

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



VILLAGE CHURCH

STUDENT CONC

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VILLAGE
C H U R C H

A LETTER FROM RON HENRICKSEN



As I look back at the year 2020, it's easy to think of it as a big disappointment. As Elder Board Chairman at Village, I was hoping that, after so many years of change and transition at Village, that 2020 would be the year without drama – a year of smooth sailing as we move forward in all of our ministries. It certainly didn't turn out that way!

A few weeks ago Village hosted an event called "New Day; New Mercies" in our sanctuary. The first three stations were about the pressing of olives and how each of those provided sustenance for the Israelites. But in the fourth station, there were two assignments. The first was to write down what you are thankful for from 2020. I initially thought, "This will be a short list." But then, as I began to write, a surprising number of things came to mind. Many of them were personal (such as continued health for all my family members) but many were related to Village and how God continued to use Village to make a difference in our own lives as well as the lives of people in our neighborhoods and around the world. You will read about many of these ministries in this annual report.

From the Elder Board's perspective, we were especially thankful for:

- The time that Pastor Ken spent at Village, shaping and molding us (transitioning out of his Lead Pastor role in the autumn due to his health).
- That Pastor Paul agreed to serve as Interim Lead Pastor and for the fall series on Extravagant Love.
- For so many Villagers stepping up to continue the ministry.
- For so many talented people finding their sweet spot serving at Village.
- For the financial generosity of Villagers that allowed us to end with a surplus.
- For Pastor Paul agreeing to apply for the Lead Pastor position.

Through all the chaos that was 2020, God was moving and working through Village, using us to make a difference in our world. I look forward to seeing how God will use us all in 2021 to advance His kingdom.

RON HENRICKSEN
Elder Board Chair

A LETTER FROM PAUL CHOI



Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres
1 Corinthians 13:7

May we see extravagant love.

Extravagant Love has been our theme for the past few months, but really, it was our story for the entire year of 2020. The unexpected hit of COVID challenged every single one of us in many ways at home, work, family, relationships, church, and so forth. There has been so much uncertainty about life and reality. What about politics? The economy? Global peace? Polarization? Violence? There is still ambiguity in our lives. We don't have answers for everything.

But through these experiences, we realize once again that Jesus is the hope of our lives. This doesn't mean He is our genie in a lamp, fulfilling our wishes and dreams. He is indeed the author of our life, and He is the only source of security and hope.

What has COVID taught us? One thing is to examine the essence of life. We confronted ourselves; in our loneliness and solitude, in our isolation, 2020 made us ask, "Who am I? Who am I to this world? What are the fundamentals to living?" We can actually live without luxuries, the latest styles. But we cannot live without a loving community around us, we cannot live without fresh air to breathe, and we cannot fully live without God's empowering presence at every moment.

Through the difficulties and uncertainties, it is the love of God that protected us, made us trust, hope and persevere in Christ Jesus. And in this love, we continue and carry on. You will see this Extravagant Love over our community from the highlighted stories found here in our Annual Report.

Paul Kyu-Jin Choi
Interim Lead Pastor

VILLAGE KIDS

Psalm 107:1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever.

Without a doubt, 2020 was filled with unexpected cancellations, disappointments, and heartbreak. Through all the closures, pivot to online everything, and social distancing, God was creating pathways to continue ministry and connection in unique ways.

In April, Village Kids launched a **weekly newsletter**, providing families with spiritual support, child development resources, and recommendations about how to have hard conversations with kids. The same month, we began using Orange Curriculum to offer developmentally appropriate online Bible lessons to all families with children ages preschool through fifth grade.

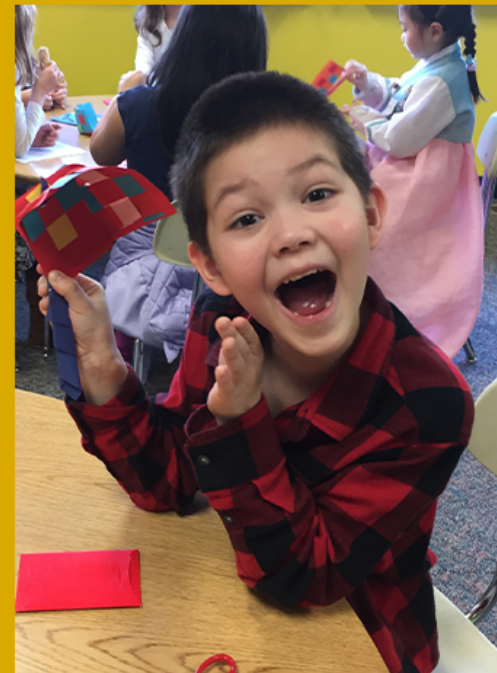
In June, Village Kids launched a portable ministry using the Village shuttle bus. Energetic and dedicated ministry partners loaded the shuttle with games, music, and fun every Wednesday for 6 weeks. The **Fun Bus Teams** brought joy and the love of Jesus to 20 families in 20 different neighborhoods around the Portland metro area. June also marked the month Love360 began. Over 30 families participated in loving others 360 degrees around them through outreach that touched families impacted by incarceration, homebound Village seniors, and first responders.

In September, Villagers began partnering with the production of our online bible lessons and are now participating weekly in our Sunday Experiences. October marked the launch of **AWANA** reimagined. Our Puggles and Truth and Training clubs meet online weekly, while our Cubbies and Sparks were assigned ministry partners who serve as coaches, prayer partners, and shepherds to our AWANA families. We had nearly the same number of students participating in reimagined AWANA as we did when we met in person. AWANA is thriving due to the dedication and faithfulness of our ministry partners.

November and December brought **Love360** partnerships with the Village Hispanic Fellowship and Village Pastoral Care Team in addition to finishing the year with an online family Christmas celebration, titled Jingle Jam. Forty-five families tuned into Jingle Jam to play games, learn about advent, and sing carols. Of course, we concluded the evening with Silent Night, by candlelight.

In a year when so many experienced tremendous hardship and tragedy, God used our Village Kids ministry to encourage families to lead spiritual conversations in their homes and with their neighbors as well as serve our community. We had the privilege of witnessing Village Kids and families love extravagantly over and over again. We cannot wait to see how God uses us for His glory in 2021.

JoAnna Flynn
Village Kids Director





Improvise • Adapt • Overcome

Like everyone, we needed courage and flexibility to navigate this past year. Yet, in the middle of all that was taken away due to COVID, I witnessed something miraculous: advancement. I saw forward progress and maturing in our student ministry. It was a team effort to invest and love our students this past year. I'd like to highlight the people who helped make it happen.

Yessenia, is the Student Ministry Administrative Assistant. She works in the church Front Office with many responsibilities on her plate, including keeping the student ministry organized and functioning well. Her ability to adjust, carefully listen and implement our plans has been a gift. I watched her not only care for the details but also our students by her loving availability in our high school ministry. She went above and beyond to create a hospitable and safe environment.

Rodger is our Middle School Leader. He was a source of encouragement, creative energy and tenacity to get things done. He genuinely loves our students and goes out of his way to provide experiences that students will never forget. His faithfulness and enthusiasm sets the tone for a great night for our students. I've been working in student ministry for over 25 years. I can honestly say he stands head and shoulders above any volunteer leader I've had the pleasure of working with. It is truly fun to see him come up with an idea and execute with precision.

Jake, Lynda, Mary Joy, Diego were our support crew making sure we had everything ready to go. Set-up and tear down makes the ministry night run smoothly and safely especially with ongoing changes in COVID guidelines. They were a huge part of our success when meeting in person this year.

Our incredible life group leaders. This is the core of our ministry: **Maria, Katie, William, Cris, Tracy, Angelica, Laurie, Dennis, Rodger, Jong Ho, and Yessenia**. The hours connecting, texting, zooming, sharing times in the church parking lot and guiding our students through a world pandemic. These are the essential frontline workers caring for the emotional and spiritual health of our students. Feel free to shout out a loud Amen. Village Church, you have the best leaders.

We had three summer interns, **Mary Joy, Alvin, and Michelle**. They brought fun, energy and summer connection. It was my joy to walk with them as we studied Jesus together.

Every youth pastor knows how easy it is to strain the Facilities staff. Thank you to **Mike, Paul, Tim and his crew** for flexing with our needs, our messes and making our environment safe and clean.

Lastly, **Dago** left us a gift. Dago modeled true authentic community that included understanding Biblical lament along with Biblical rejoicing. He embodied Jesus' compassion, service and love. The extravagant love of Jesus was radiant in Dago. He continues to give to our students despite his passing on December 19.

Josh Yates
Interim Youth Pastor

STUDENT MINISTRIES



PASTORAL CARE

God Sightings in 2020... A Personal Testimony



As I give a backward glance to this year, I give praise and glory to a faithful God who saw it all coming and continued to guide, bless, equip, and enable. Here are some “God sightings” observed this year, where I saw His hand at work, and where we are going forward.

Concerning pastoral care. I began the year by officially coming on staff as Assistant Director of Pastoral Care with the prayer that God would provide the director. While going through the logistics of coming on staff as a volunteer servant-leader, I looked around at Village to see what we had. What did I find? A gold mine of believers sold out to their walks of faith with the Lord and already serving Him in many capacities. I began to keep track of these areas with the intent to encourage these ministries and further enable them to be known and effective at Village. I had conversations with wonderful people. **A Memorial Team** was firmed up with people already skilled and experienced with what they had been doing at Village and only needed to reconfigure plans due to the retirement of Pastor Bob Walker in 2019.

Then came the pandemic. It was not possible to hold memorial services with receptions. Home visits and hospital visits came to a halt. We had to rethink how we could reach out to the elderly, lonely, hurting, and isolated around us.

This year, our **Visitation Team** encouraged the homebound through phone calls, emails, “porch visitation,” and distributing gifts lovingly crafted by the children at Village. We prayed over the phone with people before surgeries and assisted with graveside services.

God also moved in the heart of **Jim Clementson** and implanted a desire to step alongside people in need. He didn’t know what that meant but continued his IT job and courses at Western Seminary with the goal of a Master of Arts in Biblical and Theological Studies. By October, his job ended and a door opened for him to explore a calling to the ministry. I praise God for this answer to my prayer at the beginning of the year – for a Co-Director of Pastoral Care.

This coming year, we’ll continue to gather information on pastoral care ministries at Village and publicize this list of help for Villagers and ways people may serve. God also placed on my heart a desire to help us be better prepared for end-of-life decisions either for ourselves or for parents entering those years of change and loss – housing, legal preparation, medical considerations, etc. I have full confidence in God’s leading in this area.

Yes, God has been present and will be going forward.

Nancy Anderson

Co-Director of Pastoral Care

On March 12, our church leaders decided to close the campus and move all worship services online for the next four weeks. Frankly, we struggled! To move from hardly online to **fully online** was a difficult switch. We began with four different services: Spanish, Korean, English, and Village Kids. We realized creating a new format for the digital world of worship would not just work better for our team, but would better connect the church to each other during these distanced times. Working from home, we asked different staff and Villagers to send in videos of them greeting the church, praying, reading announcements, or closing our service with a benediction. By Easter, it was apparent we needed to operate online for the foreseeable future. We recognized we didn't just need to survive, we needed to thrive. The Sunday service production team became the **Creative Worship Team**. Insil Kang, Paul Choi, Ian Watts, Charlotte Bryan, and Dago Flores settled into weekly video production, constantly asking ourselves, "How can we bring the atmosphere of Village into the homes of our community?" and "How do we bring the multicultural church to the online realm?"

Our Village **singers and musicians** grew leaps and bounds this year. It isn't easy leading worship to an empty room, but their hard work paid off. We are so grateful for their dedication to worship and willingness to sing, smile, and praise in front of a camera. In August, the Creative Worship Team sat down to outline our future in digital ministry. We redesigned the look and layout of worship services. We dove into **multilingual options**, offering translated live streams and multicultural focused services. We asked, "What is the unique opportunity for our services in times of COVID-19?" A space was created to capture different worship styles and tell Villager stories. You may recognize now familiar elements: Prelude, Scripture reading, Story Time, Ministry Highlight, and symbolically **lighting a candle** together. We see the candle as a representation of Christ with us as we worship from our homes. It connects us as a church body, so we feel together even as we are physically apart. It is a symbol of hope. This year has been difficult for many of us in different ways, but we believe our hope in Christ will lead us through our darkest times. This new tradition came full circle, connecting with our long-term tradition of lighting candles while singing Silent Night in our Christmas Eve service.

We also took this opportunity to create a **dedicated, sacred space** that was specifically for filming the weekend content. An amazing group of staff and volunteers spent the last two weeks of August remodeling one of our Rita houses. We moved our new lighting and cameras into the space and created the studio that you now see during welcomes, sermons, and various other service elements. Also, after much planning and anticipation, the Sanctuary stage was painted darker. This makes the space more intimate and welcoming and makes controlling lighting for in-person or virtual events easier. Now, we are able to house larger bands and small choir groups, featuring more Villagers in our weekend services.

Across 46 weeks of COVID-19, our presence on social media has grown. We've published **330 videos** on YouTube: English, Korean, Mandarin, and Spanish services, ministry highlights, kids and youth videos, and recordings of online classes or churchwide meetings. We've gained subscribers from all over the world. The Hispanic Fellowship live streams from the church and The Korean Fellowship work together to translate the whole weekend service into Korean. In October, our Chinese Fellowship began translating the service into Mandarin, providing one of the few Mandarin language services in the Pacific Northwest. It is also being shared in China with those who do not yet know Jesus.

As I look back at this past year, through all the ups and downs, the triumphs and the challenges, the successes and the "we'll get it next times".... I'm overwhelmed with gratitude for Villagers who stepped up and worshipped in a new way. I can only imagine the voices singing out in praise from homes all over the world. To everyone who participated in online services – every greeter, band member, prelude musician, scripture reader, Kid or Youth who led us in worship, every staff member, and the one in Heaven too – **thank you** for making this year of worshipping together one to remember.

Charlotte Bryan

Communications and Digital
Media Ministry Assistant



VILLAGE ONLINE

Online worship services in four languages

KOREAN FELLOWSHIP



Ever since the COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings last March, there were quite a few changes to how Korean Fellowship (KF) did its ministry. We continued our meetings through **Zoom** and other online platforms. These included our Sunday Korean language worship service, Wednesday prayer meeting, and our Wednesday evening worship service. Pastor Paul Choi learned what was needed for producing worship videos, and through his efforts we started off well.

Although we no longer met through large gatherings, we still met in small group settings, and for that I was thankful. We had almost **230 KF members** who attended small groups. They met faithfully with their small group brothers and sisters in person or through zoom in order to have fellowship, to encourage, and pray for another. We called these groups “sharing groups”, because we shared our lives as we meditated on the Word of God. One of our KF members stated that she really appreciated how the community cared for her, prayed for her, and gave her advice with her business. With the love and care that she received from the group, she felt that it was a great decision to join her small group. It made her feel belonged. It was through the **Sharing Group ministry** that our KF members felt supported. It was through these experiences that allowed our KF members to remain active at Village in Christ throughout the year.

We also had another ministry based on a **one-to-one discipleship** training. The training is separated into three parts: Invitation to an Abundant Life, the First Step to an Abundant Life, and the Foundation of an Abundant Life. The program taught our members about the journey to attaining an abundant life in the gospel of the kingdom. It also equipped them to then train more individuals with the principles taught. Many of our KF members participated because of their desire and need to have fellowship with others, and about forty members have finished this discipleship training. They spent two or three hours in the program sharing their lives based on what they learned from the materials. Some even spent four or five hours each meeting. I heard from several KF members that the discipleship program was so good that they wanted to do the program with a relative, a friend, and their neighbors. The discipleship program has expanded beyond Village!

We were privileged to work with our **Local Missions** to serve our community. We volunteered or provided items for The Distribution Center, dental clinic, medical clinic, the Red Cross Blood Drive, etc. We were blessed to be a part of the ministry. This is one of the benefits of a Multicultural Church, and the Korean Fellowship embraces it.

Kwang Kim

Director of Korean Ministry





HISPANIC FELLOWSHIP

When we look at this year 2020, we see that it was different in every way. It is a year, a lot of pain, sadness, loneliness, and concerns. But even in the midst of these uncertainties, we can rescue many things of great value. We have seen how Hispanic Fellowship (HF) has come forward and we saw the hand of the Father working in many of our families.

Prayer, meditation on God's word, preaching, Bible studies and different events strengthened the faith of our HF. Many of them have lost loved ones here and in their countries of origin. We have cried with those who mourn and we serve them as much as we can, showing the extravagant Love of Christ.

We have learned to trust His promises and to move forward with our faith in Jesus. We saw our people sharing their faith and people come to Jesus. We have new families with us, and in December we celebrated Christmas with our community and we reached **over 90 families**.

We started 2021 in prayer with an event we called "**21 Days of Prayer**", based on the book of Joshua, and reached about 45 families that connect each night from 8:00-9:00pm through Zoom.

We meditate on the Word and pray for different needs of our brothers and sisters. New challenges await us in 2021 and we will do what we have done so far: build the church of Jesus with His Word, preach the gospel of Jesus so that others come to him, and make disciples as His Word commands us.

We are part of a single body at Village, and it is our prayer that the eternal Father will fill us with rich blessings in this year 2021.

Mauricio Rivas
Pastor of Hispanic Ministry



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH



Villagers, because of you:

Families with disabled loved ones, who are especially stressed and economically challenged during quarantine restrictions, were encouraged with gifts of diapers and clothing. Such a seemingly little thing became a huge encouragement to struggling families and those who work with them.

Employees with **Women, Children and Infants** were stunned by the generous donations of diapers, causing them to ask, "Why are people at your church doing this? Why do they care for people they haven't met?" Relationships were built with people from different faith backgrounds. Food and supplies were distributed in Jesus' name to under-served communities in Multnomah and Washington County. Dozens of Children's Connect Kits and **New Beginning Bags** were donated to help families impacted by incarceration.

Nineteen Oregon **fire departments** received donated gloves worth \$100,000. With budget reductions and historic fires, department chiefs came to Village with great appreciation for the generous gift. One fire chief recalled his experience as a teenager at a Village Raft Rally, the positive memories of the people he met, and the message he heard. People at four fire evacuation zones received blankets, gloves, hats, hygiene supplies and water during the most uncertain days of their lives. Homeless teenagers received food and hygiene supplies when homeless shelters shut down making it difficult to receive help.

Washington County Sheriff officers were provided a safe place to rest at Village when restaurants shut down and tensions were high. People found relief from dental pain and the burden of expensive dental care through Village Dental Clinics. Blood donors who lived in our Village neighborhood for many years were greeted warmly and received their first tour of our Village campus during Red Cross events. Immigrants kept their legal status when required medical exams were provided for free by Village doctors through our federally licensed Village Medical Clinic.

Pastors in **India** fed their families despite losing their income when churches were closed after we transferred funds to assist them. Homes were rebuilt in **Lebanon** following the port explosion disaster and Syrian refugees continue to receive life-saving food and the Good News of Jesus.

Our parking lot was used by our partners and 360 people received **COVID tests** relieving stress and preventing spread as infected people were able to quarantine to protect others. Twenty six long-term workers were empowered to live out the gospel globally working among vulnerable, and unreached people groups.



God did many things through our Distribution Center since it started in May 2020. With your help, we helped families, minorities, COVID-19 positive families, people who lost their job or homes, people who have mental health struggles, and everyone in between. Each week provided something new. Here are some things that we couldn't have done without you:

- We received over 60,000 donations through the community.
- 583 local Refugee families received food.
- 19 First Responder and Search & Rescue crews received PPE's.
- We participated in 4 evacuation zones, giving people clothing, blankets, hygiene items, and food.
- We helped 10 other churches provide for their congregations and community including Pacific Islander & African American churches throughout Oregon.
- We helped 12 big organizations receive food & basic supplies.
- We gave out 36,225 diapers this year to organizations, families, single parents, and homeless.
- We gave 30 turkey baskets to families for Thanksgiving, and combined that with other churches that made 159 baskets for a ministry that lost corporate sponsors due to economic downturn. That fed 1,000 people throughout Portland for Thanksgiving!

It is your partnership & involvement that made this so successful. Thank you for making this year a little more hopeful for people in the middle of a pandemic.



John Jordan
Pastor of Global Missions

DISTRIBUTION CENTER



MINISTRY FUND GIVING FOR 2020

\$2,851,671*

*includes \$2,454,777 gifts + \$42,885 facility fees
+ \$354,009 ministry PPP loan items

MINISTRY FUND EXPENSES FOR 2020

\$2,625,971

2020 GIVING TO FUNDS
OUTSIDE THE BUDGET

\$537,475*

*includes \$161,315 Grace Fund + \$155,489 Disaster Relief
+ \$220,671 other preference gifts

GIVING PARTICIPANT HOUSEHOLDS

PRE-COVID AVERAGE (JAN-MAR)

372

DURING COVID AVERAGE (APR-NOV)

300

DECEMBER

361



VILLAGE



CHURCH

