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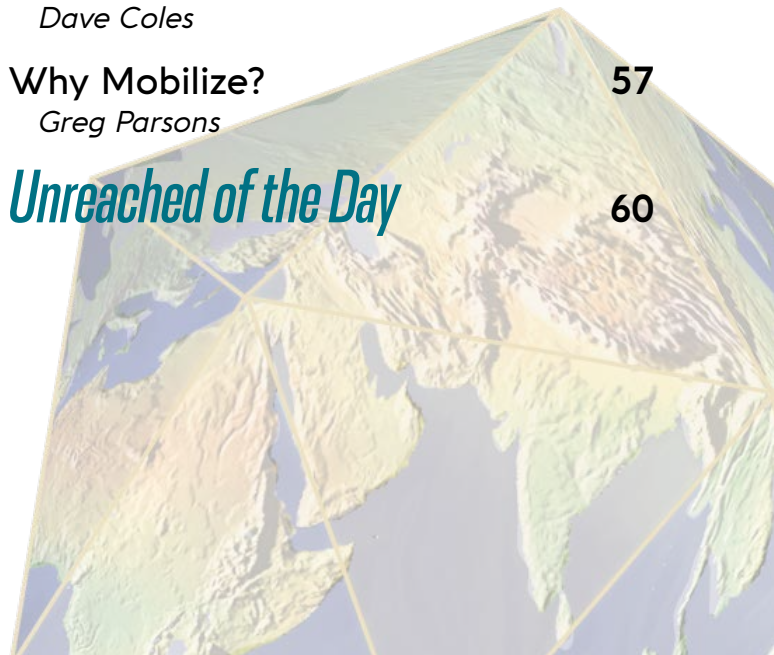
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History in the Making

By **SUE PATT**

Frontier Ventures Chief Strategy Officer

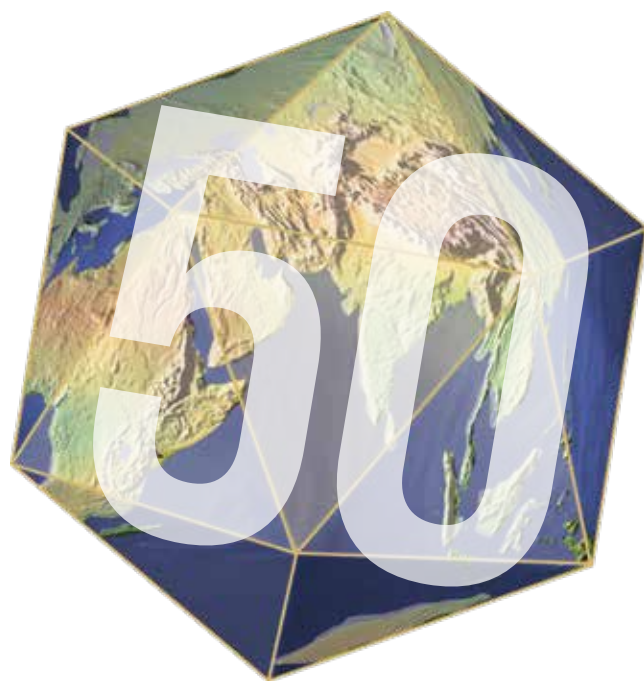
Dear *Mission Frontiers* Reader,

This issue tells a story 50 years in the making, and that story is still unfolding across the globe! I can't imagine that the students in the first Perspectives class could have envisioned just how their own lives would be shaped by this class and the ideas they would encounter. One student from that first class tells his story in these double-issue pages. Even so, that leaves many more stories from that class and so many others untold.

My own story intersects this timeline 44 years ago, when in 1980 at Penn State University, I enrolled in the first Perspectives class by extension. The content in this groundbreaking survey class already had radically changed the lives of college students who took the class. Still, most Christian students on secular college campuses could only gain access to this material if the class could be made reproducible. That's what the 1980 Penn State class was about.

Over the next many years, those working behind the scenes created training resources for multiplying coordinators and creating infrastructure to empower what would become explosive growth. I completed my degree in Human Development and interned at the US Center for World Mission (USCWM, now Frontier Ventures), working in the Perspectives office. I joined staff after graduating so that I could continue building infrastructure for the growing network of coordinators. I co-coordinated my first two classes in 1984 with a regional Frontier Ventures staff person who later became my husband! I'm a witness to an amazing view of how the Holy Spirit breathed life into the work of a few dedicated people.

That theme is echoed in each article of this issue. Regular people grasp ancient ideas that are new



to them. The Holy Spirit empowers them to live a life after God's purpose to build a family from all the families on earth. They also become witnesses to the ongoing ways the Holy Spirit empowers others through them. It's a remarkable story by all accounts.

Those early days pre-date the internet or personal cell phones. There initially was one computer terminal in the Perspectives office where class registrants were put into a central database by a couple of different staff people, including me. Records were sent through the mail from classes popping up around the country and coordinated mostly by rugged entrepreneurs who didn't need rails to run on to pull together a class. There were no rails.

A curriculum created for the Christian students on secular college campuses quickly migrated into the church world where missions pastors offered the life-changing ideas to their congregations. Much later, when a few rails were being developed and refined, we coached coordinators to integrate multiple church fellowships into each class. Mission-sending agency staff recognized the significance of participating in the growing opportunities presented by Perspectives, serving as instructors and coordinators. Listen for those stories in this issue.

Still, the rails were being built, then refined and refined again. That's why Perspectives has been able to shift in minor and major ways, leveraging new technology and overcoming new challenges. Listen for stories that include how teams shifted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Innovation has been of high value all along the way. Challenges always have been present, too. Credit-granting institutions, curriculum revisions, coordinator training, instructor training, class enhancements, leadership structures, money management, and transparency are all just some of the challenges that have taken turns at the top of the priority list. Even so, regular people have continuously been empowered to see their life purpose through the lens of God's purpose—blessing all peoples with the fullness of life in Christ, reorienting people as individuals, churches, communities, regions, agencies, and even continents. Look for Latin American and African stories in this issue!

From Urbana 1973, we saw growing openness among college students to become involved in missions.¹ What began as a response to that phenomenon has grown to a multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-country, multi-continent movement of God entirely focused on God's glory among all peoples. The translation of the curriculum into Spanish touched off explosive growth throughout Latin America. Today, we're poised for another chapter of explosive growth with the translation of the curriculum into French now being positioned for release into Francophone Africa. Watch with awe for what the Lord of Glory will do in the next decade!

It sounds easy as I write words on a page, but between each line, I see the faces of those who put their shoulder to the plow and gave the best years of their lives to what they could not see fulfilled in their lifetime. They now join the cloud of witnesses cheering as we continue to run our race. Through it all, the USCWM provided essential structures to support the Perspectives team. For the past nine years, since the renaming of USCWM to Frontier Ventures, the support has continued,

¹ See Yvonne Huneycutt's article in this issue, which adapts the introduction of her book *Propelled by Hope*.


through leadership changes, budgets, personnel needs, financial reports, and annual audits. The undergirding support of Frontier Ventures has been extensive and often invisible to the students, volunteers, and even Perspectives staff.

There remains no doubt in my mind that Perspectives has flourished for reasons beyond human understanding, but that the support of Frontier Ventures has been essential. It has been a joy for Frontier Ventures to be such an integral part of the Perspectives story, and we look forward to seeing the story unfold. Our apostolic missional community continues that original innovative spark of catalyzing movements to Jesus worldwide.

Through our numerous global initiatives, we provide similar and powerful points of purposeful connection for the global body of Christ. In all that we do, we build on a growing foundation of relationships at the very edges of the kingdom of God to witness Holy Spirit-led blessing for all the families of the earth. We need your help to continue this flow of the gospel to the frontiers of mission. In partnering with Frontier Ventures, you are allowing the same collaborative and innovative spark that birthed Perspectives to continue flourishing around the globe. Won't you join with us in God's purposes to all peoples? Scan the QR code below (qrco.de/FVgive) to partner with Frontier Ventures financially. We are immensely thankful for all your support, and we covet your prayers!



Do you have a story to tell about outcomes from Perspectives over the past 50 years? This double issue is bulging with stories from many different points of view, but you can tell us your story by writing to editor@missionfrontiers.org. You, too, are a witness to the amazing work of the Holy Spirit!

For the glory of God among the nations,
Sue Patt, a regular person
Chief Strategy Officer, Frontier Ventures 



Porque así como las aguas cubren los mares, también se llenará la tierra con el conocimiento y la gloria del Señor.






A Movement
***Propelled
by Hope***

By **YVONNE W. HUNEYCUTT**

Yvonne W. Huneycutt
(DMin, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) has served the Perspectives movement since 1991. She is currently on staff with Perspectives Global as an instructor, trainer, and author. Yvonne resides in Texas with her husband, Steve. She can be contacted at yvonne.huneycutt@perspectivesglobal.org.





I sat bewildered and amazed. What is this teaching? How could I just now be hearing such significant information? After all, I was raised in the church—in a strong, mission-minded denomination. I held church staff positions. I had a seminary degree for goodness' sake! How did I miss this? This is revolutionary. My perception of missions was shattered in the space of two hours. My insight into Scripture was enlarged in the space of two weeks. My understanding of God, myself, the world, and my role in it was transformed over a semester.

Welcome to the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course! My experience may be radical, but it is not unusual. Thousands bespeak a testimony that echoes my own. From college students to professors, from business executives to stay-at-home moms, from pastors to lay leaders, from missionary candidates to seasoned missionaries—we have done more than take a class. We have entered a movement, one that has reshaped more than just our lives. This movement has reshaped the mission endeavors of churches and organizations. It's a movement that is reshaping the world through the kingdom advance of God's people.

From the beginning...

Launched in 1974, Perspectives has intersected the lives of an estimated 300,000 course alumni across the globe. In addition to myriads who have taken the Perspectives course or derivatives of it, tens of thousands have used the Perspectives *Reader* as a textbook in college and seminary classes. There is no way to calculate the additional hundreds of thousands of individuals who have been directly influenced by those who have studied the Perspectives material and embraced God's call and promise for world evangelization.

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is a course comprised of 15 lessons woven together into an integrated paradigm that unfolds God's declared purpose in this world and his active work toward the fulfillment of that purpose. Although often described as a missions course, in reality, it is not. It is a vision and discipleship course. Its intended purpose is to awaken God's people to his purpose, mobilizing his church to strategic engagement with him in the outworking of that purpose.

The uniqueness of Perspectives that undergirds its enduring legacy is found in two surprising elements. The first is that it is almost entirely a volunteer movement. It is propelled forward by millions of volunteer hours supplied by thousands of eager volunteers promoting, organizing, teaching, and conducting courses around the world. Most full-time staff raise their own support to have the privilege of serving the ministry. The course produces an outcome of God's people voluntarily engaging God's purpose in a multitude of ways for the rest of their lives.

A new old paradigm for missions

Why would so many give so much of their time to this movement? The answer is found in the second sustaining element—the paradigm of the course, which often catches believers by surprise. It is explored with greater detail in my book *Propelled by Hope*. The paradigm is essentially the unfolding of a grand story. A great God is writing a great story, where he creates a great people of blessing within every people, inviting them into his story to co-labor with him in bringing about his great and global purpose.

God's people are not objectivized into useful tools to dutifully accomplish his mission; instead, God grants dignity and purpose to his people by gracing them with a great work in a relational partnership with himself. The outcome of this story is great glory for God. Because God's purpose is certain, God's people engage with him in great hope, knowing that they give their lives to an ancient, eternal, and sure purpose. They are propelled by hope.

This, then, is the Perspectives story: a volunteer movement of God's people propelled forward by hope in the sure completion of God's purpose. The Perspectives movement and the frontier mission movement are inextricably intertwined. Therefore, a broad overview of the frontier mission movement, with its concepts and outcomes, is included in this story. This overview is not intended to be all-inclusive but enough of an outline to acquaint readers with the gist and breadth of frontier missions.

On the other hand, my book *Propelled by Hope* tells the Perspectives story in greater detail, serving as a documented history of this incredible movement. Interspersed throughout the narrative are stories of lives transformed through their encounter with Perspectives. Ralph Winter, the originator of the course, used to say that Perspectives joined a movement of God that was already in progress. This is why my book begins with a historical overview of the major trends in American culture and missions leading up to the mid-1970s. I then document the early development of the Perspectives course, up through 1981, with the publication of the first Perspectives *Reader* and *Study Guide*.

It became a movement.

The Perspectives course not only joined God's movement but itself became a movement, contributing to and accelerating major mission trends. So, *Propelled by Hope* pauses in the middle of the story to highlight the developing trends in world missions between 1980 and 2000. Those were formative decades in shaping future mission outreach, particularly in the frontiers of mission. Grasping the larger context, the stage was set to continue the story of the expansion and development of the Perspectives course in the final two decades of the 20th century.

Part two of *Propelled by Hope* ushers us into the 21st century, with all its change and chaos but also its increasing fruitfulness for the kingdom of God. Again, we examine the historical and global context impacting how we do mission, noting tectonic shifts in the new millennium. The frontier mission movement matured, continuing its global expansion with new expressions while, at the same time, encountering opposition, necessitating consultation and clarification. The mission *field* became the mission *force*. God surprised everyone with cascading people movements to Christ. With broad strokes of the paintbrush, I attempt to capture significant developments in frontier missions during the subsequent two decades.

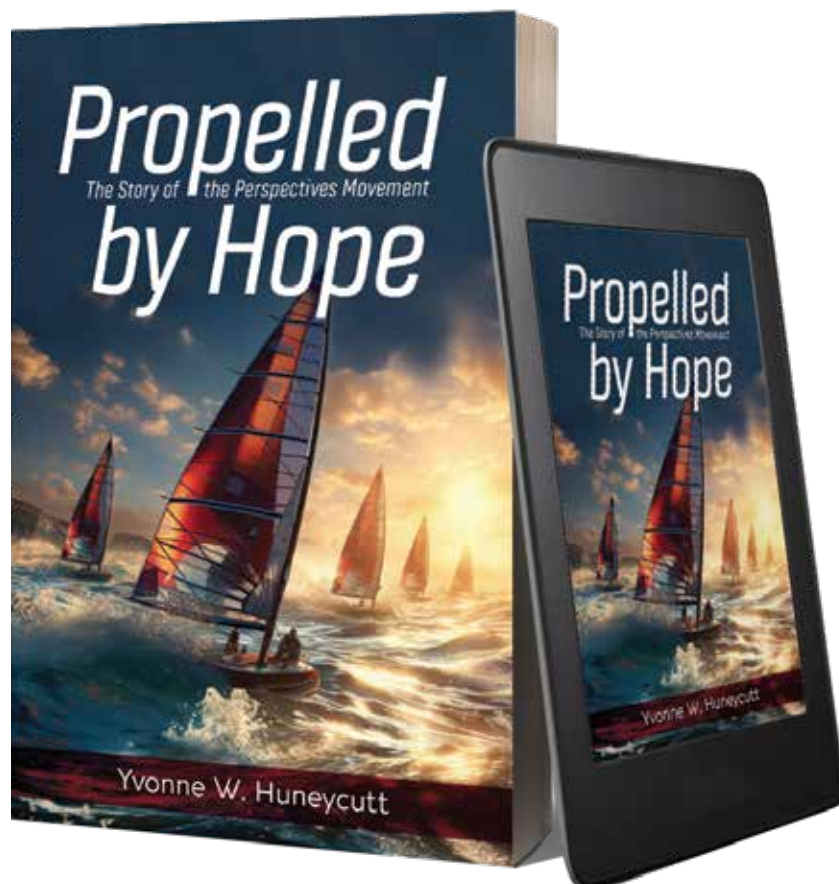
The Perspectives movement continued to mature and expand. The rapid momentum of classes and students brought with it struggle, restructuring, and new initiatives to develop tools and people. The transformative paradigm for which Perspectives is renowned was more clearly defined, enabling the students to engage in even richer ways. Deepening theological and missiological insight, now not just from the West but from many regions of the world, contributed to further curriculum development. Global growth focused on the need for a stronger course identity. Picking back up with the Perspectives story, I trace the developments from 2000 to 2020 in the North American course and organization. A significant section is given to the wonderful spread of Perspectives globally, most of which occurred in just the past decade.

The three years of 2020 to 2022 is forever etched in our memories. The global pandemic impacted Perspectives as it did everything else. During this time, Perspectives USA restructured once more to position itself for future growth. Despite national lockdowns, many global programs reported surprising advances. The challenge of recovering from the pandemic is where we conclude our story.

I often encourage my Perspectives students to be history-makers. But it is more than that. As we engage God's global purpose, we're not just making history—we are fulfilling it. The hope for which we labor is that heaven is richer and fuller and God is more glorified because of our praying, giving, going, supporting, and living for God's eternal purpose: that all tribes and tongues will know, worship, and adore him. 🏡

Adapted from "Introduction" in Yvonne Huneycutt's *Propelled by Hope*. Published by William Carey Publishing, 2024. Used by permission. Missionbooks.org.

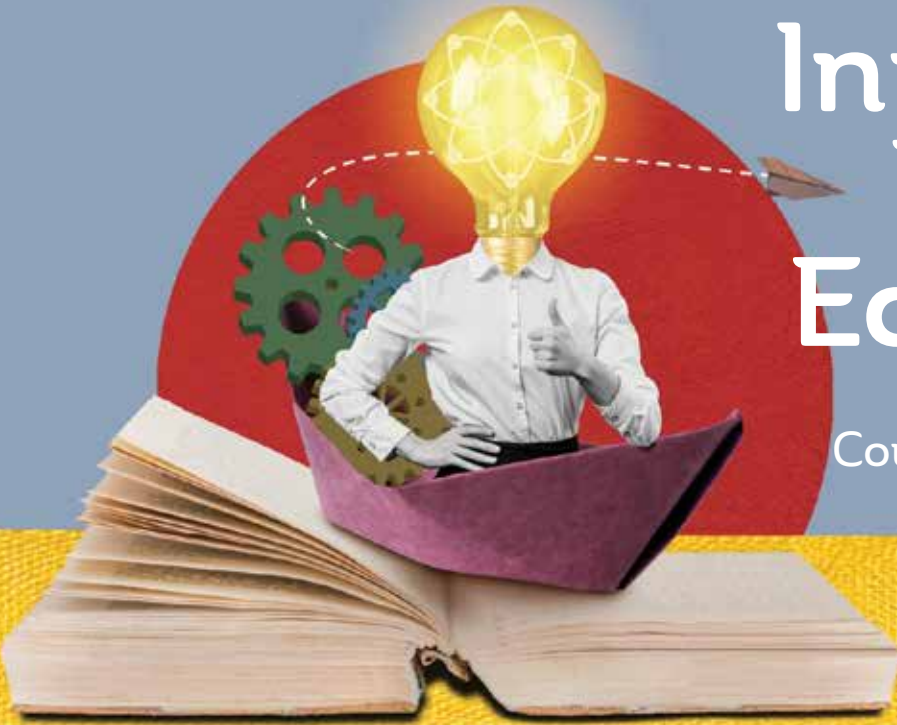
LEARN MORE



The fascinating connection between the Perspectives movement, the frontier mission movement, and church planting movements is a story rarely told yet vital to understanding the spread of the gospel to unreached populations. Yvonne Huneycutt's *Propelled by Hope* unfolds the hidden tapestry of these interconnected movements through 60 personal interviews and inspiring anecdotes.

Propelled by Hope traces the development of Perspectives in the context of seemingly every major mission milestone during the past 50 years! It is the story of Perspectives becoming a global movement, changing the lives of course-developers and leaders just as radically as it transforms students into missional world-changers.

DOUG LUCAS, DBA
President, Team Expansion and
Founder/Co-Editor, *Brigada*



Innovating Missions Education:

The Perspectives Course's Innovative Journey

By **PAUL DZUBINSKI**

Paul Dzubinski is the Innovation Catalyst of Frontier Ventures and the Director of the Winter Launch Lab. He started ministries and churches in Europe and is fascinated with all kinds of innovation.

Over its 50-year history, the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course has integrated various different kinds of innovation. I am in the same organization as Perspectives USA and Perspectives Global and, over the past 10 years, it's been a joy to watch these developments.

Game-Changing Beginnings

Initially, the Perspectives course represented a game-change in the field of missions education. Spearheaded by Ralph Winter, it made advanced missiology accessible not only to professors but also to university students and churchgoers. This approach created a new audience for Christian education, addressing a new group with a simpler, more accessible entry point into missions. This type of change is called a radical or disruptive innovation. Radical innovation is when a new product, service, or technology disrupts an existing market. It creates a new one or considerably alters an existing market. The course challenged traditional views about missions and opened up missions education to a broader segment of the church.

Continuous Refinement

Alongside its radical innovation origins, the course also showed a commitment to continuous refinement by

adapting and evolving. That process is called *incremental innovation*. Perspectives leaders continuously improved the teaching methods, course materials, and operational processes. Over time, the course adapted to changing educational landscapes and student needs, incorporating digital platforms and online learning, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. These adjustments were meaningful for missions education, although they were not revolutionary in the broader educational realm.

Integration of Innovation Types

In their book *Ten Types of Innovation: The Discipline of Building Breakthroughs*, Keeley, Walters, Pikkell, and Quinn offer an excellent description of types of innovation. Of the 10 types they describe, Perspectives saw continuous refinement in five.

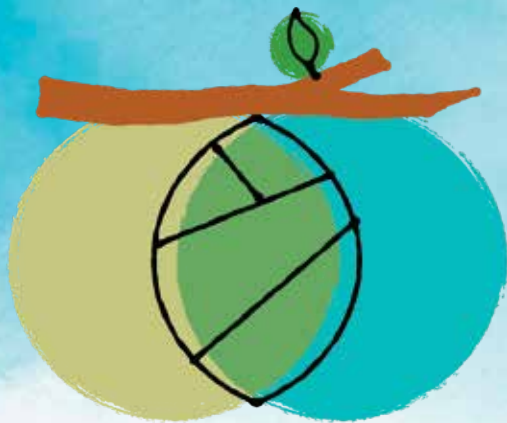
- 1. Process Innovation:** The team worked on improving teaching methodologies and operational processes. Those enhancements guaranteed that the course remained efficient and effective in communicating the four main parts of the course.
- 2. Product System Innovation:** Their development of a complete educational system is particularly impressive. The system includes various teaching materials and

methods, a structure for scheduling and maintaining instructors, and a method to connect interested people who desire to explore missions more deeply. This innovation represents a significant shift in how missions education is structured and delivered.

3. **Service Innovation:** The course has consistently improved its usefulness and value and, therefore, continues to make missions education more accessible and impactful for students.
4. **Channel Innovation:** Like many organizations and churches, Perspectives also went online during COVID-19. That was a channel innovation because they applied online platforms, leveraging digital communication channels to their unique audience. In that way, Perspectives has expanded its reach, making missions education more accessible to a global audience.
5. **Customer Engagement Innovation:** The course fosters deep, meaningful interactions with students,

engaging them in the broader narrative and purpose of global missions. But it goes further than that. The Perspectives team also fosters connections between students and organizations where they can volunteer or start a career.

The impact of these innovations is profound. The course's game-changing approach democratized knowledge in missions education, setting it free from the seminaries and professionals. And its continuous refinement ensured its relevance and adaptability. This blend of innovation continues to enable Perspectives USA and Perspectives Global to be a dynamic presence in Christian education and to meet the growing needs of the global church. The Perspectives course is a model of innovation in educational programming, especially in the area of missions education. As it moves forward, the course inspires and equips new generations of believers, ready to engage the complexities and opportunities of God's mission in the world. MF



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—2022–23 Participant

Telling Our Story in His Story!

By **CLAUDIA BUSTAMANTE**

Claudia Bustamante serves with the Perspectives Global Spanish Service office in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is the Director of the Integral Missionary Support Network, author of *Advice for the Care of Missionaries*, founder of the School of Missionary Mobilization, and co-founder of Frontiers Argentina.

“The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.”

(Ps 135:6, NIV)

In March of 2006, I visited the William Carey Library in Pasadena, California. As I browsed through the books, I found a few Spanish books. Some titles were well-known and used in Latin America. Right next to them were the English *Perspectives* books. I remember holding them close and praying, “Lord, when will we have this in Spanish?”

A few days later, I had the honor of meeting Ralph Winter as he delivered a devotional to his leadership team. He said, “We must learn to give the best of our resources for the extension of his kingdom and learn to live with what’s left.” I hid that truth in my heart, and it has guided my life decisions ever since.

Seven years later, I got a call from Tony Vazquez, a well-known Latin mobilizer, who invited me to join the first intensive in Spanish to be held in Lima, Peru. Montserrat Antillón, with passionate leadership, coordinated this course with 50 leaders from South America. From this gathering came the launch of the first translated Spanish curriculum based on the 4th edition. I wept for 10 days as I studied God’s abundant mercies, his perfect timing, and his Word revealed in the paradigms of each lesson.

Meanwhile, God brought to my mind the names of some 350 Argentinian leaders with whom I could share about the study program. When I returned, I wrote to invite each of them to a meeting where I’d tell them about the revival I just experienced. Sixty people responded to that invitation, and I’m grateful to Jeff Adams for sharing with them about Perspectives via Skype.

It was impressive! The group unanimously supported the initiative to bring the program to Argentina. They asked me, “What do you want us to do?” to which I answered, “Take the intensive that will be offered in Kansas City in six months!” Four decided to go: a pastor, a prayer leader,

and two field workers. Another four Hispanic partners and friends from other nations also participated. In my first experience as an instructor, I had the honor to teach lesson 2 there. It was an inner revolution!

A long silence followed, and I wasn’t sure what was happening. Finally, in 2014, I received another call from another hard-working mobilizer, Pastor Rigoberto Diguero, inviting me to participate in another intensive in Ensenada, Mexico. In parallel, the first intensive began in Cuba. It was there that Bruce Koch, Perspectives Global Director, spoke about finding trustworthy people in Latin America who could share the courses in Spanish. It was important to understand the ethos as well as the legal and ethical conditions of hosting the course in our countries. I was honored to accept them. That’s when we began this great adventure. Thank you, Perspectives Global, for trusting and investing in us, and for opening the door for Latin America!

Our Great Adventure

In 2015, I began to participate in the recently created Council for Perspectives Global Spanish (PGE in Spanish) together with the other leaders of the existing programs. The early fellowship, mutual support, times of dialogue, and monthly prayer meetings strengthened the ties of the Spanish-speaking network from the beginning.

As we dreamed about developing programs in the countries that still did not have them, we held annual consultations in strategic countries.¹ In each meeting, more and more people joined our teams. As we increasingly learned about the global movement, our local teams grew stronger and had greater vision.

¹ Consultations were held in Costa Rica (2015), Mexico (2016), Colombia (2017), Orlando, Florida, USA (2018), and Brazil (2019). After the pandemic, we met in Panama (2023).



The worldwide pandemic in 2020 freed us to work with virtual programs, multiplying the course and students in almost all programs. In Argentina, we already had begun to use the Moodle platform in 2019 for student assignments. The global shutdown encouraged us to share this tool with PGE. In 2020, a council of leaders developed a course for 850 people on the platform. People from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Guatemala worked together. Students from Spain, Panama, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Equatorial Guinea, Paraguay, Uruguay, and the Dominican Republic also participated.

The year 2023 challenged us to change, adjust, unlearn, and relearn to see where and how God wanted to make adjustments in all of us. We surrendered to his will and he gave us direction. We built a new service team, which we called “A New PGE.” The Kintsel and Flynn families from the Perspectives Global Service Office (PGSO) taught us six essential basics. These principles are now being spread among many more people who serve the Spanish-speaking movement, including relevant new areas such as virtual learning, technology, tutoring, mobilization, and new stewardship of growth.

Since then, the complete course, including instructor videos, has been accessible in a completely online format. Other countries, like Mexico and Peru, used Zoom. During that year, the online course had 318 students and a team of 141 volunteers serving them. God gives greater grace where there is greater weakness! What a life lesson! What threatened to close everything down made way for greater glory—*his glory!* The online program is here to stay and accessible to all without excuse.

The cost of the work and fatigue was high, but the joy of the fruit was greater. So many gifts were used! So many people were served! So many received these truths! For the first time, our workers in cross-cultural fields could study at a distance. So many testimonies were told about the grace they experienced as God guided them to redirect their projects, labor, and attitudes. The Perspectives lessons crossed unthinkable frontiers using wireless technology.

For the first time, the national program began to serve neighboring countries that did not yet have the course,

thus forming a critical mass of certified students. Many of them are now members of initial teams developing the program in Ecuador, Venezuela, Uruguay, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

We are challenged at every moment to renew, create, and produce what God tells us.

Ten Spiritual Principles We Learned

1 God’s timing had arrived for our land and the Spanish language.

With the help of Jonathan Lewis’ edited volume *Misión Mundial*, the Ibero-American Missionary Movement had been mobilized since the first Ibero-American Missions Congress (Comibam 1987 in São Paulo). *Misión Mundial* was “the course” that grounded mobilization efforts during that time. While this tool was good for its time, we slowly plateaued and needed a fresh focus from God.

The Holy Spirit blew on Costa Rica in 2011, then Mexico, and then the launch in Lima, Peru, in 2013. A new understanding was infused with a clear vision and unique passion, which I call “a personal revival that invites others to experience God.” The 15 lessons in Perspectives awakened us all to biblical, theological, and missiological insight and called us to surrender to Christ’s lordship. Today, Perspectives is a focal point that affects the local church, the national church, mission agencies, and even field workers.

There is a new understanding that the timing of when a course starts is subject to the fulfillment of God’s global objectives. Therefore, it must be governed by his perfect will. Without pushing, we check the intentionality of the Lord who goes ahead mobilizing and preparing everything with visible signs of the *kairos* moment.

2 Relationships prepare the way.

Each of us already had work networks mobilized in different ministries. We had experienced the cooperation and fraternity of doing things together. These relationships reinforced our confidence in what we were presenting in our countries. We had national and continental partnerships in the three Americas and elsewhere in the world, such as Spain and Equatorial Guinea. It was not difficult to inspire them to be part of Perspectives because God was in it.





Encuentro Panama 2023

They all recognized the need for renewal and redirection in mission work and in life itself. We called several significant men and women personally to say to them, “God says you should be in this course. There is something special from God for your life and ministry.” *And they said yes!*

3 The initial team models fellowship.

It was natural to honor, respect, value, and support each other, even amid the pain and difficulties we faced. That has not changed. We learned that leadership renewal opens doors for growth and expansion. Significant changes came as new generations participated.

We’ve sought to put a few principles into practice: be transparent with each other, mature together, minister directly or indirectly, give ourselves to the fullest, and enjoy the synergy of gifts and abilities being put into action. Above all, we’re to be siblings and friends. Relationships are vital. Everything starts with healthy relationships. We learned that without a team there is no program.

4 What kind of leaders are we looking for?

We understood Perspective Global’s (PG) expectations from the beginning. We understood our roles and responsibilities. We achieved gradual autonomy but always in interdependence with both the Spanish council and global leaders. PG told us, “We are

looking for servant leaders, humble servants with towels in hand.” These words reflected their genuine attitude.

In Perspectives, there is no room for arrogance, fame-seeking, or power because we are called to embody the message. We are called to his purpose—to be a blessing to others, having the attitude of Christ (Phil 2).

5 A sense of consecration

We’re all volunteers but we give ourselves fully to the program, maxing our time and covering our expenses. We also meet others’ needs as God directs us.

Also, our resources must be managed with the consciousness that we are stewarding resources for God’s kingdom. That awareness makes a significant difference. It opens doors to supernatural provision. It also is a generous expression of love to invest in travel to support courses in other regions that are in the process of growth and consolidation.

6 Quality instructors matter

The quality of the instructors—their lives, teaching skills, biblical depth, experiences, and background—enrich the lessons. We always remember that we are the message even before we speak. We must be zealous when delivering the paradigms discussed in each lesson. Being so can make each lesson a learning and transformational experience. We pray for classes with anointing and revelation. We seek men and women who reflect with their lives the lesson itself.

7 Prayer is more than a duty.

We pray for one another. During the process of a course, many personal situations come up in conversation. Through prayer, we cover each other's health, families, finances, churches, hearts, and character. We pray for all the Spanish programs and the entire global movement, its 40 national programs, its leadership, its regions, and its challenges.

8 Annual National Retreats

To strengthen the communion of our national program, we create annual spaces to resolve pending conflicts: to forgive, ask for forgiveness, heal relationships inasmuch as it depends on us, laugh and cry together, worship and minister together to the Lord in spirit and truth, and better know each other and the families of those we serve. We see ourselves as one big family that grows organically.

9 When the best ones leave...

Loss can strike at any time. We lost some because God called them to eternity and now rest from their labors. We lost Victor Ibagón, whose life fell like a seed in Barcelona.

With his departure, we had to reorganize. Many things depended on him. This loss helped us become more aware of our vulnerability; it also encouraged us to live intentionally, more focused, and with a sense of destiny more than ever before. We lose others because of their wholehearted obedience to the Lord when they go to their mission fields, and so we must cover their tasks. Our loss is a gain for his harvest.

10 We do not work in isolation.

Listening to all God is doing around the world, our teams have stronger vision. The global feeds and empowers the local. Working cross-culturally with others follows the model of Jesus who chose to minister *with others*, not just to them.

There is no doubt that Jesus led Perspectives for his Father during his time on earth. He was the first coordinator, the first instructor, the first corrector of lives, and the one who launched disciples to bring about the fulfillment of his eternal purposes.

We come from that history... and we are part of his history still.


A Note from the Translators



This article was translated by Ken and Glynis Kintsel. The following note gives further background to the work of Perspectives in the Spanish-speaking world.

Our vision for seeing the Perspectives course in Spanish began in 2003 when we took the course in English in Oklahoma. After finishing the class, the Lord gave us a vision to share the course with our Spanish-speaking friends. We were aware that God was working mightily with the Spanish-speaking church in the area of missions and was calling many people to get involved in cross-cultural ministries. We also realized that Perspectives would be an important tool for preparing believers from that part of the world for that kind of work.

However, when we checked with the Perspectives home office about how to get connected with the Perspectives program in Spanish, they told us that the course did not exist in that language yet, so they invited us to join them in praying for the translation of the materials. We began asking the Lord to give this tool to the Spanish-speaking church as well. After eight years, Perspectives Global contacted our ministry, King's Way Center for World Mission, asking us to oversee the translation of all of the materials into Spanish!

The Lord put together a team of believers in Texas, along with translators in Costa Rica, Spain, Argentina, and Mexico who worked with us for two years on the project. It was a huge effort that was completed in 2013 when we then opened a service office to help the emerging programs during those first years. This work now functions under the the direction of the Spanish Perspectives Council. We had the privilege and opportunity to help plant Perspectives in Mexico, Cuba, Argentina, Colombia, Spain, and the United States. We've also served other new programs in the 12 countries where the Perspectives Study Program now operates. All glory belongs to the Lord for what he has done and will do through this valuable material. 

Every Step of the Way!

By **TIMOTHY O. OLONADE**

Timothy Olonade, PhD, served on the leadership team CAPRO and was appointed the Pioneer Executive Secretary of Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association before founding El-Rehoboth Global Leadership Foundation and M2414 Initiative for Final Harvest where he serves as President and Int'l Coordinator, respectively. Timothy is a priest in the Anglican Communion where he serves as a Canon. He is the Founding Coordinator of Africa Mentoring Initiative, a network of Christlike leadership development leaders across Africa.

A Generation-Long Series of Encounters

My romance with Perspectives started in 1982. I was undergoing missiological training in preparation for full-time service with an indigenous mission group when someone brought a copy of the Perspectives Reader from the USA. I was fascinated by the articles on people-group factors in world evangelism—that was what we cared about in our work in Nigeria.

In 1989, I received cross-cultural communication training in Bulstrode, England, and spent time at Worldwide Evangelization for Christ (WEC International) headquarters. I had a discussion with Patrick Johnstone, then editor of *Operation World*, on the paucity of sound motivational and inspirational missiological materials that can spark mission interest. I had just published my first work, *Motivation for World Missions*, a small book calling for immediate frontier mission involvement from the Emerging African Mission Force. My response to Patrick was this: If Perspectives crossed the Atlantic, it could be one of God's instruments to spur zeal and motivation for world missions for a long time.

In 2000, I was appointed the Pioneer Executive Secretary/CEO of the Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association (NEMA), a networking association committed to mutual encouragement and accountability to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. The Association was birthed in 1982 by five Nigerian indigenous missions groups that wanted to expand the involvement of Nigerians in world missions. After

assuming office at NEMA, I visited the US Center for World Mission in Pasadena, the home of Perspectives and the *International Journal of Frontier Missiology*. Greg Parsons arranged for me to meet Ralph Winter.

"If Perspectives on the World Christian Movement is about the world Christian movement, why have you served it as an American menu?" I asked Winter. His answer was quite profound, "We are waiting for people like you to take it further." He went on to show me a couple of abortive moves in India, Ethiopia, Brazil, and Latin America. In each, "We wanted to ensure Perspectives did not come across as an American imposition." To deal with "this American thing," it seemed they killed the fire by removing wood from the fireplace. They were careful that the food didn't smell like charcoal, and they ended up having uncooked food that couldn't be served.

Winter was legitimately interested in seeing Perspectives transcend America, but his position on some of his articles was sacrosanct. Maybe we could drop some articles and get locals to write a piece or two. I saw his dilemma and supported his vision for a culturally adaptable Perspectives in Nigeria. I counseled, "We can't begin to change the content or replace articles until we've interacted with the present content." To that, Winter graciously replied, "Then let's make it happen."

Within weeks, a plan was made for the first-ever PSP (Perspectives Study Program) intensive course on





the continent of Africa in Jos, Nigeria, in 2002. That trip brought Steve Hawthorne and Bruce Koch on their first African visit—to Nigeria! Fifty-six key leaders from over 30 denominations and mission agencies came for the maiden two-week intensive class in May 2002. Their testimonies were electrifying. The content, delivery, and atmosphere refreshed these leaders, some having traveled 500 miles on poor roads to attend the training. After the class, I invited 14 of these leaders to a post-study review session to strategize development for the future program in Nigeria. We looked at the course, hosting costs and logistics, travel challenges, the development of local facilitators, and the affordability of the reading manual. We mapped out our strategy and enlisted help where needed. We scheduled classes across Nigeria and expressed the ambitious desire to step into other African nations ASAP!

Bad news travels fast, but good news travels far. Classes across various regions were held quickly one after another. From that mustard seed planted in 2002, there are now tens of thousands of alumni in Nigeria and other African countries. We introduced PSP as an in-service training and leadership-development course on world evangelization for serving and emerging leaders. And it worked. In the days before Boko Haram invaded and stained the land, even senior government officers, who were bi-vocational pastors and missionaries, fought to get a seat in the class.


So, intentional efforts were made from inception to target participants who could hasten the impact of the program. One such participant was the regional leader of Foursquare Gospel Church, Isaac Komolafe. Following the Perspectives class in 2002, Komolafe trailblazed his denomination's incursion into the unreached people groups of northeast Nigeria. In his words, "Perspectives turned things around—the right way!" He was among the first leading pastors to train as facilitators and traveled with me to facilitate several classes.

Perspectives had an immediate impact on two Anglican Bishops—one in the East, the other in

Central Nigeria. Bishop Sam was an active leader in the Scripture Union Movement in Nigeria before he was elected Bishop. Upon becoming a bishop, he sought the Lord for the best way to bring the deep-rooted mission and evangelism zeal to his area. Hearing of Perspectives, he invited us to run a class for 46 of his senior clergy and fellow bishops. Before the class ended, they resolved to have another larger class. Three months later, 10 bishops, an archbishop, and 89 carefully selected, very senior clergymen from 10 dioceses took the Perspectives intensive class.

The intensive nature of the classes contributed to PSP's growth in Nigeria. For busy leaders, it is much easier to sacrifice a little time over a week than to stretch the course out over a longer period. Such flexibility thrilled Bishop Nyom of Central Nigeria. Rather than send 10 people to Jos for the class, Bishop Nyom pleaded to host a class of their own. Within a year of this discussion, 64 of his close associates and regional leaders took the course. Nyom told me four years later, "The church planting passion and practice that followed the class is remarkable and fruitful."

Various associates were urged to step up their involvement in missions, including two young architects, Sam Olatunbi and Victor Idakwoji. To be on staff in NEMA then, you needed to go through PSP. It was my prescribed baptism into serving and running errands for the Nigeria mission movement. So, Sam and Victor experienced two separate classes that changed the course of their lives permanently. Thereafter, Sam coordinated PSP nationally under my watch for five years before Victor took over and has served in that duty post for over a decade. What started as a mustard seed grew leaps and bounds through the yielded and focused involvement of these two, along with my successors in the NEMA leadership.

I shared with the maiden class in 2002 my vision to see thousands of church leaders take Perspectives. The first five foundational years attracted about 2,000–3,000 people. Another 10 years of moderate growth followed. In a recent analysis of the program, Perspectives has attracted more than 6,400 participants from all the states in Nigeria in the past eight years. Our dream of impacting other African countries has not yielded the desired result. But the program continues to showcase the reality of the world Christian movement that is driven by Nigerians, resourced by Perspectives, and extends the gospel's reach—to the glory of God. 



Hoodwinked

This Is a Missions Program!

By JAY MĀTENGA

Jay Mātenga is the Director of Missions Interlink, the missionary alliance of Aotearoa, New Zealand. He also leads the Mission Commission with the World Evangelical Alliance. See his blog and article archive at jaymatenga.com.

The year is 1990. My new wife and I sat in the backseat of a car, returning home from our Pacific island honeymoon in Rarotonga. Driving the car was an elder from our church, a good friend who chauffeured us from the airport to our first home as husband and wife. Aside from the usual life changes, getting married also required me to get a passport. It was my first time outside of Aotearoa, New Zealand. Before this, I had no interest in leaving the country. I felt called to serve here at home.

I met my wife, Pauline, in 1988 at Faith Bible College, a small disciple-training school in Tauranga on the Bay of Plenty, New Zealand, 1,473 miles due south of Fiji. We had the same classes, except for the electives. Pauline took all the missions electives in anticipation of a short-term placement in the Philippines, followed by carrying Bibles into China from Hong Kong as part of the school's six-week practicum. I, on the other hand, planned my elective subjects around avoiding the missions classes, even to the point of signing up for Women in Ministry, the only alternative elective at one point on the timetable. For the six-week summer practicum, I served a fledgling youth ministry in a small country town.

Our different ministry aspirations proved unable to keep us apart. We simply assumed God would lead us one way or another, and so we set the future aside. With our honeymoon bags packed in the trunk and us sitting close in the backseat, our elder friend swiveled in the driver's seat and thrust a three-fold photocopied pamphlet into each of our hands. The front fold read something like, "Discover God's Plan for the World... and Your Part in It." Initially, I was intrigued. I've always been attracted to the big picture. Moreover, Pauline and I were eager to discover God's plan for our newly unified lives.



Our friend turned back to the wheel. As he pulled away from the curb, he looked at us in the rear-view mirror and blithely noted, "I've already signed you up. Because of your vacation, you've missed the first two weeks, but I'm sure you'll be able to catch up." I flipped the front page open and read the course blurb. It was as cunningly worded as the front, but it didn't fool me. "Wait," I complained. "This is a *missions* course. I'm not interested in doing a missions course."

The way I remember it, my new bride jabbed my leg, looked up at me, batting her eyelashes, and appealed, "Aw, go on... it'll be fun." I was hoodwinked, shanghaied, caught between a protagonist and an ally. What choice did I have?! It turned out that our driver was teaching the course—*Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. The New Zealand edition was 21 weeks long. It was the start of winter. Our elder friend was Michael Simkin, a pioneering mobilizer for WEC International in New Zealand. In that car, God changed the course of our lives.

Perspectives (as the course is affectionately named) was introduced to Aotearoa, New Zealand, in 1987 by a local Pentecostal church pastor who had taken the course in the USA. The pastor encouraged another leader in the church, Don Cowey, to go to Pasadena, take the course, train as a coordinator, and bring it back to New Zealand. Don, an architect who served in missions, had a passion for starting a missionary training school.¹ While Don taught the first class using the official study guide in 1987, he asked a student in the first cohort of 45 to adapt the course for a wider New Zealand audience.

¹ Interview with Bob Hall, "Global Perspective Grabs New Zealand," in *Mission Frontiers*, March–April 1990. www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/article/global-perspective-grabs-new-zealand.

That student was Bob Hall, a sociology professor at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand. In a 1990 interview, Bob confirmed that the first cohort of 45 grew in 1988 to 200 over six courses, in 1989 to 600 in 20 courses, and, by 1990 my wife and I were two of 1,200 people in one of 40 courses around the nation.²

Not long after Bob accepted responsibility for (re) designing and administrating what became the “South Pacific Perspectives Study Programme,” he recruited Michael Simkin to assist with the development of a new Centre for Mission Direction (CMD), with a vision to “awaken those who are asleep to mission... mobilize those who are awake to mission... and support those who are moving in mission.” CMD became a major influence for missions in Aotearoa, New Zealand, between 1988 and 2006. Out of their homes, Bob (in Christchurch, South Island) and Michael (near Wellington, North Island) promoted and distributed all manner of missions awareness materials including the Perspectives courses, Caleb Project, Joshua Project, Adopt a People, Global Mapping material, Patrick Johnstone’s World A, B and C material, AD2000 (and Beyond), 10/40 Window, Destination 2000 (Sjogren), and Catch The Vision (Stearns) content, Global Prayer Digest, Brigada news, Friday Fax, and many other missions books, journals, and teaching videos.³ CMD also maintained a comprehensive contact database of missionary organizations sending from and ministering within Aotearoa, New Zealand. Although they wholeheartedly endorsed the development of Perspectives, CMD’s resourcing sat uncomfortably with some leaders of the New Zealand Evangelical Missionary Alliance (NZEMA, renamed Missions Interlink in May 1999). Nevertheless, NZEMA’s member agencies welcomed CMD’s ministry because it provided a much-needed boost to a waning missions vision in local churches.

In 1994, Pauline and I opted for a ix-month placement with our local church as part of our undergraduate education at the Missionary Training College in Tasmania.⁴ This allowed us to learn from and assist Michael Simkin and CMD. By that stage in our missions vision, we felt

² Interview with Bob Hall, “Global Perspective Grabs New Zealand.”


³ The CMD website is no longer active, but an archive of CMD’s vision and core services remains online: christian.net/pub/resources/mission3.html.

⁴ The WEC Missionary Training College in Tasmania is now known as Worldview Centre for Intercultural Studies.

that God was calling us to mobilization, a relatively new missions ministry promoted in Perspectives by Ralph Winter. It was just starting to catch on in the early/mid-1990s. In 1995, we were accepted by WEC International to serve at the sending base in Auckland, New Zealand, in administration and mobilization, continuing our work with CMD and coordinating the Perspectives courses in the upper North Island region.

In 2000, I became Director of the Pioneers New Zealand (PNZ)’s mobilization office, shoulder-tapped by one of our Perspectives students who was PNZ’s administrator. We continued to be involved with Perspectives while serving Pioneers until 2015. It was then that I was invited to lead Missions Interlink NZ, with the remit both to help its members position themselves for a new era of missions from and within Aotearoa, New Zealand, and to encourage interagency collaboration to strengthen participation in God’s mission. In 2020, I was invited to lead the World Evangelical Alliance’s Mission Commission.

In everything Pauline and I do for missions, we remain committed to the calling that first emerged in 1990 from our Perspectives reflections. The core of that vision is to strengthen participation in God’s mission, but not the way missions has been done in the past. From 1974–2014, enormous momentum grew for a certain vision of God’s mission, but it is time for a shift of ... perspective.⁵ Perspectives still influences much of my missions thinking, even as I have moved on from many Western biases. Within my local and global networks, we are in a careful process of reimagining missions in light of a maturing world Christianity. Pray for us.

I am honored to be among a cohort of hundreds of New Zealanders out of the thousands of students who were motivated into cross-cultural missions by the South Pacific Perspectives Study Programme. The fact that I serve in and from Aotearoa, New Zealand, with a frequently stamped passport is not lost on me. Through Perspectives, I caught Pauline’s heart for God’s purposes among the nations. As God did with me, let us pray for the Spirit to “hoodwink” new generations into serving God’s purposes in fresh ways for a world in desperate need of the gospel. 

⁵ For more on this period, see Harold Fickett, *The Ralph D. Winter Story* (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 2012).



From a Packed Lunch to Great Banquet

By **RICHARD M. VERREYNNE**

Richard Verreyne lives in South Africa, training pastors, church planters, and missionaries. He leads a ministry, Church on the Move, seeking to mobilize and revitalize the Church for its global mission task. He can be reached at richardverreyne@gmail.com.

Outside his campus abode at the US Center for World Mission, Ralph Winter and I enjoyed a packed lunch in the winter of 1982. Shaded by a big old tree, he recounted the birth of Perspectives. I concede I knew very little about global missions, especially the unreached. I was a 32-year-old pastor of an evangelical church on the east coast of South Africa.

Meaningful missionary themes emerged during my four years of seminary. The Great Commission stood out among my academic mentors, but the weight of cross-cultural missions never settled on me. Personal evangelism was my priority. As a young pastor in Cape Town, I had the joy of seeing a newly planted suburban church expand rapidly.

I started training teams in evangelism, using Jim Kennedy's popular model, Evangelism Explosion (EE), before eventually being invited in 1982 to participate in the 20th anniversary of EE to be held in Fort Lauderdale. Having never traveled to the US, I sought advice from my friends, Dave and Debbie Bliss, who said, "You simply have to spend at least one whole week at the US Center for World Mission and meet Ralph Winter!" And so, I did.

Now I was here, intently listening to Winter relate the need for a fresh new perspective on missionary training; how stacks of curriculum material shaped a compendium of reality-filled missiology; how God brought together a significantly large number of partnering professors and mission practitioners

with much to contribute through writing and live presentations. They would start training teams called to ripe mission fields among the unreached. I was hearing from the source of a dynamic story about how God shaped the Perspectives Study Program.

Before my unforgettable meeting with Winter, I walked the campus from this side to that, visited the William Carey Library, and spoke to some of the cosmopolitan students. Always in the back of my mind was the Bliss' story of how the USCWM came into being. I now witnessed the enormous faith venture to buy this vacant college campus without money and how the massive prayerful faith fundraising process came to pass.

Having talked much and eaten little, the sage then placed a ring binder with the study guide before me; on top of that was the brand new blue 1981 edition of the *Perspectives Reader*. His words were soft and uninspiring, as a deep frown marked his forehead: "See if there's anything you can do with this." Walking away from that conversation, I clutched my gift, wondering, "What would I go and do with this?"

Now, I had the opportunity to structure a new two-year missions course and decided to use *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*.

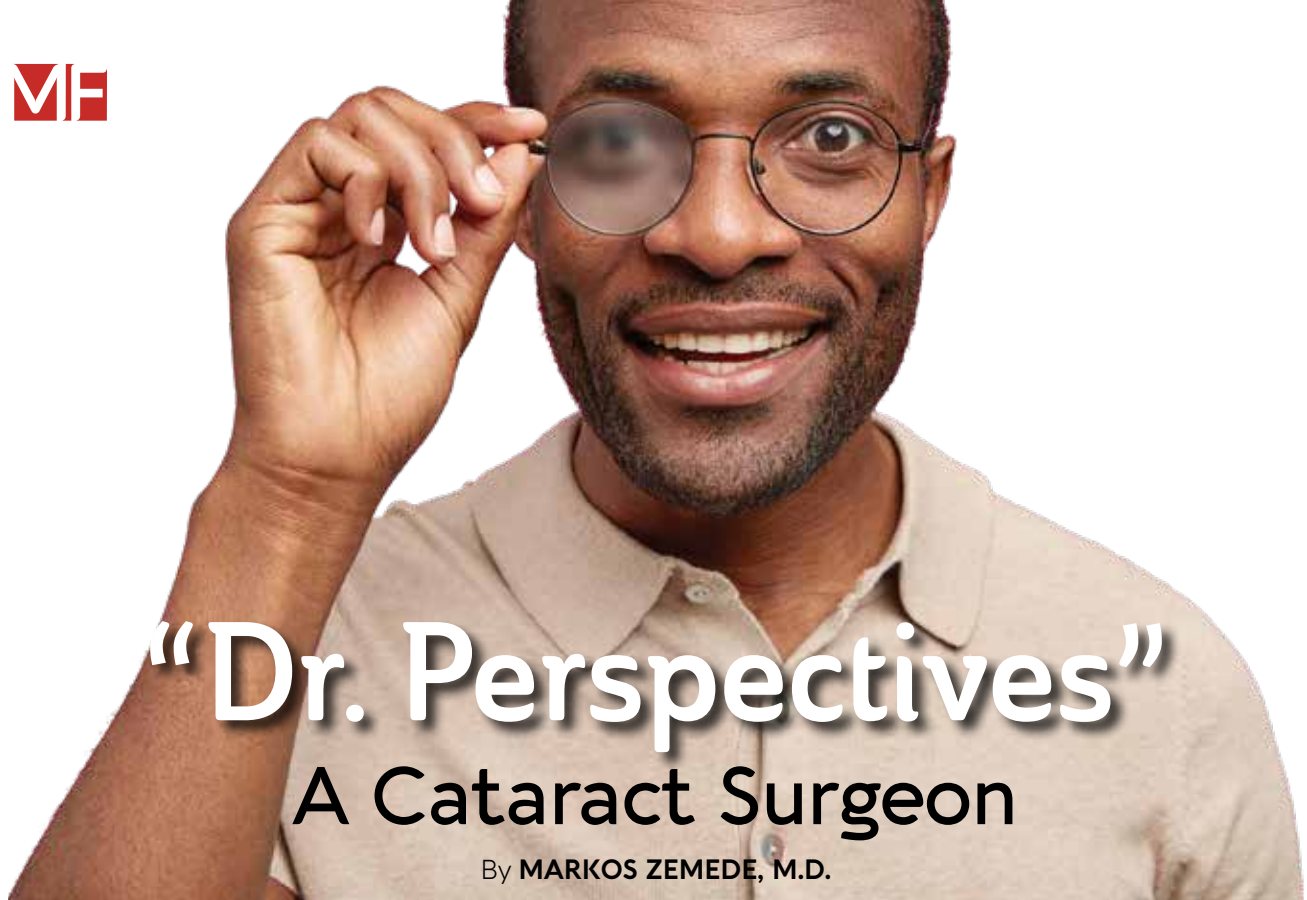
Back in South Africa, God's plans were unfolding. The second conference of the South African Action for World Evangelization (SAAWE) took place in Durban. I started working closely with this organization, inspired by their motto: "South Africa a fountain of good news to the nations of the world." In 1983, I was called to a local church east of Johannesburg, where the Christian Reformed Theological Seminary (CRTS) was also docked. I assisted as an administrative registrar and taught missiology. For decades, missions in South Africa had been caught up in the throes of apartheid. Something was needed to wrest free the study of mission from this disempowering grip of politically inspired views. Now, I had the opportunity to structure a new two-year missions course and decided to use *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*. In 1985,

I was appointed as CRTS president. With interest so overwhelmingly heightened for the missiology course, we structured CRTS to have a School of Theology, training pastors with a strong missional emphasis, and a School of World Mission, equipping mission candidates with a sound evangelical theology for cross-cultural mission endeavor. The results have been profound, with numerous mission candidates deployed into Africa, Asia, and the 10/40 Window. Many local churches are involved in missions and becoming sender bases from which the Lord of the Harvest can send out his called ones.

That local church east of Johannesburg became something of an epicenter church from where their own missionary testimony of prayer, faith-promise giving, and sending missionaries multiplied hundredfold and more! The 1990s saw more than 2,500 local churches in various denominations adopt a missionary vision and become involved in world evangelization. According to the *South African Christian Handbook* (SAAWE; 1989 ed.), the number of missionaries sent from South Africa into the world was a meager 285. An SAAWE estimate in 1989 stated that mission-supporting churches could be counted on one hand. We sorely wanted to see that change!

The Lord blessed these efforts abundantly as the fruit of mission endeavor spread like wildfire during the 1990s. In 1997, the estimated number of missionaries sent out from South Africa exceeded 7,000, with over 1,000 local churches becoming involved in missions.

We give glory to God for mission-mobilizing being initiated in South Africa and its ripple effect throughout Africa, the 400 minority groups in China, Russia's many indigenous peoples, and the Indian subcontinent with its 2,500 unreached and unengaged people groups. Dear faithful partners in Winter's vision—by the grace of our God, we have "seen what we could do" with the gift of that vision, a reader, and a study guide. We await a great banquet with all nations as the Lord's guests. Soli Deo gloria! 🏡



“Dr. Perspectives”

A Cataract Surgeon

By MARKOS ZEMEDE, M.D.

Markos Zemedu immigrated to the US from Ethiopia as a teenager. His life was transformed by the Perspectives course and today he leads a mission organization called Horn of Africa Mission. He can be contacted at markos@hornofafrica.org.

I was 18 years old when I arrived in the United States in 1984. I gave my life to Jesus two years prior while a refugee in Rome, Italy. Coming to the US was a huge blessing for several reasons. Firstly, I found the freedom to love and follow Jesus. At that time, Ethiopia was under a communist regime, and it was illegal to be a disciple of Jesus. Coming to America, I was able to grow and mature in my faith. Secondly, I had a childhood dream of becoming a medical doctor. America was my best chance to fulfill my dream. Lastly, I was unaware of my need to have surgery, but I met the surgeon, “Dr. Perspectives,” in America.

In 1996, by the grace of God, I accomplished my childhood dream of becoming a medical doctor and started my medical practice. I thought, “Now I can live the American dream.” But before long, my church introduced me to the *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* course. Though I had never heard about this course before, I signed up and took it. As a result, my life’s trajectory forever changed. It was in this Perspectives class that I exchanged my idea of the American dream with God’s kingdom dream. One Perspectives instructor defined the

American dream as “Buying things we don’t need, with the money we don’t have, to impress people we don’t like.” With this understanding of the American dream, I was so happy to exchange it for a life with meaning and purpose.

God used the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course as a skilled surgeon to perform cataract surgery on the eyes of my heart. Now, I can see clearly and in colors. I started seeing the Bible as one book. Its grand metanarrative became apparent. Knowing God’s dream of seeing worshipers from every nation, tribe, people, and language (Rev 7:9) challenged me to exchange my small dream with God’s big dream. Living to fulfill God’s dream became my ambition. Instead of seeing people only as “saved” or “unsaved,” I started also seeing people as “reached” or “unreached.” I moved from thinking only of “what God has saved me *from*” to “what God has saved me *for*.” I started realizing all lost people are not the same. Some are lost with access to the gospel. Many others are lost without any access. All these new perspectives caused me to have a paradigm shift and created a passion in my heart to take the gospel to those who

have little or no access to the message of Christ. Those who are last to hear became my priority. With that new understanding and passion, a couple of my Ethiopian friends and I started a mission organization called Horn of Africa Mission in 2002.

It was not natural or easy to start a mission organization as an African immigrant living in the US. On the one hand, we didn't know any mission organizations that were started and run by African immigrants. On the other hand, the American mission organizations we knew needed a lot of money to be fruitful. God in his wisdom helped us to start and lead a very fruitful missions organization that is not dependent on a lot of money yet, at the same time, impacts many nations.


When we thought about where to start our ministry, being born and raised in Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa region was a natural first choice. Beyond familiarity and natural connection, it is a region where a large percentage of the population is unreached. We began our work in Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2004. We started by organizing annual missions conferences where we invited all evangelical leaders to attend. These conferences helped us to know the leaders, introduce global missions, and create partnerships with churches and mission organizations. Soon after, we started to train, support, and send church planters in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Back then, our rallying cry was to plant "10,000 churches by 2010!" To many of our friends, this was a crazy dream, as our goal seemed impossible for a newly birthed ministry. Our answer was, "We learned in the Perspectives course that our assignment is to make disciples of all nations, and the best strategy to accomplish that is to plant churches. God will help us to disciple the unreached people groups of the Horn of Africa and in the process will plant these 10,000 churches by 2010!"

God faithfully provided church planters, funding, and the strategy of CPM/DMM so that we could march full speed toward our goal. By 2010, our ministry grew beyond Ethiopia and Eritrea to include Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, Kenya, and Tanzania. We observed the hardest places produce the greatest of harvests. We saw amazing multiplication in many of our mission fields. By the end of 2010, more than 10,000

simple churches were planted in the nations of the Horn of Africa/East Africa region. To God be the glory! Today, our ministry has expanded to include 23 nations in Africa and the Middle East. We have seen over 28,000 simple churches planted and more than 750,000 people added to God's kingdom.

In addition, God is pleased to use us as an instrument to awaken the African church for missions. A recent experience serves as an example. A few months ago, we trained church leaders in Chad with the goal of starting a mission organization there. Afterward, we encouraged the leaders to found a mission organization with a vision to reach their nation and one day send missionaries to reach their neighboring nations. Our story—African immigrants used by God to reach nations in Africa and the Middle East, ignited a fire in their hearts and increased their faith. We made it clear that it is not our intention to open a branch of *our* ministry but to help them start a mission organization that *they* lead. And this gave them great confidence. As partners, we agreed to give them training, avail ourselves for coaching, and provide them with resources including finances.

Today, they're doing a great job, making great strides to engage the remaining UPGs in their nation. We believe they will be more fruitful as an indigenous ministry led by locals than if they were a branch office of our ministry. In this way, the Chadian church will be revealed as the gift that it is and will help the African church to play its role in God's mission. We have established organizations like this in a few other countries and rejoice in what God is doing through his people in Africa and the Middle East. We look forward to the day when the African church sends a multitude of missionaries to reach the remaining hard-to-reach people groups of the world. The harvest field is becoming the harvest force.

The world came into focus for me after a successful cataract surgery. "Dr. Perspectives" (Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course) gave me a clear vision of God's Word and his mission. I am forever grateful for the course that connected me with my purpose by restoring my sight and shaping my ministry to impact nations. 



God's Impact on the Brazilian Perspectives Movement

By **ESTEVÃO MULLER**

Estevão Muller is co-founder and president of Perspectivas Brasil and director of mobilization for Frontiers Brasil (perspectivasbrasil.com; frontiers.org.br)

The Beginning

The challenge was before us. What could a small group of ordinary people do to impact the missions movement of a church of more than 50 million believers in a country the size of the continental United States? In 2008, we started by gathering approximately 70 pastors and mission leaders together to present the Perspectives vision and material. Although we dreamt of how Perspectives could move the Brazilian church, we could not have imagined the magnitude of what God would do over the next 16 years to mobilize his people for his mission.

In the late 2000s, many mission leaders were discouraged, believing that the Brazilian church was losing a vision for sending missionaries. But God had other plans and began to move into the church. Although Perspectives started slowly (with just a few

courses each year), the movement began to explode in 2014. By 2018, Perspectivas Brasil offered 50 classes a year with an average of 65 students per class. Despite the pandemic, Perspectivas Brasil has now surpassed 22,000 alumni, including more than 3,000 pastors.

A New Momentum

These statistics, however, tell only a small part of the story about how God moved in Brazil through Perspectives. A new momentum of mission mobilization began to take place and Perspectives grew into the country's largest mission mobilization movement with over 800 volunteers. Several other mobilization efforts joined Perspectives, such as the *VOCARE* youth movement (started in 2012). Together these movements began to impact Brazilian missions as a whole.

With this new momentum, God used Perspectivas Brasil's first national director, Jacó Muller¹, to influence missions mobilization. He became known for his biblical vision of mobilization, in which he states that God is the greatest mobilizer and, since God desires to engage his people in his mission, anything is possible. "Dá!," which in English means "It can be done!" or "It is possible!," became the cry of many missions mobilizers. If God is behind mobilizing his people, then the most unlikely person and the most improbable leader can be mobilized. This momentum spurred many mission mobilization organizations to finally get more engaged in mission mobilization. Today, upon entering the Perspectivas Brasil national office, you'll see this motto on the wall: "We believe in the eminence of a missionary awakening in Brazil, but regardless of how the Brazilian church responds to this, knowing that this is God's will already gives us sufficient reason to invest in mobilization." All of this was supported by a Perspectives national prayer movement that started in 2014 and currently has hundreds of alumni and volunteers praying, with coverage 24hrs a day, 7 days a week for the PSP movement and for UPGs.

Spirit of Pioneering and Sacrifice

The early coordinators and volunteers had a spirit of pioneering and sacrifice to spread the vision of God's global purpose. Among the hundreds of stories to be told, I'll share a handful. One woman moved to another state for three months to take Perspectives in order to start the course in her own state in northeastern Brazil. Two single mobilizers not only took the course over three months in another state, but they then moved six hours away to a larger city and lived in a church classroom for six more months so that they could coordinate the course there. Young Jacó completed the course in 2011, felt called to unreached peoples (UPGs), but sensed God call him to first mobilize his friends and city. In 2013, he coordinated his first course. By 2014, he served full-time, overseeing seven courses in two states. At the end of the year, he became the national director and served in that role until September of 2023, when he began serving as a church planter among a UPG.

¹ Jacó Muller is his pseudonym, for security reasons.

Influencing Churches and Leaders

Over the years, we've heard stories of God using Perspectives courses to influence local churches. One church leader was so moved that he worked to change the vision statement of his church. That same leader went on to serve as a Perspectives coordinator and regional director for nine years. In the interior of the state of Rio de Janeiro, pastors from different denominations who took the course together decided to start a city-wide mission council. Although these pastors typically do not interact, they joined forces to support cross-cultural mission efforts, both inside and outside Brazil. Their first project put together a team to reach out to the local gypsy community, among whom no one was working. Last year, one of our board members and former coordinators worked with a church not only to offer the Perspectives course but also to help church leaders adopt a mission policy that prioritizes church planters among the unreached. They've already adopted a new missionary family going to the Muslim world.

Serving Mission Agencies

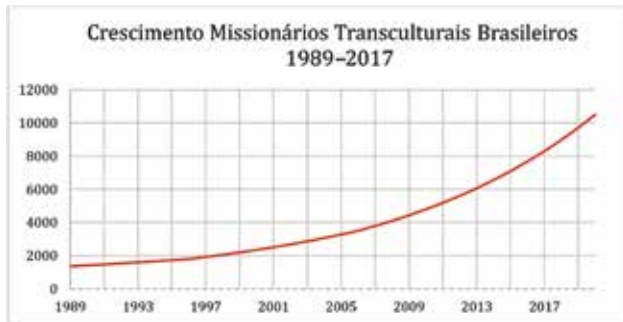
God has used Perspectivas Brasil to serve many mission-sending agencies. A well-established agency had to restructure its candidate-training course to accommodate twice as many candidates, a number they attributed to Perspectives. Recently, a large denominational sending board said that they were reaping the effect of Perspectives in the form of many new missionary candidates. Several times, God used Perspectives as a launching platform for other organizations. The director of Friends of the Gypsies, an organization planting churches among gypsies, dubbed Perspectives as their "John the Baptist." He said, "Everywhere you go, someone wants to start a ministry to the gypsies, and they call us." In 2023, the Perspectivas Brasil office gave logistical and personnel support to three new mobilization ministries as they got established in Brazil.

Growth of Missionary Sending

All of this has significantly affected the growth of Brazilian missionary sending. In their 2017 Research Report,² the Brazilian Association of Cross-Cultural

² AMTB, "Research Report of the Brazilian Cross-Cultural Missionary Force" (São Paulo, 2017), 7 and 22.
ambt.org.br/forca-missionaria-brasileira-transcultural/

Missions (AMTB) cited Perspectives as one of the key mobilization factors for the growth of Brazilian missionary sending, an increase from 6,000 in 2006 to more than 12,000 missionaries in 2017, a number that has since surpassed 15,000.³ As of 2017, 21% of the missionary force works to reach the many indigenous tribal groups within Brazil. Also, 32% of the Brazilian mission force serves the effort to reach Muslims (20%), Hindus, and Buddhists. These figures reflect a significant shift in the focus and priority of the Brazilian missions movement. God has called many Perspectives volunteers and alumni to serve overseas. For example, one young couple took Perspectives, then coordinated two classes, and now serves in North Africa as church planters!



Beyond Brazil

The movement has spread beyond Brazil's borders. Perspectives Brasil has been privileged to offer the Perspectives course in Angola for the past four years to more than 600 church leaders from various denominations, reaching 15 of the 18 Angolan provinces.

New Ministries


In 2020, God led Perspectives Brasil to launch several new mobilization ministries to serve the Brazilian church with a vision for reaching all peoples. First, Perspectives Kids was developed as an interactive Sunday School curriculum for local churches to teach the principles found in Perspectives to children from 6–12 years old. A second ministry, CONVOC, was established as a training course to help those with a vocational call to missions connect with solid mission agencies working among UPGs. Finally, SIG (Serving

the Global Church) was developed as an online resource program to aid local churches in developing strong missions engagement, building on the five principles of going, giving, sending, mobilizing, and welcoming.

A Missionary Decade

Today, Perspectives is known and respected by the key leaders of the Brazilian missions movement and by most mission agency leaders with the AMTB. The course is required or recommended by many of these agencies. At the Perspectives National Congress in 2019, 1,100 mission mobilizers came from around the country to sign the Sumaré Pact, committing themselves to mobilize their cities for God's global purpose throughout the next decade.



Although the pandemic put a slight pause to this momentum, we renewed our vision in 2022, striving towards a “missionary decade” in Brazil. In 2023, Perspectives leaders joined forces with many other mobilization leaders and AMTB leadership to launch Initiative 2033. This national initiative challenges the Brazilian missions movement to prioritize sending missionaries to UPGs and work boldly to see thousands of Brazilian church planters released to the nations. We look forward with eyes of faith, longing to hear many more stories of those who go, send, and mobilize to the nations. May God fulfill his purpose through many ordinary Brazilian believers for the glory of his name. 

³ AMTB, “Research Report of the Brazilian Missionary Force” (São Paulo, 2022), 5.
amtb.org.br/forca-missionaria-brasileira-transcultural-2022/

A close-up photograph of a female nurse in blue scrubs smiling warmly at a young child in a pink shirt. The nurse has a white star sticker on her cheek. They are in a pharmacy or medical supply room, with shelves of various bottles and containers in the background. The child is looking up at the nurse with a curious expression.

How Perspectives Changed My Perspective

By REBECCA L. MEYER, PHD, MSNED, BSN, RN

Rebecca Meyer has been a nurse for more than 35 years. In the hospital setting, she worked in the PICU/CVICU and as an educator, charge nurse, and manager. Becoming a full-time professor in 2010, her clinical focus shifted to community development and academic service learning. She trains students to serve cross-culturally and is the curriculum coordinator and co-author of *Christian Global Health in Perspective*, part of Health for All Nations.

How Do I Serve “Over There”?

I didn't go to college right after high school. When I did, I had no clue what to do with my life. I just knew I needed to start fresh with all the general education courses, and then, hopefully, the Lord would lead me in the right direction. I had a vague notion about serving overseas, maybe with the Peace Corps, but I had no idea how to get “over there” and didn't know about cross-cultural missions opportunities. The Lord was faithful and led me into the nursing field. At first, I worked with adults and resisted working with children since I thought it would be too hard. I can relate to Jonah, running from what the Lord wanted me to do. I finally gave in to the Lord's prompting and found my niche in pediatric intensive care, caring for the sickest and most vulnerable littles. It was exactly where he wanted me to be, working there for more than 20 years. I got married, had children, and still felt a tug on my heart to serve “over there,” but I still didn't know how.

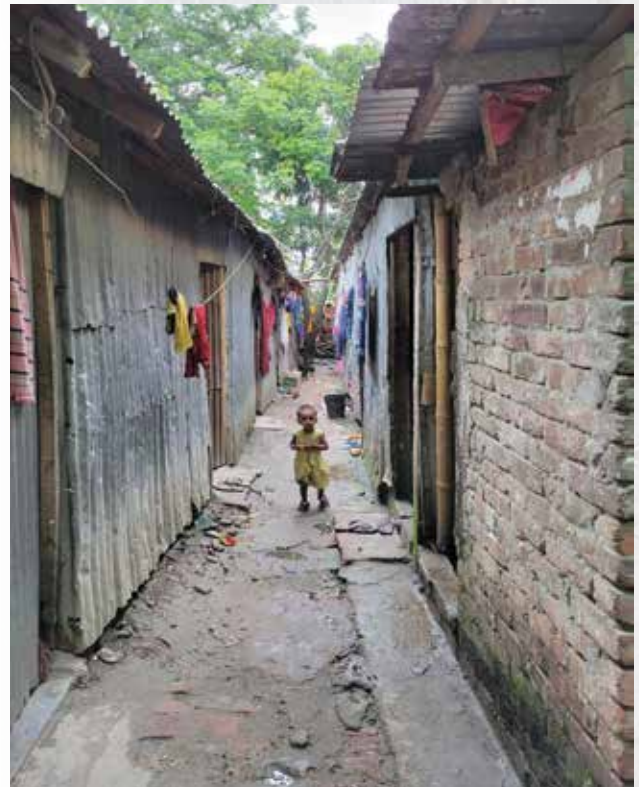
For so long, I searched for meaning in my life. Realizing that I can glorify him in everything I say and do was an important idea for me to understand.

The routine of life and raising three children took over. I served in various ways in my church and community. Sometimes, I functioned as the camp nurse for hundreds of kids in places like Ensenada. I still felt like there were more ways to serve the Lord using my discipline. But I didn't know what or where to look. Eventually, I realized the Lord was calling me to teach. Of course, he had a plan and purpose all along. He led me to teach full-time at a faith-based university that sends hundreds of students to serve overseas every year. Students who want to participate in overseas service are trained to share the gospel and show the love of the Lord to everyone they meet. I also discovered that even though this was a faith-based school, most students are not believers. The Lord brought me to a different mission field than I had imagined.

Paradigm Shift

This same university offered faculty the option of taking the Perspectives course. This was the first time I'd heard of the course. Being new to the organization, I decided to take it. I was amazed as I started reading the workbook, completing the lessons, and referring to the reader. I had been a Christian for a long time, yet had no idea the Bible told the story of missions from Genesis through Revelation. *Why had I never heard this idea before?*

Talk about a paradigm shift in my way of thinking about the Word. Statements like “We are blessed to be a blessing” and “Missions exist because worship doesn't” changed my perspective on my part of God's story. I had never thought of being blessed so that I in turn could bless others. I wrestled with the idea that missions exists because worship doesn't. As a long-time member of my church's worship team, this was a brand-new way of thinking.



Another turning point for me in the course was a discussion centered on why God created us. I did not realize that we were created to glorify him. I somehow missed this important part of the Word. Reading Psalm 96 and learning that believers are to declare his glory among *the nations* was a new way of thinking for me. Many friends would say they love Psalm 46:10, only quoting the, “Be still and know that I am God...” (NIV) portion. That phrase is even found on posters and bookmarks. I was in the same boat. Yet, I didn’t know the rest of the verse: “I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” No matter what, the Lord will be exalted. For so long, I searched for meaning in my life. Realizing that I can glorify him in everything I say and do was an important idea for me to understand.

One week, our Perspectives facilitator showed a video of the missionaries who died in Ecuador. Not having grown up in a Christian home, this was the first time I heard their story. We had an exciting discussion afterward about “counting the cost” and whether it was worth it for them to go. We found out their families went back and continue to this day to serve in that area. That was a turning point for me. The Lord used that situation to bring more people into his kingdom. I started reading biographies of missionaries like William Carey, Hudson Taylor, and Lottie Moon, to name a few. I read more about redemptive analogies and numerous books by Don Richardson such as *The Peace Child* and *Eternity in Their Hearts*.

Missions and His Kingdom

As a nurse, I wanted to learn more about healthcare missions, so I read books such as Greg Seager’s *When Healthcare Hurts*. I attended mission conferences such as Urbana and the Global Missions Health Conference to learn more about mission opportunities. Suddenly, the Lord provided connections and opportunities beyond my imagination.

I found a place to serve overseas and share the gospel while teaching. Because the Lord led me to a faith-based university, I started training with and leading students on service-learning opportunities while

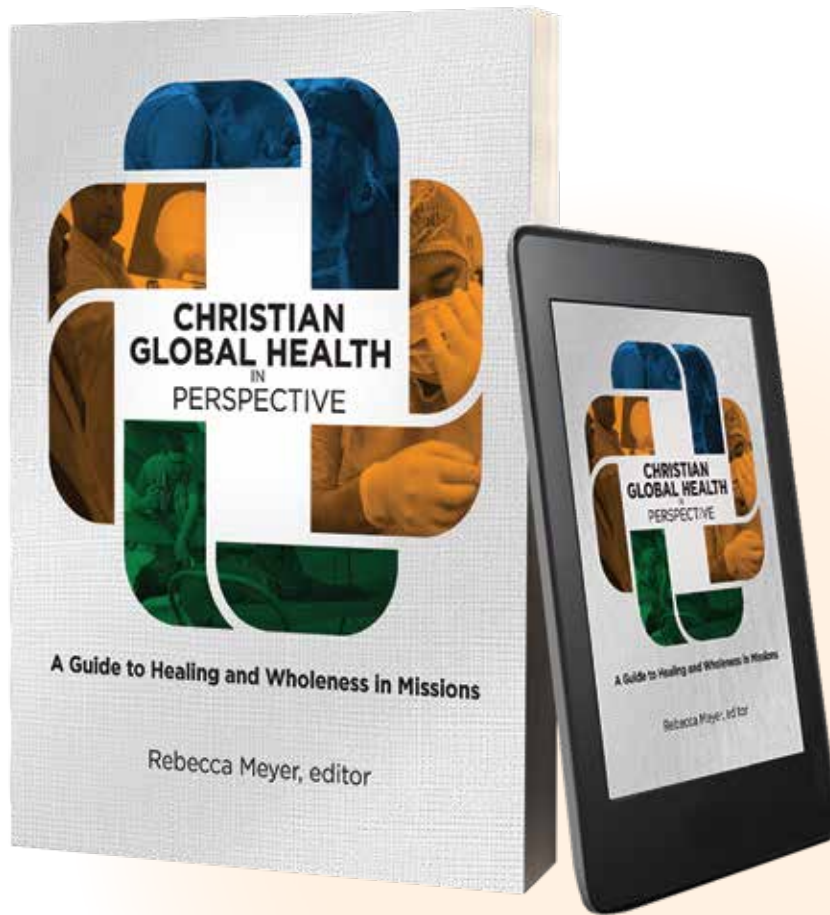
taking the Perspectives course. These experiences reminded me that the Lord wants his Word to be shared with all peoples. The notion is expressed in one of my favorite Bible verses, “There before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb” (Rev 7:9, NIV). What a wonderful picture of heaven!



Conclusion

Through the Perspectives course, I realized that the Lord uses us no matter where we are, whether “in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8, NIV). As a professor, I have taken students overseas and partnered with long-term workers. I’ve been blessed to share the gospel with the unreached in the slums of South Asia, the hill country in Southeast Asia, and the cities of Europe. I also have been blessed to be a sender for those serving long-term. I finally understand my place in God’s story and how to use my discipline and the Word to love everyone, no matter where the Lord has me. MF

Healing the Nations. Restoring Shalom.



Christian Global Health in Perspective fills a critical gap in the healthcare missions ecosystem. The course combines theologically sound missiology with responsible and sustainable medical practice. It provides a unique and well-curated biblical and historical perspective while also leading participants to thoughtfully consider future models and paradigms.



DOUG LINDBERG MD
FAAF Director, CMDA Center
for Advancing Healthcare Missions

The world is grappling with complex health challenges and disparities, forcing us to confront many pressing questions. How do Christians understand and practice healthcare? What is the biblical view of health and healing? This workbook unravels these queries, offering deep insights into the Christian approach to global health issues.

Christian Global Health in Perspective delves into the biblical foundations of health, historical perspectives of Christian medical missions, and strategies for integrating faith with modern healthcare. Health is wholeness in body, mind, and spirit. The authors, seasoned experts in theology and medicine, guide readers

through an exploration of how the church can innovatively respond to current global health concerns.

This resource is essential for healthcare professionals, church leaders, development workers, and anyone interested in the intersection of faith and health. Reading this book may result in a paradigm shift for some who view remission of disease as the sole focus for healing, when from a biblical perspective, wholeness and shalom form the basis for promoting health. *Christian Global Health* invites you to join this transformative mission, where faith and healthcare converge for global well-being.

We Were There Looking Back 50 Years Ago!

By BRUCE AND CHRISTY GRAHAM



Bruce and Christy Graham have served with Frontier Ventures as Senior Associate General Director and within the Personnel Department, respectively. Bruce currently focuses on the biblical story with Frontier Ventures' 2HC collaborative in India. Christy assists the Pasadena School of Supernatural Ministry in developing satellite courses in churches and ministries outside of Pasadena, including in other nations.

Our experience in the early years of the Perspectives movement germinated several new initiatives. These were the fruit of the vision, inspiration, and commitment planted in us through the 1970s and 1980s. We were a group of young people, hungry to know how to fulfill God's purpose in our generation. Ralph Winter, his family, and an older generation of mission leaders inspired us, believed in us, and gave us a vision for various projects and initiatives.

The year was 1974. I had just finished a master's degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT in Boston. Park Street Church's mission program inspired me to consider taking a year after graduation to attend Gordon-Conwell Seminary. During that year, Winter led a one-month course at Gordon-Conwell on the world Christian movement. Our common background in engineering quickly connected us.

Shortly after he returned home to Pasadena, California, I began receiving phone calls from him and his daughter Beth. They encouraged us to attend the first Summer Institute of International Studies (SIIS) to be held that summer (1974) at Wheaton College in Illinois. Winter saw a significant jump in response to the commitment cards distributed at the 1973 Urbana Convention. College students signed a card at the end of Urbana '73 in much higher numbers than in previous years, saying they were "willing and desirous to learn more about world missions" or to "become foreign missionaries." So, he created a new program to help students make an informed decision about their future involvement in missions. Having been stimulated by Park Street Church's strong mission focus, we decided to attend that first class at Wheaton College.

That summer, we learned from seasoned missionaries. Each speaker spent a week with us. We had class in the morning, studied in the afternoons, prayed, and heard stories as we sat together in the evenings. That communal experience and the teaching content week after week greatly inspired us. Many of us in that first class were convinced that we ought to pursue world missions as a life calling.

In 1975, Christy and I returned to Park Street Church. We shared much of what we learned that summer with others in the college group. This led to recruiting 22 from Park Street Church to return with us to Wheaton the next summer for the second SIIS program. By then, Winter added to the content of the first course so that a second-year module was available for returning students.



SIIS 1975 led by Charlie Mellis

The coordinator of the program that year was Charlie Mellis, who studied at the Fuller Seminary School of World Mission under Winter. He had recently written a book called *Committed Communities: Fresh Streams for World Mission*. The idea of communities engaging in mission together captivated our hearts during that summer.

Multiple new initiatives grew out of the program that summer. The first was a trip to Guatemala to visit the communities among whom the Winter family had worked for 10 years. Twenty-two SIIS students piled into seven old cars and drove non-stop from Wheaton to Guatemala. Along the way, we visited a “committed community” somewhere near the Mexican border.



Car caravan to Guatemala

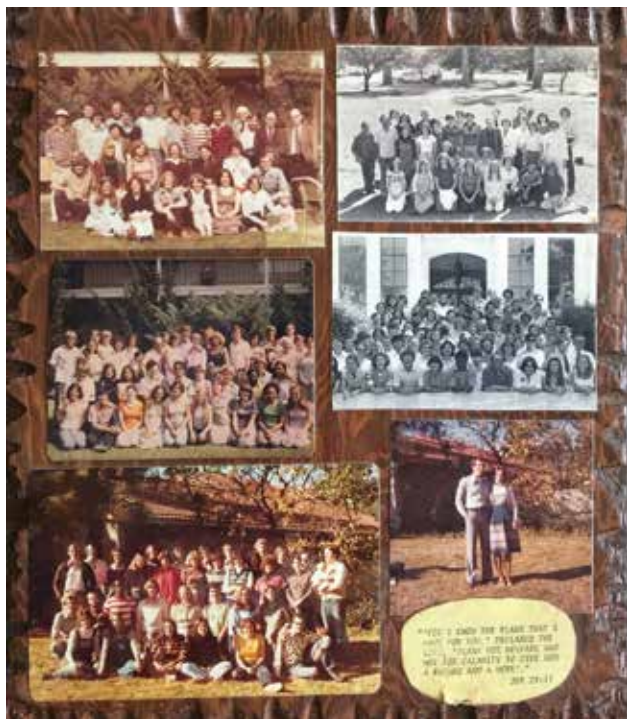
During this time, Winter contemplated leaving his position at the School of World Mission at Fuller Seminary to start a committed community. That dream would become a reality a year later when he established the US Center for World Mission (USCWM). Several of us SIIS alumni joined him in that effort. That year, we moved to Pasadena to attend the School of World Mission at Fuller while continuing to recruit for and help plan the next year’s SIIS at Wheaton. We started the Fellowship of World Christians and what we called the Haggai community (a committed community with 12 of us living at one point in a large house near what became the US Center campus).



Haggai community retreat

We returned to Wheaton for the third class in 1976. David Bryant was the coordinator that year, and the class increased in size every year. Students were involved with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Campus Crusade, and Navigators. The movement was growing! During this time, the USCWM was being launched. It was a place where our growing “World Christian” vision and commitment found

many avenues of expression. We set up a Perspectives desk at the center and continued to mobilize global-minded Christians.



Early PSP classes at USCWM

During January of 1978, Winter held a concentrated course at the US Center office building. We called it the Institute of International Studies. Christy and I became coordinators of that class for the next two years as it continued to develop at the USCWM.

During that 1978 January class, we invited Sam Kamaleson (an Indian and vice-president at World Vision International) to teach one of the lessons. We were greatly stimulated by his mission initiatives in India and decided to launch the Advanced Institute of International Studies. Over the next two years, we took SIIS/IIS alumni to India, giving them first-hand exposure to cross-cultural ministries among unreached peoples. Many who went were launched into the nations, even as it launched our family into missions in India.

Looking back, we can see how significant it was that an older generation invested in us, a younger generation impacted by spiritual vitality across the USA in the early 1970s. We found a way to study world missions in community for concentrated periods.




Haggai community India team



First Advanced Institute of International Studies



Advanced Institute of International Studies 2

We had avenues for starting projects and participating in them. The projects gave us ways to express the commitment and vision we had received. Among the most significant of them was the continuation of IIS, which soon became the Perspectives Study Program. The USCWM (now Frontier Ventures) sustained the program through a committed community, rooted in frontier mission vision, based in Pasadena. It was a very significant part of our and many other lives. 

A Perspective on Perspectives

By GARY PETERSON

Gary Peterson serves with Wycliffe Bible Translators on a team of “specialty networkers” doing targeted recruitment for specific high-priority needs for Wycliffe Global Partners. Their goal is to provide Scripture to those still without a Bible in their heart language.

I grew up in a very mission-minded home. My mom even considered full-time missions. Missionaries visited our home all the time, and I loved their stories. I attended very mission-minded churches. Weeklong mission conferences were the norm; we’d attend as many of the meetings as we could. Again, I loved the stories—these missionaries were amazing people who lived amazing lives. I also graduated from a very mission-minded Bible college. Some professors were former missionaries. You could tell because they always had the best stories, and we all had to take mission classes.

But I wasn’t going to be a missionary. I felt I had another call. I was going to be a youth pastor, which I did in several churches. Let someone else do the “missions thing.”


As part of my preparation for youth ministry, I had three goals: (1) work at a Christian camp, which I did for a summer; (2) see the mission field for myself so I could learn if what I believed was a result of being an American or because I was a Christian. (I did that for two summers in Central America. I returned from my second summer with dysentery *and* the mission bug. I got over dysentery but not the mission bug); (3) see the United States, which I finally did after becoming an overseas missionary.

I joined Wycliffe Bible Translators for a two-year assignment. I came in as a mobilizer (church relations staff) with the intention of going into translation when I completed my linguistic training. But God had other plans. I’ve mainly worked as a mobilizer ever since (42 years!).

It was 22 years into my career when I was asked to teach a Perspectives class. I knew of the course, having been offered scholarships to take it over the years, but I could never put 15 weeks together. So, I let the opportunities slide. Yet, how could I teach missions not having taken it? My wife and I prayed about it and soon learned there was an “intensive” taught at the US Center for World Mission in Pasadena. Where would I get the money to attend? A supporter of ours, out of the blue, made it possible, and off I went.

I thought I knew just about everything about missions and what the Bible says about it. So did others taking the course with me. We had to have at least nine lessons completed before it started, including the reading. It seemed daunting at first, but wow, I couldn’t get enough! I often found myself reading way beyond what was required. The class included Fuller seminary students as well as lay people, pastors, and missionaries. What I learned during that course was revolutionary to me and my role in Wycliffe. I discovered many things totally new to me. Some things were reinforced; other things had to be unlearned. Throughout the course, I kept hearing from other participants like me who felt it was mind-blowing!

Perspectives helped me to see the big picture of what God has done, is doing now, and will do in the future. It has flavored every talk and conversation on missions I’ve had since, and I read the Bible with new eyes.

I’ve had the privilege of being an instructor for nearly 60 classes. Each time I teach, I study the lesson again as if it were the first time, and I continually get something new from it. 



Reflections from Wycliffe Staff

A few Wycliffe staff were asked about their thoughts on Perspectives outcomes. They include **Stacy Lee** (Perspectives Team Manager), **Chris Sheeran** (Perspectives Relationship Coordinator & National Administrator for Perspectives), **Andy Minch** (Recruitment Strategy Specialist), and **Ben Thornley** (VP of Church Engagement). Here are their responses.

How has partnering with Perspectives impacted Wycliffe?

Stacy: Many people who have served with Wycliffe over the years have been greatly impacted by their Perspectives experiences. Some, like me, point to Perspectives as the main catalyst for their journey with Wycliffe, while others took Perspectives after serving with Wycliffe for many years. Several of those people were surprised to learn how much they still had to learn. Now, we have a team dedicated to supporting Perspectives through coordinating classes, instructing classes, administrative help, area teams, and even editing the 5th edition *Reader*.

Chris: Partnering with Perspectives has vastly increased our connections and relationships with local area churches. As we got to know the students (and as they got to know us), there were plenty of opportunities to share about Wycliffe's work. Some of them joined Wycliffe; others became ministry partners with us! We have the opportunity through Perspectives to pour into the lives of these special people, many of whom are very sensitive to God, feeling that they were "made for more" than what they were currently involved in. We had many occasions to tell our story and how God uses even people like us in his service.

Andy: Mission agencies need workers not only with the right skills but also the right heart. A mission recruit, convinced that any sacrifice for God's mission is worth the cost, is a valuable recruit. As with most mission agencies that ask recruits to name the most influential factor in their becoming a missionary, Wycliffe consistently hears, "Perspectives." Perspectives classes put our instructors in front of audiences that our best recruitment events cannot match.

Perspectives alumni are given the proper foundation and the right questions to ask when considering joining God's global mission. This is so important that Wycliffe has a team dedicated to supporting and partnering with Perspectives. Wycliffe's rich experience with Bible translation has been front and center in modern missions and touches all aspects of missions. Wycliffe instructors often tell impact stories about the most necessary tool for evangelism and church planting—the Bible. They not only focus on unreached people groups; they also can speak to the use of current technology, as well as how Bible translation unites local churches and sometimes becomes a catalyst for people movements.

For those who want to be used by God in great ways, Perspectives classes identify such people and prepare their hearts for a life of faithfulness. Wycliffe and other agencies enhance the Perspectives curriculum with stories and a vision of how to join God's great mission.

How has Perspectives impacted you?

Chris: For me, the course right away filled in a lot of holes in my missions thinking. We took the course after we had been in missions for 20 years. But, oh, how I wished we had taken it at the start of our journey!

The first thing that hit me was how God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12 shows his heart for the peoples of the earth. I was then struck by how often the Old Testament mentions the nations. Reaching the nations isn't just a New Testament idea! Other sections of the course connected so many dots with amazing instructors and excellent articles.

Soon after taking the course, we became involved in helping with the class. It was only a short step to coordinating a class, which we did for many years. As a class coordinator, it was precious to see people respond to God's call to serve him globally. Many life trajectories were changed through the course. Some students served in overseas missions. Others became involved in international student missions. Most stayed in the home area, with some of them becoming more involved in missions and outreach through their churches.

Stacy: Perspectives opened my eyes to how big God is. I had no idea of his mission to *all* peoples from the very beginning of Scripture. I read the Bible with new eyes, unable to unsee the thread of God's heart for the nations and his desire to be glorified in all the earth. I had worked as a nurse for 10 years when I took Perspectives. Unhappy and dissatisfied, feeling I had made a mistake in my career path, I didn't know what else to do.

Perspectives helped me see God had a bigger purpose for my life. I connected with people from Wycliffe during the course and, over a 12-to-18-month period, learned how I could serve in the work of Bible translation from where I live. Only God could have written my story over these past few years. Now, I serve as the liaison between Wycliffe and Perspectives!

Andy: The Perspectives course gave me a clarity of purpose. To view Scripture, history, and life from God's perspective provided a paradigm shift that screamed that God is not content with the status quo. Understanding God's consistent mission since the beginning of time left me with an unavoidable choice. My purpose in life could be wrapped up in what *I* thought was good, or I could faithfully join God in *his* global mission.

Give an example from your experience when you learned something new about God while attending Perspectives.

Chris: For me, it would be God's tremendous heart for the nations. I am not sure how I missed that growing up


and in my early Christian years! As a visual, I looked up all the verses in the Bible that referred to the nations and put the references on little strips of paper. I stapled each strip to a long piece of yarn and inserted it in my Bible on the proper page, then on the next strip, and the next strip, and so on. Once during class, I showed them this Bible with a bunch of yarn loops hanging out of it and explained that the yarn connected each verse about the nations. We then carefully pulled out the yarn, reading a couple of the verses along the way. The length of the yarn from beginning to end was over 30 feet!

Give an example of how you've witnessed the impact of Perspectives on the lives of others (especially those joining Wycliffe).

Chris: When we started coordinating classes, Jeanette and I worked as a team. Jeanette's teaching background made her amazingly effective in organizing and facilitating the class. I helped with administration and technology. Our initial classes were very large, so after the first week, Jeanette split the students into table groups to mix things up.

Occasionally, she played matchmaker, too! In one class, Jeanette assigned two young single people to the same table, and during the class, they found they both desired to serve God in missions. They pursued God's will together and attended Canada Institute of Linguistics (CanIL) to study linguistics, got married, joined Wycliffe, and eventually went to Papua New Guinea as translators! After that, we enjoyed telling people we were "full-service" recruiters.

Ben: A friend of mine, Mike, attended Perspectives with his wife. Halfway through the course, a light bulb went off in his head: he didn't have to move overseas to join the missions movement; he could use his skills here in the US to support missionaries. This radically changed his life. He has personally raised a lot of money for Bible translation and other missions efforts!

Stacy: I've seen how Perspectives brings churches together. No less than 10 churches are represented in local classes here in Huntsville, Alabama, each time. I love seeing the body of Christ come together like this! Fellowship, friendships, partnerships, and collaborations for kingdom advancement all find a place to start and grow in Perspectives classes. 



The Fruit of Perspectives in Local Churches

By **MATTHEW ELLISON**

Matthew Ellison has served as president and coach at Sixteen:Fifteen since 2004, helping churches and agencies develop strategic missions engagement and partnerships to reach the unreached. Learn more at 1615.org or email matthew@1615.org.

The Apostle Paul begins his epistles to the churches with warm greetings and inspiration, but it seems he reserved his most encouraging words for the Philippian church. With every remembrance of this church, Paul's prayers overflowed with thanksgiving and joyful petition. Why did the thought of this church evoke such joy and celebration in the heart of one of the greatest missionary saints of all time? Well, they were partners in the spread of the gospel: "Because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil 1:5, ESV).

People use the word "partnership" so frequently today that I fear it has lost its saliency, but we must understand that Paul's partnership with the church in Philippi was far more than a shallow pat on the back. This deep bond of fellowship results from God's people participating together, at immense cost to themselves, in the greatest movement in history; namely, the ingathering of worshipers from every

nation, tribe, and tongue for the everlasting fame of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

At Sixteen:Fifteen, every remembrance of the Perspectives family evokes joy within our hearts. Prayers of thanksgiving are offered up because of our nearly 20-year partnership in mobilizing God's people into his mission. Perspectives has helped create a movement of churches with divine discontent, with a clearly defined purpose and dauntless passion to see Jesus worshiped by all peoples in eternal delight.

Divine Discontent

Since founding Sixteen:Fifteen in 2004, we have coached hundreds of US churches to unleash their God-given potential to reach the nations. These churches are not content to do missions by proxy. Instead, they desire to actively engage the hearts, hands, minds, and imaginations of all their members. These churches moved from a reactive to a proactive approach to doing missions. They are communities for whom the thought of unreached peoples is simply unacceptable. One might say that these churches have divine discontent, a frustration with the missions status quo.

Perspectives has helped create a movement of churches with divine discontent, with a clearly defined purpose and dauntless passion to see Jesus worshiped by all peoples in eternal delight.

When we begin coaching a church, we start with some diagnostic questions to help them understand their current missions reality. How did you arrive at a place where you recognized a need to rethink and retool your approach to missions? What forces, decisions, choices, and circumstances got you to this place?

In essence, we ask people why they saw a need to enlist the help of Sixteen:Fifteen. Countless times, I have heard, "Perspectives got us here." A church member, leader, or pastor experienced Perspectives. This inflection point filled them with longing to see the unreached reached. They desire to see their church become active participants in God's grand narrative. We come alongside them to help them discover, design, and deploy their church's unique

gifts in partnership with others to make Christ known among all nations.

Definitions

Two important questions churches need to consider is, "What is missions, and why does it matter?" This is especially critical today because numerous churches in the West have adopted a philosophy that says every good, altruistic, or evangelistic work is a missions work and that every follower of Christ is a missionary. But are these biblical concepts? Are they helpful? Do they lead to more missions work being accomplished or less? Calling everyone a missionary and every good work a missions work are likely well-intentioned notions. Still, they have unintended consequences. Such declarations obscure or minimize the priority of taking the gospel to all peoples, especially the unreached ones.

In March 2018, a Barna survey revealed that 51% of North American Christians did not recognize or know of the Great Commission. Here is the more alarming statistic: Of those 49% of Christians who recognized the Great Commission, only 37% could identify Matthew 28:18–20 from a list of five Scriptures. That means only 17% of Christians identified the Great Commission from multiple choice options. Houston, we have a problem.

Without a biblical definition of *missions* informing and shaping churches' missions decisions and actions, they may find that much of what they call "missions" is not missions work at all. Sixteen:Fifteen believes that a primary reason many churches struggle to do missions well is because they have thought about missions poorly.

Perspectives puts poor thinking about missions in its crosshairs, clearing the fog of confusion. Churches that engage Perspectives emerge with an understanding of missions, what it is, and what it isn't. This leads not to a mere redefinition of missions but to a rediscovery of the Bible. Jeff Lewis, long-time Perspectives instructor and Sixteen:Fifteen team member, wisely said, "May our missions definitions be driven not by our personal interests, prejudices, and preferences but by the passions and purpose of the God of all nations."¹

¹ Jeff Lewis, "Foreword," in *When Everything Is Missions*, ed. Matthew Ellison and Denny Spitters (Orlando, FL: Bottomline Media, 2017), 13.

So, not only are we beneficiaries of Perspectives but we return the favor by connecting churches to the course. We believe wholeheartedly that if churches do not have a firm grasp on the biblical basis for missions and if they do not have a passion for God's name and renown, they will find it difficult, if not impossible, to sustain an enduring commitment to reach the nations.

Churches who engage Perspectives emerge with an understanding of missions, what it is, and what it isn't.

I tell students that Perspectives is not a missions course; rather, it is a journey into the very heart of God.

Dauntless

If churches we coach have not experienced Perspectives, we, without fail, point them to the study program because we believe a big world missions vision begins with a big vision of God. When I teach the biblical section, I tell students that Perspectives is not a missions course; rather, it is a journey into the very heart of God. The aim of the course is for students to encounter him in such a profound and powerful way that the impact will be permanent and life-changing.

I've heard it said, "Knowing comes before doing, and it shapes and informs the doing." For a local church to be effective in the Great Commission, they must be gripped by the greatness of Christ. They must have a motivation that sustains enduring commitment. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matt 28:18-19). Perspectives helps churches understand that our mandate to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations" is based upon the authority and greatness of Christ.

A passion for God in worship must precede the offer of God in missions. This is precisely why we strongly encourage churches to incorporate the Perspectives Study Program as a part of their missions education strategy. Reaching the unreached is incredibly costly; thus, churches must be dauntless. Jeff Jackson, a pioneer church planter in Southeast Asia, said

something 30 years ago that I've never forgotten. "Matthew, it was a love for lost people that got me to the mission field, but it was a love for Jesus that kept me there." Perspectives kindles a deep love for Jesus in churches, without which they will merely dabble in missions, at best.

Delight Now

Several years ago, Sixteen:Fifteen was privileged to walk alongside church leaders at Calvary Murrieta in Murrieta, California, helping them to clarify their global mission, vision, and strategy. Because the leaders at Calvary experienced Perspectives, we stepped into a rapidly flowing missions current. One of their Great Commission convictions, no doubt influenced by Perspectives, was "Church-Wide Participation: Mobilizing everyone at Calvary Murrieta to embrace their unique role in the Great Commission."

They determined that they would provide multiple ways for congregants to engage the Great Commission, using something they call "vision handles." These handles are broad sets of opportunities that allow the whole church, regardless of age, income, or even missions experience, to grab onto the vision for themselves.

While visiting Calvary Murrieta not long ago, I decided to see if this value was just a platitude or something more. I talked to many people over a few days, across age groups, both staff and lay. Without exception, they all not only knew about Calvary's vision to engage two unreached people groups, but they had a supernatural delight born from their participation. A passion to see Jesus known and loved throughout the world permeated the church's atmosphere, from the janitors to the nursery volunteers.

J. Campbell White was the first secretary of the Layman's Missionary Movement who mobilized countless lay people to fund and resource the Student Volunteer Movement. He said it best: "Most men are not satisfied with the permanent output of their lives. Nothing can wholly satisfy the life of Christ within his followers except the adoption of Christ's purposes toward the world he came to redeem. Fame, pleasure, and riches are but husks and ashes in contrast with the boundless and abiding joy of working with God for

the fulfillment of his eternal plans. The men who are putting everything into Christ's undertaking are getting out of life its sweetest and most priceless rewards."²

By rallying everyone at Calvary Murrieta to actively and sacrificially engage in the Great Commission, church leaders simultaneously invited them to experience some of the best and highest delights available on this side of heaven and to anticipate even greater delight to come. The first part of their mission vision statement captures the heart of the Perspectives movement so well: "We see a vision so awe-inspiring where we witness God's fingerprints and not just our own efforts. We see [two] people groups being discipled, and in turn, discipling their neighbors. We see all of Calvary Murrieta being changed by anticipating these nations standing before the throne of God."³

Delight Later

"After this, I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Rev 7:9–10).

In this breathtaking passage, the Holy Spirit peels back the curtains of time and space, giving us a glimpse into the trajectory of all history. Here we see the Lamb of God receiving the reward of his suffering. What is his reward? Worship! Worship that is flowing from the redeemed from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.

This is the resolution of God's story. You could call it the consummation of his Church. It's worth noting in Acts 2 that the Church was inaugurated in a global context and, in Revelation 7, is consummated in a global context. When in heaven, bowing down before


the Lamb, alongside untold numbers of worshipers from all nations, there will be no doubt as to what God's ultimate mission was. We will know then, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that this mission was the greatest movement in history.

On that day, no child of God will think, "I regret that I was so passionate about missions," or "I invested too much time mobilizing God's people into his mission," or "I made too much of missions while on earth, I should have focused more of my attention and energy on other things." No, on that day, those who treated missions as unimportant or as an addendum stapled onto normal Christianity, who thought, "missions isn't my thing," will wonder how they marginalized one of the weightiest and most massive issues in the universe.

God is using Perspectives to increase and elevate the joy and delight of people in churches the world over, both now and later.

To be sure, all of God's children will behold the glorious throne room scene described in Revelation 7. Yet I believe only those who joined the Father in the family business of making disciples of nations, tribes, and tongues will inherit the honor and delight of knowing that God mercifully worked in and through their lives to bring worshipers into his presence. Their heavenly crowns will be brightened with the acclamations that will redound to the Savior from people groups won to Christ, because they lived for the greatest cause.

God is using Perspectives to increase and elevate the joy and delight of people in churches the world over, both now and later. So, in closing, to our friends at Perspectives, I extend a heartfelt thank you. Because of our partnership in the gospel, churches are bearing much fruit among the nations, fruit that brings glory to our Father.

And to you reading this article, the next time you encounter a church passionately engaged in making disciples of all nations, ask them how that passion came to be. I have a strong hunch that if you pull on the thread of that passion and follow it to its source, you'll likely find Perspectives. 

² J. Campbell White, "The Layman's Missionary Movement," in *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*, 2nd ed., ed. Ralph D. Winter and Steven C. Hawthorne (Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1981), 225.

³ Calvary Murrieta, "Global Missions." Accessed February 11, 2024. calvarymurrieta.com/missions



A Perspectivas Class in Central Florida

By NEIL MOYER

Neil Moyer is Perspectives Regional Director Florida+ (Perspectives.org) and Converge (Converge.org/missions) missionary serving on the US engagement team. Neil mobilizes the US church in God's global mission. His email is neil.moyer@perspectives.org.

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”
(Rev 4:11, NIV)

Is this the way to start a class?

It was a hot, humid Thursday night in August 2021, and the COVID pandemic had finally begun to wane. It was time for our first in-person lesson in an all-Spanish Perspectives class in Orlando. Everything seemed to prevent this class from happening. There were only a handful of preregistrations as naysayers repeatedly warned us that this community would not attend classes of this nature. Our first instructor, a strong supporter of Perspectives and pastor of the host church, called to tell us that he tested positive for COVID-19 and would not be with us.

Lord, are you telling us something?

The class coordinator and the team continued to expect God to do great things as we attempted something great. The team had a strong desire to proclaim God's invitation to play an integral role in his story, being a blessing to all peoples.

But God showed us that he had taken care of things. We located an instructor who could make it, though not a Spanish speaker. No problem. Our class coordinator

was fluent in both English and Spanish and was very capable of translating for the class. The classroom doors opened to registration. Students, potential students, and guests began to arrive, and they just kept coming. More tables and chairs were set up as needed until nearly 100 people showed up to hear “El Dios Viviente es un Dios de Propósito Global (The Living God is a Missionary God).” The night concluded with prayer time as the coordinating team circulated about the various tables, praying with the students. God's presence filled the room. Our official records show that 55 students registered for the class. All were registered at the certificate level except for one at the key reading level.¹

Bring on the celebration

After the first night, the class found their routine of instruction, discussions, and prayer. It continued for three months, covering 15 lessons, each taught by a different instructor. After the last class, a time of celebration, commissioning, and rejoicing was scheduled for February 2022.

¹ Perspectives on the World Christian Movement offers three levels of engagement: key reading, certificate, and credit.

The celebration for the *Perspectivas* class was a grand event that lasted nearly three hours. Thirty students received certificates for successfully completing the course (see title photo). Pastor Gonzalez commissioned each of the students to pursue Christ who is worthy. Students were encouraged to give testimony of what they learned and how the course transformed their thinking. Some said they continued through to the end, despite the difficulty, because of the God-given mentor/graders' prayers, encouragement, and helpful responses to their questions. Members of the coordinating team also had a chance to share how God worked in their lives.

My takeaway

My region of Florida+ spans nearly 1,700 miles from the panhandle of Florida, down the peninsula through Puerto Rico, and ending up on the US Virgin Islands. This area of about 70,000 square miles has approximately 26 million people; one-third of that population is Hispanic, whose primary language is Spanish.

God is faithful to bring about things that we never thought possible. I have been a regional director for *Perspectives* for about four years, starting just before the COVID-19 outbreak, and it seemed that everything changed. In this change, I am seeing the need for *Perspectives* to expand into the Spanish-speaking community. But there are challenges with any relatively new endeavor, the lack of nearly everything except vision. We need instructors, coordinators, mentors, graders, and team members who have the *Perspectives* vision of seeing “the Body

of Christ awakened to pursue the fulfillment of God’s global purpose within every people for His glory” and are culturally fluent Spanish speakers.

Finally, as an old guy who still struggles with his primary language of English, I have a vision of *Perspectivas* being the primary expression in my region. It will not be because I have learned to speak Spanish fluently or because of my vibrant personality but by the working of the Holy Spirit as he invites others to encourage and mobilize by educating the Body of Christ in the USA to strategically engage in God’s global purpose.

God is passionate about his glory. That is why he wants to make his glory known. As John Piper astutely observes, “God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshipers for himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of his name among the nations.”²

Did I mention that our *Perspectivas* class celebrated well? My heart desires that every one of my classes learns to celebrate well with the students who have seen a different perspective of God and his mission. In like manner, the saints in Revelation 5:9 sing a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood, you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

² John Piper, “The Supremacy of God in Missions through Worship,” *Mission Frontiers* (July–August 1996).

LEARN MORE

Spanish *Perspectivas* is just one of the many languages that the *Perspectives* course materials is available in. Explore all the options at: www.missionbooks.org.



Transforming the Church, One Person at a Time

Used with permission from CORE4RESEARCH, *The Church Unleashed*, 2010.

Why is it called Perspectives? Perspectives on the World Christian Movement has the goal of transforming the Church's perspective and vision, one individual at a time.

Chris Sheehan was a missionary for 20 years before taking Perspectives. Amazed at how it transformed his view of missions, he describes the course as “filling in a lot of holes in my mission thinking.” Now Chris is on Wycliffe's Perspective team, working with technology, websites, and area classes. He loves the way Perspectives increases his connections with local churches and his impact on students. He says, “We have the opportunity through Perspectives to pour into the lives of these special people who are very sensitive to God and know they were made for more.”

Chris is amazed at the impact a Perspectives class can have. He explains, “As a class coordinator, it was precious to see people respond to God's call to serve him more deeply. Many life trajectories were changed through the course!” Chris saw how some students went on to overseas missions, while others became welcoming to international students. Still others began serving in their hometowns through their churches and local ministries. As a world mobilizer, Chris knows that 19% of alumni who take the Perspectives course end up serving long-term on the mission field. From 2005–2010, that was 7,600 individuals!

Perspectives can transform a student's vision.

Stacy Lee served with Perspectives in many roles before serving as Wycliffe's Perspectives Team Manager for almost seven years. She remembers first taking the class: “I read the Bible with new eyes. I cannot un-see the thread of God's heart for the nations and his desire to be glorified in all the earth.” Stacy had worked as a nurse for 10 years, but her career, which had been her life, was somehow not enough. Plagued by feelings that she was missing something and her career path was a mistake, she didn't see a different road to take.


That's when Perspectives gave her a new vision of the immensity of our God and his desire to see her work with him! Stacy learned that serving God isn't restricted to going

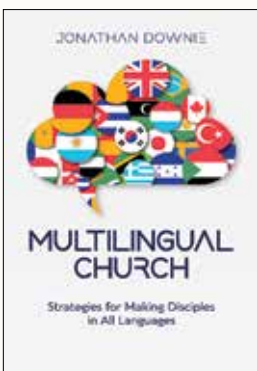
to the mission field. She began mobilizing with Wycliffe from her hometown, working with both Perspectives and Wycliffe to help people find their purpose and path in knowing and serving God. When individuals take Perspectives, they are 21% more likely to recruit others to the mission field. Each of us can heed God's Great Commission call in diverse ways.

Perspectives also brings churches together. One class may have 10 or more churches represented. By uniting area churches to jointly host the course, the body of Christ collaborates for kingdom advancement. Stacy says, “I love seeing the body of Christ come together like this! Fellowship, friendships, and partnerships find a place to grow within Perspectives classes.”

Sometimes Perspectives will transform a student's purpose.

Andy Minch, a Bible translator in Papua New Guinea for 20 years, is an Associate Editor for the Perspectives *Reader* 5th edition. He loves Perspectives and has instructed more than 100 Perspectives lessons over the past 30 years. Andy often helps students experience a transformation in their life purpose. He talks about God's mission since the beginning of time. Students have a choice to make. Andy tells his students, “[Your] purpose in life can be wrapped up in what you think is good or you can view your purpose as faithfully joining God in his global mission.” He adds, “The Perspectives course laid out for me a clarity of purpose. To view Scripture, history, and life from God's perspective provided a paradigm shift that screamed that God is never content with the status quo.”

Perspectives changes churches as students learn to “prepare their hearts for a life of greater service and faithfulness.” 



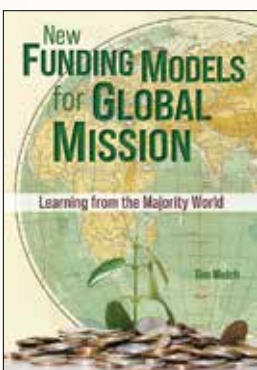
Multilingual Church *Strategies for Making Disciples in All Languages*

Jonathan Downie

Your community is multilingual.
What about your church?

In a world where communities thrive with diverse languages, why should our churches lag behind? As migration increases and technology, like livestreaming, becomes commonplace,

the need for multilingual churches is more pressing than ever. Still, many churches and mission organizations struggle with one-size-fits-all language solutions, while others desperately seek guidance to embrace multilingualism.

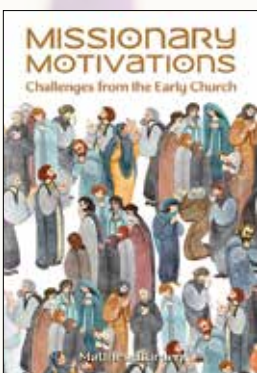


New Funding Models for Global Mission *Learning from the Majority World*

Tim Welch

New Funding Models for Global Missions begins by summarizing how world missions has been funded from the past to the present. It then critiques the common fundraising approach where missionaries raise their own financial support and

suggests possible adjustments. Tim Welch presents seventeen other funding models that are more appropriate options for contemporary missionaries, along with an overview of what the Bible says about missionary funding. He concludes with fifteen practical recommendations for individuals, churches, and mission agencies.




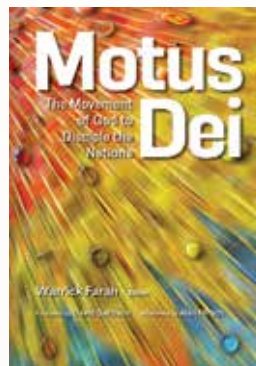
Missionary Motivations *Challenges from the Early Church*

Matthew Burden

Beginning as an obscure sect in a backwater province of the Roman Empire, the Christian faith radiated out in all directions. What drove this expansion? *Missionary Motivations* is the story of early Christianity's startling expansion. From monks to pilgrims to prisoners, early Christian

missionaries filled the earth with their message through the humblest of means, all for the glory of Christ the King. Matthew Burden provides missiological insights by helping the reader rediscover the early church's missionary vision for global mission, which stands alongside, supports, and informs the contemporary models.

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Motus Dei *The Movement of God to Disciple the Nations*

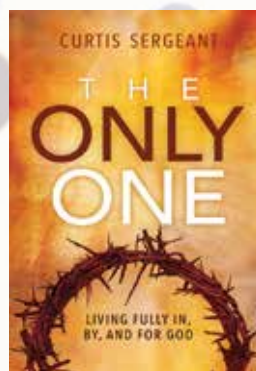
Warrick Farah, editor

Warrick Farah has expertly synthesized an extensive conversation between mission practitioners, scholars, and seasoned movement leaders from around the world. The resulting in-depth analysis of movements provides

a multi-disciplinary academic investigation of an emerging "movements missiology," highlighting the importance of theology, social sciences, ethnology and anthropology, communications theory, leadership theory, and statistical analysis. *Motus Dei* locates the current church planting movement (CPM) phenomenon within modern history, while tracing its roots back to the first century, and articulates a missiological description of the dynamics of Disciple Making Movements (DMMs) in Asia, Africa, and diaspora contexts in the Global North.

Issues surrounding movements have risen to the forefront of missiology, creating a need for a more robust theology of movements. *Motus Dei* is a window into the dynamic discussion that is reshaping how the global church is fulfilling the Great Commission. If there was any one book that provides the clearest snapshot of the current "state of movement missiology," this is it.

TED ESLER, PhD, President, Missio Nexus

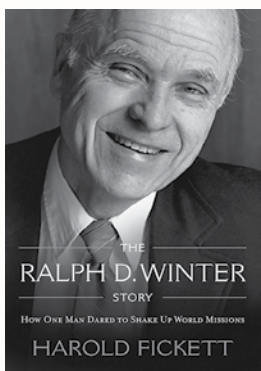


The Only One *Living Fully In, By, and For God*

Curtis Sergeant

Designed to be read, processed, shared, and used to equip others, *The Only One* is a tool to not only grow as a disciple but also to make and multiply disciples. This is about living with a greater impact on the world and the purpose for which God designed you. It's time to

experience life with Him, and others, as a joyful and exciting adventure—available in paperback, ebook, and audiobook formats!

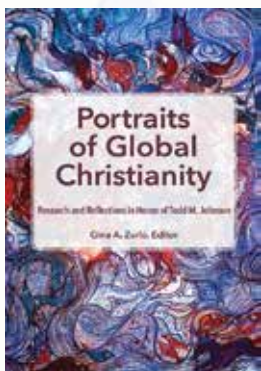


The Ralph D. Winter Story
How One Man Dared to Shake Up World Missions

Harold Fickett

Legendary missionary strategist Ralph D. Winter always provoked strong reactions, one way or another. This book captures both the genius and the controversy of a self-described “social engineer,”

named by *Time* magazine as one of the 25 Most Influential Evangelicals in America.



Portraits of Global Christianity
Research and Reflections in Honor of Todd M. Johnson

Gina A. Zurlo, Editor

Most World Christianity books are written for scholarly audiences only. However, *Portraits of Global Christianity* moves beyond that sphere and into the lives of Christians who have learned about

and continue to experience the global church in their everyday lives. No other global Christianity book on the market provides this kind of self-understanding on the relationship between World Christianity and individual experience.



Uncharted Mission
Going to the Final Frontiers

D. C. Keane

Uncharted Mission is a book that is more than the history of the founding of Frontiers. D. C. Keane weaves together interviews with over one hundred missionaries who refused to accept the status quo in missions and were willing to go where no one had gone

before—to the Muslim frontiers. In this inspiring true story, you’ll meet pastors, engineers, artists, pilots, and others whose lives changed course when they discovered that Muslims were largely left out of historic missionary efforts. There are still “frontiers” of mission for the next generation of Christians who want to change the world, because it is too soon to celebrate and too soon to quit.



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Perspectives

An Integrative Approach to Discipleship

By **R. GREGORY DUHART SR.**

R. Gregory DuHart Sr. is an elder at Cherrydale Baptist Church in Arlington, VA. He has been married to his wife Kimberlia DuHart for 42 years and serves the kingdom as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director for Perspectives USA and on the Board of Pioneers USA.

“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil 1:6)

At age 10, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and was baptized at Grace Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. I gave my attention in ministry primarily to my church and in the 10–20 block radius around our church. Our pastor worked hard on teaching the Bible, discipleship, and modeling how the congregation should walk humbly before the Lord. My Christian experience did not include reading missionary biographies, going on short-term mission trips, or hosting missionaries for home assignments and mission conferences. I did not hear stories of mass conversions of unreached, unengaged peoples in far-off lands. My Christian experience was being the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need in my community, and there were always many needs that required attention.

So, when I began to understand what missionaries did, how they operated, the people they served, and the money that was spent to serve them, I was outraged and became an anti-global Christian. My thought process was that there were so many needs here in the United States that it was sacrilegious to care for

others before we took care of our own. Even with this attitude, God’s Spirit worked mightily through my church experience, developing in me gifts for teaching, leadership, discipleship, and shepherding.

“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” (Phil 2:13)

In 2013, the Spirit used a series of events to reveal to Kim and me that we were to leave our church (having ministered there for 10 years) to go wherever he would lead us. As we prayed, one of my criteria among others for our new church home was that it must have a high regard for the Bible. I also wanted my Sunday to look like the rest of my life—multicultural.

We visited Cherrydale Baptist Church (CBC) and found the teaching met our criteria. The church embraced the Bible’s “all people” concept. When we joined CBC, we had no idea of the significance of missions and the Great Commission within CBC’s DNA; nor did we understand their commitment to reaching unreached and unengaged people groups. In 2014, the missions pastor at CBC, Ed Grudier, asked Kim and me to join his leadership small group. I explained to him that I believed that the American church was in error to spend so much money on

reaching people who did not speak our language, had no desire to seek God, and/or were hostile to Christian presence. Ed replied, “Great! Fantastic. I look forward to working through these thoughts with you.” This was the first major transformation in my Christian journey.

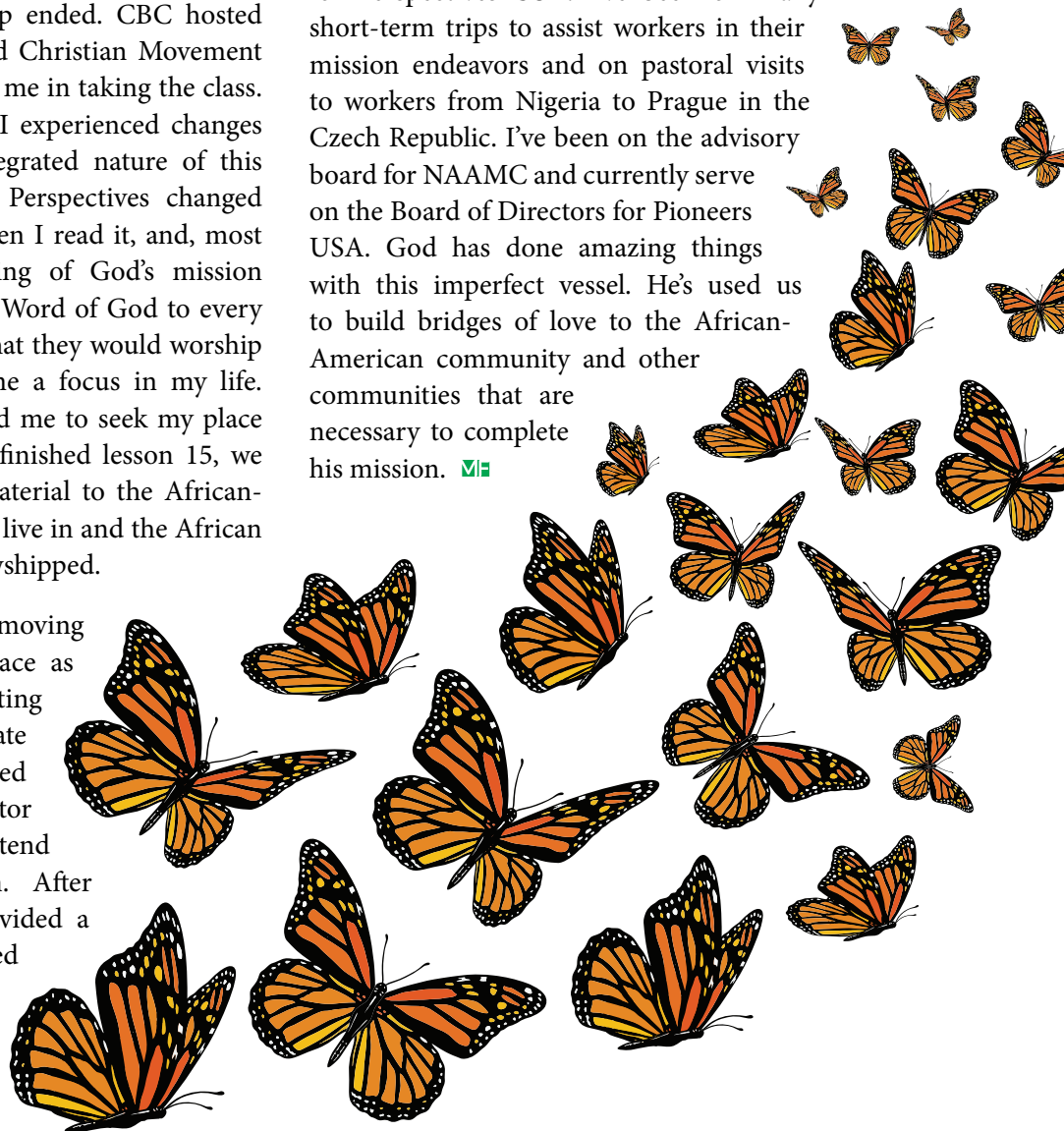
For weeks, Ed allowed me to express my misgivings about missions while he lovingly, biblically, philosophically, and practically refuted all my arguments. One day, he said, “Greg, before we get started, it’s obvious that you’re gifted in teaching, coaching, and discipling. How are you with Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:16–20?” He then read both passages to me. My reply was “Not very good.” At that moment, I felt the ice melt from my heart.

A second major transforming event occurred directly after our small group ended. CBC hosted the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course, so I asked Kim to join me in taking the class. During the first five lessons, I experienced changes in my spiritual life. The integrated nature of this body of knowledge we call Perspectives changed how I read the Bible, how often I read it, and, most importantly, my understanding of God’s mission (*missio Dei*). Now, taking the Word of God to every tongue, tribe, and nation so that they would worship the Lord Jesus Christ, became a focus in my life. My new understanding moved me to seek my place in his story. By the time we finished lesson 15, we felt compelled to take this material to the African-American community that we live in and the African churches with whom we fellowshiped.

In retrospect, I see God’s hand moving Kim and me to find our place as mobilizers. Upon completing Perspectives at the certificate level, God quickly provided a Perspectives Coordinator Workshop (PCW) for us to attend in the Mid-Atlantic region. After finishing the PCW, God provided a two-day conference sponsored by the National African American Missions Council

(NAAMC), where I met an African-American missionary for the first time. We also met Bishop David Perrin, who has a track record of leading the charge for missions in the African-American community around D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Bishop Perrin was very familiar with Perspectives and wanted his church to host the course, but the congregation did not have a trained coordinator. Kim and I quickly agreed to coordinate the course. In the fall of 2015, Kim and I hosted our first Perspectives course at Christ Kingdom Church for 51 African Americans.

Kim and I later became loop coordinators for the state of Maryland and have hosted many Perspectives classes around the Mid-Atlantic region. I would go on to become a Perspectives Instructor and currently serve as the Regional Director for the Mid-Atlantic region for Perspectives USA. I’ve been on many short-term trips to assist workers in their mission endeavors and on pastoral visits to workers from Nigeria to Prague in the Czech Republic. I’ve been on the advisory board for NAAMC and currently serve on the Board of Directors for Pioneers USA. God has done amazing things with this imperfect vessel. He’s used us to build bridges of love to the African-American community and other communities that are necessary to complete his mission. MF



The View From the Launchpad

By LISA SMART

Lisa Smart is the Director of Communications with All Nations Kansas City. She has served in missions mobilization roles for close to 20 years.



Twenty years ago, God ushered me into the world of mission mobilization through coordinating Perspectives. I've experienced Perspectives from many angles—as a student, class coordinator, instructor (once!), member of the national office staff, and as staff at Frontier Ventures.

I knew that God was using the course in people's lives that whole time (he used it in mine!), but my view was generally limited to what happened in a class and hearing stories secondhand. It wasn't until eight years ago, when I joined All Nations, a missions-sending organization, that I was thrilled to see with my own eyes the powerful role Perspectives plays in mobilizing people to lovingly follow Jesus to the ends of the earth. Darren and Crystal are one such couple.

From Dream House to Dreaming with God

"Darren Taylor, I am not getting on an airplane. You just bought me my dream house!" Those were Crystal's words after sitting through the first night of Perspectives. Her husband Darren had persuaded her

to take the class with him. After hearing talk about God's heart for the world, she assumed he was trying to turn her into a missionary. Darren and Crystal had bought their dream home six months earlier after he retired from the Navy. They were in their 40s, had good jobs, and lived near their children and grandchildren. *What more could she want?*

Darren told her he had no such intentions with her taking the class, but they at least could support missions and be good senders. He retired from the Navy looking forward to a season of ministry, and perhaps this could be part of it.

Week 15 changed the trajectory of their lives. Pam Arlund (from All Nations) spoke, bringing fliers about an unreached people group, the Japanese. At the class break, Darren took one of the fliers and put it on the table where Crystal sat. When he got home, Crystal met him at the door. Before he even entered the house, they both agreed that they were ready to go to Japan. "I would leave tomorrow!" she said. And so, this couple in retirement, living a comfortable

life, received further training with All Nations and have now sold their home in preparation for launching to Japan this year.

Pam Arlund's words aptly describe what happened in Darren and Crystal's hearts.

Perspectives helps people to see the entire message of the Bible in a way they never have before. As a result, people fall in love with the amazing God of the Bible in a fresh way. Inevitably when people know Jesus, they will long to be involved with his purposes and plans. Perspectives... is a class for all believers to discover anew how to align their hearts with God's heart.

May Perspectives unleash many more like Darren and Crystal to begin dreaming with God!

A Worthwhile Priority?

Five key leaders from All Nations International and All Nations Kansas City collectively teach over 50 Perspectives classes every year. Whenever possible, these All Nations Perspectives instructors go to classes with another person who is available to talk with students. This is a significant investment of time and resources for All Nations.

Is it worth it? We say YES.

Not only does Perspectives completely change life trajectories but it also supports and connects people who are already on the path to missions.

Mary Ho, All Nations' International Executive Leader, says, "So much of missions can be busy activities unless we can be singular and strategic. Perspectives' strategy section focuses us to aim at the bullseye of making disciples and planting and multiplying churches." These strategic priorities become a filter for students as they choose who sends them to the field, and the class is an amazing place for students to connect with instructors and organizations.

Choosing Who to Hold the Rope

Jordan, now in Sweden reaching refugees, had two All Nations speakers in a class he coordinated. He shared his interests with them, and they recommended he connect with Pam Arlund. Jordan says,

When Pam came, she started sharing about the great need for people to move to cities in Europe to reach out to all the refugees and immigrants that were coming—the very thing my wife and I were thinking about trying to do! We had breakfast with Pam and Peggy the next day, and that was the beginning of our relationship with All Nations. That summer ... we ended up reconnecting with Peggy and traveling with her to Europe for a two-week vision trip. We then did CPx that October and moved to Sweden the next year. This all started when God connected us to All Nations through Perspectives!

This story of connection has happened over and over again. Meredith Johnson, Co-Director of the All Nations Kansas City hub, says, "Perspectives offers me a chance to share my own stories and missional values in a way that helps me identify who in the audience resonates and therefore may be a good fit for our agency's culture."

From 2020–2023, just under half of those who launched to the field with All Nations came to us through Perspectives.

May the Nations before the Throne Increase


This is a tiny glimpse into the stories of lives now woven into All Nations—and thrust into the nations—through God's good work in the Perspectives course. I could tell many more stories of goers and share about the strong sending and praying teams inspired by Perspectives or those who mobilize, like me, because of Perspectives' influence.

I believe I speak for all of us at All Nations when I speak blessing over Perspectives' next 50 years:

May the Perspectives staff be rooted deeply in God, the curriculum solid, and the coordinators and instructors Spirit-filled.

May partnerships for the kingdom flourish.

May those who love the world as God does increase, and may unreached peoples be reached with Jesus' love.

May God's continued blessing be on Perspectives to multiply the nations before his throne! 

Perspectives as Worship

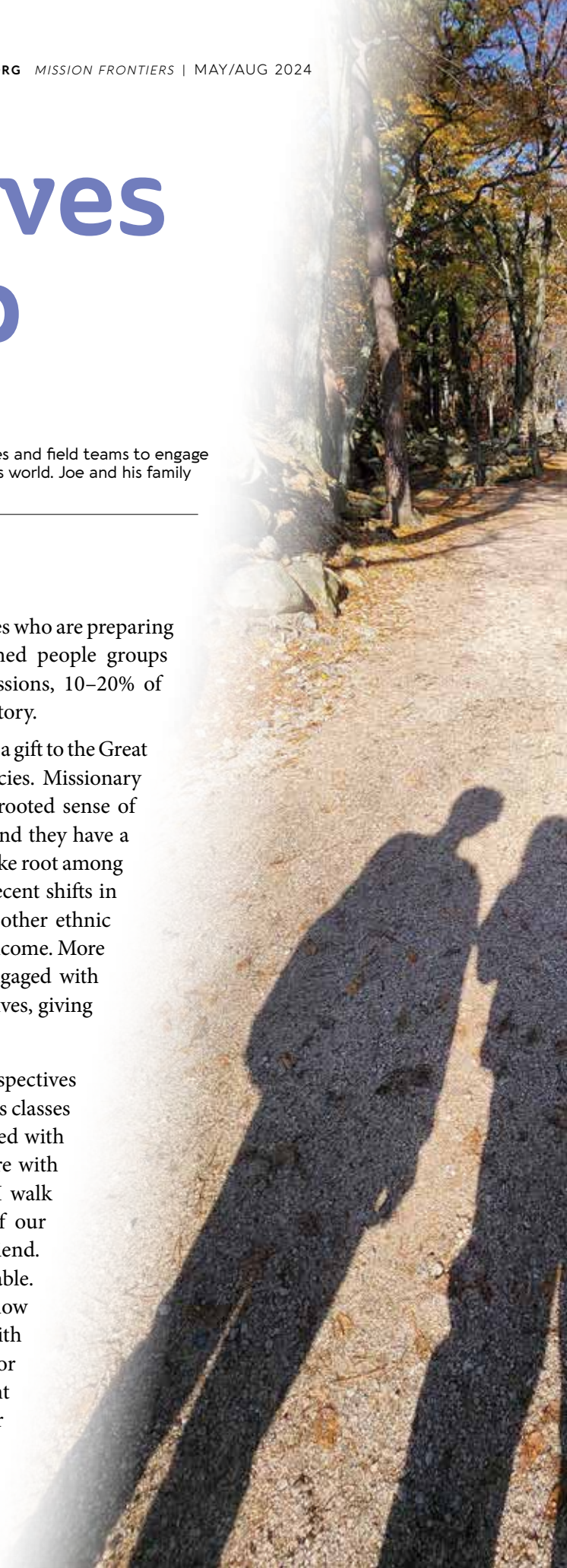
By **JOE GOBER**


Joe Gober is VP of Global Engagement for Pioneers. He equips churches and field teams to engage unreached people groups and builds partnerships in the global missions world. Joe and his family previously served in Asia South Central.

Every year, Pioneers welcomes 200–250 new missionaries who are preparing for long-term cross-cultural service among unreached people groups (UPGs). When we ask about their journey into missions, 10–20% of them, at a minimum, identify Perspectives as part of their story.

At Pioneers, we have experienced firsthand Perspectives to be a gift to the Great Commission community and particularly to mission agencies. Missionary candidates who take Perspectives have a broad, biblically rooted sense of missions. They have historical examples to look back on. And they have a greater appreciation for the challenges of seeing the gospel take root among UPGs, which helps them develop perseverance and grit. Recent shifts in the curriculum, like encouraging students to engage with other ethnic groups even before they leave home, have been especially welcome. More missionary candidates are coming to us having already engaged with people from other cultures, often at the impetus of Perspectives, giving them greater confidence to step out into global missions.

I still remember many of the lessons I learned in the Perspectives class that I took in 2001 in Little Rock, Arkansas, and various classes I've been part of since then. A dear brother who had worked with nomads for 40 years told our class, "I can drive somewhere with someone and be there in five minutes, but I find that if I walk the road with someone, Jesus becomes a normal part of our conversation." That instructor later became a mentor and a friend. This space to hear from mission practitioners is irreplaceable. Most Christians and most churches do not personally know a missionary and would not know how to engage them with their people. They don't have access to their lives, insight, or wisdom. Perspectives brings wisdom, hard-won in the front lines of kingdom advance, right to the front rows of our churches.





Pioneers doesn't just receive candidates from the Perspectives course. We also send them to Perspectives if they come to us without a strong background in the biblical basis for missions. If an appointee has a long preparation journey ahead of them before leaving for the field, we encourage them to get involved in the closest Perspectives course in the meantime. We also encourage our missionaries on home assignments to participate in classes, as well as our alumni who have left the field to get involved as instructors. It's a great gift of encouragement when you're able to translate your experiences in ways that are helpful for the next generation. I've had the privilege of watching people (whom I first met as an instructor) join a team, raise support, and move across the world to pursue a people group that they didn't know existed before they started Perspectives.

There are a lot of conversations today about UPGs—who they are, their needs, and how to prioritize groups that have the least access to the gospel. Perspectives has been at the center of shaping terminology like “lost,” “unreached,” and “unengaged.” Having that language is really helpful for churches trying to strategically plan their giving, going, and praying. In some ways, the language that Pioneers uses in our own mission statement was informed by Ralph Winter and others during the development of what became Perspectives.

Another distinctive emphasis of Perspectives resonates deeply for Pioneers—the local church. We love that classes are hosted and experienced in the context of a local fellowship. We have seen how that shared-mission vision leaks into and spreads from church to church. It's an amazing thing and has created rallying points for networks of churches to walk in more unity and strategic partnership in the gospel.

Finally, to repeat a John Piper quote often heard in Perspectives classes, “Missions exists because worship doesn't. Missions is temporary. Worship is eternal.” One thing I've always appreciated is that when you attend a Perspectives class, you're not just going to experience teaching. It's not just didactic. It is, fundamentally, a worship experience. It involves prayer, worship, intentionality, and life engagement. Community develops around the tables as people walk through the content together, having their worldviews adjusted radically. I thank God for Perspectives. I have personally seen its fruit and thank God for creating and sustaining this platform for people to make much of Jesus. ❏



24:14

24:14 Goal: Movement engagements in every unreached people and place by 2025 (20 months)

How God Transformed a Devout Muslim and Catalyzed DMMs among UPGs

By **DAVE COLES**

Dave Coles is an encourager and resourcer of Church Planting Movements among unreached groups, serving with Beyond. He has served among Muslims in Southeast Asia for 24 years. He has more than a dozen articles published (under a pseudonym) on topics related to contextualization, reaching Muslims, and the nature of the church.

Aila Tasse began attending the mosque at an early age. Raised in a strong Muslim family in northern Kenya, he took his Islamic studies seriously and avoided Christians. At around the age of nine, he developed a deep desire to know more about his Islamic faith. He started spending time with the elders after each day's afternoon prayers, listening to them discuss the Qur'an and other issues. But a question gnawed at Aila's heart: Who is Allah?

Through unexpected and terrifying circumstances, God opened Aila's heart to receive the gospel and Christ's forgiveness. Aila describes the details of this radical transformation in *Cabbages in the Desert: How God Transformed a Devout Muslim and Catalyzed Disciple Making Movements among Unreached Peoples*. The following are two excerpts adapted from this book.

Can cabbage grow in this desert?

One day, I [Aila] summoned my courage and boldly asked the Lord, "God, I want to have an appointment with you. I want to hear you. I want you to lead me." A week later, I went to a campsite in the Marsabit forest to pray in solitude. I sat on the ground, leaned against a tree, and closed my eyes to pray, putting my Bible on the ground next to me. Suddenly, I felt such a strong presence of God that the environment around me totally changed. I thought to myself, "God is here!"

I was terrified and didn't dare to open my eyes. I thought, "I asked God to give me an appointment and now he's here! I can't open my eyes because if I see him, I'll die!" While praying in his presence, I had a dramatic vision that lasted for many hours and came in three parts.

The first was like a slideshow. A screen opened before me and to my astonishment, I saw the imam of our home mosque. As I fixed my eyes on him, a kind strong voice said to me, "Forgive him. Bless him and pray for him."

He had hurt me the most when I was persecuted and banished from my family. Now I was being asked to forgive, bless, and pray for him! I couldn't understand the purpose. I struggled in my thoughts and weighed whether to obey the command of that clear voice. I finally chose to obey. I prayed for and blessed the imam until I had no words left. Then his face disappeared, and another took its place. One by one, all who had hurt me appeared on the screen, and I repeated the process for each one. Each time I did, I felt like an arrow, once buried in my heart, was removed and, with it, bitterness and hatred evaporated.

The second part of the vision came like scenes in a movie theatre. But I wasn't just watching; I was a key actor in the drama. I watched the back of a person walk down the road. He turned right before sitting near a potter at work. I didn't see the potter's face, only his hands working the clay. The clay broke in his hand as

he worked and a voice said to me, “You see that? You are the one sitting there watching the potter.” He told me, “I am the Potter, you are the clay, and I will make you.”

The vision then moved to the third part. I saw myself in a place I recognized as the Dida Galgalu Desert, a part of the Chalbi Desert in northern Kenya between Moyale and Marsabit. This desert is so barren that it has only one small tree nicknamed Tigo. This is a point of reference when crossing the desert. In my vision, I saw the vast emptiness of this dry and rocky desert. Then, I heard a question in my ears, “Can cabbage grow in this desert?”

I said to myself, “How could cabbage grow here? There’s no grass, nothing! Nothing grows in this desert!” At that point, the vision seemed to stop. I stood up to stretch and realized almost three hours had passed. I sat back down to pray, and suddenly the vision resumed. I again saw the Chalbi Desert. This time the voice did not ask a question. Instead, a male voice made a statement, “Cabbage can grow in this desert.” Suddenly, I saw rows of healthy cabbages growing in it!

Along with this, Isaiah 43:18–20 came to mind: “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland” (NIV). The Lord’s words echoed a prophetic application: “I will cause these rivers to grow cabbages in the desert.”

As abruptly as the visions had begun, this third vision ended. As my mind cleared, I realized it was about 5:00 p.m. and elephants were grazing close by me! I had not heard them approach. At some distance, I saw two game wardens watching, probably worried for my safety but not knowing how to alert me without alarming the animals, lest they panic and charge toward me. The elephants, however, were not bothered by my presence and continued breaking branches as they ate. So I quietly took my Bible and walked away, choosing a path away from them and toward home.

The vision of cabbages in the desert stuck in my mind, and I prayed about it for weeks. Finally, the Lord gave me understanding. The arid northern parts of Kenya are home to tribes like the Gabra, Rendille, Borana, Burji, and Daasanach, all classified (currently or until recently) as unreached people groups (UPGs). Reaching them is

difficult because they live in remote, difficult-to-reach areas. Poor infrastructure in that region remains a great challenge, even up to the present. Fourteen of the 26 unreached people groups in Kenya live in *that* desert, the exact desert where I saw the cabbage growing. I began to pray specifically about those people and tribes. It became clear to me that this was my calling. Bringing these people groups into God’s kingdom was the “new thing” God was going to do. I began reaching out to the UPGs in that region.

Who will remain behind?

The Lord orchestrated yet another life-changing experience for me. World Vision asked me to help distribute food to the Rendille people in Lontolio village after rains failed to come the previous year. Lontolio lies outside the town of Laisamis, home to many pastoralist communities, near a sacred hill locally called “The House of God.”



In circumstances like these, safety is paramount. Distributions require good cooperation with local administrative officials. Three of us went ahead to assess the situation before the team and the food truck arrived. In the area designated for food distribution, scattered around acacia trees, huddled in small groups, we found about 200 men and women. They seemed engaged in deep conversation, probably about their predicament.

Looking at the small crowd, I saw an opportunity to preach the gospel to them. I was with a friend who was as zealous as I was in evangelism. We agreed that I would preach. My Rendille friend would translate the message to his tribespeople. This was an exciting moment as we anticipated a harvest of souls for God’s kingdom. We were on fire for Jesus and ready to set the place ablaze with the gospel.

I started preaching but, before long, realized they didn't comprehend the message. In utter confusion, they looked at my mouth and then at my friend's mouth, back and forth, but they seemed not to understand a thing.

I realized that these people had no categories to grasp what I was talking about. They had no prior contact with Christians or the gospel. Even with the translation of my words, we might as well have been speaking Greek!

So I stopped preaching and began simply to tell them the Bible's message as a story. I told them that God created and loved human beings, but mankind fell into sin because of disobedience. I described how God later redeemed us through Christ's sacrifice. They understood this, since in times of tribal distress, their elders offered animal sacrifices to appease their deities at the nearby hill. They also comprehended the Genesis creation story, as it resembles their own creation folklore.

Our interaction became a dialogue, as the elderly men asked questions. The concept of a loving God was not foreign to the Rendille. But they were amazed by the love of Jesus that led him to suffer for our sins at Calvary. They asked, "Why did he do all that?" I told them, "Because he loved you and me!" At the end of the story, I asked, "Who among you would like to believe in this God?"

Before they could respond, the village elder stood up and began walking around addressing his people. He said, "Who among you cannot receive a God like this? This God who gave us his son, who made him a sacrifice? How can you not accept this God, who also has sent these men to bring us food?" My friend busily translated to me what the elder was saying. Overflowing with joy, I thought to myself, "This is just amazing!"

In response to the elder, most present raised their hands, indicating their desire to follow Christ. I was elated and continued to tell them Bible stories as the truck arrived and the food was unloaded.

Finally, our team had to leave. We led the villagers in a prayer of commitment, but I was not confident they truly grasped the meaning of salvation. I had no time to tell them more, as the truck driver was getting impatient, trying to be responsible and get us out safely. He kept honking the horn to motivate us, so we said quick goodbyes and headed for the truck.

Suddenly, one woman stepped in our way. My friend went around her, but I stopped. She said, "You've told us

about this God who loves us, who gave us his son, and also sent you to give us food. So that means he knows about and even cares about us?" "Yes," I confirmed. Then she looked me in the eye and asked, "Now who among you will remain behind to teach us about this God you've told us about?"


I froze, my heartbeat suddenly moving to my throat, my whole body beginning to sweat. We hadn't anticipated such a soul-searching question. But there she stood, waiting for an answer! I couldn't respond. I had no answer! I knew I couldn't stay behind, and neither could my friend.

Numbed by her question, I needed to get away from her heart-piercing eyes. As I quietly and sadly stepped past her, she turned and kept staring at me. When I got into the truck and looked back, she hadn't moved an inch. As the truck drove away, her silhouetted form receded into the distance as she continued to stand there looking at me. Her question haunted me.

The others in the truck rejoiced. Men and women were not only fed but also had come to the Lord! Amid animated conversation among my colleagues, I was drowning in deep thought, my heart heavy with grief. Etched in my mind was the image of the woman standing, expecting an answer to her question. "Who among you will remain behind to teach us about this God you've told us about?"

That night I wrestled with grief because I had no answer for that woman. Finally, I concluded that from that point on, whenever I proclaimed the gospel, I would stay on to teach the converts about how to follow God's way. I would move *from decision-making to disciple-making*.

I asked the Lord in prayer, "How will it be possible to do this every time?" The insight I received in response was this: "Multiply yourself in the lives of others, so they do the same things you do. You cannot be everywhere." Like cool water to a thirsty soul, this answer refreshed my troubled mind. With a newly calmed heart, I contemplated the implications of this approach.

Discover more of Aila's journey in *Cabbages in the Desert: How God Transformed a Devout Muslim and Catalyzed Disciple Making Movements among Unreached Peoples* by Aila Tasse with Dave Coles. 



Why Mobilize

By **GREG H. PARSONS**

Greg H. Parsons and his wife have been on staff with Frontier Ventures since 1982. They live in southern California.

Because of the upcoming 50th Perspectives Study Program celebration, I've reflected on the growth of the course around the world. I'm reminded of a *Mission Frontiers* article I wrote called "Why Stay Here? Mobilizing the Home Front."¹ I described what was a novel idea to many in the church: the thought that "mobilization" could be a calling and a full-time, supportable role for a "missionary." My wife and I, along with most of our staff in the early days, caught the vision of mobilizing cross-cultural workers to the unreached. But it was often hard to explain why we were not "going to the field." It still is sometimes.

In the article, I described what happened through a regional staff member (a full-time mobilizer) and his region's impact. Notice how much things have changed since then.

... Bob has seen more than 1,200 students take this full-blown, college-level introduction to missions class in 95 locations all over the southeast.

Behind Bob, helping to make his work possible, is a home office staff of four to five here in Pasadena. That's what it takes to get the 65+ classes going each year (with between 2,000 and 2,500 enrolled nationwide.)

You might be asking (especially if you haven't taken the Perspectives class), what good is a class for mobilizing? What difference does it make?

At least two different times we have formally surveyed those who have taken the course. High percentages say they support missions financially and in prayer—usually attributing an increase to the course. Thirty-six percent of the students say they are preparing for cross-cultural missionary work. That means (if the percentages hold true throughout) that about 833 are planning to go as missionaries; 833 every year!

¹ Greg Parsons, "Why Stay Here? Mobilizing the Home Front," *Mission Frontiers* 17 (Jan–Feb 1995): 9–13.

Later independent surveys tell the same story. Perspectives

helps people have a sense of God's purposes, shown in Scripture, and begin learning how to spread his fame globally.

Ralph Winter wrote about the need for mobilization many times. In one article for *Urbana* in the 1980s, he outlined three different roles: (1) field missionary among unreached peoples, (2) field missionary among reached peoples, and (3) mobilizer.² Without mobilizers, he argued, the number of "field missionaries" would decrease. So, it was also important for those working cross-culturally *with the church* around the world (role 2), to be mobilizers of those "younger churches." Those experienced field workers were in the best place to mobilize national church leaders.

One time, he spoke about the need for more mobilizers who were called to go but willing to stay. A lady asked him how many mobilizers we needed. He said, "1,000!" with a twinkle in his eye since it was just a guess.

In the early years, we didn't have time or resources to serve the needs of mobilizers within *other* sending nations. In 2002, Tim Lewis, Steve Hawthorne, and I started what was first called "the Global Desk" to try responding to requests for help from around the globe. We had a lot of vision but I, for one, didn't have time to dream that, by 2024, Perspectives materials would be translated and modified into nine languages and that programs would be running in 40 nations. Now, there are more than 200,000 alumni, including many in the Middle East and a large country in Asia! In 2015–16, I traveled to that country to

² Ralph Winter, "Which Missionary Is More Important and Why?" rdwrc.wciw.edu (search for "which missionary").

help train coordinators and instructors after their translation was done. They are still running classes through the pandemic and beyond. What a joy!

One big reason that happened is that Perspectives is *not* an "intro to missions course," as many people thought in the early days. It is a *discipleship course with a global perspective*. That is why so many people who take the course help to pass it on. In Brazil, several thousand volunteers help run the course. They see it as something that gives them a sense of purpose and helps to fulfill what is, for many, a new-found faith as well. Be sure to visit the Perspectives Global website (perspectivesglobal.org) to find out more.



We are thrilled with what has happened. Yet, it is too soon to celebrate for those who have not experienced the fullness of Christ. We must remember *what* we are mobilizing people to do! The Perspectives course points out the peoples and places where, as best we can tell, there are no churches or fellowships able to evangelize their own people group. I exhort you to fully engage in prayer. Seek information and be ready to share the global vision, especially a vision for a subset of the unreached called "frontier people groups."³ These groups are less than 0.1% Christian and have no movements among them. Most are in South or Southeast Asia and are usually culturally distant from most believers around them. 🙏

³ Learn more about frontier people groups in the March–April 2024 issue of *Mission Frontiers*: "Seeking Movements among Frontier Peoples," 46.2.

THE MISSIONS

What prevents the Gospel
from creating a ripple effect?

a podcast by  FRONTIER VENTURES   

DROP





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MAY

■ 1 Balti in India

Do you like bulgur (cracked wheat) and apricots? So do the Balti people who farm these crops. Balti people are a scheduled tribe living in perilous mountains near the Pakistan border. Their seven isolated villages are inhabited mainly by the elderly, women and children. Most young men go to the cities for education and employment.

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. —Psalm 90:12

- Pray that this knowledge will lead many from today's people group to seek the Savior.
- Pray that Christ followers would produce radio programs that would point the way to the Lord Jesus.
- Pray that a movement of the Holy Spirit would sweep through all seven Balti villages from one family to another.

■ 2 Odienne Jula in Côte d'Ivoire

The Jula (or Dyula) people are skilled craftsmen and merchants. The Jula are in subgroups, one of which is the Odienne. The Odienne Jula have put their faith in the spirit world and the mercy of spirits instead of relying on the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. They need someone to show them the way to the cross so they can experience God's forgiveness.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. —Psalm 91:1

- Pray for many from today's people group to find rest in their relationship with the Lord.
- Pray for believers to go as his ambassadors to the Odienne Jula people of Côte d'Ivoire.
- Pray for spiritual awakening in their homes, villages and mosques.

■ 3 Worodougou in Côte d'Ivoire

Many Worodougou are subsistence farmers in small villages but some of the younger generation have moved to larger cities. Their grandfathers were the first to become Muslims, but most are "Muslim" in name only. They worship spirits and ancestors. People are afraid of sorcerers, death and hell.

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! —Psalm 95:1-2

- Pray that many from today's people group will sing joyfully to the Lord, the rock of their salvation!
- Pray for the Worodougou people to look to Jesus to free them from fear and death.
- There are Christian believers within the Worodougou tribe. Pray these individuals would find each other in order to be encouraged.
- Pray they would learn to study scripture and pray together.

■ 4 Croatian-speaking Jewish in Croatia

While the Jews in Croatia tend to be secular, they maintain a strong Jewish cultural identity. Antisemitism has been increasing and is often perceived as coming from Christians. The Bible and other resources are available in their language in print and online. Offering these resources could be effective, especially among college students.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. —Psalm 96:1-2

- Let many from today's people group sing a new song of praise to the Lord.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give the Jews of Croatia a spiritual hunger.
- Pray for them to realize their need for the only Messiah.
- Ask God to counter the growing antisemitism and to demonstrate his love through caring and compassionate Christ followers.

■ 5 Hazara in the United Arab Emirates

The Hazaras in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are originally from central Afghanistan, and their Asian facial features and Shia form of Islam makes them stand out in both countries. Most of the people of the UAE are non-citizens, including the Hazaras. Hazaras in the UAE are from many walks of life.

*The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory. —Psalm 97:6*

- Pray that this will be the year when today's nation sees His righteousness and glory.
- Pray for the Hazaras to find safe refuge and good jobs in the UAE.
- Pray for the Hazaras in the UAE to have the chance to hear about Jesus and respond to His invitation to become part of the Kingdom of God.
- Pray for a church planting movement among the Hazaras in the UAE.

■ 6 Turkish Cypriot in Cyprus

As the descendants of Turkish Ottoman invaders who conquered Cyprus in the sixteenth century, the Turkish Cypriots proudly maintain Turkish language, customs and traditions. Today they are known to be gentle, courteous and hospitable to strangers. They are proud of their ethnic heritage and remain very loyal to Turkey. They are Muslim, but they also adhere to folk beliefs.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name! —Psalm 100:4*

- Pray for this people group to enter His courts with joyful praise!
- Pray for Greek Christ followers to befriend the Turkish Cypriots and be Christ's ambassadors.
- Pray for peace and friendship between the Turkish and Greek Cypriots.
- Pray for the Turkish Cypriots to find their way to the empty grave and embrace the risen Christ.

■ 7 Czech Jewish in Czechia

Jews have lived in Prague, the capital of Czechia, since 970. As a result of the Holocaust, some of the Czech Jews now reject their Jewish heritage and ethnicity. Today, many Jews in Czechia consider religion irrelevant. Some have converted to Catholicism and others have been assimilated into Czech culture.

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name! —Psalm 103:1*

- Pray that the Lord will raise up many from this people group who will worship Him with their whole hearts.
- Pray for God to give Jews in Czechia a spiritual hunger.
- Pray for them to long for their Messiah and realize he is Jesus.
- Ask God to provide mission organizations and local Christian believers with opportunities to share the good news with Jews.

■ 8 Danish Jewish in Denmark

Danish Jewish people were not fully accepted into Danish society until recently. Today most are well educated and speak Danish along with other European languages. The majority live in the cities of Copenhagen and Arhus. Like the rest of European culture, younger Jews are becoming increasingly secular. They highly value education and career advancement.

*Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases...
—Psalm 103:3*

- Pray that this people group will flee to the Lord who alone can forgive sin.
- Pray for the Lord to draw the attention of the Jews in Denmark away from their worldly pursuits and toward His offer of salvation.
- Ask God to open their eyes, hearts and ears to the good news of their Messiah.
- Pray for the Lord to raise up the right people to disciple the Danish Jews in his ways.

■ 9 Afar in Djibouti

Most Afar are nomads who herd sheep, goats, cattle and camels and some are fishermen. Market day is important to the Afar and some travel great distances to buy and sell necessities. A man's wealth is measured by the size of his herds. They are a proud people who emphasize strength and bravery. There are radio broadcasts that can reach the Afar people with Christ's call.

As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. —Psalm 103:12

- Pray for this people group to find forgiveness and relationship with the Lord Almighty.
- Pray for the Afar people to have open hearts and minds to what the Lord says in these radio broadcasts.
- Ask the Lord to bring forth a movement to Christ among the Afar people this decade.

■ 10 Zanzibari Swahili in Oman

The Swahili-Arab people come from the east coast of Africa, mainly Zanzibar. On the surface, Swahili-Arabs seem like regular Omanis. However, when one sits with them at a meal, the African roots come out. Much of the time, they speak Swahili instead of Arabic, which is considered the trade language, and their choice of food is African. Most follow the Ibadi sect of Islam which is the most peaceful Islamic sects.

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children. —Psalm 103:17

- Pray that this people group will understand that they can enjoy the eternal love of the Lord.
- Pray the Lord would create a growing desire in all the peoples of Oman to find forgiveness for their sin and for power to cope with the problems through the guidance of Jesus Christ.
- Pray Jesus would be revealed with power at the proper time.



■ 11 Sumra Sindhi in Pakistan

Traditionally, Sumra Sindhi people were warriors, but at present they are involved in business, agriculture, government, and private service. Sumra Sindhi people are family-oriented people. The teachings of the Bible regarding family are a good place to start new relationships.

From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. You cause the grass to grow for the livestock and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth —Psalm 104:13-14

- Pray for this people group to be amazed at His abundant blessings!
- Pray that Christian businessmen, agriculturalists, and government employees would reach into the lives of Sumra Sindhi people, building relationships and sharing Christ's abundant life with them.
- Pray that almighty God would open the hearts of Sumra Sindhi people to hear the good news.

■ 12 Fedicca-Mohas Nubian in Egypt

The Nubians have a high literacy rate compared to their rural Egyptian neighbors, which is enforced by their stable education system. Many of their religious ceremonies include singing, dancing, and beating drums. One of the Nubian subgroups is the Fedicca-Mohas. Though the Nubians were mostly Christians in the sixth century, they are now almost all Muslims. Most of them do not have many Christian resources nor mission agencies working among them.

*O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. —Psalm 104:24*

- Pray for God to speak to the hearts of members of this people group through the many wonders of nature.
- Pray for many of the Fedicca-Mohas Nubians to put all their faith in Jesus Christ leading to a movement to Christ.
- Pray for the Lord to provide them an abundant harvest as a testimony of his goodness and power.

■ 13 Kharga in Egypt

Being a Muslim is part of the personal identity of the Kharga Bedouin. Nomadic peoples are some of the most challenging to reach with the gospel. Missionaries would have to follow the Kharga in their seasonal travels throughout the desert. The JESUS Film is available in Libyan Arabic. Teams of medical workers and veterinarians can demonstrate the love of Christ to the Kharga in practical ways.

*Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD,
or declare all his praise? —Psalm 106:2*

- May many from this people group not be able to praise Him enough!
- Ask the Lord to send workers to the Kharga.
- Ask the Lord to open the hearts of the Kharga leaders and elders to receive the good news about Jesus.
- Ask the Lord to raise up a Disciple Making Movement among the Kharga.

■ 14 Fezzan Bedouin in Libya

There are very few true nomads among the Fezzan Bedouin, while semi-nomads are quite numerous. The true nomads herd only camels, and they wander freely. The semi-nomads also cultivate crops, primarily barley and wheat. Nomadic Bedouin live in portable black tents. Fezzan Bedouin have been Muslim for many generations.

Both we and our fathers have sinned; we have committed iniquity; we have done wickedness. —Psalm 106:6

- Pray that many family leaders from this people group will understand that their people are sinful just like the Israelis, and that they need to seek the Lord for forgiveness.
- There are no known followers of Jesus among the Fezzan Bedouin. However, please pray for those the Lord is preparing for Himself. They will need prayer support and they will need teachers to help them.
- Pray for the Bedouin to have adequate rainfall for their crops and herds.



■ 15 Tamasheq Tuareg in Mauritania

Tuaregs are known for their distinct culture, dress and fine craftsmanship. Their ancestors fiercely rejected Islam until they were won over by Sufi Islamic mysticism. Today, they espouse a mixture of Sunni Islam and folk religion and do not fully practice the “pillars” of Islam, including the month of fasting. Only the men wear veils, and women often have leadership roles. Their indigo clothing colors their skin, so they are known as “blue people.” They speak a distinct dialect of Arabic.

*Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble —Psalm 107:2*

- Pray for this people group to call out to the Lord to redeem them from sin, their main enemy.
- Pray for a Disciple Making Movement to flourish among them in Mauritania.

■ 16 Eritrean Tigre in Eritrea

The population of Eritrea is equally divided between Christian (Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Lutheran) and Muslim religions. The largest Muslim group is the Tigre, the only Eritrean or Ethiopian Semitic people which is not Orthodox. They are related to the Christian Tigrinya but are culturally distant from them. Cultural barriers are high. These can be overcome, but it usually requires much time.

*I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations. —Psalm 108:3*

- Pray that God will raise up thankful people from among this people.
- Pray for Tigre believers to become effective and fruitful in sowing God’s word among their own families and communities to fuel a movement of God’s blessings spreading from household to household.
- Pray the Tigre people would have sufficient food in an area that often experiences famine.
- Pray for adequate rain and for improved living conditions.

■ 17 Hedareb Beja in Eritrea

What is the largest non-Arabic ethnic group between the Nile River and the Red Sea? The Bejas! One subgroup, the Hedareb, are nomadic shepherds. Many believe the Beja are descendants of Noah's grandson, Cush. They have occupied their current homeland for more than 4,000 years. They adopted Islam and mixed it with folk religion. They are also scattered over more than 110,000 square miles which makes it hard to reach them.

*Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever. —Psalm 111:3*

- Pray for many from this people group to find this God whose righteousness never fails.
- Ask God to reveal Himself to the Beja and set them free from the belief that they can please God through words without a Savior.
- Pray for a movement to Christ among all Beja peoples.

■ 18 Estonian Jewish in Estonia

Yiddish is one of key Jewish languages in countries like Estonia. Yiddish has been one of the things that set this group apart, along with the Jewish religion. Because of the uniqueness of their history and culture, Yiddish-speaking Jews have a strong sense of identity. The Jews of Estonia are trying to maintain their Jewish traditions. They are opening Jewish schools. Many Jews seem interested in learning more about their history. Perhaps this can be a segue to the gospel.

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever! —Psalm 111:10*

- Pray for fear of the Lord and wisdom to come to this people group.
- Pray for the Jews who have chosen to follow Jesus to be bold in sharing their faith.
- Pray for churches to grow and engage in disciple making.
- Pray for a movement to Christ.

■ 19 Silt'e in Ethiopia

A considerable number of Silt'e make a living as merchants or shopkeepers. They have their own administrative unit. In the countryside, the Silt'e practice mixed farming and cultivate ensete, a native flowering plant found in Africa and Asia. Almost all Silt'e are Muslim. There are wonderful opportunities to show the love of Christ to the Silt'e people, especially in areas of health and education. Missionaries can also begin soccer ministries that can open doors.

*From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised! The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens! —Psalm 113:3-4*

- Pray for peoples from all over the world to discover His glory and mercy.
- Pray for workers who are filled with the power and the fruit of the Holy Spirit to work among the Silt'e.



■ 20 Jima Oromo in Ethiopia

The various Oromo people groups are the largest, most widely dispersed groups in Ethiopia. Composed of approximately a dozen tribal clusters including the Jima, these peoples prefer just the term "Oromo" when speaking of themselves. One basic value of the Oromo is tokuma, meaning group identity.

*Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!
—Psalm 117:1*

- Pray that some from this people group will praise Him this year.
- Pray that Jima Oromo believers would have strength in the Holy Spirit to stay firm in their faith.
- Pray the Oromo tribes of Ethiopia would be able to provide improved education for their children, and for a rising standard of living.
- Pray for a movement to Christ among the Jima Oromo people.

■ 21 Makhmi in India

The Makhmi people live in the high mountains of Kashmir where outside ideas are seldom brought in and almost never accepted. When things are peaceful, Kashmir is a popular tourist destination for South Asians who want to escape the oppressive heat.

*This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. —Psalm 118:24*

- Praise the Lord that you have the privilege of praying for others to rejoice in Him.
- Pray for the Makhmi community to be blessed in every way by Almighty God.
- Pray that there would soon be an unstoppable movement to Christ in their community.
- Pray for Makhmi decision-makers to have a Holy Spirit-led hunger for spiritual truth that only Jesus Christ can satisfy.
- Pray for workers to take Christ to the Makhmi people no matter what the cost may be.

■ 22 Jain Bhabra in India

The Bhabra are businessmen, and they mostly live in India's northwestern states of Punjab and Rajasthan. Jainism encourages people to forego all worldly pleasures, which is why the majority Hindu people that surround the Bhabra hold them in high regard. They believe in non-violence and most are vegetarians. Their belief in a many-sided reality means that truth is too complex to adequately communicate. As Jains, the Bhabra people don't understand that there is definite truth, and Jesus Christ is the truth who can set them free from religion and righteousness by works.

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
—Psalm 119:105*

- Pray that many from this people group will discover this to be true for their own communities.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to give Jain Bhabra people teachable and understanding hearts.

■ 23 Finnish Jewish in Finland

Jewish people have lived in Finland since the 1700s. Their numbers rose when Jewish soldiers from Russia arrived in the 19th century and remained after their military service. Many Jewish people in Finland follow cultural Judaism, but they have rejected the spiritual elements taught in the Old Testament and refuse to receive Jesus. They are waiting for a different Messiah.

*Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor
in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain. —Psalm 127:1*

- Pray that this people group understands that all their efforts are worthless unless they subject them to the Lord.
- Pray that the Jewish people would understand that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah.
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth loving Christians to work among the Jewish communities.
- Pray for a network of Christ-centered fellowships to be raised up among this Jewish community.

■ 24 Comorian in France

Comorians are among many other African migrants who live in France. The vast majority of Comorians are Sunni Muslims though some became Christians during the latter half of the 1990s. France is a very secular environment; Comorian immigrants are either Muslim or they forsake religion altogether.

*Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in his ways! —Psalm 128:1*

- Pray that many from this people group will have the joy that comes from fearing and following the Lord.
- Pray for the few Comorian believers to be salt and light to their neighbors.
- Pray that the Lord would equip Christ followers in France to share the gospel with Comorian immigrants.
- Pray for a movement to Christ among the Comorians in France.



■ 25 Sahrawi in France

A sub-group of the Moors, the Sahrawi are a mix of Berber Arab and Black African descent. The Sahrawi who immigrated to France mostly live in Paris and Marseilles. The Sahrawi people are Muslims who believe our spiritual needs are found in Islam. There are not many resources available in their Hassaniya language except the JESUS Film. Believers can go to places in France where they expect to find Sahrawis and share the film with them.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.
—Psalm 130:5

- Pray that they will put all their trust in Him alone!
- Pray for effective, evangelistic tools to be translated into the Sahrawi language.
- Ask the Lord to soften the hearts of the Sahrawi towards the gospel message.

■ 26 Hmong Njua in French Guiana

Most Hmong Njua occupy the middle class in French Guiana. They own small businesses and restaurants. They work as teachers and as middle level administrators for the government. They tend to marry within their group. Some Njua Hmong will listen to the truth while others will listen to deceivers. Getting them the word of God and praying they will make good decisions is the best approach.

For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. —Psalm 135:5

- Pray that they will understand that there is no god as great as God, the one who gives us all we need.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to break through all spiritual deception.
- Pray that the Hmong people will have a spiritual hunger that will open their hearts to the King of kings.
- Pray for workers who will share the good news.

■ 27 Bandoumu in Gabon

You can find the Bandoumu people throughout regions of southern Republic of the Congo and southern Gabon. They maintain an ethnic religion that is deeply rooted in their cultural identity. To change from this religion to another is tantamount to a betrayal of one's people. The Bandoumu do not have decent roads leading to their communities, which makes access to them difficult. There are also few resources in their language, but Bible translation is in process.

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.
—Psalm 138:2

- Pray that many from this people group will delight in His promises, and seek His unfailing love.
- Pray for the economic and infrastructural needs of the Bandoumu, especially easy access to potable water.
- Pray for indigenous missionaries to have a burden for their Bandoumu neighbors.

■ 28 Mandinka in Gambia

Since the Mandinka tend to look upon artisans with respectful fear (especially blacksmiths and leather workers), it may prove beneficial to teach through the arts. They are especially fond of music, and their griots (praise singers) among the Mandinka have even impacted the national anthems of four West African nations. Culturally appropriate gospel music can be an excellent evangelistic tool.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. —Psalm 139:5-6

- Pray that many from this people group will be in awe of the blessings of the Lord.
- Pray for spiritual wisdom and favor for missionaries focusing on the Mandinka.
- Pray for Mandinka believers to have boldness and love to share the gospel with their families and neighbors.
- Pray for a strong church community to be established among the Mandinka in the Gambia.

■ 29 Lezgin in Georgia

Lezgin was originally a Turkish term meaning “highland resident.” By the 7th century, Islamic power had swept into the region of the Lezgin people, and over the past 1000 years has exerted huge influence into their society. The Lezgin culture is highly defensive against outsiders. It is very difficult for those outside their communities to be accepted or trusted. Resources like Bible portions and the JESUS Film can be made available to the Lezgin people of Georgia.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. —Psalm 139:13–14

- Pray that this people group will understand and embrace that they are created by God, and that His ways are marvelous!
- Give thanks for the Bible translation work which is underway.
- Pray for widespread reading and spiritual understanding.

■ 30 German Jewish in Germany

The German Jews were driven out or exterminated in the 1930s and 1940s, but today they are returning to Germany to participate in the vibrant economy. Jews often find their employment in medicine, law, higher education, science and finance. Jewish scientists win the Nobel Prize many times above their percentage of the general population. Jewish people often have a deep appreciation for the arts and music.

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! —Psalm 139:23–24

- Pray that many from this people group will have the kind of intimacy with the Lord that it takes to purge their lives of anything that offends Him.
- Pray for Christ followers to join them in cultural events, showing them the way to their heavenly Father.
- Pray for an abundance of the fruit of the Holy Spirit as they will sometimes face hostility and resistance.

■ 31 Zaza-Alevi in Germany

Do you know what it’s like to not fit in? The Zaza-Alevi people living in Germany do. They consider themselves Muslims but have retained some ancient beliefs, giving them the label “heretic” by orthodox Sunni Muslims. They consider themselves to be Kurdish, but their language is unintelligible to Kurds. The Zaza people speak German at work, Turkish in their neighborhoods and Northern Zazaki at home.

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice! —Psalm 141:2

- Thank Him for making your prayers as precious as an incense offering. Thank Him that in praise, there is His presence.
- Pray that the Lord would convict the hearts of the Zaza of their need of the only Savior and His forgiveness.
- Ask the Lord to raise up disciples among the Zaza-Alevi of Germany soon.

JUNE

■ 1 Laz in Germany

A small group of Laz have migrated to Germany. Young Laz people are learning German and Turkish but often not the language of their grandparents. The Laz have been Sunni Muslims since the time of the Ottoman Empire. Islam is an integral part of their identity. German churches and individuals can build redemptive relationships with the Laz. Respecting the Laz culture and language would provide an opening to share the gospel.

I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Selah —Psalm 143:6

- Pray that many from today’s people group will thirst for the Lord’s presence.
- Pray the Lord would raise up disciples among the Laz of Germany.
- Pray the Lord would create a hunger for truth and the word of God among the leaders of the Laz community.



■ 2 Wala in Ghana

The Wala people in Ghana practice Islam, heavily influenced by folk religion. Most are farmers. Recent interviews with key Wala leaders show that there is a spiritual openness that seems to be developing.

*O LORD, what is man that you regard him,
or the son of man that you think of him? —Psalm 144:3*

- Thank Him that He not only notices us but loves us as a father loves his children.
- Ask the Lord to lead Ghanaian Christ followers to share the good news with the Wala. The New Testament is available in Wali, their heart language.
- Pray that teams of believers will use the New Testament to teach literacy skills to the Wala.

■ 3 Mamprusi in Ghana

Can you imagine not being able to read and write? Only 15% of the Mamprusi people of West African are literate. The low literacy rate of the Mamprusi people is a major barrier to the spread of the gospel. The New Testament is available in the Mamprusi language. Teams of believers can teach the Mamprusi to read using the New Testament. The JESUS Film and God's Story video are also available.

*May our granaries be full, providing all kinds of produce;
may our sheep bring forth thousands and ten thousands
in our fields. —Psalm 144:13a*

- Pray that physical prosperity will lead this people group to thankfulness to the Lord rather than spiritual apathy.
- Pray that the Lord would send literacy teams to the Mamprusi and help them to gain access to the Mamprusi New Testament and the JESUS Film.

■ 4 Greek Jewish in Greece

During WWII, Greeks were able to hide some of their Jewish friends from Nazi invaders. The descendants of those Jews make up the small group of Jews who live in Greece today. Jews are concentrated in Greek cities such as Thessaloniki and Athens.

*Every day I will bless you and praise your name
forever and ever. —Psalm 145:2*

- Pray for many from this people group to regularly praise the Lord and worship Him.
- Ask the Lord to raise up a Messianic body of disciples among the Jews of Greece.
- Pray that the Lord would open the spiritual eyes of Greek Jews as they read and study the Bible.

■ 5 Pomak in Greece

The name Pomak means, "people who have suffered." They are distinguished by their non-Bulgarian names and their devotion to Islam rather than to Orthodox Christianity. In Greece, the Pomak economy is based on agriculture. Raising livestock is also very important. Pomak women are renowned for their excellent weaving abilities.

*One generation shall commend your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts. —Psalm 145:4*

- Pray that many from this people group will train their children in the ways of the Lord, who in turn will teach their children as well.
- Pray the hearts of the Pomak people in Greece would be stirred to hunger after God.
- Pray that family-based movement to Christ will soon transform Pomak society, blessing them spiritually and economically.
- Pray for Pomak decision makers in Greece to open their communities to Christ's ambassadors.

■ 6 Arabic-speaking Algerian in Libya

In the seventh century, the Arab Empire was in full swing, and they conquered and settled North Africa. Though Algeria is culturally Arab, their form of Arabic has borrowed a number of words from the earlier Berbers. Thus, the nations of North Africa have their own forms of Arabic. That goes for all the peoples of North Africa including the Algerians and Libyans.

*On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. —Psalm 145:5*

- Pray that the uncertainties of life would open Arabic-speaking Algerian in Libya to seek Jesus as the answer.
- Pray that the JESUS Film and audio materials would be used effectively among them.

7 Chauhan in India

The Hindu Chauhan give special devotion to the goddess Durga, who embodies local gods and demons associated with mountains, plants, and fire. Their name comes from a past ruler, and they belong to the Kshatriya caste, just below the high Brahmin priestly caste. They earn their living in farming, business, and banking.

They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. —Psalm 145:6

- Thank Him for His awe-inspiring deeds!
- Pray that God would open their hearts and minds to the gospel, that the JESUS Film would be viewed by many, and that many would read the Scriptures and respond positively.
- Pray for dreams and visions that will help them to realize that there is no savior but Jesus.

8 Tiyar in Bangladesh

How would life be different without electricity? Most Tiyar people live in villages with little access to electricity or indoor plumbing. The Tiyar people of Bangladesh and India are named after the Sanskrit word for “hunters.” Fortunately, the JESUS Film is available in the Tiyar’s language, Bengali.

The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. —Psalm 145:9

- Pray that many from this people group will understand that He is good to everyone, and His compassion has no end.
- Pray for Bengali-speaking believers to take this film to the Tiyar community.
- Pray that Jesus would captivate the hearts of key Tiyar leaders and use them to begin a movement to Christ in Bangladesh.



9 Fulbe in Guinea

The Fulbe are a large people group located in the western African nations of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Senegal. Islamic schools are set up for the children in some of the villages. The Fulbe are a very large people group, and many workers are needed to saturate the group with the good news.

The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. —Psalm 145:17

- Pray that many will soon thank the Lord for His righteousness and kindness.
- Pray for West African followers of Christ will be given the desire and opportunity to reach the Fulbe.
- Pray the few Fulbe Christ followers would learn to live in the power of Christ’s Spirit, demonstrating the fruit of his Spirit.

10 Kuranko in Guinea

The Kuranko are a branch of the Malinke tribe that immigrated into Sierra Leone from Guinea. Different groupings within the Kuranko people each have their own chiefs, traditions and heritage. Some are pagan, while others follow Islamic belief. The region where they live lacks adequate road systems and is not easily accessible, leaving the Kuranko socially isolated. The full Bible is now available in the Kuranko language, and there are a number of good resources such as the JESUS Film.

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. —Psalm 145:21

- Make this your prayer today!
- Pray for workers to carry these to the Kuranko people, answer their questions, and assist in the planting of additional churches.
- Pray for the Kuranko to be completely set free from belief systems that deny them new life in Christ.

11 Mandyak in Guinea-Bissau

The Mandyak mainly live in southwestern Guinea-Bissau, though others live in southern Senegal or Gambia. They believe their ancestral spirits are selfish and vindictive, yet they have power to bring good or bad fortune. They believe that proper funerals are essential to ensure that these spirits treat them well. The main spiritual obstacle might be an unwillingness of God’s people to go to them.

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. —Psalm 146:2

- Pray for the Lord to raise up people from this people group with this kind of dedication to the Lord.
- Pray that the followers of Christ among the Mandyak people will become involved in taking the gospel to their friends, neighbors, and family members.

12 Zuwarah in Libya

The Zuwarah are one of many groups of Berbers. They live in the far northwest part of Libya on the Mediterranean Sea and are mainly farmers. There is a great lack of Christian resources available in their Nafusi language.

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever. —Psalm 146:6

- Pray that God's wondrous works of creation will draw many from this people group to the Throne of Grace.
- Pray for the funds and workers needed to create resources and deliver them to the people.
- Pray the Lord would be preparing hearts to understand and believe even now.
- Pray for the Lord to remember the ancient prayers of long-dead Berber Christians, as they prayed for their descendants to know and follow Christ.

13 Kababish in Sudan

The term "Kababish" is usually used to describe anybody who is half Arabic and half black. The Kababish are a loose tribal confederation of Arabic people of mixed origins who live in a region of desert scrubland, some of which is in Sudan.

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created. —Psalm 148:5

- Pray that the gift of life will draw many from this people group to worshipping God only.
- Pray for peace in Sudan, and for adequate food and water for the Kababish people and for their livestock.
- Ask God to give the Kababish hearts to hear the good news of Jesus and to seek Him in the Bible.
- Pray for a movement to Christ among the Kababish.

14 Muslim Nagarchi in Bangladesh

In the past, when ceremonies and celebrations were being planned in Bangladesh, it was the Nagarchi who were called upon to serve as drummers. Today, many of them have given up their drums to farm and raise livestock.

Young men and maidens together, old men and children! Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven. —Psalm 148:12-13

- Pray for all generations from this people group to worship and praise the Lord.
- Pray their eyes will be opened to see that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life and that there is no way to peace with God other than through him.
- Pray for workers willing to venture to this harvest field and share the good news of salvation with the Nagarchi.
- Ask the Lord to establish a church planting movement among them.

15 Southeast Pashayi in Afghanistan

The Southeastern value masculinity and honor more than anything else. The idea of an ideal man among the Pashayi is one who is a proud warrior, loyal to his family, dangerous to his enemies, and always prepared for a feud when necessary. The Pashayi converted to Islam in the late sixteenth century.

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD! Psalm 150:6

- May it be soon!
- Pray for peace in Afghanistan, and for increasing freedom for all the peoples to improve their lot in life.
- Pray they would understand the importance of seeking education for their children.

16 Ouargla in Algeria

The Ouargla are a Berber people who live in and around the oasis city of Ouargla in central Algeria, which has a major university as well as being a center of oil production. Nearly all recent church growth in Algeria has occurred within the Berber communities of northern Algeria. Those who minister the gospel can accelerate their efforts for the Ouargla and other Berber tribes.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. —Proverbs 1:7

- Pray for many from this people group to find true knowledge by fearing the Lord of heaven.
- Pray this is the time for a spiritual revival among the Ouargla Berbers.
- Pray for the Lord to move among the Ouargla in such a way that they spread Christ's ways of peace and mercy to other Berber tribes.

■ 17 Hungarian-speaking Jewish in Hungary

Atrocities committed against Hungarian Jews during World War II are remembered with the help of a shoe memorial on the edge of the Danube River, commemorating a day when 800 Jews were murdered by Hungarian fascists. Today, Hungary welcomes the Jewish community. Two recent prime ministers were part-Jewish. The Jews in Hungary are increasingly secular.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. —Proverbs 3:5-6

- Make this your prayer for today's people group.
- Pray for the Hungarian-speaking Jews to realize their need for the Messiah.
- Ask God to stir their hearts and give them a hunger for His Son.

■ 18 Isan Thai in Iceland

A very small number of Thai Isan people have immigrated to Iceland. Those who went seeking work have had little success. However, women who came to marry local men have integrated well. Because of their small numbers, there are no associations to help preserve their culture. The Thai Isan are being assimilated into Iceland's secular culture. The vast majority of the Thai Isan are Buddhist.

By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; by me princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly. —Proverbs 8:15-16

- Pray that this truth will put the fear of God in the hearts of all who hold power.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to move among the Thai Isan, preparing their hearts to receive the gospel.
- Pray for Christ followers to make disciples who will make more disciples.



■ 19 Sikh Saini in India

The Sikh Saini are farmers who usually own their own land and are somewhere in the middle in terms of caste status. They are hard-working and skilled at their work. The Saini people have been dependent on the teachings of Guru Nanak and other Sikh prophets for centuries. Few of them have had the chance to hear what Jesus taught. There have been many Sikhs who have found Jesus as Savior.

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. —Ecclesiastes 12:13

- Pray that many from this people group will understand that God is the one who gives our lives meaning and purpose.
- Pray that the Lord would give Sikh background believers the gifts of healing and intercession, so they can be used by God to demonstrate the power and love of our Lord.

■ 20 Muslim Kashmiri in India

Kashmiri Muslims are convinced the Bible is wrong when it contradicts the Koran. Those who "convert to Christianity" are viewed as immoral, degenerate people. Many Kashmiris have heard of Jesus Christ, but view him merely as a prophet and teacher, not as the only one who can forgive our sins.

The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand. —Isaiah 1:3

- Pray that many from this people group will know their master and heed His voice.
- Pray for a movement of God's Holy Spirit among Kashmiri families causing many to seek their loving Savior who died for them.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of Kashmiri leaders.

■ 21 Muslim Gujjar in India

You may not have heard of the Gujjar people, but you are probably familiar with their tribal origin: the Huns. As in, Attila the Hun. Like their famous predecessors, they continue to practice a nomadic lifestyle, relocating in summer and winter to find grazing for their animals. In their constant striving to survive, the Gujjar haven't had a fair opportunity to hear, understand, and accept His invitation for relationship.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. —Isaiah 1:16-17

- Pray for this people group to surrender unconditionally to the Lord of lords.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to shine like a brilliant sun among Gujjar believers, leading others to seek Him.
- Pray for a Disciple Making Movement among the Gujjars.

■ 22 Varendra Brahmin in India

Varendra Brahman families value higher education. Towards this end, there is a new university in the Varendra region that straddles West Bengal and Bangladesh established in 2012. Like other Brahmin peoples, the Varendra feel that turning their allegiance to another religious system will jeopardize their status. For this reason, most are reluctant to give their allegiance to Jesus Christ, believing this is tantamount to betraying their community.

And many peoples shall come, and say: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. —Isaiah 2:3

- Pray for a heart-felt seeking of the Lord among many from today's people group.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would raise up believers who will actively introduce the Varendra Brahmans to Christ and help them to worship him in culturally appropriate ways.
- Pray for Christ to reveal Himself to Varendra Brahman leaders.

■ 23 Hindu Kunbi in India

The Kunbi are landowning farmers. Some are politicians and educated professionals, including engineers and doctors. Traditionally girls did not attend school and boys studied up to the primary level, but this has changed as their community has gained better education.

Enter into the rock and hide in the dust from before the terror of the LORD, and from the splendor of his majesty. —Isaiah 2:10

- Pray for many from this people group to understand both God's judgment and His majestic glory.
- Pray for Christ's ambassadors to sow God's word into Kunbi families, healing and strengthening Kunbi households with God's blessing.
- Pray for spiritually hungry "persons of peace" among the Kunbi who would welcome Christ's ambassadors into their communities.

■ 24 Subarna Banik Bania in India

From renting out an exclusive banquet hall for a wedding to lending money to a small farmer so he could buy honeybees to improve the productivity of his crops, the Subarna Banik community is well-known throughout West Bengal. They are envied for their amazing business skills as money-lenders, business traders, and participants in international trading. Their disciplined nature is seen in their careful details to accounting and bookkeeping. Hinduism is the religious identity of Subarna Banik Bania.

They have lyre and harp, tambourine and flute and wine at their feasts, but they do not regard the deeds of the LORD, or see the work of his hands. —Isaiah 5:12

- Pray that many from this people group will notice and respond to what God is doing.
- Pray for God to provide opportunities for believers to develop relationships with the Subarna Banik Bania.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would move among their leaders.





■ **25 Srigaud Brahmin in India**

Srigaud Brahmins value education and supporting their elderly. Their lives as Brahmins center around duty to gods, ancestors, the Hindu communities they serve, and the Hindu scriptures. To them, each of these is an important sacred duty. Many are well-educated and employed accordingly. Most Srigaud Brahmin families prefer to be employed in challenging professions such as computer software engineering than being a priest.

And one called to another and said: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory! —Isaiah 6:3

- Pray that many from this people group will experience and respond to God’s holiness.
- Pray for spiritual hunger among these Brahmins that will result in a movement to Christ.

■ **26 Hindu Nai in India**

The Nai are a barber caste, but they do much more. In addition to cutting hair, they also provide other grooming services such as extraction of teeth and setting of sprains. They are also involved with marriage celebrations and matchmaking. Nai women are employed in jobs very conducive to marriage celebrations, such as hairdressing and application of henna. The Nai have a low literacy rate. The gospel must be presented to the Nai families in ways appropriate to oral learners.

And I said: Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts! —Isaiah 6:5

- Pray that there will soon be a heart-felt understanding of personal sin and the need for God’s redemption among this people group.
- Pray that a strong movement to Jesus would bring whole Nai families and communities into a rich experience of God’s blessing.

■ **27 Hindu Mali in India**

The Mali are industrious workers and are known for their bravery in the armed forces. There are different Mali subgroups according to their occupation. For example, Mali farmers are known as Baghban, those who cut and sell grass are called Sasia Mali, and those growing flowers are Phool Mali. Many Malis live in towns and keep vegetable or flower gardens. The Mali are also known for the preparation of marriage crowns for the bride and the bridegroom at weddings.

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, Here I am! Send me. —Isaiah 6:8

- Pray that God will send His messengers to this people group soon!
- Pray for networks of believing families and fellowships that will throw the doors open for Mali people to follow Jesus.

■ **28 Hindu Khatri in India**

The Hindu Khatri people need liberation from traditions that hinder receiving the Savior who died in their place. Most of their elders view what Christ-bearers bring them as a threat to their traditions and culture; therefore, these gatekeepers almost always reject the gospel. So as long as they view the Church as a foreign threat, they will not give Jesus the chance to transform their communities.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. —Isaiah 9:2

- Pray for God’s light to shine brightly among this people.
- Pray for the Lord to tear down obstacles that keep Khatri people from placing their trust in Him for eternal life.
- Pray that these gifted people would see their need for the only sin-bearer.
- Pray for God’s Holy Spirit to reign among Khatri people.

■ 29 Hindu Dhobi in India

Today we will pray for the cleanest people in India! The Dhobis have always been the caste that performed laundry services by hand, but today their livelihood is being challenged by washing machines, which are now available to their forward caste customers. Believers with the means to do it can help train the Dhobis in new skills. That would make them see their good works and give praise to the Father.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious. —Isaiah 11:10

- Pray that today’s people group will soon allow Jesus Christ, the son of David, to be their banner of salvation.
- Pray for Dhobis to form Discovery Bible studies and learn to think biblically.
- Pray for a powerful Disciple Making Movement among Dhobis.

■ 30 Hindu Lohar in India

The Lohar are nomadic blacksmiths who travel from village to village to sell their goods. The Lohar lead hard lives. Although they work hard, they live in extreme poverty. People assume the handmade goods produced by the Lohars are inferior to machine made ones. To make matters worse, there are negative stereotypes about nomads, such as the idea that they are thieves.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. —Isaiah 12:3

- May many from this people group drink deeply from the fountain of His salvation and mercy!
- Pray that they would receive the education they need to thrive in 21st century India.
- Pray for their hearts to be open to the blessings of Jesus. May He penetrate Lohar communities and families.

JULY

■ 1 Mappila in India

The Mappila attribute their Islamic conversion to the work of an Arab missionary. Mappila people live in both India’s southwestern Kerala state and the Laccadive Islands just to the west of that state. They speak Malayalam, the language of Kerala. Kerala is about 20 percent Christian, and they have strong mission agencies. Believers who already speak Malayalam could be sent to the Mappila.

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. —Isaiah 12:4

- May this people group praise Him and tell others of His mighty deeds.
- Pray that Malayalam speaking believers would be culturally sensitive as they share what Jesus can do for a community.
- Pray for the Lord to bless families among the Mappila people with His presence and mercy.
- Pray for Bible-believing fellowships among the Mappila people.

■ 2 Hindu Kahar in India

The Kahar caste claim to be descended from one of Brahma’s sons and from a warrior caste, which would give them a good social standing if other Hindu communities accepted this. Tools (JESUS Film, recordings, videos, etc.) are available in most of the languages spoken by the Kahar community, but there is a need for workers to distribute them.

For the LORD of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back? —Isaiah 14:27

- Pray that many from this people group will understand that God is sovereign, and they must obey Him alone.
- Pray for dedicated workers.
- Pray the Kahar would understand that Jesus desires to bless their families and clans, not harm them.
- Pray for the ability to raise their standard of living and be ready for the challenges of the 21st century.

■ 3 Hindu Pasi in India

The legend about the origin of the Pasi community is that one day, a man was going to kill some cows. Parashuram was, at that time, practicing austerities in the jungle. Hearing the cries of the sacred animals, he rushed to their assistance, but the cow killer was aided by friends. So Parashuram made five men out of kusha grass and brought them to life by letting drops of his perspiration fall on them and together they saved the cows. Hence arose the name Pasi, from the Hindi pasina (sweat).

It will be said on that day, Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. —Isaiah 25:9

- Pray that many from this people group learn to trust in the Lord's salvation and rejoice in Him.
- Pray the Pasi community would increasingly be aware of their need for spiritual truth and righteousness that they can only find in a relationship with Christ.

■ 4 Kannada Brahmin in India

Kannada Brahmins are high achievers and proud of their accomplishments. Most of them are from Karnataka, the state where Kannada is the traditional language. Their families would much prefer that they have high paying work though some still maintain their traditional role as Hindu priests. Though they are diverse in their devotion, a large number worship Shiva, Vishnu, Ganesh, and Lakshmi—a popular goddess. Those who are priests spend their time practicing yoga, chanting, and making offerings to the gods.

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. —Isaiah 26:3

- Pray for many from this people group to find perfect peace in trusting the Lord Almighty.
- Pray that many Kannada Brahmins would not fear losing their prominent positions for the sake of Christ.

■ 5 Sasak in Indonesia

Sasak are farmers, laborers, fishermen, and craftsmen. Some also weave and create earthenware. They are increasingly looking for work in larger cities, both on Lombok and on other Indonesian islands. To visitors, the Sasak seem unrefined and even aggressive. They are actually very friendly and open to those they accept into their community. Reaching them with the gospel will require perseverance and a willingness to overcome these obstacles.

In the path of your judgments, O LORD, we wait for you; your name and remembrance are the desire of our soul.

—Isaiah 26:8

- Pray that many from this people group will trust the Lord, obey Him, and glorify His name through their actions.
- Pray for God to reveal Himself through signs and wonders that point to Christ.
- Pray for hearts to be softened and prepared to receive the good news.
- Pray for spiritual hunger among Sasak leaders.

■ 6 Mbojo in Indonesia

The Mbojo are also called the Oma ("move") because they often move from one place to another. The main livelihood of the Mbojo is farming. The Mbojo are open to outside influence. Although most Mbojo are devout Muslims, they still believe in spirits and practice forms of animism, even still visiting healers, who are numerous in the area. The Mbojo are afraid of local gods as well as other spirit types called Bake and Jin. They also believe in sacred trees.

You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, He did not make me; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, He has no understanding? —Isaiah 29:16

- Pray that many from this people group will soon understand that they belong to God by right of His life-giving creation.
- Pray that strong movements to Jesus will bring entire Mbojo families into rich experiences of God's blessings.

■ 7 Musi in Indonesia

Almost all Musi people in Indonesia are Muslim. The people follow the Islamic religion because it has been passed down to them and is a part of their culture, not because they understand it. Because of this, religious worship is not an important factor in their lives but rather, it is a part of their identity. The Musi resist the presence of a religion other than Islam.

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. —Isaiah 40:5

- Pray that members of this people group will soon see the glory of the Lord and respond to it.
- Pray the Musi people will gain no satisfaction from following a religion of works, and instead will yearn to know the love of a God who will relate to them as persons.

■ 8 Palembang in Indonesia

Palembang is the name of both a city and a people group. A child has the choice to go by his mother’s clan name or his father’s. Although Islamic commitment is very high, the role of the shaman is still prominent in many areas of life. If something is lost or someone is sick, they usually start by consulting a shaman.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. —Isaiah 40:8

- Meditate on this verse, and pray that members of this people group embrace it.
- Pray that the few followers of Jesus among the Palembang would grow in number and in commitment to the Great Commission among their people. May they lead joyful lives, pray continually, and stay strong in God’s word no matter the circumstances.



■ 9 Jambi in Indonesia

The Jambi are very proud of their links with an ancient Malay kingdom that flourished from the 7th century until the Middle Ages. Sadly, this pride now threatens their economic development. Many are unwilling to accept modernization and reform. Almost all Jambi are Muslim, and every village has a mosque or prayer house, and often an Islamic religious school (madrasah).

Behold, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. —Isaiah 40:10

- Pray for many from this people group to claim this verse by embracing the Lord.
- Pray for greater educational help.
- Pray for the Jambi to learn new skills that will make them more competitive in the job market.
- Pray for more of the Jambi to hear and respond to the gospel.

■ 10 Riau Malay in Indonesia

The Riau are peaceful farmers and fishermen living on the northern coast of central Sumatra. They are closely related to the Malays living across the sea from them in Malaysia. It would be reasonable to call them a Malay subgroup. They keep to themselves and don’t mingle with outsiders. There are believers from other people groups on Sumatra Island who can reach out to the Riau Malay people if given the chance.

To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. —Isaiah 40:18-19

- Pray that this people group will soon understand that they can never form an idol that compares with the Lord.
- Pray the Lord would give dreams and visions to Riau Malay family leaders that would open their hearts to Jesus.
- Pray for a movement to Christ among the Riau Malay people.

■ 11 North Sumatera Malay in Indonesia

The North Sumatera Malay often avoid speaking frankly for fear they will offend someone. They use signs, parables and traditional poetry instead. Harmony is a priority for these people. For someone in the group to follow Jesus will disrupt this harmony.

*Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends
of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable. —Isaiah 40:28*

- Pray that they will soon understand that God is all-powerful and all-knowing.
- Pray for the few Christian believers within this community, that they would have a strong and faithful testimony for the Lord and would honor Him with their lives.
- Pray for the Lord to thrust out workers who can help them achieve better lives economically and spiritually.

■ 12 Banjar in Indonesia

The Banjar people do not look positively upon modern methods and technologies, nor do they mix socially with other people groups. This isolation has limited their development in education, health care, sanitation, and water purification.

*But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run
and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. —Isaiah 40:31*

- Make this your prayer for today's people group.
- Pray that Christian Banjar would find community and fellowship together.
- Pray for Banjar believers to be disciples who make other disciples.
- Pray for Banjar elders to embrace an emerging Bible translation and share it with others. There is a prayer movement for the Banjar people; pray for thousands to join it and pray until there is a Banjar Disciple Making Movement.

■ 13 Balinese in Indonesia

Throughout the world, people know the Balinese for their artistic abilities. They live on or originated from the island of Bali. Most Balinese live in very close-knit villages with strong family, social, religious, and economic interrelationships. Hinduism is the primary religion of the Balinese. Even though Hinduism has greatly affected the culture, the Balinese have managed to maintain their original culture, so Balinese Hinduism differs from Indian Hinduism.

*For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams
on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring,
and my blessing on your descendants. —Isaiah 44:3*

- Pray that this blessing will soon reach today's people group.
- Pray that Christian Balinese would find community and fellowship together.
- Pray that they would find ways to share the holiness and power of Christ with family and community.

■ 14 Laki in Iran

The Laki people of Iran speak Laki, which most linguists believe is one of the Kurdish languages. The Laki are semi-nomadic animal herders and farmers. Today many live in permanent houses. Some Laki have moved to Iranian cities and are fully engaged in modern society. Radio programs in Laki can bring the gospel to this people. Since most of the Laki know Farsi, they can listen to TV and radio programs in Farsi can reach them.

*Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times
things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose.' —Isaiah 46:10*

- Thank the Lord that He alone can tell the future, and His plans for today's people group can never be stopped.
- Pray for gospel materials to thrive among the Laki people.
- Pray that the Lord would raise up many disciples among the Laki.



■ 15 Gilaki in Iran

The Gilaki are one of the Caspian peoples, inhabiting the southern coastal region of the Caspian Sea. The Apostle Bartholomew may have spent time evangelizing in this area of the world around 50 A.D. Although Christianity was once a powerful presence here, now it is extremely weak. Today, the Gilaki are virtually all Muslim.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, Your God reigns. —Isaiah 52:7

- Pray for the Lord to send people with “beautiful feet” to bring good news to today’s people group.
- Pray that the Gilaki people would increasingly hunger to receive forgiveness for their sin, forgiveness that only Jesus Christ can offer. May they be dissatisfied with a religion that offers no pardon and no power for living.
- Pray for them to be sensitized to their need for a sin-free Savior.

■ 16 Mazanderani in Iran

Most Mazanderani people are primarily farmers and fishermen. They are closely related to neighboring Gilaki and Caucasian peoples, such as the Georgians and Armenians. Mazandaran was the last province in Iran to be converted to Islam. Today, nearly all Mazanderani people are Shia Muslims. The literacy rate in the Mazanderani language is low, but many of the people can speak and read Farsi, Iran’s trade language. General education levels are low among the Mazanderani people.

The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. —Isaiah 52:10

- Pray for today’s people group to share in the victory of the Lord by becoming part of His family.
- Pray the Lord would send mature Persian believers into the rural areas of Iran to win, equip and send out Mazanderani believers.

■ 17 Sorani Kurd in Iraq

Mentioned in the book of Daniel, the Medes are the ancient ancestors of Iraq’s Sorani Kurds. The Kurdish unwillingness to unite has worked against them time and again. They have two mutually hostile political-military factions which keep them weak and vulnerable.

Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. —Isaiah 54:2

- Use this verse to pray for the Lord to expand His house to include today’s people group.
- Pray that the Christians in Iraq would unite in the global mission of God to bring the Kurdish peoples unto himself.
- Pray for God’s protection.
- Pray that the Kurdish church would be increasingly evangelistic in ways that are meaningful to Kurds.

■ 18 North Iraqi Arab in Iraq

North Iraqi Arabs are incredibly diverse. Arabs are generally proud of their heritage, their mother tongue Arabic (or an Arabic dialect), and their culture of hospitality. The North Iraqi Arabs are very similar in language and culture to neighboring Arab populations.

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. —Isaiah 55:1

- Pray that this people group will soon accept God’s offer of free salvation.
- Pray that the Lord would open Iraqi eyes to see Christ as God in the flesh.
- Pray the Lord would protect Iraqis from terrorism and extremist violence.
- Ask the Lord to bless the government and to reveal Himself to those in power.
- Ask the Lord to raise up strong local churches that will plant other churches.

■ 19 Urdu in Ireland

The term Urdu does not adequately describe the Urdu people as such but is merely a language distinction. Urdu is an Indo-Iranian language that developed from Hindi. Most Urdu speakers originate from Pakistan but many have emigrated to the West, including Ireland.

Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. —Isaiah 55:3

- Pray for this people to have wide open ears to the words of the Lord.
- Pray for a Book of Acts type of move to Christ among Urdu speakers in Ireland.
- Pray for Urdu-speaking people to understand and embrace that Jesus wants to bless their families and neighborhoods.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead and empower Urdu-speaking disciples to make more disciples.

■ 20 Yahudic Jewish in Israel

Have you ever heard of the “Yahudic” Jews? They are Jews who settled in the area now called Iraq after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 BC and Romans in 70 AD. Almost all of these Iraqi Jews have left Iraq and moved to Israel.

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. —Isaiah 55:7

- Pray for true and lasting repentance to come to this people group.
- Pray that the Messianic fellowships in Israel might grow in number and size as more and more Yahudic Jews encounter and trust in their Messiah.
- Pray that the Lord would raise up a Christ-ward movement among the Yahudic Jews of Israel.



■ 21 Israeli Jewish in Israel

Sabra Jews are those born in the land of Israel, particularly since the founding of the Jewish State in 1948. “Sabra” is derived from the Hebrew name of the prickly pear cactus. The allusion is to a tenacious, thorny desert plant with a thick hide that conceals a sweet, softer interior; a wry commentary on the Israeli character.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. —Isaiah 55:8-9

- Pray that today’s people group will understand that God’s ways are far higher than theirs.
- Pray that the veil over their spiritual eyes would increasingly be lifted, allowing them to accurately see Jesus as their Messiah.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to move powerfully among Israeli Jewish leaders.

■ 22 Italian Jewish in Italy

What event comes to mind when you hear the year 1492? Yes, most think of Columbus’ landing in the New World. The date 1492 is also important because it is the year that Spain expelled most of its Jewish population. Some of these Jews who were forced to leave Spain ended up in Italy.

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, The LORD will surely separate me from his people; and let not the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. —Isaiah 56:3

- Pray that many from today’s people group will put all their hope in the Lord.
- Ask the Lord to open the spiritual hearts of the Italian Jews, so they might be receptive to hearing about the claims of Jesus Christ.
- Pray the Holy Spirit would lead many Jews to read the New Testament.
- Pray for God to raise up multiplying disciples among the Italian Jews.

■ 23 Shawiya Berber in Italy

Being in the mountains rather than the lowlands, the Shawiya Berbers avoided much of the Arab influence that pervaded the lowland areas, enabling them to maintain their own language, culture, customs, and social organization. Most remain in northern Africa, though a few have immigrated to European countries like Italy to seek better job opportunities. The Shawiya living in Italy have seen a watered-down version of Christianity.

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn. —Isaiah 61:1–3a

- Pray for these blessings for today's people group!
- Pray for the Shawiya to be equipped and connected with discipleship, and to spread the gospel to their families back in Algeria.
- Pray for economic opportunities that will help them contribute more to Italian society.

■ 24 Behara in Bangladesh

The Behara live in rural areas of Bangladesh and are followers of Islam. Though they are not part of the Hindu caste system, they have low status.

Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. —Isaiah 61:9

- Pray that those who live near today's people group will want their spiritual blessings after they submit to the Lord Almighty.
- Ask the Lord to write His story on Behara hearts, and that they would embrace it.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to sweep through this people group, drawing them into His Kingdom, family by family.



■ 25 Yaeyama in Japan

The Yaeyama is one of several people groups living in the Ryukyu Islands to the southwest of Japan's mainland. The family is central to Yaeyama culture and life, and they dislike being alone. They spend any time available with families or friends. The Yaeyama are considered Buddhist, though traditional shamanistic practices are still prevalent. Unfortunately, the Yaeyama are considered second-class citizens in Japanese culture, leaving them searching for a sense of belonging.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. —Isaiah 61:10

- Pray for the garment of salvation to come to this people group.
- Pray for the Yaeyama to find their sense of belonging and worth in the King of kings.
- Pray for a movement to Christ among the Yaeyama.

■ 26 Miyako Ryukyuan in Japan

During the early 1400s, the Miyako Ryukyuan had their own kingdom. The islands eventually became a part of the Japanese Empire. The traditional religion of the Miyako Ryukyuan was a version of shamanism with women as the shamans. During the 1920s, Shintoism and Buddhism vied for prominence, and today the Ryukyuan adhere to a mixture of the two, blending them with traditional shamanism.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. —Isaiah 62:3

- Pray for this blessing upon today's people group.
- Pray that Ryukyuan believers may find opportunities to spread the gospel in their own communities and among their own people.
- Pray that they would discover the dignity of belonging to the King of kings.

■ 27 Toku-No-Shima in Japan

The Toku-No-Shima people are known for having the highest birth rate in Japan, along with a high percentage of people who live beyond 100 years. The Toku-No-Shima are considered to be Buddhist, though traditional shamanistic practices are still very prevalent. These include belief in unseen ancestral spirits, as well as “kami,” who control the other spirits and must be continually appeased, lest harm come to an individual or family.

All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word. —Isaiah 66:2

- Pray for the Lord to give humility and a fear of Him to this people group that will lead to them being blessed beyond measure.
- Pray for the Lord to move powerfully among Toku-No-Shima leaders, so they will open the door to their people embracing Jesus Christ.
- Pray for workers and for hearts to be open.

■ 28 Jordanian Arab in Jordan

Like members of religious groups all over the world, Jordanian Muslims equate “Christianity” with a worldwide political system. It will be difficult to get them to focus on Jesus Christ. There are traditional Christians among the Jordanians that could be witnesses of Christ’s grace to the Muslims if they would humbly and lovingly approach them as Christ’s ambassadors.

From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD. —Isaiah 66:23

- Pray that soon all mankind will bow in humble submission to the Lord Almighty.
- Pray that the believers in Jordan would gain a vision and burden to share the good news with their neighbors.
- Ask the Lord to make the Jordanian Arabs into a ripe harvest field in the kingdom of God.

■ 29 Kabardian in Jordan

Kabardian people hail from Russia’s southwestern Caucasus, but some now live in Jordan. They embody remarkable aspects of beauty and strength. However, equal to hospitality as a cultural value is the code of blood revenge. While not always literally practiced, it underscores a generationally ingrained defensiveness and unwillingness to reconcile offenses. The New Testament, JESUS Film, and audio resources have been translated into the Kabardian language, and they can access them through the internet.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations. —Jeremiah 1:5

- Pray for the Lord to thrust out many prophets from every nation to every nation in the 2020s.
- Pray that spiritual barriers that have kept the gospel from advancing among the Kabardian would be broken down.
- Pray that a reproducing, culturally relevant movement to Christ will begin among Kabardian leaders and families.

■ 30 Kazakh in Kazakhstan

Because of their nomadic pastoral lifestyle, Kazakhs kept an epic tradition of oral history. Kazakh people have a long history of identifying with the Islamic religion. They do not understand that the one true Savior is the only one who can provide payment for the penalty of their sins.

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant. —Jeremiah 1:9–10

- Pray for Christ’s ambassadors to be careful to speak only what God tells them to say when they go to the nations.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to nurture a movement to Christ and cause church plants that will begin with leaders and influence entire families.
- Pray for the Lord to provide Kazakhstan abundant rain as a testimony of His goodness and power.

■ 31 Meskhetian Turk in Kazakhstan

Meskhetian Turks arrived in Kazakhstan in 1944. They live in closely knit rural communities that are largely integrated into Kazakh society. Turkish businesspeople are investing in this country, and Meskhetian Turks act as a bridge between Turkish and Kazakh businessmen.

And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, 'As the LORD lives,' even as they taught my people to swear by Baal, then they shall be built up in the midst of my people. —Jeremiah 12:16

- Pray for today's people to become well established in their devotion to the Lord alone.
- Pray the Lord would awaken an interest among Meskhetian Turks to know Jesus personally.
- Pray for tribal leaders and family heads to understand their need for the one true God as their sin-bearer, and that this realization would filter down through families.
- Pray for the Lord to bless the Meskhetian Turks in such a way they will know of his goodness and power.

AUGUST

■ 1 Somali speaking Ajuran in Kenya

The Ajuran Somali living in northeastern Kenya have their roots in the Muslim Ajuran dynasty in Somalia. The Ajuran ruled over much of the Horn of Africa in the Middle Ages. During the Ajuran period, many peoples in the southern part of the Horn of Africa converted to Islam. Opposition to Christians can be strong among such Muslims in Kenya. Christian testimony can be dangerous.

We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against you. —Jeremiah 14:20

- Pray that soon leaders among this people group will repent of their sins and lead others to do the same.
- Pray for those workers presently reaching out to the Ajuran.
- Pray the Lord would give them encouragement, discernment, and the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that influential people within the Ajuran tribe would be given a growing interest in Jesus.

■ 2 Orma in Kenya

The Orma are semi-nomadic herders who live in the bushlands of southeastern Kenya. All of life for the Orma focuses on the welfare of their cattle and other livestock. The Orma converted to Islam three or four generations ago. Apathy among Christians in Kenya is one of the major obstacles in reaching every people group in that nation. Fear of opposition also keeps believers from reaching out to their non-Christian neighbors.

Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the LORD. —Jeremiah 16:21

- Pray that today's people group will understand from the heart that God is all powerful, and He can give or withhold blessings.
- Pray for dedicated workers.
- Pray for a movement to Christ among the Orma people.
- Pray for adequate rainfall for the Orma people and for their livestock.

■ 3 Korean in North Korea

The government of North Korea forbids any ideas they do not approve of, and that includes the presentation of the gospel. Believers can reach out to North Korean refugees who have risked their lives to escape the Orwellian nightmare they call home.

Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. —Jeremiah 17:7

- Pray that today's people group will put all their trust and confidence in the Lord only.
- Pray for Korean believers to be so full of the fruit and the power of the Holy Spirit that they spread hope and joy to their suffering neighbors and family members.
- Pray for them to have a Holy Spirit-directed love, even for their many enemies.
- Pray for the physical and spiritual needs of the North Korean people to be met.

■ 4 Torgut Kalmyk in China

Torgut Mongolians live in a fertile verdant area of grasslands which receive ample rainfall. Folk dancing is their favorite pastime. They claim to be Tibetan Buddhists; however, they practice shamanism. They need the closest known believers to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise. —Jeremiah 17:14

- Pray for this people group to seek and find the Lord's healing touch.
- Ask for an intervention of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to be preparing the hearts of the Torgut people to receive the good news with rejoicing.

■ 5 Khmer in South Korea

The Khmer speak Khmer, the national language of Cambodia. There is a sizable Khmer population in South Korea, working mostly in industry. Khmer and Korean are unrelated languages. Cultural differences are great, even though they both have Buddhist backgrounds. Korean Christians could open welcoming centers for Khmer people and teach them Korean using Korean-Khmer New Testaments. Koreans could host Khmer speakers and help them get settled in South Korea.

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. —Jeremiah 29:12

- Pray that this blessing will reach today's people group soon.
- Pray the Korean Church would take advantage of this evangelistic opportunity to reach these unreached Buddhists.
- Pray that the Khmer presence would spark interest in frontier mission.

■ 6 Burmese in South Korea

Most Burmese live in their home country, Myanmar, though there is a sizable diaspora. South Korea is a popular place for Burmese refugees to find work. They arrive seeking hope for their future. Immigrant groups often want to cling to what is left of their old culture. Buddhism falls into this category.

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. —Jeremiah 29:13



- Pray that today's people group will seek the Lord will all their hearts and find Him to be merciful, loving and powerful.
- Pray for the Burmese people to understand and embrace that Jesus wants to bless their families and neighborhoods.
- Pray for a movement in which the Holy Spirit leads and empowers disciples to make more disciples.
- Pray for a movement of Jesus to heal and strengthen Burmese communities in South Korea.

■ 7 Mahra in Kuwait

The Al-Mahrah tribe or Mahra make up the largest tribe dwelling in their original homeland, Yemen's Socotra Island. Many live elsewhere, including Kuwait. Kuwait centers its religious focus solidly on the Islam. For someone to reach the Mahra people, they would need to be very discreet.

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. —Jeremiah 31:33

- Pray for today's people group to become the Lord's people!
- Pray for spiritual openness among this solidly Muslim people.
- Pray for opportunities for Mahra people in Kuwait to hear of the love, grace, mercy, and power of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Pray for a movement to Christ to spread through Mahra communities, not only in Kuwait but also in Oman, Yemen, and Somalia.



■ 8 Dungan in Kyrgyzstan

The Dungan originated in the Kansu and Shensi provinces of northwestern China, but today there are people from Kansu living in the mountains and valleys of Kyrgyzstan. Culturally, the Dungan are similar to the Han Chinese, but their language is greatly influenced by Arabic, Persian and Turkish. They are a proud, hospitable, nationalistic, and conservative people who refer to themselves as Chinese Muslims despite having cut ties with China.

Not like these is he who is the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name. —Jeremiah 51:19

- Pray for today's people group to soon become part of the Lord's inheritance.
- Pray that the few followers of Christ among the Dungan would fellowship together and hear the call to share the gospel with their neighbors.

■ 9 Ir in Laos

The Ir people group live in the highlands of Laos. They are usually included in other people groups, but they are distinct, and our heavenly Father wants them to be his children. They live in long houses on stilts, and they keep pigs and chickens underneath.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, says my soul, therefore I will hope in him. —Lamentations 3:21-24

- Pray that soon members of today's people group will embrace the love and compassion of the Lord. Pray that they become part of His portion.
- Pray for the Lord to call forth medical missionary teams to work with the Ir people.
- Pray for God to raise up prayer teams to pray that a people movement may begin among the Ir.
- Pray for spiritual hunger that will turn their hearts to the Light of the World.

■ 10 Latvian Jewish in Latvia

Jews have lived in Latvia since the 16th century. Before World War I, Jews played a major role in the development of the country's industries, commerce, and banking. Discrimination brought economic distress to many Latvian Jews. The majority of Jews in Latvia today live in or near the capital city of Riga.

And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. —Ezekiel 34:23

- Pray for today's people group to submit to the one true shepherd, Jesus Christ.
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth loving laborers to the Jews of Latvia.
- Ask God to anoint the gospel as it goes forth via radio and TV in that nation.
- Pray for a vigorous and growing Latvian Messianic movement.

■ 11 Levantine Bedouin in Lebanon

Some Bedouin groups have migrated into Lebanon. Among these are the Levantine Bedouins. Evangelization efforts among Bedouins are challenging due to the harsh and unsettled nature of their lifestyle. It is very difficult to find workers, especially those who still live nomadic lifestyles. We need to remember that at one time Muslim missionaries reached them. Christ followers can take the true gospel to them if they are willing.

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. —Ezekiel 36:25-27

- Pray for this people group to find spiritual cleansing in Jesus Christ.
- Pray for willing and loving workers.
- Pray for Levantine Bedouins to have a spiritual hunger that will leave them open to depending on the only Savior.

12 Muslim Badhai in Pakistan

Woodcutting and carpentry are the traditional occupations of the Badhai. The traditional religions of the Badhai are very difficult to penetrate. Their leaders are sensitive to people “changing religion,” which to them is the same as rejecting their family and community. Perhaps the Badhai could relate to stories of the carpenter-prophet who gave His life on beams of timber. That can be a starting point.

The king answered and said to Daniel, Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery. —Daniel 2:47

- Pray that leaders among this people group will understand that God alone can reveal truth to them. Pray that they will cease to look to any other.
- Pray that workers would be sent to this harvest field and that a Disciple Making Movement would spread like fire.
- Pray for the Lord to pave the way for the Badhai people to have access to better education.

13 Vai in Liberia

The Vai are one of more than twenty different tribes in Liberia. Most Vai are farmers. The only trees not cut down are palm trees, which provide nuts and shade for the farmers. The Vai are also tailors and craftsmen. Modernization is changing their way of life. Their Islam is animistic and that should open them to Jesus and His gospel of power. Hence, confrontation of spirits (power encounter) should find a positive reception.

Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. —Daniel 3:28

- Pray that leaders of this people group will be amazed at the works of God as this Babylonian king. Pray that they will worship God alone.
- Pray that presenting Jesus as a person of power against spirits would open the door for the gospel and open them to missionary presence.

14 Gola in Liberia

The Gola are largely Muslim yet incorporate features of traditional African religions into their Islamic faith. Ancestor worship is common. In some regions they perform animal sacrifices. They reside in both Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Gola are a proud people. Pride often keeps people from humbly accepting the gifts of God.

Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble. —Daniel 4:37

- Pray for leaders of this people group to repent before the Lord Almighty like this king.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to give Gola family leaders humility and repentance.
- Pray the Gola people would be given an increasing interest in knowing and serving Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- Pray for a movement to Christ among the Gola people this decade.

15 Sanusi Bedouin in Libya

The Sanusi of Libya have been influenced by both the traditional nomadic lifestyle of the Bedouin and the religious teachings of a prophet known as Sayyid Muhammad ibn 'Ali as-Sanusi. This influence has made them one of the gentler of the Bedouin tribes.

And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. —Daniel 7:14

- Pray that many from today's people group will understand and respond to the fact that Jesus Christ has an eternal kingdom. Pray for them to worship their eternal King of kings!
- Pray for gospel radio to reach the Sanusi people and that they will learn of these broadcasts.
- Pray for excellent, culturally appropriate programming.
- Pray that there will be a growing openness to Jesus among all Bedouin tribes.
- Pray for Sanusi leaders to find the Lord and disciple others in his ways.
- Pray for peace in Libya.



16 Talysh in Azerbaijan

Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, You are not my people, it shall be said to them, Children of the living God. —Hosea 1:10

- Pray that this people group soon become children of the living God.
- When political leaders decide where borders lie, they often do not consider the people who actually live in the land. Most Talysh people reside in southeastern Azerbaijan and northeastern Iran near the Caspian Sea. Smaller groups live in Russia and Kazakhstan. The Talysh have been Muslims for over 1,000 years and Islam is an integral part of their identity and culture. Becoming a believer in Christ could easily result in persecution by family and community.
- Pray that the newly printed Talysh New Testament would reach the right people.
- Pray for spiritual openness.

17 Karaite in Lithuania

The Karaite form of Judaism is so strange that Russian Tsars categorized them as non-Jews, just as the Nazis did! Thus, they escaped Russia's pogroms and the Nazi holocaust. However, Karaites in Lithuania know they are true Jews. They interpret God's word through human reasoning. This can easily close their minds to what God tells them in the Scriptures. Missionaries can hold open conversations and debates regarding the different interpretations of the Old Testament. First, they must become loving friends to these free-thinking people.

I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me. —Hosea 5:15

- Pray that the troubles of this people group cause them to seek the Lord and find Him.
- Pray for the Lord to raise up and send out the right people to go to the Karaite community in Lithuania.

18 Macedonian Albanian in North Macedonia

Albanians have migrated to other countries like North Macedonia. Their spiritual worldview is affected by superstition, Islam, and atheism. It may be difficult for believers to connect with them, so believers need to learn the worldview of the people they are reaching before sharing the gospel.

Yet even now, declares the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. —Joel 2:12

- Pray that this people group turns to the Lord and repents of their sins.
- Pray for the Lord to send the right people to evangelize and disciple Albanians.
- Pray for the effectiveness of the JESUS Film in North Macedonia.
- Ask the Lord to raise up a Bible believing local church network among Albanians in North Macedonia.

19 Ndzwani Comorian in Madagascar

Many of the Comorians (people from the Comoros Islands) now residing in Madagascar initially came seeking better socio-economic conditions, while others fled their country during periods of political strife. Many university students from the Comoros Islands study in Madagascar. Most Comorians follow Islam, with a strong emphasis on folk and animistic elements such as charms, magic, and trances.

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. —Joel 2:28

- Pray that this people group receives the gift of the Holy Spirit as they turn to the Lord.
- Pray Comorians would be drawn to Jesus, the prophet who is much more than a prophet.
- Pray for a movement to Christ to stir among the Comorians in Madagascar.

20 Kachchi in Malawi

Although living conditions in Malawi vary, the Kachchi are usually from higher, wealthier South Asian migrant communities and have maintained several aspects of their own culture. Many of them work as masons and merchants. Others own small, family run shops. The Kachchi people are a business community, and they don't think they have time for spiritual matters.

For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth—the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name! —Amos 4:13

- Pray that this people group seeks and finds the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.
- Pray that God's Word become available to those who are seeking Him.
- Pray for loving ambassadors of Christ to go to the Kachchi and be there for them as friends and neighbors, all the while pointing the way to the empty grave.
- Pray for a Disciple Making Movement among the Kachchi in Malawi.

21 Orang Negeri Minangkabau in Malaysia

The Minangkabau highly honor their women, as they pass their names and property through the mother. The Minangkabau are devout Muslims in spite of their matrilineal heritage. The practice of female inheritance and prohibition of polygamy draws criticism from more orthodox Islamic people groups. The people feel that their culture is in danger of dilution by outside influence. Efforts to share the gospel with them will need to be very sensitive to the preservation of this culture.

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. —Amos 5:24

- Pray that God's justice and righteousness prevail in the society of this people group.
- Pray for preservation of the culture while accommodating the truth personified by Jesus.
- Pray that Jesus would stir the hearts and minds of all Minangkabau people in Malaysia.

22 Bisaya in Malaysia

Have you heard of the "middle people," the Bisaya of Western Saba and Brunei Bay, Malaysia? They live along the "middle" stretches of the Limbang River, hence they are known as "people of the middle" or "people of the river." They live in stilt long houses on the river front where they fish. This indigenous people group is overwhelmingly Muslim, but they mix orthodox Islamic beliefs with animistic and shamanistic practices.

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. —Amos 8:11

- Pray that the Bible becomes available to this people group. Pray that they listen to and obey the words of the Lord.
- Pray that the middle people would become open to the gospel and Christian witness.
- Pray for a mighty movement to Christ among them this decade.

23 Maldivian in the Maldives

Most of the Maldivians are fishermen, merchants, and boat builders who take advantage of their position in the center of Indian Ocean trade routes. Despite their trade travels, the Maldivians have been influenced little by the outside world. Islamic law is the law of the Maldives. Ironically, most Maldivians embrace un-Islamic folk beliefs and live in fear of evil spirits.

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? —Micah 6:8

- Pray that this people group learns to walk humbly with the Lord.
- Pray for the gospel to become easily available via radio, television and the internet.
- Pray that the people of the Maldives would soon be delivered from fear.
- Pray for an unstoppable movement to Christ among the Maldivian people that will spread from family to family.



■ 24 Idaksahak in Mali

The Idaksahak formerly were herders for Tuareg nobles, in return for their protection. This relationship has now broken down, and there is less mixing of the two communities. However, they use the same watering holes, and they trade at the same markets. Though most live in Mali, Idaksahak nomads may reach into Algeria and Niger. The men are often bilingual, speaking their own language and the language of the Tuareg.

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. —Micah 7:18

- Pray that this people begin to experience the unfailing love of God and come to the knowledge of Christ.
- Pray for adequate rain, so the livestock will thrive as a testimony of God's goodness.
- Pray for Idaksahak believers to make many disciples until every family is reached for Christ.

■ 25 Duun in Mali

The majority of the Duun practice various ethnic religions and many are also Muslim. Like many other West African tribes, the Duun worship dead ancestors. They also believe that the "supreme god" is too distant to worship directly and that, therefore, the only way to serve him or to worship him is through a spirit.

The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. —Nahum 1:7

- Pray that this people group takes refuge in the Lord.
- May the Duun know the God who can draw so close to them that He can dwell in their very hearts.
- Pray that they understand the goodness and power of Christ and be drawn to Him, family by family.

■ 26 Maltese Jewish in Malta

Persecution of and discrimination against the Jews have been the historical reasons for Jewish migrations and settlements around the world. Anti-Semitism was prevalent and frequently led to either persecution or expulsion. Some of them live in Malta, an island nation in the Mediterranean Sea. Maltese believers can potentially lead Jews to see Jesus in a different light.

Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. —Habakkuk 2:4

- Pray that this people group become faithful to God and not trust in themselves.
- Pray that God would grant Jewish believers favor as they share their faith in Christ with their own families and communities.
- Pray that strong local churches would be raised up in each Jewish community.

■ 27 Moor in Mauritania

The term "Moor" is generally applied to any person who speaks one of the Hassaniyya dialects. The Moors are very proud people, conveying a sense of superiority to others in Mauritania. The Hassaniyya language only has limited biblical materials. It is hard for Muslims to accept the idea that they need a sin free Savior.

Yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. —Habakkuk 3:18

- Pray this people group would learn to rejoice in the Lord and His salvation.
- Pray for individuals within the Moorish community to be spiritually prepared for the gospel when it comes to them.
- Pray for a rapid expansion of Christ's Kingdom among the Moors in Mauritania in this decade.

■ 28 Bushi in Mayotte

The Bushi people of Mayotte originated on the nearby island of Madagascar. The younger generations, who have been educated in the French secular system, now question some of their groups' traditions and seek the things of the West, such as material wealth, a less strict moral code and a different manner of dress. Nevertheless, they proudly identify as Islamic. Most of them, however, still look more to spirits (djinn) to help with everyday needs or crises.

*Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways.
—Haggai 1:7*

- Pray that this people group consider their ways and turn to the Lord.
- Pray that the Lord would set the people free from djinn spirits and lead them into a movement to Christ.

■ 29 Huichol in Mexico

The Huichol of Mexico believe in shamanic power over the spirits and follow shamanic traditions. They believe that when a person dies, the soul embarks on a five year journey through the underworld. After the journey, the soul returns to earth and is captured by a shaman in the form of a rock crystal.

And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. —Zechariah 2:11

- Pray that this people group would be among the many nations that soon join themselves to the Lord.
- Pray that God would give Huichol believers boldness to share the love of Jesus with their own people.
- Pray that God would save key Huichol leaders who will boldly declare the gospel to their people.
- Pray that God would raise up a strong network of Bible believing churches among the Huichol.



■ 30 Bakkarwal in India

Bakkarwals live in a confusing world of tensions between traditional vs. modern, rural vs. urban, and Hindu vs. Sunni Muslim. They are considered a backward caste, meaning they are looked down upon by many in India. In recent decades, Kashmir has seen fighting between the Indian government and Muslim separatists. Bakkarwal and their flocks of sheep have been seriously threatened by violence.

And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one. —Zechariah 14:9

- Pray that this people group would learn to worship the Lord and king of all the earth.
- Pray for the Lord's protection for the Bakkarwal people.
- Pray for the Good Shepherd to "find" these lost "sheep."

■ 31 Northern Yemeni Arab in Saudi Arabia

The northern tribes of Yemen are also known as Sanaani Arabs. The growing of the narcotic qat has become the mainstay of rural Yemen, and nearly half of the national economy is involved in qat. Muslims know Jesus (Isa) is the Messiah (al Masih) sent by God, embodying His Word, but view Christianity as an underhanded campaign to destroy their families, communities and way of life.

But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. —Malachi 4:2

- Pray that this people group would fear the name of the Lord and experience His healing.
- Pray for Yemeni families to increasingly experience the righteousness and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.
- Pray for a movement to Jesus to multiply among the families of the northern tribes of Yemen.
- Pray for the protection of the innocent in war-torn Yemen.



That all may experience the fullness of life in Jesus.



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