

REPORT OF U.S. MISSIONS

Zollie L. Smith, Jr.

It has been an extraordinary privilege to serve our Fellowship as the U.S. Missions executive director for ten years. This has been an amazing time of personal growth and growth as a follower of Jesus Christ.

It has been an honor to serve alongside the Executive Leadership Team. These men are excellent leaders, and it has been a blessing to serve with them.

I would like to thank the U.S. Missions team for their willingness to see the changes that need to be made, and their dedication to making positive change possible. The mission and effectiveness of U.S. Missions are advanced because of them.

I would especially like to thank Ramona Edgman who has served above reproach as the U.S. Missions administrator. Her support, dedication, and commitment to the division is evident—through the execution of tasks, ability to cast vision to the team, and building initiatives through daily routines. She has truly served as my right arm.

Glenda Barton and Torrie Thompson have each served as my administrative assistant and enabled me to be both prompt and prepared for the many meetings and trips I participated in over the last ten years. They were both my eyes and ears, and managed my time with perfection. I was more efficient because of them.

I am grateful for the six years Tim Hager gave to U.S. Missions as the administrator of Field Operations. Tim built strong relationships with our districts, and that is still felt today.

The U.S. Missions senior directors that I have worked with have played key roles in shaping how missions interacts with those living in the United States. Their strategic leadership continues to keep U.S. Missions on a strong path to fulfill the Great Commission here at home.

I have been enriched by working with the AGUSM Administration team. They are essential in shaping the viability and the sustainability of U.S. Missions, to keep us in a place of effectiveness and efficiency as we fulfill God's mandate to reach the lost.

The support ministries of BGMC, Speed the Light, and Light for the Lost are crucial resources our missionaries need to do the work God has given them to do. I am grateful for their partnership and support of missions here in the United States.

Over the past ten years, we focused on three ongoing objectives. We must always **add value** to our U.S. missionaries, chaplains, and project volunteers by making sure they are spiritually and practically healthy. Their overall health determines the health of the ministry.

We **resource** the field team by making sure they have the tools, training, and the support they need from both their sending and work districts (through BGMC, Speed the Light, and Light for the Lost).

Our third objective, **replication**, speaks to the ongoing nature of ministry. The goal is to sustain a ministry beyond the life of one person. By pouring into others, a ministry remains viable and strong after a missionary leaves an assignment.

Through the continual fulfillment of these three objectives, U.S. Missions will remain financially stable and will continue to see great ministry impact.

I am honored by the grace of God and the Holy Spirit working in me to pass the baton to the next executive director for U.S. Missions. I am happy to pass on a division that is financially stable, ministry viable, and is built on love. People are the greatest resource to serving humanity. As we value them, resource them, and enable them to replicate themselves, we will find ourselves in a functional and healthy environment.

I thank God for the support of my wife, Phyllis, my six daughters, and my six grandchildren, who have sacrificed much so the kingdom of God will advance. Lastly, I would like to express my thanksgiving and gratitude to the God of my salvation, His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His Spirit who have shone brightly into my heart the path that I should follow during my time as executive director. Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I could not have accomplished the assignment set before me. Because of Jesus, I am more than a conqueror. To God be the glory and the honor.

I love you all, and may God continue to bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Zollie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'Z'.

Zollie L. Smith, Jr.
Executive Director

Administration

2016 kicked off with Administration reviewing how we can better support the entire U.S. Missions division. Ramona Edgman, administrator, put together a team called the Personnel Support Committee that included team members from U.S. Missions and the Human Resources director. Zollie places a high value on ministry and the ability of our Seven Windows to spend their time and resources on building effective ministry within their missionary teams.

Prior to calling this team together, Zollie and Ramona reviewed all the functions of U.S. Missions. They identified the administrative items the departments had in common. They discovered a lot of duplication that could be streamlined into the Administration department. By moving these tasks to Administration, this lifts a burden from the departments and provides specialized support so department personnel can focus on ministry processes.

Administration already provides departments with financial compliance and legal guidance. It could be compared to PCI compliance when handling credit cards. Someone has to take responsibility to carry the risk management to protect both our departments and missionaries.

We have created a plan that will increase efficiency and effectiveness for the entire division. This will include adding additional staff to the Administration team. We have operated with a very lean department for years, even though U.S. Missions has grown from 1,100 ministry accounts to over 1,600.

Through this time of exploration, Ramona also served as a member of the Information Technology committee that focuses on bringing improved technology resources to the division. U.S. Missions has several systems that are isolated from each other, which causes unnecessary additional work for the staff. This team is endeavoring to create a system to suit the division's needs and provide the reports requested by our districts and other members of the constituency.

Additional improvements in other administrative and ministry processes were made as well.

During this time, we also secured additional office space to allow our Accounting and Marketing departments to flourish as teams and have much-needed space to serve the division.

We ended the 2016 calendar year with a 5 percent increase over the 2015 cash receipts. This is another reminder that God is doing great things in the United States.

Our final budget for 2016–2017 year closed out with U.S. Missions being in the black by \$400,000.

Chaplaincy Ministries

The ministry reports from our 644 active, endorsed chaplains prove the effectiveness of their ministries. In 2016, our chaplains reported that they held over twenty-five thousand services, more than sixteen thousand people came to faith in Christ, over two thousand believers experienced Spirit baptism, and almost four thousand people were baptized in water.

Chaplain Gloria Taylor who serves as our Veterans Affairs/Healthcare Chaplaincy representative has transitioned to full-time service with our department. A part-time Correctional Chaplaincy representative position was requested and approved as well. Chaplaincy Ministries also began the design process for a new Web site.

In 2016, the **461** Response ministry received two awards from the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation at the World Congress on Stress, Trauma, and Coping. The **461** Response program was presented to eight districts. Emergency services and preparation has become a priority of many of our churches. Chaplaincy Ministries has come alongside to help them prepare through classes and workshops. In addition, several districts and churches signed on to the **461** Response database to make use of this ministry's services.

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.

2016 was another hallmark year for Chi Alpha. Chi Alpha has experienced record growth as over twenty-eight thousand students are involved in 316 chapters across the United States.

In May 2016, the Lord spoke prophetically through multiple credible sources that we were about to witness the greatest student awakening in history, and The World Missions Summit 4 would be a precursor to it. Following years of prayer, preparation, and faith, we are embarking on a moment of significant spiritual history. Over six thousand students participated in the Summit. Almost two thousand students committed to give a year and pray about a lifetime to missions, and more than three thousand students became part of the AGWM pipeline (recruitment tool). We are grateful for the deep collaboration and partnership with World Missions in the facilitation and implementation of The World Missions Summit 4.

Additionally in 2016, Stefanie Chappell joined the leadership team as the first field director for Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A., and is serving to resource and cover our area and district Chi Alpha leadership. We began to develop a new pioneering strategy for campus groups in which we are building continuity and congruency in ministry and mission without compromising our core value of creativity. And we continued to emphasize the need for healthy staff and have created new initiatives to help us fulfill this objective.

Intercultural Ministries

2016 was a great year of ministry for Intercultural Ministries. During this year, four candidates completed the U.S. Missions orientation and were released to itinerate so they can begin to serve their culture groups (Romanian, Intercultural, and Hispanic). Four candidates became fully funded and entered their work in Human Trafficking, Intercultural, and Native American ministries.

Our assignment and method for ministry was to **discover** indigenous believers in every ethnic group in the United States, **develop** them as disciples and leaders, and **deploy** them to their own people groups as indigenous ministers of the gospel.

We began the year with 309 missionaries and spouses serving eighteen fields of ministry, and seven culturally compassionate fields which require specialized understanding and preparation. We endeavored to replicate these sustainable ministries across the United States so that future generations will be prepared to evangelize and disciple the masses. We accomplished this through forty-one missionary associates and spouses.

Due to language barriers, our ethnic pastors often need help obtaining credentials. A missionary associate in the Burmese field has been successful in presenting the materials and exams verbally in their ethnic language.

Three Metro Area field reps are strategically located in the Arizona, New York, and West Texas districts. In 2016, one of the field reps completed the recording of a series of videos on how to teach English as a second language (ESL). These free, online trainings can be used by churches and districts to start ESL ministries in their communities.

In the past year, we held two listening tours with our missionaries to Native Americans. We wanted to hear their heart as they talked about the tribes they reach with the gospel, their successes and challenges in ministry, and the importance of ministry replication to ensure the continuance of the spread of the gospel for future generations. Through these conversations, we came to understand the needs of Native Americans are as diverse as the more than six hundred tribes located throughout the United States. The success of Native American ministries lies with the necessity of building strong relationships and staying the course. We believe missionary associates, working alongside nationally appointed missionaries, will pave the way for ministry replication in the days and years ahead.

2016 was an active year in focusing on The Center for the Blind. We added one new missionary associate to the team. The Center is primarily funded through the gifts of donors. With 7.3 million people in the United States who can be classified as legally blind, it is imperative that we reach this often-forgotten people group for Christ. The Center has the most comprehensive Christian library for the blind in the United States. Our objective to see this become a thriving ministry, fully supported and staffed with missionaries, associates, and volunteers will continue in the coming years.

Missionary Church Planters and Developers

The Missionary Church Planters and Developers Department includes a wide variety of ministries. Through the efforts of our missionaries and associates we were able to see

- Almost seven thousand people becoming followers of Christ
- Missionary developers coming alongside over 2,500 pastors to help expand their capacity to fulfill the Great Commission
- Missionary planters beginning eleven new churches, and partnering with other missionaries, assisting in starting an additional eighty-five churches
- Our missionaries hosting more than 230 missions trips, exposing churches and students to missions in the United States
- Over nine hundred new leaders being trained with U.S. missionaries

In addition to the regular work of the U.S. missionary, we focused on our next major priority of intentional recruiting. In 2016 we pursued foundational work to meet future ministry needs within our departmental scope. This included conducting research and seeking spiritual understanding regarding changing worldviews, population shifts, and other sociological/spiritual issues. This gave us a greater understanding of what kind of missionaries we will need to reach people in the future. As we developed a description, we will be able to determine what kind of training, resources, and partnerships are necessary to better equip current missionaries and identify potential missionaries.

The gathering of our missionaries in October was designed to further our preparation for the future. Colleyville Assembly of God and Pastor Jeff Strickland (North Texas district) graciously hosted our time together. Through discussions, work groups, surveys, prayer, and prophetic gifts, we gathered great information and identified how each U.S. missionary plays a part in preparing us for expanded effectiveness in the years ahead.

Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.

During the 2016–2017 year, our first objective was to unify and revitalize the staff at the Teen Challenge national office and to re-energize the mission of Teen Challenge by spreading and living out the gospel. To accomplish this, we implemented daily staff prayer and fasting on Wednesdays, built relationship with each other through team building activities, updated job descriptions to clarify responsibilities and enhance productivity, asked the Strategic Action Team to help evaluate and improve staff effectiveness, and studied numerous issues to bring resolution.

Our second objective was to encourage unity by grooming and enhancing communication, cooperation, and coordination between the eight regional representatives from across the United States. To make this happen, we significantly increased our time in cooperation and communication between the national Teen Challenge office, the regional representatives, the corporate leaders, and the Center directors. We can see the benefits of improved relationship. We are continuing our emphasis on biblical unity (based on Psalm 133), and this is taking root and is becoming a part of our day-to-day conversations. Additionally, the monthly Teen Challenge Center visits are well received.

Our third and final objective for the 2016–2017 year was to groom and enhance communication, cooperation, and coordination among the eighty-four corporate CEOs across the United States. To bring this to fruition, the TC president started a bimonthly update that is sent to each CEO and senior leader within Teen Challenge. This update includes information gathered from the field, so we can learn from each other. Additionally, the president calls each Center director and CEO after their accreditation inspection. This one thing has received more positive feedback than any other new initiative.

U.S. MAPS

The U.S. MAPS Department experienced great achievement during the 2016–2017 year. During this time, twenty-one projects were completed with a savings to AG ministries and churches of over \$750,000. In addition, we accomplished the following from our strategic plan:

- Enlisted, equipped, and empowered twenty-six new U.S. MAPS district representatives. We now have a U.S. MAPS rep in all but eleven districts. Three new missionary candidates were recruited and are currently in the fund-raising process. We have also experienced an increase in the number of RV Volunteers.
- Developed and promoted a new U.S. MAPS Web site as the entry to recruitment for U.S. MAPS and U.S. Missions missionary associates. The new Web site (usmaps.ag.org) launched in January 2017. The site gives an entry way for RVers, missionary associates, and church teams to plan and develop ministry opportunities.
- Cultivated an atmosphere of progression for the next five years for U.S. MAPS. There is a new team mentality with the national staff and missionaries in the U.S. MAPS department. We implemented new training to develop the work environment. Many of our missionaries are reaching retirement age; we put in place a transition for some of our U.S. missionaries, preparing for future development of U.S. MAPS.
- Recruited a National Advisory Committee (NAC) for U.S. MAPS. These five members come from a diverse background of ministry and were chosen to assist in the future development of U.S. MAPS. This committee will assist the senior director with vision and recruitment for U.S. MAPS. This committee communicates bimonthly and will meet annually during the annual RV convention.

Youth Alive

In 2016, Youth Alive focused on equipping students and leaders to create more gospel-centered conversations. This was accomplished through

- Increasing the resources to help train and equip students to start conversations that share the gospel
- Enlisting over 6,600 students as campus missionaries
- Chartering fifty-five campus clubs through Youth Alive missionaries or the national Youth Alive office
- In partnership with several Youth Alive missionaries, we created a Back-to-School training resource for Youth Alive missionaries to train students to share the gospel through a variety of everyday opportunities that students have on an average school day.
- In spring 2017 we began to transition to and implement the new national Youth Ministries department mission and core values.

Our second objective was to equip churches to engage their communities through their local schools.

- In the 2015–2016 school year, Youth Alive facilitated school assemblies (including The Seven Project) in 259 schools, spoke to over 130,000, saw almost sixteen thousand return to attend the evening events, and saw almost three thousand make decisions for Christ.
- Since the start of Our Schools Matter, we've had several thousand churches and students join the movement and download the resources to use in their local context.

Our third objective was to create a culture to reach every student, every school, and identify/raise up additional Youth Alive missionaries in partnership with our district leadership.

- Since March 2016, we've added three new Youth Alive missionary candidates (Arkansas, South Texas, and Tennessee).
- We've added over six thousand people to pray for schools as Prayer Zone Partners.
- Upon the completion of the structural work group, a small Youth Alive work group (comprised of several Youth Alive missionaries and district Youth directors) was created to begin to update the Youth Alive missionary job description and the Youth Alive/U.S. Missions procedures brief.
- In fall 2016 we established online information to missions opportunities (full-appointment, missionary associate, missionary internships, etc.) on the Youth Alive Web site.



Faces in the Field

U.S. Missions Statistics

984 *Appointed U.S. Missionaries, Retirees, Candidates, and Spouses*

644 *Active Endorsed Chaplains (does not include spouses)*

832 *Missionary Associates and Spouses*

160 *Missionary Interns and Spouses*

Administration

Ministry Work Accounts	18
District Accounts	67

Chaplaincy Ministries

Institutional/Occupational

Ministry Work Accounts	27
Chaplain Candidates/Seminarians/Endorsees	47
Institutional/Occupational Endorsed Chaplains	439
Missionary Associates and Spouses	19
Chaplaincy Candidate Missionaries and Spouses	5
Institutional/Occupational Missionaries & Spouses	75

Military/Veterans Affairs

Chaplain Candidates/Seminarians/Endorsees	71
Military/Veterans Affairs Endorsed Chaplains	205

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.

Ministry Work Accounts	20
Campus Missionary in Training Programs	25
Chartered Chi Alpha Groups	316
Missionary Associates and Spouses	549
Missionary Interns and Spouses	158
Other Affiliated Staff	302
Chi Alpha Candidate Missionaries and Spouses	20
Chi Alpha Missionaries and Spouses	283

Intercultural Ministries

Ministry Work Accounts	37
Bible Colleges	4
Missionary Associates and Spouses	50
Intercultural Ministries Candidate Missionaries and Spouses	8
Intercultural Ministries Missionaries and Spouses	311

Missionary Church Planters and Developers

Ministry Work Accounts	34
Missionary Associates and Spouses	91
Missionary Interns and Spouses	2
Student Interns	1
MCPD Candidate Missionaries & Spouses	21
MCPD Missionaries & Spouses	159

Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.

Ministry Work Accounts	3
Administration Offices	30
Crisis and Referral Centers	21
Re-Entry Centers	2
Residential Centers	199
Teen Challenge Ministry Institutes	3
Total Teen Challenge Ministry Operations	255
Missionary Associates and Spouses	3
Teen Challenge Staff	1,829
Teen Challenge Missionaries & Spouses	51

U.S. Mission America Placement Service

Ministry Work Accounts	6
Total RV Volunteers	902
Missionary Associates and Spouses	116
U.S. MAPS Candidate Missionaries & Spouses	6
U.S. MAPS Missionaries and Spouses	12

Youth Alive

Ministry Work Accounts	4
Youth Alive Field Staff	11,500
Missionary Associates and Spouses	4
Youth Alive Candidate Missionaries and Spouses	3
Youth Alive Missionaries and Spouses	30