



SOWERGRAM

**Servants On Wheels Ever Ready
December 2024 - January 2025**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Check out the **brand-new** SOWER
video here:

Sowerministry.org/About Us/Video

**NO 2025 PROJECT SIGNUPS
after Dec. 31, 2024!!**

**Unless you have completed
your 2025 Annual Registra-
tion**

Our Mission:

We Serve and Encourage Christian Ministries to Fulfill the Commandments of Jesus Christ "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal 6:7

GENERAL INFORMATION

OFFICERS: TRUSTEES: ADVISORS:
[Trustees and Advisors \(sowerministry.org\)](http://www.sowerministry.org)

Share the SOWER Ministry

Most “NEW SOWER” couples join after a “one-on-one” personal contact with an enthusiastic SOWER couple who share the SOWER Ministry. The ministry web page www.sowerministry.org and **SOWER Ministry Video (About Us/Video)** are excellent resources for more information about our ministry. The next step for them to join would be to go to the SOWER website and click on [Contact Us/Membership](#).

Membership Mailing:

Please update your contact information on the member website if it changes. Also, **don't forget to give a forwarding address to the project host when leaving a project.**

Contributions

The SOWER Ministry operates on free-will offerings and each member is encouraged to support the ministry financially. You may:

1. Send check or money order payable to the SOWER Ministry.
2. Arrange automatic payments from your checking account through an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). An enrollment form is available on the website.
3. Contribute using a Credit Card by using the DONATE button on the SOWER website.

Canadian SOWERS please contribute in U.S. funds, No Cheques. It is very easy for Canadians to obtain a U.S. money order from any post office or a bank draft from any bank.

MEMBERS DASHBOARD

The new member website can be accessed here: [Member Dashboard \(sowerministry.org\)](http://www.sowerministry.org)

“The SOWER Ministry Constitution, Bylaws, Guidelines and Policies are the operational rules by which our ministry functions. Any abuse of these rules will be cause for review and possible disciplinary action.”

Board of Trustees

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.



Dave Pincus, President

I am writing this just a day or two before Thanksgiving and this will not be posted until after that holiday. So, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I also hope you remember to give thanks for the blessings you have, the ones you see and the ones you don't see!

With that said, I just want to give you a quick update as to what's been happening to our Ministry. First and foremost, our new website is performing wonderfully! It has made it easier to sign up for projects, and obtain information on the projects, as well as our members. And that's just the beginning. In the next year we will be improving the site to include more real time information, as well as being able to vote online for Trustees and issues the membership needs to approve. No more mailing ballots! Just log on and vote.

Also, our membership is growing! In the past year we have added over 100 new members! And more are in the queue being processed! It is the same with projects. Eight new projects have been added, with several others going through our vetting process. This coming year will continue to see our ministry grow.

The Board also welcomed 3 new Trustees. Dick Webster, Jim Haney and Bill Blake. All have a background in ministry and service and will be a great asset. The Board also said goodbye to Gail Fieler. Gail has served on the Board for the past 6 years and has served both as Secretary and Vice President. She will be missed, but not forgotten. Gail also serves as one of our office managers. So, if you call the office, you may be speaking with her.

There are so many other things on the horizon, I could go on forever. However, this is Holiday Season, and I don't want to bore anyone with long drawn-out discussions of things to come. There will be plenty of time later for that. So again, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior; as well a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Prosperous New Year!! God Bless!!

Blessings!
Dave

*"Trust in The Lord with All Your Heart and Lean Not On Your Own Understanding;
Acknowledge Him In All Your Ways And He Will
Direct Your Path." Proverbs 3: 5 - 6*

REFLECTIONS

Brad Smith, Vice-President



Behind the Scenes

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul talks about the body of Christ:

“For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For ^[m]by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit”. (NASB)

Later in the chapter, Paul speaks of parts of the body that are less presentable but just as important to the body. The heart or liver may not be anything to look at but try going without!

When we first joined the SOWER ministry, I was not at all aware of everything that went on behind the scenes. We would sign up for a project and show up when required. We worked our tails off and fully enjoyed the blessings of serving and the great fellowship we had with fellow SOWERs. At first, I didn't think of everything that had to happen to allow us to be able to so easily travel around, serve some great ministries, and reap the blessings. Since that time, and especially during my time so far serving on the board, I have been given an opportunity to peek behind the scenes.

One role of which I was unaware is the Area Representative or AR. These 41 couples (or individuals) serve behind the scenes in a vital role. They are the primary contact for our 175ish projects, regularly communicating with, visiting, and encouraging these ministries. Simply put, the SOWER ministry could not function without everything they do.

I was also not aware of what all goes on behind the scenes with the board of trustees. I initially thought of the board as simply a decision-making group. Little did I know of all the work that is accomplished between the “decision-making” meetings. Although it is challenging at times, I have been blessed by serving in this way. Being on the board has also opened my eyes to the massive amount of work accomplished daily by our (currently volunteer) office staff.

Of course, there are many other “behind the scenes” vital roles in this ministry. I encourage you to prayerfully consider where you might be able to serve behind the scenes. If you feel led to be an Area Representative, please contact me and I can answer any questions you have and will try to find a place for you there. We would love to have a list of those willing to serve in that capacity. If you would like to serve on the board of trustees, please talk to others about that desire and be ready to be nominated to the board this next spring. If you have questions about serving on the board, please contact me or any other board member and let's talk!

Finally, thank you to everyone serving in the SOWER Ministry! Every role is vital to keeping this ministry going and allowing us to serve the Lord by serving great ministries across the US and Canada.

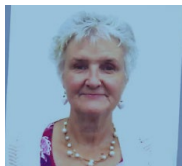
Brad Smith, VP #3482



Evan Asby, Secretary

Have you ever wondered what your service is worth to a host? Although we do not do what we do so that we can place a value on it, I have been a numbers guy in my working career and numbers tell a story, so I wanted to look at that. At the 40th reunion one of our hosts made a presentation that mentioned a study done by the Independent Sector, with the Do-Good Institute at the University of Maryland that placed a value of each volunteer hour at \$29.95. In other words, if a host had to hire someone to do a job or if they had an existing staff member do a job it would cost the host that amount per hour. Remember that amount includes the actual wages to the staff member, but also includes the employer's costs for social security, unemployment insurance, workers compensation insurance, etc. Curious to find out what we as a SOWER couple offered as cost savings to our host, I did a search to find that study and to find out what that dollar amount would be today. In 2023 the value of a volunteer hour had risen to \$33.49, which means that each SOWER couple, men working 72 hours and ladies working 36 hours or 108 hours total, saved the host \$3,617. And that is one couple one month. What would be the value of the SOWER Ministry in total savings to the Christian camp community? The officer provided the total number of SOWER visits that we did in one calendar year, 1,250. Stated another way would be one couple, working one month, 1,250 times. Now simple math, $\$3,617 \times 1,250 = \$4,521,150$. Four and a half million dollars of volunteer labor in service to the Lord. To me that is a story. Is FIVE MILLION in our future? Only you can answer that. May God Bless your service in partnership with our hosts in serving the Lord.

Evan Asby, Secretary



Nelda Thompson, Trustee

The **Holiday Trifecta** is upon us, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. This sequence of holidays brings mixed feelings for me. There is nostalgia of the "old days" prior to becoming full-time RV'ers but excitement at what the new celebrations will bring.

Thanksgiving begins with reflecting on the blessings, I love reading Psalm 107, or any of the Psalms! I am so thankful for our safe travels, safety on the projects, answered prayers thru our prayer chain and devo prayers for the ministries we serve, tasks completed and friends I made. Verse 22 speaks of a "sacrifice of praise" for those times the rig broke down or needed a major repair, those not so fun tasks, that difficult person we worked with or that assignment stretching our abilities but growing in grace.

Christmas brings to mind gift giving. I like to mediate on God's example of His FREE (to us) gift of a baby in manger as detailed in Romans 5 and Colossians 1. I have observed the giving of the most valuable gifts (without price tags), for instance praying with a fellow

SOWER or staff member, sharing burdens, sending a note or card of encouragement, making a timely phone call, interceding in prayer, working extra hours to complete a task, the list goes on.... I am challenged to give those gifts that do not have a price tag, gifts of service.

New Years is for new beginnings. New creation, new man, new heaven and earth, new song, new covenant, new every day, new heart and a new spirit are just a few Biblical examples. As a SOWER, I can look forward to new projects in new states, making new friends with SOWERs and project staff, discovering new churches and their ministries, learning new skills and completing new assignments. Let's look forward to another great year.

"Do not call to mind the former things or consider things of the past.

Behold, I am going to do something new..." (Isaiah 43:18,19)

Nelda Thompson Sower Trustee

NEW MEMBERS MAY BE VIEWED AT

[Member Dashboard \(sowerministry.org\)](https://sowerministry.org)

GROUP LEADER PROJECT REPORTS MAY BE VIEWED AT

[Ministry Projects \(sowerministry.org\)](https://sowerministry.org)

Trustee Board Annual Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2024 – October 2, 2024

Meeting Minutes can be found [here](#)

SERVANTS ON WHEELS EVER READY

Monthly Support Plan

Monthly support plan can be found [here](#)

WELCOME SOWERs

Current Copy can be found [here](#)

Financial Report

	FY23-24 (9-1-23- 8/15/24)			2024-25
	Actual	Budget	Over / Under	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
6000 · General Funds				
6001 · Checks & Cash	65,483	70,000	-4,517	65,000
6002 · Direct Contributions, ACH	53,664	70,000	-16,336	52,000
6003 - Secure Give (online contributions	17,147	0	17,147	17,000
6005 - Secure Give Bank Fee Offset	194			
6007 - Office Annex contributions	0	0		500
Total 6000 · General Funds	136,488	140,000	-3,706	134,500
6010 · Merchandise				
6011 Merchandise Sales	2,019	2,000	19	2,000
6040 · Parking Fund	860	700	160	700
6060 · Memorial Fund	585	4,000	-3,415	700
9000 · Interest Income	4,256	1,400	2,856	6,000
Total Income	144,207	148,100	-4,087	143,900
Expense				
Area Rep Expenses				
8810- AR Expense	3,007	4,500	-1,493	5,000
Total AR Expenses	3,007	4,500	-1,493	5,000
Board Expenses				
8260 · Reunion Representation	0	12,000	-12,000	6,000
8820 · Travel, Air, car Rental, Hotel	8,880	12,000	-3,120	10,000
8830 · Teleconference	0	500	-500	0
8840 · Incidentals	1,691	2,000	-309	2,500
8850 · D&O Insurance Policy	2,085	1,500	585	2,500
Total Board Expenses	12,657	28,000	-15,343	21,000
Misc				
8400 · Bank Charges				
8401 - Texas National Bank	256	500	-244	500
8402 - Secure Give	2,137		2,137	2,200
Total 8400 Bank Charges	2,394	500	-1,894	2,700
8460 · Licenses & Permits	1,121	600	521	1,200
8550 · CPA Fees	2,815	3,000	-185	3,000
8551 · Attorney	0	3,000	-3,000	3,000
Total Misc	6,330	7,100	-770	9,900
Office Assistance				
8011 · Office Assistance	0	2,000	-2,000	2,000
Payroll Taxes				
3200 - Employee Withholding	317		317	
3250 · Employer SS Tax	2,271	3,500	-1,229	1,000
Total Payroll Taxes	2,588	3,500	-912	1,000

8010 · Payroll	34,105	37,300	-3,195	10,000
8011 - Bonus	0	0	0	0
8360 · Workers Comp Insurance	283	300	-17	300
Total Office Assistance	36,976	43,100	-6,124	13,300
7100 Merchandise costs				
7101 - Merchandise Inventory	1,749	3,000	-1,251	1,500
7102 - T-Shirt Costs	623		623	750
Total 7100 Merchandise costs	2,372	3,000	-628	2,250
Printing and Mailing				
8160 · Postage and Delivery	4,311	10,000	-5,689	4,500
8170 · Printing and Reproduction	1,329	4,000	-2,671	2,000
8610 · Office Equipment Leases	6,140	7,000	-860	7,000
8620 - Copies Made	0			
Total Printing and Mailing	11,780	21,000	-9,220	13,500
8150 - Office				
8151 · Equipment & Software	1,568	2,500	-932	4,000
8152 · Office Supplies & Expenses	1,844	2,500	-656	2,500
8155 - Software Development	32,700	25,000	7,700	16,550
8470 · Dues and Subscriptions				
8470 - Dues and Subscriptions - Other	500			
8471 - Software	2,381	2,200	181	2,500
8472 - Web & Misc	1,612	400	1,212	1,700
Total Office	40,605	32,600	7,505	27,250
8200 · Public Relations/Project Promot				
8202 · Promotional Material				
8203 - Promotional Give Aways	793	1,500	-707	1,500
8204 - Newsletter	0	400	-400	400
8205 - Web Hosting	480	600	-120	1,200
8206 - Tradeshows	8,249	12,000	-3,751	15,500
8210 · Gifts, Cards & Postage	50	500	-450	250
Total 8200 · Public Relations/Project Promot	9,573	15,000	-5,427	18,850
8650 · Office Property				
8350 · Property Insurance	6,320	3,800	2,520	6,500
8651 · Landscaping	4,172	4,000	172	8,000
8652 - Parking Lot & Driveway	153		153	
8653 · Building Maintenance	3,185	1,500	1,685	3,000
8656 - RV Sites	26	1,000	-974	1,000
8700 · Utilities				
Electric				
8701 · Office Electric	1,734	1,500	234	1,750
8702 · RV Electric	3,961	1,500	2,461	2,500
8703 - New Building & well				750
Total Electric	5,695	3,000	2,695	5,000
8704 · Propane	92	150	-58	150
8706 · Trash Disposal	200	200	0	200
8707 · Water/Septic System	340	500	-160	5,000
8710 · Telephone/Internet	3,180	4,000	-820	4,000
Total 8700 · Utilities	9,507	7,850	1,657	14,350

Total 8650 · Office Property	23,362	18,150	5,212	32,850
Total Expense	146,661	172,450	-26,289	143,900
Net Ordinary Income	-2,454	-24,350	22,202	0
Net Income	-2,454	-24,350	22,202	0

SOWER OFFICE

Office Hours

Are posted on the [SOWER Dashboard](#)

Directions to SOWER Office:

Are posted on the Ministry Information page for TX-361 here [SOWER Ministry](#)

SOWER AREA REPRESENTATIVES

An updated list of AR's can always be found here: [Area Representative \(AR\) \(sowerministry.org\)](#)

PRAYER CHAIN

Prayer requests can now be submitted via the Prayer Request button on [the SOWER Dashboard](#)

CONTRIBUTIONS

Of

Charlene Quakkelaar #1987
Charlene Quakkelaar #1987

In Memory of

By

Ruth & Gladys Wierenga #9461
Pastor Jon & Beth Gaus

2024 SOWER Deaths

Larson, Larry #3045	12/24/2023
Bahlman, Cynthia #3359	12/26/2023
Fawcett, Bill #2327	1/3/2024
Tom Fizet #2687	2/5/2024
Harry Holcomb #3689	2/15/2024
Wendell Miller #913	3/11/2024
Clinton (Chris) Beebe #2580	4/23/2024
Margret Sheats #2577	4/27/2024
Tom Abrahamsen #2317	5/24/2024
Ken Bott #3741	5/29/2024
Ron Wilday #2135	6/2/2024
Golden Phillips #3708	7/15/2024
Jeri Epp #2703	8/4/2024
Char Quakkelaar #1987	8/20/2024
Kathy Rippentrop #3113	11/6/2024
Barb Hasner #3423	11/19/2024
Willard Michael #2695	11/28/2024