

WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

# See Your Gifts in Action.



See the Impact  
You Made in 2021!



Freedom in  
Forgiveness



Looking  
Ahead



Easter is  
Almost Here!

# A Message from the Executive Director



**The new year has begun and we at Global Disciples Canada are feeling renewed by God's grace and love. We are so thankful for our amazing community of supporters.**

Reflecting on 2021 brings many mixed emotions, but the emotion that rises to the forefront is one of deep gratitude. God was and is with us, and His hand is at work.

By God's providence, Global Disciples was able to adapt and innovate during the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to shift strategically to better multiply and scale up our Discipleship Training Programs over this coming year. Already, the number of Certified Trainers on our international staff has doubled!

As you read Akin's story on page 4, along with our program updates, I hope you know that none of this would be possible without your prayers and generous partnership.

**YOU are an important part of the Global Disciples Canada family. Your generosity is bringing God's light to the farthest reaches of the world!** We are so grateful for your continued support on Jesus' Great Commission.



*Andre Lesur*

**Andre Lesur**  
Executive Director, Global Disciples Canada

## 2022 Goals

1

### Partnership

Increase our Church Partnerships by 100%

2

### Ambassadors

Develop a passionate prayer ministry with representation across Canada

3

### Revenue

Increase funding required to enter 7 new strategic least-reached nations

# See the Impact You Made in 2021!

## A Year of Strategic Shifts and Expansion

Wow—can you believe how far we have come? Looking back on 2021, it is incredible to see the good work God has been doing through Global Disciples Canada, supported by our amazing community of generous donors.

Despite many challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, within just twelve months, thousands of new disciples were trained and tens of thousands of new believers came to know Christ!

The Lord is faithful!

Your partnership means more than ever as we build upon 2021's big wins, forging ahead to create a world where everyone has the opportunity to hear the Good News.

## A Year in Review 2021



2,232

Churches were planted

64,214

New believers accepted Christ



64

Countries worldwide are now served by Global Disciples

13,032

Disciple-makers were trained



Less than 1% of people in Niger are saved, but God's message of salvation is spreading.

A man wearing a straw hat with a red band and a yellow and white striped face mask. He is standing in a field of tall green corn plants. The background shows more corn and some trees under a clear sky.

# Freedom in Forgiveness

## Akin's Story

Akin grew up in a small community in Niger, knowing the same neighbours most of his life. Like many people in his community, it wasn't until his adulthood that Akin had the opportunity to know Jesus.

**You see, in Niger, less than one percent of the population is Christian. But God is moving in unexpected ways...**

When Akin was approached by a local church director about joining the Discipleship Mission Training Program, he felt a stirring in his heart. *"It was like nothing I've ever experienced before,"* says Akin. *"I heard God calling me, so I said yes, but I did not know what God would ask of me."*

He fell into the program with ease. Akin was a keen student, wholly devoted to his walk with Christ and passionate about sharing the Gospel. Before long, he knew it would be his turn to start training the next generation of disciples. Everything seemed to be falling into place.

**One day, Akin received devastating news that tested his developing faith.**

There was a knock at his door. A neighbour was standing on his doorstep with Akin's young nephews. *"I'm sorry to bring such terrible news, but your brother and sister-in-law are dead,"* the neighbour had said. *"They have been murdered by your uncle."*

Akin's world was suddenly spinning. *"My beloved brother and his wife were gone. My poor nephews were orphaned,"* says Akin. *"The injustice of it all was nearly too much to bear."*

Without a second thought, Akin took his nephews in as his own children.

Day by day, as the grief moved through him, Akin was able to turn back to his Discipleship Training Program with great focus. Life was busy, of course, with his new charges, but he wanted to make

sure he gave them the best life possible.

A few months later, when the church director approached Akin about sharing a sermon with the community, Akin felt ready. The topic was supposed to be forgiveness. He worked hard studying the scripture to put together a message that he hoped would inspire the people in his village.

The day came and Akin gathered his notes and his Bible and approached the podium. As he stood in front of his community, looking out at their expectant faces, he became quiet and still. His brother's face came to mind, and immediately he felt his heat rise—it was anger.

*"I realized I had not forgiven my uncle. In fact, in my darkest moments, I had even been secretly imagining my revenge,"* says Akin. *"I knew at that moment that I couldn't possibly speak on forgiveness when there was unfinished business in my own heart."*

God's presence fell upon him and Akin knew what he had to do. He set down his notes and took a deep breath and began to speak.

Akin shared his entire story. He shared his brokenness...his anger. And he also shared that he knew he was called to forgive his uncle. Standing there in front of his community, he prayed for the soul of his uncle. *"With God and my whole village as witness, I was able to forgive my uncle on a level that I didn't even know was possible,"* says Akin.

In the crowd, people whispered in disbelief. How could Akin forgive



Not only did forgiveness transform Akin's heart, but it inspired 11 people to accept Christ into their hearts.

someone who had betrayed his own family so badly? Someone who had left children without their parents? Surely revenge would be justifiable in a case like this?

But God's power of forgiveness poured into Akin, bringing a sense of peace that he had never felt before.

Akin's story spread throughout the community—a living testimony to the sheer power of forgiveness.

As a result, 11 people decided to dedicate their lives to Christ. Before long, there were enough believers in the village to open up a church. And it is creating a ripple effect. People in villages nearby have also started to hear the Good News and are receiving salvation. Faith in the Lord is growing in Niger. Praise God!

Thank you to those who continue to pray for transformation in Niger.

**There are so many more places where people are yearning for God's salvation. Your ongoing gifts help us in sharing the message of love and hope in Christ to the ends of the earth.**

# Looking Ahead

## A Lot is Happening this Spring!

As you may know, at Global Disciples our Great Commission strategy is simple: teach people how to be disciple makers in areas that are least-reached by the Gospel and give them the tools they need to lead and economically self-sustain their ministry within three years.

We train ordinary men and women, young and old, to share the Gospel, make disciples, and plant churches among the least-reached people. This year, we have plans in motion to make great strides forward in expanding operations around the world. Spring will be packed with training events around the world.

In February and March, Annual Equipping Events (AEE) are taking place in Kenya,

Rwanda, Ethiopia, India, Uganda, Cameroon, Nepal, South Africa, Central Africa, El Salvador... and more locations!

Additionally, Small Business Development (SBD) training events will be happening in Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa, Cameroon, and Tanzania; and Leadership Training is scheduled in Brazil and Myanmar.

We look forward to hearing stories of transformation pour in from international teams working to share Christ's love far and wide. It's only possible with your help, and we are so grateful for continued support from all of our generous donors!

## Global Disciples

### Canada Staff Updates:

We were excited to welcome Melanie Willemse to our team in October as our Prayer Coordinator and Liaison with Private Trusts and Foundations.



*Meet Melanie!*

The flooding that ravaged Abbotsford, British Columbia last November impacted our staff members Patricia Hyslop (Office Manager) and Rebecca Perrie (Bookkeeper). Thankfully both are safe.



Help share the Good News this spring.

**Please donate!**



"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."  
(John 11:25-26)



Christ died and rose again so that all may have eternal life. **Please donate today to spread Jesus' love around the world.**

## Easter is Almost Here!

### Share the News of Christ's Resurrection

Easter will be here before we know it. This is a very special season to honour the incredible sacrifice Jesus made through His death and resurrection—a gift that is not meant to be kept, but shared.

*For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? Romans 10:13-14*

Jesus paid the ultimate price, dying on the cross to pay the debt of all of our sins, and on the third day, He rose again. Jesus rose to be crowned as king over all things in heaven and on earth.

God calls each of us to account and summons *all people everywhere to live* in His glorious

freedom and salvation. What a privilege to live as Christ ambassadors here on earth and bringing God's kingdom to here on earth.

**This Easter, we invite you to celebrate Christ's victory over death and the promise of eternal life for those who follow him.**

The Good News should be freely available and accessible to all. Your support this Easter directly impacts disciples around the world who are working hard to shine God's light in the darkest corners, sharing the Good News of Easter.

**Join us to bring the message of God's love to the least-reached. Please give generously today.**

**THANK YOU!**

# For Sharing God's Love Around the World!

One third of the world has yet to hear the Gospel even once. That's why Global Disciples has developed a model of training that is Christ-centered, discipleship-based and mission-focused.



**Thanks to supporters like you, believers around the world are being trained to share the Gospel within their own cultures and in their own languages.**

Global Disciples provides training for locally-sustained and reproduced programs in 64 countries throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America—developing disciple-makers, marketplace entrepreneurs and serving leaders.

**You, our amazing family of donors, are the reason this mission is growing steadily. Global Disciples couldn't exist without your partnership, and we are so grateful for you!**

We look forward to seeing what this year holds as we work together to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission and share the Gospel with the least-reached people around the world.

**May God abundantly bless you and your family this year!**

[globaldisciples.ca](http://globaldisciples.ca)