BYU PATHWAY WORLDWIDE

ANNUAL REPORT | 2020

PREPARED & GUIDED



PROVIDING HOPE AND PURPOSE TO A RECORD 50,000 STUDENTS IN 2020

PREPARED AND GUIDED BY THE LORD

Message from the President



In any report about the year 2020, it would make sense to focus on the challenges the world collectively faced. As I reflect on this past year, however, it is the blessings that stand out to me. The Lord has been preparing BYU-Pathway Worldwide for many years to continue to serve and provide hope to His children, even in — or especially in — tumultuous times.

The Lord prepares the way. Through instruction to Nephi, the Lord reminds us that He knows the path and will prepare a way for us to move forward: "And I will also be your light in the wilderness; and I will prepare the way before you…. [Y]e shall be led towards the promised land; and ye shall know that it is by me that ye are led."[1] [2]

I have seen and felt the Lord preparing and guiding BYU-Pathway for 2020 in many ways (*see pages 8–13*). Even with the year's obstacles, BYU-Pathway's growth continued unabated, serving a record 51,583 students in more than 150 countries (*see pages 14–15*). BYU-Pathway, with its low-cost, flexible, online programs, was a compelling resource during a pandemic, allowing people to start or continue their education despite all the commotion going on around them.

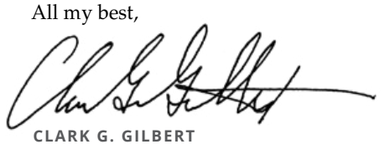
More than just a degree. But BYU-Pathway has always had more to offer than well-designed education programs. Getting the gospel of Jesus Christ deep into a student's heart is critical to what we do. Beyond teaching useful job-ready skills, we help students develop faith that they are children of God with unimpeded access to heaven's help. That knowledge is essential as students take their first steps on their educational journey, especially when that journey begins in a time of such widespread global uncertainty.

Virtual gatherings. To serve as many members as possible, BYU-Pathway is designed to operate everywhere the Church is organized. After years of piloting, we launched virtual gatherings for BYU-Pathway Worldwide's PathwayConnect, originally intended to help students who were unable to travel to an in-person location. When the pandemic hit, thanks to robust technical systems and our dedicated team of service missionaries, we were able to seamlessly move all groups to an online-only format.

Returned missionary scholarships. In 2019, BYU-Pathway partnered with the Missionary Department to pre-approve all returning missionaries for admission. In 2020, we strengthened that partnership by offering a 25% tuition discount to all returning missionaries, and returned missionary enrollment in PathwayConnect increased by 78% from the year before. BYU-Pathway became a safe harbor for young missionaries displaced by COVID-19, providing them with a way to keep progressing, both temporally and spiritually.

Forward with faith. When encouraging us to embrace the future with faith, our beloved prophet, President Russell M. Nelson, said, "The Lord told us how with simple, but stunning, reassurance: 'If ye are prepared ye shall not fear.' What a promise! It is one that can literally change the way we see our future."[3] I am grateful that the Lord has been preparing the way for BYU-Pathway to serve and for our students to succeed, even in the most challenging of times. I am excited to see what the future holds.

All my best,



CLARK G. GILBERT

President of BYU-Pathway Worldwide

1. 1 Nephi 17:13
2. See Clark G. Gilbert, "By Whom We are Led" (BYU-Pathway Worldwide devotional, Sept. 22, 2020), byupathway.org/speeches
3. Russell M. Nelson, "Embrace the Future with Faith," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2020, 74



BYU-PATHWAY WORLDWIDE ADMINISTRATION

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- **Brian Ashton,** *Vice President of Field Operations*
  - **Matthew Eyring,** *Director of International Field Operations*
  - **Brigham Taylor,** *Director of Field Support*
  - **John Wilson,** *Director of U.S. and Canada Field Operations*
- **Milton Camargo,** *Vice President of Curriculum*
  - **Mike Abel,** *Director of Curriculum*
  - **Kim Johnson,** *Director of Global Career Development*
  - **Heather Porter,** *Director of EnglishConnect*
- **Ryan Carstens,** *System Liaison Officer*
- **J.D. Griffith,** *Vice President of Administration*
  - **Andy Cargal,** *Director of Communication*
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  - **Brad Eldredge,** *Director of Institutional Research*
  - **Brittany Shipp,** *Director of Human Resources*
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- **Jon Linford,** *BYU-Idaho Online Vice President*
  - **Eric Karl,** *Associate Online Vice President*
  - **Kendall Peck,** *Associate Online Vice President*
- **Ben Packer,** *Vice President of Student Success*
  - **Lynne Anderson,** *Director of Student Services*
  - **Nathan Relken,** *Director of Digital Products*
  - **Steve Thomas,** *Director of Mentoring*

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NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

In 2020, BYU-Pathway Worldwide opened the door to education for a record number of students, introduced new tools and curriculum, and nurtured spiritual growth through devotionals and gatherings

More than 50,000 strong

In 2020, 51,583 students enrolled in programs available through BYU-Pathway Worldwide — a new milestone for the institution. After opening in 14 additional countries, BYU-Pathway now offers online higher education to students in 152 countries.

International student enrollment in BYU-Pathway Worldwide's PathwayConnect exceeded enrollment in the United States and Canada for the first time, and the percentage of international students who completed PathwayConnect and enrolled in an online degree program more than doubled, from 24% to 59% from September 2019 to September 2020.

To support international growth, BYU-Pathway began piloting contracting with instructors in the Philippines. The pilot expanded the pool of available instructors, a necessary step as enrollment increases across the globe.

Partnership with Ensign College

In September 2021, BYU-Pathway is planning to offer access to online certificates and degrees from Ensign College, in addition to current programs offered through BYU-Idaho. Students will be able to earn certificates and degrees in communication, as well as certificates in medical billing and coding fundamentals and project management.



Expanded scholarship offerings

As thousands of full-time missionaries completed their service or returned home early due to COVID-19, BYU-Pathway responded by offering all missionaries who have returned in the last 60 months a 25% tuition discount.

In addition, BYU-Pathway piloted two new needs-based scholarships that will roll out more broadly in 2021.

Increase in returned missionary enrollment

BYU-Pathway saw a 49% increase in returned missionary enrollment as thousands more missionaries joined gathering groups and enrolled in online courses. Returned missionary enrollment has continued to grow since BYU-Pathway announced its preapproval of and tuition discount for returning missionaries.

A widened reach

BYU-Pathway Worldwide received significant media coverage in 2020, including articles in *Forbes*, *WIRED*, *Education Dive*, and *EdSurge*. These articles focused on the benefits of BYU-Pathway's certificate-first approach, including increased retention and better employment opportunities earlier in a student's degree.

BYU-Pathway was also featured in the *Church News*, the Church Newsroom, *Deseret News*, and most recently in BYU's *Marriott Alumni Magazine*.

A new guide for students

In response to student feedback, BYU-Pathway Support used artificial intelligence to develop a chat bot called the BYU-Pathway Guide to answer questions and resolve concerns quickly and accurately. The BYU-Pathway Guide has been able to automate many support functions and help students serve themselves.

Focus on domestic Spanish speakers

Church leaders and BYU-Pathway administrators have identified a need among native Spanish speakers in North America to access affordable, quality higher education. To meet this need, BYU-Pathway offers reduced tuition to non-native English speakers and has increased outreach through Spanish marketing materials, online advertising, web presence, and devotionals.



Inspiring devotionals for BYU-Pathway students

Students received words of encouragement and advice from 12 devotional speakers in 2020, including Apostles, General Authority Seventies, and General Officers of the Church. Their messages emphasized the blessings received through education and service and the importance of personal preparation.

In his July 2020 devotional message, Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, said, "I invite you to see BYU-Pathway Worldwide for what it is: a guide that will help you in your own great adventure."



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

BYU-Pathway Worldwide experienced tremendous growth in 2020, which has inspired the organization's goals for 2021: to remove obstacles that keep potential students from higher education, improve the student experience, and prepare to scale even further to better serve a worldwide student body. While institutional in nature, these goals are driven by BYU-Pathway's mission to develop disciples of Jesus Christ — the foundation for all efforts of BYU-Pathway.



1 Strengthen Retention

One of BYU-Pathway's greatest achievements in 2020 was record-breaking student enrollment — serving more than 50,000 worldwide (*see pages 14–15*). Adding to this milestone, student retention reached 83% in September 2020 — a 10 percentage point increase over the previous year — with 5,718 students continuing to an online degree from PathwayConnect.

Because student retention is greatly impacted by the success network of BYU-Pathway — the combined effort of mentors, service missionaries, and instructors — efforts will be made to improve its impact in 2021. These individuals will be able to better serve students by receiving "recommended actions," or messages raising a red flag that a student may be at risk and suggesting how they can be helped. Data systems automatically recognize student needs and route messages to the individual most able to assist. Similar messages to students will be piloted with nudges through popular messaging apps, emails, and their student portal to help them stay engaged in their education.

Knowing that students who complete BYU-Pathway Worldwide's PathwayConnect are 10 percentage points more likely to persist to the second year of their degree program, BYU-Pathway will pilot mentoring students in their second and third semesters, in addition to current first-semester mentoring.



2 Improve Student Experience

Because student retention is tied directly to the quality of the student experience, BYU-Pathway will polish the digital platforms students use, including the BYU-Pathway Portal and Degree Planner. Recommended paths — a new feature in the Degree Planner — will guide students along the best route to a degree that will lead to better employment. Simplifying the online degree application and strengthening BYU-Pathway's data system will also contribute to a straightforward experience for students.

In other efforts to improve, BYU-Pathway will continue to strengthen its brand, including emphasizing the purposes of PathwayConnect. Research has shown that many perceive PathwayConnect as a university preparation program for inexperienced students rather than an online, reduced-cost start to a degree that can benefit all students.

3 Increase Scalability

Online instructors, previously only hired in the United States, make it possible for BYU-Pathway to serve a worldwide body of students. In 2020, the organization tested a new approach by onboarding 10 adjunct instructors in the Philippines. The pilot is projected to grow to 150–250 international instructors by September 2021.

President Clark G. Gilbert said, "Our instructors are pioneers. I can feel that the Lord is working through BYU-Pathway to change the future of the Church. It really is a miracle what's happening at BYU-Pathway."

Behind the scenes of BYU-Pathway's scalability is its significant attention to improve the development of its digital products. Strengthening project teams will allow the organization to better serve with products that not only satisfy, but delight users.

Creating a seamless and systemic partnership process with other Church Educational System institutions is also vital to meet the needs of BYU-Pathway's ever-growing student body. This includes establishing frameworks for planning, coordinating, and data sharing with partner institutions, BYU-Idaho and Ensign College. Partnering with Ensign College will provide new options for students, including a bachelor's degree in communication and new certificate opportunities.

BYU-Pathway looks forward to another year of growth and accomplishment in increasing student retention, improving the student experience, and scaling even further.



For Such a Time as This

BY BREANNE SU'A

Similar to Esther and Joseph in the Old Testament, BYU-Pathway Worldwide has been prepared by the Lord over many years for the challenges of 2020

Throughout time, a loving Heavenly Father has prepared His children to meet the unique challenges of their day. Take Queen Esther from the Old Testament, for example. Esther possessed qualities that helped her gain favor with the Persian king so she could plead for the lives of her people, the Jews. Her cousin Mordecai said, "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom *for such a time as this*?"[1] Esther had been prepared by God and placed in a position where she could serve.

Similarly, Joseph of Egypt may not have understood why God sent him such cryptic and elaborate dreams, or why He allowed Joseph's brothers to sell him into slavery. But, through the goodness of God, these experiences enabled Joseph to help Egypt prepare for the coming famine. After later revealing his identity to his brothers, Joseph said, "God sent me before you to preserve you…. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God."[2]

In our day, we have experienced an unprecedented year of challenges: natural disasters, political unrest, racial injustice, and, perhaps most notably, the coronavirus pandemic. Due to COVID-19, accessing higher education became a challenge for some students. For others, obtaining further education became a necessity due to lost jobs and income. And while BYU-Pathway Worldwide has blessed thousands of students over the past 11 years who otherwise may not have pursued higher education, it became clear with COVID-19 that the institution had been uniquely prepared *for such a time as this* to offer hope and opportunity to even more people in their time of need.



Queen Esther, by Minerva Teichert © by Intellectual Reserve, Inc.



Expansion of access and virtual gatherings

In the face of a pandemic, the need for online learning is paramount. Over the last decade, BYU-Pathway Worldwide has expanded its access everywhere The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized — in more than 150 countries.

Traditionally, weekly gatherings as part of PathwayConnect were held in person so students could connect with each other, but many students were traveling hours (sometimes days) to attend. BYU-Pathway had been piloting virtual gatherings, where students meet via videoconferencing, for several years. In March 2019, virtual gatherings were added as an option in every area BYU-Pathway operates.

No one knew social distancing would one day become the norm, but, thankfully, BYU-Pathway's systems had been prepared so that all gatherings transitioned to an online format in a matter of weeks.

"Even when the COVID-19 pandemic was hitting hard, our learning continued smoothly," said Wesley Myeni, now an online degree-seeking student from Eswatini. "PathwayConnect is not man-made, but it is designed by the divine hand of the Lord to bring about His purposes."

Cynthia Cebujano from Fiji, who completed PathwayConnect and is now continuing her degree online, said, "It's convenient for a working mom to do everything online. My education kept me positive during COVID-19. I did not lose hope. I always felt I had a purpose."

Prepared like Esther and Joseph for unparalleled circumstances, Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf said in a devotional message, "I am pleased to say the BYU-Pathway program is way ahead of its time!"[3]

Certificate-first approach and course curriculum

A full year before the pandemic, BYU-Pathway Worldwide introduced its certificate-first approach to earning a bachelor's degree. By earning certificates that count toward a degree, students learn job skills and can improve employment within their first year — a need as many businesses struggled and employees were laid off in 2020.

From their first certificate, students jump right into learning essential skills for their degree and career, which motivates them to continue. The persistence rate for students who complete PathwayConnect and continue to an online degree program is 68%. By earning a certificate, that rate jumps to 81%.

Additionally, BYU-Pathway has been developing the curriculum for PathwayConnect since it first piloted in 2009. Students learn life and professional skills, how to study, and how to rely on their faith — all skills Heavenly Father knew His children would need to press forward.

Dave Hunter, a student from Texas, USA, who is not a member of the Church of Jesus Christ, shared, "The learning model was incredible, a collaborative environment that teaches extraordinary life skills that immediately come into play. I am still blown away by how much I grew from the give-and-take style of BYU-Pathway learning."

Low tuition, scholarships, and returned missionary preapproval

BYU-Pathway Worldwide has been blessed by the generosity of donors and the Church of Jesus Christ to keep tuition costs low. One way this is accomplished is through scholarships (*see pages 22–23*).

> My education kept me positive during COVID-19. I did not lose hope.
>
> — CYNTHIA CEBUJANO

In January 2018, BYU-Pathway piloted tuition discounts to returned missionaries in Brazil and the Caribbean. From April 2019 to April 2020, this pilot expanded to additional countries and helped increase the total enrollment of returned missionaries by 78%.

And in May 2019, all young returned missionaries were pre-approved for admission. BYU-Pathway coordinated with the Missionary Department to inform these missionaries of their preapproval via email. The scholarship pilot and preapproval for returned missionaries became the building blocks for the Returned Missionary Scholarship to scale in April 2020.

As COVID-19 spread across the globe, many full-time missionaries were forced to return home unexpectedly. They needed a way to progress and stay spiritually strong. Knowing that they were pre-accepted to BYU-Pathway and had a 25% tuition discount gave many returned missionaries needed hope and direction.

After returning home early, Savannah Goodman from Arizona, USA, said, "I wondered, what was next? I was scared and confused. I saw that PathwayConnect was 25% off to returned missionaries and thought it would be a great fresh start! It was a blessing to have a plan. It is an inspired program, and I've grown so much spiritually and in my education."

Additional student support

BYU-Pathway Worldwide is continually seeking for ways to provide students with further hope and support as they pursue education. In September 2018, BYU-Pathway began researching key reasons why students may not persist, including lack of prior education experience and time, language, or financial constraints. Today, BYU-Pathway utilizes mentors, service missionaries, and instructors, who help these students understand why they started, what they need to do to succeed, and how they can get there.

The Lord knew this additional support would be vital as the world saw a drastic increase in mental health issues, domestic violence, and isolation in 2020.

An orphan and recent convert, Nigerian student David Jabi said, "It has been my desire to obtain higher education, but I had no money. My mission president told me about this program, so I enrolled as fast as my legs could carry me. My mentor has been the best resource and helped me be where I am now. Because of her, I have been offered a scholarship. I am grateful for my mentor."

Prepared by the Lord

Esther and Joseph had followed the Lord's guidance and lived their lives in a way that prepared them to serve in God's kingdom. Likewise, the Lord had prepared BYU-Pathway Worldwide for such a time as this, to turn "sorrow to joy, and … mourning into a good day"[4] for His children throughout the world.

1. Esther 4:14; italics added
2. Genesis 45:7–8
3. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Call for Heroes!" (BYU-Pathway Worldwide devotional, July 14, 2020), byupathway.org/speeches
4. Esther 9:22

In a message of hope during the pandemic, President Russell M. Nelson said, "These unique challenges will pass in due time. I remain optimistic for the future. I know the great and marvelous blessings that God has in store for those who love Him and serve Him." [1]

BYU-Pathway Worldwide has been developed to provide access to higher education for people who otherwise would not be able to pursue it. BYU-Pathway was uniquely prepared to help navigate the disruption of COVID-19 and play a part in bringing hope to even more people. Learn from students and service missionaries as they share their personal experiences of witnessing God's love and pressing forward with faith.





SHANA MOULIN
Thoiry, France
—
BYU-Pathway student

Because of COVID-19, many missionaries in my mission were sent home. It was hard to think that my time was over. During my mission, I had received an email saying that I was pre-approved for admission to BYU-Pathway Worldwide. When I got home, I felt like it would be a good use of my time. I prayed and felt I should join.

What an amazing decision! I could do something meaningful again. I virtually met new friends who share my same values, and I felt the same Spirit as when I was on my mission. I've learned skills that are so useful and that I am applying right now. Also, the Returned Missionary Scholarship is an amazing help.

I'm so grateful for BYU-Pathway and the opportunity it gives me to not be stagnant, to keep learning, to use my time wisely, and to build my future. I do not regret my decision to join, and the fact that I was sent home early gave me the opportunity. I'm really grateful.



DAN & DELLENE LOWRY
Utah, USA
—
Service missionaries

When the pandemic hit, we were serving as missionaries at BYU-Pathway headquarters. BYU-Pathway had been piloting different approaches to PathwayConnect for years. So when we heard that in-person weekly gatherings would need to be canceled, we watched a miraculous transformation take place. Within a week and a half, our leaders trained service missionaries on how to proceed virtually, and the gathering portion of the program moved forward without a hitch!

None of us could have predicted the pandemic would hit in 2020, but we have a firm testimony that the Lord knew and was helping us prepare. It is very exciting to see how BYU-Pathway has grown during these times. We will never stop sharing our testimonies with those we feel could be blessed by this inspired program!



KATHY SMITH
Washington, USA
—
BYU-Pathway student

A lot has happened in the last six months, but I do not doubt for one minute the decision I made to enroll in BYU-Pathway. In addition to feelings of isolation due to the pandemic and polarization because of protests and riots, I finished my third year teaching seminary, had a young daughter hospitalized 150 miles away, had a daughter-in-law struggle with preterm labor, and experienced the loss of both my father-in-law and stepfather.

The lessons taught each week in my gatherings helped me cope with my current circumstances. I am so thankful for the way that academic and spiritual learning are intertwined in this inspired program. I can't adequately express my gratitude.



ERICK ACEVEDO
Panama City, Panama
—
BYU-Pathway student

After the pandemic started, I thought my dream of studying to pursue a career had been frustrated, but I promised to leave everything in God's hands. When I graduated from high school, I asked God to guide me toward the right career and university. During that time, I discovered BYU-Pathway Worldwide, and it became a direct and clear answer to my prayers.

PathwayConnect gave me the hope of knowing that I can study online, since my country was not really prepared to change all face-to-face education to online. It has helped me to test my skills and is easier with the help of Heavenly Father.

1. Sydney Walker, "President Nelson Shares Hopeful Message as Coronavirus Outbreak Continues," *Church News*, Mar. 15, 2020



FROM 50 TO 50,000

Each student served represents a story of renewed confidence and increased faith

BY AMMON TEARE

BYU-Pathway Worldwide began in 2009 with just 50 students in three U.S. locations. In 2020, a record-setting 51,583 students participated in 152 countries, with BYU-Pathway providing education in every area of the world where The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints operates.

"We're tremendously pleased with the growth of BYU-Pathway, but also recognize that behind every enrollment is an individual commitment and a unique life impacted by the organization," said BYU-Pathway President Clark G. Gilbert. "I have met and talked with hundreds of students that have shared how their education has changed them."

Growing to an annual student body of more than 50,000 in just 11 years has pushed BYU-Pathway to constantly innovate. The organization has been able to expand its reach through a novel approach to higher education, by serving an ever-growing Church, and by focusing on returned missionaries.

Novel approach

BYU-Pathway provides online, quality education at a reduced cost, designed to address the concerns potential students report for not pursuing higher education: lack of academic confidence, distance, time restraints, and financial concerns.

"About 55 percent of Church members in the United States and 85 percent of members internationally have no associate or bachelor's degree," President Gilbert said. "We're trying to make [BYU-Pathway] as affordable as possible for the student while still providing a high-quality education."[1]

Additionally, BYU-Pathway's smooth transition to virtual gatherings during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic opened the doors to education for many students who were previously unable to participate. Adekunle Bakare, a student from Nigeria, said, "It is like virtual gathering was instituted for me. The distance from work to the gathering is far, and there was no way I could have made it there. The virtual gathering helps me in bonding more with my family, maintaining good health, and exploring many opportunities to work virtually."

This flexible format allows students to balance school and home life — increasing their confidence and improving their job skills from the start of their degree. Through its novel approach, BYU-Pathway has been able to engage students for whom a traditional education was not accessible, affordable, or available previously.

Growth of the Church

Some students join BYU-Pathway to seek spiritual strength, while others discover the spiritual blessings after they join. By developing disciples of Jesus Christ and fostering a spiritual and uplifting learning environment, BYU-Pathway continues to attract new students and play a part in the growth of the Church.

"I am a convert in the Church and was baptized in 2017," said Patricia Oliveira, a student from Brazil. "Later on, some doubts and questions popped into my mind.… It was during these hard times that I got accepted into BYU-Pathway Worldwide! From that day on, I obtained a perspective that there are people willing and anxious to help me with my education. They showed me that higher education is possible and that my success is a priority for my Heavenly Father."



BYU-Pathway has seen significant growth in Africa, where the Church of Jesus Christ has gained more than 200,000 new converts since 2014. In total, 7,413 African students enrolled in BYU-Pathway in 2020 — a 94% increase from 2019. Additionally, individuals who are not members of the Church comprise about 19% of total enrollment in Africa, with almost a third joining the Church after participating in BYU-Pathway courses.

As service missionaries in South Africa, Richard and Cristal Gordon saw the converting potential of BYU-Pathway firsthand. "At the first institute class we taught was a young woman named Zama," Sister Gordon said. "We did not know her and neither did the other students, but she came, participated, took her turn praying, being lead student, everything. When we asked her if she was a member, she said, 'No! How can I join this church?' We were present at her joyful baptism."

Returned missionary focus

BYU-Pathway is also becoming one of the most valuable education opportunities for returned missionaries.[2] In 2019, BYU-Pathway began pre-approving all returned missionaries and, in 2020, added a 25% tuition discount to that initiative.

"After I got back from serving a mission, I received a scholarship from BYU-Pathway. Taking that opportunity was the best decision of my life," said Gabriel de la Vega, from the Philippines. "BYU-Pathway helped me get back on track, and now I have more strength to achieve my goals!"

Returned missionary enrollment has increased by 49% from 2019 to 2020, with thousands more enrolling than in years past. According to current projections, it is anticipated that more than half of all returned missionaries will enroll in BYU-Pathway at some point in areas like Brazil, the Philippines, West Africa, and Central America.

Continued growth

While serving 50,000 students in one year is an exciting milestone, BYU-Pathway knows there are many more individuals hoping for access to education, as well as opportunities for professional and spiritual growth.

"The most remarkable part of BYU-Pathway has always been its students," President Gilbert said. "It's humbling to consider the trust that students and service missionaries place in our organization. We look forward to serving many thousands more in the years to come and plan to continue to serve each student as best we can."

> "BYU-Pathway helped me get back on track, and now I have more strength to achieve my goals!"
>
> **— GABRIEL DE LA VEGA**

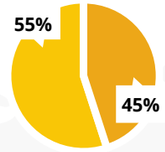
1. Clarissa McIntire, "An Education Showstopper," *Marriott Alumni Magazine,* Fall 2020, 34
2. See Aubrey Eyre, "How BYU-Pathway Worldwide is becoming one of the most valuable education opportunities for returned missionaries," *Church News*, Aug. 30, 2020

FACTS & STATISTICS | *2020 ANNUAL DATA*

51,583 STUDENTS SERVED*

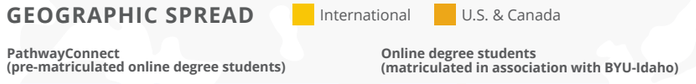
PathwayConnect → Certificate → Associate → Bachelor's

33,238 PathwayConnect (pre-matriculated online degree students)



23,172 Online degree students (matriculated in association with BYU-Idaho)

GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD



*Total unduplicated students are comprised of 33,238 PathwayConnect students and 23,172 BYU-Idaho online degree-seeking students.

International Enrollment

152 COUNTRIES
Int'l Enrollment
(22,411 students)

Highest Enrolling Countries

- Philippines *(2,374 students)*
- Nigeria *(1,946 students)*
- Mexico *(1,787 students)*
- Brazil *(1,522 students)*
- Peru *(1,090 students)*

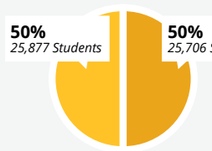
United States Enrollment

50 STATES
U.S. Enrollment
(29,172 students)

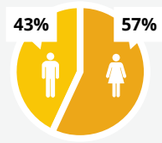
Highest Enrolling U.S. States

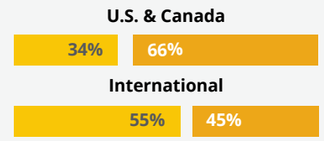
- Utah *(9,486 students)*
- California *(2,792 students)*
- Arizona *(2,317 students)*
- Idaho *(2,233 students)*
- Texas *(1,884 students)*

AGE & GENDER

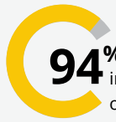


30 Median Age

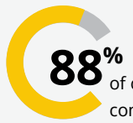




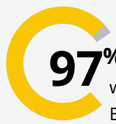
KEY OUTCOMES



94% increase their testimony of the Savior



88% of certificate earners continue education or improve employment



97% would refer a friend to BYU-Pathway Worldwide

Come and See, Come and *CHANGE*

Learn how a simple invitation changed one family forever

BY BRI MERLING

Scott Duncan could tell BYU-Pathway Worldwide was changing him.

Somehow, amid tackling math equations and writing essays, his faith was also strengthened. "It's taught me to be a more complete disciple of Jesus Christ," Scott explained. "I know how to love differently and to serve differently and to learn differently." Scott knew right away that BYU-Pathway was worth sharing, and he also knew exactly who he wanted to share it with.

For the past 15 years, Scott had been trying to connect Alan Wooden, his brother-in-law, with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Alan grew up a devout Baptist and always politely declined Scott's invitations to learn more about the Church. When Scott suggested education through BYU-Pathway, however, Alan quickly accepted. "You can't pass up a gift like that," Alan said. "It was all part of me trying to be a better person."

Alan discovered newfound faith in the courses and weekly gatherings and began studying gospel principles. Remembering Alan's journey, Scott said, "He learned about the Book of Mormon. As he studied each week, he grew to understand this gospel and what it could mean in his life and in the life of his family."

Alan could also feel and see the growth in himself. "Not only did it help me become a better student, but a better father and a better husband," he said. These changes inspired him to embrace the Church and get baptized.

Alan largely credits his conversion to the support of both Scott and his gathering group. When his health took an unexpected turn due to a brain aneurysm, his gathering group didn't miss a beat. While he was hospitalized, they moved the gathering to his bedside so he wouldn't fall behind.



Alan Wooden overcame physical trials and found spiritual conversion through support from his family and BYU-Pathway gathering group.

"[Their support] only confirmed that I was going in the right direction," Alan said.

Alan's health challenges continued to upend his life. He had three brain surgeries, lost his job, and even became legally blind. But he was still determined to be baptized. On May 11, 2020 — less than 24 hours after Alan was released from another hospitalization — Scott baptized Alan. It was a landmark in their journey of friendship and helping each other become better disciples of Jesus Christ. Members of Alan's gathering group came to watch and celebrate Alan's baptism as well.

Since Alan's baptism, he has also baptized his own son and received the Melchizedek Priesthood. If you had told him a few years ago that he would be serving in the Church and teaching in BYU-Pathway gatherings, the old Alan wouldn't have believed it. The new Alan, though, is cherishing these opportunities to give back.

With newfound hope and faith, he is quick to encourage others to join BYU-Pathway: "Any sweat that you put into BYU-Pathway, you're going to get back out tenfold. Believe me, I couldn't make this up."

Scott said, "BYU-Pathway is an opportunity and blessing to lift and to strengthen not only ourselves but also each other."

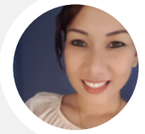








Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf said, "One of the easiest and most effective ways to invite your friends and family to come and see [what the Church has to offer], is to encourage them to enroll in the programs of BYU-Pathway Worldwide.... Inviting people to join BYU-Pathway will help them feel of the Savior's love as they progress both spiritually and academically."[1]



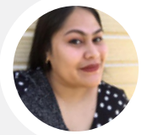
Stefanie Diran-Kromopawiro
Suriname

"After my divorce, I lost focus of the Lord's path. A sister invited me to join BYU-Pathway and promised it would change my life. After joining, I started my repentance process, got married, and received my temple recommend. Later, I was called to be the Relief Society president and now serve as an institute teacher. BYU-Pathway brought me back to the Lord's wonderful path."



Neh Lawra
Cameroon

"I invited my little brother to join BYU-Pathway and, since then, my family has never been the same. My little brother told me that BYU-Pathway is the best thing that happened in his life and that he wants to join the Church. I have been praying for a miracle and that miracle is BYU-Pathway."



Lavinia Tafuna
Tonga

"I wasn't an active member when I first heard about PathwayConnect. It was God's way to find me, His lost sheep. BYU-Pathway shaped my life. Those three semesters were the best times in school I have ever had. I learned so much from my institute classes that I went back to church."

1. Dieter F. Uchtdorf, "Come and See BYU-Pathway Worldwide" (Message to BYU-Pathway Worldwide, July 31, 2019), byupathway.org/invite

finding help and hope

"I never thought I would say it, but I am grateful for the journey of depression, for what it has taught me about compassion and empathy." [1]

BY LAUREN CONRAD



"I felt broken," one BYU-Pathway Worldwide student said, after being unexpectedly diagnosed with depression and anxiety — a diagnosis that came just one week before author Jane Clayson Johnson's historic devotional in December 2019.

Her message, which focused on depression and mental illness, remains one of the most-watched BYU-Pathway devotionals of all time.

"My family knew the diagnosis, but I felt too ashamed to let anyone else know," the student continued. "After listening to [Jane's] story, I felt I should open up and not be afraid. My hope is that maybe I can help remove the stigma of depression."

Jane's poignant and personal message is changing the conversation about mental health — something that affects so many but is talked about so little.

Break the silence

The first step toward eliminating the stigma that often surrounds mental health is speaking up! No one understands this better than Jane herself, who personally dealt with depression and interviewed over 150 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints of all ages about their experiences with depression. Jane's own story and insights from these interviews are compiled in her book *Silent Souls Weeping*.

"In the midst of my anguish, I had come to believe that I was alone in my suffering," Jane said. "… I realized that there are millions of others who also battle depression. Many of them, like me, suffer in silence. If you are suffering, talking helps."

BYU-Pathway provides mentors for first-semester students to help them continue through academic and personal challenges. Alison Cundiff, who oversees BYU-Pathway's mentoring efforts, said, "Many of our students have mental health concerns, especially during this difficult year of 2020. We are always grateful when a student trusts a mentor enough to tell them about their struggles. Just talking through it with a neutral party might help a student get through another day or week and persist."

Another BYU-Pathway student said, "We are all children of Heavenly Father and He loves us, even in our darkest abyss. Your feelings are real, and sharing them, as hard as it might be at first, helps to free yourself."

In addition to confiding in others, seeking professional help is often an important part of healing. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland said in his general conference message about mental health, "These afflictions are some of the realities of mortal life, and there should be no more shame in acknowledging them than in acknowledging a battle with high blood pressure or the sudden appearance of a malignant tumor."[2]

Stop the stigma

While traveling in India, Jane and her family had the opportunity to meet a group of people suffering from leprosy. She, her husband, and her two children helped them by applying healing oil to their limbs.

Reflecting on similar experiences the Savior had, she said, "Jesus didn't heal [lepers] by avoiding them. He waded right into the mess — with His help and with His hope. Leprosy is a disease that cannot be hidden — people are literally, physically falling apart. Mental health needs to be like that; it needs to be dragged into the light of day where we can see that people are sometimes falling apart and where those who are willing to wade in and help can do so."

Those who do not suffer from mental illness can "wade in and help" by being compassionate and providing a safe space. Those who do struggle with mental illness always have the love and healing power of Jesus Christ available to them — even if they struggle to feel it. From her research and personal experience, Jane observed that depression can heavily impact a person's ability to feel the Spirit. This is a direct result of the illness, *not* any personal flaw or failure — and it *isn't* permanent. With time and treatment, feelings of love and peace can return. There is always hope.

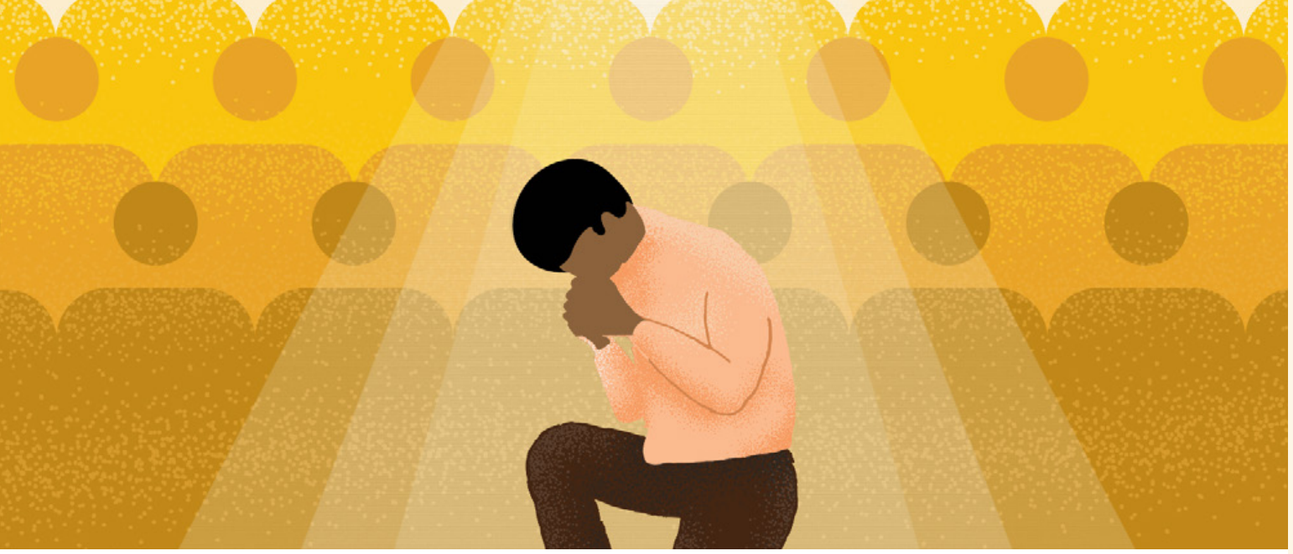
BYU-Pathway mentors help students find hope by reminding them of their identity. Alison said, "Our most powerful tool as mentors is to reinforce the enabling power of the Atonement of Jesus Christ and instill confidence in students' divine potential as children of God."

Share with others

Jane's message has inspired countless BYU-Pathway students and others to open up about their own mental health experiences. Her devotional has been viewed or engaged with over 85,000 times on social media.

Jane's invitation to all is to "learn all you can about mental illness. Speak out against the stigma. Share your own stories. And keep going! Remember, you have support."

1. Jane Clayson Johnson, "Silent Souls Weeping — Changing the Conversation about Mental Health" (BYU-Pathway Worldwide devotional, Dec. 10, 2019), byupathway.org/speeches
2. Jeffrey R. Holland, "Like a Broken Vessel," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 40



PROVIDING *more than* EDUCATION

than education and financial assistance: receiving a scholarship boosts students' confidence, increases their hope in the future, and helps them to feel the love of their Heavenly Father.

BY KRISTA TRIPODI

BYU-Pathway Worldwide served more than 50,000 students across the globe in 2020. Each number in that record-setting total represents an individual with unique experiences, talents, and needs — many of whom have been yearning for new opportunities and praying for miracles.

President Spencer W. Kimball taught, "The Lord does notice us, and he watches over us. But it is usually through another person that he meets our needs."[1] Through the help of generous donors, BYU-Pathway has been steadily expanding its scholarship offerings, awarding 11,400 scholarships in 2020.

"One of the ways BYU-Pathway reaches the hidden many, those students that some schools tend to overlook, is by offering a variety of scholarships," said J.D. Griffith, BYU-Pathway's vice president of administration. BYU-Pathway offers the Returned Missionary, Bridge, and Heber J. Grant scholarships.

In 2020, BYU-Pathway was blessed to have more than 2,800 donors support students. Those who donated to a scholarship program provided more

Returned Missionary Scholarship

Individuals who have served a mission within the past five years are eligible for a 25% tuition discount. In 2020, enrollment of returned missionaries increased by 49% *(see page 16)*.

Bridge Scholarship

Mentors identify first-semester students whose financial constraints could prevent them from continuing their education. These students are offered a half-tuition scholarship to help them bridge the gap to the next semester.

Heber J. Grant Scholarship

As part of the requirement to receive this needs-based scholarship, students receive a lesson about President Heber J. Grant and are encouraged to set goals to be better stewards and to cultivate characteristics for success.

1. Spencer W. Kimball, "President Kimball Speaks Out on Service to Others," *New Era*, Mar. 1981

BYU-Pathway Scholarship Recipients



"This scholarship is an answered prayer for me, because I used much of the money I was to use on college to prepare for my mission. I didn't know what I was to do to finish my studies but something always told me that 'all will be well.' I've been praying for Heavenly Father to continue providing a way so that I and the other students can finish our studies and be provided with a degree so as to stand a better chance to provide for our family, friends, and neighbors.

David Thuo | Kenya



"This is such an amazing program. I'm volunteering at the local orphanage and I want to teach these kids everything I'm learning, all the life skills, especially about the mindset. I want to empower them and help them believe in themselves and their abilities to create their future. I'm in awe that I'm offered this scholarship even though I'm not a member of the Church. I'm a Muslim, but I feel incredible support and love even though we have a different religious path. I feel your love and that you believe in me.

Anisa Sejdaj | Albania



"Thank you for being the answer to my fervent prayers. Because of you, I am able to move forward in my pursuit of self-reliance. This program is a gift. Because of this program and your contributions, I feel seen by my Heavenly Father and can testify that obedience, work, faith, and sacrifice truly do bring forth the blessings of heaven.

Jessamine Torr | South Africa



"This scholarship may look like it only benefits me, but it benefits my entire family. Receiving my education because of your help allows my kids to have more opportunities. I could never say thank you enough.

Steven Morrissey | Arizona, USA



"Through BYU-Pathway I have been able to become more financially and spiritually independent. The kindness of your heart has blessed me in ways I could never describe or thank you enough for. I have had the opportunity to grow as a person, but more importantly, as a divine daughter of God.

Brooke Nixon | Nevada, USA

BYU

PATHWAY
WORLDWIDE

byupathway.org

Cover: Students in Sierra Leone participating in online courses.

Cover photo by Seth Nehring