



themilestone

SPRING 2023

THE LEADING EDGE

PASTOR TIM BREEN



They're called "earworms".

Don't get grossed out. While the name implies a medical condition – *or perhaps something that crawls out of your cob of corn?* – earworms aren't actually bacteria or fishing bait. They are songs.

Or, more specifically, they are parts of songs – choruses, hooks, or sequences – that get stuck in your head. We've all had this. No matter how hard you try, you cannot get the earworm out. It haunts you when you take a shower. It rattles in your braincase while you are trying to study. It loops in your head while you are falling asleep and it hits play again as soon as you wake up.

A number of websites and studies have compiled lists of the worst offenders. If you are prone to the earworm malady, you may want to skip down a paragraph or two, because even hearing the names of these tunes could lodge the music in your brain. You've been warned:

Here they are:

- *Who Let the Dogs Out?* By Baha Men
- *The Lollipop Guild* from the Wizard of Oz
- *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* from Mary Poppins.
- *I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)* by The Proclaimers
- YMCA by the Village People
- *Shake it Off* by Taylor Swift
- *We are the Champions* by Queen
- *Never Gonna Give You Up* by Rick Astley
(DON'T CLICK THE LINK)

But the widely accepted #1 earwormiest song of all, visitors to Disney World will tell you, is *It's a Small World*. (Look at how long the line for that ride is! Just skip it. Space Mountain will be a better option for you.)

It turns out that a lot of legit science is at work in the phenomenon of earworm songs. Our brains, it seems, love patterns. And they try to store information through repetition and recall. (If only it worked as well with the location of my car keys.)

Thankfully, researchers have also discovered that there are functional remedies for curing the ailment. Distract yourself, they say, or think hard about another song. Believe it or not, lab testing also indicates that *chewing a piece of gum* helps a little bit. So I guess you can take on Mary Poppins with Bubblicious? The more you know.

This summer, our church is going to think about a different sort of memorable music. In a series called *Can't Forget the Lyrics*, we'll explore the lines from hymns and other worship songs that stick deeply into our souls. Think LifeVerses set to melodies.

These phrases, words, and passages remind us of deep spiritual truths and offer glimpses of God that prose just can't. It's the art at work in these lyrics, I think, that makes them so beautiful.

I don't know that I will have the opportunity to share my lyric of choice in a Sunday message, so I'll just paste it here. This couplet, while it isn't original to Bach's German version, accompanies most English renditions of Johann Sebastian Bach's 1723 *Jesus bleibet meine Freude* ("Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring").

***Jesu, joy of man's desiring/Holy wisdom, love most bright
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring/Soar to uncreated light.***

I'd encourage you to drink deeply of this version by Josh Groban: <https://tinyurl.com/grobanjesu>.

I promise, it's not a RickRoll.

WELCOME *New Faces*



John & Jeanne Den Hartog



Jana Vermeer



Paul & Marijo Smit



Tony & Teri Anderson



Mike, Jamie, Jaylee, Tessa, Jenna,
& Max Kamerman



Chad, Amy, McKenna, Kaylor, Braleigh, Ryden,
& Haven Cleveringa



Stefan, Miranda, Jacob, McKenna, & Malia Maassen



Todd, Mary, Tommy, & Teagan Tracy

Welcome LITTLE ONES

Owen James Rensink

Born: April 3, 2023
Parents: Micah & Heather
Rensink



Lucas Mark Vande Brake

Born: April 20, 2023
Parents: Tony & Kolbie
Vande Brake



Ministry GIVING

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Malachi 3:10

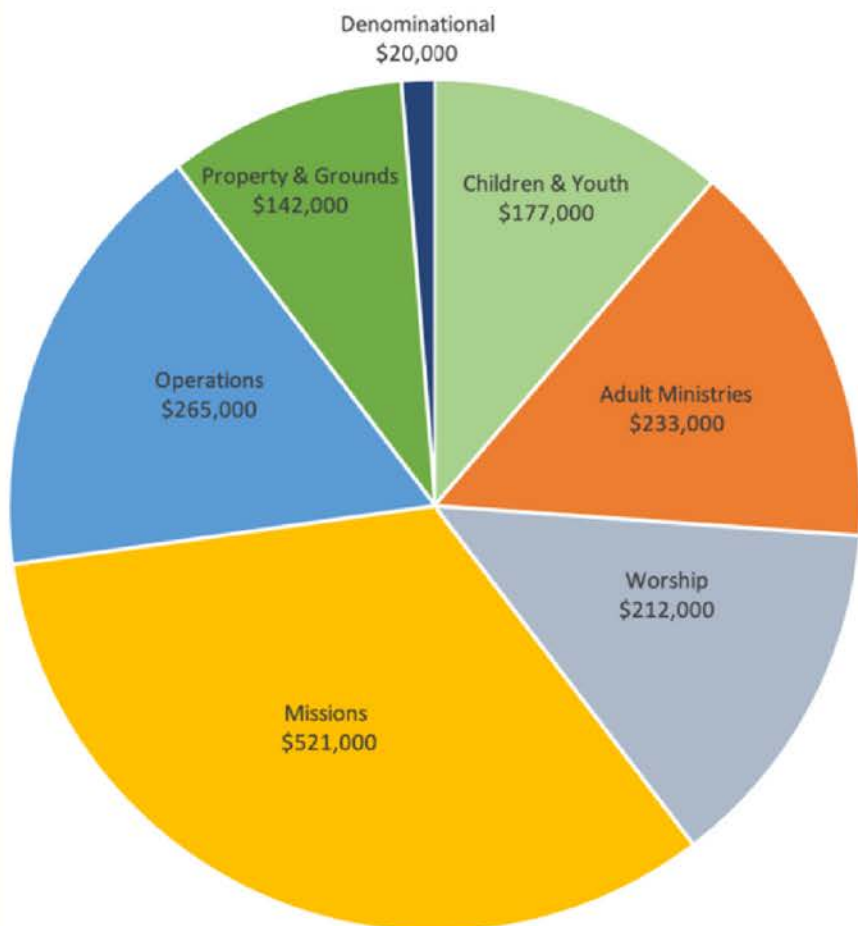
We have been blessed beyond measure! Due to your faithful support, we've been able to meet, and in many instances, exceed the day-to-day needs of our ministry.

Below is a breakdown of our giving by ministry area. These numbers are a projection of where we believe our giving will be at the end of our fiscal year (June 30, 2023). Each ministry area includes the salary of the staff working in that ministry. The money represented includes our designated budget and the money given for special offerings.

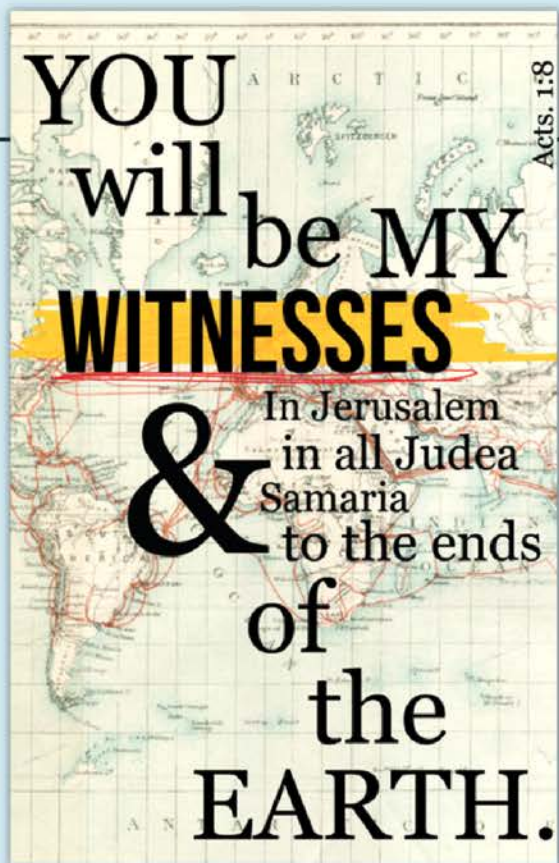
It could be argued that every part of our ministry should be listed under the Missions category because each ministry has components dedicated to reaching others for Christ. For the purpose of this graphic, we've included in the Missions category the funds that our church has given to ministries outside of our building.

Our deacons are responsible for ensuring that our church funds are spent in God-honoring and glorifying ways. If you know a deacon, thank them for their faithful service.

FRC Giving Breakdown by Ministry



- Children & Youth - \$177,000 (11%)**
Includes programming, youth mission trips & retreats, VBS, 1st grade Bibles, etc.
- Adult Ministries - \$233,000 (15%)**
Includes fellowship, connections, library, advertising, promotional materials, etc.
- Worship - \$212,000 (14%)**
Includes a/v equipment, music, instrument maintenance, licensing, etc.
- Missions - \$521,000 (33%)**
See the adjacent page for details.
- Operations - \$265,000 (17%)**
Includes the cost to keep the church open and running, social security benefits, etc.
- Property & Grounds - \$142,000 (9%)**
Includes care for the physical property.
- Denominational - \$20,000 (1%)**
Kingdom Network Partnership support.



Mission GIVING

Our Mission budget is used to fulfill Jesus' command in Acts 1:8 to be his witnesses to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Each year our Mission team collects information from those we support to ensure they are focusing on this great commission.

We've broken down our Mission budget into the four regions specified in Acts 1:8.

"Jerusalem" indicates outreach to people of our culture living nearby.

"Judea" focuses on outreach to people of our culture outside of NW Iowa but still within our nation.

"Samaria" refers to cross-cultural outreach somewhere in our nation.

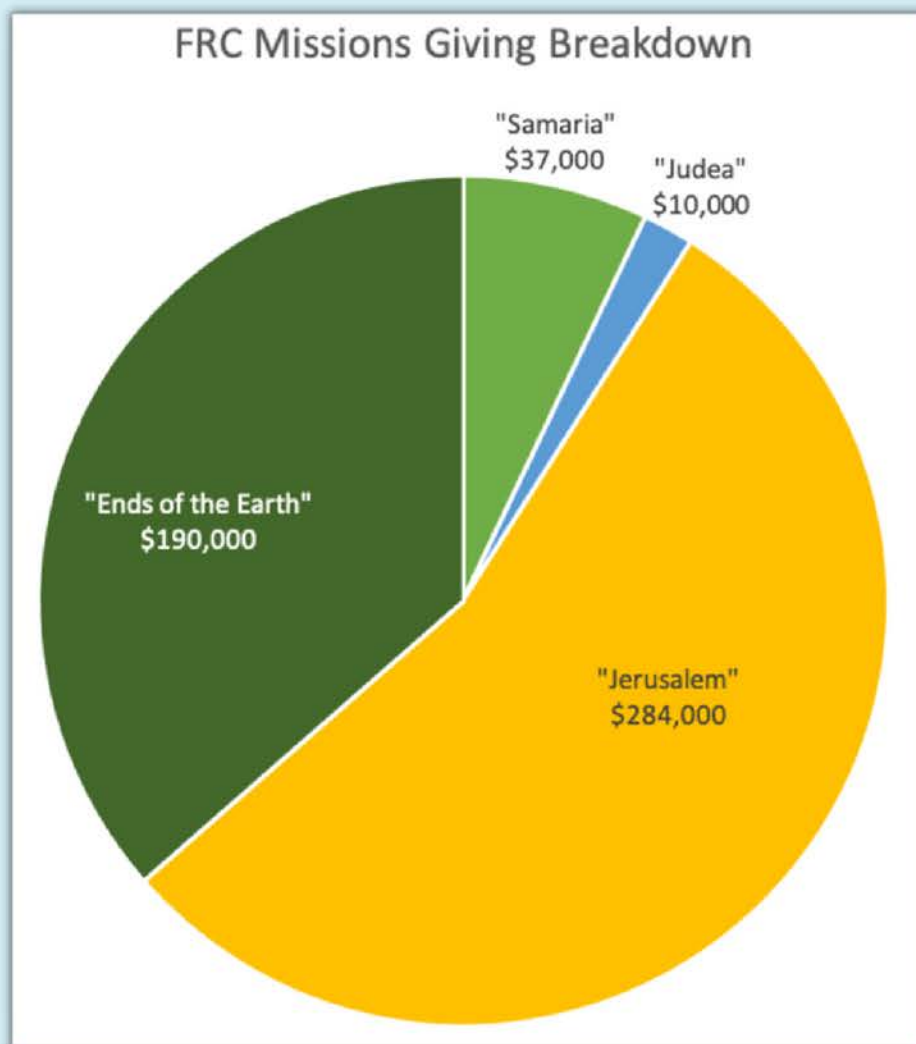
"Ends of the Earth" is cross-cultural outreach outside of our country.

"Jerusalem" - \$284,000 (55%)
Includes radio/TV ministry, NWC, all agencies within northwest Iowa included in the budget, Bountiful Table donations, Christmas Eve Offering for Members/Non-Members with Needs, NWC student breakfasts, meals & care packages, etc.

"Judea" - \$10,000 (2%)
Includes all mission partners in the budget outside of northwest Iowa and the Colorado mission trip expenses.

"Samaria" - \$37,000 (7%)
Includes Corn Creek, Hispanic Ministry in Florida, Ukraine families in Orange City, Compton trip expenses, etc.

"Ends of the earth" - \$190,000 (36%)
Includes all budgeted organizations and individuals serving outside the United States, gifts for Haiti solar panels, donations for Tapestries of Life local workers, Tapestries of Life mission trip expenses, and Missions Offering for Ukraine war relief.



Holy Week

Christ is Risen. He is Risen, indeed! On Palm Sunday, our kids waved palm branches as they led us in Worship. The Maundy Thursday service included "Truth Testimonies" and communion. Our Easter Sunrise service reminded us that dawn comes after darkness. And on Easter morning, we celebrated with a full orchestra ending with the Hallelujah Chorus.





KINGDOM PARTNERSHIP

Article written by Alina Vlasenko in regards to the Mission Emphasis Offering.

Hello, dear friends!

It has been 4 months since we arrived in the US. It is a little easier for now as we have done all the documentation as refugees and got settled a little. The kids have started to understand teachers and kids in preschool. Even though we still are fighting health issues, especially Jenya. And at the same time, morally it is still hard. Some days are better, but some are really hard. This is not easy for us as we live two lives for now: mornings - back in Ukraine: calling and checking up with relatives, reading news about the situation, talking to pastors, deans, and friends whom we know personally, and helping with humanitarian aid and donations so they can continue their work and ministry to people of Ukraine. Finding out some news or events in the morning can just blow our minds, and it is hard to live the other part of the day in "real life" here. But kids still need us, we are still alive, and we have to go on. We try to put everything together and are grateful for your prayers.



For now, we are focused on how we can help more back in Ukraine. With every day of the war and destruction, needs are growing, the prices are rising, and the rent and utilities are much higher than before. The job opportunities are less and less, so it is harder for people to survive there economically. But also it is very difficult morally and emotionally. The churches try to provide all types of help that people need and support in every way they can. We'd like to give you the opportunity to join the projects of the local churches we've been part of for the last year and those churches where our family are members of. These churches are: Ministering daily to the refugees; Distributing food packages among the refugees; Delivering humanitarian aid to the East of Ukraine; Providing humanitarian aid for the soldiers; Providing psychological and spiritual support to displaced people; Organizing and leading Bible studies for refugees; Doing VBS for refugee kids; Fixing and rebuilding houses for those whose homes were destroyed; etc.

- 1. New Life Church, Tyachiv** (The church in the West which helped us as we fled.)
- 2. Born Again Church, Rus'ke Pole** (The church in the West in whose building we lived during 10 months of the war.)
- 3. Hope Church, Poltava** (The church where Jenya's dad was a pastor.)
- 4. God's Family Church, Poltava** (The church where me and Jenya are members.)
- 5. Spring of Life church, Kremenchug** (The church where brother-in-law Albert is one of the pastors.)
- 6. Bible Irpin Church, Kyivs'ka oblast'** (The church we were in for 5 months before the war started.)



We raised \$36,367 in our Mission Emphasis Offering. This money will be used to purchase 50 lights for Ukraine and given to the churches above to show God's love amid sorrow, pain, and mess. We look forward to seeing how God uses this money to reach the hurting in Ukraine.



COLORADO WORK TEAM

Missions

On Mission Emphasis Week we were able to highlight where we've been, where we are, and where we're going. The Mission Banquet, Mission Offering, and Community Work Day made the week extra special.



MISSION BANQUET



MISSION BANQUET



MISSION OFFERING



COMMUNITY WORK DAY



COMMUNITY WORK DAY



COMMUNITY WORK DAY

Children & Youth

We have a blast in our kids and youth programs, but more importantly, we pray together, learn how to study the Bible, and grow in our faith!





UPCOMING *events*

May 28 - August 6: Worship @ 9:30 AM
Sunday Mornings

June 4: Congregational Meeting &
Budget Approval @ 10:45 AM
with Potluck Meal to follow

July 2: Games on the Green @ 10:45 AM

July 10 - 12: VBS @ 6:00 - 8:30 PM

