



# CONNECTTREE

## 2024 Annual Impact Report

### CO-FOUNDERS' CORNER

2024 was an interesting year for ConnectTree! Our office and home was a construction zone for 8 months due to a water leak in the slab. We had to pack up and move out for 2 weeks and not have a kitchen for almost 6 months!! (We like eating out, but come on...)

We were displaced, but in God's grace He allowed us to accomplish much in spite of it all! It was your partnership in prayer and financial support that made a huge impact on those we minister to despite this disruption.

### WE'RE FREQUENTLY ASKED, "What does ConnectTree do?"

ConnectTree's Vision is to help missionaries have the care and support they need, financially, physically, emotionally and spiritually, so they can carry out the ministry that God has called them to do. That looks different for each missionary. **Scan the QR code to the right to go to our website for more information!**



[www.ConnectTree.org](http://www.ConnectTree.org)

We have 5 DISTINCTIVES that guide how we carry out that vision.

### 1. MISSIONARY CARE & 2. RELIEF WORK:

#### **Medical Emergency in Mexico!**

In January, we got a call from our Mexico missionaries, Fernando, Isabel & Feli, that their nieces, Itzel and Keila were involved in a violent carjacking and had both been shot; Itzel with a critical wound to the head. Our friends rushed to be by their side in the hospital, and spent the next couple of months taking care of their needs and advocating for them with the doctors. Thanks to your faithful prayers and donations, we were able to come alongside and help alleviate the burden of all the extra costs. Praise the Lord, both girls have recovered well. Itzel has made a miraculous recovery, though still has some challenges to work through. Please continue praying for both girls' complete recovery physically, emotionally and spiritually.



Keila, Feli and Itzel at Christmas. Praise God for their recovery!



Cip and his wife Connie with their new ministry vehicle!

#### **Missionary Visits From Moldova & Germany**

**Cip from Moldova** was able to come to the States for the Shepherd's Conference and to connect with his supporting churches. One of the needs Cip shared was the need for a new car for ministry. Their old car is worn out and becoming too expensive to fix. After sharing the need in all 3 of his supporting churches and with our CT partners, we were able to collect a total of \$28,000 towards a new vehicle for him, which he purchased this past summer. Such a blessing!

#### **We also had a wonderful visit from Cynthia Heflebower, our missionary friend in Germany.**

She was able to connect with some supporters and share at Redeemer Church at a Wednesday evening service. CT was able to give her a gift from our Ministry Fund to help with her ministry and travel expenses.



Dawn with Cynthia at Redeemer Church

#### **Medical Relief & Ministry Travel**

We collected and distributed funds for medical relief and ministry travel expenses for 2 missionary families, one who works in SE Asia and one who trains at-risk workers who live in hostile areas of the world. These families had extensive medical needs between them totaling well over \$50,000. CT helped facilitate the donations to alleviate the stress these families were feeling under the weight of such heavy medical bills. Thank you to all who gave so generously!

### 3. EVANGELISM:

#### **Moldova Christmas Outreach in January**

Our missionary Cip and his friends were able to share a gospel-centered Christmas program in several village schools. Traditional Christmas is observed in January in Moldova. They gave gifts to all the kids and talked freely about the Christ of Christmas to 300+ children, parents and teachers!

#### **Easter Outreaches in Moldova in April**

Cip creatively communicated the gospel via Taekwondo demonstrations, Bible and Christian literature distribution, and giving gifts to the children in several villages.

#### **Moldova Summer Camps – June/July/August**

With your support, we were able to help provide for 60 kids and teens to go to Christian summer camp for a week. Cip also held a week-long day camp in one village ministering to 50 kids. Between all 3 camps, 110 kids and teens got the chance to spend time hearing the gospel, having fun together, fellowshiping with loving Christian leaders and singing songs of praise to the Lord. Several responded to the challenge to surrender their lives to Christ! Praise the Lord!

**Fernando, Isabel & Feli in La Laguna, Mexico City** provided a special meal and gifts for the kids for Easter and again for Christmas in December. They had Bible Story and craft time with them. They also shared a gospel message for the adults. 20 people got saved!! Pray for them as they follow-up with these new believers.

#### **Mexico City – Summer Bible School - August**

Fernando, Isabel & Feli, along with volunteers from their church, organized a week-long Summer Bible School (think VBS) for the kids in the poor community of La Laguna, not far from where they live. They had enough funds from several donors, including CT partners, to provide a wonderful program for the kids, with lunch provided each day. Many kids and parents gave their lives to Christ!



Moldova Village Day Camp



Mexico City Summer Bible School



#### 4. SUPPORT FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH:

##### Chiapas, Mexico – Pastor Jaime

Our dear brother, Pastor Jaime, is a modern day Paul as he travels around to 14 villages doing evangelism, training up leaders, discipling new believers, and encouraging people to reach out to their neighbors with the gospel, in spite of possible persecution. CT partnered with him financially to provide food and medical packages that he brings to these communities. Chiapas is a dangerous place with drug cartels and other hostile entities in the area. Pray for Pastor Jaime and the believers there to be bold in sharing their faith amidst the persecution.



One of the communities of believers that Jaime ministers to in the jungle of Chiapas



The awesome gals from Redeemer with Pre-K kiddos in Guatemala

#### 5. MISSIONS MOBILIZATION AND DISCIPLESHIP:

##### Guatemala Missions Trip – Redeemer Church in June

Dawn had the joy of training and leading a team of 12 to Guatemala from Redeemer Church, Apple Valley. We worked with DeepStream Ministries in Buena Vista at their beautiful school where kids from the surrounding area attend with the help of sponsorships. We spent the week playing outdoor games, sharing devotionals with the teens, doing interactive Bible stories and crafts with the younger kids, spending time with the staff and visiting students’ homes with food packages and sharing the hope of Christ. It was a great team and fruitful time of ministry.

##### Other Missions & Discipleship – Throughout the Year

CT gave donations from our Ministry Fund for short-term mission trips to South Korea, Malawi, Latvia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

CT came alongside the McDaniel Family as they headed out to Hawaii with Surfing the Nations as long term missionaries. We spent time discussing support raising, leadership and transitioning to the field with them.

CT contributed food and supplies to the local food pantry at Redeemer Church in Apple Valley, CA.

Cheryl and Dawn also spent time this year as the Redeemer Church Missions & Outreach Coordinators and Women’s Inductive Bible Study leaders. They had the privilege of discipling women and teaching them how to study the Bible for themselves and mobilizing people into missions.



Praying over the McDaniel family at their send off!

#### OTHER 2024 IMPACTS

##### Added a Board Member and Said Goodbye to Another

CT added a new Board member in January – Chuck Rushing! We are so thankful for his leadership and heart for missions and the Lord! Welcome Chuck! In November, Monique Koszty stepped off the Board after 4 years of wonderful service. We are so appreciative of all she has contributed to the Lord’s work through ConnectTree.

##### Missio Nexus Conference ([www.missionexus.org](http://www.missionexus.org)) - September

In September, Cheryl and Dawn were able to attend the Missio Nexus “Priority” conference for 3 days in Louisville, Kentucky. There were about 1,200 leaders there from missions organizations and churches around the world. It was such a blessing to attend the many seminars and plenary sessions, make connections with other missions leaders, and learn about a variety of resources available to equip us for continued growth and health as an organization. We even ran into one of our missionaries from SE Asia there, Pat P. Neither one of us knew the other was attending!! It was a sweet reunion and a divine appointment!!

#### PLANS FOR 2025

**1-day Evangelism Workshop:** If you are interested in having your church offer this Evangelism workshop, where we will train your church family to share the gospel with neighbors, friends, family, co-workers, people of other religious beliefs, etc., please contact us!

**Guatemala trip** with Redeemer Church team in June.

**Fundraising for projects and outreaches, for missionaries’ needs and persecuted believers.** We are seeking additional monthly donors and major gifts that will allow for growth as a ministry.

**Spend time with missionaries** via video and phone calls, texts, emails, etc. to encourage, pray for, counsel and be a resource for them.

**Cheryl joined a CEO Cohort with Missio Nexus** and is at the beginning of a 9-month program of peer learning with a group of other mission organization CEOs and a Coach.

**We plan on adding an additional Board member** or two this year, Lord willing. **Do you have experience being on a Board of Directors?** We are asking the Lord to send us qualified people to serve with us here at ConnectTree!

**Thank you for praying for and supporting the work of ConnectTree! We love and appreciate you!**

The Board of Directors:

Cheryl Markowitz, Forrest Haskins, Dawn Hamrick, Chuck Rushing

#### CONNECTREE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of some part time volunteers who are gifted in the following areas:

- Bookkeeping/Quickbooks
- Communications/Social Media
- Fundraising
- Grant Writing

If you are proficient in any of these areas and would like to serve the Lord by volunteering with ConnectTree, we would love to chat with you!! We are growing and need some help!! Please give Cheryl a call!

#### Cheryl Markowitz

- I am teaching the book of James for the Women’s Inductive Bible study at Redeemer Church and loving it!
- I am really enjoying our new kitchen! It has inspired me to cook! (Not something I normally do much!!)
- My word for the year is “Disciplined.” Maybe you can relate? It is easy to live in the comfortable, and not enjoy the beauty of what discipline brings. I am hoping that by being more disciplined this year I will lose a bit of weight and get fit, learn some new drumming patterns (I play hand percussion, and am learning the drums!) and learn to speak some Spanish so I can talk to the kids in Guatemala!!

#### Dawn Hamrick

- I am helping to lead the Women’s Bible study at church with Cheryl.
- I am looking forward to setting up my art corner (once we are all unpacked) so I can be creative and do some art and photography.
- Oh, and I am LOVING my new kitchen!! I am trying out new recipes on Cheryl!!

#### CT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Cheryl



Forrest



Dawn



Chuck



CT maintains the highest level of financial transparency and accountability. Scan QR code to see our [Guidestar.org](https://www.guidestar.org) profile.

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