

THE JOURNEY OUT

2021: A YEAR OF NEW BEGINNINGS



Last year I sensed that 2020 would be a "pregnant pause" during which God would be conceiving many new things in His people. So this year I expect that we will see many new things birthed through us, and that is why this year we believe is *2021: A Year of New Beginnings!*

One of the most famous scriptures around this promise of new beginnings comes from the prophet Isaiah 43:19, *"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland."*

WHEN DO NEW BEGINNINGS ACTUALLY BEGIN?

Most often we think of new beginnings as starting when we are able to see something new. Counterintuitively I believe that new beginnings actually start before we can even see something with our eyes. Three pictures of the "seedbed" for new beginnings in scripture are:

WINTER

Typically we think of new things emerging in the springtime but I would argue that what we see in the spring is a result of what is already happening in the winter. In John 12:24 Jesus said, *"Very truly I tell you unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies it produces many seeds."* There is no resurrection and rebirth without a death, and there is no new beginning without an ending.

WAITING

"How long oh Lord?" is a constant refrain in the scriptures. Throughout the centuries the people of God have found themselves in "God's waiting room." And so do we. Yet as the prophet Habakkuk

reminds us, *"The Revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay."* Habakkuk 2:3 This time of waiting is not a sign of God's rejection, it is a time of His preparation for us to receive the new thing He will do.

WILDERNESS

Again the witness of those who have gone before us is that God often brings us into the wilderness to reveal to us new things about Him, ourselves, and our circumstances. In fact, the wilderness is a normal part of the Christian journey. In Psalm 84:5-6 the psalmist writes, *"Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. as they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools."* Perhaps you too have discovered that those places which seemed most desolate, dry, and deserted, as you look back you now realize that those actually have become pools of life-giving water giving you strength. That is the way of new beginnings!

WHAT CAN WE LEARN IN THESE "W'S" THAT WILL PREPARE US FOR NEW BEGINNINGS?

HUMILITY

Reflecting on the 40 years the Israelites spent in the wilderness Moses wrote to them in Deuteronomy 8:2, *"Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these 40 years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands."*

It is that heart posture of humility that positions us to open-handedly receive the new thing that God desires to birth in our lives.

VULNERABILITY

In the scriptures all godly leaders have a profound awareness of their own inadequacy and a corresponding awareness of the adequacy of God. As the apostle Paul puts it in 2nd Corinthians 12:9 after he had pleaded with God to remove a particular trial in his life, God said to him *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Our posture of dependence enables us to embrace the new thing that He is doing in and around us.

RESILIENCY

Transformational change requires a great deal of energy. It is in the winter, waiting, and wilderness places that we acquire the strength we will need to birth the new things that He is conceiving in us. As Hebrews 10:36 says, *"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God you will receive what He has promised."* Our posture of endurance and perseverance empowers us to bring forth the new thing into our lives and through us into the world around us.

WHAT NEW THINGS ARE BEING BIRTHED IN THIS SEASON?

CREATIVITY – ISAIAH 42:9, 16

This year has been an incredible time of innovation. The old ways of doing things simply do no longer work so we are all learning new patterns, new approaches, and new concepts in just about every area of life.

CONNECTION – ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

This season has reminded us afresh of how much we truly need one another. Though our old ways of doing community have been disrupted, we are learning new ways of connectivity which I believe will serve to strengthen our communities.

COMPASSION – II CORINTHIANS 1:6-7

Even though it seems that the world around us is growing increasingly angry, I believe God is opening up an opportunity like no other for His people to serve as Jesus did, washing feet in love.

COOPERATION – EPHESIANS 4:16

This moment has presented a unique opportunity for the people of God and His leaders to join hearts and hands to support one another and collaborate in new and sometimes unexpected ways.

COURAGE – JOSHUA 1:9

I believe we are being given the opportunity to experience various types of difficulties in order that we might discover new reservoirs of courage for challenges that may yet be before us. I pray that in 2021 we will all encounter the God of new beginnings and receive the gifts He has for us in this new season!

JIM OLSON, PCR PRESIDENT



COME CELEBRATE MOLLY ROUNER'S 90TH BIRTHDAY



The Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation is hosting an Open House Celebration for Molly Rouner's 90th Birthday. You are invited to join us.

Saturday June 26th
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
(Tribute Program at 10:30 AM)

Colonial Church of Edina
Outdoor Tent
6200 Colonial Way, Edina, MN 55436
COVID protocols will be observed

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY
WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.



NEW BOARD MEMBER: BEN TUCKER

Ben has been involved with the Pilgrim Center for 20 years, participating in and facilitating Retreats, Courses, and making annual trips to Walker Minnesota to minister to our Native American friends. In addition to his job with the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Ben has been involved in education for many years. He is also passionate about music, having produced many recordings, and his wife Sara is an artist, prayer minister, and a PCR facilitator. They live in St Paul, MN, and together they share the calling of hospitality and are inspired by the opportunity for the Pilgrim Center to impact the church and greater society throughout the world.

GENERATIONS OF RECONCILIATION

MEET ANNA: US MINISTRY DIRECTOR

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we are all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed the body does not consist of one member, but of many ... The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." – 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 21



ANNA WITH GRANDPARENTS, MOLLY AND ARTHUR ROUNER

I first fell in love with 1 Corinthians 12 in high school. Since then, this text has grown in my heart and shaped how I understand the world around me. Paul's brilliant metaphor of the parts of the body has been so instructive in my relationship with God and with others. This deep interconnectedness – to one another and to God – has helped me to understand how the love of Christ works.

As a child, I was raised with a sense that my life is deeply intertwined with the lives of others. I credit my parents and my grandparents for teaching me this early on by taking me to East Africa to learn about the work of reconciliation. I was twelve years old at the time. That first Journey Out planted a seed in my heart, a curiosity about this work of reconciliation, and a desire to become a peacemaker.

I grew up hearing stories that my grandparents, Molly and Arthur, would bring home from East Africa. Though these stories came from distant places, I knew that they had a bearing on my own life. Grounding them all was the story of my grandmother's repentance during her first time in Rwanda. She looked over her balcony that first night in Kigali and prayed, "God, why have you brought me here?" The reply she received from the Spirit was this, "You are here to ask their forgiveness for what your people of the West did to divide them."

Before this became the origin story of the Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation, this was a family story. It was (and still is) a lesson from my grandparents about how to walk humbly with God, how to do justice and love mercy. As PCR grows, I hope to steward this spirit of reconciliation as the first US Ministry Director in collaboration with Dr. Jim Olson and our many partners around the world.

For me, this work is generational and spiritual. As I step into this role, I hope to honor the legacy of what my elders started. As I offer my own gifts, I hope to walk humbly in the footsteps of their example, and the example of our partners in East Africa who have sown many seeds of reconciliation in their countries for more than 25 years.

I have seen the generational burdens carried by young adults in Rwanda. I have seen brokenness and resilience of former child soldiers in Uganda. Recently, I have seen unspeakable grief and pain laid bare in Minneapolis, my home. It is in this place that I now turn to God and ask, "Why have you brought me here? How do we bring the lessons from Africa back home?"

This is an exciting time for PCR as we listen faithfully to to where God is calling us now. I ask for your prayers for the growing ministry of reconciliation in the US and in East Africa. I look forward to partnering with you in this season of new beginnings.

In gratitude for each of you and for the God who calls us together in one body,

ANNA JEIDE-DETWELER, PCR-US MINISTRY DIRECTOR

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." – Colossians 3:14-15

THIS PIVOTAL MOMENT – OUR PILGRIM CENTER EAST AFRICA INITIATIVE

WE ARE ALIGNING OURSELVES
TOGETHER IN THIS PIVOTAL
MOMENT AS WE SEEK TO GROW A
MOVEMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN
EASTERN AFRICA.



Pivotal moments are both big and little significant moments of clarity that provide us with new perspectives and opportunities to change. We are in such a pivotal moment for the work of the Pilgrim Center in East Africa. While there is much yet to discover we have begun taking initial steps towards an interdependent vision for the Eastern African Region.

CONTEXT

While each country in this region has its own unique context, there is also significant historical, cultural, and in some cases even linguistic connections that create some natural commonality. Additionally, the past and present movement of people groups across national boundaries amplifies a regional connectedness. Another commonality across the region that connects these countries across borders is the massive generational shift towards young people. Current statistics show that nearly 75% of the population in Eastern Africa is 24 years old or younger. These youths are creating a new culture through informal networks forged through technology and social media.

HARMONIZATION

In light of this context we propose the following shifts to align ourselves together in this pivotal moment as we seek to grow this movement of reconciliation.

FOCUS

Where are we being invited to focus our attention in this pivotal moment?

Youth: With the massive demographic generational shift in the region the need and opportunity to focus on the youth is both urgent and compelling.

Vulnerable: Likewise there is a compelling call to reach those who are powerless such as internally displaced persons (IDP's), refugees, widows and orphans, etc.

Influencers: We will also continue to seek to touch those who have influence with others such as Church and Community leaders, Government leaders, Military leaders, Business leaders, Media leaders, and Arts and Entertainment leaders.

LEADERSHIP

To fully enter into this pivotal moment what will be required in our leadership approach?



Mobilize Teams: We say “teamwork makes the dreamwork” and that must be reflected in our national leadership teams. Every Country Director will be actively developing a Servant Leadership Team (SLT) that can then be replicated in regions within countries.

Multiply New Leaders: It is the responsibility of the SLT to recognize, raise up, and release younger leaders who will be given responsibility and authority to lead, including at the servant leadership and even country director level. We also want to continually develop more facilitators through training and mentoring.

Mutual Learning: Cross-pollination between SLT's in the various Eastern Africa countries is essential. Regular gatherings of the PCREAL leaders are needed for coordinated strategic planning, skill development, and to share best practices.

ADMINISTRATION

In order to adequately support this growing movement what appropriate accountability will be necessary for best administrative practices?

Board Development: In addition to a Country Director and SLT each country will have a well-rounded, active board that meets at least quarterly.

Financial Guidelines: Each country will develop a financial plan based on its own strategic vision while recognizing and responding to the larger regional strategic vision. We will also fully implement PCR approved financial protocols that are designed to preserve the integrity of our work across the region.

We believe that God is initiating this pivotal moment in the Pilgrim Center and in this *Year of New Beginnings* we believe that He will lead us into our future with clarity and courage.

PCR-EAI LEADERSHIP TEAM

ORIENTING STRATEGY: CONTEXTUAL

At the Pilgrim Center we have established three orienting strategies to guide our work; Sustainable, Reproducible, and Contextual. When these three strategies are aligned we will know the way to where we are going!

The first orienting strategy, sustainable, tells us that we expect the work of reconciliation will become self-sustaining within the communities, countries, and cultures in which it is embedded.

The second orienting strategy, reproducible, indicates that we expect the work of reconciliation will be replicated with integrity into the communities, countries, and cultures in which it is expanding.

The third orienting strategy, contextual, reminds us that the work of reconciliation will be biblically rooted and culturally relevant to, and respectful of, the communities, countries, and cultures in which it is embodied and lived out.

The Pilgrim Center work of reconciliation was birthed in the context of Africa, specifically in Rwanda following the genocide there in 1994. Since then, the work has continued to spread in region of East Africa. In the past few years, doors have opened for us to bring the work to Nepal and Mexico. Additionally, we have had an increasing focus and ministry presence here in the USA. Wherever we have gone, though the contexts have been very different, we have found that the pathway of reconciliation established in Rwanda 25 plus years ago works wherever we go! Why?

BIBLICAL

The first reason that this reconciliation approach works is because it is established on the solid foundation of God's word. From the beginning to end of scripture God's heart is focused on reconciliation, reconciling us to Himself and to one another. Therefore, His Word gives us a pattern for reconciliation that can be transferred with integrity and intentionality across cultures, languages, and generations.

ADAPTABLE

While our message remains changeless, our methodologies can be creatively adapted to have maximum effectiveness within the context that we are working. This too is biblical. In the Gospel of John it says that “*The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.*” (John 1:14 TM) similarly the apostle Paul says “*I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.*” 1 Corinthians 9:22 NLT) Reconciliation is incarnational, it makes the timeless, timely, and the transcendent, here now!

The Pilgrim Center will not settle for ending up somewhere else or somewhere less than God's intended place for us. He has given us an assignment to bring hope and healing through the ministry of reconciliation, and towards that end we will continue to labor. These three strategies will guide and direct our efforts!

JIM OLSON, PCR PRESIDENT

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, transformational courses and peaceful witness.

JOURNEY OUT CONTRIBUTORS:

Anna Jeide-Detweiler, PCR-US
Ministry Director
Rev. Dr. Jim Olson, PCR President
Jim Foster, PCR Journey & Legacy Partner
Jan Leadholm, Graphic Design



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SUSTAINING RECONCILIATION



Sarah and I first met Arthur and Molly Rouser in 1983. We had moved our family from New Jersey to Minnesota, and after a bit of “church shopping” we joined Colonial Church of Edina, where Arthur was the Senior Minister, and the Rouser family were nearby neighbors.

We came to love the Rousers and our church family over many years, and especially admired the way Arthur and Molly “walked the talk” through servant leadership, and loving the “least of the least,” whether in Africa, on American Indian reservations in the US, or in our community.

When Arthur retired as Sr. Minister after more than 30 years of service, he and Molly felt God’s call to journey out to post genocide Rwanda to be present in the pain, grief, and suffering of that place. This was the birthing of what would

become The Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation. The work was hard, but as Molly said, “Jesus and The Spirit always showed up.” It was a lesson that took me some time to learn. I, perhaps like Job, wondered why God could allow such unimaginable horror, and how could there possibly be forgiveness, and reconciliation in this? Given the many terrible things that human beings have done to each other through all of history, could brokenness, sin, and evil, be overcome?

Despite some of our own questions and doubts, we supported the work of the Pilgrim Center, because we knew the Rousers, knew their hearts, and trusted that God was at work through this ministry.

I was later privileged to serve for a while on the PCR Board, with some great folks, and through the transition period of leadership from the Rousers to the Dr. Jim Olson. God had a plan for the initial work and ministry of PCR, and He still does. Not only in places like Rwanda, Uganda, and South Sudan, but in the broken and hurting relationships in families, communities, and churches here and elsewhere. In fact, one could imagine the need is almost endless, is it not?

Sarah and I are blessed to be able to continue supporting the work of the Pilgrim Center, and we hope that as you learn more about this work, your hearts will be so moved to consider joining in support of this wonderful ministry!

Blessings,

JIM & SARAH FOSTER
PCR JOURNEY & LEGACY PARTNER



PROVISION UPDATE

Through the uncertainties of this past year, the generous support of our *Circle of Friends* has been a constant. We are profoundly grateful for your faithfulness to partner with us in this timely work of healing and reconciliation!

INCOME: \$265,600
EXPENSE: \$273,400

As we now step into 2021, we are excited about the new beginnings that God has put before us to grow this ministry.

With the addition of our new US Ministry Director, Anna Jeide-Detweiler, and the start of Pilgrim Center South Sudan work with Rev. Dr. Monica Yugu, we anticipate significant expansion in this coming year.

PROJECTED FINANCIAL PLAN
FOR 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR: \$325,000

We want to invite you to join our growing *Circle of Friends* Giving Partners to support this growing movement.

Please use the enclosed remittance envelope to make your most meaningful donation now. The need for healing and reconciliation is urgent, and you have the opportunity to make an impact in the US, in Africa, and beyond.

Thank you for your partnership!