited and encouraged on the streets, and also each received a small gift packet.



119 Children's Program participants received support and protection in emergency or high-risk situations, a **239%** increase due to pandemic realities.



334 women received skills and job training.



25 women began their own businesses and are now free from sexual exploitation.

Photo from WMF Bolivia



“And thus, a dream was born - vocational training and full-time, empowering employment - for that friend and so many women like her.”

“When are you going to give me a job?” one friend lamented, feeling trapped by the lack of opportunities outside commercial sexual exploitation. And thus, a dream was born - vocational training and full-time, empowering employment - for that friend and so many women like her.

In 2010, SutiSana began as a project of Word Made Flesh Bolivia. Over the years, we've worked to nurture this mustard seed-sized adventure. We're proud to announce that in 2020 SutiSana launched to independence, no longer a program of WMFB, but operating as a distinct and separate entity.

Though now officially two separate organizations, our focus remains the same, with more room to grow in our unique spheres. Word Made Flesh Bolivia will continue to provide holistic and therapeutic support to prostituted women and their families; SutiSana will continue to employ survivors of sexual exploitation. Together both institutions will continue to partner for a more just world for all.



Photos from WMF Bolivia

OUR lifestyle celebrations



INTIMACY
We celebrate intimacy with Jesus to be our highest calling and our created purpose.



COMMUNITY
We celebrate community as a means for discipleship and service.



OBEDIENCE
We celebrate obedience as our loving response to the grace of Jesus.



SERVICE
We celebrate service as an expression of our fellowship.



HUMILITY
We celebrate humility before God and humanity.



SIMPLICITY
We celebrate simplicity as a privilege in identification with Jesus and the poor.



SUBMISSION
We celebrate submission to Jesus, each other, and the poor.



BROKENNESS
We celebrate brokenness as our responsibility in ministry among the broken.



SUFFERING
We celebrate suffering as a willing sacrifice in serving Jesus.

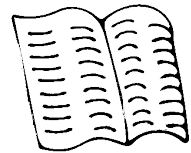


here we are!

Word Made Flesh International
is called and committed to serving Jesus among the most vulnerable of the world's poor. This calling is realized as a prophetic ministry for, and an incarnational, holistic mission among the poor. We focus our energy to make Jesus known among the poor while reconciling the church with the poor.

Called by God to offer a prophetic witness to the city of Rio de Janeiro, especially serving those who struggle with and suffer from drugs, poverty, broken families and violence.

Brazil



Hosted lunches and Bible studies for the women in the Esther Project each week.

Bi-weekly outreach to the community to invite them to the WMF Brazil center.



Quarterly meetings with the women of the Esther project to celebrate life events and assess needs.

Virtual **weekly one-on-one prayer meetings** with at-risk women.



Photo from WMF Brazil



“For me, this is the proof of how He loves each one of us.”

The Lord’s faithfulness and steadfast grace is evident within our service among the most vulnerable in Brazil. This work of Word Made Flesh Brazil is not always easy: we face trials, hardships, and stumbling blocks; yet, the Lord reveals his presence.

This is depicted in the beautiful life of *Annie. Growing up on the streets of Rio, Annie fell victim to unspeakable trials. At a young age, she gave birth to three children and struggled to provide for them. Thankfully, she has been able to find a home and a job. It is in these provisions that we see God’s faithfulness. For us, this is the proof of how he loves each one of us.



An “” before a name indicates that a name has been changed to protect an individual’s identity.*



Photos from WMF Brazil

Last fall, Bolivia experienced significant political instability throughout the country and in areas where our WMF staff reside.

Some community members evacuated, as we experienced weeks of national protests, blockades, and riots regarding socialist president Evo Morales and his continuance of power for an unconstitutional 4th term. Chaos and division grew as protests became increasingly polarized and violent. Shortages of food, water and gasoline most deeply affected the poor: single mothers couldn’t work to provide for their children, children couldn’t study and food prices rose. In the end, Bolivia registered around 35 deaths and over 800 wounded.

The following is a reflection on moments I recorded in the midst of some of our tensest days:

I burned a whole sheet of chocolate chip cookies in a futile attempt towards normalcy.

Soon after President Evo Morales and many others of his cabinet resigned after weeks of national pressure, a short-lived celebration quickly dispersed as angry mobs violently ransacked cities, destroying government property, businesses, and homes. Suddenly all around us, panic ensued.

“They’re looting and destroying everything!!!!”

“Turn off all the lights so they can’t find us!”

“Can we come and stay with you at your house?”

From our home, we have a panoramic view of the capital city of La Paz and her sister-city El Alto, a combined population of over 2 million people. I stood paralyzed at the edge of our overlook and watched the outbreak from afar. I could hear dynamite boom and pops of firecrackers on all sides. I saw huge smoke stacks rising in the distance from ongoing fighting and vandalism. And the nervous words of loved ones bombarded my thoughts:

— “We can’t get home and so we’re just gonna have to walk down through the valley. We’ll probably be home by dark.” – My Husband Andy, escorting two single female missionaries out of the city.

— “Mama, I dreamt people surrounded our house with gasoline.” – My 10-year-old son.

— “We have boiling water ready if anyone gets too close.” – Friends and neighbors preparing to face oncoming attackers.

— “They’re yelling, ‘Civil war! Now we want civil war!’” – Frightened WMFB co-workers.

The next days were a blur, hosting friends, neighbors and staff members, coordinating ministry logistics, and trying to show solidarity with townspeople nearby.

“Today I’m so tired. We stayed up all night keeping watch. I can’t even remember what day it is.” – WMF staff member.

“I had a panic attack. We need to get out of here.” – Fellow missionary.

“Humility When Tensions Are High.”

An article from the Spring 2020
edition of *The Cry*.
Subscribe today at
wordmade Flesh.org/the-cry



“Do we have school today? Do we have more homework? What can we do now??” – Bored children after weeks of cancelled classes.

Beyond the day-to-day survival lingered a heavy awareness of the issues at hand: deep resentments and fear, pain and frustration on all sides. One friend wrote, “The wounds of hate and racism are not yet healed.” We desired to be a voice of peace, hope and unity, but felt completely paralyzed to do so.

“I’m just so sad.” “Who will fight for us now?” “We can’t trust them. We’re fighting for our dignity!” – Indigenous friends lamented.

I finally broke from the stress of it all. Sobbing at times, other times intermittent tears arising without warning. Exhaustion enveloping it all.

Temporary resolution has since come with an interim government, while we await the upcoming Presidential elections (now postponed due to the pandemic) that could once again prove conflictive.

With a long history of exploitation, these recent uprisings proved that century old wounds have not yet healed. Racism and corruption have held this country captive for generations: Indian v.s. White; Left v.s. Right; Socialist v.s. Capitalist. Diverse, but not unified.

As privileged Americans seeking service and solidarity on behalf of the poor, our family has felt torn between these realities. We have 4 beautiful blond-haired, blue-eyed children with big, brown, Bolivian hearts.

In the midst of the tension, we too hold to the Call of the Church:

To be a unique voice of peace, truth and love, in the midst of hatred, confusion and fear.

To be the Body of Christ that seeks unity, understanding, forgiveness and reconciliation.

To offer hope for the desperate and peace among the restless.

To respond with compassion and righteousness.

To oppose all injustice, fight oppression, and seek justice for all, particularly the least of these.

In these times of division and crisis, we remember Jesus on the cross, who embodies forgiveness that heals and frees the soul, closes the wounds, and fully reconciles.

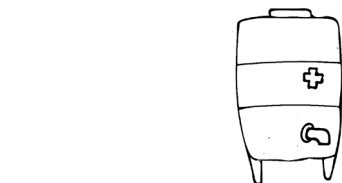


In 1994, Andrea traveled to Bolivia on her first overseas mission trip. There she discovered a passion for missions. Following this, she and her husband, Andy, traveled on various short-term trips to China and throughout Latin America. In 2001, they moved to El Alto, Bolivia with Word Made Flesh to begin their service among the poor, focusing on women in prostitution. Andrea is the Field Director of WMF-Bolivia where she lives with her husband and four sons.

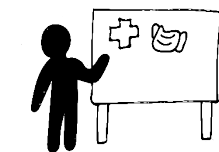


To contribute to the healing of psychological trauma by offering psychosocial services and capacity-building, empowering the community to become psychosocially, spiritually, culturally, and economically resilient.

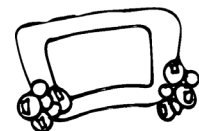
Burundi



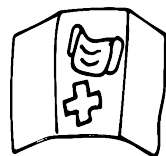
40 handwashing stations were set up at WMF Burundi partner schools.



40 community mobilizers were sent to schools and communities to teach about necessary health and safety protocols.

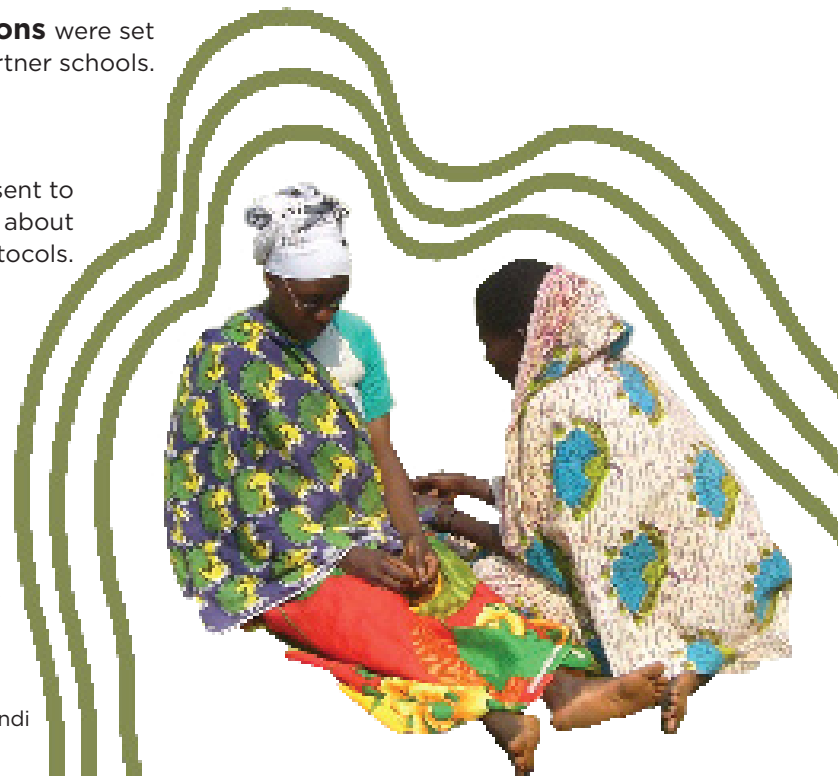


400 bars of soap were distributed to partner schools and surrounding communities.



400 educational pamphlets were distributed to schools and communities to combat the spread of false information on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo from WMF Burundi



“The seeds of tomorrow’s peace grow in the soil of today’s healing and reconciliation.”



Photos from WMF Burundi

Registered locally as Trauma Healing And Reconciliation Services (THARS), WMF Burundi is comprised of psychosocial practitioners and peacemakers who contribute to healing and peacemaking in Burundi and the Great Lakes Region of Africa. We use a holistic approach to bring people from all walks of life to psychosocial healing and resolution of differences. This new path to peace is based on the understanding that the seeds of tomorrow’s wars grow in the soil of today’s unhealed traumas. The seeds of tomorrow’s peace grow in the soil of today’s healing and reconciliation.

The grace of God is abundant in the country of Burundi, as the family of *Lydia, a mother of 4, shows. She is happy to say that her children enjoy attending school now, when in the past they would skip school to beg on the streets. These changes in their lives are proof of God’s hand at work in Burundi.

India

Word Made Flesh Chennai's calling is to see Jesus among the poorest of the poor in the community, especially children affected by HIV/AIDS.

More vocational in-house training using innovative available resources, such as language, sewing, & baking classes introduced for trainees during lockdown.

Online participation in webinars, quizzes, and competitions **for students and trainees** which improved their confidence and provided a great way of expression and involvement in lockdown.

More time spent with each candidate and student one-on-one to explore their strengths, weakness and to deal with the challenges.

More commitment to prayer and intercession for people, country and countries by all students and candidates than ever before with a commitment to stand in the gap for others.

More than **10 families** received aid (approximately **50 to 60 individuals**) after being impacted during the COVID 19 crisis.



Photo from WMF Chennai

"The Good Lord is the Father to the fatherless."

COVID-19 has negatively impacted all WMF communities, but the Lord's grace abounds in the midst of the pandemic. The story of *Sovika, a girl who joined the WMF Chennai family after losing her parents to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, shows the Lord's provision for the most vulnerable among us.

Sovika was orphaned at 4 years old, but the Good Lord is the Father to the fatherless. The Lord kept Sovika safe and provided for her every need through precious partners like you. She has recently completed her diploma in Engineering with distinction, and the Lord wonderfully opened ways for her to start her bachelor's in engineering with an emphasis on Electronics & Communication Engineering as a Lateral Entry student in a good city college. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for his goodness and love towards orphaned and abandoned children and in raising them up to achieve and participate in the society on par with others. We praise the Lord for his goodness and faithfulness to his very precious child.

Photos from WMF Chennai



25 years of The Cry!

In 2020, WMF celebrated the 25th anniversary of our advocacy journal, *The Cry*. We thought we'd celebrate *The Cry*'s birthday by taking a look back at the design since its conception.

THE CRY through the years

1991-1995



In 1991, Word Made Flesh is started by undergraduate students at Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. *The Cry* began circulating as a newsletter of WMF in 1994. By 1995, *The Cry* was circulated as an "advocacy publication" of WMF to thousands of people.

1997-1998

The Cry moves away from being just an organizational newsletter. It was still early in the life of WMF, and thus neither a logo nor significant identity for *The Cry* had been established yet.



1999



WMF introduces a new organizational logo and a new masthead/logo for *The Cry*. The rotational focus of the magazine's content and style celebrations were published in this Winter 1999 issue. This redesign and identity for *The Cry* would remain largely unchanged for the next 10 years.

The Cry title



2008

The Cry's editorial staff perform a light update and design simplification to the masthead.

2009

This timeline from the Spring 2009 issue introduces for the first time the current organizational "bird" logo and a complete reimagining of *The Cry*. Design elements from this 2009 volume continue to influence the most recent volumes of *The Cry*.

2014

The Spring 2014 issue would be the last printed before a brief hiatus for *The Cry*. The pause came as a result of organizational transitions, including the eventual return of the International Office to Wilmore, Ky in 2015.



our journey



2017-2019

The Cry returns to print with a slight redesign in the Spring of 2017, and for the first time, it is printed in full color. A year later, *The Cry* would introduce "International" to the WMF logo, followed by updates to fonts and a greater reliance on minimalist design.



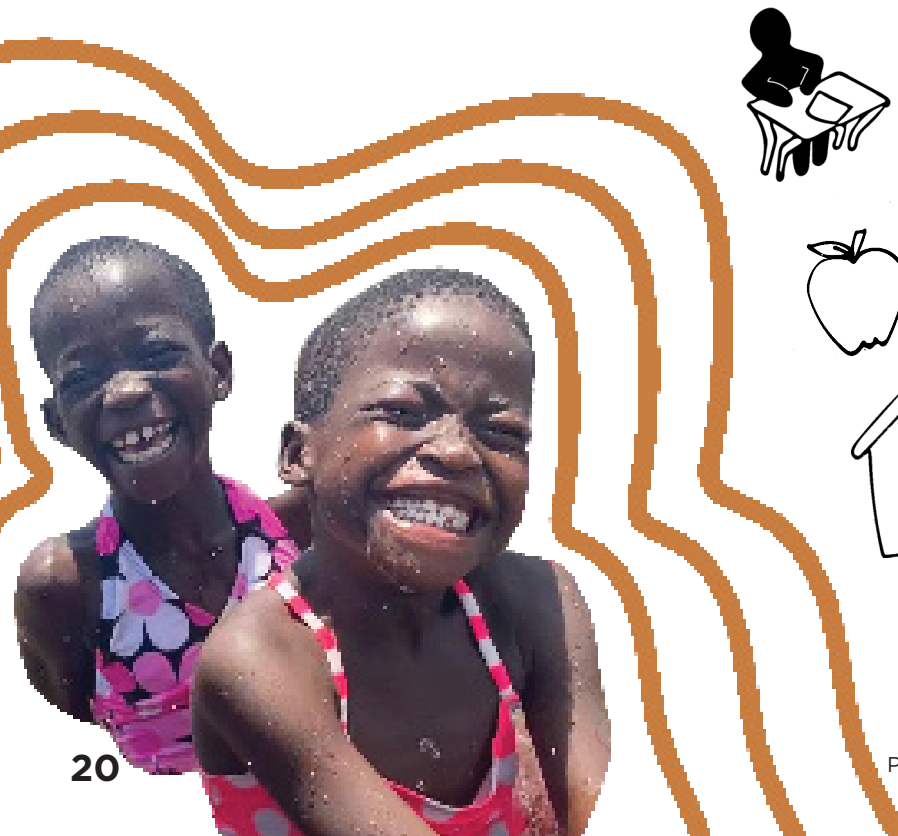
2020

In the midst of the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic, all 4 issues of *The Cry* are printed in 2020, celebrating 25 volumes of storytelling and looking forward to the 30th anniversary of WMF in 2021.



Seeking to empower community transformation through holistic service; focusing on education, economic development and comprehensive health care programs.

Malawi



20



28 “Standard 8” students passed their exams.



Fed over **800 children and staff members** two meals per day.



Opening of a Public Health sector at our hospital focusing on nutrition and HIV aid.



Reintegrated 2 children back into the homes of family members.

Photo from WMF Malawi

“In our first year of ministry, we have run up against many problems. We have not been surprised by this. But often when we are brainstorming ideas with our ministry partners on how to fix these problems, the answers are always rooted in the need for more money, more supplies, more equipment, more staff, or more programs. In some cases, I really do think this is the answer...

COVID-19 has had a way of simultaneously simplifying and complicating. How can simplicity and complexity exist simultaneously? Though I can’t begin to cover the numerous ways COVID-19 has complicated things, those that specifically come to mind are those who lost their loved ones as well as the healthcare workers around the world who have served on the frontlines. For these people, this season has been anything but simple.

So, in our pursuit of simplicity, while living in a complex world with complex situations, my hope and prayer is that we would continue to lean into this tension and find more of our mission and ultimately more of Christ in the process.”

An excerpt from “A Complex Simplicity” (As featured in *The Cry*) | By Karly Gilbert



“My hope and prayer is that we would continue to lean into this tension and find more of our mission and ultimately more of Christ in the process.”



Photos from WMF Malawi

21

We know and believe that God is at the center of everything we do. We know that God initiates any healing that takes place. But we also know that God has asked us to participate in this work of healing and wants us to do our jobs well. We adhere to the highest professional standards, strive to be ethical in our practices, and seek to keep growing and learning.

We want to use evidence-based best practices for working with people in our community. That's not always easy! We live and work in a specific context. It can be difficult to find culturally specific research materials. And prostitution is a complex issue. There are many factors at work, and different perspectives. So we've had to become the experts. Our team has worked together to create a structure for a restoration program. Now we've been able to see the impact the program is having and begin to measure some results.

We have learned what it takes to accompany a woman in the long-term process of leaving commercial sexual exploitation. Recently we've been focusing on doing more staff training, working to learn more about how to do our jobs well. We love the women and children in our community, and look forward to learning how to serve them better!



Kara Chambers,
Former Women's Program
Coordinator, WMF Bolivia

Photo from WMF Bolivia



2020 accomplishments

- Partnered with a university of record to put together a study abroad program in Rwanda/Burundi
- Exceeded our fundraising goal for the year
- Received the 2020 GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency
- Received the 2020 Great NonProfits Top-Rated Seal
- Received a "Give with Confidence" rating from Charity Navigator
- Hosted our First Completely Virtual Bluegrass Gala
- Re-launched the WMF Beggars Society



CHARITY
NAVIGATOR
★★★★★
Four Star Charity



2021 goals

- Send 5 short-term interns to serve abroad and have 10 serve in the International Office
- Have 3 staff certified in Resilient Service with Seattle School of Theology and Psychology
- Integrate 2 new Board of Directors members and 2 new Advisory Council members
- Host our first Hybrid Gala (in-person and online)
- Increase staff members receiving mental health coaching or spiritual direction to 80%
- Commission External Best Practices, Trauma-Informed Organizational Review

Help us achieve our goals at
wordmadeflesh.org/donate

Seeking to love and serve Jesus in community among the most vulnerable of the poor: children at-risk and their families.

Moldova



40 families including over **150 individuals** impacted by La VIA programs/services.



6 new partnerships with local schools, non-profits, and businesses.



31 children of which 7 were new children **enrolled in La VIA** afterschool program.

Photo from WMF Moldova

"My first interaction with WMF was during outreach with YWAM in Africa, Sierra Leone. I was deeply touched and amazed by the people who work there, by their commitment and love for the community. There I learned that WMF is also present in Moldova. Being back home I visited La VIA. It was so great to see that the same spirit is present in different parts of the world, the Spirit of God and His love for His children that is manifested through the people involved in this mission. La VIA is making a great impact in our society and community life."

-Corina, WMF Moldova volunteer



Photos from WMF Moldova

Hampers of Hope was a fundraising campaign organized by friends Tim and Ellie Button from the UK in the weeks leading up to Christmas 2020. They exceeded their fundraising goal of 2,000 GBP and through radio broadcast and social media they sensitized the public to the needs of the vulnerable in Moldova. The goal was to provide forty families with a generous basket of food for the Christmas and New Year holiday. Over the course of three days, the baskets were filled and distributed, an act of kindness through which each family experienced the abundance of Christ's love. A highlight of this event was that ten of LA VIA beneficiary families invited a neighbor or friend to come along and receive the gift basket as well. One mother was heard to say as she made her way home, with tears in her eyes, "I never believed that anyone would offer me help."

"An act of kindness through which each family experienced the abundance of Christ's love."

response to the COVID-19 pandemic

In Brazil

- Transitioned to doing virtual Bible studies over Whatsapp.
- Distributed PPE and hygienic supplies to the community.
- Visited the homes of women in the Esther Project every two weeks.

Photo from WMF Brazil



In Romania

- Adapted our program at the Center to be able to continue to have activities with the kids everyday.
- During the summer we had all the activities in our courtyard (and built a gazebo).
- Gave 205 packages of food and hygiene products.
- Offered 12 new tablets for the kids to attend online school.

Photo from WMF Romania



In Malawi

- Provided radios to 30 students for audio learning during lockdown.
- Cared for 50 full-time orphans on lockdown to make sure they were safe. Tried to provide new activities and games when possible.

Photo from WMF Malawi

In Burundi

- Installed handwashing stations.
- Did soap distribution.
- Passed out educational material on how the virus spreads to combat misinformation.
- Held a workshop on health and safety.

Photo from WMF Burundi



In Moldova

- 1 family was received in a Safe Home for victims of domestic abuse.
- We distributed over 2 tons of dried goods and 1 ton vegetables.
- 2 women completed vocational training.
- More than 4 families received financial help.

Photo from WMF Moldova



In Bolivia

- SutiSana employees transitioned to working from home.
- 1,000 biohazard suits and 700 facemasks were gifted to the local police department, produced by SutiSana and sponsored by Samaritan's Purse.

Photo from WMF Bolivia

Navajo Nation

Called and committed to serve Jesus among the most vulnerable of the Navajo (Diné) people.



Provided **55-gallon barrels** for drinking water to 365 families and delivered over **250k gallons of potable water** to households without running water

Provided **2,000 medical grade masks** for distribution by local churches and partnered with churches throughout the country to send **hand made face coverings** to Navajo communities



Photo from WMF Navajo Nation

Our work with the Navajo Nation exists to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ by engaging in works of mercy and justice alongside people experiencing poverty and marginalization.



Photos from WMF Navajo Nation



Bodaway Ministries is called and committed to serve Jesus among the most vulnerable of the Navajo (Diné) people.

13 years ago, beginning in 2008, Ken Dean (WMF Director of Finance and External Accounts) began building relationships with a church in Bodaway, Arizona and has since been going to organize vacation Bible schools during the summer, revival meetings, Christmas programs, and other supportive events throughout the year.

In partnership with the local community, we seek to share the Gospel of Christ among the Diné people in the Bodaway region of Arizona by meeting physical and spiritual needs.

Bodaway Ministries works with Navajo (Diné) organizations and individuals to support them in ministry endeavors. Through these relationships Bodaway Ministries attempts to meet the physical needs caused by extreme poverty and unemployment and address spiritual needs caused by a lack of relationship with Christ.

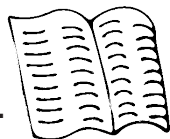
Called to respond in obedience to the incarnational gospel of Jesus Christ – to enter into holistic relationship with communities and participate in His work of reconciliation and discipleship.

Papua New Guinea



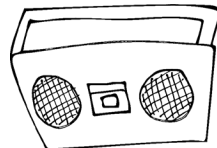
Trained 8+ men in carpentry skills.

Distributed **300 Bibles** to **6 different communities**, and hosted Sunday fellowship and weekly Bible study with **10+ youth**.



Worked with literacy teams in five villages to collect material for **15+ illustrated books** in the local language.

Working with the community, **laid the foundation** for an adult learning/**community development center**.



Brought in a side band radio that allowed our community of 200+ to remain informed during the Covid lock-downs.

Photo from WMF Papua New Guinea



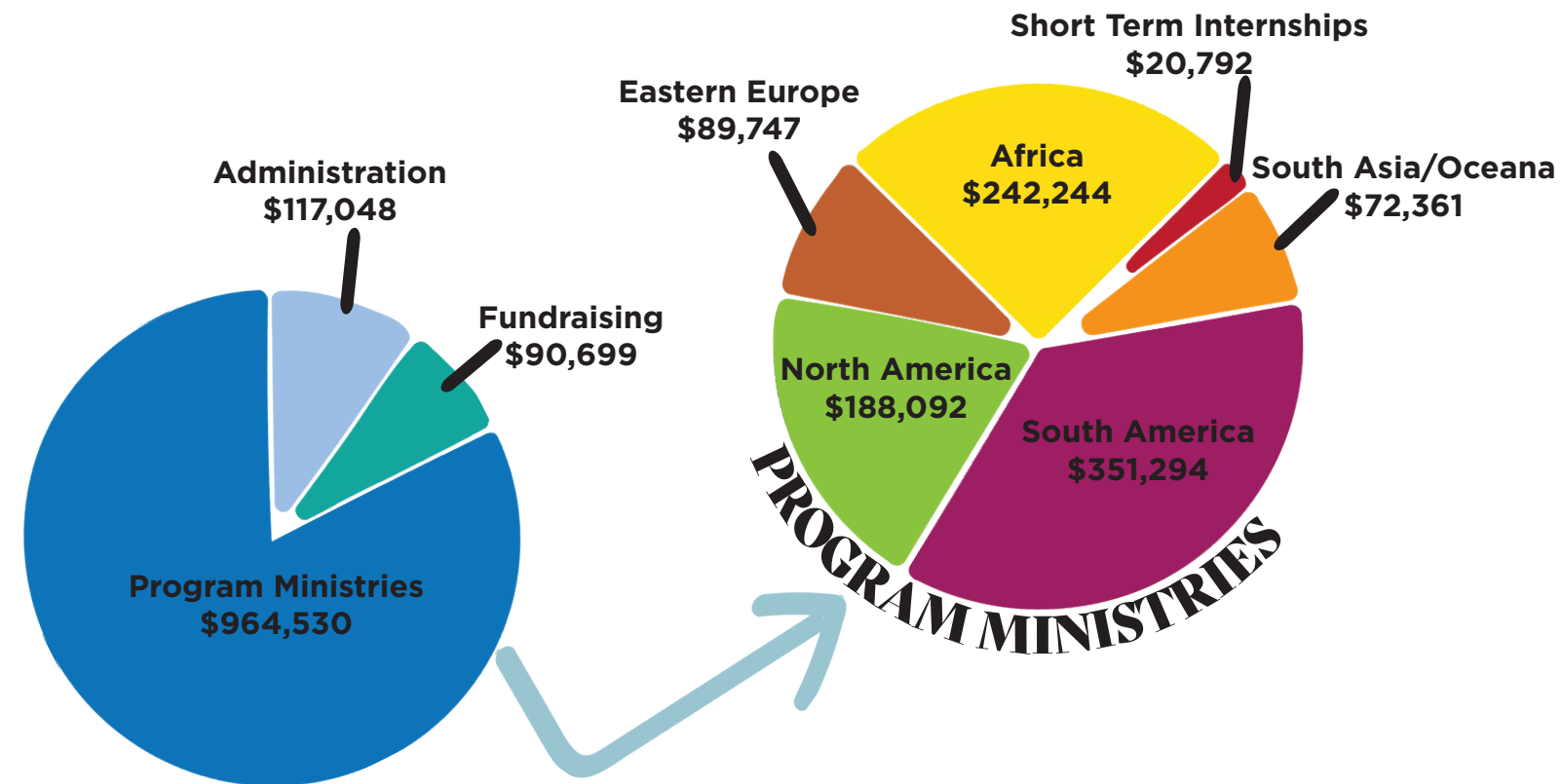
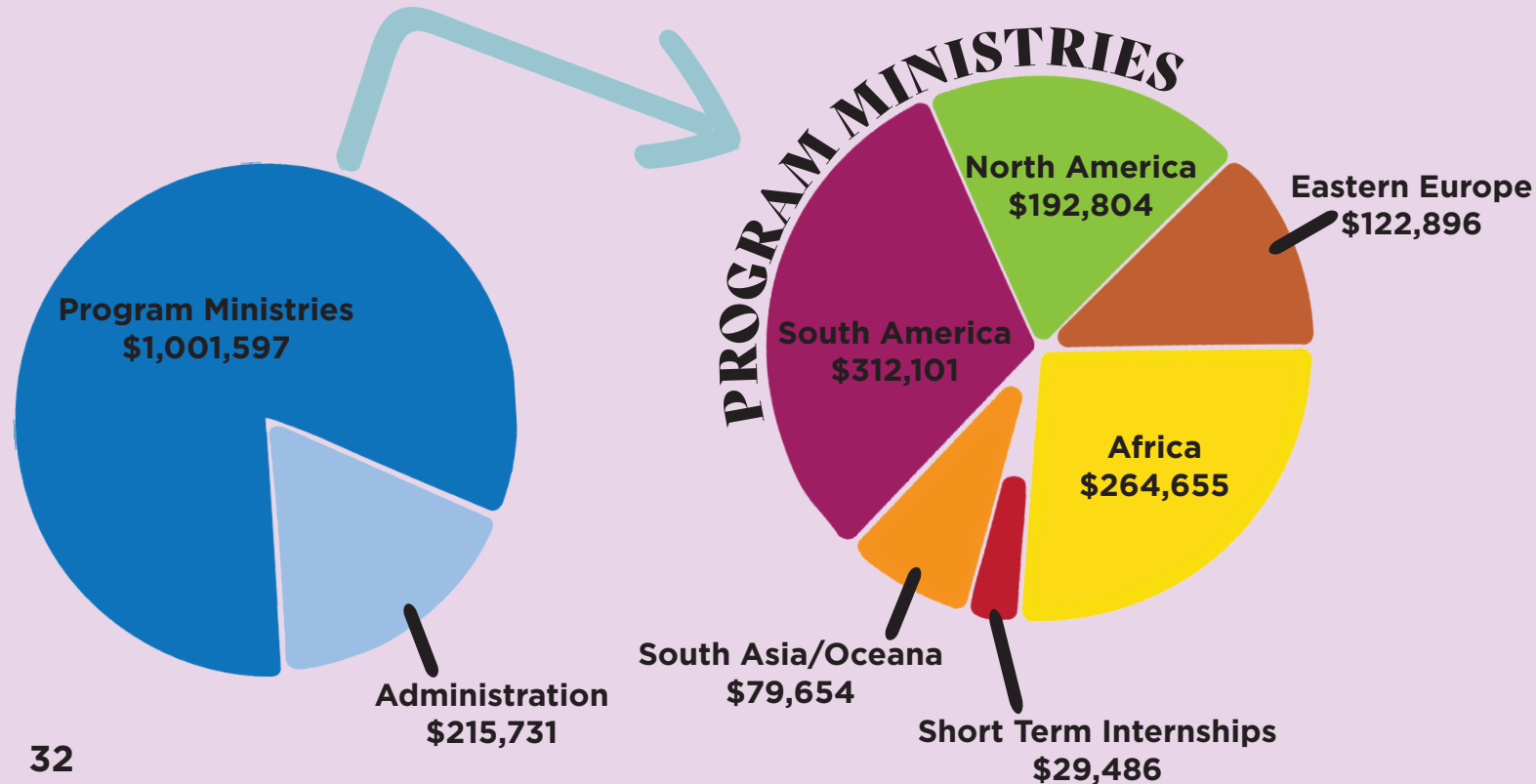
“What began as a measure of necessity proved to facilitate a perfect training opportunity for a budding team of carpenters.”

Our house that was originally built for us before we arrived in PNG is starting to fall apart – termites eating the support posts and beams, flooring wearing thin and caving, roof leaking in more and more places, etc. In October, per our community’s urging, we began building a small guesthouse that we could sleep in temporarily. We were pleased to find that in addition to some of the men who have consistently come alongside to help us, many of the young men in our community wanted to participate as well. What began as a measure of necessity proved to facilitate a perfect training opportunity for a budding team of carpenters. As the building took shape, we also found that having a neutral covered area to meet in was immediately useful to our community. Most of all, this endeavour highlighted the faithful commitment of two people in particular. Clemence Komnapi, who made time to come and work on the house even while juggling his work as ward counsellor, mediator, and executive director of the Yamano Association; and Matthew Klatus, who came almost daily and was sometimes the only person on the site, chipping away at all the little things. We have been so blessed and encouraged by our community’s gracious aid and the opportunities to continue building friendships throughout the time of building the guesthouse.

Photos from WMF Papua New Guinea



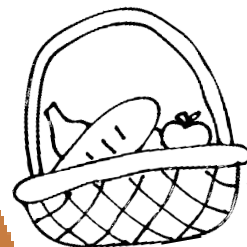
2020 INCOME



2020 EXPENSES

Peru

Our calling is to practice and proclaim the Kingdom of God to children, adolescents, and young adults or who have lived on, are currently living on, or are at immediate risk of living on the streets.



Approximately **733 people** received **essential food supplies**. These were distributed in areas of extreme poverty in 7 districts of Lima.

6,381 breakfast rations in total for three months were delivered to children and the elderly in the Solidarity Breakfast campaign.

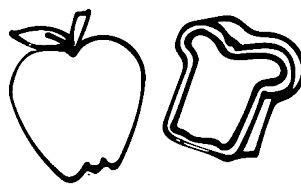


Photo from WMF Peru



Our “Blessed to be a Blessing” campaign helped lighten the burden that children like Henry are carrying in Peru.

When the Peruvian government installed a mandatory lockdown to help protect the public health of the people, it had disastrous effects on our friends who live in the most economically vulnerable areas of our city. If they risked going to the market to sell goods, they faced police harassment and confiscation of their goods. With little income, they were unable to put food on the tables, buy water, or pay for electricity.

In the midst of scarcity, we also witnessed how families come together to create neighborhood feeding efforts. Here we call this the “common pot.” One of the friends of WMF Peru grew increasingly concerned about the health of the children, so she recruited a team of women and launched a daily breakfast program to serve kids in their neighborhood. They gathered kitchenware and took turns cooking. When we heard about this grassroots effort, we were moved to respond by raising funds and donations for 3-months of staple foods.

As we were providing breakfast, we came across a 7-year-old boy, *Dario, who was struggling to carry firewood. Dario was not out playing. He wasn’t even running an errand for his mom. He had left home on his own to desperately search for a bag of firewood because his family had no other fuel with which to prepare meals. Somehow, somewhere, he found this bag of wood which was too big for him to carry alone. And yet we found him dragging it along the dusty road back to his house. Our friends gave Dario a ride to his house and also dropped off a bag of staple food items to bless his family. As even young children have gone to great lengths to help put their next meal on the table, we can help, using what we are blessed with to be a blessing for others.



Photos from WMF Peru

“Making Room”

An article from our Advocacy journal, *The Cry*.



As we navigate community with those on the margins, we experience all of the complexities of life—the highs and lows, joy and grief. Our community in Kigali recently walked through grief and hardship together as we held a memorial service at our ministry center for a member of one of our savings groups who passed away.

Laurance was only 35 years old, with three young children she was caring for on her own. Her death was sudden and unexpected, and hit our community pretty hard. Her family was planning a funeral for her at their home in a village in the far southwestern corner of the country—much too far for any of us to join—so we decided to hold a small memorial service to give our community the space to pause and remember our friend.

The service we held was simple. Nearly every person in attendance contributed in some way. Women from each of our savings groups came. Laurance’s father and younger brother live nearby in Kigali, so we invited them to join us as we honored and remembered their daughter and sister.

We sat in a circle in our garden and sang a couple of Kinyarwanda hymns. A few women shared passages of Scripture, one woman said a prayer. I presented a photograph of Laurance with her savings group that we had framed so we could hang it in the ministry center. We moved inside to get away from the breeze and lit candles while several women shared memories of their friendship with Laurance, her character, her role in our community.

As we stood there with our candles, dressed in our everyday clothes, simply holding space for our friend, I felt the depth of the moment. It seemed to me that the simplicity of the service allowed greater space for love. We didn’t camouflage our grief or dress it up; we simply held it there together. This felt like a perfect example of our community: we may not look like much at first glance, but our simplicity makes room for richer and deeper experience of love and togetherness.

For a long time in my personal life, I obsessed over creating a life of simplicity. By putting pressure on myself to practice simplicity with perfection, I ended up making simplicity incredibly complicated. I also made simplicity entirely about the things I had, rather than a posture of my heart. My journey with the practice of simplicity has been learning to let go of hard and fast rules that I put on myself and lean into the intention.

I have been rereading Richard Foster’s *Freedom of Simplicity* and have been reminded that simplicity is supposed to be freeing, not constraining or complicated. Foster acknowledges that a life of simplicity is full of paradoxes, including that it is both a grace and a discipline. Foster says,

“We fool ourselves if we think that such a sacramental way of living is automatic. This kind of living in communion does not just fall on our heads. We must desire it and seek it out. Like the deer that pants for the flowing stream, so we thirst for the living spring. We must order our lives in particular ways if we hope to quench that thirst. We must take up a conscious chosen course of action that will draw us more deeply into perpetual communion with the Father.”

Our disciplined action does not give us simplicity, but rather puts us in a place where we can receive it. As we strip away the hurry and fluff of life, we make room for Christ.

As a person who can get swept up in busy-ness and hurry, I am incredibly grateful to be part of a global community that is committed to intentional simplicity, and a local community that shows me on a daily basis the inherent good that can happen when I carve out the extra stuff and make room for connection with others and connection with the Father.

Shelbye has served as the field director for Word Made Flesh Rwanda since its founding in 2015. She has a degree in International Studies from George Fox University, and a Masters in Global Development & Justice from Multnomah University.



A better future for vulnerable children by personal development through partnering friends.

Romania

62 children and **43 families** supported by the community center, and **87 family visits** performed.



205 food and hygiene product packages delivered to the community.

92 social and psychological counseling sessions given.



3 new staff members trained, and **9 senior volunteers** worked with WMF Romania.

230 meals provided to the community at the center.

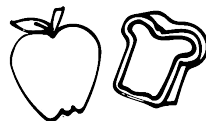


Photo from WMF Romania



God is at work, and sometimes we see that through the kids. *Alina is a little girl who has just turned 10-years-old and has been coming to our center for 4 years now. Her mother is in prison. Alina is raised by her grandmother who considers her a cursed child, which leads to her not being cared for properly. One day, when the temperatures were low, a little girl was knocking at Alina's gate. She was dressed meagerly, her head was bare, and she was crying because she was cold. Alina went inside, took her hat, and gave it to the girl. There is a lot of suffering around us, but whenever we see kindness and mercy, we are changed for the better.

“Whenever we see kindness and mercy, we are changed for the better.”



Photos from WMF Romania

Rwanda

Investing in women living in vulnerable communities through friendship, discipleship, and opportunities for economic empowerment and holistic transformation.

Moved into a new ministry center which will help to better serve the community.



Supported 25 women through savings groups and discipleship, and 19 women were able to purchase health insurance for their families from their savings.



1,400 cups of porridge shared.



40 hours of bible study.

Saw a **66% increase in Kundwa Collective sales**, most of which was in local markets, with 1785 products made by 5 artisans.



Photo from WMF Rwanda



“As we say in Kinyarwanda, ‘turi kumwe,’ ‘we are together.’”



Photos from WMF Rwanda

*Anita is one of our Kundwa Collective artisans. Although her life has been relatively steady since she started working for us a year ago, over the last several years that we have known her she has experienced a lot of hardship. Her marriage has been unsteady with her husband in and out of the picture, leaving her to care for her four-year-old son, *Claudien, on her own with no income until she joined Kundwa Collective.

Her husband was back in her life for a brief part of this year and she became pregnant again. About six months into her pregnancy, the other artisans came to us and said that they were concerned about Anita’s mental and physical health. Even though all of the artisans make a living wage and we work with them to save, budget, and plan for the future, the other women had noticed that Anita had been spending her entire salary on irrational purchases, leaving her and her son to go without food for days at a time. They were especially worried that she was going to harm her baby with the poor way she was caring for her pregnant body. The way she talked and carried herself had changed too, and from the knowledge they gained from the various mental health and trauma workshops we have done over the last few years, they thought her behaviors might point to depression. They had decided they wanted to intervene in their friend’s life to help her get back to a healthy place and were asking our staff to join them to surround Anita with love and support.

And this, I believe, is the greatest outcome of our ministry--that while we ministered to women in our community and offered tools and resources that they could use to improve their mental, physical, and spiritual health, some of those women have taken those things to heart enough that they could minister to other women around them. We truly serve among and alongside the most vulnerable on their journey to abundant life. For some it takes a little longer than others, but as we say in Kinyarwanda, “turi kumwe,” “we are together.”

Part of being human is experiencing both suffering and love. During this season of COVID-19, we've certainly been experiencing both. I've found myself holding heaviness alongside joy.

Sometimes when something is bothering us, it can turn into a spiral of self-pity. One way to get out of that spiral is to direct ourselves outward. We don't need to deny what is bothering us. But looking outside of ourselves, outside of our own inconvenience and our own suffering can be a healthy way to get through difficult times.

There's been a lot of good happening here in Moldova. People are getting outside of themselves and giving, coming up with creative ways to get involved. For example, a local grocery store made packets of food for vulnerable families. Hundreds of people signed up through a Facebook group to volunteer to answer phones when people who are in need call for help. People have been delivering food to those who are elderly and don't want to go out and potentially expose themselves to the virus.

There's a lot of good happening in the midst of all that's going on in the world right now. I encourage you to find out what's happening, and find a way to safely get involved. If you have extra, share what you have. If you have access to a vehicle and deliveries need to be made, offer to do that in a safe way.

God is taking care of people. Consider how you may be able to join in the work God is doing in your community and in communities around the world.



Rachel Dyachenko
Field Director, WMF Moldova

Photo from WMF Moldova



from the Chair of the Board of Directors

Can you hear the often sang chorus in your mind?

*Ah, Lord God, Thou Hast Made The Heavens
And The Earth By Thy Great Power;
Ah, Lord God, Thou Hast Made The Heavens
And The Earth By Thine Outstretched Arm.*

*Nothing Is Too Difficult For Thee,
Nothing Is Too Difficult For Thee;
Oh, Great And Mighty God,
Great In Power And Mighty In Deed,
Nothing, Nothing, Absolutely Nothing,
Nothing Is Too Difficult For Thee.*

Even without the tune, you can quickly ascertain that these words from Jeremiah 32 are powerful reminders of the Lord's capacity and faithfulness.

Jeremiah 32 begins with the Lord prophesying of great future good for Israel. The Lord offers this hope-filled word while Judah is in the midst of being besieged by the army of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon of the Chaldeans. The Lord encourages the people to take hope of coming good in the midst of trial and travesty. By the end of the chapter we hear that fortunes will be restored.

This was a word given to ancient Israel during a time of great distress, but as the Lord is the same yesterday, today, and forever, I think there are corollaries for Word Made Flesh International to hear today related to 2020 and forward.

I encourage you to read Jeremiah 32 in hope as you think about and pray for the ongoing work and witness of Word Made Flesh International.

The worldwide biological toll of the COVID pandemic on humanity and other more particular difficulties of 2020 were heavy. Yet, we felt the Lord's faithful presence as Word Made Flesh International's mission of helpful healing activity advanced around the world. The end of 2020 found WMF once again finishing the year having financially grown and having implemented a profoundly encouraging amount of good in the world.

As a physician, I find significant meaning in being involved as the board chair of a Jesus-centered, international non-profit mission whose work is focused on community-grounded help and healing.

Be it healing of the nations, systems and structures, or community and interpersonal relationships, Word Made International is continually about the business of seeking to be the ambassadorial hands and feet of Jesus on this earth. As per Jeremiah 32, Word Made Flesh International seeks to be part of the outworking of Lord's desire to restore the fortunes of those who have faced grave trials and tribulations.

Please join me and the entire Word Made Flesh International Board of Directors as we champion this ongoing, vital work of Jesus Christ in the world.

In the Lord's grace and empowered by God, there is so much great good we can do through partnering together!

*Great And Mighty God,
Great In Power And Mighty In Deed,
Nothing, Nothing, Absolutely Nothing,
Nothing Is Too Difficult For Thee.*



Steve Behnke, MD, MBA has been a long time supporter of Word Made Flesh, having first learned about the ministry while attending Asbury University during it's earliest years. He received his MD and MBA degrees at the University of Louisville and subsequently trained in Internal Medicine at Ohio State University. Presently, he leads MedOne Hospital Physicians in Columbus, Ohio and is the Chief of the Section of Internal Medicine at Riverside Methodist Hospital. Steve lives in Columbus with his wife, Ashleigh, and their four boys.

We are called to holistically care for children and young adults through discipleship, educational and vocational opportunities and family-like relationships.

Sierra Leone



Hosted **6 Lighthouse meetings** with about **42 youth attending** from August to December 2020.



Provided **40 tutoring sessions** for **14 children** in Kroo Bay and prepared them for the exams.



Organized **20 coaching sessions** for those who were scheduled to graduate from our Lighthouse



Organized **4 training sessions**, including an abuse prevention training, for staff and volunteers for their development.



Photo from WMF Sierra Leone

“We believe that his transformation is a result of God’s grace and the faithfulness of the WMF SL staff.”



Photos from WMF Sierra Leone

Journeying with the vulnerable youth from Kroo Bay is unpredictable. Though we want to see the transformation in their lives, it often takes a very long time to see the changes in their lives. There are also times when we, the WMF SL staff, are close to giving up because our investment in some youth doesn’t seem to make a difference in their lives. Such was the case with one of our youth, *Daniel.

Daniel is currently in grade 10. His father passed away 9 years ago, and he lives with his mother, who is unemployed in Kroo Bay. As a child, he enjoyed attending our Good News Club and has been a part of our Lighthouse youth program for the past five years. He is fun to be around and loves to play soccer. But he had been very argumentative, often starting fights at his school and Lighthouse. Until last year, he frequently missed school. Though many of the WMF SL staff encouraged him to go to school, we weren’t able to help him attend school regularly.

But much to our surprise, since the beginning of this year, we have started seeing transformation in Daniel’s life. Not only did he start attending school regularly, he also became a class president who is conscientious and respectful. He is eager to take on a leadership role wherever he is, and we are proud of him. We believe that his transformation is a result of God’s grace and the faithfulness of the WMF SL staff. Francis, Daniel’s small group leader, has offered his faithful and loving presence to him for the past few years, even when it seemed like his efforts were making little difference in Daniel’s life. We pray that God would continue to transform Daniel’s life.

I often feel overwhelmed because of the needs of our friends in Kroo Bay. COVID-19 has made life more difficult for this community. For example, the Kroo Bay Health Center used to have a feeding program for children who are malnourished. But that isn't happening right now because of the pandemic. So there are a lot of children with malnutrition walking around. I wonder what I can do? Some of them are sick, and the children's hospital is not operating at its full capacity, so they may not be able to get the treatment they need. Sometimes I feel helpless. Word Made Flesh Sierra Leone does distribute food to some of our youth and children, but it feels like it's not enough. I want to buy rice for 10,000 people, but even that wouldn't be enough to feed everyone.

In the midst of feeling overwhelmed, I also learn a lot from the interdependency of the community of Kroo Bay. I worry that some of our youth will starve. And some do miss meals. But recently I was talking with one of our youth who is an orphan. She told me that there are people, her neighbors, who often give her food. These people don't have very much themselves, but they do not think twice before giving. I'm realizing that I have so much to learn from them.

This is a place of relational wealth. When I think of my life in the West, especially before I became a committed Christian, I remember how it was so full of loneliness and independence. I was able to live life without seeing people for many days. But people in Kroo Bay know how to be in community with one another so well. It's something I continue to learn.

Jennifer Seo Ney
WMF Sierra Leone Field Director



Photo from WMF Sierra Leone



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International Office

**Raised over \$15,000
for WMF communities**
through the GoodGiving
Challenge.



Hosted an excellent
**first-ever, fully virtual
Bluegrass Gala**, including
increasing funding intake
from previous year galas.



Our **International
Office interns**
volunteered a total of
180 hours.



Continued the
tradition of hosting
**Beggars Society
Community Events.**



Photo from The WMF
International Office

**“I volunteered in the home
office, and had a wonderful
experience. I was encouraged
by their commitment to prayer,
and their love for their friends
around the globe.”**

“Word Made Flesh staff members do an excellent job of living in community with people around the globe, taking the time to learn how to best serve them. They work to serve holistically, seeking to meet not only spiritual needs, but physical, psychological, and emotional needs as well. They truly love the people they are in community with. Guided by the Holy Spirit, they faithfully work to see long term and meaningful healing and change in the people they serve and places they live. **I volunteered in the home office, and had a wonderful experience. I was encouraged by their commitment to prayer, and their love for their friends around the globe.”**

Jennifer Jones

WMF International Office intern, Spring 2020



Photo from The WMF International Office

Special Thanks to all those who helped make the 2020 Bluegrass Gala possible!

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Bluegrass Gala 2021

Join us for our fourth annual and first-ever hybrid Bluegrass Gala!

On November 5th, 2021 we will be hosting both an in-person Gala and a livestream of the event. The in-person event will take place in Lexington, Kentucky, and the livestream of the event can be viewed from your own home!

Learn more at wordmadeflesh.org/gala





Photos from WMF
Chennai, Moldova,
Romania, Brazil



If I could transport you to Sierra Leone, and to Kroo Bay specifically, there are two main things I would want you to see: the resilience of the people and their joy. I haven't seen such a presence of joy in a group of Christians as I have in Sierra Leonean Christians. They know God to be the joy giver and the provider. They thank God for everything. They thank God for life. People here have experienced so much tragedy: war, the ebola epidemic, and day-to-day struggles, and now COVID-19. But though there's so much fear and unknown in this time, they remain resilient and joy-filled, and it's such a beautiful thing to see.



Emma Crocker
*Community Health Coordinator,
WMF Sierra Leone*

Photo from WMF Sierra Leone





Thank You!

It's because of the amazing support of people like you that we can continue our work of partnership, community, and advocacy with and alongside our neighbors worldwide.

Get involved today:
wordmadeflesh.org/donate

Photos from WMF Sierra Leone



Photos from WMF Rwanda





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