



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ASSISTCX.ORG



Pataskala Grace Church: From Revitalization to Reproduction



Lead Pastor Tim Wilmetti

Looking Back: A Season of Pruning

In 2018, Pataskala Grace Church was at a crossroads. With an attendance of around 130, the congregation faced internal divisions that brought tension and uncertainty. Some members had already left due to dissatisfaction. When the pastor stepped down in August, many of his supporters also moved on. Over time, the church's numbers steadily declined, and Sunday attendance had dropped to 65. What had once been a solid church now felt fragile and unsure of its future.

During this time, Ed Short, a trusted voice in church leadership—suggested a path forward: Assist Church Expansion— even before he joined Assist's staff. In November 2018, three elders from Pataskala Grace attended Assist's Bootcamp, a turning point that would provide the structure and support they desperately needed.

A Breath of Fresh Air

One of the unique challenges of being part of a Fellowship like Charis is the autonomy of each church, making pastoral transitions difficult. " 'Good luck! you're on your own' can often feel like the unspoken reality," said longtime elder Dave Shain. But Assist offered something different. Rather than taking over, Assist came alongside. They understood the DNA of Pataskala Grace and provided a framework—not a directive—to help guide the church through this challenging season. Instead of drifting aimlessly, the church was given an anchor: a strategic plan, concrete steps, and trusted partners to help navigate the road to renewal.

"In the midst of our despair, here comes this breeze of hope," said Dave Shain, reflecting on that pivotal moment. However, a key challenge remained. Would the congregation embrace the process? After much prayer and deliberation, the elders affirmed that this was the right path forward and encouraged the church family to trust the journey.

Through the pastoral search process, the church found a new leader. Pastor Tim Wilmetti arrived in late 2019, bringing a passion for ministry. He and his wife, Ashlie, and their daughters, quickly became part of the church family.

Under Tim's leadership, alongside a dedicated team, the church began to grow. By July 2022, the need for additional leadership led to the hiring of Associate Pastor Josh Rollins. Less than a year later, in April 2023, Pataskala Grace officially "graduated" from the Assist process—coinciding with its 50th Anniversary Celebration weekend. The contrast was remarkable: from deep struggles just a few years earlier to a vibrant, thriving church celebrating a milestone in its history.

Looking Ahead: Growth and Multiplication

The difficult season of pruning has now blossomed into a season of growth. Attendance has climbed to 190 in early 2025, nearly tripling from its lowest point in 2018. The church is healthy and has embraced its next calling—church planting.

Once a daunting idea, church planting is now part of the church's mission as they step into supporting a new work in Newark, Ohio. Even more, they have embraced the vision by sending Josh Rollins and his wife Jen as the church planter for this new work.

Dave Shain, who has served as an elder for over 30 years, reflects on the transformation that he saw firsthand:

"I've never been more positive about the direction of the church than right now. We have healthy growth, our pastor handles the Word well, and we are even supporting the new church in Newark. I'm thankful for what God has done over the last several years, and I'm excited for how He has positioned us to serve Him in the future."



From Despair to Hope

The story of Pataskala Grace is one of resilience and renewal. Through pain and pruning came a fresh start. Through a willing partnership, a new future was forged. Through a commitment to the Gospel, the church now stands as a beacon of hope, not only for itself but for the next church that needs to be planted. Pataskala Grace Church is not just surviving, it is flourishing. The best part? The story is far from over.

Check Out These Videos:

[A Revitalization to Reproduction Story:
Pataskala Grace Church](#)



[Assist's Calling to Church Revitalization:
Mike Jentes](#)



A Year of Growth, Transformation, and Expansion

In 2024, God worked powerfully through Assist Church Expansion to strengthen churches, equip leaders, and expand the Charis Fellowship. Through your prayers, generosity, and dedication, we have seen milestones in church planting, revitalization, and leadership development. Here's a look at the impact we've made together.



Church Planting and Expansion

1. **Contrast Church** (Columbus, OH) graduated from our church planting partnership in April.
2. **Pataskala Grace** (OH) announced plans to plant a new church in Newark, OH by 2026.
3. **Community of Hope** (Columbia City, IN) took major steps toward planting a new church in Ft. Wayne, IN.
4. **Bear Creek Community Church** (Lavon, TX) partnered with Assist and hired their first pastor, David Watson.
5. **Formation Church** (St. Petersburg, FL) is preparing for a strong launch in 2025 with ongoing support.
6. **Grace Fellowship Canada** opened a new storefront office in Aldergrove, British Columbia, as a strategic move toward planting a church and expanding the Charis Fellowship in Canada.

Church Revitalization & Leadership Development

1. **Bridge Church** (Martinsburg, WV) completed its revitalization process in February.
2. **Grace Church of Aiken** (Aiken, SC) celebrated its revitalization completion in March.
3. **Hope Bible Church** (Roanoke, VA) called Pastor Jesse Jackson.
4. **Grace Fellowship** (Anderson, SC) called Pastor Jerry Kociuruba.
5. **Meyersdale Grace Brethren Church** (PA) welcomed Pastor Justin Putnam.
6. **Assist coaches** walked alongside multiple churches to support their pastoral search and leadership transitions.
7. **Bootcamps** were held in Huber Heights, OH (August) and Hope Bible Church, Roanoke, VA (September), helping churches refocus on their mission.
8. **The Revitalize My Church Podcast** was launched in July, with 12 episodes released in 2024 and a schedule set for 2025.



Nathan Bryant
Executive Director

**But grow in the grace and knowledge
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and
forever! Amen.
-2 Peter 3:18**

Celebrating Milestones

1. Over 150 people in Warsaw, IN attended the New Day Banquet in February, where we announced a new church plant in Ft. Wayne, IN.
2. 35+ Assist teammates, partner pastors, and families connected at the Charis Fellowship Conference in July.
3. The inaugural Ed Jackson Church Multiplication Award was presented to Mark Artrip at the Charis Fellowship Conference.

In this Together

None of this would be possible without your prayers, support, and generosity. Together, we are seeing lives transformed, churches strengthened, and the Gospel advanced. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey.

With gratitude,
The Assist Church Expansion Team

God's Provision & Your Impact

1. 2024 was a record year for giving! God abundantly provided, allowing Assist to meet our financial needs and expand our ministry.
2. Hundreds of pastors, leaders, and church members were encouraged, trained, and equipped to lead their churches effectively.
3. New partnerships were formed, and existing churches were strengthened, facilitating the continued growth of the Charis Fellowship.

By The Numbers

**5 Church
Planting
partners**

**19 Restart &
Revitalization
partners**

Adventure Teams 2024: Engaging the City, Empowering the Church

In 2024, Assist Church Expansion's Adventure Teams mobilized students and adults to serve alongside Charis churches, providing practical help and spiritual encouragement while on the frontlines and doing ministry together!

D.C. Adventure Team

Partner Churches Served: Lanham Grace, Grace Bible Church, About My Father's Business, and Alexandria Grace

This year's D.C. team brought together volunteers from Winona Lake Grace Church (Winona Lake, IN) and Grace Church Aiken (Aiken, SC) to serve across the metro region. Participants engaged in diverse ministry experiences from urban outreach and prayer walking, to hosting a free community car wash, even removing carpet from a local ministry space. They visited a mosque to learn about interfaith dialogue and capped the week with sightseeing around the nation's capital.



Toronto Adventure Team

Partner Church Served: Renew Church

Just weeks after Renew Church relaunched at the Milton Theatre, the Adventure Team arrived to support their efforts in community outreach and church visibility. The team conducted community surveys, led prayer walks, passed out flyers, and hosted a free car wash. They also served at a Christian refugee transition house, extending care to displaced families. Cross-cultural experiences included a visit to a Buddhist temple and a memorable day trip to Niagara Falls.

Plan ahead to join a team
in 2026 at AssistCX.org/teams



2024 Grace Fellowship Canada Report

By Phil Bryant, GFC Executive Director

On January 1, 2024, we relaunched Grace Fellowship Canada with big dreams and a heart for God's work. Our goals were to strengthen Canada's existing churches, secure funding to fuel the vision, pinpoint the next community for a church plant, establish a national office, expand our prayer base, and ask God for teammates to join us. Let me tell you, God has been so faithful!



Baptism Service at
Renew Church
- Pastor Bartley Sawatsky

This year, we have jumped from 60% to 80% funded, and we are trusting Him for the remaining \$30,000 in ongoing support. Renew Church in Milton, Ontario, has been a bright spot—relaunching Sunday services in the Cineplex Cinemas in June, welcoming new visitors, and celebrating many baptisms. It's been a thrill to watch God move!

Then there's Aldergrove, just east of Vancouver. God led us there to open our national office and start engaging the community for a future church plant. He provided \$15,000 for the buildout, and as of January 2025, a Bible study is already humming along in that space.

Our prayer team has grown too—over 150 new partners have joined since the relaunch. Want to pray for Canada with us? You're invited! We're still asking God for teammates to help restart this mission and for strength and unity among Canada's churches. As we look to 2025, please join us in praying for:

- Partner churches to support us with prayers, teams, and resources.
- Deeper connections and momentum in Aldergrove.
- The final \$30,000 to fully fund the mission.
- Teammates to join us in reaching Canada.
- Growth and unity for churches across the nation.

Thank you for being part of this journey—God's doing something special here, and we're excited to see what's next!

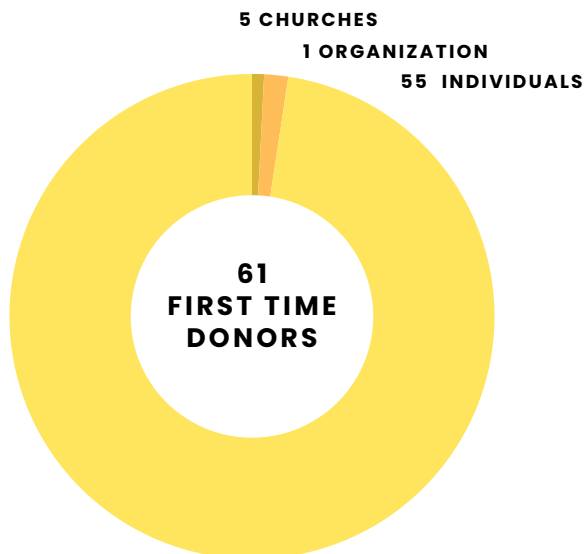
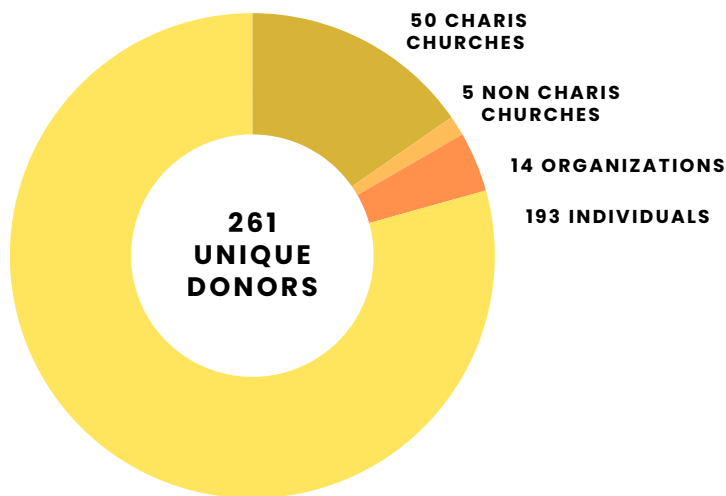


Phil Bryant
Executive Director of GFC

Scan the QR codes for resources and to join our prayer team.



2024 Support



Total Donations:
\$985,555
(highest ever received!)

Total Number of Donations:
1,456
(highest ever, breaking last year's record)

Assist CX General Fund:
\$706,272

**Grace Fellowship
Canada
Donations:**
\$122,166

ASSIST FINANCIAL POLICY FOR PROJECT/PARTNER CHURCH/ CHURCH PLANTER SUPPORT:

Assist's policy is for 100% of designated donations to our partner churches to be disbursed to that partner (other than credit card/payment processing fees). Assist is unique as nearly all non-profit organizations charge an administrative fee on every donation to fund the organization (typically between 5-15%).

Significant Implications:

- 1) As a donor, you can have confidence that 100% of a designated donation goes directly to that church/church plant.**
- 2) Therefore: We are actively working to increase donations directly to Assist to better support our work with churches. All administrative expenses and staff compensation are covered by our General Fund.**

2024 Financials



Assist Financial Statements

For the Period Ended December 31, 2024

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	240,713
Prepaid expenses	9,512
Total assets	250,225

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accrued expenses and other liabilities	10,377
Total liabilities	10,377

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	134,855
With donor restrictions	104,993
Total net assets	239,848

Total liabilities and net assets	250,225
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Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

Revenue

Contributions	807,999
Grants	115,000
Other income	39,843
Total Revenue	962,842

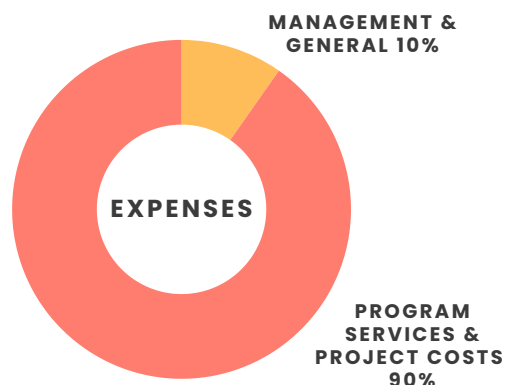
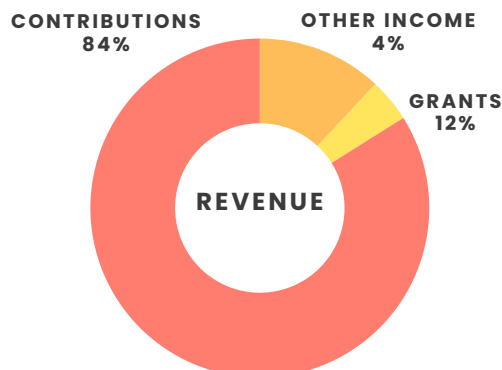
Expenses

Program services and project costs	821,501
Management and general	88,676
Total Expenses	910,177

Increase in net assets without donor restrictions	52,665
Increase in net assets with donor restrictions	17,939
Increase in Net Assets	70,604
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	169,244
Net Assets, End of Year	239,848

The 2024 financial statements of GBCanada USA dba Assist Church Expansion were audited by an independent accounting firm, which issued an unmodified opinion on February 3, 2025.

This clean audit affirms that our financials fairly present the organization's position in accordance with U.S. GAAP and reflects our commitment to transparency and stewardship.



Thanking God for His provision and
praying for what He will do in 2025.



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CHURCH EXPANSION

**Donations and
financial support:
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**Scan the code or visit
the link to donate online.**



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