2020 was not the kind of year most leaders would choose to face in their tenure. Political strife and racial tensions dotted the global landscape even in countries and regions that once seemed stable. The devastation of COVID-19 left no community unaffected, from the mountain villages of Afghanistan to the loft apartments of New York City. Yet in the midst of all these things, many of us have also had a front row seat to see God at work in extraordinary ways.

We speak quite a lot about the value of indigenous partnerships on the frontier. In fact, we believe so strongly in the biblical and strategic value of partnership in mission that, from our earliest years, Frontier Fellowship adopted it as a core model for the way we call the Church into frontier ministry. While we have always known the importance of this approach, the pandemic offered a litmus test for the global work of the Church together in effective ministry to the least-reached. The foundations laid by our mobilizers with churches and global partners over many years were tested and found solid!

The world’s borders closed just as our staff returned from a vision trip to develop new partnerships in the Buddhist world of Southeast Asia. As restrictions tightened in some of the earth’s poorest and most restrictive regions, we saw our mobilized churches increase their support and our partners adapt their efforts, so that they could be the hands and feet of Christ together to these unreached global neighbors. When the United States was front and center in the global pandemic news, our partners from all over the world called and Zoomed in to pray for and with us as a ministry and a nation. Through the months that followed, many of our mobilizers not only continued but strengthened the partnerships they had established. I would encourage you to read Dan McNerney’s reflections in this Annual Report as one example.

Though we have seen our share of challenges and setbacks this year, the story above is a testimony to God’s goodness and the wisdom of the vision He gave to Ralph Winter (our founder) and Harold Kurtz (our first director) 40 years ago. We encourage churches to join with the great mission of God through the ages, to see people reconciled to God and Jesus worshiped as Lord by people from every nation, tribe, people and language. Throughout history, the Lord has sustained and multiplied His Church through far greater challenges than our current situation brings. And Harold Kurtz reminded us that this Good News is always meant to go beyond current boundaries—beyond the next hill—until it reaches the very ends of the earth.

As we begin to see the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, our thoughts contemplate a return to our lives rich with personal contact and relationships. We look forward to the embrace of family and friends. Our staff eagerly anticipate the return of international travel so we can embrace our global family in Christ. But we also hear the call of the frontier—a call for the Church that will not let us stand still! We are leading the Church beyond the next hill in frontier mission and partnership, so that all may have the opportunity to hear and respond to the Good News of Jesus in their own culture and heart language. As we look forward to the next 40 years of frontier mission mobilizing ministry, we are as committed today as we ever have been to this vision: FOR EVERY PEOPLE, AN INDIGENOUS CHURCH; FOR EVERY CHURCH, A MISSION VISION.
PARTNER IMPACT
In the 1980s, Witnessing Ministries of Christ (WMC) became our first partner in South Asia. Our mobilizing efforts helped WMC plant thousands of churches, resulting in more than 2 million least-reached peoples choosing to follow Jesus. Our 29+ partnerships today reflect a continuing commitment to work together as we bring Gospel access to the world’s least-reached.

STAFF IMPACT
Since 1981, 50 staff members have dedicated a combined 369 years of service to frontier mission mobilizing efforts through Frontier Fellowship. Today, 20 staff members work from regional offices in 12 states across the US (highlighted on the map below).

STAFF
Richard Haney
Uchenna Anyanwu
Nan Bielski
Urgessa Biru
Tara Chase
Brad Coon
Taliilie Fiqruu
Renee Gillespie
Kristin Huffman
Rita Johnson
Donald Marsden
Dan McNerney
Lisa Nygaard
George Pendergrass
Pamela Pendergrass
Shelley Schuenke
Denise Sciuto
Bob Von Schimmelmann
Nancy Von Schimmelmann
Cody Watson

CHURCH IMPACT
In 2020, over 200 churches in 35 states partnered financially in frontier mission with Frontier Fellowship (represented by circles on the map above).

185 COMBINED YEARS OF SERVICE

700 PRAYER PARTNERS

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS:
FRONTIERFELLOWSHIP.COM/PARTNERS

FOR EVERY PEOPLE, AN INDIGENOUS CHURCH

FOR EVERY CHURCH, A MISSION VISION
Pre-pandemic life as an associate director for Frontier Fellowship was fast-paced. You could often find me running to the airport to visit our global partners overseas or a partner church in the US. When travel shut down last spring, I had time to collect myself and reflect on my years in frontier mission ministry. I realized how many wonderful, cross-Atlantic friendships had been formed in my life as a result of serving and helping the Church of Egypt grow in its outreach to their majority people and throughout the Arab World.

Since 2002, I’ve taken over 150 people to visit our partners in Egypt! Remarkably, some of these trip participants approached me during my time of reflection with the idea of forming a fellowship of people who have joined Frontier Fellowship on a vision trip to Egypt throughout the years. Immediately we went to work, making phone calls and sending emails, and soon a new network of friends was formed called “Egypt Frontier Network” (EFN). We envisioned that this group of people would connect with the Egyptian Church and allow for us to form deeper relationships during this season of pandemic.

Since last April, we have organized seven EFN calls, each filled with love and great fellowship. What surprised us most on these calls was to hear the Egyptians’ deep compassion and concern for us here in the US, since our country was reporting more COVID-19 cases than anywhere else in the world. In different ways, we were all facing the same struggle and wanted to be in it together. We prayed, grieved, rejoiced and encouraged one another during this time. I’m not sure I would have slowed down enough to help form the EFN if I had remained at my normal, pre-pandemic pace. This season gave us the opportunity to rethink frontier mission ministry, which opened our eyes to this new way of supporting one another in Christ.

We believe in frontier mission. Over two billion people still wait for Gospel access. We believe this is the Church’s primary mission.

We are passionate about mobilization. As influencers, we help shape the values, thinking and actions of the Church toward frontier mission. Our mobilization efforts multiply the Church’s capacity to reach the least-reached, and bless the mobilized, who participate in this joyful work here and abroad.

We are committed to partnership. Mission is no longer “from the west to the rest” and indigenous leaders are today’s pioneers in frontier mission. Building long-term sustainable partnerships between global churches and indigenous frontier ministries is one of our primary methods of mobilization, and one of our greatest values. It is a joy to participate together with the Lord and with our fellow believers as His glory is made known throughout the earth.