

THIRTY YEARS OF *GOD'S* FAITHFULNESS

josiahventure • 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

A Message from our President Dave Patty



Dear Friends,

My life was changed forever when God invited me into his mission.

When the walls of communism fell in 1989, my wife and I were working with young people on military bases in Germany. The collapse of the Iron Curtain opened new doors for the gospel, so our organization began taking teams into Hungary and Poland to share Jesus with young people. Since youth evan-

gelism had been illegal in these countries for many years, numerous churches were unprepared for the new opportunities. The need to reach young people in the East began to weigh heavy on my heart.

But, God's invitation didn't come until several years later, in the spring of 1992. With a clarity I have only experienced a couple of times in my life, God opened my eyes to his heart and vision for the region, and he gave his call to join him in reaching the next generation in Central and Eastern Europe.

Missions always begin with the heart of God. He is the one who opens eyes, redeems hearts, and calls people to himself. He is always on mission and the one who graciously calls us to join him.



Equipping young leaders to fulfill Christ's commission through the local church.

Sitting in a wooden chair on the end of a lake in southern Wisconsin, at the end of two days of fasting and prayer, I wrote a simple phrase at the top of my paper: "A movement of God among the youth of Central and Eastern Europe that finds its home in the local church and transforms society." Reflecting on what that movement could look like, I realized it was worth giving the rest of my life to.

Just over a year later, in November of 1993, my wife and I and our dear friends Dan and Laura Hash moved to Czech and Poland to start Josiah Venture. We desired to find and equip young Josiahs who, like the Biblical king of old, would seek God in their youth and be used by him to **rebuild** the house of God, **restore** the Word of God to a central place, and bring **revival** to their lands.

This last year, in 2023, we celebrated 30 years of God's faithfulness to this vision. He has been faithful to his call and drawn many young people to himself. He has faithfully built a gifted team with over 350 staff members in 18 countries. He is faithful to his mission to transform us through the power of Jesus Christ and share that transformation with those around us.

Faithful to build his Church

Beginning with just two local fellowships, the Josiah Venture team now serves over 700 churches in Central and Eastern Europe. They are bringing renewal and equipping a new generation of leaders for evangelical churches, holding out the light of Jesus in countries in great need of the gospel. Hundreds of churches in the United States, Canada, and the UK have partnered with us in these efforts.

Faithful to reach the lost

Over the years, God has revealed evangelistic methods through five main "highways" of **Camps, Schools, Music, Sports, and Media**. Our camps gather unbelievers for a week of relationships and gospel sharing during the summer, while our school teams give lectures and special programs in schools throughout the year. Fusion choirs help churches reach young people through music, and Edge teams draw in young men and women through sports. Various social media outreaches provide resources for youth leaders online and take the gospel to the smartphones where young people spend so much of their time.

Faithful to equip leaders

Jesus is our model for training, and we work to get young leaders rooted in the life of Christ and equipped to make disciples in his steps. This training occurs in seminars and conferences and through individual mentoring and coaching. Young leaders experiencing their first ministry are teachable and passionate. They are best equipped to reach their generation and then go on to become disciplemakers, elders, and pastors among adults.



371 STAFF
IN 18 COUNTRIES



2023 MINISTRY REPORT

ACTIVELY INVESTING
IN 752 LOCAL CHURCHES

Evangelism

JV has led **1,971** evangelistic camps over the past **29** years. Through this year's evangelistic camps, **569** unbelievers professed new faith in Jesus Christ and **489** students reaffirmed their faith.

Other evangelism activities including Fusion, Edge, and EXIT impacted **43,813** individuals. These activities included evangelistic presentations in schools, mission trips, and more.

Amid the continuing war in Ukraine, the Epokha team (our local partner organization in Ukraine) had many opportunities to share the gospel and saw **145** individuals profess faith in Christ through these efforts.

Leadership Development

The number of training investments by JV staff into young leaders increased by **70%** since the previous year, with a total of **6,456** attendees at various training events.

Youth Ministry Recharge events continued this year in **61** locations with **1,455** attendees.

This year, JV hosted **65** interns, continuing to see a greater share of national interns than second-culture interns.

Enrollment in the Central European campus of ForMission College has increased, with **23** students enrolled across all three years.

Discipleship

We saw a **13%** increase in the number of students participating in the youth groups JV staff are involved in.

809 students were engaged in **100** small groups directly led by the JV team.

2023 FINANCES

TOTAL DONATIONS BY YEAR

2020	2021	2022	2023
\$12 Million	\$13.5 Million	\$21.1 Million (including Ukraine giving)	\$16.4 Million (Unaudited)

2023 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

2.5%	Fundraising
10%	Administration
87.5%	Program



1,036
PROFESSIONS
OF FAITH IN CHRIST



LOOKING FORWARD

As we look to the future, we are convinced that the last 30 years are only the beginning of what God desires to accomplish through the youth movement in this region. Communism is a distant memory, and the current generation is well-informed, well-traveled, and constantly connected. Yet, the need for Jesus is just as real today as it was when Josiah Venture began.

The Albania camp land we have been working to acquire is still in motion, and the purchase may be complete by the time you receive this letter. Currently, JV has training or camp facilities in five countries.

Most of all, we will remain on mission with Jesus as he seeks and saves a new generation of believers in Central and Eastern Europe.

During this next year, we will continue to hold out the light of Jesus in the midst of an ongoing war in Ukraine. We are working to recruit new national workers from the youth generation onto the team—and praying for an increase of 10% this year.

Dave Patty
President, Josiah Venture



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