

THE JOURNEY OUT

A SEASON OF CHANGE, GROWTH, AND GOD’S IMMEASURABLY MORE



It's November again. I think of this month as an “in between” season. Usually the leaves have fallen, but winter hasn't arrived yet (usually). These “in between” seasons can bring up mixed emotions. We long for what has passed, look forward to what is coming, or both. I used to think of November as a month of endings, but I have realized that it can also be a month for new beginnings. Some things die, but also seeds are scattered. Some things wither, but they make way for new things to be planted. November is for harvesting and preparing.

Right now, The Pilgrim Center is in a season of change. We are harvesting what has grown and preparing the soil for future seasons. As we come to an end of our *Year of Immeasurably More*, I want to share with you how we are changing and growing.

CHANGE

My last day as US Ministry Director (USMD) will be November 30th, 2022. While this news may come as a surprise to some of you, this transition has been in the works for some time. In early December, I begin a new job as an English Language Development Teacher. I am eager to explore teaching as a possible vocation, and I look forward to seeing what God has in store for me.

It has been an honor to serve as the first USMD. I leave with a grateful heart. I want to personally thank Jim for being such a supportive mentor, co-laborer, and fellow pilgrim on this journey. When I became USMD 18 months ago, I knew it would be somewhat temporary. Knowing that, I came into the role with two goals: 1) To create a US Ministry Director position that someone else could step into long-term. 2) To support PCR in this season of growth, expansion, and deepening impact.

I can confidently say that in collaboration with many others, these goals have been accomplished. Thanks to Jim's leadership, a dedicated Board of Directors, and all of you (our faithful, generous community), we have developed a sustainable, reproducible, contextual ministry of reconciliation in the United States. For some years, this was merely a dream. By God's grace, it is now a reality. The foundation has been laid, and we are just getting started. There is still much to be done to bring reconciliation home.

GROWTH

PCR is committed to bringing hope and healing through reconciliation in the United States. Because of this commitment, the Board of Directors has determined that hiring another USMD is an important priority. It gives me great joy to pass the baton to the next USMD, my friend Tim Uthmann.

Tim Uthmann will become our new part-time US Ministry Director effective January 1st, 2023.

Over the last year, I have had the privilege of getting to know Tim. He has a deep heart for God's Shalom. Tim is a Senior Facilitator and has experience participating in and facilitating PCR retreats and courses. Through all of these experiences, and over many cups of coffee, he has become a trusted friend of mine. I am confident that Tim is the right person at the right time to carry PCR into its next chapter of growth. I hope you will join me in welcoming Tim!

On January 1st, 2023, we also officially welcome Sam Snyder as our part-time International Ministry Director (IMD).

As Pilgrim Center's first IMD, Sam will provide necessary support and leadership to our ever-expanding efforts in Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Congo (DRC), and Mexico. Sam is uniquely positioned for this role and we are eager to welcome him. Read more about Sam and his hopes for PCR's International Ministry on Page 2.

When Jim and I began this *Year of Immeasurably More*, we did not know what God would have in store for us.

GOD'S BLESSINGS HAVE BEEN ABUNDANT, EXCEEDING OUR EXPECTATIONS BEYOND WHAT WE COULD ASK OR IMAGINE!

Both Tim and Sam have unique gifts to bring to PCR. They are stepping in during this exciting “in between” season. I thank God for their willingness to lead and serve PCR.

As I conclude my time as USMD, I want to thank each of you for your support. While my role will change, my passion for this work will not. I am filled with a confident hope that God is up to something good in and through PCR. May we be so blessed to be instruments of God's peace for this weary world. Please join in warmly welcoming Tim and Sam to the PCR staff. May God be glorified through them.

WELCOME TIM UTHMANN – INCOMING US MINISTRY DIRECTOR

I love the Church and am deeply stirred by God's invitation to enter His Shalom. It is exciting to get more involved in PCR's vital work, encouraging wholeness and health among worshipping communities throughout the US. God continues to shape me as a shepherd. From early days studying the Bible and theology, to pastoring churches in crisis, to a career working with refugees, I am drawn to helping people and organizations grow into who God created them to be. Most importantly that forms my life as the husband of Rachel and father of Joy. Another way it's recently been expressed is in my work with *International*

Association For Refugees, where I support missionary teams globally. When I find scraps of free time I try to get outdoors: bird watching, biking, kayaking, walking the dog, or running. Currently, I am on a wild adventure exploring the depths of God's love, and I look forward to journeying with all of you on this great adventure.

TIM UTHMANN, INCOMING US MINISTRY DIRECTOR



WELCOME SAM SNYDER – INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY DIRECTOR



I grew up in southwestern Mexico where my parents are still serving as missionaries. I came to the U.S. after high school to study missions in order to be sent back to Latin America as a missionary, but God changed my direction and led me to stay and serve the nations here in the U.S. Early on, my perspective on ministry was shaped by seeing how hurting leaders brought division to the Body of Christ, much pain to those around them and to the witness of Jesus. After

seeing this brokenness, I was impacted by the prayer of Jesus for unity in John 17, the priority of unity in Ephesians 4, and the proclamation of 2 Corinthians 5 that we are called to be new creations who have been reconciled. We are called to live as ambassadors of reconciliation through the cross. I have spent the last 22 years living, learning, and ministering in the U.S. in a variety of different ministry and leadership capacities where I have been able to walk in His calling of connecting the disconnected while engaging, equipping, and empowering people for ministry where they are and in the nations.

My wife Sarah and I moved to Minneapolis in 2009 to help lead a church plant out of Bethel Christian Fellowship in St. Paul. Since then, Cross Culture Community Church has been growing into a house of prayer for all nations with over 20 cultures part of the local church family. We came to the Twin Cities as a family of 3 and are now a family of 7, with 5 kids ranging from ages 11 through 18. Over the last 13 years, I have been

intentionally bi-vocational while seeking to lead the church in learning to live as missionaries. I have also worked with a local group called the All Nations Family of Churches and the Fellowship of Christian Assemblies. So far, I have traveled to 16 countries through this work.

Though I have facilitated a variety of different retreats for years, it wasn't until 2016 that Sarah and I went through a Healing and Reconciliation retreat with PCR. Since then I have been through many PCR retreats and trainings in various formats and capacities, including helping to facilitate them in Mexico and Minnesota. I love being able to see God bring healing and reconciliation through these courses and retreats here and around the world. I look forward to continuing to partner with what God is doing in the nations to raise up a movement of reconciliation and healing that will see leaders, churches, and nations healed and whole.

SAM SNYDER, INCOMING IMD

HEALING FOR MEXICO

The need for healing and reconciliation spans the globe. We can look in our own backyards and see the hurt in broken relationships, divided groups, and a polarized society. This need, caused by the depravity of sin, is exacerbated by war and violence.

MY HOME COUNTRY OF MEXICO HAS BEEN SUFFERING BLOODSHED FROM A DRUG WAR THAT SPANS OVER 20 YEARS.

It has left in its wake over 360,000 homicides and over 50,000 people who have "disappeared" due to the ongoing turf wars between cartels, attempted enforcement by the government, and because of corruption within the government itself.

This has impacted every life indirectly as many live in fear and have changed their lives to be able to continue living in this "war-time" environment that usually doesn't reach to the tourist zones, but is still felt by all of those who work there. This has impacted most people directly who have had friends or family members who have fled, been threatened, kidnapped, or who have been killed because they got in the way of the greed of those in power. The land has been covered in bloodshed throughout this moment in history, but the shedding of blood is not new. As we know, the unjust taking of another's life because of greed, envy, power, or control, goes all the way back to Cain and Abel when the first blood was shed. This story has continued around the world and Mexico is just an example.

Mexico has seen injustice going back to the conquering Europeans who killed off the majority of several people groups as they advanced the purposes of their empire. Even before that time,



empires were rising and falling with much bloodshed throughout Latin America, even to the point of human sacrifices!

THE LAND OF MEXICO AND THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO ARE CRYING OUT FOR JUSTICE, BUT WHAT THEY NEED IS GOD'S HEALING JUSTICE AND PEACE TO COME FIRST TO THE HEARTS OF HIS PEOPLE, AND THEN TO BREAK THE CYCLES OF VIOLENCE THROUGH THE MINISTRY RECONCILIATION.

Three years ago we began our work in Mexico by gathering leaders in three separate retreats throughout the country. In early 2022, we came alongside another ministry to do two healing retreats for their leaders. In Mexico we see a hunger for this ministry of healing and reconciliation and a desire to move that forward. We are planning to go back to Mexico in 2023 to lead a time of training and hands-on experience for those who have been healed in heart and who are ready to serve their brothers and sisters as Facilitators of Healing & Reconciliation Retreats throughout Mexico.

As we look around the globe we see that there are wars and rumors of wars that are leaving hearts marked by loss, hurt, and even hatred for "the other." Some recent examples of this turmoil are Ethiopia, Myanmar, Thailand, Armenia & Azerbaijan. We believe that God has called us to expand the work of healing and reconciliation to areas that need it most. We believe that God is working, even now, to bring about the divine connections that will bring this work of healing into other places around the globe where people are hurting and in need of healing.

Our ministry partners in Africa are actively working to expand this work into other places and other peoples who have yet to be transformed by this healing and reconciliation that is available to them through the completed work of Jesus on the cross. We know that it is only through partnering together with the work that Jesus is doing around the world that we will be able to see this movement of healing take place for all people to experience the healing and wholeness that God has given each of us as a gift.

SAM SNYDER, INCOMING IMD

PCR GUIDING MINISTRY APPROACH: EQUIPPING AND TRAINING LEADERS



Leaders from Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda met in Rwanda for a joint Training Retreat hosted by leadership of PCR Rwanda and PCR DRC, October 2022.

We are in a series featuring our seven ministry approaches: presence, heal, train, equip, partner, resource, witness. In this issue, Jim highlights our approach to training and equipping leaders.

"THE THINGS YOU HAVE HEARD ME SAY IN THE PRESENCE OF MANY WITNESSES IN TRUST TO RELIABLE PEOPLE WHO WILL ALSO BE QUALIFIED TO TEACH OTHERS." 2 TIMOTHY 2:2

2,000 years later, these words from the apostle Paul to his young colleague Timothy still resonate. There is deep wisdom about how the work of ministry is multiplied by developing leaders. As contemporary Christian leadership writer John Maxwell puts it: *"The single biggest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them."*

This encapsulates the third and fourth components of our ministry approach: training and equipping leaders. Given the urgent and increasing need for healing and reconciliation here, and everywhere, it is not possible to meet that need without recruiting, raising up, and developing our teams. Here is how we seek to do that at the Pilgrim Center.

TRAINING

Over the last three decades of this work we have discovered that this ministry is actually more "caught" than "taught." It is not only the content of our retreats and courses, it is the way in which this content is presented that is at the heart of our work. The "DNA" of our foundational principles and values of humility, hospitality, synergy, authority, and integrity must be embodied in our leaders in order for our work to be truly effective.

To instill those values, we have developed a **Facilitator Training Retreat** through which participants also develop practical skills. Our goal is that PCR leaders will function like it was said of King David, that, *"He shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them,"* Psalm 78:72. Throughout the 2-3 Day Training Retreat we examine our foundational principles in depth and explain the tools needed to do this work with skillful hands.

EQUIPPING

We know that developing leaders requires more than simply transmission of information, it requires ongoing transformation through mentoring. We seek to empower new leaders by inviting them to participate on facilitation teams where they have the

opportunity to sharpen and broaden their skills. On those teams, there are Senior Facilitators who help to guide and grow these new leaders with constructive feedback and encouragement. This is an ongoing process as we are all part of a learning and growing community of ambassadors of reconciliation.

As we continue to increase our healing and reconciliation program offerings, and as more and more invitations come to us, our need for more facilitators is increasing exponentially, especially in the United States. If you are interested in volunteer leadership with the Pilgrim Center, please reach out and let us know. We will have more training and equipping opportunities coming up in the new year.

JIM OLSON, PCR PRESIDENT



NOW HOSTING CONCILIATORY CONVERSATIONS

Relationships can be complex. Sometimes conflict disrupts our relationships with friends, family, and fellow church members. We are here to help.

We live in challenging times, particularly in the U.S. where we are experiencing cultural polarization, social isolation and even fragmentation in our churches. In this environment, it can be challenging to have honest, thoughtful dialogue with one another, even with those we love. Are you looking for a way to practice having healthy dialogue? Are you wondering how to address conflict in your church, your community, or family?

The Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation is available to facilitate a *Conciliatory Conversation* for your church, community or workplace. Using the circle process model, PCR staff and volunteer facilitators are available to come and assist your community in having courageous, honest, transparent conversations.

Conciliatory Conversations create a space where individuals can process together in healthy ways. These kinds of conversations can be helpful in addressing internal or external conflict, harm, or other issues within society and the church. Even in you are not experiencing active conflict, *Conciliatory Conversations* can help everyone develop important skills like deep listening and honest sharing.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact us 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
Sam Snyder, Incoming International Ministry Director
Tim Uthmann, Incoming US Ministry Director
Rev. Dr. Jim Olson, PCR President
Rev. Dr. Ryan O'Leary, Trauma Healing Participant



PO BOX 22086, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55422



HEALING FROM TRAUMA: RYAN'S TESTIMONY

On Oct. 28-29, PCR Facilitators John Foley, Jonathan Stuart and Anna Jeide-Detweiler led a Trauma Healing Group in Cambridge, MN. Rev. Ryan O'Leary participated in the group and shared this testimony.

I was initially drawn to the trauma healing trauma for two primary reasons. First, because I think all of us have our own traumas, and it's important that we are trying to overcome and heal from these traumas, so that we can be healthier, more whole people and leaders who are following Jesus. Second, I am a member of a federally recognized tribe in the United States and function as an Indigenous Christian ministry leader. We, as tribal people in the U.S., need deep healing, and I believe that Jesus is the person who can bring this healing.

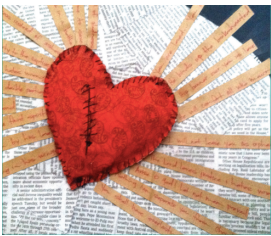
For many years, tribal members were forcibly removed from homes on reservations around the U.S. and were placed in Indian residential schools. The purpose of this process of removing children from their homes on reservations was to assimilate tribal people into Anglo culture and make us as Native people like Anglos. While at these schools, Indigenous children experienced various forms of abuses and were taught Christianity.

Both of my grandparents were removed from their homes on the reservation and were forced to attend distant boarding schools. My grandma shared her own boarding school traumatic experiences with my family and me. For example, she only spoke Ojibwe growing up. When she was at boarding school, she was told she could no longer speak her language and had to speak English instead. Whenever she spoke her language, as a young girl,

she was made to put out her hands in front of her and they were beaten with the sharp edge of a ruler until they were bloodied and bruised.

There are other traumas that we as tribal people have experienced. As a result, I feel that the trauma healing group I attended has great potential to help many tribal people throughout North America to heal and find a healthier life. In Ojibwe culture, we use the phrase, "mino-bimaadiziwin", which mean the "good life." This trauma healing group has great potential to help tribal people live this kind of life through the healing power of Jesus.

While I came with an open mind and no perceived ideas what the healing trauma group would be like, I thoroughly enjoyed my experience. The teaching was solid and very helpful about how to processes our trauma in healthy ways. I appreciated the variety of exercises we went through that made the two days interesting, fun, and deeply meaningful. When we as a group were asked about what was most meaningful to us at the end of our experience, I shared that felt a sense of personal freedom and wholeness that I hadn't experienced in quite some time. I am thankful to the Lord and give Him glory for the work that He is accomplishing through this healing trauma group.



REV. RYAN O'LEARY,
TRAUMA HEALING
PARTICIPANT

P.S. To learn more about the history of Indian Boarding Schools, Ryan recommends reading *Boarding School Blues*.

IMMEASURABLY MORE TOGETHER

"I signed up for (The Way of Reconciliation Course) to improve my reconciliation skills and help others. Little did I know that it would have such a profound, personal impact on me and expose my need to wrestle with my own wounding.

What the Pilgrim Center is doing directly addresses personal pain and trauma. With God's help, it often leads people to restoration, renewal and healing."

BRUCE MOOTY, 2022 FALL CELEBRATION



Thank you to all who came (online or in-person) to the Fall Celebration on Oct. 14th. Your presence made the evening so special.

To date, we have raised over \$40,000. Thank you!
Your gift provides spaces for more people to experience healing. Thank you for partnering with us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN. 31ST: MIDWINTER GATHERING

Join us for an open house from 5:30 - 7:30pm in the Twin Cities. Come enjoy light refreshments and meet the new PCR staff members! Location TBA.

FEB. 6-8TH: MINISTRY LEADERS RETREAT

Come away for time of rest and renewal in the three-day Healing and Reconciliation Retreat. Open to all pastors, lay leaders, ministry leaders. Contact info@pilgrimcenter.org for more details. Location TBA.