



# Annual Report

≡ 2020



# Table of Contents



WELCOME	4
FRESH STORIES	6
GROWING IN DISCIPLESHIP	16
BETTER TOGETHER	18
GROWING IN GENEROSITY	22
FINANCES	24
LOOKING FORWARD	26
THANK YOU	28





# Welcome

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.



Just to be clear, I didn't write that sentence. It's actually a 2000-year-old sentence written by Jesus's brother, James, and you can find it in James 1:2 in the Bible.

It would be an understatement to say that we had troubles in 2020. There's no need to list them out because I think we're all acutely aware of them. As you look back on 2020, do you see the troubles or do you see joy? It seems counterintuitive, doesn't it? Troubles being an opportunity for great joy? Really, James? How?

According to James, troubles of any kind - big, small and everything in-between - are an opportunity for great joy because they remind us of the unshakeable truth that Jesus is King, and of His commitment to advancing His perfect Kingdom in our midst.

GENESIS, 2020 was not easy, but it WAS an opportunity for great joy. Jesus worked in many lives to reconcile, redeem, and restore relationship with God. We were all reminded that what we need more than anything or anyone else is Jesus - plain and simple. We need His unfailing love, His unconditional grace, and His unmatched power in our lives. He lavished all of that on us...and more! Despite the troubles, 2020 gave us all fresh stories of Jesus' unwavering and uncompromising commitment to building His church and growing His Kingdom!

As you read this annual report, which includes the narrative of God's work in and through transformed lives, please look for the great joy that marked every opportunity we had to help ALL people walk with God in 2020!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Michael Davis". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "M" and a cursive "Davis".

Michael Davis

## OUR MISSION:

# Helping all people walk with God.



Friendship with God is best experienced through friendship with each other.



“Remaining connected during COVID is a challenge, but the community that our group has provided has been critical this past year. We had the opportunity to come alongside one couple who is newly married and was preparing to welcome their first child! Our GROUP was able to throw them a socially-distanced baby shower, set up a meal train, and we were in constant prayer over their first few weeks of parenting. While we’re thankful for the ways that the Lord has used us to care for this couple, it has also caused us to reflect on God’s faithfulness in our early years of marriage and parenting. We’re so grateful to journey through life with our GROUP - even in this season of being virtual!”

—DAN & ANNA



“GROUP has been so important to our life and walk with Jesus. We have really enjoyed growing and learning about how God works in families. Our GROUP leaders are GREAT! Knowing we had a group of believers praying for us gave us hope that parenting during COVID wasn’t just manageable, but a blessing. We highly recommend everyone be a part of a GROUP.”

—LEASHA & JAMIE

OUR VISION:

# Fresh Stories

We believe that if we are helping all people walk with God then ALL people will have fresh stories of God doing **immeasurably more** in and through their lives.





"My GROUP reminds me of the church in the book of Acts.

The brothers and sisters there are so loving that I feel I am in another world. For me, it was a real blessing to be part of a family where I was loved by everyone. Being in a GROUP will help you to get to know the Lord in a deeper way through the people you are with; it is a wonderful feeling to be around people that love you and care about you. The Lord has met my needs by using GENESIS and my GROUP to help me get through the hard times in my life.

My word to you is to get into a GROUP where you can grow and learn more about who God is and what His

will is for your life. We are called to fellowship with one another, to encourage one another, and to LOVE one another. Being in a GROUP is the best way to go. " **-BARBARA**



"2020 was a year of great faithfulness and perseverance for our GROUP leaders and attendees as they learned to adapt to new ways of staying connecting and helping each other walk with God."

**-LORI MARCOTTE, GROUPS DIRECTOR**

# Serving as we've been served, loving as we've been loved.



"Meeting with my GROUP every week has given me so much joy and discipline that I can confidently say it has magnified Christ in me.

Serving with GENESIS in the year of a pandemic has provided me with so many avenues of strengthening my walk with the Lord. Serving on the worship team has allowed me to connect with a community and learn about new ways to praise God in song, as well as keep up with the technological advancements that goes with it.

My prior education in church was abysmal. The discipleship programs that GENESIS offers have propelled my understanding of the worship role and theology in general. Because of this, my study habits are stronger, and my view of the functionality of the modern-day church is being restored. For me, the most effective practice GENESIS offered in 2020 was GROUPs. Meeting with my group every week has given me so much joy and discipline, that I can confidently say it has magnified Christ in me. " **-ANTHONY**

62

men and women GROUP leaders served in shepherding our community

41

GROUPS provided a space for people to grow in their walk with God

8

new virtual GROUPS were launched to reach those in the online community

330

people regularly attended GROUPs this year

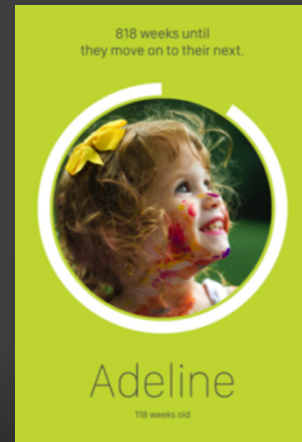


# GENESIS Kids



"When kids couldn't attend church, our GK Team worked hard to bring the GENESIS Kids ministry to them!"

**JENNABETH JACKSON, GENESIS KIDS DIRECTOR**



GENESIS Kids rolled out a new online experience, a new teaching curriculum, and a mobile app for parents in an effort to connect church and home, and improve how we support parents in discipling their children.

GENESIS Kids took to the street to deliver holiday packages and share the joy of Jesus with families!

## Bringing Church Home for Kids

When we moved to greater Boston four years ago, we had just left local pastoral church ministry to engage in full-time college ministry. GENESIS was a place where we could experience sound biblical teaching and trust that our children were receiving the same in a safe, loving environment. This was especially important to us as parents of children with some unique needs, both at a sensory level and through adoption. Jennabeth worked seamlessly with us to ensure our newly adopted child was able to experience church positively for the first time, affirming our vital attachment process as a family while also ensuring the security of all children within GENESIS Kids. Because our child felt so safe in their care, he quickly became an enthusiastic worshipper during times of singing! We also really appreciate how Jennabeth and Kenny have crafted the transitional Launch class for those growing out of GENESIS Kids and preparing to enter middle school.

Each of our children look forward weekly to being a part of GENESIS Kids! We long for the time when they are able to attend in-person again. But until then, we are deeply grateful for the creative, intentional ways GENESIS Kids has reached out to our children individually and by providing weekly biblical teaching online. They consistently offer wonderful resources for parents to reinforce the biblical truths our children are learning and hiding in their hearts. **—BILL AND SARA BARKER**

**GENESIS Kids held special kid-focused services to provide a safe, fun, and engaging worship gathering for children and families.**





# THE Journey

Helping all students walk with God



Who says you can't have fun in the midst of a quarantine! The Journey is all about providing a fun, welcoming, and safe space for students to journey together as they grow in their walk with God. In the midst COVID-19, The Journey took that challenge head on!

Because we could not meet in-person for much of the year, we launched our first YouTube channel to bring the Journey home! This platform allowed students to engage with weekly lessons, and enabled us to keep it fun with some outrageous weekly challenges. When we could meet, we developed new games that helped kids have fun, but still remain safe.

Over the summer, we gained **six amazing new leaders** who earned the trust of the students quickly and allowed us to meet with more students each week.

We also began using a new curriculum called Orange! We love that it has helped us to have more consistency around how we disciple both middle and high school students, and provides engaging videos, lessons, and devotionals for students every week.

We're so thankful for the privilege we have to walk alongside students and see them grow as followers of Jesus...and eat lots of Doritos with them along the way!

**KENNY STIRLING, STUDENT MINISTRIES DIRECTOR**

"With the lack of activities occurring in a generally fast-paced society given COVID-19, The Journey has helped me slow down and absorb the essential elements of being a true Christian. It's times like these that I'm reminded that, as a child of God, I have an obligation to my brothers, sisters, and myself when it comes to learning and applying Scripture to my everyday life. Whether in a conversation regarding apologetics or a seemingly simple conversation about a quarantine dilemma, there's always something new and exciting to reflect upon after each hangout we have. I enjoy having a safe space to share and be challenged in a small group environment; it really contributes to more meaningful discussion when everyone is comfortable being honest with their opinion about the topics at hand. I constantly look forward to the new ways we get to meet and learn from each other." **-ADRIAN**



## GENESIS Hospitality

Intrinsic to GENESIS' DNA is a community marked by hospitality. We love to serve people as we've been served by Jesus Christ (Mark 10:45)! 2020 was an interesting year in regards to our Hospitality ministry due to lack of gathering and gathering restrictions. Even so, our amazing TEAM did a phenomenal job rethinking and adjusting how we welcome, greet, and serve our guests.

We took this year to rethink our discipleship process for the Hospitality TEAM which we will begin to see in action in the coming year. We were also able to plan and implement different processes for continuing to be the first friendly face that guests see on a Sunday morning from 6 feet away. The café remodel was a fun project that improved the aesthetic, effectiveness, and versatility of that area of the open space. Even cooler, we partnered with Bold3 coffee – a vendor that uses portions of its proceeds to purchase Bibles for children in unreached countries across the world.

All in all, we were pumped to see God work in our ministry in 2020 and we are beyond excited to see Him continue to use the Hospitality ministry in new and fresh ways in 2021!

**KYLE - ASSOCIATE PASTOR + CHURCH PLANTER**

What goes well with summer? Ice cream! During New England's warmer months, our awesome volunteers enjoyed serving hundreds of pre-packaged ice cream treats to our guests while they enjoyed catching up with each other outside!

From temperature checks to creating a new ushering team, our Hospitality team went above and beyond this year to make every guest feel welcomed, loved, and safe.



# GENESIS Creative

The Creative team underwent some significant shifts in 2020 when our in-person gatherings were suspended, but our wonderful volunteers took it all in stride and made lots of sweet lemonade out of some really sour lemons! Many of our volunteers stepped up in a big way to improve our livestream experience and make it engaging to the community watching from home.



The band evolved musically multiple times throughout the year to accommodate various capacity restrictions!

Key volunteers on the tech team dove in headfirst on upgrading our video equipment, video software, and livestream practices.

Our video team took the at-home worship gathering to a new level by adding cameras and moving shots to the mix.

The sound team learned how to record and mix our recorded services to create beautiful sounding audio for the livestream, and our IT team was on call to fix everything we broke in the process of making these changes.

Last, but not least, the spatial design team and Top Notch Contracting gave the open space a huge facelift!

We are so grateful for every volunteer who made GENESIS Creative not just survive, but flourish in 2020!





**All followers of Jesus are called to grow in understanding of Him.**

“You must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18

As we grow in our understanding of what Jesus has done for us (salvation), He works in us through the Holy Spirit to mold us to become more like Him (sanctification). We launched the Discipleship & Leadership Pipeline this year to provide a roadmap for growth that focuses on growing in our knowledge of God through study of theology and a pattern for living it out in the context of the church that focuses on how to lead others.

This Pipeline is broken into four chapters:



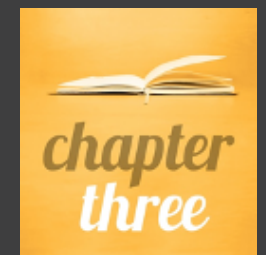
**CHAPTER ONE**

Learn the Story:  
Learn about  
GENESIS and our  
mission



**CHAPTER TWO**

Join the Story:  
Partnering with  
GENESIS on mission



**CHAPTER THREE**

Lead within the  
Story: Growing as a  
disciple and leading  
others

**CHAPTER FOUR**

Continuing the Story: Apprenticeship for those pursuing church offices such as deacon, elder, church planter or pastor

We had over 100 people take the Chapter One and Chapter Two classes and currently have 58 people attending Chapter Three. We are excited to see all that God will do in and through those who journey through the Discipleship & Leadership Pipeline!

**DISCIPLESHIP &  
LEADERSHIP PIPELINE:**

**Growing in  
Discipleship**



The GENESIS Network will be made up of one church with multiple congregations in multiple locations. Each church will share the name, DNA, mission, vision, and values of GENESIS in addition to financial and strategic resources such as our discipleship and leadership pipelines. The Network will provide opportunities for future church planters to be raised up, equipped, and empowered to plant healthy gospel-centered churches that help ALL people walk with God.

In September 2021, GENESIS will launch its first network church! GENESIS North Shore will be sent out and planted with Kyle Asmus serving as the local lead pastor. God has already raised up a core community of 40 men and women to come alongside Kyle and his wife Lindsay to establish a new congregation that will focus on reaching the 18 towns in and around the North Shore.

Influencing this region with the gospel message is certainly more than one person can do alone, but it's not more than all of us can do together. Lord willing, through the GENESIS Network, we will see dozens of church planters raised up and sent out so that we can help ALL people walk with God throughout New England.

CHURCH PLANTING:

# Better together

**This is the heartbeat of the GENESIS Network.** If we are going to reach and help the nearly 2.5 million people living within the Middlesex and Essex counties walk with God, better together is the best way to go.





## We're Planting a Church!

We first felt called to church planting as college sophomores. When we moved from Minneapolis to the North Shore of Boston in the fall of 2016 to attend Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, we became broken over the lack of churches in and around the surrounding cities.

After graduating from seminary, Kyle joined the staff at GENESIS as an associate pastor. In the fall of 2019, with the affirmation and support of the GENESIS elders, we completed and were affirmed for church planting through the SEND Network assessment process.

We immediately entered a season of prayer with one overarching question for God - "Lord, where do you want us to plant a church?" After months of prayerful deliberation, we discerned that God wanted us to plant a church on the North Shore! We are excited to see God multiply all that He has done in and through GENESIS to see Jesus's name made famous. **—KYLE AND LINDSAY ASMUS**

### GENESIS North Shore

In October, a group of 40 community members began gathering to pray, plan, and prepare as the Core Team for GENESIS North Shore. They spent time on intentional training, development, and discernment with the goal of discovering the 'why, where, and how' to plant the first GENESIS Network church. God was faithful to answer their prayers! He granted clarity, grew their relationships with Him and each other, and inspired incredible momentum among them.

God-willing, GENESIS North Shore will open in September 2021. Pray that God continues to develop and multiply a community that is passionate about helping all people walk with God, and see individuals and communities restored by the power of the gospel!

## Above the Hills Church

In November of 2010, when my beautiful wife, Popia, and I were married, I was already 6 years into pastoring a healthy Cambodian church in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Things were going well, we were stable and comfortable, but we felt a growing restlessness within us. After several conversations with Popia, and praying the dangerous prayer of "Send us," it became clear that the Lord was calling us to the new ministry opportunity of church planting in Popia's hometown of Lynn, MA.

When we relocated, our family hopped from one church to another looking for a place to call home while we developed our plant. We learned about GENESIS through an invite from the SEND Network.

I remember walking into GENESIS for the first time. Immediately, Popia and I agreed that it was different, special. We found home!

After passing the planters assessment through North American Missions Board, we were granted the option to do a residency with GENESIS in 2019. During that time, I was invited onto the staff team and my core leadership team committed to serving faithfully. Serving as a church planting resident and staff member at GENESIS gave me opportunities to grow and learn about church planting and church organization while our leadership team continued to seek the Lord on His plans for us with our plant, Above the Hills Church.

The greatest thing we received from our time at GENESIS is the reinforcement of holding both the old and new together in harmony. We learned to absorb everything we could while simultaneously valuing what we've experienced through years of ministry in different locations and contexts. It was an indescribably refining process! We will forever be grateful to have been a part of the GENESIS community.

Now here we are! We are almost ready to plant Above the Hills Church this coming Easter, and we are excited to have GENESIS send us out. The ATHC team has invested a lot of time in building networks and relationships within Lynn in order for us to better understand, love, and serve our community. Though our core community is small in number, we are big in heart. We are a "feet on the ground" and "Bible in hand" church that believes in the reconciliation and transformation of every heart. Please pray for our community, for our leaders, for Above the Hills, and for GENESIS. We are excited for what the Lord is doing!

**—SIMON SIM, ABOVE THE HILLS CHURCH**



## SEND Network

### Our Partnership with SEND Boston

In 2019, GENESIS began a partnership with the SEND Church Planting Network in order to be more effective and efficient in our church planting efforts. SEND provides pastoral and church support through trainings, leadership development, and fostering a community of like-minded churches within the Boston and Greater Boston area. To date, SEND has helped plant 70+ gospel-centered churches over the past 15 years and maintains a vision to see 300 new churches planted by 2030.

We are grateful to be a part of a network with a big vision to see the landscape of Boston and Greater Boston transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. To learn more about the SEND Network, visit: **[www.namb.net/send-network](http://www.namb.net/send-network)**



GIVING:

# Growing in Generosity

We like to use the word "super" a lot at GENESIS. Some might say we use it a little too much, but simply saying that we are thankful for how the GENESIS community has given to advance the gospel and the mission of the church would be an understatement.

## We are SUPER THANKFUL!!

Thank you for your faithful stewardship of the resources God has given you. It's encouraging to see how GENESIS has grown in generosity over the years. Your giving enables everything GENESIS does to happen - both seen and unseen - from our online services and technology, to helping those within and outside of our community that are in need, to supporting church planters locally and globally, to discipleship over a lunch, all the way to the vast amounts of Doritos and orange soda that our youth group shockingly consumes.

All of these things help us to connect with those who need to hear the gospel and grow in their walk with God. And all of this is made possible because of YOUR generosity!

Jason Corbin - Executive Pastor

## Loving Our Neighbor

### 2020 Relief

The GENESIS community was able to take part in providing relief for families impacted by COVID in Woburn and the surrounding towns.



Delivering coats to Lynn Elementary School

100

coats delivered to Lynn elementary schools

30

families received headphones for online learning

20

families were provided regular lunches when schools were closed

300

families received gift cards for groceries to help with holiday meals

GENESIS came alongside our church planting partner in Albania to help 30 families that are financially impacted by COVID.

GENESIS distributed care packages and gift cards to our teachers and nurses who are on the front lines of the pandemic.





# Finances

## INCOME

General Fund	\$1,298,941
Church Planting	\$81,622
Building Fund	\$7,930
Benevolence	\$20,723
Other (e.g. interest)	\$7,836
Total Income	\$1,417,052

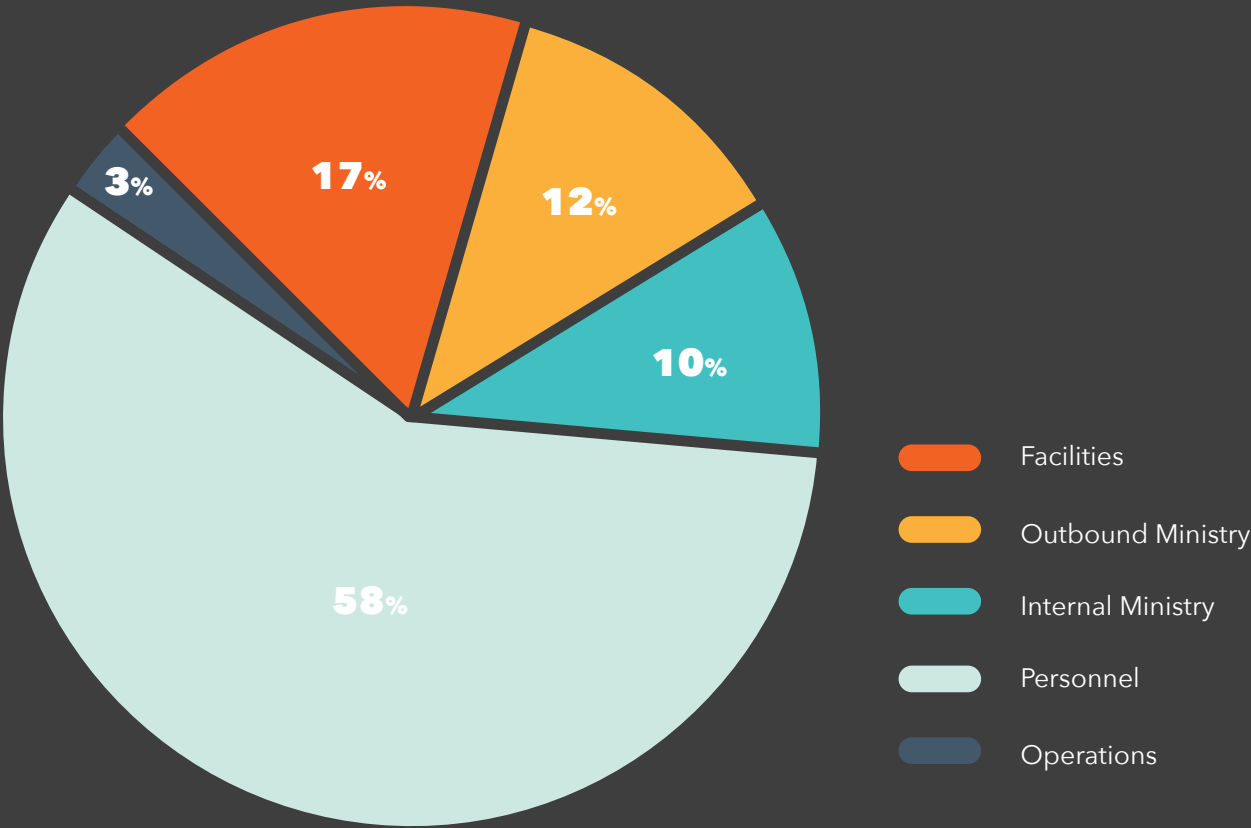
## EXPENSES

Total Expenses	\$1,221,212
----------------	-------------

Surplus funds were allocated to the following:

- » Abundance Fund (non-budgeted projects)
- » Church Planting Fund
- » Building Fund
- » Benevolence Fund
- » Reserve/Emergency Fund

## EXPENSE BREAKDOWN





## OUR PLANS:

# Looking forward

Our focus for 2021 is centered around this question: **'God, what do you want to happen in and through your church this year?'** A few phrases have become prominent as we prayerfully consider this question.

## BEAR FRUIT

**"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5 (NLT)**

As we help ALL people walk with God, we believe there will be fruit produced in our lives that is consistent with the character of Christ. We believe that we will see Christ-like fruit in our marriages, friendships, our places of work and study, and the places we live as we continue to invest in our Sunday gatherings, GROUPS, TEAMS, church planting, and our discipleship and leadership pipelines. We believe fruit-bearing will not only be honoring to God but also a blessing to our neighbors in helping them to see Jesus.

## NEIGHBOR WELL

**"Now, which of these three would you say was a neighbor?' 'The one who showed him mercy.' Then Jesus said, 'Yes, now go and do the same.'" Luke 10:25-27 (NLT)**

As we help ALL people walk with God, we believe remembering the 'ALL' must extend to our neighbors. Historically, GENESIS has provided financial support to come alongside the town, local schools, and local non-profits needs. We will continue this support while also expanding our reach in an effort to build meaningful friendships and relationships with our immediate neighbors. We will do all we can to equip and empower the people of GENESIS to love and serve their neighbors with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## BE PRAYERFUL

**"Never stop praying." 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NLT)**

Prayer is a vital component to making our mission a reality. We are convinced that God is a prayer-answering God and His invitation to 'never stop praying' is a reminder that He has so much more that He wants us to see Him do. Every great movement of God has its foundation in a small group of men and women who committed to ask God to be God in their midst - to change lives and eternal destinies. Until God tells us to stop praying, we will create avenues for the people of God to be in prayer together.

These things will not be accomplished by one of us or even a small team of us. God is inviting each of us to bear fruit, neighbor well, and be prayerful, trusting that He will continue to advance His Kingdom through our lives and through our church.



# Thank You

What a blessing it is to recount the stories of God's work in and through our community! With each story and example of God's faithfulness and provision, I am reminded that Jesus is not done...far from it! 2020 was but an invitation from King Jesus to keep trusting in His ability and desire to do 'immeasurably more' in and through our community.

Let's keep trusting that He has even greater Kingdom impact in store for us in 2021. Every moment of every day is an opportunity for great joy because we are the kids of a great King who has invited us to be a part of helping ALL people walk with Him!

I know I say this often, and I hope it hasn't lost its potency just yet. GENESIS, it is truly a GREAT JOY to be on this journey with you!

*Michael Davis*

**MICHAEL DAVIS, LEAD PASTOR**

GENESIS

