



Annual Report: 2018
Tierra Nueva



Faith Community



MISSION Our Sunday afternoon faith community more and more reflects our vision of a sheep pen for the so-called “lost sheep” we encounter on the margins of Skagit County (immigrants, migrant workers, the recovery community, former inmates, people desiring to leave addiction and unhealthy mindsets/lifestyles). Our desire is for all to experience abundant, joy-filled life in communion with our heavenly Father as we walk together – women and men, young and old,

margins and mainstream – as sisters and brothers of our Savior Jesus Christ, guided, encouraged, and empowered by the Holy Spirit for mutual liberation and spreading the Gospel. **IMPACT** a) Emerging leader, Kevin Riley, was commissioned as a lay pastor for Mt. Baker Presbyterian in Concrete. He is bringing the Word Spirit Street of Tierra Nueva to unreached communities up river. b) Commissioned pastor Julio Montalvo continues to lead daily readings

of the Gospels each morning and of the Psalms each evening. c) We began a prayer initiative supported by a grant from Pivot NW. Our prayer ministry is developing with more recruiting and training of lay prayer ministers, partnering with staff, to share the deep healing of Jesus. d) We were blessed to host the baptism of Cynthia Martinez.



Our Sunday messages are available on our website and the Tierra Nueva Podcast.

OUR HOPE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- Experience a personal connection with the living Jesus, who brings us to the Father and fills us with the Holy Spirit.
- Grow as disciples of Jesus through increased understanding of life in Christ received through teaching, preaching and conversation. Receive prayer for their current needs, including physical and emotional healing.
- Go deeper in their journey of holistic transformation through TN's prayer ministry, faith community trainings, New Earth Recovery, and The People's Seminary.
- Experience God's empowering love mediated through vibrant worship, TN pastoral staff, faith community members, Scripture, and the Sacraments (Communion, Baptism).

We gathered more than **2,000** adults and **212** children to our worship services. Gospels and Psalms received over **1,200** attendees.



Family Support Center & Migrant Chaplaincy

MISSION The current political climate continues to be a point of unease and mistrust with our local migrant population. Our commitment to stand with the migrant community in supportive, pastoral relationships remains as strong as ever. The Family Support Center serves our local community, migrant and otherwise; all people in need.

2018: 2,028 people visited the FSC

1,230 in 2017 3,150 diapers distributed

351 in 2017 537 visits to the clothing closet

53 in 2017 117 rides given to various locations

39 in 2017 73 application and resource appointments

87 in 2017 661 pastoral and prayer appointments

38 hospital visits 18 court accompaniments

\$2,359 of financial assistance shared

194 equipping, prayerful donors

\$2,000+ raised by Bethany Covenant of Mount Vernon

50+ bags/bundles of supplies donated by Providence Regional
Medical Center Everett

DOZENS of winter coats organized and donated by
Anne Schreivogl and Alfred Currier

Jail Ministry

MISSION Most jail inmates view God as a judge or prosecutor, ready to convict and damn them forever. Tierra Nueva's Skagit County Jail Ministry seeks out prisoners who feel rejected, condemned, and forgotten. They are lost treasures, and our goal is to incorporate them into a community of faith. Through open discussion of Scripture and healing prayer, many inmates are discovering a God who is for them and not against them; eager to liberate, heal, love, and restore them.

IMPACT

- We added new chaplains this year: Gracie Ekblad, Midge Peltonen, Heather McAleer, and Emily Wilkes.
- Since its opening in October 2017, the Skagit Community Justice Center and Tierra Nueva have increased in collaboration regarding best practices and programming.
- We continue one-on-one visits and keep regular contact through letters with our community members who have been transferred to prisons or release programs.
- In the fall, we began developing a 52-week curriculum of Bible Study to walk inmates through meeting Jesus, building a relationship, and following his mission in the world.

Core Value #2. Connecting People with Jesus Hearing good news and receiving God's love inspires us to help others meet Jesus. Through dialogical Bible study, walking with people in their troubles, advocating for them before the powers, and ministering healing, deliverance, and prayer, our hope is that others will experience God's transforming love.

Core Value #3. Reading the Bible with Jesus as our Rabbi reflects our commitment to finding Good News in Scripture through prayerful study and dialogical interaction with the poor, each other, and the Saints that precede and surround us. As the Father focused the disciples' attention on the transfigured Jesus—over Moses (Torah) and Elijah (Prophets)—so we seek direction from the resurrected Jesus, who on the Emmaus Road showed from Moses and the prophets his way of combating evil through the redemptive suffering of his cross. We welcome the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sends to help us interpret and live the Scriptures daily.

We gathered
1,461
incarcerated individuals
(897 men, 564 women) in
our weekly Bible Studies.

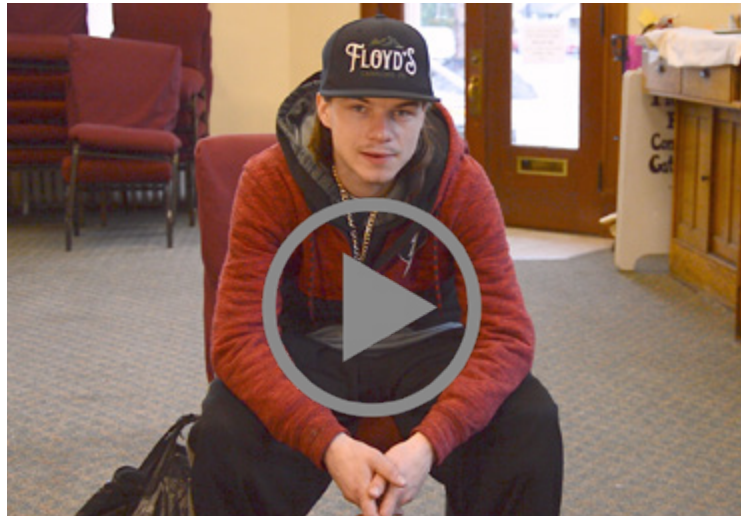


Pastoral Advocacy

MISSION Our primary ministry approach is what we call pastoral advocacy. As pastors and pastoral workers, we practice deep spiritual care. As advocates, we come alongside people who are in the criminal justice system, actively using or in recovery from addiction, gang-involved, and struggling with mental illness. We meet individuals through the jail, the faith community, and the Family Support Center in order to connect people to Jesus as they are welcomed into a loving and safe community. We practice pastoral care, inner healing prayer, practical support, and advocacy addressing both root issues as well as systemic blocks.

Pastoral Advocates carry out their work on an individual level, with much overlap with in-house ministries, local organizations, and larger municipalities. On average, our staff can be in touch with upwards of 15 people every day.

Josh is a member of our community. Watch his brief introduction video on our site to get a sense of what we encounter in this work.



Pastoral Advocates also carry out their work on a macro level.

Pastor Kevin Riley: We have recently gone through one of the worst snowstorms Western Washington has seen in a while. There's nothing in the way of a cold weather shelter out in Concrete, which has (I would say) the highest homeless/addiction rate per capita in the county.

We've started conversations with Community Action and Skagit County. On June 5, these entities will meet with Session and Mount Baker Presbyterian in agreement to use our church building in preparation for the colder months after summer.

We're going to start planning, opening up the space, putting resources together.



The People's Seminary

MISSION TPS is committed to training leaders from the margins, and equipping the larger body of Christ for transformational ministry to the under-reached and excluded. TN Skagit has been described as the "vineyard" from which the "wine" of TPS teaching is produced. TPS trains primarily, though not exclusively, through the Certificate for Transformational Ministry on the Margins (CTMM). These are three separate four-day gatherings designed to encourage and equip ministry workers and Kingdom builders to share a liberating gospel in poor, marginalized, and under-reached communities.



Gracie in Rabat, Morocco speaking with CTMM students from Sudan and Liberia

Included in these gatherings are:

- 1) God's Identity and Mission—and Ours
- 2) Healing and Holistic Liberation—Biblical Foundations and Principles
- 3) Social Prophetic Mission—Justice, Advocacy, and Peacemaking
- 4) Word on the Street—Preparing and Leading Transformational Bible Studies
- 5) Practical Reflection—How does this work in my life and ministry?

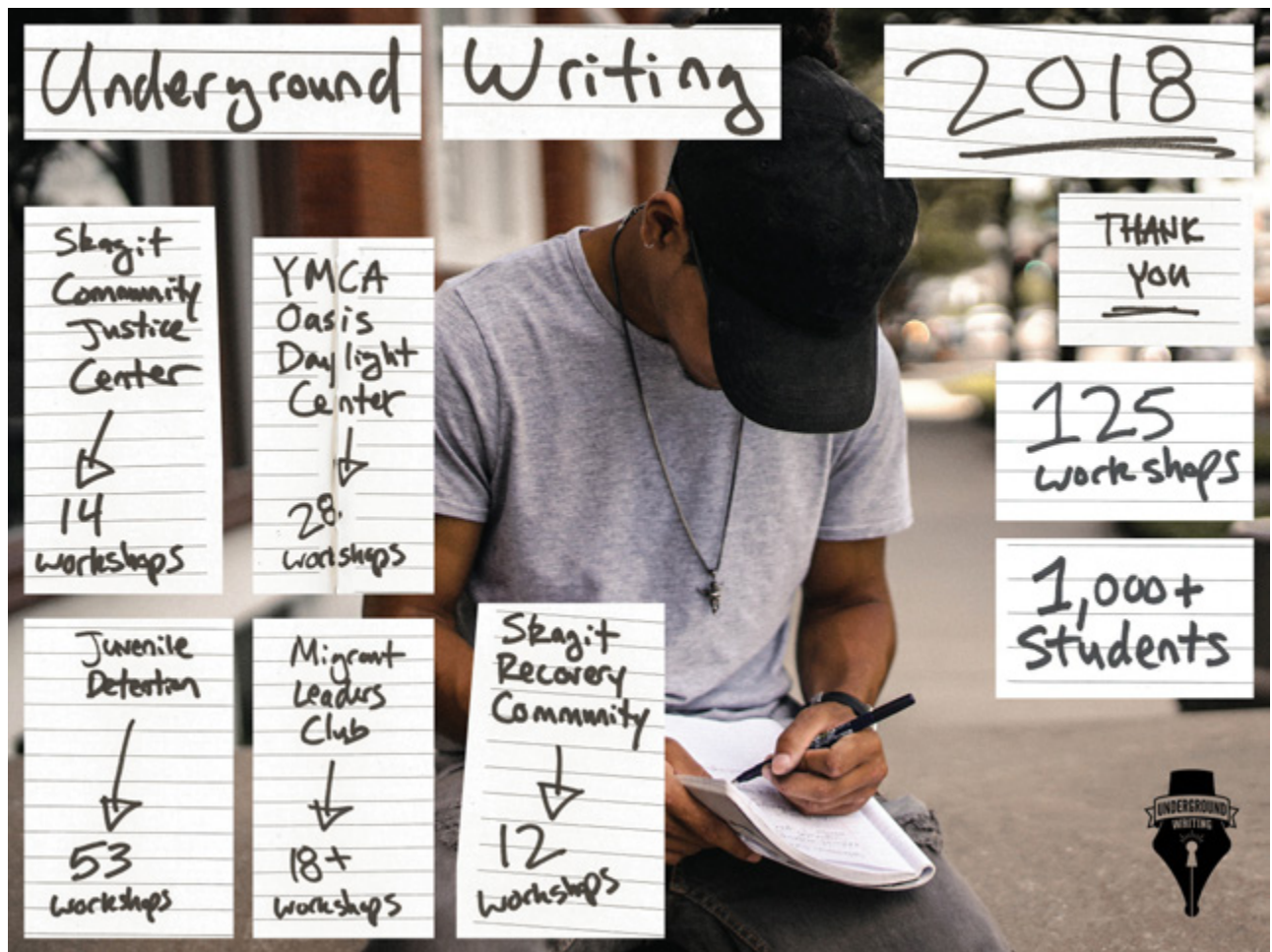
"Theological education that connects people from the mainstream with people on the margins reveals a gospel that is active and powerful, enabling both groups to discover their vocation and serve together as Christ's body in the world."

IMPACT

- Completed CTMM module 3 in Kenya (80 participants) and Zimbabwe (110 participants), (January, 2018)
- Completed CTMM modules 1 & 2 in Tanzania (200 participants), (January & November 2018)
- Started new CTMM module 1 1/2 in Wellington, New Zealand (80 participants) (May 2018)
- Started new CTMMs (completing module 1) in Bristol, Glasgow, Paris, Vancouver, Rabat (Morocco) (November 2018)
- Completed translation of CTMM modules 1-2 in French
- Wrote & published *Guerrilla Gospel: Reading the Bible for Liberation in the Power of the Spirit*, Burlington, The People's Seminary Press, 2018
- Taught *Reading the Bible with the Damned* for The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology at Tierra Nueva over two weekends
- Taught *Missions and Voices of a Just Society* (January 2018) and *Lift Up Your Voice* (September 2018) for Westminster Theological Centre in the UK



African house-church pastors at CTMM in Rabat, Morocco



MISSION a literature-based creative writing program serving migrant, incarcerated, recovery, and other at-risk communities in Northern Washington through literary engagement and personal restoration. We facilitate generative encounters with literature spanning the tradition—from ancient texts to those written in our workshops. Honoring the transforming power of the word, we believe that attentive reading leads to attentive writing, and that attentive writing has the power to assist in the restoration of communities, the imagination, and individual lives.

New workshop at the Skagit County Community Justice Center, serving men and women.

November 2018: incorporated as an independent arts non-profit organization.

Published first anthology: What No One Ever Tells You. Foreword written by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Quiara Alegría Hudes.



Honduras

MISSION Tierra Nueva Honduras is committed to building thriving households of faith and churches in rural Honduras. Our focus is reaching the unreached, those excluded from the church. Tierra Nueva Honduras is committed to building thriving households of faith and churches in rural Honduras. Our focus is reaching the unreached, those excluded from the church.

IMPACT Tierra Nueva Honduras pastor and director Angel David Calix visits families in Minas de Oro, Mal Paso and San Luis, gathering them for Bible studies and worship.

Currently there are over 40 people meeting in the village of Mal Paso, a small town that has been traumatized by murders that reflect the general lawlessness in Honduras at this time. Minas de Oro is the base of operations for Tierra Nueva and gathering place for some 70+ people for worship and teaching.

Angel David also administers the coffee farm, which produces 6,000 pounds of beans, purchased by Fidalgo Coffee of Burlington, Washington.



Financials

Thank you so much for your partnership with us in the work of Jesus here at Tierra Nueva. Your donations, prayers, and service alongside us helped to make all this happen and more. May God bless you richly as you abide in him.



A diagram showing two stacked rectangular boxes. The top box is teal and contains the text '\$809,620: income' with a white arrow pointing to the right below it. The bottom box is purple and contains the text '\$837,267: expenditures' with a white arrow pointing to the left above it. A vertical line runs down the left side of both boxes, and a horizontal line connects the bottom of the teal box to the top of the purple box.

\$809,620:
income

\$837,267:
expenditures

DEFICIT:
\$27,647

Staff in 2018

Mike Neelley

Executive Director

Bob and Gracie Ekblad

Founders

Senior Leaders

The People's Seminary

Salvio Hernandez and Victoria Morales

Family Support Center

Julio

Psalms and Gospels

Family Support Center

Bethany Dearborn-Hiser (until May 2018)

Women's Pastoral Advocacy

Kevin and Danielle Riley

Pastoral Advocacy

Jail Ministry

Children's Coordinator

Emily Wilkes

Pastoral Advocacy Volunteer

Matt Malyon

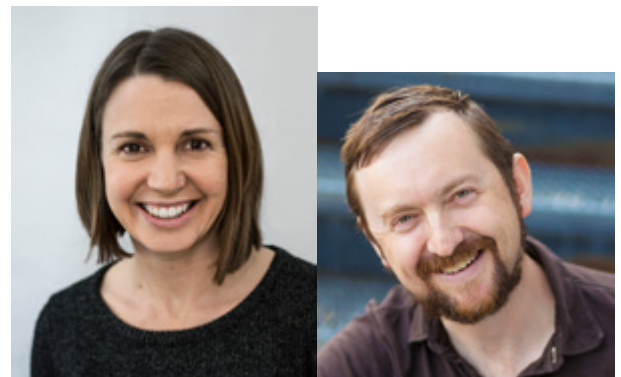
Jail Ministry

David Westerlund (until July 2018)

Development Director

Alvin Shim

Administration & Communications



Bethany Dearborn-Hiser; David Westerlund





PO Box 410
Burlington, Washington 98233

360-755-5299
tierra-nueva.org