

*Sent*

# *All Peoples Everywhere*

“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” These words of Jesus speak to the incredible spiritual dynamic at work as God seeks to save the world. As the Father sends the Son and the Son sends the Spirit, the Triune God rests on us, the Church, and sends us into the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Prayer is the heartbeat of the mission we have been *sent* to accomplish. Prayer is the essential work of God’s *sent* people. If we are to embrace Christ’s *sending*, we must first pray. This devotional is a challenge to pray, to set aside a few minutes of the day, or a few hours of the week, and commit ourselves and those we pray for to God’s will.

As we look back on 110 years of missions, our prayers begin with thanksgiving for all God has done. As we look to the future, we pray God’s will be done in our lives and in our work.

We pray for the Christlike transformation of the world and the discipleship of every person. We pray for the growth of the Kingdom; for more workers coming to the harvest, so the nations will hear Christ’s call: “Follow me.” We pray for the

Holy Spirit’s guidance and empowerment for missions. We pray every missionary and worker is sustained in health and life. We pray Christ unites us as we work in our national church contexts, with U.S. church supporters and alongside fellow workers. We pray in holy anticipation, confident God will multiply our efforts.

This 40-day devotional contains 40 directions to pray for the specific needs of missionaries, the influences affecting cultures around the world and the spiritual challenges faced by the Church globally.

Our hope is that these prayer points will resonate in your rhythms of intercession long after these 40 days are over. Like a heartbeat, we need your prayers in every moment. Will you join us in praying for God’s mission? Will you stand alongside us in prayer and fasting? Let’s “come boldly to the throne of our gracious God ... [and] find grace to help us when we need it most” (Hebrews 4:16, NLT).

— John L. Easter, Ph.D.  
AGWM executive director

# Pray With Us

40-Day Prayer Devotional

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World Missions*

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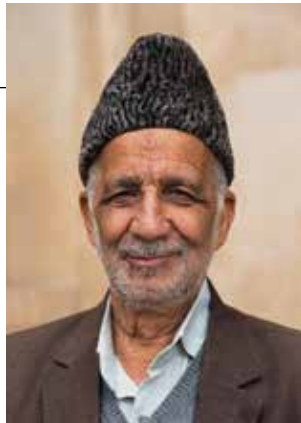
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# *Fasting & Prayer*

Fasting and prayer have always been Christian practices. Jesus assumed His followers would fast (Matthew 6:16-18), and the early Church made fasting a regular part of their worship and decision making (Acts 13:2-3; 14:23).

In continuity with those before us, we believe fasting is an important part of our prayer life. As you work through these forty days of prayer, consider replacing a meal or a day of meals with prayer, committing not just your time but your body to Christ's sending mission.

**ACTS 13:3, NRSV**

*Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

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# Pave the Way Through Prayer



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The idea of “sentness” is at the core of AG World Missions. Our mission, to establish the Church among all peoples everywhere, reflects God’s sending nature. As God sent Jesus, Jesus sends us to expand the Church across the globe (John 20:21). We have responded to this call for more than 2,000 years of recorded history, and we continue to participate in this sending nature and activity now.

Prayer is the foundation of being sent. It is the first step towards becoming active participants in God’s mission, not just onlookers. Not only do we come to God in prayer to seek our call, but prayer is the primary support each of us can offer to over 2,640 AGWM missionaries serving personally or supporting ministry in more than 150 countries, territories and provinces around the world. In the words of missionary Samuel Zwemer, “The history of missions is the history of answered prayer.”

God sends us to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19, NIV). Prayer paves the way to fulfill this call.

Not only do we come to God in prayer to seek our call, but prayer is the primary support each of us can offer to over 2,640 AGWM missionaries.

## **Prayer Focus** *Prayer Itself*

God of all creation, You have sent us to bring the gospel to the world. We cannot answer this call without prayer. With the 40 days of prayer outlined in this book, we commit to praying that the gospel will reach all peoples everywhere, and that Your sending nature will infiltrate and fill communities and individuals — starting with the people we know and stretching to all corners of the world. We believe You will move in our day as You send us to selflessly intercede for the lost.

## **Reflect**

“The history of missions is the history of answered prayer.”  
— Samuel Zwemer (1867-1952),  
*missionary to Muslims*



# A Missionary Movement



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

Since its inception, the Assemblies of God has been missionally focused, recognizing the Savior's heart for a lost world.

On November 23, 1914, at the second meeting of the Assemblies of God General Council, attendees pledged themselves to "the greatest evangelism that the world has ever seen." Today, the Assemblies of God includes more than 12,500 churches in the U.S. and over 55 million members attending more than 383,000 churches worldwide. God is faithful.

Since its inception, the Assemblies of God has been missionally focused, recognizing the Savior's heart for a lost world. The passion to reach all peoples everywhere, then, is nothing new. It's a reaffirmation of the Assemblies of God's reason for being. It is a declaration that we exist to spread the gospel among remote, unreached people groups and to continue discipling those who have already received the gospel. We have committed to taking all the gospel to all the world because that was Christ's mission for everyone in His church as expressed in the Great Commission. Loving God requires nothing less.

## **Prayer Focus**

### *Reaffirming Our Purpose*

Soon-returning Jesus, thank You for Your commission to reach all peoples everywhere and for the promise of Your presence as we go. Thank You for gripping our hearts with Your purpose. Today we reaffirm that our Fellowship exists to bring the gospel to our world's close corners and far reaches. May we be single-minded to this end, telling everyone of the One who brings them salvation.

## **Reflect**

"The General Council of the Assemblies of God was never meant to be an institution; it is just a missionary agency."

— John Welch, former  
Assemblies of God chairman





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# Every Tribe and Nation



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

Seeing all nations, tribes, peoples and languages gathered around the throne of Jesus will be nothing less than mind-blowing.

The phrase “every nation, tribe, people and language” resonates in our ears — in part because we’ve heard it before! The Book of Daniel uses versions of this phrase, and seven chapters in Revelation mention some combination or expression of tribes, languages, peoples and nations (Revelation 5:9; 7:9; 10:11; 11:9; 13:7; 14:6; 17:15). John the Revelator must have been overwhelmed to see an innumerable multitude representing all the skin tones, cultures and languages our world has to offer.

What can we take away from this string of similar expressions? A repeated reminder that seeing all nations, tribes, peoples and languages gathered around the throne of Jesus will be nothing less than mind-blowing. People who spend their lives on the sea, who eke out their existence in barren deserts, who survive in arctic cold, who tread near the edges of active volcanoes, who are fenced in among suburban housing grids, who walk in skyscrapers’ shadows — people from every corner of the world will be with Jesus. Others who once bowed down on each of a thousand stairs to ascend Buddhist temples, shouted incantations, were

radical warriors for a worldwide caliphate, accepted all views as paths to world peace — people from every false faith and philosophy who have left their dead ways to discover new life in Christ will gather as one in celestial unity and praise to the Lamb. This isn’t a far-fetched dream. This is God’s promise.

### **Prayer Focus**

*Believing in the Magnitude of Revelation 7:9*

Christ our righteousness, we thank You that Your plan for human history is to have Your sons and daughters from every people group with You in heaven forever. We are in awe today of the eternity that we will spend with every Christian who has ever lived on our planet. We pray for those who have yet to receive the gospel message, that their hearts would be receptive while there is time.

### **Reflect**

“After this I looked, and 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” (Revelation 7:9, NIV).

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# On Mission



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What is the mission of God's church — the mission of all who confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9)? It is the Great Commission, among Jesus' final earthly commands to His disciples: "Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you" (Matthew 28:19-20, NLT).

In Greek, this sentence has one verb: *make disciples*. Every action in this verse points back to the key concept of making disciples for Jesus. The rest of the phrases are descriptions of what discipling looks like — baptizing believers from all nations and teaching them to obey the commands of our Lord. These involve great amounts of time and many processes, all with the purpose of reaching all peoples everywhere with the gospel.

These new disciples will, in turn, reach more people, thus fulfilling Jesus' mission for His church. And all this is made possible by the promise of His presence: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV). Empowered by Christ's presence, it should be the mission of every church, every small group, every believer, to reach the lost. Is it yours?



## Prayer Focus

### *Affirming Our Mission*

Jesus, You have all authority in heaven and on earth. You have given us the promise of Your presence as we go and make disciples of all nations. Show us what our part in baptizing and teaching looks like, and broaden our concept of what discipleship looks like. May discipling be what gets us up in the morning — our highest motivation and joy. May everything we do draw others into deeper relationship with You.

## Reflect

"His authority on earth allows us to dare to go to all the nations. His authority in heaven gives us our only hope of success. And His presence with us leaves us no other choice."

— John R. W. Stott (1921-2011)

These new disciples will, in turn, reach more people, thus fulfilling Jesus' mission for His church.



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# He Goes Before



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World Missions*

The "secret" to missions, which should be no secret, is that we participate in what the Holy Spirit is already doing.

The worldwide scope of the Great Commission, let alone what it requires of each individual, is daunting. We could be immobilized with fear at the size of the task if it were not for the truth that God goes before us. Isn't it encouraging that the work is initiated by God and fueled by His Spirit? He gives us His promise at the end of the Great Commission passage: "And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, ESV).

The vision of AGWM is that *Christ will be proclaimed and His church will be established in all nations through the power of the Spirit*. J. Philip Hogan, former AGWM executive director, stressed that "the chief mission of the Church in this age is to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in finding and maturing a body known as the Church of Jesus Christ." The "secret" to missions, which should be no secret, is that we participate in what the Holy Spirit is already doing; He goes before us!

In his address at the 57th General Council, AG General Superintendent George O. Wood shared five ways in which the Holy Spirit walks with us in everyday life: He walks with us as friend, attorney, trainer, benefactor and scout. In particular, the Holy Spirit's role as scout means that He knows the way ahead. The apostle Paul didn't know that out of his five years as a prisoner would come the letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. Even seeming setbacks are usable by the Holy Spirit to work out His evangelistic purposes.

Being a people of the Spirit has been part of our DNA since our formation as a missionary agency in 1914. The vision in Revelation 7:9 of all people gathered at the Lamb's throne has been inspiring us to take all the gospel to all the world for the past century.

## Prayer Focus

*Dependence on the Spirit*

Immortal God, we are burdened by the fact that all of humanity needs an adequate presentation of the gospel. We carry this burden from our forefathers in the Old Testament, the disciples in Acts 2 upon whom the Holy Spirit was poured out, and our Fellowship's founders in 1914. We ask You to use us in establishing Your church among all people in the power of Your Spirit.

## Reflect

"It would be the ultimate tragedy for the Church ... to think the extensive outpouring of the Holy Spirit 'upon all flesh' is some kind of ecclesiastical fad. ... The Great Commission and the charismata are not options we can take or leave. The same Holy Spirit who prepares ethnic soils in pre-evangelism is also maturing the harvest. The Great Commission is the standard by which our stewardship will be judged."

— David Kent Irwin, founder of *Global Initiative: Reaching Muslim Peoples*



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# The Gift of Faith



It brought her out of sin and into glory. Think of what your faith can do.

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What is the gift of faith? Consider the story of Rahab, a prostitute in Jericho. Despite working in a profession that doesn't yield itself to possessing a trusting nature, she chose to have faith in the promise of two strangers, two spies from a foreign army, who hid in her home. She'd heard stories of their success in battle, their destruction of cities, and she admitted that her peoples' "hearts melted in fear" because of them (Joshua 2:11). But she made a statement of great faith: "I know that the Lord has given you this land" (Joshua 2:9, NIV).

What questions might have weighed on Rahab when the spies agreed to trade her safety for theirs? *Do these men have the authority to make this deal? What if I'm bringing my family together to be slaughtered? What if my people find out and kill me?* Yet, she had faith in the Lord's plan.

Rahab's faith coupled with her actions brought her safety, a name among ancients like Noah, Abraham and Sarah (Hebrews 11:31) and a place in Jesus' genealogy (Matthew 1:5). It brought her out of sin and into glory. Think of what your faith can do.



## **Prayer Focus**

### *Seeking the Gift of Faith*

God of faith, You are the one who performed miracles out of faith in ancient days, and You still do now. You want our unwavering faith, our steadfast trust in You. Help us to let go of the limitations and doubts we hold so tightly. Help us to act in persistent faith as believers have long before us.

## **Reflect**

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for" (Hebrews 11:1-2, NIV).

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# Wisdom Made Known



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We read of heavenly music in Revelation 5:9 when the living creatures and elders sing to the Lamb: "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation" (ESV).

Who are these ransomed people? They are the Church — not a building, but God's people from all times and places. The Church, made up of God's ransomed people, has a heavenly purpose outlined in Ephesians 3: "His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord" (3:10-11, NIV).

When people from different backgrounds, places and cultures commune with God and one another and fulfill the Great Commission, all of heaven sees God's undeniable, indescribable wisdom. What a privilege to testify eternally like this! Our mission is to make disciples on earth. Our purpose is to proclaim the wisdom of heaven.

## **Prayer Focus**

*Proclaiming the Wisdom of God*

God of all wisdom, thank You for investing Your creation with purpose. We thank You for continually displaying Your wisdom to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms. Thank You that Your eternal purpose has been accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, who is the power and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24). We pray that people from every tribe and every nation would hear of what Jesus has already done so that they, too, will fulfill their purpose and partake in this marvelous display of wisdom.

## **Reflect**

"The all-seeing eye of God beheld our deplorable state; infinite pity touched the heart of the Father of mercies; infinite wisdom laid the plan of our recovery."

— *David Brainerd (1718-1747), missionary to Native Americans*

Our mission is to make disciples on earth. Our purpose is to proclaim the wisdom of heaven.



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# Creativity



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The first step to evangelize is to connect. Creativity is required for accessing territories where Christ is not named, especially in regions which are not welcoming to Christianity.

Our AGWM personnel around the world today are using agriculture, the arts, music, microenterprise and other vocations as means through which they live and work among people and share the gospel with them. As they do, people in staunchly Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu countries, and in secular contexts, are coming to Christ! God gifts everyone uniquely, and the skills that are used outside the Church are actually used to build His church.

You don't have to be on foreign soil to creatively access a people group. Your current employment, travels, hobbies and interests connect you with people who need Jesus. Never feel like your gifts and interests are not "spiritual." The things you are good at can bring God glory! God is the Creator of all, and when we create, we reflect His image. Use what you already have to reach those around you, and you may be surprised at how many resources are at your disposal.

God gifts everyone uniquely, and the skills that are used outside the Church are actually used to build His church!

### **Prayer Focus**

*Walking in Creativity*

Creator God, through You all things were made, and without You, nothing was made that has been made (John 1:3). We ask for continued creativity to be poured out upon Your people so that we may effectively access all peoples everywhere and present the saving message of Your grace to them. We thank You that our wells of creativity need never run dry because our springs are in You (Psalm 87:7).

### **Reflect**

"The Christian should be the person who is alive, whose imagination absolutely boils, which moves, which produces something a bit different from God's world because God made us to be creative."

— Francis Schaeffer (1912-1984)





# Understanding the Opposition



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The religious beliefs among all peoples everywhere vary widely. Some are similar to Christianity, while others stand vehemently in opposition. Some have peace as their end goal, and others, worldwide domination. The beliefs of secularist nations, such as those of Western Europe, also run the gamut from believing that humanity will forever improve to declaring everything to be inherently meaningless.

Yet these diverse beliefs and worldviews have a unifying factor: They are “sophisticated arguments and every exalted and proud thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God” (2 Corinthians 10:5, AMP). Bringing Jesus into all the different religious contexts involves not only understanding each belief system but also recognizing that the battle for souls is primarily spiritual and won through prayer. Our intellect and reasoning can go so far, but only with God’s mighty weapons can we wage war victoriously. Fight today for our missionaries and those whom they’re trying to reach.

## **Prayer Focus** *Spiritual Warfare*

God of truth, we pray for people held in the grip of all major world religions, all sects and cults, and all forms of atheism, agnosticism and secularism. Keep us from falling into the trap of thinking some belief systems are more “dangerous” than others. All beliefs that do not acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God lead to eternal separation from Him and are equally deadly. We know that Your weapons have power to demolish these strongholds. We will fight for souls through prayer.

## **Reflect**

“Intercession transports us from the sidelines to the front lines without going anywhere. And that is where the battle is won or lost. Prayer is the difference between us fighting for God and God fighting for us.”

— Mark Batterson, author and pastor

Bringing Jesus into all the different religious contexts involves not only understanding each belief system but also recognizing that the battle for souls is primarily spiritual and won through prayer.





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# When Foreign Becomes Familiar

God desires this same passion for people to be in the hearts of missionaries and those on the home front alike.



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Even for missionaries who live in exotic locations, the foreign will become familiar at some point. Walking in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower will only dazzle for so long. Paddling down the Amazon River and coming upon a remote tribal settlement will be an adventure only the first few times. The clicks of spinning Tibetan prayer wheels mesmerize for a matter of moments.

Reality sinks in. Beyond glittering tourist attractions and the distinctive or exotic reputation of the country of one's calling, people are either alive in Christ or hopelessly lost without Him. Whether missionaries live in a world-famous place or in a forgotten corner of the world, what will keep them in a faraway place long after the excitement has worn off?

God's heart for people. God's passion for them to know Him. A passion to see the lost found and the dead live. A passion to plant the Church among all peoples everywhere.

When missionaries spend months, years and even decades in another culture, learning about and living with the people, they come to understand the mindset, goals and struggles of those to whom they minister. Those who invest their lives in the missionary call know that what they do is more about the people than the place — and most about the Person whose heart is that all peoples everywhere would know His salvation.

God desires this same passion for people to be in the hearts of missionaries and those on the home front alike. What passion is driving you today? Are you waiting for a change of scenery to bring you purpose and excitement? Ask the Lord today to give you a passion for Him that will ignite your heart for the mundane as much as for the mountaintop. Only in this way will all peoples everywhere — not just the faraway ones — be reached.

### **Prayer Focus** *Undying Passion*

God of all nations, help us to never let our fascination with the foreign replace our passion for the lost people around us right now. Strip our hearts of lesser idols until we desire to see You glorified wherever You have planted us. Only in this way will all peoples everywhere be reached. We pray that Your heart will become ours, giving us divine endurance and patience as we hold out the Word of truth.

**Reflect**  
"I have but one passion: It is He, it is He alone. The world is the field and the field is the world; and henceforth that country shall be my home where I can be most used in winning souls for Christ."  
— *Nicolaus von Zinzendorf (1700-1760), founder, Moravian missions movement*



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# Leave His Legacy

People strive to live for something that will outlast them; Christianity takes this goal a step further and calls people to live for Christ, the greatest Cause in human history.



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Throughout much of AGWM's history, missionaries have committed themselves to partnering with indigenous churches — churches led by local believers. Since the 1990s, the AG has experienced greater growth worldwide than at any other period in its history, growing from 24 million adherents to more than 55 million in three decades.

People strive to live for something that will outlast them; Christianity takes this goal a step further and calls people to live for Christ, the greatest Cause in human history. Any legacy-leaving we do to build up our own kingdoms will be diminished and erased with time, but any Great Commission work we do will last because it is for the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:10-15).

With the growth of global evangelism, the number of missionary personnel, countries reached, evangelism methods, salvations and baptisms in the Spirit are wonderfully encouraging. But AGWM is forging a legacy not for its own name but for Christ's; not for earthly glory but for heaven's gain. We humbly take our place in history for the ultimate ingathering of the nations described in Revelation 7:9.

**Prayer Focus**  
*Selfless, Kingdom-Building Legacies*

Immortal God, only what we do for You will matter on the day of Christ. May we continue partnering with indigenous churches to reach all peoples everywhere, bringing greater honor to You. Not to us but to Your name be the glory because of Your love and faithfulness (Psalm 115:1). May we continue leaving Your legacy everywhere we go.

**Reflect**  
"Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolishness to us — a crucified God — must become our wisdom and our power and our only boast in this world."  
— John Piper





# God in the Flesh



The gospel is for the whole person, not just the part of life that is involved in religious activity.

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To reach all peoples everywhere, we must care about the whole person — the physical body as well as the spirit. Jesus did this. The gospel is for the whole person, not just the part of life that is involved in religious activity. On the one hand, we recognize that any effort to meet people's physical and social needs is both incomplete and temporary without addressing the matters of the eternal soul. But we also remember that God's Word does not allow us to "pass by on the other side" when seeing someone in need (Luke 10:31).

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us (John 1:14), living, breathing, eating and walking just as we do. Jesus cares about our sleeping-waking-working life as well as our inner, spiritual life because the two are interwoven.

AGWM encapsulates its mission in four words: *reaching, planting, training and serving*. Randy Hurst explains: "The four distinctives of our mission were not defined by a strategy committee. They were the consequence of obedience to the commands of Scripture and the leading of the Spirit. By simply obeying the Word and the Spirit, our early missionary leaders became strategic."

The fourth component of our mission statement, *serving*, demands we not simply function as an agency of social reform but fully integrate our compassion ministry with sharing the gospel and es-

tablishing the Church. Compassion ministry includes making saris with women as we share the gospel. It includes bringing clean water technologies to areas plagued with giardia. It includes training people in microenterprise so they can be self-sustaining. It includes bringing food and blankets to refugees.

As we pray for and seek to reach all peoples everywhere, may we care about all they are, not just their spiritual condition. May we care as Jesus does, meeting physical and spiritual needs — for this is the gospel.

## Prayer Focus

*AGWM's Compassion Initiatives*

Jesus, thank You for living a fully human life while being God on earth. May we not neglect physical needs at the expense of the spiritual nor spiritual needs at the expense of the physical. Breathe on and multiply the efforts of AGWM's compassion initiatives as they seek to be Your hands and feet. Thank You for loving us and entering into our culture, worldview and mindset to transform all that we are. May we not just be interested in others' spirituality but in the whole person, as You are.

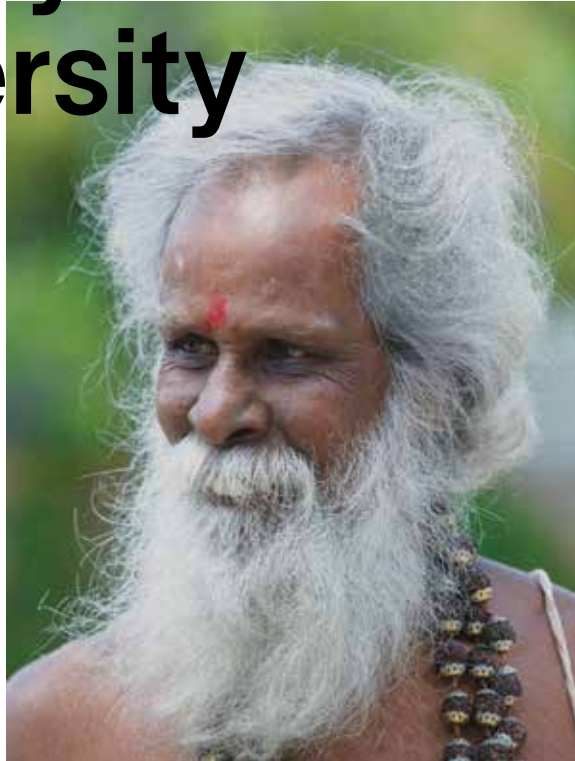
## Reflect

"So we participate in the sentness of God, and the sentness of God is intrinsically incarnational."

— *John Easter, AGWM executive director*

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# Unity in Diversity



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Not until Revelation 7:9 does John actually see those who are singing praises to the Lamb. These people in heaven are from every nation, tribe, people and language. But how would John have known that this vast crowd was from all over the world? Perhaps the people looked different from one another, retaining something of their ethnic features, tribal associations, people groups and dialects.

Such a unity of diverse people sounds almost impossible this side of heaven, but it happens weekly in international churches. These houses of worship bring divine union on earth. AGWM personnel are involved in a Russian church filled with Filipinos. A Belgian church filled with Syrians. An American church filled with Japanese. AGWM partners with and pioneers many international churches, bringing community to people working in foreign lands.

The Church is a people whose commonality is Christ; only He can bring unity out of worldwide diversity. At a time when racial, political and economic lines create divisions among us, Spirit-driven unity is needed more than ever. Thankfully, such unity is not just theoretical; it becomes a reality through the work of the Holy Spirit.

## **Prayer Focus**

### *International Churches*

God of all nations, You created every human, and You rejoice in their diversity. Thank You for making us so wonderfully complex! May we value diversity the way You do, treating all people as precious to You. We thank You for the international churches present in many countries and urban centers, uniting people in worship and standing as beautiful expressions of the body of Christ. May people of all nations feel welcome in these international churches. May pastors and ministry leaders be sensitive to the cultural dynamics at work. May people at these international churches find Jesus and bring Him back to their homelands, transforming even more people.

## **Reflect**

"All nations are now empowered as full members in Christ's witnessing and serving Church so as to fulfill every prophetic word of Scripture spoken concerning our times."

— John York (1944–2005), *missiologist*

The Church is a people whose commonality is Christ; only He can bring unity out of worldwide diversity.



# Already Done



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World Missions*

Responding to missions means taking action. Whether we pray, give, go ourselves or send others, we are involved in doing something for the kingdom of God. Yet the reason we do anything at all is because of what Jesus has already done. The heavenly beings in Revelation 5:9 say of the Lamb, "You were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation" (NIV). The Greek verb for *purchased* here indicates a one-time event: Jesus' death was a one-time event that remains effective forever. So, in missions, we're not purchasing people for God; we're telling them of the work that has already been done in their behalf.

Many of the world's religions emphasize works as a means to salvation. True Christianity, however, emphasizes our acceptance by faith of the work already accomplished for us. The Lord's grace makes possible salvation through faith. As Dallas Willard puts it, "Grace isn't opposed to effort; it's opposed to earning." No amount of good works we can do will earn us salvation, yet billions of people understand the concept of salvation as the good they do to earn a place in heaven.

Many of the world's religions emphasize works as a means to salvation. True Christianity, however, emphasizes our acceptance by faith of the work already accomplished for us.

The gospel offers a message of rest for weary do-gooders. God's truth offers a joyful life of faith in His grace as the alternative to a religion based on performance. To all peoples everywhere we present Jesus, the author and *finisher* of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

### **Prayer Focus**

*People Trying to Earn Salvation*

Lamb of God, we pray that all peoples everywhere will receive the salvation You have already accomplished in their behalf. As we live in relationship with You, keep us from thinking we can add to salvation by the good things we do, think or say. In sharing the gospel, may we never communicate that we are saved by anything except grace through faith. Keep Your people dependent on You.

### **Reflect**

"Jesus Christ, God's great Missionary to a lost world, was the supreme revelation of His heart and expression of His love."

— *Robert Hall Glover (1871-1947),  
missionary to China*



# Shaming the Wise



God picks overlooked, misunderstood people to carry His message of grace.

*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

“Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. ... [N]ot many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn’t it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these ‘nobodies’ to expose the hollow pretensions of the ‘somebodies?’” (1 Corinthians 1:26-28, *The Message*).

The world believes it is foolish to live and die for one’s faith in Jesus Christ. In countries where persecution is a daily reality, the culture at large views Christians as inferior, undeserving and a threat to society. When governments believe Christians are subversive to their authority, they place restrictions on evangelism and on conversion to Christianity.

God picks overlooked, misunderstood people to carry His message of grace. “He brings [us] up from a desolate pit, out of the muddy clay, and sets [our] feet on a rock, making [our] steps secure” (Psalm 40:2, HCSB). Not only is there hope for personal transformation for all peoples everywhere, but God can use anyone who turns to Him in faith to reach others with the gospel.

People may think we’re throwing our lives away by spending our time living out our faith and proclaiming Jesus’ truth. Far better, in their view, to climb the corporate ladder and run in the most exclusive

social circles. Instead, we’re spending our time and energy asking spiritually lost people to allow God to change their hearts. Living “foolishly” in the eyes of the world is living “wisely” in God’s, centered on Kingdom advancement.

Christians look like they have ultimately lost their lives — but they have found them. May we remember that God sometimes rejects the strong in favor of the weak, so that His power might be displayed.

## **Prayer Focus**

*Perseverance for the Persecuted*

Wise God, Your weakness is stronger than humanity’s strength, and Your foolishness wiser than our wisdom. We thank You for not overlooking people whom the world does not consider important or skilled. We ask that You encourage our brothers and sisters around the world in the midst of whatever discrimination or danger they face on account of their faith. May they listen above all else for Your “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

## **Reflect**

“It is possible for the most obscure person with a heart right toward God to exercise as much power for the evangelization of the world as it is for those who stand in the most prominent positions.”

— *John R. Mott (1865-1955)*

# Young, Faithful Hearts



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“All peoples everywhere” transcends people groups and simultaneously connects deeply with the demographics of each. Investing in youth — children and teens alike — is critical to reaching all peoples with the gospel. God has a history of using children. Consider Joseph, next to the youngest of his family’s 12 sons, David who slew Goliath, Daniel in the lions’ den, Naaman’s slave girl, Mary the mother of Jesus, and the boy with five loaves and two fish. If you’re surprised at Mary’s inclusion, remember she was very likely in her teens when she gave birth to Jesus.

Many youth experience a call to serve the Lord, as did the young Jeremiah: “Before I [God] shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you: a prophet to the nations — that’s what I had in mind for you” (Jeremiah 1:5, *The Message*). Encourage youth when they express a call of God on their lives. Children are the future pastors, missionaries, evangelists, entrepreneurs, homemakers and teachers who will

Children are the future pastors, missionaries, evangelists, entrepreneurs, homemakers and teachers who will shape the Christianity of the future, should the Lord tarry.

shape the Christianity of the future, should the Lord tarry. Among all peoples, they are the ones who can set an example for believers in speech, life, love, faith and purity (1 Timothy 4:12).

### **Prayer Focus**

*The Youth of All Peoples Everywhere*

God of childlike faith, may we prioritize investing in the youth of all peoples everywhere. We know that You do not discriminate between age or experience but pour out Your Spirit on all people. May we echo the high value You place on the world’s youth.

### **Reflect**

“You may speak but a word to a child, and in that child there may be slumbering a noble heart which shall stir the Christian Church in years to come.”

— *Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)*





# Inherent Value



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

Youth shape the course of the future,  
but age and experience bring  
wisdom to a nation.

God places immeasurable value on human beings, the crown of His creation, and their worth in His sight does not increase or decrease with youth or old age. Such equal prioritization is foreign to much of human experience. Cultures may value youth and talent over age and experience, or write off children as having little worth until they reach young adulthood.

The elderly in Lithuania struggle to procure blankets on their living allowance to fight the bitter winter cold. Moldova's street corners have elderly women sitting atop buckets to sell enough wildflowers to buy bread. Children in Africa beg in the streets to bring home a pittance to their families. While a host of social and economic factors contribute to poverty and injustice, ageism in either direction takes its toll as well.

No age is beyond the gospel's reach; the good news is for everyone. Just as yesterday's prayer focus took note of God's calling on the young, He powerfully uses His followers in their sunset years as well. Some Christians express discouragement if they have spent the majority of their lives living for something other than Jesus. While they cannot move back time, they can move forward in the knowledge that the rest of their days will be spent to the glory of God.

In many countries within AGWM's six regions, the story is the same: Missionaries are not retiring until the Lord says their assignment in country is finished. Many others who retire from lifelong careers take their acquired skills to the mission field on special assignments in their golden years.

The Bible sets forth a precedent of the elder generation paving the way for the younger. Moses was 80 years old when he began to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. His brother Aaron was 83. Sarah birthed Isaac when she was around 90, and Elizabeth bore John the Baptist when she was post-menopause.

Youth shape the course of the future, but age and experience bring wisdom to a nation. They deserve honor and our full attention. The universal call for humanity to return to its Creator does not lessen with time.

## Prayer Focus

*The Unsaved Elderly*

God of the ages, we thank You for the elderly among all peoples everywhere. May we not see them through the lenses of culture but through Your eyes. We pray for the elderly who do not know You yet, that they will receive Your hope and believe that You have good works prepared for them throughout their final days on earth. May they be filled with joy at Your mercy and filled with confidence and courage at Your validation of their lives.

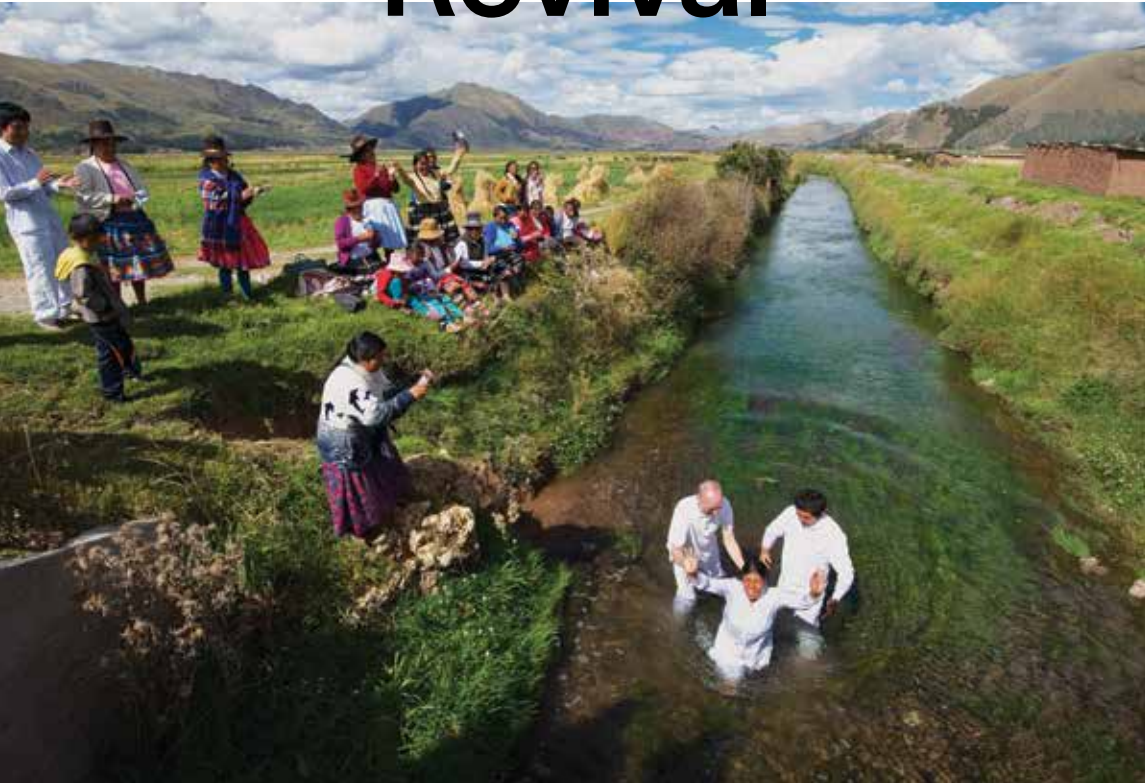
## Reflect

"Scripture is filled with examples of men and women whom God used late in life, often with great impact — men and women who refused to use old age as an excuse to ignore what God wanted them to do."

— *Billy Graham (1918–2018), evangelist*



# Revival



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

All people who have never heard of Jesus need to hear the gospel. But another pressing need is for the knowledge of Christ to be shared where it historically was strong. Christianity was birthed in the Middle East and now competes there with major world religions. Western Europe used to be a bastion of Christianity, but now most of its churches are museums or abandoned buildings, antiquated relics overshadowed by secularism.

Whether your heart is stirred by the spiritual need in regions where the gospel has never been proclaimed, or you have a burden for lost multitudes living where the gospel was once familiar, your intercessory prayer is the key to the Lord's revitalizing work. AGWM goes to places where the gospel seed has not yet been planted as well as to places where it was once planted but has died. No location can be "too Christianized" to a point where it does not need God's Spirit to breathe anew. "Establishing the Church among all peoples everywhere" is a call to minister to the unreached as well as the once-reached. May we not neglect the places that historically received the gospel. People without Christ are equally lost, no matter where they live.

AGWM goes to places where the gospel seed has not yet been planted as well as to places where it was once planted but has died.



## Prayer Focus

### *Replanting the Gospel*

Lord, You look at the earth, and it trembles. You touch the mountains, and they smoke. Rekindle hearts that once burned brightly for You. Blaze in the souls of those who do not yet know Your name. Among all peoples everywhere, gather for Yourself those who have forsaken their first love as well as those who have yet to fall in love with You. We thank You that no one is beyond Your reach — no matter how many times You have to reach for them. Keep us burning.

## Reflect

"God has huge plans for the world today! He is not content to merely establish a handful of struggling churches among each tongue, tribe and nation. Even now He is preparing and empowering His Church to carry the seeds of revival to the uttermost ends of the earth."

— *David Smithers, missionary biographer*



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# National Churches



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

Once revival has swept a nation, how do we spiritually nourish the new believers who have joined the family of God? Through national churches. God wants to plant His church among all peoples everywhere. Sometimes local churches are physical structures, able to provide open ministry in a community. Sometimes believers must meet in secret or quietly attend discreet house meetings. Whatever form these local churches take, they remain the heartbeat of AGWM.

Local churches disciple new believers to the point where they make disciples of their own people. Local Christians are the ones who best understand the culture, language and customs of their people. They know people of influence, they have personal connections to the unreached, and they grasp their own history in ways outsiders do not. National churches around the world are taking up the mantle of reaching their own people: The Kenyan Assemblies of God is planting eight to 10 churches per week. The Peru Assemblies of God more than doubled its goal to plant 2,000 more churches. We are sent to tell all peoples everywhere that they also are sent and empowered to reach their own tribes and nations. We are sent to plant the Church.

## **Prayer Focus**

*Empowerment for National Churches*

Christ, we are Your church. We pray today that Your church will be found in every corner of the world. We affirm that You have sent us, as redeemed members of Your church, to tell others that they, too, can be Your church and be sent among their families, communities and to the nations. We pray that You will strengthen fledgling national churches and till the rocky soil where Your church has yet to be planted. We pray that Your Spirit will continue breathing on thriving national churches and continue sending their sons and daughters out to all peoples everywhere.

## **Reflect**

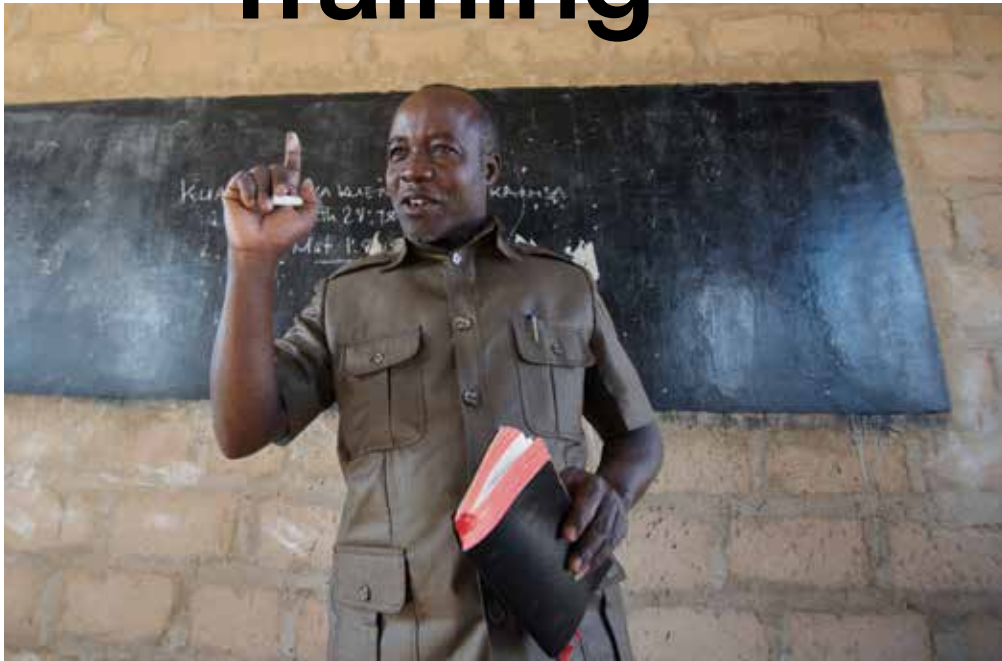
“Students of missions have analyzed with penetrating acumen our present-day missionary methods and have called for a return to the indigenous principle as found in the New Testament.”

— *Melvin Hodges (1909-1988),  
missionary and missions author*

Local churches disciple new believers to the point where they make disciples of their own people.



# Theological Training



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

Theological training is the backbone for the Church in every country, enabling it to stand and generating its strength. Through biblical training, local believers and church leaders learn how to live in obedience to the Great Commission and make disciples. AGWM is committed to educating local men and women for pastoral ministry and other key positions by whatever means possible. Seminaries and Bible schools offer training in countries where such establishments are legal. Curriculum through audiobooks or downloadable video courses provides training even in regions where the gospel is not embraced. From Belgium to Bangladesh, AGWM engages in training strategies suitable to the nation's laws. At the foundation of every strategy, however, the Holy Spirit must teach truth, enabling people to remain in fellowship with Christ (John 16:12-15).

God calls people who know how to love and study His Word in their own context, who can teach their own people long after missionaries have come and gone. The combination of Word and Spirit powerfully proclaims the gospel with clarity. Many countries lack this training for their pastors and church leaders due to linguistic, financial and geographical boundaries. As AGWM, we are passionate that people's love for the Lord will "abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight" (Philippians 1:9, NIV).

God calls people who know how to love and study His Word in their own context, who can teach their own people long after missionaries have come and gone.



## **Prayer Focus**

*Access to Theological Training*

God of all knowledge, thank You for giving us Your Word as instructions for daily living. We pray that theological training will be available to new and seasoned believers in all nations where Your name is preached, so that people of every tribe will be able to build themselves up in their most holy faith as You commanded (Jude 1:20). We ask You to raise up shepherds for every community of Your people on the face of this planet. We thank You for the wealth of biblical training available to us. May we not take it for granted.

## **Reflect**

"The Spirit is not given to make Bible study needless, but to make it effective."  
— J. I. Packer

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# The Value of Tentmaking



What you might devalue or want to give up as secular may be the very thing God wants to use.

*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

Many of our missionaries have to take up "ordinary" jobs outside the church during their ministry. This is not a hindrance but a help to their ministry. The apostle Paul set a precedent for missionaries with his tentmaking, a term which we use today for bivocational ministers. As we see from Acts 18:1-4, Paul's literal tentmaking business in Corinth was a platform for his ministry, not a detraction from it. His profession enabled him to enter areas he otherwise could not and to bless communities by providing a service that met their physical needs.

So too, in many places today, our personnel have to integrate into society through "secular" avenues because being a missionary (or a Christian) is illegal, and they must take up regular jobs. The principle we learn from the apostle Paul is to use what we have. A tentmaker in Paul's day would have gone through a rigorous apprenticeship at a young age — something Paul likely did in congruence with his training as a Pharisee. After his conversion experience on the road to Damascus, his life mission changed, but he continued to operate as a tentmaker.

The "secular" work we engaged in before the missionary call, or before we became Christians, is never wasted. You don't know how God is using you to reach all peoples everywhere for Him. What you might devalue or want to give up as secular may be the very thing God wants to use, and indeed the greatest

service you could give Him. Some commentators connect with Paul's tentmaking the "handkerchiefs and aprons" that touched Paul and were used to heal the sick and cast out evil spirits in Ephesus (Acts 19:12). Perhaps it was during his noonday work break that Paul had opportunity to teach in Ephesus' lecture hall of Tyrannus. As a result, "all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord" (Acts 19:10, NASB).

## **Prayer Focus**

*Missionaries' Everyday Lives*

God of the mundane and the majestic, we thank You for redeeming our work. We pray that You will empower missionaries to do their "non-evangelistic" work with excellence as they interact with people who might never otherwise meet a Christian. We give up the right to be gatekeeper at the door of our skills because we believe You use everything we are and have for Your glory. We thank You for the unique giftings of every missionary; affirm each one today. We pray that all peoples everywhere will be drawn to Christ's followers as they do their work with dignity, pointing to their true Master.

## **Reflect**

"Pentecostals are well-equipped to be entrepreneurial, to 'trust the Holy Spirit' and to think of creative solutions to seemingly intractable social ills that enslave their communities."

— *Johan Mostert, theologian*



# Gateways to the World



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

More and more people from volatile areas of the world are relocating to countries that allow an open gospel witness.

Throughout church history, Christ's followers have obeyed Him and carried the gospel to the far corners of the world at great personal risk. Even in our world today, with many regions guaranteeing religious freedom and offering an open forum for sharing the gospel, there remain other places where openly talking about Christianity can bring persecution, imprisonment and death. AGWM is committed to a worldwide witness "so all can hear." How can we reach such closed areas?

The Live|Dead initiative is a team-based approach to planting churches among unreached peoples, often utilizing major cities with a strong international presence. In these "gateway cities," people from "closed" nations can be reached and then can carry the gospel to their home countries. In this way some of the world's "hardest" places are beginning to be reached.

Europe's refugee crisis in recent years has provided another open door to these places. More and more people from volatile areas of the world are relocating to countries that allow an open gospel witness. As this mass migration progresses, people who had never before had exposure to the gospel are hearing Christ proclaimed in their new country of residence. Let us praise the Lord for making good out of what Satan has intended for evil, and let us be a part of what God is doing to draw the nations to himself.



## Prayer Focus

*Church Planting in the World's Gateway Cities*

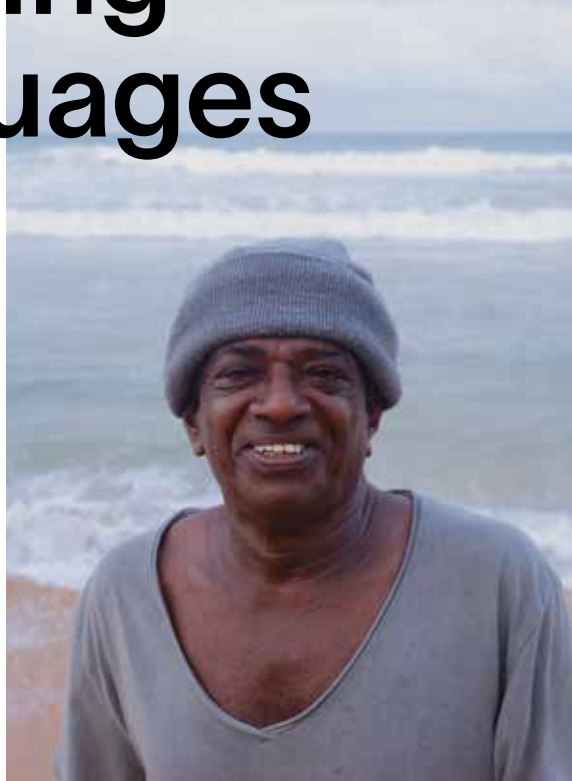
Lord, all the nations You have made will come and bow before You (Psalm 86:9). Preparing for that day, we commit ourselves to reach as many people with the gospel as we can. Thank You for opening doors in major cities, international hubs from which we can reach the nations and send people out. Thank You for redeeming lives, even through the tragedy of the refugee crisis. May the evangelism efforts in the world's international hubs be effective launchpads into the globe's remaining unreached areas until Your return.

## Reflect

"Why is it that some Christians cross land and sea, continents and cultures, as missionaries? What on earth impels them? It is not in order to commend a civilization, an institution or an ideology, but rather a person, Jesus Christ, whom they believe to be unique."

— John R.W. Stott (1921-2011)

# Living Languages



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*



Over 7,000 languages are spoken today. More than 1,200 of them do not have a Bible translation. Some have portions of Scripture, but not the complete Old and New Testaments. The Bible was only recently translated into Bosnian. Dhivehi, the official language of the Maldives, still awaits a Bible. Though many people speak multiple languages, nothing substitutes for hearing and reading the Word in one's heart language. Right now, hundreds of tribes and nations must try understanding Scripture through a foreign language.

The apostle Peter quotes the prophet Joel on the Day of Pentecost when he declares that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Acts 2:21, NLT). The apostle Paul asks, "How can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, 'How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:14-15, NLT). And how beautiful are the hands of those who translate the Scriptures so all can hear!

Though many people speak multiple languages, nothing substitutes for hearing and reading the Word in one's heart language.

## **Prayer Focus**

### *Scripture Translation*

Living Word, we ask You to raise up linguists who are passionate about making Your Word accessible to all people in their native languages. We pray for those who have difficulty understanding Scripture through a foreign language, that soon they can read and hear it in their heart language. We pray that spiritual and linguistic roadblocks will be cleared to bring the good news to all peoples everywhere. We pray for pioneers to tackle languages not widely spoken, making Your Word accessible to remote people who have never heard Your good news.

## **Reflect**

"The original language of Christianity is translation."

— *Lamin Sanneh, Yale Divinity School missions professor*



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# Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

The apostle Paul starts his letter to the church in Ephesus (in modern-day Turkey) by praying that they will know the hope to which God has called them, the riches of God's glorious inheritance in the saints, and God's incomparably great power for those who believe Him (Ephesians 1:18-19). The hope, riches and power available to the Ephesians were not only future promises but present realities. In the same way, they are for us now, for everyone who becomes part of God's family. Let's look at the inheritance of all peoples everywhere in detail:

**Hope:** Hope is not just for heaven, but it is a living reality for every day, intended to be invested with God's purpose (1 Peter 1:3).

**Riches:** Heaven's riches are at the Lord's disposal to supply our every earthly need (Philippians 4:19).

**Power:** God's power is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

This is the good news all peoples everywhere need to hear. The gospel is not just "fire insurance" intended to save us from hell, but "everyday assurance" that the gospel has transforming power for our lives in this world. Salvation doesn't just preserve our souls for heaven; it empowers us for service for today.

## **Prayer Focus**

*Understanding God's Hope, Riches and Power*

God of all hope, may we communicate to all peoples everywhere that salvation is for now, not just for later. It includes power to thrive today, to survive life's challenges, to take heart in the midst of persecution. May Your Word break down all preconceived religious ideas that focus only on the afterlife or good deeds. May Your truth point new believers, and each of us, to our present hope for earthly life and salvation by grace through faith.

## **Reflect**

"All four Gospels are unanimous: it is the resurrection of Jesus that generates mission."

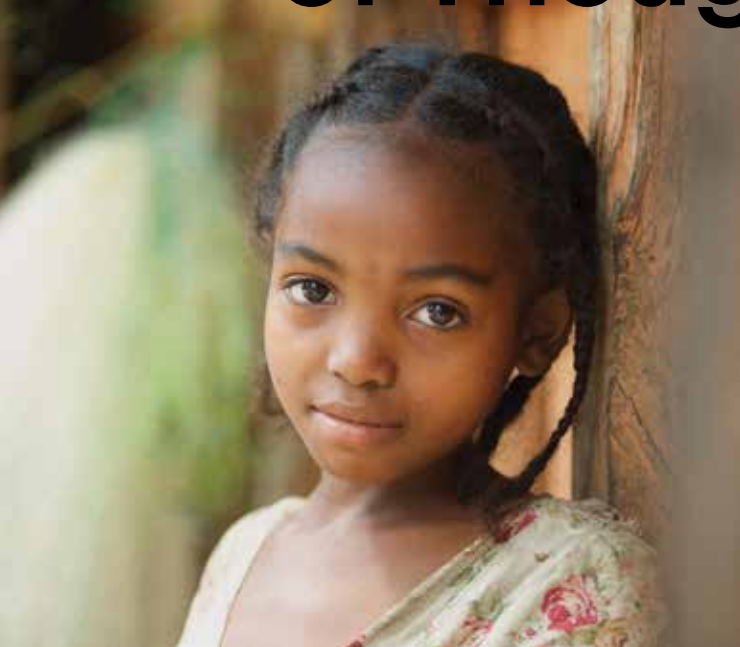
— David J. Bosch (1929-1992), missiologist

Salvation doesn't just preserve our souls for heaven; it empowers us for service for today.

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# Tribes of Thought



Tribes and nations are united by more than outward, physical appearances; they also share thought patterns and ways of viewing the world.

*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

Tribes and nations are united by more than outward, physical appearances; they also share thought patterns and ways of viewing the world. Outside Amazon River villages and African bush country, in places that are not overtly “tribal,” tribes remain strikingly apparent — in the way people *think*. For many today, their “tribe” is comprised of people with whom they share similar beliefs and points of view.

Millions of people today have taken a stand against religion and religious thinking, saying it has caused and causes many of the world’s atrocities and oppressive acts. The “tribe” of secularism, or secular humanism, rejects traditional religion and places self as the guiding force of life. No morals are absolute, and judgments against alternative lifestyles are suspended because what’s right for one person does not apply to another. Ironically, people with secularist mindsets and countries with largely secular populations suffer some of the highest rates of anxiety and depression.

We must treat “tribes of thought,” such as secularism, the same as we treat every other tribe and nation — as people who must be reached with the gospel so they can take their place around the throne of the Lamb. We must treat these ideological groups like ethnic groups, giving

specific attention to their objections to God the same way we would give attention to cultural symbols and practices of overtly tribal people. Reaching mindsets that oppose God presents unique challenges. These are people to whom we may have easy access, yet the spiritual barriers remain as striking as observable mountains. We do battle for their souls, praying that God’s Spirit will reveal to them that the person of Jesus Christ has all the answers that secularism and lifeless religions do not.

### Prayer Focus

*Secular “Tribes”*

God who declares to us Your thoughts (Amos 4:13), give us a burden for people who have rejected religion and made self their god. Show us how to love people who believe that humanity has advanced beyond its need for something greater than themselves. Sustain the longing of their souls until they have to fill themselves with something more meaningful than what they can discern in the physical world. May we be ready to share with them the hope and love of Christ that illuminates life with a greater purpose.

### Reflect

“God cannot lead you on the basis of facts you do not know.”

— *Ralph D. Winter (1924-2009)*





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# Provision

God designed humanity with a daily need to be filled up with the resources that He supplies.



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*



Before missionaries reach their country of calling, one of their first prayers is that God would provide the resources needed to accomplish their mission. This can apply to finances, but it extends to other areas, especially spiritual readiness. As we pray that our missionaries would receive God's provision and that believers just beginning their walk of faith would grow spiritually, a biblical view of provision can guide our intercession.

In Exodus 16, the Lord provided quail and manna for the Israelites in the wilderness. The Lord told Moses, "Each household should gather as much as it needs.' ... When they measured it out, everyone had just enough. Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough. Each family had just what it needed" (Exodus 16:16-18, NLT). No manna was to be kept until the next day, but some families "didn't listen and kept some of it until morning. But by then it was full of maggots and had a terrible smell" (Exodus 16:19-20, NLT). God was teaching His people daily dependence on Him.

It's tempting to want enough not just for the next 24 hours but for the foreseeable future. We can develop an unhealthy dependence on worldly resources instead of a healthy, daily dependence on God. While we cultivate character habits on our walk of faith, we can't decide one day to stockpile everything we think we may need for future trials. God designed humanity with a daily need to be filled up with the resources that He supplies. Part of communion with God is humbly asking that He give us all we need for today — not for tomorrow.

God provides for creatures with limited reasoning abilities: "Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God for help and wander about for lack of food?" (Job 38:41, ESV). God provides for those whom He has already delivered from near death: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it" (Psalm 81:10, ESV). God provides daily needs because He has already provided for our eternal needs: "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19, ESV).

As we live in daily dependence on the provision of God, we offer a powerful testimony. Our expressions of faith serve as an invitation to others to depend on God as well.

## **Prayer Focus** *Daily Provision*

God who gives all people "life and breath and everything else" (Acts 17:25, NIV), strengthen our trust in You so that we can boldly depend on You each day. May all peoples everywhere see that we live by faith, and may they be inspired to do likewise. Jesus, You always live to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25), and You provide for us not only in the next life but in this one, too. Quiet the spirits of Your children who face severe physical, financial and spiritual challenges. Abundantly provide in each situation.

## **Reflect**

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply."

— Hudson Taylor (1832-1905),  
missionary to China



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# A Call to Humility



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

To be like Christ is to take a genuine interest in the people we are trying to reach.

When we set out to reach all peoples everywhere, how do we start? We start by emptying ourselves. Scripture gives us this model through the apostle Paul's words in Philippians 2:5-11. This passage is often called the *kenosis* passage, which is a Greek word for "emptying." In Philippians 2, Paul is calling believers to Christlike living. What does living as Jesus look like? Paul quotes what some believe is a hymn of the Early Church:

<sup>5</sup> Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (NASB).

Other Scripture translations say Christ "made himself nothing" (NIV) and "gave up his divine privileges" (NLT). These help

us understand what "emptying" means: Christ emptied himself of His rights and privileges as God. He laid all that aside to become like the first-century Jews and Gentiles among whom He lived. He lowered himself to completely identify with the humanity for whom He died.

When it comes to all peoples everywhere, to be like Christ is to lay aside any cultural or ethnic pride we have in our hearts toward those who are different from us. To be like Christ is to take a genuine interest in the people we are trying to reach — not to make them like us, but to help them become more like Jesus. Christ's perfect example of obedient selflessness is the secret to reaching all peoples everywhere.

## **Prayer Focus** *Christlike Humility*

Humble Christ, we praise You that You did not think of equality with God as something to cling to (Philippians 2:6) but instead became human and made Your home among us (John 1:14). You set aside Your glory and superiority to become one of us. Any superiority or pride we have in ourselves we renounce in Jesus' name because nothing we are can compare with all You are. May we humbly welcome all peoples everywhere into Your global family, considering others better than ourselves.

## **Reflect**

"The ways we are effective in culture are also the primary ways we serve others. We serve people by entering into a relationship of love and mutual commitment."

— Duane Elmer, author

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# Purchased Peace



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

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The barriers of language, nationalism and culture are not the true dividers; the biggest division is each soul's separation from God.

World peace existed until Adam and Eve sinned. From that point on, humanity has lived in a state of unrest, awaiting the day when all peoples everywhere will be gathered around the throne of the Lamb. Only at that time will all redeemed humanity live in perfect peace.

Until then, we are on earth to spread a message to all peoples everywhere that peace is possible this side of heaven: the message that through Christ Jesus, those who were far away "have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13, NIV). Paul goes on to explain that "[Christ] himself is our peace, who has made the two groups [Jews and Gentiles] one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility[.] ... His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace" (Ephesians 2:14-15, NIV).

To the degree that people submit to Christ, we can have supernatural peace between tribes and nations on earth because Jesus won it for us with His shed blood. The barriers of language, nationalism and culture are not the true dividers; the biggest division is each soul's separation from God.

## **Prayer Focus**

*Spreading the Message of Peace*

God of peace, You have done all that is necessary for opposing tribes and nations to live at peace in this life and the next. Through Jesus, we all have access to the Father by one Spirit (Ephesians 2:18). We believe that as all peoples everywhere hear the gospel, culturally clashing believers can labor together in authentic peace as they tell of one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all (Ephesians 4:5,6). Help us to be people of peace.

## **Reflect**

"A great many people are trying to make peace, but that has already been done. God has not left it for us to do; all we have to do is to enter into it."

— Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899)



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# Recovering the Image of God



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

Racial tensions, gender inequality and nationalistic animosity are givens in every country. Our missionaries go to places where women are in leadership and to other places where girls are killed for economic reasons. They go to places where they look like the people they're reaching and to other places where their skin color could make them the target of prejudice.

Missionaries enter contexts of tolerance or hatred with the same message: In Christ Jesus, we are one. This message is understood by cultures that promote acceptance and is refuted by cultures that assert gender-based or nationality-based superiority. The Church speaks against social ills by promoting what God stands for: equality and unity. In the first chapter of God's revelation to humanity, we read that "God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27, NLT).

It is precious, careful work to disciple new believers to be a Church which is countercultural rather than one that simply reflects the surrounding values. People know Christians by their love (John 13:35). Especially in divided contexts, the one place people can find discordant groups working in unity is in the house of God among His people — whether that's in an underground "church" that meets in someone's home or in a towering structure that visibly bears witness to Christianity.

The message contained in all the gospel for all the world is that all have

sinned and fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23), and God wants all to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). This means that race, gender and nationality have no bearing on salvation, spiritual gifts and the commission to make disciples of all nations. The gospel is the one message applicable to every soul on earth, binding all believers together in perfect unity until the day when they gather for eternal praise to the Lamb.

## **Prayer Focus**

*Unity in the Church*

God who welcomes all His children through faith in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26), forgive us when our churches reflect our sinful culture instead of countering its practices. Help us to live out the unity You desire to see in us. May all who do not yet know You be drawn to the unity we display and be welcomed into Your international family. May the Church stand against any attempt to devalue the image of God in which each human has been created.

## **Reflect**

"If there were ever an area where the Christian church should be leading the way, it is in being a living picture of what it looks like to interact with our fellow human beings from different cultural backgrounds in ways that are collaborative, respectful, and loving."

— David Livermore, author

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# Holy Dissatisfaction



That nearly 42 percent of the world's population has never heard the message of Jesus should place a holy dissatisfaction within us.

*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

While there are more than 55 million church members in the AG worldwide, an estimated 7.3 billion people remain unreached, never having been presented an adequate witness of the gospel. As in the parable of the lost sheep, we rejoice over every individual who comes to faith, but the fact that nearly 42 percent of the world's population has never heard the message of Jesus should place a holy dissatisfaction within us. Much ground has been covered but much more remains.

There's a fine line between discouragement and dissatisfaction. The former urges us to give up because of the enormity of the task, to feel that we can't even make a dent with our best intentions. The latter urges us onward, with the faith that "the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay" (Habakkuk 2:3, NIV). When we pray for God to "give us a burden" for a people group or country, what we're really asking for is a dissatisfaction with that place or people's current conditions. We're asking for God's heart for the people and places, for God's vision to see what they can be in Him. We're asking for divine foresight to give us compelling motivation.



May our celebration over Kingdom growth be paired with our passion for the day when the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of our Lord (Revelation 11:15). This motivation can keep missionaries and missions-minded people going when their efforts seem to amount to nothing. This truth can shake our complacency, ground our happiness and impel us through darkness. May we not be satisfied until God is all in all (1 Corinthians 15:28).

### Prayer Focus

#### *Motivating Dissatisfaction*

Lord, You will reign until You put all Your enemies under Your feet (1 Corinthians 15:25). Help us to see Your miraculous work all around us and take heart that You have overcome the world. Help us also to pair our celebration with continued outreach, knowing that great joy and great pain both lie ahead as we walk out Your Great Commission. Keep Your children strong with a holy dissatisfaction until everyone has heard that You lived, died and rose again.

### Reflect

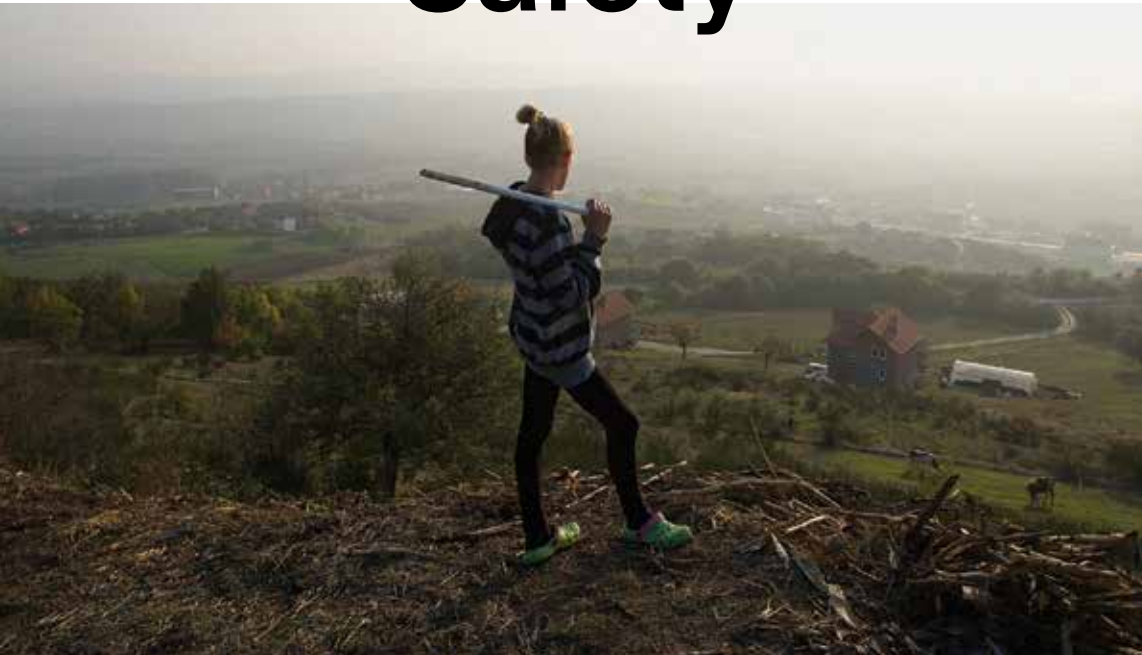
"It is unacceptable that the message of Jesus has not been adequately presented to much of the world's population. How tragic it is that some people can hear the message repeatedly when others have never heard it once."

— Randy Hurst, missionary

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# Not Safety



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

One of the most common prayers we pray over missionaries is a prayer for safety. When we think of people leaving everything familiar and going to foreign lands, a gut reaction is to pray for their protection because they may be going quite literally into enemy territory — not only geographically, but spiritually. As we pray, attackers can turn away. Angry litigants can drop charges. Fever-wracked bodies can cool. Doors closed to ministry can open.

Prayers for safety are crucial, and the Bible declares repeatedly that the Lord of Hosts is our protector, but let us not forget that personal safety is not God's primary concern. An overriding concern is that we accomplish His mission, and obedience can lead us into hazardous conditions. God doesn't promise that we'll come out unscathed from every situation we face, but He does promise His presence. Mark Batterson comments on the mission of God in his book *Wild Goose Chase*: "When did we start believing that God wants to send us to safe places to do easy things? God wants to send us to dangerous places to do difficult things. ... [H]e will lead you into the shadowlands where light and darkness clash." In the quest to reach all peoples everywhere as our Lord commanded, we will definitely trespass on "shadowland" territory. While praying for deliverance from danger, let us not neglect to pray that we remember Who has called us to bring light to the darkness.

## **Prayer Focus**

*Courage to Walk Out God's Mission*

God of angel armies, thank You for the promise of Your presence. We declare that we would rather be within Your will in a dangerous place than outside Your will in a safe place. Please bring spiritual, physical and emotional protection to our missionaries and to all Your people. But please reassure them of Your presence above all else. You sustain all things through Your powerful Word (Hebrews 1:3), and You are all we really want in life (Psalm 142:5). This world is not our home.

## **Reflect**

"I had utterly abandoned myself to Him. ... Could any place be safer than the center of His will? Did not He assure me by His very presence that His thoughts toward us are good, and not evil? Death to my own plans and desires was almost deliriously delightful. Everything was laid at His nail-scarred feet, life or death, health or illness, appreciation by others or misunderstanding, success or failure as measured by human standards. Only He himself mattered."

— V. Raymond Edman (1900–1967),  
author, minister, Wheaton College  
president

God doesn't promise that we'll come out unscathed from every situation we face, but He does promise His presence.



# Thirty, Sixty and a Hundred



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

Effectual seed sowing is church planting — evangelizing individuals and discipling them into believers who will then disciple other believers.

Lasting missions endeavors empower local people to continue reaching their own communities long after missionaries have left a region. Effective pioneers and seasoned workers pray for locals who will take up the torch of sharing the gospel in the same measure they received it.

As we pray for missions, we must add effectiveness to our requests. We must pray that the seed of the gospel would not land on rocky, dry soil but would bear fruit 30, 60 and even 100 times over (Matthew 13:23). Effectual seed sowing is church planting — evangelizing individuals and discipling them into believers who will then disciple other believers. Jesus commands us to “pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields” (Matthew 9:38, NLT). Many of these workers will be the result of that harvest, new converts who are also compelled by the Great Commission. May the seeds of the gospel we sow take root deep into the soil of all people, growing sincere Christ followers who are driven by a passion to evangelize.



**Prayer Focus**  
*National Workers*

Lord of the harvest, thank You for scattering the seed of Your Word in all places — places with receptive soil and places where the harvest is sparse and slow growing. We pray that we will scatter Your seed broadly, water it faithfully and see You grow it in every environment. May we feel Your Spirit awaken our hearts to those who will carry on the mission of God long after we have left a region.

**Reflect**  
“Divine Grace ensures the crop, but even the Grace of God does not guarantee that the crop shall come up tomorrow, nor just whenever we please. So, dear Friend, keep on sowing the good seed of the Kingdom of God, water it with your tears and your prayers, and then leave with God the question whether you shall see the harvest or not.”  
— Charles H. Spurgeon (1834-1892)

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# Divine Adoption

The family of God is built not on a bloodline or national heritage but on personal decisions to respond to the salvation purchased by Jesus.

*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

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In many nations, religion and nationality are inextricably linked in the mindset of most citizens. For example, to be Afghan is to be Muslim; to be Thai is to be Buddhist. In such countries, changing religions is akin to denouncing family and can even put one's life in jeopardy. In the West, while we may not have to run for our lives when we become Christians, we can still face stiff rejection and ostracism by friends and family.

The family-religion connection was also strong during the apostle Paul's lifetime, and his audience resonated with the family metaphors he used throughout his letters in the New Testament. Paul described our family connection to God this way: "When the right time came, God sent his Son ... so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, 'Abba, Father'" (Galatians 4:4-6, NLT).

The Galatian believers connected with this text because they knew the pain of rejection as the price for their faith. Present-day persecution makes these verses as apt as ever. The family of God is built not on a bloodline or national heritage but on personal decisions to respond to the salvation purchased by Jesus. The truth is that we're all adopted: All along, God has been forming a global family from those called out of all peoples everywhere who confess His name.

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As part of God's family, our job is to care for the current members and reach out with the gospel to potential ones. We should view all lost people as equally likely candidates for salvation! When you pray for the lost, remember that they can be your future siblings in Christ.

### Prayer Focus

*New Believers Who've Left Family to Follow Jesus*

Father in heaven, we pray for new believers living where family ties and ancient religions mean everything. May You give them strength to stand firm amid any rejection they face. May new believers who have lost everything find true mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers in the family of Christ. We pray that the body of Christ will rise up and be truer than any family they have known. May those who reject these Christians also turn to You and be welcomed into Your family.

### Reflect

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us."

— *Augustine, bishop of Hippo*  
(A.D. 354-430)



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# Favor

Our best-laid plans for reaching the world are nothing without the presence and favor of God.



Assemblies of God  
World Missions

T. F. Zimmerman, AG general superintendent from 1959–1985, reflected on the fact that “God never calls us to a task we are capable of doing apart from Him.” Resolving to carry out the “greatest evangelism the world has ever seen” was a key decision that helped shape the identity of the Assemblies of God at its second General Council in 1914 and remains a compelling purpose which binds us still today. The scope of such a task is overwhelming; any step toward its fulfillment is not possible without the favor of God.

The word favor in Hebrew signifies approval and blessing from God, and it’s close in meaning to the Greek word for *grace*. Favor empowered Noah and Moses (Genesis 6:8; Exodus 33:12-13), prospered Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39:20–23), and brought a kinsman-redeemer to Ruth (Ruth 2:12-13). Paul tells us that “*now* is the time of God’s favor, *now* is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2, NIV, emphasis added). God’s favor isn’t an option, a backup if we come to the end of our own strength and resources; it’s a necessity.

Our missions efforts can only succeed in drawing people to a living relationship with Christ and bringing praise to God if His favor is on us. As Moses pleaded with the Lord in Exodus 33:15, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here” (NIV). Our best-laid plans for reaching the world are nothing

without the presence and favor of God. Evangelizing all peoples everywhere is a massive, God-commissioned task for which we need His favor — and as children of God, we have the privilege of asking for it!

### Prayer Focus

*Favor for Every Missions Endeavor*

God of all generations, we need the favor, grace and mercy You shower on us. We thank You for it as we take our place in history to work out Your purposes on the earth. As Moses prayed, may Your favor rest on us, and may You establish the work of our hands (Psalm 90:17). Grant favor to all Your children, missionaries and others, who are giving their lives to Your mission where You have placed them. May we not move in any direction without Your presence.

### Reflect

“Only one thing makes us different from the rest of the world: It’s God’s unique presence among us, permeating all that we are. It’s not that we teach. It’s not that we sing. It’s not that we entertain — the world does all of that. What makes us different is God among us.”

— Dr. Jim Bradford, pastor



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# Obedience



God designed humanity with a daily need to be filled up with the resources that He supplies.

*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

Obedience isn't a popular topic in today's world. It doesn't sell many seminars. In our minds it might harken back to our childhood days of discipline, or to a school for especially stubborn canines. But obedience is at the heart of the Great Commission.

To reach us, Jesus took the form of a servant and became obedient — to His Father and to death on a cross (Philippians 2:5-8). During one of His final meetings with His disciples, Jesus told them what His followers are to teach the nations: obedience to everything God has commanded us (Matthew 28:20). Obedience to Jesus means trusting Him for every outcome. We will do what He asks because we trust His character. While Jesus didn't tell His disciples to what or to where their obedience would lead, He promised His presence. As they made disciples, baptizing and teaching obedience, Jesus would be with them (Matthew 28:19-20).

What if our obedience leads us to leave the comforts of our home communities to make disciples of other tribes and nations far away? What if our obedience leads us to stop chasing self-promoting dreams and serve our family close by? We don't know where obedience will lead, but we know the One whom we obey. That's what Abraham faced when God asked him to begin a multidecade journey of faith in the Promised Land, which God promised would one day belong to innumerable descendants. Abraham's faith was credited to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6), and ours is too.

We can take heart through biblical examples like Abraham, who obeyed and went out, not knowing where he was going (Hebrews 11:8) in response to God's call. We can take heart knowing that whatever our obedience brings, Jesus has already overcome the world (John 16:33).

## Prayer Focus

### *Unconditional Obedience*

Humble Jesus, help us to fully trust Your control of human history as well as our daily details. Enable us to surrender to everything You say, knowing that in the end, You win — so we're already on the victorious side of human history. Thank You for Your obedience and sacrifice on our behalf. You are our greatest example. May all missionaries and all Christians live from a place of unconditional obedience.

## Reflect

"I thought of turning back — deep snows, hunger, suffering. But God said, 'forward.' He who took me thus far, will He not take me through?"

— Victor Plymire (1881-1956),  
missionary to Tibet





# Trust His Timing



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

We can take comfort in God's sovereignty when we have no specific answers to time-related questions.

"This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14, NASB). Perhaps this verse for you begs the question of timing. *When* has the gospel gone out to all the world?

Questions of timing understandably capture the attention of every generation of Christians. Whether we ponder prophetic end-time events affecting the entire world or seek God's timing for personal matters, time itself is inescapable and humanly uncontrollable. On a global scale, predictions have sparked fear and factions, and on a personal level, we struggle daily with time-based questions: *When will my family members come to know the Lord? When will God deliver my friend from deadly cancer? When will my situation stop making turns for the worse?*

Time even more than money controls our planet. It is a limitation to which the mighty and meek alike are subject. This isn't a curse: Time existed before the Fall because God marked creation with heavenly lights, identifying sequences of day and night (Genesis 1:5). At the very least, time can remind us that *things will change*. There is a start time and end time for every activity under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

We can take comfort in God's sovereignty when we have no specific answers to time-related questions. We are invited to affirm with David: "But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord, I say, 'You

are my God.' My times are in Your hand" (Psalm 31:14-15, NASB). In God's hands are the earth's depths and its mightiest mountains (Psalm 95:4). If we are tempted to doubt God is fulfilling the vision He outlined in Scripture and placed in our hearts, may we remember that "God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change" (2 Peter 3:9, *The Message*). Trust in the Lord's timing as you live in obedience to His Great Commission.

## Prayer Focus

*Trusting the Timing of the Lord*

Creator of time, help us to live faithfully between the already and the not yet — between Your first and second coming. Keep our passion alive in those times we feel that we've labored for so long with little or no fruit to show for it. Keep us faithful because it is You, Lord Christ, whom we are serving (Colossians 3:24). Thank You for being in charge of the harvest for all peoples everywhere. We will not give up, because You hold the world, and our hearts, in Your hands.

## Reflect

"It is remarkable that God began this work among the people at a time when I had the least hope, and to my apprehension the least rational prospect of success."

— David Brainerd (1718-1747), missionary to North American Indians

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# Remain in Him



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

“Read your Bible and pray every day.” Perhaps you have heard this advice as the answer for how to grow in God. While it rings true, sometimes our surface application diminishes its impact. Yet, the fact remains, if we are to be effective in our obedience to God, we must habitually commune with Him. Yes, the difference between success and failure on the mission field includes understanding the culture and gaining linguistic proficiency, but far more crucial is maintaining one’s lifeline to our Heavenly Father.

Jesus, our one way to the Father, urged His disciples to remain in Him, and He would remain in them, “for a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me” (John 15:4, NLT). Jesus carries the vine-branches illustration through John 15:1–8, emphasizing that abiding in Jesus is the key to effective service. Without Him, we can do nothing (15:5). The Live|Dead church planting initiative phrases it this way: “Abiding is one of our core values. Each day’s best is realized when it includes extravagant time in His presence. Abiding personally and corporately empowers us to bear much fruit.”

The answer has been with us all along. It’s not new, but it is profound. As the saying goes, “Go deep before you go wide.” In your daily time with your Heavenly Father, you are cultivating what it takes to make it not only on a mission field but in life. God wants you more than He wants your service to Him. He wants you to

know your identity is, first and foremost, as His child. Your profession or calling is secondary. The more you’re His, the more effective you are in what He would have you to do.

## **Prayer Focus**

*Cultivating Time to Abide With God*

Author of life, thank You for answers that are not beyond our reach. Keep our hearts sensitive to truths we’ve heard so long; don’t let them fall on deaf ears. Help us to remember that living for You in literally every situation is made possible when we stay in communion with You. Keep us reading our Bibles, praying for others and ourselves, and rejoicing in Your fatherhood. May everyone who answers Your call to reach all peoples everywhere keep putting You first.

## **Reflect**

“The mission of God’s people has to start and finish with commitment to the God whose mission we are called to share. But that in turn depends on knowing our God — knowing God in depth, from experience of His revelation and His salvation.”

– Christopher J. H. Wright,  
*biblical scholar*

God wants you more than He wants your service to Him. He wants you to know your identity is, first and foremost, as His child.





# High Expectations



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

As you grapple with expectations for your life and for the missionaries, tribes and nations for whom you pray, make grace a part of your prayer.

One of the most motivational missions quotes hails from William Carey, missionary to India: "Expect great things from God! Attempt great things for God!" Little wonder that this statement came from a man who translated the Bible into five of India's major languages, left a legacy of 700 converts and overthrew the practice of *sati*, or widow burning.

When the call to missions is fresh, the territory uncharted and the unknown lies ahead, expectations are high. Wonderstruck, people revel in God-sized dreams and stretch their faith. Upon landing on the mission field, expectations are tested. Extended time must be allotted to learn language and culture. The time it takes to build relationships and navigate power structures may be longer than projected, and family members adjust at different rates. The harvest varies. Sometimes an entire village turns to the Lord; sometimes one person confesses Christ. Sometimes it looks like God is showering blessings for selfless service; sometimes it looks like the goodness of heaven is withheld.

When it comes to expectations, we place many on ourselves that God does not place on us. When expectations are not met, we can become, as the saying goes, bitter or better. We can become frustrated with ourselves, saddened because of perceived disapproval from God or angry at those who thwarted our plans. Or we can allow the Holy Spirit to show us which expectations are God-given and which are self-produced, and we can give ourselves grace as we learn from unmet expectations.

Job faced a daunting array of shattered expectations. Yet he honored the Lord with this rhetorical question: "Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" (Job 2:10, NIV). In all his suffering, and even in this question, Job did not sin. Unmet expectations don't always arise from sin. Sometimes we simply place high expectations on ourselves that God did not intend for us to carry! As you grapple with expectations for your life and for the missionaries, tribes and nations for whom you pray, make grace a part of your prayer. We all need grace as we live before the God for whom nothing is impossible, and with whom we must leave every outcome!

## Prayer Focus

*Grace for Unmet Expectations*

God whose plans transcend our own, grant missionaries grace when they deal with unmet expectations. May they not become discouraged or bitter. Grant grace to new believers among all peoples everywhere when their growth in the Christian faith hits roadblocks or comes slower than expected. Guard us against placing expectations on ourselves which You did not put there. Help us all to distinguish Your dreams from our own, and remind us of how deeply You love Your sons and daughters apart from what we do.

## Reflect

"You can do something other than working with God in His purpose, but it will always be something lesser, and you couldn't come up with something better."

— Steve Hawthorne, author

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# Don't Do It Alone



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

How do we reach all peoples everywhere? Together! God's picture for His church, both in heaven and on earth, is a community existing in unity and togetherness. Mark 6 and Luke 10 record Jesus sending out His followers in groups of two to evangelize nearby villages in His authority. They never went on a solo mission. This doesn't mean a missionary never works alone, but it gives insight into the team effort that usually marks Christian outreach.

Church planting teams made up of all peoples everywhere show the world what heaven will look like, providing an accurate picture of the body of Christ. Right now, global workers from around the world are crossing into the Buddhist/Hindu world, made up of nearly 2 billion people, almost a quarter of the Earth's population. Though projects of this proportion seem daunting, teams of believers are planting churches, building communities and reaching unreached individuals one at a time.

Think of a table spread for a dinner as an analogy. Think of the number of people and pieces required to create, serve and feed every guest. Christ, too, gathered around a table where all were welcome — from Judas, His betrayer, to His beloved disciple John. All had a place, all received the same grace and service. The love of Jesus extends to all without condition, and we should be liberal in its distribution too.

Our efforts in obedience to God today combine with the faithful efforts of God's followers throughout history,

and together these weave the tapestry of God's story. The number of UPGs decreases one relationship at a time. From Eden's garden to Christ's victory over the grave to the wedding feast of the Lamb, humanity is not meant to do life alone.

## **Prayer Focus**

### *Multinational Missions Teams*

God of community, thank You for the multinational, multicultural missions teams in existence today! We pray for unity among Your believers. We pray that people will continue to cross cultural divides and join church planting teams. May we not place on our own shoulders the weight of reaching the world, but may we join with other believers and together shoulder the passion to share the gospel so all can hear.

## **Reflect**

"I believe that in each generation God has called enough men and women to evangelize all the yet unreached tribes of the earth. It is not God who does not call. It is man who will not respond!"

— *Isobel Kuhn (1901-1957),  
missionary to China and Thailand*

From Eden's garden to  
Christ's victory over the grave  
to the wedding feast of the  
Lamb, humanity is not meant  
to do life alone.

# We Are Every Tribe and Nation



*Assemblies of God  
World Missions*

Do we envision a gathering around God's throne of only people who look like ourselves? AGWM missionaries and national church partners have a fuller vision. We look forward to a time when every nation is both the sender and the receiver of the gospel. Imagine a world where each of us plays a role in the Great Commission, following God wherever He calls us — to open doors in every corner of the world! Churches are born from the discipleship of those who teach others, nurturing a cycle of evangelism that stretches into the familiar and beyond.

Let's seek God's guidance to widen our hearts for His global mission. Implore Him to show us our part in reaching every corner of the earth. God has called each of us in the Church to fulfill His word. Through our faithful actions, we anticipate a future where we stand united with neighbors from every walk of life before the Lamb's throne.

Imagine a world where each of us plays a role in the Great Commission, following God wherever He calls us — to open doors in every corner of the world!



## **Prayer Focus**

*Recognizing the Missions Opportunities Around Us*

Creator Lord, we are grateful for Your global vision that encompasses every tribe and nation, and graciously includes us. Help us to understand that the call to 'every tribe and every nation' includes our active participation and is not just a call to others. Encourage us to value our contributions within our communities as vital parts of Your global plan. Open our eyes to the mission opportunities that surround us, and let us see our place in Your work with clarity and purpose.

## **Reflect**

"God did not make a mistake when He chose you to bear Christ's name at this hinge of history. He knew exactly whom He wanted to carry the light of the gospel in the 21st century. He wanted you."

— *David Shibley, author*



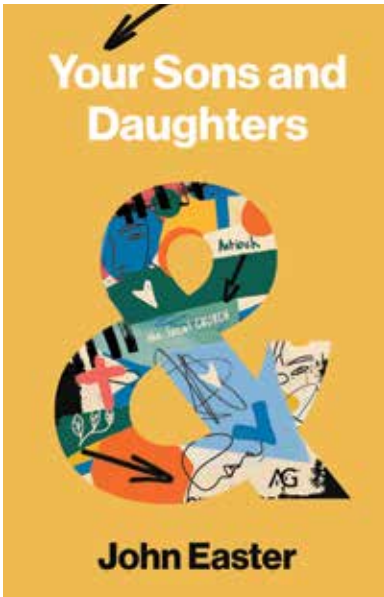
CHRISTOPHER J. H. WRIGHT

*“Mission arises from the heart of God himself and is communicated from His heart to ours. Mission is the global outreach of the global people of a global God.”*



Next

# Prayer Resources



Assemblies of God World Missions and its missionaries are extensions of our local churches. You have nurtured, disciplined and equipped us for ministry. *We are you.* Read how Executive Director John Easter urges pastors and churches to build this vital missions mindset, so that we continue sending workers and furthering our mission of establishing the Church among all peoples everywhere.



*Please scan the QR code to view a digital copy.*

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You've experienced prayer's world-changing power as you've read along in this devotional. To continue engaging in prayer, join AGWM's weekly prayer newsletter for God's church around the world at [agwm.org/pray](https://agwm.org/pray).