

THE GOSPEL UNDERGROUND

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



THE
GOSPEL
UNDERGROUND

OUR FLOW AT THE UNDERGROUND

At the Gospel Underground, we have a set of five principles that we call *Guiding Philosophies* that help shape the flow and culture of our service to others.

- 1 Thoughtful and Respectful Engagement
- 2 Underground, Behind the Scenes Ministry
- 3 Rooting and Establishing
- 4 Mentoring and Coaching
- 5 The Primacy of Families and the Local Church

The second philosophy, *Underground, Behind the Scenes Ministry*, has this elaboration on our website:

We do not desire to be center stage in life and mission, but to serve in a joyful, intentional, behind-the-scenes fashion. If we can be the most impactful and influential people that few have ever heard about, we will be grateful for that post in the Kingdom. (John 3:30; Philippians 2:1-11)

We take this very seriously, but it brings a quandary to the forefront. How can you let others know about your work without engaging in self promotion? How do you do marketing and advertising if you would prefer to stay in the background? What if you think you have something decent to offer others? Are we content to allow

the Lord to bring interest to us? Or do we put ourselves forward in certain circles more? Over the last six years I have chosen the path to organically influence in places where the Lord leads. I'm grateful that over the last six years God has given us plenty of work to do. This year has been no exception. I hope in this year's annual report you will see that your investment in our work is bearing fruit in many lives, and in several different circles of influence. The Gospel Underground is dedicated to *advancing the mission of God in the borderlands between the church and culture*. We do not exist to make our ministry great, but to assist others in accomplishing all that God has given them to do. We thank you for valuing this sort of vision. Your donations and investments allow us to do the work in front of us with our primary concern not being the selling of things or charging high fees for our services. Thank you.

We describe our mission as being accomplished through three lanes: 1) Supporting and strengthening local churches, 2) Sharing the gospel with the coming generation, and 3) Helping the church thoughtfully engage our cultural moment. We have structured this report through these three lenses.



Reid S. Monaghan

1 SUPPORTING AND STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL CHURCH

This year there have been several opportunities we have assumed that have allowed us to serve the local church. In my own local church, Valley Bible Church, I helped lead a group of twelve or so men pouring into them as leaders for the kingdom. Furthermore, I have been actively coaching three pastors in very different contexts in our country. One is in Austin, TX at the beginning of a church planting journey. Another is leading a church on the New Jersey shore out of the pandemic and into health and future community influence. Yet another is part of a network of churches in Boston metro, serving as an outpost of the love and light of Christ in a New England city. Perhaps the most significant work in strengthening the church I have engaged with this year has been serving as a residency consultant for the Harbor Network.

Harbor Network is a group of churches dedicated to launching, leading, and multiplying healthy churches in North America. In January, I began working with Ed Marcelle, the Harbor director of church planting and multiplication. Ed and I served together in church planting in the northeastern United States when Ed was the northeast regional director for Acts 29. This year Ed asked me to come in and help build residency training for church planters that can be implemented around the country. We are working to create a clear and helpful framework for churches to train future church planters for the work of gospel multiplication. We imagine young men being trained for two years, laying a foundation for fruitful church planting as they launch out in new works. We have designed a residency that's flexible to be implemented in different contexts, regional in that multiple churches can work together providing training, and collaborative in that multiple pastors can instruct the coming generation together. This work involves a combination of curriculum development, program, design, clarity, and training others for effective implementation. It's been right in my wheelhouse, and I thank God for this partnership.

HARBOR
NETWORK

**LAUNCH, LEAD, AND MULTIPLY
THRIVING CHURCHES**



Dave Owens

Executive Director
Harbor Network

“It’s been a joy to have Reid serve our network and our work here at Harbor, helping us solidify our church planting and multiplication initiatives for a growing network of churches. Church planters and pastors benefit weekly from his experience, wisdom, and skill. As we work to provide safety and support to pastors and church leaders who are launching, leading, and multiplying thriving churches across the United States, Reid has been an invaluable addition to our team this year towards this mission.”

“**His spiritual passion, tireless work ethic, and winsome nature have been a blessing to our staff, pastors, and churches.**

- Ed Marcelle



Ed Marcelle

Director of Church Planting
and Multiplication,
Harbor Network

“When I rolled out our plans for Harbor Network planting and multiplication, a robust church planter residency was a critical part. I had one person in mind who would best build this structure. I reached out to Reid Monaghan with the Gospel Underground. I have known Reid since he planted Jacob’s Well in Central New Jersey. His spiritual passion, tireless work ethic, and winsome nature have been a blessing to our staff, pastors, and churches. I am grateful for the gifts and godliness this man brings. With Reid as part of the team, ministry ideas took tangible shape.”



Jon Sgalambro

Lead Pastor
Redeemer Fellowship
Toms River, NJ

“I transitioned into my role as lead pastor of Redeemer Fellowship in Toms River, NJ in October of 2020. Reid’s coaching has enabled me to step back and evaluate the complexity of leading a church amid the chaos of our cultural moment. His experience as a church planter has provided me with the wisdom and the tools to build sustainable structures that are helping both Redeemer and I thrive in our mission to extend the hope of God’s Kingdom here on the Jersey Shore.”

GU ACCESS AND GU PREPARE



GOSPEL UNDERGROUND

PREPARE

We have an exciting new opportunity we are offering to others that launched just this summer. We have written and developed a 10-module leader development curriculum that can be used in local churches. It's designed to create a cohort of men for a one-year intentional development pathway to help them be better friends, husbands, fathers, and church leaders. We have decided to distribute this through a website membership plan that will give access to this curriculum, as well as future tools that we develop. Membership is just \$50 per year

and gives access to *The Gospel Underground Prepare* curriculum, several church planting white papers, special video and audio content, as well as a future curriculum for men and women we are calling *Gospel Underground Deepen*.

Deepen will focus on an introduction to theology and the Bible as well as various ethical issues of our time. We hope to see that launched by Summer 2023. Please let your church leaders know about these resources as we are proud of the way they've turned out. We think they would be helpful to many!



Jesse Furey

Pastor, Valley Bible Church
Director, The Bonhoeffer Haus

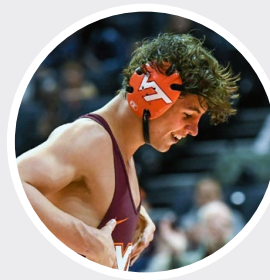
"For years we've tried piecing together programs and curricula to train leaders at Valley Bible Church. We wanted something that was both theologically rich and practically helpful. The Prepare curriculum is exactly that. We took twelve men through it this year with many demonstrating growth in their knowledge, character, and skills. We are thankful for Reid and his work creating Prepare and leading our men through it this year."

2 SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH THE COMING GENERATION



This year I completed my second season as a volunteer chaplain with the

Virginia Tech wrestling program. This gives me an opportunity to share good news with young athletes and to help disciple and deepen those who are followers of Christ. This year we studied the book of Philippians together on Mondays after practice, and I was privileged to walk through the ups and downs of life with many of these college athletes.



Bryce Andonian

Junior All-American
Virginia Tech Wrestling

"Thank you, Reid. Grateful for tonight. You're changing lives and you have helped change mine."



Collin Gerardi

Senior NCAA Qualifier
Virginia Tech Wrestling

Having Reid around the Virginia Tech Wrestling program has been an amazing blessing. He has truly impacted many of our lives on and off the mat in just the short time he has been with us. I personally have grown very close with Reid, and I feel now that he is someone I can come to with just about anything. He reminds me and my teammates weekly what it means to serve the Lord and shows us what it looks like to have a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. It's obvious that Reid cares about us all deeply and wants to see us thrive not only on the wrestling mat but in life as men of Christ.

3 THOUGHTFUL ENGAGEMENT

The Gospel Underground Podcast

When we began podcasting in August 2017, we had no idea how the Gospel Underground podcast would take off. It has been a wonderful journey and we are always encouraged by the feedback we hear from listeners. This year the podcast took another leap forward with the amount of people accessing our feed

We are grateful to God for how our podcast is helping others to thoughtfully engage with people and culture, in this time in history.

doubling this year. It's not every year that your podcast goes 2X and doubles in traffic, but we thank God for this reality. Everything we have done has been word of mouth and organic, so feel free to share about the podcast with your friends and those in your circles. We are grateful to God for how our podcast is helping others to thoughtfully engage with people and culture, in this time in history.

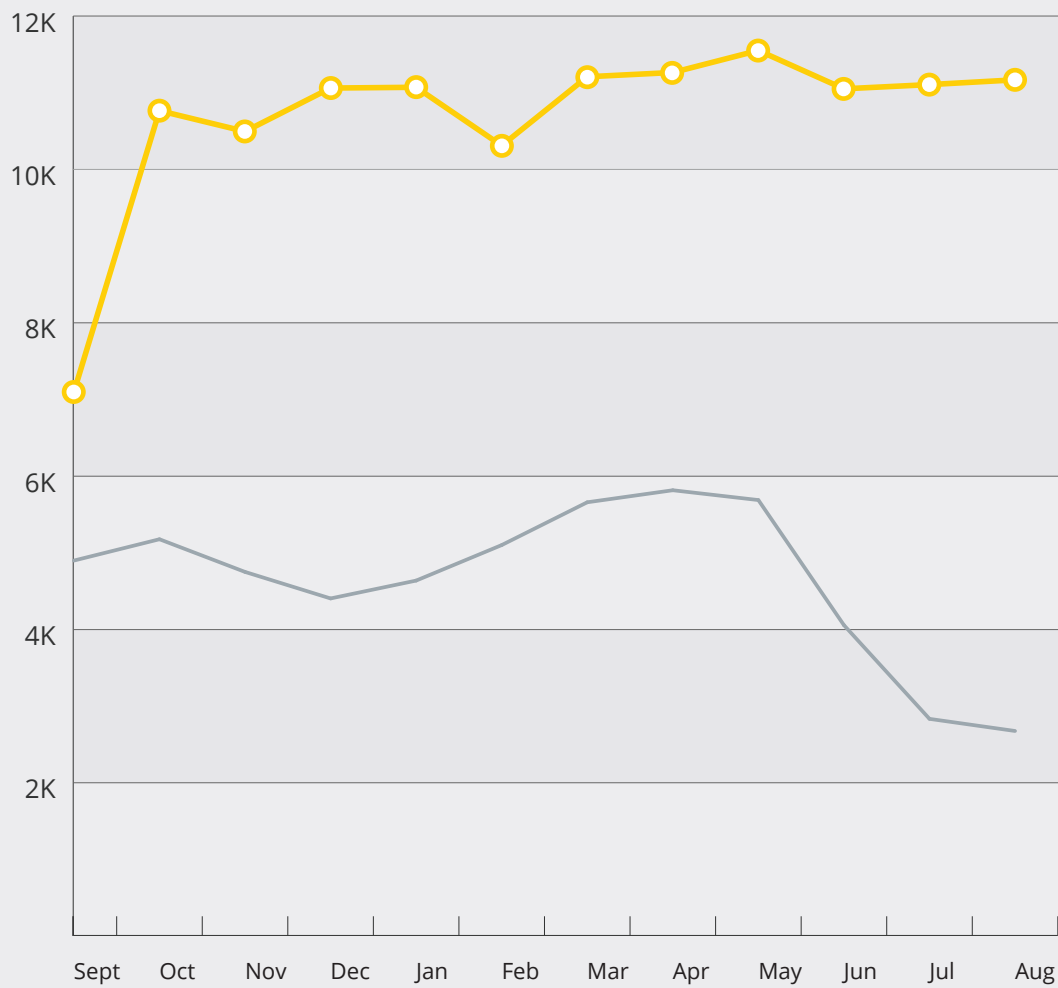
This year we've had several one-off episodes that drew quite an interest. First, I was honored to have one of my mentors, Mike Echstenkamper, on the podcast. Mike led me to Christ when I was a college student,

and I am forever grateful for his friendship. Additionally, we had all the kids on with me to talk about the culture of our family that we have shaped together. I'm so proud of our kids and we had fun talking about the flow of our home team. We also had a great series on human embodiment, and how God's purpose for our bodies as instruments of worship and service should not be lost to us in our time. Finally, we began a series this summer where we are looking at how human beings, trying to live without God, form all sorts of religious behaviors amid a more secular culture. It has been a wonderful year and we look forward to how God is leading the podcast in the days ahead.



PODCAST GROWTH YEAR OVER YEAR

RSS Subscribers by month



— Wed, Sep 1, 2021 - Wed, Aug 31, 2022
 — Tue, Sep 1, 2020 - Tue, Aug 31, 2021

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	2021-2022
Speaking Honorariums	\$1,693
Subscription Income	\$750
Travel Reimbursements	\$9,348
Coaching and Consulting	\$13,350
Monthly and Annual Donations	\$133,440
Total Revenue	\$158,581
EXPENSES	
Minister Salary	\$32,675
Minister Housing Allowance	\$52,047
Benefits (Health, Dental, 403b match)	\$23,750
Ministry Expenses	\$9,718
Office Expenses	\$1,056
Communications (mobile/internet)	\$1,800
Staff Development	\$3,697
Accounting, Financial, Legal	\$3,697
Technology (Hardware/Web/Software)	\$6,281
Travel Expenses (much reimbursed)	\$15,435
Support to Other Ministries	\$1,849
VT Wrestling Ministry	\$1,976
Total Expenses	\$153,981
2021-2022 Net Revenue	\$4,600

Financial Notes

Income

- This was the first year since 2016 that we did not have a major consulting contract in place for a substantial portion of the year.
- Our year-end matching campaign has remained a vital strategy for funding our work.

Expenses

- This year our board of directors decided to increase matching contributions to the Monaghans 403b which added to our benefits cost.
- GU Prepare development and design costs were invested this fiscal year.
- Travel costs were up significantly this year due to economic conditions.
- This year we made investments in technology and hardware studio expenses with a new laptop and audio/podcast recording equipment.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming 12 months we believe the Lord is leading us to focus our time and energy along the following lines:

Support and Strengthen Local Churches

- Beta test and write Harbor residency modules and teach residents locally with Bonhoeffer Haus/Harbor residency
- Equip and help three to four beta sites roll out the residency we design this year
- See GU Access and Prepare get to 48 pastors/churches
- Write a draft for the 10 module GU Deepen curriculum, a theological/biblical/ethics curriculum for training men and women in local church cohorts

Share the Gospel with the coming generation

- Continue as a volunteer for VT Wrestling as the Team Chaplain
- Work through *Prodigal God* and *Counterfeit Gods* by Tim Keller in wrestling Bible study
- Develop two to three young men as leaders and see at least three freshmen involved
- Continue our partnership at Brown University and other invitations

Thoughtful Engagement

Podcast Series over the Next 18 months

- What Sacred Games
- Respectful Engagement in a Raging Culture
- Respectful Witness in a Raging Culture

Reid and the board thank God for your faithful prayers and financial partnership this year. It is our honor to serve Jesus with you in our generation. He who calls us is faithful so let us stand firm in the faith until the end.



Reid S. Monaghan
Founder and President

THE GOSPEL UNDERGROUND

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Dr. Gregg R. Allison, Louisville, KY
Mr. Manoj Thomas, East Brunswick, NJ
Rev. Reid S. Monaghan, Blacksburg, VA



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