

# Kingdom Builders

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# The Heart of *Kingdom Builders*

**Everyone in every nation deserves a chance to hear the Gospel.**

*“Let giving flow from your heart, not from a sense of religious duty. Let it spring up freely from the joy of giving—all because God loves hilarious generosity!”*

**2 CORINTHIANS 9:7 (TPT)**

Kingdom Builders is all about the joy of giving. Think back to a time when you gave a special gift to someone you love. Remember the anticipation, excitement, and joy you felt as the person opened the gift? Once he or she received that special gift, do you remember the sense of fulfillment and contentment you felt? At those times, we truly experience Acts 20:35, “It is more blessed to give than receive.” That’s the heart of a Kingdom Builder!

Everyone searches for purpose and fulfillment. We want to know we are making a difference—that our lives matter. Kingdom Builders is one way we can answer that question. Every year through Kingdom Builders you touch the lives of millions of people all over the world. You also fund the growth of the Church locally through expanding our own campuses, planting life-giving, Spirit-filled churches in the Northeast, and ministering to the hurting in our own backyards. Kingdom Builders looks to the future as well, investing in the training and preparation of future Christian leaders for the body of Christ.

Through the abundant supply of God and the intentional stewardship of many, we are able to give away millions of dollars each year to expand the Kingdom of God. We reflect the heart of our Heavenly Father and participate in the joy of giving as Kingdom Builders. Join us, and let’s impact our world with the love of God.

**We are Kingdom Builders—so that all may hear.**

*Pastor Steve Moore*

Executive Pastor, Kingdom Builders



**KINGDOM  
BUILDERS  
HELPS IN  
THREE KEY  
AREAS:**

# Global Missions

Kingdom Builders helps to support a copious number of projects around the world that provide humanitarian aid, church planting assistance, and pastoral development. Your assistance will help to move these ministries forward, conquering new ground for HIS Kingdom.

# Local Church Expansion

God continues to bless our nation and helps us to grow the Church here in the United States. By providing assistance in our own backyards, we're able to meet local community needs. This ultimately leads to the lost finding their way to an eternity with Christ.

# Future Christian Leaders

We're committed to raising up the next generation. Kingdom Builders helps future Christian leaders to foster a love for God, the Bible, and the lost. We help to develop the next generation and provide opportunities like mission trips so they can know God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make an impact.

*"Give and it will  
be given to you.  
A good measure,  
pressed down,  
shaken together,  
and running over,  
will be poured  
into your lap. For  
with the measure  
you use, it will be  
measured to you."*

**LUKE 6:38**





# *Global* Missions

## ■ A21 Organization

Partnering with A21 to help them accomplish their mission of abolishing slavery everywhere, forever. This organization is driven by a hope that the cycle of human trafficking can be broken one life at a time through programs that reach, rescue, and restore.

## ■ China Missions



Evangelizing and discipling the next generation of unreached Chinese people and assisting pastors to impart their compassion for the lost in Hong Kong.

## ■ Dynamis World Ministries

Spreading the Gospel in Africa and Asia through several crusades. In conjunction with these Gospel crusades, several Schools of Ministry will be held for pastors and evangelists.

## ■ Every Home for Christ

Serving the Church by equipping and mobilizing believers to participate in sharing the truth and love of Jesus with every person and home on earth. This ministry operates in 152 countries, and we are supporting them in several of those locations.

## ■ Foundation for the Realization of Economic Empowerment

Creating income-generating opportunities for women in Zambia by developing a range of copper jewelry made by young women in Ng'ombe Compound, a peri-urban Lusaka community.

## ■ Global Ventures

Bringing teams into the regions of the world where most unreached people groups live, and ministering the Gospel in parks, neighborhoods, and school assemblies.

## ■ Gospel Training International

Equipping leaders in Zambia, Thailand, India, Nagpur/Mumbai/Coimbatore, Botswana, and possibly Egypt by training them in Gospel truths mixed with practical ministry experience.

## ■ Heart4Mexico

Getting children off the streets and into school is the goal. Heart4Mexico is a home for many wounded children. We are giving toward the development of the Boys' Home, which will have a complete kitchen, dining room, laundry, and storage areas. The bedrooms allow each child to finally have his own bed, closet, and shared bathroom.

## ■ Hearts in Action

Helping the next generation in Peru to know and love God through evangelism, construction, medical outreaches, and more.

## ■ Hope for Hispaniola

Helping to strengthen local churches through evangelism, discipleship, and service within the community. We are helping them to build Phase 1 of the Santana Campus in the Dominican Republic, which includes a worship center, dining hall, medical clinic, apartments, and dorms for future missionaries.



# Global Missions (cont.)

## ■ House of Palms

Providing ongoing care for the girls rescued from the sex trade and resources to rescue more. These girls are part of an undisclosed community, considered to be one of the lowest “castes” in a traditional class system. They are deprived of basic human rights and are forced into sex trafficking. This girls’ home ensures they are cared for in a safe environment away from the negative influences in their community. Most importantly, they learn about God’s love.

## ■ John Maxwell Equip Legacy Partnership

Empowering Christians to share their faith within circles of influence. This includes supporting the translation of the iLead curriculum into different languages, which will help the next generation develop and practice important values and leadership skills.

## ■ Living Word Missions

Helping the unreached people in the Goz Beïda Region of Chad/Sudan in Africa learn about Jesus through Bible classes. Most do not have a Bible, don’t know any Christians, and didn’t have a missions group helping them up until now.

## ■ Messenger International

Translating materials and training local pastors all over the world so they will be uncompromising followers of Christ who transform the world. All resources and tools provided to pastors and leaders come at no cost to them.

## ■ Mike Campbell Ministries

Funding for church construction and expansion of ministry in Ghana (West Africa).

## ■ Miracle Life Church in Lusaka, Zambia, and Rhema Zambia

Helping to fund land development and the expansion of the Bible school, Rhema Zambia, to train more leaders for the church.

## ■ Mutual Faith Ministries

Sustaining the Mutual Faith Philippines campus that equips pastors and leaders in sharing the Father’s love; training kids and leaders as well as meeting the physical needs of many at the Life Center in Beirut, Lebanon; teaching the Gospel to the youth in Nigeria; and, hosting retreats for pastors and leaders. Also, helping the campus in Beirut to become energy independent by installing solar systems and batteries.

## ■ New Vines International

Funding a Director of Training to expand the training and equipping of leaders for the program in the Ivory Coast (West Africa).

## ■ OneHope



Creating innovative, Scripture engagement programs for the next generation. Using research, each program is contextualized to reach children with the Word of God. The Bible app for kids (which is available inside the YouVersion Bible app) provides children with insight on how they can apply God’s Word.

## ■ REACH Ministries

Operating an 18-month, church planting program in Cambodia for national church planters as well as national children’s ministry leaders who will reach children who are un-evangelized and have no Gospel witness of Christ.

## ■ Southeast Asia Prayer Center (SEAPC)



Building on our partnership from 2021 and 2022 in the Banteay Meanchey Province of Cambodia, introducing the Word of God and prayer into public schools. This would help to multiply the program through training and staffing teachers and equipping students with Christ-based written and online materials.

## ■ Surge Church Planting

Planting churches that start Christian communities and train disciples across the world. They tackle issues like orphan care, medical aid, and water wells.

## ■ Triumphant Ministries

Teaching at-risk boys and girls in Myanmar vocational skills, like sewing, to secure income, food, and a future. We are funding the continued construction of their Legacy Learning Center. Currently, there is a three-year wait list for students to enter the sewing school due to space constraints.

## ■ TruMission

Compelling leaders and organizations to pursue their God-given missions by developing the tools and resources needed to help people discover Christ and step into a life of deep purpose and great significance.

## ■ World Vision

Partnering together to ensure clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) for every person in every community, including the most vulnerable populations in the hardest-to-reach places.

***\*We reserve funds for urgent requests from Kingdom Builders partners throughout the year.***



**RICK AND ANGELA JOHNSON**

# Triumphant Ministries

## WE ARE OFTEN ASKED, “WHY MYANMAR?”



Our journey started in 1943, when a young Army corporal was serving in northern Myanmar during World War II. He documented his wartime exploits with several black and white photos. That corporal was my dad, and he kept all those pictures in an album. As a little boy, I would ask him to tell me the stories about the Burmese people in the pictures. My dad didn't know it then, but he was planting a seed in my heart that wouldn't come to fruition for more than 30 years.

When I was offered the opportunity to go to Myanmar for the first time, it was supposed to be a nostalgia trip. I wanted to go see where my dad had been during the war. That didn't happen because the mission team we went with asked if we would help them with their ministry. During that trip, we visited fifteen orphanages in six days. That's a lot of kids! They stole Angie's and my heart. At the first orphanage we visited, all the kids were itching themselves until they were bleeding. They had scabies (a skin lice). We were told it was

a communicable disease and then discovered 50 children were sharing five bath towels.

We decided then that we would be the hands of Jesus and purchased every child and worker their own towel. They were so happy! It impacted us in a big way, and we have done this for every orphanage we enter since! This trip placed the desire for us to return to Myanmar again and again. With each returning trip, we would visit orphanages and add to the list of needs of each house. They were basic: toothbrushes, combs, and vitamins. We noticed homes that had sewing machines were in better order than those that did not. One thing led to another; and before we knew it, over a four-year period we had purchased more than 200 sewing machines.

This tool gave each orphanage the ability to make, mend, and sell clothes, while teaching a few girls and boys how to sew. We wanted to empower these kids by giving them “a hand up.” We opened our school by renting a house, finding an instructor, and purchasing all the necessary equipment to start a sewing school. We then started reaching out to orphans, trafficked girls, and anyone who wanted to change his or her life. We offer them vocational, money management, and business ethics training—all at no charge. Until last year, we had a three-year waiting list in our rented building.

Because of the generosity of Kingdom Builders, you have helped us to complete our Legacy Learning Center. This building gives us much-needed space, decreases our waiting list, and allows us the ability to add additional training classes. The students are blessed to have this facility. Whenever we hold our annual graduation ceremonies, we have more than 300 people in attendance.

That includes local dignitaries, students' families, and Buddhist monks. In each ceremony, one of the girls will speak for her class. I have yet to see one of them not have tears of joy and gratitude roll down their faces. It is truly humbling.

Looking to 2023, we will start and complete our Agricultural Buildings. They are essential to shelter our livestock. They will allow us to feed our campus by growing our own hogs, chickens, and goats. We will also begin planting bananas, mangos, and papayas. We'll also use those fruits to generate income by selling them. Currently, we're in the process of purchasing a 12.5-acre rice farm so we can eat and sell that, too.

A much-needed pavilion is in the plans for 2023. It will allow us to hold outdoor events and host everything from conferences to basketball camps. We have completed our wall around the campus, and now it's time for a world-class playground. It will invite children to our campus like nothing else

could, giving us the opportunity to do some awesome evangelism.

All these projects work together for the Glory of the Lord! Each one provides us with a touch into the lives of a people group that is 95 percent Buddhist. The tools we need to execute this God-given plan would not be available without Kingdom Builders or partners who see the big picture. You are the reason we get the job done! We are grateful for this awesome gift that makes an incredible difference to so many. Thank you for helping us to change this nation, from the Kingdom of Myanmar to the Kingdom of God, building it one life at a time!





# Local Church Expansion

## ■ Community Outreach for New Castle & Meadville Campuses

Helping better the future of New Castle and Meadville with service projects around town.

## ■ Extravagant Love Project



Empowering women from every socioeconomic background with tools to unlock their God-given potential through an understanding of God's unconditional and extravagant love. Once a year, women who are homeless and/or low income receive makeovers and have the opportunity to attend a banquet. They also get to hear about the love of God.

## ■ Help Your Neighbor Outreach

Funding for renovations at their warehouse and general maintenance for everyday use.

## ■ Light of Life Rescue Mission

Providing funds to help the renovation of their Ridge Place building which will help those who need long-term care. It will include a new kitchen, dining area, chapel, twelve-bed emergency shelter, a floor with 28 beds, a place for women and children, and some office space.

## ■ Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation

Helping to equip, connect, and mobilize leaders in the city of Pittsburgh for the common good.

## ■ Servolution

Helping the body of Christ to serve, share God's love, and change lives through simple acts of kindness. Servolution hosts the national "Serve Day" where thousands of churches and individuals participate from all around the world.

## ■ Urban Impact



Funding the continual growth of at-risk children, youth, and their families into responsible followers of Christ on the North Side of Pittsburgh.

## ■ Victory Campus Development

Supporting our current and future campuses in any development needs they may have.

## ■ Victory Church Network: 1,000 Church Initiative

Funding for church planters in the Northeast, as well as the ability to expand our network of churches and increase mentor relationships.

## ■ XO Building (Marriage Today)

Funding toward the completion of a new XO Marriage Ministries headquarters. This will allow for a permanent home for XO Marriage, create a global hub for advocates of marriage, provide a place of hope and healing, and more!



# Extravagant Love Project

**EXTRAVAGANT LOVE PROJECT (ELP) MINISTERS TO WOMEN (AND MEN) FROM EVERY SOCIOECONOMIC BACKGROUND IN PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, WHO NEED TO KNOW THEIR WORTH AND HOW MUCH GOD LOVES THEM.**



Many have experienced homelessness, incarceration, abuse, and addiction. All have experienced serious trauma in their lives. ELP ministers to those from Bethlehem Haven, the Trade Institute of Pittsburgh, Light of Life Rescue Mission, and the Christian Immigration Advocacy Center (CIAC). They've developed a discipleship course to help those in need. Not only is it being taught on a weekly basis with Light of Life but also with community and church Bible studies throughout the city. Some of the tools include forgiveness,

breaking word curses, and the power of worship and inner healing. Through the partnership with CIAC (who provides legal aid), ELP helps women's spirit and soul needs following the trauma of fleeing other countries because of corrupt governments and abuse-related issues.



Meet Victoria. She's from Uganda.

She's married, and at the time she connected with ELP, had three children and a high-level job in banking. She and her family protested the corrupt dictator and were seriously reprimanded. Her mother was poisoned and killed, so her brother took off to England and Victoria fled to America. She was forced to leave behind her husband and children. As she was fleeing, she found out she was carrying their fourth child. She says it was incredibly lonely and isolating delivering her baby here in the U.S. with no family or community. She says she cried every day for a year.

Victoria came to ELP through CIAC. Because of ELP's partnership with Kingdom Builders, Victoria began receiving prayer, counseling, food, furniture, diapers, and formula. ELP partnered her with a godly mentor who

helped Victoria get her work permit. She needed a car, and because ELP knows the best partner—the God of miracles—she was given a free car! ELP is excited to say that Victoria is now working, making friends, and is in a wonderful church community! It's because of the partnership with Kingdom Builders that generations are being changed.

How do you change a life? One woman at a time. ELP wants Victory Family Church and Kingdom Builders to know that you get to share in the spoils of what God is doing in the earth . . . right here in Pittsburgh! Thank you!





ARRIA WASHINGTON

# Urban Impact

**“VICTORY FAMILY CHURCH HAS BEEN A PART OF MY MISSION AT THE URBAN IMPACT FOUNDATION (UIF) SINCE BEFORE I EVEN JOINED THE TEAM.**



I first learned about UIF while driving to work one morning and listening to a Victory sermon podcast. The speaker that week happened to be Pastor Ed Glover, Urban Impact’s founder. At one point he was discussing UIF’s model of relational ministry and describing how the goal is to live life with students and their families.

At the time, I was working as a middle school English teacher in New Castle, PA. I loved every minute I got to spend with my students, but as I listened to Pastor Ed, I realized what I really wanted was exactly what he was describing—the ability to become like family with my students and their families and to minister to them more directly. Several months passed, and I went about my days trying to serve my current students as best as I could; but Urban Impact lingered in the back

of my mind. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and I was not able to see my students in person, it was difficult. But it also gave me time to really check in with God about what to do next. I had a lot of questions. Was He really calling me away from the challenge of teaching? Could He possibly be leading me away from students and families that I had been building relationships with for years? By this time, Victory had launched their New Castle campus and was doing ministry right in the classroom where I was teaching. Having Victory come to New Castle felt like a direct answer to my prayers for that city, and as I considered a move, I knew it meant the community I had come to love would be left in good hands. I figured the first step was to check Urban Impact’s employment page. When I did, there was the perfect position for me—one where I could help students learn to love reading and help them learn how much they are loved by the Lord. After a few rounds of interviews, I sat down and had a discussion with Pastor Ed. We talked about ministry and about empowering young people through literacy, and by the end of it, I knew where I was supposed to be.

As a Literacy Support Coordinator at Urban Impact, I train volunteers to help struggling readers improve their skills and their confidence. Together, we go into schools and work one-on-one or in small groups with students who, for one reason or another, are reading well below their grade level. Our students get the benefit of individualized practice with a science-based reading curriculum, but they also get the benefit of knowing that many adults believe in them and are invested in helping them learn. Over the course of the school year, we see our students grow by leaps and bounds! Reflecting on the 2021-22 year, I think of our student Iman.



When the school year started, Iman’s teacher feared she would need to do two years of first grade. But by the end of the year, she was reading whole books on her own, and now she’s a thriving second grader. I also think of TJ, whose reading assessment scores had improved literally ten-fold by spring of last year. And then there’s Zoey, who not only improved academically, but overcame her terrible stage fright by reading a part in our annual Christmas show—Light the Night. She now attends three other UIF programs and can’t wait to sing with the children’s choir in this year’s show. Our team works together with teachers and parents to give students as much support as possible, but in all these cases those teachers and parents thanked us for helping to make it happen. All this academic progress is super exciting because it sets students up for success in the rest of their careers.

What’s even more exciting is that we can bring these students to programs where they regularly hear and have the chance to respond

to the Gospel. At Urban Impact we call this “bridging.” During the school year, students can join us after school at the Tutoring Center where they get tutoring and homework help, a good meal, and an engaging Bible lesson. In the summer, we have our Summer Day Camp. This is one of the best times of the year for us because we get to have fun and help students learn to live out the Gospel every day for eight straight weeks. Beyond the Education Department’s programs, we encourage our students to join the many programs that our Athletics and Performing Arts Departments run. Maybe my favorite day of the whole Urban Impact year is at the end of the summer when all the students who have come to know Jesus through these programs have the chance to get baptized in a local lake. It’s such a beautiful day of celebrating God’s love and the lengths that He goes to reach His children. It’s a day that always makes me grateful to be a part of this story and thankful to all of you who also join in this story by being Kingdom Builders.



# *Future* Christian Leaders

## ■ Christian Sports International and Urban Impact Summer Camp



Combining Jesus and baseball, this five-week summer camp is a partnership between Urban Impact and Christian Sports International. The goal is to grow baseball skills in men while also helping them to grow their relationships with Jesus.

## ■ Faith Bible College International

Funding capital improvements to the campus to further the mission of training leaders for the body of Christ.

## ■ The International School of Ministry

Providing training to more than 4,000 pastors and leaders in the Oriya language in India and more than 1,000 leaders in the Hindi language; helping a prison ministry in Kenya; helping to provide infrastructure and engagement into the nation of Madagascar where hundreds are being equipped in the Malagasy language, and so much more.

## ■ Tony Cooke Ministries

Funding for ministry that strengthens churches and leaders in Zambia and Angola.

## ■ Unaltered

Allowing the leading of a twelve-week journey that helps people become who God created them to be. This helps them to step into their calling and become radical disciples of Jesus who experience fullness of life and transform the world.

## ■ Urban Impact Fellowship Program



Training and equipping Fellows in a year-long apprenticeship in inner-city ministry. Fellows develop ministry and cross-cultural skills from those experienced in ministry at Urban Impact, provide a better understanding of theology and apologetics, as well as discernment of whether there is a call to God's ministry or not. You help to fund the development of future leaders.

## ■ Victory Internship Program

Continuing to provide in-depth, hands-on ministry experience to those who may feel called to full-time ministry by adding resource materials and other miscellaneous needs within the program.

## ■ Victory Residency Program



Growing our residency program as we seek to equip and train future leaders while providing a temporary full-time, paid position at Victory Family Church.

## ■ Victory Student Mission Trip Fund

Funding for our SOZO juniors and seniors in high school to experience a mission trip.



# Adam Schooley



## VICTORY FAMILY CHURCH RESIDENT

**Track:** Students/Young Adults

### ***Tell us about yourself.***

I'm 27, and I'm from New Castle, PA.

### ***What is your favorite food?***

Stir Fry

### ***If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?***

Greece. It's always been on my bucket list. It looks like a beautiful area, and I love the history.

### ***What do you like to do for fun?***

I love to play sports: baseball, football,

spikeball, volleyball, golf. Anything that is competitive is really fun to me.

### ***How long have you been coming to Victory Family Church?***

I started attending Victory in 2016, so I have been here for six years.

### ***Why Victory?***

I graduated high school in 2014. I had no clue what I wanted to do. I didn't really know what my passions or strengths were or how to figure that out. So, I tried a lot of different things. In that season, I started attending Victory and 19north (the young adult ministry at the time). I still didn't know what I wanted to do, but I started to feel God turn my heart toward ministry. I ran from that for a while because I didn't feel worthy enough to do ministry and thought that because of my past mistakes God wouldn't want to use me in that capacity. When our former ministry school called "Waymaker" originally launched, I even thought to myself, "There's no way I'm doing that." It wasn't until almost a year later in 2019, I was sitting in main service and Pastor John started talking for the first time about impacting the Northeast and the 1,000-Church Initiative, and in that moment, I felt in my heart God saying, "You're going to be a part of that. I'm going to use you." That night I decided that I wasn't going to run anymore, and I signed up for Waymaker. From that moment on, I told myself I'll do anything God asks me to do and let him use me any way He wants.

### ***What drew you to the Residency Program? Explain why you chose the Young Adults track.***

As I was coming out of ministry school, I was looking for a next step. I had a few options, but Young Adult Ministry was where my heart was mostly because that's how I got

introduced to Victory. I felt that the Residency Program would provide me with the perfect opportunity to continue to grow and gain the development I needed.

### ***What are some things you have learned while being in the Residency Program?***

I've learned how important it is to guard your schedule and protect (and be sure to take) your sabbath. One thing that is always stressed to us is how important our sabbath is to be a healthy leader. Life can very quickly get busy, and without rest and time in God's presence, we won't have the energy or patience needed to carry us throughout our weeks.

### ***What's something that has impacted you?***

One of the most impactful things for me in my time in the Residency Program has been seeing the impact that Young Adult Small Groups have made in so many lives. Leaders are stepping into their God-given purposes, young adults are finding freedom and community, and we continue to see small groups grow each semester. Time and time again, people tell me how they've made many friendships out of the small groups they've joined, and how small groups have changed their lives. It's such an honor to be a part of something that embodies the mission of our church: to help people know God, find freedom, discover their purpose, and make an impact!

### ***You are in your last year of the Residency Program. What would you like to do once it's over?***

My goal is to hopefully stay on staff at Victory in some capacity, but more importantly, follow whatever plan God has for me.

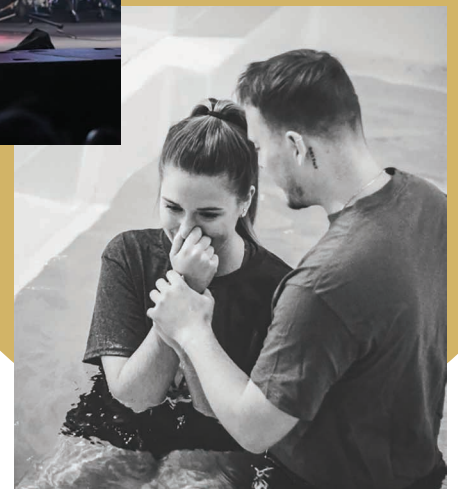
### ***Where do you see yourself in five years?***

In five years, I hope to have established a

family with my wife and have a few kids and to be leading in whatever ministry position God places me, whether that be a youth pastor, campus pastor, or support pastor. I'm not sure exactly what God has planned, but I know it will be an awesome journey.

### ***What would you say to someone who is weary about applying for the Residency Program?***

If you are on the fence about joining the Residency Program, I would encourage you to take a step of faith. If you feel like God has called you to ministry, this is the best way to gain experience and to develop into the person and leader you need to be. We'll never be fully ready; we just have to be obedient and faithful.





# Nate Bell



## VICTORY FAMILY CHURCH RESIDENT

Track: Worship

**Tell us about yourself.**

I'm 28 years old, and I'm from Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**What is your favorite food?**

I like Mexican food.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?**

The south of France. It seems like a beautiful place to me. The Province/Mediterranean mix of cultures seems to lure me in.

**What do you like to do for fun?**

I like to learn about history, listen to music, listen to podcasts, and watch movies.

**Tell us about your walk with God and how it all started.**

I didn't grow up in a Christian home. It was a fractured environment. My mom came from a Southern Baptist family, so she was somewhat knowledgeable about the Bible and God. My dad's family was very shattered. His mom had passed away when he was young, which then led to a lot of emotional turmoil in his life. He was an alcoholic and drug addict, and abusive at times, so that didn't lead to the healthiest environment. Eventually, my mom began to look for jobs and housing in Pennsylvania. She didn't tell anyone. In fact, she hid money in her old wedding dress for a month before we left because she knew if my dad found it, he would take it. My mom grew up in Ellwood City before moving to Louisiana. That's how we ended up moving back there, since she was familiar with the area. She did that to give us a better life. To be honest, there was little to no future in Louisiana for me or my sisters, so when we moved to Pennsylvania, it was a fresh start. There was a church in Ellwood where my cousin was the pastor. They were beginning a youth group, and we wanted nothing to do with church. If we did go, we were dragged there. My aunt was on the board, and she really wanted my sister Maddie and I to go. For weeks, we would come up with excuses as to why we couldn't go until we finally ran out of excuses and went. It was the first time we had ever been around believers and in an environment where there are young people who are believers. That began my journey with the Lord. It wasn't until I attended Acquire the Fire Conference (youth conference) in Pittsburgh and there was an altar call, and I remember going down and giving my life to Jesus. I remember worshipping there and worshipping like I never have before. That was the moment when worship became a thing

for me and really impacted me. From there, I began to pursue music more heavily. Maddie and I began leading worship at the church in Ellwood for a while but were hungry for more. When Victory opened the new sanctuary, we decided to attend and immediately fell in love with it. I began listening to Pastor John Nuzzo through podcasts and loved the growth I was receiving from them. I began serving in 19north (young adult ministry at the time) in 2015 through serving food. Eventually, someone brought up the worship team needed people, and that's when I really got plugged in. I felt that I grew the most there and decided to stay at Victory instead of going back to the church in Ellwood.

**Tell us the reason you feel called to full-time ministry.**

I didn't think full-time ministry was for me. I was content with where I was, working at coffee shops and serving heavily at church. Once COVID hit, I had much more time to think and pray. That's when something shifted in me that changed my perspective and I realized full-time ministry would fulfill my purpose. I think a big hesitancy for me was that I had a lot of growth that still needed to happen. I decided to go through the Residency Program instead of diving headfirst into a full-time ministerial job. I knew the Residency Program had a lot of hands-on training and growth attached to it, and that was what I needed.

**What specifically drew you to do the Residency Program?**

The opportunity to be around and learn from the staff at Victory. There are a lot of gifted people, so just being able to work closely with them, not only to learn about worship, but also learn how to be a better believer, husband, and father one day.

**What are some things you have learned while being in the Residency Program?**

My ability to pastor volunteers and people has increased. My knowledge of the Bible has increased. Honing my craft as a worship leader.

**What would you say to someone who is on the fence about applying for the Residency Program?**

Talk to spiritual leaders in your life to determine if this is the best decision for you. It's not for everyone. It's okay to continue serving heavily and doing what you are doing. Pray, seek the Lord, and talk to trusted voices in your life about it. Ask yourself, "What am I most passionate about?" For me, when I thought about helping the next generation having an encounter with God for the first time, it lit a fire inside of me. I knew that if this is something that could keep me awake at night and make my heart break and soar, that's a good reason to pursue and go after it.

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# Matt Layburn



## VICTORY FAMILY CHURCH INTERN

Track: Students/Young Adults

***Tell us about yourself.***

I'm 18 years old, and I'm from Mountain View, California.

***What is your favorite food?***

Chicken or steak

***If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?***

Jerusalem. But I have never been outside of the country, so anywhere would be crazy!

***What do you like to do for fun?***

Anything spontaneous, and I love hanging out with friends. I really want to go skydiving.

***Tell us your testimony.***

I grew up not going to church. I believed there was a God but didn't fully buy into it. When COVID started and everything was shut down, I began to read the Bible out of curiosity. At first, I didn't understand what I was reading. I had the King James Version and struggled to understand it. When quarantine restrictions began to lift, I was invited to go to church with a friend. It was a Presbyterian church that was too far away for me to consistently go to, and it didn't have anything for students/youth, so I found a church in Washington, PA, where the pastor poured into me, gave me free resources, and helped me take next steps. At sixteen years old I gave my life to Christ, but it took about a year before I really took it seriously and began to grow in my faith. Over time, it became more and more difficult to find a ride to go to church as it was too far for me to walk, and my family didn't support me going, so eventually I stopped attending. During my junior year of high school, I heard about a SOZO Outreach Club meeting after school, and it sparked my interest. At my school, Lincoln Park, there weren't many people that I knew who were Christians, so I was excited to meet people who were hungry for God. Through that meeting, I heard about Victory Family Church. Seeing my fellow classmates' joy and how they lived out their faith drew me in. Even though it was far from me, I wanted to attend their high school ministry, SOZO, so I got a ride with a friend and would eventually even take an Uber because nothing was going to keep me from coming. I began to really get plugged in. I had planned to get baptized after getting saved, but at the time, I was dating a girl who also went to the same church, and my parents thought I only wanted to get baptized because of her. They told me not to get baptized, so I decided to wait. SOZO had baptisms not long

after I began attending, so I finally got to be baptized a year later!

***Why do you feel like you're being called to full-time ministry?***

When I began serving regularly and getting more involved, I remember a thought popping in my head, "I could see myself doing this full time." I had never considered full-time ministry before. I didn't know what that even entailed. I spent a lot of time in prayer over it. When I was thinking about pursuing ministry, the main thing I saw was the hurt and problems of people close to me. My family and friends were going through a lot, and I knew how much God had helped me, so I wanted to reach out and help others who were going through those problems. I decided to pick the youth track because I know first-hand how vital knowing God is in these times where students are going through all different types of struggles.

***What drew you to the Internship Program?***

I wasn't planning on going into ministry. I was originally moving back to California with my mom and grandma, had a job lined up, and an apartment. I began praying a lot about what God put on my heart and over time, I felt peace about staying in PA and pursuing the Internship Program.

***What are some things you have learned while being in the Internship Program?***

The main thing is how to empower other people and knowing you can't do ministry alone. I've learned how to manage my time better. Most importantly, I believe it has helped me to grow in my faith. I am constantly being poured into, the staff is amazing, and the overall community within the Internship Program is close-knit, and we always enjoy hanging out with each other.

***What would you say to someone who is on the fence about applying for the Internship Program?***

I would definitely recommend it if you believe you're being called to full-time ministry. Pray about it. You're constantly learning new things and being poured into spiritually by everyone around you.





# Kingdom Builders *Partners 2023*

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plan.  
vision.  
*dream.*



By the grace of God and through the sacrifice of many, Victory Family Church has given away millions of dollars.

We support organizations that work to expand the Kingdom of God through our communities, nation, and around the world! If you're looking to step out in generosity, here are some ways you can do that!

- **Plan to give.** When you have plans and remain obedient, God celebrates with you. Whatever the amount is—stick to it.
- **Next, ask God to give you a vision for what He could do through you.** This requires a step of faith. Don't worry, God will supply all your needs. Stepping out in faith pleases Him. When you look at what He has in his hands, it goes to a different level!
- **Last, create a dream amount.** This number is between you and God. Watch as you take steps of faith because God will move you closer to your dream. He can do exceedingly abundantly more than all we can ask for or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). Remember: every gift matters to God. It's not the size, but the obedience that matters.

**OUR KINGDOM BUILDER GOAL FOR 2023 IS \$2.8 MILLION DOLLARS.**

Raising that amount ABOVE our offerings requires sacrificial giving from everyone. Don't wait! God's miracle is just on the other side of your faith.

Don't do  
the math  
*do your part.*

You're invited to help change the lives of people across the WORLD, locally, and inside the hearts of our future leaders through Kingdom Builders. Now is the time you can step up—invest your treasure, share the generosity, and grow out in faith. There is a supernatural power when everyone is involved.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO BE A PART OF THIS VISION!**

*MY GIVING GOAL*



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