



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

AGES Initiatives, Inc.
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From the Executive Director

Glory to God for all things!

And thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Yes, thanks to you and your generous support, AGES Initiatives is able to maintain its public service of providing liturgical texts and music online for use in churches throughout the Orthodox Christian world.

I get requests, comments, and thank you's from individuals who use the texts and music that we produce, from Australia, South Africa, Philippines, Greece, Canada, the UK, and of course from across the USA. AGES software is being used today in Kenya, and other parts of Africa. Hierarchs from Korea, Singapore and Hong Kong have requested our services.

All this has happened since 2012, when AGES Initiatives was incorporated as a non-profit and granted 501(c)3 tax-exempt status by the IRS. Since then, a team of liturgists, translators, and computer programmers have developed the AGES Liturgical Workbench, the program which produces the AGES Digital Chant Stand, and other related programs and resources.

Much of the work maintaining the AGES Digital Chant Stand is still done by me, in conjunction with being the full-time Music Director at St. Nektarios Church in Charlotte, NC.

Dr. Michael Colburn, our Chief Technology Officer since 2012, is currently in Greece pursuing a degree. He works on AGES when time permits, and even when it doesn't.

This year we also engaged 3 contract workers, 1 part-time programmer, and our app developer who also manages our servers. From time to time, we get help from some volunteers as well.

Now in our fifth year as a non-profit, we want to formally report back to you, the supporters of this ministry, about the activities and fiscal state of AGES Initiatives.

Fr. Seraphim Dedes

Digital Chant Stand (DCS)

www.agesinitiatives.com/dcs/public/dcs

The flagship program of AGES continues to be the Digital Chant Stand (DCS), which provides free online access to prepared services for use in our churches. The current edition of DCS offers services in Greek and English, using the rubrics of the Ecumenical Patriarchate; however, other editions may also be developed, based on other texts and rubrics.

In 2015, we added additional functionality to the DCS, as well as a greater variety of services. Significant among these additions is the customizable matins service, which allows users to select which, if not all, parts of the complete matins service they wish to view and print.

Coming in 2016 is the implementation of login to DCS, which will allow users to set and save preferences in the DCS interface.

The DCS app for iPad continues to grow in popularity, as more and more church musicians and clergy are using the iPad in church. The current paid subscription model will be replaced in 2016 with a patron system, which means the app will be free, with an easy way to send monetary support. The next release of the app will run on all iOS devices, including the iPhone.

New Service Book App

The use of mobile devices in church is increasing among worshippers. Therefore AGES is developing a pew-book app that will provide access to the texts of services for an entire month, unencumbered with media links which are useful to church musicians. Worshippers will be able to view this service book on phones and devices of their choice.

Customization

Parishes throughout the GOA have commissioned AGES to prepare the services they need for the consecration of their churches. Moving forward, AGES will be able to support individual client parishes and institutions with customized liturgical texts and consulting in the area of music ministry.

Translation Management System (TMS)

In collaboration with OCMC, AGES has been developing the Orthodox Christian Translation Management System (TMS). In 2016, we will roll out the web-based version of this system, which will simplify, and therefore greatly facilitate, the creation and maintenance of liturgical translations. The TMS was piloted in the Archdiocese of Kenya. The Churches of Hong Kong, Singapore, and Korea have also expressed a need for this tool. Dr. Michael Colburn, who is currently doing a degree in Greece, is the designer and principal developer of TMS. He is being assisted by John Daley, of Austin, TX.

Translations

We often receive requests for services that we just don't have English texts for. It is true that almost all the liturgical texts have been translated into English, at least once. Yet, not all these texts are available to us, because of copyright restrictions. In 2015, AGES approached two major publishers of English translations for permission to use their texts, even with royalties, and both declined. We are also aware of two other publishers, who have indicated that they would not want their texts digitized. So we currently use liturgical texts from the handful of sources that are available to us.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has given AGES permission to use and promote the new and approved translation of the Divine Liturgy. That new text will be implemented and featured during 2016.

Seminars

AGES is collaborating with the organizers of a series of seminars that aim to increase the appreciation for liturgical worship and to instruct church musicians, which are also the aims of our organization.

Finances

The primary sources of revenue are donations from parishes and individuals who benefit from what AGES offers. In the fall of 2014, we conducted an online survey of DCS users, to determine whether there was a willingness to provide financial support. Then in October of 2014, we made our first public appeal on the website of the DCS, asking parishes to give \$250, and individual users to give \$120, with a goal of raising \$50,000. The response was immediate and continuous, though different from what we expected. We launched our current appeal again in October, 2015.

The primary source of revenue is individual donations. Since 2012, there have been about 250 unique donors. Parishes and clergy constitute 25% of that number, the rest being individuals, church musicians, and supporters, whose contributions range from \$20 to \$20,000. Half of the donations are made online through PayPal. We have also been promised a sizable donation in the form of stock.

Our budget these last four years has covered the operating expenses and the cost of maintaining of our current level of offerings. A significant part of the work and programming was done piecemeal and by volunteers, which means, however, not expeditiously. There is still much more to be done.

We plan to develop online access to the digital libraries, user-friendly service building applications, and customization for institutional clients. This next level requires professional programmers and trained operators, whom we will need to hire. We are therefore building our capital reserves to position ourselves for this future development.

2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

(as of Dec. 31, 2015)

Statement of Financial Position	
ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 45,159.11
Equipment	2,372.76
Depreciation	-1,581.84
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 45,950.03
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Opening Balance Equity	\$ 1,992.79
Unrestricted Net Assets	28,922.44
Net Income	15,034.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 45,950.03

Statement of Activities	
INCOME	
Consulting	\$ 1,250.00
Subscriptions	1,867.46
Donations	32,854.00
Total Income	\$ 35,971.46
EXPENSES	
Project Development	\$ 12,813.61
Contract Services	5,225.43
Operations	1,465.66
Other	1,431.96
Total Expenses	\$ 20,936.66
NET INCOME	\$ 15,034.80

AGES Initiatives, Inc.

Board of Directors

Fr. Seraphim Dedes

Dr. Paul Tsahakis

Evelyn Klund

Will Moye

John Tsefrikas