



## **2022 Annual Report**

**We are.....living in a relationship with Jesus 24.7.365.**

**To.....help people take their next step in their faith journey.**

## Gospel Friends (Chennai, India)

COTC has committed to tithing the church's 10% back into ministries we believe are doing God's work. As a part of the 10% we have dedicated 3% of our tithes to go directly to Gospel Friends. We are also a hub for other entities to send monies to send directly to Ghuna and his ministry. This past year we gave Gospel Friends and Ghuna a total of \$44,549.09 in both designated donations and the committed tithes percentage. 2022 has been a great year for Gospel Friends and Ghuna. Here are some of the events your generous donations have allowed us to participate in. They host 120 girls in the paramedical college of nursing and feed over 200 people daily from the common mess. They also support women in a sewing school and help to provide machines for regular income. Ghuna conducted family conferences for 50 pastors in Madurai. The compound continues to have electricity issues and the solar system does help to some extent. They have been told the well water is not consumable and they need to draw their water directly from a borewell that will require a \$1,000.00 pump to access it. The Bible College continues to teach and lecture with 324 baptisms. Ghuna performed a marriage and ended up baptizing 22 people while there. Gospel Friends celebrated Christmas in 15 places and Ghuna traveled over 5,000 kilometers. Over 6,000 people were given new clothes and fed with a delicious meal. Ghuna and all his staff thank you COTC for all the souls you have invested in.





## Haiti Orphanage

We sent \$1,000.00 each month to support this orphanage and it's residents. These funds provide daily help in feeding, clothing, and educating 14 children that would not have access to any of this in their lives outside the home.



## Operation Christmas Child

Samaritan's Purse collected 10.5 million shoebox gifts worldwide in 2022. Some of these boxes went to the unreached people of Himba, deaf children in Namibia, and to boys and girls in Suriname where Teens are sharing the Good News with their peers and teaching The Greatest Journey. COTC sent 48 boxes out into the world this past year to children less fortunate.

## Craft Fair

This past year's Maker's Market was once again a great success! We opened the church property up to over 60 vendors in a wide range of expertise and crafts. This "out of the box" event spent \$2,062.99 but raised \$7,386.14 in funds that the church was able to use where needed. We also set up a prayer tent and had the opportunity to pray with people from all over the country! Amen, to God be the glory!



## Other Missions

COTC supports 4 missionaries and their families who serve at **Children's Bible Ministries and Tuckaleechee Retreat Center** with a total of \$850.00 per month. This past year COTC poured \$10,200.00 into 5 individuals: Jim & Peggy Steele, Daryl Shriner, Jaelynn Woullard, and Wesley Grizzard. The purpose of CBM is teaching



the Bible, evangelizing the unreached, discipling believers of all ages, encouraging and equipping them for active service for Jesus Christ in their community, the local church and on to the world. They are comprised of 13 camps across the U.S that specialize in homeschool enrichment programs, sports ministries, creation education and wilderness programs. They also help serve beside the local church with Released Time Bible Education, after school Bible clubs and Bible correspondence lessons. 40,194 people were reached with the Gospel. 566 reported salvations, 8,882 campers, 8,053 attendee at CBM Hosted events, 18,566 Released Time students, 252 Bible Club students, 164 schools reached in 41 counties in 10 states. Your donations have reached 68,527 souls in 8 countries and 22 states in the U.S. and have been a part of 5,098 professions of faith!



Amy Easterlin is a field project manager currently serving in Africa with **Wycliffe Bible Translators**. Amy partners with national Bible translators to reach the

remaining 300+ bible languages in Nigeria. Through her partnerships, translation projects are developed to meet the most urgent spiritual needs of the Church and language communities. As the Church in Nigeria is built up in the Word, it is strengthened and equipped to reach the lost. The church has pledged \$50.00 per month to Amy's ministry for a total last year of \$600.00.



## Other Missions

**Harbours Gate** is your neighborhood life enrichment outreach, focused on triage, prevention and community development in distressed communities where many others do not want to go. We do this by transforming lives through restoring hope, healing and purpose for individuals, children, families and communities. COTC designated \$100 per month for a total of \$1,200.00 last year to support the efforts of this local ministry.



Awakening Ministries International strives to reach the lost, develop leaders' and serve as a catalyst to plant churches in unreached places around the world. In

Sierra Leone 241,644 people heard the word, 39,172 people accepted Jesus, 339 water baptisms were performed, and 14 churches were planted. In Ecuador 23,754 people were reached, with 5,914 salvations, 172 healings and 360 deliverances. They also educated, trained and developed 17 evangelists over the past year. COTC backed Will Jones and his ministry by sending \$100.00 per month for a 2022 total of \$1200.00.

**Gene Douglas By Faith Ministries** - We poured \$1200.00 into Gene and his team who preached in 35 churches this past year helping with services and revivals. They also preached in 41 various places like the Lamar County Crusade, Rehab Centers, Youth Conferences, children's events, Hell Fighter Event, Gun Shows, community events as well as in Africa. They also participated in 13 Outreach events in several states where he prayed with tornado victims and served them. Gene provided and cooked food for a crisis pregnancy center as a fund raiser. They visited parks in Hattiesburg, Ellisville, and Laurel to share and show the love of Christ by giving away food and drinks. They fed and reached out to 500 inmates at the George County Satellite Prison.



**CROSSVILLE MISSION**  
Bible Training Center

In 2022 COTC was honored to be able to support **Crossville Mission Bible Training Center** by sending \$7,866.96 to help the staff and residents with their everyday needs as well as Christmas. This is a regular one day mission trip on the COTC calendar. Be looking for the next mission trip!

In 2022, almost 70 men and women came through the doors of CMBTC, and although not all of those stayed to complete the program, each one of those precious people were housed, fed, clothed, ministered to and loved on with the love of Jesus! Each one encountered the goodness of God through His people and His provision! Each one heard the uncompromised Word of God and seeds were sown into their lives.

As our annual graduation banquet approaches, we are praising God for the 12 graduates of the Residential Program and 4 graduates of the Staff Training! Out of those 16 total graduates, 11 have taken additional ministry commitments of one year to give back to others what was so freely given to them.

Speaking of "free" ... this program continues to be 100% free to all who are willing, because the Good News of Jesus Christ is 100% free to all who will receive. But though they may be free, they are still costly. Our salvation cost Jesus at the cross, and this program costs those who so generously support the life-changing work happening here at CMBTC. Generous followers of Jesus like YOU!

Thank you for loving Jesus enough to support us! Thank you for loving us enough to visit us and invite us to visit you! And although we have shared our "statistics" for the year with you, we won't truly know until eternity the Impact your generosity has had in the lives of each image bearer our Father saw fit to bring through the doors of CMBTC in 2022. May God bless you abundantly as you all have been such a blessing to us!

The Staff & Residents of Crossville Mission Bible Training Center are full of gratitude for our Church of the Cove family and your support!





**The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews** is the largest and most effective ministry providing Christians with opportunities to fulfill biblical prophecy by supporting Israel and the Jewish people with lifesaving aid. This organization runs four separate ministries out of its hub. Guardians of Israel provides security measures in hospitals, synagogues and other Jewish Institutions. Isaiah 58 alleviates poverty by delivering on the ground care, food and support to Holocaust survivors and impoverished Jews. On Wings of Eagles fulfills the biblical prophesy of making Aliyah (immigrating to Israel). Stand for Israel builds bridges between people of faith through educational resources, teaching Christians about the roots of the Jewish faith. We gave \$1200.00 last year to help those less fortunate and in need.



**Jewish Voice** meets real needs of Jewish families and communities in Jesus name to earn the right to share the Good News of their Messiah. We believe this faith not only transforms their life and eternity but is also the key to fulfilling their calling as God's Chosen People.

When you give to Jewish Voice, you give the Good News of Jesus the Messiah and much-needed humanitarian aid, such as clean water and medical, dental and eye care to struggling and hurting Jewish people around the globe. Your gift truly changes their lives, both now and for eternity.

COTC was blessed to be able to support this world-wide ministry by investing \$3,600.00 this past year so that every Jew has the opportunity to know that God has a plan for them which includes Jesus The Messiah. NO Jewish person is too far away either spiritually or geographically to experience God's hope and salvation.

## Outreach Ministries

**Disaster Relief** - Most of the \$10,280.75 COTC invested into disaster relief was used to support Helping His Hands out of Vincennes, IN. They used our donations to help families in Kentucky and in the hurricane Ian area with clean-up, recovery and rebuilding. They also provided supply runs that helped 20,000 people with the basics that are needed on a daily basis. One semi truck can carry up to \$250,000 worth of supplies.



**Food Pantry 1\*5\*3**— This is COTC's once a month community ministry that opens the doors the first Saturday of every month to those less fortunate and in need of food. This past year we received a \$2,500.00 Food Lion grant to support this outreach ministry, which has allowed us to supplement the food we hand out with fresh produce, meat and milk products. We served a total of 138 people in 2022. At the same time each month we opened the Clothing Closet allowing everyone the opportunity to shop for gently used clothes, household products and medical equipment that has been donated to the church.

**Breaking Bread (Fellowship)** - Each Wednesday evening we open the doors to the church and community and serve a hot meal for anyone that shows up. We collected your donations totaling \$1858.50 and spent \$5112.96 for all the meals. Currently we are averaging approximately 30 people each week at our Breaking Bread and Prayer services on Wednesday evenings.





## Worship

God has grown our Worship Ministry in 2022! He has added depth to our band, vocals, and media ministry! Most importantly, He has shown up in a supernatural way in our time together in worship!!

We were blessed to have Evan Egerer lead us in worship at the Amphitheater. And because of that blessing, Evan decided to come again and lead worship for us at our Sunday morning services! WordPlayers have become an annual part of our Christmas Celebration that we look forward to! Our kids and some adults treated us to the story of George Mueller along with some sweet caroling!

Our 20th Celebration was an amazing day full of praises to our Father!! The tent was filled with praises and thankfulness for our Lord and what He has done at and through The Cove!!

Home folks and guests alike have shared how Holy Spirit has spoken to them as we worship in song. People have been challenged to love God more and challenged to be in that intimate relationship He desires from us.

We spent \$4,112.88 this past year that allowed us to upgrade various aspects of this ministry to enhance your worship experience. We are excited about where God has brought us and where He is taking us! Thank you, Cove, for your support of and prayers for this vital ministry in The life of our church!



## Cove Kidz

2022 was a very exciting year for **Cove Kidz**! All of our classes have continued to grow during this year and all our events were well attended, Cove Country Fair had the biggest attendance we have ever had. All of this means we are telling more children about the word of God which is always our goal.

We have also started a major renovation of our older two classrooms to make them able to accommodate the larger classes and have a fresher cleaner look that has created a better learning atmosphere for our students. We have had several events for our older kids to help bond them together and strengthen their friendships as a group for when they move out of our ministry.

This past year the CoveKidz team spent \$12,582.60 of their budget to pour into the education of our children. We also took in designated funds that allowed us to make upgrades and improvements to all of the classrooms. Thank you COTC!





## Cove Students

There has been new life breathed into the **Cove Student ministry** lately with the new faces we've seen this year, and are excited to have many graduating out of the children's program into the youth later this year. You, COTC have been a part of this ministry by allowing this ministry to use your tithes of \$5,102.36 this past year. Because of your giving and the support of the church, the future is bright for the students of the Church of the Cove. Your support allows us to continue to go on weekend retreats, events and summer camps where our students have the chance to be challenged and to encounter God. Every Sunday night we provide a safe place where kids can come and have a good meal, play games, and grow spiritually. Our most important need is constant prayer for our leaders and the students. This age group is being pulled in every direction by our culture and it is not an easy thing to navigate through as a teenager. Pray that God will continue to grow our student ministry and change many lives in our community through it.

## Young Adults

Our **Young Adults** life group here at the Cove have had a great year! We have been able to fellowship and grow together weekly. We've had a parenting workshop that has now turned into a weekly study and life group. With the much needed help of many of our beloved church members, we have overcome a huge obstacle with providing childcare during our gatherings. We are grateful to everyone who volunteers their time and energy. We hope to be able to provide even more growing workshops this year with events including a marriage retreat. Thank you for giving faithfully and keeping our young adults and their families in your prayers. We believe the key to the life and the future of the church is this group of individuals. These children are involved in church because of their parents, and as the church, we should be grateful for their commitment to bringing their families up in the Lord.

# Special Events

2022 was a year filled with special events. We laughed and had a lot of fun at our Valentine's Celebration. We said Good Bye to many of our friends as they moved away to be closer to their families. We were able to open the doors to host groups that stayed on the property while doing ministry in our community. Pastor Darren took us through the Seder Passover meal and explained the significance of each item. Once again we supported the nation wide National Day of Prayer where our local government joins the community in prayer.





## Next Steps

Next Steps is how we perform the mission of the Church of the Cove to see everyone who attends become fully devoted followers of Jesus. Next Steps consists of 2 sessions where we equip people to: connect to the church; discover the strengths of their purposeful design and; develop their God-given gifts to make a difference in the lives of others. New sessions begin every other month.

This past year we had at least 18 people attend the Next Steps sessions and become covenant members of the Church of the Cove. We spent \$874.34 in supplies and food this past year. God created each of us for a purpose and supplied us with gifts for serving others and the Church of the Cove Next Steps mission is just that.



## Budget / Finances

While preparing the budget for 2023 the Stewardship Team had many things to consider. Forecasts for a downturn in the economy, increases in inflation, political & social turmoil, and uncertainties in the job markets; then factor in the recent giving trends, the building project, and all the various needs of all the church ministries. After compiling the data, surveying the landscape, and filtering out the noise, then we had to meet with our Heavenly Father in order to fill each line item with a number. I believe this Team was found faithful in accomplishing the task.

To begin we will look at a summary of the Bank Accounts for 2022, we began the year with \$288,886.62 in our Operating Fund and finished the year at \$333,697.58 for a net increase of \$44,810.96. The Vision Fund increased dramatically having started 2022 at \$433,578.88 and ending with a balance of \$749,003.72 and that's a net increase of \$315,424.84. Total in Church of the Cove's bank accounts now sits at \$1,094,928.54 up from \$737,849.02. That's over \$350,000 more in the bank today than this time last year, the Lord is truly working.

When it comes down to it, we believe that this year as was last year is a time to invest, last year we hired part-time staff to work in the Children's Ministry and the growth has certainly been noteworthy. CoveKidz filled all the extra space we had so we moved some things around and made more space available. But the demand for more space is once again at the top of our list of needs. The challenge now before us is to creatively acquire more room to accommodate a growing Children's Department. One of the largest steps of faith we are making this year is to bring on a full-time employee dedicated to leading our Children. This is a huge wow for our church.

We expect this growth to continue and either directly or indirectly affect every aspect of the church. Therefore we must be ready in all areas for growth, which means we can't stay where we are and we must continue to invest in our people and resources. That's why we spent \$215,358.87 equipping the saints so we can help each person walking through those doors take their next step with Jesus. We are allocating funds to everything from the Sunday Experience to Breaking Bread to Life Groups. Discipleship is more than a motto, it's an investment.

But what about those who will never set foot on this campus (without a little



friendly persuasion)? Locally we are holding events to try and reach those folks on the hills and in the hollows; craft fairs, turkey shoots, pantry/clothing closet, grief support, music events, and 3 large children's events were just a few of the ways we are trying to communicate the Good News in our backyard and we expect all these efforts to grow in 2023.

That's not counting the many benevolence opportunities God brings to us, plus in the surrounding areas we are supporting ministries whose mission it is to help folks trying to recover from addictions, and ministries working with children in camp settings. Now working from under our very own roof is a mission thrust that is connecting and coordinating mission opportunities, bringing mission sites together with missionaries. As Global Link is in its infancy we are providing needed funding to them with the vision of "Linking" needs with opportunities. AMI, Haiti, India, Africa, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Israel are just a few of the ministries and places we have invested in this year as we seek every opportunity to reach one more soul for the Kingdom. We support evangelists, translators, church plants, orphanages, and local pastors. That's a \$181,000.00 investment in 2022 when you combine designated and undesignated offerings for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Everything comes with a cost, so in order to realize our calling we need to invest in this campus so it will be a model of stewardship to those looking in. We spent around \$110,000.00 keeping the church up and running with support staff, utilities, equipment, maintenance, and supplies. God has provided us with an amazing place to worship and serve, so as the world drives by on Highway 321, we are positioned to be a light of the Gospel.

In summary, it's been a good year, an encouraging year. This local body of Christ has not arrived but we are striving to be all He has called us to be. We are proudly investing in our people to position Church of the Cove for the years ahead. We believe the Lord has led us to step out in faith and build facilities that will house all the ministries He has called us to lead. The amphitheater is only the beginning of that vision and it's going to be exciting realizing the potential of that venue. As we delve deeper into 2023 the challenges are great but our God is greater. But may we never let a building or a recession or a problem cause us to lose sight of leading people to live in a relationship with Jesus 24/7. The best is yet to come!

## Life Groups

### Find Freedom

Life Groups are how we help people take the second step of their spiritual journey. After we Know God, and God gets us out of Egypt, we Find Freedom and let God get Egypt out of us. This happens in the community that exists in Life Groups.

### Mission

Life Groups exist to help deepen our relationship with Jesus as we build community with each other.

### Biblical Model

In the New Testament, we see how small groups of people meeting together helped lay the foundation for tremendous growth in the first church. Following that model, we have determined Church of the Cove would be a church **OF** Life Groups, not a church **WITH** Life Groups. The distinction is truly remarkable.

### God's Work

Last year, the total number of Life Groups grew from 10 to 14. There were 133 people enrolled in Life Groups. At least one Life Group was meeting on 5 out of the 7 days in the week.

We have 3 Life Group goals for 2023: 1) add at least 4 more Life Groups, 2) enroll at least 20 people who are currently not involved in a Life Group, and 3) ensure that we are offering the kinds of Life Groups that will help people find freedom as they experience the “DNA” of a Life Group.

The “DNA” of a Life Group is ESPN. By that we mean that Life Groups Encourage each other, are impacted by Scripture, Pray with and for each other, and help each other take the Next step in their walk with Jesus.

The stories of how the DNA of Life Groups is impacting lives are numerous. And truth be told, we will never know them all. Because of the love and support Life Group members experience, life change is happening. People are Finding Freedom in Jesus' Name.

Our Life Groups are running very efficiently and have only expensed \$92.26 in costs for 2022. That's very cost effective to help someone grow in their relationship with the Lord. Are you in a Life Group? If not, what's stopping you?





GRIEFSHARE – an outreach ministry available to anyone in our community who needs encouragement while walking on the journey of grief after the death of a dear friend or loved one!

During the past 4 years Church of the Cove has sponsored GriefShare sessions and ministered to 85 individuals. It has been a blessing to partner with Highland Manor Inn and use their conference center for our sessions. Also, in September of 2022 we held a mini-reunion potluck dinner on the river, where 11 invitees joined together to share how God has been working in their lives. The total cost invested in this ministry last year was \$1,623.95. With 35 attendees that comes out to less than \$50.00 per person.

In 2022 there were 35 individuals who participated in our variety of seminar sessions called "Loss of a Spouse", "Surviving the Holidays", and "From Mourning to Joy". Some of their feedback comments were:

- -"Tremendous impact offering hope & direction to move forward"
- -"The group was very helpful not intimidating, very comfortable"
- -"The facilitators' love & care of us as individuals was very evident"
- -"I appreciated the honesty of others during the discussion time"
- -"I was led to GriefShare & the impact helped my spirit. It's the only acceptable place to speak openly about grief, without feeling as if I shouldn't share with anyone"
- -"GriefShare helped me recognize that we can't avoid doing our grief work. Time alone can't heal the pain & void; only Jesus can"
- - "Knowing I'm not alone on this journey"

We've been blessed to have 4 faithful leaders on our team in 2022. However, we're praying for God to add to our team for 2023. Will you pray about joining us to minister to folks who are hurting?

As most of us are aware, we have been working to develop funding sources for the completion of the new sanctuary. Last year, we began the process of applying for a grant from Lasko Trust. These grants are made annually by Lasko to assist churches in the construction of worship sanctuaries. According to our estimates, Church of the Cove may be eligible for a grant consideration up to \$2.8 million of the estimated \$4.4 to \$4.5 million needed to complete and furnish the sanctuary. If approved, we will still need to cover the remaining gap between the amount of the grant and the final cost to complete construction – \$1.6 to \$1.7 million dollars assuming the grant equaled \$2.8 million.

As a prerequisite for applying for the grant, Lasko requires the applicant to have sufficient funds available, either cash on hand or approved lines of credit, to cover any gap in funding. Currently, Church of the Cove has approximately \$750 thousand in excess funds which have been earmarked for the construction of the sanctuary. After the application of the funds, we will still have a gap between \$850 and \$950 thousand given the numbers outlined above.

To cover the remaining gap, we applied for a line of credit with Wesleyan Financial which provides such loans to churches and other religious-based organizations. Unfortunately, this loan request was not granted at that time. The primary reasons given were:

- Wesleyan felt, at that point, tithings were not sufficient to service the loan;
- Being an independent, non-denominational church, we have no governing or oversight body to help support and guarantee the loan; and
- The estimated construction start/recommencement date (18 to 24 months) was too far in the future.

As a result, we were unable to apply for the grant in 2022; we are continuing our fundraising efforts in 2023 not only through grant applications but also through donations and pledges. Every dollar we



raise toward completion of the worship center is a dollar we do not have to borrow from a financial institution. Our goal and prayer is not to borrow a penny. The 2023 Lasko grant application period runs from June 1 through September 30. We are also praying about and seeking other available grants.

Please pray for God's wisdom and favor in the decisions which will have to be made by our elders and other church leaders. Above all, pray that God will lead us so that his Name will be honored and glorified.



### Technology/Media

Our Technology and Media team is essential and has become an integral part of our services. This team is responsible for the sound, announcement slides and sermon slides, as well as the online social media videos of the services. Thanks to your giving, we were able to spend \$1,158.02 to upgrade and mobilize all of these services outdoors for our 20th Anniversary Event. We were also able to better support our amphitheater services with upgraded technology and speakers. This team has also been able to consistently enhance all of our services and live streams throughout the year, which is a hand clap in itself. Finally, this team has been blessed with the addition of three indispensable new volunteers. The timing could not have been better and was all God as the Davis' welcomed their new baby and were not able to help for a while.

## Women's Life Groups

The Cove's Women's ministry has thrived this year!! We had several events that encouraged and challenged women in their walk with the Lord and gave opportunities to connect with other women. We had our first annual Titus 2 weekend that purposefully brought our young women and "seasoned" women together to learn from one another. We had an amazing time at Genesis Ranch! Our Overflow Women's weekend was a huge blessing, as it always is!! We had a total of 40 women participate. We ate, had amazing teaching from Shelby, laughed, cried, and ate some more!

We had other events throughout the year, including a night out for Mexican and a fun -filled night celebrating Christmas together. We ended that night packing care packages for the homeless we may encounter! We are so thankful for the support and participation in Overflow Ministry! Thank you for allowing the team to invest \$3,210.62 in the women of COTC! We expect God to do even greater things in 2023! If you are a woman and have not been involved , we want to invite you!! Overflow Team





## Global LINK

Global LINK is no longer an “idea” or a “soon-to-be” functioning non-profit! 2022 was the year Global LINK went LIVE! The “dream” is now a reality. Global Link was birthed out of Church of the Cove as a dream to connect others with limited resources to be able to reach the world for Jesus.

Here are seven highlights of 2022:

1. The website is up and running ([connectwithlink.org](https://connectwithlink.org)).
2. The Facebook page is active ([facebook.com/ConnectwithLINK](https://facebook.com/ConnectwithLINK)).
3. Marketing materials (brochures, pens, business cards, exhibit hall displays) are developed and are being used to share the word about Global LINK.
4. Our first teams were added to our database.
5. We made it possible for two teams to have a life-changing impact on others in 2022, and we worked with 2 other teams who will go and offer life-changing help to others in 2023.
6. Our first host sites were added to our database and started receiving help from teams.
7. Our first partners were added to our database in order to meet the specific logistical challenges that are keeping people from going and meeting the needs of others.

**Mission Statement:** Global LINK specializes in connecting organizations and individuals whose purpose is to meet the needs of others.

**Core Values:** L-I-N-K

**L**ove all

**I**ndividualized approach

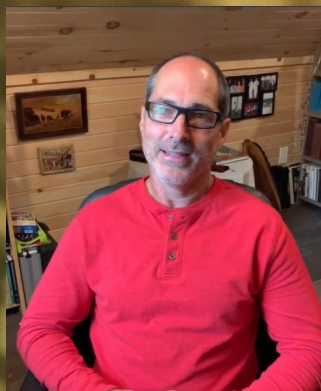
**N**eeds based

**K**ingdom focused

## Can you believe it is a NEW YEAR!!!

We have had a blessed year here at the Cove. A lot of things have happened for His Glory. I will share a few and if you will join me in prayer daily for the Cove to be on mission for God and His Glory in 2023!

January started out with exciting and encouraging messages from the pulpit to "Mature in the Lord." We were challenged to grow in 2022. It seemed to be our theme throughout the year. Of course we started back having Breaking Bread on Wednesday Nights and it is an added blessing to sit around the table with friends and family. After the meal each week we spend time in prayer – that is why we call it Wednesday night prayer meeting.



Next Steps (our way of knowing about the church and becoming a Covenant Family Member) was a great success. We set this up every other month in 2022 and saw an increase in membership. Each class was from 2 to 12 people. God truly has blessed us in 2022 with new faces.

The Church of the Cove is a movement. It has something going on around here almost daily. Life groups to food pantry, men's breakfast's to women's events - there are lights on at the Cove daily.

Our Crossville mission trips were fruitful. We always have a van full of people who help cook and share in the service that we do there. God is using the Cove!

Another area that is growing around here is our Children's Ministry. We did several Baby Dedications this year and we always had from 2-6 families at each dedication. So there is something in the water...

We signed a Contract with Hickory Construction on July 6<sup>th</sup> – this was an amazing time here at the Cove. What a celebration! We are looking forward in getting into the new building to expand our Ministries here. In God's way and timing. Thank you for your patience and contributions.



The Amphitheater services were amazing! The team that prepared it each week for service did a great job. Each week it seemed the crowds grew in number. God truly was present and it is becoming a great part of who we are here at the Cove. We had many tourist to attend this year and got great feedback from them. Most of them said that they will see us next year!

Mission trips to Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and Africa allowed us to invest in other people groups around the world. It is exciting to be part of a church that is on mission and fulfilling the great commission given to us by our Lord. Acts 1:8 is real to us here at the Cove.

The highlight of the year was our 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. We had team's working weeks ahead of time. We set up a tent that would sit 300 people. It was a packed service and Kevin Cross gave a great message and challenged us to do great things in and for the Lord now and in the future! Then we had dinner on the grounds! We also had a time capsule that will be opened in 20 years. Many people filled out prayer needs and placed them in the capsule along with other personal challenges as we move forward. We will open it in 2042! Well, if we are still here.

Last but certainly not least, were the seven individuals that gave their life to Christ. We know that their lives were changed for eternity. That is what it's all about. We also had so many other decisions for the Lord – to many to count. People who were touched through the year by the Lord. There were families reunited, people who recommitted their lives to the Lord, refocusing their lives to God, desires to grow/mature in the Lord, addictions broken, men leading their families in the Lord, women seeing God breakthrough in their lives...

Thank you for being part of all of this. It is an honor to march next to you!

May we see God in 2023! May we grow in the Lord in 2023! May God glorify Himself in and through the Church of the Cove in 2023!

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" 1 Corinthians 2:9

**Pastor Darren**

