




FIRST BAPTIST ARLINGTON

# TOGETHER

*to the people*





We are excited to offer a digital version of this book at [FBCA.org/WordAndDeed](https://FBCA.org/WordAndDeed), which can be easily searched, bookmarked, and downloaded, making it convenient to take with you wherever you go.

**[FBCA.org/WordAndDeed](https://FBCA.org/WordAndDeed)**

Hey Church Family,

As we step into Missions Month, I'm reminded of how the Holy Spirit works through ordinary people—like you and me—to participate in God's work in the world. When we respond to those small nudges, even in simple ways, we're part of God's ongoing story of renewal. Each act of love and service may seem small, but together, they contribute to His vision for restoring the world—where people, communities, and nations can flourish in alignment with God's purpose. In our everyday lives, as we serve, give, and love others, we're playing a part in God's bigger plan to bring wholeness to the world.

Over 10 years ago in Jakarta, my friend Heather and I saw refugee families in our church who couldn't send their kids to school. We weren't experts, but with a simple "yes," we started a learning center that's still serving children today. This reminds me of Acts 2:44-45, where believers shared what they had to meet others' needs. God doesn't call us to be experts; He calls us to be willing, faithful, and obedient.

This year during Missions Month, we're focusing on raising awareness and funds for the World Mission Offering. When you give, you empower others in our city and across the globe to meet needs, share the love of Jesus, and bring hope to communities. Your generosity can make a lasting impact in places you may never see but where God's love is deeply felt.

On November 3rd, we'll kick off our Together to the People initiative during a special night of worship. You'll have the chance to write down names of those you're praying for, connecting with, or inviting into conversations about faith. This initiative will continue throughout Missions Month, encouraging us to live sent together.

As the 4th Lausanne Congress reminded the global Church, this mission isn't for a select few—it's for all of us. It's a shared effort across cultures, churches, and nations. Whether you're giving, praying, or reaching out to someone in your life, we each have a part to play in this bigger story of what God is doing. Will you say 'yes' to being part of it?

***Let's trust the Spirit to move through us, just as He did in the early church.***

With gratitude and hope,



*Ashley Berryhill*

Ashley Berryhill  
Global Engagement Director

**TOGETHER**  
*to the people*

## ***TOGETHER IN WORD:***

### **Acts 1:6-8**

The mandate to share the message of Jesus Christ with our world is from God! God sent His Son Jesus to the world to bring redemption, healing, hope, and eternal life to people. The world is desperate for this life-giving message. We answer the mandate from Jesus by being a witness for Him where we live (Jerusalem). We are also responsible to make sure the message is shared beyond our local context (Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth). We have been empowered by the Holy Spirit for this task.

As you read the focal passage this week, take some time to reflect on how God is using you as witness where you live every day. Do you need to make some changes to be a more effective witness?

### **Parent Spotlight**

Parents, this is a good week to talk to your kids about the task that Jesus gave us - to be a witness for Him everywhere we go. For parents of children, a good way to get into this conversation could be about how hard it is to wait for something. It's easier to wait when we have something to do. Let them come up with some examples. Then, read Acts 1:1-8 with them and show them that while waiting for Jesus to return, He also gave us something to do.

For parents of teenagers, dive deeper by having a discussion on what it means to be a witness. It involves more than words. It also means being. It means a profound transformation of character and discipleship that shapes our core identity. Before anything else, we're supposed to be witnesses for Christ. Ask your family if they can think of one person in their life to whom they can witness Jesus. Then, take turns praying for that person.

# ***TOGETHER IN DEED:***

Throughout the book of Acts, we'll read about followers of Jesus living under the power and direction of the Holy Spirit. This week, we want you to grow in your awareness and dependency on the Holy Spirit through cultivating a life of prayer and obedience. Try developing a life of prayer that encompasses the following habits on the next 3 cards.

When you wake up in the morning, spend time asking God to help you discern the Holy Spirit's direction in your life. Spend a few minutes in prayer without saying anything to God, and instead focus your attention on simply being with God.

Whenever you enter a new space (the store, a classroom, a conference room, a park), ask God, "What are you doing here, and how can I join?"

Allow yourself to listen for a minute or two. If something comes to mind, or you find someone impressed on your attention, ask God for further direction. If you wonder if you're being led to do something, try it! If you're unsure if it's from God or not, ask yourself, "Will this help me or the other person love God or neighbor more?" If it doesn't pass that test, it's probably not from God.

End each day in a time of prayerful reflection with God.

Sometimes we're better at noticing God's activity in hindsight, and cultivating a practice of reflective prayer will help us get better at noticing the Holy Spirit's activity in the present. As you end the day, ask God to review the day with you. Think through your day asking God to show you the places where He was present. As events, people, or conversations come to mind, think through them - notice where you felt joy, anxiety, peace, or despair. What was God doing in those moments?

## ***TOGETHER IN WORD:***

### **Acts 4:32-37**

Luke pauses in the narrative to give us a summary reflection on the state of the early church life in Jerusalem in our text for this week. This is a complementary passage to our text we discussed on Sunday morning. The church was brand new! Luke describes the spiritual dynamic present in its midst. God was moving. The Holy Spirit was bringing together. The Gospel of Jesus Christ - the good news of the resurrection of Jesus was being boldly proclaimed. It was a powerful time, to say the least.

As we reflect on this text this week, let's take the time to pray for our church. Together, let's ask God to work powerfully in our midst. Let's commit ourselves to being the church that is needed today for our community. May it be so!

### **Parent Spotlight**

Parents, this is a good week to talk to your kids about the essential character of the church. Our church is big, and we have a lot going on. If we're not careful, our kids can start to feel like a commodity more than a community. Read Acts 4:32-37 with your family and ask them to identify some elements of essential church in the passage. Point out to them that sharing and serving one another was important in this early church community. They should be today, too. They may be the two things that help us move from commodity to community. Barnabas is the supreme example.

Take some time to discuss with your family how you can be "Barnabas's" in the church, your school, work, or neighborhood this week. If you can identify something specific, take that extra step and do it! Nothing helps your children's discipleship growth more than witnessing their parents live it out.

# ***TOGETHER IN DEED:***

Spend time this week learning and growing in your knowledge and awareness of missions.

Check out the resource library, and purchase a new book. Share with a friend something you learn in the process.

Local ministry partners will be present in the Welcome Center on the 2nd Sunday (November 10).

Take time to meet some of our local partners, and sign up with a friend or with your family to volunteer your time at one of these organizations.

Make a plan to give to the World Mission Offering in the way that God leads you.

The World Mission Offering supports ministry all over the world that impacts thousands of people with the Good News of Jesus and provides tangible help to people in need.



Commit to praying for one of your neighbors this week.

Pray that God will open the door to conversations about faith, that God will provide for their needs, and show His goodness to them.

## ***TOGETHER IN WORD:***

### **Acts 4:1-13**

In Acts 3, Peter and John healed a lame man as they made their way to pray at the Temple in Jerusalem. They healed him in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Many people in Jerusalem rejoiced because they had known of this man's desperate situation. Afterwards, Peter and John were arrested by the Sanhedrin. We pick up the story in our text for this week. In this exchange between these two disciples and the Jewish leaders, we notice the firm commitment on behalf of the disciples to evangelism. They were intentionally devoted to sharing the good news of Jesus. They boldly declared that salvation could only be found in Jesus. The Jewish leaders were amazed and recognized these men had been with Jesus. Wow! May people in our community recognize that we have been with Jesus!

Would people around you recognize that you've been with Jesus? Spend time this week reflecting on that reality.

### **Parent Spotlight**

Parents, this is a good week to talk to your children about character. Many people have defined character as who you are when no one is looking, and it's essential for evangelism and mission. Who we are matters way more than the tactics we use. Take some time to read Acts 4:1-13 with your kids. Draw their attention to the end of verse 13. Before we can tell others about Jesus, we must be formed by Jesus. Your kids' natural question will be, "How does that happen?" It may be helpful to think about your discipleship journey. How have you been formed? In what ways are you still growing?

Formation happens in various ways - through scripture, prayer, and other spiritual habits. It also occurs through community activities like worship, Bible study, and one-on-one relationships. The key word is engagement. The more we engage with Jesus, the better we can engage with the world.



# *TOGETHER IN DEED:*

If you're struggling to enter into faith conversations, start by blessing three people this week.

Bless them by doing something that makes their life easier, sharing encouragement, or giving a gift (if you give a gift, make sure the gift itself isn't a burden). Bless someone who's part of our church, bless someone who isn't part of our church, and someone from either category.

See what conversations open up!

Eat with three people this week. Jesus' primary mode of ministry was conversation around a table.

Eat with others and see how opportunities to talk about faith naturally come up. Eat with someone who's part of our church, someone who isn't part of our church (ideally not part of any church), and someone from either category.

When you see openings to talk about faith, go for it!

The best way to start a conversation about faith is to ask people questions about themselves.

Don't use questions as a 'gotcha' tool to trick people. Practice genuine curiosity about them, and really listen to what they're saying.

Ask questions about what their holidays mean to them, what faith background they grew up in and what that means to them now, etc.

Remember that a conversation between you and another person about faith isn't just a conversation between the two of you. God is present and there for you in that conversation!

Remember to "pray constantly (1 Thess. 5:17) in these moments, and ask God to help you see and hear what's truly going on in the conversation, and to provide you with words to say when it's your turn to talk.

## ***TOGETHER IN WORD:***

### **Acts 14:21-28**

The church at Antioch obeyed God and stepped out in faith to send the first Christian missionaries out into the world. They have been lauded ever since then as a model of how a local church can personally participate in the Great Commission. After this first mission, Paul and Barnabas returned home, reported the results of their journey, and lived in community for a season with their church. Our focal passage this week shares the story of their return to Antioch.

As we reflect on this passage this week, I wonder how God is leading you to engage in taking the Gospel to the peoples of this world. Is He calling you to go to the nations? Is He calling you to be more sensitive to how you can be sent into your own community? Is He calling you to be more faithful in praying for the missional efforts of our church? Is He calling you to be more financially committed to the Great Commission? Is He calling you to become more personally connected to our missional endeavors? Let's give Him an opportunity to speak to you this week as you reflect on the call - Together . . . to the People!

### **Parent Spotlight**

Parents, this is a good week to talk to your children about the thrill of missions. Witnessing Christ to others is not only a task; it's a joy and privilege. Telling others about Jesus should be a happy occasion, not a miserable one. Consider starting the conversation with this question, "What's a job you enjoy doing?" Then, read Acts 14:21-28 together. Draw their attention to two things in the passage - hardship and celebration. In verse 22, the church acknowledges that the task is challenging. Yet, in verse 27, they gather around Paul and Barnabas to hear about all the Lord was doing through them. When others make Jesus their Lord, it's party time!

For families with younger children, consider doing one act of kindness this week - bake some cookies and deliver them to the fire department, bathe some animals at the local shelter, or volunteer at Mission Arlington. Afterward, throw a party at your home, thanking God for inviting you into His mission. For parents of teenagers, encourage your family to share their faith with one person every day this week. Ask them to share their experiences during dinner and demonstrate just how proud you are of their boldness. If they accomplish this goal, celebrate at the end of the week by going out to dinner or doing something fun together.

# ***TOGETHER IN DEED:***

Spend time praying for our cross-cultural workers around the world.

Pray for their families, their well-being, and their ministries in Europe and Africa. Pray that God will protect them, open doors for the Gospel to spread, and bring in-country people to journey alongside them in their efforts.

Spend time praying that God will raise up more and more people from within our church to participate in the work that God has called us to locally and around the world.

Ask God to help foster discipleship that leads us out into the world to share the hope that we have in Christ with everyone we encounter.

Pray for the Gospel to continue to spread in North America, and for the churches and ministries our church connects with through the Ascent Network, a missional network gathered to spread the Good News of Jesus in North America.

Pray for the volunteer mission teams that will go out in the coming months: college students to Spain, and a medical team to Sierra Leone. Consider financially supporting those going on these trips, and pray that they will experience the transformation that only Jesus can bring both in their own lives and in the lives of others.

# TOGETHER

*to the people*



# HER

people

MISSIONS MONTH  
2024





# EVENTS & VOLUNTEER

## *Mission Teams*

### **SPECIAL EVENTS AT FBCA**

#### **Night of Worship & Prayer**

November 3 | 5pm - 6pm

Join us for a special night of worship & prayer. We will partake in the Lord's Supper and spend time commissioning each other as the People of God, on mission in our own communities, walking with an extraordinary God. You don't want to miss this unique and special night. *Childcare is available for Birth - 3 years old.*

#### **Local Partner Booths**

November 10 | 8:30am -12:30pm

Come learn about the good work happening in our community. Explore how you can serve with our local partners. They will be in the South Commons area near the Center St. doors throughout the morning.

### **VOLUNTEER MISSION TEAMS**

*Trip Registration at [www.fbca.org/go](http://www.fbca.org/go)*

#### **College Spain Team (January 2-10, 2025)**

This trip is full, but those interested in going Jan. 2026 an interest meeting will be in August 2025. Sponsor a college student.

#### **Sierra Leone Medical Team - (Jan 15-26, 2025)**

This trip is full, but for those interested in going Jan 2026 an interest meeting will be in April 2025. Sponsor a volunteer.

#### **Youth - Costa Rica Team (March 13-20, 2025)**

Register now! Deadline is January 5, 2025.

## SUMMER TRIPS

*More information to come*

### Chi Alpha and Youth Trip - Houston

July 6-12 | Registration opens Jan. 12

### TX Border

July TBD, 2025 | Registration opens Dec. 1

### Rwanda

TBD, 2025 | Registration opens Jan. 12



## INTERNSHIPS

### Global Internship - Spain 2026

*(August 2026 - July 2027)*

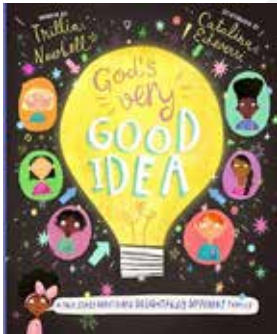
Interest meeting will be held on August 2025.

Application opens in September 2025. Basic understanding of Spanish needed. 20+ years old or significant experience away from home needed.

## HAVE QUESTIONS?

**CONTACT US AT  
ENGAGE@FBCA.ORG**





### **GOD'S VERY GOOD IDEA**

**Children**

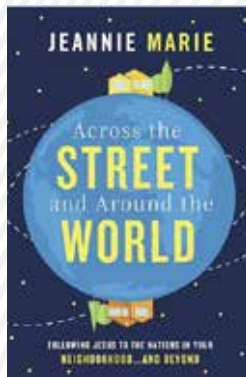
This book celebrates diversity and will help children see how people from all ethnic and social backgrounds are valuable to God and how Jesus came to rescue all kinds of people.



### **ONCE YOU SEE MORE: SEVEN TEMPTATIONS OF THE WESTERN CHURCH**

**Adults**

This novel tells a story of discovering the mission of the church and the complications that arise.



### **ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD: FOLLOWING JESUS TO THE NATIONS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD...AND BEYOND**

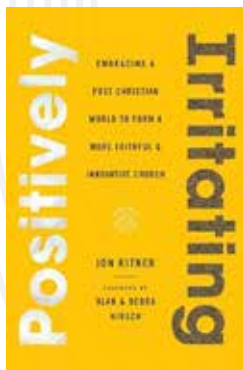
**Adults**  
Personal stories and practical tips help show that we can show God's love to people of different backgrounds by crossing the street!



### **HONEST EVANGELISM**

**Adults**

A short handbook full of practical wisdom for having conversations about Jesus with others!



### **POSITIVELY IRRITATING: EMBRACING A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD TO FORM A MORE FAITHFUL AND INNOVATIVE CHURCH**

**Adults**

How should the church navigate our shifting culture? Ritner helps walk us through these changes.

## **BOOKS TO CHECKOUT!** *Scan Below*





# PRAY, CONNECT, INVITE:

## *The 'Together to the People' Initiative*

This month we'll be encouraging you to personally engage in the work of sharing the Good News of Jesus with the people in the places where you live, work, study, or play. We're inviting each of you, as ordinary people called by an extraordinary God, to take the Gospel to the people.

As a reminder and encourager in this, we have ping pong balls that you can place in a display case as a visual cue to our church that we truly are TOGETHER TO THE PEOPLE. Each color ball represents a different action you've taken.



**WHITE** ping pong balls represent a person you've prayed for to start following the Jesus way, and that the Holy Spirit will be at work in their heart. When you've prayed for someone, write their initials on the ping pong ball, and place it in the display.



**PINK** ping pong balls represent a person you have connected with and shared a conversation about Jesus. We encourage you to do this over a meal, as that's a great way to engage in conversations about life and its meaning. Write that person's initials on the ball and place it in the display after you've taken that step.



**GREEN** ping pong balls represent someone you've invited to join you in following the Jesus way. Whether that's inviting someone to read the Bible with you, to pray to receive Jesus, or even just invited to church, write their initials on the ball and place it in the display after you've taken that step.

This simple action—writing initials on a ping pong ball—symbolizes your commitment to the mission of God. Prayer, connection, and invitation are powerful ways to spread the love of Jesus. Who will you pray for, connect with, and invite to follow the Jesus Way with this month?

# *Together We Send:* **WHY THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING MATTERS**

The World Mission Offering is a tangible way to participate in what God is doing across the globe. Through your giving, you enable ordinary people to engage in extraordinary work, bringing the hope of Jesus to those who need it most.

When you give to the World Mission Offering, you're doing more than just supporting a fund. You're helping send our people to contexts where gospel witness is needed, provide essential resources to local and global partners, and meet the real, pressing needs of individuals and families.

**Sending People:** Your giving allows our church members, cross-cultural workers, and mission teams to bring the gospel into communities locally and around the world.

**Supporting Trusted Partners:** We partner with ministries that are on the ground, working faithfully to be the hands and feet of Jesus where they're needed most.

**Caring for Communities:** From food and shelter to educational programs, your gift meets the practical needs of people who are often the most vulnerable.

As we see in Acts 2:45, "They gave to anyone as they had need," your generosity can do just that—meet real needs. This Missions Month, as we talk about how God uses ordinary people, remember that it takes us going 'together to the people'.

Your gift to the World Mission Offering helps make disciples, offer compassion, and meet needs across the globe. Give and participate in The Great Commission and The Great Commandment TOGETHER as a church body.

*Give Today*





## World Mission Offering Breakdown

**'24-'25 GOAL: \$300,000**

**FBCA-Led Initiatives (57.8%)** - FBCA directly manages the means and the methods of these funds which includes sending people to serve cross-culturally, sending volunteer mission teams, and engaging with different cultures here at home. These efforts are hands-on, personal, and allow us to actively be part of being the hands and feet of Jesus.

**Strategic Partners (22.2%)** - This portion supports trusted non-profits and global organizations that align with our values and vision. We partner with these groups by sending volunteers, offering resources, and supporting their work in communities here and around the world. Together, we can achieve more by collaborating with those who are making an impact.

**Cooperative Partners (20%)** - This stream of funding is used as gifts to organizations we believe in, who are doing great work like feeding the hungry and sharing the message of hope around the world. These partnerships are built on trust and shared goals.

*NOTE: For gifts received above the \$300,000 goal, the category distribution percentages are as follows:  
FBCA Led-Initiatives - 70%, Strategic Partners - 20%, Cooperative Partners - 10%*

# Strategic Partners

## (22% OF THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING)

These are our trusted partners who are being sent into their communities to care and share Jesus with the people around them.



### SENT MINISTRIES

SENT Ministries is a group of national leaders who are taking the gospel to villages and tribes throughout the region of FBCA's global center in West Africa. Our cross-cultural workers in the area partner with this ministry as they evangelize, meet physical and spiritual needs in their communities, and shine the light of Jesus.

### DFW ASYLUM SEEKER HOUSING NETWORK - DASH NETWORK

DASH is an organization that serves people seeking asylum in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Their goal is to be a welcoming community that cares and shares the love of Christ with individuals struggling through this challenging process. They provide food, friendship, housing, and needed training.

### ARAB MINISTRIES IN SPAIN (AMS)

AMS is an established ministry to Arabic immigrants in Western Europe. Their goal is to meet the social, spiritual and physical needs of Arabic-speaking populations. They do this through language classes in Catalan, Spanish and English, and through the establishment of one of this region's only Arabic-speaking churches.

### INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

International Friends is a group of volunteer instructors teaching ESL (English Second Language) to people adjusting to life in the United States through fun and engaging lessons. They love people well and meet everyone where they are linguistically and spiritually.



## ARLINGTON ARAB WOMEN'S CENTER (AAWC)

The AAWC is an ESL (English Second Language) program that is geared towards Arabic-speaking women in our community. They provide a fun atmosphere and English classes for all levels of learners. Their desire is for these women to have a safe place to establish connection with each other and to encounter Jesus followers who love them.

## MISSION ARLINGTON

For over 37 years, Mission Arlington has been “taking church to the people.” They serve the metroplex through a multitude of services including food and clothing distribution, dental and medical care, the Christmas Store, and apartment churches that meet throughout our community.

## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS (CWJC)

Established by the National Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) in Birmingham, AL, in 1995, CWJC aims to empower women caught in cycles of poverty, abuse, and isolation. Here in Arlington, CWJC provides a welcoming space and a boutique where women in our metroplex can access practical life skills through a range of instructional classes. Alongside these valuable lessons, CWJC shares the love of Christ, offering mentorship and support to help women build brighter futures.

*Visit with some of our local partners on Sunday morning, November 10th as they come to our campus to share what they're doing. The event will be held in the South Commons area (by the Center Street entrance). Everyone is encouraged to stop by and learn more.*



# *Pray for those We send* **GENERAL PRAYER POINTS FOR THE WORKERS:**

**Pray for the Lord to bring people alongside our cross-cultural workers to encourage them and edify the work that they are doing both here and abroad.**

Our workers need to be ministered to in order to minister to others. Pray for advocates to arise and minister to them, and for local bodies of believers to offer community.

**Pray for health and safety for our cross-cultural workers and their families and that any illness would fall short of these people and that they would remain in good health and good spirits.**

The mission field can be stressful when you are perfectly healthy. Pray that our families remain healthy and safe.

**Pray that the Lord grants our cross-cultural workers a spirit of endurance as they engage with the communities that they are a part of. Pray for faithfulness in the waiting and celebration as the Lord moves in his own timing.**

Living cross-culturally on mission means you need patience and peace. Planting seeds is what we as Christians are called to do and many times in the communities these families are in, these seeds are planted and no fruit sprouts for years. Pray for faithfulness and patience.



# MEET OUR *Cross-Cultural Workers*

The Pursleys have served in Central Europe for 7 years. They've planted a church and have raised up national leadership. We're celebrating what God has done through them, their partners, and our church! We will receive them with open arms as they move back in January.



The Guevaras have served in Western Europe for 7 years. They continue to serve as catalytic partners with Arab Ministries in Spain. They manage a cultural center and train local churches on how to serve North African immigrant communities.



The Finkes will be joining the Guevaras in Western Europe and will serve on the Arab Ministries in Spain Team. Until then, they are ministering locally among Arabic-speakers in DFW with Restore Hope. We will be commissioning them soon.



The Herreras have served in West Africa for 15+ years. They are investing in healthcare ministries and national church planters to bring the good news across the nation.



# FAQ'S:

## *Supporting Our Cross-Cultural Workers*

### **How are Cross-Cultural Workers funded?**

Workers receive a monthly grant from the church, funded by gifts to the World Mission Offering and the church budget. They also need to raise support from individuals who commit to send them.

*"Will you be a sender?"*

### **What qualifications do Cross-Cultural Workers need?**

Cross-cultural workers undergo a thorough vetting process, including theological and cross-cultural training, as well as practical ministry experience. This ensures they are prepared for the challenges of living and ministering in a new culture.

*"Preparation is key to thriving in a cross-cultural mission."*

### **How can I support Cross-Cultural Workers beyond financial giving?**

You can commit to regular prayer, send words of encouragement, provide care packages, or advocate for their needs in your community. These small acts of support can make a huge difference.

*"Every prayer, every note, every act of kindness sustains them."*

### **How are Cross-Cultural Workers cared for while on the field?**

Our church and partners provide regular check-ins, pastoral care visits, and access to resources that support workers' emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being.

*"We are committed to their well-being, just as they are committed to the mission."*

### **Can I visit a Cross-Cultural Worker in the field?**

Yes! You may visit workers as part of a short-term mission trip or a care visit, coordinated with their ministry needs.

*"Your visit could be the encouragement they need."*



## *Call to Action:* **HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

We invite you to take an active role in supporting our cross-cultural workers. Here are some ways you can get involved:

**PRAY:** Commit to praying regularly for our workers' safety, health, and endurance.

**ENCOURAGE:** Send notes, emails, or care packages to uplift and encourage those in the field.

**GIVE:** Consider becoming a financial partner by contributing to the World Mission Offering or supporting a specific worker.

**VISIT:** Join a short-term mission trip or visit a worker on-site to provide hands-on encouragement.

**BECOME A SENDER:** Pray about whether God might be calling you to financially support a cross-cultural worker long-term.

***“Together, we can make a lasting impact on the world through our prayers, encouragement, and support.”***

Scan below to write a card to a Cross-Cultural Workers. Encourage them as they are the hands and feet of Jesus within these communities.



# *Polycentric Mission:* **MOBILIZING TOGETHER WITH THE GLOBAL CHURCH**

As the global missional landscape rapidly evolves, the traditional dynamics of sending and receiving are shifting towards a polycentric mission model. This approach recognizes that mission work is no longer a one-way effort from the West to the rest, but a multi-directional movement where different regions both send and receive missionaries. For instance, Cross-Cultural Workers are now bringing the Gospel to North America, with 45% of these workers coming from Latin America, 5% from Asia, and 5% from Africa.

This reverse flow challenges North American churches to reflect on how they are being shaped by and supporting the global Christian community's efforts. Conversely, North American Cross-Cultural Workers continue to be sent worldwide, with 40% commissioned to Africa, 30% to Latin America, and 20% to Europe, highlighting the interconnected nature of modern missions.

Embracing polycentric mission requires a posture of humility, openness, and willingness

to learn from the global body of Christ. For the Western church, this means shifting from a position of control or dominance to one of partnership and mutual respect. It involves recognizing that each part of the global Church has something vital to offer, and we are called to work alongside, not above, those who bring their unique cultural expressions of faith. As individuals, it requires us to listen, learn, and be shaped by the wisdom and experiences of believers from diverse backgrounds. It demands a heart of hospitality, inviting and welcoming global Christians into our communities, learning how they embody witness and understanding of God's work in the world. Ultimately, it calls us to embody a spirit of shared mission, acknowledging that we need each other to fully reflect the beauty and complexity of God's kingdom.

Read about the confessional posture that is required for polycentric mission at First Baptist Arlington.

*Read about the posture needed for mission in the statement on the following page. This statement was crafted following meetings about mission involving Cindy Wiles, Luke Stehr, and Jayson Berryhill.*



# WE *resolve* TO CHOOSE ...

- Identity and practice based in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, over uncritical adoption of modern techniques and programs
  - Ministry rooted in Scripture and the dynamics of authentic relationships, rather than strategies developed from the logic of efficiency and effectiveness
  - Discipleship focused on depth of character and Christ-like practices, rather than a fixation on activities and methods
  - Belief that each person regardless of ethnic, national, or cultural origin is an image-bearer of God with different and needed gifts within the body of Christ, instead of mere means for some predetermined end
  - Power that comes from waiting on the Holy Spirit and servanthood, rather than through the forces of money, organization, and political alignments
  - Influence based on a commitment to people and their context, rather than financial ties or control and domination
  - Passion that translates into long-term relationships and sustained prayer, over seasonal, short-term endeavors and trips
- Projects based on collective decision-making, over unbalanced financial relationships, power boundaries, and unilateral actions
  - Partnerships that allow a seat at the table for every partner and yields the microphone to each voice, rather than meetings convened solely on our terms, agendas, and timelines
  - Love characterized by sacrifice and suffering alongside others, rather than protection of our rights in the name of doctrine, standards, and national interests
  - The Reign of God that touches every corner of life and society, rather than a religion that is narrow in scope and individualistic in its concerns



# *The Ascent Movement:* **A FRESH VISION FOR TODAY**

The Ascent Movement exists to spread the message of Jesus across North America and beyond by building meaningful connections between churches, mission organizations, seminaries, and denominations. Our mission is to live out Jesus' Great Commission in ways that fit today's world.

The idea for Ascent began with church leaders, including Dr. Wiles, who met to reflect on how the Church could stay impactful into the future. They recognized the need for a fresh approach—one that focuses on meaningful collaboration across different church groups, including the growing non-denominational community.

Ascent is rooted in the historic Gospel Witness but aims to reach people disconnected from church, including the de-churched, un-churched, never-churched, and people from other parts of the world now in our neighborhoods. Across denominational, racial, cultural, and geographical lines, we are seeing God unite people to spread the Gospel in new ways.

Our focus is threefold: engaging under-Gospeled people, addressing gaps in mission and ministry, and developing and mobilizing leaders. We are also identifying areas that need extra attention, such as rural regions, and equipping leaders and churches to pursue their mission creatively.

This movement thrives through strong partnerships. Our collaborators include Truett Seminary, Northern Seminary, Restore Hope, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Fresh Expressions, Ecclesia Network, Mission Northwest, Winebrenner Seminary, Kairos University, American Baptist Churches of Michigan, Texans on Mission, Canadian Baptist Ministries, and numerous churches from various denominations across North America.

The Baptist General Association of Virginia currently oversees Ascent. Chris Backert, former executive director of Fresh Expressions USA, leads the movement, and Dr. Wiles chairs the Advisory Council on which Cindy Wiles also serves.

Though Ascent is in its early stages, God is already at work. We have launched training for rural church leaders, begun supporting outreach to unreached people groups in Canada, awarded theological scholarships to students from Ascent churches, and built new networks among mission leaders and pastors. We are also helping ministries connect with young adults in innovative ways.

We believe this is just the beginning. As we continue to grow, we pray that God will guide this movement and use it to bring His love and truth to more people. Through new partnerships, outreach, and leadership development, Ascent is committed to shaping the future for His glory.

# Connecting with Quebec: A MISSION OPPORTUNITY



Written by:  
Luke Stehr

What if I told you there was an unreached people group (a group where less than 2% of people are evangelicals) less than four hours away by plane? In roughly the same amount of time that you could fly to Los Angeles or New York City, you could be on your way to connecting with a group of people who have minimal Gospel contact. Out of this people group of just over eight million, less than 130,000 are Evangelical Christians.

This isn't a hypothetical scenario. French-speaking Canadians (also known as Francophone Canadians) who primarily live in the province of Quebec, qualify as an unreached people group, with only 1.6% identifying as evangelicals, and only 3.6% are Christians of any kind (Catholic, Orthodox, etc.).

We often imagine unreached people groups as people living in a remote place or under restrictive governments, but Francophone Canadians challenge those assumptions. They live in a developed, Western nation well outside the 10/40 window, and belong to a culture where Christianity was once the defining story for their society.

This September, a team of our staff members participated in an exploratory trip through the Ascent Movement to discern the possibilities of future partnerships with Canadian Christians, including the French Baptist Union. We spent time with denominational leadership and churches, learning and discovering what opportunities exist in Canada.

Our Minister of Contemporary Worship, Michael Glenn, said in reflection:

'Entering into this trip, my goal was to learn

what it means for the Church to thrive and grow in the midst of secularism and how we can apply it here in Arlington, but I learned much more than that. One of the biggest takeaways that I wasn't quite ready for was the lack of participation in and desire for the Church. Yes, we can read the statistics; we can look at graphs and case studies, but until you see it first-hand it's hard to truly grasp what's happened to the Church in Canada ... I think what I admire most about our Canadian friends who are in the trenches of secularism is the overwhelming hope that they have. When every data metric would reflect a decline and negative outlook on the status of the Church, these Canadian pastors have more zeal and joy to see the Church rise up than most pastors I know."

We'd like to invite you to join us in praying for our brothers and sisters in Canada, and for our church as we discern the possibilities of future partnership.

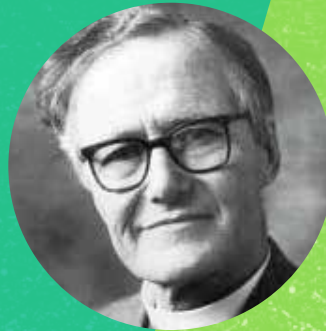




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Mission begins with a kind of explosion of joy. The news that the rejected and crucified Jesus is alive is something that cannot possibly be suppressed. It must be told. Who could be silent about such a fact? The mission of the Church in the pages of the New Testament is like the fallout from a vast explosion, a radioactive fallout which is not lethal but life-giving.

*Lesslie Newbigin*



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