

20

ANNUAL REPORT

23



THE CHARLES SIMEON TRUST

“AND I HEARD A LOUD VOICE  
IN HEAVEN, SAYING,  
‘NOW THE SALVATION  
AND THE POWER  
AND THE KINGDOM  
OF OUR GOD  
AND THE AUTHORITY  
OF HIS CHRIST  
HAVE COME.’”

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REVELATION 12:10

Charles Simeon Trust © 2023  
PO Box 15212 | Chicago, IL 60615  
[www.simeontrust.org](http://www.simeontrust.org)

Dear Friends,

As I consider the state of things around the world, I can't help but reflect that we're providing something essential. When the headlines are filled with conflict, God's people need to hear from the Lord. His voice must rise above our circumstances. And this need for the Word of Christ is nothing new.

Toward the end of the apostolic era, the church was likewise under great duress. And God's Word saw them through. As I was reading Revelation 12 recently, I noticed that John alludes to past times when God's people stood in desperate need of God's rescue from external powers (Genesis 37:9-11; Isaiah 26:12-21, 66:7-9; and Micah 4:9-5:6). By pointing his readers to God's saving activity in the past, John provides a pattern to help us in the present: As God has always delivered his people, so he will continue to deliver them. For by his Word he nourishes his church and causes her to flourish – even in tumultuous times.

Jesus is on the throne. And this truth is one vital thing good preaching provides. Never forget that as we partner together in training preachers and Bible teachers around the world we see the truth of the scriptures proclaimed, God's people strengthened and even protected in the midst of difficult days.

What follows in this report are just a few of the great things taking place:

- training in hard places through Workshops,
- churches training the next generation with Online Courses,
- a recently purchased building that is housing students training at the Chicago Course



Be encouraged! For the proclamation of God's Word is sustaining his church around the world.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Helm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

David R. Helm  
Chairman



## WORKSHOPS ON BIBLICAL EXPOSITION

There have always been and continue to be threats to faith in the gospel. Jesus’s parable of the sower in Mark 4 depicts some of them: wealth, persecution, and even Satan. And yet, the prophet Isaiah repeatedly casts a grand vision of nations streaming to the Lord in faith (see Isaiah 2:1-4). He includes Egypt and Assyria—nations that represented the pinnacle of opposition to God’s people at that time. Today, despite continued threats to faith in Jesus Christ, the nations are streaming to the Lord in faith.

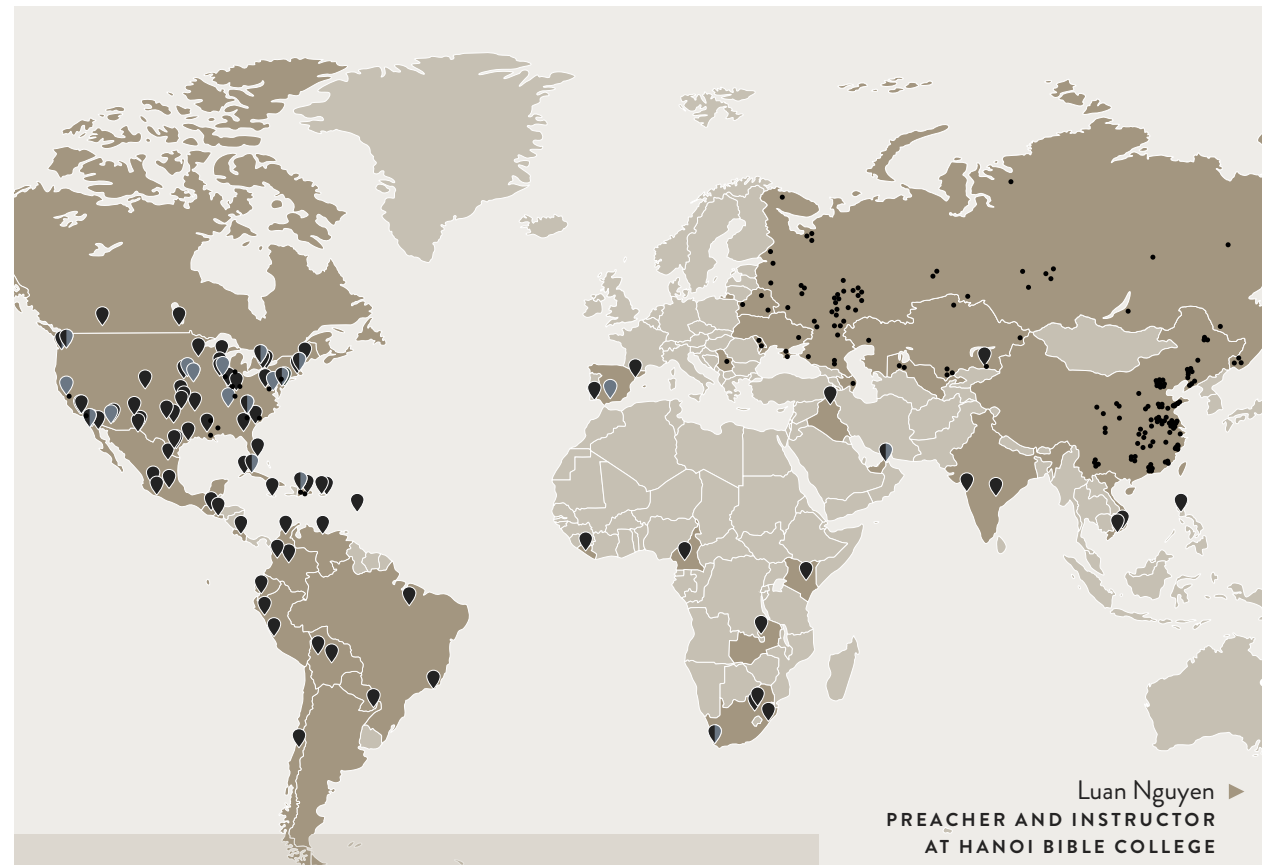
Preaching is both a means of calling people to faith, and a means of nourishing faith once people respond. As the gospel spreads, the need to train preachers grows. The Lord is using Workshops to equip preachers around the world. Last year, the number of Workshops grew by 23, and the average number of participants at each Workshop increased by 10 percent. The result: 6,376 participants at 123 Workshops whose ministries nourished 451,148 congregants..

This growth occurred despite threats—from post-Christian cultural opposition to governmental persecution of Christians. Increasing numbers of Workshops are quietly taking place across the 10/40 Window—a region including North Africa and much of Asia that houses most of the world’s people considered unreached by the gospel.

For example, we held two Online Workshops for pastors in an East Asian country with 308 and 348 participants respectively. In this country, “most preachers have never received formal theological education,” says one pastor, so “Workshops might be the most useful and practical equipment of their pastoral ministry.” To meet the need, we’ve hired a team member in that nation and are training several local pastors. Our aim is to deploy them to instruct at these “unlisted” Workshops and to start some in-person.

Similarly, our work with Russian-speaking pastors is growing, with a new Russian team member to support it. Russian Online Workshops have led to a new in-person Workshop in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The host pastor, Boris Denis, reflected on one unexpected benefit. The Workshop “allowed us to build relationships with churches that we hadn’t even heard about.” Pastors from these churches are now meeting twice a month “with the goal of honing our preaching skills and, of course, building friendships.”

Be encouraged. The gospel is being promoted and people from all nations are responding in faith.



123  
WORKSHOPS  
(UP FROM 100)

6,376  
PARTICIPANTS  
(UP FROM 4,719)

Luan Nguyen  
PREACHER AND INSTRUCTOR  
AT HANOI BIBLE COLLEGE  
HANOI, VIETNAM





## ONLINE TRAINING

Part of the role of church leaders is to train the next generation for the continued work of the gospel. This is where Associate Pastor, Liam Garvie, found himself. Charlotte Chapel, in Edinburgh, Scotland, had been utilizing our Online Courses for years. However, it was not until just this year that Liam started incorporating the *First Principles* course “into the fabric of our Bible handling stream for our trainees.” He loved it. Liam says that the 36 students—people training for ministry—“developed discernment as well as competency as Word ministers.”

Liam is fulfilling Paul’s instructions to Timothy: to train faithful Christians who will be able to teach others also. But with the many tasks pastors juggle, it is not always easy to find the time. In a 2022 Barna poll, 52 percent of senior pastors said they prioritize developing leaders personally or have a team member to do it. But 40 percent said, “I have thought about the need, but have too many other ministry concerns.” It’s a challenge, but there’s a solution. Liam encourages pastors to use high-quality resources to train others.

Ben Macdonald, one of the students in Liam’s training program at Charlotte Chapel, entered with the desire to learn how to

communicate God’s Word so that lives would be transformed by the gospel. Ben says the principles have “equipped me to both understand biblical genres holistically and teach individual passages faithfully and relevantly. Seeing the principles clearly applied throughout the course has also provided an indispensable tool kit for my expository preaching.”

As the landscape for ministerial preparation continues to shift towards training in local churches, supporting churches with top-tier materials is paramount. Just this past year, more than 680 people around the world led a church group using one of our Online Courses.

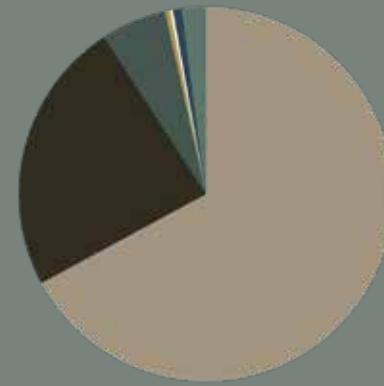
It is a great encouragement to hear a leader in training, such as Ben, reflect on his experience, “The quality of the teaching and the associated material, covering all of scripture, combined with the accessibility that the online nature provides, means I can’t recommend the Simeon Trust Online Courses enough!”

Ben Macdonald ►  
CHARLOTTE CHAPEL  
EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND



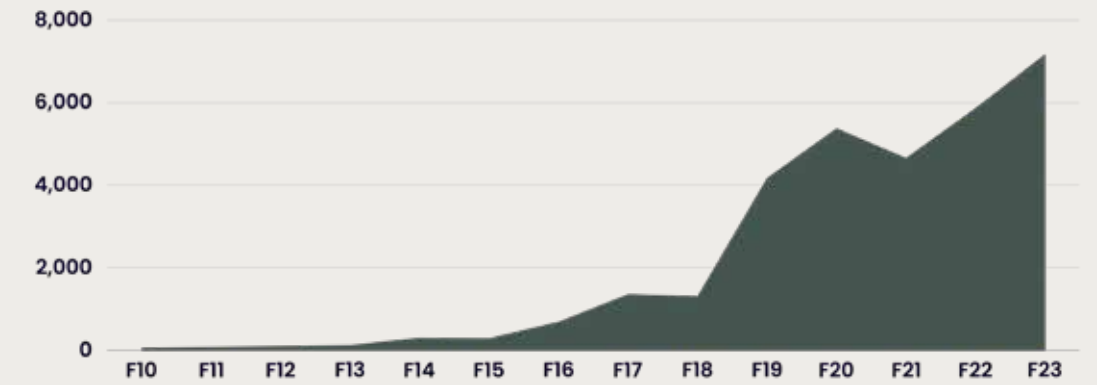
<sup>1</sup> “The Pastoral Succession Crisis Is Only Getting More Complicated,” Barna Group, August 23, 2023.

## ONLINE COURSE LANGUAGES



- ENGLISH
- SPANISH
- PORTUGUESE
- ITALIAN
- ARABIC
- FRENCH
- CHINESE

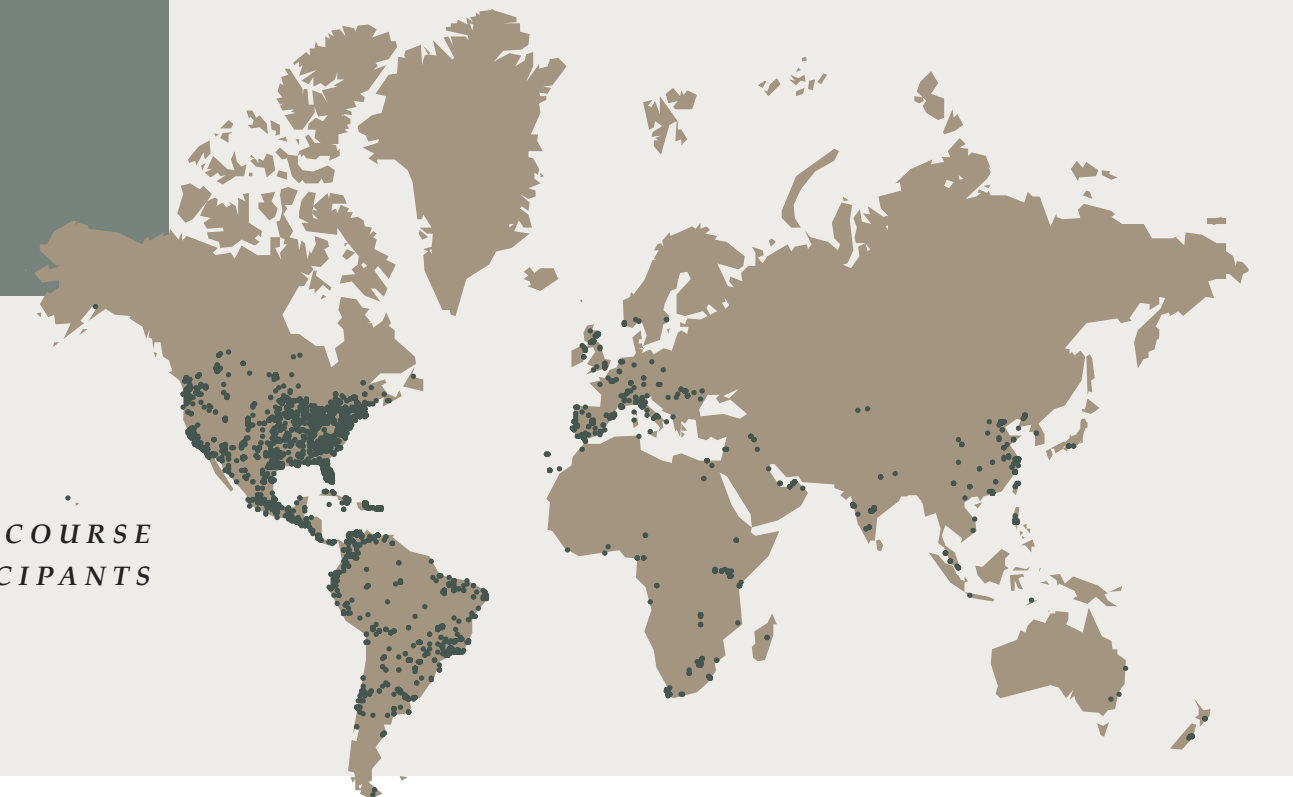
## ONLINE COURSE REGISTRATIONS



## FREE ONLINE RESOURCES

OUR WEBSITE HAS 1,910 RESOURCES IN A SEARCHABLE DATABASE, FREE FOR PASTORS, BIBLE TEACHERS, AND CHURCHES.

7,151 ONLINE COURSE PARTICIPANTS





*The Charles Simeon Trust reminded me of  
"the absolutely central value that the preaching  
of the gospel has in the life of the local church."*

**-Pastor Filipe Sousa**  
Igreja da Lapa, Lisbon, Portugal





**CHICAGO COURSE ON PREACHING**

“When I first came to the Chicago Course, I wasn’t in the best place spiritually. I was discouraged constantly,” says Nathan O’Brien. At the time, Nathan was not long out of seminary, serving in youth ministry in his hometown in Northwest Indiana. Preaching was hard, and he sensed a need for greater training in understanding the Bible and how to communicate it to others. *The Chicago Course on Preaching* was just what he needed. As his skills improved, he put them to use weekly in church ministry, growing rapidly as a result. By the time he graduated in June 2022, Nathan was energized. “Not only did my time at the Chicago Course revive my love for the Bible, it also revived my love for ministry.”

The Chicago Course instilled a commitment to continually make progress as a pastor, and Nathan felt that might mean moving into a new ministry post. Some of our 20 graduates have returned to ministries around the world, while others entered new ministries. For Nathan, relationships formed at the Chicago Course would open the door to a new opportunity.

In July, Pastor Aaron Adame of Canby Christian Church in Oregon came to the Chicago Course Summer Intensive for a second time (pictured above). Aaron came to hone his preaching, but he also needed to hire someone. “Hiring

church staff is stressful,” says Aaron, “because hiring the right church staff is critical. This is why the best hires are often done through relationships and ministry partnerships.” The Simeon Trust introduced Aaron and Nathan.

What made Nathan such an attractive candidate? “What sold us was his experience with Simeon Trust. It is clear that his time in the Chicago Course formed not only his preaching, but the integration between preaching and pastoral ministry.” The situation has been ideal for Nathan as well. “I was looking for a church to help me grow as a Christian, leader, and pastor. I only wanted such a church because of the Simeon Trust.”

A month after Nathan started his new role, Aaron says, “the resounding comments I get from our church is that it feels like Nathan has been here for years. We are so grateful for the ministry of Simeon Trust and the work they do in developing future preachers and pastors.”

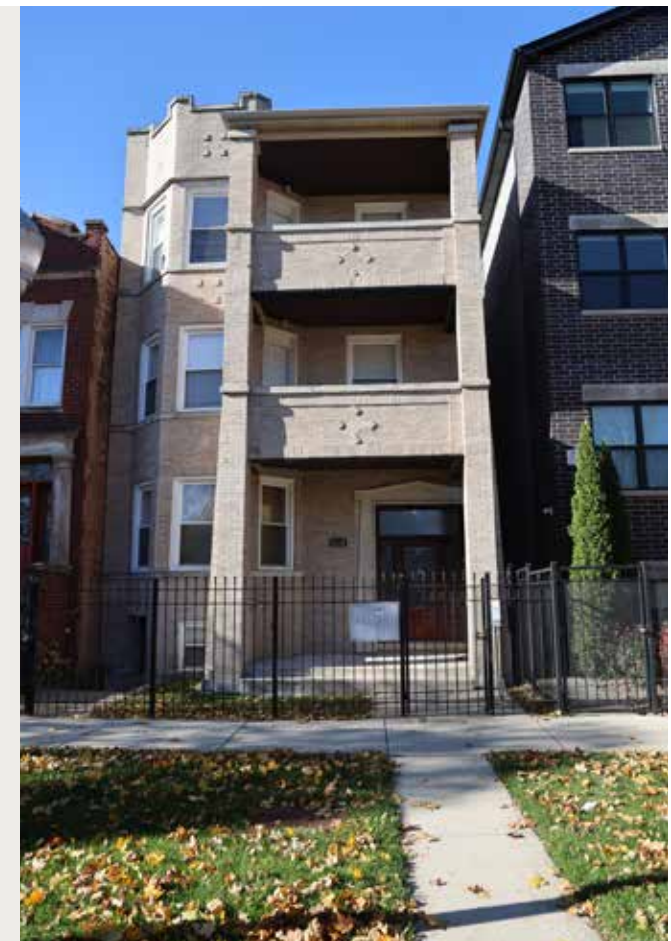
Nathan O’Brien ►  
STUDENT MINISTRY DIRECTOR  
CANBY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
CANBY, OREGON



**CST PROPERTIES LLC**

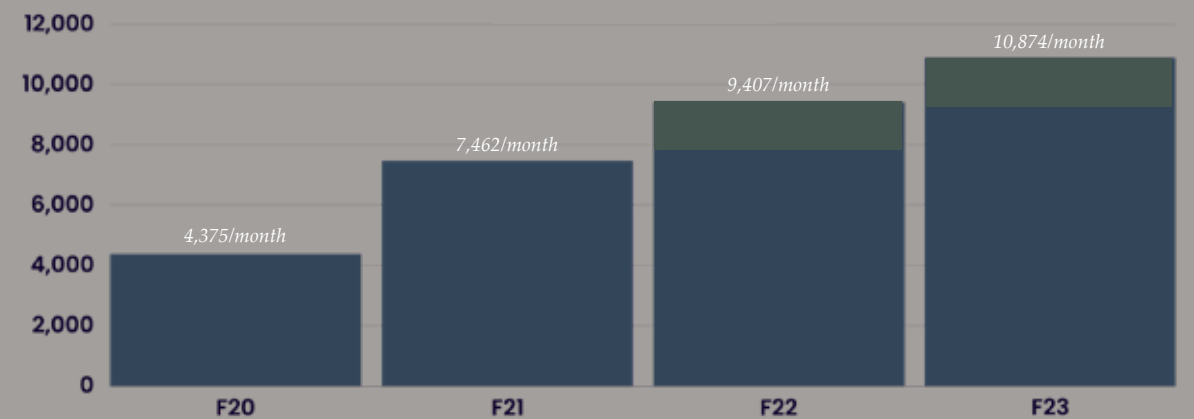
In August 2022, the Charles Simeon Trust became property owners for the first time. In order to meet the housing need for *Chicago Course on Preaching* students, we purchased a 4-flat within walking distance of class. The four apartments have housed prospective students from across the country, Summer Intensive students, and guest instructors. For the 2023/2024 academic year, they are occupied by two full-time students and two modular students. They have also opened the door to something new: a part-time student commuting from Louisville, Kentucky. We hope other pastors and Bible teachers within a reasonable travel radius will use the apartments in like manner: remaining in ministry while traveling in for a few days a week to train.

This purchase was made possible by the Fund for Creation and Sustainability, created by the One World Campaign, which ran from FY18-FY20. Thank you to those of you who contributed to that campaign. It not only catalyzed ministry growth in all areas, it established this Fund, which is invested and continues to grow and generate revenue to help sustain the growing work and to take advantage of opportunities like this building purchase.



**PREACHERS TALK PODCAST**

■ DOWNLOADS ■ PLAYS



PREACHERS TALK IS HOSTED BY DAVID HELM AND CHICAGO COURSE DIRECTORS JEREMY MEEKS AND ED COPELAND. IT IS PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 9MARKS.



## TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Christians grow in maturity when they have someone a few steps further on the spiritual journey to follow. But it requires that the person being followed is mature and rooted in God’s Word. “I did not know what an older woman is supposed to look like biblically,” says Wavinya Kiagiri. Despite having served four years in discipleship ministry among women at Emmanuel Baptist Church, in Nairobi, Kenya, she says, “I did not know what I was doing.”

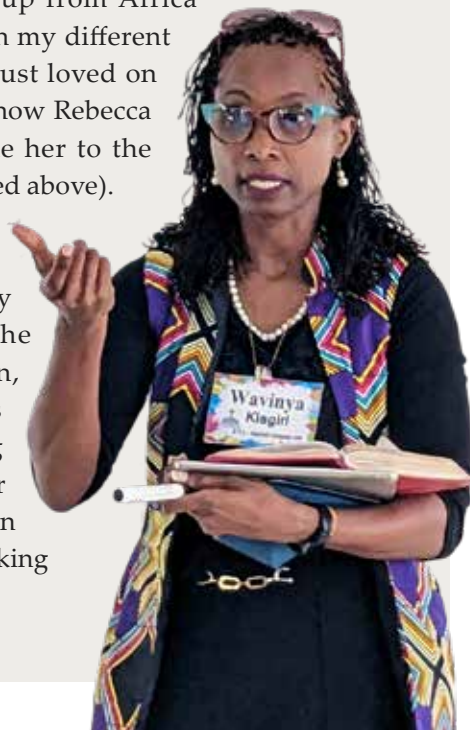
There is a need to equip women to disciple other women—particularly by teaching God’s Word. The Charles Simeon Trust runs *Workshops on Biblical Exposition* for women to help meet this need. Over the past decade, our Workshops for women have grown steadily from 3 to 18. Despite this growth, there are many places where women can’t easily get to a Workshop.

For Wavinya, it took moving to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2016. She and her husband joined Gateway Bible Church, where they were quickly introduced to the Charles Simeon Trust. Our Online Course, *First Principles*, was available to everyone at their church. Additionally, a few of the women’s

ministry leaders, Elia Phillips and Rebecca Blackburn, had been participating in the women’s *Workshop on Biblical Exposition* that takes place annually in the Bay Area.

In Elia and Rebecca, Wavinya found the mature Christian women she was looking for—and she experienced healthy discipleship. “I’m straight-up from Africa with my strange accent, with my different culture. And these women just loved on me immensely.” She recalls how Rebecca would pick her up and take her to the Workshop every year (pictured above).

Wavinya and her family returned to Kenya in January of 2022. Today, when she teaches groups of women, she is confident that she is more faithful in applying God’s Word, as a result of her training at Workshops. “When I prepare, the audience I’m talking



Wavinya Kiagiri ►  
BIBLE TEACHER AND COUNSELOR  
NAIROBI, KENYA

to matters. The tools help me simplify it and make applications to my audience. It’s the people in front of me, not people far away” that matter.

She is also a trained biblical counselor, which is a relatively new field in Kenya. The principles of exposition help her in that role—especially context. In Kenya, Wavinya says, the “health and wealth gospel” is prevalent. “There is a temptation to move straight to us/now,” which frequently means, “you take one text and make it say what you want.” When someone is struggling, too often they hear Philippians 4:13 quoted out of context, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” Out of context, it sounds like, “I can do anything!” But when we look at the context of that verse, we see that the Apostle Paul is saying he can be content “in whatever situation” (Philippians 4:11). Wavinya delights in walking through a passage with a counselee, showing how the Bible can meet everyday needs, even—or especially—when understood in context.

Shortly after Wavinya returned to Kenya, Emmanuel Baptist Church hosted Nairobi’s first women’s Workshop. She was able to help it launch well as a trained small group leader (pictured with the others to the right), equipping women to teach God’s Word.

Looking back on her time in California, Wavinya says that the Lord brought her there to learn how to disciple others through God’s Word. One healthy church with a heart for training—and faithful servants within—had enormous influence on a woman from Africa. And she now uses what she’s learned in Bible teaching, counseling, and helping train other women to teach God’s Word.



*There is a need to equip women to disciple other women—particularly by teaching God’s Word.*





**FY23 PEOPLE**

THE LORD HAS RAISED UP PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD TO CARRY ON THIS MINISTRY OF TRAINING.

**9**

**BOARD MEMBERS** provide vision and leadership.

**32**

**TEAM MEMBERS** work across five continents and include 4 full-time, 25 part-time, and 3 volunteers.

**104**

**INSTRUCTORS** are pastors and Bible teachers committed to training others.

**115**

**HOST CHURCH PASTORS** provide space, food, and volunteer support to help Workshops succeed.

**214**

**DONORS** gave generously to fund the ministry. We couldn't do it without you. Thank you!

**574**

**SMALL GROUP LEADERS** volunteer their time to help Workshop participants practice and make progress.

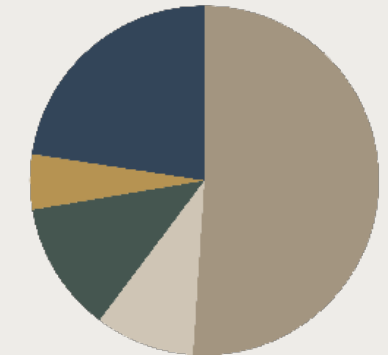
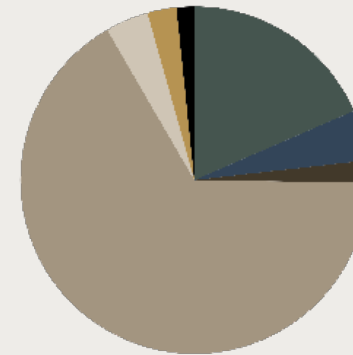


**FY23 FINANCES**

**INCOME**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 - AUGUST 31, 2023\*

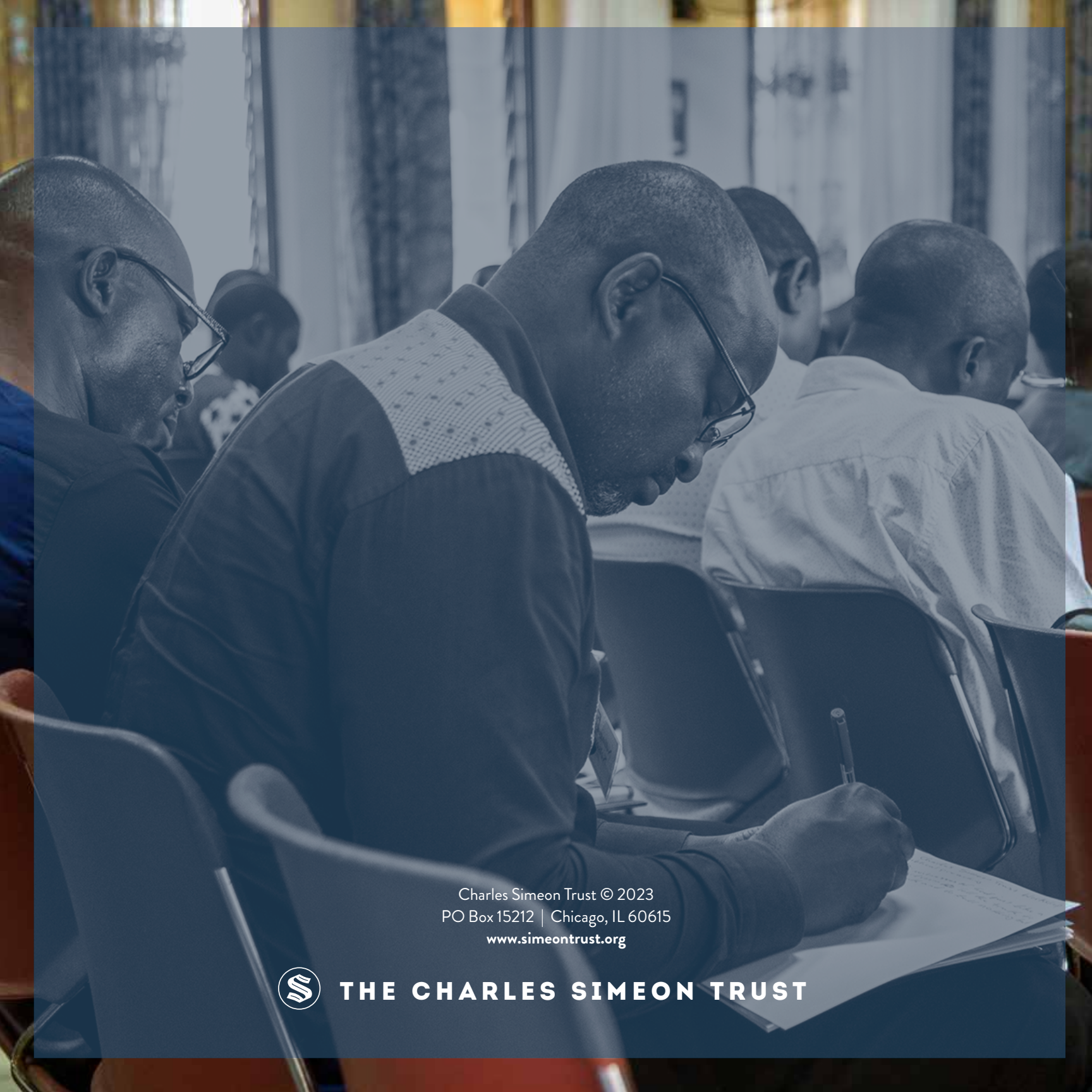
**EXPENSES**



WORKSHOP REGISTRATIONS.....	\$334,929	WORKSHOPS.....	\$864,773
ONLINE COURSE REGISTRATIONS.....	\$15,000	ONLINE COURSES.....	\$156,058
CHICAGO COURSE TUITION.....	\$36,937	CHICAGO COURSE.....	\$204,115
DONATIONS.....	\$1,204,059	CST PROPERTIES.....	\$86,453
CST PROPERTIES.....	\$72,744	ADMINISTRATION.....	\$382,543
INVESTMENT INCOME.....	\$49,042	<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,693,942</b>
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME.....	\$29,887	<i>Numbers subject to audit finalization</i>	
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,812,953</b>		

**FY24 DONATION INCOME NEEDED:**

**\$1,159,127**



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**THE CHARLES SIMEON TRUST**