A 15th Anniversary Prayer Journey with Global Disciples
Index

Intro to this Prayer Journey.................................................................3
The Past 15 Years...................................................................................4
The Unreached… Global Realities..............................................................6
What is God’s Longing for Muslims?.........................................................8
What is God’s Longing for Hindus?.........................................................9
What is God’s Longing for Buddhists?...................................................10
What is God’s Longing for the Non-Religious?......................................11
The Effectiveness of the Global Body of Christ.......................................12
Global Disciples: Coming Alongside the Global Body of Christ................14
The Unreached… Their Stories...............................................................16
That All Nations and People of Every Language May Serve Him............18
Guiding Principles...............................................................................21
For More..............................................................................................22
Prayer Opportunities............................................................................23
Intro to this Prayer Journey

You’re holding in your hand a snapshot we’ve taken at this moment in time – our 15th anniversary.

To mark this occasion, we’ve put together this prayer journey. In it, we’ll share our history, mission, and vision. As you journey with us, please notice the prayers we’ve listed. It is our hope that you’ll take frequent stops along the way and pray.

For those of you who have walked with us for part or all of that last 15 years, thank you! For those of you who are new to Global Disciples, welcome! It’s so good to have your company on the journey.
The Past 15 Years…

It started with five discipleship-mission training programs.

Wait! It starts even earlier than that – back to something more basic and spiritual – back to vision, prayer and confession.

For years, Galen Burkholder, the founder and current International Director of Global Disciples, led groups of young adults on discipleship and mission training from the United States to many locations around the world.

When Galen visited with church leaders in various countries he would ask them… What do you dream about? What are your hopes for your church?

The answers were heart-felt and surprisingly consistent from country to country. These church leaders would say that they too wanted to train their own people to be disciples and send them out in missions; these church leaders would say they wanted to develop their leaders locally; they would say they wanted to train their own church planters so they could take the Good News to their neighbors who had not heard of Jesus.

Out of these three heart-desires Galen developed a one-page plan for an organization that would partner with churches around the world in training their own people. For seven years, Galen kept this page in a folder in his desk, bringing it out about once a month to pray over it and then placing it back in the folder.

Eventually, it became clear that the Lord was leading Galen to start an organization to come alongside these international, indigenous church leaders. In 1997, representatives from five discipleship and mission training programs met with Galen for a day of prayer.

Within a short period of time, a spirit of confession entered the room. A key participant confessed feelings of superiority and/or jealousy, as he acknowledged that sometimes he compares numbers and equates that with success, and that sometimes, on behalf of his denomination, there is a sense that “we do things just a little better.”
This day of confession brought about tremendous unity among these program leaders, and, out of this day, Global Disciples was born.

From the very first day, multiplication was built in. All discipleship-mission training programs help to mentor and develop other programs. At first, the growth was small as it takes a few years to properly mentor a new program. Eventually the multiplication kicked in… from those original five programs, there are now over 250 discipleship-mission training programs being conducted by indigenous churches in over 30 countries.

Shortly after Global Disciples began, a new ministry track (now called Global ACCESS) was developed. Through this track, Global Disciples works directly with mission agencies, churches, businesses and individuals, helping to find creative ways through business formation and business training to access restricted areas. One of the key approaches of Global ACCESS is to come alongside indigenous churches to train their church planters with basic business skills. These church planters then are sent to nearby unreached areas, equipped and ready to serve the community and share the Good News.

In 2005, the third and final ministry track of Global Disciples was born. Known as the Global LEAD Alliance, this track comes alongside indigenous churches as they train their own leaders in local settings. By focusing on character, skills, and knowledge in a transformative training approach, Christ-like leaders are prepared to impact their families, businesses and society.

So, in these last 15 years, the circle is complete. What was once dreamed about in conversations with church leaders around the world has now become a reality. To God be the glory.

---

Praises and Prayers...

- Pray that we continue to see the Lord’s guidance with the same passion for the Lord’s vision.
- Pray for the International Board - vision, setting direction
- Pray for the Executive Team
- Praise the Lord for His continued guidance and provision
The Unreached… Global Realities

2 billion people are still waiting to hear the Good News of Jesus… for the very first time.

What resources are being dedicated to fulfilling the Great Commission? Here are the numbers, as reported by the World Christian Database:

- **Barely 4% of all missionaries and 1% of all foreign mission funds** are focused on work among the unreached.
- For every dollar of Christian giving to all causes, only half a penny, **one-half of one cent**, goes towards pioneer church planting among unreached peoples.
- 16 countries in the world have less than **10 missionaries per million people**. (North Korea has only 1 missionary per million people.)
- 87% of those unreached by the Gospel live in areas that **restrict Christian witness**.
- 50% of all the unreached people in the world live in **India** and **China**.

The photograph represents the 400,000 missionaries currently serving in the world.

Please note the faded portion at the top right corner.

**Less than 5 percent of missionaries work in areas unreached by the Good News of Jesus.** This 5 percent is represented by the faded portion of the photograph.
2 BILLION PEOPLE UNREACHED WITH THE GOSPEL.
Many are from these religions.

463 million Buddhists

943 million Hindus

1.55 billion Muslims

2 BILLION PEOPLE UNREACHED WITH THE GOSPEL.

Pray for...

• more workers to share the Good News among those who have never heard.
• God to free the unreached from spiritual blindness and deception, and open their eyes to the glory of Christ.
• boldness and courage for those coming to Christ as they share Jesus and face opposition or persecution among the unreached.
• funds to released worldwide to enable more disciples to reach the unreached.
What is God’s Longing for Muslims?

by Bruce Heckman of immerge

God really does love all people. He wants the unreached to know Him – Muslims included. God does not see special categories or dangerous types (like Paul) to avoid.

My wife Joyce and I followed the call of God to live for Jesus among Muslim people. Our journey took us to the Middle East, which became home for nearly two decades. The Word of God changes people, but God goes beyond introductions by revealing Himself and confirming the message of Christ. The miracles, healings, dreams, visions, and even a personal appearance of Jesus, clearly conveyed His love to a people that had not heard this message before.

For many Christians, the sting of attacks upon their home soil by Muslims and the daily images of carnage in dozens of other countries, have pushed them into useless frustration. Some Christians cringe at the sight of Muslim women wearing a hijab covering their heads, or meeting people with Islamic names. Fear and a desired distance is often the result when a believer simply does not know what he or she should do. Others are ineffective, not knowing the importance of making a friendship with someone of a very different background. Yet without making a friendship, the Bread of Life will not be shared, and spiritual starvation will continue.

God requires His people to see with His eyes, and practically love these lost sheep “that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6). To know God means we share His heart for the nations, which is not optional or selective.

Please pray that...

• Peter had to be “converted” (Acts 10:11-16) to enter Cornelius’ home. May God change our hearts toward lost sheep – without exception.

• Pray that the true God would reveal Himself as a God of love and grace through His Word, miracles, healings, dreams and visions, particularly to those Muslims in unreached areas.

• Pray for Christians around the world to rely on prayer and the Word as they peacefully witness to Muslims.

• Pray that Christians around the world would match the incredible hospitality and friendship of Muslims in the name of Jesus.

• Pray for local, indigenous churches, made up of Muslim background believers in Christ, who are sharing the gospel with their neighbors at phenomenal cost to themselves and their families.
What is God’s Longing for Hindus?

by John Sankara Rao, Global Disciples’ facilitator in India

In a land filled with temples, God does not live in a temple made by man.

*From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.* Acts 17:26-27

God is longing to forgive the Hindus – they are by far the vast majority of people who make up the 1.2 billion people of India. India presents unique challenges to the Gospel. It is the most ethnically diverse nation on earth, with an extremely wide variety of languages and dialects. India is ancient and complex in its racial, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity.

For example, there was recently an “honor killing” in North India: a Muslim girl loved a Hindu boy and she was killed by her own parents. The boy committed suicide the next day. (*Eenadu Daily, Feb 16th 2011.*)

Out of 35 states of India, six states have passed an “anti-conversion bill.”

Hindus are longing for deliverance, which is reflected in the following prayer…

*tamasoma jyothirgamaya* – lead us from darkness to the Light,
*asathoma sadgamyaa* – lead us from untruth to the Truth,
*mruthuyorma amruthangamaya* – lead us from death to the Life.

God is longing to fulfill their desire, for Jesus Christ said, “I am the *Light*, the *Truth* and the *Life*.”

Please pray that...

- that corruption would be eradicated from all walks of life.
- for the poor – nearly 40% the population live below poverty line and 40% of children are underweight
- that the long-standing tensions with Pakistan would be resolved soon
- for Hindutva extremists who created a hate campaign against Muslim and Christians
- for the training of the Christian workers for the rich harvest
- for the least-evangelized peoples in India. Out of 4635 people groups, 300 have churches, 300 have Christian witness, Many are still waiting.
- women and girls who have lower literacy and victims of evil traditions like the dowry system, domestic abuse, temple prostitution, etc. Due to female infanticide there is a 35 million female population deficit in comparison to the male population.
- for children. 400 million children are under 15 years of old, and 10% of them are orphans.
What is God’s Longing for Buddhists?

by Jean Johnson

Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians gives us insight to God’s longing for Buddhists: “And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere... They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God...” (1 Thess. 1:7-9 — NIV). God longs for Buddhists, who revere stationary idols, to turn to Him -- the living and true God.

Buddhist monks, in saffron robes, shaved heads and barefoot, quietly line up in front of several homes and businesses. A women walks out and fills a monk’s bowl with rice. This is a typical scene in Buddhist countries. The daily ritual gives Buddhists opportunity to make merit and outdo their bad deeds — in other words to obtain good karma.

Why the need for merit and good karma? Although there are three branches of Buddhism there is an underlining goal: to break free of the cyclical bondage of birth, death and rebirth through accumulated merit. To gain enough merit to reach Nirvana and be free of cyclical bondage is an unattainable goal.

Jesus Christ is not restrained by what Buddhists believe is cyclical bondage. Jesus, the Son of God, was born on earth, died and rose again. None of us, including Buddhists, can work out our own salvation through good works. The Good News is that Jesus did the work by dying on the cross. God’s longing for Buddhists is that they receive His salvation through grace.

Please pray that...

• God will reveal Himself to Buddhists as the true and living God.
• Buddhists will look outside themselves to Jesus Christ, the Savior.
• God will raise up believers to make disciples among each Buddhist people group.
What is God’s Longing for the Non-Religious?

by Mark Z, Global Disciples’ facilitator in China

A simple answer to this big question is: God longs to see them coming back to the Father’s house, simply because the father heart of God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

And the Father has taken the initiative to reach out by paying the ultimate price – giving his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

It is by the radical obedience of Jesus Christ, who is the way and the truth and the life, dying on the rugged cross, that we are able to come back to the Father’s house.

It sounds like too easy for atheists and agnostics, since it doesn’t make sense to their complicated minds, so they simply deny the existence of God.

But as Paul points out in the Book of Romans, “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuses.” Non-religious included!

It is the Holy Spirit who has the divine power to demolish strongholds, and we join him to demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, taking captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ!

Pray that...

- The veil that covers their hearts and minds will be taken away by the power of the Holy Spirit. And that they will have a deep hunger for the living Word of God and a passionate love for Christ.
- That our message and preaching to them are not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that their faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.
The Effectiveness of the Global Body of Christ

What if the same intensity and passion that has driven western missionary efforts over the last two centuries was present elsewhere?

What if diligence, faith, obedience and sacrifice – even to the point of death, were evident in the lives of our brothers and sisters around the world?

What if the global Body of Christ had the same passion for their unreached friends, family, neighbors, community, country and the whole world?

They do! They have the same Spirit-led passion, creativity, earnestness, focus. And, because of similarities in culture, language, customs and commerce, they are in a strategic position to reach those who cannot be reached through traditional missionary efforts from the west.

Consider this: in 1900 over 80% of all Christians lived in North America and Europe. Today, nearly two-thirds of all followers of Jesus Christ live in the majority world – often referred to as the third world or developing countries.

These believers are able to access some of the most difficult areas of the world. Because of geo-proximity and cultural similarity, they are in a unique position to go to unreached people – 87% of whom live in countries that restrict Christian witness.

And, it just makes so much sense economically. As we continue to experience an economic environment...
in which everyone realizes the need to do more with less, churches around the world are able to train and send out their Great Commission workers much more cost-effectively than we can from the west.

Passion... prayers... position. The global Body of Christ is strategically placed, passionately driven, and submerged in prayer. Their faces join the thousands of faces who have gone before, in faith... so the world would know Jesus.

"The disciples cast out an evil spirit... and finally three families came to the Lord... One evil spirit helped us to get three families! It was a profitable business!!"

Please pray for...

- boldness and divine favor for indigenous believers to share their faith with those around them who have never heard the Good News.

- protection, endurance, and effective discipleship of believers living among the unreached.

- unity in the Body of Christ.

- that we all (including Global Disciples) would speak positively of other church’s and organizations and pray for them.

- an increased burden among His Church around the world to pray, give and go so the unreached might hear.
Global Disciples: Coming Alongside the Global Body of Christ

If the Body of Christ is to reach 2 billion people who have never heard the Good News, then participation from the whole Body is required.

A truly global approach is not easy: there is the discomfort and challenge of miscommunications resulting from language and cultural differences, living with a sense of our own inadequacy, and even experiencing brokenness in the process. In other words, we find that we must release our stranglehold on self-sufficiency and trust God and each other instead.

Facilitating... partnering... enabling... these are all words that we as Global Disciples use to describe how we relate with the global Body of Christ. We do not own any programs, we do not send missionaries, we don’t even own any property.

Our focus – our whole focus – is to come alongside the global Body of Christ as they “go and make disciples...”

To this end, we partner with over 170 denominations in over 40 countries, most of which are in, or can readily access, the 10/40 window, an area of the world that contains the largest population of non-Christians in the world.

Global Disciples helps indigenous churches by facilitating them in training their own people in discipleship, mission, and leadership development. The demand for this type of transformational training is extremely high. Indigenous churches want to train their own people in discipleship and mission.
Please pray for…

- the Lord of the harvest to send out workers.
- The three tracks of Global Disciples
  1. GDT (Global Disciple Training) Alliance – as they help the global church multiply disciples who take the Good News to unreached people groups
  2. Global ACCESS – as they mobilize indigenous church planters with viable business skills to serve unreached communities
  3. Global LEAD Alliance – as they help churches around the world develop Christ-like leaders.

By the numbers…
- In the past six years we have seen the locally sustainable discipleship-mission programs that we helped to launch multiply from 29 to 248 in 33 nations.
- In just three years these discipleship-mission programs trained and sent out 6,812 disciple-makers who planted 1,553 new churches – many in least reached areas – in which over 42,500 new followers of Jesus now worship and are being discipled.
- In the past five years we have helped to launch and develop 50 locally sustainable leadership training programs. To date, they have equipped 3,272 leaders with Christ-like character, knowledge and leadership skills.
- In the past four years Global Disciples has equipped 497 church planters in eleven languages to develop small businesses as a tool to initiate reproducing fellowships of believers in hard places.
The story of Amana

Amana* was born in Mutwala in the Southern region of Tanzania – a stronghold of Islam. Raised in a Muslim family, she grew up hearing songs praising Muhammad and Allah. She's now living in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and is born again.

Amana came to the Lord through the outreach of IDSOM, a local discipleship-mission training program facilitated by Global Disciples. She was touched by their prayers, the word of God they preached to her, and their way of living. IDSOM students continued to disciple her after they led her to Christ.

In June 2010, Amana enrolled in IDSOM to be trained in discipleship and outreach. Her vision is to reach the Muslim women in Tanzania who have no freedom of worship or expression. She also wants to start small businesses as a way of reaching these women and helping them start a business to help their families. In fact, she has already started reaching out to many women in her area.

Amana believes that through prayers and love, many Muslims can come to the Lord. Her passion is to take the Jesus she received to as many women as the Lord would allow.

Please pray for this alumnus of IDSOM as she labors for the Lord.

The “Enemy of the Gospel”

Young disciples of Christ had their sights set high when they arrived at an extremist Hindu village known as the “enemy of the gospel.”

After praying, one group began sharing with an influential Hindu leader. Within thirty minutes, villagers surrounded the group, sticks in hand, intending to beat the disciples.

“We are not supposed to beat them,” halted the Hindu leader, “but we will take them to the police station.”

Hours later during the middle of the night, the team was praying when villagers again surrounded the jail, calling out to the disciples and demanding to know why they were doing this.
“We are here not only to proclaim Christ,” replied the disciples, “we are also ready to die for Him.” Shocked, the villagers retreated and did not return. The young believers’ witness deeply impacted the village: what was so special about this Jesus, that these young people were ready to die for Him? When the inspector eventually saw to the disciples’ release, one of the watchmen believed in Jesus, bringing his whole family with him!

Please pray that God will open the door to this village and many other “closed” villages so that disciples all around the world can courageously share the message of Jesus.

**Business Nourishes Body and Soul**

Dadik* and Kiki* had a passion to reach their unreached neighbors in their Southeast Asian nation, but they needed a business that would sustain their family as well as provide an effective means for developing relationships in their community.

Now, just a year after attending a Global Disciples Small Business Development training, Dadik and Kiki are running a successful business and leading a small but growing group of believers.

With the seed funds provided through the training, the couple purchased equipment for processing soybeans into a nutritious soymilk. Adding only sugar, they package and label the soymilk in 16 oz. cups. Solid waste that remains is sold to another church planter who uses it to feed his livestock.

By mounting an icebox on their motorcycle, Kiki is able to transport the bottles to the market where she sells them to shop vendors. With the milk chilled, she’s able to spend time building relationships with the vendors without worrying about the product spoiling.

Dadik and Kiki have been able to generate a net monthly income of $500 - $600 through their successful business. They’ve even trained two other couples who are successfully replicating the business and reaching out in other areas!

“This life is a sacrifice,” says Dadik. “It’s not about what we get. We received the Good News for free, so we must give it for free.”

Praise God, that their business provides a way to live and give Jesus’ love to those to whom they are called.
Daniel 7:9,10

“As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.”
Every Language May Serve Him

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn’t.” ~John Piper

Revelation 7:9,10

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”
Guiding Principles

1. **We serve clusters of churches focused on unreached peoples.**
   We believe every person should have an opportunity to hear, understand and respond to the Good News of Jesus. Most cross-cultural missionaries today serve where the Church is already established. We give priority to serving churches that are reaching people who are still unreached.

2. **We equip churches to train and send their workers.**
   Global Disciples is *not* a mission-sending agency. We empower clusters of congregations around the world – or their mission sending entities – to train and send out their local workers into least reached areas. We are successful when these groups initiate reproducing, life transforming fellowships of believers in the least reached communities around the world.

3. **Each training program we help to launch is locally sustainable.**
   The majority of the finances for every program (training or sending) that we assist in developing are provided by their cluster of churches from the beginning. Programs are locally sustainable in one to three years.

4. **Every training program we assist in developing is locally reproducible.**
   Every program which we assist clusters of congregations or their mission entity to develop must be reproducible in their region. Our goal always is to *multiply*: disciples, workers for the harvest and Christ-like leaders.

5. **We assist local clusters of churches to own and operate these programs.**
   Global Disciples does not own the discipleship-mission, small business and leader training programs/patterns it helps clusters of churches to design and develop to fulfill their God-given vision. These are initiated and governed locally. We equip the directors/trainers they choose and link them with resources and leaders doing similar training – through the global alliances we facilitate.

6. **We promote making disciples in the way of Jesus.**
   Jesus’ approach for making disciples who make disciples is relevant for every culture and affordable in any economy. Jesus modeled a simple practice: *teach – apply – reflect*. This approach is permeated with *prayer*, established in Scripture, dependent upon the Holy Spirit and carried out by the Body of Christ.

7. **We see mission in the way of the Apostle Paul as normative.**
   The models *and* the words of Jesus and the Apostle Paul are to be taken seriously. Paul, with his small portable business, provides a model for mission sending that is reproducible in nearly any setting globally.
For More

We would love to continue this conversation with you. After all, our mission is to enable every part of the global Body of Christ to do its part... so the world will know Jesus.

Visit us at www.GlobalDisciples.net. There you can...
- learn more about the work of the global Body of Christ
- sign up for our electronic newsletter
- read/comment on our blog
- find links to video and other resources

Facebook us for latest updates, photos and events!

Global Disciples has a YouTube channel. Check it out for short and long format videos related to the unreached, the work of the global Body of Christ, and even some footage of the *Beyond Idols Worship Tour*. 
Prayer Opportunities

God’s power released through prayer is crucial to the ministry of Global Disciples. Our desire is for every initiative to be conceived, birthed and sustained through prayer. The “behind the scenes” support given by persons who intercede for the ministry is vital.

Opportunities to be involved in prayer for Global Disciples:

- On the Global Disciples website, you can find a different people group to pray for each day.
- Also at our website is a downloadable 31-day calendar to Pray for the Unreached.
- Receive a monthly prayer calendar via email or postal service to pray daily for the ministry.
- Receive a bi-weekly Prayer Link to pray specifically for Global ACCESS church planting in difficult areas.
- Receive a monthly prayer guide to pray with the program leaders of the Global LEAD Alliance on the first Friday of each month.
- Pray specifically for a GDT Alliance program through the Multipliers.
- Lead or be involved in a prayer group on a regular basis, praying specifically for Global Disciples.

There are 24 prayer coordinators leading numerous prayer groups in Bolivia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Indonesia, US, India, Zambia, Malawi and Nepal. Each week these prayer coordinators receive an update with praises and requests for Global Disciples that they share with the intercessors in their region.

If the Lord is calling you to be involved in the prayer ministry of Global Disciples, please contact us!

Prayer Coordinator at Global Disciples
315 W. James Street, Suite 202
Lancaster, PA 17603
Phone: 717-290-7550
prayer@globaldisciples.org
About Global Disciples

2,000 years ago Jesus instructed Christians to make disciples of all nations. Today, there are still **2 billion people who have never heard the Good News of Jesus**, creating a serious sense of urgency.

Global Disciples has responded by developing innovative, effective, locally sustainable and reproducible methods that churches and mission agencies can use to **maximize the multiplication of indigenous believers**.

Through three different avenues – discipleship training, leadership development, and small business development – disciples of Christ have entered areas where the Good News is seldom, if ever, heard. As a result, over **42,000 people to Christ and planted over 1,550 new churches – in just the past three years!**

For more information contact...