



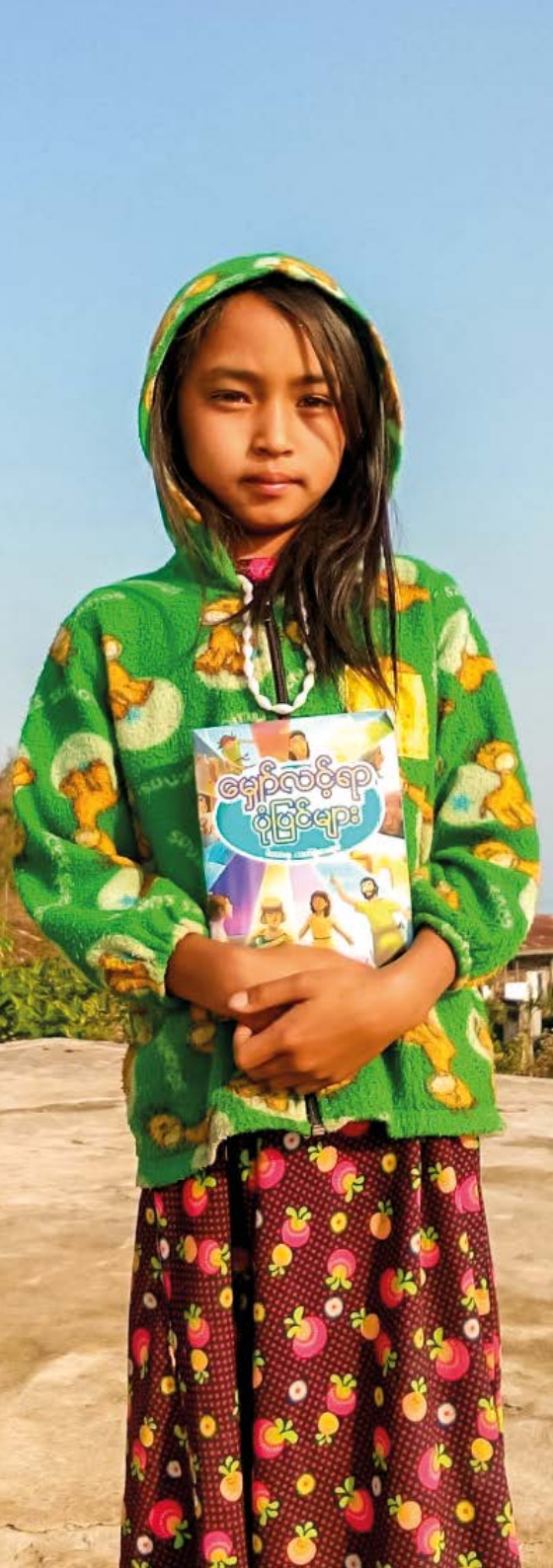
Grain of Wheat  
INTERNATIONAL  
75 Years

“Bringing hope  
to children”



NEWS | Winter 2023

God's Faithfulness  
in 75 years: FUTURE



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## HOW TO SUPPORT US

### To support our work among the children:

**Switzerland:** Wire your donation to this bank account (IBAN): CH72 0900 0000 1748 7675 5

... or send your cheque to:

**USA:** Grain of Wheat International,  
P.O. Box 1125, Wheaton, IL 60187, USA.

**UK:** Grain of Wheat International,  
HSBC, 21 King's Mall, King Street,  
Hammersmith, London, W6 0QF, UK.

*Donations made to Grain of Wheat  
International are tax deductible*

[www.grainofwheat.org/donate/](http://www.grainofwheat.org/donate/)

# EDITORIAL

Dear friends,

We have been blessed over and over this year, as we've reflected on the impact Grain of Wheat has had on the lives of countless children since its foundation 75 years ago. It's astounding to consider that what began with one summer camp in Switzerland, has grown into a ministry that now shares the Gospel in countries worldwide.

Now as we look toward the future, we are eager to share the Good News of Jesus with kids in ways that are relevant to the world they live in today. To carry this out, I believe there are two key words that will prepare and guide us: innovation, and creativity based on the DNA of Grain of Wheat's ministry.

As we move forward, we are committed to placing our trust in God's promise that He who began this good work so many years ago, will continue until the day of Jesus Christ's return.

Imagine the exponential impact your partnership and support will have in 2024, as together we bring the Gospel to the children of the world in creative and innovative ways!

I want to wish you a most wonderful Christmas, and a blessed New Year!

Rob Hondsmerk,

*CEO Grain of Wheat  
International*





## ***IN DARK PLACES, THE FUTURE SHINES BRIGHTLY***

*Can you imagine as a child, growing up amid poverty, and violence with little to no protection? With parents who have given up on life and getting an education is unlikely? Sadly, this is the harsh reality most children growing up in Madagascar face. All they are left with is little hope that their future will ever be any brighter.*

But within this backdrop of adversity, Grain of Wheat Madagascar has become a lifeline of hope to those who need it most. We now reach children in twelve regions of Madagascar. Because of the dedication of more than 230 volunteers, we touch the lives of close to 6,700 children every year through clubs and camps.

Because our children's leaders are the backbone of our ministry, we offer comprehensive training seminars to equip them in how to build trusting friendships with children as

Christ-like mentors. The attendees also gain an understanding of how to provide emotional support and care that meets the specific needs of each child.

Helping children know the profound love of God and grasp their worth in the eyes of their Creator is at the heart of our mission. To make this personally real, we envelop them in a nurturing environment that fosters spiritual growth, and emotional well-being.



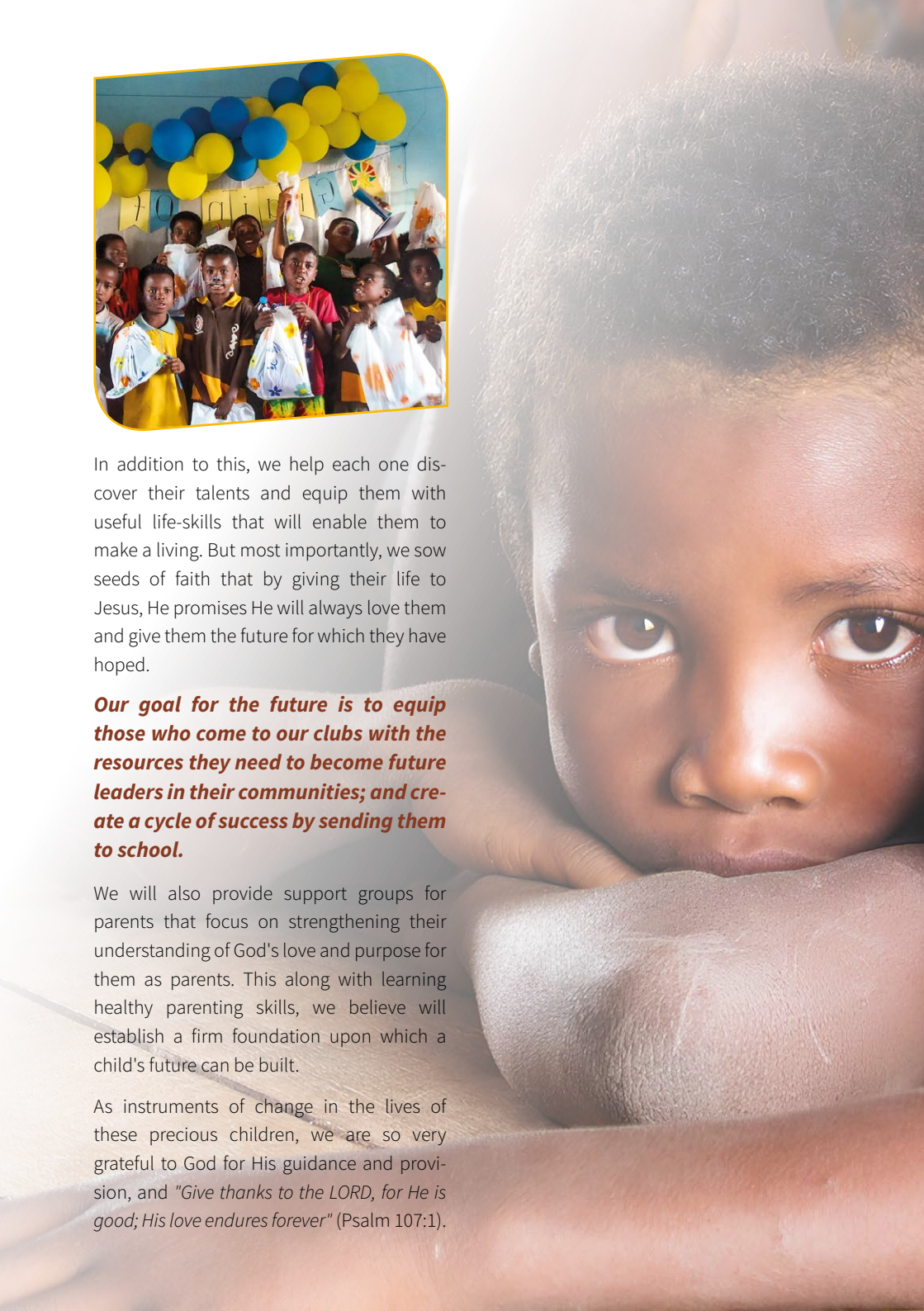


In addition to this, we help each one discover their talents and equip them with useful life-skills that will enable them to make a living. But most importantly, we sow seeds of faith that by giving their life to Jesus, He promises He will always love them and give them the future for which they have hoped.

***Our goal for the future is to equip those who come to our clubs with the resources they need to become future leaders in their communities; and create a cycle of success by sending them to school.***

We will also provide support groups for parents that focus on strengthening their understanding of God's love and purpose for them as parents. This along with learning healthy parenting skills, we believe will establish a firm foundation upon which a child's future can be built.

As instruments of change in the lives of these precious children, we are so very grateful to God for His guidance and provision, and "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1).





## **THE FUTURE IS HOPEFUL**

*When we first met 17 year-old Annah at one of our youth festivals, she told us that she had gone to the Armenian Evangelical Church for as long as she could remember.*

In September 2023, she oversaw a makeup booth at a large evangelistic event we held in an area near her church. It didn't take long to see that her attitude had completely changed by the way she set a positive example for the other young people around her.

When I mentioned this, she joyfully told me, *"I went to a summer camp and accepted Jesus!"*

***She added, "My personal encounter with God is what changed my heart and my attitude. Now I can even see God at work in my life when I pray with my friends from camp!"***

Instead of going to Church out of tradition, Annah's heart is now filled with the love of God, and she even leads worship for her church youth group.

Before, she was attracted to the world, but now she calls herself a disciple of Jesus and wants to serve Him by sharing His love with others.

There is no greater joy than to see children like Annah become ambassadors for Christ.





# Argentina

## ***YOUTH IN ARGENTINA BECOME MESSENGERS OF THE GOOD NEWS***

*Herederos is the name of the teenage worship team who led us in praise, at our celebration of Grain of Wheat's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Argentina.*

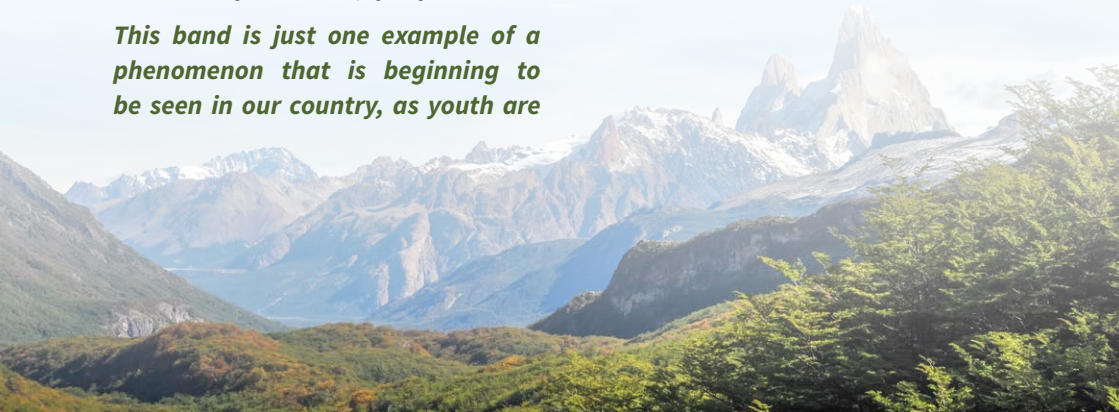
The leader of the band later told us, "What a gift it was to have played a small part in this celebration of what God is doing throughout the world. The opportunity to see how God moves, and how His grace embraces us without limits has changed us on the inside and encouraged us to keep going."

***This band is just one example of a phenomenon that is beginning to be seen in our country, as youth are***

***becoming messengers of the Good News of Jesus in their spheres of influence, such as the arts, sports, music, science, and social networking.***

As we look toward the future of Grain of Wheat's ministry, our vision is to use whatever means are available to us to reach young people in even the farthest corners of Argentina.

To plant Gospel seeds and nurture the faith of these youth by making them disciples that will be compelled to use their spheres of influence to grow the Kingdom of God.





# Myanmar

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## **GOD'S MISSION IN MYANMAR**

*The ministry of GWI in Myanmar initially began in 2009 with a small team of Bible College students.*

### **Grassroots**

The ministry of GOW Myanmar is a grassroots movement, developed by local leaders for our local children and youths. After learning the basics of organizing a children's ministry, we were intentional in recruiting new volunteers, and holding leadership training seminars. Along with this, we have built partnerships with 18 children's ministry organizations in 12 regions of the country through networking.

### **Missional**

The purpose of our ministry is to foster evangelism, discipleship, and church planting in partnership with local churches. **Our vision is for churches to come together and make it their priority to reach and disciple 20 million children and youths, train 1 million leaders, and plant 100,000 churches by 2060.**

### **Mobile**

From the very beginning, it has been our goal for every local church to be a center for reaching and discipling children and youth. To carry this out, we are able to hold children's activities in any given location and equip local leaders to hold their own programs.

### **Contextual**

Because many Christians aren't comfortable working with other denominations, we have developed a doctrinal statement comprised of seven scriptural teaching points in order to create a common ground for all denominations. This has even opened the door for non-Christian parents to let their children take part in our programs.

### **Innovative**

In partnership with One Hope, we have developed innovative ministry programs for children and teens. Currently, we are running 3 programs on social media: "Gleam of Hope," "Faith Sparks Myanmar," and "What If It's True (WIIT)."



Through this, we have received thousands of messages from kids who are seekers.

### **Transformational**

From the very beginning, lives of children have been transformed through receiving Jesus at camp and our weekly Kid's Clubs. As a result, entire families have come to Jesus through their children's faith.

**Now, social transformation is taking place through our Kids Club Christ-like influence of serving their village by keeping the streets clean and planting prayer gardens.**

### **FUTURE GOAL**

In order to reach our Vision 2060 goal, we plan to develop the following ministry strategy:

#### **Children's Ministry Network**

We will continue to develop our ministry network by holding more regional activities and leadership development programs that prioritize making it their church's mission to reach out to youth.

#### **Christian Teacher's College**

We have developed a foundational course of study for Christian teachers and also offer a formal course of study with the goal of equipping 1 million children's ministry leaders.

#### **Regional Expansion**

We are planning to create an Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN), that focuses on children's ministry outreach, especially in Buddhist countries. We believe this ministry model will also apply to countries beyond Myanmar.





# Uganda

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## **THE YOUTH HAS THE FUTURE**

*Before looking to the future of Grain of Wheat, I would like to take a look back at an experience that has resonated with me in a deep and personal way.*

In 2021, I had the privilege of traveling to Kamuli, Uganda, to see the new ministry we had begun there. I was shocked when I saw the impoverished living conditions of children who have no hope of their life ever being better. But over the following years, I have seen the great change one ministry such as Grain of Wheat can offer children and their families as we trust God and His plan. This profoundly resonated with me, and still does to this day.

My vision for the future of Grain of Wheat is based on this experience. Of course, I hope that we continue to reach a greater number

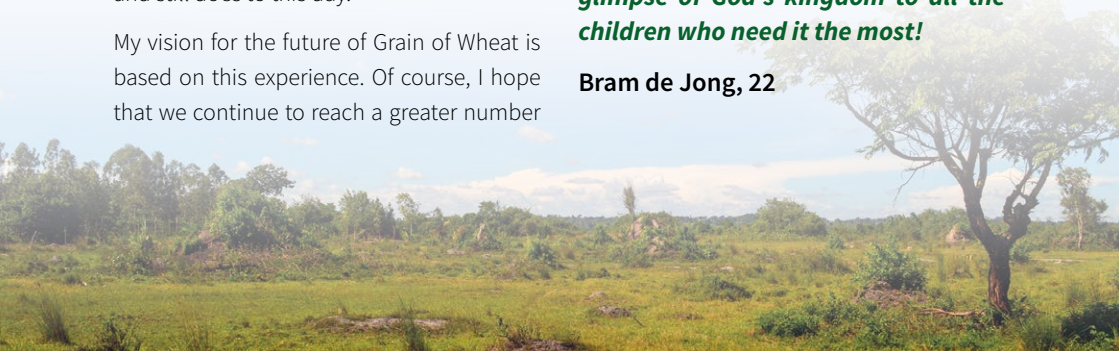
of children with the word of God, but I also pray that God leads us to the places we are needed the most.

As an organization that works with local ministries, we have the unique opportunity to shine the light of Jesus in the darkest places on this globe. For instance, our work in Syria and Ukraine still continues even though all the odds are against us.

Thankfully, God does not look at the odds, but at the people who are willing to risk it all to offer the True Light that the darkness cannot extinguish!

***This is why I am looking toward the future with hope that we can show a glimpse of God's kingdom to all the children who need it the most!***

**Bram de Jong, 22**





## PRAY

The way adults respond to this time of turmoil and uncertainty has a deep impact on the children under their care. When they see us react in fear, their fear will be greater because they don't understand.

If we face this time with confidence that the Lord is in control, that He is with us and will provide no matter what, they will be filled with hope, that spills over onto other children.

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### **Let us pray that both adults and the youth they influence...**

- ... will find refuge in the loving hands of Jesus;
- ... experience His security and peace;
- ... share with others the hope and security they have found in Him.



### *The Family Corner*

Have each child collect 5 autumn leaves that are different colors. Then have them glue each leaf on a sheet of paper.

As a guide to help them pray, write under each leaf one of these words: Thank you, I'm sorry, I forgive, Please and Bless.



# Acknowledgments & Contact



SPORTS



ARTS



CAMPS



TRAINING



CLUBS



HUMANITARIAN



PRAYER

**Writing:**

- Bram de Jong
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**Graphic design:**

maracudja.ch

## Vision

We see every child becoming an **ambassador of hope** through Jesus Christ.

## Mission

Grain of Wheat is an international Christian organization. Its mission is to encourage and equip the maximum number of children in need, to develop their potential and help them become **agents of transformation** in their community through the message of God's love.

## Strategy

Grain of Wheat engages with children regularly throughout the year. We partner with local churches to train leaders, hold weekly children's clubs, camps and events. Through this, children grow morally, socially and spiritually through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

## GRAIN OF WHEAT INTERNATIONAL

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