



Annual Report 2013-2014



Experimenting with new ways of doing church in America

*"I am relieved and excited to not be
in this work alone anymore! I am
so grateful to be strengthened and
expanded by the creative, passionate
people involved in Bridges."*

— Cat, Bridge Leader from Glendale

State of the Movement

By Jim Milley

God is at work and lives are being changed! Thank you for helping to make Bridges an effective instrument for God's mission on the West Coast and across America.



How Is God Working?

This is our third year doubling our number of Bridge Leaders. We grew from 10 to 20 and are now nurturing 40 bi-vocational missionaries on the West Coast.

We take the best of missionary skills and train normal American Christians to act like missionaries right where they live and work. They don't have to quit their jobs and move away. And they are loving it.

We have multiplied by 10 the number of unchurched people being disciplined by our Bridge Leaders. 20 of our leaders report discipling 200+ people compared to discipling 20 a year ago. Discipling means meeting regularly with an unchurched person to study scripture, learn how to pray and listen to the Holy Spirit.

Leaders are reaching people who may never go to an existing church: Arabic-speaking Muslims, Pregnant Teenagers, Suburban Moms, Gay Men & Women, Artists, New Agers, Business Owners, Athletes, and individuals from so many other groups.

ACTS Services—as of June

Service	2013	2014
Assessment	25	40
Coaching	18	35
Training	27	106
Support Services	29	40
Support Accounts	9	13
Support Grants	0	0

How Are We Doing?

Activity	June 2013	April 2014
People Influenced	287	1337
Groups Joined	13	66
Intentional Friendships	66	337
Disciples	15	209
Disciple Groups	4	21
Leader Groups	2	25
# Bridge Leaders Responding	15	20

With only 5 more Bridge Leaders Responding a year later, another 194 People are being disciplined to follow Jesus.

*Over 200 non-Christians
are being disciplined.
That's a 10-fold increase
from last year's survey.
What a blessing!*

Highlights

Over 20 new leaders engaged Bridges' ACTS services.

Bridges expanded geographically to Northern California (El Dorado, CA near Sacramento.)

Originally from India, Sam & Priya Theophylus moved into the Los Feliz neighborhood where they will start a Christ-following community.

Coming from Egypt, Raafat Elgawley and Amal Hannah began discipling Arabic-speaking, Muslim-background immigrants in Alhambra.

The Presbytery of San Fernando transferred \$50,000 to Bridges for the Los Feliz Church Planting Effort.

New connections and support from people attending the Vision Dinner Event at Tom & Nancy King's home.

New connections and support from people attending the Vision Dinner Event at La Cañada Presbyterian Church.



We are unafraid to face local cultures in creative, insightful ways!

At the May Vision Event, Bridge Leaders Sam & Priya Theophylus (with their Mother & Daughter) and Amal Hannah & Rafaat Elgawley speak to potential partners about their experience being supported by Bridges and their ministries to the unchurched.

They are seeing what missionaries see overseas. These new groups are making disciples and worshipping without full-time staff and without maintaining buildings.

Emerging Opportunities



Bridges Launched a Matching Grant Program for New Bridge Leaders:

"The Matching Grant has really motivated me to get busy raising my own support network," says Bridge Leader, Amal Hannah. Over a dozen Bridge Leaders have opened financial accounts with Bridges so far. Bridges will provide a **\$3,000** matching grant to Bridge Leaders who raise that amount from individual, first-time financial partners.



Forging New Partnerships:

At a May 29th meeting with leaders from the United Methodist Church, one leader verbally committed to Jim Milley to bring several of his leaders to Bridges for our ACTS services program.



Expanding to the South:

Geneva Presbyterian Church has identified over 15 leaders for training through Bridges. **Pray** for their leaders as they seek grants from the Presbytery of Los Ranchos and The Synod of Southern California and Hawaii.



Developing Better Ways to Measure Success:

We will be finishing another 3 surveys this coming year to measure the quality of our disciples, the level of our missionary skills and the activities of new Christ-following communities.

Bridges connects Bridge Leaders to each other and to Coaches. This support system allows each member of the outward-facing circle to be trained and equipped to focus outward on discipleship in their respective ministries.



Ask God to provide:

A Spirit-initiated call for another **960** Bridge Leaders to join the movement.

900+ new supporters for Bridges as well as new financial partners for our Bridge Leaders with Support Accounts.

A Spirit-initiated call to **volunteers** who will share their skills with Bridge Leaders and Bridges. Specifically, someone to spearhead work with our current and potential supporters and someone to coordinate internal financial communications and projections.

A revival among the **200 million** unchurched people in America and the **100 million** people in existing churches.

Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.

—Luke 6:38



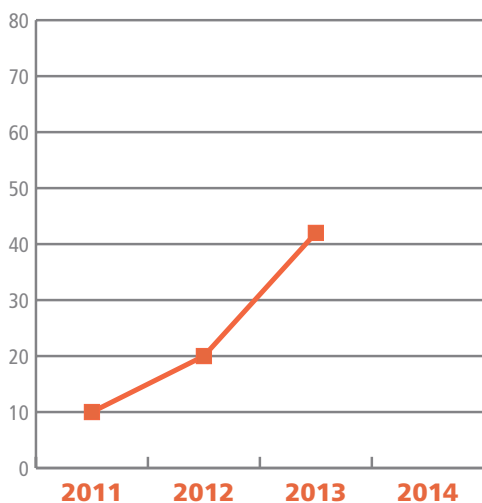
Susan Fudge, Bridge Leader of "Growing Pains," a ministry serving pregnant teens and teen parents.

God Provides Abundantly!

Susan Fudge's heart broke. While helping at a food bank, she saw a teenager whom she knew well. The teen was pregnant, had dropped out of school and was in need of food. Though Susan didn't know what to say, she decided to talk with her. Soon after this conversation, Susan discovered that most pregnant teens don't seek help from existing churches. Something had to be done. But what? Susan decided to start an after-school class for pregnant and parenting teens. She also began a program at a local high school to provide these teens with life skills, parenting skills and spiritual support – not to mention diapers and wipes. Susan says of her ministry called "Growing Pains," "I have always included spiritual training. These parenting teens are misfits in our culture and need love and hope. God offers them both. Remember that Mary was a pregnant teen too." Recently, Growing Pains has expanded to include fathers. Because of God's grace and Susan's actions, these families have been drawn into a multi-generational, Jesus-following community. Praise God!



More Bridge Leaders



What Bridges Means to Me

Kim Gilmour Bowser helped start a Christ-following community in East Hollywood through organizing basketball tournaments and hosting picnics at the park. Describing Bridges' impact on her ministry she says, "Bridges keeps the basketball spinning on your finger—they provide those necessary touch points to keep the momentum going!"



"I am really grateful for you and Bridges.

You all have given me the platform to do this work.

It means so much.

—Nick Warnes, Support Group Leader

"The load seems too much, too heavy, too long. This weekend I see new support and a people (Bridges) as an answer to my prayers."

— Susan from Upland, CA



Our mission is to provide the very best support and capacity for leaders wanting to start new Christ-following communities, especially among people who think church is irrelevant.





*Our vision: 1000 new
Christ-following communities
on the West Coast by 2021
and thousands more
across America.*

At Bridges, we have thought long and hard about what constitutes success in terms that matter to the Kingdom. It is not enough to count press clippings, accolades, volunteers, staff, dollars or donors. Those alone often tell more about who leads your organization than who you serve. To adequately define and measure our success, we needed to be clear about what exactly to measure. This led us to develop the Bridge Leader Survey. The survey, started last year, tracks the discipleship results of our Bridge Leaders. To date, 22 of our Leaders have returned the survey. The results have provided many valuable data points, but to me, none more powerful than this: **Over 200 non-Christians are being discipled.** That's a 10-fold increase from last year's survey. What a blessing!

It is our prayer that God continues to bless the Bridge Leaders to meet the unchurched where they live, work, and play. Thank you for your continued support in this effort.

God is in charge,

Tom King
Chairman of the Board of Directors



*When adults bridge their faith to the next generation,
we can expect that generation to start bridging too!*

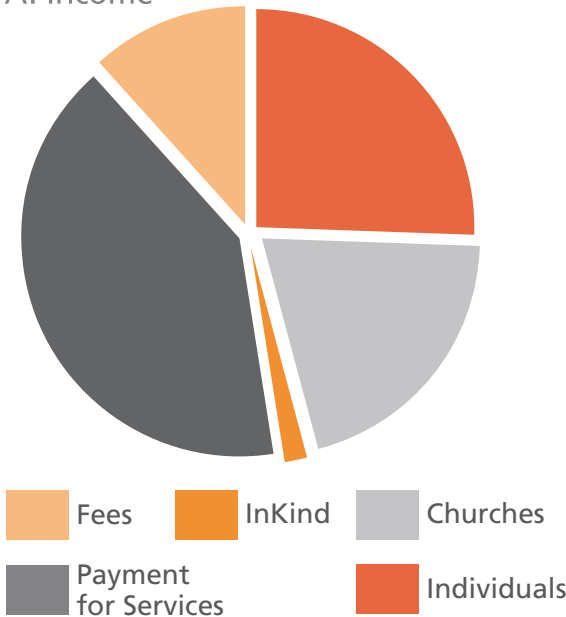
This is Noah, who is part of a Cafe Ministry Team in Atwater Village with his Mom, Cat Moore. Through his hugs and delivery of hand-made crafts and cookies, he is bridging to his own generation of chocolate milk-drinkers as well as to those ordering cappuccinos. There is none too young to serve the Lord.



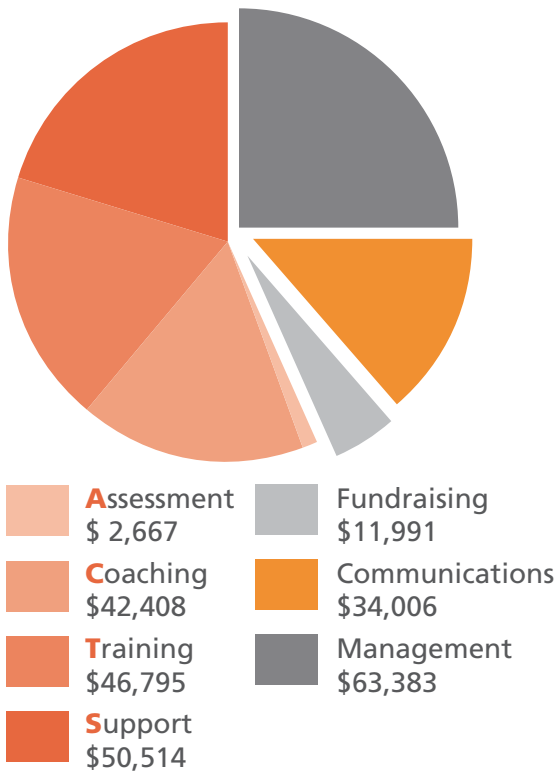
Finances

How did we do financially?*

A. Income



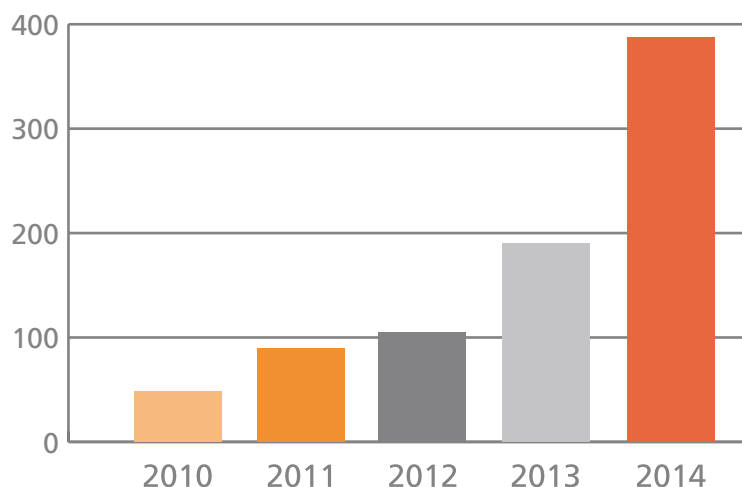
B. How were the funds used?



* as of June 2014



Bridges Total Annual Income



*At Bridges, we don't train people
and then send them into ministry.*

*We find people doing ministry
and offer them the support and
training they need.*

Bridge Leader, Jersson Garcia, shares, "My wife and I concluded that God wanted us to move, so I gave notice to our landlord that we would be out at the end of the month. We didn't have a place lined up. I just cancelled it."

It was simple obedience. It made possible for Jersson and Elizabeth what we call 'Life Synergy' in Bridges. Every missionary knows that every part of life can be ministry – work, play, grocery shopping, exercising. And, as you focus more of your life's commitments on the same people, the deeper your relationships go.

Six months after moving, Jersson was leading three different groups. Two groups are completely unchurched people who are learning what it means to follow Jesus together. One group is from Jersson's new work place, and one is from his new home neighborhood. A third group is made up of guys from his old neighborhood whom he is now training to act like missionaries where THEY live and work.



Bridge Leader, Jersson Garcia,
and his wife, Elizabeth

Events:

June 24–July 10: Jim Milley travels to Nepal, India and Ethiopia for Bridges. Pray for a generous gift from India and Ethiopia for missions in the USA.

June 17, 6pm: Bridges Board of Directors Meeting.

July 20, 4pm–6pm: Vision Event at the home of Chuck & Barbara Osburn

Aug 31: 4pm–6pm: Vision Event hosted by Jorge Vasquez in Pasadena

Oct 5: 4pm–6pm: Vision Event hosted by Cat Moore & Betsy Hall in Glendale

Nov 7–9: Bridges Training Conference at The Oaks Camp & Conference Center in Lake Hughes, CA

February 6–8: Bivo Conference: Hugh Halter will be helping us explore the bi-vocational lifestyle for Bridge Leaders.

May 2015: First Annual Fundraising Dinner Event for Bridges



Cat Moore & Jody Klotzle, two of Bridges Support Staff in Communications & Hospitality, pictured here at the May 16th Vision Event at La Canada Presbyterian Church. They, along with other support staff and several volunteers, made sure guests felt right at home and that everything ran smoothly.



What People Are Saying About Bridges

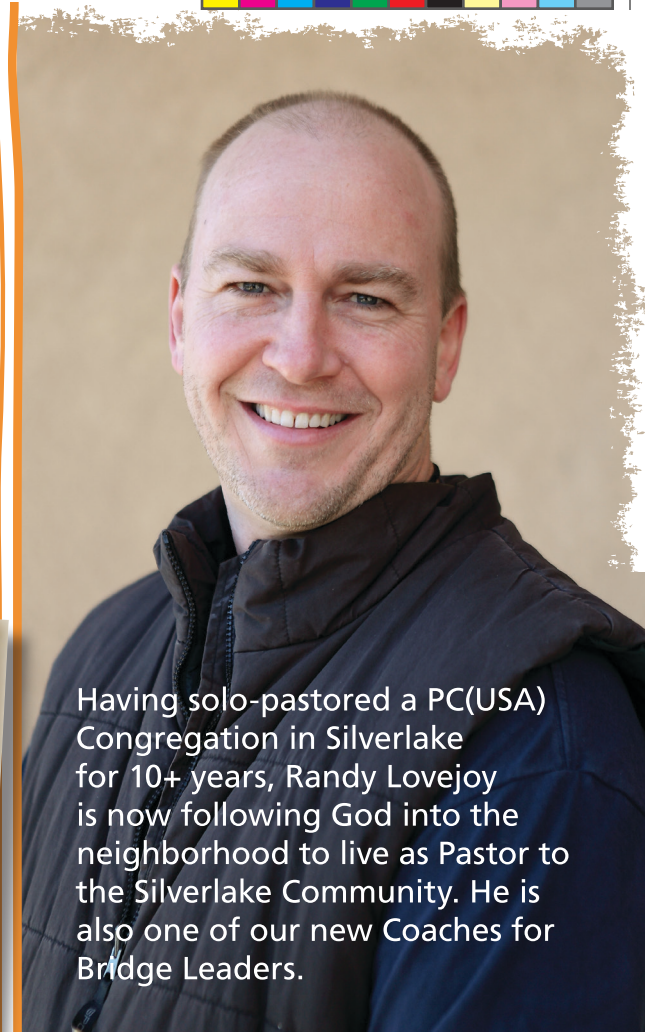
"The conference offers a wonderful setting for dialogue and exchange between people with different ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives to come together and share their experiences of God in their lives and the lives of others."—Rameses from Hollywood.



"God met me this weekend with encouraging words from other Bridge Leaders, wisdom from Bob Logan about making disciples, and guidance from Jim in engaging our unchurched friends."
—Beth from Sierra Madre

"The people involved in Bridges are so vigorously and vibrantly alive to God and the gospel. Spending a few days in their midst and in dialogue is always encouraging and instructive."
—George from La Crescenta

"It's not just that the quality of these conferences keeps getting better. It's that you really get a sense that God is speaking here through the leaders and interactions with friends."
—Jon from Sierra Madre



Having solo-pastored a PC(USA) Congregation in Silverlake for 10+ years, Randy Lovejoy is now following God into the neighborhood to live as Pastor to the Silverlake Community. He is also one of our new Coaches for Bridge Leaders.

"As I approached the home to which my invitation led me, I heard the familiar tunes of Handel's Messiah filling the air. This was the home of the parents of some Jewish friends we have known for 12 years now. Their parents, also practicing Jews, have a Handel's Messiah sing along each 26th of December. When I entered the second story living room I saw a small orchestra complete with conductor playing the music. I felt like I was in the Disney Concert Hall, but on stage rather than seated in the crowd. We sang for two hours before taking a break. It was truly amazing. God was in this place though many if not most of the people "knew it not." I found myself further convinced that *joining God outside of the church structure and in the community around us is essential to the future of Christianity in Western Culture.*"

—Randy Lovejoy 10

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."—Martin Luther King, Jr.



www.BridgesUS.org

Join the movement!

Board of Directors:

Michael Gibney, Tom King, Rev. James Milley, Kevin Sheldahl, Jorge Vasquez

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