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Bethany International's mission is to delight God's heart and extend His Kingdom by training and sending servant leaders to disciple the world's least reached people.

Thrive in Missions

A Message from the President

The task is unfinished. More than 3,000 people groups have no Christian witness. There are over 3.5 billion Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus with few workers. More than 1 million villages have no church. There are 4,000 languages with no Bible. The job Jesus left us with—the Great Commission—has not been completed.

The call is clear. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." This is a call to each and every one of us who indentifies ourselves as followers of Jesus. The task is undone, and we are the solution. Us. You and me. This task is ours. This problem is ours. He's asked us to do something about this great need.

We are not all called to go, but we are all called to get involved. And whether that is praying, sending, mobilizing, training, or going short, mid, or long term, the fields are still white and we need to pray for laborers. Laborers from every walk of life. Where to start, and what to do, and how? That's where Bethany comes in!

Bethany can help you thrive in missions. When five families and a vision to train, send, and support 100 missionaries launched in 1945, they became a community, or perhaps more like one family, focusing their time, energy, and resources to fulfill the task of world missions. Over time the family grew, but the purpose remained the same: Take the church to where it's not.

Bethany has a way of thinking about life in the kingdom: about being all in, about answering the call of the Great Commission each in our unique way, and about sticking with it until we see it through. It's like there's a string of genetic code that people from Bethany all share—the Bethany calling and the Bethany way. The Bethany family can train, send and support you whether you are investing in missions financially or you are headed to the mission field for the rest of your life.



Bethany is a family. A family that helps you do more than survive in missions. The need is great. His call is clear. Bethany helps you thrive in missions, so you can take the church to where it's not.

Daniel H. Brokke President of Bethany International

Mission Statement:

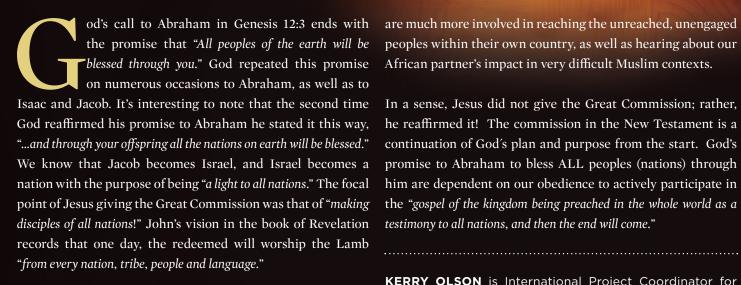
To take the church to where it is not by recruiting, equipping, and fielding followers of Jesus who are transformed by the cross, empowered by the Holy Spirit, are effectively prepared with intercultural educational experience, and lead by serving with global partners to transform individuals and communities, delighting God's heart and extending His Kingdom.

"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matthew 9:37-38 (NIV)

All Nations Blessed-Still Not a Reality

Shining a light in the darkness

BY KERRY OLSON



The Biblical definition of a nation has nothing to do with our secular understanding. In Greek the word nation is "ethne" from which we get the word "ethnic." Ethne can mean any non-Jew or it can mean a group of individuals (people groups) with a common identity. Today mission statisticians estimate that there are in existence approximately 16,000 people groups with their own language and culture of which 7,000 are unreached!

Understanding God's plan from the beginning helps us become strategic in our prayers, resources, and outreach. Bethany International, together with our network of over 280 missionary training schools, is currently involved in engaging 500 unreached people groups in the next five years. Currently we are involved with 269 people groups, and are beginning to target the additional 231. It's thrilling to hear how graduates from our school in Nepal are training the Bhutanese to reach their people. We have been surprised to learn that our partners in India

od's call to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 ends with are much more involved in reaching the unreached, unengaged the promise that "All peoples of the earth will be peoples within their own country, as well as hearing about our blessed through you." God repeated this promise African partner's impact in very difficult Muslim contexts.

KERRY OLSON is International Project Coordinator for Bethany International. Kerry and his wife Janyce have served with Bethany International Missions for 30 years





GETTING UNSTUCK

January 4, 1974 – Up until then I was a typical seventeen year old without much room in my heart for God and certainly no use for the institutional church. I was drifting through my last year of high school. Life had been pretty much in neutral until I met a co-worker who was a Christian, a real Christian. We started talking about Christ together. I started reading the New Testament and hanging around people that I sensed were true believers. That January, in a small church, after listening to a sermon of which the topic is long forgotten, the Holy Spirit's conviction fell on me. At that moment the testimonies of my believing friends, amplified by the stirring, earth shaking words of Jesus and the apostles in the scriptures, finally came home to roost. I surrendered my life to Christ.

NEEDING REVELATION

happened if there were no believing friends to minister to me and if the scriptures weren't in my language and available to me. Would I have come to Christ? I was confronted with very specific reve-

lation and I responded to that in repentance and faith. But what if I had been born into a Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist family—like the two billion people in the world who have been raised in exactly those kinds of homes?

In Romans 10:14, Paul asks three powerful questions:

- How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?
- And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?
- And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

The simplicity of this verse is palpable: A follower of Jesus shares the Good News, and the hearer hopefully believes the message and calls on the name of the Lord. If the hearer does so in faith then new life comes.

I shudder to think of what might have Amazingly, in our digital world where it seems all information is just a keystroke away, there are many, many people who live and die without ever hearing a clear presentation about Jesus. I could have easily been one of them! It pains me just them.

to think what my life would have been without Christ.

ENGAGING OUR WORLD

Eight months into my new life in Christ, in August of 1974, I felt the definite call of God on my life for ministry. Less than a year later I knew that this was actually a call to missionary service.

I changed colleges, enrolling in Bethany Global University to prepare to be a missionary. I married into a missionary family (extended family members have served long term in at least ten different countries). My wife and I became church planters in Asia and lived there for fif-

We're now on the sending side of missions. I travel extensively. I help prepare missionaries in many places around the globe. I'm associated with 280 missionary training schools that prepare and send workers into some of the toughest, most challenging places in the world. It's a great privilege and a great joy to see the advance of God's Kingdom through But I also see many evidences of Satan's of 500 unreached people groups by the given us the resources to do so. He has grip on territories and people. It's one thing to read statistics on the 6,000 or so people groups that barely have any missionaries, that lack the Word of God in their own language, that live in spiritual

year 2020. We are already in 269 people groups and we rejoice in that. It has taken the last twenty years for us to reach this level of impact. But to add at least 231 more unreached peoples in just the

all authority to make it happen. We can do this! This is the time to be moved to action so the Good News of Jesus is proclaimed in every remaining unreached people group.

66 A FOLLOWER OF JESUS SHARES THE GOOD NEWS AND THE HEARER HOPEFULLY BELIEVES THE MESSAGE AND CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD.

poverty (and many times in deep physical poverty as well). It's another thing to see these things up close, and I do that almost every month as I travel outside of the U.S. to meet with partners. We focus on ways to bring down the gates of hell and open the door for unreached peoples to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

ROLLING OUT ENGAGE-500

The plight of the unreached is why Bethany and its partners have adopted Engage500, our goal of engaging a total

next five years? That's a stretching goal to be certain! What drives the need to go all-out to engage these peoples is the realization that such a large portion of the world's population remains unreached or under-reached.

APPEALING FOR ACTION

I came to Christ because I had access to the life-transforming message of the Gospel, but there are so many who don't have that access. Jesus tasked the Church to bring the Gospel to all people. He has

TIM FREEMAN is Bethany International's Executive Vice President and coordinates Bethany's partnerships in 93 countries. In that capacity he also serves as the International Coordinator for GlobeServe, a partnership of 280 missionary training schools with workers serving in 269 people groups.







4 coMISSION coMISSION



Where Isn't the Thai Church?

Man's List or God's List

BY DWIGHT MARTIN

"This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Most Christians understand that when Jesus said this, the word *nations* is not referring In Thailand there are many different peoto countries or nation-states. Instead of who these people are and where they are located.

Because Jesus did not provide a list, mission organizations have created their own. These lists attempt to classify every group in the world. When you focus very old. However, the biggest problem unreached people are ignored. A mis-

Matthew 24:14 Jesus said sionary will drive by unreached villages to arrive at a village that is on their list of that sub-district and red means there unreached peoples. In the process they bypass thousands of other lost peoples to reach that one group.

ples and the goal of the national church is Jesus is referring to different ethnicities to reach every one of them, both those on (from the Greek word ethne). However, a mission organization's list, and those on what Jesus did not do was give us a list God's list, and those we don't know about vet. The goal of the Thai church is to plant a church in every province, district, sub-district, and village in Thailand. By reaching every village the opportunity is much greater that every ethne will have heard the "gospel of the kingdom."

on a specific country, it is not difficult to Though the gospel has been in Thailand identify problems with its data. Some of for 188 years, 75% percent of the sub-disit is incorrect or incomplete and at times tricts still have no church. Sixty Percent of the country's population lives in these arising from these lists is that millions of sub-districts. The accompanying map shows the situation clearly. The green

indicates there is at least one church in is no church. The three northernmost provinces have only 5% of the population in Thailand yet 51% of the Christians. For decades missionaries have bypassed millions of lost people to reach those on their list. This needs to change if every ethne in Thailand is to be reached.

If they don't have a church how are they going to know who God is? Who will teach them?

DWIGHT MARTIN has an MBA in Technology Management. He was ordained by the Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, AL and now works with the Thai Church to identify every unreached group in Thailand.



VIETNAM









LAOS

CAMBODIA

A NOTE FROM THE FIELD

Stephen and I felt a call to the mission field at young ages. I was at a missions conference and Stephen grew up on the mission field and watched his parents plant a church where there was no church. Bethany's heart is "to take the



church to where it is not." We want to reach the unreached people in Thailand. What drew us to Thailand was the need. The population of Thailand is 67 million and 66 million of those people don't know Christ. There is also a great need to reach those involved in the world of sex trade. Our desire is to live out 1st Thessalonians 2:8 "We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too."

Stephen and Holly Corbett grew up with a desire to do missions work. They love people, trying new things, and traveling! They live in Thailand as missionaries and work with Bethany Global University.

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GREEN Reached districts with church presence.

RED Unreached districts with NO church presence.

6 COMISSION



How One Man Found True Joy in a Dream Larger Than Himself

ast August seventy one new freshman stepped foot on the campus of Bethany University (BGU) with dreams of becoming missionaries. Dreams that, for many, had come at a young age. "When I saw the impact I could have at 12 years old on a short term mission trip, I knew I wanted to be a Six years earlier, Nick and his older missoinary" said Kaylee Harker. With its brother lived like many teens do, chasing precision-focus on training missionaries, the university attracts many who have had a life-long calling to reach the lost overseas. Yet, there are few students on campus who have a different story. For these few, a life devoted to reaching the lost in some of the hardest and darkest places of the earth was not on their radar, let alone part of their aspirations. One of these students is Nick Dobbs.

When Nick left his home town of Murphysboro, Illinois to start at BGU, he left more than a geographic location. He left behind his lifelong friends, family, oppor-

66 THE JOY I FOUND ON THE MISSION FIELD SERVING OTHERS WAS A JOY I HAD NEVER EXPERIENCED AS I LIVED FOR MYSELF AT HOME.

> tunities, and known way of life. Nick left behind the thing even many Christians hold fast to: the American Dream. It was an unexpected transition that left his parents disappointed. "My dad worked so much and so hard so that I would have the ability to have a good education and be successful," recalled Nick. "For him to stood out to me," said Nick. "He became

have worked so hard, and for me not to have taken advantage of it was a complete waste in his eyes." Despite his parents' wishes, Nick chose to respond to God's call to serve in missions overseas. It was a choice that came as a shock to those who knew him before the accident.

parties, alcohol, and the "fun" life. Having two parents working full time meant that free time was on their terms. "It wouldn't be uncommon for me to not come home for a week at a time," Nick admitted. From the influence of his brother, Nick was introduced to this lifestyle early on, earning him the moniker "Little Dobbs" by his brother's friends. It wasn't long before he started to see the warning signs of the lifestyle. With his brother ahead of him, Nick could see where his choices would take him. Halfway through high school, Nick was shocked by a bad accident involving a close friend who was on his way to a party that Nick was also invited to. This accident was the beginning of Nick's rejection of his normal life.

The shock of the accident was so great that Nick began looking for new friends and a different way of living, opening up a door to a group of people he had held at arm's length: Christians. While never outright opposing Christians, the Christian life had no appeal to Nick, until he met Jessie, a young youth pastor of the church Nick began attending. Jessie took Nick under his wing and discipled him. "His honesty, boldness, and sincere love a new older brother that I could follow." Through Jessie, Nick began to truly see his need for Christ and accepted Him as his Savior. This new faith and friendship became the foundation Nick needed to walk forward into what God had next for him.

Not long into his spiritual journey, Nick had the opportunity to share his newfound faith on a short term missions trip. It was on this three month trip that Nick began to sense God's calling on his life. Always fascinated by other cultures, Nick first experienced true joy by serving others overseas. "At first, three months seemed like a long time to be overseas, but I soon discovered that it wasn't nearly long enough," explains Nick. "The joy I found on the mission field serving others was a joy I had never experienced as I lived for myself at home." About that time, Nick remembered a school for missionaries that a friend had previously mentioned called BGU. This friend had been through the BGU program and had spent 16

months in Thailand as a missionary learning intercultural skills. To Nick, BGU became a great next step toward becoming a full-time missionary.

Today, Nick studies and prepares for his Global Internship with BGU where he hopes he will train in the coutnry of Georgia. To his friends and family back home, Nick is a new person with an strange idea of what he wants to do with his life. To many of them it seems like a foolish choice or a waste of a life, but for those who have seen the need for world evangelization and heard the call to do something about it, it is anything but foolish.

DAN SANCHEZ is the Marketing Director for Bethany International where he works to mobilize the next generation of



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...HOW CAN THEY BELIEVE IN THE ONE OF WHOM THEY **HAVE NOT HEARD?**

And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Romans 10:14



n 2015, a group of Zambian Christians attended a church service they will never forget. Their pastor was reading John 11 from a newly completed New Testament translation. It was the first time the church had heard the story of Lazarus in their heart language of Nsenga.

As the pastor read about the resurrected Lazarus stumbling out of the tomb towards Jesus, the church members started laughing out loud with joy; they had read this Bible story plenty of times, but had never heard it end like this. Cobbling together the story in foreign tongues for so many years, they had never comprehended its dramatic climax. One of the Zambian believers explained to the pastor, "Now we understand that it is about Jesus—his power to raise the dead!"

While one community in Zambia gleefully emerged from generations of Bible poverty, millions of Christians around the world aren't so fortunate. In fact, only nineteen percent of the world's languages have access to a complete New Testament. And only seven percent have a complete Bible. That leaves more than a billion people without access to God's Word in their heart language. Like the Nsenga-speakers in Zambia, they have no idea what good news they're missing.

lish4All (P4A) print-on-demand system. Kenneth Hopson, a P4A partner working in Northern Uganda, wanted to get Bibles and Christian resources to those who had nothing. He was approached to provide the Gospel of Luke to the Thur and Ma'di Okollo tribes in northern Uganda. Up to this point it had been

Bible agencies and translators, including American Bible Soci-

ety, Biblica, Wycliffe, The Seed Company, and SIL Internation-

al, have come together in the Every Tribe Every Nation alli-

Bethany is seeking to support these efforts through our Pub-

ance to eradicate Bible poverty around the world.

impossible. The P4A system enabled Kenneth to easily produce this scripture portion for the first time in these Ugandan and South Sudanese languages!

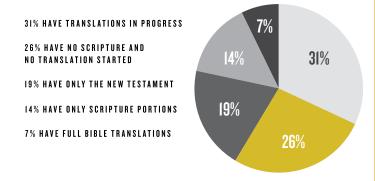
Every Tribe Every Nation's goal is to accelerate Bible translation into the heart languages of unreached peoples and distribute them through electronic and print-on-demand formats like Kenneth produced in Uganda. Once a Bible translation is complete, it gets uploaded to the Digital Bible Library, where it can be accessed from anywhere in the world.

Thanks to these advancements in Bible translation and technological advances such as Publish4All, the future looks bright. Although a billion people are still desperate to engage God's Word in their heart language, Bible translation and distribution is being revolutionized, much like Gutenberg's printing press did more than 500 years ago. Through technological innovation and persistent prayer, it is plausible that in our lifetime, the Bible will be accessible to every person on earth.

Through Publish4All, Bethany has deployed 89 digital print systems in 55 countries. Bibles and Christian resources are now reaching the needlest places of the world.

BIBLE POVERTY BY THE NUMBERS

7,102 living languages in the world





The Kingdom Impact of Your Prayers

Pray bold prayers for Kingdom work. Expect big answers.

BY DAVID ENTLER

hat do you really believe about prayer? Do you pray like you truly believe God will move through your prayers? Do you pray like you forward when you get on your knees?

Too often we think that prayer is nice but not in the actual category of doing something about the Great Commission. Yet author E.M. Bounds writes, "The story of every great Christian achievement is the history of answered prayer."

When you see God at work in the world, He is moving in response to the prayers of His people. You need look no further than Bethany itself to find an example of God's acting in response to prayer. Our ministry did not begin with a checklist, or a mission statement, or a board meeting. It began with prayer. Ted Hegre, one of Bethany's original founders, offered up a simple prayer, "We give ourselves completely into your hand to do what we can to further the gospel throughout the world."

Many of us will never be called to the ends of the earth. But that does not mean we are not called to the battlefield. In fact, for many of us, the impact we make on the edges of the Kingdom is through prayer. For this reason, I am calling for our

readers to commit to bold intercession for Bethany missionaries, for their work and for the people groups they work among. It is a profound mystery and a profound truth that God works believe the Great Commission will move through the prayers of His people. Never underestimate the impact of your prayers in encouraging, supporting and uplifting Bethany missionaries.

> Today I urge you to reflect on God's heart for the nations, His gift to the nations (Christ Jesus), and His great mission to which you have been called. Let these thoughts inspire you to a new level of prayer.

> Will you be willing to pray daily for one or more Bethany missionaries? Will you be willing to faithfully intercede for an unreached people group? If your answer is yes, you will open a window for God to move through you. If your answer is yes, then pray bold prayers. Expect lives to be transformed. Expect the kingdom to advance into dark places. Expect our God to answer in a big way!

> DAVID ENTLER currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer for Bethany International as well as a team leader the Minneapolis-based evanglism ministry, Street Level



will never forget the day I got the call from one of Bethany's short term trip leaders. I had just returned from a run during which I was questioning the Lord. I remember saying, "Lord, I don't understand why you called us to foreign missions when we don't have the opportunity to go." It had been a while since I had even looked at missions again. My husband and I had spent the past three years going through a rigorous process with another well-known missions agency, only to be told that we really needed more experience on the field before they could appoint us.

When I received the call asking if I would be interested in going on a missions trip to Turkey, I was completely shocked at how quickly God responded to my question and I was excited to finally get the opportunity to serve in that capacity. I still have no idea where they got my name; I suspect the Lord played a part.

In Turkey, we spent most of our time prayer walking and visiting with locals who would invite us in for tea. The country truly has a hospitable spirit. I would have to say the most impactful experience I had was staying with Iranian refugees for a night. The Persian family I stayed with had fled Iran two years earlier due to their faith in Christ. They were treated very poorly in Turkey and were unable to work. I'm not even sure I have the words to describe how incredible their faith and joy in the Lord

were. They were in the midst of true persecution from their extended family and now they were being persecuted in the country they had fled to. This did not seem to hinder their spirits. I was able to attend a worship service with them where at least fifteen Persian refugee believers met together to sing praises to their God and Savior. I have never experienced anything like it.

Since that time, my family has been pursuing missions and waiting for the day we will be on the ground ministering to whomever the Lord puts in front of us. The short term trip I went on has inspired me and my family to continue to pursue missions with a passion for the lost. I am so grateful for the opportunity I had to leave my family for a few days to truly get a glimpse of the persecuted church and see how desperately other nations need to hear the good news of Jesus.

MARY EDWARDS and her family live in Bloomington, MN as Bethany International missionary candidates. Their family is now preparing to serve in missions in Marseille. France.

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BY DOUG GOODMUNSON

Germo, our International Director Bethany International Ministries, returned from Kenya in the Fall of 2014 after serving as a missionary for fifteen years with his family. In that time, he saw the spirit of God empowering the national Kenyan church into missions among unreached tribes, and worked tirelessly to help mobilize the Church to raise up and train workers to reach the unreached inside and surrounding their nation.

Out of his time in Kenya came a revolutionary model for missions called the GAP Strategy; GAP stands for Gateway Access Platforms and it has become a key approach to expanding missions impact. These platforms become entryways, entwining Bethany missionaries with the full potential of the national Church, as together we advance with strength into unreached peoples in their region.

We are developing fifteen platforms across the globe. This will allow us to strategically enter the unreached people groups of the world while walking this journey hand-in-hand with the Church with long-term development in mind.

In West Africa, for example, we are working on a new training program located strategically in a Muslim populated region where Muslims are coming to Christ in unprecedented numbers. This training program will see West African believers sent into the most unreached areas of that region.

In our GAP region in East Africa, our Bethany missionaries, in partnership

with Kenyan missionaries, have been working in one particular Muslim village in an arid region. While making an impact in that village, they have also been developing a farm to train church planters to use agriculture as an entryway into other unreached areas. They have literally turned the desert into a garden over the last four years, and are on the verge of beginning the training.

These are just two of the platforms we are developing throughout the world.

Would you prayerfully consider helping to make the agriculture training in East Africa a reality? An additional \$20,000 is needed to complete the development of the training site, so that church planters can be trained and sent forth into the unreached areas.

Without you and your involvement, none of this is possible.

DOUG GOODMUNSON is the Director of Development for Bethany International, serving in Advancement. In addition, Doug coaches Bethany missionaries with their personal support raising needs.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Find out about our doug.goodmundson@bethfel.org



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