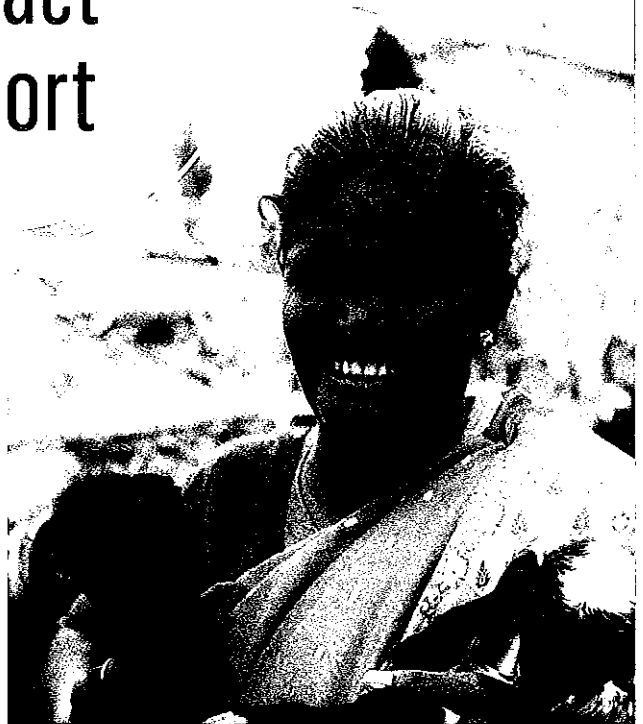
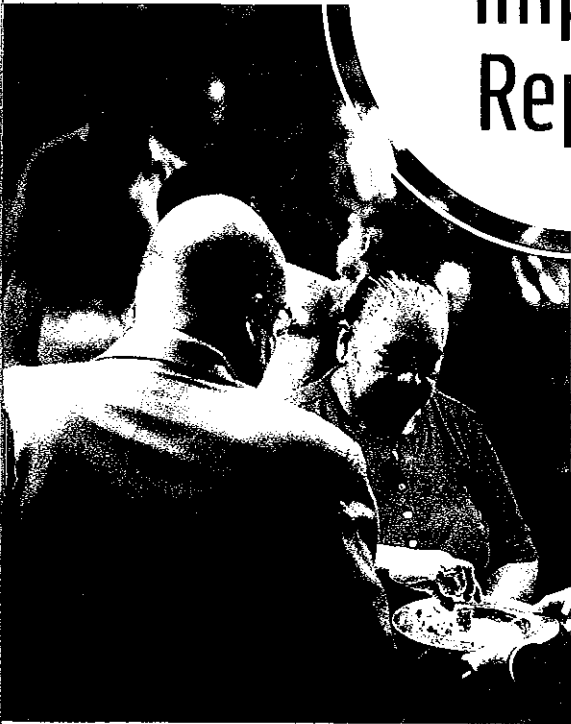




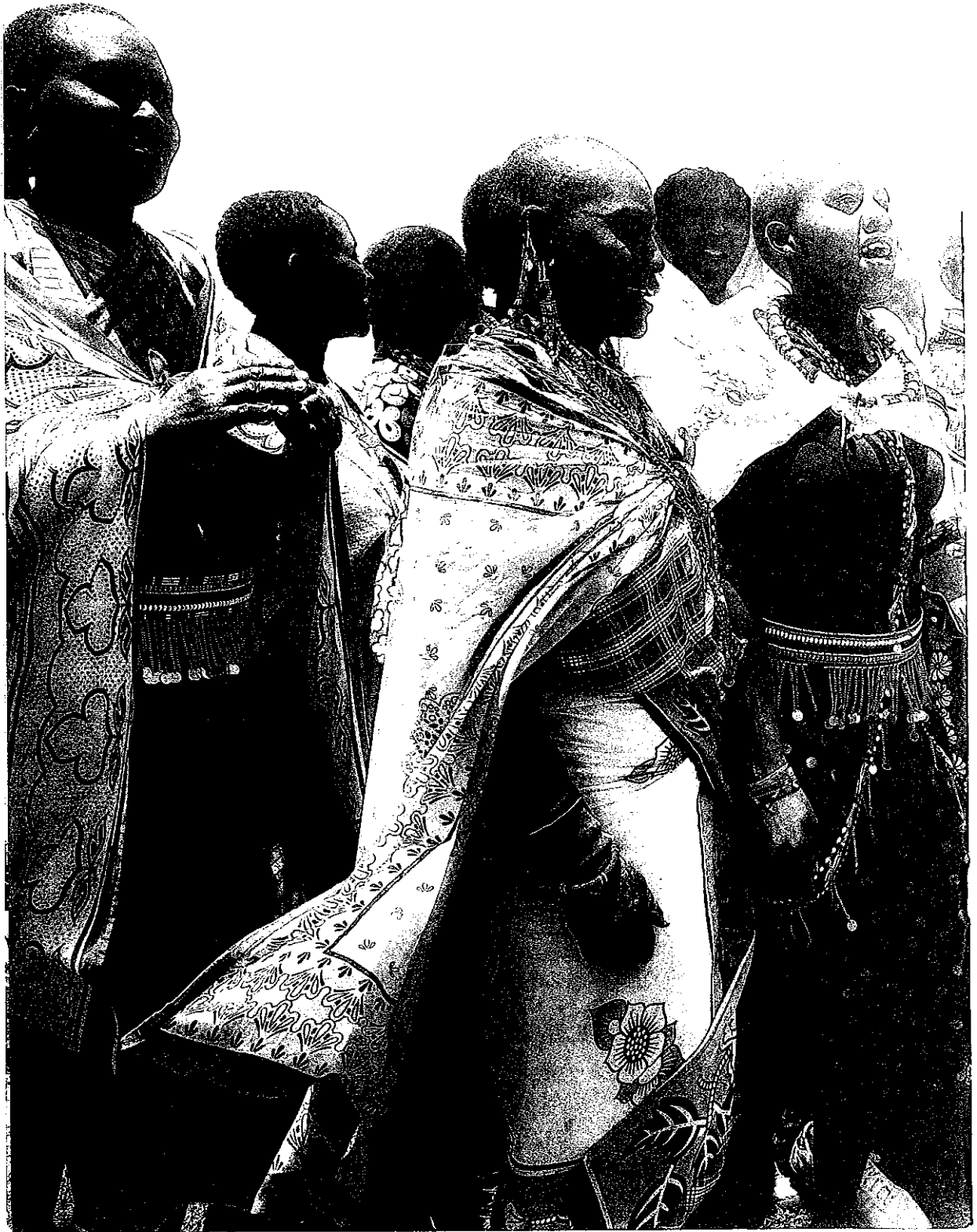
Ministry Impact Report



A celebration of faithful partnership and Christ's transforming work



October 2017-September



A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



Friends,

In these first few months as general secretary, I find myself continually humbled by the encouragement and support of you, our partners in ministry. Your prayers and generosity are changing lives.

In my role, I have the privilege of seeing firsthand how your gifts are making a difference in the lives of people both in North America and around the world. Church leaders are being empowered through RCA trainings and programs, missionaries are being supported and equipped to share the gospel, and previously unchurched people are coming to know Christ. Praise God!

In the following pages, you will find stories of people whose lives have been transformed. This is just a glimpse of what has been accomplished this past year. And it's all because of you!

On behalf of all those who are being served, changed, and transformed: thank you! I believe God is up to something truly significant in the RCA. I am grateful for the part you are playing in that.

In service together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Eddy Alemán". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Eddy Alemán
General Secretary

Rectify is supported by an RCA church planting residency and became an official RCA church plant in January.

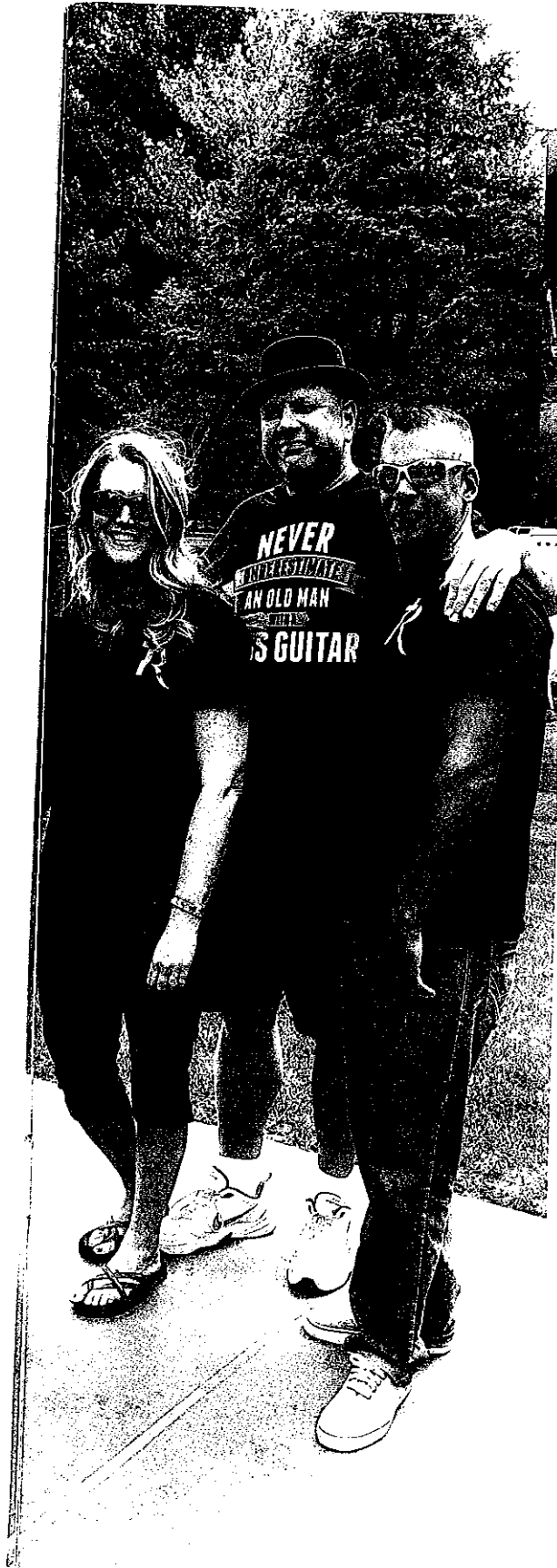
RCA minister Sarah Lindstrom saw a need for a different kind of church, so she spearheaded the planting of Rectify Church (RCA), a church focused on people who've been released from incarceration.

"There's something that comes with the label of 'felon' that's scary," says Lindstrom, who also serves as chaplain at the Allegan County Corrections Center in Michigan. "To break through that in an existing congregation would be very, very difficult."

Attendees include those who have done time and others who feel called to support them, sometimes because their own families have been affected by incarceration. It's a place where people are finding a new home in Christ.

"If you feel like you're an outcast, this place can fill in what you can't do for yourself," says an attendee.





RCA Church Multiplication by the numbers

11 new church plants in 2018.

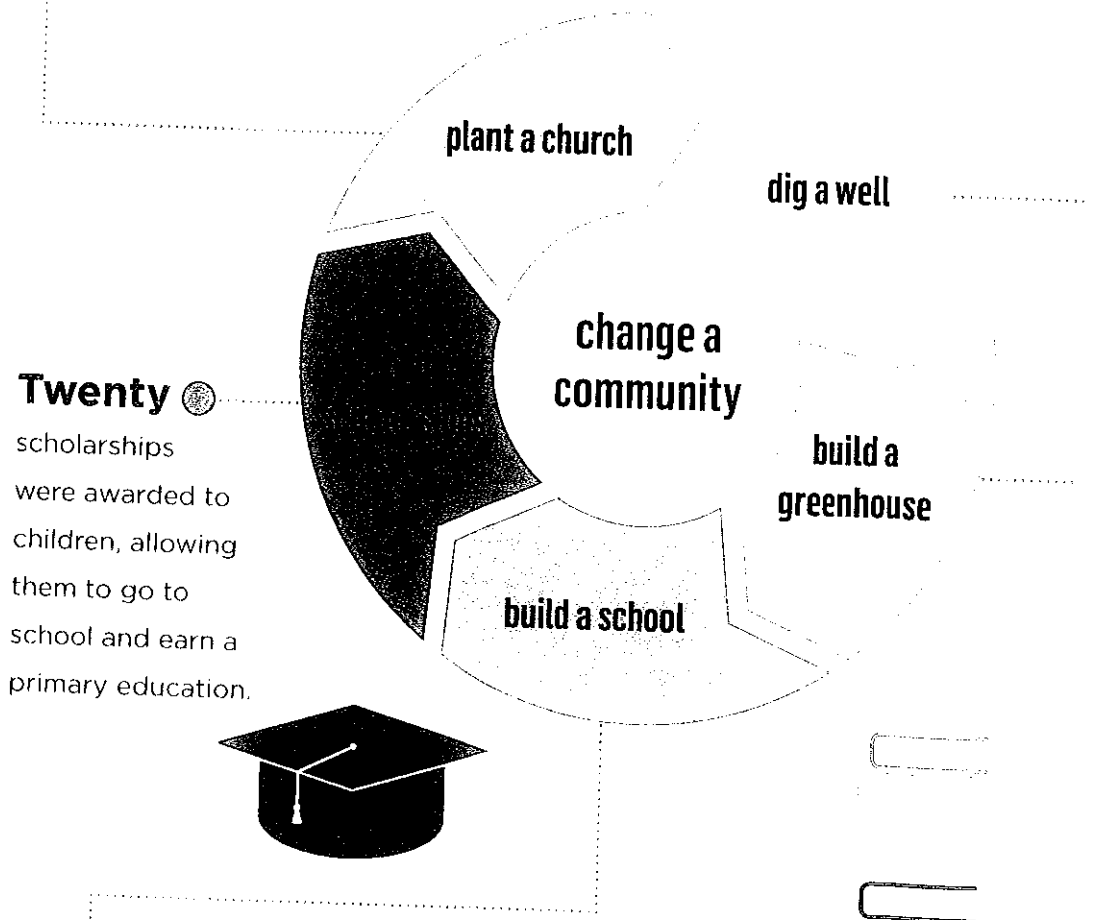
84 total church plants
since 2013, the beginning of
Transformed & Transforming.

More than **70** percent of
these church plants are ethnic
or multicultural congregations:
Vietnamese, Brazilian, Nepali,
Korean, Latino, and more.



Thanks to your generous gifts, the lives of Maasai children in Kenya are being changed, and future generations of the tribe are being impacted. Entire communities are being transformed by the gospel of Jesus.

Nine churches were planted in Maasailand this year. There are now **13,000** Maasai people worshipping at more than **120** churches.



● In the past year, **an additional primary school** was built. The school is expected to open in December 2018.



Two wells were dug in 2018, creating a total of **nine** wells for the Maasai people. Each well provides clean drinking water for the tribe, and the women and children no longer need to walk miles to access water.

Two greenhouses were built this year, bringing the total up to **eight**. A greenhouse provides access to fresh produce and equips local individuals with opportunity for economic development.



Scholarship recipients pay it forward by investing in the next generation

As children, Joyce and Stephen received scholarships to attend a Maasai primary school. Without the aid, they would not have been able to pay for and attend school.



Now, years after completing primary school and receiving their certificates, Joyce and Stephen are teaching at two of the Maasai primary schools. They are providing quality education for the next generation of Maasai children.

Our Transformed & Transforming team recently bore witness

to stories of transformation and change during the first five years of this ministry vision. We are grateful for more than 500 churches who have already engaged through disability advocacy, local missional and volunteer engagement, next generation collaborative work, creating discipleship cultures, or equipping leaders, to name a few.

You are part of this movement, this story God is writing. I thank God for your partnering with us as we co-labor with the Holy Spirit to bring God's kingdom to bear on earth as it is in heaven!



—Jill Ver Steeg, chief ministry officer



85 churches are intentionally engaging emerging leaders through Next Generation Engagement programs and materials.



21 high school students,
8 adults, 10 days in Cuba.

The outcome?

100-percent relation-based ministry.

Students from The Bridge (RCA) in Portage, Michigan, led a camp for their Cuban peers, high school students from the local Christian Reformed church

in Jaguey Grande. The students didn't just help with the camp, but they ran it, speaking in hour-long sessions, facilitating discussion groups, and leading morning devotions and evening wrap-up.

By day two of the trip, Cuban pastors were calling, saying, "What is going on here? Our kids are on fire! The Spirit is working!"





The Japanese American United Church (JAUC) in Manhattan, New York, recently celebrated Disability Awareness Sunday for the third year in a row. With the help of disability advocate Mana Hashimoto, a professional dancer and choreographer who is blind, the congregation is living into the RCA Disability Concerns motto that "everybody belongs, everybody serves."



In 2018, **139** students attended the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf in Jamaica. They learned sign language, received an education, and experienced the gospel for the first time through sign language.

After attending an RCA Disability Concerns training event this past fall, Hashimoto and another JAUC member are now equipped with ideas on how to better care for the older members in their congregation, as well as those with other disabilities. In an Asian culture in which disability is often shrouded with stigma, silence, and shame, JAUC is bringing the conversation to light in their church, in their city, and with loved ones in Japan.

India

12,571 audio Bibles were distributed in **28** different languages.

Approximately **100,500** people in India have now heard God's Word in their native tongue, that is, their heart language.

This year, audio Bibles were recorded in **five** new languages.



Samikannu was one of the first recipients to receive an audio Bible through World Cassette Outreach of India, our national partner in India. When asked about the impact of his Bible, he folded his hands—palms lacking fingers—and continually ushered thanks and expressed how much joy he has every time he turns on his audio Bible.

Faith Community Reformed Church
in Stickney,



Illinois, heard Samikannu's story during their VBS week. The kids decided to raise money for two audio Bibles. Each day, they brought in coins and dollar bills, eager to send a life-changing audio Bible.

By the end of the week, enough money for 35 audio Bibles was raised, allowing everyone in a small leper village to have their own audio Bible. Now these recipients can hear God's Word whenever they want!





Mozambique

3,080 audio Bibles were distributed in 2018.

86 Bible stories were recorded in Tewe and Sena.

2 New Testament recordings in the Tewe language and **1** Old Testament recording in the Makua language





Worldwide

400 Bible translation projects are underway with Bible Societies, one of the RCA Global Mission's partner organizations.

300 Bible translators and consultants from **51** countries were trained this year.

While traveling in South America, RCA missionary Brian Renes attended a very special celebration for the arrival of God's Word to the Suriname Javanese people in their heart language.



There was much excitement and anticipation as the Bible was carried toward the front of the room in silent reverence. After the celebration, copies of the Bible were dispersed, finally in the recipients' native language.

"I wonder how many hours were spent in the subsequent days exploring the Bible, amazed to be reading it in their native language," says Renes. "What an amazing thing!"



She is Called/Ella es Llamada

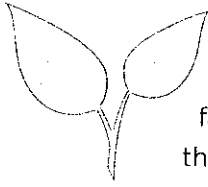
At the invitation of women from Iglesia Nueva Esperanza (RCA) in Mesa, Arizona, **50** women gathered for a two-day bilingual event. Congregational leaders received training, and all participants experienced deep spiritual transformation and renewal, connecting with God and each other.



10 new groups are engaging in a year-long women's leadership collaborative, and there is great interest in regional trainings in the New York and Toronto areas.

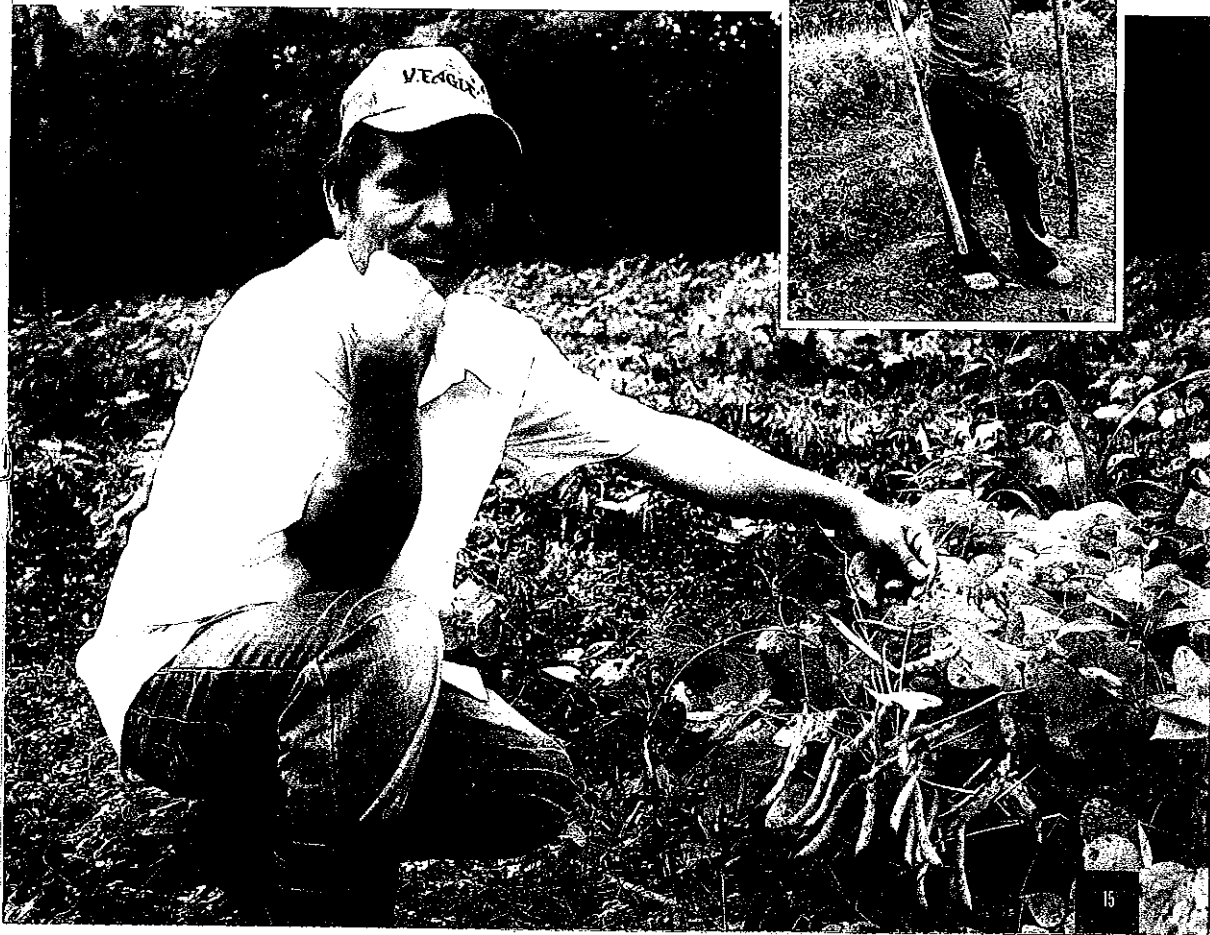
Thanks to you, **1,532** women have been empowered and equipped through Women's Transformation and Leadership trainings and events.





28 farmers graduated from the farming program through the Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua (CEPAD). These farmers are now able to provide better nutrition and income for their families, and they are teaching their neighbors to do the same.

Each year, CEPAD farmers are required to begin "disciplining" another farmer in their community. They pass on all of the skills and techniques they have learned, help their mentee learn to apply them, and use crops from their own farm to get them started. The duo uses seeds from the previous harvest to begin planting more than a dozen new crops and grafting trees so that they can take root and begin producing fruit sooner. This means every year farmers are planting for the first time with fertilized and enriched soil from composting.



160 children receive a nutritious lunch six days a week through Tabitha House Bluefields in Nicaragua. In a place where **42** percent of the children do not finish primary school, this program encourages the children to stay in school. Additionally, struggling parents are relieved of financial pressure, and the children receive gospel truth each day.



“I’ve seen a lot of change because of this feeding place, because of sharing the Word. The gospel in them is helping these children to become a new person.”

—Pastor Adrian Bobb-Kelly, missionary in Bluefields, Nicaragua

Setshabelo Family and Child Services is the first national black child protection agency in South Africa. It addresses the challenges of orphans and vulnerable children by mobilizing area faith communities. Its unique approach seeks to shift away from institutional care— orphanages—and instead develop family-based models for a child's care.



36 children were adopted into South African families.

127 children were placed in loving foster homes.

47 children were reunified with their families.

357 families participated in the Family Preservation program.



The Nqabeni family adopted Lehlohonolo through Setshabelo Family and Child Services. The boy, abandoned at birth, is now thriving in the care of a loving family and a safe home.





Dear friends and partners,



Even as I step into this new venture, I'm aware how valuable it has been to have your support sustain us this year. Maria, Irma, and Harvey devastated millions of people in the United States, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Because of your big hearts, over one million dollars was raised to bring about restoration.

Additionally, your gifts have provided God's Word in people's heart languages, medical doctors on the Amazon River, missionary training to national partners, food and resources for sustainable agriculture, refugee care, and access to clean water to partners around the world. Your stewardship of your resources makes lasting differences in the lives of people whom the RCA serves. I can personally attest to the difference your gifts make in these communities.

Thank you for giving of yourselves this year. What a beautiful way to be the hands and feet of Jesus in these hard places! May God bless you richly!

—JP Sundararajan,
director of Global Mission

In the last year:

1,567 volunteers have served locally and globally.

Nearly **829** volunteers have helped those in need after disaster strikes.

This year, **611** volunteers answered the call for disaster response in the wake of hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

In partnership with World Renew Disaster Response Services, **129** homes have been repaired and rebuilt in Florida and Texas.



St. Thomas:

450 families received hot meals two or three times per week after Hurricane Irma made landfall.

500 hurricane preparedness kits were assembled at St. Thomas Reformed Church to help people who are unable to stock up on food before a hurricane.



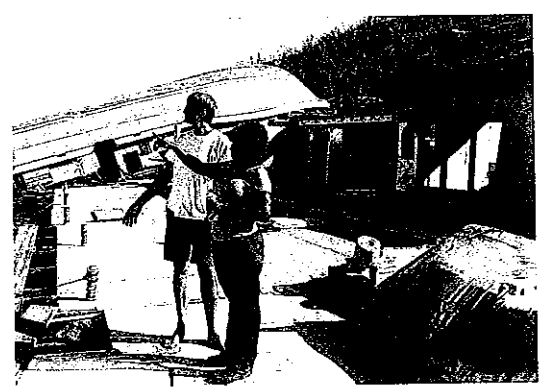


In the last year, you helped raise **one million dollars** for disaster response. Because of your generous giving, thousands of people received immediate relief, and thousands more will be better prepared for the next natural disaster.

140 people received food, water, shelter, and assistance rebuilding their homes after Hurricane Harvey wreaked havoc in Houston.

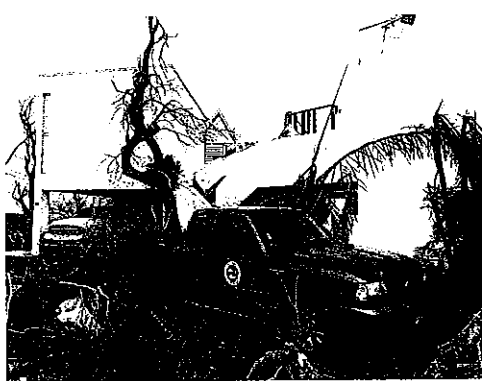


35 underserved, at-risk children participate in a daily afterschool program at St. Thomas Reformed Church, as they continue to suffer the long-term effects of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.



280 homes have been repaired and rebuilt.

1,000 care packages were delivered to vulnerable neighborhoods.



Ontario, Canada: Restorations Second Stage Homes

5 survivors of sex trafficking are being mentored, supported, and safely housed.

Puerto Rico

The RCA and Aqua Clara partnered to supply **400** water filters to those affected by Hurricane Maria, providing **10,000** people with access to clean water.

Oaxaca, Mexico

The RCA and Aqua Clara partnered to supply **200** water filters in the wake of the Chiapas earthquake, giving **600** people clean water. After the earthquake, many water supply sources were contaminated by waste.

Brazil

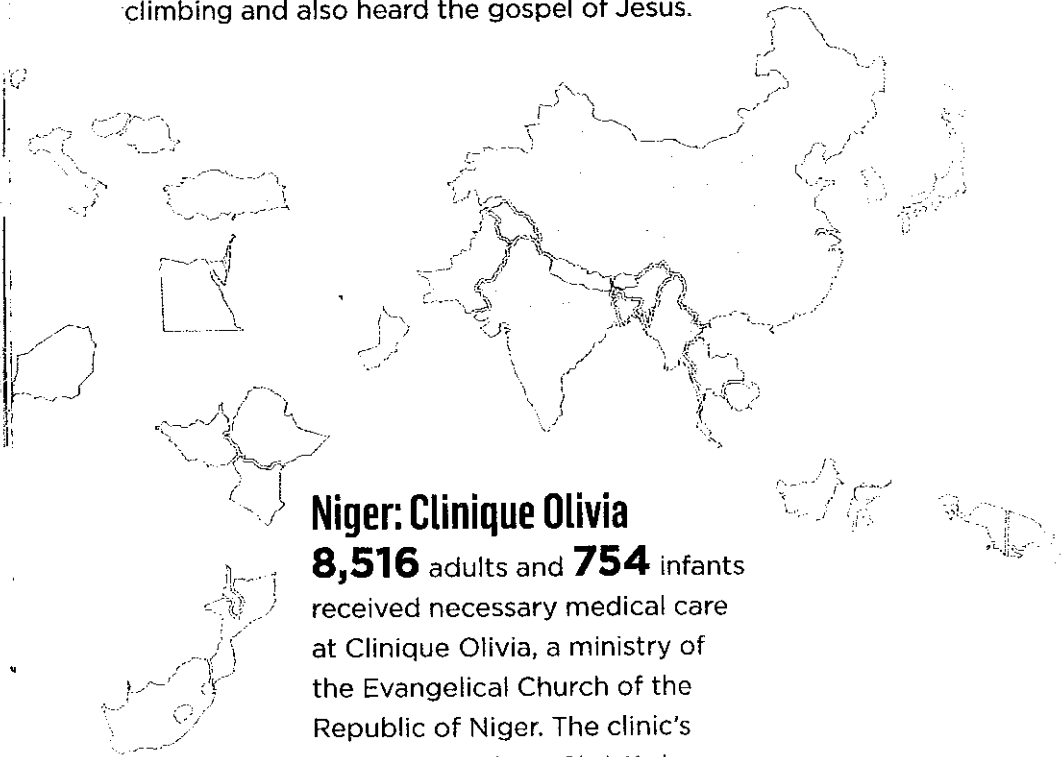
26 medical and dental boat trips were made on the Amazon. **9,300** people received medical care.

Where RCA Global Mission is at work in the world

48 missionaries • 41 partner personnel
78 active partnerships • 93 active projects

Romania: Fara Limite Climbing Gym

30 kids attended summer camp in a largely secular community. They enjoyed rock climbing and also heard the gospel of Jesus.

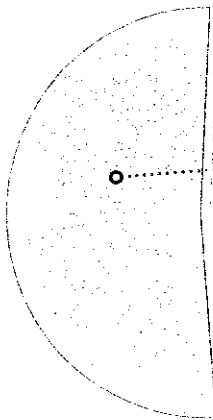


Niger: Clinique Olivia

8,516 adults and **754** infants received necessary medical care at Clinique Olivia, a ministry of the Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger. The clinic's mission is to share Christ's love through high quality care and training in places where medical care is not available.

* Shaded regions depict places of RCA outreach and impact.

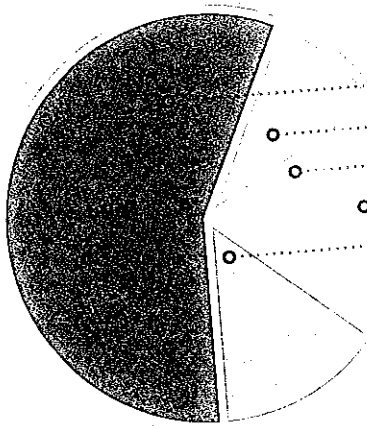
2018 INCOME SOURCES



Fiscal Year 2018		
Contributions and Grants	\$10,598,357	52%
Assessments	\$6,626,663	33%
Other Income*	\$3,127,729	15%
TOTAL INCOME	\$20,352,749	

*Includes investment earnings and fees for services provided to related entities

2018 EXPENSES



Fiscal Year 2018		
Mission	\$10,614,302	57%
Leadership	\$1,950,796	10%
Discipleship	\$460,764	3%
Work of General Synod*	\$2,964,939	16%
General Operations	\$2,657,072	14%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,647,873	

*Includes GSC, General Synod, RCT Today, and general secretary's office

These figures represent unaudited financial results. Our financial statements are audited by Capin Crouse, LLP, and final audit results will be available at www.rca.org/finance.

Thank you for your loyal support of the RCA! I'm pleased

to share the financial results from our 2017-2018 fiscal year with you. Your contributions, along with assessments and other income, provided the RCA with the resources needed to carry out the work of Transformed & Transforming and the work of the denomination. The RCA's total income was \$20.3 million and expenses totaled \$18.6 million. This resulted in a net income of \$1.7 million, of which \$1.4 million represented additions to property and equipment, donor restricted funds, and endowed funds. The remaining \$300,000 was added to the operating reserve.



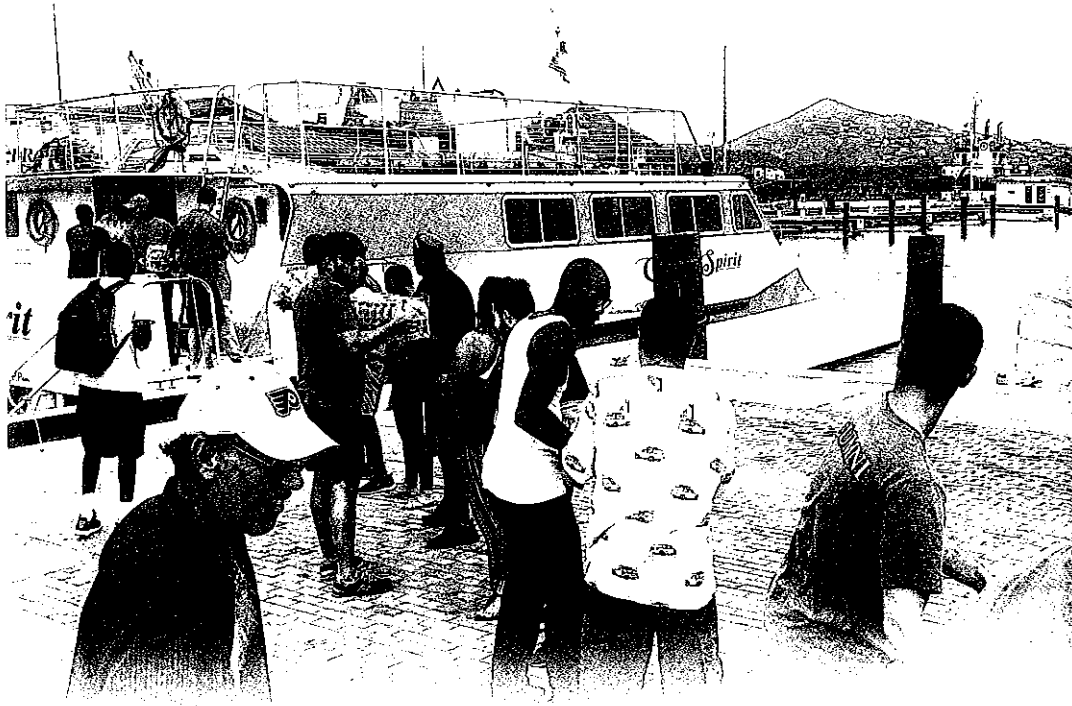
Looking back on the past year, I'd like to highlight some ways that your contributions have supported the RCA. Your faithful donations to the RCA Ministry Fund exceeded our expectations and grew compared to last year. Your consistent support for RCA missionaries and RCA Global Mission projects enabled the RCA to continue serving around the world. Because of your generous gifts toward the RCA's disaster response efforts, we were able to quickly and effectively assist communities hit hard by hurricanes, earthquakes, and wildfires.

During this year, the Michigan Regional Center renovations—funded through your donations to the Called Campaign—were completed and placed into service. It has been exciting to see leaders, churches, and classes use these new spaces for events and meetings. Thank you for this new space!

We are truly thankful for your generosity and are committed to careful stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

Gratefully,
Jillisa Teitsma
Chief financial officer





The RCA's 15-year strategic vision is called Transformed & Transforming because when we are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be transforming agents in the world around us. You have been a transforming agent by supporting the ministries and mission of the RCA in 2018. I hope you have been moved by the examples of transformation in this impact report as you entered into the lives of the people who have been changed because you gave.



I'm sure you've noticed that this year's annual donor report has also been transformed. Not only is it a new size and design, but you won't find your name listed. Research indicates most people prefer to read about the impact of their giving, so we are introducing the Ministry Impact Report. (You can find the list of last year's donors at www.rca.org/ministryimpact.)

Thank you for your generosity, and please feel free to provide me with your feedback regarding this new format. You can email me at kneewel@rca.org.

Blessings,
Ken Neevel
Director of Development and Facilitation

The mission and ministry of the RCA cannot be done without you. There is more transforming work to be done, and we invite you to continue this journey with us. Thank you for your support!

Please use the provided envelope to send your gift via mail.

To donate online visit
www.rca.org/ministryimpact.

By phone (U.S. only): Call Terri Boven
at 616-541-0835.

By mail: Please send your check,
made out to "Reformed Church
in America" and designated "RCA
Ministry Fund" or to "RCA Global
Mission" to:

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Reformed Church in America
Attn: Finance Dept.
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Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Canada

Regional Synod of Canada
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8

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or the RCA Ministry
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giving envelope. If you don't
designate your gift, we will
apply it toward the greatest
need.

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