

VOLUME 5

2022

# OVERLAND MISSIONS



## King of Kings

The largest gathering of reigning monarchs in African history  
pg 4

## Kings Center

Photo - view from the Kings Center, coming 2023  
pg 30

Read about the work of God happening around the world through our team



## 2022 ADVANCEMENTS

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Hosted the largest Gospel event for reigning royal monarchs in African history

Planted a full-time presence in four new countries: Malawi, Madagascar, and two undisclosed nations

Established our first of many permanent South American bases in Brazil

Launched Overland Missions Music to release Gospel-centered music with a focus on new creation reality



**16 COUNTRIES**

## **OUR MISSION, OUR STRATEGY**

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### **4-Step Strategy**

- **Pioneering**
- **Evangelizing**
- **Discipleship**
- **Leadership**

We go to the most remote places in the world to engage neglected and unreached people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through our four-step strategy, we are committed to braving rugged terrain and traveling long distances to communicate the Gospel, disciple believers, and create sustainable leaders. After pioneering and evangelizing a new area, we begin discipleship

through weekly revival meetings to worship God and study the Word. Discipleship includes addressing the felt needs of communities as we also bring humanitarian care through our transformational development programs. The final step is to pass the ministry to our disciples by empowering them to sustain it and create a viral move of God.



KING OF KINGS CONFERENCE



14. EXPEDITIONS

Thirty-four expeditions led across ten nations, breaking into new territory



24. ADVANCED MISSION TRAINING

Fifty-four students graduated with forty-seven joining to be sent all over the world

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OVERLAND MISSIONS MUSIC



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**22. COUNTRIES LAUNCHED**



**A message from our founders, Phil & Sharon Smethurst**

I want to begin our annual report by highlighting the growing team of long-term missionaries in Overland Missions. Numbering around 300, they resemble Gideon's army in many ways; disciplined, hard-working, ready for battle, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Another highlight is the largest gathering of reigning monarchs in the history of Africa. At the King of Kings event at the Mulungushi Center in Lusaka, 376 reigning monarchs came under Overland Missions' call to celebrate the King of kings. Accomplishing this event was a mammoth task executed to perfection by our extraordinary team. The event's aftermath came by requests from kings of over 30 countries asking us for our presence amongst their people.

We also launched Overland Missions Music by rolling out our first world-class worship album. Through this media avenue, we trust that the footprint of Overland Missions will reach into first world homes, blessing and encouraging the generation through well-crafted lyrics and anointed musicians.

Our short-term teams were in full swing also as the expedition department pioneered new nations serving as a spearhead for future revival. The upcoming year looks promising as our Advanced Mission Training had high numbers, graduating 54 students and launching them into their MPD stage. We have had a double portion year in every way. All glory to Jesus, the head of the Church.

# King of Kings Conference



**376 reigning monarchs from 32 countries gathered for the greatest Gospel event Africa has ever seen for traditional leaders. For three days, we gathered for an event that will have a ripple effect for decades.**



On October 5th and 6th, in Lusaka, Zambia, we hosted the King of Kings event, the greatest Gospel event for traditional leaders ever to take place in Africa. This event represented 32 countries across Africa and 376 reigning monarchs. These monarchs were chiefs, paramount chiefs, kings, queens, emperors, sultans and sheikhs. This event lasted for two days and hosted the top Gospel artists in Zambia along with the following keynote speakers: the President of Zambia Hakainde Hichilema, the President of the Forum for African Traditional Authorities (FATA) King Mfumu, Overland Missions board member and Grand Chief of the Cree

Nation in Quebec, Dr. Chief Matthew Coon-Come, Chief of the Chipepo/Chirundu chiefdoms and Chief Whip of FATA, Chief Chipepo, the President of the National Chiefs Council Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira, and Gospel messages from our team, President and Founder Dr. Philip Smethurst and International Director Rev. Jacob Schwertfeger.

The historical reality of the King of Kings is settling in as we are currently witnessing the ripple effect that will impact our mission for decades to come. Initially, this event was created for Zambian leaders, but three months before the event took place, we took a step of faith and opened it up to the kings and queens of Africa.

We are so thankful for our staff, who worked fiercely and in faith, to accomplish this monumental event. With hearts full of grit and a humble posture before God, they handled opposition well and accomplished something great for the Kingdom. We had to gain political approval for this event which led to a partnership with the country of Zambia beyond what we had previously known. We worked alongside the government and church leaders to honor protocol and logistically move traditional royalty throughout the nation.

The purpose of this event was to give traditional leaders the opportunity to experience the presence of God through worship and



“The significance of this event cannot be overstated...”  
Watch coverage and highlights on YouTube.



preaching, so they can understand that there is a King of kings, and his name is Jesus Christ. The significance of this event cannot be overstated as we had kings come not just from sub-Saharan Africa but also from Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, and Egypt, among others. Even the King from Burkina Faso, a country where civil war broke out directly before the event, safely made it even through flight shutdowns and dangerous transport. We gave these attendees various gifts, including bags, wallets, and Christian books. But most importantly, every leader received a Bible with their names inscribed. One sultan told us this was the first time he had ever held a Bible, let alone owned one.

Although historically significant in and of itself, this event served as a catalyst for future ministry. Conversations with these leaders led to doors flung wide open to welcome full-time missionaries into these new nations. One of these plans is to expand our tribal chaplaincy program (pg 7). This program helps leaders understand that Jesus is King, resulting in an unstoppable force against darkness. The Gospel is the most powerful framework for leadership. When traditional leaders understand the Kingdom of God and submit to the King of kings, they are established with spiritual authority to lead their people into God’s favor and blessing.

### ETHIOPIA

“The whole world is craving the salvation of Christ, whether they like it or not. In our country, some people haven’t heard the Gospel. We must strategically move together in the synergy we have created to spread the Gospel. It is my greatest wish for my people to know Christ,” Brook Thomask, Representative of all Traditional Leaders in Ethiopia.



# CONTINENT OF AFRICA IMPACTED BY WORK IN ZAMBIA

Over two decades ago, we planted a tent peg in the rocky sands of Zambia and declared, by the mandate of God, that this is our home until the Kingdom has touched every soul of every tribe. Since then, we have established extensive infrastructure throughout our eight bases across Zambia. We have over 160 registered vehicles that allow us to reach remote and neglected people. This strong establishment, paired with an unyielding effort, has resulted in a country experiencing a saturation of the Kingdom.

This year, we held two successful AMT classes and one OMT class and launched ten expeditions. The disciples of our missionaries are making disciples and launching new missionaries. For example, in the Nyawa Chiefdom, a work launched by a Overland missionary in 2008

was commissioned to a Zambian minister in 2013. This Zambian has now advanced to a new position, and a Nyawa-born leader is now championing Nyawa. This new generation is not only maintaining the work but expanding its influence. The expansion of Gospel influence has spread like wildfire throughout all parts of Zambia.

This year, we hosted the largest Gospel event for reigning African royalty in the continent's history. We have officially trained chaplains for over 200 of the 288 chiefdoms in Zambia. Our transformational development teams preached the Gospel and repaired wells in 100 communities without previous access to clean water. The Sustain department held over 100 conferences in sustainable agriculture, impacting farming

communities forever. Ministry vision that began in Zambia is significantly impacting our team internationally and expanding constantly.

In 2022, our Kids on Fire ministry expanded into Brazil and Cambodia. Our Sustain team, providing sustainable agriculture practices, expanded to Zanzibar. Finally, the Tribal Chaplaincy team, training chaplains for traditional chiefs, led trainings in Congo and Zimbabwe for the first time. Two of our Zambian OMT graduates from 2021 also launched into Malawi this year as full-time missionaries.

Our role in Zambia has evolved greatly over these past twenty years. Initially, it was a matter of reaching the remote and neglected. Today our relationships are so powerful with the existing leadership of the nation that we have become the

bridge between traditional leadership and clergy, clergy and government, and government and traditional leadership.

Two of our missionaries now serve as tribal headmen; this is not a position we ask for but an honor given through years of relationship and a clear commitment to the people. Our unique position puts our organization at the forefront of leading several components of transformational development. From presidents to farmers, from chiefs to children, from pastors to unbelievers, we are committed to this country experiencing a genuine touch of God. We are confidently expectant to see growth that will continue in 2023 and beyond.

### Read more about the move of God in Zambia

Transformational Development - pg 26  
Kings Center - pg 30  
AMT & OMT - pg 24



## TRAINING CHAPLAINS FOR ROYALTY

King, emperor, chief, or maybe monarch. There are many titles given to traditional leaders across the continent of Africa. The perception of these titles is subject to the background of the people. To westerners, we think of political leaders, but that fails to convey the actual weight they carry to their subjects. Their existence pays homage to the rich heritage and culture that defines the identity of their people. A title we would be more comfortable with that adequately expresses the reality of their role in the lives of the people would be father or mother. These leaders, much like parents, bear the responsibility of guiding their people into prosperity. Their hearts long for what is best for their subjects, but generations of holding traditions not found in the Kingdom of God have left them lacking.

The chaplaincy program continues to expand our development of local leaders through

strategic Gospel training resulting in a thriving chiefdom according to God's design. This understanding allows an expression of the Kingdom of God in the context of their own traditional culture. The fathers of the nations are learning to embrace who their Father truly is, and the children will follow! What started as a challenging objective has, by the power of the Spirit, given birth to a great move of God in this generation. In 2015, training the first six chaplains marked the beginning of what has grown to 235 chaplains throughout Zambia. Now the strategy has expanded internationally, with the launch of chaplaincy in Zimbabwe and DR Congo this past year.

The King of Kings event has opened doors into the lives of traditional leaders across Africa for this movement of God to continue spreading God's fire to every tongue, tribe and nation.



Left - Training in Congo  
Bottom - All the trained chaplains gathered at the King of Kings event in Zambia





## Maasai tribe opens door to the Gospel

## TANZANIA

Mainland Tanzania has been a long-awaited launch for Overland Missions since we began ministering in the islands off the coast in the early 2000s. In major cities across Tanzania, the dominant belief is Islam. If you go out into the villages, you may find Christian influence, but it has been confused with religion and mixed with other local beliefs.

Building a foundation and launching our mission has required every mode of transportation: planes, cars, motorbikes, boats, public buses, and by foot. Early in the year, we reconned Lake Victoria's remote islands and hosted a crusade. We shared the Gospel with neglected people, and over 100 people gave their lives to Jesus!

Overland was also able to run its first-ever Expedition to mainland Tanzania and reach the Maasai tribe, but it came with some challenges. On the first day, as the Expedition team approached the village, the elders of the village explained that they had changed their minds about letting the missionaries in and said that "[they] think it's better that [the team] go home." The team asked for an opportunity to speak and explained that they weren't there to spread a religion and force people to wear specific clothes but simply to share about a relationship with God. After further conversation, one of the elders stood up and said, "Okay, you are most welcome." Our expedition team was able to rebuild relationships with the people, share the gospel, minister to families, and have a wide-open invitation to come again in the future.

Over the next year, the team is looking to host more expeditions, revisit the Maasai tribe, and minister to more of these unreached islands in Lake Victoria. Also, a vital initiative will be raising local ministry partners who can work alongside our team and even launch into new villages and make disciples.



## GOSPEL DISPELS AGE-OLD DARKNESS IN CONGO

In a nation like Congo, with obstacles at every turn, God has opened doors of opportunity that no one can shut. This is our fifth full-time year in Congo, and through our time, we have been consistent in discipleship training, providing healthcare training, and implementing sustainable agriculture practices. This year we found that testimonies of God are abounding everywhere we go as the light of Christ dispels age-old darkness. Last year, the first expedition reached Congo's dusty, long roads into the heart of villages untouched by a true expression of the Gospel. The expedition members came from neighboring African nations, a testament to our growing impact of discipleship. This year, when we followed up with these villages, we found a believer at his home,

diligently studying the scriptures. We visited the palace of the chief, a man once bound by witchcraft and ancient tradition, to now find a man receiving counseling from a Christian man. This is an example of the expressions of new faith we have seen.

New things happened this year that greatly expanded our ministry. We moved into a new city nearer to the remote areas, which allowed us to get closer to the people who need the Word the most. We launched our first chaplaincy training, equipping 11 individuals to advise and minister to 11 chiefs. Along with training over 100 healthcare providers, we also created a new partnership with the local university to train the upcoming health providers. Our Congolese team completed intensive discipleship training through

Global Ministries; this gives them an even stronger foundation as they continue to minister in the two provinces they are assigned. Lastly, we launched a children's ministry in four communities. Children are the forgotten majority of Congo, but now they gather in the hundreds. Our newly trained children's ministers are unlocking this deprived demographics powerful potential, shifting the nation's mindset.

Just as this nation feels joy as a fresh rain falls and breaks the blazing heat, the refreshing Spirit of God is descending on Congo. The Holy Spirit is flooding Congo with the Gospel- bringing joy and freedom to long-suffering people, and we are honored to be a vessel for this movement.



left - expedition with leaders of the Elerai village  
top - preaching at Bushengere Island

# MOZAMBIQUE

The Mozambique sector is another great story of faithfulness within Overland Missions. The base was initially purchased in 2015 but was severely damaged by a cyclone the following year. Despite challenges, we continued engaging year after year, moving forward with our mission to reach the people of Mozambique with the Gospel.

Our main base is beautiful as it sits on a peninsula with a 270-degree panoramic ocean view. You may even spot whales breaching if you come at the right time of year. But we're not here for the whales.

Mozambique's people are typically more forward in expressing their opinions than their neighbors in Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania. As you sit in peoples' homes, you can quickly tell that people are not afraid to challenge what you're saying as you engage with them.

A consistent narrative of pursuing missions in Mozambique has been the relentless effort to get

permission to minister in villages. We know too well that if someone says their paperwork is in "the final stages," you should be cautious about getting your hopes up.

This year though, through the favor and faithfulness of God, we were able to change up our strategy and receive permission to minister in many villages. After many years of struggle, this permission felt almost effortless and has created many opportunities for impactful ministry.

We launched four classes of Overland Missions Training (OMT), focusing on training indigenous ministry leaders. After this training, students went to villages to talk with local officials and ask permission to bring missionaries into the villages with the purpose of ministering to the people. Our team consistently received permission to visit. With these open doors, we invited more people to do OMT and even ran three expeditions to different areas in Mozambique.

One of the expeditions was able to pioneer its way to an island not far off the coast. It required plenty of grit with loading gear on and off various modes of transportation, not to mention taking multiple trips carrying all the equipment for half a mile to our campsite. Over the course of the expedition, the team saw several people give their lives to the Lord and established a great relationship with leaders of the area.

The team is excited to continue to run OMT next year and activate these new ministry partners to go out into the villages and build connections with leaders, opening doors for the Lord to move in these areas.

No matter the challenges and obstacles that come with reaching the people, our team refuses to quit. We know the inheritance the Lord has in store for the people of Mozambique!





# ZANZIBAR

We have been working in Zanzibar for over two decades. It is predominantly Muslim, with only 2% of people claiming affiliation with any other belief. Since we sent missionaries to the island in 2001, we have seen the Lord move in mighty ways! We have found that most Muslims are not particularly devout but simply abide by Islam since it is an ingrained part of the culture. Many simply wait for someone to come along and tell them something better, something that provides hope and life.

Our women's ministry is responding to this need by reaching those previously involved in prostitution. Showing these women the value and freedom they have through Christ and equipping them for daily life has been a beautiful process that has led to amazing transformation.

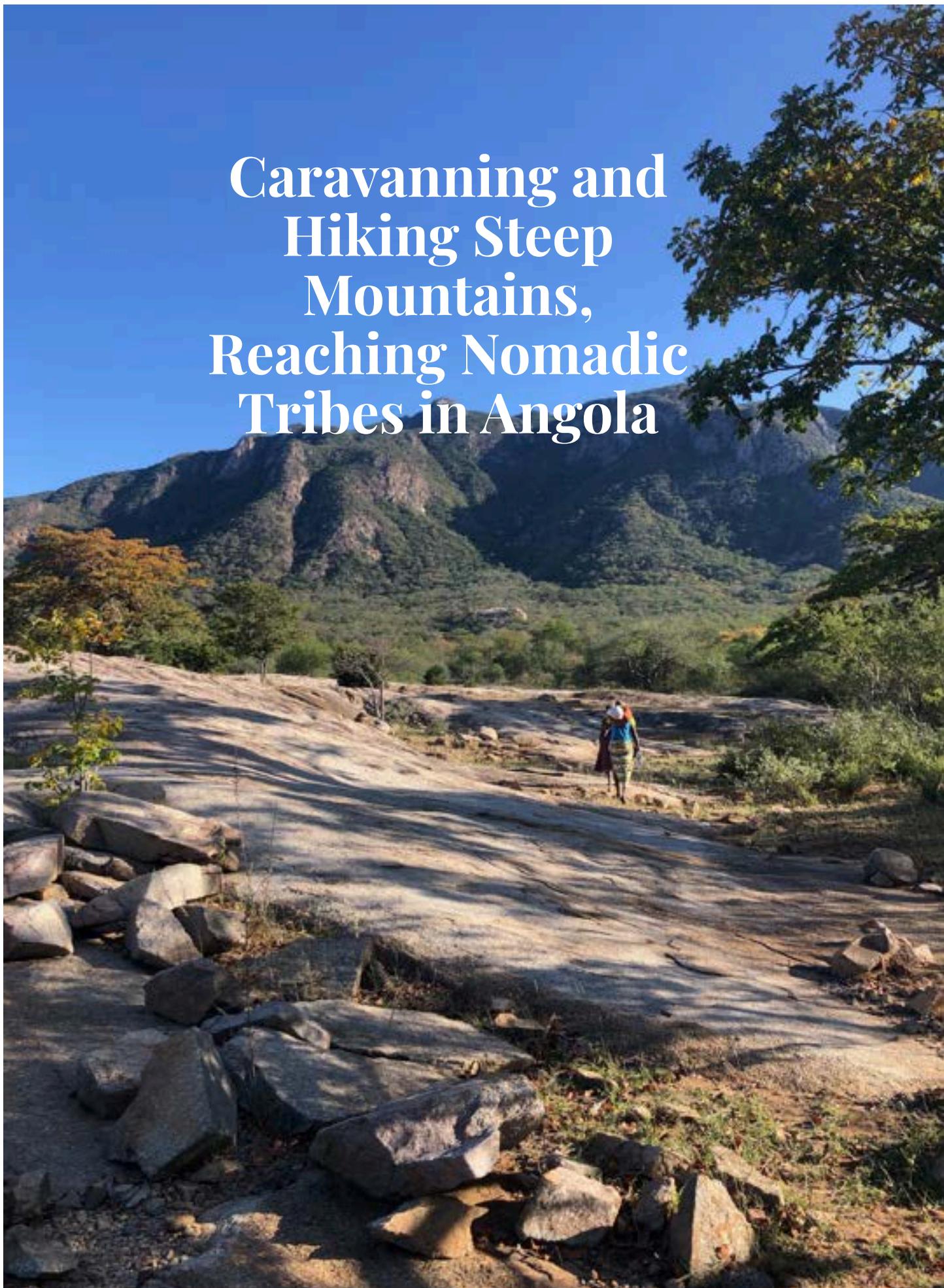
There's also been a new partnership with sober houses and working with people seeking breakthroughs from addiction. By sharing the Gospel, we have seen deliverance and restoration to those

struggling with drugs or alcohol.

Our team has also seen significant growth through our Overland Mission Training (OMT) classes which equips locals to become ministers of the Gospel. We graduated 24 local Zanzibari Christians, and 17 joined our team upon completion of the training. From these graduates, we were able to launch two new sectors! To help fund these new missionaries, we launched Sustain in Zanzibar this year. Sustain is an effort to practice sustainable agriculture based on Biblical principles concerning farming. With this program, our team can sell crops as a source of income to support themselves and their ministries.

One thing that remains the same amidst all the growth is the determination to operate in faith. Over the next year, the team is moving towards the vision of breaking up the island into smaller sectors to create a more focused effort in specific areas and move forward with a long-term plan to reach everyone in Zanzibar.

# Caravanning and Hiking Steep Mountains, Reaching Nomadic Tribes in Angola





## ANGOLA

Ministry expands to three new people groups: Mumwila, Gendelengo and Gambwe people. After successfully translating the Jesus Film into Kuvale, our disciple has led the charge in translating the Bible. By next year, they will have a written language and a portion of the Bible to go with it.

Deep into the vast deserts of Angola, our lives revolve around reaching the most remote tribes in the world. This requires weeks of caravanning through rugged terrain. Each time before we visit, we have to inform the government precisely where we are going, what we are doing, and the dates we will be with them. This poses difficulties since these tribes are ever-moving, nomadic people. Despite these obstacles, the Gospel is spreading to these remote people.

We are currently ministering to four people groups: the Kuvale, Mumwila, Gendelengo and Gambwe people. Each is unreached or has little exposure to the Gospel; the Kuvale and Gendelengo have no written language. The Kuvale tribe is whom we have known the longest. The first six years with them, we spent evangelizing, and this year we were able to start more in-depth discipleship training. We translated Overland's foundational teachings into Portuguese and used a translator to teach these basics to our disciples. We also began the first consistent female Bible study with the Kuvale people. This year we launched two new sectors to the Gendelengo and Gambwe people. Reaching the Gendelengo is no easy feat as it requires driving to the

foot of a mountain range to then embark on a strenuous and steep hike up the mountain.

After a drive from one of our bases, we leave our vehicle at the foot of the mountain and begin a four-hour hike with donkeys carrying our food, water, tents, and camp gear. Once we arrive at the Gendelengo villages, an extremely remote people unengaged with outside influences, we camp for three nights ministering and strengthening our relationships.

Our desire to see these tribes grow in the Scriptures has resulted in partnering with organizations that specialize in language translation. Last year we finished the Jesus Film translation and recording into Kuvale. This year we are working with a team led by Wycliffe Associates to have the Bible translated into the Kuvale language. One of our missionaries, who is also a nurse practitioner, flies by plane into some of these remote villages to provide medical care.

Looking forward, we are focused on the future growth of our foreign and Angolan missionary team, as we have plans to launch our fourth sector to the South, near the Namibia border.



# EXPEDITIONS

## 34 EXPEDITION LEADERS LEAD TEAMS INTO 10 COUNTRIES

Traveling to the most remote places with the Gospel requires a team equipped with a knowledge of navigating difficult terrain and a willingness to do whatever it takes. Our Expedition Department does just this to preach the Gospel and demonstrate the power of the Kingdom to neglected and unreached people groups.

In 2022, we led 29 expedition teams, in 10 countries, seeing over 2,000 people saved. These teams consisted of 240 believers who were trained and sent out by our 34 Expedition Leaders. We traveled thousands of miles to accomplish our mission and saw bodies healed, marriages and families restored, addictions stripped away, demonic

strongholds destroyed, and spirits born again by His power.

Another major development is the beginning of expedition sectors and Venues. We have split our department into four sectors across America for more strategic recruiting. One of those strategies is Venues. A venue is a yearly partnership with a church for the advancement of the Kingdom. Expedition leaders minister to congregations, train them in evangelism, and provide opportunities to join us on the mission field.

As we move into 2023, we expect a wider reach as the Department plans to run 45 Expeditions in 15 countries. In addition, our team expanded in size which will move our ministry at

a stronger velocity in 2024. We gained 12 western Expedition Leaders and our second indigenous leader. This gives us an indigenous Expedition Leader in Zambia and Cambodia. They run trips outside our normal season of May through August taking local believers on expeditions within their home country, as well as neighboring countries.

With doors opening to new nations through our evangelism efforts, sector work and from the King of King's event, we aim to reach every tribe, tongue and nation with the Gospel.



### Testimonies from the field Zambia

Joe was born and raised in Mapanza chieftdom. For a long time, he was known as a town drunk. When Overland came into his village in 2018, he gave his life to Jesus and now ministers powerfully. On our expedition, Joe ministered powerfully to the people he used to drink with and led them to

the Lord. After that house, Joe took the boys that had begun to follow us and started sharing with them around the corner. When we wrapped up our conversation with the older woman, we walked around the house to see Joe leading all the young boys in prayer to give their lives to Jesus.



### Brazil

When this woman heard the Gospel, she and her husband gave their lives to Jesus and began their relationship with Him. After longing for a relationship with God, they were amazed that the cross had made a way for them.



### Middle East

“God, show us someone who needs to hear from you today.” Within five minutes a young man approached us, the next day we were sitting in his home eating dinner with his family, and two weeks later, he made the decision to give his life to the Lord.



## Zanzibar

As we sat down at this man's house, he shared with us that he was the village witch doctor. After giving his life to God, all of his charms lost power, demons stopped answering him, and people didn't want to go to him for healing. Hearing the message of salvation through Jesus, he and his

wife renounced their previous ways, gave their lives to Jesus, and burned every charm and idol they had. Now, when people come to him for healing, he testifies of the full healing found in Jesus.



## Mozambique

This woman joyfully said, "I prayed and asked God to bring you to me. I wanted you all to come here and share." After hearing the Gospel, she gave her life to God, was baptized in the Holy Spirit, and her son was healed.



## North Africa

This man approached us on the beach asking about our religion. Hours of conversations turned into days of meetings talking about Jesus. He then understood that Jesus is King, and within the week gave his life to the Lord.

## I AM A PASTOR, HOW CAN I HOST A VENUE?

Our Expedition Department serves as a vehicle to mobilize the local church to remote regions with the Gospel.

We are locking arms with local churches that we call **Venues**, and we **want to invite you**.

These venues are churches who love Overland Missions and are willing to host Overland missionaries for a weekend of ministry and outreach. Our desire is to stir up passion for believers to minister in their communities and ultimately to the nations.

Here is what you can expect from our team as they come alongside your congregation:

**Revival Nights**, a time to focus on identity in Christ, empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and the call to the nations.

**Local Evangelism**, we train the Church how to share the Gospel and immediately go into the community.

**Church Involvement**, where we will join in your regular church events (Sunday Service, Youth/Young Adult ministry, etc.) to share testimonies and encourage the body about God's movement in the nations.

### SEE OUR UPCOMING TRIPS

email us at  
[go@overlandmissions.com](mailto:go@overlandmissions.com)  
 for more information about  
 venues and expeditions





# Rivers of Life in Desert Places

“The Turkmen alone have so passionately championed the Great Commission, that we have trouble keeping count of the new people who have come to salvation...”

## MIDDLE EAST/ NORTH AFRICA

In 2019, we washed up onto the shores of this nation as more or less a result of circumstance. After two team members were banned from the first nation we launched into, we made a plan B and headed for the next location. As a result of this decision, our team of seven quickly realized that it was not a single country or people group that would bind us together but understanding the importance of unity and God’s heart for the region as a whole. This revelation has subsequently carried us into the current season, where our team of seven has become 30, and by spring 2023, will have five MENA bases. Whether sleeping in tents with nomadic Turkmen or gathering on the floor of an urban apartment packed with refugees, we learned that location is irrelevant to God. There are no borders in the Kingdom of Heaven and when you truly receive God’s heart for the unreached, everywhere is home, and anyone can be family.

2022 has exceeded our expectations and marked greater multiplication in every aspect of our ministry. When we launched in 2019, we always had the intention to replace ourselves with local believers who would take over the long-term work





in the country. This year, that goal came to fruition as we saw seven full-time indigenous ministers commit to serving the Lord on a full-time basis and helping their people step into their destiny. In addition, our current ministry training schools will play a significant role in the multiplication of our local full-time missionaries.

One of these schools hosted in July consisted of 25 Arabs representing six Middle Eastern nations. We taught them about Kingdom principles and sent them out daily to learn what it means to share the Gospel with the power of the Holy Spirit. A large number of the students came as a result of our focused ministry with Turkmen and local Arabs. Five of the students were the fruit of our social media outreach, where ads are run on Facebook and other social media platforms to identify and connect with people curious about Christianity. Our relationships in each of these spheres began in an intimate setting due to security concerns

but quickly grew as they grasped Jesus' heart for making disciples.

This training sparked a lot of momentum for our local disciples to take ownership of God's heart for the region. Many are sharing their faith with family, friends and even strangers throughout their day. The Turkmen alone have so passionately championed the Great Commission that we have trouble keeping count of the new believers who have come to salvation through their witnessing.

Despite the expansion we have seen thus far, we know it is just the start. This region will be marked by boldness and willingness to sacrifice everything for the Gospel. Every day, we see that the Lord is on the move in the MENA region; all we have to do is trust in His Word and step out in faith. What He spoke in Isaiah 43:19 is still unfolding before our eyes: "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."



"This year, we gained nine new team members. From this, we launched a team of seven foreign missionaries and two local ministry partners to a new country."

Read more about the newly launched country on pg 22.

# Generations Come to Christ



## CAMBODIA

At dawn, the Cambodian man leaves his house to tend his rice fields, then returns at dusk. His wife stays home to tend to the needs of the home, family and shop. Sporadically during the day, they will give offerings to shrines to appease the Spirits, burn incense, and maybe visit the pagoda. They then wake up and do it again the next day.

This is the common narrative for Cambodians in the village. Spiritually, their practices often leave them hopeless and in a cycle of fear of the spiritual realm. It is difficult for them to find hope. During our seven years of ministry in Cambodia, we have witnessed that this is a country looking for the Author of life to write a new narrative.

We have been bringing the Gospel

to the people of Cambodia in Preah Vihear and Oddar Meanchey province for many years, and this year we expanded into new villages. This expansion came as a result of our team doubling in size! This year, four new missionaries launched into Cambodia, and two of these missionaries have already completed language school, enabling them to engage in full-time ministry.

We are ministering in our sectors through weekly revival meetings. We have seen people surrender their lives to Jesus and begin walking in their new narrative. We had many of our more seasoned disciples take the step to be water baptized, and others are taking leadership positions in ministry. In one village, our disciples have started their own church and are taking the initiative to reach their area.

Although Covid-19 travel restrictions have prevented us from running expeditions here with western team members since 2019, we still found a way to do mass evangelism. One of our local Cambodian ministers is filled with a vision for expeditions and has led his trips with local Khmer people into remote villages. This created momentum in sectors while also growing the local people who served as ministers on the trip.

As the ministry expands, we are planning to purchase land and establish a permanent mission base for our operations in the country. This will be a huge resource for the team as it provides a gathering place for our missionaries and will serve as the host site for future AMTs and OMTs. Several regions have expressed their desire to have our missionaries, and this base will aid in reaching them!

# THE GOSPEL IMPACTS CLOSED NATION IN SE ASIA

Four years ago, we launched our mission in this closed country. When we first arrived, God strategically began to open doors, perfectly positioning us for the launch and expansion of our ministry. Today, as we look back on the work completed, what has happened is nothing short of a miracle from the Lord. We have seen dozens of people give their lives to the Lord this year; in a nation where such a decision can, at the least, ostracize them from their village and, at most, cost them their lives. By man's standard, the velocity of our ministry does not make sense. By God's standards, this is only the beginning.

We are currently working in three villages, traveling one to five hours to get there; depending on the road condition, traveling by van, truck or motorbike. In three of these villages, small churches have formed where new believers come together to worship, pray and study the Word. We desire to continue to disciple and equip these new believers so that we can start sending them out in the same manner as us. With the help of

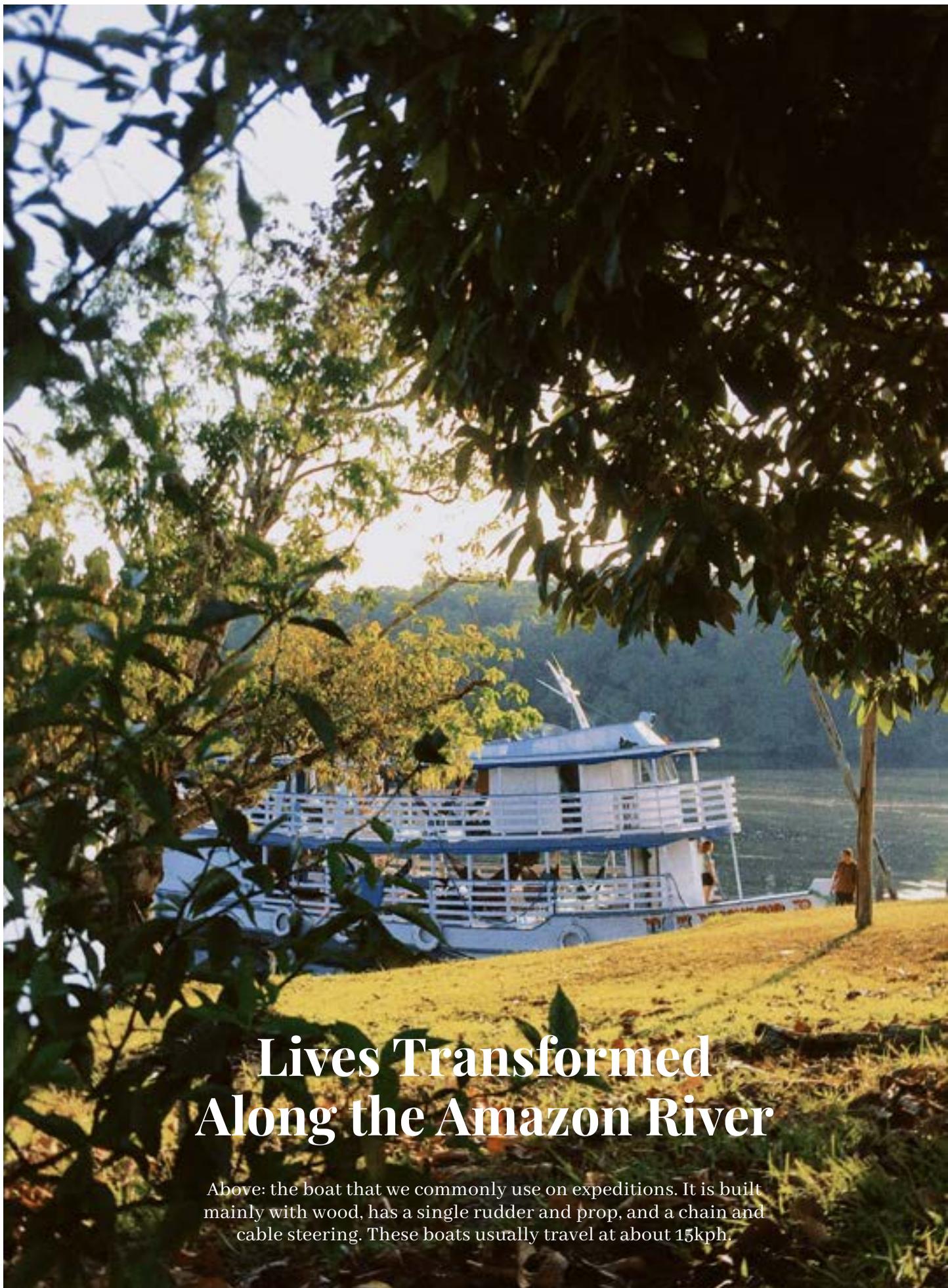
our two full-time local ministers and several others that work with us on a volunteer basis, we have seen a new level of discipleship and mobilization in neighboring villages.

Our team has gained a new full-time missionary. His first mission is to learn the language. Language is a feat that all of our western missionaries have to conquer. To remain in the country, we have to teach English, which legitimizes our presence in the eyes of the government. However, we have found ways to spend less time teaching in the classroom and more time ministering in the village without raising flags.

As we look forward, we are hopeful for the mobilization of our disciples and easier access to the country. God has opened up some roads to high-up government officials who have sway over the land. We will continue to steward these relationships and are believing for their salvation as they oversee the most highly persecuted areas of the country. These officials are friends and are on a path to being the country's wealthiest and

most influential people. Overland has seen it happen in other countries, and we believe it will also happen here.





## Lives Transformed Along the Amazon River

Above: the boat that we commonly use on expeditions. It is built mainly with wood, has a single rudder and prop, and a chain and cable steering. These boats usually travel at about 15kph.



## BRAZIL

Based in Maues, we travel by boat 125 miles weekly to disciple and minister to the Amazonian people. Building our very first base greatly advances our mission in Brazil, as it spearheads our work here and across South America.

As the morning sun rises over the Amazon River, the Amazonians are preparing their fishing boats and stoking a fire for breakfast. We begin our days with them, sharing breakfast, discussing the Word, working together, and even playing soccer.

To arrive in these villages, we travel by speed boat 125 miles from our base in Maues. This past year, we had seven team members up and down the Parauari and Paracuni rivers ministering in six communities. On average, each community consists of 45 households, and each Amazonian disciple has a unique story. One man spent his life wasting away drinking and smoking until one night, he had a dream of God, leading him to quit everything. He told his mom that he would be baptized soon, even though he didn't know how. Soon our team came to his home, led him to the Lord, and baptized him and his entire family. His newfound faith was a decision against the norms of the village, and he was threatened with expulsion. His drug habits never led to such threats, but his decision for Christ came with a cost. Since then, he has been faithfully following the Lord amid

persecution.

Along the river, many lives have been transformed by the Gospel. This happens by preaching, living with families, and showing them how to walk out a Christian life as the Word is brought to life. Alongside this, our children's ministry has grown as children receive the Word of God in the same fullness and power as adults. We have two missionaries dedicated to kids' ministry and the future growth of their young disciples.

Another significant advancement for our team is further developing our first permanent base. Through much planning and dozens of truckloads of supplies, we have built a road and bridge, making access between the river and our base possible. The first building is completed, with other infrastructure under construction. This base will dock numerous boats and floating homes and serve as a home for guests and staff. It will also aid in growing Overland as a whole, as it will host both OMT and AMT. As we build this base, we are investing in a future of ministry expansion in Brazil and the growth of the Overland team across the world.

# FOUR COUNTRIES LAUNCHED

## RESTRICTIONS CANNOT STOP A MOVE OF GOD

The cultural and social differences in our newest undisclosed nation in Southeast Asia are different from nations we have ventured to up to this point. Our team finds themselves in a massive, fully-developed city with tribal people only a day's drive away. The morning air fills with smog, the sound of thousands of motorbikes whizzing by (some single motorbikes transporting whole families of five), and the scent of local food and coffee fills the streets. This is a nation where English is not spoken, and traditionally, foreigners do not always feel welcome. It is a place where Christians do not operate with freedom of religion and have to gather in secret to avoid imprisonment, which frequently happens to local pastors. We decided to launch into this nation to follow the Lord's heart for these people in response to a conviction for the 93% unreached.

After two weeks of being enrolled in a university and studying the local language full-time, we began to gain the respect and attention of the people. Our children, champions braving the hot, humid days, have been winning the hearts of families as they ride with us from home to home. Since we arrived in March, we have seen God move in a mighty way that naturally should have taken five years. We were given business visas in the first month, ensuring our continued presence. We have launched Bible courses for dozens of people we have led to the Lord and other Christians we have been discipling. The 16-week Bible course materials have already been translated into the language. This course lays a solid foundation of the Word of God, equipping believers to lead others to Christ. Going forward, we trust that our ministry and relationships will continue to grow stronger.



## TWO FAMILIES LAUNCH MALAWI

Malawi has been a country of interest since our initial seed was planted in 2000 when the founders of Overland, Philip and Sharon Smethurst, led Overland's first-ever expedition. This expedition took them across numerous countries, including Malawi. We developed a deep relationship with a local pastor in Blantyre and continued to visit and support his church for years to come. This pastor's daughter currently works with us full-time in Mozambique. As of 2022, two families have been launched full-time into this nation.

Christians aren't the only ones vying for influence in this nation. Witchcraft and animism are relatively prevalent in the villages, along with Muslims attempting to create leverage by aggressively

building mosques throughout the country. It's a country that is ripe for the harvest.

Many people here have gone to church but are unaware of the fullness of the Gospel. We are currently capitalizing on the seeds in Malawi by discipling and co-laboring with the local pastors. Together, we are visiting surrounding villages to minister the Word. These trips have prepared us to launch expeditions and more sector missionaries next year. With our disciples from these churches, our team also wants to host OMT and have a focused time of training for local leaders. After this training, we will send our disciples into the city and remote villages to do ministry.



## EXPANSION IN MIDDLE EAST

An exciting, expansive move in 2022 was launching a full-time team into another undisclosed country in the Middle East. This country overall identifies as a secular nation, with Islam being the dominant belief among the people. This creates tension for the people because Islam is rooted in Arab culture, yet this country's people dislike the Arab culture. Even amongst those who consider themselves Muslim, there is not always confidence in their beliefs. Often, the people simply go along with the country's culture, which has left them confused about who they are.

When we moved here, we worked through the logistical kinks that are expected when pioneering a new country. We were able to sign a lease for an apartment in a great location but were left with no heat, no AC, no gas, and no electricity, so we were cooking our meals with a propane camping stove. Once our visas were approved, we started to make home improvements, which made our apartments much more livable.

Typically, it is seen as too dangerous to openly evangelize, but our team has had peace from the Lord to pursue these conversations. Those efforts have reaped fruit and inspired other missionaries in the area to be bolder in their evangelistic presence. Although our language learning is in its beginning phases, we haven't let that stop us from relationships and active ministry. Google translate has been a powerful tool in facilitating evangelistic conversations and has led to strong relationships.

As we establish ourselves, we are looking to find reliable local ministry partners to work alongside us. Each Friday, we host a house church with the hopes of seeing other local believers take responsibility for ministry. All of this is to contribute to the "plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth (Eph. 1:10)." We want this country to break free from an orphan mentality and know that they have a Father in Heaven who desperately loves them.

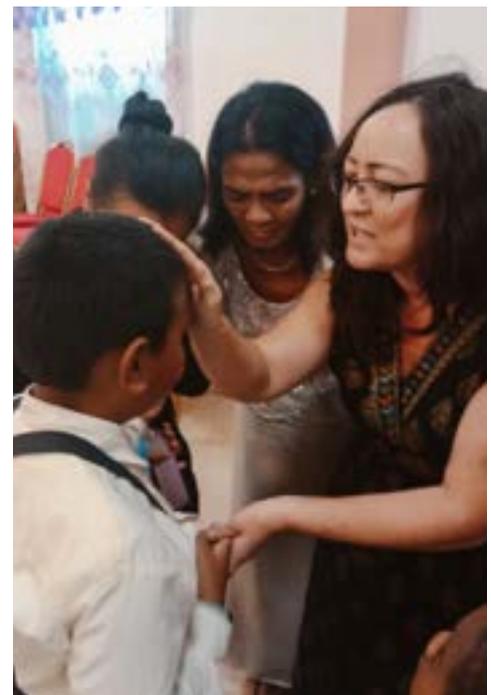
## GOSPEL REACHES THE MALAGASY PEOPLE

Home to the Malagasy people, this launch has been underway since hosting a crusade here in 2019. In the remote villages, various forms of tribal and ancestral worship exist; these forms of worship have many different expressions, but a fairly common practice is dancing with dead relatives' bones. This alone shows that this nation is in desperate need of the Kingdom of God.

The year started with a bang after Madagascar had a category five hurricane come through, leaving parts of the island without power, food or clean drinking water. The team stepped into action and raised over \$6,000 to help in relief efforts. This served as a great platform to connect with churches in the city and invite locals to church to receive help. As the team has built

relationships with local pastors, we have been focusing on mobilizing local Christians to minister outside of the city.

Now, it's no easy feat getting to the villages. Only 10% of roads are paved, and the dirt roads that do exist are difficult to traverse since the hurricane that came through at the beginning of the year. We did a reconnaissance with a local pastor to a few villages on the island, where we preached, laid hands, and saw people saved, healed and delivered. The islanders told us we were the first foreigners they had ever seen. It has been a great year of laying the foundations for ministry, and we look forward to reaching these remote people and seeing a mighty move of God.





## TRAINING CAREER MISSIONARIES - 54 GRADUATED IN 2022

Future missionaries begin their career here at Advanced Mission Training. These students learn the foundations of missions as they evangelize in remote villages through difficult terrain and learn from our seasoned missionaries, who are the instructors for their classes. Be it taxis to the suburbs of the Middle East or military-grade trucks riding in the bush of Africa, our students learn what it takes to reach remote, neglected, and unreached people.

This year we graduated 54 students, and 47 accepted a job with Overland. These 47 are now in the Ministry Partnership Development (MPD) stage, raising a team of financial partners to send them to the

nations. As they embark on a mission career, they take a foundation that will transform nations.

This foundation begins with an understanding of the Gospel and the finished work of Jesus Christ. We then must Biblically understand the fullness of our new nature and the capabilities thereof to be the ambassador of Jesus Christ to the nations. Students took the class Identity of the Believer early on in AMT as it serves as a preface to all their classes and expeditions. This class, paired with the other 13 courses taught in AMT, revival meetings and weekly devotionals, theologically equips these students with an understanding of the Gospel, the

physical requirements of the mission, and the vision of Overland.

Looking forward, we are excited to launch phase 1 in our second country, Mozambique. Phase 1 is the first six weeks of AMT, which takes place in either Zambia, Mozambique or the Middle East. Phase 2 is the second six weeks, which takes place in Zambia. 2022 marked the second year of successfully hosting these phases, making it more possible for us to expand the class size and the size of the team at large. People are the most significant need for the mission, and AMT serves as the avenue to meet this need by training people of God to complete the mission of God.

### May Class



### August Class





## Overview of AMT

Over the course of three months, students get equipped spiritually and physically for the mission field. They spend nine weeks on one of our various international bases and three weeks on the field. They learn how to communicate and teach foundational truths cross-culturally while being outfitted to reach remote locations where we find the unreached. To see more about AMT, check out our YouTube channel.



## Class Expansion

The AMT classroom is on the 14th Rapid from Victoria Falls. It currently seats 32 students comfortably. With our desire to see more missionaries on the field, we have started phases in other countries allowing us to expand faster while maintaining the same DNA. In response, a new class will break ground in 2023. With a similar concept, it will accommodate up to 100 students.

## EQUIPPING OUR DISCIPLES TO REACH THEIR OWN NATION

Everywhere we minister, the goal is to equip and empower local people to lead. Overland Missions Training (OMT) was created in Zambia five years ago and is structured to further equip our disciples with the intention of releasing them into full-time ministry. This year, we graduated 27 people from OMT in Zambia. Of those 27 students, 25 committed to full-time ministry. In Zanzibar, there were 21 students, and 17 of them were offered a position full-time. All of these ministers are funded and working alongside our team and being sent out by Overland missionaries. The students that complete this training are impacting their nations in ways our western team can not. For example, in Zanzibar, there is a Muslim village we once evangelized and saw many come

to faith. In response, the leader forbid everyone in the village from speaking with us. However, one of our recent OMT graduates was able to return to this village and start a house church!

In other nations, a similar training model has developed. This year, Mozambique held their first OMT theological training course, which built a foundation for the full-time ministry opportunities on the horizon. In an undisclosed nation in the Middle East, we hosted 25 OMT students for two intense weeks studying the Word and being sent out to the streets two-by-two daily. Ten of the 25 will be working with our team by next year as full-time ministers. Through OMT, we are able to raise local people to ensure the longevity of ministry in all of the areas where we minister.



# Transformational Development Teams Meeting Felt Needs

## FARMING GOD'S WAY BRINGS LIFE

Farming is essential in Africa, as 65% of the people rely on subsistence farming for their livelihood and survival. However, with a constant lack of rain, stripped soil, environmental challenges, and traditional beliefs that lead to superstitious practices, farming has become a burden to the people instead of a blessing. Our Sustain team, based in Zambia, has been addressing this felt need for 12 years.

Our 22 full-time Sustain staff, 19 of which are Zambian missionaries, led 105 Farming God's way conferences this year alone. As harvest time rolls around annually, the families who have employed Farming God's Way tend to draw a crowd around their fields. Why are people gathering? Because our disciples have an exponentially more abundant harvest than their neighbors. What makes these fields different and harvest so full? The farmers who have put Farming God's Way into practice under the discipleship and training of our team have learned sustainable and restorative farming practices. They have learned that the land no longer holds a curse for them, but a blessing. The testimony of abundance is commonplace in the Sustain department, as those who have undergone our training often measure a five times greater yield than their neighbors. They see yields even in times of drought. For them, this changes everything.

Not only are rural farmers participating in holistic restorative agriculture, but they are also being equipped to share these farming methods and the Gospel across Zambia and Congo. This year, we launched Sustain in Zanzibar, a full-Muslim island. Several of our Zanzibari OMT graduates were trained in the curriculum and will apply their knowledge to their own fields as a means to provide income and allow them to spend more time in ministry. Through all of our Sustain disciples, the Gospel's fullness is expressed as they display the restoration of their land and, most importantly, their lives.



## COME AND THIRST NO MORE

This year marks the second year in a row we have repaired over 100 hand pumps in Zambia! In Zondo village, we asked, “Who was the president of Zambia the last time your hand pump worked?” But it had been so long no one remembered. Finally, we discovered the well had been broken for 17 years. In other words, an entire generation had grown up traveling great distances for the most basic of needs. Anytime an entire village has to devote so much time to meet such a basic need, they are hindered from growing in other ways. We are excited to see the changes that occur in Zondo village through this need being met.

In 2022, our Water Department trained 20 more people in well repair, which means we now have over 40 technicians amongst our

Zambian ministers who can repair wells. As with all of our transformational development ministries, the Water Department is holistic, meeting the need for clean water and spiritual living water, never leaving one thirsty again. When repairing a well, many gather to watch and are attentive when we share the Gospel. Often well repairs attract men who usually are not home when we are doing home-to-home evangelism, but they show up consistently to help repair a broken well. Through the work of the Water Division, these men hear the transforming Gospel message and are often delivered and healed. Repairing a borehole can do so much more than simply provide clean water; through the preached Word of God, it has the power to transform lives, families and entire villages.

## PROVIDING HEALTHCARE IN CONGO AND ANGOLA

Medical care in Congo and Angola is some of the worst in the world, with preventable diseases destroying families and infant mortality at alarming heights. However, when the Gospel enters these nations, the compassion of Jesus reaches into the brokenness and provides hope. In 2022, hope came in the form of 30 training sessions for clinics around Congo and four weeks of medical care to remote villages in Angola. Through health education and training for clinicians from our licensed medical personnel, ineffective practices, often infected with falsities and superstition, are replaced by effective medicine and Gospel truth. This kind of healthcare discipleship empowers local people to provide quality care that treats men, women and children with the value and worth that Jesus Christ demonstrated for them on the cross.

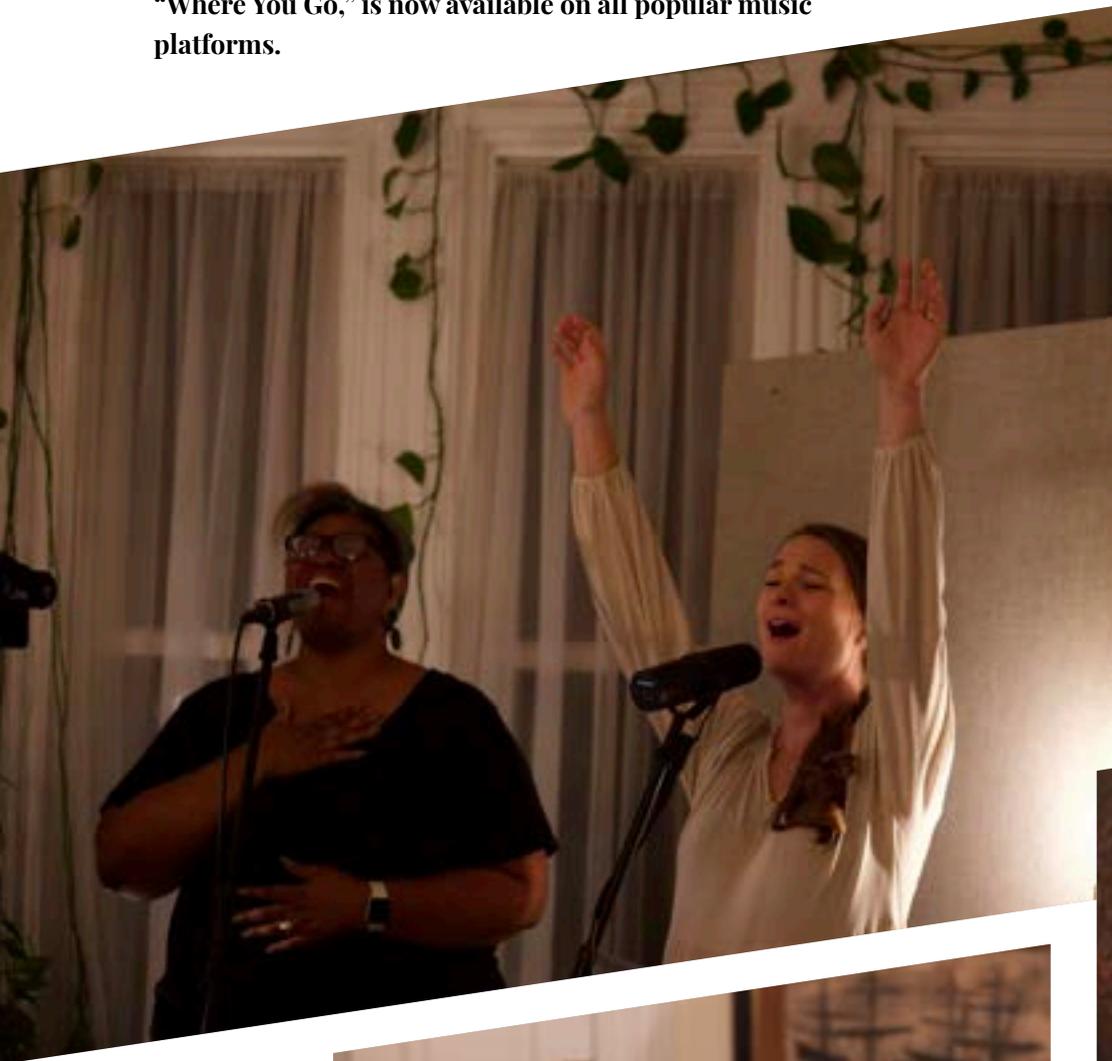
Personal advocacy is lacking in many of these environments, so we give people informed direction for their care. One such time, we spent hours teaching a mother how to understand and care for her child with disabilities. This is the kind of compassionate love we aim to demonstrate to the nations we serve.

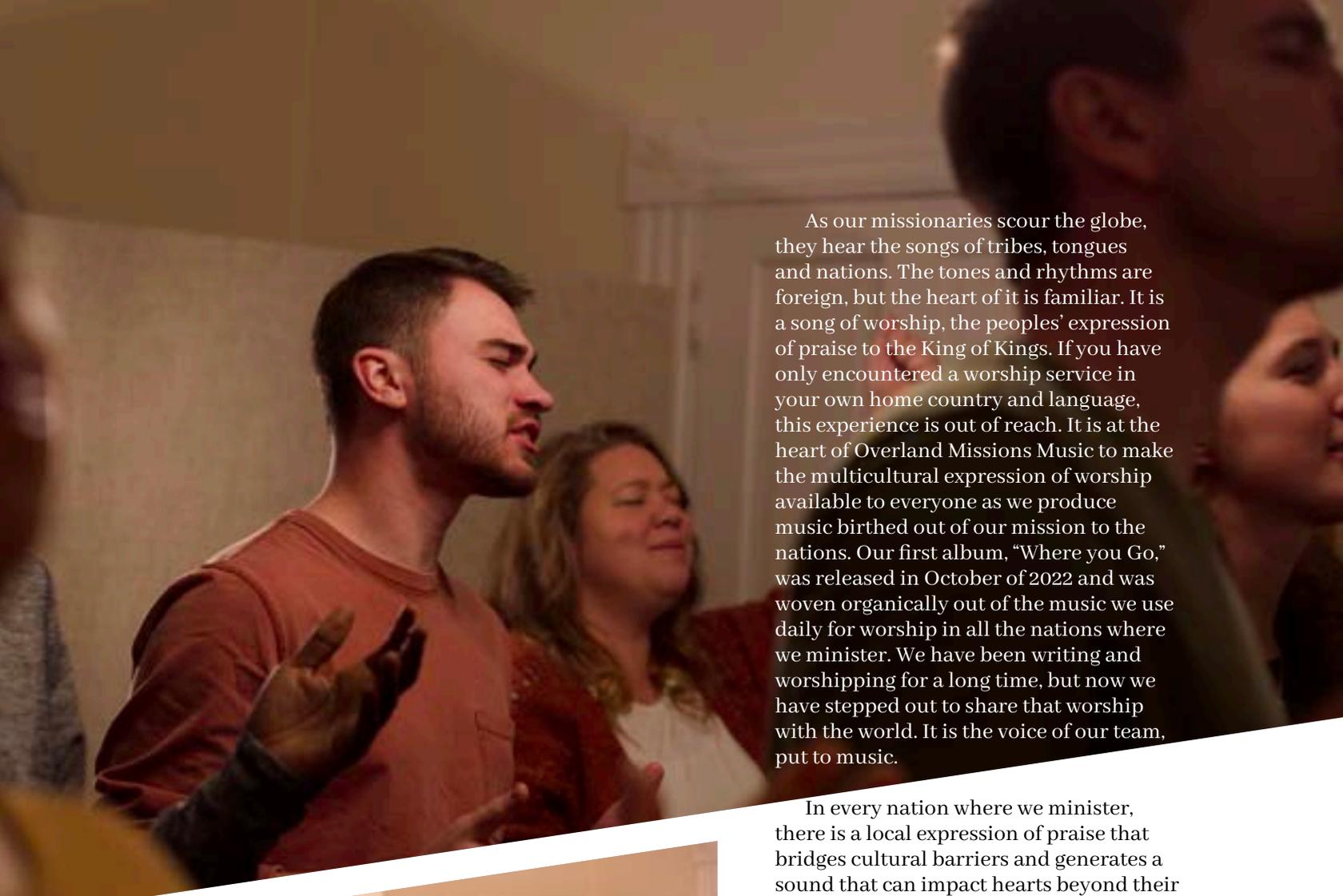
Whether traveling hours to conduct clinics and provide life-saving care, or volunteering at a nearby hospital, wherever we go, the life-transforming message of Jesus travels with us into some of life’s toughest circumstances, bringing complete transformation. In locations where we have conducted training, infant mortality has decreased drastically, and people receive powerful prayer and genuine advice to deal with diseases they had been resigned to suffer with.



# OVERLAND MISSIONS MUSIC

Overland Missions Music aims to make a multicultural expression of worship available to the world. First album, "Where You Go," is now available on all popular music platforms.





As our missionaries scour the globe, they hear the songs of tribes, tongues and nations. The tones and rhythms are foreign, but the heart of it is familiar. It is a song of worship, the peoples' expression of praise to the King of Kings. If you have only encountered a worship service in your own home country and language, this experience is out of reach. It is at the heart of Overland Missions Music to make the multicultural expression of worship available to everyone as we produce music birthed out of our mission to the nations. Our first album, "Where you Go," was released in October of 2022 and was woven organically out of the music we use daily for worship in all the nations where we minister. We have been writing and worshipping for a long time, but now we have stepped out to share that worship with the world. It is the voice of our team, put to music.

In every nation where we minister, there is a local expression of praise that bridges cultural barriers and generates a sound that can impact hearts beyond their native land. We made our first efforts this year to capture that sound in Zambia, and we plan in the future to produce music in styles from all over the world, written and recorded by people from cultures that have never had a voice in the western church. We want to produce music that expresses a passion for Jesus and stirs a revival in people. Ultimately, we want to propel those with ears to hear into dedicating their lives to reaching the nations with the Gospel. The missionaries in Overland Missions have heard and responded to that call, and our goal is to produce music from that place of awe and surrender before God—inspiring others to do the same. In the coming years, follow us on all your favorite media platforms to see what Overland Missions Music will capture from the nations and make available to the world.



Watch our music videos and follow us on YouTube to receive updates on our latest releases.



# KINGS CENTER

Introducing the first of its kind, the Kings Center, a retreat center for emperors, built to serve and host the kings and queens of Africa.

The Kings Center is being built on the Batoka gorge of the Zambezi River at Rapid 13, downstream from the great and Mighty Victoria Falls. It is also located on Overland's international flagship base, which has been called the most iconic international missions base in the world. The Kings Center will be an a retreat center for the kings and queens of Africa, all expenses paid, to rest, deal with confrontation, converse with friends, find refuge, learn, sit with our team, and have spiritual restoration. The Kings Center will be the first of its kind. The idea came from years of working with dignitaries and understanding the need for a haven that allows this sort of interaction while also following protocol.

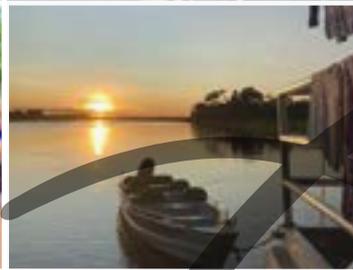
The building process started with a team of engineers and architects from South Africa helping us design a cutting-edge, modern design that resembles a crown at the edge of the gorge. We chose this design to honor the leadership of African monarchs who always wear crowns. Our team of missionaries managing the project is made of experienced African architects and engineers. As we have been entrusted with building the center, that entrustment comes with the responsibility to increase our capacity. This year alone, we bought over 100 metric tons of steel, a plasma cutter for cutting steel, a steel band saw, a dump truck, a transformer, two concrete mixers, and we have made the way to have electricity on the site. We make constant design changes to fit the terrain as the project continues. The building, different from our other

buildings on base, is an ultra-modern look designed with steel, glass and wood with a metal roof, unlike our traditional thatch roofs, which are more common to our bases in Zambia. The back of the boutique will be floating over the gorge edge, giving the guests a full panorama view of the gorge.

We broke ground on this property after the King of Kings event (pg 4). After church, there was a groundbreaking ceremony where the 60 kings and queens, representing 32 nations, broke ground on the site. As we honor leadership, whose authority comes from God, and carry an understanding of the authority God has given us as believers, we can do endeavors such as this and have absolute faith in such objectives. We look forward to completing this project by the end of 2024 and the relationships and testimonies that will come from it.



Follow on  
YouTube  
for updates



# JOIN US OVERSEAS

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## 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 2023 expeditions run in the following nations:

ANGOLA  
BRAZIL  
CAMBODIA  
DR CONGO  
ETHIOPIA  
MADAGASCAR  
MALAWI  
MIDDLE EAST  
MOZAMBIQUE  
NIGERIA  
TANZANIA  
SE ASIA  
UGANDA  
ZAMBIA  
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 2023, AMT will be available in:

MOZAMBIQUE  
ZAMBIA  
MIDDLE EAST

## SIGN UP ONLINE





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