

2021

# OVERLAND MISSIONS

## Country Updates

Read about the move of God happening all over the world

## Dangerous Places

Ministering in a closed and dangerous nation has its challenges, but it also has its amazing stories





# OVER

We go to the most remote places of the earth in order to reach neglected and unreached people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our four step strategy - pioneering, evangelism, discipleship, and leadership - comes from the book of Acts.

The early apostles were pioneers. They traveled to unreached locations, took every opportunity to preach the Word, and demonstrate the Kingdom through signs and wonders. They also poured into new converts until they were strong enough to lead their own local assembly of believers. When we pioneer a nation, we use this model.

We do whatever it takes to reach the people, communicate the Gospel message, and disciple new

4 step strategy  
pioneering  
evangelism  
discipleship  
leadership

# IRLAND

## MISSIONS

believers. In discipleship, we focus on the finished work of the cross and instill the reality of the new creation. At this point, we identify the felt-needs of the people and bring humanitarian aid in order to see both a physical and spiritual transformation. Through intentional and consistent discipleship, we then identify and equip potential indigenous leaders. We support these leaders with the training and tools they need to sustain the work and create a viral movement of God. As a ministry, this Acts-inspired strategy runs in our DNA in order to propagate the Gospel into the furthest, most unreached places in the world making disciples of every tribe, tongue and nation. We encourage you to continue reading along as we share the incredible testimonies God gave us in the midst of a year where nothing seemed possible.



9 Disciples praying for deaf ears to open, one of the many testimonies from Zambia.



13 Chaplaincy team with Chief Kafwimbi after he received Jesus and healing in his legs.

# CO

# NT

## 4 ADVANCEMENTS

Of all the work that happened across 16 nations, there are a few major advancements that will impact the velocity of our ministry as we advance into more nations.

## 5 BRAZIL

Our team expanded and began the process of building a base. Check out the full story from our team on the Amazon River.

## 13 AMT & OMT

Our schools trained the next generation of missionaries that will be launching around the world.



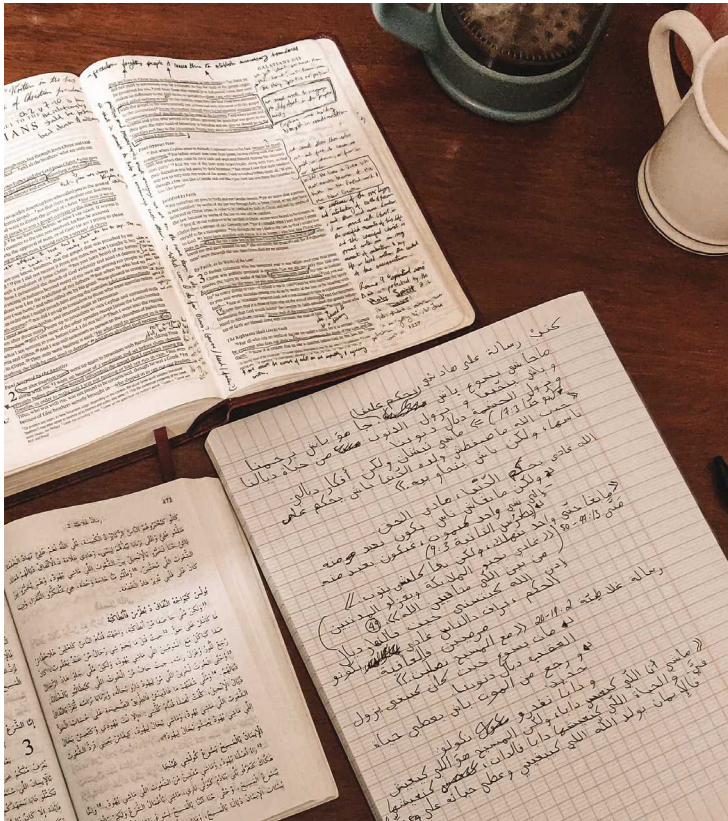


**23** Water baptisms were frequent in SE Asia! In the midst of lock downs, revival happened.



**27** The expedition department fabricated and outfitted a new truck for ministry.

# EVENTS



## 15 CONGO

After years of persecution and difficulties, we have seen a momentum in ministry this year. We are opening a third area of ministry and our team has vastly grown.

## 19 ANGOLA

In the most remote areas of Angola, one would find the Kuvale tribe. A nomadic people with no written language and no access to the Gospel, till now.

## 29 FEATURE STORY

What is it like to live in dangerous places where it is illegal to preach the Gospel? Check out these field stories to find out.

A scenic landscape photograph of a river flowing through a valley. The river is in the center, winding through the valley floor. The valley walls are steep and covered with sparse vegetation, including some bare trees on the left and some dry, brown reeds or grasses in the foreground. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A thick, yellow diagonal stripe runs from the top left corner towards the bottom right, partially obscuring the landscape. In the bottom left corner, there is a short vertical yellow line followed by the text "message from our founders, Phil & Sharon Smethurst" in a yellow serif font.

message from  
our founders,  
Phil & Sharon  
Smethurst



## Dear friends and partners,

*Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel, Psalms 2:8-9.*

There is no doubt in my mind that, the rod of iron by which God has planned for us to subdue the nations is the Word of Christ delivered on the shoulders of faithful servants. To them the gates of hell cannot prevail. They bind and they loose, they take every place that their foot treads. With obedience and sacrifice they achieve what others have only hoped for. It is important for you to know that we as a team understand that the presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most paramount objective in everything we do and that we refuse to be distracted from that mission. Lest we approach the nations without the rod of iron and run our only race aimlessly.

This year Sharon and I drove or flew to many of our bases in Africa to visit the teams. Testimonies were astounding of God's favor, from many outstanding miracles, super natural provision, to testimonies of hundreds of Muslims converting to Christ.

Since the founding of Overland Missions, Sharon and I focused on building a strong ex-patriot team knowing that eventually, our biggest impact would be the local people becoming missionaries themselves. This year we saw a new momentum of equipped and well-trained local ministers, not only maintaining a viral movement of God in their own home nation, but we saw them launched into surrounding nations. The most notable being the all-Zambian expedition launching into Congo. We also saw Brazilians launching into Mozambique and Cambodians into Zambia.

One thing that marks this year for me will be that we endeavored to build three mission bases simultaneously throughout the globe, each build requiring several hundred thousand dollar initial investments. It's been as if COVID-19 didn't exist as the velocity has been very high. It has been thrilling watching the team grow, with many young families having babies and all the challenges of life thrown at them while still staying the course.

All this is possible because the men and woman who have faithfully given their lives to the cause of Christ in the nations and because of your partnership in their lives. We hope you are blessed by the testimonies contained in this booklet. As always, all glory and honor belong to Him and Him alone.

# 2021 at a glimpse



top Overland's boat on the Amazon River, Brazil  
right International Director of Operations, Jake  
S, speaking with his Royal Highness, Chief Ishima



## advancements

In 2021, we planted missionaries in two new countries - Madagascar and Tanzania. This puts us at 13 countries with full-time, long-term presence in South America, Africa, Middle East, North Africa, and Southeast Asia.

We are currently building new bases in Brazil and Cambodia, as well as two in northern Zambia. The bases in Brazil and Cambodia will host not only our sector managers on the ground, but will also host an AMT and OMT (pg 13).

The Advanced Mission Training school launched into a third country and successfully launched phase one and two. Splitting the school into phases is a new initiative and will allow the team to greatly expand while continuing intensive discipleship with the students.

Congo received their first short-term expedition. This team was filled by seasoned Zambian ministers that left their full-time assignment for a short-term trip to assist our Congo team (pg 15).

We broke ground on The King's Center which will be located on our flagship base in Livingstone, Zambia. This center will be a haven for traditional leaders to gather, strategize, rest, and gain vision for their important position.

---

# BRAZIL

The mighty Amazon River runs thousands of miles through the Brazilian rain forest. Along her shores, something powerful is happening. In the depths of the jungle, where vast numbers of people are still untouched by the Gospel, God is moving and the Gospel is flourishing.

This year has been groundbreaking for us, literally, as work has begun on a new base outside the city of Maues. Our team originally looked to rent land because the finances for a property were simply not there. The base was a far off plan but miraculously came into realization! In a nation where most of the ministry is conducted by boat on the rivers, this base will be the mothership for South America, a gateway to the rest of the continent for the Gospel, driving expansion deeper into the Amazon and into neighboring countries. The first AMT is planned to run next year out of this new base, and it will also be a launching pad for expeditions, local training, and discipleship as our team continues to embolden the local church and implant a heart to reach their own people.

With so much excitement on the horizon, looking back on the previous year elicits no less joy for our team. This year's expeditions turned up hard ground as people realized for the first time that the dead religion they had known couldn't satisfy. This was the first time since launching permanently in Maues that we've actually seen people broken before the Lord, realizing they need Him as the savior. We witnessed so many life-changing moments this year, and see it as a season of important milestones that can't be taken for granted. While the team grew in leaps and bounds last year, adding several new members, the most exciting trend was the involvement of local ministers in the work of the ministry. The church has the finances, and it has the people. All that is needed is the drive and motivation to reach the groups of people that no one has thought to go to, we see our team enabling and empowering the Brazilian church to go to those places. With the progress of this year, the new base, and a growing team, the future is exciting, and the feeling in Brazil is: Anything is possible!

“With the progress of this year...the feeling in Brazil is: Anything is possible!”





“[this new base]  
will be a gateway  
to the rest of  
the continent  
for the Gospel...”

bottom left girls praying to God at kid's ministry  
top left team making farina, a staple food  
bottom Overland's boat parked on village bank



---

# Middle East/North Africa

The narrative for ministry in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) is often that the physical climate matches the spiritual climate—a desert. It's easy to sink into low expectations for the fruit that can be expected and be bound by fear of the local government. However, we have clung to the vision that the harvest truly is plentiful and in that, it has been a year of momentum for us.

After putting expeditions on hold in 2020, the Middle East was able to run their first expeditions and see even more people come to salvation through the ministry. MENA also hosted their first AMT (pg 13). Two of the students were local believers who have now officially joined Overland Missions in a full-time ministerial capacity. This is extremely helpful in launching people to reach their local communities.

“... it has been our objective to raise up local disciples and send them as missionaries, and we saw that dream come into fruition this year.”

It is no small feat for a Muslim convert to share their faith with others. It can be risky for a Muslim convert to tell other Muslims that they are now a Christian. This year, we started to see our local disciples gather and form house churches. These gatherings allow local believers to sharpen each other as well as enable them to step into leadership in ministry. This requires a high level of trust that one person is not going to expose the other to the local community and government. From the start of launching into the Middle East in 2019, it has been our objective to raise up local disciples and send them as missionaries, and we saw that dream come into fruition this year.

After much prayer and consideration, our missionaries in North Africa felt the Holy Spirit guiding them to make a big move this year from the northern to the southern region of the country, and it's been clear that the Lord had his hand in that decision. The team has been able to quickly connect with the local body and jump in to discipling young believers. What's worth noting is that many of the team's disciples came to faith right around the time the team was specifically praying for the southern region of the country. It is encouraging to see God move in a mighty way!

Over the course of the year, the MENA team ran reconnaissance trips into three surrounding countries. They gathered intel on what it would look like to obtain visas, housing, and communicate in the local dialect with the vision to launch full missionary teams into these new countries by 2023. Specific to North Africa, the team is excited to be able to run their first ever Expeditions in 2022 and see how the Lord builds their ministry in this new area.

top left typical city view for one of our teams  
bottom left team overlooking a desert view  
right camel, a mode of transport in North Africa



---

# ZAMBIA

The move of God happening in Zambia is the fruit of 20 years of being led by the Holy Spirit, pioneering remote areas, exploring terrain in the most advanced vehicles and on motorbikes, and working strongly as a team. Through all the hard work, we are seeing a massive open door to sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

The favor we are seeing amongst traditional leaders and the opportunities we are receiving in parallel has been extraordinary. We have committed a large amount of effort and time in creating and stewarding relationships with leadership on a traditional and governmental level through our sector work and through programs such as tribal chaplaincy.

Our sector work also expanded with two new bases being built and local disciples stepping into

a stronger position of leadership. We saw local leaders not only begin overseeing established sectors but also launch into new chiefdoms and territories. There has been a saturation of the Gospel across Zambia and a strong establishment of powerful local leadership that is now impacting nations.

This year, we sent our first all Zambian expedition to Congo! This will continue to happen in the years to come. The trip was filled with Zambian ministers we have spent years discipling. It is our heart to see empowerment happening on a local level for we know it is in that place, a viral movement of God will happen. For there are Zambians that have worked with us for over ten years. They started as translators and acted as a mouthpiece for our western missionaries. Fast-forward to today and they are leading

“There has been a saturation of the Gospel... and a strong establishment of powerful local leadership”



entire teams and administering the Kingdom in unreached locations. These ministers collectively have ministered outside their initial territories, have launched into areas where new languages had to be learned, acquired land and are now building bases and are personally funding their own teams of Zambian disciples.

Every sector missionary in Zambia, both western and Zambian, are ministering to headmen, chiefs, families, and running countless Bible studies. These efforts are impacting every facet of life, from a grass-root level to the leadership in areas of education, health, church, and traditional leadership. As we continue in this momentum of ministry, we are expecting for all of Sub-Saharan Africa to be impacted by the work happening in Zambia.



bottom    devotional before a day of ministry  
top    traditional home in Zambia

# eight borders

Twenty years ago, we intentionally launched into Zambia for its strategic location for it shares a border with eight other nations. The plan has always been to raise disciples and send them into the surrounding nations. Zambia is a country full of adventure, especially when it comes to finding isolated people groups and sharing the message of the new creation. Today, Zambia is the most radical example of what it looks like for a nation to be in the midst of revival and a viral movement of God. The Gospel has touched everyone from the president and his cabinet members to over 200 traditional chiefs (next page).

This movement represents millions of people who had limited access to the Gospel, that are now saturated in the presence of God.



left Chief and Queen Ishima at their palace, which neighbors the Overland Missions Zambezi Base  
right chaplain graduates from the May training

# ministry to chiefs

There are 274 chiefs in Zambia that rule over millions of people in their respective chiefdoms. Traditionally, these chiefs turn to witchcraft and animism due to a lack of access to the Gospel. The goal of our ministry to chiefs is to instill a chaplaincy program by training individuals, chosen by the chief, to be his direct spiritual advisor. This is not just a program, but it is a move of God that enforces the Kingdom of God among the kingdoms of men. It is the job of the chaplains to disciple their chiefs, establish unity among the churches and people, and steer the chiefdom in the direction the Lord desires.

This year, the chaplaincy team has trained 62 more chaplains in Zambia, creating a total of 211 acting chaplains. In addition, the chaplaincy team has started follow-up discipleship trainings in each province of Zambia. This has become a large success, allowing the chaplains to receive support, further training, and be spiritually equipped by the team and fellow chaplains. Five discipleship trainings were completed this year in five different provinces.

One chaplain, Victor, was trained in 2020 and has since formed a close relationship with the chief he serves. Victor was recently appointed as the head to the chief's Ministry of Lands and now has authority over the delegation of property for the entire chiefdom. This chief has also given him the power to handle all religious and spiritual matters within his chiefdom. Victor is eradicating ungodly practices, establishing interdenominational pastoral fellowship groups, and acting as a mediator for the chief.

Next year, the chaplaincy program will be going expand internationally into Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Both countries have similar tribal leadership structures allowing the program to be easily transferred to these nations. The Emperor of the Lunda and Luvale tribes in the DRC has already selected a chaplain along with two other chiefs. The Kingdom of God is being established in the chiefdoms and the tribal leaders are submitting to the authority of the King of kings.





# AMT – advanced mission training

Advanced Mission Training (AMT) serves as the gateway between an interest in missions and a full-time career in missions. This three-month intensive course is a tangible expression of what it looks like and what it takes to be a full-time missionary with Overland Missions. This course takes a person who has a heart for the Kingdom of God and the unreached people groups of the world, immerses them in an active missions base, then equips them with the practical and theological components necessary to be an effective minister of the Gospel.

This past year was a huge win for the AMT department. Not only did we graduate 65 students, and 56 committed to joining staff! These students accepted mission assignments in South America, Africa, the Middle East, the WHQ office, and SE Asia. All together, we will be sending missionaries into 12 countries!

With the goal of 1000 missionaries by 2030, we expanded the program into a third nation and restructured the program into two phases phase one, being the first six weeks on an established base, and phase two, the second six weeks which is spent on the flagship base in Livingstone,

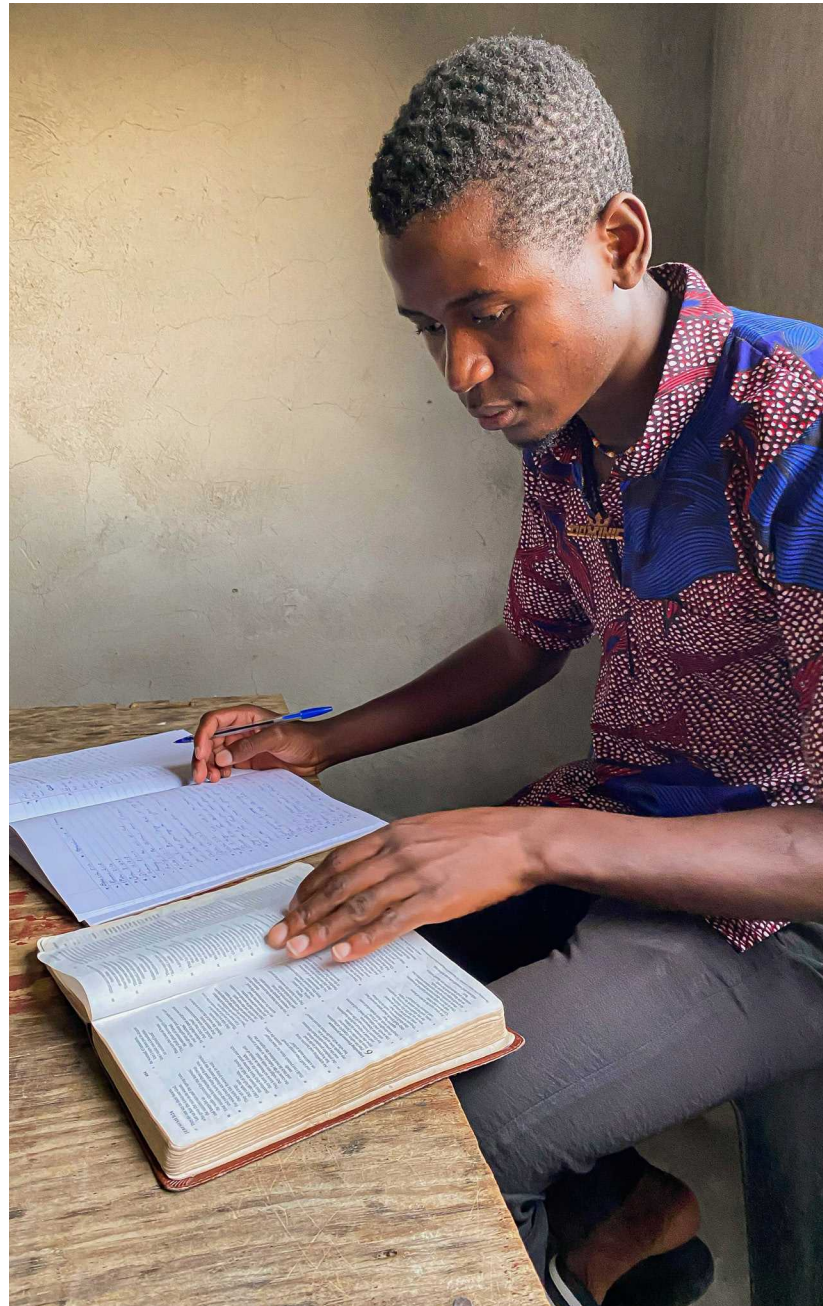
Zambia. The primary goal of this new design is to expand our organization to meet the international need of trained and effective ministers, while also maintaining intimate discipleship between staff and students. These phases allow us to grow as an organization without diluting the quality of training and this is accomplished by launching into different countries. Currently, phase one AMT is now running in Zambia, Mozambique, and the Middle East and next year we will open phase one in Brazil!

AMT is rigorous and intensive, requiring full-commitment, perseverance and servant hood from the students. The background of our students vary in age, country, and educational backgrounds. One students from this year, formerly served in the White House with a career in the Secret Service on the horizon. He joined AMT with an interest in missions and by the end, he was sold out for the nations and ready to go hard and fast with the Gospel into unreached nations. Like David, many students come into AMT questioning if a career in missions is attainable then realize: I can be a missionary! I can be a testimony of a life sold out as an ambassador of the Kingdom of God to the nations.

# OMT – overland mission training

As our sector missionaries disciple individuals across Zambia, they begin identifying potential leaders. Once these candidates are identified and if they have an interest in being a full-time minister in their own cultural context, they are recommended to enter Overland Mission Training (OMT). This four-month intensive training consists of multiple courses: Ministry Ethics, Covenant Relationships, Kids Ministry, Gospel of Identity, Sustainable Development, Expeditions, Workshop, Worship, Sustainable Agriculture, Preaching, Media, Authority of the Believer, Sector Management, and Culture Communication. These classes equip our Zambian ministers to walk in the fullness of their identity in Christ and equip them with the tools to not only make a sustainable movement in God but to make a physical change in the economies and lives of their communities. In the past two years we graduated 16 students and 15 of them are still in full-time ministry. This year we graduated 13 students. We have hope that these graduates will become leaders, and their leadership will result in a lasting movement of God in their communities. This year we launched a second OMT in Zanzibar, with Brazil and Cambodia on the horizon.

students become  
leaders, and  
these leaders  
are the answer  
to a lasting  
movement of God



top left AMT graduation from November  
top right OMT student studying

---

# DR CONGO

Compared to Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is three times larger in landmass and five times larger in population. We have been trekking the ground in DRC faithfully since 2011 in pursuit of God's people. For over a decade, our missionaries have faced extreme corruption, frequent imprisonment threats, an actual imprisonment and chaos during travel. We had years of plowing where difficulties abounded, and now we are reaping the seeds sown through deep connection with the people. The difficulties are still present and consistent, but they are undeniably worth the fruit. In 2010, one of our missionaries met a taxi driver. What at first was a simple relationship blossomed into our first Congolese disciple. This man became a dear friend to our missionary, was sent to law school, and reached amazingly high potential. This consistent relationship and the investment of law school

“...we are [now] reaping the seeds sown through deep connection with the people.”

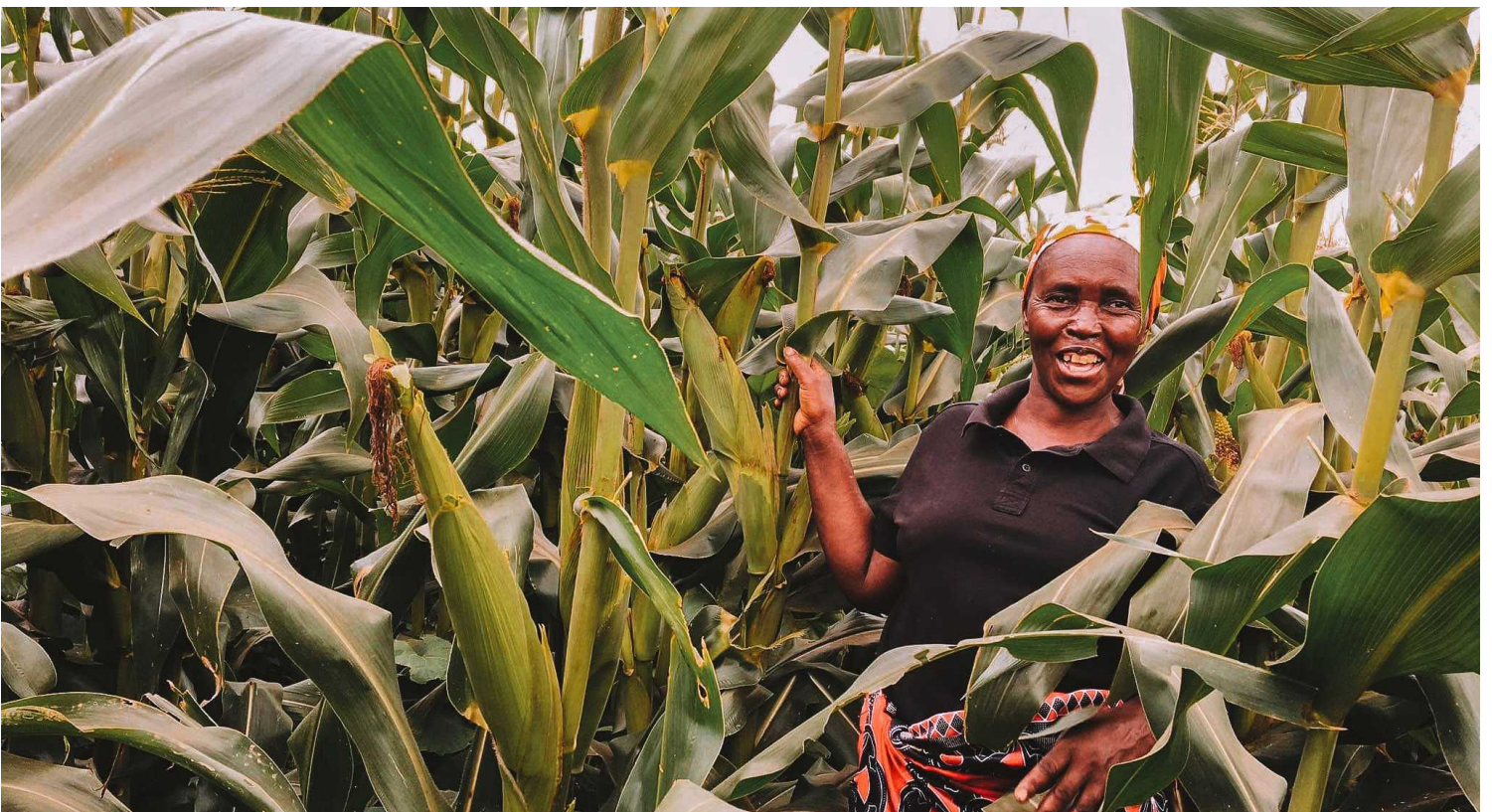
opened doors for us to every major relationship we currently have, from government to traditional leaders.

From the beginning of our time until today, a large focus of our ministry in DRC is fellowship amongst pastors focused on bringing unity amongst the churches. This is vital because we have found that a large majority of the people we come in contact with claim to be Christian, but do not carry a lifestyle that reflects their confession. We have found it to be more effective to disciple church leaders and impart in them the fullness and power of the Gospel than to plant churches. We are currently running a pastor's fellowship in three areas and pastors have shared with our team that after experiencing a life of division in Congolese churches, they now feel that unity in Christ is possible.

Another sign of the power of unity worked miraculously through our very first Congo expedition! The expedition had 32 people. Twenty-eight of them were either Zambian or Congolese. The expedition served as the spearhead into what is now our third area of ministry and showed the community the power of unity, the strength of our team and also widened the vision of our Congolese ministers. In addition to this, we have a focus on health and agriculture. One of our missionaries that has training in numerous medical fields is teaching Helping Mothers Survive and Helping Babies Breathe throughout clinics in Congo. Another one of our missionaries is focused on planting sustainable agriculture techniques through Farming God's Way training (pg 25). With a door of opportunities, and a quickly growing team, we are expectant for even more fruit in 2022!



left missionary leaving the base for a day of ministry  
bottom successful yield from a farming God's way training



---

# MOZAMBIQUE

Ministry in Mozambique requires a high level of tenacity. This is a nation with a large amount of governmental corruption and people with built-up walls after years of colonialism. Being aware of this, we have dug our heels into the ground, considered the cost, and refused to relent; we see this as the perfect time to release the true identity of Christ. Throughout Mozambique, you will see many properties that are empty except for a giant perimeter wall. The wall is to protect what's inside, but nothing is inside. After 400 years of Portuguese colonization, Mozambicans have a huge protective wall around their hearts, but they don't know who they are underneath because their identity was ripped from them. This is the time to show people who they are in Christ.

In 2021, our focus has been on consistency. After years of faithfully waiting for a permanent status, we now have a consistent presence in several locations. There is an underlying belief among local people to be cautious around any foreigners and not to trust what they say, so it has been vital to be trustworthy, reliable, and true to the Word of God. As people see this,

they become more open to believe and hold onto the words preached. They are beginning to see that as we stand on the Word, it is true. It is becoming more clear to the Mozambicans how to walk with Jesus Christ. In areas plagued with witchcraft, such as the village of Linga Linga, people are turning from generational bondage to freedom in Christ.

One of the major successes in Mozambique this year has simply been a greater level of human resources. More team members have arrived after a season of raising support, more are in the support raising season, and more indigenous missionaries are committing to the vision and working hand-in-hand with the team. We have an increase of Mozambican disciples coming to the base and being trained. By next August, our team may be doubled in size. Through the faithfulness, growth, consistency, and intentionality with the Mozambicans, we are expecting a great harvest. We are here for the long term, with a faith-filled vision to break into all areas of the nation, no matter what stands in the way.



“it’s becoming more clear  
to Mozambicans how to  
walk with Jesus Christ.”



top left — sector manager with disciple  
bottom left — expedition team on the move  
right — expedition team outside of base

---

# ANGOLA

It's just like when Jesus opened the eyes of the blind person. Now we can see everything, shared a Kuvale grandma. There has been no shortage of challenges in Angola, but moments like these prove that the reward is worth the struggle. This grandma, exclaiming these words, had a full revelation of Christ after seeing the Jesus Film translated into her language for the first time. We have been working the past two years on translating the film into the local language, and this is just one example of many where missionary work in Angola is as adventurous and pioneering as it can get.

We are in an age where the world, including much of Africa, is accelerating in technology and infrastructure. In contrast, the lives of many in Southern Africa remain as they have for generations, so the tools for ministry to reach these people have to be built even as the physical journey is made. We are driven to pioneer the Gospel by creating the first ever audio recordings of the Bible in the Kuvale language, working on the Jesus film, and learning this unwritten language (after already learning Portuguese).

We work primarily in the southwestern part of the country and in 2021, we expanded from one to three different sectors. In all of these areas are semi-nomadic tribes who dress traditionally, remain isolated from the outside world, and lack written languages. These tribes travel with the rains. Since the rains weren't good this past year, the people groups have traveled further from their normal villages, which has made them more challenging to reach. The roads are already rough on vehicles the team collectively had four axles break

on vehicles during the last five years – but discipleship and increase are occurring in stunning ways even with the cost involved. The benefit of ministry here is that we are the first one to teach anything about the Gospel. There is no reteaching of bad doctrine, rather people are fertile soil, ready for the seed of the Word. With that, though, is the sobering weight of being the only example of Christ these tribes see. We intentionally build relationships so that the people can truly see Christ displayed.

The fruit of these relationships are becoming evident as our first disciples, who have been growing in ministry for several years now, are beginning their own work. Discipleship is multiplying as some of these first indigenous missionaries have embraced the call of God and are going out on their own. This has not only multiplied the team, but it has also allowed a further reach and focus on new areas. One tool that we gained this year to help expand discipleship is the Jesus Film translated into Kuvale. This is the first film ever translated into Kuvale! This was a big win for the team along with receiving governmental permission to visit new tribes after months of paperwork. Our work in Angola is at the exciting place of increase, and the Kingdom of God is powerfully expanding to places that have previously never been touched by the Gospel.

Top during a reconnaissance trip to the most remote south western corner of Angola. Our aim was to reach the Kuvale and Himba communities that we had learned are dotted just north of the Namibian border.

Bottom the landscape of the Namibe province. Our kit has been put to the test time and time again as we navigate through these parts of Angola that seldom receive visitors.



---

# ZANZIBAR

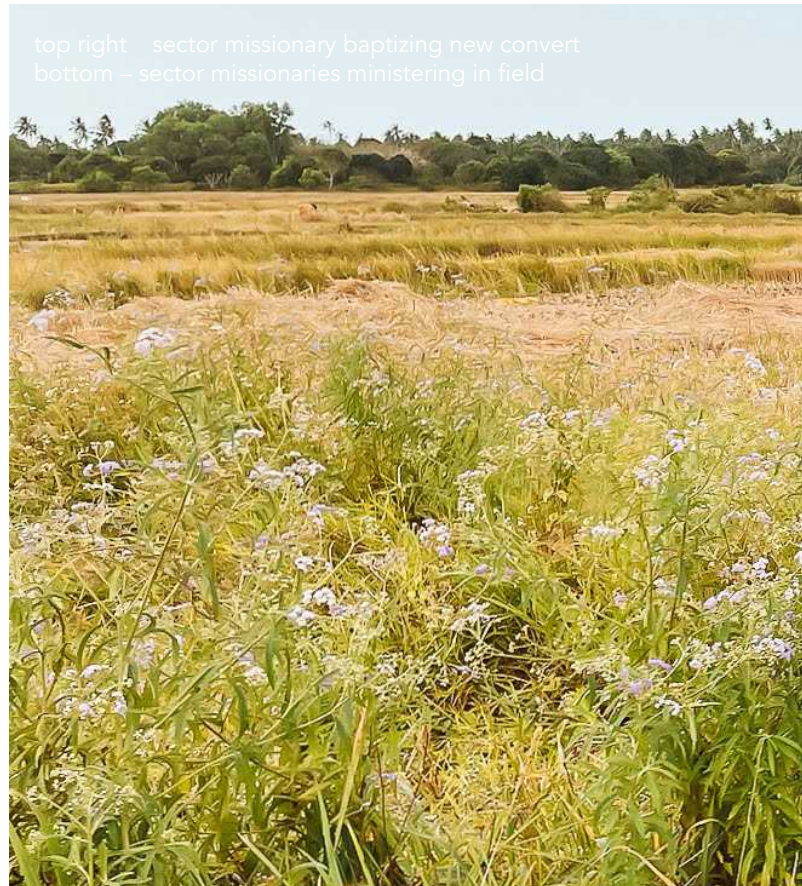
The history of Zanzibar Island is as deep as the neighboring Indian Ocean, and our history on the island has opened doors that only longevity in a region can open. Through a 20 year relationship with the first pastor on the island, two years ago Overland Missions became the first faith-based organization officially registered in Zanzibar. Since then, we have been blessed with more relationships leading to discipleship, expansion, and unparalleled evangelism that we see opening doors well beyond the main island.

Expeditions in 2021 worked alongside local churches and saw over 300 local Muslims give their lives to Christ and get connected to churches on the island! Even with certain doors being closed, like being asked to leave

a village for sharing our faith, countless more were opened, including the opportunity to start a brand-new church spurred on by all the people coming to faith. As ministry flourishes in the center of the island, our growing team is pushing further than ever to the outskirts of Zanzibar, neighboring Pemba island and mainland Tanzania. We even hope to reach Kenya and other island chains that would otherwise be impossible to reach without our work in Zanzibar. Such vast expansion can only be accomplished through partnership with local believers. In order to leave a lasting impact, we launched our first Overland Missions Training graduating nine on-fire ministers who will minister full-time alongside our team. The strategy for the island has always emphasized empowering local believers

Expeditions saw over 300 local Muslims give their lives to Christ and get connected to churches on the island

top right – sector missionary baptizing new convert  
bottom – sector missionaries ministering in field



through training and discipleship to drive future evangelism. The biggest challenge that we face now is plentiful harvest with too few workers to conduct the in-depth discipleship that prepares believers to be a light for Christ on this Muslim island.

The testimony of Christ is sweeping through a place many people said the simple Gospel wouldn't work. The preaching of the Word and the Spirit in power always works. When you combine that with a love for the people and a willingness to build long-term relationships, lives are impacted, churches are born, and people are empowered to carry on a movement that will shake this island and surrounding nations in the years to come.



---

# SOUTHEAST ASIA

Long seen as a land of mystery, Southeast Asia is becoming bustling and connected. Still, there lies jungles amongst the misted mountains, distant islands, rural villages, and beautiful people with no access to the Gospel. It's in these remote areas that we are rooted and we have seen God move immensely. Last year, SE Asia had more COVID restrictions than other parts of the world, which led to travel restrictions, border closures and other challenges. Some missionaries have not left their assignment in years, expeditions were redirected in 2021, and in spite of massive expenses being needed for this change, the year ended with stories of breakthrough and it was a year of growth.

While parts of the world are regaining some normalcy, much of SE Asia is still subject

“We have seen new Asian believers burn items of ancestor worship and witchcraft in the streets.”

to travel restrictions and border closures, but this has not hindered the work of God. Restrictions have brought the team closer together, and with unity, just like in the early church, comes breakthrough. We have seen new Asian believers burn items of ancestor worship and witchcraft in the streets. People are being discipled, even late into the night, hungry for just one more lesson. With larger group meetings limited, this kind of one-on-one discipleship has been the norm, and the fruit is abundant! This has allowed more time to be spent with those who are truly hungry for Jesus, and these hungry people are going out and bringing in others who need to hear the Word. There may have been some restrictions put in place this year, but we don't feel like we've had any hindrance to the Gospel going forward!

Closed areas have opened up and entire villages are being changed in nations where the Gospel is illegal yet flourishing. In spite of pressures to continue practicing old ways, new believers are denouncing temple worship and standing firm on their new foundations. People of all walks of life are realizing their need for the savior, and often from those who we have discipled and released to minister to their own community.

Southeast Asia is coming into its full potential. Local believers have grasped the vision to carry the Gospel to other nations, not just in Asia, but in Africa and the Middle East as well! Plans for a base in Cambodia, a safe haven for surrounding closed countries, is already underway, and with it the prospect of AMT, OMT, and other training to begin equipping believers. From Indonesia, to Mongolia and beyond, we plan to have a full-time presence in seven more countries in the next five years.

top left local witchdoctor began  
attending Bible studies  
top right Celebration after baptism  
bottom sector missionary and team  
ministers to woman



# TRANSFOR DEVELOPM

## sustain

We are driven in seeing the transformative power of the Gospel take full-effect in communities and this includes addressing the livelihood of the people. The Sustain department does just this with a focus on agriculture and business development. Currently, our Sustain team is upwards of 30 people and is working full-time in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In these nations, we work heavily with small-scale farmers, teaching sustainable farming and various business practices such as the Biblical principles of financial stewardship, budgeting, and cost-benefit analysis. Through Farming God's Way, biblical truths and creation stewardship lead to productive field crops and vegetable gardens, multiplying harvests. Foundational teachings in livestock and poultry management unite proper animal care with Scriptural promises concerning increase and abundance. Sustain bridges the gap between physical needs and faith and we are excited to launch this program into more countries in the years to come.

## health

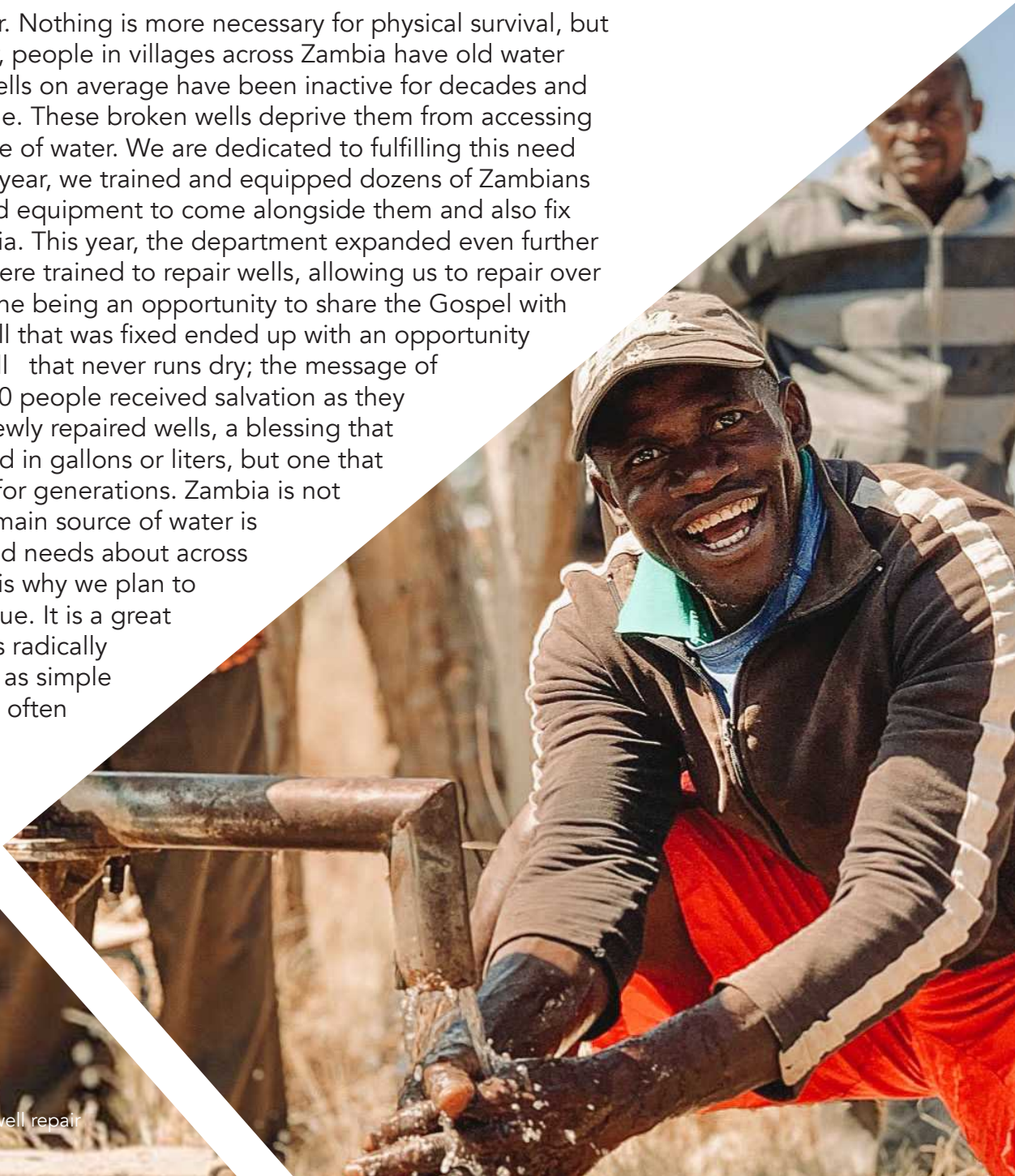
Two of our missionaries serve as health professionals to the nations. While also sharing the Gospel, their aim is to express their gifts by both bringing education and health training. In Angola, we ran a dozen medical trips to nomadic tribes via helicopter. One 14-year-old girl received life-saving treatment after having an infection for one and a half years. We helped raise funds and transport her halfway across the country for surgery. In D.R. Congo, one missionary is teaching Helping Baby's Breathe and Helping Mothers Survive. We spent a portion of the year following up with many rural clinics that had taken a medical course with us in the past. They shared testimonies of answered prayers, miracles and lives that were saved as they put into practice the things we had taught. Nurses, Doctors and Midwives received the secondary level of training for medical emergencies and were excited to try out some new skills and equipment. Next year, we plan to send our first medical expedition team into Congo as we continue to sharpen skills and encourage the local health care providers. In all areas where our medical staff work, we are seeing God bring hope and healing where people lack access to basic resources.

# MATIONAL IENT

## water

Food, shelter and water. Nothing is more necessary for physical survival, but when it comes to water, people in villages across Zambia have old water wells or none. These wells on average have been inactive for decades and the fix is normally simple. These broken wells deprive them from accessing the life-giving substance of water. We are dedicated to fulfilling this need for physical water. Last year, we trained and equipped dozens of Zambians with the knowledge and equipment to come alongside them and also fix wells throughout Zambia. This year, the department expanded even further as ten new Zambians were trained to repair wells, allowing us to repair over 80 hand pumps each one being an opportunity to share the Gospel with a community! Every well that was fixed ended up with an opportunity to share a spiritual well that never runs dry; the message of Jesus Christ. Over 1,000 people received salvation as they gathered around the newly repaired wells, a blessing that can't quite be quantified in gallons or liters, but one that impacts entire villages for generations. Zambia is not the only nation whose main source of water is hand pumped wells, and needs about across Southern Africa, which is why we plan to expand into Mozambique. It is a great joy to see people's lives radically changed by something as simple as fresh water that is so often taken for granted, and an even greater joy to see hearts washed clean by the transforming power of Christ.

right sector missionary after well repair



# EXPEDITION

## expeditions

Our expedition division exists to equip the saints to reach the lost. We deploy believers across the world to do the work of evangelism and spearhead our long-term discipleship. In 2021 we led 21 expeditions across Zambia, Mozambique, Zanzibar, Brazil, the Middle East, and DR Congo. We deployed people into remote places during an unprecedented time and even acquired a new expedition truck for ministry in Zambia that we fabricated by hand and outfitted for expeditions.

Ministry definitely had its complications – some countries that we planned trips to were closed due to COVID regulations and some flight paths were canceled or minimized, having to then adjust accordingly. Ultimately, the Kingdom of God is never put on hold, so in spite of the world closing, we chose to move forward to the countries that were open. It doesn't matter where we go or how we get there, but it matters that we are going. One of our greatest developments in the expedition division happened in August during the time when travel has been minimized. We led a team of 13 Zambian missionaries on an expedition into the DR Congo (pg 15). We are excited to be sending more Zambian led expeditions into Congo as we continue to empower our local leaders in ministering cross-culturally.

During our season in the United States, we focused on bridging the gap between the Western church and the unreached people groups of the world. In Waycross, Georgia, we partnered with a local church and saw 65+ believers mobilized with us for several days of citywide evangelism, in which 70 people gave their lives to the Lord. As these believers see the power of Christ in them, they are also emboldened to travel across the world with us to remote villages around the world.



# ONS & WHO

## world headquarters

Another highlight in 2021 was our reconnaissance trips and expeditions to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Our expedition leaders traveled into three nations over the course of several weeks last Spring, laying groundwork for ministry expansion in this region. Later in the summer, we ran our first expedition in one of these Middle Eastern nations. We were able to go into these three countries in MENA and be more bold without hesitation that it will affect our own future ministry. We see what it is like to do street evangelism, assess dangers or the presence of unwanted attention, and see what benefits the local people. This not only helps as we bring in our short-term teams, but also paves the way for our sector missionaries living here in the development of their own ministry. Our reconnaissance trips are always a big accomplishment, but doing them in places where the cost can be more difficult was a new step for the division. Despite challenges, 2021 was a year of new achievements and expansion, and we are excited to multiply this momentum next year.

With full-time work happening in 16 nations and pioneering even more, we have missionaries driving on uncharted roads, boating on dangerous rivers, and flying into nations that people are unfamiliar with chartering. This style of ministry requires a strong stationed administrative team that is quick in their support, wise in their decision-making abilities, and carries a knowledge of real-world situations. We have administrative covering and it is located in Cocoa, Florida, what we consider to be our World Headquarters (WHQ). From the WHQ, we are running checks and balances for the hundreds full and short-term missionaries we send, handling the front-end logistics of our expeditions and AMT program (pg 13), preparing our MPD seminars, coding and creating media, and prepping for our annual conference. This year, we experienced the largest growth in history at our WHQ, expanding our administrative, financial, and media team to position us for expansion globally. As we grow our space at WHQ to fit this expansion, we are in full-faith that this team will continue to serve as our firm foundation for our missionaries as we continue to expand our reach into the nations.



left expedition leader building truck  
bottom expedition campsite

# DANGEROUS

*If you can make it to the Cambodian border before sunrise, you'll be in the clear. But we can't protect you here.*

A young and zealous missionary starts sorting through his options. He's currently hiding out in the US embassy of a closed country wanted by the police for translating the Jesus Film into the local language. The previous eight hours consisted with an arrest, a detainment in a local hotel and a gutsy escape to a cab that he took to the US embassy.

The realization sets in that his only shot is to make it to Cambodia. He bolts out of the embassy for another cab and hightails it to the border. He knows that there are police on the lookout for him. He knows that the information at border control updates every morning and if he doesn't make it before dawn, they'll screen his information and he'll be immediately captured.

After a sleepless car ride and much desperate prayer, he was able to make it to the border before sunrise. There was no time behind bars for the missionary, but a 10-year travel ban was put on his name for this closed country.

Fifteen years later, the country still needs a move of God. Fifteen years later, Overland Missions is now preparing to send a team of four missionaries into this closed country thanks to the prompting of this young and zealous missionary.

## Dangerous place

What is a dangerous place? In its most practical sense, a dangerous place is where open proselytizing of the gospel of Jesus Christ is illegal. This is an area where being kicked out of the country wouldn't take much effort. A place where the gospel of Jesus Christ is unknown.

To many, this looks like impossible soil. This is the soil that would be easy to say, it's just not time yet. It would be easy to rationalize fear as wisdom and decide to pass on moving your life and family to this country.

It is soil that requires grit. And that's exactly the DNA of Overland Missions. We currently have missionaries in three closed countries and are preparing to launch two more in 2022. Launching into these countries is a process that can have its fair share of challenges and our team never saw that more clearly than when launching into the Middle East in 2019.

## Rerouted

In 2019, Overland Missions was planting its flag for the first-time in the Middle-East by launching a team of six missionaries. Four of them had already landed in the country and two more were arriving a week later. It didn't take long for issues to arise. The two trailing missionaries hit trouble when they landed in Spain en route to their assignment.



# US PLACES

*Why do you have two passports?*

The young woman heading out to her assignment was faced with an unamused airline clerk who wanted an explanation.

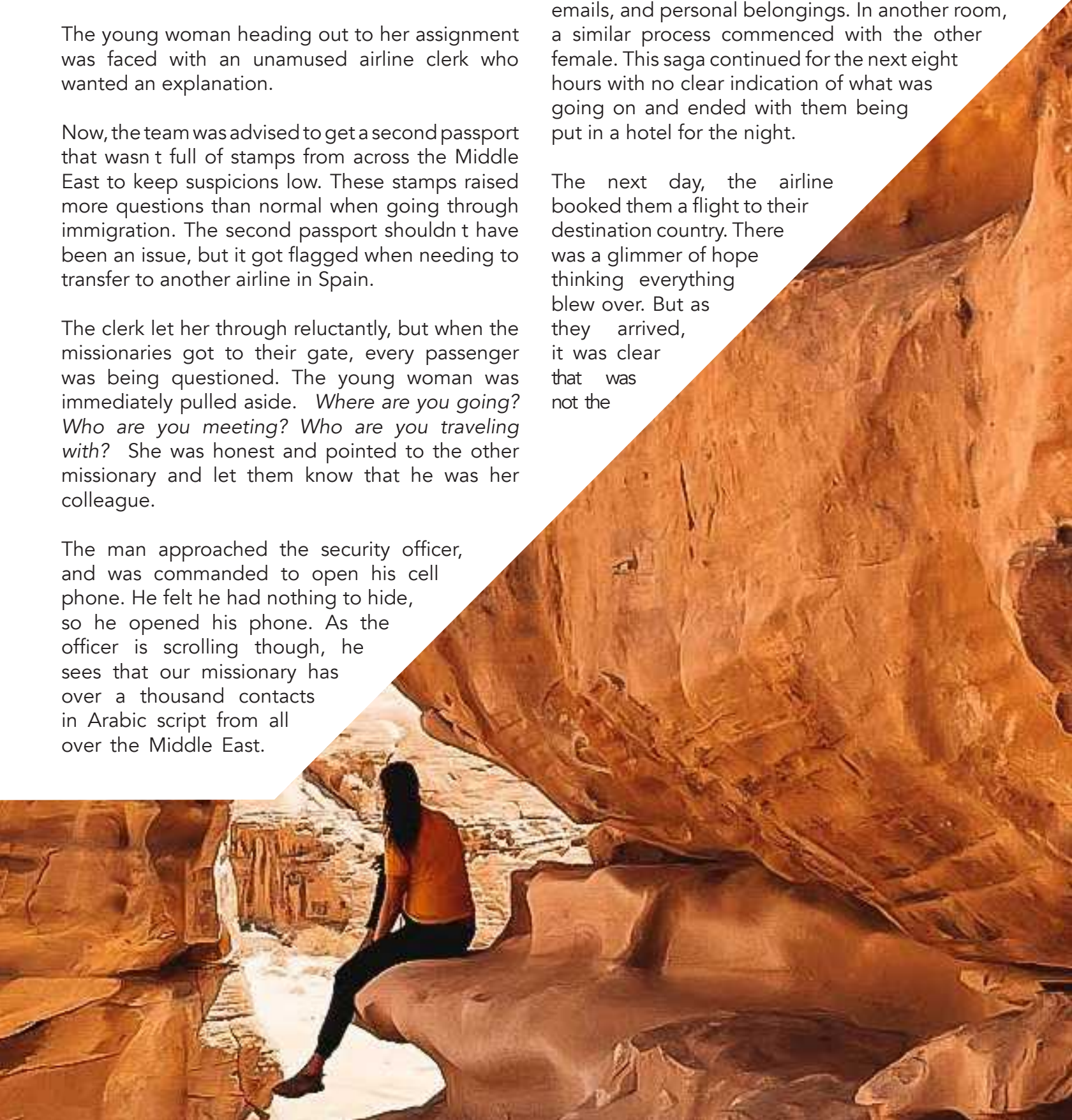
Now, the team was advised to get a second passport that wasn't full of stamps from across the Middle East to keep suspicions low. These stamps raised more questions than normal when going through immigration. The second passport shouldn't have been an issue, but it got flagged when needing to transfer to another airline in Spain.

The clerk let her through reluctantly, but when the missionaries got to their gate, every passenger was being questioned. The young woman was immediately pulled aside. *Where are you going? Who are you meeting? Who are you traveling with?* She was honest and pointed to the other missionary and let them know that he was her colleague.

The man approached the security officer, and was commanded to open his cell phone. He felt he had nothing to hide, so he opened his phone. As the officer is scrolling through, he sees that our missionary has over a thousand contacts in Arabic script from all over the Middle East.

The officer then proceeded to search his photos, emails, and personal belongings. In another room, a similar process commenced with the other female. This saga continued for the next eight hours with no clear indication of what was going on and ended with them being put in a hotel for the night.

The next day, the airline booked them a flight to their destination country. There was a glimmer of hope thinking everything blew over. But as they arrived, it was clear that was not the



case. They were personally escorted off the plane, and greeted with another eight hours of on and off interrogation.

She got the bad cop and was aggressively accused of being a liar. She swore she was telling the truth. They didn't believe her and were convinced she was there to bring insurrection in the country. The male got the good cop and they empathized with how crazy things must have been for them. As he was in the room, he figured they already had information on him, so he came clean. He shared his testimony and how he's a missionary there to bring reconciliation and unity to the country. The officer listened, thanked him, and had him leave the room.

Two hours later, the two missionaries were called into the office and handed a letter denying their entry and outlining a 10-year travel ban into the country; the highest penalty they could receive. The airline then paid for a flight for them to Italy and sent them off.

## Now what?

When pioneering nations for the Kingdom, there needs to be a resilience. The mentality of the pioneer is not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls (Hebrews 10:39). This work is not for the faint of heart and requires the ability to be flexible and adaptable in various scenarios, but the impact is eternal.

Almost immediately the team began strategizing which country was next. Over the next three months, they adapted and communicated over video calls while separated in different countries. They continued language learning from their respective locations and as soon as it became possible to bring the whole team back together, a new country was launched with

full force. To date, the team has seen over 40 salvations in the new nation with multiple house churches scattered throughout. They have been partnering with local believers to start indigenous-led ministry and will begin an indigenous missions training school in the coming year.

In retrospect, what could have been seen as a setback by many, is now viewed as a crucial lesson for pioneering in the region. It is crucial to view challenges as mere opportunities to sharpen our skills and ability to bring the Gospel to some of the most difficult places on earth. Consequently, the team maintains their vision to launch a base in the original country intended and will continue to overcome obstacles that may present themselves.

## Tortured to Restored

This team of six quickly regathered and launched into a new country located in the Middle-East. Upon the launch, one of the missionaries started volunteering as a translator at the local clinic as a ministry outlet to meet people and generate contacts for his team.



He has been doing it ever since, and one day he had a peculiar patient come through the doors.

Normally patients at the clinic hover around the age of grandparents with chronic diseases that require long-term healthcare, but this man was only 23. All his tests were coming back negative, yet he still had severe symptoms. His memory wasn't working correctly; he had the reading comprehension of a child and a host of other health issues. The missionary pressed to learn more about this patient and the story he got was unexpected, to say the least.

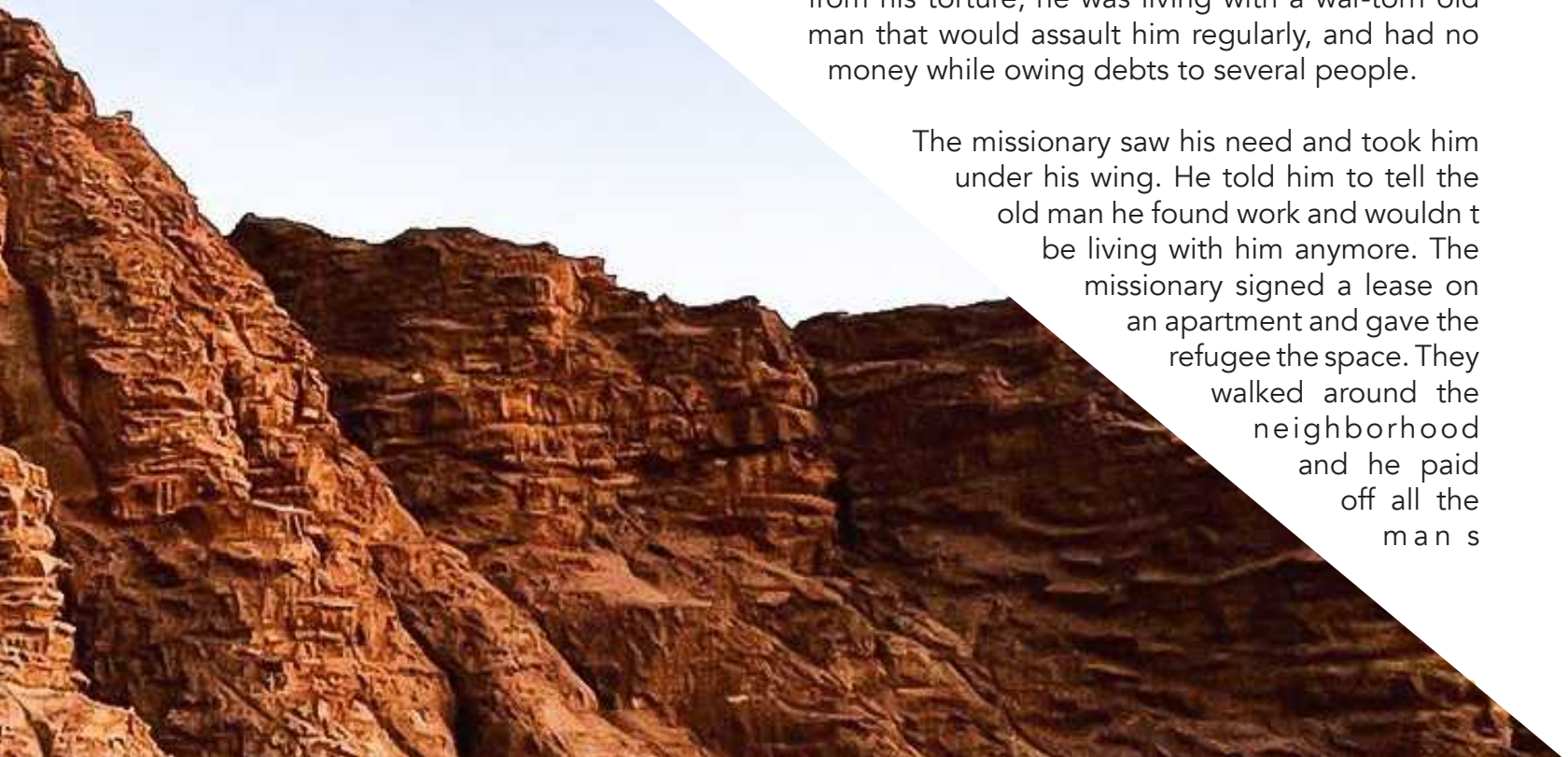
It turned out that this young man was a refugee from a neighboring country. He had moved to this country two and a half years ago because he was wanted for treason back home—punishable by death. This man's home country was war-torn and his father was a high-ranking military official with powerful influence in the region. Three years ago, this man's father was murdered by local gangs that were hired by the corrupt local government to destroy his influence. After the murder, his son—this refugee, started telling people what really

happened to his father, and the word traveled fast. The gangs were not happy about this and captured this man and ordered him to read a script on the local radio station absolving the government of any connection to his father's death. He agreed to read it, but then went off script while on the air and exposed the government for what was really going on. The last thing he remembers was being hit in the back of the head with a pistol.

When he woke up, he was in chains in an underground prison. The details of the next week are too sensitive to share here, but over the next week, the man was brutally tortured. The gang eventually put a piece of paper in front of him that pledged allegiance to the government. They said if he signed the paper, they'd let him go. He was on the verge of replying, "I'd rather die," but he heard a voice in his mind telling him, "Sign the paper." So, he signed the paper and was then dropped in front of a hospital. The next two weeks he was in a coma in the ICU and remained in the hospital for another three months undergoing reconstructive surgery. After being released from the hospital, he and his family fled to the northern region of the country to escape the local authorities and eventually flee the country.

Then comes early 2021 when our missionary meets him at the clinic. Even though he escaped the death sentence in his home, he was still in a tough situation. He had the physical and emotional trauma from his torture, he was living with a war-torn old man that would assault him regularly, and had no money while owing debts to several people.

The missionary saw his need and took him under his wing. He told him to tell the old man he found work and wouldn't be living with him anymore. The missionary signed a lease on an apartment and gave the refugee the space. They walked around the neighborhood and he paid off all the man's



debts as if he was freeing the man from slavery.

As he was going to bed that night, the missionary was trying to wrap his mind around the last week of meeting this refugee. God, I don't know what I'm doing. This feels like a much bigger responsibility than I signed up for. I've never done something like this. That night he had a dream. He was staring at his shoes in the dream, but in the shoes weren't his feet, but the man's feet. When he woke up the next morning, the Spirit of the Lord said to him, You and [the man] are one. In that moment, he understood that God was entrusting him with this man as his own son, and he took full ownership of the responsibility.

After three weeks, the man gave his life to Jesus. He stopped having nightmares, started recovering, had several

angelic encounters, and even met Jesus himself. Over the course of the next 9 months, the man was discipled and accompanied the missionary in his ministry and grew exponentially in his faith.

Later on in discipleship, an angel appeared to the refugee and said, Go to [Middle East Country], I have a work for you, and he told our missionary whom he now saw as a spiritual father. Our missionary immediately felt the Lord saying yes to the decision.

As of October, he's officially launched to that country. This man's story captures the heart of Overland Missions to raise up people to be leaders and send them into the nations no matter how hard the enemy may have tried to destroy them. There is no one who is too far gone that the Lord can't redeem.

## Victory March

These places are dangerous. There is a real possibility of being arrested and kicked out. There is a real possibility that local people who convert will face emotional and physical persecution. Yet, we must remain faithful to the call of God and not be bound by fear. It's going back to the understanding that all of creation waits in eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God, (Romans 8:19).

There needs to be a faithful expectation that Jesus meant what he said the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, (Matthew 9:37).

A rally cry around Overland comes from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians in chapter two. He says, But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in



triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. This means that no soil is too hard or place too dangerous, but everywhere we go, Christ leads us in a victory march for his Kingdom.

## On the Horizon

As momentum builds in the nations that we have influence, we will continue focusing on establishing strong relationships with traditional leaders. We have been able to impact hundreds of thousands of people through programs such as tribal chaplaincy (pg 12) and we see it as imperative to build upon these relationships and expand our sphere of influence. This is why we are building the King's Center over the next year.

We are endeavoring to put this infrastructure in place to future proof our influence amongst traditional leaders. The King's Center will function as a place for traditional leaders to have a place to gather, strategize, rest, and gain vision. The layout contains space for hosting large-scale, conference-style meetings as well as lodging to host these leaders at no charge to them. Not to mention that the structure will be located on the gorge of Rapid13 and provide a stunning view for its guests.

We want to honor the leaders of the communities as the fathers of their people. As Overland Missions is expanding to new areas each year, this facility will serve as a proof of our influence in the nations and new leaders will be able to trust that what we are bringing to their area is in fact, good news. With that trust, there will be open doors and thriving relationships enabling the Gospel to be advanced further and faster to unreached people groups.

# JOIN THE TEAM

## GO SHORT-TERM

Spend two weeks traveling into remote locations, bringing the Gospel to neglected and unreached people groups. Expeditions run between May and August, and in 2022 expeditions run in the following nations:

Angola  
Brazil  
Mozambique  
Middle-East  
DR Congo  
Zambia  
Madagascar  
Zanzibar

## GO LONG-TERM

A career with Overland Missions is possible through the completion of Advanced Mission Training, a three-month school designed to equip and train believers. Classes run from May to August and from August to November. In 2022, AMT will be available in:

Brazil  
Mozambique  
Middle-East  
Zambia

## FOLLOW US

Last year, our podcast ranked top 5% worldwide amongst Christian podcasts. Tune in as our host chats with our missionaries about life in the field.

Podcast - Gospel & Grit  
Instagram, Facebook, & YouTube -  
Overland Missions



[www.overlandmissions.com](http://www.overlandmissions.com)