

OCTOBER 2020

GOD'S GLOBAL MISSION

A VIRTUAL MISSION TRIP EXPERIENCE THAT GIVES US A GLIMPSE INTO WHAT THE LORD IS DOING AROUND THE WORLD AND THE PART HE INVITES US TO PLAY IN IT



Like you would on an actual mission trip, we are inviting you to experience the location you're serving in, get to know the people you're serving with, invest yourself in the ministry, and allow this experience to transform your understanding of discipleship.

Each week, these are the steps we will walk through as a church family:

- 1) WATCH** the video for the week during the Sunday morning service, access it in the weekly newsletter, via our app, or at www.GospelCC.org/global. Then dedicate some time each week as an individual, family, or household to do the next steps:
- 2) LEARN** about the field of service,
- 3) READ** Scripture and supplemental content that helps you understand God's heart for the world,
- 4) REFLECT** on how this knowledge, understanding, and act of engagement will impact you going forward,
- 5) PRAY** for the featured partner and their ministry, and
- 6) ENGAGE** in global discipleship by becoming involved in their ministry.

Week 1: October 4-10

Christine Heagy

Moldova

Primary Religion: Eastern Orthodox

Language: Romanian

Population: 3.5 million

About ¼ of Moldovans work outside of the country so they can make money and send it back home to their families.

In Moldova, when entering someone's home, most people remove their shoes.

www.GospelCC.org/Global

AS YOU GO—AND GO!

READ MATTHEW 28 & 2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-21

The idea of “living on mission” is one that many of us are familiar with. It’s become a sort of collective challenge to the Church to purposefully live out and proclaim the gospel no matter where you are or what you’re doing, whether you’re a 4th grader or a mom of six, a pastor, or an electrician. It’s even part of the benediction we recite at the end of our services. We should be “living on mission” as we go and as we live our lives. This charge is based on the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 where Jesus calls us to be purposeful in the relationships and roles He has placed us in when it comes to communicating the truth of the gospel. But there is more to this passage than just the call to intentionality in our everyday lives. After His death and resurrection, Jesus spoke with all the authority of the Father when He told His disciples to go, preach the gospel, teach His truths, and baptize people from ALL NATIONS. Obedience to these commands meant they had to leave Galilee where they received them and travel to other parts of the world. **His intention was that we go, preach, teach, and baptize people from all nations, too.** In some ways, we have many more opportunities to do so with people from other nations than the disciples did. There are people from all over the world living right in our own city, or we can build a friendship with someone from another country on our phone. Though opportunities to disciple individuals from other nations exist without us having to really leave Lynchburg, true and complete obedience to the last commands Jesus gave us before He concluded His earthly ministry will mean that some of us have to leave where we are and go live and minister somewhere else. That’s what our global partner, Christine, did. **She has the opportunity to share the gospel with people that she would never have encountered had she not moved to Moldova.** Towards the end of 2 Corinthians 5, Paul also gives us all, as believers, the mandate to be ambassadors for the gospel to the whole world. And in Acts as well as throughout the rest of the New Testament, we see the early church sharing Christ’s message wherever they went. It’s clear that God wants us all to take part in the proclamation of His truth to the world. Throughout the rest of this month, we’ll learn more about why, how, and where we can faithfully live out the Great Commission.



“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered. It is a command to be obeyed.”
-Hudson Taylor

Reflect

How do I view people from different ethnic, cultural or national backgrounds as me? Is there a way for me to develop friendships with them?

Pray

- *For Christine as she continues to adjust to her new life in Moldova and for God’s leading in her life.
- *For the people in the villages where they did the distribution outreach, that those they met would read the Bibles they received & make decisions to follow Jesus.

Engage

Record a video to send to Christine. Videos can be encouragement for her, praying for the ministry in Moldova, or sharing about what you learned this week about the work she is doing. Save videos on a cloud drive such as Google or Dropbox and send a link to the video to global@gospelcc.org. We will make sure Christine receives your videos!

Week 2: October 11-17

The Reyes Family

Mexico

www.GospelCC.org/Global

Primary Religion: Roman Catholicism

Language: Spanish

Population: 129 million

It pays to be an artist in Mexico, since they can use their artwork as payment for their taxes.

Mexico is home to the world's smallest volcano (only 43 feet tall) and the world's largest pyramid (The Great Pyramid of Cholula).

FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S GLORY

READ PSALM 67 & 96

Last week we saw that Jesus spent some of His final moments on earth in commissioning His followers to proclaim His truth throughout the whole world. The gospels give a beautiful account of His life and ministry up to that point, a life that He willingly sacrificed so that we could all have the opportunity to have a relationship with Him. But as wonderful and, quite frankly, miraculous as a relationship with Jesus is, His life and death serve an even greater purpose than reconciling us to Him. This earth and its beauty, the universe and its expansiveness, and every instance of joy, fulfillment, awe, and pleasure we experience in life are all indicative of God's motive in providing an opportunity for salvation to us. **His true motivation is His glory. And it should be ours, too.**

When the Reyes family ministers to their students or trains youth leaders, their ultimate goal is that their investment will produce believers whose lives bring glory to Jesus. This passion is the only one that will endure. Of course, they love the Mexicans they minister to and, of course, they have a desire to see as many as possible be able to enjoy eternity in the Lord's presence. There is certainly nothing wrong when we are motivated by love and compassion. But, as sinners, consistently maintaining these sentiments towards other sinners is impossible. In everything we do in life, we should be compelled by God's chief desire—to glorify Himself. If He prioritizes His glory above all else, should we not want as many as possible to participate in bringing it to Him, as well?



"The highest of missionary motive is neither obedience to the Great Commission (important as that is), nor love for sinners who are alienated and perishing (strong as that incentive is, especially when we contemplate the wrath of God), but rather zeal — burning and passionate zeal — for the glory of Jesus Christ."
— John Stott

Reflect

In what areas of my life am I not motivated by God's glory? What steps can I take to help change my motivation?

Pray

*For the safety of the Reyes family, as the effects of Covid-19 continue to be severe across Mexico, especially in Mexico City where the Reyeses live.

*For new ways to minister and share the hope of Jesus despite the continued restrictions they face.

Engage

The Reyeses will be in Lynchburg on furlough in 2021 and are in need of housing from April to July for their family of six. If you know of possible housing options, please email global@gospelcc.org.

Week 3: October 18-24

The Leeds Family

Colorado

Primary Religion: Varied

Language: English

Population: 5.75 million

There are almost 6,000 ski resorts worldwide with 400 million visits to these resorts each year.

When it was first invented, snowboarding was called “snurfing.”

WHAT'S OUR ROLE?

READ ROMANS 12:1-8, 1 PETER 4:7-11, &
LUKE 10:1-12

At this point in working through this guide, maybe you're thinking, “I've known about the Great Commission for a while. And I do want to see as many people as possible come to know, worship, and glorify God—I'm just not really sure what that means for me practically.” Be assured: God would not charge us with a task without also telling us how to accomplish it! We saw in the first two Scripture passages for this week that we all have various skills and talents and that God wants us to use those to serve Him and to serve others. The same is true when it comes to how we fulfill the Great Commission. Our featured partners this week, the Leeds, are doing just that. **Did you ever think that it was possible to use snowboarding and skiing as a way to share the gospel?** Right now, there are also individuals and families in China teaching, in Ethiopia leading sports camps, in India running a textile company, in Saudi Arabia practicing medicine, and in Colombia flying airplanes—all doing things they are passionate about and are skilled to do so that the people in those places will have a chance to hear the gospel. **God is so gracious and creative in the ways He equips us for His work!** While we all have various skills and talents given to us as tools for ministry, not all of us are able to actually leave our homes and go to other places. But that doesn't mean that we have any less of a role to play in taking the gospel to the nations. God wants some of us to take part in sending others out by helping fund the work. And He wants all of us to take part in praying for the gospel work being done all over the world. We all have a role to play in the Great Commission. Our job is to determine what that role is and then walk in obedience as we carry it out.



"Go, send, or disobey."
— John Piper

Reflect

What skills and talents has the Lord given me and what are some ways that I could use those in ministry? Is the Lord asking me to consider financially supporting global work? How can I be praying for those ministering overseas?

Pray

*For Ryan, as he makes plans & prepares leadership resources to use in discipling others.

*For Copper Mountain, which is where most of their ministry efforts are spent. Pray that God will go before them in their efforts to build relationships and share the gospel there.

Engage

Write a letter, card, or email to encourage Ryan. He is busy helping to restructure their ministry in response to Covid-19 and has been working hard on creating new resources and training content. Mail can be sent to the Leeds Family PO Box 5092 Dillon, CO 80435, and emails can be sent to leedslovesmusic@gmail.com.

Week 4: October 25-31

The Tamangs

Nepal

www.GospelCC.org/Global

Primary Religion: Hinduism

Language: Nepali

Population: 29 million

Nepal is the only country with a non-rectangular flag.

Cows are sacred in the Hindu religion, so much so that some families clean and bless their homes using cow manure.

REFINING OUR FOCUS

READ ROMANS 10:13-17 & 2 CORINTHIANS 10

For roughly the last 2,000 years, the Church has taken Jesus' commands seriously and committed itself to making sure the gospel message spread throughout the world. This commitment produced fruit, because by the middle of the 20th century, there were followers of Jesus in almost every country. But before we begin to think the work of the Great Commission is done, consider this: **about 28% of the world's population (that's 2.16 billion people) have never even heard the gospel—they have no conceptual basis for who Jesus is**, what He did, or what that means for them; over 80% of all Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus don't know a single Christian; 1.5 billion people are still without a complete translation of God's Word in their language; and for many living in Muslim or Hindu majority regions (particularly women), making the choice to follow Jesus can often be accompanied by acts of violence from family or community members. That's a whole lot of people who haven't heard the truth, have extremely limited access to it, or face major barriers when it comes to hearing the gospel and choosing to accept it. Our featured partners this week, the Tamangs, live in Nepal, a country where only a few percent of the population are Christ-followers. So what does all of this mean for us? Does it mean we all must choose to live a stereotypical missionary life by moving to a remote village, living in a hut with a dirt floor, learning a new and difficult language, and spending the next 50 years of our lives toiling in an unfamiliar and uncomfortable place? Nope. Does it mean that, since our unsaved neighbors can easily access the truth of the gospel and have the freedom to decide what to do with that truth, we aren't intentional about sharing our faith with them? No way. **But does it mean that we should all ask God what He would have us consider when it comes to reaching those who have less opportunity to hear the gospel and face greater danger in accepting it, and then be willing to obey what He has to say? Absolutely.**



"The price is certainly high for people who don't know Christ and who live in a world where Christians shrink back from self-denying faith and settle into self-indulging faith. While Christians choose to spend their lives fulfilling the American dream instead of giving their lives to proclaiming the kingdom of God, literally billions in need of the Gospel remain in the dark."— David Platt

Reflect

How has my understanding of my role in the Great Commission changed throughout the past few weeks?

What am I willing to do differently based on this understanding?

Pray

*For God's wisdom and provision as the Tamangs prepare for the worship and discipleship school they plan to open in 2021.

*For a strong staff and for the students who will attend the school.

Engage

Give financially to help the Tamangs open up the worship and discipleship school that will help train Nepalese people to share the gospel and disciple others. To give, go to

<https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/Light2theWorld>. Select "Missions & Ministry Support" in the Purpose drop down list and indicate "Discipleship School" in the Note section.

NOW WHAT?

GOD'S GLOBAL MISSION

www.GospelCC.org/Global



Our prayer as a church is that you came away from this month-long focus on God's global mission with a better understanding of His heart for the world and the role you can play in reaching it. So many have yet to hear the life-changing good news of the gospel and the need for those who would be willing to cross cultures for the sake of the gospel is great.

If you sense that you want to engage in an even deeper way in reaching the world, **consider emailing global@gospelcc.org to let us know that.** We'd love to help you discern the Lord's leading, pray with you, or help you take practical steps forward in your obedience to the Great Commission.