



PRAYER AT
THE HEART

A MOVEMENT OF HOPE

Project 2026 Organizational Guide

www.PrayerAtTheHeart.org

Passover to Pentecost

***Mobilizing One Million Christians
to pray for
One Million friends to know Christ!***

This Organizational Guide can be downloaded as a whole, or section by section.
It can be modified as you chart your PATH goals and forge your state-wide coalitions.
It is exemplary, not compulsory!



www.PrayerAtTheHeart.org

Project 2026 Calendar

	Schedule Your Rooftop Event for 2025 or 2026 https://therooftop.org/joining-jesus-25/
January 1	Formal Kick-off Organize your Project 2026 Team ... Congregational Team ... City/County Team ... State Team
January 10-31	Join Us for the 21 Days of Prayer – A Live Stream
February	Conduct your Evangelism as Blessing Training Get your Ambassador Team certified Participate in the Collegiate Day of Prayer Liberty University, Thursday, February 26, 2026, 7 PM CST https://collegiatedayofprayer.org/
March 1-4	Participate in Gap26. Conduct a Revival in your Congregation https://www.gap-event.org/ Plan your two 'Invitation' Sundays: Easter, April 4, and Pentecost, May 24 City-Wide Events – Solemn Assembly
March 29	Palm Sunday Distribute Operation Andrew Material Distribute SALTY Guides Sign-ups for Bless Every Home Neighborhood Prayer Distribute the 50-Day Prayer Guide
April 5 – May 24	Fifty Days of Prayer: Passover to Pentecost Operation Andrew Teams form SALTY Groups meet at workplaces Neighborhood Prayer begins – BLESS EVERY HOME www.blesseveryhome.com
May 21 – 24	Open Your Church for Prayer
May 24	Invitation Sunday: Pentecost Sunday
July 4	Prayer Celebration: 250 th Anniversary of the Nation

Visit www.prayerattheheart.org and scroll to the bottom of the page for the most updated timeline.

Dear Vision Leader and Prayer Mobilizer

Thank you for answering the call to be a vision leader and prayer mobilizer for Project 2026 in your state, an outreach of “Prayer at the Heart” (PATH). We are praying for a team of vision leaders and mobilizers in each state and county.

Website

Resources for Project 2026 can be found at **prayerattheheart.org**. These resources will grow as we move closer to the 50-day prayer experience. In addition, you will find links to resources from partnering ministries.

The Guides

This *Project 2026 Organizational Guide* can be downloaded as a whole or section by section for your convenience. It is practical, focusing on structure and function, responsibilities and roles. There is also a *Support Materials Resource Guide* designed especially for county and congregational leaders, containing adaptable support materials and prayer guides for local use. In addition, there is a *Supplemental Resource Guide* with information to inspire and inform your efforts. All of these are reproducible and free.

The 50-Day Prayer Guide

Alongside the organizational guides, encourage your state, county, and congregational teams—as well as individuals—to sign up for the 50-day prayer guide and receive daily updates during the 50 days. Sign up at <https://prayerattheheart.org/>. If you want to co-brand the guide and add local information, you can download the entire guide and send it directly to your constituent list.

Evangelism as Blessing

Encourage congregations to download *Evangelism as Blessing—24*: bite-sized lessons and a simple leader’s guide. Plan your training no later than February. Get as many people as possible into those training sessions. There, they will learn a relational approach to evangelism, beginning with a simple “God bless you” offered to friends and acquaintances, followed by deliberate, prayerful steps to assure them of God’s love and invite them into a relationship with Christ.

Operation Andrew

We have adopted the *Operation Andrew* model used by Billy Graham in his crusades. An estimated three million people walked forward to decide to follow Christ, with about 80 percent influenced or brought by a friend or family member. Of those who decide to follow Christ, 75–90 percent say the primary influence was a family member or friend.

Despite their best efforts, pastors account for only about 7 percent of conversions. Operation Andrew is simple: list your family or close friends, work associates, and

neighbors, then pray for those you sense are most open to the gospel. Do this in triplets with two other believers. Partner in prayer to reach another person for Christ. In the seven-week, 50-day prayer-evangelism effort, you have two invitation Sundays—Easter and Pentecost (Harvest Sunday).

Ambassador Training

Encourage a handful of people in your county—no fewer than 3–5 (more is better)—and as many as 50 or more at the state level, to become certified as “Ambassadors” by Project Pray University (PPU), a partner organization. These certified ambassadors will be invaluable in leading prayer and blessing teams to community leaders and building relational bridges. Ambassador Training is free. PPU offers certification, and the local congregation does the commissioning.

Collaborating Ministries

Many other organizations collaborate with the “Prayer at the Heart” effort and offer rich resources. Project Pray (ProjectPray.org) and Project Pray University are key partner ministries. Others will be listed on the PATH website.

Background

The “Prayer at the Heart” (PATH) effort began in 2022 with a national gathering at the center of the nation. Those gathered represented all fifty states. One team circled the entire nation, and another team of 17 came from South Korea. Eight other teams crisscrossed the nation from the four corners—north, south, east, and west—stopping in towns and hamlets to pray with leaders before arriving in Kansas. The 20,000 prayer miles of these teams touched 350 cities, towns, and hamlets, cutting a path through 25 states. It may have been the most aggressive prayer exercise in recent U.S. history. View a clip of this event at <https://prayerattheheart.org/>. See the video entitled Path Beginnings on the home page.

Integrity Television directed and livestreamed the event nationwide in cooperation with Christian Television Network, with assistance from Daystar and support from Christian Broadcasting Network. Revival Radio TV of the Victory Network also went live to the event multiple times during the day. One estimate was that as many as a million people watched some portion of the event.

The strategy of PATH continues to be driven by state-level gatherings of a thousand or more, preceded by prayer treks around and through the state, followed by similar movements in every county and city. These united, outdoor, multi-denominational gatherings could drive a nationwide spiritual awakening. Our prayer is not just for pockets of revival but for widespread national revival and awakening.

The prayer treks, drives, and walks around and through the state, county, and cities are more than secondary activities. While new to some, they are critical partners to your open-air rallies. These symbolic actions consecrate the land to God and invite Him to send

a community-impacting, nation-shaking revival. These actions have included driving stakes to claim the land, pouring out salt (a symbol of purification), water (cleansing and a plea for spiritual rain), and oil (anointing the land), coupled with prayers for purification, healing of the land, forgiveness, and spiritual revival.

We encourage a proliferation of prayer walks, prayer missions, and prayer ambassador teams—especially at the local level. As Paul urged, we are to “pray everywhere, lifting holy hands” (1 Tim. 2:8):

- At places of pain and promise.
- At historic sites.
- At places of light and darkness.
- At places of power and where the powerless live.

After investing prayer in your county or city, sponsor a public community prayer gathering (sample programs are provided). Pray for a spiritual awakening in your area and across the nation. Encourage family prayer walks, workplace prayer, ambassador teams, congregational prayer meetings, all-day prayer events, and youth prayer events. Have different congregations each sponsor a day of prayer—you will be on your way toward 24/7 prayer in your city.

As the PATH movement spread to multiple states, the nation was visited by 85 prayer teams from South Korea over a three-year period. The first wave of these teams came on the anniversary of Dr. Billy Graham’s largest ever crusade in South Korea resulting in 100,000 conversions. As these teams came to the United States to give the gift of prayer, it became clear that God was offering us a window for spiritual awakening here. A clip from the South Korean consecration service can be seen at <https://www.projectpray.org/americas-prayer-meeting-movement>. Scroll to 2023 Consecration Service Clip.

Join this movement, until hears a million voices, thousands from your county or city calling for God’s kingdom to come, for a spiritual awakening measured by millions of conversions. Remember, God comes where He is invited.

The goal is sustained national, state, and community-wide prayer for spiritual awakening—which means massive numbers of conversions. Prayer events are not the goal; evangelism and mission that glorify God and cause heaven to rejoice over conversions is the goal. Events help us mobilize, cast vision, and share God’s love. The real power is released through ongoing obedience.

Visit **prayerattheheart.org** and our social media channels for updates and reports from across the nation. We must unite, repent, and pray for non-believers to come to faith in Jesus Christ in record numbers. Set goals for your congregation, city or county, and state. Our vision is for at least a tithe of the nation—35 million-plus radical conversions and faith renewals. Our first milestone is one million in 50 days. Let’s cry out for God to awaken America again.

We believe this effort is key to turning our nation to Christ. Our house is on fire, and we have no option but to pray for heaven's rain!

As you develop your prayer event process and spread the word about Project 2026, we are promoting the effort through national media and ministry outlets. This includes press releases, Christian television and radio promotion, and distribution of event information.

Your help with this promotion is deeply appreciated. Our national success will support your work locally and direct people to the website for more information.

As a prayer champion at the state or county level, please visit **prayerattheheart.org** frequently. Post your activities at **<https://www.facebook.com/PrayerAtTheHeart>**. If you develop meaningful resources, please share them with us at info@prayerattheheart.org so we can distribute them nationwide.

We will also hold regular conference calls where the national leadership team will answer your questions. These calls are great opportunities to connect with other coordinators and pray together. Look for updates in your email and online.

Thank you again for accepting the call to be a vision leader and mobilizer in your state, county, city, or congregation. We stand united with you in seeking a Christ Awakening for the United States of America.

- P. Douglas Small, PATH President and Executive Director
- Garry Bryant, PATH Vice-President and Chairman of the Board
- Joe Soltis, Media Director, Board Member
- Reagan Wilbanks, Executive Administrator

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PRAYER AT
THE HEART

A MOVEMENT OF HOPE

National Mobilization Team

PROJECT 2026

Passover (Easter) – Pentecost

***One Million Christians
Praying For
One Million Conversions***



The National Cabinet and Mobilization Team

- **P. Douglas Small** – PATH President and Executive Director/Content Action Team
- **Garry Bryant** – PATH Vice-President and Chairman of the Board
- **Reagan Wilbanks** – Executive Administrator/Strategic Planning Team

Action Teams/Leaders

- **Joe Soltis** – Promotion/Media Team Leader
- **Elana Stockman** – USA Prayer Wall Coordinator
- **John Whaley** – National Ministries Liaison/Strategic Partnership Team
- **Rich Early** – Resource Funding Team
- Marketplace Team
- Neighborhood Evangelism – Bless Every Home
- Recruitment Team
- Discipleship Follow-Up Team

Advisors

- **Andre Van Zyl** – International Prayer Leader
- **Tom Phillips** – Advisor to Will Graham (BGEA)
- [Additional advisors to be confirmed]

Overview

From Passover (Easter), Sunday, April 5, to Pentecost, May 24, 2026, we will mobilize one million people to pray for 50 days to see one million people come to Christ. We will do this by mobilizing people in every state and county—across denominations, in local congregations united in cities, in para-church movements, in neighborhoods, and in the marketplace.

Purpose

To identify and mobilize state prayer champions and representatives who will:

- Promote the 50-Day, Passover-to-Pentecost prayer-evangelism mobilization effort.
 - Dedicated to an ongoing, pervasive prayer-evangelism effort in each state, county by county, and community by community.
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Geographic Focus

- Recruit and encourage a state prayer-evangelism mobilization team in every state.
 - Promote state-wide leadership and vision teams—relational in influence rather than positional, and geometric rather than hierarchical.
 - Mobilize prayer across the nation, state by state, recognizing that the flashpoint of renewal and revival is always local first.
 - Encourage awareness of national public prayer gatherings and events that can be duplicated at the state level to create a movement of prayer.
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Relational – Strategic Partners

- Identify existing national networks with state and regional leaders who can serve the vision within their sphere of influence and collaborate in the national prayer-evangelism effort.
- Create synergy among existing national prayer efforts by offering resources and opportunities for united, passionate prayer aimed at a Great Awakening—state by state, community by community.

Organizational Synergy – Strategic Partners

- Identify prayer leaders in denominational streams at the national and state levels, inviting their cooperation.
 - Allow leaders to borrow and brand resources while running in their own lane.
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Marketplace Engagement

- Identify national marketplace ministries and/or corporations that align with Christian principles—chaplains, Christian executives, and business leaders—whose influence can extend regionally or nationally.
 - Invite them to champion prayer-evangelism in their sphere.
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Qualifications for Leaders:

1. A person of prayer and moral character—reputation matters; a team player.
 2. A servant leader with humility.
 3. Evangelical in theology and missional in nature (see *The Lausanne Covenant*).
 4. Able to collaborate across denominational, ethnic, and parachurch lines to ensure a broad, diverse prayer effort focused on repentance and community transformation through spiritual renewal.
 5. “Agenda-free” except for the noble goal of a Great Awakening in the nation.
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Constituency

Our organizational structure is fluid, dynamic, and adaptable.

The national leadership team is essentially the PATH Cabinet plus others appointed to the effort. These vetted leaders collaborate on Great Awakening initiatives—efforts too large for any single organization to execute alone.

This diverse group functions as a national vision and implementation team, working through state and county leaders. The effort will expand through prayer and God’s favor, growing in credibility and trust.

Activities

- Support one another in making Project 2026 successful.
- Assist in recruiting prayer leaders in states for the Project 2026 prayer-evangelism effort.
- Help the Resource Funding team locate donors and platforms to share the Project 2026 vision.
- Participate in social media posts and share the vision within your circles of influence.
- Use relational connections to influence ministries and key leaders to engage with Project 2026.
- Join, when possible, the ongoing Prayer Wall calls across the nation and encourage intercessors.
- Cultivate a pervasive prayer-evangelism movement nationwide, state by state, synergizing with existing efforts where possible.
- Promote ongoing prayer and unity efforts across the nation, integrating them into communities and states.
- Identify supporting organizations—denominations, ministries, and marketplace leaders—that will call their followers to prayer and evangelism.
- Promote national prayer organizations and united prayer efforts.
- Identify prayer-evangelism resources that call the Christian community to repentance and consecration while keeping the nation's challenges, history, and prophetic destiny in view.
- Offer fresh vision and encourage spiritual vitality focused on the need for another Great Awakening.
- Share web-based resource materials with state leaders and encourage their broad use.
- Champion a nationwide prayer network in collaboration with Project 2026 and other prayer organizations, denominations, and parachurch ministries.

Important Reminder: Renewal often starts in the heart of one individual—an Ezra (pastoral leader), Nehemiah (marketplace/vocational leader), or Esther/Joel (prophetic/intercessory leader). Every individual is valued.

Key Priorities:

- Sensitivity to the national prayer mobilization effort.
- Identifying state mobilizers—preferably teams.
- Valuing national unity and simultaneous prayer.
- Most importantly, combining “bent knees” and “boots on the ground” in both state and local communities, is the secret to spiritual awakening.

We must allow the Holy Spirit to lead in shaping our national vision and strategy.

Reporting & Communication:

- Provide updates on the national effort and participation in state events.
 - Encourage the use of social media (and other platforms as developed) to share with the growing movement.
 - Maintain connections with national prayer organizations and facilitate collaboration.
 - Share prayer and revival stories, keeping lines of communication open.
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Contact:

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The Lausanne Covenant

INTRODUCTION

We, members of the Church of Jesus Christ, from more than 150 nations, participants in the International Congress on World Evangelization at Lausanne, praise God for his great salvation and rejoice in the fellowship he has given us with himself and with each other. We are deeply stirred by what God is doing in our day, moved to penitence by our failures and challenged by the unfinished task of evangelization. We believe the gospel is God's good news for the whole world, and we are determined by his grace to obey Christ's commission to proclaim it to all mankind and to make disciples of every nation. We desire, therefore, to affirm our faith and our resolve, and to make public our covenant.

1. THE PURPOSE OF GOD

We affirm our belief in the one eternal God, Creator and Lord of the world, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who governs all things according to the purpose of his will. He has been calling out from the world a people for himself and sending his people back into the world to be his servants and his witnesses, for the extension of his kingdom, the building up of Christ's body, and the glory of his name. We confess with shame that we have often denied our calling and failed in our mission, by becoming conformed to the world or by withdrawing from it. Yet we rejoice that, even when borne by earthen vessels, the gospel is still a precious treasure. To the task of making that treasure known in the power of the Holy Spirit we desire to dedicate ourselves anew.

(Isaiah 40:28; Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 1:11; Acts 15:14; John 17:6,18; Ephesians 4:12; 1 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 4:7)

2. THE AUTHORITY AND POWER OF THE BIBLE

We affirm the divine inspiration, truthfulness and authority of both Old and New Testament Scriptures in their entirety as the only written word of God, without error in all that it affirms, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. We also affirm the power of God's word to accomplish his purpose of salvation. The message of the Bible is addressed to all men and women. For God's revelation in Christ and in Scripture is unchangeable. Through it the Holy Spirit still speaks today. He illumines the minds of God's people in every culture to perceive its truth freshly through their own eyes and thus discloses to the whole Church ever more of the many-colored wisdom of God.

(2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; John 10:35; Isaiah 55:11; 1 Corinthians 1:21; Romans 1:16, Matthew 5:17,18; Jude 3; Ephesians 1:17,18; 3:10,18)

3. THE UNIQUENESS AND UNIVERSALITY OF CHRIST

We affirm that there is only one Saviour and only one gospel, although there is a wide diversity of evangelistic approaches. We recognize that everyone has some knowledge of God through his general revelation in nature. But we deny that this can save, for people suppress the truth by their

unrighteousness. We also reject as derogatory to Christ and the gospel every kind of syncretism and dialogue which implies that Christ speaks equally through all religions and ideologies. Jesus Christ, being himself the only God-Man, who gave himself as the only ransom for sinners, is the only mediator between God and people. There is no other name by which we must be saved. All men and women are perishing because of sin, but God loves everyone, not wishing that any should perish but that all should repent. Yet those who reject Christ repudiate the joy of salvation and condemn themselves to eternal separation from God. To proclaim Jesus as 'the Saviour of the world' is not to affirm that all people are either automatically or ultimately saved, still less to affirm that all religions offer salvation in Christ. Rather it is to proclaim God's love for a world of sinners and to invite everyone to respond to him as Saviour and Lord in the wholehearted personal commitment of repentance and faith. Jesus Christ has been exalted above every other name; we long for the day when every knee shall bow to him and every tongue shall confess him, Lord.

(Galatians 1:6-9; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Timothy 2:5,6; Acts 4:12; John 3:16-19; 2 Peter 3:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; John 4:42; Matthew 11:28; Ephesians 1:20,21; Philippians 2:9-11)

4. THE NATURE OF EVANGELISM

To evangelize is to spread the good news that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was raised from the dead according to the Scriptures, and that, as the reigning Lord, he now offers the forgiveness of sins and the liberating gifts of the Spirit to all who repent and believe. Our Christian presence in the world is indispensable to evangelism and so is that kind of dialogue whose purpose is to listen sensitively in order to understand. But evangelism itself is the proclamation of the historical, biblical Christ as Saviour and Lord, with a view to persuading people to come to him personally and so be reconciled to God. In issuing the gospel invitation we have no liberty to conceal the cost of discipleship. Jesus still calls all who would follow him to deny themselves, take up their cross, and identify themselves with his new community. The results of evangelism include obedience to Christ, incorporation into his Church and responsible service in the world.

(1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Acts 2:32-39; John 20:21; 1 Corinthians 1:23; 2 Corinthians 4:5; 5:11,20; Luke 14:25-33; Mark 8:34; Acts 2:40,47; Mark 10:43-45)

5. CHRISTIAN SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We affirm that God is both the Creator and the Judge of all men. We therefore should share his concern for justice and reconciliation throughout human society and for the liberation of men and women from every kind of oppression. Because men and women are made in the image of God, every person, regardless of race, religion, color, culture, class, sex or age, has an intrinsic dignity because of which he or she should be respected and served, not exploited. Here too we express penitence both for our neglect and for having sometimes regarded evangelism and social concern as mutually exclusive. Although reconciliation with other people is not reconciliation with God, nor is social action evangelism, nor is political liberation salvation, nevertheless we affirm that evangelism and socio-political involvement are both part of our Christian duty. For both are necessary expressions of our doctrines of God and Man, our love for our neighbor and our obedience to Jesus Christ. The message of salvation implies also a message of judgment upon every form of alienation, oppression and discrimination, and we should not be afraid to denounce

evil and injustice wherever they exist. When people receive Christ, they are born again into his kingdom and must seek not only to exhibit but also to spread its righteousness in the midst of an unrighteous world. The salvation we claim should be transforming us in the totality of our personal and social responsibilities. Faith without works is dead.

(Acts 17:26,31; Genesis 18:25; Isaiah 1:17; Psalm 45:7; Genesis 1:26,27; James 3:9; Leviticus 19:18; Luke 6:27,35; James 2:14-26; John 3:3,5; Matthew 5:20; 6:33; 2 Corinthians 3:18; James 2:20)

6. THE CHURCH AND EVANGELISM

We affirm that Christ sends his redeemed people into the world as the Father sent him, and that this calls for a similar deep and costly penetration of the world. We need to break out of our ecclesiastical ghettos and permeate non-Christian society. In the Church's mission of sacrificial service, evangelism is primary. World evangelization requires the whole Church to take the whole gospel to the whole world. The Church is at the very center of God's cosmic purpose and is his appointed means of spreading the gospel. But a church which preaches the cross must itself be marked by the cross. It becomes a stumbling block to evangelism when it betrays the gospel or lacks a living faith in God, a genuine love for people, or scrupulous honesty in all things including promotion and finance. The church is the community of God's people rather than an institution, and must not be identified with any particular culture, social or political system, or human ideology.

(John 17:18; 20:21; Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 1:8; 20:27; Ephesians 1:9,10; 3:9-11; Galatians 6:14,17; 2 Corinthians 6:3,4; 2 Timothy 2:19-21; Philippians 1:27)

7. COOPERATION IN EVANGELISM

We affirm that the Church's visible unity in truth is God's purpose. Evangelism also summons us to unity, because our oneness strengthens our witness, just as our disunity undermines our gospel of reconciliation. We recognize, however, that organizational unity may take many forms and does not necessarily advance evangelism. Yet we who share the same biblical faith should be closely united in fellowship, work and witness. We confess that our testimony has sometimes been marred by a sinful individualism and needless duplication. We pledge ourselves to seek a deeper unity in truth, worship, holiness and mission. We urge the development of regional and functional cooperation for the furtherance of the Church's mission, for strategic planning, for mutual encouragement, and for the sharing of resources and experience.

(John 17:21,23; Ephesians 4:3,4; John 13:35; Philippians 1:27; John 17:11-23)

8. CHURCHES IN EVANGELISTIC PARTNERSHIP

We rejoice that a new missionary era has dawned. The dominant role of western missions is fast disappearing. God is raising up from the younger churches a great new resource for world evangelization and is thus demonstrating that the responsibility to evangelize belongs to the whole body of Christ. All churches should therefore be asking God and themselves what they should be doing both to reach their own area and to send missionaries to other parts of the world. A re-

evaluation of our missionary responsibility and role should be continuous. Thus, a growing partnership of churches will develop, and the universal character of Christ's Church will be more clearly exhibited. We also thank God for agencies which labor in Bible translation, theological education, the mass media, Christian literature, evangelism, missions, church renewal and other specialist fields. They too should engage in constant self-examination to evaluate their effectiveness as part of the Church's mission.

(Romans 1:8; Philippians 1:5; 4:15; Acts 13:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8)

9. THE URGENCY OF THE EVANGELISTIC TASK

More than 2,700 million people, which is more than two-thirds of all humanity, have yet to be evangelized.¹ We are ashamed that so many have been neglected; it is a standing rebuke to us and to the whole Church. There is now, however, in many parts of the world, an unprecedented receptivity to the Lord Jesus Christ. We are convinced that this is the time for churches and para-church agencies to pray earnestly for the salvation of the unreached and to launch new efforts to achieve world evangelization. A reduction of foreign missionaries and money in an evangelized country may sometimes be necessary to facilitate the national church's growth in self-reliance and to release resources for unevangelized areas. Missionaries should flow ever more freely from and to all six continents in a spirit of humble service. The goal should be, by all available means and at the earliest possible time, that every person will have the opportunity to hear, to understand, and to receive the good news. We cannot hope to attain this goal without sacrifice. All of us are shocked by the poverty of millions and disturbed by the injustices which cause it. Those of us who live in affluent circumstances accept our duty to develop a simple lifestyle in order to contribute more generously to both relief and evangelism.

(John 9:4; Matthew 9:35-38; Romans 9:1-3; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Mark 16:15; Isaiah 58:6,7; James 1:27; 2:1-9; Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 2:44,45; 4:34,35)

10. EVANGELISM AND CULTURE

The development of strategies for world evangelization calls for imaginative pioneering methods. Under God, the result will be the rise of churches deeply rooted in Christ and closely related to their culture. Culture must always be tested and judged by Scripture. Because men and women are God's creatures, some of their culture is rich in beauty and goodness. Because they are fallen, all of it is tainted with sin and some of it is demonic. The gospel does not presuppose the superiority of any culture to another but evaluates all cultures according to its own criteria of truth and righteousness, and insists on moral absolutes in every culture. Missions have, all too frequently, exported with the gospel an alien culture, and churches have sometimes been in bondage to culture rather than to Scripture. Christ's evangelists must humbly seek to empty themselves of all but their personal authenticity in order to become the servants of others, and churches must seek to transform and enrich culture, all for the glory of God.

(Mark 7:8,9,13; Genesis 4:21,22; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Philippians 2:5-7; 2 Corinthians 4:5)

11. EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP

We confess that we have sometimes pursued church growth at the expense of church depth, and divorced evangelism from Christian nurture. We also acknowledge that some of our missions have been too slow to equip and encourage national leaders to assume their rightful responsibilities. Yet we are committed to indigenous principles, and long that every church will have national leaders who manifest a Christian style of leadership in terms not of domination but of service. We recognize that there is a great need to improve theological education, especially for church leaders. In every nation and culture there should be an effective training program for pastors and laity in doctrine, discipleship, evangelism, nurture and service. Such training programs should not rely on any stereotyped methodology but should be developed by creative local initiatives according to biblical standards.

(Colossians 1:27,28; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5,9; Mark 10:42-45; Ephesians 4:11,12)

12. SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

We believe that we are engaged in constant spiritual warfare with the principalities and powers of evil, who are seeking to overthrow the Church and frustrate its task of world evangelization. We know our need to equip ourselves with God's armor and to fight this battle with the spiritual weapons of truth and prayer. For we detect the activity of our enemy, not only in false ideologies outside the Church, but also inside it in false gospels which twist Scripture and put people in the place of God. We need both watchfulness and discernment to safeguard the biblical gospel. We acknowledge that we ourselves are not immune to worldliness of thought and action, that is, to a surrender to secularism. For example, although careful studies of church growth, both numerical and spiritual, are right and valuable, we have sometimes neglected them. At other times, desirous to ensure a response to the gospel, we have compromised our message, manipulated our hearers through pressure techniques, and become unduly preoccupied with statistics or even dishonest in our use of them. All this is worldly. The Church must be in the world; the world must not be in the Church.

(Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 4:3,4; Ephesians 6:11,13-18; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; 1 John 2:18-26; 4:1-3; Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Corinthians 2:17; 4:2; John 17:15)

13. FREEDOM AND PERSECUTION

It is the God-appointed duty of every government to secure conditions of peace, justice and liberty in which the Church may obey God, serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and preach the gospel without interference. We therefore pray for the leaders of nations and call upon them to guarantee freedom of thought and conscience, and freedom to practice and propagate religion in accordance with the will of God and as set out in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We also express our deep concern for all who have been unjustly imprisoned, and especially for those who are suffering for their testimony to the Lord Jesus. We promise to pray and work for their freedom. At the same time, we refuse to be intimidated by their fate. God helping us, we too will seek to stand against injustice and to remain faithful to the gospel, whatever the cost. We do not forget the warnings of Jesus that persecution is inevitable.

(1 Timothy 1:1-4; Acts 4:19; 5:29; Colossians 3:24; Hebrews 13:1-3; Luke 4:18; Galatians 5:11; 6:12; Matthew 5:10-12; John 15:18-21)

14. THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Father sent his Spirit to bear witness to his Son; without his witness ours is futile. Conviction of sin, faith in Christ, new birth and Christian growth are all his work. Further, the Holy Spirit is a missionary spirit; thus, evangelism should arise spontaneously from a Spirit-filled church. A church that is not a missionary church is contradicting itself and quenching the Spirit. Worldwide evangelization will become a realistic possibility only when the Spirit renews the Church in truth and wisdom, faith, holiness, love and power. We therefore call upon all Christians to pray for such a visitation of the sovereign Spirit of God that all his fruit may appear in all his people and that all his gifts may enrich the body of Christ. Only then will the whole Church become a fit instrument in his hands, so that the whole earth may hear his voice.

(1 Corinthians 2:4; John 15:26;27; 16:8-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3; John 3:6-8; 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 7:37-39; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; Acts 1:8; Psalm 85:4-7; 67:1-3; Galatians 5:22,23; 1 Corinthians 12:4-31; Romans 12:3-8)

15. THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly, in power and glory, to consummate his salvation and his judgment. This promise of his coming is a further spur to our evangelism, for we remember his words that the gospel must first be preached to all nations. We believe that the interim period between Christ's ascension and return is to be filled with the mission of the people of God, who have no liberty to stop before the end. We also remember his warning that false Christs and false prophets will arise as precursors of the final Antichrist. We therefore reject as a proud, self-confident dream the notion that people can ever build a utopia on earth. Our Christian confidence is that God will perfect his kingdom, and we look forward with eager anticipation to that day, and to the new heaven and earth in which righteousness will dwell and God will reign forever. Meanwhile, we re-dedicate ourselves to the service of Christ and of people in joyful submission to his authority over the whole of our lives.

(Mark 14:62; Hebrews 9:28; Mark 13:10; Acts 1:8-11; Matthew 28:20; Mark 13:21-23; 1 John 2:18; 4:1-3; Luke 12:32; Revelation 21:1-5; 2 Peter 3:13; Matthew 28:18)

CONCLUSION

Therefore, in the light of this our faith and our resolve, we enter into a solemn covenant with God and with each other, to pray, to plan and to work together for the evangelization of the whole world. We call upon others to join us. May God help us by his grace, and for his glory, to be faithful to this our covenant! Amen, Alleluia!

Endnotes

1. Note: This statistic was correct at the time of publication in July 1974 and is deliberately preserved here for historic faithfulness. As of July 2024, researchers believe that more than 3.4 billion people remain unreached.