



SPRING/SUMMER 2022

THE JOURNEY OUT

2022: A YEAR OF IMMEASURABLY MORE!

These past two years have been challenging for us individually, in our families, workplaces, churches, communities, and countries. Yet through it all we have seen God birthing new things in and around us. As we look to the year ahead, we have tremendous expectancy for what God will do in 2022: A Year of Immeasurably More!

HE IS ABLE – After my massive heart attack last fall, I sensed the Lord inviting me to walk in deeper, humble faith. What does that mean? It is acknowledging that we are utterly inadequate and dependent; and that He is entirely adequate and dependable! I am continuing to learn to trust in the One who is absolutely able. I have also sensed His invitation to walk in expectant faith, knowing that He can do exceedingly beyond our greatest request.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE PLACES WE HAVE SEEN AND EXPECT TO SEE IMMEASURABLY MORE?

Overflowing Comfort – *Our comfort abounds through Christ.* (2 Cor. 1:4) In our calling to bring healing to a wounded world, we have immeasurably more comfort to bring through His healing power at work in us. We see this abounding comfort in our work everywhere we go. Time and time again we have seen the ripple effect of a healed heart overflow into families, churches, and communities.

We've know wounded people wound and healed people heal. We are also realizing that wounded churches wound, but healed churches heal. By God's grace, we have had opportunities to come alongside many congregations to empower, equip, and encourage them to be healing churches.

Overflowing Provision – *You will abound in every good work.* (2 Cor. 9:8) God blesses us immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine so that we can bless more abundantly. Scripture



The Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings. Malachi 4:2

reminds us again and again to choose a perspective of abundance over scarcity.

We have heard God calling us to respond out of faith rather than fear to the challenges of these last two years. Like the disciples who Jesus commanded to feed the multitudes, the question He asks us is, "What do you have in your hand?" Whether it seems like little or much, in His hand it can become provision for multitudes. Thank you to so many of you who have given sacrificially of your time, talents, and treasures so that God can continue to do immeasurably more in and through us!

Overflowing Hope – *So that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* (Romans 15:13) In our work, we find people who have lost hope. Their past and present seem to preclude the possibility of a future. Yet Jesus faithfully meets us in that locked place and opens a door through healing and reconciliation to a hope filled future, one pregnant with possibility. We cannot go back and rewrite our past, but we are not defined or confined by it. God invites us to write a different future with Him.

Overflowing Gratitude – *It is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.* (2 Cor. 9:12) As He does immeasurably more in and through us there will be increasing gratitude flowing through our life together. One of the practices I have sensed

God inviting me into for the last several years is to make a movement in my heart from resentment to gratitude. It is always easier for me to see where things are missing rather than where things are full and flowing. I have found that when I begin to focus on the full and flowing not only does my heart overflow with gratitude, but I am able to better recognize and receive His immeasurably more.

Overflowing Glory – *To Him be glory in the Church.* (Ephesians 2:21) The beauty of this is that it all results in immeasurably more honor and praise

being given to the King of Kings. Ultimately, this is all about Him, not us.

HE IS THE HEALER, RECONCILER, COMFORTER, PROVIDER, AND HOPE!

Throughout all generations – In East Africa where 70% of the population is under age 25, we are reaching this next generation through high schools, refugee camps, and Universities. There is a great hunger for our message of hope and healing through reconciliation.

Here at home, our focus is expanding to include youth and young adults in our ministry. Anna Jeide-Detweiler (US Ministry Director) is a living example of this generational overflow, having received the baton for this work from her beloved grandparents Dr. Arthur and Molly Rouner. We are trusting God that His immeasurably more will continue to overflow throughout all generations. May it be so.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."

– Ephesians 3:20-21

JIM OLSON, PCR PRESIDENT





IMMEASURABLY MORE MINISTRY: PCR UGANDA IS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED



God is so good! This *Journey Out* for me began more than two years ago when I finally said yes to going on a PCR trip to Africa with my husband, Jim. This was not an easy decision for me, but I felt I was saying yes to God as well. Then COVID hit the week I was supposed to travel. My trip was canceled (March 2020). Because of COVID, I got the opportunity to say yes two more times before actually boarding a plane for my first trip to Africa to celebrate the official launch of PCR Uganda on March 19, 2022. Finally! Along with my husband, PCR US Ministry Director Anna Jeide-Detweiler was my fellow traveler.

We arrived very late at night and were met by PCR Uganda Country Director Bob Mayonza and many helpful assistants. He set up a wonderful schedule and off we went to the Seguku Guest House. The first day we rose very early to travel very bumpy roads to visit two high schools in Mityana to help celebrate the Peace Clubs that PCR Uganda is starting.

We also saw the PCR Holdings Farm where we planted some plantain trees and tasted one of the farm's pigs for lunch! I was very humbled by the warm welcomes and hospitality of the teachers, students and Pastor Jacob and Helen (PCR Senior Facilitators). The next day Jim gave a lecture at Nkumba University in Kampala. I was so inspired by one student's response when he realized, "I guess reconciliation needs to start first within me." Yes God, You are speaking. I prayed, "Help me to stay open to all that You are and all You will do here."

After two years of postponing, Saturday was the big celebration of the official launch of PCR Uganda. There was more to celebrate than what there would

have been two years before. There was so much rejoicing for what God had done. The praise and worship were a taste of heaven. The work in Uganda actually started five years ago and has been growing ever since. So many wonderful people were honored for their sacrifices to this work of God's Kingdom, which is reaching many immigrants and refugees in the area. Seeing the way people have worked together was so encouraging and humbling to me.

Then Pastor Fred Wantante gave a very inspiring word from the Book of Daniel titled "Hold on to Your Faith." God's timing is always the right time. It was God's word for everyone in the room, including me. These scriptures reminded us that God controls and directs history to fulfill His plans and everything will serve His purposes. God is the giver of knowledge and favor. Pastor Fred reminded us that even in bad times, we need to remember who is in charge. Jesus told Pilate (John 19) that he had no power except what God gave him. History is in God's hands. What encouraging words as all of us wonder at what we have gone through the last two years and wonder what our future holds. Pastor Fred also reminded us to never underestimate the importance of investing in children. Children are never too young to serve God and God who holds the earth is good!

The celebration concluded with a speech by honored guest Pastor Patience Museveni Rwabwogo, daughter of Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni. She spoke of her great love and respect for PCR co-founder Dr. Arthur Rouner and her sorrow at news of his passing. She encouraged us all in the work of reconciliation and was excited to let us know that her church was becoming a partner with PCR Uganda.

Sunday we were able to worship at Pastor Patience's church (Covenant Nations Church) where Jim shared a powerful word about becoming a "House of Prayer for All Nations." God was very present and moved us all to a powerful time of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation led by Pastor Patience; it cracked something open in my heart. The world became a much closer, intimate community to me. I really wanted to know these people more and spend more time here. I couldn't believe I was saying this. God was growing my heart immeasurably more!

The next two days were spent teaching. Jim and I taught the *Way of Reconciliation Course* to 26 PCR Uganda Facilitators. I always love co-teaching with my husband because it always grows us deeper in our relationship with each other and with God. That was true of this time as well. God showed up and we all learned together. While we were teaching, Anna and Bob led a *Healing and Reconciliation Retreat* for 35 young adults, many of whom were Congolese refugees. God was moving in our midst.

As I reflect on this time in Uganda I can say God did immeasurably more than I could have imagined. I was given a changed heart, one that sees that I can live my life with a settled confidence in my God. 2 Corinthians 3:4-5 says, "*Such confidence we have through Christ before God. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.*" My settled confidence is a prayerful trust that He holds me, this work and all the days to come in His hand. God is good!

ANNETTE OLSON, PCR SENIOR FACILITATOR

PCR GUIDING MINISTRY APPROACH: SETTING THE TABLE FOR HEALING



PCR Facilitators and Facilitators-in-Training experienced our first PCR-led Trauma Healing Group in January 2022.

There are seven components which comprise our ministry approach; they are presence, heal, equip, train, partner, resource, and witness. These seven components inform how we serve. In our last issue of the *Journey Out*, my grandfather Dr. Arthur Rouner wrote a reflection on the importance of presence, a theme that was central to his life. It turned out to be the last article he would write for us.

In this issue, I will share about healing as part of our ministry approach. At PCR, we see our work as “setting the table” for healing to happen. My grandmother Molly often says that in our work, “God does the healing, we just provide the Kleenex.” This is so true. It is God who brings healing, we simply seek to partner with the Great Physician.

Though retreats, courses, and now trauma healing groups, we seek to create spaces where people can have healing encounters with the Great Physician. Of course, Jesus can meet us at any time, in any place. But sometimes it helps when we intentionally set the table and prepare ourselves to listen, rest, and receive what God has to say to us. As humble servants and siblings in Christ, this is what we seek to do: help set the table for God to bring healing.

May 1st marks one year since I began working at PCR as the US Ministry Director. I am amazed at how much our ministry in the US has grown in just one year. It has been an honor to collaborate with Jim

Olson and countless dedicated volunteers to “set the table” for reconciliation in the US.

Over the last year, we reached more than 350 people through these ministry programs:

- 4 cohorts of the *Way of Reconciliation Course*
- 1 cohort of the *Becoming a Reconciler Course*
- 8 Retreats for churches & non-profit organizations
- 2 *Trauma Healing* groups
- 3 *Living Reconciliation Evenings*
- Multiple conciliatory conversations with churches

While we celebrate this growth, we know our work is not just about the numbers.

THESE ARE A FEW TESTIMONIES OF HEALING FROM U.S. RETREAT/COURSE PARTICIPANTS

Like the Healing and Reconciliation Retreat, this trauma healing group leads people on an internal journey of honesty about hurt done to them and by them, and how the process of repentance and forgiveness lead us into healing and wholeness in the light of God's love, which gives us freedom to bring that healing and wholeness to others.

– Ben, Trauma Healing Group

The course helped me look at my life experiences. Now I think I know where change is needed. The life of Peter and the snapshot of God recorded in Acts 10 helped me see God's hand of change in my life. The

steps and action section prompted me to explore ways to try again where I have backed away from relationships. Because of the call to be an ambassador of reconciliation I am encouraged to seek God's help to handle disappointments in relationships. There is so much here to treasure.

– Vicky, *Becoming a Reconciler Course*

The entire course built up to the incredible picture of Shalom that we envisioned in our final session, and it left me with the conviction that our lives could look different than they do right now. Our friendships, families and churches can be better, even our society and culture could be something beautiful, not just in some remote eschatological sense, but even here and now in the suburbs and in the city. We have that freedom and that power in Christ.

– Rob, *Way of Reconciliation Course*

I signed up for the retreat knowing that I had been struggling with unforgiveness. Through the exercises and prayer time I saw that feeling betrayed was at the root of my struggle. What I received from the retreat was a fresh revelation from the Holy Spirit that Jesus, who suffered the ultimate betrayal, forgave and loved. I, an undeserving recipient of his costly rescue, should walk forth extending grace and forgiveness to others.

– Peg, *Heart of Reconciliation Retreat*

As we continue to grow the ministry of reconciliation in the US, we will keep seeking ways to “set the table” for healing. If you haven't yet joined a retreat or course, we invite you to join us in 2022!

If you would like to learn more about hosting a retreat, course, trauma healing group or conciliatory conversation for your church/ organization please contact PCR US Ministry Director Anna Jeide-Detweiler at info@pilgrimcenter.org for details.

Summer 2022: In June PCR will participate in the National Association of Christian Congregational Churches National Gathering in Wichita, KS as a mission partner. In August we will visit New Hampshire and Massachusetts to lead retreats and workshops. If you are in New England, we would love to see you. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

ANNA JEIDE-DETWELER, US MINISTRY DIRECTOR



Reconciliation can be complex. Sometimes we don't know where to begin. We are here to help.

Are you curious about how to have a difficult conversation with a loved one? Are you wondering how to address conflict in your church, your community, or family?

We have created a “practicing reconciliation” forum on our website: <https://pilgrimcenter.org/practicing-reconciliation/>. This Forum is a way for

you to ask confidential questions by emailing info@pilgrimcenter.org. Once you submit a question, we will share our responses with you and then post the question (anonymously) and our response to the online forum.

If there is a way that we can come alongside you, your church, or organization, we welcome a conversation about how PCR might support you. Please feel free to contact PCR staff Jim Olson or Anna Jeide-Detweiler at info@pilgrimcenter.org.

THE PILGRIM CENTER is called to bring hope and healing by renewing individuals, restoring relationships, and revitalizing communities through the ministry of reconciliation.

Our work takes us to places of historic and contemporary conflict and pain to minister reconciliation by loving presence, healing retreats, and peaceful witness.

JOURNEY OUT CONTRIBUTORS:

Anna Jeide-Detweiler, US Ministry Director
Annette Olson, PCR Senior Facilitator
Rev. Dr. Jim Olson, PCR President
Molly Rouner, PCR Co-Founder
Jan Leadholm, Graphic Design



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COINCIDENCE OR MIRACLES?

Read by Molly Rouner at the Service of Prayer and Thanksgiving (Remembering Arthur Rouner) at Covenant Village, February 16, 2022.

What to say about my dear Arthur – too much, too many years to even begin. For starts I will say he wasn’t perfect. Somehow he never did grasp the function and purpose of a wastebasket. Oh well –

But today I really wanted to say something of the faith journey of a faithful pastor. So many of you here in our Covenant home have your own stories, but for reasons of confidentiality and humility there are, it seems, too few occasions to share the miracles all around us. In Arthur’s 66 years of ministry, 1,000 “improbable coincidences” left us with awe and the certainty of Jesus’ presence and God’s very practical, beautiful loving-kindness.

SO HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF HIS STORIES.

As a new pastor in Edina, Arthur was off on an afternoon of pastoral calling. He drove by a house that he recognized as the home of a young couple new to our congregation. He decided just to stop and say “hello.” Mary the young wife opened the door at his knock and burst into tears, crying out, “How did you know to come?” Arthur didn’t *know* to come. He happened by just doing his pastoral thing. Mary had just hung up from a phone call telling her that her husband had been badly injured in a sports accident with fears of brain injury. To her dying day Mary in all her years of prayer and service in the church, never forgot that moment, thanking Jesus for bringing help at the needed time. Coincidence? Or miracle?

Arthur was called to the home of a young man well known in our city as a businessman and sports hero, dying of brain cancer. Arthur was alone with David in the room. At the end of the visit, he took David’s hand as he prayed for him. After the “Amen” David seemed confused and looking around the room said, “Arthur, who was holding my other hand?” Who indeed? For Arthur and David, it was a moment of certainty of Jesus’ loving presence in life, sickness and forever.



Lastly, I come to the end of a 3-day *Healing and Reconciliation Retreat* in Rwanda after the 1994 genocide. Arthur gave the talk on servant ministry. Yes, he did talk about Jesus’ teaching in John 13. Imagine our circle of women with their memories of rape, murder, poverty and fear that plagued their lives. What could an old white man have to say to their pain? What gifts of comfort and healing could he offer? Well, he got up from his chair, took a towel and the basin of water and began to wash their feet. Moving from one to the next – all of them weeping in tender amazement.

These were the gifts: first, Arthur was an old white man. In their culture “old” was someone to be respected, someone to take the place of honor, someone to be served. And here was Arthur, kneeling before them. Secondly, Arthur was white – the color of colonialism, of oppression and defeat, someone to be served under fear and duress, and here was Arthur kneeling before them. Thirdly, Arthur was a man in a culture where women knew their place, to serve others. They wept, for the beauty of the unspoken message of a new status of honor and respect.

In the miracle of that setting, they not only saw the old white man washing their worn and weary feet; they saw Jesus come to heal them. Then they sang. They laughed. Then they danced. All joy broke out.

MOLLY ROUNER, PCR CO-FOUNDER



PROVISION UPDATE

We are so grateful for the overflowing provision of the last year, continuing into 2022. Below are the final numbers for FY 2021-2022, which ended March 31st.

INCOME: \$395,017
EXPENSES: \$346,167

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the *Rouner Memorial Fund*. As of April 20th, we have raised \$28,645 toward the \$50,000 match.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



TAMMY MCINTYRE

Tammy is Director, Talent Management & Development for the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation. She brings more than 18 years of workforce development expertise. She co-leads the Discipleship

Ministry with her husband, Calvin, at Fountain of Life Gospel Church in Minneapolis, MN. She says, “The need for reconciliation in the church and our communities is what drew me to PCR. I am excited to see what God has planned for this work in the U.S.”



REV. SAM SNYDER

Sam Snyder is a familiar face for many at PCR already, having facilitated many retreats, both in the U.S. and in Mexico where he grew up. Sam and his wife Sarah moved to Minneapolis

in 2009 to help lead a church plant out of Bethel Christian Fellowship. Sam serves as a Regional Elder in the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies and co-leaders of the All Nations Family of Churches. About PCR, Sam says, “It has been a joy to see God bringing healing and reconciliation through these retreats and courses.”