

2023 IMPACT REPORT





As a child, Sunday mornings were spent studying the stained glass windows that spanned the wall of the North Dakota church I grew up in. Depicted in the glass was Jesus, carefully cradling a baby lamb in His arms while the rest of the sheep followed. The Good Shepherd, doing what good shepherds do caring for the flock.

Today, I once again sit in a seat watching shepherds of the flock at work.

Pastors caring for their congregation and their communities, doing what good shepherds do. I watch them, and I pray that they will not give up.

We say and believe at PPM that the local Church is the catalyst for reaching the world for Christ. The local Church possesses a unique calling, planted by God in a community to bring Good News of great joy to all people. And we know that a key to a vibrant local church is a healthy pastor. A leader who has been called by God to lead the charge of loving and serving their communities. A shepherd.

The truth is, it's hard to be a pastor in the church today. Shots are being fired from all directions, both from the outside and, often, from the inside. Division is all too common as the stresses of conflicting cultures infiltrate the commonalities we share in Jesus Christ.

That is why the work of Praying Pelican Missions is so important. When you join in this mission, you are joining the mission of the local Church. You are telling a pastor, "Don't give up. You're not alone. We're in this together." You are casting a vote for unity within the body of Christ. You are joining the anthem of hope, of love, of compassion, of the Gospel.

We're just scratching the surface of what God has called us to. As Jesus followers, we are part of a network called the Church, positioned for incredible impact in our commiunities around the world. We need to be cheering each other on - not only with our words, but also our actions and resources.

It is with that spirit that I want to say thank you to those who have invested their time and energy into this work in 2023. From our staff members, to our mission teams, to our host partners, to our financial supporters - thank you for all you have given and poured out.

And to the shepherds - you are loved. You are valued. The God of creation has called you to this. Keep going. We will support you.

Jim Noreen President Praying Pelican Missions

Our Mission

To build up, encourage, and assist the local Church in serving and reaching their communities for Christ.

Our Vision

To see a united global Church reaching its fullest potential for the glory of God.

Our Values

We operate internally on the guiding principles of:

Humility:

- -We are unifiers, building bridges through our commonalities as Jesus followers.
- -We cultivate a culture of honor and dignity, putting our partners first.
- -We hire locally, investing in trained, year-round leaders who know their communities best.

Integrity:

- -We strive to do what's right, guided by biblical principles.
- -We work diligently to be lifelong learners and good stewards of the calling before us.
- -We lead with professionalism and experience in our field to do what we say we're going to do.

Prayer:

- -We are passionately rooted in Christ.
- -We submit first in prayer, ensuring that our bold "yes" aligns with the Holy Spirit's leading.
- -We move forward with confidence, trusting God as we make ourselves available to His calling.

We carry out our mission through the lens of:

Genuine Partnerships

Our heart is to be wholly invested in the communities in which we serve, providing a connecting point for the global Church.

Long-Term Relationships

We build lasting relationships with local churches and ministries, partnering alongside them 365 days a year.

Sustainable Ministry

We operate under the authority and direction of the local Church, ensuring that the ministry we do leads to a healthy and lasting impact for the Kingdom.



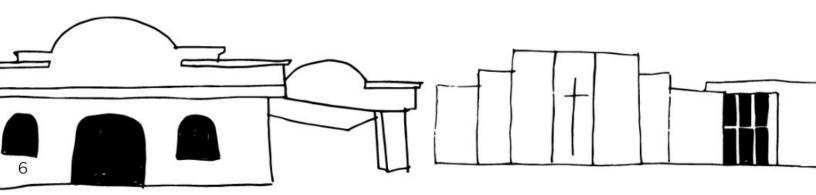
692
MISSION
TRIPS

501 CHURCHES SERVED

434
MISSION TRIP
PARTICIPANTS
FROM OUTSIDE
THE US

CHURCHES SUPPORTED IN DISASTER RESPONSE

39
LOCATIONS
SERVED



11,883
MISSION TRIP
PARTICIPANTS

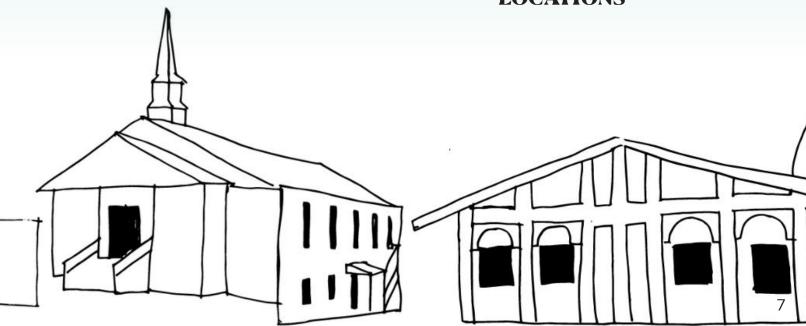
150,978
TOTAL HOURS
SERVED

142
PASTORS FULLY
SPONSORED IN
PPM365

28,000

TOTAL
VOLUNTEER HOURS
IN
DISASTER RESPONSE

48%
DOMESTIC
SEASONAL STAFF
THAT LIVE
LOCALLY TO TRIP
LOCATIONS





"We can't hold the whole world in our hands. Only God can do that."

These words were spoken by my pastor earlier this fall and keep resonating in my heart this season. I was challenged recently by a thought prompt, that empathy can fatigue but compassion never does. While I'm taking the liberty to oversimplify definitions here, the basic idea is that empathy is feeling the positive or negative emotions of another, while compassion is both feeling that emotion, and then being prompted to take action. In taking action, our brains release chemicals that not only bring us well-being but rejuvenate us! How amazing, that we not only serve a creator who has given us the Holy Spirit who brings forth the gift of peace of mind and heart (John 14:27) but has also physically demonstrated this by giving us a brain to see and respond to others around us in a way that rejuvenates us and prepares us to do more of His work. Hallelujah!

We here at PPM are in a season of hearing and feeling with our partner pastors. Our staff have the privilege of sitting alongside them in various seasons of their lives, listening to and understanding the complexities of ministry in the location in which God has them rooted. We get to share in the highs and lows and bring them all to God in both worship and in prayer. And we also have the privilege of asking many partners, "How could you use a group of people who are for the Gospel and for you in this season?"

Every year, we stand back in amazement as we see time and time again how God delivers skills and talents and resources to the local church through mission trips, PPM365, and disaster response. The incredible thing is, the goodness and the impact goes out in all directions. Our teams, our donors, and our partners all have something to tangibly share with the other that lasts far beyond the initial action.

It all comes down to this: if the conversation ended with empathy, I'd imagine we'd see a lot more burnout. Because we were never meant to hold the whole world in our hands. Only God can do that. But by being for one another, as brothers and sisters in Christ, lifting up burdens in prayer and taking action in serving those inside the church walls and those outside, we get to enjoy a really amazing display of the Holy Spirit at work within our lives. As David expressed it so well, "He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!" (Psalm 103:5).

Laura Yoch Vice President Praying Pelican Missions



Pastor Lloyd Stanford has been serving as pastor of Queen Street Baptist Church for several decades. Through traveling around the world, serving on international mission advisory boards, connecting and networking with pastors at every opportunity, he ended up being the first official host partner of Praying Pelican Missions when it was in its earliest years.

In the early 1990s, Pastor Lloyd and Queen Street Baptist Church hosted a mission team from a Christian university in Minnesota. Several years later, Pastor Lloyd heard from one of those participants who wanted to bring a small team to partner with his church. He welcomed the team back year after year.

"It was on the next trip that one of them mentioned expanding beyond my ministry," Pastor Lloyd said. At that point in time, God was preparing church leaders across Belize to join together, crossing denominational lines in a way that had never been done before. Pastor Lloyd could see this shift and was eager to see the role Praying Pelican Missions could play in assisting it. He watched the ministry grow and spread its wings. "It was because we wanted to do more than just one denomination, more than just one pastor," he said with a smile on his face as he reflected on those first meetings, first trips, and first years.

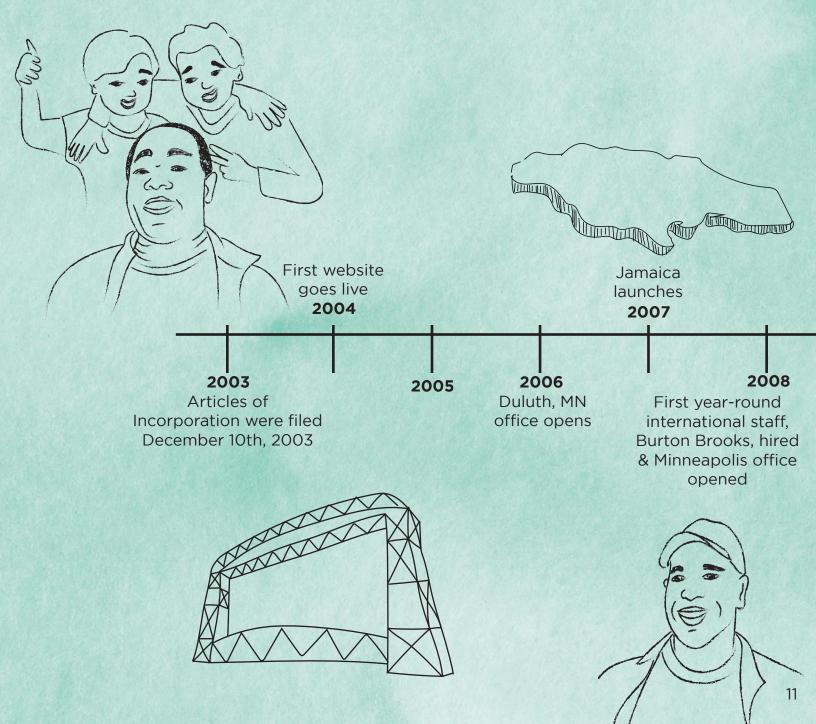
In 2003, Praying Pelican Missions was officially established as a nonprofit organization. Pastor Lloyd, still pastoring at Queen Street Baptist Church, was now acting as the first local staff member. The partnerships and connections kept coming as more teams kept coming and partnering with the local churches across Belize. Praying Pelican Missions was growing and more partnerships were formed in Belize. In 2007, after Pastor Lloyd shared the heart of PPM with the Carribean Baptist Fellowship, the Jamaica Baptist Union invited PPM to partner with their network of churches and it was then that door was opened to start partnering in other countries.

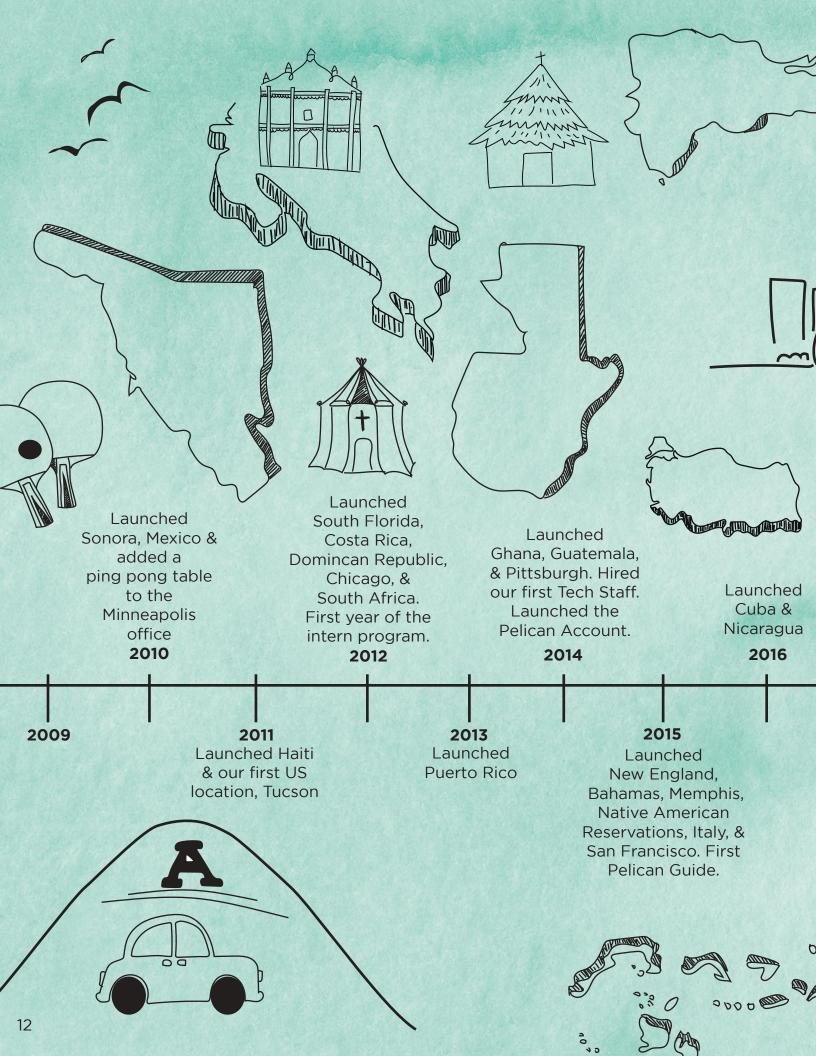
After 20 years, Pastor Lloyd still believes in the mission of PPM. In every location, our network, relationships, and ministry grows primarily because our partner pastors love what we do and spread the word about their experience with PPM. Without them, without YOU, PPM wouldn't exist.

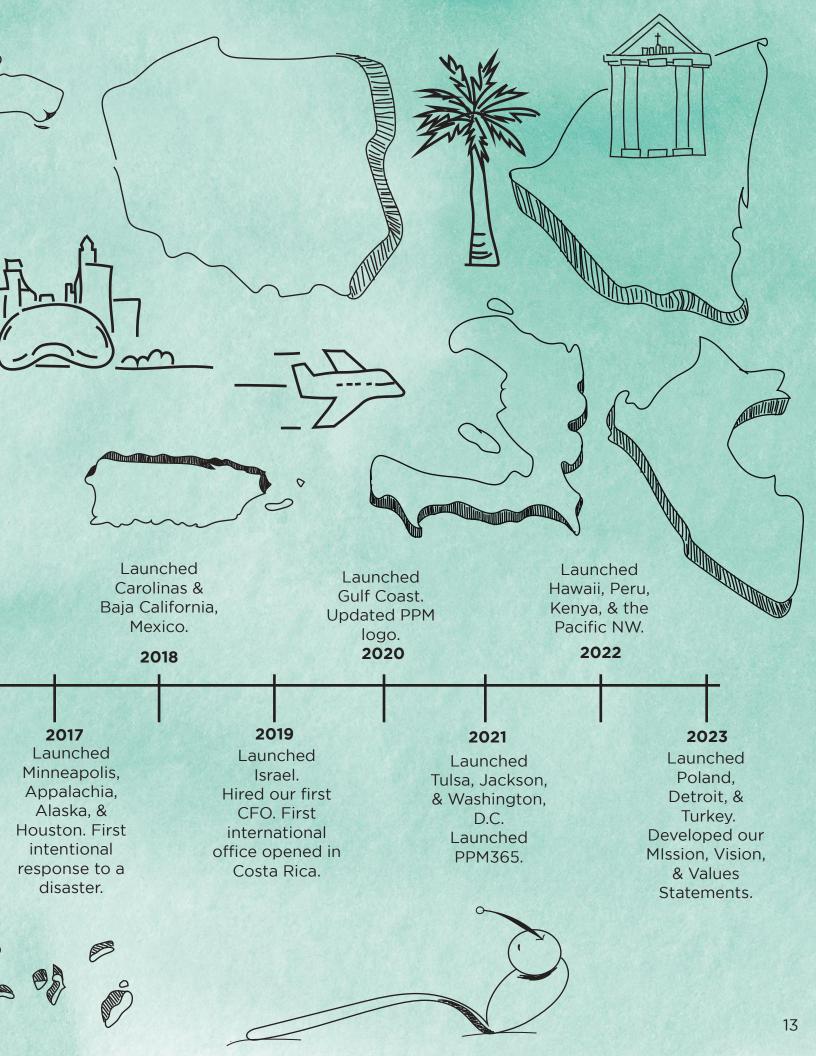
As Praying Pelican Missions continues to follow wherever God is leading us, we continually remember that at its roots was one local church with a pastor serving in his community. A vision was cast to go beyond denominations, beyond borders, and beyond what had been done before. Pastor Lloyd said, "It's not that PPM tells the local church 'we are coming to do xyz,' but it is PPM asking the local church 'what are you doing that we can assist you with?'" That is the foundation of all we do at Praying Pelican Missions.

Celebrating 20 Years

The history of Praying Pelican Missions reads a bit like a story from the Old Testament. A group of people seeking God, often stumbling in their pursuit, but always pushing forward toward their calling. Here's how PPM went from a small group serving a Belizean church 20 years ago to thousands of people serving churches across the world every year. We are honored to have been entrusted with this calling since our inception in 2003, and we look forward with great anticipation to all that God will do in the next 20 years and beyond.







A HOST PASTOR'S STORY



Pastor Dorian leads the Iglesia Rosa de Saron in Tipitapa, Nicaragua. He has been partnering with Praying Pelican Missions since 2017, hosting mission teams, connecting with other partners across the country, and now as a part of our PPM365 church sponsorship program.

Tell us a little bit about the state of your ministry and mindset prior to partnering with PPM.

We were a relatively new church, and we started only with children. Our church building had only a roof for about a year and a half. When you are starting out as a church, there are many challenges. You know that you have God on your side, but you still sometimes only see closed doors and economic challenges. It is difficult to dedicate yourself solely to the ministry.

So I was constantly also looking for work, since there was no additional financial help for the ministry. Around 2016 or 2017, I had decided not to continue in ministry, but during a fast, God told me that He could not turn me back and that He was going to support me. I didn't have any vision, I just had the willingness to serve, to help other people who were in the world but who had no hope.

You hosted your first PPM team in 2017 after getting connected to us through a pastor friend of yours. What was hosting that first team like?

It was an unforgettable experience. I always keep that trip in my heart. I knew that God was going to open doors for us, but I never imagined it would happen that way. It was a marked moment in my life, unforgettable in my ministry and the story of our church.

Since then, we've had the opportunity to host several other teams, and each one has supported families with food and have uplifted the church. They have connected with the community, and have made a great impact on children, showing a great interest in helping to meet the needs of many people. They have been a great blessing - several families around the community still ask about them! The impact has been significant.

You're now a part of our PPM365 church sponsorship program. What has that been like for you?

It has been a program that has blessed me greatly! It gives me and the other pastors involved great support as leaders. It provides us with intentional time to rest and unwind, it provides us with what we cannot cover financially, and it allows us to build relationships with other pastors around the world, and that makes me happy. It allows us to learn from other pastors who may have more experience and we build friendships that fill us with good advice.

What are your hopes for the future of your ministry and partnership with PPM?

My dream is to have a feeding program for children to support young people inside and outside the church who are in great need, and thus show them the love of Christ. I am excited to continue to partner with PPM. I really value the alliance that God has given us, and this partnership encourages me to continually get better as a pastor.

What would you say to someone who is interested in supporting the ministry of PPM?

Don't hesitate! You are not supporting just anyone, but rather you are investing in and supporting leaders and pastors, which will have an incredible impact on communities everywhere. Therefore, sow as much as you can, because you are going to sow on fertile ground!





A GROUP LEADER'S STORY

We've been going on trips with PPM since 2016, including trips to Alaska each of the last two years. Over the course of our time doing PPM mission trips, our students have had the chance to experience true Christian community. Here's how.

While not every team does this, we require our kids to give up their cell phones on our trips. The removal of that distraction has allowed our students to come together as a group and engage more deeply with each other, as well as with our partner church and the community. That engagement has had a great effect on both the depth of community within our group and the depth of the ministry we've been able to participate in.

With the structure of our PPM trips and the emphasis on finding different ways to stretch our students and allowing them to digest their experiences during the day, that Christian community they have found has also led our students closer to Christ. On our last trip, a number of our students either committed or recommitted their lives to Christ. We saw that commitment manifest itself upon our return home when some of our students began reaching out to their friend groups outside of church and inviting them to youth events. We've seen Jesus really grab onto the hearts of many of our kids on our PPM trips, and that helps shape the culture of our youth group throughout the year.

Our kids are excited to return for our third consecutive trip to Alaska in 2024, and many of them were already clamoring about it as we returned home. The excitement of those returning students has spilled over to new students committing to come on next year's trip as well. It all comes down to the Christian community they've experienced on these trips, and wanting to seek something similar when they return home. It's hard to go back to a "normal" life once you've experienced the deep honesty and unity that many students find on a mission trip, and it's our hope that they continue to seek that community even after their time in youth has come to an end.



Nathanael Miles Youth Pastor Archbold Evangelical Church

PPM365

PPM365 is a continuous effort to build up, encourage, and assist the local Church 365 days a year through a church sponsorship program. Churches, pastors and ministry leaders receive local support, training, and encouragement, leading to transformed communities in the name of Christ. This is done through our Program Promises:

- Consistent Care and Connection
- Aid in Emergencies
- Relational Network and Training
- Empowerment to go on Mission

Over 140 partner churches are now sponsored in PPM365! And by the grace of God and the support of our sponsors, each partner has received the Program Promises throughout the past year.

This year we launched in more locations that are not locations that traditionally receive numerous trips: Peru, Turkey, and Cuba.

As well, our PPM365 staff hosted PPM365 Pastors' Conferences for partners in Haiti, Peru, Kenya, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Baja, Panama, Guatemala, and Honduras. We are overjoyed with this intentional time spent with our partners, hearing their stories of how the program is a blessing for them and their families, and giving them the opportunity to network and fellowship with one another.

The Pastors' Conference in Haiti was significant for us here at PPM, as those partners have not been able to gather all together since 2019. It was a powerful and sweet time together, offering renewal and rejuvenation for our pastors as they continue to endure civil unrest in their country. Also, our Central America partners gathered together for our first Regional Conference! Even with logistical challenges and quick re-working of the conference plan due to being denied entrance into Nicaragua, where we planned to host the conference, our 95 partners were able to attend training, spend time in fellowship, and give God the glory for an amazing year!



2023 Highlights:

- PPM365 seeded 471 global missionaries to go on mission! Many of those missionaries are from Kenya and ministered alongside other Kenyan churches.
- In Peru, pastor care is unique. The PPM365 Program Manager, Luis, isn't able to send a text or make a call to have conversations with the pastors because of the lack of service and cell phones. Luis often loads up in a boat, travels down the Amazon River, and visits each pastor. He does this to care for them and to share information about upcoming events with them. When pastors need medical care or respite, they must travel to the city of Iquitos where Luis lives, so Luis meets them, goes to medical appointments with them if needed, becomes the tour guide in the city for their respite, and continues to check in to ensure medication use is clear since the city culture is so different than they are accustomed to in the villages.

Some other big items from this year:

- PPM365 Turkey has been launched! Turkey is a nation of 85 million people. There are only 8,500 believers. That is 1 in 10,000. A megachurch in this nation has 20 members. There is 1 pastor for every 1,000,000 people. PPM365 is able to come alongside some of these pastors for care, encouragement, and meeting needs.
- Many pastors received new reading glasses through the pastor medical care benefit. One pastor was so thrilled because he could read Scripture in the pulpit again easily!
- In Kenya and Baja, tin sheets were placed on roofs and walls of churches where there had been none. Because of that, one congregation could finally meet on rainy days and stay dry and the other no longer feared that their building would be washed away by heavy rainstorms.
- Pastors in several locations used their emergency aid benefit to repair vehicles that are used to bring people to church and to continue food ministries. Without these vehicles operating correctly, those people would not be able to attend church and the crops would not be able to be harvested for the use of food distribution.
- The family that has been created amongst pastors within PPM365 is beautiful. They know they are not alone in shepherding God's people.

Our 2024 goals for PPM365 are to see 400 partners completely sponsored in the program and to provide funds for 1,000 global missionaries to serve on the mission field from these nations. Visit ppm.org/365 to join us!

DISASTER RESPONSE

Praying Pelican Missions exists to build up, encourage, and assist the local Church, including in the church's greatest time of need. When disasters strike, the Church is on the front lines of response and relief efforts. Oftentimes, these churches struggle with the increased needs in their community and local church staff can become inundated by the constant work.

Following a disaster, Praying Pelican Missions is committed to coming alongside these churches and assisting in any way they need. In our responses, we have provided churches the necessary resources and support in order to advance their work in their communities. Given our team members' flexibility, PPM is unique in the type of assistance we are able to provide. Our team members have assisted churches with repair work, food distribution, community outreach, and kids ministry. Partners have let us know our team members were crucial to maintaining their programs and assisting the families in their community. In all that we do, we aim to ACT:

A: Assist in a timely and effective manner

C: Community-led assistance

T: Trained team members first in the field

Disaster Response has always been near to the heart of PPM. Since PPM's inception, we have been assisting churches serve their communities in whatever way was necessary. In 2023, our major trip participant effort was focused on recovery from Hurricane Ian in Florida.

PPM's Hurricane Ian Efforts:

- Assisted over 11 churches and the communities
- A team on the ground within the first week, working with a local partner
- Over 800 team members activated in response efforts
- 4 counties served
- 28,000 volunteer hours
- An estimated savings for homeowners and communities of \$890,400



Besides churches, Pelicans assisted local non-profits, helping to maintain their operations as their regular team members were working to recover. Overall, we were able to be present through the triage state of relief work, and help churches get firm footing on the long road to recovery. Our partners continue to be so thankful for the PPM pillar of long-term relationships, as many team members were able to return again and again.

We are excited about the future of Disaster Response at PPM. In 2024, our goal is to build our network of early responders in what we are calling our Readiness Team. Team members engaged in this program will receive online training in both the hard and soft skills necessary for responding to a disaster. Through our partnership with Spiritual First Aid, those on the Readiness Team will receive a crash course in evidence-based, trauma-informed, biblical, spiritual, and emotional care. Training in both hard and soft skills will give our team members the ability to be present with and care for community members not only in physical ways, but emotional and mental ways as well.



DEPARTMENT NOTES

Human Resources Notes

The HR department intentionally comes alongside PPM's leadership team and staff to serve as a trusted resource, supporting a culture of continued development and growth for all employees as our organization goes forth to accomplish our mission and vision.

- 265 seasonal employees hired
- 163 domestic seasonal staff
- 48% local domestic seasonal staff
- 102 international local seasonal staff

Ministry Leader Program

PPM's 2023 Ministry Leader Program reached its goal of 60-70 trips led through this initiative. In total, 11 Ministry Leaders led 67 trips in both domestic and international locations. The primary goal of the Ministry Leader position is to give individuals an opportunity to learn and serve in ministry, facilitating both logistical and relational aspects of short term mission opportunities.

Establishment of the Costa Rica PPM Office

PPM now has an official sister office in Liberia, Costa Rica, which includes a member of the marketing team, the IT department, and the finance department, along with Central America and Costa Rica operations and program services staff.

Staff in Newer Locations

We are excited to have welcomed contracted staff in several new countries this year, such as Turkey, Israel, Poland, Peru and Cuba. As our organization expands, we continue to place emphasis on hiring local staff organization-wide to accommodate our ability to build up, encourage, and assist the local Church in serving and reaching their communities for Christ.

In looking to 2024, the HR department anticipates further enhancing tools that will streamline processes, plans to develop levels of training that span across departments, locations, and roles within PPM, and seeks to cultivate a healthy culture where our staff feel equipped, engaged, and empowered to serve the Lord well in their specific roles.

Consulting Notes

Mission Trip Planning: Partners First

If you have been connected to PPM for any length of time, you know that the local church around the world is the heartbeat of our ministry. Without our partner pastors, our pillars - Genuine Partnerships, Long-Term Relationships, and Sustainable Ministry - cannot stand. Partnerships are not genuine without our connection to the local church. Long-term relationships cannot be formed without the commitment of and to the local church. Ministry cannot be sustained without the constant presence of the local church in their communities.

Over the past year, our staff recommitted themselves to these foundational truths. This "Partners First Mindset" has focused our thoughts, beliefs, and actions surrounding the trip-planning process. We do this with great humility, recognizing the honor it is to be invited into a community that is not our own for the glory of God and the good of the local church.

Putting our partners first in the trip planning process means that we prioritize their vision and dreams for their church, their community, and for what it looks like for teams to serve alongside them. During the fall, our staff connect with each partner pastor to hear how PPM can come alongside them in the next year. In the months leading up to a mission trip, we meet with our partners to design an itinerary for the mission trip together. And after each trip, we follow up with the pastor to hear about the impact of the trip in their community. Putting our partners first in the trip planning process is foundational to our mission of building up, assisting, and encouraging the local church in reaching and serving their communities for Christ.





WHAT WE INVEST IN

Praying Pelican Missions is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization established in 2003. Governed by a board of directors, PPM leadership work diligently to ensure that every dollar that is entrusted to us is invested in meaningful ministry in accordance with our mission and purpose. Below are the primary channels in which our budget is utilized:

Local church-based ministry

In 2023, PPM received over 600 mission groups. The uniqueness of PPM's partner based emphasis resulted in us utilizing those groups to assist over 500 local ministries across 37 global regions. Our heart is to invest in ongoing ministries that are local to the communities in which we serve, coming alongside them in their calling to love and serve their communities. This model requires significant investment as we serve partners across entire regions and countries as opposed to a centralized mission site. We believe in the genuine nature of this approach as we exude a posture of humility and support, producing an ongoing impact through local partnership.

Qualified, year-round staff

If you've served with PPM in the past, you have met our incredible staff. Based around the world, our staff are experienced, trained, and committed to the ministry of building up, encouraging, and assisting the local church. Having a robust year-round staff team allows us to provide effective care to both our partners and our teams. It allows us to be present and available during all months of the year, engaging in the ongoing ministries that our partners are passionate about.

365 day engagement

PPM is an organization built on being there for our partners, whether it be the leaders within the communities we serve, or the teams who join us in this ministry. Throughout the year, our staff are actively engaging in these relationships, caring for pastors and ministry leaders in meaningful ways. Through our PPM365 sponsorship program, PPM partners receive consistent care, aid in emergencies, access to a relational network and training, and empowerment to go on mission. Our heart is to be wholly invested, leveraging our year-round team to invest in those who are loving and serving their communities on a daily basis.

For PPM's complete financial statements, please view our IRS Form 990 available via email request at info@ppm.org.

Join Us!

Support the work of PPM year round as we build up, encourage, and assist the local Church together.



SPONSOR

By sponsoring a pastor and church in our PPM365 church sponsorship program, you are providing year-round support and care to those who have been called and embedded in local communities around the world. Through your sponsorship, local PPM staff work diligently to resource, equip, connect, and encourage pastors, ensuring that they are supported and energized for the work the Lord has called them to.

As a PPM365 sponsor, you will receive regular updates from the pastor and church you're supporting, providing an opportunity to build a mutual connection of prayer and support.

Begin your sponsorship journey at ppm.org/365.





ACTIVATE

By joining PPM's Disaster Response Readiness Team, your committed funds will enable supplies and ready volunteers to quickly mobilize in the aftermath of a natural disaster to assist the local church in responding to the needs of their community. The Readiness Team is recommended for both groups and individuals and is a great fit for anyone who is passionate about activating quickly in the event of a hurricane, tornado, flood, or other significant event.

Get ready to activate at ppm.org/readiness-team.



GO

In an age where communication has become increasingly disconnected and virtual, we believe more than ever in the strength of PPM's roots - short-term mission trips. We believe that there is no substitute for face-to-face ministry for both the host community and the sending team. Over the past 20 years, our heart has always been to come under the authority of our local partners to support their vision for their community. We are committed more than ever to utilize short-term mission teams to build up the local church, to encourage them, and assist them in the work that God has called them to.

Register your team to serve in one of our 40+ ministry locations at ppm.org/mission-trips.

