



CHILDREN in CHRIST

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023



DEAR CIC FRIEND,

Because of your prayers, encouragement, and love for precious children across Africa in 2023, we saw multitudes of children and youth experience tremendous hope and transformation through God's love and truth.

In the darkest times, the Lord shines His light, piercing the darkness - His purposes prevail! Hallelujah! Through His power and your partnership in the Gospel, He did amazing things in advancing the mission of reaching, discipling, equipping, and empowering children in the Great Commission!

I pray these 2023 impact highlights and testimonies will encourage and inspire you, as they also inspire us.

We give Him all the praise and all the glory!

With heartfelt thanks,



Jen Merryman | CEO

Cover image: Chikuru Sabo, who lost both of her parents and fled from militant rebel attacks, told us she found God's peace and a whole new life in Christ through the CIC club in her refugee camp.

Below: Refugee children in a CIC club experience the love of the heavenly Father as they come together for worship, prayer and learning God's pure Word - Goma, DRC.





OUR VISION

Every Child Reached, Mature, and Leading Others in Christ

REACHED means engaging children with the Gospel

MATURE means a child has begun a life-long journey of spiritual growth and development

LEADING means a child is confidently equipped and empowered to share the love and truth of Jesus with others around them

OUR MISSION

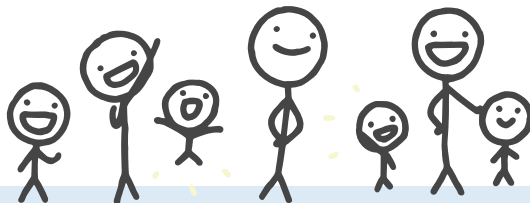
Called to go to challenging places and unreached people groups, CIC inspires, equips, and mobilizes a God-grown indigenous ministry from local church to broader communities that:

01 VALUES CHILDREN

02 MINISTERS GOD'S LOVE TO THEM

03 MATURES THEM IN CHRIST

04 AND EMPOWERS THEM TO IMPACT FAMILIES, VILLAGES, AND NATIONS FOR CHRIST.



OUR "CREDO"

In our weekly CIC clubs, children and mentors join together in a fun action-oriented reciting of the CIC Credo, "Who Are Children in Christ?" - which reminds us of our club vision and mission.

Who Are Children in Christ?

- We know that God made us and we are precious in His sight
- We believe in His love and forgiveness through Jesus (His Son*)
- We listen to His Words and follow His Ways
- We pray and see His love and power at work
- We are empowered to go and tell others about His love!

*In contexts hostile to the Gospel, we refrain from mentioning "His Son" until the club is well-established, there are children believers in the club, and it is safe for the children and mentors.



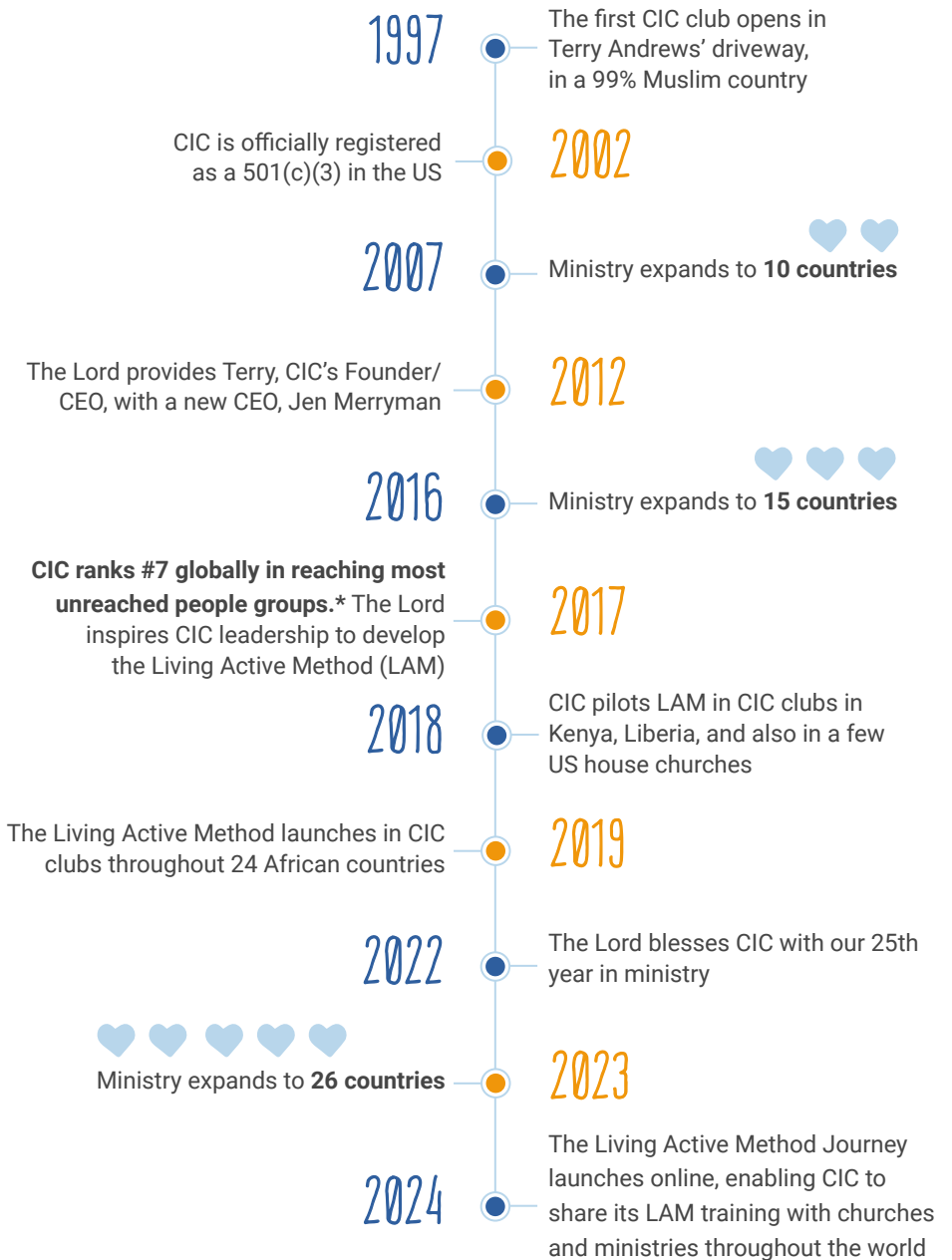
CIC'S HISTORY: A STORY OF THE LORD'S FAITHFULNESS

This history is not a boast of CIC's capabilities or achievements, but rather a humble and thankful praise to the Lord for who He is, what He has done, and what He continues to do.

MAY HE BE GLORIFIED!



Terry Andrews with CIC club children in The Gambia, 2007



* Source: Finishing the Task Year-End Report: "Leading Organizations Sending Workers to UUPGs"

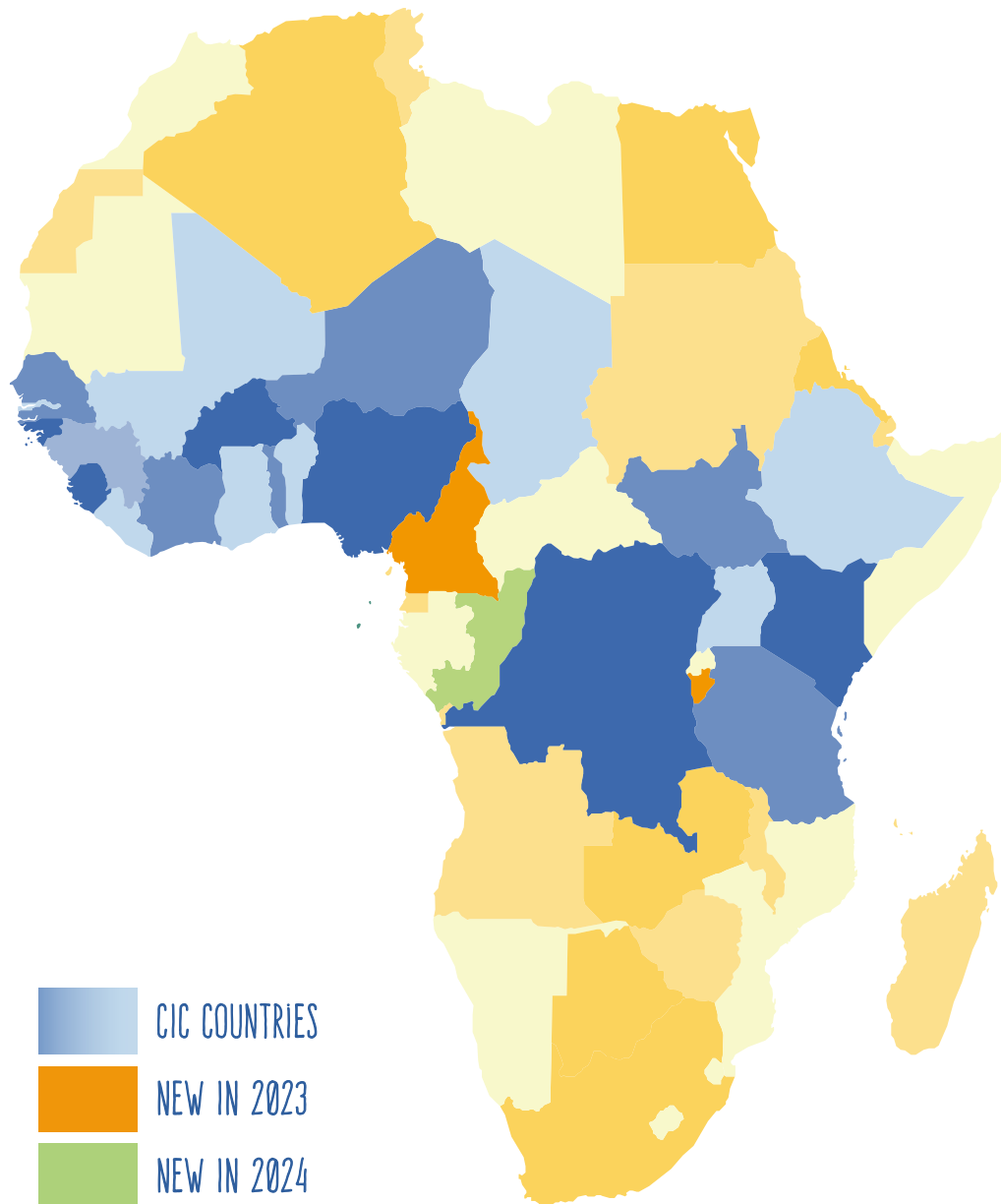


GROWING OUR GLOBAL IMPACT

In 2023 CIC held clubs in 26 countries in Sub-Saharan and North Africa, with some related engagement in Nalgonda, India. Some of our countries remain unlisted for security purposes.

NEW INITIATIVES

Through your partnership, we were able to start new country initiatives in Burundi and Cameroon, continue to expand our reach in Ethiopia, and make new inroads in one of our North African countries.



Some countries not shown due to security issues



REACHING THE UNREACHED

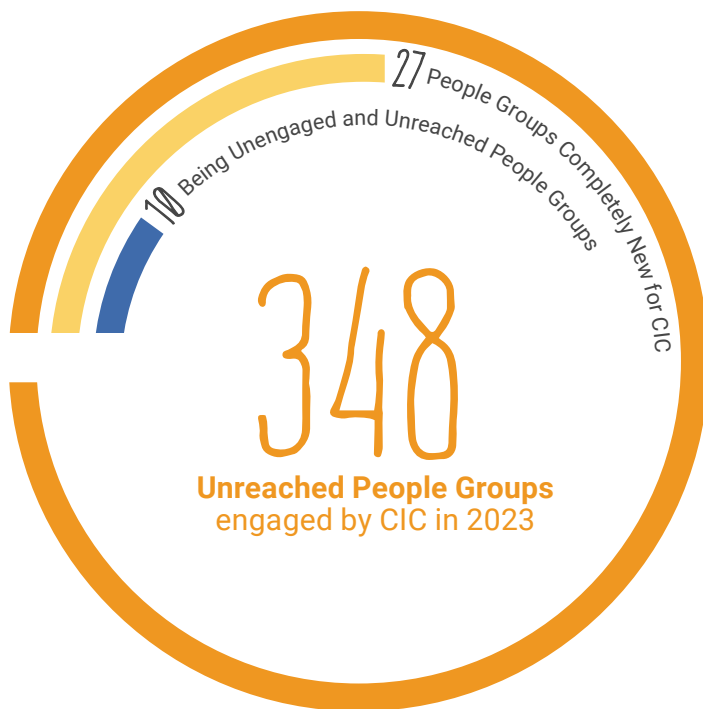


**“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. . . .”
Matthew 28:18-19**

In the Great Commission, the local church has a unique role since they are the ones whom God has placed in their contexts - they know the language and culture and can most effectively reach the unreached in their countries.

A big part of CIC’s vision is to inspire and equip the local indigenous churches who are near unreached people groups, so they can go outside their church walls and start weekly outreach & discipleship clubs with children who have never heard the Gospel.

Through your help, we were able to engage with hundreds of local churches to weekly share His love and truth with children.



In total, our clubs were 37% Muslim and 27% Animist children.

UPGs: In our 26 countries there are 947 UPGs, and in Africa total there are 1,498 UPGs. Together, we reached children from **over 35% of all UPGs in our existing countries; 23% of Africa’s total UPGs!**

UUPGs: By God’s grace, **you helped us reach children from 95 out of 227 of these in our existing countries (42%); which is 21% of African total UUPGs.** These are people groups who are considered completely unreached by any other missionary or organization (sometimes called Frontier People Groups).

Source: CIC UPG engagements, cross-matched with Joshua Project datasets from December, 2023, <https://joshuaproject.net/resources/datasets>

Note: In January 2023 we switched from using IMB-GSEC to Joshua Project data. For more information on how they differ see: https://joshuaproject.net/resources/articles/global-peoples_list_comparison



THE ANIMIST PARENTS SHATTERED THEIR OCCULTIC AMULETS!

"I give thanks to God for the club in my neighborhood. Since we started the club, we have noticed a change in the lives of children and the parents have testified to this change. In this we also have children of Animist parents who shattered their [occultic] amulets in front of all the other children of the club and it was a very great testimony in the club and the parents always encourage children to come to the club. . . ."

Bonaventure Z., 21, Male, BENIN



CIC CLUB CHANGED MY LIFE . . .FROM DESPAIR TO PURPOSE

"Before club, my life was marked by despair, confusion and an inner vacuum. I was constantly looking for something that would give meaning to my life and that would fill the void that I felt deep inside me. I tried different ways, but nothing seemed to appease this insatiable thirst for happiness and inner peace.

However, it all started to change when I met the CIC club. I started and participated in CIC Bible studies As I discovered the teachings of CIC and the Bible stories, I developed my relationship with God, my life began to take on meaning, new and deep. I realized that I was loved unconditionally by my creator and that I had an invaluable value in the eyes of God."

Abdul, 16, Male, NORTH AFRICA [undisclosed due to security issues]



REACHING THE UNREACHED

OUR NEW CHURCH PLANT IS NOW FILLED - WITH CHILDREN!

"Today in October 2023 I testify my heart is full of joy for having received the CIC training in Bla in 2022. Our church opened a church in Terekougo 2 years ago. After our return from the training, we put into practice what CIC taught us - opening new clubs, encouraging children to share the lessons, visits to parents, etc. Most of the inhabitants of Térékougo are animists or pagans. After 2 months, we had many children come to worship at the church. They are regular at the club, in the church and are being rooted in the Word of God. In reality at the start of the church, there were only a few adults who frequented it, but [today in 2023], the church is full of children aged 7 to 18 and young people. Our church even regrets they did not build a larger church because it was filled within 2 years! This feat was done because of the implementation of CIC's vision. We ask you to pray for these children from the village of Térékougo."

Eli D., 30, Male, MALI



Children in a 99% unreached country, Niger, learn that God loves them and has a hope for them through Bible stories.

THOUGH I AM MUSLIM, I SEE THE CHANGE IN THE CHILDREN FROM CIC

"My name is Mohammed, an assemblyman of 15 villages and a teacher by profession. I am a witness of the attendance of the pupils at school.. and...the kind of teaching you are giving to the children. I have no doubt this will change the children to perfection. Even though I am a muslim but I believe in your cause and I believe CIC will change the face of these villages and its environment and I want to be one of the people to help CIC proclaim the good news to our people. Even though I am a muslim but I am giving all my 15 villages to you to start clubs there so my community will also benefit from the good things Christ brings. And I will personally lead you to all the villages to start clubs and also gather all the youth for trainings. "

Mohammed A., 40, Male, GHANA



DISCIPLING DEEPLY

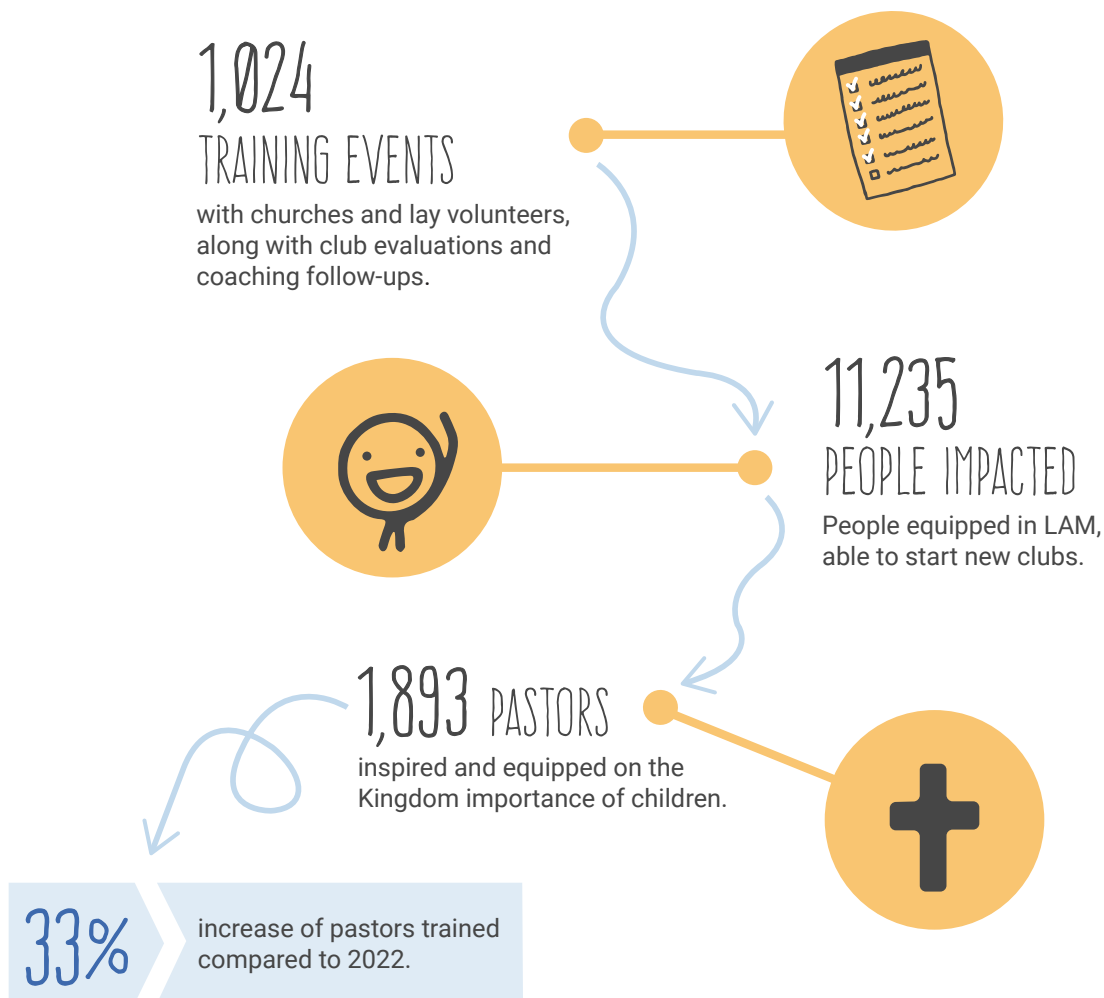


“...and make disciples of all nations...”
Matthew 28:19

EQUIPPING THE LOCAL CHURCHES

You helped us to not only inspire pastors and churches to reach the “lost sheep,” but you also helped us equip them and their members on how to minister God’s love and truth on a weekly basis to children. These discipleship principles and methods are all part of what we call LAM - CIC’s Living Active Method - a simple, powerful way to learn God’s pure Word deeply and transformationally. Amazingly, the churches, pastors, and volunteers are impacted as much as the children - the trainings, the method, and the power of God’s Word all transform these churches by His grace!!

YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN 2023 HELPED US PROVIDE



DISCIPLING DEEPLY

WE CAN NOW HAPPILY SHARE GOD’S WORD TO CHILDREN OUTSIDE OUR CHURCH

“I came to this training thinking it is going to be like other trainings we have received from other children-oriented organizations in the past, but to my surprise this CIC training was very different - it is much more practical and done 100% orally. We as a Church have been so blessed by this - now we can happily go and share God’s word to children outside the church [who do not know Jesus] without any material hindrances [since LAM only needs a Bible.]

CHILDREN RETAIN 90% OR MORE OF THE BIBLE STORY!

And we are also able to help our own Sunday school children learn God’s word in a sweet and safe [learning] environment, with the children retaining 90% or more of the Bible story. God bless CIC for this wonderful method of learning God’s Word.”

Kebede B., 50, Male, ETHIOPIA



Ethiopia - CIC club children gather for a fun photo with Obed, a CIC young leader and LAM trainer who grew up attending CIC club in his own country of Ghana. Obed has been instrumental in helping expand this new country ministry in Ethiopia with its church trainings.



DISCIPLING DEEPLY

AS AN EDUCATOR, I CAN SAY THIS WAY OF TEACHING ALLOWS CHILDREN TO QUICKLY UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE
 “I am an educator [in our community] and I have seen the work of the CIC club in our church [using the LAM method.] I have seen that this teaching is very good, it is the teaching that meets the learning needs of children; when the Bible story is learned multi-sensory, it allows children to quickly understand the Bible. I witness that this way of teaching facilitates children to be able to reconstruct the whole Bible story from the beginning to the end and the themes which are discussed and debated help children a lot. I have seen a lot of changes in our childrenMay God bless this ministry!”

Timothee M., 38, Male, CHAD

DISCIPLING THE CHILDREN

Through your prayers, love, and partnership, we were able to weekly minister God’s love and truth to hundreds of thousands of children last year! We went from **14,791,200 child-hours in 2022 to 18,947,280 child-hours in 2023.**

20%

INCREASE IN CHILD
DISCIPLESHIP HOURS
2022 TO 2023

Using the Living Active Method to learn God’s Word, children are able to not only understand the Bible story deeply, but are also able to prayerfully consider and discuss what God is telling them through His Word. One of our key “Sweet Discussion” questions each week is about the choices people made in the Bible story, and what the impact might have been.

We pray and ask the Lord what He is telling each one of us personally through this learning, and what we should do.

Read about Yeipyeng’s experience on page 12.

“I AM IN JOY TO COME TO THIS CLUB EVERY TIME BECAUSE HERE I FIND JOY. I LIKE HOW THEY TEACH US HOW TO STAND IN LIFE AND ALSO HOW TO KNOW THE WORD OF GOD. THANK YOU!”

Alsény, 12, Male, GUINEA

DISCIPLING DEEPLY

14-YEAR-OLD YEIPYENG TELLS US HOW THIS HAS CHANGED HER LIFE...

EACH TIME I AM TEMPTED TO DO ANYTHING WRONG, A VOICE ALWAYS REMINDS ME OF THE BIBLE STORY CHOICE WE DISCUSSED IN OUR CIC CLUB
 "I want to start by saying God bless CIC for coming my way. I used to be a very stubborn child, so that my grandparents gave up on me at some point. But in CIC [club] I was always given a responsibility and sometimes I was the one telling the [Bible] story. One day I said to myself - 'All these stories I have been hearing and the choices I have been making are all in vain if my life doesn't reflect the Godly values I learned.'

I sat down and reflected on all the stories I now know from Genesis, and all the choices I have made. I began to cry and ask God for mercy and grace to help me do what he wants me to do with God's help.

Each time I am tempted to do anything wrong a voice always reminds me of the choice I made in club. For example if I want to disobey my grandparents, a voice in me will say to me: 'Was this how Abram behaved to God? Remember you can choose to be obedient.' And immediately I will stop. Gradually these have become part of me and now to the glory of God my grandparents are happy and people around me are surprised about how I changed from a stubborn girl to a good girl. God bless CIC for all this teaching."

Yeipyeng J., 14, Female, NIGERIA



Yeipyeng, 14 years, lives in Plateau region in Nigeria and has been attending CIC club for 3 years. She is one of the child leaders in her club.

SUDDENLY I HEARD SCREAMS... I REMEMBERED TO ASK GOD FOR STRENGTH

"I want to thank the Lord for what He did for me this past holiday. One day we come back from the field my big brothers and me, and suddenly the wind started to blow very very very strong and a branch of tree with a honeycomb fell. This branch fell on [my big brothers.] I was in front of them and suddenly I heard screams, I ran towards them as bees stung them, I tried to take them out but the bees stung me too. I didn't know what to do and there was no one to help us. It was at this moment that I remembered to ask God and I told him to give me the strength to get them out of there. Right after praying I heard the voice of men and they helped me get them out and bring them to the hospital. Fortunately, my brothers are going to be okay. Only our donkey who died. And I thank the Lord because my brothers are going well now."

Jeremie F., 11, Male, SENEGAL



LEADING IN CHRIST



“...he commanded our fathers to teach. . . their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God. . . .” Psalm 78:5b-7a

YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN 2023

helped us not just disciple children but also equip and empower them to:

- share Jesus' love and truth with others - now and for future generations
- launch new clubs and serve as club ministry leaders
- co-lead church trainings on child discipleship and LAM, and share the vision with pastors and mission networks too.

In 2023 we also launched our very first LAM-based Child & Youth Leadership Training curriculum, which can be used for youth leadership retreats and trainings.

(see p.15 for more details)

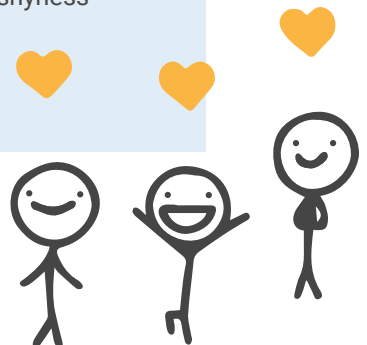
“I ALWAYS SHARE THE LESSONS I RECEIVE AT THE CLUB WITH MY PARENTS AND THEY ARE ALWAYS HAPPY WHEN I PLAY THEM THE STORIES AND EVERYTHING WE DID AT THE CLUB. THE STORY OF MARTHA AND MARY IN THE BIBLE TAUGHT ME A LOT THAT LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD IS IMPORTANT.”

Bourama C., 11, Male, MALI

CIC CHILDREN AND YOUTH JOYFULLY SERVE AS CLUB LEADERS AND FACILITATORS

“Before I was 15 I didn't know CIC, I couldn't even stand in front of an assembly to say a single word. I was very shy and I was ashamed to teach or speak in front of a crowd. I did not have the courage to open a club because I was too scared and I did not have the training necessary to hold a club. But now thanks to the CIC training, I can now stand in front of the children to teach them and not just children but even in front of a whole church. Now I have learned to free myself from shame and shyness because they are not part of the dictionary for children of God, now I can keep my club and make my ministry among the children.”

Debora P., 19, Female, SENEGAL





LEADING IN CHRIST

CIC Child, Youth, and Young Adult Leaders joyfully serve as LAM Trainers and CIC Ambassadors. Through your gifts and the Lord's help we have been able to equip more than 1,000 young people to be LAM trainers, like Nancy.

Nancy, a CIC young adult leader, is an orphan who began to attend CIC clubs. She was discipled by CIC's Nigeria leaders, equipped as a child and youth leader, led CIC clubs, and is now able to conduct full LAM trainings and even present CIC to global missions type conferences like the 4-14 Conference in Nigeria, a conference 100% focused on children's and youth ministry. Nancy was the only young person allowed a speaker role in the entire conference! In 2023 Nancy was on the move with other senior CIC leaders, being further developed into a highly effective ministry leader. Here's what Nancy wanted to share with you:

NANCY'S TESTIMONY

"I appreciate everyone for this opportunity to travel with CIC senior leader Dennis and two other Nigeria key team leaders to carry out this ministry assignment. The LAM training [we led] in Lagos, Nigeria, was successful and above all very impactful to the glory of God. During the course of the training I was able to facilitate [much of the training] and this helped the youth leaders around us to be encouraged. It also stirred up their passion to want to be equipped in order to be able to have a club of their own and also to become facilitators just like me and I am very pleased with how God has given CIC the strategy to use youth leaders to serve as an encouragement to other youth leaders.

The training ended with a powerful success and lots of people gave themselves to become volunteers and start clubs to ensure the expansion of CIC in Lagos. . . . Through the help of God, we were [also] able to help a child leader called Happiness start her own club and it was a wonderful time with the children and those child leaders, they were happy and also learnt the practical aspect of running a CIC club.

Additionally, this past year I also was given the opportunity to present CIC at the National Equip conference of the Nigeria window 4/14 global movement. I learned about lots of strategies that other children's ministry use to reach children and teens with the gospel of Christ and I also shared with them what we do in CIC and our unique mode of ministry. Through the help of God, people's interest was piqued and they are now wanting to partner with us to the glory of God. The conference has further opened my eyes to see how unique CIC works and also equipped me and built my capacity to be able to represent CIC well."

Nancy P., 26, Female, NIGERIA





INTRODUCING CIC'S FIRST LAM-BASED CHILD & YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Because LAM has proven to be an effective way to deeply disciple young people in His Word within CIC clubs, we decided to harness these same methods in developing and launching a brand new 3-day youth leadership training retreat that focuses on key Biblical leadership principles and their practical every-day application.

Our first CYLT (Child & Youth Leadership Training) content, for ages 9-18, dives deeply into 5 Bible stories from the life of Joseph, using LAM.

The five topics consider what God's Word says about the following choices and their impact:

01 FAVORITISM

02 PRIDE

03 INFLUENCING A GROUP FOR GOOD OR EVIL

04 AVOIDING TEMPTATION

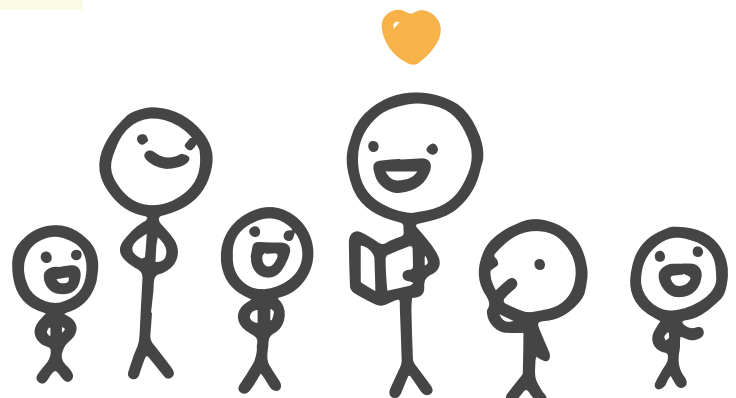
05 COUNTING IT ALL JOY

The pilots in Liberia, Gambia, and Senegal were so impactful that they not only touched the youths' lives but they also touched the adult facilitators' lives too!

This CYLT is now ready to roll out across Africa in 2024 and 2025. Imagine the impact on Africa's future when its leaders embrace these learnings! We plan to develop more CYLTs, using 5 more stories from Joseph's life and also a new series from Esther's life in 2025.

Overview of Contents

SESSION 1 (2 hours) CYLT Orientation and The Impact of Favoritism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYLT Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Introduction, Prayer, and Orientation ◦ Honeypot Review and Preparation • LAM Story: Genesis 37:1-4 • Special Teaching Points 	SESSION 4 (2 hours) Leaders Will Be Tempted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAM Story: Genesis 39:1-10 • Special Teaching Points
SESSION 2 (2 hours) The Impact of Pride <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAM Story: Genesis 37:5-11 • Special Teaching Points 	SESSION 5 (2 hours) God is With Us in All Situations, and We Should Serve Him Faithfully <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAM Story: Genesis 39:19-40:4 • Special Teaching Points
SESSION 3 (2 hours) As Leaders, We Can Influence the Group Positively or Negatively <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAM Story: Genesis 37:23-28 • Special Teaching Points 	SESSION 6 (1 hour, 45 min) CYLT Story and Lesson Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full CYLT Lesson Review • Gospel and Testimonies • Sweet Multiplication • Final Words and Closing Prayer





INTRODUCING THE LIVING ACTIVE METHOD JOURNEY

What is the LAM Journey?

An immersive online learning experience in which you can get fully equipped on the principles, methods, and simple, practical steps for how to use LAM to learn any Bible story.

Who is it for?

- Churches
- Community/small groups
- Short-term missions & missionaries
- Missions networks & organizations
- Anyone with a passion for discipleship based on God's pure Word

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement!

Through this online LAM Journey, we are now able to share what the Lord has taught us about child and youth discipleship with the Body of Christ in the US and across the world!

For more information visit our LAM website at:
www.livingactivemethod.org

WHY IS LAM SO IMPACTFUL?

- ✓ Powerfully hides God's pure Word in hearts
- ✓ Uses multi-sensory learning techniques
- ✓ Creates an optimal learning environment
- ✓ Equips and empowers children
- ✓ Encourages sharing God's Word
- ✓ Doesn't need materials
- ✓ Is easy to learn and pass on!



START LEARNING LAM TODAY! Visit livingactivemethod.org

STEWARDSHIP

In CIC the Lord has brought the Body of Christ in the US and Africa to join hands in partnership.

Your donations plus African churches' cash and non-cash contributions (food, transportation, volunteerism, etc.) plus CIC's light footprint (no bricks and mortar, a pro bono CEO, etc.) are all working together to advance the ministry. And through this God-given partnership, in 2023 you were able to reach and disciple 1 child weekly for less than US \$7 per child per year.

In 2024, with escalating ministry costs, we are hoping to increase our budget to a total \$2,200,00, so that we can continue pressing on toward the upward call of Christ. Your gifts will make a big impact as God multiplies your gifts!

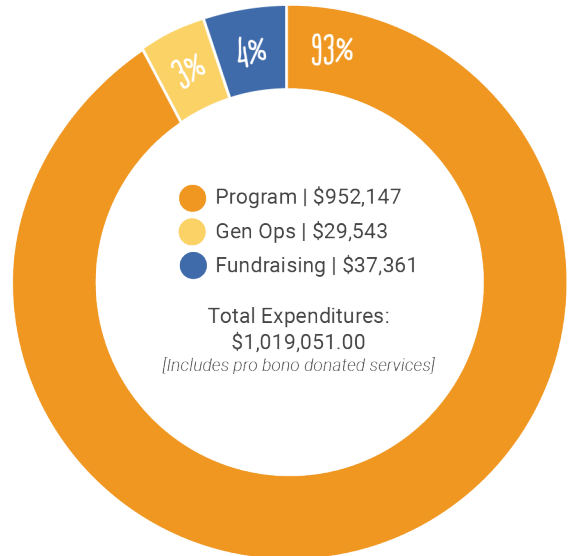
For our audited financials, please visit www.childrenic.org



Rebeka and CIC club children gather for a photo after a Benin club visit

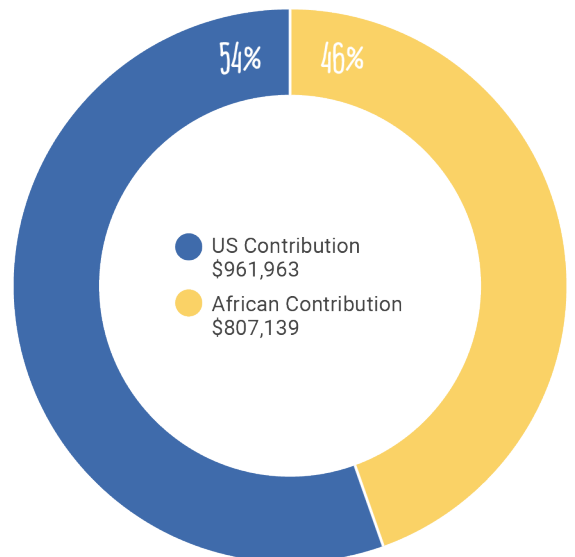
HOW YOUR US DONATIONS WERE USED

FY23 Total Expenditures: US Donations



HOW AFRICAN LOCAL CHURCHES PARTNER WITH YOU

Total FY23 African and US Expenditures:
Source of Cash and Non Cash Contributions





PRESSING FORWARD

This year we are thrilled the Lord is bringing about even more exciting ministry opportunities to multiply our spiritual impact with:

- **the online LAM Journey now available to share LAM globally with churches and missionaries**
- **new countries launching like Republic of the Congo (Congo-Brazzaville)**
- **a total of 800+ field LAM trainings, coaching and spiritual impact assessments**
- **1000+ Youth Leader LAM trainers that we have been equipping and developing in much of this field activity!**

YOUR GIFTS IN 2024

Your continued partnership will help us:

- **deeply disciple children in God's pure Word with a goal of 20,000,000+ child-hours of discipleship**
- **mobilize our teams to follow-up on CIC clubs and provide in-person LAM trainings across Africa**
- **provide Child & Youth Leadership Trainings in every one of our 26 countries**
- **engage 25 new Unreached People Groups**
- **equip teams with motorbikes and bicycles so they can access remote areas where there is no public transport**
- **provide LAM Journey Scholarships to under-resourced churches and missionaries**

Please pray with us that the Lord will bring incredible fruitfulness through transformed hearts and lives, a harvest of young leaders, a flourishing indigenous ministry, and expansion into new countries and continents to reach one million children for Christ! Please pray for His grace and provision!

May the Lord bless you abundantly for all you have done to help fulfill His Great Commission in our lifetime!

With profound thankfulness,

Jen Merryman, CEO



P.S. One of our very kind and generous donors just offered us a matching gift of \$75,000 to help share LAM with African churches and provide scholarships for people to learn LAM through the LAM Journey too! That means that any gift you give until we reach \$75,000 will be doubled!

Check out our website: www.childrenic.org