

PROVERBS 31 MINISTRIES

SPECIAL
25TH ANNIVERSARY
ANNUAL REPORT

1992-2017

*Know the Truth. Live the Truth.
It changes everything.*



A WORD ABOUT STEWARDSHIP



Proverbs 31 Ministries is a member of the Evangelical Council of Financial Accountability (ECFA). ECFA provides accreditation to leading Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, transparency, fundraising and board governance.



Excellence in Giving recognizes transparency when charities share more data about governance, finances, strategy and impact than the IRS requires. Each recognized charity has submitted 175 data points about operations and performance for donors to review before making an informed giving decision.



Charity Navigator's rating system examines two broad areas of a charity's performance; their Financial Health and their Accountability and Transparency. These ratings allow charitable givers and social investors to make intelligent giving decisions so that the nonprofit sector can improve its performance.

hi friend,

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN IN A PLACE OF DEEP DESPERATION BUT
WEREN'T SURE HOW TO FIND THE HOPE YOU NEEDED IN THE BIBLE?

I know what it's like to be there. I lived in that place for years and years of my life.

I was recently reflecting on one day in particular when I closed my eyes and warm tears slipped down my face onto my pillow. I knew I should pray, but quite honestly, I doubted God was listening. I could hear the kids fighting in the kitchen. More evidence I wasn't measuring up as a mom. I knew I should get up and address whatever was causing the chaos between them, but I just didn't have it in me. Not that day. There was just too much weighing on me already.



These women and families are literally begging for help. And we know if we connect their needs with God's truth, their lives will dramatically improve.

So, this year, we changed our mission statement to "*Know the Truth. Live the Truth. It changes everything.*" We're filtering each thing we do through that deep belief, and we're proclaiming it over every initiative.

Millions of women are engaging more deeply with biblical truth and growing in their relationship with the Lord because Proverbs 31 Ministries exists.

I was beyond overwhelmed with the realities of life.

I didn't know what to do. I didn't know who to call. I didn't know how to pray and get some sort of answer from God. And I certainly didn't have a clue how to find something relatable to read in the Bible. This is the desperate place I was in during the early days of my family.

The desperation. The helplessness. The days full of hurt and seemingly void of hope. I know those feelings deeply and personally.

That's why my team and I are so committed to the work we do at Proverbs 31 Ministries. We are devoted to meeting women right where they are and helping them connect with God in ways that restore their hope, renew their relationships and, most importantly, revitalize their faith.

- 5,049,729 people received a message of hope about God's love on social media.
- 1,858,133 people from 193 countries used the First 5 mobile app to read the Bible each day.
- 1,072,456 people found daily inspiration in their inbox by subscribing to *Encouragement for Today* daily devotions.
- 196,343 people participated in one or more of our Online Bible Studies offered throughout the year.
- 26,150 people living in all 50 states and 48 countries made donations, totaling over \$2.9 million.

Yes, in a day and time where the world is trying to quiet biblical truth, we're determined to help people engage with God's truth like never before. We're determined to get people into God's Word so God's Word can get into them.

BLESSINGS,

LYSA TERKEURST, *President of Proverbs 31 Ministries*

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS *of* PROVERBS 31 MINISTRIES



In 1992, Jennifer, a young wife and mother in Charlotte, N.C., saw a need to encourage others in her stage of life. She knew how hard it was to wake up every day to piles of laundry, diapers to change and sibling squabbles. She knew there were wives who needed to be reminded of the power of prayer and a positive word for their husbands.

So she gathered a few friends and started a small newsletter filled with tips and perspective-changing articles. It wasn't long after that when she invited her friend Lysa TerKeurst to help.

The newsletter grew, and very soon an opportunity opened for a short radio spot on a local station. From those humble beginnings 25 years ago, the international impact of Proverbs 31 Ministries began.

In this 2017 Annual Report, we will take you on a trip through the last 25 years, and share where we started and where God has brought us so far. We'll take this tour down memory lane chronologically so you can see how God has been building and shaping the ministry we are today.

**“I WILL REMEMBER THE DEEDS OF THE LORD;
*Yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.
I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.
Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God?*”**

PSALM 77:11-13 (NIV)

Not every ministry initiative we started is still around. For instance, that small foundational newsletter eventually turned into a magazine and was the central ministry effort for the first 10 years of our ministry. But as the internet grew, and Proverbs 31 developed into a full-fledged online ministry, we realized a print publication wasn't part of the vision God had for us. It was hard to say goodbye to something we loved, but it opened our hands to receive the new things God had planned.

We hope you enjoy this history lesson doing double duty as an annual report. It's also a launching pad for the next 25 years and beyond.

**“WHAT NO EYE HAS SEEN, WHAT NO EAR HAS HEARD,
*and what no human mind has conceived—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—*”**

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 (NIV)

On behalf of all the staff at Proverbs 31 Ministries, thank you for your support and for being an integral part of this exciting movement of God to reach women around the world with the life-changing message of Jesus.

RADIO

1995

1996



In 1995, a small Christian radio station in Charlotte approached the members of the fledgling ministry about producing a two-minute message. Lysa agreed, and the radio ministry was launched.

In 1996 Sharon Jaynes joined the program as co-host, and by 1999 they'd expanded to over 350 stations. Eventually the program was shortened from two minutes down to one minute, which was the catalyst for the growth we see today, including being played on K-LOVE for a time.

In 2006, Renee Swope joined as the co-host and the radio spot was titled *Everyday Life with Lysa and Renee*.

The radio spot continues to be an effective way to reach millions, inviting them to visit proverbs31.org where they receive God's truth, learn to apply it and experience life change.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

The one-minute spot is on 1,364 stations worldwide.

Whitney Capps became the co-host.

Lysa and Whitney recorded 240 new shows.

testimony:

I love hearing Proverbs 31 Ministries on the radio K-LOVE station over here in Rhode Island and Southeastern Mass. Your daily words and lessons pertaining to the Bible, along with stories that we all can relate to in daily life, have had great encouragement for me, and make me take a look at things I need to work on, improve, remember, or just take time out to be with the Lord. Thank you so much for your short stories on the radio, and your abundance of information on the web. They are very inspiring and motivational, and what is better than motivation and inspiration relating to God?

JIM P.



2000

2001

It's hard to imagine that 25 years ago the world existed without instant access to information via our phones or computers. We carried paper maps on trips and depended on the Yellow Pages and operators for phone numbers. And we took trips to the library for research.

But as the world quickly became dependent on the the internet, Proverbs 31 Ministries saw an opportunity to reach beyond Charlotte, N.C. to share the Good News with women around the world.

We started our first website in 2001, immediately realizing the efficiency and tremendous impact of providing biblical content without printed material.

EVERY YEAR WE ADDED A NEW RESOURCE TO OUR WEBSITE:



- DO YOU KNOW JESUS? PAGE
- A BOOKSTORE
- INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS
- RADIO TRANSCRIPTS
- ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TODAY DEVOTIONS

As Proverbs 31 Ministries grew into an international ministry, our website became our online home. Much like a town square, it became the gathering place for women everywhere to connect with God's truth in an everyday way.

As our library of content and our ministry initiatives grew, we realized the website needed an overhaul to make it more efficient and user-friendly. So in late 2017, we redesigned the website, streamlining our search function, re-organizing content and giving it a fresh new look.

With years of biblical content and study materials in our archives, our team needed to make it all more accessible. Plus, we wanted to make sure our online presence clearly communicated our new tagline:

Know the Truth. Live the Truth.
It changes everything.



TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS we implemented a new tagging structure and site search feature that allows visitors to find content on topics ministry-wide, from devotions to First 5 teachings and even Lysa's own personal blog. We also implemented a first-time visitor tour, created spaces where visitors can discover Proverbs 31 resources to help them in their daily study of the Word and created a welcoming atmosphere for all.

SHE SPEAKS

As Lysa and other members of the early leadership team started publishing books and speaking, they often received questions like:

How can I become a speaker? How can I write a book? Will you mentor me?

Lysa remembered those pre-publishing days when God's call to write and speak felt like an impossible dream. Before she ever got her first book contract, Lysa made a promise to God that should she ever publish a book, she would help other women walk the same path of obedience.

So in 2001, after publishing her first book with Moody Press, *Living Life on Purpose*, Lysa fulfilled that promise.

In faith, the leadership team at Proverbs 31 hosted a small conference for women who wanted to speak and write. They expected a handful and were shocked when more than 150 women registered.

Each year the conference grew. We added workshops and presenters, brought in publishers to accept book proposals, expanded to include leadership training, and changed venues to accommodate growth.

In the 16 years of holding the conference, we've sold out almost every year, and in 2017, we sold out in less than a month. Plus, we fill up without ever paying a dollar in advertising.

The conference is run with existing staff and volunteers, and workshop leaders present for free. We are amazed at the generosity of authors and industry professionals who donate their time to help train this generation of women speakers, writers and leaders.

Each year we challenge ourselves to create an environment where women meet with Jesus first. We do this through weaving worship, prayer and biblical teaching throughout the conference. In addition, we address relevant industry topics, invite expert presenters and create a conference that encourages women to pursue their God-given calling with perseverance and excellence.

testimony:

I hope you know how much your work matters. You are advancing the Kingdom through your transparent commitment to eradicating biblical poverty and pointing women to Jesus. I have heard countless conversations of how filled up #shespeaks17 graduates are. We are so well-equipped to walk out our calling and trust Jesus like never before.

BAYLEE

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

700

NUMBER OF
participants

899

WAITING
list

53

WORKSHOPS
and main
sessions

40

WORKSHOP
presenters

762

PUBLISHER
appointments

46

STATES
represented

3

COUNTRIES
represented

SPEAKER TEAM

2002

2003

After the first She Speaks Conference, God expanded the team of volunteers with other women who were called to write and speak.

IT WAS AS IF GOD HANDPICKED WOMEN TO ATTEND SHE SPEAKS AND THEN HE CONNECTED THEIR HEARTS WITH PROVERBS 31.

About the same time, it became apparent there was a need for more women speakers to represent the ministry. So in 2002, we started an official speaker team.

While many of the faces have changed, we still have a speaker team that travels the country to share biblical truth at both small and large events. From Mother's Day teas to country retreats to arena conferences, our speakers are willing to go where God leads.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

NUMBER OF
P31 Speakers

12

NUMBER OF
events

109

NUMBER OF
states

33



testimony:

This year I had the wonderful opportunity to speak at a Christmas event designed for outreach. The event planner explained to me that about half the women at this event would be unchurched and might be hearing the gospel for the first time. I was thrilled to hear from her that there were first-time salvations in the audience, but my most memorable encounter at the event that evening was at the book table with Elaine. With great excitement, she

...she told me that for the first time in her life she was going to start reading Scripture.

showed me that she had bought our NIV Real Life Devotional Bible, and she told me that for the first time in her life she was going to start reading Scripture. 'Where do I start?' she asked. 'How do I do this?' Through tears, I was able to help her download our First 5 app and recommend that she start with the study of John. Elaine was thrilled for a chance to know Jesus better starting Christmas 2017! -AMY CARROLL, Proverbs 31 Speaker Team Member

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONS

2004

2005

At the second annual She Speaks, the new speaker group met officially for the first time and shared their experiences of the last year.

Their hearts were burdened for the women at their events who were hungry for more of God’s Word, more encouragement — and once again, they met more women who wanted to know how to start writing and speaking.

It was then the ministry decided to start an email devotion as a way to stay in touch with these women. Each of the speakers agreed to write one or two devotions a month, and we added some information about the ministry at the bottom.

By early 2004 we were ready to start sending out devotions. The email list started growing, but then took a big leap in subscribers when Crosswalk.com added us to their recommended devotion list. Soon after, Biblegateway.com, iDisciple and others added *Encouragement for Today* to their devotion list.

Encouragement for Today devotions have always been written by our in-house devotion writers, but in late 2013 we created opportunities for other vetted and approved published authors to write for us through our sponsored devotion program. By 2014 we had sold 39 devotion spots, and in 2017 we sold 61 spots, the maximum allowed by space.

The sponsored devotion program allows us to continue providing devotions for free, as well as supporting other aspects of the ministry. An added bonus is our ability to introduce new authors to readers, thereby advancing the Kingdom.

Encouragement for Today devotions are rooted in God’s Word and the common, everyday human experience. We call our style “in the field,” and want our readers to know we share their struggles, fears, hopes and dreams.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

DEVOTION WRITING TEAM:

13 members

SUBSCRIBERS THROUGH PROVERBS:

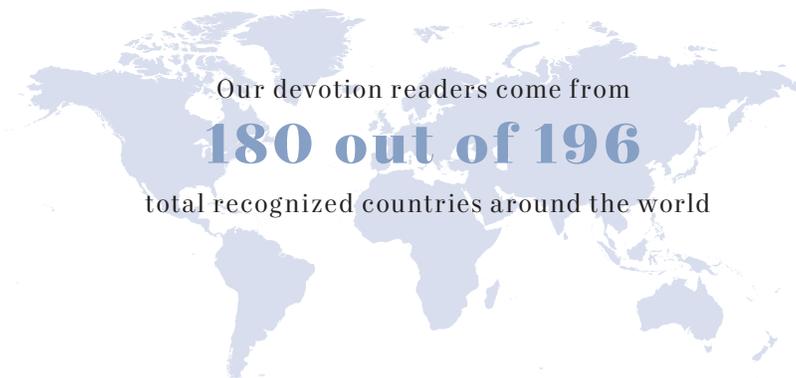
434,837

SUBSCRIBERS THROUGH PARTNERS:

637,619

TOTAL SUBSCRIBERS:

1,072,456



Our devotion readers come from
180 out of 196
total recognized countries around the world

SOCIAL MEDIA

2008

2009

2010

As social media grew in popularity, Proverbs 31 Ministries realized we had yet another opportunity to meet women right where they are each day with a touch of truth and beauty.

In a world where negativity reigns on social media, Proverbs 31 exists to carry the life-giving, hope-filled message of Jesus to the culture.

We started with Twitter, then added Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest. Since social media habits change regularly, our team is highly engaged and intentional to watch how people respond to our content and then adapt and adjust. The message never changes — but the methodology of how we deliver it does.

Our goal in 2017 was to create deeper connections and personal relationships with our followers. We did this by broadcasting live on Facebook and Instagram along with sharing more behind-the-scenes through Instagram stories. Our team also personally engaged with our followers more than ever with individual replies, prayers and encouragement. This kind of interaction creates opportunities for ministry not only between our staff and followers, but between the women who encourage each other.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

FACEBOOK



3,911,271

(2.3% increase from 3,824,675)

TWITTER



155,872

(15% increase from 135,406)

INSTAGRAM



912,080

(28% increase from 712,000)

PINTEREST



70,506

(9% increase from 64,541)

testimony:

What perfect timing. I have stopped going to church, praying and reading my Bible. I have let anger, fear and disappointment pull me away from Jesus. I so needed this reminder to be positive and not let my circumstances dictate my life.

MANDY A.

ONLINE BIBLE STUDIES

2011

2012

After the success of Lysa TerKeurst's book, *Made to Crave*, Melissa Taylor, our Proverbs 31 receptionist at the time, asked if it would be okay to lead an online Bible study of Lysa's book. The plan was for Melissa to host it on her personal blog over six weeks.

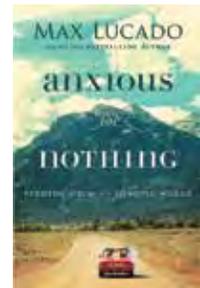
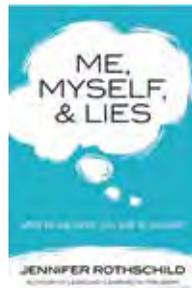
Lysa agreed but asked her to set a participation goal. Melissa thought that maybe she could get 50 people to sign up. Lysa challenged her to double that goal. The challenge was accepted, and then 2,500 women signed up!

After the positive response, Melissa decided to try another online Bible study, then another. And in 2014, the studies were added officially to the Proverbs 31 list of ministry efforts. Needless to say, Melissa is no longer the receptionist; she's our senior director of Online Bible Studies, leading a staff of five and a volunteer team of over 200. This team finished their 36th study in 2017.

The year 2017 brought some exciting changes to our Online Bible Studies, with each new initiative taking women deeper into the Word of God and connecting them with each other. We introduced a Bible study companion, which is a resource to accompany each OBS. And during our Bible Study Live events on Thursdays (during studies), we introduced a 20-minute live Bible study teaching. To increase engagement with our audience, we started OBS Today, a live 15-minute segment on Facebook and Instagram.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

STUDIES DONE



PARTICIPATION

TOTAL OBS PARTICIPANTS IN 2017:

196,343

TOTAL FIRST-TIMERS IN 2017:

129,393

PARTICIPANTS' AGES RANGE FROM:

under 20 to over 90

TOTAL SMALL GROUPS:

90

VOLUNTEERS

WE HAD **201** VOLUNTEERS

THEY CAME FROM:

*United States, Canada, Germany,
South Africa, India, Tanzania,
Australia and Japan*

OUR VOLUNTEERS RANGED IN AGE FROM

22 YEARS OLD TO **76** YEARS OLD



2014

Throughout the history of Proverbs 31 Ministries, training has been an important component of what we do. We believe Scripture is clear in the mandate to teach others. Jesus’ final words to His disciples were:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:19-20 (NIV)

We attempt to fulfill this commandment in every area of our ministry. And in 2013, after teaching women at She Speaks for 12 years, we took a step deeper into training writers with COMPEL Writer Training.

COMPEL is a monthly membership site for writers where we equip them with the tools and skills needed to hone their craft, producing words that move people. In addition to the practical side of writing, we also provide encouragement to keep pressing on with our professional life coaching, inspiring messages and community groups.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

NEW MEMBERS
ACQUIRED IN 2017:

2,906

TOTAL MEMBERS
SERVED IN 2017:

5,246

FACEBOOK COMMUNITY
GROUP MEMBERS:

483

BOOK CLUB
MEMBERS:

400

In 2017, we continued offering fresh content every week, bringing in experts in the field of writing as presenters. And we also offered our first book club. Working directly with the author and her editor, we led COMPEL members on a unique book club experience which featured tips and advice from the editor. It was so well received we plan to have at least two book clubs a year.

In addition to all the training we offer, COMPEL leaders desire to help members get published. Each year we hold a devotion contest with the winner receiving a devotion spot on *Encouragement for Today*. In 2017 the submissions were so excellent, nine COMPEL members’ devotions were selected for publication.

testimonies:

Grateful for the selfless guidance, accountable sharpening, and heartfelt encouragement the COMPEL community exudes. You all keep me from quitting! I completed my first 365-Day Devotional Series this year. Praise God!

MEG

COMPEL is teaching me to organize my thoughts and write in ways that impact and move people. I am grateful for godly instructors who listened to God’s call to teach others.

MECHELLE

FIRST 5 2015

“WE MUST EXCHANGE WHISPERS WITH GOD BEFORE SHOUTS WITH THE WORLD.”
LYSA TERKEURST

For years the team at Proverbs 31 Ministries discussed the idea of having an app. But when we entered the world of apps, we wanted to make sure it was with the right product.

In 2014, the Lord gave Lysa a God-sized vision for what this app would offer: daily Bible teaching, chapter by chapter, taking participants through the entire Bible. And in the summer of 2015, we launched the First 5 mobile app.

Our hope was women and men would start their day with the Word of God before engaging with social media or email. In just five minutes, you can read through a chapter of Scripture and a teaching on that passage, starting your day with Jesus.

With a core team of five Bible teachers, we started with the book of John, providing teachings Monday through Friday and a video weekend wrap-up. We also self-published an Experience Guide with extra biblical and historical content, as well as questions to guide the reader through each chapter.

In addition to the ministry of biblical teaching, the comment section continues to be a place where women and men come together to pray, advise and share with each other.

By 2017, we had worked our way through approximately half of the Bible, with another three years to go. This year we were also able to implement a few new updates: community groups and highlighting and note-taking features. These have allowed our users to more easily grow in God’s Word communally and independently.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

TOTAL NEW DOWNLOADS IN 2017:

616,842

TOTAL DOWNLOADS TO DATE:

1,858,133

TOTAL GROUPS:

7,403

TOTAL PEOPLE IN GROUPS:

63,535

BOOKS STUDIED IN 2017:

Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel,
2 Samuel, Galatians,
Ephesians, Philippians,
Colossians, Philemon,
Ruth, Esther, Song of Solomon,
Job, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes,
James, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy,
Titus, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John,
Mark

FIRST 5 USERS ARE IN **193** OF THE **196** RECOGNIZED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, WITH THESE EXCEPTIONS:
Mauritania, North Korea and Turkmenistan

resources

Almost from the beginning of Proverbs 31 Ministries, we have sold books and other products to support ministry efforts. We are always thankful and blessed that people choose to purchase an item from us, when they could potentially buy it cheaper somewhere else.

In the early years of the ministry we sold other people's books. But as members of our writer and speaker teams started getting publishing contracts, we slowly switched our focus to selling our own authors' books.

In addition to traditionally-published books, Proverbs 31 team members create our own products. We've created and published all of the First 5 Guides, including seven in 2017. We also created the Journey to Easter cards, a beautiful and biblical way to walk through Holy Week, keeping our hearts focused on Christ.

One of our favorites in 2017 was the *Sweetest Story Ever Told* interactive kit using Christmas cookies to tell the story of Jesus' birth. This product contains a parents' guide, five cookie cutters, a recipe and gift tags. We love creating products that draw families together as they focus on God's greatest gift to us: Jesus.

HIGHEST SELLING BOOKS:

FINDING I AM
by Lysa TerKeurst

19,542
SOLD

SHE'S STILL THERE
by Chrystal Evans Hurst

11,406
SOLD

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

HIGHEST SELLING FIRST 5
EXPERIENCE GUIDE:

SUFFERING
&
SOVEREIGNTY
9,712
SOLD

HIGHEST SELLING PRODUCTS:

SEE WITH MY HEART
Braille Necklace by Karama

2,348
SOLD

SWEETEST STORY EVER TOLD
Interactive Kit

2,275
SOLD



donor information

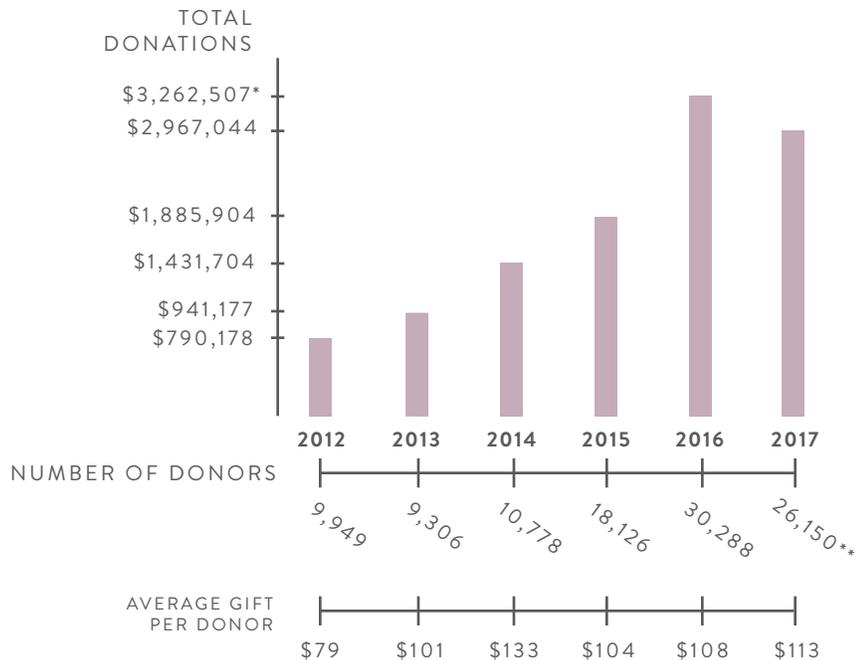
Although Proverbs 31 Ministries is strong in funding through resources, programs like COMPEL Training and our sponsored devotions, we couldn't do what we do without the prayerful, generous support of our donors.

We consider our donors partners in ministry. This year we were blessed to see a 31% increase in people becoming Monthly Partners.

We were also grateful to 19 donors who served as match-makers by pledging their donations in advance during our mid-year and year-end giving campaigns. These generous donors pledged over \$250,000 to double the donations made by others. Both of these campaigns surpassed their financial goals.

This year marked a significant new initiative as we held our first Proverbs 31 Ministries Leadership Council Retreat in late November. This gathering was designed for donors and friends of the ministry to process, pray and dream together about the vision and plans our Executive Team and Board of Directors have been developing. It was a very special weekend, one we hope to recreate annually.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017



* Includes multi-year pledges acknowledged in the first year.

** This number reflects only donors with tax deductible contributions.

donor information continued



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017

MONTHLY PARTNER INCREASE: **31% to 1,720** MONTHLY GIVERS

21,548 people's lives were touched

through these four gift with donation offerings, generating \$264,451 in donations:



testimony:

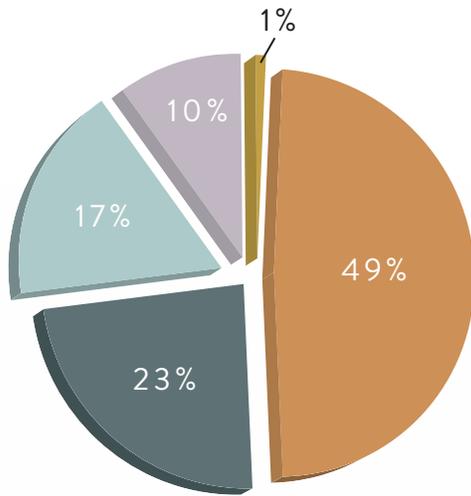
Proverbs 31 has impacted my life tremendously. I have been receiving the free Encouragement for Today devotions for years — beginning in college — and have also read several of Lysa TerKeurst's books.

When First 5 was announced, I signed up and immediately felt invested in my spiritual growth. Although I have been a Christian for over 20 years and regularly attend church, I have always had a difficult time staying in the Word daily and growing in my spiritual journey.

Like many, I would go through periods of highs and lows with my daily walk/quiet time. First 5 changed that for me and as a result, changed my life.

When my husband and I got married and developed our financial plan, I felt God calling me to support Proverbs 31 Ministries as part of that plan. I could not imagine no longer having access to the resources that have impacted my spiritual journey. When I was reading the annual report, I was floored to learn that the First 5 mobile app is in every recognized country except three. That is AMAZING! God is moving and changing lives through this ministry.

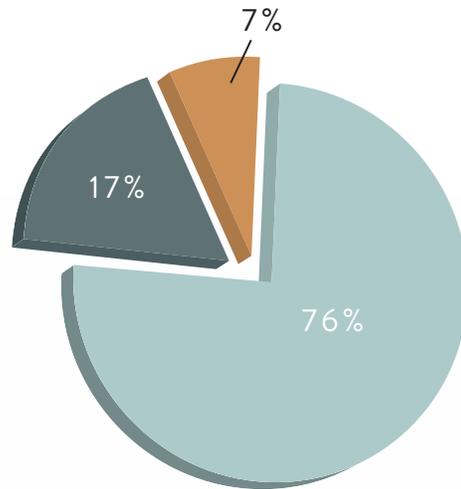
MEREDITH P.



2017 INCOME:

\$6,098,265*

- Total Contributions: \$2,967,044**
- Net Resource Sales: \$1,422,810
- Ministry Training: \$1,059,910
- She Speaks Conference: \$599,880
- Speaking Events & Misc: \$48,621



2017 EXPENSES:

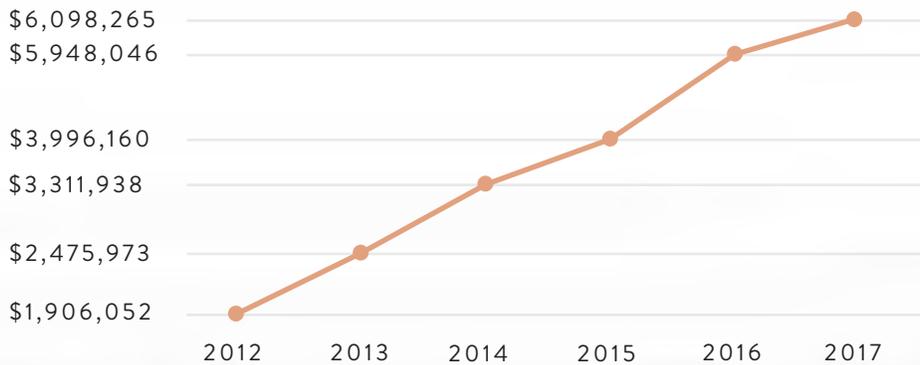
\$5,400,668

- Programs: \$4,072,495
- Supporting Services: \$937,092
- Fundraising: \$391,081

**Net income provides funding for additional programs as well as a strong financial position with healthy reserves.*

***100% of all contributions support our programs*

TOTAL INCOME GROWTH



TESTIMONIES



In 2016, I attended She Speaks for the first time and became a COMPEL member in July 2016. I have since told other friends about this incredible resource, been published by the Upper Room, self-published "31 Days to Hope Reinvented," and have just finished writing *Shame Off You* for Abingdon Press. None of this would have happened had you not been there. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your kingdom mindset and heart to cultivate our stories for God's glory.

DENISE P.

Because I attended She Speaks 2017:
I am humbled.
I am changed.
I have let go.
I have forgiven.
I have been freed from what was holding me hostage.
Thank you She Speaks 2017.

RENEE

This OBS has definitely made a change in how I view my relationships with those I love and how I look at strangers. It makes me want to be a better Christian and treat others as God commands us to do.

I can't wait to help others and have already opened our home to others in need of some love. Thank you for opening my eyes and heart to share my love!

I was introduced to P31 in the last study *Listen, Love, Repeat*. Not only was your study fun and encouraging, but I got so much out of the Scriptures in a whole new way. These studies help me relate to what God has for me in a personal and intimate way. I hope to continue to be a student of your ministry.

OBS PARTICIPANT

I love Proverbs 31 and all the work you do, but I have to say that the First 5 has become so precious to me. The teaching is biblically sound and has become the "must do" for me every morning. I'm challenged, convicted, given peace, encouraged ... all of these things by availing myself of this great tool. God bless you in your continued obedience to Him in "reaching all the world" with the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May lives continue to be set free from the pain of sin and death!

KATHY H.

I have been a Christian since I was very small ... I don't remember not having that in my life. Most of my walk was bland, American and just OK. Then I went through several years where I was absolutely on fire for Jesus ... wrote music, sang in church, traveled the Southeast with my guitar and my testimony.

Then came the dark time. Tragedy seemed to be the name of my life story, and years of it beat me up quite badly. I didn't make a choice not to follow Christ and have faith ... I somehow just woke up less convinced of my salvation and the existence of all the things I had believed in all my life. It was like being told at age 50-something that there was no Santa ... only much bigger. I felt lost and foolish.

I still was able to hang on to the thought that something larger than me called me into existence ... but I no longer felt connected.

After a few totally dark years and unsuccessful attempts to re-establish a true connection to my faith, I found your devotions, signed up and started reading them on a sporadic basis ... then more and more regularly ... then the First 5 app ... then working an Online Bible Study ... then another.

Then, last summer God told me to just pick a church and go. I know He was preparing me, putting me in a safe place for the next wave of trial.

And although my church is not as fired up as I might like it to be, the regular place to worship and my continued daily connection through Proverbs 31 has held me in place to face what is now my current hardship ... my daughter's cancer.

You are Psalm 23 for me. "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemy. My cup runneth over." You help me stay fed and nourished when the pasture is dry. I know each day the meal awaits me and I didn't have to scrounge it up.

May the God of all Comfort comfort and bless you as you comfort and bless so many others.

BARBARA D.

I have a 44-year-old multiply disabled daughter. She lives in our home and requires full-time high-level care and has since birth. We also have three happily married sons with 12 grandchildren between them. We are very grateful to the Lord for all of them and our beautiful daughters-in-law as well.

Life is extremely difficult with our daughter, but we see God's purpose in it all. The heartbreak is very real and ongoing. Reading your encouragement helps me keep focused on Christ who started a good work in me and will see it to completion with the help of people I don't even know like you. Know that your ministry is widespread and covers a huge area all the way to Australia to an insignificant housewife whom God considers His own and is precious in His sight as you also are.

As you encourage me, I pray for all the encouragement you need along with every other blessing in the Heavenly realms to carry you through to complete your calling. His grace is very evident in all your writings at Proverbs 31. Thank-you so much, with all my heart.

From Your loving sister from Down Under but who is kept Up and Above through your love and commitment to your calling.

GAIL H.

DEAR PROVERBS 31 FRIENDS,

A WISE LEADER ONCE TOLD ME THAT YOUR LEVEL OF CHALLENGE IS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONATE TO YOUR LEVEL OF OPPORTUNITY.

This year has been one of great challenge, but God has blessed us with opportunity and provision to accomplish more than ever before, despite our challenges.

It has been my great honor to serve Proverbs 31 this year alongside our President, Lysa TerKeurst, our incredible staff and board members: Lyne' Brown, Amy King, Lisa Robertson, Steve Brown and Mac McGehee*.

With your incredible level of generosity, we have seen countless lives changed through their deepening relationship with Jesus.

We will continue to look up and seek His face, while moving our hands and feet to reach people around the world. Please join us in that effort.

ONLY BY GRACE,
PHILLIP KLEIN, *Chairman of the Board*



**Thank you, Nancy Brown, for your years of service on the Proverbs 31 Ministries Board.*

what's next

ERADICATE BIBLICAL POVERTY

Nearly everyone in America has physical access to the Bible. In fact, 88% of households own at least one Bible. Yet only 19% of churchgoers read the Bible every day. Physical access to the Bible does not always mean personal access to the Bible. It doesn't promise an understanding of the depth, Truth and context of Scripture.

Amos 8:11 is our Proverbs 31 Ministries vision verse:

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the Lord GOD, “when I will send a famine on the land — not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.” (ESV)

Our dream is to end biblical poverty by creating Bible enthusiasts; enthusiasts who are so inspired in their personal learning of the Bible that their newfound knowledge naturally pours out into those around them.

WILL YOU PARTNER WITH US?

MILESTONE GOALS

REACH 3 MILLION
people through First 5
mobile app.

ENGAGE 200,000
annually in online Bible
classes and studies.

EQUIP 7,000
influential leaders
through P31 trainings.



2018 Steps to Progress to Goal:

- **First 5 enhancements:**

We are building components within our First 5 mobile app that will provide the user with more in-depth Bible study tools.

- **Proverbs 31 Ministries Podcast:**

In 2018 we will launch a new Proverbs 31 podcast to bring rich biblical teaching and applications of biblical truth in your season of life. We believe this podcast will reach a new segment of women, inviting them to connect with our Online Bible Studies, devotions, First 5 app and more.

- **Devotions for the next generation:**

We are working to launch devotions for our younger “20-something” audience to keep women of all ages engaged with the Word of God.

- **She Speaks Studio conference:**

Planned for September 17-18, 2018, it's our new conference for equipping writers, speakers and ministry leaders to master their craft by providing skill-based courses applied in small group settings.

OUR INVITATION:

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

We move ahead in these areas to help others to know the Truth and live the Truth – because it changes everything. Thank you for walking this road with us; thank you for financially sacrificing to eradicate biblical poverty.

We truly believe the best is ahead for Proverbs 31. If you would like to financially invest in the future of Proverbs 31 Ministries, please email Executive Director of Donor Development Danya Jordan, at danya@proverbs31.org, or visit proverbs31.org/give.

"Look at the nations and watch — and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told."

Habakkuk 1:5 (NIV)

Jesus, You are the satisfaction for every deep longing in my heart.

When I'm hungry for quick fixes or starving for affection or craving lesser things, Jesus You are my *Bread of Life*.

When I'm confused and anxious and exhausted from all my fragile efforts incapable of fixing my struggles, *Your light* brings clarity. Your light chases away my darkness. Your light of hope dispels the shadows of hurt.

You are the Good Shepherd who will find me no matter how lost or off course I wander. You speak tenderly my name and whisper wisdom I need. And then You encamp at the gate of my heart. *You are the Sheep Gate*, always there during my coming and going, protecting and providing for me.

When I get afraid of the daunting things that feel impossibly dead to me I will not be consumed with anguish or grief.

Jesus, You are my Resurrection and my Life.

You are the Way when there is no way. *You are the Truth* in my life that silences the lies that scream in deafening tones. *You are Life*, certain and secure.

You are the true Vine I cling to and receive from all that's needed to not just survive but to thrive. What I am facing today may be a delay or a distraction or even a devastation for a season but it is not a final destination. For you, the Great I AM, will have the final say.

You will write the final words to my story. And because they come from You—the source of all that is good and right and true—the words of my life will be glorious.

This was never about finding my answer.
This was about finding You, the *Great I AM*.

*Taken from the Finding I AM Bible Study written by Lysa TerKeurst.
Consider this our gift to you!*



WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds."

PSALM 9:1 (ESV)



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