



2022 MISSION REPORT

There is POWER

Acts 1:8





You will receive power when
the Holy Spirit comes on you
and you will be my witnesses...

Acts 1:8

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From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



There is power in the name of Jesus Christ! Paul writes in Romans 10:13 that all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. The 2021–2022 school year has been marked by this truth: salvation is found in Jesus. His name brings life, his cross brings forgiveness, and he has given us the Holy Spirit to equip and empower us to be his witnesses!

One of the greatest privileges of my role is to hear so many testimonies of how God is working in the hearts and lives of college students. This year has been filled with stories of students believing in Jesus for the first time. There have been stories of men and women encountering the freedom that comes from the forgiveness and mercy of their loving Savior. We've also heard stories of fear and timidity being turned into conviction and boldness to share the gospel.

We see so much openness to the gospel on campus and have been greatly encouraged by many students coming to faith in Jesus Christ! At the same time, we have been sobered by the impact of COVID. Loneliness was already a major problem on campus and COVID accelerated it. The pandemic forced many students to leave campus, which led to small classes of incoming student missionaries the past two years. This has been hard on our missionaries after several years of growth. It has led to smaller mission communities across the region. However, going through the pandemic together has tightened relationships and strengthened the vision and missionary zeal of these groups.

This year 16 of our graduates will join us as missionaries, our biggest group ever! This growth in our staff teams

means we are able to redouble our efforts to reach the lost on our current campuses. It also means we are continuing to move ahead with our plan to plant a new outreach at the University of Kentucky in the fall! This goal has driven many of our efforts to clarify our vision, grow our teams, and improve our training. We have a great group of missionaries who will be heading down this summer; please pray for us!

My friends, our world is at a time of great upheaval, of significant change, and of confusion. But we do not need to be afraid. God is calling a new generation of men and women to himself. He is revealing his amazing love and his plan to them. Their hearts are being set on fire. I am excited by how God is using them and calling them to himself.

Thank you for partnering with us in this crucial mission. We were called for such a time as this to reach, call, form, and send the next generation of missionary disciples into the world. We could not do this without you. Thank you for your prayers and for adding your strength and conviction to ours! The call of Jesus is a call worth giving your whole life to. Let's be bold in proclaiming this truth to the world!

ANDREW DAVIGNON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LINDSAY RITTEHOUSE

I got involved with UCO during my freshman year of college. I had a powerful encounter with God as a senior in high school and it was then I decided that I wanted to live my life for the Lord. At the time, I didn't know what that would look like, but thankfully I knew about UCO which provided me with the community and support I needed to do just that.

I joined a women's Bible study my freshman year, and through that I was able to experience the Lord through Scripture and I was able to see the gospel lived out in the people around me. I was able to form authentic relationships with the people in UCO, and they brought so much love and joy into my life. My relationship with the Lord steadily grew over the years, and I was pushed out of my comfort zone which helped me grow in boldness. From leading my first Bible study as a sophomore, leading community groups my junior and senior years, and attending Fan into Flame retreats, I was able to witness the Holy Spirit work in very powerful ways.

For my senior year of college, I decided to live in the UCO women's household which has been a huge blessing in my life. Living with other Christian women has given me so much support in my walk with the Lord, and I know that these will be friendships I'll have for the rest of my life.

This past year the Lord really challenged me in my walk with him. During my fall semester I was trying to juggle being a college athlete, my academics, and my UCO commitments. My busy schedule took a toll on my prayer times. I would become very distracted during my prayer times, because I was always thinking about the next thing I had to do. This made me very frustrated because I knew that I was not receiving all that the Lord had for me, and it's really hard to give of yourself to others when you're not receiving from the Lord.

I remember bringing these frustrations to the Lord and he first told me how much he loved me, and the joy he found in spending time with me through prayer. Then he asked me to surrender my time and busy schedule to him and asked me if I would spend an hour of daily prayer with him. I said yes and committed to an hour of daily prayer with him. This choice drastically changed my relationship with the Lord, and it grew to be more intimate and stronger than ever before. I could hear the Lord speak to me much more clearly and he changed my heart. I was able to open up and be more vulnerable with God and my women's group, and through that I was able to start to receive healing from past wounds. I learned how powerful prayer is and was able to see the fruit of it in my own life and the people around me.

In the fall of my junior year a friend asked me if I had ever considered being a UCO missionary. I immediately answered "Yeah I don't think that's for me," but then that whole year I felt a constant nudge from the Lord to become a missionary. I finally decided to discern it after I realized my only reasons not to do it were based around fears that I was not qualified enough. I surrendered this to the Lord, and he told me not to fear because all I had to do was have a willing and open heart towards him, and he would use me.

I realized that I had loved getting to lead a Bible study, community groups, and help build women's community over these past few years and the Lord showed me how much joy it brought to my life. My excitement to be a missionary and serve the Lord in this way continually grew, which eventually surpassed all my fears. The Lord also showed me the sorrow of his heart for the college students who are lost and looking for love in the wrong places. This impacted my heart deeply and inspired me to want to take part in the Great Commission, particularly ministering to college women who feel lost and broken.

I am very excited to be joining the UCO staff team for this upcoming year, and I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for UCO!

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JUSTIN KINVILLE

Three years ago, I did not believe in God. My story begins at the start of my sophomore year where I was invited to this thing called UCO. I quickly noticed something peculiar about this group of college Christians: the way they worshiped. They were either crazy or stupid! Or they knew something I didn't. This paradox sparked a determined curiosity in me. So, when Paul, a UCO Missionary, asked to meet up with me to chat I just told him, "Yes! I want to know everything. I want to either believe in God or not. No more uncertainty."

All my life I had the perspective of an atheist. I sometimes went to church, and I internalized the moral teachings, but I filtered out the parts related to God. But as I met with Paul, we began to read a book called Mere Christianity. Eventually when Paul asked me why I didn't believe in God, I realized I didn't have a good answer. Paul and I met regularly and the more we talked, I began to realize I was beginning to believe in God! To be clear, it was a sort of rational assent—I had become a convinced Deist. See, there was still all this "Jesus stuff" to figure out and that just didn't make sense. I mean to be 100% God and 100% man. That's 200%! That's too many percents!

Eventually Paul invited me to a UCO retreat. I agreed to go and was trying to keep an open mind but the whole area of faith was becoming incredibly difficult. My initial curiosity was turning into frustration. "I believe in God, but why don't I know him? Where is he?"

As I strolled into one of the last sessions of that retreat I saw a different UCO missionary, Travis, standing off to the side. He waved me over and asked, "Hey, do you have any questions or concerns about what's going on at this retreat?" So, I told him everything: how I'd been doing those last few months, how I was becoming angry that God wasn't in my life, and how part of me didn't even want him to—that in some ways it was easier not to believe!

Travis just said, "Yeah, cool... Do you mind if I pray with you about that?" I responded, "Sure, whatever." So, he put his hand on my shoulder and he prayed. And nothing happened. The original curiosity that turned to frustration, now became desperation. I walked away and found a little pocket of empty seats, and I prayed. For the first time in my life, I actually prayed.

I said, "God I'm frustrated. I have tried, really tried to know you. Why do I get nothing in return? Please God, if you're real, prove it to me, in a way only you can." And suddenly, I heard God speak to me like he was in the seat next to me. He said, "Justin, I'm frustrated, too! I have been proving my existence since the beginning of time, do you think I excluded you? You want proof, here's proof!"

Then like a movie my whole life played out in my head. It was every gift God had given me, every torturous moment he stood by me with a hand on my shoulder, every moment he shaped me, and every moment he paid close attention to my life. I was crying. And laughing. I wanted to go grab a mic and tell everyone, but my legs were giving out from under me because I was completely overwhelmed with the love of God. And I knew that my prayer—my only prayer—had been answered. It was all far too emotional for a person that just didn't emote. It could only have been God. A moment later, so many things came together for me. I knew that God could do anything, even be 100% God and 100% man. It took me another year to realize that beyond knowing God, living for him will be my life-long struggle, my life-long goal, and my life-long desire! And not living for some impersonal "god" but that God—the one that has loved me so passionately for the last 21 years, the one that called me to himself when I had convinced myself he didn't exist, the one who died for me so that I could be with him forever. That God is more than deserving of all my life.

And I'm excited to give a portion of it to him next year as a UCO missionary. Make room Paul and Travis, I'm joining the team!

“
“God I'm frustrated. I have tried, really tried to know you. Why do I get nothing in return?” And suddenly, I heard God speak to me like he was in the seat next to me.
”



I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you,
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth
Rise and Walk!

Acts 3:6

OUR MISSION

University Christian Outreach is a strategic response to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ: changing campuses to change the world.

Rise and Live

In the beginning of Acts chapter 3, Peter and John meet a lame beggar on their way to the temple. He asks them for money, as he had been doing for many years, but instead he receives what he really needed—healing and new life. **“Then he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.”**

In UCO, we cannot offer students the “silver and gold” of worldly success that so many of them are seeking. But we can and do offer them what will actually satisfy: a relationship with Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. Our outreaches echo Peter’s words in an invitation to all students—Rise and Live. Rise from your fear, from your loneliness, and from your sin. Begin to live in peace, joy, and freedom. And then join us in proclaiming him to the world!

OUR STRATEGY

We want to bring students from various places in their faith journey and form them into mature, lifelong, missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. To do this we engage students through a four-part strategy:



REACH

Evangelism is most effective in the context of relationships. So that's where we begin! We're on campus every day connecting with and cultivating friendships with students through:

SOCIAL EVENTS

FREE FOOD

SPORTS

BIBLE STUDIES



CALL

The Lord never ceases to extend the invitation of discipleship to each of us, but his call is often missed. So, we remind students of this call and invite them to respond with their whole lives as we share the gospel through:

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

EVANGELISTIC PRAYER MEETINGS

HIGH-IMPACT RETREATS



FORM

The goal of Christian maturity is not easily achieved alone. So, we invite students to join our Formation Communities where we train them to be radical missionary disciples through:

SMALL GROUPS

LEADING BIBLE STUDIES

DISCIPLESHIP COURSES

ONE-ON-ONE MENTORSHIP

HOUSEHOLD PROGRAM



SEND

We send students out into the world to be missionaries and leaders in their churches, workplaces, and communities. We invite them to help us continue our mission as well, by:

SERVING WITH UCO

JOINING AN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

OUR CULTURE

Our mission and strategy are carried out in the context of vibrant campus communities. These communities have strong cultures characterized by:

EVANGELISM

Together, we actively reach the lost on our campuses and call them to respond to the Gospel with their whole lives.

DISCIPLESHIP

We aim for mature discipleship, following the Lord and seeking to give him “all of our lives, for the rest of our lives.”

SHARED LIFE

We believe that the life of discipleship is a shared life: we share our joys, burdens, and the bond of steadfast love.

LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We invite college students to live lives full of the Holy Spirit’s power, earnestly desiring and using the spiritual gifts to build up the Christian body (1 Corinthians 14:1-5).

CHRISTIAN ECUMENISM

We have members from Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and Messianic traditions. Given the breadth of what we hold in common, we seek to share as much of the life of discipleship as possible and encourage one another in our participation in our own churches.



OUR IMPACT



UCO Missionaries: 46



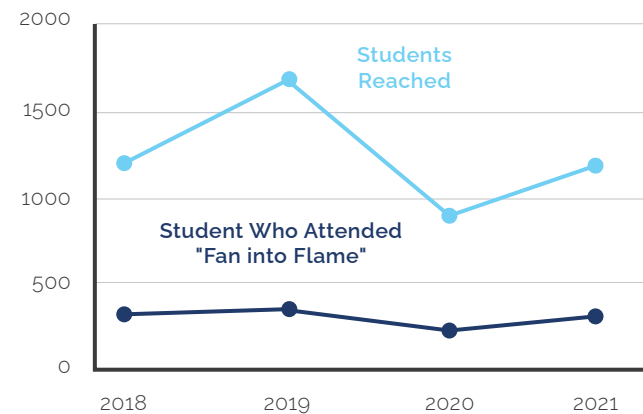
Students participating in our household program: 48



Although campus COVID restrictions impacted our work over the last two years, our evangelistic efforts are back on track.

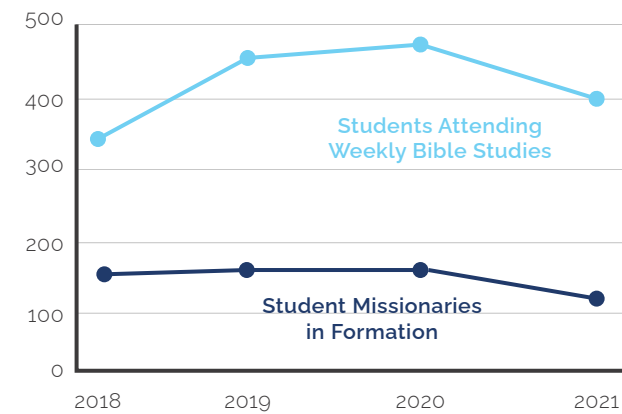
This year, we were able to reach over 1,300 students with Christ-centered friendships. Further, over 215 students attended our high impact "Fan into Flame" weekend retreat.

Because we were hindered in reaching new students in 2020 (but people still graduated) we are down to 112 student missionaries.



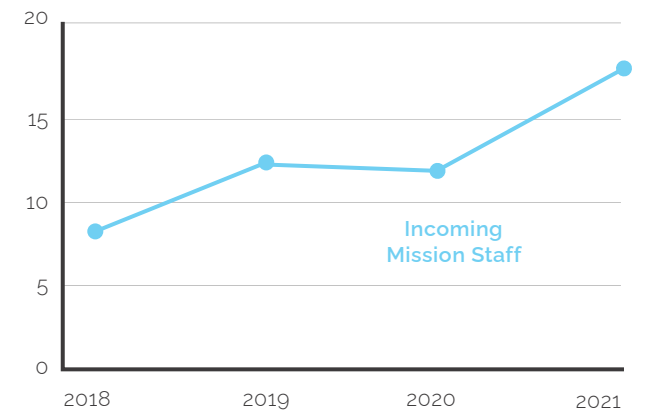
As these students recruit for and lead our on-campus Bible studies, the number of participants is likewise down slightly to 401. We're hopeful that we will add many people to our student Formation Communities in the fall, but it may take a couple of years to build back at all our chapters.

We're ready to do our part, and we're praying for the Lord of the Harvest (Matthew 9:38) to provide the growth!



We do note that during COVID, the core of our life was strengthened. Students experienced loyal care from our missionaries, fraternal love and affection from one another, and a closer walk with Jesus Christ.

The result? For the coming year, we will be welcoming our largest missionary class ever! And all of them have committed to a two-year service period. Praise God for his faithfulness!



WE'RE GOING TO KENTUCKY!

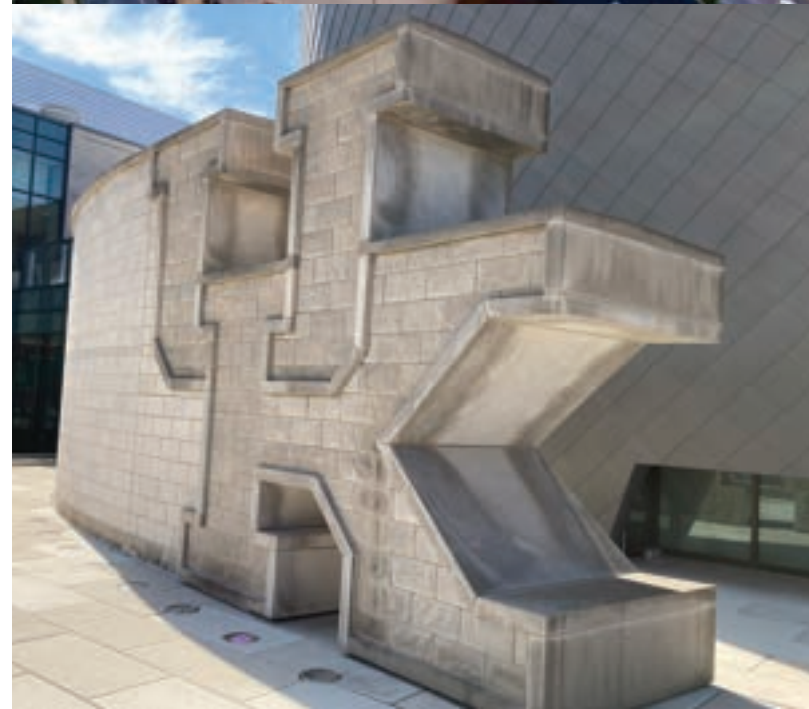
In answer to many prayers and plans over many years, UCO is expanding. This fall, we will be launching a new chapter in Lexington, KY at the University of Kentucky!

It has been abundantly clear throughout the process that the Lord has led us very specifically to this city and campus. Out of the various cities we looked at, Lexington stood out both strategically and spiritually. It checked all our boxes regarding size of the student body, cost of living, job market, city size, geographic location, and others.

Most importantly, as our team prayed and met with local ministry leaders and pastors there was a strong and clear spiritual invitation to plant in this city and at this university. One pastor told us after hearing our vision, "We need you here!"

Already, the Lord is opening doors and has provided students and a faculty advisor to help us launch as an official ministry on the campus in the fall. In the short term, our goal is to build a fruitful outreach on the campus of University of Kentucky and a missional community in the city.

Longer term, our hope is that planting in Lexington will also lead to future plants, perhaps in nearby cities like Louisville, Nashville, Knoxville, or others.



Lexington is centrally located in the Bluegrass Region of the state and attracts Kentucky residents from across the entire state. The population of the city is 320,000 people with well over 500,000 in the metro area. This region of Kentucky is especially famous for its surrounding horse farms and bourbon distilleries. University of Kentucky is our first UCO chapter in the Southeastern Conference. There are over 30,000 college students at University of Kentucky. Fewer than 1,000 are actively involved in a Christian student group.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A UCO MISSIONARY

📖 6:45-7:30 Morning prayer

Start the day worshipping the Lord with the students and staff in the UCO household

☺ 7:30-8:30 Personal prayer

Listen to the Lord in silence, study the book of Ephesians over a cup of coffee

→ 9:30-11 Staff Meeting

Meet with the other staffers on the team to check in about the week's events, seek the Lord's direction for the mission, and pray for each other and for the students

☑ 11:00-noon Supervision Meeting

Meet with a mission director for feedback on last week's talk, discuss next steps for sharing the gospel with new students

✋ noon-12:30pm Follow-up

Send texts and make phone calls to invite students to one-on-ones and group events

1-2 Shop for tomorrow night's women's event

⊕ 2:30-4:00 1-on-1

Meet a new non-Christian student at the Union to go for a walk; share testimony and invite to upcoming Alpha retreat

🍳 4-5:30 Cook dinner

Teach one of the students in the household to make spaghetti carbonara

→ 5:30-7 Household dinner

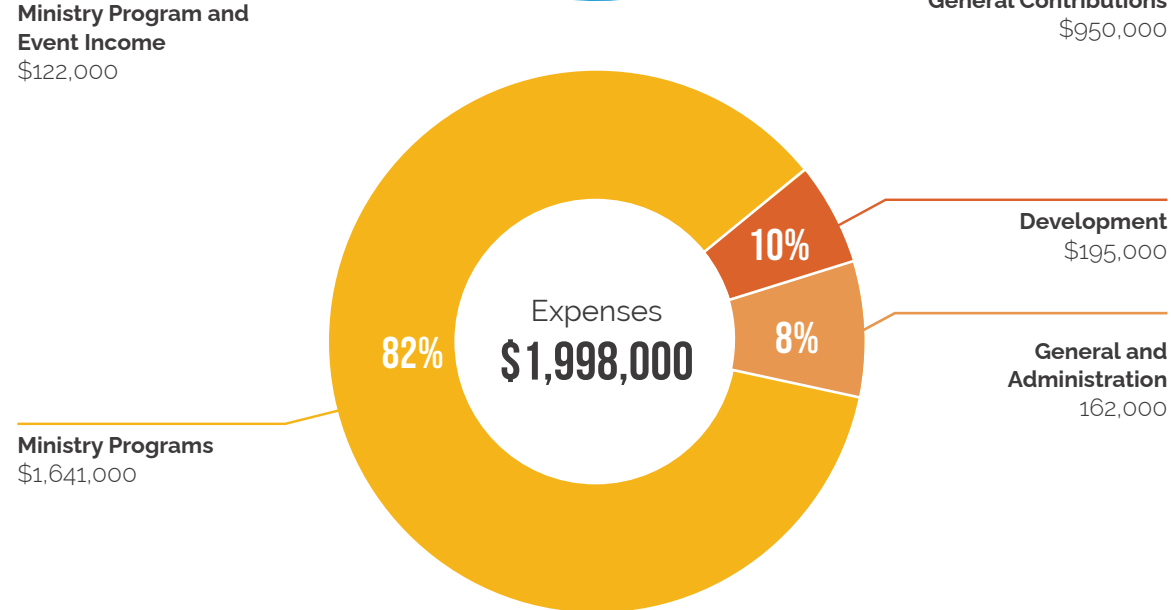
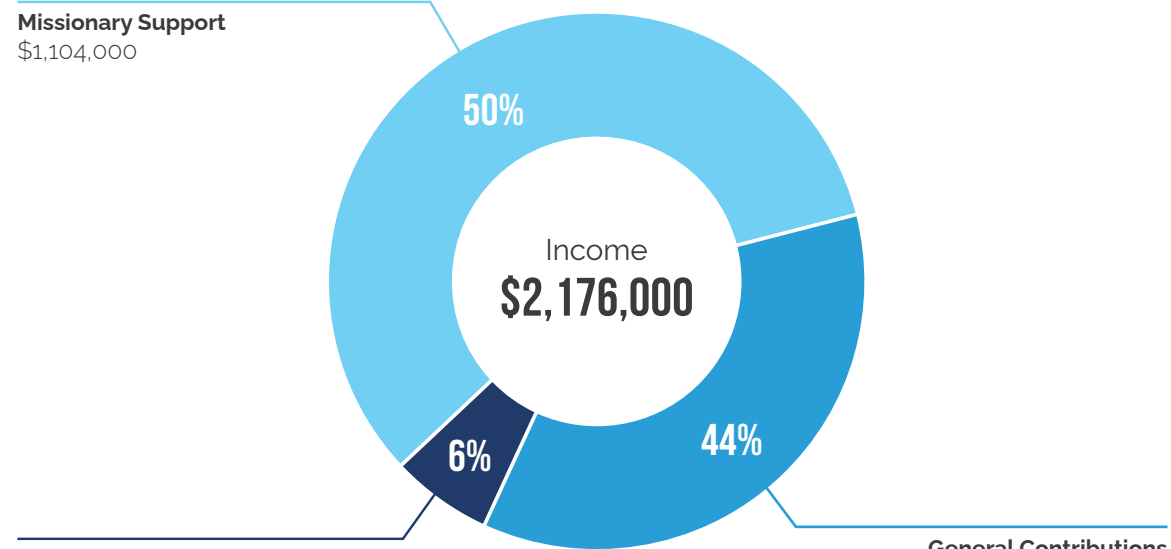
Enjoy a leisurely meal with the girls and a few guests

☑ 7:30-9:30 Women's group

Meet with a fellow staffer and 4 students to share about the past two weeks and discuss the last formation talk

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2020-2021

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



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