# josiahventure 25 years of gospel Dear Friends, In the spring of 1992, I set aside two days for fasting and prayer. My wife, Connie, and I had spent the previous six months confirming God's call to move our young family to Central and Eastern Europe. Needing more clarity on the Father's instructions for the road ahead, I booked a room at an empty retreat facility on the shore of Lake Geneva in southern Wisconsin. Armed with just a Bible and notebook, I was ready to hear from God. The first day was not what I expected. Rather than talking about the future, the Spirit focused on the present, leading me to repentance for the lack of passion and depth in my walk with God. I walked the shores praying prayers of confession and cleansing out loud.

The second day, I pulled a white chair part-way into the water and got out my notebook, hoping I was now ready to hear. With my pen ready, I asked the Lord to reveal his plan for the future.

The first thing I wrote on the top of my paper was this vision: "A movement of God among the youth of Eastern Europe, that finds its home in the local church, and transforms society." Catching my breath, I began to dream of what that could look like.

A gospel light shining bright in countries recently freed from the grip of communism. Lost young people who had never heard the good news coming to faith in Christ. Families transformed, local churches renewed with a passion for disciplemaking and for the lost. Communities transformed by the fervent witness of fearless young believers.

What would we need to do to join the Father in this vision in Central and Eastern Europe? Listening carefully, I wrote this statement next: "Our mission: To equip young leaders to fulfill Christ's commission through the local church."

> As I prayed and thought about those two statements, I said to myself. "That vision would be worth giving the rest of my life to."

Throughout the rest of the day, God revealed his goals and priorities for the next 10year stretch. At that time, no team existed, nor any organization to support the work. Yet, at the end of my notes, I wrote a short statement at the bottom of the page: "Staff needed to accomplish this vision – 200." At that point, there were just two.

A year later, Connie and I moved with Josiah Venture to the Czech Republic. Dan and Laura Hash located across the border in Poland and three months later, a third couple joined the team. From the very beginning, we all sensed that God had communicated HIS vision and mission, then invited us into it.

Today, 25 years later, there are 350 staff on the Josiah Venture team serving in 14 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, with sending organizations in the United States, UK and Canada. What an amazing adventure this has been!

During that time, you have been invited by the Father into this vision and used by him to fuel this movement through your gifts and prayers.

Words fail to express the depth of our gratefulness to you for your partnership and faith. As you see the pictures and numbers expressed on these pages, may you be filled with joy at the lives that have been transformed. Join us in praising God for 25 years of his gospel fruit!



Sincerely,

President of Josiah Venture

### 2018 finances



needed to build our new Event Center training facility in the Czech Republic. Info at josiahventure.com/eventcenter

#### 2015-2018 total donations

Main Fundraising Event Center Fundraising

2018 - \$13.05 Million in Total (unaudited)

2017 - \$12.30 Million in Total

2016 - \$12.74 Million in Total

2015 - \$11.27 Million in Total



"There is no other ministry in the Czech Republic that reaches so many young people with the gospel in so many different ways. A strong discipleship culture modeled by its staff has had a great impact across Czech churches."

Jirka Unger, General Secretary Czech Evangelical Alliance

#### 25 years of:

1,566 evangelistic camps



"Thank you for equipping us to start an Edge Sports ministry in our church. Our players, coaches, and the entire church are so grateful. I believe God will use this project to impact the country of Moldova and reach many with his good news!"

25 years of gospel

Ion Matei, Youth Leader Moldova

10,789 professions of faith

64,000+ attendance at training events



39,000+ donors

**1,044** churches

#### **1,818** interns

1,343 US/UK/CA interns **475** national interns

## 362 staff

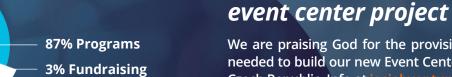
152 US/UK/CA staff **190** national staff 20 in training



Dorin Dumitrascu, Youth Pastor, Romania







10% Administration

We are praising God for the provision of 90% of the funds

Public School Ministry we are serving in 435 schools | 90,000+ attendance 14 countries & Student Music Ministry 42 groups | 1,000+ attendance Sports League Ministry praying for Lithuania 51 teams | 890 attendance 5 more Georgia Moldova Bosnia & Herzegovina Bulgaria Montenegro looking ahead our into 2019 mission **Equipping young** Twenty five years of service have built an amazing foundation, but we are asking that leaders in Central the next stretch be even more fruitful. Here are specific requests you can be praying for and Eastern Europe in the year ahead: to fulfill Christ's commission through Our Event Center approval process has lasted over four years, and still we don't have the local church the final permits. Pray that we would be able to start construction this year. · We are actively working to expand into new countries. Pray for the initial work that will go on this year in Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova, Lithuania, and Georgia. Our teams will share the gospel with over 30,000 young people face-to-face in the year ahead. Pray that many will respond to the good news and put their faith in Christ. Thank you for your partnership in this movement of God! josiahventure.com | P.O. Box 4317 | Wheaton, IL 60189-4317 | 630.221.9332

**josiah**venture