

THE MESSENGER

The Whole Gospel to the Whole World through the Whole Church

Missionaries Walking in SAMS Global Vision

by David Chaves

The first rays of the Tulear sun reveal small groups cooking breakfast over charcoal and wood. Children carry water in jerrycans as young men wash their faces and women begin to sing. Hundreds roll up blankets from their short night's sleep on the sandy soil. They sit in groups sharing rice porridge, laughter, and worship songs. Some have walked as many as forty miles to be here. They've come to witness the consecration of a new assistant bishop, a man who led many of them to faith...

Seventeen years earlier a young Kenyan left his homeland at the invitation of the bishop of the embryonic Diocese of Toliara, Madagascar. It was a bold invite: Come to the poorest region of one of the poorest countries in the world, learn the language, and work alongside the Malagasy to share Christ, plant churches, and train evangelists.

Victor was one of the first long-term missionaries sent out by the Anglican Church of Kenya. Once in Madagascar, he took the approach of a learner, seeking to soak up Malagasy culture and forge friendships. He became fluent in the local language and adapted local customs while sharing Christ with almost everyone he met. He flourished in Madagascar.

Victor's support team from his home church in Kibera met regularly to pray. Some of the members gave up meals each

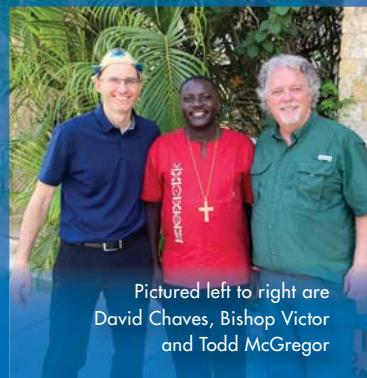


David Chaves helped Victor prepare for mission and connect with Senders, serving as Victor's Kenyan missions coordinator from 2008-2012. David and his wife Lucy were SAMS Missionaries in Kenya from 2006-2014. David and Lucy continue a ministry focus on Kenya, based now out of Virginia. David also assists Lucy as they support SAMS Missionary Bridgers serving globally from 1-12 months.

week to send money to support their missionary friend. In their sacrifices, both small and large, there was a sense of divine calling. Even though the church and most of its members resided in Africa's largest slum, they were playing a pivotal role in God's global mission - sending a missionary to take the gospel to another nation.

Victor's ministry blossomed: training new evangelists, coordinating outreach programs, providing pastoral oversight for growing churches, and more. Along the way, Victor met his future wife, Nolavy, the daughter of a local shaman, had put her trust in Christ, and she, too, had sensed a call to ministry. During their engagement, she traded places with Victor, traveling to Kenya for theological education, returning to serve alongside him, currently as the Diocesan Women's Center Coordinator. Today, Victor and Nolavy have four children, and the Diocese of Toliara has over seventy new churches, a vibrant theological college, and a strong women's ministry.

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Todd McGregor, in his role as Missionary Bishop, invited Victor to come to Toliara in 2008, and Patsy McGregor discipled Victor's wife Nolavy as a new believer! Todd and Patsy served as SAMS Missionaries in Madagascar from 1991-2002 and 2007-2020. They ministered in Kenya in the years between, and now from Florida with a global reach. Todd is SAMS Missions Coach helping folks discern vocation. Patsy refocused her missionary calling on the arts, sharing the Gospel through sending performing arts teams from Madagascar.

Pictured left to right are David Chaves, Bishop Victor and Todd McGregor

The Defiant Joy of Sudan's Nuba People



by The Rev. Jared Wensley

"But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."

—1 Peter 4:13

Peter's call to endure and even rejoice defies our every instinct. How can anyone rejoice in the midst of suffering, especially the kind of suffering we see in places like Sudan?

For years, tribal suppression has posed a threat in places like the Nuba Mountains, especially among believers in Jesus Christ. Indigenous groups have long faced unrest, whether from Islamic sultanates, the slave trade, or nation formation amid coups and civil wars. Throughout all this, a diversity of tribes has held fast in the Nuba Mountains, united by a culture of defiance.

When South Sudan became an independent country in 2011, many contested regions were left behind. Violence ensued, and southern sympathizers were targeted. The Nuba tribes resisted attacks and faced bombing raids for over a decade. Many suffered deeply; others fled the country.

Amid this suffering, the Church made a new name for itself. Instead of abandoning the people, Christians built hospitals and schools, preaching encouragement even with bombers swarming overhead. In 2005, the Anglican Church in the Nuba Mountains consisted of only five churches and a few thousand members. Today, there are well over 100 churches and 60,000 Anglicans.

In 2011, as attacks on the Nuba Mountains increased, Bishop Andudu Adam Elnail found himself as an asylee in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he received medical care and pursued further education. Instead of staying put in his new American home, Bishop Andudu spent much of his time going back and forth to support his diocese. He explains his vision in these words:

"Last time, we let the war keep us from developing. We felt like we had to wait, do nothing, and just endure. This did not work and we lost an entire generation to the war. Not again! We will not wait for the war to stop. Will it ever stop? The church has work to do."

As Anglicans in Virginia got to know Bishop Andudu, they were inspired by the defiance and determination he possessed in joyfully and sacrificially caring for his flock. Out of this, Sudan Church Partners (SCP) was born in 2020. SCP exists to bolster the Anglican Church in raising up strong Christ-formed leaders. The church in Sudan's Nuba Mountains will be strongest if their leadership is equipped to make a long-lasting and Christ-centered impact.

SCP seeks to be faithful to this calling in a variety of ways, particularly in supporting secondary school education, forming teachers and leaders, and financing peace workshops. These reconciliation workshops among tribes, while not directly evangelistic, have at times opened new doors for the gospel.

Thus our Sudanese brothers and sisters continue to defiantly embrace the joy and calling of Christ, despite their suffering. May we be encouraged by their testimony and keep the Anglicans of the Nuba Mountains in our prayers!

Jared and his wife Abbi served in Germany from 2014-2020 as church planters and became Missionaries with SAMS. Your Society is thrilled that Jared recently answered a call to become the first Executive Director of Sudan Church Partners (SCP).

Jared first met Bishop Andudu through his work with refugees in North Carolina, and reflects, "Bishop Andudu's hard work for the Sudanese church back home and here in the diaspora was inspiring to me and drew me into a situation I knew almost nothing about. When Sudan Church Partners offered me the role of full-time Executive Director, I could hardly turn it down." Jared and Abbi continue serving with SAMS as Associate Missionaries, residing with their two young girls in North Carolina.

If you are interested in learning more about SCP, check out their website at www.sudanchurchpartners.org Also, watch for an upcoming article in SAMS E-Messenger once Jared returns from a short-term mission to Africa.



Alenskis Family



Kerry & Cynthia Buttram



Johann & Louise Vanderbijl



Lee & Ela Nelson



Chisholm Family



Roger & Joanne Griffin



Tim & Meredith Holt

March 1-7: Missionary Bridgers (One to twelve-month missionary interns):

Catherine Annand (Uganda), **David & Sarah Anderson** (Southeast Asia), **Deb Carr** (Kenya), and **Patrick Lutalo** (Uganda). Pray that God's goodness and grace would continue to lead them into fruitful service.

March 8-14: EUROPE: The Netherlands

Pray for **David & Mary Beth, Austin, James, and Lily Alenskis** in this time of preparation for their placement at Tyndale Theological Seminary. Pray for safe travel and that God would grant them grace as they visit churches and Senders seeking prayer and financial partnership. Pray for their children as they adapt to a new community and culture. Pray for David as he looks forward to equipping ministers of Jesus Christ, especially in the developing world, through affordable access to theological education.

Pray for **Kerry & Cynthia Buttram** and remember Kerry's ministry of word and sacrament in Anglican parishes in the Netherlands and beyond. Ask God to guide him as he provides personal mentoring for those in discernment for ordained ministry. Pray that the Lord would abide with Cynthia as she counsels and helps a growing number of individuals with spiritual direction. Grant them both the insight needed to disciple those in their circles of influence. Pray for the pastoral care of clergy, their spouses, and Missionaries in Europe.

Please lift up **Johann & Louise Vanderbijl** and the three major outreaches in the first half of the year at Christ Church Heiloo, where they serve: the Men's Day in March, the Children's Easter Outreach in April, and the Women's Retreat in May. Please pray for Johann as he continues his work writing a narrative commentary on 1 Corinthians by the April deadline.

March 15-21: EUROPE: Germany

Pray that Missionary Candidates **Lee & Ela, Moira, Oliver, Emmelia, Margaret, Beatrix, Joseph, and Catherine Nelson** would continue to raise up prayer and financial partners as they experience a joyous beginning to their ministry. Join them in praying that Knüllcamp would fulfill the vision of being a place for the training and formation of church planters and catechists as well as a place of healing and retreat. Lift up their children as they adapt to Germany's unique culture.

March 22-28: EUROPE: Portugal

Please pray for **Steve & Veronica, Ayla, and Zelia Chisholm** as they serve in Portugal with Christ the King Anglican Church. Pray that God would grow a healthy, multi-generational ministry, raising up young people and families into leadership, and for provision of a permanent meeting space. Pray for complete healing for Veronica, following her surgery this past fall, and for wisdom and discernment for her medical team as they determine the best path forward.

March 29-April 4: CENTRAL EUROPE

Intercede for **Steve V.** asking the Lord to grant wisdom in continuing opportunities to engage with local non-Christians about Christ. Pray for these efforts as he distributes New Testaments by bike where people can find them. Pray for the ongoing spiritual formation and direction Steve is having with a seeker, and for opportunities to share as he tutors a student in English. Pray for a positive experience for a visitor from the U.S. in April.

April 5-11: NORTH AMERICA: Mexico

Please be in prayer for **Roger and Joanne Griffin** and the Chapel of St. Mary and Joseph in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato. Pray for this bilingual church plant in the heart of Mexico, especially for their community that is forming in Christ. Pray for Roger and Joanne as they settle into a different region of Mexico with its own unique expression and culture.

Please pray for **Tim & Meredith Holt** as they continue to adjust to being newly married, and to living and working together in El Paso, TX. Pray for wisdom for them to know how best to continue supporting the Lord's work all over Mexico and how to encourage the pastors and church leaders there. Pray also for the academic scholarship ministry in Fresnillo, that the Lord would provide and that the students would grow in Him.



Cate Waddell



Amanda Scott



Steve & Debbie Buckner



Jack Melvin



Vivanco Family



Russ & Heidi Smith



Gates Family



Gresser Family



Whitaker Family



Pelloni Family



Long Family



Weber Family

April 12-18: CENTRAL AMERICA: Honduras

Lift up **Cate Waddell, Amanda Scott, and Steve & Debbie Buckner** at LAMB Institute for this upcoming school year at Joy Christian Academy. Give Cate endurance as she teaches middle school math for the first time. Please pray for all the children at the Academy, the Children's Home, and in all of Honduras.

Pray for **Jack Melvin** in Tegucigalpa, that God will continue to guide him in his work providing scholarships for Honduran children, overseeing building projects, and especially pray that families and children would experience God's presence through his ministry.

April 19-25: SOUTH AMERICA: Ecuador

Join **Roberto & Cameron, Graham, Liam, and Francis Vivanco** in giving God thanks for the growth and health of the ministries in Quito, especially with the short-term mission teams, and the opportunities to serve at English Fellowship Church (EFC). Please pray for the EFC leadership, healthy growth, and worship for all who call it home. Please pray for Education Equals Hope Micro Scholarship program, serving approximately 1,500 students. Pray for the Vivanco family and educational decisions for their children.

April 26-May 2: SOUTH AMERICA: Chile

Join **Russ & Heidi Smith** in prayer for the Rural Bible Institute students, especially those who have come from other countries to study this year. Pray for the Equipping Servants International participants in Chile, for ongoing growth in the impact of Moms in Prayer in their region, and for the ministry at Kingdom of God Church, that all will be for God's glory and for the furthering of God's kingdom.

Lift up Missionary Candidates **Logan & Samantha, and Lewis Gates** as they temporarily relocate to Northern Virginia for Logan to begin a church internship with a focus on church planting and Spanish-language ministry, in preparation for him and Samantha to serve long-term in Chile. Please also pray for Samantha's studying for her CPA licensing exam in June, a skill they hope she can use in the field.

May 3-9: ASIA: Cambodia

Please pray for **Gregory & Heidi, Saeeda, Brynne, Aubrey, Ivy, and Madeleine Whitaker**, and especially for Gregory's sabbatical, his first after over 12 years of ministry in Cambodia. Pray for internally displaced people who have suffered due to the recent conflict with Thailand, that many will hear the gospel and that their homes and livelihood will be restored. Pray for the leadership, clergy, and lay pastors in the Anglican Church of Cambodia, that they may be strengthened in their service.

Intercede for **Anthony & Anna, Laurel, Bethel, Priel, Isobel, and Noel Pelloni** in Phnom Penh, as they continue to raise up and disciple young Cambodians. Pray for Anthony and his continued seminary and language study. Pray for Anna and her role with the church plant and in their home. May the Lord guide and bless all they seek to do and accomplish.

May 10-16: ASIA: Indonesia

Please pray for **Jim & Nanci, Anna, George, Mary, and Della Long**, and specifically the ministry of Jim and Nanci as they collaborate with Jakarta Providence Anglican Church's outreach arm, Mission Caritas, which strives to bring the spiritual and physical blessings of the kingdom to bear upon Indonesia's refugee communities and indigenous poor.

May 17-23: AFRICA: Namibia

Pray for **Robert & Traci, Andrew, Peter, Daniel, and June Gresser** as they begin their new assignment at the Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary in Windhoek. Pray that God would grant them a smooth transition in this new placement as well as wisdom in renting a house, buying household goods, and purchasing a suitable car. Continue to pray for their health, and once there, for integration into their new church, the seminary, and community. Please also remember their family that they leave behind.

May 24-30: AFRICA: Rwanda

Intercede for **Ben & Cherie, Mae, Conor, Abigail, Jonathan, Michaela, and Shiloh Weber**, as they work to strengthen the partnerships between churches in Rwanda and the U.S. Ask for wisdom for the Church in Rwanda as it continues to navigate new government regulations that have resulted in the closure of many church buildings. Also pray for the discipleship of believers and their families as they reach their neighbors with the gospel, as well as the church's schools as they minister to their communities.



Janine LeGrand



Richard & Martha Menees



Richard & Catherine Ranger



Benton Family



Behrens Family



Omar Family



Larson Family

May 31-June 6: AFRICA: Uganda

Bless **Janine LeGrand** with your prayers as she continues to work in the Diocese of Masindi-Kitara, developing and implementing healthcare programs. Pray that God gives her endurance and willing co-laborers as she trains community health providers, that she would convey the love of God in meaningful ways.

Intercede for **Richard & Martha Menees** in Kabale as Richard continues his work at Bishop Barham Theological College and Uganda Christian University, Kabale, teaching courses and providing organization and much needed books to the library, as well as, helping Martha with her ministry of mentoring and evangelizing students and providing food and tuition assistance.

Pray for **Richard & Catherine Ranger** and especially for wisdom and discretion in advising students as Catherine continues in the UCU Honors College as well as for the time and resources to complete *Helping without Hurting in Africa*. Pray for the Lord's guidance for Richard in teaching courses in Ethics and Governance, and for inspiration and discipline in writing about their Uganda experiences. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide them in serving as leaders of their home cell group fellowship.

June 7-13 : NORTH AFRICA

Pray for **J&K** as they settle into life and ministry in North Africa after their move. Ask the Lord to grant them grace as they build relationships, learn the language, and lay new foundations in the Diocese of North Africa. Ask the Lord to guide them in shaping sustainable, locally led ministries that reflect His love and truth.

June 14-20: OCEANIA: New Zealand

Remember **Guy & Summer, Isaac, Quinn, Norah, and Addison Benton** in your prayers serving in the Anglican Diocese of Wellington. Pray for their local missional communities and pray that they would continue to serve as fruitful onramps for people to know and serve Christ. Lift up their family as they continue to serve and live out the gospel in real and powerful ways.

June 21-27: NORTH AMERICA: United States of America Refugees and Other Immigrants

Pray for the **Daniel & Rebekah Behrens** in Pittsburgh, and especially for **Sabal, Darcy, and Mary**, for joyful flexibility in cross-cultural friendships. Pray for Daniel, Rebekah, and the volunteers they support who have been walking with ten vulnerable refugee families who arrived in late 2024 and early 2025. Pray for deepening relationships with Spanish-speakers through monthly community group meetings and a women's mini-retreat. Pray for a study of the Sermon on the Mount for ESL students which Daniel will be leading.

Please pray for **Dan & Cesiah, Lily, and Abby Omar** in Georgia as they adjust to being a family of four. Pray that the Lord will continue to open doors for ministry among immigrants and refugees in Clarkston and Loganville. Join them in prayer as they discern and ask the Lord to provide expanded opportunities for them to reach out to university students.

June 28-July 4: NORTH AMERICA: United States of America

Lift up Missionary Candidates **Eric & Liz, Zeke, and Elias Larson**. May God provide them a robust community as they discern missionary service.

July 5-11: Associate Missionaries

David & Patricia Ayres (church planting in Germany), **Jesse & Sarah Blaine** (church planting), **Chuck & Beth Bradshaw** (theological and musical education in Uganda), **Mary Chowenhill** (entrepreneurial development in Uganda), **Cathy Clevenger** (trauma healing ministry in Uganda), **Matt & Sora Colvin** (theological education and health ministry), **Bunny Cowan** (teaching in Honduras), **Wayne & Nicole Curtis** (youth ministry in South Africa), and **Kathy Decker** (communications in Peru).

July 12-18: Associate Missionaries

John & Ninfa Dixon (outreach on the Mexican border), **Cathy Donahoe** (health ministry in the Dominican Republic), **Chris Feuillade** (education in Chile), **Rusty & Tammy Firestone** (church development in Bolivia), **Tom & Maryjane Furrer** (health ministry in Nigeria), **Margarita Grachen** (children's ministry in Honduras), **Allen & Rachel Hill** (theological education), **Mike & Betty Kaszer** (education ministry in Honduras), **Grant & Wendy LeMarquand** (diocesan development in Ethiopia), **Jacky Lowe** (women's ministry in Madagascar), **Jeannie Loving** (social outreach in Honduras), and **Frank & Shawnee Lyons** (youth ministry).



Chaves Family



Anne Schaffer



Todd & Patsy McGregor



Miller Family



Jack & Mary McDonald



Jared & Abbi Wensel



Weeldreyer Family

July 19-25: Associate Missionaries

Ian & Polly Montgomery (diocesan ministry in Peru), **John & Susan Park** (leadership development in Latin America), **Trent Pettit** (Ethiopia/global Anglican mission partnerships), **Ana Reid** (social ministries in Honduras), **Maunette Tait** (education in Honduras), and **Hunter & Stephie Van Wagenen** (evangelism in Spain).

July 26-August 1: GLOBAL MINISTRY FOCUS: United States of America

Join **David & Lucy, Joshua, Paul, Zuri, and Mark Chaves** in thanking God for the fruit that is being born in their missional enterprises that employ young Kenyans. Pray for their scholarship students transitioning to new schools and for the staff members who teach and mentor. Pray that the Lord will provide the funds necessary for staff salaries in 2026.

Join **Anne Schaffer** in praising God for the growth and fruit of the language and culture acquisition ministry and for those who invest in the ministry. Please pray for the missionaries that she coaches to be blessed and truly receive the support that they need through their time with her, both for their well-being and to better communicate with and adapt well to those they are serving among.

August 2-8: GLOBAL MINISTRY FOCUS: United States of America

Lift up **Todd & Patsy McGregor** in Florida, as they travel back to Madagascar for the 10th anniversary of Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Toliara, Madagascar. Pray for Todd as he teaches the students at St. Patrick's College, and for Patsy as she meets with and prepares the *Miaraka: A Time to Dance* team who will be performing. Grant recovery to the McGregors grieving the death of Patsy's mother and rest from all that had to be planned.

Ask the Lord to bless **Mike & Kim, Katherine, and Liliana Miller** in Florida, as they continue the work of supporting and walking alongside the children they support in Honduras, including the work to help build schools. Bless also their work with children in Ethiopia. Pray that all the children they support would have eyes to see and ears to hear the good news of the gospel and be the Light of Christ to the world around them.

Pray for safety as **Jack & Mary McDonald** travel to Türkiye for the Christian Veterinary Mission staff conference. Pray for God to bless the McDonald's F.A.R.M. training in Virginia, for those wanting to work with livestock in rural villages around the world. Pray for their son Jack and daughter-in-law who are expecting their first child. Pray for a healthy baby and that the miracle of birth will draw them closer to Christ.

Bless **Jared & Abbi, Theodora, and Olivia Wensel** in North Carolina, with your prayers in this new chapter of their calling. Lift up Abbi as she restarts her dormant photography business. As she adjusts, give her creativity and wisdom in setting new goals. Pray for Jared in his new role as Executive Director of Sudan Church Partners and ask especially for safe travel, protection, divine guidance, and wisdom as he leads the organization and travels to Sudan.

August 9-15: GLOBAL MINISTRY FOCUS: United States of America

Pray for the SAMS Home Staff Team: **Nita Dempsey, Brendan Kimbrough, Julie Kirik, Howard McClellan, Dana Priest, Kelly Shane, Wade & Chelsea Weeldreyer, and Stewart Wicker**. Grant them wisdom and divine guidance as they seek to encourage and equip missionaries and mobilize the Church in this shared calling.

Pray that **Wade & Chelsea, Evelyn, and William Weeldreyer's** debrief is a Spirit-led, fruitful time of reflection around their previous term of service in Rwanda. Pray that Wade and Chelsea would continue to grow in their knowledge and ability to resource and support SAMS Missionaries well. Pray that their children, Evie, and William would grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

August 16-22: SAMS Family

Join with us praying, "Lord, we pray that you would raise up **Inquirers and Applicants** who have a heart for working cross-culturally and would faithfully discern what it means to serve as cross-cultural missionaries, including those who would serve one to twelve months as Missionary Bridgers."

August 23-31: Senders

Praise God with us: "We give you thanks, Lord, for all **Senders** who through generous hearts and practiced obedience in prayer continually encourage and support our Missionaries enabling them to do the work of 'making disciples of all nations.'"

IN MEMORIAM:
Jessica Hughes (1970-2025)
SAMS Missionary to Uganda



Almighty God, with whom the souls of the faithful who have departed this life are in joy and felicity: We praise and magnify your holy Name for your servant Jessica Hughes and all your servants who have finished their course in your faith and fear; and we most humbly pray that, at the day of resurrection, we and all who are members of the mystical body of your Son may be set on his right hand, and hear his most joyful voice: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

New Santiago Church Plant will be Led by Gates



SAMS newest Missionary Candidates, Logan and Samantha Gates, are pursuing a missionary call through an invitation from the Anglican Bishop of Santiago, Chile, to pastor an Anglican church plant there. The call is unique in that it entails pastoring in a professional neighborhood of Santiago, with few evangelical churches. This call connects

well with Logan's background in apologetics and evangelism, as well as with the vision God has given him to strengthen the Church in commanding Christ and making disciples, especially among young people, professionals, and those wrestling with questions and doubts about God.

In the meantime, as they prepare for the transition to Chile, Logan will continue his work as a speaker with *Apologetics Canada*, giving a defense for the hope we have in Christ. They are moving from Toronto to Northern Virginia, where Logan will serve as an intern at an ACNA church that has a Spanish-speaking ministry. Both Samantha and Logan, with their infant son Lewis, will be immersed in language and culture and grow in ministering together as a family. Please pray for their family as they seek Senders and make two moves over the next year.

The Whole Gospel to the Whole World

continued from page 1

Seventeen years after the young Kenyan took a step of faith and set foot in Madagascar, the Tulear sun announced a new day – the consecration day of Victor as Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Toliara. During the consecration service on November 9, 2025, bishops from Madagascar, Kenya, and around the world joined the hundreds of local believers who had gathered to celebrate. The nations came together in gladness and the bishops knelt alongside Victor as the Archbishop of the province offered a blessing: “May the vision of God enlighten your understanding, may God’s continuing call sustain your walk with Christ, and keep you joyful.”



Patsy McGregor discipling three Malagasy women, one of which is Victor’s wife Nolavy



Bishop Todd McGregor with the newly ordained Bishop Victor

Equipping the Global Church

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Making Disciples of Nations and Generations



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April 12-16, 2027



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Near Asheville, North Carolina

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www.samsusa.org/50th-anniversary

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