Helping You Express **the Kindness of Jesus** in the Toughest Places



**MINISTRY REPORT 2023** 

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### DRIVEN TO SERVE IN THE TOUGHEST PLACES

Together we are going to the toughest places and serving those with no other access to help or the message of hope. We celebrate all God has done and look forward to serving more people by providing lifesaving aid and sharing the hope of Jesus with those who have never heard, like the women pictured here from Chad.

#### Dear Friends,

We are facing a convergence of humanitarian crises — which are creating some of the greatest challenges the modern world has seen. Wars, disasters, famine, and drought continue to leave people struggling to survive. Those who suffer most live in the toughest places with very little access to help or the message of hope.

Together with you, Unto<sup>®</sup> is taking lifesaving humanitarian aid and the eternal hope of Jesus to more unreached people groups than ever before. We are helping Cru<sup>®</sup> missionaries go to places untouched by the message of Jesus. Already we are coming alongside teams serving in eight of the 12 countries identified as being in greatest need of the message of eternal hope.

We have seen God open amazing doors of opportunity to do this work over the past year. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- More than 1,433,140 suffering people in 44 countries experienced the kindness of Jesus through lifesaving humanitarian aid. In many of these places, humanitarian assistance is the only reason ministry is allowed to continue.
- Over 594,105 people facing food insecurity or famine received nutritious meals, including individuals living in 19 countries that are closed to the message of Jesus.
- Your support allowed our local teams to drill 49 new water wells, and repair 66 broken ones, creating opportunities for sharing Jesus and establishing new churches in unreached areas.
- Our partners in Turkey were among the first to serve earthquake victims and continue to help families rebuild their lives. They are also seeing a remarkable response to the message of eternal hope.

There is still so much more we can do together! We are trusting God that by 2030, Unto will be serving well over five million people a year, which is roughly triple what we are serving now, with special attention paid to those with no access to the eternal hope of Jesus but for acts of kindness through humanitarian action. To see this task accomplished, we are asking the Lord to help us innovate, add new staff members, and continue partnerships with people like you.

Together we are driven to serve in the toughest places — where the majority of people lack access to food, clean water, or basic necessities for survival. We are compelled to go to the places where people have also never heard about Jesus. It is our mandate and our mission.

And until the work is done, we remain driven and eager to see God do an amazing work in the lives of even more people in 2024.

Serving together,

Al Goff President & CEO

# **EXPRESSING THE KINDNESS OF JESUS**

**Our Mission:** As the humanitarian ministry of Cru, Unto expresses the kindness of Jesus in the toughest places on earth by relieving suffering, restoring dignity, and revealing hope. For almost 30 years, Unto has leveraged strategic global partnerships and the service of dedicated volunteers to relieve suffering in more than 75 countries.

### **Meeting Needs Through Three Programs**

The generosity of ministry partners allowed Unto to respond to the physical and spiritual needs of 1.43 million people in 2023. We accomplish our mission in partnership with international Cru ministries through three programs.

#### **Food and Agriculture**

Around the world hunger and malnutrition claim lives and cripple communities. The Food and Agriculture Program provides people facing food insecurity with nutritious meals and seed packs. Our in-country partners distribute them to people who need food most and develop lasting relationships where ministry can continue.

#### **Clean Water**

Shortages of safe, clean water and a lack of sanitation and hygiene create the most significant source of suffering on earth. The Clean Water Program helps our partners drill and repair wells, distribute water filters, and provide hygiene training — meeting physical needs and creating opportunities for people to hear about the eternal hope of Jesus.

#### **Critical Aid**

Impoverished or displaced people need basic care to help them build a better and brighter future. The Critical Aid Program gives suffering people like refugees and victims of disaster throughout the developing world lifesaving essentials, including health-related items, temporary shelter, medical supplies, blankets, clothing, and shoes.

### **Our Relationship with Cru**

The humanitarian programs at Unto are crucial to the strategy of equipping Cru partners as they trust God to develop multiplying disciples and establish new churches around the world.

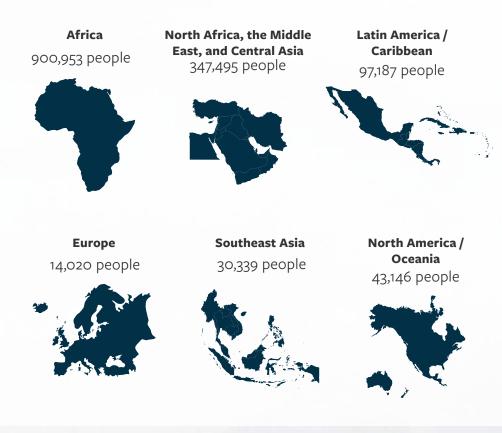
Cru is one of the largest Christian ministries in the world. They serve in virtually every country on earth, representing most of the world's population.

By enhancing the ministry of international and domestic Cru partners with humanitarian assistance and coaching, Unto fulfills its mission by providing partners with access to unreached people groups. We also help our partners build credibility in the eyes of governments and authorities. In many cases humanitarian aid is the main reason ministry is allowed to continue in the toughest places.



#### **Your Global Impact**

This year you expressed the kindness of Jesus to more than 1.43 million people living in the toughest places. Your service and generosity relieved their suffering, restored their dignity, and revealed the hope of Jesus to individuals in every major region of the world.



#### **Photo Credits**

Josh Phillips	Front Cover; Pages 5, 7, 13, 17; Back Cover
Tom Mills	Pages 1, 15
Silas Zindel	Page 3
S.A.	Page 11



### FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

As the global food crisis continues, the number of people facing acute food insecurity remains extremely high. Many of the countries where people are experiencing crippling hunger or famine are also closed to the message of eternal hope. Generous donors help supply suffering people with meals and create opportunities for local staff teams to share the message of Jesus.

#### Meals Give Way to Hope for Refugees in Unlikely Places

When war broke out in his homeland, Nasir\* and his family were forced to flee with nothing more than the items they could carry. Local Unto team members met them while they were living in a refugee camp in a neighboring country.

Our team members provided the family with meals and began building a relationship with them. Nasir is very religious and had memorized large portions of his holy book. He wondered how his new friends could be sure the message of eternal hope was true.

They offered to show him the *JESUS* film. The whole family sat down to watch on the team's small projector.

Halfway through the film, Nasir stood up and exclaimed, "It is clear that Jesus is a divine person, NOT a normal human like the others."

The family continued watching and by the end of the film Nasir told his family, "Now I know who Jesus is. I can see it clearly ... can't you?"

That day all seven people in Nasir's family responded to the message of hope in Jesus. The local team remains in contact with them. And Nasir continues to grow in his new faith.

When he decided to no longer fast during the local religious festival, he shared with our team member, "Jesus is the One who removes our sin, not fasting and feasting for a month."

Your gifts of meals help create opportunities for unreached people to hear the truth about Jesus and experience new life in Him.

\*Name changed for security purposes.

# **CLEAN WATER**

One in four people worldwide lacks access to safe, clean drinking water. Even more cannot practice basic hygiene. Generous donors help Unto and our local partners drill clean water wells, repair damaged wells, provide water filters, and teach hygiene techniques — creating opportunities to share hope and establish new churches in the toughest places on earth.

### The Gift of Clean Water Helps Transform Entire Communities in Africa

Nyauhanga dreamed of having a water well in her community. Women in her rural Malawian village used to walk three miles to the nearest water source.

When she was not able to access clean water, her family had no choice but to drink from dirty sources contaminated by animals. As a result her children would get sick from waterborne illnesses.

Thankfully, people like you stepped in, and everything changed! Your generosity allowed local Unto staff members to drill a new water well in Nyauhanga's community.

As the wife of the village chief, she was at the well opening ceremony hosted by the local staff team. That is where she heard about new life in Jesus. She shared with the team:

In addition to giving us water, we have also received the water of life from the powerful preaching we have been hearing during the stay of the team in this village. Before the team came, I was not feeling well. I had no peace, and I did not have a relationship with God. Now I am happy that I have experienced peace, and I have Jesus.

Because of the new well, local staff teams have been able to share the message of Jesus with at least 500 people. So far 322 people have responded! More than 50 people have gone through a discipleship training program, and 10 people have decided to become volunteers with the local team.

The gift of clean water is one of our staff team's most effective strategies for reaching unreached people groups and establishing new churches in the toughest places on earth.



## **CRITICAL AID**

Today an unprecedented 114 million people have been displaced from their homes due to war, poverty, famine, and drought. Local teams serve those who are suffering by personally distributing the lifesaving aid faithful partners help provide. As relationships are formed, the message of hope is shared when the time is right.

#### **Basic Care Helps Relieve Suffering for Displaced People in the Middle East**

Ayisha\* lives as a refugee in an overcrowded camp in a closed Middle Eastern country. Her husband died in the Syrian war, and she and her daughter were forced to flee for their safety.

Multiple times she has been offered a way out — asylum in Europe. It is every refugee's dream. Each time she has prayed about it and then said no. She realizes God has called her to serve her own people, in a place many would call godforsaken. For years she has worked with the local Unto team to share the message of hope with those who have never heard.

Ayisha did not always have such purpose and resolve. When she first arrived at the refugee camp years ago, she was angry and depressed. But then she heard about the eternal hope of Jesus, and everything changed. She went from bitter to bubbling over with joy.

After all these years Ayisha still lives in a tent and uses the lifesaving humanitarian aid you help deliver to meet suffering people's immediate physical needs. She heads up a sewing project for refugee women, teaching them skills to help provide for their families. She continues to welcome new families to the refugee camp and helps them access the supplies they need.

Just recently a Syrian family came across the border seeking safety. They arrived in their new country not knowing anyone. Someone pointed them to Ayisha. She met the family and invited them to live in her tent until they could get the help they needed. The family did not know Jesus. So as Ayisha built a relationship with them, she also shared the hope of Jesus.

Today Ayisha has seen nearly 300 women respond to the message of Jesus as she tangibly meets needs and shares about eternal hope.

\*Name changed for security purposes.



### **DISASTER RELIEF**

When crisis strikes people need immediate help — and hope. Unto disaster relief focuses on providing suffering people with critical aid at lifesaving speed, responding to the unique needs of victims in the toughest places. Our teams conduct a swift assessment to determine an effective response and then work to provide things like food, water, temporary shelter, and other resources.

### An Immediate Response Brings Hope to Families Facing Unexpected Tragedy

On February 6, 2023, the people of Turkey experienced one of the worst earthquakes in the country's history. Thousands lost their lives. More than 1.5 million were left homeless. Countless aftershocks left people traumatized and living in fear.

Thanks to your faithful partnership, Unto was among the first to respond, providing water filters for victims within 24 hours of the earthquake. A few weeks later, our Unto team member met Eren\* while helping with disaster relief efforts.

Eren's family business is across the street from where our local church partners set up a camp to serve the displaced. More than 7,000 people who lost everything now live in tents in the camp. They also receive daily meals and basic hygiene items.

Our team member built a relationship with Eren's family. And on his last night in the city, Eren spent time with him one-on-one. In those few moments of quiet, Eren opened up.

On the night of the earthquake, he had been with four of his best friends. He encouraged them to stay at his family's home for the night. Instead they each chose to go back to the small, overcrowded apartment complexes where their families resided. Then the earthquake hit.

Eren's family was spared. But as he went around to each of his friend's homes, he could hear people calling out from inside the rubble. One by one he pulled his best friends out — but none had survived. He pulled their families out. He pulled his girlfriend out. But all were lost.

Four weeks after the disaster, Eren recounted his story to our team member for the first time. "I feel like I've lost everything," he said.

Eren saw Christians actively serving in his community. He heard the message of hope as it was shared. He felt safe in that moment to share his grief. Local church partners continue to follow up with him and his family and ensure they have what they need during this difficult time.

Your generosity ensures people experience the kindness of Jesus and hear about His hope even in the midst of terrible tragedy.

\*Name changed for security purposes.



## **VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Organizations such as churches, corporations, universities, and nonprofits utilized volunteer opportunities at Unto to serve others. People around the globe benefited from their hours of service, community outreach, team building, and international missions events. The time volunteers give is invaluable and has an significant impact on the lives of countless individuals around the world.

### **Volunteers Are Essential to Expressing Kindness**

This year 10,161 volunteers served at Unto's Global Logistics Center and PackHope events. More than 134,470 suffering people received lifesaving critical aid because of their service to prepare items for shipment. University students and others also joined our field staff teams to conduct vision clinics and plant gardens in the toughest places. People around the world experienced the kindness of Jesus and heard about His hope because of the time and service of dedicated volunteers.

### Partnerships Make Humanitarian Ministry Possible

Individuals, churches, like-minded ministries, corporations, and Cru missionaries make up the partners who are central to Unto's ministry. Together with organizations such as the Jesus Film Project<sup>®</sup>, we are going where others cannot go to relieve suffering and reveal the hope of Jesus.

As we work together to reach those who have never heard, what role will you play — will you give, pray, or go?

#### **Unto Field Partners**

create strategies for relieving suffering and increasing ministry effectiveness. Unto responds by engaging others who can help provide resources to meet those needs.

#### **Other Partners**

such as individuals, churches, and organizations provide prayer and financial support as well as volunteers who help prepare aid for shipment or travel for short-term ministry.

#### **Financial Partners**

provide funding that helps Unto fulfill field partner requests for Food and Agriculture, Clean Water, and Critical Aid Programs.

#### **Gift-in-Kind Partners**

allow Unto to leverage funding from financial partners. Because of donated goods, every dollar multiplies to provide even more distributed aid.



### FINANCIAL REPORT AND LEADERSHIP

**Our Pledge to You:** We seek to maintain the highest standards of integrity before the Lord and before you. Unto abides by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) standards of responsible stewardship in managing donations. Our goal is to maximize every ministry dollar to serve best those living in the toughest places on earth.



#### **Board of Directors and Officers**

Mark Gauthier, Chairman of the Board Douglas Briley, Director Charles Chappell, Director Jennifer Culver, Director David Hazelton, Director Darryl Smith, Director Al Goff, Director, President and CEO' Barbara Bouchard, Secretary Mark Tjernagel, Treasurer/CFO Dave Weier, Controller

<sup>1</sup> Al Goff, like all other missionary staff members for Unto, raises funding to cover the costs of his salary, training, ministry, and fundraising expenses. These costs are independently determined by the Human Resources and Staff Support functions of Cru.

#### Other Revenue **Gifts-in-Kind** (3.7%

Equity Transfers (16.4%)

ontributed ervices 3%)

> Contributions (25.8%)

#### 2023 Revenues & Transfers

Gifts-in-Kind	\$10,662,378
Contributions	\$5,525,796
Contributed Services	\$ 929,555
Other Revenue	\$ 795,405
Equity Transfers <sup>2</sup>	\$ 3,521,495
Total <sup>3</sup>	\$21,434,629

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Total	\$22,869,361	
Fundraising	\$ 1,842,298	
General & Administration	\$ 1,199,155	
Program Services	\$19,827,908	

General & Administration (5.2%)

undraising (8.1%)

Program Services (86.7%)

#### **Leadership Team**

Al Goff, President and CEO Stephen Hunt, Director, Leadership Development and Human Resources Joan Kanne, Leadership Development and Human Resources Michelle Oney, Executive Vice President, Advancement

Brooks Shull, Chief of Staff Clint McClure, Vice President, Field Operations Dave Weier, Controller

<sup>2</sup>In accordance with not-for-profit accounting guidance, the value of staff services provided to Unto by Cru (Unto's parent organization) is presented in the Statement of Activities as an Equity Transfer rather than as Contributed Services revenue. For 2023 the value of these contributed services is \$3,521,495; this value is also recorded across Unto's three Expense functions. There is no effect on Unto's Net Income or its Net Assets.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes \$187K in revenue "Released from Restriction."



### **RELIEVE SUFFERING FOR GENERATIONS**

Endowment gifts relieve suffering for generations. They are easy, and they can provide you with significant tax benefits. Gifts of any size can be made to the Maximum Impact Endowment Fund at Unto and ensure the kindness of Jesus and His eternal hope will be shared now and for years to come.

# The Maximum Impact Endowment Fund Allows You to Serve Generations to Come

The Maximum Impact Endowment Fund at Unto is essential. It allows our teams to be nimble, enables innovation, and provides fuel for growth. It positions the ministry to respond quickly to critical issues, providing humanitarian aid and creating opportunities to share the hope of Jesus.

We are seeking partners to help grow the endowment in order to serve more people and respond to urgent needs as they arise. Your gift will provide consistent, sustainable funding that allows Unto to meet the most urgent needs from the field and provide the infrastructure necessary to support our three programs: Food and Agriculture, Clean Water, and Critical Aid.

#### **Endowment Assurances**

- Ensures organizational mission continues for years to come
- Provides for wise philanthropic investments today and safeguards your charitable interests for generations
- Offers a consistent source of sustainable funding to meet urgent needs and support Unto's programs

#### Give to the Endowment Today

In just three simple steps, you can impact generations in the toughest places.

CONTACT<br/>Info@unto.com<br/>Gifts of any<br/>size qualifyDONATE<br/>TodayYOUR GIVING<br/>Continues Forever<br/>Carry your legacy<br/>into the future

For more information visit unto.com/legacy or contact info@unto.com.

"The Master said to the servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes. Tell the people there to come. I want My house to be full!"

— Luke 14:23 (International Children's Bible)









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