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Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3b).

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Rachel Foreman, Managing Editor

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Like the Early Church

by Lance Finley, CGGC Executive Director

What does it look like to mobilize disciples of Jesus in the year 2021 and beyond? As with most challenging questions in faith, I'm convinced that the answer is best found by looking into our collective past to help us understand how to faithfully step forward into both the present and the future. While the world may continue to shift and change and look different to many of us, I'm struck by the example of the early followers of Jesus and what it shows us about how to be the Church in the 21st century.

I know Acts 2:42-47 is a familiar passage to most of us, but it's worth revisiting.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." G

rowing up, I remember verse 42 being taught and stressed the most: the apostle's teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. These were the foundational cores that helped shaped my understanding of what it meant to follow Jesus and be His Church: devotion to the Word, Christian community, the Lord's Table and prayer.

I don't remember as much emphasis on verses 43-46. We didn't talk much about the signs and wonders. I don't recall much being taught about holding everything in common (that almost sounds anti-American). The thought of being together everyday didn't seem realistic for a modern world. The idea of sharing meals together in one another's homes was probably more familiar in my growing up years than it is today, but enjoying the favor of all the people doesn't sound very realistic at all. I do remember verse 47 being more of a prayer, righteous desire or holy aim: the idea of God adding daily to the number being saved was always the ever-elusive spiritual goal.

But what if verses 43-46 really are for us today? I believe they are. What if these verses uncover the reality of what it means to live in the kingdom of God? Perhaps these powerful verses reveal how shallow our typical North American evangelical experience really is when compared to the genuine article of following Jesus? What if these verses give us a glimpse of what it really means to live as kingdom citizens and show us what it looks like to deploy all of God's people for kingdom work?

How would your life look different if you and your brothers and sisters were regularly filled with awe because of the obvious and even miraculous work of God through His people? How different would your life be if you took on a posture that everything that belonged to you also belonged to your brothers and sisters or could be liquidated to meet the needs that arose in your community? What if this idea of Christian faith and community truly became a 7-day-a-week reality rather than an occasional Sunday worship experience? What if our lived experience was so authentic and full of joy that our neighbors and friends couldn't help but take notice? What if the genuine love we experienced in the body of Christ just naturally overflowed into the lives of everyone around us? If this were happening, I don't think it would surprise anyone that the Lord might add daily to the number that was being saved. The influence would be irresistible!

The world we occupy is desperate for the genuine article of devoted Jesus followers and the witness that naturally overflows out of their lives of devotion, love and service. It really isn't about a program as much as it is about a genuine and sincere experience with the living Jesus that fills us to overflowing.

In this edition of *The Global Advocate*, we hope to help you catch some glimpses of what it looks like when God's people are mobilized for His kingdom agenda. It can take on various shapes and sizes, but ultimately results in people meeting Jesus through the ordinary lives and sincere witness of His everyday followers. Sometimes it happens in big and dramatic ways and at other times through the small and consistent obedience of a faithful few. At the end of the day, it's about living and loving like Jesus in authentic ways that strike a stark contrast to everything else in our world, particularly our North American context.

I'm praying that the following pages will help open your eyes to what the Lord is doing in places both near and far and I'm also praying that your hearts might be open to follow Him boldly in similar ways in the places where you live, work and play.

Mobilizing Disciples at Grand Point Church

by Pastor Lawrence Metzler

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resident Abraham Lincoln couldn't have hoped for a better general than George B. McClellan. Referred to flatteringly as the "Young Napoleon," McClellan was a phenomenon. At the age of 15, he had been the youngest member ever accepted at West Point. He graduated second in his class, only because he couldn't draw maps well. He served in the Mexican-American War and then in the Crimean War, both with distinction.

Perhaps McClellan's greatest gifts, however, were his ability to recruit and organize. When Lincoln appointed him to head up the new Army of the Potomac, formed in July 1861, McClellan immediately expanded its ranks from 50,000 to 168,000, all while bringing a level of organization and precision to the troops that stunned McClellan's superiors.

Furthermore, his troops loved him. Even amidst the grueling conditions of the Civil War, he kept their morale high, inspiring them to give more and do more because the cause was worth it. And that's all the more amazing, considering they had been decimated at Bull Pup just prior to his commission. Under McClallan, they started to had

Run just prior to his commission. Under McClellan, they started to believe again.

No one was surprised when, in October 1861, President Lincoln made McClellan his General-in-Chief. McClellan had the resume. He had the experience. Now he had a powerhouse army behind him, outnumbering his enemy more than two to one. There was just one problem. The man wouldn't fight. For weeks General McClellan readied his position, organized, and strategized, while Lee's army lay dangerously exposed just a few miles away. Lincoln urged McClellan to put his numerical and tactical advantage to use and crush the rebellion with one, swift attack. McClellan understood the strategy. He knew his favorable odds. But he wouldn't pull the trigger.

Discipleship and disciple making have recently received a lot of attention in our ministry circles. We have prioritized disciple-making, provided training for discipleship, formed commissions around discipleship, and written great articles on discipleship. We understand the strategy. All of this is good, in fact very good, but it all falls short of the ultimate mission unless we "pull the trigger" and mobilize the disciples we have made.

At Grand Point Church (GPC) we have pulled the trigger on mobilizing disciples by expanding our ministry into new communities through a multi-site ministry model. In 2015 the ERC invited a group of ministry leaders to attend the Exponential Conference in Orlando. An emphasis at this conference was the strategy of multiplication for growing and advancing your ministry. The conference booklet included an article by Todd Wilson who paraphrased this strategy by saying, "You must have a micro or local strategy close to home for adding the next one, and simultaneously a macro strategy for multiplying your impact beyond your local context."

The local or "micro strategy" is the work of discipleship within the local church. Every local church is to teach, train, and create environments where the addition of disciples will occur. The macro strategy looks beyond the local context and seeks to multiply by creating new contexts and frontiers for micro strategies to happen. In the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20, "Go and make disciples" is the micro strategy, "of all nations" is the macro

Pastor Lawrence Metzler

strategy. In other words, the product of Christianity is distributed as the church multiplies in multi-sites like Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

The three GPC pastors who attended Exponential took the multiplication challenge seriously and began to pray over our ministry. As a multiplication culture began to form in our minds, the language we used began to change. We started talking about releasing and sending people out in order to replicate the church in new places and new contexts of ministry. We began preparing people to go. The scorecard became more about who and how many have been sent rather than how many did we gather. Of course, we still count attendance as all churches do, but our focus is now centered on how many disciples we can mobilize to a new frontier.

In 2017 we sent about 150 regular attenders out to a new ministry context in Shippensburg, PA, about 14 miles north of our Chambersburg location. Our new campus pastor very effectively identified potential leaders and soon had a team of 35 people equipped and empowered to serve in this new context. The Lord blessed this multiplication effort and more than doubled the gathering attendance in three months. At the same time, other disciples were mobilized at the Chambersburg campus to fill the gaps created by the sending.

Almost immediately following the launch of the first multi-site campus, we began making plans to launch another campus 14 miles to the south, in Greencastle, PA. This campus would launch in 2020. At that time, we knew nothing about COVID and the impact that would have to our ministry in 2020 and beyond. While some immediate plans were delayed, we quickly discovered that God is not deterred by a virus, as He led us to quickly resume our plans, now for a new campus to open in the Fall of 2021. GPC is now preparing to send 150 people, from the Chambersburg and Shippensburg locations, to begin the new ministry in Greencastle. The first informational meeting was held on Sunday, March 14 (pictured below) attended by a very excited core group of disciples ready to mobilize!

I can already tell you, from limited experience, that multiplication ministry is both costly and risky. When you "send," you give up some of your best people, divest yourself of precious resources, and exert a ton of emotional energy to see something flourish elsewhere. As I watch the teams form that we will send, I see leaders who have had vital ministries in the church. I see friends. I see faithful volunteers and big givers. I see people I do not want to lose, but I see their excitement and realize that unless we are willing to mobilize these disciples, we will not only







to cooperate in a residency program designed for discipling leaders.

For GPC, mobilizing disciples is about sending. Sending people into positions and communities to do what they have seen and learned. It is about giving. Giving finances and leadership resources for others to use. It is about planting. Planting seeds that die to themselves and in return produce a harvest of much fruit.

The best people, training, programs, strategy, and intentions do not multiply your ministry. Mobilizing disciples does. But you have got to pull the trigger! Multi-site ministry is not going to be the strategy or capability for every church. That is simply what God led Grand Point Church to do. But making and mobilizing disciples is for everyone. Whether it is mobilizing 150 people or one individual, it has multiplying potential for kingdom impact.

lives will surely lose them. In the kingdom

limit their contribution to the kingdom, but also minimize a greater return on the investment God has called us to make for His kingdom.

And yes, there is always the question of what happens if the 150-200 people we send out aren't replaced? What if no one steps up to fill the gaps created by their leaving? What if new givers don't rise up to replace the money that is now given elsewhere? Well, in a multiplication culture, that is the risk you have to take. However, to not risk is even more dangerous!

When Jesus taught the principle of the harvest in John 12:24, He said that those who "hold on" to their

of God, what you hold on to, you lose, and what you give away, you keep. GPC adopted a "12:24 vision" for giving away the people resources - the disciples we have prepared to send. Since we "pulled the trigger" on developing a sending culture and mobilizing disciples, God opened many doors of opportunity and blessed us in many ways. God has led us to partner with another local congregation in expanding their facility. He led us to establish relationships with six nonprofit community partners. He is leading us



Discovering, Developing, & Deploying Disciples as Jesus Commanded through Gospel-Centered Life Design

by **Diane Hakes,** Certified Life Coach and Trainer

Discover

Two Words can pack a big punch when placed strategically side by side. Great examples of this are Validating Significance, Loving Relentlessly, Overcoming Adversity, Visualizing Peace, Restoring Brokenness, and Nurturing Connection. The list grows everyday as more disciples discover the radical singularity of their calling within just two words. These are examples of how words can capture the *essence* of each individual's personal life vision. These two word combinations are words of real disciples in the Eastern Region who are laser focused as a result of experiencing gospel centered life design.

I am a coach that stewards the mission that leads them to these words and I LOVE IT! Stewarding Mission, my two words, began with my own journey through a discipleship process called *Younique: Gospel Centered Life Design*. Younique is an individual vision journey centered on the gospel. It takes a person through a discipleship process of discovering who they are in Christ and how to live the life they were meant to live according to God's design for them. This is not a program, it is a process!

Develop

My two words came to life in May of 2018 when I began my first journey as a coach with four women who agreed to help me get my feet wet as a "coach in training." They were my first group to disciple in this way. We had no idea how this process was about to change all our lives. We journeyed together as a group for a year. As we discovered who we were designed to be and what we were called to do, each one stepped deeper into the life of following Jesus wherever He would lead, trusting Him as we took the risk to go and make more disciples. Younique is a journey of clarity, finding the one thing that you are to step into and then taking the risk to do it. We follow the pathway of growth: know, grow, show, and go. We develop as disciples when we know both God and ourselves, grow from our experiences both good and bad, realize the value of our gifts and abilities, and use them for God's glory.

Deploy

By April of 2019, God showed me how to scale this out for greater impact and three of the women from the original group became my right hand to multiply it. We held a very small pilot accelerator taking seven people through Younique. From that original seven, four coaches emerged and have since been trained to do Younique.

Amazing stories of breakthrough emerged from this experience, not to mention immediate multiplication! These four coaches have collectively led over 24 people through Younique in one year! By April 2020, with the help of a grant provided by the ERC, we are discipling well over 50 individuals, representing more than 15 churches! People are experiencing life transformation through this discipleship process in a huge way and are about to step into the calling on their lives more fully and more focused than ever before! Moving from those "early adopters" who took the accelerator in the spring of 2019, to the groups running currently, we have over 80 people in the process of gospel-centered life design and over 26 churches represented.

One of the women from my very first group discovered her gift of being a shepherd evangelist. She grew into this role and her two words, Loving Authentically, in a most powerful way as she ministered to a young woman she came to know. This young mother was not a Christian and had never been taught the things of God. She truly was an infant in the faith. Actually, she was at "pre-birth" in her faith journey. My friend realized she was watching this young, beautiful woman spiralling downward in life and boldly stepped in and asked her if she was okay. She said she could tell her anything as long as she was telling the truth. They spent time talking over the woman's life choices and my friend asked her if she knew Jesus. She said that no had ever told her. That day my friend led her to the Lord and began to show her how to live the life of a follower of Jesus. Having been through Younique, my friend knew that this process would help this woman to find her identity and purpose in Christ. We connected and got her in the process with another seasoned believer, who was seeking purpose and clarity in her faith journey. They started out as strangers and soon became sisters, experiencing life as disciples together. What took place in these women was exactly why I was convinced that the church needs a pathway to lead people in the everyday aspect of a life as a disciple, not just as a Sunday Christian. This young woman is ready to jump into whatever God has for her because she knows who she is. Also an evangelist, she is already talking about who she is going to invite to church. She says, "I learned through Younique that God can take the ugly in my life and turn it into something beautiful. I want to help others to experience this." Her two words are *Flourishing Love* and her calling is to Nourish those in the darkness so they can experience God's shining light.

Mike Schooley at Higher Hope is watching his own daughter disciple a group of friends after she completed

her own Student Younique journey. She felt her friends would benefit from this process, whether they were believers or not! Younique gave her the tools to do what she desired to do, but didn't necessarily know how to do. I always say, God gives us the WHY and the WHAT, we just need to leave the HOW in His hands or you just might get stuck in the HOW HOLE! Too often we don't move forward because we can't figure out HOW. When we let go and trust God, taking steps of obedience as directed, God shows up with the HOW. We just need to keep moving forward one step at a time and trust what He has placed inside of us in our gifts, skills, and experiences.

As we journey through this discipleship process, dreaming with God, He sends people along who share the same dream for greater Kingdom impact. I call this overlapping visions. We are meant to do life as disciples together. "Calling is cultivated in community", we say in Younique. I have seen this come true in every group I have coached! For example, I met Eva Lezama while my husband and I led the Global Reach Retreat for the CGGC missionaries in 2019. She hoped to do Younique with some folks from her church one day. Now that dream has come true. Eva and another couple from her church are the first team from one of our Latino churches to experience Younique. Tracey Utermahlen and Eva Lezama also have overlapping visions. Their shared visions have resulted in a newly formed partnership to meet the needs in the community surrounding the West Poplar Street church in York city. This shows the way God multiplies when His disciples keep moving in the direction of their calling and live the life God designed for them to live.

2020 and the Global Pandemic accentuated the need for disciple making and the mandate to make disciples. Our mission mandate in the ERC, to Discover, Develop and Deploy disciples as Jesus Commanded, was born in the midst of this crisis. Crisis is always an opportunity if we choose to use it as one. Disciples who are deployed will advance the mission of the church especially in those environments where the individual is supported and undergirded by the local church to help launch them into their unique callings. Using the calling statement of one of my Younique participants, as disciple-makers we need to be *Generating Fire...rallying the troops to scatter Christ's love so that seeds are sown.*

For more information contact Diane Hakes, diane@clearcalling.coach

Fathers on the Move: Empowering Men for Purpose

an interview with **Pastor Victor Glover** by Lance Finley

ou may have noticed that God never wastes anything. Often, it is in the difficult times of our lives or in the healing of the broken places in us that God works, not only to restore and heal our individual lives, but He also works through us to help facilitate the same kind of healing and work in the lives of others. That has certainly been true in the life of Pastor Victor Glover and the work of Fathers on the Move. It is also true that God can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesian 3:19-20) and God is proving just that in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and beyond.

Victor relates that the vision for Fathers on the Move was born in his own life experience. Coming out of incarceration, Victor found himself working to navigate life as a single father. "I wanted to be the best dad I could be to my son, but I also saw first-hand where a lot of the gaps were in the system. I learned that single dads need advocacy, too."



Victor Glover with the youth group at his office at the Chapel Hill PD Sub station

In 2012, Victor was working at the Department of Social Services in the WorkFirst Department. This gave him another perspective of the needs of the community. "It was clear that men needed advocacy, especially the fathers. A supervisor of Child Protective Services encouraged me to put something together to help these fathers overcome their personal barriers and problems. Fathers on the Move was the answer to that challenge."

The local unemployment commission gave Victor classroom space. The initial men were gathered through referrals and word of mouth. The early efforts of Fathers on the Move aimed to address the real needs of these men, such as understanding child support, information on father's rights, and the importance of keeping receipts to verify purchases. Another important skill addressed dealt with résumé building, which is especially important for men coming out of incarceration. Victor shares, "Many men are released from incarceration and they don't have a plan for life on the outside. It's critically important to help them develop a support system. Fathers on the Move provided these men a safe place to let it all out, to tell the truth, and helped them address some of the root issues in their lives without being judged." In 2018, Fathers on the Move transitioned to a 12week curriculum structure and support group system. Level 1 of the program addresses communication skills, relationship building, family awareness, anger management, employment, entrepreneurship and community relation building (helping men rebuild bridges to the community that may have been harmed by previous actions or behavior).

Level 2 of Fathers on the Move is also a 12-week program. The focus of Level 2 centers heavily on leadership development. Participants in Level 2 have completed Level 1 and are now helping lead a Fathers on the Move Level 1 group or assisting with a Level 1 group. These men become facilitators and mentors for other members of the program. Victor shares, "It's all about developing men so they can pass on what they've received to others." Victor works with the Level 2 class members and provides coaching and feedback as they lead the Level 1 classes.

Each level has a graduation ceremony to celebrate the men. Victor stresses that it's important to celebrate these milestones and significant accomplishments in the graduates' lives. Law enforcement officers and officials participate in the celebration as well. Imagine how that instills confidence into the graduates when they see law enforcement officers believing in them and supporting the change that has taken place in their lives. Victor shares, "Our chief of police wants to start bringing rookie cops to the celebration to help teach them that people can change."

While Fathers on the Move started in Chapel Hill, God has open doors to grow and expand to other locations. In North Carolina you'll find Fathers on the Move in Raleigh, Burlington and Roxboro. Fathers on the Move is looking to expand in other locations across North Carolina including Greensboro, Asheboro, Kannapolis, and Charlotte. Fathers on the Move is also working to expand nationally in York, PA; Jacksonville, FL; Anderson and Columbia, SC; Findlay, OH, Virginia Beach, VA, Leadwood, MO as well as in the state of Georgia.

Fathers on the Move operates in both communities as well as several prison facilities. There are Fathers on the Move chapters presently in local, state, and federal



Receiving Proclamation from City Council as FOTM Month in the city of Chapel Hill NC

prisons in North Carolina. Before COVID, there were 125 men in the class being offered at the federal prison facility. While COVID has placed in-person classes and volunteer services on hold, Fathers on the Move continues to resource the men in the facility with digital materials. Participation is not mandated and that means that 125 men have voluntarily participated. Fathers on the Move is now federally certified to offer programming in the federal prison system.

Fathers on the Move works with men both in preand post-release. This requires work both inside and outside the prison system. They've learned that the first 48 hours after release are crucial. Men report to Fathers on the Move within 48 hours after their release and this helps greatly with their transition into society.

Fathers on the Move also has a youth level for young men older than 16 years old. They are often referred to Fathers on the Move from the juvenile court system, department of social services, health department or the local school system. The youth program offers both Level 1 and Level 2 and the youth curriculum focuses on the 3 L's – listening, learning and life. One of the main goals of the Fathers on the Move youth program is to eradicate the school-to-prison pipeline by mentoring these young men.

It Takes Partnerships

Victor is quick to point out that a ministry like this requires partnerships with lots of different agencies and entities in the communities in which Fathers on the Move serves. At the top of the list is local law enforcement; the Chapel Hill Police Department provides office space for Fathers on the Move. The Orange County Sheriff's Department has been a key partner in working with Fathers on the Move. The list of partners also includes the county commissioners, the Mayor's office, and the U.S. Attorney's office.

Victor stresses the importance of partnerships. "When we look to establish a Fathers on the Move chapter in a new community, there are three people we want to meet before we get started: the chief of police, the county sheriff, and the mayor. We have found that those individuals are typically eager to help and often have meeting spaces or buildings that can be shared." Currently, 85% of the Fathers on the Move locations are provided by one of their community partners.

Another partnership that has formed over the course of the past year has been with Winebrenner Theological Seminary (WTS). This spring, WTS offered the first class to graduates of Fathers on the Move. Seven students completed their first seminary class in March and plans are being made to offer a second class this summer. Victor relates, "I wanted to help break the stigma of higher education. A lot of the men we work with have been told they can't do it. Well, they're doing it. They're believing in themselves. They're building their confidence and proving that they can do seminary-level work." Victor is also setting the example for his fellow Fathers on the Move as he's on track to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Religion, Biblical and Theological Studies later this year at Liberty University.

Partnerships are vital for the work being done through Fathers on the Move. Victor is quick to add what he's learning through partnering with so many others. "You can get God's work done at a greater level when you collaborate with others. We're better together. You'll be surprised by the people who want to help you as you help others."

Get to Know Your Community and its Needs

Victor is quick to stress that a lot of the work with Fathers on the Move is rooted in learning about a local community or neighborhood and working to meet those needs. "We try to learn what the community needs and then find ways to meet those needs. We went into one community asking, 'How can a ministry or non-profit group help here in this community?' We learned from our time in the community that kids were going hungry, even with the presence of a lot of food stamp support. So, we pulled together a group of folks and took food in and fed the kids of the community. As we fed the kids, we also learned that







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REACH	Saturday	1 Praise the Lord for Bim & Tim Arthun, who serve as Mission Advancement Volunteers. Pray for open doors to share.	8 Happy Birthday to Christina Acosta tomorrow! Praise God for her work in the Latino ministries!	15 Happy Birthday to Kalpana Costa! Delight in asking God to cover her in grace and mercy this next year!	22 Praise God that Jacob Day is in the Master's program at Winebrenner Seminary. Pray for strength as he and Haley lead at Gamerco.	29 Thank the Father for the willing hearts of Mission Advancement Volunteers Jeff & Julie Burns. Pray for open doors and opportunities to minister and encourage others.	
	Friday		7 Happy Birthday to Scott Frobel tomorrow! Scott takes care of the maintenance of the CGGC office.	14 Happy Birthday tomorrow to Jim Marckel! Jim is the Archive's curator at the CGGC office.	21 Happy Birthday to Dawn VanDervort! Have faith that the Lord will bestow his blessings upon her this year!	28 Intercede on behalf of Bryan & Katie Crabtree as they work through the process of obtaining proper documentation to move to Thailand in July.	
	Thursday		6 Happy Anniversary to retired missionaries Carroll & Geneva McNutt. May the Lord continue to bless them!	13 Pray the tourism in Hawaii will be able to resume soon as it is a main source of income for many families on the islands.	20 Join together in prayer as the Global Reach Virtual Summit takes place this evening as our missionaries share about the work they are doing.	27 Remember in prayer the ministry workers in Bangladesh. Ask that they be surrounded by a hedge of protection.	
alobal Auvocate Flagel Calellua	Wednesday		5 Praise God that the churches on the Navaho Nation are finally open! Continue to pray for their health and safety.	12 Lift up John & Toni Thumma and their ministry in NM. Pray that the Lord would continue to demonstrate His faithfulness through divine answers to prayer.	19 Pray for the children of India to be able to gather more regularly for school. They miss the social interaction.	26 Happy Birthday to Lance Finley, Executive Director at the CGGC! Pray for wisdom and discornment as he leads.	
	Tuesday		4 Remember in prayer Rod & Mila Ayers and ask for safety for Rod as he works on roofing jobs this summer.	11 Happy Birthday to Mary Teller! Pray the Lord's blessings on her this next year!	18 Unite in prayer for Caleb & Christina Acosta as they lead the church they pastor as well as the Latino Ministry fields.	25 Request that churches associated with Voice of the Gospel in Kenya would grow in Christ-like character. Pray for a willingness and desire for accountability and transparency among pastors.	
	Monday		3 Pray for strength & wisdom for India Field Director Samir Singha as he seeks to do the work the Lord has called him to.	10 Intercede on behalf of the people of Brazil. Covid-19 is still spreading and causing illness.	17 Seek God's wisdom for the CGGC Global Reach Commission members as meetings are held today and tomorrow in Findlay, OH	24 Unite in prayer for Mike & Dawn VanDervort as they will be traveling in June for vacation and to speak at churches in the USA.	31 On this Memorial Day, remember military chaplains as they minister to our troops. Pray for peace.
	Sunday		2 Unite in prayer for Haiti as gang violence has been increasing. Trust God to provide safety for our missionaries.	9 Happy Mother's Day! Give thanks to God for the mother and women in your life who encourage and pray for you!	 Praise God that we received our NGO 10 year renewal for Bangladesh, so we can continue to do ministry there! 	23 Intercede for our brothers and sisters in Venezuela. Pray for demonstrations of God's provision for His children, and for growth.	30 Trust the Lord to provide opportunities to witness to Dave & Kenda Kapaku as they serve in Hawaii.

Churches of God General Conference
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June 2021 Global Advocate Prayer Calendar

Saturday	5 Pray for God to grant patience and endurance to GR Assistant Director Travis Helm so he can share what God is doing around the world.	12 Petition to the Lord to open doors in Honduras as church member is Sanidad Divina work to help the people there with missionary efforts.	19 Happy Birthday Gordon Avey (retired)! Give thanks for his many years of work in Brazil. Pray that the Lord will bless him this next year!	26 Happy Birthday Bryan Crabtree! Pray for blessings this next year as Bryan & Katic transition to missionary life in Thailand.	
Friday	4 Remember field leaders in Kenya. Pray for wisdom and discernment as they oversee churches.	11 Call upon the Lord and ask Him to open the hearts of the people who live in Thailand , that they would want to know him more.	18 Pray for the ACTS Team traveling to Gamerco, NM tomorrow thru July 1. May God's blessings be on them as they travel and may He give them many opportunities to witness.	25 Intercede on behalf of the people of Venezuela as the government continues to put tighter restrictions on people living there. There are weeks they cannot leave their homes.	
Thursday	3 Strengthening Churches: Ask the Lord to provide the resources to help every church develop in its commit- ment to Him and stewardship of resources.	10 Join together in prayer for Global Reach Director Ben Tobias. Pray for divine wisdom to lead well and for encouragement and strength to deal with constant challenges.	17 Lift up Dave & Kenda Kapaku in prayer as they serve the Kahana Door of Faith church in Maui. May the Lord add daily to their number!	24 Pray for Dr. John Costa, Bangladesh Field Director, as he provides care to patients and that there would be opportunities to witness.	
Wednesday	2 Pray for husband and wife team Yolmary & Darios as they head up the outreach in Venezuela. Ask for doors to be opened.	9 Trust the Lord to provide wisdom and discernment to Jacob & Haley Day as they seek to do his will while serving Gamerco.	16 Join together in prayer for the people of the Dominican Republic and ask that there would continue to be strong spiritual growth!	23 Join together in prayer for Pastor German in Nicaragua. Ask the Lord to provide wisdom as he comes together with local leaders to provide outreach to the community.	30 Intercede on behalf of Rod & Mila Ayers and ask the Lord to provide safety while they travel and serve in Haiti.
Tuesday	1 Have faith that God will use the Child of Promise schools in Bangladesh to share the love of Jesus with the students and their communities.	8 Unite in prayer for the India staff family. Pray for their fruitfulness and God's blessings for them. Remember Samir Singha as he guides these Mission leaders.	15 Pray for the leaders of our churches in Mexico. Churches are being restricted in regards to meeting.	22 Happy Anniversary Mike & Dawn VanDervort! Praise the Lord for their strong partnership. Intercede for them as they serve the Lord in	29 Happy Birthday to Latino Ministries Director Caleb Acosta! Ask the Lord to encourage our brother as he travels, directs, & encourages.
Monday		7 Thank the Lord for the faithful service of Ken & Betty McIntyre. Petition the Lord for continued opportunities to share with churches in their capacity as Mission Advancement Volunteers.	14 As Mike & Dawn VanDervort work with the medical staff in Pierre Payen, Haiti, pray for their wisdom and perseverance in helping the staff work through many challenges.	21 Pray for the ministry taking place in Argentina. Have faith that the work being done will continue to grow!	28 Happy Birthday Caroll McNutt (retired)! Pray for good health and rest. Give thanks for missionary retirees who served sacrificially and faithfully.
Sunday		6 Pray for wisdom in consulting churches an accepting new opportunities for ministry for Don Dennison.	13 Seek the Holy Spirit's restoration and encouragement for the pastors in Brazil. Petition for major revival within the churches.	20 Happy Father's Day! Delight in the goodness of your Heavenly Father today. Intercede for the Lord to raise up godly fathers among every people group who faithfully lead their families.	27 Happy Birthday Rod Ayers! Thank the Lord for Rod & Mila's love for the people of Haiti. Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to be very evident among the believers there.



Victor Glover being presented by Chaplains at Butner Federal Prison for Volunteer Of The Year Award

they needed mentoring, particularly with their reading skills. We've got a Need to Feed and a Need to Read. We helped launch a reading tutor program. The local health department found out about it and offered to help by providing free books for the program. Reading levels started going in up in the community as we helped to make sure that kids didn't fall behind in the summer months when they're prone to lose a lot of their learning."

"In another situation, we found out that a lot of folks in an apartment complex didn't have their GED (high school equivalency diploma). We partnered with our county literacy agency to offer a GED class in the apartment complex. The manager of the complex offered to watch the kids while their parents were in the class. Jesus went in and met the needs of the people. We try to do the same. We assess the needs and try to meet those needs. That opens up the door because people know that we care."

What's Next?

Fathers on the Move is not only continuing to expand by adding new chapters, but God is working well beyond the initial design of the program. Victor shares, "Church planting grows out of where we've met the people and lived, loved, and walked like Christ in their midst. We're beginning to see this next development with the launch of new faith communities. There are new micro churches growing out of Fathers on the Move inside the prisons. We're seeing Fathers on the Move meet on Thursday evenings and then a church come together on Friday night with some of the same folks. We believe we're going to see God begin to launch new churches through what has been started through Fathers on the Move."

"We're all about mentoring and discipleship. Fathers on the Move is reaching people from all walks of life and even different faith backgrounds. There are Muslims and Wiccans who are being reached through Fathers on the Move. This has revolutionized how I see the ministry of the church. We're meeting people right where they are and we're not forcing Jesus on them. We're loving them and meeting their needs and God's working through it all."

"Men are being equipped to become leaders. God is calling some of them into ministry. Some of them are starting micro churches. As they are released from prison, these men are coming out fired up for Jesus. Fathers on the Move has helped equip them and given them a confidence that they lacked before."

"We are learning what happens when you walk alongside a man and help him truly address the root causes of his issues. Something powerful happens when God helps him to name and own his pain and then let go of his pain to grab hold of what He has for him. Jesus is working in the lives of men through Fathers on the Move!"





A Woman's Perspective

by Kathy Foor CGWM Director

esus commanded His disciples to go and make disciples. I am so grateful they did, or we would likely not know Jesus today! Sometimes I think we do not take this command from Jesus personally because it seems like such an intimidating, daunting task. Satan doesn't have to work very hard to convince us that we aren't qualified because we already feel that way. It's easy to ignore this command or leave it to someone else. However, when we do, we miss the great joy of seeing others draw closer to Jesus.

In a recent conversation with the Churches of God Women's Ministries National Leadership Team, we discussed how the speakers from the past several years of the Flourish Conference have continued to impact our lives. Elle Maconochie encouraged us to be more deliberate in reaching out to our neighbors. It's not as hard as we often make it. It just takes a little extra effort and forethought. She shared how important it is for believers to do life together so, together, we can reach our friends and neighbors. Jen Schmidt taught us to just open the door to our hearts and homes, invite people in, and simply share our lives and our story. And last year, Robyn Dykstra taught us how to listen to the Holy Spirit and the importance of sharing our story because someone in our world needs to hear it.

We don't have to wait for a fancy discipleship program (although Robyn Dykstra's *Journey to Trust* is a great resource) to start reaching and teaching others. You have a story to tell, and there are people in your life who need to hear it. There is an old saying, "The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step." Just take the first step. I dare you!

A Gentle Introduction to Ission Studios

by Trent Grable, Director of Developing Leaders

The nature of church and discipleship will look different in a post COVID-19 world. Or rather, it's more accurate to say that COVID-19 accelerated a trend already in the works: people are leaving Sunday morning services. Sure, your personal Sunday morning gathering might be growing in number as many are. But across the world en masse people are leaving traditional religious services. And that's okay. Things are going to be okay. Because we have not lost the point of our mission here on earth. It may even help us get us back to what it was all about: you, me, and Jesus. (1 John 1:3)

For many people in their current stage of Jesus exploration, the entity of the Sunday morning religious service was the uninvited guest. As a close friend of mine puts it, it's sometimes as if the intentional and beneficial meeting between you, me, and Jesus is crashed by Christian operations. A contextual conversation about life becomes a pitch to attend a gathering, often a gathering not built around our friends' contextual needs.

People generally don't appreciate universal truths if they don't see the associated solution to their lives. I think we are seeing this, and feeling this, in all kinds of areas as we explore what it means to be the church. Somewhere along the way, the institution of Christianity began to compete with Jesus for the focus of our missional work.

We don't plant churches, we inflame the church in new areas. We don't convert people, we bring them back to their first love and royal position. We don't go to church, we are the church when we gather in His name.

Even in the way we talk about what we do, processes seem to have trumped relationships and people. Processes are good, but they are merely tools. Means to an end.

So, let's try a little experiment: Attempt to answer the following three questions without using any Christian jargon. No talk of church, planting, converting, discipleship, fellowship, relationship, worship, pastoring, generic teaching, or any version of loving on people.

- 1. What does your congregation do? (1 Corinthians 12:12-31)
- 2. Who benefits and how? (Romans 13:8-14)
- 3. How is God already at work in the communities you engage with? (John 5:17-20)

Don't keep reading - take some time and attempt to answer those questions.

This is the essence of a pilot program I want to introduce to you in the CGGC: *Mission Studios*.

At its core mission studios are about connecting the 1) congregational gifts, callings, and assets with 2) mission field needs, both globally and locally in line with 3) what God is already doing. We go back to the basics of what it means to gather, what it means to love, or what it means to be the church. What does your community need, how are you best equipped to address those needs, and how do we align with that God is already doing? That's it. And for many in our communities, neighborhoods, and mission fields, that is what they need from us in this moment.

So, take some time, get to know your congregation, get to know your community, and find ways to connect the two through the love of Christ.

If we can help you in this exploration and new mission venture creation let us know. We are here to help.

Being the hurch in Times

of the Coronavirus Pandemic

by **Pastor Christina Acosta,** *Director of Latino Ministries*

is unbelievable to see how even under a crisis, the best things can come about. To see how God loves in and through his church even during times of quarantine can only glorify him even more. It is easy to maintain a conformed state of mind in keeping still, staying quiet, and refraining from any outside movement because of medical reasons, but is this what God has called his people to do? Are we the church that makes the decision to hibernate away or are we the church that will defy the odds and take on his Great Commission in ways that only maybe he can understand? It is your decision. *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'" Isaiah 6:8.*

Dominican Republic Pastor Fremio Jimenez with Latino Ministries has united

Pastor Fremio Jimenez with Latino Ministries has united with Higher Hope church (ERC) to outreach and plant in "Kilometer 20," a community near Hato Mayor. In this village, many church plants have been attempted and failed for various reasons, yet we don't give up. We keep on trying. *Ecclesiastes 11:6 (NIV) reads, "Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.*" We bless Pastor Mike Schooley and his congregation for their efforts in seeing this through. Land was purchased and already another gathering has begun. Praise the Lord. Two of the churches in the D.R. were built out of wood from the original church. When a church is strong enough, the wood is taken down and used for another church plant to begin. We are excited about this new opportunity.





Chile What else is happening? Well, a new outreach mission in Chile is happening! Yolmary Rodriguez and her family were members of the Esperanza Viva Church in Venezuela. Because of the mass exodus they left Venezuela and moved to Chile and were there for two years before starting up an online ministry that has produced a house church, all under pandemic times. *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow" I Corinthians 3:5, NIV.*

Honduras is a beautiful and amazing story how God has moved in the worst of these times. For example, one person reached out to a local church member named Pedro on July 16, 2020. Pedro was praying that he wanted to help others, and he began to send biblical messages to different parts of the world, and different people responded to him and shared about their country and problems they were facing. *Based on Mathew* 25:35, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,



I was a stranger and you invited me in." Pedro, in turn, was bold and answered back. If the church hides, then who will people be able to go to for advice or spiritual leading when it is most needed. This call came from Honduras, from an unknown woman who shared her physical and spiritual need. Soon after, outreach work began where Pedro was able to raise funds with the help of communities and local churches and his own finances to help provide a meal for hungry families. Today it is called "Give to Eat" ministries. A food program that has reached a poor, low-income or no income community and surrounding areas of Honduras. Through willing people who prepare the food and distribute it, arose a thirst for God's Word, and now there is a group of people who want to begin a church plant, though they are already gathering to hear about Jesus with what they already have. They have smaller groups gathering in different places of Honduras, land was purchased recently for gatherings, and houses were constructed and repaired for families, all through the Give to Eat ministry.

Nicaragua Pastor German Baquedano, Director of the Nicaragua Churches of God Conference, united with Latino Ministries to plant a church in El Sauce, a village nestled among volcanic lava runways, quite hidden from other communities. Pastor German went on to network with people from the country and mountainsides and two more works were started. Recently land was purchased in Somotillo, Nicaragua to begin a new church plant. The leadership is already available for this ministry, and people have begun to congregate on the newly purchased land. The CGGC story in Nicaragua began in 2016, when Pastors Caleb and Christina Acosta visited Nicaragua. Pastor German had been praying and he heard God's Spirit speak to him as he was in his office. God gave him a vision that he would raise up 25 churches from 2018 to 2033. He prayed and spoke to the Chinandega church about his vision and the Holy Spirit began to work in the people's hearts. Then the pandemic came, which was disastrous to many. Things began to be difficult, there was fear and trembling. Churches were closed, people hid in their houses, yet Pastor German continued to reach out and El Sauce Church was inaugurated. In the midst of the pandemic, four networks with pastors and friends were developed, and now there are further churches being planted. New places of gatherings are Somotillo on the border with Honduras,



Presia el Rama, Hairo Central, and Rodeo Grande communities. Rodeo Grande is where the newly purchased land happened and there are 15 people attending services. More conversations happened with other leadership and another church was planted called Name of Jesus. Yet still during these times even more affiliations and church plants are happening! Pastor German says church planting takes finances and he prays there are people who can continue to help them and encourage the work there, and they can continue to bring God's Word to people who still don't know Him. "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives" Colossians 1:9.

USA Latino Churches give witness how under pandemic times Pastors Caleb

and Christina Acosta felt the need to send out one of their very best in leadership to church plant in York County, PA. *Acts* 13:3, *"Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."* Yes, losing



Pastor Eva Lezama, her husband Italo Lezama, Daughter Berenice, and Son Isaac

some of your strongest leaders is scary and sometimes uncertain, but remember it is for a greater cause—God's purpose—which makes our loss a gain and worth it. Pastor Eva Lezama and her family moved into full-time ministry while also working full-time to lift up this new work. Once ministry started up in York County once again, Pastor Tracey Utermahlen from York West Poplar St. Church reached out to Eva in an effort to begin something fresh and new. We are grateful that God has touched her and their congregation's heart in doing so. They started outreach right away in the streets with what we call "Drive-by Evangelism." Yes, this happened even during times when we were to stay home. Instead, they took bold moves (using precaution) to hand out God's Word and share the love of Jesus with people who need it the most in this time of need. It is even a bigger glorification to God, to see that the church is being built by past members of Sanidad Divina who have decided to move on for their own reasons and yet have come alongside the York Ministry to help get it started. God is glorified, and we see this as an opportunity for growth and continued spiritual maturity for their own lives for just being willing to help.

Argentina is an older ministry closer to becoming accepted by Global Reach and Churches of God as an "official" mission field. "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Romans 10:14, NIV. What did they do during this time? They began a second church ministry in a nearby community. God is good. The first church was started in 2016 and they began renting in 2017 where they still gather today. From 2018 to 2019 they established themselves as an official church, and Pastor Caleb Acosta met them in 2019. Then they began outreach to hospitals once a week, another group went to visit a women's group, taking with them food and clothing, and still another group visited the elderly once a week. They have a clothing bank once a month where they provide refreshments, a meal, clothing, and provide



God's Word. In 2018 their Bible study groups began and they had their first baptisms of 14 people. Evangelism went into effect in 2020 during the pandemic; cell groups, house services (including the Lord's Supper) three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Children's evangelism in the streets also happened during the pandemic, along with hospital outreach, prison ministry, and taking a work of strength and encouragement. Churches were prohibited from having services for a while and during this time evangelism became a stronger outreach in the streets while providing food for many, from full meals to desserts. In 2021 they inaugurated a new work called Esperanza Viva in Pedernales, providing hygiene and clothing materials to families.

Why hide away in the worst of times? It is now, in times like these, where more than ever, God requires us to be the salt and light in the world. How will they know, how will they hear if we don't go and preach God's Word? Many have used the pandemic as an acceptable way out, to no longer congregate. Many have lost interest and just needed this pandemic as an excuse to avoid accountability. Yet we are called to answer God's call as individuals and as part of his church body. We must press forward, fight the good fight and win the race. *"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners" Isaiah 61:1.*

Global Reach Updates

s the weather is warming and the daylight hours extend, we ask for your continued prayers and partnerships with our brothers and sisters in the Mission field. Some of our fields are dealing with regional spikes in Covid and that continues to complicate their ministries. We also want to make you aware of a quarterly virtual summit meeting that Global Reach offers for anyone interested in hearing updates directly from our CGGC missionaries on the field. We generally have these summit meetings in the evening, and they last about 90 minutes. You can come and go as you please. We try to have updates from as many of our missionaries as possible. If you would like to join these virtual meetings, please contact Kelly Donat at **kelly@cggc.org** or call her at 419-424-1961. She will add you to the email list that receives the link for future Global Reach virtual meetings.

Thailand We want to introduce a new intern couple that will be serving in Thailand beginning in July 2021. Please be in prayer for Bryan and Katie Crabtree (pictured below). We have included portions of their recent newsletter and we invite you to join with them in prayer and support as they serve.



"Hi everyone! we are excited to be beginning a new chapter in our life as we follow God's leading to share the truth of God with the people in the Isan region of Thailand! We are so very happy to have you joining in what God is doing in Thailand by keeping up with us as we seek to see His kingdom come in Thailand.

"Many years ago, God invited both of us to follow Him to the nations to share Jesus where He is not yet known. We were both seeking to find a like-minded believer to join in marriage. From the beginning, we have intended to spend a season living amongst people who do not have access to the gospel message and sharing the good news with them. In our own planning, we were thinking that we would go in 4 or 5 more years when Bryan would be finished with his degree but, as He often does, God had different plans. Throughout this past year, we have felt God's continual call for us to help reach the people of Thailand. We came to one another at the same time, on the same day, saying that we had something on our hearts to share and we both said that we thought God might be calling us to that season sooner than we had planned. That very week, a friend from when Katie was doing her semester abroad in Thailand in 2015 reached out and shared that she had been thinking of Katie and wondered if she might want to apply for a position at the school where she teaches in Udon Thani, Thailand. At that time in November 2020, we began the process of interviewing for that position. In December, we connected with Global Reach about the possibility of becoming missionary candidates. Since then, we have been busy with practical and spiritual preparations as we get ready to move to Thailand this June!

"This spring from now until we leave in June will be full of preparations. We will be busy getting all the correct documents and paperwork in order, participating in new teacher and cultural orientation sessions via Zoom and making the many necessary preparations to travel...with a baby! And two cats! And COVID restrictions! Talk about complicated travel! We will be working to learn the Thai language, fixing up a few things in preparation of selling our house and visiting with friends and family as we share the vision God has given us and connecting in person while we have the opportunity. We will also be working to raise funds for ministry expenses during this time. We will both be finished with our current jobs at the end of May and will have a few weeks to prepare before we go, but most of these things will be happening as we continue to work full-time, engage with our church here and raise our beautiful daughter, Elli Grace (who just turned one on February 11!) When we first arrive in Thailand, we will be quarantining for two weeks in a hotel (which is required due to COVID). After that, we will stay with a friend for a few weeks until we find a home to rent. Our goal is to be moved into a home before the school year begins. Katie will be working as a first-grade teacher at International Community School of Udon Thani, a Christian international school. The school's staff are all missionaries whose goal is to disciple kids and see them come to know the Lord on a personal level. Aside from the missionaries' kids, virtually all the students are from Buddhist homes. Parents send their children to the school to get a high-quality education by native-English speakers and because the school has a reputation for being a safe, loving, nurturing community. As Jesus said, 'They will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.' Bryan will be laying the groundwork for church planting in Udon Thani. He will be continuing his classes for Global Studies through Liberty University as well as continuing his study of the Thai language, establishing relationships with local people, and caring for Elli. We are so thankful that God has brought us to this point in our journey and we trust that He will continue to lead and guide us as we pursue Him. We cannot wait to see what God has in store for us next and we cannot wait to share it with you. Thank you for your prayers and support!"

India In late May of 2020, Typhoon Amphan caused a lot of damage in India and Bangladesh. Some generous donors gave funds to help repair damaged school bathrooms and perimeter safety wall at our India Campus. Pictured here are the repairs to date. Thank you for giving.



The Global Advocate 21



India (cont.) Pictured at right are Pastor Jacob, his wife Bharati and daughter Joyita being trained in tailoring. The Mission has provided them this sewing machine so Bharati can teach the local villagers in their region of ministry how to sew and make clothing. This is a wonderful way for them to reach out and help their community while building relationships. This opportunity is one of the numerous doors that have been opened due to the difficult circumstances brought on by Covid.





Many of the school children have been forced to try and keep up with their studies through delivering and picking up of school assignments and exams. Samir, Charusheela, and the other teachers have done their best to connect and tutor by mobile phone also. There has been a constant flow of parents submitting their children's homework assignments and collecting study materials as pictured at left. Pray that the children will soon be able to meet together again in a classroom setting.



Bangladesh Dr. John Costa has been working with local and national government officials to develop the Mission's compassion ministries to the poorest and most destitute families where we serve in Bangladesh. This involves providing small animals like goats and chickens to help sustain theses families, tree planting, deep water wells, basic home shelters, and churches where none exist. Pictured above and below are examples of church and basic home structures. Global Reach will be

providing more information soon on how you can give towards these new ministry tools. A huge praise is that we recently obtained our 10-year registration renewal for our Bangladesh Mission.



Thank you for your faithful prayers and support in reaching the lost across the globe. 🔳



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