

# coMISSION

MAGAZINE

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April 2017, No.4

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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.

## A Message from the President

What is the Great Commission gap that must be filled? We know that of nearly 17,000 people groups on earth today, there are 6,600 which are considered "unreached." But what does that really mean? Missiologists have defined an Unreached People Group as having less than 2% evangelical Christians.

I just read a statistic that the French, a people group of 60 million, are now considered an unreached people group under this definition. "Are they to be considered as 'unreached' as the 60 million Shia Muslims of India with essentially no believers?" as Becky Lewis recently asked. There is no question that the French need Jesus as do the Shia Muslims in India. But there is a matter of justice.

**There are two points of justice that I would like for us to consider.**

1) 90% of all mission giving is going to ministry among "reached" people groups, while only 10% is going towards the "unreached" people groups. Jesus was very clear that "this Gospel of the Kingdom must be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14) The "all" is critical. It means all. But our finances and our efforts are not in sync with the need. There is an injustice with where our treasure is going. We will not close this gap if we do not reprioritize our going and our giving.

2) Of the unreached people groups there is a vast number (about 2,200 people groups) who do not have the Word of God in their language, and have less than 1 worker for each 50,000 people, who are faced with continual opposition and persecution. Even the church presence among them is not strong enough to evangelize their own people. Most of these have less than .5% evangelical Christian presence (and many have 0% known Christians). They need others outside of their people group to come to demonstrate and proclaim the Gospel. This is the true missions' challenge.

If we don't decide that we will address these injustices, they will continue. God is at work. He is drawing people to these least reached people groups who are found in some of the hardest, remotest, and darkest places. But, ALL of us are called to be involved – some are on the front lines doing evangelism and church planting, others fulfill field-based support roles, others stand in prayer and in financial support. But, whatever your place – Thank you!

In the pages that follow, you will read of some of these unreached people groups: the stages of engagement required; strategies to prepare, launch and equip workers; success stories of several decades of missions' efforts; the challenges that missionaries face; and ways that we can all make a difference.



May the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

**Daniel H. Brokke**  
President of Bethany International

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### Mission Statement:

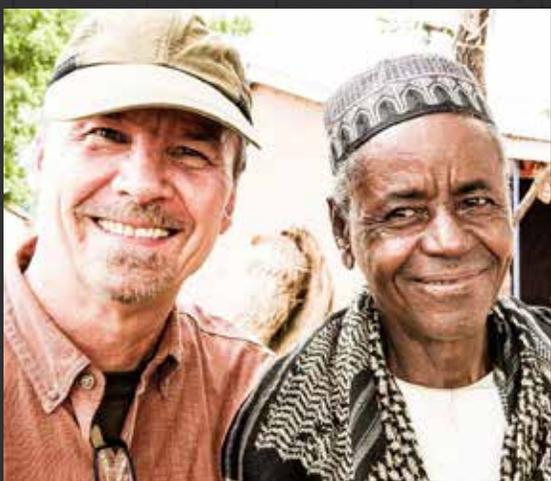
To take the church to where it is not by recruiting, equipping, and fielding followers of Jesus who are transformed by the cross, empowered by the Holy Spirit, are effectively prepared with intercultural educational experience, and lead by serving with global partners to transform individuals and communities, 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)*

# Unreached

## Engaging the Largest Nomadic Ethnic Group on Earth

BY KERRY A. OLSON



**KERRY OLSON** serves with Bethany International as an international project coordinator. He also trains, mobilizes, and sends out Latin American servant-leaders to the world's least reached peoples.

**R**ecently I returned to West Africa to continue research of unreached peoples. A friend and Bethany Global University graduate, Sam, attempted to arrange a meeting with a believer from a specific unreached people group in Ghana. This people group is Muslim and considered the largest nomadic people group on earth! They are found in several countries in North and West Africa.

Earlier this year, I visited a few Christians at a clandestine school for believers who, for security purposes, left their people group and are receiving Bible training. Additionally, I interviewed the widow of one of our partners murdered a year earlier by extremists. God is turning that negative situation to the positive, as the first-ever primary school (with Christian teachers) is now firmly established among that people group and a small church is beginning to take root.

Back to the story - Sam was unable to arrange a meeting with a single believer from this people group, but did obtain an audience with a chief in a village. As we entered the village, the chief greeted us. We began a cordial conversation and I asked him about the realities of his people in the country. Other men emerged from the nearby corn field, and our discussion was enriched by their input. The women and children of the entire village looked on at the unusual guests.

We were informed that this people group feel shunned by the entire country. They are considered “semi-nomadic”, as the men bring their animals (cows, sheep and goats) to other areas for short periods of time, but always return to their village. This village was extraordinary, in that it has been there for 35 years! It is located in the middle of a large corn field, off the main highway - with no rights to electricity or water, and no school for their children!

The chief mentioned that they are “Muslim”, but only because it is the religion passed down to them, that they are not really “good Muslims”, and we were the first to ever visit them from “another religion.” He stated if we had something “good” to bring them, they are open and want what is good for their people. He specifically asked for Sam to educate their children. Sam gladly committed to sending teachers on a regular basis to teach them God’s word!

As I reflect on our encounter with this unreached people group, it is very evident that God went before us to open an amazing door among this needy people group. It’s also very apparent to me that the unreached peoples of the world will continue to be unreached unless we step out and purposefully engage them with the “good” God has given us as His children and ambassadors, fulfilling the Great Commission Jesus gave us.



# THE ENGAGE500 STRATEGY

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Engage500 is a global effort with leadership coming from a number of nations in Asia, Africa, North America, South America, and south Asia.

On-the-ground research identifies specific people groups and evaluates whether we have the right conditions and resources available to link our partners with those people groups. Strategic opportunities include starting new schools to train competent missionaries to engage unengaged people groups in closed areas.

Bethany and its partners use efficient and effective strategies to bring training and sending efforts to regional hubs of operation to systematically engage 500 unreached people groups with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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## **PREPARE: RAISE UP A GLOBAL FORCE**

Thousands of missionaries worldwide are being recruited and trained through 300 mission training schools in 29 countries to be Kingdom workers impacting least-reached people groups for Christ. These schools help new disciples become disciple-makers among their own people. The multiplying effect of this effort is almost beyond imagination.

*One of those missionaries is Assefa. Before he met Christ, he was preparing to be a Muslim jihadist. As part of his Muslim training, he was directed to compare the Koran to the New Testament. Reading the life of Christ captivated him, but he remained a Muslim. One of his roles was to build mosques throughout in an East African country. While carrying a large amount of cash to build a village mosque, Assefa was captured by a rebel group. He was miraculously delivered from execution. Assefa knew his life had been spared for a reason. He immediately turned his life over to Jesus. He began to reach out to Muslims-introducing them to Christ!*

*Assefa now leads a training program to prepare Muslim background believers (MBB's) to become missionaries. He and his church have targeted 24 unreached people groups as part of our Engage500 goal.*

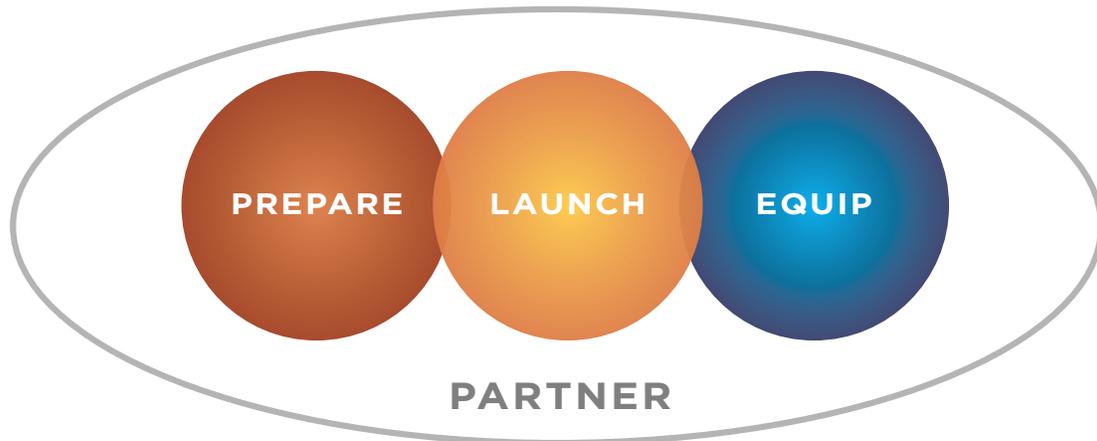
**From all nations to all nations is the rallying cry for preparing workers for the harvest field.** While Bethany Global University (BGU) has been preparing cross-cultural missionaries since 1948, there is a new wave of workers emerging. BGU is completely focused on training and equipping future missionaries. Every student serves as a missionary for 16 months, where they learn cross cultural skills, acquire a foreign language, and serve as missionaries with local ministry partners.

## **LAUNCH: ESTABLISH STRATEGICALLY PLACED REGIONAL BASECAMPS**

Missionaries are launched from many nations to many nations. These local hubs of operation, in partnership with the national church, provide us local

# THE ENGAGE500 ROADMAP

## OUR STEPS TO ENGAGE THE UNREACHED



access to the unreached peoples of a given region.

Each platform has a unique geographical and cultural context and is equipped to launch ministries to multiple people groups – to meet the Engage500 goal.

All of them have several things in common. They facilitate a diversity of ministries; and create synergy through intentional collaboration for a sustainable impact. And they fill the gaps where the church is not!

### EQUIP: RESOURCE OUR GLOBAL MISSION FORCE

We equip those we send with research, training, and tools for evangelism and making new disciples. Workers need Scriptures in the “heart” languages of local people, evangelism and discipleship materials to reach the unreached and to support new believers, and training and educational materials for schools, in order to train leaders and sustain impact.

Because it is often difficult to provide printed resources in certain areas be-

cause of barriers to distribution, security, or transportation, Bethany’s Publish4All (P4A) print-on-demand hardware and software allows instant, local access to print biblical content right at the point of distribution. P4A ensures that high quality yet inexpensive content—Bible studies, discipleship materials and more—is available where it’s needed most. And, it can become a sustainable source of revenue and support for local ministry partners.

*Tim Kelly provides leadership for the P4A Center in Kenya. A few months ago Tim received a visit from a fellow missionary who had been seeking to reach families in the nearby Congo region. Many of them did not have a clear understanding of the message of salvation and there were no resources to clearly explain it to them. As he prayed and sought God’s direction, a concept began to form in his mind of producing a printed children’s resource that would walk them through the Bible from the creation of the world to the coming of Christ. It would be a Bible lesson plan for preschoolers, shaped around the uniqueness of the culture that would teach chil-*

*dren God’s plan of redemption.*

*That day in Kenya was about to change everything. As Tim began to show him the capabilities of the Publish4All system, the missionary started to cry, “You don’t know what this means to me! I’ve been looking for someone to help me for a long time,” he said. “I now have the ability to add pictures and illustrations to the lesson plans!” The missionary and Tim began to work together on the project. Shortly afterward, they began to distribute the much-needed resources to the churches in the Congo. Children were excited to have this wonderful booklet and were now able to understand God’s message to them.*

### PARTNER: COLLABORATE FOR SUSTAINABLE RESULTS

We collaborate with global partners. These ministries work in extremely challenging places with limited resources. Engage500 brings the power of a shared vision to engage unreached peoples and resources to make new disciples and plant healthy churches. Those who pray and those who give sustain the efforts of our frontline workers and partners.

# The Journey to Reaching a People Group

BY TIM FREEMAN



**E**ight people were saved from the global flood in what has come to be called “Noah’s Ark.” There were five families represented when the Ark touched down on Mount Ararat after the waters receded. Noah, his wife and their three sons and their wives came from just two family lines. It didn’t take long, though, for misunderstanding and animosity to begin dividing brother from brother, people from people. The Old Testament gives witness to the many divisions. From a grouping of just five families, the world today has about 17,000 people groups.

People groups, you say? What’s that? It’s about identity. Identity can come from ethnicity, language, geography, history, culture, religion, and the like.

Today there are nearly 7,000 people groups considered “unreached.” Many people groups are isolated from the gospel and have little or no witness for Christ. Missions, in its simplicity, is making the gospel accessible and understandable to people. That’s why our mission is about building bridges between the messengers of the good news and those who need to hear it. The goal is to see whole tribes and people groups embrace the good news and become followers of Jesus.

### **This is not easy but it is worth doing!**

Let’s talk Cambodia. The Khmer are the dominate people group and they had less than 2,000 Christians in 1979 at the end of the Khmer Rouge reign of terror. The country began to see stability in 1991, the year Steve Hyde, a Bethany partner and a missionary kid from the Philippines, came to live and work in Cambodia.

The Khmer people had lost hope during the time of the “Killing Fields” of the Khmer Rouge. Steve’s wife Noit, a Cambodian herself, described how her family lost everything during the war. Some years later Steve and his son Paul retraced Noit’s harrowing experiences under Pol Pot’s murderous regime. They saw firsthand the miracle of her survival against insurmountable odds.

Today the Church in Cambodia is about 3% of the population! And it is growing! The Khmer people have embraced the gospel as their own and not as some kind of foreign religion. How did this happen?

It boils down to this: Missionaries brought the healing message of forgiveness and redemption and they demonstrated love for the Cambodian people in very practical ways: helping the poor, widow and orphan; bringing health care; training Cambodians through education (Pol Pot was decidedly anti-education); and of course, preaching the good news of Jesus’ love.

Steve Hyde has now been in Cambodia for more than 20 years demonstrating three characteristics: time, endurance and toil. He has given his life to the Cambodian nation, he has endured when he has often wanted to just quit and go home, and he has worked hard. He has invested in a major way in the Cambodian church. In a blog dated

February 21, 2013, Steve wrote the following:

*At the fifteen year point [in my ministry] I not only speak fluent Cambodian, but they say I speak with no accent (I can even switch between regional accents to blend with the people). I also dream in Cambodian and feel more comfortable with Cambodians than I do foreigners. At this point, through intuition, I could tell what strategies work and what would not. I further refined my ministry in church planting, evangelism, discipleship and teaching to be more effective. At this point, I have seen considerable fruit in ministry with thousands of leaders trained and thousands of churches planted. I have been to every corner of Cambodia. Though I have wanted to quit many, many times, I know my effectiveness is not because my “skills” as a missionary, but because I just didn’t quit. I invested time into friendships, into pastors, and into communities.*

How do we reach a nation? Steve Hyde has given us the pointers: invest in people, understand them to the point of knowing which strategies/activities are effective and which aren’t; plant churches, evangelize, disciple the people, and teach. And invest in local leaders. These are key to achieving not just the penetration of the Gospel into unreached areas, but to seeing the Gospel multiplying among a people group.

Invest in People-Understand their needs and ways to serve them-Evangelize and disciple (Plant churches)-Raise up local leaders-Multiply churches -

Recently Steve Hyde asked Bethany to assist him to engage the remaining four unreached people groups in the nation of Cambodia: the Brao, the Krung, the Tumpoun, and the Kachok. The Engage500 project through our partnership together with Steve allows his ministry, Antioch Institute, to effectively engage even more unreached people groups.

We live in exciting times when the Word of God not only impacts a few people here and there but can actually help to change a nation. Steve’s ministry in Cambodia is proof of this.

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**TIM FREEMAN** is Bethany International’s Executive Vice President and coordinates mission training and sending partnerships in 93 countries. In that capacity he also serves as the International Coordinator for GlobeServe, a partnership of 300 missionary training schools with workers serving in more than 269 unreached people groups.



# GLOBAL PRAYER CHALLENGE

## 30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE UNREACHED

**GLOBAL PRAYER CHALLENGE**  
30 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE UNREACHED

**EARN YOUR DEGREE WHILE DOING MISSIONS**

**BETHANY GLOBAL UNIVERSITY**

3000 is the only non-profit school that will credit your fasting, outreach, and service.

All 3000+ students are students who get to:

- Special discounts on living expenses while at college
- Study abroad opportunities through study abroad programs
- Study a diverse range of international ministry studies and Bible & Theology
- All students get a full scholarship. 3000 is tuition-free!

Prayer points about 3000 are found in our prayer points directory available at [www.3000.org](http://www.3000.org)

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## YOUR PRAYERS MATTER

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**“OUR PRAYERS MAY BE AWKWARD. OUR ATTEMPTS MAY BE FEEBLE. BUT SINCE THE POWER OF PRAYER IS IN THE ONE WHO HEARS IT AND NOT IN THE ONE WHO SAYS IT, OUR PRAYERS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”**

**— MAX LUCADO**



*Pray that Jesus would become famous throughout the earth*



*Pray for workers to be sent to the least reached peoples*



You can change the world and help fulfill the Great Commission, from where you are right now. God can use you in more powerful ways than you know and we want to help you get started with the *Global Prayer Challenge*.

### THE CHALLENGE

Pray daily over 30 days for groups of people who have had zero chance of hearing the gospel.

There are over 6,600 unique groups of people across the earth with virtually no missionaries, no church, or no Bibles. They will likely never have the chance to hear the gospel, meet a Christian, or hear the name of Jesus. These groups are what we call Unreached People Groups (UPGs) and they are the final frontier of the Great Commission.

With your help, we would like to concentrate our prayer efforts to reach 30 of the largest, least reached groups.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

Over the course of 30 days, you will be praying for some of the least reached people groups Bethany International and its partners are working to engage. Here's what to expect:



#### 1 PRAYER MAP IN THE MAIL TO FOLLOW

You will receive one paper prayer map poster in the mail. Hang it up where you can see it every day to look up the specific people group you will be praying for.



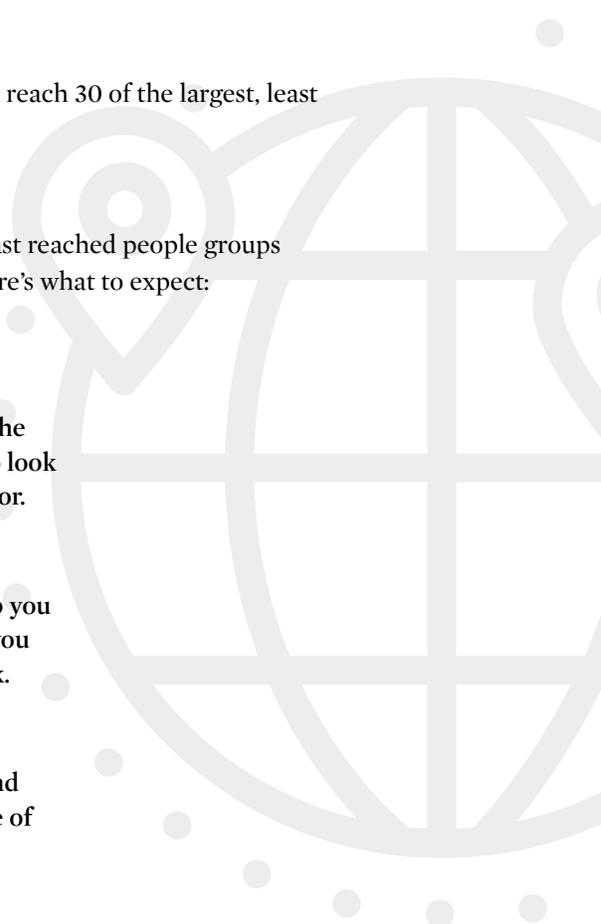
#### 6 EMAILS TO LEARN ABOUT UPGS

You will receive six emails, four of which will help you understand the specific region of people groups you will be praying for throughout the following week.



#### 30 TEXT MESSAGES TO GUIDE PRAYERS

For 30 days, you will receive a text message around noon with a highly specific prayer request for one of the most unreached people groups on the earth.



### HOW TO START

No matter where you are, you can help reach the lost. Get started today by requesting the prayer map at [BETHANYINTERNATIONAL.ORG/PRAYER](https://www.bethanyinternational.org/prayer)



# Other Cultures 101

BY KERRY OLSON



**F**or well over 30 years, I've lived outside of the USA. One of the important lessons that will help you survive initial and ongoing culture shock is understanding that "different" is not equivalent to "bad", but rather "different is just different!"

Those things that you expect to be easy (according to your cultural viewpoint), seem very difficult and those things you expect to be difficult are often easy.

I am currently in India and upon arrival to the airport, after traveling literally half-way around the world, I stood in line for 3.5 hours to change \$80 US dollars into local currency! How frustrating! This was due to a crisis in the country and a new currency only recently being issued.

Last night, I invited an Indian friend and his family to dinner to the restaurant of their choice. They decided on the upscale new KFC on the other end of the city. As we inched our way through traffic for an hour, we finally arrived. I proceeded to pay the "exorbitant" price of \$30 US for the five of us, only to have both my credit and debit card rejected. Frustrating! Especially after doing all I could do by informing my credit card of my travel plans prior to my trip. The easiest thing becomes complicated and I'll confess I don't always handle it well.

**"DIFFERENT" IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO "BAD", BUT RATHER DIFFERENT IS JUST DIFFERENT!**

The flipside of the coin is that during the same day I needed to get a SIM card for my smart phone to enable me to be connected during my two weeks in the country. That was taken care of in 5 minutes alongside the street for less than 1 dollar with unlimited data! The same day, I realized the only pair of shoes I brought with me on the trip were both falling apart! The last thing I wanted to do was go to a mall and pay double the amount for a good pair of shoes. No problem in India! I was able to find another guy on the sidewalk, next to a busy street, who was able to sew up both of the shoes for a temporary fix. The price—59 cents. I was very grateful and paid a little extra for the grand total of 74 cents and both the shoe repairman and I were "happy campers."

Are you preparing to serve the Lord in another culture, do a mission trip, or just travel to another country? Remember the easiest things can be quite complicated and the complicated things can turn out to be very easy. Different is often not bad, just different!

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**KERRY OLSON** serves with Bethany International as an international project coordinator. He also trains, mobilizes, and sends out Latin American servant-leaders to the worlds, least reached peoples.

# Short Term Mission Trips

## 6 Questions To Ask Before You Go

BY KENNETH ORTIZ

Recently I had dinner at an all-you-can-eat Brazilian steakhouse. When I told a friend about it, he claimed that the cost to have dinner at a Brazilian steakhouse wasn't "worth it." I instantly disagreed. I later discovered that he had eaten at a different Brazilian steakhouse than I did, and he was disappointed in the quality of the food and service. My experience had been fantastic. But my friend had judged all Brazilian steakhouses based solely upon a singular experience.

I think the lesson I learned from that conversation applies to many elements of ministry leadership, and it certainly applies to short-term mission trips. Over the past few years, several articles and blog posts have been written about the supposed ineffectiveness of short-term mission trips.

As I've read some of those articles (and the comment sections), I've realized that negative opinions about short-term missions, have been built on limited experiences, just like my friend did with the Brazilian steakhouse. My response: The problem is not short-term missions. The problem is how we do short-term missions. Are short-term mission trips "worth it"? Yes! Absolutely! But...only if they are done the right way.

In order to plan and execute a short-term trip that makes great positive impact and yield long-lasting Gospel ministry, we must ask several essential questions:

### 1) Do we have the right ministry partner?

This is the most important question! Trips can only be effective if they are strategically planned alongside long-term workers. Short-

term trips should enhance the Gospel ministry of a long-term worker or local church. When we have quality ministry partners, who know the context and culture, it allows us to strategically execute a trip that is far more likely to be successful.

### 2) Can I make a real difference on the field and personally grow as a follower of Jesus?

There are differing views on how this can be accomplished. Most mission trips lean towards one over the other. We would hope that both elements would be a part of our missions' experiences. We must not assume that we'll be able to do either of these without being very intentional.

### 3) Are we pulling our ministry partners away from meaningful work?

Often, short-term teams set expectations and demands on their ministry partners. Ministry partners end up manufacturing a mission experience for the short-term team. A mission friend recently told me about the pressure he felt to make sure the teams felt like they did "great stuff." I asked him how he handles this. His answer, "I just make stuff up for them to do, to make them feel good while they're here." Ouch!

### 4) Who defines ministry?

Several years ago I was leading a short term team to Australia. I was a new leader. The organization I worked with (not Bethany Teams) had an expectation of the type of ministry that our team should be doing. When we arrived in Australia, our ministry partners asked us to engage in activities that were very different than what my organization had hoped for. We had a list of things that could be considered ministry. Our ministry partners had a

different list. Their list of activities would impact the long term established work they were already doing in their communities. I've done dozens of trips since that experience. Today, my conviction is that the local partner should have final say on what is considered ministry and what is not.

### 5) What does it mean to be successful?

How can we possibly be successful if we do not know what success is? In order for us to measure the effectiveness of a short-term trip, the goals of the trip must be clearly defined; otherwise there is no way to judge whether or not this trip has been successful. The on-the-ground ministry partner defines success!

### 6) Are the logistics taken care of properly?

If the logistics of a trip are not properly taken care of, the quality of the experience and impact will be subpar. Short-term trip participants will be distracted from ministry. Food? Transportation? Lodging? Insurance? Translators? Adequate supplies to do ministry? Many short term trips are terribly ineffective and incredibly inefficient because a leader or ministry partner did not handle something that could have been handled weeks earlier. Effectively taking care of the "stuff" in advance helps the trip to be far more effective.

Short-term mission trips require lots of effort to plan and execute well. They require a significant level of expertise and commitment. There is amazing potential for incredible experiences that impact many people for God's kingdom.

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**KENNETH ORTIZ** is an author, international speaker, student ministry pastor, entrepreneur, and director of Bethany Teams.



# WE MAKE MISSION TRIPS EASY

Lead your group with confidence while we take care of the details.

We Want to Help Your Team

## MAKE AN IMPACT

When you're planning a mission trip for your group, there's a lot of details to consider. That's where Bethany Teams comes in. We will help you plan a dynamic mission trip experience that is safe, fun, and effective.

Bethany Teams takes care of all the details, so you can focus on your team. Things like travel, visas, housing, food, water, safety, ministry scheduling, local church partnerships, training, travel insurance, fundraising resources, and assurance that your work will accelerate the task of the Great Commission.



SEE ALL THE LOCATIONS AT  
[BETHANYTEAMS.ORG](http://BETHANYTEAMS.ORG)

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**BETHANY**  
Teams



## Why Missionaries Sometimes Fail And What the Church Can Do About It

BY JOHN KAYSER, PhD

**A** friend of mine arrived in the Philippines as a new missionary and encountered immediate deep personal culture shock on the way from the airport. He refused to leave the mission house, went into withdrawal and behaved erratically. Mission leaders debated sending him home. However, on his fourth day in-country, two fellow missionaries grabbed him by the arms and forced him out the door. They walked him through the market—smells, sounds, sights and all, and then took him to a local restaurant, ordered food, and made him try it. They told him about their own experiences. This broke him out of his mental state, causing him to realize things weren't so “bad” after all. These friends followed up with him over the first year. In the end, he served effectively for over 25 years.

This could have been an early missionary failure but the enforced help of two missionaries turned it around. The reasons why missionaries sometimes fail are complex. The following are some of the factors causing premature attrition and failure that researchers have identified:



**1. Personal Issues** such as, lack of personal discipline, lack of knowledge and skills, physical, spiritual or emotional needs, low self-esteem and defensiveness.

**2. Interpersonal Issues** including an inability to relate to fellow missionaries and field leaders and inability to resolve conflicts with leaders and nationals.

**3. Stress and Change** with cultural and language adaptation, challenges with children's education, communication stressors, and matters related to change and relocation to a new culture.

**4. Cross-Cultural Issues** including inability to relate to the culture or other people, refusal or inability to change and adapt to different ways of doing, thinking and speaking, and inflexibility to shift roles and ministries.

**5. Mission Ministry Issues** such as work challenges, lack of ministry gifts, poor oversight and excessive expectation (or perceived expectations).

While all of this sounds negative, serving in cross-cultural missions is one of the most difficult transitions that a person can make. The role of the church is vital both as a sending partner and giving care and support to the missionary.

**So, what can the church do to keep their missionaries on the field?** It is important to be deeply engaged with your missionaries, no matter what stage they are at.

First, disciple young people to be self-disciplined in their personal and spiritual lives. Give them vision for the unreached and experience in evangelistic outreach (before they go to the field). Encourage

flexibility because of varieties of ministry experiences they will face in various contexts, and willingness to serve under leadership and with other people.

Secondly, process with them their calling to missions and walk with God. This is a holy calling – we need to honor their desire to serve in this way. Invest in increasing capacity to manage stress, interpersonal interactions, and ministry gifts. Obviously, this means that there will be activities and ministries outside the church—in communities and in cross-cultural setting. Thirdly, walk with them through the candidacy stage, first years on the field, and long-term field ministry. Don't leave connecting with them to the mission alone. Write, pray for, visit, counsel, encourage. Walk through their ministry plans, expectations, scheduling, and daily disciplines. This is not invasive if you are sending them and supporting them. Connect with the mission, letting them know your intended partnership with your missionary. We love it when the missionary, their church, and Bethany can all partner together for ministry.

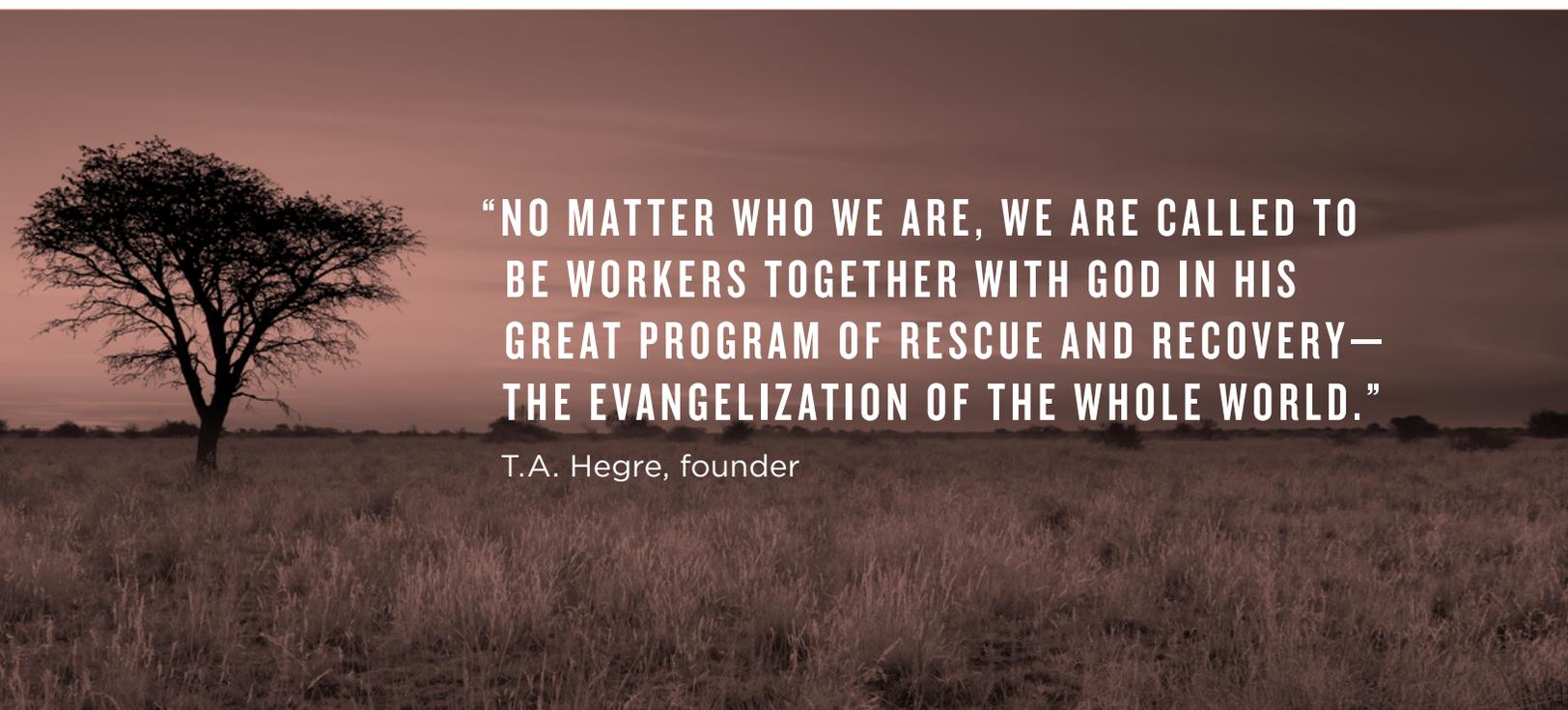
Finally, make sure that on their home assignment, missionaries have some “downtime” to rest. All too often, missionaries go back to the field more exhausted than when they left because of all the support development and visiting they need to do. Above all, develop prayer teams that uphold them before the Lord for overcoming these difficulties and for Spirit-directed guidance and fruitfulness.

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**JOHN KAYSER, PhD** was born and raised in Ethiopia. Joining Bethany International in 1993, as a mission training consultant, his model of mission competency training has impacted more than 300 mission training schools in dozens of countries.

#### A CASE STUDY

Outreach Center has been nicknamed, “The Church of the Revolving Door.” Though with less than 200 members, there is no greater thrill than to see members serve in missions. And then they back it up - investing into youth, encouraging God's calling, walking through the process of candidacy and fielding, praying and supporting, and providing a safe and comfortable place for rest. A local church can do so much to care for and support those who “Go” to the nations.



**“NO MATTER WHO WE ARE, WE ARE CALLED TO BE WORKERS TOGETHER WITH GOD IN HIS GREAT PROGRAM OF RESCUE AND RECOVERY—THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE WHOLE WORLD.”**

T.A. Hegre, founder



# Leaving a legacy for missions

BY RANDY DIRKS, PhD

From an early age, Leola had a heart for missions and wanted to become a missionary nurse. After completing college she married Don Leetch and shared almost 62 years together. Early on in their marriage, Don and Leola were introduced to Bethany through an article written by Leonard Ravenhill. They fell in love with Bethany’s vision and mission of reaching the world for Christ. Ultimately, their children, Dona and David, attended and graduated from Bethany Global University.

Leola began to sense the Lord impressing her to be a missionary supporter, rather than a missionary herself. While Don was co-pastoring a church, Outreach Center, the leadership decided to dedicate a duplex apartment for the purpose of housing missionaries rent-free. The duplex has been a place of rest for many over the years.

Last year Leola made another decision to better enable her to steward the resources the Lord gave her for missions. She invested in an annuity with Bethany International. While she knew that she could include Bethany in her will, she also wanted to make an impact for missions now, rather than later. Investing in an annuity enables both her and Bethany to receive a financial blessing. First, Leola receives a steady income stream through the



*Leola and her great grandchildren*

annuity. And second, a portion of the annuity funds can immediately go to spread the Gospel and see more people come to Christ. Leola’s gift to Bethany is resulting in her missions’ vision becoming an important part of her legacy.

If you would like to learn more about including Bethany in your will and/or establishing an annuity or trust, please contact David Yerry, Donor Relations Officer, at (704) 236-1511 or email him at [david.yerry@bethfel.org](mailto:david.yerry@bethfel.org).

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**RANDY DIRKS, PhD** serves as the Vice President of Advancement for Bethany International.

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