



Annual Report: 2022 - 2023



Children in a Univida classroom. (page 11)

Müllers exists to...

“ Strengthen the Church to meet the needs of the vulnerable by Inspiring Faith, Nurturing Family, Resourcing Ministry and Transforming Communities.”



£255,000

used to free children from poverty



3,879 people

inspired by George Müller's story through our museum and school visits



96 people

equipped, resourced and mentored by our coaches, networks and training

Summary of the Year



£964,065

restricted donations processed and given to our partners



284 teens

encountered Jesus at The Mix, a Bristol worship event for young people



More than 200,000

children impacted by the work of our SKI partners around the world



The Mix, Easter 2022



The Mix, Easter 2022



Partner Reuben Zaroussian
visiting Müllers



Shared Hope, Zambia

Introduction

It is with great joy and gratitude that we present Müller's Annual Report for 2022-23. As we reflect on the past year's endeavours, we are humbled by the transformative impact we have witnessed in the lives of the vulnerable and the communities we serve. Guided by our unwavering mission "to strengthen the church to meet the needs of the vulnerable by inspiring faith, nurturing families, resourcing ministry, and transforming communities," we have worked tirelessly to create positive, Kingdom change.

In the pursuit of **our mission**, we draw inspiration from the remarkable life and legacy of George Müller, whose faith and dedication to serving others continue to inspire us. Müller's unwavering belief in the power of prayer and his steadfast commitment to meeting the needs of the vulnerable are the foundation of who we are today.

Throughout the year we have witnessed the transformative power of faith in action. By inspiring faith we have seen individuals and families find strength and hope amidst adversity. Through the faith-based initiatives of our partners we have provided support, encouragement, and spiritual nourishment to those in need.

Nurturing families remains at the core of our efforts. We have enabled churches to focus on the family, helping to, as Psalm 68 puts it, "set the lonely in families."

In **our commitment** to resourcing ministry we have provided invaluable support to churches. Through workshops, financial support, and mentoring programmes, we have equipped them with the tools and knowledge needed to serve their congregations and communities effectively.

Our work has extended beyond the walls of the church, reaching out to transform communities. We have worked to address pressing social issues such as poverty, refugee care, and education. By fostering collaboration and implementing sustainable solutions, we have sought to create lasting change in the lives of the most vulnerable.

As we celebrate the achievements of the past year we express our deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and partners. Without your unwavering support, none of this would be possible. Together we have made a significant difference, and together we will continue to strengthen the church to meet the needs of the vulnerable.

In the words of George Müller, "**God is faithful still and hears prayers still.**" May these words guide us as we embark on another year of service, knowing that with faith, compassion, and unity, we can make a lasting impact in the lives of the vulnerable and the communities we serve.

Freeing Children From Poverty



Solid Rock

Solid Rock International Ministries (SRIM)—led by Bishop Mickey Okeyo—cares for the vulnerable on Mfangano Island. This small island (65 km²) has a population of around 16,000 and is in Lake Victoria, close to the Kenyan shore. The island is slowly being modernised—the first car was driven there as recently as 2007—and many inhabitants are subsistence farmers and fishermen.

On the island, Mickey's work is a sort of "one-stop shop" for almost every need. SRIM provides schooling, feeding programmes, community transport and effectively acts as a grass-roots "social services" provider for other situations.

Mickey has been encouraged that building work has started on permanent classrooms for the school, which, once completed, will allow many more children from the crowded waiting list to access education. Feeding the schoolchildren remains challenging due to the steep rise in global food prices, and portion sizes have been

reduced. A further consequence of the economic situation is that the teachers have not received an annual pay rise.

SRIM owns a motorboat that is used as a community resource to access the mainland, as well as providing valuable employment to eight men. This was damaged in a storm, but financial support enabled it to be repaired. Mickey hopes to replace the outboard motor to ensure it remains useful.

As well as this practical care, Mickey is involved in evangelism, and several people each month come to know Jesus.

Despite the challenges that this last year has brought, Mickey has been encouraged and SRIM continues to trust God for all its needs, from the practical provision of equipment and building materials to the physical health of the community and the spiritual needs of both believers and those not yet following Jesus.

Prayer Point:

- Please pray for God's grace to continue to flow to and through the work of SRIM, and for the Lord's faithful provision to be able to keep meeting the needs of the community.

For-Ethiopia

For-Ethiopia is a small Bristol-based charity that works in Ejere, Ethiopia, amongst 27 rural farming communities and three more urban based ones. Ejere is impoverished and has high youth unemployment and poor infrastructure. For-Ethiopia's vision is to see communities become healthy, educated and self-sufficient. There is a particular focus on education for rural girls as finishing secondary education is the main driver to breaking the cycle of poverty for many young women, and their families.

There is only one secondary school so students must either travel long distances, which is complicated because of poor transport infrastructure, or pay to rent lodgings near the school. This is often impractical for financial reasons—most students cannot afford this—or issues related to safety. For example it is unsafe for girls due to potential abductions for unwanted marriage. Additional factors such as subsistence farming challenges, single parent households and chronic illness or indebtedness within the family contribute to a high school drop-out rate compared to boys.

The Underhill Scholarship Scheme provides safe accommodation through a centre that offers support through having a housemother and providing mentoring and academic tutoring to catch up with studies. This enables the girls to study, access resource books and learn new skills together. Important modern skills such as internet and smartphone safety or money management equip the girls to work towards their aspirations.





One girl, orphaned when young, was encouraged by her teacher to enter the scholarship scheme when she was in year 7. She gained skills, started her own small business and now encourages and prays with other girls sharing about God's faithfulness to her.

The project is run by a faithful team of Christian women whose prayers, commitment and passion are a powerful witness to the girls, their families and the surrounding communities.

Prayer Point:

- Please pray for them and for the ongoing work of extending the education centre onto a newly acquired piece of land. We hope this will open in 2024.

Due to interventions including supply of desks, tables, books, library resources, latrines and hand washing facilities, the district education office data saw girls' enrolment in school increase from less than 25% to 47.42%



Girls' Enrolment in School

Before interventions	After interventions
Less than 25%	47.42%

*(Data from external review in 2019).



Univida

Univida (The University of Life) is an organisation committed to offering opportunities to children living in poverty in Brazil. It exists to educate children, support families and build stronger communities, with the goal of preventing the circumstances that lead children to the streets.

Young people are confronted with poverty every day and gangs use this suffering to lure children into trafficking to make quick money. Brian (name changed) began to miss classes, and it was rumoured that he was involved in drug dealing and had been seen with an illegal weapon. Univida sent a message to his mother saying that he had been missed and that his teacher was concerned. He agreed to a meeting with his teacher and Adalberto, a former student. They explained to Brian how precious his life is, telling him how talented and valued he is. Brian was stunned by their care and compassion. Adalberto explained that he himself had lost many friends due to violence in the slums and this had been incredibly painful for him. He continued to encourage Brian to return to the project. Brian shed many tears and felt a strong conviction to stop his involvement in drugs. Brian's decision was upheld by his daily commitment to return to classes.



Univida has been able to refurbish its kitchen after 25 years. There are now two wonderful full-time cooks who are dedicated to cooking nutritious meals for all the children and staff each day, and washing dishes under a mango tree is now a distant memory! The team has also been blessed with fantastic new teachers who are gifted in storytelling, discipleship and singing.

Prayer Point:

- Please pray that Brian will succeed in extricating himself from gang life, and for all the teachers at The University of Life as they seek to rescue children like Brian from the grip of drugs and violence.

| Focussing People on Jesus



Answers to Prayer

It is a privilege for us to bring the needs of our partners to God each day in prayer and we are continually humbled by the way that He answers those prayers. Here are a few of the encouragements that have been shared with us.

“ We were instructed to rebuild the boys’ dormitory by the local government or face closure. In faith that God was sovereign over this, we took down the building with no money to build it back up. Through faith and prayers, many people were able to support the reconstruction. Indian companies gave bricks and cement and steel. We also had some free labour. The orphanage dormitory was completed to a beautiful standard and the boys are loving their new bedroom.”

- An Orphanage in Tamil Nadu, India.

“ We were privileged to supply 100 Bibles to the church congregation in Uganda in their own language.”

- A House of Prayer in Africa.

“ 13 girls came to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ during the year.”

- An Orphanage in Asia.

“ At a prayer course in a local café, a girl, who had been depressed and separated by a huge divide between herself and God for many years, said she had prayed and experienced overwhelming peace. She said that the course had changed her life.”

- A Youth Project in England.

“ Despite the harsh economic situation, we were able to provide an increase in salary to all 450 teachers and staff, which has been a great blessing to them as inflation is over 25%.”

- A Group of Schools in Asia.

Museum And Schools

Müllers holds an invaluable and extensive archive of documents related to the orphans who, through God's grace and faithfulness, have been cared for through the years. The archive is a wealth of social history information, personal stories relating to the children who were here and insights into what life was like. There are letters from the Mayor of Bath asking that the child of a policeman in Bath be given a home, stories of struggling relatives desperately trying to find a way to keep children out of the workhouse and the occasional letter from a dying parent asking George Müller to care for their

little ones. It is an emotive reminder of why the homes in Ashley Down were so needed. We have been sharing some of these stories with children around the city and will be developing a series of new resources next year.

The museum is a wonderful resource for sharing the testimony of George Müller and ultimately God's faithfulness and provision for the vulnerable. Over the year it has hosted family craft events, Easter egg hunts, local history events, faith encounters and group visits from all over the world. Our work with schools has been very successful.



We have been given lots of great feedback and the children have asked wonderful questions. Many local schools have had visits from us this year as the cost of coaches to travel to the museum is often prohibitively high.

We are thankful for our museum volunteers who help with visitors and school groups and rummage in the cupboards for interesting artefacts to talk about.

Prayer Point:

- Please pray for volunteers to help with school groups and to help us in creating an inventory of our collection. Ultimately, we would like to share more amazing stories of how the faith of one man led to so many children being cared for, educated and having their lives changed.

“

The personal feel and immediate nature of the museum and the presentation are very accessible to children of this age. We love your museum and the way you tell the George Müller story. Thank you.”

Brunel Fields Primary School Teacher

1,319

• **1,319** School children spent time here in the museum, or had a visit from us

331

• We shared the story of George Müller and his **10,000** orphans with **331** members of local community groups

1,593

• **1,593** members of the public visited us

129

• We had lots of family history visits and provided copies of the records of **129** children who once lived here – reconnecting families with their history

Scripture, Theology and Culture (STC) Course

A strong church that is meeting the needs of the vulnerable is a Scripturally and theologically grounded church. This means that thinking carefully about faith and Scripture is a necessary part of Strengthening the Church and this year has seen several changes to the way that Müllers has resourced the Church.



The theology course has been renamed the Scripture, Theology and Culture (STC) course and has been extensively reworked to reflect more accurately its place at the intersection of Biblical study, an analysis of the currents of the contemporary world and the riches of the Christian theological tradition. It now runs at two different academic levels simultaneously, which gives students the choice of just attending the Tuesday teaching or of undertaking assignments at Level 3 (roughly equivalent to A level) or Level 4. It has been encouraging to see a good number of students enrol for the higher Level 4 pathway this year. The current cohort of 19 students from 12 churches across the Bristol region have shown their mettle by throwing themselves into the course with verve:

“ I have really loved my time on the course so far - it is definitely the best day of my week! I have found it so interesting, stimulating and thought provoking. It has been such a brilliant opportunity to really think more deeply about my faith.”

Emily, Bristol

For those unable to attend in person on Tuesdays, either due to work commitments or geographical distance, this year we have trialled an online Digital Scripture, Theology and Culture course (dSTC), and have welcomed students from Brazil and Florida as well as the UK. Students work through pre-recorded video material and worksheets, and meet online for tutorials every six weeks or so. Pleasingly, the group has formed good relationships and engaged well with the material.



These changes have been facilitated by the arrival of Clotilde Barberon, who joined in August 2022 as Theology Training Assistant. Clo has brought a helpfully fresh perspective, as well as good teaching experience and knowledge from her recent B.A. degree in Theology.

These changes have been exciting and have positioned us well for the future, but beneath it all has remained the sustaining love of our good and faithful God, who does not change like shifting shadows. Thank you for your prayers for this aspect of Müllers' work today.

BCCF

(Bristol Churches City Fund)

BCCF is a platform that encourages the Christian community in Bristol to financially support the critical needs of the city. A number of volunteers sit on the steering group and their role is to identify those needs and enable the church to respond. Therefore, the fund does not belong to BCCF but to the whole Church in Bristol. Towards the end of 2022 the fund was opened to applications, and grants totalling £54,960 were given to projects across the city that work to alleviate food poverty and support the welfare of vulnerable children.

One grant was given to Filwood Hope, an advice centre that works to prevent, or provide relief from, emotional, spiritual, or financial hardship. It does this by providing access to advice and services that might not otherwise be available due to financial constraints. It is based in an area where 35% of children and 35% of older people live in income-challenged households. Food poverty is a consistent issue, and the grant given to Filwood Hope meant that stocks in the food larder could be maintained, along with food vouchers for the school holidays. Filwood Hope is often the first place that local community members visit for help, whether for crisis response—via the food larder, which is available over weekends and holidays, when food banks are often closed—or for further support.

Looking ahead, BCCF feels called by the Holy Spirit to meet the needs of refugees and asylum seekers by

enabling the local church to welcome those who are coming to Bristol.

Prayer Point:

- Please pray in particular for the development of a city-centre community hub, which will be a direct response to a request from the City Council to the Church in Bristol.

“

It has been an honour to participate in BCCF's work - how it supports and walks alongside those most in need in our city is truly remarkable. It shares resources from those with a heart for Bristol with churches, charities and organisations that support people in some of the most challenging situations.”

BCCF Team Member

The Mix

The Mix is a worship event for young people aged 11-18 from across the Bristol region. It provides lively worship, engaging teaching, powerful prayer ministry and encouraging fellowship. The team, led and governed by Müllers, comprises youth workers from across the region, working in unity to see God move amongst under 18s.

The Mix met three times this year and saw 284 young people and their 92 youth leaders attend. We shared testimonies of God at work around the city and considered how the Easter and Christmas stories are relevant to our lives today. One leader said that she brings her non-Christian youth group along, not only because they love the atmosphere so much but also because it prompts them to ask questions about Jesus. This has led some of them to become Christians at The Mix, which is wonderful!

At our Christmas event the speaker was ill and had to withdraw at the last minute, so another member of their team stepped in. It was a brilliant example of God's provision and faithfulness as, without much time to prepare, the substitute speaker delivered excellent input. We know of at least nine young people who became Christians that night and many more who met with God in prayer.

Prayer Point:

- Please pray that the future ministry of The Mix would bless churches and that young people will continue to have life-changing encounters with Jesus there.



Fuelling Leaders for Mission





BYMN / CMNet

In order to support the Church across the Bristol region in its engagement with under 18s, Müllers oversees two networks. The Children's Ministry Network (CMNet) focusses on children (0-11), and the Bristol Youth Ministry Network (BYMN) on young people (11-18). Both are open to anyone whose Christian faith motivates them to work with children or young people across the Bristol region.

The groups are opportunities to encourage one another in these important ministry areas, share resources and good practice, pray together for one another and for

young people, and to worship. Combined, the BYMN & CMNet held 7 meetings which were attended by 64 different people from 53 different churches. During these times we have discussed issues such as working with children with additional needs, how to recruit and manage volunteers, and how to avoid burnout. We have also arranged, in response to participant feedback, informal coffee meetups for youth workers to meet socially for mutual support.

Although youth and children's ministries are different disciplines and require different skill sets, there is also a fair amount of overlap.

- Therefore, we hope to merge the two networks into one as we broaden the opportunity to learn from and support each other. **Please pray** for this.

“It's an amazing opportunity to hear what's going on and build connections to work together and get inspired.”

Local children's worker

“It's been a great way to learn new skills and hear what other people think about particular youth ministry issues.”

Local youth minister

South West Youth Ministries

South West Youth Ministries has continued to grow in impact and influence over this last year with new work to reach children and young people in their local communities developing in Gloucestershire and on the island of Guernsey. SWYM has a team of 60 trainees and staff based across the South West region and partners with over 200 churches.



SWYM, in partnership with Urban Saints, organises SPREE South West, a hugely popular camping and activity weekend for young people aged between 8 and 17 who come with their church or Christian youth/children's group. SPREE SW 2022 was the first since Covid-19 and—remarkably—sold out two months before the event with 1200 booked in. Over the weekend there were over 200 first time commitments to Jesus as well as many more recommitments. Several groups mentioned that SPREE SW was a great boost to their children's and youth work post-Covid-19 and others used it as a platform to propel their weekly engagement with unchurched children and young people. There were also many stories of children and young people returning home and reading

their Bibles regularly, praying with friends and creating prayer journals. We also heard of baptisms and young people starting Christian Unions in their local schools.

More recently, SWYM team member Ollie travelled to Guernsey to support an inter-church Youth Alpha. During the session he gave the 65 young people present the opportunity to respond to follow Jesus and 43 of them did so! SWYM is exploring how to plant a cluster of trainees on the island.

Prayer Point:

- Please pray for trainees to stay on the island and join the first SWYM group there.



“It was our first time at SPREE but the whole experience was so good. Great spiritual input, fun and engaging activities! We loved it!”

Youth Worker

SKI

The Scriptural Knowledge Institute (SKI) was founded by George Müller in 1834 to serve those who 'labour for the gospel both at home and abroad.'

Reflecting on the last year, we are humbled by how God continues to use SKI to demonstrate His love to people around the world as, with your generous support, we partner with individuals and organisations that share Müllers' vision and mission to 'strengthen the church to meet the needs of the vulnerable.'

Over the last year we have partnered in prayer and given financial provision to:

- 8** strategic partners
- 69** partners receiving Müllers grants
- 173** partners with our donations processing service for missionaries and charities

Thanks to your help, Müllers has prayerfully supported partners, distributed donations to ministries around the world and continued making grants through our Orphans of the World, Widows of the World and Strategic Partner initiatives. These donations came at a challenging time for many of our partners. The lasting effects of the pandemic have combined with the global financial uncertainty to produce a situation in which basic living costs are much higher. This increased cost of living has been the biggest challenge faced by our partners as, while the needs they meet are increasing, the finances used to minister to those needs are worth less.

We give glory to God for His faithfulness, guidance and provision and pray the same for the upcoming year. We recognise that we cannot achieve any of this without your support, which makes such a difference, both practically and spiritually, to the lives of so many vulnerable people.

Prayer Points:

- Please pray for God's provision of all the necessary finances to continue supporting the vulnerable.
- Please pray for each of our partners to know God's guidance for the year ahead.

Gifts Given in 2022/2023

194

SKI PARTNERS

supported by Müllers to serve vulnerable people



£112,757

Müller's own money given to work with vulnerable children (Orphans of the World grants)



£44,375

Müller's own money given to work with the vulnerable elderly (Widows of the World grants)



£97,436

Müller's own money used to fund strategic projects for relief of poverty for vulnerable children

£63,973

Distributed in partnership with the Bristol Churches City Fund

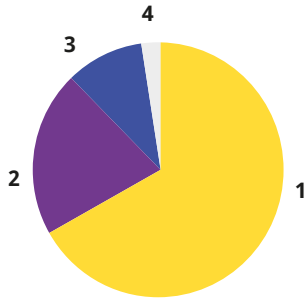
£964,065

Distributed to missionaries around the world

£1,282,606

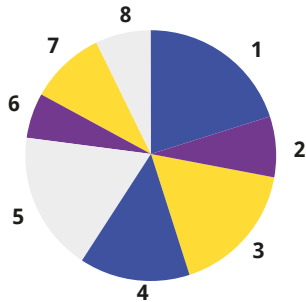
Total distributed through SKI

Finance and Giving



Total Income for 2022/23 Unrestricted General Funds £580,791:

1. Investment income 67%
2. Rental income, mortgage interest and other income 21%
3. Donations 10%
4. Legacies 2%



Total Expenditure for 2022/23 Unrestricted General Funds £583,790:

1. Orphans of World grants 20%
2. Widows of the World grants 8%
3. SKI other grants 17%
4. Global partnerships (SKI) 14%
5. Inspiring Faith 18%
6. Nurturing Families 6%
7. Resourcing Ministry 10%
8. Transforming Communities 7%

The charity also administered restricted funds of **£964,065** representing legacies and gifts received for specific Orphans of the World and Widows of the World missionaries and specific local events and projects.

Net Losses on Investments for 2022/23:

£540,057

(In Expendable Endowment Fund)

Looking Ahead

With so much to be thankful for in 2022/23, our attention turns to 2023/24, and how we can “strengthen the Church to meet the needs of the vulnerable.”

Freeing children from poverty

We shall continue to prayerfully and financially support our global partners, who are caring for families experiencing material poverty. Churches in the Bristol region, who would like support in ministering to vulnerable under 18s of their local community, will be able to engage with our new partnership model. Within this Müllers will facilitate salaried youth workers from partner churches to “tithe their time” to the city. This means that these youth

workers will be placed with other partner churches in areas of low resource to catalyse faith-based youth provision.

Focussing people on Jesus

The George Müller Museum will continue to share the inspirational story of Müller and the faithful God he served, offering public talks and developing resources for primary schools. The Scripture, Theology and Culture course will receive a new intake of students, as well as launch a free, part-time, online study option for those who are unavailable to attend in person. The Mix will continue to gather the region’s young people together in worship, enabling them to have a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

Fuelling leaders for mission

The Bristol Youth Ministry Network is merging with the Children’s Ministry Network to form the “Y&C Network”. This will provide an opportunity for

greater support and collaboration to those whose Christian faith motivates them to serve the under 18s of the Bristol region. Müllers will host its first day-conference for volunteers, church leaders and salaried workers involved in youth and children’s ministry, which we hope will train and inspire the Bristol Church’s work. We will continue to invest in the Scriptural Knowledge Institute, prayerfully supporting our partners, through financial and administrative support, to share the Gospel.

Prayer Point

- Please pray for this work, that God’s Kingdom would come through it and that God’s name would be glorified. Please also pray for us that, first and foremost, through the work of Müllers today, it may be seen that God is faithful still, and hears prayers still.



Annual Report 2022-2023

Trustees:

D.J. Powell (Chairman appointed 21/09/2020)

A.C. Davies (Company Secretary)

T.D. Grieve

J.N. Kingston

E.J. Marsh

W.P. Massey

E.F.C. Small

S. M. Home (Appointed 20/7/2022)

Directors:

George Müller (Founder) (1834-1898)

James Wright (1898-1905)

George Frederick Bergin (1905-1912)

William M. Bergin (1912-1930)

Alfred E. Green (1930-1940)

Thomas Tilsley (1940-1952)

John McCready (1952-1958)

James J. Rose (1958-1986)

Joseph Cowan (1986-1988)

Robert L. Scott-Cook (1988-1994)

Julian P. Marsh [Chief Exec.] (1994-2008)

Keith Hagon [Chief Exec.] (2008-2012)

Robert L. Scott-Cook (2012-2016)

[Hon. Exec. Chair]

Stewart D. North (2016-2018)

[Hon. Exec. Chair]

Daniel J. Doherty (2018-2019)

[Chief Exec.]

Joel T. Preston (2019-Present)

[Charity Leader]

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