

Africa by Promise

By Pastor Steven Scibelli, Missions Director



"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises,"
2 Peter 1:4

The value of God's promises is so rich and powerful. In 1985, God gave us a promise from Genesis 28:14-16 for Africa to go to the west, east, south, and north. By grace, this promise has come to pass. God gives the increase by grace, and we stand in, on, with, by, and for the promises, 1 Corinthians 3:6.

Our recent trip to Southern and East Africa in April was simply a fellowship in His promises. Our yearly conference in Malawi was an amazing time of grace with the churches, the Arman family, and the Slivas. The land borders were closed, but the airports were open, so a group flew from South Africa to the conference. Also, thank God for the technology that enabled people to join us online.

It's all grace, even technology.

We moved on to East Africa for another annual conference in Uganda. This was a rich time with country visions of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Sudan, and Congo; ready to expand to new countries and cities. Chad is a fresh new vision. Two orphans trained in a Christian school and Bible college in Uganda under P. Sam Muhima, now married, are on their way to Chad in north-central Africa. That is operation grace.

Pray, as we seek to reach all the 55 countries in the continent and are about halfway there. Abraham could not stay in Haran halfway but went on to the Promised Land, Genesis 12:5, Acts 7:2-4.

Lead in Missions

By Thomas Schaller, Senior Pastor



Every assembly needs care. God has ordained for pastors to oversee their congregations and for teachers and support staff to edify each other.

Ephesians 4:12-16

In Ecclesiastes 12:11, we read that, *"The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd."* Biblical messages build us up in the faith. Finished Work messages establish us in God's nature of grace and love. Doctrinal messages teach us how to think and live.

Should faith messages direct us to deliberate acts of obedience? Should we actually knock on doors inviting strangers to church? Should I invite my work colleagues to church? Should I start a Friday night prayer and fellowship time in my home?

Living in Finland in the 1970s, I heard about a Lutheran youth pastor "hanging out" in a parking lot of a discotheque at midnight looking to talk with disillusioned young people. Maybe the biggest step to foreign mission work is not the international flight to the other side of the world, but from my couch to the discotheque parking lot or my neighbor's door.

Let's lead our people in missions by ministry to the hearts here at home. If we can have our hearts moved now, then we can influence others.

Vance Havner said: *"If I'm too big to minister to five people, then I'll be too small to minister to 500."* Let's recognize that the biggest enemy against world missions is me and my unbelief. If I can see God conquer myself, then the world is my parish.

As a pastor, make the training of others deliberate and intentional.

Teach, teach, and teach again.

Lead by faith, lead, and encourage.

A HIDDEN GEM

By Brittany Howard



We're sitting in the Istanbul airport, drinking the first of many cups of tea enjoyed together over the next seven days. Five of us, heading to Iraqi Kurdistan, all wondering the same thing, "What are we getting ourselves into?" But the best part about a question like this is really,

"God, what are you inviting me into?"

Before going through security, Pastor Chris said something that struck me: "What's the devil trying to hide in the Middle East? Let's go see what God's doing there."

From our first moment to our last, God was answering our questions. It's a ripe harvest, and He is on the move.

Pray for Kurds and others in this beautiful, broken region. Pray more would go with the gospel to these lost sheep.



The Kurds say they have "no friends but the mountains," but we know there is One who is not ashamed to call them friend, and he's inviting us to be their friends, too.

CONNECTIONS

By Jenny Perry from Lee, Mass

In 2013, I met a Central Asian woman whose story impacted me profoundly.



She had been the victim of "bride-napping," a legal practice in her country. I thought,

"If women there could receive the Word of God, they wouldn't have to live in fear!"

I shared this burden with a Russian-speaking friend. The following year we visited this country, where I met believers who asked me to teach a Bible study via Skype with a Russian translator.

We launched it, and God blessed it. Eventually, Nataliya Chung joined us, and we began team-teaching. She now leads the study, and it is blossoming.

Last year I thought of French and Spanish speaking women in isolation, confident that Zoom studies would effectively build them up. Karen Collins in Argentina teamed up with me for the monthly Bible study in Spanish and Edwige in France for the French study.



By Nataliya Chung - Oceanside, CA



Personally, this Bible study has given me a stronger connection with God and the Body of Christ. I have fallen in love with people on the other side of the world, having never met them in person.

We are women from all walks of life, of all ages, and from many different countries, all passionate about learning the Word.

Our hearts are knit together with His as we study the Word and pray together.

This is an exciting journey of total dependence on Him, seeing His great faithfulness even in the smallest details across the world from East to West, and in between.

What can be better than growing in the knowledge of Christ and drawing nearer to our Father's heart?



By Edwige Zoglie- Paris, France



When Jenny asked me to put a Bible study platform together for our African French-speaking ladies, right away I knew it was the right thing to do for this season.

Last December, I started this beautiful and challenging adventure of monthly Zoom meetings with ladies from Togo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Congo, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, and Benin. We have a native song from one of these countries, a testimony, and a Bible portion. We also pray for our missionaries.

I have no words to describe the faces, smiles, and joy we share together. It is so precious. We are loved, edified, and challenged to go further in our walk with God.

Ladies who cannot afford a Wi-Fi connection; or do not have a smart phone nor a computer can listen to the recordings on our WhatsApp group.

God is so faithful, and I love it! Please pray for us.

Missions in America

By Pastor Duane George

In 2018, I became the pastor of the already existing church that was planning to close down. God has been gracious to us in His new work of rebuilding this church. We have seen so much growth, salvations, baptisms, healings, weddings, funerals, and just amazing miracles.

The year 2020 was an incredible challenge for us as it was for everyone. Starting live streaming has been very beneficial in reaching those in Herald Harbor that we may not have reached otherwise, and in growing a worldwide congregation.

Being able to send kids to Camp Life was put off for a year but is on track for this year.

The two things God gave me for this church are: Take away one positive thing every week, and build those you have been given.



He will add others in His time, and He has. We now have more new people than we had inherited.

Pray for us as we grow inwardly and outwardly in Herald Harbor, MD.

MISSIONS MONDAY

GGWO YouTube channel

Join us on Mondays at 10:30 am EST

as we talk missions.

Yes, There Is a Window

By Pastor Matti Sirvio, Middle East

*"How then shall they call on him
in whom they have not believed?
and how shall they believe in him
of whom they have not heard?
and how shall they hear without a preacher?"*
Romans 10:14

Algorithms cannot do the job; the presence of God moves with His people. Without a speaking face, the message easily disappears in the noise of our time and age.

Since 1990, the concept of the 10/40 window has been spoken of as a call for western Christians to look out from their comfort zone to the area in the center of the globe where 2/3 of the world's population lives.

Most of the poor, most of the representatives of other religions, most of the unreached people groups, and the least of the missionaries with the least support are there.

While this picture has amused western believers, it has not disturbed their comfortable lifestyle too much. You can still be a "great" Christian even if you never looked out through this window.

What has been considered a western privilege can be challenged because all those unreached, poor, and neglected people in the area can also see the window. They watch daily the life of those on the other side. Even if they didn't want to, they are exposed to this affluent freedom paradise, often with horror in their eyes.

On the other side, what is going on is not just pork eating and wine drinking, but all possible perversions man has ever known, even in Christian churches. It is reaching their families, teenagers, and children.

Suddenly, they want to cover their heads tighter and pray to their own god with more passion and dedication.

Every Christian is a witness, a good or a bad one. We are the city of God that cannot be hidden. It doesn't matter which side of the window you are on.

You become a missionary when you understand that the whole world is watching you, and you choose to live accordingly.

By God's grace, Greater Grace has been able to establish churches in at least 18 of the 68 countries in the 10/40 window. The mission is not accomplished.

Let's continue encouraging one another and working on both sides of the window.



Missionaries in the Making

By Andrew Silva, MBCS student from India



I was raised in Mumbai, India, by missionary parents trained at MBC&S. While growing up, God instilled in me a heart for people during the mission trips I went with my parents. Now, I am a student at MBC&S responding to God's call to learn to listen to His voice and be equipped by His word.

In the few months I've been here, my life has been greatly impacted by faithful Pastors, teachers, and missionaries. This is an amazing place; we are taught the whole counsel of God and get to build on a solid foundation for the rest of our lives.

The last thing I ever thought I would do with my life was to go to a Bible college, but God uses situations in our lives to draw us closer to Him.

When God draws us, we realize how privileged we are to be called the children of the living God and that people in this world are without hope.

We have the answer to what they are seeking!

Being a missionary isn't necessarily about leaving. Sometimes it means staying right where you are and making the message of the cross known to those around you.

2 Chronicles 16:9 says the eyes of the Lord roam the earth, seeking to show Himself strong, to use those who are available to Him. God is looking to use a willing heart completely surrendered to Him.



By Zane Turk, MCSS student, Baltimore, MD

As the final stretch to my five years in Bible college comes to a close, I can look back and be amazed at what God has done. The way I look at missions has vastly changed. In five years, knowledge has become wisdom, zeal has become fervency, uncertainties have become persuasion, and the Word of God has become life. How does this relate to missions?



I have learned that before I go anywhere, I need to know that my heart is God's mission field.

In these five years, God has won my heart. Isn't the essence of missions that God would win people's hearts? God must win my heart first! And He has.

And He has given us a kingdom that is unshakeable, a gospel that is undeniable, and a love that is unquenchable. This is what the world needs to hear!

As Bible college comes to a close, my fellow classmates and I will have missions on our hearts because missions is on God's heart, and he has won ours.

A WORD FROM JERUSALEM

By Binyamin



“O God, thou hast taught me from my youth....Now...I am old and grey headed...” Psalm 71:17-18.

Four months ago, we moved from one apartment to another. In the process, we had to clear out the stockroom, and this time I landed on a major discovery. It was my very first Bible which I had purchased in 1964. The Spirit of God had just visited me at the age of 14, and I read this Bible at least six times through just on my own. This book concluded with 1 Thessalonians 3, and the rest was broken off.

Two matters were of prime interest to me. What verses had I underlined, and what notes had I written in the margins before going to any Biblical schools. Even with a very elementary understanding, I had underlined pretty much the same type of passages as I have done today. Even the same “favorite books” back then 54 years ago still hold prime importance to me today. Let’s mention Genesis, the writings of David and Solomon. John was full of pen marks, but my favorite book, the Hebrews, was nowhere to be found.

As I opened the worn-out cover of the Bible, I found that I had written the following: “This Book will separate you from sin, or sin will separate you from this Book...Here is your power for praying, witnessing, and for loving your neighbor...for everything: Never stop reading your Bible.” This is pure grace. I could not ever come up with this on my own at age 14.

Does Your God Hear?

By Pastor Fred Ellis

Some of the greatest minds and most resourceful people are in India. Yet, the devil has kept them in bondage for centuries. Amy Carmichael once said that ‘India and all of Asia was the devil’s playground.’

There are strongholds over people’s lives and over countries that can only be broken by prayer. India is a country of people that pray. Over and over again, I was asked by believers, “Does your God hear?” We can say, “Yes, our God hears, cares, and answers prayers.”

I would like to share some testimonies of answered prayer. Two ladies in the Mankhurd church had miscarriages. They were tormented by demonic voices at night saying, “I will take your baby from the womb.” The church prayed, the voices stopped, and now they are the mothers of two eight-month-old babies. Demons were muzzled and disabled.

In Mumbai, the Karuna Sharan orphanage, which has impacted hundreds of children with the love of God, was facing closure by the government and a non-renewal of registration. Through prayer and the diligence of Sue Silva and many others, Karuna Sharan was given their registration from the government. I will tell you that today, in India, this is a miracle!

A young man from a village was kidnapped. He was taken for vital organs, and death was certain. The church in that area prayed, and in the middle of the night, he could escape. That reminds me of how the church prayed in Acts 12, and Peter escaped from jail.

I am always amazed by the number of healings that occur in the rural villages because of prayer. These precious believers lack resources and proper medical care. Their hope and dependency are totally upon the Great Physician. Praise the Lord that He heals, cares, and answers prayer!

**Let us go to
THE HOUSE OF THE LORD
JUNE 21-26
International Convention
ggwo.org/convention**

**ASIA PRAYER GATHERING
BALTIMORE
2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH**

Summer Harvest
ggwo.org/missions/missions-events

June 3-13	Izmir, Turkey
July 12-17	Cambodia
July 12-17	Arkansas, USA
July 13-21	Latvia
July 19-25	Kentucky, USA
July 23–Aug 2	South Dakota, USA
Aug 3-10	Colombia
Aug 3-13	Scotland
Aug 6-16	Paraguay - Argentina
Aug 8-14	Slovenia
Aug 10-18	Namibia

Support Missions

Drink up the opportunity today
ggwo.org/missions/give