



ANNUAL REPORT  
2025

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS



*“BE STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE,  
ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK  
OF THE LORD, KNOWING THAT IN  
THE LORD YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN.”*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

DEAR FRIENDS,

The year for a “silver celebration” has come. This annual report coincides with the 25th anniversary of the Charles Simeon Trust. And we have much to thank God for!

I will never forget the day of our founding. On January 23, 2001, five couples made their way to a restaurant on Printer’s Row in downtown Chicago. Our table was adorned with volumes of Charles Simeon’s *Horeae Homileticae* to mark the occasion. After dinner, each of our families pledged an amount of money to the cause. Over dessert, five founding board members (Kent Hughes, Jim Bowen, Jane Hensel, Jon Dennis, and myself) took turns etching our names in ink on the charter document. Together we aimed at nothing less than to “promote the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world by training the next generation of biblical expositors.”

Recently, I looked at the early language that outlined our commitments. What struck me was this: over our 25-year history we have not strayed from our founding vision. Our work hasn’t suffered from mission drift. For a quarter of a century, by God’s grace, we have remained true to our original aim.

In 2001, we were hosting one preaching Workshop in a single location with a few dozen pastors in attendance. Last year alone, total registrations numbered 16,872 across 89 countries. And over our 25-year history, we have seen this work extend into 132 countries with more than 100,000 registrations, for which we are praising God. This milestone year is worthy of celebration. For our Lord Jesus Christ has seen fit to bless this work in the strength of His Spirit.

Today we stand on the threshold of preparing to step out in faith once more. And in the coming year you will hear more about our plans to promote better preaching everywhere for the spread of the gospel and the glory of God.

There is much more work for us to do together. Be encouraged as you read the report.



In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Helm". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David R. Helm  
Chairman

First gathering at College Church in Wheaton, ten years before starting the organization

1991



1998

Training program started by Holy Trinity Church in Chicago

2001



Charles Simeon Trust founded to train pastors and Bible teachers in biblical exposition



First Workshops outside Illinois

2003

2005  
First staff person hired



First Online Course  
2009

2011



First Workshop for women Bible teachers

2013



Workshops begin to multiply outside the US

2015

CST Canada founded

2017

First fundraising campaign launched

2019  
First Online Course in Italian

2019



Chicago Course on Preaching launched



First podcast, Preachers Talk, launched in partnership with 9Marks

2020

A threshold crossed: more than 10,000 annual registrations

2022

2021  
First Online Courses in Arabic, Chinese, and French

2023



CST Africa founded

First Online Courses in Russian and Vietnamese

2025



- Workshops
- Other
- 📶 Online

25-YEAR TOTAL REGISTRATIONS: 100,522 IN 132 COUNTRIES



**W**hat happens when there's an unmet need? Ideally, someone meets the need. In 2001, a single *Workshop on Biblical Exposition* wasn't enough to meet the growing desire for training. So, the Charles Simeon Trust was founded to train pastors and Bible teachers in preaching and teaching the Bible.

Twelve years later, Workshops had spread across the US, but there was a growing desire for training across Latin America. "The benefit was evident," says Jeremy Meeks. "Interest was huge. Word was spreading fast." Everyone wanted Workshops in their cities. Our one Workshop in Cuba wasn't enough, but we didn't have the capacity to start more.

So, we expanded our strategy. Alexis Perez and Jeremy Meeks, our first two Spanish-speaking instructors, committed to grueling travel schedules, and Workshops quickly multiplied across Latin America.

This makes a difference for churches. Pastor Esteban Rojas says his "growth in preaching impacted not only the pulpit, but the entire life of Iglesia Gracia y Verdad" in San José, Costa Rica. "The church now connects with

the sermon, understands the argument, and, above all, finds it easier to apply the message to their lives."

Imagine this change multiplied across a country. After four Workshops, Esteban says, "we have seen wonderful changes at a national level: churches and pastors who are taking preaching seriously, putting the Bible back at the center of their ministries. We always believed that real change in Costa Rica would come through the Word of God and its faithful preaching. And little by little, that is what we are seeing."

Now imagine that change across a region. Last year, 35 Spanish Workshops across 17 countries drew 1,758 registrations. This is only possible because God has graciously raised up a team of Spanish-speaking pastors and Bible teachers who are "focused on advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ by equipping expositors," says Alberto Puente, Director of Spanish-Language Initiatives. And we hope to see them "not only revitalize and plant churches but also extend their impact far beyond the Spanish-speaking world." We are eager to see how God will use them to help meet the need for more practical training around the world.



HAVANA

135 WORKSHOPS ACROSS 39 COUNTRIES

**126**  
INSTRUCTORS  
TRAINED OTHERS IN  
ENGLISH, MANDARIN,  
PORTUGUESE,  
ROMANIAN, RUSSIAN,  
AND SPANISH.

**119**  
HOST CHURCHES  
PROVIDED SPACE,  
FOOD, AND VOLUNTEER  
SUPPORT TO HELP  
WORKSHOPS SUCCEED.

**699**  
SMALL GROUP  
LEADERS  
HELPED WORKSHOP  
PARTICIPANTS PRACTICE  
AND MAKE PROGRESS.

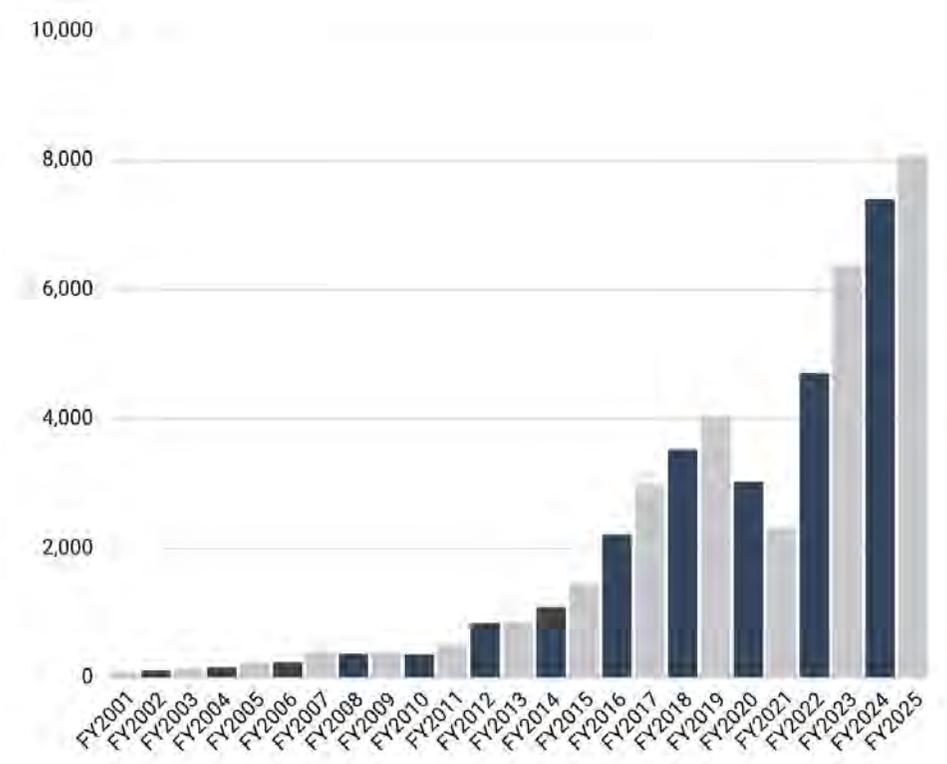
*"We always believed that real change in Costa Rica would come through the Word of God and its faithful preaching. And little by little, that is what we are seeing."*

▼ PASTOR ESTEBAN ROJAS



SAN SALVADOR

WORKSHOP REGISTRATIONS





*WE WANT TO SEE BETTER PREACHING EVERYWHERE  
SO THAT GOD'S WORD CAN BE HEARD ANYWHERE.*



PHOENIX, ARIZONA



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA



CLUJ, ROMANIA



INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



SEVILLA, SPAIN



SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



MANILA, PHILIPPINES



YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON



DUBAI, UAE



ENCARNACIÓN, PARAGUAY



KITWE, ZAMBIA



DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

16,872 TOTAL REGISTRATIONS ACROSS 89 COUNTRIES

- IN-PERSON WORKSHOP
  - CHICAGO COURSE ON PREACHING STUDENT
  - ONLINE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT(S)
  - ONLINE COURSE PARTICIPANT(S)
- \*SOME LOCATIONS ARE UNMARKED FOR SECURITY REASONS



“The Charles Simeon Trust is championing the most fruitful practice in the church and missions ever: it’s called expository preaching,” says Justin Schell at the Lausanne Movement. That’s why, when he needed to organize preaching training for a group of five emerging global leaders, Justin turned to us.

These young leaders have been selected to give plenary expositions at the Lausanne Movement’s fourth Younger Leaders Gathering in 2027—a gathering in Brazil of about 1,200 young leaders from 170 nations. This event will kick off a decade-long investment in this next generation. Over ten years, one of Lausanne’s central goals is to provide young church leaders around the world with the convictions and tools necessary to rightly study and teach God’s Word.

That commitment will be modeled by the five plenary expositors at the Gathering. To help prepare them, we created a unique two-year learning track. Each of the five—from Australia, the Dominican Republic, England, Sri Lanka, and Zambia—are going through several of our Online Courses. And they are meeting regularly via Zoom with a Charles Simeon Trust instructor to receive feedback on their work and expositions.

Through this Online Course training group for Lausanne, the Charles Simeon Trust is helping shape

preachers for the future of global missions. But how did we get here? Those of you who have been around for a while may be surprised that the Charles Simeon Trust is on the radar of Lausanne—a household name in global missions.

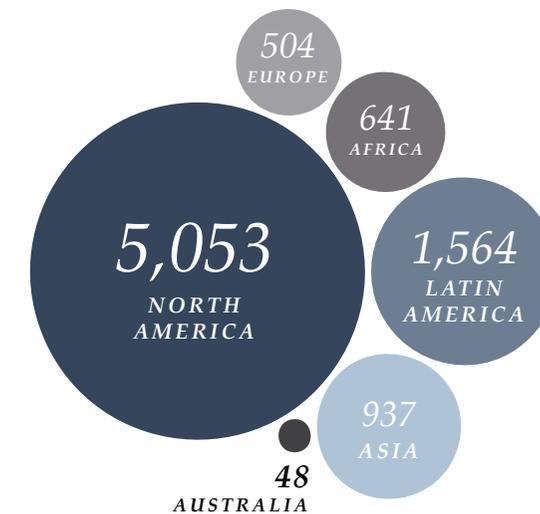
Our online training has developed from a few online lectures in 2009 to ten fully developed Online Courses. Access has expanded to nine different languages: English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. As access has expanded, so have opportunities. We are grateful and humbled that a growing list of missions and global organizations look to us to help train their preachers and Bible teachers.

The Young Leaders Gathering is still a long way out, but the leaders are growing. “There’s a lot of content out there,” but what separates the Charles Simeon Trust’s training is “the conversation,” says Jerome Rasiah. He’s one of the Lausanne Young Leaders and also the head of the Youth Evangelical Alliance in Sri Lanka. “I love that we are questioning each other. I love that kind of element of iron sharpening iron.”

The training is helping Jerome look forward to giving his plenary expositions. He says, “I’m excited, because no one thought that I’d be an expository preacher. I was more of a topical guy. I’m excited to be this guy.”

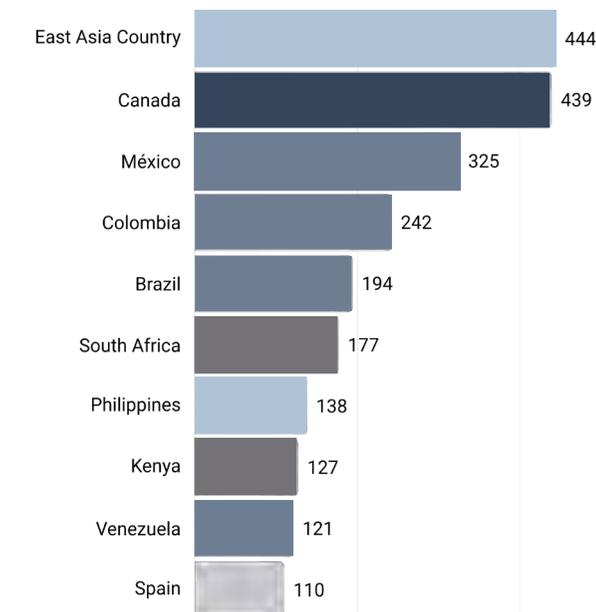
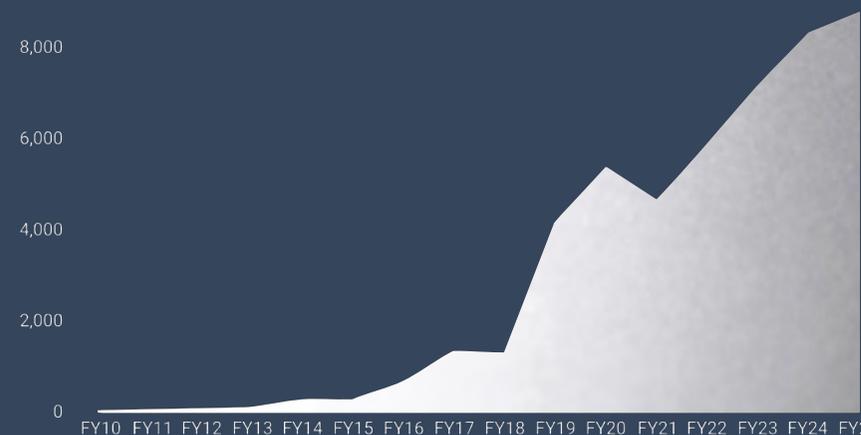


REGISTRATIONS BY CONTINENT  
IN FY25



The United States has the highest usage of Online Courses, with 4,613 registrations—53 percent of the total. After the United States, these 10 countries have the highest usage.

REGISTRATIONS BY YEAR





A group of pastors in Nashville, Tennessee, noticed a problem: struggling churches. These churches needed preachers. “We know that the center of [church revitalization] is getting pastors into those churches who will preach the Word,” says Pastor Matt McCullough of Edgefield Church.

But finding pastors able and willing to take on the difficulties of revitalization work can be a challenge. Rosedale Baptist Church has been a dwindling congregation for years. They needed a new Senior Pastor who was prepared to lead this effort.

They found one among this year’s *Chicago Course on Preaching* graduates: Adam Wheaton. He feels equipped to prepare faithful sermons efficiently, freeing time for him to do all the other tasks necessary in a revitalization work. It also helps that he has the support of other Nashville pastors.

Matt and other pastors who attend the Nashville Workshop (hosted by Matt’s church) are backing Adam in his work. “It is almost too good to be true to know that we’ve got a guy like Adam coming in,” says Matt. Faithful preaching “is what God will use to bring this church back to life again.”

So far, faithful preaching is building trust. After his first Sunday preaching, Adam gathered the leaders for feedback. “They all said something along the lines

of ‘Everything you said in your sermon came from the text, and we’ve never seen that before!’” says Adam. “It seems like trust builds fast when people who have been in the church forever are convinced that what you have to say really comes from the Bible. It makes it much easier for a bunch of 80-year-olds to trust their 30-year-old pastor.”

Seeing the Lord using a well-trained young pastor in a challenging pastoral post reflects the fulfillment of a 25-year vision for residential training. Since our founding, we’ve believed in the value of making deep investments in young pastors and Bible teachers with a long trajectory of ministry in front of them. Over our history, that commitment has been expressed in a few different forms, but it culminated in the launch of the *Chicago Course on Preaching* in 2019. There, students receive practical, skill-based preaching training from seasoned pastors from around the world.

Then they go out to serve and strengthen churches. God uses “faithfulness from the pulpit,” says Matt. “I can’t wait to see what God does.”

ADAM WHEATON ▶



PASTORS AND BIBLE TEACHERS TRAINED



Preachers Talk

128,716

DOWNLOADS/  
PLAYS

(UP FROM 104,377)

a podcast by  
9Marks and the  
Charles Simeon Trust





**I**t all started with a question. “How can we effectively serve the local churches in the Philippines?” Pastor Franco Ferrer and his team at iDISCIPLE saw a need. This predominantly Catholic country has many thriving churches, but, Franco says, “the pulpits are shaped by prosperity teaching and pragmatism.” Many churches “totally miss the gospel and preaching the Word.”

The team prayed about how to help. Then they came across Dave Helm’s book, *Expositional Preaching*. After reading it, they reached out to the Charles Simeon Trust to learn more.

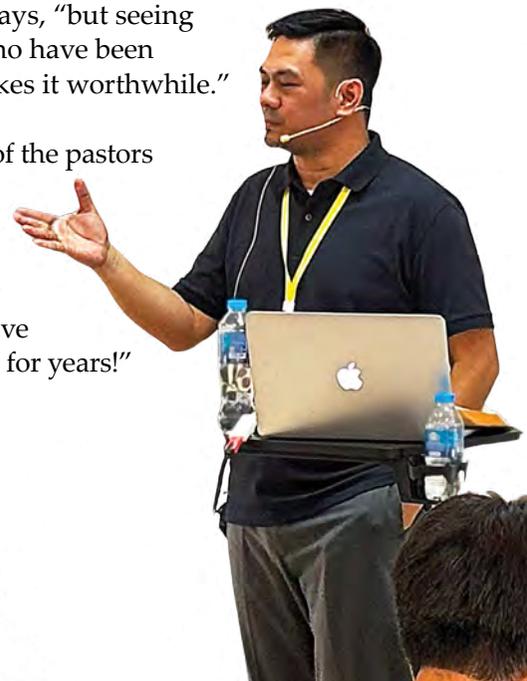
Franco and two colleagues were already scheduled to travel to the United States in the spring of 2022, so they were able to attend a preaching Workshop. Franco walked away appreciating the simplicity of the approach to sermon preparation. He and his colleagues agreed: they needed to bring this to the Philippines.

They worked fast. Six months later, 38 pastors attended the first Manila Workshop. The training helped Franco’s church. His strengthened commitment to expositional preaching has drawn young people. “They came from churches where it is all about motivational, feel-good stories. Now they’re seeing they can hear from God’s Word. It can speak to them. When there is faithfulness in unpacking the Word, it can change lives. It is the Word of God doing the work.”

The impact has flowed beyond the pulpit into other church ministries. Franco used the Charles Simeon Trust principles to train his pastoral interns and leaders. Additionally, his wife Pauline started teaching the principles to her discipleship group and Sunday School teachers. Last year she attended a women’s Workshop in Dubai, and hopes to help start a women’s Workshop in Manila next year.

Franco believes that every church needs faithful preaching and “the key way to do that is through pastors.” For this reason, he wants to see Workshops spread across Southeast Asia. He is traveling as an instructor to make this happen. “Being away from family is hard,” he says, “but seeing the joy of pastors who have been seeking training makes it worthwhile.”

He finds that many of the pastors he meets feel like he did at the first Manila Workshop: “Why have you only come this week? We’ve been waiting for you for years!”



*“When there is faithfulness in unpacking the Word, it can change lives. It is the Word of God doing the work.”*

PASTOR FRANCO FERRER





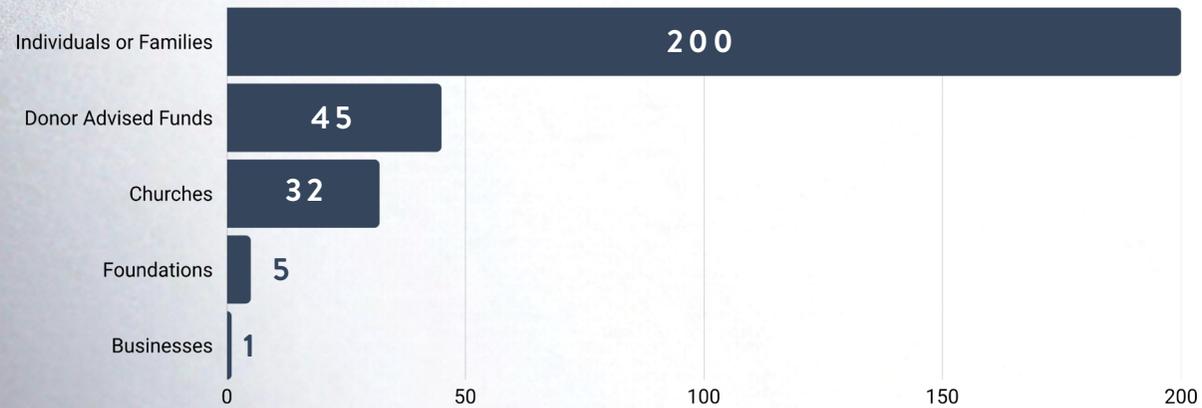
**FY25 PEOPLE**

AS WE LOOK TO WHAT GOD HAS FOR US IN THE NEXT QUARTER CENTURY, WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE PEOPLE THE LORD HAS RAISED UP TO BUILD THE MINISTRY TO THIS POINT.

**9** BOARD MEMBERS provided vision and leadership.

**31** TEAM MEMBERS included 6 full-time, 22 part-time, and 3 volunteer members who live across five continents.

**283** DONORS gave generously to fund the ministry.

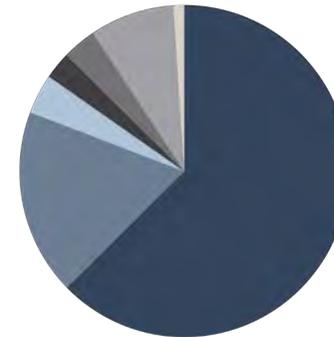


WE COULDN'T DO THIS WORK WITHOUT THE MANY PEOPLE AND CHURCHES WHO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT US. THANK YOU FOR HELPING PROMOTE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

**FY25 FINANCES**

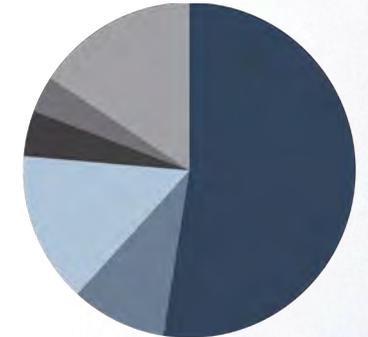
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 – AUGUST 31, 2025

**INCOME**



DONATIONS.....	\$1,506,418
WORKSHOP REGISTRATIONS.....	\$436,621
ONLINE COURSE REGISTRATIONS.....	\$93,148
CHICAGO COURSE TUITION.....	\$63,693
CST PROPERTIES RENT.....	\$80,064
INVESTMENT INCOME.....	\$199,635
OTHER INCOME.....	\$25,394
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$2,404,973</b>

**EXPENSES**



WORKSHOPS.....	\$1,210,067
ONLINE COURSES.....	\$213,900
CHICAGO COURSE.....	\$335,445
CST PROPERTIES.....	\$101,436
OTHER MINISTRY PROGRAMS.....	\$81,134
ADMINISTRATION.....	\$362,154
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$2,304,136</b>

**FY26 DONATION INCOME NEEDED**

**\$1,600,000**



# CHARLES SIMEON TRUST

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[www.simeontrust.org](http://www.simeontrust.org)

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