

THE GOSPEL UNDERGROUND

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

INTRODUCTION

In my interactions with churches and societal leaders, it's always a little strange to explain to others the nature and flow of the Gospel Underground. We admit, we operate a little differently than most in the sense that we are not trying to be more than we are, hype ourselves, or overstate our influence. We are guided by a unique set of philosophies that we shared last year in our annual report as well. Our guiding philosophies are as follows:

- 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 third philosophy "Rooting and Establishing" has this elaboration on our website:

Deep roots grow movements and strong foundations stand the test of time. We desire to see men, marriages, families, and churches rooted and established in love and truth to influence generations to come. (Colossians 2:6, 7; 1 Peter 2:1-12; Psalm 145:1-7; Timothy 5:1, 2, Ephesians 5-6).

This year has given much focus to this aspect of our work as we've been building curriculum offerings to be used to train men and women in the local church as well as developing church planter residency training for our partnership with the Harbor Network.

We are putting the finishing touches on Gospel Underground Deepen, a curriculum to help train

men and women in theology, Bible, hermeneutics, and thoughtful engagement in our time. This will be added to our GU Access program on our website where we have church planting white papers, the GU Prepare curriculum for training leaders in the church, and some bonus video content.

In partnership with our local church and the Harbor Network we have been developing and beta testing a church planter residency program to help launch, lead, and multiply healthy churches in our time. Working directly with men preparing to plant churches is indeed an honor.

We are so grateful for these opportunities to help root and establish men and women in the gospel in this increasingly polarized time.

In this annual report we hope you enjoy hearing about how we are advancing the mission of God in the borderlands between the church and culture. We are also grateful to share our financial report with you and celebrate God's faithful provision amid such inflationary times.

As our family continues to grow and evolve, we hope and pray for each of you and yours as you move forward by God's grace in his mission and good care.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, ¹⁷ comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17



Reid S. Monaghan
Founder and President

SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN LOCAL CHURCHES

This year we launched a residency for church planters and collaboration with the Bonhoeffer Haus and the Harbor Network. We are building a framework and teaching models as we invest in the future of these young men. Over the course of the past year, we have engaged in a theology of church planting as well as looking at what it means to be a healthy follower of Jesus who keeps heart and walks with God. We will shift here over the next several months towards the practical tools and equipping that is necessary to launch, lead, and multiply healthy churches in the 21st-century.

It's also been a wonderful privilege to walk with various pastors from around the country who are giving input and insight into the Harbor Network residency and its development.



My role in the kingdom affords me a bit of time for the direct coaching of other pastors and leaders. I'm currently coaching three

men, two of which are in the Northeastern United States. Having pastored in churches for a dozen years, it's such a privilege to come alongside these brothers and encourage them in this noble calling! One of the special aspects of coaching that I enjoy is that many times I receive as much as I give. It reminds me of the mutual encouragement I read about in Romans chapter 1.

¹¹For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—¹²that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Romans 1:11-12



Jesse Leightenheimer

Pastor of Sending
Sojourn Church Midtown

"One of the most enriching parts of this past year, has been working with Reid on the Harbor Residency Team. It has been a joy to be a part of a team that is spurring each other on toward love and good deeds. I have been encouraged, resourced and inspired as I seek to lead Sojourn Midtown in our efforts to plant multi-ethnic churches. Reid's coaching has provided me with a crucial environment to learn and grow as a pastor. I am pumped for another year of walking together."

SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH THE COMING GENERATION

In 2023, we had an intern join the staff of The Gospel Underground from April through August. Virginia Tech wrestler and graduate student Collin Gerardi joined me and helped with various special projects over the summer. It was an encouragement and blessing to have him as an intern and he helped me greatly to bless our ministry partners, serve in our collegiate wrestling ministry, and grow and develop in his own faith and leadership. We also had the privilege of baptizing our good friend Ty Walz who came to faith through our ministry over the last few years. Ty is headed north with his family to Providence, Rhode Island where he just took a job as an assistant wrestling coach at Brown University.



Reid had the honor of baptizing his friend, Ty Walz, this summer.



Collin Gerardi

Senior NCAA Qualifier
Virginia Tech Wrestling

This summer I had the pleasure of working as a Special Projects Intern under Reid for The Gospel Underground. It was truly a great experience to learn and grow as a young Christian. I gained valuable experiences working with donor relation projects, social media and podcast editing, as well as traveling alongside Reid to various camps and churches to share the gospel. Not only did I learn valuable lessons in time management, professionalism, and other areas in the workforce, I grew in my relationship with Jesus Christ. I knew going into this summer that this was a great opportunity for me to get great working experience but even more so to become a better follower. I am thankful for Reid and the Gospel Underground for letting me join the team and help out in advancing the mission of God in the borderlands between church and culture.



At our camp, Reid did a phenomenal job of communicating the gospel in a clear, articulate, relevant, meaningful way to the student-athletes who attended.” –Ben Swarr



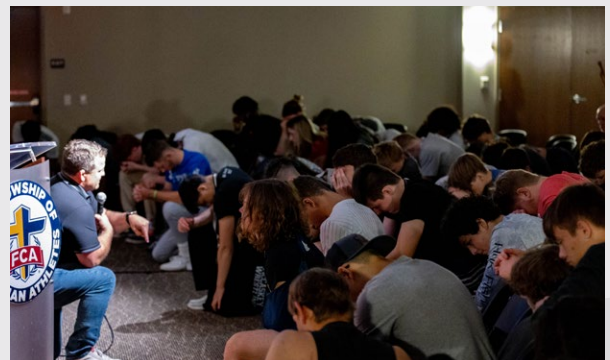
In addition to our local ministry with collegian athletes, in June 2023 I also had a great opportunity to serve as a speaker for the FCA Mid Atlantic Wrestling Camp. It was a wonderful weekend where I was able to share about the greatness of God in the gospel and see many young people’s lives impacted by the Lord. We received some encouraging and humbling feedback from the camp director, and we are grateful to share that with you:

I am so thankful for Reid and for the work of The Gospel Underground. At our camp, Reid did a phenomenal job of communicating the gospel in a clear, articulate, relevant, meaningful way to the student-athletes who attended. He was able to take rich, Biblical theology and communicate it in such a way that our unchurched 12-year-old campers could understand. At the same time, his messages impacted our adult volunteers and staff. He clearly presented the holiness

and the grace of God, the nature of sin, the substitutionary sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus, the importance of repentance, the restoration of our relationship with God by grace through faith, and the characteristics of a disciple of Jesus. Not only was Reid’s teaching solid, but he built relationships with the 75 kids at our camp to the point when, at the beginning of the last chapel program, the campers yelled, “We love you, Reid!” Thank you, Reid, for serving as our Camp Speaker and for blessing our ministry with your work. I will definitely point the ministry and church leaders I know towards The Gospel Underground as a wonderful resource.



Ben Swarr
Camp Director,
Fellowship of
Christian Athletes



THOUGHTFULLY ENGAGE PEOPLE IN CULTURE

This year our desire to help other followers of Christ to thoughtfully engage with people and culture have been central to our podcast efforts. We focused on two series which we felt were essential for believers in our moment of time. First, we looked at what it means to live respectfully in a culture that seems to be desiring to war with one another. Secondly, we focused on what it means to be wise witnesses in a warring culture by going through a framework I use in training churches to have an evangelistic culture.

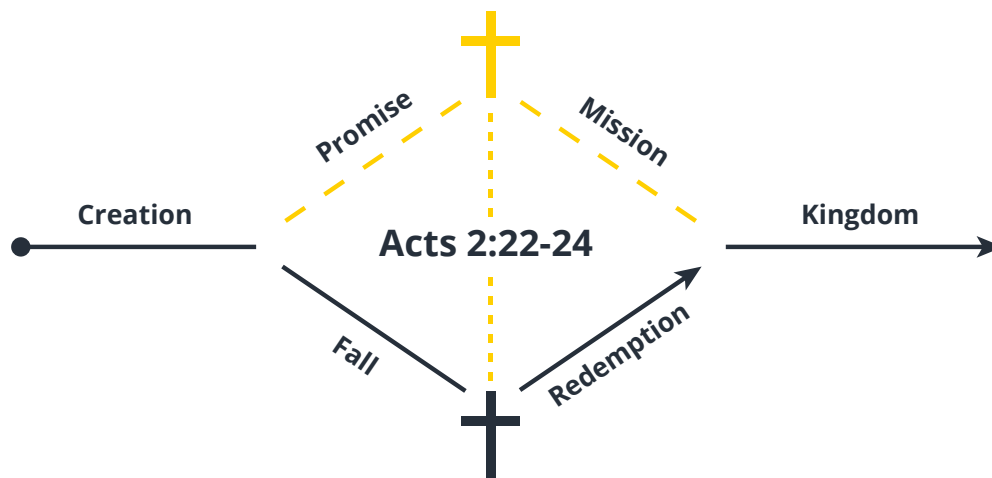
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| AMONG | We must live our lives among the peoples of the world where we overlap with those who are far from faith in Christ. |
| SHARE | We want to authentically share our life with other people, getting to know them and allowing them to get to know us. |
| SHARE | We share about Jesus, what he means to us, and the good news of his death, burial, and resurrection. |
| LISTEN | We want to listen well to our friends understanding what makes them tick and what ticks them off. By doing so we can share the gospel with wisdom with each person. |
| DISRUPT | We use questions to help people doubt their current assumptions and life foundations. Are the things that they trust most deeply, and treasure above all, really true and steady foundations for this life and the life to come? |
| ANSWERS | When people ask us for the reason for the hope that we have in Christ or ask questions about the teachings of the Christian faith, we must be prepared to give good answers. |
| REPEAT | We live this way over time, in a community where God is at work providentially through the circumstances of life in the passing of time. |



We simply cannot live faithfully without sharing the actual gospel with people we are among. Share your life, but always share *the gospel*.” –Reid Monaghan

In 2024, we plan to approach one of the more significant and important issues with which our culture is wrestling. The Bible gives a unique anthropology as to what human beings, male and female, are and how we have been designed as a dimorphic creature that lives in complementary relationship with one another. We will take up a discussion of human design and contemporary gender ideology in our series *Imago Dei Revisited – Male and Female in a Most Gendered World*.

SHARE THE GOSPEL



For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

FINANCIAL REPORT

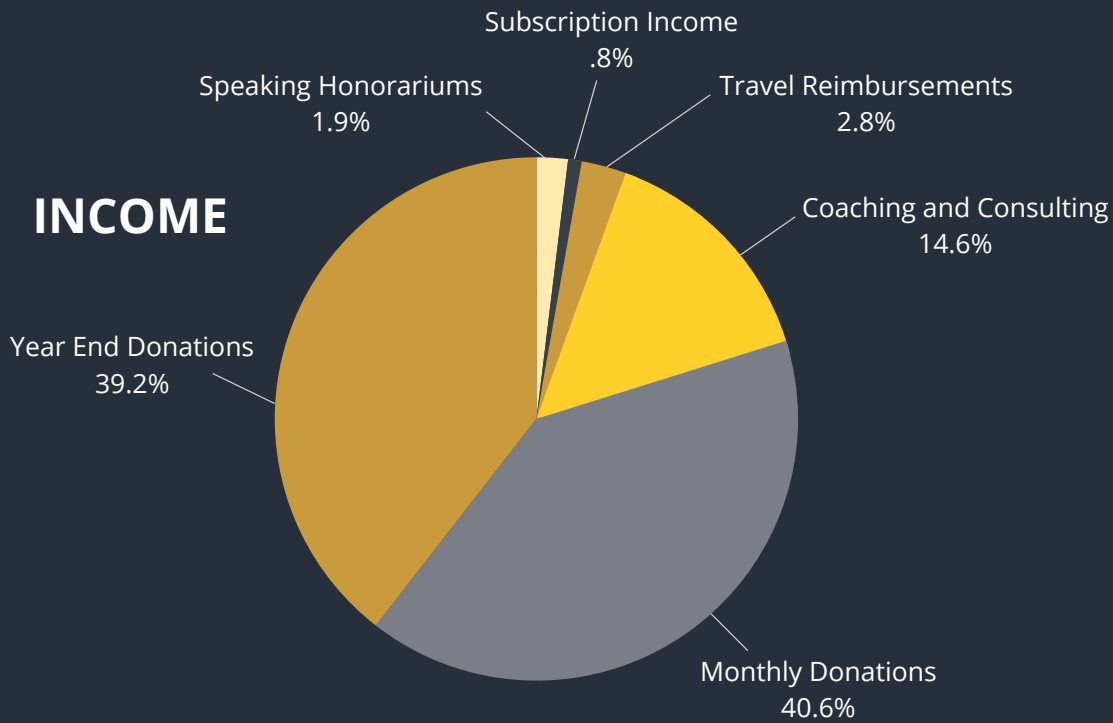
The financial environment remains challenging with travel expenses quite high. As we close our seventh year as an organization, we simply think God for his financial provision for our work. We have some amazing and faithful financial partners who pray for us often and fuel our work. We cannot thank you all enough.

| INCOME | 2022-2023 |
|---|------------------|
| Speaking Honorariums | \$3,100 |
| Subscription Income | \$1,350 |
| Travel Reimbursements | \$4,423 |
| Coaching and Consulting | \$23,420 |
| Monthly Donations | \$65,018 |
| Year End Donations | \$62,784 |
| Total Revenue | \$160,095 |
| EXPENSES | |
| Minister Salary | \$47,078 |
| Minister Housing Allowance | \$42,609 |
| Benefits (Health, Dental, 403b match) | \$24,000 |
| Ministry Expenses | \$10,673 |
| Office Expenses | \$606 |
| Communications (mobile/internet) | \$1,800 |
| Staff Development | \$4,517 |
| Accounting, Financial, Legal | \$3,672 |
| Technology (Hardware/Web/Software) | \$2,177 |
| Travel Expenses (much reimbursed) | \$14,769 |
| Support to Other Ministries | \$2,711 |
| VT Wrestling Ministry | \$2,799 |
| Total Expenses | \$157,411 |
| 2022-2023 NET REVENUE | \$2,684 |
| Special Projects Intern (Paid from Savings) | \$5,333 |

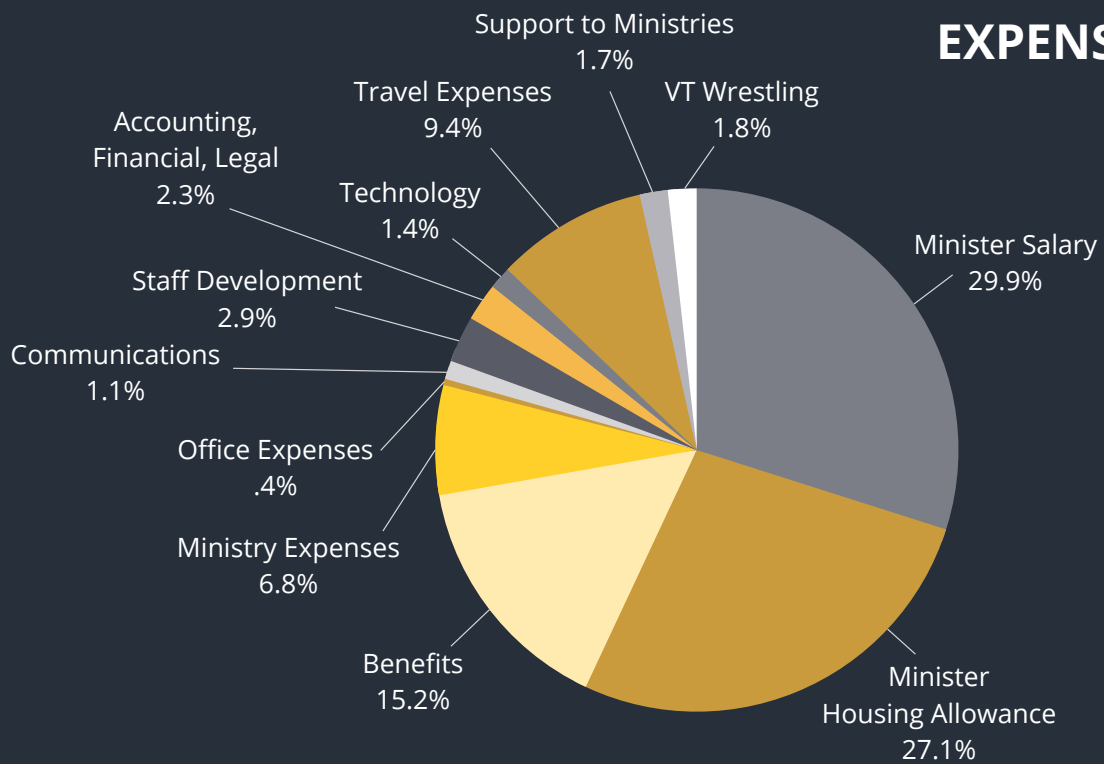
Financial Notes

- Travel costs remain high as rental cars, airfare, and hotels have been elevated.
- Every few years we have given small token of appreciation to our financial donors. This year we invested in this project that was executed by our summer intern.
- We made a mid-year decision to hire Collin Gerardi as a special projects intern from April to August this year. As this was apart from our annual budgeting process, we accounted for this expense from savings/reserves. Contractor compensation and expenses totaled \$5333.
- We continue to be funded by a combination of revenue streams with robust monthly and annual donations coupled with contract income sources driving the equation.

INCOME



EXPENSES



LOOKING FORWARD

As we head into a new year and lift our eyes up to new horizons, one central truth remains: our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. He will keep us and make the paths before us clear.

In the 2023/24 ministry year, we have placed these simple objectives before us. As you conclude your review of this annual report, please keep these things in prayer.

FY2024 Strategic Objectives

Support and Strengthen Local Churches

- Complete Bonhoeffer Haus/Harbor Network Residency beta here in Southwest Virginia.
- Create a Harbor "Residency Ready Cohort" for launch next fall.
- Create and implement a Harbor Residency Summit and Residency Certification Process.
- Continue coaching three to four pastors or church planters.
- Roll out GU Deepen Curriculum and grow GU Access membership.

Share the Gospel with the Coming Generation

- Continue with VT Wrestling as the Team Chaplain.
 - Teach the book of Titus in season.
 - Develop two new leaders on the team.
- Continue partnerships with churches in New England and at Brown University.

Thoughtful Engagement


- In the fall, we will share with our podcast audience some good reasons we have supporting the truth of basic Christian doctrine. We will also answer some of the cultural objections of our day.
- Research, launch, and execute a multi-episode podcast series entitled *Imago Dei Revisited – Male and Female in a Most Gendered World*.



Reid S. Monaghan
Founder and President



GOSPEL UNDERGROUND
DEEPEN



THE GOSPEL UNDERGROUND

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