Dear Friends,

In January of 2001, five couples sat at a restaurant for dinner in downtown Chicago. We had gathered to sign the founding documents of the Charles Simeon Trust and to commit the work to the Lord. For the occasion, several volumes of Charles Simeon’s *Horae Homileticae* served as our table’s centerpiece. Old silhouette prints of Simeon preaching adorned the room.

That was the setting in which the Charles Simeon Trust was born. It was fitting. Over much of his 54-year ministry, Simeon trained a coming generation of pastors to rightly handle God's Word. Our mission is inspired by his work: to promote the growth of the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world by training up the next generation of Biblical expositors.

This report encapsulates the Charles Simeon Trust’s 20th year. Looking back, I can rejoice with the writer of Psalm 126 who exclaimed, “The Lord has done great things for us. We are glad!” The Psalm also looks forward. It asks God to restore the fortunes of his people to a previous era. And it calls God’s people to play a role in the restoration. We are to “sow in tears” and “go out weeping bearing the seed for sowing.”

For twenty years now, that is what we have done. And signs of restoration are emerging from dry ground. Many of you have helped us sow the Word of Jesus Christ for years. Others have joined us more recently. To all of you, I want to pause to say thank you. I’m grateful for you. The Charles Simeon Trust is a vital gospel work. By the grace of God, it is what we’ll continue to do.

Two years ago, I was with Dick Lucas, the founder of the Proclamation Trust, on his 94th birthday. I asked him, “Dick, do you remember the first sermon you ever preached?” “Of course,” he said, without hesitation. Then he began to quote Psalm 126, “When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our tongue was filled with laughter...” In the pages that follow, you will see that God is doing great things for us again. And we are glad. We trust you will be too.

In Christ,
During the pandemic, we saw access to Workshops on Biblical Exposition expand geographically. From September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021 (our fiscal year), we held 50. Of those, 23 were in-person—with 10 in new locations. The other 28 were live online Workshops. The online option opened access to Workshops to many in places otherwise unreached; participants joined from 45 nations last year.

Andrew Lau, a Teaching Pastor at Collective in Malaysia, stayed up all night to participate in an online Workshop scheduled more conveniently for Western Hemisphere participants. “It was totally worth staying up,” said Andrew. He came because, as a pastor who takes the Word of God seriously, he feels alone. So he was deeply encouraged to interact with other like-minded pastors. “They inspire me to keep staying on the line, and trust God that his Word is effective and powerful to convert the sinner’s heart.”

For other pastors and Bible teachers, it was a year without a Workshop. Despite our aggressive push to return to in-person Workshops, we still had to postpone or cancel 71. Some used the time to train others, expanding access to principles and strategies for studying God’s Word.

Erica Owen leads the Women’s Ministry at Community Bible Church of Orange Park in Florida. She was inspired by the Workshop she attended in 2019. Using the tools she had learned along with an Online Course, Wisdom Literature, Erica and three additional women prepared to study and teach the Psalms. Last fall, they put together their first in-house conference for women. “It was so encouraging to see them handle the Scriptures so competently,” said Erica. When God’s Word is proclaimed, ministries flourish and churches thrive.
“These Workshops are by far the best thing I’ve done to invest in my preaching since seminary (which was 1985-1988).”
Steve Ratliff, Pastor, Faith Evangelical Free Church, Manhattan, Kansas

“Will absolutely do this again. I was skeptical at first but really appreciated the focus on identifying the argument of the text and then recasting it rhetorically for the church.”
Daniel Howe, Pastor, Christ Reformed Presbyterian Church, Warren, Rhode Island

“I can’t express how encouraging and helpful it was. I feel like I have several dozen new brothers now.”
Nick McRae, Associate Pastor, Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church, Flower Mound, Texas

Trust God that His Word is effective and powerful.

Workshop Registrations
Throughout the book of Acts, Paul preaches to persuade people of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ (e.g., Acts 17:2-4). Pastors and Bible teachers must do the same, aiming not only to get a text right, but also to get it across. Preaching requires homiletical skills, from understanding one’s audience to making powerful applications. To help pastors and Bible teachers grow in these skills, we released a new Online Course this year called Persuasion.

Over the summer, a group of three pastors in Iowa were led through the course by retired pastor Randy Scheil. Each was surprised by what persuasive sermons have in common: a single clear argument. “Our sermons can be so busy and full of interesting anecdotes that serve no better purpose than to take up time,” said Marcus Bratsch, Lead Pastor of River of Life Church. “The course encouraged me to find the text’s one proposition and bring that forward so that the Bible is heard clearly. Preaching isn’t about us, it is about putting the Bible forward and getting out of the way as best we can.”

Over our 20-year history, we’ve consistently created content that pastors need. Last year, in addition to Persuasion, we released 12 other courses in six languages. As a result of improved preaching and teaching by those who take the courses, we pray that many—like those in Paul’s day—will be persuaded to follow Jesus Christ.
Taking an Online Course for seminary credit is “like having a fitness trainer in the gym, but for my preaching. You’re helping my sermons lose fat and put on muscle.”

Samuel Andres, Lead Pastor, King’s Cross Church, Defiance, Ohio

“I learned how important it is to pray. I was really convicted by the last lesson where the instructor said that Jesus is revealed through prayer and since he is the one that does the good work, we must rely on him.”

Elizabeth Kim, New Covenant Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

“Week after week, we are sharpening our skills both in exegesis and exposition of Scriptures.”

Mystère Isaac, Pastor, Kitwe Church, Kitwe, Zambia
In its second year, the Chicago Course on Preaching provided the best possible practical training in Bible handling to 12 students who represent the next generation of preachers. We’re seeing the concept work. Students make significant progress in their preaching and teaching, and graduate with tools to continue refining their craft.

But we’ve also heard pastors repeatedly say, ‘I want to do this, but I can’t make year-round participation work.’ So, we made a way for them to get a taste: the CCP Intensive. For three weeks in July, 12 pastors gathered who all value Word work. One participant was Dr. V. Samuel Clintoc, who has served for 11 years as Senior Pastor of Park Hills Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. “When I interviewed at my church,” said Samuel, “the congregation had never heard expositional preaching before, but they were hungry for God’s Word.” So he accepted their call. Living up to its motto, “keep Austin weird,” the city has a diverse, creative, innovative culture that tilts towards young professionals. Park Hills Baptist Church is near the urban center and only ten minutes from the University of Texas. But when Samuel arrived, the church had around 65 attending members and most were older. Samuel discovered nominal Christianity in Austin, even among evangelicals. A native of Romania, he was surprised to find many in Texas practicing a form of cultural Christianity—Christians in name only—similar to what he had observed in Eastern Orthodoxy. It was a challenge. Nevertheless, God worked to revive his people through his Word. Over time, the church grew. Samuel didn’t start an intentional college ministry right away, but the Lord began slowly bringing college students anyhow. “The preaching of the Word is what drew in younger people,” he said. “It was amazing to see people be refreshed in faith—filled with joy and encouragement.” Slowly, but surely, people’s lives changed. They began discipling one another. Conversions happened. “The life of the church began to recenter around the ministry of the Word.”

In 2015, Samuel began attending a Workshop on Biblical Exposition each year. The Workshops helped him identify blind spots and find growth areas in his preaching. As he’s grown more confident in using tools for sermon preparation, his joy in proclaiming God’s Word has increased.

This culminated last summer, when he set aside three weeks to come to the Chicago Course on Preaching’s new Intensive. “To call it an intensive was an understatement,” said Samuel. The feedback he received—from other pastors who know the trade—was humbling and edifying, even ruthless. “But it was a really good stretch.” He made progress in developing clear and focused sermons for his congregation. “I have grown in thinking about the preaching moment. A sermon is not just a talk given at any time. What does God have to say to our people today?” That is helping Samuel as he preaches through Galatians this autumn.

And his congregation? Today, they’re confident that God’s Word is sufficient to build up their church.

WHERE ARE THEY?
Eight students have graduated from the Chicago Course on Preaching. Four took time from their ministries to train with us and four trained with us as they were heading into new ministry positions.

BAXTER HELM
Youth Pastor, College Church Mission, IL

BONDON KAWAMOTO
Pastoral Resident, Sellwood Church, Portland, OR

DAVID PENDLETON
Director, Door of Hope Rescue Mission, Chicago, IL

JEREMY WHITE
Youth Director, Christ Church, Chicago, IL

NIGEL OSORIO
Senior Pastor, Iglesia Bautista Renacer, Bogotá, Colombia

WALTER CARTER III, Senior Pastor, Union Tabernacle Missionary Baptist, Chicago, IL

MARJORIE MEEKS
Women’s Ministry Director, Christ Church, Chicago, IL

SINEN MAJOLA, Assistant Pastor, Christ Church Umhlanga, Durban, South Africa

CHICAGO COURSE ON PREACHING
Preachers’ Talk is a podcast for preachers and all those who love preaching, created in partnership with 9Marks. Last year, episodes were downloaded 89,544 times—an average of 7,462 downloads per month.

- **Getting Started Videos.** Experienced pastors help people launch a new series on a book of the Bible well. These 12-31 minute videos include help on book structure, gospel connections, suggested sermon series divisions, and recommended reading.
- **Workshop Instructions.** Many instructions are recorded and made available on our website in audio format (or occasionally even video). These are searchable by topic, speaker, location, year, and book of the Bible.
- **Playlists.** We create curated playlists on topics such as Persuasion, Application, and Preaching with Biblical Theology.

Our website contains 1,533 free resources in English and 48 in Spanish. These are created and curated to support pastors and Bible teachers in their Word work.

### FY21 Finances

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Workshops</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Online Courses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### Income

- Donations: $808,221
- Donations to Operations: $608,064
- Donations for Chicago Course*: $200,157
- Workshop Registrations: $139,835
- Online Course Registrations: $45,811
- Chicago Course Tuition: $27,787
- Royalties & Bank Interest: $8,812
- **Total**: $1,030,466

### Expenses

- Donations to Operations: $608,064
- Donations for Chicago Course*: $200,157
- Workshop Registrations: $139,835
- Online Course Registrations: $45,811
- Chicago Course Tuition: $27,787
- Royalties & Bank Interest: $8,812
- **Total**: $1,046,327

*Some commitments to the One World Campaign, which formally ended August 31, 2020, were still being given in FY21. These gifts, totaling $1,297,050 were designated for the Chicago Course on Preaching and a fund to anchor future ministry creation and growth.

FY22 Total Budget: $1,472,696
FY22 Donation Income Needed: $915,060

Thank you to the 209 giving partners who supported the ministry last year!