

WALKING WITH GOD FROM AFRICA TO LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO CITY VISION2030

Phillip Ndoro first learned about holistic ministry at a missions conference in 1999. “I knew then that God was calling me to ministry among the less privileged, but I wasn’t sure what that would look like.”

Beauty didn’t know either. She too felt God call her to a life of missions. After they met and married, Beauty and Phillip moved into a middle-class neighborhood and began ministering among the urban poor in Harare, Zimbabwe’s capital city. Phillip planted churches, and Beauty trained community members in business development. While the Ndoros were discerning their future in missions, Servant Partners invited them to live and minister in an informal settlement in Mexico City, Mexico.

“I was afraid of having to speak Spanish!” Beauty recounted. After several weeks of discernment and prayer, they realized that God was indeed calling them to leave Zimbabwe to live and serve in Chimalhuacan—a crowded, resource-deprived urban settlement in Mexico City. So they went.

“For the first time, we were living amongst the people we were serving,” Beauty said. Living in an urban poor community brought health challenges and lifestyle



The Ndoro family walks in their new community Anexo Buenos Aires in Managua, 2015

adjustments, but also sparked beautiful experiences of transformation. Phillip started 11 new local house churches and Beauty empowered neighbors through small business projects. When community members shared about their spiritual and emotional trauma, the Ndoros began hosting inner healing retreats and training.

In 2015, God again called them to go - to Managua, Nicaragua. “God has called us to walk with him and do whatever he is doing,” Phillip said. “In the decision to move, we lost more than three-quarters of our supporters and started from the bottom. But God has been faithful in providing for us as we walk with him, listen, and try new things.”

Managua proved as busy and fulfilling as Mexico City. Phillip mobilized churches for holistic ministry and Nicaraguans for international missions. Beauty pioneered a women’s ministry and inner healing groups. They started a tutoring program for youth and trained leaders. When COVID-19 struck, their meal program fed up to 100 children daily.

“When we left Managua after four years, about 20 committed leaders were working in these various projects,” Beauty said. “God was already working when we got there, and he is still working now.” The Ndoros returned to Mexico to strengthen the ministry they started a decade earlier, which had developed under leaders they mentored.

14 years after they first set foot in Mexico, the Ndoros are now participating in another amazing movement of God—this time, a national one. They lead the Servant Partners Mexico movement, now in three communities in Mexico City. As part of Servant Partners’ Vision 2030, they are collaborating with partners in Honduras, Colombia, Chile, and Peru to start national movements



The Ndoros mentor young leaders & pastors in Mexico, 2012

of holistic ministry among the urban poor.

“All across the majority world, there is an awakening for holistic ministry among the urban poor,” Phillip said. “There is a great movement of the Holy Spirit towards missions, and we desire to strengthen that movement in Mexico and Latin America, as the Lord leads us.” Phillip said. “When people learn that we are Africans doing ministry in Latin America, that inspires them to go beyond their comfort zone too.”

Beauty said, “Through our Vision 2030, I see how God is extending justice and shalom, drawing people into His mission, and extending the work of transformation on a global level. God used our presence in missions to bring other people into the work. We are breaking cultural and traditional barriers, working together to extend the Kingdom of God in a broken world.”

A VISION FOR BEAUTY AND EQUITY

SAN JOSE, CA VISION2030

One ordinary Tuesday morning, Janet Singletery woke up to find herself paralyzed from the knees down.

“One month before my wedding, I went into emergency surgery, and came out with some—but very little—function. God is good, and I got to walk down the aisle to my husband Andy with the help of friends.”

Janet was on staff with student ministry InterVarsity Christian Fellowship when her injury happened. For seven years, she had taken students on annual summer trips to Thailand to experience life in an urban marginalized community. Each time, she’d invite them to consider God’s call to live and serve among the urban poor. In this moment of injury and upheaval, she realized she needed to ask that same question of herself.

“My injury was pushing me to be more rooted in my neighborhood,” she said. “Joining Andy in Servant Partners would allow me to live out my calling: to be flesh and blood among neighbors, not just for the summer, but for a lifetime.”

Another InterVarsity summer program prompted Andy’s first invitation to consider urban ministry. After five weeks of tutoring in Los Angeles’ Chinatown, a local family took Andy’s team out for a nice meal to express their gratitude and love. “I remember thinking that

these were the people whom I defined as ‘the poor,’ yet they were pouring out such lavish hospitality on me,” he recounted. “It broke through my transactional understanding of service, and I realized that a life of love and ministry is worth much more than what can be measured in dollars or minutes.”

Pursuing that life of love and ministry, Andy and Janet settled in San Jose’s Guadalupe-Washington neighborhood in 2010. They started a bilingual Bible study and hosted their first class of interns in 2011—some of whom started a youth group. Ministers from Honduras joined the team and began leading a weekly prayer meeting. Andy also launched San Jose Bridge Communities (SJBC) as an incubator for cross-class friendship and leadership development. In 2014, all of this work culminated in a church plant: Shalom Iglesia del Pacto.

“Leadership development has been the main theme of our site, both through Shalom



Iglesia and SJBC, as we find opportunities for neighbors to join us,” Andy said.

This growth is partly sustained by their communal pot fund development model, where staff members fundraise into a collective fund that pays for each member’s budget and salary.

“I have a vision that anyone who feels called to serve the urban poor should have the opportunity to do so, regardless of their financial resources,” Janet said. Janet is passionate about her role as Director of Fund Development for Servant Partners, in which she coaches staff and sites in fundraising. Through Vision 2030, she helps under-resourced leaders get access to funds, coaching, and funding networks to sustain their ministries.

“I am really excited about building our organizational capacity to help others get started in urban ministry with a strong foundation in fund development,” she said.

At top: Janet teaches at Kids Club, 2013

At left: The current Servant Partners San Jose team

Andy’s own organizational “hat” is Editor-in-Chief for Servant Partners Press, which publishes theological reflections, narratives, and training materials about God’s transformation in urban marginalized communities. In 2020, he launched *The Mural*, a quarterly art publication. Through SP Press, Janet co-edited *Voices Rising*, a compilation of stories from women of color in urban ministry.

Andy said, “We started *The Mural* as an expression of the beauty of our work and neighborhoods beyond what’s measurable and practical. It’s a compelling and unique picture of what Servant Partners is and is becoming.”

The Singleterrys remain on the cutting edge of organizational development in Servant Partners.

They are pastors, organizational leaders, parents, and beloved neighbors to many. Across all these roles, Andy and Janet are still living out the calling they received two decades prior—a calling to be flesh and blood among the most vulnerable, and to labor alongside God for transformation.

HOPE THAT RETURNS TO THE HOPELESS

MANILA VISION2030

“The home I grew up in is normal for most people in the world,” Ema Smith writes in *Voices Rising*. Her home was a one-room shack jammed into a dense squatter settlement in the heart of Manila, the Philippines.

“There were times that I wanted to die because of all the hardships I faced,” she said. “Words cannot describe what it’s like to always be hungry and not know when you will eat next, not to mention not having enough money to go to school. It is even worse if your parents are always quarreling.”

When her parents abruptly left Ema and her siblings alone for a week, local missionaries cared for them. “I think my calling to serve God among the poor started during that difficult week,” she reflected. “The missionaries were not even our relatives, but they took care of us. I knew in my heart that this kind of love only comes from Jesus.”



Aaron and Ema Smith have ministered incarnationally in Manila for 20 years

“Because I had Jesus, I had hope,” she said. “Being poor is hard—but being poor without Jesus is unbearable.” Today Ema lives with the scars of poverty, but within her lives an unwavering hope that has only grown brighter with time.

Aaron’s passion for justice grew from his parents’ stories of compassion and matured through short-term missions, urban ministry books, and seminary in Manila. While ministering at Balic-Balic Christian Church, he met Ema. After marrying and living in America for two years, they were called back to Balic-Balic—this time, with Servant Partners. “We returned to bring hope in Jesus to the urban poor,” Ema said.

Then the government abruptly demolished Balic-Balic, destroying the church and homes of their entire community, including the Smiths’. Trusting in God’s call amidst the disruption, the Smiths moved to Botocan, another squatter community in metropolitan Manila. They started Botocan Bible Christian Fellowship (BBCF), a thriving community of Jesus followers.

“When we started the church, we strived to involve as many people as possible,” Aaron said. This meant discipling people, hosting children’s programs and youth camps, teaching high school equivalency classes, and counseling families. “I did not have to think of new ways to call people back to the slums; I was already doing that kind of work by living in the slums and discipling girls in my community,” Ema reflected. By teaching nail art, Ema bonded with young women, helped them feel confident, and met many new people who later visited their church. One young woman even went on to be employed as a nail artist.

After 20 years of ministry, Aaron and Ema have many powerful stories of transformed lives. Reyna* endured homelessness and sexual harassment; her family stole to survive. Through discipleship, she came to know Jesus, finished college, and inspired her relatives to pursue careers instead of stealing. “She messaged us recently to express her gratitude, and it reminded us of how instrumental those early interactions were in positively shaping her life,” Aaron said. “The contrast between where people used to be and where they are now is truly striking.”

From choosing to return to Manila, to empowering community leaders, and now training leaders for lives of urban ministry in Manila and beyond, the Smiths’ commitment remains the same: to proclaim the hope of Jesus.



Ema with local girls in her neighborhood



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JOIN US to break the cycle of urban poverty. Email us at mobilization@servantpartners.org to learn about joining Servant Partners staff.

LEARN to listen to God, neighbor, and self through our short-term Community Transformation Certificate program at servantpartners.org/certificate.



*Names changed for security and privacy reasons.

VISION 2030

Build, Strengthen, and Bridge God's Movement in Urban Poor Communities Around the World



Three years into our 10-year Vision 2030, we have seen God move in profound ways. Local leaders have been empowered to pursue lives of sustainable urban ministry in domestic and international capacities.



New sites are being planted in the US and internationally. We are bridging national movements of urban poor church planting and community transformation in Canada, the Caribbean, Colombia,



Ethiopia, Mexico, South Asia, and the US. Leaders of these movements are beginning to collaborate with one another on how to extend God's Kingdom to urban poor communities around the world.

You can read more and partner with our Vision 2030 by visiting servantpartners.org/vision2030.

The Mural

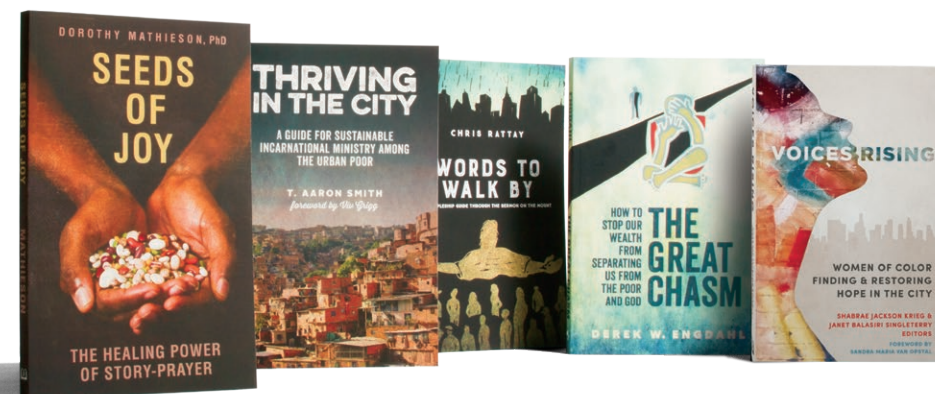
SOUL OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD



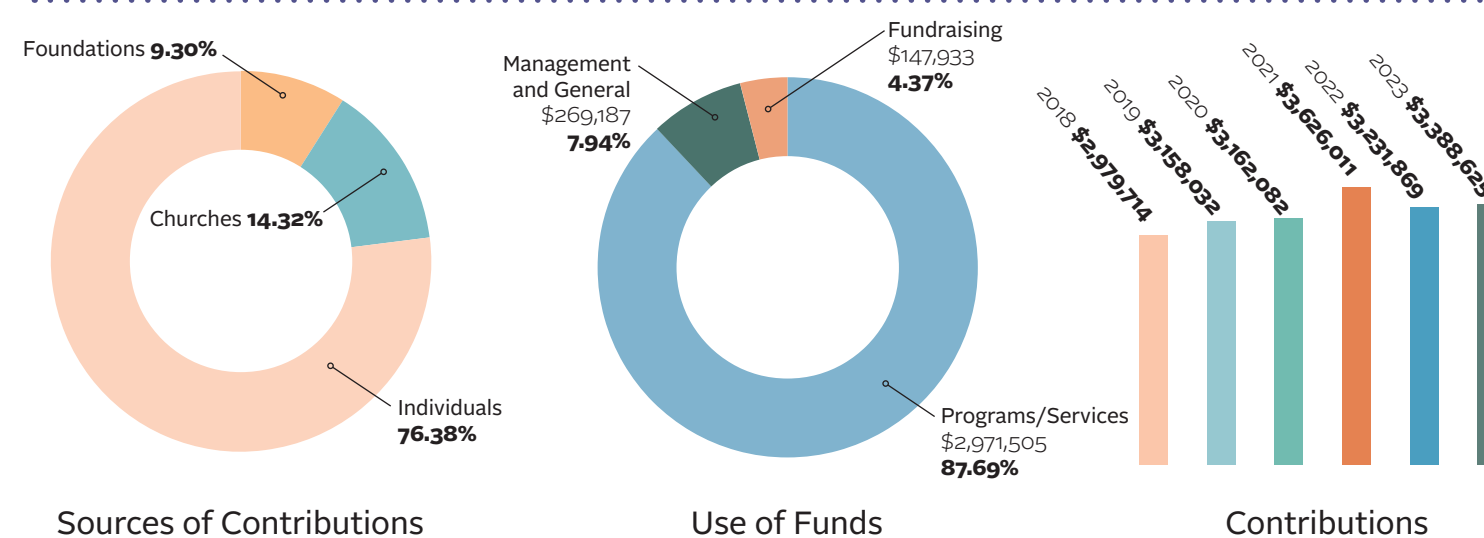
The Mural is a quarterly art magazine published by Servant Partners Press, featuring poetry, prose, photography, and more from people living and working in urban marginalized communities. Find it at servantpartnerspress.org, along with other theological reflections, narratives, and training materials that proclaim God's presence among the poor.

RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY AMONG THE URBAN POOR

Currently available at ServantPartnersPress.org, Amazon, and other major booksellers



2023 FINANCES



ECFA
Enhancing Trust

We hold to a high standard of financial accountability in all of our projects and ministry, guided by the standards and best practices of Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).

Watch our newest videos showcasing who we are and the Nine Signs of a Transforming Community in English and Spanish at youtube.com/servantpartners

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Transforming Communities with the Urban Poor



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In 1992, a group of people gathered to discern whether God was calling them to create a new organization committed to Kingdom transformation in urban poor communities. The group recognized that the Holy Spirit had already been challenging hundreds of people to ask themselves what it meant to love their poorer neighbors. The idea of Servant Partners was born at that prayer meeting, then came into organizational fruition in 1993. Much has changed for us over the past thirty years. What has not changed is our unwavering commitment to walk alongside and partner with our neighbors to seek God's transformation. Over the years we have been privileged to see the dramatic impact our small, Spirit-infused efforts have had on our communities.

After another season of discernment in 2019, we felt led to develop our Vision 2030 which set three major ten-year goals: grow to 30-40 sites, strengthen organizational structures to equip staff for flourishing, and develop 4-6 new national movement partnerships that would work with the US ministry to reach cities around the world. We have seen growth in each of these areas but most remarkably in the discovery of international partners who share our sense of call and desire to build something new together. Today, we find ourselves in a similar place as in 1992, asking God how we can partner with the new thing the Spirit is doing in the world. We hope that in these following stories, you gain a sense of who we have been as well as who we are becoming in Jesus. Thank you for your partnership in prayer and financial support as we follow Jesus among the world's urban poor.

With gratitude,
Derek and Lisa Engdahl
General Directors

Celebrating
30 Years
of
Urban
Ministry

Servant Partners
P.O. Box 3144
Pomona, CA 91769 USA
626-398-1010
info@servantpartners.org