

# Ethos Stories

THE 2021 EDITION

# Introduction

**T**he Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) have been extremely valuable for followers of Jesus for the past two millennia. These books provide us with rich insight into what Jesus was like, as well as giving us instruction for how to live as His followers. Each of these men, being led by the Holy Spirit, wrote down moments they personally experienced with Jesus, or moments others had experienced with him. Because they chose to write down what Jesus said and did, we and so many others have grown deeper in knowing Jesus and have given our lives to follow him.

Each year, we reflect and write down stories of what the LORD has done among our church family. Because we believe that Jesus is alive and working, we want to continue sharing what He is doing and give Him the glory He deserves.

There is no way to fully capture all that God has done throughout the past year in one document. As the apostle John signed off on his gospel writing, he wrote this: *“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.”*

This year’s stories are told by many different people throughout the Ethos church family. Our hope in sharing these stories is that we would be able to see what the Lord has done, and that a refreshed desire would be stirred up in us to continue following Him whole-heartedly. Our hope is also that these stories would help others come to know Jesus, see what He’s doing, and that they too would give their lives to Him.

YOUR BROTHERS,  
BRANDON STEELE & DAVE CLAYTON

# Love God, Love People, Awaken a Movement.

THE MISSION OF ETHOS CHURCH

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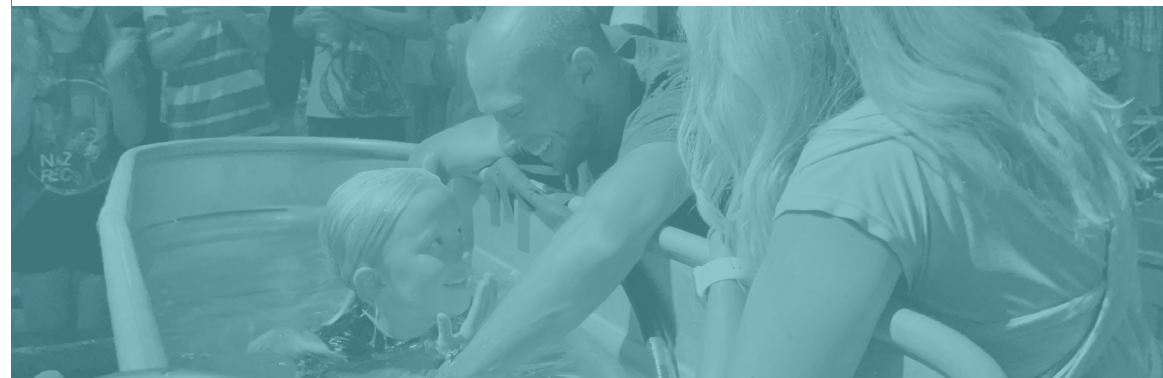
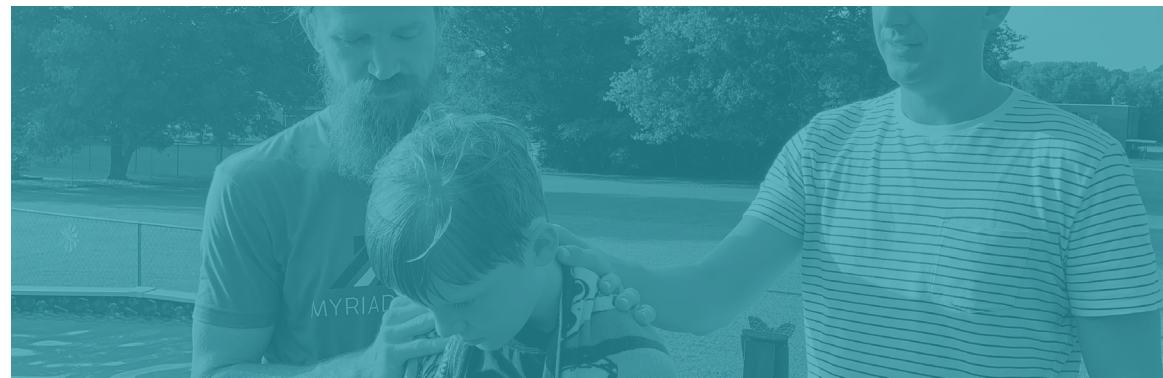
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A NOTE FROM OUR ELDERS

# Baptism

**W**e both have been believers all of our lives. Jake grew up in a church environment and I grew up doing a lot of church hopping in different denominations as a kid. I never really had a church family. When life finally settled down from graduating, finding jobs, moving, and being engaged, we were finally able to start attending Ethos. I was a little nervous because of my church experiences, but we both fell in love with and felt a deep connection to the Lord through the church. We both had been thinking about our future as Christians and wanted to be baptized, but we never had the right opportunity. We found out through one church service that there would be a baptism service the day after our wedding. We submitted our information cards. Aaron called us and discussed it with us. We prayed about it and decided that this would be the perfect opportunity to not only start our marriage together but to start our new lives in Christ. We got married on July 24th, 2021, baptized the 25th, and went to Mexico the 26th. Everyone always tells us how awesome that is, which we agree, but we really look at it as how awesome the Lord is that He created that perfect moment and opportunity for us. From then on, we have continued to go to Ethos and build our relationships with the Lord. We are growing each and every day and have experienced things that we had always heard about but never experienced personally. We are growing as individuals in the Lord and as a newly wed couple in the Lord."

JAKE AND VICTORIA CROASMUN





# Dead to Sin, Alive to Christ

**I**f I look back on everything that's happened in my life since I was baptized, there's a dominant phrase that comes to mind: never underestimate what God will do with an available life. The, at the time, small voice in my head kept interrupting my beehive of a brain saying, "It's time to get baptized." I believe the walk of the Christian life isn't made up of one big yes, but a thousand small ones. It was the typical Sunday evening at prayer gathering when I went up to Dave Clayton and said "Dave, I want to get re-baptized." Dave proceeds to ask when, and I said I didn't want to wait any longer!

About a month after that short conversation I showed up on a Sunday evening to prayer gathering and Dave baptized me that night! It couldn't have been more perfect. I know the Lord loves to be in the details of our lives. He sure was with me that day and has been ever since. As I write this, it's hard to stop my pen because since that day I've seen the Lord move and do things in my life I never could have dreamt. My closing thought is centered around how happy I am that I listened to that small voice in my head. Never underestimate what the Lord can and will do with an available life."

KRISTEN WIBLISHOUSER

**I** had been wanting to get baptized for a while, but I never did. I loved Jesus and wanted him to be my Lord, but I never could bring myself to get baptized because I felt like I didn't know enough to go all in. I also was nervous about the idea of getting baptized at the Cannery in front of hundreds of people.

One day, however, I was praying with my dad and my brother, and I realized a couple things. First, my dad told me that I did not have to get baptized in front of hundreds of people, and that we could do it whenever and wherever I wanted to. Then while we were praying, I felt God tell me through a song that I could never know everything there is to know and that I needed to get baptized that night.

So my dad asked our neighbors if we could use their pool, and we called a few friends. I got baptized that night. Now, when I read my Bible, I learn how to love God instead of just trying to learn all about him."

ELIJAH ETHERIDGE

**I** felt like the Lord had been calling me to be baptized for some time and had been talking to my parents about it. One of the things that led me to get baptized was that I wanted to be like Jesus. One of my favorite stories in the Bible about Jesus is the story after He was baptized and was being tempted in the desert by Satan. He was able to resist him. I loved that He quoted scripture to Satan because Satan hates scripture and Jesus knew God's words were more powerful than Satan's words. I wanted to be baptized and have that same power within me because the Spirit of the Lord is in me."

FINLEY STEELE

"In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus." Romans 6:11

# 21

## BAPTISMS

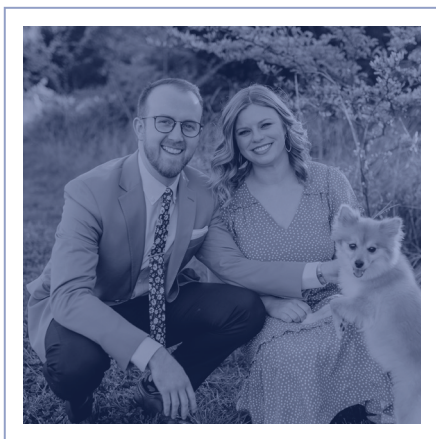


What led me to being baptized stemmed from a dream I had back in January 2020, right before that season of prayer and fasting. In the dream I was in a church with a godly woman who had angel wings who was all set to go fight in the battle raging outside and I wanted nothing more than to join her. She wanted to take me with her but something kept holding me to the ground. After I woke up I felt this dream was more than just a normal dream and I started to pray and ask God ‘What can I do to fight and be with this woman?’ Instantly what I felt on my heart was that I needed to be baptized. With this being a completely new experience, I had no clue or the confidence to know if this dream was from God, but it did inspire me to start reading through the Bible for the first time. Even though I was baptized as a baby, from that point on, each time I heard about baptism, I knew deep down that I needed to take that step and the more I read and grew, the greater that desire became.

In the months prior to being baptized I knew that my time in Nashville was coming to a close. I had a wonderful girlfriend, now fiancé, in Boston and I knew that it was time to be closer to her. Before I had a job or another place to stay, I made the commitment that I was going to move by the end of October. I trusted God was going to work it out. Soon after, I had a job interview and a cheap place to stay that was a 5 minute walk from my fiancé’s home. I knew it was from God that everything was coming into place. Through it all, God never let me forget about needing to be baptized. Before I left, I knew God wanted me to take that step so, surrounded by some of my best friends and the greatest community I’ve had, I confessed my faith and dedication to Him.”

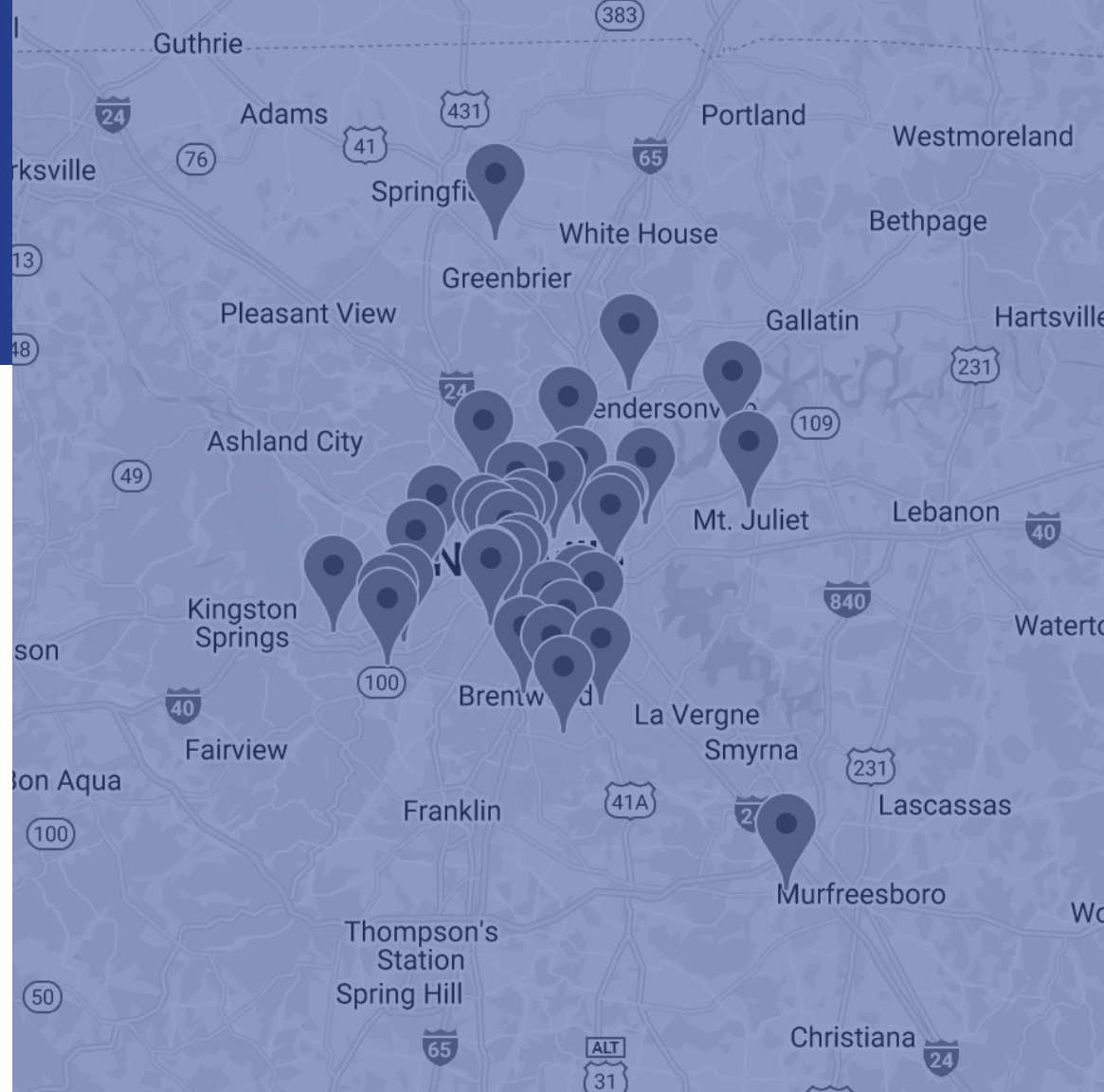
JARED HICKS

# House Church



**T**he Lord has shown us the value of community through our House Church. When we got married last year, we became serious about finding a church to call home. After we began worshipping with Ethos, we quickly joined a House Church, and it has been one of the best decisions we have made. God has moved through our House Church to give us a community that we both deeply needed. We eagerly anticipate our weekly meetings and have made some incredible friends. We share our struggles, celebrate our blessings and triumphs, and mourn our losses. Our House Church has been a source of encouragement and comfort. When we leave each week, we feel energized and more on fire for God. We did not expect to bond so quickly and to openly speak about our lives so easily to others. The community we experience each week leaves us energized and encouraged to grow in our faith and to serve the Lord.”

ZAC AND AMBER BARKER



# 45

HOUSE CHURCHES

# 500+

PEOPLE IN HOUSE CHURCHES





# Grow Classes

REASON FOR YOUR FAITH

*Dave Wilson*

THE CREEDS

*Josh Willis*

BEGINNER GUITAR & WORSHIP

*Micah Phillips*

UNANSWERED PRAYER | THE PRAYER COURSE II

*Andrew Smith*

FOSTER CARE

*Carly Brandvold & Ethos Kids Team*

JESUS & YOGA

*Lauren Campbell*

SEXUAL INTEGRITY 101

*Garrison Frick*

# 7

SUMMER CONNECT GROUPS

# 300+

PARTICIPANTS IN GROW CLASSES

# Ethos Students

## Connecting & Growing

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL HOUSE CHURCH

SUNDAY NIGHT GATHERINGS

FIRESIDE CHATS



# 45

ETHOS STUDENTS

# 10

VOLUNTEERS

After participating and growing in Ethos Students and seeing other's relationships with God, I knew that I wanted to grow in my relationships with God and others. Ethos Students is my family, who have been with me every step of the way, and I knew that I wanted to take the step of baptism with them at the Fall Retreat."

JOSIE PHILLIPS





# Special Events

CHRISTIAN SEXUAL ETHICS SERIES  
*and conversation*

GENERATE SUMMER CAMP

NIGHT OF THE ARTS

SPRING RETREAT

FIELD DAY

FALL RETREAT

POWER UP CLUBS



# Ethos Kids

As 2020 dragged into 2021, our continued inability to safely attend church services at the Cannery was disheartening. My concern was especially heavy in regards to our elementary-age girls because their online tutorial classes were unpopular and a struggle. I was uncertain whether they were paying attention during online worship or during the videos put out by Ethos Kids. As a result, I focused more on our family devotions and prayer times. I honestly did not think that much spiritual growth was taking place, but kept showing up for church each week. Imagine my surprise when after a church service, my 7 year old daughter, Celestine, declared that she wanted to be baptized with everyone else at the evening baptism service. Because I wasn't sure if she fully understood her decision, I told her that I first needed to check with her Ethos Kids Pastors, Ms. Carly and Ms. Brooke. I immediately contacted them to see if they wanted to meet with us or had any guidance for children who were considering dedicating their lives to Jesus and following Him in baptism. They suggested excellent resources and really facilitated the process. They also helped me to discuss this topic with my older daughter, who had made the decision to follow Jesus but did not feel ready to be baptized. Ms. Carly performed Celestine's baptism outdoors at Lipscomb's Baptism Pool on September 18th, 2021, with a small gathering of friends and family. We are so proud of Celestine's decision! It's just like God to take a year that looked grim and challenging, and in His grace, turn it into a year of tremendous spiritual growth for our family, which included the salvation of our younger daughter!

When I asked Celestine what she wanted to share about her relationship with God with our church family, she said, "Always trust Him. He knows what He's doing."

We are beyond thankful to see God at work, and He is not done! Our older daughter recently told me she wants to get baptized now as well! We are eagerly anticipating her baptism!"

KATIE HAWN



I wanted to get baptized because I am really linked to God, and I really wanted to be really close to God. On the day I was baptized, I was scared. I was afraid I was going to get water in my nose, but I knew God was with me."

CELESTINE HAWN



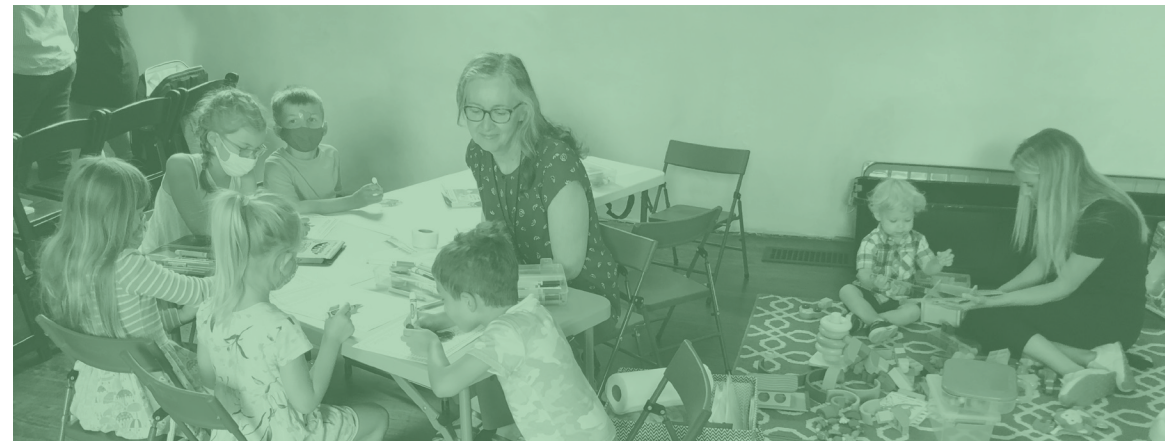


## Special Events

EASTER EGG HUNT | TRUNK OR TREAT

BABY BLESSING | CHRISTMAS PARTY

POWER UP CLUBS | SUNDAY MORNING CLASS



# 250

ETHOS KIDS

# 170

VOLUNTEERS

# 38

BABIES AT OUR BABY BLESSING



# Power Up Clubs

God really did a work on my heart through Power Up Clubs this summer. For those not familiar with Power Up Clubs, it is basically a neighborhood VBS. My family offered to host a club, but little did we know how God would use such a simple "yes" to draw others to Himself. My kids and I did a door-knocking invite around the neighborhood, and invited a few of our friends that lived nearby as well. What resulted was a beautiful gathering of diverse families and neighbors, many of whom we had never met before. One neighbor just happened to see the group of kids outside and sent her kindergarten son to join us. He continued to come throughout the week, which began a sweet friendship with her and her son. A close friend of ours, who happens to be Muslim, heard that we were hosting again and was eager to bring her kids back for a second year. Another evening, a mother in the neighborhood opened up about a personal struggle in her life and asked for prayer.

The Power Up Clubs served as a beautiful reminder that we are intentionally placed by God in our neighborhoods and locations around the city. It is our mission field, and the people around us are our God-orchestrated community. I love that Ethos doesn't ask children to come to US for a VBS, but we go to THEM. We bring Jesus into our streets and neighborhoods, making it easy and natural for others to encounter Him. Taking Power Up Clubs into areas all around our city has reminded me that church can happen anywhere, and especially with the people God has already placed around us. We don't have to go far to be the hands and feet of Jesus or to watch Him at work. In fact, it seems to happen more organically in our backyards and in our homes, where people feel welcomed, safe, and loved. Often, the best way to love and disciple others is to invite them into your everyday life, and let them see and experience the kind of life that Christ can bring. God is teaching me that often He uses the easy and simple acts of obedience to serve and love those around us, more than any extravagant plan or event ever could."

BROOKE AKIN







9

VOLUNTEERS

2

HOST HOMES

99

KIDS PARTICIPATED



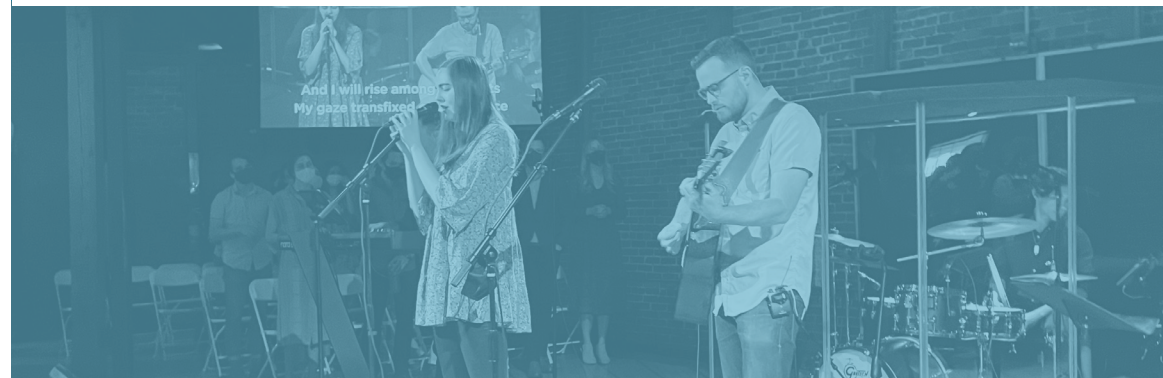
# Re-Engaging on Sundays

The entire Ethos community gathered together at the Cannery Ballroom for the first time in 13 months to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. The Marathon and Hillsboro Village campuses came back together at their locations on Sunday, June 6.



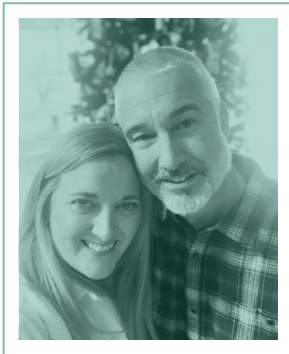
**R**eturning to Hillsboro Village felt like coming home after a war or something. We are so glad to be back in person, to see everyone we've missed, to hear sermons in person, to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit not just in us, but in those all around us. It's wonderful to worship in person with our family and to see our son lift his hands, to meet other children from Christian families, and to start a pattern that will hopefully be one he's willing to keep his whole life. It's been so joyful, and our son being able to experience friendship and worship with the larger family has been part of that joy!"

JAMES AND TABITHA BARBE





# Serve



When my wife Noelle and I came to Ethos Church for the very first time, we were enthusiastically greeted at the entrance, which was not that unusual from the numerous other churches we had visited. What was different and more impactful was the fact that we were almost immediately greeted and authentically welcomed by one of our pastors, Sam Parnell. Noelle and I have often reflected on how touched and impacted that experience was and how grateful we are that God blessed us with our Ethos Church family. Very simply, I now serve to extend to others the favor of welcome and the beautiful invitation extended to Noelle and me.

I know God works in the welcome. I very clearly see and feel that as a member of the Welcome Team. This begins with a God-inspired (or enthusiastic) greeting at the entrance as we receive all comers as they are, just as God receives us. For me, this is a beautiful, important, and regular reminder that although He was not always welcomed, Jesus' ministry was based on relationships that began with a welcoming, loving invitation. Serving on the Welcome team is a reminder of what a blessing it is to be able to welcome others and welcome Jesus into my life, as Jesus has welcomed me into His life."

GARY AUSTIN



# 150

VOLUNTEERS AT  
THE CANNERY

# 57

VOLUNTEERS AT  
MARATHON

# 30

VOLUNTEERS AT  
HILLSBORO VILLAGE





## City Partners

FREEDOM PRAYER | THE COOKERY

ONWARD CHURCH PLANTING

URBAN PROMISE | AWAKEN NASHVILLE

YOUTH ENOURAGEMENT SERVICES

NASHVILLE ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION

PEOPLE LOVING NASHVILLE

MARTHA O'BRYAN & THE NAPIER COMMUNITY

CASA BLANCA CASA LINDA

EAKIN ELEMENTARY | BUS STOP STRONG



# Disciple Maker's Cohort

25

LEADERS  
TRAINED

15

TRAINING  
SESSIONS

13

NEW GROUPS FOCUSED ON  
DISCIPLESHIP READY TO BEGIN IN 2022



In 2021, I was invited to be a part of the Disciple Makers Cohort that Ethos beta tested. Although I didn't feel a strong yes or no from the Lord, it was in line with my growing interests and discipleship is obviously in His will so I decided to dive in. God used the cohort to not only give me great tools but also put more clear language to multiple things He's been teaching me in recent years. After months of meeting, it came time to start praying about the groups we would start and I had a handful of people in mind but hadn't pulled the trigger. As I was still chewing on the best way to approach it, someone who was on my list to consider for the group, texted a handful of friends saying she really wanted to start a small group and her approach was very similar to everything we'd just studied in the cohort. Not only that, but the other people she included on the text chain were the people I had on my mind/list to start the group with. The Lord had been separately building a hunger for something like this in all of us. We've started meeting now and God's hand in the group's formation is only one example of His involvement. I feel like a new journey has just begun and I'm looking forward to seeing what He has in store. It's not all roses and has been messy at times but I'm finding that's often what following Him can look like. (Proverbs 14:4) I continue to see that His ways are mysterious but worth walking in, one simple step at a time as I try to keep surrendering, seeking, and clinging to Him. He is more awesome than I can fathom."

LUCAS BOTO

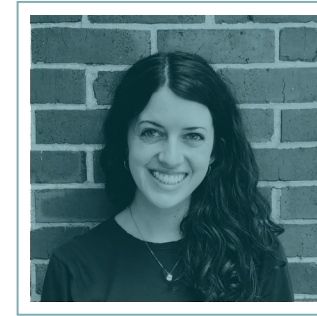
In partnership and collaboration with Onward Church Planting, 25 leaders from Ethos Church piloted a disciple making training experience this past fall. Onward focuses on equipping church planters with practical discipleship tools and strategies. As we continue to focus on discipleship at Ethos, we wanted to take the training and tools developed for church planters and adjust them for people who don't necessarily feel called to plant a church, but who feel called to make disciples. Each leader plans to launch a discipleship group where they will be able to implement the tools and strategies learned.

# Freedom Prayer

Freedom Prayer is a ministry that Ethos Church, along with many other churches in Nashville and beyond are a part of. It's a personal prayer ministry that is available to anyone who signs up. The goal of Freedom Prayer is to give the Holy Spirit space to identify and address anything that is hindering a deeper personal relationship with God.

It is for freedom  
that Christ has  
set us free.

GALATIANS 5:1A



Sitting in a Freedom Prayer time is one of my favorite places to be. It is the highest honor to sit with someone as they ask God the questions on their heart, forgive those who hurt them, repent of the sin entangling them, or lay down the lies they are believing before him. And every time, every time, God shows up. He encounters them. He shows them what he wants to do with the debt owed to them. He reveals to them where he was in their deepest hurt. He tells them the truth in his Word. He speaks identity over them. I watch the person who came into the room—nervous, unsure, worn, questioning, or desperate—leave feeling seen, known, loved, and more sure of his presence and character. I don't know if there is anything I'd rather do with my time.

These encounters remind me of Psalm 40 where David writes "I waited patiently for the Lord, and he turned to me and heard my cry for help. He brought me up from a desolate pit, out of the muddy clay, and set my feet on a rock, making my steps secure." The circumstances in the individual's life rarely change while they are in the prayer time. What changes is an encounter with God that lifts their eyes and heals their hearts."

ELLIE TEETER

125+  
PRAYER SESSIONS  
THIS YEAR

45  
ETHOS CHURCH  
PRAYER TEAM MEMBERS



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# I can testify before God & people that I am free!

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**I** was supernaturally touched and emotionally healed through one of the ministries of Ethos Church called Freedom Prayer. I am a son of a pastor which means that I have spent all my life in church. I did Bible College for two years in Australia. I've spent the last 12 years intensely serving the kingdom of God and yet I have NEVER experienced God in such a supernatural and intimate way as with the Freedom Prayer team. I have been battling for many years with deep emotional wounds that have crippled me and then through Freedom Prayer, God showed up as my beloved Father and brought a true, supernatural emotional healing in my soul. After a very long time I can testify before God and people that I am free! Free of pain, free of my past, frail wounds and most importantly, free to go deeper into a relationship with my heavenly Father, my family and people around me."

MISHA BAKIC

"I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears." Psalm 34:4



# Prayer & Fasting



**F**or Awaken 2021, I took the month to memorize the sermon on the mount. While I had goals of building on that to memorize more throughout the year, those ambitions quickly fizzled out, but my aim in doing it was to plant Jesus' words in my mind so they would somehow become "part of me" and available to the Lord to speak. I figured when you love someone and want to know them better, learning their language is foundational...so I should learn the divine language of the Word to make that channel accessible for intimately knowing and be known by God.

The cool thing about it is there wasn't really a watershed moment where everything suddenly changed, but when I consider it, my perspective about who God was and what he desired matured and put down deeper roots. I look back and a lot of simple expressions from Jesus' teaching have more easily come to bubble up to the surface of my heart over the last year..."consider the Lilies," "treasures in Heaven," "where your money is there your heart will be also," "be careful not to do your acts of righteousness to be seen," "how much more will your father in Heaven give good gifts." So the discipline of 8 or 10 hours had an impact on 1,000 really, really small snap judgements over the rest of the year."

DAVID MEEK



## Awaken

A MONTH LONG JOURNEY OF PRAYER & FASTING

## Dwell

A THREE DAY SUN-UP TO SUN-DOWN COMMUNAL FAST

## Prayer Gathering

A WEEKLY, COMMUNAL, SPIRIT-LED TIME OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP

## 1st Wednesdays

A COMMUNAL FAST FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY  
ON THE 1ST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

## 41 Days

SET ASIDE TO PRAY AND FAST AS A CHURCH FAMILY

If my people,  
who are called by  
my name, will humble  
themselves and pray  
and seek my face and  
turn from their wicked  
ways, then I will hear  
from heaven, and I will  
forgive their sin and  
will heal their land.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14



I participated in Dwell by getting off social media and also doing a minor fast, not eating from sun up to sundown. I followed the reading guide and spent time with God each day, but did not feel like I got any big revelations or breakthrough moments with God during the fast. I was a little frustrated by that but I went to Ethos the following Sunday. That morning, we had some space to ask God some questions and listen for answers. During that time, God gave me SO many things that brought me so much clarity and peace and understanding about some situations in my life recently.

I've heard someone say in the past that fasting is not a way for us to get God's attention, but it's a way for God to get our attention. I believe that sometimes when we fast, God has something for us right then. But other times when we fast, it's so that we'll have a clearer focus to watch and listen for him when he does have something to reveal to us.

And the cherry on top of that day happened right after church. I got in my car and my phone started automatically playing a podcast episode that I have been listening to over the last few days about fasting. I had just gotten that clarifying message from God during church that I believe I only was able to hear & receive in its fullness because I had fasted the week before, and then this was the first thing said on the podcast:

*"Sometimes fasting is just depositing into an account so that God can draw from it in the future."*

Obviously that hit me right in the heart because God had that moment cued up for me in the car right after he gave me that message in church, coming off of the previous week where I felt disappointed that my fast didn't "produce anything." It meant a lot to me and will sustain me through future fasts."

KATE KEITH



# Fostering

8,300 CHILDREN IN DAVIDSON COUNTY IN FOSTER CARE



Caleb and Ruchala Bone's eyes were opened to the considerable need for foster parents of children who are medically fragile when their oldest son underwent heart surgery as an infant. Now through the countless appointments, therapies, feedings, medication doses, meetings, phone calls, paperwork, and court dates, they have lovingly chosen each day to serve and obey the call God placed on their life.

They truly reflect God's ability to at the same time hold both mercy and justice, brokenness and redemption, joy and sorrow in a way that is beautiful to behold. They are bold advocates for their children in foster care and love them with the forever type of love that they deserve no matter the length of time they spend in their home. While at the same time, they love, serve, honor, and speak respectfully of the biological parents in ways that reflect the wholeness of their individual stories, their role in their children's lives, and their identities as fellow children of God. The complexities of the foster care system are immense but God's redemption, grace, and unconditional love are on display in their family through it."

COURTNEY STEELE



It's hard to put into words all the ways we've seen the Lord work through our journey, it's been far more of Him changing our heart posture and teaching us that He is good even when He doesn't answer our prayers in the ways we hoped. And leading us to truly long for heaven where we'll finally see full healing and restoration.

We have very tangibly felt the Lord through our community. We felt confident in our yeses to the boys, but we could have never foreseen some of the circumstances we'd walk through. We've really been blown away with messages of people praying for us, loving all our kids so well, countless meal calendars and all the support we've felt over the last 3 years that eased some of the weight."

RUCHALA BONE

# The Global Church



**E**thos Church is a gift from Jesus to my life, family and to our church ministry. UP Social (coffee shop and church plant site in Albania) almost closed last year. Ethos helped us from the Birthday gift and we were able to open again. UP Social is our second church plant and we have a lot of youth coming from all over the city. One youth, who is a tetraplegic, has a very difficult life. Her father told me that every month she wanted to commit suicide. More than twice she was saved by the doctors. Last year we started our youth ministry and she became part of the youth. There she heard about Jesus for the first time.

Her life changed totally. She declared this: *'Now I have a reason to live because Jesus died for me, for my sin, and he rose again so I can live with Him.'*

KLODIAN LUMÇI



## A FEW UPDATES AMONG OUR GLOBAL CHURCHES

Ethos India hosted their combined Spiritual Retreat where 326 believers attended and 33 people were baptized.

Church partners in Albania helped 65 families in the winter with food and wood for heating. They were able to help 89 families with food and gifts at Easter.

The Roma Community Church in Serbia helped those who were greatly impacted by a flood in the Šainovac village. They sent humanitarian help which miraculously opened doors for a new home group! Amazingly, on their very first visit, 28 families gave their lives to Christ and accepted Jesus as their Lord.

PSALM 46:10

Be still, and know  
that I am God.  
I will be exalted  
among the nations,  
I will be exalted  
in the earth!

## Global Missionaries

ATHENS, GREECE

*Chris & Amy Moore*

SOUTH AFRICA | CHINA | DUBAI

*For the safety of our missionaries, names are not included.*

## Global Church Partners

INDIA

*Piyas & Sharbani Dey; Jaiashree Francis — Ethos India (10 Churches)*

LIRA, UGANDA

*James Odongpiny*

PORTUGAL

*Andre & Eunice Prim — CCLX, V21, Awaken Portugal*

SKOPJE, MACEDONIA

*Sasha & Marija Vuletic — Trinitas Christian Fellowship (5 Church Plants)*

KAMPALA, UGANDA

*Patrick & Dee Muhereza — Vive Church*

NAIROBI, KENYA

*Thomas & Nancy Njoroge — Evergreen Church*

NAIROBI, KENYA

*Richard & Janet Chogo — Deliverance Church*

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

*Mads & Elizabeth Fredskilde — House Church*

SHKODER, ALBANIA

*Klodian & Alketa Lumçi — Illyricum Church*

LESKOVAC, SERBIA

*Misha & Alija Bakic — Roma Community Church*



# Radical Generosity

**M**y name is Joey. My amazing wife Johanna, our children; Joey, Izzy and Jonathan, and I are so honored to call Ethos a part of our family. Together, we have planted The Movement Church here in Nashville.

About 7 years ago, while serving as Pastors in the Bronx, NY, we sensed God calling us into a new journey of church planting. That journey led us to Nashville, TN. When we arrived here 6 years ago, we couldn't have imagined how beautiful, yet challenging, this season would be. However, from the moment we arrived God has shown us His undeniable love and embrace in this new city. Within just a few months God tangibly displayed His love and embrace, connecting us to the Ethos family. Ethos has been a key part in this 6 year adventure for our family and ministry.

In 2019 The Movement Church officially launched, bringing to life a dream God birthed in us many years before. Our first year in ministry, although challenging, was defined by God's grace and favor. By January 2020 we had grown to about 100 people, impacting our community and growing in our relationship with Jesus. God was doing something so beautiful, and we were humbled to be a part of it. By March 2020 Covid challenged everything we had done and would do for years to come. Not only was it impactful on a global level, as we all know, but it also impacted every bit of our personal lives. As new church planters, in that moment it seemed like we were given an impossible task, with no answers of how to respond to a pandemic. How do we move forward? How do we lead a new church? How do we provide for our family? We had little to no answers for the many questions we were juggling.

Often as leaders, when faced with the tensions of challenge, we carry the burden of success and failure. Not only for ourselves, but for all those we are leading. In a moment when something needed to be done, the feeling of having no answers caused me to feel a brokenness and loneliness which left me reevaluating our call to Nashville and church planting. By the end of 2020, the need for direction seemed to be overwhelming. As I leaned into God more than ever before, I couldn't help but feel like everything we had worked for was slipping away. Maybe our time in Nashville was over?!



As 2021 began, as we waited on God (Psalm 46:10), in His faithfulness He began to respond. Our confession was to do whatever it was that He was calling us into. Or in this case, what He was calling us to continue! His words were "I am not done with Nashville". So we said 'Yes,' aligning our yes to His. There was a renewal happening in us. We began to sense the ability to dream for the future again. In doing so, a boldness was growing in us. We started praying for deeper, farther and greater impact and connection with this city. Our deepest prayer was that God would provide a home for our family. This would be a clear establishment and commitment to Nashville and the calling for our family. It would be a bold declaration that we are not going anywhere!

Through these past years, here in Nashville, I cannot account for the endless prayers and encouraging moments we have had with our Ethos family. In the past couple of years the impact and support has grown deeper and more intimate than ever before. What we are able to do on our own may be good, but together we accomplish greatness. As we began to see God renewing our call and passion for this city, a miracle was happening. It was a moment of God's greatness for us! God was answering the prayer of our hearts, He gave us a home! Ethos family, because of your commitment to the work of God in this city and our family, we were able to purchase a home this year. The generosity displayed by Ethos, towards our family, has truly been a display of God's love and affirmation to us. Our hearts are renewed! And as I said before, together we will continue the beautiful work God has called us to, here in our City! From the deepest parts of our hearts, Thank you for your generosity!

JOEY AND JOHANNA MALDONADO

# A Note from Sam Parnell, Ethos Executive Pastor



The Ethos Elders, Finance Team, and Staff remain committed to faithfully meeting the ministry needs of our church family, while also generously blessing those beyond our church both locally and globally. While the stories throughout this report are a sampling of the inspiring work God is doing through His people, these testimonies are supported by you, the collective Ethos Church family. Thank you, Ethos Church, for your continued commitment to live with the radical generosity modeled by Jesus.

Fiscally, 2021 was a unique year for Ethos Church. The year began with us operating centrally as we met online and in homes throughout the city. Slowly our worship venues began to allow large groups of people to occupy their spaces, and we were able to reopen all 3 of our campuses for worship gatherings in the summer of 2021. As a result, our finances that were typically allocated to each campus were combined to a central budget to carry out the mission of our church family this past year. It's because of you that we can tangibly see and celebrate the work God is doing! Family members at Ethos Church are regularly giving their time and treasure to the shared mission to Love God, Love People, and Awaken the Movement that Jesus began.

The following pages represent a snapshot of Ethos Church's generosity and how those funds were allocated in 2021.

## Ethos Giving

ETHOS CHURCH 2021 INCOME SUMMARY  
GIVEN BY 757 FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS

**\$1,207,600.00**

THE CANNERY BALLROOM

**\$135,416.00**

MARATHON MUSIC WORKS

**\$114,453.00**

HILLSBORO VILLAGE

**\$403,557.00**

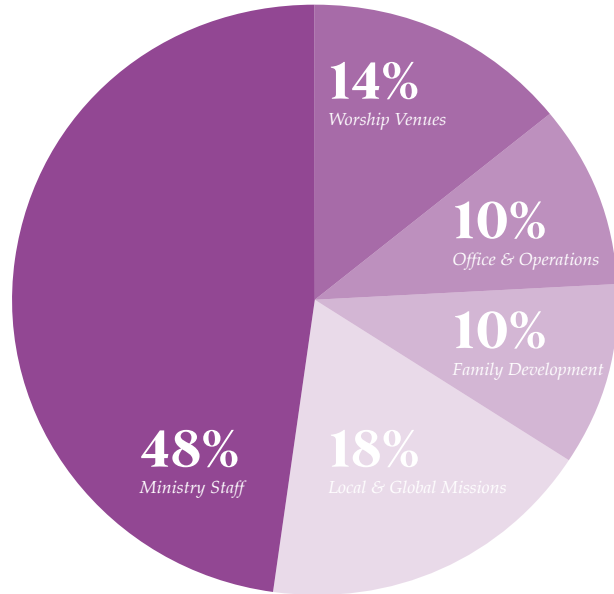
NON-SPECIFIC GIFTS

**\$1,861,026.00**

TOTAL GIVEN

# Ethos Expenses

\$1,994,409.00 IN EXPENSES



**MINISTRY STAFF | 48% | \$944,222.00**

*To equip the people of God to make disciples of Jesus, including 20 Part-Time and 10 Full-Time Staff*

**WORSHIP VENUES | 14% | \$281,390.00**

*To provide 3 locations in the city for Sunday worship gatherings: The Cannery Ballroom, Marathon Music Works, and Ruby at Hillsboro Village*

**ETHOS OFFICE & OPERATIONS | 10% | \$200,258.00**

*To provide a physical space for day-to-day ministry operations, to disciple our church family and community leaders, and to mobilize our community of faith.*

**ETHOS FAMILY DEVELOPMENT | 10% | \$205,476.00**

*To continue the ongoing work of discipling the people who call Ethos their church home, through Ethos Kids & Students, Online Livestream, House Church, Grow Classes, and More*

**LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSIONS | 18% | \$343,063.00**

*To advance the mission of Jesus in Nashville and beyond, through Church Planting, Freedom Prayer, Special Gifts, Birthday Sunday, Urban Promise, and More*

# Ethos Expenses

ACROSS THREE VENUES

**\$167,607.00**

THE CANNERY BALLROOM

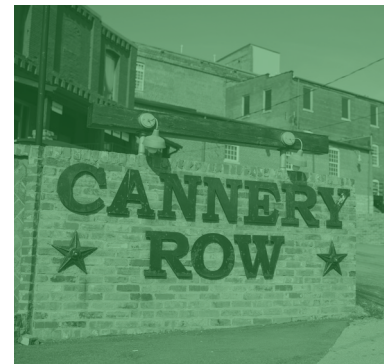
**\$61,500.00**

MARATHON MUSIC WORKS

**\$52,490.00**

HILLSBORO VILLAGE

**\$281,597.00**





# Special Giving Initiatives

## "Kroger Sunday"

MARTHA O'BRYAN

265 BOXES OF FOOD | \$2390 IN GIFT CARDS  
\$5000 MATCHING GIFT

BUS STOP STRONG

21 BINS OF FOOD

EAKIN ELEMENTARY

86 FOOD BAGS GIVEN WEEKLY TO STUDENTS  
FOR THE WEEKENDS

## Y.E.S. Christmas Store

# Ethos Church Birthday Sunday

## \$86,857.57

GIVEN IN A SPECIAL OFFERING

MET & EXCEEDED OUR GOAL, FUNDING GOSPEL  
WORK IN 3 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

ALBANIA

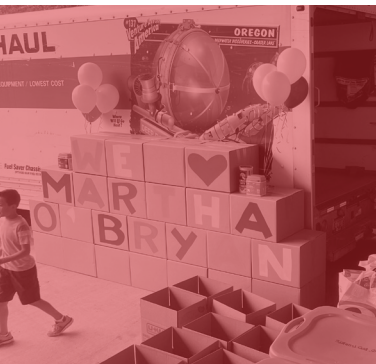
ACQUIRED LAND FOR A NEW CHURCH,  
UP CAFE OUTREACH CENTER

NORTH MACEDONIA

COMPLETED CHURCH BUILDING, LOCAL OUTREACH,  
NEW MINISTRY CENTER, DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING,  
AND CHURCH PLANTING SEMINARS

SERBIA

PLANT 3 NEW CHURCHES



# Special Gifts

GIVEN BY ETHOS CHURCH

## ONWARD CHURCH PLANTING

400+ LEADERS IN TRAINING

COACHED 48 CHURCH PLANTS AND PIONEERING  
MINISTRIES IN 9 COUNTRIES, 8 STATES, AND 37 CITIES

7 CHURCH PLANTERS & 6 EMERGING LEADERS IN TRAINING

40 LEADERS IN TRAINING INTERNATIONALLY  
(PORTUGAL, MACEDONIA, AFRICA)

145 SENIOR PASTORS TRAINED ACROSS 6 DENOMINATIONS

20 CITIES PARTICIPATED IN AWAKEN PRAYER & FASTING  
INITIATIVES ACROSS 3 COUNTRIES

35,000 NEW PEOPLE EQUIPPED IN PRAYER & FASTING

## NATIONAL FREEDOM PRAYER MINISTRY

FREEDOM PRAYER TEAMS ARE ESTABLISHED IN  
23 CHURCHES IN 9 STATES

## CASA BLANCA CASA LINDA

DONATED TO THE RESIDENTS OF CASA BLANCA  
CASA LINDA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NASHVILLE  
ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AGENCY AND PEOPLE  
LOVING NASHVILLE — \$6,250 GIVEN

## MOVEMENT CHURCH

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE

## URBAN PROMISE

A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WITH A LOCAL BRANCH IN  
NASHVILLE LED BY ETHOS FAMILY MEMBERS, JONATHAN  
& SHAWNA SHEAHEN, THEIR MISSION IS TO HELP REFUGEES  
IN NASHVILLE HEAL, LEARN & DIRECT THEIR OWN FUTURE  
FOR GOOD.

# Ethos Office Space

UTILIZED FOR:

## ETHOS CHURCH EVENTS

PRAYER GATHERING | GROW CLASSES

OPEN HOUSES | POWER UP CLUBS

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP | HOUSE CHURCHES

HOUSE CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

WORSHIP AUDITIONS AND REHEARSALS

ELDER MEETINGS | HOLY SPIRIT RETREAT

## ETHOS KIDS EVENTS

## ETHOS STUDENTS EVENTS

SUNDAY NIGHT GATHERING | WEEKLY HOUSE CHURCH

STUDENT LED WORSHIP | MISSION TRIP MEETINGS

HIGH SCHOOL HANGOUTS | NIGHT OF THE ARTS

CHRISTMAS PARTY

## FREEDOM PRAYER SESSIONS & TRAINING

## AWAKEN PASTORS PRAYER MEETINGS

## AWAKEN PRAYER STATIONS

## 24 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

## ONWARD CHURCH PLANTINGS

COHORTS & INTENSIVES

## KING AND CITY CHURCH | MOVEMENT CHURCH



## Family Relief Fund

\$74,605 USED

### ETHOS FAMILY

GROCERIES | RENT | MORTGAGE  
UTILITIES/BILLS | MEDICAL EXPENSES  
COUNSELING

### ETHOS GLOBAL FAMILY

RENT & BILLS FOR OUR GLOBAL CHURCH  
PARTNERS IN AFRICA

MEDICAL EMERGENCY EXPENSES FOR  
CHURCH MEMBER IN ALBANIA

MEDICINE & IMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR  
INDIA CHURCHES

# Love God, Love People, Awaken a Movement.

THE MISSION OF ETHOS CHURCH

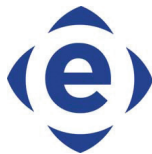


# A Note From Our Elders



**W**e are thankful to be serving a body of believers such as you. We see and hear how you love and pray for one another, your pastors and your elders, and it warms our hearts with gratitude. We are certain you will continue to be strengthened in your faith, hope and love no matter where our Father is leading us this next year. Like Paul told the Philippians, we *"pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* We love you, Ethos Church!

FROM THE ELDERS



ETHOSCHURCH.ORG