

2022 - THE MOST FRUITFUL YEAR IN SWEA HISTORY **13.7 Million Pray to Receive Christ**

"This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes" Psalm 118:23
"Exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think" Eph. 3:20

STATISTICAL EVANGELISM SUMMARY

On December 31, 2022, we closed out the 45th year of SWEA - on a really high note! It was by far the most fruitful year we have ever experienced, with 13,759,000 people praying to receive the Lord Jesus into their hearts. Never in our wildest dreams, back at the beginning in 1977, did we imagine that God would some day give such an increase as He has over the past few years. But, He IS, after all, the God of the impossible.



Marion sharing the Gospel in a prison on Christmas Day

Over the past 12 months the teams conducted 18,280 evangelistic events in school assemblies, open-air meetings of various types, evening film shows, prisons, sports events, and hospitals.

They averaged preaching face to face to 41,500 people per day. There are currently 32 teams, made up of approximately 200 people, working in the seven African countries of Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Tanzania. And, EVERY DAY they are on the road, OUT in the field, sharing the simple message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Over the past two

years ('21 and '22), the teams conducted 30,000 evangelistic meetings, and saw over 21 MILLION people respond to the Good News of Jesus by asking Him into their heart.

GOD SEES THE INDIVIDUAL

As wonderful as these numbers are, and as grateful as we are for them, they do not, and CAN not tell the whole story. Because, the real story is not about numbers. Its about people - real people with real problems and real needs that cannot be solved and met by any means other than God Himself. The only way to get a clear picture of what God is doing is by looking into the eyes of the people that the numbers represent. It's when we do THAT, that we clearly see the real impact of the Gospel, Every individual has a story of their own, and that story is profoundly altered when Jesus comes into their heart. And, He comes - one at a time.

There is the fifteen-year-old high school boy who left home this morning wondering what kind of future he can ever hope to have. He had no breakfast because his family is very poor. He is one of five kids, and there seems to be no hope for his future. His is a typical story for a teenage kid in his country. Then in a school assembly he heard about Jesus, and how He can provide a secure future for each of us, not only for this life, but for eternity. He went home that day as a born-again child of God, with a message to share with his parents and four siblings. His story has changed forever.

There is the alcoholic woman walking through the open-air market to buy a rope with which to hang herself, because she is so despairing of her life. Hers is a tragic story, but it is about to change. She hears the music and is drawn for a moment to listen. The music stops, the Gospel is preached, and her heart is warmed by the message. She prays to receive Jesus, and her thoughts of suicide vanish as her sin and guilt are washed away. She is born again, and her desire for alcohol is gone. She goes to her home and sleeps in peace that night, knowing she is safe in the arms of Jesus.



Patrick preaching to a group of students

There is the man in prison who hears how we can be set free in Christ. His story is similar to hundreds of other inmates, until he hears the story of Jesus. He prays to receive Him and is set free from the prison of sin and death. He is still behind bars, but he is a free man and a new man. He is not the only prisoner who is saved that day. There are others, and they join together to form a fellowship in the prison. And, through it, many others are brought to Jesus.

The stories number in the millions. Each one is different, but one thing they have in common is that they were blind and now they see. They were lost but now they are found. They were on the way to hell but now they have eternal life. All because someone took the time to GO TO THEM in the school, in the market, in the prison, with the message of hope, with the story of the cross. One morning, many years ago, I sat in the vehicle in a very remote village market while the team mounted the speakers on top. My friend, Bernard Kamau, asked me,



Newton sharing with middle school students

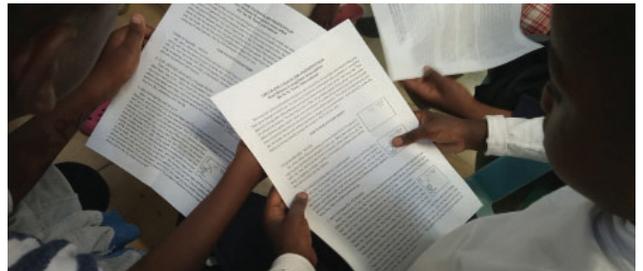
“Brother Shad, if we didn't come to these people with Jesus, who would come?” The answer was obvious and sobering - no one!

Over the past 45 years, SWEA has presented the Gospel to more than 57 MILLION people, most of whom had never heard the Gospel before, and millions have said yes to Jesus. Now, here we are in a new year. Our goal for 2021 was five million, and God gave over seven. The goal for 2022 was 10 million, and God gave 13.7. So, what about 2023? The general consensus among the team is that we should believe God for 15 MILLION

this year. One thing we know for sure is that God can certainly give “more than we ask or think.” I believe He will as we continue to GO TO THEM by faith, for HIS glory. And, when it is all done, we will join together and proclaim, “This is the LORD’S doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.”

MAKING DISCIPLES: OVER 10,000 TRAINED IN EVANGELISM

The Great Commission not only compels us to “preach the Gospel”, but also to “make disciples.” We believe that a disciple is not just a “learner”, but also a reproducer. Therefore we are conducting hundreds of training seminars in which thousands of people are learning to share the message of Christ in one-on-one personal witnessing settings, as well as with large groups in field evangelism events. Tens of thousands of copies of the “We Go To Them” evangelism material (available on our website - wegotothem.com) have been distributed throughout East, Central, and West Africa. It is also being used to train thousands of people in India. We are praying that over the next ten years, God will add 1000 evangelists to the international SWEA / WGTT workforce.



Teaching young people to share the Gospel one-on-one

PLANS FOR EXPANSION

From 2015 - 2019, the ministry averaged seeing 1.4 million people per year pray to receive Christ. Then in 2020 it jumped to 2.5 million, and then last year to 13.7M. So, what is the explanation for such an increase? It happened because in October 2019, God simultaneously laid it upon the hearts of every team member to move out to new stations and develop teams of their own to reach many more people. By March of 2020, there were



A street meeting in Nairobi

10 new evangelism centers in Kenya and Tanzania. The results were dramatic. Then in 2021 five more were established in Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo. Again, another upsurge in outreach. Now, the ministry is positioned for another round of expansion. There are currently another ten team members who are qualified and ready to establish teams of their own. Plans are now underway to establish new stations in Tanzania, Zambia, and Uganda. We believe that once these new teams are developed and supplied with transportation and equipment, we will see another dramatic increase in the number of people reached with the Gospel. So, please pray with us for God's enabling to bring this about for HIS glory and the furtherance of HIS Kingdom.

THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US

Again, I want to emphasize that this is a TEAM effort. There are some who stand in the market place and preach. There are those who fervently pray. There are those who invest in the work with financial means. But, in the end, people are saved because a GROUP of Believers worked TOGETHER to get the Gospel out. So, to ALL of you, we say THANK YOU! Thank you for being with us as WE GO TO THEM!